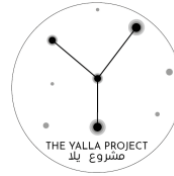


OPEN CALL



KUMA INTERNATIONAL and YALLA PROJECT

present

an intensive online workshop on

MIGRATION MAKING THE HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE

The Balkans and the Middle East sharing material words

March 25-26-27

April 2-3

April 9-10

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

MARCH 19, 2022

RATIONALE

Since the last two decades, increasingly nationalist and xenophobic discourses have been spreading across the Globe, fomenting social divide, inequity, and violence. Although well distinct in terms of context-specific dynamics, reasons and narratives, nationalist predications across history and geography share the exaltation of the uniformity and purity of people as a founding character of solid nationhood. This selective narrative is based on the exclusion and a highly hierarchised interpretation of social and spatial structures, where the (myth of) uncontaminated indigenous is elevated as something superior. Proper of this narrative is the downward look on the foreign element, deemed as inferior, and the idea that hybridization with other cultures is a sign of decadence and corruption of customs. This perspective is

untruthful to history, though. This destructive utopia is even more untenable in our wired contemporary, and it gives rise to dramatic, violent socio-spatial phenomena.

Indeed, migration and the accommodation of foreign communities posits many challenges and tensions and requires great efforts to learn how to live together and find a new balance. However, an attentive look at even the most remote corner of the world reveals how the exchange with the “other” is necessary to the local survival and enrichment. Mass migrations are a tragic feature of our times, with just another wave of refugees fleeing their country in this very moment at the borders of the European Union. However, displacement is not a prerogative of our age, and history can teach us a lot about how communities sorted out ways of coexisting.

Willing to respond to the endemic spreading of xenophobic and nationalist discourses that exalt the purity of the Nation (or even of the race), while indicating the foreign element as a mere threat, Kuma International and Yalla Project are proud to launch this workshop aimed to explore the exchange of material forms, knowledge, and know-how that happened through migrations.

The reflection will start from the observation on the exchange that occurred between the former Ottoman provinces in the Balkans and Caucasus and Palestine during the late 19th century. This will constitute the *fil-rouge* and the tool for grounding the debate with participants, who will be then invited to develop a reflection on their specific context.

For centuries, being united under the same power, the Balkans and Palestine enjoyed a facilitated circulation of people, contaminating each other with ideas, knowledge, practices, and languages - both immaterial and material. The late Ottoman period coincided with the progressive regression of the Empire’s borders from the northern Balkans towards the south (Kale, 2014). This withdrawal triggered the mass migration of Ottoman citizens from Eastern Europe to different parts of the remaining Empire, with a consistent flow heading to the Middle East and Palestine. Migrants carried with them their customs, traditions, as well as different types of knowledge, which spans from sciences to architectural forms, to everyday material know-how related to domestic life, such as food, practices and utensils. This milieu was destined to be in part absorbed and adopted by the context of resettlement, with habits and forms brought by newcomers eventually merging into the local discourse. In this sense, the workshop tackles architecture in a broad sense that concerns the fashioning and manufacturing of the everyday living environment, hence embracing aspects that involve the material culture and performative aspects of the ordinary life.

GOALS

By tackling this topic, the workshop aims to draw attention to and foster analytical skills on the materialisation of migrations in the local architectural language, valorising migrations as an enriching process that shapes our everyday environment, underscoring the existence and value of contaminations that underlie our everyday spaces.

The final goal of this workshop is to foster participants' critical thinking towards an appreciation as to how our everyday realities are the outcome of the encounter, exchange (not always happy or peaceful, indeed!) and "contamination" of diverse peoples.

From the didactic point, the workshop pursues a methodological goal, which is to provide participants with essential tools for the critical reading of the everyday environment in its

material expressions, appreciating it as a result of a historical process of exchanges that takes place through migration and displacement.

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

This intensive workshop will unfold online on 3 weekends: March 26-27, April 2-3 and April 9-10, 2022. A special kick-start session will open the workshop on the evening of Friday, March 25, 2022.

Inspired by Christoph Girot's "Four Trace Concept in Landscape Architecture" (1999), the workshop will articulate in three blocks: *Landing*, *Grounding*, *Finding*. Each block will combine lectures, teaching sessions, debate time, and remote assignments.

Teaching sessions will tackle the workshop's topic providing participants with methodological tools, techniques, and examples, exploring specific aspects of the migration of architectural and material languages, using Palestine and its relationship with the Ottoman Balkans as a case study. During teaching sessions, participants will be driven through the unpacking of daily environments at different scales, highlighting "neologisms" and contaminations in the material language by forms imported from abroad. In particular, teaching sessions will focus on traces of the contribution of the Balkan communities that settled in Palestine at different stages of the Ottoman Empire. Sessions will provide participants with methods and techniques to critically understand and analyse the material aspects of the everyday.

The workshop is accompanied by a **multi-disciplinary series of lectures**, aimed at providing more ground to the discussion. The lecture series will host prominent scholars and academics from the international arena, whose work tackles the workshop topic or similar relevant cases from different subject areas, such as Architecture, Anthropology, History and Sociology.

Speakers:

Dawn Chatty - University of Oxford

Isa Blumi – University of Stockholm

Iyad Issa – Birzeit University

Dima Maiqari – researcher

Haris Dervišević – University of Sarajevo

Alessandra Gola – Yalla Project – KULeuven

Abdallahman Kittana - Yalla Project- Birzeit University

Remote assignments will integrate the teaching contents, engaging participants in an active reflection on their own context. Participants will be asked to propose a case study from their region, on which to apply techniques and approaches learned during sessions. At the beginning of each session, a debate time will be dedicated to participants to share collectively the progress of their reflection through flash presentations (5 to 10 minutes). Debate times will be arranged as a virtual arena, in which all participants are invited to discuss openly together thoughts and questions triggered by their research and by those presented by their peers. One-to-one feedback time with the workshop tutors are offered during the week, so to support each participant in developing her/his chosen case.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Through the exploration of Balkan-Palestinian case studies, the workshop will challenge multiple questions concerning the influence of migration on the development of a built environment at large.

A set of leading questions is suggested:

- What are the motivations or reasons for migration?
- Who were the migrants and what types of professions, skills, or knowledge do they have?
- What architectural styles/ building techniques/ material elements such as decorations, components, utensils did migrate with them?

TAKEAWAYS & OUTPUTS

From the participation in the workshop, attendants will achieve an enhanced sensitivity towards the contamination of cultures and their socio-spatial impact, attaining a number of tools to interrogate the everyday environment of its socio-historical contents.

The outcome expected from participants is a virtual poster (in the form of Pecha Kucha, for example) or e-booklet that summarises findings on the chosen study case.

The closing day of the workshop will be arranged as a public debate, being dedicated to participants' presentations of their study cases in the presence of a selected jury. Colleagues, fellows, and any other person interested in the workshop theme are welcome to join the platform.

ENROLLMENT & SUBMISSION

Candidates are invited to submit their CV and a short motivation letter of maximum 500 words to the following address: info@kumainternational.org

In accordance with the multidisciplinary aims and approach of the workshop, applicants are welcome from all majors.

The deadline for the submission of applications is set to March 19, 2022.

The participation in the workshop is free.

Each applicant will be notified of the outcome of the selection process on his/her candidacy.

At the end of the workshop, participants will receive an attestation of participation.

For any further inquiries and clarifications, please contact: info@kumainternational.org

ORGANISERS

The workshop is promoted by Kuma International in cooperation with Yalla Project.

Kuma and Yalla have particularly to the heart the issue of this workshop, being both located in contexts – Bosnia Herzegovina and Palestine - historically characterised by ethnic and confessional diversity and complex migratory dynamics, while both being sadly stricken by conflicts that exploit race and religion as a core argument to trigger the social divide.

Kuma International is a non-profit organisation established in Sarajevo in 2018. Its aim is to educate and empower the next generations on how the arts can foster and encourage constructive dialogue on human rights and justice, civil society engagement and democratic participation. Kuma International operates through different educational activities while supporting art and culture focusing mainly on Bosnia and Herzegovina and former Yugoslavia. Kuma's main goals are: to empower youth and the local community; to promote human rights while fostering a dialogue between visual art, architecture, justice and reconciliation; to promote the understanding of the complexities of armed conflicts and their aftermath through visual arts, architecture and culture, and the importance of dealing with trauma, memory and identity to pursue transformation and reconciliation; to promote a culture of remembrance; to create a network of local and international/diaspora experts working with art, justice and human rights to foster dialogue and collaboration among people coming from with different backgrounds.

Yalla Project is an applied research hub on socio-spatial issues based in Nablus, Palestine. Its activity tackles the everydayness of communities and their living environment, approached through grounded research and learning-by-doing. Central to Yalla Project's methodology is the interdisciplinary research, carried out collectively in cooperation with other entities, researchers and stakeholders, with the consistent involvement of the civil society at large. Through its work, Yalla Project seeks to bring together and put in dialogue the knowledge achieved through ordinary practices and the academic one. This is based on the conviction that only when the two inform each other a real improvement of the living environment (understood as the outcome of material and spatial features, human practices, habits and understandings) is possible and lasting. In order to foster this dialogue, Yalla Project operates on a paradigm that systematically integrates research and social businesses, which together provide a permanent involvement with the local daily life and a source of income that allows the project to stay independent from external agendas.

DETAILED SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME CET	DETAILED PROGRAM	SPEAKER & AFFILIATION	
Opening Session				
25-Mar	Friday	5-5.20 p.m.	WELCOME SPEECH	Kuma International
		5.20-5.40 p.m.	WORKSHOP INTRODUCTION	Yalla Project
		5.45-6.45 p.m.	OPENING LECTURE <i>Making Places in New Spaces: Circassian Forced Migration in the late</i>	Prof. Dawn Chatty Oxford University
Landing				
26-Mar	Saturday	9-9.45 a.m.	Warm up: approaching the workshop topic, assignment and activities.	Yalla Project
		9.45-10.45 a.m.	Introducing participants: getting to know each other	Yalla Project + Participants
		10.45-11 a.m.	Break	
		11 a.m.-12 p.m.	SEMINAR Working tools - Semiotics of space: learning to see the cultural contents of	Alessandra Gola Yalla Project -KULeuven
27-Mar	Sunday	12 - 1 p.m.	SEMINAR Bosniac migration building space in late Ottoman Palestine: Palestine &	Abdallah Kittana Yalla Project- Birzeit University
		9 a.m.-12 p.m.	E-LAB #1 Presentation by participants of their proposed case study & first feedback	
		4-5 p.m.	LECTURE <i>Modernity in Ottoman Balkans & Migration</i>	Isa Blumi University of Stockholm
28-31 Mar	Mon-Thu	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	1-TO-1 TUTORING TIME (15 minutes slots upon request by participants)	
Grounding				
02-Apr	Saturday	9 a.m.-12 p.m.	E-LAB #2 Presentation by participants of their first findings & feedback Collective debate on presentations	
		4-5 p.m.	LECTURE <i>Ramallah's transformation from rural to urban center in the first half of the</i>	Iyad Issa Birzeit University
		03-Apr	Sunday	9 a.m.-12 p.m.
04-Apr	Monday	4-5 p.m.	LECTURE <i>Trailing the Circassians material culture from the Caucasus to the Levant</i>	Dima Maiqari Researcher
		4-7 Apr	Mon-Thu	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Finding				
09-Apr	Saturday	9 a.m.-12 p.m.	E-LAB #4 Pre-final presentation by participants & feedback time Collective debate on presentations	
		4-5 p.m.	LECTURE <i>Non-Islamic Art in Bosnia and Herzegovina During the Ottoman Period</i>	Haris Dervisevic University of Sarajevo
		10-Apr	Sunday	9 a.m.-12 p.m.

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