



**ECOWEEK ONLINE CHALLENGE : The 15 Year Anniversary Edition
October 2 – 4, 2020**

**NGO ECOWEEK celebrated its 15-year anniversary
with an online challenge to inspire, challenge and innovate
with lectures, design workshops and a virtual exhibition!**

**With activity in 17 countries, two online events that reached out to more than 20 countries
and a network in 56 countries, ECOWEEK brought together young and established
professionals for innovation and sustainable design, green buildings, Placemaking, social
architecture, environmental activism, Circular Economy and more.**

Responding to the COVID-19 travel restrictions and the need to intensify environmental awareness, policy and action, ECOWEEK held on October 2-4, 2020 its second **online event** in collaboration with the EUNIC Tel Aviv cluster and the EU delegation in Israel.

The online event was opened by **Despoina Kouinoglou** landscape designer and ECOWEEK Associate who gave the framework of the day, and ECOWEEK founder and coordinator architect Dr. **Elias Messinas** spoke about the ECOWEEK mission and activity around the world. Speakers included keynote speaker **award-winning French architect Nicola Delon (Encore Heureux Architectes)**, and lectures by experts from Israel, Romania, Poland, Austria, Lithuania, Greece, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. **Nine 48-hour design workshops** engaged young professionals and students in architecture, design, landscape design, agronomy and other professions in projects around the world, which may lead to real interventions in place. A unique **virtual exhibition**, was created by a team of young architects and designers and coordinated by architect **Pavlos Symianiakis**, member of the ECOWEEK team. The exhibition aimed to express the values behind ECOWEEK, to represent 15 years with 15 pavilions, and to inspire with ideas on sustainable design, with the exhibition panels of 200 ECOWEEK design workshops in 17 countries.

Two ECOWEEK - EUNIC Tel Aviv lecture panels were moderated by architect and environmental consultant Dr. **Elias Messinas**, founder and coordinator of ECOWEEK, an adjunct senior lecturer at Holon Institute of Technology, Israel and University of Patras, Greece. A third ECOWEEK panel was moderated by architect **Sofia Passia**, a member of the ECOWEEK Team.



The lectures were held on ZOOM on Friday, October 2 and were broadcasted live on Youtube. More details at <https://ecoweeek.online/>

THE LECTURES

The ECOWEEK - EUNIC Tel Aviv panels addressed the topic: **Preserving the planet : How to reverse the trend?** Given the situation reported by the scientists, the global targets of the current state of the planet as opposed to the targets set by governments or the Paris agreement of 2015, the situation is quite disheartening and even worrisome. What the panelists presented were proactive and positive initiatives, examples of good practices, and policy that, if applied on a global scale, could help reverse the trend. Speakers spoke for 15 minutes and then had a Q&A with the moderator and chat questions from the public.

Architects **Jonas Zukauskas and Jurga Daubaraitė** from Lithuania, an amazing duo of spatial practitioners co-curators of The Baltic Pavilion at the 15th International Architecture Exhibition at Venice Biennale (2016), through architectural, curatorial and research projects they aim to create new relationships between society and the environment, by seeking to rearticulate architecture in a wider ecology of practices. In their lecture they presented the **Neringa Forest Architecture residency program** that provided new types of infrastructure and new uses for natural reserves. Their lecture was made possible thanks to the support of the Lithuanian Culture Institute in Tel Aviv and the cooperation between ECOWEEK and EUNIC – Tel Aviv.

Architect **Ulrike Schartner** of the practice Gaubenraup +/-, an office she co-founded in 1999 with Alexander Hagner in Vienna, Austria, and which is active for over 20 years, in projects of different areas and scales, from construction to urban planning to furniture and product design and this year honored with the architecture prize of the city of Vienna. Gaubenraub +/- is mostly known through its involvement in projects for disadvantaged people, for example, men with severe alcoholism, dementia patients, formerly homeless people and students and presented among others, the VinziRast am Land, a project where formerly homeless people return to society, thanks to employment in agriculture. Ulrike's lecture **On the edge : Projects for fringe groups** presented inspiring examples of low-budget transformations of abandoned buildings into new shelters that also benefit the local communities. The lecture was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Austrian Cultural Forum in Tel Aviv and the cooperation between ECOWEEK and EUNIC – Tel Aviv.

Green Tank Partner & Senior Policy Analyst **Nikos Mantzaris** member of the Special Scientific Committee on Climate Change Mitigation at the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Greece, spoke about **Trends in Greece's climate & energy policy: A paradigm shift in the making** and among others emphasized the decision of Greece to close out all lignite based power plants in



Greece by 2028. Nikos was an Associate Professor at Rice University (Houston, TX) conducting research on biochemical engineering, nanotechnology and sustainable development, and after returning to Greece, worked at WWF Greece where he was the head of the Climate and Energy Policy Sector, concentrating on the shift from fossil fuels to renewables and energy efficiency, and in 2018 he co-founded the Green Tank, the first think tank in Greece focusing on environmental, energy and climate policy. His lecture was made possible thanks to the cooperation with the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy and EUNIC – Tel Aviv and with the support of the Public Diplomacy Office of the Embassy of Greece in Israel.

Architect **Ran Avraham**, the Green Building Unit supervisor of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Israel is responsible among others for implementation of government decisions to promote green buildings in Israel, and programs like "Good neighborhood" and renovations in public housing buildings. Ran's lecture about **A thriving economy in a sustainable environment - Israel 2050** presented the master plan of shifting the Israeli economy from a fossil-fuel-based to a renewable-energy-based economy, through innovative solutions in planning and legislation, aiming to a net zero circular economy. The lecture took place in cooperation with EUNIC – Tel Aviv.

Keynote speaker architect **Nicola Delon** joined ECOWEEK for the anniversary event, having joined in the past as a keynote speaker in ECOWEEK in Poland, Israel, and Kosovo. Nicola is an architect, founder of the Encore Heureux Architecture firm (2001). In 2006 he was the winner of the New Albums of Young Architects prize of the Ministry of Culture and Communication of France and in 2015 winner of the scenographic concept for the COP 21 - the United Nations Climate Change Conference - in Paris. Recently, Nicola and his team curated the French pavilion of the 16th International Architecture Biennale in Venice in 2018 with the exhibition 'Infinite Places'. Nicola's lecture titled **The Risk Crisis: How to move beyond it** reflected upon the challenge of architecture by the current crisis, emphasizing the need to constantly evaluate the use of materials, and their environmental impact - for example the use of concrete, leading to a crisis in the harvest of sand, an important ingredient of concrete. Nicola shared his insights on projects developed by the firm, such as the iconic Reclaimed Circular Pavilion constructed at the Hotel de Ville in Paris in 2015 made of 80% reused building components, including doors from the demolition of 1920s residential buildings, turned into the cladding of the facade. Also a small pavilion that reused part of 1000 windows removed from a renovated building, and a former industrial building, which was rehabilitated employing an open flexible plan and reclaimed materials. Finally, the temporary reuse of an abandoned army barracks in Venice, which supported the team in engaging 6000 volunteers in the creation of the Biennale exhibition. The lecture was made possible thanks to the support of the French Institute in Tel



Aviv, the French Embassy in Israel, and the cooperation between ECOWEEK and EUNIC – Tel Aviv.

The afternoon session was opened by **Magor Csibi**, an award-winning environmental expert Head of Leadership and Culture Practices at Trend Consult, a business consulting company in Romania. Magor was a Member of the European Parliament, former executive director of WWF in Korea, country manager and director of WWF Danube Carpathian, and founder and publisher of 'Think Outside the Box' news platform. His lecture titled **The connection between human and nature behavior** was made possible thanks to the general support of the Romanian Cultural Institute in Tel Aviv and the cooperation between ECOWEEK and EUNIC – Tel Aviv.

Architect **Maria Carmela Frate**, based in Italy, who among others planned, coordinated and directed courses for architects and engineers about bioclimatic and energy issues in restoration, chiefly focuses in her work on planning and managing architectural heritage recovery. Her lecture touched upon **the Paradigm of Sustainability in Buildings** and the promotion of rehabilitating actions towards existing buildings and how they can contribute to the sustainability of living. The lecture was made possible thanks to the support of the Italian Institute of Culture in Tel Aviv and the cooperation between ECOWEEK and EUNIC – Tel Aviv.

Award-winning architect **Dr. Andras Reith** CEO of ABUD (Advanced Building and Urban Design) a company focusing on Research and Development and sustainable architecture planning in Hungary, is an expert reviewer of the fifth report of the UN IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and former president of the Hungary Green Building Council. Andras was awarded the Dennis Gabor Award, the highest national acknowledgment in innovation in Hungary. His lecture showcased the **E-CO-Housing project and other examples** where research and innovation made a significant contribution in the aim for sustainable design. The lecture was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Embassy of Hungary in Israel and the cooperation between ECOWEEK and EUNIC – Tel Aviv.

Emese Pancsa of Compocity LTD, an artist, designer and architect graduate of the Budapest Metropolitan University and Marcel Breuer Doctoral School of Architecture, is a TEDx speaker on 'Design that Gives Back', who has worked with the Hemp Design Factory and Hybrid Design Manufacture in a variety of projects. Emese's aim in her work is to design supportive solutions so that people can sustain themselves. Her lecture **Sustainability Education Based on Value Propositions** was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Embassy of Hungary in Israel and the cooperation between ECOWEEK and EUNIC – Tel Aviv.

Jaroslav Haimy Hyjanek, director of zoology at Safari Park Dvur Kralove and director of Research Institute for Gene Pool Conservation, is an expert in zoology and genetic engineering graduate of Czech University of Life Sciences and Mendel University in Brno. Jaroslav has devoted his professional life to special zoology and at zoos and nature conservation. His lecture



Let's save Rhinos Together and his call to protect northern white rhinoceros, an endangered species, from extinction, was a wake-up call on human habits, that drive the killing of rhinos for their horns for medicine and as a status symbol. The lecture was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Czech Center in Tel Aviv and the cooperation between ECOWEEK and EUNIC – Tel Aviv.

Maciej Siuda, an architect and designer, with international recognition of this work - among others the XYZ Structure presented at the Guggenheim Museum in New York, and co-creator with Rodrigo García Gonzalez of the DEVEBERE pavilion presented at the Biennale of Architecture in Venice in 2015. Maciej's studio is among the 16 most interesting offices in Poland as part of the "Avant-garde of Tomorrow" and the Winner of the 2016 Grand Prix from the city of Warsaw for the best architectural realisation in 2015-2016. Maciej's lecture **The Dematerialization of Architecture** presented his experimental projects ranging from installations to building rehabilitations. The lecture was made possible thanks to the support of the Polish Institute Tel Aviv and the collaboration between ECOWEEK and EUNIC – Tel Aviv.

The mid-day lectures panel on the topic Preserving the Planet: **Making it (more) Circular and (more) Sustainable** was moderated by architect **Sofia Passia**. The panel included speakers: Landscape architect engineer and Urban Designer **Natalia Pantelidou** from Greece, educated in Denmark, with over 10 years' experience in balancing the technical and cultural aspects of architecture in her work. Today, she is the Vice Mayor of Public Works in the Kalamaria neighborhood of the city of Thessaloniki in Greece. Her lecture shared examples and good practices of **Kids and Public Space**.

Nicolas Le Roux award -winning urban planner in the COTA 760 office in Brazil, collaborated with two friends and created in his late twenties an architecture firm with projects of very high aesthetics. He presented **Urban Design in Latin America** examples in cities in Latin America, which face problems of overcrowding and disorder, yet with an increased awareness of the impact of urban form on quality of life.

Vivian Doumpa, an urban planner and geographer, with a specialization in creative and participatory placemaking, is an associate partner in STIPO, and a board member of the Placemaking Europe network. Throughout her work she integrates aspects of socio-cultural management, non-formal education and community building. She recently created the new lab "Kyklos" in Thessaloniki, Greece with the team of the NGO InCommon. Vivian spoke about **Interweaving circularity with placemaking: a conceptual exploration with real-life experimentation**, explaining the relationship between the principles of placemaking and circularity, leading to sustainability. Asked about how to keep the practice of placemaking during lockdowns and the restrictions of COVID-19, she explained that now is the time to focus



on social capital and offer people more opportunities for public participation and empowerment to affect the redesign of their cities and their urban space.

Maria Dalkafouki, the legal representative and sales manager in DALKAFOUKI OIKOS LTD, a cement products company specializing in restoration materials in Greece, spoke about the value of restoration in her lecture titled **Buildings of the past, stories of today**. When asked from the audience about her advice to the next generation of female (or not female) architects in order to create new buildings for the stories of tomorrow, she replied that they have to follow their dream, learn from the past and look to the future.

Architect **Sophia Vyzoviti** is also a researcher who investigates the impact of emergent socio-spatial practices in the development of new architectural paradigms. She has taught in multiple universities in Europe and written several essays and books. Currently she is Associate Professor at the School of Engineering in Thessaly in Greece and she spoke about **Shell Performativity as a Tool for Urban Action**. Her ECOWEEK workshop that was held on 2-4 October, focused on 'space in between' and investigated public pocket spaces in the city of Thessaloniki, Greece, which are abandoned and how they can be reused, within the context of the COVID-19 era, where people are looking for outdoor spaces near home.

ABOUT ECOWEEK

ECOWEEK is a non-profit organization, established in 2005 by architect and social entrepreneur Elias Messinas, with the passion to change peoples' habits and the mission to raise environmental awareness and to promote sustainability. Based in Greece and Israel, for 15 years ECOWEEK has been engaging, training and empowering more than 4000 students and professionals from 56 countries with inspiring speakers and challenging design workshops. ECOWEEK has become for many young professionals a unique experience and a turning point to their growth and career.

ECOWEEK Organizing Team: Elias Messinas, Despoina Kouinoglou, Pavlos Symianakis, Sofia Passia, Vicky Panagiotidou, Eleni Mantika, Nafsica Mouti, Margarita Kyanidou, Ina Patsali, and Theodora Passia.

ECOWEEK Exhibition Team: Pavlos Symianakis, Evgenia Dickins, Mehmet Kisa, Artemis Korovesi, Foteini Masiala, Despoina-Elisavet Michaelidi, Flaka Pergjegjaj, Çlirimtare Sylá, Bijona Trakaniqi, Anjeza Vokshi.

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