

15 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

the  
ECOWEEK  
MEET-UP

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ONLINE CHALLENGE  
2020-2021 EDITION

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Photographs: Courtesy of ECOWEEK. Cover Page image: ECOWEEK 2012 in Rome, Italy.*

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# Welcome to ECOWEEK



In 2020 ECOWEEK goes Online!

This year is very different. Not only because ECOWEEK is celebrating its 15-year anniversary. But, primarily, because this year, for the first time, we are in the middle of a crisis – or as some experts put it, at the end of the beginning of the crisis. A situation that we have not yet experienced in our lifetimes. Even as some of us who return to the ‘new normal’ we are asked to follow guidelines in public space and to keep a safe distance from everyone around us.

How that affects us, seems pretty obvious. But, how does it affect us as architects and designers, and how it will affect our professions, remains yet to be seen.

I want to take a step back and reflect on where did the COVID-19 pandemic find us.

The way I see it, the pandemic found us at the question of whether humanity is willing to make radical changes and sacrifices in the way we live, in order to respond to the climate crisis and to avoid a possible catastrophe.

This question was raised already in the 1970s, when scientists began to develop scientific models on climate change and its impact on natural cycles and how do they affect humanity. Prior to the pandemic, young people, led by Greta Thunberg, were demanding of governments around the world to address the climate crisis as a top priority, and to take drastic action to avoid its consequences.

The governments responded that this could not be done. They claimed that people are not willing to change their habits or lifestyle at the scale required. So, governments refrained from taking any drastic measures. For example, measures to reduce the use of fossil fuels and the emissions of carbon dioxide to the Earth’s atmosphere, and thus avoid raising global temperatures above 1.5-2 degrees.

Governments said it cannot be done.

**and yet we did it!**

Yet, in the COVID-19 pandemic, as a global community, we achieved the impossible!

When we were asked to stop traveling, we stopped. When we were asked to stay at home, we did. We achieved collectively in an almost unimaginable way, what scientists have been talking about for the last 50 years.

That is, to take collective global action and to reduce the use of fossil fuels, which in some countries dropped by almost 75%! Over-consumption and purchases dropped in some countries by almost 80%. The air in many cities and waters cleared, in others they saw the sky for the first time.

No doubt, the pandemic caused the loss of life and it is tragic. But, it also saved lives. For example, of millions dying each year of asthma or other diseases associated with air pollution. Overall, it’s remarkable how far our global community was willing to go in changing our lifestyle, in order to protect our health and well-being. Despite what our governments thought.



There is also no doubt that the crisis almost brought global economies to their knees and millions of people lost their jobs.

However, it also showed that in time of crisis, money can be made available. The trillions spent to keep businesses alive was vital. But, if it was invested gradually in new technologies, or as European governments suggested, if it was matched with incentives for sustainable and less polluting practices, then the crisis would also benefit the economy and the environment in the long run. Investing in sectors of the circular economy, new products and new services, would not only keep the economies afloat, but would create millions of new jobs as well.

So, as we experienced the transition towards the post-pandemic 'new normal', ECOWEEK organized its first online 48-hour challenge. Our goal was to reactivate and empower young professionals confined at home, in testing new ideas, developing and improving old methodologies, and to share professional and scientific knowledge and expertise on circular economy in design.

Our aim was to share and develop with colleagues from around the world new possibilities and solutions. For example, circular economy and sustainable design, materials reuse and recycling, incorporating landscape strategies, and using renewable energy sources. The challenge presented the theory, and the workshops

tackled the practical uses in our daily lives, at home and at work.

The response was overwhelming. The online challenge attracted more than 350 young and established professionals from 20 countries.

## Now we are departing to our new challenge for 2020-2021!

Marking the 15-year anniversary of ECOWEEK, our goal is to celebrate it with a series of online events and a virtual exhibition, followed by design-build hands-on events in selected sites. Students will design and implement their ideas as ECOWEEK has been accomplishing in cities around the world. We are departing on the planning of the next online challenge, to take place in September 2020. It will be followed by an anniversary event in the summer of 2021. More details in this package.

With your support ECOWEEK will continue to make a difference! Join us for the very special ECOWEEK 15-years anniversary!

Dr. Elias Messinas  
Architect and Environmental Consultant  
Founding Chairman of ECOWEEK

**ECOWEEK**  
... habits change ... climate change

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01

WHO  
WE  
ARE

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[ECOWEEK](#) is an international non-profit organization with the passion to to change people's habits and with the mission to raise awareness on environmental issues and to promote social and environmental sustainability.

[ECOWEEK](#) was first established in Greece in 2005. For the past 15 years, [ECOWEEK](#) has developed outreach programs to more than 17 countries, making an impact in more than 30 cities. Through more than 200 sustainable design workshops, [ECOWEEK](#) has engaged more than 4000 students and professionals from 56 countries in sustainability training and practice. [ECOWEEK](#) design-build workshops have affected public spaces and institutions, and have empowered and engaged in the making, thousands of people.

[ECOWEEK](#) international events bring together professionals and students of Architecture, Design, Landscape Architecture, and Environmental Engineering from around the world.

[ECOWEEK](#) design workshops led by established architects and designers, scientists and engineers, landscape architects and artists, train graduate students in public participation, urban transformation and placemaking, making a difference for communities around the world.

Participants confirm that [ECOWEEK](#) conferences and sustainable design workshops have become for them a unique experience and a turning point to their professional growth and career.

[ECOWEEK](#) educational and professional materials are available online. They include books and catalogues that inspire through their diversity in ideas, and geographic spread.

Read through the [ECOWEEK The Workshops \(2009-2016\)](#) online.

Read through [ECOWEEK The Book #1:50 Voices for Sustainability](#) online. It is available in hard copy through Amazon, and for tablet through Kindle. The first [ECOWEEK](#) Book was edited by E. Messinas and D. Price, was published in 2016. It features built work, design projects, ideas, and interviews by renown professionals such as Kengo Kuma, Bjarke Ingels, Diebedo Francis Kere, Antarctica explorer Robert Swan, and many more. What brings them together in this book, is their association with [ECOWEEK](#): they were all former [ECOWEEK](#) speakers or workshop leaders. Their exceptional and innovative work will certainly inspire you to sustainability!

More information about [ECOWEEK](#).

02

# HOW WE DO IT

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ECOWEEK programs are an amazing experience, because every single participant is empowered to make a difference and inspire the others! This is why ECOWEEK events stimulate, empower, educate, train, and inspire.

ECOWEEK programs have different formats. From international conferences and short lecture-series, to design-build workshops, and from educational programs in schools to collaborations with scientists and start-ups, ECOWEEK has reached out to youth, professionals and the general public in Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Denmark, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the West-Bank.

this year we make it different:  
something old, something new  
something borrowed, something...green

After a series of hands-on events, the ECOWEEK 48-hour Challenge for Circular Economy in Design, introduced in May 2020, a new online model. It attracted more than 350 participants from 20 countries. It enabled lectures, virtual games, and design workshops, through experimentation with virtual group communication and sharing of materials platforms. The result was remarkable, and the responses and post-event evaluation extremely positive.

The next step to this new experiment is to mark the 15-year anniversary of ECOWEEK with a new online challenge in September 2020. It will combine online lectures and workshops, and a new exhibition model developed by ECOWEEK. It will be followed by physical hands-on design-build workshops series in the summer of 2021.

Our vision is to celebrate the 15th anniversary of ECOWEEK with virtual and physical activity that will promote sustainability in the post-pandemic 'new normal'.

Together we will set the new standards for innovation, sustainability and for a unique design training and educational experience!

Join us on this challenge!

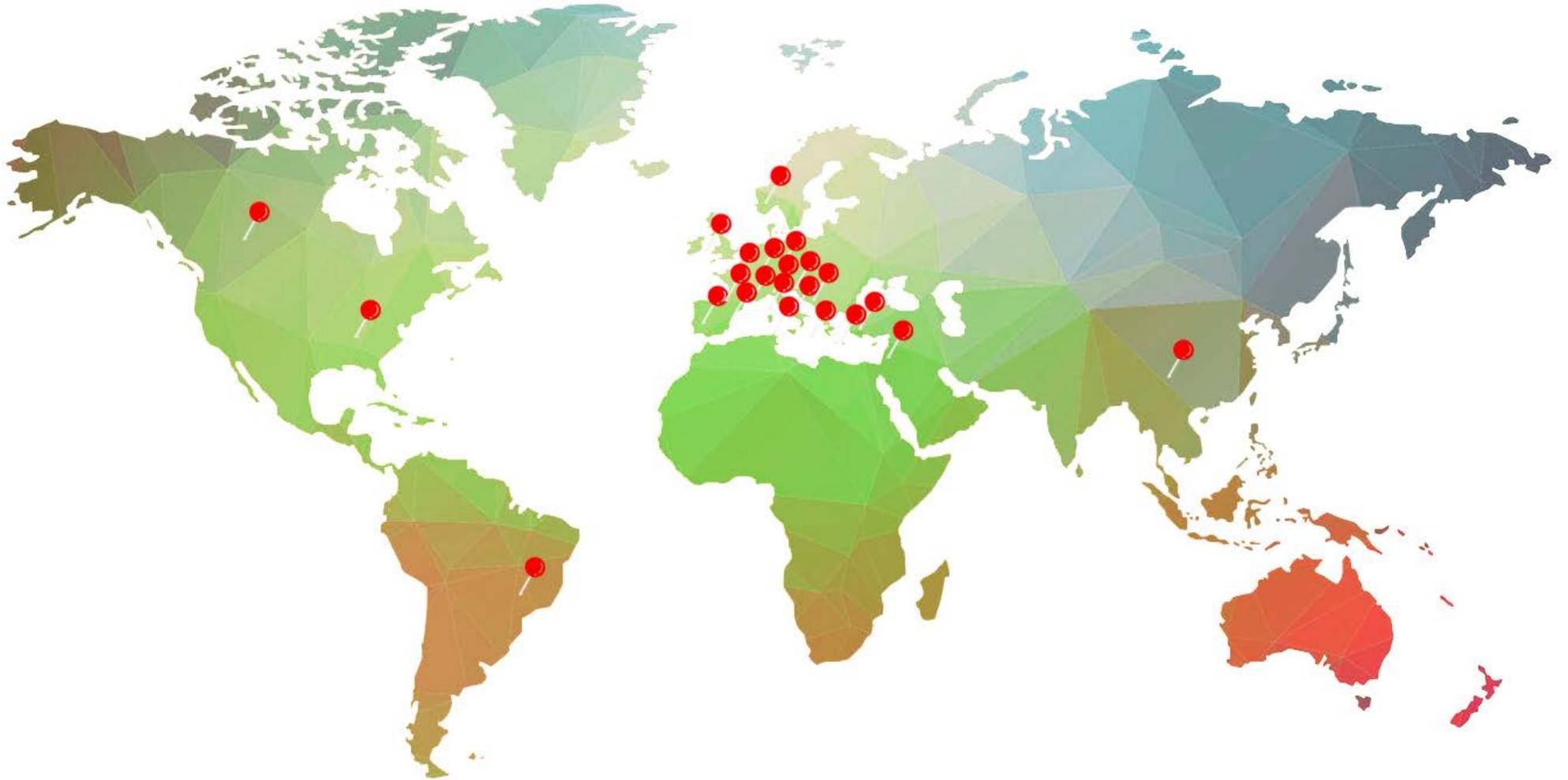
03

WHERE  
WE  
ARE

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**WHEREVER YOU ARE!  
FIND YOUR LOCATION & LET'S MEET ONLINE!**



**ECOWEEK IS WHERE WE MEET!**



**ONLINE CHALLENGE IN A NUTSHELL /**

360 participants in 20 countries

4 hours of lectures / 8 speakers

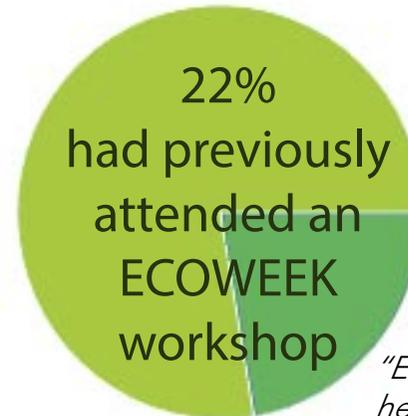
24 hours of workshops / 6 workshops / 10 workshop leaders

*"We worked perfectly and the outcome was really good." D.E.M*

*"I was impressed by the work we have done in such a small period of time." E.S*

*"It was a nice practice on circular economy and gave us inspiration for future projects." I.P*

*∞ It was awesome to cooperate with foreign people and to see how they work. // M.P*



*"Good organisers & partners." P.G*

*"Loved the event." D.B*

*"Ecoweek is a very good platform, which helps the environmental sustainability." Q.T*

and 84% would definitely join again



and 99% would like to attend  
an ECOWEEK workshop in their country

*"Good organisation, interesting and solid theme." C.K*

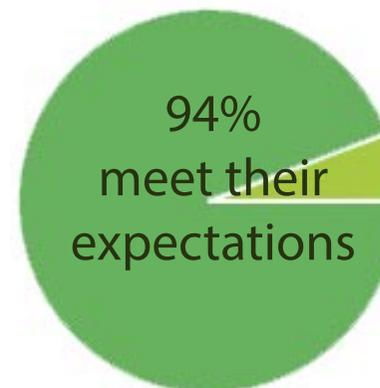
*"For the short amount of time, there was a lot of thinking and work done." S.D*

*"It was a great organisation with very challenging topics and time as well. The good thing was that we gained new knowledge, worked good as a team and the collaboration with the tutors was very good." D.K*

*"\ \ Actually it exceeded my expectations...At the beginning I didn't think it would be very different from the Landscape Design class, but it really was . The workshop was very informative. " N.S*

*" The subjects were interesting and different, ranging from material technology to community shaping and they offered a view in many beautiful ideas." O.A*

*" They helped me get informed about a lot of topics which I was interested in." C.S*



*" They presented a broad range of approaches in the topic of sustainability and circular economy strategies." M.S*

*"The projects were very interesting and tackled sustainability issues in special ways." S.P*

and 82% are convinced that they gained new skills



# WHY WE DO IT

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Because the world is getting warmer and the climate more unstable and unpredictable. Because the world is getting more aware and more concerned, looking for solutions. Because our well-being and our economic prosperity depend on the climate, and our economic activity affects the climate. Because we realize that changes are required in order to achieve sustainability.

Because devastating wars, refugees, fires, earthquakes, floods, loss of livelihood, loss of biodiversity and the recent pandemic of the COVID-19 remind us how closely connected and interdependent are the climate and global stability.

Because now more than ever, architects, designers, landscape architects, urban planners have a moral obligation to re-evaluate the way we treat the natural resources, and the way we design and impact the natural and built environment.

During the past 15 years ECOWEEK has developed design programs to address the environmental challenge facing architecture and design and to raise awareness and develop solutions. Through workshops, lectures and other interactive platforms, ECOWEEK has transformed problems into creative opportunities towards sustainable solutions.

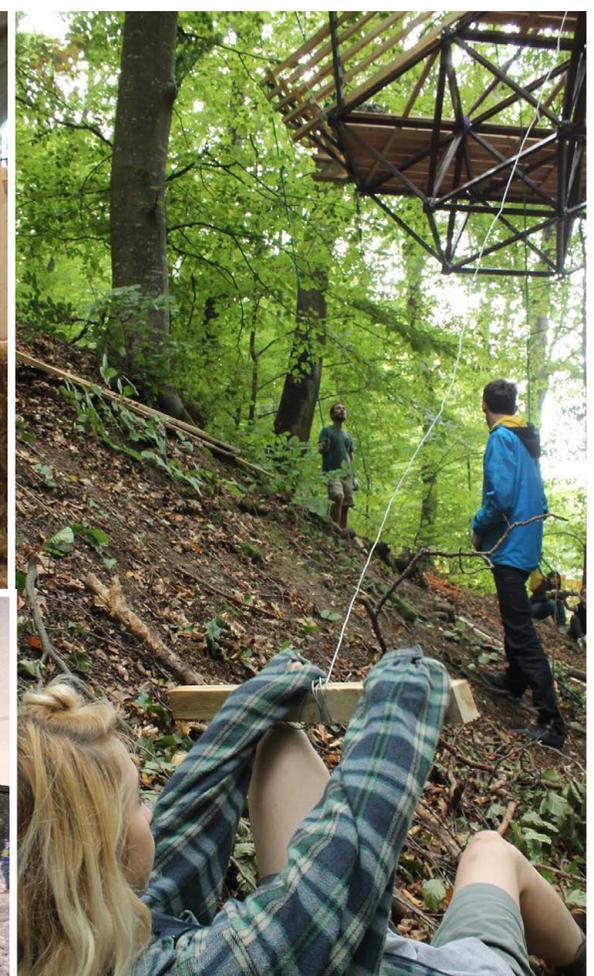
ECOWEEK workshops are based on a theoretical and scientific context aiming towards sustainability through the principles, methodologies and practices of One Planet Living, Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD), Placemaking, and Participatory Design.

ECOWEEK workshops encompass a wide range of themes, encompassing innovation and sustainability in interior design, passive solar design, landscape architecture, urban planning, industrial design, addressing urban archaeology, landscape art, placemaking, vernacular architecture, emergency architecture for shelter design, refugee camps and settlements, and more. ECOWEEK workshops re-think public space in its various forms, including parks, public squares, shopping malls, schools and hospitals. They explore the limits of design from natural materials to innovation, and from biomimicry to nanotechnology.

In May 2020, ECOWEEK further expanded its themes by developing workshops on the model of Circular Economy in design. Students and professionals explored, among others, Reuse, Reduce, Recycle & Upcycle of waste, in an attempt to understand a more holistic approach to design and production.

*Next page a collage of ECOWEEK past projects in cities around the world.*





## WHY CIRCULAR ECONOMY?

ECOWEEK opened its Online Challenge series in May 2020 with the theme of Circular Economy in Design. But why Circular Economy? Current and future advancements in construction warn that the request for natural resources will rise three times by 2050. The main reasons are, on one hand, global economic growth and on the other, increase of the world population, expected to rise from 7 billion today to 9 billion in the next 50 years (Swilling, 2011).

At the same time, the middle class will significantly increase, which will lead directly to the doubling of consumption per capita (WBCSD, 2008). While improving the life quality for many, we are also endangering to increase significantly the production of waste. For this reason, in the Circular Economy concept by the European Union, waste prevention is a priority (Icibaci 2019).

Circular economy is a sustainable act by thinking the circular supply chains and maximizing the value of materials in which products can be reused, remanufactured or recycled (EMF, 2012). Today, construction uses 40-50% of raw materials and is responsible for 10-30% of the waste flow in the European Union. (Uihlein & Eder, 2009).

Research in circular economy points to ways that different parts of a product or construction material can be reused or recycled after the product's or building's expected lifecycle. Moving, for example, from a linear economy to a circular economy in construction, is the key to increasing recycling and reuse of construction and demolition materials.

A large number of companies and startups are focusing on creating a circular framework for their products and services. Furthermore, design for disassembly, Internet of Things, and material banks are being introduced to optimize circular construction practices.

The ultimate goal: a completely circular construction industry in the near future!

*In the next two pages ECOWEEK 2020 Online Challenge presentation panels.*

“ .. what if you could redesign everything? ”

Ellen McArthur Foundation





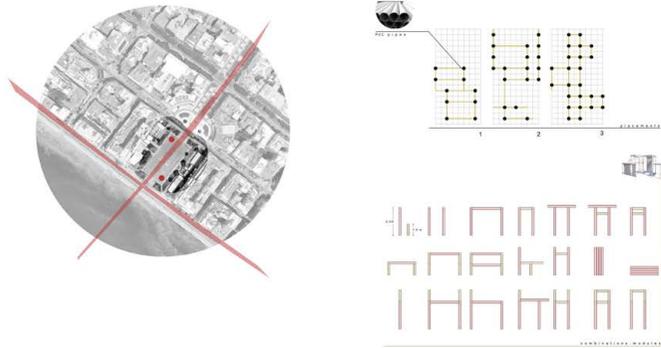


# Materials for a sustainable future

Workshop 5\_Group 2

## W6 | GROUP 2

Team Members:  
Malina Florou, Christina Christodoulaki, Nina Stollarova, Arianna Shehu, Katerina Mavromoustaki



### Smart Living House/Building

The objective of this workshop is to incorporate in a housing unit as many of the Sensors and IoT in order to have a sustainable, zero waste energy smart house for the building and the users. By the following illustrations, we will explore the different types of the Sensors, explore their functionality and provide statistics regarding their efficiency.

A zero waste energy building is operated to maximize energy efficiency, implement energy recovery opportunities where feasible and balance the actual annual source energy consumption with on-site renewable energy generation. It is an undeniable fact that we can no longer exploit environmental resources as if they were infinite, so becoming more resource efficient is an effective way towards a sustainable future.

A smart zero energy building combines advanced design and superior building systems with energy efficiency. Smart homes are meant to be a more effective mode to manage the demands of daily living through technology, reducing energy demand in household as part of a wider transition to a low-carbon future. The core of smart green homes is automation technology and their biggest benefit is that they enable the user to remotely monitor and manage different appliances, components or the conditions of the building through smart devices.

To the direction of implementing new technologies, IoT, mobile devices and AI in the design and building process, we can utilize sensor networks that are able to control temperature, monitor power and water consumption, track sustainability performance in real-time etc. Precisely, we categorize them into six basic monitoring sectors that are meant to supervise energy consumption and increase energy efficiency.

Initially in order to monitor the quality of indoor air, we propose the installation of sensors capable of detecting odors and concentrations of micro-organisms and chemical substances, in order to inform the user and/or activate the right mechanism for indoor air renewal. Accordingly, there can be outdoor air quality control with sensors that, after an initial assessment, could determine whether natural ventilation can take place and allow or not the activation of a mechanical system of filtration and indoor air intake.



Real Time Data Analysis... controllable by user

### Smart living housing

#### Energy management through sensors and IoT

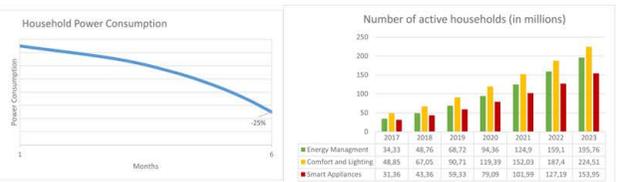


Additionally, occupation and motion monitoring via occupancy sensors can suggest efficient in terms of energy-saving, adjustments of indoor and outdoor lighting, as well as adjustments to heating and cooling in order to enhance the users' experience and lower the energy consumption when a space gets empty or overcrowded. The user's experience can also be improved by sensors that monitor the thermal comfort of the buildings and the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Solar radiation, indoor temperature and moisture sensors, could assess if a room needs ventilation, shading, cooling and heating and enable the mechanical system to accomplish the ideal thermal comfort for the user.

Lastly, zero waste and water buildings require the constant monitoring of both. Water monitoring through leakage, water quality control, water consumption and automatic watering of plantation sensors, can enable the user to become more conscious regarding the consumption of water and prevent the possible waste of it, as well as take care of the vegetation on time. This comes along with waste monitoring via waste control sensors in the collection tanks, which can provide data for the appropriateness of recycling and composting or even connect to an urban waste management network.

The Internet of Things and the storing of all the data that the sensors can collect, can be a useful tool with multiple benefits. Electricity consumption report from electrical appliances and lighting and water consumption report can give an insight of what are the true readings of the residents and how the building can achieve energy efficiency. The process of sensor monitoring can be followed by electricity production controls via photovoltaic panels, hot water production controls by solar water heater and incorporate more innovative technologies like electric car charging systems, apart from the activation of mechanical systems mentioned beforehand. By collecting data and making continuous amendments, smart buildings address the goal of greater energy and operational efficiency, as long as they allow the personalised use of the residents and guarantee their personal comfort and happiness.

### Statistic Data



### GOALS OF THE DESIGN PROCESS

Main goal of the project is to incorporate the basic global principles of circular economy at a more local level and create low projects with strong green infrastructure could become even more crucial. The project will develop strategies for design, maintenance, recycling and upcycling, and increase biodiversity in the future. The main focus is on our interest are:

1. Materials
2. Landscape Design and Planning creating effects, properties of the plants, assembly, collection, texture, reuse and variety of the stems.
3. We aim to unify the whole site of the garden by using the individual spaces created by the previous team, through reuse and secondary reuse. In this way, we will create a journey for the visitor from the site we entered the site, allowing him to discover the garden step by step and have a different experience each time. (Activities include: social, family, group, individual, different locations, walking on sand, grass, playing with water) as far as possible economy is concerned, we will be achieved by:
  - Reuse of Old Waste in Furniture, planters, pavement, installation
  - Making the garden accessible to the rest of the area, enhancing its multi-use by hosting cultural activities
  - Creating planting plan will save the whole tree of the year



### Among the users are:

- Staff of the Hospital
- Patients
- Visitors of patients
- Community

Based on the users, we created different spaces for them. Most of the areas can be used by all of them, but some of the areas are more private and created for a specific type of user. There have been planned jogging lanes, exercise equipment, children playground and different sitting areas around the park which can be used by the community around. Also a special planting garden it is planned for both the patients and the residents around to harvest fruit trees and vegetables.

### The principles of the healing garden that we used are:

1. Entrance - signals that the visitor is entering sacred ground and leaving worries behind.
2. Movement - include elements of surprise and whimsy. Provides variety in color, texture, size and massing.
3. Water - can be metaphorical of peace, tranquility and calm. Conversely, it is also associated with vitality, fertility, abundance, fluidity and movement.
4. Earth - Create areas where you can walk directly on the earth: stone pavers, soil, pebbles, moss, wood planks, sand.
5. Sitting Areas - Sitting areas are an essential component of a garden. They provide respite, regeneration, and an opportunity to socialize, comfort, contemplate, and enjoy.

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# THE PROGRAM

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## ECOWEEK online formats

### 3 DAYS FORMAT \*

#### DAY 1 /

opening introduction  
lectures session  
closing session & conclusions  
meet online with tutors

#### DAYS 2-3 /

meet online with tutors  
online design process  
workshop proposals & deliverables  
closing sessions & conclusions with tutors  
discussion & feedback

### 7-10 DAYS FORMAT \*

#### DAY 1 /

opening introduction  
lectures session  
closing session & conclusions  
meet online with tutors

#### DAYS 2-7or 10 /

meet online with tutors  
online design process  
parallel lectures  
workshop proposals & deliverables  
closing sessions & conclusions with tutors  
online exhibition  
discussion & feedback

### EXHIBITION FORMAT \*

#### 2 - 4 MONTHS CURATION /

brainstorming  
lectures session  
concept, design & 3d design & software training  
meet online with professionals

#### OPENING /

lectures session  
keynote speakers  
publicity

#### DURATION /

based on each event & location  
visitors online experience & feedback



## ECOWEEK in-situ formats

### 5-7 DAYS FORMAT \*

DAY 1 /  
opening introduction  
lectures session  
closing session & conclusions  
meet with tutors & social activities

DAYS 2-5 or 7 /  
meet with tutors  
design process  
workshop proposals & deliverables  
parallel events  
closing sessions & conclusions with tutors  
exhibitions  
discussion & feedback

### SUMMER CAMP FORMAT \*

DAY 1 /  
opening introduction  
lectures session  
closing session & conclusions  
meet online with tutors

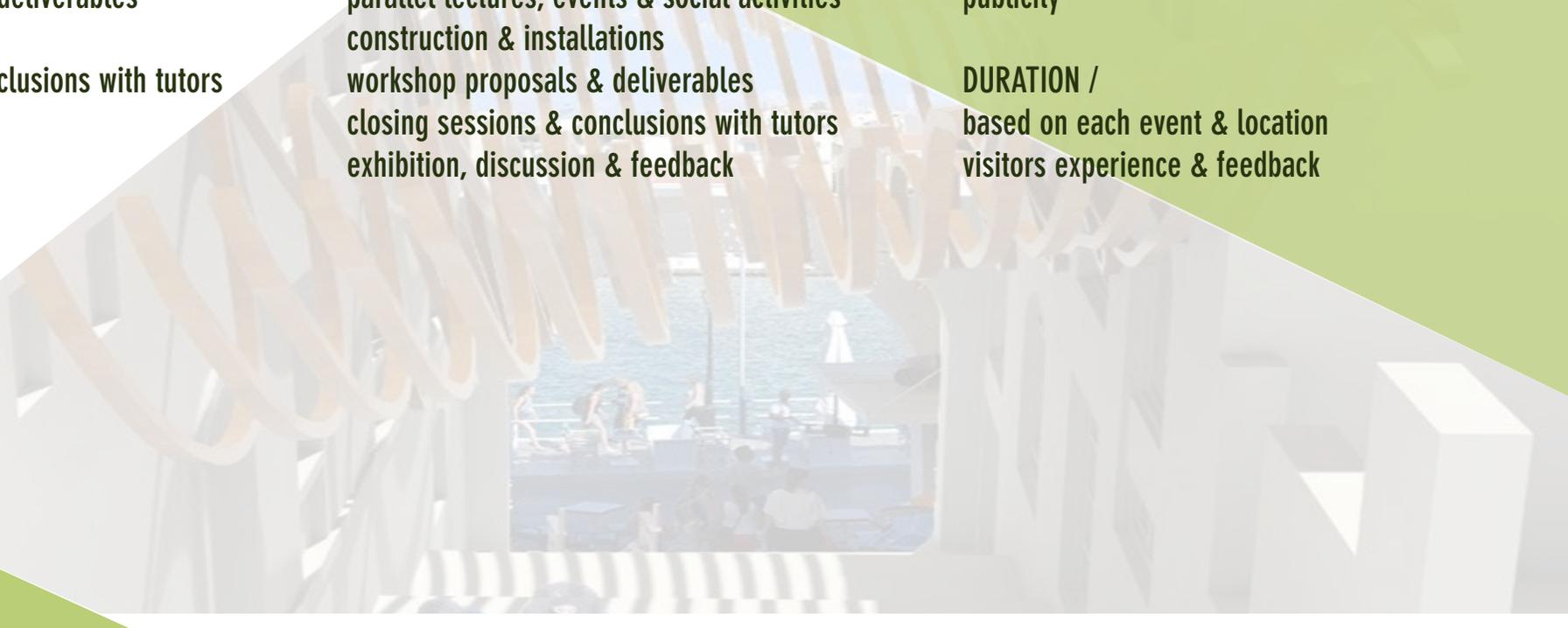
DAYS 2-7 or 10 /  
meet with tutors  
site visits & design process  
parallel lectures, events & social activities  
construction & installations  
workshop proposals & deliverables  
closing sessions & conclusions with tutors  
exhibition, discussion & feedback

### EXHIBITION FORMAT \*

2 - 4 MONTHS CURATION /  
brainstorming  
lectures session  
concept, design & 3d design & software training  
meet online with professionals

OPENING /  
lectures session  
keynote speakers  
publicity

DURATION /  
based on each event & location  
visitors experience & feedback





06

# HOW TO JOIN US

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# SPEAKERS / WORKSHOP LEADERS



The new **ECOWEEK** Online format enables a flexible, time-saving, low-carbon participation for a speaker and/or workshop leader. Time commitment includes only specific time slots (according to the program), with certain degree of flexibility.

Participation takes place through online platforms which will be provided and supported by the **ECOWEEK** IT team.

Speaker/workshop leader must have a computer with installed camera and microphone, and reliable high speed internet connection. **ECOWEEK** will hold one or more preparation and guidance e-meetings, and will provide supporting guidelines.

Promotion of participation is important, so **ECOWEEK** will rely on receiving visual and written information in order to promote the speaker/workshop leader, including making him/herself available for an interview for the **ECOWEEK** social media.

We look forward to your participation!  
We will be happy to discuss the details!

# PARTICIPANTS



The new **ECOWEEK** Online format enables a flexible, low-cost, time-saving, low-carbon participation in an international event!

Participants must commit participation for the entire duration of the program, and in particular for the time slots with the assigned workshop group.

Participation takes place through online platforms which will be provided and supported by the **ECOWEEK** IT team.

Participants must have a functioning computer with reliable internet connection. Participants will be provided with supporting guidelines for his/her participation and detailed guidelines regarding the theme, timetable and deliverables of the workshop.

Participants will be asked to go through an online registration process, which may include an online payment for registration fee. Communication will be made through the email provided during registration. Selected participants may be invited for an interview for the **ECOWEEK** social media.

We look forward to your participation!

# VOLUNTEERS



The new **ECOWEEK** Online format provides an exciting range of opportunities for volunteers which do not require travel, and are flexible, low-cost and low-carbon!

Share your ideas, time and enthusiasm with the **ECOWEEK** team, and experience meaningful cooperation and gaining of valuable experience and international exposure to professionals, institutions and peers.

A volunteer will commit participation for the entire duration of a program, and in particular the time required to bring a task to completion.

The cooperation takes place through online platforms which will be provided and supported by the **ECOWEEK** IT team.

Volunteers must have a functioning computer with camera and microphone, and with reliable internet connection.

Volunteers will be provided with supporting guidelines for his/her participation and detailed guidelines regarding the task, timetable and deliverables.

Join us! We look forward to working together!  
We will be happy to discuss the details!

# PARTNERS & SPONSORS



The new **ECOWEEK** Online format enables a flexible, low-carbon international event!

This new format has also the advantage of allowing more people to participate, and therefore provide more exposure to participating partners.

Supporting partners will cover:

- A high quality event with wide international exposure.
- Prominent keynote speaker/s.
- Professional online platforms, and
- Logistics and production.

Partners may also provide content, materials, and other in-kind support.

Partners will be offered extensive publicity and custom privileges, which may include logo exposure, shared press release, social media promotion, promotion of video spot, and more.

We look forward to working together!  
We will be happy to discuss the details!

# MEDIA PARTNERS



The new **ECOWEEK** Online format enables a flexible, low-carbon international event!

This new format also relies heavily on media partners to help get the word across.

We expect our media partners to provide:

- 1-2 posts or publications before the event.
  - 1 banner on their website.
- 1 interview or other content during the event.
  - 1 post or publication after the event.

Partners will be offered extensive publicity, including logo exposure, cross link of announcement to **ECOWEEK** platforms, and mention in press releases.

We look forward to working together!  
We will be happy to discuss the details!



07

# OUR PAST PARTNERS

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UP



For the past 15 years, ECOWEEK events have been made possible and successful thanks to our partners from around the world.

We thank the local authorities, universities, businesses, institutions, media, and organizations, that have supported us over the years.

Here are some of the hundreds of ECOWEEK partners of the past 15 years.

We hope to see your logo here too!



A background photograph showing several people working with large rolls of newspaper. One person in the foreground is wearing a blue plaid shirt and is focused on their work. Another person with blonde hair is visible on the right side. The scene is outdoors, with a brick wall and green foliage in the background. A semi-transparent green rectangle is overlaid in the center of the image.

08

MEET  
THE  
TEAM

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**Elias Messinas (IL & GR)**  
*Founding Chairman & Coordinator*

Elias is an architect and environmental consultant, senior lecturer, and social entrepreneur. Graduate of Yale School of Architecture, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, he holds a doctorate from the National Technical University of Athens.

Elias attended the M.Sc. program on Environment and Development at NTUA, and has completed research on sustainable design in the Negev desert at Ben Gurion University.

Elias teaches sustainable design at Patras University and Holon Institute of Technology, and has published his work through books, articles, catalogues, and exhibitions, and is the author and co-editor of **ECOWEEK** The Book#1: 50 Voices for Sustainability. ([www.ecoama.com](http://www.ecoama.com))



**Despoina Kouinoglou (UK)**  
**ECOWEEK Associate**  
*Head Organizer & Coordinator*

Despoina is a landscape architect with work experience in the UK where she has undertaken projects in various scales, including rural and urban schemes, with main focus on landscape planning and design.

Despoina has also gained experience from a rural architecture program in capacity building and development in Mt. Elgon in Kenya, as part of the doctorate dissertation research of Michiel Smits (TU Delft, Avans University of Applied Sciences).

Despoina has completed her masters degree in landscape architecture at the Postgraduate Program of Studies in Landscape Architecture at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece (2017). Despoina's dissertation researched the redesign and integration of refugee camps with local communities through design. Since 2015, Despoina has been an Associate at **ECOWEEK**.



**Sofia Passia (FR)**  
**Organiser , Content Developer &  
Graphic Designer**

Sofia was born and raised in Thessaloniki, Greece. Sofia adores every corner of her city, from people to buildings. When she was young, she lived with her family and three sisters in Bruxelles BG for 5 years, where she learned to speak French which she adores. Prior during her studies at the Architecture program of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (2017), Sofia spent an Erasmus semester in Lyon, France. Sofia today lives in Paris, working in architectural firms which focus on the development of medium scale projects.

Sofia volunteers often and believes highly in interacting with other peers.  
Her moto is "together we stand, divided we fall".



**Pavlos Symianakis (UK)**  
**Organiser , Exhibition Coordinator &  
Head IT Support**

Pavlos is an Architect Engineer graduate of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece (2019). He is currently studying at the Architectural Association in London.

The theme of his postgraduate is Architecture and Urbanism: Social Ecologies at the Design Research Laboratory (AADRL).

Prior to his postgraduate studies, Pavlos was part of the Not a Number Architects firm in Thessaloniki, where he assumed an important role in the development of major architectural projects of different scales throughout Europe. Projects included the Rue de pain bistro in Bucharest, Romania, the Open Market master planning and design of retail pavilions in Elounda, Greece, the design of a Boutique Hotel in Santorini, Greece, the Master plan for a fifteen hectare theme park near Sparta, Greece, and others.

During his architectural studies, Pavlos has taken part in several workshops and seminars including **ECOWEEK**. Pavlos is interested in digital experimental design research and contemporary fabrication techniques, integrated with a vision of a greener and smarter future, where people and materials matters.



**Vicky Panagiotidou (UK)**  
**Workshops Organiser & Coordinator,**  
**Content & Blog Developer**

Vicky started exploring the world in Thessaloniki, Greece in 1994. As soon as she was able to walk she never stopped roaming the streets of the city and soon departed to explore more cities. Several stops along the way include her studies at the Architecture School of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and currently at UCL's Bio-integrated design Master. Vicky is dedicated to learning continuously and to volunteering for worthy causes, thus joining several activities and workshops, including **ECOWEEK** in Thessaloniki. Vicky is interested in innovative and peculiar design and materials, fresh ideas about unexplored topics, and most of all she adores meeting new people and sharing ideas because that's what triggers her next step!



**Eleni Mantika (GR)**  
**Media & Volunteers Coordinator**

Eleni was born in Thessaloniki, Greece, and is an undergraduate student of Architecture at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Her extracurricular activity includes radio production and working as a DJ in Thessaloniki. Eleni adores travelling and never misses a chance to explore new places, meet new people, and experience new foods and cultures. Eleni has joined numerous workshops and volunteer actions such as Open House, Enhancements, High School Engineering, European Youth Capital 2014 and others. In 2015, as part of an educational workshop in New York, she was introduced to leading universities and renowned architectural firms, including COOKFOX and Thornton Tomasetti. Eleni truly believes that sustainable design and eco-friendly materials are the future of architecture for a more sustainable world!



**Margarita Kyanidou (NL)**  
**Communication & Workshop**  
**Coordinator**

Margarita was born in Thessaloniki and raised in Edessa. Combining her environmental protection upbringing and her passion for Architecture, she strongly engages a sustainable way of thinking in design. She studied Architectural Engineering at the Democritus University of Thrace. She holds a Master's degree in Building Technology from TU Delft and she is a researcher on Circular Economy in Construction and Design for Disassembly. As a student, she attended numerous Workshops and Seminars concerning Sustainable Development in Architecture (Ecoweek, Sudesco, Promoriver, etc). As an Architect Engineer, she worked with Superuse Studios in Rotterdam and dealt with Upcycling reused train parts in the construction sector. Under cooperation with MVRDV and Superuse Studios, her Master Thesis prototype was presented and exhibited in GEVEL 2020 in Rotterdam.



CONTACT

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### Contact us!

If you are a university, organization, local authority, business, professional or student and you are interested in joining and/or supporting our new online challenge with **ECOWEEK** and/or organizing an **ECOWEEK** event in your city, we would like to hear from you!

To contact us, for questions, or to find out more about **ECOWEEK** see below.



# ECOWEEK

*... habits change ... climate change*