

## **ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL & MORPHOLOGICAL CLARIFICATIONS**

The second phase of the *Re-Think Athens* architectural competition involves the elaboration of the creative ideas submitted at first phase; the preliminary drawings to be submitted for second phase should have those ideas consolidated within the framework of the competition notice evaluation criteria. The objective is to obtain a final result which will be both a desirable and a feasible proposal, with the potential of being implemented immediately within the reality of contemporary Athens. For this purpose, after having taken all short-listed proposals under consideration, we found appropriate to point out certain remarks which might be constructive to a number of participants.

The definitive study should take account of the current institutional framework, both for new constructions in public space as well as for designated historical sites. The latter factor is of the greatest importance, since the center of Athens is both a designated “*Archaeological Site*”, since there are antiquities below the surface, as well as a “*Historical Center*” with a number of listed 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century buildings which are protected due to their architectural and historical significance. Consequently, the definitive study will have to be granted approval from the Central Archaeological Council (KAS) and the Central Council of Modern Monuments (KSNM). The two boards will examine the extent of alterations upon the protected buildings and sites according to the provisions of the Act and the legal framework and will maintain the right to demand modifications. The study will also have to be granted approval by the Central Council of Architecture.

Particular attention should be paid to the surroundings of the “*Trilogy*”, on Panepistimiou Street, since the courtyards and the gardens of the three buildings are designed in continuity with their architecture and are listed together with the structures. Moreover, those areas belong to institutional bodies and are not subject to the architectural competition, which is limited in the public space only. As a consequence, the courtyards (as demarcated by the property line), which

are open to the public and are continuous with the streets and the pavements, can only be altered after the approval of a number of institutional boards, while any approved modifications will still require the consent of the legal tenders. In any case, there can be no prior commitment of the government that proposed modifications will be accepted, even if they make part of a competition winning entry.

In the case the definitive study suggests excavations, which will be a time-consuming work in progress *in situ*, the intervention on the surface of the city should be able to be completed on time and be fully functional regardless of the ongoing excavations, which will presumably lag behind several years and will be the responsibility of the archaeological services of the Public Sector. The excavations carried out so far during the construction of a number of private works, public infrastructures and underground stations provide a comprehensive sample of similar finds in the surrounding areas as well as indications of their depth. General guidelines have already been provided in the first phase of the competition; however, if this is deemed necessary by the contestants, an illustrative map depicting the existing finds may be provided to the participants.

Omonia Square is indeed one of the crucial points of the intervention, as all contestants have apparently realised. Large part of this square is the roof of the underground station where two subway lines interchange. The functionality of this infrastructure, which has existed for the last 80 years, is seamless and cannot be interrupted during the construction phase. Moreover, the existing infrastructure is functionally and structurally complex, with many vertical installations, some of which reach the surface. Therefore, any alteration to this infrastructure suggested by an entry should be backed by a brief technical feasibility / project management report, justifying functionality, mode of implementation and finances. In any case, the underground station and accesses therein are not included in the scope of the competition, therefore there can be no prior commitment of the government that proposed modifications will be accepted, even if they make part of a competition winning entry.

Athens is a Mediterranean capital with a moderate climate, which involves considerable heat

during the summer as well as short periods of cold during the winter. The trees make part of the city landscape and are naturally irrigated from groundwater. This is not the case however for surface plantings, which require artificial irrigation for many months of the year. Among the trees which were to be found in Athens during antiquity and still grow in the city today are planes, poplars and olives. This is not the case however with palm trees, which mostly owe their existence to orientalist perceptions of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and, as of lately, perish from disease by numbers. Recently, a number of palm trees that had been planted on Omonia Square had to be cut. We understand that each contestant team will endeavor to submit a well-documented, viable and sustainable planting proposal, having previously consulted with experts in the field. As an aid to the aforesaid obligation on behalf of the contestants, an illustrative list with the main features of the trees to be found in the area of intervention today will be made available to the participants.

The necessity of a fair comparative assessment of the second phase proposals has suggested that contestants should submit a small number of perspective illustrations from the exact same angles of view. For this purpose, there will be a map provided with the cones of vision corresponding to the desired illustrations as well as the respective photographs, without any further indications on software or representational techniques.

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