



ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ
ΑΡΧΙΤΕΚΤΟΝΩΝ
ΚΥΠΡΟΥ
CYPRUS ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION



**EUMIES
Awards**

European Union
Prize for Contemporary
Architecture/
Mies van der Rohe Awards

Name of work

TEPAK Paphos - School of Tourism, Hospitality and Management

Work Location

Paphos, Cyprus

Studio

Eraclis Papachristou Architects

Nomination Criteria & Evaluation

The nomination of the School of Tourism, Hospitality and Management in Paphos is grounded in a series of criteria that highlight its architectural maturity, spatial intelligence, and capacity to redefine the relationship between the built environment, landscape, and public life. The project demonstrates how a rigorous conceptual approach can generate a rich experiential environment, transforming a challenging sloping site into a dynamic academic and civic landscape.

A primary criterion for its selection lies in its exceptional engagement with topography. Rather than resisting the steeply changing ground levels, the building embraces and absorbs them, producing a sectional choreography in which terrain and built form continuously respond to one another. This negotiation produces a hybrid spatial identity that merges earthwork, architectural mass, and void. Simultaneously, the project introduces a contrasting diagram of strong horizontal volumes projecting from the slope, generating a friction between groundedness and suspension, stillness and tension. This interpretive duality—between accepting context and asserting a counter-position—is central to its architectural significance.

Another key criterion is the sophistication of the building's spatial core: the central courtyard. Defined through a delicate balance of mass and void, it serves as the hinge for circulation, gathering, and visual orientation. The amphitheatre, conceived as a substantial yet visually floating volume, reinforces the idea that absence—in this case, the void below and around it—can carry equal architectural weight to built form. Above this complex spatial field, the uppermost level distinguishes itself as a pure geometric gesture, detached from the constraints of the ground. Its calmness and clarity become the project's compositional anchor.

The building's public character further strengthens its candidacy. The absence of perimeter walls or restrictive thresholds allows seamless pedestrian movement, inviting citizens into the academic environment and positioning the building as an open civic landscape rather than a closed institutional enclave. Transparent and semi-transparent surfaces support this openness, making the rituals of learning visible to the surrounding community.

Material choices contribute significantly to the project's architectural legibility. The expressed concrete structure recalls modernist clarity and stability, while the vertical U-glass towers introduce a more atmospheric register, revealing activity within while maintaining a sense of ambiguity. Internally, a palette of materials integrates services and equipment into an industrial architectural language, producing a "machine for learning" that is both functional and expressive.

In a contemporary context where many institutional buildings rely on surface treatments or formal spectacle, this project distinguishes itself through depth of thought, spatial precision, and urban generosity. Its ability to elevate topographical constraints into architectural opportunities, its openness to the community, and its material and conceptual coherence position it as a work that fully meets the criteria of an exemplary EUMIES Awards nomination.



ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ
ΑΡΧΙΤΕΚΤΟΝΩΝ
ΚΥΠΡΟΥ
CYPRUS ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION



**EUMies
Awards**

European Union
Prize for Contemporary
Architecture/
Mies van der Rohe Awards

Name of work

Cultural Village in Lemba

Work Location

Lemba, Cyprus

Studio

Spyros Th. Spyrou, Charis Christodoulou, Charis Solomou

Nomination Criteria & Evaluation

The Cultural Village in Lemba is nominated based on criteria that highlight its cultural sensitivity, architectural coherence, and capacity to revitalise a place of historical and artistic significance. The project offers a contemporary model for how architecture can respectfully reinterpret local identity while enabling new forms of artistic production, education, and community engagement.

A foundational criterion for its selection is the project's grounding in the unique artistic history of Lemba, particularly the legacy of the Art College established by Stas Paraskos. Rather than approaching the site as a tabula rasa, the design operates as a re-imagination of a living cultural ecosystem, expanding and renewing the existing creative landscape. This approach illustrates how architecture can work as a tool for cultural continuity and reinvention.

The concept of the "village" functions as the project's organising principle and another central criterion. Drawing from the spatial and social characteristics of Cypriot village architecture—courtyards, human-scale transitions, the interplay of indoor and outdoor thresholds, and an intimate relationship with landscape—the designers create a micro-settlement that feels familiar yet distinctly contemporary. The distribution of pathways, terraces, semi-outdoor spaces, and courtyards enables a fluid movement between activities and fosters encounters between artists, residents, and the wider public.

The project's programme is organised into two complementary clusters: the "Neighbourhood of Creation" and the "Neighbourhood of Hospitality." This clear organisational strategy supports both long-term and short-term creative practices, offering studios, workshops, and administrative spaces alongside dormitories and communal areas. The result is a balanced environment where making, living, and learning coexist naturally—an important criterion for evaluating the project's social and cultural depth.

Architecturally, the intervention demonstrates a nuanced dialogue between traditional elements and contemporary expression. Inclined metal roofs reinterpret vernacular pitched geometries, wooden frames echo the rhythms of preserved structures, and stone surfaces reference the material memory of Lemba. These gestures are not literal historical reconstructions but subtle reinterpretations that embed the new architecture within its cultural context.

Another criterion relates to the project's sensitive response to the site's legal and environmental constraints. Built on land managed by the Turkish Cypriot Property Management Service, the design employs light, reversible construction methods that respect the provisional status of the site. This approach reinforces themes of ephemerality and adaptability, which align with the creative practices hosted in the complex.

Overall, the Cultural Village in Lemba stands out for its ability to synthesise cultural heritage and contemporary architectural language, creating a space that supports artistic development and community engagement. Through its spatial generosity, contextual intelligence, and programmatic clarity, it satisfies the criteria expected of a strong EUMies Awards nomination.



ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ
ΑΡΧΙΤΕΚΤΟΝΩΝ
ΚΥΠΡΟΥ
CYPRUS ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION



**EUMies
Awards**

European Union
Prize for Contemporary
Architecture/
Mies van der Rohe Awards

Name of work

Reuse of Athienou Municipal Market as a Community and Cultural Centre

Work Location

Athienou, Cyprus

Studio

AA & U For Architecture, Art and Urbanism

Nomination Criteria & Evaluation

The nomination of the Reuse of the Athienou Municipal Market is founded on its exemplary approach to adaptive reuse, heritage preservation, and civic activation. The project illustrates how a modernist building of significant historical value can be respectfully transformed to meet contemporary communal needs while preserving its foundational architectural identity.

A central criterion for nomination lies in the sensitive treatment of the original 1951 design by Neoptolemos Michaelides, an important figure of Cypriot Modernism. The project retains the expressive two-storey reinforced concrete frame, preserving its slender proportions and visual lightness. Upgrades, such as carbon-fibre strengthening, ensure structural longevity without compromising the original architectural character. This careful balance between conservation and performance enhancement exemplifies best practices in heritage-sensitive renovation.

Another criterion is the calibrated transformation of the secondary spatial system—the shops and lower volumes beneath the canopy. Instead of opting for complete replacement, the design introduces strategic additions and subtractions that support new functions such as a café, citizens' centre, post office, public facilities, storage, and a multipurpose hall. This approach respects the building's original spatial logic while enabling new forms of public use.

A significant aspect of the project's merit is its reconnection of the market with the urban fabric. Previously obstructed pedestrian routes are reopened, and a new northern entrance with an accessible ramp improves inclusivity. These interventions reinstate the building as a civic passage—one of its defining roles in the mid-20th century—and strengthen its relevance for today's community.

The project also demonstrates a strong commitment to resource-conscious and reversible design, another key nomination criterion. Elements such as metal shutters and wooden panels were carefully dismantled, restored, and reinstalled. New interventions are intentionally distinguishable from the original structure yet remain visually and materially harmonious, ensuring that the building's modernist legibility remains intact. Choices such as recycled-wood acoustic panels and discreet integration of mechanical systems emphasise environmental responsibility.

Beyond architectural and heritage considerations, the project's social impact is substantial. The transformation of a long-abandoned structure into a vibrant community and cultural centre restores a shared landmark and offers spaces for education, cultural events, gatherings, and everyday public use. This revitalisation enhances local identity, fosters intergenerational interaction, and reinstates the building as a point of civic exchange—an important criterion for evaluating the project's contribution to contemporary urban life.

Through its precise architectural decisions, cultural sensitivity, and respect for both modernist heritage and contemporary needs, the project embodies the values promoted by the EUMies Awards. Its approach to adaptive reuse serves as a model for sustainable, community-oriented architectural practice.



ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ
ΑΡΧΙΤΕΚΤΟΝΩΝ
ΚΥΠΡΟΥ
CYPRUS ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION



**EUMies
Awards**

European Union
Prize for Contemporary
Architecture/
Mies van der Rohe Awards

Name of work in English

Redevelopment of the Public Spaces of Agia Phyla's Historical Centre

Work Location

Ayia Fyla, Cyprus

Studio

AA & U For Architecture, Art and Urbanism, INB2IN Studio

Nomination Criteria & Evaluation

The Redevelopment of the Public Spaces of Agia Phyla's Historical Centre is nominated on the basis of criteria highlighting its ecological intelligence, social responsiveness, and contribution to urban transformation. The project exemplifies how contemporary public-space design can address the challenges of car-dominated environments while reactivating local identity and strengthening community life.

A key criterion is the project's multiscalar strategy. Rather than proposing a singular monumental gesture, the design introduces a network of micro-environments—squares, planted areas, pedestrian streets, and shaded thresholds. This constellation of interventions collectively reshapes the historical centre into a walkable, socially dynamic, and ecologically attuned public realm.

Another criterion is the rebalancing of vehicular and pedestrian priorities. By reclaiming significant portions of street space from private car circulation, the project creates new social and ecological opportunities: shaded sitting areas, widened pedestrian routes, planted zones, and habitats for non-human species, such as cats and birds. This broadening of urban life beyond human use forms part of an emerging ecological approach to public-space design.

The redesign of thresholds between public and private properties is another strong criterion for nomination. Through ramps, steps, planting beds, and metal structures hosting climbing vegetation, the project softens transitions and encourages social interaction. These detailed, human-scaled interventions create a welcoming public edge throughout the neighbourhood.

The ground surface itself is treated as a cultural and infrastructural element. The replacement of asphalt with geometric patterns of washed concrete and beige cobblestones resonates with the surrounding architecture and reinforces a coherent public identity. This treatment supports accessibility while functioning as an aesthetic and contextual marker.

Additional programmatic structures enhance the identity of the area: small wooden pavilions wrapped in vertical gardens serve as changing rooms and storage for an open-air theatre and periodic market. Their light materiality and integration with vegetation express a contemporary yet contextually sensitive architectural language.

A distinctive criterion is the incorporation of urban storytelling. Narratives of local everyday life are inscribed onto the pavement through a colour-coded geometric alphabet, inviting exploration and reinforcing a sense of belonging. This strategy transforms public space into a canvas of shared memory.

The project culminates in three principal environments—the Linear Square, the Social Support and Market Building, and the Chapel Garden—each addressing specific social and spatial needs. Together, they compensate for the historical courtyard of the main church, which has become enclosed, by creating alternative communal anchors for gathering, rest, and cultural activity.

Through its sensitive urban strategy, ecological responsibility, and deep engagement with local identity, the redevelopment meets the criteria for nomination to the EUMies Awards. It serves as a transferable model for transforming fragmented, traffic-heavy environments into resilient, inclusive, and culturally resonant public spaces.



ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ
ΑΡΧΙΤΕΚΤΟΝΩΝ
ΚΥΠΡΟΥ
CYPRUS ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION



**EUMies
Awards**

European Union
Prize for Contemporary
Architecture/
Mies van der Rohe Awards

Name of work

Aphrodite Thematic Route

Work Location

Ineia, Cyprus

Studio

Agisilaou & Kalavas Architectural Workshop

Nomination Criteria & Evaluation

The Aphrodite Thematic Route is nominated on the basis of criteria highlighting its refined landscape integration, cultural sensitivity, environmental responsibility, and the ethical clarity of its architectural approach. The project exemplifies how small-scale interventions in rural landscapes can produce meaningful cultural and ecological impact while elevating everyday experience.

A principal criterion for its nomination is the project's conceptual clarity. The designers approached the 2-kilometre route not as a vehicular corridor to be upgraded but as a pedestrian-oriented spatial sequence that celebrates the layered identity of the place. Instead of imposing new geometries onto the landscape, the route is shaped through a process of negotiation with natural features such as rocks, existing trees, and fragments of dry-stone walls.

The restoration and reconstruction of these dry-stone walls is central to the project's architectural and cultural merit. This work reasserts vernacular knowledge, reinstates historical terrain morphology, and reconnects the route with its traditional agricultural landscape. This commitment to cultural continuity is a key criterion for evaluating the project's significance.

New interventions—rest points, observation decks, and a modest visitor centre—are conceived as embedded elements that merge with the topography. Their materiality and scale maintain visual continuity with the natural environment, avoiding the introduction of intrusive forms. Local vegetation enriches ecological value and reinforces the project's low-impact approach.

Another critical criterion is the project's sensitive treatment of cultural heritage along the route. The two 12th-century chapels were approached with particular care, and archaeological findings uncovered during earthworks were fully integrated into the design. The colonial-era stone water reservoir was restored by subtly realigning the circulation path, allowing the structure to regain its presence in the landscape.

One of the most important selection criteria is the design team's principled stance regarding the initial brief. The original requirement for an 11-metre-wide road would have caused severe environmental and cultural damage. Through sustained technical and conceptual argumentation, the designers secured approval for a drastically reduced width (3.20 m central lane + 1.15 m on each side), thereby preventing irreversible harm and reducing construction costs. This act demonstrates a strong sense of professional responsibility and public-interest advocacy.

The project redefines the meaning of rural mobility by privileging walking, observation, ecological awareness, and engagement with cultural landmarks. Visitors encounter springs, chapels, geological formations, and panoramic views through a carefully choreographed spatial rhythm.

Through its synthesis of landscape stewardship, heritage protection, environmental ethics, and architectural restraint, the Aphrodite Thematic Route satisfies the criteria for nomination to the EUMies Awards. It represents a mature and forward-looking example of how thoughtful rural interventions can elevate both cultural understanding and environmental responsibility.