



**TOPIC**

Agii Anargiri is part of a series of housing projects built in the mid to late 70's throughout the island, in order to house the approximately 200,000 Greek-Cypriot refugees of the 1974 Turkish Invasion. The project raises the question of how to renew and rehabilitate the aged building stock, taking into account its inhabitants-users and the existing socio-urban relations. The ambition of the project is to bring better living conditions to the inhabitants, while at the same time infusing the site with an urbanity which seems absent. It is envisaged that the project will act as a pilot scheme for interventions to other refugee housing projects.

**CONURBATION**

The site is situated 3km N-W to the center of the city of Larnaca, a waterfront urban agglomeration with a population of 60,000. Larnaca, located on the southern coast of the island and a half hour drive from the capital Nicosia, is in fact since 1974 the airport-city of the island. Further to the airport, it hosts a commercial port, a marina, and a large oil refinery plant. The settling of large numbers of refugees, after the 1974 invasion, has totally transformed the city, doubling its population. The placement of refugee housing projects in the periphery became the catalyst for further urban development, but also a vehicle for sprawl. Nowadays, the housing projects are an integral part of the city.

**SITE**

Agii Anargiri is typical of the refugee housing projects built in the 70's, and as such follows an organizational logic that draws heavily on housing and urbanism ideas prevalent at the time. Car access and parking is organized in a series of cul-de-sacs that feed off an arterial peripheral road, while the buildings are organized in linear patterns running E-W. The building stock consists of 2 and 3 level apartment blocks, while some structures on the eastern end host commercial activity. The site is at sharp contrast to the urban patterns seen elsewhere in the city (and the rest of the island), where a generic sub-urban plot development system prevails.

**Population:** 60 000  
**Location:** AGII ANARGIRI  
**Study area:** 15.5 ha  
**Project area:** 2.5 ha





## PROGRAMME

Study area: The programme refers both to the specific site of Agii Anargiri and to the general framework of renewing refugee housing stock of all over Cyprus. The study area building stock will be rehabilitated (the study of a methodology of renewing is an integral part of the competition) while road network and open space organization issues are to be examined.

Intervention area: 125 new apartments (one to three bedrooms), to replace the existing three floor buildings located in this area (to be demolished due to structural deficiencies).

Public spaces and car circulation are to be rethought and redesigned (existing vegetation is to be conserved) and commercial facilities (shops, coffee shops) and cultural facilities (a small cultural centre) are to be added.

## ISSUES

### Social / functional

What parts of the methodology of renewing refugee housing can be revised, so that the notion of the existing takes an active role in the final result? What types of housing typologies could be devised to better serve the inhabitants, given that their demographic profile has been changing since their settling in 1974?

What interventions are required to re-activate the public character of the project and make the city more present within the housing area? A rethinking of the role and character of open public spaces as well as the car circulation network are central to this ambition.

### Phasing

The rehabilitation of a number of buildings is well under way in the study area. The authorities are committed to the project involving the intervention area, with the funding for the realisation of the project, already a part of the State budget.











