The concept of region in architectural thinking has proven to be quite resilient. While the energy that it had acquired in the ‘90s with critical regionalism may have waned, contemporary inquiries into a “Regional World” are looking for a new architectural rendition. With contemporary processes of region-making becoming increasingly complex, designers are compelled to address larger contexts and new problems placed on their tables (complex infrastructural systems, emerging urban formations, rural and environmental questions). As a result systematically re-addressing the question of architectural regionalism seems more relevant than ever before. With this broader examination of region as its background, the symposium focuses on the iconic Mediterranean region, interrogating it as a spatial model that reconceptualises region making. The aim of the symposium is twofold: On the one hand to revisit and challenge in a contemporary way theories and frameworks of region making with reference to the Mediterranean and on the other hand to offer a platform for repositioning architectural theory and practice as active forces within these region making processes. In this way the symposium will also complement and reflect the theme of the sixth volume of the “New Geographies” journal.
The concept of region in architectural thinking has proven to be quite resilient. While the energy that it had acquired in the 1990s with Kenneth Frampton’s critical regionalism may have waned, contemporary inquiries into a “Regional World” (Strorper, Soja) are looking for a new architectural rendition. These two examples stand as the most recent examples in a long lineage of scholarly efforts and architectural practices to associate environment and function, culture and modernity, local and global through a concept that fixes the relationships of people to place.

With this broader examination of region as its background, the symposium focuses on the iconic Mediterranean region. The traditional definition of the Mediterranean as a de-facto cultural entity casts infinite stereotypes on land and people framing a nostalgic image of its cities, landscapes, and architectures. It also conceals the complexity of the underlying region making processes. While often conceived through solid frameworks ranging from the “vernacular” and the “classical” to the “Mediterranean city” the Mediterranean is at the same time cast as an interregional synthesis, a complex region of interrelating regions. This intense set of cultural, social and material interactions highlights the capitalist and cosmopolitan dimensions of the Mediterranean and offers a reference point for perceiving processes of global urbanization. As such the Mediterranean is also revealed as a world model.

With designers increasingly compelled to address larger contexts and new problems placed on their tables (complex infrastructural systems, emerging urban formations, rural and environmental questions), systematically re-addressing the question of architectural regionalism seems more relevant than ever before. By a critical examination of historical region making processes and contemporary transformations, the symposium aims to reveal the blind spots of conventional approaches to regionalism and open up the question of the agency of design and urban formations.

The definition and processes of region making are becoming increasingly complex. Radical social, technological, political and environmental transformations are questioning the rigidity of regional boundaries. Regions are becoming harder to define as fixed entities and region making processes harder to decode in the continuous dialectical interrelation between the historical and cultural specificity of local contexts and the structures of globalization. Consider for example the Catalan region:

A complex interplay of strong cultural identity and multi-scalar development processes, from the local to the national and the European restructuring a territory of intense urbanization. Whether perceived as functional, cultural or ecological entities regions need to be conceptualized as persistent but still dynamically reconfigured constructs.

One of the key processes of a region’s configuration has been through architecture. However, from the functional “ecological region” of Geddes and Mumford to postmodern associations with identity through local vernaculars up to the latest dialectical approach of “critical regionalism” (Tzonis, Lefaivre, Frampton), architecture has mostly been required to deliver a respectful response to a given context and rarely an active force defining it. No matter in which terms a region is defined, architecture is most of the times considered a product of regional identity, adaptation or performance and rarely a shaping factor. For example the iconic settlement patterns of the Greek islands are typically considered an adaptive response to topographic and environmental constraints. Moreover, the construction of regional identity through form has been often considered an adaptive response to topographic and environmental constraints.

Seen in this light, the aim of the symposium is twofold: On the one hand to revisit and challenge in a contemporary way theories and frameworks of region making with reference to the Mediterranean and on the other hand to offer a platform for repositioning architectural theory and practice as active forces within these region making processes. In this way the symposium will also complement and reflect the theme of the sixth volume of “New Geographies” journal (A. Petrov, editor): The interrogation of the Mediterranean as a spatial model that reconceptualises region making. The journal will serve as a reflexive reference to the symposium panels, which will animate and extend its content. Following the keynote lecture, the main symposium day will be organized around three panels. The first two panels will bring together frameworks of region making from various disciplines focusing on the Mediterranean: From an examination of selected episodes revealing the complexity of underlying region making processes – “the Mediterranean in History”, to contemporary transformations that continuously reconstruct it – “The Mediterranean Transformed”. Finally the third and closing panel will try to offer a platform for introducing the centrality of design agency into the contemporary and future “Region Making Challenges”.

The Mediterranean | Region-making by design

Harvard University Graduate School of Design
DAY 01
THURSDAY MARCH 14, 2013

3:00p  Panel 1
GUND HALL STUBBINS ROOM 112
“The Mediterranean in History”
Selected episodes from history revealing the complexity of region making processes and challenging the Mediterranean as a stereotypical entity

Antoine Picon
Michel Chevalier’s Systeme de la Mediterranee
Geopolitics, Technology and Utopia

Peter Christensen
Dam Nation:
Herman Sörgel’s Atlantropa and the Mediterranean Geobody

Michelangelo Sabatino
North versus South:
The Mediterranean and the Histories of Modern Architecture

Moderator: Sibel Bozdogan

5:00p  Reception & New Geographies v.5 Launch
GUND HALL FRANCIS LOEB LIBRARY

The Mediterranean: Worlds, Regions, Cities, and Architectures
Edited by Antonio Petrov

6:30p  Keynote Lecture
GUND HALL PIPER AUDITORIUM
“The Mediterranean, or the shape of water”
Bertrand Westphal

Respondent: Hashim Sarkis

DAY 02
FRIDAY MARCH 15, 2013

Panel 2  10:00a
GUND HALL STUBBINS ROOM 112
“The Mediterranean Transformed”
Investigating contemporary transformations and region making processes and introducing the Mediterranean as a spatial model

Adrian Lahoud
The Mediterranean: A New Imaginary

Mosè Ricci
Middle Sea City

Ginés Garrido
On the construction of a contemporary Mediterranean landscape:
Toledo and its fluvial geography as a laboratory of new territories

Moderator: Antonio Petrov

Break  11:30a

Panel 3  11:45a
GUND HALL STUBBINS ROOM 112
“Regions and Region making”
Bringing together frameworks of region making from various disciplines and setting the agenda for (re)inventing their relation to design

Ajantha Subramanian
Making the Region: Practice, Process, Project

Neil Brenner & Nikos Katsikis
Is the Mediterranean urban?

Paola Viganò
Radical questioning in contemporary (Mediterranean) urbanism

Moderator: Bertrand Westphal
The Mediterranean, or The Shape of Water
Bertrand Westphal - Keynote Lecture

Once, a young man who was in search of wisdom asked a Dao master: “What is the shape of water?” The master answered: “Water has no shape; it takes on the shape that it is given.” Andrea Camilleri, a very Mediterranean writer from Sicily, remembered this Chinese anecdote, entitling one of the first books in his Montalbano series La forma dell’acqua. Indeed, the Daoist conversation seems appropriate for defining the Mediterranean: a sea without a shape in the middle of many lands, each aspiring paradoxically to establish stable identities. Through my lecture, I will try to make this paradox more explicit, exploring if it may be solved or if, on the contrary, it constitutes an aporia, i.e. a paradox without solution.

During this roundtrip along the shores of the Mediterranean, some questions will emerge: What is the link between Eurocentric European culture and the Mediterranean? How many shores are there? Furthermore, is there a link between the European crisis (not only the financial one) and the Mediterranean? What about the unity of the Mediterranean? What about the multiple frontiers which make it a heterogeneous place? (This reflection will bring us to the path of the Mexican performer Francis Alÿs). Is there something beyond the idyllic myth of a sunny and harmonious blue Mediterranean? What about today’s wars and tragedies? We will take a quick survey via cinema and, once again, Francis Alÿs. What is the meaning of the sea today? This question will be explored with the help of some friends: Mediterranean philology and Predrag Matvejevic, as well as the watery shape of the face according to Yoko Tawada. What is the role of design in the above processes? More questions arise among Giò Ponti, Mona Hatoum and… Francis Alÿs. In turn, we are lead to some concluding questions: Could Homer have been a Bolivian poet? Is the Mediterranean still in the Mediterranean?
Presentations Abstracts

Michel Chevalier’s Systeme de la Mediterranee: Geopolitics, Technology and Utopia
Antoine Picon
In 1832, Michel Chevalier, a young French state engineer, temporarily discharged from his administrative duties, publishes a series of articles in the journal Le Globe under the generic and somewhat enigmatic title: “Religion Saint-Simonienne: Politique Industrielle et Systeme de la Mediterranee”, Saint-Simonian Religion: Industrial Politics and System of the Mediterranean.” Gathered almost immediately in a single volume, Chevalier’s “System of the Mediterranean” will exert an enormous influence on politicians, businessmen, engineers, in France as well in various other countries. The book will be found in libraries of higher technical education institutions all over the world, like here in the Rio-de-Janeiro Polytechnic School. Beyond the sheer interest of what Michel Chevalier writes, the “System of the Mediterranean” is emblematic of the complex set of interactions between geography and imagination, technology and politics, business calculations and utopian beliefs that plays a determining role in the emergence of the notion of a Mediterranean region during the first half of the nineteenth century. With its mix of realistic assessment and visionary proposals, the text may be seen as truly geopolitical in a sense that we would like to explore in this presentation.

Dam Nation: Herman Sörgel’s Atlantropa and the Mediterranean Geobody
Peter Christensen
Few utopian visions surpass that of Herman Sörgel’s Atlantropa, in terms of infrastructural, architectural and geopolitical ambition. Conceived in the interwar years and developed until Sörgel’s death in 1952, Atlantropa was an ambitious infrastructural proposal for a tightly linked Europe-Africa that was to be formed by damming the Strait of Gibraltar and the Dardanelles, and the creation of several transcontinental arteries supporting the flow of people and natural resources between the two ‘civilizations’. Sörgel, who emerged from a German school of geopolitical thinking that placed primacy on Lebensraum and the well-being of European races in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, was one of the first architects to so directly bridge the gap between design and this form of discursive geopolitics. While touching on architectural elements of the proposal, this paper will focus on the major planning and macro-architectural gestures intended to articulate a regional body centered on the Mediterranean Sea. Atlantropa not only shifted conceptions of Europe’s geopolitical relations with its immediate neighbours, but also countered contemporaneous predispositions to eastward as opposed to southward expansion prevalent in German geopolitical thinking in the pre-World War II years.

North versus South: The Mediterranean and the Histories of Modern Architecture
Michelangelo Sabatino
Key architects of different generations working between the 1920s and 1960s in European countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea played a fundamental role in shaping modern architecture and urbanism. Collectively, these architects facilitated the emergence of a hybrid modernity that appropriated new building techniques and materials born of industrialization while borrowing “timeless” principles from vernacular rural and urban buildings of the Mediterranean region. By defining the Mediterranean as a “region” encompassing multiple nation states, these architects challenged nationalist definitions of architecture at a time of heightened national consciousness. By advocating for a hybrid modernity based on tradition as well as functionalist principles, these architects also exposed fundamental differences between the New Architecture (Neues Bauen) of a “progressive” industrial North (France, Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland) and a seemingly “retro-grade” agrarian South (Italy, Greece, Spain). My paper will discuss how this “orientalist” reading of North and South was challenged by a new wave of critics after the Second World War, who re-wrote the histories of modern architecture and whose impact on contemporary discourse is still tangible.
The Mediterranean: A New Imaginary
Adrian Lahoud

In Braudel’s Mediterranean, natural history unfolded in an almost eternal and timeless way, untroubled by human action. Now, however, concepts like the anthropocene mark the conjunction of human and natural history. Today, when it comes to space, it is impossible to “carve at the natural joints,” for within two or three steps, even the most isolated event will quickly lead from the Mediterranean to the Mediterranean world. The problem that organizes today’s Mediterranean is of a different order, an order of superimposition and conflation. It is a problem that binds together the consequences of Western industrialization, global carbon emissions, aerosol dispersion patterns, sea surface temperatures, monsoons, precipitation, pastoralists, herders, farmers, cultivars, migratory routes, treaties, coast guards, statistical models, satellite imagery, and detention centres. By what logic will this newly disparate historical series hold together? Where will it leave important methodological concepts like scale and limit, let alone the actual sovereignties and jurisdictions that depend on them? This paper will open up questions of climate change, migration, and security and highlight the significant obstacles to be overcome since there is such a wide gap between the time signature of human experience and the time signature of the earth itself, between the scale of an individual’s economic life and the endless horizon of capital and its environmental consequences. With the implications of this for design, architecture, and urbanism remaining unclear, the paper will highlight the need to create spaces in which these problems can be made visible and intelligible—rational spaces—but also spaces beyond any calculus and rationality, spaces able to mobilize an imaginary adequate to the age.

Middle Sea City
Mosè Ricci

If through an abstraction we try to think of the Mediterranean as a city, as a living space with its own particular settlement and life characteristics, the Mediterranean is the only occidental city in continuous growth. Over the past 10 years the attractiveness of the 21 countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea has undergone a rapid increase due to both tourist and migratory flows. The population of those countries is expected to grow to over 31 million people by 2025; more than one third of the increase will occur in coastal areas. Since the year 2000, along the Northern arc of the Mediterranean basin, a positive demographic trend, related to North-South and South-North migrations, is recorded. The high growth of the coastal urban regions (+3.10% in the period 1990-2006) confirms that trend. These are issues that can describe the necessity to put together a map, or an Atlas, of the most significant research projects regarding urbanism and landscape changings in the Mediterranean and to see if it is possible to find a common sense for preserving and transforming this middle sea city. For this reason, for the aim of interpreting changing in the most growing city of the European area with Manuel Gausa and other young scholars, we created the Med Net Atlas project laboratory in the School of Architecture of the University of Genoa. We are working with a double scientific methodology. Like using contemporarily a microscope to understand the present and a computer to simulate the future. Working in depth by using the case study areas that emerge from the existing scientific investigations, to then recompose a sort of contemporary collage through the different urban figures that the researches identify. Moreover, discovering possible analogies, inventing (in the etymological sense of recovering and in the modern sense of discovering) exchanges and simulating possible futures. In short, using the project as an interpretive device, and also to further understand.

On the construction of a contemporary Mediterranean landscape: Toledo and its fluvial geography as a laboratory of new territories
Ginés Garrido

The city of Toledo concentrates in an exceptionally intense and overlapped way an urban history of the Mediterranean. Extremely valuable historical architectures coexist with magnificent contemporary examples forming a compact and very complex urban tissue, tying architecture with its rough topography and the Mediterranean cultures. The masterplan designed by Busquets in 1995, opened an umbrella for a large number of minor actions inside the city core, and also a set of projects, like La Granja stairs, (Torres & M.Lapeña) and Conference Centre, (Moneo) that have a strong metropolitan character. However, Toledo’s encounter with its fluvial geography, deeply transformed by man for 2000 years, has not been produced with the conviction and the success of those architectures that offer a valuable formal paradigm. The integration project Tagus River in Toledo, in the 15 miles in which the river crosses along its municipality, solves the necessary vertical connections, extends an urban carpet on one bank of the river, badly damaged by neglect, and proposes a model for the landscape of the plains of the river where the current agricultural practices overlap with other public uses proposing a pattern for the occupation of the territory that could be extended to other geographies Mediterranean. This work aims to reveal the integration of the Tagus River in Toledo, the contradiction between the extraordinary formal and iconic robustness of the Mediterranean architectures and the weakness of their territorial strategies and the absence of formal and intellectual patterns that can provide the Mediterranean region a territorial identity that fit their cultures, far from the stereotypes, while meeting the requirements imposed by the post-industrial society, to articulate its geography in a contemporary way.
Making the Region: Practice, Process, Project
Ajantha Subramanian

The region as an idea has enjoyed renewed attention across a variety of disciplines from anthropology to history and urban studies. What distinguishes the current regionalism from the earlier area studies? What has given the idea of the region new traction, what is it contrasted with, what kinds of projects does it underwrite, and through what processes is a regional space materialized? In my talk, I address some of these questions by making a case for thinking of the region, not as a pre-given scale of social life, but as a product of both “expert” classification and of social practice. First, I turn to work on South Asia – my own area of expertise – to see what purchase the idea of the region has had there, what scholars are responding to by elevating the region analytically, and what spatial practices they showcase as constitutive of region formation. I argue that, in South Asia, scholarly uses of the region have attempted to open up the geographical and social coordinates of the subcontinent in response to nationalist and nativist framings of territory and culture. At the same time, I point out that these “progressive” approaches to the region have dovetailed with the increasing centrality of the region within new forms of geopolitics and processes of capital accumulation. Next, I draw attention to work in the anthropology of globalization and the history of empire in order to ask what insights these analyses of space making might offer for projects of region formation. They suggest that projects to remake space are always uneven in their effects, with implications for the relationship between the technical and the social. Indeed, internal differentiation has often been the goal of incorporative spatial projects conducted by states, corporations, and empires. Finally, I end with some questions for practitioners of architectural design: What is architectural regionalism’s vision of the relationship between the technical, the social, and the ecological? How has architectural design helped to produce regions and regionalism and for what purposes? What structural factors – geopolitical reorganization, capital flows, institution formation – enable architectural regionalism by defining its conditions of possibility?

Is the Mediterranean urban?
Neil Brenner & Nikos Katsikis

Is the contemporary Mediterranean zone an urban space? Based on the experimental concept of planetary urbanization (Brenner and Schmid) with the suggested analytical distinction between concentrated and extended urbanization and the use of recent state-of-the-art datasets this paper will try to unpack this question critically examining a series of visualizations of contemporary urbanization around the Mediterranean. Moreover we will try to reveal and interrogate the metageographical assumptions and implications—that is, the underlying conceptions of sociospatial order they presuppose or that flow from their technical operations—with specific reference to the analytical and cartographic status of the process of (urban) region making. More specifically the paper will try to position the various approaches along an analytical continuum in relation to the two suggested and opposed metageographies of urbanization, the bounded city metageography and the extended urban fabric metageography; it will try to trace the persistence of the former and highlight its accompanying problems, that is the elusive efforts of bounding the urban (through population or land cover thresholds etc); and finally it will offer speculative visualizations trying to explore the nature of the extended urban fabric (infrastructural networks, extends of artificial surfaces, ecological footprints) revealing the challenges and difficulties of such an effort. The analysis is intended to highlight the basic theoretical assumptions that invariably underpin efforts to visualize spatial data on urban questions highlighting that in the absence of critical reflexivity even the most exhaustive, fine-grained forms of spatial data cannot be appropriated effectively to illuminate the urban condition and its restlessly changing geographies.

Radical questioning in contemporary (Mediterranean) urbanism
Paola Viganò

The presentation will critically address questions in contemporary (Mediterranean) urbanism. The first part will introduce a set of concepts, porosity and isotropy, and investigate their relevance as tools for understanding and interpreting urban dynamics and for developing a set of instruments to design. The second part address the power of images and narrative around a discussion on La belle vie, the place to be and the humanist and the relation to models of development and growth. The third part will conclude with a discussion around support / surface deconstruction and the political and the landscape.
Bertrand Westphal is a Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Limoges, where he directs the research team “Espaces Humains et Interactions Culturelles” (“Human Spaces and Cultural Interactions”). He is a renowned promoter of geocriticism, which Robert Tally describes as “a new critical practice suitable for understanding our spatial condition today.” He is the author of numerous works on geocriticism; Austrian literature; the Mediterranean (L’Œil de la Méditerranée, Aube, 2005); and the theory of the novel. His work is interdisciplinary, and he regularly collaborates with designers, architects, and geographers. Works available in English: Geocriticism: Real and Fictional Spaces. Trans. Robert Tally. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011, A Plausible World: Spaces, Places, Maps. Trans. Amy Wells. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

Hashim Sarkis is the Aga Khan Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urbanism in Muslim Societies and Director of the Aga Khan Program at the GSD. He teaches design studios on architecture, infrastructure and public space. He also teaches courses in the history and theory of architecture. Sarkis is also a practicing architect. His projects include the new town hall for the city of Byblos, a housing complex for the fishermen of Tyre, a park in downtown Beirut, and several urban and architectural projects. He has published several books including Circa 1958: Lebanon in the Pictures and Plans of Constantinos Doxiadis (Beirut: Dar Annahar, 2003), editor of CASE: Le Corbusier’s Venice Hospital (Munich: Prestel, 2001), coeditor with Eric Mumford of Josep Lluís Sert: The Architect of Urban Design (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008) coeditor with Peter G. Rowe of Projecting Beirut (Munich: Prestel, 1998), and editor of the CASE publication series (GSD/ Prestel). He received his BArch and BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design, his MArch from the GSD, and his PhD in architecture from Harvard University.
Antoine Picon is the G. Ware Travelstead Professor of the History of Architecture and Technology and Co-Director of Doctoral Programs (PhD & DDes) at the GSD. He teaches courses in the history and theory of architecture and technology. Trained as an engineer, architect, and historian, Picon works on the history of architectural and urban technologies from the eighteenth century to the present. His French Architects and Engineers in the Age of Enlightenment is a synthetic study of the disciplinary “deep structures” of architecture, garden design, and engineering in the eighteenth century, and their transformations as new issues of territorial management and infrastructure-systems planning were confronted. Picon has also worked on the relations between society, technology and utopia. This is in particular the theme of Les Saint-Simonien: Raison, Imaginaire, et Utopie, a detailed study of the Saint-Simonian movement that played a seminal role in the emergence of industrial modernity. Picon’s most recent book, Digital Culture in Architecture: An Introduction for the Design Profession offers a comprehensive overview and discussion of the changes brought by the computer to the theory and practice of architecture. Picon received engineering degrees from the Ecole Polytechnique and from the Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussees, an architecture degree from the Ecole d’Architecture de Paris-Villemin, and a doctorate in history from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales.

Peter H. Christensen is a PhD Candidate in Architecture at Harvard University. His research centers on the practice and historiography of geopolitics (as a discrete field of inquiry since The Nineteenth Century) and its implications on spatial practices with particular interest in the borders of Islamic and Judeo-Christian civilizations. He also researches the museology of architecture and the critical practices of connoisseurship. His current doctoral research considers cultural, infrastructural and architectural exchanges between the German, Austro-Hungarian, and Ottoman Empires. Prior to his graduate studies, Peter served as Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Architecture and Design at the Museum of Modern Art (2005-2008). Peter holds a professional Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell University, a Master of Design Studies in the History and Theory of Architecture with Distinction, and a Master of Arts both from Harvard University. Peter is the recipient of the Philip Johnson Book Award from the Society of Architectural Historians, as well as grants from the Fulbright Foundation, the Deutsche Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), the Society of Architectural Historians, and the Society of Historians of Islamic Art and Architecture, among others.

Michelangelo Sabatino (PhD) was trained as an architect and architectural historian in Italy, Canada, and the United States. His scholarship and teaching explore architecture and the allied arts by drawing from cultural and material history as well as anthropology and human geography. After completing a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard University’s Department of the History of Art and Architecture and teaching at Yale University’s School of Architecture, he was appointed at the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture where he now serves as Associate Professor and Director of the History, Theory and Criticism program. His sole-authored book, Pride in Modesty: Modernist Architecture and the Vernacular Tradition in Italy, has won four national awards including the 2012 Alice Davis Hitchcock Book Award from the Society of Architectural Historians. Sabatino’s co-edited book Modern Architecture and the Mediterranean: Vernacular Dialogues and Contested Identities received a commendation from the UIA’s International Committee of Architectural Critics. His scholarly publications are available in Italian, German, and French.

Sibel Bozdogan holds a professional degree in architecture from Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey (1976) and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania (1983). She has taught architectural history and theory courses at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (1986-1991), MIT (1991-1999) and GSD, Harvard University (part-time since 2000). She has also served as the Director of Liberal Studies at the Boston Architectural Center (2004-2006) and has taught at the Graduate Architecture Program of Istanbul Bilgi University where she is an Affiliated Professor (since 2006). Her interests cover cross-cultural histories of modern architecture and urbanism in Europe, the U.S., Mediterranean and the Middle East with a specialization on Turkey. In addition to numerous articles on these topics, her publications include a monograph on the Turkish architect Sedad Hakki Eldem (1987); an interdisciplinary volume Rethinking Modernity and National Identity in Turkey (1997) which she co-edited with Resat Kasaba; a major book Modernism and Nation Building: Turkish Architectural Culture in the Early Republic (University of Washington Press, 2001) which won the 2002 Alice Davis Hitchcock Award of the Society of Architectural Historians and the Kopru Book Prize of the Turkish Studies Association and most recently, Turkey: Modern Architectures in History (Reaktion Books, 2012) which she co-authored with Esra Akcan.
Adrian Lahoud is an architect, urban designer, and researcher. Currently he is Director of the Master of Architecture Urban Design Program at the Bartlett University College London, where he is conducting a wide-ranging three-year design research project on the Mediterranean. His doctoral dissertation, The Problem of Scale: the City, the Territory, the Planetary, sets out to reconceptualize the action of scale in the context of design and teaching. Prior to taking up a position at the Bartlett School of Architecture, he coordinated the MA program at the Centre for Research Architecture, (Goldsmiths, University of London). He has also taught in the Projective Cities program at the Architectural Association (Angewandte, Vienna) and the University of Technology Sydney where he retains a position as Adjunct Professor. In 2010 he co-edited a special issue of Architectural Design titled Post-traumatic Urbanism and presently he is working on book project and exhibition exploring the possibility of a Fifth Geneva Convention with colleagues from the Centre for Research Architecture.

Mosè Ricci is a Full Professor of Urbanism at the School of Architecture of the University of Genoa and Emeritus of Italian Art and Culture. He is a member of the scientific committee and is curator of the Urbanism and Landscape section Recycle, Strategies for Architecture, Cities and Planet, International Exhibition MAXXI (2010-12). He has also been a member of Italian Society of Urban Planners Steering Committee (2007-11), the Mies Foundation Mediterranean Program Board (Barcelona, 2010-), and the Scientific Board of the International Doctorate Villard de Honnecourt (2004-). Academic appointments include, Visiting Professor of Sustainable Urbanism at Technische Universität of Munich (2008-09) and Universidad Moderna de Lisboa (2006-07). In 2011, he was ranked in the top 100 world educators by the Cambridge Institute. In 2003, he was appointed Emeritus of Italian Art and Culture with Silver Medal of the Republic. From 1996-1997, he was a Fulbright Recipient and Visiting Scholar at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. His projects with the firm, RICCISPAINI, have received several prizes in international competitions and have been exhibited in the Venice Biennale in 1996 and again in 2012. He has edited the series, BABEL (2000-12) and authored several books, such as New Paradigms, UniverCity, iSpace and RISCHIOPAESAGGIO.

Ginés Garrido is an Associate Professor at the ETS Arquitectura, UP Madrid and, currently, a Visiting Fellow at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. He has been a Visiting Professor giving workshops and lectures worldwide. He has spent fifteen years studying the Soviet avant-garde architecture and has published seven books and more than twenty articles on this subject. From 1995 to 2003, Gines was the Editor for the magazine, BAU. He is an architect and graduate of the ETS Arquitectura, UP Madrid and PhD ETSA UP Madrid [Extraordinary Doctorate Award]. Ginés is co-principal at Madrid-based Burgos & Garrido Arquitectos [BGA]. Over the last ten years the work of the office has focused on the design and construction of public spaces, parks, and land planning, from the perspective of social and environmental sustainability. The Madrid Rio River Park, recently finished and for which he has been the director, is probably the most ambitious and complex public space project constructed in Europe over the last few decades. BGA are currently working on other large-scale urban projects in Spain, Perú and Slovenia, among other projects of social housing and public buildings in Spain, The Netherlands and Australia. BGA’s projects have been published internationally and its works have been recognized internationally with more than thirty first prizes in architecture and landscape competitions.

Antonio Petrov received his doctoral degree in the History and Theory of Architecture, Urbanism and Cultural Studies from Harvard University. Currently, he is teaching at the University of Texas in San Antonio. He is also program director at Archeworks in Chicago, co-founder and current editor-in-chief of the Harvard University Graduate School of Design publication New Geographies, the founder and editor-in-chief of DOMA, a bilingual magazine published in Macedonia, and the director of WAS, a think tank located in Chicago. Antonio’s research explores new discourses in regionalism and architecture with focus on the Mediterranean. His research seeks to reconceptualize active processes of region making by dismantling prevailing geographic, spatial and cultural meanings. His perspective on the Mediterranean recasts the region as a contemporary phenomenon and spatializes its region making and region formation processes as a larger geographic entity challenging conventional boundaries between the sea, cities and hinterlands. Currently, Antonio is investigating new spatial paradigms to be presented in his forthcoming book, Superordinary: New Paradigms in Sacred Architecture. Before coming to the University of Texas, Antonio taught at Harvard University, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Northeastern University, Iowa State University, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Illinois Institute of Technology.
Ajantha Subramanian is Professor of Anthropology and South Asian Studies at Harvard University. Her research interests include political economy, political ecology, colonialism and postcoloniality, space, citizenship, South Asia, and the South Asian diaspora. Her first book *Shorelines: Space and Rights in South India*, chronicles the struggles for resource rights by Catholic fishers on India’s southwestern coast, with a focus on how they have used spatial imaginaries and practices to constitute themselves as political subjects. Her current research is on the relationship between meritocracy and democracy in India that considers the production of merit as a form of caste property and its implications for democratic transformation.

Neil Brenner is a Professor of Urban Theory at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design and the coordinator of the Urban Theory Lab-GSD. His writing and teaching focus on the theoretical, conceptual and methodological dimensions of urban questions in relation to the developmental dynamics of modern capitalism, state strategies and sociopolitical struggles. He is currently working on a new book with Christian Schmid of the ETH-Zurich, *Planetary Urbanization*. Brenner’s previous books include *New State Spaces: Urban Governance and the Rescaling of Statehood*, *Cities for People, not for Profit: Critical Urban Theory and the Right to the City* (co-edited with Peter Marcuse and Margit Mayer), and *Spaces of Neoliberalism: Urban Restructuring in North America and Western Europe* (co-edited with Nik Theodore).

Nikos Katsikis is a Doctor of Design Candidate at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. He holds a professional degree in Architecture - Architectural Engineering with highest Distinction and a Master of Science in Architecture and Spatial Planning from the National Technical University Athens (NTUA). He is a registered architect in Greece and has practiced architecture and urban design both individually and as an associate architect. He has worked as a Teaching Fellow and Research Associate at NTUA and GSD and the Amsterdam Academy of Architecture. His research focuses on theoretical, conceptual, and methodological models from urban and economic geography, and their connection to questions of regional morphology and design. His research in the DDeS program at the GSD is supported by grants and scholarships from the Fulbright Foundation, A.S. Onassis Foundation, and A.G. Leventis Foundation.

Paola Viganò is an architect and urbanist, has a PhD in architectural and urban composition and is associate professor in urbanism at the Università IUaV of Venice. She is also a guest professor at several European schools of architecture (including KU Leuven, ePFL Lausanne, aarhus) and serves on the boards of the PhD in Urbanism at IUaV and the European Masters of Urbanism programme (eMU). In 1990 Ms. Viganò founded studio with Bernardo Secchi and has won several international competitions. Studio is currently working on various projects at different scales in Europe. In 2008 studio was one of the ten teams selected for the Grand Paris research project. Her major publications include *La città elementare, Territori della nuova modernità/Territories of a new modernity* and *Antwerp: Territory of a New Modernity*. 