



EAAE Newsletter

Teaching a new Environmental Culture The Environment as a Question of Architectural Education INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ENHSA-EAAE

Nicosia, Cyprus, 27-29 May 2010
Frederick University, School of Architecture · University of Cyprus, School of Architecture · University of Nicosia, School of Architecture

In our fast changing world, one of the most significant shifts of contemporary thinking is our reconsideration of our conception of the relationship between humans and nature. Centuries of architectural production have been based



upon a conception of the dwelling and the city as the protectors of the humans from nature, as the powerful tools and the efficient representations of their dominance upon the natural forces, laws and phenomena, as the

asylum where the civilization, protected, will be able to flourish. Even if nature as the generator of the alive has always been the architects' source of inspiration, it has always been the competitive 'other' to be conquered, to be mastered and dominated. This architectural production of our civilization is usually defined as the built environment in distinction and implicitly in contradiction to the natural environment, the former expected to be naturalized as opposed to the latter, which had to be domesticated, that is to say artificialized.

Nowadays the line of distinction between the natural and the human made becomes increasingly blurred, and the differentiation between the real and the artificial appears unclear. The question: 'which environment for the humans?' appears to be one of the most significant decisions for our ...

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