

## **Background & Intentions for role of Council Member**

My name is Alessandra Swiny and I am an Architect of American and British origin. I received a Bachelor of Arts from Barnard/Columbia University (2000) and a Masters of Architecture from Harvard University (2004) in the United States. I am currently the Head of the Department of Architecture, and an Associate Professor, at the University of Nicosia, Cyprus, where I have been teaching since 2005 and am a tenured faculty member. I was also the principal architect with M. Hadjisoteriou at 'Sub\_Supra Studio' from 2008 until 2013.

In June 2008 our winning entry (with M.Hadjisoteriou & A.Dimitrakopoulos) for 'European 9 Competition' in Clermont-Ferrand, France went into its second phase of design development. I have represented Cyprus in the Venice Architecture Biennale three times. In 2016-2017 myself and Y.Hadjichristou were selected by the Cypriot Ministry of Education, to curate the Cyprus Pavilion with our project, 'Human Topographies \_ Emerging Identities' for the XXI Milano Triennale.

I am very passionate about the development of an architects' education. Under my leadership the program has been 1) accredited by the ECPU in July 2008; 2) presented to the European Commission for the Recognition of Professional Qualifications, thus was awarded EU certification under Directive 2005/36/EC; 3) approved by ETEK (Cyprus Scientific Technical Chamber).

I coordinated the design and oversaw the move into a new facility, the Architecture Research Center and was responsible for hiring new faculty. I helped to establish both the Master of Arts in Architecture, and my efforts have been central to instigating and designing a new MSc in Computational Design + Robotic Fabrication (with M.Georgiou). From 2009 I participated in an Erasmus IP (completed in 2012) for the project 'Demochange Cities' with professors and students from Milan, Trieste, Hamburg, Cluj Napoca, and Vienna.

My design focus shifts from small scale detailing to issues pertaining to the larger urban context and articulates the importance and complexities of issues faced at all scales. From 2015 I was Unit Leader of 'In/Out Crisis' (with Y.Hadjichristou and M.Georgiou) for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year Architecture students at the University of Nicosia.

I believe that an equilibrium must exist between; functionality and creativity, as well as research, practice, technology, culture and wit; while always striving to have a minimum impact on the 'environment' and to design projects that function as 'intelligently' as possible. In recent years my work concentrates on issues of emergency architecture.

I am very interested to be a member of the EAAE Council, I feel that I have the appropriate background to be useful in helping to develop the EAAE and lead it into the future.