

## **Pop-up Home:**

Distributing Space of Home and Intimacy in a Small, Local, Open and Connected Scenario of a World City through an Online Community of Urban Nomads

(Call for Participation in the 1st OIKONET Postgraduate Workshop)

Online platforms and ICT technologies have perhaps drastically affected on the urban lifestyles in recent decades and yet, not completely on the housing typologies an urban dweller are mostly still living in. In their popular 2016 book *Modern Romance*, co-authors of comedian Aziz Ansari and sociologist Eric Klinenberg portrayed a smartphone as the “singles’ bar in your pocket that you’re carrying 24-7”. Ezio Manzini, design researcher and strategist, depicted this similar scenario of a cosmopolitan as “small, local, open, and connected” in his 2015 book *Design, When Everybody Designs*. Examined in this particular social scenario, the spatial design, and spatial production of a home in an urban context, seem to have an affinity to intimacy that might have been overlooked by most practicing architects today, especially those who hired by private developers in the rentier markets that believe in building more domestic buildings is the solution to any “housing crisis”. What is the critical spatial design and, spatial production of a home, to cope with the shifting social needs already seen in this particular scenario of a city? In order to find out the answer, in my research, the subject-matter of housing is explored with a shifted focus from domestic buildings to the space of home and intimacy that scatters beyond them into the city.

With a literature from theoretical fabrics by more sociologists (Illouz, 2013 & 1997; Turkle, 2013; Jamieson, 2012) in search of a spatial translation of an intimacy in a city enabled by ICT technologies; neoliberal economists (Harvey 2005; Hayek 1943; Smith, 1776) in search of a critical evaluation of business models i.e. Airbnb and Couchsurfing; and, the perhaps anarchic architects (Till, 2011; Price, 1965; Habraken, 1961) in search of an intersection of spatial agencies and open building, the research will then further explore this potentially new spatial design and, spatial production of home - a new housing typology - by a design-led approach. Meanwhile, the hypothesis will be so situated that its potential role in any social-restructuring can be tested and/or manifested along in any world cities (Massey, 2007; Sassen, 1991; Anderson, 1983, 1991 & 2006), beginning with selected ones i.e. London, Hong Kong, and Pune (India), where a growing liberty from the tyranny of nationalism, social mobility, and cultural diversity are seen and thus a shifting social definition of home for its inhabitants is nurtured. In this particular context, an urban nomad (Gestalten & Michelle Galindo, 2015; Braidotti, 2012; Deleuze & Guattari, 1986), will then be examined as both a creative user (Hill, 2003) and participatory designer (Mazini, 2015) who are simultaneously the member of an online community - an online community connecting this emerging anthropology of urban nomads who itinerates in these world cities without possessing a conventional settlement of house or shaping their home around biological families, nationalities and/or other preoccupied identities, instead, tending to find and/or make their own home through each’ individually encountered and/or chosen intimacy. The design-led research should unveil detailed tactics on how this community of urban nomads with an online platform connecting them can support them to live this lifestyle to its full.