

The new residential complexes for accommodating refugees in Greece and their consequences for urban development: A case study from the city of Kavala.

During the last months of 1922 there was a huge need in Greece to meet housing and other needs of about 1,500,000 refugees arriving from Asia Minor, Eastern Thrace and Pontus, as a result of the catastrophe in Asia Minor and the terms of the Treaty of Lausanne for forced population exchange.

In almost all of Greece refugee settlements were created that were initially makeshift stalls which then evolved into more organized residential complexes. The burden fell mainly in Athens, which received 25% of the refugees, and Macedonia.

In the city of Kavala, which received 50,000 refugees, five settlements were erected in 1924, under the responsibility of the Committee on Refugee Rehabilitation. A total of 250 buildings were built. The largest settlement, named "thousand" because it housed families in houses with a total number of 1000 rooms, was founded in 1935 in the west end of the city in an area called "KüçükOrman".

On the northern edge of this settlement, 18 more houses were built and this area was named after this number.

Similarly, on the hill of Santa Barbara, another complex of houses with a total of 500 rooms were built, called settlement "five hundred", of which 87 buildings survive today.

In these three complexes, several buildings have survived in their original condition. Others have undergone modifications or interventions that altered their original shape while the rest have been demolished and replaced by modern apartment buildings. Of the 250 buildings of settlement "1000", 164 buildings were rescued at present.

In 2012, the above residential complexes were declared as monuments and any type of intervention is controlled by the Ministry of Culture.

This article analyzes the principles of urban design of these homogeneous settlements for that were built for accommodating the refugees as well as the architectural typology and morphology of their buildings.

The article also attempts to evaluate the current condition of these buildings and the possibility to preserve them as witnesses of the cultural and historic past of the city and as evidence of the forced population exchange.

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Democritus Un. Of Thrace