

Editors' note...

VIDOgraphies is a new periodical edition by the Vault of Industrial Digital Archives (VIDA) team. This bulletin fills a gap, as it wishes to meet the need for systematic information and update concerning the news, developments and ongoing issues of industrial heritage in Greece. VIDOgraphies will gather and host minor and major news with the aspiration to evolve into a rich and valid source of information for the Greek industrial heritage.

Christos on KRONOS



Christos Lambropoulos at Kronos, September 2017

Elefsina is located in a privileged geographical position of Attica, at the crossroads connecting northern Greece and the Peloponnese with Athens, due to its natural harbour. The city has been a spiritual, sacred and sacramental centre since ancient times. In the 19th century, due to its significant geographical location, Elefsina evolved into one of the largest industrial centers of Greece. Nowadays Elefsina is struggling to balance its historical, archaeological, urban and industrial heritage. As the Cultural Capital of Europe for 2023, Elefsina has the opportunity to re-define and re-invent itself drawing strength from its past and the city's memories. On this fertile ground, the abandoned and dilapidated remains of industrial buildings should be transformed into dynamic spaces serving innovative social and cultural goals and eventually, they should be integrated into the modern urban space.

KRONOS, WINE AND SPIRITS INDUSTRY

The "Kronos" complex on the seafront of Elefsina is an interesting example of an industrial monument in danger. The Limited Liability Company of the Distillery "Kronos" started the construction of the factory in 1923 and put it in operation in 1926. The structure was considered very advanced and innovative in the 1920s as it was almost entirely built with reinforced concrete. The architectural design and supervision was undertaken by the architect of the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) Panagiotis Zizilas (1861-1931). The structural engineering and design of buildings and tanks was assigned to the civil engineer and professor of the NTUA Pavlos Papadopoulos Santorinis (1893-1986). The Engineering Limited Company "Tekton" carried out construction work and Alexandros Zachariou (1869-1938), the civil

engineer of Greek industrial buildings par excellence, undertook the design of the buildings' electrical and mechanical installations. Some of the buildings and facilities are excellent examples of the interwar industrial architecture. Due to their architectural and technological value, they could be classified among the finest industrial monuments of the specific period since they preserve an intact image of the site during the interwar phase of its operation. After its decommissioning in 1985, the complex was stripped of its mechanical equipment and a large number of the outdoor cylindrical metal tanks. The Ministry of the Environment, Urban Planning and Public Works declared two buildings of the complex -among other buildings in Elefsina- listed monuments in 1990: the Administration building (including the director's house, the chemistry lab etc.) and the distillery tower (Ministerial Decree No 244/68/8-1-1990, *Greek Government Gazette*, 103/D/6-3-1990).

However, since 2010 "Kronos" has remained unattended and unprotected under the responsibility of the owner. The proprietors of "Kronos" were not obliged to take the necessary measures to protect the listed buildings and equipment. Nowadays, even though the buildings still survive, serious concerns are expressed regarding the structural integrity of the imposing distillery tower. The restoration of the neighbouring "IRIS" industry emphasizes the need for the conservation and promotion of "Kronos" as one of one of the most significant surviving samples of interwar industrial architecture in the city before it's too late...

Source: Angelopoulou L., Vakalopoulou M., Dalakoura G., Zikos F., Lampropoulos X., Markopoulou E., Martini X., Sereti V. (2017), *THE KRONISTES GROUP: "Kronos" Factory: Past, present and future*, www.academia.edu (accessed 10/2017).



@ M. Vakalopoulou

This first issue is dedicated to the friend, colleague and fellow fighter for saving Kronos, Christos Lambropoulos who, sadly, left us too early...

Conferences: Past and forthcoming...

CONFERENCE ON THE REUSE OF THE EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE “Gas-Working Together: New Perspectives”

How is industrial heritage used in modern cities? How important is the concept of reuse in the urban landscape? Which European gas production plants are currently reused as cultural and technological sites?



The conference on the reuse of gas plants in Europe was held on Saturday 4th March in Technopolis City of Athens with great success. The conference was co-organized by the Industrial Gas Museum and the Civil Nonprofit Organization Vault of Industrial Digital Archives (VIDA). The specific topic of the conference, which was presented and analyzed for the first time in such a context, opened up prospects for the creation of a communication forum between public and cultural institutions. Within the framework of the conference, speakers from seven European countries presented reuse practices and case studies on parts of or entire complexes of gas plants that have been transformed into vibrant cultural spaces. More specifically, scientists, academics, professionals and representatives of cultural institutions from Greece, Germany, Italy, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Poland and Finland exchanged views and practices related to sustainability, architecture, history, development of urban space monuments and management of tangible and intangible industrial heritage and cultural units.

The conference was held under the auspices of TICCIH Greece and ICOM Hellenic National Committee, with Fysiko Aerio - Hellenic Energy Company as the major sponsor and Brown Hotels as the hospitality sponsor.

TICCIH GREEK SECTION CONFERENCE 2023

“The Greek industrial heritage in the years of crisis: Contemporary concerns and challenges”

6th-9th December 2023, Larissa

The Greek Section of TICCIH has completed 30 years of action for the protection and promotion of the country's industrial heritage. During this time, considerable experience and expertise have been accumulated, while industrial heritage has been consolidated as a constituent element of our historical and cultural capital. Moreover, it has been acknowledged that industrial heritage is complex, consisting of both tangible and intangible elements. The community involved in the study, protection and promotion of the remains of the period of industrialization in Greece has expanded with new projects that attract a wider audience.

The objectives of this conference are to gather and evaluate the developments of the last 10 years, to form a meeting place and a vibrant workshop of dialogue, synthesis and creation in order to share and update the advancements in the scientific field of industrial archeology internationally, as well as the elaborations, methodological tools and the achievements of the interdisciplinary field of industrial heritage.

Among the topics of the conference, special emphasis will be given to the agro-industrial sector (production and processing of agricultural products), which has not been studied as thoroughly as other industries despite the fact that it has left many important traces both in urban centers and in rural areas as it had a pivotal role in the Greek economy.

The emphasis given by the conference on the agro-industrial sector is indicated by the venue of the conference: Larissa is a city in the heart of the Thessalian plain, a region with a long tradition of agricultural production and thus, with plenty of scattered remains which are worth further study, protection and promotion.

For more information visit: www.ticcih.gr

Diplareios School

The Hellenic Craft Industries Society was founded in 1892 by Stefanos Kyparissos, a professor of Mathematics at the University of Athens, who had the vision to offer the youth of his era free access to professional and technical education.

Aristides Diplaris, a member of the Society since 1894, bequeathed his property after his death (1915) to the Society with a specific term referring to the establishment of a School of Design and Arts named after him, with the aim to offer its graduates who would study for free, the opportunity of a professional career.

Thus, between 1928-1932, the building which would house Diplareios School was erected at 3 Theatre Square and 6 Menandrou Street. The School building was designed by the architect Aristides Iliadis and it was inaugurated in 1932.

Diplareios School is undoubtedly one of the best examples of modernist architecture of the early 20th century, whereby large scale functional buildings were designed, such as schools, hospitals and social welfare buildings. The building was designed in the style of abstract classicism, while it was constructed with reinforced concrete in one of its first applications in the country.

Diplareios School is a landmark of Athens, as for decades thousands of people studied there and attended the courses taught by prominent professors such as the architects Constatinos Doxiadis, Dimitris Pikionis, Cleon Kradonellis, Proveleggios and the artists Kostas Malamos, Aginor Asteriadis and many others.

Recently the building was classified as a listed building (*Greek Government Gazette*, 3/D/13-1-2023) after the proposal submitted



@ H. Fassourakis

both to the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Environment and Energy by The Greek Section of TICCIH, the Council for Architectural Heritage of ELLET (Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage), MONUMENTA, as well as by the National Technical University of Athens professor emeritus Maro Kardamitsi-Adami.

The news that the School would be turned into a hotel with the fragmentation of the building into four separate parts triggered the reaction of several architects and urban planners. The problems arising from this new use, which would dramatically alter the functional arrangement and the interior image of the building, demanded immediate reaction in order to protect Diplareios School from improper new uses that would dramatically affect its original architectural and historical value.

“This Current Between Us”: An exhibition in the Historic Steam-electric Power Station of PPC in Neo Faliro

The old steam-electric power station which is in fact the first of its kind in Greece, came alive again through an interesting art exhibition. The exhibition, which closed its doors on April 9th, attracted a large number of visitors. The exhibition brought to light rich material from the Historical Archives of the Public Power Corporation (PPC), in dialogue with new works by an international group of artists, including painting, sculpture, installation, video, sound and performance. Previously inaccessible areas of the power station opened their doors to the public for the first time, revealing unseen aspects of the industrial complex.

About the Power Station: When the Hellenic Electric Company (founded in 1899) acquired the right to supply electricity to the tramways and the Athens-Piraeus electric railway in 1901, the need for a large central power station arose. This innovative, for its time, steam power station was built in the area of Faliro and started operating in 1903 with a power of 3,000 KW. In 1906 the plant provided electricity to the Athens-Piraeus electric railway, as well as to the industries on Piraeus Street. In 1925 the station was transferred to the Athens-Piraeus Electric Company (APECO) and in the early 1960s to the Public Power Corporation (PPC). In 1972 it ceased operating and in 1986 it was listed as a historical monument by the Ministry of Culture.

Historic Steam-electric Power Station of PPC, Solomou 1 & Dimitrios Falireos Street, Neo Faliro.



The sculptural intervention “Now” by Olga Miliarisi-Phoka (@ Athanasios Gatos)

CHROPEI - Piraeus Dye Works



CHROPEI - Piraeus Dye Works was developed as a branch of the chemical industry after the laboratory-based discovery of aniline, a derivative of carbon, which was used for the production of synthetic dyes which replaced natural colours mainly in the textile industry. But the main reason CHROPEI was well-known and commemorated, is that it produced the analgesic Algon, the Greek version of aspirin.

The precursor of CHROPEI appeared in 1883, initially as a small general partnership under the name Spilios A. Oikonomidis & Co. and in 1899 the foundation stone of its premises in Neo Faliro was laid. Its founder, Spilios Economidis, studied Chemistry in Graz where he met Adolf Bayer, the German inventor of aspirin, and collaborated with him.

Within a few years of its operation, CHROPEI achieved a leading position in the entire Greek dye industry, at a time when the production of synthetic dyes was a central activity for the Greek and European market. With the outbreak of the Second World War, the Greek colour industry was called upon to contribute to the war effort. The industry continued its operation even after the war and until 1948 it was still represented by the new generation of Economides family. However, two years later, in 1950, the exclusive management of the factory was transferred to S. Sofianopoulos. It was the same period during which the paint

industry began to complete its cycle that the Economides family stepped out from its management. After 1950, a radical reorientation of production and strategy towards other types of products was attempted, e.g. animal feed, while the production of medicines and chemical substances including Algon continued.

In the 1970s, an unsuccessful attempt was made to produce coatings. The company cooperated with Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), temporarily causing concern to the rest of like industries which had developed in the meantime. In the early 1980s, it joined the rest of the other firms in difficulty and closed in 1980. The emblematic complex of CHROPEI was listed by the Ministry for the Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works (currently known as the Ministry of Environment and Energy) in 1997 (*Greek Government Gazette*, 267/D/7-4-1997). In December 2019 the property of CHROPEI was granted to the Ministry of Development and Investments by the Hellenic Pharmaceutical Organization, with the aim of creating “CHROPEI Innovation District”.

However, during this process in 2022, the Ministry of Environment and Energy cancelled the protection of the industrial complex, while the Ministry of Culture refused to list CHROPEI as a historical industrial monument, despite the well-documented report in favour of its preservation submitted to the Ministry by the Greek Section of TICCHI.

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