

# VIDOographies

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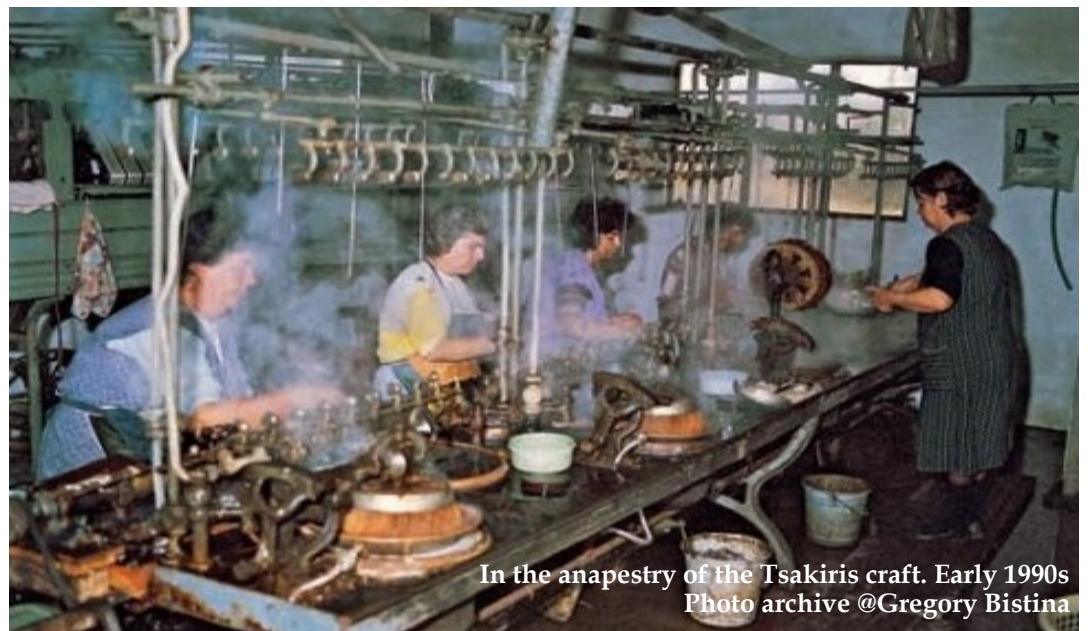
## From the editorial team...

With the periodical edition of VIDOographies, the Vault of Industrial Digital Archives (V.I.D.A) team, aims to fill a “gap”, concerning the news and the ongoing issues regarding the Industrial Heritage and to contribute to the systematic update of the developments and happenings of the industrial heritage in Greece. Small and big news are going to be gathered, with the aspiration, VIDOographies to evolve into a valid information “hub” for the Greek industrial heritage.

## "Silk needs order and someone to untangle it" (greek saying)

The 10th Bacsa (Black, Caspian Seas and Central Asia Silk Association) International Conference under the umbrella topic “Regeneration of sericultural industries in 21st century” was held in Soufli from 24th to 27th of April 2023.

The conference sparked a great interest and about 50 scientists and experts in the field of sericulture, from 12 countries around the world such as Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia, Italy, Germany, Denmark, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Cuba and Greece, came together to explore the opportunities and prospects of the silk industry. The initiative taken by the Municipality of Soufli along with the Association of Friends of Silk "Chrysallis" and its president Giorgos Tsiakiris, of organizing the specific event, indicates the passion, dedication and active interest of the local community in sericulture and its development. The Conference aimed to strengthen the links among sericultural countries and to explore the perspectives of this unique agro-based industry in the 21st century through the exchange of knowledge, ideas and the collection of new data. The history of the town of Soufli, also known as the "town of silk", is written in silk letters on the black pine trees of the virgin, until recently, Dadia forest and on the cocoon houses “bitsiklikia” of the mountain villages. Sericulture affected the past of the town by leading it, to develop to an incredible financial, commercial, cultural as well as political centre. The revival of the industry although it becomes more and more challenging due to the wildfires the region suffered from, it is crucial for the prosperity, economical and cultural of the whole region. the rural environment and infrastructure. It is important, for the future of sericulture,



In the anapestry of the Tsakiris craft. Early 1990s  
Photo archive @Gregory Bistina

the appropriate course of action to be taken towards the restoration and reconstruction of the rural environment and infrastructure. This should include reforestation, repairing the river networks and providing financial support to the farmers. In order to overcome the impact of fires on sericulture, cooperation between farmers, communities, government and organizations involved in rural development and environmental protection, should be established. The creation of a new identity for the region depends on sustainable development and a substantial relationship with the natural environment. Otherwise, it will be very difficult or even impossible for the region to face the challenges that arise after natural disasters.

The support of sericulture and the preservation of this traditional agricultural industry, is crucial not only for the recovery of the areas which were affected after the devastating fires but also for the creation of those conditions which will lead to a sustainable development and a brighter future.

## Floods in Thessaly

The rapid climate change combined with the insufficient infrastructure and the lack of proper anti-flood planning, led to the destruction of crops, livestock units, residential infrastructure and constructions.

Numerous industrial and smaller scale facilities many of which have been documented by VIDA, were seriously damaged. Some of them were functional or in a state of reuse and others totally abandoned. Our industrial heritage which has been suffering from the indifference and neglect, has to deal with another trauma. We would like to express our deep sorrow for the loss of lives and the damages caused by the devastating floods that hit the central part of the country, especially the Thessaly region after the passage of the storms Daniel and Elias. From our side, as a minimum contribution to the efforts that are being made for the restoration of the affected areas, we will continue recording the regional industrial buildings, updating the older reports with the current state of the industrial remains, with the ultimate purpose as always, to save them and highlight their historical and cultural value.



Destroyed properties in Metamorfoosi Karditsa (photo: EUROKINISSI/  
Tatiana Bolari)



## Cultural Creation and Reuse

*In the main section of this issue, we host two excellent efforts that aim to enhance culture and make the most of our industrial heritage. These efforts come from two women, members of VIDA.*

### Tobacco warehouses of Greece: remains of Industrial Heritage



Tobacco warehouses are a very important element of industrial heritage for Greece. Growing, processing, and selling tobacco leaves was a prominent production and commercial activity that influenced the economy of the 20th century and shaped the morals, customs and identity of modern societies. A typical example are the tobacco warehouses of Kavala, the so-called "The Tobacco Mecca". Today, we locate within the urban fabric about 59 buildings and building complexes out of the 120 that existed until 1913 in the city of Kavala alone. Thanks to the trade in Eastern-type tobacco leaves (Basma), the city acquired roads, a connection with the villages and the also the construction of the port. With the decline of the Oriental tobacco trade after the Second World War, these buildings mostly fell into disuse, (some are today in partial use with a complete change in their function), their machinery standing decommissioned and their facilities now under collapse.

Unfortunately, despite the extent of the tobacco heritage - as tobacco warehouses and tobacco houses (i.e. commercial and choral processing respectively) we can find from Alexandroupolis to Corfu, Volos, Agrinio, Athens and Crete - due importance is not given to both recording as well as in highlighting and maintaining it.

This gap aspires to be filled by creating a website (<https://www.tobacowarehouses.gr>) that contains all the tobacco warehouses of Greece, starting from Eastern Macedonia and Thrace.

The aim of this research within the framework of a PhD study at the Ionian University is to constitute a record and to create the first online database with data on the Tobacco Warehouses of Kavala. It is a work in progress, as it will gradually be enriched with the recording of the tobacco warehouses of Kilkis, Serres Drama, Xanthi, Komotini and Alexandroupolis, Volos and Agrinio.

On this website there is also a virtual tour of the Tsimino's tobacco warehouse in Kavala, with the aim of saving the industrial heritage and stimulating the interest of the younger generation mainly through technology (digital heritage). Finally, the website also includes an interactive map, with the location of the tobacco warehouses in the modern network of Kavala, Kilkis, Serres, Nigrita, Komotini, Alexandroupolis and the gradual addition of the tobacco warehouses of Drama and Xanthi. The map includes a photographic impression, construction details, ownership status and architectural details.

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## Cultural Creation and Reuse



### Pastali

The Bulgarian tobacco merchant Marco Nestoroff in 1928 in his work "Les tabac d' Orient" ("Tobaccos of the Orient") defined the Basma Kirechiler variety as the noblest and most expensive tobacco in the world, the crowned Queen of Tobaccos. The village of Kiretsiler (today's Palea Chryssa) in the prefecture of Xanthi was for many years the center of the most aromatic variety of oriental tobaccos with great commercial value. For 113 years, this peculiar for many reasons tobacco site has housed the examined farmhouse - a pre-industrial space constituted as a "triple of tobacco": smokehouse, "santzaki" (semi-outdoor area for processing, drying and storing tobacco and a tobacco field with a stone collection tank water.

**Pastali**, as the official name of the farmhouse will be, aspires to be a unique "hospitality station" directly related to industrial archeology, seeking its sustainability, among other things, by reviving the productive past as well as the creative connection with the present: Accommodation and hospitality for researchers, students, but also for the wider public, library, educational activities, artistic events, promotion of the productive present material and immaterial as well as productive reuse of agricultural space based on the principles of permaculture. The entire philosophy of the space is based on the idea that we study our productive past an essential reason: the rebuilding of our productive perception.

#### New uses inspired by the past.

The basic function that will determine the viability of the entire project is the utilization of the existing buildings (accommodation spaces): a) The tobacco-house : the central hospitality space. b) The reconstruction-restoration of the small stone building (inside the large courtyard) that housed seasonal workers in tobacco cultivation. 2. The tobacco-barn can fulfill multiple roles, both permanent and periodic: 1. As a hospitality space by creating a small loft (in the southwest corner of the remaining building) with the reuse of the stored building materials collected and the use of new appropriate materials and techniques. 2. The stone food basement will be restored covered with a wooden floor (as it was) which in selected areas will be broken up by the addition of a glass floor, so that the space will be visible to the visitors. The space will be reused as a food and beverage storage, food exhibitions related with local products. 3. A small green house will be created with the necessary architectural interventions in the south-east corner of the tobacco-barn.

4. The central area of the building will remain by adding reversible constructions: a loft library (bibliography related to the productive identity of the area and more broadly the industrial heritage) for students and researchers, open and connected with the main central space in which educational, artistic and social events can be hosted. The productive history of the place will emerge museographically) and museologically (reference to tobacco cultivation) by incorporating new functions inspired by the past but also modern as well.

The 2.5-acre field, surrounded by fruit trees (almonds, walnuts), housed a typical tobacco field. The design will be based on the principles of permaculture, a cultivation technique that aims to utilize sustainable resources by designing human installations that function as productive ecosystems, without waste and without the use of fossil fuels. The choice of applying the principles of permaculture in the field is considered necessary in order to improve the water capability of the field and its uninterrupted cultivation function. The study of the design of the space will be done in collaboration with specialized landscape architecture scientists and permaculture specialists, integrating slowly and not with burdensome detail at the same time a museological route of the tobacco from the field, to the tobacco-barn and to the tobacco-house. The Pastali has already started its operation in a somewhat unorthodox way (vacuum without electricity) by hosting two important actions: The first action was the participation in the regional commemoration (of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace) of 80 years since the extermination of the Greek Jews of our region in the crematoria of Treblinka. For three months, students and citizens of various disciplines participated in the free workshop "One wardrobe, 3 Towns, 1 story", which took place in Pastali. The presence of the Jewish community of Xanthi, directly linked to its tobacco production past, unfolded through a "lowly remnant of the industrial past." The second educational activity was the collaboration with the creative writing workshop "Friendship Awareness" (responsible: Vasiliki Stroli). Students of the Philanagnosia workshop participated in an "experiment simulating the life of the writers of the past without electricity, around a wood -stove with natural references to the tobacco past of Pastali.

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National Infrastructures for Research and Technology (GRNET) & National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)

## THE NATIONAL SUPERCOMPUTER "DAEDALUS" of GRNET AT LAVRION TECHNOLOGICAL CULTURAL PARK



One of the most important buildings of the former French Mining Company in Lavrio, adapts to a new usage; The building of the Electric Power Station in Lavrio was constructed between 1900 and 1905, concurrently with the corresponding building of the Steam-electric power station in Neo Faliro, for the provision of electricity to the city of Athens and Piraeus.

Today the building belongs at the premises of the Technological Cultural Park of Lavrio (LTCP) of NTUA. The national supercomputer DAEDALUS of GRNET will be installed in this historic industrial building. The project will be open to the general public and therefore, the design meets high requirements concerning the aesthetics and the construction elements.

The building itself, the existing mechanical equipment, the iconic crane bridge, the vaulted underground ducts and the surrounding area, are preserved intact in their original historical form. The special conditions required by the installation of "Daedalus" led to the creation of a new "shell" within the former Power Station building. An elliptical in shape, glass "cage", receives the computer networks thus their integration into the existing building to be achieved as smoothly as possible, while its transparency maximizes the visual contact with the Supercomputer's units, charging symbolically the new era of the building's use. The design and study of the construction will serve the maintenance of a constant temperature, the protection against external factors and the controlled accessibility within the computer system space.

Along with the basic infrastructure, peripheral spaces such as observatories, spaces for guided tours, exhibitions and work areas are being created. The reception of "Daedalus" system and the consequential restoration projects, aim to bring to the spotlight and upgrade the emblematic building of the former Power Station, in terms of functionality, aesthetics and sustainability. The identity of the new project is completely compatible not only with the research-technological and cultural character but also with the monumentality of the space. A building constructed at the beginning of the 20th century for such an innovative use as the production of electricity, is revived with an equally innovative technological use, the installation of the national and international supercomputer system, "Daedalus". The relevant study was approved by the Central Council for Modern Monuments of the Ministry of Culture on 3/8/23. The architectural, static and electromechanical study was carried out by NTUA, conducted by Associate Professor Telemachos Andrianopoulos (Architecture), by Thanasis Kontizas (Statics), by Konstantinos Vassiliou from GRNET and Stavros Livadas.

### [Contributors](#)

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## NEWS BREAK

### POSTPONEMENT OF THE CONFERENCE OF TICCIH-GREECE

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BOARD

The devastating floods that recently hit the region of Thessaly had a tremendous cost in human lives, properties, incalculable damage to animal and plant capital, infrastructure, and important cultural resources.

These tragic circumstances necessitated the postponement of the conference of the Greek Section of TICCIH, since supporting the people and helping with the recovery of the wider region became a priority.

The venue of the Conference will still be in Larissa and hopefully will be held in late spring 2024.



## Drakopoulou estate



In 1882 in the area of Patisia, a textile factory (spinning mill, weaving mill) was founded by the company "S. Vezanis and Selas". In 1922 the business was purchased by the "K. & A. Drakopoulou" partnership company. The factory then, was turned into a cotton mill. Next to the factory Drakopoulos built a mansion and a little further down an auxiliary neoclassical building and an office building. The factory ceased operations in the mid-1950s. In 1977, when the second brother, A. Drakopoulos, died, the property was bequeathed to the Hellenic Red Cross for public benefit purposes. After years of abandonment, vandalism and looting of the preserved and non-preserved buildings and an intense public debate on how the complex would be "exploited", in August 2009 a demolition permit was issued in order a multi-storey building and underground parking to be erected. The people living around the area, reacted against these plans and took coordinated and dynamic action. They managed to stop the demolition and to preserve the historic estate. Today the park remains in its place but its image with the dilapidated and damaged buildings is really sad. The continuous ordeal of the Drakopoulos estate, is another example of the problems and challenges many significant, historic and cultural buildings along with valuable urban free spaces, have to overcome in order to survive. The preservation and reutilization of the historical buildings requires continuous effort, cooperation and commitment not only from the local authorities but also from the local community as well, so for the future generations to have the opportunity to enjoy and learn from their cultural heritage.

## Symposium for the old mines of Serifos



A scientific symposium took place on the island of Serifos on June 4th. The main objective of the symposium was to explore the mining activity of the island and the effect on the island's cultural identity since the ancient years. Emphasis was given on the vision of rescuing the mining landscape. All the participants agreed to a common goal; rescuing the Loading Ladder, restoring the Administration building in Megalo Livadi and the creation of the Open Air Museum of the mining activity and the Mineral Wealth of Serifos .

## CONTRADICTIONS

### AXELOS OIL MILL



The oil mill of Istiaia once belonged to Axelo's family, originated from Volos. Unfortunately even though the building could become an important landmark for the area and serve in various ways the local community, doesn't exist anymore. At least it has been recorded by VIDA .

### FABRICA KOKKINIDIS



In Keramoutsi in Malevizio a very interesting project is in progress; the restoration of the old ground-level building of the factory and its conversion into an exhibition space. The Municipality of Malevizio achieved the project to be funded and supported by the Operational Programme "Transport Infrastructures, Environment and Sustainable Development 2014-2020". The Kokkinidis factory is a typical example of an olive processing unit of the pre-industrial era. It is worth noting that inside the oil mill one can find most of the equipment used for the traditional production of olive oil .

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