

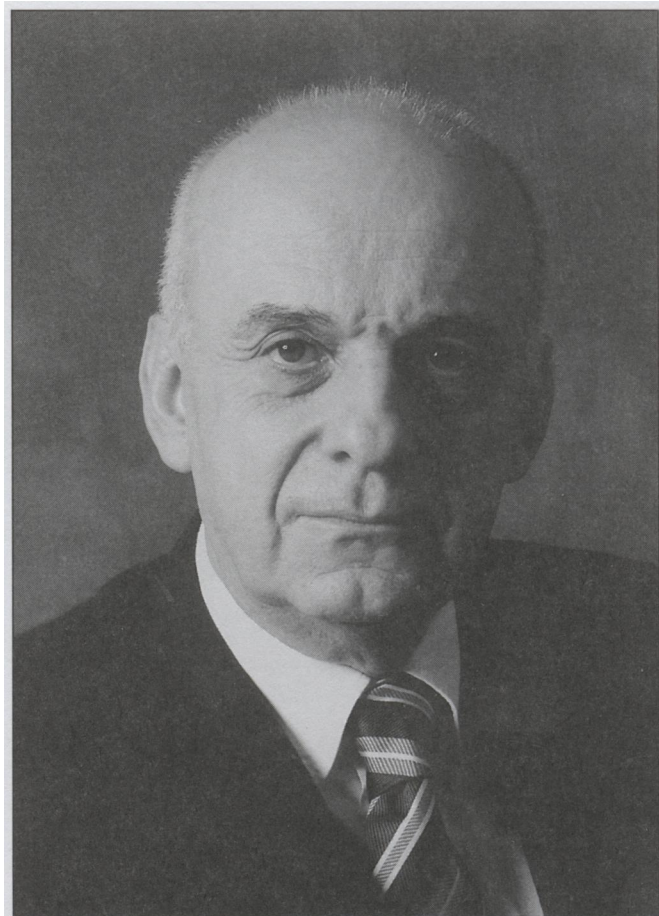


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Fig. 1: Miloš R. Perović, 1972, as a young architect, graduate student at the Athens Center of Ekistics.

Fig. 2: Dr Perović, Professor of History of Modern Architecture, University of Belgrade, in 2005.

Fig. 3: Top left: Miloš Perović as an observer in the ancient theater of Delos, the last session of the 1971 Delos Symposium. Front row: Delos participants Buckminster Fuller, Margaret Mead, Piet Hein, Mrs Fuller, Mrs Toynbee, Arnold J. Toynbee, Emma Doxiadis, C.A. Doxiadis and Eiichi Isomura.



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Miloš R. Perović, ekistics and *Ekistics*

The editor

In a brief note on his life and achievements made available to us by our guest-editor, Dr Miloš R. Perović, one can read that he is currently Professor of History of Modern Architecture at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade.

Furthermore, he notes that he obtained his M.Sc in architecture and town-planning in Belgrade and at the Athens Center of Ekistics, Athens, Greece, and his Ph.D at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade.

His many writings include *Computer Atlas of Belgrade* (Belgrade, 1976, second edition in Serbian and English as *Research into the Urban Structure of Belgrade*, Belgrade, 2002); *Dialogues with the Delians* (Ljubljana, 1978, in Slovenian and English); *Anthropos and Polis: Selected Texts by Constantinos A. Doxiadis* (Belgrade, 1982, in Serbian); *Lessons of the Past* (Belgrade, 1985, in Serbian and English, 2nd ed., 2000, 3rd ed. forthcoming); four volumes on the history of modern architecture in the world 1750 to present; *Serbian 20th Century Architecture: From Historicism to Second Modernism* (Belgrade, 2003); and numerous articles published in scientific and professional journals.

He has had one-man exhibitions of his experimental town-planning projects in Ljubljana (1977), Zagreb (1978), Belgrade (1978), Paris (1981), Dublin (1981), and at the Gallery of the Royal Institute of British Architects in London (1986).

He has lectured at New York University, the Institute of Fine Arts (New York), Princeton University, Columbia University (New York), Ohio State University (Columbus), Athens Center of Ekistics, University of Cambridge (UK), and the Royal Institute of British Architects.

No doubt this impressive career promises much more in the years to come.

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However, there are important aspects in Miloš R. Perović's long and creative life that I would like to stress, particularly concerning his uninterrupted involvement in the overall effort of ekistics for the last 35 years.

● To start with, in my capacity first as Acting Editor and thereafter as Editor of *Ekistics* for the last 30 years, I believe that Dr Miloš is the only recipient of the journal who is its most systematic reader. I have constantly been grateful for his remarks and comments on the contents of each issue: some praising, some critical and some even nastily witty but always welcome as I never doubted his good intentions and never ceased to enjoy his characteristically charming sense of humor.

● Miloš has not limited himself to the direct experience of the effort of ekistics as a student at the Graduate School of Ekistics or as a research fellow at the Athens Center of Ekistics. He has been avidly reading and collecting documents which had been produced long before his years in Athens and continues to do

so up to the present day. I must admit that even I myself consult him in the rare case when a certain reference proves difficult to be located.

● Miloš has made every possible effort and has taken advantage of every opportunity to make his support of the overall ekistic approach known to the widest possible public. In this sense, he is one of the few members of the World Society for Ekistics who have individually and enthusiastically contributed to the fulfillment of the Society's goals in

- promoting the development of knowledge and ideas concerning human settlements by research and through publications, conferences, etc.;
- encouraging the development and expansion of education in ekistics;
- educating public opinion concerning ekistics, thus stimulating worldwide interest and cooperation;
- recognizing the benefits and the necessity of an interdisciplinary approach to the needs of human settlements.

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Before closing, I would like to refer to two of his publications which are directly related to ekistics and C.A. Doxiadis:

● The first book, *Anthropos and Polis*, initially published in Serbian in 1982, is the basis for the C.A. Doxiadis Reader in the present volume of the journal, which consists of a selection of writings by C.A. Doxiadis with an orientation towards planning practice. For more on this, readers should refer to pages 28 and 29, and of course to pages 31 to 211.

● The second book, *Dialogues with the Delians*, reflects Miloš R. Perović's involvement and interest in other activities of the Athens Center of Ekistics of the Athens Technological Organization and the World Society for Ekistics. It actually contains a selection of interviews with personalities of international repute, who took part in one or more of the Delos Symposia between 1963 and 1972, such as Constantinos A. Doxiadis, René Dubos, Richard Buckminster Fuller, Jean Gottmann, Eiichi Isomura, Margaret Mead, Jérôme Monod, John Papaioannou, Arnold J. Toynbee and Jaqueline Tyrwhitt. But in addition to these interviews, the book also contains the final reports or "Declarations" of all 10 Delos Symposia.

Hereunder I am pleased to reproduce, without Dr Perović's permission – for which I hope he will forgive me – pages 5 to 8 of his Introduction to the book *Dialogues with the Delians* which was printed in 1978 from interviews that were first published in Slovenian by *Sinteza* journal with Stane Bernik, Art Historian and Social Scientist, as Editor.

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In his introduction to José Luis Sert's personal interpretation

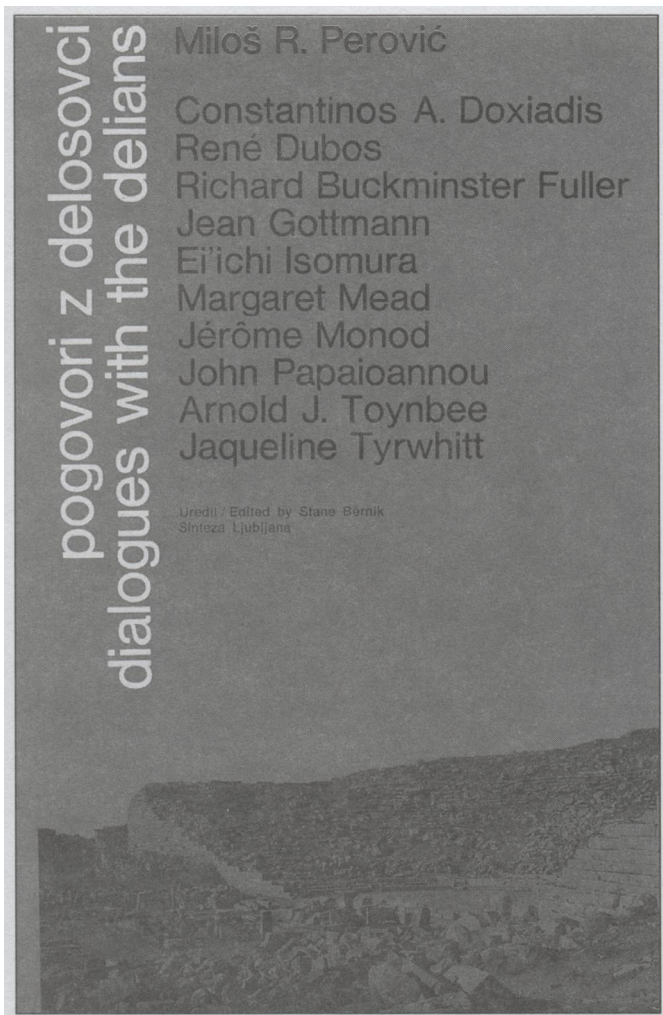


Fig. 4: The cover of Miloš Perović's book *Dialogues with the Delians* in Slovenian and English (Ljubljana, 1978).



Fig. 5: R. Buckminster Fuller interviewed by Miloš Perović in the ancient theater on the island of Delos, 1971.

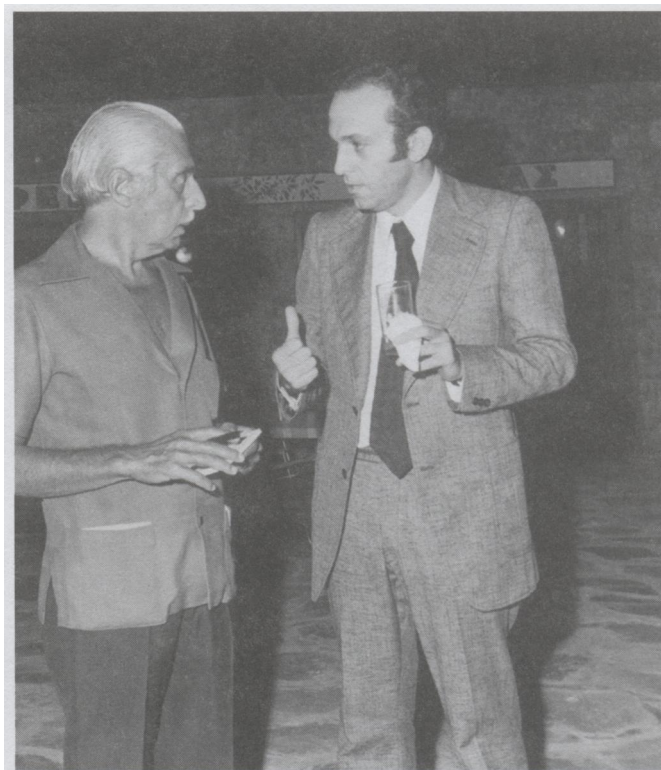


Fig. 6: C.A. Doxiadis in a discussion with Miloš Perović at the Apollonion, Porto Rafti, 1972.

of the Fourth CIAM Congress "Can our Cities Survive?" Sigfried Giedion, at that time Secretary of the CIAM, wrote:

"In 1933 it was agreed to hold the Fourth Congress, which was to deal with 'The Functional City', on board the steamship *Patris II* en route from Marseilles to Athens and return. Through the help of friends, this Greek steamer was placed at our disposal, and we hoped that the quiet Mediterranean would afford us three weeks of concentrated work. And, indeed, it turned out to be the most inspired of all congresses. Our assemblies were held on the promenade of the *Patris II*. Although not all participated in the discussions, the presence of musicians, poets, authors, and painters helped to keep the spirit of these discussions from being a closed and specialized one."

This, "the most inspired of all congresses", ended by bringing out "La Charte d'Athènes", a document which had a strong influence on modern architecture and town planning.

In 1963 on board another ship, Professor Giedion, as a participant at the first Delos Symposium, wrote:

"What great changes have occurred within a generation. I now see around me high officials and presidents grappling with the same problems that bothered us trying to break through the mist of future developments and foresee its aims and trends. This represents a fundamental change in the attitude of responsible decision makers which is of utmost importance for the development of our period."

The series of Delos Symposia started on the thirtieth anniversary of "La Charte d'Athènes" and were organized by the Athens Technological Institute and the Athens Center of Ekistics, as was stated in the First Delos Declaration, in order:

- to establish in its own right a new discipline of human settlements;
- to initiate basic research of the most far-reaching kind;
- to bring together specialists from other relevant disciplines to work together on projects in this field;
- to work out new methods of training the men who can assume

leadership and responsibility in the sphere of action;
- to attract some of the best young minds into this new area of research, development and practice.

The host was Constantinos A. Doxiadis, a scientist with great international planning experience and a high reputation, and founder of Ekistics – “the science of human settlements.”

In his view a completely new approach was needed to produce an awareness of the basic natural, historical, economic, sociological, anthropological and ecological features of cities.

Doxiadis defined the five elements of ekistics as Nature, the earth and the natural sites of human settlements; Anthropos who creates and inhabits them; Society, which is formed mainly in them; Networks, the links which enable them to survive and grow; and Shells, the structures which transform Nature and house the previous three elements. It is the relationship between the elements which forms human settlements.

The first Delos Symposium, consisting of thirty-four participants from academic and professional life, gathered on board m/v “New Hellas” for a week-long, tightly packed series of scientific discussions and arguments. These were followed by friendly, relaxed chats in the afternoons, study tours of classical sites and pleasant whitewashed villages on the Aegean Islands. Late every evening, after dinner, the Delians were given presentations by the most distinguished members of the group on specific topics, in one of the lounges of the ship. The cruise ended at the island of Delos, the birthplace of Apollo, God of light and enlightenment, where in the ancient theater the final document from the meetings, The Declaration, was read.

By the end of the week all the participants felt that the meeting had been extremely valuable in bringing together the views of people from a very wide range of countries, disciplines and sciences. They also concluded that a second Symposium should be held the following year.

In 1964 the Delians accepted Doxiadis’ view that their concern should be not only cities and villages, but all types of human settlements and that this should be recognized within the United Nations as a separate sector of activity. This goal was attained in 1972 with the UN Conference on the Environment held in Stockholm and four years later at the second UN Conference on Human Settlements held in Vancouver.

In 1965 attention was concentrated on the problems of people living in high density areas, in 1966 on the nature of human settlements, and in 1967 on the definition of a strategy for development at all scales progressing from the single room to the human community, the town, the city, the urbanized region and the world.

Delos ’67 marked a turning point. What was started as meetings of distinguished personalities and widely recognized authorities in fields relating to human settlements, became now a well structured series of Symposia devoted to the basic elements of human settlements.

Thus, in 1968 the subject was Anthropos in his Settlements, in 1969 Society and Human Settlements, in 1970 attention was turned to Networks, in 1971 to Buildings and Human Settlements, and finally in 1972 to the Synthesis of the Ekistic elements and the ways by which the experience of the past could be used in the decisions to be taken for the future.

The Delos group was always kept small and exclusive. In the ten years up to 1972 not many more than two hundred par-

ticipants were invited to take part in one or more meetings. However the group remained extremely influential. Its power came from names such as Walter Christaller, C.A. Doxiadis, René Dubos, Erik Erikson, R. Buckminster Fuller, Sigfried Giedion, Jean Gottmann, Bertrand de Jouvenel, Herman Kahn, Gyorgy Kepes, J. Marshall McLuhan, Margaret Mead, Jonas Salk, Vikram Sarabhai, Olga Smirnova, Kenzo Tange, Arnold Toynbee, Barbara Ward, etc. who patiently worked towards the better understanding of human settlements, and who managed to contribute significantly to the marked changes that have taken place in the process of analysis and planning of human settlements during the last decade.

In order to broaden the platform for contacts and exchanges of views and ideas of those who had been to Delos and the others interested in Ekistics, the World Society for Ekistics was established in 1965, in accordance with decisions taken during the first two Delos Symposia. The Society has an international membership drawn from all disciplines and sciences which contribute to Ekistics under the Presidency, first of Lord Richard Llewelyn-Davis, later of Margaret Mead, Jean Gottmann, Eiichi Isomura and at present of R. Buckminster Fuller.

The choice of contributors in the present volume, the Delians to be interviewed, does not follow any particular rule. They are simply close friends of the author, who attended the last three Delos Symposia as an observer, willing to participate in an experiment designed to show both the latest interests and results of research of some members of the group, within the framework set by the Delos Symposia, and certain connections and similarities in views that have been formed after so many years of fruitful exchanges and confrontations of ideas. The interviews were carried out in the period 1971-75 during the last two Delos Symposia, and, during the World Society for Ekistics preparatory meetings for the Vancouver UN Conference on Human Settlements, and were first published in *Sinteza* journal under the general title “Dialogues with the Delians”.

The Declaration of the last Delos Symposium (1972), read by Margaret Mead in the torch-lit darkness of the Delos night, contains these prophetic lines:

“The crisis in world settlements persists and increases. The speed of urbanization continues to accelerate. With man’s burgeoning settlements, the need for human dignity, for full participation by the citizen in the community, for the recovery or creation of neighborhood, for variety, for mobility, has grown steadily more apparent ... The next two or three decades will be critical in the race between increasing numbers and available resources, between the rising social tensions and the inventions of new kinds of community” ... which define the Promethean task in front of the World Society for Ekistics and the new generation of Delos Symposia to come.

In view of all the above, I hope readers will understand why, for the first time in the history of the journal, I have taken it upon myself to write this extension of the Editor’s Page, focusing on the Guest-editor.