

Athens Center of Ekistics

The first issue of the journal, October 1955

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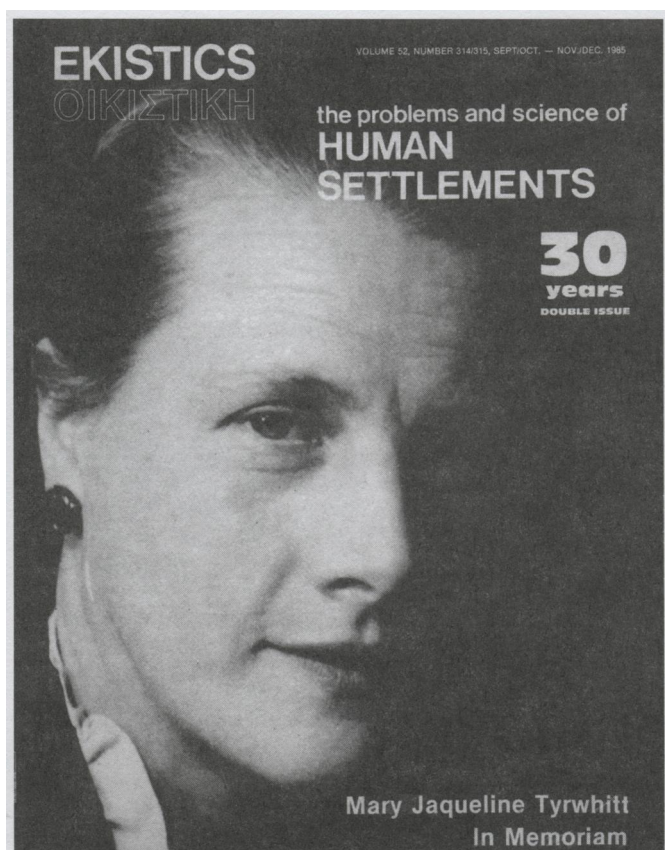
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The first issue of the journal, October 1955

The birth of the journal dates back to 1954 when C.A. Doxiadis and Jaqueline Tyrwhitt met in Delhi in connection with the first U.N. International Symposium on Housing and Community Planning – Tyrwhitt was its Director and Doxiadis a distinguished participant. They agreed there was need for a journal directly aimed at keeping architects and planners in developing countries up to date with relevant professional expertise elsewhere in the world. The following year they met again in London. Tyrwhitt had joined the faculty of Harvard University's Graduate School of Design and Doxiadis had contracted to prepare a five-year

National Housing Plan for the Government of Iraq. He said he was prepared to finance a monthly bulletin of information useful to his staff stationed in forty different locations in the Middle East. Tyrwhitt agreed to produce it provided it would also be sent to U.N. housing and planning experts working in developing countries, as she pointed out in a discussion with the current editor of the journal in early 1980. Thus Ekistics was born, though for its first two years it was called Tropical Housing and Planning Monthly Bulletin. Its first number appeared in October 1955, with reprints of articles from other journals and gradually evolved into having mostly original papers.



Cover of the special double issue of Ekistics (vol. 52, no. 314/315, Sept./Oct.-Nov./Dec. 1985) dedicated to the memory of Jaqueline Tyrwhitt on the occasion of 30 years' circulation of the journal, with a photograph of her in her late thirties. (Photograph: Courtesy of her niece Catharine Huws Nagashima).

Mary Jaqueline Tyrwhitt, 1905-1983

Professor Mary Jaqueline Tyrwhitt (1905-1983) was the first Editor of the journal from its initial issue in October 1955 to June 1969. She became co-editor with Gwen Bell from July 1969 to December 1972, and on the occasion of her "retirement" to the post of Consultant Editor in January 1973 she was said by C.A. Doxiadis to have been "an exacting collaborator and the most suitable I could have selected to be the first editor of Ekistics." After the death of Doxiadis in June 1975 and the subsequent resignation of Gwen Bell as Editor in December 1977, Jacky felt the need to be more actively involved herself with P. Psomopoulos as Acting Editor. He took over the editorship upon her death in February 1983. The last issue that she worked on was published as May/June 1983. The Sept./Oct.-Nov./Dec. 1985 double issue was published in her memory, with a selection from her own writings, and contributions from her friends and colleagues on her life and work.