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## EDITOR'S DESK

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# Exploring Fundamentals

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Welcome to the eighth special issue of the international journal *Ekistics and the New Habitat: The problems and science of human settlements*. On behalf of the Advisory Editorial Board, I would like to briefly introduce the present special issue: Ekistics-Related Research in Greece (Part 2 of 3): Planning Principles.

As an architect and researcher based in the Ministry of Education and Sports in Athens, our guest editor, Myrto Exacoustou has incorporated solicited contributions from contemporary scholars and practitioners working globally in relation to ekistics. This issue reflects her dedication to the memory of her Godfather, Panayis Psomopoulos (1926-2017), and the current iteration of the journal. Ms Exacoustou has created an issue that addresses the principles underlying planning, architecture, and urban design. In the spirit of ekistics, she has gathered contributions that discuss the fundamentals of solving the problems of human settlements. Ray Bromley explores the concept of megalopolis, through the lens of the relationship between Jean Gottmann and C.A. Doxiadis. Rooted in the idea of human settlements as interconnected systems within systems, Ioannis Aris Alexiou's study provides insights into articulated strips and the idea of a systematic city. Alexiou's analysis draws on a collective research project and the teaching practice it inspired, and the article examines foundational ideas regarding the interconnection of all life. Mark David Major, Raya Atour, and Deepthi John then re-examine Doxiadis' conception of entopia using Space Syntax among other approaches. This critical appraisal explores the sense and viability of the term in the context of place-making in cities. It is an analysis than benefits from hindsight, providing a fresh take on an established idea within ekistic thinking. Lawrence W.C. Lai's contribution offers another retrospective look at ekistic theory, this time through a close reading of selected texts that detail aspects of Doxiadis' theorisations and practices. Lai explores ekistic principles in terms of their practicality and contemporary relevance. Finally, in a return to a historical perspective, Ioanna Theocharopoulou takes readers back to the early moments of Ekistics, through her presentation of archival images and notes from ekistic field work conducted by architect, Panayis Psomopoulos and civil engineer, Emmanuel Theocharpoulos who acted as scouts for Doxiadis in Lebanon between July 1957 and January 1958. This study details the practical application of ekistics – articulating the groundwork out of which ekistics principles were developed and applied. To close the issue, Dimitri Philippides presents an insightful look at the figure of C.A. Doxiadis, and his lesser-known attitudes and relationships. For those interested in the history of ekistics, this is an invaluable read.



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