



"...Winter's on the way. The empty chairs around me are increasing. I've found a corner and I'm drinking coffee and smoking with face to the sea. I could spend a whole life like this, if I haven't done so already. Between a wooden door faded from the sun and a spring of trembling jasmine; that were I to lose one day, the whole humanity would seem pointless to me. I'm serious, almost.

As, it's not a question of nature here, which is more important for you to contemplate rather than experience; nor even of tradition. It's a question of that deeper power of analogies that links the negligible with the consequential, the crucial with the insignificant, forming, beneath the carved-up surface of phenomena, a firmer ground for me to place my foot on – I nearly said my soul. It was in such a spirit that I had once remarked that a landscape (topio) is not as some perceive it, simply a mass of earth, plants and water; **it is the projection of a people's soul on matter...**"

Elytis, Odysseus. Carte blanche; selected writings. Things Public and Private. Trans. D. Connolly. Amsterdam: Harwood Academic Pubs, 1999

Dedicated to Dalibor, mentor and friend, for whom the "reality" of Architecture is not exhausted in its implemented form, but is also addressed to the spirituality of any act/project that refers to a world beyond the senses, the world of the visible and the invisible at the same time. Architecture as such, instead of monopolising reality, offers itself as a reflection on the reality that is absent...

Athanasios Spanomaris, April 2016