

Dr. Dinos Ramon

Ramon Chiropractic Clinic

Bogazi, Famagusta, Cyprus

Research by studio messiosmarios in collaboration with Parametricos Ltd
Marios Messios, Anninos Loizou

OBSERVATION

In 2015 we started a series of trips to Bogazi in the now Turkish occupied area of Cyprus, specifically to the clinic that Dr. Ramon has finalised in 1974 but unfortunately never had the pleasure of his vision.

When we visited the clinic for the first time together I could immediately see the deterioration of the structure that was due to abandonment, misuse and no maintenance. In every trip we went it became apparent that the building is becoming more and more dangerous and hazardous for anyone trying to access it.

I would rather not elaborate in any initial suggestions of preservation of the structure since those were all overwhelmingly defeated when,

in our last visit to the clinic, we witnessed the removal of all the roof tiles and any roof supporting structure. Stairs have collapsed, walls have been separated and rooms have an open ceiling to the sky.

This beautiful architectural scenery that was designed to bring harmony and relaxation has been left to time and nature to enclose it and gradually make it one with the surrounding. A symbol nonetheless, that could one day be reborn and unhitch a series of events that will bring the harmony between the two communities that once was.

ΕΙΣΑΓΩΓΗ

Το 2015 ξεκινήσαμε μια σειρά ταξιδιών στο Μπογάζι στην κατεχόμενη σήμερα Τουρκική περιοχή της Κύπρου, συγκεκριμένα στην κλινική που ο Δρ. Ραμόν σχεδόν ολοκλήρωσε το 1974 αλλά δυστυχώς δεν είχε ποτέ τη χαρά να την λειτουργήσει.

Όταν επισκεφθήκαμε την κλινική για πρώτη φορά μαζί, μπορούσα αμέσως να δω την επιδείνωση της δομής που οφειλόταν σε εγκατάλειψη, κακή χρήση και καμία συντήρηση. Σε κάθε επόμενη μας επίσκεψη ήταν φανερό ότι το κτίριο γινόταν όλο και πιο επικίνδυνο για όποιον προσπαθούσε να έχει πρόσβαση σε αυτό.

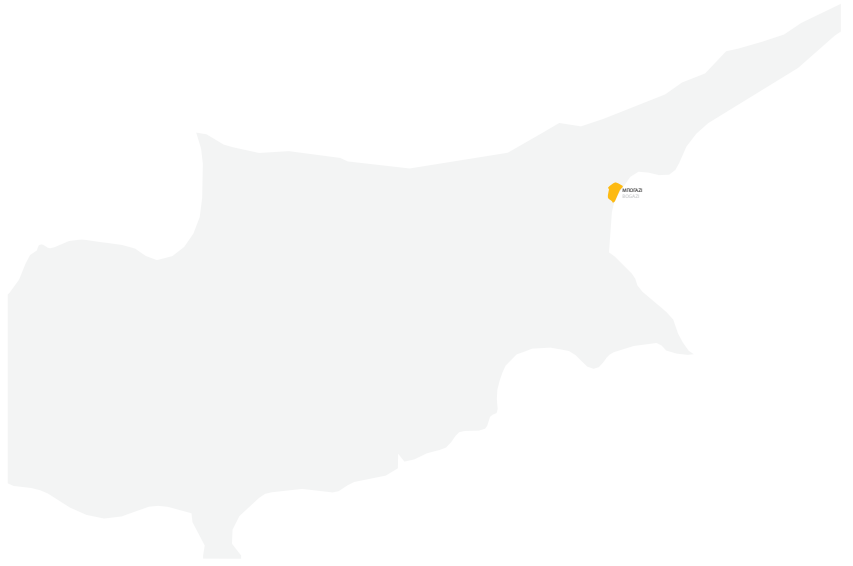
Θα προτιμούσα να μην επεξηγήσω τις

αρχικές προτάσεις για τη διατήρηση του κτιρίου, καθώς όλες αυτές οι σκέψεις και ιδέες είχαν καταστραφεί κατά τη διάρκεια της τελευταίας επίσκεψής μας στην κλινική, όπου παρατηρήσαμε την απομάκρυνση όλων των πλακιδίων οροφής και κάθε δομής υποστήριξης στέγης. Οι σκάλες έχουν καταρρεύσει, οι τοίχοι διαχωρίστηκαν και τα δωμάτια έχουν ανοιχτή οροφή προς τον ουρανό.

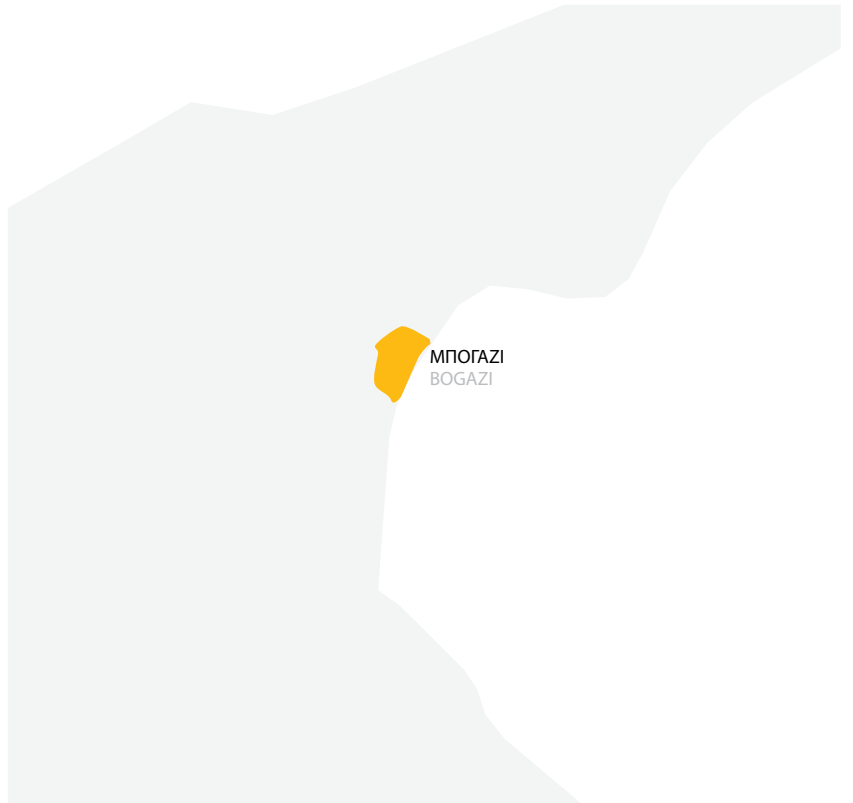
Αυτό το όμορφο αρχιτεκτονικό κτήριο που σχεδιάστηκε για να φέρει την αρμονία και τη χαλάρωση έχει αφεθεί στο χρόνο και τη φύση να το καταστήσει σταδιακά ένα με το περιβάλλον. Είναι ένα έργο σύμβολο που θα μπορούσε μια μέρα να ξαναγεννηθεί για να προωθήσει μια σειρά επαφών μεταξύ των δύο κοινοτήτων.



2015, Google Earth Images



2018, Google Earth Images
Removed Roof Tiles & Structure



THE INTERVIEW

Dr. Dinos Ramon,

Thank you again for kindly accepting my proposal or this interview in order to investigate in a deeper level the the life of your Clinic in Bogazi. I will start by asking several questions about your experience in Famagusta as a youngster. I will then move forward to ask in more detail about this project from the design phase to the construction. The change of function after the war and to it's present day and your vision about how now in modern Cyprus the site could be rehabilitated to facilitate both communities. Some answers may require your own private experience and biography and others may refer to socio-cultural economic and political issues.

Some questions may appear obvious but this thesis is directed to a general public that may not be aware about given situations.

MM: In this thesis I am investigating the housing patterns that emerged throughout the years and I see an increasing distance between the houses as well as the widening of the streets. In your opinion, does this pattern change the way people socialise?

The normal traditional houses in the villages in Cyprus are usually built close to each other covering every inch of the land owned by the owner, there were no architects back then in Cyprus. Today, with the study of architecture designs have changed assisted by the desire of the future owner of the house and the inspi-

ration of the architect.

MM: It is quite important to refer to the early stage of the Greek and Turkish-Cypriot communities before the war. What can you tell us about that?

Growing up Famagusta was pleasant but at he age of 8 the whole family with my one sister immigrated to England in 1946 to London a sudden change from beautiful Cyprus to the bombed ruins in London nevertheless I had to follow the family decision. We as a family returned to Cyprus from London in 1951 where I joined the American Academy in Larnaca known as a reputed higher schooling center. I was a boarder in the academy in a room that slept 4 students 2 Greek Cypriots 1 Turkish Cypriot and 1 Israeli where we all got on extremely well in a friendly atmosphere. We were all there for higher education with no national frictions.

MM: At an early point in your life you moved again out of Cyprus to the United Kingdom that followed Switzerland and the United States. How did that sequence of events effected on how you proceeded in life?

Whilst studying at the American Academy my father died at the early age of 40 which devastated my entire life. Since that moment when I realized that I would never utter the word father for the rest of my life, my quest in life was to educate myself the best I could together with an intesnse desire to search for the meaning of life and of death.

MM: While in London you enrolled to the Willesden Technical College to study Architecture. Can you tell us a bit about the experience at the school and your interaction with architecture? and how was Post-War-London in political, social as well as architectural terms.

I spent a few yew years in the Academy then I decided to leave for London to study architecture. I enrolled at the Willesden College for architecture but at the same time I had to work to make a living which I found very exhausting. This work and study lasted for 2 years and I could no longer meet my financial demands,so I left the College (unfortunately) and just went back to work.

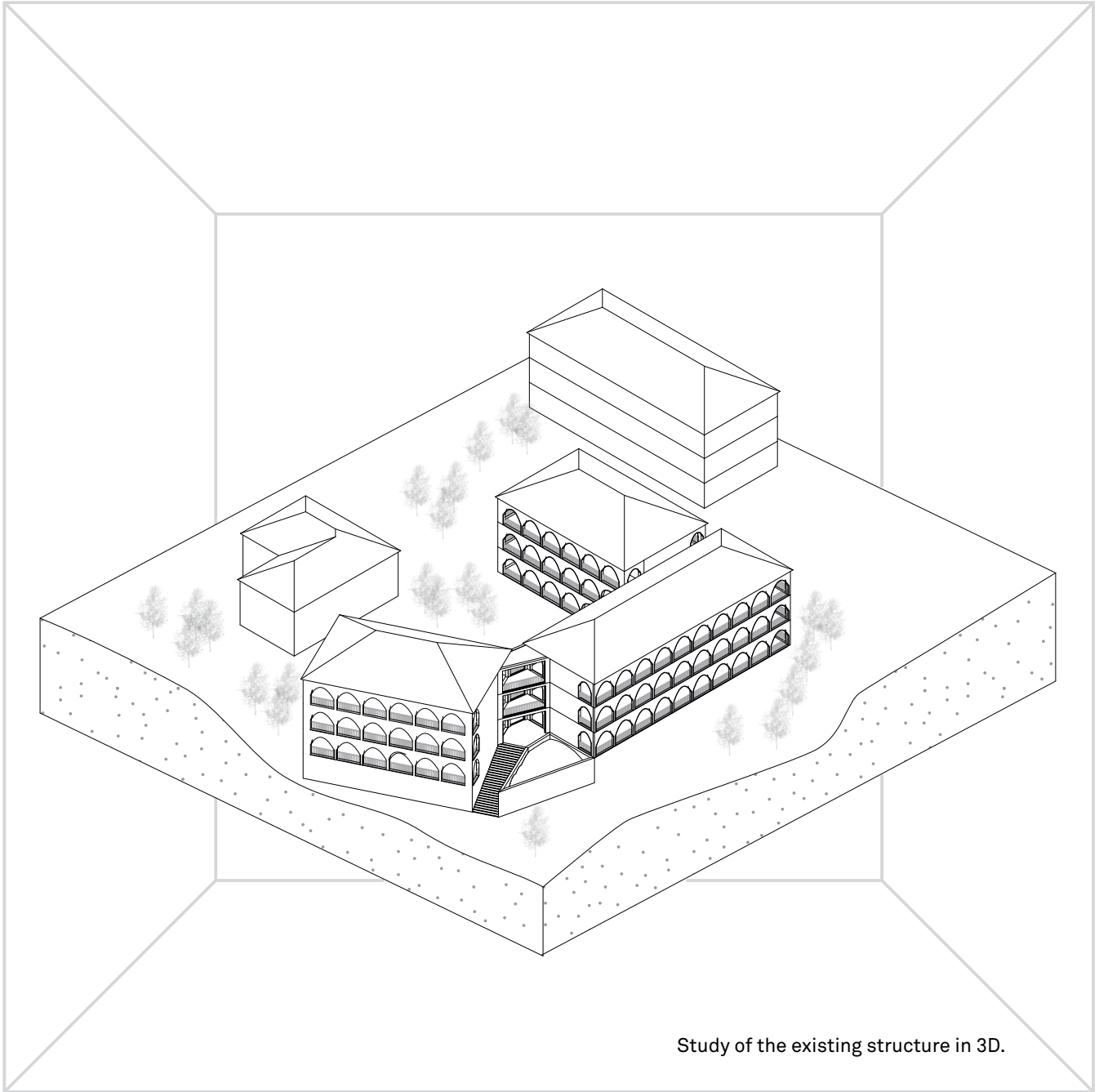
I read on your website that since the age of 8 you suffered from regular migraines which grew more intense and it was whilst in Biel-Bienne in Switzerland that you met Dr Ken Whittingham a Canadian chiropractor who cured you within 2 months. Being impressed by the cure you left your studies in London and enrolled at the Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport Iowa, USA where you received his Doctor of Chiropractic degree in 1967. What can you tell us about this transatlantic transition.

Since the age of 8 I had pains in my head not knowing what they were and now they were increasing in intensity so I wrote to my mother in Cyprus and she replied by telling me that we have an uncle in Switzerland who had no

children but had a very large and prominent oriental carpet shop in Biel-Bienne and he would like to see me and talk to me. So I went to Switzerland and immediately my uncle told me to stay with them as he needed help in his shop. What greater gift from God could come at this difficult time in my life. Finally not only did I stay with them but they also adopted me for their son and naturally future heir.

Whilst in Biel-Bienne my migraines grew more intense and as I was having coffee in one of the popular hotels there I was at the same time taking my daily medicine. On the table next to me was a kind looking man that spoke in english to me and asked me why was I taking medicine and after I explained to him from what I was suffering he just looked at me and said come to my clinic which is across the road and I will cure you. Well I took the challenge and after he adjusted my neck I was cured of my 17year ailment .Then he took me by the arm and stared at me and said you go and become a chiropractor and making a long story short I did .I graduated from Palmer Collage of Chiropractic in 1967. The truth is that studying in the U.S gives the student supreme knowledge.

MM: It is my understanding that you came back to Cyprus as a chiropractor with the vision to create the first Chiropractic Clinic in Cyprus located at the village of Bogazi in Famagusta. From our last visit on the site I saw a five modules design. Can you explain briefly what was the function of each one. (Arguendo I numbered the buildings from 1-5 as indicated in the picture).



Study of the existing structure in 3D.

Indeed, I then decided to come back to Cyprus and introduce this wonderful drugless profession to my people, so I set up a clinic in Famagusta and with the patient load that I had after 5 years of practice I decided to go ahead with a large clinic of 32 rooms, lecture rooms and a restaurant since many patients were coming to see me from Europe, and Cyprus was a perfect spot for their vacation.

I searched for something ideal for future patients that would flock to the clinic so I found a magnificent plot that was for sale in the village of Boghaz 20 kilometres north of my city Famagusta. There was a big interest in that particular site by a few housing development firms but finally the owner chose me because he thought that the purpose of the clinic would help people in need of their ailing health.

One of my patients was an architect so plans were rolling out the sooner the better. Looking at the plans that you sent me to clarify the five different blocks and their purposes : Block n.1 was to be a reception with a library, a restaurant and lecture rooms. Block n.2 and n.3 was for 12/each spacious accommodation rooms. Block n.4 was designed for 8 rooms and finally, Block n.5 was suppose to be my private residence.

We began construction of the project in 1972 and in 1974 it was nearly finished with just minor touches to it. This is when the Turkish

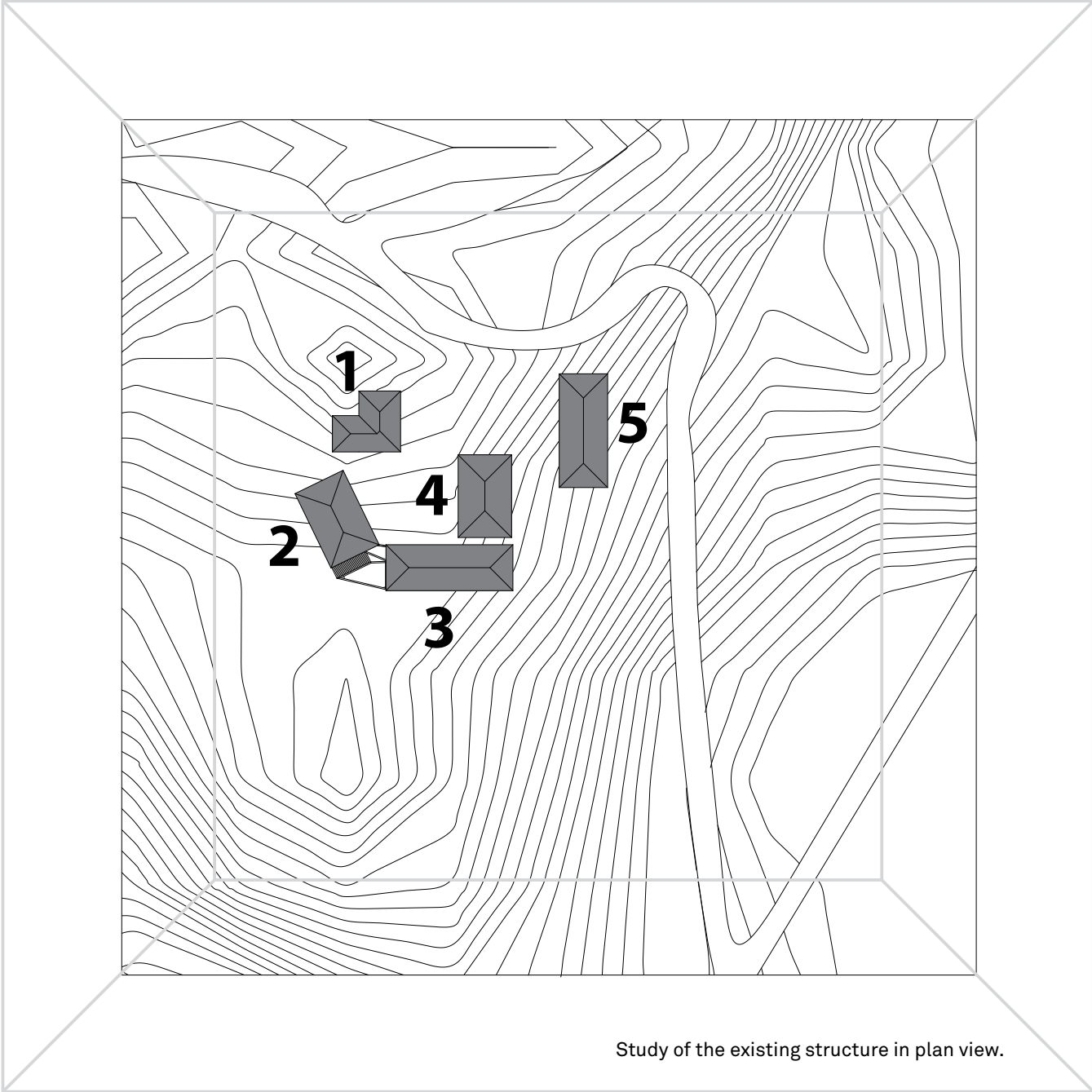
army invaded Cyprus which occupied 40 % of the northern part of the Republic of Cyprus including my clinic and we had to abandon it together with the city of Famagusta a population of 50.000 Inhabitants still under the occupation by the Turkish army. The clinic never operated as a clinic but the Turks used it as a hotel for 10 years which they called the Sea View Hotel.

MM: I am aware that you took the case of your land ownership and rights to the European Court. Can you tell us a bit more about the timeline, events and results of the outcome.

I then took my case to the European Court of Human Rights in 1995 against Turkey and in 2009 won my case. This means that Turkey should compensate me for my loss of income since 1974 and which makes me the legitimate owner of the entire property.

MM: Did you see opportunity and hope after the court's desition or after your first visit when the barricade became accessible in 2004?

Now that the borders have opened between the occupied north of the Republic of Cyprus and the legitimate south of the Republic I have many Turkish Cypriots in my clinic and I have sent a few Turkish Cypriots to study chiropractic and a few months ago the first Turkish Cypriot graduated from the European college of Chiropractic in Bournemouth in England. With this in view I have a desire to build a new Chiropractic clinic on the same



Study of the existing structure in plan view.

spot and call it a Bi-Communal Clinic for the sake of peace on this Island after 42 years of Turkish occupation. You may be my architect been sure we could create a centre for health and for peace on this Island.

MM: Throughout the years you were studying a specific sequence of philosophical books which you translated into a series. Did you have a purpose by doing those translations?

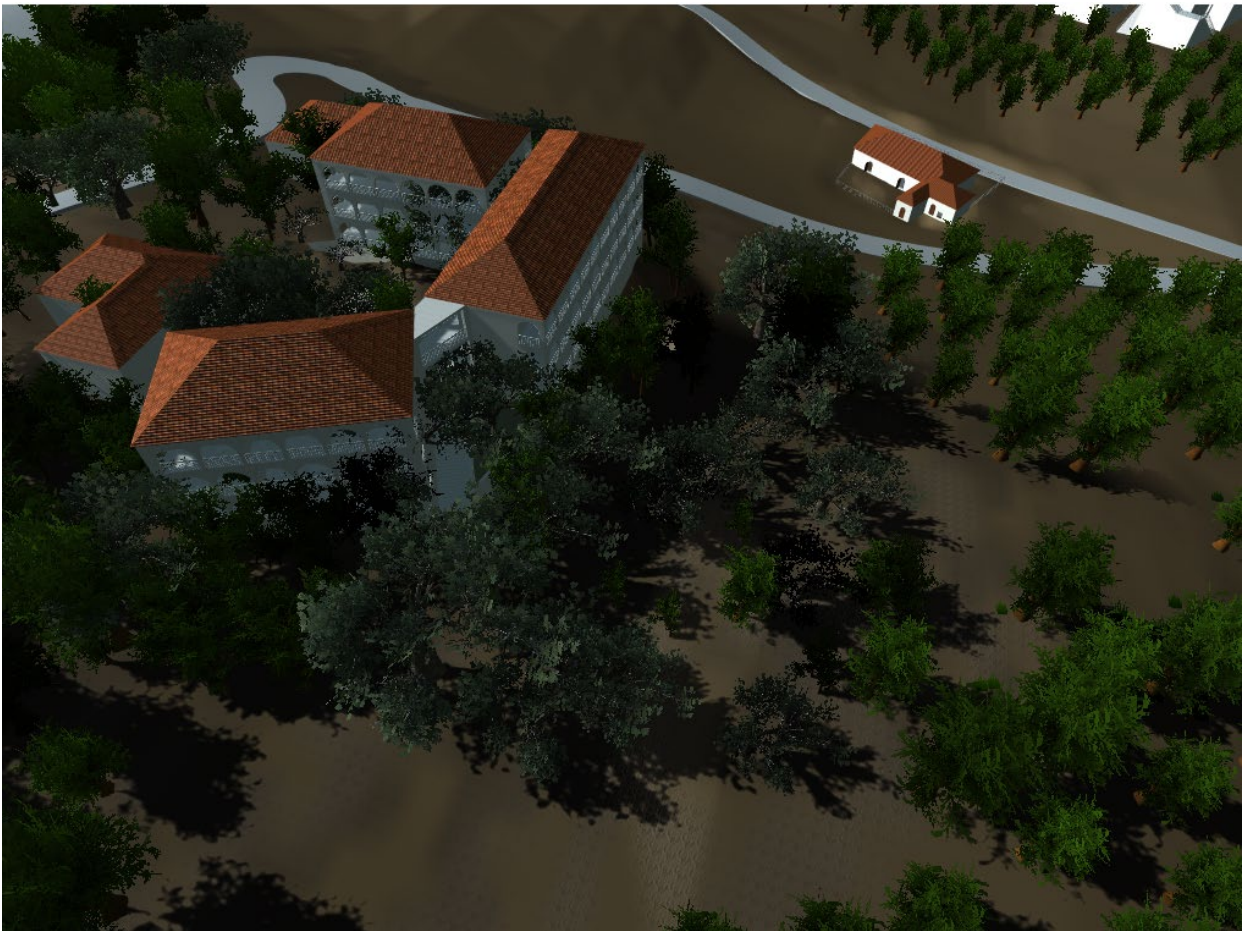
As you may well remember that during the last 50 years that I have practiced I also became interested by books written by Thomas Troward, the father of Mental Science. These 6 books by this man have now been translated by myself and my team and this important subject will also be taught along chiropractic studies.

MM: You always taught me to respond positively and trust the first answer that comes to mind. In your opinion Is it possible for the two communities to live in harmony in the near future? What stops them to do so now?

I would like to end up by my belief that the Greek and the Turkish communities can live together as they had done previously for the last 500 years. Unity is strength and partition is weakness.

Remember, that as an architect, the building you will bring forth in matter, first begins from the quality of the inner spirit that is always within you. Nothing has been produced on this planet without the presence of the mind. If we

give the world more moral mind then the atrocities of the world would disappear.



Study of the existing structure in 3D Renders

REFERENCES & CONTACT

Photographs Online Folder:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1bzykszrH-PqVGTNfSIZQiqZfGg_OmwNi7

Structure Walkthrough:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=15ZvAau-4P0uQj5eqtsl4cUybla0WVWF0Lj>

Location on Google Maps:

35.316250, 33.952444

<https://goo.gl/maps/aAgUUc9BkN12>

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