

## Historical Cultural Entities - Archeological Sites

**An other perspective with the use of New Technologies.**

**A multi level approach.**

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### **The Scope:**

that of **enhancing, unifying, bringing public awareness**

on a more specific level:

**assanation and preservation, conservation and improvement** of well known Archaeological Sites.

Each of these terms implies a **multi tasking programming**, and a series of projects that will aim to immediate interventions primarily undertaken by the Ministry of Culture as well as by other Institutions in Greece.

The presented studies are dealing with two types of projects under the general title «**The Use of Modern Technologies** in:

a) **the Rediscovery of Mountainous Archaeological Sites** forming Historical Cultural entities.

and

b) **Preservation, Conservation and Enhancement** of Archaeological Sites and their surroundings.

In reality, it is a new way of approaching and rediscovering well known Archeological Sites and Historic Settlements from **another perspective**.

The importance of these entities lies also in the fact that they are **immediately related to internationally acclaimed Monuments**, consisting historical and cultural, landmarks. On a City or Regional level most of them have been acting as the core of the region through the ages, **with a continuous historical presence and importance**.

### **The immediate goal is:**

- to incorporate these Sites into the every day life of the people living next to them, associate with them, or visit them.

Primarily, we are in a position, through these studies, to demonstrate that it is possible for everyone,

- to access these prominent Sites, whether they live next to them or at a distance: at school, in a household or at work, by giving them the tools to access these Sites, through New Technologies. **By the term New Technologies we are referring to the implementation of multimedia, electronic access, as well as to more traditional tools, such as publications, CD' s, etc.**

Additionally, **through the creation of educational programs**, it is possible

- to spread the influence of these areas, with the goal of **upgrading and enhancing the role of our Cultural Heritage in our society**.

- to increase public awareness by giving the methodology that will allow the ordinary visitor to penetrate into the deeper meaning of the Sites.

Contributing in a broader sense, to the **revival of the greater region, and to increase the sensitivity of the local population**, in order to participate in a more active way, than is possible up to now, where the public is generally informed about the existence « of some stones up in the mountains».

I have many times heard while working at the Acropolis of Athens "oh it is just stones", or even better, as visitors were leaving .... "and now we are going to visit the Acropolis", since the Acropolis and the Parthenon were not part of the same space to them.

In that way we offer a new life to these indisputably important Sites, so that to the public they will no longer remain - out of lack of knowledge- a distant and inaccessible object- **it is obvious that the lack of a deeper understanding, leads the public to indifference**.

#### **The proposal aims on a parallel level:**

- to create **a new network of rural axes**, or to revive the ones that have existed since ancient times.

#### **Two Case-Studies**

Greece has been selected **as a hold case study** for the development of appropriate **methodology and tools**, to be used for the design of important Archaeological sites in many parts of Europe, such as Spain, Portugal and Luxembourg, all of them participating in the project as **ICOMOS** members.

**The Associated Research Centre for Cultural Heritage** Interdisciplinary Projects from the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic, **ITAM - ARCCHIP**, will be important because of the specialised experience in the use of **GIS systems**, in the design of a **documentation network** for the mediaeval villages in the Bohemian- Moravian highland.

We have selectively decided to present two studies, as **applied examples**, of what theoretically we are trying to prove, and also to explain the mechanisms involved for the materialization of these goals.

The presented studies deal with two types of projects.

In reality it is two case - studies in two scales.

**I. the case- study of Figalia,\*\*** refers to the connection of the Temple of Epikourios Apollon with Aleifira and Lykeon Oros on a Regional scale

and

**II. The case study of Mycene \*\*** on a city level connecting the Acropolis of Mycene with its surroundings, and the prehistoric Settlement of Mycene and the village of Fichti.

The first study, as a whole, includes three different Archaeological Sites of Greece, each of them representing a certain historical period:

Crete - Prehistoric period represented through the site of Karphi -  
post Minoan period (c1200 B.C.).

Epirus - Byzantine era

## **Peloponnese - Figalia Classical period**

I) through the case of Figalia, Aleifira and the surroundings of Lykeon Oros, we are creating **a pilot project**, using New Technologies, in order to present and promote any Mountainous Archaeological Site of Greece, in the future, on the level of a Regional plan, since it forms a unified historical and cultural entity.

II) **the study of Mycene presents the enhancement and promotion of an Archaeological study**, after the first step of partial conservation of the Monuments. The study is dealing with the organization of site, by presenting to the public the methodology, as to how to approach, organize and improve, the way an Archaeological sites should be accessed, visited, explained and understood.

It is obvious that with the today technological means it is up to us to give the every day visitors, the tools, the information and the knowledge, to participate into the impressiveness of the space.

### **I. FIGALIA ALEIFIRA and the surroundings of Lykeon Oros**

Historical frame.

The region of Figalia is situated in the boundaries of Arcadia, Trifylia and Messina **\*\*map)** and belonging to the geographical and Municipal jurisdiction of the Prefecture of Olympia.

The area is extremely mountainous with rivers, canyons and waterfalls**\*\*river)**.

The contemporary village of Pavlitsa is built directly on the ruins of Ancient Figalia.

Ancient Figalia played an important role in the course of Greek history. The Temple of Epicurios Apollon (**\*\*the temple)** was built in that same greater region.

The city was surrounded by strong fortifications of a circumference of 4,6 km. with prominent and tall towers. **\*\*the walls**

Through the descriptions of Pausanias, we learn that in the same region there were the sanctuaries of Diana Soter, of Dionysus Akratoforos, as well as an Agora, Gymnasium and in the greater area, next to the Sanctuary of Dionysus, a Theatre. The ancient fountain (end of 4th B.C. beginning of the 3d was excavated by A. Orlandos in 1927.**\*\***

The remains of Ancient Figalia are visible every where, in the court yards of the contemporary houses, in the fields and inside the walls, from which many inscriptions have been removed.

Systematic excavations were started in 1995 under the Direction of the Ephor of Olympia Archaeologist Dr. X. Arapoyianni.

Among other findings was revealed a stone Temple, with continuous phases, from Archaic to the Late Byzantine times.

Later on the Temple has been transferred into a house, while in its Court yard, for the first time in the area of Figalia, prehistoric remains were discovered.

### **Regional Axes**

#### **Access to the site**

The Site can be reached from two different routes. (**\*\*map)**

The one from Krestena (50 Km.), passes through Anthritsena, the Temple of Epicurios Apollon, and finally arriving at Ancient Figalia.

In the course of this trace we encounter other significant Archaeological Sites like that of Platiana, Alifeira (scheme 1, 2).

The second trace passes through the shoreline from Tolo, meeting the important Archaeological Site of Lepreo.

The importance of the region is stressed by the existence of the famous river Neda and its canyon.(\*\*the river).

### **Short description of the project.**

**In the programme are collaborating:**

- a) the executive structures of the Ministry of Culture**
- b) the Direction of Antiquities, in collaboration with**
- c) the local - relevant Ephorates responsible for each**
- d) other Institutions or Organisations (ICOMOS) and Universities, (NAP).**
- e) The Associated Research Centre for Cultural Heritage Interdisciplinary Projects from the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic, ITAM - ARCCHIP(European Centre of Excellence).**

The application studies will be based upon historic sources, studies from recent excavation material, and will be completed with drawings, depicting the selected entity in its original state, as well as by site plans, deriving from survey drawings and by site photographic documentation that will present the today condition of the studied entity. \*\*

In the study we submitted to the EEC project, the structure of the Institutions involved is as follows:

### **Project Leader: National Technical University of Athens**

#### **Partners.**

#### **Greek Ministry of Culture**

#### **The Ephory of Prehistoric and Historic Antiquities with its siege the Ancient Olympia,**

The Ephory of Byzantine Archaeology in Ioannina,

The Associated Research Centre for Cultural Heritage Interdisciplinary Projects from the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic, ITAM - ARCCHIP, European Centre of Excellence.

The research will be carried out by a team of experts, using the various Institutions and Organisations for a particular area of expertise.

**ICOMOS** will mostly be responsible for **promotion and the organization** of International cultural events.

**The National Technical University of Athens** through the Interdisciplinary Research Centre of Mountainous Environment

**The Associated Research Centre of Historic Structures and Sites**, from the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic

Our goal is to present in a more systematic way **all the related sources** and information in order to familiarize the public with the cultural identity of each site and its particular features and elements.

The means that are going to be used are:

**printed material**

- information leaflets,
- site maps and
- access routes diagrams which will be distributed to the public, and

**documentation**

- through multi media,
- electronic network and the Internet,

which will be accessible to all the Institutions involved, or deal with a relevant domain of expertise and research.

This material will be used to **broaden public awareness** and as a means of **approaching unknown sites belonging to the European cultural Heritage**.

At the same time **lectures** will be organized or other **International cultural events**, (theatrical performances, or organized visits festivals, e.t.c.), as well as organized **visits and walks**, to the sites in concern, (European Cultural Routes) provided that accessibility is assured historical paths that are going to be revived.

The proposed study will proceed on the bases of the Historical and Archaeological analysis of each particular study, so that findings will broaden our perception about the area.

## **II. MYCENE**

The project regarding the Archaeological site of Mycene, **\*\*has been selected in order to present an integral approach**, to the problem of how Archaeological sites can **be preserved and supported**, not only in regards to the preservation project for the individuals Monuments, but also by taking into consideration the **greater area of the Archaeological site and the surrounding villages - cities**.

Moreover, this particular study has been planned by the Direction of Antiquities of the Ministry of Culture and is the process of application, as the study has been already submitted and approved by the Central Archaeological Committee.

The programme will be financed either by EEC projects or by funds of the Ministry of Culture.

**The Scope of this study is:**

- to enhance the **Acropolis of Mycene and the Cemetery in the greater area**.
- to organically connect the **Archaeological site to the new Museum of Mycene**.
- to dynamically preserve the **Archaeological site by implementing signs, labels and explanatory informative material** on various levels for better understanding of the visitors.

- **to overall enhance the level of services**, provided to the thousands of visitors.

And finally

- **to functionally incorporate the Archaeological Site to the immediate neighboring settlement of Fichti by Mycene.**

### **Historical information**

The Archaeological Site of Mycene was the center of the most raillonante and mighty civilization, that flourished during the 2nd millennium AD

Many of the mythological and historical documents are still tormenting and move the fantasy of visitors and scientists.

The Acropolis of Mycene\*\* is situated at the N.E edge of the Argolic plane, was the seat of the kings who ruled most of the Argolic region and Perhaps the Northern part of the Peloponnese.

The existing findings (stone walls, graves, and mainly the extensive cemetery) prove a continuous inhabitancy, from the Neolithic era. \*\*

The first important fortifications \*\*belong to the 14th century B.C .

The form of the fortifications as we see them today belong to 1200 B.C.

After the 12 century B.C. begins gradually the decadence of Mycene and at about 1100B.C. the Acropolis burns.

During the Geometric period the Mycenean Acropolis was already covered by the houses of the new inhabitants, resulting in the destruction of the preexisting palace. Later those houses were covered by an Archaic temple.

### **The Proposals are related to :**

- **The improvement of the circulation \*\*of the visitors around the Acropolis and around the archaeological space.**
- **the conservation and enhancement of the site and particularly of the Acropolis.**

### **The tools to be used are:**

- **Organization and construction of obligatory routes and stops.\*\***
- **Routes - traces related to the ascent and access to the Gate of Lions, and the Palace.**
- **Routes - traces to the descending and the return, through the tall staircase.**
- **Routes - traces towards the Palace.**
- **Routes - traces towards the Northern Gate the Museum.**

**General proposals related to the organization of the Archaeological Proposals to the Greater Archaeological site.**

**Generally it is suggested to offer the Site better functional structure,**

- a mini bus will assist the visitors, to access the main entrance to the site, through a peripheral route.

- The whole arrangement of the circulation will be **functioning in a circular way** around the greater area of the site.

-**The transfer of the main entrance** towards the main road next to the cemetery

- The organization of the new parking places towards the Xenia\*\* pavilion, which will act as an information Centre, cafe, self -service restaurant and as a small museum shop and exhibition space.

**All the sections of the site are accessed by pedestrian traces.**

### **Proposals regarding the stabilization and preservation of the Monuments**

The main problem in regards to the greater Archaeological site is the transfer of the parking and of all the Tourist bases and cars from the center of the Archaeological site.

In the submitted study it is suggested a detailed proposal, for each section of the Archaeological site, specific proposals, on stabilization and preservation of the Monuments.

Special research and documentation is proposed for the Cyclopean \*\* walls, the Grave zone A the Palace, the fountain, The East section of the settlement and all the area around the site particularly regarding the well know Tombs of Atreus, Aigistus, of the Tholos Tomb of the Lions.

Access to the contemporary installations : the Museum, the ticket box, the parking and the Xenia hotel.

The presented studies have been created with the collaboration of the following Institution and colleagues.

Special thanks to the Architect E. E. Moutopoulos for allowing me to present his study that has only recently submitted to the Central Archaeological Committee of the Ministry of Culture.

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