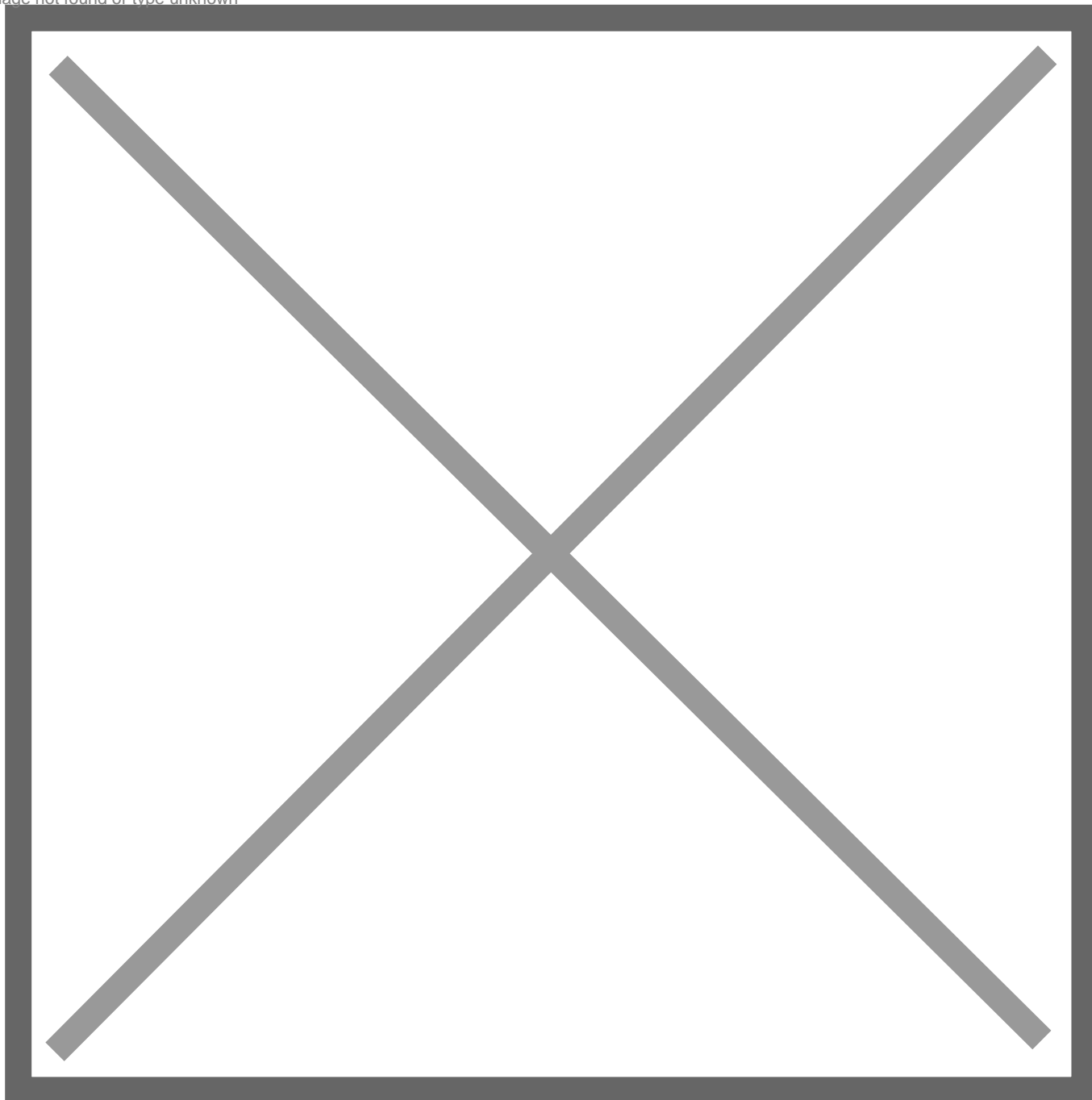


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[Housing settlement, Distomo, Viotia]

Greece

unnamed road

Central Greece (region) 32005 Distomo (Distomo
Arachova Antikira, municipality)

Completion

1969

Other denominations

Housing for the personnel of a mining company

Original use

Housing/housing ensemble

Current use

unused / vacant

Architects

ATELIER 66: Dimitris Antonakakis and Suzana Antonakakis

Concrete by reinforcement

Reinforced concrete

Construction method

Cast-in-place concrete, in-situ concrete

Architectural concrete

Architectural concrete

Structural types

One-dimensional/concrete frame

Description

Atelier 66 has been identified by prestigious architectural theorists like Alexander Tzonis and Kenneth Frampton as a representative of the so-called “critical regionalism”, a term that refers to the succession of critical and local reactions to the homogenizing character of the International Style that had taken over worldwide in the postwar world.

In 1969, the firm designed a housing complex in Distomo for workers at a nearby mine for bauxite, the principle ore of aluminum, which is abundant in Greece. According to the architects, there were two preconditions that defined the project. In the first place, the new neighborhood – built in a remote and uninhabited area – had to generate a certain consolidated urban image. They sought to imprint a homogenous character onto the construction to favor a unitary reading of the whole. On the other hand, they wanted to achieve significant typological variety in order to cater to the different family situations and the preferences of future inhabitants, while respecting, in turn, the required zoning between the different groups of company workers: managers, engineers, administrative personnel, miners, etc. The architects chose to include shared services and common areas in the design to promote a sense of community and to lend unity and coherence to the project.

This resulted in a design characterized by a succession of parallel longitudinal strips, where public and private spaces alternate, either open or closed. At the same time, perpendicular strips located at regular intervals provide services to the neighborhood and generate cross-cutting circulation paths. In terms of materials, the structure of exposed concrete porticos with rough finishes is combined with uncut local stone on the walls and façades. The combination of the two materials gives an image of modernity, while ensuring optimal integration with the landscape and making reference to the vernacular architecture of the area.

Links

[Atelier 66](#)