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One Athens Residence Complex

Greece

Stratitokou Syndesmou Street 24
Central Greece (Region) , Central Athens
(Regional unit), Attica (Administrative Region) 106
73 Athens

Commission

1955

Completion

1961

Original name

Doxiadis Associates and Athens Center of Ekistics

Other denominations

Doxiadis Associates Office Building

Original use

Administrative purposes/office spaces

Current use

Housing/housing ensemble

Architects

Doxiadis Associates: Constantinos Doxiadis, Titos Kouravelos and Arthur Scheepers

Others

Divercity Architects, renovation and change of use

Concrete by reinforcement

Reinforced concrete

Construction method

Cast-in-place concrete, in-situ concrete, Facade cladding

Architectural concrete

Architectural concrete

Structural types

One-dimensional/concrete frame

Description

This building was designed in 1955 for educational uses and offices. It was converted into apartments in 2014, after sitting abandoned for 20 years. Originally, it was the location for several schools of technology and urban planning, as well as the offices of the architect and urban planner Constantinos Doxiadis – author of the design for the building and a renowned figure in Greek architecture and urbanism. As many as 400 people once worked simultaneously under its roof. Doxiadis developed an urban theory called Ekistics. Based on a theoretical study of the evolution of human communities, it aimed to provide contemporary cities with public spaces that could promote a sense of community and alternative lifestyles. In his own words, the idea was to pursue a city model that “satisfies the dreamer and is acceptable to the scientist, a place where the projections of the artist and the builder merge”. At the same time, Doxiadis was a staunch supporter of the use of reinforced concrete, which was intended to infuse the city with a new modern aesthetic, while preserving urban forms rooted in the Mediterranean tradition. The design is materialized through a simple but elegant structure of concrete porticos, which is expressed on the façade and modulates the form of the complex overall, resulting in a series of rectangular volumes. Within that framework, the façades are made up of lightweight construction elements and large glazed surfaces.

The true innovation, nevertheless, came in the urban layout of the complex: a staggered series of four buildings that respected all the principles of modern urbanism, built around an atrium inspired by the classical agora. All in all, One Athens embodied the ideal of what a new modern city should

be.

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