SIR PETER COOK MORE OR LESS SAID: “LAST BIENNALE YOU DID SOMETHING SERIOUS, THIS TIME RELAX”
TO RELAX IN CYPRUS, ONE MUST TAKE THE CYPRIOT REALITY AND REMOVE THINGS SUCH AS:

X THE DROUGHT  X THE CYPRUS PROBLEM  X THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING

IN OTHER WORDS:

RELAX = REAL±X\text{\texttimes}\text{\texttimes}=\text{REAL}\text{\texttimes}

TO RELAX IS TO REMOVE/ADD/MOVE/DISTORT/BRACKET (THAT IS, PACKAGE) PARTS OF REALITY
REALITY IS CONTINUALLY PACKAGED / DISTORTED AS IF TO COME IN MORE COMFORTABLE / MANAGEABLE DOSES

RELAXED BECAUSE PACKAGED

EVERY SPACE IS PRE-PACKAGED.
EVERY SPACE IS REAL\text{\texttimes} FOR SOMEONE BUT NOT FOR SOMEONE ELSE. IN OTHER WORDS:

REAL \neq REAL\text{\texttimes} \neq REAL\text{\texttimes} \neq REAL\text{\texttimes} \neq REAL

OR, “YOUR RELAXATION IS NOT MY RELAXATION”

THUS: TO DESIGN FOR A SPECIFIC REAL\text{\texttimes} IS TO PROMOTE ONE MODE OF PACKAGING OVER ANOTHER.
WE PROPOSE TO REINTERPRET THIS OMNIPRESENT SYSTEM OF PACKAGING BY CREATING ISLANDS OF GENERIC SPACE, OR:

SPATIAL APHRODITES

JUST LIKE THE GEOLOGICAL GENEALOGY OF CYPRUS AS WELL AS THE ALLEGORICAL MYTH OF THE BIRTH OF APHRODITE,
THESE ISLANDS EMERGE FROM THE EXISTING URBAN FABRIC AND OFFER THEIR VIRGINITY FOR APPROPRIATION. AS WITH
ANY SAFE INTERCOURSE, THESE SPATIAL APHRODITES REQUIRE DEGREES OF DETACHMENT OR VIRTUALISATION.
THE QUESTION THEN IS, HOW CAN DESIGN FACILITATE NEW FORMS OF REAL\text{\texttimes} RATHER THAN PERPETUATE THE EXISTING PACKAGES?
TAKE THE CASE OF LIMASSOL FOR EXAMPLE

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WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE CITY IS INFORMALLY ORGANIZED ACCORDING TO STRIPS OF DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS (OR DIFFERENT PACKAGES) ALONG THE COASTLINE.

OUR PROPOSAL AIMS AT IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC LOCATIONS ALONG THESE STRIPS, WHERE ISLANDS OF GENERIC SPACE COULD Emerge. THESE—“SPATIAL APHRODITES” ARE SPACES THAT VIRTUALISE. [TO VIRTUALISE THROUGH ARCHITECTURE IS TO OFFER TYPES AND DEGREES OF DETACHMENT BY RENDERING UNREAL OR VIRTUAL THE BASIC CONSTITUENTS OF REALITY (SOUND, SMELL, VISION, TASTE, TOUCH, THOUGHT, PRESENCE OR AGENCY) THROUGH ARCHITECTURAL MEANS]

1. REAL MINUS SWIMMERS = REALXED BOATS
2. REAL MINUS BOATS PLUS LIFEGUARD = REALXED SWIMMERS
3. REAL MINUS SUNBEDS = REALXED BEACH WALKERS
4. REAL MINUS BEACH WALKERS PLUS SUNBEDS = REALXED SUNBATHERS
5. REAL MINUS (SAND+VEGETATION) = REALXED WALKERS
6. REAL MINUS NOISE PLUS VEGETATION = REALXED GARDEN WALKERS
7. REAL MINUS BOUNDLESS SEAWATER = REALXED POOL SWIMMERS
8. REAL MINUS (SUN+STREET NOISE) = REALXED HOTEL RESIDENTS
9. REAL MINUS CAR TRAFFIC = REALXED HOTEL PARKING
10. REAL MINUS (CAR TRAFFIC+HOTEL PARKING) = REALXED BUFFER
11. REAL MINUS (VEHICLES+PEDESTRIANS) = REALXED BIKERS
12. REAL MINUS PEDESTRIANS PLUS SIGNAGE = REALXED VEHICLES
13. REAL MINUS TOURISTS = REALXED LOCALS
14. SPATIAL APHRODITES OR ISLANDS OF GENERIC SPACE

THE CHALLENGE FOR NEXT PHASE IS TO ARCHITECTURALLY ARTICULATE THESE EMERGENT ENTITIES AND THEN REACTX