

“Inside - Outside”

The organizers of the fourth Contemporary Architecture, Art and Design conference chose this year a very controversial subject that is the relationship between interior and exterior spaces. Some renowned speakers from both the professional and the academic worlds were invited to shed the light on one of the most unspoken confusions and doubts as to the extent to which interiors and exteriors could interact. For the layman a clear-cut boundary separates what is roofed, air-conditioned/ heated, extensively furnished and lit from what could be regarded as a vast container of the latter: the exterior physical environment. Actually, many in the design field would draw a firm line between the two worlds in terms of professions and scales in a very linear way, in other words, Planners, Urban Designers, Architects, Interior Designers and finally Product Designers would form a logical chain of designers who would stop at particular scales. In fact the participants at this conference, both delegates and speakers seemed to agree on the interactive nature of design embracing and integrating different levels of concerns as to the quality of space which represents the ultimate object of design. Furthermore, the guest speakers, although dealing with different issues, ranging from problems related to public spaces to detailed architectural ornament, all showed the necessity of looking at space as an inevitable continuity. Finally, students, academics and practitioners were completely absorbed by the confrontational flavor of the topic chosen for this year's conference and seem to have enjoyed every moment of it; especially that world class designers and researchers were there to make it another successful event.