

- NESS

On Architecture, Life, and Urban Culture

The Dossier

BETWEEN COZY HISTORY & HOMEY TECHNICS

A series of conversations between Stan Allen and Jesus Vassallo, Enrique Ramirez and Mimi Zeiger, Emanuel Christ and Camilo Restrepo, Sharon Johnston and Florencia Rodriguez.

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The Art of Denunciation
LOT & objects of common interest
Lena Wimmer Architects



SPRING 2018 \$20 USD / € 18 / £ 16



Eleni Petaloti and Leonidas Trampoukis at the installation Athlos for the Art Athina, 2017. Ph. Matthieu Salvaing

Eleni Petaloti & Leonidas Trampoukis are LOT. Eleni Petaloti & Leonidas Trampoukis are objects of common interest.

LISA NAUDIN

It is fair to say that last year marked a turning point for these architects' careers. Both of their sibling practices—as they call them—took part in outstanding exhibitions in which they could deploy their aptitudes to shift from one scale to the other with subtle sophistication. The object within architecture, the architecture within the object, coexist in their mode of thought in the form of a reciprocal relation based in design, material, and production processes.

Petaloti and Trampoukis left their home country of Greece ten years ago to pursue their graduate studies at the University of Columbia and then chose to stay in New York. In 2012, after other work experiences and learning from their new environment, they founded the architectural and design firm LOT with offices in both Greece and New York. Three years later, the younger objects of common interest arrived to support the former, caring about details and the haptic nature of things. In their own words: "When working, they are united by a shared background, each other, and a passion for transforming the everyday. Common projects span scopes and domains; one's projects are

sparked by the other's. An installation or an interior can result in an object, material experiments of furniture production find their way in architectural installations." They began designing objects randomly as an exercise, the purpose was not to design specific furniture for a particular project but to find a form of artistic exploration with physical models while figuring out the role they played in larger spaces.

Theirs is, then, a total design project with the aim to create objects, installations, and spaces in a way that opens up the possibility of investigating material and conceptual inspirational moments. Despite their interest in this wide range

of scales, Petaloti and Trampoukis consider themselves to be architects more than designers. This is probably because their upmost interest is in the production processes. They highly value specialized craftsmanship, precedence, and know-hows. They look for producers that have maintained a strong commitment with making, even when exploring new materials and technologies.

One could say that there exists a poetic and even counterintuitive affiliation between these processes and the very abstract and pure family of forms that identify LOT's and objects of common interest's work. Blunt forms are sometimes cold and hard when being touched, and

vice versa, promising the user some discovery and surprise, as well as turning their focus, again, to the haptic.

LOT also works on space and urban context. Sky-Line was a very visible public installation that intended to engage passersby in an intimate interaction within and around the space. It was first placed at the footsteps of Flatiron building and was shaped by tubular white arched components that defined and outlined a trapezoidal Galleria: “Each of the arches is lit along its whole length, a smoothly transitioning lighting effect from daytime to nighttime, transforming the look and experience of the installation while making it highly visible from a distance and from above.” Some white net hammocks were hanging from each of the arches, inviting the public to participate by playing, hanging out, gazing, socializing, or just resting in the magnificent surroundings of the Flatiron Plaza. The installation was the result of winning the First Prize of an invited competition organized by the Van Alen Institute.

Later, the installation was shipped and reinstalled under the cantilever structure of the Pierre Lassonde building, OMA's extension of the Beaux Arts Museum in Quebec, Montreal. It was disposed in a slightly different way to respond to its new context, provoking a new spatial experience.

Among their works, Project Jura (LOT) and Table of Contents (objects of common interest) can serve to summarize the sibling practices' different scale and material interests. The former was done in collaboration with KNOWSPACE as part of an invited workshop that set out to design a unique wilderness accommodation in the mountains of Jura, Switzerland. The pavilion consisted of an elevated and introverted ring structure in which the perimeter hosted the common areas, bathroom, and kitchen. The center worked as a middle-perforated net communal dormitory for up to eight people, thought of as a mattress that

could be used to gaze and experience the forest. Table of Content is a pop-up restaurant concept for the Belgic Biennale INTERIEUR, in which the gastronomic and spatial experiences were designed as a 'calming force' where visitors can escape to. Some exuberant vegetation collaborated with a display of various marbles and food design to generate a communal, yet intimate, environment.

One of their latest projects is a branch shop in downtown Brooklyn for Devoción, the soon to be opened farm-to-table coffee roaster. The commission for this new space included a grand bar counter with a jungle island in the center. The design is inspired by the relationship between The United States and Colombia. Everything—from chairs to tiles and cabinets—are collaborative craftwork done between Bogotá and New York.

Most recently, Petaloti and Trampoukis participated at the Martinos Antique and Fine Art Gallery exhibition in Greece. It was an opportunity to introduce The Memory Chair and Table, two of their new objects that stand as the result of synthetic exercises based in the interaction of materials, colors, and transparency, articulation and contradiction of forms. This balance can be found in almost each piece designed by objects of common interest, including in the Marble Mirror, the Bent Stool, the Layer Stools or the Relativity of Color glassware series.

Last December, LOT and objects of common interest, in partnership with Maharam (maharam.com), were responsible for the Design Talks Theater at Design Miami/. Under the name, Spectacle, they designed a space that was unified by a continuous perimeter of amber arcade mirrors, which reflected actors and audience members generating a reverberating atmosphere. A variety of sitting furniture with a non-hierarchical arrangement invited the audience to actively participate in the debates.

Petaloti and Trampoukis use synthetic

and mineral materials such as copper, marble, or glass, and push their limits in terms of forms and combinations. Like a tiny architecture work, every object is about aesthetics, structure, identity, transparency, light, and volume. Each fabrication process has a unique story to tell. Some prototypes have even been designed in New Jersey, made of local marble in Greece, and then assembled in The Netherlands.

Working constantly between two very different worlds is something that has made an impact on Petaloti and Trampoukis's design thinking. Greece is a much calmer environment than New York; each place has a particular sense of light, materiality, and volume. New York is a fast and proactive environment that constantly offers tons of stimulus and sources of inspiration. This duality of living, bouncing from one country to the other, presents demanding and perpetual challenges. In that sense, their work tends to be very precise but not contextual.

The sibling relationship between LOT and objects of common interest is defined by their creators as one in which “support is not a selfless act of affection, but a fostering of productive potential.”

Sky-Line

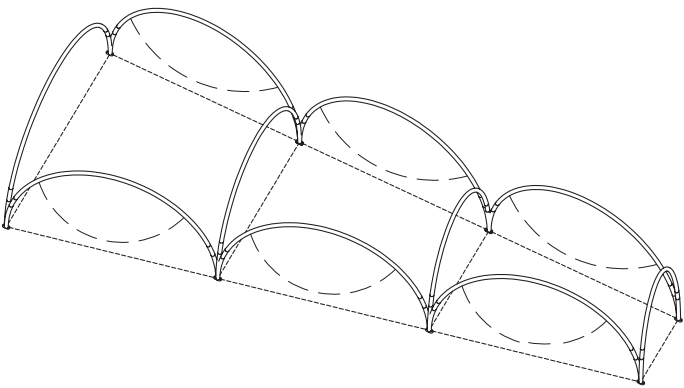
PUBLIC INSTALLATION

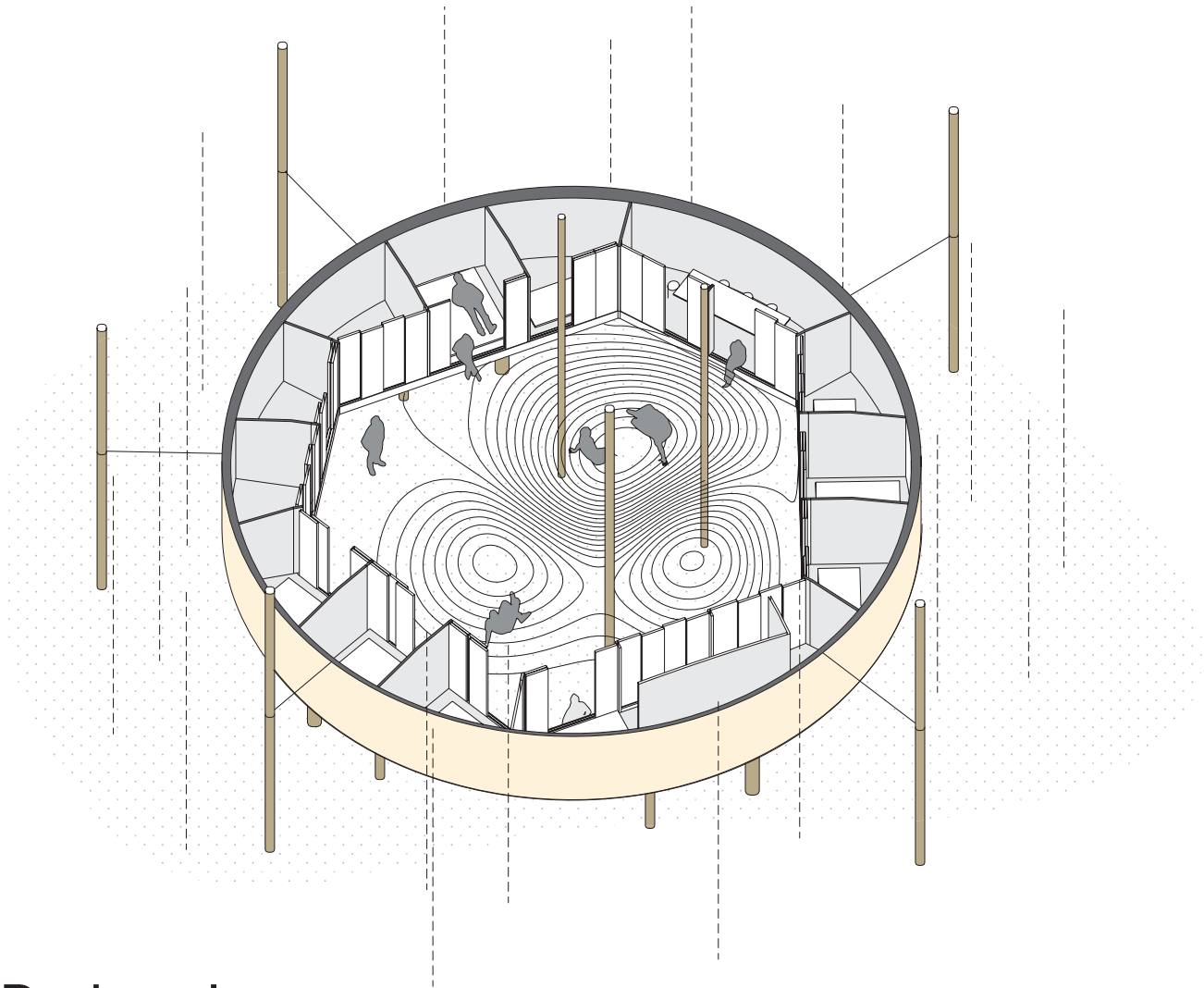


FLATIRON SKY-LINE
DATE: 2016 / LOCATION: Flatiron Plaza, 4th State Metals, New York, USA / CLIENT: Flatiron, 23rd Street Partnership, New York / STATUS: Built. Invited Competition by Van Alen Institute / DESIGN TEAM: Eleni Petaloti, Leonidas Trampoukis, Vincent Meyer Madaus / COLLABORATORS: MAP Studio (Lighting Design), Daniel Urrutia for AUE structural engineers (Structural Engineers), FABRIC IMAGES inc, Elgin, IL (Fabrication) / PHOTOS: Bryan W. Ferry



SKY-LINE
DATE: 2017 / LOCATION: Pierre Lassonde Pavilion, Québec, Canada / CLIENT: Musée National des Beaux-Arts du Québec MNBAQ / STATUS: Built / DESIGN TEAM: Eleni Petaloti, Leonidas Trampoukis, Vincent Meyer Madaus, Isabel Sarasa Mené / COLLABORATORS: MAP Studio (Lighting Design), Daniel Urrutia for AUE structural engineers (Structural Engineers), FABRIC IMAGES Inc, Elgin, IL (Fabrication), 4th State Metals, New York (Installation) / PHOTOS: LOT, Vincent Meyer Madaus

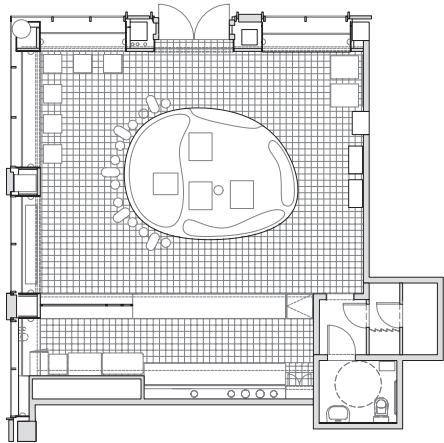
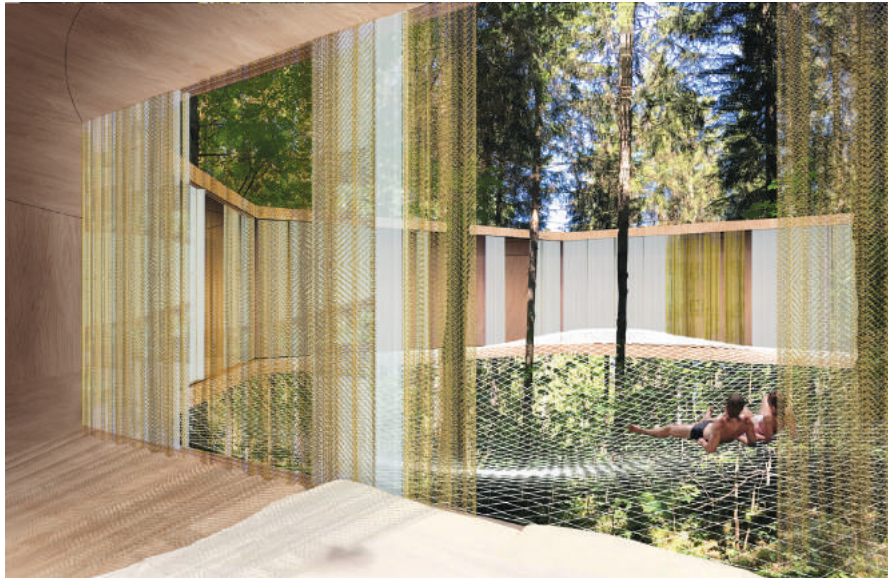




Project Jura

WILDERNESS ACCOMMODATION

DATE: 2015 / LOCATION: Saignelegier, Switzerland / SITE AREA: 5.6 m2 - 60 sf / CLIENT: Jura Tourism Office / STATUS: Competition entry, invited workshop by Jura Tourism office / DESIGN TEAM: Eleni Petaloti, Leonidas Trampoukis, Vincent Meyer Madaus, Isabel Sarasa Mené in collaboration with KNOWSPACE (Erhard An-He Kinzelbach) / IMAGES: Courtesy of LOT and objects of common interest



Devoción

COFFEE SHOP

DATE: 2017-2018 / LOCATION: Brooklyn, USA / SITE AREA: 50m2 - 538 sf / CLIENT: Devoción / STATUS: Under construction / DESIGN TEAM: Eleni Petaloti, Leonidas Trampoukis, Vincent Meyer Madaus, Isabel Sarasa Mené / IMAGES: Courtesy of LOT and objects of common interest

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POP-UP RESTAURANT CONCEPT



DATE: 2016 / LOCATION: Kortrijk, Belgium / STATUS: Competition entry, invited by Biennale INTERIEUR / DESIGN TEAM: Eleni Petaloti, Leonidas Trampoukis, Vincent Meyer Madaus, Isabel Sarasa Mené / IMAGES: Courtesy of LOT and objects of common interest



Memory Acts: Memory Chair & Table

PUBLIC EXHIBITION

DATE: November 2017 / LOCATION: Martinos Palace, Athena, Greece / CLIENT: Martinos Antique and Fine Art Gallery / STATUS: Completed / DESIGN TEAM: Eleni Petaloti, Leonidas Trampoukis / MATERIAL: Steel, colored glass and marble / PHOTOS: Dimitris Kleanthis

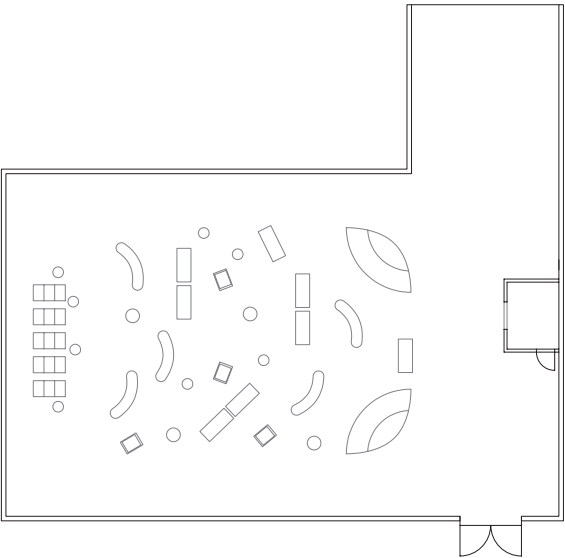




Spectacle

DESIGN TALKS THEATER AT DESIGN MIAMI

DATE: October 2017 / LOCATION: Miami Beach, Florida, USA / CLIENT: Design Miami
/ STATUS: Built / DESIGN TEAM: Eleni Petaloti, Leonidas Trampoukis, Vincent Meyer
Madaus, Isabel Sarasa Mené in partnership with Maharam / COLLABORATORS: Bolon,
Roehling, Propylaea, AAMSCO, Technogel / PHOTOS: Brooke Holm



LOT & OBJECTS OF COMMON INTEREST

BROWSER



Objects of common interest: Relativity of Color, Marble Mirror, Bent Stool, and Side Table

Eleni Petaloti, Leonidas Trampoukis
PHOTOS: Brooke Holm





“The real architectural commodity is the collaboration, the featuring, the x. Support in the metaphysical manifested in the produced.”

