



**Architecture and Democracy Forum:  
Does architecture influence democracy?**

Zaha Hadid Architects’ Patrik Schumacher, the Nobel Prize-winning Economist Paul Krugman, author Charles Landry, Emeritus Professor of Archaeology Petros Themelis and The New York Times columnist Roger Cohen tried to answer the above question in an outdoor circle discussion at Costa Navarino, moderated by The New York Times Culture writer Farah Nayeri as part of The New York Times Athens Democracy Forum.

**21 September 2016, Athens** – The relationship between architecture and democracy was the **focal point of the exclusive “Architecture & Democracy” event** held on **17 September**. The event was attended by more than 100 guests from all over the world with an interest in architecture, urban planning, democracy and culture and was framed with various activities. Please watch the event video at: [https://youtu.be/bZW\\_TNdq--8](https://youtu.be/bZW_TNdq--8)

At the unspoiled, stunning setting of Costa Navarino, in an open air location near the river Sellas and among olive groves, close to the palace of the wise King Nestor, the participants and guests tried to reflect on this intriguing relationship and explore whether and in which ways architecture is influencing democracy. Questions that become ever more important in the twenty-first century given unprecedented urbanization and hence new planning and building challenges around the globe.



Architecture & Democracy Forum panel discussion; Petros Themelis, Charles Landry, Paul Krugman, Farah Nayeri, Roger Cohen and Patrik Schumacher



The discussion was held against the unique backdrop of The Dunes Course

**Farah Nayeri**, the moderator of the panel quoted: *“The unique backdrop of the beautiful Dunes Course made this experience fascinating. Architecture & Democracy both have their roots in Ancient Greece, so the issues were not only linked to each other but also connected to the country hosting us”.*

**Patrik Schumacher, Paul Krugman, Charles Landry, Petros Themelis and Roger Cohen** brought their view with insightful perspective which captivated the attention of the audience and raised a vivid, fascinating discussion until late in the evening.

And the event closed with a gala dinner featuring a special gourmet menu inspired by the theme of the discussion.

**Stephen Dunbar Johnson, President, International, The New York Times Company**, quoted: *“We are grateful to Costa Navarino for their continued support of the Athens Democracy Forum which has now been firmly established as an annual institution in which excellent minds from all over the world participate. The weekend at Costa Navarino added a cultural dimension to the Forum and served as a great finale”.*

On the opportunity of the “Architecture & Democracy Forum”, **Mr. Achilles V. Constantakopoulos, Chairman & CEO of TEMES S.A.**, stated: *“It is a great honor and privilege to be part of the Athens Democracy Forum for the second consecutive year. We are happy to contribute to efforts that promote Greece and its capital, reminding the world of the importance of Athens as the birthplace of democracy. Athens Democracy Forum has become an annual institution that is helping to establish Athens once again as the center of discussion on issues relating to democracy.”*

In addition to the Architecture & Democracy discussion, guests were offered the opportunity to participate in a specially designed program of activities and authentic experiences, among which a guided archaeological tour at the Palace of Nestor and in Ancient Messini, a walk in nature, an olive oil tasting , an astronomy night and a traditional cooking experience.

- Ends -

#### **Costa Navarino**

*Costa Navarino is the prime, sustainable destination in the Mediterranean, located in the Greek region of Messinia in the southwest Peloponnese. One of the most unspoiled and breathtaking seaside Mediterranean landscapes, this area has been shaped by 4,500 years of history. Its philosophy is driven by a genuine desire to promote Messinia, while protecting and preserving its natural beauty and heritage. It will comprise a number of distinct sites featuring 5-star deluxe hotels, luxury residences, conference facilities, spa and thalassotherapy centres, signature golf courses, as well as a wide range of unique year-round activities for adults and children. Navarino Dunes, the first area, is home to two luxury 5-star hotels, The Romanos, a Luxury Collection Resort and The Westin Resort, Costa Navarino; The Dunes Course – the first signature golf course in Greece- Anazoe Spa, a 4,000sq.m. spa & thalassotherapy centre; the state-of-the-art conference centre House of Events; specially designed facilities for children; as well as a variety of gastronomy venues, sports, outdoor and cultural activities. Navarino Bay, the second area is home to the signature golf course, The Bay Course.*

*Recent accolades for Costa Navarino include the Tourism for Tomorrow Awards 2014, World Travel Awards 2014, World Golf Awards 2014, National Champions at the European Business Awards 2014/15, Great Taste Awards 2014, as well as being selected by ABTA as the host destination for the Annual Convention in Peloponnese in 2015. The Anazoe Spa has been selected among Vogue’s ‘most magical spa breaks’ for 2015.*

*Download high resolution photos and logos from the press section in downloads on the website [www.costanavarino.com](http://www.costanavarino.com), using the password: nestor.*

#### **Athens Democracy Forum:**

*Three years ago the International New York Times established the ‘Athens Democracy Forum’ under the auspices of the United Nations Democracy Fund. Through the UN Secretary-General’s endorsement, it has become the principal global event of the International Day of Democracy.*

*The Athens Democracy Forum aims to examine the state of liberal democracies and explore the major challenges they face in the world today. The event has become the premier global event marking the UN International Day of Democracy on September 15, attracting 400 delegates from 23 countries to Athens last year.*

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