



Development of the historic centre of Agios Athanasios

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PHOTO KOKOS

Agios Athanasios Municipality

Since 1997 the Municipality of Agios Athanasios has followed a policy

- Of improving the area's town planning so as to better serve the growing residential development and
- to enhance the services provided to its citizens.

The latest development aimed at the regeneration and landscaping of the historic centre of Agios Athanasios and the town's central square.

Project description

The area was redesigned to accommodate new infrastructure, cultural, sporting and commercial needs.

Part of the strategy was the regeneration of the town's historic centre – an area that embraces its entire history.



Project description

Buildings of exceptional vernacular architecture were protected.

Interested owners were supported to carry out restoration work using financial incentives from national programmes, while the Municipality redesigned and landscaped the space around the historic core.



IOANNIDIS MARIOS

‘Designing for today with yesterday in mind’



The project aimed to upgrade the central area of Agios Athanasios, and more precisely the area adjacent to the Town Hall.

This part of the project started in 2006 and included a series of measures for the improvement of citizens' life.

EFTHIVOULOU COSTAS

‘Designing for today with yesterday in mind’

The aims of the project were

- to create areas for social interaction,
- to improve the road network
- to improve the citizens’ life in general





The project was co-financed by

- ❖ the Cyprus Ministry of the Interior and
- ❖ Agios Athanasios Municipality

Total cost of the project: €6.000.000
Project was completed in three phases

First phase of the project

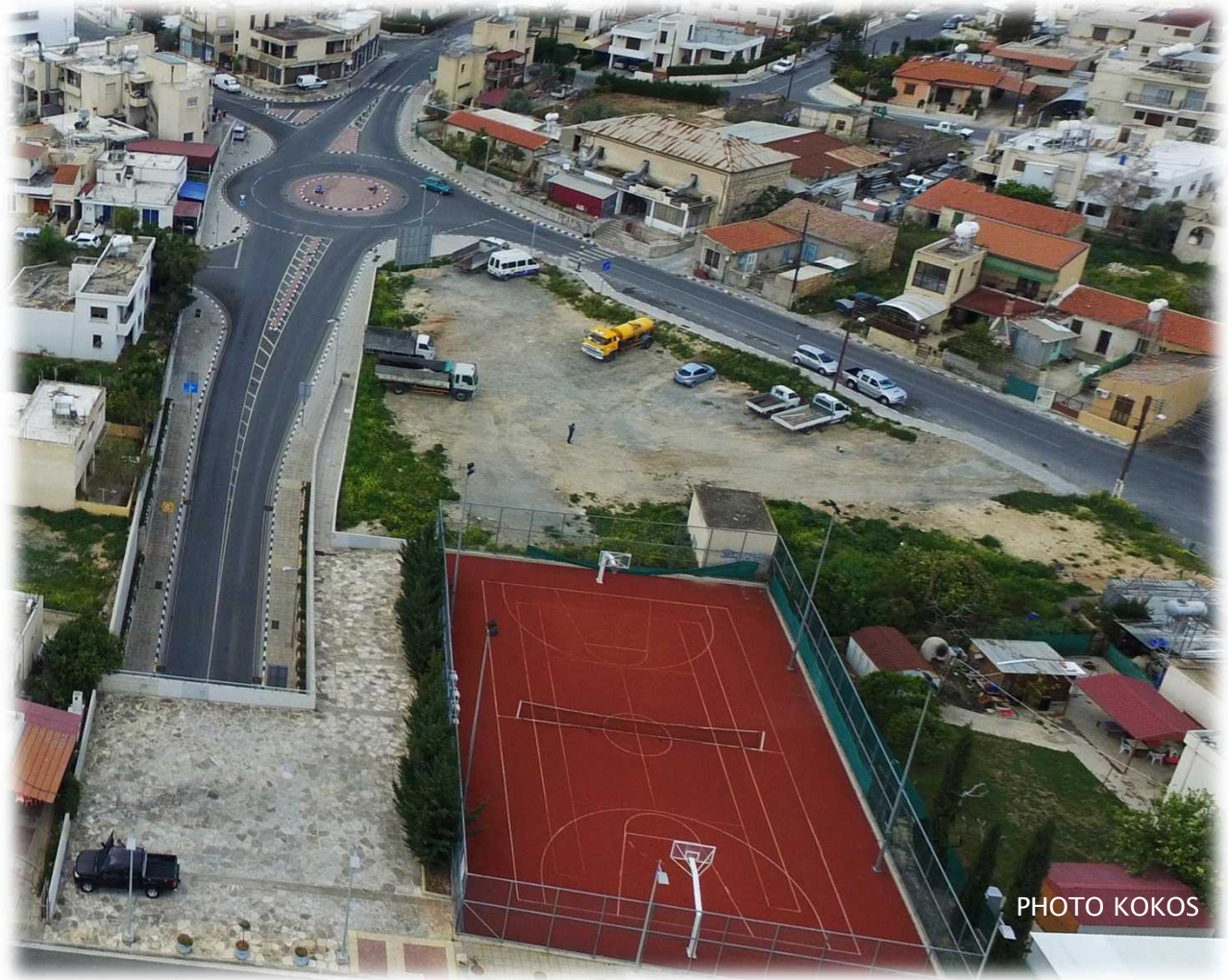
- ▶ Started in 2006 and was completed in 2008;
- ▶ Involved the diversion of the main road from the front of the Town Hall to its rear and east side.



First phase of the project

❖ Included the construction of:

- a sports activities area
- numerous parking spaces and
- an open space for cultural events



First phase of the project

- ▶ The main objective was the construction of a new road that would run along the east side of the Town Hall
- ▶ The new main road was a result of an attempt to connect the Agios Athanasios settlement area with the central square
- ▶ The construction of the new main road eliminated the traffic from the front of the Town Hall



First phase of the project



PHOTO KOKOS

These actions created the suitable conditions for the creation of a square, a valuable asset in the lives of the citizens and the surrounding area

Second phase of the project

- ▶ Started in 2009 and was completed in 2010,
- ▶ Included the construction of the new square

before

PHOTO KOKOS



after

PHOTO KOKOS



Second phase of the project



- ❖ Close to the periphery of the square:
 - a kiosk was constructed,
 - a small children's play area,
 - a limited number of short stay parking spaces and
 - surrounding areas were redesigned and landscaped

Second phase of the project

- ▶ The surface of the public square was covered with traditional paving stones and local plant species were used.
- ▶ Open spaces were landscaped in a way that protects, maintains and preserves the natural environment.





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The square is now used as a place of recreation and relaxation, for entertainment, social and cultural gatherings and outdoor activities.

Second phase of the project



Third phase of the project

- ▶ Started in 2013 and was completed in 2014.
- ▶ Included the restoration of existing old buildings in close proximity to the central square.



Third phase of the project

- ▶ The old buildings were renovated and they now house a variety of uses such as the Municipal Public Library and a study centre, a cafeteria/ restaurant, a small shop and a youth centre.



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Third phase of the project



- For the last 18 months the youth centre is used as a learning centre of Greek as a foreign language for migrants.
- It also accommodates computer classes.
- Both programmes are offered free of charge for third-countries nationals – non EU citizens.

Third phase of the project



CHRISTOU MARIANNA



CHRISTOU MARIANNA



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An event to celebrate Europe Day was organised in May 2015 as an activity for the project “Limassol: One city, the whole world,” in which all the schools of the area participated to promote the message against racism and for diversity.

Cultural Events



The restored buildings were used for the organisation of different workshops related to Europe Day.

Children's day Festival

A similar event to celebrate Children's day was organised on 4th of June.



Children's day Festival



CHRISTOU MARIANNA

The restored building of the cafeteria / restaurant was used for art and craft exhibition.

Children's day Festival



CHRISTOU MARIANNA



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The implementation of such projects undoubtedly contributes to the development of a sustainable strategy providing fair access to services and offering equal opportunities to all citizens

Third phase of the project – Folklore Museum



- ▶ A great effort was made to renovate and transform the old buildings
- ▶ The Folklore Museum is housed in a restored historic building.
- ▶ This project was completed in 2015.

Third phase of the project – Folklore Museum



The entire complex consists of several buildings and a courtyard.





CHRISTOU MARIANNA

The projects had been designed and structured having as a main goal the improvement of the living standard of the citizens, the improvement of the image of the city and the regeneration of the town's historic core.



LOUROUTZIATI MELPO

The completion of the three phases of the project had proved that a long-term goal has been fulfilled,

“to provide high quality urban space for civic interaction and social contact while the special character of the particular area has been safeguarded”.



PHOTO KOKOS

The new main square of Agios Athanasios Municipality is a quiet, safe and pleasant place for the gathering of children, youth and the elderly.

Furthermore, spaces emitting negative image have been exploited through landscaping.



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The most historic area of the Municipality has been exempt from uncontrolled vehicle movement.

The square became the focal point of Agios Athanasios, creating a new urban landscape with elements from local tradition and local flora.



Photo Kokos



Photo Kokos

The area is actively used on a daily basis for recreation and gatherings and the municipality offers additional programmes to its citizens such as festivals, musicals and theatrical events.



Photo Kokos

Future planned projects include the development of cycling paths starting from Town Hall square and leading to the seafront and the urban centre of Limassol, providing a safe route for cyclists.





Thank you