

IN
practice

The state
of committed
architecture
in Europe



Nikiforidis
- **Cuomo**
architects

Project **New Waterfront of Thessaloniki**

\15

A10 Correspondent **Yannis Aesopos**

Since the beginning of the economic crisis in 2010, Greece has witnessed the collapse of the construction sector, both private and public. The absence of new built architecture is counterbalanced by a dense theoretical activity: large numbers of lectures, exhibitions, publications and workshops seem to anticipate a "post-crisis" architectural paradigm. The four architectural offices I selected - Bertaki-Loukopoulou-Paniyiris Architects, Deca Architecture, Kokkinou-Kourkoulas Architects, Nikiforidis-Cuomo Architects - combine dynamic practices with rigorous discourses, unkeen on following ephemeral trends, and are involved in teaching and curatorial activities. Together they have produced some of the most significant recent architectural projects of public spaces, museums, apartment buildings and single-family houses in Greece.

AIAC Editor **Salvatore Spataro**

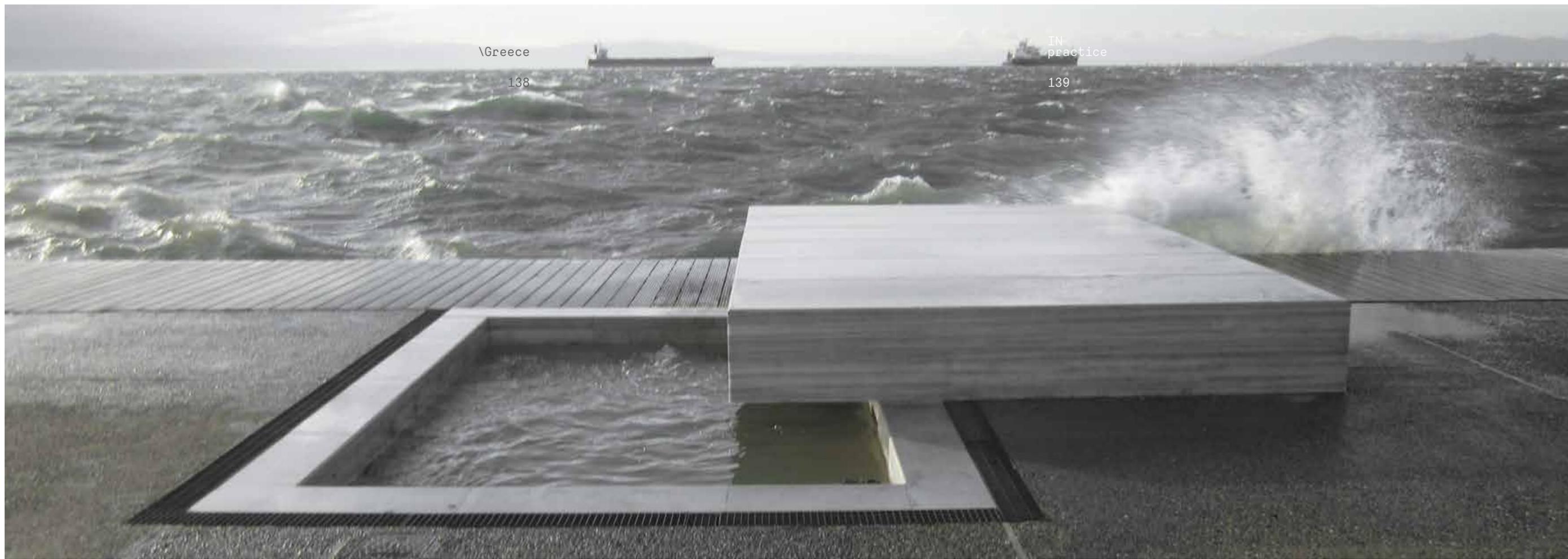
Photographer **Prodromos Nikiforidis**
Bernard Cuomo
Yiorgis Yerolympos

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138

IN
practice

139



location Thessaloniki, Greece
surface 238.800 m²
year - status 2014 - built
materials Pebbled Ground, Stabilized Earthen Ground, Concrete, Marble, Gabions, Steel, Aluminium, Bangkirai, Timber
client - contractor Municipality of Thessaloniki
project team Prodromos Nikiforidis, Bernard Cuomo, Atelier R.Castro - S.Denissof, Paraskevi Tarani, Efi Karioti, I. Dova, E. Zografou, N. Karakosta, N. Biskos, S. Nikolakaki, D. Pavlopoulou, F. Valsami, E. Konstantara Iakovos Lavasas,
partner - consultants Maria Stefanouri, P. Zervas, G. Nikolaidis, L. Deda, F. Papapetrou (Structural), Dimitris Bozis, Panagiotis Kikidis and collaborators E.P.E., Gerasimos Kampitsis, D. Kalofolias, D. Iliadis, A. Fouki, F. Moshopoulou, K. Deni, A. Savvopoulos (Electromechanical), Iloriki E.E. - Fotis Fasoulas, A. Zahariadis, C. Karachristos (Phytotechnical), Evaggelos Vasilikos, Theodosia Papaliagas (Geotechnical)

Nikiforidis Cuomo was founded in 1986 by the architects Prodromos Nikiforidis and Bernard Cuomo in Thessaloniki, in the Greek periphery of Central Macedonia.

The office deals primarily with public buildings and urban and territorial requalification projects.

Thirty intense years of activity are punctuated by numerous awards in international competitions, exhibitions and lectures.

The firm's most recent and award winning works include the project for the new Waterfront of Thessaloniki (finalist for the prestigious 2015 Mies van der Rohe award).

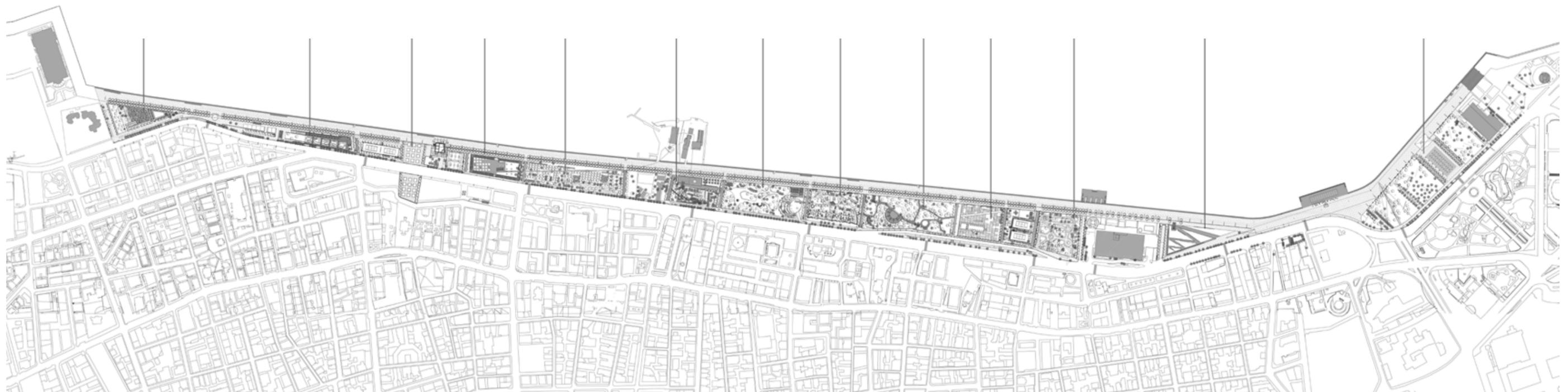
The fruit of an international competition organised in 2000, the project was implemented in two phases (2006-2008 and 2011-2014). The result is a 3.5 km boardwalk, and a total of 240,000 square metres.

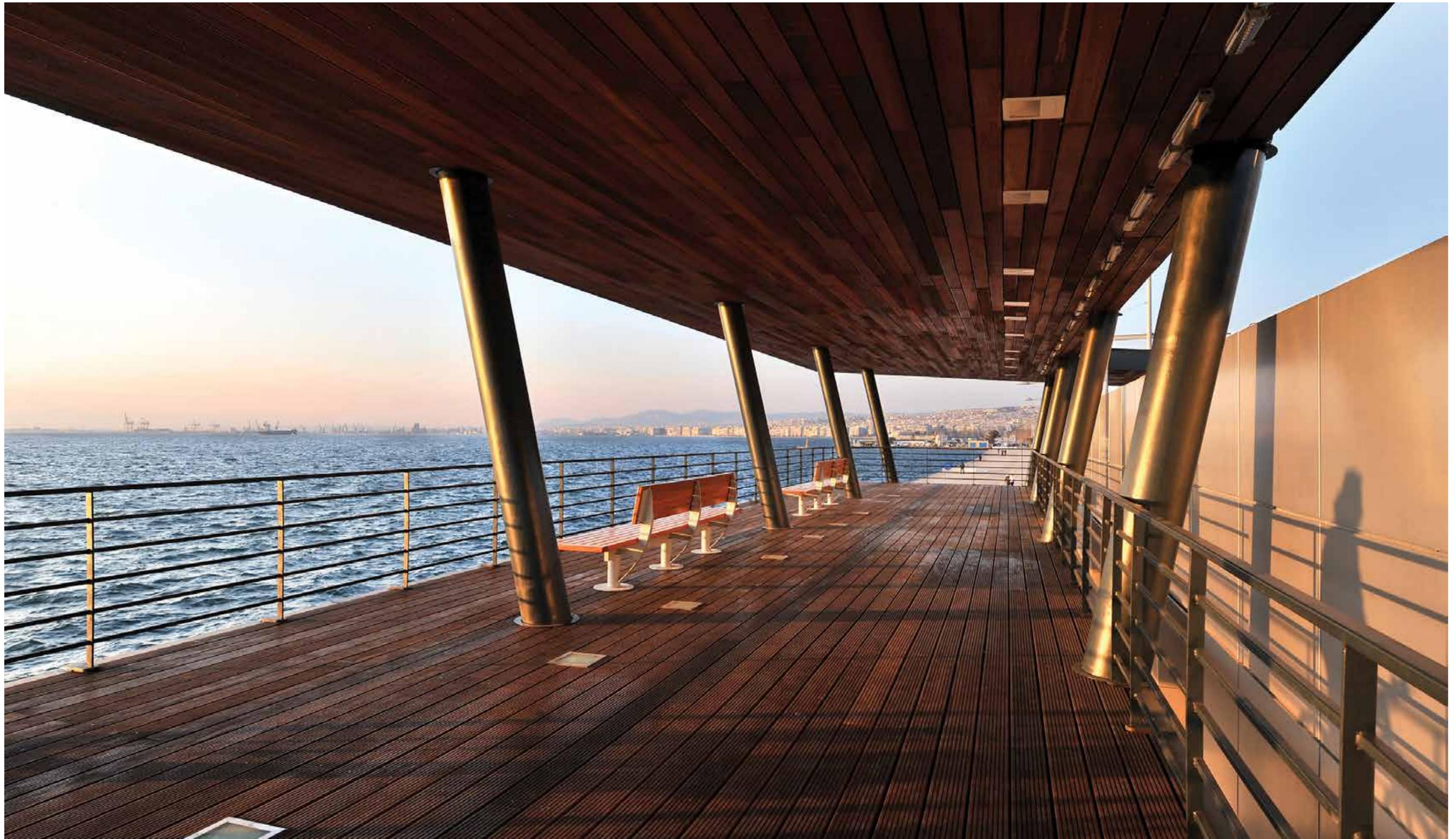
The approach adopted by the office is very clear: exploiting the immense scale of the site to create 13 thematic areas that spread from the waterfront into the city like a comb.

The result is a succession of intimate atmospheres, scenarios and landscapes, in which the only constant is the relationship with the water.

In this "chain" of urban spaces, each single element is distinct, almost private, and each "garden-room" assumes a different name that connotes it and renders it unmistakable: The Garden of Alessandro, The Garden of the Sunset, The Garden of Sand, The Garden of the Seasons, The Garden of Odysseas Fokas, The Garden of the Mediterranean, The Garden of the Sculptors, The Garden of Sound, The Garden of the Roses, The Garden of Memory, The Garden of Water, The Garden of Music.

In this urban theme the maniacal design of details became fundamental to the characterisation of each single piece. Thus, almost magically, the site has become an alternation of fountains, parks, multipurpose spaces, sculptures, water features, spaces for children, spaces of reflection and tree-lined walks.





IN practice

37 practices, one per country, representing the state of committed architecture in Europe operating outside of the so-called "starchitect" elite. This is the main goal of this book.

A way to investigate the innovative architectural practices that are cleverly (re)shaping the world and designing interesting and ground-breaking solutions to the issues faced by architecture today.

The research, curated by AIAC - Italian Association for Architecture and Criticism - in collaboration with the magazine A10 new European architecture, with scientific support from Bureau Europa, is promoted and supported by Gnosis Architettura.

Ideated by:

