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## DELIVERABLE REPORT

### D1.1 HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENTATION OF ANO SYROS

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# THE TANGIBLES CULTURAL ASSETS OF ANO SYROS

## CHAPTER A

### A.1. Historical research

#### A.1.1. The history of Ano Syros from the prehistoric times onwards

The settlement of Ano Syros is located in the island of Syros, which is part of the greater Region of the South Aegean Sea. Ano Syros is a medieval settlement built on a hill, visible from the port. The initial image of the visitor consists of two high hills, while at the foothills, the settlement of Hermoupolis is located. On the left hill, 182 meters high with a horizontal section of 200 \* 800 meters, the settlement of Ano Syros is located. Ano Syros has a direct visual contact with the port and the choice of its construction site in one of the highest points of the island was made for reasons of protection from constant pirate raids. Ano Syros is part of the Municipality of Syros which is composed of three different municipality units (Ano Syros, Hermoupolis and Possidonia).

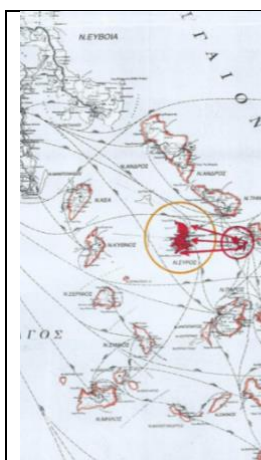


Figure 1: Position of Syros in the Aegean island complex [National Library, Greece]

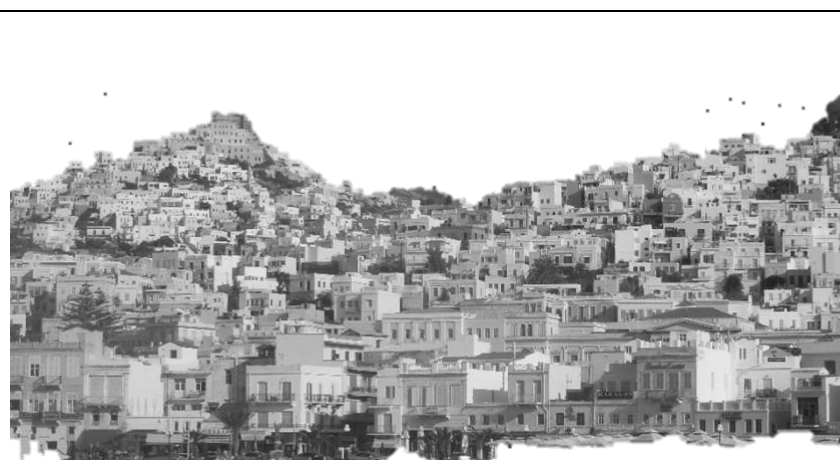
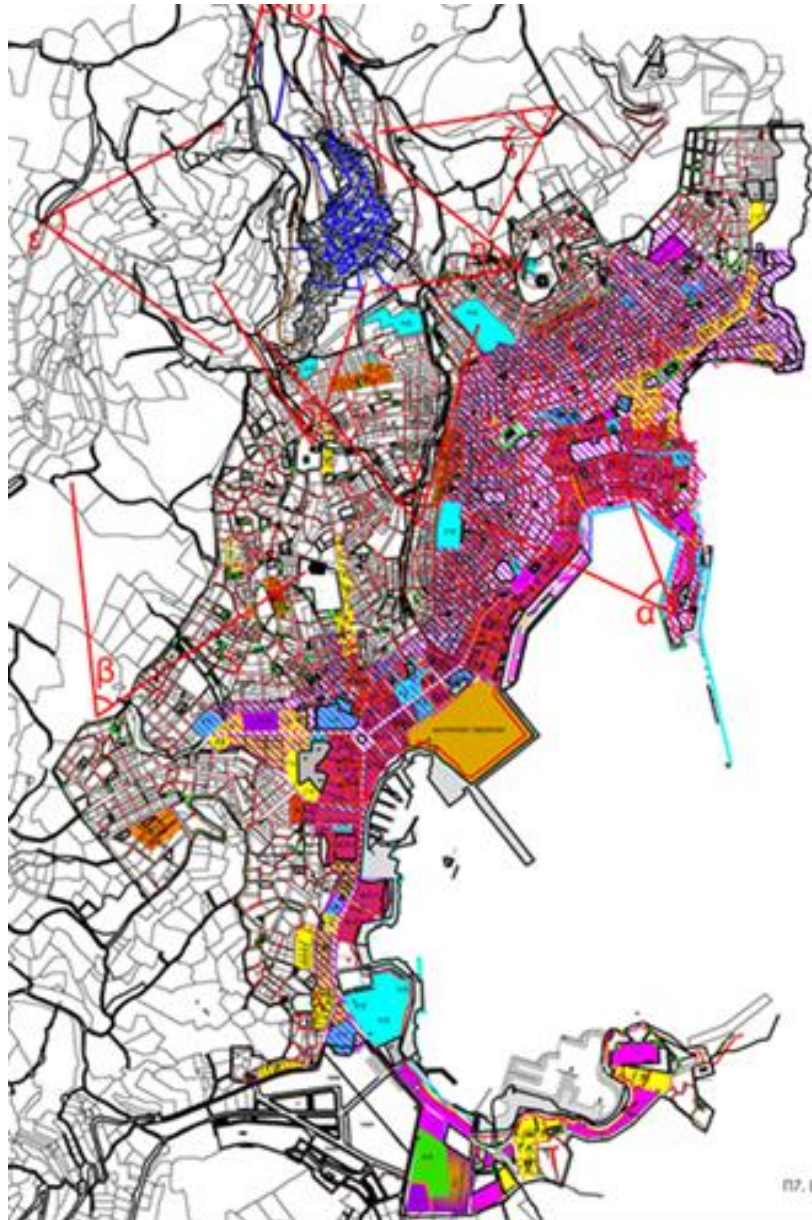


Figure 2: Hermoupolis and Ano Syros [Personal Archive, Greece]

Aegean Sea is the birthplace of the Greek Antiquity and the fertile, albeit conflictual, field where the European West and the Near East meet. The settlement of "Chora" (Ano Syros) was established approximately in the 8th-9th century, around the church of St. George in Mesovouni mountain by indigenous inhabitants. The district of Ano Syros was basically built in 1207 C.E. The settlement, unique to the island of Syros, had never flourished in comparison with the development of other islands of the Aegean Sea until 1824 (Isaias at all., 1976). The inhabitants of Ano Syros, fearing the continuous raids of the pirates had as a main occupation the agriculture and only by the end of the 18th century have shown occupations in the mercantile and shipping affairs. The built environment was addressing the necessity of the above raids. A wall formed by the back side of the houses, narrow streets and small building blocks shaped the urban development of Ano Syros. Due to its location, the settlement is directly visible from multiple sides and points of view of the island, as shown in the following map. These views around the settlement, which determine its overall external perception image are:

- a) Port

- b) Kini's street
- c) Lalakia's street
- d) Saint George's street
- e) Alithini and Saint Paraskevi
- f) Apano Meria
- g) Dili
- h) Anastasi



Map 1: Perception image and views [Personal archive, Greece]

The foundation of this medieval city has a direct connection with the dominations of Francs in Greece, as Syros would be part of the Duchy of Naxos (Stefanou I., 2003). In the 17th century the island, whose greatest part was Catholic, gained the interest of the

king of France (Roussos-Milidonis, 2007). Because of the French protection, the residents of Ano Syros kept a neutral position, paying taxes to both Greek state and the Turks, undisturbed by their guardians (Drakakis, 1971). The Catholic monasteries of Ano Syros practiced education, welfare, social organization and cultural development according to the European standards. Ano Syros (or else Chora) has a long historical course but a relative short planning history since the appreciation and official protection of the settlement by the state did not took place until 1973. Until then the settlement developed without any specific plan following the peculiarities of the terrain and growing in an organic pattern (Linaki, 2016).

In 1978 Ano Syros was listed as a “traditional settlement”. Traditional settlements are mostly small-scale inhabited villages with special architectural features, unique structural characteristics and distinct urban fabric that were shaped through a diachronic connection of the past, present and future. In the 1970s, Greece, under the supervision of the Greek Ministry of Environment and Regional Planning, began a program entitled “Recognition of Architectural Physiognomy” at the level of the prefectures of Greece (Government Gazette, 1978). The program tried to record the architectural forms and the physiognomy of settlements, mainly the small ones with less than 2000 inhabitants, but also of the most significant ones, in order to find and define conditions and building restrictions for them. After this program, 1232 settlements around Greece were characterized as “remarkable settlements.” Following a Presidential Decree in 1978, 400 of them, the most significant ones and those most representative of the traditional architecture, were designated as “traditional settlements” (Pouzoukidou and Linaki, 2016). In the 19th century and specifically in 1824, Hermoupolis inhabitation began and gradually built in three years. The formation and development of Hermoupolis was a remarkable date in the evolution of Ano Syros because it lost its autonomy and gradually became the suburb of Hermoupolis. Today, the two settlements are united, not only administratively but also spatially due to the diachronic urban extensions. However, the strong physiognomy of Ano Syros, the catholic doctrine and the special medieval character of its urban structure and its architectural morphology in comparison with the neoclassical character of Hermoupolis, adds different value to each of the two poles.

### A.1.2 Demographic data

The demographic profile of Ano Syros contains samples such as population growth of the last 20 years, age structure, educational level and employment. According to the last census information (2011) Ano Syros had 862 inhabitants. In specific, during the last 20 years (1991-2001) there was roughly a 13% increase in population numbers, while in the last decade (2001-2011) there was a significant decrease of 25%. As the age structure shows, the settlement is basically inhabited by the ages of 30-64 years (productive population). In addition, the percentages of the older ages (70 and over) are very high, a fact that should be a problem it displays a tendency of habitation by older rather than younger age groups towards the habitation of older age groups, rather than younger ones.

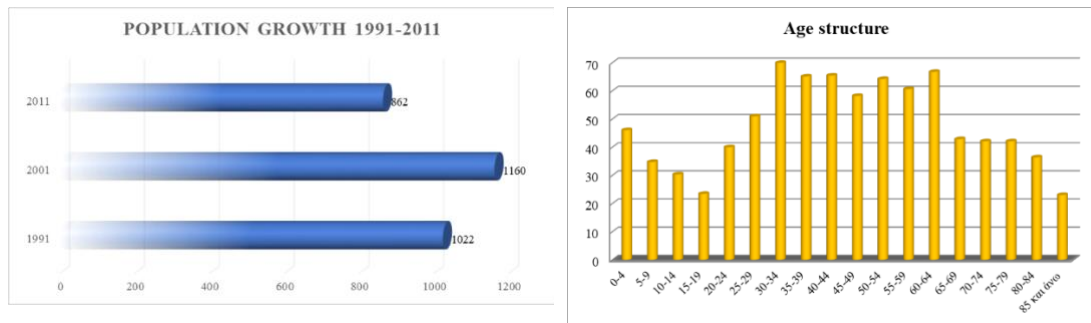


Figure 3: Population growth and age structure [Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), Greece]

In regard to employment, the majority of the residents (77%) are occupied in the tertiary sector, which includes public services and tourism. It is interesting to note that the primary sector (agriculture and fishery) had gradually shrunk over the years. Finally, the sample of the education level shows that the residents of Ano Syros are quite educated since 50% of the population has either finished high school or acquired a specialization degree after finishing high school.

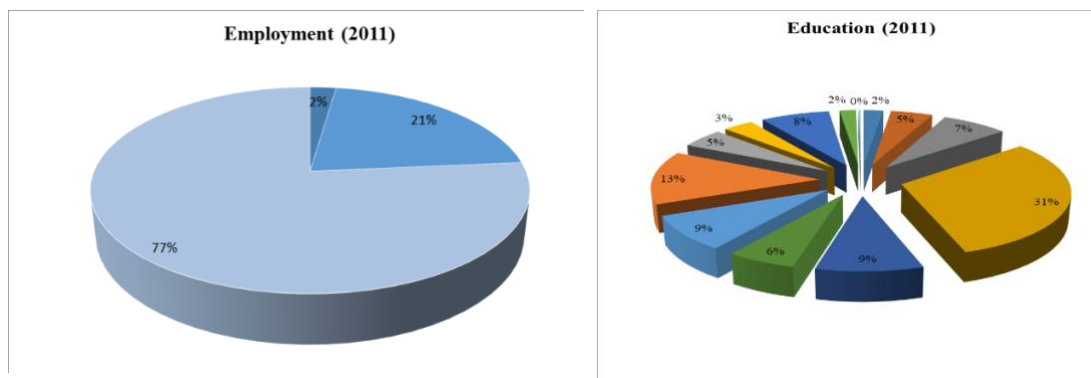
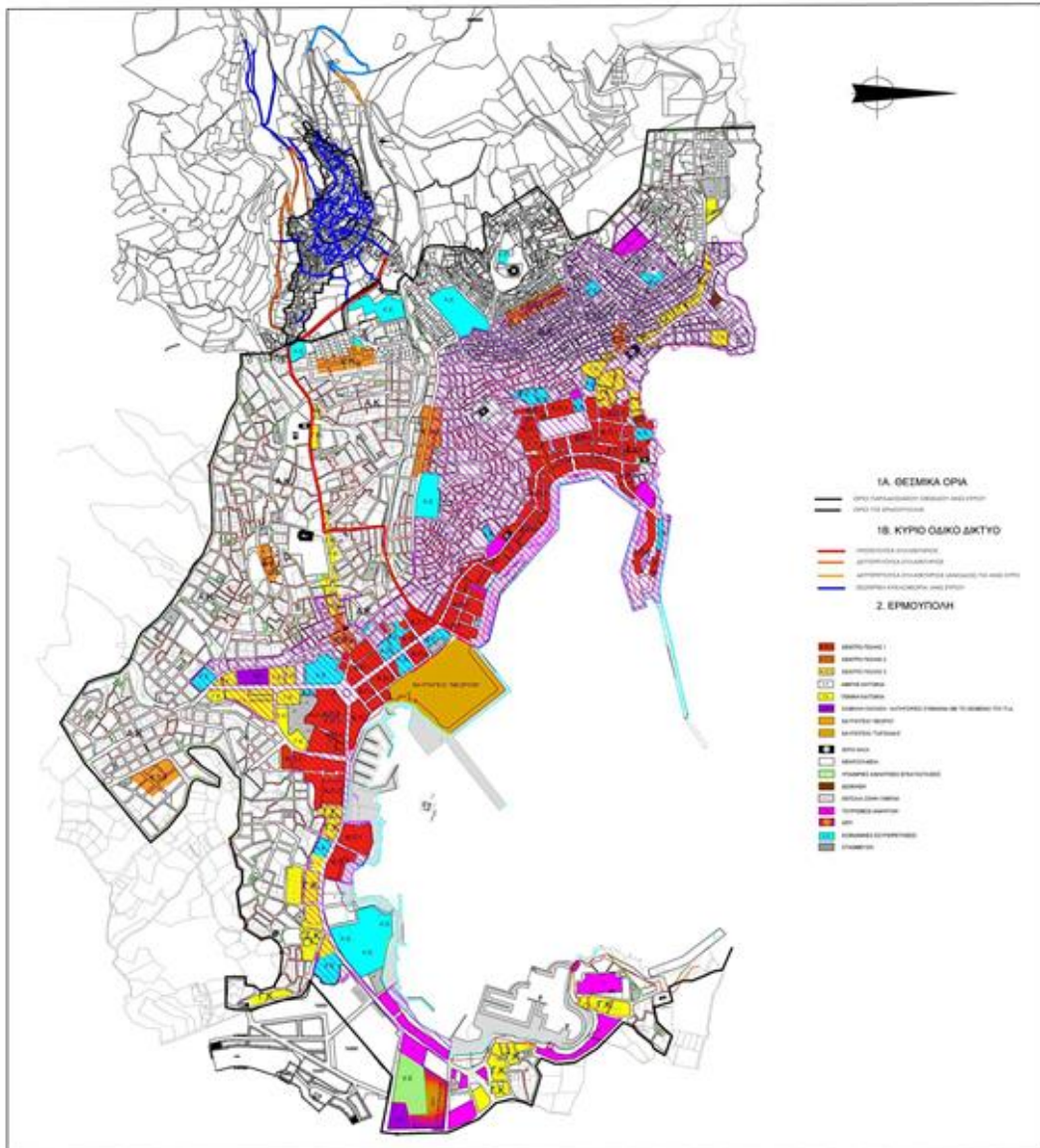


Figure 4: Employment and education [Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), Greece]

### A.1.3. Functional correlation with Hermoupolis

Diachronically the island of Syros had two major settlements, Hermoupolis and Ano Syros. Since the initial establishment of Hermoupolis and despite the fact that the two settlements were adjacent, there have always been a spatial and functional discontinuity between the two of them. This was mainly due to the suspicion with which the indigenous inhabitants of Ano Syros faced the newcomer refugees, who established Hermoupolis after the 1822 Greek independence revolution. Besides, the raids of the refugees to the residents of Ano Syros were quite frequent. From 1830, onwards due to its location next to the sea, Hermoupolis gradually became a significant transit trade center within the eastern Mediterranean area, while in 1860 the first port was constructed. Therefore, despite the fact that Ano Syros was established 5 centuries earlier than Hermoupolis, it gradually lost its primary role in contrast to the adjacent settlement of Hermoupolis which flourished and became the economical and administrative center of the island. A notable main difference is the different religious traditions, where Ano Syros adopted the Catholic doctrine while Hermoupolis the Orthodox one.



Map 2: Spatial correlation of Hermoupolis and Ano Syros settlements [Personal archive, Greece]

Those differences were also diachronically imprinted in the buildings of the settlement.

In Hermoupolis the great economic prosperity of its inhabitants allowed the adoption of a grand neoclassical style with marble streets, neoclassical buildings and branded architecture (Tsiller etc.) while Ano Syros remained a traditional settlement built of anonymous folk architecture. After 2010 the two municipalities (Municipality of Ano Syros and Hermoupolis) merged and all the administrative services and functions were transferred to Hermoupolis. Today Hermoupolis continues as the main urban settlement with a great number of economic and administrative activities, such as the main municipality services, tourism activities (hotels, restaurants etc.), small scale industries etc.



## A.2. Urban Planning of Ano Syros

As mentioned above, Ano Syros is a protected medieval traditional settlement in the Greek island of Syros, leading to the top of Syros where the Catholic Cathedral of Saint George is situated. The northern border of Ano Syros starts from the church of Kioura of Plaka. The southern and eastern border constitutes the main road of access to the settlement which is «Ethnikis Antistaseos». In the west the border follows the natural border of the rocky areas and ravines of Ano Syros. The settlement has been built amphitheatrically to protect it from the enemies (Pirates), with one or two floors houses, built one on top of the other forming a defensive fortress, arches and arcades, stone walls, narrow streets and wooden balconies. It is also the birthplace of Markos Vamvakaris, who was a famous composer, musician and singer of rebetiko. Due to the catholic doctrine, it is interesting to note that the religious traditions of Ano Syros played a significant role in the way the settlement is organized. Ano Syros lists nine temples - seven of them being of catholic doctrine and two of them orthodox, all of which are dispersed throughout the village. These temples have been the basic structural elements of the settlement since all the urban planning and the social life and actions (social behavior, families) have been developed around them.



Figure 5: Gate- 'Stegadi'  
[Personal archive, Greece]



Figure 6: Settlement's  
morphological and  
architectural image  
[Personal archive, Greece]



Figure 7: The narrow streets  
[Personal archive, Greece]

Another important element that is part of the physiognomy of the settlement is the Gates called “Stegadia”. Stegadia are narrow gates that were used for the defense of the settlement during the raids. Over the years their initial purpose of existence diminished and today they are an interesting feature and part of the identity of the settlement. Twenty-nine of them have been well preserved and are under state protection<sup>1</sup>. A vital and peculiar characteristic of Ano Syros is the «common law», which means that the roof of one house is the yard of another one. Nowadays, this law has been repealed by

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Culture

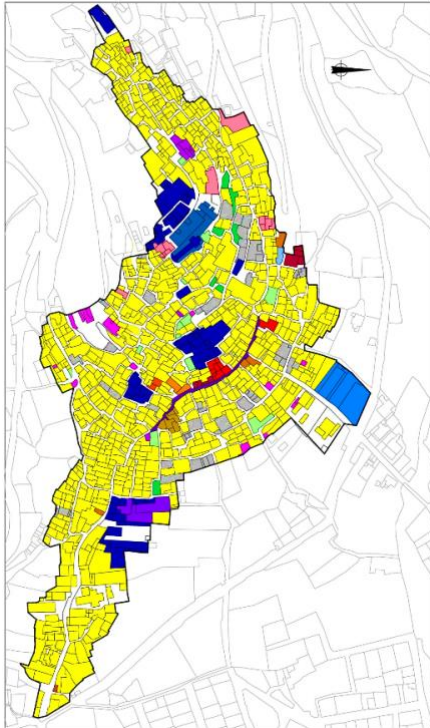
the Council of State. Socially and spatially a notable and important point of the settlement is the “Piazza”, a basic street in the center of the settlement, including all the administrative and touristic functions. Historically Piazza has been a central organizational and functional element (Stefanou, 2014).



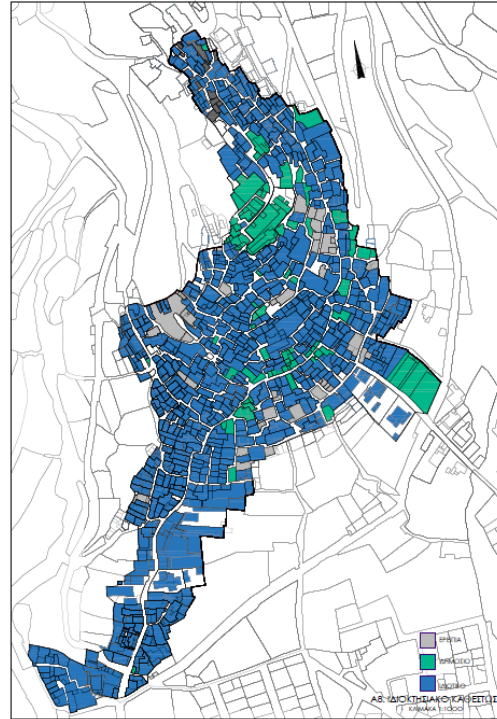
Figure 8: Piazza Street  
[Personal archive and www.feelfgreece.com, Greece]

For a more extensive analysis of the settlement, an in-situ record and a map visualization and analysis were held between June and September 2016. The data were related to land uses, pedestrian network, building quality, building heights etc. As the «Land use» map shows, the main use is residence (yellow colour). As mentioned above, the functional organization of the settlement is based on the religious buildings (temples and accompanied building). Around them a variety of urban functions are developed i.e. public services, commercial, educational uses etc. This hypothesis about the significant role of the catholic doctrine is fully confirmed in the «Land Ownership» map. All the public spaces of the settlement of Ano Syros are shown in green and refer to ecclesiastical buildings, temples, monasteries etc. The large shells, fulfilled with high and enormous buildings, domes and bell towers, compose the hierarchical image and the urban planning of the settlement.

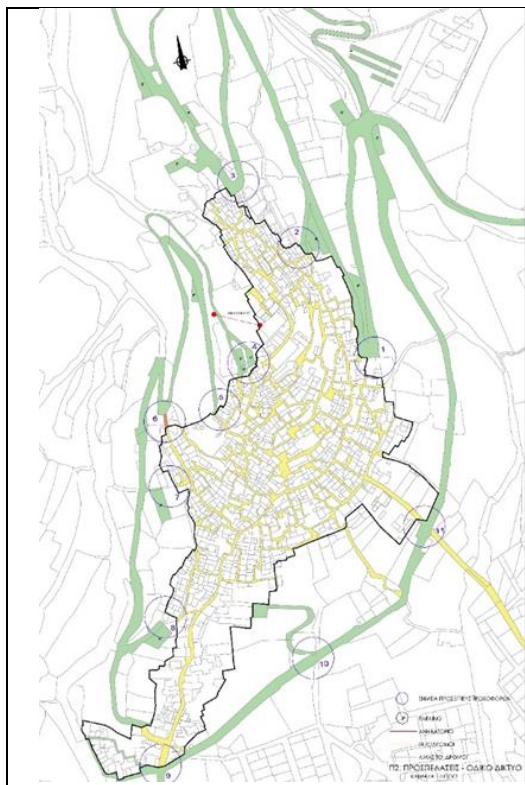
Movement of cars inside the settlement is prohibited. The internal circulation is based in a pedestrian network with pathways and stairways, following the terrain. The external road traffic network concerns two main road axes (Ethnikis Antistaseos and Saint George). The built-vacant space ratio as the «Building quality map» shows is very high and the most of the buildings are in a good condition. (Linaki, 2016).



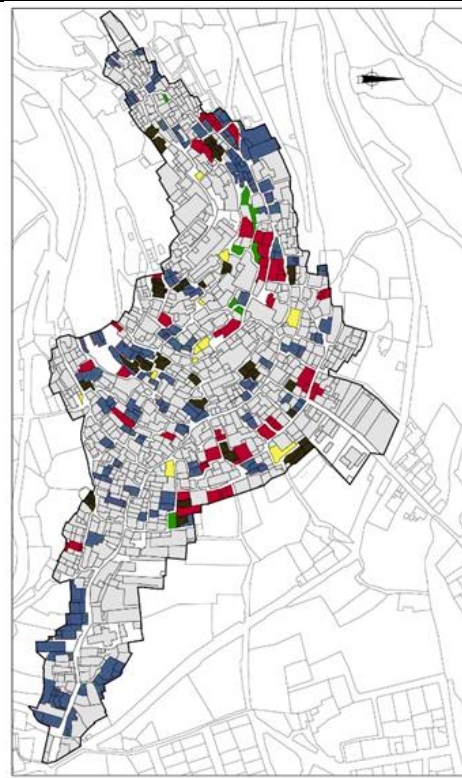
Map 3: Land use map  
[Personal archive, Greece]



Map 4: Land ownership map  
[Personal archive, Greece]



Map 5: Road traffic network  
[Personal archive, Greece]



Map 6: Building quality map  
[Personal archive, Greece]

### A.3. The architecture of Ano Syros

#### A.3.1. The main architectural features (typology, morphology, construction materials)

As already mentioned, Ano Syros' architecture is based on two-floors buildings, with multiple volumes and rounded corners for animal access. They are made of stones and coated with streaked plaster. The traditional colors are white, indigo and ocher, while morphologically the main architectural elements are gutters, chimneys, wooden stairs, frames and balconies. The typical morphology of the houses facilitate cooling and ventilation in the house. Today, in addition to traditional houses, there are some newer buildings, which were developed before the 70's and the declaration of Ano Syros as a traditional settlement (1978). These buildings do not follow any morphological regulations or legal provisions. Their main architecture is based on perimeter balconies and newer metal and aluminum frames and windows.



Figure 9: Traditional residence  
[Personal archive, Greece]



Figure 10: New building  
[Personal archive, Greece]

#### A.3.2. The tangible cultural assets of Ano Syros (Temples, protected buildings, museum)

Apart from the main building stock of Ano Syros, inside the settlement there are ecclesiastical or other declared or to be declared buildings. Ano Syros lists nine temples - seven of them being of catholic doctrine and two of them orthodox, dispersed throughout the settlement. The temples located are:

1. Saint George
2. Saint John
3. Panagia Karmilou
4. Kiura of Plaka
5. Saint Anthony
6. Saint Nikolaos
7. Kiura of Carlos
8. Saint Sebastian
9. Holy Trinity

In 1990, with the Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Culture (Government Gazette 715 / B / 15-11-1990) entitled "Declaration of the Medieval settlement of Ano Syros with ecclesiastical and individual buildings, as historical, preserved monuments" several remarkable individual buildings were designated. The designated ecclesiastical buildings are:

- 1) Saint Georgios Church with a radius of 180 m. as a protected area

- 2) Holy Monastery of Jesuits and the Monastery of Panagia Karmilos with a radius of 180 m. as a protected area
- 3) Holy Monastery of the Capuchins with the church of Saint Ioannis of the Capuchins with a radius of 200 m. as a protected area
- 4) Church of Saint Nikolaos the Poor with a radius of 150 m. as a protected area
- 5) Church of the Holy Trinity with a radius of 180 m. as a protected area
- 6) Church of Kuira of Carlos with a radius of 180 m. as a protected area
- 7) Church of Kuira of Plaka with a radius of 150 m. as a protected area
- 8) Church of San Michalis with a radius of 180 m. as a protected area
- 9) Church of Saint Antonios with a radius of 120 m. as a protected area

Also, according to the same Government Gazette and due to their "special historical and architectural interest", some individual buildings were also designated. These buildings are:

- A. Residence of Takis Karakoulidis.
- B. Residence of Anna Venediktou Voutsinou, at Monachis Filomilas Rousou Street.
- C. Residence of Marika N. Stefanou, at Seferi and Ieromonachou Dim. Ventour Street.
- D. Residence of Iosif Nikolaou Stefanou, on Agiou Georgiou Street next to the church of Saint Antonios.
- E. Residence of Vamvakaris (residence of the popular composer Markos Vamvakaris).
- F. Residence of Markos N. Kapella, above the Holy Trinity.
- G. Residence (note the location in the attached topographic).
- H. Residence of Eleni Antoniou Vamvakaris, on Agiou Sebastianou Street.
- I. Residence of Stefanos K. Vamvakaris.
- J. Residence of Benedict Saginetos, Stefanos K. Vamvakaris
- K. Residence of Dimitrios Roussos on Ferekidou Street in the Vorna district
- L. Gates-“Stegadia”

The maps below show the declared buildings and the 29 declared «Stegadia» of Ano Syros.



Map 7: Declared buildings  
[Personal archive, Greece]



Map 8: Stegadia-Gates  
[Personal archive, Greece]

Apart from the designated as monuments buildings of Ano Syros, there are also a number of buildings with remarkable architectural, morphological and historical interest, which over the years were in danger of demolition and many were partially destroyed. Those buildings, which should be designated as monuments in order to protect them and avoid further demolitions, are:

1. «Center for Historical Studies of the Catholic Diocese of Syros» on Irini Street
2. Buildings in the Vornas district, at Irini Street - Mayor Jane Marangou and Irini Street - Episkopou Ioustianiani
3. Church of Saint Sebastianos and accompanying buildings
4. Proveggios residence on Ferekydou Street
5. «Piatsa's» buildings on Don Ioannou Stefanou Street and former City Hall of Ano Syros
6. Cultural center on Agias Triados Street
7. Vamvakaris Museum on Don Ioannou Stefanou Street
8. Museum of Professions on Agias Triadas Street

#### A.4. Local architectural elements

The buildings of Ano Syros are equipped with wooden doors and windows and often have an external access staircase. On the ground floor the daily use area is located. The residences often have a small access staircase to the second floor, where the bedroom is located. The floor plan is basically square following the morphology of the block. Due to the fortified character of the settlement, residences have an inside "secret escape door" at the back of the house, which led to the below cobbled road. A special feature is the semi-opening wooden doors, traditionally called "hospitable doors" that allowed the ventilation, cooling of the house and the communication of its inhabitants (Stefanou and Stefanou, 1991). Another special element is a facade of different color at the bottom of the houses for avoiding the wall dirtiness (Kartas, 1982).

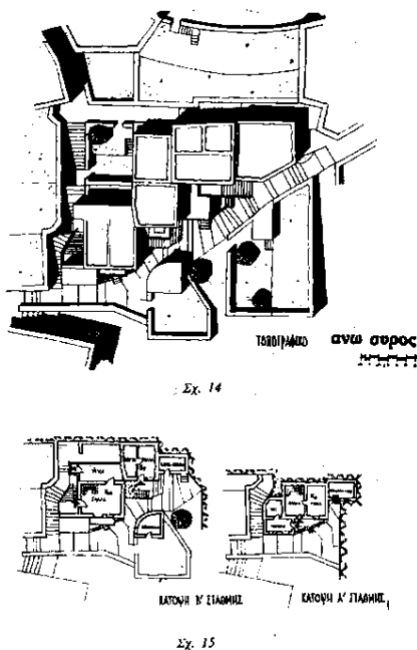


Figure 11: Main typology  
[Stephanou archive, Greece]

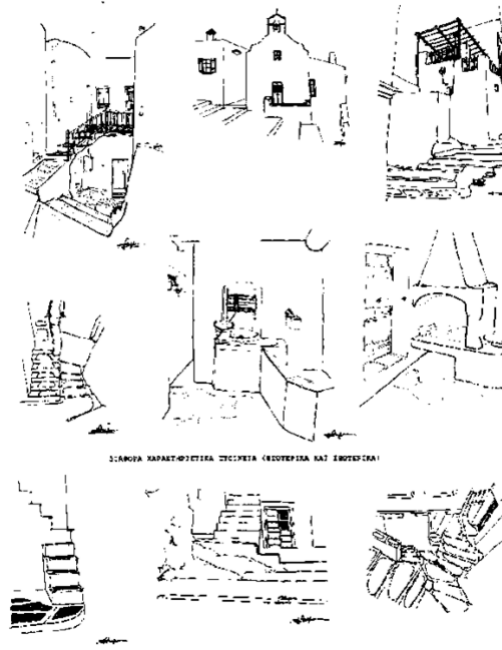


Figure 12: Architectural elements  
[Stephanou archive, Greece]

Furthermore, another unique cultural asset of Ano Syros is the appropriation of the public space, which has a local value and is divided into four categories. The first category refers to the purely private space of the family (bedroom), the second one refers to the semi-private which is the rest of the residence. The two remain categories are the semi-private - semi-public which refers to the street and part of the yard and the purely public, which refers to the streets and squares of the settlement. Lastly, a special element of the settlement of Ano Syros which has already been mentioned, is the customary law of «floor ownership». It was established with the "Frankish Law" and concerns the institution of "floor ownership" for Ano Syros, as the roof of one house is the yard for the other. Thus, due to the volume and the morphology of the residences of Ano Syros the ground floor may belong to another owner, the first floor to another and the terrace to another.



*Figure 13: Floor ownership institution  
[www.cyclades24.gr , Greece]*

#### A.5. Building pathology

The fortification structure of the settlement of Ano Syros, the sparse and constantly reduced habitation intertemporal saved the form, the architecture and the special physiognomy of Ano Syros. The main changes and alterations that the settlement has undergone concern alterations, demolitions and destructions at architectural and urban level. The main ones are the change of the colors of the facades, the destruction of the traditional cobbled streets in the 70's for the provision of new water supply-sewerage pipes, the opening of windows in the central entrance Gate of «Kamara» and on external residence facades that formed and organized the fortified wall of the settlement, the change of traditional frames and windows etc.

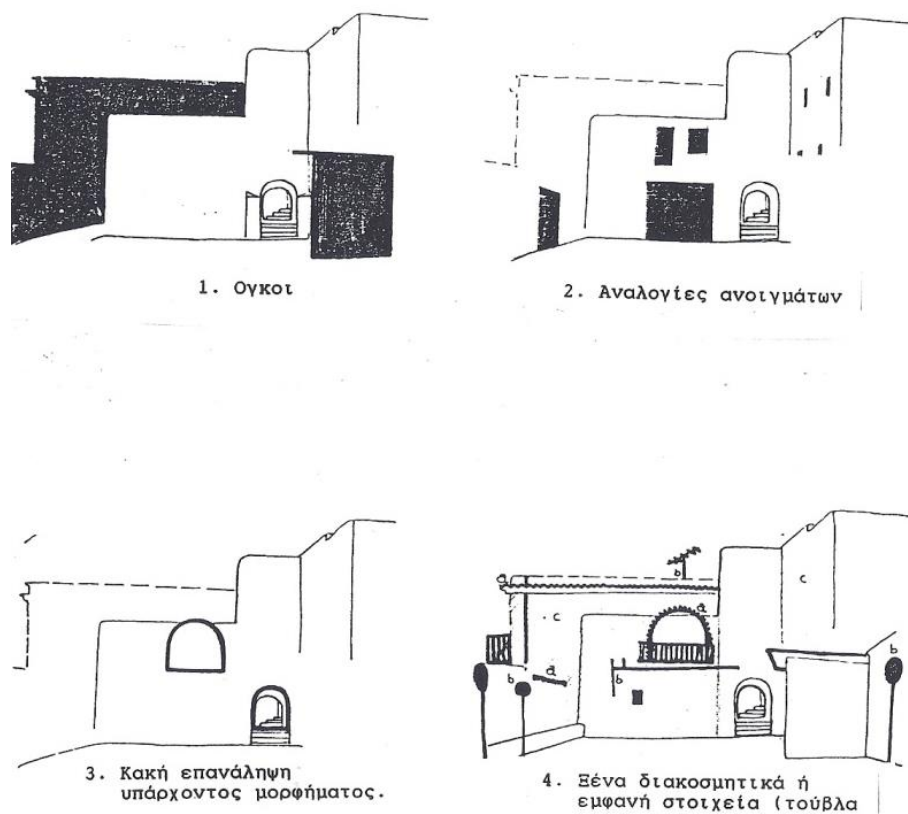


Figure 14: Alterations in the central entrance Gate of «Kamara»  
[Stephanou archive, Greece]



Figure 15: Building pathology  
[Personal archive, Greece]

The typical and main building pathology problems that are identified through the field research are: a) the "straightening" of the plasters. As already mentioned above, the residences of Ano Syros are coated with streaked plaster. These plasters ensured cooling of the house, light reflection, heat radiation and sound absorption. The



straightening of the plasters due to the straight façade of the buildings cause rising temperature, b) peeling of coatings due to moisture, weather conditions etc., c) disintegration of the frames due to moisture, chronic abortion, humidity etc., d) replacement of the old wooden frames and doors (hospitable semi-opening doors) with aluminum ones, which caused serious pathology problems. The problems are internal humidity, as the ecology (ventilation-cooling) of the buildings was lost, since the new frames "trap" the natural passage of air and sun, e) terraces / roofs with significant pathology problems of descending humidity, which are treated with periodic tarpaulins which are not always effective.

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