

**The CHIOȘC project
cultural info-point –
public platform for participation**

a project by *Oberliht* Association
<http://www.oberliht.org.md/chiosc.html>

– Flee Market
– launch of FLAT SPACE, a project by Stefan
RUSU

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**Launch of
FLAT SPACE**

a project by Stefan RUSU

October 31 2009, 2 pm

Bucuresti str. 68/1, Chisinau

**October 31, 2009, 2 pm
CHIOȘC project – București str. 68/1, Chisinau**

Saturday, October 31st, 2009, *Oberliht* Association invites you to the launch of the *FLAT SPACE / APARTAMENT DESCHIS* project (designed by Stefan RUSU).

This event will be preceded by the *Flee Market* public action. Feel free to bring with you forgotten and old objects (books, magazines, tapes, CDs and other stuff) that carry cultural or artistic value, which you would like to reinsert in circuit. You are invited to sell them, distribute, share or exchange.

Everybody is welcome starting with 2 pm!

The point of departure for the design of the FLAT SPACE/APARTAMENT DESCHIS project was to publically display the private space of a flat that represents the standard for socialist residential architecture, which still continues to be a strong visual element within the contemporary urban and social landscape of East European countries. Originally the project was conceived as a structure with multiple meanings and functions. Given that architecture comes with a specific kind of well-defined functionality and aesthetics, I was initially concerned with overcoming the idea of fixed functionality.

This choice to replicate an apartment is informed by my interest in the spaces and contexts that define this region and community, which have emerged in their current form as a result of socialist modernization. The entire society of the MSSR (Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic) adapted to Soviet social standards—including the ideal of creating a new man and the cultivation of values that underscored the family as the building blocks of a homogeneous society. The designers and architects carried that policy forward, and thus typified habitats were created, in which a man and his family would live productively.

Another aspect motivating the project is an increasing factor of local gastarbeiters who work temporarily (some of them legally, but most of them illegally) either in Russia or in EU countries (Spain, Italy, Portugal, etc.). This employment situation is very common among the populations of other East European countries, and it drives the tendency of such workers to have a higher social status and possess their own living space in the city, regardless of size. For most of the population acquiring a flat is the most efficient financial investment they can make, and it rapidly become a sign of economic stability in the post-transition period.

The FLAT SPACE/APARTAMENT DESCHIS project is a functional replica of a one-room apartment that comprises the basic components of a typical socialist living space: the kitchen, the bathroom, the living room, and the balcony. The transparency and openness of the structure is an important feature of the project, since the apartment has no external walls (with the exception of the façade), and the flat interior is exposed to the public. The furniture and other installments in the apartment are directly on the floor as a technical sketch.

The project is a sample of architecture born from urban planning—a living area extracted from a typified socialist building block and placed in public space, where it will function as an open space/platform. Finally, the primary material for the FLAT SPACE project was the reinforced concrete used in the fabrication of typified blockhouses. Although many modern technologies and materials were equally common in the socialist and capitalist systems, concrete and metal rebar were widely used in both Eastern and Western societies during the period of post-war modernisation.

(Stefan RUSU)

ARTIST

Stefan RUSU (born in 1964, Kâietu, Moldova, artist and curator based in Chisinau and Bucharest). His artist and curatorial agenda is closely connected to undergoing processes and changes occurred in the post-socialist societies before and after 1989 Rusu was trained as visual artist and later extended his practice to curating, managing and fundraising projects, editing TV programs, producing experimental films, TV reports and documentaries. In 2005/2006 he attended the Curatorial Training Program at Stichting De Appel from Amsterdam where he co-curated Mercury in Retrograde (<http://www.mercuryinretrograde.org>)

PLACES & SPACES

CHIOSC project – București str. 68/1, Chisinau

PARTNERS

STATE of EMERGENCY magazine, Chisinau <http://staredeurgenta.blogspot.com>

Vizura Aperta, Zagreb <http://www.rhiz.eu/institution-12943-en.html>

Slobodne Veze, Zagreb <http://www.rhiz.eu/institution-29115-en.html>

Studio Young Artists Association, Budapest <http://studio.c3.hu>

Center for Contemporary Art, Kiev

UNAgaleria, Bucharest <http://unagaleria.blogspot.com>

AREA Chicago <http://www.areachicago.org>

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The **CHIOȘC** project, a cultural info-point and a public platform for participation is being launched in the city of Chisinau. It has been conceived in a complex social and political context that marks the period of transition, with the intention to promote contemporary art and youth culture in public space by *contaminating* the urban territory with relevant information. It is meant to encourage active participation of diverse social groups representing often marginalized or less visible domains by putting at their disposal a public platform for manifestation, to strengthen local and develop regional and international network of cultural operators and professionals, to influence the existing public policies and local authorities to extend the access to public space and allow it's less restricted usage.

This project intends to present the diversity and richness of various art practices carried out in different parts of European continent, thus one of its objectives is to invite artists, theorists, cultural workers to participate in **CHIOȘC**'s activities with exhibitions, workshops, screenings, talks etc.

The **FLAT SPACE/APARTAMENT DESCHIS** project is a functional replica of a socialist apartment designed by Stefan RUSU commissioned to represent the identity of **CHIOȘC** project.

The point of departure for the design of the **FLAT SPACE/APARTAMENT DESCHIS** project was to publically display the private space of a flat limited by the standards of the socialist society, which still is a strong visual element within the contemporary urban and social landscape of East European countries.

The transparency and the openness of the flat give the exposure to an architectural model extracted from the flat building that is composed from few basic elements characteristic to societies in transitions: the main façade with a balcony covered with plastic windows, dining room, kitchen and bathroom. The balcony is a key element, which will function as a cultural info point and will distribute information with cultural content. The rest of the space that is exposed to the public will bear a multifunctional character and will serve as an open platform for public presentations and cultural events.

The **CHIOȘC** project includes the results of the INTERVENTIONS3 project realized in 2008:

<http://www.oberliht.org.md/interventi3.html>

The **CHIOȘC** project receives support from the European Cultural Foundation, Cultural Department of the city of Chisinau, Center and Buiucani districts of city of Chisinau, Latin Union (Republic of Moldova office), Romanian Cultural Institute through CANTEMIR Program (2008), CEC ArtsLink, Gulliver Connect, French Alliance Moldova and Henkel Romania.

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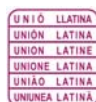


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