



## PRESS RELEASE

### Apathy Residency in Valga European Architecture Students Assembly 2020

Topic: Apathy

When: 1st to 16th of August 2020

Where: Valga, Estonia

Organiser: Estonian Young Architects Union

Partners: Town of Valga, Estonian Academy of Arts,  
Estonian Center of Architecture, Estonian Association  
of Architects

Sponsors: MetsäWood, Thermory, Saarineni maja,  
Saint-Gobain, Hals Interiors, Öko katused ja fassadid,  
Mira ehitusmaterjalid, Rudus, Floorin interior, Makita,  
RothoBlaas, Uuskasutuskeskus, Voog.com, Rappin,  
CRAMO

Public funds: Cultural Endowment of Estonia,

Estonian Ministry of Culture

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FB: [www.facebook.com/EASAEstonia](https://www.facebook.com/EASAEstonia)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/easaestonia>

More info: [easaestonia.ee](https://easaestonia.ee)

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**Participation deadline: 1st of July 2020**

We invite you to participate in the summer school of European Architecture Student Assembly (EASA). The focus of the summer school is on the daily workshops. Lectures, discussions and a musical program will take place in the evenings. For two weeks the participants will live together as an experimental community in a school building that will soon be demolished. The venue Valga is a border town between Estonia and Latvia 1 - 16 of August 2020.

Everybody's welcome to join! Architecture students, young professionals and peers from other fields. If you are interested in spatial matters and thought experiments, come and have a peek!

European Architecture Student Assembly is an international

voluntary network of architecture students, whose goal is the free exchange of ideas and to cultivate more radical architectural practices. The main output of EASA is the annual summer school that is held in a different country every year, where workshops, lectures and seminars dissect the central theme chosen for the specific assembly. It is a platform for questioning, experimenting, playing and discussing the future of the field.

This year we invite participants mainly from Estonia and neighbouring countries to Valga - one town, two countries. Border situation of the town is the inspiration, workstation and stage for experimentation. During the two weeks, we will explore Valga - at the moment shrinking town, whose strategies for the future might offer unexpected lessons.

Workshops, lectures and seminars will dissect the central theme of this year's assembly - Apathy. Apathy is often described as "lack of reaction" - In the case of apathy, there is no reaction to the event. Apathy is subconscious self-protection, resulting in a lack of reaction.

But in the root of the word "apathy" a quest for balance could be traced. For stoics, Apatheia was a state of mind in which one is not disturbed by the passions. To eradicate or remove the tendency to react emotionally or egotistically to external events, to the events that you cannot control. A conscious choice of being and reacting when the time is right.

Though apathy does not have physical shape, the aftermath of it is easily noticeable in public space and architecture. EASA 2020 asks what is the impact of apathy at a personal level and how it manifests itself in a collective. What are the causes of apathy and how to live with this inevitable state that wraps us all from time to time?

EASA began as a spontaneous students initiative in Liverpool in 1981. During its 40 years of existence EASA has played an important role in the development of alternative and radical pedagogies in architecture education across Europe.

One of the biggest parts of EASA are interdisciplinary workshops that offer the chance to experiment and find the hidden potentials of architecture. The impact of the workshops on the location is not to be overlooked. Often the results are site-specific and try to take into account as much local people and context as possible. The tutors are either students or young architects, designers, artists, musicians, etc. One of the strengths of EASA is a student to student learning, which is a great way to exchange ideas and move toward a more horizontal educational system.

Deadline for participant and workshop proposals is 1st of July 2020. In case of questions don't hesitate to contact us!