

## Changing Footprints - Intergenerational Recycling: Traditional Romanian Households in Belgravia

### Artists' biographies

**Anca Mihalache** is a London Based architect and co-founder at RoundRobin studio, a design co-operative who believes in good design as an iterative process with people at its centre. Anca is fascinated by the power of design to be inspiring and effective. She enjoys absorbing user's needs and ambitions and the process of validating through questions and drawings. She addresses the wider picture and believes that the success of a project comes with use and time. Anca enables users and clients to feel confident that transformative growth with the project is possible. Her architecture is imaginative from first principles and inclusive in that it grows from everyday concerns. Anca has ten years previously gained experience, working on a series of projects with Building Design Partnership in London. Her portfolio spans healthcare, higher education, schools, master planning, housing and private residential projects. Her early focus on educational buildings proved to be an enriching experience, with universities and schools aspiring to be better versions of society. Her role as briefing and design consultant for British Council international schools as part of BDP, drew on her and her colleagues' experience in delivering a rich environment for education. Having studied Architecture in Ion Mincu University in Bucharest, Sheffield School of Architecture, and London Metropolitan University, as well as International Economics in the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest, Anca gained an insight into design being more than an end in itself. She reflects on how design can be used as a top-down instrument of power as well as a grassroots vehicle.

**Anastasia Stan** studied architecture in Bucharest, at the Bartlett (BSc) and at the CASS - London Metropolitan (MSc). Her interest in inter-disciplinary design, from a diverse creative background (architecture, illustration, product design, a.o.) gave her the skills for educational projects. A teaching ambassador at RIBA, Stan is also a teaching assistant, creative workshop coordinator and head of fundraising for the week-end 'Sfinții Brâncoveni' School of Romanian culture for children of Romanian origin. She volunteered for 'Archikids' ('Open City') and was a teaching assistant in an architecture foundation school, while a 1st year student. She aims to cultivate young people's interest in architecture and design, by including them in the debate on our built environment. Stan launched a line of educational products – imaginative resources for the development of children, centred on the role of architecture in our lives. Architecture as an integrative instrument is at the core of her inspiration.

Dr **Gabriela Nicolescu** has an MA in Social Anthropology from Central European University and her PhD from the Department of Anthropology in Goldsmiths, University of London. Currently she is a Research Fellow at University College Cork and a Visiting Fellow at Goldsmiths, University of London. Her general research and teaching interests include the anthropology of art and museum studies; medical, economic and political anthropology from material and visual perspectives. She is primarily concerned with the politics of representation and exhibition making in anthropological and ethnographic museums. She has conducted

ethnographic fieldwork in Romania and south-eastern Italy and has curated exhibitions in Austria, Romania, Hong Kong, the Philippines and the UK. She has published in the Journal of Design History, the Journal of Material Culture, World Art, East Central Europe and Anthropology and Aging.

**Silviu Iftimie** is a carpenter, originating from Vatra Dornei, Romania. Passionate about the craft of timber from a very young age and extremely talented, he started his own business in upholstery and furniture design since moving to London. Now his brand, CM Upholstery, has over 10 years experience in antique and modern furniture.

**Who's who:**

Silviu Iftimie - Main Contractor - Design, Fabrication

Anastasia Stan - Architectural Designer - Design, Fabrication, Coordination

Anca Mihalache - ARB RIBA Architect - Design, Fabrication, Coordination

Gabriela Nicolescu - Head of Sfintii Brancoveni Romanian School in London, Anthropology Consultant, Coordination