International conference
Italian architects and builders in the Ottoman Empire and modern Turkey, 1780-2000

Istanbul, Italian Institute of Culture, Meşrutiyet caddesi n.75, Beyoğlu-Tepebaşı
March 8 - 9, 2013
Boğaziçi University, March 10, 2013

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Simultaneous translation Italian/Turkish

This international conference is the fourth meeting in the framework of a long term project on Italian presence in the architecture and urbanism of the Mediterranean countries. Former editions, promoted by the School of Architecture of the University of Florence and other Italian, Egyptian, Tunisian, Albanian and French academic and cultural institutions, were held in Alexandria (2007), Tunis (2009) and Tirana (2011). They explored contributions and individual histories of Italian builders who acted on the margins of the colonial encounter, if not thoroughly inside it. With the Istanbul meeting, our aim is to understand more in depth the historical connections and networks that allowed a small diaspora of Italian architects, engineers, contractors and artists contribute to the transformations of modern urban Turkey and, in previous periods, of regions and cities in their final stages of Ottoman rule.

Initially, the environments on which these actors of change intervened were still largely “Ottoman” in architectural and urban terms: characterized by a plural demographic composition, by the absence of a homogeneous bourgeoisie, by flexibility in the architectural fabric, with a sharp contrast between vernacular/residential and official/monumental architecture. Italian builders approached these spaces, remarkably different from the environment of their provenance, without the backing or the authority of a colonial institution, but rather as consultants and participants, negotiating their place in a constantly redefined project of modernization. In time, some of them transferred to the new context their knowledge, along with the building types and forms they had left at home. Others engaged in a dialogue with the local habits and culture, producing an interesting métissage, a sort of architectural “lingua franca”. Finally, many of them contributed to the definition of local official styles and idioms, where and when this was demanded by the transition from an imperial to a national order.

In the Istanbul meeting of March 2013, experienced and younger scholars with diverse backgrounds from six different countries will discuss, on the basis of original research and archival findings, the Italian historical imprint on places and spaces ranging from Ankara, Izmir and Istanbul to Salonica, Plovdiv and the cities of the Romanian Principalities.
March 8, 2013, Italian Institute of Culture

9.30 – 10.00 Opening and official addresses

10.00 – 11.30 Venetian beginnings, international developments
Chair: Maria Luisa Scolari (Italian Cultural Institute, Istanbul)
Paolo Girardelli (Boğaziçi University, Istanbul)
From Andrea Memmo to Alberto Blanc: metamorphoses of classicism in the Italian buildings for diplomacy (1778-1889)
Rudolf Agstner (Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Vienna, Austria)
Palazzo Venezia in the mid 19th Century: Contributions by Gaspare Fossati and Domenico Pulgher
Giuliana Ricci (Polytechnic of Milan)

From the Academy of Brera, an international family of builders: the Fossatis of Morcote

11.30 – 13.00 Space and politics of the Ottoman reform
Chair: Cengiz Can
Gökşün Akyürek (Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul)
Political ideas and architectural reality in Tanzimat Istanbul: the Fossatis and their project for the Darülfünnün (Ottoman University)
Emiliano Bugatti (Yeditepe University, Istanbul)
Luigi Storari’s contribution to the analysis and development of the Levantine urban fabric
Ahmet Ersoy (Boğaziçi University, Istanbul)
In search of lost harmonies: Pietro Montani and Ottoman architecture

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch break

14.30 – 16.30 From Istanbul to the Balkans
Chair: Paolo Girardelli
Alexandre Kostov (Institute of Balkan Studies, Sofia)
Italian Architects in Plovdiv during the 19th century
Fabio Mangone (University of Naples “Federico II”)
Nicola Carelli and his work in Istanbul and the Ottoman empire
Raluca Tomi (Nicolaes Iorga Institute for History, București)

17.00 – 18.30 Italian landmarks as living heritage
Chair: Ezio Godoli
Cengiz Can (Yıldız Technical University, chairman of Beyoğlu council for historic landmarks)
Restoration and reuse of Italian buildings in Istanbul
Affe Batur (ITU, Istanbul Technical University) - Z. Ayşe Güngör (Architect, restorer)
Three projects of restoration and reuse for D’Aronco
Diana Barillari (University of Trieste) and Sebahattin Değirmenetepe (Architect, restorer)
The reconstruction of D’Aronco’s mosque in Karaköy

March 9, 2013, Italian Institute of Culture

9.30 – 11.30 Institutions and investments
Chair: Afife Batur
Seda Kula Say (ITÜ, Istanbul Technical University, PhD candidate)
Alexandre Vallauri and his works for the Italian community of Istanbul
Zeynep Cebeci (Boğaziçi University, PhD candidate)
Italian investment in the Levantine city: the families Corpi and D’Andria
Ezio Godoli (University of Florence)
Carlo Buscaglione’s designs and executed projects for Turkey
Francesco Krecic (Architectural and Landscape Heritage Office for Friuli-Venezia Giulia) – Diego Caltana (Centre for the architecture, Vienna)
The interests in land and real estate of the ‘Assicurazioni Generali’ in Ottoman Turkey

11.30 – 12.30 Aegean environments
Chair: Giuliana Ricci
Vasilis Colonas (University of Thessaly, Department of architecture, Volos)
Italian architects in Salonica at the end of the 19th century. New elements about the work of Vitaliano Poselli and Pietro Arrigoni
Cenk Berkant (University of Muğla)
The engineer Luigi Rossetti in İzmir

12.30 – 14.30 Lunch break

14.30 – 16.00 Between Empire and Republic
Chair: Ulisse Tramonti
Büke Uras (Bahçeşehir University)
Rediscovering Edoardo De Nari, Italian architect in Turkey
Vilma Fasoli (Polytechnic of Turin)
Giulio Mongeri, Edoardo De Nari and the “Società Anonima Ottomana di Costruzioni”
Giovanna D’Amia (Polytechnic of Milan)
Giulio Mongeri: the eye of a Milanese architect in Turkey

16.30 – 18.30 Kemalist Turkey and beyond
Chair: Fabio Mangone
Maria Concetta Migliaccio (University of Naples “l’Orientale”, PhD candidate)
Comparing ideas of modernity in Atatürk’s time: the designs for the Italian embassy in Ankara
Milva Giacomelli (University of Florence)
The Italian participation to the competition for Atatürk’s mausoleum in Ankara
Paola Ricco (University of Camerino)
Architecture for sport in Turkey and Paolo Vietti Violi’s contribution
Ulisse Tramonti (University of Florence)
Aldo Rossi and his project for Üsküdar, 1987

19.00 – 21.00, Reception at the IAE, Istanbul Research Institute

March 10, 2013 – Boğaziçi University, Rectorate Hall

10.00 – 12.00 Round table

Final discussion and conclusions