

# The Ottoman & Turkish Studies University Seminar

Vassilis Colonas

## “Architecture and Greek Communities in the Ottoman Empire under the Tanzimat”

Friday, 25 April, 2014, 10:00am

The Faculty House at Columbia University

*\*The seminar will be followed by an optional paid lunch; please RSVP to aw2355@columbia.edu, specifying whether or not you intend to stay for the meal.*

**Abstract:** This paper will focus on the architectural work of Greeks in the Ottoman Empire, more specifically in Istanbul, mainly through the work of Greek architects but also through the activities of all those Greeks who were involved in the production of the built space, as constructors, investors and commissioners of architectural projects. Late neo-classicism, which was adopted by the Greek communities, emphasizes their shared ideological identity, reinforces the symbolic value of their buildings and distinguishes them quite markedly from prevailing architectural styles. By adopting patterns and models from contemporary Greek architecture, these buildings offered the numerous Greek communities on the one hand a link with the national centre, the cradle of neo-classicism, and on the other a form of self-assertion and status in the multi-ethnic world of the major urban centres.

**About Vassilis Colonas:** Born in Thessaloniki and graduated from the School of Architecture of the Aristotle University, he continued his studies in Paris in the fields of Conservation and Restoration of Historic Buildings and Monuments, Art History and Museology (University of Paris I), while at the same time working in the French Academy of Architecture (1979-1986). He earned his doctorate from the School of Architecture, Aristotle University, in 1992. Since 2003, he has served as Professor of Architectural History of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> c. in the School of Architecture of The University of Thessaly in Volos. He has taken part in numerous scientific conferences in Greece and abroad and published studies in Greek and foreign books and periodicals. He has worked in the fields of exhibition organization and museology and was member of numerous European Research Programs related to the architectural heritage in Greece, the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea countries of the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

His books in English:

*Italian architecture in the Dodecanese Islands*, OLKOS, Athens 2004.

*Greek architects in the Ottoman Empire, 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> c.*, OLKOS, Athens 2006.