



FAU School of Architecture

Spring 2015 Lecture Series

THE ATHENIAN ACADEMY OF THEOPHIL HANSEN: BUILDING SPATIAL POETICS IN LATE-CLASSICISM

Irene Fatsea, PhD



APR. 7
12:00pm

The building of the Academy of Arts and Sciences in Athens was created in the second half of the nineteenth century by the renowned Danish architect Theophil Hansen (1813-1891). It exemplifies the principles and values of neoclassicism: symmetry, measure, balance, hierarchy, volumetric clarity, and most importantly Greek progeny, as it is based solely on Greek models. Hansen acquired an academic education from his home Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, after which he spent eight years in Athens (1838-1846) studying first-hand the Greek antiquities. He was entrusted the commission in recognition of his true attachment to the country and his splendid career as a key architect of the post-Revolutionary Vienna. In designing the building of the Athenian Academy, Hansen not only endowed the Greek city-capital with an exemplary piece of artwork but also ensured for her the reputation of a European capital worthy of monuments of universal acclaim.

IRENE FATSEA, PhD

Assistant Professor, School of Architecture Engineering, National Technical University of Athens (Greece) Registered architect in Greece with a specialization (PhD) in the History and Theory of Architecture. After her professional degree in architecture from the Aristotle Univ. of Thessaloniki (Greece), she pursued post graduate studies in the U.S. at the University of Oklahoma, Georgia Tech, and MIT. Her doctoral thesis is an in-depth investigation of the development of architectural discourse in the newly established Greek state in the nineteenth century. Her research interests concentrate on the intellectual exchanges between Greece and Western Europe in the post-Enlightenment period with a special emphasis on the complex impact of classicism and romanticism upon the discourse and the practice of architecture.

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