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978-0-521-18434-2 - Venice's Mediterranean Colonies: Architecture and Urbanism

Maria Georgopoulou

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## VENICE'S MEDITERRANEAN COLONIES: ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM

This book examines the architecture and urbanism in the Venetian colonies of the Eastern Mediterranean and how their built environments express the close cultural ties with both Venice and Byzantium. Using the island of Crete and its capital city, Candia (modern Herakleion), as a case study, Maria Georgopoulou exposes the dynamic relationship that existed between colonizer and colony. She studies the administrative, ecclesiastical, and military monuments set up by the Venetian colonists, which served as bold statements of control over the local Greek population and the Jewish communities, who were ethnically, religiously, and linguistically distinct from them. Georgopoulou demonstrates how the Venetian colonists manipulated Crete's past history in order to support and legitimate colonial rule, particularly through the appropriation of older Byzantine traditions in civic and religious ceremonies. At the same time, Crete and the other Mediterranean colonies – and the material goods that they exported to Venice – offered the city the cultural prestige it needed in order to foster a new “imperial image” of the Venetian Republic after the Fourth Crusade of 1204.

Maria Georgopoulou is Associate Professor of Art History at Yale University. A scholar of Byzantine art and architecture and a Getty Postdoctoral Fellow, she has contributed to *The Art Bulletin*, *The Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*, and *Medieval Encounters*.

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MARIA GEORGOPOULOU

*Yale University*



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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,  
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico CityCambridge University Press  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521184342](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521184342)

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First published 2001

First paperback edition 2010

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library**Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

Georgopoulou, Maria, 1961–

Venice's Mediterranean colonies : architecture and urbanism / Maria Georgopoulou.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-521-78235-X (HB)

1. Architecture – Greece – Herakleion – Venetian influences. 2. Architecture and state – Greece – Herakleion. 3. Architecture – Italy – Venice – Byzantine influences. 4. Crete (Greece) – History – Venetian rule, 1204-1669. 5. Byzantine Empire – Civilization – Influence. 6. Herakleion (Greece) – Buildings, structures, etc. I.

Title

NA1101.H465 G46 2001

720'.9171'245310902 – dc21

00-046809

ISBN 978-0-521-78235-7 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-18434-2 Paperback

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## PREFACE

The seeds of this project were planted during my graduate studies at the Sorbonne by my adviser, Léon Pressouyre, who, in his unique insight, predicted my fascination with the artistic and cultural relationships among different ethnic groups on Venetian Crete and the Mediterranean at large. The project materialized into a doctoral thesis at UCLA, where its focus was redefined several times thanks to the constructive advice of Irene Bierman, Barisa Krekić, Carlo Pedretti, Speros Vryonis, Jr., and above all my adviser and mentor, Ioli Kalavrezou. I am truly indebted to all of them for their unwavering trust and support.

I am grateful to the Getty Foundation for granting me a Getty Post-Doctoral Fellowship that enabled me to complete a first draft of the manuscript and to my department for giving me leave during that year; to the YCIAS Faculty Research and Griswold Travel Grants of Yale University for awarding me funds for summer travel; and to the Hilles Publication Fund of Yale University for providing support for the index and the illustrations in this volume. Beverly Lett, Tony Oddo, and Sue Roberts of the Yale library have often gone beyond the call of duty to assist me with endless bibliographical issues. I thank them warmly. The stimulating environment of the Department of the History of Art at Yale has contributed a lot to the completion of this book. My colleagues have shared with me their expertise and wisdom to help me sharpen my thoughts and navigate through the world of publishing. I am thankful to them, especially to Walter Cahn, who followed the progress of this book closely. I am also grateful to my students at Yale, whose insightful inquiries played a major role in the crystallization of my thoughts.

A large part of the research for this book was conducted in Venice and Crete. I am indebted to the Istituto Ellenico di Studi Bizantini e Postbizantini in Venice, especially its Directors, Chryssa Maltezou and the late Nikos Panagiotakes, as well as the librarian, Despoina Vlassi, for offering me their

hospitality, support, and access to their fine library. I am grateful to the Directors and the staff of the Archivio di Stato di Venezia under the direction of Dr. Maria Francesca Tiepolo and Professore Paolo Selmi; the Biblioteca Marciana and its Director, Marino Zorzi; the Museo Civico Correr under the directorship of Giandomenico Romanelli; and the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere, ed Arti and its Director, Professore Bruno Zanettin, for their assistance throughout my stay in Venice and their willingness to provide me with archival and photographic material central to my study. I would also like to thank the Ephor of Byzantine Antiquities in Herakleion, Manolis Borboudakis, and the Director of the Historical Museum of Crete, Alexis Kalokairinos, for their assistance with unpublished photographic and archaeological material from Herakleion. The library staff at the University of Crete in Rethymnon were of great help during the early stages of my research. The Gennadius Library in Athens under the direction of Haris Kalligas has proved an exquisite place to work and a wonderful resource for rare books and photographs.

I am greatly indebted to Madeleine Sorapure, who read the first draft of the manuscript a few years back. Her helpful suggestions and encouraging comments convinced me that it was indeed possible to produce a book. The invaluable advice and constructive comments of the readers of this manuscript for Cambridge University Press, Sharon Gerstel, Sally McKee, and Annemarie Weyl Carr, helped me clarify much of my writing and sharpen the focus of the manuscript. I also thank Benjamin Arbel, who read an earlier version of the manuscript for E. J. Brill, for his useful comments. I did my best to respond to the readers' suggestions, but of course I claim responsibility for all the remaining errors.

Over the course of the years I have profited greatly from the advice and support of so many colleagues and friends that it would be impossible to thank them all individually. I apologize if I omitted several persons who have stood by my side at various stages of this project; I am hopeful they will understand. For numerous fruitful discussions that helped shape my thoughts I am thankful to Tony Cutler, Esther da Costa Meyer, Charalambos Gasparis, David Jacoby, Angeliki Laiou, Katerina Mylopotamitaki, Rob Nelson, Bob Ousterhout, Roberta Panzanelli, Aspasia Papadaki, Debra Pincus, Jahan Ramazani, Caroline Rody, Sally Scully, Nancy Ševčenko, Liana Starida, Ioanna Steriotou, Panagiotis Vokotopoulos, and Annabel Wharton. The fellows of the Istituto Ellenico in Venice have been immensely generous with their time during my visits to Venice and eager to act as my delegates when I was away from the archives and monuments. For their warmth and selfless assistance I thank Photis Baroutsos, Rena Papadaki, and Giorgos Pileidis. I am mostly grateful to my extended family in Crete, the Petrakis, without

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the guidance of whom the mysteries of the island would have remained beyond reach for me.

My editor at Cambridge University Press, Beatrice Rehl, and production editor Holly Johnson, offered me advice and help at critical moments in the life of this project. I thank them for their continuous support. I am grateful to Susan Thornton for her thorough copy-editing and her joyful response to the manuscript. My deepest gratitude goes to my family for their continuing support and encouragement. I would have never been able to travel to Crete and Venice without the conviction that my daughter, Katerina, was happy in the company of her grandparents. I will be eternally grateful to them for cheerfully devoting most of their summers to baby-sitting. Above all I am indebted to my husband, Christos Cabolis, for his love, humor, encouragement, and helpful criticism that brought some mathematical logic into this study. I thank him for never getting tired of this project and, as usual, I will blame him for all the mistakes.