

COST CATEGORY C

Includes flights, accommodation, breakfast, admission fees to museums, and tour guides.

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# ISTANBUL BAROQUE

SEMINAR WEEK  
HS23  
CHAIR DELBEKE  
21.10.23 - 28.10.23

What does the “baroque”, a nominally Western aesthetic idiom, have to do with Istanbul? How do we make sense of the baroque motifs in Ottoman architecture, given that the style typically implicated ties to the Catholic church and its colonial endeavors? Going beyond the typical, this seminar week will examine another facet of the baroque that emerged in the 18th-century Istanbul landscape: one that dressed up sites ranging from imperial mosques to harem quarters and from water fountains to merchant houses. These monuments, distinct from their forerunners in the city and in other European capitals, marked a political and artistic turning point in the Ottomans’ positioning on the global stage, which was debatably viewed either as the opening of the empire to the West or as a sign of decline and decadence.

We will delve into this field of tension, question how the style was implemented in different societal conditions, and explore the role of various actors and mediums in the dissemination of architectural knowledge by exploring the city’s allegedly baroque phase together with its precedents and successions. The trip will start on the historical peninsula with Byzantine churches, classical-era Ottoman mosques, and sumptuous 18th-century monuments; extend to extra-mural sites like Phanar, Eyup and Galata on the European and Uskudar on the Asian side; and end with a tour along the Bosphorus.

The courtyard portal of the Nuruosmaniye Mosque, 2023.  
Photograph by Damla Göre

## OTTOMAN ARCHITECTURE OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AND ITS AFTERLIFE