



## Modernism in Turkey: the contribution of the German-Area Architects

Form: seminar, 15h, 2 ECTS

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With the end of the sultanate and after the First World War, In 1923 the Turkish Republic was established. Its founder and first president Mustafa Kemal Atatürk completely changed the socio-political and cultural *milieu*, looking at West as good example for a renewed civic society. During the 20s up to the 40s many intellectuals and architects from German-speaking countries fled to Turkey, widely welcomed by the new president and invited to give their own contribution to the creation of the new Turkey. Among architects there were C. Holzmeister, E. Egli, M. Elsaesser, M. Wagner, G. Oelsner, C. C. Lörcher, P. Bonatz, and B. Taut, whose contribution is particularly relevant. Most of them worked as urban planner, architect and designer especially for relevant public institutions, and as professor at university of Istanbul. The seminar will focus on these questions: did they simply translate the principles of modernism and bring them into Middle East? Did they seek a continuity with the local architectural tradition? Did they solve this dichotomy by finding a compromise between local tradition and modernity? Who was anti-dogmatic and who strictly related to European modern language of architecture? Which is the legacy these architects left in Turkey?

**Keywords:** tradition, modernity, exile, Middle East/western architecture

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<p>Lecture 1 First part: Making a modern nation. Atatürk and the Kemalism as prodrome of Modernism.</p> <p>Second part: The seminal contribution of German-area Professors at Istanbul Mimar Sinan Fine Arts Academy in the 20s'-40s'.</p>	<p>Lecture 2 First part: Building a new capital: Ankara and the modern urban development.</p> <p>Second part: 'You want me to deal with a ugly lady!' Paul Bonatz, Martin Elsaesser and the others.</p>	<p>Lecture 3 First part: Modernism as International Style? Ernst Egli and his architecture in Turkey.</p> <p>Second part: Symmetry, hierarchy, and monumentalism for a state architecture. Is that all? Clemens Holzmeister and his contribution in Ankara.</p>	<p>Lecture 4 First part: A sensitive and sensual dialogue between tradition and modernity. Taut's masterpiece in The Middle East: the Faculty of History, Geography and Literature in Ankara.</p> <p>Second part: Functionalism, regionalism and beauty: Bruno Taut's school buildings in Turkey.</p>	<p>Lecture 5 First part: 'Our home is wherever we build'. Bruno Taut and his own home in Istanbul.</p> <p>Second part: Praxis facing theory as methodology for building: Bruno Taut's crucial writings for a new approach to architecture.</p>