Abstract

The pavilion of Turkey displayed *Darzanà: Two Arsenals, One Vessel* at the 15th Venice Architecture Biennale entitled *Reporting from the Frontier*. Part of the research conducted for *Darzanà*, this presentation summons the architectural history of the Golden Horn Arsenal as a Mediterranean frontier in three meanings of the term. First, the Arsenal was a multi-layered militaristic and technological frontier representing the three main stages of warship construction, respectively, for galleys, galleons and cruisers. Second, the Arsenal was a frontier of architectural encounters. In likeness to the *lingua franca* (common language of the Mediterranean navigation) that acts as a bridge or a vessel between different languages, this architecture of encounters can be designated as *architectura franca*; a maritime architecture interconnecting different building cultures. Third, as part of the historical urban frontier of Greater Istanbul, the Arsenal had been a liminal space, a threshold in between the sea and the city.

(*Organized by IKSV; curators Feride Çiçekoğlu, Mehmet Kütükçüoğlu, Ertuğ Uçar with the curatorial collaboration of Cemal Emden and Namık Erkal)

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