

# DIALOGUES

between past and present:  
ΘΕΣΜΟΣ ΔΥΣΕΩΣ ΝΕΩΝ ΔΙΑΣΤΗΜΑΤΩΣ

Materials, construction techniques, and social identity through the centuries, from prehistory to the pre-industrial era in the Balkans and Eastern Mediterranean



## ONLINE LECTURE SERIES Spring 2025 | 1<sup>st</sup> lecture series

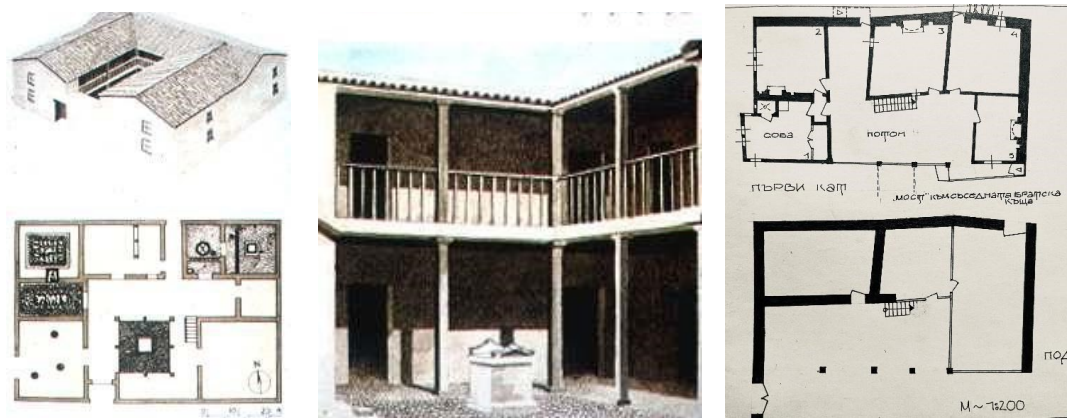
ZOOM PLATFORM: <https://pantheonsorbonne.zoom.us/j/98350366717?pwd=zQWTO4lpUGh5u2W2gaJsKwJgRZrUy7.1>

28 April 2025



**MIRYANA IORDANOVA**, Bulgaria

**The residential architecture of the *place* before the conquest of the Balkans by the Ottoman Empire**



### ABSTRACT

The archaeological data on the territory of today's Bulgaria and the South-Eastern Balkans on the residential architecture of Antiquity and the Middle Ages testify to a high building culture. The several examples trace the extremely diverse compositions of the dwelling in Ancient Greece, with one characteristic in common - the presence of an interior courtyard, symmetrically or asymmetrically located, which in turn depends largely on the location and size of the property, or on a closed central space, which is intended to collect communications in the dwelling.

In the Roman Domus, the rectangular, elongated central hall, called the atrium, lit by an opening in the roof, is the center of the composition, around which the other rooms are arranged. In Etruscan times, a similar plan was used for ritual buildings, and the Romans "gave it a civic character". Thus it became a typical home of the wealthier and is described in detail by Vitruvius in his "Prima Genus".

There are two main types of spatial organization applicable in public, religious and residential architecture. These are: a) a plan with a colonnaded gallery – “pastas” and b) a plan with a bright courtyard – “atrium”.

During the Middle Ages, in the cultural area of the Mediterranean, these archetypal schemes, in a more or less developed or completely minimized form, continued to be reproduced, having largely preserved both the symbolism and the peculiarities of the specific place with its characteristic climate, landscape, and prevailing local building resources.

**Miryana Iordanova** is an architect, graduated from the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, Sofia, phd in architecture from New Bulgarian University, Sofia.

She teaches urban planning and spatial planning, history and theory of town planning, cultural heritage preservation, architecture design (from 2005).

She has an experience at the National Center for Territorial Development, Sofia, where her main competencies included research work, design, project management, architectural heritage conservation and revitalization policies.

Her professional formation as a researcher started at the Center for Architectural Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, where she used to research the cultural heritage of the Middle Ages in Bulgaria and the Balkans. She was also involved in the policies for town planning, preservation and integration of cultural heritage in the modern urban environment,

Miriana Iordanova is the author of the book “Traditional residential architecture in Bulgaria xvii-xviii centuries,” dozens of articles and studies, including "Jewish historical monuments and places in Bulgaria", "Space in traditional architecture in Bulgaria", etc.