

## İMÇ – International Docomomo Buildings

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The architecture of the Modern Movement was twentieth-century architecture governed by a concept hard for the general public to grasp. As a result, many of these works have ended up severely transformed, abandoned or demolished, thereby damaging the historical memory of our cities. Fortunately, the turn of the century has helped us to look at these buildings from the historical point of view and to appreciate them as works of art.

Several movements which have recently emerged in defence of this architecture have finally come together around DOCOMOMO International (DOcumentation and COnservation of buildings, sites and districts of the MOdern MOvement). The fruits of efforts by this collective to seek out, select, register and disseminate the value of these buildings have come to the notice of the public authorities, who have progressively included them in their architectural heritage catalogues. One of these works in Istanbul is the rationalist Bazaar İmceden İMÇ'ye, a building built in the 1960s by Turkish architects Doğan Tekeleli, Sami Sisa and Metin Hepgüler, which has recently been declared part of the city's architectural heritage. The scale of this Bazaar is highly appropriate to the morphology of the city, respecting the heights of the urban fabric and opening new perspectives towards the Süleymaniye Mosque. It is now one of the exceptional pieces to be taken into account

when it comes to redeveloping the Atatürk Boulevard, a fundamental axis characterised by its monumentality and all its potential as a public space.

The Mediterranean Cities Programme has committed itself to launching a series of international workshops whose aim is to engage in the recovery of public space in all cities of the Mediterranean arc, public space being a largely neglected item that strongly characterises this type of city. One aspect to which this programme attaches particular importance is assigning the same importance to all scales, working simultaneously in city planning, the shape of the buildings and the materials that determine the physiognomy of each city. Furthermore, it contends that the urban project must always answer to three fundamental scales: those of the city, of the district and of urban infrastructures, buildings and landscape elements.

This, the first International Mediterranean Cities Programme workshop, has been held in the city of Istanbul and focused on redevelopment of the Süleymaniye Mosque quarter, characterised also by an important tissue of Ottoman houses and the rationalist Bazaar İmceden İMÇ'ye. This Bazaar is one of the fundamental existing buildings taken into account in the Istanbul International Workshop 2010 to contribute to the revitalisation of the district and the city.