

## **A. & G. VAROUDAKIS ARCHITECTS-CHANIA**

**Adress: Vivilaki 17  
73133 Chania, Crete, Greece**

**Tel: +30 28210 56855  
Fax: +30 28210 41322  
e-mail: agvaroudakisarchitects@gmail.com**

### **Aristomenis Varoudakis**

He was born in Hania, Crete, in 1947. Between 1966 and 1969, he studied at the College of San Mateo (San Francisco, California, USA), and got his pre-graduate title as "Associate in Arts." In 1972, after a five-year cycle of studies at the College of Architecture and Fine Arts of the University of Florida, he got his Bachelor of Architecture.

He continued his post-graduate studies with "Architecture in urban scale – integration of contemporary forms into the existing web" as major subject and a post-graduate dissertation entitled "Morphological treatment, expansion and connection of the University campus of Florida to the urban web of the neighbouring city." In 1973, he got his "Master of Arts in Architecture" and "Certificate of Urban Studies" (Urban and Regional Development Centre).

During his studies, he worked as a part-time designer (1969-1970) in a construction company based in Gainesville. Between 1973 and 1975, we worked at "Antoniadis Associates, Architects-Planners" (Miami, Florida, U.S.A.) and then at Kostas Mavrakakis's office in Chania, from 1977 to 1981. Since 1981 he has been in partnership with his brother George Varoudakis.

He won the 2nd Design Award for redesigning the Town Hall of Skyros and the surrounding area, during the International Workshop of Young Architects in Skyros, with the participation of 40 young architects (1989). Since 1994 he has been a founding member of the Hellenic Institute of Architecture. Since 2004, he has been teaching at the Faculty of Architecture of the Polytechnic University of Crete, where he was elected Associate Professor in 2007. In 2012 was elected Chairman of the department.

### **George Varoudakis**

Born in 1951 in Chania. Between 1970-1973 he studied at the Department of Decorative Arts at Doxiadis School in Athens and from 1973 to 1979 he studied at the Faculty of Architecture at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen. The object of postgraduate studies was the "Architectural Morphology and Social Decentralisation" and the topic of his thesis the "Study Centre for Social and Cultural Practice Area for New Town district of the city of Chania".

During his stay in Scandinavia he was influenced by the minimalist trends in applied arts. Since 1981 he is in partnership with his brother Aristomenis in Chania. He was Vice President of the Architects Association of Chania and is currently Chairman of the Administrative Board of the Municipal Gallery.

### **The architectural studio**

#### **Aristomenis & George Varoudakis, Architects**

Since the day of its setting-up in 1981, the architectural studio of The Varoudakis brothers has mainly undertaken small-scale projects – houses and hotels – in western Crete. Contemporary house design in the Mediterranean context is among the issues that especially preoccupy the architects, who are working in an area of great natural and historical value.

All these years, their endeavour to set off the importance of architecture as a special art and basic component of culture is difficult, as they work in an environment that has identified architecture either with

the bureaucratic procedure of building licensing or with securing the structural sufficiency of projects, or even with the aesthetic embellishment of building facades ensuing from the recent financial improvements. In the first years of the mid-1980s, their avant-garde design approach attempts to start a dialogue with the Mediterranean landscape through a complex morphological treatment (branched hotel, 1982, Cultural Centre of the City of Heraklion, 1983), at a time when postmodernism is at its peak in Greece, in its heavily ornamental version indeed. In the last years, designing within the same Mediterranean context has changed, although the search for regionalism through the international vocabulary still remains a target.

Their work becomes more abstract, by simplifying the geometry of the constructed volumes and by accepting austerity and symmetry as diachronic values. Besides the integration into the landscape, setting off regionalism is aimed at through the expression of the materiality of the forms. Acknowledging that reinforced concrete, like stonework, now constitutes a part of the Greek building tradition, they try to reutilize stonework as main wall material in combination with the use of reinforced concrete as holding material, without any clear symbolic demarcation between the two elements.

Both architects believe that this traditional amalgam offers greater elasticity and more possibilities of expression. At the same time, it can co-exist with all the older as well as contemporary building materials. In the design of the three houses at Kontomari the architects tried to follow all the above principals.

#### **Distinctions – awards**

- o Applied Architecture Award, by the Ministry of the Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works (YPEHODE), for the house of the Miglakis family in Stalo, Hania (1988).

- o Applied Architecture Award, by YPEHODE, in collaboration with Yiannis Kalligeris, for the Health Centre of Vamos, Apokoronas (1988) and for the Health Centre of Perama, Mylopotamos (1988).

- o 3rd Prize of the National Architectural Competition, in collaboration with Yiannis Kalligeris for the Folklore Museum of Omalos (1992).

- o 1st Prize and assignment, in collaboration with Kostas Mavrakakis and the architectural studio "Architecture Ltd." – Grammatopoulos, Panousakis, for the Final Implementation Study and building supervision of the Great Arsenal in the Venetian-medieval harbour of Chania (2000). (The original design was elaborated within the framework of a research programme of the National Metsovian Polytechnic University headed by Yiannis Kizis).

- o 2nd Prize of the National Architectural Competition, in collaboration with Nikos Venianakis, Yiannis Kizis, Kostas Mavrakakis, for the main building of the Corporative Bank of Chania (2003).

#### **Participation in exhibitions**

- o 1985: participation in the "Triennale of Sofi a" (Bulgaria), with the works: "Study of the Cultural Centre of the City of Heraklion" and "Addition of two studios to a neo-classical building in Chania."

- o 1999: participation in the 1st large-scale exhibition entitled "20th-century Architecture: Greece" in the Architecture Museum in Frankfurt, with the work: "Building of 21 apartments in the Dexameni neighbourhood of Chania" that was selected together with 112 works by Greek architects of the 20th century. After Frankfurt, the exhibition travelled to Thessalonica, Paris, Athens, Nicosia, Rome, Ankara, Constantinople, Hania and Tokyo.

- o 2008: participation in the exhibition entitled "The house – from the 20th to the 21st century" at the Benaki Museum.

- o 2009: a major exhibition of Varoudakis brothers works was presented at the Benaki Museum in Athens entitled '*Architectural Dialogues with the cretan landscape.*'

#### **Publications**

Since 1985, 60 completed works and projects elaborated by the Office have been published in Greek and foreign architectural press. In 1999, within the framework of its "Monographs by Greek Architects", the *Design and Art in Greece* magazine devoted a special issue to A. and G. Varoudakis's works. Another dedication is comprised in the 2007 issue.