

***The architecture of the orthodox monastery of Panagia tou Sindi in Paphos:
a contribution to the study of religious architecture in Venetian Cyprus***

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The work at hand presents a study of the Orthodox ecclesiastical architecture of Cyprus during the Venetian period (1479-1571), first discussing the history and social factors that affected the development of that architecture during the Latin period on the island. It then goes on to consider the development of monastic architecture, in general, from its starting point to the period in question, allowing a better understanding of architectural forms and typologies. Panagia tou Sindi Monastery is selected as a prototype to be studied in depth starting with its history and then followed by analysis of its architectural, typological and morphological aspects. Finally its restoration is discussed fully. Subsequent to this, is a study of the typological and morphological characteristics of the general Orthodox ecclesiastical architecture of the Venetian period, concentrating on elements that appear for the first time, as well as important representative elements of the architecture of Venice that were carried through to the various colonies. Finally, a comparison between the monastery of Sindi and other examples of the period allow the dating of this monastery within the Venetian period, a conclusion certified by the archeological discovery of the date of construction of the monument. In conclusion, based on historical as well as archeological evidence, the type, and extent of the influences of Gothic and Venetian architecture on local ecclesiastical architecture is discussed. Due to various factors, certain difficulties were encountered during the study of the monuments of the period. Firstly there is very little written documentation of the Orthodox monastic architecture of the Venetian period, so much research had to be carried out by on site visits and personal observations. A second difficulty lay in the condition and accessibility of the various monuments. Most have not only been repeatedly reconstructed without any documentation whatsoever, but some lie within the occupied part of Cyprus and were therefore unavailable for on-site research. Moreover, archival information prior to the occupation of 1974 is inadequate for any analytical research. However, despite all the above difficulties, this thesis tries to fill a major gap in the study of ecclesiastical architecture in Cyprus during the Venetian period, and to answer some of the following questions. 1. How did the politics and administration of the island by the Venetians influence the development of Orthodox ecclesiastical architecture? 2. Was the monastery of Panagia tou Sindi an Orthodox or Latin edifice? Who built it and how? Did it follow a specific pattern? 3. What were the Venetian influences on Cypriot monastic architecture? Could they be considered simply Latin ones or of some other derivation? 4. What are the parallels between the architecture of Sindi Monastery and other monasteries of the period?