

## **ECOWEEK 2011: VILLA KAPANDJI Workshop with architects Giannis Epaminondas (MIET) and Prof. Emilia Costa (Politecnico di Milano)**

Villa Kapandji is an urban residence of the 1890s, situated on the immediate outskirts of the historical centre of Thessaloniki, today a dense inhabited area. It belongs to M.I.E.T., the National Bank of Greece Cultural Foundation (a distinguished Athens based publishing house, hosting collections, the Historical and Palaeographical Archive, the Paper Conservation Laboratory, the Cartography Archive, four bookshops in Athens and Thessaloniki plus E.L.I.A., the Hellenic Literary and Historical Archive) and hosts its' Thessaloniki Centre, devoted to exhibitions of visual arts and historical documents.

The historic building, initially built for a family belonging to the Donme sect (Jews converted to Islam in 17<sup>th</sup> c.) has since been the residence of prince Nickolas –first Greek Military Governor of the city in 1912–, of Prime Minister El. Venizelos during the Provisional Government of 1916-17 and finally sheltered the 5<sup>th</sup> Boys High School. In 1989, after a 6 year painstaking and meticulous restoration, it housed the National Bank's Cultural Centre.

The building will be the base of an in-situ workshop led by architect Giannis Epaminondas, director of MIET in Thessaloniki, and Arch. Prof. Emilia Costa of Polytecnico di Milano, which will investigate ways to turn the historic monument into an ecological building.

**More on history and architecture of the building:**

[www.miet.gr](http://www.miet.gr) >

Cultural Centres > Thessaloniki.

**Photos of the building:**

<http://picasaweb.google.com/giannisebam/VillaKapandji?authkey=Gv1sRgCKCK84johbziggE&feat=directlink>

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