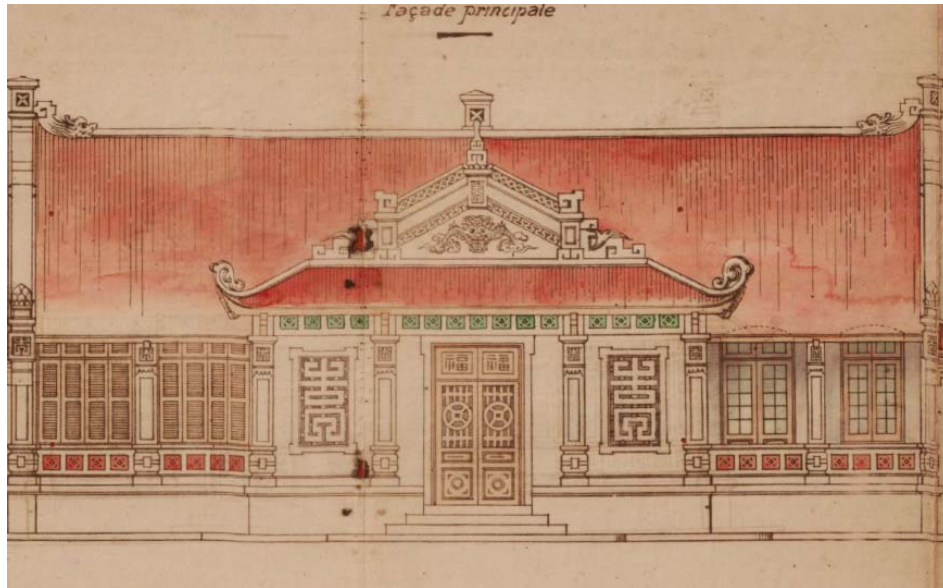


Architecture and Hybridity in Colonial Vietnam

Caroline Herbelin

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The built environment in Indochina changed dramatically during the colonial period. Economic development, the French building megalomania, and the end of imperial building regulations led to increased urbanization and the creation of new architectural styles. However, these spectacular changes cannot be interpreted as a mere transfer from the French to the Vietnamese. My talk uses connected history and social history to reveal complex cultural circulations at stake in housing and architecture that were neither one-sided nor one-dimensional. By studying the different elements at play in architectural contact, I challenge the concepts of influence and mimicry that scholars often use to describe hybridity in colonial contexts.

Caroline Herbelin holds a Ph.D. in Art History from the Sorbonne University, Paris. She has been teaching at the University of Toulouse as an Assistant professor since 2011. Her book *Architectures du Vietnam Colonial* was published in France by INHA/CTHS in 2016. In it, she examines the diversity of cultural exchanges embodied in the built environment thereby moving beyond analyses equating architecture with colonial power. She especially focuses on the way the Vietnamese appropriated and created the built environment during the colonial period. She has co-edited a collection of essays on Vietnamese art and a catalogue about French Indochina for an exhibition held in 2013 at the *Musée de l'armée* in Paris. She has published several articles and book chapters on art and architecture in Vietnam and colonial culture.

Wednesday, April 11, 12:00 Noon
Room 203, Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Avenue