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The Process of Change in Ottoman Cities after the Tanzimat

The opening of the Ottoman economy to the world economy by the Anglo-Turkish Commercial Treaty of 1838 as well as the new concept of administration introduced by the Tanzimat Firman, led to important transformations in the urban structures of the country’s cities in the second half of the 19th century. New economic relations and new forms of administration required new urban centres, new infrastructure and new institutions. The transformation could not be realized by the existing Ottoman laws and institutions, which were manifestly out of date (Tekeli 1992:19). For this reason, new laws, regulations and methods imported from the West were implemented in Ottoman cities by institutions that were also transferred from the West.

The Birinci Ebniye Nizamnamesi (the First Building Regulation), which included new techniques such as parcellation and the widening of streets necessary for reconstruction activities, was issued in 1848. In 1856, the İstımlak Nizamnamesi (the Regulation on Expropriations), which was an important means for the implementation of city plans, was promulgated. The first city plan was implemented in the capital; this was followed by its implementation in other cities. Thus, the utilization of Western methods gradually started to change the physical appearance of Ottoman cities.

This article is the expanded version of a paper submitted to the International Congress of Turkish Art, held in Budapest between 3 and 8 September 2007. Four new architectural drawings, produced by the author, were included in this article, while some new points were added to the evaluative remarks while architectural descriptions of some buildings were expanded.

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The Ottoman state administration planned to achieve another aim by replanning the cities according to Western criteria: to reconstruct the central authority. This aim was strongly supported by the Western states, since it would make it possible to get rid of internal obstacles of a largely feudal character. In fact, during these years, as the Empire lost prestige in the international arena, the central authority got stronger (Yerasimos 1992:5). As a result, security, health and aesthetics, the three principles of city planning in the 19th century were to a certain extent implemented in Ottoman cities.

Sevgi Aktüre describes the situation in more concrete terms, stating that Ottoman cities in Anatolia experienced a process of growth and change due to new points of attraction created by new urban elements such as military barracks, houses in vineyards, immigrant and bourgeois quarters, as well as commercial and administrative areas. Railway stations, which became part of the cities mainly as a result of external factors at the end of the 19th century, can also be listed among these elements (Aktüre 1981:22).

According to İlber Ortaylı, modernization of the Ottoman provincial cities was a phenomenon of the last quarter of the 19th century, called the “Late Tanzimat” period. Changes in the provincial cities during Abdulhamid II’s reign, which lasted more than thirty years, have not yet been systematically analyzed at the required level. A majority of the public buildings in cities were built during this period; furthermore, thousands of immigrants who came to Anatolia at the end of the Russian War (1877-78) were settled in new immigrant quarters established in cities in this period (Aktüre 1981:220).

**Ottoman Bureaucracy After the Tanzimat**

Following the proclamation of the Tanzimat in 1839, rules pertaining to the State administration were formulated. Soon, institutions like Suray-i Devlet (Council of State) and Divan-i Muhasebat (Court of Accounts) were established and control mechanisms were activated. Thus, the country was governed from Bab-ı Ali during the reigns of Sultan Abdulmecid and Sultan Abdulaziz. Starting from 1839, the government building where the sadrazam and ministers worked was the centre for the Ottoman administration for approximately forty years. This period, starting with Mustafa Resit
Pasha (which is called the “Bab-ı Ali Century” by İlber Ortayli) lasted until the reign of Abdulhamid II (Kirmizi 2007:1,2).

New arrangements pertaining to bureaucracy were also made during the reign of Abdulhamid II. New rules were formulated for the appointment, promotion, dismissal, changing the place of duty and retirement of civil servants. These new arrangements, as well as educational institutions which became widespread, were often implemented by governors and other high-ranking administrators who graduated from Mekteb-i Mulkiye, in majority (Kirmizi 2007:3). After the Tanzimat, Ottoman governors displayed differences concerning education and merit. Although during Abdulhamid II’s reign, the majority of the governors were graduates of Mekteb-i Mulkiye, governors from different fields were also appointed. Those having a profession and sufficient experience in their field could also be appointed governor.
Development Activities Carried out in the City of Konya

Konya underwent intensive development activities during the period following the Tanzimat Firman. The ones that were more intensively carried out during the reign of Abdulhamid II (1876-1908) continued during Ikinci Mesrutiyet period (1908-1918). Three governors played effective roles in the city's modernization; among these, Said Pasha (1887) and Mehmet Ferid Pasha (1898-1902) was in office during the reign of Abdulhamid II, while Husnu Pasha officiated during Ikinci Mesrutiyet period.

Said Pasha

Said Pasha oversaw the construction of the Government Building (Hukumet Konagi) during his governorship in Konya that lasted only one year. He was born in Istanbul in 1830; after graduating from Muhendishane-i Bahri Humayun, he stayed in England for seven years where he was sent for higher education. On his return, he was appointed director of the Bahriye Mektebi (Navy School). He officiated as a minister and later held other important posts. He was sent from Istanbul in 1878 to become the governor of Bursa, Kastamonu, Aleppo and Konya, in that order. He wrote three books on Basic Mathematics and Military Engineering, as well as (A. Kilic 1999) Fenn-i Mimari (Architectural Design) (Kilic 1999:490).

The Government Building he oversaw was composed of two floors on a half-basement; it had a rectangular inner courtyard. An open area used for ceremonies was located in front of the building, which had entrances from four sides. The main entrance of the building was emphasized by a three-arched portico.

Mehmed Ferid Pasha

The modernization of Konya was mainly done during the
Three Late-Ottoman governors of Konya

Three Late-Ottoman governors of Konya. He was born in Yanya in 1851 as the son of a wealthy Albanian family (Fig. 3). He was well-educated, learnt Arabic, French, Italian and modern Greek. After holding various high-ranking posts in Kandiye, Mostar, Sarajevo, Diyarbakir, Aleppo and later in Istanbul, he performed a very successful governorship in Konya. His successes were conveyed to Abdulhamid II by the German ambassador who admired his works. Régis Delbeuf, who was the editor of the French-language newspaper Stamboul, published in Istanbul, wrote in detail about his successful activities in and around Konya in his travel book, which covered Konya. At the end of 1902 he was called back to Istanbul and appointed sadrazam. He was removed from office in 1908. He officiated as the head of the Assembly and was minister during the period of İkinci Mermutiyet (Ozen 1999:141).

During Mehmet Ferid Pasha's governorship, several İptidai, Rüştıye and İdadi schools were opened in Konya. Furthermore, sufficient quantities of drinking water, which was of vital importance for Konya, were provided. Agricultural technology was improved and irrigation systems were constructed. Roads (macadam) amounting to approximately 500 kilometers were also constructed, and the street connecting the train station to the city itself was opened.

The most important building constructed during his governorship was Mekteb-i Sanayi. Besides this building, the Wheat Market Place, two flour mills, the Memleket Hospital, the Maarif Mill (“Education Mill”)3 (Fig. 4), police stations and a large number of fountains were also built. Furthermore, a branch of the Muze-i Humayun was opened in the garden of the İdadi building, İnce Minareli and Ali Gav medreses and Sadreddin Konyevi Mosque were restored. In 1906, while he was sadrazam, the horse-drawn tramway company was established and tramway system was put into operation (Fig. 5).

Mekteb-i Sanayi, which is used now by İl Ozel İdaresi, suffered fire damage in 1979. The three-storey building, including the basement, is in neo-Renaissance style. We know from various publications that according to a now lost inscription, the building was designed and constructed by engineer Sefik Bey and the glazed tiles were produced by Mehmet Emin in Kutahya (Fig. 6). Mekteb-i Sanayi was built on the

3 The Maarif Mill was constructed to fund Mekteb-i Sanayi. Unfortunately it was demolished. See: Kazgan 2001:190-207.
Fig. 4: Maarif Mill (A. S. Odabasi, Ed. 2000)

Fig. 6: Mekteb-i Sanayi Building (M. S. Akpolat)

Fig. 7: Plan of Mekteb-i Sanayi Building

Fig. 5: The horse-drawn tram (A. S. Odabasi, Ed. 2000)
area where the Konya bedesteni, a building with nine domes constructed in the 16th century during the reign of Kanuni Sultan Suleyman, the medrese of Suleyman and a fountain once existed. The plan of the building, which has four floors, including the half-basement and attic floor, was arranged symmetrically according to the entrance axis. A staircase with four steps leads to a portico. On the ground floor, there were four classrooms and two offices in addition to a large entrance hall, which was suitable for organizing exhibitions (Fig. 6). On the first floor, there existed two workshops of the same size at both ends of the corridor. The mid-section of the first floor contained the director’s office, three other offices and the main staircase. The attic floor was used as dormitory. In the basement, the kitchen, dining hall and depots were located.

Movement was achieved on the entrance elevation by a few architectural elements. The two towers with pyramidal roofs, which stand at both sides of the entrance and exceed the level of the eaves, are the most important architectural elements of this elevation. The triple window arrangement seen in all elevations, end with arches. The lunettes of the arches were covered with glazed tiles ornamented with classical Ottoman figures (Fig. 5).

Husnu Bey

Concerning the development activities, Husnu Bey is another prominent governor in Konya. We know that he appointed Muzaffer Bey, a famous architect of the period, as the head architect of Konya Province in 1914. This appointment gives us a general idea about the way he approached matters concerning the city and its architecture. The works that were realized under the very difficult circumstances of the First World War by Muzaffer Bey in Konya during six years, indicate, in a way, how the Governor, Husnu Bey encouraged and protected his artists.

Muzaffer Bey, who constructed two educational buildings and one monument, as well as restoring Konya’s Selimiye Mosque, graduated from Hendese-i Mulkiye Mektebi in 1888. He learned and

1 This plan and the other three plans that will follow were simplified and redrawn by the author for the article. They were based on the architectural drawings in the archive of Konya Regional Commission for Preservation of Cultural and Natural Properties.
practiced architecture in the offices and construction sites of the famous architect Vedat Bey. He attained a certain reputation as he won the first prize in the competition organized for *Abide-i Hurreyят* (Monument of Liberty) in 1911. Muzaffer Bey, who went to Konya at the invitation of Husnu Bey, quit his job in the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph and died in this city in 1920 at the age of 39 (Sozen, Dulgerler 1978:117).

**Darulmuallimin** (Normal School for Boys) was the first building designed and constructed by Muzaffer Bey in Konya (Fig.8). The building, which is 54m long and 22m wide, is known as Muzaffer Bey’s most successful architectural design. The monumental mass of the building is very impressive. The plan of the building, which reflects a functionalist and rationalist understanding is excellent (Fig. 9). There is an entrance at two ends of the building. After the entrance door, a two-flight staircase with a landing leads to the first and second floors. On both floors, there are classrooms, laboratories and administrative offices on both sides of the corridor, which extends in the east-west direction. All spaces are perfectly illuminated by natural light. The elevations of this big building were designed with an emphasis on symmetry. The main mass was divided in order to achieve more movement in the elevations (Fig. 8). On each floor, windows reflected

![Fig. 8: Darulmuallimin Building](A. S. Odabasi, Ed.2000)

![Fig. 9: Plan of Darulmuallimin Building]
different styles and forms. The building, which was located in a large garden, displayed fine stone craftsmanship. Furthermore, the blue ceramic tiles used in the main elevation, which faced the street, had a positive contribution to the architecture of the building. The wooden roof of the building had large eaves supported by traditional wooden elements and was covered with modern tiles. Konya's most important and most glorious building designed by Muzaffer Bey is today used as the Konya Lycée.

*Darulmuallimat* (Normal School for Girls) was also designed by Muzaffer Bey and its construction was completed by his assistant, architect Falih Ulku in 1924, after his death (Fig. 10). It was designed as a two-storey building on a half-basement. The building, which was placed in an east-west direction, had a rectangular plan, with a length and width of 40m and 24m, respectively. The eastern elevation, where the main entrance is located, was emphasized by making it a little longer than the western one. Similarly, the eaves over the main entrance were raised to achieve movement on the eastern elevation.
The secondary entrance of the building is on the western elevation. The entrance door to which access is provided by a marble staircase with seven steps, opens to a large corridor which extends along the building. Access is provided to the upper floor by a staircase with two flights, and is located on the left side of the corridor, near the mid-section (Fig.11). The classrooms and offices on the ground and first floors, which stand on both sides of the corridor are illuminated by natural light. The building attracts attention because of its interesting window arrangement. The use of two-coloured stones in the window arches is an important characteristic. Moreover, geometrical ornaments made of lath work under the eaves of the roof and the wooden supports are the easily-noticed architectural elements. This building was repaired after the 1976 fire damage and is currently used as the Rectorate Building of Selçuk University (Sozen, Dulgerler 1978:121-128).

Another work of Muzaffer Bey in Konya is the design of the Agriculture Monument, for which classical Ottoman ornamental elements were used intensively. It was transformed into the base of the Atatürk statue, with some amendments made by Falih Ulku in 1925 (Fig. 12).

Fig. 12: The Agriculture Monument (A. S. Odabasi, Ed. 2000)
Evaluation

The governors of this period aimed at achieving security, health and aesthetics in the settlements where they officiated, and they reached their aims to a great extent. Particularly during the reign of Abdulhamid II, a large number of public buildings, with schools taking the first place, were constructed. These efforts were not limited to the central city of the provinces, but similar implementations took place elsewhere.

The Ebniye Nizamnamesi (Building Regulation) was implemented strictly in all provinces. In many cities, grid plan quarters for immigrants were founded. Urban elements such as the Government Square (Hukumet Meydamı), Station Street (Istasyon Caddesi) and Nation Garden (Millet Bahcesi) were extensively implemented.

While some historical buildings, mosques and medreses were restored, some historical buildings were demolished where necessary, to obtain plots to construct modern buildings. Modernization was widely adopted by the governors, but economic constraints, insufficiencies in well-educated staff and wars hindered the final results. However, even the most modest governor constructed a clock tower in his city.

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