



Research Paper

Architectural Character of Tekirdag City during 20th Century

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ABSTRACT: *At the beginning of 1900s in Turkey, one of the most spatial strategy as regards the foundation of the Turkish discourse, was the development of nationalism. Nationalism affected architectural discourse and practice from the turn of the century into 1930s in Turkey. This spatial strategy has formed the architectural standpoint and labeled by architectural historians as First National Style or National Architecture Renaissance. As Bozdoğan states, National style which preceded modernism in Turkish architecture, were among to legacy of Ottoman revivalism. (Bozdoğan, 2001, 13). This style is left in many Turkish cities especially for government buildings, municipal buildings and schools. One of this Turkish city is Tekirdag, being on the north-west part of Turkey, representing related buildings.*

The main reason to display the buildings in this city is, the buildings of Tekirdag region is a neglected episode in the history of twentieth-century urbanism until quite recently. The establishment of these buildings in Turkey was driven by the nationalist and revivalist ethos of Turkey. Because they are symbolizing many of ideological objectives and cultural densities of Ottoman Period. Otherwise the buildings were not only belong to nationalist style but also to social and cultural development of city. This essay addresses especially public buildings which have a new face in architectural historiography, focusing on the visual representations produced by different architects. The present case study investigates how the architecture of this small city have been changed by these buildings. These buildings are; Old municipality Building, Government Building, Namik Kemal School and Archeology and Ethnography Museum (Governor House).

So, this study focuses on exploring these four public buildings of Tekirdag city on the edge of modernism in Turkey. Especially on site observations were conducted to investigate these buildings. This comprehensive urban and spatial search simplifies to understand the architectural texture of Tekirdag as well.

I. INTRODUCTION

Old Municipal Building

This municipality building is located in the district of Tekirdag Province Süleymanpaşa at Central Mosque neighborhood. In 1900, the building was constructed by the decision of Tekirdag Deputy Mayor Mehmet Adil Bey at that time. The architect is Armenian journeyman named as “Bögos”. (Anonym, 2014)

As to some references, the architect was affected from Paris Municipality building. It was built in neoclassical style, as a two-story masonry construction system. The roof is crushing and have wide eaves. Two main entrance were located on south and west sides. There are four marble columns in front of the door which have finished with mixed style column headers. The balconies mounted on the columns and aligned with the four pillars supporting the eaves of the roof of the entrance. Balcony railings were made of iron. The above part of great and rectangular shaped windows have fixed glass with two wings. Keystone sill and the lower end of the decorations are masonry elements. The entrance door of the building is made of wood biplane over decorated with carvings. Two main doors set into the marble columns and capitals, balconies and balcony railings, windows, wide eaves, it has enriched its ornate gates and exterior of the building. The west gate entrance of the highlights of the two columns and the head of the building's majesty to meet us. (Anonym, 2016)

Meanwhile, the inside architecture of the building shows neo-classical design also. The ceiling of the first and second floor hall of building is decorated with ornament details. However, ceiling console is among with tooth frieze decorations. The stairs to the top floor of the building is baroque splendor. Ornaments made with wood ceiling and the column headings are painted gold.



Figure 1. Old Municipality Building (Photos by Sermin Sentürk, 2015)

Government Building

It is located on Middle Mosque Housing, 100 island and number 6 part having 9254,88 m2 area. The main/front part is built in 1912-1913 by Governor Mr Husnu, the back part and front garden is built in 1934 by Governor Mr Azmi and Haşim İşcan. There is an Atatürk Monument in the middle of front garden which was built in 1934 by the Republican sculpture, Kenan Ali Yontuc. Today the building is indended to Ministry of Interior. (Anonym, 2003)

The architectural layout of building shows National Architecture Renaissance partially. At the entrance part, there are four marble columns, which are located under the balcony. Horizontal cycle bone wide flavors are opened to this balcony. Carrier columns were used as a decorative element to external walls. The windows are rectangular shaped and wide. Wooden ceiling have decorations and the stairs are in Barok Style. (Anonym, 2016)



Figure 1. Government Building (Photos by Sermin Sentürk, 2016)

Namık Kemal School

This school is located in 294 island, 1 part of Ertugrul region. It was built as a Greek School in 1909. It is a two-storey neo-classical syle primary building on a rectangular basement extending in the northwest-southwest direction on the long side. On the entrance door there is a triangular pedestal on both sides with a pedestal and column headers. It is also found on the corners of the pilasters and on the deaf corners of the window openings. Three floors of the building have a ground floor, a first floor and a second floor separating them from each other. Windows are rectangular. The main entrance gate is on the long side of the street. On the sides of this main door with a triangular pediment, there are three narrow long windows on the bases and column headers and square sections of pilasters. (Anonym, 2003)

On the entrance scene of the building, there are rectangular windows on either side of the door. The arabic cornice continues along the lower line of the windows. The basement windows are flat belts. (Anonym, 2016)



Figure 1. Namik Kemal School Building (Photos by Sermin Sentürk, 2016)

Archeology And Ethnography Museum (Governor House)

This museum is located in Rakoczi Street, 224 island, 4 part of Ertugrul region. The building was built in 1927 as a Governor House by architect Kazım Tahsin, while in 1977 it was given to “Culture and Tourism Ministry” to use as a museum. After a long restoration period, It was opened as a Tekirdag museum in 1992. The building has undergone another restoration period which has lasted between 2010 and 2012 years. From that time, it is Archeology and Ethnography Museum of Tekirdag city. (Satkın, 2012)

The building has three floors, built as a block system. The entrance which is designed on the north of the building is covered with blue and white Iznik tiles. There is an inscription on the entrance door. On the upper part, there is a balcony with two consoles. The horror of the balcony is decorated with circles and star motifs. The upper floor windows are arched with a cradle and the top is covered with İznik ceramics. The lower floor windows are in rectangular form and there are reliefs under the sills. There are two balconies in the western and southern parts of the building. The roof of the building is broken and covered with tiles. (Anonym, 2016)The first and third floors of the three-storey building have halls where archaeological and ethnographic artifacts are exhibited for museum value. The second floor is for administrative affairs. The museum's garden, which descends into terraces, is reserved for the display of monumental history and cultural assets.



Figure 1. Archeology and Ethnography Museum Building (Photos by Sermin Sentürk, 2016)

II. CONCLUSION

Architectural heritage of Tekirdag city shows a rich and comprehensive urban texture during the beginning of twentieth century. In order to regenerate the architecture of that period, research and presentation of buildings is a positive attitude after all. So, four public buildings which were chosen in Tekirdag, presented in this article. However there are much more such buildings but only four of them were exhibited now. Today some of them are under restoration period while the others have abandoned to fate. As a result, the main architectural idea of these buildings were to combine decorative elements derived from classical Ottoman architecture (ornate tile decoration) with beaux-arts design principles (symmetry and axiality) and new construction techniques (reinforced concrete, iron and steel)in buildings.

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