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THE HISTORICAL ISTANBUL CITY

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Abstract

The author's visits to Turkey were numerous, and took place from 2005 to 2014. They mostly related to visits to Istanbul, but also to cities in the Asian part of Turkey. Apart from Istanbul, which is located in both the European and Asian parts of Turkey, the author visited the city of Çanakkale, which, like Istanbul, was developed in both the European and Asian parts of Turkey. The visits to Istanbul had different reasons: a visit to Yildiz Technic Universty within the framework of the inter-faculty cooperation of the two faculties (when the author was the dean of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Sarajevo), a visit to the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) at a large number of scientific conferences (and participation in summer schools organized by IRCICA throughout Turkey) and rest and leisure. The visit to the city of Çanakkale took place from November 3 to 5, 2010, when the author participated in an international scientific symposium (with the theme „Bosnia and Herzegovina's Architectural Tradition: Bosnian Mosques“).

Keywords: family, social system, conflict zone, intra-family relations, family crisis, family issues, mental trauma

1. Intruduction

The author's visits to Turkey were numerous, and took place from 2005 to 2014 (Figure 1). They mostly related to visits to Istanbul, but also to cities in the Asian part of Turkey. Apart from Istanbul, which is located in both the European and Asian parts of Turkey, the author visited the city of Çanakkale, which, like Istanbul, was developed in both the European and Asian parts of Turkey. The visits to Istanbul had different reasons: a visit to Yildiz Technic Universty within the framework of the inter-faculty cooperation of the two faculties (when the author was the dean of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Sarajevo), a visit to the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) at a large

number of scientific conferences (and participation in summer schools organized by IRCICA throughout Turkey).



Figure 1. Map of Turkey. (The places the author visited (the European part of Turkey) are marked with red squares, and the places the author visited (the Asian part of Turkey) with yellow squares)

Source: Hadrovic, A. (2018). Architecture in the travelogues of an architect. Book 1: Balkan, Faculty of Architecture University in Sarajevo, Sarajevo, pp. 1119 - 1189 (in Bosnian)

Istanbul is a city (with about 15.91 million inhabitants, 2022) ^[1,2] located on the Bosphorus strait between the Marmara and Black seas, at the point where two continents - Europe and Asia - meet. It is the most populous city in Europe and the seventh largest city in the world (Geographic coordinates: 41°00'26.02"N, 28°58'41.67"E, Elevation: 33 m), (Figure 2).

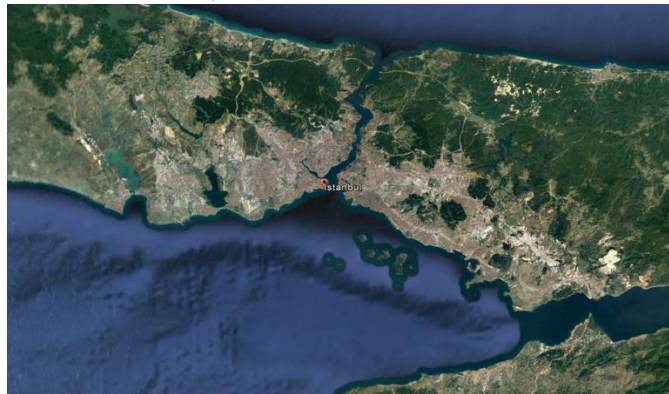


Figure 2. Istanbul. Location

Source: Google Earth. Accessed: November 12, 2023.

Archaeological findings (at the beginning of the 21st century) confirm the presence of people in this area from 6000 years ago BC. The first human settlement on the Asian side of the city of Istanbul (Fikirtepe Mound) dates back to the Copper Age (5500-3500 BC), while on the European side a Thracian settlement (Lygos) was built near Cape Sarayburnu, which dates back to the first millennium BC. Istanbul was founded (660 BC) as Byzantium (Βυζάντιον) on Cape Sarayburnu, while an acropolis was built next to the Golden Horn Bay ^[3,4]. For a short time (during the 5th century BC) Byzantium was in the possession of Persia, only to be recaptured by the Greeks after the Greco-Persian Wars (499-449 BC) ^[5]. The city officially became part of the Roman Empire in the year 73 ^[6]. Constantine the Great (Constantine I, 272-337) became emperor of the Roman Empire in September 324, and two months later announced a plan to build a new Christian city (Latin: Nova Roma) that would replace the previous Byzantium ^[7]. On May 11, 330, the city was named Constantinople (Constantinopolis, Greek: Κωνσταντινούπολις) to be the imperial city for 16 centuries during the Roman (330-1204), Latin (1204-1261) and Byzantine (1261-1453) empires. and after it was conquered (1453) by Sultan Mehmed II the Conqueror (1432-1481) it was also (1453-1922) the imperial city of the Ottoman Empire ^[7]. The founding of Constantinopolis was the most significant strategic decision and work of Constantine the Great by which he transferred the power of the Roman Empire to the east, since the city became the center of Greek culture and Christianity. Soon, many churches were built in the city, including Hagia Sophia, built (537) during the reign of Justinian the Great (Justinian I, 482-565). During most of the Middle Ages, especially near the end of the Byzantine Empire, Constantinopolis was the largest and richest city in Europe, sometimes in the world. Immediately after its foundation, Constantinopolis had the name New Rome (Greek: Νέα Ρώμη).

Until the 19th century, Constantinopolis had different names in Europe, and among the Ottomans themselves: Stamboul, Pera, Beyoğlu, Islambol (City of Islam, Full of Islam, the name used during the reign (1703-1730) of Sultan Ahmet III, 1673-1736), Islambul (Find Islam), Der Saadet (Turkish: type of prosperity). Today's name "Istanbul" comes from the medieval Greek name "εἰς τὴν Πόλιν" ("that city"), which referred to "the only real city around". The development of Constantinopolis began to decline after the reign of the Byzantine emperor Basil II (958-1025), especially after it was conquered and plundered by Geoffroi de Villehardouin (1150-1213) and Enrico Dandolo (1107-1205) during the 4th Crusade. For a short period of time (1204-1261), the city was the seat of the Latin Empire, which was founded by the Crusaders as a replacement for the Orthodox Byzantium. Then (1204) the Hagia Sophia church was converted into a Catholic church.

The Ottomans, led by Sultan Mehmed II Fatih the Conqueror, occupied Constantinople on May 29, 1453. year, after a two-month siege, when the last Roman emperor Constantine XI (Constantine XI Dragases Palaiologos, 1405-1453) died. Immediately after the conquest of the city, the Hagia Sophia church was declared the Imperial Mosque, Constantinopolis Kaysar-i Rûm, and the former Ottoman state the Ottoman Empire. Immediately after the conquest of Constantinople, Sultan Mehmed II the Conqueror began intensive reconstruction of the city and invited all those who had left the city during the siege. In addition, he invited Muslims and Jews to move to Istanbul from the vast area of Anatolia. The newly deported population was called "Sürgün" (Greek: σουργουνδες). Mehmed II the Conqueror invited all Greek refugees and residents throughout Europe to settle in this city in order to create a cosmopolitan society with an ingenious vision of its progress and development. Mehmed II Fatih understood the power of the synergy of different cultures, peoples and traditions, and this idea will be the main driving force of Istanbul to this day. In a relatively short period of time, the Ottomans transposed the former Constantinople, the stronghold of Christianity, into a symbol of Islamic culture. Under the auspices of charitable foundations (waqfs) of wealthy individuals (among whom were sultans, members of their families, high-ranking government officials and wealthy citizens in general), many buildings were built in a wide variety of architectural programs: mosques, madrasahs, hospitals (hastahans), inns, caravanserais, imareta, hammams, bridges, water pipes, (...). Many of these buildings today belong to the greatest ranges of world architecture in general, and many of them are included in the UNESCO list of world cultural heritage. At the beginning of the 19th century, Sultan Mahmud II (1785-1839) initiated many reforms (the period known as the Tanzimat) in an effort to keep the (already) rigid Ottoman Empire at bay from the comprehensive progress of Europe. In this period, bridges were built on the Golden Horn, Istanbul was connected to Europe by rail, a wide water supply and sewage network was built, the city was supplied with electricity, trams, and a telephone network... At the beginning of the 20th century, during the Young Turk Revolution (1908), radical state and social reforms with the intention of introducing the Ottoman state into the modern era. The institution of the assembly (which was suspended by the sultan in 1878) was restored. One of the slogans of the Young Turks was "Ottoman Empire of the Ottomans", which was a radical nationalist proclamation that all other nations and religions in the Ottoman Empire saw as an attack on their freedom. This slogan, in its implementation, meant the introduction of Turkish as an official

language in the Empire and hinted at "the feeling of belonging to the single nation of the Empire". This movement strengthened the struggle of the people, within the Ottoman Empire, for their own national states, which is what happened. Ottoman Sultan Mehmed VI (1861-1926) was exiled (1922) from the country, and Mustafa Kemal Pasha (Atatürk, 1881-1938) entered the historical stage. The Treaty of Lausanne (which was signed at the end of the peace conference, 20/11/1922-24/07/1923) recognized the new state of the Republic of Turkey, which was proclaimed by Mustafa Kemal Pasha Atatürk, as its first president. Ankara was (1923) declared the capital of the new state. Despite the fact that it was no longer the capital, Istanbul did not lose any of its importance since it continued to generate its strength from its geopolitical position and from the whole of Turkey and beyond. Its restoration and development were especially intensified in the period 1940-1950, and continuously until today.

This work is the result of a series of study trips to Turkey. The aim of the study trips was to get to know the cities on the spot and through their analysis (through 'cabinet work') to contribute to the author's theory of „Architecturally defined space“ [8,9,10,11] (Figure 1).

2. Natural resources and sights

According to the Köppen-Geiger climate classification, Istanbul has a Csa type climate [12]. The average temperature in Istanbul is 14.9 °C. The annual amount of precipitation is 728 mm/m2. In Istanbul, summers are warm, humid, dry and clear, and winters are long, cold, windy and partly cloudy. During the year, the temperature usually varies from 4 °C to 29 °C and is rarely below -1 °C or above 32 °C. The warm season lasts 3.1 months, from June 10 to September 14, with an average daily temperature above 25 °C. The hottest month of the year in Istanbul is August, with an average high of 28 °C and a low of 21 °C. The cold season lasts 3.9 months, from November 29 to March 25, with an average daily temperature below 13 °C. The coldest month of the year in Istanbul is February, with an average low of 4 °C and a high of 9 °C. In Istanbul, the average percentage of the sky covered by clouds experiences extreme seasonal variation over the course of the year. The brighter part of the year in Istanbul begins around May 26 and lasts for 4.2 months, ending around October 2. The clearest month of the year in Istanbul is July, during which the sky is clear, mostly clear, or partly cloudy 96% of the time. The cloudier part of the year begins around October 2 and lasts for 7.8 months, ending around May 26. The cloudiest month of the year in Istanbul is December, during which the sky is cloudy or mostly cloudy 57% of the time. The wet season lasts for 7.0 months, from October 2 to May 1, with a greater than 19% chance of a given day being a rainy day. The month with the most rainy days in Istanbul is December, with an average of 9.5 days with at least 1.00 millimeters of precipitation. The drier season lasts for 5.0 months, from May 1 to October 2. The month with the fewest rainy days in Istanbul is July, with an average of 2.3 days with at least 1.00 millimeters of precipitation. Among rainy days, we distinguish those that have only rain, only snow or a mixture of the two. The month with the most rainy days in Istanbul alone is December, with an average of 9.1 days. According to this categorization, the most common form of precipitation throughout the year is rain itself, with a peak probability of 31% on December 13. It rains in Istanbul throughout the year. The rainiest month in Istanbul is December, with an average rainfall of 72 millimeters. The month with the least rain in Istanbul is July, with an average rainfall of 15

millimeters. As with rain, we consider snowfall accumulated over a 31-day sliding period centered around each day of the year. Istanbul experiences some seasonal variation in monthly snowfall. The snow period of the year lasts for 1.2 months, from January 26 to March 1, with a sliding 31-day snowfall of at least 25 millimeters. The month with the most snow in Istanbul is February, with an average amount of snow of 35 millimeters. The snow-free period of the year lasts 11 months, from March 1 to January 26. The least snow falls around July 25, with an average total accumulation of 0 millimeters. We base the humidity comfort level on the dew point, as it determines whether sweat will evaporate from the skin, thus cooling the body. Lower dew points appear drier and higher dew points appear wetter. Unlike temperature, which usually varies significantly between night and day, dew point tends to change more slowly, so while the temperature may drop at night, a sultry day is usually followed by a sultry night. Istanbul experiences significant seasonal variation in perceived humidity. The stronger period of the year lasts for 3.0 months, from June 16 to September 16, during which time the comfort level is sultry, oppressive, or miserable at least 12% of the time. The month with the most humid days in Istanbul is August, with 12.7 days that are humid or worse. The least humid day of the year is February 21st, when humid conditions are practically unheard of. The average hourly wind speed in Istanbul experiences significant seasonal variation over the course of the year. The windiest part of the year lasts for 8.7 months, from July 7 to March 29, with an average wind speed greater than 4.6 meters per second. The windiest month of the year in Istanbul is February, with an average hourly wind speed of 5.2 meters per second. The quieter time of the year lasts 3.3 months, from March 29 to July 7. The calmest month of the year in Istanbul is May, with an average hourly wind speed of 3.9 meters per second. The prevailing average hourly wind direction in Istanbul varies throughout the year. The wind is most often from the east for 1.8 months, from September 1 to October 27 and for 1.0 weeks, from November 12 to November 19, with a peak percentage of 44% on September 3. The wind is most often from the north for 2.3 weeks, from October 27 to November 12 and for 9.2 months, from November 25 to September 1, with a peak percentage of 35% on October 27. The wind is most often from the south on 6.0 days, from November 19 to November 25, with a peak percentage of 29% on November 22. Istanbul is located near a large body of water (eg an ocean, sea or large lake). The average water temperature experiences extreme seasonal variations throughout the year. The season with warmer water lasts 3.4 months, from June 17 to September 30, with an average temperature above 21 °C. The month of the year with the warmest water in Istanbul is August, with an average temperature of 24 °C. The colder water season lasts 3.9 months, from December 18 to April 16, with an average temperature below 11 °C. The month of the year with the coldest water in Istanbul is February, with an average temperature of 8 °C [13] (Figure 3).

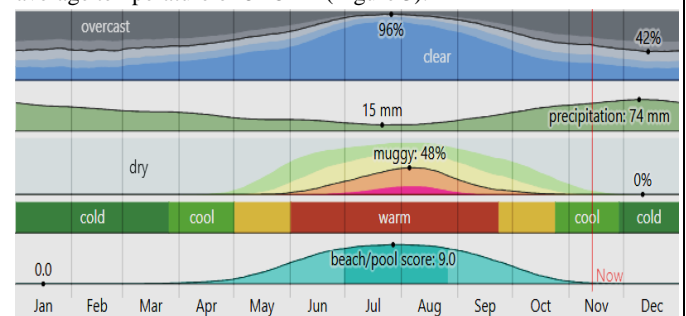


Figure 3. Istanbul weather by month

Source: Climate and Average Weather Year Round in İstanbul, Turkey

<https://weatherspark.com/y/95434/Average-Weather-in-%C4%B0stanbul-Turkey-Year-Round>, Accessed: November 13, 2023.

Istanbul's greatest and most significant natural resource is its geopolitical position. Developed on the Bosphorus Strait, Istanbul connects two continents, Europe and Asia, that is, the entire spectrum of cultures of East and West. Connecting the Black Sea with the Mediterranean, Istanbul connects the peoples and cultures of the North and the South. It could be said that the whole of today's Turkey with all its potential, as well as a much wider area, is a resource of Istanbul, and that Istanbul is one of the main resources of Turkey. Everything that Tursaka owns is represented through Istanbul. After it was established (330) as the seat of the Eastern Roman Empire on the site of the then city of Byzantium, Constantinopolis got a powerful aqueduct that supplied the city with drinking water. Along with the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn, the global image of the city of Istanbul is defined by the hills that were named after the most important urban-architectural structures. In this way, this city is very similar to the city of Rome. The most important of the city's hills is Sarayburnu, on which the Topkapi Palace was built. To the southwest of the top of the palace is the Sultan Ahmet district, and to the northwest is the Sultan Fatih district. Opposite Sarayburnu, on the other side of the Golden Horn, is a hill on which the Beyoğlu district was developed. The highest hill (288 m above sea level) in the area of today's Istanbul is Çamlica, in the Üsküdar settlement, in the Asian part of the city.

The Bosphorus (Greek: Βόσπορος, Turkish: İstanbul Boğazı or Boğaz) is a strait that separates Europe and Asia (that is, the European part of Turkey-Rumelia and the Asian part of Turkey-Anatolia) and connects the Black (in the north) and the Sea of Marmara (in the south). The strait is about 30 km long, about 3.70 km wide, and 36 to 124 m deep (Figures 4-8).

The European and Asian parts of the mainland are connected by three bridges across the Bosphorus:

1. The first bridge or the 15th of July Martyrs' Bridge (Boğaziçi Köprüsü or "Bosphorus I") which is 1,074 km long, built in 1973.
2. Bridge of Sultan Mehmed II Fatih-Conqueror (Sultan Mehmed Fatih Köprüsü or "Bosphorus II"), which is 11,090 km long, built in 1988.

Sultan Selim I Bridge (Yavuz Sultan Selim Köprüsü or "Bosphorus III"), which is 2,164 km long, 5 m wide and 322 m high, was built in 2016.

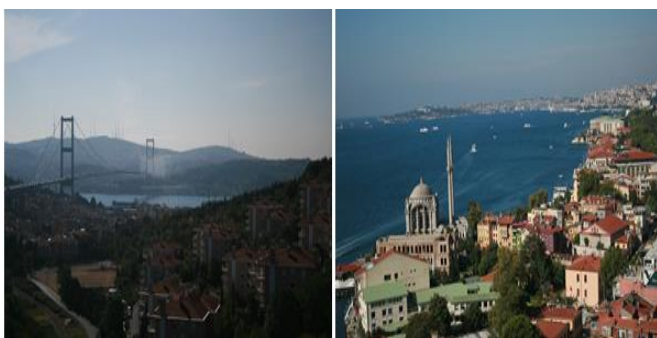


Figure 4. Bosphorus. Left: The first bridge or the 15th of July Martyrs' Bridge (Boğaziçi Köprüsü or "Bosphorus I") which is

1,074 km long, built in 1973. Right: View from the First Bridge or 15th of July Martyrs' Bridge (Boğaziçi Köprüsü or "Bosphorus I") towards Topkapi Palace and the Black Sea

Source: Author (August 7, 2007)



Figure 5. Bosphorus. Left: View from the First Bridge or 15th of July Martyrs' Bridge (Boğaziçi Köprüsü or "Bosphorus I") towards Topkapi Palace and the Black Sea. Right: View from the First Bridge or 15th of July Martyrs' Bridge (Boğaziçi Köprüsü or "Bosphorus I") towards the Sea of Marmara

Source: Author (August 7, 2007)



Figure 6. Bosphorus. Left: View of the Bosphorus from a hotel in Taksim. Right: View from the Bosphorus to Topkapi Palace

Source: Author (August 7, 2007)



Figure 7. Bosphorus. Left: author on the Bosphorus - view of the First Bridge or 15th July Martyrs' Bridge (Boğaziçi Köprüsü or "Bosphorus I") from the Bosphorus. Right: Bosphorus boat traffic

Source: Faruk Mekiç (August 3, 2007)



Figure 8. Bosphorus. Night tour of the Bosphorus and entertainment on board

Source: Author (August 28, 2007)

The Golden Horn (Greek: Χρυσόκερας, Turkish: Haliç) is a bay along the Bosphorus that separates the old urban core of Istanbul from its modern part. This is a deep natural harbor that, in the very north of the bay, is affected by the rivers Alibeyköy and Kağıthane. The Golden Horn is 7.5 km long, 750 m wide, and the maximum depth (in contact with the Bosphorus) is about 35 m^[14]. Zlatni rog bay is bridged today by five bridges:

1. The Old Galata Bridge (Turkish: Eski Galata Köprüsü), originally built in 1912, only to be rebuilt (in 1992) upstream from the old location of the bridge after a fire (caused in a restaurant under the bridge's carriageway). The bridge connects the city districts of Eminönü and Karaköy.
2. The Atatürk Bridge (Turkish: Atatürk Köprüsü or Unkapanı Köprüsü) was built in 1940 and connects the city districts of Unkapanı and Kasımpaşa.
3. Haliç Bridge, built in 1974, connecting the city districts of Sıtlıce and Defterdar.
4. Galata Bridge (Turkish: Galata Köprüsü) was built in 1994 and connects the city districts of Eminönü and Karaköy.
5. Golden Horn Metro Bridge (Turkish: Haliç Metro Köprüsü), English: Golden Horn Metro Bridge) is a pedestrian bridge built in 2014, as part of the Istanbul Metro (M2) over the Golden Horn.

The Bosphorus, together with the Golden Horn Bay, is the backbone on which Istanbul (formerly Byzantium and Constantinople) was born and developed (Figure 9).



Figure 9. The Golden Horn in Istanbul

Source: <https://istanbulclues.com/istanbul-golden-horn-map/>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Büyük Çamlıca Hill is located within the borders of Üsküdar district on the Anatolian side of Istanbul. Büyük Çamlıca (Sefa) Hill is located at 268 m above sea level and is home to Nurbaba (Bektaş) Hut and Küçük Çamlıca TV Tower. The buildings of Büyük Çamlıca, located on a hill that was restored by historical conservator, writer and poet Çelik Gülersoy (1930-2003), are often the destination of domestic and foreign tourists due to their natural and picturesque location and pleasant and clean air (Figure 10).



Figure 10. View from Büyük Çamlıca Hill to Istanbul

Source: Author (August 5, 2007)



Figure 11. Author visiting Büyük Çamlıca Hill

Source: Faruk Mekiç (August 5, 2007)

3. Architectural cultural and historical heritage

Istanbul is a city with a layered cultural heritage dating back to 6000 BC. The first human settlement on the Asian side of the city of Istanbul (Fikirtepe Mound) dates from the Copper Age (5500-3500), while on the European side a Thracian settlement (Lygos) was built near Cape Sarayburnu, which dates back to the first millennium BC. The city of Byzantium (Βυζάντιον) was founded (in 660 BC) on Cape Sarayburnu. Constantinople (Constantinople) was founded on May 11, 330. The Ottomans, led by Sultan Mehmed II Fatih the Conqueror, occupied Constantinople on May 29, 1453. years. From each of the mentioned periods of the city's history, traces of material culture remain, where the share of architecture is extremely significant

(Figures 12-89). "Until recently, it was believed that the history of Istanbul began in 667 BC, when, according to legend, people from the settlements of Megara, Argos and Corinth in mainland Greece migrated to the area, an important intercontinental crossing point. However, the excavation results of Yarımburgaz cave, Fikirtepe, Pendik settlement and Marmaray site revealed that agricultural communities appeared in the Istanbul area as early as 6500 BC" [15]. "These results shed light on a previously hidden period in the history of Istanbul. Limited evidence of the Chalcolithic period (5500 – 3200 BC) was found in Yarımburgaz Cave. Traces of settlements from the Early Bronze Age, dated 3200 – 200 BC, appeared in the form of pottery and stone tools; they were found on the surface around the Küçükçekmece lake and in the Silivri-Selimpaşa mound, located on the European side of Istanbul. There is no archaeological evidence for a period of almost 1,000 years (2000 – 1200/1180 BC), which includes the Middle and Late Bronze Ages. During this period, some great civilizations and empires—including the Hittites, Hurrians, Arzavas, Achaean-Mycenaeans, Ashuras, and Egyptians—emerged in and around Anatolia and struggled to expand their power. This gap is surprising, given that this period witnessed the most extensive trading activities and wars in human history. There is also no archaeological evidence for the end of the Late Bronze Age and the beginning of the Early Iron Age (1850 and 1200/1180 BC)" [15]. "However, written sources tell us that the Thracians/Phrygians came to Anatolia at that time through the straits. Although excavations at Troy have established that the Phrygians passed through the Dardanelles into Anatolia, there is no evidence of their passing through the Bosphorus. For the above reasons and in order to shed light on the early history of Istanbul, a number of projects have been launched in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Kocaeli University. Following the Istanbul Prehistoric Archaeological Field Research Project in 2007, excavations at Bathonea (Küçükçekmece Lake Basin) began in 2009. Aiming to fill in the gaps in Istanbul's history with archaeological evidence, both projects are still ongoing. Research in the field revealed new discoveries and provided additional information on previously known facts. They took place on the European side of Istanbul in the districts of Avcılar, Küçükçekmece, Silivri, Çatalca, Başakşehir and Beylikdüzü" [15] (Figure 12).

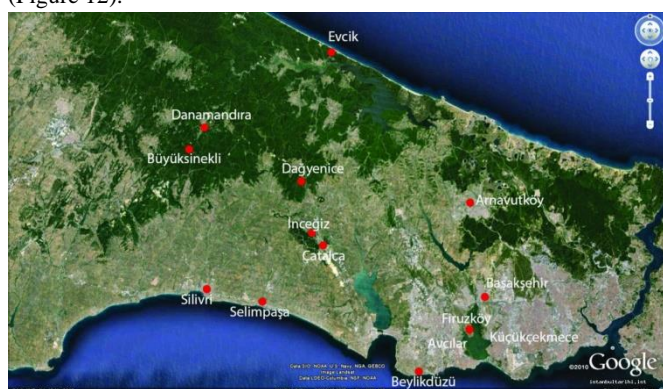


Figure 12. The map of archeological research areas in Istanbul

Source: <https://istanbultarihi.ist/387-the-contributions-to-istanbul-of-the-prehistoric-archaeological-field-surveys-and-the-banthona-excavations>, Accessed: November 14, 2023.

The Yenikapı site, located in the district of Istanbul, was discovered during the construction of stations developed by the Turkish Ministry of Transport and the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality. Excavations in 2010 covered an area of 85,000

square meters and began at 3 meters above sea level. The experts decided to preserve the land architectural remains, such as the sea walls and part of the breakwater, in the original place. Remains of Neolithic origin were also discovered, which contributed to the understanding of the Neolithicization of this region, especially in terms of grave architecture, as well as Ottoman cisterns and workshops. During the excavations, the port of Theodosius was discovered, the largest port in the early Byzantine period. This port, built by Theodosius (379-393) as the new capital of the Roman Empire expanded, was heavily used from the 4th to the 11th century, and the remains of ships show that after the 11th century it became accessible only to small ships. It seems to have been completely buried in the 16th century. The remains of 37 Byzantine ships dating from the 5th to the 11th century have been found, representing one of the world's largest repertoires of ancient ships. These shipwrecks are extremely well preserved and, along with the remains of the infrastructure, are a significant source of knowledge about the maritime trade of Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire (330-1453)' [15,16] (Figure 13).



Figure 13. The 2000-Year-Old Harbor Found Buried Underneath Istanbul

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PA8J6pp7hPg>, Accessed: November 15, 2023.

Among the most famous examples of architectural cultural-historical heritage from the era of ancient Rome and Byzantium (627 BC-1453) are: Hippodrome, Roman aqueduct and cisterns, City walls, Hagia Sophia, Hagia Irene, Church of St. Sergija i Bakha (Church of the Saints Sergius and Bacchus, Little Hagia Sophia), Crkva Hora (The Church of the Holy Savior in Chora (Greek: Ἐκκλησία τοῦ Ἁγίου Σωτῆρος ἐν τῇ Χώρα, Turkish: Kariye Müzesi, Kariye Camii, Kariye Kilisesi) , Monastery of Christ Pontokrator (today Zeyrek Mosque), Galata Tower, Leander Tower, Church of St. Mary of the Mongols (Greek: Θεοτόκος Παναγιώτισσα, Turkish: Kanlı Kilise = "Church of Blood").

Hippodrome of Emperor Constantine I (Turkish: Sultanahmet Meydanı or At Meydanı). The hippodrome was built during the restoration of Byzantium (324) on the site of an older hippodrome (203) from the time of Emperor Septimius Severus (Septimie Severus, 145-211). The dimensions of the base of the hippodrome were 450x130 m. It could accommodate 100,000 spectators. The imperial lodge (kathisma) was located on its eastern side with the access of the imperial family through a secret tunnel from the Imperial Palace. On the northern stands of the hippodrome were bronze sculptures known as "Horses of St. Mark" which were looted by the Crusaders during the 4th Crusade and taken to Venice (where they can still be seen today on the entrance facade of the Church of St. Mark). The obelisk on the former hippodrome of Emperor Constantine I (Constantine I, 272-337), on Sultan Ahmed square, near the later built Sultan Ahmed mosque, was erected by Emperor Theodosius (Theodosius I, 347-395), (Figure 14).



Figure 14. Hippodrome in Istanbul. Obelisk

Source: Author (December 10, 2007)

The Roman aqueduct in Istanbul is known as the Valens aqueduct (Greek: Ἀγωγὸς τοῦ ὕδατος = Agōgós tou hýdatos, meaning "aqueduct", Turkish: Valens Su Kemerı or Bozdoğan Kemerı, meaning "gray falcon aqueduct"), the Roman emperor Hadrian began to build (Publius Aelius Hadrianus Augustus, 76-138), continued by Emperor Constantine I (Constantine I, 272-337), to be finally completed (368) by Emperor Valens of the Eastern Roman Empire (Flavius Julius Valens Augustus, 328-378). The aqueduct supplied the city of Constantinopolis with drinking water from the hillsides between Kağıthane and the Sea of Marmara. The water supplied to the city was stored in three open pools and in over a hundred underground cisterns, among which is the famous Basilica cistern. The aqueduct was later used by Byzantium and the Ottoman Empire. The total length of this aqueduct is 971 m, width 7.75-824 m, and height (on average) 29 m (Figure 15).



Figure 15. Roman aqueduct in Istanbul (Built by Constantine in the late 4th century)

Source: <https://www.guidedistanbultours.com/aqueducts-to-visit-in-istanbul/>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

The Church of Christ the Savior in the Field/Church of the Hora (Greek: Ἐκκλησία τοῦ Ἁγίου Σωτήρος ἐν τῇ Χώρα, Turkish: Kariye Müzesi, Kariye Camii, Kariye Kilisesi) is one of the most beautiful Byzantine churches in general, primarily because of its mosaics and frescoes. The church was built in the first half of the 5th century in today's Edirnekapi district of Istanbul, in the western part of the Fatih municipality. After the Ottoman conquests, the church was turned into a mosque, and since 1948 it has been a museum. The name of this church was determined by its location, where Chora ("in the field") indicated that the church was located outside the walls of Constantinople. After the construction of the walls of Theodosius, the church found itself within their framework, in the relationship between the old walls of Constantinopolis and the walls of Theodosius. The present appearance of the church was created during the Palaiolog dynasty (1077-1081) when it was renovated by Maria Dukaina, the mother-

in-law of Emperor Alexios I Komnenos (Alexios I Komnenos, 1048-1118), (Figure 16).

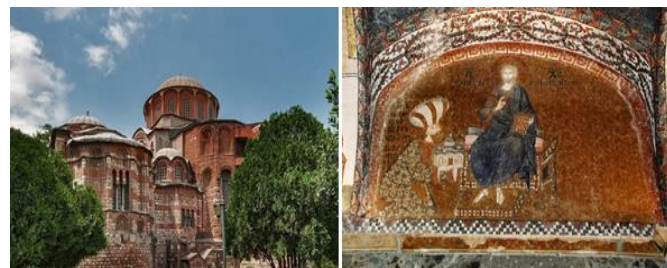


Figure 16. Church of Christ the Savior in the field

Source: <https://catalog.obitel-minsk.com/blog/2020/09/church-of-christ-the-saviour-at-chora-monastery-ultimately-became-a-mosque>

Accessed: November 16, 2023.

The Basilica Cistern (Turkish: Yerebatan Sarayı or Yerebatan Sarnıcı = Sunken Palace or Sunken Cistern) is the largest of the several hundred cisterns that were built in Constantinople to store water supplied by the Valens aqueduct. The cistern was built in the 6th century during the reign of the Byzantine emperor Justinian I (Justinian I, 482-565). The cistern is located about 150 m away from the Hagia Sophia, under the former ancient basilica, which is why it got its name. The column bases of this cistern are made in the form of Medusa heads (Figure 17).



Figure 17. Basilica Cistern

Source: Author (August 3, 2007)

Church of St. Sergius and Bacchus (Church of the Saints Sergius and Bacchus), Little Hagia Sophia). The church was built (527) by Emperor Justinian I (482-565). It got its name because of its close resemblance to the Hagia Sophia. It was built, before the Hagia Sophia, by the master Artemije from Tral and, according to belief, the master Artemije acquired the skills he would use in the construction of the Hagia Sophia (537) at this church (Figure 18).



Figure 18. Church of St. Sergius and Bacchus (it was converted into a mosque)

Source: <https://www.livius.org/pictures/turkey/istanbul/constantinople-ss-sergius-and-bacchus/sergius-and-bacchus-exterior/>

Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Source: <https://www.viator.com/Istanbul-attractions/Kucuk-Ayasofia-Camii-Church-of-the-Saints-Sergius-and-Bacchus/overview/d585-a8870>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

The Basilica of Aya Sofia (Turkish: Ayasofya, Greek: Αγία Σοφία, English: Holy Wisdom, Latin: Sancta Sophia, Sancta Sapientia), is a building originally built (532-537) as a church, to be remodeled during the Ottoman Empire (1453-1935) into a mosque, and during the Republic of Turkey (from 1935) into a museum. The Hagia Sophia has been on the UNESCO list of world cultural heritage since 1985 [17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29]. On July 10, 2020, the Hagia Sophia Basilica was converted into a mosque. This object was created by the mathematicians Anthemius from Tralo (474-533) and Isidore from Miletus (442-537) by order of Emperor Justinian I (482-565). After the construction was destroyed in the middle of Nika's revolt (532), its construction continued and was completed in 537. This building is a masterpiece of Byzantine architecture and one of the greatest achievements in the overall history of architecture. This conclusion of the history and theory of architecture is based on the realized architectural-spatial and constructive innovations and values of Hagia Sophia, and its place and role in creating the identity of people, peoples and cultures that grew during its long physical stability (Figure 19).



Figure 19. Hagia Sophia (Author in front of and in Hagia Sophia)

Source: Faruk Mekic (August 3, 2007)

Church of St. Irene/Church of Saint Peace (Greek: Αγία Ειρήνη, Turkish: Aya İrini) is a former Byzantine church, now a museum, located in the first courtyard of Topkapi Palace. The church was built (537) by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I on the site of an older church of the same name that was built by Emperor Constantine I in the 4th century on the site of a pagan temple. The church was expanded during the 11th and 12th centuries to a base size of 100 x 32 m (Figure 20).



Figure 20. Church of St. Irene/Church of Saint Peace

Source: Author (August 4, 2007)

Theodosian Walls in Istanbul (Greek: τείχος Θεοδοσιακόν = teichos Theodosiakon) are the outer walls of Constantinople built by Emperor Theodosius II (Theodosius II, 401-450). These walls are the last defense complex built in Antiquity, and it is considered the most complicated and luxurious defense system ever built. The first walls of Constantinople were built (in the 4th century) by Emperor Constantine I (Constantine I, 272-337). As the city expanded beyond these walls, Emperor Theodosius II built new walls, about 1.5 km away from the first walls. Most of these walls were built (413) by the architect Anthemius. These walls resisted the attacks of Avars, Arabs, Kievan Rus and Bulgarians. During the 4th Crusade, the Crusaders broke through (1204) the defenses of Constantinopolis and then devastated the city. Later (1261) Stratigopolis, a Nicaean general, conquered the city, ending the Latin Empire established by the Crusaders. During the Ottoman Empire, the walls were preserved, but their removal began in the 19th century due to the expansion of the city outside its old core (Figure 21).



Figure 21. Theodosian Walls in Istanbul

Source: Author (August 4, 2007)

The Monastery of Christ Pantokrator (Greek: Μονή τοῦ Παντοκράτορος Χριστοῦ, Turkish: Pantokrator Manastırı) is a complex of two churches and chapels, the second largest complex (after Hagia Sophia) of Byzantine churches built in Constantinople (Istanbul). The monastery was built (1118-1124) by the Byzantine empress Eirene Komnene (Eirene Komnene Doukaina, ruled 1246-1254). The complex is located in Fazilet Sokağı, in Zeyrek district, Fatih district, about 1 km away from the Eski Imaret Mosque. After the Ottomans captured Constantinopolis (1453), the church was turned into a mosque (Zeyrek Camii), after which the city quarter got its name (Figure 22).



Figure 22. Monastery of Christ Pantokrator (Zeyrek Mosque today)

Source: <https://istanbulclues.com/christ-pantokrator-church-istanbul/>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Church of St. Mary of the Mongols (Greek: Θεοτόκος Παναγιώτισσα, Turkish: Kanlı Kilise = "Bloody Church"). The church was built in 1281. This is the only church in Istanbul that was never converted into a mosque and continuously served the Greek Orthodox Church (Figure 23).



Figure 23. Church of St. Mary of the Mongols

Source: <https://www.thebyzantinelegacy.com/mouchliotissa>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Galata Tower (Latin: Christea Turris = Tower of Christ, Turkish: Galata Kulesi) is a cylindrical tower built (1348) by the Genoese colony. The tower was built of stone, in (today's) Galata/Karaköy district, Beyoğlu (Pera) district, north of the Golden Horn. The tower is 66.9 m high with an outer diameter of 16.45 m and walls 3.75 m thick. Today, this building houses a night club with an exclusive restaurant on the highest (ninth) floor, from where you can enjoy a wide view of the old city center of Istanbul and the Bosphorus (Figure 24).



Figure 24. Galata Tower (Author at the Galata Tower restaurant)

Source: Author (December 10, 2007)

Source: Selim Causevic (December 10, 2007)

Rumeli Fortress (Turkish: Rumelihisarı/Boğazkesen) is a medieval fortress located on the European shore of the Bosphorus. The fortress was built (1451-1452) by order of Sultan Mehmed II the Conqueror with the aim of conquering Constantinople. After the capture of Constantinople, the fort served as a customs checkpoint and occasional prison. Today, the fort is a museum, and its open space serves as a stage for concerts, festivals and various performances (Figure 25).



Figure 25. Rumeli Fortress (View from the Bosphorus)

Source: Author (August 5, 2007)

The range of architectural programs of the architectural cultural-historical heritage from the era of the Ottoman Empire is short. The following stand out here:

- Mosques: Mosque of Sultan Mehmed II Fatih, Mosque of Sultan Ahmed (Ahmedija), Mosque of Sultan Suleiman (Sulejmanija), Mosque of Sultan Bayazit II (Bajazidija), Nuruosmaniya Mosque,
 - Palaces: Topkapi, Dolmabahçe, Beylerbeyi, Çırağan, Yıldız, The British Palace, The Austrian Palace,
 - Bazaars: (Kapali Bazaar (Turkish: Kapalıçarşı = "covered market", also Büyük Çarşı = "big market"), Egyptian Bazaar (Turkish: Mısır Çarşısı), Old Book Bazaar (Turkish: Sahafklar Çarşısı, English: Old Book Bazaar),
 - Hammams: Çagaloglu, Çemberlitaş, Galatasaray, Haseki,
 - Fountains: Sultan Ahmed III, Sultan Mahmut II, Tophane, Azapkapı Saliha Sultan, Germany,
 - Churches and synagogues: Cathedral of St. Antonija (Saint Antonie Cathedral), Greek Orthodox Patriarchate Cathedral in Fener, Church of St. Stefan's Church (Bulgarian: Sveti Stefan Church, Turkish: Sveti Stefan Kilisesi), Neve Shalom Synagogue, Saint George of Samatya/Surp Kevork Church (Armenian: Саматийоу Сурб Гъорг Кеворки, Turkish: Sulu Manastır = "water monastery"),
 - Golden Horn area: Turbe Sultan Eyub, Sultan Eyub Mosque, Pierre Loti Coffee House,
 - The Princeis Islands: Church of St. Đorđa (The Saint George Church), Church of the Holy Trinity, Seminary-Theological School Haybeliada (The Seminary on Haybeliada),
 - Bosphorus: Anatolian Castle, Rumeli Fortress (Turkish: Anadoluhisarı/Güzelce Hisar = "beautiful fortress", English: The Castle At Rumeli),
 - Historical Yali: Köprülü Yali, The Cypriot Yali, Count Ostrohorn Yali, Cürüksulu Yali, The Kediv's Summer Palace, Küçükusu Summer Palace,
 - Museums: Top Kapi Palace Museum, Archaeological Museum, Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art, Museum of Caricature and Humor, Military Museum, Navy Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Painting and Sculpture,
- Private museums: Sadberk Hanum Museum, Rahmi M. Koç Museum of Industry, Sakib Sabanci Museum, Istanbul Museum of Modern Art, Doğançay Museum, Pera Museum.



Figure 26. The author in front of Ibrahim Pasha's palace near the Hippodrome. Today, the building houses a sculpture gallery

Source: Faruk Mekic (August 3, 2007)

The Abu Ayyub al-Ansari mosque is dedicated to Abu Ayyub al-Ansari, a friend (companion) of the Prophet Muhammad, s.a.v.s. with whom the Prophet stayed during his Hijra in Medina. Abu Ayyub al-Ansari was in the forefront of the Arab army that besieged Constantinople in an attempt to conquer it. Abu Eyub al-Ansari was killed during the fighting and was buried next to the walls of what was then Constantinople. After the Ottomans, led by Sultan Mehmed II the Conqueror, occupied (1453) Constantinople, this mosque was built near the grave (grave) of Abu Ayyub al-Ansari, according to (according to traditions) the dream of an alim (scholar) who accompanied Sultan Mehmed II Fatih in his conquest campaigns. Appointments of Ottoman sultans took place in this mosque, where the emissaries of other countries followed the ceremony outside its harem, since the place was considered sacred and only Muslims could access it (Figures 27, 28).



Figure 27. Harem of Abu Ayub al-Ansari Mosque

Source: Author (August 6, 2007)



Figure 28. Abu Eyub el-Ansari tomb (turbe)

Source: Author (August 6, 2007)

The Mosque of Sultan Mehmed II Fatih the Conqueror (Turkish: Fatih Camii) was built (1463-1471) in the district of the same name in Istanbul. The mosque was seriously damaged in an earthquake (1766) but was soon rebuilt (1771). In terms of its architecture, this mosque is an important stepping stone to the Ottoman classical architecture of large, imperial mosques. Its architect was Atik Sinan (Azadlı Sinan), the chief state architect during the reign (1444-1446, 1451-1481) of Sultan Mehmed II Fatih the Conqueror. In the harem of the mosque is the tomb of Sultan Mehmed II Fatih (Figures 29, 30).



Figure 29. Mosque of Sultan Mehmed II Fatih/Blue Mosque

Source: <https://www.shutterstock.com/search/fatih-mosque>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Source: https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/LocationPhotoDirectLink-g293974-d3693647-i452531357-Fatih_Cami-Istanbul.html

Accessed: November 16, 2023.



Figure 30. Turbe of Sultan Mehmed II Fatih the Conqueror next to his mosque

Source: Author (August 6, 2007)

Sultan Bayazıt II Mosque (Turkish: Beyazıt Camii, Bayezid Camii) is an imperial mosque with two minarets built (1501-1506) by Sultan Bayazıt II (1447-1512). The dimensions of the base of the mosque are 40 x 40 m, the height of the mosque (the top of the dome) is 44 m, and the outer diameter of the dome is 17 m. In the back of the mosque is a small garden with a turbet where Sultan Bayazıt II, his daughter Selçuk Hatun and Grand Vizier Koça Mustafa are buried. Reşid Pasha. In the vicinity of the mosque there are a number of shops, part of the waqf, which provides contributions for the maintenance of the mosque (Figure 31).



Figure 31. Sultan Bayazıt II Mosque

Source: <https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/bayezid-ii-mosque-gm471446027-21053567>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Source: <https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/istanbul-turkey-gm172734006-5793349>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Sultan Suleyman I/Suleymania Mosque (Turkish: Süleymaniye Camii) is one of the imperial mosques in Istanbul, built (1550-1558) according to the design and supervision of the great architect Koç Mimar Sinan (1489-1588). This is the pinnacle of the architecture of the classical construction of mosques in Istanbul and the most significant work that the architect Koça Mimar Sinan realized in Istanbul. The mosque is a monumental building which, in addition to the usual courtyard (harem), has another access courtyard-park, surrounded by walls. The height of the mosque (the top of the dome) is 53 m, the internal diameter of the dome is 26 m, and its four minarets are 72 m high. The mosque is the center of gravity of a wider architectural complex (külliye) in which there are various facilities: a hospital (darüşşifa), four Kur schools 'ana (madrasas), a special school for learning hadith (traditions of the Prophet Muhammed s.a.v.s), a medical faculty, a mekteb, a hammam, a caravanserai and a public kitchen (imaret). Most of these contents have their original function, while some of them have received new functions (the building has been converted into a luxury restaurant, the hospital is a printing house owned by the

Turkish army, for example). In the garden behind the mosque along its longitudinal axis, there are two turbets. Sultan Sulejman I was buried in one of them, and his wife Hürrem Sultan (Roxelana) and daughter Mihrimah Sultan were buried in the other. Their successors were buried in the open cemetery: Sultan Sulejman II (1642-1691), Sultan Ahmed II (1643-1695) and Saliha Dilaşub Sultan (wife of Sultan Ibrahim I, 1627-1689) and Safiye Sultan (mother of Sultan Mehmed III, 1550 -1619). Near the mosque, separated by a narrow street, there is a turbe where the architect of this mosque, Koça Mimar Sinan, is buried (Figures 32,33).

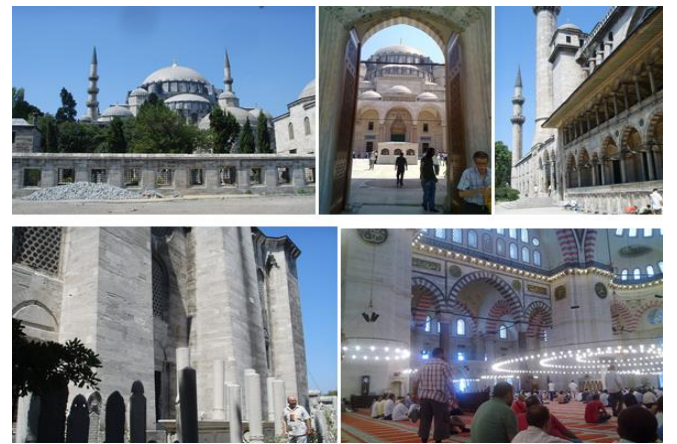


Figure 32. Mosques of Sultan Suleyman I (Suleymania)

Source: <https://www.goodfreepotos.com/turkey/istanbul/blue-mosque-in-istanbul-turkey.jpg.php>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Source: Author (August 6, 2007)



Figure 33. Turbe Koça Mimar Sinan near the Mosque of Sultan Suleyman I

Source: Author (August 6, 2007)

The Sultan Ahmed Mosque/Ahmediya (Turkish: Sultan Ahmet Camii) was built (1609-1616) during the reign of Sultan Ahmed I (1590-1617). This masterpiece of Ottoman architecture (late classical style) was built according to the project of the architect Sedefkâr Mehmed Ağa (1540-1617) near the ancient Hippodrome

and the Hagia Sophia church, today's Sultan Ahmet district in Istanbul. This imperial mosque with six minarets has massive physical dimensions: the dimensions of its base are 73 x 65 m, the height (at the top of the dome) is 43 m, the span of the dome is 23.50 m and the height of the minaret is 64 m. In the mosque, 10,000 people can pray at the same time (Figures 34,35,36).



Figure 34. The Sultan Ahmed Mosque/Ahmediya

Source: <https://theistanbulinsider.com/the-blue-mosque-one-of-the-most-famous-misunderstandings/>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Source: <https://www.trip.com/blog/guideline-for-sultan-ahmed-mosque/>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

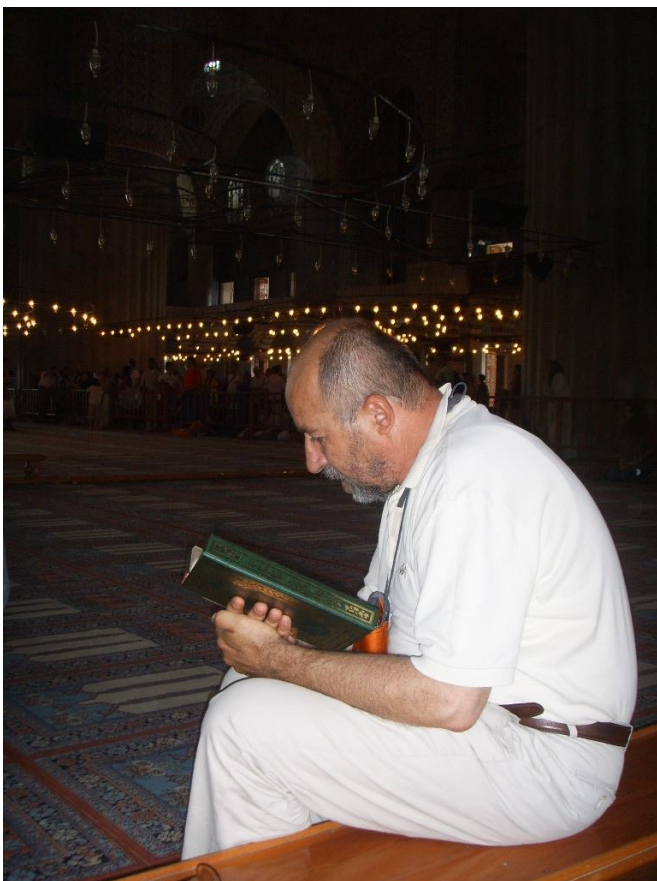


Figure 35. The author visits the Sultan Ahmed mosque

Source: Faruk Mekić (August 5, 2007)

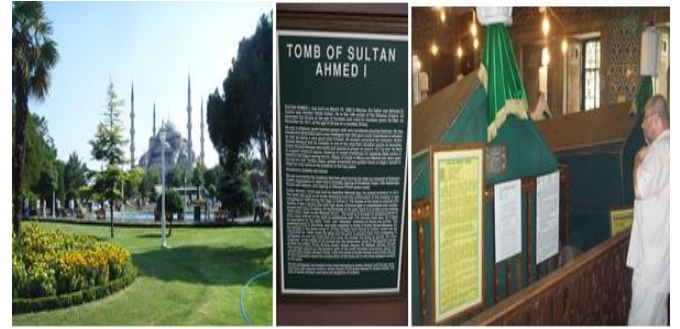


Figure 36. Author visiting the Turbet of Sultan Ahmed I

Source: Author (August 6, 2007)

Source: Faruk Mekić (August 6, 2007)

The Nuruosmaniye Mosque (Turkish: Nuruosmaniye Camii) was built (1748-1755) near the Kapali bazaar in Istanbul, in the Ottoman Baroque style, according to the project of architects Mustafa Ağa and Simon Kalfa. The height of the mosque (at the top of the dome) is 43.50 m, the inner diameter of its dome is 25 m, and the height of its two minarets is 60 m. The construction of this imperial mosque was started (1748) by Sultan Mahmut I (1696-1754) and finished (1755) by his brother and the heir to the throne, Sultan Osman III (1699-1757), (Figure 37).



Figure 37. The Nuruosmaniye Mosque

Source:

<https://twitter.com/nka979/status/1318551177328549893/photo/2>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Source:

<https://www.bosphorustour.com/nuruosmaniye-mosque.html>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Topkapi Palace (Turkish: Topkapı Sarayı = "Cannon Gate Castle") is the first built palace-seat (1465-1853) of the Ottoman sultans in Istanbul. The palace was built (1459-1465) by Sultan Mehmed II the Conqueror. The palace is located at the very end of the cape with a view of the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn. The palace complex consists of many facilities organized in special buildings grouped in four separate courts interconnected by gates (Figures 38-44).



Figure 38. Topkapi Palace (view of the Bosphorus)

Source: Author (August 6, 2007)



Figure 39. The author in front of the entrance to the Topkapi Palace complex with a panel depicting the palace

Source: Faruk Mekic (August 5, 2007)



Figure 40. The Topkapi Palace. Left: Entrance garden of the palace. Deno: Second garden of the palace

Source: Author (August 5, 2007)



Figure 41. The Topkapi Palace. Left: Sultan's throne in the Second Garden during ceremonies. Right: Ceremonies in honor of the Sultan (Contemporary performance)

Source: Author (August 5, 2007)



Figure 42. The Topkapi Palace. Left: Second garden of the palace. Right: View of the Bosphorus from the palace

Source: Author (August 5, 2007)



Figure 43. The author in one of the gardens in the grounds of Topkapi Palace

Source: Saima Hadrovic (August 29, 2007)

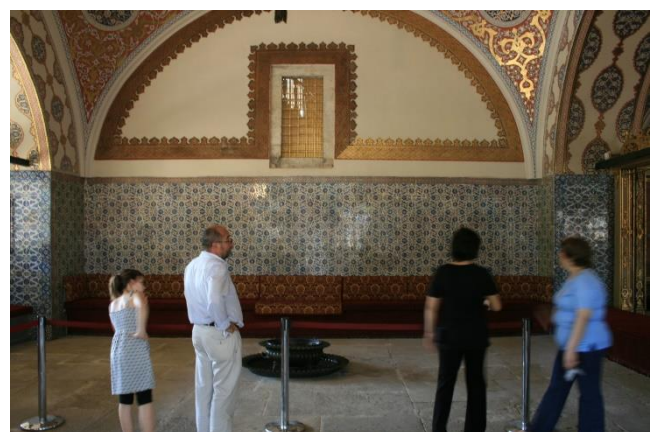


Figure 44. Topkapi Palace. Author in the Divan (Room where the sultan held meetings with the highest officials of the Ottoman Empire and where he received foreign envoys)

Source: Saima Hadrovic (August 29, 2007)

Dolmabahçe Palace (Turkish: Dolmabahçe Sarayı) is located north of the Golden Horn, along the shores of the Bosphorus. The

building was built (1843-1856) by Sultan Abdülmeçid I (1823-1861) in Beşiktaş district, according to the project of the architect Garabet Balyan. The palace was built in a mixture of baroque, rococo and neoclassical styles. The palace was the administrative center of the Ottoman Empire in the period (1856-1887 and 1909-1922), while in the intermediate period (1887-1909) the administrative center was the Yıldız Palace (Figures 45,46,47).



Figure 45. Dolmabahçe Palace

Source:

https://www.transanatolie.com/english/turkey/in%20brief/museums/dolmabahce%20palace/dolmabahce_palace.htm

Accessed: November 16, 2023.



Figure 46. The author in the garden of Dolmabahçe Palace

Source: Saima Hadrovic (August 29, 2007)



Figure 47. View of Dolmabahçe Palace from the Bosphorus (Author on a Bosphorus cruise)

Source: Faruk Mekiç (August 6, 2007)

Beylerbeyi Palace (Turkish: Beylerbeyi Sarayı = "Palace of the Bey Beys") is located not far from today's Bosphorus I Bridge, towards the north. The palace was built (1861) by Sultan Abdülaziz as his summer residence, according to the project of the architects, brothers Hagop and Sarkis Balyan. Architectural style of building Ottoman-second empire (Figure 48).



Figure 48. Beylerbeyi Palace (view from the Bosphorus)

Source: Author (August 6, 2007)

Çırağan Palace (Turkish: Çırağan Sarayı) is located between the districts of Beşiktaş and Ortaköy, right next to the shores of the Bosphorus. The palace was built (1863-1867) by Sultan Abdülâziz (1830-1876) according to the project of the architect Niğoğayos Balyan. The inner walls and roof of the palace were built of wood, and the outer walls of marble. The palace is connected by a marble bridge to the Yıldız Palace on the hill in its hinterland. The palace has richly decorated inner gardens with high walls that enclose them. Today, this palace has been converted into a hotel (Figure 49).

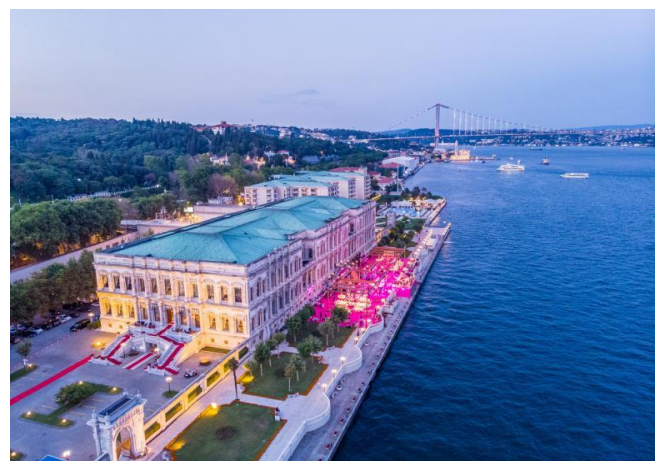


Figure 49. Çırağan Palace

Source: <https://luxurylaunches.com/review/review-ciragan-palace-kempinski-istanbul-where-youre-spoiled-like-a-sultana.php>

Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Yıldız Palace (Turkish: Yıldız Sarayı = "star palace") is located on the hill of the same name, in the district of Beşiktaş and Ortaköy. The palace was built (1880) by Sultan Abdülhamid II (1842-1918) as his residence according to the project of architects Hagop and Sarkis Balyan. The palace consists of several pavilions designed in different neo-historical styles (neoclassicism, baroque, rococo) that unite inner courtyards, and a high stone wall on the outside. Today, this complex houses many institutions, including the library and IRCICA (Research Center For Islamic History, Art and Culture), (Figure 50).



Figure 50. Yıldız Palace. The author as a participant of the summer school "Istanbul 2011" in Yıldız Palace

Source: Author (July 22, 2011)

Source: Amir Pasic (July 22, 2011)

The British Palace/The Pera House (Turkish: İngiliz sarayı) is located in the city's Tepebaşı district and is designed as a miniature of Buckingham Palace in London. The palace was built (1803). The palace was destroyed in a fire (1831) that engulfed the city district of Pera. The palace was rebuilt, according to the project of the Scottish architect William James Smith and redesigned (1848) according to the project of the architect Sir Charles Barry in the Anglo-Italian style (Figure 51).



Figure 51. British Palace (Turkish: İngiliz sarayı)

Source: <https://www.bosphorustour.com/the-british-palace-pera-house.html>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

The Austrian Palace (Turkish: Avsurya sarayı) is located in the city's Yeniköy district, as the Austrian embassy. It was built (1882) according to the project of the architect Migridiç Kalfa (Charkyan) in the design of neoclassicism (Figure 52).



Figure 52. The Austrian Palace (Turkish: Avsurya sarayı)

Source: <https://www.bosphorustour.com/the-austrian-palace.html>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

The Kapalı Bazaar (Turkish: Kapalıcaarşı = "covered market", also Büyük Çarşı = "big market") is located in Fatih district, near Sultan Bayazıt II Mosque and Nurosmaniye Mosque. It is one of the largest markets in the world, consisting of 61 covered streets with over 4,000 shops. The bazaar is visited by 25,000-400,000 visitors every year (2014). This bazaar was visited by 9,125,000 visitors last year, which is a world record). Kapalı bazaar is considered the first shopping center built in the world (Figure 53).



Figure 53. The Kapalı Bazaar

Source: <https://www.zawya.com/en/legal/grand-bazaar-cafes-open-and-flights-resume-as-turkey-eases-up-ut0pro9c>

Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Source: Author (August 29, 2007)

The Egyptian Bazaar (Turkish: Mısır Çarşısı) is located in the Eminönü district of the city, in the Fatih district (Figure 54). This is the most expensive bazaar after Kapalı bazaar in Istanbul. The bazaar complex has a total of 85 shops of various goods: spices, Turkish sweets, jewelry, souvenirs, dried fruits, nuts... The bazaar got the name "Egyptian" (Turkish: Mısır) because it was built (1660-1665) with revenues from the Egyptian eyalet of the Ottoman Empire. The Egyptian bazaar is part of the wider complex of the Yeni (New) Mosque (Figure 55), which was built (1597-1665). The bazaar was designed by the architect Koça Kasım Ağa, and the supervision of its construction was done by the architect Mustafa Ağa. The construction of the Yeni Mosque and the Egyptian Mosque was commissioned (and financed) by Sultania Turhan Hatice, Valide Sultan (Queen Mother) - mother of Sultan Mehmed IV (1642-1693).



Figure 54. The Egyptian Bazaar

Source: <https://ottomantravels.com/blogs/history/misir-carsisi/>,
Accessed: November 16, 2023.



Figure 55. Yeni Mosque (View from the Bosphorus)

Source: Author (August 29, 2007)

The Old Book Bazaar (Turkish: Sahaflar Çarşısı, English: Old Book Bazaar) is located near the Kapalı bazaar, after it was moved (1460) from the vicinity of the Fatih Mosque. Since 1950, Sahaflar Çarşısı changed its name to Engravers Market (Turkish: Hakkatlar Çarşısı), (Figure 56).



Figure 56. The Old Book Bazaar

Source: Author (August 29, 2007)

The Galatasaray Hamam is located in the city district of Beyoğlu near the Galatasaray High School (madrasa) next to the Galatasaray Mosque, as part of a wider complex (külliye), and was built (1481) during the reign (1481-1512) of Sultan Bayazıt II (1447-1512). . The hammam was mostly used by students during their education. The hammam is still in its original function today (Figure 57).



Figure 57. The Galatasaray Hamam

Source: https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g293974-d628496-Reviews-Tarihi_Galatasaray_Hamami-Istanbul.html

Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Haseki Hamam (Ayasofya Hütem Sultan Hamam) is located between the Hagia Sophia and the Sultan Ahmed Mosque. is one of the most impressive hammams built in Istanbul. It was built (1556)

by Hürem Sultan, wife of Sultan Suleiman I, according to the design and supervision of the architect Koça Mimar Sinan. The hammam is still in operation today, and one part of it has been converted into a luxury restaurant (Figure 58).



Figure 58. Haseki Hamam (Ayasofya Hütem Sultan Hamam)

Source: <https://www.pinterest.com/1944djh/istanbul-turkey/>,
Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Source: <https://istanbulvacationtips.com/what-happens-at-a-traditional-turkish-hamam/>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Çagaloglu Hamam was built (1741) in the Eminönü district of the city. The hamam is supported by the income collected by the library of Sultan Mahmud I (1696-1754). The hamam was designed by the architect Suleyman Aga, and its construction was supervised by the architect Abdullah Aga. This is the last Ottoman hammam built in Istanbul that is still in its basic function today (Figure 59).



Figure 59. Çagaloglu Hamam

Source: <https://www.turkishbaths.org/booking/cagaloglu-hamami/>,
Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Source: <https://cagalogluhamami.com.tr/tr/>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

The Sultan Ahmed III Fountain (Turkish: Ahmet III Çeşmesi) is located right next to the entrance of Topkapı Palace. The fountain was built (1728) during the reign (1703-1730) of Sultan Ahmed III (1673-1736) in the Turkish Rococo style (Figure 60).



Figure 60. The Sultan Ahmed III Fountain

Source: Author (August 6, 2007)

Tophane Fountain (Turkish: Tophane Çeşmesi) is located in Tophane Square in Beyoğlu District. The fountain was built (1732) by Sultan Mahmud I (1696-1754). The fountain was built in the Turkish Rococo style (Figure 61).



Figure 61. Tophane Fountain

Source: Author (August 6, 2007)

Azapkapı Saliha Sultan Fountain (Turkish: Azapkapı Saliha Sultan Çeşmesi) is located next to Mehmed Pasha Sokolović Mosque. The fountain was built (1733) by Saliha Sultan, mother of Sultan Mahmud I (Figure 62).



Figure 62. Azapkapı Saliha Sultan Fountain

Source: <https://www.bosphorustour.com/saliha-sultan-fountain-in-azapkapi.html>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

The German Fountain (Turkish: Alman Çeşmesi, German: Deutscher Brunnen) is located on the northern edge of the ancient Roman hippodrome, near the Mosque of Sultan Ahmed I. The fountain was donated (1898) by the German Emperor Wilhelm II (1858-1941). The fountain was made in the neo-Byzantine style (Figure 63).



Figure 63. The German Fountain

Source: Author (December 10, 2007)

Cathedral of St. Antonio (Saint Antonio Cathedral/St. Anthony of Padua Church/ Sent Antuan Bazilikası Sant'Antonio di Padova Church, S. Antonio di Padova) is the main Catholic church in Istanbul located in İstiklal Street, Beyoğlu District. The church was built (1906-1912) according to the project of the architect Giulio Mongeri. The original construction of this church was done (1725) by the local Italian community, but it was later demolished and replaced by the present, larger church. Besides this one, there are other Catholic churches in Istanbul: Cathedral of the Holy Spirit (1846) in Harbiye district, St. Louis of the French (1581) and Santa Maria Draperis in the Beyoğlu district, Sts. Peter and Paul (1841) on Galata, Assumption Church in the Moda quarter of Kadıköy, St. Stephen in Yeşilköy district and Bakırköy Church in Bakırköy district. Pope John XXIII preached in this church for ten years, when he was the Vatican ambassador to Turkey before he was elected pope. In Turkey, he is known by the nickname "The Turkish Pope" because of his fluent knowledge of the Turkish language and his expressed respect for Istanbul and Turkey (Figure 64).



Figure 64. Cathedral of St. Antonio

Source: Author (August 28, 2007)

The Patriarchal Cathedral Church of Saint George (Greek: Πατριαρχικός Ναός του Αγίου Γεωργίου) is the main Eastern Orthodox cathedral in Istanbul which, since around 1600, has been the seat of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople, whose leader is considered primus inter pares (first among equals) in the Eastern Orthodox Church, and is often seen as the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians around the world (Figure 65).



Figure 65. The Patriarchal Cathedral Church of Saint George

Source: <https://www.dreamstime.com/balat-fatih-istanbul-turkey-january-patriarchal-church-st-george-constantinople-ecumenical-orthodox-patriarchate-interior-image169515797>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Source: <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/turkey/istanbul/western-districts/attractions/patriarchal-church-of-st-george/a-poi-sig/402106/1324698>

Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Church of St. Stefan/Bulgarian Iron Church (Bulgarian: Църква Свети Стефан, Turkish: Sveti Stefan Kilisesi) is located. It was built (1898) in the Neo-Gothic style with a construction of prefabricated cast iron elements that were cast in Vienna and shipped to Istanbul. The initiative to build this church was taken by Stefan Bogoridi, an Ottoman official of Bulgarian origin (Figure 66).



Figure 66. Church of St. Stefan/Bulgarian Iron Church

Source: <https://www.dailysabah.com/arts/istanbuls-sveti-stefan-the-worlds-only-surviving-iron-church/news>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Neve Shalom Synagogue (Hebrew: מוֹלֵשׁ הַהַר הַתּוֹשֵׁנֵק טִיב, Turkish: Neve Şalom Sinagogu) is located in the Galata district. It was built (1951) on the site of the former Jewish school, according to the project of architects Elya Ventura and Bernardo Motola. The capacity of the place for prayer is 2000 (Figure 67).



Figure 67. Neve Shalom Synagogue

Source: <https://hatirlayansehir.hakikatadalethafiza.org/en/neve-shalom-synagogue/>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Source: <https://www.turkyahudileri.com/index.php/en/history/synagogues/57-neve-shalom-synagogue>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

The Church of Saint George of Samatya/Surp Kevork (Armenian: Սամատայոյ Տսրբ Դօրք Կեօրկ, Turkish: Sulu Manastır = "water monastery") is located in the municipality of Kocamustafapaşa (historically Samatya), Fatih district of Istanbul. The church was built (1866-1887) according to the project of the architect Bedros Nemtza (Figure 68).



Figure 68. The Church of Saint George of Samatya/Surp Kevork

Source: <https://istanbultarihi.ist/521-armenians-in-istanbul-church-and-tradition-20th-century>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Source: <https://www.viator.com/Istanbul-attractions/Ecumencial-Orthodox-Patriarchate/d585-a16915>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Pierre Loti Coffee House is located at the top of the Golden Horn with wide open views towards the Golden Horn, the old core of Istanbul and the Bosphorus. Coffee was named after Pierre Lota, a French officer, writer and adventurer in the first half of the 20th century (Figure 69).



Figure 69. Pierre Loti Coffee House

Source: <https://rustytraveltrunk.com/a-cafe-and-a-cemetery-pierre-loti/>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

The Prince's Islands (Greek: Πριγκηπονήσια, Turkish: Prens Adaları/ Kızıl Adalar = "Red Islands") is a small archipelago in the Sea of Marmara, near Istanbul. The archipelago consists of four larger islands (Büyükada, Heybeliada, Burgazada and Kınalıada) and five smaller islands (Sedef Adası, Yassıada, Sivriada, Kaşık Adası and Tavşan Adası)^[30]. Princes were exiled to these islands, both in the Byzantine period and in the Ottoman period. Next to these islands, the Ottoman army stationed its fleet before the conquest (1453) of Constantinople. Later, the islands became an attractive place for tourists and wealthy individuals from Istanbul who built their original houses there. On the island of Heybeliada, the Halki Seminary-Theological School (Greek: Σχολή Χάλκινης, Turkish: Orthodox Ruhban Okulu) was founded (1844) on Hope Hill, next to the Monastery of the Holy Trinity (from the Byzantine era) as the main theological school of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople of the Eastern Orthodox Church (Figure 70).



Figure 70. Left: Prince's Islands. Right: Halki Theological School

Source: <https://move2turkey.com/prince-islands-in-istanbul-an-interesting-trip-for-nature-lovers/>, Accessed: November 17, 2023.

Source: <https://orthochristian.com/79250.html>, Accessed: November 17, 2023.

Yali (Turkish: yalı comes from the Greek term γαλή or γαλός with the meaning "sea, beach") is a term that defines a special type of buildings (villas, houses, holiday homes) that were built in the Ottoman period on the shores of the Bosphorus, with local architectural features. The name "yalı" distinguishes it from buildings of similar purpose (konak, köşk) that were built in another place. Around 620 such units were built on the shores of the Bosphorus (mainly during the 18th and 19th centuries) and were a status symbol of the Ottoman aristocracy. The most famous yalı include: Köprülü Yalı, The Cypriot Yalı, Count Ostrorog Yalı, Cürüksulu Yalı, The Kediv's Summer Palace, Küçüksu Summer Palace (Figures 71,72).



Figure 71. Yalı along the shore of the Bosphorus

Source: Author (August 4, 2007)



The author on a tour of indigenous wooden houses near Aya Sofia

Figures 72. Yalı

Source: Faruk Mekiç (August 5, 2007)

Museums of Istanbul. Istanbul is a city rich in museums, both state-run and private. The most famous state museums include: Top Kapi Palace Museum, Archaeological Museum, Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art, Museum of Caricature and Humor, Military Museum, Navy Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Painting and Sculpture. The most famous private museums include: Sadberk Hanım Museum, Rahmi M. Koç Museum of Industry, Sakib Sabancı Museum, Istanbul Museum of Modern Art, Doğançay Museum, Pera Museum (). The Istanbul Archaeological Museum (Turkish: İstanbul Arkeoloji Müzeleri) is a group of three archaeological museums located in the Eminönü district of Istanbul, near Gülhane Park and Topkapı Palace: the Archaeological Museum (in the main building), the Museum of the Ancient East, the Museum of Islamic Art (in Paved kiosk).

The museum contains more than a million objects representing almost all periods and civilizations in world history. The museum was founded on 113 June 1891. The Ottoman Sultan Abdülaziz (1830-1876) was impressed by the archaeological museums in Paris (1867), London (1867) and Vienna (1867), which he visited in the summer (1867) ^[31] and ordered that a similar archaeological museum is founded in Istanbul. Then, in 1869, Hagia Irene Church and the works in it were solemnly opened by decree under the name "Müze-i Hümayun" (Turkish: İmparatorluk Müzesi). As such, the Istanbul Archaeological Museum is often considered "Turkey's first museum" (Figure 73).



Figure 73. Archaeological Museum in Istanbul

Source: <https://www.viator.com/Istanbul-attractions/Archaeological-Museums-Arkeoloji-Muzeleri/d585-a905>

Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Source: https://www.dailysabah.com/arts/new-exhibition-halls-open-at-istanbul-archaeology-museums/news?gallery_image=undefined#big

Accessed: November 16, 2023.

The Military Museum in Istanbul (Turkish: Askerî Müze) is dedicated to a thousand years of Turkish military history and is one of the leading museums of its kind in the world. The museum was originally opened in the Church of Saint Irene. Later in 1950, it was moved to the First Army Headquarters building in Cumhuriyet Caddesi, Harbiye, not far from Taksim Square in Istanbul. The district of Harbiye ^[32,33] was the site of the Ottoman Imperial Military Academy, the "West Point" or "Sandhurst" of the empire and is still an important military base. A beautiful collection of historical weapons, uniforms and tools from various periods of the army is on display. Magnificent campaign tents and standards are featured. Outside the museum, interesting Ottoman cannons and mortars, a rail cannon, airplanes, helicopters are exhibited. The military museum and cultural center was renovated and reopened (1993) in the present building with a very successful and contemporary exhibition concept. Today, around nine thousand exhibits from the Ottoman era to the First World War, out of a total collection of fifty thousand objects, are exhibited in 22 rooms. It contains astonishing historical treasures such as the chain stretched across the mouth of the Golden Horn by the Byzantines to protect Mehmed II's navy. 1453 ^[32,33] during the siege of Constantinople. The east wing of the museum is used for temporary exhibitions, meetings and similar activities. On the ground floor, an exhibition of bows and arrows [34,35], followed in the first room by pieces containing weapons and other equestrian symbols, curved daggers and lancets carried by foot soldiers in the 15th century, copper head armor from the 17th century for horses and Ottoman shields worn by janissaries, and parts dedicated to Selim I., Mehmed II., the conquest of Istanbul, weapons from the early Islamic, Iranian,

Caucasian, European and Turkish periods. On this floor there is also a unique collection of helmets and armor, as well as parts intended for firearms and large tents that the sultans used in their campaigns. On the upper floor, there are rooms where objects from the First World War, the Battle of Gallipoli and the Turkish War of Independence are exhibited, as well as uniforms from the recent era. There is also a room dedicated to Atatürk, who studied in the building when it was a military academy between 1899-1905. The janissary band "Mehter Takımı", the oldest military band in the world, holds marching concerts every afternoon in traditional uniforms. The Ottomans were the first to use musicians in military campaigns and to integrate music into the life and work of the army. After the city was conquered, Mehter walked in front of the conquering Ottoman commander in a procession through the city, playing slow marches in exotic minor modes. The drumming of the kettle, invented by Mehter, the howling of the oboe and the clanging of the cymbals were meant to glorify the conquest and impress upon the population that they were now part of a completely different civilization (Figure 74).



Figure 74. The Military Museum in Istanbul (Turkish: Askerî Müze)

Source:

<https://www.cornucopia.net/guide/listings/museums/military-museum/>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Source: [https://www.tripadvisor.ca/AttractionProductReview-g293974-d19404559-](https://www.tripadvisor.ca/AttractionProductReview-g293974-d19404559-g293974-d19404559-)

[Mehteran Live Turkish Military Band Concert and Military Museum Guided Tour-Istanbul.html](https://www.tripadvisor.ca/AttractionProductReview-g293974-d19404559-g293974-d19404559-Mehteran_Live_Turkish_Military_Band_Concert_and_Military_Museum_Guided_Tour-Istanbul.html)

Accessed: November 16, 2023.

The Naval Museum in Istanbul contains an important collection of military artifacts related to the Ottoman Navy [36,37,38,38]. In the maritime field, it is Turkey's largest museum, with a wide variety of collections. About 20,000 pieces are present in his collection, including an Ottoman galley from the late 16th or early 17th century, known as Tarihi Kadirga, built in the period between the reigns of Sultan Murad III (1574–1595) and Sultan Mehmed IV (1648–1687). She is the only surviving original galley in the world and has the oldest continuously maintained wooden hull in the world [37]. Being affiliated with the Turkish Naval Forces Command, it is also the country's first military museum [38]. At the beginning of the 21st century, a new exhibition building was built. Construction began in 2008, and the building was reopened on October 4, 2013. It has two above-ground floors and one basement floor, and it covers an area of 20,000 m² [38]. The basement consists of various objects such as figure heads,

decorations of naval ships, ship models and parts of the Byzantine chain that was used to block the entrance to the Golden Horn during the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople in 1453. On the first and second floors, a large number of imperial and other caïques are exhibited (Figures 75).

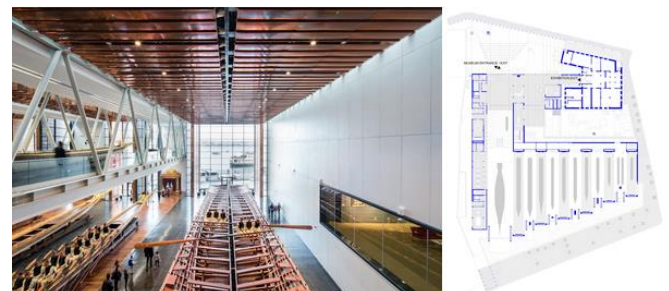


Figure 75. The Naval Museum in Istanbul

Source:

<https://divisare.com/projects/346903-teget-istanbul-maritime-museum>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

The Istanbul Museum of Painting and Sculpture (Turkish: İstanbul Resim ve Heykel Müzesi) is a museum in the Tophane area of the European part of Istanbul. It is part of the large Galataport complex. The museum was originally housed in the Crown Prince's Villa attached to Dolmabahçe Palace in the Beşiktaş district of Istanbul. The building in which it is located dates back to 1856. On September 20, 1937, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk proposed its conversion into a museum, since the imperial family was driven into exile by the arrival of the Turkish Republic. It has now been moved to a new gallery on the edge of Galataport where it is very close to the Istanbul Modern Gallery, turning the area into an artistic center of the city. Selected building - Antrepo no. 5 - was originally designed to serve the old port of Karaköy by the Turkish architect Sedat Hakkı Eldem. The firm of architects Emre Arolat converted it to serve as an art gallery. The museum began to open in December 2021 [40] (Figure 76).



Figure 76. The Istanbul Museum of Painting and Sculpture

Source: <https://dacistanbul.com/dunyadan-mimarlik/istanbul-resim-ve-heykel-muzesinin-resmi-acilisi-gerceklesti/>

Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Sabancı University's Sakıp Sabancı Museum (Turkish: Sakıp Sabancı Müzesi) is a private fine arts museum in Istanbul dedicated to calligraphic art, religious and state documents, and paintings from the Ottoman era. The museum was founded by Sakıp Sabancı and opened in June 2002. In addition to permanent exhibitions, the museum hosts domestic and foreign temporary exhibitions, and organizes cultural events on weekends. The museum attracted world attention by exhibiting the works of Pablo Picasso and Auguste Rodin (Figure 77).



Figure 77. Sabancı University's Sakıp Sabancı Museum (Turkish: Sakıp Sabancı Müzesi)

Source: <https://www.timeout.com/istanbul/museums/sakip-sabanci-museum>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Source: <https://www.sothebys.com/en/museums/sak%C4%B1p-sabanc%C4%B1-museum>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Dinners in Istanbul are much more than consuming a daily meal. The famous Istiklal street is transformed into a huge resort from the early evening hours, where almost every building has a restaurant with (very often) a garden in its back (Figure 78). Dinners organized on boats on the Bosphorus are especially popular (Figure 79).



Figure 78. Author in Istiklal Street. (The street connects the famous Taksim Square with Galata Tower and Galata Bridge and is one of the most important streets in Istanbul)

Source: Saima Hadrovic (August 28, 2007)



Figure 79. The author with his family at dinner (on a boat on the Bosphorus)

Source: Sakim Hodzic (August 28, 2008)

Istanbul Cevahir Shopping and Entertainment Center, known as Şişli Culture and Trade Center (Turkish: Şişli Kültür ve Ticaret Merkezi), is a modern shopping center located on Büyükdere Avenue in the Şişli district of Istanbul. Istanbul Cevahir (opened on October 15, 2005) was the largest shopping center in Europe in terms of gross leasable area between 2005 and 2011, and is one of the largest in the world ^[29] (Figure 80).



Figure 80. The author in the modern shopping center Çevahir. The building was built (2005) according to the project of architects Minori Yamasaki and Can Yavuzarslan

Source: Saima Hadrovic (August 28, 2007)

The Atatürk Olympic Stadium in Istanbul is located in the western district of Başakşehir. The stadium is named after Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder and first president of the Republic of Turkey. Its construction began in 1999 and was completed in 2002. It was originally built for Turkey's bid for the 2008 Olympic Games (which were eventually awarded to Beijing). With a capacity of 74,753 spectators and Olympic size, it was awarded the title of "5-star sports complex" by UEFA in 2004, enabling it to host the finals of UEFA events (the 2005 UEFA Champions League Final between Milan and Liverpool was played at the Atatürk Olympic Stadium on May 25, 2005). The stadium is also certified by the IAAF and the IOC as a first-class venue for athletics, and has hosted several European athletics competitions. The stadium hosted the 2023 UEFA Champions League final ^[27]. The stadium was designed by French architects Michel Macary and Aymeric Zublena (Figure 81).



Figure 81. Olympic Stadium (Ataturk Olympic Stadium)

Source: <https://stadiumbase.com/listing/ataturk-olympic-stadium/>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Sinan Erdem Dome (formerly known as Ataköy Dome) is a multi-purpose hall located in Ataköy, Bakırköy, Istanbul on the European side of Istanbul. It is the home of the basketball club Anadolu Efes. Under the leadership of FIBA and the American architectural firm RTKL Associates Inc., it was designed with the most modern technologies and is highlighted as a key address of important events with a level of international standards. In the sports center, which has 73,400 m² of construction area with 40,000 m² of closed space, all technical equipment for national and international events is provided. The capacity of the hall is 22,500 seats for concerts, 16,000 seats for basketball, and 16,457 for tennis. It is the largest multi-purpose indoor space in Turkey and the third largest in Europe. The arena is named after Sinan Erdem (1927 – 2003), who was the president of the Turkish Olympic Committee from 1989 until his death in 2003 (Figure 82).



Figure 82. Sinan Erdem Dom (2010-2017)

Source: <https://twitter.com/TBF/status/995261742887460864>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

Source: Accessed: November 16, 2023.

VitrA is a Turkish manufacturer of sanitary ware, bathroom furniture, brassware and ceramic tiles. It is part of the Eczacıbaşı Group, a multinational corporation dealing in construction materials and consumer products. VitrA was founded by Nejat Eczacıbaşı in 1942, the same year the first factory was built in Kartal, Turkey [28]. In 1966, the brand name VitrA was adopted. In 1977, production was started in Bozüyük, in 1979 an armature factory, in 1991 a bathroom furniture factory, and in 1992 a ceramics factory was built. In 2002, VitrA changed its logo after 11 years, in order to try to make the company a global brand [28]. In 2006, the company changed its logo again; the new logo was presented at the UNICERA ceramic and bathroom fair in Istanbul [28]. In March 2020, the company won the iF Design Award 2020 in the 66th year of the awards. In 2021, JIPM (Japanese Institute of Plant Maintenance) awarded VitrA the TPM Excellence Award (Figure 83).



Figure 83. Author visiting VitrA Company in Istanbul

Source: Selim Causevic (December 10, 2007)



Figure 84. Contemporary Istanbul

Source:

<https://www.lzoom.me/en/wallpaper/505060/z11634.3/3840x2400>, Accessed: November 16, 2023.

The bridges that span the Bosphorus in Istanbul, Turkey are: Bosphorus Bridge (also called the First Bosphorus Bridge), Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge (also known as the Second Bosphorus Bridge), Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge, also known as the Third Bosphorus Bridge (Figures 85 -89).

The Bosphorus Bridge (Turkish: Boğaziçi Köprüsü), officially known as the 15th of July Martyrs' Bridge (Turkish: 15 Temmuz Şehitler Köprüsü) and colloquially as the First Bridge (Turkish: Birinci Köprü), is the southernmost of the three suspension bridges spanning the Bosphorus Strait (Turkish: Boğaziçi) in Istanbul, Turkey, connecting Europe and Asia (next to Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge and Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge). The bridge spans between Ortaköy (in Europe) and Beylerbeyi (in Asia) [41]. It is a gravity-anchored suspension bridge with steel towers and inclined hangers. The aerodynamic deck hangs on steel cables. It is 1560 m long with a deck width of 33.40 m. The distance between the towers (main span) is 1074 m, and the total height of the towers is 165 m. The distance of the bridge from sea level is 64 m [41]. When completed in 1973, the Bosphorus Bridge had the fourth-longest span of any suspension bridge in the world, and the longest outside the United States (only the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the Mackinac Bridge had a longer span in 1973). The Bosphorus Bridge remained the longest suspension bridge in Europe until the completion of the Humber Bridge in 1981, and the

longest suspension bridge in Asia until the completion of the Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge (Second Bosphorus Bridge) in 1988 (surpassed by the Minami Bisan-Seto Bridge in 1989). Currently, the Bosphorus Bridge has the 40th longest span of suspension bridges in the world. After a group of soldiers took control and partially closed the bridge during an attempted military coup on July 15, 2016, Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım announced on July 25, 2016, a decision by the Turkish cabinet to formally rename the bridge to 15 Temmuz Şehitler Köprüsü (15 Martyrs' Bridge). July in memory of those who died during the resistance to the coup attempt ^[42,43] (Figures 85,86).



Figure 85. Author at the Bosphorus Bridge (view from the boat on the Bosphorus)

Source: Faruk Mekic (August 4, 2007)



Figure 86. Bosphorus Bridge

Source: Author (August 4, 2007)

The Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge (Turkish: Fatih Sultan Mehmet Köprüsü, abbreviated F.S.M. Köprüsü), also known as the Second Bosphorus Bridge (İkinci Köprü), is a bridge in Istanbul that spans the Bosphorus Strait (Turkish: Boğaziçi). When it was completed in 1988, it was the 5th longest suspension bridge in the world. The bridge is named after the 15th-century Ottoman Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror, who conquered the Byzantine capital Constantinople (Istanbul) in 1453. It carries the European route E80, Asian Highway 1, Asian Highway 5 and Otoyol 2. There are three other bridges connecting Europe and Asia located in Turkey, which are called Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge, 15 July Martyrs Bridge (formerly known as Bosphorus bridge) and Çanakkale Bridge from 1915. The bridge was designed by BOTEK Bosphorus Technical Consulting Corp. Freeman Fox & Partners. This suspension bridge is 1510 m long, 39 m wide, 105 m high, and the largest span is 1090 m. The distance of the bridge from the water level of the Bosphorus is 64 m ^[44] (Figures 87,88).



Figure 87. Fatih Sultan Mehmed Bridge

Source: Author (August 4, 2007)



Figure 88. The author in front of the Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge (view from the Bosphorus)

Source: Faruk Mekic (August 4, 2007)

The Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge (Turkish: Yavuz Sultan Selim Köprüsü), also known as the Third Bosphorus Bridge ^[45], is a vehicular bridge across the Bosphorus Strait, north of two older suspension bridges in Istanbul (The 15th of July Martyrs Bridge is the First Bosphorus Bridge, and the Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge is the Second Bosphorus Bridge). The bridge is located near the entrance to the Black Sea from the Bosphorus Strait, between Garipça in Sarıyer on the European side and Poyrazköy in Beykoz on the Asian side. The foundation stone was laid on May 29, 2013, and the bridge was opened for traffic on August 26, 2016 ^[46,47]. At 322 m, the Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge is the fifth highest bridge of any kind in the world. The main span is the 13th longest suspension bridge in the world. It is also one of the widest suspension bridges in the world ^[48,49], with 58.4 meters (Figure 89).



Figure 89. Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge

Source: <https://acem.com/tr/projects/yavuz-sultan-selim-bridge-northern-marmara-motorway/>, Accessed: November 17, 2023.

Süreyya Opera House, also known as Süreyya Cultural Center (Turkish: Süreyya Operası or Süreyya Kültür Merkezi) is an opera house located on General Asım Gündüz Avenue in the Kadıköy district of Istanbul. It was originally founded in 1927 as the first musical theater in the Anatolian part of Istanbul. However, due to the lack of suitable rooms and equipment in the theater, operettas were not staged until 2007. The site was instead used as a cinema until the building underwent a functional renovation and reopened as an opera house on 14 December 2007^[50]. Süreyya Pasha (later Süreyya İlmen) started the construction of the building in 1924 to meet the need for space for cultural and social events, which was lacking in Kadıköy. He was impressed by the glamor of famous theaters in Europe during his visits. Aesthetic and functional influences in the architectural design of the building are reflected in the lobby, an example of Art Deco inspired by the Champs-Élysées theater in Paris, and in the interior, which displays the stylistic characteristics of German architecture. By order of the viceroy of Istanbul, Süreyya İlmen, Kegham Kavafyan (1888-1959) was appointed as the architect to design the Süreyya Opera House, which was completed in 1927. Called Süreyya Opereti (English: Süreyya Operetta) and opened on March 6, 1927, the theater was the first venue for opera on the Asian side of Istanbul and the sixth in the entire city. In early 2006, Kadıköy Municipality under Mayor Selami Öztürk launched a renovation project after leasing the building from the Darüşşafak Association for a period of 40 years in August 2005. The restoration included frescoes on the ceiling and walls and sculptures on the facade^[50] (Figure 90).



Figure 90. Süreyya Opera House

Source:

https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AFIQipMJU4XxfU_cA4dnJN8OLDu5p8uCS5OILxYKtLdt=h720

Accessed: November 18, 2023.

Source: <https://kadikoyde.net/kultur-sanatin-merkezi-kadikoy-sureyya-operasi/>, Accessed: November 18, 2023.

Istanbul Opera "Atatürk Cultural Center" was officially opened in October 2021, but the entire building complex will be fully accessible to the public in March 2022. The adventures of the opera house began way back in 1946, when Auguste Perret made a preliminary project for the Istanbul Palace cultures. However, the municipality as patron did not have enough funds to complete the construction and as a result, for more than 20 years the unfinished building dominated the eastern border of the prominent Taksim Square. In the meantime, Hayati Tabanlıoğlu, a famous Istanbul architect, took over the project in 1957, but the realization and opening could take place more than a decade later in 1969. Only two years after the opening, in 1970, the building burned down completely. Tabanlıoğlu carried out the renovation according to the same project with the necessary technical innovations. After another seven years of renovation, the Opera House, which is now

called "Atatürk Cultural Center", was reopened in 1977. The new building had one large and two smaller stages, a cinema hall, a large exhibition hall. A large, inviting glass facade with locally produced steel elements has become a symbol of Taksim Square. The architect collaborated with famous Turkish ceramic artists to design interior and exterior details. The new building operated for 30 years until the government decided to close it in 2008. The government handed over the project directly to Murat Tabanlıoğlu, the son of the former architect. He tried to keep some of the iconic values like the facade and the ceramic details. While the old building was one big unit, the new Atatürk Cultural Center covers the entire plot and connects the surrounding streets with Taksim Square. The main concert hall, a large theater hall, a multi-purpose hall, a small cinema, artistic and educational facilities for children, a library, large exhibition spaces, a museum, a design shop, cafes and restaurants were designed. meet the spatial and technological needs of the 21st century. While the glass facade of the architect father called for a lighted interior, the architect son changed the focus of attraction. He designed the concert hall as a globe visible from the outside. The globe was covered with specially designed sexy red ceramic tiles, which now shimmer enticingly through the glass facade towards Taksim Square"^[51] (Figure 91).



Figure 91. Istanbul Opera "Atatürk Cultural Center"

Source: <https://www.guiding-architects.net/story-istanbul-opera-house/>, Accessed: November 18, 2023.

Conclusion

The author has "studied Istanbul" for many years, through "cabinet work" and in many visits to this city. He realized that the best way to get to know a city is to tour it on foot and see it from different viewpoints^[52,53,54]. Since Istanbul is a huge city, both in terms of its geographical and physical area and its contents, the author made only a few tours, mainly in its narrow physical core and in its Asian part - Üsküdar. The most important tours of Istanbul made by the author are:

1. Taksim Square (Taksim Meydan) - Hagia Triada Greek Orthodox Church - The Church of St. Anthony of Padua (Sent Antuan Kilisesi) - Galata Tower - Atatürk Bridge (Atatürk Köprüsü) - Zeyrek (Zeyrek Camii or the Monastery of the Pantokrator (Greek: Μονή του Παντοκράτορος Χριστού) - Fatih Mosque (Fatih Camii) - The Eyüp district (The Eyüp Sultan Mosque/Eyüp Sultan Camii) - southwestern coast of the Golden Horn (The Bulgarian St. Stephen Church) - Egyptian Bazaar (Mısır Çarşısı) - The Grand Bazaar (Kapalıçarşı) - Fatih district – (by tram to Eminönü) – Beşiktaş.
2. Beşiktaş – Eminönü - The Galata Bridge (Galata Köprüsü) - The New Mosque (Yeni Cami) - The Rüstem Pasha Mosque (Rüstem Paşa Camii) – The Süleymaniye Mosque (Süleymaniye Camii) - The Şehzade Mosque

(Şehzade Camii) - Istanbul University - The Bayezid II Mosque (Beyazıt Camii) - The Grand Bazaar (Kapalıçarşı) - The Nuruosmaniye Mosque (Nuruosmaniye Camii) - The Basilica Cistern (Greek: Βασιλική Κινστέρνα) - Hagia Sophia (Greek: Αγία Σοφία, Turkish: Ayasofya) - The Süleymaniye Hamam - Sultan Ahmed Mosque or The Blue Mosque (Sultan Ahmet Camii) - Sokollu Mehmed Pasha Mosque (Sokollu Mehmet Paşa Camii) - Church of Saints Sergius and Bacchus/"The Little Hagia Sophia mosque" (Greek: Ἐκκλησία τῶν Ἁγίων Σεργίου καὶ Βάκχου ἐν τοῖς Ὀρμίσδου (Küçük Ayasofya Camii).

3. Beşiktaş – (by ferry) Üsküdar - The Yeni Valide Mosque (Yeni Valide Camii) - The Mihrimah Sultan Mosque (İskele Mosque, Jetty Mosque/Mihrimah Sultan Camii, İskele Camii) - Mimar Sinan Hamam Carsisi Bazaar - The Şemsi Pasha Mosque (Şemsi Paşa Camii, also spelled) - Promenade along the eastern shore of the Bosphorus - The Üsküdar Ferry Terminal/the Üsküdar Pier (Üsküdar İskelesi).
4. Taksim Square (Taksim Meydan) - The Istanbul Cevahir Shopping and Entertainment Center (İstanbul Cevahir Alisveris Merkezi) - Kanyon Shopping Mall - Ortaköy (Middle Village) - Yıldız - Beşiktaş.

The most famous individual facilities visited by the author are: Hagia Sophia, The Basilica Cistern, Sultan Ahmed Mosque/The Blue Mosque, The Süleymaniye Mosque, Fatih Mosque, The Bayezid II Mosque, The Eyüp Sultan Mosque, The Şehzade Mosque, Sokollu Mehmed Pasha Mosque, The Yeni Mosque, Church of Saints Sergius and Bacchus/"The Little Hagia Sophia mosque", Triada Greek Orthodox Church, The Church of St. Anthony of Padua, Nuruosmaniye Mosque, Zeyrek Camii or the Monastery of the Pantokrator, The Yeni Valide Mosque, The Mihrimah Sultan Mosque, Mimar Sinan Hamam, The Şemsi Pasha Mosque, Galata Tower, Yıldız Technical University, IRCICA Center in Yıldız Palace, Ottoman State Archives, The Topkapı Palace (Topkapı Sarayı), Dolmabahçe Palace (Dolmabahçe Sarayı), Yıldız Technical University, The Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University (Mimar Sinan Güzel Sanatlar Üniversitesi, MSGSÜ), Istanbul University, Camlica Hill, The Istanbul Cevahir Shopping and Entertainment Center , Kanyon Shopping Mall...

Istanbul is one of the largest and most important cities in the world, where traces of material culture have been preserved from prehistory to the present day. As such, it was included (1985) on the UNESCO list of world cultural heritage ^[17]. Along with many published books and scientific works about Istanbul, this is a small contribution of one author to create an image of the magnificent city of Istanbul.

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