

PALACE GARDENS IN ISTANBUL; THE EXAMPLE OF TOPKAPI

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Abstract

Historical gardens as an important type of green areas are important for today's societies in terms of their natural characteristics as well as their historical, cultural and aesthetic values. These historic gardens, which provide an environment for period buildings, are an important part of our cultural heritage, as well as evidence of the past and historical-social change. Palaces and their gardens, which were often built centuries ago, have significant environmental and cultural importance for today's cities and the societies that inhabit them. Istanbul, together with its other natural and cultural features, is also intimately associated with its historical environment of palaces. Istanbul, which is the most populated city in Turkey, possesses a number of palaces, namely Topkapı, Dolmabahçe, Cırağan, Yıldız, and Beylerbeyi. The oldest one among them is Topkapı Palace, located on the peninsula where the Bosphorus, Golden Horn and Marmara Sea interconnect. Topkapı Palace was the seat of government of the Ottoman Empire and the residence of the sultans for centuries.

Keywords: Ottoman, Palace, Topkapı, Garden, Historical Landscape

1. Introduction

Historical gardens as an important type of green areas are important for today's societies in terms of their natural characteristics as well as their historical, cultural and aesthetic values. These historic gardens, which provide an environment for period buildings, are an important part of our cultural heritage, as well as evidence of the past and historical-social change (Looker and Patrick, 1987). Palaces and their gardens, which were often built centuries ago, have significant environmental and cultural importance for today's cities and the societies that inhabit them. Among other features, some cities are often closely identified with their famous palaces inherited from the past, for example, Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna, the Palace of Versailles in Paris, and the Alhambra in Granada. Istanbul, together with its other natural and cultural features, is also intimately associated with its historical environment of palaces (General Directorate of Population and Citizenship Affairs, 2012). Istanbul, which is the most populated city in Turkey, possesses a number of palaces, namely Topkapı, Dolmabahçe, Cırağan, Yıldız, and Beylerbeyi.

The oldest one among them is Topkapı Palace, located on the peninsula where the Bosphorus, Golden Horn and Marmara Sea interconnect. Topkapı Palace was the seat of government of the Ottoman Empire and the residence of the sultans for centuries.

2. The Topkapı Palace and Gardens

The Topkapı Palace is situated on the most beautiful site in Istanbul, on the historic peninsula where the Sea of Marmara, Bosphorus and the Golden Horn meet. It is a complex of buildings built in the Turkish architectural style where the most magnificent treasures of the Ottoman Empire are displayed. Topkapı Palace was built up on top of a hill from where vineyards and gardens sloped down to the seashore (Necipoğlu, 1991).

Although the palace construction in the second half of the 15th century seems to have been completed, it has been under the influence of changes for a long time. Due to the increase in the palace population, the palace was constantly enlarged with the additions and various changes were observed due to the fires and earthquakes, and it took its present state in the late 16th century (Müller-Wiener, 2001).

Topkapı Palace was isolated from the city by high, irregular walls, some of which dated back to the Byzantine acropolis, because it wasn't considered appropriate for the sultan to live close to the public. Thus, when viewed from the outside, the palace presented a powerful image and resembled a fortified castle (Necipoğlu, 1991). In order to improve the safety measures within the palace, the area containing the main buildings was also surrounded by high walls (Uzunçarşılı, 1984). Topkapı Palace is consisted of an inner core and outer gardens defined by the high walls.

2.1. Design Characteristics of the Topkapı Palace Gardens

Turkish gardens can be subdivided into two groups in terms of scale and ways of use. The first group is made up of large-scale green areas like vegetable gardens, parks for public recreation (mesire), and meadows.

As for the second group, it is made up of small and enclosed areas like house, mansion, and palace gardens. The first group is made up of external gardens that mark a transition to nature, while the second group is made up of internal gardens that mark a transition to architectural spaces. While the first group is closely connected through nature, the second group is closely connected through architecture. This two groups of garden in the Topkapı Palace can be defined as 'architectural gardens' or 'geometrical gardens' (Aksoy, 2007).

2.2. Courtyards

The Topkapı Palace consisted of four courtyards. In the Topkapı palace garden, there are various built-in entrances from the inner courts. The layout of the courtyards are usually plain.

2.2.1. The First Courtyard

The First Courtyard is the largest of all the courtyards of Topkapı Palace. This courtyard, which also functions as a gathering area due to its features of various functions such as royal buildings, fountains and service, and at the same time being an open space, was also a kind of exhibition area of various exotic animals. The fact that it houses the rather long tall trees allows him to create the air of a village square (Eldem and Akozan, 1982).

From the main entrance, Bab-ı Hümayun, spacious and tree-lined First Courtyard is reached (Figure 1). The main gate which is the Imperial Gate (Bab-ı Hümayun) opens to the First Courtyard of the palace was built in 1472. There was a manor style flat that was used as a Treasury Room above the wall (Beytül Mal), which did not arrive today because it was destroyed in 1866 (Eldem and Akozan, 1982).



Figure 1. Imperial Gate (Bab-I Hümayun)

In this courtyard; warehouses, structures for guards and services were located. Also it was the place for courtiers to ride horses. The first courtyard, which is the transition place between the inside and outside of the palace, has shrunk with new structures that have been added to the courtyard over time. Trees are the only plant elements that are remained along the way which associate the two entryways (Figure 2).



Figure 2. First Courtyard Of The Palace

First Courtyard was also the ceremonial place. Gateway pictures are drawn here. This courtyard, that public to enter easily, was a social area. In this courtyard that surrounded by buildings, the Byzantine Church of Hagia Eirene stands (Figure 3 and 4).



Figure 3 and 4. Church Of Hagia Eirene in the First Courtyard

Hagia Eirene, the church just next to the entrance of Topkapı Palace, was a Byzantine church, today is a museum. It is the only Byzantine church with its atrium intact. Courtyard I, is a gateway in between the inner and outer places of the palace, was shrunk with the buildings attached later (Aksoy, 2012).

In this courtyard, a functional and informal group of trees, linking important doors are dominant. These trees in the surrounding are only landscape elements in the courtyard.(Figure 5).

There are platanus trees, some of which is 400 year-old in this courtyard. The body of one of the platanus tree is 14 meters around in the court (Figure 6).



Figure 5. A Long The Path Of First Courtyard



Figure 6. Platanus Orientalis Which 400 Year-Old



Figure 7 and 8. The Second Gate Of The Palace (Babüselam)

2.2.2. The Second Courtyard

The gate of the second courtyard is called Bab-i Selam and today it is the entrance to the museum. It was built in the time of Fatih Sultan Mehmet and was later repaired in the 16th century by Kanuni Sultan Süleyman (Figure 7 and 8). The second gate of the palace, the gate of Salutation with two towers on each side (Babüselam), opens to the second courtyard of the palace. The Second Courtyard is surrounded by the Imperial Council (*Divan-i Humayun*) Building, the Tower of Justice, the kitchens, the Imperial Stables, the Dormitories of the Halberdiers with Tresses, and the Imperial Treasury Building (Figure 9).

The Conqueror's Pavilion, also called the *Conqueror's Kiosk*, houses the Imperial Treasury. The foreign ambassadors and officers were free to enter within this area, as if reflecting the character of the garden. The second courtyard, called the divan square or "Justice Square, is smaller, but more beautiful. It is surrounded by, fountains, shaded paths with high cypresses and lawns (Figure 10 and 11).

Five paths that are scattered like a fan from the entrance, one of which is now destroyed, are reaching to the Kubbealtı, Treasury Room and Audience Hall (Arz Odası) (Figure 12). The most important building of this courtyard was the "Kubbealtı".

The courtyard is encircled by a portico. The ground tilted towards the center is paved with stone (Figure 13).



Figure 9. Conqueror's Pavilion



Figure 10 and 11. Divan Square And Cypresses Trees





Figure 12. Kubbealtı

2.2.3. The Third Courtyard

The third courtyard which is known as the "Enderun Square" is entered through the door called "Babü-Sa'ade" (Figure 14). It opens to the inner third court and the fourth court including privy (Has) gardens and kiosks.

This door was given its present day shape in the 18th century. Many ceremonies took place at this gate; that include the accession to the throne of a new Sultan, Bayram ceremonies and the ceremony of the handing over the flag of the Prophet to the Grand Vizier before a war.

The Third Courtyard was a semi-private space. The Sultan, his family and some of those who worked in the palace lived in the buildings that located around this part. Important officials could enter this place only when they were granted the authorization of the Sultan. Similar to the First and Second Courtyards, the Third Courtyard is also enclosed by various buildings.

From the Second Courtyard, through the "Bab-i Saadet" Gate, Third Courtyard is reached where the private parts of the palace are located. Living areas were starting in this courtyard. In this courtyard, as seen in the first and second courtyard, a number of centenarian (100 year-old) trees are on a flowered or grassy raised platform (Figure 15).

There is also some small courtyards in the Harem where reaches through this courtyard. According to the tradition, the Harem is a collection of buildings which is enclosed, covering their own outdoor spaces and Safa gardens. The most important of the Harem courtyards are, Queen Mother Courtyard, The Courtyard Favorite Wives of the Sultan and Courtyard of the Princes (Figure 16).



Figure 13. Portico



Figure 14. The Last Main Gate (Babüssaade)



Figure 15. Centenarian (100 Year-Old) Trees



Figure 16. Queen Mother Courtyard



Figure 17. Marble Floor—Atrium

The garden was seen from the Princes courtyard. The pool that Eremya Çelebi told as "There is a big pool here, the water of the pool comes to the overflow, and the musicians are rippling around," may be here.

This pool is in the same plane as the pool that Sultan Ibrahim fed the fish with pearls which is a smaller pool under a building structure between the pillars, but not finished. The garden in the lower level of the large pool contains a structure where wild animals fed.

The courtyard that Sultan Osman III pavilion and Sultan Selim III room were located looks through this garden. This courtyard is marble paved and there is a fountain pool in the middle. Also openings in the floor was allowed flower beds. In addition to the slope on the marble floor, waterway for the drainage is also worth considering (Figure 17).

The Third Courtyard which has the private parts of the palace within the gate of "Bâbı Saadet". It is a smaller perystyle than the second court. This court is surrounded with the important buildings of the palace as Harem, the Treasury and Supply Room. At the same time, the third court was a university where the precious artists and scholars of the palace lived and worked. It was called Enderun (Figure 18). The entry of Harem is from this court (Mutlu, 2006).

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Figure 18. Enderûn Library, Or Library Of Sultan Ahmed III



Figure 19. Concubine's Garden



Figure 20. Courtyard Of The Concubines

The construction of the Harem complex was begun in the 16th century and by the 17th century it occupied a very large area. The Harem buildings lay on the slope between the Gülhane Park and the Second Courtyard. Harem is a withdrawn collection of buildings, containing own outer space and Safa gardens. The most important ones of Harem gardens are Valide Sultan Garden, Concubine's Garden and the garden of Princes (Figure 19 and 20).

The Harem, which was planned to be placed on a steep slope of the location where the palace was located, was separated from the other courts by high walls. While this isolation process emphasizes the importance of secrecy, it is also noteworthy that none of the harem hunters have plant traces. Although there is no vegetation arrangement in it, it is seen that some courtyards dominate the beautiful scenery. For example, Boxwood Garden can be watched from the Courtyard of the Favorites. This courtyard was used by the women for playing ball, strolling about or sitting. Formerly, it featured a pool, 18.40 x 32.40 m in size and 1.10 m in depth, which had been the gathering place of the Sultan's family. However, this pool was covered with soil and later used as a garden (Anhegger-Eyuboglu, 1986).

As well as the courtyards, the Harem also has small gardens enclosed by high walls. The other garden of the Harem, located at the basement level in front of the dormitories of the concubines, is called the Harem Garden. Neither the Boxwood Garden nor the Harem Garden has an all-encompassing perspective due to the high dividers walling them in.

2.2.4. The Fourth Courtyard

The Fourth Courtyard also known as the Imperial Sofa (*Sofa-ı Hümayûn*). This was the private garden of the Sultan in which there are many pavilions. All of these pavilions, which are famous for their internal decoration, are open for visiting as Palace buildings (Figure 21).



Figure 21. Revan Pavilion

The Fourth Courtyard acts as a transition zone between the successive courtyards and the outer gardens surrounding the palace. It has views towards the Golden Horn, the Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmara, as well as the Asian and European shores.

Both the Marble Terrace of Sultan Ibrahim and gardens at different levels make up the Fourth Courtyard. As stated by various writers, this part of the palace was allocated to the sultan to be used for recreation and other activities. The Marble Terrace, with its marble pool, was a place for musical and theatrical entertainments. The terraced gardens, as well as the numerous kiosks dispersed around in the Fourth Courtyard, were used by the sultans for relaxing, thinking, eating, reading, writing, listening to music, watching sports activities, and for surveying their vast surrounding land holdings. Various plant species were found in these gardens.

The areas outside of the first three courtyards of the palace are called the fourth courtyard but these are garden groups with mansions inside more than a courtyard. Although the main settlement structures are on the top of the hill, in the gardens and on the skirts, there is a link between the greenery and the individual mansions and this relationship is extended to the sea with graded slopes by the coastal palaces.

This part is the most suitable place for the settlement of Safa gardens, with the view to Marmara Sea and the Bosphorus and the breezes from the sea (Aksoy, Evgüzel and Kemer, 2009)

The fourth courtyard is a natural garden which is built on four terraces. Buildings are located in this courtyard in the form of very elegant pavilions. In the garden, well-formed pools take place. The Fourth Courtyard is a place dominated on a unique landscape to the horizon of Marmara, the beauty of the Bosphorus and Golden Horn. The arrangement style of this garden completely comes from the need of life and function.

The Fourth Courtyard, as the highest degree of privacy held by the sultan and his family and Harem, and the most prestigious venue, is reached with the corps away from the monumental unlike the entrance of other courts, by treasury ward and created using the stairs and ramps in the 19th century.

From the terrace, with the stairs, Tulip Garden, (Figure 22) which has a pool with fountain on one of its corners, is reached.

Which is mistakenly known as Tulip Garden (Lale/Tulip), is limited along with on the one hand the Treasury Department, on the other side with Mustafa Paşa Pavilion (Figure 23).

Terrace Kiosk also known as Kiosk of Kara Mustafa Pasha was built in the second half of the 16th century.

It was restored in 1704 by Sultan Ahmed III and rebuilt in 1752 by Mahmud I in the Rococo style. It is the only wooden building in the innermost part of the palace. It consists of rooms with the backside supported by columns.



Figure 22. Tulip Garden



Figure 23. Terrace Kiosk

2.3. Tulip Garden

The Fourth Courtyard, which is the prestige place where the highest degree of privacy is held and the Sultan and his family live; which is far from monumental, compared to the other courtyard entrances, is located near the treasury room and is reached by using stairs and ramps in the 19th century.

The Fourth Courtyard, also known as Tulip Garden; is surrounded by Baghdad mansion, Sofa mansion, Hekimbaşı tower and is bordered by the Mecidiye mansion. Among the palace mansions dominating the view there is a pooled stone terrace, a fig garden where the lotus pool seen from this terrace and the elephant garden on its lower level which are open to the view of the pavilion's private mansions and pools in sets that the unique silhouette of Istanbul can be watched (Erdoğan, 1958).

Square shaped, carefully crafted marble fountain in the middle of the 14x15m sized pool located in the stone floor, which can be considered as the focus of the fourth courtyard, is the most prominent landscape element of the courtyard.

The pergolas used to strengthen the relationship between the building and the wall in Turkish gardens and to decorate and revive the wall at the same time have been used to bring mobility to the courtyard as another part of the courtyard landscape. Unlike the other courts, the fourth courtyard, which is dominant in the Istanbul Bosphorus; trees that bring the texture of the Bosphorus such as ash, linden, elm, lote, oak, bay, judas and pear trees, as well as rose plants, hyacinths and lilies are used to create proper landscape design for this prestigious courtyard (Erdoğan, 1958).

With the stairway descends from the other side of the terrace, the Tulip Garden with a fountain pool on one side is reached. This garden mistakenly referred to as the Tulip Garden; bordered by Treasury departments and Mustafa Pasha Pavilion. This pavilion staircase descends to the Şimşirlik mansion where the two pools are symmetrically located. Şimşirlik mansion has two floors.

The bottom floor is surrounded by pillards and two small stone courtyards form on both sides of the stair. There is a large pool in the garden close to the mansion of Baghdad.

2.4. Safa Garden

Inside the Safa garden and by the seaside, there were the Sultans' small palaces and mansions as summer houses. Just to the north of the Çinili mansion, the first item of the palace group, was the mansion of Sultan Mehmet III, in the place of the present archeology museum, was the Sand mansion and Sand Square where javelin games played and watched from the Çinili mansion. On the outside, beside the Soğukçeşme gate, which is opened to the city, The Alay Mansion located where the sultan watches the army parades, feast festivals, weddings of the sultans.

In the gardens, at the beginning of the fourth yard, there are Baghdad and Revan Pavilions, built with inspiration at the wartime of Baghdad of Sultan Mehmed. The terrace, surrounded by Baghdad, Revan and Sünnet Pavilions, is one of the most beautiful outdoor space of the collection of the palaces. The use of marble for flooring, fountains and bars by the seaward, gives unity to the expression of the space (Figure 24). The Revan Kiosk served as a religious retreat of 40 days. It is a small pavilion with a central dome and three apses for sofas and textiles.



Figure 24. The Revan Mansion

The terrace, surrounded by Baghdad, Revan and Sunnah mansions, is one of the most beautiful outdoors of all the palace community (Figure 25). Baghdad mansion built by Murat IV in 1639.

Marble in the sea-side railings, in the ground floor and in the fountain with the pool, completes the space. In the middle of the edge there is a small terrace pavilion called "iftariye", where, a garden in its lower level and a silhouette of Istanbul can be seen (Figure 26).

Iftariye Pavilion, also known as İftar Kiosk or İftar Bower offers an impressive panorama that is dominated by Golden Horn and Galata. The large pool next to the Sünnet mansion, is a cool and beautiful corner among the staves of the structure, being behind itself (Aksoy, Evgüzel and Kemer, 2009).

There were mansions and palaces, which the sultans had them built as summer house, in the sofa gardens and by the sea. There were also the mansion of Sultan Mehmet III in the north of Çinili pavilion, the first element of the group of palaces, around Ağa Garden called as Kalferi, now used as Archaeological Museum, there was Kum Square, in which javelin games can be watched through Kum and Çinili pavilion. Outside there is Alay pavilion next to the door opening to Soğukçeşme, known as found in the wood in the era of Sultan Murad III. Where the sultans watched the pass of the sultan's army, and holiday festivities, engagement and wedding of the sultan, to be adopted by grand vizier for the regiment of foreign ambassadors.

The functional gardens are next to the Safa gardens can be seen in European gardens. Park and gardens, whose samples could be found in the 17th and 18th centuries, are in accordance with the collections of Turkish palaces like Topkapı. Whereas the palace structure, in European samples, can be seen as in a large land, without having relation with the land and impact to the general location, In Turkish samples, the gardens follow the structures of the palaces, that's to say, structure first comes, and garden follows it (Aksoy, Evgüzel and Kemer, 2009).

2.5. Sofa-i Hümayun's Lower Gardens

The marble terrace surrounded by a wall called "Hisarpece" in front of the Sultan's room and the area under the flower garden where some sultans watch sports such as javelin, archery, wrestling. The stone throne of the 4. Murad period, which located in front of the Hekimbaşı tower, was where the sultans sit.

A variety of mansions and buildings was built starting from the 15th century in the Marmara Sea side of the garden. In this part of the garden there were gates for the passage to the third courtyard and to the great

gardens of the palace. Today there is the Sofa Mosque which was built here in the 19th century and Mecidiye mansion and the Esvap room which is connected to the mansion (Figure 27).

The Terrace Mosque, also called Sofa Mosque was constructed in Mahmud II era in the Empire style. The Kiosk of the Swordbearer used to stand in its place. It is known that there used to be a mansion where the Conqueror Sultan Mehmet built, a door to the lower gardens, and Çadır Mansion on it.

In this yard, some sultans did some sports such as javelin, wrestling and archery. This field is the part under the marble terrace and the flower garden of Sofa Pavilion, and Hisarpeçe, which is in front of the sultan flat, marble terrace as well surrounded by walls. It is also a place where the stony throne sultans, belonging to the period of Murat IV, in front of Hekimbaşı Tower, watched the activities. In the part of this garden, which has the view of The Marmara Sea, there were various pavilions and buildings as of the 15th century. Also, there are huge gates, providing passing to the third yard and the other big gardens of the palace from this space.

2.6. Privy Gardens of the Sultans (Hasbahçe)

Greatest amount of green area in the palace complex is covered by the outer gardens that are used for recreational activities by the Sultans consisting of cultivated lands, pastures, meadows, vineyards, stables, sports grounds and the Privy Gardens of the Sultans.

The Sultans had to rest after activities such as hunting, archery and javelin throwing. In order to meet the needs of the Sultans, there are various buildings such as summer palaces, pavilions and pavilions in the palace complex. At the same time they could follow the foliage, watch the races, wrestle and ceremonies, or simply enjoy the perfect view while relaxing in these kiosks. These structures were also used to make calls for important events as well as resting activities (Necipoğlu, 1991).

Has garden, surrounding the collections of the palaces in the north, south and east, is a park, as Gülhane Park, which is served for public. This wide part was in fact departed for hunting and sport activities, but it collected flower, fruit and vegetable gardens within itself.

While Hasbahçe was generally known as the sultan's private garden, Topkapı Hasbahçe had also art and science education buildings. It was the arts and sciences academy of that period. Here, artists such as Mimar Sinan and Mimar Mehmet were educated.



Figure 25. Baghdad Mansion



Figure 26. Iftariye Pavilion



Figure 27. Sofa Mosque

Growing flowers in the Hasbahçe has become an important passion in every period. Beginning from Fatih, most of the sultans were garden lovers and interested in the selection of the best flower species. They brought roses from Edirne, lilies from Halep, also wanted lilac, carnation and tulips in their gardens. It is known that the tulip love went so far as to give an era name (Aksoy, Evgüzel and Kemer, 2009). The Austrian ambassador who came to Istanbul at the time of the Kanuni Sultan Suleyman, stated the flower passion in the Turks as, "The flowers smelled so good that they were spinning their heads, which were unusual like us. Turks, are very fond of flowers. They do not hesitate to give a lot of money for a beautiful flower. Turks do not drop their rose petals, because according to their beliefs, roses are create from the sweat of Prophet Muhammad."

3. Conclusion

Topkapı palace garden has four courtyards. Lala, Sofa and Hasbahçe are located in these courtyards. Islamic, Ottoman and Turkish water culture have been used frequently in pools and fountains. The element that is never missing in the Turkish garden is water. There are various water elements such as sea, creek, pool, and fountain. Turkish gardens usually have pool. The water of the pools is activated by fountains. Pools are built as square or four corners. Round and curved pools started to be built in the 18th century (Evyapan, 1972).

There are walls and fences that are characteristic of the palaces. The walls play an important role in garden architecture. Walls; do the task of partitioning and dividing, as they are done to hold paths, sets, and pools. So it is necessary to distinguish them according to their functions. Carrier walls are built under terraces and roads, around the set and pools. They are made in a pillar shape, or just made entirely solid.

The pillars are made up of wide legs and arches connecting them. Another way is to apply the cut stone to the carved terrace or roads in a technique mixed with brick. The same arches are also used for fortifying the retaining walls.

In this case the wall is separated by niches. The most beautiful examples of these pedestal and arched walls are found in the Topkapı Palace. Most of them made of cut stone. Walls and iron bars, used to distinguish palaces from other structures.

In the palace gardens there are plants of various species as well as centenarian trees (Plane tree, horse chestnut, lote, ash, linden, elm, bay, judas). Functionality and visual aesthetics are the basic criteria that are considered in outdoor gardening. The carefully designed official gardens are positioned towards the Golden Horn and can be used for different plant species such as cypresses (*Cupressus sempervirens*), pines (*Pinus sp.*), Tulips (*Tulipa sp.*), Narcissus (*Narcissus sp.*), Jasmine (*Jasminum sp.*), and pavilions, fountains and pools. Flowers, fruits and vegetables, animals and raw materials from all corners of the Ottoman Empire were grown and collected in these vast gardens. In terms of these horticultural gardeners were also responsible for the guard.

Various animal and plant species that provided food for the royal table and for visitors to the palace could be obtained from these gardens, and water could be supplied through the underground cisterns. The excess of vegetables and fruits which were harvested in the gardens of the palace, as well as those brought in from various places throughout the Empire, were sold by the chief gardener in the public square which was located in front of the Imperial Gate. The money gained from the sale of food produced in these gardens was used to pay for the expenses incurred in connection with the palace kitchens (Necipoğlu, 1991).

Despite their beauty and functionality, the outer gardens of the palace began to deteriorate in the 19th century, due both to neglect and ongoing 'Westernization'. After the sultan's residence had moved from Topkapı to Dolmabahçe Palace in 1856, the historical peninsula lost its significance.

The few guards who were left behind to care for Topkapı could not keep up the maintenance of the gardens. In addition, a destructive fire swept the coastal area of Topkapı in 1863, and a new railway was constructed there

in 1871. The gardens were abandoned, factories were built in their place, and the traditional appearance of the city was transformed as a result of the chaotic industrial growth which took place from the mid-19th century onwards (Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 1983).

The deterioration of the outer gardens of Topkapı Palace has been described in various sources. A detailed plan of Istanbul dating from 1875– 1882 illustrates the loss of gardens and kiosks, and the guide of Istanbul which dates back to the beginning of the 1900's draws attention to a park and an outdoor café located in the area between the railway and the seashore (Kayra, 1990).

Today, it is possible to create fertile green areas inspired by the outdoor gardens located within the Topkapı Palace complex. In addition to the entertainment environment and visual aesthetics that are provided, the green areas where food production is also carried out, people, especially children, can witness the growth of the plants they consume.

The outer gardens of Topkapı Palace, with their kiosks, sports areas and privy gardens, met the recreational needs of the sultans in the past, whereas the inner core was mainly used for official and ceremonial events. Today Topkapı Palace Gardens, having historic worth, are spaces, lived, used and investigated with taste. Also, they have versatile, meaningful and effective functions. It is necessary that palace gardens be accepted as live cultural statues, depending on biological aspect and, relating past, now and future to the each other (Öztan and Yazgan, 1984).

The gardens of the Topkapı Palace come into monumental value like constructions in times. For this reason, It is a part of the historical, cultural landscape and architecture of Istanbul.

Palace gardens have a complex feature, functionally and aesthetically, which is coming from the design of the herbal and architectural elements, either combined or distinct. They also have a form of documentary as they reflect the concept of outdoor life of the past, and bring it so far. Palace gardens are precious historical ones which make Istanbul gain importance. They annex Istanbul to fame and quality. It is possible to divide the problems of arrangement and maintenance of the palace gardens into two groups.

The gardens of the palaces, sustaining the general characters of Turkish and European gardens, must be inherited in good repair with all the special features. For it, the subject matter is needed to be undertaken with the methods of traditional and scientific protection.

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CAPTIONS OF VISUAL MATERIALS

Figure 1. Imperial Gate (Bab-I Hümayun)

Figure 2. First Courtyard of The Palace

Figure 3 And 4. Church of Hagia Eirene in the First Courtyard

Figure 5. A Long The Path Of First Courtyard

Figure 6. Platanus Orientalis Which 400 Year-Old

Figure 7 and 8. The Second Gate of the Palace (Babüselam)

Figure 9. Conqueror's Pavilion

Figure 10 and 11. Divan Square And Cypresses Trees

Figure 12. Kubbealtı

Figure 13. Portico

Figure 14. The Last Main Gate (Babüssaade)

Figure 15. Centenarian (100 Year-Old) Trees

Figure 16. Queen Mother Courtyard

Figure 17. Marble Floor—Atrium

Figure 18. Enderûn Library, or Library of Sultan Ahmed III

Figure 19. Concubine's Garden

Figure 20. Courtyard Of The Concubines

Figure 21. Revan Pavilion

Figure 22. Tulip Garden

Figure 23. Terrace Kiosk

Figure 24. The Revan Mansion

Figure 25. Baghdad Mansion

Figure 26. İftariye Pavilion

Figure 27. Sofa Mosque