

TENNIS IN REPUBLICAN TURKEY AND ANKARA: THE EMERGENCE OF A SPORT AS A SOCIETY AND SPACE

CUMHURİYET DÖNEMİNDE TÜRKİYE VE ANKARA'DA TENİS: CAMİA VE MEKAN OLARAK BİR SPORUN YÜKSELİŞİ

Lale ÖZGENEL *

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Abstract

In the first years of the Republic, with the intention of spreading Body Training activities throughout the country, organizations that are responsible for sports management are established, various sports branches are included in the curricula of the Peoples' Houses and educational institutions, articles and books on sports branches and fields are written and projects for new sports halls and centers are prepared. In line with the goals of modernization of the country, traditional sports as well as sports of western origin, like tennis, played mostly by non-Muslim citizens and foreigners resident in Istanbul and Izmir in the last period of the Ottoman Empire, also acquired new places and supporters. During the first thirty years of the Republic, tennis continues to be played in private clubs and sports facilities that have increased in number, becoming progressively popular with the participation of Turkish athletes as competitors as well. Faced with increasing interest and needs, new club buildings are built, first in major cities such as Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir. This article presents a framework on the history of tennis sport in Turkey and its proliferation in the first thirty years of Republic, and focuses on the leading tennis clubs established within this time frame and the new club buildings designed for these clubs. In this context, it discusses the 'modernist' architecture of Ankara Tennis Club building in detail.

Keywords: Republican Period, sport, tennis, modern architecture, Ankara Tennis Club.

* Doç.Dr., Orta Doğu Teknik Üniversitesi Mimarlık Fakültesi, Mimarlık Bölümü Öğretim Üyesi, e-posta: olale@metu.edu.tr,

Özet

Cumhuriyetin ilk yıllarında ülke geneline yayılması amaçlanan Beden Terbiyesi faaliyetleri kapsamında spor yönetiminden sorumlu cemiyetler kurulur, çeşitli spor branşları Halkevlerinin ve eğitim kurumlarının ders programlarına dahil edilir, spor branşları ve sahaları üzerine yazılar ve kitaplar kaleme alınır ve yeni spor salonları ve merkezleri projelendirilir, hayata geçirilir. Ülkenin çağdaşlaşma hedefleri doğrultusunda geleneksel sporların yanı sıra tenis gibi Osmanlı'nın son döneminde yoğunlukla İstanbul ve İzmir'de yerleşik gayrimüslim vatandaşlar ve yabancılar tarafından oynanan batı kökenli sporlar da yeni mekanlar ve taraftarlar edinir. Cumhuriyet'in ilk otuz yılı içinde tenis, sayıca artmış özel kulüplerde ve spor tesislerinde oynanmaya devam eder, Türk sporcuların da müsabık olmasıyla giderek popülerleşir. Artan ilgi ve ihtiyaç karşısında öncelikle İstanbul, Ankara ve İzmir gibi büyük kentlerde yeni kulüp binaları yapılır. Bu makale Türkiye'de tenis sporunun tarihine ve Cumhuriyet'in ilk otuz yılı içinde yaygınlaşmasına bir çerçeve oluşturarak, bu zaman dilimi içinde kurulan öncü tenis kulüplerine ve bu kulüpler için tasarlanan yeni kulüp binalarına odaklanmakta, bu kapsamda bir dönem yapısı olan Ankara Tenis Kulübü binasının 'modernist' mimarisini detaylı tartışmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Cumhuriyet Dönemi, spor, tenis, modern mimarlık, Ankara Tenis Kulübü.

Sport was formally recognized as an aspect of national education and daily life in Turkey in the state policies enacted in the early Republican period (Evcin 2014; Akın 2004), and to support its development, two official controlling organizations were established: the İdman İttifakı Heyet-i Muvakkatesi (İİHM - the Temporary Committee of Sports Training Alliance), made up of representatives of Istanbul's sports clubs, in 1921; and the Türkiye İdman Cemiyetleri İttifakı (TİCİ - the Alliance of Turkish Sports Clubs Association), in 1922 as a semi-independent association of sport clubs in Turkey (with clubs in Istanbul and Anatolia) (Fig. 1)¹. The latter of these would go on to become the sole administrative institution and representative of sports in Turkey in the international arena following the end of the War of Independence, and through its projects and works between 1922 and 1936, several different branches of sport were introduced



Figure 1 - From the statement of purpose, Türkiye İdman Cemiyetleri İttifakı, TİCİ (Fişek 1980: 527) / *Kuruluş amacından alındı, TİCİ.*

¹ Fişek 1980: 344-350 and Appendix 1, 526-535 for Türkiye İdman Cemiyetleri İttifakı, Alliance of Turkish Sports Training Association; Fişek 1980: 350-372 and Appendix 1, 523-526 for İdman İttifak ı Heyet-i Muvakkatesi, The Temporary Committee of Sports Training Alliance; see also Yazar 2014: 308. Until the establishment of the Alliance, the management of sports was under the domination of Football Clubs in Istanbul, see Ekence and Serarslan 1997: 73-74. The first three directors of the tennis branch established within TİCİ in 1923 were Server Bey (1923-1930), Süreyya Genca (1930-1939) and Kerim Bükey (1939-1943), and the latter two founded the first tennis clubs in Ankara, <http://www.ttf.org.tr/hakkimizda> (accessed 22.10.2017:23.47)

to the country. These included athletics, basketball, volleyball, cycling, wrestling, weightlifting, hockey, sailing, boxing, horse-riding, fencing and tennis, which spread to cities beyond their bases in Istanbul and Izmir, and became organized as clubs and federations (Şenol Cantek and Yazar 2009: 204). The Alliance, in addition to popularizing sports on a national scale, also applied for membership of many international federations and managed Turkey's first participation in international sporting events².

The introduction of previously unknown sports of Western origin to Turkey in the Ottoman and early Republican eras was in keeping with the educational policy of the first decades of the Republic, in which the aim was to establish a modern curriculum based on the Western model (Yazar 2014: 308-309). Hockey, tennis and cycling, for example, were mainly being practiced by only a select group of residents of Istanbul and Izmir in the late Ottoman period, and generally by non-Muslim families, administrators of state and sports institutions, and retired athletes. Facilities for these sports were few in number, and those that did exist were closed to the public, and for this reason they were categorized as "elite sports" (Yazar 2014: 315; Şenol Cantek and Yazar 2009: 206)³. Sports such as tennis, swimming, rowing and fencing were considered to be pastimes for the socially well off and non-Muslims (Yazar 2014: 315; Hiçyılmaz 1974: 142, 144).

In Istanbul, tennis was popular among the resident British population until the outbreak of World War I, and several facilities were established in the city, including the Moda British Club (established as a federate Football Association in 1896), Bebek Club, Osmanbey Club and Mayak Club (Evcin 2014: 305; Yıldız 1979: 356; Hiçyılmaz 1974: 91)⁴. The Moda and Bebek clubs organized the first challenge matches between notable British tennis players at the time, while the Osmanbey Club was founded later with a single court by a group

² The Alliance established federations of athleticism, wrestling, cycling, fencing and weightlifting, and made the membership applications to the corresponding international federations, allowing Turkish athletes to participate in the Paris Olympic Games in 1924, Akın 2004: 57-58; Ekence and Serarslan 1977: 75.

³ Some sports facilities opened much late; for example, the first indoor swimming pool was opened in Heybeliada (Istanbul) in 1968. Located within the Naval Academy, the pool was open to the use of athletes from outside when it was not used for military training.

⁴ For a list of the first sports clubs to be established in Istanbul, Izmir and Selanik from 1890 onwards, see Kahraman 1995: 638-639. Doriane L. Neave, who lived in Istanbul in between 1881 and 1907, mentions a tennis court also in Kandilli, Neave 1978: 120.

of friends, among which were such names as Ohannes, Ananyan, Abramoviç and Hotchinson. Another facility with a single court was built in Sıraselviler by Majak and Jovarsky at around the same time, although the first official tennis venue in Turkey was the Fenerbahçe Tennis Club, for which a skating rink at the Kuşdili Clubhouse of Fenerbahçe was turned into an asphalt court in 1914⁵. This is considered a significant milestone in the history of tennis in Turkey (Baba 1940: 9). The captain of the Tennis Club was Fuat Hüsnü Kayacan Bey, who after receiving training in the sport in Britain, went on to coach several young tennis players at the Fenerbahçe Club after 1918, including Said Selahattin Bey (Sait Selahattin Cihanoğlu), Galip Bey (Galip Kulaksızoğlu), Fuat Bey, Hüsnü Bey, Zeki Bey (Zeki Rıza Sporel), İsmet Bey (İsmet Uluğ), Sabih Bey and Memiş Bey. This list of names of Turkish tennis players was later embellished by such names as Tefik Bey (Tevfik Taşçı), Prens Muhsin (Muhsin Yegen), İbrahim Bey (İbrahim Cimcoz), Mehmet Bey (Mehmet Karakaş), Mehmet Reşat Bey (Reşat Pekelman), Suat Bey (Suat Subay), Vahram Bükey, Sedat Erkoğlu, Edwards Ohanesyan, Ekrem Rüştü Bey and Kerim Bey (Bükey 1942: 125-127, 128-129, 133; Yıldız 1979: 357; Hiçyılmaz 1974: 92) (Figures 2 and 3)⁶:

“1931 senesi idi. Fener Bahçe kulübünün bahçesindeki Skating-ring olmak üzere yapılan asphalt kort-teşvik ve tergip, daha doğrusu muannidane rica ve ısrarım üzerine, Lawn-tennis oyununa tahsis edildi. İlk rahlei tedrisimde Sait ve galip beyler bulunuyordu. Levazimat tedarik edildi. Raket tutuşarak, kol hareketinden ders başladı.”⁷

The First Istanbul Tennis Tournament was organized during the years of occupation in World War I, with matches played at the tennis court of the Beşiktaş Military Police School on September 19, 1922 (Yıldız 1979: 357). Zeki Bey from Fenerbahçe Club won the men's singles and Galip Bey and Tefik Bey from the same club won the men's doubles titles, and received their trophies from Sabiha Sultan. The first major tennis event in Istanbul however, was the tournament organized at the Fenerbahçe Club in 1923. Attracting 40 participants, the event was another milestone in the development and popularization of tennis in both Istanbul and Turkey as a whole. The first significant victory by a Turkish player came in 1924, when Suat Bey, with his British partner E. Whitall, beat W. Seager and C. Binns in the Men's Doubles of the Challenge Cup, a tournament that had been organized regularly by the

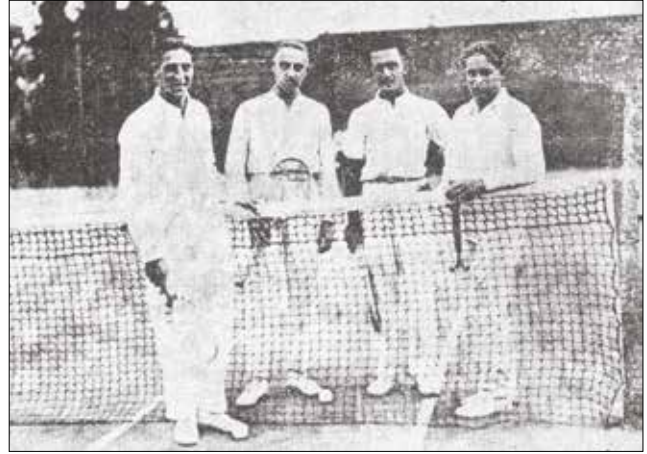


Figure 2 - Mehmet Karakaş and Şirin (right) with their opponents Kont de Bönzi and Kolombo, the champions of Italy, in the “Eastern Mediterranean Cup” played in Athens, 1927 (Hiçyılmaz 1974: 92) / Mehmet Karakaş ve Şirin (sağdaki çift) ve İtalya şampiyonları olan rakipleri Dont de Bönzi ve Kolombo, 1927 yılında Atina’da oynanan “Doğu Akdeniz Kupası”.



Figure 3 - Suat Bey with his trophy, photograph published in “Spor Alemi” magazine, 1924 / Suat Bey turnuvada kazandığı kupa ile, “Spor Alemi” dergisinde yayınlanan fotoğraf, 1924.

⁵ Fenerbahçe 100. Yıl Almanak vol. 2: 11; Hiçyılmaz (1974: 92) mentions that prior to the asphalt court a grass tennis court had been established in Kurbağalıdere in 1915.

⁶ According to Yıldız (1979: 357), some of these players were held as prisoners of war during WWI, and resumed playing tennis after they returned to Turkey.

⁷ It is preferred to present the citations in their original language and spelling.

resident British community since 1900. Suat Bey's victory in an event that had been won by British tennis players in the 15 previous organizations was a much celebrated success that received wide media coverage⁸. In the first

⁸ Suat Bey was both a tennis and football player; playing tennis in the summer and football in the winter. He played football

Challenge Cup, organized on the two courts located in the woods behind the Summer Palace in Tarabya, the Turkish players could not get through the first rounds (Fig. 4)⁹. In time, the tournament gained popularity, with trophies for the event prepared by a famous London silversmith. The first major tennis event to be organized in Turkey in the following years was the 1932 Balkan Championship, which was held also in the Fenerbahçe Club.

Among the tennis champions appearing in Istanbul between the 1920s and 1950s were Vahram Şirinyan, of Turkish-Armenian origin, who won the Turkish Championship from 1925 to 1936, and the men's doubles with partner Sedat Berkoğlu at the 1930 Athens International Tennis Championship; Hanri Yelyan, who won the men's singles title four years in a row; and Hrant Arevyan and Kris Uncuyan who were men's doubles champions between 1939 and 1949 (Ataoglu 2000). Giulio Mongeri, the Italian architect who designed many important public buildings in Turkey from 1926 to 1938, is also known to have played tennis, and competed with the champions of the period during his residency in Istanbul. According to a 1931 newspaper report, he also played and lost to Mehmet Karakaş (Çinicı 2015: 34). It is likely that the hard court established in the back garden of Maçka Palas, an apartment block designed also by him and built in the 1920s, was one of the venues where he practiced¹⁰. From 1923 onwards, stories of women tennis players started to appear in newspapers, and while non-Muslim players had more success on the courts, there were a number of female Muslim players who made their mark, such as Vecihe Taşçı, Mediha Baydar, Adriyel Sadak, Hidayet Karacan and rower Leyla Hanım, who trained and played matches at the Fenerbahçe Club (Evcin 2014: 334; Yıldız 1979: 358; Hiçyılmaz 1974:93, 142)¹¹.



Figure 4 - Postcard showing the Summer Palace and the woods in Tarabya (Sandalcı 2000 vol.2: 632) / *Tarabya'daki Yazlık Saray ve koruluğu gösteren posta kartı.*

Bringing the coordination and management of basketball, volleyball, handball and tennis under the umbrella of the Spor Oyunları Federasyonu (the Federation of Sporting Games) in 1935 was an important step in the structuring of these sports on a national scale, and led quickly to the establishment of tennis clubs in such cities as Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir¹². In Istanbul, for example, tennis gained broad popularity following the foundation of the Dağcılık, Yürüyücülük ve Kış Sporları Kulübü (Mountaineering, Hiking and Winter Sports Club) in 1936. Muhittin Üstündağ, the mayor of Istanbul at that time, supported the foundation of the club by providing a municipality-owned night club (Eldorada) at the corner of Taksim Gezisi (Taksim Gezi Park) for use as a club building. The construction of a clay court at the site resulted in a rapid boost in membership numbers. After an application from the fencing community in the 1940s, the sport of fencing was incorporated into the club, and the name of the club was changed to the Tenis Eskrim Dağcılık Kulübü (TED)¹³.

The club used the venue in Taksim Gezi Park until the site was subjected to a compulsory purchase order in 1940, and the municipality provided another attractive site in Taksim for the construction of a new facility. The new club building was designed by Rüknettin Güney and Fazıl Aysu, and opened in 1944 (Fig. 5). More classical than modern in its architecture, the building featured elements like a columned porch, protruding eaves, window grills and wood veneered ceilings. The spacious entrance hall opened onto a large indoor practice hall set aside for gymnastics, rhythmic dance, physical training and fencing although these two spaces were actually connected by a wide opening to provide the necessary longitudinal space for fencing practice (Güney and Aysu 1945). In 1943, three clay courts and a central court with a 500-seat tribune were built, providing the necessary

for Galatasaray between 1919 and 1923, and for Fenerbahçe between 1923 and 1924, <http://www.fahriikiler.com/osmanli-da-tenis-challenge-cup/> (accessed 22.10.2017:23.48).

⁹ According to the memoirs of Doriane L. Neave, the tournament was organized most likely after June, when the families of the resident foreigners, diplomats and representatives of trade companies would move to their summer residences on the Bosphorus. As a popular recreational sporting activity, players and visitors would fill the courts early in the morning, Neave 1978: 124. The building in Tarabya was also known as the summer resort of the Tokatlıyan Oteli (Tokatlıyan Hotel) in Beyoğlu, *ibid*.

¹⁰ The court was actively used both for tennis and as a dance floor in the dance nights organized at the back garden until 1960s; though not maintained well it was still in use at the end of 1970s, after which it was converted into a car parking lot, Gökşel 1999: 69.

¹¹ Non-Muslim women players seem to have played more prior to the 1950s, as can be understood from the player names mentioned in newspapers, like Destina, Lilyan and Vivi, Hürriyet 21.06.1948; Şenol Cantek and Yazar 2009: 206.

¹² The first law related to sport, the 'Law on Physical Training' (no: 3530), was approved in 1938.

¹³ <https://www.tedclub.org.tr/tr/Ted-Tarihce>(accessed 22.10.2017:23.13).

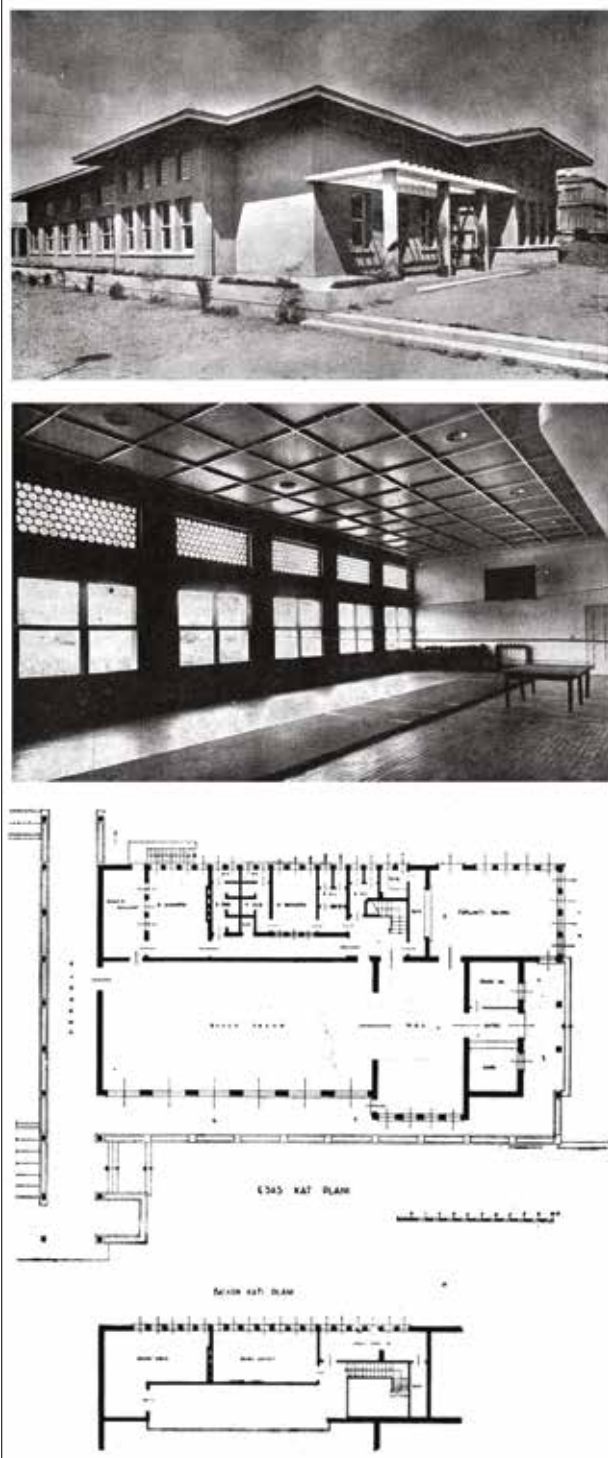


Figure 5 - Tennis Fencing and Mountaineering Club (TED) in Taksim (Güney and Aysu 1945: 97-99) / *Taksim'deki Tenis, Eskrim Dağcılık Kulübü (TED)*.

space for the organization of tournaments, and a year later, three more courts and a club building were added to the site. The club organized its first international tournament in 1946, the Istanbul Enternasyonel Tenis Turuvası (Istanbul International Tennis Tournament), which still continues today after undergoing several name changes, including the Uluslararası Istanbul Tenis Turnuvası (International Istanbul Cup), the TED Open,



Figure 6 - Mualla Gorodetsky (right) and her Belgian opponent Miss. Poquet; Miss. Gorodetsky had won the match in two sets (Bükey 1942: 131) / *Mualla Gorodetsky (sağda) ve Belçikalı rakibi Miss. Poquet; Mualla Gorodetsky maçı iki sette kazanmıştı.*

and most recently, the TED Challenger. The TED Club has trained several champions since its establishment, some of whom have gone on to international success, and it maintains a central role in the history of Turkish tennis. Its most prominent graduates were Mualla Grodetski, Bahtiyе Musluođlu, Şefik Fenmen, Enes Talay, Suzan Gürel, Fehmi Kızıl, Belig Beler, Behbut Cevanşir, and later, Nazmi Bari (Bükey 1942: 130-131, 132) (Fig. 6)¹⁴.

Tennis was played mostly among the Levantine community in Izmir at the beginning of the century, with the most well known players of the time belonging to the Bornova-based Charnot and Giruad families. Of

¹⁴ Mualla (Mila) Gorodetsky was the daughter of the retired Russian colonel Nicolas Gorodetsky and they were resident in the Mačka Palas; as one of the most influential figures in sports in Istanbul Nicolas Gorodetsky operated the hard court in the apartment and gave tennis lessons to the neighbors, to those interested in the neighborhood and also to his daughter who became the tennis champion of Turkey and the Balkans for many years, Göksel 1999: 51.

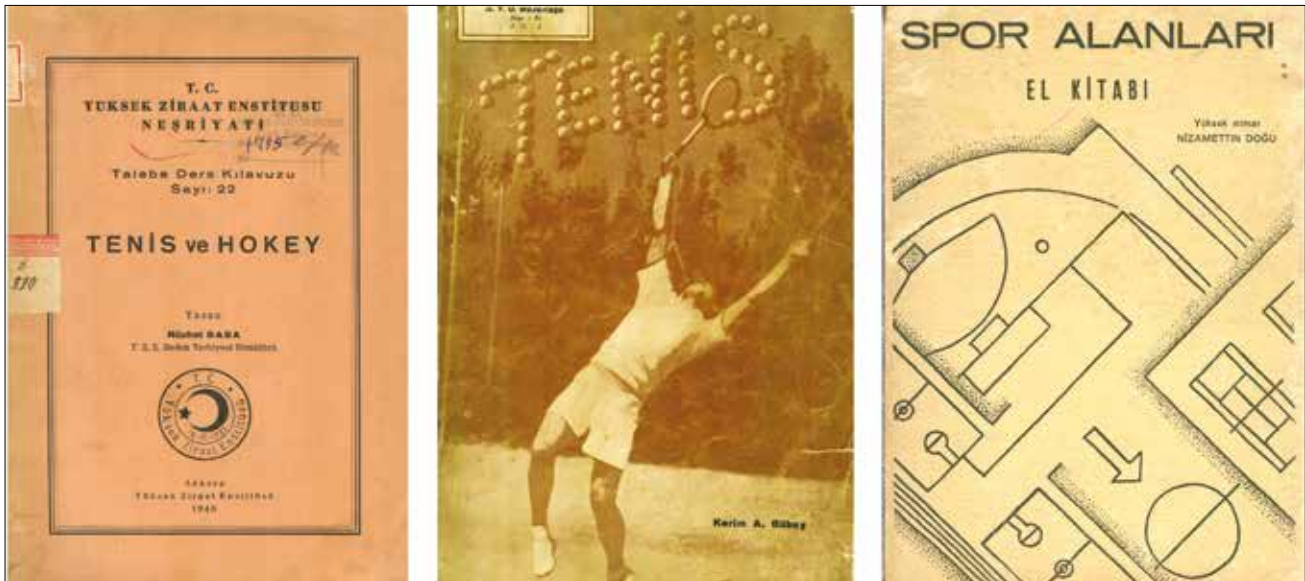


Figure 7 - *Tenis ve Hokey*, *Tenis*, *Spor Alanları El Kitabı*, published in between 1940 -1946 / 1940-1946 yılları arasında yayınlanan “*Tenis ve Hokey*”, “*Tenis*” ve “*Spor Alanları El Kitabı*”.

particular note are Jim Giraud and Harry Giraud, who played at the tennis club in Bornova and who participated in tournaments both in Istanbul and abroad, and established a tennis school in Izmir¹⁵. Tennis also gained popularity among Levantine women¹⁶. A significant event associated with tennis was Mustafa Kemal Atatürk’s visit to Izmir in 1925 during which he visited the Karşıyaka Sporting Club and watched the football and tennis teams in training (Evcin 2014: 338). The Kültürpark Tennis Club, a famous institution that still exists today in Izmir, was established in 1941 as a contemporary organization to the Istanbul TED, and produced many successful tennis players from the 1940s onwards.

From Elite to Public: Promoting Tennis as a Branch of Sport in the Early Republic

In the early years of the Republic, sports such as tennis, swimming, volleyball and walking were considered more aesthetical, less tiring and body beautifying, and so particularly suitable for women (Cantek and Yazar 2009: 210, 215). The sports that were practiced mostly by the resident foreign communities in private clubs and that lacked mass interest were among the first to be developed at a national scale by the state authorities, and the leading maxim of the educational programs developed in the new era was reflected best in the motto “Sağlam kafa sağlam vücutta bulunur” (To discipline the mind, it is necessary to discipline the body). Sports were initially integrated into the curricula of Halkevleri (People’s Houses), a state institution established in 1932

to provide the public with education in culture, art and sport, and the educational programs designed with this understanding aimed to revive such traditional sports as wrestling, to teach sports that were most appropriate to local conditions and to educate people in such Western-originated sports as tennis and fencing. Their curricula included also mountain climbing, swimming, walking, horse riding and cycling (Yazar 2014: 310; Evcin 2014: 315; Kılıç 2013: 40-49; Candan and Bağırman 2010: 206).

The introduction of various branches of sports, including tennis, into Anatolian towns in a bid to encourage students and young people to exercise, resulted in a demand for sporting venues and necessitated the planning and preparation of architectural projects for new facilities (Yazar 2014: 349). The required know-how related to sport architecture and teaching came from various publications from the period, such as guidebooks, as well as descriptive and instructive articles in architectural journals, which led to information on court dimensions, technical issues concerning the construction of courts and methods of tennis teaching being published in Turkish for the first time¹⁷. A short descriptive article published by Naci Cemal in *Arkitekt* magazine in 1934, a guidebook for planning and construction of sports fields by Nizamettin Doğu in 1946 and the first comprehensive books written on tennis by Nüzhet Baba in 1940, by K. A. Bükey in 1942 and later by Rasih Minkari (Cemal 1934; Doğu 1946; Baba 1940; Bükey 1942) constitute the earliest works on tennis in Turkey (Fig. 7)¹⁸:

¹⁵ <http://www.levantineheritage.com/testi86.htm> (accessed 23.10.2017:01.47); Bükey 1942: 127.

¹⁶ <http://www.levantineheritage.com/testi21.htm> (accessed 23.10.2017:01.54)

¹⁷ The first book on tennis in Ottoman Turkish was written by Mehmet Tevfik, and was published in 1926.

¹⁸ Bükey (1942: 145-146) also reserved a section in his book on the conditions of courts, services, club buildings and sun-wind conditions in the tennis facilities of the time that included An-

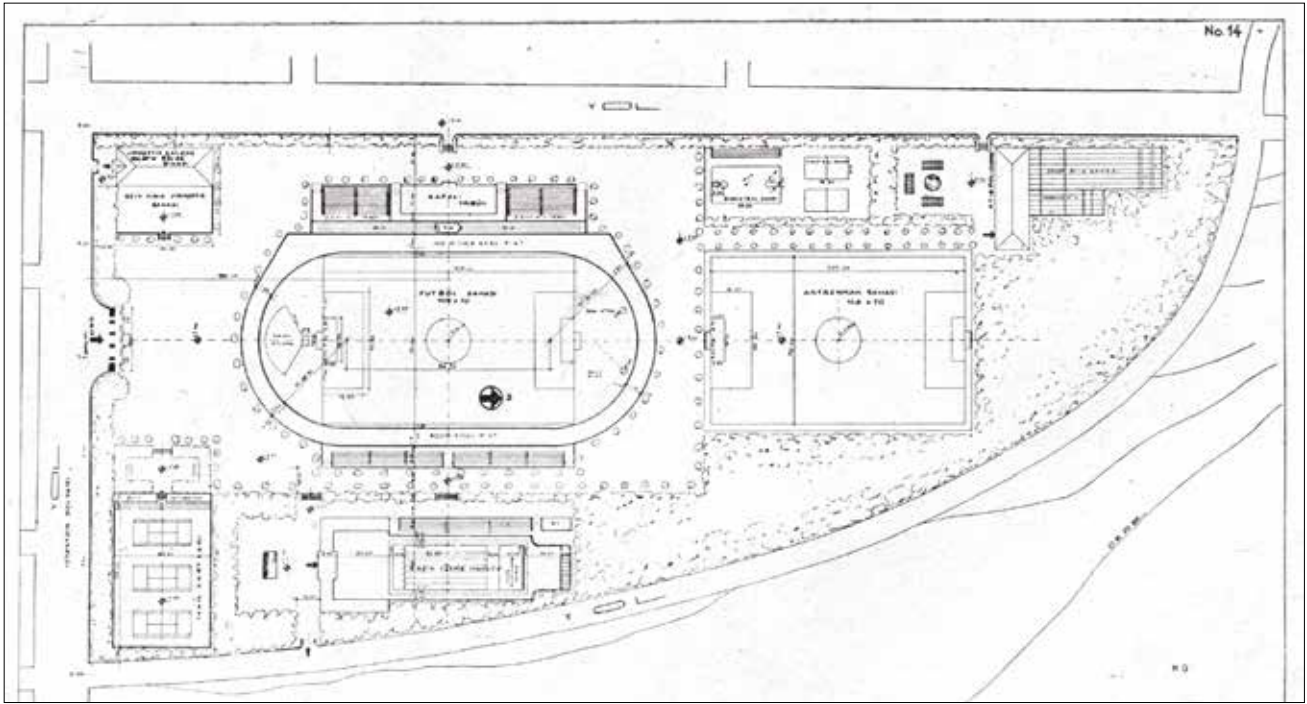


Figure 8 - Site plan of Urfa Sports Center (Doğu 1946: 50) / *Urfa Spor Alanı Umumi Plânı*.

“Yüksek Ziraat Enstitüsünün ilim ve ihtisas sahasında olduğu gibi Bedenterbiyesi ve Spor sahasında da Avrupa ve Amerika üniversiteleri seviyesine çıkarmak gayesi üzerine ve bu gayeye erişmek için de mecburiyet değil, sevdirerek, ısındırarak, benimseterek ve bu günkü hatatın bir ihtiyacı telâkkisini yaratarak iş başarmak yolunda yürüyoruz. Atlı sporlara olduğu kadar her türlü atletiz hareketlerine, futbola olduğu kadar voleybol ve basketbola, kayağa olduğu kadar hokeye ve tenise de ehemmiyet veriyoruz. Öyle bir hedef tutmuş bulunuyoruz ki Enstitümüz memleket ziraat sahasında olduğu gibi yakın bir günde bedenterbiyesi ve spor sahasında da en ileri memleketlerin mümasil müesseseleriyle boy ölçüşebilsin... (Baba 1940: 5-6)

Tenis sporunu yakından tanımayanlar, bilmeyenler bunun bir açık hava eğlencesi, kadınlar için icad edilmiş bir oyun olduğunu zan ederler. Kendilerine hak vermek gerek! Hakikaten tenis uzaktan hiç de ciddi bir spor manzarası arz etmiyor. Amma oyuncu veya seyirci olarak işin içine girmiş bulunanlar, tenisin sade ve kolay bir oyundan bambaşka bir spor olduğunu iyi bilirler... Memleketimizin tenisi son zamanlarda ve bu defa bizim gibi meraklıları için büyük ümitlere bağlayan bir inkişaf yolunda. Sahaları, seyircileri, sporcuları ve bilhassa genç sporcuları ve hatta hocaları gün geçtikçe çoğalıyor. Gün geçtikçe çoğalan bu gençlerin tenise daha içten ve daha büyük bir azim ve metotla sarıldıklarını görüyor ve sonsuz bir haz duyuyoruz... (Bükey 1942: 3)”.

In a review of Nizamettin Doğu’s *Spor Alanları El Kitabı* in *Mimarlık* magazine in 1946, Orhan Alsaç highlighted the planning of tennis facilities within the urban fabric as an important issue. Alsaç was critical of the fact that among the tennis facilities planned to be built in the sports complexes of various cities, those in Diyarbakır and Çanakkale were remote from the city center, warning that locating sports venues as close as possible to the city center was an urban

planning necessity (Alsaç 1946: 45) (Fig. 8). Books prepared for students and trainers alike illustrate that tennis was introduced and practiced as a sporting branch in educational institutions. A textbook on tennis and hockey published by the Ankara Yüksek Ziraat Enstitüsü (Ankara Institute of Advanced Agriculture) in 1940 shows that both sports had been added to the school curriculum by the 1940s (Baba 1940). The tennis court depicted in the site plan of the project prepared by Ernst Egli for the İsmet Paşa Kız Enstitüsü (İsmet Paşa Institute for Girls) in Ankara also indicates that tennis was among the sports planned to be practiced at the school, which opened in 1930, but whether the court was built or not remains unknown (Fig. 9).

The new housing settlements that were built to accommodate the employees of the newly established large industrial facilities in the 1930s and 1940s were often planned with tennis courts as well. The workers’ housing neighborhoods (Amele Evleri Mahalleleri) designed by Seyfi Arkan in Zonguldak Maden ve Kömür İşletmeleri, (Zonguldak Mining and Coal Enterprises, 1934-36) and Kozlu Kömür İşletmeleri (Kozlu Coal Enterprises, 1935), and in the Kayseri Bez Fabrikası (Kayseri Textile Factory, 1935) were among the first large-scale and extensively planned projects that responded to the housing and social needs of workers in the Republican period (Asiliskender 2009: 117; İmamoğlu 2009: 139; Öktem 2009: 169, 171; Zeybekoğlu 2009: 227; Akın 2004: 183-

kara Tennis Club, Tennis, Fencing and Mountaineering Club, Tarabya courts, Florya Courts and İzmir Kültürpark Club.

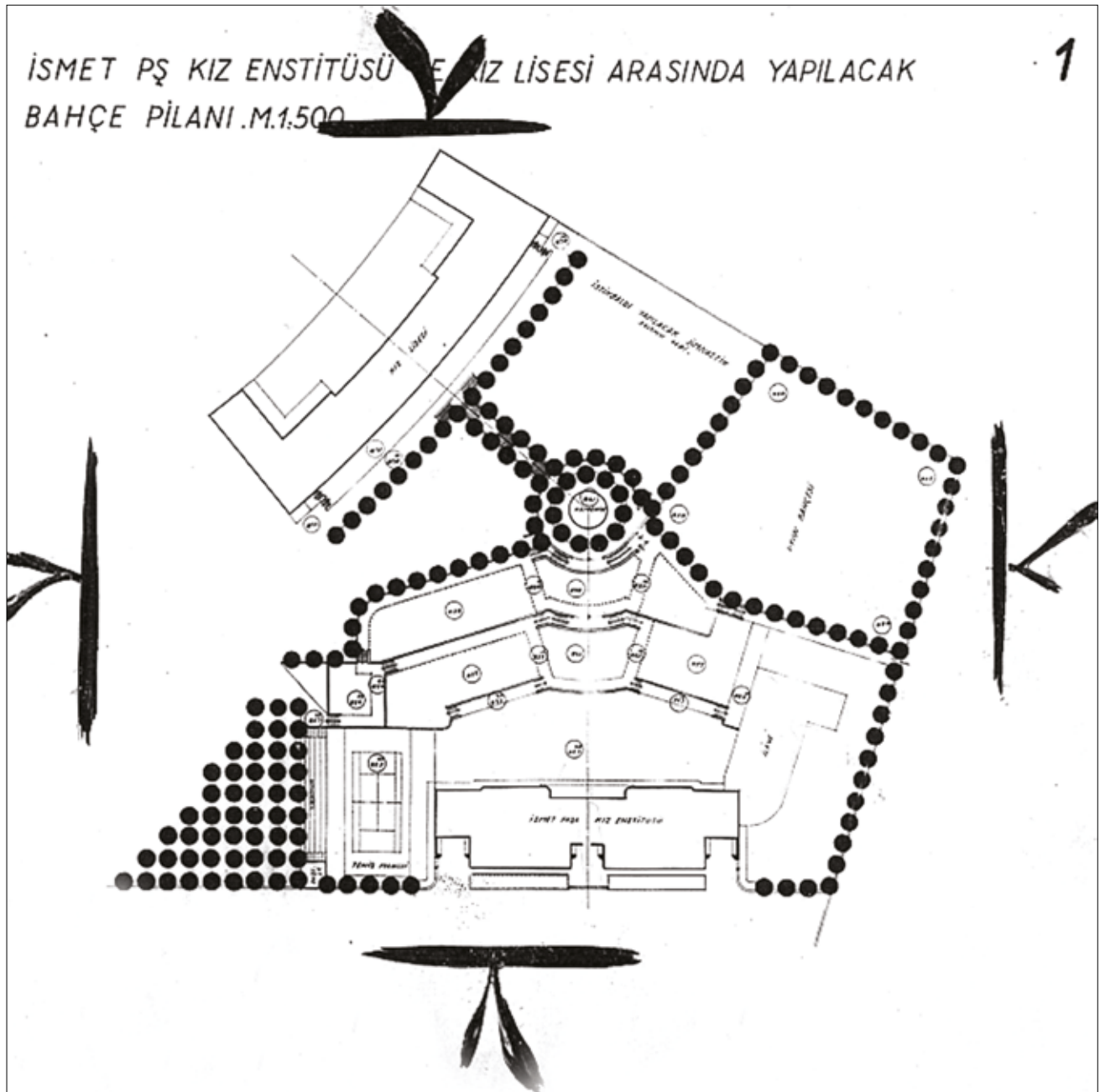


Figure 9 - Site plan showing the tennis court, İsmet Paşa Institute for Girls (ETZH Archive, via Atalay Franck, Atalay Franck 2015: 80) / İsmet Paşa Kız Enstitüsü vaziyet planı ve tenis kortu.

185). The tennis players seen in the foreground of a photograph of the sports teams of SEKA Kağıtspor Kulübü, SEKA Kağıtspor Club in 1950s (founded in 1937, and today known as Kocaeli Büyükşehir Belediye Kağıtspor Kulübü) shows how tennis had gained popularity as a sport, with clubs and teams established by several large industrial establishments in the Republic, like SEKA, Türkiye Selüloz ve Kağıt Fabrikaları A.Ş. (Turkey Cellulose and Paper Fabrics Inc.), founded in 1934 (Figure10).

From Sheds to Clubs: The First Tennis Facilities in Ankara

In an atmosphere in which sports were being cultivated following the foundation of Republic, Ankara, the new capital of the country received its first tennis courts in the 1930s. It is likely that one of the first tennis courts in Ankara was the one built in 1932 on the premises of the construction firm Asfalt Şirketi at the Çankırı Gate by Arif Pelit, an engineer and close friend of Feyzi Akkaya, who was the co-founder of the notable STFA construction company. According to the memoirs of Akkaya, when he and Arif Bey were working as engineers in the same firm,



Figure 10 - Sport teams of Kağıtspor Club in front of the first factory, 1950s (SEKA Documentation Center) / *Kağıtspor oyuncularını birinci fabrika binası önünde (SEKA Dokümantasyon Merkezi).*

they would play tennis at the weekends on this court, which was also popular among the young female employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Fig. 11):



Figure 11 - Fevzi Akkaya (second from right) with his friends in the court (Akkaya 1989: 44) / *Fevzi Akkaya (sağdan ikinci) arkadaşlarıyla kortta.*

“...Osman, Elmadağ’da Kosunlar yeraltı barajında, Arif, Ankara yolları asfaltlama işinde kontrolör olarak çalışıyorlardı. Çankırı kapısında, Asfalt Şirketi şantiyesi dahilinde Arif, bize bir tenis kortu yaptırttı. Ekseri cumartesi ve pazar günleri bu kortta tenis oynayarak vakit geçirirdik. Hariciye vekaletinden kortta devam etmeye başlayan kızlar, buraya ayrı bir renk verirdi. Hepsisi ipek gibi, hepsi tertemiz aile kızlarıydılar.

Bir yaz başı, zerdali zamanı başlayan, biz yaştakiler için fevkalade tehlikeli olduğu söylenegelmiş olan bu ortam, sonbahar rüzgarları esip de her birimizi bir yana; beni Macaristan’a, kızların bir kısmını Montrö’ye, bir kısmını Almanya’ya savuruncaya kadar devam etti. Onları trenle uğurlarken farkettiler ki bizden de, korttan da bir şeyleri beraberlerinde götürüyorlar... Bir daha kortu görmedik (Akkaya 1989: 37).”

There were tennis courts in the grounds of the British and German Embassies in Çankaya, and in the Afghan Embassy at Maltepe, however they were not open to

outsiders¹⁹. The first tennis facility established in Ankara was the Kavaklıdere Sporting Tennis Club, which was founded on March 17, 1928 and opened in 1929 with the support of Süreyya Tevfik Gence, who was a member of Parliament and the tennis director of TİCİ at the time. The club began to operate with a clay court and with two tents donated by siblings Sevda And and İnsan Tunalı in 1927 for use as dressing rooms (Tunalı 2005: 4). A second clay court was added later, along with a modest single-story building containing changing rooms and a snack bar in 1936 (Fig. 12)²⁰. The club became the first tennis venue for women players and the diplomatic community in Ankara, who used the facility also for social purposes. As most of the embassies were in Kavaklıdere, the club became one of the most popular social centers for diplomats, who would join the club as members for the duration of their residency in Ankara. Among the members in the 1960s was Nejat Ersin, a prominent architect of the period, who would go on to serve as president of the club from 1989 to 1994, and who designed the present club building which opened in 1970 (Ersin 2007: 5). Originally a two-story structure, the building was expanded with the addition of a third floor in 1993, with both the expansion and the accompanying renovation realized and supervised by Ersin. The club never became a federated sport club or a venue for competitive tennis, and has remained as a private facility with two courts open only to members.

The second tennis facility in Republican Ankara was established a decade after the Kavaklıdere Sporting Club at the 19 Mayıs Stadium complex in 1938, and comprised two clay courts, built under the initiative of Kerim Bükey, who was the director of sports in Ankara at the time²¹. The choice to build the courts

¹⁹ The tennis court in the Afghan embassy was visible from the street in the 1940s. The clay court was not used much by diplomatic staff, and so it was not well maintained, personal communication with Yılmaz Öz; Mekin H. Onaran, sharing his memories of the Club with, most likely, the Club administration, mentions that when he first came to Ankara in 1925, he and his friends used to play in the courts of the Afghan Embassy, from a letter in the Kavaklıdere Sosyal Kulübü Archive. A tennis court was already planned in the northeast of the ‘proposed layout’ of the new British Embassy compound dated to March 6, 1929; in another site plan dated to 1937 on the other hand, the court is seen in the southwest, <https://roomfordiplomacy.com/ankara/>.

²⁰ Information is gathered from the Administration Report of 1936, written on April 4, 1937 and filed in the club archives.

²¹ These courts are also known as the first tennis courts (currently courts 5 and 6) of the Ankara Tennis Club, established in the same location in 1947. Kerim A. Bükey was the tennis director of Ankara between 1939 and 1943, and worked within the institutional structure of the Türkiye İdman Cemiyetleri İttifakı, Alliance of Turkish Sports Training Association, <http://www.ttf.org.tr/hakkimizda> (accessed 22.10.2017:23.13).



Figure 12 - Kavaklıdere Sporting Club: first service building, sitting lounge of the service building, construction of the club building in 1969 and the present day club building (Kavaklıdere Sporting Club Archive) / *Kavaklıdere Spor Kulübü ilk servis binası, ilk servis binasının oturma salonu, 1969 yılında kulübün inşaatı ve günümüzdeki kulüp binası.*

in the stadium area was not a spontaneous decision, as the site plan prepared for the stadium area by Paolo Vietti-Violi after winning an international project competition for the design of the stadium complex divided the site into three zones: “the Hippodrome”, “sports fields for public” (stadium, swimming pools, practice fields) and a ‘luxurious sports area’ (tennis courts)²². The stadium and the hippodrome were built according to the site plan and opened in 1936, while construction of the tennis courts and the club building was postponed. Tennis courts were eventually added to the site plan, although in a different location to the one proposed by Vietti-Violi in the original site plan (Fig. 13).

These courts became the core of a tennis complex that would develop on the same spot in the coming years. A year later, two more courts and two wooden sheds were built to increase capacity and to provide the required services (Fig. 14), and this modest establishment of four courts witnessed several tournaments and social gatherings, and served as the tennis facility of the capital prior to becoming Ankara Tennis Club in years that followed²³. Like the Kavaklıdere Sporting Club, it was a favorite recreational and sporting center for the resident diplomatic missions in Ankara, and it is likely that the singles and doubles matches in the Ulus Tennis Tournament, which were organized in Ankara from 1940 onwards, were played on these courts (Fig. 15). It is known that Bayan Bahtiye, Bayan Şehriyar, Bayan Adalet, Vedat Bey and Şefik Bey all won trophies at this tournament in 1940 and 1941 (Büyükyıldız 2009: 74).

This modest facility was acknowledged as an official Tennis Club on May 11, 1947 and started to function as a federated club under the Beden Terbiyesi Bölge Başkanlığı (District Directorate of Physical Training). The mission of the club was to spread tennis on a national scale and to train athletes for international competition, and one of its founders was Şükrü Saraçoğlu, the fifth prime minister of Turkey (1942–1946)²⁴. The club rapidly increased its membership after establishment, and became a popular and attractive social center in Ankara, in time assuming a significant role in the

²² Ulus 03.08.1935; the stadium design by Vietti-Violi included a stadium for athletics, a hippodrome for military ceremonies and horse races, a cycling track, fields of common use for sports like rugby and basketball, tennis courts, gymnastic halls, two swimming pools (33m and 60m long), a medical assistance unit, sports clubs, a signal tower, a shooting range, pergolas and woodlands, Aslanoğlu 2001: 230; see Korkmaz 2007, for a comprehensive study of 19 Mayıs Stadium.

²³ Courts 7 and 8 at present.

²⁴ For a list of founders and presidents, see: <http://www.atk.org.tr/pages.aspx?pageId=14c94700-4302-43a0-a832-b4c0db477756> (accessed 22.10.2017:23.13)

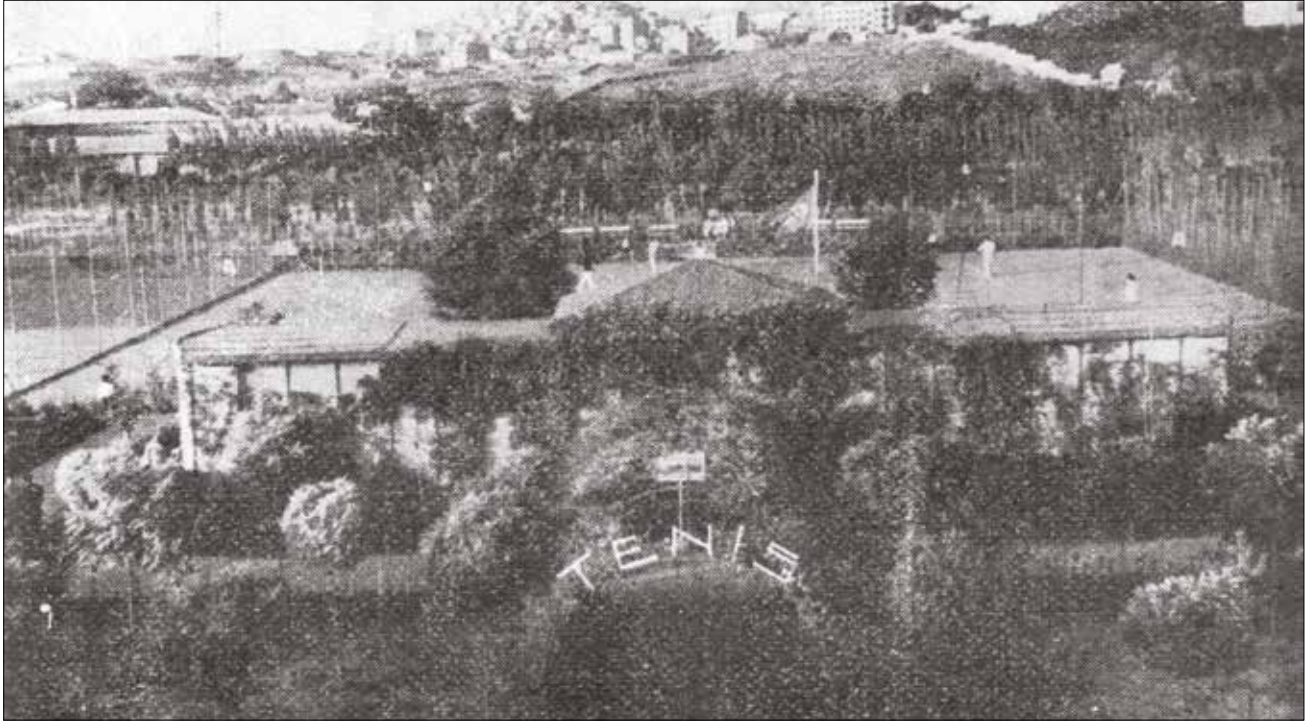


Figure 13 - Ankara Tennis Club seen from the marathon tribüne of 19 Mayıs Stadium, the club had 5 courts and a service shed at that time (Bükey 1942: 145) / 19 Mayıs Stadyumu Maraton Tribününden Ankara Tenis Kulübü, o tarihte kulüpte 5 adet kort ve bir servis barakası bulunmaktaydı.

training of athletes and in the organization of national and international tournaments (Bayraktar 2016: 77) (Fig. 15)²⁵.

The increasing popularity of the club and tennis as a sport eventually necessitated the construction of a better-equipped and designed building than the wooden service sheds, which lacked changing rooms, as when necessary, the players would have to use the showers beneath the Marathon tribune of the 19 Mayıs Stadium, located opposite²⁶. The club administration invited architect Reha Ortaçlı to prepare a design for a new tennis club building, which formally opened in 1954 and is still in use today, but with some changes. A publication prepared in 1957 by the Basın-Yayın ve Turizm Umum Müdürlüğü (General Directorate of Press and Tourism) for the promotion of Ankara as the new capital of the Republic mentioned the new swimming, horse riding and tennis facilities offering a broad range of sporting opportunities to the residents of Ankara, and the new building of Ankara Tennis Club was among the photographs published of the city's sporting venues (Fig. 16)²⁷:

²⁵ Erdal İnönü mentions in his memoirs that the intellectuals in Ankara in the 1940s frequented the Tennis Club, among whom were diplomats working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dündar 2012: 36-37.

²⁶ Personal communication with Yılmaz Öz.

²⁷ Önsöz (Preface), Büyük Ankaraya Doğru, Basın-Yayın ve Turizm Umum Müdürlüğü.

“Türk millet ve Türk yurdu büyük terakki hamleleriyle medeniyet ve refah yolunda ilerlerken, Ankara'nın baş şehir olarak ve vilâyet olarak gösterdiği parlak inkişaf bu ileri gidişin en güzel örneklerinden birini ortaya koymuştur. Gerçekten 1950 den bu yana hummalı çalışmalarla geçen yıllar, bütün vatan sahinde olduğu gibi, Ankara'da da imar ve kalkınmanın gönüllere ferahlık veren eserlerini canlandırmıştır. Kudret ve hızını Türk milletinin refah ve yükselme azminden alan yepyeni bir yaratıcı ruhla vatandaşa karşı yeni bir hizmet anlayışı, Ankara'nın taşında, toprağında âdeta altın harflerle yazılmış bir tarih sahifesi gibi okunmaktadır. Ankara, memleket bütününün seri inkişafını hassas bünyesinde aksettirerek büyüyor, güzelleşiyor, gittikçe daha müterakki ve medeni bir seviyeye doğru yükseliyor.

Bu küçük kitap 1950 den bugüne kadar yedi yıllık kısa devre içinde Ankara'nın nasıl muazzam ilerlemelerle ne ölçüde eser ve hizmetlere kavuştuğuna ve ne kadar büyük ümitlerle dolu kıymetli bir istikbale doğru sür'atle yol aldığını nazarlarda tecessüm ettirmek hedefini taşıyor. Fakat bu sahifelerde ifadesini bulan mesut inkişafın bir şehir ve bir vilâyetin hudutlarından taşarak bütün memleket ölçüsünde geniş ve belâğ bir mâna taşıdığı da bir hakikattir.”

The first major event to be hosted at the new club premises was the 1960 International Tennis Tournament organized by Yılmaz Öz, Vahit Önat, members of both the Kavaklıdere Sporting Club and the Ankara Tennis Club, and their friends, which took the international tournaments organized by the Tennis Fencing and Mountaineering Club (TED) in Istanbul as a model. The late General Cemal Gürsel, who was the nominal head of the military group who toppled the Government in May of 1960, was among the spectators of the final match²⁸.

²⁸ Personal communication with Yılmaz Öz.

TENNIS IN REPUBLICAN TURKEY AND ANKARA: THE EMERGENCE OF A SPORT AS A SOCIETY AND SPACE

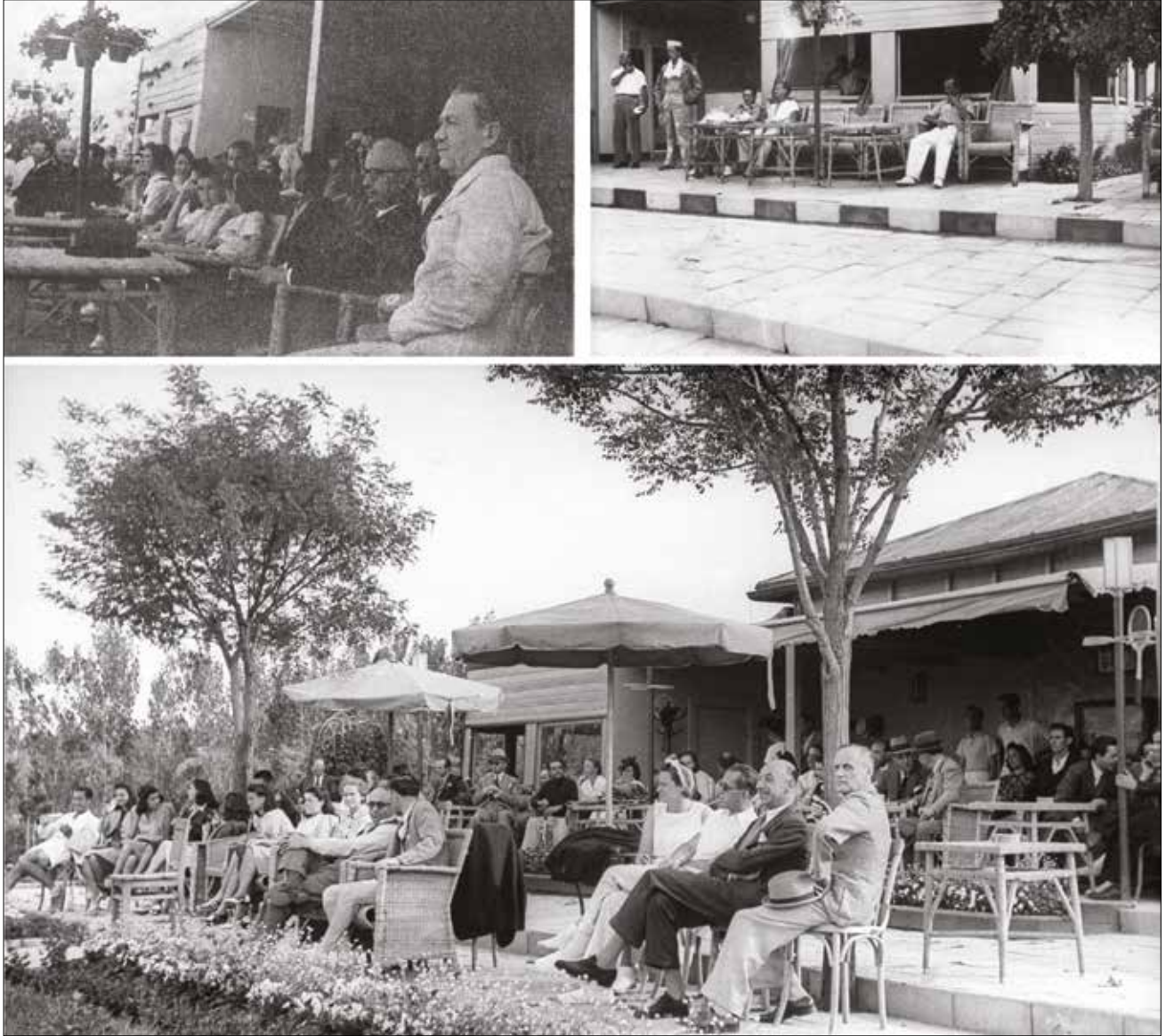


Figure 14 - Service sheds and the outdoor sitting area, top left: İsmet İnönü watching a match; bottom: Turkish Prime Minister Şükrü Saraçoğlu and American Ambassador Laurence A. Steinhardt (both wearing hats) with members of Turkish government and foreign diplomats during a match in 1942 (top: Ankara Tennis Club Archive, bottom: Hart Preston / The LIFE Picture Collection / Getty Images Turkey) / Servis barakası ve oturma alanı, sol üst fotoğrafta İsmet İnönü maç izlerken; altta Başbakan Şükrü Saraçoğlu ve Amerikan Büyükelçisi Laurence A. Steinhardt (ikisi de şapkalı) meclis üyeleri ve yabancı diplomatlarla maç izlerken, 1942.



Figure 15 - News about the Ulus Cup held in Ankara in 1941 (Büyükyıldız 2009: 75) / 1941 yılında Ankara'da düzenlenen Ulus Kupası hakkında gazete haberi.

The club today covers an area of 21 decares and has a total of 18 indoor and outdoor tennis courts. The first eight courts, which formed the core of the club, have clay surfaces and are still in use, while the center court, which was presumably built in the late 1950s or early 1960s, also had a clay surface, but fell out of use for a while in the 1990s due to structural problems and difficulties experienced in maintenance. At present it is covered by a plastic casing and put back into use as an indoor court.

The club building has undergone several major and minor renovations since opening, including the addition of a new restaurant, a kitchen and games rooms from the 1970s onwards that gradually became what is now a two-story annex.



Figure 16 - Ankara Tennis Club under construction, and in 1957 (Akşam 01.06.1955; Büyük Ankara'ya Doğru 1957) / *Ankara Tenis Kulübü binası inşaat halindeyken ve 1957'de.*

Ankara Tennis Club: An Iconic Example of Modernism

Reha Ortaçlı was working in Emlak Bankası when he designed the Ankara Tennis Club building, and had been an active competition participant before joining the bank in 1950, winning awards in several competitions between 1946 and 1949. Ortaçlı had overseen the construction of several housing projects in Ankara prior to his retirement from Emlak Bank in 1980, but his best known building is the Ankara Tennis Club (Özbay 2010)²⁹.

²⁹ An interview with Ortaçlı shortly before his death in 2010 was not as productive as hoped, in that he could remember only a few things about his architectural practice, and unfortunately, had not maintained an archive of his works. The interview was made by Aslı Özbay and was published in Serbest Mimar magazine in 2010; for two other studies on the club building see:

Over the years, the club has become a reputable venue for sports, recreation and social gatherings and since the opening of the new building in 1957 its facilities are being used not only by its members, tennis players and team members, but also by their families, friends and guests. Its spacious gardens have long been considered an attractive, green and safe place where families with children can pass the time. But as an inevitable consequence of its popularity, the club has grown out of the building, lacking sufficient restaurant, lounge and kitchen facilities. Between 1966 and 1994, several alterations and additions were made that aimed at spatial enlargement. The kitchen which was built as a separate unit in the garden, and provided service to both the garden and the building has undergone several

enlargements (1977, 1982, 1990, 1994), during which the door providing access to the tennis courts from the building was altered to include a windbreak hall (1977), a new restaurant space was added next to the building on the east (1990), the sloping east façade was breached to provide access to the new restaurant and a second story with a balcony was added to be used as a games room above the new restaurant (1995)³⁰. This gradually built two-story annex, in its final form, has a sloping flat roof and a series of slit windows with sunshades, similar to those used in the original building. Despite the efforts to establish an architectural reference to, and continuity with, the original building, the resulting two-story annex suppresses the unique mass composition and the authentic silhouette of the first building. Moreover, the dressing rooms that had been located at either end of the mezzanine floor and which had received light from the ribbon windows in the lateral façades were relocated below the tribunes of the center court at the beginning of the 1980s, and the resulting empty spaces on both ends of the mezzanine floor were rearranged into a games room, restrooms and new administrative offices and a meeting room. To provide light to the newly organized spaces, windows were opened in the blind walls on the two sides of the original façade, and with this perforation, the building lost its once tectonically well-balanced solid-void composition that had been compatible with its tapered form and its sloping roof slab. The most recent alteration involved the renovation of the restaurant within the annex in 2014, during which the slit windows opening onto the main entrance of the building were removed and replaced with a glass-to-floor window area to allow more daylight into the restaurant, while the canopy over the entrance was removed.

Despite all these renovations, the original club building has managed to retain most of the architectural features of its 1950s modernist design. The building was originally a compact two-story building with a distinctive silhouette (Fig. 17, 18) that was its most memorable feature, formed by the inclined wall that forms the lateral façade on the east and the concrete flat roof that slopes downwards at various angles from both lateral façades. The roof wraps the building like a folded plate, and the continuity of the roof slab in forming the lateral façades is accentuated by the white color of the projected bands. Apart from creating an authentic building profile, the slopes of the roof also serve to break the monotony of what would otherwise be a low rectangular building. The architectural language used throughout the building makes intelligent use of

slopes, angles and curved contours, thus embracing and articulating a non-orthogonal design.

The building has retained several other characteristic features, such as its exterior and interior ramps. The short outdoor ramp leads to the main entrance of the building on the stadium side (Fig. 19), and was covered by a canopy before 2014. Out of alignment with the façade, the ramp meets the entrance hall in an angular orientation at its northeast corner and stands independent of the building. Two cross-shaped, iron tubular columns on either side of the ramp had supported the smoothly curved canopy slab above until the canopy was removed during the renovation of the restaurant annex in 2014³¹. This was a typical example of the canopies built using cross-iron tubular column supports in the 1950s and 1960s, and so it can be said that the building has lost one of its most characteristic elements that had supported its modern architectural look. A second ramp is used in the interior as the main circulation element (Fig. 20). Composed of two long arms, the ramp skirts the entrance façade and connects the entrance hall to the mezzanine floor, providing a commanding view of the central two-story high sitting hall, with the courts on one side and a view of the stadium on the other. The gradual upward shifting of the horizontal modulation in the window area on the entrance façade refers to the slope of the ramp behind, and thus the kinetic orientation towards the upper floor. The mezzanine floor, formed from a curved slab forming an S-shaped contour, serves as a passage between the spaces on either side of the original building, and provides access to the flanking balcony (Fig. 21). The iron balustrade used along the ramps and the mezzanine is kept simple in design to enhance the spatial continuity in between the floors, and the articulation of the balustrades that encircle the two trophy display cabinets on the mezzanine floor is a refined detail that shows how, like the fireplace, space and its decorative elements were designed to form an integrated whole.

The tall, marble clad fireplace that flanks the landing of the ramp is another architecturally prominent component (Fig. 22). Designed as a thick, tall and tapered wall, it defines the spatial transition from the two-story high sitting lounge to the single-story hall. Acting also as a structural element for the mezzanine floor, the modern fireplace is in harmony with the non-orthogonal geometry seen in many other details of the building.

³⁰ These dates were garnered from the meeting minutes kept in the club archive; although the sequence, scale and type of change (whether renovation, alteration or new construction) in both the old kitchen and new restaurant area cannot be followed.

³¹ The canopy needed structural stabilization, and the club administration was planning to re-build it after the restaurant renovation. This is yet to be realized.



Figure 17 - Ankara Tennis Club (ATK) in 1957 and today (Ankara Tennis Club Archive; Gülşah Aykaç)
/ *Ankara Tenis Kulübü (ATK) 1957'de ve günümüzde.*

In its original form, the ground floor had been set aside for the entrance hall, sitting lounges and administrative offices, while the mezzanine floor contained the changing rooms. The entrance hall and the offices had been located on the stadium side, and while the ground floor still houses its original functions, the function of the upper floor has changed. The sitting lounge offers a commanding view of the tennis courts and is separated from the entrance hall by a level difference, and the exposed structural ceiling beams provide a visual articulation and an architectural decoration for the interior. The long window on the façade facing the courts was once a glass-to-floor window that allowed full view of the courts, but in 1977 it was altered to include a parapet wall. The fireplace stands between the second and the smaller sitting hall, planned as an extension to the high lounge, and this secondary hall has glass-to-floor windows. To provide outdoor access from this hall, the original window modulation was changed and a sliding door was added.

On the northeast façade overlooking the courts can be found a long balcony aligned with the window area of the main lounge below (Figures 23 and 24). Used as a spectating area for the courts, the balcony can be accessed from both the mezzanine floor and a cantilevered external staircase. The independently planned staircase is in an angular position with respect to the façade, and its wide landing functions as a second viewing terrace. The slender slabs, the staircase landing, which floats on two V-shaped supports, and the simple iron balustrades serve to lessen the physical presence of the balcony-staircase unit, preventing it from dominating or competing with the authentic tapered form of the building, and from obstructing its perception from the court side. The design altogether accentuates the horizontal and iconic silhouette of the building.

The façades were designed to suit the functions behind. The large window areas overlooking the courts on both floors, for example, provide a visual continuity between the interior and exterior, and hence comfortable spectating. Originally, this transparency

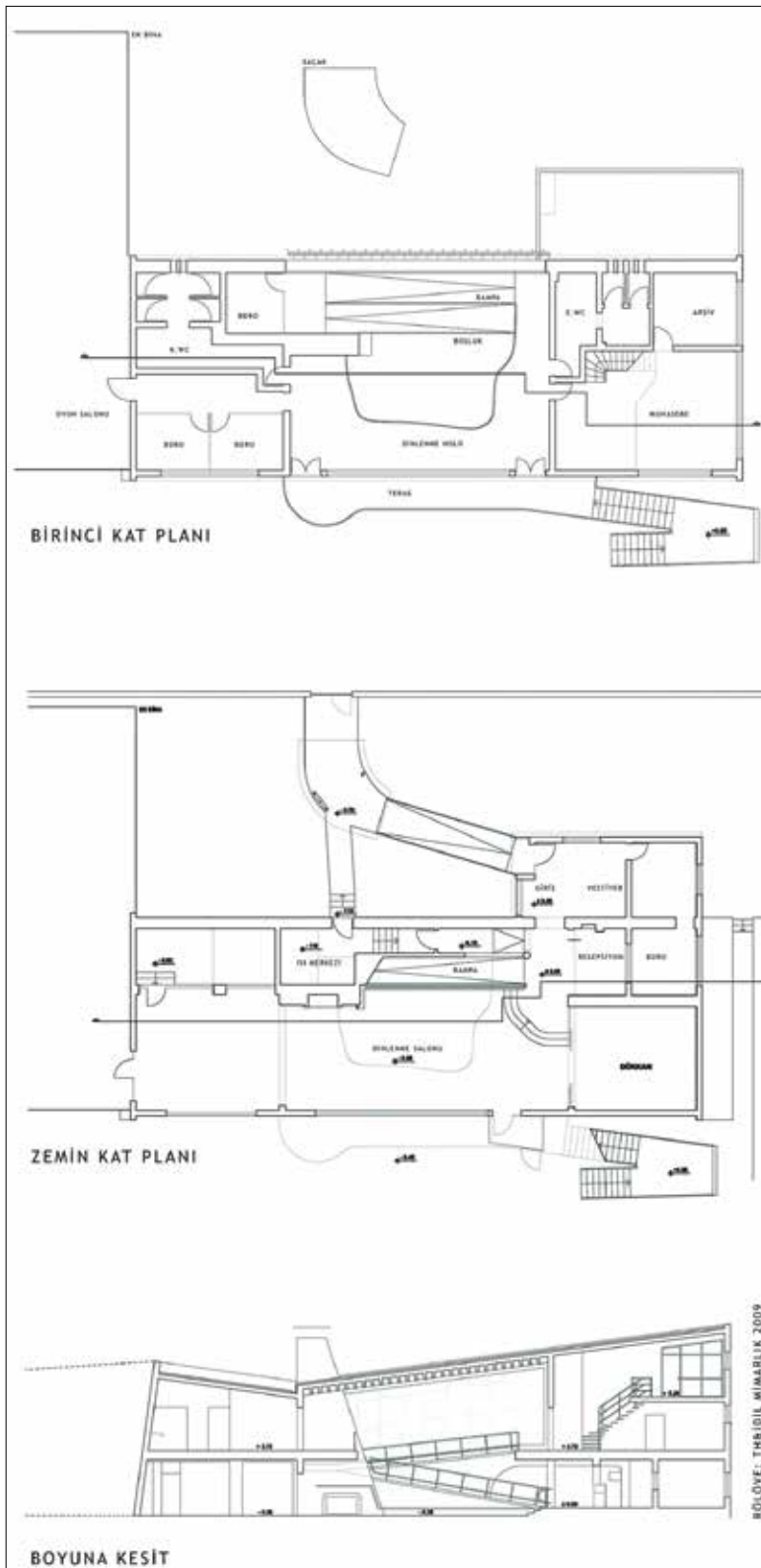


Figure 18 - Plans and section of the club building (TH&İDİL and TSMĐ Archive) / *Kulüp binasının planları ve kesiti.*

was balanced by leaving both sides blind, aside from the small sitting area on the ground floor. Behind the once blind façades were then, the changing rooms. The façade overlooking the stadium, on the other hand, is southwest oriented and is another architecturally distinctive part of the building (Fig. 19), featuring

a large and high window area over the entrance canopy. Its slanted form refers to the ramp behind. The glass surface is screened by a frame of vertical sunshades constructed out of grooved wood wool to provide climate comfort, which was a unique application for its time. The small bean-shaped decorative windows on this façade and the protruding concrete semi-circular double channel gutters along both long façades can be seen as complimentary figurative and expressionist details of the subtle modernist dialect in between the constituent architectural elements (Fig. 25).

The Ankara Tennis Club building embodies a strong sense of form and space, expressed with a plain architectural tectonic. Ortaçlı's specific goal was to create a clear perception of mass and an uninterrupted space, and the architectural elements forming the mass, space and the individual components, in this respect, utilize the dynamic impact created by the non-orthogonal geometry that is exploited in various ways and at different scales. This dynamism can be seen both inside and outside the building, and marries well with the building's function as a sporting venue. Common to all components of the building, such as the ramps, mezzanine floor, fireplace, balcony, roof, external staircase and bean-windows, is a non-orthogonal planning technique that creates a unified functional and aesthetic composition and forms an original, rich and individual architectural language. Building components such as gutters and sunshades serve beyond their technical functions as aesthetical apparatuses in this language. This non-orthogonal planning method creates a plain but powerful space and silhouette, identified by the architectural items themselves, such as the folding roof, the tall fireplace, the substantial ramp, the undulating mezzanine and the ceiling of exposed beams, and so demands no additional ornamentation or decoration. In short, the architecture becomes both the space and the decoration.



Figure 19 - Southwest facade and the outdoor ramp leading to the entrance, before the demolition of the canopy (TH&İDİL and TSMD Archive) / *Güneybatı cephesi ve giriş rampası, giriş saçağı yıkılmadan önce.*



Figure 20 - Main circulation ramp in the sitting hall (author) / *Oturma salonundaki ana dolaşım rampası.*



Figure 21 - Mezzanine floor and the trophy cabinets (TH&İDİL and TSMD Archive) / *Asma kat ve kupa dolapları.*



Figure 22 - Fireplace (author) / *Şömine.*

Conclusion

In a period that witnessed robust cultural changes following the application of the early Republican state policies of the 1930s, sport began to be implemented initially in the educational, industrial and urban contexts. Organizations founded to administer sporting pursuits led to the popularization of branches of sport that had previously been less practiced, or even unknown. Studies disseminating knowledge on both the training and technical aspects of such sports were published, and several sporting facilities were planned and realized across the country. Tennis, as a latecomer to Turkey, first found a niche in larger cities such as Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara, and from there it began spreading to other parts of the country, mostly via private tennis clubs, many of which became federated clubs under the umbrella of the related state institutions. The influence of these clubs grew as they began training professional tennis players, organizing national and international tournaments, arranging private and public teaching, and also establishing summer schools for children and young people. Many

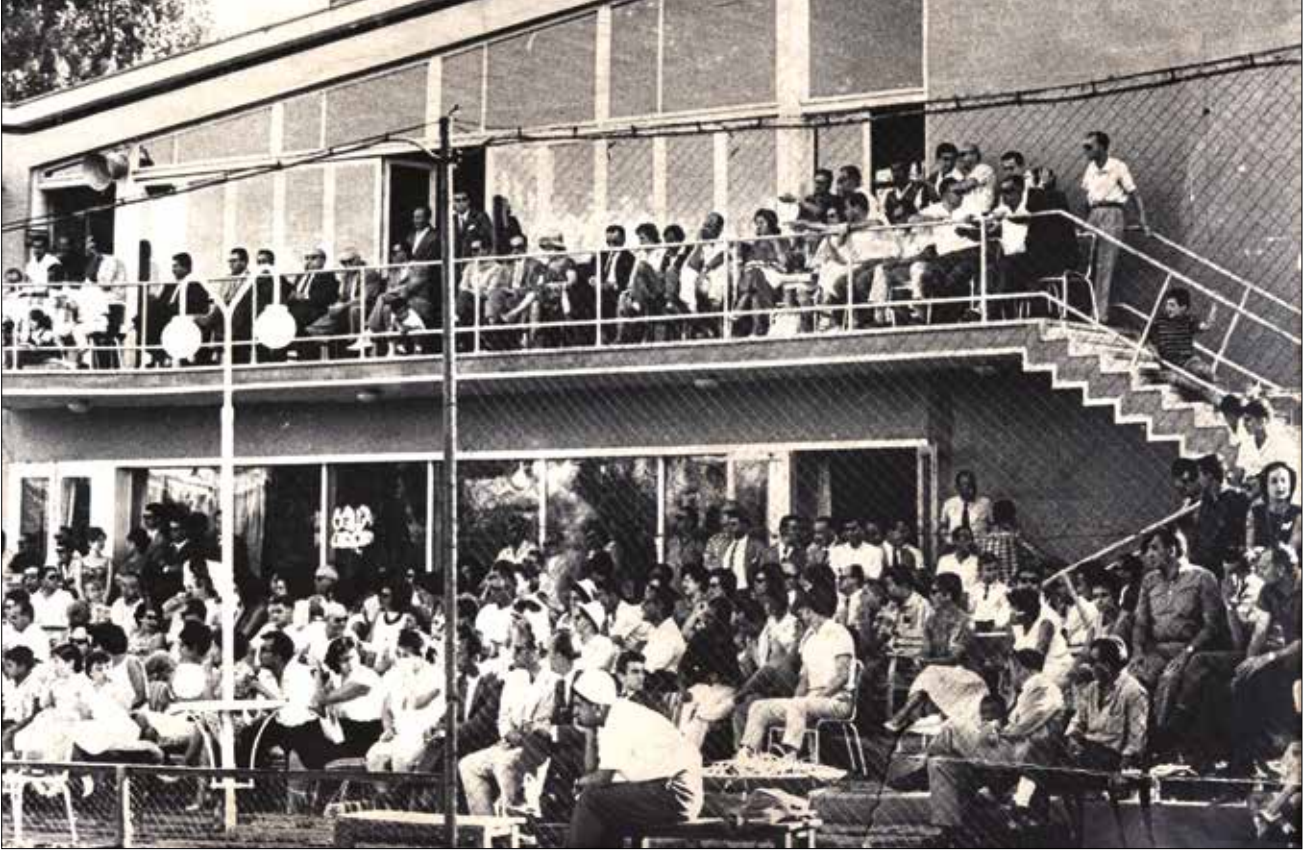


Figure 23 - Spectators watching a tournament match from the balcony, 1960s (Ankara Tennis Club Archive) / *Balkonda turnuva maçı izleyen seyirciler, 1960lar.*



Figure 23 - Balcony and the staircase (TH&İDİL and TSMD Archive) / *Balkon ve merdiven.*



Figure 25 - Bean-shaped windows on the southwest facade (Gülşah Aykaç) / *Güneybatı cephesindeki fasulye formulu pencereler.*



Figure 26 - Yacht Club in Belo Horizonte in Brazil by Oscar Niemeyer, 1940-1942 (adapted from: <https://en.wikiarquitectura.com/building/yacht-club-in-belo-horizonte/#lg=1&slide=2>) / *Belo Horizonte'deki Yat Kulübü, Oscar Niemeyer, 1940-1942.*

clubs opened specifically designed buildings, although most had to wait some years following their foundation. These new club buildings were often designed by known architects of the time, such as those built for the Tennis, Fencing and Mountaineering Club (TED) in Istanbul and the Ankara Tennis Club (ATK) in Ankara, which became vibrant venues offering a medium for sporting, recreation and socializing, especially in the first few decades of the Republic. Many other such venues were built in the decades that followed, and this contributed greatly to the development of competitive tennis and also to its non-professional teaching in the form of tennis camps and schools in Turkey, and these clubs flourished in later decades in terms of their enhanced facilities and member capacities. As a sporting branch with nationwide appeal, tennis is currently played and practiced in more than 200 clubs in Turkey³².

The Ankara Tennis Club building is an iconic example of modern architecture. Built at the beginning of the 1950s, but consistent with the modernization drive in Turkey in the early years of the Republic, it was contemporary in

both concept and architecture. Its bold form, silhouette and façades are typical of an architecture that is unique and timeless. Features like its sloping roof slab, its tapered surfaces and its ramps are contemporary, and can be compared in many ways to examples built elsewhere in the world at the time. The Yacht Club in Belo Horizonte in Brazil by Oscar Niemeyer, for example, is a similarly iconic building, built between 1940 and 1942, and also featuring a sloped flat roof, an exterior ramp, an open space and glass façades (Fig. 26). These canonic design references of modernism can be seen in both buildings, although they were designed almost a decade apart. Ortaçlı, unlike his colleagues who designed the Tennis, Fencing and Mountaineering Club (TED) in Istanbul in a more classical sense, preferred a modernist approach that suited well the spirit of furnishing the country with modern sport venues in which both traditional and Western originated sports could be practiced. Aware of his contemporaries, their work and the prevailing trends, Ortaçlı envisioned the construction of a bold, modern and iconic building next to the first stadium in Turkey.

Several modernist buildings have already been demolished in Turkey, for various reasons. The Tennis, Fencing and Mountaineering Club (TED), for example, which was one of the first sporting clubs to obtain a building designed specifically for its needs, was demolished in 1988 to make room for a luxury hotel. Many of those that have been lost were representative of modern architecture in terms of their spatiality and refined details, while similar buildings abroad are still functioning according to their original purpose. The Ankara Tennis Club building, despite the many architectural changes and the additions since the 1960s, has retained much of its modernist essence, and as such is a rare and well-appreciated example in Turkey.

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³² <http://i-kort.ttf.org.tr/KulupListesi.seam?firstResult=0&cid=74462> (accessed 29.11.2017:10.39).

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