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# An Example from the First National Architectural Period: Edirne Union and Progress Club Building\*

Birinci Ulusal Mimarlık Dönemi'nden Bir Örnek: Edirne İttihat ve Terakki Kulübü Binası

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#### Abstract

The First National Architectural Period is an architectural movement that generally showed its effect between 1900-1930. The aim of the architectural movement started to become widespread after the proclamation of the II. Constitutional Monarchy (1908) is based on the re-emergence of the classical elements of Ottoman and Seljuk architecture. Along with the Westernization process, Western-influenced arrangements in Ottoman architecture were opposed and classical architectural elements were implemented as a result of a common attitude by the architects of the period. In this context, the Union and Progress Club building, which was built in the city center of Edirne in 1913-1914, is the subject of the article. It aims to reveal the importance of the building in the style of the period with field research, various publications, photographs and drawings. In addition, the architectural definition of the building and its decorative features were emphasized, and comparisons were made with other examples with similar characteristics. The tiles in the interior and exterior of the building were produced in Kütahya, and the pattern decorations were prepared by the leading tile masters of the period, Mehmed Emin and Rifat Osman. In general, it is concluded that the Union and Progress Club building was built in the style of the First National Architecture Period in terms of its architectural features such as its plan layout, crown door, pointed arched windows, wide eaves system, and tile decorations on the inside and outside.

#### Keywords

National Architecture, Edirne, Union and Progress Club Building, Architect Kemaleddin

#### Öz

Birinci Ulusal Mimarlık Dönemi genel olarak 1900-1930 yılları arasında etkisini göstermiş mimari akımdır. II. Meşrutiyet'in (1908) ilanından sonra yaygınlaşmaya başlayan mimari akımın amacı Osmanlı ve Selçuklu mimarisinin klasik unsurlarını yeniden ortaya çıkarma anlayışı üzerine kuruludur. Bu akımla Batılılaşma süreci ile birlikte Osmanlı mimarisindeki Batı etkili düzenlemelere karşı çıkılmış ve dönemin mimarları tarafından ortak bir tutum sonucunda klasik mimari unsurlar yeniden hayata geçirilmiştir. Bu bağlamda 1913-1914 yıllarında Edirne şehir merkezinde inşa edilen İttihat ve Terakki Kulübü binası bu makalenin konusunu oluşturmaktadır. Saha araştırması, çeşitli yayınlar, fotoğraflar ve çizimler ile birlikte yapının dönem üslubu içerisindeki öneminin ortaya çıkarılması amaçlanmıştır. Bununla birlikte yapının mimari tanımı ve süsleme özellikleri üzerinde durularak benzer özellikler taşıyan diğer örnekler ile karşılaştırmalar yapılmıştır.

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Yapının iç ve dış kısımlarında yer alan çiniler Kütahya'da üretilmiş olup desen süslemeleri dönemin önde gelen çini ustası Mehmed Emin ve Rıfat Osman tarafından hazırlanmıştır. Genel olarak İttihat ve Terakki Kulübü binasının plan düzeni, taç kapısı, sivri kemerli pencereleri, geniş saçak sistemi, iç ve dış kısımlarda yer alan çini tezyinatı gibi mimari özellikleri barındırması açısından Birinci Ulusal Mimarlık Dönemi üslubunda inşa edildiği sonucuna ulaşılmaktadır.

#### Anahtar Kelimeler

Ulusal Mimarlık, Edirne, İttihat ve Terakki Kulübü Binası, Mimar Kemaleddin

# Genisletilmis Özet

Birinci Ulusal Mimarlık Dönemi genel olarak 1900-1930 yılları arasında etkisini göstermiş mimari akımdır. Dönem üslubu, özellikle II. Meşrutiyet'in (1908) ilanından sonra yaygınlaşmaya başlamıştır. Batılılaşma süreci ile birlikte Osmanlı mimarisindeki Barok, Neo-Renaissance, Neo-Gothic, Art Nouveau vb. Batı etkili düzenlemelere karşı çıkılmış ve dönemin mimarları tarafından ortak bir tutum sonucunda Osmanlı ve Selçuklu mimarisinin klasik unsurları yeniden hayata geçirilmiştir. Milli duyguların ön plana çıktığı bu dönemde özellikle II. Meşrutiyet ile birlikte İttihat ve Terakki Cemiyeti'nin siyasi ve kültürel alandaki çalışmalarının yansımalarını mimari alanda görmek mümkündür. Özellikle İstanbul ve Ankara gibi büyük şehirlerin yanı sıra ülkenin birçok şehrinde ulusal mimarlık üslubuna bağlı apartman, okul, müze, istasyon, han, postane, otel, cami, medrese, türbe, çeşme, köşk, iskele vb. birçok farklı işleve sahip yapılar inşa edilmiştir.

Birinci Ulusal Mimarlık Dönemi'nin ortaya çıkışının başlıca sebeplerinden birisi siyasi alanda yaşanan gelişmelerdir. 1789 Fransız İhtilali ile başlayan milliyetçilik akımının yansımaları, özellikle 19. yüzyılın ikinci yarısı itibarıyla Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'nu etkilemiştir. Söz konusu dönemde Osmanlı aydınlarının faaliyetleri ile birlikte Türk milliyetçiliği ön plana çıkmıştır. Bu doğrultuda çalışmalar yürüten İttihat ve Terakki Cemiyeti özellikle 1908 yılından sonra siyasi alanda gücü eline almış ve kültür politikalarına destek vermiştir.

Osmanlı mimarisinde geç klasik dönemde görülmeye başlayan değişimler 18. yüzyılın başlarından itibaren belirli ölçüde yaygınlık kazanmıştır. Bununla birlikte mimaride Batılı unsurlarla 18. yüzyılın ortalarından itibaren karşılaşılmaktadır. Barok etkiyi net olarak görüldüğü Nur-u Osmaniye Külliyesi (1749-1755) ile birlikte barok, rokoko ve ampir gibi Batı temelli üslupların mimaride yer bulduğu gözlemlenmektedir. 18. yüzyılın ikinci yarısı ve 19. yüzyıl boyunca başta İstanbul olmak üzere Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'nun farklı bölgelerinde inşa edilen yapıların belirli ölçüde söz konusu üslupların özelliklerini barındırdıkları görülmektedir. Milli duyguların ön plana çıktığı ve siyasi alandaki değişimlerin yaşandığı dönemde eğitimlerini tamamlayan Mimar Kemaleddin ve Mimar Vedat Tek, Birinci Ulusal Mimarlık Dönemi'nin oluşmasında büyük rol oynamışlardır. Dönemin mimarları, hâlihazırda uygulanan Batı temelli üsluplara karşı çıkmış ve yapılarında Osmanlı-Selçuklu dönemi klasik mimari unsurlarını kullanmaya başlamışlardır. Kültürel olarak milli bilincinin yükseldiği bu dönemde Selçuklu

ve Osmanlı mimarisinin asli unsurlarının ön plana çıkarılması gözlemlenebilen çevre ile alakalı olmalıdır. Göktürk ve Uygur kültürlerinin en azından bölgesel ve yaşam biçimi farklılıkları sebebiyle Türk kimliğini vurgulayan genel bir milli mimari kültür yaratmak pek de mümkün görünmemektedir.

Osmanlı mimarisinde özellikle 19. yüzyılın son çeyreğinde etkin olmuş dönemin önemli mimarlarından Alexandre Vallaury ve August Jasmund gibi isimler yapı faaliyetlerinde bulunmuşlardır. Bu dönemde Alexandre Vallaury'nin Duyun-u Umumiye İdaresi ve August Jasmund'un Sirkeci Garı gibi binaları, Batı etkili unsurların yanı sıra klasik Osmanlı mimarisinin unsurlarını da bünyesinde barındıran eklektik üslupta inşa edilmişlerdir. Bu gelişmelerin Birinci Ulusal Mimarlık Dönemi'nin ortaya çıkmasına zemin hazırlayan bir niteliğe sahip oldukları söylenebilir.

Birinci Ulusal Mimarlık Dönemi genel olarak 1908-1930 tarihleri içinde etkisini göstermiş bir mimari üsluptur. Dolayısıyla hem Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'nun son yıllarında hem de Cumhuriyet'in ilk yıllarında ülkenin birçok yerinde bu üsluba dayalı yapı üretimi gerçekleştirilmiştir. Bu dönemdeki yapılar genel olarak simetrik bir görünüme sahip olacak şekilde inşa edilmiştir. Yapıların özellikle ana cephelerine özen gösterilmiş, diğer cepheler daha sade biçimde ele alınmıştır. Mimarideki Batı etkisine karşı bir tepki oluşturulmuş ve özellikle cephe tezyinatında taç kapı, kemer sistemleri, silmeler, simetrik hatlar, pencere sistemleri, geniş saçak gibi klasik Osmanlı Dönemi mimari unsurları kullanılmıştır. Mimari plastik olarak yapılarda genellikle Selçuklu üslubunda mukarnas, geometrik kabartmalar, taş rozetler, köşe sütunçeleri gibi unsurlara yer verilmiştir.

Edirne şehrinde Birinci Ulusal Mimarlık Dönemi üslubuna bağlı olarak birçok yapı üretimi (Karaağaç Eski Gar Binası, Hacı Adil Bey Çeşmesi, Edirne Vakıflar Bölge Müdürlüğü Binası vd.) gerçekleştirilmiştir. Sarıcapaşa Mahallesi, Kıyık Caddesi'nde yer alan ve 1913-1914 yıllarında inşa edilen İttihat ve Terakki Kulübü binası makalenin konusunu oluşturmaktadır.

İttihat ve Terakki Kulübü binasındaki çini süslemelerin niteliği ve yoğunluğu bakımından, Birinci Ulusal Mimarlık Dönemi üslubunda Edirne'de inşa edilen diğer yapılardan (Karaağaç Eski Gar Binası, Karaağaç Eski İstasyon Binası vd.) önemli ölçüde ayrışmaktadır. Yapının iç ve dış kısımlarında yer alan çiniler Kütahya'da üretilmiştir. Özellikle yapı içinde yer alan iki adet çini kompozisyonun hemen altında bulunan sanatçı isimlerinin varlığı, dönemin önde gelen çini ustası Mehmed Emin ve Edirneli Rıfat Osman'ın beğenileri doğrultusunda tasarlanmış olduğunu göstermektedir. Genel olarak İttihat ve Terakki Kulübü binasının plan kurulumu, taç kapısı, sivri kemerli pencereleri, silme hatları, geniş saçak sistemi, iç ve dış kısımlarda yer alan çini tezyinatı gibi mimari özellikleri barındırması açısından Birinci Ulusal Mimarlık Dönemi üslubunda inşa edildiği sonucuna ulaşılmaktadır.

#### Introduction

The First National Architecture has also been named as National Architecture, National Architectural Style, Neoclassical Style<sup>1</sup>, Turkish Neoclassical, Ankara Style<sup>2</sup>, National Ottoman Renaissance, and Constitutional National Architecture<sup>3</sup>. Figures like Architect Kemaleddin, Architect Vedat Tek, Arif Hikmet Koyunoglu, Architect Muzaffer, Architect Ali Talat, Fatih Ülkü, and Guilio Mongeri are among the most important architects of the time.<sup>4</sup>

The evolution of politics is one of the key factors in the emergence of the First National Architecture Era. The reflections of the process of Nationalism, which started with the French Revolution of 1789, affected the Ottoman Empire, especially in the second half of the 19th century, and various states began to emerge. With the activity of the intellectuals in the Ottoman Empire during that time, Turkish nationalism rose to prominence. Especially after 1908, the Committee of Union and Progress<sup>5</sup>, which had been working in this direction, seized political power and supported cultural initiatives. Eventually, they contributed significantly to the birth and growth of a distinctively national architectural style.<sup>6</sup>

From the beginning of the 18th century, the changes in Ottoman architecture that first appeared in the late classical era expanded to a certain extent. In the meantime, we begin to encounter Western elements in architecture from the middle of the 18th century. It is evident Western-based architectural styles like baroque, rococo, and imperial style started to be used with the Nur-u Osmaniye Kulliye (1749–1755), where the baroque effect can be seen clearly. It can be seen that buildings constructed in various Ottoman Empire provinces, particularly in Istanbul, in the second half of the

<sup>1</sup> Metin Sözen, Cumhuriyet Dönemi Türk Mimarlığı (İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Press, 1996), 13; Ayla Ödekan, "Mimarlık ve Sanat Tarihi 1908-1980", Türkiye Tarihi 4 Çağdaş Türkiye 1908-1980, ed. Sina Akşin (İstanbul: Cem Press, 1997), 511.

<sup>2</sup> Semavi Eyice, "Batılılaşma". TDV İslam Ansiklopedisi, v. 5 (İstanbul: Türkiye Diyanet Foundation Press, 1992), 171.

<sup>3</sup> Doğan Hasol, 20. Yüzyıl Türkiye Mimarlığı (İstanbul: Yem Press, 2020), 35; İnci Aslanoğlu, "Birinci ve İkinci Milli Mimarlık Akımları Üzerine Düşünceler", Mimaride Türk Milli Üslubu Semineri (İstanbul: Atatürk Cultural Center Presidency Press, 1984), 41.

<sup>4</sup> Sözen, Cumhuriyet Dönemi Türk Mimarlığı, 21.

<sup>5</sup> Particularly a political party that was active at the state level between 1908 and 1918 as the II. Constitutional Monarchy was being proclaimed. Turkish nationalism, as well as other aspects of the economy, culture, and military, came to the forefront during this time. One of the society's overarching goals was to repair the wrong path taken in the fields. (See M. Şükrü Hanioğlu, "İttihat ve Terakki Cemiyeti", *TDV İslam Ansiklopedisi*, v.23 (İstanbul: Türkiye Diyanet Foundation Press, 2001), 482; Kazım Karabekir, *İttihat ve Terakki Cemiyeti* (İstanbul: Yapı Kredi Press, 2011), 17-19.

<sup>6</sup> Yusuf Sarınay, "İmparatorluktan Cumhuriyete Türk Milliyetçiliğinin Doğuşu ve Gelişimi", *Türkler Ansiklopedisi*, v.14 (Ankara: Yeni Türkiye Press, 2002), 1471-1472; Yıldırım Yavuz, "Cumhuriyet Dönemi Ankara'sında Mimari Biçim Endişesi", *Mimarlık* 11-12 (1973), 26; Hasan Kuruyazıcı, *Osmanlı'dan Cumhuriyet'e Bir Mimar: Arif Hikmet Koyunoğlu, Anılar, Yazılar, Mektuplar, Belgeler* (İstanbul: Yapı Kredi Press, 2008), 25.

<sup>7</sup> Doğan Kuban, Osmanlı Mimarisi (İstanbul: Yem Press, 2016), 505-508.

18th and early 19th centuries share some traits with the aforementioned architectural styles. Architect Kemaleddin and Architect Vedat Tek, who completed their education in the period when national feelings came to the fore and changes in the political field, played a major role in the formation of the First National Architecture Period. The Ottoman-Seljuk period's classical architectural features were adopted by the era's architects as a response to the prevalent Western-based designs.<sup>8</sup>

In this period when cultural national consciousness was rising, bringing the essential elements of Seljuk and Ottoman architecture to the fore should be related to the observable environment. It does not seem possible to create a general national architectural culture that will emphasize the Turkish identity, at least due to the regional and lifestyle differences of the Göktürk and Uyghur cultures.<sup>9</sup>

Names such as Alexandre Vallaury and August Jasmund, who were influential in Ottoman architecture, especially in the last quarter of the 19th century, were both involved in building activities and influenced names such as Architect Kemaleddin and Architect Vedat Tek. Buildings like the Duyun-u Umumiye Administration by Alexandre Vallaury and the Sirkeci Railway Station by August Jasmund were constructed during this period in an eclectic style<sup>10</sup> that combined elements of traditional Ottoman architecture with Western influences.<sup>11</sup> It is emphasized that these developments possess a trait that opens the door for the First National Architecture Era to arise.<sup>12</sup>

In 1908, following the declaration of the Second Constitutional Monarchy, the Committee of Unity and Progress gained political influence, and there were changes throughout the Ottoman Empire in a variety of areas, including economy and cultural studies.<sup>13</sup> This change in the architectural field was supported by the state and religious and civil structures were built in this context.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Oktay Aslanapa, Osmanlı Devri Mimarisi (İstanbul: İnkılap Press, 2004), 554; Oktay Aslanapa, Türk Sanatı (İstanbul: Remzi Press, 2018), 284; Semavi Eyice, "Empire", TDV İslam Ansiklopedisi, v. 11 (İstanbul: Türkiye Diyanet Foundation Press, 1995), 163; Semavi Eyice, "XVIII. Yüzyılda Türk Sanatı ve Türk Mimarisinde Avrupa Neo-Klasik Üslubu", Sanat Tarihi Yıllığı 9-10 (1981), 175; Üstün Alsaç, Türk Mimarlığı (İstanbul: İletişim Press, 1991), 80; Üstün Alsaç, "Türk Mimarlık Düşüncesinin Cumhuriyet Devrindeki Evrimi", Mimarlık 11-12, (1973), 13; Mete Tapan, "Cumhuriyet Dönemi Mimarlığı ve Sanatı", Eczacıbaşı Sanat Ansiklopedisi, v. 1 (İstanbul: Yem Press, 1997), 365; Aslanoğlu, "Birinci ve İkinci Milli Mimarlık Akımları Üzerine Düşünceler", 41-51; Sözen, Cumhuriyet Dönemi Türk Mimarlığı, 13-14.

<sup>9</sup> Selçuk Mülayim, "Maziperestler ve Sanat Tarihi", Türkiye Araştırmaları Literatür Dergisi, 7/14 (2009), 23-27.

<sup>10</sup> Eclectic Style: This refers to eclecticism. a trend that is based on the concept of fusing several creative forms into one cohesive whole. (See Ömer Gülsen, "Eklektisizm", *Eczacibaşı Sanat Ansiklopedisi*, v.1 (İstanbul: Yem Press, 1997), 505-507.

<sup>11</sup> Yıldırım Yavuz, "İkinci Meşrutiyet Döneminde Ulusal Mimari Üzerindeki Batı Etkileri 1908-1918", *ODTÜ Mimarlık Fakültesi Dergisi* 2-1 (1976), 13; Sibel Bozdoğan, *Modernizm ve Ulusun İnşası, Erken Cumhuriyet Türkiyesi 'nde Mimari Kültür* (İstanbul: Metis Press, 2002), 41.

<sup>12</sup> Zeynep Çelik, 19. Yüzyılda Osmanlı Başkenti: Değişen İstanbul, trans. Selim Deringil (İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Press), 197.

<sup>13</sup> Suat Oktar and Arzu Varlı, "İttihat ve Terakki Dönemi'nin Ulusal Bankası: Osmanlı İtibar-ı Milli Bankası", *Marmara Üniversitesi İ.İ.B.F. Dergisi* 17/2, (2009), 2.

<sup>14</sup> Celal Esad Arseven, *Türk Sanatı* (İstanbul: Cem Press, 1984), 182; İnci Aslanoğlu, *Erken Cumhuriyet Dönemi Mimarlığı 1923-1938* (İstanbul: Bilge Culture and Art Press, 2010), 31.

The First National Architectural Period is an architectural style that has shown its effect in general between 1908 and 1930. In other words, both in the last years of the Ottoman Empire and the first years of the Republic, buildings based on this style were constructed in many parts of the country. The buildings in this period were generally built to have a symmetrical appearance. The main facades of the buildings were elaborated while the other facades were handled more simply. Architectural features from the Classical Ottoman period, such as crown doors, arch systems, moldings, symmetrical lines, window systems, and wide eaves, were used as a response to the Western influence on architecture, particularly in the facade adornment. The buildings also included decorative features including muqarnas, geometric reliefs, stone rosettes, and corner columns.

With the influence of the First National Architectural Period, Kütahya tile decorations came to the fore again in the first quarter of the 20th century. By using the Iznik tile decoration from the 16th century as a model, comparable ornamental compositions with motifs like the palmette, Rumi, curled branch, tulip, and carnation were developed on the Kütahya tiles made during this time. <sup>18</sup> On the interior and outside of numerous structures constructed in this context, plain or vegetal decorated tiles made in Kütahya could be seen.

Buildings with ties to the First National Architectural Period stylistic characteristics were also constructed in the city of Edirne. The Union and Progress Club building is one of the most significant structures of the era. The subject building stands out for its Kütahya tiles in addition to its architectural design and arrangement. The history of the structure, its architectural description, and its ornamental aspects are highlighted in the article, and similarities with other significant examples from the period are compared. The significance of the Kütahya tiles in the structure is also underlined.

<sup>15</sup> Yıldırım Yavuz, İmparatorluktan Cumhuriyete Mimar Kemaleddin 1870-1927 (Ankara: TMMOB Chambers of Architects and Directorate General of Foundations Press, 2009), 124.

<sup>16</sup> Arseven, Türk Sanatı, 182; Aslanoğlu, Erken Cumhuriyet Dönemi Mimarlığı, 32.

<sup>17</sup> Ödekan, Mimarlık ve Sanat Tarihi, 512; Yavuz, "Cumhuriyet Dönemi Ankara'sında Mimari Biçim Endişesi", 23.

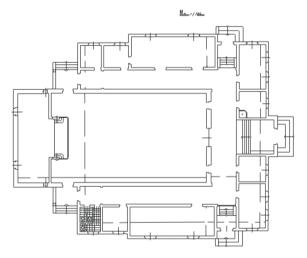
<sup>18</sup> Şerare Yetkin, "Çini", *TDV İslam Ansiklopedisi*, v.8 (İstanbul: Türkiye Diyanet Foundation Press, 1993), 335; Hülya Bilgi, *Suna ve İnan Kıraç Vakfi Koleksiyonu: Kütahya Çini ve Seramikleri* (İstanbul: Pera Museum Press, 2005), 15; V. Belgin Demirsar Arlı, "Kütahya Çiniciliği", *Anadolu'da Türk Devri Çini ve Seramik Sanatı*, ed. Gönül Öney and Zehra Çobanlı (İstanbul: Ministry of Culture and Tourism Press, 2007), 337-339. Yıldız Demiriz, "Osmanlı Çini Sanatı" *Türkler Ansiklopedisi*, v.12 (Ankara: Yeni Türkiye Press, 2002), 572.

# 1. Edirne Union and Progress Club Building

# 1.1. History

The Union and Progress Club building, which is among the most important structures in Edirne that embodies the stylistic features of the First National Architectural Period, is registered to map 47, block 433, parcel 2, and is located in the central district, Sarıcapaşa Neighbourhood on Kıyık Street.<sup>19</sup>

Buildings with the same name were built in some cities during the years when the Committee of Unity and Progress gained prominence in politics and were used for events and gatherings. According to archive documents, the Union and Progress Club building in Edirne was constructed between 1913 and 1914.<sup>20</sup> First of all, the structure was used by the Committee of Unity and Progress to further the political goals of the time. In 1932, it was repaired with the directive of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and started to operate as a Community Center.<sup>21</sup> The structure, which began serving as the Public Education Center building in 1952<sup>22</sup>, is still in operation and serves the same purpose as the Edirne Public Education Center Directorate building.



**G. 1:** Edirne Union and Progress Club Building Plan (Edited by A. Balcı from the Republic Archives of the Directorate of State Archives)

<sup>19</sup> https://parselsorgu.tkgm.gov.tr

<sup>20</sup> The Republic Archives of the Directorate of State Archives (COA), Siyasi Partiler, Cumhuriyet Halk Fırkası 1702/922/1, (January 22, 1943).

<sup>21</sup> Osman Nuri Peremeci, *Edirne Tarihi* (İstanbul: Edirne and the Region's Institution for Antiquities Lovers Press, 1939), 349.

<sup>22</sup> Tuğba Yüce Gökşen, "Erken Cumhuriyet Döneminde Edirne'de Kentsel Gelişim" (MA thesis, Trakya University, 2017), 37-40.

Together with Architect Kemaleddin<sup>23</sup>, Architect Aladdin is one of the names mentioned as having designed the building.<sup>24</sup> It is also claimed that Rıfat Osman<sup>25</sup> made arrangements for the building's architecture and interior design.<sup>26</sup> In the meantime, the name of Rıfat Osman was written as the owner of the project in the archive records dated 1943.<sup>27</sup>

### 1.2. Characteristics of Architecture and Ornamental Design

The Union and Progress Club building was built in a rectangular plan and single storey, located in an area surrounded by walls and fences. The crown door is prominently displayed taller than the structure and protruded. It is accessible via a three-step stairway (G. 1, G. 2).



G. 2: Edirne Union and Progress Club Building, Front View (A. Balcı, 2022)

<sup>23</sup> İlhan Tekeli and Selim İlkin, *Mimar Kemaleddin'in Yazdıkları* (Ankara: Şevki Vanlı Architecture Foundation Press, 1997), 244; Oral Onur, *Edirne'de Neo-Klasik Kentsel (Mimari) Yapılar* (İstanbul: Ceren Press, 2019), 27-29; *81 İlde Kültür ve Şehir: Edirne*. ed. Metin Eriş, (Governorate of Edirne Press, 2013), 103.

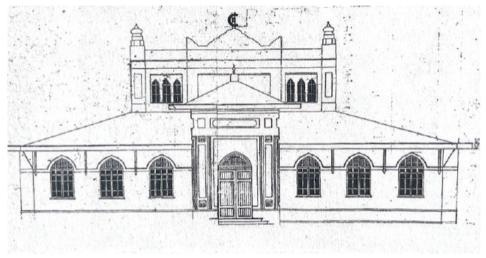
<sup>24</sup> Onur, Edirne'de Neo-Klasik Kentsel (Mimari) Yapılar, 27-29.

<sup>25</sup> Rıfat Osman was born in Üsküdar in 1874 and worked as a doctor and historian of the city. He participated in a variety of zoning operations, particularly in Edirne. In addition, he established the Edirne Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts. (See Ahmet Güner Sayar, "Rıfat Osman", TDV İslam Ansiklopedisi, v.35 (İstanbul: Türkiye Diyanet Foundation Press, 2008), 105-106.

<sup>26</sup> Rıdvan Canım, Sultanların Şehri-Şehirlerin Sultanı: Edirne Kitabı (İstanbul: Governorate of Edirne Press, 2014), 321; Beril Sarısakal, "Edirne'de Bir Maziperest: Tosyavizade Doktor Rıfat Osman" (MA thesis, Istanbul Technical University, 2019), 12; Onur, Edirne'de Neo-Klasik Kentsel (Mimari) Yapılar, 27-29; Sayar, Rıfat Osman, 105; Ratip Kazancıgil, "Dr. Rıfat Osman Bey ve Edirne Kültürüne Hizmetleri", 1. Edirne Kültür Araştırmaları Sempozyumu Bildirileri, ed. Levent Doğan (Governorate of Edirne Press, 2003), 29-34; Ratip Kazancıgil - Nilüfer Gökçe, Tosyavizade Dr. Rıfat Osman'ın Kaleminden Edirne (Edirne: Edirne Municipality Press, 2013), 170; Ender Bilar, Edirne Şehir Tarihçileri ve Eserleri (İstanbul: Hiperlink Press, 2019), 275-276; Uğur Tanyeli, Mimarlığın Aktörleri: Türkiye 1900-2000 (İstanbul: Garanti Galeri Press, 2007), 226.

<sup>27</sup> RADSA, Siyasi Partiler, Cumhuriyet Halk Fırkası 1702/922/1.

The crown door features a rectangular form with a pointed arch door opening. There are two hovels with floral designs and an unadorned flat tile arrangement on the corners of the pointed arch. The hollow upper portion of the door also has an area for inscriptions. The top portion under the eaves is decorated with muqarnas and has geometric arrangements on the edges of the inscription area. The crown door has columns with hourglass designs on both of its corners (G. 3, G. 4).



G. 3: Edirne Union and Progress Club Building, Facade Drawing, (Onur, *Edirne'de Neo-Klasik Yapılar*, 27)



G. 4: Edirne Union and Progress Club Building, Crown Door View, (A. Balcı, 2022)

The building's facade exhibits clear reflections of the era's stylistic characteristics. On the front facade, there are three pointed arched windows on either side of the crown door, with a line linking these windows. The center of the eastern facade of the building is slightly protruding, and there is one entrance door and three large and one small pointed-arched window arrangements. (G. 5). Similar to this, the center portion of the western facade is highlighted by a modest protrusion. There is one entrance door and five point-arched windows in total. (G. 6). It is seen that the wide eaves system, which is one of the defining stylistic features of the period, is also included in the structure.



G. 5: Edirne Union and Progress Club Building, view from the Northeast (A. Balcı, 2022)



G. 6: Edirne Union and Progress Club Building, West Front View, (A. Balcı, 2022)

Within the structure, some units serve a variety of uses, including conference rooms, office spaces, kitchens, etc. and there is a conference hall called Architect Kemaleddin located in the middle of the building (G. 7, G. 8). The area designated as the Architect Kemaleddin Hall is located in the center of the structure and is highlighted higher than the rest of the structure (G. 3, G. 4, G. 5, G. 6). The interior of the hall is animated with niches and ceiling decorations. From the outside, it can be seen that the front of this space has triplet-positioned pointed arched windows and triangular pediments.

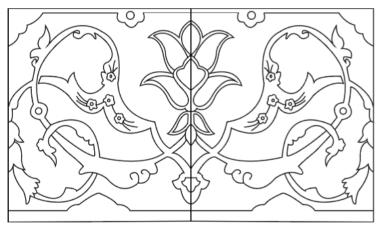


G. 7, G. 8: Edirne Union and Progress Club Building, Corridor Part (A. Balcı, 2022)

The interior of both the Union and Progress Club Building entry doors are decorated with Kütahya tile. The building floor is kept higher above the ground level of the street. The floor of the building is accessible from the west by taking three steps outside and four steps inside. There are tile-decorated arrangements on both sides of this passage section before the second door. A jointed stone arrangement with geometric patterns is at the bottom, and triangular tile decorations with turquoise polygonal shapes are symmetrically arranged around it at the top. Herbal-decorated tile decorations are arranged horizontally at the top of this arrangement. There are motifs such as Rumi, tulip and carnation on this strip part, which is one of the interlocking tile pieces. The arrangement is the same in the section of the corridor (G. 9, G. 10).



G. 9, G. 10: Edirne Union and Progress Club Building, West Entrance Gate and Corridor Part (A. Balcı, 2022)



G. 11: Edirne Union and Progress Club Building, Tile Detail (A. Balcı, 2022)

In the main part of the building, the Architect Kemaleddin Hall, there are tile decorations in the form of rectangular strips and plant decorations surrounding the oil paintings.<sup>28</sup> These arrangements can be seen to have botanical motifs like Rumi and carnation. In the same hall, there are tile decorations arranged as a painting on both sides of the stage, decorated with bouquets coming out of the vase. Both panels are surrounded by a strip decorated with Rumi and carnation motifs, as in other paintings Color in all tiles; turquoise, cobalt blue, green, red tones and white colors were used (G. 12).

<sup>28</sup> The oil paintings were created in 1954 by Emin Çizgin, a teacher and painter from Edirne, according to the information panel within the building.



G. 12: Architect Kemaleddin Hall (A. Balcı, 2022)

On the lower right part of the tile panel on the left side of the stage in the hall of Architect Kemaleddin, "Ameli Mehmet Emin min telamiz-i Mehmet Hilmi Kütahya Sene 1322" is written. The words "mürettibi Tosyavizade Tabib Rıfat Osman" are written in the lower left corner of the tile panel on the right side of the stage. During the national architectural era, Mehmed Emin<sup>29</sup>, who was a tile artist, is known to have collaborated with architects like Architect Kemaleddin and Architect Vedat Tek to create tile arrangements in numerous structures. It is stated that the tile arrangements in the Union and Progress Club building are special to this building and that the artist did not have similar tile decorations in any other building. <sup>30</sup> (G. 13, G. 14).

<sup>29</sup> During the First National Architectural Era, numerous buildings included tile ornamentation made by a professional tilemaker. He produced items in accordance with requests throughout this time and rose to prominence as the era's leading tile maker. In addition to manufacturing tiles, Mehmed Emin Usta is also recognized for designing tile patterns. (See Hakan Arlı, "Kütahyalı Mehmed Emin Usta ve Eserlerinin Üslubu" (MA thesis, Istanbul University, 1989), 11-15.

<sup>30</sup> M. Baha Tanman and Uşun Tükel, Arkeoloji ve Sanat Tarihi Araştırmaları: Yıldız Demiriz'e Armağan (İstanbul: Simurg Press, 2001), 48-51.



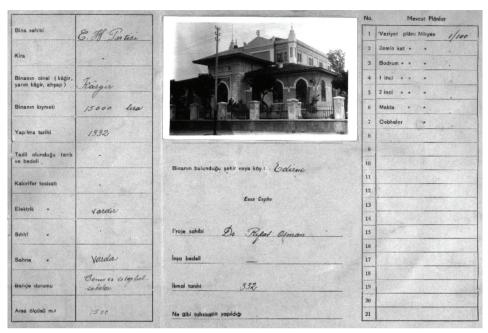
G. 13, G. 14: Tile Decorations by Mehmed Emin and Rıfat Osman (A. Balcı, 2022)



G. 15: Tile Decoration Detail in Paintings and Corridors, (A. Balcı, 2022)

# 2. Evaluation and Comparison

The Union and Progress Club building has a very important place in terms of reflecting the style of the First National Architectural Period. When a document from the Presidency State Archives from 1943 is reviewed, it becomes clear that the structure has not undergone a significant exterior alteration (G. 16).



**G. 16:** Edirne Union and Progress Club Building (Republic Archives of the Presidency of State Archives)

It is seen that Architect Kemaleddin, one of the most important names of the First National Architecture Period, approached the crown door order in the buildings he designed in the style of the period. It is known that Architect Kemaleddin was influenced by the monumental crown doors of the Seljuk period such as Karatay Madrasa.<sup>31</sup> It can be said that the crown door system played a key role in the public buildings constructed during the First National Architecture Period as a result of Architect Kemaleddin's ideas on the matter.<sup>32</sup> It might be stated that the Union and Progress Club building's crown door was designed in this direction. The door, which gives the building a monumental appearance, has a massive form that continues into the building. The Ankara Palas (Ankara Vakıf Hotel) crown door, which bears Architect Kemaleddin's signature, features a similar arrangement (G. 17).

<sup>31</sup> Metin Sözen and Mete Tapan, 50 yılın Türk Mimarisi (İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Press, 1973), 106; Sözen, Cumhuriyet Dönemi Türk Mimarlığı, 16; Tekeli and İlkin, Mimar Kemaleddin'in Yazdıkları, 126.

<sup>32</sup> The marble door of Karatay Madrasa is a flawless architectural masterpiece in every aspect, according to architect Kemaleddin. Much larger and more elaborate asars by Turkish masters were produced from this door during the reign of Al-i Seljuk (actually). The beauty of this door's fit (harmony) within the aforementioned style, the shape of the stone cuts, and the strength and definess in the placement of the architectural decorations and features are probably what give it a prominent position from a standpoint. By looking at this door, one should be able to identify the eight fundamental and modern concepts of Turkish professional architecture. Up until the height of the Al-i Osman era, Turkish architects showed the utmost reverence for this distinctive design."

<sup>(</sup>See Sözen, Cumhuriyet Dönemi Türk Mimarlığı, 16; Tekeli and İlkin, Mimar Kemaleddin'in Yazdıkları, 126).



G. 17: Ankara Palace (Bağbaşı, Ankara'nın İki İncisi, 116)

Architectural features similar to those of the Union and Progress Club building can be seen in the Edirne-Karaağaç Station building, including the monumentality of the crown door concerning the structure, its protruding form, the entrance door accented with the pointed arch layout, the wide eaves and the muqarnas series under the eaves, and the columnar columns in the hourglass motif in the corners. Based on this situation, it is thought that similar schemes were approached in the buildings in the style of the First National Architecture Period in Edirne and the influence of Architect Kemaleddin is within the scope of possibility.

Tile decorations in the Union and Progress Club generally have unique applications. However, it is possible to see the same geometrically arranged tiles at Haydarpaşa Ferry Port in Istanbul and the II. TBMM building in Ankara. (G. 18, G. 19).



**G. 18:** Haydarpaşa Ferry Port, (Gümüş, *Birinci Dünya Savaşında Mimarlık*, 121)

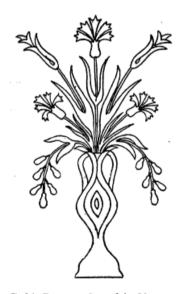


**G. 19:** Tile Decoration in the II. Parliament Building (Bağbaşı, *Ankara'nın İki İncisi*, 113)

The construction of flower bouquets from vases was heavily used in the field of décor throughout the Ottoman Empire, particularly in the 16th and 17th centuries.<sup>33</sup> It is seen that this composition, which also came to the fore in the Tulip Era<sup>34</sup> was applied similarly in the Union and Progress Club building, which was built in the first quarter of the 20th century. As compared to the tile decorations in the structures from the First National Architecture Period, it is acknowledged that the tile decoration sample with the flower bunch theme emerging from the vase in the hall of Architect Kemaleddin has a higher degree of originality. Nonetheless, different tombstones in Edirne were decorated with flower arrangements coming out of the vases<sup>35</sup> (G. 20, G. 21). In this context, it can be said that when designing the decorations for the Union and Progress Club building, tile masters Rıfat Osman or Mehmed Emin took into consideration the classical decorating components that were already visible on various materials in Edirne.



**G. 20:** Bouquet of the Vase in Architect Kemaleddin Hall (A. Balcı, 2022)



**G. 21:** Bouquet Out of the Vase on a Gravestone in Edirne (Ünver, *Edirne'de Mimari*, 17)

<sup>33</sup> Azade Akar, "Tezyini Sanatlarımızda Vazo Motifleri" Vakıflar Dergisi 8 (1969), 269.

<sup>34</sup> Erkan Atak, "Nevşehirli Damat İbrahim Paşa'nın Külliyeleri Üzerine Bir Değerlendirme", *Sanat Tarihi Dergisi* 31/2 (2022), 995; Erkan Atak, "Osmanlı Mimarisinde Lâle Devri Üslubu (Anadolu'daki Yansımalar)", *Turkish Studies* 13-10 (2018), 66.

<sup>35</sup> Süheyl Ünver, "Edirne'de Mimari Eserlerimizdeki Tabii Çiçek Süslemeleri Hakkında", *Vakıflar Dergisi* 5 (1962), 17.

#### Conclusion

Zoning initiatives were not just in Ankara and Istanbul, but also in other cities that reflected the First National Architecture Period's aesthetic. Edirne is one of the cities where we can follow the period style. Although the Union and Progress Club building was built more modestly compared to the contemporary examples in Istanbul and Ankara, architectural elements such as the symmetrical arrangements on the facades of the building, the monumental crown door, the use of pointed arches on the facades, the use of wide eaves, and the Kütahya work tile decorations within the structure reflect the style of the First National Architectural Period. In addition, the example of tile decoration with bunches of flowers from the vase in the hall of Architect Kemaleddin differs from other examples of tile decoration of the period in that it has an original arrangement within the scope of the First National Architecture Period.

Architect Kemaleddin, Architect Alaaddin and Rıfat Osman are among the architects of the İttihat ve Terakki Club building. It is very difficult to determine the architect of the building precisely because there are not enough archival documents to reach a definite judgment on this subject. However, the name of Rıfat Osman must be mentioned as the project owner in the document dated 1943. It seems possible that Rıfat Osman may have done the architecture of the building as well as some of the tile decorations. However, it is thought that the designs of Architect Kemaleddin in some of the buildings in Edirne or different cities may have also influenced the Union and Progress Club building. As a result, it seems reasonable that the architects whose names were mentioned, rather than a single person, might have carried out a collective work on the building.

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