



# Architectural Evaluation of People's House Building as a Modernization Project in The Early Republic Period and The Example of Elazığ People's House<sup>1</sup>

Ayşe Betül KÖKSAL<sup>1,\*</sup>, Nur URFALIOĞLU<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 0000-0002-7267-8545, Yıldız Teknik Üniversitesi Mimarlık Fakültesi Mimarlık Tarihi ve Kuramı Programı

<sup>2</sup> 0000-0002-6451-193X, Yıldız Teknik Üniversitesi Mimarlık Fakültesi Mimarlık Tarihi ve Kuramı Programı

## Article Info

Received: 31/03/2024

Accepted: 09/09/2024

## Keywords

*International Style,  
People's House,  
Early Republican Period  
Architecture,  
Elazığ People's House,*

## Abstract

The Republic, declared on October 29, 1923, brought many innovations in the fields of architecture and urbanization. Atatürk's vision played a crucial role in the development and implementation of these innovations. In the Early Republic Period, buildings in the style known in many sources as Late Ottoman Early Republic Architecture or First National Architecture, along with buildings in the international style that Atatürk especially wanted to be implemented with the arrival of foreign architects and artists to our country, were constructed together. Especially in the capital Ankara, buildings constructed in both the First National and international styles were located side by side or very close to each other. The modernization movements in cities that started with Ankara in the early Republic also manifested themselves in other Anatolian provinces. With the establishment of the Republic, the idea of establishing People's Houses as an educational institution emerged to disseminate the ideology of Turkish revolutions to the public. The establishment of People's Houses in 1932 and the gradual opening of People's Houses in every province are evidence of the role of People's Houses in the modernization of cities and the education of the people. The Elâzığ People's House, which is discussed in the article, was opened on February 19, 1934, for these purposes. The building, which served as a People's House from 1934 to 1952, was used as a Girls' Primary School from 1952 to 1972, and as a High School and Education Institute from 1972 to 1982. Since 1983, it has continued to be used as a teachers' house. The Elâzığ People's House Building, built in the international style in the Early Republic Period, will be examined in terms of its plan, construction technique, and facade features, and will be compared with People's House buildings in other cities in terms of these features.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In 1923, with the establishment of the Republic, a comprehensive modernization project encompassing all aspects of the country emerged. Through cultural, political, and economic decisions, the new regime was largely defined [1]. Under this modernization project, new spaces began to emerge with formations brought by the Republic ideology. Consequently, there was a period of intense construction activity. Examples include People's Houses (People's House buildings), schools, post offices, agricultural institutions, and government buildings [1].

The modernization efforts during the Early Republican Period represented a more profound and comprehensive structure compared to the modernization attempts in the final years of the Ottoman Empire [2]. State authority served as the driving force behind this period's modernization, aiming to achieve a contemporary societal structure comparable to modern nation-states [2].

The economic, political, and cultural reforms necessitated by modernization were swiftly implemented by the state under the principle of for the people.

<sup>1</sup> The preliminary version of this paper was presented at the Mimar Kemaleddin Symposium organized by Gazi University Faculty of Architecture in Ankara on December 27-29, 2023.

\* Corresponding author: seneraysebetul@gmail.com

Under the modernization project of the newly established state aimed at creating a new and modern society, cultural and educational institutions were seen as significant tools. Among these, the most effective were the People's Houses (Halkevleri) opened in many cities during the early years of the Republic [3]. People's Houses were utilized as a means to introduce the state ideology to the public during that period."

The subject of this study is the Elazığ People's House (People's House), construction of which was decided in 1933 and opened on February 23, 1934. There is currently no detailed study in the literature that extensively examines the urban and architectural characteristics of the Elazığ People's House.

With the declaration of the Republic, efforts for modernization included the establishment of People's Houses in every province. When the idea of constructing a People's House in Elazığ arose, unlike some other People's House buildings, an existing structure was not utilized. Instead, a new building was planned at a significant and focal point in the city. During the planning of the building, urban relationships, and architectural features desired for People's Houses were taken into consideration. In terms of these attributes, the Elazığ People's House became an important educational and cultural structure of its time.

Following the closure of People's Houses, the Elazığ People's House was repurposed for different functions, leading to changes in its floor plan over time. Efforts are currently underway to restore it to its original form.

This study examines the Elazığ People's House in terms of its architectural and ideological features that made it significant during its significant during its construction period.

## **2. METHOD**

In this study, first, the establishment process of People's Houses, which is one of the modernization projects carried out by the state, and their contributions to society are described, and their architectural features are discussed. It is mentioned which institution undertook this task in society before the People's Houses and whether this institution was sufficient for introducing the new Republic ideology. For this purpose, studies conducted on People's Houses in the literature have been examined and briefly summarized. Then, the Elâzığ People's House, which is important in terms of carrying the architectural characteristics of the period it was built in and these characteristics to the present day, was examined within the People's Houses. The architecture of Elâzığ People's House is described in light of the data obtained from the survey, restitution, and restoration reports prepared for the building.

## **3. PEOPLE'S HOUSES**

With the establishment of the Republic of Turkey, a new modernity project was launched in line with enlightenment ideals and Westernization movements. This project particularly gave rise to new building types in urban areas. One of the most tangible evidences of the desire to spread the modernity project across the country was the establishment of "People's Houses" (Halkevleri) in many regions [1].

During this period, Atatürk aimed to create a contemporary society. It was observed that the rapid changes implemented did not reach the public at the same pace, highlighting a need for mass education to bridge this gap [4]. Halkevleri were established with this purpose in mind.

Prior to Halkevleri, this role was undertaken by Turkish Hearths (Türk Ocakları). Turkish Hearths emerged as vibrant proponents of the "Turkism" movement, revitalizing after the decline of the "Ottomanism" trend in the late Ottoman period. Founded in 1911, Turkish Hearths aimed to "work for the cultural unity of Turks and their advancement in civilization" [1].

In the Ottoman Empire, the bonds based on the Islamic community (ummah) were dissolved by the ideology of nationalism, and further fragmented with the Balkan Wars, giving rise to the Turkism movement [5]. Turkism aimed to differentiate and define Turks from other ethnic groups within the Ottoman Empire.

Turkish Hearths (Türk Ocakları) were established as central organizations that unified and governed these ideas. Throughout the Republic period, Turkish Hearths continued their activities, but gradually moved towards an increasingly nationalist organization, which drew criticism from the Republican regime due to its potential threat to Atatürk's reforms [5]. Consequently, Turkish Hearths voluntarily disbanded on January 10, 1931, and their assets were transferred to the Republican People's Party (CHP) [6].

After the closure of Turkish Hearths (Türk Ocakları), efforts swiftly began to establish a new organization by examining both domestic conditions and global practices [4]. As a result of these efforts, People's Houses (Halkevleri) were officially founded on February 19, 1932. The former Turkish Hearths building became the headquarters of the new People's Houses, and the opening ceremony was held there [4].

The first 14 People's Houses were initially established across Turkey. These were located in Ankara, Afyon, Samsun, Eskişehir, Diyarbakır, İzmir, Konya, Denizli, Van, Aydın, Çanakkale, Bursa, Istanbul, and Adana [3].

There are activity areas in community centers that everyone can participate in. These areas are divided into 9 groups: Language, History and Literature, Art, Performance, Sports, Social Aid, Public Preparatory Centers and Courses, Bookstore and Publishing, Village Husbandry, Museum and Exhibition [1].

Starting with 14 branches in 1932, the number of People's Houses grew to 48 by the following year. By 1940, their number had increased significantly to 379, with most located in cities and towns across provinces [3]. Additionally, in rural areas where People's Houses were less accessible, small community centers known as "halk odaları" (people's rooms) were established starting from 1939 to serve the same purpose [7].

#### 4. PEOPLE'S HOUSE BUILDINGS

The People's House buildings, which were part of the intensive urban development activities in the early years of the Republic, were provided by the Republican People's Party [3]. These buildings were intended to represent the new ideology while also reflecting Turkish culture. Despite the influence of foreign architects who were prominent in the rapid urbanization of the 1930s in our country, the design and construction of these buildings were largely carried out by local architects and engineers [5]. People's House projects were obtained through several methods (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Preparation Methods of People's House Building Projects (The table was created by the authors using the source [1])

Project Preparation Format	Ministry	Competition	Consultant Architectural Office	Special Offices or Governorships Upon Order	
People's Houses	Kars (1938)	Zonguldak (1933)	Eminönü (1936)	Düzce (1933)	Yalova (1938)
	Çorlu (1939)	Samsun (1936)	Konya (1940)	Elazığ (1933)	Mardin (1938)
	Isparta (1939)	Bursa (1937)	Balıkesir (1944)	Antalya (1933)	Şehremini (1938)
	Çankırı (1939)	Kadıköy (1938)	Bartın (1945)	Diyarbakır (1934)	Manisa (1938)
	Kırklareli (1939)	Sivas (1938)	Nallıhan (1946)	Eskişehir (1936)	Kars (1938)
	Ağrı (1937)	Çanakkale (1943)		Gerede (1936)	Afyon (1939)
	Çoruh (1937)			Karamürsel (1936)	Gebze (1939)
	Muğla (1937)			Kayseri (1937)	Adana (1944)
	Erzincan (1937)			İzmit (1937)	İzmir (1948)
				Mersin (1937)	

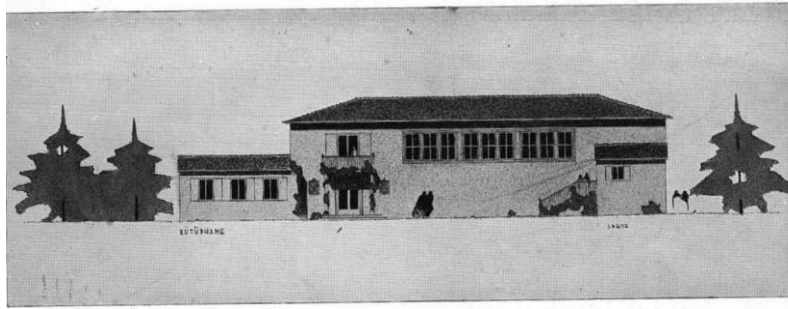
Many People's Houses were opened in existing buildings. Following the closure of Turkish Hearths, their properties were transferred to People's Houses, and some of the old buildings in cities were also used as People's Houses. For example, in Ankara, the former Turkish Hearths building designed by Architect Arif Hikmet Koyunoğlu was used as a People's House (Figure 1). Besides Ankara People's House, the People's Houses in Izmir and Isparta initially used former Turkish Hearths buildings; however, new People's House buildings were constructed over time when the existing buildings became insufficient.

\*On May 29, 1935, the party name changed to the Republican People's Party.



**Figure 1.** Ankara Türk Ocağı Building, Arif Hikmet Koyunoğlu [8]

In 1940, the Republican People's Party established the Consulting Architecture Office to expedite the construction of People's House Buildings in towns and villages under a structured program. Master Architect Ahmet Sabri Oran was appointed for this task. Oran was tasked with preparing standard project designs for each city and town [1] (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** The facade of a small-scale People's House project [9]

The Turkish Hearth buildings, upon which the People's Houses were founded, exhibit characteristic features of the First National Architecture Movement with symmetrical floor plans, facade arrangements, circular or pointed arches, domes, wide roof eaves, monumental appearances, and decorations [10]. However, criticism of this architectural style began in Turkey in the 1930s, leading to the influence of modern architectural principles [11].

People's House structures embodied the ideology of the era through their architecture. According to the architects of the time, these buildings were seen as symbols of authority, hence state buildings were expected to be plain yet authoritative [5].

For People's House buildings, new materials, technologies, and construction systems of the time were employed [10], applying rationalist and functionalist approaches that were influential in the 1930s architecture [11]. This was because the characteristics of modern architecture were considered to align with the innovative qualities of the Republic. Therefore, it can be said that People's House buildings, constructed considering the functional and stylistic features of modern architecture, served as visual representatives of the Republic through their architectural form and functions.

People's Houses were constructed with consideration for modern architecture, yet some of them also exhibit local influences. For instance, in Bursa People's House (1932), a traditional inner courtyard typical of Bursa architecture was incorporated. However, in many People's House buildings, there is an approach aligned with modernist design principles, which stands independently without direct relation to traditional buildings [1].

#### 4.1 Location and Urban Relationships

The new nation-state established Republic Squares representing its power in urban areas. The minimum building program in the modern cities of the new Republic includes the Gazi Primary School, Government House, and People's House Building. People's House buildings were located near Republic Squares, the new urban centers, or on main thoroughfares, becoming defining structures of the city center [5].

Due to their affiliation with the party, People's House buildings were perceived as part of the state structure. These buildings represented not only the educational needs of the public but also the presence and power of the new regime through their locations, urban relationships, architectural forms, and materials [5].

With the building program of 1940, proximity to residential areas became important in site selection. Instead of being squeezed among other official buildings, these structures were set back from the street and often surrounded by extensive gardens as planned in standard projects. The idea was to create distinguishable structures that could be perceived as schools, but these projects were not fully implemented, and the commitment to their locations around Republic Squares remained [5].

In People's Houses, symbols and signs of the authority were always present, including the statue of Gazi, inscriptions, the six-armed party flag, and the Turkish flag (Figure 3).



*Figure 3. The Turkish flag at the Kadıköy People's House building [12]*

#### 4.2 Plan

The functional mass approach based on international style influenced the plans of People's House buildings. These buildings typically consist of a hall, administrative section, library, and classrooms. These units are arranged in various combinations to create different plan types. In his study, Durukan identified the plan types of People's House buildings as L, I, T, and U [1].

People's House plans are generally designed according to the topography, utilizing slopes to gain an additional floor. Architects have adapted to the terrain to maximize space utilization [1]. Unlike single masses, People's Houses feature fragmented masses strategically placed according to their functions.

In the plans of People's Houses, there is a departure from the symmetry characteristic of the First National Architecture Movement. Instead, the design of the buildings reflects an asymmetrical planning approach influenced by the international style [1]. While this general trend is observed in most buildings, there are



exceptions such as the Isparta People's House, which features a symmetrical plan. However, even in such cases, the structure is composed of different-sized cubic units assembled together, resembling the plan formation of structures built in the international style [10].

Towards the later period of People's Houses, examples like the Mersin People's House (1946) exhibit a symmetric plan layout where the building is conceived as a single mass [10].

#### 4.3 Technology and Materials

People's House buildings typically used reinforced concrete for floor slabs and structural walls and columns, while bricks were employed for non-load-bearing infill walls. After the 1940s, there was a noticeable shift towards using stone and constructing pitched roofs, reflecting a move towards nationalistic architectural elements [1].

The choice of materials was often influenced by the size of the People's House and economic considerations. Floors were predominantly adorned with mosaic, marble, or small geometrically shaped tiles (Figure 4). Stairs were commonly covered in marble. In terms of design, elaborate and ornate staircases were replaced by simpler, more modest ones on a smaller scale (Figure 5) [1].



*Figure 4. The flooring of the Kırklareli People's House Building [1]*

*Figure 5. The staircase detail of the Kadıköy People's House [1]*

#### 4.4 Facade

People's House buildings incorporated fundamental elements of modern architecture in their facade designs. These included expansive terraces, cantilevers, metal railings, and flat roofs, which were common features across these structures [1] (Figure 6).

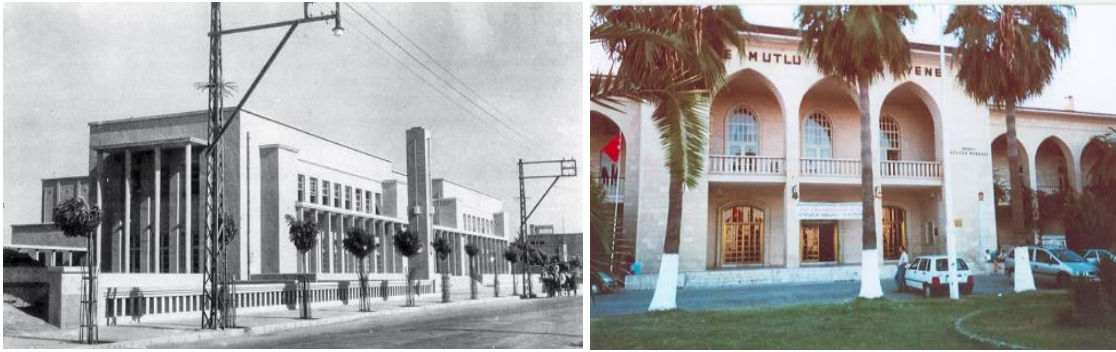


*Figure 6. Kadıköy People's House Buildings [12]*

In the facades, small square and rectangular windows were commonly used, along with circular windows which are elements of modern architecture. Circular windows were particularly seen in multi-purpose halls and stage lighting [1].

Basement floors were typically clad in stone, while upper floors were finished with edelputz plaster [1].

While structures generally shared common features on their facades, some People's House buildings exhibited variations. For instance, Adana People's House (1939) featured a monumental entrance with colonnades (Figure 7). It can be said that during these periods, architecture was turning towards nationalism [1]. The high-arched entrance facade and the use of large local stones in Mersin People's House, built in 1946, reference the Second National Architecture Period and distinguish it from other People's House buildings (Figure 8) [1].



*Figure 7. The colonnaded entrance of Adana People's House [13]*

*Figure 8. The arched entrance of Mersin People's House [14]*

When examining People's House buildings, it can be considered that they are symbolic structures of the new Republic, hence great importance was given to their facades. To achieve the desired appearance of the facade, the plans were arranged according to the massing [1].

## 5. ELAZIĞ PEOPLE'S HOUSE

After the decision taken in 1931 to establish 14 People's Houses nationwide, the completed preparations led to the successive opening of these Halkevleri. The Elazığ People's House was opened on February 23, 1934 [7], and following its inauguration, it was led by Tevfik Sırrı Gür, who was the Governor of Elazığ [15].

The People's House project, despite Tevfik Sırrı Gür not being an architect, was drawn by him. After the project was submitted to the Technical University and necessary corrections were made, construction began [16].

Like every People's House, the publication organ of Elazığ People's House was Altan Magazine. Between 1935 and 1939, a total of 48 issues of the magazine were published [17].

Beginning with Atatürk and including the state officials of the period, Elazığ People's House hosted numerous guests. From 1952 to 1972, it functioned as a Girls' Primary Teacher School, and from 1982 onwards, it served as a high school and a 2-year education institute. In 1983, it was converted into a teacher's dormitory with a capacity of 27 beds (Figure 9). In 1991, a 3-story building with a capacity of 33 beds was added to the premises, which was demolished with the permission of the conservation board [18].



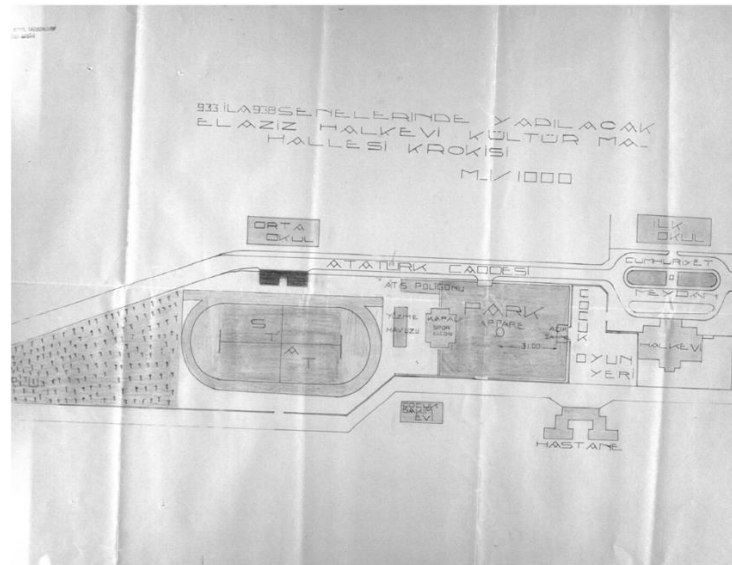
**Figure 9.** The People's House converted into a teachers' house [19]

The building has been transferred to Elazığ Municipality and currently sits vacant. It sustained partial damage in the earthquakes of 2020 and 2023, prompting plans for its restoration in the near future [18]. Architect Özgür Sevim prepared the survey, restitution, and restoration project for the building, which was approved by the conservation board in 2023. Restoration work is expected to commence soon.

### 5.1. Location and Urban Relationships

With the proclamation of the Republic, new urban planning decisions were made in cities. Accordingly, each city was designated to have a boulevard or Atatürk Avenue, with main roads organized along these avenues and leading to Republic Squares intersecting with these streets [1]. Symbolic structures of the period such as People's House and the Atatürk Statue were also designed along these avenues or squares.

Upon request from the Republican People's Party, the Governor of Elazığ, Tevfik Sırrı Gür, was tasked with conducting a study on establishing a People's House in Elazığ. Tevfik Sırrı Gür, known for implementing city plans in every province he administered, emphasized that Elazığ lacked a modern city plan and functional buildings. He prepared and implemented an urban plan for Elazığ, which included a Republic Square in the neighborhood with People's House as the central structure, surrounded by the Atatürk Statue, Children's Playground, Gymnastics Area, Open Stage, Cinema Machine Room, Local Hospital, Stadium, Indoor Sports Hall, Culture Park, Swimming Pool, Shooting Range, and Elementary and Middle School Buildings [16] (Figure 10).



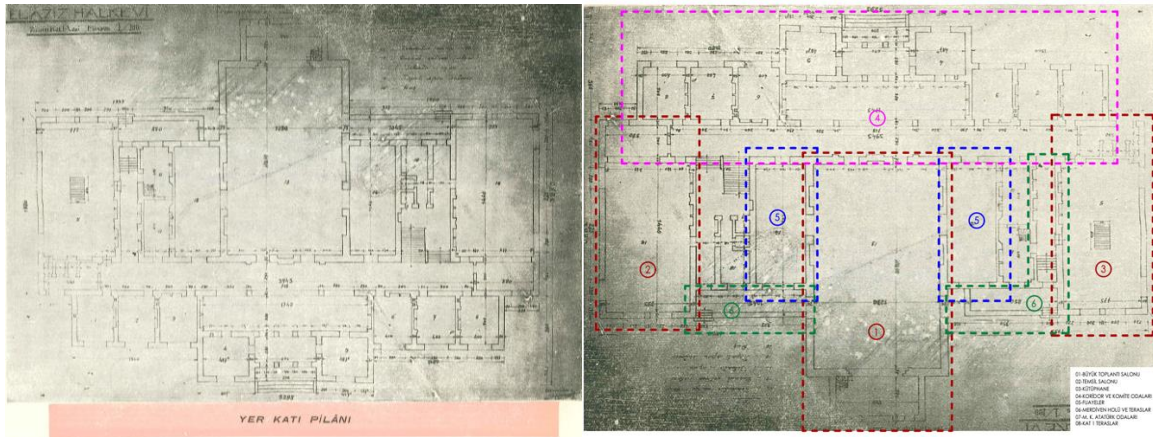
**Figure 10.** The urban plan of Kültür Neighbourhood designed by Tevfik Sırrı Gür [16]



## 5.2. Architectural Features

Elazığ People's House building's spatial layout is functionally based. It features a cubic architecture formed by the integration of various functional units. The building has a T-shaped plan. The units are symmetrically arranged to the right and left of the entrance.

The structure has a partial basement, with part of it being above ground and part below ground level. The entrance is located to the north. From the entrance hall to the entrance foyer, and from there to the east and west wings, access is provided via a central corridor (Figure 11). Rooms are located on both the east and west sides of the entrance. There are lobbies on either side of the multipurpose hall. Adjacent to the lobby on the right is the assembly hall, and adjacent to the lobby on the left is the library (Figure 12).



**Figure 11.** Ground floor plan of Elazığ People's House [18]

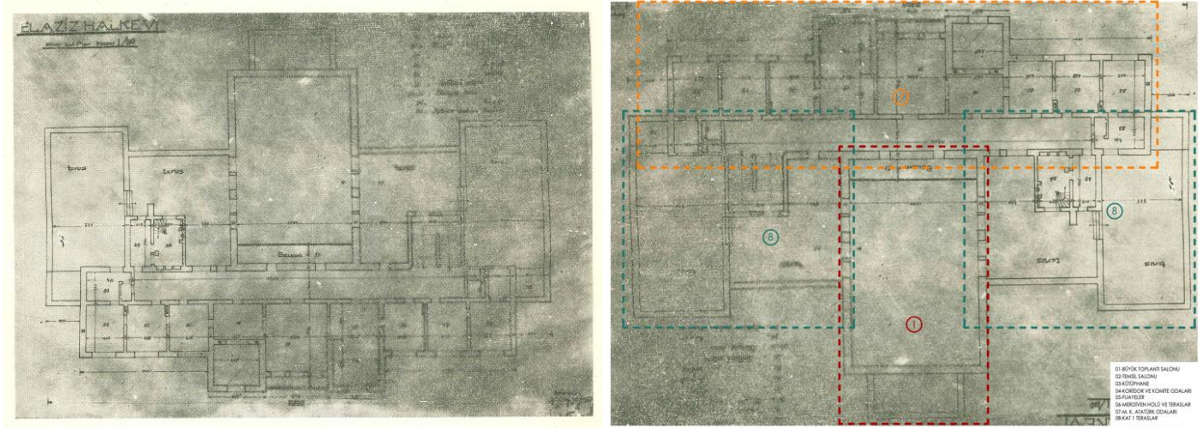
**Figure 12.** Units on the ground floor of Elazığ People's House [18]

Opposite the entrance, there are two door openings leading to the multipurpose hall (Figure 13). At the end of the rectangular main hall, there is a stage structure.



**Figure 13.** A view from the multipurpose hall [20]

In the west wing, access to the upper floor is provided via a double-armed marble-clad main staircase. The units on the first floor reached via the main staircase are arranged around a corridor (Figure 14). Currently, the main halls in the east and west wings on this floor have been added to the structure later. Originally, the spaces above the foyer, assembly hall, and library were designed as terraces (Figure 15).



**Figure 14.** First floor plan of Elazığ People's House [18]

**Figure 15.** Units on the first floor of Elazığ People's House [18]

In the present day, the building's original pitched roof covering has closed off these terraces. Above the assembly hall and library, new halls were added at an unspecified time. The floor height of the multi-purpose hall continues here as well. Units arranged around the main corridor were originally named Atatürk Rooms. This floor was prepared as the Atatürk Suite. One corridor houses two apartments consisting of a study, bedroom, bathroom, reception room, dining room, a separate dining area, rest rooms, and a bathroom [16]. Today, the eastern corridor side is home to the Atatürk Memorial Rooms. During the period when the building was used as a teachers' lodge, additional partitions were added to the structure to create new volumes. Architect Özgür Sevim described the structure in his survey and restitution reports as follows: "The main hall of the building was closed off with wooden partitions, creating a corridor behind it. The original windows behind the stage were closed from the inside with wooden dividers. The balcony and stairs in the assembly hall were removed. Some doors to the rooms were closed. The staircase to the upper floor was changed. The main halls in the east and west wings on the upper floor were added later to the structure. It was found that there were more rooms originally on this floor prepared for Atatürk. It was understood that the room on the north facade, originally used as a single volume with three doors, is now divided." [18].

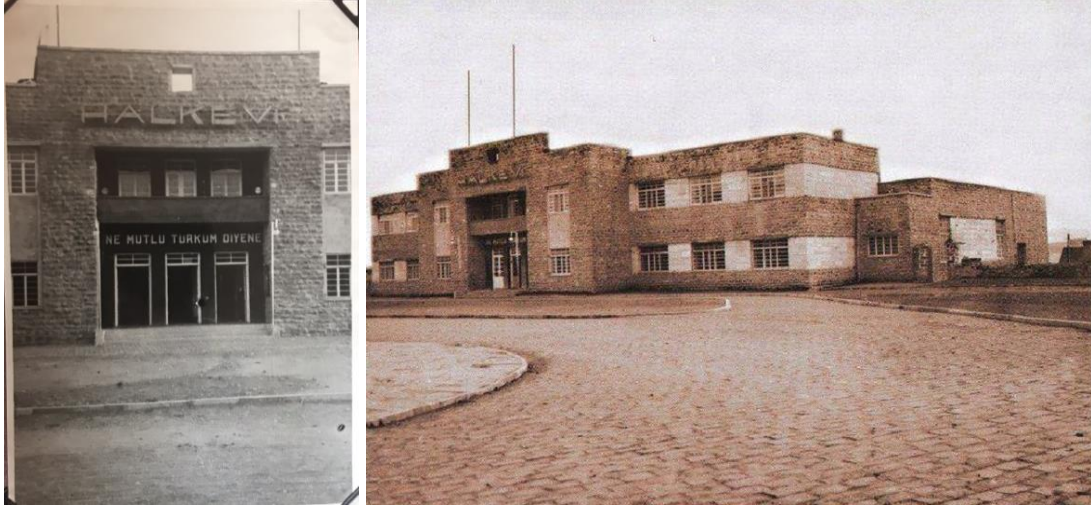
### 5.3 Technology and Materials

The structure employs construction techniques and materials typical of its era and used in other People's Houses. Elazığ People's House was constructed using reinforced concrete construction techniques. It is clad with stone and brick. The original window and door frames are wooden. The double-armed staircase is covered with marble.

### 5.4 Facade

The north facade, also the entrance facade, is distinguished by projecting and elevated entrance section similar to crown doors from the main building wall (Figure 16). It was built as an early Republican era reinforced concrete structure. The facade is clad with stone (Figure 17).





**Figure 16.** The north facade of the building [20]

**Figure 17.** The facade of the Elazığ People's House [20]

The building was originally constructed with a flat roof/terrace roof (Figure 18). In later periods, a pitched roof covered with Marseille tiles was added (Figure 19).



**Figure 18.** The entrance facade of the Elazığ People's House [20]

**Figure 19.** The northern facade of the building with later added roofs [20]

In later periods, a chimney was added on the east facade. Between the two windows on the east and west facades, a band was created with ashlar masonry (Figure 20). The reinforced concrete slab and beams of the upper floor added later are clearly visible on these facades in their current state (Figure 21).



**Figure 20.** The eastern facade of the Elazığ People's House [20]

**Figure 21.** The additional floor added to the eastern facade of the building [19]

In the middle of the south facade, the stage area of the multipurpose hall is prominent (Figure 22). Although a roof was added to the structure in subsequent periods, no addition was made to the stage area. There are entrances to the basement.



**Figure 22.** The current southern facade of the building [19]

## 6. CONCLUSION AND EVALUATION

People's House Buildings, one of the most significant examples reflecting the modernity project within the framework of the nation-state ideology in Turkey during the 1930s, stand out as important architectural examples in Turkish architecture. Emerging with the proclamation of the Republic, the new buildings and spatial designs such as schools, hospitals, station buildings, and factories aimed at enlightening the public, People's House Buildings distinguished themselves during this period with their ideology and architectural composition. This is because the modernization project predominant in the 1930s found its best expression in Halkevleri, reaching the public through these institutions.

At the core of the opening of People's Houses was the aim to educate the public according to the requirements of the new regime. People's Houses served as educational institutions that disseminated the ideas of the new Republic, educating people in literacy, providing them with education in various arts, contributing to social development, and aiming to eliminate class distinctions. Therefore, they were institutions focused on people.

In addition to their educational roles, People's Houses became modern structures both physically and in terms of the values they embodied, using contemporary architecture of the period. They symbolized the new ideology better than other contemporary structures of the time. As mentioned earlier, located near the Republic Squares established in every city by the new Republic regime, People's Houses became symbolic structures alongside these squares, representing the cities.

People's House buildings, constructed as examples of international style, have become representatives of modern architecture with their floor plans, facades, functions, and materials used. This architectural style was employed to facilitate the modernization efforts of the new state. The traditional style of the Turkish Hearths buildings was replaced by the cubic, plain, modern style of the Community Centers, which were free of ornamentation. Community center buildings became modern symbols of the newly established state in the cities with the new materials used in their construction and the facade characters [10].

Elazığ People's House, among the second phase of People's House buildings, served as a significant focal point for the city during its time. It embodies the architectural characteristics of its era through its construction technique, floor plan layout, and integrated functions. Located adjacent to the newly established Cumhuriyet Meydanı (Republic Square) in the city, Elazığ People's House was constructed alongside the Atatürk Statue, making it an important example of displaying state symbols through urban planning [16]. Elazığ People's House has also incorporated the symbols and signs typical of People's Houses.

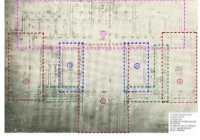


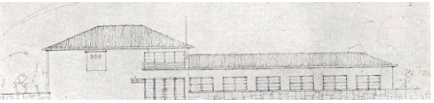
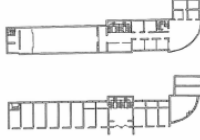
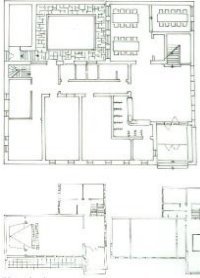
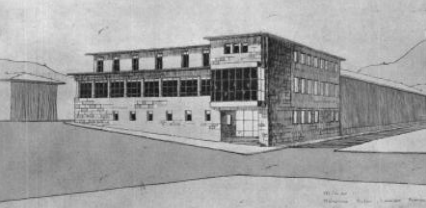
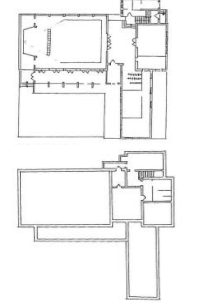

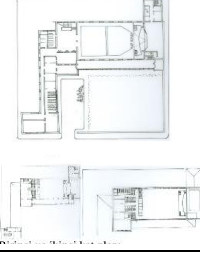

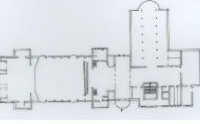

Architecturally, Elazığ People's House stands out from other People's House buildings of its time. It exhibits both international stylistic features and a stylized version of the crown door, commonly used in Turkish civilizations, on its entrance facade. Unlike the Isparta People's House, which shows symmetrical features in its plan, Elazığ People's House was not planned as a single mass but rather as blocks arranged according to their functions. This approach, where different-height blocks merge, represents a modern architectural example considering its facade and the materials used.

The building, constructed using reinforced concrete technique and stone and brick cladding, exhibits material characteristics that embody modern architectural features. A distinctive feature of its cladding is the continuous band of finely crafted stone masonry, sandwiched between two full stone courses along the entire facade height, which wraps around and accentuates the front facade. The rising facade, characterized by this cladding style, can be considered a unique example in terms of its material composition.

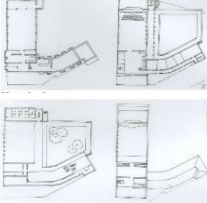

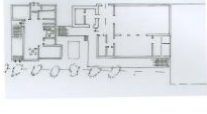




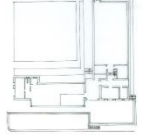

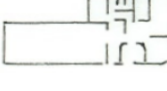



Below is a table showing information about People's House buildings ordered by provincial governors or private offices, as found in the Elazığ People's House project (Table 2). Upon examining the projects of these People's House buildings, including Elazığ People's House, it is evident that they generally exhibit characteristics of international style. Some People's House buildings in cities like Adana and Mersin also display monumental features on their facades. Particularly, the plan type of Mersin People's House, consisting of a single mass, can be said to exhibit national architectural characteristics. It is observed that these styles, observed in close proximity to each other in terms of construction dates, sometimes intertwine. Due to their character reflecting both the international style and traces of ancient Turkish civilizations' architecture, People's House buildings constructed during the Elazığ People's House period occupy a distinct position among People's House buildings.



**Table 2.** Examples of Community Centers built upon order by governorships or private offices (The table was created by the authors using the sources used)

People's House	Architect of the building	Project Year	Plan Type	Plan	Facade
Elazığ	Tevfik Sırrı Gür	1933	T		
Düzce	Abidin Mortaş	1933	L		
Eskişehir	İzzet Baysal	1936	I		X
Gerede	Leman Tomsu Münevver Belen	1936	L		
Karamürsel	Leman Tomsu Münevver Belen	1936	L		
Kayseri	Leman Tomsu Münevver Belen	1937	L		
İzmit	Seyfi Arkan	1937-1939	L		

**Table 2 (continued).** Examples of Community Centers built upon order by governorships or private offices (The table was created by the authors using the sources used)

People's House	Architect of the building	Project Year	Plan Type	Plan	Facade
Şehremini	Leman Tomsu	1938	L		
Manisa	Asım Köürücüođlu	1936	L		
Gebze	Selim Sayar	1939	L		X
Adana	Seyfi Arkan	1939	T		
İzmir	Rıza Aşkan Cahit Çeçen	1944	L		
Yalova	Sedat Çetintaş	1937	L		
Mersin	Tevfik Sırrı Gür	1946	Dikdörtgen		

Due to changes in its function over time, Elazığ People's House has almost lost its original architectural features from when it was first built. Recognized as an original and valuable structure of its period, efforts have been made to restore Elazığ People's House to its original state. Projects have been approved by the Diyarbakır Conservation Board of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, defining a new function for the building as a museum.

**REFERENCES**

- [1] Durukan, A., “Cumhuriyet’ in Çağdaşlaşma Düşüncesinin Yaşama ve Mekana Yansımaları: Halkevi Binaları Örneği”, Doktora Tezi, İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi, İstanbul, (2006).
- [2] Tekeli, İ., “Bir Modernite Projesi Olarak Türkiye’ de Kent Planlaması”, Ege Mimarlık Dergisi, 5(16), 51-55, (1995).
- [3] Tekeli, İ., “Kent Tarih Yazımı Konusunda Yeni Bir Paradigma Önerisi”, ODTÜ Yayıncılık, 152-171, (2006).
- [4] Çeçen, A., “Atatürk’ ün Kültür Kurumu Halkevleri”, Ankara, (1990).
- [5] Yeşilkaya, N.G. “Halkevleri: İdeoloji ve Mimarlık”, İletişim Yayınları, (2003).
- [6] Özdemir, Y., Aktaş, E., “Halkevleri (1932’ den 1951’e)”, Atatürk Üniversitesi Türkiyat Araştırmaları Enstitüsü Dergisi, 45, 235-262, (2011).
- [7] Ergen, S., “Türkiye’ de Halkevleri ve Elazığ Örneği”, Yüksek Lisans Tezi, Fırat Üniversitesi, (2007).
- [8] Salt Araştırma Arşivi. <https://archives.saltresearch.org> Last Accessed: 06.03.2024.
- [9] Arkitekt Dergisi. <http://dergi.mo.org.tr/detail.php?id=2>. Last Accessed: 06.03.2024.
- [10] Gürkan, Ü.Ç., “Modernin İzini Sürmek: Yok Olan Bir Erken Cumhuriyet Dönemi Mimarlık Örneği Olarak Isparta Halkevi Binası”, İdeal Kent, 35(13), 97-137, (2022).
- [11] Bozdoğan, S., “Modernizm ve Ulusun İnşası”, Metis Yayınları, (2001).
- [12] Kadıköy Halkevi. <https://www.gazetekadikoy.com.tr>. Last Accessed: 06.03.2024.
- [13] Çetin, Y. “İkinci Milli Mimarlık Hareketi ve Sonrası Mimarisinin Günümüz Tarihi Kentlerin Dokusuna Katkısı Üzerine Bir Değerlendirme”, Social Sciences Studies Journal, 4(22), 4074-4084 (2018)
- [14] Durukan, A., Uluşu Uraz, T. “Cumhuriyet’ in Kültür Kurumu Olarak Halkevi Binaları”, İTÜ Dergisi, 7(1), 38-49 (2008).
- [15] Turan Gazetesi Arşivi. <https://web.firat.edu.tr/harput/gazete/default.htm>. Last Accessed: 06.03.2024.
- [16] Haykır, Y. “Tek Parti Dönemi Valilerinden Tevfik Sırrı Gür ve Elazığ Valiliği”, Fırat Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi, 27(2), 311-347, (2017).
- [17] Altan Dergisi. <http://www.halkbilimi.com/dergi-sayi/he-altan> . Last Accessed: 06.03.2024.
- [18] Sevim, Ö., Elazığ Eski Öğretmenevi Rölöve-Restitüsyon Raporu, (2024).
- [19] Ahmet Kızılkaya Fotoğraf Arşivi
- [20] Elazığ Halkevi Arşivi