

AN EXAMPLE FROM THE FIRST NATIONAL ARCHITECTURE PERIOD IN TRABZON: GOVERNMENT HOUSE (PROVINCIAL BUILDING)



TRABZON'DA BİRİNCİ ULUSAL MİMARLIK DÖNEMİ'NDEN BİR ÖRNEK: HÜKÜMET KONAĞI (VİLAYET BİNASI)

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ABSTRACT

Government houses are one of the most important public buildings built to emphasize the authority of the state. Government houses located in the central points of cities generally reflect the architectural style that was active in the period in which they were built. In this context, Trabzon Government House, which reflects the stylistic features of the First National Architectural Period, which was active between 1908 and 1930, and which built between 1930 and 1933, is the subject of the research. With this research, it is aimed to emphasize the importance of Trabzon Government House in the First National Architecture Period by evaluating it in terms of its architectural, ornamental and technical features. In order to determine the place of the building within the period style, the research method was created with various publications and archive documents, as well as the information and photographs obtained within the scope of the field study. There is no definitive information about the architect of Trabzon Government House. Although the names of Architect Kemaleddin and Architect Vedat Tek are mentioned among the architects of the building, such information has not been found in any archive records so far. Trabzon Government House was built with a modest approach compared to the important examples reflecting the style of the period in Istanbul and Ankara. However, when a general evaluation is made with elements such as the general mass of the building, the architectural arrangements on its facades and the use of turquoise colored tile decorations, it is concluded that it is the most important building in the city that directly reflects the stylistic features of the First National Architecture Period.

Keywords: *National Architecture, Style, Trabzon, Government House.*

ÖZ

Osmanlı İmparatorluğu döneminde devletin otoritesini vurgulamak adına vilayet ve kazalarda inşa edilen kamu binaları arasında hükümet konakları önemli bir yeri teşkil eder. Bu bağlamda Trabzon şehri, tarihi açıdan öneme sahip bir yerleşim yeri olması ve

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jeopolitik konumunun avantajı vb. durumlardan dolayı Tanzimat döneminde (1839-1878) reformların uygulanma sahası olmuştur. Devlet işlerinin yürütülmesi adına Trabzon'da inşa edilen hükümet konağı bu açıdan önemli bir konumda yer almaktadır. Şehirlerin merkezi noktalarında yer alan hükümet konakları, genel olarak inşa edildikleri dönem içindeki etkin olan mimari üslubu yansıtmaktadır. Bu bağlamda 19. yüzyıl ortalarında yaptırılmış olan eski hükümet konağının yerine 1930-1933 yıllarında yapımı tamamlanmış olan ve Birinci Ulusal Mimarlık Dönemi üslup özelliklerini yansıtan Trabzon Hükümet Konağı araştırmanın konusunu oluşturmaktadır. Birinci Ulusal Mimarlık Dönemi genel olarak 1908-1930 yılları arasında etkisini göstermiş mimari akımdır. Bu doğrultuda Trabzon-Ortahisar'da yer alan hükümet konağı, dönemin mimari üslubunu yansıtan bir niteliğe sahip olması bakımından üzerinde durulmaya değer bir yapı olarak karşımıza çıkmaktadır. Bu çalışma ile birlikte Trabzon Hükümet Konağı; mimari, süsleme ve teknik özellikleri açısından değerlendirmeye tabii tutularak Birinci Ulusal Mimarlık Dönemi içerisinde önemini vurgulanması amaçlanmıştır. Yapının dönem üslubu içindeki yerinin tespiti bakımından, saha çalışması kapsamında elde edilen bilgiler ve fotoğraflamaların yanı sıra çeşitli yayınlar ve arşiv belgeleri ile araştırmanın yöntemi oluşturulmuştur.

1930-1933 yılları arasında inşası tamamlanan Trabzon Hükümet Konağı'nın, Birinci Ulusal Mimarlık Dönemi üslubu kapsamında orijinal dokusunu koruduğu anlaşılmaktadır. Hükümet konağı; dikdörtgen planlı, simetrik hatlara sahip, giriş kapısı bölümü ve yan kısımların yapı bünyesine oranla dışa taşırılmış vaziyette inşa edilmiştir. Plan kuruluşu açısından, Kastamonu Hükümet Konağı ve Ankara Hariciye Vekaleti Binası ile benzerlikler taşıdığı söylenebilir. Bu bağlamda farklı yapı tiplerinde benzer plan şemasının uygulanması Birinci Ulusal Mimarlık üslubunda karşılaştığımız bir durum olarak karşımıza çıkmaktadır. Trabzon Hükümet Konağı'nın cephelerinde yer alan Kütahya işi çiniler yapıyı biraz daha ön plana çıkarmaktadır. Yapının dış cephelerinde yer alan turkuaz renkli çinilerin süslemesiz oluşu bakımından, Edirne-Karaağaç Eski İstasyon Binası, İstanbul Kamer Hatun Camii, İstanbul İkinci Vakıf Han vb. yapılarıdaki çini süslemelerle benzer bir kullanım alanına sahip olduğu anlaşılmaktadır. Trabzon Hükümet Konağı'nın mimarlığını yapan kişi hakkında kesin bir bilgi bulunmamaktadır. Yapının mimarlığını yapanlar arasında Mimar Kemaleddin ve Mimar Vedat Tek'in isimleri geçse de herhangi bir arşiv kaydında şimdiye kadar böyle bir bilgiye rastlanmamıştır. Trabzon Hükümet Konağı'nın 1933 yılında tamamlanmış olması, Birinci Ulusal Mimarlık Dönemi (1908-1930) için kabul gören tarihlerin dışında inşa edilen nadir örneklerden biri olarak da karşımıza çıkmaktadır. Hükümet konağı, İstanbul ve Ankara'daki dönem üslubunu yansıtan önemli örneklerle oranla daha sade bir anlayışla inşa edilmiştir. Ancak yapının genel kütlesi, cephelerdeki mimari düzenlemeler ve turkuaz renkli çini süslemelerin kullanımı gibi unsurlar ile birlikte genel bir değerlendirilme yapıldığında Birinci Ulusal Mimarlık Dönemi üslup özelliklerini direkt olarak yansıtan şehirdeki en önemli yapı olduğu sonucuna ulaşılmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Ulusal Mimarlık, Üslup, Trabzon, Hükümet Konağı.*

Introduction

The First National Architecture style, which was effective between 1908 and 1930, is a movement that symbolizes a return to classical elements in the field of architecture. Especially the classical architectural arrangements of the Ottoman-Seljuk periods were reconsidered and applied in new period buildings, creating a return to the essence in terms of architectural identity.¹ Situations such as the dominance of the nationalist movement in the political and sociological environment of the period and the Committee of Union and Progress² carrying out studies in this direction also affected the architectural field and brought changes. National feelings, which increased in the last periods of the Ottoman Empire, affected the education and intellectual status of architects and caused the formation of a new architectural movement. The fact that the Committee of Union and Progress had a say in the functioning of the state after 1908 caused the First National Architectural Period style to become widespread culturally.³ Based on this style, many buildings, especially in Istanbul and Ankara (1st and 2nd Grand National Assembly of Turkey Building, Ankara Palace, Ankara Ethnography Museum, Istanbul Fourth Vakıf Han, Istanbul Post and Telegraph Ministry Building, Istanbul Defter-i Hakani Building, etc.) has started to be built expeditiously.

The Neoclassicism movement⁴, which became widespread in the field of architecture in Europe in the 18th century, also significantly affected Ottoman architecture. In this context, it is known that Western-influenced elements became widespread in Ottoman architecture, especially in the 19th century. In this respect, the pioneer architects of the First National Architecture Period, such as Architect Kemaleddin⁵ and Architect Vedat Tek⁶, opposed the current architectural situation under Western influence and began to apply classical elements from the Ottoman and Seljuk periods in their newly built

1 Sözen, 1996, 13-14; Aslanoğlu, 2010, 30.

2 A political group that was active in state administration in the Ottoman Empire between 1908 and 1918. The society, which was influential in the cultural field as well as state administration, constitutes an important point in the expansion of the First National Architecture Period. (See: Hanioglu, 2001, 476-484; Karabekir, 2011, 17-19).

3 Sarımay, 2002, 1471-1472; Yavuz, 1973, 26; Kuruyazıcı, 2008, 25; Balcı, 2022, 169-170, Balcı, 2024, 141.

4 It is an artistic movement that developed in the 18th century in countries such as Italy, Germany, France, etc. Neoclassical architecture is based on re-emerging the classical elements of Ancient Greek and Roman architecture, opposing the Baroque and Rococo decoration styles of the 18th century. (See Ödekan, 1994, 65-66; İnankur, 1997, 1933-1934)

5 Architect who lived between 1870-1927. He is one of the most important names of the First National Architecture Period. During this period, he built structures based on this style in many cities of the country. (See Çobanoğlu, 2022, 230-231).

6 Architect who lived between 1873-1942. He is among the leading architects of the First National Architecture Period. It is known that Architect Vedat Tek, who served as the chief architect of the palace in the Ottoman Empire for a while, created buildings based on this style in different cities of the country. (See Yavuz, 1994, 232).

buildings.⁷ The influences of this period, in which a national character was created in the cultural and architectural fields, are directly related to the geography. It is a normal situation to reflect the Turkish identity in the architectural sense and to highlight the elements of the Ottoman-Seljuk period instead of cultures such as Gokturk and Uyghur.⁸ Containing classical elements in the First National Architecture Period; important technical and decorative elements such as domes, arch arrangements, portal, wide eaves and the use of tile materials were used in almost every building type.⁹ During this period, more meticulous and detailed work was carried out on the front facades of the buildings, and the other facades were relatively modest and unadorned. In general plastic arrangements used extensively such as moulding, stalactite, hobnail, rosette, hourglass motif, pillar headings(capital), etc. on the facades.¹⁰ In addition to this, the architects of the period focused on the facade designs of the buildings with the effects of the education process they received. In this respect, facade arrangements, one of the most important points emphasized in the buildings, came to the fore and became the general admiration of the First National Architecture Period.¹¹

The Ottoman Empire's institutional structure was transformed as a result of the reforms implemented during the Tanzimat period. Along with this transformation had a significantly affected Ottoman urban architecture and building types, leading to the construction of institutional building types such as government houses, courthouses, city halls, post offices, hospitals, etc.¹² Initially new buildings were not constructed. Instead, large-scale structures were rented and used as government houses. Starting from the 1850s government houses began to be built under the knowledge and control of the capital. It is generally known that the expenses of the construction process of government houses were met by the revenue obtained from the state treasury and the aid collected from the public.¹³

Trabzon was in an important position as the provincial center of the region extending from Ordu to Batumi in the 19th century.¹⁴ Trabzon, with its characteristics such as being a settlement of historical importance and its geopolitical location, became one of the implementation areas of the reforms created during the Tanzimat period in the Ottoman Empire. In this context, it is known that various initiatives such as the appointment of İsmail Rahmi Pasha as the governor started in 1841. Depending on this situation, the construction of public buildings in which state affairs will be carried out also coincides

7 Aslanapa, 2004, 554; Eyice, 1981, 175; Eyice, 1995, 163; Tapan, 1997, 365; Aslanoğlu, 1984, 41-51; Yavuz - Özkan, 1985, 1082.

8 Mülâyim, 2009, 23-27;

9 Aslanoğlu, 2010, 32; Arseven, 1984, 182.

10 Yavuz, 1973, 23.

11 Sözen, 1996, 17.

12 Avcı, 2017, 18.

13 Nurcan, 2019, 32-35, 206.

14 Lowry - Emecen, 2012, 301.

with this period.¹⁵ The most important of the official buildings built in provinces and districts during the Ottoman period are government houses. Government houses, built to demonstrate the governing authority of the state, were built to have a more official importance than other buildings.¹⁶ It was not possible to build a separate building for public works until the 19th century. With the reform process that started with the Tanzimat, this situation changed and public buildings with different qualities began to be built in cities. The construction of government houses in order to show that the state authority was effective all over the country played an important role in the formation of this understanding. There were unities such as courthouse, police department, trade and agriculture, education, revenue office, etc subjected to Government House. Government houses were generally built with a rectangular plan, two or three floors, and an architectural approach that emphasized the front facade.¹⁷ In this context, the Trabzon Government House, which was built to reflect the stylistic features of the First National Architecture Period, instead of the government house built in the mid-19th century, was completed and opened on October 29, 1933, in time for the 10th anniversary of the Republic. It is said that the First National Architecture Period was generally active between 1908 and 1930. However, the fact that the Trabzon Government House was completed in 1933 stands out as one of the rare examples built outside the accepted dates for the national architectural period.

The aim of the study is to emphasize the existence of an important building in Trabzon that reflects the style of the First National Architectural Period. In this context, comparisons of Trabzon Government House with other examples built with the contemporary architectural style of the period were made. In addition, the presence of Kütahya tiles within the structure is a striking feature. In addition, the government house has a very important nature as it is the only building that can be identified in Trabzon with features reflecting the style of the period. Introducing architectural structures that reflect the style of a certain period within the scope of art history is very valuable in terms of determining their place in the period. In this regard, evaluating the stylistic features of the First National Architectural Period and fully analyzing its impact area will yield more comprehensive results. In this regard, Trabzon Government House has an important place in its context in terms of examining the buildings in different cities and examining the period more comprehensively.

Trabzon Government House (Provincial Building)

History

Trabzon Government House, one of the examples of the First National Architecture Period; is located in Ortahisar District, Mimar Sinan Street, 23 sheet, 116 block, 85 parcel.¹⁸ In Trabzon-Ortahisar, in 1836, there was a government house with

15 Yazıcı, 2008, 945-946.

16 Mortaş, 1944, 251.

17 Yazıcı, 2008, 946-947; Birkan, 1984, 3-6.

18 Bk. [Tapu Kadastro Genel Müdürlüğü](#).

a prison section on the site of the current building.¹⁹ It is stated that the same building underwent various repairs in certain periods until the early 1860s.²⁰ In 1862, since the government house was destroyed by a fire, a new construction activity was started in the same place. A two-storey, masonry government house was built between 1863 and 1868, after covering the construction costs of the building²¹ (**Fig. 1-2**). However, in 1892, there were various attempts to expand and repair the government house²², and in 1918, it was possible to build a new one without demolishing it.²³ It is generally understood that the old government house, built in the 1860s, was subjected to various construction and repair operations from time to time. It is highly probable that situations such as war and occupation occurred in Trabzon in the period around 1918, causing the reconstruction plan of the government office not to be realized. Likewise, during his visit to Trabzon on September 16, 1924, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk requested the repair of the government house, which shows that the existing structure was in a dilapidated state.²⁴ It is stated that after the request of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, a decision was made to demolish the existing building and build a new government office instead of repairing it. After this development, a tender notification for the construction of the building was announced by the provincial authority.

“124.677 lira 51 kuruş bedel-i keşifli Hükümet Konağı inşaatı 25 Haziran 1341(1925) tarihinden itibaren bir ay müddetle, yani 25 Temmuz 1341 tarihine kadar mevki-i münakasaya vaz’ edilmiştir. İştirak etmek isteyenlerin proje, şartname-i umumi ve şartname-i hususi ve keşfiyeyi görmek üzere Trabzon Vilayeti Meclis-i İdaresine müracaat etmeleri ilan olunur.”²⁵

Following this, a tender was made for the government office on 25 June 1925. On July 25, 1925, Contractor Hasan Tahsin Kıralı won the tender and started construction activities. However, as Hasan Tahsin Kıralı stated, the insufficient funds transferred for the construction costs caused the completion process of the building to be hitched.²⁶

19 Yılmaz, 2014, 465.

20 BOA, İ.MVL. 428/18794, 20/07/1276; Yazıcı, 2008, 950.

21 BOA, İ.MVL. 576/25875, 03/05/1284; Şimşek, 1993, 179-180; Yazıcı, 2008, 951-953; Albayrak, 1998, 136.

22 BOA, DH.MKT, 1971/4, 18/12/1309.

23 BOA, DH.MB.HPS. 66/43, 26/12/1918.

24 Goloğlu, 1981, 55; Albayrak, 1998, 136; Usta, 2011, 304.

25 “It was decided to tender for the construction of the Government House with an estimate price of 124,677 liras and 51 kuruş within a period of one month, starting from 25 June 1925. Those who want to participate in the tender; It is announced that they should apply to the Trabzon Provincial Council of Administration together with the general document containing the project, general conditions, special conditions and the official rules to be followed. (See Usta, 2011, 304).

26 Albayrak, 1998, 136; Çapa - Usta, 1997, 158-161.



Fig. 1: Trabzon Old Government House Built in the 1860s, (Bölükbaşı, 2006, 519)



Fig. 2: Trabzon Old Government House in the Late 19th Century
(Trabzon Cultural Heritage Preservation Regional Board Directorate Archive)

After the construction process of the government office was hitched, there is a decision in the state archives dated 1930 to carry out the construction in the spring due to

the negative situation brought by the winter months.²⁷ (Fig. 3). However, although there is information that the government office was completed and put into service on June 27, 1931,²⁸ it would not be correct to consider this as the opening date. Likewise, there is information that the construction work started in 1932 after the funding problems were resolved and the construction of the building was completed within a year.

This situation is mentioned as follows in a newspaper article dated September 22, 1932: “*Hükümet Konağı'nın inşasını ikmal için onbin lira havâle geldiği için inşaatın ikmâlîne başlanılmıştır. Bu onbin lira ile yapılacak inşaatın sonra, hükümet daireleri yeni binaya taşınabilecektir.*”²⁹ Ultimately, the construction process of the Trabzon Government House was completed and opened on October 29, 1933, on behalf of the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Turkey.³⁰ This opening ceremony was mentioned in a newspaper news dated 7 November 1933; “*Cumhuriyetimizin onuncu yıldönümü bayramı 29 Teşrin-i evvel 933 günü yeni hükümet binasının açılma merâsimi Vâlimiz Rifat Beyefendi tarafından kısa ve güzel bir hitâbeyle, hükümet erkânı, teşekküller, rüesa ve müdirân önünde yapılmıştır.*”³¹



Fig. 3: Trabzon Government House Under Construction in 1930, (Bölükbaşı, 2006, 278)

27 BCA, Başbakanlık, Kararlar Daire Başkanlığı, 8/4/19, 29/01/1930.

28 Şimşek, 1993, 180.

29 As a result of receiving a transfer of ten thousand liras for the completion of the construction process, the construction of the Government House started. After the construction with this ten thousand lira, government offices will be able to move to the new building. (See Albayrak, 1998, 136).

30 Özen - Tuluk vd. 2010, 222; Usta, 2011, 304; Yazıcı, 2008, 953.

31 On the tenth anniversary of the Republic, October 29, 1933, the opening ceremony of the new government building was held by Governor Rifat Bey with a short and elegant speech in front of the government officials, presidents and directors. (See Albayrak, 1998, 137).

The building, which started operating in 1933, was used as the Trabzon Governorship building until 1985. It was registered as a cultural property to be protected by the decision of the Supreme Council of Immovable Cultural and Natural Heritage dated 4 September 1985 and numbered 1426. In addition, it was designated as protection group II in the urban protected area by the decision of the Trabzon Cultural and Natural Heritage Preservation Board dated 28 May 1990 and numbered 823.³² The building, which served as the Directorate of Culture and Tourism building between 1985-2019, was restored with the decision taken in 2019 and started to serve as the Trabzon Provincial Building as of 2022. In the restoration, sections within the building that were added later and were not in line with the original were removed, the wooden roof and windows were renewed, and the main walls were strengthened. Plastering processes were also applied in the interior, finishing the tiles and floor coverings, as well as processes that generally reflect the original features of the building.³³ (Fig. 4-5-6).

Architectural and Decorative Features

Trabzon Government House, located in the east-west direction on the Trabzon walls, is today used as the provincial building. It was built in a surrounded area, with a rectangular plan and two floors over a basement (Fig. 4).

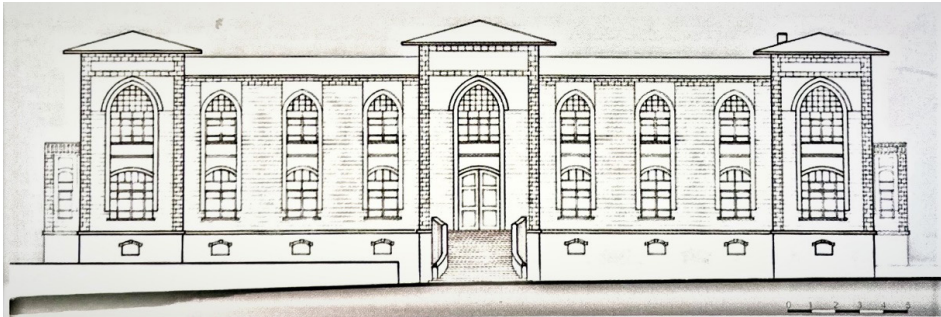


Fig. 4: Trabzon Government House, Front Facade Drawing (Özen - Tuluk et al. 2010, 223)

The building, along with its outlines, has an arrangement dominated by symmetry. One of the most striking features of the building is that the entrance door section and corner sections extend outside. The corners of the protrusions on the edges are highlighted with stone molding lines. The entrance gate located on the front facade is accessed by twenty-five risers stairs. An attempt was made to give a monumental portal model by keeping the part where the entrance door is located a little higher than the building. The entrance door has a low arch and its edges are emphasized by surrounding

³² Trabzon Cultural Heritage Preservation Regional Board Directorate Archive, Restitution Project Report, 7.

³³ See [T.C. Trabzon Valiliği](#)

it with stone material. There is a low pointed arched window in the upper floor area of the portal, which is larger than the other windows. The corner parts of this window are decorated with unornamented turquoise tiles. There are eight windows on the lower and upper floors of the front facade (north facade), arranged in symmetry with each other. It can be seen that the windows on the lower floor were designed with flat arches, while the windows on the upper floor were designed with flat pointed arches. In addition, the surroundings of the windows on the facades are highlighted with stone jamb lines (**Fig. 5**). In addition, tile decorations, which are the clearest reflection of the style of the First National Architecture Period, appear on the facades of the government house. The presence of turquoise tile decorations on the corners of the upper floor windows on the north, east and west facades of the building increases the value of the government house. The entrance door section at the rear of the building is again emphasized slightly higher than the building. On the rear facade, a similar scheme was applied to the front facade, but the entrance door and window corners were left quite simple and unadorned. It can be seen that the side wings of the rear facade are arranged in a similar manner to the front facade. While there are eight symmetrical windows on the lower and upper floors, the windows on the lower floor have flat arches and those on the upper floor have flat pointed arches. Compared to the front facade, there is no tile decoration on this facade (**Fig. 6**).

There are five windows on the side facades (east and west) of the building, on the lower and upper floors. As in the other facades, the windows on the lower floor have flat arches, while the windows on the upper floor have flat pointed arches. It is observed that there are simple tile decorations on the upper floor window corners of both facades. However, it is understood that efforts were made to place the larger window form in the entrance and corner sections of the front and rear facades of the building, and a similar form on the east and west facades, in accordance with the facade and not to disrupt the overall symmetry. It can be seen that all facades of the building are generally arranged with molding lines on the window edges, and a wide eaves system reflecting the important stylistic feature of the period is also included in the structure (**Fig. 7**). In addition, the roof of the building is covered with Marseille tiles³⁴ and has a wooden supported roof system. The interior of the building generally consists of rooms placed around corridors. In the building, where a similar arrangement is seen on both floors, there are rooms belonging to public officials serving various purposes.

34 Trabzon Cultural Heritage Preservation Regional Board Directorate Archive.



Fig. 5: General View from the Front (North)



Fig. 6: South Facade General View



Fig. 7: West Facade General View

Evaluation and Comparison

In order to make an evaluation in terms of art history, the period structure must first be explained and introduced. In this context, the subject of the study is the government house built during the First National Architecture Period in Trabzon-Ortahisar. As a result of the evaluation together with the archive studies and field research, it is understood that the building has not undergone much change in terms of its facade features since the date it was built, and in general, its original texture has been preserved, except for minor nuances. However, in the restitution project of the building, it is stated that the building maintains its originality in technical terms, based on the wall thicknesses and layouts of the ground and first floors, as well as the facade features.³⁵ (Fig. 8-9).



Fig. 8: Trabzon Government House in 1935, (Bölükbaşı, 2006, 277)

The main emphasis reflecting the general character of the building; It is based on the fact that it has a rectangular plan, symmetrical lines, and at the same time, the entrance door section provided from the middle part of the facade and the side parts are designed to protrude outwards in proportion to the structure of the building. These features indicate that the standardized version of the plan setup in the buildings of the national architectural period was clearly applied in the Trabzon Government House. The interior of the building is dominated by a plan scheme created with rooms placed on both sides of the corridor section extending on a horizontal axis. (Fig. 10-11-12).

35 Trabzon Cultural Heritage Preservation Regional Board Directorate Archive.

Fig. 9:
Trabzon
Government
House in 1950,
(Bölükbaşı, 2006,
569)



Fig. 10: Lounge

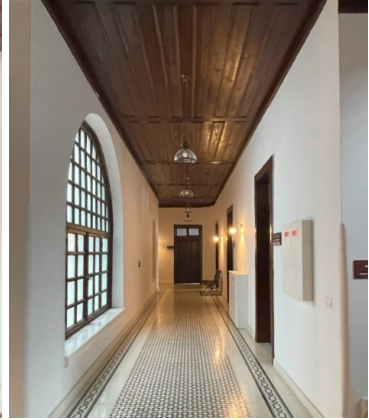


Fig. 11: Corridor

The plan and facade composition of the Trabzon Government House appears as an arrangement with a standard scheme that was also applied to other buildings of the period. In this context, Trabzon Government House was designed with a similar understanding to the Kastamonu Government House, designed by Architect Vedat Tek, in terms of plan setup. (Fig. 12-13). Again, plan systems in the national architecture period were applied in similar ways to buildings with different functions. This situation has led to the emergence of general similarities between the structures, although there are different types of structures. In this regard, it is understood that a similar plan structure was created with building plans with different functions, such as the Trabzon Government House and the Ankara Old Ministry of Foreign Affairs Building, in terms of plan features. (Fig. 14). Trabzon Government House has a system that continues a tradition in terms of its plan. It has been constructed in a similar manner to other government buildings built

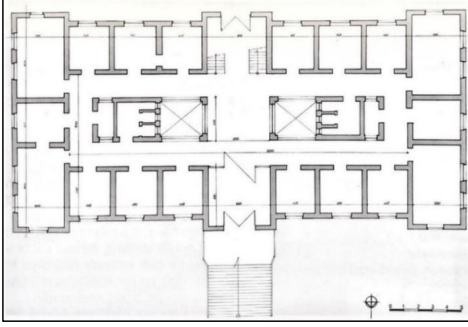


Fig. 12: Trabzon Government Office, Ground Floor Plan, (Özen - Tuluk vd. 2010, 223)

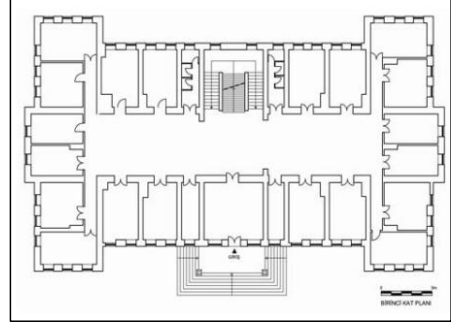


Fig. 13: Kastamonu Government Office, First Floor Plan (Topçubaşı-Eyüpgiller, 2010, 111)

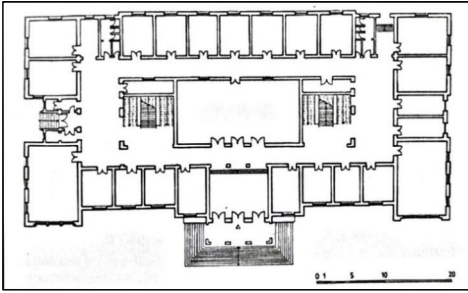


Fig. 14: Ankara Old Ministry of Foreign Affairs Building, Ground Floor Plan, (Aslanoğlu, 2010, 125)

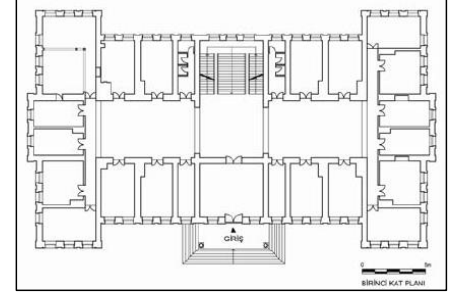


Fig. 15: Bolu Government Office, First Floor Plan (Topçubaşı, 2009, 229)

since the Tanzimat period, such as the Bolu Government House, Konya Government House, Kastamonu Government House, etc. However, it differs from many government houses due to its clear reflection of the classical features of the national architectural period in terms of style. (Fig.12,13,15).

In the early years of the Republic, there was a policy of establishing a modern state. While advancements were made in every field, urbanization efforts also represented an important aspect. In this regard, emphasis was placed on the construction of various public buildings, such as government houses, in the central areas of cities.³⁶ In terms of architectural style, public buildings constructed in the 19th century were generally built in a European-influenced style.³⁷ However it is known that some government houses built from the beginning of the 20th century reflect the national architectural style. At this point, the Trabzon Government House, reflecting the classic features of the First National Architecture Period style, emerged as an important structure. It is noteworthy that the eclectic elements found in the Kastamonu Government House considered one of the first examples of the national architectural period, are absent in the Trabzon Government House.

36 Kolay, 2023, 289.

37 Avcı, 2017, 47, 234.

It is also possible to see facade arrangements reflecting the period style of Trabzon Government House in the buildings of Ankara Old Ministry of Finance building, Kastamonu Government House, Istanbul Defter-i Hakani building etc. In this direction; It is understood that the architectural order and decorations such as the longitudinal facade structure, the emphasis of the entrance door section and the edges for a more monumental purpose compared to the structure of the building, flat and pointed arch applications, tile decorations on the window corners on the upper floors, etc. were reflected on the facades with a common attitude (Fig 5,16).



Fig. 16: Ankara Old Ministry of Finance Building (See [Ankara Sosyal Bilimler Üniversitesi](#))

Kütahya tiles³⁸ on the facades of the Trabzon Government House make the building more special. Although it is the only building in Trabzon with features reflecting the style of the period, the fact that the decoration program applied throughout the country in terms of tile decoration has been applied to this building as well, gives a special importance to the building. Similar uses of turquoise undecorated tiles in the Trabzon Government House; can be seen in buildings such as Edirne-Karaağaç Old Station Building, Istanbul Grand Post Office Building, Istanbul Kamer Hatun Mosque, Istanbul Liman Inn, Istanbul Second Vakıf Inn, Ankara Old Ministry of Finance Building, Edirne Union and Progress Club Building, Tekirdağ Archeology and Ethnography Museum etc. In this regard, it is concluded that the tile samples were prepared in the same workshops and were used as decorative elements on the facades of buildings in various parts of the country (Fig. 16-17-18).

38 It is known that Kütahya tiles began to replace İznik tiles, which started to lose its influence in the 17th century. In the first quarter of the 20th century, tile decorations produced in the workshops of artisans such as Kütahya's Mehmed Emin Usta and Hacı Artin Minasyan were used in many buildings. (See Arlı, 1989, 9-10). Due to the influence of the First National Architecture Period, there has been an increase in the production of Kütahya tiles since the beginning of the 20th century. Kütahya tiles, produced to be used in buildings built within the national architectural style, generally appear as a reflection of the 16th century Iznik tile decoration. (See Yetkin, 1993, 335; Demiriz, 2002, 572).



Fig. 17: Edirne-Karaağaç Old Station Building



Fig. 18: Istanbul Grand Post Office Building

There is no definitive information about the architect of Trabzon Government House. However, it is said that the building project was drawn by Architect Kemaleddin and Architect Vedat Tek.³⁹ However, no evidence supporting this information has been found in any official source so far. Likewise, since both architects had various duties in different regions (Jerusalem, Ankara, Istanbul, etc.) at the time the building was built, it does not seem possible that they drew the project of the Trabzon Government House. However, a record of a plan that could have been drawn for the government office in Trabzon, both before the death of Architect Kemaleddin (1927) and during the period when Architect Vedat Tek was active, could not be found within the scope of research.

Conclusion

Trabzon Government House effectively reflects the style of the First National Architectural Period with its plan setup and architectural elements. However, it is seen that the building was built with a simpler approach compared to contemporary examples in Istanbul and Ankara, in terms of the importance given to the facades of the building, the treatment of architectural and ornamental elements such as arch systems, tile decorations, portal emphasis, wide eaves system, etc. One of the most important stylistic features of the First National Architecture Period is the use of Kütahya tiles as decorative elements on the facades of the built structures. It is possible to see the presence of tile decorations applied in a similar scheme in the buildings built in different cities of the country during this period, as well as in the Trabzon Government House. As a result, the fact that there is no other building built to reflect the national architectural style in Trabzon's central Ortahisar district highlights the importance of the government office.

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39 Şimşek, 1993, 180; Özen - Birlik, 2003, 304; Albayrak, 1998, 137; Usta, 2011, 304.

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