

# OTTOMAN MONUMENTAL BUILDINGS IN THESSALONIKI ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE<sup>8</sup>

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**ABSTRACT:** Since founded by Cassander in 316 B.C., Thessaloniki has always been an important trade center, settlement and port. After the city was conquered in 1430 by the Ottoman Emperor Murad II., the city developed with densely Muslim and Turk population. As a cosmopolitan city, Thessaloniki has hosted many cultures through the history so architectural heritage of the city has developed with this cultural and vernacular architecture. During the 482 years of the Ottoman Period, a lot of architectural monuments and housing were built in the city.

Ottoman monumental buildings are the important part of the architectural heritage of Thessaloniki. Therefore, we started a research project, “Kültür Köprüleri 1”. Firstly, the architectural and historical information was obtained with a literature survey and also architectural drawings of the buildings were drawn. Then, in April 2015, a field survey was done in order to observe and archive the current situation of buildings. Finally, the project published into a book, “Kültür Köprüleri 1- Selanik ve Kavala Bölgesinde Osmanlı Türk Mimari Mirası” (Erdoğan,N. and all.). As a result, this paper which will be prepared based on the book will be about the extant Ottoman monumental buildings with historical and architectural information and current situation in Thessaloniki.

**Keywords:** Thessaloniki, Ottoman Architecture, Ottoman Monumental Buildings

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## INTRODUCTION

Since founded by Cassander in 316 B.C., Thessaloniki has always been an important trade center, settlement and port. Thessaloniki has developed under Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires. Today, Thessaloniki is the second major center and also cultural center of Greece.

Thessaloniki was the important place in terms of harbor and commercial for Ottoman so it was conquered several times. Sultan Murad 2 conquered Thessaloniki in 1430; thus, Ottoman Empire has controlled the city to 1912, Balkan War. During 482 years of Ottoman, the major population of the city consisted of Muslims and Turks [1]. Therefore, sociological, cultural and architectural fabric of the Thessaloniki was impressed from Ottoman culture. Furthermore, as a cosmopolitan city, Thessaloniki has hosted many cultures through the history so architectural heritage of the city has developed with these cultural codes and vernacular architecture.

In the Ottoman Era, the urban fabric of Thessaloniki was formed by public and religious building and housing which are designed according to the social, cultural, economic and religious life in Turk, Rum and Jew's neighborhoods. After the Ottoman Era in Thessaloniki, in 1917, a big fire destroyed almost all civil architecture heritage of Ottoman which were constructed by timber and damaged lots of monumental buildings. Thus, the city was planned with respect to the original grid plan after the fire.

As a result, this paper prepared based on the book, "Kültür Köprüleri 1, Selanik ve Kavala Bölgesinde Osmanlı Türk Mimari Mirası" (Erdoğan, N. et al.) is about the extant Ottoman monumental buildings with historical, architectural information and current situation in Thessaloniki. Because, the architectural heritage is the important part of the identity of the cities and cultures. So, this paper is aimed to be an archive of Ottoman architecture in the history of Thessaloniki and establish the cultural bridges between cultures with architecture.

### 1. OTTOMAN MONUMENTAL BUILDINGS IN THESSALONIKI

During the 482 years of the Ottoman Period, a lot of architectural monuments that are mosques, bathes, mescit, külliye, han, bedesten and housing were built in the city.

#### 1.1. Hamza Bey Mosque

Hamza Bey Mosque is the first mosque in Thessaloniki (Table 1.). The mosque was built in the Vardar (Egnatia) Street and it was near the junction of the main axis of the grid plan. It was neighbor the other important Ottoman buildings Bey Hamam and Bedesten that is commercial building, so Hamza Bey Mosque probably used densely in that period. Today, thanks to the location, all of tourist can see the mosque and it refers to the Ottoman architecture history in the the multi-storied modern urban fabric but it is not open to visit because of the incomplete restoration work. The building was exposed to the different functions and changes after the mosque function. For example, it was used as shelter for refugee a long time. After, it was used

as a storage of adjacent markets or offices. In 1960s, the building was used as Alkazar's Cinema by means of the court of portico was roofed [6]. Finally, in 2006, the restoration work was started in order to be listed building.

**Table 1.** The information of the Hamza Bey Mosque

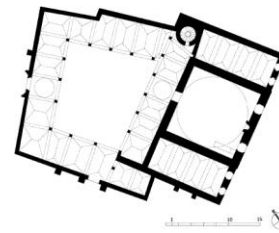
<b>Other names</b>	Hafse Hatun Mosque
<b>Built in</b>	1467
<b>Built by</b>	Hafse Hatun, daughter of the Hamza Bey
<b>Address</b>	Intersection of Via Egnatia (Vardar) and Venizelou streets
<b>Building type</b>	Mosque



**Figure 1.** Hamza Bey Mosque

#### Architectural characteristics

The building is a complex plan, oriented towards Mecca so it is not parallel to the grid plan of the Thessaloniki. It firstly was constructed in a square plan and it has a hemispherical dome resting on an octagonal tympanum. The original prayer hall has four arches in the walls and an equal number of squinches, both structural and decorative. Then, in 1619, the collonded porticos were added to two side of the building and an atrium with three porticos was attached to the entrance [6]. Moreover, the minaret of the mosque was demolished.



**Figure 2.** Plan of Hamza Bey Mosque

## 1.2. Alaca Imaret Mosque

Alaca Imaret Mosque is an original Ottoman monument in terms of plan and façade details (Table 2). It was a multi-functional building as mosque and imaret functions. In the coming years, Yeni Hamam was built near the mosque and also there is a fountain from Ottoman period. Therefore, we can say that, although the houses couldn't reach today, this area corresponds to the Ottoman urban planning because of the relation of the mosque, bath and fountain. In 1967, two columns of the portal collapsed then reinforced concrete columns were constructed in the restoration work. The building was given to archaeology department in 1973 and it was restored in 1990s. The building was used for exhibition in 2009 [8], however, nowadays, the building closed and neglected according to field survey.

**Table 2.** The information of the Alaca Imaret Mosque

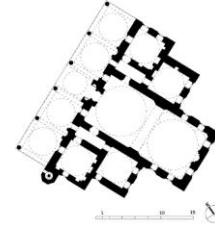
<b>Other names</b>	Ishak Pasha Mosque
<b>Built in</b>	1484
<b>Built by</b>	Grand Vizier Ishak Pasha
<b>Address</b>	Above Kassanrou Stresst, northeast of the Basilica of Agios Dimitros and Yeni Bath
<b>Building type</b>	Mosque



**Figure 3.** Alaca Imaret Mosque

#### Architectural characteristics

The building is the inverted T-typed plan of mosque. The ceiling of the the prayer hall has two dome of equal sizes. The nartex consists of five part colonnade porch and roofed by domes less than a hemisphere in shape, with the exception of the central dome which is almost double size of the others and the main entrance is monumental portal. Two side rooms, which are roofed by domes, are lower from the main hall. The minaret was attached to the western corner of the building. The octoganal base of the minaret is survived but the minaret was demolished. The mosque was rectilinear masonry is in the cloisonné style and the arched sections are made of brick [7].



**Figure 4.** Plan of Alaca Imaret Mosque

### 1.3. Minaret of Hortacı Süleyman Efendi Mosque

**Table 3.** The information of the Minaret of Hortacı Süleyman Efendi Mosque

<b>Other names</b>	Sinan Pasha Mosque, Rotonda Minaret
<b>Built in</b>	1590 - 1591
<b>Built by</b>	Grand Vizier Sinan Pasha
<b>Address</b>	Rotonda
<b>Building type</b>	Minaret

#### Architectural characteristics

The minaret is 36 m today. The minaret base is set on a solid foundation which is rectilinear form. The base is built in the opus mixtum style that is marble stones with brick. The masonry of the base is crowned with a brick cornice. The upper end is formed upright and inverted triangular prisms which take the form of a fluted column up to the cornice of five courses on which the balcony is supported [10].

**Figure 5.** Hortacı Süleyman Efendi Mosque and minaret



In order to use as a mosque, a minaret was constructed independently from the building by Grand Vezir Sinan Pasha in the name of Hortacı Süleyman Efendi in 1590-1591 [9]. The minaret of the mosque is the only extant minaret in the Thessaloniki so it is very important for the Ottoman architectural heritage in the Thessaloniki. The minaret and the mosque, one of the landmarks of the Thessaloniki, exhibit the historical and cultural savings to the tourists of the city.

### 1.4. Yeni Mosque

Yeni Mosque was the last religious building in outer of the historic city center of the Thessaloniki. The building was used as a mosque to 1912 [3]. Then, like as other public building, it was used for refugee coming from Anatolia [8]. After the minaret of the mosque was demolished, it was used as Archeological Museum between 1925 and 1963. The building was added to the listed building in 1938 [3]. Yeni Mosque has used for exhibition and other cultural activities since 1986. Moreover, this mosque is one of the important examples for the Ottoman architectural heritage because of the design style which refers to the last period of the Ottoman religious architecture.

**Table 4.** The information of the Yeni Mosque

<b>Other names</b>	Hamidiye Mosque, Dönme Mosque, Old Archeological Museum
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<b>Built in</b>	1901- 1902	<b>Figure 6.</b> Yeni Mosque
<b>Built by</b>	Hacı Mehmet Hayri Pasha (he was known as Dönmeh, who had been converted to Islam from Jews)	
<b>Architect</b>	Vitaliano Poselli	
<b>Address</b>	Archaiologikou Mouseiou Street	
<b>Building type</b>	Mosque	

#### **Architectural characteristics**

The mosque has a square plan and consists of the domed main prayer hall. The architectural character of the mosque looks like the form of the Yıldız Mosque in Istanbul. Moreover, the minaret of the mosque was demolished.

### **1.5. Bey Hamam**

When Ottoman conquered Thessaloiniki, Bey Hamam was the first built bathhouse. The bath has been used with all of the properties until 1968. Then, it was added to the listed building in 1972 via archaeology department. Moreover, in 2005, when the Thessaloniki was chosen as European capital of culture, the building did the honours to cultural activities organized in the city. However, it is not open the visitation according to the field survey in 2015. Although it is closed, the building is a part of the daily life of citizen because of the location that is the both historical and modern city centre.

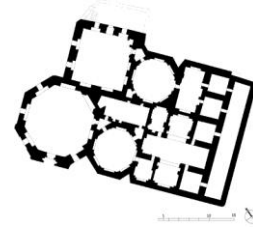
**Table 5.** The information of the Bey Hamam

<b>Other names</b>	Paradise Bath, 2. Murad Bath
<b>Built in</b>	1436 - 1437
<b>Built by</b>	2. Sultan Murad
<b>Address</b>	Via Egnatia Street (Vardar)
<b>Building type</b>	Bath

**Figure 7.** Bey Hamam**Architectural characteristics**

The bath is the largest double bath in Greece, covering 28x44 m [10]. It has the independent men and women sections. Both sections are the typical layout of bath which consists of apodyterium-changing room, warm room, hot room and individual hut cubicles (soğukluk-soyunmalık, ılıklik, sıcaklık, halvet odası).

The changing room of the men sections is an octagonal shape. The warm room also is octagonal with recesses on each side. They are roofed hemispherical dome resting on an octagonal tympanum. The hot room, which comes next, is cruciform, and its center is occupied by “göbektası”. It is roofed by five hemispherical domes resting on the walls and the arches. The changing room of the women sections is a square shape and it is roofed by a hemispherical dome resting on octagonal tympanum with eight arched openings. The warm room is octagonal plan. hot room is a rectangular plan with a tripartite layout and two individual hut cubicles. [10].

**Figure 8.** Plan of Bey Hamam**1.6. Pasha Hamam**

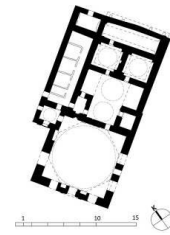
Evliya Çelebi told the Pasha Hamam as one of the eleven bathes in Thessaloniki when he visited the city in 1667 [8]. The bath got damaged in the earthquake of 1978. Then, it was closed in 1981 on account of the fact that it caused the air pollution [11]. Nowadays, the bath building is put under protection and it is used as storage of the historical artifacts.

**Table 6.** The information of the Pasha Hamam

<b>Other names</b>	Anka Hamam, Phoenix Bath
<b>Built in</b>	Between 1482 and 1533
<b>Built by</b>	Cezerizâde Koca Kasım Pasha, Vezir and governor of Thessaloniki
<b>Address</b>	Junction of Pineiou, Kalvou and Karatza streets
<b>Building type</b>	Bath

**Architectural characteristics**

The bath is was originally to be a single bath, but at unknown date, it was converted double bath in terms of two entrances for men and women's [7]. The layout of the bath consists of apodyterium-changing room, warm room, hot room and individual hut cubicles (soğukluk-soyunmalık, ılıklik, sıcaklık, halvet odası). The changing room is square and is covered by a hemispherical dome resting on octagonal tympanum. The thickness of the wall is 1.20 m [7]. The hot section is the rectangle and it is divided by pointed arches into three sections. There are also two private rooms. There is a reservoir and the furnace in the north section of the bath.

**Figure 9.** Plan of Paşa Hamam

### 1.7. Halil Aga Hamam

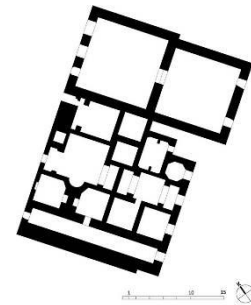
Halil Aga Hamam has been used until early 1900s. Unfortunately, the bath was fired partially in the big fire of 1917 and it get damaged in the earthquake of 1978 thus the building was reinforced in 1993 [7]. Then, the bath get restored as part of the program of Thessaloniki European capital of culture however it wasn't open to use or visit [11].

**Table 7.** The information of the Halil Aga Hamam

<b>Other names</b>	Çıfıdılar Hamamı, Yahudi Hamamı, Louloudadika
<b>Built in</b>	End of the 15 <sup>th</sup> – beginning of 16 <sup>th</sup> c.
<b>Built by</b>	Halil Ağa
<b>Address</b>	Junction of Vasileos Irakleiou and Komninou streets
<b>Building type</b>	Bath

#### Architectural characteristics

It is the double bath which has the typical layout of bath, apodyterium-changing room, warm room, hot room and individual hut cubicles. The bath is 754 sq. m in size. The sections are roofed by hemispherical dome resting on octagonal tympanum and the ceiling is brick built [7]. The bath was originally at level lower than the present ground level. The man section of the bath is consists of a square cool room, a rectangular warm room, a T shape hot room and two private compartments. The women section is smaller than men's. The women section also is consists of a square cool room, a rectangular warm room which is approached through a passage, a rectangular hot room which is divided into three parts and two private compartments. The bath is built of stone combined with cloisonné masonry. There is also marble elements inner of the bath. The domes are built of brick.



**Figure 10.** Plan of Halil Ağa Hamam

### 1.8. Yeni Hamam

It is guessed used intensely during the Ottoman period because it was built in a central place near the Alaca Imaret Mosque and its location is junction of the two important main axis both Ottoman and modern period. After the 1917 fire, the building was never use in original function. The property of the bath building transferred to Greece in 1919 and then it was bought to a merchant who firstly used the building as storage. Then, he transformed to Aigli Cinema meanwhile he demolished in large part of the building. The cinema has been used until 1978 earthquake. In 1980s, the buildings was used as Seville Tavern [8]. Nowadays, it is used as night club. The different feature from other Ottoman architectural monuments is that although it is a property and it is not original function, it is used actively and it is a part of daily life. Unlike Yeni Hamam, lots of the other Ottoman architectural monuments are close to visit.

**Table 8.** The information of the Yeni Hamam

<b>Other names</b>	-
<b>Built in</b>	Last quarter of 16 <sup>th</sup> c.
<b>Built by</b>	Hüsrev Kethüda
<b>Address</b>	Junction of Kassandrou and Agiou Nikolaou streets

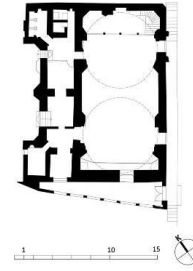


<b>Building type</b>	Bath
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**Figure 11. Yeni Hamam****Architectural characteristics**

The bath is also double bath house but two larged hemispherical domed changing room sections are remains of the bath. The bath probably consists of warm room, hot room and private rooms in original layout. Two changing room section are parallel and symmetrical. Their domes rest one octagonal tympanum.

The bath masonry is stone and wall thickness is about 1 m. The domes are built of brick. The bath level is 2.5 m lower than the Kassandrou street.

**Figure 12. Plan of Yeni Hamam****1.9. Bedesten**

When Sultan Beyazıd 2 spent the winter during Balkan War in later 15th c., he got Bedesten built [12]. It is near to Hamza Bey Mosque and Bey Hamam and this area is the trade center during history of the Thessaloniki and Bedesten was the commercial building of the Ottoman city. We can say that, citizens, who lived in the neighbord of Muslims, Turks, Rums and Jews, both production and sales together in the Bedesten so it is important building in order to connect different cultures.

The building was damaged in 1759 eartquake and then stores fired in 1917 thus they were built again. The building that was damaged in 1978 because of eartquake again restored between 1982 and 1985 and its domes reinforced with steel. Bedesten building, which got over lots of disaster, has the privileged of restored Ottoman building with original function in north Greece [10, 8].

**Table 9.** The information of the Bedesten

<b>Other names</b>	-
<b>Built in</b>	Before 1478
<b>Built by</b>	2. Sultan Beyazıd
<b>Address</b>	Junction of Egnatia (Vardar) and Venizelou Caddelerinin kesişiminde
<b>Building type</b>	Bedesten - Commercial

**Figure 13. Bedesten****Architectural characteristics**

The character of the bedesten is similar to other bedesten buildings constructed during the Ottoman Empire. The layout of the bedesten is rectangular and it consists of 32 market inner and 34 marker outside façade. The building has rectangular core covered by 6 hemispherical domes resting one octagonal tympanum which rests one arches by means of four pendantives. The façade built in cloisonné style, are surmounted by perimetric sawtooth cornices [10].

**1.10. Musa Baba Tomb**

It is a tomb of Musa Baba, Bektashi Sheikh. The tomb building has been used as a club buiding of a sports club for a while. Nowadays, it is in listed building [8]. It is a preserved example of tomb architecture.



**Table 10.** The information of the Musa Baba Tomb

<b>Other names</b>	-
<b>Built in</b>	Last quarter of 17 <sup>th</sup> c.
<b>Built by</b>	-
<b>Address</b>	Terpsitheas square
<b>Building type</b>	Tomb

**Figure 14.** Musa Baba Tomb**Architectural characteristics**

The tomb is the typical tomb of Bektashi culture [8]. It has a octagonal plan and it is roofed by dome. There is no opening in the facade and there are arches in each wall. The tomb is constructed on a high base.

**1.11. Yedi Kule**

After Thessaloniki conquered by Sultan Murad 2, Yedi Kule was used as a castle in northeastern corner of Byzantine city where whole city was seen from castle. The inscription placed over its gate, which indicates that it was rebuilt by Çavuş Bey, the city's first Ottoman governor, in 1431, immediately after the Ottoman conquest of the city. Moreover, Kanuni Sultan Süleyman added the four towers to the castle [6].

Yedi Kule has used to defense to the city during Ottoman era. After castle was closed, it has used as a prison from 1967 to 1989. Then, it restored in order to use as a cultural center. Yedi Kule is rare example in Thessaloniki in terms of restored and opened to visitation monument. Furthermore, the environment of the Yedi Kule was the settlement for Muslims and Turks densely. Thus, traditional Turk house typology was the architectural fabric of this area that consists of two storied timber houses compatible with the topography contrary the grid plan of the city. The overtones of this Muslim neighborhood fabric still continuous although timber houses mostly fired in 1917. After the fire, it is seen that the new houses were built in this area according to the traditional Turk houses typology although they were constructed reinforced concrete.

**Table 11.** The information of the Yedi Kule

<b>Other names</b>	Eptapyrgion
<b>Built in</b>	1431
<b>Built by</b>	Sultan Murad 2
<b>Address</b>	The northeastern corner of the city's acropolis
<b>Building type</b>	Castle

**Figure 15.** Yedi Kule**1.12. Beyaz Kule**

Beyaz Kule is in waterfront of the southeast corner of the fortification wall. Although the tower mostly is known as Byzantine building, it was built in Kanuni Sultan Süleyman period so it is an

Ottoman architectural monument. Nowadays, it is a symbol of Thessaloniki and it is used as a museum that concept is about the history of Thessaloniki.

**Table 12.** The information of the Beyaz Kule

<b>Other names</b>	Arslan Kalesi, Burc-I Esad Kulesi, Kelemerye Kalesi, Kanlı Kule, Yeniçeriler Kulesi
<b>Built in</b>	1535 - 21 1536
<b>Built by</b>	Kanuni Sultan Süleyman
<b>Address</b>	waterfront of the southeast corner of the fortification wall
<b>Building type</b>	Tower



**Figure 16.** Illustration of Beyaz Kule

### 1.13. Atatürk House

After Ali Rıza Efendi and Zübeyde Hanım married in 1878, they moved to the house that is birthplace of Atatürk. However, Zübeyde Hanım moved from the house after Ali Rıza Efendi's death. Then, the house did not use for a while. When Atatürk came to Thessaloniki from Damascus in order to constitute "Vatan ve Hürriyet Cemiyeti" in 1906, he used the house to meetings. According to treaty of Lausanne, the house was gaved to Greece and it was sold to a Greek family. In the end, the house was gaved to Turkish Consulate General in Thessaloniki in 1937 thus the house convert to original condition and opened to visitation as Atatürk Museum on 10 November 1953 [13].

Atatürk House is very important in terms of not only image value but also architectural value. Because, the house is a good example of 19th c. traditional Turk house typology that become lost from day to day even in Turkey.

**Table 13.** The information of the Atatürk House

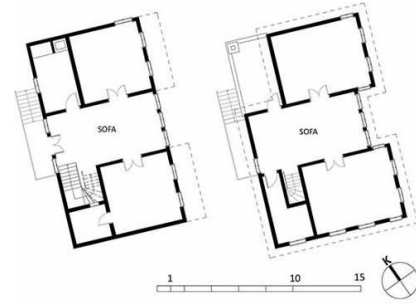
<b>Other names</b>	Atatürk museum
<b>Built in</b>	Before 1870
<b>Built by</b>	Rodoslu Müderris Hacı Mehmet Vakfı
<b>Address</b>	Junction of Agios Dimitros and Apostolu Pavlu streets
<b>Building type</b>	House
<b>Architectural characteristics</b>	



**Figure 17.** (a) Atatürk House (b) Illustration

Atatürk House is the example of the vernacular architecture of Ottoman in terms of lots of the properties of 19<sup>th</sup> c. turk houses. Like as traditional turk houses, ground floor of the three storied building designed for service. First floor area is the same with ground floor and second floor is larger than others because of the cantiliver. There is a sofa, traditional element of turk houses, in each floor.

The outer wall of ground floor is masonry and inner wall is plasterboard (bağdadi). First and second floor wall is also plasterboard. The floors were constructed with timber beams. The roof is standing roof and it covers with pantile. There are eaves in all facades [13].



**Figure 18.** Plan of Atatürk House

## CONCLUSION

The urban fabric of Thessaloniki, has hosted many ethnic groups from past to present, has formed during long history and architectural style of different cultures. In this context, cultural and architectural practices of Ottomans, lived 432 years in Thessaloniki, are very important for development of the city. Consequently, cultural codes and relations affect the architectural identities and differentiation of the cities. The individuality of modern urban fabrics is related with these cultural interactions and history.

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