

An Evaluation of the Restoration Techniques of the Atik Valide Sultan Dârüşşifâ

Asist.Prof.Dr. Sibel Onat Hattap*

*(Department of Restoration Architectural Program, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul, TURKEY
sibel.hattap@msgsu.edu.tr

ABSTRACT

The Atik Valide Sultan Dârüşşifâ in Üsküdar district of İstanbul in Turkey was designed by Mimar Sinan. The Dârüşşifâ is defined as a place that serves the public health and medical education. It is one of the most deteriorated structures of the buildings in the Atik Valide Sultan Külliye (Islamic-Ottoman social complex). During its years as the Üsküdar Imam Hatip High School, it lost much of its originality. The building, which was vacant for many years and left in ruins, is now being restored. The Dârüşşifâ, which was handed over to Fatih Sultan Mehmet University together with the Darülkurra (in medieval Islamic countries, this is the section of the madrasah that teaches reading the Qur'an and a Qur'an reading place constructed next to mosques), the Imaret (charity institutions created to help the poor during the Ottoman Empire) and the caravanserai, is still closed due to restoration. The restoration work is planned to be completed soon. This study evaluates the restoration techniques of the Atik Valide Sultan Dârüşşifâ.

Keywords- Atik Valide Sultan Dârüşşifâ, Ottoman Empire, restoration techniques, repurposing

Date of Submission: 10-02-2018

Date of acceptance: 28-02-2018

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, buildings from İstanbul's historical heritage have been renovated in accordance with their original functions. They have also been repurposed for other uses such that, while conserving cultural heritage, new urban spaces are being created. These restorations have points to be considered in terms of both planning and repair techniques. There are serious criticisms regarding the restoration of the Atik Valide Sultan Dârüşşifâ. Covering the porticoes—particularly the originally open porticoes—with glass divided the opinions of restoration experts.

II. THE DÂRÜŞŞİFÂ

The Dârüşşifâ was a philanthropic project of the sort generally sponsored by wealthy people such as sultans, their wives or queen mothers. These structures had charitable foundations, the imaret system, and large amounts of money were provided for their maintenance.

The Dârüşşifâ was developed in the Turkish architectural pattern as part of a külliye that included elements such as mosques, imarets and madrasas. The Dârüşşifâ had staff to provide health care for illnesses, and their number and salaries were determined at a foundation [1].

Dârüşşifâ is a compound noun consisting of the Arabic words for narrow and healing, and it means hospital. It is one of the names given to educational and health institutions that provide practical and observational health information in Islamic and Turkish culture and treat patients.

The Dârüşşifâ has been known as the dârü'l-âfiye, dârü-s-sihha, dârü't-tıbb, bîmâristân, mârîstân, tîmârhâne and şifâhâne since the Middle Ages. In 1065, after the Karahan Emperor Tamgaç Buğra Han established the Arabic health institution in Samarkand, medieval Muslims used both dârül-merza and dârüşşifâ. The Seljuks used dârü'l-âfiye and dârüşşifâ, and the Ottomans used dârü-ssihha, şifâhâne, bîmârhâne, tîmârhâne and dârüşşifâ. The Ottomans used the term, hospital, for the Bezmialem Gurebayı Muslimin Hospital, which was built in the name of the wife of Mahmud II and the mother of Abdulmecid, Bezmialem Valide. At the end of the eighteenth century in the Ottoman Empire, these institutions, which had generally been referred to as dârüşşifâ, began to be called hospitals [1].

They treated not only Muslims, but people from all religions and sects. This was the same for doctors. Süleyman the Magnificent stipulated for the doctors in his bimarhane:

"No matter what religion or nationality you are, you must be skilled in medicine, science and surgery".

The foundations gave free medications to people who wanted to have ambulatory treatment or treatment at home on certain days of the week [2].

III. THE ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ATİK VALİDE SULTAN DARÜŞŞİFÂ

The Atik Valide Külliye was constructed by the wife of Selim II, Nurbanu Sultan, who was the mother of Murad III. The Queen Mother undertook

the construction costs of the külliye. It was established between 1570–1579 and was the work of Mimar Sinan. It is located in Üsküdar's Atik Valide neighborhood on a hillside with a view of the Bosphorus.

The eleven buildings of the Atik Valide Complex, one of the most impressive complexes in Istanbul, are located on twenty-eight acres. The cedar tree in the complex is considered the oldest cedar tree in the Middle East [3]. The complex includes a mosque, a madrasah, a sıbyan, a dârülkurrâ, a dârülhadîs, a hânkah, a tabhâne, a imâret, a prayer room and the Dârüşşifâ [4]. There is a mosque at its center, a madrasah north of the mosque, and in the western part, the dârülkurrâ, dârülhadîs, dârüşşifâ, imâret and tabhâne, which are adjacent to each other, but independent buildings.

The Dârüşşifâ was an independent building with a prayer room, kitchen, Turkish bath and a laundry room. Its main entrance, which is independent from the imaret in its original structure,

is from the west. The main entrance opens towards a courtyard with a rectangular layout and porticos, surrounded by 31 columns. The eastern part of the courtyard is two steps higher and wider than the western part. The building located in the southwestern corner behind the porticoes surrounding the courtyard is the prayer room of the Dârüşşifâ.

In its southern wing, there are fourteen units around a Turkish bath and a courtyard, two of which have a rectangular layout and a cradle vault, and twelve of which have a square layout with domes. In addition to the main entrance, afterwards, a door opening to the tabhane and the domes of the Dârüşşifâ connected to the imaret were also demolished, and a second floor was added (Figure 1-2). The walls were mostly made of the limestone that Mimar Sinan used in his works. The column have traditional checkered headings and were made of Marmara marble. Bricks were used to build the dome and vault and were covered with lead.

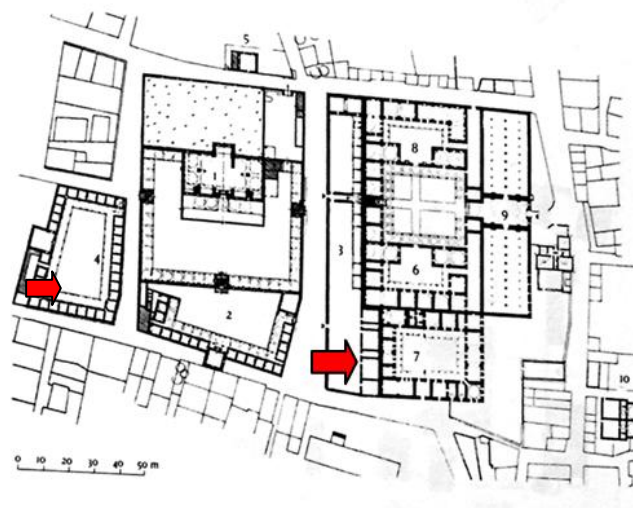


Figure 1. Building 7 is the Atik Valide Sultan Dârüşşifâ [4]

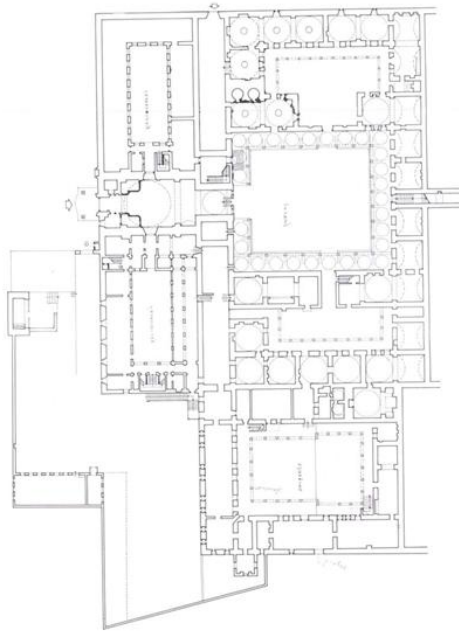


Figure 2. Atik Valide Sultan Dârüşşifâ [7]



Figure 3. The Atik Valide Sultan Külliye on the Pervititch Map (1922-45) [8]

IV. THE USES OF ATİK VALİDE SULTAN DARÜŞŞİFA

Until the end of the seventeenth century, the Dârüşşifâ was used as originally intended. The first mental hospital of the Ottoman Empire was founded in the sixteenth century in the complex. Since the patients were treated with music, even the gramophone was used [3], and 28 staff were working at the Atik Valide Dârüşşifâ [1]. It was later given to the Nizam-ı Cedid Organization, which was founded in 1807 during Selim III's reign. During Mahmud II's reign, in 1834, it was assigned to the

army of Asakir-i Mansure-i Muhammediyye. In the meantime, the building was repaired, and a mansion was established. In 1865, it was transformed into a cholera hospital, and when the cholera epidemic ended, it was transformed into a military depot. However, as a result of an infectious disease at the Süleymaniye Dârüşşifâ in 1873, the patients were transferred to a place named Topbaşı. Then it became a mental hospital, and called the Toptaşı Bîmârhâne, referring to the name of the neighborhood [1]. After 1911, it was used by the Directorate of the Müessesât-ı Hayriyye-i Sıhhiyye.

In 1927, the patients were transferred to Bakırköy by Mazhar Osman. The building was transferred to the Ministry of Customs and Monopoly in 1935 and used as a tobacco store. In 1976, this workshop was moved to another place, and the building was transferred the General Directorate of Foundations. In 1977, it was assigned to the Üsküdar Imam Hatip High School. Today, it serves as the Faculty of Literature of Fatih Sultan Mehmet Foundation University.



V. REPAIRS TO THE ATİK VALİDE SULTAN DARÜŞŞİFÂ

Figure 3. Before Restoration -Atik Valide Sultan Darüşşifâ [1]

REPAIRS TO THE ATİK VALİDE SULTAN DARÜŞŞİFÂ

The Atik Valide Külliye is one of the most significant works of its era and the most remarkable work of Mimar Sinan. The restoration from 2011 to 2013 was carried out by the General Directorate of Foundations under the supervision of the Sixth Board of Conservation of Cultural Assets and the Scientific Council of Experts. In accordance with international conservation criteria, priority was given to the removal of concrete, reinforced concrete and cement materials, and to structural strengthening. Therefore, for prospective restoration, the building will be protected from major negative physical effects. Once structural integrity is achieved, the building will be made suitable for today's use in accordance with restoration principles [5]. The Dârüşşifâ was the first structure to be restored in the social complex. The restoration's shortcomings are also about to end. It has now been assigned to an educational institution.

It is understood from the existing traces that the original version of the building is single-story and domed. The first floor, estimated to be have been built during the Asakir-i Nizamiye period, was constructed as a brick arch floor under the cut dome. This floor is reached from staircases in the north and south corners of the porticoes. However, these stairs close some doors and windows in the corners where they exist, and they distort the originality of the structure. In the walls and domes, for cracks larger

than 3-4 cm, a row of bricks were removed and stitched with original material, and then injection was done. For cracks smaller than 3-4 mm, only injection was done.

The locations of the stretchers were determined on the walls of all the blocks and appropriately sized stretchers were placed. The mutually incoming stretchers within the same wall were connected to each other with stainless steel pins in appropriate dimensions. Immediately after the application of the stretchers on the walls, they were reinforced by injections.

All the corroded metal elements were sandblasted and cleaned. The re-used iron elements were galvanized to prevent corrosion [5] (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Galvanized protection on the Dârüşşifâ after sanding [5]

In 2010, during the restoration work initiated after its transfer to Fatih Sultan Mehmet University, which was affiliated with the Prime Ministry General Directorate of Foundations, automatic doors for the inner garden's entrance and exit were installed, and the front sides of the porticos overlooking the inner garden were enclosed with glass. This was seriously criticized for the loss of its originality [6] (Figure 5). Thus, the glass from the floor to the bottom of the eaves was removed, and glass was only used on the upper floor (Figure 6-7).



Figure 5. The current condition of the Dârüşşifâ after improper restoration [6]



Figure 6. Removal of the glass from the bottom portico after criticisms (Hattap, S. 2018)



Figure 7. Removal of the glass from the bottom portico after criticisms (Tarım, A. 2018)

VI. CONCLUSION

Atık Valide Külliye was designed by Mimar Sinan at the order the wife of Selim II and the mother of Murad III, Nurbânû Sultan, between 1570-1579. The Dârüşşifâ was used for its original function until the end of seventeenth century. Later, the Dârüşşifâ lost its originality due to being used for other purposes and lack of care. As a first degree registered building, it was criticized for improper repairs. Today, restoration work has been completed with a few shortcomings, and the building serves as the

faculty of literature of a private university. The provision of its new function to serve the public, as it originally did, is based on Article 5 of the Venice Charter: “The conservation of monuments is always facilitated by making use of them for some socially useful purpose. Such use is therefore desirable, but it must not change the lay-out or decoration of the building.” Although it serves this purpose, unfortunately, recent interventions and use of different areas of the structure have kept it from being restored to its original condition.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Aktaş, XV. ve XVI. yüzyıllarda sultan dârüşşifâları, master diss., Gazi Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü, Cambridge, Ankara, 2010.
- [2]. Haskan, M.N., *Yüzyıllar Boyunca Üsküdar*, 3. Cilt, No: ISBN 975-97606-3-0, (İstanbul, 2001) pp.1323.
- [3]. <http://aktuelarkeoloji.com.tr/mimar-sinana-ait-atik-valide-caminin-dibine-beton-dokuluyor>).
- [4]. Günay, R., *Mimar Sinan*, Yem Yayınevi, İstanbul, 2014, p.37.
- [5]. Vakıf Restorasyon Yıllığı, *Atik Valide Sultan Külliyesi 2011-2013 Yılları Restorasyonu ve Uygulamaları*. Sayı: 6, 2013.
- [6]. <http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/atik-valide-kulliyesi-taninmaz-hale-geldi-27877371>
- [7]. İstanbul Vakıflar Bölge Müdürlüğü Archive.
- [8]. https://www.google.com.tr/search?q=pervitich+haritalar%C4%B1+%C3%BCsk%C3%BCdar+atik+valide+k%C3%BCliyesi&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiK283YgoXZAhUOZIAXHVKcDIQ_AUICigB&biw=1536&bih=718#imgsrc=z_7JBoR2TJPPH M:&spf=1517498577455

Asist.Prof.Dr. Sibel Onat Hattap "An Evaluation of the Restoration Techniques of the Atik Valide Sultan Dârüşşifâ "International Journal of Engineering Research and Applications (IJERA) , vol. 8, no. 02, 2018, pp. 22-26