

2020-10-12 - Lecture 21

11.2 The Ottoman Empire :: An Architecture of Local Symmetry

- 1) **Local Symmetries**
 - Local symmetries are the smaller symmetries occurring within a larger arrangement or composition.

- 2) **Constantinople** conquered by Turks **1453** - Home to the Eastern Holy Roman Empire and before that, ancient Byzantium
 - Renamed **Istanbul** - Greek for “to the city”
 - **Mehmed II** (a.k.a. **Fatih the Conquerer**) ruled **1451-1481**
 - Goal of conquest was peace and world domination through Islam, a Turkish equivalent of Charlemagne’s **Renovatio Romanae Imperii** strategy (re-no-VAT-zio ro-MAN-aye im-PEAR-eee)
 - Region of **Anatolia**
 - Strategic importance of **Turkish Straights - Dardanelles** and **Bosphorus**

- 3) Ottoman Rulers
 - **Osman I** (died circa 1324) **Sultan of Rum** (Rum is the arabic word for Rome) The 1st Bey of the Ottoman Empire
 - **Orhan Gazi (1281-1362)** - son of Osman I. The 2nd Bey of the Ottoman Empire. Captures **Bursa** in 1321 and makes Bursa the Ottoman capital city
 - Murad I (1326-1389) - son of Orhan Gazi (killed in battle 1389). After Murad I the Turks ceased calling their tribal leaders “Bey” and called them “Sultan.”
 - Bayezid I (1354-1403) - another son of Murad I - (ruled 1389-1402)
 - Interregnum: 1402-1413
 - **Mehmed I** (1379-1421) - son of Murad I - (ruled 1413-1421) Buried at the **Green Tomb** in **Bursa** (see images)
 - Murad II (1404-1451) - son of Mehmed I
 - **Mehmed II** (1432-1481) - son of Murad II. Ruled **1451-1481** a.k.a. **Fatih the Conquerer - Conquered Constantinople in 1453, renaming the city Istanbul**
 - Istanbul largest city in Europe by 1590
 - Bayezid II (1447-1512) - son of Mehmed II

- 4) Ottoman Architectural and Social Structures
 - **Imaret** - Strong organizing feature of Turkish cities, as an nearly *self-sufficient precinct within the city that was based on charitable functions as mandated by Islam. The imaret basically was a safe haven, hostel, soup kitchen for pilgrims and unfortunates. A certain amount of it was religious propaganda, of course, but it accomplished good.*

The **imaret** contained:

 - Cami** (Turkish word for mosque) (JAH-me)
 - Turbe** (tomb) (TUR-bey)
 - Madrasa** (school or university)
 - Hammam** (bath)
 - Markets**

Sometimes contained:

 - Hospital
 - Tekke (for Dervish Monks)

- 5) **Bursa**
 - **Orhan Gazi Cami** in **Bursa**
 - **Imaret of Mehmed I** in **Bursa** - before 1421 Includes the **Green Tomb of Mehmed I** (1421)
 - Ulu Cami in Bursa (built in 1390s) - built by Bayezid I

6) **Istanbul**

- **Imaret of Fatih**
- **Cami of Fatih (Mehmed II) - 1463** (begun) - contemporary image from 1559
- **Rumeli Hisar (1452)** - Italianate-influenced fortress built farther up the Bosphorus (roo-me-lee he-sage)
- **Fatih moves his imaret 1459** (palace / imaret / compound) out to the end of the peninsula, away from the city center
- Calls this imaret and palace **Topkapi Saray** - conceptually, Topkapi is much less formal than European contemporary examples (such as Versailles). Less formal yet designed, more in the spirit of the Scholars' Gardens of Suzhou

Overall concept of chapter: asymmetrical, non-axial, yet with **local symmetries**

- **Topkapi** program includes:
 - Gate of Salutation** (about **1468**)- led to Topkapi Saray (Main Gate to entire complex)
 - Imperial Gate** (about **1478**) - led to the Topkapi Palace
 - Diwan** - the important political space for bureaucrats called **viziers**
 - Harem** - enslaved women and concubines - connected with diwan
 - Gate of Felicity** leading to **Court of Male Pages** and **Enderun College**
 - Enderon College** trained young men to be viziers (bureaucrats)
 - Tower of Justice (1470)** with upper tower added later (**1570**). Venetian influence thanks to powerful leader of the concubines (Queen Mother of the Harem) **Nurbanu** who was from Venice.

7) **Mimar Sinan** - (1490-1588) Greatest architect of the era

- **Hagia Sofia** (537) **Isadore of Miletus** was architect. Height of Byzantine architecture. Largest church in eastern Roman Empire and Eastern Orthodox Church.
- **Sinan attempted to equal the greatness of Hagia Sofia (537)** for Suleyman I
- **Sehzade Cami** by Sinan (**1543**)
- **Suleyman Cami** by Sinan (**1550**)
- Mihrumah Cami (c1560s)