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Department of Cultural Assets

Editors

Deniz İnan
Suna Yılmaz
Serhat Halis
Gülizar Yaşar
İzzet Umut Çelik
Özde Nalan Köseoğlu
Şahan Nuhoglu

Contributors

Prof. Haydar Karabey
Prof. Zeynep Ahunbay
Prof. Baha Tanman
İstanbul Research Institute
Salt Research
Atatürk Library
IMM Press Archive



TAKSIM SQUARE ALMANAC

A space that transforms and is transformed: Taksim Square

Public squares have always been important for humanity since the very beginning of settled life, because the relationship between human and space acquires a social character by means of squares. With the onset of the Neolithic period, humans started to build shared living spaces, designing these as places of collective interaction. In this respect, since the earliest periods of history, squares have been loci of social interaction and intersection, where politics, philosophy, religion, commerce, arts and other social networks come alive.

Likewise, for Istanbul, Taksim Square is of huge importance, as it shapes a wide range of activities such as politics, trade, arts, religion and social life. In this regard, Taksim has been vital to the development of modern urban life in Istanbul.

Although Taksim is today the heart of Istanbul, bustling with life round-the-clock, in the past it was an area of hermitage, which did not even count as the urban periphery. The so-called “Lead Sarcophagus” dating to 5th century CE, unearthed during the construction of the Istanbul Opera House in 1954 confirms this fact. The area was a place of hermitage for monks described as “the living dead”, as well as a cemetery (necropolis), but transformed into a residential district as the city expanded northward over time. After 1453, as the Ottoman Empire’s population and settlement policies started to have an effect on Istanbul, the urban texture of the city gradually began to change. By the 18th century, Taksim, which was once a place of hermitage, became a major hub in the city’s water distribution network: This network, created under the reign of Mahmut I in 1732, passed through Beyoğlu, Galata, Kasımpaşa, Fındıklı and Tophane. The Taksim Artillery Barracks, whose construction began under the reign of Selim III, gave Taksim a military character. The barracks were renovated in 1812 during the reign of Mahmut II, and took their final form under Abdülaziz. The influence of modernization and nation-state formation under the Ottomans was clearly visible in the social transformation of space. The public character of the square today manifests itself in its being the iconic space of the nation-state as is the case with Taksim Republic Monument, as well as the place of choice for social demonstrations and movements that oppose the establishment.

“...since this is a social space, we are talking about the processes, structures and institutions, the relationships, practices, rules and forms of interaction that produce the public; as well as the spatial and historical contexts in which these are embedded. As such, the concept of public space enables us to associate distinct fields and phenomena of our lives within social dynamics –complete with their temporal and spatial aspects.”

¹Meral Özbek “Giriş: Kamusal Alanın Sınırları”, **Kamusal Alan**, ed. Meral Özbek, Hil Yayınları-2004, İstanbul, p. 41.





Byzantine Necropolis

The lead sarcophagus unearthed during the construction of the foundations for the Atatürk Cultural Center in 1954 in Taksim Square is an important artifact from the necropolis and monastery present here in the Byzantine era. The sarcophagus dating back to the 5th century CE is currently on display at the Istanbul Archeology Museums.

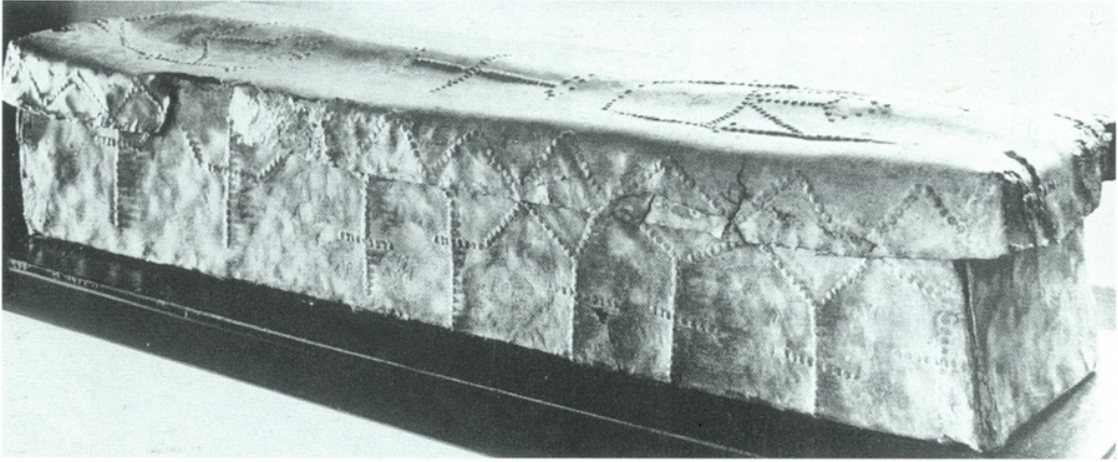


Figure 1: Byzantine Necropolis (*Istanbul'un Tarihsel Topografyası-Wolfgang Müller Wiener, p.222.*)



Figure 4: Ayas Pasha Cemetery in the maps by Pervititch, 1926

Ayas Pasha Cemetery

Named after Ayas Pasha, a vizier of Suleiman the Magnificent, a large cemetery extended from Taksim to Dolmabahçe and Fındıklı, and included the periphery of today's Taksim and Gümüşsuyu neighborhoods. Mentioned in Ayas Pasha's foundation charter dating from 1526, the cemetery is named as "Grand Champs des Morts" or "Great Cemetery" in the later maps and engravings depicting the city. In 1560, when a plague epidemic broke out in Istanbul, burials were banned within Istanbul intra muros and Galata. With this ban, the cemetery was relocated outside the city walls. Ayas Pasha Cemetery was largely abandoned prior to the First World War, and many tombstones were destroyed. Today, Gezi Park, Atatürk Cultural Center and the new residential areas extending from Taksim to Harbiye are built upon the area where the Great Cemetery used to be.



Figure 3: Ayas Pasha Cemetery (Istanbul Research Institute Archive)

Catholic/Protestant Cemetery

The increase in the population of Europeans in Istanbul, especially in the Galata region, created the need for new cemeteries. For the Catholics and Protestants who arrived and settled down in the Ottoman lands for various reasons during the phase of Westernization, a large cemetery was allocated in Taksim. This cemetery, just like the Ayas Pasha Cemetery and Surp Agop Cemetery, has perished in the past.

Surp Agop Cemetery

The Armenian Surp Agop Cemetery, which constituted a large burial ground between the 16th and 19th centuries, was created after the great plague epidemic of 1560. In that year, Suleiman the Magnificent issued an edict allocating the area to the Armenian community, under the name Surp Agop Cemetery. After the cholera epidemic of 1865, it was forbidden to bury the dead in Surp Agop Cemetery, which was in the vicinity of the Pera district, now a major hub of the city. In the year 1915, the cemetery was devastated. Today's Divan, Hilton and Hyatt Regency hotels, Gezi Park, TRT Radio Building and Harbiye Military Museum are built on the old Armenian cemetery.



Figure 4: *The Armenian Cemetery (Agos Newspaper Archive)*

Taksim Water Distribution Center (Maksem)

It was built under Mahmud I along with the Taksim Water Facilities, and was finalized in the year 1839. It is situated at the intersection of İstiklâl Avenue and Taksim Square, which is named after it. Built in order to overcome the water shortages arising from the increase in population along the Bosphorus, Maksem's construction started under Ahmed III, but it was completed during the reign of Mahmud I. Next to the Maksem, there is the "Taksim Reservoir" which used to become operational in case of water outages.



Figure 5: Maksem in Taksim (Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Press Archive)

The French Consulate

It was built in 1794 under the name “Hôpital des Français de la Peste à Péra”. When the so-called French Palace burnt down in 1831, the consulate was relocated to this building. The initial wooden structure was renovated using stones in 1898. Since 1975, it serves as both the French Consulate and French Cultural Center.



Figure 6: French Consulate on İstiklal Avenue

1804

Taksim Artillery Barracks and Talimhane

The structure was built for the artillery corps between the years 1804 and 1807 during the reign of Selim III in the area where Gezi Park stands today. In 1812-1815 under the reign of Mahmud II and in 1861-1862-1869 during the reign of Abdülaziz, the building underwent thorough renovations and took its final shape with the addition of new buildings. Although Orientalist influences were visible, the building's style was mainly eclectic. It was converted into a stadium in 1921, and demolished in 1940 within the scope of Henry Prost's project, to make room for today's Gezi Park.



Figure 7: Taksim Artillery Barracks (Istanbul Research Institute Archive)



Maçka Barracks

The building which today houses Istanbul Technical University's Maçka Campus was built in 1825 under Mahmud II as military barracks. The building was emptied in 1934 after the construction of the Military School (Mekteb-i Harbiye). It was rebuilt in 1873 during the reign of Abdülaziz as an armory. Its architect was Sarkis Balyan. The building serves as ITU's Maçka Campus since 1955.



Figure 8: Maçka Barracks (Istanbul Research Institute Archive)

1848

Mecidiye Barracks (Taşkişla)

The building was built upon the orders of Abdülmecid by the British architect William James Smith between 1848-1853. It was redesigned as a medical school in 1847, however, was later converted into barracks in the Neo-Classical style in 1849. Renovated by Sarkis Balyan in 1861-62 and then by Raimondo D'Aronco in 1894, the barracks serve as ITU's Taşkişla Campus since 1944.



Figure 9: Taşkişla (Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Press Archive)



Dolmabahçe Gasworks

It was built under Abdülmecid in 1853 in the area where the stables of the Dolmabahçe Palace used to stand. Gasworks (Gazhane) was initially built for heating and illuminating the palace, and was later used for illuminating Beyoğlu's grand boulevard Cade-i Kebir (today's İstiklal Avenue) at the request of Istanbul Municipality's Sixth (Beyoğlu) District in 1856. It was operated by the Privy Treasury (Hazine-i Hassa) until 1874, the city municipality until 1914 and then a private French company until 1960. In 1947, İnönü Stadium was built in the vicinity, and in 1950, the stadium was expanded to include the area of the gasworks; upon which, the gasworks was relocated to Poligon Gasworks.



Figure 10: Dolmabahçe Gasworks (Istanbul Research Institute Archive)

1861

Gümüşsuyu Barracks

The building, which serves as the Gümüşsuyu campus of Istanbul Technical University today, rises on the area where the Ayas Pasha Cemetery used to be. Gümüşsuyu Hospital was built in 1849 by William James Smith, followed by Gümüşsuyu Barracks in 1850-1861. Sources do not offer precise information about the architect of the building. The building is in the Neo-Classical style and has served as Istanbul Technical University's Gümüşsuyu Campus since 1920.



Figure 11: Gümüşsuyu Barracks



Military School (Mekteb-i Harbiye)

The first Military School (Mekteb-i Harbiye) building was located in Maçka. The current building in Harbiye was built in 1862 during the reign of Abdülaziz. It housed the engineering corps until 1878, and the military school until 1936. The building now serves as the Military Museum.



Figure 12: Military School (Istanbul Research Institute Archive)

1865

Taksim Municipal Garden

It was established in 1865 in the area between Artillery Barracks and Taşkışla by the Beyoğlu Municipality (Istanbul Municipality's Sixth District). M. Deroin designed the garden on the previous Protestant and Catholic Cemetery, which used to be a part of the Great Cemetery but was relocated in 1853-1854. In the garden, there used to be a two-storey wooden kiosk, an orchestra lodge and a music hall. The Municipal Garden was later demolished for urban development purposes.



Figure 13: Taksim Municipal Garden, 1902 (Istanbul Research Institute Archive)



1871

Horse-drawn Trams (Tünel to Taksim)

Horse-drawn trams symbolize the beginning of public transport in Istanbul. The works for the horse-drawn trams were completed with a concession granted to Konstantin Karapano. The first line was opened between Azapkapı and Beşiktaş on July 31st, 1871, followed by 10 more lines including the Kabristan Street-Tepebaşı-Taksim-Pangaltı-Şişli line. In 1883, another tramline was laid to connect Galata, Tepebaşı and İstiklal Avenue. The tram network started being electrified from February 11th, 1914 onwards, and electric trams replaced horse-drawn trams.



Figure 14: A horse-drawn tram (Istanbul Research Institute Archive)



1877

German Consulate

It was built in 1877 to serve as the governor's office. Upon the death of the German architect and engineer Göbells, the project was completed by architect Albert Kortüm. The edifice is in the Neo-Renaissance style and currently serves as the German Consulate.



Figure 15: German Consulate (Istanbul Research Institute Archive)



Aya Triada (Holy Trinity) Church

Built in 1880 in the area where the old Greek Orthodox cemetery was located, the building was the first Greek Orthodox church of the period featuring a central dome. Built by architect Vasilios Ioannis, the edifice is in the eclectic style. It still functions as a Greek Orthodox church today.



Figure 16: Aya Triada Church

1895

Taksim Armenian High School

The building on Meşelik Street was built with the support of brothers Hovhannes and Mıgırdıç Esayan in 1895. In harmony with the general architectural character of the street, it was designed in the Neo-Classical style. The school was inaugurated in 1912 and since 1923 it serves as a coeducational facility.



Figure 17: Esayan Armenian High School



The March 31st Incident

Following the declaration of the 2. Constitutional Era in Ottoman history, soldiers in the Taksim Artillery Barracks rose in revolt against the new government on April 13th, 1909, followed by those in other barracks across Istanbul. This date corresponds to March 31st, 1325 on the Rumî Calendar then used by the Ottomans. Although the mutiny first had a military nature, it soon assumed a religious tone as well. The government resigned on the first day of the revolt and the mutineering soldiers took control of Istanbul for seven days. The revolt was suppressed 13 days after it began, by the so-called Army of Action, and Abdülhamid II was deposed.



Figure 18: Army of Action in Taksim. (Salt Research Archive)

1914

Taksim Theater

Constructed in 1914 by Architect Giulio Mongeri, it is the first building constructed for use as a movie theater. It was first named "Majik Movie Theater" and later "Turkish State Theaters - Taksim Theater Hall". The building was rented by the Istanbul State Theater in 1971, and currently houses a hotel.



Figure 19: Taksim Theater



Taksim Republic Monument

Taksim Republic Monument was built by Italian sculptor Pietro Canonica to symbolize the national liberation struggle and the foundation of the Republic, and was inaugurated on August 8th, 1928 with the attendance of a massive crowd. The monument's pedestal and its peripheral landscaping were designed by Guilio Mongeri, and reflect the new social order of the era.



Figure 20: Taksim Monument (Istanbul Research Institute Archive)

1928

Celebrations of the “Ghazi Day”

Taksim Square started to host numerous official festivals and celebrations beginning with the early years of the Republic. The “Ghazi (Veteran) Day” was celebrated in 1928 in Taksim Square with a huge crowd; the festival would later be renamed “May 19th Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day”.



Figure 21: Ghazi Day Celebrations (Istanbul Research Institute Archive)



Henri Prost's Park Number 2

Between the years, 1936 – 1950 Henri Prost have had a big part in planning Istanbul and had proposed a two parted land-use plan. That two-parted plan contained the Historical Peninsula, Beyoğlu and its adjacencies. Henri Prost had prepared not only the zoning plan; he also prepared the local zoning plans too. In 1937 in the land-use plan for Istanbul, Taksim Square was marked as the park number two. The projects were developed to build the site as a merriment and a rest area. The project for the park number two had foreseen a big park, which would contain an open-air theatre, an opera house, an exhibition centre and would include Maçka, Haribye, Taksim and Dolmabahçe in it. Many projects for Taksim had been implemented within the scope of Prost's proposals.



Figure 22:
Henri Prost's Plans for Park Number 2

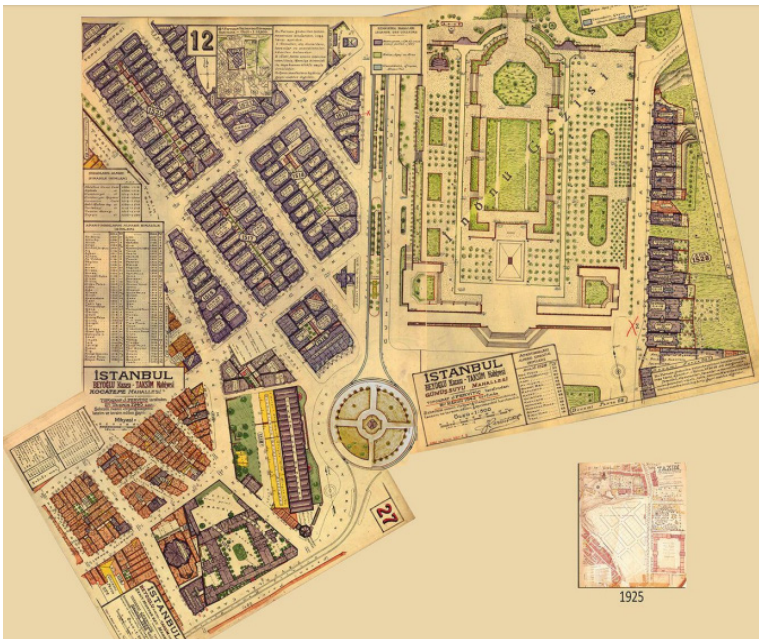


Figure 23:
Map by J.Pervititch (1943)



Figure 24: The Master Plan, Henri Prost 1937 (IFA/AA Archive)



Figure 25: Prost Study for Taksim (IFA/AA Archive)



Figure 26: Prost Ecpaces Libres (IFA/AA Archive)



Kristal Music Hall

Built in 1938 in Taksim, the building was named Kristal (Crystal) Music Hall as its façade was covered in glass. This important entertainment venue of the period was demolished in the early 1960s.



Figure 27: Kristal Music Hall (Istanbul Research Institute Archive)

1939

Perret's Opera House

In his urban plan, Henri Prost had placed an opera house in the plot where Atatürk Cultural Center stands today. Accordingly, an opera house was designed by French architect Auguste Perret in 1939, but it could not be built due to financial reasons. Perret's design provided inspiration to Feridun Kip and Rüknettin Güney's project in the following years.

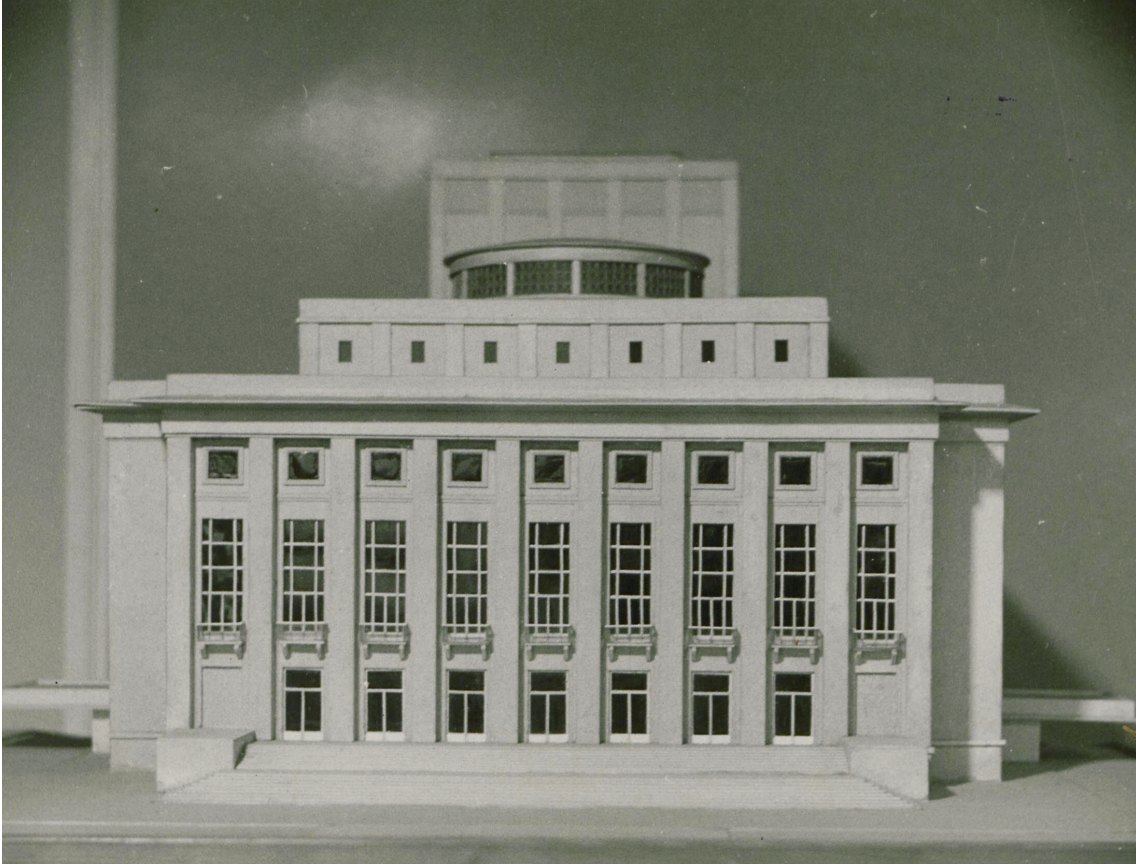


Figure 28: Model for Perret's Opera House (Salt Research Archive)



1939

Taksim Municipal Music Hall

Taksim Garden was redesigned in 1939 by Rüknettin Güney as “Taksim Municipal Music Hall” within the scope of renovation efforts. The building played an important role in the cultural and artistic milieu of the period, and constituted the first musical hall built by the Istanbul Municipality. It was demolished in 1965.



Figure 29: Municipal Music Hall (Istanbul Research Institute Archive)



1939

Demolition of the Taksim Barracks

Taksim Barracks were demolished in stages in the year 1939 under the scope of Henri Prost's project. The area was later designed as İnönü Gezisi (Park), which included the Taksim Municipal Garden.



Figure 30: Demolition of the Taksim Barracks (İBB, Güzelleşen İstanbul)



1943

Tennis-Fencing-Mountaineering Club

The old club building located on Cumhuriyet Avenue in the vicinity of Taksim Municipal Garden was demolished and a new building designed by Rüknettin Güney and Fazıl Aksu was built in 1943 in the plot of the old Surp Agop Cemetery, facing Taşkılla. The building, inspired by the 2. National Architecture school, was nationalized and demolished by the municipality in 1988, and Hyatt Regency Hotel was built in its place.



Figure 31: Tennis-Fencing-Mountaineering Club (Istanbul Research Institute Archive)



1944

İnönü Sculpture

The monumental sculpture of İsmet İnönü, planned to be installed in the “İnönü Gezisi (Park)” was sculpted by Rudolf Belling, the then-president of the Sculpture Department of Fine Arts Academy. Hüseyin Anka Özkan and Nejat Sirel assisted Belling with the sketches and modelling. According to numerous sculptors, the design and production of this sculpture have left an important mark on the academic dimension of Turkish sculpture. The pedestal of the monument was placed in the park in 1944; however, the sculpture was never placed upon it due to the political atmosphere of the era. They were joined in 1982 when the bronze sculpture was installed upon the pedestal, which however, had been transported from Gezi Park to Taşlık Park in the district of Beşiktaş.



Figure 32: Pedestal of the İnönü sculpture (Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Press Archive)



Figure 33: İnönü Sculpture (Photo: Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Press Archive)



1947

İnönü Stadium

Designed in 1939 by Paolo Vietti-Violi, Şinasi Şahingiray and Fazıl Aksu, the stadium was constructed in 1947 which was part of the Dolmabahçe Palace complex. Due the change of government, the stadium was renamed Mithat Pasha Stadium in 1950, before returning to its original name later on. The stadium is of importance as it was the city's first modern stadium boasting the largest capacity at the time.



Figure 34: İnönü Stadium (Istanbul Research Institute Archive)



1948

Open-Air Theater

Cemil Topuzlu Open-Air Theater is a significant building managed by Istanbul City Theaters. Its form resembles ancient amphitheaters. The theater was a joint project by Nahit Uysal and Nihat Yücel, and its groundbreaking ceremony took place in 1946. In 1948, it was inaugurated after a speech by the then-governor and mayor of Istanbul, Lütü Kırdar, with a performance of Oedipus Rex, directed by Muhsin Ertuğrul. The theater remains an important hub of the Istanbul culture and arts scene today.



Figure 35: Open-Air Theater



Gezi Park Pedestrian Bridge

Designed and built in 1949 by Henri Prost to facilitate pedestrians' access to Gezi Park, the bridge was demolished in 2013. In 2017, an "Ecological Bridge" was planned in its place, but was never built.



Figure 36: Gezi Park Pedestrian Bridge

1949

TRT Radio Building

It was designed and built by Dođan Erginbař, Ömer Güney and İsmail Utkular in 1949. The building bears the influence of the 2. National Architecture school. With the construction of the TRT Radio Building, Istanbul Radio gained access to modern studios for the first time. The building is still used by TRT Radio today.



Figure 37: TRT Radio Building



Sports and Exhibition Hall

Designed as a covered sports and exhibition hall by Paola Vietti-Violi, Şinasi Şahingiray and Fazıl Aksu in 1949, the venue was for many years the only enclosed sports hall which hosted international sports competitions in Istanbul.



Figure 38: Sports and Exhibition Hall

1954

Hilton Hotel

It was designed and built by S.O.M, Gordon Bunshaft and Sedad Hakkı Eldem in 1954. The building is the first modern edifice in the international style in Istanbul. For the construction of the hotel on the upper slopes of the area including Gezi Park, a section of the public park was allocated to a private company under a special law. This broke the spatial continuity of the park which used to form a crescent, and was the first step towards the fragmentation of the green space.



Figure 39: Hilton Hotel (Istanbul Research Institute Archive)



Celebrations for Istanbul's Liberation from Enemy Occupation

The 31st anniversary of the liberation of Istanbul from enemy occupation was celebrated with an official parade, which took place in Taksim Square on October 6, 1954.

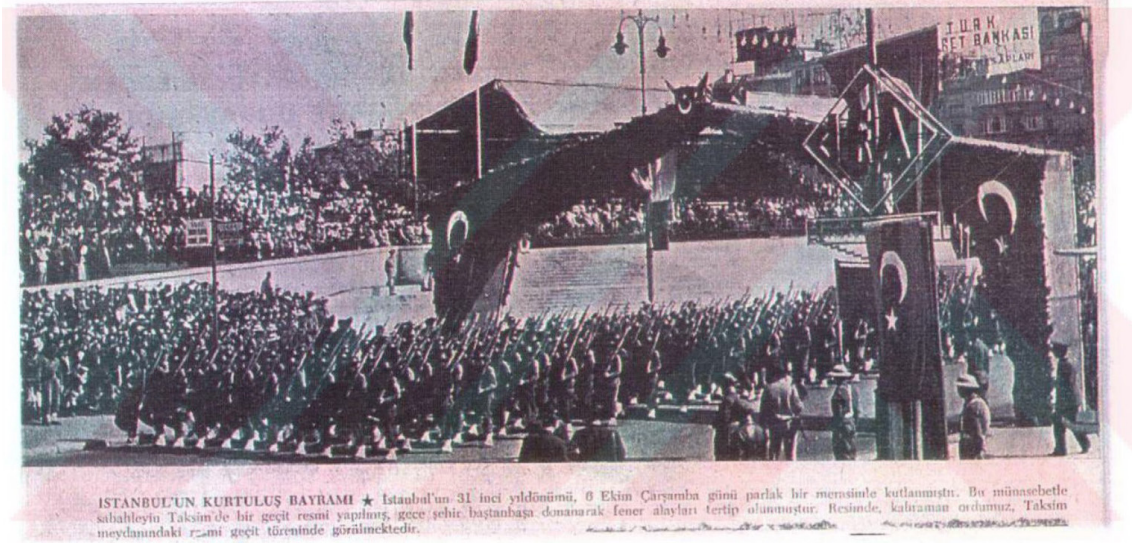


Figure 40: Celebrations for Istanbul's Emancipation from Enemy Occupation

1955

Incidents of September 6th – 7th

On the night of September 5th, 1955, a bomb with limited explosive power was detonated in the garden of the house where Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was born in the Greek city of Thessaloniki. After the news of the attack was heard in Turkey, on September 6th and 7th, mobs attacked non-Muslim citizens all across Istanbul, especially in Beyoğlu. According to official statistics, during these attacks, 11 people were killed, 300 were injured, 60 women were raped, 4.214 houses, 1.004 workplaces, 73 churches, a synagogue, two monasteries, 26 schools as well as 5,317 places including factories, hotels and taverns were devastated. After the events, a large majority of the non-Muslim citizens of Istanbul abandoned the country.



Figure 41: Incidents of September 6th-7th, 1955



Assignment of the AKM Project to Rüknettin Güney

The opera house was designed by Feridun Kip, Rüknettin Güney and Hayati Tabanoğlu in 1946 based on the designs by Auguste Perret. Construction started in 1956 and the building was inaugurated in 1969.



Figure 42: Opera House (Istanbul Research Institute Archive)

1956

Divan Hotel

It was designed and built by Rüknettin Güney and Avedis Hubeser in 1956. The construction of the hotel, which belongs to Koç Holding, started in 1955 and the hotel was inaugurated in 1958. It is located across from Taksim Gezi Park, at the intersection of Asker Ocağı Avenue and Cumhuriyet Avenue. 20 years after this date, the adjacent Ünver Hotel was purchased by Koç Holding and incorporated into the hotel. The hotel's bar and patisserie named Kehribar is at least as famous as the hotel itself. The hotel was closed in 2008, demolished and reconstructed, and inaugurated again in 2011. There is a water gauge dated to the 18th century in front of the hotel.



Figure 43: Divan Hotel



Bayonet Sculpture

Bayonet Sculpture was erected after the military coup of May 27th, as a propagandistic monument which the military government of the time used for reinforcing its legitimacy. Shaped as a bayonet surrounded by laurel leaves, the monument was removed by the Istanbul mayor Ahmet İsvan in 1973.



Figure 44: Bayonet Sculpture (Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Press Archive)

1969

Harbiye Officers' Club

In 1964, it was decided to turn the Military School (Mekteb-i Harbiye) into a military museum. As the renovation project was carried out by Nezh Eldem, it was decided to build a new officers' club alongside the military museum. The so-called Harbiye Officers' Club (Orduevi) was designed and built by Metin Hepgüler in 1969. After Hilton Hotel, it is the second highest edifice in the region. Upon the construction of Officers' Club, the connection between the city and the "Park Number 2" was severed.



Figure 45: Harbiye Officers' Club



Bloody Sunday

On February 16th, 1969, a demo was organized by 76 youth groups to protest the arrival of the US 6th Fleet to Istanbul; however, the protesters were attacked by right-wing groups using stones, bats and knives. As the youth groups gathering in Beyazıt Square started to march towards Taksim Square, where the demo would take place, right-wing groups started to wait for them in Taksim Square and to perform the salaah collectively. The protesters were stopped by the police as they approached Taksim Square. The police allowed them to enter Taksim Square only in small groups, making them vulnerable to the attacks of the right-wing groups waiting for them. In the following attacks, leftist students Ali Turgut Aytaç and Duran Erdoğan were stabbed to death, while dozens of people were heavily injured. Next day a photo was published showing the moment Ali Turgut Aytaç was stabbed.



Figure 46: Bloody Sunday: The moment when Ali Turgut Aytaç was stabbed to death. Photo by Ergin Konuksever

1969

Inauguration of the Istanbul Cultural Palace (AKM)

The opera house designed by Rüknettin Güney, Feridun Kip and Hayati Tabanlıođlu opened its doors in 1969



Figure 47: Istanbul Cultural Palace (AKM)



Fire at the Istanbul Cultural Palace (AKM)

The opera house inaugurated on April 12th, 1969 under the name "Istanbul Cultural Palace", was devastated by fire on November 27th, 1970 during the performance of Arthur Miller's play "The Crucible". Renovation work started in 1973, and the building was reopened in 1977, rechristened as "Atatürk Cultural Center".

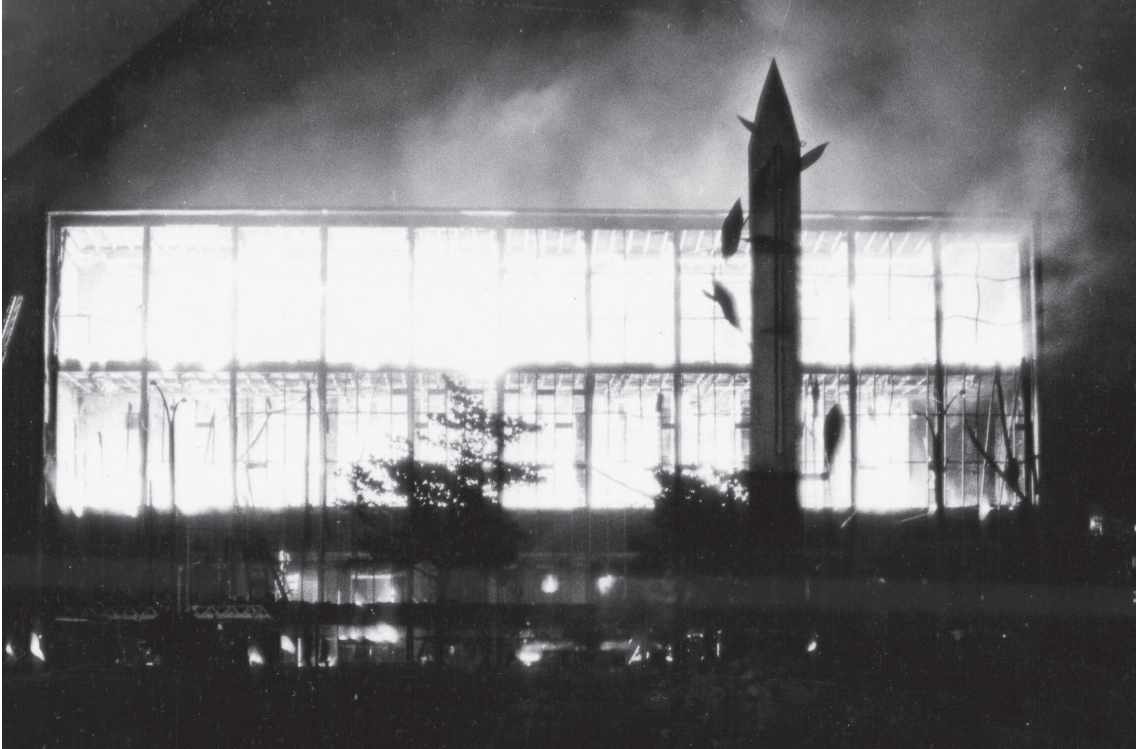


Figure 48: Fire at the Istanbul Cultural Palace (Salt Research Archive)

1973

Monument for the 50th Anniversary of the Republic in Taksim Gezi Park

Twenty sculptures were commissioned by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Turkish Republic in 1973, to be erected in public areas. This project went down in history as the most important sculpture event of the 1970s. Most sculptures were placed in public parks and the work called "The Two of Us" by the sculptor Namik Denizhan was erected in Taksim Gezi Park. Most of these sculptures commemorating the 50th anniversary were destroyed for various reasons.



Figure 49: Namik Denizhan's sculpture "The Two of Us" (Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Press Archive)



Sheraton Hotel

In 1959, the area of Taksim Municipal Music Hall was allocated to the Sheraton Hotel and the music hall was demolished. The new building was designed by Kemal Aru, A. Altay Erol, Hande Suher, Mehmet Ali Handan, Tekin Aydın, and Yalçın Emiroğlu, who won the architectural competition organized by Vakıflar Bank, and was built in 1968-1975. It was one of the very first multi-storey buildings in Istanbul.



Figure 50: Sheraton Hotel (Istanbul Research Institute Archive)

1975

Etap Marmara Hotel

Designed by Fatin Uran and Rüknettin Güney, it was built in 1975 in the area previously occupied by the Tennis-Fencing-Mountaineering Club.



Figure 51: Etap Marmara Hotel



1975

Atatürk Library

It was commissioned in 1975 by Vehbi Koç Foundation as a complex featuring a museum, library and exhibition halls. Its architect is Sedad Hakki Eldem. The building is currently used as Atatürk Library.



Figure 52: Atatürk Library (Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Press Archive)



1976

İsmail Hakkı Öcal's “Abstract Sculpture”

The sculpture series commissioned to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Republic enhanced the visibility of fine arts in Turkey. İsmail Hakkı Öcal's “Abstract Sculpture” was erected in the vicinity of The Marmara Hotel in 1976, and still stands there today. The sculpture was among the works selected during a contest hosted by Intercontinental Hotel, and was witness to the political and social events that transpired in Taksim Square.



Figure 53: “Abstract Sculpture” (Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Press Archive)



May Day 1977 (Bloody May Day)

On May 1st, 1977, the Labor Day was celebrated in Taksim Square with approximately 500 thousand people attending the demo, going down in history as the most massive May Day rally in the history of Turkey until date. During the demo, “unidentified assailants” started to fire on the crowd, from the Water Administration building in Taksim Square. 41 demonstrators were killed. The perpetrators of the massacre were never identified, as the authorities did not run a meticulous investigation about the incident. After this date, Taksim Square started being referred to as “May Day Square” as well. May Day celebrations were banned in Taksim Square after 1978.



Figure 54: May Day 1977 (Archive of the union confederation DİSK)

1977

Demo by Süleyman Demirel of Justice Party

Süleyman Demirel, leader of the Justice Party (AP) held his last demo before the general elections of June 5th, 1977 in Istanbul. On June 1st, 1977, Süleyman Demirel spoke to the crowd at the demo organized by the Istanbul branch of his party in Taksim Square, and was accompanied by his wife Nazmiye Demirel. Two days later the Square would host his main rival in the 1977 elections, Bülent Ecevit.



Figure 55: 1977 Demo of the Justice Party, AP. (Cumhuriyet Newspaper Archive)



Demo by Bülent Ecevit of Republican People's Party

Bülent Ecevit, leader of the Republican People's Party (CHP), organized a historical demo in Taksim Square on June 3rd, 1977, two days prior to the general elections. The demo went down in history as the most massive event organized by a political party until date.



Figure 56: 1977 Demo of the Republican People's Party

1987

Park Hotel

Located next to the German Consulate in Gümüşsuyu, Park Hotel was built by the sons of the last Ottoman grand vizier Tevfik Pasha in 1930, in the place of the latter's mansion. The hotel hosted Atatürk and other prominent statesmen and foreign guests of the era, and famous poet Yahya Kemal Beyatlı resided in the hotel for many years. It was demolished in 1987 and the CVK Park Bosphorus Hotel was built in its stead.



Figure 57: Park Hotel (Şefik Oktay, Istanbul Research Institute Archive)



Demo in Protest of Bulgaria

Taksim Square was closed to all demos and rallies in the year 1979 for a long period, and the first mass demo to take place in the square after that ban was the “Demo in Protest of Bulgaria”, in reaction to the conditions of Turks living in Bulgaria. For the “Demo in Protest of Bulgaria” organized by the three political parties with seats in the Turkish parliament, factories and large workplaces were closed down and the municipality organized free bus services. However, workers who wanted to celebrate May Day in Taksim Square a few days before this demo had been denied entry to the area. Turkish state television TRT broadcast the “Demo in Protest of Bulgaria” live. (Cumhuriyet Newspaper Archive-25/06/1989)



Figure 58: Demo in Protest of Bulgaria (Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Press Archive)

1989

Cemal Reşit Rey Concert Hall

The structure was built in 1989 by Perkins and Will, Daral Handash and Dar Co. by the request of Bedrettin Dalan who was the Mayor of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality at the time. In 1998, Architect Barbaros Sađdıç attached some new additions without breaking the integrity of the structure and the building has become the way it looks today. The structure also has a significant importance in the cultural activities of Istanbul.



Figure 59: Cemal Reşit Rey Concert Hall



Swissotel The Bosphorus

It was built in 1991 by a German-Japanese partnership on the posterior gardens of the Dolmabahçe Palace. The structure was designed by K. K. Sekkeisha and Birleşmiş Mimarlar. Taşlık Park, designed by Sedat Hakkı Eldem, was demolished for the construction of the hotel.



Figure 60: *Swissotel The Bosphorus*

1995

Grand Hyatt Istanbul

It was built in 1995 in the area previously occupied by the Tennis-Fencing-Mountaineering Club building. The structure was designed as a single block by N. Aral, N. Tekin and E. Özkan.



Figure 61: Grand Hyatt Istanbul



1999

Gökkafes (Süzer Plaza)

Built in 1999, Gökkafes (Süzer Plaza) became the second building to rise in the green space connecting Taksim and Maçka. The decision to construct the building designed by Doruk Pamir and E. Gümrük was taken before Swissotel, however, the construction process took very long due to legal issues.



Figure 62: Gökkafes



2000

Galatasaray's UEFA Championship Celebrations

On May 17th, 2000 Galatasaray achieved a first in Turkish football history, winning the UEFA Cup after beating the English football team Arsenal in the finals. Upon their return to Turkey, the Galatasaray football team took a tour of the city with the UEFA cup, and got together with their fans in Taksim Square.

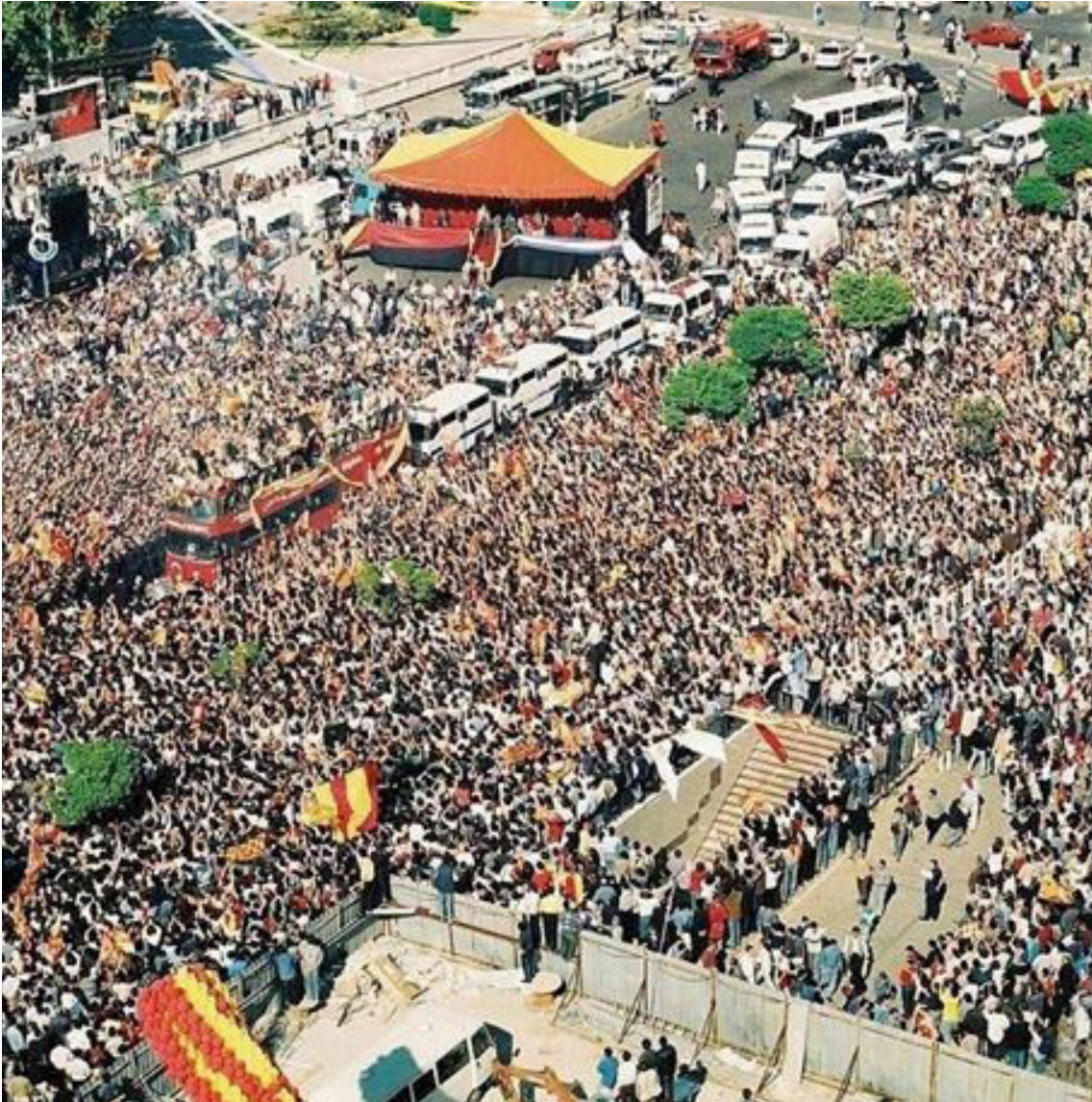


Figure 63: Galatasaray UEFA Championship Celebrations



2000

New Year Celebrations

For many years, Taksim Square was a very popular location for New Year celebrations. Celebrities took the stage on platforms installed in the Square from 2000s onwards, and enthusiastic crowds gathered. In some of these celebrations, around 1 million people visited Taksim Square and its environs



Figure 64: New Year Celebrations (Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Press Archive)



2003

G-Mall

G-Mall is a shopping mall in Maça, which was built with the intention of a culture and art centre in 2003. There is an art gallery inside of it called G-Art.



Figure 65: G-Mall



Taksim Residence

“The French Plague Hospital” was built on this field in 1886, which was granted by II. Abdülhamit to French Consulate. In 1925, the building was renamed as “French Pasteur Hospital” and had served until the year 1991. The structure was registered as a Second Degree Historical Artifact by the Council of Monuments and in 2006, was sold to Tekfen Group by French Consulate and has started work again as a hotel by the same company.



Figure 66: Taksim Residence

2009

Istanbul Congress Center

The structure stands on the Harbiye Congress Valley and it was constructed by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality in 2009. During the construction of the building, Harbiye Open Air Theatre, which is located next to it, was preserved and in addition to that, Muhsin Ertuğrul Theatre was rebuilt.



Figure 67: Istanbul Congress Center



May Day Celebrations

After the Bloody May Day of 1977 when 41 people were killed, Taksim Square hosted one last May Day demo in 1978. It was only 32 years later, in 2010, that the Square once again hosted a May Day demo organized by workers. Afterwards, May Day demos in Taksim Square were banned once again.



Figure 68: Taksim, May Day 2010 (Serdar Özen)

2013

Gezi Protests

In 2013, trees were cut down in Taksim Gezi Park in order to reconstruct the Artillery Barracks of the Ottoman Era. This prompted protests by ecologists, and Taksim Square became the focal point of anti-government demonstrations, which later spread across the country



Figure 69: Gezi Protests, June 2013 (Archive of the union confederation DİSK)



July 15th Coup Attempt

The coup attempt of July 15th, 2016 was met with the resistance of citizens in Taksim Square, as was the case across the country. Helicopters fired on the crowds gathering around Taksim Republic Monument.



Figure 70: Taksim Square during the coup attempt of July 15th
(Istanbul Research Institute Archive)

2017

Taksim Mosque

Designed by Şefik Birkiye and Selim Dalaman in 2017, Taksim Mosque is still in construction.



Figure 71: Taksim Mosque (Okan Ulusoy Archive)





LIBRARIES and ARCHIVES

The Archives of the former People's House of London, Belgrave sq., Turkish Embassy-London

The Atatürk Library, Municipality of Istanbul, Taksim-Istanbul

The Cadastral Archives, Marmara Regional Directorate, Sultanahmet-Istanbul

Le Centre de Recherche sur les Etudes Anatoliennes, Galatasaray-Istanbul

Library of Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London, Gordon str-London

Library of Faculty of Bosphorus University, Etiler-Istanbul

Library of Faculty of Architecture, Istanbul Technical University, Taksim-Istanbul

Library of Faculty of Law, Istanbul University, Beyazıt-Istanbul

Library of Senate House, University of London, Malet st. - London

Library of SOAS, University of London, Malet st. - London

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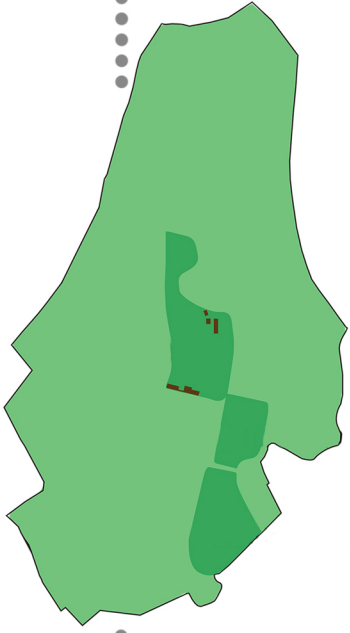
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18. yüzyıl



19. yüzyıl



1930 - 1950

1950 - 1980



1980 - 2012



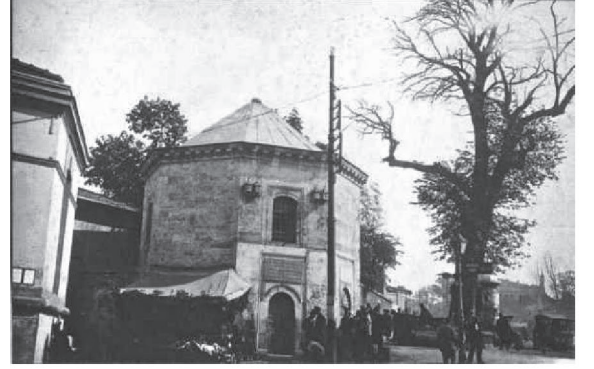
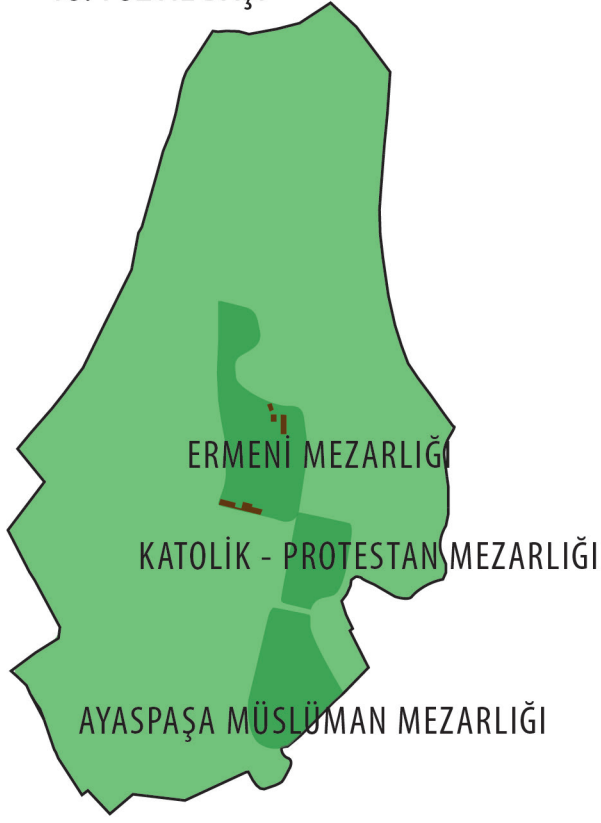
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18. YÜZYIL BAŞI

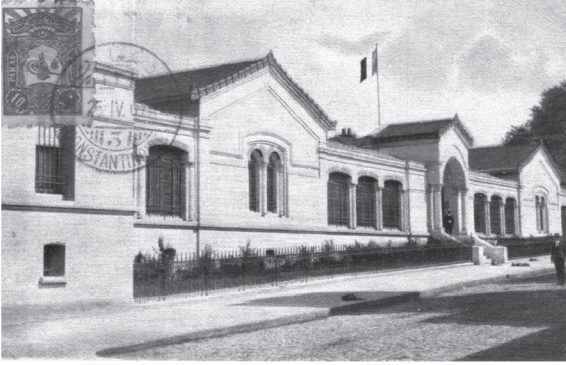


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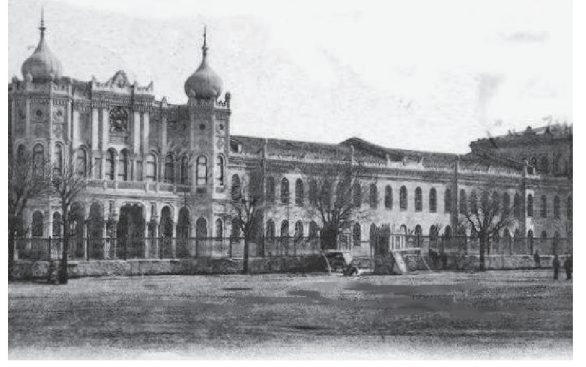
1732





FRANSIZ
KONSOLOSLUĐU

1794



TAKSİM TOPÇU KIŞLASI VE
TALİMHANESİ

1806





MAÇKA KIŞLASI



MECİDİYE KIŞLASI
(TAŞKIŞLA)

1825

1839

1849

TAKSİM SUYU ŞEBEKESİNİN
İNŞASININ TAMAMLANMASI





OLMABAHÇE
GAZHANESİ



MEKTEB-İ
HARBIYE



GÜMÜŞSUYU
KIŞLASI



TAKSİM BELEDİYE
BAHÇESİ

1853

1861

1862

1865



19. YÜZYIL SONU



TAKSİM BELEDİYE
BAHÇESİ

ALMAN
KONSOLOSLUĞU

1865

1873

1877

TÜNELDEN TAKSİME
ATLI TRAMVAYLARIN
ÇALIŞMAYA BAŞLAMASI





YA TRIADA



TAKSİM ERMENİ
LİSESİ

1880

1895





TAKSİM
SAHNESİ

1913

TAKSİM - ŞİŞLİ ELEKTRİKLİ
TRAMVAYLARININ ÇALIŞMAYA
BAŞLAMASI

1914

TOPÇU KIŞLASININ
FRANSIZLARA SATILMASI

1922

TOPÇU
KIŞLASININ
CAMİSİNİN
SATILMASI

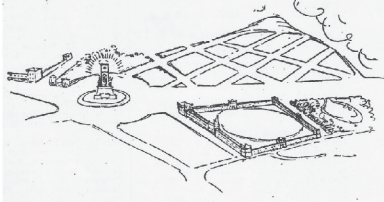
1923

CUMHURİYETİN
İLANI



Paranızı iyi kullanmak için Taksimde «talimhane»
arsa alınız ve bina yapınız

Taksimde Valide Çeşme sokağında
„İstanbul Türk Emlak Şirketine“ müracaat.



Achetez, Construisez

au Champ de Mars du Taksim
Placement d'avenir

S'adresser à la «Société Immobilière Turque
de Istanbul»

TAXİM, Rue Validé Tehechné

TALİMHANE



TAKSİM
CUMHURİYET ANITI

1928

1930

1936

HENRI PROST'UN
GÖREVE BAŞLAMASI

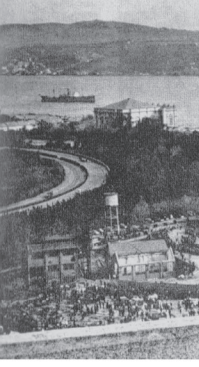




TENİS ESKRİM
DAĞCILIK KLÜBÜ



HEYKEL MAÇKA'DA



İNÖ



TAKSİM GEZİSİ



İNÖNÜ HEYKELİNİN
KAİDESİ

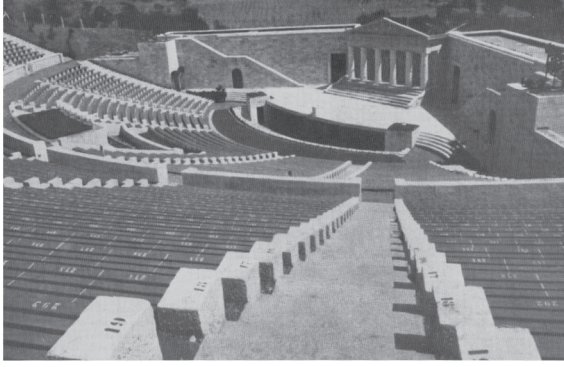
1943

1944





İNÖNÜ STADYUMU



AÇIK HAVA
TİYATROSU



GEZİ PARKI YAYA KÖPRÜSÜ



TRT RADYO EVİ



SPOR VE SERGİ SARAYI

1947

1948

1949

1951



1930 - 1950



AKM PROJESİNİN
RÜKNETTİN GÜNEY'E DEVRİ



HİLTON OTELİ



DİVAN OTELİ

1952

1954

1955

1956

1957

İNÖNÜ
STADI

MİTHATPAŞA
STADI

6-7 EYLÜL
OLAYLARI

KRİST
GAZİNO
YIKIL

ALMANAC TAKSİM



NİN
'E DEVRİ



Li



SÜNGÜ HEYKELİ



İSTİKLAL CADDESİ
TEK YÖNLÜ HALE GETİRİLDİ

1957

1959

1960

1962



ALMANAC TAKSİM

KRİSTAL
GAZİNOSUNUN
YIKILIŞI

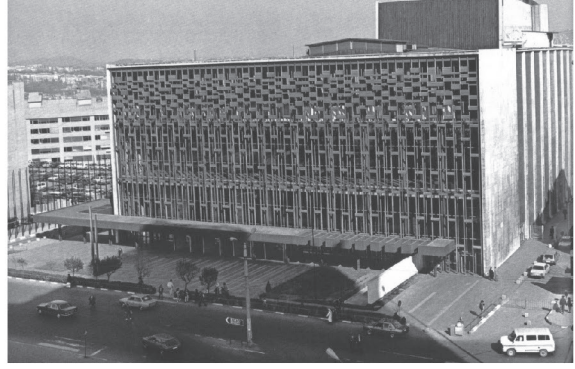
TAKSİM
BELEDİYE
GAZİNOSUNUN
YIKILIŞI



NİN
RİLİŞİ



HARBIYE ORDUEVİ



AKM'NİN AÇILIŞI

1967

1969

1970

AKM
YANGINI





SHERATON OTELİ



ATATÜRK KİTAPLIĞI



ETAP MARMARA OTELİ

1973

1975

1977

İNÖNÜ
STADI

↓
MİTHATPAŞA
STADI

KANLI
1 MAYIS



1950 - 1980



PARK
OTEL



TARLABAŞI BULVARI

1979

PARK OTELİN
KAPATILMASI

1982

SÜNGÜ HEYKELİNİN
KALDIRILMASI

1988





CEMAL REŞİT REY
KONSER SALONU



SWISS
OTEL



İSTİKLAL CADDESİNİN
TRAFİĞE KAPATILMASI

1989

1990

1991

1994

SPOR VE SERGİ
SARAYI'NIN
KONGRE
MERKEZİNE
ÇEVİRİLMEK
ÜZERE KAPATILIŞI

OTELLER
BÖLGESİ
TALİMHANE



1980 - 2012



HYATT REGENCY
OTELİ



GÖKKAFES

1995

1996

1999

SPOR VE SERGİ
SARAYININ LÜTFİ KIRDAR
ULUSLARARASI
KONGRE VE SERGİ SARAYI
OLARAK TEKRAR AÇILMASI



ALMANAC TAKSİM



METRO AÇILIŞI



TAKSİM - KABATAŞ
FUNİKULER HATTI



GÖKKAFES



G-MALL

1999

2000

2003





TAKSİM RESİDENCE



İSTANBUL
KONGRE MERKEZİ



TAKSİM TOPÇU
İHYA PROJESİ

2006

2009





TAKSİM TOPÇU KIŞLASI
İHYA PROJESİ



TARLABAŞI BULVARI CUMHURİYET
CADDESİ TÜNEL İNŞAATI



OLAYLAR



TAKSİM SAHNESİNİN
YIKILIŞI



GEZİ PARKI YAYA
KÖPRÜSÜNÜN YIKILIŞI

2012

2013





TAKSİM CAMİ İ
BAŞLAN

2017



ALINCA TAKSİM



TAKSİM CAMİ İNŞAATININ
BAŞLAMASI

2017





ATATÜRK KÜLTÜR
MERKEZİ'NİN YIKILIŞI

2018







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