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The historical safranbolu city in Turkey

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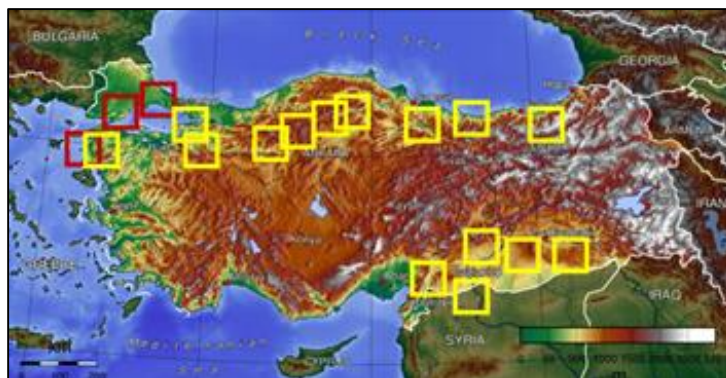
Abstract

The author's visits to Turkey were numerous. They mostly related to visits to Istanbul, but also to cities in the Asian part of Turkey. Apart from Istanbul, which is located in both the European and Asian parts of Turkey, the author visited the city of Çanakkale, which, like Istanbul, was developed in both the European and Asian parts of Turkey. The visits to Istanbul had different reasons: a visit to Yildiz Technical University as part of the inter-faculty cooperation between the two faculties (when the author was the dean of the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Sarajevo), a visit to the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) at a large number of scientific conferences (and participation in summer schools organized by IRCICA throughout Turkey) and rest and leisure. The visit to the Safranbolu took place as part of the Summer School, June 20 - July 17, 2012.

Keywords: Turkey, Safranbolu, Synergy of natural environment, social environment and man

1. Introduction

The author's visits to Turkey were numerous. They mostly related to visits to Istanbul, but also to cities in the Asian part of Turkey (Figure 1). Apart from Istanbul, which is located in both the European and Asian parts of Turkey, the author visited the city of Çanakkale, which, like Istanbul, was developed in both the European and Asian parts of Turkey. The visits to Istanbul had different reasons: a visit to Yildiz Technical University as part of the inter-faculty cooperation between the two faculties (when the author was the dean of the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Sarajevo), a visit to the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) at a large number of scientific conferences (and participation in summer schools organized by IRCICA throughout Turkey) and rest and leisure. The visit to the Safranbolu city took place as part of the Summer School, June 20 - July 17, 2012. (Figure 1). This work is the result of a series of study trips to Turkey. The aim of the study trips was to get to know the cities on the spot and through their analysis (through 'cabinet work') to contribute to the author's theory of "Architecturally defined space" [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11].



Source: Hadrovic, A. (2018). Architecture in the travelogues of an architect. Book 3: Asia, Faculty of Architecture University in Sarajevo, Sarajevo, pp. 1119 - 1189 (in Bosnian)

Fig 1: Map of Turkey. (The places the author visited (the European part of Turkey) are marked with red squares, and the places the author visited (the Asian part of Turkey) with yellow squares)

Safranbolu is a city (with about 52,999 inhabitants, 2022)^[12] located in the Karabük district in northern Turkey. It is 9 km from Karabük, 100 km from the Black Sea, 200 km from Ankara and 315 km from Istanbul. The city is at an altitude of 485 m. Throughout its history, the city had various names: Theodoroupolis (Greek: Θεοδορούπολις), Saframopolis (Greek: Σαφράμπολις), Zalifre and Taraklıborlu. The name of the city comes from the words "saffron" (a type of flower) and "polis" (Greek: πόλις = city), since the city is the center of saffron cultivation and trade. Today's name of the city has a similar etymology, where the word "bolu" (meaning "a lot" in Turkish) was added to the word "saffron" (a type of flower). Saffron is still grown today in the village of Davutobası, about 22 km from Safranbolu. Archaeological finds confirm that there was a settlement in the area of Saframopolis in 3000 BC. Since then, the masters of this area have changed: the Hittites (1600-1178 BC), the Lydians (7th century BC), Persia (547 BC), the Empire of Alexander the Great (356-323 BC), the Kingdom of Pontus (281 BC - 62),

ancient Rome (71 BC), Byzantium (395-1453, with interruptions), the Seljuks (Sultanate of Rum, 1196-1308, with interruptions), the Ottoman Empire (1326-1922) and the modern Republic of Turkey (1923-present). During the Seljuk rule, the city (conquered by Malik Masud Muhiddin, son of the Seljuk Sultan Kılıçarslan I, 1079-1107) became an important trading center, and from the 13th century an important stop on the caravan route. The Ottomans, under the leadership of Süleyman Pasha, conquered this city in 1326¹.

2. Natural resources and sights

The climatic conditions in Safranbolu are characterized by a warm and moderate atmosphere. The rainfall in Safranbolu is significant, even during the lowest months of the year. The climate here is classified as Cfb according to Köppen-Geiger. The temperature at this location is around 11.3 °C, as determined by statistical analysis. The annual amount of precipitation is 875 mm (Figure 2)^[13].

| | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Avg. Temperature °C (°F) | 0.8 °C (33.4) °F | 2.4 °C (36.3) °F | 5.7 °C (42.3) °F | 10.3 °C (50.6) °F | 14.9 °C (58.8) °F | 18.5 °C (65.3) °F | 21.3 °C (70.3) °F | 21.8 °C (71.3) °F | 17.8 °C (64.1) °F | 12.7 °C (54.9) °F | 7.1 °C (44.7) °F | 2.3 °C (36.1) °F |
| Min. Temperature °C (°F) | -3.2 °C (26.3) °F | -2.2 °C (28.1) °F | 0.3 °C (32.5) °F | 4.1 °C (39.4) °F | 8.8 °C (47.9) °F | 12.9 °C (55.3) °F | 15.5 °C (59.9) °F | 16.3 °C (61.3) °F | 12.3 °C (54.1) °F | 7.6 °C (45.8) °F | 2 °C (35.6) °F | -1.8 °C (28.8) °F |
| Max. Temperature °C (°F) | 5.3 °C (41.6) °F | 7.4 °C (45.4) °F | 11.1 °C (52) °F | 16 °C (60.8) °F | 20.1 °C (68.2) °F | 23.5 °C (74.2) °F | 26.6 °C (79.9) °F | 27.7 °C (81.8) °F | 23.7 °C (74.8) °F | 18.2 °C (64.7) °F | 12.9 °C (55.2) °F | 7.3 °C (45.1) °F |
| Precipitation / Rainfall mm (in) | 80 (3) | 79 (3) | 97 (3) | 89 (3) | 87 (3) | 78 (3) | 45 (1) | 39 (1) | 54 (2) | 72 (2) | 69 (2) | 86 (3) |
| Humidity(%) | 79% | 75% | 73% | 71% | 71% | 71% | 66% | 62% | 66% | 72% | 75% | 79% |
| Rainy days (d) | 10 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 10 |
| avg. Sun hours (hours) | 5.1 | 5.7 | 6.8 | 8.3 | 9.3 | 9.7 | 10.0 | 9.9 | 8.4 | 6.6 | 6.3 | 5.3 |

Source: <https://en.climate-data.org/asia/turkey/karabuek/safranbolu-8505/>, Accessed: February 10, 2024

Fig 2: Wether by month/Wether averages Safranbolu

Safranbolu is in the northern hemisphere. It is located in the upper half of the planet. Summer starts in September and ends at the end of June. The summer months are: June, July, August, September. According to our analysis, the optimal period to go on a trip is during August. Safranbolu is located on a hilly terrain with an altitude of 300 to 1750 meters. Of the total area of the city area, 1013 km² are covered by forests (which is a gift of the proximity of the Black Sea). The city abounds with numerous watercourses, smaller and larger, some of which have created colorful canyons over a long period of time (such as Incekaya, Tokatli, Düzce (Kiore) and

Sakaralan/Tekekurum).

In addition to forests, the great wealth of the wider area of the city are pastures, canyons, caves with specific speleological forms. The forests have a rich flora and fauna, and with their always new appearance (according to the seasons) they are an attractive place for visitors.

Bulak Mencilis Cave (Turkish: Bulak Mencilis Mağarası) is located in the village of Bulak, 8 km from Safranbolu. The cave abounds in cave forms that were created during 65-200 million years (Figure 3).



Source: <https://gezimanya.com/GeziNotlari/bulakmencilis-magarasi-safranbolu>, Accessed: February 10, 2024

Fig 3: Bulak Mencilis Cave

¹ Shortly after the Ottoman conquest of Safranbolu, the famous Moroccan travel writer Ibn Battuta (1304-1377) visited the city (1332) and provided important information about it.

Safranbolu Tokatlı Canyon (Turkish: Tokatlı Kanyonu) is one of the canyons in the village of Tokatlı, near Safranbolu. There is a pedestrian path in the canyon so that you can safely see its beauty (Figure 4). Crystal Terrace (Turkish: Kristal

Teras) is a contemporary metal-glass structure built above the Tokatlı Canyon. Its 11 m long console and safety glass in the floor allow viewing the canyon from an unprecedented perspective, 80 meters above the canyon (Figure 4).



Source: <http://www.fatihadanur.com/seyahatler/safranbolu-tokatli-kanyonu-ve-kristal-teras/>, Accessed: February 10, 2024.

Source: <https://uzungoltur.net/safranbolu-tokatlikanyonu-nerede-nasil-gidilir-gezilecekyerler-konaklama.html>, Accessed: February 10, 2024.

Source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/277886239484680121/>, Accessed: February 10, 2024.

Fig 4: Safranbolu Tokatlı Canyon

Safran Uretim estate (Turkish: Safran Uretim Ciftligi) is a typical estate in the vicinity of Safranbolu where saffron is

grown (Figure 5).



Source: <https://www.tarlasera.com/haber-11361-safran-uretiminde-adresler-cogaliyor>, Accessed: February 10, 2024.

Fig 5: Safran Uretim estate

3. Architectural cultural and historical heritage

Due to its extremely rich cultural and historical heritage (1008 registered historical artifacts), the city of Safranbolu was included (December 17, 1994) in the UNESCO World Heritage List as a World Heritage City^[14]. In the old part of the city there are 25 mosques, 5 turbets, 8 historical fountains, 5 hammams, 3 caravanserais, a clock tower, a sundial, several bridges and hundreds of historical houses and palaces. The new part of the city is developing on a plateau, about 2 km

west of the old city. The city consists of three different historical districts: the market area in the core of the city, the Çukur (The Pit), the Kıranköy (Kıran Village) area and the Bağlar (Vineyards) area. The Çukur area occupies the lower part of the city, with a triangular form of its plan defined by two rivers (Araç Çayı-Filyos Çayı and Soğanly Çayı). The center of this part of the city is a market surrounded by shops and residential buildings built in a specific bondruk system with brick, stone or adobe infill. The city district of Bağlaru

(Vinogradi), located on a slope, in the northwestern part of the old town, is specific for residential buildings with large home gardens. These houses were the summer residences of rich people who lived and worked in the Çukur district. The streets in the districts of Çukur and Kıranköy are narrow and winding (following the isohypse of the terrain) and in this way open up rich views of the doxat houses. The streets are paved with stone slabs with slopes towards the axis of the street for efficient drainage. The special value of the architecture of Safranbolu is its houses. Most of the houses preserved to this day were built during the 18th and 19th centuries. Because of their colorful roofs, these houses are

called "houses with five facades". In their vertical plan, they are most often developed through the ground floor and two floors, although there are houses with three floors as well. Some of these houses are very rich in layout and contents, with 6 to 9 rooms each. The main rooms must have built-in wall wardrobes (musanders) with compartments (hamadzik, furuna and dusekluk) that cover the important functions of the multi-purpose room. The ceilings of the rooms are made of wood, in a true wealth of wood carvings and geometric harmony. Very often, color is applied in the treatment of ceilings, which further enriches their image (Figure 6).



Ahmet Bey's house (Ahmet bey evi)



Ahmet Bey's house (Ahmet bey evi)





Cypress mansion (Selvili köşk)



Source: Author (July 11, 2012)

Fig 6: Traditional houses in the town of Safranbolu

House of the mayor of Gezi (Turkish: Kaymakamlar Gezi Evi) is an example of a rich house in Safranbolu. This house is

a typical example of the house in Saframbolo, for which it is best known, due to its location and exterior decoration,

disposition, construction and materialization, as well as the design of details. The house has seven rooms (Figure 7).



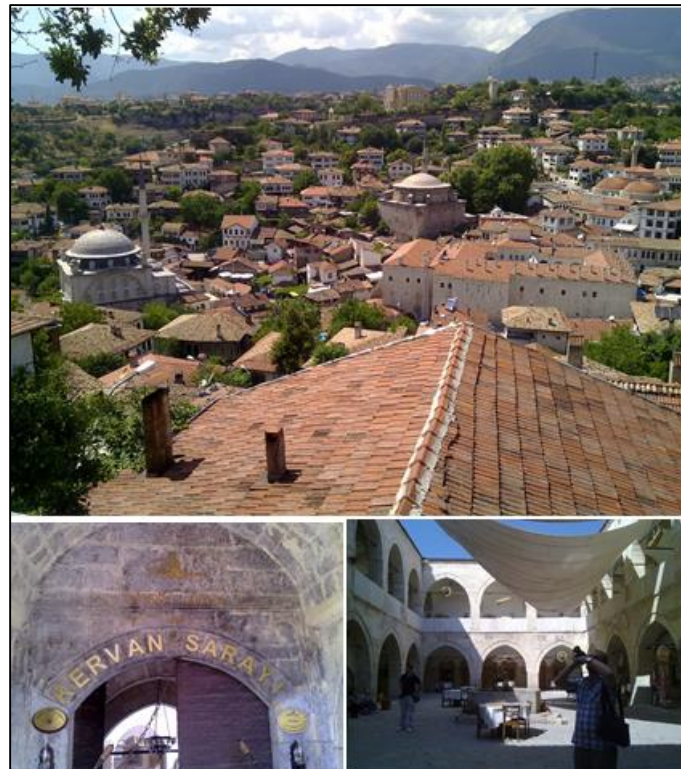


Source: Author (July 11, 2012)

Fig 7: House of the mayor of Gezi

Cinci Inn (Turkish: Cinci Hanı) is located in the historical center of Safranbolu. The Khan was erected (1645) by Kazasker Huseyin Efendi. The inn is developed through the

ground floor and first floor with a total of 63 rooms. In its time, it was one of the most lavishly decorated hans in the Ottoman Empire (Figure 8).



Source: Author (July 11, 2012)

Fig 8: Cinci Inn

Yoruk Village (Turkish: Yörük Köyü) is located not far from the Karabük-Safranbolu road, about 20 km from Safranbolu. It is known for the preserved authentic arrangement throughout, arrangement of house complexes, disposition, construction, materialization and design of houses and

household economy facilities. The village and most of the preserved architectural buildings date back to the 15th century, and their value is priceless. The village still lives today, where "rural tourism" is its main economic branch (Figure 9).





Kasim Sipahioglu Konagi (Yazıköy, Safranbolu)



Village laundry





Home catering activity

Source: Author (July 11, 2012)

Fig 9: Yoruk Village

Safranbolu Old Bazaar (Turkish: Safranbolu Eski Carsi) is located in the very core of the old town of Safranbolu. Čaršija consists of a large number of shops (where various products are made and sold in the traditional way), cafes and

teahouses, fruit and vegetable stores, restaurants... Čaršija is a symbol and the basic physical structure of the city's arrangement according to the principles of oriental-Ottoman urbanism (Figure 10).





Source: Author (July 12, 2012)

Fig 10: Safranbolu Old Bazaar

Kazdagli Mosque (Turkish: Kazdagli Camii) was built (1779) by Kazdağlı Mehmet-aga on the site of an older mosque, near the entrance to the Bezistan in Safranbolu. The walls of the mosque are made of alternating white stone and brick (which is the Byzantine construction tradition). The dome of the

mosque (actually, an eight-sided low pyramid) rests on an eight-sided tembur and is covered with ceramic tiles, which is also part of the Byzantine architectural tradition. The minaret of the mosque is built of brick. The mosque was renovated in 2004 (Figure 11).



Source: Author (July 12, 2012)

Fig 11: Kazdagli Mosque

The Incekaya Aqueduct (Turkish: İncekaya Su Kemeri) was built by Grand Vizier Safranbolulu İzzet Mehmet Pasha (1743-1812) to supply the city of Safranbolu with water. The

preserved part of the aqueduct is an impressive structure with six arches, 116 m long, which extends above the Tokatlı Canyon (Figure 12).



Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/75317917@N02/14940239911>, Accessed: February 10, 2024.

Fig 12: Incekaya Aqueduct

İzzet Mehmet Pasha Mosque (Turkish: İzzet Mehmet Paşa Camii) is a mosque built by (1794-1798). Grand Vizier Safranbolulu İzzet Mehmet Pasha (1743-1812) who was Grand Vizier to two sultans, Sultan Abdülhamid I (1725-1789) and Sultan Selim III (1761-1808). The mosque is part of a complex that includes a library, a fountain and several shops. As a stream flowed in the location where the mosque

was built, the mosque was raised from the ground and stands on powerful pillars tied with arches. The foundation of the mosque has dimensions of 13.5 m x 13.5 m. The eight-sided tambour on which the dome rests is supported by eight powerful stone buttresses. The minaret of the mosque is luxuriously finished, built after the minaret of the Nuruosmaniye mosque in Istanbul (1755), (Figure 13).



Source: Author (July 12, 2012)

Source: <http://www.karadenizgezi.net/safranbolutarihi-eserleri.htm>, Accessed: February 10, 2024.

Fig 13: İzzet Mehmet Pasha Mosque

The Historical Clock Tower (Turkish: Tarihi Saat Kulesi) is located on a hill above the Valada Building in Safranbol. The clock tower was built (1794-1797) by Grand Vizier Safranbolulu İzzet Mehmet Pasha (1743-1812) during the reign of Sultan Selim III (1761-1808). The clock tower has a square base with a side of 4.65 m and a height of 12 m. The area where the clock with the mechanism is located is

accessed by a winding iron staircase. Around this clock tower, in a carefully arranged park, there are models (on a scale of 1:20) of the most famous clock towers that were built throughout the Ottoman Empire (with the year of their construction inscribed), among which is a model of the clock tower next to Gazi Husrev- bey's mosque in Sarajevo (Figure 14).



Author (left) visiting one of the clock towers

Source: Author (July 12, 2012)

Source: Prof. dr Amir Pasic (July 12, 2012)

Fig 14: Historical Clock Tower

Safranbolu Government House/City Museum (Turkish: Safranbolu Hükümet Binası/Safranbolu Kent Tarihi Müzesi) was built (1904-1906) in the Ottoman Neo-Baroque style on a hill with a wide view of the city. The building was renovated (2000-2006) and converted into a City Museum.

On three floors of the building, the ground floor plus two floors, there are exhibits that bear witness to the history of the city, from its foundation to the present day. In the back of the building, there is an amphitheater on a natural slope where various cultural events are held (Figure 15).



Source: Author (July 12, 2012)

Fig 15: Safranbolu Government House/City Museum

The Grand Mosque (Turkish: Ulu Camii) was originally built as the Orthodox-Greek Church of St. Stephen. After the Turkish-Greek agreement (after the Turkish War of Independence, 1919-1923) on population exchange, the

majority of the Greek population left Safranbolu. Church of St. Stephen was converted into the Kıranköy Ulu Mosque (Figure 16).



Source: <http://www.karadenizgezi.net/safranbolutarihi-eserleri.htm>, Accessed: February 10, 2024.

Source: <https://foursquare.com/v/safranbolu-ulucami/4e39a854483b6aaecd6561df/photos>, Accessed: February 10, 2024.

Fig 16: Grand Mosque

Hasan Dede Tomb (Turkish: Hasan Dede Turbesi) is the burial place of the Timur Hasan Baba, a dervish and respected Sufi, who came to the area of Safranbolu at the beginning of the 14th century. This Sufi built a wooden mosque, a water

mill and a fountain, which have been renovated several times to this day in order to preserve the name of the Sufi (Figure 17).



Source: <http://www.karadenizgezi.net/safranbolutarihi-eserleri.htm>, Accessed: February 10, 2024.

Fig 17: Hasan Dede Tomb

Köprülü Mehmet Pasha Mosque (Turkish: Köprülü Mehmet Paşa Camii) is an endowment of the Grand Vizier Köprülü Mehmed Pasha, which was built in 1661. The cube of the building carries a relatively high polygonal

tambour on which a shallow dome with an unusual roof overhang was placed, which brought out its elegance even more. Within the mosque complex (külliye) there are muvекithana, şadırvan and sundial (Güneş Saati), (Figure 18).



Sundial

Source: <http://www.karadenizgezi.net/safranbolutarihi-eserleri.htm>, Accessed: February 10, 2024.

Fig 18: Köprülü Mehmet Pasha Mosque

Cinci Bath/New Bath (Turkish: Cinci Hamamı/Yeni Hamam) was built (1645) by Karabaşzade Hüseyin Efendi during the reign of Ottoman Sultan Ibrahim I (1615-1648). Han is a

developed form of this type of construction with two (parallel) lines of its use, for men and women (Figure 19).



Source: <http://www.karadenizgezi.net/safranbolutarihi-eserleri.htm>, Accessed: February 10, 2024.

Source: <http://hamamlar.com/cinci-hamami.html>, Accessed: February 10, 2024.

Source: <http://www.safranboluevleri.org/safranbolugezilecek-14-yerlerin-listesi/cinci-hamam/>, Accessed: February 10, 2024.

Fig 19: Cinci Bath/New Bath

Efsane Konarl Golu Restaurant (Turkish: Efsane Konari Gölü Restaurant) is a famous restaurant in a rich natural environment, water and greenery. The restaurant is about 9 km from the center of Safranbol. It is interesting that the

water temperature in the lake around which the restaurant is organized is constant both in summer and winter and is 20 - 24 °C. Since 2004, the municipality has ceded this restaurant to a private owner for a period of ten years (Figure 20).





Source: Author (July 11, 2012)

Fig 20: Efsane Konarl Golu Restaurant

4. Conclusion

The author's visits to Turkey were numerous. They mostly related to visits to Istanbul, but also to cities in the Asian part of Turkey. Apart from Istanbul, which is located in both the European and Asian parts of Turkey, the author visited the city of Çanakkale, which, like Istanbul, was developed in both the European and Asian parts of Turkey. The visits had different reasons: the visits to Yildiz Technical University, Karadeniz Technical University, Tokat Gaziosmanpasa University, for example, were arranged within the framework of inter-faculty cooperation of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Sarajevo (when the author was the dean of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Sarajevo) with the aforementioned universities, with the coordination of the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) and Professor Amir Pasic. The visit to the Safranbolu city took place as part of the Summer School, June 20 - July 17, 2012. The modern Republic of Turkey is a geographical area where rich layers of material culture are "stacked" (and preserved), from the earliest prehistory to the present day. It is safe to say that 'Turkey is the world's museum of culture'. Professors from Turkey and all over the world, as well as students, participated in the mentioned summer schools as lecturers. What the professors and students saw on the spot greatly enriched their knowledge that they had acquired at 'their faculties', to their own benefit

and to the benefit of the new generations that they will teach.

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