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The Historical Amasya City in Türkiye

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Abstract

The author's visits to Türkiye were numerous, and took place from 2005 to 2014. They mostly related to visits to Istanbul, but also to cities in the Asian part of Türkiye. Apart from Istanbul, which is located in both the European and Asian parts of Türkiye, the author visited the city of Çanakkale, which, like Istanbul, was developed in both the European and Asian parts of Türkiye. The visits to Istanbul had different reasons: a visit to Yıldız 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 Türkiye) and rest and leisure. The visit to the city of Çanakkale took place from November 3 to 5, 2010, when the author participated in an international scientific symposium (with the theme "Bosnia and Herzegovina's Architectural Tradition: Bosnian Mosques"). The visit to the town of Amasya took place as part of the "Summer School, June 20 - July 17, 2012".

Keywords: Türkiye, Amasya, Synergy of natural environment, social environment and man

1. Introduction

The author's visits to Türkiye were numerous, and took place from 2005 to 2014 (Figure 1). They mostly related to visits to Istanbul, but also to cities in the Asian part of Türkiye. Apart from Istanbul, which is located in both the European and Asian parts of Türkiye, the author visited the city of Çanakkale, which, like Istanbul, was developed in both the European and Asian parts of Türkiye. The visits to Istanbul had different reasons: a visit to Yıldız Technic Universty within the framework of inter-faculty cooperation between the two faculties (when the author was the dean of the Faculty of Architecture of 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 Türkiye). The visit to the city of Amasya took place as part of the "Summer School, June 20 - July 17, 2012".

This work is the result of a series of study trips to Türkiye. The goal of the study trips was to get to know 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].

Amasya is a city (with about 114,921 inhabitants, 2021) [6] located in the northern part of Türkiye and the capital of the province of the same name in the Black Sea region (geographic coordinates: 40°39'08.04"N, 35°50'01.95"E, elevation: 400 m). The city lies in a narrow valley of the Yeşilirmak (Iris) river, and it is separated from Anatolia by the high mountains of Canik and Pontus (Figures 2,3). Amasya is a city with a long and rich history (about 7500 years) where many great and famous people (kings, princes, artists, scientists, poets, philosophers...) lived and worked, among them King Mithridates VI (135-63 BC), Sultan Murat I (1326-1389), Sultan Selim I (1470-1520), geographer Strabo (63 BC-23) and scholar and physician Amirdovlat Amasiatsi (1420-1496) [7]. The name of the city of Amasya (Greek: Ἀμάσεια) comes, according to the geographer Strabo, from the name of Amasha, the queen of the Amazons, who lived there. The name of the city changed throughout history (Ἀμάσεια, Amaseia, Amassia and Amasia) which, among other things, can be traced to ancient Greek and ancient Roman coins, and Ἀμασία (Old Ottoman: Amasija) and the Turkish name Amasya. According to archaeological finds and written documents, the area of Amasya was first inhabited by the Hittites (Hittites, around 1600 BC), and then by the Phrygians (1200-700 BC), the Cimmerians (around 1000 BC), and the Lydians (1200-546 BC), Persians (550-330 BC) and Armenians (95-65 BC).



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 Turkiye (The places the author visited (the European part of Turkiye) are marked with red squares, and the places the author visited (the Asian part of Turkiye) with yellow squares

After the conquest of Alexander the Great (356-323 BC), the independent Pontic Kingdom was founded (281 BC) on the territory of today's Amasya, when the Greek population moved there en masse. The Roman general Luculus (Lucius Licinius Lucullus, 118-56 BC) conquered Amasya in 70 BC when it was given the status of a free city and became the seat of Pompey's new province of Bithynia and Pontus. In the 2nd century BC, Amasya was part of the Roman province of Galatia, in the district of Pontus Galaticus. The Roman Emperor Trajan (Caesar Nerva Traianus Divi Nervae filius Augustus, 53-117) included the Amasya area (112) in the province of Cappadocia. After the division of the Roman Empire (395), Amasya became part of Byzantium. At that time, a population of mostly Greek origin lived there. In that period, famous Christian figures lived in Amasya, Saint Theodore Tiron (Greek: (Ἅγιος) Θεόδωρος Ἀμασειάς, ?-306) and Asterius of Amasa (Greek: Αστέριος Ἀμασειάς, 350-410). After 700 years, the Byzantine rule in the area of Amasya ended (1075) when this area was conquered by Turkmen emirs (Turkmen Danishmend emirs), when Amasya became the seat of their administration. The city was then conquered by the leader of the Seljuk tribe, Kiliç Arslan II (1113-1192). During the administration of the Seljuks and Ilhanids, Amasya became the center of Islamic culture (when numerous mosques, madrasahs and other important buildings were built) where some famous personalities lived and worked, among them Yaqut al-Musta'simi (1221-1298), calligrapher and personal secretary of Al-Musta'sim Billah (1213-1258), the last Abbasid caliph. Sultan Bayazid I (1360-

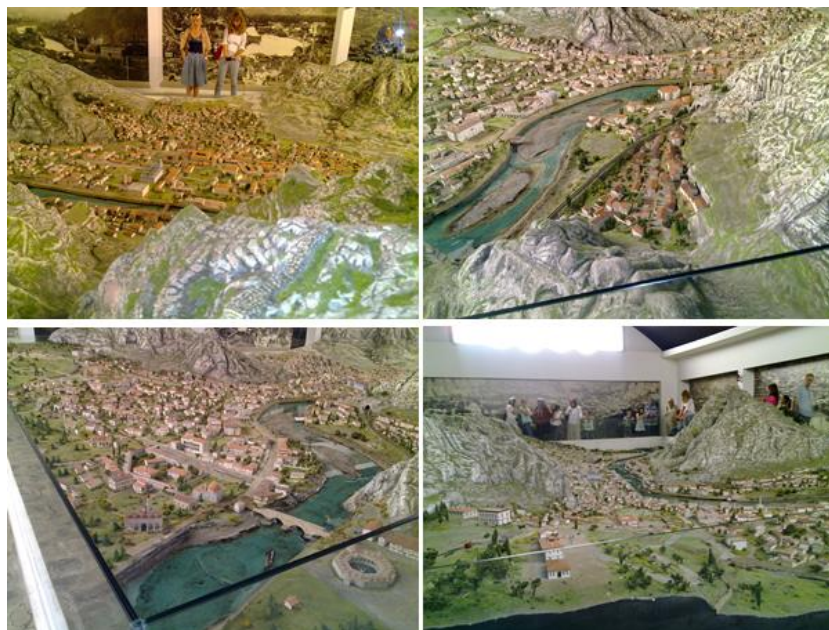
1403) included Amasya in the Ottoman Empire when it became a center for growing up and educating the children of Ottoman rulers [8], where they were its administrators, until Sultan Murat III (1546-1595). The princes (Şehzade), the future sultans of the Ottoman Empire, learned in Amasya, among other things, details about the nations that were part of the Ottoman Empire. In addition, almost all the peoples of the Empire had their settlements (villages) in Amasya (among other villages, there was also a Bosnian village). During the time of the Young Turks (1914), near the end of the Ottoman Empire, the Greeks were expelled from Amasya and its surroundings, and Muslims from other parts of the Empire, including Kosovo, were settled on their estates. Amasya was the place where Mustafa Kemal Pasha Atatürk (1881-1938) held (1919) a series of meetings with his closest associates where the future, modern Republic of Turkiye was projected and the war for its independence was announced. Thanks to its rich cultural heritage, Amasya is today a city of tourism. Tourism, especially in the summer months, is one of the main generators of the life of the population of Amasya, which connects many economic activities, from agriculture to the hotel industry. The city is connected to Sivas and Samsun by railway, and its railway station, built in 1927, is an architectural work that belongs to the historical heritage. Near the city (41 km northwest) is the airport "Merzifon-Amasya Airport" (formerly exclusively military), which since 2008 is also used for civilian flights. Amasya has daily flights to Istanbul.



Source: Google Earth. Accessed: August 7, 2024

Fig 2: Amasya. Location





Source: Author (July 13, 2012)

Fig 3: Model of the Amasya city in the municipality building (Belediye) of Amasya

2. Natural resources and sights

The Amasya city is located in a narrow, rocky, valley of the Yeşilirmak (Iris) River. However, this valley continues to a fertile valley irrigated by the Tersakan, Çekerek and Yeşilirmak ("Green River") rivers. This valley, together with the slopes of the Canik and Pontus mountains with exposure to the Black Sea, was the basis for rich agriculture (farming and fruit growing). Cereals, various vegetables (beans, lentils, onions, okra) and industrial plants (sunflower, soybeans) are grown here. The Amasya province is particularly famous for the production of quality apples, cherries and peaches.

Amasya has a hot Mediterranean climate (type Csa, according to the Köppen climate classification) which is a transitional form between an oceanic climate (the Black Sea area) and a continental climate (central Anatolia). The narrow basin of the Yeşilirmak River is of great importance for local

climate moderation. The highest temperature recorded so far is 45 °C (in June), and the lowest temperature recorded so far is -21 °C (in January) ^[9]. In addition to agriculture (Figures 4,5,6), other economic activities are represented in Amasya: mining (coal lignite), production of cement and building materials (brick, lime, decorative and building stone - Amasya is the second largest exporter of marble in Türkiye), textile industry, production of electrical machines (for agriculture and wood processing), production of household appliances, food processing industry (milk processing and production of dairy products, production of sunflower oil, milling, sugar production), production of various plastic products.

The great natural wealth of the city of Amasya is Borabay Lake, located in Taşova district, about 65 km northeast of the city (Figure 4). The lake is attractive for fishermen (it is especially rich in trout), sportsmen and recreational people.



Source:

<https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipOSBKmJboYzjRqp89R4RAGOWvgDrIVFycci0e8=h1440>, Accessed: July 16, 2024

Fig 4: Borabay Lake



Source: Author (July 14, 2012)

Fig 5: Vast fertile fields in the vicinity of Amasya

The Yedikir artificial water reservoir and a large number of thermal springs are well-known picnic spots for the residents

of Amasya (Figure 6).



Source: <http://dogalhayat.org/property/adi-yedikir/>, Accessed: July 15, 2024

Fig 6: Artificial water reservoir Yedikir

There are a number of thermal springs in the vicinity of Amasya: Terziköy in the province of Gözlek and Hamamözü

(Arkut Bey), (Figure 7).



Terziköy



Source: <https://www.tatilbudur.com/fimar-lifethermal-resort>, Accessed: July 15, 2024

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zt1P7czRM08>, Accessed: July 15, 2024

Fig 7: Hamamözü (Arkut Bey)

3. Architectural cultural and historical heritage

Many nations built Amasya and incorporated their culture into it, and it was refined by many learned people. One of the most moving stories about love is related to Amasija - the legend of the young man Ferhat and his girlfriend Şirin. This legend, which has a tragic end for two lovers, is to this day the inspiration of many Turkish artists, from different fields of artistic creativity: the dramatic play (Ferhad ile Şirin, 1948) by Nazim Hikmet (1902-1963), the novel (Ferhad ile Şirin, 1965) by Talip Apaydına (1926-2014), ballet (Legenda o lûbva/Legen a ljubva, 1961) by the Azerbaijani composer Arif Melikov (1933-)...

The Tombs of the Kings of Pontus (Turkish: Kral Kaya Mezarları) is a unique necropolis of tombs carved into the

living rock of Mount Harşena, 272 m above the bed of the Yeşilırmak River in Amasya. The tombs date back to the time of King Mithridates I Ctistes (Greek: Μιθριδάτης Κτίστης, ruled 281-266 BC) who founded the Kingdom of Pontus and the city of Amasia as its center. Because of these tombs, this part of the Yeşilırmak river valley is also called the "Valley of the Kings". In this complex are the tombs of five kings: Mithridates I (died 266 BC), Ariobarzanes (died 250 BC), Mithridates II (died around 210 BC), Mithridates III (died 190 BC) and Pharnaces I. (died about 155 BC). In addition to the king's tombs, there are nine more tombs in the Amasya fortress, and a total of 21 tombs in the entire area of the city. These tombs were included (April 13, 2014) in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List (Figure 8).



Source: Author (July 10-14, 2012)

Source: <http://ttnotes.com/arykanda.html>, Accessed: July 15, 2024

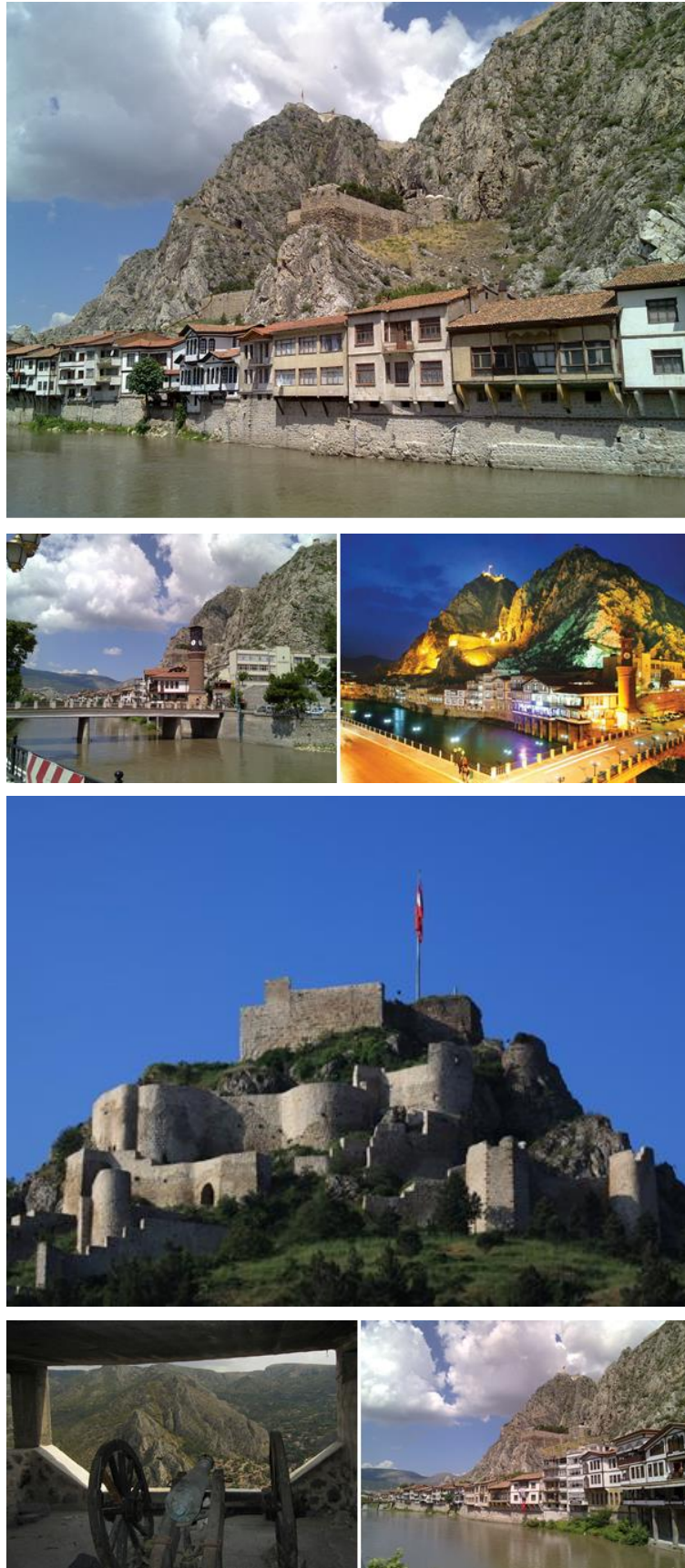
Fig 8: Tombs of the kings of Pontus

Amasya Fortress (Turkish: Amasya Kalesi) is located on the steep rock of Mount Harşene, north of Amasya and Yeşilirmak River. Archaeological finds link the construction of this fortress to Mithridates I Ctistes, king of Pontus, who ruled 281-266 BC. Since then, the fort has been attacked, destroyed, rebuilt and expanded during its long history, from its construction, through the reign of the Persians, the Pontic period, the ancient Romans and the Byzantines. The fortress was rebuilt after it was captured from Byzantium (1075) by the Turkmen emirs, and then it was taken over by the Seljuks under the leadership of Kiliç Arslan II (1113-1192). The fortress was conquered by the Ottoman sultan Bayazıt I

(1360-1403) when Amasya became part of the Ottoman Empire. The fortress was in military use until the 18th century, when it lost its military significance and was abandoned.

The fortress was built so that it has eight levels (rings) of defense. In the middle of the fortress is the "Cilanbolu" rock, carved into it is a gallery with a staircase (181 m long and 8 m in diameter) that leads to the entrance at the foot of the fortress. On the southern slope are the ruins of the Kızlar Sarayı (Maidens' Palace), which was used during the Ottoman period. A mosque, dungeons, a cistern for collecting water and a well were built within the fortress. The fortress

had four access gates (Helkis, Saray, Maydonos and Meydan), (Figure 9).



Source: Author (July 10-14, 2012)

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amasya_Castle, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Source: <http://wineviews.info/amasya-castle-amasya/>, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Amasya-Castle-03.JPG>, Accessed: July 15, 2024

Fig 9: Amasya fortress

The Ferhat Water Canal (Turkish: Ferhat Su Kanalı) was built in the Hellenistic era to transport water from the surrounding mountains to the city. The canal is 18 km long and about 75 cm wide. The channel is carved in living rock, and represents a major undertaking. Just as the construction of great works,

such as this canal, are accompanied by folk legends, so the construction of this canal was accompanied by a legend about the love of the young man Ferhat and the girl Şirin (Figure 10).



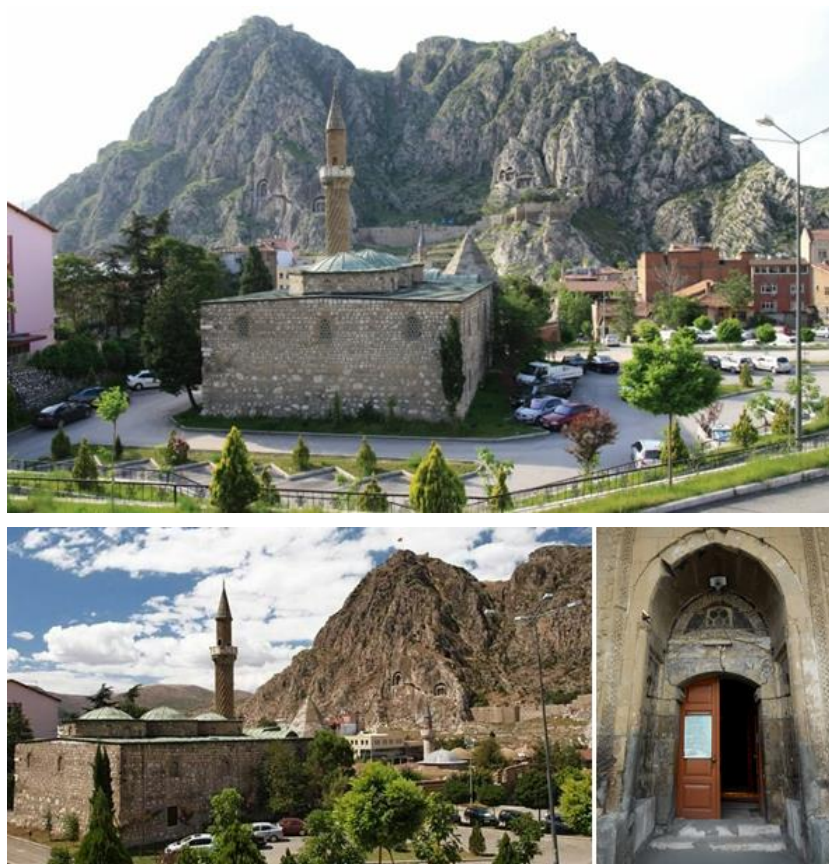
Source: <http://www.resimler.tv/resim160.htm>, Accessed: July 15, 2024

Source: <http://www.amasyakulturturizm.gov.tr/yazdir?0F5EB5CC4EC6FF87D65D7C3625BF4FB6>, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Fig 10: The Ferhat Water Canal (Turkish: Ferhat Su Kanalı)

The Seljuk Burmalı Mosque (Turkish: Burmalı Camii) is a Seljuk ulu-mosque built (1237) by Gıyaseddin Keyhüsrev II (Ghiyāth ad-Dīn Kaykhusraw bin Kayqubād, 1221-1246), ruler of Anatolia, in Amasya. The name 'burmalı' comes from the spiral grooves on the minaret. The mosque is located near

Bakırcılar Çarşısı. The mosque is a typical Seljuk construction of an ulu-mosque, which, unlike later Ottoman mosques, has several smaller domes (here three) that cover the main prayer area, instead of one dome with a larger span (Figure 11).





Source: <https://ar.pinterest.com/pin/863706034758719034/>, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Source: <https://www.nenerede.com.tr/ilan/burmaliminare-cami-2/>, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Source: https://archnet.org/sites/17963/media_contents/127718, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Fig 11: The Seljuk Burmalı Mosque (Turkish: Burmalı Camii)

Gök Medreset (Turkish: Gökmedrese Camii) is a madrasat and mosque, built in 1278 in Amasya. In the madrasat-mosque complex there is a Torumtay turbe (Torumtay Türbesi). This madrasat-mosque is believed to have been built by Sayf al-Din Turumtay, a military commander

(beylerbey) during the reign of Seljuk Sultan Kaykhusraw III (1265-1282). The name 'Gök' (with the meaning 'blue') originates from the use of blue ceramic tiles in the decoration of the building, that is, in the meaning "heavens", since the blue color suggests the color of the sky (Figure 12).



Source: <https://archnet.org/sites/1869>, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Source: <http://www.gateofturkey.com/section/en/611/7/culture-and-art-architecture-anatolianseljuk-architecture>, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Fig 12: Gök Medrese (Turkish: Gökmedrese Camii)

Bimarhane Mental Hospital (Turkish: Bimarhane/Darüşşifa) was built (1308-1309) in Amasya. The hospital was built by Anber Bin Abdullah on behalf of Ilhanlıt ruler Sultan Mehmet Olcayta (1280 - 1316) and his wife Uduz Hatun. The

entrance portal is a valuable work of art for the complex stone carvings. This is the first hospital in Seljuk and Ottoman history where music was used to treat people (Figure 13).





Source: Author (July 10-14, 2012)

Fig 13: Bimarhane Mental Hospital (Turkish: Bimarhane/Darüşşifa)

İstasyon Bridge (Turkish: İstasyon Köprüsü (meaning 'cell bridge') is a historical construction-bridge in Amasya built (1360-1382) across the Yeşilırmak river. The bridge was built by Sadgeldi, the governor of Amasya (1360-1382). The

bridge was partially damaged in a flood (1824) and an earthquake (1825). It was rebuilt (1828) by Haji Yusuf, the then ayan (governor) of Amasye (Figure 14).



Source: Author (July 14, 2012)

Fig 14: İstasyon Bridge (Turkish: İstasyon Köprüsü)

A large number of hammams were built in Amasya, some dating back to the Seljuk era. Mustafa Bey Hamam was built (1436) by Mustafa Bey, son of Yörgüç Pasha. The hammam

has two separate units, for men and women, each covered by a dome (Figure 15).



Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/sinandogan/35537873964>, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

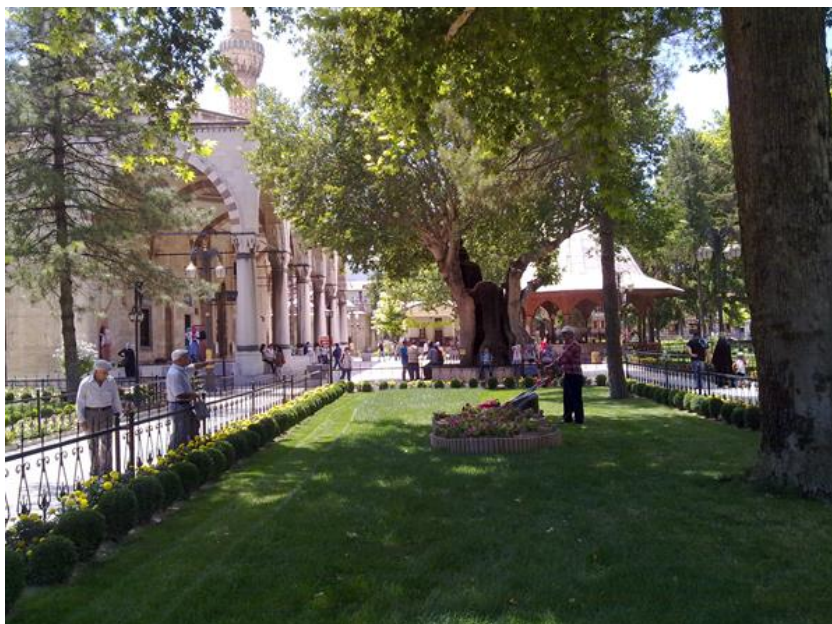
Source: Author (July 10-14, 2012)

Fig 15: Mustafa Bey Hamam

Sultan Bayazit II Mosque (Turkish: Sultan Bayezid II Camii) was built (1486) by Sultan Bayazit II (1447-1512). The mosque is the central building of the complex (Küllüye), in which, in addition to the mosque, there is a madrasa, a library, an imaret and a huge fountain in its spacious courtyard. The

central prayer area of the mosque is covered by two domes, and its entrance porch is covered by five domes. The floor plan of the mosque has the shape of an inverted letter "T", which is a characteristic of mosques known as the "Bursa-mosque" type (Figure 16).







https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/LocationPhotoDirectLink-g1600795-d3688995-i255669009-Sultan_II_Beyazit_Mosque_Theological_Collection-Amasya_Amasya_Province.html
Source: Author (July 10-14, 2012)

Fig 16: Sultan Bayazit II Mosque (Turkish: Sultan Bayezid II Camii)

Pir İlyas tomb (Turkish: Pir Sücaediin İlyas Türbesi) is located in Pirlar Park. It was built (1486) by Gümüşlüzade Ahmet Bey for Şeyh Sücaeddin Pir İlyasa from the Gümüşlüzade family (Figure 17). In addition to the grave of

Pir İlyas, the turbet contains the graves of his friends (Pir Celaledin Abdurrahman and Pir Hayreddin Khidr Çelebi) and the graves of their family members ^[10].



Source: <http://ozenliforum.com/archive/index.php/thread-922-4.html>, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Fig 17: Pir İlyas tomb (Turkish: Pir Sücaediin İlyas Türbesi)

The Kapi Aga Madrase or Büyük Ağa Madrase (Turkish: Kapı Ağa (Büyük Ağa) Medresesi) was built (1488) by Kapı Ağası Hüseyin Ağa, chief eunuch in the harem of Sultan Bayazit II (1447-1512). The madrasa basically has the shape of a regular octagon, and it is made up of student rooms (each

covered by a small dome) arranged according to the contour of the octagon, forming a central courtyard with a fountain in its center. The largest room served as a lecture room (dershana), and later, until recently, as a hall for learning hifz (Quran, by heart), (Figure 18).



Source: http://www.karadenizrehberi.net/firma/detay/91/buyuk_aga_medresesi_amasya.html, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Source: [http://www.karadenizrehberi.net/firma/detay/91/buyuk_aga_medresesi_amasya.html#prettyPhoto\[gallery2\]/4/](http://www.karadenizrehberi.net/firma/detay/91/buyuk_aga_medresesi_amasya.html#prettyPhoto[gallery2]/4/), Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Source: <https://okuryazarim.com/klasik-osmanlidonemi-mimari-planlari/>, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Fig 18: The Kapi Ağa Madrase or Büyük Ağa Madrase (Turkish: Kapı Ağa (Büyük Ağa) Medresesi)

The Kumacık hamam was built in 1495 in the Bayezidpaşa settlement, near the Künc Köprü bridge. The domes were

originally covered with limestone slabs, and today they are covered with ceramic tiles (Figure 19).



Source: http://www.mustafacambaz.com/details.php?image_id=29590&sessionid=5b489b469aabb, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Source: <http://hamamlar.com/amasya-kumacikhamami.html>, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Fig 19: The Kumacık hamam

Yıldız Hamam (also known as Bülbül Hatun Hamam and Çukur Hamam) was built (1510) by the wife of Sultan Bayazıt II (1447-1512), Bülbül Hatun. On the site of this

hammam there was also a hammam in the Seljuk era, so it is assumed that the Yıldız hamam is a renovated Seljuk hammam (Figure 20).



Source: <http://hamamlar.com/amasya-yildiz-hamami-2.html>, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Source: http://www.mustafacambaz.com/details.php?image_id=10843, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Fig 20: Yıldız Hamam (also known as Bülbül Hatun Hamam and Çukur Hamam)

The Pasha Hamam was built (1678) by Sadrazam Karamustafa Pasha in the Merzifon district. This hamam is

considered one of the most valuable examples of Ottoman architecture (Figure 21).



Source: <http://tarihipasahamami.com/iletisim.html>, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Source: <http://tarihipasahamami.com/>, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Fig 21: The Pasha Hamam

Altuntaş Hamam (Upper Hamam) was built in the 17th

century from finely carved stone (Figure 22).



Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/1492729397678868/photos/a.1493125527639255/1757918937826578/?type=1&theater> Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Fig 22: Altuntaş Hamam (Upper Hamam)

Villa Hazeranlar (Turkish: Hazeranlar Konağı) is a villa in Amasya built in 1865. This is one of a series of rich houses that were built in the Ottoman era right next to the right bank of the Yeşilirmak River. The villa was remodeled (1984) into

an Ethnographic Museum ("Museum House"). The villa was built by Hasan Talat, the treasurer of the then governor of Amasya, Ziya Pasha ^[11] (Figure 23).



Source: Author (July 13, 2012)

Fig 23: Villa Hazeranlar (Turkish: Hazeranlar Konağı)

The Amasya Archaeological Museum (Turkish: Amasya Arkeoloji Müzesi) is a national museum in Amasya that exhibits archaeological artifacts from the region and ethnographic objects that testify to the rich cultural tradition

of this region. The museum has about 24,000 exhibits that testify to the culture of eleven historical civilizations that achieved it in this area. The museum was founded in 1958, and was arranged in a new building in 1980 (Figure 24).



Source: <http://www.amasya.bel.tr/icerik/472/1584/amasya-arkeoloji-muzesi.aspx>, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Source: <https://www.evrensel.net/haber/319966/18-mayista-muzeler-geceye-kadar-acik>, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Fig 24: The Amasya Archaeological Museum (Turkish: Amasya Arkeoloji Müzesi)

The Clock Tower (Turkish: Saat Kulesi) is located next to the Amasyje Municipality office. The clock tower was built (1861) by Ziya Pasha. The tower was demolished during the

construction (1940) of a new bridge, and was rebuilt in 2002. Given its location, the Clock Tower has become a genius loci for the residents of Amasya (Figure 25).



Source: Author (July 13, 2012)

Fig 25: The Clock Tower (Turkish: Saat Kulesi)

The Museum of National Struggles in the Saraydüzü Barracks (Turkish: Saraydüzü Kışla Binası Milli Mücadele Müzesi) is the building where Mustafa Kemal Pasha Atatürk and his comrades founded (June 12, 1919) the sovereign Republic of Türkiye. The building where this historical event

took place was remodeled into the Museum of National Struggles, which was opened on June 12, 2009, on the 90th anniversary of the declaration of Turkish independence ^[12] (Figure 26).





Source: <http://www.amasya.bel.tr/icerik/473/1582/sarayduzu-kisla-binası-milli-mucadelemuzesi.aspx>, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Source: <http://www.amasyakulturturizm.gov.tr/TR,59514/sarayduzu-kisla-binası-milli-mucadelemuzesi-ve-kongre-.html>
Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Fig 26: The Museum of National Struggles in the Saraydüzü Barracks (Turkish: Saraydüzü Kışla Binası Milli Mücadele Müzesi)

Amasya railway station (geographic coordinates: 40°39'15.70"N, 35°48'50.93"E, elevation: 398 m) west of the Yeşilirmak river. It was built in 1927. It is located on the main

railway line that connects Samsun (north) with Sivas (south). The main passenger train service is the Samsun-Amasya regional line (Figure 27).



Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0b/Amasya_train_station.jpg,
Accessed: July 16, 2024.

Amasya University (Turkish: Amasya Üniversitesi) was founded in 2006. The history of this university began (1975) when the Ministry of Education of Turkey founded in

Fig 27: Amasya railway station

Amasya a teacher training institution and a vocational school. With the establishment of the Education Council (1982) in Amasya, these two schools became a unit of Ondokuz Mayıs University in Samsun. In the school year 2011-2012. In 2008, this university had five faculties covering the fields of education, science, art, architecture, technology and

medicine, one health vocational school, five vocational schools and two institutes. This university has international cooperation agreements with other universities in the world, and through the Farabi student exchange program in Turkey (Figure 28).



Source: <https://www.nenerede.com.tr/ilan/amasyasabuncuoglu-serfeddin-eah/>, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Fig 28: Amasya University (Turkish: Amasya Üniversitesi)

Amasya-Merzifon Airport (Turkish: Amasya-Merzifon Havaalanı) is a military airport located in Merzifon near Amasya. It has been open for civilian flights since 2008.

There is one flight with Istanbul (if necessary, more flights) per day, in both directions (Figure 29).



Source: <https://www.dhmi.gov.tr/Sayfalar/Havalimani/Merzifon/AnaSayfa.aspx>, Accessed: July 16, 2024.

Fig 29: Amasya-Merzifon Airport (Turkish: Amasya-Merzifon Havaalanı)

The monument 'Ferhat and Şirin' (Turkish: Ferhat ile Şirin Heykeli) was erected (2012) on a rocky hill in Amasya, which is dedicated to the legend of the love between Ferhat and Şirin. The statues are 5 m high. The Legend of Ferhat and Şirin is the Anatolian version of Khosrow and Shirin, the famous tragic story of the Persian poet Nizami Ganjavi (Jamal ad-Dīn Abū Muḥammad Ilyās ibn-Yūsuf ibn-Zakkī, 1141-1209) which tells about the young muralist Ferhat (a painter of decorations on palace walls), who falls in love with Princess Shirin (Şirin), the sister of Mehmene Bana, the ruler of Amasya. Ferhat asks the queen to bless the marriage

between him and her sister Şirin. In order to allow this, the ruler asks that Ferhat bring water to the city by digging a tunnel, from the water source in the nearby mountain to the city. Ferhat digs through the rock with an iron bar and makes progress in his work. When the ruler realized that Ferhat was really going to dig the tunnel, she sent her messenger (witch) to Ferhat to tell him that Şirin had died. Ferhat, hearing this news, throws his iron rod in the air and falls down the rock. When Şirin heard the news about the tragedy of Ferhat, she went to the same rock and threw herself down^[13] (Figure 30).



Source: <https://www.shutterstock.com/search/farhad+and+shirin>, Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Source: https://ru.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%A4%D0%B0%D0%B9%D0%BB:Ferhat_ile_%C5%9Eirin,_Amasya.jpg Accessed: July 15, 2024.

Fig 30: The monument 'Ferhat and Şirin' (Turkish: Ferhat ile Şirin Heykeli)

4. Conclusion

The author's visits to Türkiye were numerous. They mostly related to visits to Istanbul, but also to cities in the Asian part of Türkiye. Apart from Istanbul, which is located in both the European and Asian parts of Türkiye, the author visited the city of Çanakkale, which, like Istanbul, was developed in both the European and Asian parts of Türkiye. The visits had different reasons: the visits to Yıldız Technical University, Karadeniz Technical University, Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa University, for example, took place within the framework of the 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 Amasya city took place as part of the "Summer School, June 20 - July

17, 2012". The modern Republic of Türkiye is a geographical area on which rich layers of material culture have been "stacked" (and preserved), from the earliest prehistory to the present day. It is safe to say that 'Türkiye is the world's museum of culture'. Professors from Türkiye 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 acquired at 'their faculties', to their own benefit and to the benefit of the new generations that they will teach.

5. References

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