



Designing Ottoman Prisons in the 19th Century: Ankara Central Prison Projects

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ABSTRACT

History of prison reform and the changing prison architecture in the 19th century Ottoman Empire is a newly discovered area of study. Prison projects, prepared to be built in many provinces in Anatolia, needs to be explored in order to understand the effect of the transformation initiated by the general reforms implemented in the empire on the Ottoman architectural world. The aim of this paper is to shed light on previously unrevealed prison projects through the case of Ankara Central Prison to better understand the architectural development in the 19th century Ottoman Empire. Within the scope of this article, three projects created for Ankara Central Prison will be analyzed through their spatial developments in the context of penal system reforms throughout the Empire.

Keywords: History of prison architecture, Radial prisons, Ottoman Architecture, 19th century, Ankara Central Prison, Abdülhamid II.

INTRODUCTION

Background

Prisons used until the beginning of the 19th century in the Ottoman Empire that are called "*mahbes*" are referred to in Persian as "*zindan*" (dungeons), which means 'appalling, troubling and dark.' Such places, referred to as *mahbes*, were temporary places, which were basement floors of bastions, shipyards, administrative buildings or residences of leading people of the cities, or basements of khans until the Tanzimat Era (Ottoman Reform Movement between 1839 and 1876). Neither were these spaces designed as places where restrictive punishments were imposed, nor were prison sentences carried out as the main method of punishment during this period (Bozkaya, 2014; Sunay, 2018; Şen 2007).

Prison sentences as the main restrictive method of punishment in the Ottoman Empire were first imposed after the Tanzimat reforms. Following this reform movement, the first prison was formed in 1831 under the name of "*Hapishane-i Umumi*" (Central Prison) in a part of Ibrahim Pasha Palace in Istanbul. Laws were enacted in 1840, 1851 and 1858, beginning in 1838, as part of the prison reform movement. Thus, the term "imprisonments" entered the Ottoman law as a type of punishment. The change made in penal laws inevitably brought up the transformation of prison buildings. This comprehensive reform movement become a major effort to build the 'orderly and excellent' central prisons that were intended to be built throughout the Ottoman lands, starting in particular during the reign of Abdülhamid II (r. 1876-1908). The spatial and administrative conditions that must be observed in the newly constructed central prisons were specified, particularly, in the 97-article decree issued by Abdülhamid II in 1880 (Yıldız, 2012). This decree specified commitments such as the separation of prisoners on the basis of their crimes, the choice of a cell system rather than large wards, the establishment of day-time activity spaces, the establishment of separate wards for children and female prisoners, the allocation of separate spaces for treatment and



worship of the prisoners, and compliance with the necessary hygiene, lighting and ventilation requirements in all places (Yıldız, 2012).

Over the past 10 years, historian Gültekin Yıldız's (Yıldız, 2012) and Ufuk Adak's (Adak, 2015 and 2017) researches on the prison reform and the prisons that Abdülhamid II wanted to build as a reflection of the reform, is crucial in understanding this topic. But the 19th century Ottoman Prisons are an area of study which has just started to be researched in the field of architectural history. Although studies have been conducted on isolated prison examples, 115 prison projects identified in Selahaddin Sezer's thesis (Sezer, 2020) are important filling the gaps in this field. The 3 projects created for 'Ankara Central Prison' being the subject of this article are among the projects obtained from the Directorate of State, Ottoman Archives (hereinafter DABOA) within the scope of that thesis. However, the highlight of this study will be the 1916 prison project with the radial layout, which will be published for the first time in this article, in terms of bringing a new perspective to Ottoman prison architecture review studies.

Understanding the Changes in Penalties Imposed and Venues of Penalty in the Ottoman Empire

In the Ottoman Empire, Islamic law forms the basis of criminal law. In Islamic criminal law, penalties are divided into three: *had* (extremity), *kisas* (talion) and *tazir* (offenses which the Qur'an or the Hadith suggests no punishment for). The punishments that Sharia determine are referred to as *had* penalties. *Kisas* penalties can be described as punishments in return or retaliation for the crime committed. Punishments given as a *tazir* are those imposed where the crime committed by a person has no corresponding action under the Sharia law. Sharia rules were the basis of the Ottoman classical period penalties. However, penalties issued and shaped in accordance with the principles of customs were imposed for crimes that were called *tazir* and not included in Sharia law. This occasionally led to the emergence of penalties that contradict Islamic law. In the criminal law of the Ottoman Empire, the rules of Sharia law and customary law were in effect until the declaration of Tanzimat. In Sharia law, it is understood that "everyone is innocent unless proven guilty;" however, in customary law, this understanding is interpreted as "anyone is guilty unless they prove their innocence" (Bozkaya, 2014; Demiryürek, 2019; Şen, 2007; Yakut, 2006).

Considering the penalties issued in Islamic law, it is seen that the penalties are punishments for the body, and those who commit crimes are temporarily kept closed until their sentence is determined or until they pay their debts. It is obvious that such places where criminals are temporarily kept are not places in which prison sentences are imposed. The lack of punishments restricting freedom in Islamic law prevents such facilities from being described as prisons. However, in *tazir* sentences found in the customary law, criminal people are imprisoned. The severity and nature of crimes committed determine the shape of the prison sentence when imposing sentences on people who are to be given *tazir* sentences by the sultan or the officers appointed by him (Demirbaş, 2018; Demiryürek, 2019).

In the Ottoman Empire, criminal people were forced to work as rowers on a ship from the 16th century onwards, and in the 18th century, they were imprisoned in a fortress. Moreover, another method of punishment, which began to be implemented in the 16th century and continued until the final days of the empire, was fettering. Due to these penalties, it can be said that there were some sorts of prison and exile sentences in the Ottoman Empire. The most common punishment methods in the Ottoman Empire were beatings, exposures to public scorn, exiles and death sentences in the Classical Period (between 16th and 18th centuries). Apart from these, other penalties included shop closures, fines, *kisas* penalties, confiscation of properties, ransoms and shackles. The maximum penalty imposed in these sentences was the death penalty. The death penalty—which was carried out in the understanding of punishment as a warning or a deterrent to others—was carried out in a public square or in the place where the prisoner



committed the crime. The Ottoman dungeons were other places where death penalties were imposed.

With the Tanzimat Edict declared in the Ottoman Empire on November 3, 1839, it was decided that the penal execution system would be egalitarian and that "everyone, including non-Muslims, should be equal before the law." After the declaration of Tanzimat, with the criminal laws dated 1840, 1851 and 1858, prison sentences restricting freedom were considered and imposed as the main method of punishment. In 1840, the first penalty law "*Ceza Kanunname-i Hümayunu*" was enacted. This law can be considered as the beginning of the thought that "no crime and penalty without a law" was put into force (Şen, 2007). In order to address the shortcomings of this law dated 1840, a new penal code was issued in 1851. This new law included the following provisions: Severely ill prisoners are released on bail until they are healed, and food and clothing needs of prisoners who are not financially well-off are met by the empire. With the penal code, which was later passed in 1858, imprisonment in a fortress, serving as a rower on a ship and prison sentences were accepted to be penalties restricting freedom (Şen, 2007; Yıldız, 2012; Yıldıztaş, 1997).

The prison reform movement, which gained a great deal of momentum with the accession of Abdülhamid II, continued with the "*Tevkifhane ve Hapishanelerin Dahili İdareleri*" (Internal Management of Detention Houses and Prisons) decree issued in 1880. This new 97-article decree set the standards of prisoners as well as categorizing prisons into three, as detention houses, prisons, and public prisons. It was decided, again in this decree, that a detention house and a prison would be built in each district, county and province, and additionally, "*hapishane-i umumi*" (central prisons) would be built in appropriate locations for prisoners serving as rowers on a ship who had more than five years of sentence. It was stipulated in the decree that prisoners should be separated on the basis of their crimes and that there should be separate wards for children and female prisoners. Moreover, the 1880 decree included regulations on the duties of prison officers, activity areas and wards, places of worship, and rules on prisons, food and beverages (Ata, 2016; Demirbaş, 2018; Yıldız, 2012).

By 1909, the desired reforms could still not be implemented, and the issue of prisons was still on the agenda as a problem. At this time, the Chamber of Deputies of the Ottoman Empire allowed the establishment of the "*Hapishaneler İdaresi*" (Administration of Prisons). This administration called the "*Mebani-i Emiriye ve Hapishaneler İdaresi*" (Administration of Public Buildings and Prisons) would be affiliated to the "*Dahiliye Nezareti*" (Ministry of the Interior) and it would cover a wide range of responsibilities, from the repair, construction, reclamation of all prisons to convicts' and prisoners' clothing, food supply, and civil servant salaries (Avcı, 2016; Şen, 2007; Yıldız, 2012).

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Ankara Central Prison Project Proposals in the 19th Century

One of the prisons that was transformed as part of the criminal reform in the 19th century is in Ankara province. It was accepted towards the end of the 19th century that in order to meet the spatial needs required by the law, repairs of the structures used as prisons would not be sufficient and that it was necessary to implement new prison projects. And thus, the production of large prison projects began all over the country. A review of the projects created especially by the beginning of the 20th century shows that standardized prison models that were intended to be built in every location across the country had been designed (Sezer, 2020). Ankara was one of the provinces where this process of transformation in prison architectures could be witnessed. The earliest of the documents from the Ottoman Archives (DABOA) related to Ankara prisons in the 19th century is the request for repairs from the year 1858, published by Yasemin Avcı (2016). Subsequently, a document numbered DABOA-İ.MVL.534-23980 from 1865 was found, which also included sketches on the repair of a prison in its appendix and which is discussed in the present study (DABOA-İ.MVL.534-23980) (Figure 1). It is understood that, following this

document, a new prison project was put on the agenda in 1897 on the basis of project drawings (Figure 2–3) found in a folder entitled “*Request for information on whether the budget of 1312 (AH) (1895 AD) is sufficient to cover the cost of the newly constructed Ankara Prison*” (DABOA-BEO-908-68047). However, a 1912 document pointed out by Avcı (2016) states that the “the submitted plan is not compatible and should be redesigned.” On this basis, it can be seen in a 1916 document entitled “*Since the reconstruction of Ankara Prison, which was formerly in great disrepair, is imperative, a copy of the plan for the construction of the prison has been submitted*” that a third project, which is discussed within the scope of this study (Figure 4–5), was created (DABOA-DH.MB.HPS.39-2).

Halim Demiryürek (2019) claims that, there were two separate prison buildings of the public prison for female and male prisoners in the governor’s office and in the courtyard of the office in Ankara, respectively. He states that while two rooms were spared for female prisoners within the governor’s office, male prisoners were kept in a structure consisting of 2 floors and 12 wards separate from the office (ibid). The 1924 map of Ankara, shared by Günel and Kıncı (2015), also shows that a public prison is among the administrative units located around the governor’s office (Figure 6–7). Thus, it can be said that the correspondences dated 1858 and 1865 referred those two structures that was intended to be repaired.

It is also worth noting the presence of technical reports on the spatial inadequacy of Ankara Prison in the context of the prison reform. Demands in 1861 by the British ambassador Stratford Canning (1786–1880) for improving prisons and the information requested from the local government in accordance with these demands also addressed the inadequacy of Ankara Prison (Yıldız, 2012). Henry Bulwer (1801–1872), another British ambassador who raised the issue of prisons, took the spotlight on Ottoman prisons, as his predecessor, and made some demands, citing the situation in the prisons, but these requests could not be implemented because of the slow functioning Ottoman bureaucracy. A new project prepared by Edmond Stanley (1760–1843) was presented to the Ottoman Foreign Ministry in 1861 by the British embassy. This project, which was accepted, warned local authorities about the rehabilitation of prisons in rural areas and asked for information on existing prisons and prisoners until the prisons were enhanced (Yıldız, 2012). In accordance with this request, the report from Ankara stated that the shackled prisoners in the prison who had committed serious crimes were employed as garbagemen and sweepers during the day, and returned to prison in the evening, that prisoners convicted of theft and serious crimes stayed in the prison in addition to those whose interrogation and trial continued, and that the prison was extremely unprotected due to mud-brick walls and wooden doors. In order to ensure the safety of the prison where many detainees escaped, the necessity of masonry prison buildings and iron doors was reported in the document sent in response to the requested information (Yıldız, 2012).

Restoration Project for the Existing Prison in Ankara

Three different projects were identified in the State Ottoman Archives. The first of these projects is an archival document dated 1865, with the document description “*Renovation of Ankara Prison in need of repair.*” The second archival document is dated 1897 with the document description “*Request for information on whether the budget of 1312 (AH) is sufficient to cover the cost of the newly constructed Ankara Prison.*” The third archival document dated 1916 with the document description “*Since the reconstruction of Ankara Prison, which was formerly in great disrepair, is imperative, a copy of the plan for the construction of the prison has been submitted.*”

The Ankara Prison project, dated 1865, is a single sheet drawing consisting of two plans and a façade drawing (Figure 1) included in the folder numbered DABOA-İ.MVL.534-23980. The plans can be considered to belong to the ground floor and the first floor. Below the entrance facade of the prison’s ground floor plan, the length measure (*tûlî*

zirâ-i) is 40. On the dividing walls within the prison, the measure of width (*arzen zirâ-i*) is 9, and on the outer walls of the prison, it is 12. The phrase "north" written on this facade indicates that the entrance facade is the northern facade. From the facade drawing and other floor plans, it is understood that the two-story building had an open courtyard which had a pool or a fountain in the center. There are six places in total on the right and left of the prison entrance. These rooms are indicated to be police rooms and reserved rooms for other officers (Figure 3). The 3 large wards in the ground floor plan are seen to be separated as per the nature of crimes committed by criminals. Although the lack of other building elements in the ground floor plan, other than the doors, does not let us understand the direction of the façade drawn in the same sheet, it is clear from the facade drawing that the access to the prison's upper floor is through a stairway with a single handrail.

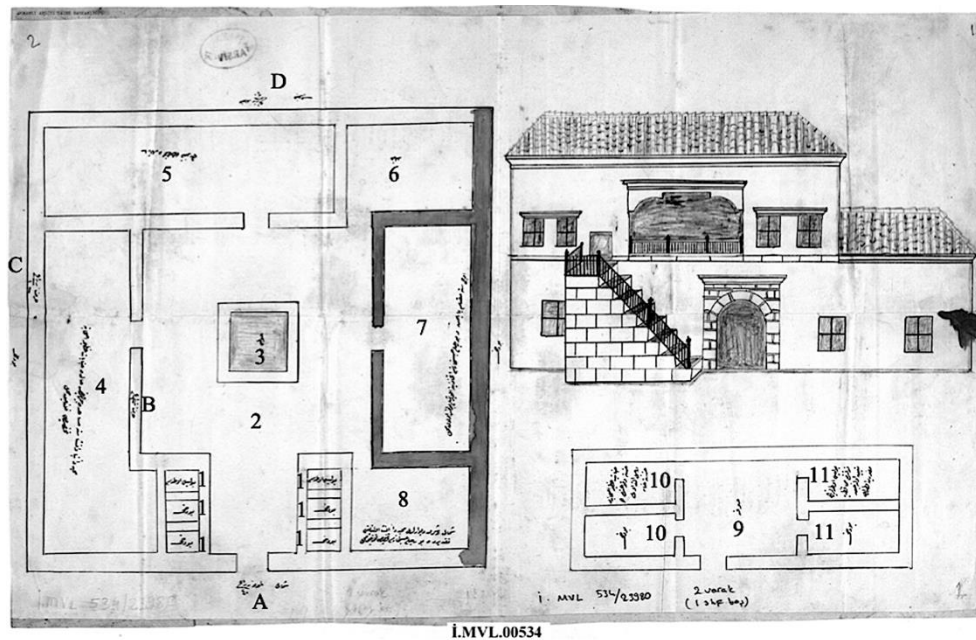


Figure 1. Restoration project for existing Ankara central prison, 1865. Source: DABOA-İ.MVL-534-23980. A. North wall length 40x75 cm., B. inner wall width 9x75 cm C. Outer wall width 12x75 cm., D. South wall length 40x75 cm., 1. Rooms for police and administrative officers, 2. Courtyard, 3. Pool, 4. Wards for murderers, 5. Wards for thieves, 6. Toilets, 7. Security-enhanced ward, 8. Room for custody, 9. Courtyard, 10. Rooms for sick prisoners, 11. Rooms for officers.

Even though there aren't any staircases in the plans, in the façade drawing, a staircase leading to the first floor's courtyard is seen. There is a total of four rooms to the right and left of the upper courtyard. These rooms were identified to be rooms for sick prisoners and wards belonging to prison officers. Building elements such as doors, windows, and jambs can be read clearly on the drawing of the facade. Just like on the ground floor, the first-floor plan contained no details except the doorways. Nevertheless, based on the floor plans and facade drawing, it can be said that there are four windows and a balcony on the right and left of the first-floor entrance. However, it is evident that there are discrepancies between the floor plans and the facade drawings. Sezer's study (2020) shows that there are windows on the facades facing the inner courtyard in the 19th century prison projects, but no window openings are present on the outer facades of buildings. It is evident that this is a precaution to prevent prisoners from escaping. It is conceivable that a similar approach was adapted also in this project. It is seen that this repair project, dated 1865, has no cell or workshop spaces reserved for prisoners as required by the prison reform. Furthermore, the existing prison, which was designed with large wards, does not have separate spaces for female prisoners and juvenile delinquents

either. The only adaptation of the building to the new prison reform can be considered as the separation of the wards according to crimes of prisoners.

Project Proposal for the Newly Constructed Ankara Prison

An 1897 document pointed out by Avcı (2016) mentions that the existing prison is in a very bad condition and that a new prison building is needed. It can be assumed that the project from the same year titled "*Request for Information on Whether the Budget of 1312 (AH) is Sufficient to Cover the Cost of the Newly Constructed Ankara Prison*" in the Ottoman Archives (DABOA) was submitted in response to this need. The drawings of the project mentioned are among the sixteen documents in a folder numbered DABOA-BEO-908-68047. The project, which has two sheets (Figure 2-3) prepared for Ankara Prison, consists of drawings made up of a partial base plan, floor plans, cross-sections and views. However, these two sheets are seen as four sheets in the archive due to the technique the plans were indexed. As much as understood from the facade drawings and floor plans, it can be said that the prison is a two-story building with a three-story inner building in the center and an open courtyard plan. The scale is 1/200 on the sheet that has the prison ground-floor plan. Moreover, "12 November 1895" is written on the left of this sheet.

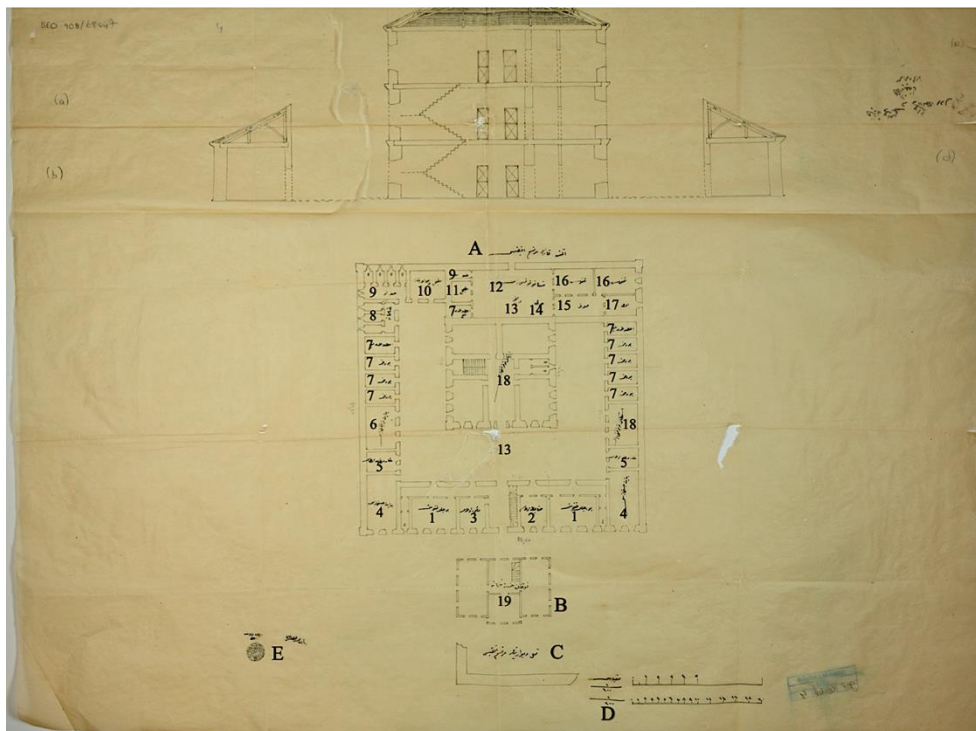


Figure 2. The document prepared for asking available money in the budget of 1895 for the construction of the new Ankara Central Prison, 1897. Source: DABOA-BEO-908-68047. A. Ground Floor Plan: 1. Security-enhanced ward, 2. Room for court recorder, 3. Administrative office, 4. Ward for custody, 5. Room for guard, 6. Isolation Cells, 7. Gasilhane (Room for burial preparation in Muslims), 8. Toilets, 9. Kitchen and Laundry, 10. Kitchen, 11. Prison for women, 12. Garden, 13. Courtyard, 14. Inner courtyard, 15. Ward, 16. Room, 17. Interrogation room, B. Hospital, 18. Rooms for sick prisoners, C. Section of the foundation wall, D. Scale 1/200, E. 12 November 1895.

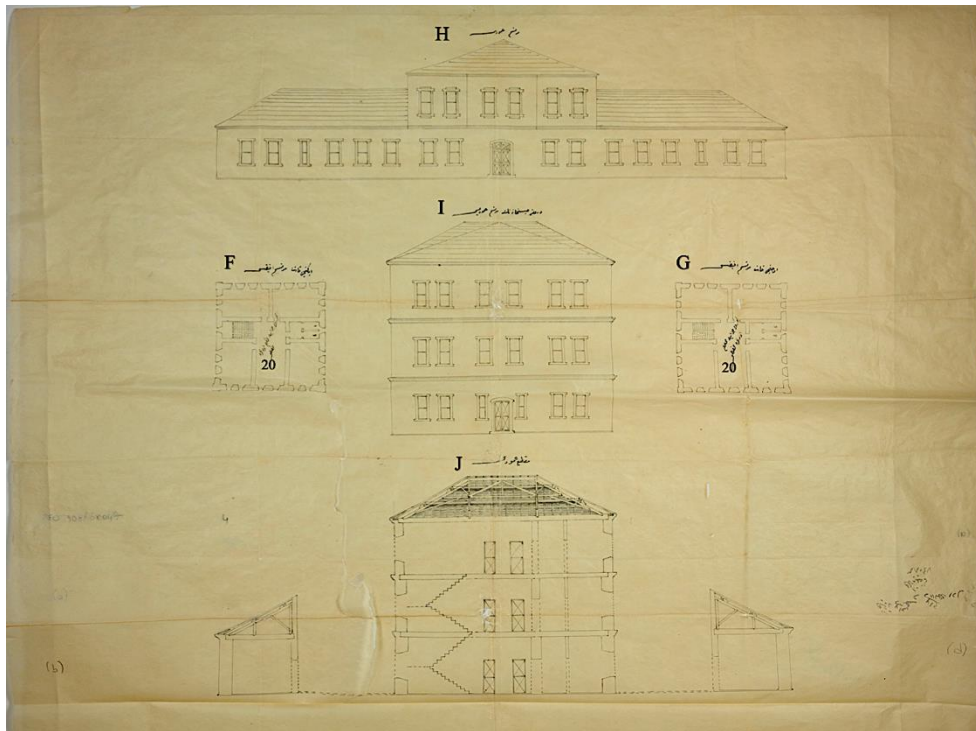


Figure 3. The document prepared for asking available money in the budget of 1895 for the construction of the new Ankara Central Prison, 1897. Source: DABOA-BEO-908-68047. F. Second floor plan of the inner structure, 19. Ward for the prisons convicted for first degree sentences, G. Third floor plan of the inner structure, H. Orthographic projection, I. Façade of the inner structure, J. Section.

In the courtyard of the building, a separate three-floor structure placed. The ground floor of this separate unit is used as an interrogation room, while its upper floors are allocated for prisoners who committed serious crimes. A cross-section through this unit, a facade and upper floor plans are also available among the drawings. From the upper floor plan and the other facade drawing, it is also understood that the part of the structure that can be considered the main entrance is as high as two stories.

While the administrative units and single-prisoner cells are sited on the ground floor of the main structure, the entrance for the units of the female prisoner in the prison is on the backside of the building. The unit of female prisoners is designed as a closed unit with its own courtyard, even though it is a part of the main structure.

The details of the doors, windows, jambs and roof of the prison can be easily read from the facade and section drawings. The windows placed on the facade allow the entrance of natural light and ventilation to the wards. It is understood from the sections of the buildings that the roof was designed as a simple hip roof over some portions of the building, while for other parts it was designed as a porch roof.

The analysis of the new prison project for Ankara shows that the central government aimed to adapt new building to the regulations required by the comprehensive prison reform issued in 1881. For example, single-prisoner cells were considered as a part of the regulation, but because there were very few, wards were also added to the plan. Similarly, a separate women's ward was added, but no space was considered for juvenile delinquents. However, workshops which are important for prisoners to work during the day, were not included the proposed plan for Ankara prison.

Radial Plan Proposal for the Newly Constructed Ankara Prison

Within the scope of the study, there are drawings of a plan and a section consisting of two drawing sheets (Figure 4–5) prepared for Ankara Prison, which are titled “Since the reconstruction of Ankara Prison, which was formerly in great disrepair, is imperative, a copy of the plan for the construction of the prison has been submitted” and are among the eight documents dated 1916 in a folder numbered DABOA-DH.MB.HPS.39-2. Although not specified on the sheet, it can be said based on the plan drawing and the section that the building was planned as a single-story structure. There are also some correspondences between the local government and the central government in the folder. It is understood from these correspondences that the existing prison was in such a bad condition that it could not function, and it was even desirable to build a new prison instead, because the prison could not be repaired.

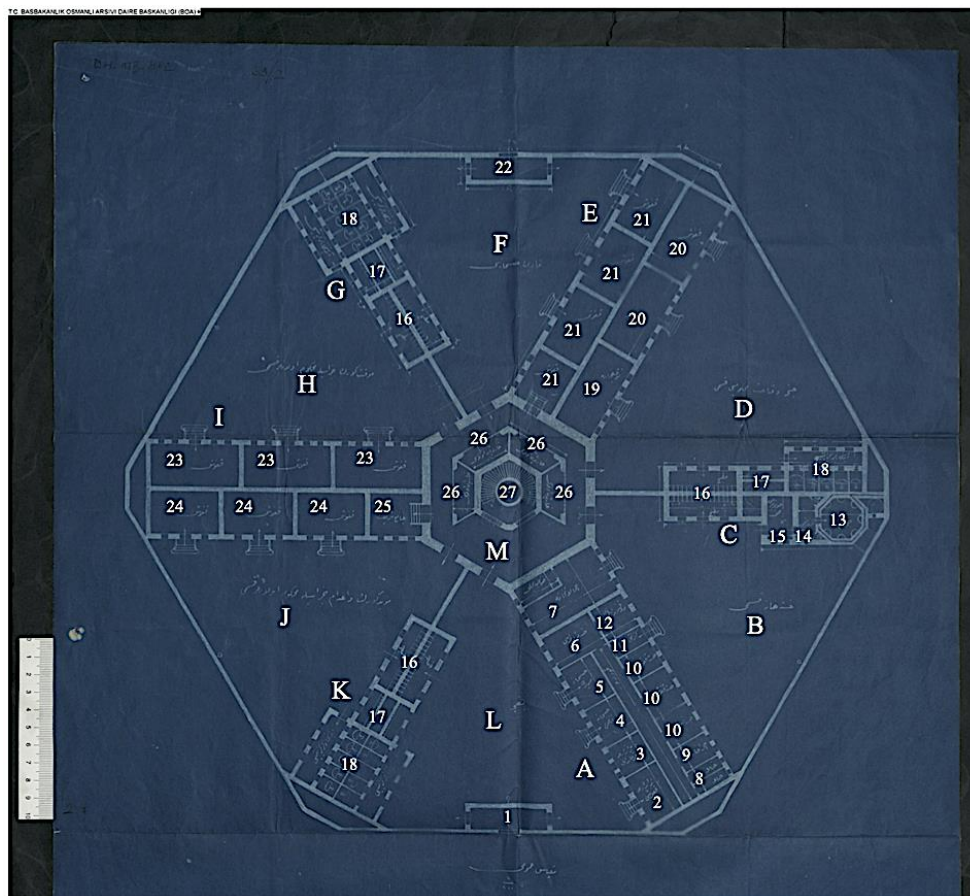


Figure 4. Proposal for new prison in Ankara, Ground Floor Plan, 1916. Source: DABOA-DH.MB.HPS.39-2. A. Administrative, hospital and workshop units, B. Courtyard for hospital, C. Bath, kitchen, ablution and toilets, D. Courtyard for prisoners, E. Wards for men and women prisoners, F. Courtyard for women prisoners, G. Kitchen, ablution and toilets, H. Courtyard for the prisoners convicted for first degree sentences (for short term), I. Ward for the prisoners convicted for first degree sentences, J. Courtyard for the prisoners convicted for first degree sentences (for life-long), K. Kitchen, ablution and toilets, L. Garden, M. Administration office rooms and observation tower. 1. Entrance of the men prisoners, 2. Ward for gendarmerie, 3. Room for gendarmerie commander, 4. Prison Secretary, 5. Room for prison warden, 6. Janitor room, 7. Workshop, 8. Toilets, 9. Pharmacy, 10. Hospital ward, 11. Exit to courtyard, 12. Doctor room, 13. Caldarium, 14. Tepidarium, 15. Frigidarium, 16. Kitchen, 17. Ablution room, 18. Toilets, 19. Ward, 20. Ward for the prisoners convicted for homicide, 21. Ward for women, 22. Entrance to women prisoners, 23. Ward for the prisoners convicted for first degree sentences (for short term), 24. Ward for the prisoners convicted for first degree sentences (for long term), 25. Mosque, 26. Guard rooms, 27. Observation tower.

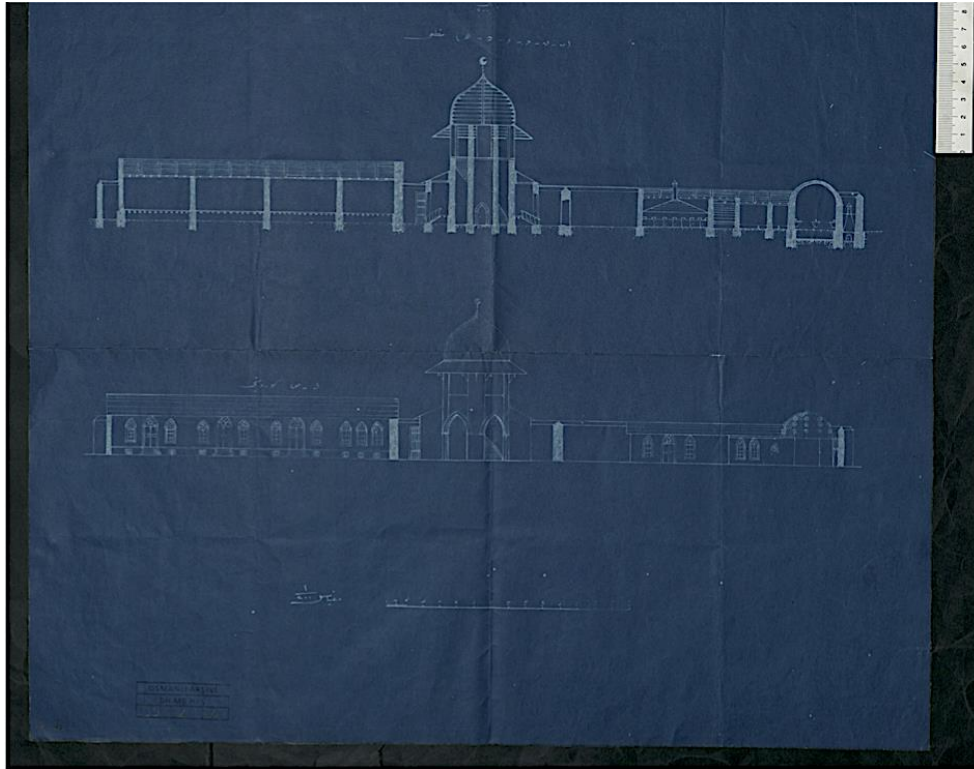


Figure 5. Proposal for new prison in Ankara. Sections of the building, 1916. Source: DABOA-DH.MB.HPS.39-2.

The scale of the project with a radial layout typology was given as 1/200. The building, consisting of six radial arms radiating from the hexagonal mass in its center, is again placed in a hexagonal courtyard. Open spaces between the arms were planned as courtyards. Each of the six arms appears to differ according to their functions. The arm, which was planned to function as an administrative unit, has a gendarme's ward, a room belonging to the gendarme's commander, a prison secretary, a prison warden, a janitor's room, a workshop, a pharmacy, a hospital ward, a promenade, and a doctor's room. There is a bath, a kitchen, an ablution station and toilets in the three arms hosting the service units. The other two arms were designed as ward areas for prisoners. There is a house of worship that has a separate entrance in one of these arms. The gaps between the arms are courtyards that differ depending on prisoner classifications.

There is a distinction for male and female prisoners in the prison, as well as different wards for male prisoners based on the severity of the crime they have committed. It is seen that, depending on their crimes, these prisoners were categorized as prisoners serving short-term sentences, prisoners serving lifelong sentences and prisoners sentenced to death. The arm of the prison building for female prisoners also has wards for male prisoners. Since, there is no transition between the wards, and because the wards are sited back-to-back, it can be said that wards for the female prisoners are in a complete isolation.

The passage to the courtyards, wards and mosque in the prison is through the hexagonal building in the center of the structure. This section features guard rooms and a watchtower. The tower can be accessed through a spiral staircase that is between the guard rooms and the tower. The fact that the tower was planned to stand higher than the radial arms — as can be seen from the sections — is noteworthy for the surveillance and supervision of prisoners in the courtyard. While the prison with the radial layout is considered to be analogous to the "Panopticon" concept that originated from Jeremy Bentham's (1791) proposal due to the existence of a watchtower, the association between the designed tower and the concept can only be something of a structural



similarity owing to the absence of a functional connection between the tower and the wards. Nevertheless, it would be fair to say that the proposed project for Ankara Central Prison is not just a prison building, but a campus with the hospital, service and administrative units in it. In its present state, it is clear that an attempt was made to conform with the spatial rules laid out in the reforms.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Prison architecture of the 19th century Ottoman architecture, which is an area of study that has not been analyzed previously, stands out as a large field that may have an influence on the writing of the architectural historiography of this century. It can be seen that, in recent years, the writing of the 19th century's architectural history has been challenged, and by this way it has shifted away from the narratives generated by the existing canon and gained a new insight (Akyürek, 2011; Çelik, 2008; Erkmen, 2011; Ersoy, 2000; Katipoğlu Özmen, 2018). The basic reason for the emergence of different narrative can be considered the architectural structures that have begun to be investigated outside of the capital-oriented monumental structures generated by the canon. The examination of architectural transformation within all the Ottoman borders of the 19th century, other than the palaces and mosques in the capital, was a factor in the establishment of a new narrative. The Ottoman prison architecture of the 19th century that is examined within the scope of this article is also essential due to offering new perspective. Especially during the Reign of Sultan Abdülhamid II, the large prison-building activities spanning the entire Ottoman geography and the reform efforts on prisons during this time are noteworthy. The prison projects, prepared to be built in many provinces in Anatolia, some of which have been implemented and some remained on paper, are a topic that needs to be explored to understand the effect of the transformation initiated by the general reforms implemented in the empire on the Ottoman architectural world.

Researchers have revealed that the Ottoman Empire closely followed the transformation of the concept of punishment and penal places for criminal people discussed in the US and Europe (Adak, 2017; Demiryürek, 2019; Şen, 2007; Yıldız, 2012). The story of the transformation of Ankara Central Prison, which is the subject of this article, allows us to follow the steps taken by the Ottoman Empire in the prison reform process and examine the spatial transformation. It is seen that the plans of 1865, 1897 and 1916 began to conform progressively to the fundamental necessities of the reform. The 1865 project was a limited renewal and renovation work, which incorporated separate quarters reserved only for women and sick prisoners. This was followed by a comprehensive prison project, which incorporated cells and administrative units, in 1897. The plan introduced in 1916 is extremely unusual as a prison building with a radial layout, which was proposed only for Istanbul Sultanahmet Prison (Kuruyazıcı, 2001), İstanbul Yedikule Central Prison (Sezer, 2020) and Izmir Central Prison (Adak 2015) could only be implemented in Izmir across the Ottoman Empire. The prison model with a radial layout is known to have been first practiced at Philadelphia Eastern State Prison (Fairweather, 1975; Johnston, 2000), which opened in 1821 in the USA. The presence of the workshop, the hospital, and the administrative and service units involved in the project within the radial layout proposed for Ankara Central Prison indicates that this project was designed to address the needs raised by reforms in a very broad area rather than a single prison building. The reason that wards were preferred rather than cells was the intention to adapt to the growing number of prisoners and reduce costs.

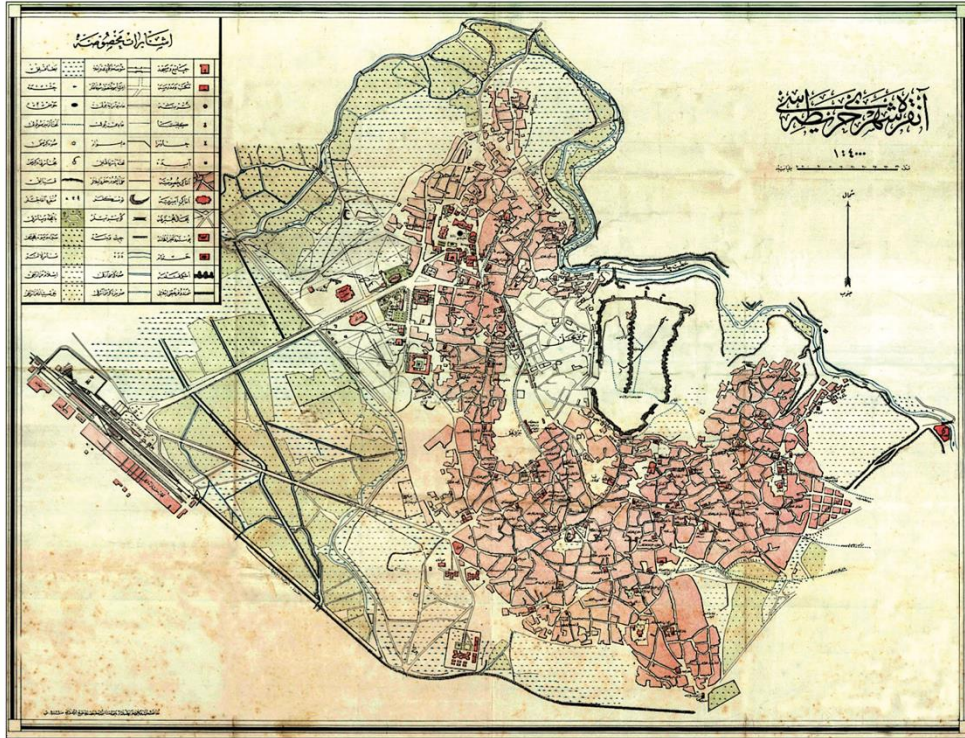


Figure 6. Ankara Map, 1924. Source: Günel & Kılıç, 2015.

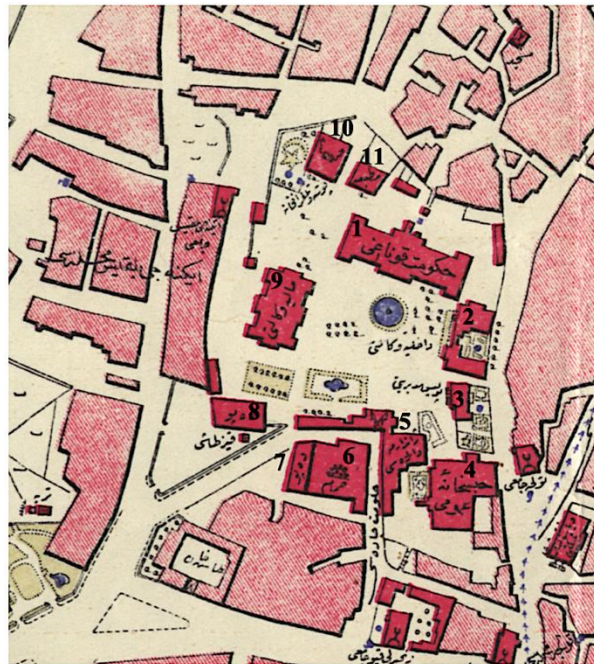


Figure 7. Detail from 1924 Ankara Map. Showing the public building around Government Office in Ulus. Source: Günel & Kılıç, 2015. 1. Ankara government Office, 2. Minister of internal affairs, 3. Directorate of Police, 4. Central Prison, 5. Gendarmerie, 7. Public Bath, 8. Warehouse, 9. Minister of Finance, 10. Post and telegraph office, 11. Printing house.

It is seen that the proposed projects have not been implemented because there is no prison building in Ankara that has been able to reach the present day. The map of Ankara dated 1924 (Figure 6–7) also shows a prison building among the administrative buildings clustered around the governor's office. It can be assumed that this building, which does not exist today, was a structure that was constructed before the 19th century and could not be restored. The records show that Zafran and Pilavoğlu Khans in Ulus



were used as prisons in the late 19th century and early 20th century in Ankara (Çakır at al. 2019). It can be claimed that despite all the projects proposed by the Ottoman Empire for the construction of Ankara central prison, the new prison, which has suitable spatial organization required for the prison reform, could have never been constructed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This study is a part of the unpublished thesis prepared by Selahaddin Sezer, titled "Ottoman Prison Architecture After Tanzimat Era: Examples of Radial Plan Typologies," which was submitted to Cankaya University on 07 February 2020 under the supervision of Assist. Prof. Dr. Ceren Katipoglu Ozmen. This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

REFERENCES

Abbreviations

DABOA - Directorate of State, Ottoman Archives (*Devlet Arşivleri Başkanlığı, Osmanlı Arşivi*)

Primary Sources

- Directorate of State, Ottoman Archives (Devlet Arşivleri Başkanlığı, Osmanlı Arşivi) – DABOA İMVL.534-23980
Directorate of State, Ottoman Archives (Devlet Arşivleri Başkanlığı, Osmanlı Arşivi) – DABOA BEO.908-68047
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