

EVALUATION OF ARASTAS AND BAZAARS OF OTTOMAN CITIES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND ARCHITECTURAL TYPOLOGIES

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Abstract: In Anatolian cities of the Ottoman period, such as the inns, bedestens (covered bazaars), arastas, bazaars, grand bazaars and stores formed the commercial centers. These commercial structures with different functions were the main components forming the fabric of the commercial districts. These commercial centers also contained major public buildings, such as mosques and baths. Depending on the size of a city or town, the number of these structures could vary greatly. All of the buildings located in the center were important facilities, contributing economic, social and distinctive features to an Anatolian city or town. In this study, the “Arasta” and “Bazaar” in historical cities located on the axes of important trade routes in Anatolia were investigated. In addition, the conceptual and architectural differences of arastas and bazaars from inns and bedestens, which are major commercial structures, were investigated. The structures were selected from the cities of İstanbul, Bursa, Edirne, Hatay, and Konya, which were located on the important trade routes of the time. Especially, construction and material techniques, plan and façade typologies of these structures, built in the 15th and 16th centuries, were evaluated, as were the common and distinctive features of the various cities.

Keywords: Historic Commercial Buildings, Arasta, Ottoman Bazaar, Bazaar, Grand Bazaar, Long Bazaar

Introduction

In the Ottoman cities, commercial buildings were not separated from religious buildings. During the process of establishing commercial districts, religious and cultural buildings, such as mosques and madrasas, were constructed within the same urban texture as commercial buildings, such as inns, bedestens, and baths. The commercial organization became prevalent as trade developed over time, and streets consisting of buildings involved in similar businesses were formed in the commercial districts. In these streets, bazaars and small shops that were run by a variety of professional groups were aligned in rows. From the center of the commercial area to the outer castle walls, the buildings for various occupations were arranged in an orderly manner. Workshops such as tanneries, felting shops, dyehouses, smithies, boiler smiths, and tinner shops were located in the outer ring of the commercial district. In the commercial districts, it is seen that the production areas of commercial goods were planned close to the commercial buildings where these goods were sold. This orderly arrangement led to workplaces being located in the streets extending from the center to the castle, and even to the emergence of “long bazaars,” which were often seen in the Ottoman cities (Kuban, 1968; Can, 1995; Şahinalp&Günel, 2012; Akar, 2009; Saoud, 2002; Erzen, 1991; Kuban, 1968; Günel&Şahinalp, 2012). The Ottoman-era arastas and bazaars show interesting features in terms of their inner-city locations and architectural properties. These structures, referred to by different names, will be evaluated in the same category because all of them have a similar architectural scheme. In this study, the “arasta” and “bazaar” structures in the cities located on three major trade axes during the Ottoman period will be studied and compared. The following were selected: the *Selimiye Arasta (Edirne)*, the *Ali Pasha Bazaar (Edirne)*, the *Spice Bazaar (İstanbul)*, the *Suleymaniye Tiryaki Bazaar (İstanbul)*, the *Havsa Sokullu Mehmed Pasha Arasta (Edirne)*, the *Iğın Mustafa Pasha Bazaar (Konya)*, the *Payas Sokullu Mehmed Pasha Arasta (Hatay)*, the *Hisar Mosque Bazaar (İzmir)*, and the *Shadirvan Mosque Bazaar (İzmir)* (Figure 1). These will be examined and evaluated, especially in terms of their designs and plan schemes. Typological evaluations will be made on the basis of the common and distinctive features of these structures in general (Ataman, 2000; Erdoğan&Kuter, 2010).



Figure 1. The Arasta and Bazaar Structures located on major trade axes during the Ottoman Period (Yıldırım, 2014).

The 16th Century Commercial Buildings: Arastas and Bazaars

The word “arasta” means a bazaar, military bazaar, or mobile bazaar established in the military area where similar types of goods are sold. The structure of an arasta consists of shops arranged on opposite sides; sometimes it has an open top, or is covered with a vault in the center. The structure can be also built as a part of a külliye (a complex of buildings) (Hasol, 1995; Özdeş, 1998:7). In the definition of Sözen and Tanyeli (1986), an “arasta” is “a type of structure with an open or covered top in the Ottoman architecture, where a series of shops is located on an axis, sometimes side by side or sometimes on opposite sides” (Kuban, 2009). The word “bazaar” is derived from the root of the Persian term “Cıhar-Suk,” which means “four streets.” The bazaar structures are described as areas with open or covered tops, surrounded by shops on both sides, suitable for shopping (Özdeş, 1998:7). However, a bazaar can also be defined as a region which has a bedesten (covered bazaar) in the center and is surrounded by shops of different groups of tradesmen, workshops, an inn, a bath-house, a soup kitchen, a mosque, and a hospital (İnalçık, 1997:120). According to this definition, a bazaar can be described as a region with a commercial focus, in which people living in and around the city meet their social and economic needs and public and business areas are included (Kejanlı, 2010; Dumont & Geogon, 1999; Faroqi, 2000).



Figure 2. Shops in the Spice Bazaar, İstanbul (www.misircarsisi.org)



Figure 3. The Suleymaniye Tiryaki Bazaar (http://www.discoverislamicart.org/)

Evaluation of Arastas and Bazaars within the Context of Construction Materials and Architectural Typologies

In many cities of Anatolia, arasta and bazaar buildings attract attention with their substantial masonry masses extending in a longitudinal direction, containing wooden shops in the center of the commercial area. These buildings were built with a stone masonry wall construction system. The tops of these buildings, which were generally built in a single-storey and lengthwise rectangular plan, are closed and the roofs are covered with lead. Some bazaars were located beneath mosques and sometimes designed with an open top, in such a way as to face a street or a passage. By building shops around the shops located on the outer ring, the commercial streets were emphasized. Some bazaars and arastas, on the other hand, were built in the form of a complex and the two main walls of the building were built adjacent to the structures.

According to the location of the building, entrance gates are usually seen on two sides. These gates can be flashy, high, and with gem embellishments. In general, it is seen that the arasta and bazaar gates are sometimes made of iron, and sometimes of wood with ornaments (Cezar, 1985; Yenen, 1987; Intepe, 2005).



Figure 4. The Sokullu Mehmed Pasha Caravanserai, Inn and Arasta; Hatay Payas (<http://www.hatay.bel.tr/>)

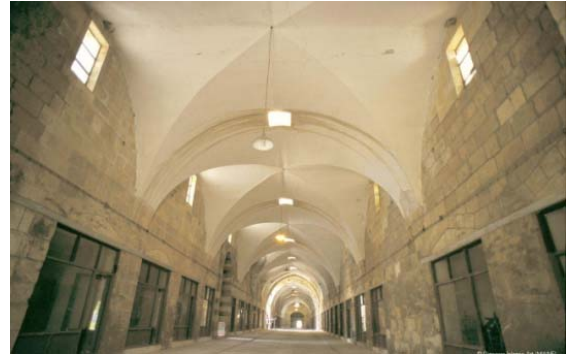


Figure 5. The cross-vaulted interior corridor of the arasta (<http://www.discoverislamicart.org/>)

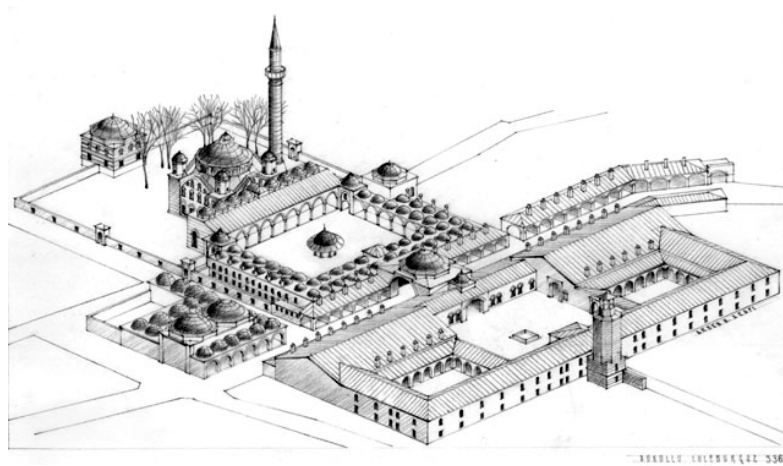


Figure 6. The Lüle Burgaz Sokullu Mehmed Pasha Caravanserai, Inn and Arasta (<http://luleburgaz.blogcu.com>)



Figure 7. The Ilgın Lala Mustafa Pasha Complex; Ilgın Konya (Genç, 2015)

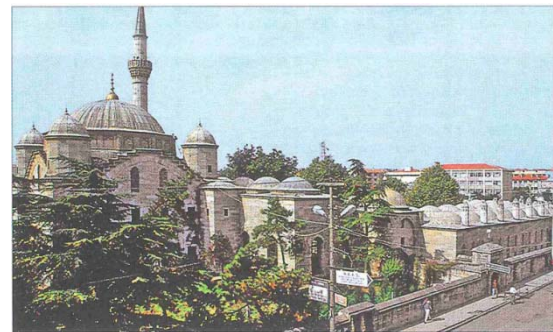


Figure 8. The Sokullu Mehmed Pasha Complex (Islam Encyclopedia, 2009)

Most of the arastas and bazaars that are regarded as dating from the 16th century were built by Sinan, the Architect, and the Sultan's society of architects. Moreover, the distinctive features of these buildings are largely similar due to the facilities of the era and the available construction materials. In the plan schemes of the arastas and bazaars, no development over time is seen. However, it can be said that the cities' needs, depending on their size, had an impact on the size of the plan schemes of these buildings.

As it can be seen in Table 1, in general, the arastas and bazaars of the middle or the end of the 16th century can be separated into two types according to their designs and plans, in order to avoid any conceptual confusion.

- **Type 1. Open-top bazaars and arastas with shops facing the street or passage**

These can be described as bazaars which were built on the ground floor, consisting of a single row of shops facing the street or passage. Sometimes the ground floor of a mosque was planned to be completely filled with bazaar

stores. The Tiryaki bazaar in Suleymaniye İstanbul (Figure 2) and the Shadirvan Bazaar (Figure 9.) Hisar Bazaar in İzmir (Figure 10), , can be given as examples of this type of bazaar (Ersoy, 1991; Atay, 1999; Beyru, 1973).



Figure 9. Hisar Mosque and Bazaar in Kemeraltı İzmir



Figure 10. The Shadirvan Mosque, Kemeraltı İzmir (Canbalaban, 2006)

In some parts of The Sokullu Mehmed Pasha Complex (Lüleburgaz, Figure 11), the Sokullu Mehmed Pasha Bazaar (Havsa, Edirne, Figure 8) and the Lala Mustafa Pasha Bazaar (Ilgın, Konya, Figure 7), a plan type is seen where the middle passage was planned with an open top and the shops were designed in opposing longitudinal rows. There is a prayer dome in the center of the sections of these types of structures that are called “arastas” or “bazaars.” The prayer dome is a space that is erected with walls, under which one can pass through arches and with a dome in the center. It connects two spaces together (Ramazanoğlu, 2008). The shops in these structures each have an area of approximately 20 m² or more. The middle passage corridor is about 8–9 meters wide in these structures.



Fig. 11. The Lüleburgaz Sokullu Mehmed Pasha Complex, the Prayer Dome and the Shops (<http://mimariforum.com>)



Fig. 12. Ali Paşa Bazaar, Edirne (<http://wikimapia.org/>)



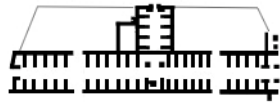
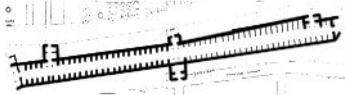
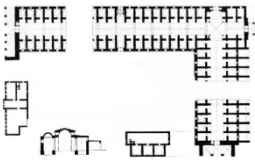
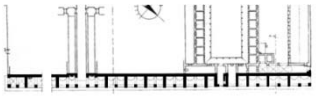
Fig. 13. Selimiye Arastas, Edirne (<http://www.kadimdostlar.com/>)

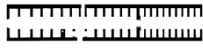
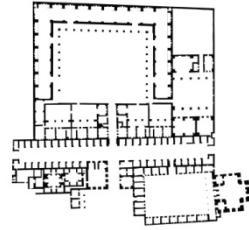
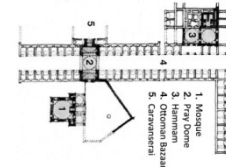
Type 2. Covered bazaars and arastas with shops facing the corridor (longitudinal rectangular, L- or T-planned)

This type consists of rows of shops aligned on both sides of a corridor with a covered top. The Ali Pasha Bazaar (Edirne) (Figure 12), the Selimiye Arasta (Edirne) (Figure 13), the Spice Bazaar (İstanbul), (Figure 2) the Sokullu

Mehmed Pasha Arasta (Payas, Hatay) (Figure 4 and Figure 5), and the Lala Mustafa Pasha Bazaar (Ilgın, Konya) (Figure 7) are examples of this type.

There is a prayer dome in the center of the Sokullu Mehmed Pasha Arasta (Payas, Hatay), but there is also a central passage/corridor covered with cross-vaults in this structure. This type of central corridor with a covered top can be compared to the Sokullu Mehmed Pasha Complex (Lüleburgaz) or the demolished Sokullu Mehmed Pasha Complex (Havsa, Edirne) (Ramazanoğlu, 2008). The size of the shops in these structures is approximately between 10–20 m². There are no external shops. While the roofs of the shops are low, the roof of the central corridor is cross-vaulted and high. On the walls that result from the difference in height between the shops and the central corridor, windows were cut and illumination of the central corridor was achieved. The central passage corridor in these structures is approximately 6 meters wide. In some structures, those buildings that were built as simple bedestens (covered bazaars) containing shops may also be called “arastas” or “bazaars.” In this study, these types of structures were considered bedestens, and were not included in the typology of arastas or bazaars (Pakalın,1983).

	Building Name and Location	Year of Construction / Commissioned by and Built by	Plan type and Architectural Distinctive Features	Material and Buildings	Internal/ External Shops and Corridor width (approx.)	Plan scheme (Özdeş, 1998).
Building 1	The Selimiye Arasta Edirne (Located on the İstanbul-Aleppo-Damascus-Hejaz way)	Commissioned by Murad III and built by Davud Agha the Architect (Özdeş, 1998).	T-plan type, single-row shops.	Stone /Brick Masonry System	Internal shops are 16–20 m ² No external shops, Corridor is 6m.	
Building 2	The Ali Pasha Bazaar Edirne	1569/ Commissioned by Murad III and built by Sinan the Architect (Özdeş, 1998).	There are longitudinal, single-row shops on either side.	Stone / Brick Masonry System	Internal shops are 10–20 m ² No external shops, Corridor is 6m.	
Building 3	The Spice Bazaar İstanbul	1660/ Commissioned by Sultan Turhan and built by Kasım Agha (Özdeş, 1998).	There are single-row shops on either side in an L-plan type. There is a dome at the intersection point of the vaults in the center.	Stone / Brick Masonry System	Internal shops are 20 m ² , No external shops, Corridor is 6m.	
Building 4	The Suleymaniya Tiryaki Bazaar İstanbul	Built by Sinan the Architect in the years 1550–1557(Özdeş, 1998).	Single-row shops face the street.(Shops downstairs, madrasa upstairs above the shops)	Stone / Masonry System	No internal shops, External shops are 20 m ² , No Corridor	

<p>Building 5</p>	<p>The Ilgin Mustafa Pasha Bazaar Konya</p>	<p>In 1576, it was commissioned by Lala Mustafa Pasha. It is mentioned among the works built by Sinan the Architect. The Arasta is thought to have been built along with the inn in 1584. The Arasta, which consists of two sections, open and closed, was partially restored to its original state by building on the foundations in 1960 (Genç, 2015).</p>	<p>Entirely covering the north of the Complex, the north side of the Arasta faces the main street, its east and west are adjacent to the road, and its south is adjacent to the inn and the soup kitchen. There is a barrel vault roof above the center of the rectangular shops that face each other.</p>	<p>Stone / Brick Masonry System</p>	<p>Internal shops are 16 m² No external shops, Corridor is 6 m.</p>	
<p>Building 6</p>	<p>The Sokullu Mehmed Pasha Arasta Payas/ Hatay (A Menzil Complex located on the İstanbul-Aleppo-Damascus-Hejaz way. There is an arasta in the center of the Complex in the north-south direction)</p>	<p>In 1574, it was commissioned by Selim II and built by Sinan the Architect. In the Complex, buildings for accommodation, such as the caravanserai, soup kitchen, and guest rooms were located to the east of the Arasta, whereas facilities for worship, education, and cleaning purposes, such as the mosque, primary school, madrasa, and bath were located on the west side.</p>	<p>The “Arasta” was built adjacent to the inn structure. The arasta, with an area of 115 × 15 meters, consists of 48 shops located on opposite sides of a corridor covered with a cross-vault, also including a prayer dome in the center. The roof cover is a hipped roof.</p>	<p>Stone / Brick Masonry System</p>	<p>Internal shops are 10–12 m² Corridor is approx. 8 meters.</p>	
<p>Structure 7</p>	<p>The Sokullu Mehmed Pasha Complex Havsa/ Edirne</p>	<p>In the years 1576–77, a Complex consisting of mosque, madrasa, arasta, inn, soup kitchen, double bath, lodge, bridge, fountain, and primary school was commissioned by Sokullu Mehmed Pasha. It was built with the cooperation of the Sultan’s Society of Architects and Sinan the Architect (Islam Encyclopedia, 2009) The parts of the Complex, the mosque, the prayer dome of the arasta, the bath, its alcove wall, prayer-room/lodge, and corner fountain have survived to the present day.</p>	<p>There is a prayer dome in the space into which the doors of the arasta, the mosque, and the inn open. The other parts of the Complex, such as the arasta, inn, soup kitchen, guest rooms, madrasa, bridge, founding and primary school have not reached the present day. As understood from the traces, the arasta included rows of shops on either side. The rectangular-planned arasta provided a structural and functional connection between the building masses. The top of the central corridor was open (Islam Encyclopedia, 2009)</p>	<p>Stone / Brick Masonry System</p>	<p>Destroyed, Corridor approx. 9 meters.</p>	

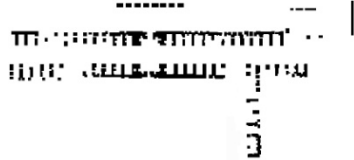

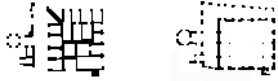
<p>Building 8</p>	<p>The Sokullu Mehmed Pasha Complex and bazaar Lüleburgaz</p>	<p>It is believed that it was commissioned by Sokullu Mehmed Pasha in the years 1559–1570. The design and construction of the complex were carried out by Sinan and the Sultan’s Society of Architects, under the sultan’s directorship. The historical İstanbul-Edirne-Central Europe road passes through it (Islam Encyclopedia, 2009).</p>	<p>What has survived from the arasta located in the complex are dilapidated shops, whose number has been reduced by half, and the prayer dome. The arasta is adjacent to the north wing of the madrasa, and consists of shops built on both sides of a road extending in an east-west direction. The arasta, consisting of 59 shops built on both sides and a prayer dome, forms the spine of the complex. There are shops lined up in single rows longitudinally. The top of the central corridor is open.</p>	<p>Stone / Brick Masonry System</p>	<p>Shops are mostly destroyed. Internal shops are approx. 10–12 m² Corridor is about 8 meters. The corridor is rather wide, as a road passes between the shops.</p>	
<p>Building 9</p>	<p>The Hisar Mosque Bazaar İzmir</p>	<p>It is written in some sources that it was transformed from a Latin Church, and that this was done by Aydınoğlu Özdemiroğlu (Molla) Yakup Beyin 1597–1598. The same sources also state that this transformed mosque was demolished by Timur in 1402. (http://www.izmirkulturturizm.gov.tr/). According to an inscription on the gate of the mosque, it was repaired in H.1298 (1881) (Özdeş, 1998).</p>	<p>There are shops in rows added next to the mosque. The shops of the bazaar are open to the streets and the courtyard surrounding the mosque.</p>	<p>Cut-rubble stone Masonry System</p>	<p>There are shops of various sizes.</p>	
<p>Building 10</p>	<p>The Shadirvan Mosque Bazaar İzmir</p>	<p>This mosque, which is located on the Old Inner Harbor shore inside the Historical İzmir Kemeraltı Bazaar, took its name from the eight-columned shadirvan beside and under it. Therefore, it is referred to as the Shadirvan Mosque and Bazaar. It was built in 1636 and restored in 1815 (Özdeş, 1998).</p>	<p>There are shops under the mosque. The shops located on the ground floor face the streets and the passage around the mosque.</p>	<p>Cut-rubble stone Masonry System</p>	<p>There are shops of various sizes.</p>	

Table 1. Systematic evaluation of building materials and typologies of Arastas and Bazaars

Discussions and Results

Arastas and the bazaars, located in the Ottoman trade routes, have been built in the 17th and 16th centuries. 10 important structure of them, located in this trade route and examine the scope of the this research, contribution of the architecture of Arastas and bazaars.

When examining the plan schemes of arastas and covered bazaars in, it is seen that single-row shops face each other on either side. There is a high vault above the central corridor, which usually extends longitudinally. There may be a dome in the midpoint of the longitudinally extending corridor, or at the intersection of the corridors. These domes functioned as prayer dome in some arastas.

For example, it is seen that some buildings, such as the Spice Bazaar (İstanbul), the Selimiye Bazaar (Edirne), and the Tokat Bazaar, were planned with a central dome over the central aisle. There is, again, a prayer dome at the center of the Sokullu Mehmed Pasha arastas (Lüleburgaz, Edirne, Hatay).

The sizes of the shops that are located on opposite sides, as required by plan schemes in arastas, bazaars, and covered bazaars, vary between 10 and 20 m². For example, while the widths of the shops in the Niğde Covered Bazaar range between 2 and 2.5 m, the widths of the shops are 3.75 m in the Ali Pasha Bazaar (Edirne) by Sinan, and 3 m in the Payas Covered Bazaar. When we look at the Edirne arasta, it is seen that the façades of the shops vary between 3 and 4m in width. The internal shops face the corridor. External shops are not included in most arastas. The width of the corridors is usually 6 meters wide. The shops are closed, with arched doorways. In some arastas and bazaars, there may be divisions for sales stands without any doors. The cross-vault or the dome can be seen from each shop individually.

The construction technique in the arastas, bazaars, and covered bazaars, and the commercial structures investigated, is, in general, masonry; the construction material is usually stone and brick, and sometimes only stone. Security concerns dictated the use of this construction technique. Sometimes, since these structures operated as banks and stock bazaars, as in bedestens, and valuable goods were sold, stored and exhibited in these places, the walls of these structures were made relatively thick, and the windows were located quite high and secured with iron grates. When we look at the architectural characteristics and construction techniques of arastas, bazaars, and covered bazaars, it is seen that these structures were built with a one- or two-storey, stone/brick masonry system.

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