

## The Contribution of German Architects in Creating Ankara During the Early Years of the Republic of Turkey

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**Abstract:** After the Ottoman Empire was defeated in the First World War, the Ottoman Empire was occupied by the Alliance states especially the city of Istanbul and all the regions of Anatolia except the Central Anatolia. The war of independence of Turkey, which started on May 19, 1919 by the landing of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and his close friends to Samsun, ended on August 30, 1922 after the signing of Treaty of Lausanne by all parties and recognizing Turkey as an independent new state. The new state's first elected as president, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, put into force a series of reforms in order to realize his dreams of a modern, westernized, industrialized state with a modern living conditions and standards. The first decision taken in relation to Ankara, which was selected as the new capital of the state, was to set some ideas and start of works to convert the city to be the center of the Republic of Turkey's administration, finance, culture and industry. A technical team consisting mostly of German engineers and architects is formed in order to physically recreate Ankara, to implement new ideas and thoughts, and to implement a modern look and use of the city. Well known German architects like Robert Vorhoelz, Bruno Taut and Wilhelm Schütte joined later into this team, pioneered to lay the foundations of the modern Turkey which later emerged as different and modernized. The planning, exterior appearance and construction techniques of the buildings used as state buildings, theaters, universities and schools and as well as the planning of the avenues and streets in the capital city of Ankara contain the dominant effect of German architecture and construction techniques. The influence of German architects and engineers on the construction methods of the state buildings, the quality and standardization of the materials used, the concrete production technology, the materials and manufacturing methods of doors and windows was very intense. The buildings constructed in the first years of the Republic in Ankara were constructed taking into consideration the climatic conditions, in a way to completely eliminate the negative effects of rain, snow and storm and to create a spacious offices encouraging working. During the first modernization years of Ankara, especially with in the transition period from an urban town to a capital city, the designation of the districts in the city and the effect of German urbanization methods in the street naming can be seen. This paper has been prepared, to examine the effects of German building and road construction planning and technology in the capitalization process of Ankara, during the first decades of the Republic of Turkey.

**Keywords:** Ankara, German, Construction, Architectural, Construction technique.

## INTRODUCTION

The aim of this paper to study and analyze the effects of German Construction techniques, German urban Architecture and town planning implementations during the 1923 – 1938 period and its effects on the urbanization developments of the newly established Turkish Republic. The change in the concept of building types, construction methods, construction materials, town planning, sizing, routing and naming of the streets and districts and their effects on the demographic change in the country and economic developments will be thoroughly evaluated [1].

German-speaking planners, engineers and architects inspired the establishment of the institutional structures of the city administration and development of the town of Ankara in the early days of the Republic. Turkey, during the “Early Republican Era”, benefited from the German-speaking planners and architects and took advantage of their experience, knowledge and planning strategies while seeking for solutions to transform Ankara to a capital city [2].

### **Developments in the Turkish Economy During 1923-1932 Period**

The developments in the Turkish economy during the liberal economic policy years of 1923 to 1932 is more significant compared to state controlled economic policy years, during 1932 to 1938 in Turkey [3].

The exchange of minority groups between Greece and Turkey during 1922 - 1929 period resulted more than half a million Turkish originated people from a different country with a different culture and living concepts to immigrate to Turkey, forming almost 4 percent of the population.

The first census held in Turkey after the declaration of the independence of Republic of Turkey was in 1927, and revealed a population of 13,648,987.

The 1927 census results showed that, of the 13,648,987 people, 83.7 percent were living in the rural areas, in the cities, towns and villages where the population was less than 10 thousand. Number of cities 63, number of towns 328 and number of villages were 39,901 [4]. The number of factories before 1927 were approximately 130 and the number increased to 2,200 in 1932 [5]. The number of workers employed in the industry were 256.855 in 1927 and around 800,000 in 1933 [6].

The İzmir Congress held in İzmir on 1923, was aimed to determine the economic policy of the new state and targeted to build up and form the National Economy, based on the private enterprise rather than the government. The Grand National Assembly of Turkey passed the law numbered 1055, titled “Teşvik-i Sanayii in 1927 to encourage and subsidize the developments in the industry which resulted establishment of new factories in the main cities of Turkey and flux of people from rural areas. The establishment of the new factories created a demand of labors and the social structure of the cities rapidly changed, resulting to a need of rebuilding of the main cities with new concepts and technologies. The need for a modern and modernized town planning, multistory buildings, supply of running water to buildings, sewage systems, power stations, safe electric power distribution, public transportation, schools, open and closed markets, universities, government buildings, physical training centers and similar structures, burst out rapidly [7].

Although the global economic depression of 1929 had its effects on the Turkish economy, the Turkish government concentrated on the investments mainly for the use of public and to public welfare, transportation systems like railways, highways, main roads and streets, housing of the immigrants and transforming Ankara from a town to a capital city with all the substructures and superstructures required.

### **Architectural Developments**

After the proclamation of the Second Constitution in the Ottoman Empire in 1908, the nationalistic ideas spread all over the main cities and towns and consequently the side effects of this nationalistic movement also had an impact on the architecture and style of buildings. In the contest of the Ethnographic Museum to be built in Ankara on 1927 yields the effects of this nationalistic movements and return of the Seljukid and Ottoman type of façades and building usage. It could be alleged that during the early years of the Republic the Turkish architects and engineers were unaware of European building technology and the developments in the architecture and building design. Which actually seems contradicting to the basic reforms of the Turkish Government, like abolition of the Sultanate a year before the declaration of independence and abolition of the Khalifate in 1924 after a year from the declaration of independence. The westernization and modernization of the dressing and clothing, change of alphabet from Arabic to Roman, adoption of new civil laws mainly from Switzerland and others. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the era, built in 1927, reflects the Ottoman and Seljukid lines in the façade [8].

The general character of the buildings bearing the Ottoman and Seljukid architectural concepts, mainly consisted of three storeys, where the façade of the ground floor was in general covered by rustic stone, a tower from in the center and consisted of symmetrical masses. The roof was inclined and tiled. Eaves stretched out around 100 cm or a bit more, strengthened or carried by wooden beams or buttresses. The main entrance was always positioned to the center of the building or in the middle of the main mass, crowned by an Ottoman type of portal or under a portico of Ottoman style. The corner buildings were capped by a dome which is enriched and decorated with Ottoman paintings and lines. Ankara Palas, situated in Ankara, built during 1924 to 1928, had a false dome in the center forming the axis of symmetry [8].

Due end of 1920's the Western architectural concepts and ideas began to creep in to the main cities of Turkish Republic and show up in Ankara and Istanbul by the designs of European architects. The very first government buildings designed and planned by German Architects Ernst Agli and Clemens Holzmeister, gave a new look to Ankara and brought in new architectural concepts, contrasting with the existing trend [8].

Ministry of Finance building, built in 1925 and Ministry of Public Health building, built a year after, in 1926, designed and constructed with Ottoman and Seljukid concepts and features.



**Fig-1: Ankara Palas (A typical sample of Ottoman and Seljukid architectural concepts)**

### Population increase in Ankara

Four days after the declaration of Ankara as the capital city of Turkey, The Municipality of Ankara was reorganized on October 17, 1923. The rapid increase in the population also increases the need of the city to new institutions and structures, more precisely to the places where the population will rest temporarily and permanently, dine, educate, entertain and join the cultural activities. However, these needs of the habitants in this early period is not sufficiently recognized.

As can be seen from Table-1 [9], the population of Ankara doubles approximately from 1920 to 1926. Between 1926-1928, it increases two and a half times; hence, in the eight years between 1920-1928, the increase in population is more than four times. This vast increase in the population is even almost impossible to handle in the countries that have a wealthy and established economy.

**Table-1: The increase of population in Ankara inrelation with the enlargement of the land**

Date	Population City area	Towns	Inc. Rural	Planning Period	Settlement hectar
1920	20-30,000			Map of Tarik	(300 ha)
1924				Plan of Lörcher, 1924	
1925				Plan of Lörcher, 1925	
1926	47,727		345,837		
1927	74,533		350,023	Ankara Planning Contest	
1928	107,641		404,726	Ankara Planning Contest, Initial stage	
1932				Jansen, 1932	Actual 700 Planning 2000
1939				Leave of Jansen	
1940	90,053		620,965		1900
1944		220,000			
1950	174,964	288,316	819,693	DP Government	
1954				Ankara Planning Contest	
1955	198,633	451,251			
1956		455,000			3650
1957				Yücel-Uybadın Plan, 1957	

### Lörcher's Ankara Plan of 1924-1925

The Lörcher Plan of 1924, tries to place the growing population of the city in the Old City and its surroundings, and legitimizes the new ways to make the city more comfortable to establish its relationship with its surroundings. However, before the end of the plan, the pressure raised by the rapid population increase mentioned above raises the design of the New City as a management district under the name of Çankaya. Within this neighborhood, the Parliament, Ministry buildings and other state institutions will be located and the district will be considered a residential area where the employees will reside as well [10].

By 1927, it was understood that the area and some of the propositions covered by the Lörcher Plans of 1924-25 lost their validity. It became necessary to plan the development of Ankara again due to the increase in population from 25,000 to 250,000 in a very short period [11].

The municipality of Ankara invites three experienced planners (Stadtbauer), such as Hermann Jansen, Leon Jausseley and Josef Brix, to Ankara and obtains a preliminary report from each separately. Among the proposals of this three experts who participated in the 1928 competition, Jansen's Plan was the winner [12].

In 1928, Ankara was no longer a city established according to the needs of the founding years. The reform and modernization initiatives carried out in the field of individual health and public health in the beginning had shifted to the need of higher education facilities, construction of hospitals, research institutes and sports fields, and school buildings at all levels.

In the New City, a new residential neighborhood was built in accordance with the Garden City Movement of the era. Museums have been established in order to investigate social history with historical science and to classify information sources. The urban space is equipped with the squares and statues, a must to be found in the capital, and green areas and parks for the use of public. A Farm and Zoo have been established with devoted efforts in order to prove that agriculture and animal husbandry can be done by irrigation within the city. By the devoted endeavors of the municipality of Ankara, the town was quickly transformed into a western styled capital within a short time by the undeniable and unignorably guidance of the German architects, town planners and engineers [12].

#### **Jansen's Ankara Plan of 1928-1932. Emerging of Garden City concept**

1924-25 Lörcher Plans were inadequate to encourage the development and innovation in the Old Ankara area due to the high land prices. On the other hand, the low density rural image that emerged in the development of the New City in the south, was not found satisfactory.

The planning recommendations of the 1928 competition, which studied a city with a population of 250,000-300,000, quadrupled in five years, with a 40-50 years of projection to manage the impact of the population growth on the urbanization, revealed different attitudes concerning urbanization in the old and new city [12].

In his "Contemporary Metropolis" titled conference held in Istanbul in 1916, where he was invited by the Türk-Alman Dostluk Yurdu (Haus der Freundschaft in Konstantinopel) in 1916, Jansen emphasized the four main points to be considered while designing the big cities as "economics, traffic, health and aesthetics" Eleven years later, it is understood that he developed Ankara in line with these four principles after taking over from Lörcher [12].

The difference of Herman Jansen's attitude was by obtaining insider information, understanding the economic tightness of the Municipality of Ankara and proposing more modest solutions accordingly. The plan of Hermann Jansen (1869-1946) suggests a simple zoning for the capital Ankara. The 1928 Jansen Plan, which aims to remain in the "Limits of Possibility" (Innerhalb der Grenzen des Möglichen) makes a general zoning and determines the vehicle and pedestrian circulation with a main urban backbone. The ratios between the floor height and street width and density developed by Jansen, later adopted by all the main cities throughout Turkey [12].

#### **The Ankara Plan of Hermann Jansen**

Starting with the Lörcher Plan, the "building of housing and housing needs of public institutions" system continued during the Jansen Plan. The idea of civil servants' houses for civil servants had been raised in 1925, but was conceptualized by Jansen as a "state neighborhood" and finally at the end of the Second World War, by the year 1944, it was realized by building the "Saraçoğlu District" with the support of Emlak and Eytam Bank.

Ankara, the new capital city of Turkey, acquired a new and a modernized outlook with the buildings planned by the German architects Clemens Holzmeister, Theodor Jost, Ernst A. Egli, Bruno Taut, Franz Hillinger, Robert Oerley and others.

Ankara and İzmir were the first cities which developed with master plans. The development and the reconstruction of İzmir actually was the first in the history of Turkish Republic. The plan of French architect Rene Dange was implemented partially immediately after the declaration of independence in 1924. In the same year German architect Heussler, prepared the very first development plan for Ankara.



Fig-2: Turkish Aeronautical Association building by Ernst A. Egli, 1933-1934 [13]

**Government Buildings designed by German Architects [13]**

Government Building	Architect	Building year
Grand National Assembly of Turkey	Clemens Holzmeister	1938-1963
Presidential Palace	Clemens Holzmeister	1930-1932
Ministry of Public Health	Theodor Jost	1926-1927
Ministry of Public works and Settlement	Clemens Holzmeister	1933-1934
Ministry of Interior	Clemens Holzmeister	1930-1934
Ministry of Trade	Clemens Holzmeister	1934-1935
Ministry of National Defense	Clemens Holzmeister	1927-1931
Faculty of Literature and History- Geography	Bruno Taut, Franz Hillinger	1937-1939
Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary, Ankara	Bruno Taut	1933
Faculty of Political Science, Ankara	Ernst A. Egli	1935-1936
National Conservatory	Ernst A. Egli	1927-1929
Cebeci Secondary School	Bruno Taut, Franz Hillinger	1938-1939
Ankara Atatürk High School	Bruno Taut, Franz Hillinger	1937-1938
Ankara Trade High School	Ernst A. Egli	1928-1930
Ankara High School for Girls	Ernst A. Egli	1930-1931
Gazi High School	Ernst A. Egli	1936
İsmet Pasha Girl's Institute	Ernst A. Egli	1930-1934
Gazi Eğitim Institute, School of PT	Ernst A. Egli	1930
Gazi Eğ. Institute, School of Construct Foreman	Ernst A. Egli	1930
Gazi Eğ. Inst. Sch. of Technical Teacher for man	Paul Bonatz	1943
Etimesgut Boarding school for girls and boys	Ernst A. Egli	1929-1930
Head Quarters of Turkish General Staff	Clemens Holzmeister	1929-1930
Ankara Military Academy	Clemens Holzmeister	1935
Ankara Officer's Recreation Building	Clemens Holzmeister	1930-1931
Numune Hospital, Ankara	Robert Oerley	1933
Refik Saydam Hıfzıssıhha Institute	Theodor Jost, Robert Oerley	1927-1932
Redcross Head Office, Ankara	Robert Oerley	1929
Embassy of Germany, Ankara	Gross & Listmann, Carl Christoph Lörcher	1927-1929
Embassy of Austria, Ankara	Clemens Holzmeister	1935-1939
Embassy of Iraq, Ankara	Ernst A. Egli	1936-1938
Embassy of Switzerland, Ankara	Ernst A. Egli	1936-1938
Former Embassy of Germany, Ankara	Christoph & Unmack AG Philip Holzmann AG	1924-1928
Central Bank of Turkey, Ankara	Clemens Holzmeister	1931-1933
Emlak Kredi Bankası, Ankara	Clemens Holzmeister	1934-1935
Head Office of Sümerbank	Martin Elsaesser	1937-1938
The sitting Atatürk Statue, Ulus, Sümerbak	Heinrich Krippel	1938
The Monument of Victory, Ulus, Ankara	Heinrich Krippel	1925-1927
The Bust of Atatürk, Faculty of Literat. Ankara	Josef Thorak	Pre 1937
The Monument of Trust	Anton Hanak, Josef Thorak	1934-1935
The Statue of İsmet İnönü	Rudolf Belling	1944-1945
Saraçoğlu district, Ankara	Paul Bonatz	1933-1935
Bahçelievler district, Ankara	Hermann Jansen	1934-1939
Water Filtration Plant	Hochtief Company	1935-1936
Turkish Sugar Factories Ankara Head Office	Bernhard Pfau	1938-1940
Electric Power and Natural Gas Station	Werner Issel	1928-1933
Koç Han, Ankara	Ernst A. Egli	1930
Ulus Wholesale Market, Ankara	Robert Oerley	1930
Turkish Sugar Factories General Head Office	Paul Bonatz	1954
Atatürk Farm, Ankara	Ernst A. Egli	1936-1937
Beer Factory in Atatürk Farm	Ernst A. Egli	1936-1937

Turkish Bath in Atatürk farm	Ernst A. Egli	1937
Türkkuşu School of Aviation	Ernst A. Egli	1936-1938
Residence of Fuat Bulca	Ernst A. Egli	1936
Supreme Court, Ankara	Clemens Holzmeister	1933-1935
(Former) Court of Auditors	Ernst A. Egli	1930
Turkish Aeronautical Association	Ernst A. Egli	1934-1937
State Opera and Ballet Building	Paul Bonatz, Ş. Balmumcu	1933-1934
Cebeci Graveyard	Martin Elsaesser	1935-1938

## CONCLUSION

At the beginning of the 1920s, Ankara was like an empty white page and there was almost nothing in the new capital of the new regime. All public buildings, apart from the building, which used to be a modest railway station and a temporary assembly, had to be planned and constructed.

On April 23, 1920, after the opening of the National Assembly in Ankara, the bureaucrats of the ruling Ottoman Empire in Istanbul gradually moved there. Ankara has rapidly evolved from being an Anatolian town of a population of 20-25 thousand, started to develop rapidly and transformed into a central city where the War of Independence was ruled. When Ankara was declared the capital of the new state on October 13, 1923, sixteen days before the foundation of the Republic on October 29, 1923, it was no longer a town and faced the challenges of transforming from a town to a capital city.

Due to the economic problems and unrest in Europe in the 1920s and 30s, European scientists had a special interest and hopes to work in Ankara. After the invitation of the founders of the Turkish Republic, many German-speaking scholars came to Ankara and played an important role academy, arts, culture and in laying the foundations of the young Republic of Turkey.

During the establishment of the Republic of Turkey, all foreign planners and architects involved in urban developments, reached a different synthesis than the town planning techniques of the other cities and the existing architecture concept, with in the possibilities provided by the Republican staff.

Architects from abroad first recognized local construction materials, then trained masters to build the planned city, developed new techniques. The chance of Ankara was that all the well-known German, Austrian and Swiss architects came to the city due to the drastic after war conditions in Europe.

In 1923, after the establishment of the Republic of Turkey, a process of radical change in urban and rural areas began in all over the country. The founders of the Republic of Turkey had the main target to create modern cities with

Among the basic concepts of the founders of the Republic, the policy of creating a modern country and contemporary cities and urban culture were the primary targets.

The developments held in the capital of the new republic, to create a metropolis similar to the European capitals, were one of the important steps towards the establishment of the Republic and to improve the culture of architecture over all in Turkey. In this process, the capital Ankara has formed a good model.

Planned urbanization and the contribution of public buildings to urban aesthetics during this period still possesses their effects. These structures have been an integral part of Ankara's urban identity by providing texture integrity with other architectural structures belonging to the previous periods.

After all, when we look at Ankara of the 1920-1950 era, what we see as “modern”, “regular”, “programmatically”, “trusting in planning”, “confident in management”, “creating healthy environments”, “displaying the characteristics of a capital city even though it is not governed by a special law” are all the disciplines of a city, planned and built as a capital.

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