

The ‘Revival’ of Dome in Secular Architecture of the Late-Ottoman Early-Republican Turkey

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Abstract Beginning with the premodern times, dome and domed space within the built realm, have housed modes and rituals of human existence and have been charged with meanings and symbols. While a dome contributes to the formation and perception of architectural space, with its dominant, grabbing, gathering features; makes a building recognizable and symbolic with its form and magnitude in an urban context. This paper, following a brief history of domed structures referring to architecture of the past Seldjuk and Ottoman civilizations in a defined region, focuses on the use of dome in secular architecture of the late-Ottoman early-Republican period in Turkey, dated to the turn of the 20th century. The region is defined as north-western, western and mid-parts of today’s Turkey, in and around cities of Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir. In order to understand how domes had been integrated to the composition of the buildings, and read the probable meanings behind the ‘revival’ of the dome in this specific architecture, selected examples shall be explored.

Keywords late-Ottoman early-Republican Turkey, domed building, representation