ARIT LECTURE

Traditional and Contemporary Turkish Mosques

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at ANAMED Auditorium and on ZOOM
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ANAMED
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RESEARCH CENTER FOR
ANATOLIAN CIVILIZATIONS

In person lecture at Anamed Auditorium, İstiklal Caddesi, 181, Merkez Han, Beyoğlu
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Süleymaniye Camii

The mosque architecture of the agricultural era, undoubtedly reached its zenith during the Ottoman Period. In early Arabic and Seljuk Architecture because of the limited structural technology of the period, mosques generally were multi-columned, flat-roofed buildings. When domes were used during that time, they were either modest or covered only a small part of interior space. In Ottoman Architecture by contrast, because of the superior knowledge gained in dome and vault technology, interiors of mosques were largely freed from load-bearing columns and a new miracle in interior space liberation was achieved. These new technologies in Ottoman Architecture resulted in a new

pluralistic momentum and five distinct types of mosques emerged. Especially, through the superior architectural talent and technological knowledge of the 16th century's great architect Sinan, a tremendous and unsurpassed creativity was captured in mosque architecture.

Contemporary mosques, because they serve a traditional function, are often considered that they must be replicas of the past examples. The question is, if Sinan had lived today, in designing his mosques would he have copied the past examples or even his own earlier architecture? The answer is, of course, no. There are some modern-day mosques, alas very few, that are original and employ the technology of our time. Therefore, the mosque architecture of our time must also be discussed.

Prof. Dr. Filiz Özer graduated from Robert College in Istanbul, received her B.A. in History from Vassar College in the U.S., and earned her bachelor's and doctoral degrees from Istanbul University's Faculty of Letters in the Department of Classical Archaeology. She became an Associate Professor and later a Professor at the Istanbul Technical University (ITU) Faculty of Architecture, in the discipline of History of Architecture. In addition to her courses at the ITU Faculty of Architecture, she taught extensively in the History of Architecture and History of Art departments at the ITU Graduate School. She currently teaches in the graduate program at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University's Faculty of Architecture. Prof. Özer is the author of numerous publications in both Turkish and English. Her primary fields of study include contemporary architecture and design, as well as various periods of Ottoman architecture.