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AN EXAMPLE OF 19TH CENTURY ISTANBUL MANSIONS; THE CİHANGİR KADİRİ LODGE MANSION

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Abstract

The Turks in Anatolia and the other regions in which they were sovereign developed a housing architecture peculiar to them. In the creation of this architecture geographical conditions, historical situations and ways of life were influential in addition to Anatolia's being in an earthquake zone. The earliest examples of mansions built with wood frames to resist earthquakes began to be produced in Anatolia in the 16th century, and this production continued until the middle of the 20th century. At the beginning, the plans of the mansions which were built with open halls as an indication of country living and tradition changed over time and completed the development process with plans of enclosed interior halls that suited city living and central halls.

The Kadiri Lodge in Istanbul's Cihangir district is a religious complex that has existed since the 17th century. Today the wooden mansion in which the Lodge's seyh lived with his family is important among the various buildings that make up this complex. It is thought that the mansion was built in the first half of the 19th century during the reign of Sultan Mahmut II and it has a plan that the stairwell and rooms that surround the side of a square-shaped hall with bevelled corners created. It was built on sloping land as a four—story building with a basement floor with a hamam, ground floor, main floor for living and an attic / cihannüma. The basement level walls were built from rubble; the other floors' walls were built of earthquake—resistant, wooden frames against earthquakes and the floors are wooden joisted. The wooden frame walls were covered on the outside with wood and on the inside with plaster made of lath and plaster work. The interior spaces had walls decorated with pencil work and lathed wood on the ceilings.

The building which experienced two big earthquakes in 1894 and 1999 and survived these disasters unfortunately was ruined in a fire in 1997 and the attic/ cihannüma partially burned. In this study the architectural formation and the problems of protecting the Kadiri Lodge Mansion which is one of the few wooden buildings left of the mansions of Istanbul and is face to face with the danger of being destroyed will be studied and documented.

1 INTRODUCTION

The “Kadiri Asitanesi” or “Kadiri-hane Tekkesi” (dervish lodge) is a complex in Istanbul’s Tophane district on Kadiriler Yokuşu and is made up of various “tarikat” (mystic sect) buildings. The “asitane” name of the complex which was first established at the beginning of the 17th century as a dervish convent happened because the “Kadiri Tarikat’s” headquarters were in Istanbul. The tomb that belonged to Rumi İsmail Efendi (d. 1631), the founder of the “Kadiri Tarikat” is inside this complex and strengthens the correctness of this status [1]. The complex on island that is bounded by “Kadiriler, Süngü , Türkgücü” and “Tombaz” Streets is located on sloping land (Fig. 1-3). In the complex that over time has been burned, destroyed, rebuilt and added to the buildings, there are a stone “ tevhid-hane” (great hall) or mosque, a wooden “meşruta-hane” (mansion) reserved for şeyh’s family, the şeyh’s house, a “hamam” (Turkish bath) that belongs to the mansion, a mausoleum, a “hazire” (enclosed graveyard) and two fountains. The “tevhid-hane” (great hall in which the tariqat’s rituals were performed), which is the main building of the complex, over time has been enlarged and surrounded with wooden-framed reception areas “selamlık” from the east and the west (Fig.4,5). The “hazire” and tomb are on the north of this building and the şeyh’s house and mansion are on the west (Fig.6, 7). The “tevhid-hane” and the mansion are reached via a ramp with stairs that begin from “Kadiriler Yokuşu” (Fig.8). One of the fountains in the complex is on “Kadiri Yokuşu” and is the İsmail Ağa Fountain found on the courtyard wall while another fountain, which is on the ground floor of the “selamlık” section of the “tevhid-hane” (Fig.2, 8) Aside from these buildings there are gardens that are on different levels south of the “tevhid-hane” and in the west of the mansion and şeyh’s house (Harem garden). The dining hall “taam-hane” which existed in the past and was on the east of the “hazire” and the “gusulhane” for ritual washing section have been rebuilt today.



Figure 1: Kadiri Lodge at the Pervititch Map [2].



Figure 2: “Kadiri” St. and courtyard door, 2018.

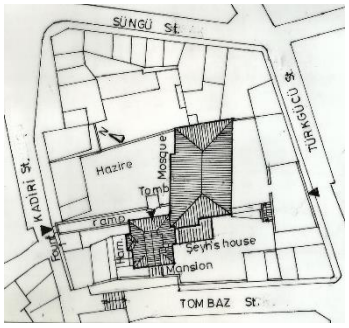


Figure 3-The location plan





Figure 4, 5-The "Tevhid-hane", 1997 and wooden "selamlık" 2018.



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Figure 6- The mansion and tomb, 2018.





Figure 7, 8- The mansion and Şeyh's house, 1990 and the ramp, 2018.

2 BRIEF HISTORY

The "Kadiri Tekkesi" was built through a philanthropic individual named Hacı Piri in 1630 who donated his own land to Şeyh İsmail Rumi who had founded the Rumi branch of the Kadiri Sect[1]. In a fire that broke out in Tophane in 1765, the "Kadiri Tekkesi" burned and was rebuilt in 1766 by Sultan Mustafa III. Unfortunately in another Tophane fire that broke out in 1823 the "Kadiri Tekkesi" buildings again burned and were completely destroyed. Sultan Mahmud II had the "Kadiri Tekkesi" rebuilt the same year in 1823. During the reign of Abdülhamid II in 1893 the "taamhane" (dining hall) section and the şeyh's house[2] were added to the "tekke" and in 1894 the "tevhid-hane" and mansion were partially restored and repaired[3] [3].

In the Republican period after 1925 when the "tekkes" and dervish lodges were closed, the "tevhid-hane" was used only as a mosque and the mansion was used as the residence of the "Kadiri şeyh" and his family [4]. In a fire that broke out in 1997 the wooden parts of the "tevhid-hane" and the "selamlık" area completely burned down (Fig.9). The fire spread to the mansion and the "cihannüma" (attic floor), and the main living floor (first floor) of the mansion were partly ruined. The mansion the same year was repaired through the effort of the şeyh's family and, while the roof was enclosed, it was prevented from being more ruined (Fig.10, 11). It is

[1] For this reason the tevhid-hane in the "Kadiri Lodge" in the past was known as the Hacı Piri Mosque after the name of the person who donated his land which was a garden as the part used today as the mosque. It is known that in the Byzantine period the St. Makaveon Church was here [3].

[2] The Şeyh's house was built for the 16th Şeyh Ahmed Muhyiddin Efendi of the "tekke" [4]. This house is a two-story, wooden-framed building. The facade's formation is different from the facades of the mansion and on the wood-shuttered windows there are triangular pediments.

[3] On the wall on the east of the road with the staircase, there is a "tuğra" (signature) of Sultan Mahmud II who rebuilt the "tekke" and the other "tuğra" of Abdülhamid II who repaired and added new parts is on the arch of the courtyard entry door [3] .

understood, relying on the Pervititch map, that the "taamhane" and "gusulhane" for ritual bathing which were known to have existed in the past were in ruins in 1927; however, it is not known when they were torn down.



Figure 9- "Selamlık" after 1997 fire.





Figure 10, 11-Mansion, Şeyh's house and entrance of the mansion, after 1997 fire.

3 ARCHITECTURAL FORMATION OF THE KADIRI LODGE MANSION

The mansion which is known as the "meşruta-hane" where the "Kadiri" şeyhs' families sat together in the "Kadiri" lodge largely protected its particular characteristics from the first half of the 19th century when it was built until the present. The mansion wasn't damaged in the earthquakes of 1894 and 1999 that Istanbul experienced; however, because it was wooden it was partially destroyed in the fire that broke out in 1997.

The mansion is a building that is three-stories and in addition has a "cihannüma" floor on the roof. Because of the slope of the land it is perceived as three stories or as two stories (Fig.12, 13). The building's entrance floor has been settled on a level on which the sloping road in ramp form rose from the "Kadiri" Yokuşu (Fig.14). From this level one enters the mansion's entry floor and below this floor is the basement floor that opens on the harem garden while above is the first floor which is used as the main living floor and part of the attic floor. In the southwest corner of the mansion is the masonry "tevhid-hane" and in the southeast corner is the two-story wooden-framed şeyh's house; on the north is the one-story masonry "hamam" and cistern, and on the west is the harem garden with a pool. Between the mansion and the tevhid-hane there are passageways on the ground floor and first floor level and between the mansion and the first şeyh's house at the ground and basement floor levels there are passageways. Likewise a tie exists between the tevhid- hane's ground floor and the first floor of the şeyh's house. From the basement floor of the mansion a passage way is provided to the hamam and an exit to the harem garden.



Figure 12- Mansion from the west, 2018.





Figure 13, 14-Mansion from the east and the ramp with stairs, 2018.

3.1 Plan Characteristics

The main floor of the mansion for living (first floor) has the plan type of a central hall (Fig.15). In each of the bevelled corners of the central hall there is a room, in between the eastern and western rooms there are the extensions of the hall; "eyvan"s (alcoves). In the western "eyvan", a three flight staircase is located and it provides the communication between this floor and entrance floor. On this floor two semi-circular balconies that were the same width as the side arms of the staircases were partially carried straight on the side arms. On the north and south of the central hall out of necessity in place of the "eyvan"s, there are corridors that stretch in front of these places with lavatory, room and staircase places. Thanks to these corridors that were created secondarily outside the hall which was the place for passing and gathering, there were the sections used in the mansion's north as the "harem" and in the south as the "selamlık" areas.

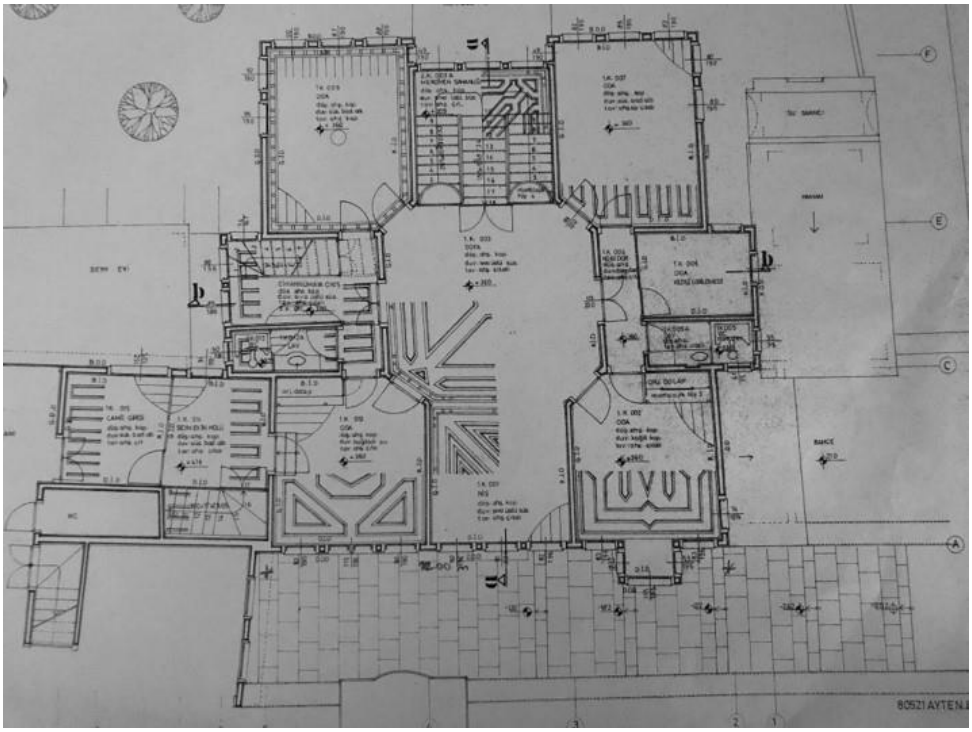


Figure 15- Survey of the main (first) floor (1980).

The entrance (ground) floor has the same plan design as that of the main floor for living (Fig.16). However, the entrance hall while the central hall's east "eyvan" was separated from the hall with a wall (Fig.17). On this floor too one sees that the north and south "eyvan"s were closed to the hall in front of the room and lavatory places that were placed against the "eyvan"s; secondary corridors were found that paralleled the hall wall. The stair place which is inside the western "eyvan" and begins from the entrance floor has two arms on the sides as far as the landing level and after the landing level it goes to the main living floor as a single arm in the centre (Fig.18, 19). The room found in the southeast corner of the hall both provides the connection with the "tevhid-hane" and the "şeyh's" house and descends to the basement floor by the staircase here. As for the second staircase that descends in the basement floor it has been settled on the entrance hall. As for the kitchen area that stretches as far as the garden wall in a projecting part in front of the western "eyvan", it is understood that it was a portion added to the plan design afterwards.

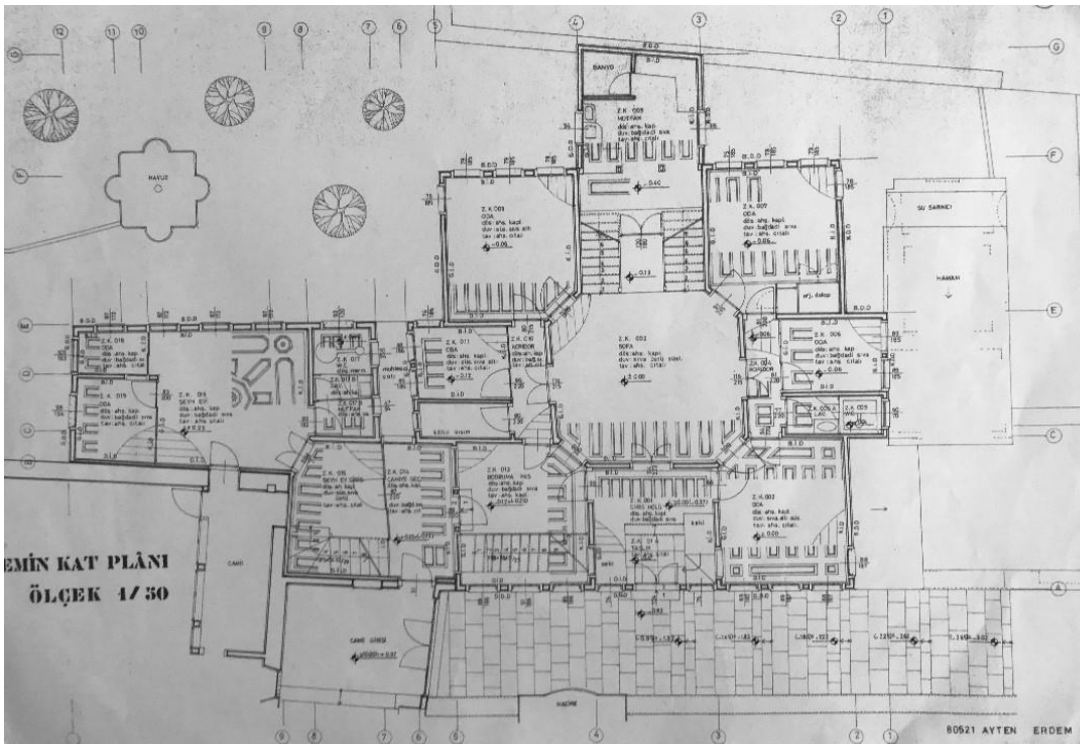


Figure 16- Survey of the entrance (ground) floor (1980).



Figure 17, 18, 19- The eastern and western side of the ground floor hall and the balcony of the stair place, 2018.

The attic floor is made up of two rooms that have placed back to back in an east-west direction and a balcony that is in front of the room on the west (Fig.12, 21). The balcony was enclosed with coloured glass and metal joinery at an unknown date but probably at the beginning of the 20th century. It is thought that the kitchen and toilet spaces which are found adjoining the south side of this floor were added.

The basement floor plan has the central hall and four "eyvans" in a form that suits the floor design of the upper floors (Fig.20). The basement floor and the harem garden are at the same level; as for each of the rooms in the northwest and southwest corners. In the western "eyvan" there is a door that exits to the garden. The exit staircase to an upper floor is inside the east eyvan and from the south "eyvan" one passes to the ground floor of the "şeyh's house" and from the north "eyvan" one passes to the "hamam". The "hamam" is a one-story, stonewalled structure in two parts and with a wooden roof; in the west there is a vaulted cistern.

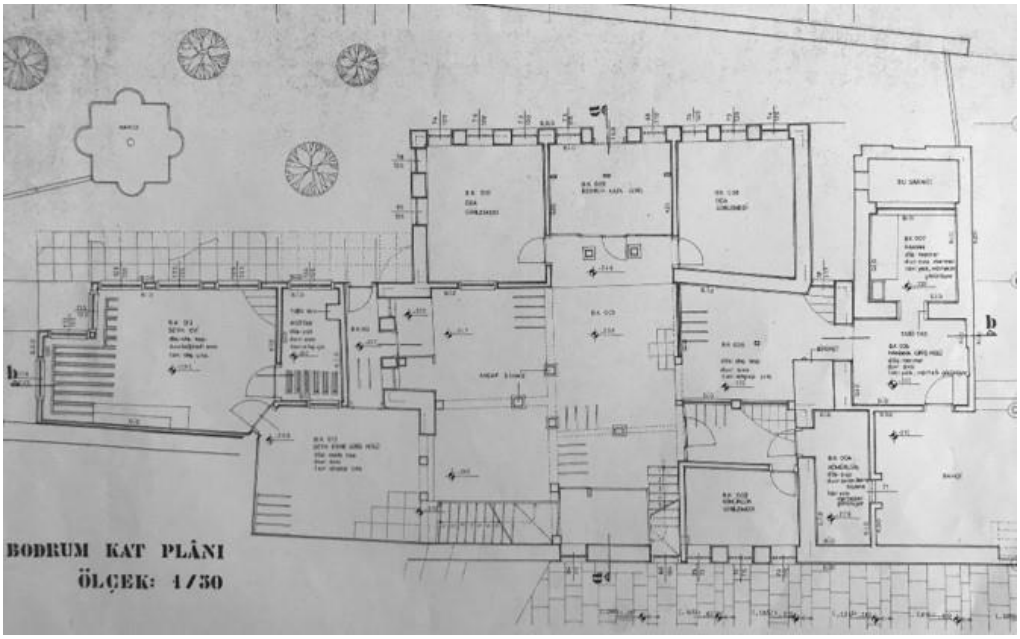


Figure 20- Survey of the basement floor (1980).

3.2 Construction System

The mansion was constructed with the basement floor of stone rubble and the other floors were built as a wooden structure (Fig. 21). At the basement floor level the 50-centimeter thick stone rubble created the external contours of the building. The interior partition walls of the rooms that were placed on the garden side were built as a wooden-framed wall 17-18 cm thick. As for in the places that came under the partition walls of the entrance floor, wooden posts and girders that sat on stone pedestals as carriers. Only on the north and southwest stone walls of the basement floor window spaces with brick arches were created. The ground floor covering of this floor was Malta stone and the ceilings were covered with lathed wood.

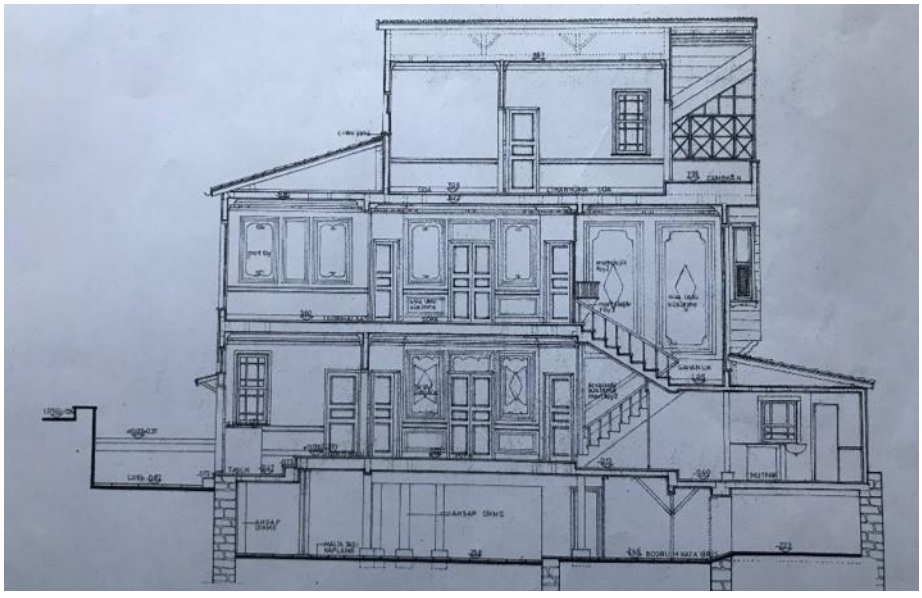


Figure 21- A-A section, survey (1980).

All of the walls except for the basement floor main walls are constructed with wooden- frame system. From the inside the wooden-structured external walls are plaster on split wood; from the outside it is covered with horizontal wooden boards. Both sides of the interior walls were plastered while the split wood was being nailed down. On the main living floor in the "eyvans" and in the rooms found in the northeast and southeast corners and in the central hall there are geometrically designed wooden ceilings (Fig. 22); in the southwest corner room, decorated brackets and bed moulding ceiling were used and as for in the other parts covered board-and-batten type ceilings were used. As for the entrance floor, all the ceilings were made in the covered board-and- batten style (Fig.23). The floor coverings which were made of wooden joists were board covered. Entrance to the rooms was provided by single wing doors and to the corridors double-winged, panelled doors. The entrance floor and the first floor's room and hall walls were decorated with painted decorations (Fig.24); however, today the designs can't be determined because whitewash has been applied to the decorations in some rooms. The building has been covered with semi-cylindrical tiles on the hipped roof.



Figure 22- First floor hall (1980)





Figure 23, 24- Ceiling and painted decoration in the entrance floor hall.

3.3 Facade Characteristics

The mansion's showiest facades are the east facade where the entrance door is found and the west facade where the staircase "eyvan" is reflected outside. All the facades with the exception of the basement floor have been covered horizontally with wooden materials. The east (entrance) facade is perceived as two-storied, the west facade as three-storied and the other facades are seen as partially three-storied; the "cihannüma" floor rises from the middle of the four hipped roof with semi-cylindrical tiles. All the facades have been covered horizontally with wooden materials; a wooden strip which is a little below the eaves level has encircles horizontally. One sees that the roof is without eaves.

On the eastern (entrance) facade at the level of the main living floor, the room on the right side carries to the road with a bay window that has been placed right in the middle (Fig.25-26). On the facade where the threesome and rectangular window organization dominated, at the main living floor level the windows in the middle of the threesome group are double arched in the rooms that were different from the others and in the hall it is arched. On the ground floor too it is seen that with the entrance door in the centre of the facade the windows on the two sides of the door are arched. It is understood that the original window woodwork was sliding (hung) wing and every wing with the help of the half-batten in different dimensions were separated into nine sections. It is thought that the wooden lattices that exist in the building's ground floor windows were on all the windows in the past.



Figure 25: Survey of the entrance (eastern) façade, 1980.

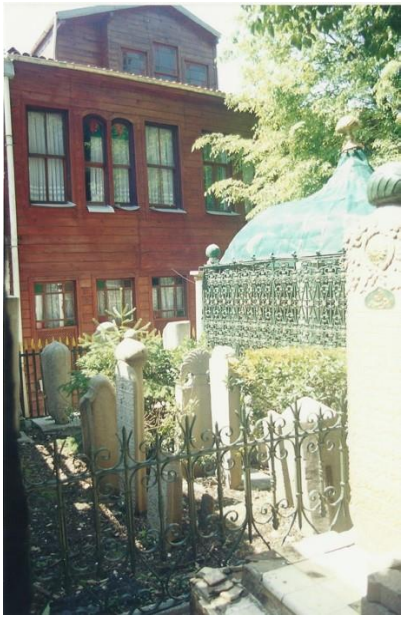


Figure 26- Entrance façade, 1997.



Figure 27- Survey of the western facade of the mansion (1980).



Figure 28- Western facade (2018)

The western facade is pointed towards the harem garden and Tombaz St (Fig.25, 26). It is seen that the rooms on both sides of this facade has projections at the main living floor level and the projections are supported by wooden cantilevers. The room windows are rectangular and the "eyvan" windows are both arched and made higher than the room windows. The attic floor's enclosed balcony appears in the forefront with wooden eave decorations in the art nouveau style and with a glass facade.

Because the building's southern facade partially became attached to the "şeyh's" house and the mosque, it isn't totally visible. The north facade too is attached to the "hamam" at the basement floor level and it is opened to the outside with a few windows.

4 CONSERVATION PROBLEMS OF THE LODGE MANSION

The "Kadiri Tekkesi" buildings were rebuilt according to the architectural style of the period in 1823; the new buildings that were added and built according to the architectural style which was fashionable in 1893; and the repairs, largely protecting their characteristics, would come towards the end of the 20th century. In this period, the "tevhid-hane" and the mansion as a headquarters and family residence continued their original functions. A short time later after rebuilding and repairing, the earthquake of 1894 which was one of the most violent of Istanbul city's earthquakes occurred and it is claimed to have registered nine in force. The buildings that could be saved from this violence were wooden structure buildings [5] and as a result the "Kadiri" lodge mansion also remained standing because of its construction system. Relying on the survey of the mansion conducted in 1980, it is possible to say that it has not undergone very important changes up to this date; however, one observes that some window woodwork was renewed, the kitchen was added, the attic's balcony was enclosed with a metal-work window, a wooden division between the staircase eyvan and the central hall separated the one from the other, painted decorations found on the walls of some rooms had been covered with whitewash and the lathed wood of the ceiling of the room found in the southeast corner of the main living floor had been destroyed.

In 1997 in the fire that broke out because of electric contact in the wooden "selamlık" section that wrapped a portion of the "tevhid-hane", the wooden parts of the "tevhid-hane" and the "cihannüma" (mansion's attic) floor completely and the ceilings of main living floor partially were destroyed. Because it was winter time the "Şeyh of Tekke" had emergency repairs carried out through his own initiative. During this repair that was done without the approval of the Preservation Council and the Foundations Directorate, the elements that were destroyed because of the fire were not made in their original form (Fig.29-31). Separately characteristics that still existed in spite of the fire were changed. For example on the facades the covering board used was narrower, the roof that didn't have eaves was built with eaves and the mouldings which was a little below the level of the eaves was destroyed.

Right after this repair, Istanbul experienced the 1999 earthquake of 7.4 in strength but the mansion succeeded in remaining standing because of its being a building with a wooden frame. However, the building that has survived until today has not been newly repaired and the damage that the fire and unconscionable repair gave to the mansion has not been removed.





Figure 29, 30, 31 - Central hall and northeast room of the main floor and "cihannüma" after the 1997 repair.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The "Kadiri" Lodge mansion is one of the examples typical of 19th century houses. The central hall plan type used in the mansion is shown as the latest development of the Turkish house plan type. In the plan organization large rooms being found in the corners, "eyvans" alongside small rooms, lavatories and secondary corridors being placed between these rooms, the use of staircases with three arms and the staircase being completed with small balconies are characteristics specific to the houses of this period. Not finding cabinets used for storage in the rooms is the sign of the beginning of furniture being used in traditional houses. Separately, not finding a fireplace, the raised platform, and the ceilings made of covered boards and battens and modillion show that the Turkish room has been distanced from the classical order and shape. As for on the facades of the houses of this period and because of it the "Kadiri" mansion, the top windows have been removed, the windows have been lined up in group form, the hall windows have been differentiated from the room windows in form and height, in place of window shutters the use of lattice has come to the fore and it seems that the facades' quality of wall construction has been hidden by being enclosed with wood planks.

The number of wooden buildings in Istanbul today that have survived, especially the 18th and 19th century houses, is very few. The "Kadiri" mansion which is one of those buildings and the particular values we have discussed above have been able to survive very violent earthquakes for 195 years through its wooden frame construction system. As a conclusion, in order to pass the particular characteristics of the mansion which is in a rather dilapidated condition today to future generations, it is recommended that it be repaired in a knowledgeable way on an emergency basis.

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