

St. Kliment Ohridski University Press



# Turkey at the Beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: New Perspectives

## Editors

Metin Ayıışıǧı  
Recep Efe  
Ömer Düzbakar  
Mehmet Arslan

## Chapter 22

### Göynük, a Settlement of Ottomans, and its Structural Values

Z. Sevgen PERKER

#### INTRODUCTION

Göynük is a district within borders of Bolu province in the Black Sea Region of Turkey. The district is one of the major examples to reflect the Ottoman-Turkish way of living in terms of settlement culture in Anatolia. It is an important settlement both at national and universal level with the texture of streets shaped compatible with topography; traditional houses that do not interfere with each other's view and with sun, and are positioned respecting each other and people and designed in touch with nature; streams running through the district to give natural wealth to settlement texture; characters that played an important role in Anatolian history; and monumental buildings reminding of those important characters. Göynük has survived to the present day, preserving both architectural texture and natural beauties to a large extent. The traditional life style of the district exists with all of its components in addition to values mentioned (Fig.1).



Figure 1: An image of Göynük

#### HISTORY

Göynük hosted a large number of civilizations in the historical process. It is known that Scythians and Thracians were first to choose Göynük and its surroundings as an area of settlement; the region remained under British dominance until Hellenistic period, and became a settlement of Romans and Byzantines, respectively.

The region was the capital of Umur Bey Han Principality, an arm of Seljuqs before Ottomans, and incorporated into Ottoman's territory by Osman Bey in 1292. In 1330, Gazi Suleiman Pasha, the son of Orhan Gazi, settled in and developed Göynük, and caused to build a mosque and Turkish bath which are referred to as his name (URL-2

Akşemseddin, who was the teacher of Fatih Sultan Mehmet, the Ottoman Sultan who conquered Istanbul in 1453, and made history for both his exemplary character and his contribution to conquest, settled in Göynük after conquest and lived there for 15 years and deceased in this pretty district. Therefore, the tomb of Akşemseddin is in Göynük. A variety of events are held in the district during the last week of May every year to commemorate Akşemseddin. The tombs of two grand saints Dede Hazretleri and Omar Sıkkını who lived in Anatolia are also in Göynük.



Göynük together with Düzce, Gerede and Mudurnu became one of the first townships of Bolu when administrative organization was reestablished during the Republic Period and Bolu became a province at that time. Göynük is still administrated and controlled by Bolu. Hurşit Bey, the first district governor of Göynük, built the Tower of Victory on a hill that dominates the district in remembrance of Sakarya Victory during his office.

Currently, Göynük is 98 km to Bolu city center and covers an area of 1437 km<sup>2</sup>; the elevation from the sea level is 730 m. The district borders on provinces of Bilecik, Eskişehir, Ankara and Sakarya and has a total of 126 registered buildings including 7 mosques, 3 tombs, 1 Turkish bath, 1 tower, 2 government buildings (City Hall and Government Office), 2 fountains, and also houses that are examples of civil architecture (Web-3)

### **SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURE**

Although it is not common over the past years, weaving made on hand loom plays an important role in social, cultural and economic life of Göynük (Figure 2). In addition to weaving, wood engraving is one of the handicrafts that has survived to present day.

The cuisine culture of Göynük includes significant elements of rich Anatolian cuisine. Currently, the economy of Göynük is basically based on poultry raising and agriculture; the Bombay bean, a product peculiar to the district, has a substantial role in economy; additionally a variety of agricultural products are produced in an amount sufficient to meet basic needs of locals, and beekeeping has an important position.



Figure 2: Hand Looms in Göynük

On the other hand, Göynük has also a position as gypsum and marble sites in Çatacak village, and there are establishments operating in mining in the region; and it is known that coal is extracted on coal filed in Göynük, and the region contains oil shale, one of the substantial energy resources that can provide input for petro-chemistry industry (URL-3)

Tourism can be included in major sources of income for Göynük. Natural beauties around the district and immediate vicinity, traditional lifestyle and architectural values have made the district a significant area for cultural tourism. Especially, some of the historical houses in Göynük have been renovated and transformed into a hotel so these accommodation facilities serve to domestic and foreign tourists.

## SETTLEMENT CHARACTERISTICS AND STRUCTURAL VALUES

Major elements that determine Göynük's general settlement characteristic include the hills that form the geographical structure and are situated opposing and the streams that run through the district. The central area of the district includes social buildings -such as mosque, Turkish bath and bazaar- and houses that are situated on the valet slopes (Figure 3). The road network comprises of main roads and secondary roads that play a role in determining the topography. The district is divided by quarters which form Göynük, and quarters display similar features in terms of both housing texture and road network. The district has no green space that is particularly created except for the space located to the east of the Mosque of Gazi Suleiman Pasha; however the natural green appearance on the texture is created by trees in the gardens of houses (Erdem, 1996). The Lake of Çubuk and the Lake of Sünnet located near Göynük are notable areas where both locals and tourists come by when they desire to spend some time in touch with nature (Fig. 4).



Figure 3: Traditional Houses of Göynük



Figure 4: The Lake of Çubuk near Göynük

There are a large number of registered architectural works in Göynük, and they are monumental buildings and examples of civil architecture including Mosque of Gazi Suleiman Pasha, Turkish Bath of Gazi Suleiman Pasha, Tomb of Akşemseddin, and Tower of Victory.

The oldest buildings that have survived to the present day from establishment date of Göynük are the Mosque of Gazi Suleiman Pasha and Turkish Bath of Gazi Suleiman Pasha which were built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The Mosque of Gazi Suleiman Pasha was built as part of the Islamic-Ottoman social complex which constructed together with the Turkish bath by Gazi Suleiman Pasha, the son of Orhan Gazi between 1331 and 1335 (Fig. 5). Located on the flat area near the Brook of Göynük, this building has a rectangular plan and a dome and is constructed with travertine pitch-faced stones. The mosque includes a closed narthex and the long sides of the mosque extend in the north-south direction (Fig. 6). Because the mosque was built on a stream bed, it needed to be elevated from the ground; therefore a depressed basement was created. The building is accessed through stairs at the central line on the wall to the north of the mosque. The mosque is a two-storey building and has a gathering-place which is accessed through stairs located in the narthex. The main prayer place of the mosque has a square plan and an altar niche on the southern wall. This niche appears protruded from the wall (Fig. 7, 8). The minaret with one minaret balcony in the west rises on an octagonal base. The minaret body is ashlar stonework

and ends with a pointed cone coated with lead. The mosque underwent several repairs in 1948, 1960 and 1987 (Ayverdi, 1989; Erden, 1996; URL-3)



Figure 5: Entrance Side of Gazi Suleiman Pasha's Mosque



Figure 6: Narthex of Gazi Suleiman Pasha's Mosque



Figure 7: The main prayer place of the Gazi Suleiman Pasha's Mosque

The Turkish Bath of Gazi Suleiman Pasha was built by Gazi Suleiman Pasha, the son of Orhan Gazi, between 1331 and 1335 (Fig. 9). The building was fully built by travertine ashlar and designed as a double Turkish bath. The division for men is in the west and the division for women is in the east. Each division for men and women includes soyunmalık (changing room), soğukluk (the cool area for people who are disturbed by hot atmosphere and want a

cooler atmosphere), halvet (the private room) and cehennemlik (the section where hot water is supplied by burning woods or other materials). To the south of the building locates külhan (the section where cold water is distributed and has two tanks for hot and cold water) and a hot water reservoir. The main walls of Turkish bath are built with ashlar. The main walls end with ashlar cornice on which domes and flues of different heights rise that are seated on octagonal frames from the level of cornice. Although the building has undergone several repairs, the original form is preserved as far as possible. Evliya Çelebi (an Ottoman traveler) praises in his book called "Seyahatname" (travelogue) that there is no such spectacular Turkish bath neither in Ankara nor in Istanbul (Ayverdi, 1989; Erdem, 1996).

The tomb that was built by Fatih Sultan Mehmet in 1464 for his teacher Akşemseddin is located on a flat area between the Mosque of Gazi Suleiman Pasha and the Brook of Göynük and on the same parcel as the mosque (Figure 10). The tomb has a hexagonal plan and is built with ashlar, plastered inside and unplastered outside. Limestone was used for construction of the tomb. The five facades of the tomb have rectangular windows within pointed-arch niches in two rows, and the sixth façade contains the wooden entrance door within a niche. There is a pediment over the

door which contains the tablet of the building. There is a skylight over the door niche. The tomb has undergone several repairs (Erdem, 1996, URL-1)



Figure 8: The niche of the Gazi Suleiman Pasha's Mosque



Figure 9: Turkish bath of Gazi Suleiman Pasha

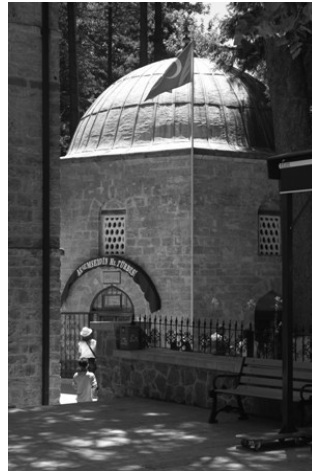


Figure 10: The Tomb of Akşemseddin

The Tower of Victory, one of the significant monumental buildings of Göynük, was built by Hurşit Bey, who was the district governor of that period, in 1923 in remembrance of Sakarya Victory. The original tower is a triplex building and was built on an octagonal massive foundation using timber materials. The tower underwent some repair in 1960 and was replaced by the current tower which is built in the original form because the fire broke out during the second repair performed in 2001 (URL-5)

The Ottoman period traditional houses of Göynük are located on two valley slopes facing each other. The frontal of houses on either valley is positioned to view the landscape of the opposing valley and the streams running through the district but this position in the form of steps to prevent houses from interfering with each other's view and light (Fig. 12, 13). The façade of front gardens of houses positioned on the slope is two-floored or triplex, and the back garden's façade is single-floored. Traditional houses are generally located in separated design and compatible with topographic data; however there are, even rare, some houses that were built as row houses (Erdem, 1996, 1999).



Figure 11: The Tower of Victory

In general, traditional houses are triplex with ground floor used as service area. The height of the ground is higher than the height of other floors. The middle floor is designed for daily life activities and the top floor is designed as the primary living space. General plan characteristics of the house are identified by the floor of primary living space and the middle floor. Traditional houses of Göynük include examples that have an inner hall, central hall, and few corner halls. Frontal characteristics of Göynük's traditional houses come into prominence through the design of the floor of primary living spaces in particular.



Figure 12: Traditional Houses in Göynük



Figure 13: Traditional Houses in Göynük

Oriels and windows are building elements that enrich the facades. Generally, houses are built on a stone foundation, and ground floor walls of these houses are built using stone material and masonry system. Middle floors and top floors are constructed using timber frame system, and materials such as wood, adobe brick and stone are used for the filling material of the frame (Erdem, 1996, 1999). Wood is also used for the flooring design of traditional houses. The roofs have a hipped design and are covered with pantiles.

## **RESULTS**

The district of Göynük represents settlement characteristics of Ottoman-Turkish period on Anatolian territory and has survived to the present day, preserving its original state as far as possible. The settlement of Göynük is therefore important at local, national and international level. Because of such values they have, Göynük and similar settlements need to be preserved, sustained, improved and carried into future for continuation of culture. It is critically important to document and promote existing

values to ensure preservation, and to create a local, national and international public opinion on preserving these values. It is hoped that this study serves such objectives.

## REFERENCES

- Ayverdi, E. H. (1989). *Osmanlı Mimarisinin İlk Devri*. İstanbul: İstanbul Fetih Cemiyeti.
- Erdem, A. (1996). *Göynük Tarihsel Siti, Dini ve Sivil Mimarlık Ürünleri, Koruma Sorunları ve Yeni Yapılaşma Koşulları*. Doktora Tezi, Yıldız Teknik Üniv., İstanbul.
- Erdem, A. (1999). Göynük Kenti, Geleneksel Konut Mimarisi. *Mimarlık Dergisi* (259), 58 - 62.
- URL-1: <http://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C3%B6yn%C3%BCk>. Göynük, 2015
- URL-2: <http://www.bolugoyruk.bel.tr/goynuk.asp?docid=7>. Göynük Hakkında, 2015
- URL-3: <http://www.goynuk.com/category/ekonomi/>. Göynük Ekonomisi, 2015
- URL-4: <http://www.goynuk.com/goynuk-tarihi/>. Göynük Tarihi, 2015
- URL-5: [http://www.karadenizgezi.net/Goynuk\\_Tarihi\\_Eserleri.htm](http://www.karadenizgezi.net/Goynuk_Tarihi_Eserleri.htm). Zafer Kulesi, 2015
- All pictures in the article are extracted from the author's archive.