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EXTERNAL ORNAMENTS OF KÜÇÜK EFENDİ MOSQUE

Abstract:

Küçük Efendi Mosque is located in an Islamic - Ottoman Social Complex (kulliye) in Province Istanbul, District Fatih, region Kocamustafapaşa. The mosque was built in 1825; its garden walls have been renewed and a fountain was added in period of Ottoman Sultan, Mahmut II (1839). The mosque has very simple, ordinary ornaments but the ornaments became intensive at garden walls and fountain and minaret that were built in late period. Environment wall was ornamented in baroque style; curtain motives, acanthus leaves, big rosettes, volutes and wavy eaves compose basic components of ornamentation. The minaret has been built like folded round.

External ornamentation of the mosque has been analyzed in details in this study and information about Ottoman Late Period ornamentation has been provided and so this period has been tried to be enlightened.

Keywords:

Ottoman Late Period, Mosque, Küçük Efendi Mosque, exterior wall, baroque, minaret,

JEL Classification: Z00

Küçük Efendi Mosque was built in Fatih County of İstanbul at Kocamustafapaşa in Hacı Hamza District, on the ward where Merdivenli Çeşme Street, Hoca Kadın Street, and Hacı Evhat Street intersects. The build date of the mosque is not clearly identified. It is estimated to be Hijri 1240-1241/AD 1285-1826 when the super scribe of the fountain that is at the street side of the construct is examined. Since the stone decorations of the fountain and the library walls are similar and the mosque-library-fountain trio is integrated, it is thought to be that the mosque-library social complex was built at the same year and possibly by the same architect (Bulduk, 1978:50).

The architect of the mosque is not known but the benefactor is known to be Şeyh Muhammed Abd-ür Reşid who was entombed in hazire (burial area reserved for special people) of the mosque. It is highly possible that this person is the son of preacher of Hagia Sophia (Kuran, 1963: 467).

Küçük Efendi Mosque is one the rare, extant examples of Turkish Baroque Architecture and designed as oval with a library, fountain, water-tank, Islamic monastery rooms, suffering rooms, water reservoir, wells, and hazier. A restoration project was applied after a devastating fire in 1957.

The oval designed main building of the complex was getting used for whirling dervishes' rituals. The baroque style decorations mainly on the outer side of the complex are very effective at a building designed as oval and the classical mosque architecture was ignored (Koç, 2002: 523).

The complex is located on a rectangular area closed with surrounding walls. The library is at the right hand side of the mosque entrance. The minaret was built at the intersecting area of the mosque and library walls. The hazire is at the eastern side of mosque.

Küçük Efendi Mosque is one of the authentic Turkish Baroque Style in İstanbul with its oval mass, wooden oval dome, and with a fountain on the wall along the street (Kuran, 1987b: 308). There exists a main tap within a rectangular frame on the body located on the first part beginning from the bottom, there exists a super scribe over the second part, and there exists Sultan II Mahmud's signature within an elliptical crown decoration over the third part. There are also side parts which have a secondary tap at the first part, and leaf reliefs on the second and third parts. The corners of the walls on the third part are softened with braces shaped like "S". There is an oval medallion in vertical position surrounded with folded curtain reliefs on the ornamental slab of the fountain. The concave surface of the medallion is left blank and it is hanged on the top point of the elliptical crown and supported with a trestle having folded leaf relief from the bottom. Since the elevation of street has raised on time, the watering through has remained in cove. There are tiding lines at the sides conforming to the mass and ending at the height of secondary tap. The second taps were located in niches designed as semi-circles and those niches were crowned with crests having folded leaf reliefs. There are signatures of the Sultan Mahmud II on little medallions over the taps surrounded with swinging curtain tufts (408. Picture). (Tanman, 1994:150).

Minaret: The minaret is built at the corner where the library and mosque walls intersect and has a polygonal base. The minaret's bottom walls extend to the measure of base and its body over the footing is cylindrical. The balcony of the minaret is made from stone and divided into two parts with a profile under the balcony (Picture 409). The pear shaped spire over the comb is ended with a sharp point. The concave part at the bottom cambers along with the upper side and gets sharp at the top. The spire which is made in cusped shape has baroque lines (Picture 410).

SURVIALLENCE: The mosque carries its baroque style even today although a fire devastated in 1957 and a rough restoration has been made then. Turkish Baroque style architecture in mosques started with Nur-u Osmaniye Mosque (1755) and ended with Nusretiye Mosque (1826). Küçük Efendi Mosque was built in the latest years of that period and it has no effect in Turkish Architecture, has no claim on behalf of Turkish Architecture but it is a successful application of that style. When we take a look at the decorations made with stones, we do not see much decoration. The decorations are mostly placed on minaret. Otherwise, we may notice that the decoration of fountain that was made on the face of yard wall is different from the similar decorations of this era.

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