



Reading the Figure of the Public Architect in the Republican Era through Mithat Yenen's Urban Planning Practice¹

Ayşe Bilge KEÇEBAŞ^{1,*}

¹ 0000-0002-5387-8525, Istanbul Technical University, Graduation School, History of Architecture, Istanbul

Article Info

Received: 02/04/2024
Accepted: 10/10/2024

Keywords

*Mithat Yenen,
Modernization,
City planning,
Bureaucracy in
architecture*

Abstract

During the Ottoman and Republican periods, public buildings were symbols of legitimacy and strength of the government. The actors behind those projects demanded and administrated by the government were public architects. In the early periods of the Republic, from Architect Kemaleddin to the foreign architects tasked with building modern Republican cities represented different figures of public architects. By 1940's, a figure of the public architect emerged who determined the principles of urban planning, worked in institutionalization process, and contributed to the production of the built environment. Mithat Yenen, as one of those public architects contributed forming the principles the institutionalization process of urban planning and since 1940's. He was both close to the bureaucracy and administration, additionally capable of guiding technical processes due to his professional background.

The aim of the article is to understand the figure of public architect by 1940's when the production of urban plans and important developments in institutionalization started to occur, through Mithat Yenen's urban planning practice and reveal his contributions to the understanding and institutionalization of urban planning. The scope of the study mainly goes on the axes of Yenen's career. The study describes the process first between 1920's-1940's which represents the figures of public architects before Yenen and between 1940's-1960 which included Yenen's contributions to urban planning could be followed. The main method of the study places Yenen's contributions in the context of the period through his personal archive and projects published in periodicals, as well as organizations and processes.

1. INTRODUCTION

In both Ottoman and Republican periods, government itself, represented its legitimacy through public buildings. Consequently, the number of architects commissioned by the government for the design and implementation of these constructions increased over the years, forming a group of professionals that can be defined as "public architects". As Tanyeli mentions, "the reconstruction of architectural profession" has occurred by the Republican Era and thus, the definition and the mission of architect has evolved [1]. Architect has become not only the constructor of buildings but also one of the figures in charge of "nation building"² with their knowledge and experience. The areas in which public architects had been operating have also undergone changes over time as well as their capability, quality of knowledge, working standards and architectural practices. Those changes are not easy to frame in strict and rigid periodization since the diversity of the projects public architects got involved in and of their educational and professional background.

Beginning from 1910's, Kemaleddin, Vedat Bey and Giulio Mongeri could be seen as public architect as the members of the First National Architectural Movement. They all worked in different kinds of public buildings for the government. Kemaleddin was one of the most significant figures as a public architect

¹ The preliminary version of this paper was presented at the Mimar Kemaleddin Symposium organized by Gazi University Faculty of Architecture in Ankara on December 27-29, 2023.

² This definition was used in the headline of "Modernism and Nation Building: Turkish Architectural Culture in the Early Republic" by Sibel Bozdoğan [2].

between 1910's and 1927. He differs from Vedat Bey and Mongeri by his understanding of conservation and research on building techniques [4]. He completed most of his projects by government controlled as well as his individual projects. His professional education was affected by modern educational movement of Ottoman and he played a role in the construction or restoration of many public structures as a member of a governmental institution. Additionally, he analysed and documented existing architecture in his writings [5]. After the establishment of the Republic, he became an architect of the Republic and contributed the housing projects and educational buildings in Ankara under the Ministry of Foundations until 1927 [6].

He became an architect who worked as “an officer” of the state both in Ottoman and Republican era in public building projects which were necessities of public including housing projects, schools, commercial buildings etc. Besides, he also tried to produce and teach the architectural knowledge by analysing the existed architecture and consider about the preservation of historical buildings [4]. Kemaleddin was an architect most closely aligned with the public architecture of the modern Republic among other architects of the late Ottoman period with his contemporary professional education, mastery of the technical, educational, and theoretical aspects of architecture, and his literary contributions proposing solutions to current urban and architectural issues.

In the Early Republican Period, the government instrumentalized the production of the built environment to modernize both the nation and appearance of cities. In this process, several architects and urban planners from German-speaking countries were invited to Turkey such as Robert Oerley, Hermann Jansen, Theodor Jost, Clemens Holzmeister, Carl C. Lörcher as experts and advisors. In 1930's, Turkey also became an option to live and work in for German-speaking architects such as Martin Wagner, Ernst Reuter, Bruno Taut, Paul Bonatz because of the political environment in their countries. They worked in government institutions, give lectures within universities and contributed the planning of modern cities as requested by the government. Egli and Taut especially focused on understanding Turkish urbanism and architecture, as well as producing modern buildings and cities [7]. Those people were “experts” whose duty was to teach new generation of architects the modern principles and implementing on architecture and urban planning either in professional education or public institutions [8]. For instance, the main figure of this study, Mithat Yenen was student at the Stuttgart University [9], he completed one of his office internships in Egli's office in 1932 [10]. Therefore, he worked not only on Egli's freelance architectural projects but also in public projects in the Construction Office of the Ministry of Education (Maarif Vekaleti İnşaat İşleri Dairesi) [Figure 1]. In following years, he also worked in urban planning of Ankara with Jansen until 1939. Additionally, he mentioned in his self-resume [11] that he worked with Wagner, but it is unclear whether he worked while Wagner was working on the Istanbul plan or during his time as a consultant at the Ministry of Public Works [12]. It was possible to see these figures influences in his early works.

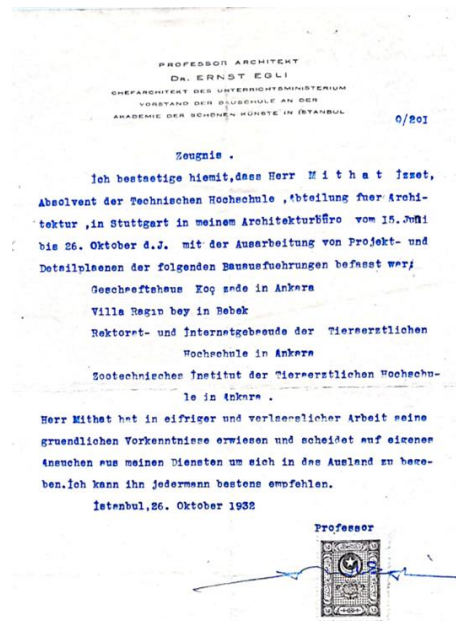


Figure 1. Ernst Egli's reference letter for Mithat Yenen, 1932 [10].

Working with “modern experts” was not enough to achieve to build a modern environment. It was necessary to have proper, experienced architects and engineers in urban planning. Therefore, in 1930's, during the institutionalization process of the Republic, there have been a series of legal regulations in the field of architecture and urban planning [12]. One of these regulations was constituted in 1936. It was stated that urban planners could be employed in the ministry only if they have graduated from the selected institutions by the government such as Technical University, Academy of Fine Arts etc. [13]. During this period, the inadequate and inexperienced personnel of technical departments were causing a problem. The new regulations of urban planning could not be implemented, and the development of cities could not be completed within the planned timeframe. Therefore, critics were raised during this period against the employment of foreign architects responsible for construction and urban planning in the several departments of the Ministry of Public Works and various governmental institutions. It was argued that qualified Turkish architects needed to be experienced in construction and urban planning [14, 15]. However, inadequacy of technical personnel was still be discussed until the mid-1950s [16].

Many architects who became influential in architecture and urban planning were studied architecture in abroad such as Germany and France as well as in Technical University, Academy of Fine Arts. For instance, Sabri Oran³, Mithat Yenen, Arif Hikmet Holtay and Kemali Söylemezoğlu graduated from Stuttgart Technical University or Sedat Hakkı Eldem and Orhan Alsaç graduated from Academy of Fine Arts. These figures were some of public architects who worked with foreign architects who worked in government institutions as consultants, lecturers and implementers, as their assistants, students and colleagues thanks to their capability of the language and their educational background [Figure 2] in 1940's and in 1950's. In following years, Oran worked for Istanbul Municipality [18]. Holtay later taught at the Academy of Fine Arts, while Söylemezoğlu worked in the İller Bankası, taught in the Academy of Fine Arts, and Istanbul Technical University [19]. Architects who were proficient in foreign languages and studied modern architectural education, worked in various positions in government institutions at the same time. For instance, by 1939, Mithat Yenen worked in the Municipal Planning Committee (Belediyeler İmar Heyeti) [3] and Kadastro Umum Müdürlüğü Fen Müşavirliği [20] and master plan of Ankara with Jansen [3]. Also, Orhan Alsaç worked in both urban planning department in İstanbul Technical University after mid-1940 and the Urban Planning Technical Committee under the Ministry of Public Works [21]. These figures influenced the course of architecture and urban planning practices, bureaucracy, and education after starting to work in public institutions.

³ Sabri Oran graduated before Mithat Yenen. He helped Yenen for finding construction internship [17].

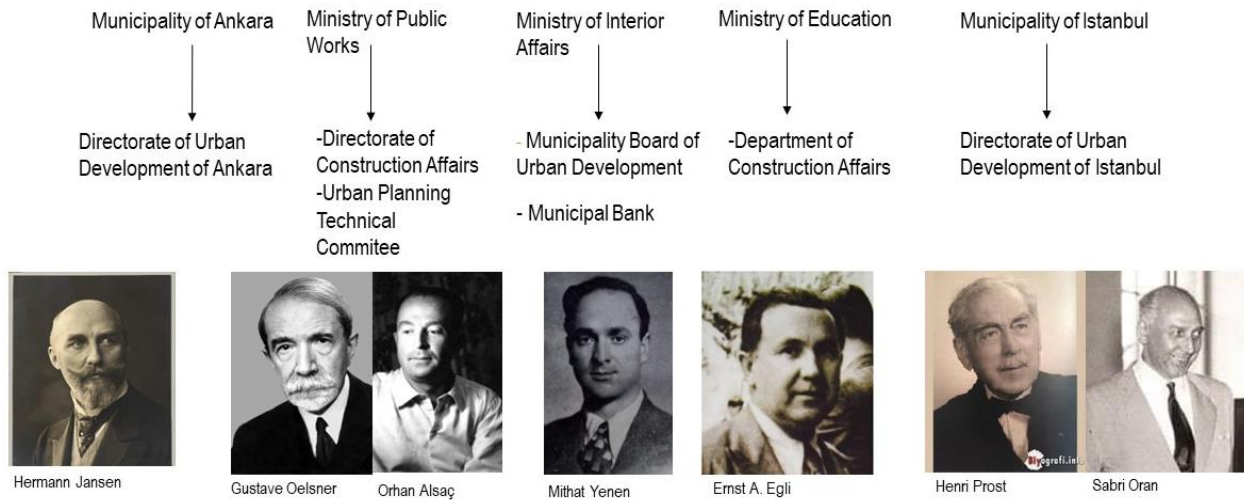


Figure 2. Institutions responsible for construction and urban planning in 1930s.

The main focus of the article, Mithat Yenen was one of influential figures of urban planning in the Republican era. He was born in Thessaloniki in 1908. He graduated from Stuttgart Technical University in 1935 and began his career as an urban planner at the Municipal Planning Committee (Belediyeler İmar Heyeti) in 1936. His career in urban planning continued with pioneering roles in the organization of the Ministry of Urban Development and Settlement in 1958 and serving as undersecretary of the Ministry from 1960 to 1966. From 1966 until his retirement, he served as the head of the Greater Istanbul Master Plan (Büyük İstanbul Nazım Planı) [3]. Based on his biography, it is clear that among the Republican Era public architects mentioned above, he was an architect who was closer to the bureaucratic side of architecture. This study aims to propose an alternative approach to describe the figure of public architect by focusing on the professional practice and contributions of Mithat Yenen. Additionally, the study draws the frame the features of public architects according to their professional practice, educational background, socio-cultural situation in the context of the period they effectively worked. Secondly, it aims to determine Yenen's role among the other public architects by locating Yenen and his contributions into this frame.

The methodology of the study could basically be explained as induction from Yenen's professional practice, educational background and contributions to the bureaucracy in urban planning to the public architect figure in the Republican era. Mithat Yenen's urban planning practice and his work were determined as the main axes of the article. Therefore, the periodization of the study was arranged before and after the 1940s, when Mithat Yenen began to be more visible in his professional practice. This period also the same years when institutional and legal transformations in urban planning were started to implement. The time frame of the study is limited to 1960 which is accepted the starting point of "planned period" because of the establishment of the State Planning Organization, in the history of urban planning in Turkey. This limitation is because with the planned period, urban planning practice became more government-controlled and integrated into economic development plans.

The written documents in the Oğuz Yenen archive and the personal letters in the Nezihe Çakıroğlu archive, allowed to obtain the information about Yenen's educational life. All materials in both archives were used with family members' permission. Written documents from his personal archive, articles published in professional journals, memoirs of various architects of the period were overlapped with the information and discussions related to the public architecture practice of the period in secondary literature to reveal Mithat Yenen's role in the public architecture of the period. Additionally, the legal regulations on planning and the laws related to the institutionalization of public institutions were reviewed to examine Yenen's contributions to the bureaucratic process of urban planning within the context of the period. The archives of İller Bankası and the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change were researched for Yenen's urban planning projects to examine the main principles of urban planning among

the public architects of the period through Yenen's work. However, no projects were accessible in those archives. Only two of Yenen's urban planning projects were found in the professional publishings, named Mimarlık and Belediyeler. The design decisions in these plans were described in the context of understanding of urban planning of the period.

2. THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MITHAT YENEN IN THE NEW ERA OF URBAN PLANNING (1940's-1960)

Educated architects and urban planners contributed as experts to the production of the built environment in government institutions in the 1940s. Therefore, they also shaped the urban planning understanding of the period and started a new era which effected the process of urban planning until 1960. Public architects who work with foreign advisors and lecturers as their assistant or student in the 1930s, started to work as urban planning experts in institutions such as İller Bankası, Ministry of Public Works, İstanbul/Ankara Municipality or give lectures the Academy of Fine Arts by 1940s [12]. Mithat Yenen was one of these influential figures of this period because of his educational background and directive positions that he worked in. Therefore, his understanding of urban planning was similar with the understanding of the period, and he directly affected the institutionalization process of urban planning both in 1940's and 1950's.

2.1. Understanding of Urban Planning

When Mithat Yenen became chef of the urban planning department of the Municipal Planning Committee by 1941, he found the opportunity to visit various cities in Anatolia [22]. According to his resume, during he was working in İller Bankası, Yenen was involved in the preparation of "development and implementation plans for around 500 cities and towns through competitions, government tenders, or directly under the organization of the bank itself" [11]. It is possible to read Yenen's understanding of urban planning through his projects. Although he contributed numerous planning projects in both the Municipal Planning Committee and İller Bankası, only two of urban planning projects could be found that he worked as urban planner: Urban plan of Çubuk in Ankara and Simav in Kütahya⁴. The explanation reports of these projects also reflected the understanding of urban planning of the period.

The urban plan of Çubuk was made in 1938 by Yenen. In the explanation report, he states that the expansion area was thought to be towards the northeast considering the town's geographical features [23]. The road axes were also planned according to the topography. Important squares for the town's circulation, such as the government square, market square, car park, and sports field were associated with public buildings such as the government building, community centre, hotel, hospital, mosque, school, etc. One of the most characteristic aspects of the plan is the conversion of residential buildings in the old neighbourhood into detached and simple row houses through 'substantial renovation' [23]. Additionally, it is noted that no more roads were to be opened except for the four main roads passing through the government square. Other secondary roads connected to the main road were conceived as green belts [Figure 3]. The plan features prominent squares and tree-lined roads. The squares were designed to be more integrated with public buildings, while the residential texture was arranged around them [Figure 4]. In the newly constructed public buildings, the existing construction techniques and scale of the town were preserved.

⁴ The original plans could not be found in the archives of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization or the archives of the İller Bankası.



Figure 3. The view of public square and buildings, Çubuk, Ankara, 25.06.1938, Mithat Yenen [23].

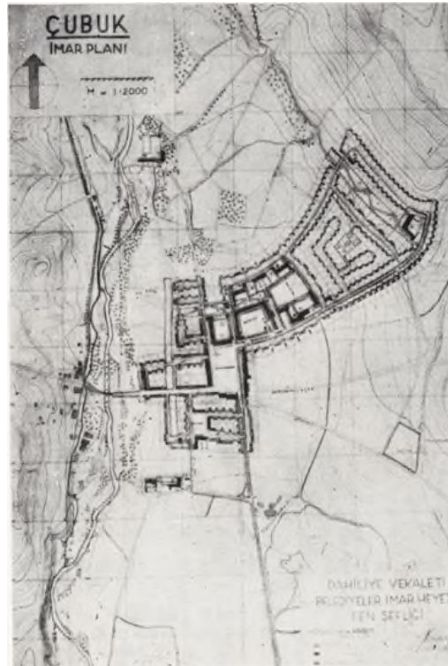


Figure 4. The plan of Çubuk, [23].

The second urban planning project of Yenen was Simav in Kütahya in 1944. Primary aim of the plan was described as preserving the town's structure and creating green areas. Main arteries for entering and exiting the town were additionally designated [Figure 5]. The sectional drawings of roads on the left side resemble the drawings by Jansen in the Bahçelievler Construction Cooperative Project [Figure 6]. It is known that Yenen worked with Jansen between 1936 and 1939, and he was also the one who translated Jansen's original text into Turkish [26]. Therefore, he might have been influenced by Jansen's approach. Jansen's and Yenen's perspective on urban planning also resembles that of Camillo Sitte. Moreover, it is possible to see the modern approach to city planning by Yenen by considering locality, climate, material etc. as Egli and Taut did. In fact, several German-speaking urbanist architects of this period also influenced by this thought [7]. Sitte's approach which was still influential in 1920's and early 1930's, advocates for topographically adapted and residences with gardens [12]. However, figures such as Taut, Egli and Wagner separated from this idea and defended more rational solutions which suggested more fruitful relationship with nature, local and economical residences etc [27]. Yenen's urban planning approach was mix of these ideas which advocated an urban planning relating to local characteristics and preserving the existing urban fabric but also houses with gardens and green belts. However, upon examining the proposed plans, significant interventions into the urban fabric were noticeable. While it

was tried to integrate spacious squares and public buildings with local characteristics, they often dominate over the existing urban fabric. Preserving the existing urban fabric and local features was also the main principle of understanding of urban planning of 1940's.



Figure 5. The site plan of Simav by Mithat Yenen, 1944 [24].

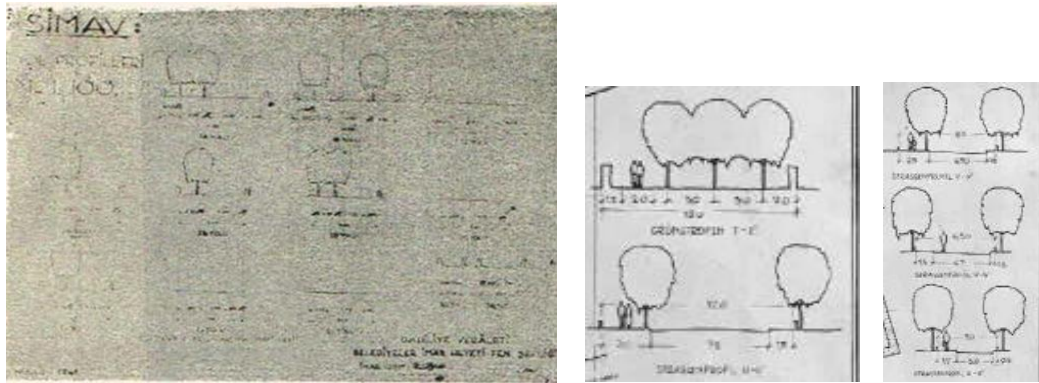


Figure 6. Examples of road profiles of Simav by Mithat Yenen in 1944 [24] and Bahçelievler Yapı Kooperatifi by Jansen in 1939 [25].

2.1.1. The effect of urban planning competitions by İller Bankası

One of the effects that extended persistently the urban planning approach which began to take shape in the early 1940's was the establishment of the İller Bankası and the urban planning competitions organized by this institution in 1950's. While Yenen was one of jury members of these competitions because of his bureaucratic position in İller Bankası, he played a role reshaping main principles of urban planning competitions.

In 1945, the Municipal Planning Committee and the Municipal Bank (Belediyeler Bankası) was brought together to establish İller Bankası [28]. This institution played a significant role in urban planning and development especially in the 1950s. Mithat Yenen worked in 1945-1949 as the Director of Technical Affairs which was the department of urban planning of the institution [12]. By 1949, he became the general manager of İller Bankası and the organizational structure of the urban planning department also changed [29], probably by Mithat Yenen. İller Bankası presented one of the first example of the organizational structure of an urban planning institution. The institution also influenced the quality of urban planning competitions. In 1933, the organization of architectural competitions was presented as one of the options to manage the urban planning process with the Building and Roads Law (Yapı ve Yollar Kanunu) [30]. While the first examples were seen in the early 1940s, a series of competitions organized by İller Bankası in the 1950's [31]. By looking at the jury members of these competitions, it could be seen not only bureaucratic figures such as mayors or the general managers of several institutions but also the public architects (Table 1). This situation shows that in urban planning competitions, the appropriate project was selected with the decision of not only architects but also the bureaucrats and local administrators.

In Table 1, it could be seen that the same architects were placed in different competitions repeatedly even the same jury in some of competitions. For instance, Yenen and Holtay were students of Paul Bonatz in Stuttgart, so it became possible to see those names in the same jury. Similarly, Alsaç was Gustav Oelsner's assistant both in the Ministry of Public Works and Technical University. Therefore, the network and relationships clearly affected in forming of the jury.

Table 1. The urban planning and architectural design competitions in which Mithat Yenen served as a jury member [32].

Name of competition	Year	Jury	Awarded project
Samsun Şehri İmar Planı	1942	Rüstem Mesut, Hayri Sayman, Mithat Yenen, Sinan Mimaroglu, Burhan Ongun, Şekip Akalın ve Rüştü Özdil	None-first winning award; Semih Rüstem Temel the second, Asım Kömürcüoğlu the third
Adana Belediye Sarayı	1944	Paul Bonatz, Arif Hikmet Holtay, Mithat Yenen	Kemali Söylemezoğlu, Ratip Erhan, Orhan Tolon
Adana Numune Evleri	1944	Paul Bonatz, Arif Hikmet Holtay, Mithat Yenen	None of the first or the second awarding
Ödemiş İmar Planı	1945	Şefik Refik Soyer, Henry Prost, Recai Akçay, Muammer Çavuşoğlu, Dr. Niyazi Erzin, Şekip Akalın, Mithat Yenen, Mutahhar Başoğlu, Paul Bonatz, Ernst Reuter, Gustav Oelsner	None-first winning award; Selman Yönder, İzzet Aydınoglu ve Celile Berk, Kemal Ahmet Aru, Orhan Sefa the second Necmi Ateş, Feyyaz Tüzüner ve Asım Kömürcüoğlu the third
İzmit Belediye ve Otel Binası	1948	Gustav Oelsner, Mithat Yenen, Recai Akçay, Kemal Öz, Abidin Mortaş, Orhan Alsaç	Kemali Söylemezoğlu, Kemal Ahmet Aru, Gündüz Özdeş
İzmir (Uluslararası) İmar Planı	1951	Sir Patrick Abercrombie, Paul Bonatz, Rauf Onursal, Mithat Yenen, Cevat Erbel, Orhan Alsaç, Kemal Ardova, Necmettin Emre, Muammer Tansu	Kemal Ahmet Aru, Gündüz Özdeş, Emin Canbolat
Eskişehir (Uluslararası) İmar Planı	1952	Zahit Mutlusoy, Hicri Sezen, Mithat Yenen, Cevat Erbel, Celal Uzer, İlhan Ersoy	Melahat Topaloğlu, Mehmet Ali Topaloğlu, Bülent Berksan
Malatya İmar Planı	1953	Sabahattin Kürüklü, Orhan Alsaç, Mithat Yenen, Zahit Mutlusoy, Recai Akçay, Halit Femir, Celal Ulsan, Talat Özışık	Melahat Topaloğlu, Mehmet Ali Topaloğlu, Bülent Berksan



Figure 7. For the Izmir Urban Planning Competition, Mithat Yenen (top, third from the left), Talat Özışık, and architects from Izmir during a coastal tour in Izmir [33].

It is possible to follow how the understanding of urbanism formed in these years from these competitions. The jury reports of architectural competitions indicated some common points in the winning projects. International Urban Planning Competition of İzmir in 1951 was a significant example (Figure 7). In the competition, participants were expected to propose the organization of a port in Alsancak, establishing connections between the port and the industrial zone and railway, arranging the neighbourhoods where workers and the poor reside [31, 34]. The jury members were Sir Patrick Abercrombie, Paul Bonatz, Rauf Onursal, Mithat Yenen, Cevat Erbel, Orhan Alsaç, Kemal Ardova, Necmettin Emre and Muammer Tansu. Kemal Ahmet Aru and his team won the competition, and the urban plan was implemented in 1953 [34]. According to the competition report, this plan was selected as it responded to needs of the city, was feasible for implementation, and proposes an alternative to the municipality for urban planning [35]. As in this example, it could be seen that the awarded projects were to be feasible, compatible with the urban fabric, expanding transportation opportunities, creating a comprehensive road network, and determining the development areas and functions of the city according to its character. Therefore, public architects, including Mithat Yenen, also played a decisive role in determining certain principles of the understanding of urban planning in 1950's.

2.2. The Institutionalization of Urban Planning

Mithat Yenen's one of most fundamental contributions to urban planning as a public architect was during the institutionalization process. The new legal regulations for urban planning in the 1930's were insufficient, and there were deficiencies within the institutions themselves. Consequently, during the institutionalization process, urban planning proceeded through various institutions affiliated with the Ministry of Public Works but organizationally independent, gradually centralized until 1960 (the establishment of the State Planning Organization). In this study, it will be discussed this institutionalization process through the First Turkish Building Congress in 1948 and the establishment of the Ministry of Public Works and Settlement in 1958, both of which involved contributions from Mithat Yenen.

The legal regulations of the 1930s imposed significant responsibilities on the municipalities of the period [30]. However, many of these institutions faced problems in implementing the new regulations [12]. Moreover, some of public architects working particularly in urban planning institutions have been aware of deficiencies in planning practice. Therefore, they wrote critical and explanatory articles in periodicals about how existing practices should be implemented. Those writings work as a guide for municipalities and architects who work with the new regulations [36, 37]. One of those writers was Mithat Yenen since he was working in the Municipal Planning Committee. It is possible to find his articles on such periodicals as *Belediyeler*, *İller ve Belediyeler*, *Mimarlık*, *Türk İdare Dergisi* about urbanism, drawing topographic maps, implementation of new regulations and bureaucratic phases in urban planning.

2.2.1. The First Turkish Building Congress

When the deficiencies in existing laws and public organizations were recognized, public architects made several changes by 1945 both in the implementation of planning practices and in bureaucratic processes. The most important event which gave a start to this transformation process was the publishing of reports of the preparation phase of the First Turkish Buildings Congress (*Birinci Türk Yapı Kongresi*) organized by the Ministry of Public Works in 1946. Reports on various topics such as basement construction, earthquakes, project applications, architectural principles, maps, urban planning, legislation related to urban planning, housing, and fee schedules for freelance work were published in 1946 [38]. However, the congress convened in 1948 [39]. One of the important steps taken at the congress for the institutionalization of urban planning was the discussions proposing the centralization of relevant institutions to enable them to work more orderly and systematically. In this regard, the reports criticized the division of technical personnel and resources in the Ministries of Interior Affairs and Public Works, each having separate offices and technical committees dealing with urban planning and construction affairs. Therefore, the debate arose on whether a single authority would be more beneficial instead of a "dual-headed" urban planning organization consisting of both the Ministry of Public Works' Urban

Planning Technical Committee and the Ministry of Interior's İller Bankası [38]. This debate would eventually lead to the establishment of the Ministry of Urban Development and Settlement in 1958, in which Mithat Yenen also participated in the drafting of the establishment law and organization [40].

Another important topic discussed at the congress was the need for new legislation regarding urban planning. Mithat Yenen was involved in preparing reports on implementation principles and legislation related to urban planning. The working group included Mithat Yenen, Arif Hikmet Holtay, Asım Kömürcüoğlu, Celal Esat Arseven, Kemal Ahmet Aru, Gustav Oelsner, Orhan Alsaç, Henry Prost, Sedat Hakkı Eldem, and Seyfi Arkan [38]. One of the notable aspects highlighted in the response written by Mithat Yenen and Cevat Erbel in the urban legislation study was that in the newly completed draft of the Building and Roads Law, some of regulations remained similar with the existing Municipal Building Roads Law No. 2290. It was emphasized that these regulations needed to be re-examined and regulated according to the inadequacies and deficiencies of the existing law to respond the needs of the time [38]. The decisions and opinions presented in both sections of the congress formed the basis of the Urban Planning Law (İmar Kanunu) [41], which will going to establish in 1956.

In summary, it is obvious that as a result of this congress, public architects themselves systematically identified problems and worked together to find solutions, and they also became the architects of legal regulations that would directly influence the production of the built environment.

2.2.2 The establishment of the Ministry Urban Development and Settlement (1956-1958)

After the First Building Congress in 1948, public architects achieved two important turning points in the institutionalization and regulation process of urban planning: the new Urban Planning Law of 1956 and in the constitution of the Ministry of Urban Development and Settlement in 1958 [41]. Mithat Yenen himself becomes a significant figure in both the implementation of the urban planning law and the establishment of the ministry's organizational structure [40, 42].

According to Geray, this new law was more realistic than the previous one [43]. For instance, the previous law requested municipalities to complete the urban plans in five years but, most of municipalities in Anatolia couldn't achieve to complete even existed situation maps of the city. Therefore, new law regulated this part accordingly the scale of the institutions. Moreover, municipalities were expected to plan not only inside the city borders but also the adjacent areas [43]. According to Tekeli, this was a pioneer step to understanding of regional planning which will rise in 1960's [12]. However, the new law didn't contain regulations about the implementation of these new rules in urban planning or how to treat historical buildings/areas. Instead, the law mentions that new directives will be prepared about these additional subjects by the Ministry of Public Works [41].

Following the new Urban Planning Law, the Ministry of Urban Development and Settlement was established on May 9, 1958, with Law No.7116 [44]. Thanks to the newly constituted ministry, the institutions previously responsible for urban planning under the Ministry of Public Works have entered a more systematic and hierarchical organization as a result of the institutionalization process of urban planning which started to centralize since 1933. Furthermore, departments were no longer divided between construction and urban planning; instead, it could be seen diversification based on areas of expertise in departments such as urban planning, housing, construction material, land and the resettlement works. This organizational structure forms the basis of the current organizational chart of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change (Çevre, Şehircilik ve İklim Değişikliği Bakanlığı) (Figure 7). Mithat Yenen worked as the Director of Planning and Urban Development Department (Planlama ve İmar Müdürlüğü) in this institution from 1958 to 1960 [18, 46] and led the process for implementing the new urban planning law [47]. In 1960-1966, he became the undersecretary of the Ministry of Urban Development and Settlement [48].

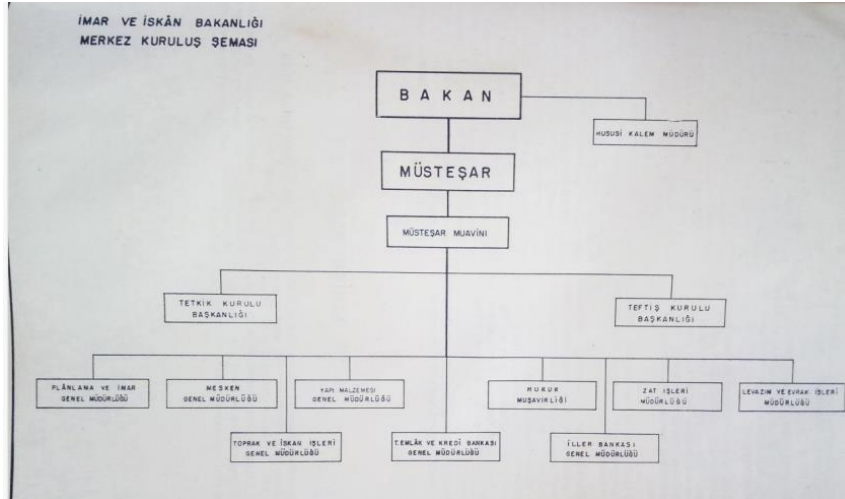


Figure 8. Organizational structure of the Ministry of Urban Development and Settlement in 1961 [45].

3. EVALUATION AND CONCLUSION

During the Republican Era, starting with Kemalettin, the public architect figure emerged who was involved not only in the design and production aspects of architecture but also in its technical, theoretical, and later bureaucratic dimensions. In the 1920s, the public architect figure represented by Kemalettin contributed to various areas of architecture while working for a government institution, implementing the rules set by the state, and working on the government's architectural demands as an officer. However, Kemalettin's multidisciplinary approach, which combined technique and theory, and his contribution to the production of architectural knowledge, brought him closer to not only being an architect of the government but also the definition of modern public architect. In the 1930's, the involvement of foreign architects in public institutions for the building of a modern nation with a modern appearance of cities has marked a turning point in the character of public architecture. These foreign architects were technical advisors of government's institutions and reshaped the educational system. Therefore, they contributed to build a modern architectural sense. They affected not only the understanding of urban planning and construction knowledge but also gave a direction to educational and professional background of public architects of 1940's and 1950's including Mithat Yenen.

Mithat Yenen influenced both the understanding of urban planning and the institutionalization process of urban planning. In 1940's, his understanding of urban planning which was based on preserving the existing urban fabric and relationship with nature was parallel to the period's because of the similarity between his professional education and the influence of German-speaking architects and urban planners. However, in the 1950's, this "romantic" understanding evolved into taking more rational inputs into consideration such as accessibility, economic and social conditions, traffic network etc. It is possible to see this change in both understanding of Mithat Yenen and general in the country. For instance, in the jury reports of the urban planning competitions which organized by İller Bankası, the projects which suggested more feasible, compatible with the urban fabric, expanding transportation opportunities, creating a comprehensive road network, and determining the development areas and functions of the city according to its character, were chosen to be implemented. This synchronical change of understanding effected by the transformation of the government, economical politics. This transformation also changed the main focus of the understanding of urban planning from locality to economic and rational solutions.

Mithat Yenen, who began his career as an architect and urban planner, worked in the technical affairs of planning and contributed significantly as an organizing and decision-making public architect throughout various stages of institutionalization. He was closer to the bureaucratic side of the urban planning rather than implementing. He was aware of the importance of properly structured institutions in the urban planning process when he was working for İller Bankası and institutionalization contributed to the process by 1949. The First Turkish Building Congress had also a significant role in the institutionalization process of urban planning. It provided an official media for architects of the period to discuss problems of

current architectural and planning practices. Mithat Yenen contributed preparing reports on implementation principles and legislation related to urban planning. This work prepared for a more centralized and systematically structured urban planning institution and planning practice in the 1950's.

Mithat Yenen was not the only figure who had contributions in the process of institutionalization in urban planning. In those years, there were several institutions which responsible for construction and urban planning. Each institution was responsible for working to the Ministry of Public Works, but they were not within the same organizational structure. As seen, almost each institution has architects from German-speaking countries serving as chief advisors. Figures such as Mithat Yenen, Orhan Alsaç, and Sabri Oran were positioned between the technical personnel and chief advisors responsible for executing tasks in these institutions. Their proficiency in language as well as their expertise in architecture further strengthens their role. Moreover, those figures kept working as a bridge between the bureaucratic and technical aspects of urban planning and effected directly the production of the built environment in following years not only with the urban planning production but also with the contributions to the professional education and determining urban planning principles in the country. Moreover, within the new regulations of urban planning, there was a disconnection between the decisions taken by the administration and the municipalities responsible for implementation. Therefore, these figures worked as a "bridge" between the administration and implementers, made it possible for technical personnel of the time to find explanatory articles on urban planning and implementation principles in the periodicals they followed.

This study contributed to the literature by attempting to explain the content of public architecture from 1920's to 1960, a relatively unexplored area in architectural history, through Mithat Yenen who was one of significant figures in urban planning. He was more influential in the institutionalization process which contains the new legal regulations and systematic organizations rather than implementing. He was mostly positioned as the manager of the planning process and determining necessities. Besides, he effected this process by his knowledge which based on his modern architectural education and his contemporary urban planning principles. In conclusion, the legal regulations and organizations implemented during the institutionalization process of planning and architecture were the work of a group of public architects who were both close to bureaucracy and possessed professional knowledge and perspective. They also took role in educating new generation of architects and bringing bring urban planning into modern standards. Their efforts, ideas, and experience have directly influenced the formation of the production of buildings environment and planning. Mithat Yenen was also one of the architects belonging to this group.

REFERENCES

- [1] Tanyeli, U., “Mimar müellifin icadı, mesleğin fethi, ulusun inşası”, *Toplumsal Tarih*, 189: 70, (2009).
- [2] Bozdoğan, S., *Modernism and Nation Building: Turkish Architectural Culture in the Early Republic*, University of Washington Press, Washington, (2001).
- [3] Yenen, M., “Türkiye’de Şehir Plancılığı Anlayışına Göre İlk Çalışmalar ve Ankara”, *Kentleşen Ankara Anılar - Söyleşi: 1*, Kent Kooperatifleri Yayınları, Ankara, 14-15, (1979).
- [4] Akın, G., “Yeni Osmanlı mimarlığı, başkent Ankara’nın kuruluşundaki kısa deneyimi ve romantizm çağrışımları”, *Bir Şehir Kurmak: Ankara 1923-1933*, A. Cengizkan & M. Cengizkan (ed), Koç Üniv Yay., pp. 51-78, (2019).
- [5] Tekeli, İ & İlkin, S., *Mimar Kemalettin’in Yazdıkları*, Şevki Vanlı Mimarlık Vakfı Yayınları, Ankara, (1997).
- [6] Mimar Kemaleddin Bey (1870- 1927), *Atatürk Ansiklopedisi*, <https://ataturkansiklopedisi.gov.tr/bilgi/mimar-kemaleddin-bey-1870-1927/>, (2021).
- [7] Nicolai, B., *Modern ve Sürgün Almanca Konuşulan Ülkelerin Mimarları Türkiye’de (1925-1955)*, TMMOB Mimarlar Odası Yayınları, Ankara, (2011).
- [8] Tümer, G., *Cumhuriyet Dönemi’nde Yabancı Mimarlar Sorunu*, Mimarlar Odası İzmir Şubesi Yayınları, İzmir, (1998).
- [9] *Persönliche Verhältnisse des Kandidaten. Universität Stuttgart Archive.* (1935).
- [10] Egli’s reference letter for Mithat Yenen, Oğuz Yenen Personal Archive, (1932).
- [11] Mithat Yenen’s self-resume, Oğuz Yenen Personal Archive, (no-date).
- [12] Tekeli, İ., *Türkiye’nin Kent Planlama ve Kent Araştırmaları Tarihi Yazıları*, Tarih Vakfı Yurt Yayınları, Ankara, (2011).
- [13] Yenen, M., “Şehirlerimizin imar planlarının tanzimine doğru”, *Belediyeler Dergisi*, 44: 24-58, (1939).
- [14] Arif, B., “Türk mimarisi ve beynelmilel mimarlık vasıfları”, *Mimar*, 11-12: 365-366, (1931).
- [15] Sayar, Z., “Yerli ve yabancı mimar”, *Arkitekt*, 86: 65, (1938).
- [16] Yenen, M., “Belediyelerimizin teknik eleman ihtiyacı”, *İller ve Belediyeler Dergisi*, 99: 139-140, (1954).
- [17] *Letters of İsmet-Mithat Yenen*, Nezihe Çakıroğlu Archive, Trancription: Funda Soysal, (1928).
- [18] Tekeli, İ., *İstanbul’un Planlanmasının ve Gelişmesinin Öyküsü*, Tarih Vakfı Yurt Yayınları, Ankara, (2013).
- [19] Küreğibüyük, Z. İ., *Cumhuriyet Dönemi Mimarlığı Bağlamında Arif Hikmet Holtay*, Yüksek Lisans Tezi, İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü, İstanbul, (2011).
- [20] BCA/Bakanlıklararası Daire Başkanlığı/134 - 35 – 16.

- [21] Alsaç, Ü., Bir Türk Mimarının Anıları, Yaşamı, Etkinlikleri Orhan Alsaç, YEM Yayınları, İstanbul, (2003).
- [22] Yenen, M., “Şehirlerimizin imar davası”, Belediyeler Dergisi, 66: 18, (1941).
- [23] Yenen, M., “Dahiliye Vekaleti Belediyeler İmar Heyeti Fen şefliğinde yapılan Çubuk kasabası imar planı raporu hülasası”, Belediyeler Dergisi, 35: 32-39, (1938).
- [24] Yenen, M. “Simav kasabası müstakbel imar planı”, Mimarlık Dergisi, 2: 19-23, (1944).
- [25] URL1: <https://emekbahceli.blogspot.com/2016/03/bahcevler-yapi-kooperatifi.html>
- [26] Jansen, H., Ankara İmar Planı. (çev. Mithat Yenen), Aleaddin Kırıl Basımevi, İstanbul, (1937).
- [27] Akcan, E. Çeviride Modern Olan, Yapı Kredi Yayınları, İstanbul, (2006).
- [28] İller Bankası, Kuruluşundan Bugüne Kadar İller Bankası 1945-1973, İller Bankası Genel Müdürlüğü. Ankara, (1973).
- [29] Tahan V. & Uluçay, A. & Yoğurtcuoğlu, T., Kuruluşundan Bugüne İller Bankası 1933-1993, İller Bankası Genel Müdürlüğü, Ankara, (1993).
- [30] Belediye Yapı ve Yollar Kanunu, T. C. Resmî Gazete, 2290, (1933).
- [31] Bilsel, C., “Türkiye’de şehircilik yarışmalarının ilk otuz yılı (1927-1957): Cumhuriyet’in kent inşasında uluslararası deneyim”, Planlama, 3-4: 29-46, (2010).
- [32] Keçebaş, A. B., “Şehir Planlamanın Kurumsallaşmasında Bir Kamu Mimarı: Mithat Yenen (1908-1987)”, Yüksek lisans tezi, İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi Lisansüstü Eğitim Enstitüsü, İstanbul, (2023).
- [33] Anonim, “İzmir gezisi”, Mimarlık, 5-6: 29, (1950).
- [34] Anonim, “İzmir şehri imar planı”, Arkitekt, 249-250-251-252: 144-146, (1952).
- [35] Anonim, “İzmir şehri milletlerarası imar planı müsabakası jüri raporu”, Mimarlık Dergisi, 1-2: 2, (1952).
- [36] Özışık, T., “Şehir ve kasabalarımızın imar planları”, Mimarlık, 36: 9, 42, (1946).
- [37] Yenen, M., “Şehir ve kasabalarımızın imarında gözetilmesi lazımgelen esaslar ve eski kasabalarımızda karakteristik noktalar”, Mimarlık, 5: 9-16, (1944).
- [38] Bayındırlık Bakanlığı, Birinci Türk Yapı Kongresine Sunulan Raporlar, Bayındırlık Bakanlığı Neşriyatı, Ankara, (1946).
- [39] Anonim, “Birinci Türk Yapı Kongresi”, Arkitekt, 193-194: 50.
- [40] Vidinlioğlu, N., “Mithat Yenen’den notlar”, Arredamento. 7-8: 112, (1995).
- [41] İmar Kanunu, T.C. Resmî Gazete. 9359: 15111, (1956).
- [42] Aru, K.A., “O bir yol göstericiydi”, Arredamento. 7-8: 109, (1995).

- [43] Geray, C., “Yeni İmar Kanunu’nun bazı özellikleri”, Ankara Üniversitesi Siyasal Bilgiler Fakültesi Dergisi, 11 (4): 135-150, (1956).
- [44] Kırıl, Ö. H., “Şehir planlama yarışmaları ve genç şehir plancıları: 1928-1973”, Planlama, 50: 125-139, (2010).
- [45] Anonim, “İmar ve İskan Bakanlığı merkez kuruluş şeması”, İmar ve İskan Bakanlığı Aylık Bülteni, 1: 4-5, (1961).
- [46] Anonim, “Ayın olayları”, İller ve Belediyeler, 168: 412, (1959).
- [47] Anonim, “Yeni İmar Talimatnamesi tatbiki konuyor”, İller ve Belediyeler, 168: 412, (1959).
- [48] Tayinler, T.C. Resmî Gazete, 10716: 3161, (1961).