

The History of Adile Sultan Palace

Culturel Property for 134 years...

Sultan Abdülmecid was bought the mansion for his adorable sister Adile Sultan in 1856 to present as a summer house. However, the palace was commissioned by Sultan Abdülaziz, who came to the crown after the death of Sultan Abdülmecid. Sultan Abdülaziz commissioned the existing palace today by casting down the ruined mansion despite of its wonderful view. It is not known clearly but by the historical research it is defined that the palace was built by architect Hassa Sarkis Balyan or Kirkor Balyan, from the same family..



Adile Sultan, a great and the only Turkish royal female poet having Divan, helped the Kandilli's development and poor people and also interested in education. Adile Sultan did not want to live in this beautiful palace and left the palace after the death of her lovely husband and four daughter at very young age in 1868. She donated her residence to the state before her death in 1901.

Between the reformist movements including freedom of individuals and women rights, in Second Monarchy, Adile Sultan Palace was turned into an education place by the effort of the first President of Parliamentary Committee Mr. Ahmed Rıza and his sister, our first woman journalist Ms. Selma Rıza. Mr. Ali Rıza and Ms. Selma Rıza gave a volunteer, passionate, determined and strong fight for women's education. Mr. Ali Rıza was a well-known educated person, who followed the political and cultural act in France when he went for his education, he took role in young Turk activity and after returning to the country by writing letters to II. Abdulhamid he suggested to combine the east culture and west culture and assist in radical changes in education. Ms. Selma Rıza was a Turkish woman, who was educated in Sorbonne University and worked for the girls to receive fine education and wrote an article about this subject. These siblings wanted to find a suitable place to open a foreign language training and boarding school for girls, like Galatasaray High School. Mr. Ali Rıza was thinking Adile Sultan Palace, which stayed ruined and located in Bosphorus for 40 years. Sultan II. Abdulhamit Han of that era gave a permission to donate the palace only for education.

Mr. Ali Rıza provided to establish committee for repair and turned the palace into a boarding school by avoiding to become burden to the Ministry of Education with tight budget. Donation gathered from charity house and wealthy people and lotteries arranged, again to restore the palace. However they across remorseless matter and come to a halt in every leaf like Balkan's War, First World War and big fire in İstanbul. At the end, the dream came true and the Palace opened for education in 1916 as a first boarding school for girls and named as " Adile Sultan İnas Mektebi-Sultanisi " under the direction of German manager.



In the length of time the palace building could not answer the demand by increasing number of student. The classes of the high school moved to a new building in 1968. The palace was used as a dining hall, dormitory, laundry room, study hall and etc.



The palace became a ruin when it was burnt down due to an electrical short-circuit in 1986. The historic building became a ruin consisting of only four walls but by the effort of KANKEV, the palace restored after the long-lasting and painstaking restoration works. The palace come into the service to society again like Sakıp Sabancı said as a "sample of culture and art center".

The center restored according to original , covering an area of 5625m2 including hall for meeting and banquet of 500 people, meeting hall for 200 people, a 1300 m2 hall for cocktails and exhibitions, museum, restaurant for 150 person, museum and a cafeteria for 60 people.