



BUILDINGS OF THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TURKEY



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PREFACE

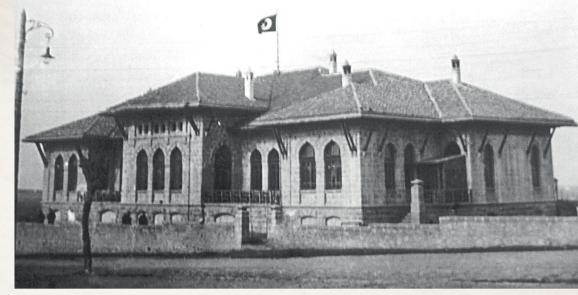
The Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) provided service between the years of 1924 - 1960 at the first building of the GNAT, currently being used as "Museum of the War of Independence"; between the years of 1924 - 1960 at the second building of the GNAT, currently known as "Republic Museum", and has been providing service at its present GNAT Building since 1960.

One of the significant responsibilities of our Administrative Organization is to preserve, publicize and hand down to next generations the historical GNAT Building, affiliated to GNAT, and the existing building having monumental features.

In this framework, a comprehensive work has been started by our Administrative Organization with a view to search and record the history of our buildings. I would like to thank all contributors at the preparation and publication of this booklet, having the subject of buildings of the GNAT.

Assoc. Prof. İrfan NEZİROĞLU Secretary General

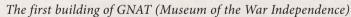




The first building of GNAT

The Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) had carried out its activities in two different buildings till moving to the current building. The first building of GNAT goes back to year 1915. The project was carried out by Architect Salim Bey, the duty of execution of the project was assigned to Memduh Şevket (Esendal), Ankara Representative of Party of Union and Progress, and the work for construction of the project was assigned to Hasip Bey, Military Architect of the Army Corps. Hasip Bey was martyred during the War of Independence. The construction of the building, which was left half-finished due to the war, was completed by Necati Bey.

The most significant feature of the two-storey building, with Turkish architectural characteristics, was the use of Ankara stone (andesite). The building is among the first examples of the First National Architectural Period in Ankara.



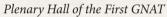






Inauguration of the First GNAT (April 23, 1920)

The first GNAT Building had served from the inauguration of the GNAT on April 23, 1920 till October 15, 1924. The building which was turned into museum in 1961, opened as the Museum of the War of Independence on April 23, 1981.







The second building of GNAT

As the building failed to meet the needs, GNAT was moved to the building, two hundred meters away which was designed by Architect Vedat Tek as gathering place (Headquarters and Law School) of Republican People's Party.

The second Building of GNAT had served from October 18, 1924 to the year 1960. The building was constructed from face stone as two floors and a basement. The arches on windows, tile panels on façades, broad eaves, hand-drawn and adorned wooden ceilings where Ottoman and Seljuk ornaments are used, reflect the architecture of Republic period. The building was opened to visitors on October 30, 1981 as "Republic Museum".





Riyaset Divani

T. B. M. M.

Reisliği .

- 193

Yeniden yaptırılacak B.M.M. binası için lüzumu olan proje`leri ihzar ettirerek bu projeleri tetkik etmek üzere fen heyetleri
teşkil etmek ve takarrür edecek plân ve projeler üzerine münakasa
ilân ederek inşaatı ihale etmek ve buna mütedair bilcümle hususatı
verecekleri kararlar dairesinde idare etmek üzere Reis Vekillerinden
Konya mebusu Tevfik Fikret Sılayın Başkanlığı altında İdare Âmirlerinden mürekkeb olmak üzere bir İnşaat komisyonu teşkiline karar
verilmiştir.

Ver R.

Reis

R.Vekili

K.Vekil

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Îdare Âmiri

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The construction of the present building of GNAT which was designed directly as the building of the Assembly was decided during the term of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

The construction of a new building for the Assembly was decided with the Decision of Council of Presidency (Bureau of the Assembly) dated December 04, 1936 and the Law numbered 3090 dated January 11, 1937, on the condition that the building be constructed had monumental features behooving the Republic of Turkey as stated in aforementioned Law. In this context, a construction committee was formed and the committee decided to hold an international project competition.

- 132 -

Büyük Millet Meclisi binasile Başvekâlet ve Hariciye vekâleti binalarının yapılması için taahhüd icrasına mezuniyet verilmesi hakkında kanun

(Resmî Gazete ile neşir ve ilânı : 21/I/1937 - Sayı : 3513)

No. 3090 Kabul tarihi 11 - I - 1937

BİRİNCİ MADDE — Şehir plânında Büyük Millet Meclisi için tahsis ve tefrik edilen sahada Cümhur Başkanlığı dai esini de ihtiva etmek üzere Büyük Millet Meclisi binasile aynı saha içinde Başvekâlet ve Hariciye vekâleti binaları inşası için altı senede ödenmek üzere (4 500 000) liraya kadar taahhüd yapılmasına mezuniyet verilmiştir.

İKİNCİ MADDE — Birinci madde ile verilen salâhiyete istinaden yapılacak taahhüdler mucibince her sene tediye edilecek miktar mezkûr seneler Büyük Millet Meclisi bütçesine konulacak tahsisattan ödenir.

ÜÇÜNCÜ MADDE — Bu kanun neşri tarihinden muteberdir.

 $\mbox{D\ddot{O}RD\ddot{U}NC\ddot{U}}$ MADDE — Bu kanunun hükümleri Büyük Millet Meclisi tarafından icra olunur.

18 kânunusani 1937

Cümhuriyet Reisliğine yazılan tezkerenin tarih ve numarası

11 - I - 1937 ve 2/38

Ru kanunun neşir ve ilânının Başvekilliğe bildirildiğine dair Cümhur Reisliğinden gelen tezkerenin tarih ve numarası :

18 - I - 1937 ve 4/45



The clipping dated February 23, 1938 concerning the Project Competition for the GNAT Building Ulus Newspaper

The project competition, in which 14 projects were submitted, was finalized on January 28, 1938 and the jury consisted of internationally prominent architects (M.Dudak of Netherlands, I.Tengbom of Sweden, H.Robertson of UK) deemed three projects worthy of being the first place.

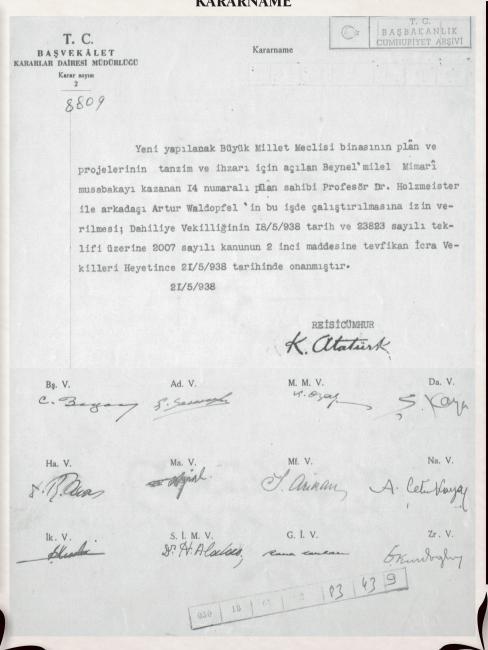
A decision had been reached on the project of Prof. Clemens Holzmeister, which was also liked by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, among those three projects designed in compliance with the neoclassical style.

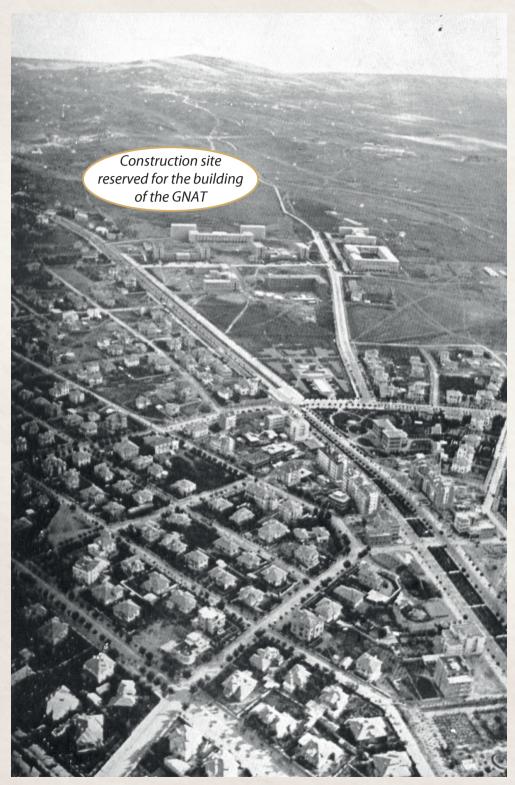
Along with the present building of the GNAT, duty of designing the projects for Presidency, Prime Ministry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, residence of the Speaker and the guesthouse of the GNAT was also assigned to Prof. Clemens Holzmeister.

Prof. Clemens Holzmeister

T.C. BAŞVEKÂLET KARARLAR DAİRESİ MÜDÜRLÜĞÜ

KARARNAME





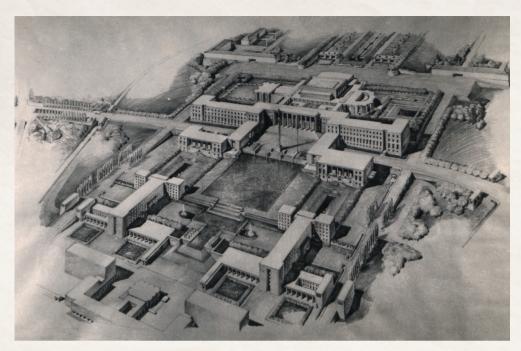
Construction site reserved for the building of the GNAT, Ankara - 1936



Former Speaker of the GNAT, Mr. Mustafa Abdülhalik RENDA attending the groundbreaking ceremony for the building of the GNAT.



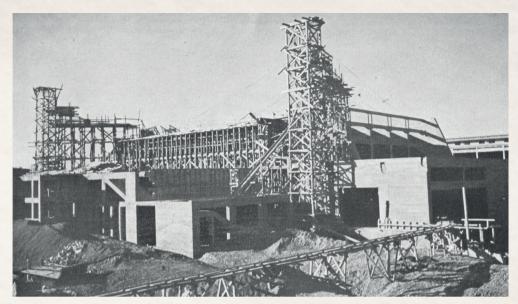
Newspaper clipping dated October 27, 1939 - Cumhuriyet Newspaper



Sketch work of Prof. Clemens Holzmeister for the building of the GNAT



Bird's-eye view of the building of the GNAT



Worksite of the building of the GNAT

At the first phase of the construction, some challenges were encountered such as the project being considered as above the technical, artistic and industrial capacity of Turkey of 1939, heavy burden imposed on the budget due to the allowance allocated for the project, the need to bring the required expert staff and the workers from the foreign countries and foreign exchange shortage. Upon the influence of WWII, which had started around the same time, on Turkey in many aspects, the construction was paused in 1941.

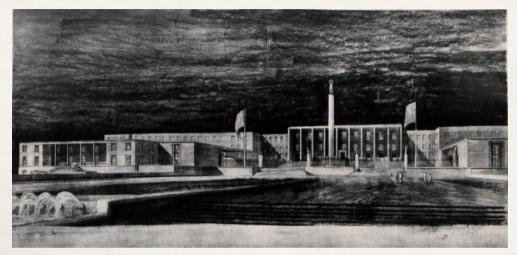
The works for the construction which was re-started on July 29, 1942 were shared among the work groups; stone work, wood work, metal joinery and installation works being assigned to different contractors separately. Meanwhile, Architect Ziya Payzın, student of Prof. Holzmeister, was commissioned for drawing the construction details.



Construction of the Plenary Hall of the GNAT

Rough construction of the building of the GNAT was completed by 1947. Within the same year, the construction work was handed over the Ministry of Public Works. Architect Ziya Payzın, in his capacity as the representative of Prof. Holzmeister, carried out the construction work in person in 1948.

In the course of multi-party system in our country beginning from 1950 and as a result of the debates on the uncompleted building of the GNAT, it was decided to resume the construction of the building of the GNAT upon abandoning the construction of the buildings of the Prime Ministry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Sketch work of Prof. Clemens Holzmeister for the front façade of the GNAT building.



Front façade view of the GNAT building

Beginning of the Use of the Completed Sections

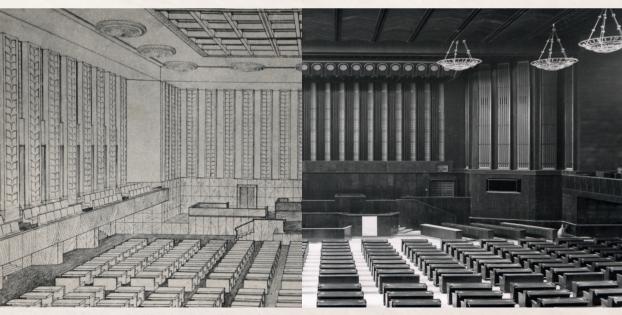
The first completed section, within the scope of the ongoing construction, was used by the Guard Battalion for a certain period of time. The section which was completed thereafter and in which publication works and health care services were run, was assigned to the use of the Middle East Technical University. That building was demolished in year 2000 and Building of Public Relations was constructed in its place.

The meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Bagdad Pact that would take place in Ankara in December 1957, was a turning point for the new building of the GNAT of which construction was proceeding slowly.

As the meetings in other state parliaments were quite imposing, a quest had been embarked on in order to find a proper place to hold the meeting in Ankara.

The building of the GNAT, of which construction was ongoing on those days, was proposed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the place of the meeting. Upon the submission of that proposal to then Prime Minister Adnan Menderes, all necessary measures were taken and the meeting was held there after the preparation of the building.

Following the meeting, the construction process was accelerated and the finished sections were put into service of the Administrative Organization respectively.



Sketch work of the Plenary Hall by Prof. Clemens Holzmeister and its photo upon completion - 1961

Opening of the GNAT Building

The present building of the GNAT, of which construction was totally completed in 1960, was put into service on January 6, 1961 with the meeting of the Founding Assembly. While all premises were assigned for the service of the Assembly, previous buildings of the GNAT were started to be used as museums. Grand National Assembly of Turkey has been carrying out its activities in this current building since 1961.



The building of the GNAT, which was designed for bicameral system on the date of opening, was re-arranged in accordance with unicameral system in 1982.



Architectural and Structural Characteristics of the Building

The architectural characteristics and general structure of the building of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey is designed in a sober, solid and durable way in order to reflect the power of the Republic of Turkey. All spaces are designed in compliance with monumental, balanced and three dimensional formation.



Front façade of the building of the GNAT and Atatürk Monument

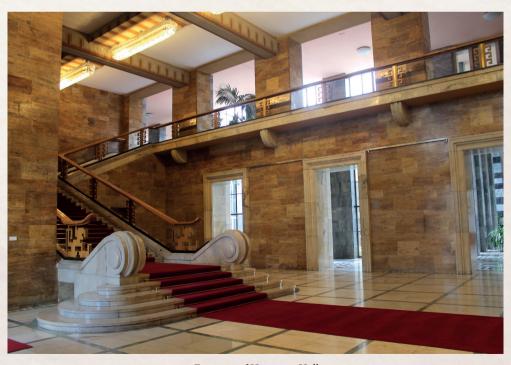
Settlement area of the building of the GNAT is 19.372 square meters. The total usable area of the building, constructed as four-storey and a basement, is in total 56.775 square meters. The front façade of the building measures 248 square meters.

Building is constructed as reinforced concrete carcass. Exterior walls are covered with partially hand tooled white travertine of which one-third is tailed and partially gang saw cut.

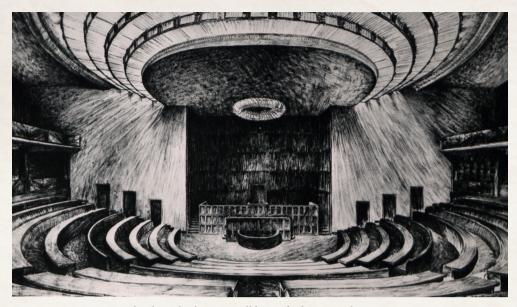
In the symmetric setting of the monumental scaled structures, right in the center, in the highest point of the land, one can see the main building, with its huge meeting halls, its portico and its entrance staircases. The main building is enriched with the wings in two parallel lines and the bridges connecting those lines.



Sketch work of entrance of Honorary Hall by Prof. Clemens Holzmeister



Entrance of Honorary Hall



Sketch work of Senate Hall by Prof. Clemens Holzmeister

One can enter from the lobby located at the right of the Honorary Hall to the second biggest meeting hall, used as Meeting Hall of the Senate of the Republic till 1980.

There are two separate meeting halls, being used by political party groups, in the lobby located on the left of the Honorary Hall.



Meeting Hall of former Senate of the Republic (Meeting Hall of Party Groups)



Sketch work of Ceremony Hall by Prof. Clemens Holzmeister

Ceremony Hall is in the three-storey extension on the left wing. The hall has a galleried indoor setting with illumination from the ceiling. Upper floor of this section is connected to main building via a bridge rising on the columns.

This hall is currently used for official ceremonies, receptions and various activities.



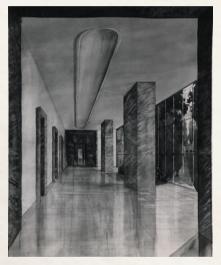
Ceremony Hall

Similar extension with a bridge is located on the right of the symmetry axis as well. On the ground floor of this two-storey section, there is Speaker's Office of the GNAT and on the upper storey, there are rooms for members of Bureau of the Assembly.

The inner garden within the entrance of the Speaker's Office is adding richness to the architecture as is the case with the other gardens located in the main building. There is an order of columns rising up two-fold on the façade of these two extensions facing the Ministries.



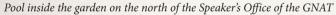
The bridge connecting the building of the GNAT to the Ceremony Hall



Sketch work of entrance of the Speaker's Office by Prof. Clemens Holzmeister.



Entrance of the Speaker's Office





Materials Used and Their Symbolic Characteristics

The building of the GNAT is designed as a symbol of the ideals of the Republic of Turkey with the magnitude of the scale ensuring the monumentality and the preferred architectural style, high columns and windows, the premises creating three dimensional effect, indoor gardens and perfect harmony of the spaces.

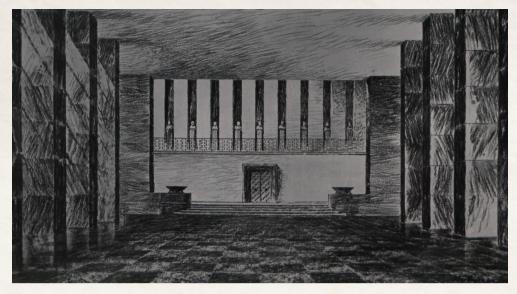
There are five entrance doors in the building of the GNAT. Prof. Clemens Holzmeister designed the columns encircling the Door of Honour distinctly, using star and crescent patterns on top right and left corners. The straw patterns on the sides symbolizes the indivisible integrity of the contemporary Turkish state. This door, distinct with the encircling columns, is the entrance door of the Speaker of the GNAT and the President.



The star and crescent pattern

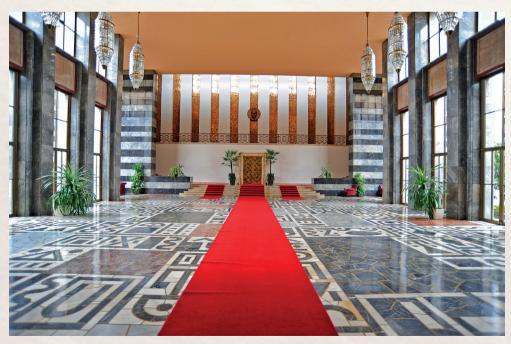


The Honorary Door



Sketch work of Honorary Hall

More than 20.000 square meters of marble in 26 different colors is used in the building. Pieces left from the used marbles were utilized in making mosaic patterns.



Honorary Hall

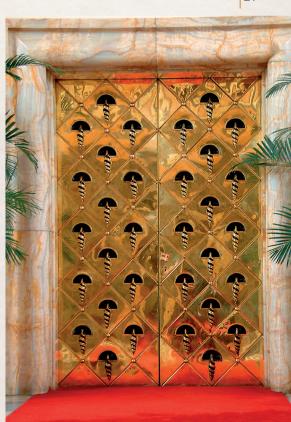
The same monumental effect is also observed in indoor places of the building of the GNAT, symbol of modern conception of Republic with neoclassical architectural modules that recall monumentality.

Water Drop Door - 1961



One of those is the two winged bronze door, namely "Water Drop Door" (Grapevine Door), used only by the Speaker of the GNAT and the President.

Water Drop Door



27

The outer façade of the building is made of Eskipazar and Malıköy stones, which have convenient thickness with the shiny sun of Ankara and the roof is covered with copper. 260 tons of copper is used for this purpose. 14.000 square meters of oak ash, mahogany and walnut coating, 10.000 square meters of oak hardwood, 10.000 square meters of rubber and linoleum covering and 3.000 square meters of Kütahya tiles are used in the construction of the building.



The building of the GNAT

600 large chandeliers, decorating the ceilings, were designed in the office of the Prof. Holzmeister in conformity with interior architecture and made of Bohemian crystal in Czechoslovakia.



Entrance Hall of the Speaker's Office of the GNAT (E Bloc)

The present building of the GNAT which embraces the request of modernization in architecture, adapting the historical, regional and economic conditions of Turkey, also serves as a significant example of modern architectural understanding of the Republic Period with those characteristics.



The Plenary Hall - 1961

One can enter the Plenary Hall for 550 deputies from the center of the Main Building. The Plenary Hall is encircled from the upper side with the balconies for the guests.



The Plenary Hall - 1998







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