

# Mimar Kemaleddin

## (1870 İstanbul-1927 İstanbul) \_\_\_\_\_

Architect Kemaleddin was born in 1870 in Istanbul. Due to his father's duty he went to Crete and learnt French and Arabic during his stay there. Having returned to Istanbul, he improved his foreign language skills. After high school, he was enrolled at the School of Engineering and graduated from this school in 1891 with first rank. During his education, with his outstanding talent, he drew the attention of German Architect Prof. Jasmund, who was lecturing at the same school, and became an assistant there. Architect Kemaleddin held this position for four years, during which time he also opened his private office and began designing his early works. In 1895, the Government sent him to Berlin for further studies in architecture. He studied architecture at Charlottenburg Technische Hochschule in Berlin for two years and worked in architectures' offices for a while.

Back in Turkey, Architect Kemaleddin was appointed as a lecturer in the fields of architecture and civil engineering at the School of Engineering. It was during this period that his ideas on national architecture started to blossom.

He produced his major works in architecture between 1909 and 1919. Founding the first trade association in 1908 under the name of "Ottoman Association of Architects and Engineers", Architect Kemaleddin worked as the Construction and Reparation Manager at the Ministry of Foundations. During this period, when he was involved with the restoration of historical buildings and the design of new ones, he found the opportunity to examine the principles of Ottoman architecture, develop his own style and form his own thoughts on national architecture.

In the meantime, he was elected as a member of Royal Academy of Architecture (UK), owing to his success in the reparation of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

Among his major works are Çamlıca Girls' High School, Mosques of Bostancı, Bakırköy, Bebek and Yeşilköy, Reşadiye School and Tomb of Sultan Reşat, Tombs of Gazi Osman, Mahmud Şevket, Cevat, Ali Rıza and Hüsnü Pashas, Laleli Harikzedegan (Tayyare) Apartments, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Foundation Public Houses (Vakıf Hanları) in Istanbul; Gazi University Rectorate Building, premises of Gazi Education Institute and Turkish State Railways in Ankara. Furthermore, he gave the final shape and contributed to the completion of the Ankara Palace project that was initiated by Vedat Tek.

One of the pioneers of the national architecture trend, Architect Kemaleddin was inspired by classical Ottoman architecture; blending the distinct characteristics of German architecture with those of the Ottoman architecture and attempting to introduce a brand-

new style. In his works, he displayed the characteristics of Ottoman and Islamic architecture in a way that reflected the national identity and used architectural elements such as arches, eaves and china tiling on the facades of buildings, highlighted symmetry and emphasized traditional style with tower-like protrusions and cornices placed on the facades.

Architect Kemaleddin died in 1927.

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