

ABSTRACT

The second half of the 19th Century was a remarkable period in the history of the transformation of Istanbul's Pera district, which can also be detected in the history of its western type theatre buildings, passages, cultural activities, district regulations, planning and establishment of other public and private spaces. The scope of the study will focus on the period between the announcement of the Edict of Gulhane (1839) till Second Constitutional Era (1908).

I have chosen the Pera district, also known as Beyoğlu/Taksim for this case study, because it had quite specific functions in the city. It had hosted various ethnical groups throughout its long history, which was also the case in the middle of the 19th century, and the cultural harmony influenced the district's social life. I intend to test this hypothesis by applying Charles Landry's creativity city concept with Pera's cultural district at the end of the thesis. I will apply the aforementioned concepts and examine the remarkable modern type constructions of the district and their history. I will show that gradual growth of the amount and intensity of interactions between the West and the Ottoman Society created a cultural infrastructure, which in turn created a cosmopolitan area in Pera. Social and daily life started to change with the appearance of occidental style institutions, entertainment, and theatre buildings. While examining this process I will show some characteristics of 19th century Pera and its cultural elements in the context of interaction with Western culture.

Key words : 19th Century, Ottoman Theatre, Pera, Leisure Time