

Dogan Hasol's Memories of Kemal Ahmet Arû

Kemal Ahmet Bey graduated from Galatasaray Lycée in 1932, and from the Academy of Fine Arts in 1937. The earlier and later parts of his life can be found in his biography. I wish to relate some anecdotes that are not so well known.

Between 1973 and 1975 Kemal Ahmet Arû served as a member of the board for Galatasaray Sports Club under club president Prof. Dr. Mustafa Pekin. Actually Arû was not much interested in sports, and I am sure someone told him that posts at Galatasaray were not taken but given, because everyone who had studied at Galatasaray Lycée considered that they had a debt to pay to this institution. Of course Kemal Ahmet Bey did not concern himself with football or any other sport at the club, but we know he was involved in the construction of the sports complex in Florya, the construction and expansion of Galatasaray Museum behind the entrance to the school, and other such activities.

He was a person who enjoyed being with his friends, regardless of their age and status, eating and drinking with them, relaxing with them and sharing his interests. I always believed that his beloved wife Günseli Hanım, whom he lost early in their marriage, played a large part in this aspect of his character. Their home was always open to their friends. They would often hold dinner parties and enjoyed offering hospitality to friends. He carried on this tradition after Günseli Hanım's death.

In 1967 we went to the Constructa Fair in Hannover. I think Kemal Ahmet Bey and Ruhi Bey (Kafesçioğlu) had been involved somehow in the fair's organisation, perhaps as consultants. Another group of lecturers from Istanbul Technical University—Sedat Gürel, İmer Sunguroğlu, Yılmaz Zenger, Necati Şen and myself—were also in Hannover for the fair. Around the same time we were joined by Güner and Gürkan Gezim, who were graduates in architecture from ITU. The fair management paid Kemal Ahmet Bey and Ruhi Bey for their work and one day Kemal Ahmet Bey invited us all to Löwenbräu for dinner. He said that he and Ruhi Bey were going to share the expense of this generous gesture. And so it was. We had an enjoyable evening while a brass band played noisy music and statuesque German women rushed around serving huge tankards of beer.

When I was a research assistant my wife Hayzuran and I would occasionally enter architectural competitions. On one occasion we had submitted designs for the Military Academies' Campus Project Competition in Istanbul. There was a critical side to this competition where Istanbul Technical University was concerned. The university was demanding the very land in Maslak for which the competition was being held for its own new campus. Istanbul Technical University and the First Army Command were corresponding on the subject of rights to the site. The rectorate had written to say that it needed the land in question for a new campus that would allow the university to expand, because it was cramped for space in the three former army barracks (Taşkışla, Gümüşsuyu and Maçka) located within the city. The reply from First Army Commander of the time, Cemal Tural, was not promising: "Go and set up your camp in Kilyos! (a seaside area)" he retorted. It was at such a juncture

that we participated in the two-round architectural design competition for the new Military Academies on that land, and won the right to compete in the second round.

One day they told me that Rector Bedri Karafakioğlu wanted to see me. I was afraid that a disagreeable rebuke was in store, so I was nervous when I entered the rector's office at Taşkışla. Prof. Kemal Ahmet Arû, who was involved in preparations for the new campus, was there with Karafakioğlu. They both welcomed me in a kindly fashion. After congratulating us on our success, they went straight to the real subject. They wondered whether the remaining area of land left over from the Military Academies' complex would be enough for the university campus. On the map they had on the desk I showed them the area where the Military Academies would be located. They were pleased. It looked as if the land that was left would be enough for the Istanbul Technical University campus.

The land at Maslak was later amicably divided between Istanbul Technical University and the Military Academies, and both moved into their new buildings. Years later at a dark time of political unrest, land of approximately 1 million sqm in the Armutlu district of Istanbul that had been allocated to Istanbul Technical University was invaded by shanty house builders and despite court judgements occupation of this land continues today under the protection of politicians.

In my view Kemal Ahmet Bey played the greatest part in the move of Istanbul Technical University campus to Maslak, or rather in the establishment and development of the campus there. At that time some of the teaching staff, particularly in the Faculty of Architecture, were strongly opposed to the idea of a new campus. They did not want the university to move away from the city centre. Maslak was seen as being far from the city, and according to the standards of the time I suppose it was. In those days no one imagined that the city would spread like an avalanche northwards. Kemal Ahmet Bey overcame all the difficulties with the support of Rector Bedri Karafakioğlu, that led to retaining the former in-city buildings and moving to the campus at Maslak. Leaving aside the fact that the campus layout and design do not come up to the expected architectural standards, Kemal Ahmet Bey must be credited with the idea of a new campus, which is chief among his other many achievements, and perhaps the greatest achievement of his life.

The nightmare of imagining for even a moment what it would be like if Istanbul Technical University were still without a campus today, trying to squeeze into those three historic buildings, is sufficient to confirm this assessment.

(At this point we should pause to remember Prof. Dr. Bedri Karafakioğlu. He was one of the most outstanding academics to train at Istanbul Technical University, and one of whom the university was justly proud. Sadly he was one of the many estimable scholars and thinkers who fell victim to terror. In 1978 at the age of just 63 he was killed in an armed attack by the treacherous forces who were the scourge of the country in those days.)

Occasionally I used to visit the professor at his house, and of course these visits took the form he enjoyed, consisting of a mixture of whisky and conversation. I think it was in 1998 that the

Gallipoli Peninsula Peace Park International Concept and Design Competition was announced, and he was entering this competition with Prof. Dr. Ahmet Keskin. In the course of our fervent conversation the professor complained that young people were not energetic enough. The "young" person he was referring to was Ahmet Keskin. At that time Kemal Ahmet Bey was 86 years old and Ahmet Keskin was 73.

One day he phoned me and we met at his flat in Teşvikiye. He told me he was writing his memoirs. The book was going to be published by the publishing house of a bank and they had even made an advance payment. The project had been delayed, and in the end the publishers told him that they would not be able to print it due to internal problems, but they would not request return of the advance payment. The professor, who truly wished his memoirs to be published was upset as he related the story. When I told him, "Don't worry, we'll publish the book at the YEM Building Information Centre," he was delighted but doubtful. "A great big bank could not publish it, how can you do it?" he objected. Yet we had already published his book, *The Turkish City*. What's more, he had related part of his memoirs at the YEM conference hall in Harbiye as part of the Architecture in Memories lecture series, and these had already been published. When he realised that my offer was serious he poured two generous glassfuls of whisky from the already opened bottle and he invited Hayzuran to celebrate with us. That is how *Kemal Ahmet Arû: 80 Years in the Life of a University Professor* came to be published in December 2001. He was 89 at the time.

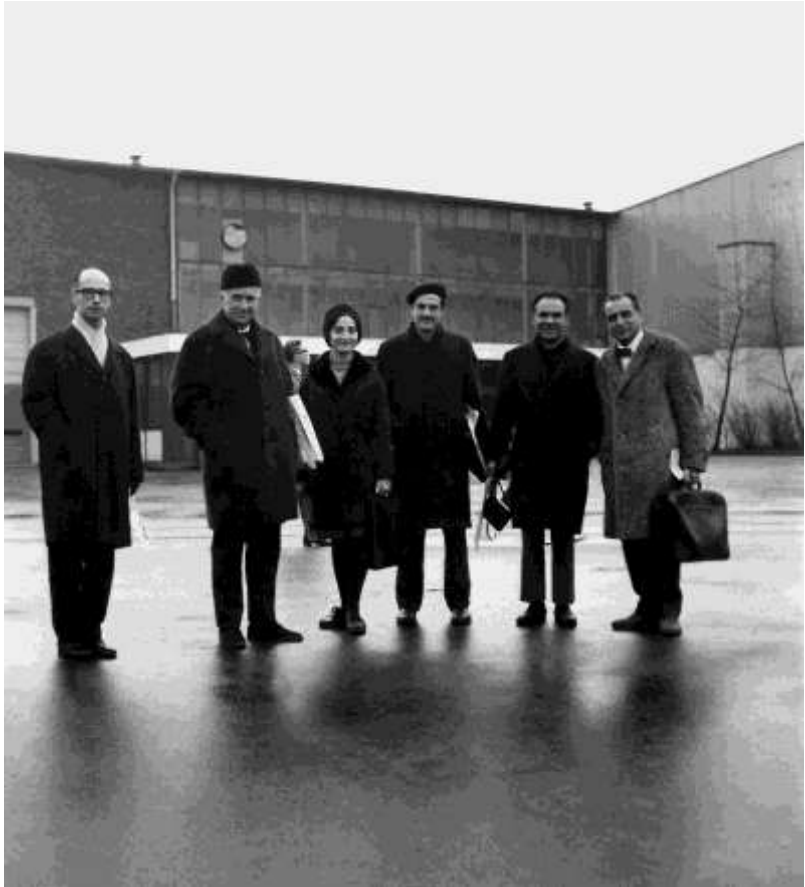
The professor was also a very good archivist. His home in Teşvikiye was full of documents, design projects and photographs. His photographs that we placed in YEM's online Virtual Architectural Museum (www.archmuseum.org) enrichen our architectural memory. Despite his advanced age the professor never stopped working at home and writing new books. He gave us three more to publish: *General Culture*, *University Buildings* and *Urban Design*. Unfortunately we were not able to publish them in the short time before his death.

I still miss him, and once again with respect honour his memory.



KEMAL AHMET ARU

Sünger
KABAKCIOĞLU





4 Nisan 1987

Sergili Doğan Hasol,

Tebrik kartına bu kadar gaş cevap vermenin
utancı içindeyim.
Yılım 4. ayında yeni yıl tebriki bilmem ne kadar
kabule şayanıdır; bir kısmına mazeret var. İlk ay
wash. da Emrediydim; ama üst tarafını, hoca
olmam modernle bağışlayacaksınız; başka şerehiz
yok.

1987 nin geri kalan 9 ayında, sana, ve
aile mutluluklar, xerim dolu günler,
başarılar ve saglıklar diler gözlerinizden
operim.

Sergilemle
K. A. ARI



AKKAKA VE CIVAKI
GROSS ANKARA



- 0-100 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI
 - 1-200 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI
 - 3-300 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI
 - 4-400 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI
 - 5-500 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI
 - 6-600 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI
 - 7-700 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI
 - 8-800 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI
 - 9-900 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI
 - 10-1000 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI
 - 11-1100 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI
 - 12-1200 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI
 - 13-1300 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI
 - 14-1400 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI
 - 15-1500 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI
 - 16-1600 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI
 - 17-1700 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI
 - 18-1800 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI
 - 19-1900 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI
 - 20-2000 METRE ÇAPINDAKİ YERLERİN VEYERİNEKAYITLARI

Sevgili Doğan,
 Teşekkür ederim,
 Yeni Yılına Kutlar
 1995'in
 mutluluk, sağlık ve
 başarılar getir mesiri
 dilerim.
 Gözlerimden öperim
 C.A.

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