

# İrfan Yıldırım House

*Umut Almaç*

District of Marmara, Merkez Neighbourhood	Construction period/date: late 19 <sup>th</sup> century – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
GPS: 40°35'09.1"N 27°33'16.6"E	Current status: <b>Abandoned</b>
	Ownership status: <b>Private ownership</b>
Registration date and number: <b>Bursa KTVKKBK 15.01.1996 - 4904</b>	

## History

The house may be attributed to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> – beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, considering other examples with similar materials, façades, interior features, and decoration. The first owner of the house after the population exchange was locally known as 'Kalafatçı Hasan', literally 'Hasan the Caulker'. Afterwards, Hamdi Bozkurt bought the property. İrfan Yıldırım, who

owns the adjoining timber-frame building locally known as 'Atom's House' that collapsed in 2018, also owns this house. The structure was abandoned in 2008-2009.

## Architecture

This two-storey residence has a partial basement and a floor area of about 44 m<sup>2</sup>. The building is entered through a single-winged



Fig. 1: General view

door on the western façade, from Kadi Street (Fig. 1). On both sides of the entrance are windows; the one to the north is small and square, while the one to the south is rectangular. The latter window is under a partial projection on the first-floor that is clad with overlapping timber boards. This projection is only the southern half of the façade and carried by three timber brackets covered with wood laths. It has two windows facing the street and a side window facing north. There is a sash window with timber casing on the northern half of this façade. The façade ends with eaves protruding from the wall surface.

The northern façade facing Şehit Ömer Street has partially collapsed in the north-east (Fig. 2); therefore, the boundaries of the structure and the façade arrangement could not be precisely determined. There is a window opening on the ground floor near the northeastern corner. This window may belong to either the surveyed building or the adjacent structure, which is currently lost. The original timber cladding of the walls on the upper level is covered with sheet metal up to the profiled roof moulding. The original cladding can be seen in the sections where the sheet metal is lost. There is a sash window in the centre of the façade.

The ground floor is constructed in stone masonry, whereas the first floor is timber frame. There are timber bands within the rubble-stone masonry walls. These bands overlap each other at the corners of the



Fig. 2: Northern façade

structure and were nailed to strengthen the connections. The partition walls of the first floor are timber frame covered with wood laths (*bağdadi*). The staircase, providing circulation between floors, is also of timber. In the damaged sections of the façade, posts and bracings of the timber-frame system can be identified behind the timber panels. The building is covered by a timber, hipped roof and overand under tiles.

The interior could not be accessed due to serious damage posing threat.

### Current Condition

The building is damaged and the roof is in ruinous condition. Rainwater penetration accelerates the building's deterioration. Structural problems in the northeastern corner have caused partial collapse in this section. The house has formerly undergone interventions of varying scale in different periods. The original architectural elements and their proportions have changed over time both on the façades and in the interiors. A two-storey, masonry annex was built in the southeastern corner of the building as a result of changing needs.

The neighbouring structure, adjacent to the building on the southeast, collapsed in 2018; therefore, the southern façade is currently visible. The traces on this façade indicate that the adjacent structure was built after İrfan Yıldırım House and caused the partial blockage of windows on the first floor.

### Risk Assessment and Recommendations

The building is severely damaged and requires urgent measures to prevent total collapse. It will inevitably fall in a short time if protective measures are not taken. Therefore, architectural documentation should start immediately in order to obtain as much data as possible before the building collapses. Damage to the surroundings should be prevented by security strips and information panels. Since the building is in close vicinity to the mosque and the shopping centre, which are daily frequented, precautions should be taken immediately to solve the problem of structural safety.