

# Kamil Kanat House

*Gamze Özmertyurt*

District of Marmara, Asmalı Neighbourhood, Köyiçi Locality	Construction period/date: <b>Late 19<sup>th</sup> century</b>
	Current status: <b>Abandoned</b>
GPS: 40°37'02.9"N 27°42'25.1"E	Ownership status: <b>Private ownership</b>
Registration date and number: <b>Bursa KTVKBK 15.01.1996 - 4904</b>	

## History

Asmalı Neighbourhood, inhabited by families from Sürmene after the population exchange, houses examples of residential architecture that survive today. Kamil Kanat House does not have an inscription panel, but it can be dated to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century based on the information obtained from the locals and the history of the island/village. The Kanat Family settled in the house after the population exchange and lived in this building until approximately 15-20 years ago. It is currently abandoned.

## Architecture

The three-storey building is located in the north part of the settlement, 1 km away from the main road passing through the village centre. The village is situated on terrain descending from north to south. The ground floor was built entirely in brick masonry, whereas the first floor is timber frame with overlapping timber boards on the entrance façade and brick masonry on the sides. The second floor was built in timber-frame system with brick infill. The extant part of the building has a 6.60x4.50 m rectangular plan,



Fig. 1: Eastern and northern façades

extending in the east-west direction. It also has a hipped roof with sloping surfaces in four directions that are covered by over and under tiles. The gate opens into the southern yard from the street in the east. Neighbouring buildings are detached.

The main entrance is on the southern façade, which has one window on the ground floor, two on the first floor, and four on the second floor. On this façade, the second floor makes a projection flaring towards the east corner.

The western part of the building has completely collapsed. A doorway to the north of the entrance hall provided access to the ground floor of the western part, now in ruins. There are openings to the collapsed section on the first and second floors: one window and one double-winged door on the first floor, and a double-winged door on the second floor that has a niche with shelves to its south. Both sets of doors provided access to rooms before the western part collapsed.

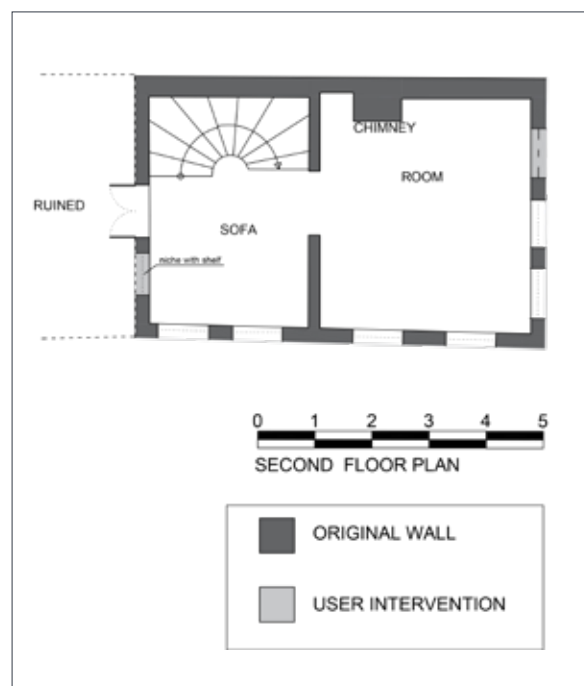
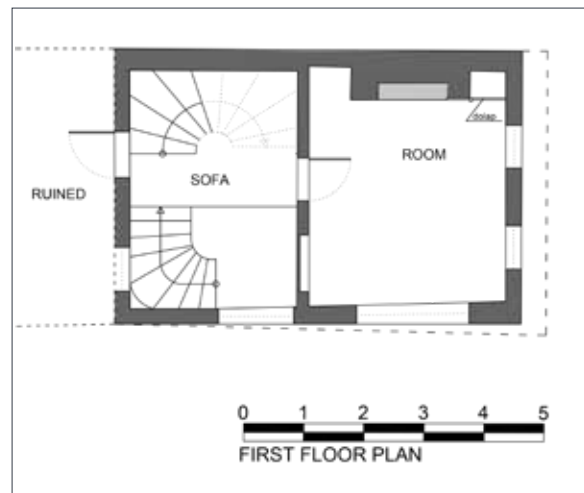
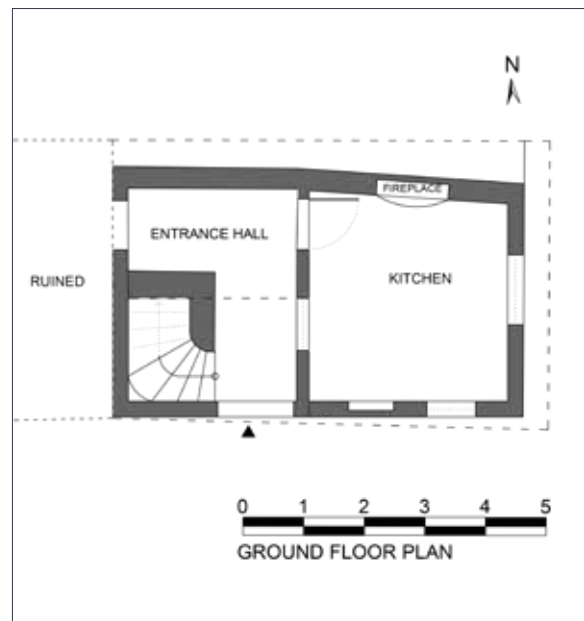
The northern façade is completely blind (Fig. 1). The only detail on this façade is the protrusion of the chimney starting from the ground floor.

On the eastern façade, there is one window with three partitions on the ground floor, two timber, sash windows on the first floor, and three on the second floor, one of which was later blocked with bricks. The projection that started on the southern façade also protrudes on this one by approximately 40-50 cm.

The entrance on the southern façade is towards the western section of the extant wall.



Fig. 2: Entrance hall on the ground floor, kitchen on the right and sofa of the first floor above



It corresponds to the L-shaped entrance hall (Fig. 2). According to the former residents, this space was used to process olives. The kitchen, accessed through a door from the entrance hall, is located on the eastern wing of the ground floor. It has a fireplace that is covered by a timber hood. Since the floor is entirely covered by earth, it is not clear whether there was a staircase going downstairs. There are also pits resulting from illicit digging that have damaged the floor. The timber ceiling of the kitchen has wooden beams. The walls are mainly plastered with lime, although certain sections are covered with modern ceramic tiles. The kitchen counter extends along the southern wall.

A curving staircase against the western wall provides access to the first floor. Both upper floors have symmetrical plan organization. There are rounded, triangular, timber elements in the parts where the staircase changes direction. The first floor does not have a fully-developed *sofa*. An I-shaped hall provides entrance to the room on the east via a timber, single-winged door. The height of the room in the south is 2.17 m. There is a window with

three partitions in the southern wall, whereas the eastern wall has two timber sash windows. The western wall adjoining the hall has a niche with shelves. The chimney of the fireplace on the ground floor continues in this room on the first floor. In the northern wall, there is a niche with a cupboard to the right of the chimney.

A curving staircase in the north of the first-floor hall leads to the second floor. On the second floor, the staircase reaches the *sofa*, which is arranged as a room with a rectangular plan (Fig. 3). The *sofa* is surrounded with a room on the east; a niche with shelves and a double-winged timber door painted green on the west. This doorway probably allowed access to the western room, which is currently destroyed. There are two timber sash windows on the south wall of the *sofa*. The *sofa*'s roof has partially collapsed, thus it is open to weather conditions. The walls, timber windows, and door of the eastern room are painted green. The northernmost one of the three sash windows on the room's eastern wall was later blocked with bricks. Timber-frame walls with wood laths can be seen where paint is



Fig. 3: Second floor's sofa and the timber door opening to non-existent room on the west



Fig. 4: Ornamented ceiling on the second floor

lost. The timber ceiling in this room has wood laths arranged in geometric motifs (Fig. 4). Intense vegetation covering the window, door casings, and flooring prevents the observation of details in certain parts in this space.

### Current Condition

As seen in any house without dwellers, the building is neglected and faces the danger of gradual obsolescence. The plan organization is not legible since the western part of the building has collapsed. The closed window openings affect the original façade organization. The plaster layer on both the exterior and interior walls of the ground floor is largely lost. The building's roof has mostly collapsed. Deterioration has accelerated, especially on the upper floors. Plant overgrowth has increased in the house since it is exposed to external weather conditions such as rainwater and wind. Even though the kitchen is thought to have been accessed by stairs, its floor level cannot currently be observed. This is mainly because of the damage caused by illicit digging and the deterioration of the flooring. The original ceilings may collapse at any time. The ornamented ceiling on the second floor is

at great risk since the roof structure began to deteriorate. Although the roof's collapse causes problems, the biggest issue is negligence due to abandonment.

### Risk Assessment and Recommendations

This registered structure is under threat due to negligence. Families that once resided here have moved into the new, reinforced concrete buildings to the east and south of the building. The roof is currently damaged. Vegetation and material decay within the building indicate that the roof is insufficient to protect it from external conditions. A protective roof should be built over the structure as soon as possible to act as a temporary precaution. Timber flooring, ceilings, windows, and stairs need to be renewed. The timber-frame system should be consolidated, strengthened, and renewed where necessary. A restoration project should be prepared to renovate and rehabilitate the building in line with its original form. Otherwise, building's collapse is inevitable. After the building's restoration, an information panel should be placed to raise awareness and increase the potential for visitors.