

MEDIA INFORMATION

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Rami Library, Istanbul: Window to Knowledge

The pen is mightier than the sword. Once a place where wars were planned, it is now the largest library complex in all of Europe. The Rami Library is at once a witness and a monument to a bygone empire, a vibrant place of encounter in a capital city, and an embodiment of modern library pedagogy. The transformation into a library, overseen by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, is strongly expressed in the Art' 15 design by Swiss company Jansen AG.

An exciting architectural feature is the harmony between old and new. Under the direction of Kançul Grup as the general contractor, Remak, a metalworking company, constructed the façade designed by caps.office to meet the most demanding energy requirements, up to and including passive house certification, for the installed components in the area of the coworking spaces and catering facilities. According to designs by Han Tümertekin Tasarım, specialist contractors Metaltek, and İkon Yapı fitted out the original building, which was constructed in 1828 for an entirely different purpose, with elements set in steel profiles designed for the most sophisticated interior design, even in the external façade. In this way, the complex, with its many accents, opens up to the attentive observer, almost like an encyclopedia of construction and materials.

The country's first sustainable biosphere museum

The structures built aim to support cultural life in its various forms. A gift from Sultan Mustafa II (1695-1703) to his Grand Vizier Rami Mehmed Pasha, the 1828 building, which stands on a vast estate, will continue to serve its purpose in the new green living space of the Eyüpsultan district: Today, glory is earned through cultural achievements rather than on the battlefield. The Rami Library's designation as the country's first sustainable biosphere museum is also in keeping with the times. It is a concept that has been made

official by the relevant certificate and has become fully integrated into everyday urban life that has long been developing almost naturally in the complex with its 51.000 square meters landscaped interior and 1.000 square meters artificial pond.

Walking and cycling paths lead past the reconstruction, which uses natural, local materials and brings the building's Ottoman character into the present and future. The nearby Janissary Quarry, which operated until 1826, is closely linked to the first use of the complex under Sultan Mustafa III for the supply logistics of the mobilised army. The parcel, noted in records as Rami Barracks Farm, was also used as a place for "Binis-i Hümayun", which were short inspection trips conducted by Ottoman sultans via horse or royal boat.

Overcoming defiant narrowness

The barracks, built after the quarry closed, was commissioned in 1828 and soon became known as the Rami Barracks. The transformation into a library, overseen by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, is strongly expressed in the Art'15 design by Swiss company Jansen AG.

"We chose Jansen profiles because they offer narrow sight lines and curved geometries. These advantages were decisive for the project. Because the profiles are very narrow, the Art'15 doors in XL format had to be manufactured and installed with special care. The large entrance doors with a width of over 1.200 mm are frequently used. Therefore, steel is advantageous because it requires little maintenance. The steel elements also fit in perfectly with the historic wall structure," explains the metal construction company responsible, Metaltek & İkon Yapı. He continues: "The biggest challenge was the different radii for each type. There are over a hundred doors and fixed parts with different radii, so the fabrication and alignment were an immense challenge. With the help of Art'15 slimness, visual effects and maximum transparency are achieved."

The Janisol steel profile systems, designed primarily for exclusive interiors according to the manufacturer in collaboration with the most prominent representatives of European architecture, enclose window and door elements in a filigree, transparent, and aesthetically elegant manner over more than 1.000 square meters of the former military main building, as well as in its external façade. Contrasts are always exciting in construction. But here, where the Atatürk Special Library alone houses more than 20.000 volumes and documents on Atatürk and the history of the Republic that open up new vis-

tas for the minds and imaginations of those who read them, they are a concise and consolidated stylistic means of overcoming the defiant narrowness that which also harbours insecurity or even fear of inferiority.

It was from here, his headquarters, that Sultan Mahmud II led his troops in the Russo-Turkish war that was to bring the freedom-seeking Greeks to their senses in the 1920s. The conflict ended with the march of the Tsarist Empire to 60 km from Constantinople and finally with the forced Treaty of Adrianople, with corresponding losses for the Porte. In 1836/1837, students from the school of engineering moved into a section of the barracks for the first time. Despite the creation of a research centre, the military use of the Rami Barracks Farm, which was partially destroyed during the First World War, continued until 1971. However, when Istanbul was named the European Capital of Culture in 2010, restoration efforts began under the supervision of the Istanbul Directorate of Surveying and Monuments. The actual project started in 2014 and work was completed at the beginning of this year.

Around the clock

Created as a source for the future, the initiators embodied an approach to library education that opens up a window of knowledge to the information society in Turkey and Istanbul. As is structurally necessary in this special place, the concepts gathered in Europe's largest library complex are in line with the view that one must understand the past in order to understand the future. There is space for up to 4.200 people in the reading rooms, some of which are open around the clock with several 24-hour sections. Several research facilities give it a university feel, but the 36.000 square meters of enclosed space also includes workshop and event spaces, as well as group and individual reading rooms.

As mentioned above, the redesign has given rise to an extensive green space in the surrounding area with a generous stock of trees for urban leisure and recreation. The newly constructed sections of the massive complex include the coworking sector, which is deliberately designed to be temporary in its use of space, with appealing gastronomic offerings that invite casual visitors to take a break and relax. Over an area of 265 square meters, the VISS system of the modern façade consists of highly insulated Janisol steel profiles for high-performance door elements from the Swiss company Jansen AG. Remak, the company carrying out the work, agrees with the design specifications from caps.office, which have been perfectly implemented here: "Precisely because the new Rami Library is a meeting place and at the same time a contact point for the people of Istanbul's Eyüpsultan district, the

construction requirements for noise insulation, thermal insulation, and fire resistance are of paramount importance. In the case of the Janisol steel profiles of Jansen AG's VISS system, there is hardly any hint of this structural functionality in the effortless lightness of the visual effect. It is a design that remains exceptional in architecture to this day". This is in line with the conceptual aspirations of the library complex, with special facilities such as the baby and children's library (up to three years old) or the youth library, as well as the Şifahane House, where experts work on restoring manuscripts and rare prints.

Symbiosis ancient – modern

"The National Archives Building, designed by caps.office, is in the center of the rectangular Rami Barracks. Located on the main spine of the Hünkar Pavilion, the building hides under the topography. The building, which was designed in an integrated manner with the landscape, comes into existence with the lifting of two symmetrical roof plates. The research hall and cafeteria are housed within the exposed roof slabs. The new building gains representation in addition to modern architecture within the historical texture of the barracks.

The alle passing through the center of the new building references the axis of the Hünkar Pavilion. The building, which integrates with the topography, is connected to the courtyard landscape at different levels with a double-sided inclined concrete slab. The building plaque, which continues as a green roof after the concrete eaves, was designed as an open space with intense public use.

The National Archives Building, where the first copy of all post-Republican sources will be located, is in the basement; To ensure a high level of security in all adverse external conditions, digital archives are protected by cabinet systems. Necessary mechanical needs are provided with precision air conditioning systems. A section of the national archive was designed to allow visitors to view it from the ground floor. Thus, this area, where access is limited, was opened to the user theme experience together with the semi-open exhibition area. The double-volume archive area, which can be seen through the glass section in the semi-open area, can also be viewed through the openings on the alley road.

The Rami history - a special note by Han Tümertekin

I grew up in a house whose walls were covered with "books" and received my architectural education at Istanbul Technical University, in a "barracks"

that was converted into an architecture school. The “Rami Library (Barracks)” project was exciting as it would bring these two worlds I knew together.

Rami Barracks was built in the 1770s and has an area of approximately 40.000 m². The program consists of “manuscripts”, children's and adult libraries, and reading rooms. It also contains a book storage that can be viewed by visitors, placed under the courtyard (The National Archives Building, designed by caps.office). The building, which consists of single-storey high volumes, is located around a 50.000 m² courtyard.

Our architectural approach can be summarized as revealing the unique spatial qualities of the historical building and placing new functions with minimal physical intervention, as we do in every similar situation. After the building was freed from the changes it underwent over time, it was divided into zones as required by the new program. The relationship between the regions is established by a corridor approximately five meters wide and 1.4 km long. Instead of allocating an area of this size to circulation, we created an area for "informal seating" by cascading a part of it like an amphitheater. In the volumes, mezzanines had to be added to accommodate the new functions. The carrier system of these floors was constructed and designed together with the carriers of the bookshelves, ensuring that the integrity of the space is not damaged.

Project details:

Architecture

Rami Library Building: Han Tmertekin Tasarım (Han Tmertekin, Ferhat Zeycan, Zehra Uar)

The National Archives Building: caps.office (Pınar Kesim Aktaş, Hilay Şanlı, Cansu Kodemir)

Metalwork (renovation): Metaltek & İkon Yapı, İstanbul & İzmir/TR

Metalwork (new building): Remak, İstanbul/TR

Area of application: Windows, doors, faade

Date of completion: 2023

Profile systems used: VISS faade, Jansen Art'15, Janisol doors, Economy 50 doors

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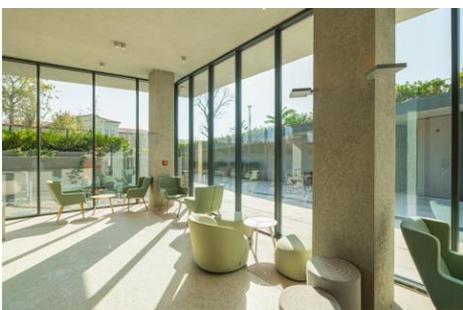
jansenrami8.jpg

The VISS system of the modern façade includes 265 square metres of highly insulated Janisol steel profiles for high-performance door elements from the Swiss company Jansen AG.



jansenrami11.jpg

The Janisol steel profiles of the VISS system from Jansen AG combine structural functionality with effortless lightness and fulfil all structural requirements for sound, thermal and fire protection.



jansenrami16.jpg

The VISS system from Jansen AG combines a design that is still exceptional in architecture today with maximum functionality.



jansenrami28.jpg

Narrow sight lines and curved geometries of the Art' 15 design by Swiss company Jansen AG were decisive for the project.



jansenrami36.jpg

As the profiles are narrow, the Jansen Economy 50 door in XL format had to be manufactured and installed with special care.



jansenrami76.jpg

Filigree, transparent and aesthetically elegant, the Janisol steel profile systems frame the window and door elements in the façade.



jansenrami82.jpg

Steel profiles designed for the most sophisticated interior design



jansenrami92.jpg

The large entrance doors are used often and heavily frequented - steel is therefore advantageous as it requires little maintenance.



Jansenrami102.jpg

The biggest challenge was the different radii for each type - over a hundred doors and fixed parts with different radii. Visual effects and maximum transparency are achieved with the use of Art' 15.



jansenrami103.jpg

The steel elements fit in perfectly with the historic wall structure.

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