

The dome rests on a hexadecagon frame. The last community place of this single domed square planned mosque is protrusive with five sections. Although Iskender Paşa Mosque possesses the characteristics of Early Ottoman era architecture, it was also built under the influence of Diyarbakir mosques.

#### Behram Paşa Mosque

This mosque was commissioned by Diyarbakir's 13th Ottoman Governor Behram Paşa between 1564 and 1572. The structure is referred to Sinan the Architect in Tuhfetül Mi'marin however there is no information in other writings about Sinan that it is his work. The structure is quite similar to Silivrikapı Hadim İbrahim Paşa Mosque of Sinan. The praying section of the structure is square planned and this place is covered with a dome. It is assumed that this mosque was a preparation for a possible architectural development that was going to give an idea to Sinan for the ideal central structure created in İstanbul Sehzade Mosque. Another characteristic of the mosque is that there is a last community place protruding from both sides at two stages with five sections on the north side.

#### Melek Ahmet Paşa Mosque

The mosque was commissioned to be built by Diyarbakir's 60th Governor Melek Ahmet Paşa between 1587 and 1591. The structure is referred to Sinan the Architect in Tuhfetül Mi'marin however there is no information in other writings about Sinan that it is his work. It is a stone structure with two floors with alternate bricking. It resembles Sinan's Sinan Paşa Mosque in Beşiktaş in respect of this alternate bricking. The praying section of the mosque has a rectangular plan and this section is covered with a dome. The dome rests on an octagon frame and the praying



section is lighted from above by opening four sharp arc windows. The minaret that is on the right of the northern stairs of the mosque was designed as separate from the mosque and the stone ornaments on the bottom attract great attention. The minaret has two stairs to the halfway and then single stair from thereon. The stairs are designed in such a way that two persons climbing on these two stairs can not see each other.



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ALİ PAŞA MOSQUE



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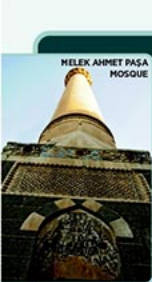
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*The East of Sinan*

*Sinan The Architect and  
Diyarbakir*

Turkey  
Diyarbakir



MELEK AHMET PAŞA  
MOSQUE



FATİH PAŞA MOSQUE

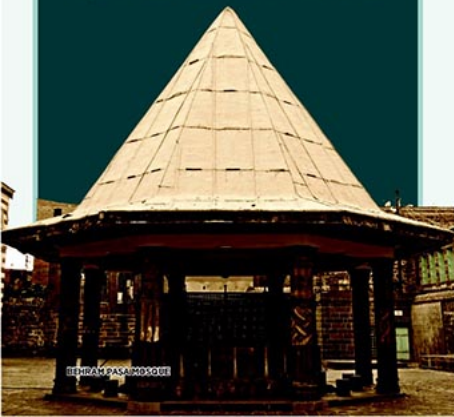


MELEK AHMET PAŞA MOSQUE



BEHRAM PAŞA MOSQUE

Being the greatest designer and leader of Ottoman Architecture, Sinan the Architect left his mark on 16th century which is referred as Classic Ottoman Architecture. Within this period, he designed, audited the design and constructed approximately 400 structures and expanded his design vision by seeing various cultural monuments during military operations. Born on an unknown date in Ağırnas village of Kayseri, the master "Koca Sinan" (Great Sinan) was a Christian child who was recruited to be a janissary during the reign of Yavuz Sultan Selim (1512-1513). He was



FATİH PAŞA MOSQUE

appointed as the head of architects in 1538 which lasted for 50 years. Having been appointed as the Head Architect in 1539 during the reign Süleyman the Magnificent, Sinan produced approximately 400 structures according to various sources until his death in 1588. He constructed various structures such as mosque, prayer room, madrasah, Koran reading places, tomb, poorhouse, water arcs, bridge, caravanserai, bath, etc. that were spread all around the territories of the Empire from Anatolia to Europe. Bearing in mind the fact that Sinan couldn't construct all of these structures himself in different parts of the empire, it is assumed that only engineering calculations of some of these structures were made by him and some of them were constructed by his students. It is very probable that most of the structures that are referred to Sinan were actually constructed by his master builders. The mosques that are referred to Sinan the Architect in Diyarbakır are Fatih Paşa Mosque, Behram Paşa Mosque, İskender Paşa Mosque, Melek Ahmet Paşa Mosque and Hadim Ali Paşa Mosque.

#### Fatih Paşa Mosque (Kursunlu Mosque)

It was built by Diyarbakır Governor Biyıklı Mehmet Paşa between 1516 and 1520. Located in Fatih Paşa Quarter, this mosque is also referred as Kursunlu (Lead) Mosque since its top layer is covered with lead. The structure occupies an important place within mosque development. This particular mosque is distinguished from other Diyarbakır mosques in its plan. It reminds the style of Sinan the Architect since the dome in the center is supported by four half domes. The main dome rests on four square stands within the worshipping space and this dome is supported by half domes in four corners. It is assumed that this mosque was a preparation for a possible architectural development that was going to give an

idea to Sinan for the ideal central structure created in Istanbul Şehzade Mosque. The last community place is covered by seven domes supported by eight columns. The reason that this last community place was constructed here as longer than the praying space of the mosque is the spaces in both sides.

#### Hadim Ali Paşa Mosque

Hadim Ali Paşa Mosque was commissioned to be built by Diyarbakır Governor Hadim Ali Paşa between 1534 and 1537. Being located within a complex in Ali Paşa Quarter, this structure is cited as a work of Sinan the Architect in "Tuhfetül Mi'marin" where the works of Sinan the Architect are listed. There is the section for şahi community on the east part of the single domed mosque while madrasah is located on the west and a rectangular planned invocation room on the northeastern side. The praying section of this square planned mosque is covered with a dome. The dome is settled on a high octagon frame and covered with a pyramidal roof. The last community place of the structure is divided into five sections with four feet and two wall series.

#### İskender Paşa Mosque

It was commissioned by Diyarbakır's 12th Ottoman Governor İskender Paşa between 1551 and 1563. It is cited in certain epigraphs that it is the work of Sinan the Architect. However it is not named in "Tuhfetül Mi'marin" which lists the works of Sinan the Architect. The square planned structure is covered with a dome.



İSKENDER PAŞA MOSQUE



ALİ PAŞA MOSQUE



MELEK AHMET PAŞA MOSQUE