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**NEW EXHIBITION OF THE VIRTUAL MUSEUM OF
ARCHITECTURE;
“FROM TATAVLA TO KURTULUŞ”**

Kurtuluş from Yesterday to Today...

The new exhibition of the Virtual Museum of Architecture sponsored by Doğa Real Estate entitled “From Tatavla to Kurtuluş” focuses on the past and present of the district of “Kurtuluş”, one of the typical examples of Istanbul’s cultural fabric.

The new exhibition of the Virtual Museum of Architecture, “From Tatavla to Kurtuluş”, is one of the activities of YEM, which has served as an information centre for the construction world since 1968, with the participation of Doğa Real Estate. The exhibition is a reflection of the past and present of one of Istanbul’s better-known districts, Kurtuluş.

The exhibition, which can be viewed on www.mimarlikmuzesi.org, provides an opportunity to examine the life expressed in the historical structures of the streets of Kurtuluş, one of the typical examples of Istanbul’s multi-cultural fabric, and the changes undergone by the district.

The Story of How Tatavla Became Kurtuluş...

The district known until the Republican era as Tatavla, whose name is thought to have derived from the Anatolian Greek work for “stable” or “stables”, bears historical traces that date back to the Byzantine era. However, it is known to have been settled originally at the time of Süleyman the Magnificent principally by Anatolian Greek pirates taken captive in the 1530s who later started working in the shipyards of Kasımpaşa. Young men brought from Chios by Piyale Pasha, also to work in the shipyards, married the Greek girls in Istanbul and they too settled in Tatavla.

Tatavla preserved its identity as an Anatolian Greek quarter in the Ottoman era. An edict dated 1793 prohibited people of a religion or nation other than Greek Orthodox from settling in Tatavla. For this





reason also Tatavla was a very special quarter of Istanbul that managed to preserve its Greek character until the 1960s when a series of political tensions led to a visible decrease in the size of the Greek population.

An Olympic Champion from Kurtuluş in the Ottoman Era...

The Virtual Museum of Architecture provides the opportunity to encounter past and present while strolling through the streets of the district known today as Kurtuluş. The exhibition introduces the texture of the streets encompassing both the changes and the traces remaining from the past, the old and the new buildings, the churches, the holy springs, the schools and the Youth Club of Tatavla or Kurtuluş to its visitors. The “Tatavla to Kurtuluş” exhibition, organised with the sponsorship of Doğa Real Estate, reflects the colourful social life of the district with its carnivals and the first sportsman to win a gold medal at the Ottoman Olympics, gymnast Nikola Alibrandi, pupil of the Galatasaray School.

The Virtual Museum of Architecture, established by YEM with the aim of preserving the architectural heritage and making architectural culture accessible to a wider audience, has made it possible for everyone to have access to the thirty or so exhibitions it has hosted to date as well as to the comprehensive archives of prominent names in Turkish architecture such as Vedat Tek and Sedat Çetintaş.

Regarding the Virtual Museum of Architecture www.mimarlikmuzesi.org ...

The Virtual Museum of Architecture created in a virtual medium by the Building and Information Centre (Yapı-Endüstri Merkezi) at www.mimarlikmuzesi.org constitutes the first step towards the creation of a real life Museum of Architecture, a project which has been on the agenda for many years in Turkey but which somehow has never come to fruition.

In the Museum of Architecture a comprehensive selection of the available accounts and documentation is compiled as a heritage of Turkish and world architecture, bringing to the light of day a great variety of documents once hidden away in the archives of various individuals and foundations and making it possible to examine them on the Internet, thereby aiming to create a comprehensive inventory to provide a valuable source of reference for researchers. All the documents and information stored in the museum are digitally recorded to form an invaluable archive of the history of architecture.

The Museum of Architecture, which is also published in English on www.archmuseum.org, also undertakes to promote Turkish architecture abroad and to divulge the points of contact between Turkish architecture and international architecture.





The Building Information Centre (YEM)

The Building Information Centre is an information centre working in the field of construction materials and technology. Established in 1968, it provides a service to those working in the construction sector including companies engaged in the production of goods and services, professional executives, architects, engineers and contractors and users of construction materials working in all sectors. It is one of the corner stones of the sector with specialist fairs, the Building Information Centre, YEM Press and its publications pertaining to the sector, YEM Bookshop, various organised events throughout the year, the comprehensive and specialized portal yapi.com.tr that has provided a service since 2001, the architectural and design publication platform mimarizm.com, and the architectural museum in a virtual medium mimarlikmuzesi.org. Further information is available on www.yem.net

