

# The Istanbul Divanyolu

**Maurice Cerasi**



The book deals with the architectural space of the Divan axis, not only the street now called Divan Yolu but the entire system of streets which formed the thoroughfare from the Topkapı Palace to the city walls. It was the main ceremonial route of Istanbul, stage for the Sultan's stately processions, for the important Pashas' daily transit, but the exhibition of power and magnificence was never sublimated into an overall architectural image. They were enacted on a background of chaotic and lively daily city life. Street composition was unplanned and dominated by variety in form, type and volume. Particularly in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries when a very interesting and unique urban scene took form, secondary elements such as funerary enclosures and fountains, much more than the principal functional and religious building types which were more traditional in layout and style, were carriers of innovative architecture.

The essays define the ideological and aesthetic character of Ottoman urban space and architecture through the analysis of this characteristic segment of the imperial city.

The Istanbul Divanyolu.  
A Case Study in Ottoman Urbanity  
and Architecture

# ISTANBULER TEXTE UND STUDIEN

HERAUSGEGEBEN VOM  
ORIENT-INSTITUT ISTANBUL

BAND 3

The Istanbul Divanyolu.  
A Case Study in Ottoman Urbanity  
and Architecture

Maurice Cerasi  
with the collaboration of  
Emiliano Bugatti and Sabrina D'Agostiono

WÜRZBURG 2016

---

ERGON VERLAG WÜRZBURG  
IN KOMMISSION

Bibliografische Information der Deutschen Nationalbibliothek  
Die Deutsche Nationalbibliothek verzeichnet diese Publikation in der Deutschen  
Nationalbibliografie; detaillierte bibliografische Daten sind im Internet über <http://dnb.d-nb.de>  
abrufbar.

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek  
The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie;  
detailed bibliographic data are available in the Internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>.

ISBN 978-3-95650-177-7

ISSN 1863-9461

© 2016 Orient-Institut Istanbul (Max Weber Stiftung)

Das Werk einschließlich aller seiner Teile ist urheberrechtlich geschützt. Jede Verwertung des  
Werkes außerhalb des Urheberrechtsgesetzes bedarf der Zustimmung des Orient-Instituts  
Istanbul. Dies gilt insbesondere für Vervielfältigungen jeder Art, Übersetzungen, Mikro-  
verfilmung sowie für die Einspeicherung in elektronische Systeme. Gedruckt mit Unter-  
stützung des Orient-Instituts Istanbul, gegründet von der Deutschen Morgenländischen  
Gesellschaft, aus Mitteln des Bundesministeriums für Bildung und Forschung.

Ergon-Verlag GmbH  
Keesburgstr. 11, D-97074 Würzburg

## *Table of Contents*

Chapter 1:	
Introduction (MC) .....	9
Chapter 2:	
Physical Characteristics, Toponyms and Identity (MC) .....	15
Appendix to Chapter 2:	
Variations in Path and Layout (EB, SD) .....	36
Chapter 3:	
Byzantine Mese and Ottoman Divanyolu (MC).....	44
Chapter 4:	
The Sultan's Ceremonial Axis (MC).....	56
Chapter 5:	
The Pashas and the Representation of Power (MC) .....	69
Chapter 6:	
Change and Variations (MC).....	77
Chapter 7:	
The Urban Scene: Order and Chaos (MC) .....	86
Chapter 8:	
The Architectural Characteristics (MC).....	111
Appendix to Chapter 8:	
Architectural Form in Some Typical Situations (EB, SD) .....	138
Chapter 9:	
Ritual and Power in Daily Urban Life (MC) .....	147
Chapter 10:	
Reforms and the Conflict in Urban Conceptions (MC).....	152
Appendix to Chapter 10:	
Change and Reform in the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century (EB, SD) .....	159

Catalogue of Monuments (EB, SD) .....	167
Bibliography .....	188
Index .....	194