

## **Timeline of the First Generation of Women Architects in Modern Turkey \***

Compiled by Meral Ekincioglu

1876, the 1876 Constitution made primary education mandatory for both boys and girls,

1911, the first high school for girls (“Kız İdadisi”) in Istanbul,

1914, the establishment of “İnas Sanayi-i Nefise Mektebi” which had given education to only woman students, (This school includes only departments of painting and sculpture and there were no any woman students in the architectural education),

1923, the declaration of the Republic of Turkey,

1926, the privileges granted to women started with the establishment of the Civil Law including the abolition of religious marriage, polygamy and introducing family relations within a legal frame, civil marriage, divorce, and inheritance rights,

1930, women gained the right to participate in municipal,

1934, women given the vote,

1934, Leman Tomsu and Münevver Belen, the first women architects of the Republic of Turkey graduated from the Department of Architecture of the Academy of Fine Arts,

1936, Şeküre Üçer Niltuna graduated from the Department of Architecture of the Academy of Fine Arts,

1939, Leyla Turgut graduated from the Department of Architecture of the Academy of Fine Arts,

1942, Celile Berk, the first woman engineer-architect from Istanbul Technical University graduated,

1942, Mualla Eyüboğlu Anhegger, one of the leading women architects working on village institutes and restoration projects in modern Turkey, graduated from the Department of Architecture of the Academy of Fine Arts,

1942, Harika Alpar Söylemezoğlu, one of the well-known early women figures collaborating her architect husband, Kemali Söylemezoğlu graduated from the Department of Architecture of the Academy of Fine Arts,

1943, Cahide Tamer, one of the pionering woman figures in the field of restoration in modern Turkey graduated from the Department of Architecture of the Academy of Fine Arts,

1944, Fatma Karacık, the second woman engineer-architects from Istanbul Technical University graduated,

1945, F. Güner Gören and Yıldız Tolun, women engineer-architects graduated from Istanbul Technical University,

1947, Melahat Filibe Topaloğlu and Zehra Alpsoy, women engineer-architects graduated from Istanbul Technical University,

1952, Bedia Ertürk, the first woman architect graduated from Yıldız Technical University, Department of Architecture,

2013, the first monograph on Leman Tomsu was published.

\* Özlem Erdogdu Erkaslan defines the first generation of women architects in the Republic of Turkey as follow: “The first generation of women architects in the Republic were employed either through public commissions, in the private sector, or as state officers in planning departments. The first graduates worked directly for the Republican Populist Party (until the 1940s) whereas a second generation preferred to work in the urban planning departments of the Ministry of Public Works, the İller Bank (Municipal Credit Bank) or in various municipalities.”. See for its reference, Erkaslan, Özlem E. "Turkish Women Architects in the Late Ottoman and Early Republican Era, 1908-1950." *Women's History Review* 16 (2007): 555-575.

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