

# **MIMAR SINAN'S DÜĞMECILER MOSQUE: CONSERVATION PROBLEMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**



**Zeynep Emel Ekim**

**Istanbul Medipol University, Vocational School,  
Istanbul, Turkiye**

**zeynep.ekim@medipol.edu.tr**

## **ABSTRACT**

The Düğmeciler Masjid, a 16th-century work by Mimar Sinan located in Eyüpsultan, is an original structure with a square plan, cut stone walls, and a wooden ceiling. This building holds great architectural significance as it is mentioned in Sinan's autobiographies and shares plan and facade similarities with period pieces such as the İskender Pasha Mosque in Kanlıca. Therefore, great importance should be attached to the preservation and survival of this structure.

Among the most significant conservation problems are the last congregation place, which was reconstructed in reinforced concrete after 1986 and exceeds the building's scale, and the material confusion caused by covering all interior surfaces, including the mihrab and minber, with modern tiles. As a result of interventions made to original architectural elements, such as altering the depressed arched door to a rectangular form and renewing the minaret spire in a bulbous form, the structure has completely lost its 16th-century character.

In this context, a scientific restoration process is required for the Düğmeciler Masjid to regain its identity as a work by Mimar Sinan. A scientific restitution project should be prepared, revealing the original plan and facade characteristics from the Sinan period, based on documents such as scraping analysis, old photographs, and the Pervititch map. This study will convey how the continuous use of these structures by present and future generations can be ensured, while preserving their authenticity and integrity, with the aim of protecting and revitalizing historical buildings.

## **KEYWORDS:**

Eyüpsultan, Mimar Sinan, Mosque, Conservation, Restoration