

Untitled

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I have been carrying out research on the historical hospital buildings built by missionaries in Istanbul in the second half of the 19th century. As I was continuing my research, I ran into the following statement by Daniel Willis: "Hospitals run on an abstract time of twenty-four hour sameness." While the 'abstract time' here presented me with a functional connotation, it also inspired me to seek the reasons behind the existence of these buildings today. These buildings, only with a few exceptions, are still serving as hospitals; these historical hospitals are perhaps the most prominent types among those of which are still in use. Since modern technology has vastly effected the hospital design, the particular stories behind these hospitals deserve attention.

My aim is to demonstrate the relationship between human experience and buildings by focusing upon these historical hospital buildings in particular. The study focuses on the identity that these

buildings have gained over time rather than how and why these hospital buildings have been formed the way they are. This identity comprises of the structural elements of the buildings, the building's style and how the human experience relates to the building overall.

The methodology for this study developed as a result of a search for a parallel between literature and architecture. The relationship between the lived space and the lived experience in architecture has a parallel in literature. Both literature and architecture are man-made. Literature brings us a sense and a perception of life just as architecture shapes and gives a spirit to the lived experience. The process of getting acquainted with this experience through studying these hospital buildings enables me to unfold the story of each building. Thus, in 'reading a building,' it comes into being.