

Chapter 6

REPURPOSING OTTOMAN MANSIONS IN KASTAMONU IN THE CONTEXT OF HALAL TOURISM

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INTRODUCTION:

As the Ottoman Empire adopted an Islamic way of life, the architecture and the spaces designed for the buildings of that era had underscores of a sense of privacy. Examples of such design can be found in the use of stories, anterooms, separate living areas for men and women, second floor peep windows, built-in cupboards, doors, doorknobs, etc. Among the most important spaces included in such buildings are anterooms and rooms. Anterooms are spaces which give access to all the other rooms of the house and they are accepted as the center of the structure. Moreover, the residents dine and spend their time in the anteroom during the day; such spaces are designed in indoor or outdoor setting depending on the climate. Rooms, on the other hand, are essential for the structure. There is no limit for the intended use of a room. In other words, one may cook, dine, spend time in a room during the day, and may sleep in the same room having brought a mattress from the storage space (Yıldırım and Hidayetoğlu, 2009: 114-120; Hidayetoğlu, 2013: 292).

Building on the information above, it is clear that the historic Ottoman mansions located in the city center of Kastamonu conforms to the Islamic lifestyle and therefore the halal tourism approach and its standards given the period they were built.

Halal tourism is a concept which entails the performance of religious tourism and the other touristic activities based on Islamic values and rules. Halal hotel management, as a product of halal tourism, involves any activity of hospitality businesses serving their customers with a consideration of Islamic values (Met, et al., 2013: 651). The space design of the historic Ottoman mansions located in the

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RESULT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study identified the repurposed Ottoman mansions located in the city center of Kastamonu which are now identified with the services they provide and showed the extent these mansions are suitable for halal tourism. Nevertheless, the opinions of the mansion managers and owners on the application of halal tourism in the mansions were taken and the feasibility of the concept was identified.

It was found that the historic Ottoman mansions located in the city center of Kastamonu are suitable for halal tourism. The fact that mansions have architectural features of the Ottoman era (yards, anterooms, separate living areas for men and women, second floor peep windows, multiple living rooms, etc.), and that all five participants stated that the concept of halal tourism is suitable for both Turkey and the city of Kastamonu, that Kastamonu has a potential for religious tourism as it had hosted important figures of the Islam world in the past, and that many travelers who are there for religious tourism would prefer businesses applying the concept of halal tourism.

The findings of this study showed that all five mansions consisting of the sample of the study are physically suitable for the concept of halal tourism. All five mansion managers reported that their facilities conform to this concept in terms of their structural features.

A limitation of this study was the rather small universe defined to include solely the businesses located in the city center of Kastamonu which are currently open for business. Thus, it is recommended the future research to design their studies similarly in order to make it possible to pass down the inhabitable, neglected, and abandoned buildings located both in the city center and the districts of Kastamonu to future generations having imparted them a new identity.

Moreover, it is recommended the future research to address the economic benefits of repurposing these mansions in terms of the development of the city and its residents.

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