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**Neo-Gothic Wrought Iron Designs in the Ottoman Empire
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Abstract

Iron has served as both a structural and complementary component in architectural history for millennia. However, the production technologies and casting techniques that emerged with the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century, fundamentally reshaped its architectural role. During this period, wrought iron evolved from being merely a security feature into an artistic medium of expression that defined the aesthetic identity of a building. The late Ottoman Empire was also directly influenced by this global transformation and modernization.

This study focuses on the reflections of the Neo-Gothic style, which gained popularity in Europe during the 19th century, on wrought iron designs within Ottoman architecture. The central hypothesis is that the complex geometric patterns, pointed arches, and vegetal ornamentation characteristics of this style were predominantly concentrated in the architectural production of the imperial capital, Istanbul. While the new materials and forms introduced by the Industrial Revolution were swiftly adopted in the capital, traces of this trend are less frequently encountered in provincial productions. This situation is attributed to the fact that local artisans in the provinces maintained their traditional production habits and held a distant stance toward this new, demanding style. Although numerous Neo-Gothic architectural works can be found in the provinces, the scarcity of wrought iron craftsmanship in this style indicates that stone was a local material, whereas iron was an industrial one.

Within the scope of this research, various examples were selected from a range of structures in Istanbul, including civil residences, palaces, churches, grave monuments, and police stations. These distinguished examples were examined onsite, documented through photography, and rendered into two-dimensional drawings in order to create an inventory of their Neo-Gothic details. Based on these drawings and visual analyses, this study aims to document the Neo-Gothic influence on late Ottoman wrought iron craftsmanship, and to discuss its design motifs and industrial implications on architecture through the lenses of mass production and artisanship.

Keywords: *Neo-Gothic, Wrought Iron, Blacksmithing, Ottoman Architecture, Industrial Revolution.*

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