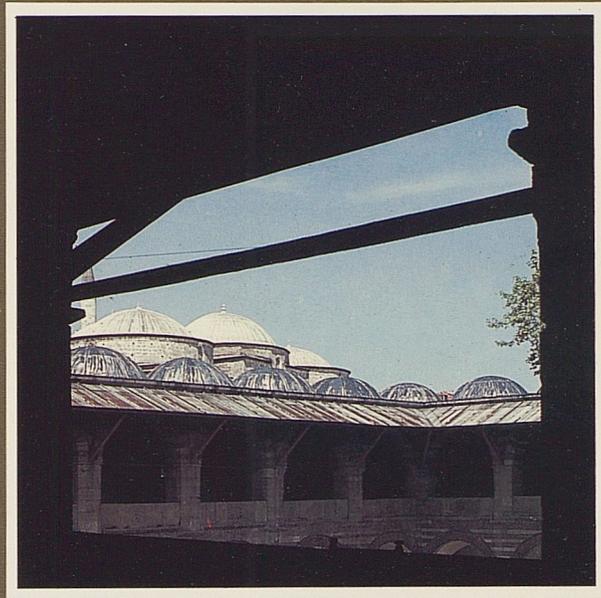


RUSTEM PASHA CARAVANSERAI
EDIRNE, TURKEY
COMPLETED AUGUST, 1972



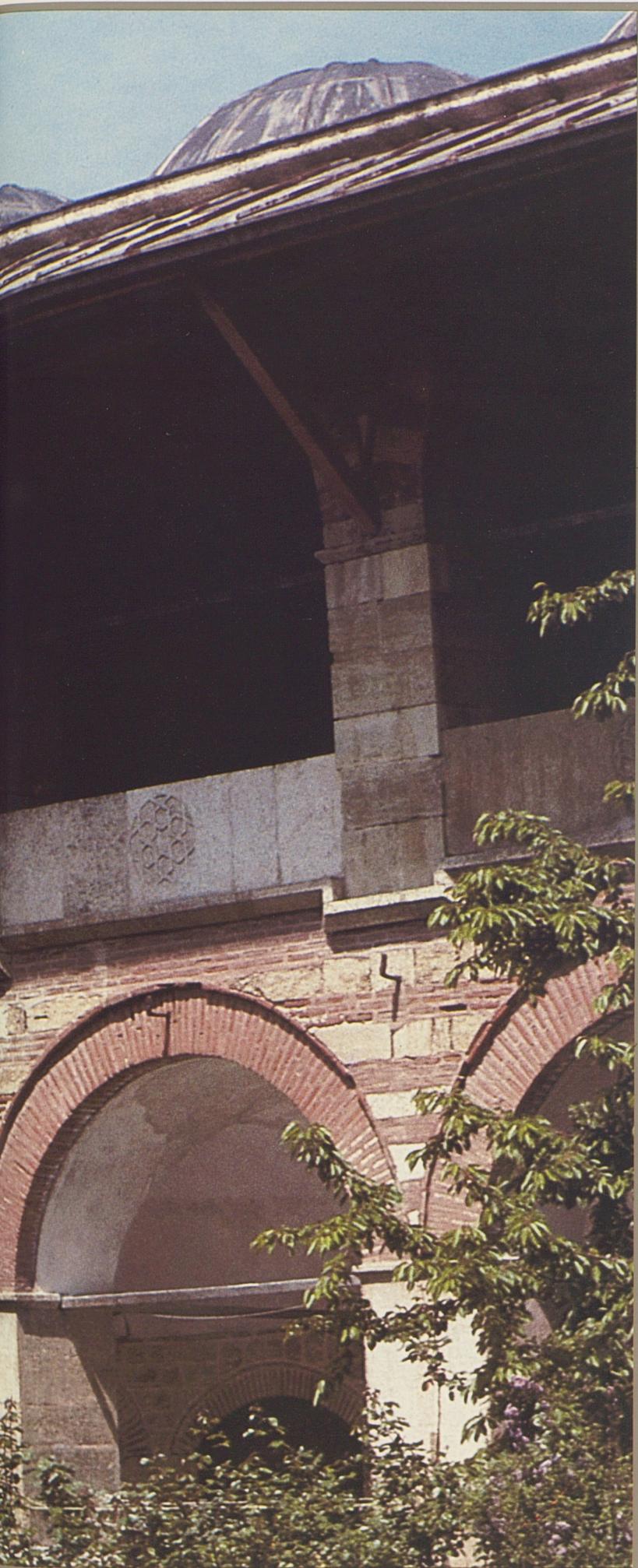




The public facade contrasts with the serenity of the inner courtyards.



The main courtyard has been transformed into a garden for the new hotel.



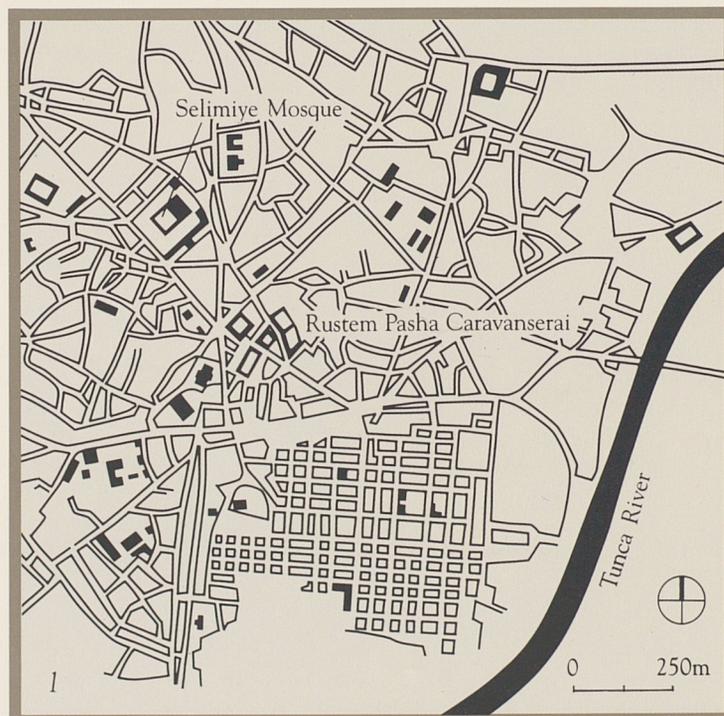
RUSTEM PASHA CARAVANSERAI. Client: Department of Pious Foundations, Turkey, Fikret Cuhadaroğlu, Director; Mehmet Ozturk, Regional Director; Architect for Restoration: Ertan Cakirlar.¹

Among the largest owners of urban properties in the Islamic world are ministries or departments of pious foundations. Individual buildings with social and religious functions—such as mosques, schools, and hospitals—or ones that produced incomes, were part of private pious foundations. In many countries, they have been assigned to government agencies for administration and maintenance. Thus, these bureaus control much of the older urban fabric and have the potential to change or preserve it through programmes of restoration and rehabilitation.

Caravanserais, whether located along old trading routes or in urban centres, are typical pious foundation properties which have fallen into disuse and ruin. Such was the state of the Rustem Pasha Caravanserai when, in 1966, the Turkish Department of Pious Foundations sought first to restore the monument, and subsequently to revitalise its function as a lodging for travellers.

The Rustem Pasha Caravanserai is located in the historic centre of Edirne. Sited on the main land route between Europe and Asia, Edirne had been capital of the Ottoman Empire for a short time in the fifteenth century and continued to be the key military and commercial centre of the European provinces. In the 1560s, one of the Grand Vezirs, Rustem Pasha, commissioned the eminent court architect Mimar Koca Sinan to design the caravanserai at Edirne. Sinan designed the building surrounding the great rectangular courtyard with

1. Edirne was an early capital of the Ottoman Empire, retaining its importance as a military and trading centre throughout the empire's history. The caravanserai was part of a pious foundation complex funded by Rustem Pasha.

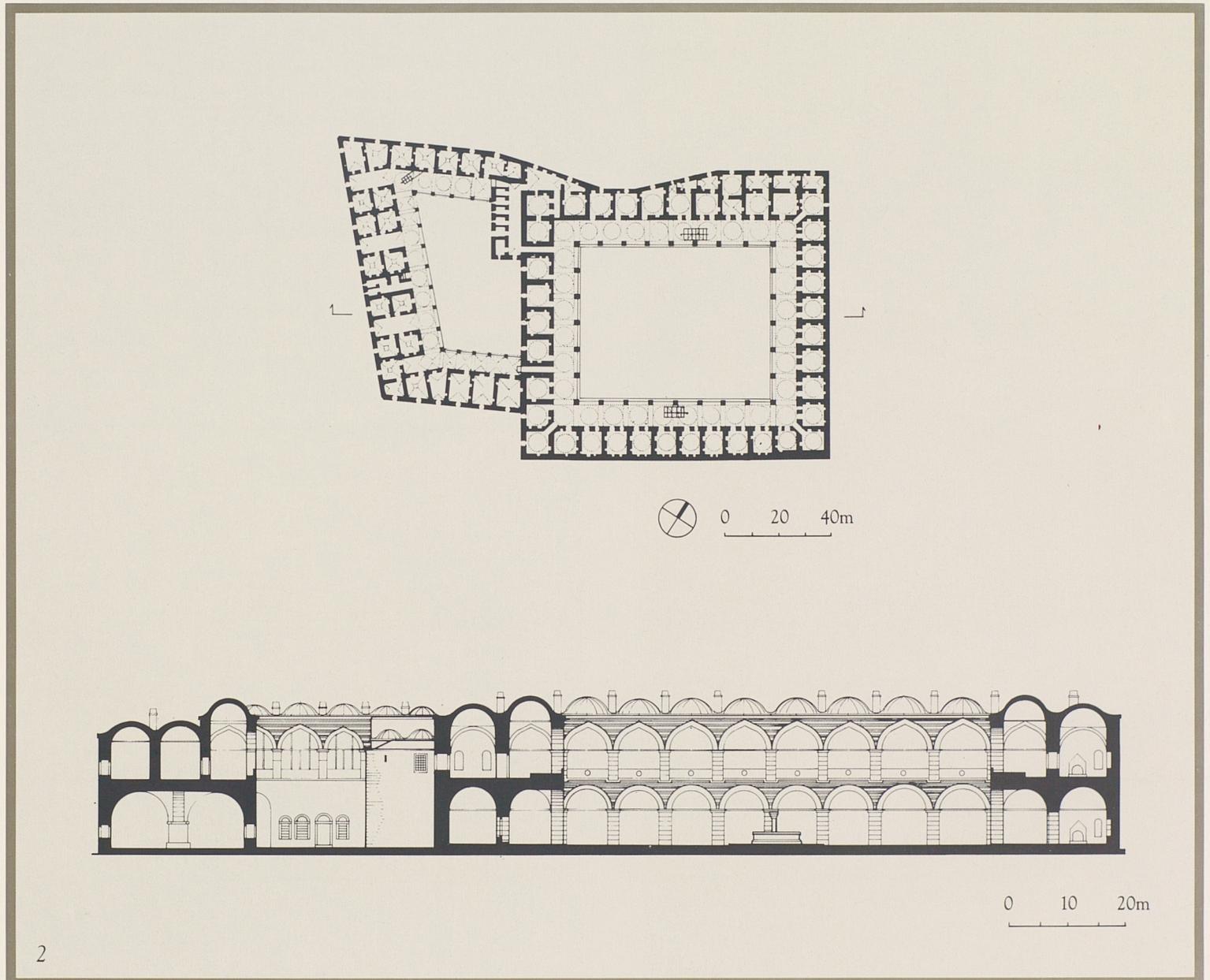


its marble basin in the centre. (The secondary court was added later; its architect is unknown.) The spaciousness of Sinan's quadrangle reflects the ample dimensions of the whole, as do the galleries which offered vistas to the traveller seeking the seclusion of his cell. Walls were built in alternating courses of stone and brick. Sinan's circular arches in the lower range facing the vaulted structure are broad in span, as are the pointed arches of the second level's domical structure. Between each arch was placed a sandstone balustrade carved with bold traditional motifs. From the street, the main facade turns back slightly where the two quadrangles join, and this gives an added sense of size. Seen from the back, the caravanserai's massing is monumental, for the land drops and there is an expanse of bare wall rising from the valley below before the tiers of windows and the crowning batteries of domes and chimneys are reached.

Before reconstruction began, many of the building's walls, vaults, and domes had collapsed. Using measurements taken from the ruins as a guide, walls and vaults at the ground level were consolidated with concrete used as infill. Vaults were further strengthened with concrete beams. The domes of the upper level were reconstructed with concrete and supported

by concrete beams. Rubber sheets, far less expensive than the original lead coating, were used to cover the roofs. The stone, ceramic tile, and marble used in reconstruction were local and were worked by local craftsmen. Three years after reconstruction began, the Department of Pious Foundations decided to complete the project by adapting the building to serve as a hotel capable of catering to the area's tourist trade. Thus the

2. *Plan and section of the Rustem Pasha Caravanserai.*
3. *Domes prior to restoration.* Built as an income-producing facility for the pious foundation, the caravanserai had fallen into disuse and disrepair over the past century.
4. *Restored domes.* Restoration entailed the repair and rebuilding of all major roof structures. After structural restoration, work began to adapt the facility to a tourist hotel in an effort to reactivate its economic functions.
5. *Typical guest room.* Features of domestic architecture traditional to the Edirne area, the fireplace form, wood furnishings, and tiled floors were incorporated into the restored caravanserai.
6. *Caravanserai shop front.* Further economic support for the hotel complex was foreseen by the Department of Pious Foundations through the renovation and rental of the original shop stalls.



rooms on the second floor of the small court and both floors of the large court were redesigned and half the rooms on the upper level were serviced with connecting baths. A restaurant, cafeteria, and bar, with separate entrances from the street, were designed for the ground level in the small court (these rooms occupying the space formerly used as camel stables and an imaret). Wood finishes and furniture inspired by traditional Turkish styles were manufactured in Ankara for

the hotel. Shops fronting the caravanserai were restored and once again leased to merchants.

The Department of Pious Foundations' undertaking at the Rustem Pasha Caravanserai was ambitious. Looking beyond the preservation of a major architectural monument in converting the structure into a hotel, the Department sought to reactivate the facility and, in so doing, generate an income sufficient to maintain the building. The caravanserai's tourist trade has not as yet reached projected levels, thus preventing the facility from achieving economic self-sufficiency. However, the reconstruction and programmatic concept of the project are sound and worthy of consideration as an approach to national programmes of preservation.

