



T.C.
GOVERNORSHIP OF DIYARBAKIR



Gazi Mansion
(Semanoğlu Mansion)



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Culture & Tourism Project Department

Tel : 0412. 224 97 97 Fax: 0412. 229 43 47

E-posta : diyarbakirturizmproje@gmail.com

Web : www.diyarbakir.gov.tr - www.diyarbakirturizm.gov.tr





Diyarbakır is one of the most important settlements that were established in the Upper Mesopotamia region near Dicle River. According to the latest studies, the city dates back to 10000s B.C. and has hosted many civilizations throughout the history and has become one of the most important cities that reflect their thousands of years of history to their

cultural values. Houses and mansions play an important role in the formation of the civil architecture of Diyarbakır. Mansions, as rare examples of Diyarbakır's civil architecture, are the local buildings that are located outside the city walls. Although most of them have been demolished, remaining ones have survived up to now. Reflecting the deep-rooted architectural tradition of Diyarbakır, mansions have produced an authentic architectural tradition with their plans and methods of construction. While most of them have survived, mansions are categorized as orchard mansions and summer mansions.

The most famous and most important one of the summer mansions of Diyarbakır that has survived up to today is Gazi Mansion. Originally referred as Sema-

noğlu Mansion, there is no definite information about by who and when the mansion was built. The structure is dated back to the end of 19th century and beginning of 20th century by researchers based on the plan and architectural characteristics. The mansion was built on the western slope of Dicle Bridge outside Mardin Gate. Having been used as the headquarters while Atatürk was the Corps of Diyarbakır during World War I, the mansion was purchased by Diyarbakır Municipality in 1937 and renovated and then renamed as "Gazi Mansion" and presented to Atatürk.

Gazi Mansion was constructed in two floors rectangular plan scheme. Although it reflects the general characteristics of Diyarbakır houses, there is an extrovert architecture here. There is an iwan at both floors and spaces on both sides of iwans. There is a room, iwan and kitchen on the ground floor. One side of the iwan is open while other sides are active with windows. There is a square planned pool in front of the mansion that consists of a courtyard surrounded by gardens. It is rumored that there used to be an iwan unit and two more rooms when it was first built. The second floor dominates the whole scenery. There are documents and photos belonging to Atatürk on the upper section of the mansion.

The mansion is now being used as a museum and it is a splendid venue with spectacular beauties dominating the whole scene of Dicle river, Hevsel gardens, Kırklar Mountain and On Gözülü Bridge. There is a peaceful air in this mansion that hosts its guests as a picnic area as well.

