



5 – Bella Vista - Kerasohori 1

Bella Vista, the most prestigious neighborhood of Smyrna, stretches between the sea and Trassa and Schinadika streets, which form the border to *Kerasohori*. On the waterfront, but also in Parallel Street, Trassa and the smaller streets around, one can admire the most luxurious private houses of Smyrna, some of which are truly mansions. On the waterfront, from north to south, are the houses of Madame Spartali, of Keun (Romanian consulate), of Papadimitriou, Kapetanakis, Guiffroy, T.A. Spartali, Diogenis, Emmanuel, Veinoglu - Litzeropoulos, Van der Zee (Danish-Swedish consulate), as well as the four-storey mansion formerly owned by Fotiadis, which now houses the Ottoman Tobacco Monopoly (*Régie*) offices. There are tram stops at the intersection of Kladou Street and Bella Vista at the waterfront. At the latter location there used to be the famous café *Bella Vista*, the successor of a café of the same name located in today's Bellavista Square, which was on the waterfront before the area was filled in for the construction of the Quay. Later it was succeeded by the *Nea Skini* (New Stage) Theater, which no longer exists, leaving the area completely residential, with no other entertainment centers, except for the two cinemas in the south.

Consulates

Several consulates are located on the waterfront of Bellavista. The Romanian Consulate, which is one of the newest and most luxurious buildings, is located at number 418 and its Consul General is Alfred August Keun. The German consulate at number 382 has been closed since 1919, while the representation of German nationals has been taken over by the Danish-Swedish consulate located a little further to the south, at number 346 of the Quay. The Consul General of Denmark and Sweden is Alfred van der Zee. The Spanish Consulate is also housed on the waterfront, with Henry van der Zee as Consul. On Parallel Street, behind the consulate of Germany, is that of Italy, with Count Carlo Seni as Consul General and representative of the High Commissioner in Constantinople. In Parallel Street is also the Dutch consulate, which represents Austrian and Hungarian nationals too. Consul of the Netherlands is Count Edmond Jacob Paul de Hochepped.

Cinemas

On either side of Gout Street, where Gout's Dutch windmill used to be, there are two of the city's finest cinemas, *Pallas* (1909) and *Lux* (1920). The 750-seat *Pallas*, located in a building that imitates an ancient Greek Ionic temple, is famed for the unprecedented and masterpiece films of Gloria, Ambrosio, Turin, Milano and Tan. *Lux*, located in a new building with a 550-audience hall, specializes in long-running films that are shown in sequential episodes.

Hospitals

In 1827 the Kiatipoglu farmhouse, east of the present Bellavista Square, which had been erected a year earlier, was purchased by the French state to be converted into a hospital. The French Hospital in Kerasohori that was renovated in 1876 and 1887 and rebuilt in 1907 by Raymond Péré, has a capacity of 100 beds. The complex includes buildings for the accommodation of the nurse nuns, as well as a chapel of St. John the Baptist, while on its facade there is a pharmacy.

Temples

The church of *St. John the Baptist* in Kerasohori, already in existence in 1818, was thoroughly renovated in 1857 with the personal work of three hundred poor workers in the area. It is three-aisled, with a large dome and rich decoration. The right aisle is dedicated to St. Athanasius and the left to St. John Chrysostom. Its icon, donated by Hatzi-Nikolaos Giannakoglou (Hatzi-Tsiros), was built in 1873 by Ioannis Halepas. The Patriarchate church of the Orphanage (1871), dedicated to the *Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, is located at the southern end of Bellavista, between Parallel Street and Trassa. On the other side, at the northern boundary of the neighborhood, there is the neo-Romance style Catholic church of *Our Lady of the Rosary of the Dominicans*, built by architect Luigi Rosetti in 1904 in the place of a smaller church of the Apostles Peter and Paul (1859).

Education

Next to the church of St. Ioannis in Kerasochori there is a five-grade boys parish school with 7 teachers and 400 pupils, as well as a five-grade girls school including kindergarten with 6 teachers and 380 pupils and toddlers. On Orman Street 21, south of Bellavista Square, there is the *Georgios Daldakis Girls' School* (1885), where boys up to 12 years old are also accepted. The school has a three-grade Froebelian kindergarten, a six-grade primary school and a three-grade high school, as well as a boarding school. The *Linardopoulos Mixed School* (1893) in Trassa, has a two-grade kindergarten and a six-grade primary school.

To the north of the Church of the Assumption is the Catholic *Girls' School of Zion (Dames de Sion, 1875)*, including a boarding school with a capacity of 200 students and a chapel. At the French Hospital facilities in Kerasohori, there is another girls' school with 100 students, run by the *Sœurs de la Charité*.



The bend of the quay at Bella Vista.



«Pallas» cinema.