

An Ottoman Period Raft Foundation Found in Istanbul Marmaray Excavations



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ABSTRACT

This paper briefly reviews foundation solutions for building on soft ground, marshlands and made-up grounds seen in Anatolia since prehistoric ages, which is an important source for cultural heritage contribution and conveyance of these into future. Late Ottoman Period buildings unearthed during excavations at one of the most important centers of Istanbul, Üsküdar Square within scope of Marmaray Sub-Sea Tunnel Project, constitutes a very good example for structures built on earth fill. This area known to be a lagoon was filled in time and was inhabited after 1720. In excavations of Üsküdar, majority of upper level architecture was uncovered on a horizontal line especially in squares BS/56-65 and some soundings were conducted on several selected locations. It has been observed that remains of buildings with stone foundations were constructed on wooden poles. These buildings include tannery, Ottoman bazaar and numerous shops. Remains of a raft foundation among these structures are investigated closely with this study.

Keywords: Raft foundation, earthfill, made-up ground.