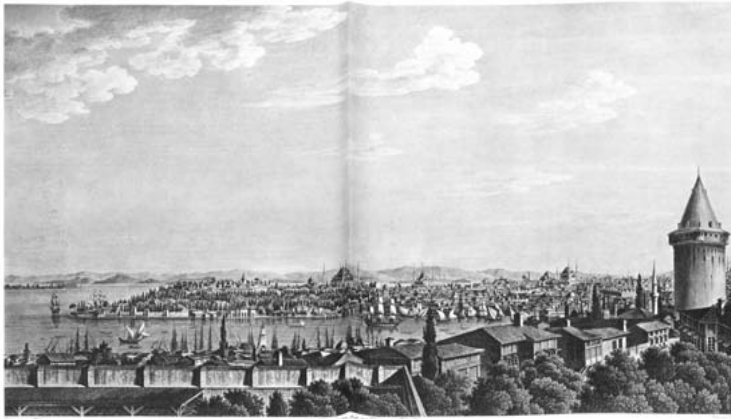


Presentation of historic prospects, panoramas and view points by Melling (1819), photo documentation and digital simulations from 2006

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This research on the historic urban metropolitan landscape of Istanbul is based on an extensive topographic folio volume by Antoine-Ignace Melling, which contains panoramas and topographical maps with detailed locations and descriptions of each presentation.



1. This well known panorama represents the Peninsula with the cape of Topkapı Palace and the town silhouette crowned with mosques, domes and minarets, as well as the Golden Horn and the Princess Islands.

2. and 3. This view from **Eyüp** towards the natural harbour is seen from an elevated viewpoint. At the horizon to the left appears the Galata Tower. Istanbul's Golden Horn and World Heritage site is almost undisturbed (if one ignores the bridge). The city's vulnerable town shape has been protected and preserved for 70 years due to effective and active measures by restricting the height of buildings to 50 m.

1. Part of Constantinople with point of Serail, seen from Pera (Melling's Panorama 24, 1819)



2. Constantinople seen from Eyüp (Melling's Panorama 14, 1819)



3. View from Eyüp on Istanbul World Heritage Site, 2006

4. **Haydarpaşa** lies in this view angle at a distance of about 10 km. It seems possible that on days of high visibility this high rise project with seven skyscrapers would appear in the background between the Galata Tower and the protected WH site silhouette. The extent of the disturbance from this viewpoint at Eyüp near the famous Pierre Loti's café will depend on the future elevation, bulk and surface material of the projected tower buildings.



4. Viewpoint at Eyüp, 2006



5. and 6. Haydarpaşa seen from Marmara Sea, 2006, and Haydarpaşa Towers (Simulation)

It is this shore area between the Selimiye Baracks and the Bagdad Railway Station which is supposed to become a private development project **Haydarpaşa** with seven high-rising towers of at least 300 m height and several less high but densely packed new buildings.

This **Simulation of the Haydarpaşa Towers** is an alternative attempt to the one of the Architectural Chamber, which presents the complete building project including seven uniform towers. In order to demonstrate how drastically these new colossal towers might influence the historic urban silhouette, different existing skyscrapers were chosen and have been made unidentifiable for this purpose.



7. and 8. Haydarpaşa seen from Topkapı Terrace, 2006, Haydarpaşa Towers (Simulation)

7. A very much appreciated viewpoint is the one very near to the Topkapı Terrace.

8. The simulation presents that it would become a gigantic Manhattan-like sight.



9. and 10. Cape of the peninsula with Topkapı (Simulation)

9. A recent view on the cape of the peninsula with Topkapı taken in the evening from the boat coming from Princess Islands.

10. The slightly rising hills and Topkapı Palace on the cape of the peninsula seen from Karaköy would be compromised by a gigantic new scale: seven 300 m high towers



11. Haydarpasa and Süleymaniye Mosque seen from Zeyrek Terrace (Simulation)

11. The colossal Haydarpasa site would appear from Zeyrek Terrace in the range of the Süleymaniye Mosque degrading the venerable silhouette and aura of the cupola and four slim minarets. (The Haydarpasa towers are presented in a calculated scale). The Haydarpasa Project will be visible from Galata Tower as well as from Galata Bridge and might even in the view from Cihangir Mosque Garden appear as a monster project. It was Yahya Kemal who in a poem perpetuated this famous view from Cihangir to Üsküdar at sunrise.

12./13./14. This view from **Çamlıca**, the highest swelling ground in the urban landscape (268 m), directed to the South West presents the European shore of the Bosphorus, Galata Tower and the protected silhouette of the peninsula in the background, to the right of the Golden Horn. Üsküdar is to be seen in the fore-ground as well as the rural region bordering the Marmara Sea which later became Haydarpasa. An impression of the Istanbul urban landscape with **Galata and the Peninsula seen from Çamlıca** on a rather misty day. Baedeker (1914) notes this view on the Bosphorus and the Marmara Sea and the entire city of Constantinople, a traditional viewpoint which is frequently visited by Istanbul's families. The Haydarpasa Towers will rise up from the plain near Marmara Sea; this area, called Calcedonia, presumably the location of the oldest settlements, might appear in later years as a Manhattan-like scenery overlapping the peninsula and the World Heritage site.

12./13./14. Views from Çamlıca: Melling (left), May 2006 (centre) and simulation of Haydarpasa project (right)





15. Tophane (Melling's Panorama 21, 1819)



16. Tophane Pier with Cihangir Mosque, 2006

15./16./17. The Galata Port project in the area of Tophane

15. This panorama presents the Tophane place situated on the European shore of the Bosphorus with vast barracks and other representative still existing buildings: the Kılıç Ali Paşa Mosque built by architect Sinan, the Tophane fountain (1732) and the gun-foundry vaulted with six domes. It forms a highly representative urban prospect and scenery of the distinguished residential Pera quarter including the harbour with splendid ships in the foreground.

16. Today there are stores and administrative buildings situated right at the shore and covering a large fenced area. There are still freighters being loaded, which however can only be observed from the terrace of Istanbul Modern Museum, located in one of the reused stores. The public Tophane place of today is very much reduced and dominated by traffic. Behind this the densely built up hill of Pera with the Cihangir Mosque right up



17. Cruise ships at Galata Port hiding the prospect of Tophane

17. **Tophane** shore is frequented by huge cruise ships which, if several ships are mooring at the same time, form a high and long barrier. The famous **Pera prospect** seen from boat excursions on the Bosphorus is hidden very often behind gigantic tourist steamers. This applies accordingly to the characteristic domes of the gun-foundry and mosques. The cruise ships present a new scale in the urban landscape which implies a break with the traditional cultural landscape of Byzantium, Constantinople, Istanbul.



18. Galataport (Simulation)

Galataport is planned for the moorage of four or five cruise ships at a quay about 1,5 km long. Five ships of the size which can already be seen in a simulation here will necessarily cause extensive demolition and new building development. The traditional city prospect seen from the Bosphorus will disappear with its historic monuments.



19. Tophane Fountain and Kılıç Ali Paşa Mosque, 2006



20. Cruise ship at Tophane Pier seen from Cad. Necatibey, 2006



21. Cruise ship seen from Cihangir Slope near the Mosque, 2006

22. The **Dubai Towers** and **Bosphorus Tower** will appear in the view angle out of the WH Site from the terrace of Süleymaniye Mosque (which is about 50m high and 10km away) in the background of Galata, Beyoğlu, Sisli in a truly colossal dimension. They might extremely rise above the height of the Galata Tower and the context of several high-rising modern buildings. The Dubai Towers und Bosphorus Tower as viewed from the WH Site will definitely degrade and compromise the Byzantine Galata Tower of the Genuese port (the hill has an elevation of 45m, the gallery of the tower of 44.5m)

19 The projected **Galataport** would even enlarge the barrier between the restored fountain and the Sinan Mosque and cut off the main remaining view on Bosphorus and Marmara Sea for ever. This would also mean a further loss of public space in favour of a private project.

20 These huge cruise ships up to 60 m high will block the traditional views from the city, that is to say the characteristic prospects on Bosphorus, Marmara Sea, Üsküdar und Haydarpasa in perpetuity.

21 Already now some brutal barriers blocking the view from public streets and elevated places of Cihangir, as for instance right near the **Cihangir Mosque** and its garden can be noticed.

Considering the expected mass tourism – up to 15 000 day-tourists could arrive here more or less at the same time – this would cause a tremendous pressure on the city neighbourhood, especially with regard to public space and places. This dense, various and ambiguous urban structure with narrow stairs, crooked and steep streets are substantial remainders of the old and famous **Galata harbour and Pera quarter**.

22. Dubai Towers and Bosphorus Tower seen from Süleymaniye Terrace (Simulation)

