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## The historical nicosia city in cyprus

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### Abstract

The reason for the author's travels in Cyprus was his participation in the International Conference on Environment: Survival and Sustainability, Near East University, Nicosia - Northern Cyprus (February 19-24, 2007), where he presented his work under the title EXAMPLES OF BIOCLIMATIC ARCHITECTURE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA. As part of the scientific conference, tours of the northern part of the cities of Nicosia (Lefkoşa), Famagusta (Gazimağusa), Kyrenia (Girne) and architectural landmarks along the roads Nicosia-Famagusta and Nicosia-Kyrenia were organized.

**Keywords:** Cyprus, Nicosia, Synergy of natural environment, social environment and man

### 1. Introduction

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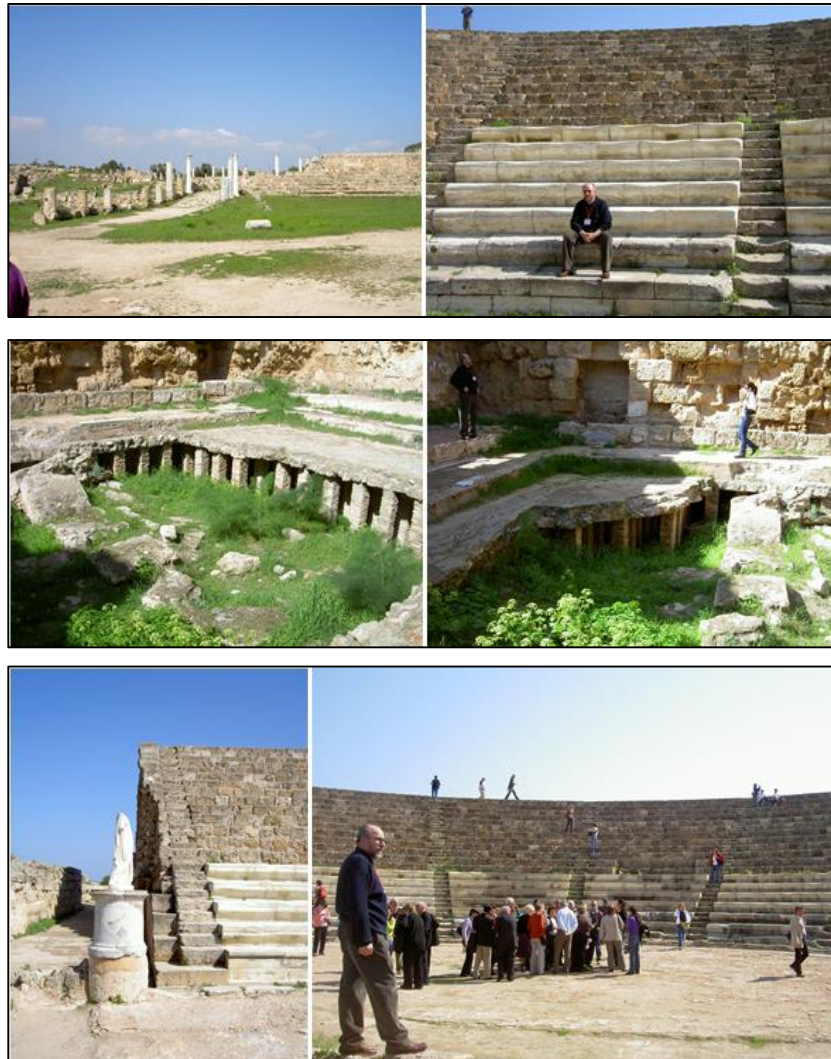
**Fig 1:** Map of Cyprus. (The places the author visited are marked with red squares)



Left: Poster of the author's work. Right: The author in front of the panel with his work in the large hall Near East University, Nicosia

Source: Haris Bradic (February 19, 2007)

Fig 2: Author at Near East University





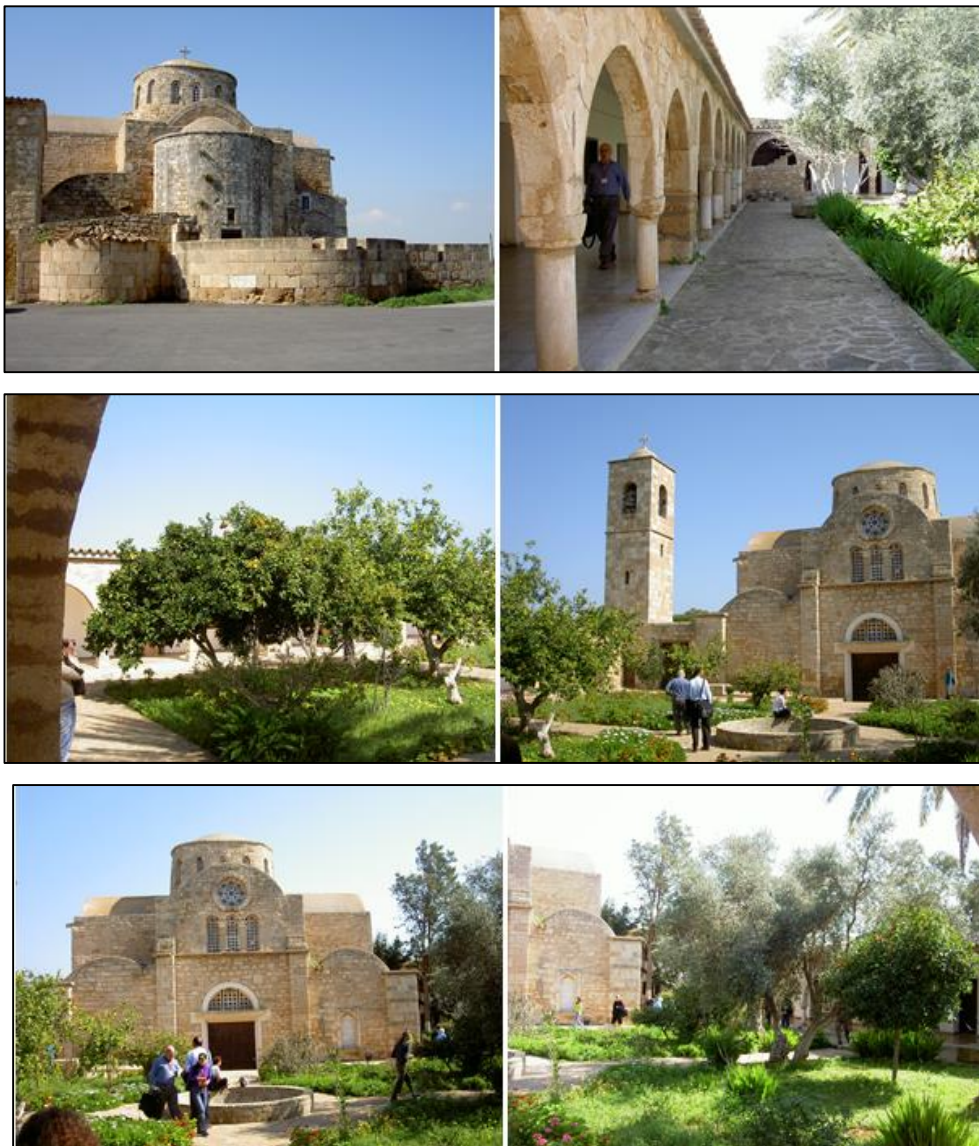
*Source:* Author (February 22, 2007)

*Source:* Haris Bradic (February 22, 2007)

Figure 3. Author visiting the Theater in Salamis near Famagusta

St. Barnabas Monastery (Greek: Μονή Αγίου Βαρνάβα, Turkish: St. Barnabas Manastırı). Saint Barnabas is the patron saint of Cyprus, and the church dedicated to him was

built in 1756. The church was built on the foundations of a basilica from the 5th century. There is also a gallery of frescoes in the church (Figure 4).





*Source:* Author (February 22, 2007)

*Source:* Haris Bradic (February 22, 2007)

**Fig 4:** Author visiting the Monastery of St. Bernabe

Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque (Turkish: Lala Mustafa Paşa Camii) was originally built (1298-1400) as the Cathedral of St. Nicholas, later known as Saint Sophia (Ayasofya). It is the largest and most significant medieval building in Famagusta. The church was declared a cathedral (central) church in 1328. The cathedral was converted (1571) into a mosque, after the Ottoman occupation of Cyprus. The current name of the

mosque has been with it since 1954, according to Lala Mustafa Pasha (1500-1580), whose origin is from Sololovići in Bosnia and Herzegovina, who served the Ottoman Empire during the reign of Sultan Murat III (1546-1595). Lala Mustafa Pasha led the Ottoman army against the Venetians in the campaign to conquer Cyprus (Figure 5).



*Source:* Haris Bradic (February 22, 2007)

**Fig 5:** Author visiting Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque (Originally St. Nicholas Cathedral)

The aim of the study trips was to get to know the cities on the spot and through their analysis (through 'cabinet work') to contribute to the author's theory of "Architecturally defined space (ADS)" [1,2,3,4,5, 6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19].

Nicosia/Lefkoşa (Greek: Λευκωσία, Turkish: Lefkoşa) is a city (with about 61,378 inhabitants, 2011) [20] located in the northern, continental part of the island of Cyprus, in the vast

Mesaori plain, on the banks of the Pedieos River (Figure 6). Since 1963, the city has been divided into Turkish and Greek parts. Since 1974, the northern part of Lefkoşa has been the capital of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Over time, until today, Gred has developed as an important international business center (where in 2018 it was declared the 32nd richest city in the world).



Source: Google Earth. Accessed: December 15, 2023

**Fig 6:** The Nicosia city in Cyprus. Location

Nicosia (Lefkoşa) was founded 4500 years ago (Bronze Age), where the vast plain of Mesaoria was the main natural resource for people's life. The city called Ledrae (Greek: Λήδρα) was one of the twelve kingdoms of the Ancient Greek period in Cyprus that were founded after the Trojan War (1194-1184 BC) [21]. So far, only one king of Ledrae is known, Onasagoras (Unasagusu). The Romans conquered Cyprus in 58 BC, and Emperor Julius Caesar (47 BC) ceded it to the Egyptian queen Cleopatra (69-30 BC). The kingdom of Ledrae was captured by the Assyrians when, under the burden of huge taxes (in 330 BC), it was reduced to an unimportant city. Since 965 (after the Arabs destroyed (647) Salamia) it has been the capital of Cyprus. In the Byzantine era, the city was known under the names Λευκωσία (Lefkosia) and Καλληνίκης (Kallenikesis). On his way to the Holy Land (during the Third Crusade, 1187), the English king Richard I, the Lionheart (1157-1199) reached Cyprus via Crete and Rhodes, and defeated the Byzantine emperor Isaac Komnenos (1155- 1196). As the local population did not accept him as their new master, Richard I, the Lionheart sold the island to the Knights Templar. Their administration in Cyprus lasted from 1192 to 1489, and Nicosia was the capital of the Kingdom of Cyprus, i.e. the seat of the Lusignan kings, the Latin Church and the Frankish administration on the island. During this time, city walls, palaces and many other buildings were built, including the Gothic Cathedral of St. Sofia. Since this time, the name Nicosia has been used for the city, instead of the former Lefkoš. The Republic of Genoa (Genoa) became (1374) the new master of Cyprus, and a little later (1489) the Republic of Venice. Due to constant threats from the Ottomans, the Venetians additionally fortified Nicosia (1567) and all other cities on the island. The new city walls built by Venice have a star shape in plan, with eleven towers with three city entrances (north gate-Kyrenia, west gate-Paphos and east gate-Famagusta). Part of the course of the Pedieos river was arranged (1567) as a water channel on the outside of the city walls, where it served as an additional defensive barrier against attacks on the city. The Ottomans attacked (July 1, 1570) the island, and after capturing Paphos, Limassol and Larnaca, led by Piyale Pasha, continued the siege of Nicosia. After a 40-day siege, the Ottomans occupied (September 9, 1570) the city [22]. The Siege of Nicosia. Most of the churches in the city were converted into mosques, and the Palazzo del Governo became the Saray, the seat of the Pasha's new governor of the city. This palace was demolished (1904) and a new headquarters of the administration of Cyprus was built in its place. With the Ottoman conquest, a new population arrived in Nicosia, which was concentrated in the northern part of the city, the Greek population in its southern part, and the other ethnic groups, Armenians and Latins, in

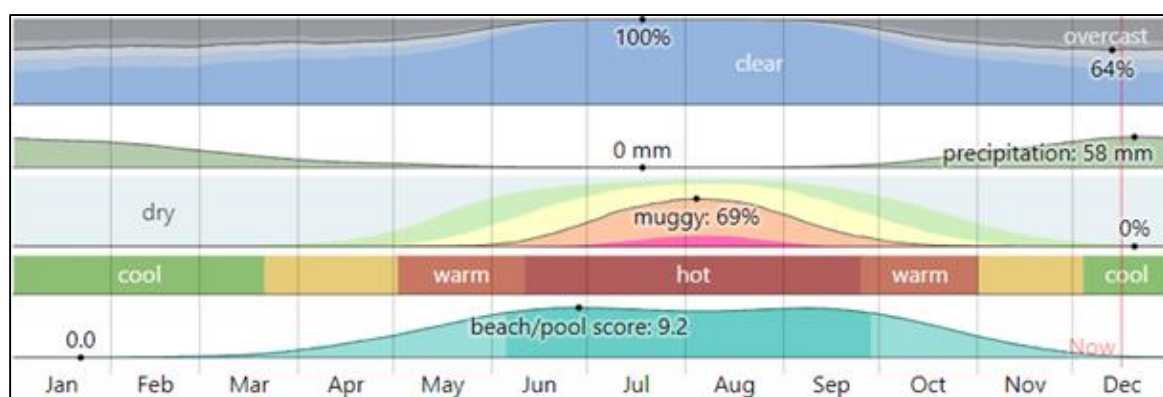
the western part of the city, next to Paphos' entrance gate. After the Congress of Berlin (1878), Cyprus came under British administration [23]. A new Christian population arrives in the city of Nicosia and in a short period of time becomes the majority of the city's population. In the city, the existing buildings are being renovated and new buildings are being erected that reflect the western arrangement of the city and society as a whole: Police Department, Main Post Office with telegraph office, the Venetian Column is being torn down next to the Saray and moved (1915) to a new location... The city got in (1923) a new administrative division with spatial expansion to new city districts: Ayii Omoloyites, Palouriotissa, Kaimakli and Omorfita. In the middle of the 20th century (1955), an armed rebellion against the British administration began with manifest aspirations to join the island to Greece, led by the National Organization of Military Resistance of Greek Cypriots (Greek: Εθνική Οργάνωση Κυπρίων Αγωνιστών = Ethniki Organosis Kypriou Agoniston, EOKA). The rebellion did not end with the unification of the island with Greece, but with the declaration (1960) of its independence when Nicosia became the capital of the newly founded state [24]. Due to disagreements about the future of Cyprus, soon (1963) after gaining independence, there was a conflict between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, which resulted in the division of Nicosia into its southern (Greek) and northern (Turkish) parts. After the failed coup d'état (July 15, 1974) which attempted, with the help of the Greek military junta, to annex the island of Cyprus to Greece, Turkey's military intervention followed, which resulted in Turkish possession of 37% of the territory of Cyprus, including the northern part of the city of Nicosia. The conflict between the two ethnic communities in Cyprus resulted in the proclamation (February 13, 1975) of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus [25]. Military tension between the two ethnic communities in Cyprus lasted for a long time, and the city of Nicosia was separated by a border zone fenced off by wire and UN military units. Only on April 23, 2003, controlled passage was allowed at several points through this military barrier from one side of the city to the other. Today, the northern part of Nicosia is divided into 25 districts (mahales), 12 of which are within the historical walls of the city. The image of the northern part of the city within the historical walls is defined by two intersecting streets, Dereboyu Avenue and Avenue Bedrettin Demirel.

## 2. Natural resources and sights

The climate of Nicosia (Lefkoşe) is determined by its geographical position in the inland depth of the island. It is a relatively dry climate (BSh climate type, according to the Köppen classification) with a small amount of annual

precipitation and a relatively low average annual temperature. Summers are long and hot, and winters are short and mild, with more rainfall. The hot season lasts for 3.4 months, from June 11 to September 24, with an average daily temperature above 30°C. The hottest month of the year in Nicosia is August, with an average high of 33°C and a low of 22°C. The cold season lasts 3.6 months, from December 2 to March 22, with an average daily temperature below 19°C. The coldest month of the year in Nicosia is January, with an average low of 6°C and a high of 15°C. The brighter part of the year in Nicosia starts around May 18th and lasts for 4.8 months, ending around October 10th. The clearest month of the year in Nicosia is July, during which the sky is on average clear, mostly clear, or partly cloudy 100% of the time. The cloudier part of the year begins around October 10 and lasts for 7.2 months, ending around May 18. The cloudiest month of the year in Nicosia is December, during which the sky is on average cloudy or mostly cloudy 35% of the time. The wet season lasts for 5.0 months, from October 23 to March 24, with a greater than 13% chance of a given day being rainy. The month with the most rainy days in Nicosia is January, with an average of 7.3 days with at least 1.00 millimeters of precipitation. The drier season lasts for 7.0 months, from March 24 to October 23. The month with the fewest rainy days in Nicosia is July, with an average of 0.1 days with at least 1.00 millimeters of precipitation. Among rainy days, we distinguish those that have only rain, only snow or a mixture of the two. The month with the most rainy days in Nicosia alone is January, with an average of 7.3 days. According to this categorization, the most common form of precipitation throughout the year is rain itself, with a peak probability of 25% on December 25. The rainy season of the year lasts for 5.8 months, from October 11 to April 6, with a rolling 31-day rainfall of at least 13 millimeters. The rainiest month in Nicosia is December, with an average rainfall of 57 millimeters. The period without rain in the year lasts 6.2 months, from April 6 to October 11. The month with the least

rain in Nicosia is July, with an average rainfall of 0 millimeters. Nicosia experiences extreme seasonal variation in the perceived humidity. The stronger period of the year lasts for 3.1 months, from June 19 to September 21, during which time the comfort level is sultry, oppressive, or miserable at least 17% of the time. The month with the most humid days in Nicosia is August, with 19.0 days that are humid or worse. The least humid day of the year is February 24, when humid conditions are actually unheard of. The average hourly wind speed in Nicosia experiences significant seasonal variation over the course of the year. The windiest part of the year lasts for 4.4 months, from November 25 to April 7, with an average wind speed greater than 4.3 meters per second. The windiest month of the year in Nicosia is February, with an average hourly wind speed of 4.9 meters per second. The calmer time of the year lasts for 7.6 months, from April 7 to November 25. The calmest month of the year in Nicosia is October, with an average hourly wind speed of 3.6 meters per second. The wind is most often from the west for 10 months, from January 4 to November 5 and for 1.6 weeks, from December 19 to December 30, with a peak percentage of 83% on August 20. The wind is most often from the north for 2.7 weeks, from November 5 to November 24, with a peak percentage of 35% on November 5. The wind is most often from the east for 3.6 weeks, from November 24 to December 19 and for 5.0 days, from December 30 to January 4, with a peak percentage of 32% on November 27. The average water temperature experiences extreme seasonal variations throughout the year. The warmer water season lasts 3.1 months, from July 2 to October 6, with an average temperature above 26°C. The month of the year with the warmest water in Nicosia is August, with an average temperature of 28°C. The colder water season lasts for 4.3 months, from December 19 to April 29, with an average temperature below 19°C. The month of the year with the coldest water in Nicosia is February, with an average temperature of 17°C<sup>[26]</sup> (Figure 7).



**Source:** Climate and Average Weather Year Round in Nicosia Cyprus

<https://weatherspark.com/y/97684/Average-Weather-in-Nicosia-Cyprus-Year-Round>, Accessed: December 16, 2023

**Fig 7:** Nicosia weather by month

The most important natural resource of Nicosia (Lefkoşa) is its geopolitical position. It is situated inside the mainland of the island of Cyprus for security-strategic reasons (Figure 8). Surrounding the city is the vast fertile plain of Mesaori, which has been the source of the city's main income since the beginning of the city until today. The status of the capital of Cyprus (since the 10th century) gave Mesaoria additional importance since agricultural products could easily be found

directly in the city of Lefkoşa. The relatively small distance (from 28-48 km) of the central Troodos mountain massif (with Olympus being its highest peak, 1952 m high) is of great importance for the city of Lefkoşa since it had a steady supply of drinking water. The Pedieos River, which is itself a "gift" of the Troodos mountain range, is a great asset of Lefkoşa and the whole of Cyprus<sup>[27]</sup> (Figure 9).



*Source:* <https://lucerne.fandom.com/wiki/Nicosia?file=Nicosia1.jpg>, Accessed: December 16, 2023

**Fig 8:** Nikozije (Lefkoşa)



*Source:* <https://tracyspaight.com/2019/02/24/pedieos-linear-park/>, Accessed: December 16, 2023

**Fig 9:** Park by the river Pedieos

### 3. Architectural cultural and historical heritage

The architectural, cultural and historical heritage of Lefkoşa is profiled by the rich history of this city, which continues continuously from 2500 BC until today. Today, there are 672 places and buildings in this city that are officially registered as historical and cultural heritage (Figures 10-33).

Today, Lefkoşa is the economic, administrative-political and cultural-educational center of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. It is an important tourist destination fueled by numerous cultural events, including international film, theater and music festivals. With a large student population (about 34,000 students), Lefkoşa is the largest and most important university city in Cyprus.

The central place in the city of Nicosia/Lefkoşi has Atatürk Square (Figure 10), also known as Sarayönü ("Heart of Lefkoşa"), where mass events are held, from political to a wide variety of cultural events. On the square is the Venetian Column, also known as the "Obelisk" (Dikiltaş), which is the symbol of the state. This column was brought by the Venetians (1550) from the ancient Greek city of Salamis. At the foot of the column, the coats of arms of six Italian noble families still stand today, while the statue of a lion on its top has been replaced by a copper sphere. Atatürk Square was originally the site of the Lusignan Palace, which was demolished by the British administration and the new city administration buildings were built there.





*Source:* Author (February 21, 2007)

**Fig 10:** Atatürk Square (Post Office Building and Venetian Column)

Girne Avenue connects Atatürk Square (Sarayönü) with the city entrance of Kyrenia and İnönü Square. This street is the "backbone" of the city of Lefkoşa, which was reconstructed in 2015 and enriched with many modern contents (Figure 11). To the west of Girne Avenue, near the entrance to the old part

of the city, is the residential district of Samanbahçe, built in the 19th century as a government project for social housing. The houses in the settlement are unified, and there is a public fountain in the center of the settlement.





Source: Author (February 21, 2007)

Fig 11: Girne Avenue



Source: Author (February 21, 2007)

Fig 12: Samanbahçe

Next to the Ledra checkpoint towards the Greek part of the city is an area called Arasta. It is a pedestrian zone with many historical streets with shops, cafes and restaurants that adorn the oriental-Ottoman image and atmosphere of the bazaar. Here is the famous Büyük Han built in 1572. This inn is

considered one of the most beautiful buildings ever built in Cyprus. The inn has 68 rooms, a small mosque in its inner courtyard, a large number of shops, cafes and restaurants. Even opera performances are held in its inner courtyard (Figure 13).





*Source:* Author (February 21, 2007)

**Fig 13:** Büyük Han



*Source:* Prof. Dr. Peter Novak (February 21, 2007)

**Fig 14:** The author (right) at an evening gathering at Büyük Han

Nedaleko od ovog hana lociran je i Kumarcılar Hanı, izgrađen u 17. stoljeću, i tipičan je primjer osmanskog hana

(Figure 15).



*Source:* Author (February 24, 2007)

**Fig 15:** Streets in the old part of Lefkoşa

Selimiya Mosque is one of the most important single architectural buildings in Lefkoşa. The building was originally built (1209-1228) as the Cathedral of St. Sophia in the Gothic style (during the Lusignan administration), modeled on cathedrals in France. The columns of this church come from the time of ancient Rome, which indicates the possibility that an early Christian basilica was built here. The church was converted into a mosque by the Ottomans (1571),

immediately after the capture of Cyprus (Figure 16). Bezistan was located next to the mosque, after the Ottomans (1571) remodeled the Greek church (built in a combination of Byzantine and Gothic styles of construction, in the 6th and 14th centuries). In front of the mosque is the spacious Selimiye Square, on which the Library of Sultan Mehmed II Fatih is oriented.



Source: Haris Braic (February 24, 2007)

Fig 16: Selimiya Mosque

In the old town district of Yencami is the Haydar Pasha Mosque, the renovated Gothic Church of St. Sofia from the 14th century, and in the Arabahmet settlement the Arabahmet

Mosque, which was built in the 16th century and was named after one of the Ottoman military commanders who conquered (1571) Cyprus (Figure 17).



Source: Haris Bradic (February 24, 2007)

Fig 17: Haydar Pasha Mosque



Source: <https://www.visitncy.com/discover/arabahmet-mosque/>, Accessed: December 16, 2023

**Fig 18:** Arabahmet Mosque

Modern settlements (Küçük Kaymaklı, Yenişehir and Hamitköy) were built outside the walls of the historic core of the city with wide streets (among which Dereboyu Avenue stands out) and facilities suitable for the modern age. There

are a large number of newly built luxury villas, among which the Köşklüçiflik villa and Derviş-paşa konağı stand out (Figure 19).



Source: <https://www.ayazrentacar.com/kibris-tatil-rehberi/kibrista-gezilecek-yerler/lefkosa/dervis-pasa-konagi/>

Accessed: December 16, 2023.

Source: <https://www.visitncy.com/discover/dervis-pasha-mansion/>, Accessed: December 16, 2023.

**Fig 19:** Residence of Dervish Pasha (Turkish: Derviş-paşa konağı)

A Sufi order that originated in Konya in present-day Turkey, the Mevlevi Order was founded by followers of the 13th century Persian poet, Sufi mystic and Islamic theologian known as Celaleddin Rumi or more commonly Mevlana. The mystical philosophy that he expressed in his poetry and left as a legacy to the Mevlevi order, spread east of Konya, all the way to India, and then throughout the Islamic world. His teachings emphasized the separation of the individual soul from God during earthly existence and the power of divine love to bring it back to the infinite after death. Rumi emphasized music and dance as an expression of this mutual love and longing, so the followers of the Mevlevi became known as 'whirling dervishes' because of their famous practice of spinning continuously as a form of remembrance of God. The present building or 'mevlevihane' is traditionally considered to be an extended extension of the earlier established teki known as the Arab Ahmed Pasha and Ferhad Pasha teki, built in 1593 and 1607 respectively. The Mevlevi tekija was built at the beginning of the 17th century, on a

piece of land donated by landlady Emine Hatun. When the tekkes in Turkey were closed as part of Ataturk's reforms in 1925, some in the Turkish Cypriot community demanded the closure of the tekkes. However, the British administration at the time did not heed this call, and since the center of the Mevlevi Order had moved from Konya to Aleppo, it decided to appoint a sheikh from Syria. The first such sheikh was Muhammed Selim Dede of Damascus, appointed in 1933 and who remained in office until his death in 1953. This, however, marked the beginning of the end of an era in which the local whirling dervishes performed their sacred "sema" dance and the tekiya was finally ceased to operate in 1954, the Mevlevi order itself officially ceased to exist in Cyprus in April 1956. After being closed for several years, Tekija was reopened in 1963 as the 'Ethnographic Museum of Turkish Cypriots'. On December 17, 2002, after extensive repairs, it became Mevlana's museum, opened on the anniversary of his death, or "reunion with the beloved" as it is in the Sufi tradition (Figure 20).



Source: Author (February 21, 2007)

**Fig 20:** Mevlevi Museum (Turkish: Mevlevi Tekke Müzesi)

Eleftheria Square (Greek: Πλατεία Ελευθερίας; Turkish: Eleftheria Meydanı, Özgürlük Meydanı), literally meaning Freedom Square, is the main square in central Nicosia. It forms the intersection of Ledra and Onasagorou streets with Stasinou, Omirou, Kostaki Pantelidi, Konstandinou Palaiologou and Evagorou avenues. It is considered one of Zaha Hadid's 35 best projects [28]. Previously, the square was called Metaxas Square, after the Greek statesman Ioannis Metaxas. It was renamed in 1974 after a competition held at the suggestion of the then mayor of Nicosia. It is located in

the center of the city under the Venetian walls of the medieval city. The City Hall of Nicosia, located on the Bastion of D'Avila, overlooks the square while Ledra Street leads to its northern side. The square is the center of activities of various profiles in the capital, including advertising promotions, political rallies and meetings (such as the first meeting of the Occupy Buffer Zone movement on October 15, 2011) and sporting events. Celebrations such as the accession of Cyprus to the European Union were also centered around the square [29] (Figure 21).



Left: Eleftheria Town Square before reconstruction. Right: Eleftheria square after reconstruction

Source: <https://tr.foursquare.com/v/eleftheria-square--%CF%80%CE%BB%CE%B1%CF%84%CE%B5%CE%AF%CE%B1-%CE%B5%CE%BB%CE%B5%CF%85%CE%B8%CE%B5%CF%81%CE%AF%CE%B1%CF%82/4d3ae8ad979ea143399d95f>

[c?openPhotoId=505054c8e4b0361aaba9644d](https://tr.foursquare.com/v/eleftheria-square--%CF%80%CE%BB%CE%B1%CF%84%CE%B5%CE%AF%CE%B1-%CE%B5%CE%BB%CE%B5%CF%85%CE%B8%CE%B5%CF%81%CE%AF%CE%B1%CF%82/4d3ae8ad979ea143399d95f), Accessed: December 16, 2023.

Source: <https://www.arc-magazine.com/eleftheria-square-nicosia-cyprus/>, Accessed: December 16, 2023.

**Fig 21:** City Square Eleftheria (Sloboda)

Lusignana House (Turkish: Lüzinyan Evi) is located in the Yeni Jami district of Lefkoşa, the northern part of Nicosia. The house was built by the Latin noble family Lusgnani in the 15th century. After the Ottomans occupied Cyprus (1571), some elements of Ottoman architecture (doksat) were added to the house. Until 1872, the Ottoman family Kaloria Al Effendi lived in the house, and since 1958 the house has

been owned by the Cypriot government when it was used by the Classen family, for housing and as a weaving workshop. After its renovation (1995-1997), the house was converted into a museum of Turkish weaving culture. The house was renovated again (2013) when a restaurant serving traditional Turkish food was added to the museum contents [30] (Figure 22).



**Source:** [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/48/Nicosia\\_01-2017\\_img25\\_Lusignan\\_House.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/48/Nicosia_01-2017_img25_Lusignan_House.jpg)  
 Accessed: December 16, 2023.

**Source:** [http://www.whatsonnorthcyprus.com/interest/nicosia/north\\_nicosia/lusignan.htm](http://www.whatsonnorthcyprus.com/interest/nicosia/north_nicosia/lusignan.htm), Accessed: December 16, 2023.

**Fig 22:** Lusignana House (Turkish: Lüzinyan Evi)

The lapidary museum is a museum where works of art made of stone are preserved. These works of art were parts of architectural buildings (churches, town houses, palaces). The Lapidarium in Lefkoşa is housed in a Gothic building (with later Italian Renaissance elements added) built in the 15th

century, which is located near the Haydar Pasha Mosque (formerly the Church of St. Sophia). This building previously served as a hostel (accommodation) for intending travelers<sup>[31]</sup> (Figure 23).



**Source:** [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lapidary\\_Museum,\\_Nicosia\\_\(3\).JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lapidary_Museum,_Nicosia_(3).JPG),  
 Accessed: December 16, 2023.

**Source:** <https://www.schwarztaufweiss.de/Nordzypern/lapidariumuseum.htm>, Accessed: December 16, 2023.

**Fig 23:** Lapidary Museum

Dervish Pasha's Palace (Turkish: Derviş Paşa Konağı) is a historical palace and ethnographic museum in the Arap Ahmet district of Nicosia, currently located in North Nicosia. It is located on Belig Paşa Street and has two floors. It is considered one of the best examples of Ottoman architecture in Cyprus. The current summer house was built on an earlier Gothic building in the same place. The year 1801 is written

on its front door, which means that this was the date the building was built. It was repaired in 1869, and the decorative wood carvings on the ceiling are dated to this year. At the end of the 19th century, it belonged to Hacı Ahmet Derviş Efendi, a rich Turkish Cypriot who owned large parts of land outside the walled city of Nicosia<sup>[32]</sup> (Figure 24).





Source: Author (February 21, 2007)

Fig 24: Dervish Pasha's Palace (Turkish: Derviş Paşa Konağı)



Source: Haris Braic (February 21, 2007)

Fig 25: Author visiting Derviş-paşa residence

The Museum of People's Struggle (Turkish: Milli Mücadele Müzesi) is a new building that exhibits artifacts (written documents, samples of weapons, technical equipment,

photographs...) that bear witness to the struggle of Turkish Cypriots for freedom and the preservation of their identity, since 1878. until today <sup>[33]</sup> (Figures 26,27).



Source: <https://www.kibristatatile.com/kibris/kibrista-gezilecekyerler/kibrista-muzeler/milli-mucadele-muzesi/>

Accessed: December 16, 2023.

Source: <http://nec.k12.tr/2017/04/24/yakin-dogu-koleji-ogrencileri-millimucadele-muzesinde-tarihe-taniklik-etti/>

Accessed: December 16, 2023.

Fig 26: Museum of People's Struggle



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/p/Br%C3%BCksel-Alevi-K%C3%BClt%C3%BCr-Merkezi-Centre-Socio-culturel-Alevi-de-Bruxelles-100063656792664/>, Accessed: December 16, 2023.

Fig 27: Alevi Cultural Association (Turkish: Alevi Kültür Derneği)

Lefkoşa is the seat of several universities: Near East University (NEU, founded in 1988), Cyprus International University (CIU), Mediterranean Karpazia University (MKU), Anadolu University (AU). More than 34,000

students from over 96 countries study at these universities Near East University with Near East Park (area of 220,000 m<sup>2</sup>) where various events are held (where the famous music group Deep Purple, Moscow State Ballet were guests). The

Cyprus Theater Festival is held here (Figure 28).



Near East University



Left: The author in the "Mustafa Kemal-pasha Atatürk" amphitheater at the Near East University. Right: The author in front of the Grand Library of Near East University

Source: <https://www.t-vine.com/turkish-cypriot-billionaire-to-give-talk-on-higher-education-in-british-parliament-next-week/>

Accessed: December 16, 2023.

Source: Haris Bradic (February 19, 2007)

**Fig 28:** Near East University

Internacionalni Univerzitet Cipar (Turski: Uluslararası Kıbrıs Üniversitesi Üniversitesi, engleski: Cyprus International

University) je privatni univerzitet u Lefkoşi osnovan 1997. godine (Figure 29).



**Source:** <http://alvi-consult.com/en/education/universities/ciu/cyprusinternational-university-ciu/>, Accessed: December 16, 2023.

**Fig 29:** Cyprus International University (CIU)

State Theater (Turkish: Lefkoşa Belediye Tiyatrosu). The construction of the new theater building began in 2012

(Figure 30).



Source: <http://www.yeniduzen.com/bir-yanda-festival-bir-yanda-harabe-93781h.htm>, Accessed: December 16, 2023.

Source: <http://www.adabasini.com/haber/lefkosa-belediye-tiyatrosuobeb-ile-sahnedede-843.html>, Accessed: December 16, 2023.

**Fig 30:** State Theater (Turkish: Lefkoşa Belediye Tiyatrosu)

The Atatürk Stadium in Nicosia (Turkish: Lefkoşa Atatürk Stadı) is a multi-purpose and largest stadium in northern Nicosia. It is currently mainly used for football matches and hosted some matches for the ELF Cup in 2006. It also serves as home to Çetinkaya and Yenicami of the KTFF Süper Lig

and Gençlik Gücü of the KTFF Birinci Lig. The stadium holds 15,000 spectators and has a tartan track that is used for athletics competitions and for local residents to walk. The stadium also hosts national holiday celebrations and dance performances (Figures 31,32,33).



Source: <http://www.t-vine.com/conifa-euro-cup-2017-gets-underway-innorth-cyprus-tonight/>, Accessed: December 16, 2023.

**Fig 31:** The Atatürk Stadium in Nicosia



Source: <http://www.ciu.edu.tr/tr/kampuste-yasam/hizmetlerimiz/ciuarena>, Accessed: December 16, 2023.

Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/93544136@N02/8515597546>, Accessed: December 16, 2023.

**Fig 32:** CIU Arena (Cyprus International University Arena). The arena was opened for use in 2010.



Source: [https://esupermk.live/product\\_details/36022313.html](https://esupermk.live/product_details/36022313.html), Accessed: December 16, 2023.

**Fig 33:** Nicosia, 29th June, Members of a local Jazz band perform during the AglanJazz Festival

### Conclusion

Nicosia is a historical city on the island of Cyprus in the Mediterranean Sea. It is an extremely important geopolitical point from the oldest history to today, where three continents (Europe, Asia and Africa), great world civilizations and cultures touch. There are few places in the world with as much complexity and controversy as Cyprus. The author took advantage of his participation in the International Conference on Environment: Survival and Sustainability, Near East University, Nicosia - Northern Cyprus (February 19-24, 2007) to get to know Cyprus as well as possible, and the knowledge gained significantly enriched his 'architecture file', dealing with the complex topic "Defining Architectural Space (ADS)".

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