

# How Narration Changes the Narrated

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## When the TRT (Turkish Radio and Television Corporation) Became Architect and Monument Creator

### Abstract

This paper explores a unique auditory dimension of architectural history: radio broadcasts on architecture and the built environment in Turkey during the “state” monopoly period (1936-early 1990s). From this period, two hundred and eighty-five programs on architecture have survived as archival audio recordings and printed materials, including books and periodicals. For decades, broadcasters positioned architecture as a symbol of both cultural heritage and modernization, bridging the present with a glorified past. Through the unique medium of radio, architecture became a shared sensory and emotional experience, accessible to wide audiences and fostering a collective identity that merged an idealized past with contemporary anxieties about the future. Yet, this vision was neither stable nor cohesive; rather, it was a dynamic, contested arena shaped by various actors, constantly redefined in response to Turkey’s changing political, economic, and social landscape. This paper argues that these broadcasts were not merely instruments of state control but complex texts where the meaning of architecture was continuously reinterpreted to meet shifting cultural and ideological needs, becoming sites of ongoing negotiation. The analysis ultimately suggests that TRT’s broadcasts, while state-controlled, were dynamic forums allowing for multiple, sometimes conflicting interpretations of modernity and heritage. These broadcasts thus created a distinct auditory space where architecture actively participated in Turkey’s ideological and cultural discourse.

### Keywords

Architectural History, Architectural Historiography, Cultural Heritage, Radio Broadcasting, Turkey