

Photo 4.24
Istanbul. Panorama of the city

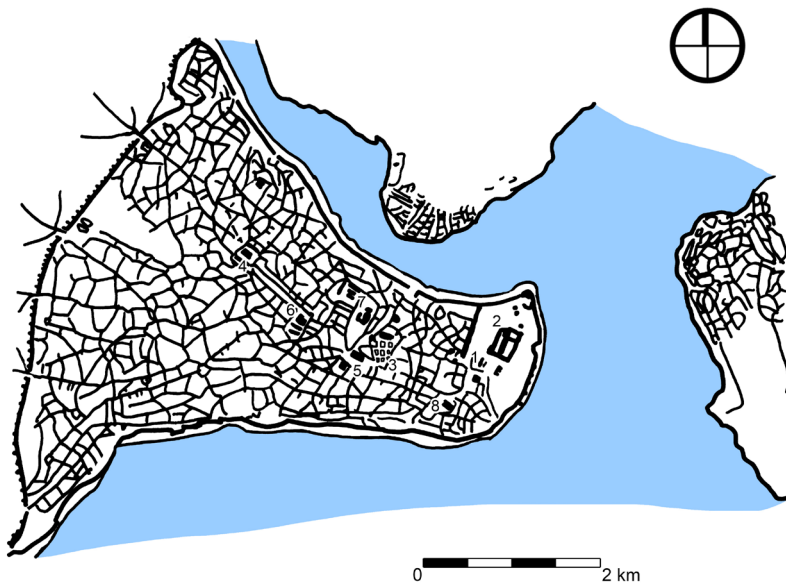


Figure 4.9
Istanbul. Spatial layout of the city from the 17th c. View and spatial structure of the former Byzantium took on the features of an Islamic city.
1 – Basilica of the Hagia Sophia
2 – Topkapi Palace
3 – The Grand Bazaar
4 – The Fatih Mosque
5 – The Bayezid Mosque
6 – The Sehzade Mosque
7 – The Süleymaniye Mosque
8 – The Sultan Ahmed Mosque (The Blue Mosque)

The city became the capital of the Ottoman Empire and in the urbanism sense, it transformed from the capital of the Christian Byzantine Empire into the Islamic Istanbul – a metropolis tailored to the new rulers' needs (Figure 4.9). The year 1463 marked the beginning of the construction of the Mehmed al Fatih (Mehmed the Conqueror) mosque replacing Constantine's mausoleum and the destroyed church of the Twelve Apostles. The mosque and the accompanying buildings formed a complex referred to as *külliye*, which served as a social, cultural, and religious centre. On top of the mosque, the complex consisted of a madrasa, a library, a hospital, kitchens, a hostel (*tabhane*), a caravanserais, and the founder's mausoleum. The form of the al Fatih complex with a symmetrical arrangement of buildings and a geometrical shape of the Square in front of the main mosque was rare in Ottoman architecture. The al Fatih complex, completed in 1470 as a multi-functional centre around the mosque, became a model for the future rulers. This type of centre emerged in the times of Bayezid II, Suleiman I, Ahmed I, as well as Mahmud I (in the mid-18th century).