Birey ve Bahar 2023 . Citt 13 . Say Toplum

Birey ve Toplum Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi Journal of Individual & Society Haziran 2023 December 2023 Yıl 13, Sayı 1, ss.103-120. Year 13, Issue 1, pp.103-120. DOI: https://doi.org/ 10.20493/birtop.1374363 Makale Türü: Araştırma makalesi Article Type: Research article Geliş Tarihi: 11.10.2023 Submitted: 11.10.2023 Kabul Tarihi: 16. 10.2023 Accepted: 16.10.223 Atıf Bilgisi / Reference Information Kocabıyık Çaşkurlu, S., Kır, B. & Hacıosmanoğlu, C. Reflections From Gobekli Tepe in

Cloting Desing" Birey ve Toplum Sosyla Bilimler Dergisi, 13(1), ss.103-120. DOI:10.20493/birtop.1374363

# GİYSİ TASARIMINDA GÖBEKLİ TEPE'DEN YANSIMALAR

## **REFLECTIONS FROM GOBEKLI TEPE IN CLOTHING DESIGN**

### Serap KOCABIYIK ÇAŞKURLU

Dr. Öğr. Üyesi, İstanbul Üniversitesi Cerrahpaşa, TBMYO, Tekstil Giyim Ayakkabı ve Deri Bölümü, Ayakkabı Tasarım ve Üretimi Programı Asst.Prof., Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Vocational School of Technical Sciences, Textile, Clothing, Footwear and Leather, Footwear Design and Production seko@iuc.edu.tr

ORCID: 0000-0002-4103-3314

### Betül KIR

Öğr.Gör., İstanbul Üniversitesi Cerrahpaşa, TBMYO, Tekstil Giyim Ayakkabı ve Deri Bölümü, Footwear Design And Production Lect.,Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Vocational School of Technical Sciences, Textile, Clothing, Footwear and Leather, Footwear Design and Production

> betul.kir@iuc.edu.tr ORCID: 0000-0002-6223-3665

## Can HACIOSMANOĞLU

Öğr.Gör., İstanbul Üniversitesi Cerrahpaşa, TBMYO, Tekstil Giyim Ayakkabı ve Deri Bölümü, Ayakkabı Tasarım ve Üretimi Programı Lect.,Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Vocational School of Technical Sciences, Textile, Clothing, Footwear and Leather, Footwear Design and Production can.haciosmanoglu@iuc.edu.tr ORCİD: 0000-0001-7080-2680

# Öz

Bireyleri ve toplumları etkisine alan giyim modası, trendlerle sürekli değişim göstermektedir. Doğal dengede bozulmaya kadar varan süreçte gelişmiş ülkelerin modadaki rolü, gelişmekte olan ve az gelişmiş toplumların kültürel yaratıcılıklarına da olumsuz yansımaktadır. Toplumların kültürel değerlerinin farkındalığı, kişilerin alanlarında yapacakları çalışmalarla yaşatılabilecektir. Çalışmamızda, Bereketli Hilal bölgesinde konumlanan, uygarlığın doğduğu ve dünyaya yayıldığı yer olduğu yapılan kazılarla ortaya çıkan Göbekli Tepe ele alınmıştır. Bölgede günyüzüne çıkartılan buluntular, steller ve stellerde yer alan sembollerden esinlenilmiş, Photoshop ve CorelDraw bilgisayar programları kullanılarak buluntuların görselliğinden elde edilen desen ve formlarla özgün giysiler tasarlanmıştır. Göbekli Tepe'nin günümüzde ve gelecekte önem ve değerinin korunması ve sürdürülmesinde çalışmamızın katkısı olacaktır. Benzeri çalışmalarla bilgilendirme ve bilinçlendirme, kültürel değerlerimizin korunması ve yaşatılmasına değer katacaktır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Göbekli Tepe, Giysi Tasarımı, Kültürel Tasarım.

### Abstract

Clothing fashion, which affects individuals and societies, is constantly changing in accordance with trends. The role of developed countries, in fashion, is negatively reflected in the cultural creativity of developing and underdeveloped societies in the process leading to the deterioration of the natural balance. The awareness of the cultural values of societies can be kept alive with the work of individuals in their fields. In our study, Göbekli Tepe, which is located in the Fertile Crescent region and revealed by excavations that it is the place where civilization was born and spread to the world, is discussed. It was inspired by the finds, stelae unearthed in the region and symbols on the steles, original clothes were designed with the patterns and forms obtained from the visuals of the finds by using Photoshop and CorelDraw computer programs. Our study will contribute to the preservation and maintenance of the importance and value of Göbekli Tepe today and in the future. Informing and raising awareness with similar studies will add value to the protection and preservation of our cultural values.

Keywords: Gobekli Tepe, Clothing Design, Cultural Design.

## INTRODUCTION

Considering the continuity of clothes in a person's life and their importance in terms of physical appearance, it is seen that they occupy an important place in society. In communication, body language, appearance and clothing that complement the physical appearance strengthen the meaning of verbal communication. When evaluating people, their physical appearance dominates. Dressing appropriately for the place and time, by leaving an impact on the environment and giving the person a sense of confidence, is effective in persuading others and establishing connections in business and social life (Zıllıoğlu as cited in Güdek, 2018, p. 65). The person provides information about his identity verbally and non-verbally. Fashion is a form of communication that expresses the identities of societies through symbolic interaction. Fashionable clothing affects and shapes people and society.

While clothing fashion changes with trends, societies adapt to this change. Clothing and many tools and accessories used for physical appearance, such as watches, glasses, ties, badges, scarves, mobile phones, jewelry bags, reflect a person's interests, tastes, value judgments, status, professional group and world view (Dökmen, 2009). Design, an art discipline, was born from the needs of mass production, which established a new link between the form and functionality of the product. The common purpose of the design process factors is characterized by research, examination, development, realization and evaluation; the ability to turn the product into an increasing output, to ensure a continuous cyclical design process and to prepare a collection (Au N. & Au Y., 2018).

As for design process, it is the whole of the management and creation process that creates an artistic product by ensuring the integrity between functional, structural and symbolic facts and constraints (Mozota, 2006). While designing, the principles of design elements such as point, line, shape, plane, form, volume, space, texture, form, color elements, emphasis, harmony and balance are used (Çaşkurlu et al., 2022, p. 848). Design

principles and design elements are interconnected. One or more of the principles of repetition, rhythm, balance, harmony-contrast, emphasis, measure, proportion and movement can be used together in a design. The designer, who collects data by doing research, develops product solutions with the concept he determines and completes the design process by choosing the most appropriate solution.

In our study, Göbekli Tepe, which was revealed by excavations to be the place where civilization was born and spread to the world, was discussed. It has been found that in the region between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers, humanity's transition from a hunter-gatherer lifestyle to a settled farmer-producer lifestyle occurred approximately 12000 years ago. A clothing and shoe design collection was prepared by examining the structures and figures found in Göbekli Tepe.

In the second half of the 19th century, with the findings of John Lubbock in 1865, the Stone Age was divided into Old (Paleolithic) and New Stone Age (Neolithic) phases. The period with a hunting society character and no permanent settlement is the Paleolithic, while the period with agriculture and a settled lifestyle is the Neolithic Period. Göbekli Tepe shows a developed and composite cultural stage in a period far from pottery making and firing techniques (Schmidt, 2007, p.33,36,102). The Neolithic process has become the focus of attention of archaeologists and cultural historians, as well as social and natural sciences, as it is a complex set of relationship in a wide range of areas such as lifestyle, nutrition, human-environment relationship, and belief.

It has been determined that Göbekli Tepe, which was founded in a time when there was no permanent settlement and agriculture, was built approximately 7.500 years before the Egyptian Pyramids. Göbekli Tepe, with its magnificent structures containing sculptures and reliefs in the Fertile Crescent region between the Euphrates and Tigris, sheds light on the past of humanity.

## GÖBEKLİ TEPE

Located in the center of Upper Mesopotamia, Göbekli Tepe is the center of belief since the Pre-Pottery Neolithic Period. The Neolithic Period, meaning "new stone", which came after the Paleolithic and Mesolithic Periods, is also referred to as the Polished Stone Age. During this period, human beings turned to agriculture as well as hunting and gathering. The area of 80 decares was declared as a first degree archaeological site by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in 2005. Göbekli Tepe archaeological site was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List as the 18th property from our country, in July 2018 (T.C.Kültür ve Turizm Bakanlığı, 2018).

Göbekli Tepe Archaeological Site, near Örencik Village, in the northeast of Şanlıurfa city center, was discovered in 1963 during the surface survey within the scope of the "Southeast Anatolia Region Research Project" in partnership with Istanbul and Chicago Universities and was defined as "V52 Neolithic Settlement". With the excavations started after 1994, it was determined that Göbekli Tepe, which has important archaeological findings from the period due to its untouched natural environment, was a cult center dating back 12 thousand years (Şanlıurfa Valiliği, 2018).

The hill rising upwards, resembling a belly, from the flat, limestone plateau where the ruins are located, was named Göbekli Tepe by combining the words belly and hill. The aerial view of the region before the excavations and the southeast view of Göbekli Tepe in 2009 are shown in Figure 1 (Schmidt, 2010).



Figure 1 (a) Göbekli Tepe Before Excavations (1995), (b) Southeast View Of Göbekli Tepe -2009

Archaeological research at the Göbekli Tepe Neolithic Temple Area shows that it was a place where people worshiped at that time. The buildings in the area are considered the beginning of the history of architecture. At the beginning of the archaeological work, a large limestone slab with a relief animal motif was found near the pit opened to remove the stones that prevented plowing (Figure 2) (Schmidt, 2007, p. 104). It has been understood that Göbekli Tepe was a sacred area for the Neolithic Period with the monumentality, dimensions and dating of the buildings. The region, which has remained untouched in its natural environment for 12 thousand years, yields important archaeological findings. It is stated that it provides important information that requires re-evaluation of the theoretical framework and dating of the Neolithic Period. As a result of the excavations, it is stated that it is the place where civilization was born and spread around the world (Yıldız & Rızvanoğlu, 2014).

Figure 2 The First Animal Relief Found During Field Work (Schmidt, 2007, p.164)

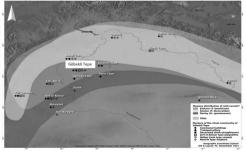


With the Göbekli Tepe temple dating back to approximately 12 thousand years ago, the history of archeology began to be rewritten (Türkiye Kültür Portalı, 2022). The temple located on the Island of Malta (4000 BC) was known as the first temple of the polytheistic period. This information has become invalid with the discovery of the Göbekli Tepe Temple. It has been determined that Göbekli Tepe was built approximately 6500 years before the temple in Malta and 7500 years before the Egyptian Pyramids. The most important feature of Göbekli Tepe that distinguishes it from other monumental structures is its obelisks that symbolize humans. Göbekli Tepe worship area, where human and animal statues and stonemasonry are at a high level, reflecting the symbolic worlds of the people of the Neolithic Period, was closed with a sense of protection to be returned after 1000 years of use by the people of the period.

The evolution of modern humanity involved a fundamental shift from mobile hunter-gatherer groups to permanently co-dwelling societies. While people lived as hunter-gatherers in the period dating back to 10000 BC, the Fertile Crescent Region of the Near East is expressed as the place where people settled permanently in villages and domestication of animals began. The presence of many grinding stones and wild grains made of basalt shows that agriculture began. As for Fertile Crescent Region, it is the area that rises northward from the Gulf of Egypt, follows the Northern Mesopotamia line, and extends from the east of the Tigris to the west from southeastern Anatolia and Northern Syria (Kılıç & Eser. 2020). This region, also called the "Golden Triangle", where living conditions differed in the Neolithic Period and affected great changes on hunter-gatherer groups, can be seen in Figure 3 (Schmidt, 2007; Dietrich et al, 2012).

Figure 3 Göbekli Tepe in the Fertile Crescent-Golden Triangle region (Schmidt, 2007, p.93; Dietrich et al, 2012, p.676)





### Göbekli Tepe Structures

During the excavations of Göbekli Tepe, no houses or similar structures related to being a settlement were found. For this reason, it is stated that this region is a sacred area, a religious site, and appears to be a regional center where communities come together to perform rituals (Peters & Schmidt, 2004; Schmidt, 2010).

Figure 4 shows the schematic map of the southern slope and western hill excavation area of Göbekli Tepe. The stratigraphy in Göbekli Tepe consists of layers from top to bottom; Layer I, which has surface fill, and Layer II, which contains small rectangular rooms and obelisks (stelae). Layer III dates back to 9000-10000 BC, where circular structures with obelisks (cult religious architecture) were found. It forms the layer. There are quadrangular structures with obelisks in Layer II-A, and oval and round structures in Layer II-B, which is the intermediate layer (Şanlıurfa Vakfı, 2022; Çoban, 2017; Özdöl, 2011).

No residential buildings were found in the area, and at least two phases of monumental religious architecture were unearthed. In the old layer, there are T-shaped monolithic columns weighing several tons (Schmidt, 2010). The structures are named with letters from A to E according to the date they were found during the excavation; The obelisks are ranked from 1 to 43.

Göbekli Tepe mound is an area with small hills and depressions between them, and it is stated that the layers of the uppermost layer can be seen densely. It is stated that this layer was formed on the hill surface by natural conditions and erosion caused by agriculture (Schmidt, 2007). Layer II is located on the fill dated to the Pre-Pottery Neolithic Period. It is stated that the stratigraphic location of the structures mapped in layers II and III cannot be determined with certainty.

There are quadrangular planned structures in Layer II-A, just below the surface fill, dating back to the Pre-Pottery Neolithic-B Phase. These structures are similar to the temple structure in Nevali Çori. There are four facing obelisks with lion reliefs. There are round planned structures in Layer II-B, which is a transition layer between Pre-Pottery Neolithic Phases A and B. The high quality terrazzo floors found in the structures in the Layer II indicate that they may be normal living spaces. However, since there were no places for a hearth or fire, it is thought that the mortars, which were found in large numbers and may have been used in food preparation, were intended for use during work rather than during settled life.

Figure 4 Göbekli Tepe Southern Slope and Western Hill (Schmidt, 2010, p.240)

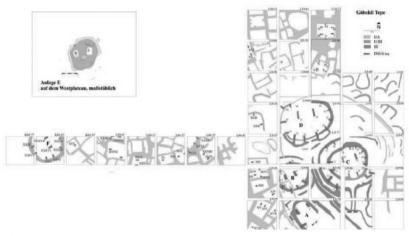


Fig. 2. Göbekli Tepe, schematic map of the main excavation area at the southern slope and the western hilltop, the stratigraphic position of the structures mapped in blue ("layer II/III") is not determined finally.

The magnificent circular structures with obelisks in the III Layer are located in a deep pit area where the southern side of the mound is divided into two parts and opens into a valley in the south (Schimdt, 2007). In these structures, which are thought to be related to the cult, T-shaped obelisks are placed in a circular manner at regular intervals, and the surroundings of the structures are surrounded by walls. Two obelisks, larger than those on the edges, stand freely opposite each other in the center. The ones on the edges are connected by walls or benches. 43 T-headed obelisks are located in their original places. It is stated that the fillings in the structures in this section were filled by Stone Age people, and due to the layer on top of the obelisks, they were protected

from deterioration until the excavation work. It is stated that there are no finds with a residential function in the Layer III and that it is only related to cult-religious architecture. The columns, which are less numerous in the II. Layer, are approximately 1.5 meters tall.

According to the studies carried out in Sanliurfa, settlements with "T" shaped obelisks are in Nevali Çori, Göbekli Tepe, Şanlıurfa - Yeni Mahalle, Karahan Tepe, Hamzan Tepe, Sefer Tepe, Taşlı Tepe, Kurt Tepesi, Harbetsuvan Tepesi and Ayanlar Höyük (Celik and Tolon, 2018). Göbekli Tepe, beyond the oldest great monuments and firsts, constitutes the beginning of history in many senses. In the middle of approximately 20 round and oval structures with a diameter of 30 meters, there are two "T" shaped, 5 meter high, independent limestone columns. There are smaller columns on the inner walls of the buildings. The "T" shaped monumental obelisks are decorated with animal depictions. It is thought that T- and inverted L-shaped obelisks symbolize people. The structure on the obelisk, reminiscent of Hittite reliefs, with images of animals that were initially thought to be lions but could also be tigers or leopards, is named the Lion Obelisk (Figure 5). The relief figures of wild animals and plants on the stelae are considered to be the first example of sculpture and plastic arts in the world (Figure 6). It can be said that the first stages of the social structure with division of labor were seen in Göbekli Tepe.

Figure 5 Lion Reliefs On The South and North (1.45 m) obelisks (Schmidt, 2007)





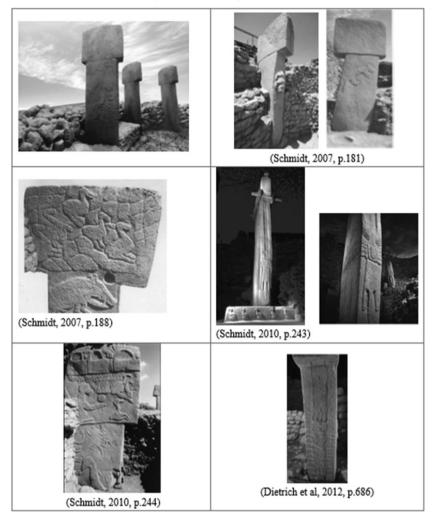


Figure 6 Göbekli Tepe Obelisks

# **CLOTHING DESIGNS**

While fashion trends are shaped by the important events of the period, they also affect the designs. Clothing designers prepare their collections by following current events and bringing materials together that reflect their imagination (Seivewright, 2013). A literature review was conducted within the scope of Göbekli Tepe archaeological excavations,

findings and studies on the subject to date. Excavations in this region between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers have revealed that the transition from hunter-gatherer life to settled life occurred approximately 12 thousand years ago and that civilization was born here and spread throughout the world.

There are abstract signs and animal depictions lined up on many obelisks in Göbekli Tepe. On the obelisks there are H-shaped signs and 90° surrounded shapes, circles, horizontal and vertical half-moon, horizontal stripes, animal heads (bull or ram), single snake and snake group, Asian donkey, fox, sheep/goat, four-legged reptiles, insects and spider symbols are included (Schmidt, 2007, p. 251). Symbols, signs and the relationship between them are found in miniature forms, reliefs and/or lines on stone slabs and body surfaces.

As a result of the research on Göbekli Tepe, a collection was prepared by designing clothes. Examples of designs made by using Photoshop and CorelDraw computer programs are given below. Figures 7, 8 and 10 give examples of clothing and shoe design works with snakes, birds, the H symbol and traces on obelisks. Shoe designs inspired by the region, finds, stelae and symbols on the stelae are shown in Figure 9.



There are duck-like bird reliefs on the obelisk, moving in a line pattern. The reflection of the past period and the figures on the obelisk on our clothing design work can be seen in Figure 7. The designs determined after the sketch studies were drawn and colored in Photoshop and patterns were placed on them. Figure 6 shows three large snakes moving downwards on the obelisk. Inspired by these figures on the obelisks, clothing and shoe designs were made using the CorelDraw program (Figures 8 and 9).

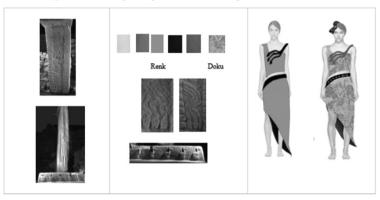
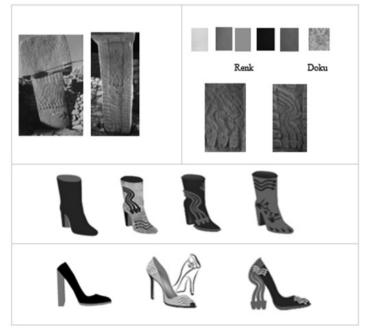
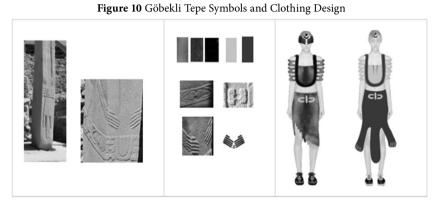


Figure 8 Clothing Design with Animal Figures Found on Stelae

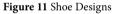
Figure 9 Reflection of the Figures on The Obelisk on the Shoe Design



There are fox reliefs and symbols on the surface of the obelisk. The H symbol, hand figures on the column and fox relief are reflected in the clothing design (Figure 10).



Examples of designs inspired by Göbekli Tepe structures and the symbols on them are seen in Figures 11 and 12. Shoe and clothing designs were made in Photoshop and CorelDraw programs, inspired by the T-shape of the obelisks and the figures and symbols on them.



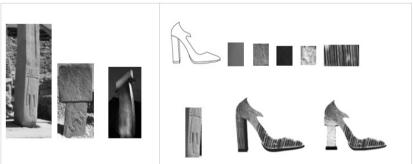




Figure 12 Clothing Design Examples with Figures Found in Buildings

# CONCLUSION

Clothes, which change under the influence of fashion trends, spread over time and have an impact on individuals and societies. Reasons such as population growth and consumer society have resulted in the disruption of the natural balance. The cultural codes of developed countries influence the whole world with fashion that has become universal and negatively affects the cultural creativity of societies.

As a result of archaeological excavations in Göbekli Tepe, it was found that humanity's transition from hunter-gatherer lifestyle to agriculture and settled life occurred approximately 12000 years ago. There are abstract signs and animal depictions on the obelisks in the region. This structure, which is proof that Anatolia has a rich and ancient cultural texture, has been the focus of attention of many researchers from different fields since its emergence.

Located in the Fertile Crescent region between the Euphrates and Tigris, Göbekli Tepe has an important place in the history of humanity with its magnificent structures containing sculptures and reliefs. In our study, clothing designs were made by researching the Göbekli Tepe region and its structures, which were revealed by the excavations to be the place where civilization was born and spread to the world. The heritage of the past is mixed with creativity, and the original designs are presented in our work. Our work will be a step in protecting and sustaining the importance and value of Göbekli Tepe today and in the future. It is important to continue informing and raising awareness about our cultural values through similar studies.

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