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Proposals for Revitalization of Karataş Historical Settlement Karataş Tarihi Yerleşiminin Yeniden Canlandırılması İlişkin Öneriler

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ÖZ:

Birden fazla kültürün bir arada yaşadığı toplumlarda, farklı yaşamların bir araya gelmesi sonucu, mekânsal çeşitlilikler oluşmaktadır. Kültürlerin mekânsal ihtiyaçları doğrultusunda gelişen yapı türü çeşitliliği, yapım tekniği, mekânsal karakteristikler ve mimari elemanları bu çeşitliliği desteklenmektedir. Kentlerde çok kültürlülüğün sonucu olarak ise o bölgeye özgün bir doku oluşmaktadır. Bu çalışma kapsamında seçilen İzmir Karataş Bölgesi, tarihsel süreçte birçok kültürü bir arada barındırmış ve günümüz kent merkezinde tarihi bir doku oluşturmuştur. Bölge, 10. yüzyılda Bizanslıların donanma tesisi olarak hizmet etmiştir. 11. yüzyılda Türklerin eline geçen Karataş, 19. Yüzyılda Rum, Ermeni, Yahudi ve Müslüman toplumların bir arada yaşadığı bir yerleşim olmuştur. Günümüze kadar, bölgeye bazı kentsel müdahaleler yapılmıştır. Yapılan müdahaleler sonrasında, Karataş Bölgesi'nin tarihi mekanlarının ve bölgeleri de değişime uğramıştır. Bu çalışma kapsamında, tarihi Karataş Bölgesi ve yıllar içinde geçirdiği dönüşümlere dair bir inceleme yapılmıştır.

ANAHTAR KELİMELER: Karataş, Tarihi Doku, Çok Kültürlü Toplamlar, Dönüşüm

ABSTRACT:

In societies where more than one culture coexists, spatial diversity forms especially in cities, with different lifestyles coming together. The spatial needs of cultures are supported by the variety of building types, construction techniques, spatial characteristics and the use of architectural elements. Karataş Region, which was selected within the scope of this study, is located in the Konak district of Izmir, just east of the Gulf of Izmir. The region served as a naval facility for the Byzantines in the 10th century. In the 11th century, the Turks were in possession of Karataş, a city where Greek, Armenian, Jewish and Muslim societies lived together in the 19th century. To date, some urban interventions have been made to the region. After the interventions, the importance of the historical places of the region have been

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changed. Within the scope of this study, an investigation has been made on the historical Karataş and the transformations it has gone through over the years.

KEYWORDS: Karataş, Historical Environment, Multi-Cultural Societies, Transformation,

INTRODUCTION

There is growing evidence that heritage conservation carries benefits in many areas of the urban environment. Local authorities, decision makers, institutions and authorities involved in urban development programs have recognized the urgent need to preserve their cultural resources and assets. The scientific community and research activities have brought to attention the development of methodologies, technologies and tools to guide, forecast, monitor and assess old buildings. The concept of historical environments is first drawn in Venice Charter as “urban or rural setting”. It is defined as “the evidence of a particular civilization, a significant development or a historic event” (ICOMOS, 1964). According to this charter, monuments should be evaluated with its environment. Ahunbay (2011) stated that historical environments are open-air museums that reveals how people have live in the past. Historical environments are educational places in terms of lifestyle, construction techniques, social life and culture. Washington Charter (1987) defined the elements, which is constituted of the historical characteristics of the historical settlements as follows: economic and social development, urban and regional planning should be integrated to the conservation of historic towns and urban areas. Urban patterns, open space, green space and buildings relationships, scale, size, style, construction technique, material, colour and decoration of the buildings, surrounding of the setting and its relationship between the urban area, various function has acquired over time. Burra Charter (2013) provides guideline for conservation and management. Conservation defined as retain cultural significance of a place. It is part of management of places of cultural significance. First step of conservation is understanding of cultural significance, then development of policy and management of the place should be developed. In accordance with these ideas, the conservation of the historical site approach is developed. To conserve characteristics of the cities and preserve its identity, conservation of a region (instead of conservation a single building) should be done (Radoslav et al, 2012). Historical settlements are one of the important elements that determine the identity of the cities. These environments have many values including art, architectural, historical and documentary. They provide information about historical settlements and lifestyle. It is important to conserve these environments, to sustain these values (Ahunbay, 2011). They make cities more attractive and it promote the economy at the same time. This idea increased the attention to historic settlements to manage sustainable urban development (Radoslav et al, 2012). Historical environments should be evaluated with strategies that have a holistic and participatory approach. The study focuses on Karataş (Quarantine) historical settlement, once occupied by Jewish, Armenian, Greek and Turkish families during the 19th Century Ottoman Period. They built buildings to support their communities’ needs. Some of these buildings are still standing with same or different building functions. Many of them with the help of the restoration projects, survived to emphasize the cultural identity of their period. After the intrusion of modern apartments, mass road constructions, seaside fills and incline in population, Karataş area had transformed rapidly. The aim of this study is to evaluate current approaches to the Historical Karataş region and defining new strategies to conservation of the site.

IDENTIFICATION OF KARATAŞ REGION

Karataş neighbourhoods is located in Konak district which is located in the middle of the Izmir Province. The settlement was located in the eastern part of Izmir Gulf. It had been a shipyard since ancient times. Many Byzantine naval facilities were built in the region in the 10th century AD. After Çakabey’s conquest of İzmir in the second half of the 11th century, the shipyard owned by the Turks in the region. However, the Crusader army, which attacked İzmir in 1344, burned the shipyard. The shipyard in the region was revived after Timur’s conquest of İzmir in 1403. Until the 19th century, the settlement was important place in terms of the shipyard. In 1800s, the first residents of the settlement were Jewish and Greek families. There are also Armenian family lives around the region. Turks were moved the settlement at the beginning of the 20th century. A school and a dormitory were built for orphan Armenian children in the 19th century. There is an also school named as Duatpe Mektebi built in 1830 which educated both Jewish, Armenian and Turkish children together (Akyüz Levi, 2010). The region firstly, was zoned for construction in 1865. There was a headman organization (muhtarlık teşkilatı) in 1865. According to this organization, there is a three Greek, three foreigners, 11 Jewish, 59 Armenian, 31 Rum and 61 Muslim were living in the settlement in this period (İzmir Dergisi, 2018). There are many Jewish houses which names as kortejo belonging that period is located in the settlement (Ertaç, 2013). There are some historical buildings in the region, which became an important figure of the city. One of them is Tower of Historical Lift (Tarihi Asansör in Turkish). The tower was built in 1907 by Jewish citizen Nesim Levi Bayrakoğlu (Kültür Varlıkları Envanteri, 2012). There was an elevation difference in the

settlement. Therefore, the lift was built which has also terrace. The tower is at the end of the Dario Moreno Street. The street is dead-end which has historical houses on the two sides. The street takes its name from a guitarist with Jewish origin Dario Moreno (Akyüz Levi, 2010). There is a Jewish Hospital which also known as Hospital İsrailit de Smyrne and Karataş Hospital. The building was built in 1827 to serve plague illnesses in Jewish community. At the middle of 19th century it became a hospital of minorities Moreno. In 1913, the hospital started to serve for everyone. It is still in use today. There is a Bet Israel Synagogue, which was built in 1905 in the settlement. Karataş High School was built in 1887 in as secondary school. In 1932, the education was peculiar to boy students. There was double education alternately in 1936. The school was opened to coeducation in 1972. As it mentioned above, Armenian families started to live here at the second half of the 19th century. They were built Vartanyan School especially for education of orphan Armenian children. The school was opened until at the beginning of the Republican Period. In 1934, the building became Ministry of Education. Today the buildings have been served for Museum of Republic Education (Akyüz Levi, 2010). There is a school for deafs, which was built in 1923. The function of the building is preserved in today. There is also Mithatpaşa Industrial Vocational High School in the settlement, which was built in 19th century. It was restored after the fire in 1997 (Kültür Varlıkları Envanteri, 2012). The settlement is part of Mithatpaşa Historical Urban Site. However, there is a lack of conservation and sustainability of the site.

Figure 1. İzmir Plan with ruins of ancient periods
(Source: Aksoy, 2002)

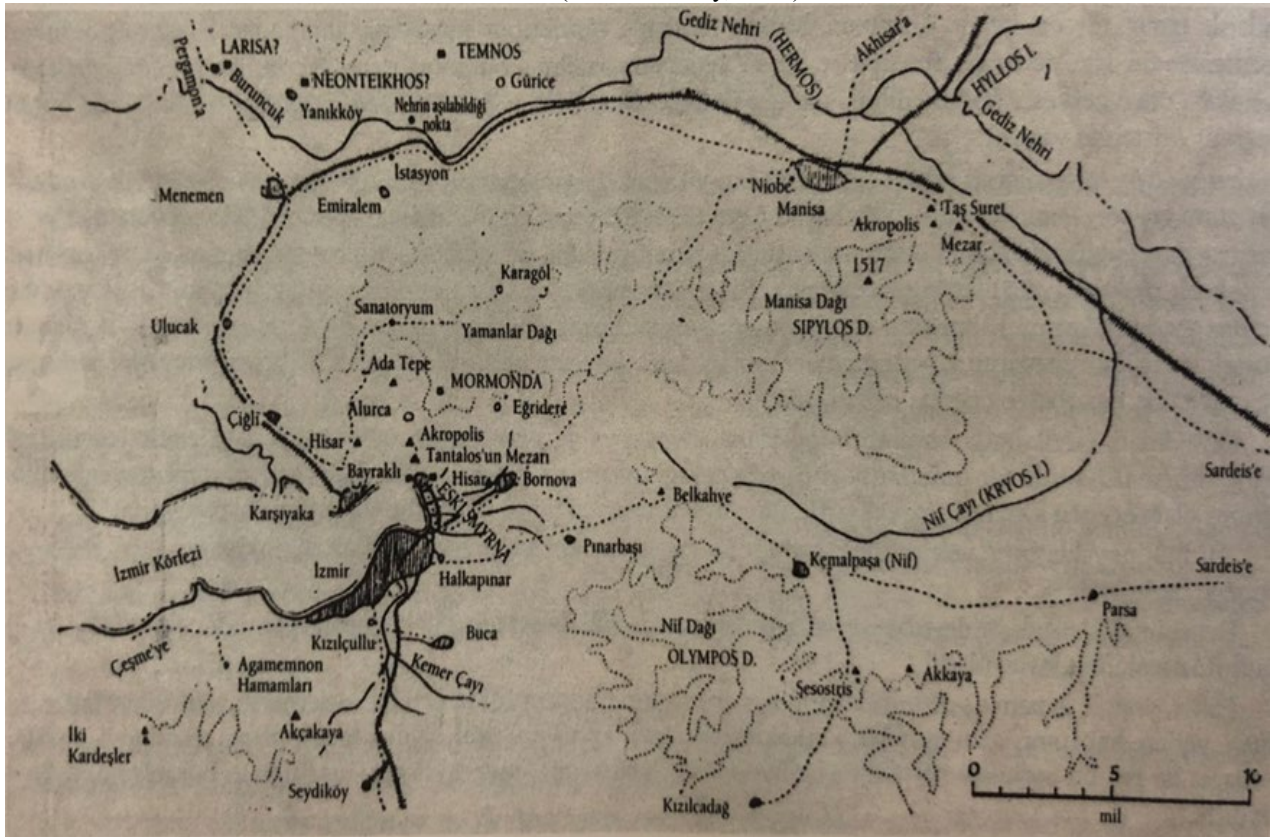


Figure 2. Karataş region in the early 20th century, current İzmir Kız High School and its environment (left)
(Source: Beyru, 2011)



Figure 3. Karataş region in the early 20th century, Art School and its environment
(Source: Beyru, 2011)

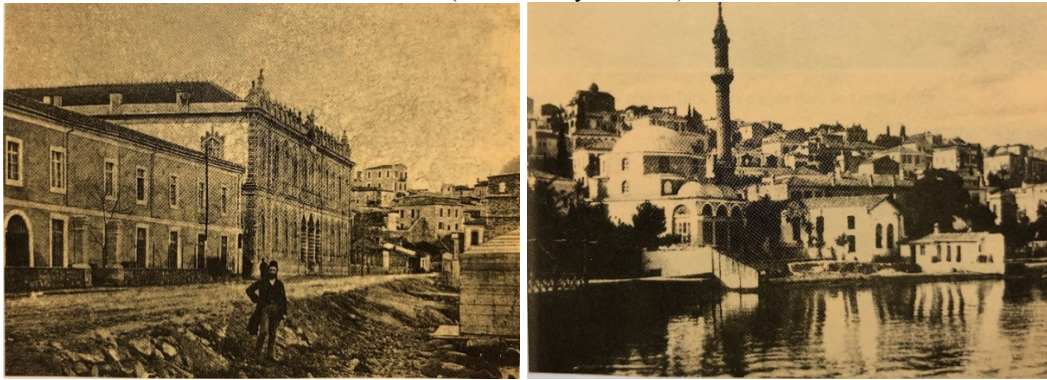


Figure 4. Historical buildings and houses in the region



INTERVENTIONS

The physical attributes of Karataş area had transformed three times in the 20th century. As population had been increasing, there was a demand for more high-rise buildings. Existing low-rise houses demolished for the rise of the high-rise apartment buildings. Only listed buildings and historical areas protected under the document named “Karataş Preservation Zone”. Second intervention came after the increase of demands for efficient transportation. Shoreline was filled wide enough to handle six lane traffic, car parks and recreational activities. Third intervention is a project developed by İzmir Metropolitan Municipality. It is aimed to create a new focus to the area with its square and ferry port. The current six lane vehicle road taken under the street level with an underpass. Top platform extends towards the sea, from the front of the Industrial Vocational High School and formed a large public square. There is now clear linkage to the seaside, connects historical Karataş settlements with the coastal line of the city. The project consists of continuous pedestrian roads with a cultural axis and a recreation axis, a playground for children, a dry pool area, an activity area, a square and a sculpture area, and green spaces and urban furniture that enhance the spatial quality (İBB, 2018).

Figure 5. Interventions to the region



Figure 6. Some of the public spaces in the settlement



Figure 7. Historical abandoned houses



REVITALIZATION STRATEGIES

Conservation of historical centers provides economical activities and employment opportunities for locals. Cultural tourism is gaining tourism for last years. Tourism in historic towns should be emphasize of the building's conservation, new building's approaches and development of settlement, approach of urban and streets approach, an emergence of museums within the boundaries of the historical settlement within the context (Orbaşlı, 2000). Revitalization in urban scale should be done in holistic approach. To achieve this strategy, different stakeholders including universities and public authorities should be involved. The process was classified into three stages; recentralizing, restructuring and renovation. Recentralizing is related with controlling urban development of the settlement. To revitalize a settlement, there should be new public buildings around its environments such as stadiums, malls, campuses, business centers and etc. (Radoslav et al, 2012). Revitalizing of the site is aimed to create sustainable conservation to the site. The first phase of this stage is supporting local communities against abandonment. Then the settlement should be attraction center for investors with the help of public administration and experts (Radoslav et al, 2012). The historical buildings which is located in the settlement should be refunctoning as public buildings such as institutions, museums, cultural and art centers, commerce facilities, terraces and etc. There are already some of them existing in the settlement (museum, restaurant and cafes). The missing elements of the settlement should be diagnosed, and buildings should be refunctoning related with these deficiencies. To make the settlement public space, infrastructure including car parking should be provided. The region should be pedestrianized. So, historical settlement will be converted into a public space (Radoslav et al, 2012). Revitalization related with the whole city. Even a historical place very attractive, it cannot stand alone. There should be creation a network of public spaces. Community centers should be interconnected tours and commercial streets (Radoslav et al, 2012). The region is part of a Mithatpaşa Urban Site, however there is a lack of conservation policy between public space formations. However, they were not planned. There is a landmark at the end of the street. The street has become a center of interest due to having landmark and due to containing the house of an important person. However, as a result of this condition, touristic elements of the street were conserved, and other buildings were abandoned. Lack of holistic conservation approach damages historical environment. Life in these historical environments continues by itself with accommodation and commercial functions. Even though, it is positive situation for conservation of building with function, without planning, it might result with damages in future. According to the level of different usage, the street became part of public space or not. The street has its own dynamics. There are both accommodation and commercial functions with respecting privacy and public usage. In order to sustain these dynamics, there should be a conservation policy (as described in Radoslav et al, 2012). In the context of revitalization strategies, targets, actions, agents and durations were defined in Table 1.

Table 1. Revitalization Strategies

	TARGET	ACTIONS	AGENTS	DURATION
REVITALIZATION STRATEGIES	Sustainable management of Historical Karataş Region	A Control and Coordination Council will be constituted.	İzmir Municipality RT Ministry of Culture and Tourism	Short term
	Identification of the values of the Historical Karataş region	Conservation Aimed Development Plan will be prepared.	Management Team İzmir Municipality	Short term
	Provision of resources for the preservation of Historical Karataş	Funds will be increased.	İzmir Municipality RT Ministry of Culture and Tourism Regional Directorate of Pious Foundations	Short term
	Observation and monitoring of the risk in the region.	Historical buildings at risk of collapse will be detected.	İzmir Municipality RT Ministry of Culture and Tourism	Continually
	Informing the owners and local people in the process of conservation	Textual information for owners and local residents will be prepared.	Management Team İzmir Municipality	Medium term
	Conservation and development of architectural value of Karataş region	Opportunities ad methodologies for access to existing objects and information will be enhanced.	Management Team İzmir Municipality	Medium term
	Provision of usage of appropriate materials, styles and techniques in the conservation projects of the region	Restoration and repair of monuments will be completed.	Site Management Team İzmir Municipality	Medium term

Investigation, documentation and conservation of immovable cultural assets of the region	Publications related with history related with Karataş including demographic change will be printed.	Site Management Team İzmir Municipality	Medium term Continually
Inspection of building heights	Building floor heights will be determined and inspected with the analyzes and the formation of street silhouettes within the area.	Site Management Team İzmir Municipality	Medium term Continually
Establishing awareness of conservation among management team and public	The importance of cultural heritage will be encouraged in schools and other educational institutions.	İzmir Municipality RT Ministry of Culture and Tourism RT Ministry of National Education	Continually
Provision of pedestrian access in the region	The historical region will be pedestrianized. Marker and signboards will be placed.	İzmir Municipality	Medium term
Development of sustainable tourism with adequate and appropriate infrastructure and equipment's	Opportunities to encourage accommodation will be identified and supported.	İzmir Municipality RT Ministry of Culture and Tourism	Medium term
Become attraction center for visitors	It will be ensured that it will contribute financially to the conservation and management of the region.	RT Ministry of Culture and Tourism	Continually

CONCLUSION

The physical refurbishment of historic city centers provides the means for social revitalization of communities and neighborhoods, economical attraction and improvement of the quality of life. Conservation of development plan should be improved, and management plan of the site should be developed for sustainable conservation. Municipalities, architects, art historians, locals and other stakeholders should be involved to this process. Conservation Committee will be constituted for the site and conservation aimed development plan of the will be improved. There are some abandoned historical buildings. These buildings should be restored and should be gained into the life. Due to its location it is already in the center of the city, however, the perception of the region should be enhanced. To increase its perception promotion of the site from different channels such as publications, newspaper, website and panels. In the Karataş settlement, there are already some clusters related with mentioned economical activities. Some of the elements of this clusters are qualified and some of them are unqualified. The qualified elements should be conserved. Unqualified elements should be renewed with the conveniently to conservation aimed development plan. The region should be pedestrianized. There should be some sub project. There are some other historical settlements around the site such as Konak Square, Historical Kemeraltı Bazaar) and they should be connected with each other on the larger scale.

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