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The Role of Architects in Search and Rescue Technologies: A Comparative Analysis of Global Examples and Türkiye

Mustafa DALLI [1]*, Asena SOYLUK [2], Zerrin Funda ÜRÜK [3]

ORCID 1: 0000-0002-9743-044X **ORCID 2:** 0000-0002-6905-4774 **ORCID 3:** 0000-0002-3994-5883

[1, 2] Gazi University, Faculty of Architecture, Department of Architecture, 06570, Ankara, Türkiye.
[3] Nişantaşı University, Faculty of Art and Design, Department of Interior Architecture, 34398, İstanbul, Türkiye.
**** e-mail**: mustafa.dalli@gazi.edu.tr*

Abstract

Search and rescue (SAR) operations require the integration of various technologies and expertise, to effectively respond to emergencies. In this study it was investigated how architects play an essential part in SAR technologies both globally and in Türkiye contexts. Architects play an invaluable role in designing SAR facilities, by optimizing spatial layouts, assuring structural integrity, integrating advanced technologies and encouraging sustainability. By conducting an in-depth comparison between international and Turkish SAR examples, this study highlights key similarities, distinctions and potential areas for improvement. These results emphasize the value of architectural expertise when conducting SAR operations; further providing insight into how Türkiye could enhance its approach to increase SAR capabilities.

Keywords: Search and rescue, advanced technologies in SAR operations, architecture, architect's ıntegration to SAR technologies.

Arama Kurtarma Teknolojilerinde Mimarların Rolü: Dünya ve Türkiye Örneklerinin Karşılaştırmalı Bir Analizi

Öz

Arama ve kurtarma (SAR) operasyonları, acil durumlara etkili bir şekilde yanıt verebilmek için çeşitli teknolojilerin ve uzmanlığın entegrasyonunu gerektirir. Bu çalışmada mimarların SAR teknolojilerinde hem küresel hem de Türkiye bağlamında nasıl önemli bir rol oynadığı araştırılmıştır. Mimarlar, mekansal yerleşimleri optimize ederek, yapısal bütünlüğü garanti ederek, gelişmiş teknolojileri entegre ederek ve sürdürülebilirliği teşvik ederek SAR tesislerinin tasarlanmasında paha biçilmez bir rol oynarlar. Bu çalışma, uluslararası ve Türkiye SAR örnekleri arasında derinlemesine bir karşılaştırma yaparak, temel benzerlikleri, farklılıkları ve potansiyel iyileştirme alanlarını vurgulamaktadır. Bu sonuçlar, SAR operasyonlarını yürütürken mimari uzmanlığın değerini vurgulamaktadır; ayrıca Türkiye'nin SAR yeteneklerini artırma yaklaşımını nasıl geliştirebileceğine dair bir değerlendirme sağlamaktadır.

Anahtar kelimeler: Arama Kurtarma, SAR operasyonlarında ileri teknolojiler, mimari, SAR teknolojilerine mimar entegrasyonu.

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1. Introduction

Search and rescue (SAR) operations are essential in saving lives and mitigating emergencies, requiring team efforts from various disciplines including architects who contribute significantly to designing SAR facilities and optimizing rescue operations. Unfortunately, architects' contributions in SAR technologies often go undervalued; architects provide crucial spatial planning expertise as well as technology integration strategies, sustainability considerations and social considerations which contribute significantly to successful search and rescue missions (Zibulewsky, 2001).

This study seeks to illuminate the role of architects in SAR technology with global examples and their application within Türkiye as an exemplar country. By studying architectural approaches in SAR facilities globally, best practices and lessons learned may be identified that can help strengthen Türkiye's SAR capabilities. Furthermore, this piece highlights architectural design's contribution towards optimizing rescue operations as well as how this expertise could strengthen Türkiye's efforts towards SAR efforts.

SAR facilities should provide an environment conducive to search-and-rescue operations, facilitate efficient coordination among rescue teams, ensure their own safety as well as that of survivors, while guaranteeing both. To do so efficiently and cost effectively architects offer their expertise in spatial planning as they optimize layout of SAR facilities such as command centers, emergency shelters, evacuation routes etc. by considering factors like ease of movement, clear pathways and resource allocation - factors which improve overall functionality and operational efficiencies within this infrastructure.

As architects collaborate with structural engineers to ensure the integrity of SAR facilities, disaster-prone areas where SAR operations frequently take place rely on architects as essential partners to design resilient structures that withstand natural forces such as earthquakes, hurricanes or flooding (Murphy et al., 2008).

By employing modern materials and construction methods they ensure facilities can continue operating effectively under challenging circumstances. Architects' contribution to SAR technologies lies in their integration of cutting-edge technologies. SAR operations increasingly depend on sensors, communication systems, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and real-time data analysis capabilities for efficient response times; architects play an essential part in designing facilities which accommodate deployment of these technologies - taking into consideration optimal placement for sensors, communication infrastructures and data analysis capabilities to maximize effectiveness ensuring seamless connectivity and data transfer among rescue teams (Chitikena et al., 2023).

Sustainability in SAR facilities is also of primary concern, as they must be both ecologically sound and economically sustainable. Architects can implement sustainable design principles into SAR operations through energy-efficient systems, renewable energy sources and eco-friendly materials incorporated by architects into these SAR operations. By taking waste management strategies, water conservation measures, climate change impacts resilience into account they contribute significantly towards long-term resilience of SAR operations and ensure long-term viability and resilience against climate change impacts in operations of this kind.

This study seeks to develop our understanding of architects in SAR technologies by exploring global examples that demonstrate innovative architectural designs for search and rescue facilities, then compare these with Turkish examples, assessing existing architecture practices and seeking areas for improvements. Insight will be gained into how Türkiye may enhance its approach to increase SAR capabilities thereby saving more lives while mitigating emergencies more efficiently.

As architects can play an essential part in SAR technologies by optimizing spatial layouts, assuring structural integrity, integrating advanced technologies, and encouraging sustainability, they play a pivotal role in search and rescue technologies. Analyzing global examples and applying them locally are effective ways of finding best practices and lessons learned that can bolster Türkiye's SAR capacities. Recognizing and harnessing their expertise will lead to innovative yet efficient search and rescue technologies which may save more lives while speeding emergency responses more rapidly.

2. Material and Method

This research begins by conducting an in-depth literature review that encompasses existing scientific articles, research papers and relevant publications related to SAR technologies and architects' roles in SAR technologies. This literature review serves two goals; The primary objective of this work is to establish a strong foundation for comprehension while concurrently providing valuable perspectives on the subject matter. Additionally, it aims to recognize recurring themes and amalgamate optimal approaches emphasized in each literature scrutinized, pertaining to the field of architecture.

At this session, an analysis took place of SAR facilities that exhibit innovative architectural approaches around the world, taking into consideration multiple contexts (geographies) and disaster risk areas. Analysis will focus on architectural design strategies employed, spatial planning approaches taken for technology integration purposes and sustainability aspects as well as lessons learned and best practices identified through case studies.

This study assessed the current state of SAR facilities and architectural practices in Türkiye. Existing SAR facilities was studied closely in terms of design characteristics and operational capabilities; strengths and weaknesses in their architectural approaches relating to spatial planning, structural integrity, technology integration and sustainability will also be noted. Interviews or surveys with relevant stakeholders such as architects, SAR professionals or government officials will be held to gain more insights on existing practices as well as any possible implications on effectiveness.

Comparative analyses were performed between global case studies and Türkiye-specific context, in terms of architecture. This analysis will seek to highlight similarities, variations and gaps in architectural approaches; its primary aim being evaluating how lessons learned from global examples may be utilized to enhance SAR capabilities here; specifically, areas in which architectural expertise may help with spatial planning, structural integrity, technology integration or sustainability in SAR facilities will also be identified as well as areas that would benefit most from architectural expertise leverage.

Based on findings from literature review, case study analysis, contextual analysis and expert interviews, recommendations will be drawn up. These recommendations address optimizing SAR facilities in Türkiye by taking into consideration spatial planning issues, structural integrity concerns, technology integration considerations and sustainability aspects. They aim to offer practical suggestions that can strengthen SAR capabilities through architectural designs.

This study will conclude by summarizing key findings, lessons learned and recommendations gleaned from its research. Focus will be placed on architectural expertise in SAR technologies as well as potential benefits of applying architectural design principles to enhance rescue operations. Furthermore, adopting best practices from global examples while adapting them for use within Türkiye will be highlighted as well.

3. Research and Findings

3.1. Search and Rescue (SAR) Technology

Search and rescue (SAR) technology includes innovative tools, equipment and systems specifically developed to facilitate rescue efforts during natural disasters or other crucial incidents. SAR technology plays a central role in improving rescue operations' efficacy, efficiency and safety; saving lives while mitigating emergencies' effects (De Cubber et al., 2017).

Search and rescue technology has undergone constant development over time to meet different aspects of search and rescue missions such as:

Seismic Sensors and Early Warning Systems: Seismic sensors are designed to detect and measure seismic activity such as earthquakes. Early warning systems then utilize data from these sensors in order to provide advance alerts and warnings that enable authorities and the general public to make timely evacuation, response coordination and preparedness decisions in advance of potential danger (Figure 1) (Ochoa & Santos, 2015).

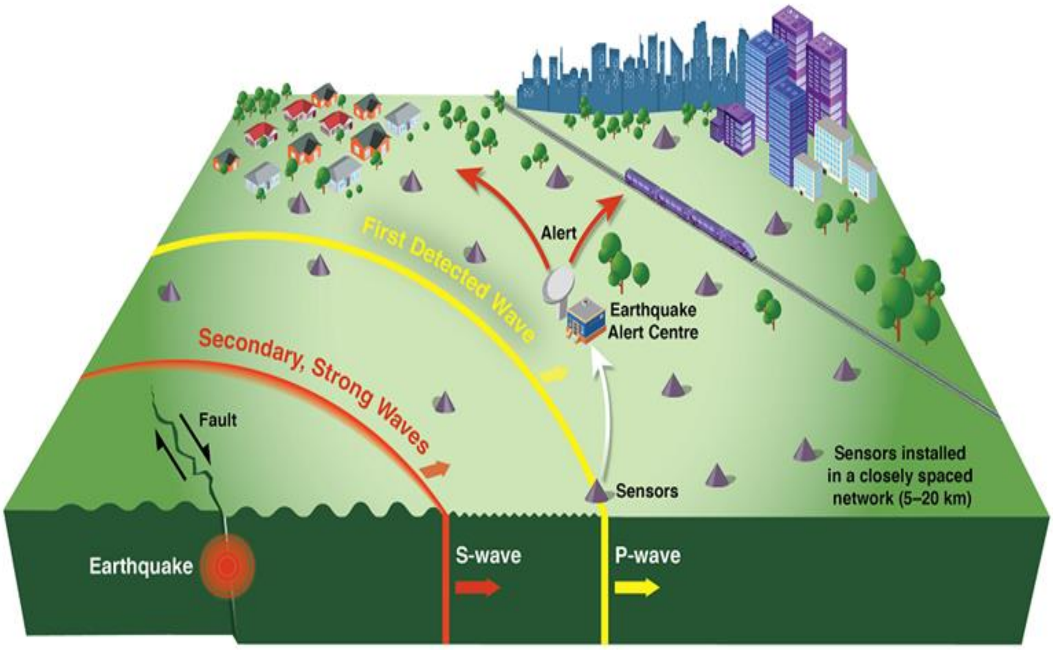

Figure 1. Illustration explaining the working principle of seismic sensors (Goverment of Canada, 2021)

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs, also referred to as drones): UAVs have become indispensable tools in search and rescue missions, thanks to high-resolution cameras, thermal imaging sensors, and other payloads equipped with special payloads such as high resolution mapping cameras or thermal imagers that enable aerial surveillance or mapping disaster areas while reaching remote or inaccessible places more effectively than their human counterparts can do - aiding search teams in their goal to find survivors, assess damage estimates, or deliver essential supplies on time (Figure 2) (Bravo et al., 2015).

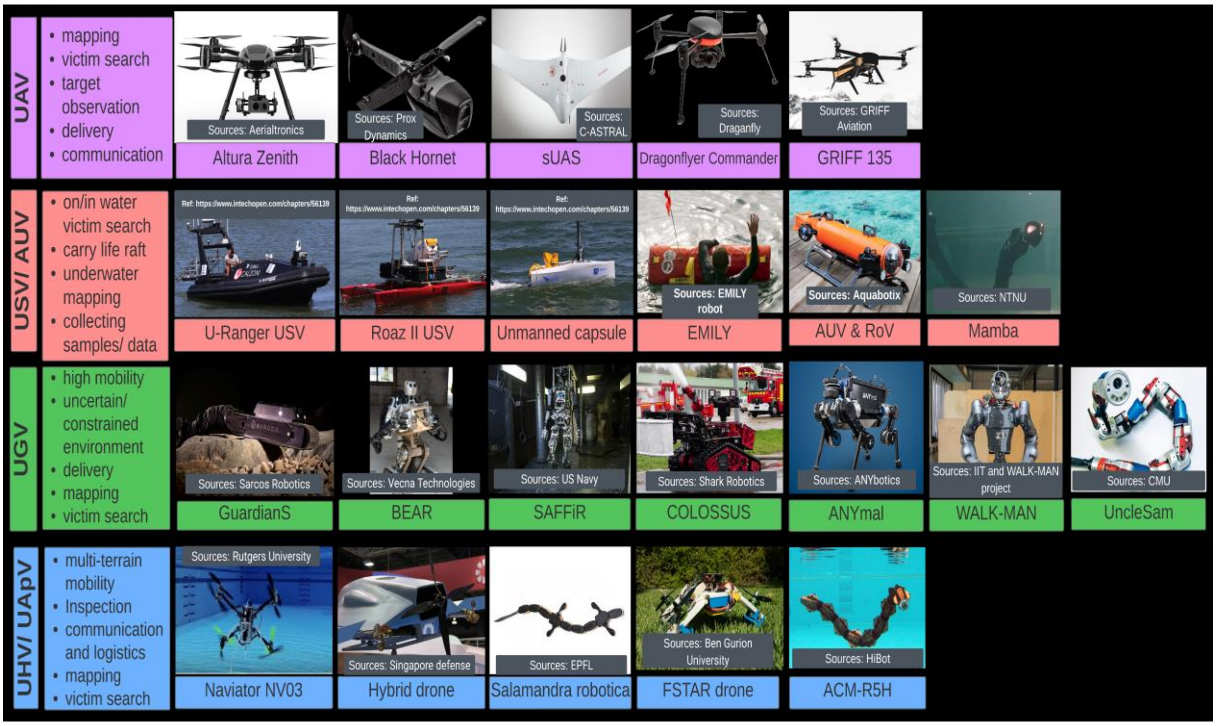

Figure 2. Examples and categories of various robots that could be used in SAR applications (Cubber et al., 2017)

Communication Systems: Effective communication during search and rescue operations is of utmost importance, so communication systems such as two-way radios, satellite phones, mobile networks and special communication devices provide seamless coordination for efficient information sharing between rescue teams as well as real time updates on rescue efforts (Figure 3) (De Cubber et al., 2013).

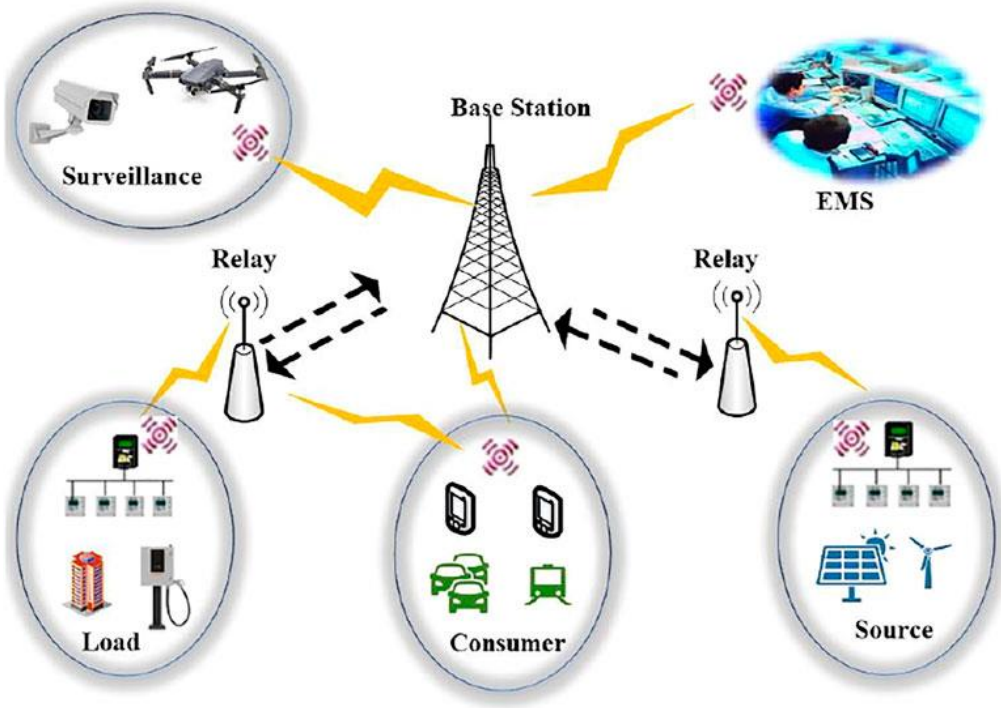

Figure 3. Architecture of an energy Internet communication network (Zhang, 2022)

Global Positioning System (GPS): GPS technology has long been utilized by SAR operators for accurate positioning, navigation and tracking of personnel, vehicles and equipment during search-and-rescue (SAR) missions. GPS units enable responders to locate specific coordinates more easily while decreasing response times significantly (Figure 4) (Eirkmen et al., 2002).

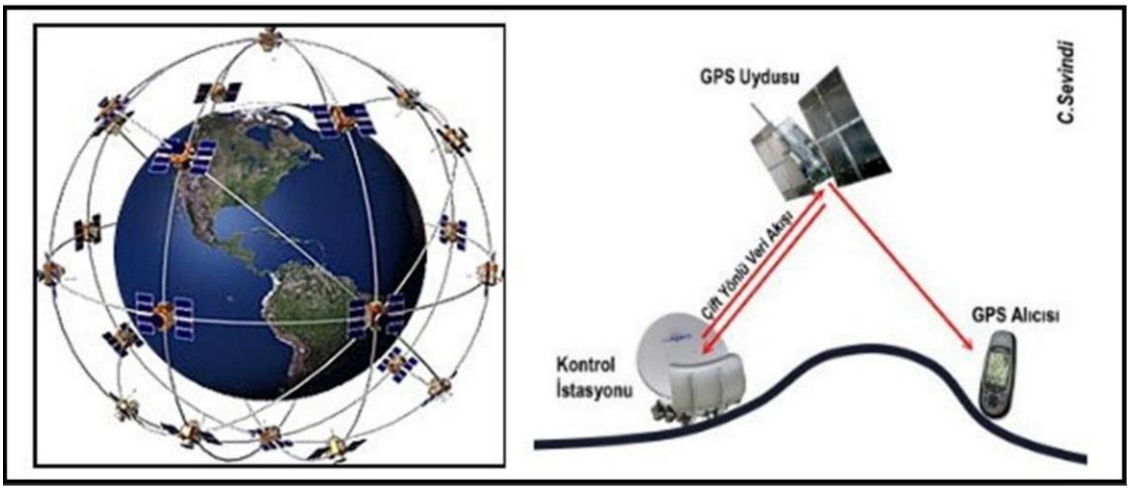

Figure 4. GPS satellite orbit (Sevindi, 2005)

Robotics and Remote Sensing Technologies: Robotics and remote sensing technologies are often utilized as part of search and rescue operations to access hazardous or inaccessible locations. Techniques such as LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), satellite imagery and aerial surveys offer detailed data regarding terrain features, infrastructure elements and any potential dangers, which aid planning and decision-making processes (Figure 5) (Eirkmen et al., 2002).

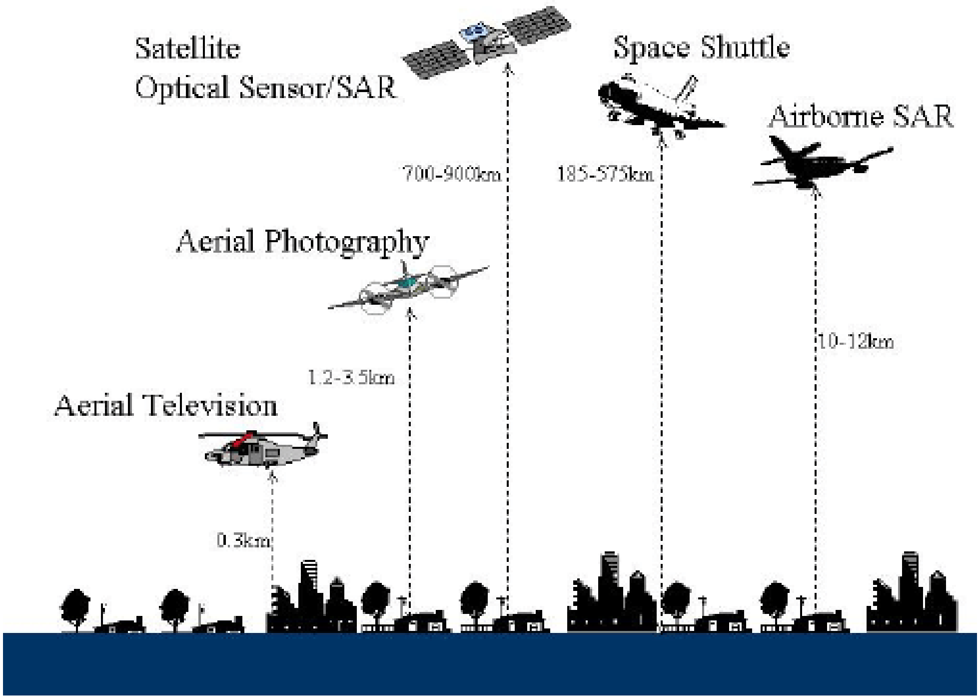

Figure 5. Platforms and sensors of satellite and airborne remote sensing (Zhou, 2018)

Wearable Technologies: Wearable technologies such as GPS-enabled personal locator beacons, smartwatches and body-worn sensors enhance SAR personnel safety by transmitting distress signals, monitoring vital signs and providing real-time location updates to SAR teams. These devices help them stay safe (Figure 6) (Doroftei et al., 2014).

SAR technology encompasses an expansive collection of tools and systems intended to support search and rescue operations. By harnessing such advanced tools, responders can increase their capabilities, enhance situational awareness and increase chances of rescue in life-threatening circumstances.

3.2. Importance of SAR in Earthquake Response

Earthquakes present unique challenges for search and rescue operations due to the unpredictable nature of seismic events and the potential for extensive damage to buildings and infrastructure. SAR teams face numerous obstacles, including limited accessibility to affected areas, unstable structures, and the need for rapid and accurate information to locate and rescue survivors. SAR technologies provide vital support by enabling responders to overcome these challenges and perform their tasks more efficiently and effectively (Figure 6) (Murphy et al., 2008).

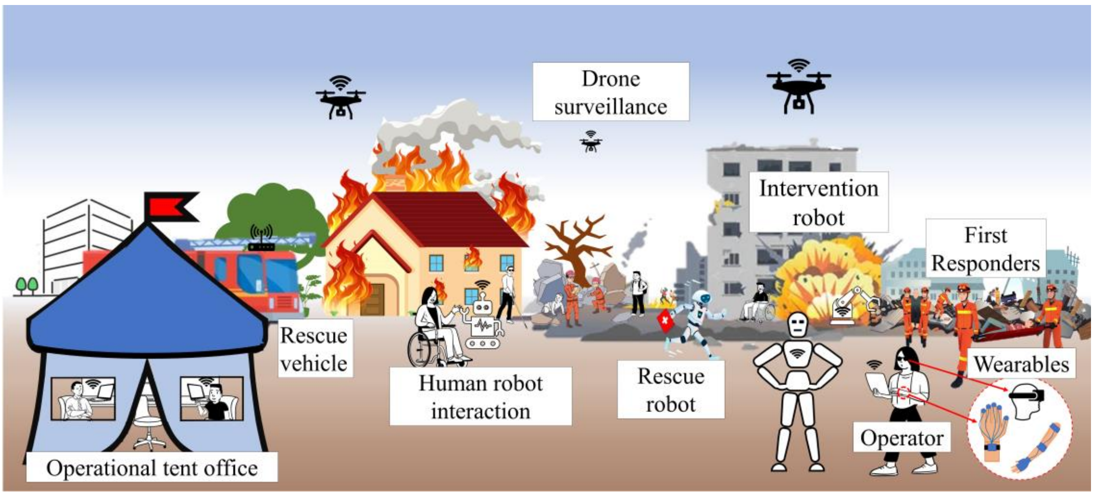

Figure 6. An illustration of a disaster to highlight the range of individuals and technologies that can be involved in SAR operations (Chitikena et al, 2023)

Search and rescue (SAR) technologies play a vital part in earthquake response by meeting rescue teams' unique challenges. These essential technologies help across various fields including earthquake response (Davids, 2002). For instance:

Rapid Assessment and Detection: SAR technologies facilitate rapid assessment and detection in affected areas, helping rescuers quickly identify spots with higher chances of survivorship. Remote sensing techniques like satellite images or aerial surveys offer real-time information on damage assessments which helps prioritize rescue efforts more efficiently (Liljebäck et al., 2012).

Improved Situational Awareness: Advanced sensing technologies such as seismic sensors and early warning systems offer vital data on earthquake occurrence, intensity, and aftershocks - giving rescue teams essential intelligence they can use to plan response strategies, allocate resources efficiently, prioritize areas for search and rescue missions and determine priorities among them (Cubber et al., 2017).

Remote Sensing and Mapping: UAVs outfitted with high-resolution cameras, LiDAR sensors and thermal imaging sensors are commonly utilized to capture detailed imagery of affected areas via UAV. This technology helps identify collapsed structures, potential survivor locations and accessible rescue routes - in addition to real-time situation updates provided directly to incident commanders for improved coordination and decision-making processes (Ito et al., 2005)

Communication and Coordination: SAR technologies facilitate seamless communications among rescue teams, incident commanders and other stakeholders. Reliable communications systems such as satellite phones, portable base stations and mobile networks enable rescuers to exchange critical information quickly while also coordinating efforts efficiently in real time and requesting additional resources as they become necessary (Sanfilippo et al., 2019).

Remote Access and Monitoring: Robots such as remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) and unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs), enable rescue teams to gain entry safely into inaccessible or hazardous areas using these technologies, such as debris clearing or structural assessments; they provide data about possible survivor locations thereby increasing both efficiency and safety in rescue operations (Ito et al., 2005)

SAR technologies use data analysis techniques, including artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms, to process and interpret large volumes of information. By examining sensor data, satellite imagery, survivor reports and resource allocation information these technologies assist rescue teams with pinpointing possible survivor locations while optimizing resource allocation strategies as well as offering decision support to make timely rescue operations a reality.

3.3. Integration of Technology in SAR Operations

Integration of advanced technologies has transformed Search and Rescue operations during earthquake events, increasing efforts towards search and rescue efforts. Numerous technological components work collaboratively towards this end. Seismic sensors and early warning systems provide crucial real-time data on earthquake occurrence and intensity, enabling rapid responses and evacuation measures in case an earthquake does occur. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), fitted with cameras and sensors, play an invaluable role in aerial surveillance missions, mapping damaged areas and providing essential supplies (Zhang Guowei et al., 2014). Communication systems and connectivity solutions facilitate seamless communications among SAR teams for improved coordination and information sharing, while data analysis and decision support systems utilize artificial intelligence, machine learning and predictive analytics technologies to quickly interpret huge amounts of data for responding responders allowing for fast yet informed decision-making processes (Casper & Murphy, 2003).

3.4. Advancements in SAR Technologies for Earthquake Response

Earthquake-specific SAR technology have advanced greatly. Seismic sensor networks and early warning systems provide real-time monitoring with enhanced accuracy and enable authorities and responders to act quickly. UAVs can now carry payloads in distant areas, fly autonomously, and take high-resolution images. Satellite, IoT, and mobile ad hoc networks (MANETs) now make up disaster-resilient communication systems (Matsuno & Tadokoro, 2004). Responders may now get valuable insights from complicated information and optimize resource allocation using advanced data analytics. (Ochoa & Santos, 2015).

3.5. SAR Technologies Used at Disasters

Teleoperated robots are the only ones allowed to seek and rescue after a disaster. Robots caused one Japanese and six US accidents. Most robots have been deployed by scientists at the Center for Robot-Assisted Search and Rescue (US) or International Rescue System Institute (Japan). Snake robots worked admirably in the Niigati Chuetsu earthquake. Manportable fixed- and rotary-wing flying aircraft have helped disasters (Özen, 2015). Many US state National Guards have Predator UAVs. Once, unmanned surface vehicles functioned. Small UUVs like the VideoRay find bodies after automobile accidents and drownings worldwide (Table 1). Only the Tokyo Fire Department, New Jersey Task Force 1 State Urban Search and Rescue, and US Mine Safety and Health Administration have ground rescue robots (Murphy et al., 2008).

Table 1. Disasters using SAR Technology

Disaster Region	Year	Land	Air	Underwater
Finale Emitia Earthquake, Italy	2012		x	
Thailand Flood, Thailand	2011		x	
Naval Base Explosion, Cyprus	2011		x	
Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Accident, Japan	2011	x	x	
Tohoku, Tsunami, Japan	2011			x
Tohoku Earthquake, Japan	2011	x	x	
Christchurch Earthquake, New Zealand	2011	x	x	
Pike River Mine, New Zealand	2010	x		
The Lost Bubblers, Italy	2010			x
Prospect Towers, USA	2010	x		
Deepwater Horizon, USA	2010			x
Upper Big Branch Mine, USA	2010	x		
Wangjialing Coal Mine, China	2010	x		
Haiti Earthquake, Haiti	2010		x	x
L'aquila Earthquake, Italy	2009		x	
State Archives Collapse, Germany	2009	x		
Hurricane Ike, USA	2008			x
Berkman Plaza II, USA	2007	x	x	
Demolition of the I-35 Minnesota Bridge, USA	2007			x
Crandall Canyon Mine, USA	2007	x		
Midas Gold Mine, USA	2007	x		
Sago Mine, USA	2006	x		
Hurricane Wilma, USA	2005		x	x

Hurricane Katrina, USA	2005	x	x
La Conchita Landslide, USA	2005	x	
McClane Canyon Mine, USA	2005	x	
DR No. 1 Mine, USA	2005	x	
Excel #3 Mine, USA	2005	x	
Hurricane Charley, USA	2004	x	
Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake, Japan	2004	x	
Brown's Fork Mine, USA	2004	x	
Barrick Gold Dee Mine, USA	2002	x	
Jim Walters No. 5 Mine, USA	2001	x	
World Trade Center, USA	2001	x	

3.5.1. 2001 World Trade Center, United States

NYC 9/11 comprised unmanned ground vehicles. 9/11 terrorists destroyed the twin towers. A fourth and a half-burned building. 3000 firefighters and citizens killed instantaneously. The hunt for survivors in stairwells and basements was massive (Murphy et al., 2008).

Three tiny UGVs—Inuktun microVGTV, micro-Tracks, and Foster-Miller Solem—examined the remnants of Tower One, Tower Two, and Tower Four. Foster-Miller Talon subsequently evaluated building foundations. The DARPA Tactical Mobile Robots-affiliated UGVs were deployed by CARSAR, the New York State Emergency Management, and the Department of Design and Construction. Responders utilized just 17 species' most portable, durable, and user-friendly robots (Özen, 2015).

At midnight on 11 September 2001, tethered robots were triggered. Last robot broke October 2, 2001. Indiana Task Force One and other FEMA teams employed the robots and troops until September 21, 2001.

The robots entered locations under 2 m that were still on fire or under 1 m that people or dogs could not access. The robots found 10 corpses under wreckage 7–20 m below ground but no survivors. Due to debris density, a Solem robot lost wireless communications, paused, and severed the safety line during rescue. In September, larger manportable Foster-Miller Talon robots investigated the basement's stability, especially the slurry wall, since rescue seemed improbable. Damage to the slurry wall—a foundation shared by many New York buildings—could pose structural difficulties. The New York City Department of Design and Construction dug holes in basement perimeters to install larger robots.

Robot design and human–robot interaction is taught. This concludes. Narrow, vertical robot platforms disrupt communications. Robots require safety ropes and fiber-optic tethers. To decontaminate and operate in water, rain, and snow, robots need be invertible and waterproof. Color camera, two-way audio, and a record-and-playback operator control unit are the minimum payload. The WTC's voids were too heated for thermal imaging.

3.5.2. 2005 La Conchita Mudslide - United States

La Conchita mudslide did not use ground robots. On January 10, 2005, a quick mudslide destroyed 18 homes in La Conchita, a little community near Los Angeles, killing ten people and leaving six others missing for days (the missing was on vacation) (Murphy& Stover, 2007).

Regional and national response teams responded to this minor disaster.

CRASAR responded with the waterproof American Standard Robotics VGTV Extreme, a polymorphic Inuktun micro-VGTV used at the World Trade Center. The robots failed twice in four minutes. Mobility difficulties caused both failures. The robot was first sent to a destroyed residence where a canine team had found a victim. A damp soil root caught the robot's left track and caused it to slide off.

In the second run, the robot tested a vertical entry in the intact second story of a residence damaged on the bottom floor. The shag carpeting let the robot deviate again. The manufacturer and CRASAR were unaware of the track design issue, which was originally intended for movement on smooth ventilation ducting, due to a lack of realistic testing (Murphy et al., 2008).

This disaster taught robots that ground mobility is difficult and testing is essential. Open rails are unsuitable for rescue due to detracking and debris. Testing in different soil and internal terrain conditions highlights the need for appropriate standards.

3.5.3. 2005 Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma - United States

Many US hurricanes used state and military UAVs and a ground robot. From June to November 2005, storms battered the southern Gulf Coast. The worst US hurricane was Katrina. It made landfall in New Orleans on August 29, 2005, damaging Louisiana, Mississippi, and sections of Alabama, affecting 200 km2, killing around 2000 people, and causing 80 billion US dollars in damage. Texas, Louisiana, and Florida suffered less from Rita and Wilma (Murphy et al., 2008).

During the 2005 hurricane season, UAVs were employed for large-scale catastrophes (Murphy et al., 2006). CRASAR in Mississippi and the Florida State Emergency Response Team used two UAVs to find rural regions cut off by water and dead trees after Hurricane Katrina. Later in the week, the Department of Defense flew an internal-combustion Silver Fox over New Orleans to identify which locations required help. All systems flew below restricted airspace, dismantled, and where beneath 2 m. Safety procedures were spontaneously created to avoid human aviation mishaps. Instead of waiting for unmanned helicopter data to be evaluated and manually relayed to responders, UAVs were deployed for surveying.

In hurricanes Rita and Wilma, the Texas and Florida state National Guards flew larger Predator UAVs in restricted airspace to aid strategic decision makers. Predator class UAVs need additional personnel, a larger take-off and landing zone, and airspace coordination since they fly at the same heights as human aircraft (Özen, 2015).

An American Standard Robotics VGTV Extreme robot was used by Florida Task Force 3 State Urban Search and Rescue Team to securely inspect the first floor of an apartment building in Biloxi, Mississippi. Since the crew didn't have a dog and wasn't sure whether a trapped person could shout, the robot was deployed. The inside had smooth linoleum, unlike La Conchita. The robot showed no one was imprisoned (Murphy et al., 2008).

Robot modality choice and utilization were affected by the 2005 US hurricane season. The disasters demonstrated the need for small aerial vehicles that could provide tactical teams 1–10 km views on demand or fresh perspectives (e.g., from a mini helicopter). Responders preferred manually managing UAVs to fixed-wing planes' autonomous waypoint navigation. This implies the final control regime will enable a responder to use the robot as an extension of themselves rather than full autonomy.

3.6. Architectural Design in Global SAR Examples

The optimization of search and rescue operations worldwide is significantly influenced by the architectural design of SAR facilities. Architects play a significant role in spatial planning, structural integrity, and technological integration, as evidenced by various global examples. This contribution leads to the development of SAR facilities that are both efficient and effective (Wright et al., 2012).

An exemplary instance is the 9/11 Memorial & Museum located in New York City, which functions as a Search and Rescue (SAR) facility while also serving as a memorial. The facility's architectural design showcases inventive spatial organization, which fosters a smooth and coordinated movement of rescue teams. The design of the layout integrates well-defined pathways and strategic positioning of resources, thereby guaranteeing expedient accessibility to crucial zones in times of emergencies (Harbers et al., 2017). Furthermore, the structural configuration of the establishment places a premium on safety, incorporating sturdy building materials and precautionary protocols to endure possible perils. The architectural factors play a pivotal role in enhancing the overall efficacy and robustness of the Search and Rescue (SAR) establishment.

Figure 7. 9/11 Memorial & Museum (Lennihan, 2018)

The Disaster Medical Center of the Tokyo Fire Department in Japan serves as a noteworthy illustration of the incorporation of cutting-edge technologies within search and rescue (SAR) establishments. The facility's architectural design integrates state-of-the-art communication systems, telemedicine functionalities, and sophisticated medical apparatus. The incorporation of these technologies into the physical layout of the search and rescue (SAR) facility facilitates prompt and efficient reaction in times of crisis. The effectiveness of rescue operations and patient care can be improved through the architectural layout, which enables real-time data sharing, remote consultations, and efficient resource allocation.

The instances on a worldwide scale emphasize the significance of possessing architectural proficiency in the development of Search and Rescue (SAR) facilities that are efficient, durable, and favorable for optimal operations. Architects hold a pivotal position in the optimization of spatial arrangements, guaranteeing the structural soundness of Search and Rescue (SAR) facilities, and assimilating cutting-edge technologies that augment response times and overall efficacy.

The effective implementation of architectural principles in search and rescue (SAR) facilities is exemplified by the 9/11 Memorial & Museum and the Tokyo Fire Department's Disaster Medical Center. It is imperative to acknowledge that every Search and Rescue (SAR) scenario is distinct, and the architectural blueprint must be customized to meet particular demands and regional circumstances.

The effective integration of architectural principles into Search and Rescue (SAR) facilities is successfully demonstrated by the 9/11 Memorial and Museum and the Tokyo Fire Department's Disaster Medical Center. These facilities go beyond functional design and symbolize resilience, remembrance and preparedness.

It is extremely important to understand the different natures of different SAR scenarios. Every disaster, whether natural or urban, presents its own unique challenges. This requires that the architectural plans of the SAR facilities be adaptable so that they can adapt to the specific demands of each scenario and to the regional context.

Learning from global examples offers significant benefits for developing SAR facilities for countries like Türkiye. It's about understanding the key architectural methodologies of what succeeds, rather than copying designs. By understanding these principles, countries can apply them creatively to their unique SAR needs.

Effective spatial arrangements in SAR facilities facilitate smooth movement of both responders and equipment. Architectural planners should consider the placement of entry and exit points, the creation of effective passages, and the designation of areas for special functions. This adds to the facility's overall agility and effectiveness.

It is important to facilitate mobility and accessibility. Architectural planners must create clear, unobstructed paths that allow rapid movement of emergency personnel. Open aisles and well-placed access points ensure effective movement during busy moments.

Strategic allocation of resources is an important aspect of SAR facility design. Architectural planners must carefully identify areas for equipment storage, command centers, medical areas, communication centers, and collaboration areas. This purposeful allocation ensures effective coordination and optimized resource use.

Modern SAR facilities use advanced technologies to augment their capabilities. Architectural planners must integrate not only physical spaces, but also technologies such as instant communication systems, data analysis tools, remote sensing devices, and AI-powered solutions. This integration enables faster and more informed interventions.

In summary, the examples shown by the 9/11 Memorial and Museum and the Tokyo Fire Department's Disaster Medicine Center highlight the importance of architectural principles in SAR facilities. But the key is to deeply understand these principles, apply them to unique SAR scenarios, and combine them creatively with innovative technologies. This type of architectural thoughtfulness demonstrates a commitment to protecting lives and effectively managing crises. In general, the architectural arrangement of search and rescue facilities plays an important role in increasing the efficiency of search and rescue missions. Architectural competence in designing effective, durable and technologically advanced search and rescue (SAR) facilities is evident in leading global examples such as the 9/11 Memorial and Museum and the Tokyo Fire Department's Disaster Medical Center. By analyzing these examples and customizing architectural methodologies in line with their unique circumstances, countries like Türkiye can increase their search and rescue (SAR) capabilities and thereby strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of SAR operations.

3.7. Architectural Approaches in Türkiye's SAR

Türkiye, located in a geologically active area and susceptible to diverse natural calamities, has acknowledged the significance of strong SAR capabilities. The architectural contributions to Search and Rescue (SAR) technologies in Türkiye are observable. However, there is a prospect to augment and reinforce architectural methodologies in SAR facilities to amplify their efficacy. Let us examine some instances and domains that could benefit from enhancement.

Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) Search and Rescue Training Center:

The AFAD Search and Rescue Training Center located in Ankara functions as a specialized establishment that provides training to Search and Rescue (SAR) teams. The center's architectural design prioritizes the creation of practical simulation environments, with the aim of equipping rescue personnel with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively respond to diverse disaster scenarios. The provision of dedicated training areas, such as confined spaces and collapsed structures, facilitates the acquisition of hands-on expertise. Greater emphasis on sustainable design principles, including the incorporation of energy-efficient systems and the use of eco-friendly materials, has the potential to augment the facility's long-term environmental impact (De Cubber et al., 2017)

National Medical Rescue Team (UMKE) Headquarters:

The UMKE headquarters in Ankara showcases a seamless amalgamation of technology and functionality in its architectural design. The establishment comprises of distinct sections designated for medical intervention, communication infrastructure, and command centers, which enable efficient coordination and prompt response in emergency situations. There exists a prospect to augment the amalgamation of cutting-edge technologies, including instantaneous data analysis, sensor networks, and communication systems, with the aim of ameliorating situational awareness and response capabilities (Ito et al., 2005)

Sustainable Design Principles:

To enhance Türkiye's search and rescue (SAR) capabilities, it is imperative to prioritize the implementation of sustainable design principles in SAR facilities. This entails the integration of energy-efficient mechanisms, sustainable energy resources, and environmentally conscious materials. The implementation of sustainable design practices not only mitigates the negative effects on the environment but also fosters enduring financial benefits and durability in search and rescue operations. The integration of measures such as waste management strategies, water conservation, and resilience against climate change impacts into the architectural design of SAR facilities is recommended (Luo et al., 2018).

Integration of Advanced Technologies:

The global search and rescue (SAR) operations have been notably impacted by technological advancements. The integration of said technologies into the architectural design of Search and Rescue (SAR) facilities presents an opportunity for Türkiye to enhance their utilization. The strategies encompass the implementation of sensor networks aimed at providing timely warning systems, the utilization of real-time data analysis to enhance the quality of decision-making, and the incorporation of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for the purposes of aerial reconnaissance and remote sensing. Collaboration between architects and technology experts can facilitate the smooth incorporation of technological advancements into the architectural design of Search and Rescue (SAR) facilities (Bravo et al., 2015).

Flexibility in Spatial Planning:

The importance of spatial planning flexibility in SAR facilities cannot be overstated, as it enables the accommodation of evolving needs and changing emergency scenarios. It is advisable for architects to contemplate flexible designs that can be readily altered to cater to the unique demands of individual incidents. The implementation of modular design principles, flexible partitioning systems, and multi-functional spaces that can be rapidly reconfigured to accommodate various rescue operations is a potential solution. The incorporation of flexibility within spatial planning enables Search and Rescue (SAR) facilities to effectively address diverse emergency situations and remain responsive to evolving conditions (Cubber et al., 2017)

Türkiye has the potential to improve its architectural strategies in SAR facilities by prioritizing sustainable design principles, incorporating advanced technologies, and advocating for spatial planning flexibility. Effective implementation of these improvements necessitates collaborative efforts among architects, Search and Rescue (SAR) professionals, and policymakers. Enhancing the architectural design of Search and Rescue (SAR) facilities is expected to yield benefits in terms of improved operational efficiency and efficacy, thereby resulting in reduced loss of life and mitigated emergency consequences in Türkiye.

3.8. Kahramanmaraş Earthquakes and SAR Technologies

The Kahramanmaras earthquake refers to an event which occurred on February 6th, 2023 in Türkiye's city of Kahramanmaras and had an enormously damaging impact upon buildings, infrastructure and life itself - endangering lives along its path while leaving massive buildings damaged or collapsed as well as creating widespread physical devastation affecting both buildings and people in 11 cities in Türkiye. Search and Rescue operations play an essential part in finding survivors while providing medical aid as quickly as possible to restore normalcy (AFAD, 2023).

SAR technologies are innovative tools and systems designed to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of search and rescue efforts. These devices, equipment, and methodologies aim at augmenting SAR teams. Following the Kahramanmaras earthquake, SAR technologies were utilized as part of an overall coordinated response, helping teams overcome any difficulties they might be encountering along their rescue efforts.

Kahramanmaras earthquake response utilised numerous SAR technologies such as:

Remote Sensing and Satellite Imagery: Remote sensing techniques such as satellite imagery were utilized to assess the extent of damage, identify areas with the greatest need for rescue operations, as well as gather vital information regarding an affected region. Satellite photos provided invaluable data that helped with resource allocation and decision-making processes.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs, or drones), commonly referred to as drones, played an instrumental role in earthquake response efforts. Equipped with cameras and sensors, UAVs were deployed to survey affected areas, assess structural stability, locate survivors in hard-to-reach or inaccessible locations, as well as providing real time visual data to SAR teams so they could plan and execute effective rescue missions (Bravo et al., 2015).

Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) systems were utilized by search and rescue (SAR) teams in an attempt to detect survivors hiding beneath debris piles or piles of rubble. By penetrating ground with radar waves to image subsurface structures and create images that show any gaps where survivors might be hiding, GPR helped increase chances for successful rescue operations and save more lives than before.

Mobile Communications Systems: Communication is central to SAR operations, and mobile communication systems play an integral part in helping teams, emergency response agencies and command centers collaborate effectively and seamlessly with one another. They serve as reliable channels that facilitate information exchange as well as resource coordination efforts as well as updates about rescue efforts underway.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS): GIS technology was deployed to generate detailed maps and spatial databases of the affected area, providing SAR teams with visibility of critical details like damaged structures, road networks, evacuation routes etc. in order to optimize resource allocation and navigation during rescue operations.

Wearable Technologies: SAR personnel frequently employed wearable devices like GPS trackers, body sensors, and communications devices as real-time monitoring of rescue team locations, vital signs, situational awareness and situational awareness for effective coordination between team members. These technologies also provided real-time updates regarding rescue efforts' vital signs in real time to enable real time coordination within teams and ensure that safety was never compromised during rescues missions.

Response teams were able to enhance their capabilities and optimize search and rescue operations following the Kahramanmaras earthquake by employing these SAR technologies, effectively increasing efficiency of search and rescue operations and increasing chances of finding survivors. By employing SAR tools such as rapid assessment tools and more accurate information gathering methodologies they were able to increase effectiveness allowing quick assessments, more precise information gathering processes, better communications between members of response teams as well as increased chances of finding and saving more lives than previously possible.

SAR technologies present numerous benefits; however, there may also be drawbacks. Limitations could include limited availability and technical constraints that necessitate expert training as well as expertise requirements for future disaster response efforts. Ongoing research, development, and improvement must take place so as to mitigate such limitations and maximize effectiveness during future emergency responses.

SAR technologies played a pivotal role in responding to the Kahramanmaras earthquake, including remote sensing, UAVs, GPR, mobile communication systems, GIS and wearable technologies. Their utilization helped search and rescue teams overcome challenges quickly while finding survivors more efficiently while improving response capabilities.

3.9. Comparative Analysis and Lessons Learned

The present study undertakes a comparative examination of the architectural approach adopted by Türkiye and global examples of Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), highlighting both shared characteristics and potential avenues for enhancement. Although spatial planning, structural integrity, and technology integration are all considered significant factors, there exist discernible distinctions in the incorporation of sustainable design principles and state-of-the-art technologies. Through a thorough analysis of these variances, Türkiye can extract valuable insights to improve its architectural methodology in SAR facilities.

Sustainable Design Principles:

Sustainable design principles are frequently given precedence in global contexts, with a focus on integrating energy-efficient systems, utilizing renewable energy sources, and employing environmentally conscious materials. The implementation of such practices not only mitigates the adverse effects on the environment but also yields enduring financial benefits and enhanced adaptability. The Turkish SAR facilities can potentially benefit from the aforementioned examples by prioritizing the integration of sustainable design principles into their architectural approach. The aforementioned measures encompass the optimization of energy consumption, the implementation of waste management strategies, and the utilization of materials that have minimal environmental impact (Luo et al., 2018). For instance, An excellent example of sustainable design principles is the Bullitt Center in Seattle, United States. This building showcases energy-efficient features such as solar panels, rainwater harvesting, and compost toilets. It is designed to generate more energy and serves as a model of sustainable commercial architecture. Türkiye's SAR facilities can draw inspiration from the Bullitt Center's energy-efficient features. Integrating solar panels, rainwater harvesting and other sustainable practices can save operational costs as well as reduce their environmental impact.

Cutting-edge Technologies:

Illustrations of Global Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) frequently exhibit the amalgamation of state-of-the-art technologies, including instantaneous data analysis, sensor networks, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). The technologies augment the ability to perceive and comprehend the surrounding environment, facilitate exchange of information, and improve the capacity to react (De Cubber et al., 2013). The integration of advanced technologies into the architectural design of Search and Rescue (SAR) facilities presents an opportunity for Türkiye to derive benefits. The integration of technological expertise and a thorough understanding of the unique requirements of search and rescue (SAR) operations can enhance the seamless assimilation of these technologies, leading to an improvement in overall efficacy and efficiency. For instance, The European Space Agency's Sentinel-1 mission showcases cutting-edge SAR technology. Sentinel-1 satellites provide all-weather and day-to-day imaging using synthetic aperture radar, providing images for a variety of applications including disaster monitoring. This technology helps detect displacements and changes that are vital to disaster response and recovery efforts. Türkiye can look to the European Space Agency's Sentinel-1 mission as inspiration and see that it has great potential to integrate advanced EC technologies such as instant data analysis, sensor networks and unmanned aerial vehicles. This integration could significantly increase Türkiye's SAR capabilities by improving situational awareness and response times.

Collaborative Efforts:

The efficacy of Search and Rescue (SAR) facilities is contingent upon the synergistic collaboration among architects, SAR practitioners, and policymakers. The importance of engaging all stakeholders in the architectural design process is exemplified by various instances on a global scale. Through the cultivation of robust collaboration, Türkiye can guarantee that architectural determinations are in accordance with the operational necessities and prerequisites of Search and Rescue (SAR) professionals. Effective and efficient search and rescue (SAR) facilities can be developed through consistent communication and coordination among architects, SAR personnel, and policymakers. For instance, The International Disaster Emergency Service (IDES) is a collaborative effort of architects, engineers and humanitarian organizations. IDES creates medical facilities designed for rapidly deployable disaster response. Architects work closely with medical professionals to ensure the suitability of facilities to meet critical needs in an emergency. IDES' cooperation model can be applied in Türkiye's SAR context. Involving architects, SAR practitioners and policy makers in the design process ensures that facilities are optimized to meet the specific needs of respondents. By promoting open communication and cooperation, Türkiye can develop highly effective and efficient SAR facilities.

In summary, these examples show that Türkiye can increase its Search and Rescue (SAR) capabilities by learning from successful global examples. By incorporating sustainable design principles, cutting-edge technologies and collaborative efforts, Türkiye can create SAR facilities that are environmentally sound, technologically advanced and optimized for effective disaster response.

3.9.1. Adapting Best Practices to Türkiye's Context

It is imperative to customize optimal methodologies to the distinctive context of Türkiye while assimilating insights from worldwide instances. The implementation of architectural approaches in SAR facilities should consider local factors such as climate, geography, and cultural considerations. By customizing these methodologies to the requirements and circumstances of Türkiye’s the nation can establish SAR infrastructures that are aptly tailored to regional obstacles and augment its comprehensive disaster response competencies (Table 2).

Table 2. Comparison of the use of SAR technologies from the world and Türkiye

Comparative Analysis and Lessons Learned	Global SAR Examples	Türkiye's Architectural Approach in SAR Facilities
Sustainable Design Principles	Emphasize energy efficiency,	Further integration of sustainable design
	renewable energy sources, and	principles (energy-efficient systems, waste management, eco-friendly materials).
	eco-friendly materials.	-
Cutting-edge Technologies	Integrate advanced technologies	Adopt cutting-edge technologies (real-time data analysis, sensor networks, UAVs) into architectural
	(real-time data analysis,	-
	sensor networks, UAVs) to	Design of SAR facilities.
	enhance situational awareness,	-
	communication, and response	-
	capabilities.	-
Collaborative Efforts	Involve architects, SAR	Foster collaboration between architects, SAR
	professionals, and policymakers	professionals, and policymakers throughout the
	throughout the design process.	Dsign process.
Adapting Best Practices to Türkiye's Context	Tailor approaches to local	Consider local factors (climate, geography, culture) when implementing architectural
	challenges and conditions	-
	(climate, geography, culture).	Approaches in SAR facilities.

The combination of worldwide Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) instances with Türkiye's architectural methodology underscores the significance of incorporating principles of sustainable design and state-of-the-art technologies. Through the implementation of these strategies and their customization to the specific conditions of Türkiye, search and rescue facilities can be improved to foster enduring sustainability, optimize energy usage, and facilitate seamless integration of technology. The implementation of improvements and the creation of effective search and rescue (SAR) facilities require collaborative efforts among architects, SAR professionals, and policymakers.

By extracting significant insights from worldwide instances, Türkiye has the potential to enhance its architectural methodology and make a valuable contribution towards the efficacy and resilience of search and rescue operations.

3.10. Discussion

This research conducted a comparative analysis between global SAR examples and Türkiye's architectural approach for SAR facilities. The comparison revealed both commonalities and areas for improvement; global examples stressed the need to integrate sustainable design principles and cutting-edge technologies, while at the same time encouraging collaboration efforts among architects, SAR professionals, policymakers.

On the other hand, Türkiye had numerous opportunities to enhance its approach by adopting sustainable principles, adopting advanced technologies, and encouraging stakeholder collaboration among others.

The results of our comparative analysis between SAR facilities across the globe and in Türkiye provide valuable insights into current state capabilities as well as areas for enhancement.

Sustainable Design Principles: Global SAR examples demonstrated successful applications of sustainable design principles such as energy-efficient systems, renewable energy sources and eco-friendly materials into SAR facilities to reduce their environmental footprint and realize cost savings over time. Analysis revealed there is room for improvement when it comes to Türkiye's SAR facilities in terms of adopting these sustainable principles; by prioritizing energy efficiency measures like waste management strategies or using eco-friendly materials instead, Türkiye may increase both sustainability and resilience of their SAR facilities.

Cutting-Edge Technologies: Integration of cutting-edge technologies was found to be key for improving SAR operations globally, such as real-time data analysis systems and using UAVs for aerial reconnaissance missions. While Türkiye has made progress adopting some technologies such as real-time data analysis systems and UAVs for aerial reconnaissance operations, Türkiye can further leverage them by incorporating cutting-edge innovations such as real-time data analysis systems or aerial reconnaissance using UAVs into SAR facility designs for more rapid responses during earthquake situations.

Collaborative Efforts: This analysis illuminated the vital importance of collaboration among architects, SAR professionals, and policymakers during the design of SAR facilities. Global examples demonstrated its success by including all stakeholders early and ensuring regular communications and coordination throughout. For Türkiye specifically, collaborative efforts among architects, SAR professionals, policymakers is pivotal for aligning architectural decisions with operational demands of SAR teams; by encouraging cross-cutting knowledge exchange through interdisciplinary cooperation it could enhance SAR facility designs while improving response capabilities overall.

These findings highlight the significance of adopting sustainable design principles and technologies into SAR facility architecture to foster collaborative efforts and strengthen earthquake response capabilities in Türkiye, improve resilience during seismic events, ensure population safety and well-being during such incidents, as well as ensure increased response capabilities during such seismic events.

By acting upon this knowledge Türkiye could improve earthquake response capabilities while strengthening resilience to ensure improved earthquake responses capabilities with greater earthquake response capability, greater resilience as well as ensure population well-being during such seismic events.

As stated previously, successful implementation strategies of sustainable design principles and advanced technologies require further research, planning and coordination among relevant stakeholders. Enhancing architectural approaches of SAR facilities will contribute significantly towards improving earthquake response efforts throughout Türkiye.

4. Conclusion

The comparative analysis between global examples of Global Search and Rescue (SAR) facilities and Türkiye's architectural approach to SAR facilities provides invaluable insights for assessing their current status and identifying potential areas for improvement. The findings highlight the need to integrate sustainable design principles, embrace cutting-edge technologies, and foster solid collaborations among architects, SAR professionals and policy makers.

The analysis reveals a great emphasis on sustainable design principles at SAR facilities around the world. These principles include energy efficient systems, the use of renewable energy sources and the integration of environmentally friendly materials. In particular, these applications not only reduce environmental impacts, but also result in long-term cost savings and increased durability.

Türkiye needs to prioritize sustainable design principles in SAR facilities, focus on strategies such as emphasizing energy efficient waste management programs and integrating environmentally friendly materials. This strategic focus will strengthen both the sustainability and environmental performance of these critical institutions. In addition, the study highlights the key role of integrating cutting-edge technologies in SAR facilities.

International examples demonstrate the successful integration of real-time data analysis systems, sensor networks and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to increase situational awareness, communication capabilities and response effectiveness in SAR operations. Although Türkiye has already taken steps to adopt some advanced technologies from abroad, it is necessary to seamlessly integrate real-time data analysis systems, sensor networks and UAVs into the architectural designs of SAR facilities. This proactive integration will ensure a fast and effective response, especially in seismic events such as earthquakes.

Collaboration between architects, SAR professionals and policy makers plays a central role in the design process of SAR facilities. International examples show that early involvement of all stakeholders and continuous communication throughout the design phase produce successful results. For Türkiye, this cooperation should be compatible with operational needs and facilitate interdisciplinary knowledge exchange. By doing so, Türkiye can optimize the architectural designs of SAR facilities and significantly expand their overall response capacity.

In conclusion, the findings clearly highlight the importance of adopting sustainable design principles, integrating cutting-edge technologies, and encouraging collaborative efforts in the planning of SAR facilities in Türkiye. By effectively using this rich source of information and by carefully following the recommendations in it,

Türkiye can greatly increase its earthquake response capacity, strengthen resilience, and ensure safety and well-being during seismic events. The application of these findings should be considered thoughtfully. Successful implementation will require further research, meticulous planning and coordinated effort among key stakeholders. Efforts to continually improve architectural approaches at SAR facilities will significantly contribute to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of earthquake responses in Türkiye.

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