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Lost Tangible Cultural Heritage: A Traditional Tokat House Restoration Project

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Abstract

The city of Tokat is one of our cities that has managed to preserve its unique identity with its historical and cultural richness without compromising its authenticity. Many tangible and intangible cultural heritages that have survived from ancient times to the present day are indicative of this successful preservation. The traditional housing fabric, which expanded from the settlement circle around Tokat Castle, the city's initial settlement center, to spread throughout the city, encompasses both the traditional houses that continue along the streets and the traditionally positioned houses scattered throughout the area. In Tokat City, the dense traditional housing fabric is primarily located around the foothills of Tokat Castle and its immediate surroundings. Another area where the traditional housing fabric is densely found is around the Behzad Stream, near Tokat Clock Tower. The study focuses on a traditional residential example, a civilian architectural instance situated around the Behzad Stream. The objective of the study is to contribute to the memory of Tokat City's historical housing fabric by documenting a traditional house that was demolished, as a lost example of civilian architecture, through visual and technical drawings. The methodology of the study consists of a review of existing literature and an on-site study of the house, which includes measured drawings, restitution, and restoration projects.

1. INTRODUCTION

Tokat City, especially during the periods of the Anatolian Seljuks and the Ottoman Empire, gained the characteristic of becoming an international trading hub, and during these eras, a multitude of structures were erected within the city. Among the cultural heritage that has endured to the present day within Tokat city, traditional houses take the spotlight. The traditional housing fabric in Tokat City is predominantly concentrated around the foothills of Tokat Castle and its immediate vicinity. The reason behind this concentration around Tokat Castle's foothills and Sulusokak is their status as the initial settlement areas of Tokat city. This area, which can be regarded as the core center of Tokat City, subsequently expanded to stretch all the way to the shores of the Yeşilırmak River. Another area with an intense presence of traditional housing fabric is around Behzad Stream, near Tokat Clock Tower. It's feasible to assert that these two settlements are places where authentic examples of Tokat's Traditional Housing Fabric can be witnessed. The study focuses on the restoration of a Traditional Tokat House that unfortunately fell victim to demolition. In 2013, an original heritage example, a historical house, was demolished, and in its place, an apartment block was constructed. The study's scope encompasses measured drawings, restitution, and restoration projects of the traditional house that was lost due to demolition. The study's objective is to prevent the disappearance of technical drawings and visuals of a historical house, a significant historical component of the city. Scientifically documenting the house lost in the city's memory due to its demolition will contribute to preserving the city's tangible cultural heritage. In this context, the study's methodology involves reviewing existing literature and documenting the drawings and visuals of the house located on Behzad Boulevard, within the Mahmutpaşa neighborhood, as part of the fieldwork.

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2. TRADITIONAL TOKAT HOUSE

Within the Traditional Housing Fabric of Tokat City, the houses it harbors carry numerous architectural and cultural features that embody the characteristics of a traditional Turkish residential dwelling. The placement of the Traditional Housing Fabric illustrates the strength of architectural coherence within the city. Preserved streets, neighborhoods, and areas that have maintained a harmonious architectural unity between old cities, and have been designated as urban sites, have found their place within this definition in Tokat City. This preservation extends not only to residential zones but also encompasses trade areas and regions where handicrafts are practiced, holistically preserving the city's historical heritage [1] . There are many accounts from travelers who have visited the city regarding Tokat Houses. In the mid-17th century, Evliya Çelebi, during his visit to Tokat, expressed in various sources that he found Tokat Houses to be so beautiful that they were worthy of admiration [2]. Joseph de Tournefort, who visited the city in the early 18th century, described Tokat Houses as follows: "Tokat city houses are better made and most are two-storied; they cover not only the land between two steep hills but also the amphitheater-like slopes of the same hills: to the extent that there is no other city in the world with such a unique position as this one. The streets of Tokat are quite well-paved. I believe the wealthy had to construct the pavements to prevent rainwater from flooding the basements during storms, and they even had arches built for the flowing waters in the streets. There are so many sources of water on the hills above the city that each house has its own fountain" [3].

Another traveler who visited the city in the 18th century, Pococke, likened its overall structure to that of a European city. The earliest surviving examples of traditional Turkish houses in Tokat that have reached our times date back to the 19th century. Out of these houses, 124 were registered by the Board of Immovable Cultural and Natural Assets on September 14, 1984, according to decision number 379. However, some of these houses have been deregistered. Currently, Tokat has 118 registered houses [4]. Through analysis and research, it has been observed that, in addition to these houses, there are many other houses with remarkable qualities that can be recommended for registration. The earliest surviving examples of Tokat City's Traditional Houses date back only to the 19th century. These houses are concentrated around the foothills of the Castle and the banks of the Behzat Stream (Figure 1).

Figure 1. *Settlement Centers of Tokat's Traditional Housing Fabric (Google Earth, 2023)*

The layout of traditional Tokat houses is generally shaped in an organic manner. This settlement layout is closely related to the topographical structure of the land where the house is located and the ownership of the property. The settlement plan of houses consists of the alignment of the street, garden, and house. Since the front facades of houses define the boundaries of the street, the arrangement of houses in the streets where the Traditional Housing Fabric is situated is mostly in continuous rows. Those houses that are not in continuous rows are situated freely and are defined by a garden that surrounds the house from the street. The adjacent arrangement of houses that are side by side in narrow streets creates varying

perspectives from different angles, which is an integral part of the characteristic of traditional houses in these streets. Traditional Tokat houses are typically two or three stories high (Figure 2). The ground floors are designated for general services. When entering from outside, the floors of the ground level are paved with stone and referred to as "taşlık" (stone floor). The ground floor typically contains spaces like cellars, storage rooms, and warehouses. Large and small hearths, ovens, and workrooms are also located on this level. Additionally, there is a toilet on the ground floor, and access to the house's garden is provided from this floor. In many Tokat Houses, an intermediate floor is placed between the ground floor and upper floor. This floor isn't a full story in height; it's designed to balance the temperature within the house during summer and winter. In some houses, this floor is also used as a cellar to preserve food throughout the year. The upper floors of the houses are usually dedicated to daily life and contain living spaces. This is where daily life unfolds, and it's the section of the house that opens to the street with bay windows and large windows. Compared to the other floors, the upper floors receive much better lighting. Within the upper floors, you'll find features like storage rooms, lamp rooms, ablution rooms, and hearths. In terms of the evaluation based on the upper floors of houses, plan types can be categorized as follows: 1. With central bay, with inner bay, with outer (corner) bay; 2. Without bay (Plan Typology). Sources also categorize Tokat houses into three plan types: houses with a central bay, houses with rooms on three sides and an outer bay, and houses with outer and corner bays [5].

Figure 2. *Traditional Tokat Houses 1 (Author's Archive)*

In Traditional Tokat Houses, the main focus has been on the front façade, and the projecting façade has become the defining element (Figure 3). In the arrangement of house facades, more emphasis has been given to the front façade. The facade types of houses are divided into: 1. Single Projection, 2. Double Projection, 3. Projection Along the Width of the Facade [6]. The typology of facades reveals the layout of the house plan. The most commonly used facade types based on their prevalence are the two corner-projection type with projections on both corners, the single and corner-projection type, the flat type with floor projections, and the angled projection type. Additionally, there are a few less common applications such as adjacent double-façade projection, single-façade projection in the middle, polygonal projection, and circular segmented projection [5]. The predominant material used in almost all Tokat Houses facades is plaster. The entrance doors of most houses consist of two wings. Garden, vineyard, and courtyard doors are crowned with wooden or adobe lintels, constructed to a height and width suitable for pack animals to enter. The door wings are made of pine timber and are fastened with wooden strips from the back. Crosswise or straight iron bars inserted between the strips are secured with nails, and a series of accessories made by blacksmiths are mounted on the door according to certain rules. Interior doors are simple and single-winged, made of mirror and frame [7]. There are two types of roof usage in houses. A pitched roof is generally preferred in houses with adjacent arrangements, while a gable roof is used in houses positioned separately within the garden.

***Figure 3**. Traditional Tokat Houses 2 (Author's Archive)*

The "Hımış" technique has been used in the construction of almost all traditional Tokat houses. This technique involves filling the gaps between wooden frames with adobe bricks [8]. Based on a shallow stone foundation, this technique primarily utilizes wooden frames that are filled with adobe bricks. After the wooden frames are assembled and adobe filling is applied, the interior surfaces are covered with straw-clay plaster, followed by a layer of plaster, while the exterior surfaces are finished with lime plaster mixed with chaff [5].

3. RESTORATION PROJECT OF A TRADITIONAL TOKAT HOUSE

The subject of the study is a wooden house located on Behzad Boulevard, Mahmutpaşa Neighborhood, Tokat Province (Figure 4). The drawings of the house were completed in 2012, and in 2013, it was demolished, and apartment blocks were built in its place (Figure 5). The structure is situated within a designated conservation area. Being in an area where the traditional house cluster is concentrated, the building has many unique features that reflect the characteristics of its period. Considering both the studied structure and the overall street and settlement, there are no significant structural issues, but there is a need for repair and maintenance.

***Figure 4.** Images of the House in 2012 (Author's Archive)*

***Figure 5.** Images of the House in 2023 (Author's Archive)*

The current usage of the subject structure remains consistent with its original purpose. Within the house being used as a residence, several unsuitable additions are present. Additionally, many architectural elements and the general construction remain in an original and stable condition. Access has been gained to all areas of the building, necessary measurements have been taken, photographs have been captured, and all traces that could shed light on original profiles and restitution have been identified. Accordingly, survey, restitution, and restoration project works for the building have been conducted. Information obtained from the homeowner and period analysis have guided the creation of the restitution project drawings. During the restitution project phase, information about the overall construction of the building has been readily identified due to the damages on the facade. Within the scope of the study, it is anticipated that the building's function as a residential property owned by the homeowner will be continued, and in line with the principles of conservation, maintenance and substantial repair will be carried out without demolition, thereby preserving its current state.

The house is constructed using the traditional "hımış" technique commonly found in traditional houses. Although the exact construction date of the house is not known, a comparative study of Tokat's traditional houses suggests that it was likely built in the early 20th century. The structure consists of two floors, including a ground floor and a first floor. There is also an intermediate floor in the two-story house. Due to damages on the front and rear facades, the wooden construction is generally exposed. In this house, the spaces between wooden frameworks were filled with adobe bricks using the "hımış" technique. The walls are coated with a mixture of mud and straw. On the front facade, there is a projecting bay window ("gönye çıkma") which is a commonly used type in Tokat to create a more symmetrical space in the first-floor living area. Adjacent to the house on both sides are a wooden house and a reinforced concrete apartment building. The roof is of the "beşik" type, resembling a cradle. The windows mostly retain their original characteristics. Both the rear and front facades have windows with railings.

3.1. SURVEY PROJECT

3.1.1. Plans of the House

The house features two rooms, Z01 and Z02, on the ground floor, accessible from the stone-paved area (Figure 6). Wooden beams are visible on the ceiling of the stone-paved section. Both Z01 and Z02 rooms have wooden paneling on their ceilings. There is a corridor connecting the stone-paved area to the garden, adjacent to the Z02 room. The garden door is in a deteriorated state. Additionally, a non-original bathroom and toilet have been added to the stone-paved area (Figure 7). The ceiling height of the bathroom and toilet is half that of the stone-paved area and Z01-Z02 rooms (Figure 8). These additions are constructed using reinforced concrete. The original entrance door and the windows in the stone-paved area are authentic and in harmony with the overall architectural style of the building. To access the stone-paved area, Z01, and Z02 rooms on the ground floor, one descends two steps from the entrance door. There is also a coal storage room on the ground floor.

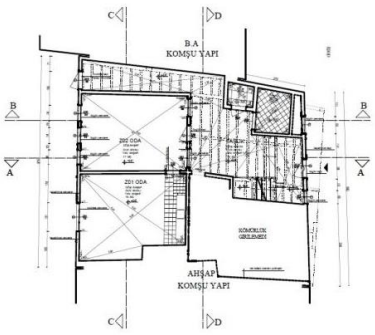

Figure 6. *Ground Floor Survey Plan Drawing (Author's Drawing)*

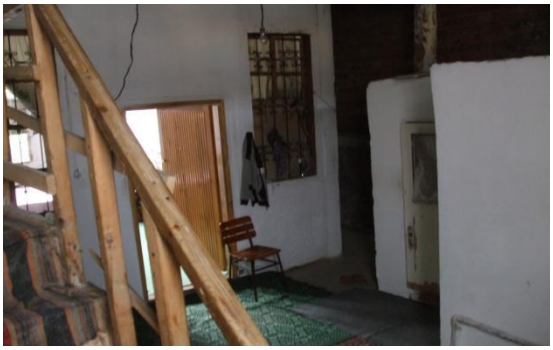

Figure 7. *Ground Floor Stone-Paved Area (Author's Archive)*

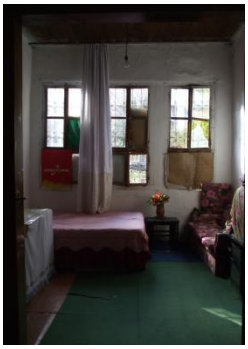

Figure 8. *Ground Floor Room ZO2 (Author's Archive)*

There is a room on the mezzanine level (Figure 9). Access to the room on the mezzanine level, often used for storing provisions, is provided via a wooden staircase from the stone-paved area (Figure 10). The flooring is made of concrete, and the wooden construction of the house can be seen on the ceiling. The room covers an area of 11 square meters and has no door. It has two windows. The windowpanes are missing, and some areas are covered with linoleum. The windows are original and share similarities with the windows in many other rooms of the house. The walls of the room are damaged (Figure 11). Paint on the walls has partly disappeared, revealing wooden posts beneath.

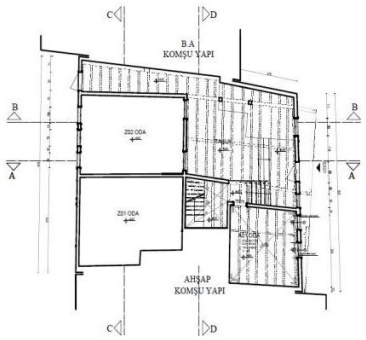

Figure 9. *Mezzanine Floor Survey Plan Drawing (Author's Drawing)*

Figure 10. *Mezzanine Floor Room A01 Entrance (Author's Archive)*

Figure 11. *Mezzanine Floor Room A01(Author's Archive)*

Access to the first floor is provided through a wooden staircase from the mezzanine level (Figure 12). There is a wooden door leading from the staircase to the living area (Figure 13). The first floor features a room configuration centered around the living area. The windows of the living area face the front facade. On this floor, there are three rooms: Room 101, Room 102, and Room 103. The living area includes a wooden bench and storage area (Figure 14). Room 101 and Room 102 face the rear facade. Room 101 also has a small kitchen, and it has been observed that the chimney passes through this room. The doors and windows of the room are original. The ceiling and flooring are made of wood. Room 102 has a kitchen counter. It is generally the most damaged room compared to the first floor. Plywood on the ceiling has fallen in some places. The door and window of this room are not original. Room 103 faces the front facade. Its door and windows are original. The flooring and ceiling are made of wood. There is a tiled area in one corner of the room.

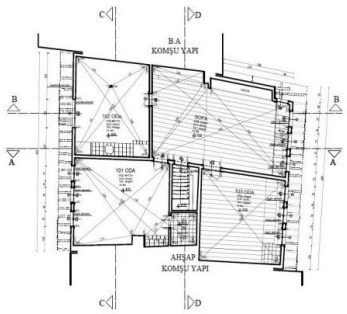

Figure 12. *1st Floor Plan Drawing (Author's Drawing)*

Figure 13. *1st Floor Living Area (Author's Archive)*

Figure 14. *1st Floor Living Area Storage and Bench (Author's Archive)*

3.1.2. Facade of the Building

On the Street Facade, the entrance door is situated 15 cm below the road level (Figure 15). The single-wing wooden door is undamaged and original. Two windows are visible on this facade from the mezzanine level. The window on the side of the bathroom is not visible from the mezzanine. There is a gap between the bathroom wall and the wall of this facade. The mezzanine room faces this facade. The facade features a projecting bay on the first floor. The bay is supported by wooden brackets. The windows of the living area (sofa) and the windows of room 103 face this facade. The windows on the first floor are in usable condition. Some cracks and signs of decay are visible on the facade, along with wooden brackets and beams exposed where the plaster has fallen off. The closed entrance door's one wing is still visible amidst the surrounding wooden elements.

On the Rear Garden Facade, the plaster has fallen off in certain areas, revealing the underlying wooden construction (Figure 16). In some places, mud mortar can be seen beneath the plaster. The window of

room ZO1 is not in its original state; it has been partially closed and modified. The rooms facing this facade are generally in a deteriorated state. Among them, room 102 on the first floor is the most deteriorated. The window of this room is not original. The garden is in a neglected state. The windows of room Z02 do not have glass; they are covered with cardboard.

Figure 15. *Front Facade Facing the Street (Author's Archive)*

Figure 16. *Rear Facade Facing the Street (Author's Archive)*

3.1.3. Damage Assessment: Environmental and Structural Conditions

The building is located within the traditional urban fabric of Tokat. In its surroundings, there are still well-preserved wooden houses. While the surrounding buildings appear to be well-maintained when assessed from their facades, structural issues are observed. Furthermore, the building, due to its location, is not under immediate threat of environmental damage and is considered an integral part of the traditional context. As a part of the designated heritage site, the building is generally less well-maintained compared to other structures within the heritage zone. It is situated on Behzad Boulevard and is somewhat surrounded by more recent developments. Across the street, there is a row of registered houses. The construction technique employed in the building follows the traditional method used for Tokat's traditional houses, involving the "hımış" technique. The spaces between wooden beams are filled with mudbrick. Vertical elements, called "dikmeler," are connected to a tree beam known as the "üst taban" at the top. To resist horizontal forces and prevent deformation, "payandalar" are placed between the lower and upper beams, and "boyunduruk" is inserted between the vertical elements. "Üst başlık" is placed above windows and doors, and "alt başlık" is placed below windows. The gaps between the wooden beams are woven with chestnut branches in a wicker-like manner, and the interior and exterior surfaces are coated with mud plaster mixed with straw. Overall, the condition of the building is suitable for habitation. Although it is in a deteriorated state, it is not beyond inhabitable conditions.

The ground floor, first floor, and mezzanine level exhibit varying degrees of damage. The windows of the rooms on the ground floor lack glass and are covered with cardboard or vinyl (Figure 17). The wall of the hallway leading from the ground floor to the garden is in a damaged state (Figure 18). Steps of the wooden staircase are missing (Figure 19). One wall of the mezzanine-level room is damaged. The ceiling of room 102 on the first floor is in a deteriorated state (Figure 20). Room 101 has issues related to the chimney. The living area (sofa) and room 103 are in good condition.

Figure 17. *Windows in the Stone Base (Author's Archive)*

Figure 18. *Wall Leading to the Garden (Author's Archive*)

Figure 19. *1st Floor Stairs (Author's Archive)*

Figure 20. *Ceiling of Room 102 (Author's Archive)*

3.2. RESTITUTION PROJECT

3.2.1. Floor Plan Restitution Drawings

The windows of room Z01 on the ground floor have been modified by closing them and installing smaller windows (as evident from the records of the garden facade) (Figure 21). The windows of this room have been restored to their original state based on the existing wooden traces on the facade and in comparison with the windows of room Z02. The non-original kitchen elements and partial mosaic tile flooring in this room have been removed, and the removed flooring has been replaced with wood. The non-original door of the room has been replaced according to original examples. The windows, door, flooring, and ceiling elements of room Z02 are original and have been retained. On the ground floor, there is a hall leading to the garden from the stone-paved area. The original garden door accessed from this hall has been stabilized and retained. Non-original additions, including a bathroom and toilet, which were added to the stone-paved area, have been removed. The entrance door of the single-winged residence has been modified based on the existing traces on the facade. The windows in the stone-paved area are original. The coal storage unit on the ground floor has been rearranged, dividing it into a bathroom and toilet unit. The door under the staircase leading to the coal storage has been closed.

The mezzanine floor contains a room (Figure 22), typically used for storing provisions, and this room is accessed from the stone-paved area via a wooden staircase. This unit has been reimagined as the kitchen

in the restitution project. The flooring has been changed to mosaic tiles, and kitchen elements have been added. An original door has been installed for the room without a door, based on original examples. The windows of the room are original.

The 1st floor is accessed from the mezzanine via a wooden staircase. This original staircase has been stabilized (Figure 23). An original wooden door leading from the staircase to the living room has been retained. Non-original additions along the staircase have been removed. The windows, doors (except for 102), sedir (raised platform with cushions), and yüklük (built-in storage cabinet) in the living room are original. The kitchen elements and non-original additions in room 101 have been removed. The room's original door and windows have been retained. The ceiling and flooring are of high-quality wood. Room 102 has a kitchen counter. The kitchen elements in the room have been removed. The ceiling of the room, which had suffered damage, has been reconstructed using original ceiling profiles. The room's non-original windows and door have been replaced with original window designs, based on the traces on the facade, and a new original-style door has been constructed. Room 103 faces the front facade and its original door, windows, ceiling, and flooring have been retained, while the non-original tiled niche has been removed.

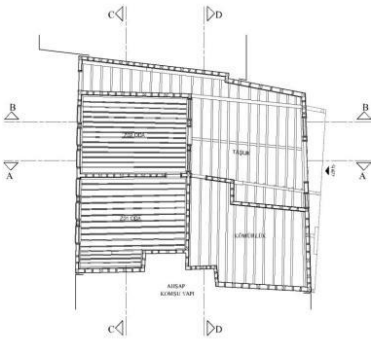

Figure 21. *Ground Floor Restitution Plan Drawing (Author's Drawing)*

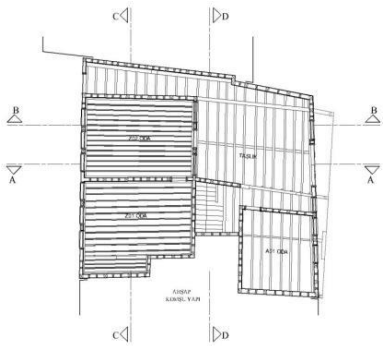

Figure 22. *Mezzanine Floor Restitution Plan Drawing (Author's Drawing)*

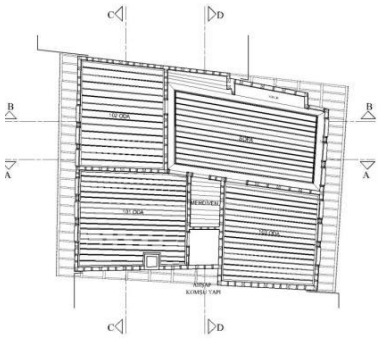

Figure 23. *1st Floor Restitution Plan Drawing (Author's Drawing)*

3.2.2. Facade Drawings of the Residence

3.2.2.1. Front (Street) Facade

On the Street Facade, apart from the single leaf of the entrance door, the general facade features have been preserved in their original state. The structural system of the residence can also be inferred from the deteriorations in the existing plaster on the facade (Figure 25). The entrance door is positioned approximately 15 cm below the road level. Due to the road elevation above the facade, in the restitution, the door has been restored to its original state. The single leaf wooden entrance door is not damaged and is original; however, based on the wooden traces on the facade, it is evident that it was originally a double leaf door. The missing leaf has been added to the door according to its original design (Figure 24). The original wooden window, which was covered by a poorly constructed bathroom addition on the facade, has been reopened. The metal railings of the facade windows are original and have been renewed.

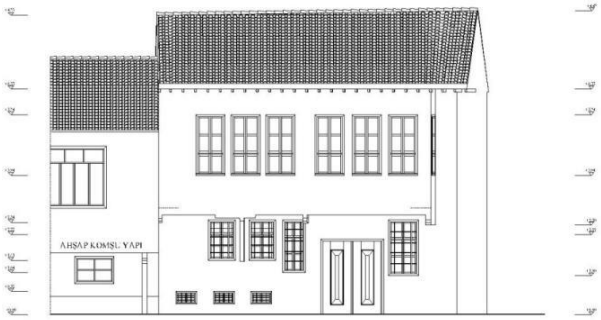

Figure 24. *Front Facade Restitution Drawing (Author's Drawing)*

Figure 25. *Front Facade Visual (Author's Archive)*

3.2.2.2. Rear (Garden) Facade

On the Rear Garden Facade, the plaster has partially fallen off in some areas, revealing the underlying wooden construction (Figure 27). In certain places, mud mortar can be seen beneath the removed plaster. The window of Room Z01 on the rear facade is not original; a portion of it has been closed and altered to an older state (as indicated by the wooden traces) and has been changed according to the original design (Figure 26). The window of Room 102 on the first floor is also not original and has been altered compared to the other original windows on the facade. The concrete mass rising from the ground level on the facade has been removed.

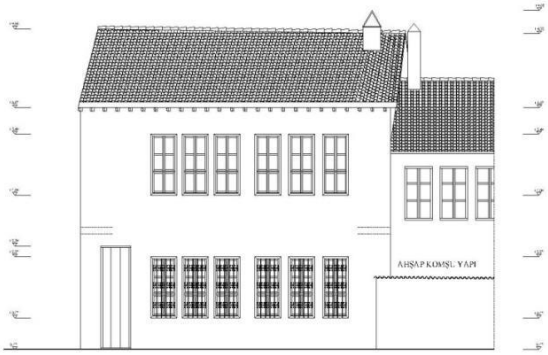

Figure 26. *Rear Facade Restutition Drawing (Author's Drawing)*

Figure 27. *Rear Facade Visual (Author's Archive)*

3.3. Restoration Project

3.3.1. Plan Drawings

The windows of Room Z01 will be replaced with the original ones (Figure 28). Room Z01 will be stripped of non-quality kitchen elements, partial mosaic tile flooring, and recent additions. Skimming will be applied to all flooring coverings, and wooden coverings will be treated and polished. The entire electrical system will be placed beneath the plaster. The ceiling covering and wooden beams' damaged sections will be completed using original materials, while existing sections (treated and painted) will be preserved. The garden door will be stripped of recent additions and reinforced. Any added bathroom and toilet units in the stone part will be removed. The wall adjacent to the concrete building in the stone part will be plastered. There is a non-original bathroom and toilet unit added later in the stone part, which will be removed. All doors, except for the single-wing entrance door of the building, will be turned into double-wing doors to restore the original state. All doors will be stripped of worn-out paint and putty, and maintenance will be performed on door handles and lock systems. The coal room unit on the ground

floor will be reorganized to accommodate a bathroom and toilet unit. The door leading to the coal room accessed from under the staircase to the mezzanine floor will be closed (Figure 29).

Missing parts of flooring coverings will be completed while adhering to the original material. Walls will be repainted, and flooring maintenance will be carried out. Damaged areas of the original windows will be repaired, and the metal railings will be renewed. An outdoor seating arrangement will be created in the rear facade garden area. The room on the mezzanine floor will be repurposed as a kitchen unit, and the flooring will be replaced with mosaic tiles. Kitchen fixtures will be added. A door matching the original samples will be made for the room. The entire electrical system will be placed beneath the plaster. Walls will be painted, and damaged areas of the original windows will be repaired. Wooden beams will be treated and painted. The staircase leading to the mezzanine floor will be re-examined, and its steps will be reinforced, and railings will be renewed. Steps and handrails leading to the first floor will be reinforced (Figure 30).

Non-quality additions at the edge of the staircase will be removed. Windows, doors, seating area, and cupboard facing the living room will be inspected and repaired where necessary. Kitchen elements and non-quality additions in Room 101 will be removed. Maintenance will be performed on the room's doors and windows. The ceiling and flooring of Room 102 will be repaired after removing the kitchen elements. In the room with a damaged ceiling, the original ceiling profiles will be used to reconstruct the ceiling. For the room with non-original doors and windows, original windows will be created using the facade's cues. Room 103, which faces the front facade, will have its original door, windows, ceiling, and flooring inspected and repaired, and the non-quality tiled niche will be removed. Missing parts of flooring coverings will be completed while adhering to the original material. Walls will be repainted, and flooring maintenance will be carried out. All doors will be stripped of worn-out paint and putty, and maintenance will be performed on door handles and lock systems. Skimming will be applied to all flooring coverings, and wooden coverings will be treated and polished. The entire electrical system will be placed beneath the plaster. The ceiling covering and wooden beams' damaged sections will be completed using original materials, while existing sections (treated and painted) will be preserved.

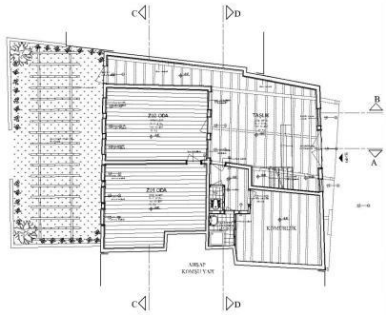

Figure 28. *Ground Floor Plan Drawing (Author's Drawing)*

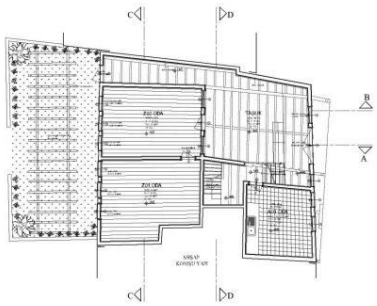

Figure 29. *Mezzanine Floor Plan Drawing (Author's Drawing)*

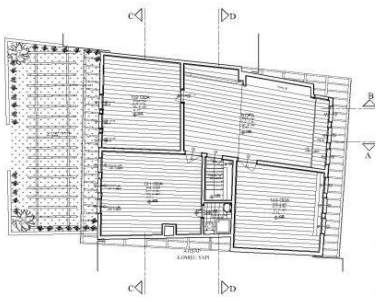

Figure 30. *1st Floor Plan Drawing (Author's Drawing)*

3.3.2. Facade Drawings

The facade facing the street has largely retained its originality (Figure 31). The facade will be restored in accordance with the facade restoration project. If deemed necessary, the walls of the entrance facade will be reinforced and the plaster will be redone with the original material after all existing plaster is removed. All metal elements on the facade (such as metal wrought iron, metal forgings) will be cleaned and treated with chemicals to prevent corrosion and oxidation. The original wooden components on the projection (dormer) will be carefully examined and repaired, preserving the original details of any deteriorated parts. Existing parts will be treated, treated with wood preservatives, and repainted. The entrance door, which is located 15 cm below the street level, will be restored to its original state due to the street elevation. The single-wing wooden door will be transformed into a double-wing door and restored to its original state. The original wooden window covered by the uncharacteristic bathroom

extension on the facade will be revealed. Metal railings on the facade windows will be replaced. For the garden facade, after removing all the existing plaster, if necessary, the walls will be reinforced and the plaster will be redone with the original material (Figure 32). All metal elements on the facade (such as metal wrought iron, metal forgings) will be cleaned and treated with chemicals to prevent corrosion and oxidation. The metal railings on the windows of the facade will be renewed. The window of ZO1 room, which is not original, will be replaced according to original examples. The window of room 102 on the 1st floor, which is not original, will be replaced according to the other original windows on the facade. The concrete mass rising from the ground level on the facade will be removed. Landscaping of the garden will be carried out, and seating areas will be created under a pergola. Roof tiles will be renewed, and the roof structure will be reconstructed. The chimney on the roof will be plastered, and a cap will be added to the chimney. A rain gutter will be added to the roof.

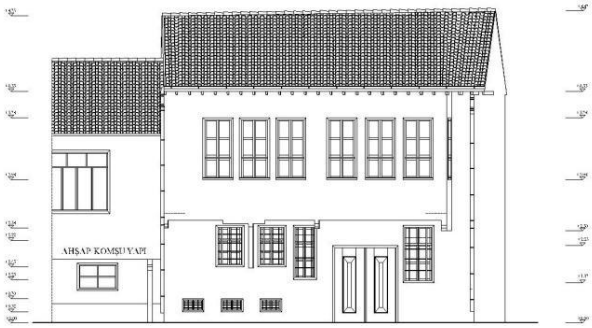

Figure 31. *Front (Street) Facade Restoration Project Drawing (Author's Drawing)*

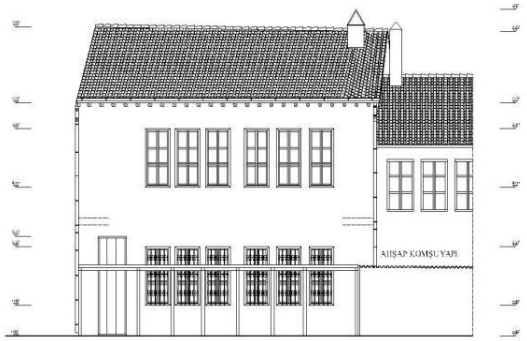

Figure 32. *Back (Garden) Facade Restoration Project Drawing (Author's Drawing)*

4. CONCLUSION

As a concrete example of tangible cultural heritage, a single house can serve as a reflection of culture and history, acting as a mirror to various aspects of people's cultural and historical processes across different periods. Given its role as a strong symbol that reflects the culture and history of a city, our houses are an integral part of our culture. Analyzing the structure of a house enables us to decipher the fundamental aspects of a person's lifestyle, the influences of the era's conditions, the culture, and identity. The city of Tokat stands as a testament to its cultural and historical richness by preserving its own identity without degradation. The presence of numerous tangible and intangible cultural heritages that have reached us from past ages signifies the success of this preservation. The monumental structures and examples of civil architecture that have survived in the city, representing different eras, form the core of the city's cultural essence. Preserving and passing on this core to future generations should be considered essential for the continuity of the city's existence. The traditional house located in Behzad Boulevard, Mahmutpaşa Neighborhood, which is the subject of this study, is recognized as an important asset that reflects Tokat city's tangible cultural heritage with its unique identity. As a result, a comprehensive field study was conducted, and the house was documented through measured drawings, restitution, and restoration projects. The decision to demolish the house and replace it with apartment blocks underscores the importance of technically documenting the loss of tangible cultural heritage. The inclusion of all these technical drawings and documentation in the study will contribute historically to the traditional house identity of Tokat city.

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