

## AN ASSESSMENT OF THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF THE ANCIENT CITY OF SILLYON

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### Öz

#### Sillyon Antik Kenti Kentsel Gelişimi Üzerine Bir Değerlendirme

Sillyon Antik Kenti, Antalya ili, Serik ilçesi, Yanköy Mahallesi Kocagözler mevkiinde yaklaşık 235 m yükseklikte kayalık bir tepe üzerinde yer alan Pamphylia Bölgesi'nin önemli antik kentlerinden biridir. Sillyon, çok katmanlı dokusu, tarihi ve kültürel değerleriyle öne çıkan bir antik kenttir. Tarih boyunca kültürlerin ve medeniyetlerin birleşme-çatışma noktasında bulunan Sillyon, birçok medeniyetin izlerini taşımaktadır. Hellenistik Dönem'de belirginleşen ve ardından Roma İmparatorluk Dönemi'yle kurumsallaşan kent planlamasının Geç Antik Çağ, Bizans ve daha sonra Türk-İslam Dönemi'nde de benzer standartlar ve kaygılarla devam ettiğini söylemek mümkündür. Öyle ki, Erken Demir Çağı'ndan Osmanlı Dönemi'ne kadar kesintisiz yerleşim görmüş çok katmanlı bir kent örneğini temsil eden Sillyon'da, geleneksel bir kent mantığının (*eigenlogik*) ortaya çıktığı anlaşılmaktadır. Bu kentsel mantık, en olumsuz koşullar altında bile deneyimlenebilecek görsel bir değere sahiptir ve kentin yüksek sınırlarını ile güçlü eğilimini gösterir. Bu *diakronik* kentsel gelişimin temel dinamiği arazinin morfolojik yapısıdır, ancak diğer yandan Sillyon kent plancıları, her dönemin politik ve sosyal yapısına göre kentin zorlu topografyasına uygun başarılı ve pragmatik bir kentsel kültür yaratmışlardır. Bu makalede, Sillyon'un kentsel mantığı (*eigenlogik*) kentleşme süreci boyunca *diakronik* bir perspektiften analiz edilmekte, kente özgü pratikler ve dinamikler gösterilmektedir. Ayrıca, Sillyon kent merkezindeki (*core*) yapılar yerleşim arkeolojisi perspektifinden bütünsel olarak araştırılmakta ve kentsel dokunun bütünsel bir görünümü (*panoptikon*) oluşturulmaktadır. Dahası Sillyon territoryumu, sahip olunan veya egemen olunan topraklar açısından analiz edilmekte ve ana kent ile çevresi arasındaki ilişkisel durum tartışılmaktadır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Pamphylia, Sillyon, Kentsel Gelişim, Kentsel Mantık, Antik Yapılar.

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### Abstract

The ancient city of Sillyon is located on a rocky hill with a height of about 235 m in the Kocagözüler locality of the Yanköy neighbourhood in the Serik district of the province Antalya and is one of the important ancient cities of the Pamphylian Region. The city is a prominent ancient city with its archaeological multi-layered texture and with its historical and cultural assets. Throughout history, at the point of unification-conflict of cultures and civilizations, Sillyon bears the traces of many civilizations. It should be said that city planning, which became evident in the Hellenistic Period and then became institutionalised with the Roman Imperial Period, continued with similar standards and concerns in Late Antiquity, Byzantine and later Turkish-Islamic Periods. Thus, a *traditional urban logic (eigenlogik)* emerged in Sillyon, which represents an example of a multi-layered city that had been inhabited continuously from the early Iron Age until the Ottoman Period. This urban logic has a visual value that can be experienced even under the most unfavourable conditions and shows the high limits and strong tendency of the city. The main dynamic of this *diachronic* urban development is the morphological structure of the terrain, but, on the other hand, the urban planners of Sillyon created a successful and pragmatic urbanistic culture suitable for the city's difficult topography, according to the political and social structure of each period. In this paper, the urban logic (*eigenlogik*) of Sillyon is analysed from a *diachronic* perspective through the process of urbanisation and the city-specific practices and dynamics are shown. In addition, the buildings in Sillyon's city centre (*core*) will be analysed holistically from the perspective of settlement archaeology and a complete view of the urban fabric (*panoptikon*) will be created. Furthermore, the territory of Sillyon is analysed in terms of the territory owned or dominated, and the relational situation between the main city and its surroundings are discussed here.

**Keywords:** Pamphylia, Sillyon, Urban Development, Urban Logic, Ancient Buildings.

### Introduction

The ancient city of Sillyon is located on a rocky hill with a height approximately 235 m above the sea level in the Kocagözüler locality of the Yanköy neighbourhood in the Serik district of the province Antalya. The city, neighbouring Aspendos to the east and Perge to the west, is approximately 13 km from the Mediterranean Sea. Sillyon, one of the most important cities of ancient Pamphylia, stands as the most fortified city of the Pamphylian Plain bounded by the Taurus Mountains (fig. 1). From the available data, it represents an example of a multi-layered city that was inhabited from the early Iron Age until the Ottoman Period and hosted an uninterrupted historical process. In its uninterrupted historical course, Sillyon was at the centre of many political and military events and has always been at the forefront of Pamphylia Region due to its well-sheltered and commanding location.

As it is today, each city has basic features distinguishing it from other cities in antiquity. It is possible to follow these differences between cities in main areas such as urbanisation, artistic activities, social, economic, political, and military structures. This situation (*eigenlogik*) conceptualised by M. Löw is referred to as urban logic. Urban logic emphasises both the specific development of a city and the resulting creative structuring power<sup>1</sup>. In other words, the city as a form of

<sup>1</sup> Löw 2008, 42-43.

settlement manifests itself as a reflection of social values, political structures and economic outcomes. When urban development is considered, fundamental issues such as topography, landforms, climate, panorama and water resources come into play. The process is also shaped by a number of public approaches and the creativity of urban planners. In this case, it would be appropriate to define the urbanisation adventure of each ancient city as *synchronic* and *diachronic*, from the very beginning to the period of abandonment.

Sillyon, which is as old as Pamphylia, not only developed as a unique city dependent on the land from the very beginning until the period of its abandonment, but also exhibited an example of a proud *polis* (πόλις) by both benefiting from the fertility of the Pamphylian Plain and engaging in commercial activities in the Eastern Mediterranean due to its large territory<sup>2</sup>. To be more precise, Sillyon provides a model in which a unipolar core of a well-fortified settlement gradually expanded to control a large territory and consolidated its sovereignty from the Hellenistic into the Turkish-Islamic periods by developing its rural power. In this article, the urban logic (*eigenlogik*) of Sillyon is analysed in a *diachronic* perspective through the process of urbanisation and the city-specific practices and dynamics are shown. In addition, the buildings in Sillyon's city centre (*core*) are analysed holistically from the perspective of settlement archaeology and a complete view of the urban fabric (*panopticon*) will be created. Furthermore, the territory of Sillyon is mentioned in terms of the territory it owned or dominated, and the relational situation between the main city and its surroundings is dealt with. Thus, a comprehensive overview of the urban development and the monuments of the city will be presented from the time of its foundation to the period of its abandonment. In other words, this study will analyse Sillyon itself and not exclusively what there is in Sillyon. It has been thought that the urban logic (*eigenlogik*) of Sillyon will be a case study for small city models located inland, away from the coastline, and will therefore provide a new perspective for urban studies.

### The City's Territory

In a story related by Vitruvius, the architect Deinocrates describes his first encounter with Alexander the Great. According to the story, *he presented to the king his design for a city on Mount Athos, sculpted in the shape of a man, his left hand embracing a city with wide walls and there was a bowl on his right collecting mountain streams. After puzzling the architect with a question about the productivity of the surrounding countryside, Alexander advised him that no city could flourish without sufficient arable land to sustain its population*<sup>3</sup>. It is clear from this passage by Vitruvius that in antiquity arable land was crucial for a major city. To the extent that main cities such as Sillyon are worthy through their surroundings. The power of a city is measured by the fertile lands where it dominated and it benefited from, rich natural resources and the settlements that depend on these lands<sup>4</sup>. Moreover, in order to explain the relationship between the rural and the urban is to find an answer to the question of where the rural starts and up to where it spreads. The

2 Taşkıran 2020, 3-4; Taşkıran 2021b, 3-9.

3 Vitruv. *De Arch.* II.4.

4 Çevik 2010, 181.

extent of rural sprawl in various regions has been evaluated according to the periods<sup>5</sup>. In this context, it has been observed that the territory of Sillyon contains large and small urban (*polichnion*) and rural settlements (*kome/κώμη*) where the components of the city (*chora*) come together at different levels, changing and transforming over time, and whose context- and process-dependent unfolding can be traced from a chronological perspective. Recent studies in Sillyon and its surroundings prove that, in addition to its arable wetlands, the city's *chora* was a rich agricultural area with a high volume of commodities, as it was located on both east-west routes and at the crossroads of the trade route to the Mediterranean via Pisidia<sup>6</sup>.

Sillyon's territory cannot be precisely defined at present. Starting from the foothills of the Taurus Mountains to the north, the city's territory can be bounded by the Kestros (*Aksu*) River to the west and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. Thus, the city and its territory offer a model that is both hilly and flat and yet connected to the sea, and fertile, allowing us to think of different settlements<sup>7</sup>. It is clear that geographical conditions were influential in shaping the expansion of countryside and that the geological structure of the region played a vital role in the formation of the countryside. When the rural settlements in the Sillyon's territory are analysed, it is possible to reach this conclusion. In the territory starting from the foothills of the Taurus Mountains and continuing to the coastal area, large and small, sometimes rocky small hills and sometimes cultivable elevations are visible. Due to the fact that the fertile lands around these areas were suitable for agriculture, each hill became a production centre. When the large and small rivers in the region and favourable climatic conditions are added to this, it was inevitable that the territory of Sillyon resulted in a fertile *chora*. Although the flow rates of these streams, which originate at the foothills of the Taurus Mountains and flow into the Mediterranean Sea within the borders of modern Kadriye and Belek neighbourhoods, vary according to the periodic rainfall, it is evident that they formed a unique fertile basin<sup>8</sup>. It can also be said that the settlements connected to Sillyon were generally positioned according to these water resources. The most important example of this is a coastal settlement called *Kynosarion* (*Κυννοσάριον*), which belonged to the city's *chora* and was reached by the Sillyon Stream (Koducak) flowing just west of Sillyon<sup>9</sup>. It has been thought that the settlement of *Kynosarion* located at Taşlı Burun Mevkii within the borders of Belek neighbourhood might also have been the *anchorage area* for Sillyon (fig. 1).

When we look at the settlement patterns in Sillyon's *chora*, it has been observed that the identified examples are small (mostly *kome*)<sup>10</sup>. The *komai*, located in the hinterland of the *poleis*, were agricultural settlements and the most essential

5 Aydınoglu – Özdemir 2020, 109.

6 For a general assessment, see Taşkıran 2017, 13-16; Küpper 1997, 97-116.

7 Küpper 1995, 66-69; Taşkıran 2021b, 23; Taşkıran – Kılıç 2023, 230-231.

8 Taşkıran – Bacanlı 2022, 147, fig. 2.

9 Hellenkemper – Hild 2004, 676; Taşkıran 2020, 2; Taşkıran – Kılıç 2023, 238, fig. 14.

10 The original names of these small settlements in the territory of Sillyon have not been identified, as is likewise the case with most of the small settlements in the rural areas of central Lycia (İşler 2010, 237) and in Pednelissian territory (Vandeput – Köse 2008, 33; Vandeput 2009, 6-12 ff.).

economic units feeding the ancient cities<sup>11</sup>. This production characteristic made them an integral part of the cities to which they were attached. As a matter of fact, even cities with a strong production needed various agricultural products from their *komai*<sup>12</sup>. Considering this situation, it would not be wrong to speak of an example of rural texture based on agricultural organisation, rather than a settlement model managed by urban elites or a large family (*decuriones / curiales* or *bouleutai / politeuomenoi*). Certainly, defence concerns should not be ignored at this point since it has been determined that all of the mentioned areas are in a position to see each other as well as the main city, Sillyon. As a result, this situation shows that Sillyon, an important city of Pamphylia at the forefront with its defence, also had a distinctive hinterland and an intense organic connection between the main city and its hinterland.

As Sillyon transformed to a city in the Hellenistic Period, dynamism is noted in its territory; however, the territorial limits mentioned above were attained during and after the Roman Imperial Period. It can be said that Sillyon, whose territory was large and consisted of fertile lands, had a potential comparable to Termessos and Perge with high volume of commodities. As to the extent that even Attaleia, which emerged on the stage of history as a powerful city in the Hellenistic Period and had the power of the Pergamene Kingdom behind it, could not expand its territory as such<sup>13</sup>. As a result of the political stability and the end of internal disturbances in the Roman Imperial Period, settlements began to be located on easily accessible and expandable lands, in areas suitable for agriculture, and near roads<sup>14</sup>. It is understood that Sillyon was the most affected city in Pamphylia by this economic and political process. The fact that the settlements in the territory of the city mostly belonged to the Roman Imperial Period and thereafter lends support to this view<sup>15</sup>. Sillyon's wide territorial boundaries in a region where the balance of power was strict is another point to be considered. Moreover, that the largest stadium of the region was built in Sillyon can only be explained by the settlement density and population potential of its *chora*<sup>16</sup>.

11 Şahin 2007, 116. As understood from the works of Theodoret and Libanius, the villages comprising free landowners (*kome-chorion*) were the predominant part of the settlement pattern in the east. See Theodoret Phil. Hist. 17.3, Libanius Or. 47.4, 11. The village economy was based on agriculture. Industrial production was dominated by wine and olive oil, which were also agricultural products. Although these products were mostly prepared in domestic workshops, some villages, such as Kepez, owned presses that produced olive oil on a large scale. In addition, other products such as pottery and fabrics must have been produced in the villages to supply the local demand. See Ceylan 2009, 48.

12 Schuler 1998, 1 ff; Şahin 2007, 116.

13 Laufer 2021, 30.

14 Aydınoglu – Özdemir 2020, 108-109. On the use of rural areas during and after the Roman Imperial Period, see also Kaplan 2011, 114; Gregory 1997, 48; Hansen 2004, 70-73; Aydınoglu 2015, 168-169; Özdelek – Tıbıkoğlu 2017, 267.

15 Taşkiran – Kılıç 2023, 240-141; Taşkiran 2020, 2; Atalay et al. 2020, 168-169; Taşkiran 2021b, 23-24.

16 The Sillyon Stadion has a total length of 254 m and a width of 48 m. For this, see Taşkiran 2021b, 64.

### A General Outlook

When a city is planned or expansion is foreseen, a number of conditions such as the supply, sources and types of building materials, appropriate street and land forms, natural flat areas for squares, especially the construction trends of the period, and legal regulations regarding city planning and construction need to be taken into consideration<sup>17</sup>. However, in settlements like Sillyon, which did not have sufficient flat terrain, urbanisation was determined by the terrain conditions and city planning was shaped accordingly in each period. Sillyon, located on a high hill in the Pamphylian Plain, stands out as one of the settlements dependent on the terrain in this context. The city was confined to a very narrow and rocky area. The top of the natural rocky hill called the Acropolis, as well as the southwest, west and northwest slopes constituting the Lower City are suitable for settlement. The other parts are rugged and difficult of access, hence unsuitable for settlement units. In this way, it can be stated that Sillyon has two main development areas: the Acropolis and the Lower City. All public and civil buildings and the fortification system that make up the city plan were naturally in all periods clustered here. The Lower City was protected by a city wall extending from southwest to north approximately 1000 m long. On the other hand, only the western side of the Acropolis, which covers an area of ca. 25.3 ha, was surrounded by a city wall; the other sides were left to natural defence due to the steep cliffs. Except for the western part, the other sides have a morphological structure that gradually rises and becomes steeper after a certain point and even turns into perpendicular cliffs; therefore, it is impossible to reach the hilltop, i.e. acropolis, even today except from the western part. In order to reach the Acropolis from the west, it is necessary to follow predetermined routes. The terrain ensures that the roads providing access to the hilltop continue in curves, depending on the topography. Therefore, although it is not a high hilly area (approx. 235 m a.s.l.), reaching the Acropolis is more difficult and complicated than in many other hilltop settlements due to the topographical structure of the land on which it is located (fig. 2).

The fact that the hilly area on which the city was built is composed of a large rock mass increased the strength of the buildings and ensured that the body of the walls of many buildings have survived to the present day. All the buildings in the settlement were constructed of local limestone and the most suitable rocky unit in the proximity was utilised as a quarry. In all historical periods, the architectural blocks prepared in these quarries in accordance with the construction trends of the day enabled the buildings to be constructed economically in a short time. In general terms, the city located on harsh topography turned this into an advantage; it adapted its buildings to the terrain and its construction could be completed easily and more economically in all periods.

Due to its characteristic terrain, the city planning of ancient Sillyon also exhibits a unique implementation<sup>18</sup>. It is evident that a different settlement model was created in the region due to the fact that a terrain-dependent urban model had to be preferred. As to the extent, a very compact city was successfully built on narrow and rugged terrain. No other city in the region is so complex and com-

<sup>17</sup> Çevik et al. 2010, 32.

<sup>18</sup> Taşkiran 2021a, 314 ff.



pact. Every square metre of the city was carefully utilized. The main determinants or dynamics of the settlement pattern in both the acropolis and the lower city as well as the necropolis can be attributed to the topography. In other words, the natural shapes of the terrain were retained and the naturally level areas were utilised as much as possible. Moreover, it must have been difficult to settle on such an important topography. There are differences between a city model built on a plain, on the coast or at the foot of a hill, and a settlement like Sillyon, which can only be accessed via well-meditated city planning. In cities like Sillyon, instead of city planning or pattern, which were available in existing templates and applied in almost the same scheme, unique applications where topography allowed and landforms were determinative were followed.

The geological structure of the city has also directly affected the urban development. Sillyon was founded on a permeable and highly fractured limestone unit. As a result of the advanced deterioration and erosion of the carbonated sandstone intermediate levels in the base levels of the limestone unit due to the effect of groundwater and the decrease in its durability to carry the cover load on it, cleavage cracks developed in the suspended limestone unit leading to overturning and falling of limestones on the slopes<sup>19</sup>. It has been understood that these cleavages were also frequent in Antiquity. However, this unique situation was turned into an advantage by the city planners and contributed to the urban logic of Sillyon. For instance, during the Hellenistic and Roman Imperial Periods, large rock masses that broke off from the western slope were levelled and transformed into monumental or group burial sites.

In Sillyon's traditional urbanism in all periods, it was determined that water structures were also used within the framework of the ongoing urban tradition; the morphological structure of the land was followed on the basis of the water system and a functional system was preferred over a regular planning. In addition to this, a practice that is not common in other cities, is attested in Sillyon. Namely, a large part of the city's water demand was supplied by springs emerging at a certain elevation<sup>20</sup>. On the acropolis where the city was established, the water supply was based entirely on the collection and storage of water in cisterns. As a matter of fact, the cistern uncovered in the Citadel Masjid in 2020 was the single structure that met the water needs of the masjid and it provided the most relevant data supporting our thoughts<sup>21</sup>. No water source was found during *intensive* surveys conducted in this part. In essence, the water obtained by collecting rainwater was used in civil and public buildings. However, there is a different situation on the western and southern slopes where the city developed during and after the Hellenistic Period and where important public buildings were built. Unlike the acropolis, there are no cisterns or water reservoirs in these areas, but there are water sources in the 110-120 m elevation range<sup>22</sup>. In parallel with the

19 Kumsar et al. 2019, 898-899, fig. 11; Kumsar 2020, 293-294.

20 Taşkiran – Bacanlı 2022, 148-149.

21 Taşkiran – Palalı 2021, 42-44, fig. 21.

22 For these studies, see Kumsar et al. 2019, 898-899, fig. 11; Kumsar 2020, 293-294. The urban area of Sillyon, which is located on a hilly area on Gebiz limestone, has many cleavages, fractures and cavities within the limestone unit. Therefore, it can hold precipitation and surface water and contains groundwater (Taşkiran 2021a, 327-328). The Karpuzçay Formation, which lies at the

urbanisation of Sillyon, these water sources were utilised for the urban plan and they supplied water to many buildings. In the western part of the city, on the water source points in the lower city, a Roman Bath<sup>23</sup> was built in the Roman Imperial Period and Nymphaion A<sup>24</sup> was built in Late Antiquity and another fountain was built in the Ottoman Period<sup>25</sup>. In the Byzantine Period, the water source here was stored in a reservoir and then transferred to the plains for cultivation via the aqueduct<sup>26</sup>. Finally, in the Turkish Republican Period, it was conveyed to the Kocagözler Fountain built in the village. Apart from construction activities related to the spring on the southwestern slope, the water springs at the same elevation in the southern and northern sections were utilised in some way as well. For example, the Building with Dromos, thought to be a cult building and located on the southern slope of the city, was built over a water source<sup>27</sup>. Today, the springs used by the local people to water their animals are located in the north of the city. As can be seen, the geological structure of the city determined the water system and in most places the city planning was directed accordingly (fig. 3, 4).

### Chronological View of Urban Development

It is possible to follow the historical chronology in terms of structures in many areas of Sillyon, which has been an important centre since the second millennium B.C. in parallel with the political history of Pamphylia where different civilisations settled. For this reason, in order to address the subject in a historical perspective (*longue durée*), the urban development (*urban logic*) of Sillyon is described chronologically, i.e. diachronically, depending on the political developments of the periods. It is difficult to assess the economic conditions and dynamics of a *polis* without sufficient concrete clues. In fact, a common urbanistic tradition can usually be identified on the basis of the social and economic situation of the settlements and the evaluation of the available archaeological remains<sup>28</sup>. For this reason, the chronological urban development of the city will be described using archaeological materials such as: epigraphy, numismatics and ceramic finds, as well as the ancient buildings and architectural traces.

### From the Beginning to the Hellenistic Period

Present research shows Sillyon was continuously inhabited from the beginning of the Iron Age well into the Turkish-Islamic Period<sup>29</sup>. In fact, it is now accepted that the origin of the city dates back to the Hittites, that the name Sillyon

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base of the limestone unit, is generally impermeable and occasionally little permeable because it consists of thin-medium-thick layered, grey, dirty yellow, green, beige, cream coloured sandstones, claystones and siltstones. Therefore, the groundwater stored in the Gebiz limestone unit overlying the Karpuzçay formation is discharged at different points of the slope as a spring source from the intersection of these two units at the base (Kumsar 2020, 294-299).

23 Taşkiran 2021a, 318-321.

24 See Işık 2020, 131-145.

25 Taşkiran 2021b, 85, fig. 76.

26 Taşkiran 2021b, 73, fig. 63.

27 Taşkiran – Bilgin 2019, 355-356.

28 Korkut – Uygun 2017, 238-239.

29 Taşkiran 2020, 1-31.



derives from Šalluša recorded in Hittite texts, and that it is not a Greek name<sup>30</sup>. However, the earliest archaeological data from the city are decorated geometric ceramics found during surveys dating from the eighth and seventh centuries B.C.<sup>31</sup>. These ceramics are the earliest finds from the city to date and allow us to start the settlement history, based on archaeological data, from the Geometric Period. By the Archaic and Classical periods, it is possible to find traces of various remains other than potsherds and other small finds in Sillyon. House IV, which is located to the northwest of the Acropolis, is attested to have had three phases, and has been extremely important regarding the settlement history of Sillyon. According to its architectural development, its first phase was dated to the early fifth century B.C., then to the late fourth century B.C. and finally to the Early Hellenistic Period<sup>32</sup>. The Archaic Period oil lamp<sup>33</sup> attributed to the sixth century B.C., black slipped potsherds from the fifth and fourth centuries B.C. and a red figure crater fragment<sup>34</sup> are among the main finds related to this phase of the city.

It can be said that from the fifth century B.C. onwards, both the traces of settlement in the city and some practices emerged across the city. The curtain wall<sup>35</sup> on the west edge of the Acropolis, the terrace wall with Classical Period characteristics<sup>36</sup> on the southwest of the Lower City, and some tombs with Persian characteristics<sup>37</sup> in the necropolis are among the examples identified for the time being. Although the quality and locations of these remains do not yield a clear chronological view, they indicate that defence concerns were prioritised. In addition, local and imported pottery examples also support the existence of a settlement<sup>38</sup>. Moreover, the appearance of civic coins<sup>39</sup> minted in Pamphylian dialect towards the end of the period, at the beginning of the fourth century B.C., prove the existence of a settlement whose boundaries cannot be defined for the time being. It would not be wrong to attribute the increase in the traces of settlement from this period onwards and the paving the way for it to becoming a *polis* at the beginning of the Hellenistic Period to the political events of the period. In fact, Pamphylia became the epicentre of the Persian navy and garrison troops in the fifth and fourth centuries B.C. Both ancient texts and archaeological data indicate that the navy was based in the sheltered mouth of the Eurymedon River<sup>40</sup>. However, as stated by many researchers<sup>41</sup>, it is clear that the Persian garrison was positioned at Sillyon. In fact, due to its well-sheltered and commanding location,

30 Forlanini 1999, 237; Tekoğlu 2000, 49. For the recent researches, see Taşkıran 2020, 3-5; Taşkıran 2021b, 3-4.

31 Bilgin et al. 2020, 34-38, dwg. 1-2.

32 Küpper 1996, 262-63; Küpper 1997, 453, fig. 9A.

33 Küpper 1996, 265; Küpper 1997, 453.

34 Bilgin et al. 2020, 36-38, dwg. 3; Özer – Taşkıran 2010, 283, fig. 10, dwg. 2.

35 According to the latest researches, it is thought to contain features from an earlier period. For this wall, see Taşkıran 2017, 96-98.

36 Taşkıran 2021b, 54, fig. 44.

37 Özer 2017, 615-620.

38 Bilgin et al. 2020, 39-40, cat. 22, 23 ve 24, dwg. 4, 22-24.

39 Head 1911, 705. For assessment, see Brandt – Kolb 2005, 15.

40 Th. 100. 1; D.S. XI. 60.5-61.7; Plu. *Kim.* XII. 4; XIII. 4; Arslan 2008, 55. For the Aspendian harbour, see Köse 2010, 356-357, fig. 7.

41 Bosch 1957, 19; Brandt 1992, 29; Arslan 2008, 51; Grainger 2009, 73; Taşkıran 2020, 8-9.

natural defenses, distance from the coastline and easily defended, it can be said that it was a suitable area for the *phrouria* (acra garrison) in the Persian military system, located on the acropoleis of cities<sup>42</sup>.

### Hellenistic Period

Apart from political developments, Sillyon can be said to have transformed into a *polis* in the Hellenistic Period and completed the institutional organisation needed for this transformation. It is also understood that it minted its own coinage as a *polis* and a basic zoning policy that would contribute to urban development was implemented<sup>43</sup>. As a matter of fact, the inscriptions<sup>44</sup> dating from this period provide important data indicating that Sillyon had a prominent dynasty in the Hellenistic Period, that relatively democratic elections were held in the city and that there may have been an established culture of democracy<sup>45</sup>. The city mainly developed on the acropolis during the Hellenistic Period. In order to overcome the defence concerns of the settlement and to prevent access to the city in case of danger, a *Bastion* was constructed in the third century B.C., primarily to control the main street leading to the acropolis<sup>46</sup>. This massive structure, with strong walls and well-organised tactical features and which we do not find many examples from this period, challenges the city's enemies. Immediately afterwards, as at Perge and Side in the second century B.C., within the framework of a regional defence policy, a city wall that included the *Bastion*, was built surrounding the western slope of the city and reinforced by towers at certain intervals, making the city's defence impenetrable (fig. 5)<sup>47</sup>. The Hellenistic Necropolis of the city is located on the northwestern slope, just outside the city wall. Noteworthy in this area are the *chamosorion* and simple chamber tombs, which were mostly formed by levelling the surfaces of the rocks that over time, fell down<sup>48</sup>.

The main street leading to the Acropolis during this period starts from the Main City Gate<sup>49</sup> located on the southwestern slope of the city and built together with the Hellenistic City Wall, has a width of approximately 5 m, curves north-eastward and reaches the Acropolis<sup>50</sup>. This structure, which continued to be the main street of the city in all periods, divides into two branches at the northwest corner of the Acropolis making a junction and one branch leads to the residential

42 Taşkıran 2020, 8-9; Taşkıran 2021b, 4.

43 Taşkıran 2020, 13.

44 Bailie 1846, 230. For this inscription, see CIG III, 4342 C 2; Le Bas – Waddington 1870, no. 1377; Hirschfeld 1879, passages 726 -727; Ramsay – Sayce 1880, 242-259; Brixhe 1976, 168-169 ff.

45 For assessment, see Brixhe 1966, 655, figs. 1-4.

46 Taşkıran 2017, 156-160.

47 Taşkıran 2017, 278.

48 For general information on the Sillyon Necropolis, see Taşkıran 2021b, 54-56; fig. 45. For earlier studies, see Özer 2017, 611 ff. For other studies, see Küpper 1998, 484; Özer – Taşkıran 2010, 279-281; Palalı 2020, 217 ff.

49 For detailed information on this, see Özer – Taşkıran 2018.

50 Taşkıran 2017, 239-246, pl. XLIV, figs. 105-106. A by-road connecting to the main route between Perge-Side, which is understood to be a section of the *Via Sebaste* crossing the Pamphylian Plains, reaches the city from the south and connects to the Main City Gate, and from where the Main Street begins. For *Via Sebaste*, see Martini 2003, 27. For the connection between Sillyon and *Via Sebaste*, see Taşkıran 2017, 15-16.

area in the northern part and the other branch heads south to the area where the building groups forming the core of the Hellenistic city are located.

Hellenistic Sillyon, more precisely the Acropolis, where the Main Street appears as a natural border, can be divided into three zones. The first zone can be defined as the residential area in the northern part, which was also used in the Archaic Period where the first traces of settlement are attested in the city. The residential area, which is dependent on the terrain, often carved out of the rock and has a certain street system within itself, is bounded by the northern line branching from the Main Street. Secondly, the central and southwestern part of the Acropolis can be described as the area where public buildings are clustered. In this zone, at a central point of the Acropolis, there is a building called Hellenistic Building 1 (*andreion*)<sup>51</sup>, most of the body walls of which are intact, which was probably a *stoa*<sup>52</sup>, and a building called Hellenistic Building 2<sup>53</sup>, whose function will only be determined after excavations (fig. 6). Although the function of this building is unknown, the inscription carved on its lintel is in Pamphylian dialect proving that it was a public building<sup>54</sup>. Approximately 200 m west of these two buildings, on the southern slope of the Acropolis, two buildings, the Theatre and the Bouleuterion/Odeion<sup>55</sup>, which were still in use during the Roman Imperial Period, stand side by side. These two buildings, mostly destroyed after landslides, stand out as the most magnificent public buildings of the period. Especially as it is known from the inscriptions, the city council must have been one of the most fundamental elements of Hellenistic Sillyon.

Finally, it is understood that the southeastern part of the Acropolis was reserved as a sacred area housing temples and hosting various religious rituals. The buildings named Temple A (?) and Temple B were constructed in this area; and sacred spaces were connected to the temples, as is known from the Men Sanctuary at Pisidian Antiocheia<sup>56</sup>, may have been treasury or priest houses carved out of the rock<sup>57</sup>. A complex religious understanding is inferred from ceremonial ways and open-air cult areas between the buildings (fig. 7). As a result, it is obvious that in Hellenistic Period, urbanisation practice of Sillyon was distinctive. Accordingly, it is understood that there were common concerns in determining the location of the Theatre and Bouleuterion/Odeion in the Public Area and the Sanctuary. The abovementioned areas constitute the most advantageous point of Sillyon in respect to commanding the surrounding panorama. In other words while having a position dominating the Pamphylian Plain, they are easily visible from the plain. In this regard, it can be said that the planning undertaken aimed at giving a perspective view to the Sanctuary through both location and orientation. It is obvious that the city planners of Sillyon prioritised *skenographia*

51 Adak 2024, 59.

52 Taşkıran 2021b, 58, fig. 48.

53 For the studies on this structure, see İşler 2020, 149-150, figs. 4-5.

54 This inscription from the Hellenistic Period has been studied by many researchers. For the inscription, see Lanckoroński 2005, 17-173; Ramsay – Sayce 1880, 248-249 ff.

55 For these structures, see Taşkıran 2021b: 55-57, figs. 46-47.

56 For these structures, see Özhanlı 2022.

57 Taşkıran 2021b, 59-62, figs. 50-52; Taşkıran – Palalı 2022, 342-343.

while creating the Temple Terrace<sup>58</sup>. In addition to this, care was also given to the location of the sanctuaries in a visual relationship with buildings such as the Theatre and Agora<sup>59</sup>. The location of the Theatre, the Bouleuterion/Odeion and the Temple Terrace on the southern part of the Acropolis should be considered a product of similar ways of thinking. It is clear that the public buildings and the Sanctuary were connected to each other in a linear perspective in Sillyon. Thus, the city planners apparently wanted to create a visually pleasing urban landscape through *skenographia*<sup>60</sup>.

### Roman Imperial Period

As Yegül and Favro argue, the Hellenisation of Anatolia post-Alexander was part of a deliberate policy, often considered a success by social and political institutions and their physical and urban manifestations<sup>61</sup>. In essence, these transformations, evident at Sillyon, became a pioneering template for the development policies to be followed in the Roman Imperial Period. As can be observed in many places in Anatolia<sup>62</sup>, the city planning in Sillyon, which developed significantly in the Hellenistic Period, left an important legacy for the Imperial Period. It is visible, especially from the archaeological material, that a strong urban tradition began to emerge from the Early Imperial Period. In addition, the acceleration in construction after the *Pax Romana* led to the introduction of private identities, especially in the second century A.D.<sup>63</sup>. After the severe crisis of the classical city-state in the fourth century A.D., city gentry (*honoratiorenschicht*), who had gradually taken political power into their own hands, paid the expenses of their offices out of their own pockets to a certain extent as a price for holding power, and were also engaged in philanthropic activities<sup>64</sup>. Indeed, in Asia Minor, it seems to have been a vital agenda for aristocrats to take every opportunity to obtain the titles of *euergetes* (benefactor) or *ktistes* (founder) for themselves. It is evident that the city administration was in the hands of such elites, and that these elites devoted themselves to public affairs as *protoi* ("leading figures")<sup>65</sup>. With their good education and family wealth, they regularly took on the financially burdensome offices of the city<sup>66</sup>. Moreover, they offered substantial donations and support, and received honours in return<sup>67</sup>. One of the most important examples was Menodora of Silly-

58 According to Vitruvius, an architect should make three separate drawings describing the appearance of his proposed building. These are *ichnographia* (plan), *orthographia* (elevation) and *skenographia* (perspective). See Vitruv. De Arch. I. I. IV; I. II. II.

59 The Sanctuary of Athena at Priene is the most prominent example (Rumscheid – Koenigs 1998, 29 Abb. 21). Here, the Temple of Athena was placed in such a way as to give a perspective view from the Agora and the Theatre with a viewing angle of 18°. A similar composition was found in the Athena Sanctuary and Theatre of Pergamon, Aigai Northwest Sanctuary (Bohn 1889, 36 Abb. 36–40) and the Doric Sanctuary at Alexandria Troas (Schwertheim 2006, 11–17 Abb. 1).

60 It was the main task of urban planners/architects to provide the inhabitants with a visually, aesthetically and functionally habitable city. See Owens 2000, 4.

61 Yegül – Favro 2019, 598.

62 Perkins – Nevett 2000, 218 ff.

63 Winter 1996, 205 ff.

64 Alcock 2001, 323–350; Adak 2020, 47.

65 Gökalp-Özdil 2020, 232.

66 Quaß 1993, 270–350.

67 Schuler 2015, 252.

on. It should be noted that, due to the help of Menodora and her family during the Roman Imperial Period, Sillyon not only completed its urban development, but also gained a strong urban identity<sup>68</sup>.

Sillyon completed its urbanisation process with its architectural texture and public institutions in the second and third centuries A.D. The most relevant factor behind this process was the famous *euergetes* (benefactor) Menodora and her family. The phenomenon of *euergesia*<sup>69</sup>, which is known well from neighbouring Perge, constituted the most effective impetus for the architectural transformation of Sillyon. In Sillyon, as in Asia Minor in general<sup>70</sup>, many buildings that had existed since the Hellenistic Period were renovated during this period, and some of them were built within the framework of a new programme<sup>71</sup>. Apart from this, it is also noted that with the *Pax Romana*, societies competed with each other and the cities were enriched architecturally through the construction of many new buildings in order to beautify their cities<sup>72</sup>. As is explained below, it should be said that urbanization of Sillyon developed in the second and third centuries A.D. and many public and religious buildings were built in this period.

Sillyon developed in two main areas during this period: on the acropolis and in the lower city. In the Roman Imperial Period, the urban development of Sillyon continued on the Acropolis, i.e. on the Hellenistic Settlement, and the buildings here were repaired and continued to be used. It is understood that the Theatre and Bouleuterion/Odeion, having been built in the Hellenistic Period, remained in use with some additions. Especially the Roman Imperial Period masonry technique on the *analemna* wall of the Theatre clearly indicates these interventions. It is evident that Hellenistic Buildings 1 and 2 in the zone of public buildings on the acropolis continued to function to the same purpose. It is understood that the residential area was expanded to the north of the acropolis, new but similar houses were added there, and some of the houses were allocated as workshops. Especially the spindle whorls and Roman Imperial Period potsherds found in Dwelling 1 excavated in 2021 should be considered important indicators of this<sup>73</sup>. It is crucial that the temple terrace was expanded and especially Temple B was reconstructed as a single-fronted building with a podium. Yet, in the southeastern part of the acropolis and approximately 200 m northeast of the Temple Terrace, the building<sup>74</sup> thought to be a temple but whose identity details will be revealed after excavations, and the complex building<sup>75</sup>, which is located at a central point in the settlement and is the largest structure on the acropolis in terms of its ground area, stand out as newly constructed buildings on the acropolis during this period. In addition, the rectangular group of ruins in the Doric order where the Main Street of the city ends and the residential area begins is

68 Debord 1982, 73; Van Bremen 1994, 43; Adak 2020, 48-49; Gökalp-Özdil 2020, 232-338.

69 Özdizbay 2020, 83-84. Also Quaß 1993, *passim*; Cramme 2001, 15-66; Akdoğan Arca 2001, 140-55; Brandt – Kolb 2005, 105-8.

70 Quaß 1993, 210; Tüner-Önen 2008a, 176.

71 For assessment, see Taşkıran 2021a, 315-316.

72 For comments on the period, see Kolb 1984, 117; Nollé 1993, 297-317.

73 Taşkıran 2021b, 62-63, fig. 54.

74 Taşkıran 2021b, 59-60, fig. 49.

75 Taşkıran 2021b, 74-75, figs. 64-65.

described as a *stoa* and evaluated within this period<sup>76</sup>. On the branch of the Main Street, where it turns south by making a junction, that is, to the area where the public buildings are located, there are shops carved out of the rock and placed opposite each other and opening directly onto the street. Based on these shops associated with the *stoa*, it would not be wrong to define the Roman Imperial Period commercial area in the acropolis as this area.

The Main Street, which starts from the Main City Gate and continues to the Acropolis, is the main artery in the Roman Imperial Period and continues to be the only structure that provided carriage access to the *acropolis*. However, in order to increase visual richness by creating urban landscaping areas in the Roman Imperial Period, an arched but symbolic gateway, namely the Acropolis North Gate, was added to the point where the Main Street meets the Acropolis; starting from this gate, the last stretch of 43 m was arranged as a representative area<sup>77</sup>. The western wall of the street was built from fine dressed stones; but the eastern wall was formed by cutting and levelling the rocky area on which the acropolis rises. In this section of the Main Street, various arrangements on the east and west walls are noted. Three niches, or votive units, were carved intermittently on the east wall, which was cut out of the rock. On the west wall are two rectangular holes side by side. Their positions and structures suggest the former presence of statues or postament bases erected<sup>78</sup>. Thus, it may be proposed that the last 43 m section of the Main Street was intended as an important unit, designed for landscaping and urban splendour. It may also be stated that the street system on the acropolis was extended and new examples were also added linked to the Main Street<sup>79</sup>. Especially the streets in the direction of the buildings on the eastern side of the Acropolis are discerned very clearly. The canals opened on the streets were directed to the main street and thus during times of high rainfall the plan was to drain flood water to the canal on the main street.

Another main development area of Sillyon was the western part where the city defence was built in the Hellenistic Period and where the necropolis area is located. This area, which is the only part suitable for settlement outside the acropolis hilltop, was opened to development during the Roman Imperial Period; the flat areas here were utilised and sometimes many public buildings were positioned by creating parcels by the terracing method. This area, namely the Lower City, draws attention as an area where important public buildings were built in Sillyon during the Roman Imperial Period, completing the urban development and creating new social areas<sup>80</sup>. The construction of massive buildings such as the Baths and the Stadion on the western slope of the city must have made the area the liveliest point of the city especially in the second century A.D. Although the Bastion and the defence system built on the western slope in the previous period were left the same in this period, they remained only as a part of the urban aesthetics in the peaceful environment when defence concerns disappeared. In

76 Lanckoroński 2005, 82-83, fig. 66; Taşkıran 2021b, 62, fig. 53.

77 Taşkıran 2017, 239-246.

78 For discussions on the statues and inscriptions in the street, see Tüner-Önen 2008b, 67-72. A similar arrangement was found on the Acropolis of Perge. See Martini 2003, 42.

79 Taşkıran 2017, 243-246, pl. XLIV, figs. 105-106.

80 Taşkıran 2021a, 317-318; Taşkıran 2021b: 27, fig. 19.



accord with the urban development and political situation of the period, the city wall evolved into a concrete indicator of the symbolic boundary between the city (*urbs*) and the countryside (*ager*) and between citizens and others (locals and even the dead), in addition to its defence and security functions<sup>81</sup>. As Aristotle had also suggested<sup>82</sup>, the city wall, as the outward face of a city, carried meanings such as status, independence, prosperity and power as a physical boundary for the inhabitants as well as aesthetic considerations in city planning<sup>83</sup>. In addition, it can be said that the city walls and streets in Sillyon were organised as interrelated parts of the coordinated planning of the city (fig. 5).

The most strategic structure of the city plan, which was originally built in the Hellenistic Period but remained in use with some repairs and additions during the Roman Imperial Period, is undoubtedly the Main City Gate in the Lower City. According to our analyses, it appears that this complex structure with its oval courtyard and towers, which witnessed every phase of the city's historical process, was probably transformed into a symbolic area at the entrance of the city by changing the courtyard plan in the second century A.D. and transforming it into a symbolic area with some additions - as at Perge<sup>84</sup>. This structure, whose oval courtyard was originally square or rectangular in plan, is actually one of the basic elements of Sillyon's Roman urbanism<sup>85</sup>. To the extent that the city pattern, which was reconstructed in this period, especially the Main Street, was orientated according to this structure. Starting from the Main City Gate, two new streets providing access to the acropolis were constructed in this period and it is inferred that the urban pattern was intended to be made more sophisticated. These two structures, namely the Ramped Street and the Acropolis Street, are a manifestation of the desire to improve city planning due to the increase in the city population during the Roman Imperial Period<sup>86</sup>. The Ramped Street starts from the Main City Gate and continues for about 360 m in the northeast direction and then connects to Gate 5, which provided access to the acropolis from the northwest. This street rises from its starting point and in accord with the terrain forms a ramp to its end. The west side of the street is supported by buttresses placed at certain intervals due to the undulating terrain. On this street, an application that can be evaluated within the urban logic of Sillyon, the parallels of which escape the author, calls for attention. A total of three units with the same plan type and architectural features were added at certain intervals on the street<sup>87</sup>. The western façade of these units facing the city were articulated with windows and wall ornaments, contributing to the monumentality of the Lower City that is discernible even from a distance, and it was intended to create a landscape-inclined-*scenographic* view. These three units on the Sillyon Ramped Street were originally roofed. The Ramped Street naturally protected from the sun and rain,

81 Gros 1996, 26.

82 Aristot. Pol. VII. 10.

83 Owens 2000, 152-153; Jacobs 2009, 197.

84 See Bulgurlu 1999, 404; Özdizbay 2012, 53.

85 Özer – Taşkıran 2018, 158, figs. 8-9. The courtyard section was articulated with Doric wall architraves to offer an aesthetic appearance to the visitors of the city.

86 Taşkıran 2017, 262- 265; Taşkıran 2021b, 50.

87 Taşkıran 2017, 239 ff.; Taşkıran 2021b, 51-53, figs. 41-42.

and allowed the inhabitants of the city to walk more comfortably<sup>88</sup>. The most important indicators of the aesthetic given to public spaces specific to the Roman Imperial Period were the long colonnaded streets, public squares and monumental portals opening to these squares<sup>89</sup>. In a city with a rugged topography like Sillyon, technically it is impossible to implement elements such as a colonnaded street one of the most important urbanistic developments of the time, that would enliven the city centre and so, there was instead the unique and distinctive application, the Ramped Street. It is clear that the Ramped Street was one of the main arteries, especially in the Byzantine Period. The addition of Gate 5<sup>90</sup> where the Ramped Street joins the Acropolis and encircling this gate with defensive walls within the framework of the new defence system of the city support this hypothesis. Traffic, trade, ceremonial arteries and colonnaded streets were very important for city planning in Late Antiquity and later<sup>91</sup>, these can be considered as one of the main determinants of the new settlement phase on the acropolis. The Acropolis Street starts from the Main City Gate, stretches northeastward and heads eastward from just east of the Bastion; approximately 60 m further it curves to the north and connects to the acropolis through the Acropolis South Gate<sup>92</sup>. Due to its width and steepness, it can be stated that Acropolis Street was designed for pedestrian traffic. The Ramped Street and the Acropolis Street seem to have been in existence from the Roman Imperial Period (probably the second century A.D.) and remained in use into the Turkish-Islamic Period.

The largest in area buildings of the Imperial Period are the Baths and the Stadion, which were positioned side by side. The area was levelled and the bath structure was placed and the stadium was built by cutting the rocky unit as a terrace in the western part, past the Main City Gate<sup>93</sup>. It seems that the area for the stadium tracks was levelled and the small ravines in the terrain were filled in during the construction of the stadium after the terracing process. The west wing of this building with a single *sphendone* and double tribunes was supported by buttresses, while the east wing was smaller in scale and rested on the land. The structure, which was built by taking advantage of the topography, is 254 m long and 48 m wide in total<sup>94</sup>. Yet, there are two main construction phases to the Sillyon Bath house. In the first construction phase, the bath consisted of three halls in a row, and in the second phase, two halls and a corridor were added and it was transformed into a complex structure<sup>95</sup>. The baths and stadion structures

88 Taşkıran 2017, 247, pl. XLVII, figs. 112-113 ff.

89 Parrish 2001, 39.

90 For Gate 5, see Taşkıran 2017, 235-236.

91 Saradi 2006, 259-95; Jacobs 2013, 112-20.

92 Taşkıran 2017, 259-261, pl. XLVIII, figs. 114-115; Taşkıran 2021b, 53-54, fig. 43.

93 It is clearly seen that urban planners, of the Roman Imperial Period, consciously utilised the complementary relationships between city squares and buildings. See MacDonald 1986, 32.

94 Taşkıran 2021b, 64, fig. 55.

95 The Roman Bath at Sillyon is one of the well-preserved examples reflecting the traditional bath architecture of the period because, like many contemporaneous examples, it embodies the basic features of the traditional Roman bath typology and bathing culture. However, it also resembles the asymmetrical and fashionable bath architecture of the period in Pamphylia, Lycia, Pisidia and Rough Cilicia, as well as uncomplicated structures that house more local features. Accordingly, the Roman Baths of Sillyon can be evaluated within the group of "sequential type (Reihentyp)" baths,

should be considered as an architectural activity aiming towards monumentality in the city in the second and third centuries A.D. *Monumentalisation*, which was the spirit of the period, is also apparent in these two buildings. The buildings are located next to the junction of the Main City Gate, hence, the liveliest point in the Lower City. Therefore, it should be noted that this was the social area of the city in the Roman Imperial Period, and in addition to activities such as entertainment and sports, the location and monumentality of the two buildings added an aesthetic value to the city plan. The presence of these buildings, which are the most essential traces of the construction activities of the Roman Imperial Period, reflects the welfare level and the characteristics of the social structure of Sillyon. At the same time, these buildings give the character of a strong and qualified Roman city of its period.

Sillyon's Necropolis spread to the southwest, northwest and north slopes of the city during the Roman Imperial Period. It has also been noted that the Necropolis, which was located on the northwest slope and just outside the city wall in the Hellenistic Period, expanded in the Roman Imperial Period, and especially the high rocks in the areas where public buildings were located along the western slope of the city were turned into a burial area (fig. 3, 4)<sup>96</sup>. It can be said that these new burial areas were mostly reserved for important individuals from the city's elite of this period. As a matter of fact, examples of *chamosorion* and *hyposorion* type graves found just north of the Roman Bath may be so interpreted. Moreover, the tombs carved into the bedrock with high platforms and accessed by stairs generally have a view of Perge and the sunset. The Necropolis area was shaped according to the topography and the geological structure of the city. Especially in the northwestern area, every rock elevation seems to have been used as a burial site. Some of the examples of this period were organised in complexes and narrow alleys were built for access between the graves. In the Necropolis, grave types such as *chamosorion*, tower tomb, sarcophagus and rock-cut graves are dominant<sup>97</sup>. Among the examples are round, square and rectangular pits for offerings or similar purposes as well as tombs accessed by stairs (fig. 8).

### Late Antiquity

Sillyon was prosperous during the Roman Imperial Period like most cities of Asia Minor. However, irregular raids, especially from the Taurus Mountains, began to threaten the city again from the second half of the third century A.D. when the success of the *Pax Romana*<sup>98</sup>, which had postponed hostilities for centuries, disappeared and the peaceful atmosphere was lost<sup>99</sup>. That Sillyon experienced a significant decline in this period can be traced from the new city planning and building traces. An city planning that developed and transformed within the

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one of the basic types of baths. The Roman Baths at Sillyon should be considered as an architectural activity for monumentalism in the second and third centuries A.D. The building remained in use into the Late Antiquity. For the bath, see Taşkıran 2021a, 332-334.

96 For the Roman Imperial Period Necropolis, see Küpper 1998, 484; Özer – Taşkıran 2010, 279-281.

97 Taşkıran 2021b, 54.

98 Arslan – Tüner Önen 2016, 302.

99 Taşkıran 2020, 15-16.

framework of the political events of the period awaits scholars. Although a large-scale building programme was not implemented, it can be said that the city periphery gradually began to shrink and steps were taken for the Byzantine Period, when the public buildings that formed the *core* of the settlement would be moved back onto the Acropolis. Nevertheless, significant construction activities are also attested in the city during Late Antiquity or the Early Byzantine Period. Building programmes such as Nymphaion A, Aqueduct and shops are seen in the Lower City. Nymphaion A, located one level above the Roman Bath, represents the most important monumental structure of this period. The monumental fountain with a Π-plan was built over the spring that fed the Roman Bath, causing the bath to lose its function, and with its possible landscape in front of it, it must have constituted the social point of the city in this period<sup>100</sup>. The row of shops on the eastern side of the Main Street allows us to describe them as the bustling points of the city during this period, when the street continued to function and the city was well leaning against the acropolis<sup>101</sup>. The Aqueduct<sup>102</sup>, which is fed from the same source and probably built during the period when Nymphaion A lost its function (after the fifth century A.D.), is a distinctive manifestation of the urban logic of Sillyon. Starting from the area of the Main City Gate and continuing 313 m in the southwest direction, the structure, traced in all its details for a length of approximately 180 m today, reflects a situation of which not many examples are known. While it is the common practice to bring the spring water from environs into the city with aqueducts or different models, a contrasting situation emerges in Sillyon, such as the transfer of an existing spring in the city to the environs via an aqueduct. The construction of the Sillyon Aqueduct at a time when following the end of the *Pax Romana* many cities preferred modest and sheltered practices for water supply indicates that the spring water was still important for the city in this period. Furthermore, it is also noted that defence concerns gradually came to the forefront again in this period. Especially from the end of the fourth century A.D. onwards, the urban defence system was added to the urban fabric in a prominent way<sup>103</sup>. The repair of the southwestern wall of the Bastion<sup>104</sup> and the construction of a wall connecting the Bastion and the Acropolis on the south<sup>105</sup> are considered remains from this period that support this hypothesis. With the Byzantine Period, Sillyon evolved into a small city in terms of planning, but due to its topographical structure and geopolitical position, it became both the religious and political centre of the region. The city moved back onto the acropolis and developed entirely there in the course of Late Antiquity, probably after the sixth or seventh century A.D (fig. 9)<sup>106</sup>. The “acropolis” and its Roman equivalent

100 Işık 2020, 131-132; Taşkiran 2021a, 336.

101 Taşkiran 2021b, 72-73, fig. 62.

102 Taşkiran 2021b, 73-74, fig. 63.

103 Jacobs 2012, 116.

104 Taşkiran 2017, 157-158, pl. XXVIII, figs. 57-60.

105 Taşkiran 2017, 102-103, pl. XV, fig. 20. It is known that in this period shorter but preventive defensive walls were generally built to enclose the most easily defended part of the hill, such as the top. See Niewöhner 2011, 121-122.

106 The most important landmark of the period is undoubtedly the *Kastron* located in the centre of the Acropolis. Covering an area of approximately 3000 m<sup>2</sup>, this monumental building is the symbol building of Sillyon and is considered to be the largest structure in Pamphylia from the Early Byzan-

“*arx*” became both a symbol of the city’s independence and a place of refuge for its inhabitants, even after the development of the city walls<sup>107</sup>.

### General Assessment and Conclusion

Sillyon, which does not have a large urban periphery, exhibits an example of irregular city planning. Streets, buildings, terraces, public and private spaces are designed unevenly across the landscape, in accord with the geographical conditions and morphology of the city<sup>108</sup>. Despite of this, a very compact urban plan was successfully established on a narrow and difficult terrain. No other settlement in the region shows such complexity and compactness. Every square metre of the city was fully made use of. In more general terms, a situation in which functionality is prioritised over monumentality (completeness) appears in Sillyon. However, the concept of aesthetics was also included in Sillyon’s urbanism, as can be understood from structures such as the Temple Terrace and the *Kastron*. With this example of planning, which can be seen in hill settlements developed according to the terrain of Lycia, Pisidia and Cilicia, it is understood that no city was really unplanned and completely devoid of a sense of order and design (fig. 2). Even cities with buildings randomly scattered on rough terrain, winding and dead-end streets, should be said to have been handled within a local planning framework<sup>109</sup>.

As a matter of fact, the aforementioned irregular planning is typical of many small hilltop cities such as Arykanda, Termessos and Oinoanda<sup>110</sup>. As at Sillyon, in these cities too, the city was not organised according to the land, but the land was shaped according to the city and its needs<sup>111</sup>.

Although Sillyon does not reflect a regular grid plan or terracing system, the fact that some building groups form distinctive clusters within themselves actually reflects an order within apparent disorder. The residential areas in the north part of the city and the Temple Terrace in the south of the Acropolis are the best examples. Sillyon does not show a certain *axial* arrangement or a premeditated scheme for the placement of buildings. Certainly, the Main Street of the city and other streets, which are oriented according to the topography of the city, must have been considered one of the main factors in the positioning of the buildings. In general terms, the pragmatic city planning solution, which is known well from Pergamon and many other similar settlements, was implemented here<sup>112</sup>. Indeed,

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tine Period. See Foss 1996, 20-21, figs. 1, 3-4; Taşkıran 2017, 267. Inside the *Kastron* is a *praitorion* leaning against the north wall. The *praitorion*, which is defined as the palace of the commander of the castle or the main administrative building, dominates both the Acropolis and the plain below as well as the *Kastron*. See Taşkıran 2017, 267; Yetkin 1974, 870-872.

107 Owens 2000, 3; Taşkıran 2017, 342.

108 In addition to landforms, the lack of regularity should not be considered a sign of random growth, but rather of social responses to natural, social and political conditions. See Morgan – Coulton 1997, 95.

109 Yegül – Favro 2019, 623.

110 Yegül – Favro 2019, 623; Laufer 2021, 153.

111 Kürkçü 2016, 131.

112 Pergamene architecture had two main influences on the Hellenic world and Anatolian cities (Martin 1974, 158): the great buildings of the Attalids and the development of a particular aesthetic form. The Attalid policy of greatness introduced monumentality and unity into the concept

the division of the city into zones according to the functions of the buildings in Pergamon was not the main aim of the Hellenistic Period city planners, but the result of the measures and practical solutions they took to meet the needs<sup>113</sup>. Although the examples of urban landscapes in Anatolia during the Hellenistic Period are extremely diverse, the influences and traces of the Pergamon model are evident not only in Hellas but also in Anatolia from the second century B.C. onwards<sup>114</sup>. This interaction starts first in nearby cities such as Aigai and Assos, and then continues in Didyma, Miletos, Ephesos (harbour construction), Oinoanda, Termessos, Kremna and Sagalassos. The main characteristic features of Pergamene urbanism are the concentration and grouping of public buildings in a certain area and their monumental unity<sup>115</sup>. When we look at all the cities with a similar plan and morphology, it becomes clear that the settlement was planned according to the landforms. In fact, it should be said that this situation, which is clearly observed at Sillyon, continued to be applied in Asia Minor during the Roman Imperial Period with determination<sup>116</sup>. In this period, the reinforcement of the Stadion and the Ramped Street with buttresses, as in Pergamon, is a manifestation of similar urbanism<sup>117</sup>.

When Sillyon's difficult topography is combined with its geopolitical position in the region, it is evident that the main factor in the formation of its urban logic (*eigenlogik*) was the concern for defence<sup>118</sup>. Apparently, the architects or urban planners who designed Sillyon took the defence character of the city into consideration while planning this settlement with its unique characteristics and placed the streets accordingly. Thus, a form in accordance with Aristotle's statement, "The difficulty in such matters is practice rather than theory"<sup>119</sup> in his work called *Politics* emerges, and at the same time, the type of city planning described by Plato also reveals itself here<sup>120</sup>. It is possible to see this scheme *diachronically* from the early periods to the late periods. In the light of the existing research, the deployment of a Persian garrison in the city from the Classical Period until the Hellenistic Period is the first time this situation is attested<sup>121</sup>. It was elaborated above that the city was planned according to this policy. The new defence system built on the western part of the city in the later period surrounded the previous defence structures and formed a *diateichisma*<sup>122</sup>, diversifying Sillyon's defence sys-

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of urbanism.

113 Pirson 2014, 214.

114 Laufer 2021, 154.

115 Kürkçü 2016, 130.

116 Martin 1974, 183.

117 Radt 1993, 204-206.

118 Defence became the fate of the city due to its sheltered structure, natural fortifications, distance from the coast and ease of defence.

119 Aristot. Pol. VII, 10.11.

120 Pl. Krypteia, 778. 9.

121 For the Persian garrison and evaluations on the period, see Bosch 1957, 19; Brandt 1992, 29; Arslan 2008, 51; Grainger 2009, 73; Taşkıran 2020, 8-9; Taşkıran 2021b, 4.

122 The *diateichisma* (inner wall) is part of the city defence system. Unlike the city wall, it is considered as the inner wall dividing the city into two in an area close to the city centre. In fact, it consists of walls that delimit certain areas within the settlements and separate them from the rest of the city. On this, see Sokolicek 2009, 9-10; Sokolicek 2010, 227-236; Winter 1971, 59 ff.; Lawrence 1979, 144-154.



tem and making it impenetrable. It is understood that other public buildings in the settlement were also positioned within the framework of this policy. For example, it can be said that the city walls and streets of Sillyon were arranged as interrelated parts of the coordinated planning of the city. Although defence concerns disappeared with the Roman Imperial Period, it can be said that the city walls contributed to the city's appearance and brought aesthetic values to the forefront. In addition, Gates 2<sup>123</sup> and 4<sup>124</sup>, which were built at certain intervals on the Main Street, show that access to the city from the Main City Gate were subjected to control at certain distances before reaching the Acropolis. The gradual shrinking of the city in Late Antiquity and its move back to the acropolis in the Byzantine Period is a reflection of the same tradition. The strengthening of the old defensive structures in the accessible western part and the erection of new walls where needed, the programming of a new city wall around the acropolis, and, most importantly, the construction of a comprehensive structure such as the *Kastron* once again reveal that defence was at the heart of the city planning in the new period.

A traditional city planning and model based on mathematical calculations should not be expected for Sillyon. Since Sillyon was built on rough terrain, the narrow and winding streets were shaped in accord with the slope. As a result of the shaping, the street and avenue widths in the Acropolis did not have a certain set standard as seen in Rhodiapolis<sup>125</sup> and on the acropolis of Perge<sup>126</sup>. In fact, it should be noted that they were not in a regular *orthogonal* layout based on several large circulation routes (*plateiai*) crossed perpendicularly by lateral roads (*stenophoi*). As MacDonald notes<sup>127</sup>, the streets here became a communication framework that enclosed and functionalised much of urban life and became one of the main dynamics of the urban plan. All the streets and alleys in the city, especially the Main Street and the Ramped Street, are not in the form of a straight line drawn with a ruler as in a plan, but change axis and sometimes width more than once; on the other hand, it is seen that this situation also provides an attractive appearance for those using the street. In other words, beyond the strong axial alignments defined by straight streets, short staircases connect clusters of terraces and an organic network of small streets *zigzagging* along the hill. Although there is no *orthogonal* grid at Sillyon, there are strong and deliberate alignments, connections, focal points and basic relationships, as at Sagalassos<sup>128</sup>. In other words, the Hippodamic plan, which is found in the cities of Pamphylia, especially at Side and Perge, and which forms a continuous regular line in the form of a checker-board or grid, as at Priene and Miletos, instead of streets and alleys<sup>129</sup>, most of which were drawn in straight lines, has been replaced by a unique local practice at Sillyon. In other words, Sillyon does not show a certain axial situation or a premeditated scheme in the placement of buildings. In fact, the main street of

123 Taşkiran 2017, 223-225, pl. XXXVI, fig. 86, pl. XCVI, dwg. 50.

124 Taşkiran 2017, 227-229, pl. XXXVII, figs. 88-90, pl. XCVII, dwg. 52.

125 Çevik et al. 2010, 40-41.

126 Martini 2003, 42-46.

127 MacDonald 1986, 29 ff.

128 Yegül – Favro 2019, 623.

129 Ward-Perkins 1981, 299-302.

the city and other streets, which are oriented according to the topography of the city, must have been considered as one of the main factors in the positioning of the buildings. The pragmatic city planning<sup>130</sup> solution, which is well known from Pergamon, was implemented here. In this layout, it should be said that concepts such as convenience and simplicity come into play. In other words, since there is no dominant axis, it is understood that buildings or groups of buildings are often placed with on-site solutions.

Although it took centuries to take shape, the elements of the city are interrelated, following a complex visual geometry as if choreographed by a skilful hand. Sillyon's extraordinary topography and its relationship with the Pamphylian plain, from which it rises and dominates, offers a multidimensional cityscape from the outside (fig. 3, 4). Yet, when we look at the internal dynamics of the city, it is evident that there is a spatial hierarchy within the city and that certain structures that form the city plan come to the fore in each period. In fact, it is obvious that there is a special interest in some structures in the city. The reason for this is not only the social or political structure, but also some of the difficulties posed by the topography. Although Sillyon in particular does not reflect a regular grid plan or terracing system, the fact that some building groups form distinctive clusters within themselves reflects an order within disorder and brings some buildings and parts of the city to prominence. On the acropolis, which was the main development area of the city in the Hellenistic Period, the placement of both public and religious buildings on the south and southwest parts of the city overlooking the Pamphylian plain places this area in the first rank in city planning. Although they are small-scale structures, the theatre located on the southern edge of the acropolis and the Temple Terrace immediately to the east are at the top of the period's hierarchy. In addition to their dominant positions in the city plan, these structures are recognisable from the Pamphylian plain and present urban Sillyon. In the Roman Imperial Period, in addition to the Temple Terrace on the acropolis and the theatre still in use, the prominent building group is the Roman Baths rising in the west of the city and the Stadion located on the lower terrace. This is the most important social area of the city and these two buildings constitute the most important examples of the monumentality gained in Sillyon during this period. Undoubtedly, the most monumental structure of Sillyon and even of the region during the Byzantine Period and thereafter is the *Kastron* on the Acropolis and the religious structures around it. The *Kastron*, whose exterior walls are still standing today, dominates Sillyon and its surroundings with the area it covers and the dimensions it has, revealing its urban hierarchical status. The area, the *Kastron* is located is the southwestern part of the Acropolis, which was the dominant point in the city plan during the Hellenistic Period. It seems that this area was the most important point of the city in all periods, probably due to its dominance over the Pamphylian plain and defence concerns. All in all, the example shows that the buildings were not only in harmony with their surroundings but also with the city as a whole, and that they were designed in accordance with an acceptable appearance.

In conclusion, in the light of the available research, it should be said that

130 Laufer 2021, 151.

in Sillyon, which represents an example of a multi-layered city that was continuously inhabited from the Early Iron Age to the Ottoman Period, city planning became evident in the Hellenistic Period and then became institutionalised with the Roman Imperial Period, and was continued with similar standards and concerns through Late Antiquity, Byzantine and later Turkish-Islamic Periods (fig. 10), and thus, a traditionalist urban logic (*eigenlogik*) emerged. This urban logic shows the high boundaries and strong tendency of the city, which has a visual value that can be experienced even under the most unfavourable conditions. It can be claimed that the main dynamic of this urban development is the morphological structure of the terrain, but on the other hand, Sillyonian urban planners created a successful and pragmatic urbanistic culture suitable for the difficult topography of the city according to the political and social structure of each period. Although the city was shaped according to the terrain, it should be noted that some parts of the city were prepared through terraces and building areas (such as the Stadion and the Ramped Street) were created and shaped according to urban needs. Undoubtedly, with ongoing excavations and new research, the attestations and thoughts concerning city planning at Sillyon, will be further clarified and a more complete view of the city will be supported through new information.

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Fig.1 Physical Maps of Pamphylia and Sillyon's Territory

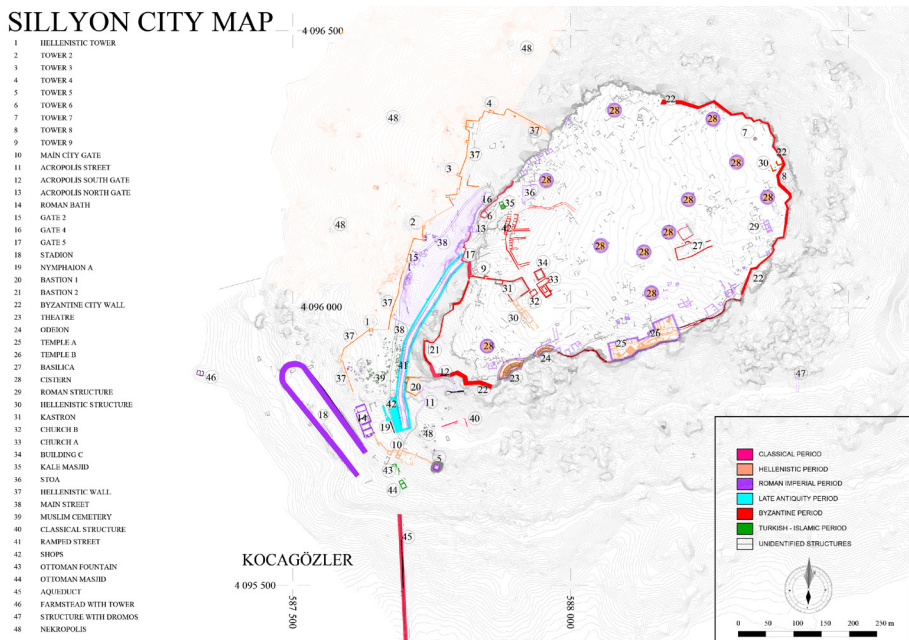


Fig.2 Diachronic city map of Sillyon



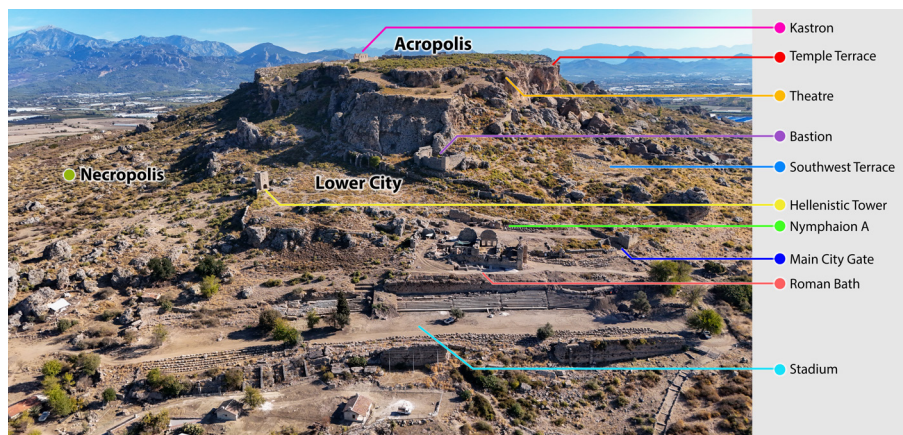


Fig.3 A view of the city from the west



Fig.4 West part of city from south



Fig.5 A part of city wall





Fig.6 South facade of Andreion



Fig.7 North facade of Tempel B

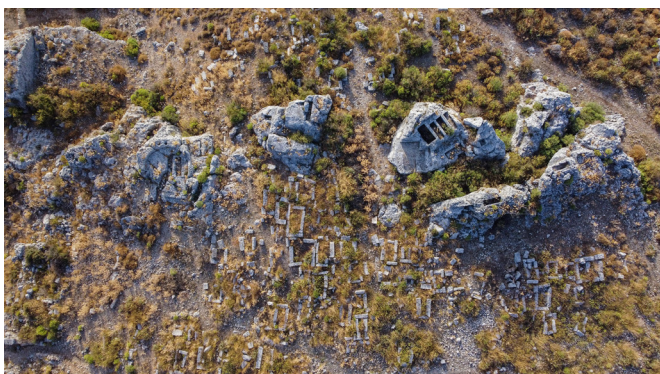


Fig.8 A panoramic view of the Necropolis

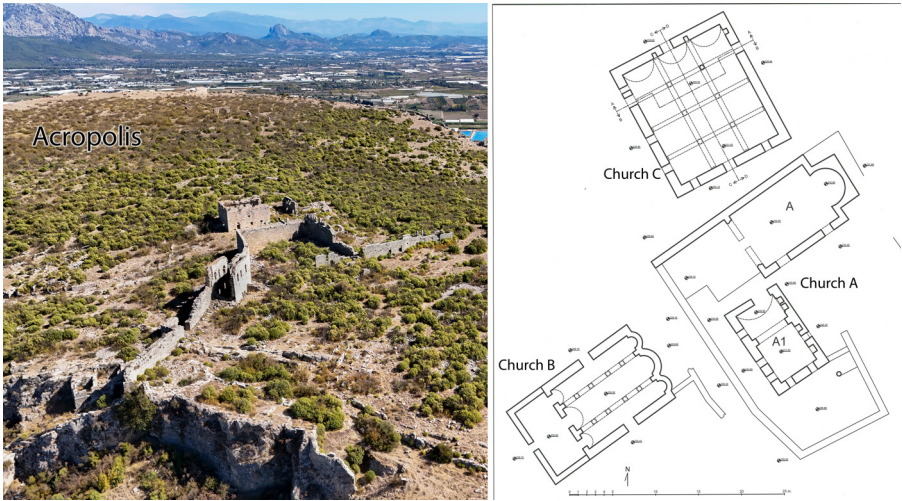


Fig.9 A view of the Kastron and its Surroundings on the Acropolis with drawings of the Episkopeion

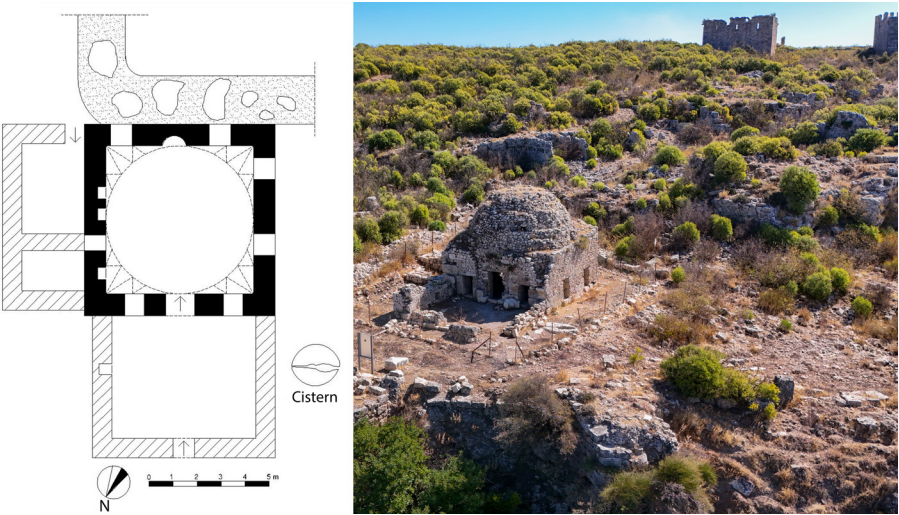


Fig.10 General view of Kale Masjid and its plan