MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

GRADUATE SEMINARS
CONS504 - CONS604

2023-2024 FALL SEMESTER
CONS504: JANUARY 26, 2024 | 09.30-14.50 | @Zoom
CONS604: JANUARY 26, 2024 | 15.00-16.30 | @Zoom

Coordinators: Pınar Aykaç Leidholm, Özgün Özçakır

Meeting ID: 847 0861 8358
Passcode: 160282

Meeting link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84708618358?pw-d=N58I9FfAEmbQW4yaDKnBH7peelAv5t.1
MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

CONS 504
GRADUATE SEMINARS
2022-2023 FALL SEMESTER

Jan.18, 2023 | 13.00-16.40
|Dean's Main Meeting Room
Since the 1970s, the process of abandoning rural areas has accelerated due to the increasing wave of migration from the village to the city. Due to the decreasing population, the problem of transferring cultural values in rural areas to the future and maintaining agricultural production and life cycle arises. For this reason, the conservation of rural heritage areas is of great importance in terms of cultural, sociological and economic aspects. The conservation of rural heritage sites is of great importance in terms of understanding the technical, scientific and practical reflections of human-nature relations and maintaining bio-cultural diversity. Nusratlı village of Ayvacık District of Çanakkale was founded in the 16th century. The present settlement boundaries of the rural area are located between the south of the ancient city of Paleo Gargara, which is registered as a 1st Degree Archaeological and Natural Site, and the Gulf of Edremit. The main agricultural activity of the region since the first periods is olive oil production. In the north of the guifline, rural settlement areas consisting of the village center, olive grove and oil factory organization continues. Nusratlı village is an important part of this rural production network. The built environment of the village consists of residential buildings and school, laundry, guesthouse, oil factory, fountains and mosques. NusratDer was established in 2005 with the joint initiative of the villagers. The activities of the association paved the way for women to stand stronger both economically and socially as individuals. The transformation created by the decreasing population and changing living conditions threatens the original character of the village. For this reason, it is necessary to conserve all the tangible and intangible values of Nusratlı Village. Within the scope of the thesis, the development of the field in the historical process will be examined with the help of archives, literary sources and the narratives of the villagers. Then, the development of the built environment of the village will be determined by field studies with help of current plans and maps. The tangible and intangible values of the village will be analyzed. Finally, principles and strategies for the conservation of the rural heritage of Nusratlı Village will be presented.

13:20 – 13:40
Eda Vardar — Integration of Memory and Memory Places into the Conservation Process: Jewish Quarter in Ankara

Supervisor: Özgün Özçakır
Co-Supervisor: Güül Bilgin Altınöz
Jury: Neriman Şahin Güçhan, Özge Güven Ulusoy

Memories formed by the users' experiences in the place provide significant knowledge about how the built environment identifies with people. These people are part of the user group identified with the heritage sites who have individual and shared memories with specific culture, habits, and use of space. With the change of these user groups, the perception of place changes and continuity in the use of space decreases over time resulting in the loss of social sustainability in heritage sites which affects the conservation process. This thesis aims to develop a framework for the integration of memory and memory places into the conservation process as an intangible dimension in heritage sites. With this framework, the memories and memory places that users have both in the past and today will be discussed as a part of the conservation process. Jewish Quarter in Ankara, chosen as the case study area hosted the Jewish Community for many years and witnessed the places, experiences, and traditions of this community. After the immigration of the Jewish Community, the quarter went through a significant social change with the disappearance of experiences, usage of space, memories, and memory places. This oblivion has not only turned the Jewish Quarter into an isolated area but also caused it to be gradually erased from the memory of the city and the citizens. In the process of memorizing the forgotten in the İstiklal Quarter; initially inter-national documents, conservation guidelines, pioneering studies, and related sources will be used in the creation of the theoretical framework. The process of understanding the physical and social transformation of the quarter from past to present will cover literature review, archival research, and field study which will include physical observations and in-depth interviews. In line with all these steps, proposals for spatial improvement of memory places in the Jewish Quarter will be formed as a conservation process.

13:40- 14:00
Yasin Özdemir — Developing Conservation Principles and Strategies for Early Republican Educational Buildings: The Case of Gazi Primary Schools (1925-1935) in Denizli

Supervisor: Pınar Aykaç
Jury: Özgün Özçakır, Neriman Şahin Güçhan

With the proclamation of the Republic, an education campaign was launched across the country. Especially with the transition to the Latin alphabet in 1928, primary education has gained even more importance. The priority area in this campaign was
since old times, resulted in possessing physical traces. The towns which have been continuously inhabited in different cities such as Konya, Antep and Uşak. The names of these schools were generally Gazi, Hürriyet or Cumhuriyet primary schools. As in many other cities in Turkey, educational buildings were built in Denizli within the scope of this early-Republican education campaign. There are "Gazi primary schools" in five districts of Denizli. They are the implementations of the typical projects prepared by Architect Kemalettin. These buildings, are not only the representatives of early-Republican architecture but also important elements of collective memory of the settlements they are in. As representatives of modern educational buildings built as typical project, they currently face different changes, problems, and needs in accordance with their different contexts. This thesis aims to develop conservation principles and strategies for five Gazi primary school buildings in Denizli, by analyzing their architectural character, problems, and potentials together with the contemporary needs of their varying contexts. Focusing on this aim, the thesis will consist of literature review, archival research and field study methodologically. With these methods, this thesis will investigate the conservation and adaptation of modern educational buildings through the cases of Gazi Primary Schools in Denizli.

14:00 – 14:20
Zeynep Buket Üstün — Re-Integrating the Historical Layers of a Multi-Layered Settlement to the Current Urban Context: The Case of Ankara

Supervisor: Güliz Bilgin Altınöz
Jury: Neriman Şahin Güzçan, Ahmet Burak Büyükçivelek

The towns which have been continuously inhabited since old times, resulted in possessing physical traces of historical continuity are referred as “multi-layered”. Connections between current space and previous layers contribute to physical richness of a town, signifying the value of an urban context. When these connections start being lost, the traces of different historical periods are not perceived as part of a whole and their conservation cannot be achieved. Thus, conserving the historical continuity depends on sustaining the integrity between the layers. Accordingly, the aim of this thesis is providing re-integration strategies between the historic layers and current context. Hence, Ankara is chosen as the study area, inhabited since the pre-historic times and thus characterized by being a multi-layered town. In order to achieve the aim, the first step is understanding and presenting the layering and achieving its spatial representation. Also, to assess the integration levels of the layers and provide strategies; visual, physical, social and functional integration will be discussed from conservation and city planning literature and proposals will be developed. For the case of Ankara, the integration levels of the historical layers with the current context in physical, visual, social and functional will be assessed and dis-integrity problems will be revealed. Thereupon, proposals will be developed to achieve re-integration of the historical layers with current context. The proposed framework could contribute to further studies on the integration of historical layers with current context by providing a city-scale integration assessment and strategy framework for sustaining historical stratification.

14:20 – 14:40
Cansu Türker — Developing Community-Based Sustainable Tourism Strategies and Principles for the Conservation of a Rural Heritage Place Exposed to Tourism-Led Regeneration: The Case of Misi (Gümüştepe) Village in Bursa

Supervisor: Pınar Aykaç
Jury: Güliz Bilgin Altınöz, Emine Çiğdem Asrav

Rural heritage places are settlement areas that have been formed by the relationship between people and nature, including various cultural heritages in their built-environment and production cycles. Rural heritage places, especially those close to the city centers, may be exposed to extensive changes and transformations under the pressure of tourism. This transformation seriously damages the characteristics and values of rural heritage sites, which are produced as a result of the human, production and built-environment relationships. Misi (Gümüştepe) Village (Mysia) in Nilüfer district of Bursa, Turkey is a historic rural settlement, hosted different civilizations, and contains traditional Ottoman houses with local architectural characteristics. Due to its proximity to Bursa city center, it was exposed to tourism-led regeneration, especially with the impact of the Conservation Development Plan in 2007. The area gradually lost its rural character, the authenticity of the built-environment is under threat, and the production has decreased. Sustainable conservation strategies are necessary for Misi Village to maintain their physical, cultural, social, natural and economic characteristics. This thesis aims to develop community-based sustainable tourism strategies and principles for the conservation of the rural heritage and to ensure that Misi, which has been exposed to tourism-led regeneration for years. In this study, first the current situation of Misi (Gümüştepe) Village as well as changes it underwent by tourism-led regeneration in physical, social, cultural, environmental, and economic aspects will be evaluated with literature review about rural heritage places, archival survey about Nilüfer district and site survey in Misi Village. Based on this analyses and assessments, sustainable and community-based strategies will be developed for Misi Village given the fact that transformation and tourism could not be prevented due to its proximity to Bursa city center.

15:00 – 15:20
Hamed Arnaout — A Framework for Identifying Post-Intervention Value Shifts in Heritage Dwellings: The Case of Antalya, Kaleiçi

Supervisor: Özgün Özçakır
Jury: Güliz Bilgin Altınöz, Pınar Aykaç

The conversion towards a contemporary lifestyle resulted in a change of people’s needs and
The relations of civilizations with water started as early as their establishment, and the civilizations’ relationship with water became one of the most important and priority factors shaping the cities. It is seen that various methods are used according to meet the water needs of the settlements that started around the water but spread to more expansive areas as civilizations developed. For this reason, many visible and invisible infrastructure systems started with primitive methods to use water but have survived as engineering marvels. These may be systems that are operated or not in use today, but each of them transfers traditional knowledge, engineering experience and sustainable approaches to the present. Istanbul, the capital of many civilizations throughout history, contains historical waterways and many water structures associated with that. Taksim Waterway is one of the waterways constructed to meet the needs in Beşiktaş and Beyoğlu districts. Today, these regions are the constantly changing and transforming areas of Istanbul. During this change and transformation, although some of the Taksim Waterway continues to function, some of it does not function and a large part of it has been facing the danger of disappearance. Therefore, there is an urgent need to understand the importance of waterways as water heritages. This thesis aims to reveal the potential of the Taksim Waterway as a cultural route, one of the crucial elements of Istanbul’s water heritage, to trigger its conservation, valorization and appreciation. In that regard, structure of the thesis contains three main parts; theoretical background of water heritage, analysis and evaluation of Taksim Waterway and proposal of principles of Taksim Waterway as a cultural route. Respectively, the thesis will develop policies, strategies and actions to integrate the Taksim Waterway with Istanbulites as a cultural route.
Drainage and ground settlement problems are very common in modern buildings. There are no specific studies on solving drainage and ground settlement problems in reinforced concrete modern heritage structures by dealing with time-based deterioration and damage with a conservationist approach, specifically cost efficient and sustainable solutions. This study aims to propose a framework that supports decision making for evaluating possible solutions and so selecting the most suitable cost-effective and sustainable intervention strategy that takes the heritage values of the modernist building into account in the case of the METU Social Building (selecting the best solution that will have low impact on the heritage values of the structure as well as being cost-effective and sustainable). In the research, the data regarding damages of the structure will be collected in in-situ observations, then test pits, laboratory experiments, ground and groundwater survey and drilling will be carried out for drainage and ground settlement, which is the main problem detected in the structure. As a result of the evaluations made as a result of the test results obtained, the main causes of the damage and the damages on the structure will be interrelated, and a literature review will be made for the possible appropriate solution of these problems. Possible solutions will be evaluated according to the criteria in the framework. As a result of these studies, a decision-making flowchart will be followed and a cost efficient and sustainable method will be proposed that will both prevent future damage to the METU Social Building and the other reinforced concrete modern heritage buildings that has the same problems, and solve the problem of ground settlement that has occurred until today, while conserving the value of the structure. As a result of these studies, a framework will be developed (a matrix will be proposed) that will support decision-making in choosing the best intervention solution, which considers its impact on the heritage value of the building, the vulnerability level of the structure, cost-efficiency and sustainability. Social Building will be used as a case study where this methodology is applied.

**16:20 – 16:40**

Elif Aktop — Re-Integration of Fragmented Industrial Heritage Building Complex with the City and its Citizens: Hereke Imperial Textile Factory

**Supervisor:** Özgün Özçakır

**Jury:** Güliz Bilgin Altınöz, Esra Özkan Yazgan

Industrial Heritage places are composed by the relation between people and production. These places can be exposed to changes caused by the evolution in the industrial world. Although they may be abandoned because of the functional necessities, they are considered as heritage as they represent the production activities of their times. Imperial Hereke Textile Factory is an industrial complex from the late Ottoman Period (19th century) and is considered cultural heritage as it represents a way of production and thus the way of living of people from that period in a specific location. Today, the factory complex is in a fragmented state and the connection of the remaining factory buildings within themselves and with the city is very weak both physically and socially as there are multiple owners and multiple functions, and some of the buildings are in bad condition. The aim of this thesis is to evaluate the potentials of the site in the urban context in order to re-integrate the factory complex with the city and its citizens. The method of the thesis is doing literature review on industrial heritage, archival research on Hereke and the factory, observations and analysis through site survey. In the thesis, the changes in the factory complex and Hereke, their connection throughout time and their current state will be analyzed in terms of both physical and social aspects. Conservation strategies will be developed and a holistic conservation approach will be developed through different scales in order to achieve the re-integration.
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In regions characterized by continuous and overlapping settlements, conflicting values and concerns for the conservation of different historical periods and their remnants may be challenging. An assessment of the cultural significance of conflicting values for the purpose of conservation may result in the prioritization of one or more cultural values at the expense of the others. However, it is crucial to consider all cultural values as integral components of a place's identity.

At Kıyıkışlacık (ancient Iasos) in Milas in the Province of Muğla, the long-established tradition of olive oil production has spanned centuries from Antiquity into the present-day; its heritage being an integral part of the settlement areas and the surrounding rural landscapes. Within this cultural landscape, the ruins of the ancient city coexist with the three olive-oil production workshops built in the Early Republican period. However, this co-existence has revealed some challenges of conservation, along with the designation of the ancient city as a 'first-degree archaeological site' (with its immediate surroundings registered as 'third-degree archaeological sites'), also including the olive-oil workshops. The inclusion of the industrial heritage within the designation of archaeological site boundaries led to the cessation of olive-oil production and, consequently, accelerated the decay and deterioration of these buildings. Whereas, before the formal designation of the ancient city of Iasos as an archaeological site to be protected, the olive-oil workshops operated seamlessly, employing local individuals, serving as a hub of craftsmanship, and therefore significantly contributing to the socio-economic and cultural life of the village. This thesis thus aims to analyze the long-established tradition of olive oil production and its heritage at lasos/Kıyıkışlacık and to identify challenges of, and threats to, the conservation of the Early Republican olive oil workshops located within the boundaries of a formally designated archaeological site. It also intends to recommend strategies and proposals for a better conservation and (re)use of this industrial heritage within (and together with) its archaeological setting.

Cities of Classical Antiquity underwent a significant transformation in transition from (Late) Antiquity into the Early Middle Ages for a variety of factors (administrative, cultural, religious, socio-economic, demographic, military etc.). The impact of these factors on the built-environment has long been debated, frequently identified as an urban 'decline' or a total 'collapse' of cities. Despite various negative implications associated with this process of change and transformation, this thesis argues that certain architectural and urban practices, such as spoliation and architectural recycling, civic maintenance, repurposing and adaptive use, and, in some cases, the subdivision of former public spaces, concerns for the preservation of antiquities through Late Antiquity and Byzantium. Using textual (e.g., the corpus of Roman law, epigraphic, hagiographic, and literary sources) and archaeological evidence, this thesis thus aims to explore several different approaches and practices towards the preservation of Classical Antiquities in Byzantine Anatolia. Examples from archaeological sites, such as Aphrodisias, Ephesus, Miletus, and Sagalassos, where long-established archaeological investigations (including both excavation and survey archaeology) revealed substantial evidence, producing an extensive literary corpus, will be examined for this purpose.

Historical urban areas, especially city centers, shaped by dynamic social, cultural, and economic relationships, uphold their identity through dwellings. These structures, essential in shaping communities, face challenges in Turkey, including neglect and unplanned interventions. Preserving them involves prioritizing authenticity considering cultural heritage-oriented zoning plan due to the area's further deterioration. Preserving the architectural and societal significance of dwellings is imperative for shaping individuals and communities, making them integral components of urban areas that must be conserved for future generations.

Balbey Neighborhood in Antalya, a key urban conservation area hosting the 19th-century settlement structure and examples of civil architecture, has suffered from neglect, transportation challenges, and environmental issues. Its current state is predominantly influenced by historical conservation.
and zoning plans. Balbey, akin to Kaleiçi, harbors 19th-century settlement structures reflecting Antalya’s traditional dwellings. Protecting these structures within historic precincts is pivotal for transmitting cultural heritage and safeguarding urban memory against gentrification-induced erosion. The study focuses on preserving Balbey Neighbourhood while ensuring adaptability, delving into historical context, evaluating past conservation plans, and proposing interventions based on meticulous building assessments. Thorough research into the neighborhood’s historical significance informs proposals for preserving these structures within the cultural heritage framework. By scrutinizing construction techniques and functions, the study aims to propose adaptable preservation strategies, highlighting the harmonious coexistence of heritage and modernity within Balbey’s historic housing fabric.

11:10 – 11:30

Supervisor: Özgün Özçakır
Jury: Ayşe Güliz Bilgin Altınöz, Pınar Aykaç, A. Elif Yabacı

This thesis investigates the preservation and adaptive transformation of Milas’ traditional architecture, focusing on a specific residential structure near the Hecatomnus Mausoleum. It examines the challenges of balancing conservation and the needs of inhabitants in residential buildings located within 3rd Degree Archaeological Sites. The research methodology includes fieldwork, comparative analysis, and reviews of current practices in heritage conservation. The study aims to understand the effects of restoration and functional changes on these structures, particularly in response to the mausoleum’s discovery. It also explores the impact of these changes on the socio-cultural values and the building’s architectural integrity. The thesis contributes to the field of cultural heritage conservation by offering insights and guidelines for sustainable conservation strategies in historically significant areas. The goal is to develop a framework that respects historical authenticity while meeting contemporary needs, providing a model for similar conservation efforts globally.

11:30 – 11:50
Beyza Kocadağ — The Impacts of Interventions in an Urban Conservation Site on Urban Identity: Nevşehir Castle and Its Surrounding

Supervisor: Özgün Özçakır
Jury: Ayşe Güliz Bilgin Altınöz, Olgu Çalışkan

Identity is a complex and dynamic process shaped by colonial and post-colonial experiences. Changes in living conditions affect identity. When examined in the context of physical spaces, identity can be created to present to a specific audience through labeling and branding. However, these labels, although intended to represent the current attributes of a place, may not consistently capture its genuine essence, its authenticity. The authenticity of a place should be associated not only with its current state but also with the multicultural aspects of the place. Profit-oriented interventions in cultural heritage sites have a significant impact on their identity. In this thesis, the relationship between the identity and space will be examined. Nevşehir Castle and its surrounding settlement, which has witnessed the life of an underground rock city and old neighborhood and where Anatolian-Armenians lived, are chosen as the case study. This is because, the site has been changed considerably with the interventions. The identity will be evaluated by assessing the effects of these interventions in the urban heritage site.

11:50 – 12:00
Ayşegül Akın — Multiple Interpretations of the Past: Developing Presentation Proposals for Different Audiences, the Case of Ankara Roman Baths

Supervisors: Pınar Aykaç Leidholm, Musa Kadioğlu
Jury: A. Güliz Bilgin Altınöz, Elif Selena Ayhan Koçyiğit

Urban archeological sites, containing remnants of the city’s historical layers, are areas located within the city, influenced by the development of the city and transformed as a result of these processes. The interpretation and presentation of urban archaeological sites are crucial for residents from diverse groups to comprehend the values of these areas. However, current interpretation projects are insufficient for the presentation of these areas. One of the urban archaeological sites lacking comprehensive interpretation and presentation work is the Ankara Roman Bath Complex, one of the most important public spaces in Ankara during the Roman period. Today, however, the site has transformed into a space that fails to attract visitors’ interest and is predominantly visited during specific events. Despite numerous intervention efforts over time, these projects have failed to meet visitors’ expectations. This thesis aims to develop presentation proposals for different groups related to the site based on the significance of the place and its transformations over time. For this purpose, studies will first be carried out to understand the transformations of the site over time and to perceive the importance of the site through literature review, archival study, field survey and social surveys with the different people groups associated with the site and in-depth interviews with the experts. Based on these evaluations, the study will propose different themes. It will then relate these themes to people’s expectations and introduce different presentation proposals.
This thesis explores the cultural and historical significance of cemeteries while addressing their role in urban heritage conservation, particularly focusing on Cebeci (Asri) Cemetery in Ankara, Turkey. Although cemeteries are actually “living organisms” that change within the city and the people’s lifestyles through eras, people generally consider them as an inanimate part of the urban environment. These areas are regarded as negative heritage places since they associate them with their distressing memories about death, accompanied by cultural and religious beliefs, which puts them at risk of disappearing. Such a negative perspective of cemeteries is valid for the context of Turkey as well, where modern-era cemeteries like Cebeci (Asri) Cemetery are not recognized as heritage sites. Despite the significant lack in the embrace of architectural production of modern era in Turkey, Cebeci (Asri) Cemetery stands out as a crucial site of Ankara’s history and cultural landscape with its modernist design principles, including its innovative grid layout with distinct zones for different religions and several buildings that reflect the architectural ethos of the era. On the other hand, Cebeci (Asri) Cemetery has encountered some problematic issues, such as demographic changes, unplanned urbanization, and security concerns that have decreased its value over time. There is a substantial research gap in the conservation field on modern-cemetery conservation, particularly in the Turkish context, creating a need for a detailed examination. Therefore, this thesis aims to delve into the place of the Cebeci Cemetery in Ankara history as a significant cultural landscape and propose possible conservation strategies to re-integrate it into the urban heritage by creating public awareness of its significance.

Methodologically, the thesis will include research on the various principles from different cultures used for the conservation of cemeteries and site surveys to record the existing situation of Cebeci (Asri) Cemetery to detect its problems and potentials for further studies. Overall, it could stimulate larger implications for the current scholarship and challenge the general understanding of modern cemeteries by revealing their multifaceted values as heritage places.

Changes in use of religious buildings is typically the result of various sociopolitical shifts and results in changes in character of the buildings. As such, the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947 could be considered as one such shift that necessitated the outmigration of religious minorities, leaving their places of worship to undergo a change of use through transfer of stakeholders. This change of use resulted in additional values to be associated with these religious structures that coexist to define the character of these places within the urban form within cities. In order to adapt to the changes in use, various architectural interventions are carried out by relevant stakeholders. The changes made to these structures reflects the approaches towards conservation of heritage as they evolve over time. This thesis aims to understand the shifting attitudes in conservation practice towards religious heritage through documentation of the current situation and use of informal methods of evaluation in the field of conservation of heritage such as narrative collections and evaluation of oral histories. In this thesis, cases from the city of Rawalpindi and its periphery are studied and a detailed evaluation of the most recent interventions is made for the selected gurdwaras. The selection criteria will reflect the current conservation approach in user-driven conservation interventions. The transformations will be assessed in relation to design compatibility with the original structure, relevancy to current use and sensitivity to the values attributed to the gurdwara as a living heritage. The results of the study will paint a precise picture of the trends in user-driven conservation reflecting the relationship between values and interventions and provide insight into future interventions so that the primary stakeholders- the citizens directly connected to the heritage are made a priority.

Key words: user-driven conservation, change in use, living heritage, physical and social character, design compatibility, primary stakeholders, trends in conservation.

Coastal salt pans, which are the spatial equivalent of sea salt production, are of great importance not only in the socio-economic context but also in terms of ecological and cultural heritage. While coastal salt pans provide habitat for various flora and fauna, they are also natural and cultural heritage places that represent the centuries-old salt production tradition. At this point, areas where salt production is provided are also considered as tangible markers of industrial landscapes and their unique characteristics and values need to be protected. This thesis focuses on the conservation problem of the Ayvalik Saltern in Ayvalik (Balikesir) which is described as “industrial landscape” in UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List in 2017. There are many
natural salt pans in Ayvalık district, including the Ayvalık Islands Natural Park, which forms the context of Ayvalık Salt Pan. Ayvalık Salt Pan is the largest salt pan after İzmir Camaltı Salt Pan where salt has been produced from the sea since the Ottoman period. In this thesis, historical, natural and physical features of the Ayvalık salt pan will be described. Then, the values of the area will be determined by relating it to the context and conservation policies will be developed.

14:10 – 14:30
Mary Brynes — Identifying and Assessing the Values of Russian Period Architecture in Kars

Supervisor: Özgün Özçakır
Jury: Neriman Şahin Güçhan, A. Güliz Bilgin Altınöz

During the 40 year period of the Russian Empire’s occupation of Kars from 1877-1917, numerous churches, schools, military buildings, governmental buildings, and residential buildings were built. Just over 100 years following this brief period of Russian population, although some of the buildings were demolished, many of these Russian constructions can still be seen in Kars today, continuing to be used for their original purpose or adapted to modern needs. The presence of Russian period heritage in the city serves as the continuing physical remnants of the period of Russian occupation. While past research has documented the architectural features of this period, this thesis offers a different approach, focusing on the values attributed to Russian period heritage by local inhabitants of Kars.

The aim of this thesis is to develop an understanding of how Russian heritage is perceived, associated with, and understood by local Kars’ residents. Through in-depth interviews with longtime residents, and those living in and around such heritage sites, this thesis will analyze and assess both locals’ relations to and their associations with this Russian period heritage. If we can assess the values of such heritage according to those assigned by local inhabitants, we can better integrate the needs and perspectives of locals into future conservation efforts.

14:30-14:50
Berçem İlgin Akti — Assessing the Significance of Tekirdağ Tekel Factory as a Working-Class Memory Place and Strategies for its Conservation

Supervisor: Pınar Aykaç Leidholm
Jury: Neriman Şahin Güçhan, A. Güliz Bilgin Altınöz

The industrialisation has affected the world in several dimensions and as physical remains of industrialisation, industrial heritage places carry substantial value. With deindustrialisation, many abandoned former industrial landscapes emerged as parts of urban tissues. Regarding the value of industrial heritage and the abandoned state of industrial heritage places following deindustrialisation, the conservation of industrial heritage places is a prominent issue. The preferred conservation approach for industrial heritage sites is adaptive reuse, using their spatial formation and physicality by transforming them into education or culture-focused spaces. While the transformation ensures the preservation of the physical structure, it also causes the groups associated with the heritage formerly to lose their ties to these areas. Since industrial heritage places are the memory places of the factory workers and other employees as the environment of their daily lives and struggles, industrial heritage forms an essential part of the working-class heritage. However, today’s conservation approach ignores the linkage between industrial and working-class heritage.

An outstanding working-class protest in Turkey’s history is the TEKEL Workers’ Resistance, ignited by the privatisation of TEKEL public monopoly. Since then, most of the structures formerly belonging to TEKEL have either been demolished or transformed into different functions, losing their meaning. While surviving structures mostly turning into cultural centres is part of a trend, Tekirdağ TEKEL Factory, with its untouched state, allows the relation to be explored. The factory, which is in the centre of the city, was an important asset that ensured the employment of most of the local people. For this purpose, the thesis will first examine the spatial and architectural features of the factory through bibliographical, archival and field surveys and then through an in-depth interview and oral history study will reveal its importance for local people, workers and those who contributed to the resistance. As a result, strategies will be developed to preserve the factory as a working-class memory place.
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meeting link:
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password: 160282
Depopulation is among the most crucial problems affecting rural landscapes in Turkey and around the world. Rural landscapes, formed over time as a result of the interaction between nature and human beings, have gradually lost their populations for a number of reasons. The built environment is primarily altered in abandoned areas due to neglect and dilapidation, resulting in the eventual destruction of cultural assets. The island of Imbros (Gökçeada), located not far from the Aegean coast of the modern Turkish province of Çanakkale, stands out with the presence of a Greek-Orthodox community since the island was exempted from the compulsory Population Exchange between Turkey and Greece in 1923. However, in association with the political challenges between Turkey and Greece escalating especially in the 1960s, along with the Cyprus crisis, Imbros lost a significant part of its Greek population. This research concentrates on Dereköy, a predominantly abandoned village on Imbros, where physical and social transformations are the most evident among the traditional settlements on the island, primarily due to the establishment of the Open Prison (Tariym Açık Cezaevi) within the boundaries of Dereköy in 1965. This paper investigates Dereköy’s distinct history in an attempt to provide a set of guidelines and site-specific principles for its preservation as a depopulated rural heritage site, deprived of its original socio-cultural context.

Universities play a significant role in transforming derelict historic urban areas and their surroundings. They not only contribute to physical and spatial transformation but also economic and social changes. This paper sets out the dimensions of the role of universities in the transformation of historic urban areas. It analyzes the case of Medipol University’s use of the Ankara Railway Area which played a crucial role in the city’s transformation during the 19th century when railways first arrived, and subsequently in the early years of the Republic. During the 1950s, the growing emphasis on highways resulted in a progressive decline in the significance and functionality of railways, leading to their eventual neglect and a breakdown in their overall integrity till the construction of the high-speed train station in 2016 which caused the old station building to lose its function and turn into a transit building. The transformation of the area gained momentum in 2017 when a specific part was designated for Medipol University. This led to the conservation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings by the university, the addition of new constructions, and the demolition of certain existing structures. The alteration that the railway area in Ankara has undergone since its inception, including the redevelopment of its vicinity, have been analyzed from the perspectives of physical, change in use and users, and economic dimensions. Despite the fragmentation of the area’s cohesive structure owing to the dispersion of ownership rights among different entities, the substantial impact of the university in utilizing the space and aiding in the city’s transformation is clearly observed.

Mining activities caused serious impacts and changes on the landscapes of the World’s important mineral deposits throughout history. With the beginning of mining activities, these landscapes have become important indicators of technological advances, economic developments, and mining culture with the mining settlements that emerged over time, economic and industrial transformations, and the emergence of a unique worker society that adopted the mining culture. However, after the mineral resources in the region ran out, these landscapes begin to be abandoned, leaving behind vanishing industrial traces and memories. As these landscapes of extraction were consumed and abandoned, the potential for reuse and revitalization of these areas began to be considered. This research suggests a holistic conservation method (HCM) for the revitalization and sustainable development of post-mining landscapes which are identified with environmental destruction, environmental pollution, deaths, and painful memories, but are a document of the technological, architectural, cultural, and economic values of their periods, by considering them as cultural landscapes and mining heritage. This method, which suggests that these multi-component complex cultural
landscapes of extraction should be conserved and revitalized together with all their components, their changing contexts, and historical developments, has been tested in Kandilli, an important coal mining area in Turkey, by proposing and discussing five different future scenarios for the sustainable development of the cultural landscape of extraction.

16.00 - 16:30
Banu Taner — Narrating Archaeological Sites as Contemporary (Re)Constructs: Interpreting and Presenting Labraunda to Today’s Viewers

Supervisor: Ayşe Güliz Bilgin Altınöz
Jury: Pınar Aykaç Leidholm, Özgün Özçakır

Interpretation and presentation of the archaeological sites is the significant and inseparable part of the conservation process from the 21st century, as the concepts and extent of the issue have changed over time. Today, presentation approaches are mostly limited to representation of physical features and focus on the earliest or prominent elements, especially in Turkey, but that approach is insufficient for the interpreting and narrating the unique, authentic, and stratified ruins of the past in the present. As a matter of fact, for the understanding and narrating the past places, historical timelines must be defined including the phases of abandonment, re-discovery, archaeological excavation/conservation activities and effects of the time as a re-construction process of the archaeological sites, and all the story with all the meanings, spirits, and values of the places with their settings and contexts must be revealed. This article aims to investigate how to interpret, narrate and present the past places to present viewers by including all the story and reflecting all the meanings, spirits, values, and time, with a holistic and integrated approach. And that approach is implemented to the Labraunda archaeological site near Milas in the city of Muğla, which was a stratified ancient sanctuary in a special landscape with the network of surrounding settlements, and has several historical periods, different layers, various meanings, spirits and values of different phases and also has other meanings from its re-discovery up to the present, to propose a methodology and strategies for the interpretation, narration and presentation of archaeological sites.