

# EVENTS

seminars  
roundtable discussions  
exhibitions

## for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of METU Graduate Program in Restoration



### Preservation and Rehabilitation Studies at Tarsus

13. 02.2015 | 12:00  
@ Faculty of Architecture  
Kubbealtı

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The excavations of Gözlükule Mound show that the first settlement in Tarsus has begun in Neolithic Age, and continued through Bronze Age without any interruption. The most prevalent story about the establishment of Tarsus claims its founders to be the Assyrians. Beginning with the 8th century B.C., the region was ruled by Greeks, Persians, Alexander the Great, Seleucids, and Romans respectively. The city is significant as being the birthplace of St. Paul, one of the founders of Christianity. During the Middle Ages, Tarsus changed hand between Emevis, Abbasides, Byzantines, and the Crusaders. Following the domination of Memluk, Ramazanoğlu, and Dulkadiroğlu Principalities in the 13th century, it joined the Ottoman territory in 1516. Tarsus, which was a town of Adana Province in 1870's, is now a district center of İçel Province.

The main objective of the Tarsus Projects is the conservation of cultural heritage through restoration and integration with modern life style. In this context, along with restoration efforts, model projects were introduced to initiate active participation of the local community in the conservation process and to reinforce the integration of the heritage with the modern life.

Tarsus Projects were carried out in two different regions of the city. The projects of the Church of St. Paul and the Old Ginnery are located in the 1st region. The projects of the 37th street, 42nd street, St. Paul Well and its plaza, expropriated registered buildings, cinema and the mosque across the plaza are located in the 2nd region. Most of these projects were carried out following very similar processes. All the acknowledged phases of conservation and restoration of cultural heritage were applied in the Tarsus Projects. Thereby, documentation, analysis, assessment, project design and implementation works were handled successively and completed as much as possible.

The rehabilitation implementations in the 37th and the 42nd streets along with all the other realized projects in Tarsus successfully accomplished their targeted results. Both streets are serving as a major tourist attraction, bustling with boutique hotels and coffee shops. However, consequences of on-going street rehabilitation projects are still questionable in our country due to the fact that they mostly focus on cosmetic solutions rather than seeing the whole picture.

50/8 seminar

\* The seminar will be held in Turkish.