IN THE CONTEXT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

AN INVESTIGATION FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY OF TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE

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ABSTRACT

Settlement areas have complex structure; are living organisms. These organisms increase and decrease their cellular and textual bonds with some structural needs while maintaining their lives; some organs that are sometimes not used are separated from this organism. The 'cultural heritage history', which is the memory of the ever-changing and evolving settlement organism, is an important brain function that should not be lost and should be kept alive and refreshed.

For many reasons, the spatial structure of the settlements has changed and the basic reference that should be taken while the demands of the citizens are changing every day; keeping the memory of the city and its inhabitants fresh; It is to transfer it as 'tangible and intangible cultural riches', which is reminiscent of it to other generations, without breaking with its cultural past. This important responsibility should be kept alive; Both 'cultural heritage' and 'traditional architecture' values are 'tangible and intangible cultural heritage' riches for the community and residential areas. In addition to the effort to conserve these values, transferring it to other generations as a sustainable traditional architectural and cultural heritage is one of the most important responsibilities of this generation in the context of continuity of social and cultural identity.

The study covers the integration of the traditional architectural values and cultural heritage of the settlements with sustainable development, and to examine the issue through various sample field studies in different regions of Anatolia. In this context, literature research and on-site field studies are the main methods of the study. It is thought that the data obtained as a result of the study will contribute to the understanding of the importance of society and settlements for the conservation and sustainability of traditional architecture with its cultural heritage value.

Keywords: Cultural heritage, traditional architecture, conservation, sustainability.
1. Introduction

Culture is a versatile concept that is closely related to many disciplines. In this sense, although there are many definitions of culture, generally learned and shared behaviors can be expressed as values, symbols and beliefs. The broadness and diversity of the sharing in question makes culture more general or privatized. (Koçel, 2005). In this context, culture; the dialogues among individuals who make up a society, the relations between them and the society and all kinds of information, habits, interests, ways of thinking and mentality that are spread within the society, in short, are considered as all of the values that cover all kinds of products related to human (Eroğlu, 1982).

Cultural values for societies, as a bridge that connects the past and the future, as well as the old and the new; it is defined as a 'tool' for achieving cultural sustainability and a 'goal' for ensuring cultural continuity (Tapan, 2007). In this context, the cultural values of the past play an important role in strengthening the link between the old and the new as today's cultural heritage. Consequently, cultural heritage forms a basis for the socio-cultural environment in which by establishing a strong connection between the past and present of the societies. Cultural heritage, while shedding light on cultural diversity, reveals the creative potential of individuals and communities in the historical process to date. Communities contribute to today's generation by enriching their social and cultural lives with this heritage they have; At the same time, they guide the shaping of the future, thus enriching the world cultural heritage and increasing their cultural values. Both tangible and intangible cultural heritage; It provides individuals, groups and societies with a sense of belonging to their own culture and supports their perception of their lives and the world.

In the Helsinki Declaration in 1996, emphasizing the role of cultural heritage on sustainable development; It is noted that this can be evaluated in the development process within the framework of certain principles (COE, 2001). In addition, it has been stated that it has many positive roles to creating possibilities for new employment for the sustainable development of cultural heritage in the declaration, alternative local supporting development and urban transformation projects contributing (Osmanoğlu, 2019; 368). When all these studies are examined, it is striking that cultural heritage values form an inseparable whole together with tangible and intangible data. In this sense, architectural data, which forms an important part of tangible cultural heritage, also bear the traces of intangible cultural heritage. From this point of view, considering the intangible cultural heritage, it is important to protect the historical settlements that contain many architectural data within the general structure that constitutes their living spaces, and to transfer these settlements to other generations in the context of sustainability.

Architectural elements that shape the environment and spaces we live in stand out as important representatives of cultural heritage, especially in the context of their traditional values. In addition, the fact that the values in question embody the intangible cultural heritage as well as the tangible allows us to evaluate cultural data in all aspects and to benefit from these data in many ways. In this sense, the sustainability and conservation of traditional architecture contributes significantly to the role of cultural heritage to strengthen the link between the past and the future. The purpose of this study is to contribute to the conservation of cultural heritage and its transfer to future generations through sustainable traditional architecture. In this context, cultural heritage and traditional
architectural concepts are generally examined; the relationship of these concepts with conservation and sustainability has been demonstrated through various examples. As a method of study, the relevant literature has been examined and all the data obtained through on-site observations have been evaluated together. It is thought that the examinations and evaluations made as a result of the study will emphasize the importance of multi-faceted handling of cultural heritage in the conservation of sustainable traditional architecture and contribute to the conservation of the heritage with all its qualities.

2. Cultural Heritage in the Context of Conservation

Cultural heritage tells the common past of a society, strengthens the feelings of unity with social solidarity, and maintains its continuity by conserving the experiences and traditions accumulated throughout the history; briefly, it is a collection of values that shape the future of societies (Öksüz Kuşçuoğlu & Taş, 2017; 60). In this sense, cultural heritage includes both tangible values such as historical artifacts and rituals, values related to daily life, handicrafts, and unique activities such as music and dance (Kalpakli, 2013). Conserving the cultural heritage which includes the important values of the societies and transferring them to the next generations; provides support to the recognition, conservation and maintenance of the culture of the society by the next generations (Pelit, et al. 2018; 74). With the establishment and conservation of cultural heritage sites with a sustainable management plan and a holistic approach; The integration of social and cultural life with social ties maintains its importance both as a value that this generation has inherited from its richness and as a wealth to which the next generations have the consciousness of living these values.

It is also necessary to ensure the sustainable conservation, development and management of these resources in order to raise national awareness on cultural heritage and to direct the owned cultural resources to both the economy and other generations (Çengelci, 2012: 188; Akkuzu et al., 2015: 83). In this case, it should be taken into consideration that the tangible cultural heritage, which is one of the components of cultural value and heritage, includes all the material cultural values including historical cities, structures, archaeological sites, cultural sites and cultural objects as well as movable cultural assets (Pelit, et al. 2018; 74). However, cultural heritage also contains many intangible data with the definition of intangible cultural heritage. The 'Convention on the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage', which is organized for the conservation of these cultural values, includes all the methods and opportunities that will contribute to the transfer of the intangible cultural heritage values, which are seen as a part of the cultural identity by the society, to the future generations (Oğuz, 2009: 8). Within the context of intangible cultural heritage, which includes the cultural values of society and traditional arts; All values related to traditions / customs, artistic activities, social practices / events, festivals, universe and nature-related information and practices are included (UNESCO, 2015; Çalık & Ödemiş, 2018: 235).

Tangible and intangible cultural heritage values, which are the components of cultural value and heritage, are the components that reflect the cultural values of the society with an inseparable whole. The components in question are usually together and intertwined; it appears as integral parts of a whole. In this context, historical buildings and places are the primary values of tangible and
intangible cultural heritage. It is the responsibility of the geography and societies that host these values to conserve the cultural value and heritage and to maintain their existence, and to transfer them to the next generations by conserving the historical structures (Karabulut, 2019; 139). Consequently, the conservation of tangible cultural heritage is not always possible by keeping the original intact, but it integrates with the environment, sometimes it contains the whole of values that can be kept alive with construction systems, sometimes with building materials and sometimes with contrast emphasis. As the tangible cultural heritage, like the historical structure and historical textures, the city and the citizens are not in demand; sometimes left idle cultural and architectural spirit in traditional regions since it is a cultural heritage value in Turkey, it is of great importance to conserve, sustain and transfer these cultural values to other generations.

When analyzing the historical settlements, when they are taken out from their symbolic meaning in the spatial dimension and viewed through "cultural glasses"; It is possible to say that there are scenes that contain traces of social and cultural life with a holistic relationship that cannot be distinguished from each other with its past and present (Akyıldız, 2018; 15,16). Historical structures that contain intangible cultural heritage value as well as an important part of the mentioned settlement areas and tangible cultural heritage; In many parts of the world and in our country, especially in Anatolian geography, it is encountered as a place built with traditional methods and with its unique features. In this context, traditional architecture, which is a part of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, stands out in terms of its features worth examining with its many features that need to be conserved and maintained.

3. Evaluation of Traditional Architecture in the Context of Conservation and Sustainability

Traditional architecture can be defined as an architectural style shaped by each settlement's tradition, lifestyle and culture. Traditional architecture seen in different parts of the world and Turkey with different designs and understandings; Although it contains solutions that meet the spatial requirements in the best way, it is confronted with many qualities that are unique as works of art shaped by the masters of the building. (Çelikyay, 2019). In this context, each settlement has descriptive traces of that society with its unique structures, streets and squares. Spaces, which express themselves and come to life with each architectural touch, enriched the residential areas with their silhouettes that embody the values and cultural traces of today as well as the past of the society they host (Akyıldız, 2017: 57).

In the process of formation of traditional buildings that make up the traditional architecture; interactions of environmental, natural and cultural factors, cultural practices, social life activities have been focused on local building types in general for centuries; and created pioneering types in particular. While local building masters determined the building types and therefore the qualities of traditional architecture, they used these pioneering types as models; they applied the process with the draft composition that exists in their minds, and eventually they built places and structures by realizing local cultural practices and narratives (Bakırer, 2018; 175). In this sense, the source of cultural richness in regions where traditional structures are dense has been directly proportional to the way local masters handled and interpreted the mentioned pioneering types.
Traditional architecture, which has made significant contributions to today's modern construction process both in the world and in our country, still maintains its importance thanks to the answers it gives to human needs in the most effective ways and its harmony with nature. In this context, the conservation and sustainability of traditional architecture is of great importance in terms of being effective and qualified both in the cultural and functional aspects of the spaces created by the future generations.

3.1 Traditional Architecture in the Context of Conservation

The concept of conservation characterizes an action that has a long history. In this sense, taking into account the small number of works that reach today, it is possible to take the past of the action in question as old as the starting date of the building art (Ahunbay, 2004). From this point of view, the main question in the act of conservation is which item is to be protected and why (Tanaç Zeren, 2010). The answer to the question is that the cultural heritage, which also contains architectural elements, has the qualities that determine the identity of the society and individuals that are changing rapidly; Therefore, it can be explained as the necessity of ensuring the correct transfer to future generations (Ulusoy Binan, 1994). In this context, many approaches and legal studies on architectural conservation have been developed throughout the process from the past to the present. In the process, the legal requirements imposed on the conservation of architectural elements contained in the European cities that changed especially after the Industrial Revolution and the conservation of Venice Regulation of 1964 can be described as important turning points. However, there are many differences between the conservation approaches discussed at these turning points. At the beginning of these differences, it is only a monument; Considering the necessity of conserving not only buildings with symbolic value but also all kinds of modest buildings built with traditional methods.

Architectural conservation works have become traditional architecture, as the traditional settlements began to disappear at the same pace, especially under the influence of cities that changed and modernized since the 20th century (Alioğlu, 1993). In this sense, the efforts and necessity of conserving the traditional architecture set forth by the Venice Charter were supported by the meetings and legal studies developed in the future, and today's understanding was reached. In this context, practices have been developed for the conservation of traditional architecture and all traditional structures / textures that make up this architecture both in the world and in our country.

Studies on the conservation of traditional architecture in the world include various legal studies such as the Convention on the Conservation of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, and the Convention on the Conservation of the European Architectural Heritage; however, it is detailed and secured by the activities of organizations such as UNESCO, UNEP / MAP, Council of Europe, European Union, ICOMOS and ICCROM. In our country, as well as legal studies such as the Law on Conservation of Cultural and Natural Assets, Environmental Law, Tourism Promotion Law and Municipalities Law, institutions and units such as Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Interior, General Directorate of Foundations, KUDEB play an important role in carrying out works for the conservation of traditional architecture. (Madran and Özgönül, 2005). In this sense,
traditional architecture continues to exist as an important cultural value, whose importance is understood better and its activities for its conservation have accelerated.

3.2. Integration of Sustainable Development with Traditional Architecture

The concepts of sustainability and sustainable development were brought to the international platform for the first time with the Brutland Report and Rio Conference-1. It has maintained its ontological existence with the phenomenon of 'specifying continuity' which is the equivalent of the word “sustainability” in English and translated into Turkish as sustainability. Sustainability as a concept is based on the principle of meeting today's needs without compromising the possibilities of future generations to meet their own needs (WCED, 1987). The holistic relationship of the processes related to the economic, social, ecological and cultural dimensions required to ensure sustainability; It includes the organization of goals, strategies and objectives compatible with these dimensions in decision making and policy making activities (Keskin, 2012: 84). Of this principle “Urban planning” The issue of the agenda was discussed within the scope of the global partnership theme defined as 'Local Agenda 21' at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. The issue has been discussed with policy quests on “sustainable urban and rural development strategy” and has taken its place on the agenda (UNCED, 1992; Özcan, 2016: 8,9).

Although it is sometimes stated that there are different approaches between conceptual "sustainable urban development" and "conservation of cultural assets" with a clear contradiction; In fact, data and arguments that show that there are two integrated facts that are integrated in harmony and sustainable planning are quite strong (Osmanoğlu, 2019: 371). Sustainable development, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; It includes using 'renewable resources' and reducing 'non-renewable resources' by focusing on being environmentalist, productive and inclusive of urban settlements. This target is also valid for urban spaces with historical value; It is a phenomenon that includes the conservation of historical, cultural and natural riches that cannot be replaced by a new one (Satterthwaite, 1997: 1667-1691; Osmanoğlu, 2019; 371). In addition to the continuous evaluation of the resources for the sustainable development target, it is important to determine the conservation areas within the scope of the evaluation, to ensure their conservation and to create a protection awareness (Deniz, 2017: 1400).

Along with the principles of broad participation, social cooperation and transparency in the sustainable urban development approach, it has been demonstrated that the historical and traditional textures that are cultural heritage should be conserved and developed (Albrechts, 2004: 743-758; Steinberg, 1996: 463-475; Larkham, 1996; Osmanoğlu, 2019: 371). With this reference, it can be said that sustainable urban development has two main titles as the conservation of cultural and historical / traditional texture with the built natural environment (Wood and Bruff, 2000: 525). The content of sustainability that emerges in the widely accepted environmental movements; it is accepted as a moral principle that is constantly tried to be determined in the political process (Bektaş, 2001: 742-743).
In the effort of sustainable development, conservation of cultural heritage is as important as environmental, economic and cultural sustainability (Rypkema, 2005). In the conservation of cultural heritage; conservation in a sustainable way to be managed management plan, for keeping alive inclusion in daily life, to transfer giving a cultural and economic dimension, the future to be carried to generations if it is necessary to make these facts permanent. Without compromising conservation principles; conservation should be accepted as a basic principle, not with the society, but with the society (Öksüz Kuşcuoğlu and Taş, 2017: 64). However, the efforts for sustainable conservation are not only based on concrete data; Performing on intangible data is also important for the results obtained to provide overall benefits (Akyıldız & Olğun, 2020).

4. Evaluation of Traditional Architectural Examples as Cultural Heritage

Traditional architecture contains values that are important to conserve as a whole consisting of many physical and cultural data and to pass them on to future generations. In this sense, while qualities such as topography, climate, water resources, vegetation and soil structure are defined as physical data shaping traditional architecture; environmental images, social structure, family structure, kinship norms and rules, residence style and technology can be expressed as cultural data directing traditional architecture (Çal, 2012). Traditional architecture examples enriched with the mentioned data are frequently encountered in Turkey as in many countries of the world.

Traditional architecture finds direction in almost every country according to the conditions of the region and the data it has. In this context, when looking at various examples from the world, it is possible to deal with the effects of the data in a tangible way. From this point of view, many examples of textures and structures such as Walser settlements in Italy, Kandovan settlement in Iran, buildings in Barcelona, Spain, and traditional residences called Diaojiaolou of China, the development of traditional architecture almost everywhere in the world. It shows that it depends on physical and cultural data (Figure 1). However, like other countries designated research area in Turkey as a country frequently encountered traditional architecture of the original product emerges. These examples also have striking qualities in that they contain traditional architectural data belonging to communities that are quite different from each other. The examples examined in this context are important to emphasize how important traditional architecture is in the context of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, even in different parts of the world.

![Figure 1](image-url)
Walser settlements in Italy consist of rural communities located at different points in the same geography. Although the communities in question have different cultures within themselves, it is possible to state that the physical conditions of the geography in which they are located are very effective in the context of traditional architecture. In this sense, worship structures built by traditional methods in these settlements are a reference with tangible and intangible cultural heritage elements (Çal, 2012). However, as an example of traditional architecture, residential buildings can be considered as important structures in the context of reflecting both physical conditions and cultural and social data. (Figure 2).

Figure 2. A view from the Walser settlement built in Italy by traditional methods and the qualities of the traditional wooden Walser house (Çal, 2012; Mirici-Cappa, 1997)

Spain is one of the areas where the best examples of traditional architecture are seen with its unique geography and cultural data. In this context, traditional buildings in Barcelona, which is one of the important settlements of the country, stand out with its modern architecture. Many worship structures built by traditional methods surround modern structures as important representatives of cultural heritage in this sense. (Figure 3)

Figure 3. The current status of a church building built by traditional methods in the city of Barcelona, Spain, and its effect on the street in which it is located as an example of traditional architecture (07.10.2019)
The Kandovan settlement in Tabriz, which is located in Iran, contains structures that reflect the most important examples of traditional architecture. The structures obtained by carving the rocks formed as a result of physical conditions, a traditional architecture, which was shaped by animal husbandry, which is the source of livelihood of the region, and supported by intangible cultural data, was produced (Olğun, 2019). In this context, traditional buildings in the Kandovan settlement can be considered among the most characteristic representatives of the cultural heritage (Figure 4).

Figure 4. The structures located in the Kandovan settlement, which stands out with its characteristic features in Iran, and the plan and sectional example of a residence in the settlement (Olğun, 2019; Ashrafī, 2013)

In addition to many countries in the world, China is one of the leading countries with the best known traditional architectural examples. In different regions of China, which has a deep-rooted culture and a characteristic geography, it is possible to encounter traditional architectural examples specific to that region. In this context, traditional residential buildings called Diaojiaolou, which constitute an important part of Chinese cultural heritage and have characteristics that are worth examining with their unique qualities, can also be considered as striking examples in terms of tangible and intangible cultural heritage (Figure 5).

Figure 5. General view of traditional houses called Diaojiaolou in China (URL 2)
The world's displaced as many in Turkey it is also frequently observed prominent examples of traditional architecture with unique qualities. These structures, which are seen especially in Anatolian geography, stand out with their unique features in terms of both tangible and intangible values. In this context, it is possible to find traditional architecture in almost every residential area from east to west of Anatolia (Figure 6).

Settlements in the east of Anatolia are areas where cultural heritage is very rich, especially in terms of their unique qualities of Mesopotamia. In this context, traditional architecture is frequently encountered in the context of cultural heritage in Diyarbakır, which is one of the unique settlements of Mesopotamia. Ziya Gökalp House, which is one of the Diyarbakır houses built with local stone materials and construction techniques, also stands out in terms of intangible cultural heritage in terms of reflecting the local lifestyle. (Figure 7).

Figure 6. Settlements examined in the context of traditional architecture and outstanding work in Turkey (Edited from URL 3)

Figure 7. Ziya Gökalp House as an example of traditional architecture in Diyarbakır (27.10.2018; Özyılmaz and Sahil, 2017)
Erzincan, located in the eastern part of Anatolia, also contains important examples in the context of
cultural heritage, such as Diyarbakır. One of these examples is the traditional architecture in
Kemaliye, a settlement established on the banks of the Euphrates River. In Kemaliye, which is a
transition area between the eastern and northern regions, local wooden materials and construction
techniques stand out. However, not only residential buildings, but also traditional educational
buildings such as madrasas are among the striking examples in the settlement as an important part
of cultural heritage (Figure 8).

Figure 8. General view of traditional settlement in Erzincan / Kemaliye and a madrasah structure as
an example of traditional architecture (13.08.2016; Sayın, 2014)

Safranbolu is one of the settlements that contain the most important examples of Anatolian
traditional architecture. This settlement, which has survived to a great extent by preserving its
original qualities, is of great importance in that it reflects many common qualities seen in almost all
Anatolian traditional architecture. The Safranbolu settlement and all traditional buildings in this
settlement are unique examples in the context of cultural heritage, with features such as the
materials and construction techniques specific to the region and the reflection of many details about
the culture of living in architecture. (Fig. 9).

Figure 9. Sipahioğlu House as a general view of traditional architecture and an example of
traditional architecture in Karabük / Safranbolu (Özdemir, 2011; Sayın, 2014)
Settlements in the western regions, as well as in the east of Anatolia, contain important examples of cultural heritage with their deep-rooted history and unique qualities. In this context, İzmir settlement, where many different cultures come together with its strategic location, stands out with striking examples in terms of traditional architecture. As in other regions of Anatolia, traditional architectural examples with many unique features worthy of study are encountered in Birgi settlement in İzmir, with tangible and intangible cultural heritage data specific to the region. Figure 10.

![Figure 10. Çakırağa Mansion as an example of traditional architecture in İzmir / Birgi (29.11.2014)](image)

Considering the examples of traditional architecture as an important part of the cultural heritage of the world and Turkey, many features in common are outstanding. Some of these features;

- Being built with materials suitable for the conditions of the region,
- The best known construction techniques were used in the region,
- Having the functions that best adapt to the culture of living and in the simplest way,
- Shaping according to user needs,
- It can be listed as reflecting the identity and intangible values of the society. However, in some examples, it is seen that the traditional architecture in question is conserved and studies are carried out on sustainability; In some cases, it is striking that this architecture tries to find a place in the modern face of the settlement. In this context, it can be stated that the method developed by the local people in order to conserve traditional structures is in the form of entrusting cultural value. Hence the world in different points in Turkey and said that the development of meaning can be expressed in a variety of approaches.
5. Conclusion and Evaluation

Cultural heritage is a versatile phenomenon that is closely related to many disciplines such as the concept of culture it contains. Cultural heritage, which has a rich content with both tangible and intangible data, also includes traditional architecture in this sense. Traditional architecture, on the other hand, is a special study area consisting of unique structures with its local characteristics. In this context, in places related to traditional buildings; local masters fulfill the needs of the living individuals in the spatial tradition with their plan schemes that they envision in their minds. While this practice is put forward with social and cultural practices and expressions, they come to life by taking environmental values into account. In addition, while traditional materials are used together with local elements in the traditional architecture, the production supported with indoor comfort and decoration is built with aesthetics in harmony with the environment, region, social life and cultural texture.

Traditional architecture provides references on the lifestyle and identity of the society with its many unique features. In this context, the conservation of traditional architecture with a sustainable approach as an important part of cultural heritage requires the cultural heritage sites to be protected by participatory ways and rational perspective by determining the value, capacity and importance of the heritage sites. Increasing the level of social awareness and awareness is as important as the related institutions and organizations in solving the problems related to the conservation of this heritage with sustainable cultural policies and fulfilling the short and medium and long term goals and policies required to meet the needs related to the protection capacity. Cultural heritage has an important conservation responsibility for this generation, and the responsibility to maintain and survive for another generation.

Traditional architecture stands out with its unique quality in many different parts of the world. However, regardless of geography, joint studies are carried out all over the world for the conservation and sustainability of this architecture. Anatolia in Turkey, especially in this context, incorporating striking example of the rich traditional architecture. The conservation and sustainability of the mentioned samples, on the other hand, by evaluating the concrete data correctly; both intangible values are provided in a holistic manner. With this basic reference, the process of transferring cultural values to future generations, which is related to the traditional architecture that we have to maintain with its cultural heritage value; it will succeed in contributing to social and cultural sustainability by rationally conducting its planning, implementation, monitoring, auditing and updating efforts.
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