

MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

CONS 504 GRADUATE SEMINARS

2021-2022 FALL SEMESTER

Feb.09, 2022 | 09.30-12.40 | @zoom

meeting link:

<https://zoom.us/j/93271141237?pwd=MjQ5T1pDdnJmdUcyaS9aNm5LNnYxQT09>

meeting ID: 932 7114 1237

password: 570828

February 09, 2022 Wednesday - 09:30

CONS504 SEMINAR IN CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE - I

Coordinators: Sibel Yıldırım Esen,
Pınar Aykaç Leidholm

09:30 - 09:50

Esra Ceren Kara — The Medieval Byzantine (Converted) Churches at Trebizond (Trabzon): Promotion of Local Awareness and Conservation Through Interpretation and Presentation

Supervisor: Ufuk Serin

Jury: Pınar Aykaç, Aygün Kalınbayrak Ercan

The Byzantine Empire, lasted from 4th to 15th centuries, covered a significant period in history and left behind numerous edifices. However, the approach of the political authorities, which emphasizes the Seljuk and Ottoman heritage, to Byzantium in Turkey is reluctant and problematic. The Byzantine history and culture have long been neglected and attained negative connotations. In order to accomplish effective conservation, raise awareness and provide a better understanding of the Byzantine cultural heritage, the history of Byzantium needs to be reinterpreted and presented to the public as a part of a common cultural heritage. In this thesis, the ways to interpret, present and integrate the Medieval Byzantine heritage into today's world will be analysed through the selected case study of Trebizond (Trabzon) with a holistic approach, by putting emphasis on the converted Byzantine churches. Although the vestiges of this period are still intact and in use today, their past is unknown to many of their users. This situation is even more evident in the case of the converted churches, which are now used as mosques or mosque-museums. In Trebizond, numerous religious edifices that are still in use were built during the Medieval Byzantine period and converted into mosques under the Ottoman rule. Currently, these churches serve as mosques and mosque-museums. However, with the exception of Hagia Sophia, the Byzantine past of these churches is obscure to many locals. Thus, the promotion of local awareness and conservation of the Medieval

Byzantine heritage in the city is required. With this premise, this research will investigate the values and opportunities offered by the Byzantine cultural heritage in Trebizond and the threats to its conservation, and it will offer proposals for a more effective interpretation and presentation so as to promote local awareness and integration of the Medieval Byzantine heritage.

10:20 – 10:40

Melda Kaplan — Assessing Impacts of Coal Mining on Rural Heritage: The Case of Yatağan

Supervisor: Sibel Yıldırım Esen

Jury: Neriman Şahin Güçhan,
Emine Çiğdem Asrav

Extractive activities such as mining, oil and gas exploration and exploitation have adverse impacts on cultural properties. According to World Heritage state of conservation reports, the threat represented by extractive industries has globally increased since the 1990s. Mining, oil and gas activities currently stand as the 7th most important factors affecting the World Heritage natural and mixed properties. In Turkey, in addition to natural and archaeological sites, rural heritage places, such as villages in Yatağan, Muğla, have been adversely affected by extractive industries since the 1980s. There is an urgent need for developing transparent, inclusive and informed decision-making processes and assessment tools to prevent further damage in rural heritage places. Therefore, this study aims to focus on impact assessment for mining activities for better integrating natural and rural heritage conservation, and mining into land-use planning and management strategies. Yatağan has been selected as the case study area of this research due to the ongoing impacts of mining activities on its cultural and natural values. The region

has been continuously settled since the Bronze Age. The ancient city of Stratonikeia and Lagina Hecate Sanctuary are located in Yatağan. In addition, its rural heritage places without a registration status, possess tangible and intangible values, some of which have been lost because of existing coal mining activities. It is essential to identify these heritage values and to assess the impact of mining activities on them through a systematic approach. In this context, the study will be composed of three main phases: 1) pre-survey phase which includes literature review, archival survey, as well as identifying already damaged villages and villages which are under the threat of coal mining, 2) site survey phase which aims to collect data to understand the physical and social context and values of these villages, and 3) data analysis and evaluation phase which focuses on assessing the impact of mining on the study area based on a proposed assessment framework.

10:40- 11:00

Yağmur Gündoğdu — A Reexamination of Buffer Zone of Urban Conservation Sites: The Case of Bursa, Turkey

Supervisor: Sibel Yıldırım Esen

Jury: Neriman Şahin Güçhan, Fuat Gökçe

The protection of the “surroundings” of the conservation areas is an essential component of the conservation strategy for cultural and natural sites. These areas, which are defined as “buffer zones” in the context of world heritage properties, or as “interaction transition zones” in the conservation regulations in Turkey, are an important tool for the conservation of sites and cultural properties. However, in conservation practice, as much as their absence, planning and implementation of buffer

zones may adversely affect the integrity of conservation sites. For example, the division between urban conservation sites and interaction transition zones isolates and differentiates these sites from the remaining urban context. When conservation areas and their surroundings are not planned with a holistic approach, the physical, functional, social and economic integrity of the conservation areas with their surrounding is lost. Therefore, this thesis aims to examine how conservation areas could be better integrated with the interaction transition zones. The historical city centre of Bursa (Khans District), which is in the World Heritage List, is chosen as the study area because of the urban development pressures in its surroundings that may adversely affect heritage values and outstanding universal value of this area. The methodological framework of this research includes literature review, archival research, field studies, and evaluation of policies, planning approaches and implementations through a case study. The results of this research are expected to contribute to the development of the concept of the buffer zone in the conservation field as well as to the related international and national policies for integrated conservation planning.

11:00 – 11:20

Fatma Kuş — Critical Assessment of the Interpretation and Presentation of Göbeklitepe World Heritage Site In the Audio-Visual Media

Supervisor: Pınar Aykaç

Jury: Neriman Şahin Güçhan, A. Güliz Bilgin Altınöz

Audio-visual media tools have recently been widely used in interpretation and presentation of cultural heritage sites. They have promoted cultural heritage awareness while enabling people to learn, understand, and value cultural heritage. Although audio-visual media has a great role in the presentation and interpretation of cultural heritage, there is no detailed study on how effective the audio-visual media is in raising awareness and to what extent it reflects the importance of heritage sites. After the Neolithic

site of Göbekli Tepe in Şanlıurfa was inscribed on the world heritage list, it has become the center of attention of the media especially with the declaration of 2019 as the "Year of Göbekli Tepe" in Turkey. Thus, the site met with the audience in different types of audio-visual media such as documentaries, animations, TV series, exhibitions etc. While the site's representation in a wide range of audio-visual media helps increase its promotion, these tools do not always convey the significance of Göbekli Tepe accurately. This thesis aims to make a critical assessment of how Göbekli Tepe World Heritage Site's significance and values as a heritage place is interpreted and presented in audio-visual media. Using critical content analysis, the thesis explores how audio-visual media helps raise awareness Göbekli Tepe World Heritage Site in Turkey, how accurate is the information in audio-visual media and how much of its significance as a heritage place is conveyed.

11:20 – 11:40

Zeynep Tutku Eren— Assessment of the Adaptive Reuse of Historic Residential Buildings as Museums: Case of Historic City Centre of İzmir

Supervisor: Sibel Yıldırım Esen

Jury: Güliz Bilgin Altınöz, Fuat Gökçe, Pınar Aykaç

Adaptive reuse, which is considered an important strategy towards conservation of cultural heritage, is widely used to upscale the cities while preserving their identity and values. Sustainable adaptive reuse practices may have positive impacts on economy, environmental sustainability, social inclusion and culture and identity. It is important to understand the characteristics of a sustainable adaptive reuse and to assess how changes related to adaptive reuse of historic buildings affect heritage values through a systematic approach. Accordingly, this thesis aims to assess the adaptive reuse of residential buildings as museums. Among other building categories, residential buildings are largely subject to adaptive reuse implementations because of changing living

conditions and standards. Four residential buildings from the late 19th century that have been subject to adaptive reuse in the historic city centre of İzmir are selected as the cases of this research. Konak, the historic centre of İzmir, houses many cultural symbols of the city, moreover, residential buildings built around the end of the 19th century constitute an important part of its historical tissue. This thesis will address different adaptive reuse approaches in both the building and the city scale based on proposed assessment criteria. In order to analyze the subject of the thesis, the study will compose of three main phases: a literature review, archival survey and research on the theoretical background of adaptive reuse concept through examples, data collection through site survey and an evaluation and assessment phase of the effects of adaptive reuse. Additionally, throughout the study quantitative, qualitative and comparative methods will be utilized. Adaptive reuse of residential buildings is a common practice in the conservation field, thus the assessment of adaptive reuse of residential buildings as museum projects will provide guidance for future implementations.

11:40 – 12:00

Tuğçe Halıcı — Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation for Historic Schools: The Case of İzmir, Turkey

Supervisor: Sibel Yıldırım Esen

Jury: A. Güliz Bilgin Altınöz, Soofia Tahira Elias Özkan

Cultural properties are affected by the impacts of climate change at present and in the future. Understanding these impacts to heritage values and mitigating and adapting to climate change effectively is critical for the continued preservation of cultural heritage. Knowledge related to adaptation and mitigation to climate change has drastically increased over the past ten years, yet there is still a need for tools and methodologies for assessing risks and impacts at urban and building scales. Besides, methodologies that address different heritage and

building categories must be developed. Hence, this study aims to assess the impacts of climate change on historic educational buildings in Turkey and develop methods for climate change adaptation while preserving heritage values. Developing climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies for historic school buildings is particularly significant and timely because, first, there are more than 2000 historic schools in Turkey that constitute an important part of cultural heritage, second, these buildings are public buildings with a high number of users (most of that is children) and requires policies and informed decision-making based on scientific research and analyses. Finally, historic schools are characterized by their high energy usage, high occupant density and patterns of daily users. Historic schools in İzmir, Turkey is threatened by different hazards due to climate change, including sea-level rise, flood, storm, forest fire. For examining exposure to these hazards and analyzing their impacts, a methodological framework that includes a wide range of methods, including literature review, archival research, field studies, surveys with users, and GIS analyses will be developed. In addition to analyzing vulnerabilities of school buildings at an urban scale, a building scale analysis will be carried out for the selected schools. Based on these analyses, the thesis will propose strategies for climate change adaptation of historic schools in İzmir.

12:00 – 12:20

Miraç Ayça Türkiliz — Principles and Strategies for the Conservation of a Heritage Place at the Forefront of the Population Exchange: The Case of the Krom Valley (Yağlıdere Village) in Gümüşhane

Supervisor: Pınar Aykaç

Jury: Güliz Bilgin Altınöz, F. Nurşen Kul

On January 30, 1923, Lausanne Peace Treaty VI. Convention for the Compulsory Population Exchange was signed by Turkish and Greek delegates. As a result of the protocol almost two million people were forced to leave their hometowns and many settlements populated by the Greek (Rum) community in Turkey were nearly deserted. Although

some of these settlements were reinhabited by a much-reduced Muslim population, they were never fully settled leaving behind certain sections almost abandoned. Most of the studies on the heritage places of the population exchange develop conservation approaches by focusing only on the tangible aspects of these settlements at present rather than understanding how these heritage places have transformed over time with their tangible and intangible aspects. The Krom Valley in Yağlıdere Village in Gümüşhane is one of the settlements in the Black Sea region exposed to population exchange. Before the population exchange, the valley was a miner's settlement with a population of six thousand people, living in 15 neighborhoods with around 40 churches, chapels, and monasteries. After the population exchange, Muslim communities were settled in the valley, however, due to the lack of population and religious differences, many of the houses, public buildings, and mines were left empty, facing to collapse. This study aims to develop conservation principles and strategies for the Krom Valley in Yağlıdere Village, Gümüşhane by integrating its tangible and intangible aspects over time. The study will first trace the transformation of the village over time by evaluating its tangible and intangible aspects in an integrated manner through literature review, in-depth interview with its current inhabitants as well as with the use of the oral history archive of the Centre for Asia Minor Studies. Based on these evaluations, the study will propose principles and strategies for the conservation of the Krom Valley in Yağlıdere Village as a heritage place depopulated after the population exchange.

12:20 – 12:40

Betül Üstün — Assessing the Sustainability in Rural Heritage Places: The Case of Datça, Muğla

Supervisor: Sibel Yıldırım Esen

Jury: Güliz Bilgin Altınöz, Emine Çiğdem Asrav

The phenomenon of rural heritage can be defined as tangible and intangible cultural heritage values that show local characteristics like rural architecture and local materials, shaped by the mutual interaction of

the built environment and the natural environment in the context of social-cultural and economic relations. In other words, rural sites are the areas that bear values to be protected, created by combining the structures that are the products of the local with their material, construction technique and design with elements such as streets, squares and agricultural areas. In recent years, these natural and cultural values of rural heritage in Turkey have started to generate more attraction on the basis of the tourism sector. Furthermore, in some rural areas, especially those in the Aegean and Mediterranean coastal regions, there is an increase in population due to migration from cities. As a result of increasing interest, rural heritage places are exposed to both social and spatial changes. For example, Datça Peninsula in Muğla is one of the regions that has been the centre of attention in recent years. It turned into a tourism centre with the intense interest of citizens and investors. This led to the construction of holiday villages on one side, and primary and/or secondary housing for retirees from cities on the other side. This thesis aims to analyze the impacts of these recent changes on rural heritage places, with a focus on 'rural gentrification'. Within the scope of this study, Datça Peninsula will be examined as the case study of this research, addressing physical and socio-cultural changes and how these changes have affected rural heritage. Within this framework, conservation planning policies and plan decisions will be examined for the Peninsula, while site surveys and in-depth interviews with newcomers and local actors will be carried out in Kızlan Village, Yaka Village and Datça Center. Research findings are expected to provide insights for future rural heritage conservation and development planning proposals for Datça Peninsula.