



SUSTAINABLE TRADITIONAL IN THE CONTEXT OF URBAN IDENTITY VALUE INVESTIGATION OF SETTLEMENT AREAS

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Abstract:

Cities, like a living organism, form their own memory and identity with their social codes and cultural values that have preserved the past and present. The city builds its urban identity while creating its memory with spatial and structural memory. To move the historical and cultural characteristics of the residential areas to future generations in a sustainable way; originality, continuity of use, construction technique and aesthetic values are possible with the identity values in the urban memory. The residential areas that can protect their past and identity socially, culturally and spatially have been the subject of many studies with their originality and sustainable design understanding.

Anatolian traditional settlement areas have carried the spatial identity value they have demonstrated with their historical and cultural accumulation from past to present. These settlements, which sometimes cannot be fully integrated into the city, have become tourists that attract tourists with their spatial identity value for some cities. Traditional residential areas that appeal to people's past feelings of knowledge and belonging continue to create both identity and brand values of cities. Along with the sustainable design approach and unique identity value, traditional residential areas and design understanding still need to be examined.

Thus, the study aims to analyze the unique aspects of traditional residential areas that support sustainability and create urban identity. In the context of the study, the literature on sustainable traditional residential areas in the context of urban identity has been examined. In the light of the data obtained, different traditional residential areas of Anatolia were examined. As a result of the study, it is aimed that the design understanding of traditional residential areas that contribute to the city's identity value will be a reference to modern architecture.

Keywords: Urban Identity; Traditional Residential Areas; Sustainability; Sustainable Traditional Design.

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1. Introduction

The relationship between human and environment takes place in line with the learning and coding of the living environment and the place where it is located (Göregenli, 2010). Even the definition of space is the 'thing' that the individual embraces in this context and it is the act of revealing this

phenomenon by reflecting it to social reality together with personal items, space status and symbolic expressions (Appadurai, 1986; Öymen Özak, 2008; Yanmaz, 2018). From this point of view, it is possible to define the living environment as architectural products built on a large scale within the urban space with social predictions. Therefore, it gains meaning with the components of identity, structure and meaning by the environment observer / living and can be defined in this context (Lynch, 1960).

By maintaining a healthy and uninterrupted relationship between urban memory and urban space, it is possible for cities to preserve their identity or gain identity from the past (Ünlü, 2017). Each urban settlement has its own spatial textures and a unique identity, which it presents with its cultural accumulation; this identity becomes meaningful with its ability to survive and protect it (Bircan, 2019). Preserving urban identity for sustainable residential areas is of special importance for social, cultural and economic sustainability. Spatial sustainability and sustainability is possible by preserving historical, cultural and identity values that extend from past to future (Bilsel et al., 2000; Bilsel, 2002).

The aim of the study is to evaluate the sustainability of traditional settlements, where the concept of identity is intensely, and to draw attention to the relation between identity and traditional settlement in this context. Within the scope of the study, the information in the related literature has been included and various traditional settlements in Anatolia have been discussed with on-site examinations. As a working method, the resources related to the subject were researched and sample areas were visited. It is aimed that the data obtained as a result of the study will emphasize the importance of the identity values of the cities and provide reference to modern designs.

2. The Relationship Between Urban Identity and Sustainable Traditional Design Approach

The concept of identity, as a social entity, is used to define all of the qualities, signs and features of the human, as well as the documents that introduce the person, the identification card, identity, as well as all the features that are used to identify any object (TDK, 2018). Within the scope of this definition, the identity of the residential areas reveals that the city is a dynamic concept that covers the spirit and the social perception of the individuals it contains. It has a unique identity that blends with the combination of abstract and concrete qualities that distinguish urban settlements like people from others (Polat, 2013; Polat et al., 2018).

Each urban identity consists of roads, regions, nodes / focal points, edges, and sign / triangulation elements that are unequal in each other with their unique and unique continuity (Lynch, 2014; Akyıldız, 2017). Addressing the identities revealed by physical, social, cultural, formal, historical and urban functions as a whole is an urban identity (Özgür, 2011; Sağlık ve Kelkit, 2019). This identity, together with its unique historical and cultural accumulation, includes all the distinctive qualities it has acquired by blending its social, economic and cultural functions and reflecting it to spatial organizations (Keleş, 1998; TÜBA, 2011; Akkoç, 2017).

Cultural heritage accumulation, which stands out as an identity value especially in the historical settlement areas of cities, is defined by the continuity and authenticity of identity and memory that express the past of the society (Aksoy & Enlil, 2012; Polat et al., 2018). Due to this cultural

heritage and identity value, cities should be preserved together with their socio-economic and socio-cultural accumulation and transferred to future generations (Mason, 2020; Polat et al., 2018). For this reason, the urban identity of residential areas has become one of the most important works carried out for the sustainability of the cities rather than being an objective or subjective concept (Tavakoli, 2010; Health and Kelkit, 2019).

Traditional structures that symbolize the cultural presence and identity value in traditional residential areas with their concrete and intangible values are also an important asset of sustainable development. The concept of sustainability, which first appeared in the 1960s; It describes a participatory process with a social perspective that allows the society to use social, cultural and natural resources prudently and that requires respect (Gladwin et al., 1995). Along with its economic, social and environmental components, sustainability will also be possible, if sustainable, for cities (Şahin et al., 2018). The concept of sustainability, especially in traditional societies, is addressed in the sense of 'sustaining' or 'supporting from below' in meeting all the population needs of today and the future (Salman, 2018). The most important step in the approaches to cultural heritage management has been to address human rights principles by integrating them with protection policies, and this basic reference has made it possible to transfer all the values that have an identity in the context of sustainability to future generations by protecting the spatial memory owned by the society (Jokilehto, 2005; Oviedo and Puschkarsky, 2012). From this point of view, social, cultural and spatial values are accepted as an important component of sustainable development, environmental awareness and economic production resources (Naycı, 2016).

3. Identity and Sustainability in Anatolian Traditional Settlements

Anatolian settlements located within the borders of Turkey, constitutes a long history and unique area stands out with its rich culture. The settlements in Anatolia, which embodies many unique values with its geography and architecture, have many data that will reference modern settlements in the context of sustainability with their unique identities.

Although Anatolian settlements have basically similar characteristics compared to east, middle, west, north and south regions, they differ architecturally in terms of various details. Parameters such as climate, vegetation, topography and cultural values have been effective in the development of these differences. In this sense, examples from different regions of Anatolia will be useful for evaluating the general identity of this unique settlement and considering it in the context of sustainability.

Diyarbakır settlement, located in the east of Anatolia, is one of the sustainable traditional residential areas that stand out in the context of urban identity value. Located in the north of Mesopotamia, this settlement is where the summer months pass with high temperature and drought values; and it is located in an area showing terrestrial climate where the winter months are cold. History BC The area called Suriçi in Diyarbakır, which dates back to 7000s, constitutes the traditional settlement area (Beysanoğlu, 1999) (Figure 1, 2).



Figure 1: Diyarbakır's location in Turkey (URL 1)



Figure 2: Diyarbakır Suriçi maps (URL 2; URL 3)

When Suriçi settlement is examined, important data are found in the context of urban identity. In this sense;

- The fact that the users of the settlement have a conservative structure is also reflected in the design of the building, and courtyards that are mostly closed to the outside are used.
- Since the crowded families are general users, common housing and multi-room houses are widely used.
- Due to the hot climate, street textures are designed to minimize the effects of the sun.
- Stone material specific to the region was used extensively. (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Street textures and buildings in Diyarbakır Suriçi traditional settlement (27.10.2018)

One of the prominent settlements in Anatolia in the context of urban identity is Safranbolu, located in the central-northern region of the area (Figure 4). The traditional settlement of Safranbolu, which is a district of Karabük province and has the characteristics of the Black Sea climate, is located in an area with plenty of precipitation. For this reason, the settlement, which also has a rich vegetation, was founded in BC. It has a long history dating back to the 4th century (Bozkurt Azezli, 2009). The benefits of all these riches and their strategic location are reflected in Safranbolu's unique traditional architecture.



Figure 4: Safranbolu's location in the Karabük city and Turkey (URL 4; URL 5)

Safranbolu settlement contains many original data in terms of cultural identity within the context of being a sustainable traditional settlement. In this context;

- Large families living in the settlement enabled the structures to be arranged and designed accordingly.
- Since it is located in an area with heavy rainfall, wood material was used extensively in the construction of the building.
- Cracked roofs have been widely used to minimize the effects of heavy rain.
- Due to the fact that there are usually storage areas on the ground floors of the buildings, stone material was used and the spaces opened outside were kept very small. (Figure 5).



Figure 5: General view and architecture of Safranbolu (Bozkurt Azezli, 2009; Özdemir, 2011)

Traditional settlements in the west of Anatolia, such as settlements in the eastern and central regions, are sustainable areas with many unique data in terms of urban identity value. In this sense, İzmir settlement, located in the west of Anatolia, is one of the areas that clearly reveal its unique identity with its regions where traditional structures are dense. The history of İzmir, which is located on the coast of the Aegean Sea and has a Mediterranean climate, is also very old (Figure 6).



Figure 6: Izmir's location in Turkey (URL 6)

İzmir reflects the urban identity values intensely with its sustainable traditional residential areas. In this sense, when İzmir settlement is examined;

- The fact that there is a more flexible structure in terms of privacy anxiety compared to the eastern and central regions of Anatolia has made the relationship of the buildings with the streets stronger.
- The hipped roof was widely used due to heavy rains.
- Since it is a rich region in terms of material, wood, stone and adobe origin materials were mostly used together in the buildings.
- While wide window openings make maximum use of sunlight; With the use of blinds, the harmful effects of the sun were controlled. (Figure 7).



Figure 7: İzmir traditional residential area (10.05.2018)

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

The traditional settlement areas and structures brought by the spatial identity value by preserving social memory and memory have cultural heritage value for the city. These settlements, where spatial memory is kept alive with their unique identity values, are the building accumulation that also contribute to the cultural, social and economic sustainability of the cities. Traditional

settlement areas of Anatolia, where this original accumulation of architectural design that should be preserved with its identity value and transferred to future generations come to life, has many important features.

Although these settlements vary depending on regional, environmental and climatic features, the most important common feature of their traditional structures is; structural identity values. If we consider traditional structures in terms of structural identity values;

- It takes the user to the center within the framework of its cultural identity and knowledge that is intangible as the local values of the region it is in,
- By using the form and function decisions specific to the traditional settlement areas together with the original planning forms specific to the region, it clarified the identity of the building,
- Along with its topography and natural environment integration, it has realized its plans with its environmentalist identity, which is fully sensitive to the climate organization,
- The conservative identity that dominates the traditional social structure is reflected in the plan decisions and street texture,
- The connection of traditional buildings to the street is planned with a courtyard surrounded by high walls, an open-top entrance, sofa or life, which allows the street to have a more spacious and light planning,
- Traditional structures are planned with a function identity that can be classified as sofas, inner sofas, outer sofas and middle sofas (Eldem, 1995),
- In some regions, the roof is built with a slope as a hipped roof for snow and precipitation, and in some regions it is built with terrace roof applications based on summer use,
- The buildings in traditional residential areas are positioned to be less affected by the cold of winter, to head towards the sun and to take into account the dominant wind,
- In terms of the plan scheme, while spaces such as storage and kitchen areas are located on the ground floor, it is considered that the design of open areas facing north in summer and south facing areas for winter is taken into consideration in order to maintain the temperature level,
- Building forms created with a climate usage decision are planned as square or rectangular with minimum surface / exterior decision,
- Depending on the climate characteristics, window sizes / frequencies are taken into consideration with the most efficient usage decisions for the day heat / light of the buildings, and window shutters are included in the planning decisions for the summer with the sun breaker function,
- In these structures, the balconies are kept small, this need is met by the sofa / courtyard or sometimes the roof of the roof,
- Depending on the local characteristics, the most economical / fast accessible material in the region - wood, stone, adobe, etc.- where their identity is made by making their preferences,
- Easy-to-access material selections include rational choices not only for construction but also in terms of repair, recycling and waste management, contributing to the energy identity value of these structures,

- In the buildings, the walls of the ground floor are generally made with local stone, and the upper floor interior / exterior walls are made of wooden carcass, straw reinforcing insulation and lime gypsum plaster as a protector,
- In addition, it is observed that mudbrick, stone and wood materials are used to support low energy consumption, indoor comfort and high insulation performance in the upper floors of the buildings.

When the data obtained are examined; It is believed that the authentic identity values created by the buildings of Anatolian traditional residential areas with the sustainable architectural features preserved from the past to the present should be transferred to future generations and should be a reference to modern architectural approaches.

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