

## **CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATION OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPE COMPONENTS: A CASE STUDY OF ULUS HISTORIC CITY CENTER, ANKARA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Culture is the factor, nature is the medium and cultural landscape is the result. Researches on cultural landscape is increasing and gaining significance in order to understand, evaluate and protect the values of landscapes. Research, evaluation and protection of cultural landscape features provide values to be transferred to the future. At the same time conservation of cultural landscape areas in urban districts is very important to read and sustain spatial identity.

Ulus Historic City Center (UHCC) which has the most significant cultural landscape features of Ankara, is the main material of this research. The objective of this research is to explore how UHCC is changed from past to present, how it is affected by this change, how it is used today and documenting change and transformation of cultural landscape components within cultural landscape criteria method.

Aesthetic value, identity value, historical and archeological value, social value, artistic value and scientific value are determined cultural landscape criteria for this research. This methodology is used for digital documentation, interpretation and presentation of cultural heritage of UHCC. Cultural landscape components which can be examined in open, semi open and closed spaces (structures related to historic fabric, paths, squares, green spaces and other physical components) and besides social and cultural features of spaces is the content of this research. UHCC's most important five nodes and its vicinities which make significant contributions to its character, are selected. These nodes are historical focal points and contain various cultural landscape components. In this article one node is explained as a case study. Research included examining all available documentation dating from early settlement of the local area through present day. Historic maps, plans, photographs, pictures and drawings were examined and compared to determine changes and transformations occurred in the landscape throughout different periods of history.

**Key words:** Cultural landscape, landscape change, Ulus Historic City Center

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Landscapes change because they are the expression of the dynamic interaction between natural and cultural forces in the environment (Antrop 2005). The natural area changed by man can simply defined as cultural landscape. Cultural landscape is the collection of natural, historical and cultural heritage.

Cultural landscape as a term was apparently invented in academia in the earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1925, Carl Sauer introduced the term cultural landscape in his essay on the morphology of landscape, believing that a cultural landscape expressed the ways of life in a place. He stated that the cultural landscape is fashioned from a natural landscape by a culture group. Culture is the agent, the natural area is the medium, the cultural landscape is the result (Anonymous 2008).

The relationship between landscape and culture is reciprocal, in the sense that, the landscape not only shapes, but is also shaped by culture. Since 1992 significant interactions between people and the natural environment have been recognized as cultural landscapes by UNESCO.

Today, the concept of cultural landscape become an increasingly important in order to understand and assess the value of landscapes.

This article focuses on methodology of a cultural landscape research. The methodology provides a way to bring the tangible and the intangible qualities of a cultural landscape into focus, to highlight possibilities for understanding change, transformation, significance, history and identity. Ulus district which is the historic city center and cultural landscape area of Ankara is selected as a research area. In this article the methodology is explained with At Pazari Square case study.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

The research is organized in five sections. Firstly the concept of cultural landscape is introduced. And then, a new cultural landscape criteria approach is developed to determine the change, transformation, and the current status of a cultural landscape area. Thirdly, UHCC which is selected as the research area is examined. UHCC's natural features and socio-cultural features are studied to have an overview about its evolution. Then the planning stages of the research area are examined within the historical development and transformation process. In the fourth section UHCC's most significant five nodes and its vicinities which contribute to create Ankara's character, are selected. Each of these sub areas are examined in terms of the cultural landscape criteria, ideas that shaped them and the forms that identified them. Changes, transformations and the current status of cultural landscape areas are analyzed. The findings are presented in charts by using visual expression tools like paintings, photographs, drawings, engravings, maps, plans, aerial and satellite photographs in chronological order. In the last section findings are evaluated and recommendations are made for planning, protection, treatment and management of cultural landscape of Ankara. As an example of application of methodology, At Pazari Square which is the oldest node of UHCC is examined in this article.

### **2.1. Cultural Landscape Criteria**

The cultural landscape identified in UHCC can be assessed by cultural landscape criteria. For this research new cultural landscape criteria are determined with respect to cultural landscape, cultural heritage and architectural values.

The cultural landscape criteria approach integrates natural and cultural heritage conservation by examining them at a landscape level. This concept emphasizes the landscape scale of history and the connectivity between people, places and heritage items (Anonymous 2008). It recognizes that the current landscape is the product of long-term and complex process.

The criteria methodology is not only for analyzing but also for assessing cultural landscape area. By applying cultural landscape criteria method, the history and integrity of the landscape including any changes to its geographical context, features, materials and use are evaluated.

The criteria methodology is used for digital documentation, interpretation and presentation of cultural heritage of UHCC. The cultural landscape criteria are listed below:

1. Aesthetic Value
2. Identity Value
3. Historical and Archaeological Value
4. Social Value
5. Artistic Value
6. Scientific Value

### **2.2. Introduction of cultural landscape criteria**

1. Aesthetic Value: Aesthetic not only includes the beautiful in art and philosophy of art (philosophy of art is a part of aesthetic) but also includes the beautiful in nature (Anonymous 2005). On the other hand it comprise not only beautiful object, but also the creation and existence of beauty. This value derives primarily from an appreciation of style, beauty and art.

Aesthetic value is related with responses of people to outer environment. Emotions and thoughts evoked by a landscape is generally expressed as "beautiful" or "ugly".

Cultural landscape properties like topographical relationship, vista, appearance, sound, smell, form (similarity, rhythm, scale / volume, rate, direction), texture and light influence aesthetic value.

2. Identity Value: Identity may be defined as the distinctive characteristic belonging to an animate or inanimate asset. Identity is the set of features that help to determine dissimilarity, originality and uniqueness. Every city has an identity. Urban identity is set of characteristics and components that identifies and distinguishes it one from others.

Urban identity occurs as a result of interactions of components and their features. Urban identity formation includes change and transformation process. And also it is formed by the accumulation of overlapping layers of different cultures throughout history. Positions, characteristics, relationships and changes of the urban elements positively or negatively influence the identity value.

Urban identity is composed of a composite view of urban artifacts: landmarks, bridges, monuments, vistas, sacred places and other special features. Urban identity depends on the revival of the culture and the protection of historical values.

Components of a city are usually divided into two main groups, residents and the city's physical environment.

Components that creates the identity value are as follows:

- Terrain - Landform
- Landuse
- Urban fabric
- Silhouettes and image
- Circulation network
- Buildings and monuments
- Soft landscape
- Hard landscape

3. Historical and Archaeological Value: Legends, battles, historical events of recorded history, notable figures can be considered as historical value. Historical value also called archival value or continuing value, shows the importance of a record that justifies its permanent retention. Archaeological remains means physical evidence of human habitation, occupation, use, or activity. Any material remains of past human life or activities which help to understand past societies and the development of the human race create archaeological value. Prehistoric and ancient settlements, single burial mound, the site of a known battle, tools, art products are objects of archaeological value. Past and the human way of life can be understood by examining the archaeological features.

4. Social Value: Social value reflects the common feelings and thoughts of members of a community. Social value is the basis of social rules that depends on moral values, traditions and religious beliefs. It strengthen the unity of society. It can be transferred from generation to generation. Social values are also certain qualities and beliefs that are shared within a specific culture or group of people.

Social values can change over time and vary from one community to another or in same community. In a sense, social values are attitudes and judgments on events, objects, and behaviors that are imposed by a community.

Cultural landscape which is formed by older generations represent the significant portion of cultural heritage. Traditions and customs, religious attitudes and behaviors, ethnicity, traditional crafts and professions, the legal structure, administrative structure, trade and economy, habits, customs, traditions and customs, behaviors, forms of consumption are main components of social value.

5. Artistic Value : Lewis (1979) explained that the cultural landscape is the area of one group of people associated with the daily beliefs and art. According to Ingerson'a (2003), culture and art actions that concentrated in the cities are one of the main factors of urban fabric formation.

Painting, sculpture, drawing, wood carving, stone carving, glassware, stained glass art, mosaic, ceramic art, wallpaper art, metalwork, graphic design, furniture design, industrial design and other categories of decorative arts used in the development of open and closed spaces. In monumental and civil structures, it is possible to observe

the works of art culture. The works of art give form to fundamental beliefs and feelings and they serve as a culture carriers.

6. Scientific Value: Cultural landscape areas have research potential with their natural, historical, cultural, social and economic properties and diversity. This potential provide contributions to landscape architecture, city planning, architecture, history, literature and other science and art branches.

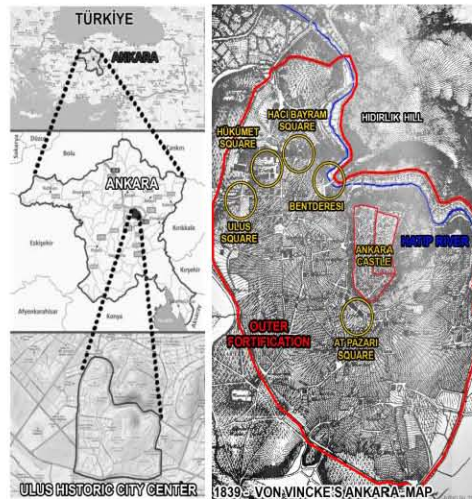
### 3. RESEARCH AREA

Turkey's capital city, Ankara, historically known as Angora is a very old city with various Hittite, Phrygian, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman archaeological sites. UHCC is the oldest cultural heritage site of Ankara's center.

UHCC's most important five nodes and its vicinities which make a significant contribution to its character are selected (Figure 1). These nodes are historical focal points and contain various cultural landscape components. Both nodes emerged at different periods of time. They have similar and different cultural landscape features. Cultural landscape components which can be examined in open, semi open and closed spaces (structures related to historic pattern, paths, squares, green spaces and other physical components) and besides social and cultural features of spaces are researched. According to formation time these nodes are as follows:

- At Pazari Square and its environs
- Bentderesi and its environs
- Haci Bayram Square and its environs
- Hukümet Square and its environs
- Ulus Square and its environs

In this study, the cultural landscape criteria method is briefly explained with At Pazari Square case study.



**Figure 1.** Location of Ankara UHCC (left) and research nodes on Ankara's first map (right)

#### 4. CASE STUDY - AT PAZARI SQUARE

At Pazari Square (Horse Market) is the rectangular plain area in front of the South Gate (Hisar Kapısı) of Ankara Castle. It is outer plaza of the castle and has great cultural significance as it was surrounded by historic structures and landmarks. The south of the square is bordered by Cukurhan, Cengelhan, Pilavoglu Han, old fountain and Koyunpazari Street. In the north, it is bordered by South Gate (Hisar Kapısı), walls of the Ankara Castle, Clock Tower, Kale Kapısı Street, pulses market structure and in the southeast by At Pazari Street. Gozcu Street run from east to west horizontally.

At Pazari Square has the shape of a long and narrow (total area 45,000 m<sup>2</sup>) rectangle, in west–east direction. The square slopes upward to the castle entrance.

At Pazari Square and its connected four streets are open to motor vehicle traffic. There is no public transportation access to the square.

Ankara was first established on Ankara Castle's hill. The settlement firstly spread to the south of outer citadel, around the At Pazari Square.

The export of cloth made from the hair of the Angora goats turned Ankara into a major stop of the caravan route. At Pazari Square was the major commercial and accommodation center of Ankara during the Selcuks and Ottomans eras. It takes its name from horse market, established in the At Pazari Square in Selcuks eras. Along with the development of trade and craft activities lots of hans were built around the At Pazari Square during 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. This primary commercial node was also known as Zone of Hans. Besides market stalls were placed on the east side of the square. The Ottoman economy was adversely affected by the impact of the industrial revolution, and Ankara textiles became less competitive in the face of the challenge from English textiles and goods exported by other European countries. Therefore the market place in and around the square started to lose its significance.

The Zone of Hans was devastated by fires in 1881 and 1917. Many buildings in and around the At Pazari Square were damaged. Some of them were demolished and most of them lost their originality. The market stalls and sheds of the square were removed in 1930's. Ankara has experienced a phenomenal growth since it was made Turkey's capital. As the new capital, it was rapidly developed and spread. Therefore, new commercial centers were emerged and At Pazari Square lost its significance. It fell into decline shortly after the start of the 20th century. Most of the buildings were in need of detailed and intensive renovation.

After Ankara Castle was registered as a First Degree Urban Protected Area some restorations was started around the square. Firstly castle walls, traditional houses of outer castle and clock tower was restored. Cengelhan was transformed into Ankara's first and only industrial museum and opened in 2005. After that in east and south of the square some streets and facades was renewed. Cukurhan was transformed into a hotel and opened in 2010. These restorations attract attention. Today, At Pazari Square is a popular location for tourist attraction and pulses trade.

The cultural landscape criteria methodology used in At Pazari Square is explained with some sample charts to give an overview of the research and its method. In these charts especially identity value is considered. Findings are gathered by





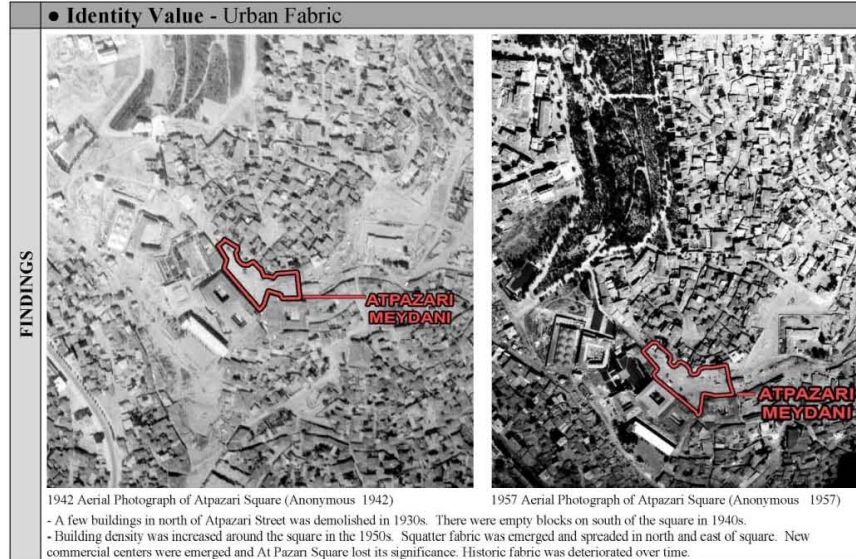


Figure 4. Sample charts of identity value's urban fabric study for At Pazarı Square

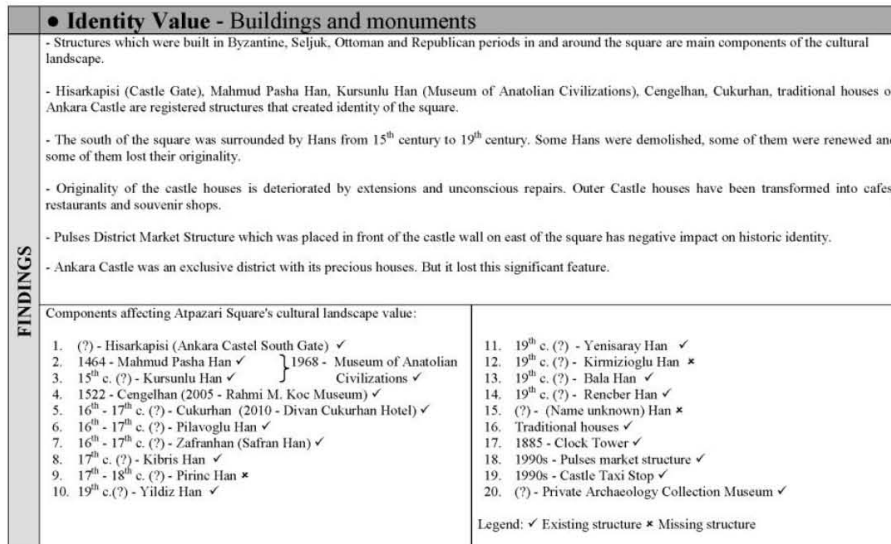


Figure 5. Sample charts of identity value's circulation network study for At Pazarı Square



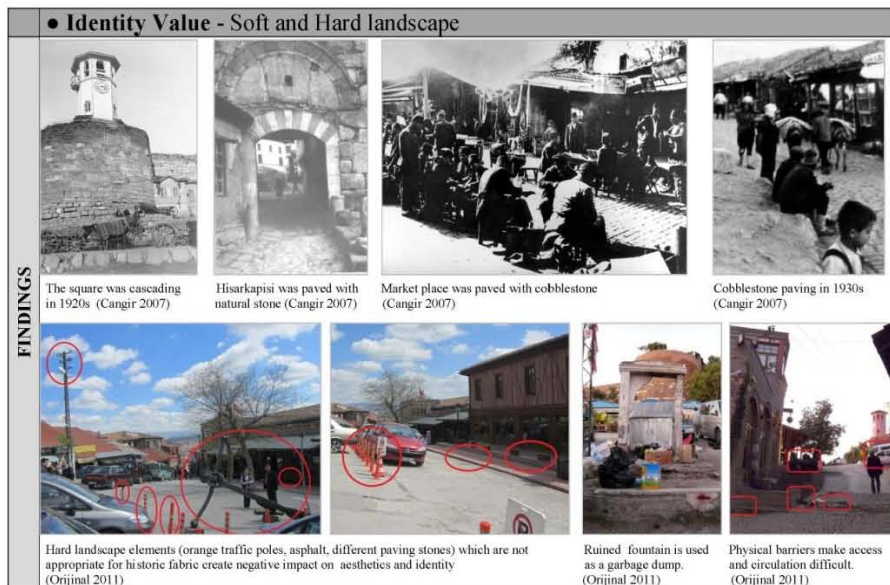


Figure 6. Sample charts of identity value's building and monuments study for At Pazarı Square

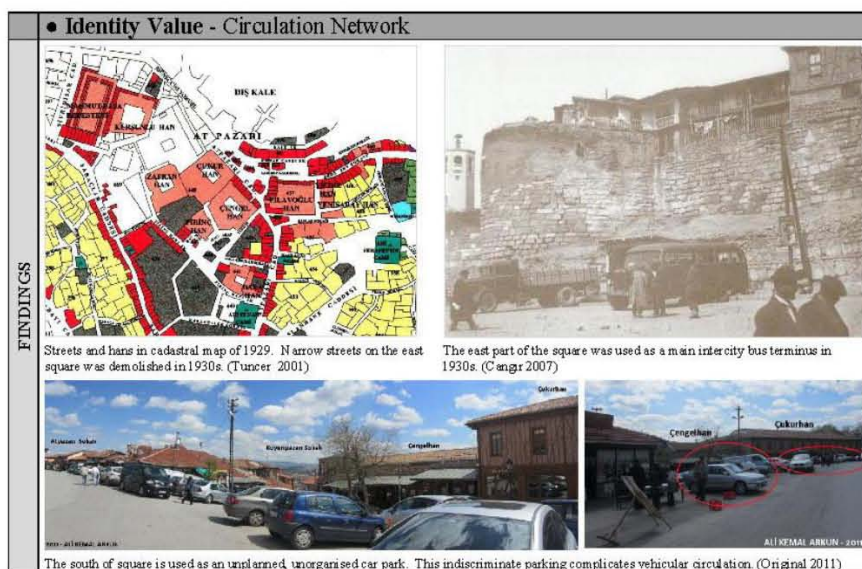


Figure 7. Sample charts of identity value's soft and hard landscape study for At Pazarı Square

## 5. CONCLUSION

The results of the research, which was based on cultural landscape criteria indicated that At Pazari Square's historic fabric and character have become damaged and deteriorated over time. Restorations of Castle, Clock Tower, Cukurhan, Cengelhan, and some traditional houses started to revive heritage value. But it still has lots of structural problems. The oldest square of Ankara need to be designed and managed with in the cultural landscape criteria framework.

The cultural landscapes criteria method can be used to evaluate cultural the change and transformation of landscape's abstract and concrete components and to guide authorities for the protection and management of cultural landscapes.

This method is convenient to find out and clarify the continuities, transformations and changes in detail. The method enables to read and decipher the aimed physical components of the urban whole with minimum hesitation and mistake within the context of the used visual material.

Adding a cultural landscape perspective to planning and design is consistent with the integrated management approach to environmental planning favored by other agencies with land-use responsibilities.

Public's awareness and understanding of the importance and irreplaceable legacy of its cultural landscapes should be broaden. Cultural landscapes are priceless assets not only for one country, but also for the world.

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