

# Museum Hotel Concept and Interior Design Analysis: An Example of Ruinadalia Hotel

Busra Gokuz<sup>1</sup>  Zuhalelinc Elinç<sup>2</sup>  Zeki Akinci<sup>3</sup> 

<sup>1</sup> Research Asisstant, Akdeniz University, Antalya, Turkey, busragokuz@akdeniz.edu.tr

ORCID: 0000-0003-2346-3019

<sup>2</sup> Prof.Dr., Akdeniz University, Antalya, Turkey, zuhalelinc@akdeniz.edu.tr

ORCID: 0000-0002-6997-7296

<sup>3</sup> Assoc.Prof.Dr., Akdeniz University, Antalya, Turkey, zakinci@akdeniz.edu.tr

ORCID: 0000-0001-8643-3429

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## Abstract

Today, museum hotels consist of both facilities with ethnographic artifacts containing recent experiences and facilities intertwined with ancient artifacts. In this study, the definition and classification of museum hotels, which do not have an official definition in the world and in Turkey, were made. In the second stage of the study, 4 (four) hotels in Turkey, which have been excavated and registered in the hotel campus, were included in the scope of the study. These hotels are Antique Hotel (Istanbul-Beyazid), Eresin Hotels Sultanahmet (Istanbul), Museum Hotel Antakya (Hatay), RuinAdalia Hotel (Kaleici-Antalya). Lastly, the historical processes of these four hotels were examined and spatial analyzes of the RuinAdalia Hotel in Antalya Kaleici were made. It is thought that this study will clarify the terminology between a museum and a hotel and eliminate the confusion in this subject. In addition, in the context of the examined hotels, the positive and negative aspects of the arrangements made in the interiors of the hotels with archaeological findings will be determined in terms of the findings and will create an infrastructure for the designers who will work on this subject in the future.

**Keywords:** Museum Hotel, Archaeological Findings, Interior, Tourism

**Jel Codes:** M14, L83

## Introduction

The first museum definition of the International Council of Museums (ICOM-International Council of Museums), The word "museum" includes all collections open to the public that contain artistic, technical, scientific, historical, or archaeological materials, including zoological and botanical gardens, excluding libraries with exhibition halls (ICOM, 1946). According to the definition of the International Museum Council, which was last updated at the 22nd General Assembly held in Vienna in 2007: "The museum is the heritage of humanity and its environment, consisting of intangible and tangible values, It is a permanent institution that holds, protects, researches, communicates and exhibits publicly, on a non-profit basis, for the benefit of society and its development for the purpose of education, research and enjoyment" (ICOM, 2007). Museums inform the individual about the society in which he lives. Museums not only reflect the past, but also enable us to define the values we live in and put them into a meaning (Mercin, 2006). In the Regulation on the Qualifications of Tourism Facilities dated 01.06.2019 and numbered 30791, "Hotels, has been defined as the facilities whose main function is to provide the accommodation needs of the customers, and which, in addition to this service, can also

include units for eating and drinking, meeting, celebration events, sports and entertainment” (Turkish Official Gazette, 2019).

Although their number is small, some hotels started to define themselves as Museum Hotel in Turkey after 1990. Well, what does the Museum Hotel mean, does the Museum Hotel fall into sub-types within itself, is it necessary to provide any legal conditions to be named like that? Although it has no affiliation with an actual museum, there is no official definition of “Museum Hotel” which has led many hotels to adopt this title (Olmsted, 2019). In Turkey there is no data in the “Regulation on the Qualifications of Tourism Facilities” dated 01.06.2019 and numbered 30791 published in the Turkish Official Gazette regarding the definition of the Museum Hotel or the category it belongs to. In this regulation, tourism facilities, it is classified as Hotels, Holiday Villages, Boutique Hotels, Private Accommodation Facilities, Apart Hotels, Pensions, Thermal Facilities with Accommodation and Rural Tourism Facilities (Turkish Official Gazette, 2019).

The names of the facilities were determined from the list of “Certified Accommodation Facilities” from the official website of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and the official websites of these facilities were examined. Firstly, the hotels with the Museum in their names were searched, and then the accommodation facilities that defined themselves as “Museum Hotel” on the official website were examined (Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2022a). As a result of these examinations, it has been determined that the “Museum Hotel” can be divided into three different main groups in Turkey. In this study, it is aimed to reveal the concept and types of the contemporary museum hotel. In addition, it is aimed to bring the historical processes and features of the structures unearthed in the archaeological excavations in the area where the RuinAdalia Hotel is located, to the archeology and tourism literature.

## Conceptual Framework

### Museum Hotels

Although the Museum and the Hotel seem to be two distant functions at first glance, this new museum hotel was established as a result of the preservation of the archaeological findings that emerged during the construction of hotels in our provinces with multi-layered settlements after 1990s in Turkey and this design type of the building in line with these findings emerged after being approved and permitted by the official institutions. In addition to such hotels, there are those that exhibit very valuable collections, those with buildings that are of historical value, those who have witnessed very important historical events, etc. They started to define themselves as museum hotels

We can define the concept of museum hotel as living museums that enable the participation of archaeological heritage and/or ethnographic artifacts with recent experiences into contemporary urban life and allowing guests to be intertwined with this atmosphere. In the process of globalization, tourists who are interested in cultural tourism are increasingly interested in museum hotels, which provide the opportunity to understand the past and live in the moment. Museum hotels provide a unique experience in line with the principle of preserving the archaeological heritage in situ (Turk and Gultekin, 2019) and preserving the originality of ethnographic artifacts, ensuring that relevant destinations are in demand in the tourism sector. Museum hotels, which play an important role in making history, make the visit even more special (Campbell and Vallury, 2022). Archaeological findings and ethnographic artifacts that are part of the building and/or exhibited in museum hotels, which offer a unique museum-hotel experience, have become the defining features that shape every aspect of hotel-museum design (Arolat, 2019). In order to better define the Museum Hotel, it would be more accurate to define each of the 3 category of the Museum Hotel separately.

#### *I- Museum hotels built on archaeological findings*

“Hotels” are hotels where immovable and movable archaeological findings are preserved and exhibited in the hotel building, and their people are allowed to visit them because they are a World Heritage Site, and the control of these works is done in a controlled manner by the museum to which they are affiliated”. It is divided into two groups within itself, a) Museums where the entrances to the museum and the hotel are separate, where visitors can visit and see the archaeological findings without entering the hotel, b) Museums where the archaeological findings are exhibited in the common interiors of the hotel, and the hotels show these artifacts for a fee or for free. General functioning: These are the hotels that allow the archaeological findings unearthed during the foundation excavation of the hotel to be excavated by the Museum, the restoration of the needed findings is completed, the findings are preserved and exhibited in the best way. After this process the buildings are completed after their architectural projects are approved by the Regional Board of

Conservation of Cultural Properties. The movable and immovable cultural assets in these hotels are embeszed by the hotel and then inspected by the museum for which it is responsible.

Examples of hotels belonging to this category in Turkey are as follows (Figure 1), Antic Hotel (Istanbul-Beyazid), Eresin Hotels Sultanahmet (Istanbul), Museum Hotel Antakya (Hatay), RuinAdalia Hotel (Kaleici-Antalya).



**Figure 1.** a) Antic Hotel (Original, 2022), B) Eresin Hotels Sultanahmet (Original, 2022), C) Museum Hotel Antakya (Museum Hotel Antakya Official Websites, 2022), D) Ruinadalia Hotel (Original, 2021)

### *II- Hotels where movable artifacts of archaeological and historical value are exhibited in the hotel*

They are the hotels where the private collections of the hotel owners meet with archaeological and historical value, which are generally registered in the museum. The findings are exhibited in the hotel, and the supervision of these works with high security measures is carried out in a controlled manner by the museum to which they are affiliated.

Examples of hotels belonging to this category in Turkey are as follows (Figure 2), Sinop Antic Hotel (Sinop), Museum Hotel Cappadocia (Cappadocia- Nevsehir).



**Figure 2.** a) Sinop Antic Hotel (Sinop Antic Hotel Official Websites, 2022), b) Museum Hotel Cappadocia (Museum Hotel Oficial Websites, 2022)

### *III. The hotel buildings with historical, cultural, and architectural value*

There are hotels that have been preserved until today, where very important people lived in their very old history, or where events that would change very important parts of history took place, or the building itself has a very high value in terms of architectural history.

Examples of hotels belonging to this category in Turkey are as follows (Figure 3).

Pera Palace (Beyoglu-Istanbul), Ciragan Palace Kempinski Istanbul (Besiktas-Istanbul), Splendid Palace (Buyukada-Istanbul)



**Figure 3.** a) Pera Palace the Room of Atatürk (Atatürk Museum) (Pera Palace Official Websites, 2022), B) Cıragan Palace Kempinski Istanbul (Cıragan Palace Official Websites 2022), C) Splendid Palace (Splendid Hotel Official Websites, 2022)

In this study, only the 1st category museum hotels built on archaeological findings was considered as the study material.

## Museum Hotel Examples Built on Archaeological Findings

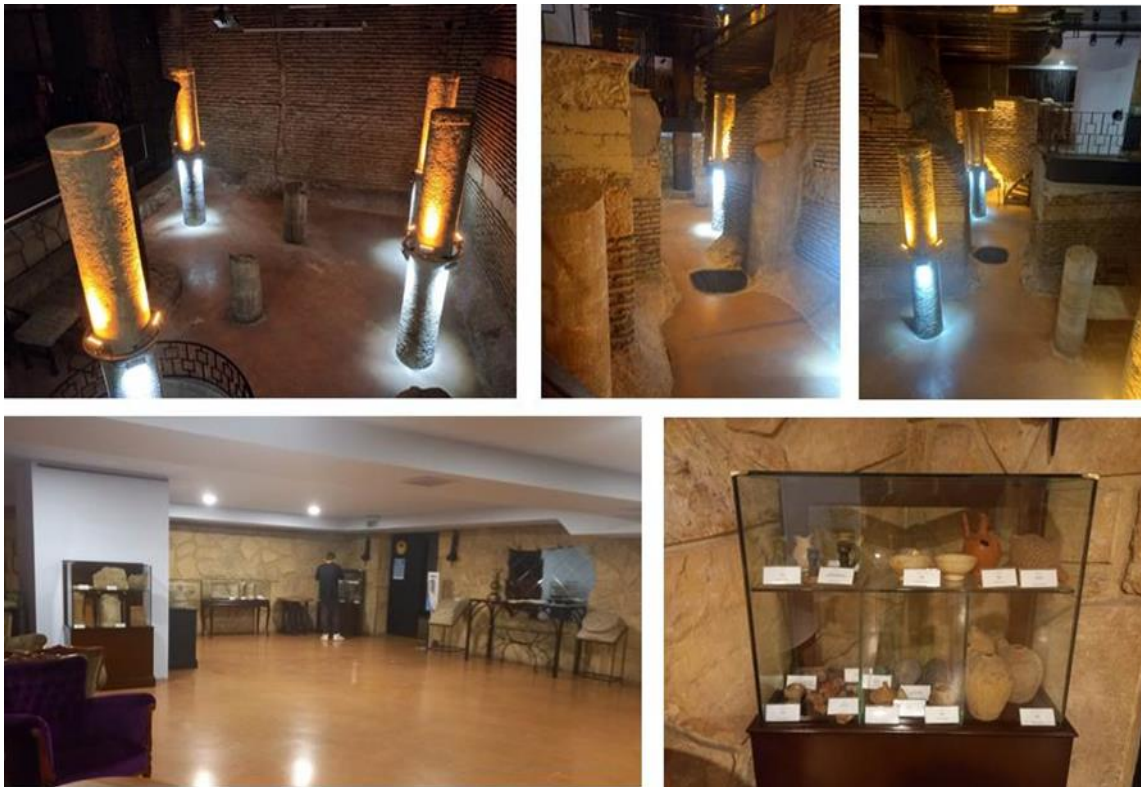
### Antic Hotel (Istanbul-Beyazid)

The findings under the Antic Hotel were uncovered during the excavation of the hotel's construction foundation. As a result of these archaeological findings, the project was reconsidered and the findings were protected (Ozgumus, 2008). In 1984, during the construction of the hotel, findings were uncovered 12 meters below the ground (Figure 4). Excavation and rescue activities were carried out under the supervision of the Istanbul Archeology Museum. As a result of the examinations, it was determined that the findings were the remains of a large public building belonging to the Late Roman and Early Byzantine periods and that it was converted into a water cistern in the later periods (Antic Hotel Official Websites, 2022).



**Figure 4.** Antic Hotel Excavation During Construction (Antic Hotel Official Websites, 2022)

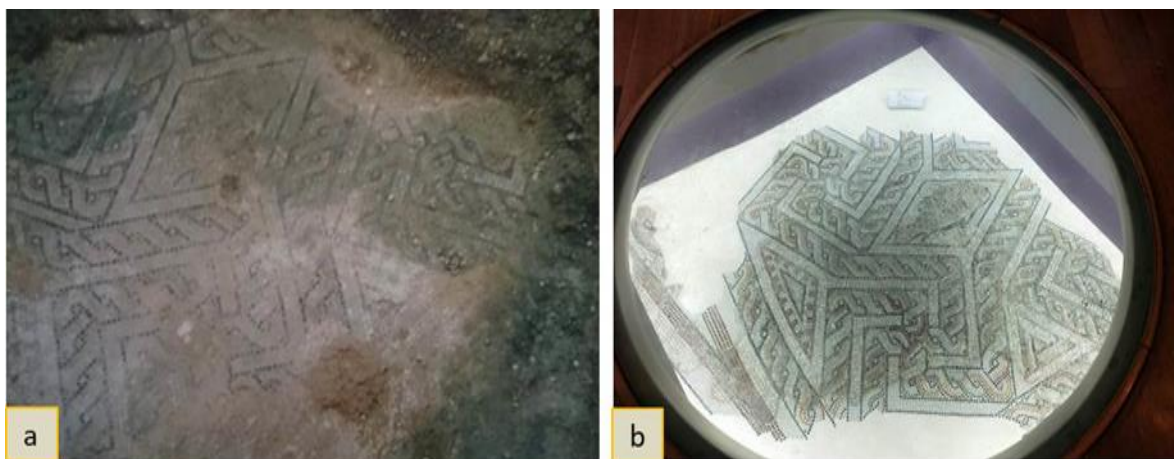
Today, the cistern hosts various exhibitions. Archaeological findings from the late Roman and early Byzantine periods are exhibited in the hotel lobby (Altug, 2013). The cistern on the -2nd and -3rd floors of the hotel was built on it with a very meticulous architectural project without any damage (Figure 5). There is also a direct entrance to the Ancient Cisterna from the -2 floor. On the ground floor of the hotel, there is the hotel entrance, reception, and lobby (Antic Hotel Official Websites, 2022). The cistern in the Antic Hotel has been arranged as a place belonging to the hotel (Gungor, 2017).



**Figure 5.** Archaeological Findings Inside the Antic Hotel (Original, 2022)

### Eresin Hotels Sultanahmet (Istanbul)

Eresin Hotel started excavation works in 1994 and continued uninterruptedly until 1997 (Gokcay and Asal, 2009). During the construction of the Eresin Hotel, some important Byzantine structures emerged. At the end of the rescue excavations carried out by the Istanbul Archeology Museum, it was decided to preserve the mosaic remains in situ (Dalgıç, 2008). Historical Byzantine mosaic dating from the 5th or 6th AD century is displayed under the glass floor in the hotel restaurant (Figure 6). The fish motif mosaic is thought to be part of a courtyard, a religious building, or a corridor inside the Byzantine Great Palace (Eresin Hotels Sultanahmet Official Websites, 2022).



**Figure 6.** a) First Footage of Mosaic Found in Excavation (Gokcay and Asal, 2009), (B) Today's View of Mosaic (Original, 2022)

Parts of the cistern and a large wall are preserved in situ. A few architectural blocks are also located in the hotel lobby (Dalgıç, 2008). In the bar area, 2 corner actoreria caps representing the mourning of Erotes from the 2nd and 3rd AD centuries (Figure 7) are exhibited (Eresin Hotels Sultanahmet Official Websites, 2022).



**Figure 7.** Archaeological Findings Inside the Eresin Hotel Sultanahmet (Original, 2022)

### Museum Hotel Antakya (Hatay)

In 2009, construction excavation for the hotel project started in the area. When the excavation started, important archaeological remains were found in the area. The Cultural and Natural Heritage Preservation Board has approved the initiation of archaeological excavations in this area. The unearthed archaeological findings made it impossible to build a hotel in the area (Figure 8). As a solution to this situation, the idea of integrating a public museum where archaeological artifacts will be exhibited into the hotel has emerged (Emre Arolat's Official Websites, 2022).



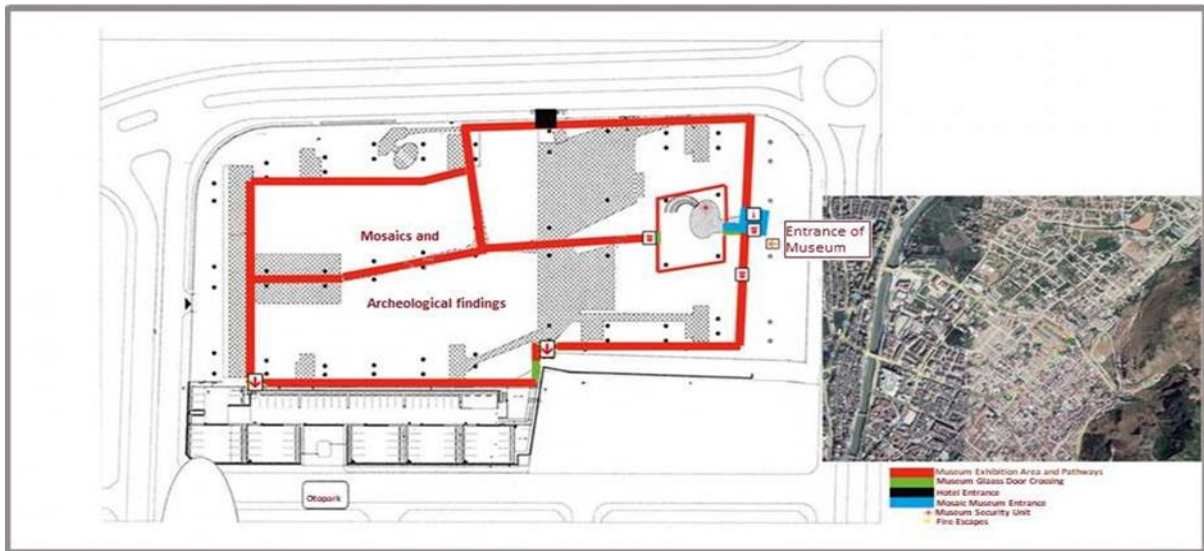
**Figure 8.** Archaeological Findings Inside the Museum Hotel Antakya (Museum Hotel Antakya Official Websites, 2022)

With the emergence of archaeological remains, changes were made in the design of the hotel. Common areas such as the restaurant and swimming pool, which are generally located on the ground floor in hotel design, are located on the rooftop. A grid system with steel beams was constructed approximately 15 m above the findings. The prefabricated hotel room modules are placed on the grid system (Figure 9). Below the rooms, approximately 10 m above the archaeological findings, is the hotel lobby (Emre Arolat's Official Websites, 2022).



**Figure 9.** Museum Hotel Antakya Grid System (Arolat, 2022)

An archaeological museum was designed on the findings. The circulation network in the museum was arranged according to the findings (Figure 10). In the museum, visitors have the opportunity to examine the findings from close range, with suspension bridges and ramps (Arolat, 2022).



**Figure 10.** Museum Hotel Antakya's Museum Floor Plan (General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums Archive, 2022)

Floor mosaics from the Roman Period are exhibited in situ in the Necmi Asfuroglu Archeology Museum, located under the hotel. The mosaic, which is considered to be the “world’s largest single piece mosaic” with a size of 1050 m<sup>2</sup>, is located in this museum (Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2022b). During the excavations, baths dated to the 5th AD century were unearthed (Figure 11). These baths became important social places where Romans gathered (Museum Hotel Antakya Museum Official Websites, 2022).



**Figure 11.** Museum Hotel Antakya Mosaic and Bath Ruins (Museum Hotel Antakya Official Websites, 2022)

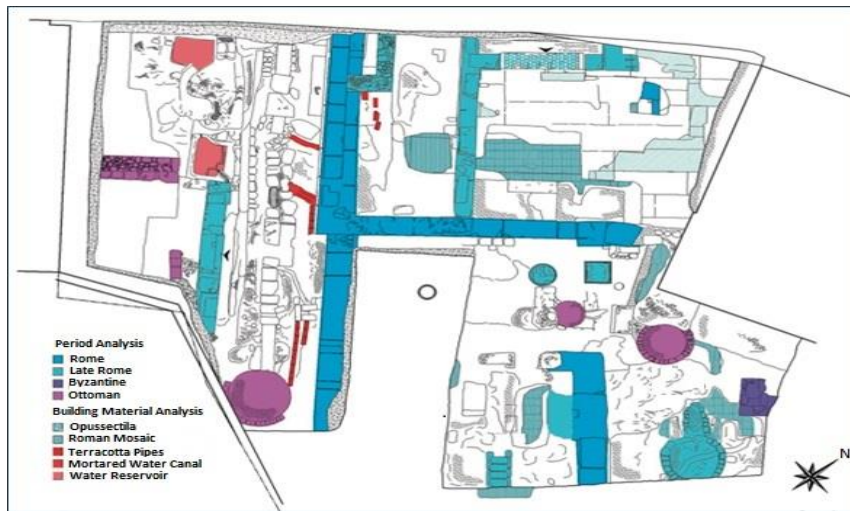
## Method

### Study area

Kaleici region in Antalya Province, Muratpasa District was chosen as the study area. Kaleici, which is the subject of the study, is a multi-layered settlement area that has hosted different civilizations. Kaleici is located in the Urban and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree Archaeological Site. For this reason, there are many structures shaped by archaeological findings in Kaleici. "RuinAdalia Hotel", which is the main material of this study, is one of these buildings.

### RuinAdalia Hotel

Antalya Province, Muratpasa District, Barbaros District, Kaleici Urban and III. the drilling work required for the building, which is planned to be built on the 129 island 11-12-18-20 parcel, which is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree Archaeological Site, was carried out between 2008-2019 in line with the Excavation and Drilling Permit of the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums (Figure 12) .

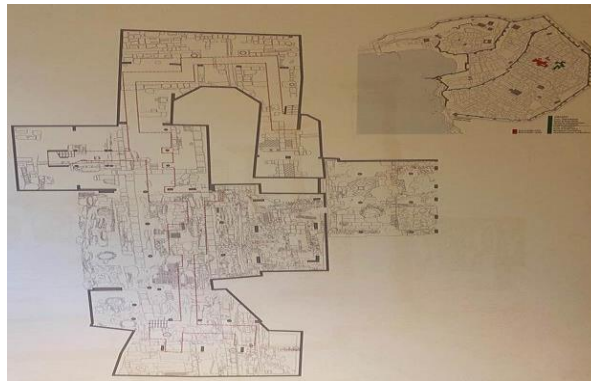


**Figure 12.** Ruinadalia Hotel Excavation Area (Cinar and Toprak, 2014)

During the archaeological excavations, traces of the street and street textures of Kaleici's historical process from the Roman Period to the Ottoman Period, walls of civil and religious architectural structures, various floor coverings, water and sewerage systems were unearthed. Beneath the hotel complex is the largest section of Kaleici ever excavated (RuinAdalia Hotel Official Websites, 2022). Archaeological excavations started in 2008 in the area where Block A is, and the continuation of the traces of the horse-drawn carriage at Hadrian's Gate was revealed. These ruts extend to Hadrian's Gate, and from there to the Necropolis of the Ancient City of Attelia, which is now called the East Garage. It is thought that the extension of this ancient road goes down to the Ancient Harbor. During the excavation, a wide variety of water channels were uncovered. In these channels, there are pipes with clean water or hot water pipe system, as well as wastewater channels made of stones. On the street where the water channels are located, Roman Period venues were identified. In Roman and Eastern Roman periods, structures that can be considered sacred also emerged. A large number of graves have been identified in these structures. A glaze kiln dating to the Eastern Roman Period was uncovered under the F Block (RuinAdalia Hotel Official Websites, 2022).

New building project on block 129, parcel 11-12-18-20, decision of Antalya Cultural Heritage Preservation Regional Board dated 05.08.2005 and numbered 568, The new building renovation project was approved by the Antalya Cultural Heritage Preservation Regional Board with the decision dated 22.12.2015 and numbered 4425.





**Figure 13.** RuinAdalia Hotel Museum floor plan (RuinAdalia Hotel archive, 2021)

The function of the building complex is the hotel. The building consists of five blocks. On the ground floor of the block at the entrance, the reception, waiting area and dining hall, there are three rooms on the upper floor. There are rooms on the ground and upper floors of the other blocks (Figure 13). The blocks were made in wood-baghdadi form. A building identity card was created for a better understanding of the building (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Ruinadalia Building Project Analysis

<b>RuinAdalia Hotel</b>	
<b>Situation Plan</b>	<b>Photography from Pathways</b>
	<p style="text-align: center;">(Original, 2022)</p>
<b>Continue of Table 1</b>	
<b>Basement Floor Plan</b>	<b>Ground Floor Plan</b>
<b>Section</b>	<b>Section</b>
<p>* The architecture plans of Hotel Buildings taken from BIZ Architecture (BIZ, 2021).</p>	

The findings were covered with laminated glass. Laminated glass flooring ensures that the findings are both preserved and exhibited. At the entrance to the building, there are glass floors in the

basement where archaeological findings can be seen. The findings can be reached from the stairs inside the building. The basement floor was arranged for the purpose of exhibiting archaeological findings. There are walking paths around the findings (Figure 14).



**Figure 14.** View From Ruinadalia Hotel Outsides and Insides (Original, 2021)

### Analysis of the Building in Terms of Preservation and Exhibition of Archaeological Findings

The exhibition style and the preservation type are very important in these buildings that have archaeological findings.

**Table 2.** Preservation and Exhibition of Archaeological Findings

Preservation and Exhibition of Archaeological Findings	
	<p>Preservation Type: Archaeological finds are preserved at the ground level of the building.</p> <p>Exhibition Style: The archeological finds are exhibited both with the laminated glass flooring on the floor and the promenades created around the archaeological findings.</p>

When the archaeological findings are examined in terms of preservation and exhibition:

- Archaeological findings are preserved at the ground level of the building
- The findings are protected and exhibited with a glass floor
- There are excursion paths around the archaeological findings
- Access to the archaeological findings is from inside the building. It is accessed from the stairs inside the building (Table 2).
- 

**Table 3.** Evaluation of the Building Shaped by Archaeological Findings in Terms of Protection and Exhibition

Structure	Preservation of Archaeological Findings		Exhibition of Archaeological Findings	
	Protection Under Ground Level	Protection Inside the Building	Exhibition with Glass Flooring	Exhibition with Circulation at Artifact Level
RuinAdalia Hotel	✓	✓	✓	✓





When the structure shaped by archaeological findings is evaluated in terms of preservation and exhibition (Table 3):

- In the projects prepared for the building, attention was paid to ensure that only the carrier system did not damage the archaeological findings as a design criterion.
- It is seen that the floor where the archaeological findings are located is covered with glass flooring as a method of preservation and exhibitions in the building.
- The findings in the building can be viewed from the top by covering it with glass, and the level where the archaeological findings are located is descended. By descending to the floor where the archaeological findings are located, you get the opportunity to examine the findings more closely.

### Analysis of the Relationship of the Finding with the Materials of the Horizontal and Vertical Elements of the Space

With the presence of the archaeological findings in the area, a relationship emerges between the elements that make up the area. In the said area, walls from vertical elements and floors from horizontal elements are the space components with the largest surface. Therefore, these elements have an important place in the perception of space.

**Table 4.** The Relationship of the Archaeological Findings in Ruinadalia with the Material of the Horizontal and Vertical Elements in the Space

<b>RuinAdalia Hotel</b>	
<b>Horizontal Elements</b>	<b>Vertical Elements</b>
 <p>The area where the archaeological findings are exhibited from the upper level is covered with laminated glass flooring.</p>	 <p>The walls in the area where the archaeological findings are exhibited are plastered and painted.</p>
 <p>The promenades around the archaeological findings are covered with wooden flooring. In some parts of the wooden floor, glass flooring was used to better perceive the findings.</p>	 <p>Wall panels with drawings and information about archaeological findings were used on the walls.</p>

Laminated glass floors, which are located to exhibit the archaeological findings from the upper level, form the floor of the space at this level while at the level where the findings are located, these glass floors form the ceiling of the room. The excursion paths around the archaeological findings were covered with wooden flooring, which enabled the archaeological find to be distinguished. In addition,

the fact that the walls in the place were painted white made the archaeological findings stand out (Table 4).

When the find is examined in terms of the relationship of the horizontal and vertical elements of the space with the materials:

- The use of wooden flooring, which is a different material with its color and texture, positively affected the distinguishability of the archaeological findings.
- Since the vertical elements of the building are plastered and painted, the findings come to the fore.

### Analysis of the Relationship Between the Archaeological Findings and Equipment in the Space

There is equipment according to the function of the space in the places where the archaeological findings are located. These reinforcement elements have an effect on the visual relationship of the archaeological findings in the space. In the area where the archaeological findings are covered with laminated glass, there is no reinforcement element to interrupt the visual relationship. In order not to interrupt the visual relationship, the seating elements in the space are positioned on the pebble mosaic floor (Figure 15).



**Figure 15.** Relationship between the Archaeological Findings and Equipment in the Space (Original, 2021)

Laminated glass flooring is exposed to environmental factors such as rain and sun. In the building, white silk-screen printing was made on the laminated glass floor (Figure 16). Thanks to this white dot print, it is better understood that the glass material is on the floor. However, this material reduces the visibility of the archaeological artifact.



**Figure 16.** Screen Printing With White Dots on Laminated Glass Flooring (Original, 2021)

### Analysis of the Exhibition Area in Terms of Disabled Users

A stair-type disabled elevator was used in the RuinAdalia Hotel so that the disabled people can go down to the area code -1 where the archaeological findings are exhibited. In this elevator preference, a model with high safety protection, suitable for battery powered wheelchairs, was used. In addition,

the wooden sightseeing platform is designed in dimensions and inclination suitable for wheelchair circulation, and there are no obstacles and gaps on its surface (Figure 17).



**Figure 17.** a) Disabled Lift to the Exhibition Hall (Original, 2021) B) Exhibition Hall Walking Platform to Suitable for Disabled Chair (Ruinadalia Hotel Official Websites, 2022)

### Conclusion, Discussion and Suggestions

Protecting and exhibiting the archaeological findings reached during the foundation excavations is accepted as the main principle in the new buildings to be built. There is a relationship between the quality of the findings found in the archaeological area and the type of protection to be applied. The fact that the findings unearthed in the excavation area is an architectural structure that sheds light on a period or is a part of an architectural structure is an important factor affecting the size of the project to be built to protect and exhibit the archaeological findings. The carrier system is shaped according to the archaeological findings in the building projects created by keeping the preservation and exhibition of the findings in the foreground.

In case archaeological values are reached in the excavations, the findings should be integrated with the city. In this case, the historical elements of the urban environment will come to the fore. The coexistence of the old and the new in the space ensures that historical and traditional settlements and contemporary structures form integrity. Values called “cultural assets to be protected” have the opportunity to be used in urban life. Opening the archaeological heritage, which is the witness and proof of civilizations in universal and local dimensions, to the knowledge and view of humanity with these values is of vital importance in terms of transferring it to contemporary life and the future with an integrated, rational approach.

Instead of isolating archaeological assets, it is necessary to include them in urban life. In this way, people will reach the awareness of protecting the cultural assets that document their past. In this case, archeology will be an element that enriches the urban life of the people living in the city. In addition, the area's reference to the past will ensure that it is in a good position in terms of cultural tourism. Exactly in this context, museum hotels are expected to be an important alternative hotel type that will contribute to cultural tourism. In order for museum hotels to be sustainable, they are officially accepted as an accommodation facility type by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and licenses are granted within the framework of certain rules. Another important point is that hotels that do not qualify as museum hotels should not be allowed to open hotels with this name. It should be made possible for all tourists and local people to visit the works exhibited in museum hotels, not only the customers staying in the museum hotel. In addition, museum hotels should be provided with high security against historical smugglers, the use of state-of-the-art security measures against fire and fire-resistant materials should be ensured, and finally some findings should be supported against the risk of earthquakes. A design guide should also be prepared for these hotels.

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