

KENTSEL MİRASIN SÜRDÜRÜLEBİLİRLİĞİNE YÖNELİK RESTORASYON UYGULAMALARI (BURSA TARİHİ MAHKEME HAMAMI)¹

Duygu İLKHAN SÖYLEMEZ²
Nihal GÜNEŞ AY³

Öz

1421 yılında Çandarlı İbrahim Paşa'nın oğlu İbrahim Paşa tarafından yaptırılan Mahkeme Hamamı daha önce 1490, 1495 ve 1953 yıllarında onarım görmüştür. Kentlerin hafızasını koruması ve gelecek nesillere tarihi ve kültürel yapıların aktarılması adına yerel yönetimler önemli görevler üstlenmektedirler. Bursa Büyükşehir Belediyesi de bu alanda tarihi yapıların sürdürülebilirliğine yönelik olarak bu yapının aslına sadık kalınarak restorasyonunun yapılmasını sağlamıştır. Bu çalışmada, Bursa ilinde yer alan ve Bursa Büyükşehir Belediyesi tarafından restorasyonu yapılan Mahkeme Hamamı'nın öncesi ve sonrası ile ele alınarak ne bakımdan doğru bir restorasyon çalışması olduğu değerlendirilmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler

Yerel Yönetimler
Kentsel Miras
Restorasyon
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Makale Hakkında

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² Doç. Dr., Selçuk Üniversitesi, Sosyal Bilimler Meslek Yüksekokulu, Seyahat, Turizm ve Eğlence Hizmetleri Bölümü, e-posta: duyguilkhan@gmail.com, ORCID: 0000-0002-5707-1542.

³ Öğr. Gör., Selçuk Üniversitesi, Kadınhanı Faik İçil Meslek Yüksekokulu, Yönetim ve Organizasyon Bölümü, e-posta: nihalay@selcuk.edu.tr, ORCID: 0000-0001-9788-7872.

RESTORATION FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY OF URBAN HERITAGE APPLICATIONS (THE BURSA HISTORICAL COURTHOUSE TURKISH BATH)

Abstract

The Bursa Historical Courthouse Turkish Bath, which was built in 1421 by İbrahim Pasha, the son of Çandarlı İbrahim Pasha, was previously repaired in 1490, 1495 and 1953. Local governments play an important role in preserving the memory of cities and transferring historical and cultural structures to future generations. Bursa Metropolitan Municipality has also ensured that this building is restored by staying true to its original for the sustainability of historical buildings in this area. In this study, the The Bursa Historical Courthouse Turkish Bath, located in the province of Bursa and restored by the Bursa Metropolitan Municipality, is discussed with its before and after, and it is evaluated in what respect it is a correct restoration work.

Keywords

Local Governments
Urban Heritage
Restoration
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INTRODUCTION

Cities are dynamic entities that continually evolve and adapt to changing circumstances. With the influx of immigration, the societies residing within them play a key role in shaping the city's transformation in various ways while simultaneously undergoing their own transformations. Within the context of historical continuity, cities serve as repositories of memories from the past that are transmitted to future generations. Cultural heritage can be broadly classified into two categories. On one hand, there exists heritage that takes on a tangible form, including archaeology, art, movable artefacts, architecture and landscape. On the other hand, there is a form of heritage that has captivated the interest of the global society, which is known as Intangible Cultural Heritage. Human creativity extends beyond constructing prestigious buildings or producing valuable objects; it also emerges from the ability to create unique cultural forms that may not be physical. Resulting cultural expressions, like ceremonies and religious rites, provide insight into a particular era. Intangible heritage denotes the cultural wealth of a society that requires careful preservation because it is more fragile than material heritage. It is in danger of disappearing with its traditional custodians (Barillet et al., 2006). The emergence of tangible cultural heritage is linked to intangible cultural heritage. Mankind's water approach through religious beliefs and traditions has resulted in the establishment of structures or monuments related to water. Baths are a prominent feature of historical structures. This paper focuses on the restoration process of the Court Bath, a historical bath facility, undertaken by the Bursa Metropolitan Municipality. The study analyses the works performed by municipalities to preserve tangible cultural heritage and subsequently ensure that intangible heritage is not forgotten.

The aim of this research is to examine how The Bursa Historical Courthouse Turkish Bath, constructed in 1421 by İbrahim Paşa, the son of Çandarlı İbrahim Paşa, has ensured the sustainability of a historical and cultural structure. The Bursa Historical Courthouse Turkish Bath, which has undergone renovations in 1490, 1495, and 1953 throughout its historical timeline, represents a significant architectural element in Bursa, preserving the urban memory of the city. Local administrations play a crucial role in the preservation of such structures of historical and cultural value and in passing them down to future generations.

In this context, the Bursa Metropolitan Municipality has undertaken the restoration of The Bursa Historical Courthouse Turkish Bath, ensuring that it is faithfully restored to its original state. This study aims to evaluate this restoration process by comparing the pre-restoration and post-restoration states, highlighting how this process was carried out correctly.

The research methodology involves a detailed examination of the restoration process of The Bursa Historical Courthouse Turkish Bath. By utilizing documents, photographs, and architectural analyses related to the restoration process, it is demonstrated that an approach emphasizing the preservation of the original features of the structure was followed, highlighting the historical and cultural significance of the restoration.

The findings of this study indicate that the restoration of The Bursa Historical Courthouse Turkish Bath was carried out correctly, contributing to the preservation of the historical structure and its transmission to future generations. Emphasizing the importance of

such restoration projects in the preservation of the historical and cultural heritage, this study underscores the role of local administrations in such endeavors.

1. Sustainable Urban Heritage and Local Governments

Sustainable management of cultural heritage is vital in preserving the long-term relationship between heritage, society, and the environment. The creation and promotion of social awareness on the significance of heritage conservation are integral to sustainable cultural heritage management. A participatory approach to conservation is a key aspect in achieving this goal. The objective of conservation through a participatory method in sustainable management is not to separate the value from society, but rather to convey the value to society and guarantee that the value of cultural heritage contributes to economic and social progress. In participatory methodologies, cultural heritage values must be employed in a manner that is both socially and culturally sustainable. It is essential that preservation of the value's integrity be ensured, and that cost-effective utilization not lead to destruction (Öksüz Kuşçuoğlu and Taş, 2017).

Local governments are defined in the 1982 Constitution as public legal entities established by law to meet the common local needs of the provinces, municipalities or villages, with their decision-making bodies being elected by the electorate as specified in the law. Article 27 provides this definition in detail. Local governments are responsible for protecting, improving, and developing historical and cultural values, as they are the closest administrative unit to the city and its people. City and regional zoning plans are established by municipalities, who must ensure that these plans do not compromise the historical urban texture of the region. Furthermore, to ensure the continuity of cultural heritage protection, it is crucial to grant local governments more responsibilities and authority in international legal frameworks (Basmaçlı, 2018).

2. Restoration of The Bursa Historical Courthouse Turkish Bath

Historical buildings, which have inherited from the past and witnessed various eras, are among the most significant representatives of our culture. These structures, carrying traces from the times they were built, need to be preserved, sustained, and passed on to future generations in the best possible way. The materials commonly used in historical buildings are natural stone, bricks, and original mortars used to provide stability. Thanks to these durable building materials, the number of monuments that have defied centuries and reached our present day is quite extensive. However, due to reasons such as societal negligence, human-induced damage, adverse environmental effects, natural disasters, and incomplete application of preservation principles, there are also structures that are in ruins or completely lost.

The construction techniques used in historical buildings are unique to themselves but are generally constructed in a 'masonry' style. Historical masonry structures are buildings composed of walls made by combining materials like natural stone or bricks sourced from the region, using a binding mortar. The masonry walls, both horizontally and vertically, serve as load-bearing elements within the structure.

Law No. 2863, dated 23.07.1983, aims to regulate actions and procedures for the protection of cultural and natural assets as mandated by the Culture and Natural Heritage

Protection Law. It introduces a key distinction by specifying a timeframe for the protection of natural assets and emphasizing the importance of registering structures built after the late 19th century. Since 1983, various changes and amendments, some of which were annulled by the Constitutional Court, have been made to Law No. 2863. The responsibility for procedures related to our historical artifacts, a vital component of our cultural heritage, including excavation permits and inspections in the artifact's location, falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Restoration is the process of intervening in a historical artifact to halt its damage and address structural issues once the damages and their causes are understood. The principle of causing the least harm to the artifact should guide these efforts. Using construction techniques that are true to the original and preserving the spatial integrity without altering the layout is crucial. A successful outcome can be achieved through a coordinated effort involving various fields of expertise. Additionally, for seismic resilience, it is important to adhere to seismic regulations and guidelines (Çubuk, 2023: 15).

The dictionary meaning of the word hamam (hammâm), which derives from the root hamm (hamem) meaning to warm; to be warm in Arabic, is a place that warms and is used in the meaning of a place for bathing. Its Persian equivalent is germâb. Hammam is a facility built for people to wash by heating the water. Although the structures in which the water gushing out from under the ground, which have healing properties against some diseases thanks to the presence of chemical substances in them, are sometimes called hammam, they are called spa in Turkish and ılıca due to the fact that the water is usually naturally hot. The most important feature that distinguishes spas from baths is the large pool in the centre of the large bathing place (Eyice, 1997).

Since ancient times, humans have utilised spas to cleanse their bodies and souls, safeguard their health, and treat various ailments. They employed the natural clarity of water and air that comprise the universe, as well as sought ways to utilise earth and fire optimally. They experienced relief by immersing themselves in water and mud in diverse geographical locations. Healing medicine was employed for the purification of the soul and body. The use of water for purification has led to the development of various cultures. For instance, the Indians in the Ganges and the Egyptians in the Nile both used water for ritual cleansing, aligning with their beliefs by attributing divine properties to water. Water embodies the junction between life and purification, representing essential cleansing and washing. It is noteworthy that enclosed bathing rooms first emerged as a means of purifying sea and river water in ancient Greece, while on coasts, such facilities became private establishments. These buildings later evolved into centres of civil architecture.

It served as the origin of the baths, a vibrant aspect of Turkish culture. The Turkish Bath, introduced to Anatolia by the Seljuks in the first century, is the most significant feature of civil architecture during the Ottoman period and an essential part of daily life. The architectural and bathing culture brought by the Seljuks have made the Turkish Bath a crucial component of Anatolian culture (Bozok, 2005).

The abundance of water in Bursa and the importance people attached to cleanliness led to the formation of a bath culture. Generally, women used to go to the bathhouse once a week,

early in the morning, taking their small children with them. This was a traditional event and was also turned into a feast. Various foods were prepared the day before. All the women of the neighborhood would go to the hammam together on that day. Mostly these days were on Fridays or Sundays. Baths have an important place in the social life of Bursa today as they did in the past. Baths are not only places for cleaning and entertainment in Bursa social life. Baths are also places where wishes are made and offerings are made. When people's wishes come true, they cover the income of the bath for a day and allow people to benefit from the baths free of charge (Sarıtunç, 2019).

According to the 1945 issue of the Uludağ Bursa People's House Journal, there are 36 baths in the centre of Bursa built since 1866, and The Bursa Historical Courthouse Turkish Bath is in the first place in this list (Sarıtunç, 2019).

The Bursa Historical Courthouse Turkish Bath was constructed as a duplex thermal bath comprising separate sections for males and females. Each section encompasses areas for undressing, chilly environs, warm spaces, halvet quarters, water reservoir, and fireplace chambers. In 2010, the Bursa Metropolitan Municipality undertook restoration efforts that successfully concluded in 2011. Today, while one part of the building continues its original function, the other part is used as a cultural centre (GoBursa, n.d.).

The Bursa Historical Courthouse Turkish Bath is a notable and opulent bathhouse in Bursa, often described as the city's most beautiful and well-endowed double bathhouse. The exterior walls are constructed with a combination of coarse ashlar stone and alternating rows of bricks. The building boasts multiple domes with polygonal bases and features a wide array of transitional elements. Mukarnas is used extensively, albeit in a stylized manner. The hot room alcoves come in various shapes, arranged to create patterns, and are covered with colorful glass, which adds an interesting decorative element to the structure (Kula Say, 2007: 189).

The Çandarlı İbrahim Pasha bath, with an area of around 1,500 square metres, was constructed approximately 600 years ago. One section of the bath, made up of two parts, is still used for bathing and was intended for women's use. The other section was meant for cultural activities and is still organized as such today (Şehir Postası, 2011).

Reinstating the Bursa Historical Courthouse Turkish Bath to its former glory marks a significant step towards Bursa's goal of becoming an 'Open-Air Museum,' according to Mayor Recep Altepe. He mentioned that the historical structure, which was constructed in 1421 by Çandarlı İbrahim Paşa and underwent renovations in 1490 and 1953, has now found its place in the city's skyline (Bursa Hakimiyet, n.d.). Mayor Altepe emphasized that all the historical buildings they have acquired in Bursa have been transformed into vibrant spaces. He explained that in the case of The Bursa Historical Courthouse Turkish Bath, the women's section will be restored to its original function as a bathhouse, while the men's section will serve as a Cultural Center, taking into account the area's needs. This historical cultural center will be available for various activities and gatherings, catering to local schools, civil society organizations, and the general public (Biçer, 2019).

The restoration process has been carried out with great care, showing deep respect for the historical features. The restoration of the structural walls with original materials, the

meticulous preservation of portable embellishments, and the delicate reconstruction of decorative details have all ensured the faithful preservation of the former grandeur of the Bursa Historical Courthouse Turkish Bath. The restoration team has demonstrated meticulous work to understand and apply the original construction techniques. This restoration has not only preserved the past but has also enhanced Bursa's cultural richness and tourism potential. The Bursa Historical Courthouse Turkish Bath now serves as a historical venue for both the local community and visitors. Additionally, the restoration process has increased employment in the region and encouraged skill development.

CONCLUSION

Turkish baths provide not only personal cleanliness and health advantages but also fulfill important societal functions, including fostering social connections, preserving cultural heritage, and contributing to the tourism industry. Hence, Turkish baths hold significant importance in both physical and cultural aspects of Turkish society.

The aim of management plans for conserving and preserving cultural heritage sites is to safeguard and enhance their exceptional universal significance for both current and future generations, whilst implementing measures to guarantee this protection. In the management plan drafted for a protected area, the plan's priorities, issues, dangers, and possibilities will be assessed. Goals must be defined to solve issues and avoid potential risks, in alignment with the area's future objectives. To attain these targets, primary strategies and action plans should be created.

Upon analysis of current studies, it is evident that the Bursa Metropolitan Municipality is committed to preserving cultural artefacts and natural heritage by means of historical restoration works. Over the past 15 years, several historical buildings have been restored. Upon analysis of current studies, it is apparent that the Bursa Metropolitan Municipality has devoted efforts towards the preservation and conservation of cultural artefacts and natural heritage sites with historical significance, including the restoration of historical buildings over the past 15 years.

A successful restoration path has been pursued, particularly with regard to historical buildings that, once restored and transformed into open public areas and spaces, have become living structures. Local administrations' efforts in preserving the urban fabric and cultural heritage extend beyond this aim. Actions aimed at ensuring citizen satisfaction and the long-term electoral success of local governments, ultimately overseen by political authorities, will be evident.

In conclusion, the restoration of the the Bursa Historical Courthouse Turkish Bath is a significant achievement in terms of preserving historical heritage and passing it on to future generations. Those involved in this project deserve recognition for their dedication to preserving historical and cultural values. The revival of the Bursa Historical Courthouse Turkish Bath not only carries this important structure into the future but also provides an opportunity to introduce and share Bursa's historical richness with a broader audience.

Research and Publication Ethics Statement

The study does not require an ethical committee approval.

Contributions of the Authors

Authors' contributions are in equal proportions.

Conflicts of Interest Statement

There is no conflict of interest.

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