

SUSTAINABILITY AND HERITAGE CONSERVATION IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE: THE CASE OF KNIDOS, MUĞLA

Peyzaj Mimarlığında Sürdürülebilirlik ve Mirasın Korunması: Knidos Örneği, Muğla

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ÖZ

Peyzaj, belirli bir bölgenin, insan ve doğanın etkileşimi ve eylemiyle yaratılan doğal ve/veya kültürel bir alandır. Peyzaj su, hava ve biyolojik çeşitlilik gibi çevrenin ayrılmaz bir bileşenidir (Council of Europe, 2000). Bu nedenle peyzajın karakteri, tarihi ve kültürel mirasın geleneklerinin ve estetik niteliklerinin bir yansıması olarak görülmektedir.

Sürdürülebilirlik, doğal kaynakların bozulmadan ve zarar görmeden en optimal şekilde kullanılarak, gelecek kuşakların da ihtiyaçlarını karşılayabilmeleri adına geliştirilerek geleceğe aktarmaktır. Sürdürülebilirlik vizyonları peyzaj mimarlığının temel kaygılarından biri olmuştur. Bu çalışmada peyzaj mimarlığında sürdürülebilirlik, peyzaj tasarımı, peyzaj planlama ve peyzaj yönetimi olmak üzere üç temel kavram üzerinden kapsamlı bir şekilde ele alınmıştır.

Bu çalışmanın amacı peyzaj mimarlığında sürdürülebilirliğe yönelik vizyonları araştırmak ve peyzaj mimarlığının her aşamasında (tasarım, planlama, uygulama, bakım ve restorasyon) kültürel mirasın korunmasına yönelik ilkelere yönelik somut örnekler sunmaktır. Peyzaj ve insan faktörleri sürdürülebilir bir geleceğe bağlı olabilmektedir. Bu çalışmada, kültürel peyzaj örneği olan Knidos, Dünya Miras Komitesi'nin belirlediği kültürel peyzaj tanımında yer alan kültürel, görsel, ekolojik, sosyal ve ekonomik boyutlarıyla değerlendirilmiştir.

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ABSTRACT

Landscape is the natural and/or cultural area of a particular region created by the interaction and action of humans and nature. Landscape is an integral component of the environment, such as water, air and biodiversity (Council of Europe, 2000). The character of a landscape is seen as a representation of the traditions, customs and aesthetic qualities of its historical and cultural heritage.

Sustainability means using natural resources in the most optimal way without deterioration or damage, developing them and transferring them to the future so that they can meet the needs of future generations. Sustainability issues in landscape architecture are an important consideration. In this study, sustainability in landscape architecture was discussed comprehensively through three basic concepts of landscape design, landscape planning and landscape management.

The aim of this study is to investigate visions of sustainability in landscape architecture and to present concrete examples of principles for the protection of cultural heritage at every stage of landscape architecture (design, planning, implementation, maintenance and restoration). Additionally, the study aimed to outline principles for the conservation of sustainable heritage, recognizing the important relationship between landscape and human factors in achieving a sustainable future. In this study, Knidos, an example of cultural landscape, was evaluated with its cultural, visual, ecological, social and economic dimensions included in the definition of cultural landscape determined by the World Heritage Committee.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Landscape, derived from the terms "land" and "scapjan/schaffen", originally meaning to shape or create land, is an area that encompasses the complex interaction between humans and nature over time. It refers to the complex interactions and transformations that occur in the landscape through human activities. Therefore the context of landscape varies from fields, forests, deserts to water features, from cities, towns to industrial areas.

Landscape is beyond scenery, it is a combination of nature and culture. European Landscape Convention describes landscape as an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors ([Council of Europe, 2000](#)). International Union of Conservation Nations accepted a World Charter for Nature which based on that ecosystems, organisms, terrestrial, marine and atmospheric resources which humans benefit from must be managed in a sustainable without any risks that threatening them, while putting special interest of the sustainability of landscape ([Tosun, 2009](#)).

Landscape architecture is a discipline that combines scientific and artistic principles to design, plan, manage and protect of landscape. It includes both natural and constructed elements, as well as cultural and scientific knowledge ([Morrow, 1957](#); cited in [ASLA, 2003](#)). Sustainability refers to the principle that development should be pursued in a way that fairly meets the environmental needs of both current and future generations (Council of Europe, 2003). The recognition of sustainable development, emphasized at the 1992 Rio de Janeiro conference, emphasizes the importance of considering the landscape when trying to strike a balance between the preservation of natural and cultural heritage that serves as a reflection of cultural identity and diversity.

In this study, sustainability in landscape architecture was discussed comprehensively through three basic concepts of landscape design, landscape planning and landscape management. More specifically sustainability for heritage conservation regarding to the fact that relation between landscape and human factors may rely on a sustainable future and protection of cultural heritage rely upon of cultural identity and value. Heritage value of selected site from western Turkey, Knidos was measured from different extend using UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) world heritage criteria, different dimensions nemaly cultural, visual, ecological, social and economic dimensions as well as tangible and intangible landmarks.

2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

The methodological approach of this study was based on visions for sustainability in landscape architecture with a special emphasis on heritage conservation. Sustainability has been taken into account for different phases as landscape design, landscape planning and landscape management respectively ([Figure 1](#)).

Regarding to the heritage conservation different dimensions of cultural landscape were analysed to understand the insight of cultural landscapes. Here dimensions of the landscape were analysed according to [Gómez-Sal et al. \(2003\)](#), [Antrop \(2005\)](#), [Lörzing \(2005\)](#) and [Atik et al. \(2010\)](#) namely aesthetic, economic, ecological and cultural. Sustainability of the cultural heritage were evaluated in terms of cultural continuity, cultural diversity, cultural value and cultural identity with [Gómez-Sal et al \(2003\)](#) and [Bell \(2005\)](#) were basic source ([Figure 1](#)).

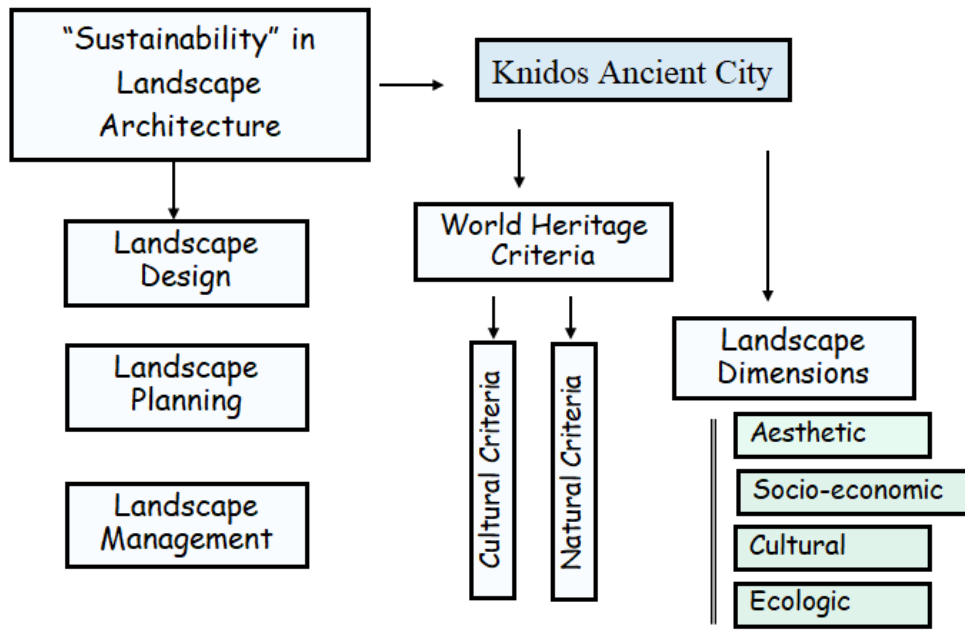


Figure 1. Method flow diagram of the study

Şekil 1. Çalışma yöntemi akış şeması

Knidos-Muğla has been chosen as a case study area for heritage conservation. Knidos, located on Tekir Cape at the point where the Aegean and the Mediterranean meet at the tip of the Reşadiye Peninsula in the Datça District of Muğla Province-Türkiye, is one of the important centers of the coastal cities of Western Anatolia ([Figure 2](#) and [Figure 3](#)).

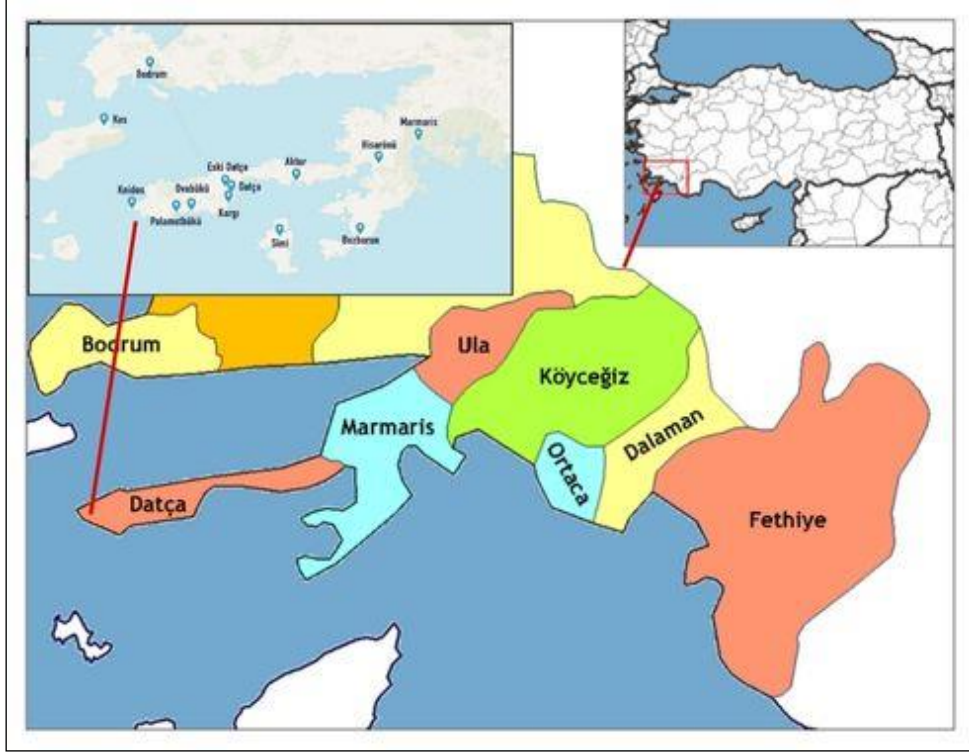


Figure 2. Location of Knidos, Muğla

Şekil 2. Knidos, Muğla'nın konumu



Figure 3. Images from Knidos ([Anonymous, 2023](#))

Şekil 3. Knidos'tan görüntüler ([Anonymous, 2023](#))

3. SUSTAINABILITY IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Landscape is an integral component of the environment, such as water, air and biodiversity. For this reason, landscape-related policies need to be developed in line with sustainable development goals (European Council, 2003). On the other hand, landscape architecture is the field of study and professional practice that includes the design, planning, management and maintenance of landscapes. It is crucial to have a comprehensive understanding of the composition and importance of landscapes and to create a sustainability-focused vision from a disciplinary perspective.

According to [Antrop \(2006\)](#), the concept of sustainability can be understood in two different ways. First, it may involve the protection of certain landscape types or values and, accordingly, the continuation of practices that preserve and structure these landscapes. Second, sustainability can be seen as a fundamental principle guiding future landscape studies. In this context, the concept relates to the capacity of landscapes to promote sustainability, especially in the planning and management of rural areas.

As the term of landscape covers all visible features in an area, sustainability does not necessarily refer to particular landscapes. Thereof the concept of sustainability reaches from natural or cultural, traditional or contemporary to spectacular or ordinary, from contemporary new landscapes to rural landscapes. Diversity in the landscape and its content requires different approaches towards sustainability. Accordingly sustainability in this study is discussed with social, ecological, economic and cultural aspects.

From an economic perspective, economic sustainability is defined by [Potschin and Haines-Young \(2006\)](#) as the prerequisites for environmental sustainability. Considering that the economy is built upon people's livelihoods and their occupations for survival, political views and economic tendencies shape the landscape. Economic sustainability involves maintaining an approach to development based on the sustainable use of resources, ensuring long-term economic productivity for future generations.

Looking at sustainability in ecological perspective, as mentioned by Gómez-Sal et al. (2003) the ecological dimension of landscape analysis examines the landscape as an ecosystem, considering the extent to which it sustains basic ecological processes and provides environmental services.

3.1. Landscape Design

Design is a creative process that involves generating responses to specific conditions and filling them with meaningful intentions. Landscape design specifically focuses on the creation of landscapes that are responsive, evocative, meaningful, sustainable and regenerative ([Motloch, 2000](#)).

Landscape design plays an important role in determining the most effective use of our environment. It also serves as a tool for landscape architects to expand their appreciation and understanding of the landscape. However, as [Daniel \(2001\)](#) notes, while ecological awareness is increasingly being incorporated into design projects, the integration of ecological considerations with cultural and aesthetic aspects of the landscape remains unclear and subject to debate.

In the history of landscape architecture and landscape design André Le Nôtre was a pioneer in place garden design in the 16th and 17th century. In his formal design approach, it was evident that nature and natural forms in the landscape strictly controlled. On the other hand design concept of Lancelot Brown was evident with natural forms and features. In the 18th century, Lancelot Brown with his natural design approach based his style of smooth undulating grass lawn and scattering trees in the open fields and invisibly damming small rivers. His untouched feeling of natural design style called gardenless and his name referred to Capability Brown ([Finch and Woudstra, 2020](#)).

Landscape design focuses on integrating landscape properties into a new media and using landscape elements as climate, topography, soil, as well as infrastructure facilities. Recently natural landscaping or naturoscaping has already become a sustainable alternative in landscape design which based on the coexistence of the nature by incorporating native plants, local natural material and natural forms into design concept.

3.2. Landscape Planning

Landscape planning is to define and organise the activities for the future which have intact relations with landscape. Landscape ecology is the study on improving relations between human use and ecological processes in the landscape. Here principles of landscape ecology became more important in deciding exploitation of landscape elements. Concepts of environmental sustainability have been significantly shaped by landscape ecology, which emphasizes the importance of local diversity and the interconnectedness of ecological

components. More recently, these concepts have expanded to include the concept of resilience in the context of human–ecological relations, as well as the role of cultural capital in ensuring regional sustainability ([Stephenson, 2008](#)). Visions for sustainability in landscape planning can be protecting flora, fauna and habitats, providing connectivity, restoring degraded habitats, etc.

Landscape planning processes and applications able us to imply stability principles on to the landscape elements and characteristics. The main idea is to protect and restore and enhance ecological structures and properties of the landscape. “Connectivity” that we provide between landscape structures of patches, corridors, matrix and mosaics will eventually maintain sustainability. Hereby social and economical sustainability can be maintained by stakeholder participation whereas cultural sustainability will be maintained by respecting cultural values, identities and diversities within the landscape.

3.3. Landscape Planning

Landscape management is related both management of natural and cultural landscapes, maintenance and improving landscape qualities of all kinds. There are protected areas, rural and urban areas, heritage sites, urban green areas, degraded everyday landscapes, recreation sites, etc. in landscapes.

Natural landscape may cover large areas which also fall under landscape planning processes. Landscape management covers such activities of maintaining the landscape healthy, attractive and safe. [Atik and Karagüzel \(2007\)](#) indicated that natural landscaping, xeriscaping and using native species are some of the tools in sustainability in landscape management, in particular for sustainable use of water resources.

4. HERITAGE CONSERVATION WITH RESPECT TO SUSTAINABILITY

Heritage is the artefacts, tangible and intangible attributes that passed down from generations to present time and hopefully to future. Cultural heritage presented in landscape scale is a combination of cultural and natural values need deliberate act of conservation.

With a wider vision, cultural landscapes are distinct geographical areas that representing the combined works of man and nature ([UNESCO, 1972](#); [Rössler, 2006](#)). Herewith heritage conservation refers to preservation of products, process and the landscape that they are places in. With respect to sustainability, it is important to understand characteristics, value and meaning of cultural heritage so to sustain them from present to future.

Historic environment is researched and managed not only at the level of individual buildings, sites or monuments, but also in terms of entire landscapes ([Historic England, 2023](#)). Classifying cultural landscapes into urban, rural, historic or industrial; archaeological landscapes deserve even more special attention. They are only about physical remnants that passed through the time but are the storage of information about the interrelation between communities of the territory and nature.

[Fairclough et al. \(2002\)](#), opened a discussion about how new developments in landscape conservation could make a difference to the preservation and protection of the archaeological heritage itself. Defining the archaeological significance of cultural landscape, and discovering and explaining long-term change, continuity and time-depth, is an archaeological task. Archaeologists understand the present landscape through longer-term narratives and explanations.

However, there are different ways that cultural landscapes a historic environment and cultural heritage evaluated not for adjustment but in particular for the identification of the values that create a strong background for heritage protection. [Mosler \(2009\)](#) defended that there are many clues about the establishments of past landscapes. Historical associations and spiritual symbols and meanings can be read.

The Knidos ancient city that located in Muğla (Türkiye) was evaluated as cultural heritage example by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC) in terms of sustainability in different aspects by associating it with UNESCO cultural and natural criteria internationally accepted for the evaluation of cultural heritage landscapes.

The World Heritage Committee adopted three categories of cultural landscape to integrate them into its operational guidelines. [Table 1](#) summarises WHC cultural and natural criteria for cultural landscapes. These criteria are important to understand the nature of the landscape and priorities in conservation.

Table 1. Cultural and natural criteria ([UNESCO 1972](#); [WHC, 1992](#); [Fowler, 2003](#))

Tablo 1. Kültürel ve doğal kriterler ([UNESCO 1972](#); [WHC, 1992](#); [Fowler, 2003](#))

| Cultural | Natural |
|--|---|
| <p>i. "to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius";</p> <p>ii. "to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design";</p> <p>iii. "to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared";</p> <p>iv. "to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history";</p> <p>v. "to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change";</p> <p>vi. "to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.</p> | <p>vii. "to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance";</p> <p>viii. "to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features";</p> <p>ix. "to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals";</p> <p>x. "to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-site conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation."</p> |

4.1. Knidos Ancient City

In order to preserve the landscapes as unique visual scenery, attention must be given to the significance and role of natural and cultural landscape components in the spatial, social and historical development of western Anatolian landscapes ([Mosler, 2009](#)).

Knidos, one of the famous centers of the ancient period in Anatolia namely known Asia Minor. Founded between Kos and Rhodes islands, is one of the most important centers of the Caria region and the second known Doric city after Halicarnassus. Dorians coming from Peloponnese founded the city of Knidos shortly after the settlements of Rhodes and Kos. It is also possible that this Doric colony came from Sparta. Another statement is that the city was founded by Triopas of Argos ([Muğla İl Kültür ve Turizm Müdürlüğü, 2023](#)) ([Figure 4](#)).



Figure 4. Knidos Ancient City ([Cumhuriyet Gazetesi, 2020](#))

Şekil 4. Knidos Antik Kenti ([Cumhuriyet Gazetesi, 2020](#))

A strong city wall with round and angular towers surrounds the city. It is possible to see the best preserved parts of the city walls, thought to have been built in the 4th century BC, in the Acropolis. Outside the city walls, approximately 7 km to the east. There is a Necropolis (cemetery) spread over a wide area. On the mainland, there is a street extending from east to west on the axis, and below and above this road, public buildings, upper and lower theaters, the Sanctuary of Demeter, a small odeon, the Temple of Aphrodite, the Corinthian Temple, the Roman Tomb, Agora, Monumental Building, Hellenistic Stoa, Dionysus. There are ruins of buildings such as the Temple and the Byzantine Church, the Roman Period Bouleuterion, the Propylon and the stepped street ([Datça Kaymakamlığı, 2023](#)).

The city is joined by a narrow piece of land and an islet called camel neck or Kap Krio. As a result, a port was built in the two bays, and the one in the west was used by warships and the one in the east was used by merchant ships. Knidos is a center with very developed trade. The city, which is famous for its wines, also exports the wines it produces. The city played an important role in the Hellenic world starting from the 6th century BC.

Strabon states that Knidos was founded along the coast and on the island in front of it. Later, the sea between the island and the land was filled, thus creating two separate ports. The smaller one in the north was called the "North Port". This port was used for military purposes.

The southern port on the other side is reserved for merchant ships. Today, the ruins of the breakwater covering the harbor mouth and the tower in the northern harbor can be seen ([Datça Kaymakamlığı, 2023](#)).

Knidos Ancient City covers the categories of mainly cultural as (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi) as evaluated in [Table 2](#). The city of Knidos was founded according to the grid plan of Hippodamos. Therefore, four wide streets parallel to each other in the east-west direction intersected with a perpendicular street in the north-south direction. In accordance with the location of the land, streets and avenues sometimes cross each other by stairs and sometimes vertically. Knidos is known for its city, port, statues, wine and monumental temples ([Datça Kaymakamlığı, 2023](#)). Important festivals were held for the gods and goddesses in Greek mythology. Knidos necropolis has been an important area throughout history.

Table 2. Evaluation Cultural and Natural WHC Criteria for Knidos

Tablo 2. Knidos için Kültürel ve Doğal WHC Kriterlerinin Değerlendirilmesi

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>ii. "to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design";</i> | Form of the city finely fitted into coastal peninsula which represents an artful town-planning example of the ancient era. |
| <i>iii. "to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared";</i> | Knidos is one of the symbolic coastal settlements of ancient time although the civilisation has disappeared. |
| <i>iv. "to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history";</i> | In addition to the altars and late period houses, there are small buildings or Banquet Houses "Bankethäuser" that may be treasury offices. |
| <i>vi. "to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.</i> | Knidos is the most important trade, art and culture city of ancient times. It is the city where the first examples of democracy were experienced. |

Landscape is a combination all visual, cultural, and natural as well social components. Therefore, landscape dimensions require a comprehensive approach that looking at from from multiple perspectives. Aesthetic, economic, ecological and cultural dimensions of cultural landscape in Knidos are given in [Table 3](#). In accordance, archaeological remains represent aesthetic dimension strongly showing that the wealth and richness of Knidos is still evidents its physical remains. It's the aesthetic quality that put value on Knidos initiated by material, form, texture and details of the city buildings.

Mediterranean Sea has been significant part of the landscape and the characteristic of Knidos. Being an important costal city on the ancient Caria, Knidos has had the benefits of its citing on the Datça peninsula between two islands of Kos and Rhodes, which flourished its economy as a maritime trade center and shipping.

Referring to its cultural dimension, plant ornaments in particular the olive tree (*Olea europaea*) decorations of the buildings indicate the importance of agricultural activities and olive oil production in ancient Knidos. Monuments and water channels in Knidos was recognisable architectural artefacts based on the circulation of water around the city for aesthetic and functional purposes as the result of cultural processes.

Table 3. Evaluation of different dimension of archaeological landscapes in Knidos

Tablo 3. Knidos arkeolojik peyzajının farklı boyutlarıyla değerlendirilmesi

| | |
|---|---|
| Aesthetic Dimension <i>Landscapes perceived firstly from their aesthetic dimension, which represents the visual property of the landscape.</i> | Archaeological landscapes often represent exceptional examples of human integration with nature and serve as definitive depictions of ancient civilizations. For example, Knidos was a settlement located on a peninsula compatible with the coastal geography. The magnificence of the monumental buildings was further strengthened by the presence of various plant symbols adds visual richness to the cityscape. |
| Economic Dimension <i>Political opinions and trends in the economy and production systems often shape the development of the landscapes.</i> | Knidos, located between the islands of Kos and Rhodes, was a famous ancient city and one of the important centers of the Caria region. It had the distinction of being the second well-known Doric city after Halicarnassus. The mountainous terrain of Knidos gave it a unique character as a city of terraces. It played a vital role as a leading maritime center for trade, shipping and cultural exchange. |
| Ecological Dimension <i>The ecological dimension presents the dynamic relationship between natural landscape factors such as soil, flora, etc. and helps us to understand the content of the landscape.</i> | The location of Knidos exemplifies a highly integrated relationship with the natural environment. The ecological aspects of the archaeological landscapes in Knidos are based on urban planning that harmoniously combines natural landscape factors. In the design of the city, the protection of the natural coastline is taken into account and water channel systems working in synergy with the topography, appearance and climate of the region are used. Knidos' location on terraces further emphasizes its careful integration with the surrounding landforms. |
| Cultural Dimension <i>Cultural dimension brings the values and experiments from the past, completing aesthetic, economical and ecological dimension of the landscape.</i> | The Ancient City of Knidos is symbolized by many plants such as olive trees, elderberries and juniper trees. The existence of the olive tree shows the importance of agricultural activities and olive oil production in ancient Knidos. Elderberry and juniper trees are representatives of the natural environment that characterizes Knidos. These plant symbols not only highlight the historical importance of agriculture, but also highlight the close connection between Knidos and the surrounding natural landscape. |

3. CONCLUSION

Landscape is a complex phenomenon; it has both objective and subjective characteristics, being both physically reality as well as a cultural construct. Created through human and nature interaction, cultural landscapes can transfer inherited knowledge and experience from past to future.

The process of creating new landscapes in landscape architecture involves more than restructuring the physical form of a place. It also requires forming new mental images of these places. Through planning, design and management interventions, landscape architects have the ability to transform and redefine spaces not only in their physical appearance, but also in the way people perceive and experience them mentally. By carefully considering elements such as layout, aesthetics, functionality and user experience, landscape architects can shape and create new landscapes that evoke specific emotions, inspire the imagination and leave a lasting impact on individuals. In this way, the practice of landscape architecture goes beyond the purely physical transformation of spaces and extends to the field of creating meaningful and memorable mental images of spaces. Hereby landscape planning deals with the territorial aspects of landscape as well as aesthetic, social and economic aspects in different scales from local to residential, targeting best potential use of the landscape without deteriorating the its sources and characteristic.

Landscapes design focuses on the structuring, organization, and detailed development of outdoor spaces of all kinds and creating outdoor spaces as media for people according to design principles. Creating new landscapes always means modifying existing places and need respect to landscape characteristics. Good practice of landscape architecture maintains an integral part of the design process. One of the professional goals is the creation a sustainable built environment based on the cultural values that we inherited from the past.

Landscape management involves with the maintaining, monitoring, moulding and intervening to shape the long-term development and well-being of the landscape. However, it is everyday landscapes as well as highly valuable cultural landscapes that need sound stewardship in their management and maintainance.

Landscapes are part of the cultural heritage of humankind and heritage is considered as a sort of intellectual capital ([Antrop, 2006](#)). Therefore, cultural dimension and cultural characteristics in heritage conservation is critical to comprehend the ways of sustainability. According to [Stephenson \(2008\)](#) the concept of sustainable development is widely interpreted

as a need to achieve sustainability concurrently within environmental, economic and social spheres.

There is a growing awareness of the need to sustain both cultural diversity, ecological diversity and aesthetic character in the heritage protection under the World Heritage Convention ([Stephenson, 2008](#)). A balanced cultural–natural relationship under the protected cultural landscapes is a sustainability approach in heritage conservation, and is an emerging discourse on cultural sustainability and maintaining cultural diversity.

One of the perspectives in heritage conservation is to preserve inherent landscape qualities and values. Here natural and social values as well as cultural qualities are important role in understanding tools for sustainability which relate to economic values with traditional practices and functions, and keeping the unique knowledge to do so.

The subsistence of ancient Aegean landscapes as well as their symbolic and strategic use are related to the landscape formations, their rich cultural heritage and natural products ([Mosler, 2009](#)). The ancient city of Knidos has a great cultural landscape value with its architectural structures, sculptures and planning. The city's importance in medicine, art and trade in ancient times reflects the richness of its cultural heritage. Additionally, Knidos' archaeological ruins and impressive coastal landscape have become a tourist attraction, offering visitors a unique experience.

In landscape design, planning, and management, ensuring the sustainability of the landscape primarily depends on the conservation of natural resources. High levels of biological diversity, balance and healthy relationships between ecosystems, enable the sustainability of natural resources. Additionally, social and aesthetic values are important as they support and enhance human-nature interactions. Thus, encouraging features that promote a connection with nature become more prominent. Knidos is a cultural landscape area within a natural context. The interaction between cultural and historical features, as well as the natural environment, simultaneously enhances the attractiveness of this area. Moreover, being located in a region that attracts many tourists contributes to Knidos receiving constant visitors. Therefore, the sustainability of the cultural landscape fabric in this area requires preservation during use. In addition to the efforts of local authorities, there are responsibilities that lie with the local community. The careful environmental consciousness of the local community is one of the most important actions that will ensure the sustainability of Knidos. Furthermore, it is essential for local authorities to develop long-term plans related to the area, establish tourism plans for the

site, determine the effective carrying capacity, and ensure public participation in all planning processes. The transfer of Knidos' cultural landscapes to future generations is possible only if all stakeholders correctly protect and utilize the area.

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