



## An Example of Adaptive Reuse in Office Design; Noktalı Fikir Advertising Agency

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### Abstract

The purpose of this study is to reuse architectural and industrial components from various disciplines—used for various purposes—in new structures. The study begins by selecting materials from the industrial and interior design sectors that are adaptable and recyclable and then outlines the process of applying these materials in interior spaces. The study presents the authors' analysis of the Noktalı Fikir Advertising Agency office building located in the Meram district of Konya Province. The analysis involved on-site detection stages, relevant person interviews, and interior photography. After conducting research, it was concluded that industrial vehicles that were previously used for different purposes could coexist harmoniously with separate pieces of technology utilized in architecture. This study aims to explain how reusable and adaptable materials affect the working comfort of office workers and clients and serve as a valuable resource for interior designers.

**Keywords:** Office design, adaptive reuse, interior design.

## Ofis Tasarımında Uyarlanabilir Yeniden Kullanım Örneği; Noktalı Fikir Reklam Ajansı

### Öz

Bu çalışmanın amacı, farklı disiplinlerden gelen ve farklı amaçlar için kullanılan mimari ve endüstriyel bileşenlerin yeni yapılarda yeniden kullanılmasıdır. Çalışma, endüstriyel ve iç tasarım sektörlerinden uyarlanabilir ve geri dönüştürülebilir malzemelerin seçilmesiyle başlıyor ve ardından bu malzemelerin iç mekânlarda uygulanma sürecini özetliyor. Çalışma, yazarların Konya ili Meram ilçesinde bulunan Noktalı Fikir Reklam Ajansı ofis binasının analizini sunmaktadır. Analiz, yerinde tespit aşamalarını, ilgili kişi görüşmelerini ve iç mekân fotoğraflamalarını içermektedir. Araştırma sonucunda, daha önce farklı amaçlar için kullanılan endüstriyel araçların, mimaride kullanılan ayrı teknoloji parçalarıyla uyumlu bir şekilde bir arada var olabileceği sonucuna varılmıştır. Bu çalışma, yeniden kullanılabilir ve uyarlanabilir malzemelerin ofis çalışanlarının ve müşterilerin çalışma konforunu nasıl etkilediğini açıklamayı ve iç mimarlar için değerli bir kaynak oluşturmayı amaçlamaktadır.

**Anahtar kelimeler:** Ofis tasarımı, uyarlanabilir yeniden kullanım, iç mekân tasarımı.

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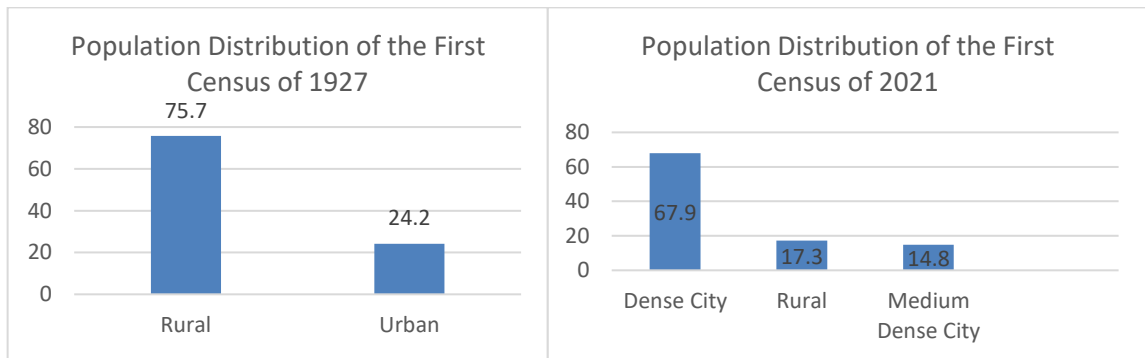
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## 1. Introduction

The world's lifestyles are quickly moving toward urbanization. There have been numerous changes in society as a result of the transition from rural to urban living. Local populations have changed their lifestyles and customs as a result of the decline in population in rural areas and the effort to adapt to modern life. Used furnishings, spaces, and equipment that make up the space remain idle due to the declining population and the abandonment of living quarters.

The village population made up 75.78% of the total population in the first Turkish census, which was taken in 1927, while the city population made up 24.22% (Sağlam, 2016). As of December 31, 2022, 57 million 934 thousand 583 people lived in settlements designated as dense cities, which only made up 1.6% of the total land area of our nation, according to population data from 2021. In other words, these settlements are home to 67.9% of Turkey's population (Türkiye İstatistik Kurumu (TUIK), 2022). Figure 1 shows the population distribution in Turkey's first and most recent censuses according to the urban-rural classification.



**Figure 1.** Graph showing urban and rural population between 1927/2022.

Figure 1 shows a significant population shift from rural to urban areas over the past century in Turkey. This migration has resulted in changes to the essential needs of urban life. As a result of this mobility, people's demand for living and working spaces has increased, and there has been a diversification in the housing and employment sectors.

As humans transitioned from a nomadic way of life to a more settled one, they started building their own shelters instead of relying on nature. This shift also meant moving from rural to urban areas (Şiriner Öner, 2016). Houses are not only structures that fulfill our physical needs, but they also represent our lifestyle, cultural values, economic status, and social relationships. The evolution of houses is an important journey that reflects the development and harmony of humanity.

The concept of the office has emerged as a result of the privatization of information-based jobs in the public and private sectors during this phase of changing housing, which has been accompanied by the development of trade and management understanding. Offices have been shaped by factors like the globalization of trade, technological advancements, and changes in business activities over time. Although offices have historically operated in living spaces at first, suitable workspaces have been created over time (Noraslı & Köse Doğan, 2020), and the development process started with the offices being designed in accordance with user needs. . In the current environment, the office is starting to become outdated and is unable to offer users enough physical amenities (Çınar, 2023). The idea of an office, which first emerged in the 19th century, has evolved over time to meet changing needs and technological advancements (Köse Doğan, 2008).

This study's objective is to discuss adaptable and reusable materials within the evolving interior design principles of the office concept that emerged with shifting population mobility. Determining the use of adaptable and reusable materials in the design process of various interior architecture and architectural projects is another goal of the study.

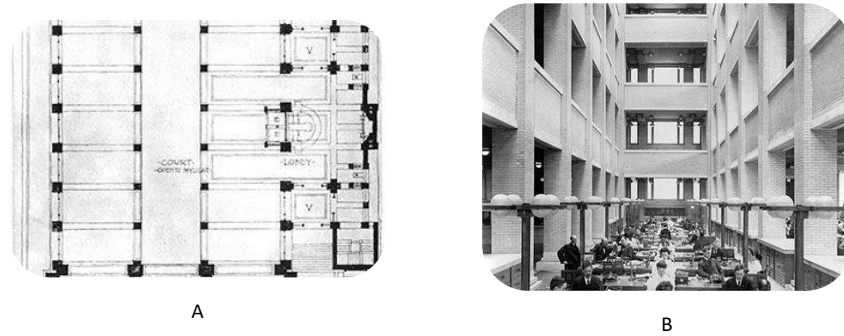
## 2. Office and Adaptive Reuse Concepts

With the advent of modern life, the demand for a dedicated workspace emerged. Offices were created to cater to this need (Dalga, 2007). As the business world became more complex and specialized, people required specially designed spaces to work in a more efficient and effective manner.

The word office derives from the French meaning workplace, flat, or bureau. In the Turkish language, the words bureau and office are used synonymously (Altınkoç, 2005), however, when the etymology of these words is examined separately, it is understood that they derive from different roots. The bureau is the workplace or building that meets editorial and administrative staff needs. The office, on the other hand, derives from the Latin word "opus", meaning "handiwork, work" (Hasol, 1998).

Design acquisition, according to Yurtgün & Çınar (2023), is a problem-solving activity that involves making decisions to solve the design of an object, space or purpose. The Larkin building's pioneering office layout created by Frank Lloyd Wright has become the standard for how modern workplaces should be configured. The widespread use of open-plan office designs has helped workplaces function more productively and collaboratively (Bailey, 1990).

Even today, the design of office spaces still benefits from this strategy. Wright's Larkin building made the concept of upending conventional office layouts and creating more airy, flexible areas where workers could effectively communicate and collaborate (Soyak, 2009).



**Figure 2.** a. Larkin office building architectural plan and interior view (Architectural Record, 2023), b. Larkin office building architectural interior view (Architectural Record, 2023)

The functionality and efficiency of offices are now more crucial than ever thanks to technological advancements, the creation of communication tools, and the complexity of business processes. To collaborate, manage data, and share information and resources, people have started to need private offices. As industries have expanded, so too have offices as a result of industry specialization, the emergence of distinct job roles, and office diversification. Office spaces have been developed with various designs and arrangements to meet these requirements because each business branch has unique needs.

At the same time, offices were established to enhance economic growth and manage business activities more systematically. With the advancement of technology, the emergence of remote work opportunities, and the popularity of flexible work arrangements, the concept of the office has evolved significantly. Nowadays, it is no longer the same as it used to be.

In their study on office design, Arslan et al. (2022) claimed that factors like the lighting system, sound and noise control, air conditioning system, equipment compatibility, and color preference in the workplace have a big impact on workers (Arslan et al, 2022).

In Yurtgün's study; In today's office buildings, people; He stated that it consists of crowded, noisy, complex spaces disconnected from natural areas, so employees face some psychological and physical problems, and emphasized that every detail in office designs, from lighting to indoor air quality, will affect the performance of employees (Yurtgün, 2020).

In their 2022 study, Güney Yüksel et al., highlighted the significance of selecting appropriate materials and equipment elements while emphasizing the use of flexible furniture and space solutions to meet user needs. Additionally, they stressed the benefits of incorporating sustainable building materials, ventilation, lighting systems, and technological tools to establish a comfortable work environment for employees (Güney Yüksel et al., 2022).

Office designers must balance incorporating their creative ideas into the space with managing customer satisfaction when deciding on design criteria. Economic conditions are one of the primary determinants of this situation. Handling the design conceptually and transforming it into a prototype in a qualified manner is one of the most important problems encountered in the design process (Noraslı, 2023). In this way, designers can combine the idea of a space that is both creative and sustainable with adaptive and reusable materials.

Design and construction industries are increasingly emphasizing adaptive and reusable materials to promote environmental sustainability and effective resource utilization. The use of such materials allows structures or products to be utilized in various ways during and after use, or to be adapted for different purposes.

The concept, which also refers to the reuse process, is the action or process of allowing a building's harmonious use while preserving its historical, cultural, or architectural values through repairs, changes, and additions (Ijla & Broström, 2015). Concepts like sustainability and adaptive reuse become more meaningful when they are combined. Reuse promotes sociocultural and economic development and has the potential to support sustainability in numerous ways (Orhan & Yalnız, 2022).

The literature on architectural restoration projects often emphasizes the importance of adaptability and reuse. This concept has been extensively studied both in Turkey and around the world.

Marcus Van Der Meulen's research from 2017 covered the adaptive use of architectural elements from several disused churches in the Netherlands in the interior design of a different religious structure (Van Der Meulen, 2017).

In his research from 2015, Fetisov identified three general techniques for the adaptive reuse approach. He highlighted the study's findings regarding the beneficial effects of historical texture, architectural influence, and artistic approach on exterior and interior architectural designs (Fetisov, 2015).

The Ambar Village Church in Mardin serves as an excellent example of adaptive reuse in Kaptan's 2021 study, as per the findings and recommendations (Kaptan, 2021). In another study, Yücel (2023) concluded that the concepts of transience and permanence are present in the studies on adaptive reuse. The study's ideas of transience and permanence suggest that a place containing experiences also preserves memories (Yücel, 2023).

The spatial performance (technical and functional) value of the building, which is a cultural asset and currently used as an architect's chamber- architect's house, and the degree of adaptation of the spaces to the requirements of the function were determined in the study carried out by Aydın & Yıldız in 2010. The benefits and drawbacks of the given function were also discussed. The location and function harmony of the building, the organization and quality of existing spaces, the spatial requirements of the function to be provided, and the assessment of the level of adaptability have been identified as the components and processes that need to be analyzed in the adaptation process in buildings with reuse potential (Aydın & Yıldız, 2010).

### **3. Materials and Methods**

This study focuses on the concept of using adaptive and reusable furnishings and supplies in office interior design. Most projects involving architectural renovation use this technique.

Within the scope of the study, one-on-one meetings, reportages and interviews were conducted as data collection techniques for determining the problem and solving it. The meeting technique is also referred to as interview in some sources. According to this definition, interviews/meetings are conversations held between two or more people for a specific purpose and in a specific order (Coşkun,

Altunışık & Yıldırım, 2007). Qualitative research is conducted with small samples or small study groups (Baltacı, 2018; Marshall, 1996).

Kvale (1994) went into great detail about the stages of interview in qualitative research, covering the entire process from the development of the research to its reporting. Seven stages of the interview technique are listed in Table 1 and are based on Kvale's (1994) classification, used as a basis for this study.

**Table 1:** Kvale (1994) Interview technique classification.

	Thematizing	Designing	Interview	Transcribing	Analysing	Verifying	Reporting
Kvale (1994) Interview Stages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification of goal</li> <li>• Drawing the conceptual framework of the subject</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and clarifying the goal</li> <li>• Clarifying the method</li> <li>• Planning the process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of interview form</li> <li>• Implementation of the interview</li> </ul>	Transcribing the oral conversation into writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choosing an analysis strategy that is appropriate for the research's subject and goals</li> </ul>	Comparison of findings and consistency of data	Interpretation of findings

#### 4. Findings and Discussion

Historical buildings can become obsolete and unused due to various reasons such as social, economic, functional, physical, environmental, or legal factors (Pereira et al., 2004). Similarly, materials used for different purposes in various fields also become worn out, outdated and useless over time. Therefore, the interior design and application project of Noktalı Fikir Advertising Agency, which was designed to enhance the daily work-life comfort of office employees and promote awareness among customers, was based on the concept of adaptive reuse, which is extensively discussed in the literature. The project utilized many items, industrial tools, and parts that were used in different areas, for different periods, and for different purposes as interior fittings. Figure 3 illustrates the area and its immediate surroundings where the application was made.



**Figure 3.** Noktalı Fikir Advertising Agency's place on the map (Akcaova, 2023).

The office design and application integration for Noktalı Fikir Advertising Agency began with a survey of the office space at the basement floor level of Mutlu Business Center in the Meram district of Konya province. The architectural layout of the office space, the flooring plan, any existing dividing walls, and carrier systems were all determined in the subsequent stage in order to decide on the spatial setups. The users' requests and recommendations helped to shape the preliminary interior architecture project. Figure 4 shows the office's architectural plan diagram, which was created for quantity surveying and sectioning.

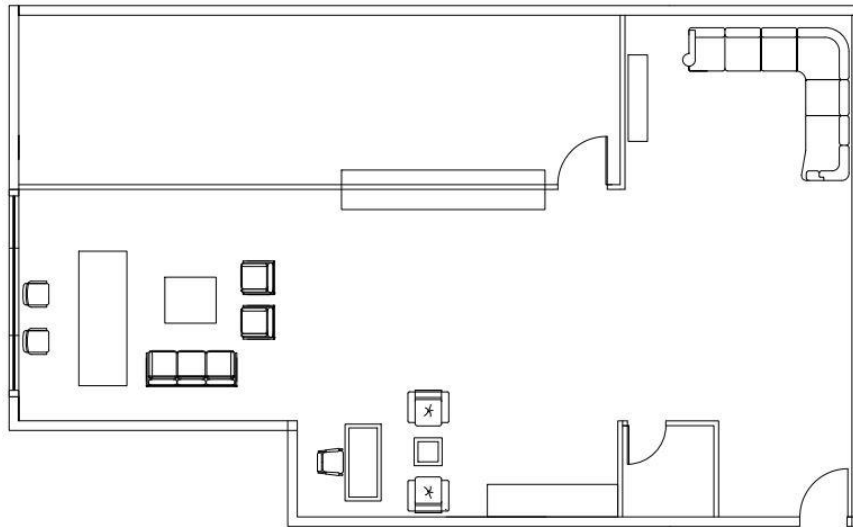


Figure 4. Noktalı fikir advertising agency architectural plan (Akcaova, 2023).

Through interviews with frequent users, the spatial program for the operation of the office was obtained. User requests will provide insight into the choices designers will need to make at the design stage. Table 2 contains the list of requirements created for the office.

Table 2. Noktalı fikir advertising agency requirement list

	ACTIONS	EQUIPMENT	USER REQUESTS
Management Unit	Interview Meeting	Desk Work chair Computer Storage areas	Digital environment for creation of workflow and presentation to customers
Waiting Unit	Welcoming Waiting	Waiting Chair Tv Unit	Creating a friendly environment where guests other than appointment customers can feel comfortable
Photo studio	Preparation	Camera Decor Make up Desk Light Equipment	No natural light Controlled lighting with local lights

The user's office requests and required equipment were processed using the Autodesk-based AutoCAD program. This allowed for the selection of appropriate floor, wall, and ceiling materials, as well as calculations for the building's quantity and density, and defining the various areas within the office.

Tables outlining the design stages, which include adaptable and reusable materials, as well as post-application photographs, are provided below.



**Figure 5.** a.The vehicle and material (Manitoba, 2023), b. Indoor Application View, Reuse of Massey Harris brand tractor front grille part (Akcaova, 2023).

As part of the interior design project, a table was created for office workers to use. The front grille part of a Massey Harris brand tractor from the 1950s-60s was obtained from the Konya Büsan Hurdacilar industrial site and placed in front of the solid table top as an accessory. This part is used in air and water-cooled engines and has gaps in its 3mm thick metal body to enhance airflow. The gaps are covered with a 2mm aluminum perforated wire layer. The piece measures 65cm on its widest axis and stands 105cm tall. It also doubles as a table leg. The piece was used in its original form and color. A 3500K daylight strip LED and LED engine were installed inside the part, making it a viable indoor light source.



**Figure 6.** (A) The vehicle and material (Sayar, 2023), (B) Indoor application view, Turkish Fiat 480 brand tractor exhaust pipe reuse (Akcaova, 2023).

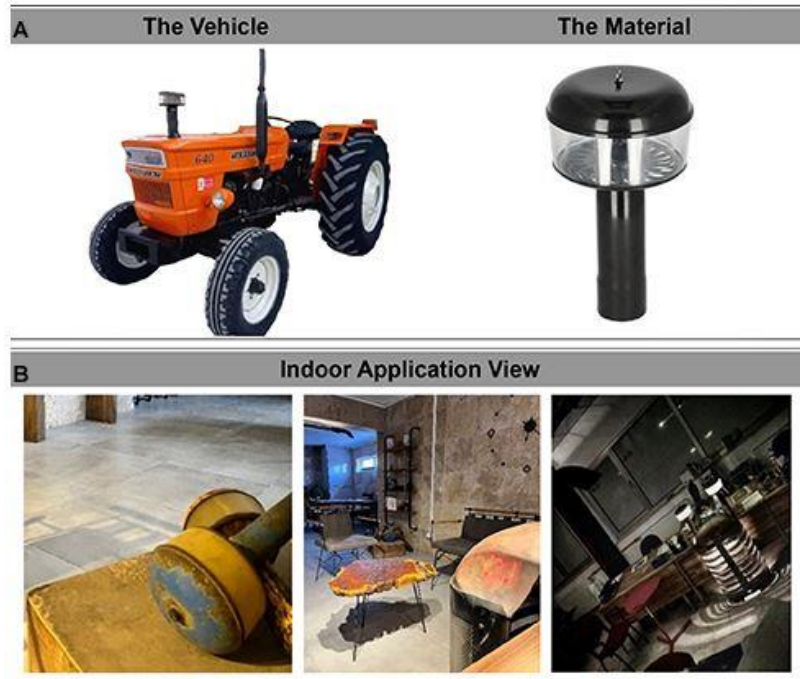
1984 Turkish Fiat 640 model tractor's silenced exhaust pipe was repurposed to provide local lighting for a conference table during its interior planning stages. The cylindrical object was made of 3mm thick aluminum metal alloy, with a diameter of 6mm and a length of 110cm, and a width of approximately 8cm. To prevent hot air from heating the gas pipe, the component was covered in perforated sheet material. Interior lighting was achieved through the use of a three-chip 3500K LED light and an LED engine on the perforated sheet metal, resulting in circular light points being reflected in the area. The component was used indoors and was fixed to the ceiling with a hook, with no other modifications made to it. The piece's exterior oven paint was also preserved.



**Figure 7.** a. The vehicle and material (Ebay, 2023), b. Indoor application view, reuse of Massey Ferguson tractor fuel tank (Akcaova, 2023).

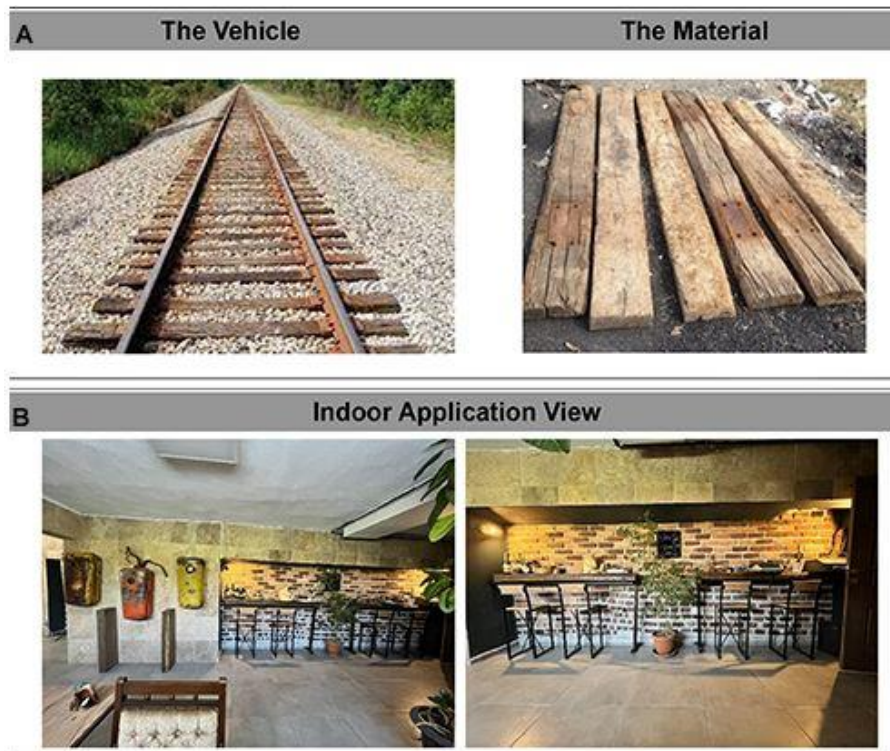
The fuel tank of the 188-model tractor, which was previously made by the Massey Ferguson brand between 1972 and 1976, was used as a storage unit while deciding what equipment would go in the office during the interior project phase. The component is made of 3mm thick aluminium metal alloy. The vehicle has a fuel capacity of about 50 liters. The object's dimensions are 40 cm in width, 80 cm in length, and 40 cm in depth. With the aid of flex, the piece was cut transversely so that it could serve as a multifunctional storage unit. The piece that was cut with the aid of the hinge was later repurposed as a cover. The tank's fuel inlet cover served as a cabinet handle. The piece's exterior oven paint was also preserved in the same manner. The three-color fuel tanks in the office now serve as multi-purpose storage spaces.





**Figure 8. a.** The vehicle and material (Sayar, 2023), **b.** Indoor Application View, Reuse of Turkish Fiat tractor air filter (Akcaova, 2023).

On the 1984 Turkish Fiat 640 model tractor's engine hood, there was an air filter component that was used as local lighting for the work desks, which is on the list of office design equipment necessities. There are two main components to the metal alloy part made from aluminium. The air pipe that is attached to the engine under the hood is the main body. The second component is the air pipe connector at the top of the engine, which is made of transparent glass or plexiglass. A three-chip 4000 K indoor LED is positioned in the transparent area in addition to this object, which is made to look like a table lamp in the office design.



**Figure 9. a.** The vehicle and material (Silo, 2023), **b.** Indoor application view, reuse of train rail sleeper board (Akcaova, 2023).

The beverage and bar area and the library, which are on the list of office design equipment requirements, were built using train rail sleeper boards that were replaced during the Konya-Ankara high-speed train line phase. Raw solid wood slats were treated with yacht varnish and sandpaper. Despite the natural material's functioning, it dried in the sun for 20 days, stabilizing the moisture content. It was fastened to the wall using dowels and clever screws.

## **5. Conclusion and Recommendations**

The concept of adaptive reuse refers to the ability to employ something in different contexts or situations. This idea is commonly applied in fields such as design and technology, among others. Both designers and users can reap significant advantages from implementing adaptive reuse. This study emphasizes the benefits of adaptive reuse for both designers and users. It has benefits such as saving time, energy and cost by planning the preliminary design, final project, application project and construction phases from the very beginning of the design process and leaving minimum problems to the construction process (Sungur & Bakır, 2023).

As a result of one-on-one meetings with office employees, for users;

- It has been observed that they prefer office spaces specially designed for them.
- The use of adaptable and reusable materials when designing the office structure has been positively received by users.
- During office hours, it has been observed that specially designed office structures made of adaptable and reusable materials foster a more productive work environment and enhance a sense of community.
- It has been found that sharing the experience stories of objects that have served a variety of functions positively affects the users.
- It has been demonstrated that the idea of developing a customized design, designed with adaptable and reusable materials, increases users' sense of belonging to the space.
- Materials that are adaptable and reusable can motivate users to gain experience and pick up new skills in a variety of situations.

For designers;

- It is anticipated that it will benefit the development of new design concepts, the reduction of design expenses, and new application details.
- In terms of efficiency, adaptable products or systems can quickly respond to different needs or changing requirements. This provides greater functionality and efficiency.
- Instead of creating numerous specialized products or designs, it is more cost-effective to use a single design or product for multiple purposes.
- Adaptability can improve the use of resources by maximizing the use of materials.
- Utilizing the same parts or materials in various systems or products reduces waste. Reduced resource use and waste production could have a positive impact on the environment.
- Additionally, it offers flexibility in the design and development processes as well as adaptability for designers. This may inspire original thinking.
- Materials that are flexible and reusable enable the creation of numerous alternatives. Designers now have more design options as a result.

In the field of interior design, the use of adaptable and reusable materials is gaining importance due to the need for environmental sustainability and efficient resource utilization. Such materials can be repurposed or modified for different uses during and after the design and usage of a structure or product. By creating adaptable products or systems, designers can cater to the needs of diverse user groups, making it possible to appeal to a wider audience. This approach has been well-received by both

users and designers and is expected to provide a range of office design solutions, materials, and application skills to designers.

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### Author Contribution and Conflict of Interest Declaration Information

1st Author % 100 contributed. There is no conflict of interest.

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