

Sustainable Archaeological Heritage: An Interactive Museum for Tekirdağ

Sürdürülebilir Arkeolojik Miras: Tekirdağ İçin İnteraktif Bir Müze

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Abstract

This article explores the significance of cultural heritage conservation and archaeological heritage in sustainable development, focusing on Tekirdağ, Turkey's region with a rich archaeological heritage. Turkey faces threats like rapid urbanization, smuggling, terrorism, war, and climate change, which pose challenges to protecting archaeological materials. Museums play a vital role in understanding and preserving cultural heritage sustainably. They act as public spaces that contribute to urban identity and raise awareness through exhibitions and educational programs. Archaeological museums, specifically, have the potential to promote cultural tourism and support economic development by attracting tourists and creating job opportunities for local communities. This article discusses the possibility of a contemporary and sustainable archaeological museum in Tekirdağ, addressing the weaknesses of the city's existing museums. In this context, the article focuses on the museum proposal incorporating contemporary architecture, interactive exhibition techniques, and technological innovations like augmented reality and virtual tours for Tekirdağ. In the second part of the article, the design of an interactive archaeological museum for Tekirdağ is presented based on the proposals of architecture students at Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University. Design proposals show that these advancements would make the visitor experience more engaging and accessible, showcasing the city's past and contributing to education, culture, and tourism to preserve its heritage for future generations.

Keywords: Urban sustainability, Cultural heritage, Archaeological heritage, Museology

Öz

Bu makale, Türkiye'nin zengin bir arkeolojik mirasa sahip bölgesi olan Tekirdağ'a odaklanarak, kültürel mirasın korunması ve arkeolojik mirasın sürdürülebilir kalkınmadaki önemini araştırmaktadır. Türkiye hızlı kentleşme, kaçakçılık, terörizm, savaş ve iklim değişikliği gibi tehditlerle karşı karşıyadır ve bu tehditler arkeolojik malzemelerin korunmasında zorluklar yaratmaktadır. Müzeler, kültürel mirasın anlaşılması ve sürdürülebilir bir şekilde korunmasında hayati bir rol oynamaktadır. Kent kimliğine katkıda bulunan ve sergiler ve eğitim programları aracılığıyla farkındalık yaratan kamusal alanlar olarak işlev görürler. Özellikle arkeoloji müzeleri, turistleri çekerek ve yerel topluluklar için iş fırsatları yaratarak kültür turizmini teşvik etme ve ekonomik kalkınmayı destekleme potansiyeline sahiptir. Bu makale, Tekirdağ'da, kentin mevcut müzelerinin zayıf yönlerini ele alan çağdaş ve sürdürülebilir bir arkeoloji müzesi olasılığını tartışmaktadır. Bu bağlamda makale, Tekirdağ için çağdaş mimariyi, interaktif sergileme tekniklerini ve artırılmış gerçeklik ve sanal turlar gibi teknolojik yenilikleri içeren müze önerisine odaklanmaktadır. Makalenin ikinci bölümünde, Tekirdağ Namık Kemal Üniversitesi'ndeki mimarlık öğrencilerinin önerileri temel alınarak Tekirdağ için interaktif bir arkeoloji müzesi tasarımı sunulmaktadır. Tasarım önerileri, bu gelişmelerin ziyaretçi deneyimini daha ilgi çekici ve erişilebilir hale getireceğini, kentin geçmişini sergileyeceğini ve mirasını gelecek nesiller için korumak amacıyla eğitim, kültür ve turizme katkıda bulunacağını göstermektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kentsel sürdürülebilirlik, Kültürel miras, Arkeolojik miras, Müzecilik.

Introduction

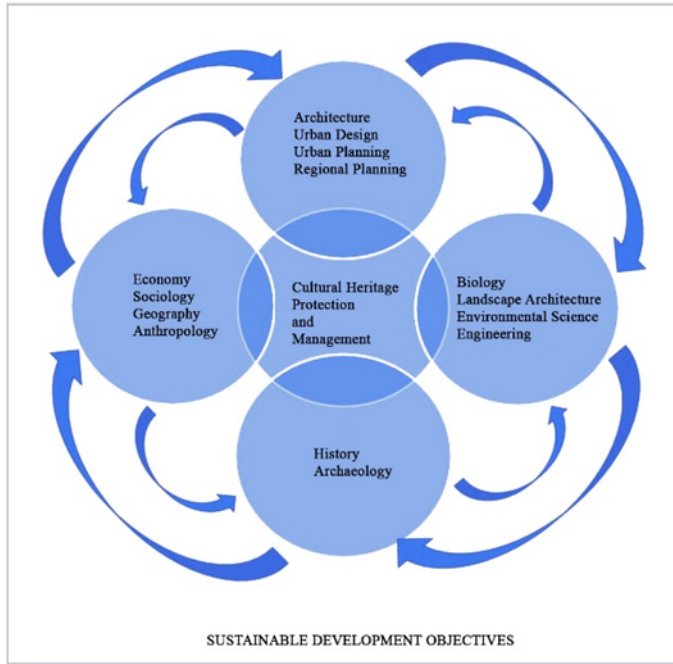
Sustainable development was defined in the Brundtland Report published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization in 1987 as encompassing economic, social, and environmental perspectives (Brundtland, 1987). Sustainability was initially based on three separate but interrelated dimensions - environmental, financial, and social - and therefore the content of sustainability has evolved to understand and protect the interdependent relationships between the environment, society, and the economy. Cultural sustainability approaches, which emerged in the 1990s, viewed culture as a value system and focused on it as a factor influencing the nature and type of development (Howard, 2019). Over time, it evolved into a more complex and holistic vision that emerged from international debates on the role of culture, creativity, knowledge, and culture were introduced as the fourth pillar of sustainable development at the Johannesburg Earth Summit in 2002 (Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, 2002). The relationship between cultural heritage and sustainable development has been on the agenda of the United Nations and many other relevant stakeholders for many years (Hoşkara, Lombardi, & Doğaner, 2021). Within the scope of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goals have been set, that constitute a consensus for sustainable development and should be adopted and implemented by countries at the national level, continuing the understanding put forward by the Brundtland Report (Söderström, 2018). According to this understanding, sustainability's economic, environmental, and social dimensions are assessed holistically (Özer Sarı & Nazlı, 2018).

Cultural heritage and sustainability are of great importance in terms of protecting cultural values and passing them on to future generations (Çavdırılı & Gök, 2020; Usta & Gafar, 2022). According to the Turkish Language Association, culture is defined as "material and spiritual values created in the process of historical and social development," and heritage is defined as "the values left by one generation to the next generation" (TDK, 2015). Since the end of the 20th century, heritage management based on sustainable, integrated, and rational approaches has been envisaged for the protection of cultural values and has attempted to be realized with the principles of inclusive participation, transparency, and equality (Turgut Gültekin & Uysal, 2018). The term cultural heritage, reflects a comprehensive, dynamic, and interdisciplinary approach and emphasizes the transfer of cultural heritage to future generations, the participation of communities, and the consideration of the human dimension of heritage. Cultural heritage conservation, an important component in achieving the goals of sustainable urban development, reflects the efforts of communities to protect and preserve their identity, history, and cultural values. This means not only physical conservation but also recognizing and celebrating the meaning and value of this heritage to communities. Participation, plurality, and education ensure that cultural heritage is preserved and passed on to future generations. Therefore, a broader and more participatory approach and awareness-raising efforts are needed to protect cultural heritage (Woodhead, 2023).

The conceptual shift of the idea of "heritage" has expanded from the scale of monuments to the scale of the historic city and then to the scale of the cultural landscape and historic urban landscape. As a result of its new role, cultural heritage is being addressed in a cross-sectoral manner in all areas of urbanization-related disciplines, such as architecture, urban design, and town and regional planning, where tools, practices, and objectives for sustainable development goals are shared. The disciplines concerned with the future of cultural heritage and its strategic role in achieving sustainable development goals have grown in parallel with the categories of heritage resources. This new scenario envisages new alliances between the disciplines of geography, landscape architecture, and history, as well as archaeology, economics, anthropology, demography, sociology, biology, environmental sciences, and engineering, which are influential in the conservation and management of cultural heritage; these alliances are conceptualized in Figure 1 (Hoşkara, Lombardi, & Doğaner, 2021).

Figure 1

Sustainable development objectives (Hoşkara, Lombardi, & Doğaner, 2021, p. 1972)



In archaeology, which is a subset of cultural sustainability, this concept is of great importance for the transfer of archaeological heritage into the future. As interpreters and guardians of the past, archaeologists are one of the groups contributing to the creation of sustainable historic environments and sustainable communities (Carman, 2016). Archaeology can provide sustainable development, especially local benefits (Zbuchea, 2022). Archaeological sites are rich sources of historical and cultural data because they contain traces of human life. The protection of these sites is of great importance in terms of preserving urban culture and ensuring sustainable urban development. In this context, strategies to revitalize urban history and culture are being implemented to ensure the sustainability of unique historic cities and the protection of the historic urban landscape (Tuna, 2016). Academic studies on cultural heritage and sustainable development have increased significantly in recent years. However, most of these studies generally do not pay special attention to archaeological heritage. Although archaeological heritage contributes to sustainable urban development, the sustainable development of archaeology is also important (Söderström, 2018).

Since the 20th century, many initiatives have been taken in the field of archaeological heritage management in line with the views that have emerged since then and aim to bring archaeological heritage into social and economic life (Türkoğlu, 2020). The relationship between archaeological heritage and sustainability is a relatively new case, with research and studies beginning in the mid-1990s. The involvement of local communities is important in balancing economic, social, and environmental objectives. This involvement provides a focal point for creating a sense of shared belonging (Stubbs, 2004). Archaeological assets are non-renewable and non-transformable documents. The archaeological heritage, which is of great value in our country and internationally, should be protected to be passed on to future generations and to contribute to research. Archaeological sites can be destroyed for various reasons, before or after excavation. These damages can generally be classified as human-made or natural. The conservation of archaeological remains, especially those from the prehistoric period, presents difficulties due to the sensitivity of their materials. Conservation, exhibition, and sustainability issues pose various problems (Savrum, 2011). Turkey also faces many human and natural threats that negatively affect the world's collective archaeological heritage. In addition to issues such as infrastructure development or agriculture, events such as rapid urbanization, smuggling, terrorism, war, occupation, looting, and climate change pose threats to the protection of archaeological materials (Özmen, 2024). Political instability, war, and insecurity in countries such as Syria and Iraq hinder the proper management and study of archaeological heritage (Jamieson, 2015). As emphasized in international conventions and charters on the management of archaeological and cultural heritage, each country should strive to increase its citizens' appreciation and respect for cultural and natural heritage by all appropriate means, especially through education and information programs (Saraç, 2003).

As a place where different civilizations have been born and developed since prehistoric times, Anatolia has an important place with its rich archaeological heritage (Savrum, 2011). The development of public awareness of archaeology is recognized as a fundamental means by which people can be widely informed about threats to their heritage and understand the past.

Although Turkey is one of the richest countries in terms of archaeological heritage, the main reason why it is little known from a scientific point of view is that the archaeological and cultural inventory of Turkey has not yet been completed, although there are some efforts in this direction. Since 1989, the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism has been carrying out documentation and inventories of archaeological sites and monuments (Erder, 2016). However, the current archaeological surveys still cannot tell us the actual number of surface and underwater sites in Turkey. The establishment of archaeological inventory management in Turkey is not a continuous and dynamic process.

Furthermore, the recording and evaluation of archaeological potential in urban areas depends on the resources of local museums, and no city has a complete and professional documentation of archaeological evidence. The lack of a complete cultural inventory in Turkey makes it all the more frightening that the country could lose its heritage without even knowing what it has (Saraç, 2003). Cooperation between government, NGOs, and local authorities is crucial in protecting archaeological sites from natural disasters and human activities. For this, protective measures and public awareness initiatives are needed. Reinforcement with modern materials is necessary for structures made of fragile materials. Protective roofs should be designed to preserve the site's character, and necessary infrastructure and promotion should be implemented to make sites visitor-friendly. Public awareness and education are key to preserving archaeological heritage (Savrum, 2011).

In defining its mission on its official website, the United Nations states that culture should be at the center of development policies as an important investment in the future of the world for successful globalization processes that take into account the principles of cultural diversity. The official website of the United Nations in Turkey states that “the protection, promotion, and transmission of heritage and the promotion of creativity and cultural diversity have been identified as strategic objectives.” Accordingly, museums are privileged institutions that affirm forms of cultural expression and validate interpretations specific to the past. Museums play an important role in understanding and protecting the sustainability of cultural heritage. Museums are seen as a powerful means of achieving cultural, environmental, financial, and social sustainability by preserving their collections and providing resources to the community. Technological and social changes threaten the existence of museums. Museums face challenges such as the use of technology, and understanding and adapting to social media (Özer Sarı & Nazlı, 2018).

1. Methodology

Museums are essential for conveying cultural stories and aspects that objects alone cannot express, reflecting the unique identity of their communities. They play a vital role in preserving humanity's cultural wealth and guiding the future by mediating the past. While each museum has a distinct purpose, they all aim to benefit society by conserving cultural assets and raising awareness for stable development. Museums serve as interactive spaces that increase awareness, incorporating both traditional information systems and materials from new media. They act as repositories and sources of information, encompassing local and national cultural studies. Museums not only house collections but also embrace regional heritage and impact society as a whole (Batuhan, 2023).

In the field of International Archaeological Heritage Management (IAHM), tourism is recognized as an enabler of sustainability (Adams, 2010). Archaeological museums make an important contribution to sustainable development by promoting cultural tourism. Museums, especially in urban areas, support the economic development of the region by attracting tourists. This also creates employment opportunities for local people and increases the economic vitality of the region. Archaeological projects in Turkey, such as Çatalhöyük, an important archaeological site, contribute to economic development by attracting tourists to the region (Saraç, 2003). Another important example of the contribution of cultural tourism to the local economy in Turkey is the ancient city of Ephesus, one of the most visited archaeological sites by tourists (Türkoğlu, 2020). Opened in 2018 Troy year, the Troy Museum in Çanakkale have contributed to local development through cultural tourism. Located at the entrance to the ancient city of Troy within the borders of Tevfikiye Village of Çanakkale, which was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1998, the Troy Museum goes beyond traditional display and presentation techniques, allowing for more interaction between visitors and artifacts (Çağlayan ve Koçoğlu, 2023). In this context, archaeological museums play an important role in turning cultural heritage into a tourist product and safely transferring it to future generations (Kalaba, 2022). Museums, which represent the largest share of the cultural tourism market, can contribute to sustainable development by revealing the economic value of cultural heritage (Woodhead, 2014).

Based on these issues, this article presents a theoretical study on the sustainable urban development of archeological museums. The article proposes an interactive archeological museum plan for Tekirdağ, based on design suggestions by Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University architecture students. According to the ideas, these developments will improve the tourist experience

by making it more engaging and accessible, showcasing the city's past, and contributing to education, culture, and tourism to conserve its heritage for future generations.

2. The Role of Archaeological Museums in Sustainable Urban Development

Museums are united by a common purpose of preserving and making accessible the physical evidence of past human activity. There has always been a tension between these two fundamental roles of museums. Maintaining a balance between conservation and access is the role of museums now and in the future. The role of museums in the conservation of archaeological heritage is to raise awareness through in situ conservation, preservation of research records and finding exhibitions and other programs. Archaeological museums also play an important and contemporary role in public engagement and education. They engage the public in a variety of ways, including gallery exhibitions, interactive access, events, and access to stored collections, and community engagement. These events raise awareness of conservation issues by introducing museum collections to a wider audience. Some museums work with schools to organize special programs for students, including workshops and seminars. Such activities help both students and general visitors better understand archaeological heritage (Merriman, 2010). Community engagement helps museums build stronger links with the community and raise awareness of archaeological heritage conservation (Woodhead, 2018). Community engagement and education programs are essential for archaeological museums to increase their contribution to sustainable urban development (Özer Sarı & Nazlı, 2018).

Archaeology addresses issues of historical remembrance and pride through collective memory (Mörel, 2007). Archaeological museums, which play a crucial role in preserving, exhibiting, and transmitting archaeological heritage to future generations, are like a mirror reflecting the history, culture, and identity of a city or region. They make the city's cultural heritage visible by exhibiting and interpreting the remains of the past. In this way, society becomes more aware of its past and develops a sense of responsibility to protect cultural values. Exhibiting artefacts from archaeological excavations in urban areas in museums reveals the historical layers of the city, ensures the cultural continuity of the city, and becomes an important part of the urban identity (Saraç, 2003). Interaction with their surroundings is another way in which museums, as public spaces, contribute to urban identity. Archaeological museums play an important role in raising public awareness, not only through exhibitions and collections, but also through educational programs, workshops, seminars, and other activities. Through these activities, museums raise conservation awareness by explaining to visitors the importance of archaeological heritage and encouraging them to connect with the past. Rapid changes in social, economic, and cultural dimensions are daily reducing the importance of national and local values; technological advances and less socialization of younger generations are creating a gap between culture and young people, increasing the risk that the value of archaeological heritage will not be known in the future (Usta & Gafar, 2022). Educational programs in museums, especially for children and young people, are very important for future generations to protect archaeological heritage. Through these programs, young people become interested in archaeology and understand the importance of conservation (Merriman, 2010).

The memory of a society is a valuable source of local and national identity. Archaeological museums therefore aim to reach a wider audience and play a stronger role in contemporary society. Approaches in archaeological museums evolve with theoretical changes in archaeology. Today's paradigms consider material culture as a text that helps to understand the structure of a society and as part of the present. The archaeological heritage preserved and exhibited in museums has the power to shape the current trends and future visions of individuals and societies. Traditionally, the function of museums has been understood as the collection, preservation, and study of archaeological heritage, but as the concept of museums has evolved, museums have taken on a broader definition. Since the 1960s, they have made significant advances in presentation technology, using models, dioramas, and audio-visual aids. With this change, archaeological museums focus on access, active participation, and combating social exclusion. Museums organize educational programs, interactive exhibitions, and events to increase social interaction and interest in archaeology (Özmen, 2023). The use of technology plays a crucial role in increasing the effectiveness of museums, particularly in engaging young visitors. Digital exhibitions, virtual tours, and interactive displays enrich the museum experience for visitors and make archaeological heritage more accessible. The visitor experience should be enhanced through the use of technological innovations in museums and cultural heritage sites. Technologies such as augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) can provide interactive and educational experiences for visitors. Applications such as digital archives and virtual tours allow archaeological heritage to reach a wider audience (Kalaba, 2022). Therefore, the use of technology stands out as an important tool to support sustainability efforts for museums to reach wider audiences and for visitors to connect with museums in a more interactive way (Özer Sarı & Nazlı, 2018).

Turkey's leading archaeological museums for sustainable urban development include the Istanbul Archaeological Museum, Çanakkale Troy Museum, Eskişehir Eti Archaeological Museum, and Gaziantep Zeugma Mosaic Museum. Located in Istanbul, the Istanbul Archaeological Museum is not only known for its valuable collections but also for being Turkey's first archaeological

museum. The Troy Museum and Eti Archaeological Museum engage young people and children using technology, enhancing interaction, and curiosity, and creating positive memories (Vargün, 2022). Tekirdağ, like Istanbul, has a rich archaeological legacy. With its mild climate on the Marmara coast, fertile vegetation, and ports suitable for trade, the city has been attractive for settlement throughout the ages and has been home to many civilizations. The fact that all kinds of relationships such as migration, invasion, trade, culture, and exchange between Anatolia, the Middle East, and Europe are realised through Thrace, which is the most important feature of the region in the past and today (Tekirdağ İli Kültür Envanteri, 2014). Despite the archaeological wealth of the city, Tekirdağ does not refer to its past, especially for new generations. The archaeological museum is located in a very old and small building. Although students go to the archaeological museum as part of their curriculum, they learn almost nothing about their city's past due to the large number of children in the classes and the museum's limited facilities (Özmen, 2024).

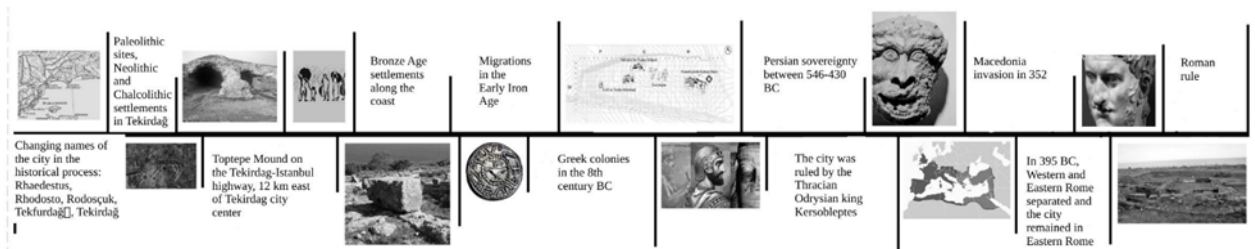
3. The Potential of an Archaeological Museum in the Province of Tekirdağ as Part of Sustainable Urban Planning

Tekirdağ is a city with a very high potential for archaeological heritage from prehistory to the recent past, including Ottoman ruins, due to its geography (Yücel, 2002). Sites have been found from the upper layers of the Paleolithic Age in Tekirdağ (Dinçer, 2007). In Şarköy, stone axe production centers of the Neolithic period have been found. According to the Tekirdağ Museum Directorate, Chalcolithic settlements have been found in some estuaries of the Sea of Marmara. Mound settlements such as Toptepe (Özdoğan, 1991) and Menekşe Çatağı (Özdoğan vd, 2004) and later cities were established in Tekirdağ. Archaeological studies have shown that there were both settlements and castles in the area where the ancient Ganos Mountains, now known as Şarköy, spread out. Tekirdağ, which was also home to the Thracian civilization, also has the remains of Hellenic, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman cultures (Atik, 2016a).

Some communities came to Thrace in a migration wave between 1400-1000 BC and are defined as Proto-Thracian in the region, which is much more backward in terms of social organization. In Tekirdağ, numerous tumuli, which are the typical burial form of the Thracians, have been identified, and excavations have been carried out in some of them (Atik, 2016b). During the 8th-6th centuries BC, Samos colonists established Perinthos and Bisanthe on the shores of the Sea of Marmara, within modern-day Tekirdağ. Thrace was invaded by the Persians between 546-430 BC, remaining under their sovereignty. In 352 BC, Philip II of Macedonia invaded the coastal areas, but Perinthos resisted. Alexander the Great later conquered Perinthos. After Alexander's death, Lysimachos ruled the region until it came under Roman control in 30 BC. In the 3rd century AD, Tekirdağ emerged as "Rhaedestus" in the late Roman period and as "Rhodosto" in the Byzantine period. The Ottomans took over Tekirdağ from the Byzantines in the 14th century, renaming it "Rodosçuk" and later "Tekfurdağı" until the 18th century, when it became "Tekirdağ." After the Republic's proclamation in 1927, it was officially renamed Tekirdağ province (Türkiye Kültür Portalı (n.d.)). Several cities were founded within Tekirdağ province in Turkey, including Perinthos, established around 600 BC by colonists from Samos. The city has ruins dating back to the Roman period and served as the capital of Thrace during this time. The ancient theatre in the area is worth exploring. Bisanthe, settled by the Samites around 600 BC, was considered one of the most beautiful coastal cities during King Seuthes II's rule. Its ancient name is believed to be from the Byzantine period. Karaevlialti, also known as Heraion Teikhos (Atik, 2016b), is a Thracian settlement on the Sea of Marmara coast. Excavations reveal it dates back to the 3rd millennium BC and was inhabited until the end of the Byzantine period, flourishing during the Classical and Hellenistic periods (Özmen, 2024) (Figure 2).

Figure 2

Archeological past in Tekirdağ



The ongoing excavations in these ancient cities will be the main pillar of historical and cultural tourism in Tekirdağ in the near future. Local and foreign tourists using Tekirdağ's roads as a transit route will mainly visit these sites. However, the city lacks an archaeological museum that can bring this rich archaeological heritage together with society. The Tekirdağ Ethnographic Museum was founded in 1967 and continued its activities in a small exhibition hall until 1977. The building, which was built as a governor's villa in 1927, was handed over to the Ministry of Culture for use as a museum, and after being restored,

it was opened to visitors as the Archaeology and Ethnography Museum in 1992. The museum exhibition consists of a hall of stone artefacts in the entrance area, a hall of archaeological artefacts and ethnography on the second floor, and garden exhibitions. There are 23,901 artefacts in the museum, including 1,909 ethnographic artefacts, 4,863 archaeological artefacts and 17,129 coins (Çidem, 2021). The museum showcases a wide collection of ancient artefacts from the Lower Paleolithic to the Iron Age, including stone axes, bone and metal tools, and figurines.

Graves from different dynasties and artefacts from the Neolithic to Thracian periods are also on display. Visitors can explore sculptures, tombstones, reliefs, and a Thracian prince's burial chamber. Other exhibits include Ganos amphoras, Ottoman-era items, ceramics from Çanakkale, firearms, silver jewelry, traditional clothing, handmade weavings, handwritten Korans, and silk banners from Tekirdağ (Erhan, 2019). Although the Tekirdağ Archaeological and Ethnographic Museum is a valuable institution that houses important historical and cultural artefacts, it lacks the necessary features to be a modern and sustainable institution. It does not have accessibility features for disabled individuals, rest and social areas, education and activity spaces, or a museum shop. The building is also at risk from disasters and has limited storage and exhibition space. Additionally, the museum lacks modern educational tools like interactive screens, VR experiences, and digital guides. These deficiencies prevent the museum from effectively preserving and promoting cultural heritage, as well as contributing to sustainable tourism. Therefore, the construction of a new archaeological museum in Tekirdağ is crucial for sustainable urban development.

An archaeological museum that supports modern, progressive, and sustainable urban development has important qualities. First and foremost, it should be designed with an architecture that will safely house its collections and attract the interest of visitors. The building should have disabled access, including lifts, ramps, and wide doors. It should also have green spaces, recreational areas, and open-air exhibition areas with landscaping arrangements. Equipped areas for art, history, and archaeology workshops, as well as a conference hall, library, and temporary exhibition hall, should be available. Conservation laboratories and storage areas are required. Modern educational tools like interactive screens, VR experiences, and digital guides would enhance the museum. The museum will collaborate with the local community to organize environmental projects and events. Interactive and thematic exhibitions will engage visitors, while digital archives will be created for online access. The museum will also reach a wider audience through webinars, online exhibitions, and virtual tours. Educational programs will be offered for schools and different age groups. Cafes, recreational areas, and a souvenir shop will be provided for visitor relaxation and socialization (Hamnett & Shoval, 2003).

4. Designing Archeological Heritage and Sustainability

In this regard, a group of students at Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University Department of Architecture were asked to design, preserve, and increase architectural heritage through archaeological heritage and museum design in the Diploma Project course in the 2018-2019 fall semester in order to make the sustainability of the archaeological heritage in Tekirdağ visible and raise awareness. Considering the archaeological potential of the region where the city is located, students designed spaces for research and exhibition activities. The design of the Thrace Archeology Museum and Congress Center includes the arrangement of complex and open spaces that can meet the needs. It was observed that many students tend to actively participate in traditional interactive and digital use of spaces (Figures 3, 4).

Figure 3

Preserving archeological heritage and sustainability: Student design for a museum in Tekirdağ, 2019. Courtesy of Eda Gül

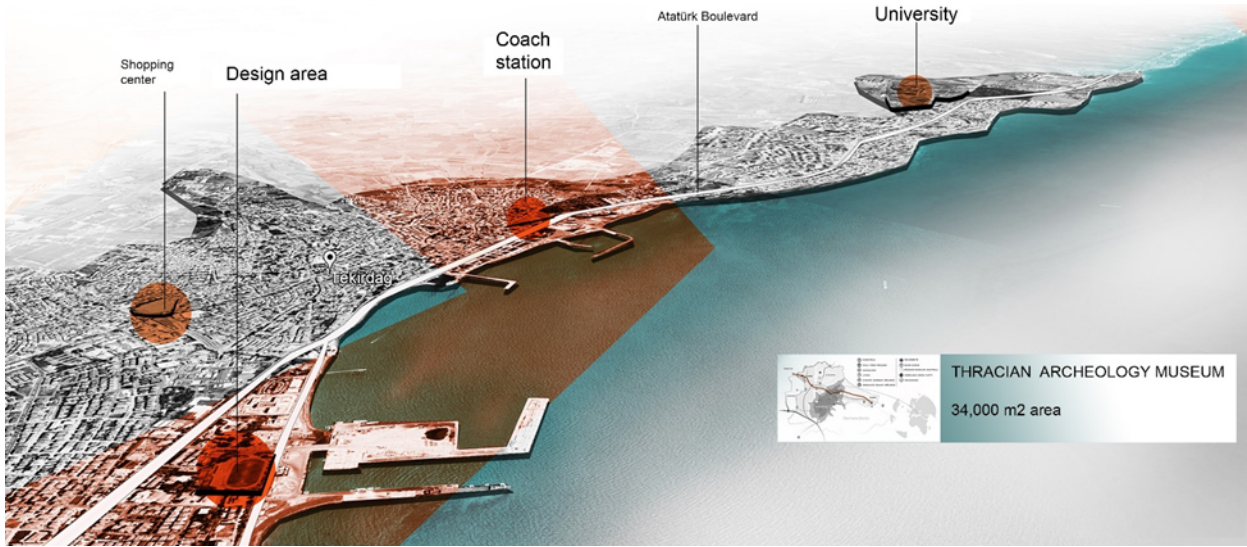


Figure 4

Exploded perspective of the proposed archeological museum in Tekirdağ, 2019. Courtesy of Eda Gül

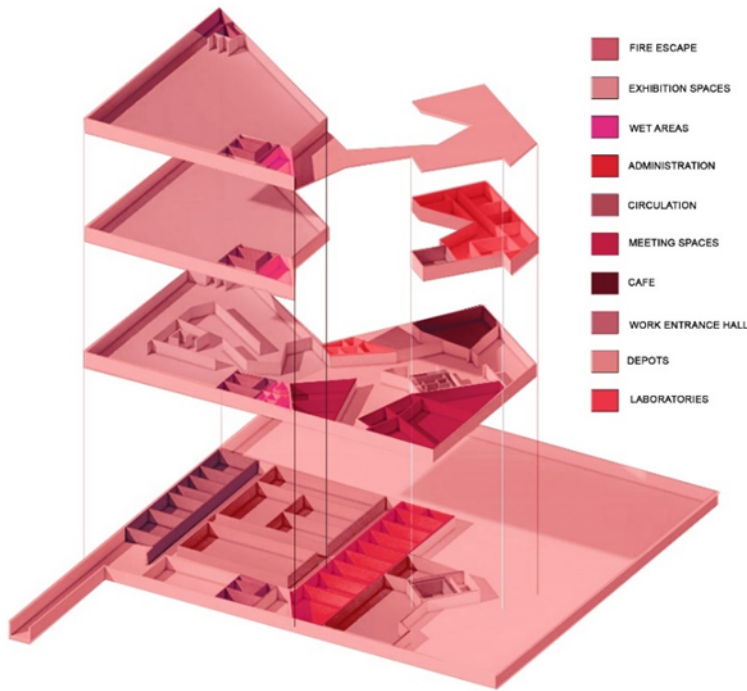


Figure 4 depicts the Tekirdağ Thrace Archeology Museum and Congress Center, which is strategically positioned, topographically significant, and uniquely designed. The core, which will be framed by the sea and skyline, has a strong presence at the city's entrance due to its proximity to the first-degree route. The proposal's principal goal is to create a building structure that is integrated and directly related to the city center, is accessible, and has intense links with its immediate surroundings, all while using an architectural language appropriate for its construction. The building's purpose to play an important role in the evolution of the city, as well as its basic shape with a cultural memory, are evident in terms of accessibility, operation, and aesthetics. The site where the structure is located has two pedestrian access points. A square has been designed in the center to accommodate the overlapping pedestrian axes, and escalators connect the parking lot to the upper gardening area. The proposed congress building, located in the design area, may accommodate up to 900 visitors and comprises meeting rooms, a foyer, exhibition areas, and a management section. The design proposal presented in Figure 5 shows the interactivity inside the museum and in the courtyard (Figure 5).

Figure 5

Interactivity in student designs for an archeological museum in Tekirdağ, 2019. Courtesy of Hüseyin Cevher Akbaş

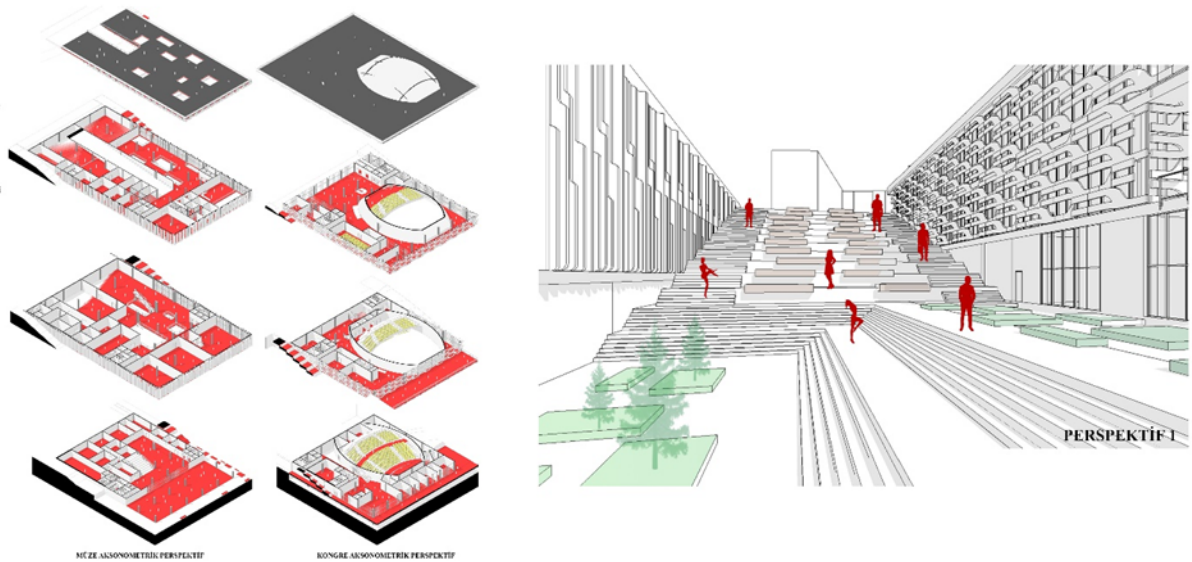
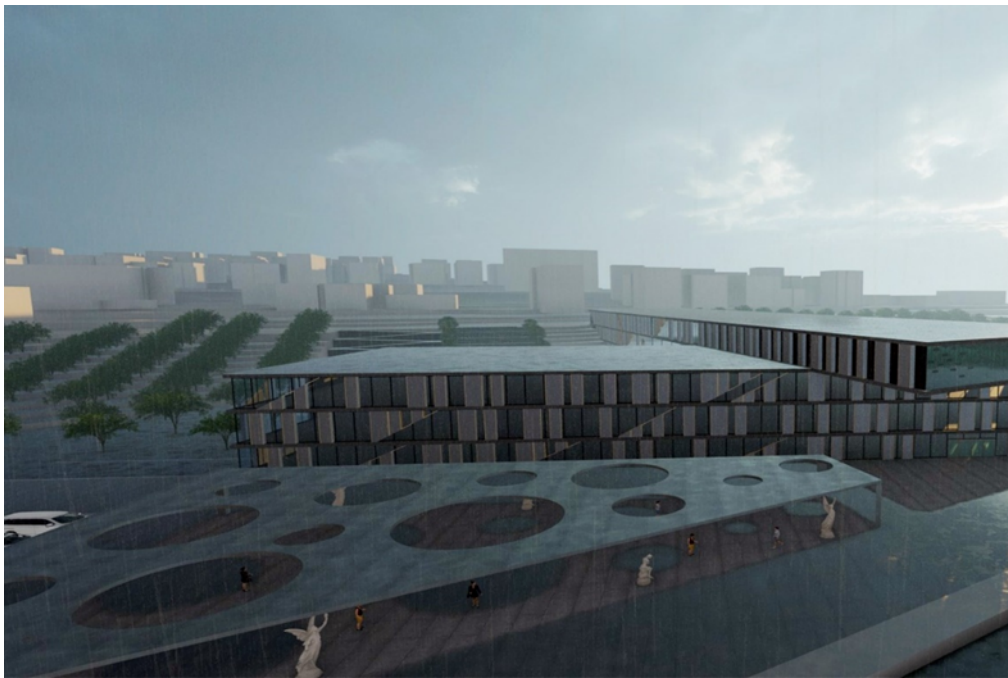


Figure 6 depicts the land for the Thracian Archeology Museum and Congress Center to be designed was analyzed along with its environment and current location, after gathering the necessary data from these analyses, the city's macroform, city development, and elements that could influence the design were considered. Suggestive decisions for the city have been offered on a large scale. In addition to these selections, fresh recommendations were presented at smaller scales by the design idea stages throughout the land (Figure 6).

Figure 6

Design for the archeological museum with prefabricated post-tensioning system, Tekirdağ, 15,000 m², 2019. Courtesy of Hakan Altundal



The goal is to connect equipment areas and provide continuity by building green systems in Tekirdağ, where there are insufficient active green areas. The goal is to construct recreational places in the filling areas that are combined with marinas on the coastline in the center, as well as to improve the area's urban image. Green bands have been established to separate industrial and residential areas. The main purpose of the design, where the land is used most appropriately, is to create pedestrian circulation within the land and common areas. With its wide openings and design, it is aimed at attracting as many tourists as possible to the city area and museum, while also making the land and environment a more livable focal point. The Archaeological Museum's historical exhibition area aims to prevent visitors from returning to the same regions after entering. The lower level can be connected at the end of the exhibition area, allowing access to the holographic exhibition area and, from

there, workshops or cafes. Visitors traveling in the opposite direction can reach the city's main axis from the top level by viewing the most recent display. The workshops within are intended to be used by the general public, accompanied by instructors, and to pique the curiosity of the Thracian people in history and archeology.

5. Discussion

Today, archaeological heritage conservation requires a multifaceted approach that aims to preserve cultural sites and artefacts for future generations. According to the Icomos Charter for The Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage (1990), cultural heritage preservation efforts prioritize the in situ preservation of monuments and sites, while emphasizing the long-term preservation and recovery of records and collections (ICOMOS, 1990). Integrated protection policies advocate for controlling land use to reduce archaeological heritage destruction and incorporating protection measures into planning policies at all levels. Archaeological sites undergo various phases, from creation to deterioration, emphasizing the importance of active maintenance.

Sustainable urban development, which aims at the balanced growth of cities, requires a holistic approach that includes not only economic and environmental but also social and cultural dimensions. In this process, the preservation of archaeological heritage and its societal communication play an important role. Archaeological museums, as one of the key actors in sustainable urban development, stand out as key places in terms of creating urban identity, raising social awareness, and supporting education and tourism, with their important contributions to the protection and promotion of archaeological heritage in cities. The contributions of museums, particularly in areas such as heritage conservation, education, tourism, and economic development, support the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Archaeological museums are not only exhibition and storage spaces but also centers of education and learning. They aim to increase understanding and appreciation of cultural heritage through exhibitions, events, and educational programs for all sections of society. Such activities increase the interest of younger generations in the archaeological heritage, promote awareness, and provide them with the knowledge and skills necessary for its conservation. On the other hand, archaeological heritage is an important attraction for the tourism industry. Archaeological museums, with their rich collections and exhibitions, play an important role in enhancing the tourist appeal of cities. This contributes both to the local economy and to the promotion and preservation of cultural heritage. By attracting tourists, museums generate income for the local economy, create jobs, and contribute to the promotion of the region. In addition, museums' work in heritage conservation and tourism contribute to the long-term economic development of the region.

6. Conclusion

The study of the province of Tekirdağ has shown that a new archaeological museum can more effectively display and protect the cultural heritage of Tekirdağ. The proposed new museum can be designed as a center that appeals to all segments of society, with a contemporary design approach, interactive exhibition techniques, and technological innovations. In this way, the museum will not only exhibit the past but also make a significant contribution to the sustainable development of the city in the fields of education, culture, and tourism, as well as contribute to urban resilience by fostering social cohesion, inclusiveness, and better urban governance. The new archaeological museum proposed for Tekirdağ is an important investment that will contribute greatly to the cultural and economic development of the city. This museum will increase the city's cultural tourism potential by introducing the historical and cultural richness of Tekirdağ not only to the local population but also to national and international visitors. The new museum will also play an important role in preserving and passing on the city's cultural heritage to future generations through educational and research activities. In this way, Tekirdağ will have taken an important step towards a sustainable future by protecting and developing its cultural heritage.

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Statement on Research and Publication Ethics

The researchers stated that they paid attention to all ethical principles and rules in the collection, analysis and reporting of the data.

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