TURKEY

The effects of rehabilitation projects on historic districts in Istanbul

The law and regulation on "The Preservation of Deteriorated Historic and Cultural Immovable Properties by Rehabilitation and Renovation" were officially effectuated in 2005. The objective of this new law was – as defined – to reconstruct and restore areas that were registered as conservation sites by the Monuments Councils, by constituting new residential, commercial, cultural, tourist and social areas and by taking preventive measures against natural disasters. Very large areas on the Historic Peninsula and in the Galata-Beyoğlu region were determined as rehabilitation areas within this context and studies were implemented by local authorities. Newly established committees ("Rehabilitation Committees") will commence to operate soon. However, these areas either overlap or are very close to the historic areas of Istanbul that are on the World Heritage List and this generates serious debates. Süleymaniye, Fener, Ayvansaray, Sulukule, Kapa! lıçarşı Hanlar Region and many other areas will be designated within this context. Unfortunately, most of the people that are appointed for the "Rehabilitation Committees" are not specialists; then again, restoration projects concerning the monuments within these areas will also be evaluated and approved by these new committees. Besides, because these committees' priorities are urban rehabilitation and gentrification, it is obvious that their studies will not be focused on the preservation of historic fabric. After all, it can easily be figured out that the Historic Peninsula will be even more pressurized through speculations. Rehabilitation and gentrification will, on the other hand, cause the poor people who live in those areas to move away.

Modern architectural heritage at risk

Since 20th-century heritage is partially under legislative protection, the main risk threatening modern architectural heritage is the lack of recognition. Not only in big cities like Istanbul and Ankara, but also in other Anatolian cities the city centres, including public spaces and buildings mainly developed after the 1950s, are suffering from planning decisions. Metropolitan municipalities are developing so-called urban conservation/renovation plans for areas subject to economic pressure.

Istanbul, historic district, one of the rehabilitation areas

Ankara,
Grand Ankara Hotel

Istanbul, Drapers' Bazaar

Some buildings that have architectural significance, such as the Atatürk Cultural Centre facing Taksim Square, are under threat of being demolished. Earthquake damages and insufficient technical equipment are the main excuses for the demolition of buildings.

Restorations ignoring the architectural character of the buildings are another threat to the conservation of modern heritage. In recent years some unacceptable renovations and reconstructions were carried out. One of these examples is the Grand Ankara Hotel in Ankara, designed by architects Marc J. Sauge (Switzerland) and Yüksel Okan (Turkey) in the 1960s. The new 'style' adapted to the building after the renovation is garish neo-classical. All in all, it does not take much to foresee that the so-called refurbishment project will convert a genuinely modernist landmark into an ersatz building. Beyond question, the refurbishment of a building of such historic and architectural significance requires strict abidance to principles set out for the preservation of modern buildings, and all required renovations should be carried out under the supervision of experts qualified in the field.

Due to a lack of recognition and control and due to the absence of general criteria for the protection immediate action is necessary to prepare an inventory list for modern architectural heritage.

Construction of dams

The construction of dams continues to affect the natural and cultural heritage of the country. In spite of oppositon from local people, professionals and international NGOs, the contruction of the much-debated Ilisu and Yortanlı dams has come to the final stage. Allianoi is a unique and significant health resort in western Turkey, dating from antiquity. Recent excavations have revealed exquisite ancient baths with pools and interesting surgeons' utensils from ancient times. The department for dams has developed some proposals in order to save the site from total extinction, but the solutions are far from saving the integrity of the site.

Hasankeyf, which is an important medieval site in southeast Turkey, is at risk of being flooded by Ilisu dam. Three European countries are supporting the project with credits. The risks to the environment, the lack of extensive documentation and archaeological research and problems of resettlement are still being discussed by the local public and international NGOs. The construction of the dam will result in the loss of important natural elements like the Tigris river and 75 percent of the historic city of Hasankeyf, which is cut into the soft rock cliffs surrounding the river.

The remains at Ani

The quarries operated by Armenia, close to the remains at Ani that are situated near the Turkish-Armenian border, have negative effects on the monuments. Although the use of dynamite is abolished, quarrying by mechanical methods is still in progress and vibrations created by machines continue to damage the monuments. These stone quarries not only constitute a serious threat to the monuments that already have structural problems, but also destroy the natural landscape by tearing up the topography. The Advisory Committee established by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism initiated certain studies for the protection and restoration of the monuments, such as developing proposals for the preservation, interpretation and improvement of the site. However, for an integrated preservation strategy all quarrying activities outside the Turkish territory directly destroying the remains should be halted as well. Armenia's sensitivity and responsibility to the subject will be appreciated.

Adobe architecture

Adobe architecture

Adobe is a common construction material in the traditional architecture of Turkey, especially in the highlands of Anatolia and Thrace. As people prefer to use materials easily obtainable from the local environs in rural zones, adobe buildings became a basic feature of the cultural landscape where the soil was suitable for its production. However, the architectural characteristics of how adobe is used, including the choices of structural system, architectural elements and finishes show great diversity, depending on physical conditions, including geography, climate and proneness to earthquakes as well as other social, cultural and economic determinants.

Recent socio-economic changes in Turkey in the last thirty years have made adobe buildings less and less desirable, leaving most of these structures in a neglected, dilapidated and even partially destroyed and ruined condition. Meanwhile the few architectural documentation projects carried out in rural zones in Turkey are not adequate to determine the diversity or the state of conservation of this traditional type of architecture. The number of building masters specialising in this tradition is also diminishing quite rapidly.

Drawing attention to the necessity of the conservation of traditional adobe architecture in Turkey, its documentation as a manifestation of its value as part of the national cultural heritage and the detailed study of its production and construction systems to form a basis for conservation and restoration work are becoming an especially important and urgent issue, considering the fact that adobe architecture is being destroyed at great speed.

ICOMOS Turkey

View of the historic site of Ani and the quarries nearby

Hasankeyf, a site threatened by the Ilisu Dam Project

Hasankeyf, which is one of the medieval sites in Turkey, is faced with the danger of being inundated by Ilısu Dam. The Turkish Prime Minister T. Erdogan earlier promised to stop the project, but now informs the public that the dam construction will start in March 2006. The unfortunate project was designed many years ago, without giving due attention to the presence of the unique architectural heritage at Hasankeyf. In spite of objections from archaeologists, art historians, architects, environmentalists and writers, the project has not been changed or cancelled. The authorities provide only eight-ten more years for further research in the region which will be flooded by the dam reservoir. This very short time is not enough to complete archaeological research; several cultural layers and artifacts will not be able to receive proper attention during the haste or will be flooded before they are systematically studied. The same was also tragically true for several other prehistoric, ancient and urban sites in the GAP region; Zeugma, a Roman garrison city and Halfeti, a beautiful town in the stone tradition are among significant ones which were recently sentenced to death by dam constructions.

In Hasankeyf, the possibility of salvaging some of the monuments by transferring them to another site needs to be considered seriously. Modern technology offers several methods for transferring masonry buildings. The most favorable from the point of conservation is the technique in which the monument is cut off from its foundations and mounted on a wheeled trolley. This sophisticated technique has been used in Europe to move cathedrals and palaces. It would be the right one for Zeynel Bey Tomb, which is a significant monument from late 15 th century. The structure has a cylindrical shaft, the exterior of which is decorated with glazed bricks, laid in geometric patterns, featuring Timurid tradition and marking the strong artistic link between Anatolia and Central Asia in the fifteenth century.

Another technique which is widely adopted for moving is by the dismantling of the historic building and its reassembly at the new site. After careful photographic documentation and survey, each stone block in the structure is numbered. This technique is generally applied to monuments with ashlar construction. In Hasankeyf, it can be used to transfer architectural elements like minarets and the gates of the citadel. The criticism to this technique is that during the dismantling and the re-erection process, monuments lose some of their original details; some blocks break down or crumble. Binding elements like mortar and clamps need to be changed or replaced. The workmanship is not the same. The mounting has to be done very carefully to assure proper alignment of the members.

Moving monuments is a hard task. It requires a good budget, technical means and planning. One of the most important objections to the Il›su Dam is that there is no proper planning for the re-location of Hasankeyf's architectural heritage. Siting and topography are very important in moving monuments or parts thereof. A relocated building seldom has the same topographic relationship to its new site. When monuments are cut off from their foundations and erected on a completely different site, they look very different. They are alienated/isolated and lose much of their dignity and integrity. Their aesthetic value is diminished. A similar landscape and context has to be created in order to make them impressive and meaningful again. There are no studies or preparations to provide a similar landscape for the monuments; if the projected plan is put into execution, the new open air museum of "Hasankeyf" will be just a small park in which small fragments of great monuments will be exhibited like museum pieces.

One has to consider the fact that it is impossible to create the landscape of Hasankeyf with the Tigris river in the middle and cliffs shaped by action of the water in the past millions of years. The context for the transferred monuments will be totally foreign; since the new site is a land with a small inclination. The landscape at Hasankeyf comprises gigantic natural elements and complex relations among its architectural members. It is impossible to re-create the picturesqueness of the background for monuments like the Koç and Sultan Süleyman Mosques. Furthermore, who will compensate for the loss of the prestigious position of the medieval Castle and the Palace which are perched on a high cliff?

There are also technical problems: the rubble construction does not lend itself easily to being dismantled. Therefore monuments having rubble masonry (like the Koç and Sultan Süleyman mosques) and most of the other smaller structures, can not be transferred successfully. The relieving system in the vaulting of Sultan Süleyman mosque is very interesting. Yet, if this structure is forced to be transferred, most of the historic substance will be lost during the dismantling. Almost ninety-five percent of the masonry will have to be renewed after the operation. This means that authenticity of the cultural heritage will be lost. Authenticity is an important element of preservation. The site,

View of Hasankeyf (Photo: www.wikipedia.org)

form, substance /material of a monument are essential components of its significance as a cultural object. In the attempt to transfer the historic buildings in Hasankeyf, the original site will be changed, the original material will be lost in great scale.

International charters and conventions concerning protection of the cultural heritage recommend that at the preliminary survey stage of engineering projects, sites of historic and archaeological importance be marked and measures taken to preserve them in-situ. UNESCO's Recommendation concerning the Preservation of Cultural Property Endangered by Public or Private Works (1968) points out the fact that *"It is the duty of governments to ensure the protection and the preservation of cultural heritage of mankind as much as to promote social and economic development. (...) Preventive and corrective measures should be aimed at protecting or saving cultural property from public or private works likely to damage and destroy it..."*

UNESCO's recommendations have been ratified by Turkey and several of the European countries who are planning to support the consortium. We believe that it is essential to insist on the revision of the dam project in the light of this fact. Hasankeyf is a Grade I archaeological site with significant monuments. No permission is yet granted from the Monuments Council of the region for the construction of the Il›su Dam. Ministry of Culture should try to solve this problem for the benefit of Hasankeyf.

Another critical point about Ilısu Dam is its life span. Experts foresee 30-50 years of functional life for this dam. It is predicted that in a very short period of time it will be filled with rubble and not be as useful. Experts claim that, in the long run, the dam will be a social, cultural and environmental disaster. When the very short useful life of the dam is set against the long history of Hasankeyf and its potential to live, one is compelled to ask the authorities: "Why build Ilısu dam?"

No material gain or money can bring back or reproduce a cultural treasure and impressive landscape like Hasankeyf. We have a great deal to learn from this site. People living there and others, who have visited it, have memories and very close ties with the site, all of which are worth more than the benefits the dam will provide.

The GAP region (Southeast Anatolia) hopes to have more and more tourists interested in visiting the cities and archaeological areas of the area. Hasankeyf offers immemorable vistas and moments for spectators. From its acropolis, it is wonderful to watch Zeynel Bey tomb and the river Tigris flowing peacefully under the ruins of the medieval bridge. It seems absurd to bury a site which has a great potential for tourism.

When one compares the short-term economic prosperity the dam will generate with the long-term survival of a significant site which encompasses treasures from early human settlements up to late medieval period, one without doubt makes the preference for the survival of Hasankeyf. Public opinion and scholarly concerns back up the view that short-lived dams should not be permitted to devastate culturally abundant lands. Hasankeyf should not be "Doomed by the Dam".

Zeynep Ahunbay
ICOMOS Turkey
8 March 2006

ICOMOS Austria, ICOMOS Germany and ICOMOS Switzerland pointed out the devastating consequences for the cultural heritage to the government authorities responsible for the export credit guarantees for the Ilisu consortium – a group of Austrian, German and Swiss companies, which were also informed by means of the following and additional letters:

Dear Sir,

ICOMOS has learned that you are planning to support the Ilisu Dam Project in southeast Turkey. As you may possibly know, Hasankeyf and several archaeological sites in Turkey are threatened by the Ilisu Dam Project. Hasankeyf has been researched for about twenty years now, but its archaeological potential is still not fully exploited. Many of the other sites in the region which will be inundated are not excavated and researched yet.

ICOMOS Turkey and several other NGO's, as well as the local people are concerned about the environmental and archaeological losses the dam construction will cause. Hasankeyf is a medieval settlement which due to being deserted has preserved many of its buildings and archaeological treasures. The site is spectacular, being located on the river Tigris, one of the two big rivers which have given life to the ancient civilizations in Mesopotamia. The rock-cut civil and religious buildings, the citadel and several medieval monuments make Hasankeyf one of the major tourist attractions of southeast Turkey. The local people are closely attached to their heritage and are very worried about being transferred from their villages and detached from their cultural heritage. The Ministry of Culture intends to transfer some of the monuments to a location which will be above the dam lake, but the transfer project is far from salvaging the extensive urban structure and falls short of recreating the atmosphere of the historic site.

ICOMOS would like to draw your attention to the fact that by supporting the dam construction, you will help destroy cultural heritage which is registered as a Grade I archaeological site. The international charters like the Valletta Convention encourage the state parties to protect and preserve archaeological heritage. The local people, archaeologists and architects in Turkey are against the project and run campaigns to stop the construction.
I hope that this information will help you to revise your intention to realise a project which will result in the destruction of cultural heritage, damage the ecosystem in the region and will dislocate the local inhabitants, detaching them from their cultural heritage and homeland.
Yours sincerely

Michael Petzet
President of ICOMOS
7 April 2006

After Berlin and Vienna gave export guarantees to the Ilisu consortium in March 2007, according to press reports Turkey then signed the contracts with the construction companies in August 2007. It seems that the destructions which the first large dam of the river Tigris with its wall measuring 135 metres will cause to the largely inundated site of Hasankeyf and other historic sites can no longer be prevented.

The flooding of Allianoi, a Roman bath complex

Allianoi, an archaeological site near Bergama (ancient Pergamon) with a Roman bath complex which is not only important because of its mosaics, is soon to be flooded by the Yortanli Dam. Already in a letter of 2 September 2005 ICOMOS appealed to the Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to stop the project and seek for a better solution:

Dear Prime Minister,

ICOMOS, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, advises UNESCO regarding the World Cultural Heritage and publishes a World Report on Heritage at Risk every year (also to be found on the internet under http://www.international.icomos.org/risk/index.html). Whilst in our report 2001/2002 we already protested against a dam project destroying the archaeological site of Zeugma with its famous mosaics, I am sending you an urgent request today on behalf of ICOMOS to prevent the destruction of the archaeological site of Allianoi in the vicinity of Bergama (Pergamon) by another fill dam project. Allianoi is a unique Roman recreation site with thermal baths, an archaeological site of more than 10,000 square metres – so far only 20 percent have been excavated, nonetheless important finds have already been made.
According to a recent documentary on the television channel 3 SAT („Kulturreport" of 19 August 2005) construction work on this dam is soon to begin, while our archaeological colleagues are still busy making emergency excavations.
A comparatively minor modification of these ruthless plans, i.e. erecting the dam wall at a different position, could prevent one more devastating loss of archaeological heritage in Turkey.

I am therefore urging you to take care of this matter and remain
Yours sincerely

Prof. Dr. Michael Petzet
President

Unfortunately, a joint appeal by ICOMOS, Europa Nostra and EAA (The European Association of Archaeologists) of 16 September 2005 and further international protests did not change the plans. Therefore, the subsequent joint appeal of 20 March 2007 could only ask to at least postpone the flooding so that the work of the archaeologists could continue and the necessary protective measures could be carried out:

Stop the flooding of Allianoi! Save Allianoi for the present and future generations!

Joint International Appeal to the Turkish Government

20 March 2007

We, the undersigned, European and global organisations concerned with cultural heritage conservation, education and interpretation - which together reflect the opinion of millions of citizens and of the professional world - express our deep concern at the alarming and imminent threat to Allianoi, an outstanding archaeological Roman Bath complex situated near Bergama in Turkey. We support the widespread opposition - already expressed by many Turkish experts and citizens' associations and also by high representatives of the EU Institutions - to the announced flooding of Allianoi, to follow the finalisation of the Yortanli Dam.

We deplore the fact that in November 2006, the Regional Commission for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage in Izmir accepted the proposal made by the Turkish State Water Works to halt further excavations at the site and to proceed with the flooding of the area. In deciding so, the above regional body did not give due consideration to the recommendations made by the Special Scientific Committee, set up last year by the Turkish Minister of Culture. These recommendations included a series of alternative conservation measures which could be undertaken before the possible flooding of the area, such as the protection of the site by the construction of an earth wall or by the relocation of some of the most important structures of this archaeological site. We believe that there still is time to implement these protective measures.

Allianoi is a site of extraordinary cultural and historic significance, a cultural heritage shared by the local communities, the Turkish people, the European citizens and the world as a whole. The responsibility to preserve this site for the present and future generations should therefore also be shared.

In the light of the above, we jointly urge the Turkish Government

Detail of the archaeological site of Allianoi (Photo: Massavetas)

to postpone the flooding of Allianoi, pending the completion of the excavation, data-collection and documentation of the site. We also suggest that during this period, the Turkish Government commission an in-depth study of the social, cultural and economic benefits which could be generated for the wider region by a possible development of Allianoi into a cultural and health tourism centre. We believe that this should be considered as a serious sustainable development alternative to the foreseen local economic benefits associated with the creation of an irrigation reservoir whose effective life-span is not expected to exceed 50 years. We encourage the Turkish Government to explore the possibility of obtaining European or international support for the financing of such a feasibility study and are prepared to endorse any possible application for such funds.

Dr Andrea H. Schuler
Executive President
Europa Nostra

Dr Predrag Novakovic
Secretary General
European Association of Archaeologists

Prof. Michael Petzet
President
ICOMOS

Istanbul – Risks in the Historic Urban Topography? Visual Impact Assessment Study of Istanbul

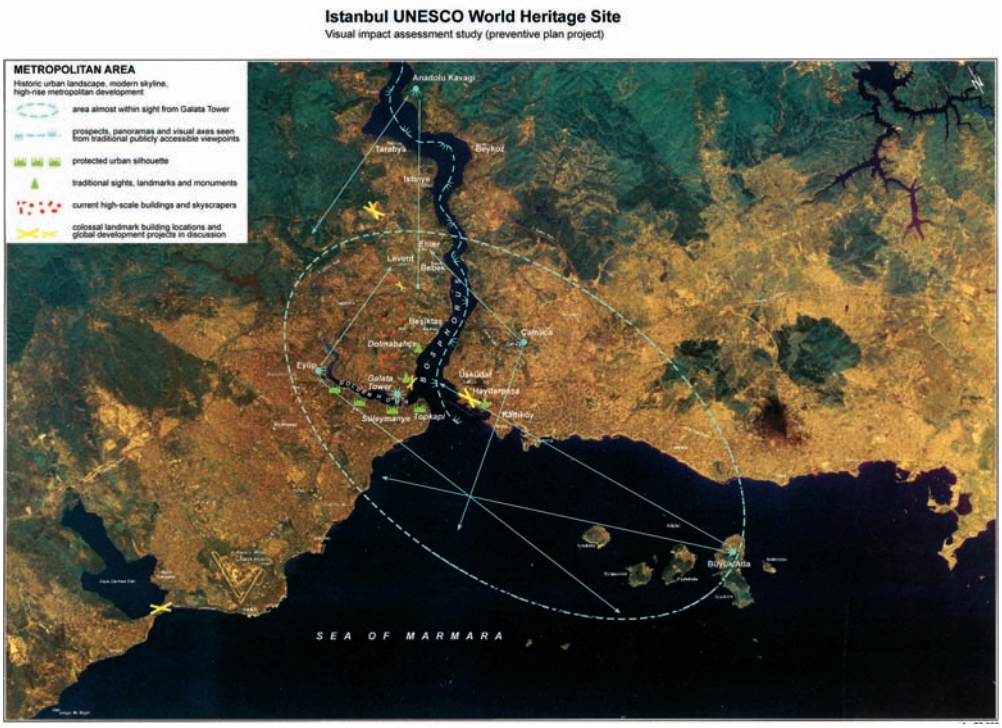
The intention is to present some observations, documentation material (mostly of 2006) and principal arguments to evaluate the visual impact of high-rise building developments in Istanbul UNESCO World Heritage site. Traditional sights, landmarks and monuments as well as the protected urban silhouette are in danger. Serious consequences are to be expected due to global investment dominance in public space and skyline.

The Visual Impact Study of Istanbul with two maps concerning the metropolitan area (see also the Metropolitan Area Visual Impact Assessment Study map) and the historic town centre (see also the Historic Centre Visual Impact Assessment Study map) is intended to give an impression of the prospective unprecedented scale of global building development within the urban topography (see also the photographic presentation) and to support a discussion and moderation of conflicts in favour of Istanbul's traditional public space, the unique topography, and the prospects and panoramas.

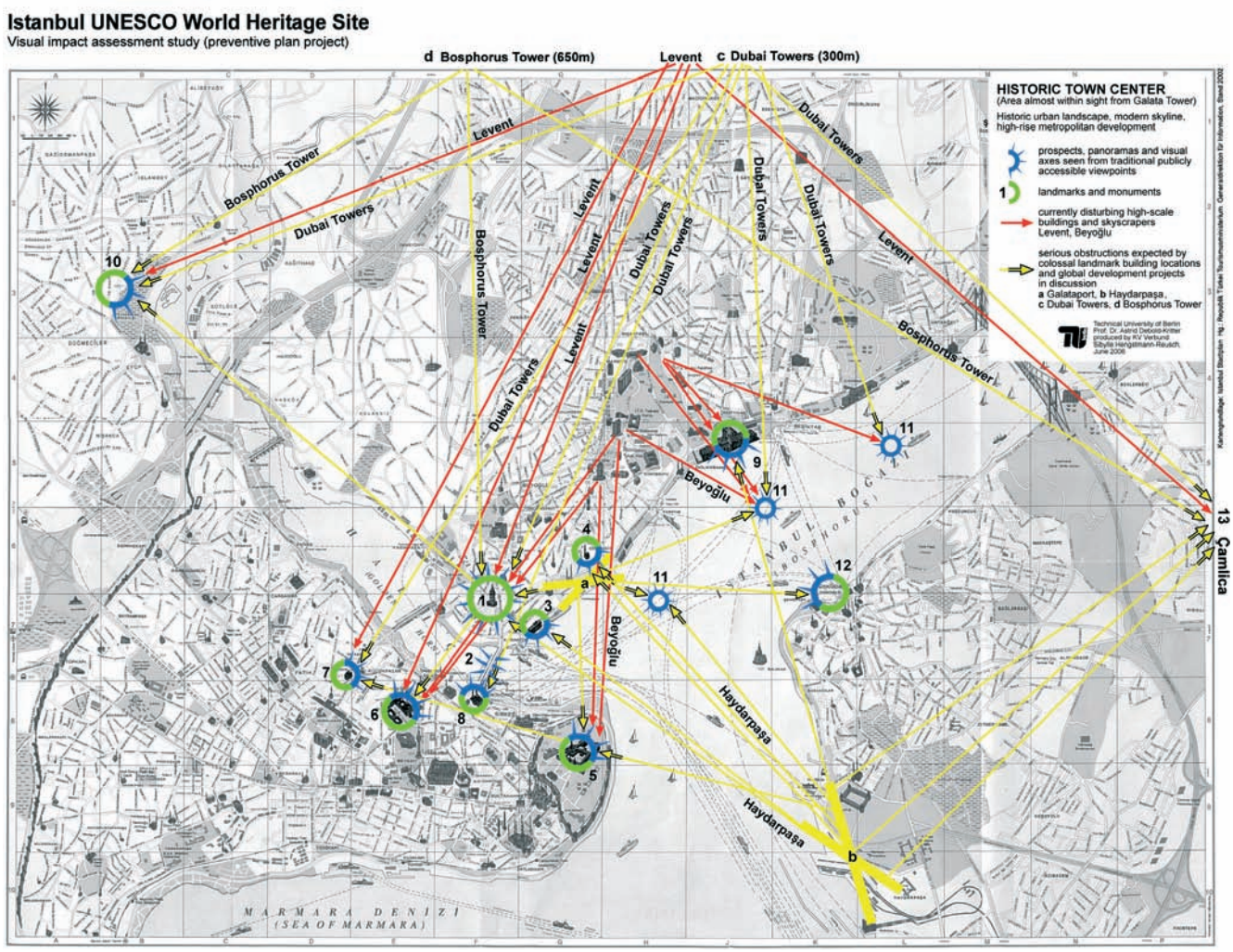
The starting point of this pilot study is Melling's topographical survey "Voyage pittoresque de Constantinople et des rives du Bosphore" (Paris 1819). Some of his viewpoints as Eyüp, Çamlica and Galata Tower are still very popular as publicly accessible viewpoints in the metropolitan area of Istanbul. They form characteristic prospects, panoramas and visual axes in the historic urban landscape of today´s metropolitan area (see also the photographic presentation).

The World Heritage site Istanbul was adopted in 1985 in the boundaries of the Peninsula, not including Galata and without a buffer zone to protect the surroundings. This research and photo presentation intends to direct one's eyes to the recent building development of the Istanbul metropolitan area. It wishes to call the attention to current disturbances and destructions as well as to conceivable dangers which the colossal new development projects would entail (see also the two maps of the Visual Impact Assessment Study of the Metropolitan Area and the Historic Centre). The evaluation should stimulate a discussion concerning the necessity to define a buffer zone and its boundaries in order to protect the effective range and authentic visibility of the WH Site within the metropolitan urban landscape.

A further aspect of this presentation could be a critical review of the existing high-scale buildings as to whether they should be considered as characteristic landmarks and appreciated icons in



Istanbul, metropolitan area visual impact assessment study



Istanbul, historic centre visual impact assessment study

one of the most beautiful ancient cities of the world. By this it might be possible to define elements of urban and architectural qualities and topics to create a 21st century modern Istanbul skyline without compromising the outstanding universal values for which it was put on the World Heritage List in the first place. Today several skyscrapers of Beyo lu, Sisli and Levent appear, but they do not give the impression of a planned skyline.

Istanbul's metropolitan area finds itself in the middle of a rapid process of drastic urban transformation, a renewal with new big-scale building complexes and skyscraper clusters of unprecedented dimensions as to their cubic measure, density and extreme elevation. Since the late 1970s high-rise buildings generally did not grow to more than 100 m while the new generation of skyscrapers is expected to start with 300 m and to end by about 650 m. To put this into perspective with the scale of the landscape: the highest mountain, the Çamlica, rises to about 260 m. Comparable to this is also the change of bulk and height of the projected Galata Port development with a mass of up to five gigantic cruise ships located in the historic Tophane area.

This presentation concentrates on only some of the colossal building development projects under discussion such as Haydarpasa, Dubai Towers, Bosphorus Tower and Galataport, which might come in conflict with the World Heritage sites of Istanbul. With regard to these projects a general lack of official information and transparency on the side of the metropolitan administration has to be stated. In a general way these simulations may map out a coming reality even if the elements of skyscrapers and ships were chosen without detailed knowledge of the actual projects and plans and even without a topographical town-plan which would indicate the exact locations. Nevertheless, it might be relevant for the discussion to recognize the gigantic scale of the development project, to visualize the dimensions of urban renewal and to become aware of the alarming extent of the impending transformation within the metropolitan area of a WH site. Even if there were aesthetic design alternatives of iconic architectural works created by “star architects”, this would not really diminish the risk of compromising the outstanding universal value of Istanbul's historic urban landscape.

This presentation, realised at the Technical University of Berlin by Prof. Astrid Debold-Kritter as a member of ICOMOS CIVVIH, concerns a number of colossal development projects. At the Department for Town and Regional Planning, Prof. Debold-Kritter was assisted by Dipl. Ing. Canan Sa nak, student research assistant Jan Polívka and cartographer Sibylle Hengstmann-Reusch. The topic was stimulated by the ICOMOS CIVVIH Scientific Symposion on “Historic Centres in Metropolitan Areas” held in Istanbul in 2005.

Presentation of historic prospects, panoramas and view points by Melling (1819), photo documentation and digital simulations from 2006

This research on the historic urban metropolitan landscape of Istanbul is based on an extensive topographic folio volume by Antoine-Ignace Melling, which contains panoramas and topographical maps with detailed locations and descriptions of each presentation.

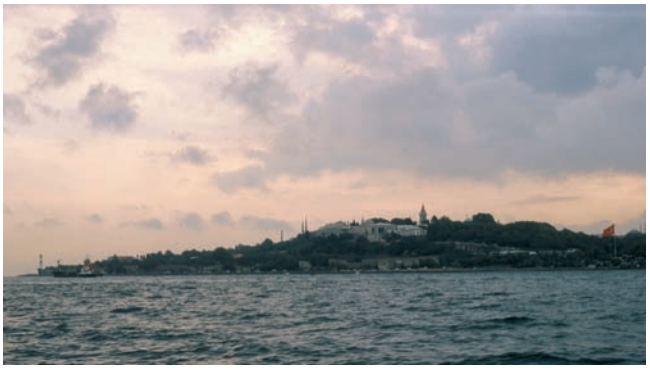
Fig. 1 Part of Constantinople with point of Serail, seen from Pera (Melling's Panorama 24, 1819). This well known panorama represents the Peninsula with the cape of Topkapı Palace and the town silhouette crowned with mosques, domes and minarets, as well as the Golden Horn and the Princess Islands.

Figs. 2 and 3 Constantinople seen from Eyüp (Melling's Panorama 14, 1819) and view from Eyüp towards Istanbul World Heritage Site, 2006. This view from Eyüp towards the natural harbour is seen from an elevated viewpoint. At the horizon to the left appears the Galata Tower. Istanbul's Golden Horn and World Heritage site is almost undisturbed (if one ignores the bridge). The city's vulnerable town shape has been protected and preserved for 70 years due to effective and active measures by restricting the height of buildings to 50 m.

Fig. 4 Viewpoint at Eyüp, 2006. Haydarpaşa lies in this view angle at a distance of about 10 km. It seems possible that on days of high visibility this high rise project with seven skyscrapers would appear in the background between the Galata Tower and the protected WH site silhouette. The extent of the disturbance from this viewpoint at Eyüp near the famous Pierre Loti's café will depend on the future elevation, bulk and surface material of the projected tower buildings.

Figs. 5 and 6 Haydarpaşa seen from Marmara Sea, 2006, and Haydarpaşa Towers (simulation). It is this shore area between the Selimiye Baracks and the Bagdad Railway Station which is supposed to become a private development project Haydarpaşa with seven high-rise towers of at least 300 m height and several less high but densely packed new buildings. This Simulation of the Haydarpaşa Towers is an alternative attempt to the one of the Architectural Chamber, which presents the complete building project including seven uniform towers. In order to demonstrate how drastically these new colossal towers might influence the historic urban silhouette, different existing skyscrapers were chosen and have been made unidentifiable for this purpose.

Figs. 7 and 8 Haydarpaşa seen from Topkapı Terrace, 2006 and Haydarpaşa Towers (simulation). A very much appreciated viewpoint is the one very near the Topkapı Terrace. The simulation presents that it would become a gigantic Manhattan-like sight.



Figs. 9. and 10 Cape of the peninsula with Topkapı (simulation)
A recent view on the cape of the peninsula with Topkapı taken in the evening from the boat coming from Princess Islands. The slightly rising hills and Topkapı Palace on the cape of the peninsula seen from Karaköy would be compromised by a gigantic new scale: seven towers of 300 metres height.

Fig. 11 Haydarpaşa and Süleymaniye Mosque seen from Zeyrek Terrace (simulation). The colossal Haydarpaşa site would appear from Zeyrek Terrace in the range of the Süleymaniye Mosque degrading the venerable silhouette and aura of the cupola and four slim minarets. (The Haydarpaşa towers are presented in a calculated scale). The Haydarpasa Project will be visible from Galata Tower as well as from Galata Bridge and might even appear as a monster project in the view from Cihangir Mosque Garden. It was Yahya Kemal who in a poem perpetuated this famous view from Cihangir to Üsküdar at sunrise.

▲ Fig. 12; Fig 13 ▼

Fig. 14 ▼

Fig. 15 Tophane (Melling´s Panorama 21, 1819). This panorama presents the Tophane place situated on the European shore of the Bosphorus with vast barracks and other representative still existing buildings: the Kılıç Ali Paşa Mosque built by architect Sinan, the Tophane fountain(1732) and the gunfoundry vaulted with six domes. It forms a highly representative urban prospect and scenery of the distinguished residential Pera quarter including the harbour with splendid ships in the foreground

Fig. 16 Tophane Pier with Cihangir Mosque, 2006. Today there are stores and administrative buildings situated right at the shore and covering a large fenced area. There are still freighters being loaded, which however can only be observed from the terrace of Istanbul Modern Museum, located in one of the reused stores. The public Tophane place of today is very much reduced and dominated by traffic. Behind this the densely built up hill of Pera with the Cihangir Mosque right up.

◀ Figs. 12, 13, 14 This view from Çamlıca, the highest swelling ground in the urban landscape (268 m), directed to the South West presents the European shore of the Bosphorus, Galata Tower and the protected silhouette of the peninsula in the background, to the right of the Golden Horn. Üsküdar is to be seen in the fore-ground as well as the rural region bordering the Marmara Sea which later became Haydarpaşa. An impression of the Istanbul urban landscape with Galata and the Peninsula seen from Çamlıca on a rather misty day. Baedecker (1914) notes this view of the Bosphorus and the Marmara Sea and the entire city of Constantinople, a traditional viewpoint which is frequently visited by Istanbul's families. The Haydarpaşa Towers will rise up from the plain near Marmara Sea; this area, called Calcedonia, presumably the location of the oldest settlements, might appear in later years as a Manhattan-like scenery overlapping the peninsula and the World Heritage site.

Fig. 17 Cruise ships at Galata Port hiding the prospect of Tophane. Tophane shore is frequented by huge cruise ships which, if several ships are mooring at the same time, form a high and long barrier. The famous Pera prospect seen from boat excursions on the Bosphorus is hidden very often behind gigantic tourist steamers. This applies accordingly to the characteristic domes of the gun-foundry and mosques. The cruise ships present a new scale in the urban landscape which implies a break with the traditional cultural landscape of Byzantium, Constantinople, Istanbul.

Fig. 18 Galataport (simulation). Galataport is planned for the moorage of four or five cruise ships at a quay about 1,5 km long. Five ships of the size which can already be seen in a simulation here will necessarily cause extensive demolition and new building development. The traditional city prospect seen from the Bosphorus will disappear with its historic monuments.

Fig. 19 Tophane Fountain and Kılıç Ali Paşa Mosque, 2006. The projected Galataport would even enlarge the barrier between the restored fountain and the Sinan Mosque and cut off the main remaining view on Bosphorus and Marmara Sea for ever. This would also mean a further loss of public space in favour of a private project.

Fig. 20 Cruise ship at Tophane Pier seen from Cad Necatibey, 2006. These huge cruise ships up to 60 m high will block the traditional views from the city, that is to say the characteristic prospects on Bosphorus, Marmara Sea, Üsküdar and Haydarpasa in perpetuity.

Fig. 21 Cruise ship seen from Cihangir Slope near the Mosque, 2006. Already now some brutal barriers blocking the view from public streets and elevated places of Cihangir, as for instance right near the Cihangir Mosque and its garden can be noticed. Considering the expected mass tourism – up to 15 000 daytourists could arrive here more or less at the same time – this would cause a tremendous pressure on the city neighbourhood, especially with regard to public space and places. This dense, various and ambiguous urban structure with narrow stairs, crooked and steep streets are substantial remainders of the old and famous Galata harbour and Pera quarter.

Fig. 22 Dubai Towers and Bosphorus Tower seen from Süleymaniye Terrace (simulation). The Dubai Towers and Bosphorus Tower will appear in the view angle out of the WH Site from the terrace of Süleymaniye Mosque (which is about 50 m high and 10 km away) in the background of Galata, Beyoglu, Sisli in a truly colossal dimension. They might extremely rise above the height of the Galata Tower and the context of several high-rising modern buildings. The Dubai Towers und Bosphorus Tower as viewed from the WH Site will definitely degrade and compromise the Byzantine Galata Tower of the Genuese port (the hill has an elevation of 45 m, the gallery of the tower of 44.5 m).

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