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INTEGRATED CONSERVATION APPROACH: TRABZON CITY CASE

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ABSTRACT: As a result of rapid urbanization the loss of historical and cultural assets and the destruction of cultural environment brought the importance of conservation into the agenda. But the applied conservation approaches are only related to individual buildings; so, in the long run they have not been effective and successful.

First of all, definition of conservation site should be shifted from individual buildings to building groups to environmental scale, even though, covering the whole city with its physical, social, cultural, historical, economical aspects.

In this paper, it is aimed at to investigate the possibilities of “integrated conservation”, taking the Trabzon city as a case.

KEYWORDS: Conservation; Historical environment; Urban conservation; Urban planning; Integrated conservation

1 INTRODUCTION

By Castells'[1], definition “space is not only the expansion of social structure, but it is concrete expression of historical gathering and self expression of itself from which society has gained freedom.”

Historical environments expose a society's historic, and development process, in which physical, social, cultural and political dimensions have been narrated. For this reason, cultural environments are the mirrors of social identities. They deserve to be conserved with great care and effort. So, they have to be handed over for the future generations in better conditions.

Cities/urban places are under severe pressures from migration and high natural growth of population, consequently cities are getting more crowded without urbanized. On the other hand, the number of people who are living in cities and feeling themselves urbanized for several generations has been decreasing. The new comers /new citizen/ migrants, don't pay attention to the cultural heritages and urban culture at least for some time, of their origins or destinations since their priorities have been to shelter and breed themselves as Maslow expressed [URL-1]. On the other hand, sensitivity to cultural heritage conservation and conservation policies and planning approaches are becoming main issues of international and national agendas in that cultural heritages have been evaluated and perceived as common values. So, according to new approaches to conservation that should be integrated rather than being piecemeal and its principles, methods and tools should be discussed and local solutions should be found.

2 OBJECTIVES

Trabzon has had a rich history and historical, cultural and architectural remnants, but unfortunately only some of them survived so far. Especially after the acceleration of urbanization, Trabzon started to become crowded. The city authorities could not envisioned the effects of this. The development plan of the city was not ready to accommodate those who came as migrants in proper housing. So, many of the houses having architectural interest either have been demolished to erect new ones in their places or left derelict, because of their physical conditions.

Consequently, physical and social environments of historical quarters of Trabzon became obsolete and under-standart, that was occupied by new comers/ invaders as temporary housing quarters as it was in other parts of the world. The new inhabitants of those areas and premises arose discomfort on people; then, regeneration and rehabilitation processes were seen as the means of conservation.

Especially the era of 1960 was the period of demolition of old houses and of erecting new ones. This new trend made urban renewal valuable at the individual property scale. Consequently, many of the architectural heritages demolished. By 1970s, Turkey signed Venetian Declaration that brought a new look for natural and cultural heritages. However, this vision was not enough to maintain, and strengthen urban identity and awareness of the values of cultural heritages.

The objective of this paper is to re-evaluate “Cultural Heritage Conservation” paying special attention to the “integrated urban conservation” which is quite different from the present conservation approaches. Integrated conservation

aims to help cities to regain their identity, provide cultural continuity in them, re-function of neglected areas-spaces in those, make them vivid and liveable, contributing not only to the urban economy but also to their social, aesthetic and architectural values.

On the other hand, it is aimed at re-conceptualizing a comprehensive conservation approach that enables to foster urbanity and sense of urbanness, to provide opportunity for participation, sustainable development and unite development and conservation[2].

Meaning and content of conservation has been shifting from individual property conservation to natural and cultural heritages that put emphasis on differences of locally distinctive places. One can talk on comprehensive conservation if building and its environment, environment and life support functions, social and physical attributes are to co exist.

The city is a whole with its buildings, natural spaces, transport networks, culture, people that has to be conserved in this context and planning should be in accordance with this concept as called "integrated conservation".

In the following sections, within the framework of integrated conservation for Trabzon, the probabilities of conservation-revitalisation-reuse will be cross examined in line with the above vision.

For this, the inventory of listed buildings are revised and mapped then physical structure is analysed. An investigation has been made in the city to portray the people's visions on/ against conservation.

3 CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Turkish Law on conservation of cultural and natural assets describes natural and cultural heritage as "movable possessions and immovable assets/real estates on land, under the water, scientific remnants, that includes the following processes; maintenance, stabilization, repair, restoration, reconstruction or adaptation for new uses."

In this context, the purpose of conservation is to:

- appreciate lasting values in their own right
- teach us about the past
- reinforce community identity
- provide visible evidence of continuity between the past, present and future

Heritage has to be managed because:

- Heritage helps define a unique sense of identity for individuals and communities
- Heritage helps create communities by connecting individuals to neighbourhoods, social groups and the city as a whole through its physical, cultural, emotional, intellectual and spiritual aspects
- Heritage provides continuity in a constantly changing society and environment, affirming where our communities have come from enabling an understanding of the present in order to plan for the future
- Heritage has value to the whole community and serves beyond individual interests to contribute to the greater public good and community prosperity.

Guidance for heritage management comes from an international non-government organisation known as the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), which was founded in 1965. Following the adoption of The Venice Charter in 1964, ICOMOS's purpose is to promote heritage conservation stating that "every historical site and its vicinity, its unique character and stability and spatial organization as well as human activities should be seen as a whole [URL-2].

3.1 Definition of Cultural Heritage

Monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

Groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

Sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and of man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological points of view [URL-3].

3.2 Urban Identity, Cultural Sustainability

Identity refers to the peculiarities of an urban place or an object which distinguishes thing(s) from others that may have specific characteristics[3].

Urban identity reflects many intrinsic characteristics of urban place(s) which evolve (d) in the course of their lives which constitute cultures, physical spaces and buildings[4]. Every architectural work has to be unique, local and belong to a ground which sustains its life[5]. Identity is time dependent, evolves in time in harmony with change and development[6].

Different geographies, climates, cultures, histories and social, economic, physical and legal processes form the essence urban areas/cities. Cities like Jerusalem, Rome, Mecca, Konya (Turkey) are known by their symbolic religious identities and York, Venice, Mardin, Safranbolu are known with their urban patterns, tissues and cultural heritages that they inherited.

3.3 Cultural Continuity

In each generation, a past which expresses identity has traces among other pasts; the dead, the living and the next generations had and will have communication from past experiences[7].

The traces of present and past cultures, by keeping them as where they are, without leaving them to mercilessness of nature and mankind, should be handed over to future generations. For this to happen, finding appropriate methods of conservation and care; and an understanding of "cultural continuity" is essential[8].

3.4 Becoming Urbanized or Non-Urbanized

Farabi says "man is little universe, universe is man". What Farabi means by "universe" is a dwelling, a ward/ neighbourhood, or a city. To like a city is related to its inhabitants and their way of life[9]. An individual's integration to the city and becoming a city dweller (citizen) is throughly dependent on the perception of places where they have been living and participating in the city life[10].

Today, cities resemble to bus terminals, where people are coming from somewhere and staying for a while, then moving-migrating to another terminal-to a city. City dwellers as such can hardly become urbanized, and can not gain urban culture and be integrated to the city. Architectural heritage, aesthetic values and liveability hardly comes into the agenda of those who are new comers, and this may cause despair in their states of identity[8].

What is important is to establish links between traditions and our lives, past and present, and to stand on our feet. It is the only way to resist social and physical attacks in this geography. At least, one day it may become necessary. If the question "who you are" is not asked, we should express this sensitivity to find out what was belonged to us and to show it[11]. For this reason, it is the responsibility of our generations to handover the natural, historical environments and cultural-architectural heritages to next generations by using them; caring/ maintaining, and securing cultural continuity by giving them new functions and vividness.

4 HOW TO CONSERVE

At the beginning, conservation was related to edifices like monuments, then extended to cover the ground or under-ground and underwater, moveable-in moveable assets. Single buildings can be easily remembered, but group of buildings conserved present a rich variety against monotony.

The vital issue is that which groups of users should be targeted when conservation is being applied has not been taken in to account and considered important[12]. People value conservation as bourgeois fantasy when the physical and aesthetic dimensions are given much importance than its social and economic context. Social fabric of city dwellers should be taken into account and not changed by conservation policies. Citizens might be integrated with buildings, building groups or urban environments and social fabrics of the conservation areas by the approach of "integrated conservation".

5 NEW LOOK FOR CONSERVATION: INTEGRATED CONSERVATION

A city, should establish balance between modern development and cultural heritages, without destroying the old it should integrate with new developments and should provide principles of sustainability. A city without past looks like / consider a man who lost his memory. Patterns of cities are the traces of buildings, trees, churches, libraries, individual lives spent there [URL-4] some of which has valued as economic resource. Economic and physical values of those resources may face decay that can be prevented by appropriate maintenance and conservation methods.

5.1 Broad Trends in Cultural Heritage Management: Shifts from Old to New Concepts

As can be seen from Table 1, definition, role, significance, decision, interpretation and responsibilities are given new meanings that constitute new trends in integrated conservation.

Table 1 Broad trends in cultural heritage management [URL-5]

	FROM	TO
Definition of Heritage	Monuments Buildings Sites	Landscapes Urban Areas Historic Environment / Cultural Heritage
Role of Heritage in Society	National Unity Generate revenue from visitors	Respect for Cultural diversity Wider economic benefits, Social benefits
Decisions	State Authoritarian	Region / locality Democratisation, Participation
Professionals	Experts Single discipline Historical knowledge	Facilitators Multi-skilled professionals Management skills

Continued

	FROM	TO
Significance	Old Aesthetic National importance Mono-cultural Narrow range of values	Industrial heritage, Post-war buildings Commemorative value Local Distinctiveness Values of different cultures Wide range of values
Interpretation	Expert led	Community led
Responsibilities	State led Heritage sector	Communities, The market / Private sector Environmental sector
Management practices	Designation Separate conservation Site based Technical research	Characterisation Integrated conservation More strategic Philosophical research

5.2 New Trends in Management and Conservation of Architectural Heritage

The conditions which heritages face; pressures on those or reaction of authorities and societies to conservation and importance of that have been changing under pressure of global trends.

- Purifying of State / local authority responsibilities
- Changing in values and particular of community values
- Lack of human, financial and professional resources
- Overpowering of global economic relations
- Becoming common of cultures, building processes, practices
- Population increases, increasing deterioration and mobility

New conceptual approaches aim to reconcile development and conservation; consider participation instead of rules, sustainable development, democratic citizenship and become a united social whole that expressed as conceptual shifts in management and conservation.

5.3 Physical Aspects of Conservation in Trabzon City Case: Listed Buildings in Trabzon

Distribution of listed buildings, building periods, states and functions are given in Table 2.

Table 2 Distribution of listed buildings by their physical conditions, date of buildings and type of functions

	State	No	Period	No	Function	No
Trabzon	Unknown	2	Unknown	69	Unknown	64
	In use	438	Republican	28	Military	13
	Not available	42	Ottoman	357	Religious	49
			Roman- Byzantium	28	Education - Cultur	27
					Industry	5
					Offical and Administrative	25
					Civilian arch.	177
					Water buildings	25
				Commercial	97	
Total		482		482		482

Distribution of listed buildings, building periods, states and functions are shown in the following Figures (Fig. 1, 2, 3, 4).

5.4 Social Aspects of Conservation in Trabzon: People's opinions on conservation

A survey conducted in Trabzon to highlight the opinions of people on conservation; whether they are willing to conserve their premises or willing to participate in conservation studies.

5.5 Do people feel themselves belong to Trabzon

65 percent of people were in Trabzon and feel themselves belonging to Trabzon. However, Trabzon has been receiving migration from nearby regions and they are mostly young people such as students, school leavers, unemployed and job seekers. Most of those either lack of interest in conservation or do not value the architectural heritages (35 percent).

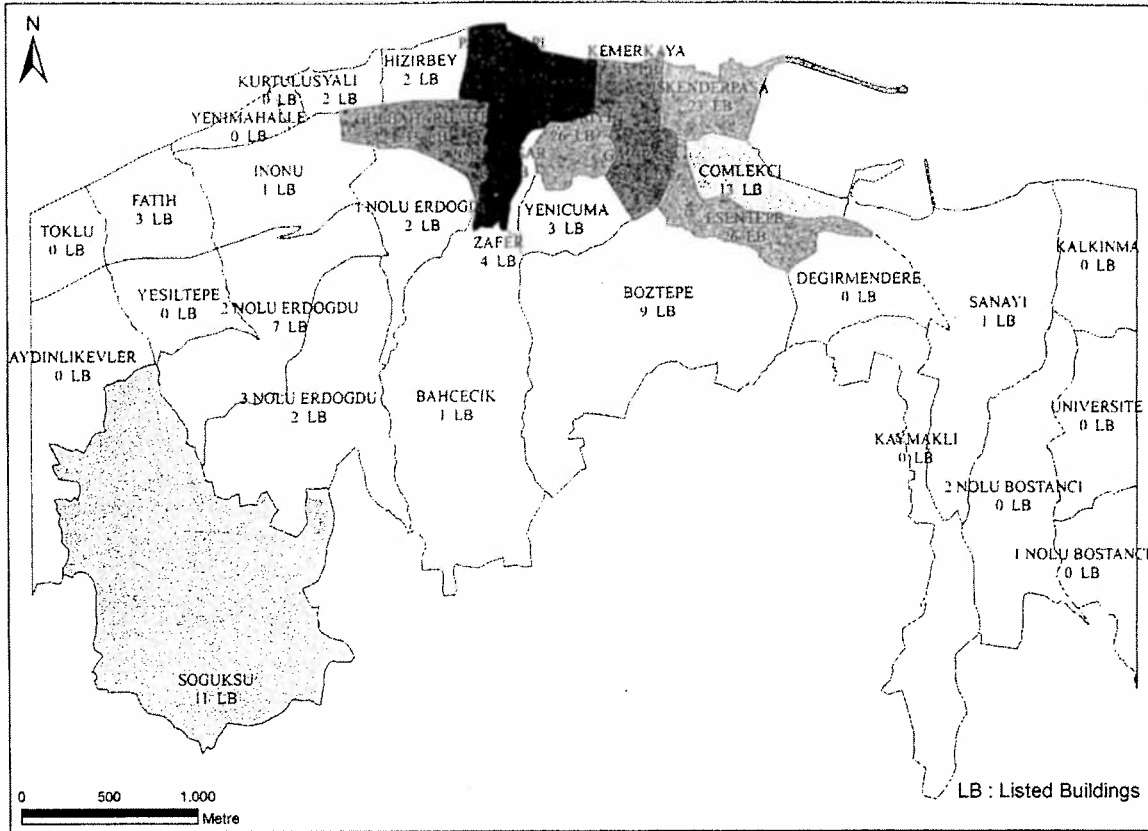


Figure 1 Distribution of listed buildings by numbers in each district

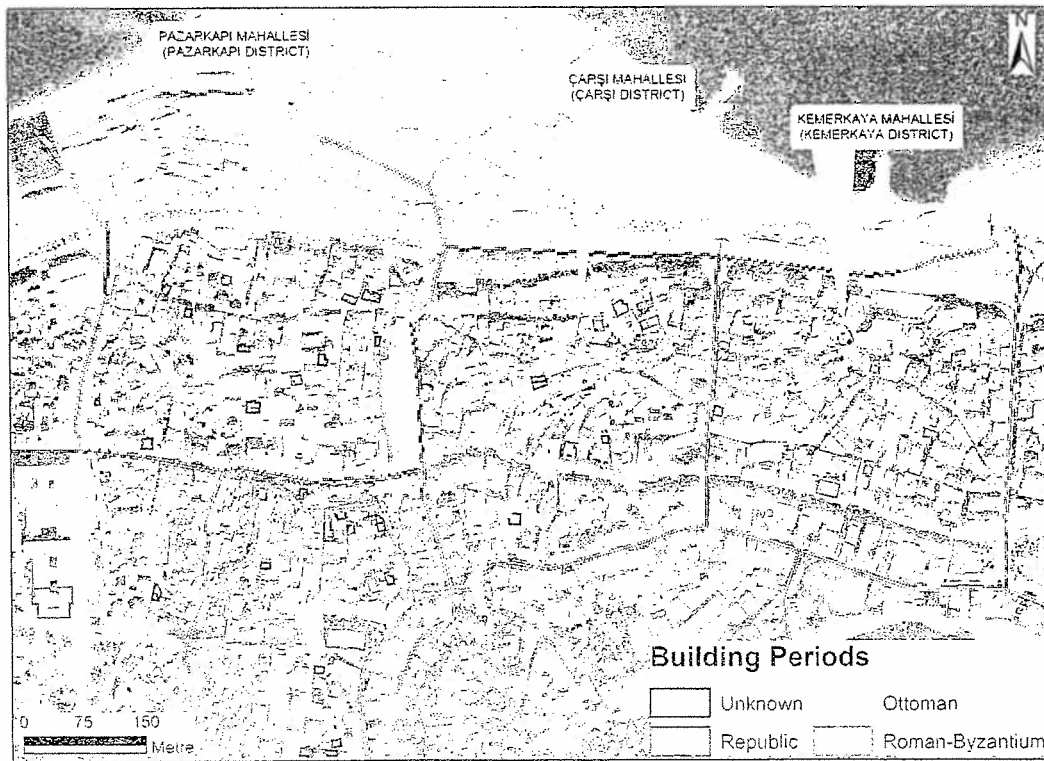


Figure 2 Distribution of Listed Buildings by Building Periods

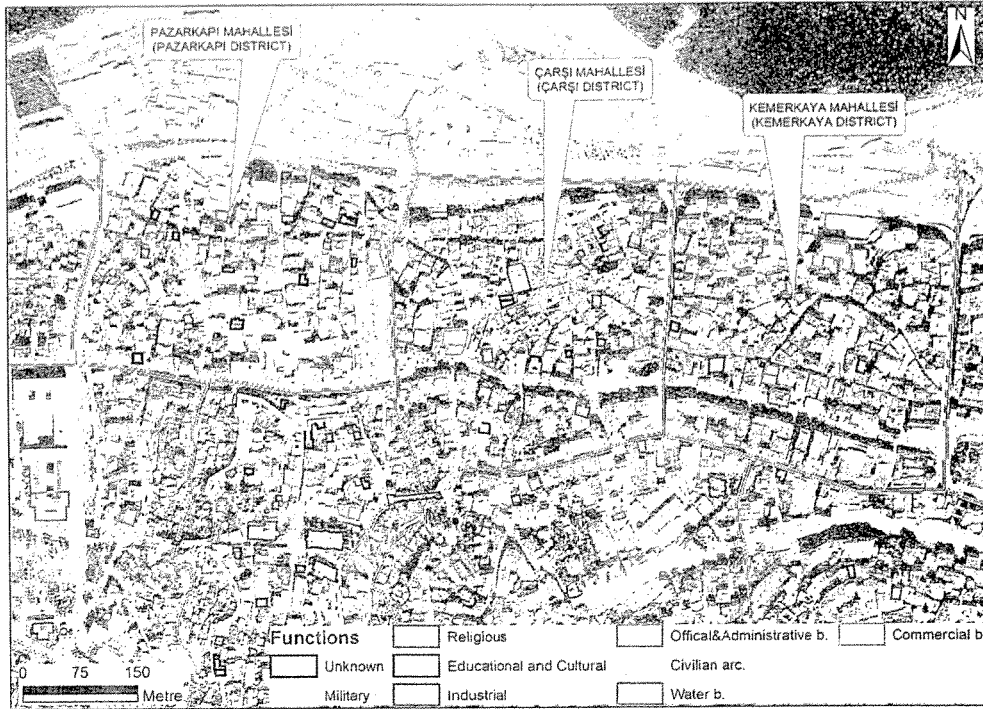


Figure 3 Distribution of Listed Buildings by Functions

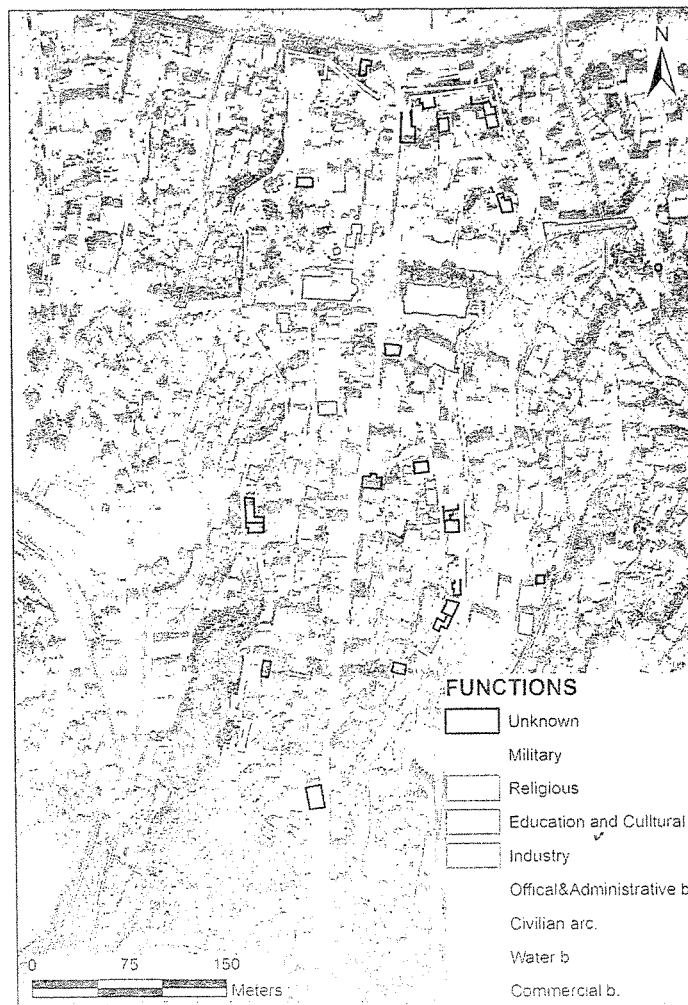


Figure 4 Distribution of Listed Buildings in Ortahisar by Functions

5.6 Importance of Buildings, Streets and Public Spaces Worth to be Conserved

Almost 90 percent of the people value buildings, public spaces and streets worth to be conserved, but 24 percent of people put more emphasis on the buildings around the centre ($\chi^2=23.39$, sig: 0.025).

People are more sensitive on the shores that are destroyed by road construction which caused severe environmental consequences and loss of urban identity of Trabzon. If poor quality building construction is carried on, Trabzon will continue to loose so much from its natural and cultural heritages, and people can hardly remember that Trabzon was a waterfront city.

People show more concern on how to conserve cultural and environmental heritages. In this respect, heritages that survived should be conserved by giving them new functions as such education, culture, services, ect ($\chi^2=244.1$, sig: 0.000).

6 END NOTES

- Trabzon and her heritages should be considered together as whole. Buildings and their close environments evaluated, their physical, functional and past histories should be kept in mind.
- Examples of civilian architecture may be given new functional uses (boutique, boutique restaurant, specialty bookstore, entertainment, museum and art gallery etc.
- Carvansarays, bedestans, bazaars, public baths, can be furnished with new functions.

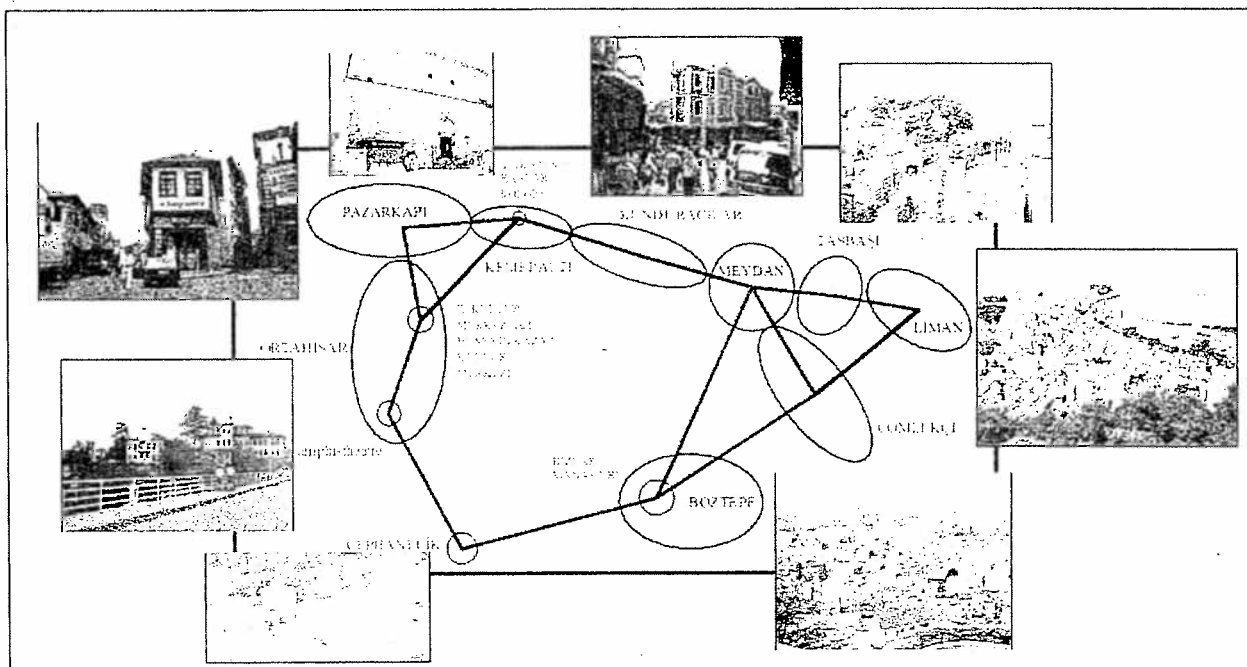


Figure 5 A model for integrated urban conservation

Integrated urban conservation model may give opportunities to (Fig. 5):

- New urban identity, prestige, national and international fame can be gained by linking spaces, buildings, services, retailing, services which needs new routes to be created, new public spaces designed.
- The historical core / Ortahisar can be developed as cultural focus. This part of city already has some cultural functions.
- Remnants of Sisters Monastery (Kızlar Manastırı) can be used as concert hall, keeping its appearance as it is.
- Town Hall and its annexes may be converted to cultural complex, adjacent car park can be re arranged in the form of public park .
- Taşbaşı ve Çömlekçi vicinity can be easily integrated to the public park (mentioned above).
- Çömlekçi area may be redesigned, planned as a waterfront of Trabzon which faces to the port: A mega urban project is needed to do this (context of this may include entertainment, high quality hotel(s), shopping mall, quality residences, high tech offices and diplomatic quarter for foreign consulates, etc.).
- The people and the centre could be integrated with harbour by pedestrianizing the area.
- To achieve "integrated conservation", lack of public interest and ignorance has to be overcome.

Issues on natural, cultural and architectural heritage conservation should be in the educational programs at all schools. Universities, local authorities and NGOs should take part in this issue by all kinds of medium.

- Legal arrangements should be revised, development plans and conservation plans should be accordingly.

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