
A SHORT LOOK INTO THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE WORLD

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ABSTRACT

The main argument of this paper is to discuss briefly the conservation history of the cultural heritage. International meetings and discussions, regulations and texts have emphasized within the scope of this paper. This study is a part of the unpublished Ph.D. thesis of the author named as "Conservation History of Cultural Heritage in Kaleiçi District in Antalya (From the 20th Century to Present Day) submitted to the METU, Conservation of Cultural Heritage Program in 2016.

Keywords: *Conservation History, Cultural Heritage, Conservation Regulations, Architectural Heritage*

1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, concerns about the conservation of cultural assets have always come to the fore with various purposes and reasons. It is admitted that, conservation of movable and immovable cultural assets has a history, which is equivalent to the history of humanity. Conservation, which was originated from the threat of natural events have gradually obtained a spiritual characteristic and objects substituted as God and holy places were studiously conserved. Thereafter, concerns about conservation of art objects have been incorporated into spiritual reasons of conservation notion. Madran discloses that, beginning of the history of restoration starts with the demolition of the civilization assets. (Madran, 1988) Yerasimos also states, endeavours for the conservation of cultural assets have emerged as a response to their destruction. (Yerasimos, 2005)

Aygen (1999) predicates the fundamentals of conservation, to the diligence of the authorities to avoid destruction and provide sustainability of the structures produced or have produced by them and exemplifies this with an inscription which was found in Persepolis and comprised the following words of the Persian King Dara (BC 6th century); "...you, in the forthcoming days, will see this inscription which is ordered to be engraved on the rocks by me, so as, do not damage and destroy the human figures hereby and maintain their conservation without a damage." (Aygen, 1999).

Concerns relevant to the conservation of monuments go back to the dates earlier than the Hellenic Civilization. However, it is known that, for

the first time, Romans have included provisions to their legal system for conservation of historical artefacts. (Çeçener & Danışman, 1973) In Ancient Roman laws, provisions about prohibition of exporting art objects, which were present in the facades of the buildings can be seen as the first example for institutionalization of conservation notion.

After the black plague in mid-15th century, in Rome, first the city was cleaned, then the additions constructed to the monumental buildings were destroyed with the order of the Pope IV Martinus. Furthermore, with an ordinance announced in Pope II Pius period, demolishing and damaging the historical monuments were prohibited not only within the territory of Rome, but also in the rural areas. Based on this ordinance, Sezgin (1994) acknowledges that 2nd Pius is the first person that took precautions for the conservation of historical monuments. (Sezgin, 1994) In addition to this, Sezgin states that expression; "If any roman remains are found in the settlement, they should be conserved" is the first document that predicted the "cultural oriented conservation", which was expressed by Leon Batista who was a master of renaissance period; the most important driving force for the achievement of western civilization to its present level. (Sezgin, 1994)

It is observed that, in the earlier periods, understanding of conservation has started to progress as from the 17th century and started to get conceptualized and institutionalized as from the 18th century. It is also seen that, within course of the 18th century, studies about scientific archaeology and history of art have started, interests towards

Hellenic and Roman artefacts have increased and European executives have started to take precautions for the conservation of historical artefacts. (Akcura, 1973)

2. INITIAL APPROACHES TO HERITAGE CONSERVATION

It is observed that, as for the 18th century, conservation concept has started to be handled with awareness of historical heritage and as for the 19th century, in conjunction with the increase of involvement towards conservation in society, it is also seen that organization attempts like foundation of “The Society of Antiques of London” which was performed with individual attempts were present. (Erder, 1975) It is seen that, in this period, during which the main purpose was towards conservation of ancient and archaeological artefacts, conservation remained on the agenda with aristocratic tendencies and guidance of the central administrations.

Period up to the 19th century has been a time course during which, demolition of the structures wasn't questioned and subsisting artefacts weren't conserved consciously and if they have a value of use, utilized by getting them up to date and if they don't serve any purpose in general, they were annihilated. During the historical process, structures, which symbolized the power of the government, have become targets and have attracted attention when the power passed to other hands. (Altınyıldız, 1997)

History of conservation and restoration can go back to the periods when housing culture has started. But, during the periods before the 19th century, monumental structures, which gained symbolic value in the society, were conserved with the desire of the public or with the investment of the persons who constructed them and repairs performed during this period don't base on notional fundamentals. Predicting of repairs to the scientific fundamentals, “cultural heritage” notion, “appearance and progress of conservation awareness” is duration specific to Western Europe, started and progressed in the 19th century. (Ahunbay, 1996). In 1789, French Revolution can be considered as an important milestone in terms of the history of conservation. After this date, structures which belong to bourgeois (middle class) and kingship such as, churches, chateaus, palaces, and structures were considered as symbols of a past undesired to be remembered, therefore they were attacked and destroyed. Sometime after these destructions, the importance of these structures for the nascent

nations has started to be emphasized and the necessity of their conservation has started to be discussed. (Ozaslan, 2010)

Bonelli (1966) states that first ideas about restoration rely on the principle of re-establishing the structures without creating considerable differences between two different materials by using the authentic pieces or reproductions. During the first 30 years of the 19th century, foremost Rome, in the whole of Europe, all restorations of ancient period monuments were realized according to these criteria. In the 19th century, restoration studies of Viollet-le-Duc pioneer the development of conservation understanding in Europe. In 18th and 19th centuries, although the purpose was limited with conservation of the archaeological artefacts, particularly from the second half of the 19th century, conservation aims preservation of the monumental artefacts as well as archaeology.

In this period, during which, conservation of monuments was tried to be placed on a theoretic fundament in a conceptual manner, regardless of the applications which aimed to give the monuments a single period structure look by removing the annexes which belong to various phase and periods and applicable in order to repair them in a style which was applicable when monuments were started to be repaired with the restoration studies conducted with the “style unity” principle by Sir Gilbert Scott in England and Viollet-le-Duc in France, it is seen that, John Ruskin defended and brought forward “continuous maintenance” and “conservation” instead of “restoration”. (Ahunbay, 1996)

Kuban (2000), acknowledges 1818 dated ordinance of Hesse-Darmstadt Duke as the earliest official conservation legislation in Western Europe. As for Earl (2003), he sees the report written by Karl Fredrich Schinkel (1781-1841) in 1815, first Greek Conservation Legislation accepted in the Greece Kingdom in 1834 and an inspector assignment by the Minister of Education for the conservation of historic structures as the first remarkable attempts in Europe in the conservation field. (Coşkun, 2012). Jokilehto discloses that the definition of assets and importance of heritage for the society started to be discussed in 18th and 19th centuries. (Jokilehto, 2007)

In France, historical heritages were first put under protection by the government with a special legislation in 1837. After the industrial revolution, the Commission for Conservation of Monuments was established with the beginning of

systematic conservation attempts in the country. (Akçura, 1973)

Afterward, in 1887, “Historical Monuments Legislation” was accepted in France. Jokilehto (2007) discloses that, in 18th and 19th centuries, definition of the values of cultural assets, which are subject to conservation and importance of cultural heritage for the society have started to be discussed. Tanyeli (1979), discloses that, in 19th century’s Europe, conservation is not seen as preserving the cultural heritage but accepted as sustaining the past in the present day.

In pursuit of France, in many countries in Europe, first extensive conservation legislations started to be introduced. (Akçura, 1973). Within course of the period, which starts by the end of 18th and beginning of 19th centuries, socialist revolutions were associated with industrial developments and also imposed substantial changes in the settlements in Europe. During such a period, assigning a wide area in the centre of Rome for historical and art researches indicates the seriousness designated to this subject. (Erder, 1975)

As a premier in the conservation field, determination, registration, and classification processes, working subjects such as; conservation oriented confiscation and limitation of private ownership were designated. First civil organizations regarding conservation were started to be established. (Akçura, 1973). In 1926, the conservation group established by a group of residents of York city in England succeeded to hold the public opinion to avoid the demolishing of the city walls remained from the medieval and residents of the city have repaired these walls with the raised funds. (Aygen, 1999). It is seen that importance was placed only on the monuments in the periods, during which the conservation idea started to develop. (Yerasimos, 2003) Yerasimos associates this, with the construction of the nation-state.

Buildings, which witnessed the existence of the nation started to be accepted as a national heritage in Europe in the 19th century. (Orbaşlı, 2008) The tendency for evacuating the surrounding of important monuments and exhibiting them in the middle of parks and gardens has accumulated adherents. Wide boulevards amplified by Haussmann in Paris, have destroyed a major part of the urban areas with intensive fabric and the urban fabric around the Notre Dame Cathedral, which was perceived from the narrow streets. (Orbaşlı, 2008)

Ahunbay states that, by the end of the 19th century, in the light of enhanced theories and

realized applications; the idea of conservation expands in terms of scale, scope, and content and acquires a new dimension. (Ahunbay, 1997)

Although historical structures were accepted as a heritage from the 18th century, it is seen that internationally valid principles and agreements were accepted and adopted in the 20th century. Within the course of the time period between 18th and 20th Centuries, in Europe, important signs of progress were subsisted in architectural conservation and restoration in conceptual scale and a common approach arose even though it was in academically scale. (Binan, 2001, 109 and Kayın, 2008).

3. 20TH AND 21TH CENTURIES

In the 20th century, efforts for conservation of monuments have increased, in many countries, it was understood that conservation could only be realized with planning, legislation were started to be announced, and authorities of conservation and surveillance commissions were increased. During this period, it is seen that discussions in the international platform have started, depending on the idea to take worldwide decisions about conservation of cultural heritage, benefiting from the accumulation and experiences existed in various countries.

First meeting conducted in this direction is, “5th International Architects Congress”, which was held in Madrid in 1904. In this Congress, it was predicted every government to establish conservation oriented associations within the body of their selves. Also, it was suggested, aforesaid associations to gather and collaborate for establishing monumental inventories. In the 20th century, construction of the conservation field by utilizing a common language accelerates. First examples of these are seen in the Athens Meeting during which, the Athens Legislations show up.

Numerous structures and historical centres have become unusable as a result of the wars subsisted from the beginning of the 20th century, in Europe. After the demolitions caused by the wars, sensitivity to the examples of national culture has increased. Until the World War Two, (1939-1945) conservation notion was discussed in monuments context. (Kuban, 2000) After the war, new issues and historical surrounding extend was included in these discussions as well. Reintegration of destroyed monumental structures and historical surroundings with the contemporary life was desired.

World War One can be seen as a milestone in conservation. Before the World War One, conservation of some towns and cities was provided with a sensitivity reflected in the planning decisions instead of conservation legislation. However, viewpoint towards the conservation notion has changed and conservation has started to be perceived as a “government policy” and “duty of government”. (Akçura, 1973)

At the beginning of the 20th Century, an international attempt arose for restoring the destructive effects of the World War One in Europe. In 1931, “1st International Conference of Architects and Technicians Responsible from Conservation of Historical Artifacts” was held in Athens and expert scientists discussed subjects such as; research of historical structures and scientific methods for their conservation, legal precautions in conservation and collaboration between countries. (Ahunbay, 1996) In the meeting, pioneering ideas arose, such as importance and problems of the non-monumental urban heritage. Besides, registration of historical structures by the government, the necessity for conservative precautions, the importance of education in obtaining respect to the monuments were emphasized and international collaboration for the conservation of monuments was predicted. Athens Legislations were prepared as a result of this conference.

According to Tadmori, in the period after the World War I, as a result of the ravage caused by the war, it is seen that, conservation opinion has started to be discussed by specialists in meetings in international scale which was until that time, generally comprised with the contribution of architects and other artists, individually or with groups and associations. (Tadmori, 2004).

Binan states that, right after the Athens Legislations which was specified as a “milestone” in Architectural conservation field (Binan, 2001), Italian Restoratio Karta / Carta del Restauro (1931) which carried the traces of the principals accepted in Athens and which was their improved state was adopted by the “Historical Artifacts” and “Fine Arts Council of Italy” and restoration principles for Italy were objectified. (Kuban, 2000) In this Carta, principle decisions were made about, continuous care of the monument, the necessity for conservation of the architectural elements, which were made in various periods and subjects, related to restoration. Outlines of most of the present contemporary single structure conservation principles are drawn in Carta del Restauro. In the first provision of this Carta, the importance of continuous maintenance and reinforcement for the

conservation of structures is emphasized. (Coşkun, 2012)

After this meeting, collaboration about conservation increased rapidly, after two years, “3rd International Contemporary Architects Congress” was held again in Athens and as the final declaration, “Athens Agreement” was accepted. In the agreement, the idea about conservation of structures singly was accepted, which was totally opposite of the idea discussed in the Athens conference. This idea wasn’t applied in the countries where the danger was realized. But in the countries where it was applicated, this idea has given harm to the historical urban fabrics on a considerably large scale. In some countries, Athens agreement has made room for new structures in the city centers by means of destruction of the modest civil architecture examples. Nevertheless, the agreement has brought the idea about the destruction of the autogenously social fabric and settlement of rich families to the provided area. (Eyüboğlu, 2009)

According to Lemaire, (1995, 24), in these years, generally a common doctrine wasn’t present about the conservation of monumental buildings and every country; every architect had an understanding based on their own world perspective. (Lemaire, 1995). As a result of the massive destruction caused by the World War Two, in environmental protection, more comprehensive manners were targeted. Principles about conservation of historical city or city pieces with their historical, aesthetic, social and cultural values have strengthened. Activities, which targeted historical cities as a whole, have accelerated.

Necessities for concomitant conservation of all elements, which constitute typical characteristics of towns, cities that, aren’t monuments but have historical, traditional and visual values together. For this purpose, comprehensive, prospective, legal and administrative measures were started to be taken. In addition to this, ideas about the integration of conservation with the countrywide planning studies were argued prelusively in this period. (Akçura, 1973). In some areas, where post-war destructions subsisted, some of the destroyed buildings were determined as elements with emblematic features, which formalized the national identity of the public.

In these areas, as a response to the destruction, destroyed buildings were reconstructed with “the same as the previous” understanding. Warsaw, Pozdnan, Gdansk, in Poland and The

Grand Place in France are examples of such applications. (Zeren, 1981)

Damages caused by war have revealed the necessity of evaluation of chaotic post-war environment in an international unity and deciding on common principles and taking common decisions even if on paper. After the World War II, in many countries, changes have started to be made in conservation and planning legislations and new laws were introduced in order to integrate efforts for entirely conserving the historical structures, historical urban areas and even towns with the planning efforts in city, region and country scale. Within the scope of conservation of cultural heritage subject, apart from issues like, maintenance, renovation and reinforcement, subjects like, reutilization of the sites to be conserved and their relation with the city have started to gain importance.

Right after the World War II, every country realized different implementations. In 1945, in London, with the contribution of 44 countries, foundation of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was decided and in 1946 UNESCO was founded. One of the main objectives of UNESCO which was the first example of inter-governmental foundations is, with after war regulations, rehabilitation of the cultural heritage which is damaged because of war, for the public which is foreseen to be reorganised after the war and more importantly conserving the cultural heritage from damages which be given by human or nature. (Tiryaki, 2014)

After World War Two, international institutions were established for the mutual solution of the conservation issues, which gained international feature. In 1946, "International Council of Monuments (ICOM)", in 1949, "Council of Europe" by ten countries and in 1959, "ICCROM" by "UNESCO" was founded. With the 1954 dated "European Cultural Convention", Council of Europa decided to take measures for conservation of common cultural heritages. (Altinyildiz, 1997)

After 1960's, many countries have announced new regulations or made changes in the existing ones for providing conservation with integrating the historical surrounding with the contemporary life. In the same period, parallel to the idea defending that, cultural heritage belongs to the whole humankind, many meetings were held and as a result of these international meetings and discussions, "effective conservation" philosophy was adopted instead of the previous "freezing the

cultural heritage" for the conservation sites. (Zeren, 1981)

In 1962, the Council of Europe whose purpose is to provide effective communication between its members and ensuring their social, economic, conservation developments, held Cultural Association Assembly. In the meeting held by them for ensuring the urgent conservation of cultural and architectural assets, relation between conservation and rehabilitation of building groups and areas with historical or architectural value and planning was revealed. (Örnek, 1996).

Upon invitation of the Italian Government, UNESCO organizes 2nd International Meeting of Architects and Technicians Responsible for Historic Monuments between 25th -31st May 1964 in Venice. By virtue of this meeting, Venice Charter was announced, which is one of the most efficient agreements in architectural conservation field. Shortly after its announcement, Venice Charter was put into effect in many countries, tried to be applied properly and during the ensuing years, has been a reference for UNESCO World Heritage List and been a source of inspiration for other Legislations (Ahunbay, 1997, and Özaslan, 2010 and Coşkun, 2012).

In 1972, World met with 'universal cultural heritage' notion with 'UNESCO World Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation Agreement'. Year 1975 was accepted as European Architectural Heritage Year and within this context; a globally efficient discussion platform was created. As a result of the conducted studies, European Architectural Heritage Legislation was prepared. Binan states that, in the meeting held by ICOMOS in Le Creusot France in 1976, "industrial cultural heritages" were also included to the cultural heritages to be conserved. Accordingly, governments were warned and it was emphasized that, it is required to ensure historical industrial products to be evaluated within scope of cultural heritage notion (Binan, 1996).

1972 dated UNESCO Convention and 1976 dated decisions about "Conservation of Historical Sites and Recommendations about their Contemporary Roles" were accepted as a base by ICOMOS and a new notion which is "Cultural Tourism" was revealed and it was introduced in Cultural Tourism Agreement. (ICOMOS, 1976)

During 1976 dated 19th meeting of UNESCO, in Nairobi which the general assembly gathered, subjects about international exchange of cultural assets, conservation of historical sites and

contemporary roles were discussed, agreements were made among member states and recommendation decisions were taken. (Example, 1996). Recommendation decisions which were taken in Nairobi, on one hand pointed at the global extend of cultural heritage and on the other hand indicated the importance of domestic tendencies and applications.

In 1979, 'Burra Charter for Conservation of the Sites with Cultural Importance' which predicates Venice Charter, in 1985 'European Legislation for Conservation of Architectural Heritage' which was prepared by the European Council' and in 1987 'Charter for Conservation of Historical Cities and Urban Sites' (Washington) which was prepared by ICOMOS for accomplishing Venice Charter were accepted respectively. Nara Certificate of Authenticity reiterates that; authenticity notion undertakes a very important function. (Coşkun, 2012)

"Australia ICOMOS Charter for Conservation of Sites with Cultural Importance" (Burra Charter) which was published in 1979 and revised in 1981 clarifies applications in single structure scale and conservation principle and methods and reveals principals regarding cultural importance, conservation policy, researches and reports.

In 1987, specialists, who gathered for completing the Code of Venice, have defined the factors, which constitute the cultural heritage in cities and relation of these factors among each other. At the same time, Code of Washington has discussed contribution of citizens to conservation activities as the main agenda topic. This charter has composed one of the international frame texts, which affects contemporary conservation activities.

In 1990, DOCOMOMO (Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and Neighborhoods of the Modern Movement), which conducted theoretical studies for documentation, conservation, restoration and functioning of modern architectural outputs, was established. In consequence of the Local and Regional Administrations Conference, which was held by European Council in 1992 in Strasbourg, European Citizen Rights Declaration and European Urban Conditions were prepared.

In "European Citizen Rights Declaration" (1992), it was defined that, urban architecture can consist of natural assets, which comprise of location, topography and climate conditions, as well as immovable assets with artistic and cultural

values, which are outputs of human skill. It is overemphasized that, this heritage is an irreplaceable part of urban structure, which has critical importance with regards to urban and citizen identity. (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/home>)

According to Tekeli, European Urban Conditions is the most important step for approaching the urban problems in the frame of human rights. (Tekeli, 2001)

In the agreement, which was titled as, "Basic Principles of Conservation, Education and Teaching of Monuments, Social Complexes and Sites" and accepted by ICOMOS in 1993 in Sri Lanka, with relation to the objective of conservation; necessity of propounding the cultural messages without losing their originality and identity and prolong the life of architectural heritage was implied. (ICOMOS, 1993).

In "Conservation Ethics Text" which was accepted in the international education meeting in 1995, the objective of conservation action is described as; reaching to the highest application standard, considering the secret values and characteristics of the monuments. (ICOMOS, 1995). In, 1995 dated Nara Certificate of Authenticity was written by the 45 participants of Nara Freedom Conference, which was held in 1994 in Nara City in Japan with the support of UNESCO, ICOMOS and ICCROM. In this document, it is underlined that, consideration of authenticity in conservation of cultural heritage is necessary in order to show respect and enlighten the common memory of humanity. (Coşkun, 2012)

In 1996, an international council was established for the Analysis and Restoration of Structures of Architectural Heritage (ISCARSAH) within the body of ICOMOS. (Orbaşlı, 2008). In 2003 in Zimbabwe, some theoretical discussions came up, comprising problems about, analysing, conservation of architectural heritage and restoration of structures. Under the heading of 'reformatory measures and control' of the legislation, it is mentioned that, treatment should more be aimed at root causes than the symptoms and the best treatment is preventative maintenance (Beşkonaklı and Ersen, 2011). According to Coşkun, by these discussions, attention was drawn to the 'maintenance' subject, which is an ideal solution for survival of cultural assets without losing their authentic values. (Coşkun, 2012)

In 2003 "Conservation of Intangible Heritage Agreement" was accepted. After the 24th - 26th October 2003 dated workshop, which was

realized during 27th – 31st 2003-dated ICOMOS general assembly, in 11th February 2004, “declaration related with intangible heritage, monuments and sites” was announced. As for The Quebec Declaration, it emphasizes conservation of the spirit of place. (Binan and Cantimur, 2010)

In 2011 March, UNESCO has submitted its recommendations related with historical cityscape conversation. In “Recommendation Decisions for Conservation of Historical Cityscapes” statement, “Historical durations get over social values and originate a strong effect” takes place. Coşkun indicates that, from Amsterdam Declaration to today, there is an overall tendency about “perception of the space with its larger surrounding”, with these recommendations, attention was drawn to breakdown of quality of urban and its surrounding countryside and to uncontrolled urbanization which can end up with spatial deterioration and at the same time, a series of agreements, legislations and recommendation decisions which were accepted in past were emphasized. (Coşkun, 2012). The text titled “Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape”, which was introduced by UNESCO General Conference and held on 10th November 2011, has focused on adaptation of landscape and conservation activities. The most important emphasis in the text was towards sustainable development and integrated planning.

4. CONCLUSION

Even if it was not as present sense, in earlier periods a conservation understanding existed. It is seen that, this understanding starts to develop from the 17th century and starts to conceptualize and institutionalize from the 18th century. It is seen that, beginning from the 18th century, conservation notion is approached with the consciousness of cultural and historical heritage and from the 19th century, interest towards conservation starts to develop in public. It can be observed that, in the 20th century, organisations about conservation start to develop.

From the mid-20th century, foremost, UNESCO and ICOMOS, structures that were founded in respect of conservation have several times tried to establish a global approach by means of frame texts and regulations. Today, these texts and the decisions taken bring light to conservation understanding almost all over the World. With the involvement of conservation from structure scale to space scale, as well as conservation of cultural assets, concerns have gravitated towards vitalization

and development of the area. All international discussions, meetings, regulations and texts have emphasized culture-space relation and presented a frame, which connects cultural conservation with urban conservation. It was tried to provide creation of resources for conservation, by means of local and national economical investments. In addition to this, positive impact of the areas to the national economy which were vitalized by means of conservation was comprehended.

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