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Mardin historical Eski Demirciler (Old Blacksmiths) and Kunduracılar (Shoemakers') Bazaar architectural features

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Abstract

The bazaar is an important formation in the Islamic city, and the architectural features and location of the bazaar determine the effect of the bazaar on urban life. However, today, rapid developments in modern society, population growth rate and size and urban development, the development pattern of new streets depending on the bazaar, the distance of the modern area to the bazaar areas and the accessibility of the bazaar areas to public transportation, rapid urban growth and socioeconomic development processes are the factors affecting the general position of the bazaar have changed the level of influence on the city. Today, as a result of the fact that traditional bazaars cannot continue to function as much as they used to, it is seen that the process of extinction has begun in Mardin Bazaars, as in many historical cities in the world. However, Mardin bazaars have been the subject of a very limited number of studies and have not been adequately studied collectively. In this context, the architectural features of the Eski Demirciler and Kunduracılar Bazaars, which are among the historical bazaars in the center of Mardin, together with their understanding of plan and space, and their current state of preservation have been the subject of research. In the study, it is aimed to determine the architectural setups, regional characteristics and places of the Eski Demirciler and Kunduracılar Bazaars, which have survived to the present day with historical continuity, in the city of Mardin.

Introduction

Urban history studies reveal that various factors affect the development of ancient cities, and bazaars have always been one of the most important factors in urban growth [1]. In the past, the bazaar was not established in a fixed place, but in special neighborhoods on certain days [2]. Gradually, the increasing amount of trade on the one hand and the development of the city structure on the other hand made some places for trade and barter needs [3]. The layout of the spaces in the bazaar has led to the creation of spaces suitable for different needs in the bazaar [4]. The bazaars, which are formed in certain regions according to their various functions, have always hosted a large part of commercial activities in city life and have become an integral part of every city [5]. The importance of economic and commercial relations has caused the development of the bazaar to be side by side in many cities, directly affecting each other's physical and social formation and configuration, and the formation of its architecture [3]. In this context, in our study, together with the plan and space understanding of the Eski Demirciler and Kunduracılar Bazaars, which are among the historical bazaars in the center of Mardin, the architectural features and the current state of preservation have been the subject of research. In the study, it is aimed to determine the architectural setups, regional characteristics and places of the Eski Demirciler and Kunduracılar Bazaars, which have survived to the present day with historical continuity, in the city of Mardin.

Material and Method

Literature review and archive research method was used in the study. Documents taken from Mardin Metropolitan Municipality KUDEB unit were compiled and information about the location, previous period features, formation forms, architectural setups and regional characteristics of Demirciler and Shoemaker Bazaars were presented.

Results

The Eski Demirciler and Kunduracılar Bazaar, which is registered to the address of Mardin Province, Artuklu district Sar Mahallesi, 75th street, is in the title deed; Island 67, Plot:-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9 10 11 12 13 38 14 15 16 17 18-19-21-22-23-24-25:27-28- 29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36; Island:69, parcel: 1-2-3-4-6-7-71-70-69- 68-67-66-65-64-63-62-61-60-59-74-73-72- 58-57-78-77-76-75 - 56 - 55 - 54 - 53 - 52 - 51 - 50-49-48- 47-46; Island 97 is registered on parcels 18-19-20-21 and is located on the street south of 1st Street ([Figure 1](#)).

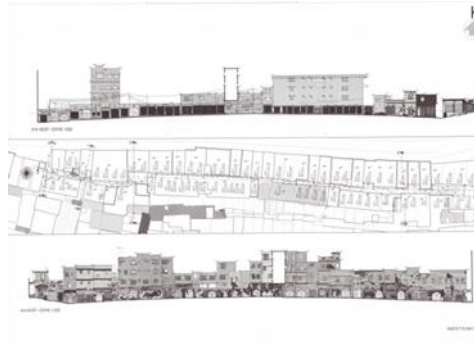


Figure 1. Location map of Eski Demirciler and Kunduracılar Bazaar

The Eski Demirciler Bazaar is accessed by a small staircase with an abbara at the western end of the Kasaplar Bazaar and the Eski Kuyumcular Bazaar. No inscriptions or archive records regarding the construction date of the bazaar were found. The bazaar, which is referred to as the Demirciler Bazaar in historical sources, is known as the workshop of iron-produced materials. It is thought that this bazaar, which is known as the Kılıççılar Bazaar in history, is here. Today, the bazaar is known as the Eski Demirciler bazaar and has lost its blacksmithing function to a large extent. Most of the shops are closed and a significant part of the open ones are used as offal shops. The bazaar is still active today.

Kunduracılar Bazaar starts at the eastern end of Eski Demirciler Bazaar and continues until the small staircase leading to 1st Street in the west. In the bazaar, which is referred to as the Kunduracılar Bazaar in historical sources, two shops that produce and sell shoes are left alone. Today, the bazaar is known as the Kunduracılar Bazaar, and shoemaking has lost its function to a large extent. Many of the shops are closed. We can say that the bazaar creates the street texture by positioning the shops adjacent to it over time. However, the south wing of the bazaar was completely demolished before 1950 and instead a five-storey reinforced concrete apartment building was built on the same plots. Even though the northern wing of the bazaar has traditional architectural details, multi-storey residences have been built above the shops.

Based on the traces from the building and similar period features, written and visual sources, two periods are seen in the building, the original and the current situation. In the first period when the bazaar carried its original texture, its shops were built as a single storey made of smooth cut and coarsely cut limestone, and on the north and south wings of the bazaar, they have pointed and semi-circular arch entrances facing each other, and the entrances have wooden door wings. It had a rectangular plan and a cross or barrel-vaulted plan from the inside and a flat roofed plan from the outside, and it continued to function in this order. Having the typical characteristics of Mardin Bazaars, which forms the starting point of a new bazaar after the end point of each bazaar, the Eski Demirciler Bazaar also turns into the Kunduracılar Bazaar at the west end, and the Eski Kuyumcular and Kasaplar Bazaar by making a fork at the east end; Kunduracılar Bazaar opens to 1st Street at the eastern end of the Eski Demirciler's west end. In this period, which constitutes the current state of the bazaar, the bazaar shops lost their original function in the process and started to have different commercial functions, and over time, changes in the bazaar shops and deterioration in the original texture began. For this reason, the bazaar has recently undergone restoration intervention.

The building was built in the masonry construction system as in the traditional Mardin architecture. The main construction material is limestone, which is processed from the quarries in the region. The main construction material of the elements such as the walls, cover and flooring of the building is the same stone. The sections between the inner and outer faces of the walls and the interior of the vaults are rubble fill. The outer walls are

made of rubble masonry and thick joints. However, the wall of the interior and the walls of the sections where the vaults are located are thin. Wooden materials are used in the door, window joinery and wings.

Contrary to the traditional Mardin housing structure, a simpler orientation is observed in the buildings where the economic activities of the city are located. The architectural features of the bazaar are simple and generally consist of multi-storey houses built over the shops. The apartments built on the north and south wings of the bazaar were built so close to each other that they could close the street crossing distance. The inner filling stones of the original shops of the bazaar, located just south of the 1st Street, are made of coarsely cut limestone, and the outer walls are made of locally cut and finely cut limestone. The shop entrances of the bazaar are designed as pointed and semicircular arches with wide openings. Due to the topographic structure of the bazaar, it slopes from north to south and extends in the east-west direction, forming a small area by breaking in the west of the street bazaar. At the end of this area, the street narrows again and opens to the 1st Street in a sloping way. Near the western end of the street, it passes to the Yemenciler and Kaçakçılar Bazaar with a small street. The street floor is paved with masculine basalt stone pavements. The shops of the open-top bazaar are next to each other, facing each other on the north and south sides of the street. The original shops have a rectangular plan with pointed or semi-circular arches, cross and barrel vaults from the inside, and flat roofs from the outside, and they face the street. Today, however, a significant part of the south-facing shops has been converted to reinforced concrete (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Floor Plan of Eski Demirciler and Kunduracılar Bazaar

It is seen that the shops in the north wing of the bazaar generally preserve the original texture. The construction of multi-storey houses on the shops along the north wing destroys the original texture and adversely affects the static condition of the shops due to the load on them. Many of the north wing shops are closed (Figure 3).

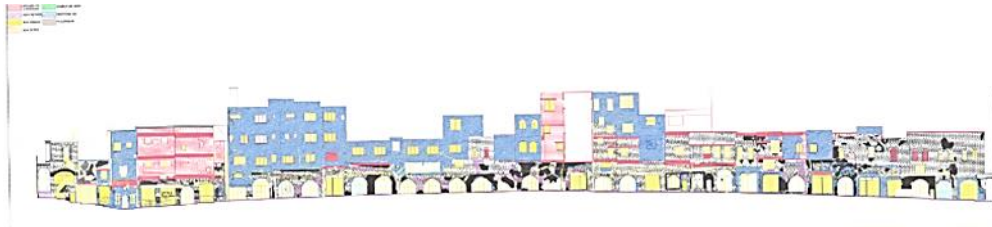


Figure 3. Eski Demirciler and Kunduracılar Bazaar North Wing View

The arcaded shop entrances in the south wing of the bazaar have been converted into reinforced concrete lintels and are single storey. While the street façade of the south wing preserves its structural originality, interventions contrary to the original texture are observed on the façade surface. The fact that the facade surfaces were plastered in places, the original entrances were damaged, and the original wooden doors were replaced by iron doors or shed shutters caused significant changes in the authenticity of the street facade of the bazaar. The southern wing of the Ayakkabıcılar Bazaar was completely demolished before 1950, and instead, reinforced concrete shops and a three-storey reinforced concrete apartment building were built on the same plots. In the west direction of the south wing, there are shops with the original texture but whose entrances have been converted into reinforced concrete lintels (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Eski Demirciler and Kunduracılar Bazaar South Wing View

Discussion

Documenting cultural heritage and transferring it to future generations is an important scientific study. In addition to the classical method, these are documented by using modern methods such as unmanned aerial vehicles, laser scanning and photogrammetric methods. Especially, 3D measurement techniques make very important contributions to the documentation of cultural heritage [6-12].

Conclusion

The phenomenon of globalization and modernity has affected the architecture of traditional markets and urban planning systems [13]. Mardin, the oldest city on the historical Silk Road, has faced many changes in its culture. Mardin Bazaars is an objective symbol combining traditional and semi-traditional architecture. Although retail activity has declined with the emergence of new markets, it is still a traditional local market for essential goods. Traffic problems and lack of access points to the city center significantly affect the number of visits. Some modern shopping centers have completely replaced traditional bazaars, while others have coexisted in the same conditions and atmosphere. In this period, which constitutes the current situation of the bazaar, the bazaar shops lost their original function in the process and started to have different commercial functions, and over time, changes in the bazaar shops and deterioration in the original texture began. Although the bazaar has recently undergone restoration, it is seen that the bazaar still has not regained its former density.

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