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Mardin historical Kuyumcular (Jewelers) Bazaar restoration evaluation

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Abstract

Cultural sustainability is also under threat due to reasons such as the neglect of historical bazaars, inability to meet the demands of modern life, unconsciousness and lack of a conservation plan. In order to ensure the sustainability of the bazaars, it is necessary to understand the meanings of historical buildings and the social and cultural periods in which they are located. For this reason, while these areas are made reusable, the function of the building, its location, and its social and physical integrity should be in order for the building to contribute to social life. The Kuyumcular Bazaar, which is the subject of the study, is surrounded by a touristic and historical area with many mosques, madrasas and tombs. In addition, the bazaar is a great example of historical sustainability with its functional continuity. In the light of these reasons, it is aimed to reveal the future threats at the point of ensuring the sustainability of the bazaar by examining the architectural features and current situation of the Kuyumcular Bazaar.

Introduction

Bazaar buildings are not only decorations of the urban fabric, but also living organisms. It not only promotes social communication, but also ensures the continuity of social interaction. The bazaars of a city do not only belong to the city with their physical appearance, but also have a decisive role in the creation of daily cultural life. Kuyumcular Bazaar is one of the most important bazaars of Mardin, which maintains its functional continuity. Jewelers' Bazaar is the most important bazaar in Mardin city that maintains its functionality. The reason for this situation is thought to be that it is located on the main alter of the city, which is called 1st Street, and it is a frequent destination for tourists and souvenirs are popular with tourists. However, the bazaar has faced certain threats over time. In this context, it is aimed to reveal the future threats at the point of ensuring the sustainability of the bazaar by examining the architectural features and current situation of the Kuyumcular Bazaar.

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 [1-7].

Material and Method

Jewelers' Bazaar, registered to Mardin Province, Artuklu district Teker Mahallesi, Sakın, 75. and 129. Ayışığı Street address, is in the title deed, Island: 375, parcel: 7-8-10-11-12-13-14-15; Island:69, plot 1:43- 44-45; Island: 376, parcel: 10-1k12-13-14-15 [1].

No inscriptions and archive records regarding the construction date of the bazaar were found. In the oral source research conducted with the tradesmen, it is mentioned that there is an operating cycle in which mostly silver and gold, mostly silver, operated by Armenian and Assyrian families, are processed and sold in these shops.

In the study, literature review, archive research and field research method were used. First, a literature review was conducted for Mardin Kuyumcular Bazaar. Afterwards, the photographs of the bazaar before and after the restoration taken from the Mardin Metropolitan Municipality KUDEB unit were compiled and compared. In addition, the observations about the restoration of the bazaar by examining the bazaar site with field research are included in the study.

Results

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 more than one floor above the shop. Located on the south street of the 1st Street, just below the Kasaplar Bazaar, the bazaar's interior filling stones 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 extending in the east-west direction are designed as pointed and semicircular arches with wide openings. As a result of the interventions made in the late period, a significant part of the shops, especially in the south wing, were converted to reinforced concrete. The bazaar shows a slope from north to south due to its topographic structure and extends in the east-west direction. The street floor is paved with masculine basalt stone pavements. The shops of the open-top bazaar are adjacent to each other, facing each other on the north and south sides of the street. The original shops have architectural features with pointed or semi-circular arches, rectangular plans, cross and barrel vaults from the inside, and flat roofs from the outside, and they face the street. However, today, some of the shops have been converted to reinforced concrete and there are reinforced concrete additions on the bazaar shops. The west side of the bazaar forks and south street 129 Moonlight; North street is divided into two as 75th Street. 75th street, which is a semi-circular arched cross-vaulted abbara, goes to the Old Blacksmiths' bazaar, and 129. Moonlight south street is to the hatmakers' bazaar; the eastern entrance leads to the Carpenters' Bazaar (Figure 1).

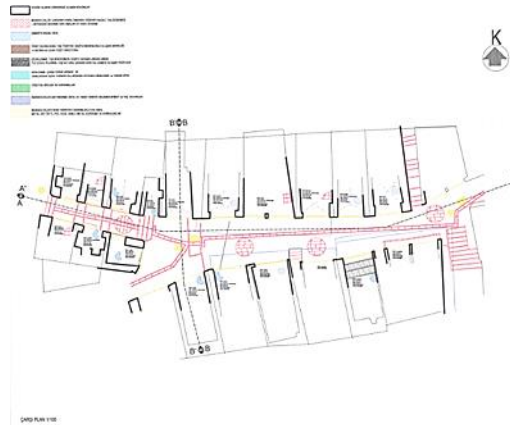


Figure 1. Kuyumcular Jewelers Bazaar floor plan [8]

Giving importance only to the economic use value of the Jewelers Bazaar and aiming to increase the economic benefits with the use of the bazaar caused the historical identity of the bazaar to remain in the background. The bazaar has recently undergone restoration intervention. In this context, in the silhouette of the bazaar, it is seen that the front facades of the bazaar are completely covered with additional glass construction and are equipped with identical signboards. It is seen that this situation weakens the relationship of the bazaar with the nearby buildings and causes the shops to be seen as a whole. In addition, the fact that all the shops are like copies of each other prevents the architectural features of the bazaar from being noticed. In this context, in order to keep the bazaar alive as a historical heritage, it is necessary to accept the bazaar as a physical, economic, cultural and cultural asset and to draw attention to the socializing aspects of the bazaar (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Post-Restoration Situation of the Kuyumcular Bazaar

Conclusion

Within the scope of the study, it is seen that the Kuyumcular Bazaar has not been able to preserve its original design and general architectural features on its facades until today. On the other hand, considering the spatial characteristics of the building, it is seen that the renovation or repair plans of the proposed functions are suitable for the features of the existing structure and the proposed function type in the building, but not for the historical context. This is related to the fact that the building is about to lose its original function today and showcases have been placed in stores to display some other functions. In this respect, efforts to renovate the Kuyumcular Bazaar and ensure its sustainability should be handled with greater depth and care. The contradictions between the attitude that sees tourism only as a source of income and the view that the historical heritage should be protected are also seen in the example of the Kuyumcular Bazaar. Although some efforts have been made for the renovation of the building recently, the restoration works are only aimed at improving the physical conditions of the building. However, the cultural and social sustainability of the building should also be considered with restoration projects. Another issue that should be handled carefully is the importance and value of the building in daily life and the preparation of plans for the sustainability of the bazaar. It is only possible for the Jewelers Bazaar not to turn into an ordinary shopping place with a management that emphasizes that it is the oldest and only jewelers' bazaar in Mardin. Before suggesting ways to make the structures reusable in the restoration projects of the bazaar, care should be taken not to change the original structure and features and not to change the exterior too much during the renovation/repair works of these structures. It is generally recommended that the original structural system of the building be preserved intact so that it reflects the characteristics of the period in which the building was built. For these reasons, it is expected that the repairs will be in accordance with the original structure and form of the structures and that the structures will continue their original functions as much as possible. For example, if repairs or restorations require the preservation of the original plan, profile and appearance of the building, important features, and the use of the building with additional units, it is highly recommended that only the structural system be preserved and the structure preserved [9-10].

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