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A RISING VALUES IN CONSERVATION OF URBAN TEXTURE: INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

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Abstract

Industrial sites and buildings are essential indicators of the socio-economic past of a country together with their mechanical equipment that performs the production and the structures in which they are located. Especially upon the rapid urbanization movements experienced in the aftermath of the Second World War, one was confronted with deep transformations which contributed to the disappearance of a large number of industrial assets known as industrial heritage. Urban growth mostly led to the disappearance of the physical representation of the former ways of life that were a crucial part of the sociocultural structure. Old industrial sites are of importance in that they are both the eyewitnesses of and the driving force for an important period of the history of humanity. Handing the industrial heritage down to future generations depends on preserving the original identities of old buildings, along with introducing them to the urban life with an appropriate function. The studies for the adaptive reuse of those old industrial buildings which lost their function through the decisions taken in an unplanned and unconscious fashion may cause further destruction. Therefore, the convenience of old buildings for the pattern and demands of the city is essential in the restructuring process. This study aims to reveal the importance of the industrial heritage sites and buildings – which have been important components of the city since ancient periods – for the physical and socio-economic development of the city.

Keywords: Industrial heritage, urban memory, deindustrialization, historical & cultural identities, Turkey

Introduction

Industrialization led to significant changes in the urban landscape. This new landscape provided the formation of the modern urban structure upon the intensification of industries and with the needs of the gradually increasing population. Upon the gradual development of post-Fordism in the developed economies in the aftermath of the Second World War, industrial heritage occurred as both a material by-product and a social structure (Harvey, 2002). It is seen that globalization, deindustrialization, industrial relocation and economic (re)conversion have had a profound impact on the traditional industrial sites throughout the whole world in the recent years in particular (Loures and Panagopoulos, 2007).

Recently, emphasis has been placed on the need to regard industrial heritage as a source for urban development and to acknowledge it as an integral part of the collective identity. The evaluation by Henri Lefebvre (2014, p. 182), who made innumerable important studies on space; by saying “*No space disappears completely or disappears without leaving any mark... every layer takes its own conditions beyond itself every period. Is it the effect of metaphorization? Yes, but it also includes a metaphoric impact, for superposed spaces still form a group (a whole).*” is important at this point. An industrial building or site should be regarded as an element of space the whole landscape of which forms through interaction over time, beyond being considered a building or a group of buildings.

With a similar approach, Xie (2015, p. 37) defines industrial heritage as a part of the urban palimpsest which encompasses factory buildings and the remains of the successive industrial periods likely to be found at different sites.

Baudelaire uses the concept of palimpsest as a metaphor and likens it to the memory (Terdiman, 1993, p. 109). The reading of the urban space as a palimpsest is a type of stratification state which occurs with the construction of what is new over the remains of what is old as some physical continuity. This stratification is a conceptual process as much as it is a physical process in terms of the urban life. Hence, a city's state of being a palimpsest cannot merely be explained via physical processes and the concepts deeply associated with the city such as time, memory, culture, identity, and experience should not be ruled out (Özkan and Özdemir, 2017). An evaluation should be made as a whole at the stage of the adaptive reuse of industrial heritage sites and buildings too and this collective structure of the building should be preserved.

The importance of old industrial buildings and sites for the urban life should not be disregarded. Furthermore, if the necessary interventions in these sites are not made, one may be confronted with problems which will negatively affect the urban life in economic and social terms over time. That's why it is essential to physically renovate these sites, to improve the infrastructure, and to adapt them to new sites (Nikolić, 2014). Urban transformation includes the decisions and practices which attribute a new identity and character to derelict and worn urban areas in sociocultural, economic, and physical terms (Tolga, 2006). Industrial sites make up a derelict and idle site withdrawn from the center as a result of the increased commodity value of city centers. It is important to turn these sites into useful elements for the environment and the socio-economic life by using one or more of the methods of renovation, rehabilitation, conservation, gentrification, and integration.

Industrial heritage sites are generally sites with a quite high commodity value at the city center. Therefore, they are generally demolished by disregarding their cultural and socio-economic significance for the city. The concept of “*industrial heritage*” was defined as “*a commodity that nobody can identify but that everybody is willing to sell*” by Hewison (1987, p. 9). It should be borne in mind that these sites are cultural elements with an important place in the urban memory.

“Rapidly growing regions and countries destroy – in a carefree manner – the historic spaces, houses, palaces, factories, and others that occurred over time. If one finds an advantage or a profit in this destruction, that work disappears. Later on, towards the end of the accelerated growth, these same countries discover the use of the space for cultural consumption, for ‘*culture*’ itself, for tourism and leisure, and for big promising industries. Upon this, these countries reconstruct with great costs what they have demolished. If the devastating initiatives have not been successful completely, one resorts to ‘*renovation*’ and then one imitates and copies and what has been destroyed in the frenzy of growth is adored.” (Lefebvre, 2014, p. 362).

It is quite important to understand the value of industrial sites before they are lost. Especially one of the most important reasons why industry-oriented urban areas have become depression regions is that these areas have lost their economic vitality as a consequence of deindustrialization. In this context, as also stressed by Roberts and Sykes (2000), urban transformation aims to use the revival of the local economy as a means to improve the areas undergoing physical, environmental, and social depression. The adaptive reuse of derelict sites will stimulate local trade, instigate the dynamics of economy with methods like creating new spatial formations, and form a driving force for physical regeneration.

Industrial Heritage Conservation Studies from the World and in Turkey

Old industrial sites are widely in the “*brownfield*” status due to various qualities of theirs. The term “*brownfield*” was first used in the literature in the 1970s to describe some sort of regeneration process of the available steel factories in the steel industry of the United States (Alpan, 2012). A clear definition of industrial heritage is required to understand it more clearly. A wide variety of definitions of the concept of industrial heritage have been made in the world. The definition in the “*NIZHNY TAGIL*” Charter, signed in 2003 and prepared by the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH), is one of the most accepted ones. As mentioned in the charter:

“Industrial heritage consists of the remains of industrial culture which are of historical, technological, social, architectural or scientific value. These remains consist of buildings and machinery, workshops, mills and factories, mines and sites for processing and refining, warehouses and stores, places where energy is generated, transmitted and used, transport and all its infrastructure, as well as places used for social activities related to industry such as housing, religious worship or education.” (Nizhny Tagil, 2003).

Especially the old industrial buildings which lost their functions and remained idle mostly due to the rapid technological developments at the city centers began to be mentioned in the literature as the cultural heritage required to be conserved as of the second half of the twentieth century. The site first inscribed on UNESCO’s World Cultural Heritage List of Industrial Monuments/Sites in 1978 was the Wieliczka Salt Mine in Poland. Industrial heritage includes the tangible and intangible sides of the human systems considered culturally important for the aesthetic, economic, historical, organizational, political, and social values (see Table 1). Timothy (2011, p. 369) adds that the range of industrial resources should go beyond production, the unearthing of natural resources, transportation, and transportation-related remains and sites.

Table 1: Types and Examples of Industrial Heritage Sites

Industrial Site	Examples
Production and Processing	Factories, assembly plants, sifting plants, mills, glass-blowing work, textile factories, leatherwork, breweries, wine works, mint, printing houses, pots and kilns, diamond workshops, and animal processing facilities
Mine Sources	Mines with open quarries, underground mines, quarries, and timber factory
Transportation and Transport	Railways, canals, aqueducts, bridges, shipyards, quays, depots, and transport museums
Engineering	Bridges, dams, and aviation facilities
Generation of Energy	Hydroelectric power plants, nuclear energy stations, dams, and windmills
Disposal Systems	Sewerage, storage areas, and burning facilities
Other Relevant Places	Harbor zones and industrial museums

Source: Timothy (2011, p. 369)

Reuse, accessibility and character have been the emphasized important issues in the conversion of the industrial heritage worldwide recently. Additionally, various design concepts and the design of old industrial buildings without being damaged and without losing their characters are on the agenda as sensitive points that attention should be paid to (Oeverman and Mieg, 2015). At this point, the studies to determine and conserve old industrial sites and buildings by the UNESCO are essential. Of 1,031 sites registered in the world heritage list as of 2015, 74 were determined as industrial heritage (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>).

Apart from the conservation and sustenance studies conducted by the UNESCO, it is seen that significant steps are taken within the conceptual, legal, corporate, and cultural frameworks worldwide so as to maintain the industrial heritage. The graduate programs opened at the universities particularly in England and the United States of America concerning the conservation of industrial heritage, the struggle by nongovernmental organizations, the institutions aiming to document and conserve the industrial heritage within the international framework such as the TICCIH (*The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage*), the ICOMOS (*the International Council on Monuments and Sites*), and the DOCOMOMO (*The International Committee for Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and Neighborhoods of the Modern Movement*), the conferences and seminars regularly organized by these institutions and the periodicals they issue, the expansion of the concept of industrial heritage from the building scale to the regional scale and the inclusion of policies on the conservation of such sites in the legal legislation are a few of these initiatives (Köksal, 2000).

In Turkey, however, industrial heritage has begun to be highlighted particularly for several decades. In 1982, the Charter for the Conservation of the Architectural Heritage of Turkey was issued by the TGNA with an approach that adopted the considerations addressed in such documents as the Convention on the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Convention on the Conservation of the Architectural Heritage of Europe, and the European Convention on the Protection of the

Archaeological Heritage and the international documents prepared by the ICOMOS (ICOMOS, 2013). Within the scope of this conservation charter, as also seen in Figure 2, the industrial site or building to be acknowledged as heritage is first of all expected to have some originality in terms of material, design, and cultural values in order for buildings or groups of buildings to be conserved and to qualify as a cultural property. This originality should not be damaged but should be preserved at the stages of the arrangements made and of reuse.

A building's possession of conservation value as an industrial site and its providing of information on the social, cultural, and economic lives as well as technology of the period of its foundation depend on the adaptive reuse of the historic building concerned and its inclusion in the present urban life.

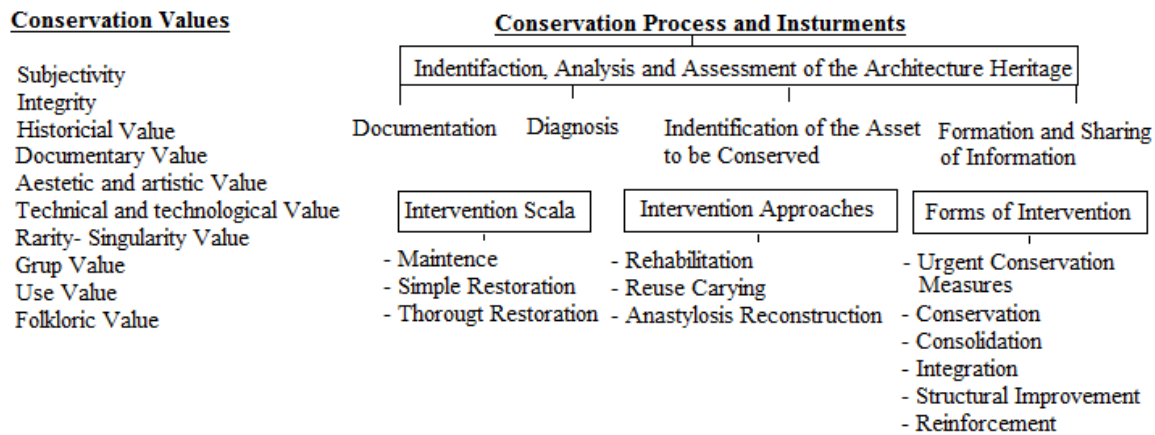


Figure 1. Architectural Heritage Conservation Approaches in Turkey

Source: The diagram was organized from the document 'ICOMOS, 2013'.

Whilst a noteworthy accumulation of knowledge has been achieved in Turkey regarding why industrial heritage should be conserved, the question of how to conserve it has been of secondary importance and the successful practices have failed to go beyond chief examples (Saner, 2012). Now that the place where industrial sites have developed most in Turkey is İstanbul, the largest number of and best examples in terms of industrial heritage are seen in and around İstanbul. Factories began to be founded in İstanbul as of the 1830-40s. The number of factories in İstanbul was 265 in the early twentieth century and only 43 of them have survived to date. Many industrial facilities in our country turned into economic, social, and physical depression areas abandoned for various economic, political, and social reasons in the 1990s. When the public industrial buildings of the Republican period are considered, it is seen that they also lost their function and intensity of use (Torlak, 2013). Thus, this gave rise to the concentration of the initiatives and projects performed in terms of the concepts of conversion of old industrial sites and conservation of the industrial heritage generally in İstanbul. In Table 2, it is intended to provide the industrial buildings and sites displaying different characteristics of use in various provinces of Turkey besides the main well-conserved industrial heritage buildings and sites in İstanbul.

Table 2. Examples of the adaptive reuse of the industrial heritage sites and buildings in Turkey

Industrial Heritage	Location	Year of Activity	State of Use
Silahtarağa Power Plant	Kağıthane, İstanbul	1913-1983	Museum and Art Gallery, Campus of Bilgi University.
Feshane	Eyüp, İstanbul	1839-1986	Fair, Meeting, Concert, Gala, and Exhibition Area
Cibali Tobacco Factory	Fatih, İstanbul	1884-1994	Cibali Campus of Kadir Has University
Darphane-i Amire (Imperial Mint)	Eminönü, İstanbul	1727-1967	Museum and Exhibition Area
Bomonti	Feriköy, İstanbul	1890-1991	Entertainment Center
Tophane-i Amire (Imperial Cannon Foundry)	Beyoğlu, İstanbul	15th-19th centuries	Mimar Sinan Faculty of Fine Arts
Lengerhane (Anchor House)	Hasköy, İstanbul	1861-1980	Rahmi Koç Museum and Exhibition Area
Kasimpaşa Salt Warehouse	Kasimpaşa, İstanbul	1849-1956	Advertising Agency
Merinos Textile Factory	Bursa	1983-2004	Museum and Culture Park
Merinos Power Plant	Bursa	1983-2004	Museum and Exhibition Area
Gasworks	İzmir	1862-1994	Restaurant-Café and Cultural Center
Train Station Building	Mudanya, Bursa	1849-1950	Hotel
SEKA Paper Factory	Kocaeli	1936-2005	Museum and Exhibition Area
Kurt Tile and Brick Factory	Eskişehir	1928-1986	Museum, Cafeteria, and Restaurant

Except for the examples of use of these chief industrial heritage buildings in Turkey, Haliç Shipyard, Beykoz Shoe Factory, Hasan Paşa Gasworks, Paşalimanı Flour Factory, Unkapanı Flour Factory, Cendere Water Pump Station, Kuzguncuk Gasworks and Nakkaştepe Gasworks, located in İstanbul and still being at the projecting stage, as well as Azmi National Flour Factory in Aksaray, which is in the process of conversion into a museum of science and industry, Zonguldak Mine Museum, which qualifies as the first mine museum in Turkey, and the section of industrial machinery that will form part of the museum designed as the largest archaeology museum of Turkey in Adana are studies which are expected to be completed and which are quite important in the process of conservation of the industrial heritage and its reintroduction to the city. Besides, the buildings which are not subject to any adaptive reuse process, which are idle, and which have a quite important place in terms of industrial heritage such as Küçükçekmece Match Factory, Kasimpaşa Flour Factory, Yedikule Gasworks, and Dolmabahçe Gasworks should also be restored, maintained, and introduced to the urban pattern without delay by providing the necessary sources.

In Lieu of Conclusion...

The studies carried out regarding the concept of industrial heritage, which began to become widespread in the 1990s, and particularly regarding the adaptive reuse of the early industrial sites in Europe also came to the fore for the old industrial sites in Turkey; however, it was failed to conduct a process which was as sound as desired since practices were carried out without adequately basing the justifications for conservation and the concept of industrial heritage in the adaptive reuse studies performed. As also seen at many old industrial sites subjected to adaptive reuse in the urban pattern, only the exterior structure of the facility has been preserved, whereas most of the production units of the building which are as important as the building itself in terms of production and labor memory have been dismantled from the facility and destroyed. Even though some essential industrial units are particularly conserved and exhibited in the important museums in İstanbul, the failure to exhibit them at their original sites has prevented the urban pattern from being preserved as a whole.

Conservation and adaptive reuse of the industrial heritage by adhering to the necessary legal procedures mostly become harder for these sites of the city with significant rents. In addition, as seen in many examples in our country, most of the time, the fact that an old industrial site was registered as a cultural property, legally conserved, and highlighted by the nongovernmental organizations could not prevent that building from being destroyed before undergoing restoration. Many examples in our country within this scope explicitly show us that the failure of the society to have the necessary awareness of these sites and the bureaucratic obstacles to the conservation of old industrial buildings are quite important. The level of consciousness we encounter when we examine the social media databases about these sites, which have become dilapidated in the city over time, is rather thought-provoking. At this point, a great duty falls to local governments and university institutions. Bonds should be formed among these institutions at the local and national levels and the bureaucratic obstacles to conservation and adaptive reuse should be fought in this way. The awareness-raising studies to be carried out regarding the fact that old industrial sites are not dilapidated and worthless buildings which have remained in the dark in the city are essential in terms of conservation. Although especially the number of local municipalities in this field has recently been very small, their initiation of carrying out more conscious studies is a promising development. Carried out to raise awareness of industrial heritage sites and to highlight these sites, the industrial heritage mapping project of İstanbul and the studies to illuminate (chimneys of Kurt Tile Factory in Eskişehir and İzmir Gasworks) and color (Alsancak Silo in İzmir) old industrial sites are essential initiatives in this sense. Making such studies widespread in all provinces will play a driving role in both archiving the industrial heritage in our country and materializing new projects.

On the other hand, the failure to conserve the old industrial sites and production elements that are located in the city and that have integrated with the society and lived with it for years by taking the necessary measures and remaining indifferent to their disappearance by demolishing or overlooking them cause cities to get more and more standardized and to lose their subjectivity with every passing day. Doubtlessly, comprehending the psychological, socio-economic and political parameters that lead to the loss of identity in cities and preserving the urban pattern and originality by raising awareness of them in the public opinion are quite difficult actions. Nevertheless, if no effort is put to this end, we will have to live in cities which are deprived of an identity and which go on growing with the semantic gaps they create.

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