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**Kadriye Burcu Yavuz  
Research Assistant  
Gazi University  
Turkey**

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Athens Institute for Education and Research  
8 Valaoritou Street, Kolonaki, 10671 Athens, Greece  
Tel: + 30 210 3634210 Fax: + 30 210 3634209 Email: [info@atiner.gr](mailto:info@atiner.gr)  
URL: [www.atiner.gr](http://www.atiner.gr)

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## **A Study on Ankara Citadel Area**

**Kadriye Burcu Yavuz**  
**Research Assistant**  
**Gazi University**  
**Turkey**

### **Abstract**

Citadel areas are the significant places which constitute a city's cultural and historical identity. Characteristics of a local community take form arising from citadel areas. These areas give a direction to the community's social characteristics as well as architectural and urban planning properties. Considering in the perspectives of architectural and urban planning issues, citadel areas are the initial places which start the development of urbanization process. This is why the environs of the historical citadel areas of the cities are called as historical city centers. Urban development continues starting from historical city centers. Accordingly, citadel areas of the historical city centers could be considered as significant landmarks in the sense that they generate the formation of urban dynamics.

In this paper, a study on Ankara citadel area has been performed. Ankara has a special value in the modern State of The Republic of Turkey due to being the capital city of the country. Thereby, Ankara citadel area is a distinctive place which shapes the structural development of Turkey's capital city, which it is also a situation that the structural development of Ankara as the capital city acts as a role model for the other cities of the modern Republic established after Ottoman Empire. Therefore, due to the fact that the special historical significance which Ankara and its citadel area have is the main reason for the selection of Ankara citadel area as a study area. In this regard, a specific public square on the citadel area and the structures existing on the square examined considering public square, structures and relationship between them separately. While examining the study area, the usage relationships of the public square and the structures were evaluated. Additionally, the indoor parts of the some structures were also examined. While doing this, the situations of the study area in the year 2010 and the year 2014 are compared considering the rehabilitation process implemented after the year 2010. The study includes the before and after visualizations of the structures existing on the study area. Therefore, main interpretations about the area (e.g. authenticity of the structures) will be made depending on these visualizations.

**Keywords:** Citadel, authenticity, Ankara.

## Introduction

It is known that the citadel area of a city has a deep meaning considering the growth of the city in the following years. It could be stated that as it is in every city in the world, the citadel area of Ankara has great importance considering the initial stimulus of the development of Ankara city, too because the city growth has taken its shape originated from this citadel area. Namely, origins of Ankara City, the capital of Turkey, begin with its citadel area.

Explaining briefly its history, Ankara citadel is the oldest area of Ankara City. In the period of Ottoman Empire, Ankara Citadel area was known as two divisions as inner citadel and outer citadel. Additionally, it was used for the purposes of protecting the precious assets of government, sheltering of the soldiers and holding the criminals in the dungeons as it was just like in other Ottoman citadel areas. The near environment of the citadel has become a residential area over time and in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the citadel and its near environment called as Yukarıyüz, between the area of Hacı Bayram Mosque and Karacabey Kulliyeye called as Aşağıyüz. In those times, Kaleiçi (could be translated into English as Innercitadel) was the most precious district of the Ankara City (Ergenç in Urak, p.47). After the period that Ankara has become the capital city, Kaleiçi and its environment has become a traditional but poor section of the city comparing with city's other residential areas. Within the Jansen plan which was approved in 1932, the citadel area has only become a subject of "Protocol Area" which enables prohibitive protection decisions. Within this decision, the proposal of "no intervention of the oldest city" implemented as "even for the purpose of restoration and conservation of the citadel area, interventions are not allowed" (Altındağ Belediye Başkanlığı in Urak, p.47).

With the Protocol Area decision, Ankara Citadel area, which has the greatest importance considering the historical and cultural aspects of the city, has been exposed to discrimination from the developed modern city in the context of socio-spatial segregation. Since it is nearby the city, Kaleiçi area increased its population but within this population, residential area has been deteriorated because of the squalor. Moreover, it faced with the problems like infrastructural problems and abandonment of the residential by its householders. Today, it could be observed that wide range of squatter houses exist on the area which creates those circumstances. On the other hand, new restoration projects are applied to the area to reveal the historical importance of the historic buildings existing in the area. However, it is not obvious to realize whether these conservation processes as restorations are sensitive to the historical origins of those buildings. While those buildings have a great value in the sense of the history of Ankara, it could be observed that the authentic value (the original structure) of those structures were lost. In fact, this study examines this situation by comparing some examples from the years of 2010 and 2014.

## Documentation

The area that is studied (Kaleiçi, Doyran Street) is relatively smooth considering topographical conditions comparing with the other sites of the citadel area. By function, it is a tourist-oriented small square that enables tourists to buy from nearby shops that sell carpets, jewellery and antiqua stuff etc. This small tourist-oriented square also includes a small café and a restaurant (Figure 1.).

**Figure 1.** *The Study Area(2010)*



**Figure 2.** *The Study Area (2014)*



The studied area itself creates a landmark since it is a public square. Within its shops that contain touristic attention, Ramazan Şemsettin Mosque also intensifies the landmark characteristics of this square. Additionally, in the middle of the square is separated by the steps in order to allow the pedestrian priority. So, cars are not allowed in this elevated section of the square. However, since there is a lack of car parking areas, car parking is seen around the elevated pedestrian area and near the houses as it can be seen from the photographs above (both 2010 in the Figure 1. and 2014 in the Figure 2.). This situation does not give an aesthetic view and disturbs the main vista of the

square. In 2004, it is observed that a signboard which is about the car parking prohibition has put to the area; however this rule is not followed.

Considering some infrastructural elements, the electric cables that can be easily seen in photographs 3 and 4 highly (in Figure 1.) bother the eyes. This appearance of those electric cables is not appropriate for the maintenance and sustainability of the cultural aspects of this square and should be immediately corrected in a proper way. This situation seems to be corrected in today (Figure 2.).

#### *The 1<sup>st</sup> Case*

**Figure 3.** Images from the 1<sup>st</sup> case (2010)



**Figure 4.** Images from the 1<sup>st</sup> Case (2014)





According to Ankara Kalesi Derneği which exists at the second floor of the structure, this historical building is also known as Sabuncuoğlu Konağı and has two storeys within a single storey later added part. As you can see in the Figure 3., the interior structures of the building are restored by confirming the authenticity of the materials and ornaments as it exists in the 3<sup>rd</sup> photograph above. The ceiling was restored in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> photographs. However, ceiling which is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> photograph is remained still as it was before without restoration also includes Bohemia flint for lighting purposes. Also, the floor is remained its original characteristic of material but renewed its varnish later.

This structure as a whole includes two different functions. The first one is that the second floor of the structure is used as Ankara Kalesi Derneği and the second one is that the ground floor is used for the residential purposes by a family. Additionally, this building has no specific garden. As it can be seen from the 9<sup>th</sup> photograph, the single storey part is seem to be added later. Paint of the building is seem to be renewed and under the paintings of the wall, there seems the original building material of the structure that gives this building an “authenticity and historicity”. This situation has been intensified by another restoration project as seen in the Figure 4, representing the year of 2014.

#### *The 2<sup>nd</sup> Case*



**Figure 6.** Images from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Case (2014)



As it is indicated in the Figure 5., the structure involves two storeys. Its painting is seemed to be renewed so many times and looks like clean. The ground floor of the structure is used for the commercial uses. A café which is named “Kale Nostalji” exists in order to provide the tourist attention to the

studied square and according to the café owner; the second floor is used for the residential purposes. Coming to the interior aspects of the café and café owner, inside of the café has subjected to the restoration process which caused a bit of disappearance of the structure's authenticity and historicity. Actually, considering within its whole design, this structure is not seemed to a “wholly authentic” manner. In the Figure 6., the structure has subject to a restoration process which has caused the loss of its specific façade color which separate the structure from the other buildings .

### *The 3<sup>rd</sup> Case*

**Figure 7.** *The Images from 3<sup>rd</sup> Case (2010)*



**Figure 8.** *The images from 3<sup>rd</sup> Case (2014)*



This structure above illustrated in the Figure 7 and Figure 8. has religious importance in this historical citadel area and called as Ramazan Şemsettin Mosque. It was built in 17<sup>th</sup> century. Additionally, its door as it is indicated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> photograph and lower stone pavement (indicated within the red arrow in the 1<sup>st</sup> photograph) is original, namely authentic. Moreover, its painting was renewed in the previous years. In addition to these, there exists an interesting drinking fountain (indicated within the red arrow in the 3<sup>rd</sup> photograph) yet it is not flowing shows its historicity aspects in its building materials. This drinking fountain is not seemed to be restored and this situation gives it more “authentic and historic manner” by its aesthetical appearance. Additionally, this mosque does not have any specific garden or an assembly for the community who come to the mosque for the religious purposes. In addition to these this mosque gives an identity to the square by creating aspects of being a “landmark”. In the Figure 8., the current situation of the mosque could be observed. The most



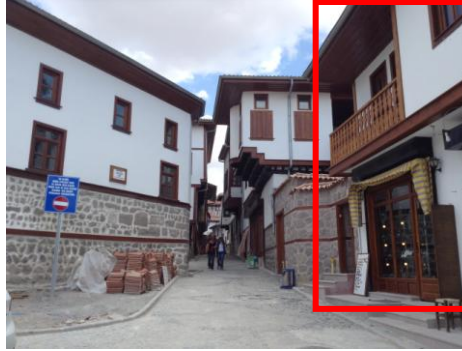
striking issue in the figure is that the mosque has lost its authentic value by losing its original scene.

*The 4<sup>th</sup> Case*

**Figure 9.** *Images from the 4<sup>th</sup> Case (2010)*



**Figure 10.** *Images from the 4<sup>th</sup> Case (2014)*



In this case, it is seen that this structure consists of two storeys (Figure 9.). The ground floor consists two commercial units one of them is not used and the other ones is used as a shop that contain touristic stuff. The second floor is not used for either commercial or residential purposes. This building seems have no authentic and historical value even if it was in the previous ten years. Because its surface is seemed to be deteriorated (and re-painted, the original material is not realized beneath it), its windows are not authentic representing the modern understanding of architectural aspects. It could be stated that it lost completely its authenticity and historicity. In the Figure 10., the current view of the structure is seen. Within the restoration process, it is observed that the structure was liken to the other structures in the studied square.

*The 5<sup>th</sup> Case*

**Figure 11.** Images from the 5<sup>th</sup> Case (2010)



**Figure 12.** Images from the 5<sup>th</sup> Case (2014)



In this case, the structure has two storeys (Figure 11.). The left-ground floor is used for commercial purposes and rest of them of the structure is used for the residential purposes by a family. This structure has considerable authentic and historical importance, considering the material used for its facades, its windows, doors and the ornaments and characteristics of its interior design. In the 1<sup>st</sup> photograph, the colonnade that is indicated with the arrow is seemed to be added later for the fortification yet depending on its authentic characteristics. According to the households of this structure, the balcony and this colonnade built later. In addition to these, the main door of the structure (in photograph 2) is later painted but its original characteristics are protected, so it's an authentic part. Additionally, coming to the interior parts of the building (photographs 3,4 and 5), the ornament and its indent part which the refrigerator put in this example constitute an authentic and historic environment. Additionally,

the steps showed by red arrow in the photograph 4 are also in its original characteristics but it is later varnished and painted. Moreover, window grate in the 5<sup>th</sup> photograph is also original, that is authentic and seems highly historical. In the inner part of the structure which a family lives in, the floor and the ceiling has undergone the repair but depending on its original characteristics considering the material and shape which are used for their construction. In Figure 12., the current situation of the structure is seen. As in the other examples, single type of restoration features have been implemented considering this structure, too. It could be observed that the left-top side of the façade has lost its originality.

*The 6<sup>th</sup> Case*

**Figure 13.** Images from the 6<sup>th</sup> Case (2010)



**Figure 14.** Images from the 6<sup>th</sup> Case (2014)



In this case, the building has two storeys (Figure 13.). The ground floor is used for commercial purposes and the second floor is used for residential purposes. The structure (shown in the 4<sup>th</sup> photograph and 5<sup>th</sup> photograph with

red arrow) has its own authenticity however it has poor material structure because of the lapse of time. Actually, this squalidity shows itself clearly when coming to the interior part of the structure apart from its characteristics of facades. Looking at the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> photographs, it can be easily seen that it still has its own authenticity and historicity. However, the squalidity disappears the authenticity of the structure. As it is shown in the 2<sup>nd</sup> photograph, the ceiling is original, but according to the householder it has undergone the process of painting and varnishing depending the protection of its original characteristics. Additionally, the window-like structure in the 3<sup>rd</sup> photograph (emphasized with red arrow) is also authentic comparing the modern values of today. However as it can be easily understood from the photographs, both the outside and inside of the structure is lack of care and this situation causes the building's deterioration. The Figure 14. shows the current situation of the structure. It seems similar to its previously restored situation.

#### *The 7th Case*

**Figure 15.** *Images from the 7th Case (2010)*



**Figure 16.** *Images from the 7th Case (2014)*



In this case again, the building consists of two storeys (Figure 8.). The first, ground floor is used for commercial purposes (photograph 4) again and the second floor is used as residential. This building is seemed to be lost its historicity and authenticity. Considering its building material, painting and the sphere of its windows etc., it gives no historical sensivity to the observer. As it can be seen from the 3<sup>rd</sup> photograph, in the shop, the ceiling was completely changed instead of protecting its authentic, original structure. Briefly, this structure seems totally lost its historical and authentical elements. Maybe its



window structure and painting aspects could be changed in order to provide the recoverance of its historical aspects. The structure does not contain any specific garden or courtyard. In the Figure 16, the current structure of the building is seen. It is understood that the current restoration process has fixes some deterioration on the façade.

*The 8<sup>th</sup> Case*

**Figure 17.** Images from the 8<sup>th</sup> Case (2010)



**Figure 18.** Images from the 8<sup>th</sup> Case (2014)



This two-storey house has no commercial activities like in the previous examples (Figure 17.). Instead it is now empty and on hire. Looking at the facades of this building, one can easily realize that it is highly authentic. Its doors and windows have been restored depending on its original characteristics. Its painting and polishment have been properly made in order to protect the structure's own aesthetical, historical and authentional aspects. Especially its colonnade shows the elements of its authenticity. Looking at the 2<sup>nd</sup> photograph, there is a small part has been laterly added is realized immediately. This part is used for the storage purposes. On the other hand, again in the 2<sup>nd</sup> photograph, it can be seen that there are steps. These steps have been laterly added to the structure. In the Figure 18., the current situation of the structure is seen. It is realized that the current restoration process have not had a significant effect in the change of the façade. Only some fixes and the change of color is observed on it.



*The 9<sup>th</sup> Case*

**Figure 19.** *Images from the 9<sup>th</sup> Case*



**Figure 20.** *Images from the 9<sup>th</sup> Case (2014)*



This case is actually really interesting case considering the authenticity and the historicity of a historical building (Figure 19.). This building is used as only restaurant but in the previous ten years, it was used for the residential purposes and it was known as the mansion of the Sipahioğlu family. Before the function of as a restaurant, this structure has undergone repairs and these repairments were over in 1993. Since 1993, this building has been used as a restaurant which is called as Washington Restaurant. According to the owner of the

restaurant, this building has stood for 300 or 400 years that is an actually very long period. Within the repairment movement that was over in 1993, the interior and the exterior structure of the building has been restored depending on its original structure, its own authenticity. As you can see from the all photographs that the restoration process has made the building has its own authenticity. Within its wall paint, windows and doors, it gives for an observer to full sense of history and authenticity. Especially in its interior design which is represented by the photographs of 4,5 and 6, one can understand that its interior originality has been protected in addition to its external facades. In the Figure 20., the current situation of the structure is illustrated. As it could be seen in the Figure 20., new restoration process has not been implemented to this structure.

#### *The 10<sup>th</sup> Case*

**Figure 21.** Images from the 10<sup>th</sup> Case (2010)



**Figure 22.** Images from the 10<sup>th</sup> Case (2014)

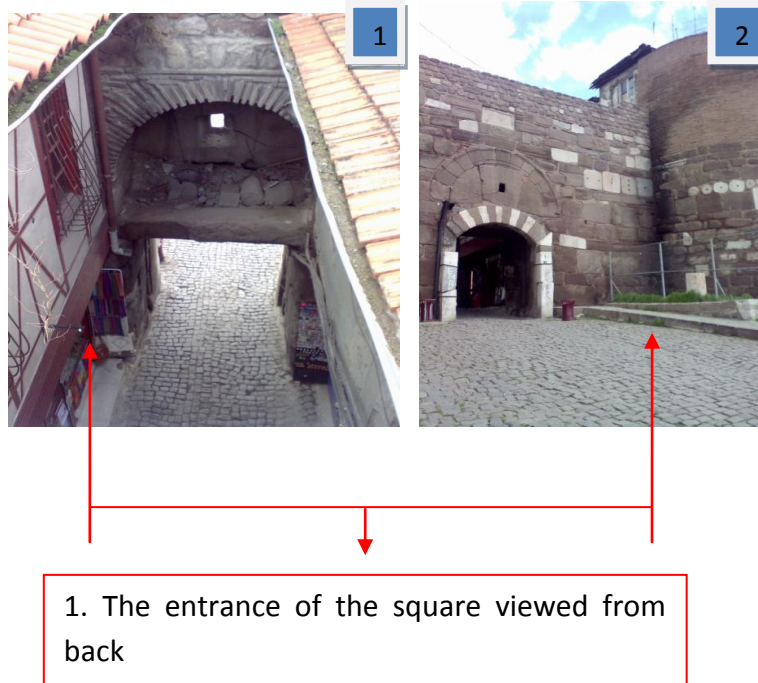


This building is two-storey building and this is another case which could be find authenticity and historicity in the sense of building's materials (Figure 21.). At first glance, this building gives an observer to a kind of authentic and historic sensitivity. The observer can feel inside when he looks at this building. As it could be understood from the photographs that the building has experienced a restoration process. It is seemed that the restoration process has been protected the building's original structure, its authenticity. In the 1<sup>st</sup>

photograph, the colonnade of the building is well protected by the restoration process and as it can be easily seen from the 2<sup>nd</sup> photograph that the door outside of the building is also in its own authenticity means that the original characteristics of the door (materials used in its construction ) has been maintained properly. In addition to these this building was used by Türkiye Foto Muhabirleri Derneği. However, in the previous years, this building has transferred to the municipality and waiting for the operation. In the Figure 22., the current situation of the structure is seen. It is seen from the figure that the current restoration process has contributed to some fixes on the façade.

## Conclusion

**Figure 23.** *The Entrances to the Study Area from Different Perspectives (front and back)*



As it could be seen from the photographs above indicated in Figure 23., the entrances of the square is also gives an identity of history. In this square, people could feel themselves in a historical and well-defined space. The entrance clearly shows its authenticity in material and design at first glance. Thus, it could be stated that even the entrance of this public square and the square itself (within its buildings) show its authenticity in the period of its “historical stratigraphy”. As a whole the square gives an understanding of “the living in the past” because of its historical anticipation. Additionally, many of its buildings have been restored and their historical values have been maintained to today. Within this maintenance of the value of these buildings, they are also evaluated considering the economical and social aspects of the

public who live around the Ankara Citadel area. This situation is provided by the shops that exist on the ground floor of the buildings and contributes to the local people by providing financial support coming from the tourists.

In conclusion, the studied area could be considered as a “clearly defined area” which represents the historical aspects of the Ankara Citadel area. Because it shows the general characteristics of how a “public square” should be.

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