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Examination of the changes of Kilis Cumhuriyet Square in the historical process

Kilis Cumhuriyet Meydanı'nın tarihsel süreç içerisindeki değişimlerin irdelenmesi

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The objective of this study was to reveal the changes at Cumhuriyet square that has occurred over the years. While determining the existing qualities and characteristics of the work square, it was aimed to maintain its continuity within a sustainable conservation approach.

Material and Methods: The formation of Cumhuriyet Square, the changes that has occurred over the years, was examined through observations and analyzes achieved on existing maps. The study, which also includes the final application project, reveals the current state of the square after the implementation.

Results: At the end of the study, it has been determined that the arrangement and material selections do not reflect the identity of the city and the existing green space has decreased. Therefore, it is important to prevent from incorrect applications.

Conclusion: In order to continue their contribution of the squares to the city, preserving them and transferring to the future generations, qualified regulations that meet the needs of the users should be developed.

ÖZ

Amaç: Kilis kentinde yer alan Cumhuriyet Meydanı'nın gelişimini irdleyen bu çalışma, yıllar içerisinde meydana gelen değişimi ortaya koymayı amaçlamaktadır. Çalışma meydanın mevcut nitelik ve özelliklerini belirlerken, sürdürülebilir bir koruma anlayışı içerisinde devamlılığını sürdürmeyi de amaçlamaktadır.

Materyal ve Yöntem: Cumhuriyet Meydanı'nın oluşumu, yıllar içinde meydana gelen değişim gözlem ve mevcut haritalar üzerinden yapılan analizler aracılığıyla incelenmektedir. Son uygulama projesini de içeren çalışma, uygulama sonrasında meydanın mevcut durumunu ortaya koymaktadır.

Araştırma Bulguları: Çalışma sonunda yapılan düzenleme ve malzeme seçimlerinin kent kimliğini yansıtmadığı ve mevcut yeşil alan varlığının azaldığı tespit edilmiştir. Bu nedenle yanlış uygulamaların önüne geçilmesi açısından önemlidir.

Sonuç: Meydanların kente olan katkısını devam ettirebilmesi ve gelecek nesillere aktararak korunabilmesi için kullanıcıların ihtiyaçlarını karşılayan nitelikli düzenlemelere yer vermelidir.

Keywords: Square, Landscape Design, Kilis, Cumhuriyet Square, Historical texture

Anahtar sözcükler: Meydan, Peyzaj

Tasarım, Kilis, Cumhuriyet Meydanı, Tarihi Doku

INTRODUCTION

Squares play an important role in increasing the quality of urban life. The solid construction of the squares and their central location often make them the center of events and social activities in the cities. With the effect of various cultural and urban layers in different periods, a texture consisting of streets and buildings are formed. For centuries, this texture formed the character of the city, and now express the quality of urban culture (Cohen, 1999). The first example of squares is the Agora in ancient Greek cities. These areas are in the form of a wide road and are expressed as areas where people gather (Öksüz, 2004). It is also probably the most important way of design a good environment for public and commercial buildings (Moughtin, 2003).

Marc Auge point out four characteristic features of squares and described them as being historical, interactive with human identity, and symbolic meanings (Levy, 2012). Lynch (1960), expresses the square as one of the elements of the image of the city, and defines it as nodes that allow people to gather and disperse. Schulz (1971), on the other hand, stated that the square, which he defines as the most prominent and striking element of the urban structure, is easy to visualize in the mind because of its clearly defined boundaries and represents a target for movement (İnceoğlu & Aytuğ, 2009). describes the square as probably the first way he explored using urban space. Krier (1979) also stated that the houses are grouped around an open area, he explains the reason for this arrangement as keeping the control of the interior space at the highest level.

The square is the most important heritage structure of the European city from the past to the present (Levy, 2012). When the situation is examined in terms of our country, it is seen that large mosques were in the center of settlements during the Ottoman Empire. The courtyard surrounding the mosque has an important function as a gathering place for the people (Öztan 1998; Önder & Aklanoğlu, 2002). This is the general characteristic of Islamic cities, and it provides the formation of cities by the coming together of neighborhoods with functional and social integrity (Bayartan, 2012). When evaluated in this sense, there is no square that will provide a functional distribution in the city center. The reason for this situation can be explained as the fact that people often come together and communicate with each other in mosques and economic centers (Tekin, 2000).

While urban areas occupy less area than rural areas, their population densities are high. For this reason, it is very difficult to come across natural landscape features in urban space. Today's cities contain various living needs together in a narrow area (Altunkasa, 1998).

In this study, spatial analysis of Kilis Cumhuriyet Square, which has an important place in the formation of the city of Kilis, has been carried out and the changes that occurred over the years was examined. While determining the existing qualities and characteristics of the work square, it was also aimed to maintain its continuity within a sustainable conservation approach.

MATERIAL and METHOD

Material

Kilis is located in the southwestern part of the Gaziantep Plateau, which lies between the Hatay-Maraş trough and the Euphrates River, in the Southeastern Anatolia Region. Located on the Türkiye-Syria border, the city has an area of 1,521 km² and an average elevation of 680 m. The city, which has been used as a settlement by many civilizations since the times when human beings started to settle and cultivate the land, also hosted various beliefs and religions. The city is located in the northwest of the Fertile Crescent, which is the homeland of wheat, barley, olives and grapes, some of the oldest agricultural products on earth. For this reason, it has been a rich settlement center with its vineyards, olive groves and granary plains throughout history. B.C. In 1700, Kilis became one of the important cities of the Hittite State (Anonymous, 2021a).

Kilis Cumhuriyet Square is the main material of this study area and has a total area of 2304 m². As seen on the map, there is Cumhuriyet Street in the north of the square, Canpolat Paşa (Tekke) Mosque in the south, Mevlevihane in the east, and the Governor's Office in the west (Figure 1). In the middle of the area, there is the statue of Atatürk. Besides being the center of commercial activities, the square hosts festivities, concerts and festivals.

The fact that the city has been the center of urban settlement and construction since its foundation, has an important role in shaping the urban identity and has many historical buildings around it has been effective in the selection of the study area.

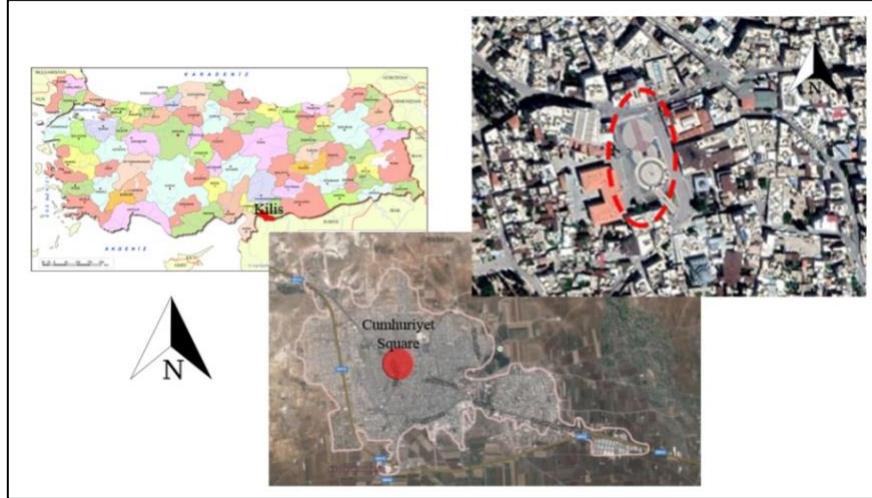


Figure 1. Location of the workspace.

Şekil 1. Çalışma alanının konumu.

Method

The study has been carried out in 2021 with the source researches, analysis of period maps and observations of Kilis Cumhuriyet Square and its surroundings since its formation. In this respect, the formation of the square, supported by the visuals of the historical texture, has been documented by revealing its developmental stages.

Method of study:

1. Literature review and data collection related to the field; Plan, project, picture, satellite view, Conservation Plan, maps and photographs showing the situation of certain periods, on-site examination and analysis, foreign and domestic publications and scientific publications were examined with the study area.

2- In the second stage of the study, in order to determine the historical development of Cumhuriyet Square, the city was divided into 3 periods and the maps showing the changes were generated. Since the 1600s, the relationship of the square with its surroundings was determined by creating a map of the whole city based on the written data and photographs from the past. The phases that the square went through from this period were examined with the information and visual documents. 1/1000 scaled zoning plan and Square Project were obtained from Kilis Municipality and data were collected. The area was transformed into maps in terms of landscape features such as reinforcement, green area presence, flooring, before and after the application. A separate evaluation was made for the period before and after 2013 and the current situation after the implementation project was also examined. The study of Doğan et al. (2018) was used at this stage.

3- In the last stage, an evaluation was made regarding the current use of the square and the landscape features with the studies carried out on the subject of the study and the observations made on site. Tırnakçı,2020 is one of the examples with reviews.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

Development of the city and cumhuriyet square

The first texture of the city was shaped as the Old Hamam-Pirlioğlu Mosque-Cüneyne Mosque-Odun Market complex and the Meşetlik District was shaped as the core of the urban fabric. The Old Hamam is a structure dating from the Mamluk State, and the old texture of the city was formed around this Hamam (Figure 2). While the population is expressed as 1300 in the documents of the year 1519, the name of the Old Hamam and its affiliated shops is mentioned. In this sense, the Mosque-Hamam-Bazaar complex can be associated with the beginning of urbanization. Kilis, which entered the city process during the Turkish-Kölemen period, developed rapidly after the Mercidabık War and officially became a city in 1590 (Çolakoğlu, 1995).

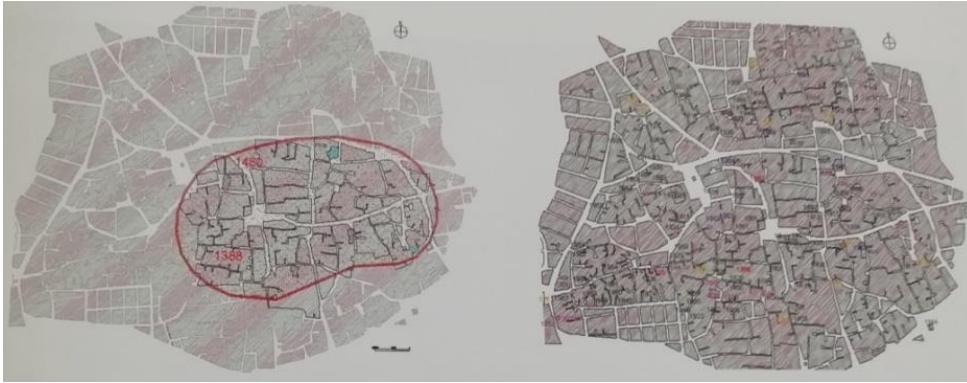


Figure 2. Mamluk (Left) and Ottoman Period (Right) (Bebekoğlu & Tektuna,2012).

Şekil 2.Memluk (Solda) ve Osmanlı Dönemi (Sağda) (Bebekoğlu & Tektuna,2012).

In the document dated 1590, “Kilis used to be a small place where Friday prayers were held somewhere. For this reason, it was written as “kariye” (village-city) in the old notebook. While Canpolat Bey was saving Kilis, he had a mosque (Canpolat or Tekye), Tekye, three Turkish Hamams, 2 Caravanserai and Grand Bazaar, and two Bazaars built here (Kilis Valiliği, 1998).

According to the yearbook dated 1770, there are 5439 residences in the city, of which 5,195 are Muslims, 194 are Christians, and 50 are Jews. There are 32 Mosques, 2 Masjids, 11 Madrasahs, 5 Churches, 5 Turkish Hamams, 670 Shops, 1 Bedesten, 5 Inns (Konyalı, 1968).

The most prominent center of the city is the Cumhuriyet Square today, and it is understood that it was the square where the market was established during the Ottoman period. In the area surrounding the square, there were eight inns, the old bey's palace (the place of the Government Mansion), the Tekke mosque and madrasah, the Mevlevi lodge, and the pasha Hamam and bazaars to the east. The most important entrance of the city was in the direction of Aleppo, the center to which it was connected, and the caravans entering the city were proceeding to the square where the market would be established after unloading their cargo at the inns on the road. From here, they extended to other inns and bazaars in the city and were connected to the second largest center, the covered bazaar.

Kuban states that 1965 cities have two types of commercial action centers as fixed goods bazaar and market place. The first group was defined as inns, covered and open bazaars where crafts products were traded and stored, and the second group was expressed as market places where food items were sold. The

location of the bazaar was determined depending on the historical development of the city, and food markets were established around mosques, especially in small cities. He explained the reason for this situation as the desire of those who come to the city to sell food to perform the noon prayer in a large mosque and the thought that the crowd that will gather around the mosque will increase the shopping. Thus, the Anatolian-Turkish city, which has eight hundred years of Muslim history, expresses that it is a good example for the harmony that can be established between the natural environment and human structure.

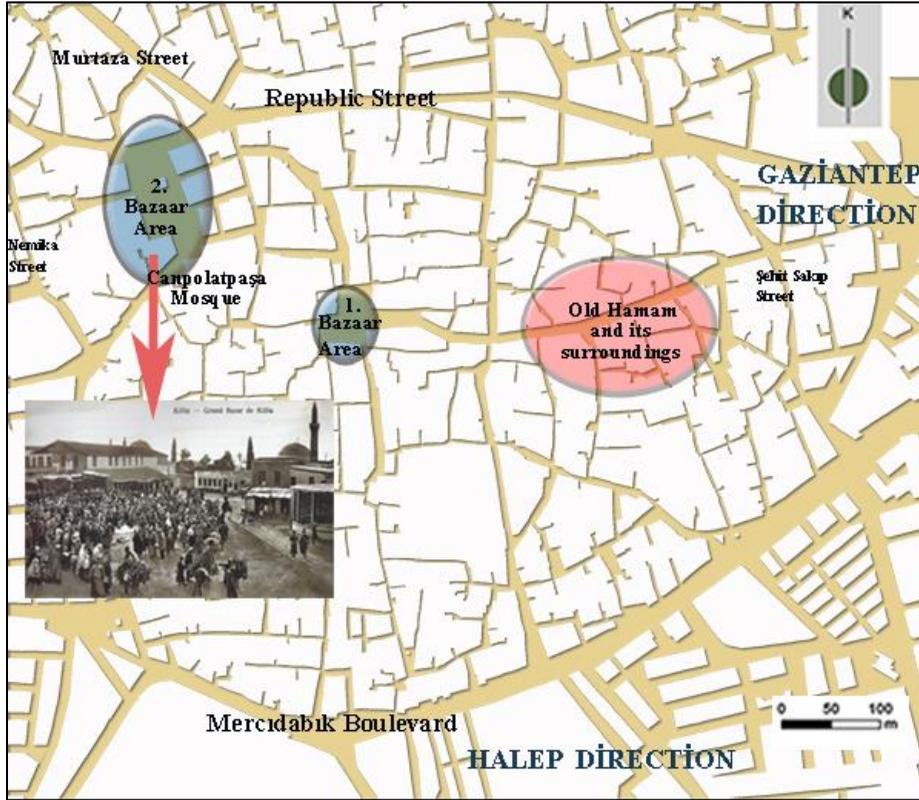


Figure 3. Bazaar Areas and Cumhuriyet Square.

Şekil 3. Pazar Noktaları ve Cumhuriyet Meydanı.

The two squares used today were also the focal points of the city during the Ottoman period. The square known as Cumhuriyet Square (2nd bazaar point) and today's morning market (1st bazaar point) was located at the Bedesten, which was then a covered market (Figure 3). It is seen that the city center and the density do not accumulate in a single point in the city, there are many centers of various sizes and their areas of influence intersect. The city, dominated by traditional stone architecture, has an organic texture and consists of narrow streets, stone walls, houses with inward courtyards and monumental buildings. Squares and folds are formed at the intersections of the streets, and at the same time, the bazaars are reached from the streets and met in the city square (Bebekoğlu & Tektuna, 2012). The market and bazaar, which is the heart of commercial life in Kilis, developed around a mosque (Tekye/Canbolad Pasha Mosque), which is the central place. In addition to meeting their various needs in these areas, people were also aware of events related to the society through local administrators (İncili & Akdemir, 2016). The east-west oriented Cumhuriyet Avenue connects with Gaziantep, and the Murtaza Avenue, which joins this street from the northwest, connects İslahiye with the business and trade area. For this reason, it can be said that places with high commercial activity develop under the control of transportation links with the historical core and the environment (Kesici, 1994).

The area around the Cumhuriyet Square is the most prominent part of the city as the administrative function area. Administrative institutions such as the courthouse, municipality, military branch, public education center, government building, workplaces related to official business, various professional organizations and some of the banks all gathered around this square. The square, where official holidays and celebrations were held for a long time, was a place where the administrative function was centralized (Kesici, 1994) (Figures 4 and 5).



Figure 4. Cumhuriyet Square (Kilis Cultural Association Publications,2016).

Şekil 4. Cumhuriyet Meydanı (Kilis Kültür Demeği Yayınları,2016).



Figure 5. View of the Cumhuriyet Square from the north (Bebekoğlu & Tektuna,2008).

Şekil 5. Cumhuriyet Meydanı'nın kuzeyden görünüşü (Bebekoğlu & Tektuna,2008).

While Kilis was a town with 6 neighborhoods at the end of the 16th century, it became a city with 32 neighborhoods at the end of the 19th century. While the population of the city has increased more than 3 times since this date, the number of neighborhoods has increased by 6 to 34 (Savaşcıoğlu, 2008).

At the beginning of the Republic, Kilis was an accident center of Gaziantep province. The borders of Kilis city at that time were formed by Cumhuriyet street in the north, Mercedabık Boulevard in the south, Şehitsakıp street in the east and Nemika street in the west, and the city within these borders maintained an elliptical shape close to a circle on the space (Figure 6). Its diameter is 1250 m. This circular city, which was about 1.5 km long, covered an area of approximately 1.5 km². In this historical texture, a rather cramped structure and the abundance of narrow and dead-end streets draw attention (Tuncel, 2002). The population of the city was 75, 195 while it was was 55,956 in 1927.

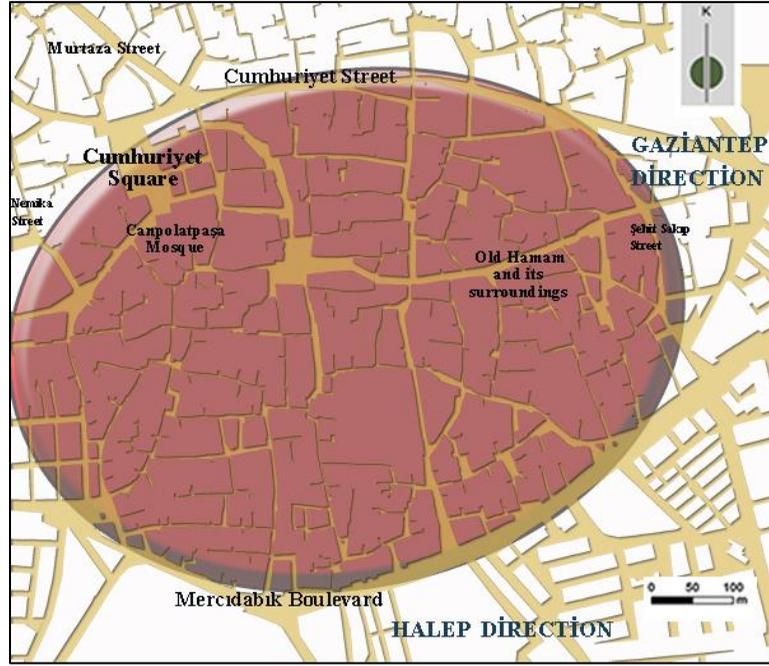


Figure 6. Republican period city limits.

Şekil 6. Cumhuriyet dönemi kent sınırları

From the 1940s to the 1960s, demolition continued in traditional buildings, and with the development plans prepared at the end of the 1960s, some roads were expanded and reinforced concrete structures were started to be built in adjacent order. Especially after the 1970s, major disconnections started in the traditional texture and continued until today. The houses ranging from 3 to 5 floors and surrounded by concrete apartments on the outside have begun to be abandoned because their courtyards have become observable (Bebekoğlu & Tektuna, 2008). Especially in the 1960s, when the Cumhuriyet Square was first organized, the population of the city was around 10-15 thousand (Çolakoğlu, 1998). The city started to develop in east-west and north directions with the increasing population and settlement areas overflowing from the installation center. Cumhuriyet Square was also exposed to different practices and changed in certain periods (Figure 7).

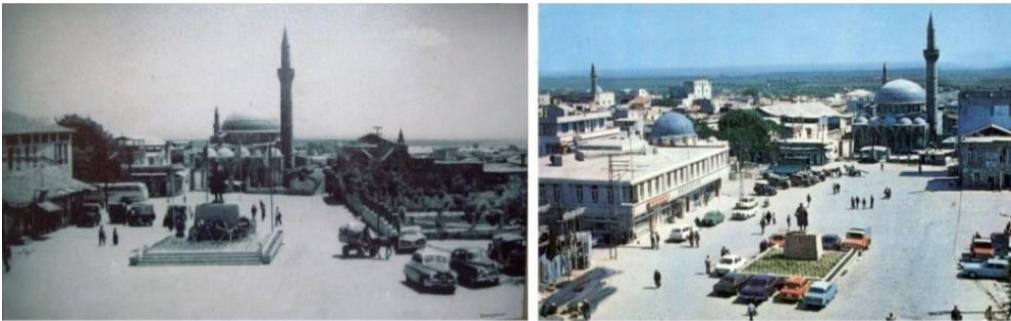


Figure 7. Cumhuriyet Square in 1959 and 1970 (Anonymous, 2021b and 2021c).

Şekil 7. 1959 ve 1970 yılında Cumhuriyet Meydanı (Anonymous, 2021b ve 2021c).

Declared as an urban site in 1999, the city was reorganized in 2004 with a conservation plan. In 2011, changes were made in the square (Figures 8 and 9).

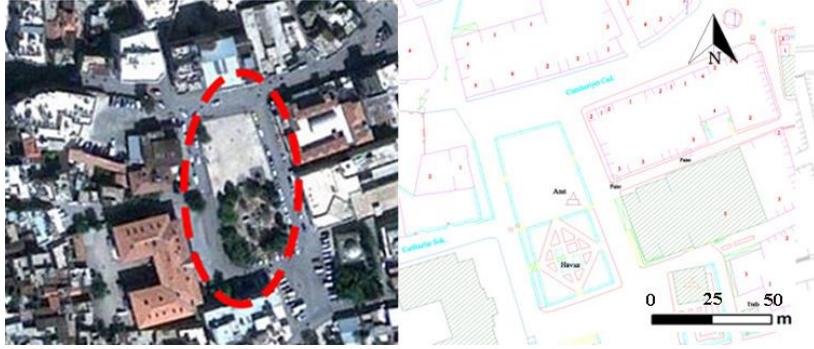


Figure 8. Cumhuriyet Square current situation in 2011 (2011 dated Google Earth map).

Şekil 8. 2011 yılı Cumhuriyet Meydanı mevcut durum (2011 tarihli Google Earth haritası).



Figure 9. Cumhuriyet Square View of 2011 (Anonymous, 2021d, 2021e and 2021f).

Şekil 9. 2011 yılı Cumhuriyet Meydanı Görünüşü. (Anonymous, 2021d, 2021e ve2021f).

Kilis cumhuriyet square project

Kilis Municipality decided to implement a project developed by Iller Bank 10th Regional Directorate in 2011 and it was completed in 2013 (Figure 10).

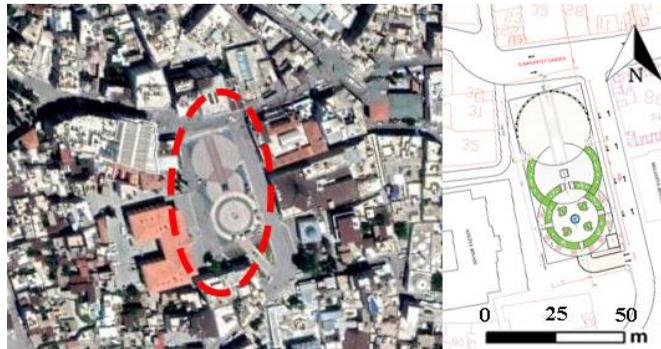


Figure 10. Cumhuriyet Square today's situation and project (2021 dated Google Earth map).

Şekil 10. Cumhuriyet Meydanı günümüzdeki durumu ve projesi (2021 dated Google Earth map).

The plan, section, view and details of the area with 2304 m² floor can be seen in Figures 11-15. The area with a parking area of 7058 m² in total, of which 3 floors are in the basement, has been arranged as 9.362 m² in total including the ground.

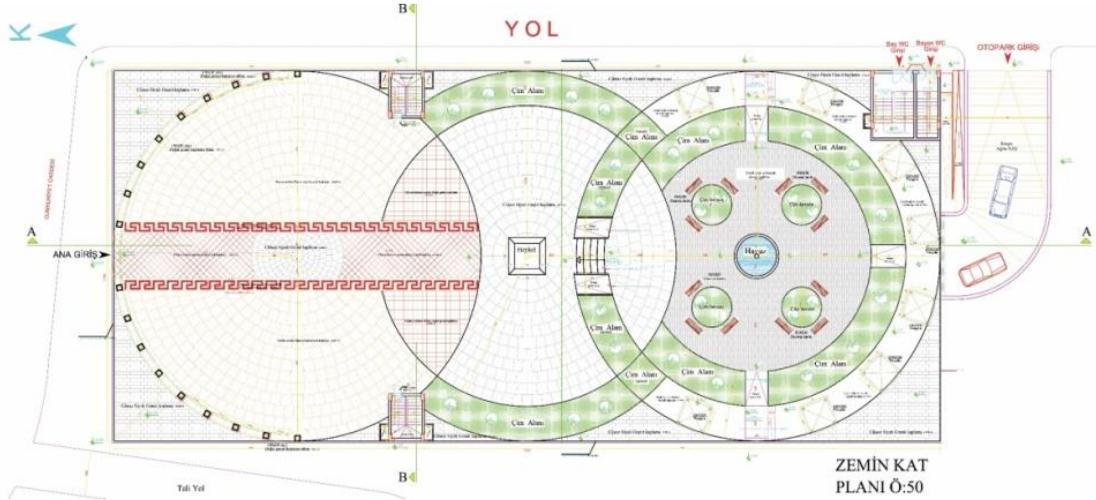


Figure 11. Cumhuriyet Square Project (Municipality of Kilis,2012).

Şekil 11. Cumhuriyet Meydanı Projesi (Kilis Belediyesi,2012).

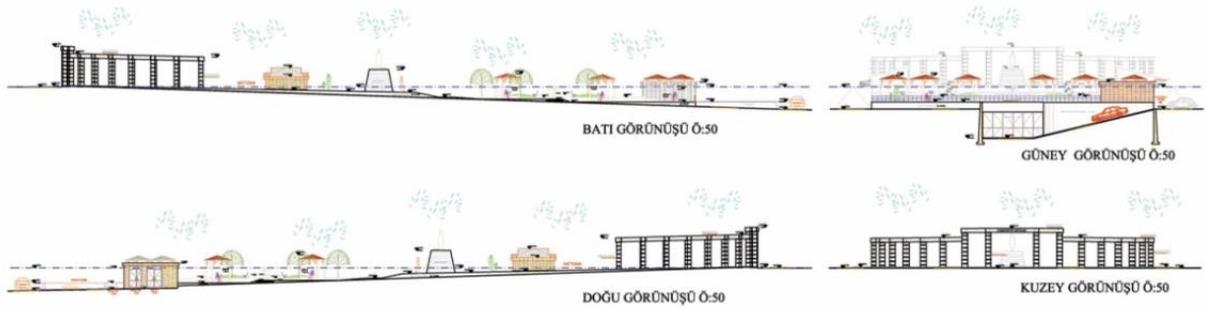


Figure 12. Cumhuriyet Square Project views (Municipality of Kilis,2012)

Şekil 12. Cumhuriyet Meydanı Projesi görünüşleri (Kilis Belediyesi,2012).

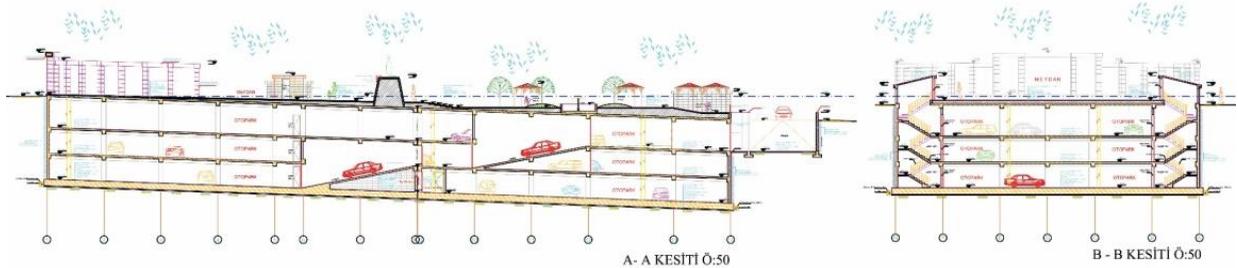


Figure 13. Cumhuriyet Square Project sections (Municipality of Kilis,2012).

Şekil 13. Şekil 13. Cumhuriyet Meydanı Projesi kesitleri.



Figure 14. Condition of the square after the 2013 implementation.

Şekil 14. 2013 yılı uygulama sonrası meydanın durumu.

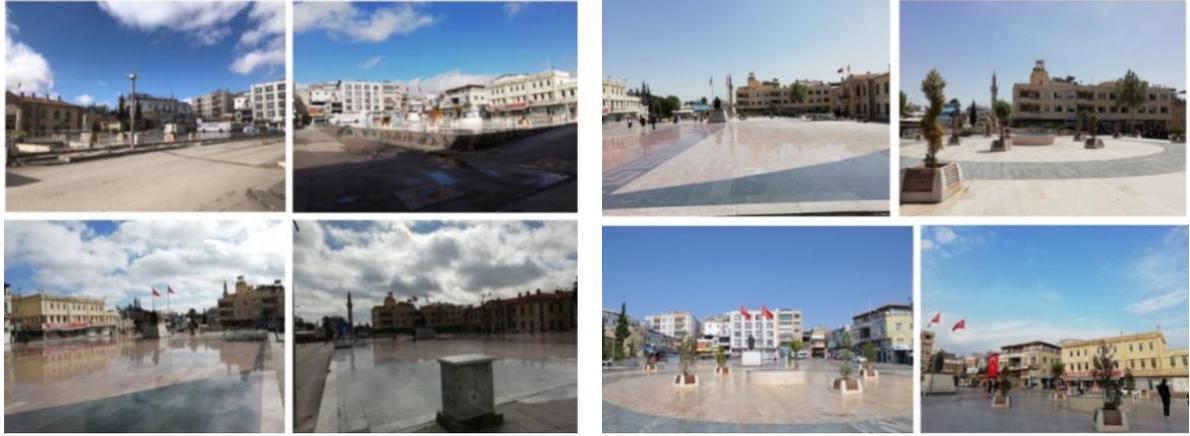


Figure 15. Current state.

Şekil 15. Mevcut durum.

Structural landscape features/Vegetation landscape/reinforcements

Use of reinforcement elements: In the southern part of the area, there are flag poles together with the Atatürk statue. There are also lighting and electricity poles in the area where official ceremonies are held. Since there are no seating units in the area, it cannot meet the sitting and resting needs of the users. Since the city was founded, it has been a center of commercial activity, causing heavy vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Use of the water element: The pool in the area is placed in the middle of the plant boxes. When evaluated holistically with the area, it can be seen that the effect is not very big.

The use of the lighting element: The lightings used when the area was first arranged have been changed over time. It can be thought that the square to the east of the Governor's Office was changed with adequate lighting and security considerations.

Plant use: The plant species in the area appear as evergreen species. There are Thuja orientalis "Pyramidalis" (Pyramid thuja), Cycas revoluta (Sago palm), Ligustrum vulgare (Apricot), Yucca massengena (chandelier) Cupressus arizonica "Glauca" (Blue arizona cypress) species in the plant boxes located in the south of the ceremony area. According to the project, a green area of 395.65 m2 was planned, but the application was changed.

Flooring: By using different color tones of flooring, it is tried to provide a mobility on the floor. However, the chosen material causes excessive reflection, especially in the city, which reaches high temperature values in summer. In winter, the slippery ground due to rain or snow poses a risk. In this context, it is not possible to say that the flooring material is very compatible with the usage area (Figure 16).



Figure 16. Reinforcements and details.

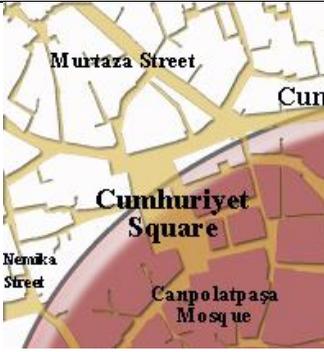
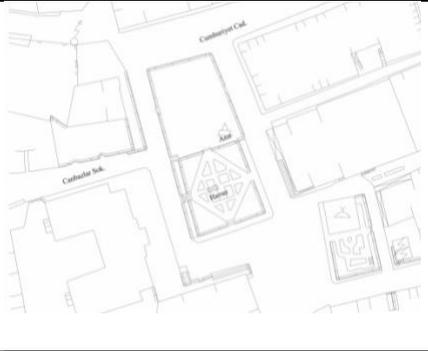
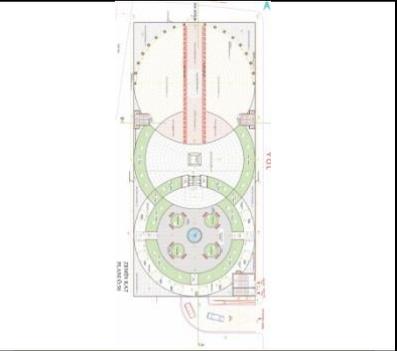
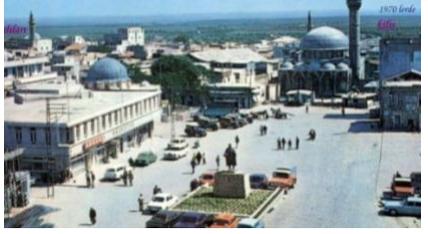
Şekil 16. Donatı ve detaylar.

Throughout history, cities have been separated from each other by their geographical, economic, social and cultural differences and have shown a unique development. The activity centers that allowed people to gather and communicate with each other were mostly squares. For this reason, squares that can be considered as the center of the city are very important in this sense.

When evaluated in terms of study results, it is compatible with similar studies. According to Zakariya et al. (2014) revealed that the layout of the square has a great influence on the use of the square. Gültekin (1996), on the other hand, examined Istanbul squares and found that the existing square areas were insufficient. Massaro et al. (2021) conducted an analysis for a definition of urban square liveability and social approaches in Milan. The study by Shrestha and Chitrakar (2020) discusses the problems faced by Durbar Square, emphasizing the importance of preserving their form while developing and managing historic town squares in old and cultural cities. Xiaochun et al. (2020) examined the current use of Shanghai Wujiaochang Square in their study. determined that it lacked small business service facilities. Durak (2018) identified the problems, deficiencies and planning errors of Sultanahmet Square. Sağlık et al. (2016) determined that Çanakkale pier square is not in a position to reflect the natural, cultural and historical characteristics of the city, both vegetatively and structurally. Güremen (2011) emphasized that the integrity and size of the areas where the existing equipment elements are used in Amasya, the use of furniture that will give a unique identity and personality in accordance with the human scale, and the features that will remind the citizens of the city are emphasized. Tanrıbir & Akten (2020), Bayazit & Kısakürek (2020) evaluated urban reinforcement elements according to urban aesthetics. Malkoç True & Sönmez Türel (2017) examined İzmir Bornova Square and its immediate surroundings with the study and found that spatial success could not be achieved.

When the 3 periods were compared within the scope of the study, namely the 1600s, 2013 before the implementation and after 2013, the changes in the field are tabulated in Table 1.

Table 1. Change Chart of the Square**Tablo 1.** Meydanın Değişim Çizelgesi

	1600s	Before 2013	After 2013
map			
plan			
view from the south			
view from the north			

CONCLUSION

When the findings trying to determine the change of Kilis Cumhuriyet Square over the years are evaluated, it has been determined that it is in a central location and has reached the present day by undergoing different arrangements over the years. When the current planning of the square is evaluated, it has been determined that the square in the historical city center does not have the qualifications to reflect the identity. In the area, which is used only as a transition space by the city residents, the presence of green is very low and there is seating units. In addition, the flooring materials used in the area reflect a

high amount of sun and cause the surface to become extremely slippery in winter. Squares are important centers where people gather and host different events. Rather than just considering it as an open space, it is an important part of the identity that has years of physical, social and cultural experience. It is an important point in terms of perceiving the city for the visitors as well as the residents of the city. In this context, it is very important to transfer the right interventions and practices to future generations at the point of sustainability and protection of urban identity.

From history to the present, they have been multi-purpose spaces where the people of the city or their visitors meet, find the opportunity to take a rest, share the events going on in the city. Today, as in all the cities of the world, the squares, which are under heavy traffic pressure by vehicles, have somewhat lost their meaning and purpose of use in the past (İnceoğlu & Aytuğ, 2009). In the historical process, semantic and formal ruptures can be experienced in spaces shaped by physical and intellectual effects. This is the situation that remains in memory, which is not noticed, invisible and undescribed at first glance, but affects today's perception of the city (Erol, 2019). Whereas the town square is part of the public spaces and is usually located in the heart of the city. It's important role in the city is to improve the sense of community by facilitating random encounters (Talen, 2000).

Memluk (2013) basic design principles for urban squares; Creating identity, a sense of place and contributing to the overall city image Encouraging public use and participation Promoting social activities, communication and social integration Developing the character of the environment, creating a legible, pleasant and long-lasting public square Both physically and socially Creating accessible environments, Providing environmentally friendly design strategies to ensure environmental sustainability and low-cost maintenance, Promoting art, cultural events and entertainment. When such public places are designed according to basic principles and filled with a sense of place, they acquire an additional symbolic meaning (Moughtin, 2003).

The elements that form and describe the square are the ground on which it is built, the fixed elements surrounding the space (structures, landscape elements, the landscape), the plastic elements it contains, and the sky that covers them all. All these create a three-dimensional effect with their various proportions, sizes, harmony or dissonance, and designs. In the formation of this effect, the size of the ground area, level differences, material; masses and mass formations of surrounding structures, their heights; Factors such as facade sections, occupancy and voids of these structures, positions and sizes of plastic elements play a role (Tayşi, 2006).

The size of the square should be proportional to the size of the city, and it should be planned in a way that allows dense people and vehicles to gather and disperse (Gültekin, 1996). Pamay (1979), states that it would be appropriate to use objects that will make the space small and narrow, and solitary plants as much as possible, in the arrangement of city squares and monuments. Two trees or groups of trees facing each other in the square, by emphasizing the direction of movement, can create the effect of a gateway or a door, giving that space scale and function (Giritlioğlu, 1991; Önder & Aklanoğlu, 2002). Considering the long-term relationship between trees and cities, plants make the most common contribution to the urban landscape among all-natural contributions. However, having different forms and features requires extensive research on the texture and growth habits of the trees to be used (Cullen, 1961). Sustainable cities are important for the protection, improvement and development of natural resources and affect urban development. Urban squares are heavily used by urban people and are located closest to their urban culture or city. Therefore, urban squares pass on history and culture to future generations. should be able to convey our past experiences (Bayramoğlu & Yurdakul, 2018).

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