

## ANALYZING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN URBAN IDENTITY AND URBAN TRANSFORMATION IMPLEMENTATIONS IN HISTORICAL PROCESS: The Case of Isparta

**Ş. Gülin BEYHAN, Ülkü ÇELEBİ GÜRKAN**

*Süleyman Demirel University, Isparta, Turkey*

*Anadolu University, Eskişehir, Turkey*

gbeyhan@gmail.com

---

### Abstract

*Urban identity is formed by the entire values and characteristics of a city. Urban transformation is the strategies and activities for maintaining environmental quality and life balance. The concepts of urban identity and urban transformation, which have been quite popular in Turkey recently, are the grounds of this study. The socio-cultural and economic conditions, which have changed as a result of globalization experienced all over the world, make it compulsory to re-shape cities, so urban identity concept has gradually become more important. The aim of this study is to reveal misidentification in Turkey caused by urban transformation implementations, particularly via the example of Isparta. As Isparta is a typical Anatolian city developed after the proclamation of the Republic, it was considered worthy of analysis. At, it was observed that Isparta had developed in terms of planning until 1960s. It was concluded that turning points had occurred in urban transformation between the years 1960-1980 and after 1980, these turning points spoiled urban identity, and therefore, the city has developed and globalized without any identity since then.*

**Keywords:** *Isparta; urban identity; urban transformation; urban spaces.*

### INTRODUCTION

Cities are settlements facing continuous social change (Keleş, 1998). In other words, they are kinds of living organisms, which have been shaped successively in all the periods since the time of their establishment, and they have been experiencing continuous transformation. Cities, within this process, show different characteristics depending on the concepts of time and space. The urban identity refers to the reflection of city's unique socio-economic and cultural components, which are different from other cities', on the physical space (Sirel, 2005). The urban identity, as a continuously changing and dynamic incident, is composed not only of buildings, streets and squares, but also of active participation of all individuals living in the city. The identity of a city is determined by the authentic outputs and qualities resulting from interactions of urban individuals with their environment.

Cities wear down in time due to socio-economic and cultural changes which are experienced during historical process. Particularly, the economic crisis and the change in the social structure after World War II resulted in ruined regions in cities, which made urban regeneration necessary (Özden, 2006). At that point, the concept of urban transformation emerged. Urban transformation means conducting all these urban regeneration, rehabilitation, revitalization or protection work by taking physical, socio-economic and administrative characteristics of the city into consideration. The point here is to maintain and protect the city's own identity while doing the work. In our country, urban transformation projects were brought to agenda after 1980 to solve squatting problem (Şişman & Kibaroglu, 2009). Yet, they led to the losses of urban identity since they had been implemented by taking only economic and political interests into account, without any architectural and urban principles.

The aim of this study is to reveal the misidentification caused by urban transformation projects, specifically on the example of Isparta. While Isparta was an administrative, commercial and production centre in the early period of the Republic, It has changed in terms of population and socio-economic activities because of rapid and intense migration from rural areas to the city centre after 1950s. Industrial, commercial and public investments have also led to the similar changes. While new reconstruction works increased in number, the city began to change with new public buildings, collective housing and construction of new buildings for different public needs. In this urban development process, urban transformation projects were conducted in the city centre. As it is the case in the whole country, urban transformation works have caused identity loss in Isparta, as well. In the context of this study, the effects of transformation on urban identity were studied. Especially in historical process, significant spaces in Isparta such as Sıramağazalar (Ranging Stores)-Kaymakkapı, Bedesten (Covered Bazaar) and the surrounding pattern, and Hükümet Meydanı (The Square in front of the Governor's Building) and the surrounding area have been subject to urban transformation. In the study, present and past conditions of these three places were examined morphologically, visually, functionally, spatially and contextually depending on the data collected from archives and on-site analyses. In scope of this study, the results have been produced with the help of maps, old and new photos of the spaces and tables in the analysis system. The damages of urban transformation implementations to the above mentioned urban spaces in Isparta and the resulting loss in urban identity were detected through gathered data.

### **The Concepts of Urban Identity and Urban Transformation**

The concept of identity, which has subject area with human, expresses diversity and originality. Identity is a phenomenon that doesn't exist in the union or differentiation of similarity and repetition (Isin & Wood, 1999) as regarding with individuality and being unique (Lynch, 1960; Mach, 1993).

Identity is the sum of characteristics that are used to describe and differentiate assets with natural and cultural properties. It can naturally change in time as well as being changed on purpose (Gündüz, 2005). Coherence is an important concept that should be involved in identity. To form an identity, sustainability of certain conditions is necessary. There are four components of identity; these are origin or cultural heritage, quality and character of social needs, local features and factors depending on topography, and produced, appropriate technology (Gürsel, 1996). The concept of identity first got in the field of architecture as a result of universalism policy suggested by modern architecture. Locality against universality has produced this concept. It is possible to mention the concept of identity when there is locality, variety and authenticity.

Urban identity, as cultural incident with maintenance from the past, can be defined as the entire components differentiating one city from others (Sirel, 2005). Urban identity is a dynamic and continuously changing structure. In all historical periods, each social structure built in a city has somehow reflected physical formation of that city (Nalkaya, 2006). Urban identity is such a meaningful integrity brought by a process from past to present that influences urban image; has distinctive scale and stylistic properties in each city; is shaped by physical, cultural, socio-economic, historical and formational factors; is formed by urban people and their life style; develops continuously and maintains the concept of sustainability (Çöl, 1998).

Urban identity has been accepted as "the sum of the components in the diagnostic quality which defines a city and distinguishes it from the others" (Ünügür, 1996). Urban identity is defined with the natural and artificial elements and socio-cultural characteristics of a city and the environment. The urban identity is formed by such elements in natural environment as geographical properties, flora, climate, topography and such elements in artificial environment as buildings, monumental structures, urban regions, paths, squares and urban furniture (Hacıhasanoğlu, 1996) The shape of environment, more specifically the identity of the

environment related to the nature and human is explained with regards to the natural and cultural components in relations of human, environment and culture (Binle, Ertan, 1992).

The smallest unit constituting urban identity is neighbourhood. Geographical characteristics, architecture, local traditions and life styles are the components completing the urban identity of a city (Ilgın & Hacıhasanoğlu, 2006). The components that emerge in time and shape the urban identity are:

- Identity factors arising from natural environment (Topography, climate and vegetation)
- Identity factors arising from society (Socio-economic and socio-cultural characteristics)
- Identity factors arising from artificial environment (streets, avenues, squares, monumental architectural buildings, examples of civil architecture) (Beyhan & Ünügür, 2005).

According to Robberts, urban transformation is the composition of all activities and strategies for regaining environmental quality and life balance and improving physical, social and environmental conditions in urban areas with breakdown and deformation (Esentürk, 2009). Urban transformation implementations are based on such purposes as avoiding collapse zone in urban areas, setting a development model for improving life quality, meeting the developmental needs of urban fabric, taking urban expansion under control and involving people from different classes in planning urban policies (Karadağ, 2008).

Urban transformation concept was born with the urban renovation as a result of urban growth experienced in Europe in the 19th century. Urban transformation implementations have been developed for urban renovation in 1800-1945 to enhance inadequate infrastructure and unhealthy conditions of cities brought by Industrial Development; as re-building of cities due to the extensive damages to the cities as a result of the World War One; and as projects of urban improvement and renovation in 1960-1980 (Esentürk, 2009). With the developed technology and changed life styles in 1980s, urban transformation implementations have also begun to change, and the urban refreshment projects, focusing on locality in the global system, have appeared drifting apart from classical way of planning (Demirsoy, 2006).

According to Birsal et al., the basic point to be regarded in urban transformation implementations is to discover urban identity of the city considering its layers formed in time and to maintain sustainability preserving this identity (Birsal et al., 2003). It is especially important to save spatial meaning, abide by human scale and rate, strengthen the relationship between urban space and people, and improve urban life as well as urban culture while conducting implementations in urban places with historical features (Demirsoy, 2006).

In Turkey, the immigration movements from rural to urban areas increased in 1950s due to the decline in agricultural production because of industrialization; and ghetto areas have begun to emerge since the demand for new buildings could not be met. In order to reclaim the resulting collapse areas, the urban transformation implementations have been put into agenda in 1980s. But since these implementations have been carried out by taking political and economic interests into consideration, not by considering architectural and urban principles, they have led to loss of urban identity.

### **Urban Transformation Applications in Turkey**

The Ottoman Empire is the basis of all urban identities in Turkey. In this period, in spatial organization of cities; inessential urban transformation applications were realized, which were in parallel with the urban availability, integrated with social life and pervasive in time in using technology (Ulu & Karakoç, 2004).

Along with proclamation of the Republic in 1923, our country adopted a modern way of development in cities and started widespread/diverse urban transformation in a 'modern, contemporary and habitable' way. The Republic Administration started urban transformation in Anatolian cities instead of Istanbul, which was once the administrative center of the Ottoman

period (Kayın, 2009). In this period the cities like Eskişehir, Kayseri, Bursa, İzmir, Aydın, Manisa, Nazilli and Zonguldak became prominent with their industry in addition to Ankara which is the administrative center. These industrial cities were connected to Ankara by railway.

(Bilgin, 1998) and (Tekeli, 1980) state that the modern transformation in Anatolian cities is based on an axis 'tangent to the old city', and consists of new public buildings such as Government Office, schools and banks surrounding 'The Republic Square' starting from station premises (Asiliskender & Özsoy, 2010). Urban transformation activities of Early Republican Period were built upon 'becoming modern' by disseminating the state ideals and increasing social life quality, as well as enhancing the places physically (Kayın, 2009). Therefore, these urban transformations also included public places such as parks, community centers, theatres, tennis courts and swimming pools where people could gather and do cultural activities in addition to public buildings.

As of 1950s, modern urbanization movements and modern architectural approaches in Turkey started to gain strength. Due to rapid modernization in the economy and the increase in the migration from rural to urban areas, cities have been exposed to larger scaled urban transformation compared to the Early Republican Period (Bozdoğan, 2002). Anatolian cities which had had similar spatial and cultural transformations like Ankara until then started to experience new, but uncontrolled transformations. Although, in comparison with the big cities these transformations took place in a slower process, they caused early republican period architecture's urban patterns and public areas to be destroyed (Kayın, 2009).

On the other hand, in our country in 1950s the decline in agricultural production due to the industrialization led to an increase in migration movements from rural to urban areas, and consequently housing demand could not be met and illegal housing zones/slam areas emerged (Kayın, 2009). In order to rehabilitate these urban depression areas, urban transformation projects were put on the agenda in 1980s. However, these projects were not done in parallel with architectural and urban planning principles, but by considering only the economic and political interests, so they led to the loss of urban identity.

The urban transformation projects conducted from 1980s till today have been based on enhancing the places physically considering only the urban rent and ignoring socio-economic features of the cities. Isparta's urban identity is based on Ottoman period. As a typical Anatolian city, Isparta experienced urban transformations reflecting Early Republican Period, modernism of 1950s and current projects after 1980. This is the main reason for choosing Isparta as the area of study.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this study, firstly the concepts of urban identity and urban transformation are mentioned which question the link between urban transformation implementations and urban identity. Later, It is touched upon the development and urban identity change of Isparta to make the analysis particularly for Isparta and in historical process. The materials of the field study consist of Governor's building, the old Municipality Building, Municipal Park, Firdevs Bey Bedesten (Covered Bazaar), Ranging Stores and Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta (Ottoman Bazaar). In the formation process of urban space; morphological, visual, functional, spatial and contextual characteristics have indicated alteration in urban built environment (Ünlü, 2006). In this context; the above mentioned places have been analyzed morphologically, visually, functionally, spatially and contextually after categorized in three periods; the ones built before 1960, the ones built between 1960-1980, and the ones built after 1980. Architectural fabric, street patterns and urban blocks were examined in morphological analyses and in visual analysis the structures/buildings in the area were studied in terms of their architectural period and their locations in the skyline/silhouette of the city center. As for functional analysis, use of space and zoning, spatial analysis of urban place, and contextual analysis of relationships of structures and areas among

each other, local identity and the characters of the architectural buildings were examined. While examining them, maps for supporting morphological analyses, archive review, on-site observation and monitoring, and old and new photos of these places have been used.

### Identity Change and Development of Isparta throughout Historical Process

Isparta is at the center of Region of Lakes within Mediterranean Region (see Figure 1). While its total surface area is 8933 km<sup>2</sup>, its center's surface area is 585 km<sup>2</sup>. It is almost 1035 meters above sea level (Anonymous, 2003). The city is surrounded by Afyon on the North and northwest, by Burdur on the west and southwest, by Antalya on the South and by Konya on the east and southeast.



Figure 1. Location of Isparta City in the Region of Lakes within Turkey (Source: Website of Loadtr, 2014).

Isparta, whose history dating back to Hittite Period was first, settled around Isparta (Belönü) Stream flowing from east to west. In the foundation period of the city, the main streets were arranged in parallel to Belönü Stream; however the streets going through North-south directions go on disorderly. This planning, which was created to make walking easier on windy days (Çakmakçı, 1943), indicates that urban schema have been shaped considering topographical and climate characteristics (see Figure 2).

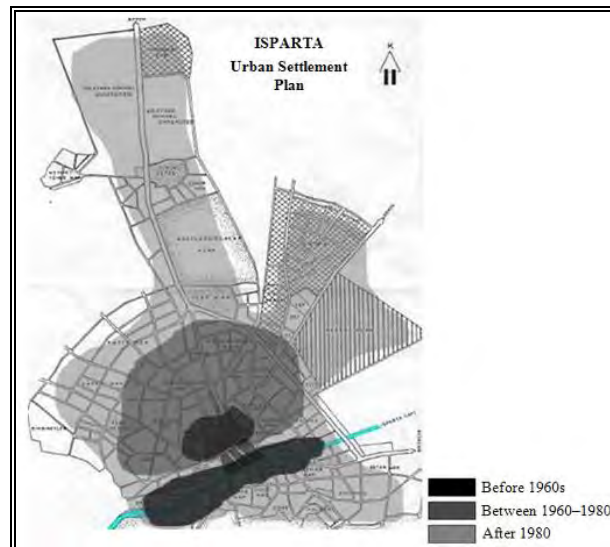


Figure 2. Spatial Development of Isparta City: this plan indicates the urban development direction and size in the period of before 1960s, between 1960-1980 and after 1980 (Source: Website of Isparta Belediyesi, 2011; Türk, 1995, Authors).

In later periods, the axis of urban settlement developed more towards the north. While it seemed a small Anatolian town in the Ottoman period, Isparta gained a new center by building a mosque in the north of Belönü Stream, and by building Bedestens and open public places around it, all lying on the axis of the mosque. Although the city maintained its old structure and surface area for a certain period of time, it was re-shaped with the development plan implemented in 1938-1943. According to the Ölsner Plan, surroundings of Belönü Çayı-as the first settlement area- and the centrum were kept, but new development axis was established through northeast and northwest. Since the aisles going through main roads are perpendicular, this has made a new more geometrically designed city fabric contrary to the city centre (see Figure 3).



Figure 3. Ölsner Plan for Isparta City (Source: Anonymous, 2001).

Isparta, which had been a small agriculture based Ottoman city in spatial formation until the Proclamation of the Republic, has begun to develop since early Republican Period in general sense. After the Proclamation of the Republic, the efforts for modernizing Isparta began and the Governor's Building, Municipality Building, Railway Station Premises, İş Bank Building, Community House and Isparta Municipal Park were built in the city centre, particularly between the years 1923-1940 when there were intensive reconstruction works. Thus, the city centre undertook a symbolic function for the power of the young Republic at the time.

Isparta, like many other cities, was also affected by rapid urbanization which started in 1950s. While it was a small city of administration, commerce and production with 16,000 populations at the beginning of the Republic period, it changed in terms of population and socio-economic activities as a result of rapid and dense immigrations from rural to urban areas after 1950s, and of industrial, commercial and public investments (Anonymous, 2006). In this period, carpet washing factories, as urban images, were removed and new development activities were accelerated. The city has begun to expand and develop, and the city center has gained new functions (Kayalı, 2005).

Isparta has become a city experiencing modernism at the end of 1950s and from 1960s to 1980s. When looking at the urban identity regarding periodical character of the structures, the period before 1960, the period between 1960-1980 and the period after 1980 can be shown as turning points. The components making up of Isparta's urban identity are Bedestens and mosques reflecting Ottoman architecture, structures of early Republican Period, modernist structures built between the years of 1960-1980, civil architectural examples such as Turkish, Greek and Iranian houses and urban squares. However now in Isparta city, it can be seen that the above mentioned buildings are vanished or damaged due to urban transformation implementations.

## The Urban Transformation Process in Isparta and Its Impact on Places and Its Relation to Urban Identity

The most significant examples of urban transformation implementations in Isparta, without considering urban and architectural identity, are six-storey Municipal Office Block replacing small-sized stores and the unqualified urban square built after Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta (Ottoman Bazaar). On the mentioned area, many urban transformation implementations were realized between the years 1960-1980 and after 1980 (see Figure 4). In this part of the study, the effects of the selected urban transformation implementations on the urban identity was examined morphologically, visually, functionally, spatially and contextually.



Figure 4. Location of Study Area in the City (Source: modified from Google Earth, 2014).

### Analysis of the Period Before 1960s

In Isparta, a small Anatolian town in Ottoman period, foundations of the present city center were laid by Dalboyunoğlu and Bey Turkish Baths as well as Mimar Sinan Mosque and Firdevs Bey Bedesten built on the North-south axis of the Mosque in 1560s to bring income for it. After proclamation of the Republic, the efforts for modernizing Isparta began, and particularly with the development activities accelerated in 1940's, Governor's Building, Municipality Building and Municipal Park were established in the city center (see Figure 5-6). Along with the city's development between 1950-1960. Ranging Stores were built in North and northwest sides of Firdevs Bey Bedesten and Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta (Ottoman Bazaar) was built in the east part of it (see Figure 7 and 8).



Figure 5. General View of the City Center in 1959 (Source: Foto Venüs, 2011).



Figure 6. Governor's Building and Municipality Building in 1959 (Source: Foto Venüs, 2011).



Figure 7. Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta - Ottoman Bazaar - and Governor's Building in 1960 (Source: Foto Venüs, 2011).





Figure 8. Ranging Stores and Mimar Sinan Mosque in 1955 (Source: Anonymous, 2001).

**Morphological Analysis:** At that period, it is observed that urban blocks and street patterns were shaped organically in time. Firdevs Bey Bedesten created an urban axis between Ranging Stores and Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta (Ottoman Bazaar) in its north and gives them a chance to be used efficiently. While The Grand Mosque, Municipality Building and Governor's Building were the identifying features of the square, the ways going through it also formed a completing axis (see Figure 9).



Figure 9. Morphological Analysis of the site before the 1960s (Source: Authors).

**Visual Analysis:** Governor's Building, The Grand Mosque, Municipality Building and Prison Building were placed in L shape so as to define a square in the urban block. Governor's Building and Municipality Building have Early Republican Period characteristics in terms of architectural identity (see Figure 10). Ranging Stores and Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta's fabric identity and the square fabric involving public buildings are different from each other in terms of visual perception. The common significant feature of all these structures is architectural proportions considering human scale.



Figure 10. Municipality Building and the Grand Mosque in 1960 (Source: Foto Venüs, 2011).

**Functional Analysis:** Zoning caused by pedestrian walk in time between Ranging Stores and Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta emphasizes functionality of urban space. The relationship between Public Square and Arasta and Ranging Stores formed by organic streets for shopping has not been overlooked.

**Spatial Analysis:** When studying the square in front of Governor's Building, Municipality Park and the open bazaar area behind Ranging Stores in northwest side, it is observed that built environment-open area relationship is balanced. It is possible to explain that settlement pattern has developed organically in the built environment. All those structures can be accessed directly from the way. The square identified by Governor's Building and Municipality Building and spatial arrangement of landscape areas inside Municipality Park also identifies the area.

**Contextual Analysis:** The mentioned urban places have been used efficiently in time and have all become an urban image, taking their place in urban memory, and influencing the development of the city. 'Kövke' stone, as a local construction material, was used in Governor's Building and Municipality Building and it emphasizes local character. When looking at Ranging Stores and Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta, It is seen that the dominant structural characteristics in the city and local styles and urban identity have been preserved.

### **Analysis of the Period Between 1960-1980**

Between the years 1960–1980, modernism movement ruled almost all development implementations in Isparta. Under the influence of this movement, many public and residential buildings were built in the city. As a result of periodical character, it is observed that transformation implementations in the city center did not care about the local identity at all. To prove that, demolition of old Municipality Building in 1970s can be put forward (see Figure 11).



Figure 11. View of Governor's Building and its surroundings in the 1980s  
(Source: Website of Haber 32, 2014).



Figure 12. Firdevs Bey Bedesten and Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta - Ottoman Bazaar - in 1966  
(Source: Anonymous, 2001).



Figure 13. Ranging Stores and Old Grape Bazaar in 1960 (Source: Foto Venüs, 2011).

**Morphological Analysis:** The organic fabric and street pattern in these Ranging Stores and Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta still remain as characteristics of the settlement (see Figure 12-13). Their lying through The Grand Mosque and Governor's Building and their concentrating on the square are also seen as morphological features of the area. Along with the urbanization process started in 1950s, pedestrian movements and usage density have been detected to increase in those areas as a result of the increase in population and construction of public buildings such as banks, schools, and hotels (see Figure 14).



Figure 14. Morphological Analysis of the site between 1960–1980 (Source: Authors).

**Visual Analysis:** While the square in front of Governor's Building lost a bit of its identification value in 1970s as a result of pulling down the Municipality Building, the structure bearing characteristics of Early Republican Period also lost its place in the urban identity. Accordingly, Governor's Building, due to its prevailing location and height, has become focal point in the area (see Figure 15).



Figure 15. Back elevation of Governor's Building in 1970 (Source: Foto Venüs, 2011).

**Functional Analysis:** The urban space resulting from the demolition of Municipality Building was arranged as a green area. However, dense pedestrian axis flowing from Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta and relevant street patterns to Municipality Building was damaged. Therefore, the circulation through the square was also decreased functionally. In terms of the use of Municipality Building, an important pillar for the public use disappeared.

**Spatial Analysis:** Municipality Building, The Grand Mosque and Governor's Building's surrounding of the square in L shape has disappeared with the demolition of Municipality Building. Besides, local characteristics in the structures, which complete each other, have also diminished. Arasta and the Ranging Stores have still kept their organic fabric. Governor's Building has remained as a single building lying on the same plane as Municipal Park. The axis from Firdevs Bey Bedesten and relevant organic streets which is shaped by pedestrian axis and supplies the square has also weakened after pulling down the Municipality Building. In this case, a square which is in relation with front side of Governor's Building has emerged.

**Contextual Analysis:** The spatial, structural and local harmony between Governor's Building and Municipality Building disappeared along with the demolition of Municipality Building. As Governor's Building has remained single in the area, both periodical architectural power of expression and public relations have weakened.

### **Analysis of the Period After 1980**

In the period after 1980, the authority for planning urban transformation implementations was transferred to local governments and capitals have been urbanized in parallel to local identity's gaining importance worldwide as a result of globalization (Polat and Dostoğlu, 2007). Therefore, It is possible to claim that urban transformation implementations after 1980 have been shaped by political decisions and economic concerns. In 1992, Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta, on the west side of Firdevs Bey Bedesten, was pulled down and its area was arranged as a square involving historical Dalboyunoğlu Bath and a few remained stores. The Ranging Stores in the Northwest of Bedesten were replaced by a multi-storey Municipal Office Block (see Figures 16-17-18). Today, only the Ranging Stores in the north of Firdevs Bey Bedesten named as Old Grape Bazaar still exist.



Figure 16. Examples of Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta before destruction in 1990  
(Source: Website of Haber 32, 2014).



Figure 17. Square arranged in the area of Old Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta - Under Construction - in 2008 (Source: Kiriş, 2010).



Figure 18. View of Ranging Stores Before Pulled Down in 1990 (Source: Website of Haber 32, 2014).

**Morphological Analysis:** With the demolition of Ranging Stores and Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta, all the urban blocks and street patterns that were shaped organically in time were damaged. The oriel-shaped upper floors of these adjacent structures, called as Ranging Stores, cover pedestrian way in column order and extend to the road, and this has brought a different understanding of urban place to the identification of street and square. However, small parcels have been replaced by an undefined square and a multi-storey office block after the demolition of Ranging Stores. Thus, the compactness-space ratio in the centrum has got unbalanced. With the pulling down of Arasta, the urban circulation between Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta and Ranging Stores was broken off and this affected the use of Firdevs Bey Bedesten negatively. With the disappearance of Arasta-street fabric facing entrance and exit gates of Bedesten, the spatial order to attract humans has gone and the structure's relationship with the surroundings has weakened. Today, Bedesten is only used as a corridor to pass through (see Figure 19).



Figure 19. Morphological Analysis of the site after 1980 (Source: Authors).

**Visual Analysis:** Building a multi-storey Office block instead of two or three-storey Ranging Stores has influenced urban silhouette and damaged urban identity (see Figure 20-21). In addition, the ratio and scale unity among the structures has been lost. The front of Firdevs Bey Bedesten has been reshaped by local governments without considering its architectural identity. The chart of stores in Old Grape Bazaar also makes it difficult to read their architectural values and harms urban identity.



Figure 20. Pulling Down of Ranging Stores in 1992 (Source: Website of News 32, 2014).



Figure 21. Municipality Office Block built in the area of Ranging Stores in 2010 (Source: Personal Archive of Ü. Çelebi Gürkan, 2014).

**Functional Analysis:** The zoning formed in time due to pedestrian walk in the land of Ranging Stores, Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta disappeared, and urban area's functionality reduced. After these Ranging Stores pulled down, traditional way of shopping has changed. The relevant streets and avenues have also been affected by that. Arasta's pulling down has both decreased functionality of Bedesten and weakened branches of work in the street pattern. After 1980, Municipal Park, one of the significant images of urban identity, was re-functioned and renamed as Atatürk Park. Although this implementation can be regarded positively in rearranging the park as a place for urban gathering, the fact that it is closed during winter months decreases its rate of use.

**Spatial Analysis:** In contrast to easily accessible Ranging Stores from road elevation, Municipal Office Block has been broken off the ground by steps. Therefore, It cannot join urban circulation. The urban space resulting from demolition of Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta has been also arranged as a square for many times. Using such images in the square as clock tower, column order, which are not peculiar to urban identity, led to identity confusion. Breaking urban circulation axis with Ranging Stores prevented efficient use of square. However none of the arrangements of the square could ever reflect its old arrangement quality and level made up of organic streets and small squares in between. After 1980, area arrangement of Governor's Building and Atatürk Monument at the square in front of it was changed; landscape arrangements at the square were removed; and these were used in the vacant area appeared after demolition of Municipality and Prison Buildings.

**Contextual Analysis:** Local styles and urban character in the site were damaged with pulling down of Ranging Stores and Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta. The relationship between the Ranging Stores and Old Grape Bazaar broke off. Thus, Old Grape Bazaar and Bedesten lost their meaning. The shopping environment including Bedesten was demolished after Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta was pulled down.

## EVALUATION

In the study, a historic area in Isparta city which had undergone a significant urban transformation was examined through different periods. These periods are: before 1960, between 1960-1980 and after 1980, all of which are of great importance to the city and the area, and a kind of breaking points architecturally, socially and economically. In the field study, the obtained results were revealed with the help of tables by stating and comparing changes and transformations between the periods. In this manner, the results were stated in a particular analytical system. The tables include the whole results arising from the field study, discussions on maps, archive research and comments on the present photos of those places. (see Tables 1, 2 and 3).



Table 1. Results of the Morphological Analysis of the Site (Source: Authors).




Analysis	PERIODS		
	Before 1960s	Between 1960–1980	After 1980
<b>Morphological</b>			
	The organic fabric and street pattern in Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta and the Ranging Stores was observed.	The organic fabric and street pattern in Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta and the Ranging Stores were still observed.	After the demolition of the Ranging Stores and shoe-kebab shops Arasta, organic structure block and street patterns got spoiled.
	There was settlement pattern sustainability between the Old Grape Bazaar and Shoe-Kebab Stores Arasta.	There was still settlement pattern sustainability between the Old Grape Bazaar and Shoe-Kebab Stores Arasta.	Due to the demolition of Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta there is no continuity left between the Old Grape Bazaar and Arasta.
	Bedesten created an urban axis between Ranging Stores and Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta	Since the open marketplace behind the Ranging Stores was divided into plots and turned into a street arrangement, the Old Grape Bazaar's street axis was continued and urban circulation axis was maintained.	Along with the demolition of the Ranging Stores and Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta, urban circulation axis broke off.
	The Grand Mosque, Municipality Building, Governor's Building and the Prison Building are placed in L shape identifying the square	After the Municipality Building and the Prison were destroyed identification, value of the square diminished.	The landscape and firm ground of the square in front of the Governor's Building changed.
	The ways to the Square form a completing axis	The streets' axis was towards the Grand Mosque, the Governor's Building, and they all arranged to meet at the square.	The axis and ways heading towards the square got disappeared and misidentified.
	Despite dense structuring, no urban density is experienced because of small scale.	The structural density diminished after the demolition of the Municipality Building and the Prison.  The place of the demolished structures was preserved as a green area, so the proportion of built environment-green area changed.	After the demolition of the ranging stores, small parcels were replaced by a misidentified square and the ratio of urban occupancy/vacancy changed negatively.
	The array of structures is single or two-storey, semi-detached and detached, and they have small-scale and organic pattern.	A new structural arrangement behind the Ranging Stores emerged; other arrays were in traditional pattern.	With the destruction of Arasta-street fabric, the spatial array that attracts people's attention got lost and spatial use got less.

Table 2. Results of the Visual analysis of the Site (Source: Authors).










		PERIODS				
Analysis		Before 1960s	Between 1960–1980	After 1980		
<b>Visual</b>				Governor's Building and Square, Grand Mosque, Municipality Building (Source: Foto Venüs, 2011)	Governor's Building and Square, Grand Mosque, The Prison (Source: Website of Haber 32, 2014)	Governor's Building and Square
				Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta (Source: Foto Venüs, 2011)	Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta (Anonim, 2001)	The area of the demolished Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta (Source: Kiriş, 2010)
				The Ranging Stores, The Old Grape Bazaar and Kaymakkapı Square (Source: Anonim, 2001)	The Ranging Stores, The Old Grape Bazaar and Kaymakkapı Square (Source: Foto Venüs, 2011)	The Municipal Office Block built on the area of the demolished Ranging Stores
		The buildings have Early Republican Period characteristics.	Along with the demolition of Municipality Building the architectural features of the early Republican Period have weakened in terms of representation.	After the Ranging Stores and Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta had been demolished, the examples of Early Republican Period became even less in number.		
		Buildings constitute of common architectural identity with material, scale and facade, etc	Local identity components weakened.	Local identity got harmed, the urban silhouette was influenced.		
		Commercial buildings are small-scale, harmonious, rhythmic and effective in street and urban silhouette.	The same architectural pattern in small-scale structures located in the area was still sustained.	The proportion, scale, rhythm and harmony among the structures spoiled.		
		Ranging Stores and Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta's identity and the square involving public buildings are different from each other in terms of visual perception.	The Ranging Stores and Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta preserved sustainability in visual perception, but square perception became different since the area had changed.	Only the Governor's Building formed visual perception as the focus in one- structure scale.		

Table 3. Results of the Functional, Spatial and Contextual analyses of the Site (Source: Authors).

		PERIODS		
Analysis		Before 1960s	Between 1960-1980	After 1980
<b>Functional</b>	Functional zoning caused by pedestrian walk		Pedestrian axis flowing from Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta to Municipality Building reduced.	Functional zoning caused by pedestrian walk disappeared.
	The buildings for commercial, administrative, social, religious and cultural purposes in the city center created public focus.		After the demolishment of Municipality Building public use reduced.	After the demolishment of the Ranging Stores and Shoe-Kebab Shops Arasta, the commercial function disappeared.
	The relationship between Public Square and Arasta and Ranging Stores is strong		The circulation towards the square functionally diminished.	The park near the square, as an urban meeting place is used less now.
	Structural arrangements, street patterns were formed according to array of functions and the relationship of buildings with each other.		The functions and usage frequency of the other structures relevant to the demolished ones in the square were also influenced.	The demolishment of the Ranging Stores and Arasta removed street pattern and structural arrangement completely.
<b>Spatial</b>	The square identified by Governor's Building and Municipality Building		The principle of surrounding the square was destroyed along with the demolishment of the Municipality Building.	The landscape arrangements in the square, in front of the Governor's Building were removed and the landscape elements were used in the space of the demolished Municipality and Prison Buildings.
	Built environment-open area relationship was balanced		With the demolishment of the Municipality Building, the open area system changed.	Broke off the urban circulation.
	Publicity and socialization were emphasized in Squares and Marketplaces.		There was a sense of square relevant to the front side of the Governor's Building.	The demolishment of the Ranging Stores broke the relationship between the area & Old Grape Bazaar/Bedesten.
	The mixed settlement pattern composed of streets and square was legible.		The axis flowing through the square weakened with the demolishment of the Municipality Building and so legibility of the settlement pattern diminished.	The square formed after the demolishment of the Arasta cannot be used efficiently.
	There was a fluent and continuous horizontal circulation net between walking trails and meeting areas.		The horizontal circulation net heading towards the square became inefficient.	Because the Municipal Office block was built much above the ground level, urban circulation to the building also broke off.
<b>Contextual</b>	The architectural context which showed the features of the first National Architectural movement		The spatial, structural and local harmony disappeared	Local styles and urban identity were harmed.
	Square and landscape arrangements had monumental features.		There were differences in public sphere formation and monumental representation.	The expressive meaning of the Old Grape Bazaar and Bedesten diminished.
	Urban places became an urban image		Periodical architectural power of expression weakened	The contextuality between buildings and open area broke.
	Local construction material and local character 'Kövke' stone		The buildings with local styles reduced in number.	The facilities/structures in the new square are deceptive in terms of periodical characteristics.
	Local styles and urban identity have been in the forefront		Along with the demolishment of the buildings, open area use, square arrangement and urban facility identity changed.	The image, meaning and identity of historical center and its locality were weakened.

All the results coming from morphological, visual, functional, spatial and contextual analyses were restated in the tables. After all those periods had been investigated in five parameters, the general results concerning these periods were listed. With regard to the periods mentioned above, these results can reveal the effects of changes on the whole city in terms of architectural identity, urban dynamics, urban identity, urban change, urban transformation, space use etc.:

#### **The period of before 1960s**

- Until 1960s, the components of urban identity are defined and strong.
- Urban places correspond to social, socio-economic and cultural structure.
- The buildings show the architectural characteristics of Early Republican Period a general architectural tendency peculiar to that period.
- In terms of urban and architectural scale, identity defining components are in good harmony.
- Urban axis, organic street patterns have distinctive characteristics in terms of street-square unity.

#### **The period of between 1960–1980**

- The significant buildings of the relevant period, which have shaped physical structure of city center, still exist.
- In line with the urbanization process in 1970s, some of the structures of that period began to pull down and there occurred some damages on the architectural pieces.
- The square identifying the environment is the one that experienced loss of identity in settlement fabric first.
- The efforts for avoiding locality and approaches for taking rapid steps on modernism caused deep damages in urban identity.

#### **The period of after 1980**

- In terms of urban identity, quality was overwhelmed by quantity and this was reflected in architectural identity.
- Buildings, roads, squares, settlement patterns, landmark, monuments and symbols have all disturbed and disappeared.
- The mentioned touched/harmed areas also caused social structure to change negatively.
- It was detected, in the process of transformation that nobody had concerned about which, how much and how urban identity would be preserved and which, how much and how environmental component would be changed.
- At that period, while local values were gaining importance against globalization, this was not observed in Isparta. In contrast, local values consisting urban identity were destroyed rapidly.

### **CONCLUSION**

While the concept of urban transformation that became popular in our country in 1980s was previously considered something about transformation of physical environment, its natural, artificial, social and socio-cultural components are revealed today. At that point, the relationship between urban transformations and urban identity is a hot issue that needs to be discussed.

Isparta is a typical Anatolian city which has developed rapidly after proclamation of the Republic. The results of the study have acknowledged that Isparta had experienced similar transformations to other Anatolian cities. Until 1960s, the city centre had developed in a planned way and this gave the city its new identity. Between the years of 1960-1980 and after 1980, urban

development sustainability could not be achieved in development activities, and that led to damages to places consisting urban identity due to wrong implementations, decrease in their value of use, and to demolition of most of these places.

While Isparta was a city with an identity before, it is now losing its authentic identity, especially the city centre. In conclusion, it is possible to claim that the city center has become globalized without any identity in terms of urban transformation implementations. Nevertheless, urban identity of today's Isparta is made up of urban memory.

In the study, it has been drawn attention to the fact that urban transformation implementations in the city centre are not only away from urbanization methods, architectural principles and urban identity concept but also not able to meet requirements of urban people. As it could be seen from the study on Isparta, the decisions made for transforming urban areas could destroy a city's social, economic, cultural and architectural values. The urban transformation did in Isparta in these three significant areas have greatly harmed urban identity. In Isparta, it is really difficult to gain identity again for a place that was touched and lost its identity thirty years ago.

Today, it is also detected that loss of identity still continues. Urban places without any local features are tried to be built. So, loss of urban identity also bring along monotony and sameness. The distinctive features peculiar to the city have disappeared and the same architectural understanding has started to become dominant all around the city. To sustain urban identity, characteristics of the city should be preserved and continued. In this context, present and past identical features of a city should be questioned and its past, current and future identity should be preserved and maintained.

For Isparta, it is required to develop urban transformation strategies which are in line with keeping/protecting Ottoman and Republican periods and also with modern architectural heritage. In this regard, structures, urban aisles, organic/authentic street fabrics/patterns and street-square setup, which can be qualified as architectural heritage, should be kept, and a type of structuring compatible with the city's historic identity should be adopted for the new housing around the centrum. On the other hand, in preparing an urban transformation project to keep and develop the city center, while taking decisions, the people of Isparta should be involved and asked for their opinions. The decisions that will be taken in accordance with these strategies will shed light on new projects to be prepared for other Anatolian cities, which had similar urban transformations.

## REFERENCES

- Anonymous. (2001). Isparta 1880–1980, Isparta Valiliği İl Özel İdare Müdürlüğü Yayınları, Seçil Ofset, No: 1, Isparta.
- Anonymous. (2003). Isparta İl Yıllığı, Isparta Valiliği, Isparta.
- Anonymous. (2006). Isparta (Merkez) Kısmi Revizyon İmar Planı İzah Raporu, Özgünkent İmar İnş. Ltd. Şti.
- Asiliskender, B. and Özsoy, A. (2010). Cumhuriyet Sonrası Kayseri'de Modernleşme: Mekansal ve Toplumsal Değişim, İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi, *Mimarlık-Planlama-Tasarım Dergisi*, 9(1): 31-42.
- Beyhan, Ş.G. and Ünügür, S.M. (2005). Çağdaş Gereksinmeler Bağlamında Sürdürülebilir Turizm ve Kimlik Modeli, İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi, *Mimarlık-Planlama-Tasarım Dergisi*, 4(2): 79-87.
- Bilgin, İ. (1998). Modernleşmenin ve Toplumsal Hareketliliğin Yörüngesinde Cumhuriyet'in İmarı, 75 Yılda Değişen Kent ve Mimarlık, Türkiye İş Bankası ve Tarih Vakfı Ortak Yayını, Ed: Yıldız Sey, 255-272, İstanbul.
- Binle, M and Ertan, M (1992). Çanakkale'de Turizmin Geliştirilmesi ve Kent Kimliği ile İlişkilendirilmesi Lisans Tezi, Mimar Sinan Üniversitesi, İstanbul.

- Birsel, S., Polat, E. and Yılmaz, N. (2003). Değişim-Dönüşüm Sürecinde “Kimlik Arayışları” ve “Kentsel Yenileşme” Kavramı. TMMOB Şehir Plancıları Odası, Kentsel Dönüşüm Sempozyumu, 11-12-13 Hairan 2003, Yıldız Teknik Üniversitesi, İstanbul.
- Bozdoğan, S. (2002). Modernizm ve Ulusun İnşası: Erken Cumhuriyet Türkiye’sinde Mimari Kültür, Metis Yayınları, İstanbul.
- Çakmakçı, T. (1943). Isparta’nın İmar Planı, *Isparta ÜN Dergisi*, 9(109-110-111): 1527-1530.
- Çöl, Ş. (1998). Kentlerimizde Kimlik Sorunu ve Günümüz Kentlerinin Kimlik Derecesini Ölçmek İçin Bir Yöntem Denemesi. Mimar Sinan Güzel Sanatlar Üniversitesi, Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü, Şehir ve Bölge Planlama Anabilim Dalı, Kentsel Tasarım Doktora Tezi, İstanbul.
- Demirsoy, M. S. (2006). Kentsel Dönüşüm Projelerinin Kent Kimliği Üzerindeki Etkisi: Lübnan-Beyrut-Solidere Kentsel Dönüşüm Projesi Örnek Alan İncelemesi Mimar Sinan Güzel Sanatlar Üniversitesi, Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü, Şehir ve Bölge Planlama Anabilim Dalı, Kentsel Tasarım Yüksek Lisans Tezi, İstanbul.
- Esentürk, M. (2009). İstanbul İli Örneğinde Kentsel Dönüşüm Uygulamaları Yıldız Teknik Üniversitesi, Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü, Jeodezi ve Fotogrametri Mühendisliği Anabilim Dalı, Yüksek Lisans Tezi, İstanbul.
- Foto Venüs, (2011). Eski Isparta Fotoğrafları Arşivi, Isparta.
- Google Earth (2014). Retrieved from Google Earth Website <https://earth.google.com>
- Gündüz, O. (2005). Kentlerimizin Kimlik Sorunu ve İzmir Örneği, I. Uluslararası Mimar Sinan Sempozyumu: Mimar Sinan ve Tarihsel Kimlik, 11–12 Nisan 2005, Trakya Üniversitesi Mühendislik-Mimarlık Fakültesi, Edirne.
- Gürsel, Y. (1996). Değişme Koşullarında Kimlik-Meşrutiyet-Etik, Türkiye Mimarlığı Sempozyumu II: Kimlik-Meşrutiyet-Etik, Ankara Atatürk Kültür Merkezi, 7-8-9 Ekim 1993, TMMOB Mimarlar Odası Yayınları, Ankara.
- Haber 32 (2014). Retrieved from [www.haber32.com.tr](http://www.haber32.com.tr)
- Hacıhasanoğlu, O (1996). Kimlik Sorunu, Mimarlığın Evrensel ve Yerel Boyutları, Mimarlar Odası Bursa Şubesi 8. Uluslararası Yapı ve Yaşam Kongresi, (Mimarlık ve İletişim), pp:257-264, Bursa.
- İlgın, C. and Hacıhasanoğlu, O. (2006). Göç-Aidiyet İlişkisinin Belirlenmesi İçin Model: Berlin/Kreuzberg Örneği İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi, Mimarlık-Planlama-Tasarım Dergisi, Cilt:5, Sayı:2, Kısım:1, İstanbul.
- Isin, F. F. and Wood, P. K. (1999). *Citizenship and Identity*, Sage Publications, London: 19-24.
- Isparta Belediyesi, (2011). Isparta Belediyesi İmar ve Şehircilik Müdürlüğü Arşivi, Retrieved from <http://isparta-bld.gov.tr>.
- Karadağ, D. (2008). Kentsel Dönüşüm Retrieved from <http://www.arkitera.com/g67-kentsel-donusum.html>. Access on 03.08.2014
- Kayalı, B. (2005). Isparta Kent Merkezinde Bulunan Sivil Mimarlık Örneklerinin Günümüzdeki Durumları, Koruma Sorunları ve Değerlendirme Önerileri, Süleyman Demirel Üniversitesi, Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü, Yüksek Lisans Tezi, Isparta
- Kayın, E. (2009). Merkez-Taşra İkilemindeki Anadolu Kentlerinde Kimlik Arayışı ve Cumhuriyet Dönemi Mimarlık Mirası, *Mimarlık Dergisi*, Sayı: 346.
- Keleş, R. (1998). Kentbilim Terimleri Sözlüğü İmge Yayınevi, Ankara.
- Kiriş, H. (2010). Isparta’ya Yeni Kent Meydanı, Retrieved from <http://www.siyasaliletisim.org/index.php/ariv/yorum/429-isparta-yeni-kent-meydan-projesinin-dueuenduerdueleri.html>, Access On: 07.07.2014.

- Loadtr (2014). Retrieved from of <http://www.loadtr.com>
- Lynch, K (1960). *The Image of the City*, the MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Mach, Z (1993). *Symbols, Conflict and Identity*, State University of Albany, New York Press, New York.
- Nalkaya, S. (2006). Kentsel Dönüşüm ve Kent Kimliği/Urban Conversion and Urban Identity. [http://www.yapi.com.tr/Haberler/kentsel-donusum-ve-kent-kimligi-urban-conversion-and-urban-identity\\_61111.html](http://www.yapi.com.tr/Haberler/kentsel-donusum-ve-kent-kimligi-urban-conversion-and-urban-identity_61111.html), Date of Access: 01.03.2010
- Özden, P. P. (2006). Türkiye’de Kentsel Dönüşümün Uygulanabilirliği Üzerine Düşünceler İstanbul Üniversitesi, *Journal of Political Sciences Faculty*, 35: İstanbul.
- Polat, S. and Dostoğlu, N. (2007). Kentsel Dönüşüm Kavramı Üzerine: Bursa’da Kükürtlü ve Mudanya Örnekleri Uludağ Üniversitesi, Mühendislik Mimarlık Fakültesi Dergisi, 12(1).
- Sirel, A. (2005). Tarihi Kentlerde Kimlik Sorunu: Edirne Örneği I. Uluslararası Mimar Sinan Sempozyumu: Mimar Sinan ve Tarihsel Kimlik, 11–12 Nisan 2005, Trakya Üniversitesi Mühendislik-Mimarlık Fakültesi, Edirne.
- Şişman, A. and Kibaroğlu, D. (2009). Dünyada ve Türkiye’de Kentsel Dönüşüm Uygulamaları, TMMOB Harita ve Kadastro Mühendisleri Odası 12. Türkiye Harita Bilimsel ve Teknik Kurultayı, 11-15 Mayıs 2009, Ankara.
- Tekeli, İ. (1980). Türkiye’de Kent Planlamasının Tarihsel Kökleri, Türkiye’de İmar Planlaması, ODTÜ, Şehir ve Bölge Planlama Bölümü, 17-18 Mayıs 1979: 80-112.
- Türk, A. (1995). Kentsel Koruma Yaklaşımlarında Kentsel Kimliğin Korunması, Isparta Örneği, İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü, Şehir ve Bölge Planlama Anabilim Dalı, Şehirselsel Tasarım Programı, Yüksek Lisans Tezi, İstanbul.
- Ulu, A., Karakoç, İ. (2004). Kentsel Değişimin Kent Kimliğine Etkisi, *Planlama Dergisi*, TMMOB Şehir Plancıları Odası Yayını, 29(3): 59-66.
- Ünlü, T. (2006). Mersin’de Değişen Kentsel Mekan; Çamlıbel’de Morfolojik Değişim, *Megaron Dergisi*, 4(1): 178-200.
- Ünügür, S. M. (1996). İstanbul’un Değişen Kentsel Kimliği Üzerine, *Arkitekt*, Sayı: 444, Nokta Yayınları, İstanbul: 43.

---

## AUTHORS

### Ş. Gülin Beyhan

Associate Professor, Department of Architecture  
Suleyman Demirel University, Faculty of Architecture  
gbeyhan@gmail.com

### Ülkü Çelebi Gürkan

Research Assistant, Department of Architecture  
Anadolu University, Faculty of Architecture and Design  
ulku\_celebi@hotmail.com