

УДК 7.033.2(45)

ББК 85.14

DOI 10.18688/aa2414-11-63

E. Kambek

World Heritage of Istanbul From Perspective of Vernacular Architecture

Introduction

The main goal of this article is to analyze the current state of Süleymaniye Neighborhood and explore potential reasons behind its condition. Süleymaniye is an enduring topic of academic, political, and sociological interest. The study acknowledges that research in this field could range from article-scale analyses to broader urban studies incorporating sociological elements. To define its scope, this study only reviews postgraduate theses from the last 30 years, excluding articles. It also compares expert opinions from the 1984 Milliyet Newspaper Cultural Heritage Protection Seminar, linked to the UNESCO-supported SOS Istanbul and Göreme project, with findings from a 2007 symposium. Additionally, the article examines reports and decisions from the World Heritage (WH) Committee since UNESCO's 1985 approval, assessing the preservation status of the area's civil architecture. Last but not least this paper evaluates the latest on-site analysis of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM). This work is positioned as a noteworthy intermediate step towards deepening understanding and guiding future comprehensive studies.¹

History and Location

The section discusses the historical development and significance of the Süleymaniye Neighborhood, located around the third hill of the VIIth district of Constantinople. The construction of the Süleymaniye Mosque and Complex in the 16th century was pivotal in its transformation into a prominent ulema² district. During the Ottoman era, this area was central to scholarly and administrative life, featuring madrasahs, religious institutions, and commercial activities. The 19th century saw increased military construction, and post-Republic, Istanbul University inherited several military buildings besides vernacular and new constructions. By the 1930s, the district adapted to serve day workers with single-room accommodation, leading to demographic shifts by the mid-20th century as residents from Central Anatolia moved in.

Today, only isolated examples of civil architecture remain, with significant parts of the area undergoing restoration or reconstruction. The study considers the UNESCO World Heritage boundaries (Ill. 160), noting that while the neighborhood is now in Fatih, it was part of Eminönü until 2008. The region's permeability makes it vulnerable to changes, influenced by trade and connections to surrounding historical districts. The Atatürk Boulevard and İMÇ Blocks, developed mid-20th century, disrupted the neighborhood's western urban continuity to Zeyrek [31].

¹ There is a written book chapter for an earlier phase of this study conducted by the author in Turkish. Please check; Kambek, E. (2023) [11].

² Ulema (or Ulama), refers to scholars in Islamic jurisprudence, theology, and law. It is an Arabic term that translates to "scholars" or "the learned ones" and is commonly used to describe individuals who have significant knowledge of Islamic teachings and often hold a respected position in religious, legal, and sometimes educational matters in Muslim communities.

The Conservation History of Süleymaniye

Türkiye's conservation efforts, which, like global approaches, have long focused on monumental structures, an influence still visible today. Although the Süleymaniye Complex, as public property, has benefited from more intense conservation, civil architecture, largely privately owned, has not. Despite recent public ownership of many buildings through initiatives like those by Kiptaş [27], holistic conservation approaches have been lacking. Initial efforts began in the 1970s with limited scope, as noted by Cansever, who highlighted the fragmented nature of conservation plans [3].

Registration efforts from 1976 to the early 1980s significantly increased the number of legally protected structures in Süleymaniye. Türkiye's commitment to the 1972 World Heritage Convention in 1982 [9] and Istanbul's inclusion in the World Heritage List in 1985 [30], encompassing areas such as the Süleymaniye Quarter, were pivotal. The district holds "Outstanding Universal Value" (OUV), which, while focused on monumental structures, also recognizes the unique late Ottoman urban layout. In the Criterion (iii) the subject is stated as follows;

The vernacular housing around major religious monuments in the Süleymaniye and Zeyrek quarters provide exceptional evidence of the late Ottoman urban pattern.

However, it is noted that civil architecture, particularly wooden structures, struggles with maintaining this value due to neglect and external pressures, leading to vulnerability despite their original inclusion [10].

On-Site Analysis of IMM

Recently IMM has published on site analysis of Süleymaniye Quarter. This data provides extensive information related to the area, with key findings including monument types, functions, lost monuments, physical conditions, physical and functional authenticity, structural systems, and legal conservation status³. Six of those are evaluated to reach a better understanding of the area.

The first data, "Monument Type" illustrates the distribution of various types of monuments in Süleymaniye Quarter. The majority of the chart is dominated by vernacular architecture structures (Ill. 161), indicating a strong representation of traditional, locally significant buildings. This is followed by a substantial portion dedicated to commercial structures, suggesting a notable presence of economic and trade-related buildings.

Other significant categories include water structures, representing elements like fountains and aqueducts, and urban elements, such as public squares and open spaces. Religious structures form a visible part of the chart, reflecting places of worship or religious importance.

Educational structures also contribute to the overall distribution, indicating the presence of schools or learning centers. Smaller portions of the chart represent service structures and industrial structures, showcasing service facilities and sites related to industry, respectively.

Minimal sections are dedicated to health and defense structures, as well as administrative buildings, pointing to a limited number of monuments with these specific functions. There is a very small representation of social and cultural structures, suggesting that such facilities are rare among the listed monuments.

Overall, the data indicates that vernacular architecture is the most prevalent type of monument, followed by economic and urban elements, with much smaller representations of

³ The data and the maps are taken from this web page; <https://kulturelmiras.ibb.istanbul/suleymaniye-envanteri-arsiv-taramalari-ve-analiz-calismalari/> Pie charts and evaluations are studied by the author of this paper.

health, defense, and purely social buildings. This suggests a focus on preserving traditional and economically significant structures over other types.

This second data titled “Physical Condition” illustrates the state of the buildings in the area (Ill. 162). The largest portion of the chart is represented by the “Good” category, indicating that the majority of the buildings are in stable and well-maintained condition. This suggests that a significant number of structures have either been well-preserved or properly restored.

The next notable section corresponds to the “Fair” condition, showing that a considerable portion of the buildings are in an acceptable but potentially declining state. These structures may require some maintenance or repairs to prevent further deterioration.

The smallest section represents buildings in “Poor: condition, indicating that a smaller but significant number of structures are in a state of disrepair. These buildings may need urgent attention to avoid further damage or potential loss.

While a majority of the buildings are in good condition, there is a notable proportion that requires maintenance or significant restoration efforts, reflecting the varied levels of preservation within the area. To specifically understand the relationship between the physical condition and vernacular structures, a data set that breaks down the physical condition of each specific monument type is needed, particularly focusing on vernacular architecture. Without that, while it is possible to infer that a significant portion of the overall data likely corresponds to vernacular structures (given their dominance in Ill. 161), the exact state of their condition remains unclear from the data provided in these two charts alone.

Third one is titled “Physical Authenticity” illustrates the state of physical authenticity of the structures (Ill. 163). The largest portion, labeled “Little Altered,” indicates that many of the structures have undergone some changes but still retain a significant degree of their original features, suggesting moderate preservation efforts and alterations that haven’t significantly compromised their original state. The next significant section, “Authentic,” shows structures that remain mostly in their original, unaltered state, implying that a substantial number of buildings have been preserved without major changes and maintain their historic integrity. The “Reconstruction” category includes buildings that have been rebuilt, likely due to significant damage or deterioration, and the size of this portion indicates a considerable level of reconstruction activity. The “Significantly Renovated” segment reflects buildings that have undergone major renovations, altering their original state and showing that many structures have been adapted or upgraded substantially, potentially affecting their historical authenticity. The smallest section, “New Construction,” represents newly built structures, indicating recent developments in the area that do not maintain historical authenticity.

“Function” analysis, which creates a very colorful chart, shows the distribution of different types of functions that the buildings in the area serve (Ill. 164). The largest portion of the chart is occupied by commercial structures, indicating that a significant number of buildings in the area are used for commerce and trade-related purposes. The next largest segment represents structures that are currently not used, showing a notable portion of unused or vacant buildings.

Urban elements form another significant portion, which could include public spaces, squares, or infrastructure elements within the area. Housing structures make up a smaller but visible part of the chart, indicating residential use. Religious structures and religious areas, collectively, also occupy a noticeable portion, highlighting the presence of buildings dedicated to religious functions.

There are smaller sections representing educational structures, service structures, social and cultural facilities, water structures, and administrative buildings, each contributing to the overall functional diversity of the area. The chart also includes segments for buildings under construction and those categorized as mixed-use, showing ongoing development and multi-functional properties.

A minor portion is dedicated to structures that could not be determined, reflecting areas with uncertain or undocumented use. Health and industrial structures occupy the smallest segments, indicating that these functions are minimally represented within the area.

This chart suggests a diverse range of building functions, with a strong emphasis on commercial use and a notable presence of unused structures. Also it is a fact that vernacular architecture of Süleymaniye Quarter mostly used for residential purposes, however the data shows that housing spaces make up a smaller part of the whole area.

The data of Functional Authenticity suggests that while there are still buildings maintaining their original functions, a large portion of the area is either no longer serving its intended purpose or has been altered significantly (Ill. 165). The high proportion of dysfunctional buildings highlights challenges in maintaining functional authenticity and adapting buildings for contemporary use while preserving their historical significance.

This analysis, combined with the findings from the previous charts, paints a picture of an area facing challenges in balancing conservation and modernization. The functional inauthenticity and high number of dysfunctional buildings signal potential issues with urban planning, adaptive reuse strategies, and the prioritization of resources for preserving both the physical and functional heritage of the district. Addressing these challenges is crucial for sustaining the cultural and historical vibrancy of the area.

The data highlights a significant vulnerability in preserving vernacular architecture and commercial buildings, pointing to challenges in maintaining structures that are vital to the district's heritage and community identity (Ill. 166). The large proportion of lost traditional architecture implies that past preservation measures may have been inadequate or unevenly applied. The loss of religious and urban elements further underscores a broader erosion of the district's cultural and functional landscape.

The most significant portion of the chart represents lost vernacular architecture structures, indicating that traditional, community-based buildings have suffered the most substantial loss over time. This suggests that preservation efforts may have been insufficient to protect these culturally significant structures, which play a key role in the historical identity of the area.

Combined with the information from previous charts, it becomes evident that while physical authenticity and function have been partially maintained in some areas, the loss of such a significant number of vernacular and commercial structures has weakened the district's overall historical integrity. Addressing these preservation challenges will be essential for sustaining the cultural heritage and revitalizing the area's economic and community life.

Insights and Implications of On-Site Analysis

The six different data sets above collectively provide a comprehensive overview of the Süleymaniye Quarter, illustrating its current state and highlighting key issues related to its preservation, functionality, and authenticity.

The combined analysis of these charts paints a picture of a district that holds rich historical and cultural value but is facing significant challenges. The dominant presence of vernacular

architecture and commercial buildings highlights the area's traditional and economic roots, while the loss and deterioration of these structures point to a pressing need for more effective conservation strategies.

The physical and functional authenticity data show that while there have been efforts to maintain historical integrity, modernization and adaptive reuse have altered the landscape significantly. The fact that many buildings are categorized as dysfunctional or not authentic signals a disconnect between conservation practices and sustainable use.

Lastly, the loss of monuments, especially vernacular and commercial structures, is a critical concern. These losses diminish the district's character and threaten its status as a culturally significant quarter. The area struggle with balancing conservation, modernization, and functional relevance reflects broader urban heritage management challenges in historical areas. The Süleymaniye Quarter is at a crossroads, where urgent action is needed to preserve its remaining historical structures and revitalize its community. Addressing the high number of lost and dysfunctional buildings, improving conservation measures, and fostering adaptive reuse that respects historical integrity will be essential for maintaining the district's unique identity. Collaborative, interdisciplinary efforts involving urban planners, conservationists, sociologists, policymakers, owners, and local communities will be vital to sustaining the quarter's rich heritage and ensuring its place in the city's historical narrative for future generations.

Scientific Studies on Süleymaniye Neighborhood

The Süleymaniye District has consistently remained a focus of scientific studies. While this reflects its central location and the concentration of academic work in Istanbul, it does not translate into significant practical impact. Despite annual production of academic theses, the area's loss of originality highlights that the generated knowledge is not widely disseminated and is often overlooked by decision-makers. This situation can also be observed in the seminars and symposiums discussed in the article. If the present treatment of them continues, our descendants will find vernacular architecture of Süleymaniye Quarter useless for study and devoid of any capacity to inspire enthusiasm. It can be said that the last fifty years of knowledge and attention have done more for their destruction than all the preceding centuries of revolution, violence, and contempt.

Academic Thesis Studies

Süleymaniye District has maintained a significant position in academic discourse, showcasing the district's importance and the concentrated academic production in Istanbul. However, despite numerous studies produced annually on the subject, there remains a disconnection between these academic findings and their practical applications in preservation efforts. This has led to a situation where the knowledge generated does not spread effectively, and decision-makers often overlook or ignore it. The article underscores that while scientific studies have focused on Süleymaniye's architecture, urban development, and social aspects, the practical reflections of these studies are limited (Table 1). This issue is traceable through various seminars and symposiums on the district, which indicate that despite ongoing research, preservation strategies have not been implemented effectively.

The academic studies reviewed span a variety of topics, such as the development of urban settlements, the impact of post-1950s internal migration, and the integration of earthquake resistance measures. Thirty nine academic theses has found on national theses database of Türkiye about vernacular architecture of Süleymaniye Quarter. These studies are evaluated as

Table 1. Distribution of academic theses by year

		1990-1999	2000-2009	2010-2019	2020-2023	Total
Type	Degree	6	8	11	4	29
	Doctorate	-	-	7	3	10
	Total	6	8	18	7	39
Subject	Urbanism and Regional Planning	2	1	4	-	7
	Architecture	4	6	10	5	25
	Interior Architecture and Decoration	-	1	1	-	2
	Landscape Architecture	-	-	1	-	1
	Sociology	-	-	1	2	3
	Art History	-	-	1	-	1
	Total	6	8	18	7	39

a forementioned book chapter of the author in 2023 [11]. Here in this article a summary of the evaluation will be presented.

Contributions primarily come from the fields of architecture and urban planning, but sociology's role has grown due to the influence of urban transformation projects. While Özdemir evaluates the underground inventory by focusing on Süleymaniye Neighborhood in the renewal process of Istanbul's historical peninsula, which he describes as a history of demolition and construction [22]; Kaya, who examined the Süleymaniye Neighborhood from the field of sociology, concluded that the change in micro-historical spaces used as cafes is not a result of protecting the cultural heritage but a result of renewal areas [13]. There is another sociological study that establishes a relationship with the built environment, albeit indirectly. The study draws attention to how market-oriented models instrumentalize the built environment and the disconnection with cultural heritage [7]. Nonetheless, interdisciplinary efforts remain insufficient, even though ICOMOS documents highlight the need for including sociology, history, and other disciplines in developing robust conservation strategies physically [5; 6]. This lack of a holistic approach hinders the development of effective conservation practices. Authenticity is also another important issue where Varol's study claims the reconstruction practices in the World Heritage Site revealed that more than half of the civil architecture examples were not original [32]. In Sefer's doctorate, it is revealed that despite the protection of monumental heritage, there are large losses in the structures consisting of rooms or houses allocated by the foundations for the accommodation of officials, in other words, in examples of civil architecture [24].

The challenges in protecting Süleymaniye are not just physical but stem from broader socio-political dynamics. Although Turkey has committed to international conventions, such as the 1972 World Heritage Convention, and has established management plans for Istanbul's historical peninsula, Süleymaniye's current state remains alarming. The district's decline is exacerbated by conservation plans that appear political and investment-driven rather than focused on genuine conservation. Okutan includes the Süleymaniye district among the examples he examined in his study, in which he examined the gentrification processes from a sociological perspective [19]. The issue of the falsity of the protection plans of historical en-

vironments in Istanbul has been a fact that has not changed since the 1950s [16]. This creates a paradox where laws and international agreements exist, but the practical condition of the district resembles that of a deteriorated, conflict-affected area.

Scholar Kuban emphasized that conservation issues are inherently linked to urban development challenges, highlighting that protecting historical structures and ensuring quality new development should be interconnected efforts based on scientific criteria [15]. However, as academic findings fail to reach policymakers effectively, decisions are often driven by political motives, with preservation and renewal areas defined by government decrees. The resulting situation makes clear that true progress in preserving areas like Süleymaniye requires addressing the systemic issues of political influence, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and ensuring that academic expertise informs policy and practical initiatives.

Seminar in 1984 and Symposium in 2007

This chapter outlines evaluations and discussions from seminars and symposiums focused on the Süleymaniye Neighborhood, specifically highlighting insights from the 1984 seminar organized by Milliyet Newspaper and the 2007 national symposium by Eminönü Municipality and the Kültür Ocağı Vakfı (KOCAY-Culture Center Foundation).

Key figures like Ortaylı emphasized moving small businesses outside city walls to prevent unauthorized and incompatible structures [20], while Söylemezoğlu called for comprehensive expropriation in areas like Zeyrek and suggested legislative measures similar to the Bosphorus Law to protect the region [26]. Architect Çuhadaroğlu advocated restoring monumental structures and creating a central administrative unit for better coordination [4], while Cansever critiqued zoning plans and unqualified construction in the region, calling for a unified administrative authority to manage conservation [3].

Despite the seminar's high-level suggestions, many were not implemented, leading to continued deterioration. Alper pointed out the inadequacies of public institutions in integrating Süleymaniye with modern urban life and noted that although protection plans and academic efforts existed, real preservation was limited [1]. He stressed the need for multidisciplinary approaches involving sociologists and economists. Seminar recommendations included significant expropriations, physical interventions, and centralized institutions, but their implementation was unclear and calls for public awareness and resource allocation often went unheeded.

The 2007 symposium saw a shift towards considering the impacts of Law No. 5366, focusing on urban renewal and protection laws. Koç and other experts debated the justification and implications of renewal practices that often prioritized rapid solutions over genuine conservation [14]. Law No. 5366 shows that, with the tradition coming from Istanbul's past, it has once again been pursued to seek the source of crimes and urban uncanniness in the physical environment and to find the solution in renewing the structure. Kavalcı emphasized the responsibility of all stakeholders to protect the traditional physical environment [12]. Başpehlivan also states that the neighborhood life and old neighborhood residents have been lost, but as in the definition of OUV, he states that the original examples of the Ottoman physical environment are concentrated here [2]. Tuncer presented an urban renewal model involving user participation, with examples from European cities like Bologna and Kreuzberg [28], but noted that such participatory approaches had not been implemented.

Findings from various studies illustrated the social changes in Süleymaniye, such as Özbay's household survey revealing a low-income, transient population due to economic pressures and

derelict conditions [21]. Polatoğlu examined the cultural identity in urban aesthetics, advocating for preservation that considers both physical structures and adaptive current needs [23]. Inceoğlu and Şentürk focused on user perspectives, highlighting a lack of connection between university students and the neighborhood, which reflected broader issues of safety and accessibility [8; 25]. From those studies, it is seen that the area is a shelter for the urban poor. However, there is no property ownership data in those studies. No study, including the owners of the houses in the area was encountered. Examining the profiles of the owners and understanding their preferences and orientations is also one of the ways to understand the neighborhood. It should be kept in mind that inferences made only by the user may be incomplete.

Experts like Mülayim, in the symposium's closing, emphasized monumental structures over civil architecture, underlining a historical oversight in valuing wooden structures [18]. This pointed to a gap in understanding why current preservation efforts often fail to protect the civil architecture integral to Süleymaniye's character.

The discussions collectively illustrate that while academic and institutional efforts acknowledge the historical and social significance of Süleymaniye, practical implementation has often been inadequate. This is due to political, economic, and administrative challenges that have historically prioritized rapid urban solutions over sustainable and community-inclusive conservation.

World Heritage Committee Documents

This chapter reviews the UNESCO World Heritage Committee's efforts and reports concerning the Istanbul Historic Areas, specifically focusing on the Süleymaniye Neighborhood [29]. Documents such as evaluations by advisory bodies, committee decisions, assignment reports, periodic monitoring, and state reports reveal the long-standing challenges faced in preserving the area's wooden cultural heritage.

Initial advisory reports, dating back to 1985, highlight threats like air pollution and urbanization. Subsequent reports and committee decisions over the decades, particularly after the implementation of Law No. 5366 in 2005, underline the damaging effects of large-scale urban renewal projects on the district's civil architecture. The changes proposed in 2017, such as renaming the Süleymaniye sub-area to exclude references to the historical neighborhood, risk diminishing the importance of its civil architecture.

The early WH Committee decisions focused on broader issues, but by the 2000s, concerns specifically about the wooden heritage of Süleymaniye were raised. In 2006, the committee expressed these concerns explicitly, and in later years, reports consistently noted the failure of authorities to protect and restore the wooden structures effectively. The 2013 decision marked a crisis in conservation efforts, emphasizing that the heritage was at risk of severe loss.

The reports indicate that the 2005 Law No. 5366, which facilitated urban renewal, often prioritized rapid redevelopment over conservation. While monumental structures were sometimes protected, the surrounding civil architecture suffered from neglect and demolition. This situation worsened despite the World Heritage Committee's repeated calls for a comprehensive, long-term conservation strategy focused on maintaining the area's outstanding universal value (OUV).

Assignments and reports from 2008 onward show a duality in municipal practices: while some efforts, such as those by IMM KUDEB, aimed to protect heritage, municipal demolitions and renewals under Law No. 5366 contradicted these efforts. This duality is frequently expressed as one of the realities of Türkiye. The 2012 monitoring report clearly stated that such projects exacerbated the problem instead of offering solutions.

The issue of preserving wooden structures and civil architecture remains critical, and while UNESCO's recent documents have shifted focus, the damage and threats persist. The 2023 panel organized by the TMMOB Chamber of Architects revealed that the Süleymaniye Renewal Project continues under Law No. 5366. Despite decades of recommendations and expert reports highlighting the failures of large-scale urban renewal projects, the underlying issues persist, suggesting that lessons from past mistakes have not been learned. Implementing an emergency action plan and creating sustainable strategies remain challenging tasks for local authorities, compounded by political and economic complexities.

Conclusion

The Süleymaniye District in Istanbul faces significant challenges in preserving its fragile wooden architectural heritage, compounded by the threat of an impending major earthquake, population growth, industrial pollution, and uncontrolled urbanization. While legal and administrative frameworks for protecting the area are in place and deemed adequate, reports by the World Heritage (WH) Center and current conditions in the district suggest otherwise. The stark contrast between the legal protections and the deteriorated state of the wooden structures raises questions about the effectiveness of these measures.

The WH designation emphasizes the visual silhouette of Istanbul's historical peninsula, yet it is not only monumental domes and minarets that contribute to this skyline; the wooden civil architecture of districts like Süleymaniye is integral to it. Each street, parallel or perpendicular to the slope, creates a separate silhouette layer. The layers that the eye can follow are mixed together. Historical photographs from the early 20th century show that the district's layered skyline, with its sloping streets and varied tile-roofed wooden houses, creates a visual "relief" that enriches the overall silhouette of the area (Ill. 167).

The emphasis on preserving monumental structures, while necessary, highlights a political bias that neglects the importance of civil architectural heritage. While the preservation of significant sites like the Süleymaniye Complex can be politically advantageous, protecting less prominent wooden structures does not offer the same benefits, leading to their neglect.

The underlying issues contributing to the decline of Süleymaniye cannot be solely attributed to urban planning or physical conservation challenges. Legal frameworks and sociological shifts have played a significant role in degrading the district's social, cultural, and architectural fabric over time, without it becoming a scene of overt conflict. Madran suggests that changing approaches and perspectives, rather than just laws and administrative structures, could resolve some of these issues [17]. However, current attitudes and practices in Süleymaniye fall short of adopting such a holistic change.

The article concludes by emphasizing that while the physical area of the Süleymaniye Neighborhood is limited, it presents vast opportunities for study and comprehensive, long-term conservation strategies. The first phase of such studies is intended to serve as a foundation for broader efforts to protect and rejuvenate the district, both physically and socially.

References

1. Alper E. Tarihi Eserlerin Koruma, Onarımı ve Değerlendirilmesinde Bürokratik Örgütlenme. *Milliyet Kültür Mirasımızı Koruma Semineri Bildiri Özetleri*. İstanbul, 1984 (in Turkish).
2. Başpehlivan N.Ç. Osmanlı'da Mahalle Kavramı ve Süleymaniye Örneği. *Süleymaniye Ulusal Sempozyum / Şehir ve Medeniyet Sempozyumu*, KOCAV Yayınları. İstanbul, 2007 (in Turkish).

3. Cansever T. İstanbul Koruma Projesinin Temel Meseleleri. *Milliyet Kültür Mirasımızı Koruma Semineri Bildiri Özetleri*, İstanbul, 1984 (in Turkish).
4. Çuhadaroğlu F. Kültür Mirasımızı Koruma Semineri. *Milliyet Kültür Mirasımızı Koruma Semineri Bildiri Özetleri*, İstanbul, 1984 (in Turkish).
5. ICOMOS. *Charter for The Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas*. 1987. Available at: https://www.icomos.org.tr/Dosyalar/ICOMOSTR_en0627717001536681570.pdf (accessed 28 May 2023).
6. ICOMOS. *The Valletta Principles for the Safeguarding and Management of Historic Cities, Towns and Urban Areas*. 2011. Available at: https://www.icomos.org.tr/Dosyalar/ICOMOSTR_en0593034001536912260.pdf (accessed 28 May 2023).
7. İnan C. G. *Urban Problematic of Cultural Management in Historical Fragments in Istanbul: A Case Study in Fener-Balat and Süleymaniye*. Master Thesis. Yeditepe Üniversitesi, Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü. İstanbul, 2015.
8. İnceoğlu M. Yaşayanların Gözüyle Süleymaniye Sokakları ve Meydanları. *Süleymaniye Ulusal Sempozyum / Şehir ve Medeniyet Sempozyumu*, KOCAV Yayınları. İstanbul, 2007 (in Turkish).
9. International Convention. *TC Official Gazette*, 17959, 14 February 1982.
10. İstanbul Tarihi Yarımada Yönetim Planı. 2018. Available at : <http://www.alanbaskanligi.gov.tr/tya/samples/magazine/slider.html> (accessed 11 May 2023)
11. Kambek E. Süleymaniye Mahallesi; Dünya Mirası Olarak İstanbul Tarihi Alanları'nın Bir Alt Alanı. Sözüer Z. D.; Kariptaş F. S. (eds). *Tasarım Ve Mimarlık Perspektifinde Geleneksele Bakış*. Ankara, İksad Publ., 2023, pp. 21–56 (in Turkish).
12. Kavalcı Ş. Süleymaniye Konut Mimarisi Cephesi Tasarımları. *Süleymaniye Ulusal Sempozyum / Şehir ve Medeniyet Sempozyumu*, KOCAV Yayınları. İstanbul, 2007 (in Turkish).
13. Kaya R. *Kentsel yenilenme ve nostalji duygusu bağlamında kafelerde geçmişin temsili ve belleğin yeniden üretimi: Süleymaniye örneği* (PhD Thesis). İstanbul Üniversitesi, Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü. İstanbul, 2017 (in Turkish).
14. Koç Z. Süleymaniye Yenilenebilir mi Yenlenmeli mi. *Süleymaniye Ulusal Sempozyum / Şehir ve Medeniyet Sempozyumu*, KOCAV Yayınları. İstanbul, 2007 (in Turkish).
15. Kuban D. Bilimsel Yetkiden, Politik Yetkiye. *Milliyet Kültür Mirasımızı Koruma Semineri Bildiri Özetleri*, İstanbul, 1984 (in Turkish).
16. Kuban D. İstanbul Müze – Kent Projesi Üzerine: İstanbul 1600 Yıllık Bir Müzedir. *Yapı, Sayı*, 288. İstanbul, 2005 (in Turkish).
17. Madran E. (1984). Korumada Devletin Parasal Kaynakları ve Kullanımlarına İlişkin Gözlemler. *Milliyet Kültür Mirasımızı Koruma Semineri Bildiri Özetleri*. İstanbul, 1984 (in Turkish).
18. Mülayim S. Süleymaniye Sempozyumu Gönümüzü Işıklarla Doldurdu. *Süleymaniye Ulusal Sempozyum / Şehir ve Medeniyet Sempozyumu*, KOCAV Yayınları. İstanbul, 2007 (in Turkish).
19. Okutan N. *Gündelik hayatın ideolojik yeniden üretim sürecinde kentsel alanlarda soylulaştırma pratikleri: Tarihi Yarımada örneği*. (Master Thesis) Üsküdar Üniversitesi, Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü. İstanbul, 2022 (in Turkish).
20. Ortaylı İ. Birinci Bölge İçin Bir Öneri. *Milliyet Kültür Mirasımızı Koruma Semineri Bildiri Özetleri*, İstanbul, 1984 (in Turkish).
21. Özbay F. Süleymaniye'de Yoksulluğun İzleri Toplumsal ve Mekansal Kimliğin Dönüşümü. *Süleymaniye Ulusal Sempozyum / Şehir ve Medeniyet Sempozyumu*, KOCAV Yayınları. İstanbul, 2007 (in Turkish).
22. Özdemir C.N. *Unesco dünya miras alanları bağlamında Süleymaniye bölgesi yer altı envanterinin değerlendirilmesi*. (PhD Thesis) Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakıf Üniversitesi, Lisansüstü Eğitim Enstitüsü. İstanbul. 2020 (in Turkish).
23. Polatoğlu Ç. Süleymaniye Evlerinde Kültürel Kimlik-Biçim İlişkisi Üzerine Bir İnceleme. *Süleymaniye Ulusal Sempozyum / Şehir ve Medeniyet Sempozyumu*, KOCAV Yayınları. İstanbul, 2007 (in Turkish).
24. Sefer N. *Eminönü'ndeki vakıf kültür mirası hayrat eserleri ve korunmaları için öneriler*. (PhD thesis). İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi, Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü. İstanbul, 2016 (in Turkish).
25. Şentürk M. Süleymaniye'de Öğrenci Olmak: İstanbul Üniversitesi Öğrencilerinin Şehir ve Medeniyet Algıları. *Süleymaniye Ulusal Sempozyum / Şehir ve Medeniyet Sempozyumu*, KOCAV Yayınları. İstanbul, 2007 (in Turkish).
26. Söylemezoğlu H. K. Kültür Mirasımızın Korunması Üzerine Öneriler. *Milliyet Kültür Mirasımızı Koruma Semineri Bildiri Özetleri*, İstanbul, 1984 (in Turkish).
27. Süleymaniye'de yenileme için start verildi. CNN TURK. <https://www.cnnturk.com/turkiye/>

- suleymaniyede-yenileme-icin-start-verildi?page=3 (accessed 24 April 2023).
28. Tuncer E. Süleymaniye Bölgesi İçin Olası Bir Hayal-Kullanıcı Katılımlı Bir Kentsel Dönüşüm Önerisi. *Süleymaniye Ulusal Sempozyum / Şehir ve Medeniyet Sempozyumu*, KOCAY Yayınları. İstanbul, 2007 (in Turkish).
 29. UNESCO. Historic Areas of Istanbul. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/356/documents/> (accessed 11 May 2023).
 30. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. World Heritage Committee. Ninth Ordinary Session Unesco Headquarters, 2–6 December 1985. Available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/archive/1985/sc-85-conf008-4e.pdf> (accessed 11 May 2023)
 31. Unkapanı-Gazi Boulevard. *Akşam Newspaper*, 1941, April 9.
 32. Varol Ç. *Süleymaniye Camii ve çevresi dünya miras alanı rekonstrüksiyon uygulamaların değerlendirilmesi*. (Master Thesis). Kadir Has Üniversitesi, Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü. İstanbul, 2015 (in Turkish).

Title. World Heritage of Istanbul from Perspective of Vernacular Architecture

Author. Kambek, Erkan — Ph. D., assistant professor. Istinye University, Ayazağa Mah. Azerbaycan Cad. (Vadi İstanbul 4A) Blok No: 3H Sarıyer/İstanbul, Türkiye; erkan.kambek@istinye.edu.tr; ORCID: 0000-0002-4550-9041

Abstract. Istanbul, strategically situated between Europe and Asia on the Bosphorus Peninsula, has served as a hub of political, religious, and artistic significance for over two millennia. The city is home to four distinct areas inscribed as the “Historical Areas of Istanbul” on the UNESCO World Heritage list: the Archaeological Park, the Süleymaniye Quarter with its iconic mosque complex and surrounding bazaars, the Zeyrek area centered around the Zeyrek Mosque, and the Theodosian land walls region, once home to the Blachernae Palace. Despite their historical and cultural value, these heritage sites face significant threats from population growth, industrial pollution, and unchecked urbanization. This paper focuses on the challenges confronting the vernacular wooden architecture of the Süleymaniye Quarter, an area where monumental structures often overshadow the more vulnerable civil architectural heritage. Although Istanbul’s city center has been free of serious conflicts for centuries, the Süleymaniye Quarter bears the appearance of a conflict zone, grappling with issues such as tourism pressures, urban development, neglect, and mismanagement.

International guidelines suggest that reconstruction of historical centers is warranted only after wars or natural disasters. Yet, the Süleymaniye Quarter faces a gradual decline rooted in evolving legal regulations and urban policies. This paper seeks to uncover the underlying causes of decay in the area and explores how to address the social, cultural, and architectural deterioration that has emerged without the presence of an explicit conflict. The study is grounded in a comprehensive review of local research conducted over the past two decades, aimed at understanding the approaches taken to preserve the Süleymaniye Quarter. Additionally, site investigations have been conducted to assess the authenticity of the area’s architectural heritage, particularly as many vernacular buildings have been reconstructed over time rather than preserved in their original form. The analysis also incorporates the latest findings from the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality’s on-site evaluations.

Preserving the invaluable heritage of the Süleymaniye District is a race against time. Situated in a seismically active region, Istanbul faces a high probability of a major earthquake within the next two decades. Protecting the district’s fragile wooden structures requires immediate action, not only to strengthen their physical resilience but also to address the social and economic vulnerabilities intensified by earthquakes, population pressures, industrial pollution, and uncontrolled urban growth.

Keywords: Süleymaniye quarter, timber vernacular architecture, UNESCO World Heritage, cultural heritage conservation, heritage preservation strategies, reconstruction and authenticity

Название статьи. Традиционная архитектура Стамбула как часть Всемирного культурного наследия

Сведения об авторе. Камбек, Эркан — Ph.D., доцент. Университет Истинье, Аязга Маха. Азербайджан Кад. (Вади Стамбул 4А) Блок № 3Н Сарыер/Стамбул, Турция. erkan.kambek@istinye.edu.tr; ORCID: 0000-0002-4550-9041

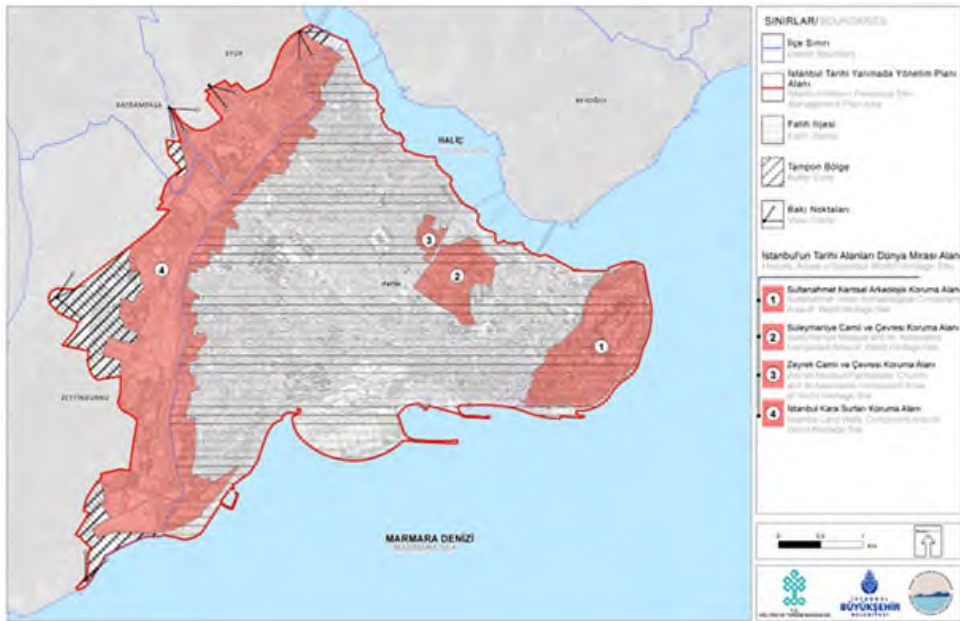
Аннотация. Стамбул, стратегически расположенный между Европой и Азией на полуострове Босфор, уже более двух тысячелетий служит политическим, религиозным и художественным центром. Четыре отдельных района города включены в список Всемирного наследия ЮНЕСКО как «Исторические районы Стамбула»: Археологический парк, квартал Сулеймание с его комплексом ме-

четей и окружающими базарами, район Зейрек с одноименной мечетью и район Феодосийских стен, где некогда находился Влахернский дворец. Несмотря на свою историческую и культурную ценность, эти объекты наследия сталкиваются со значительными угрозами в результате роста населения, промышленного загрязнения и неконтролируемой урбанизации. Данная статья посвящена вызовам, стоящим перед вернакулярной деревянной архитектурой квартала Сулеймание, района, где монументальные сооружения зачастую затмевают более уязвимое наследие гражданской архитектуры. Хотя в центре Стамбула на протяжении веков не было серьезных конфликтов, квартал Сулеймание имеет вид зоны конфликта, сталкиваясь с такими проблемами, как давление туристического бизнеса, градостроительные программы, запустение и ненадлежащее управление.

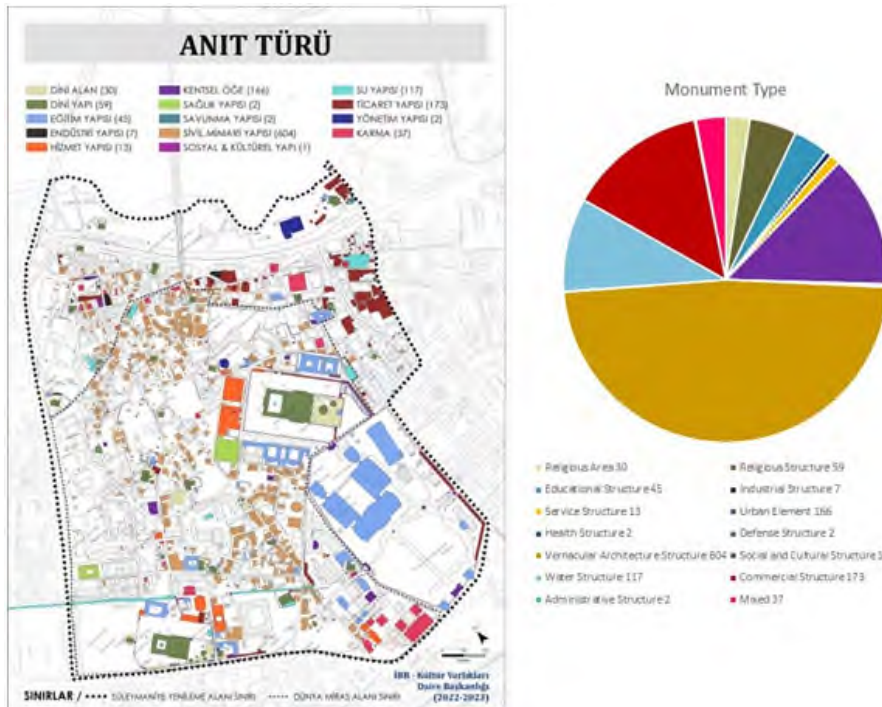
Согласно международным рекомендациям, реконструкция исторических центров оправдана только в случае войн или стихийных бедствий. Тем не менее, квартал Сулеймание переживает постепенный упадок, причиной которого являются меняющиеся правовые нормы и городская политика. В данной работе предпринята попытка выявить основные причины деградации этого района и изучить пути решения проблемы социального, культурного и архитектурного вырождения, возникшие без явного конфликта. Работа основана на всестороннем обзоре результатов локальных исследований, проведенных за последние два десятилетия и направленных на изучение подходов к сохранению квартала. Кроме того, для оценки подлинности архитектурного наследия района были проведены исследования объектов, особенно с учетом того, что многие старинные здания со временем были реконструированы, а не сохранились в своем первоначальном виде. В работу также включены последние данные, полученные в результате оценки, проведенной муниципалитетом Стамбула на местах.

Сохранение бесценного наследия района Сулеймание — это гонка со временем. Расположенный в сейсмически активном регионе, Стамбул сталкивается с высокой вероятностью сильного землетрясения в течение следующих двух десятилетий. Защита хрупких деревянных строений района требует немедленных действий не только для укрепления их физической устойчивости, но и для решения проблем социальной и экономической уязвимости, усиливающихся в результате землетрясений, демографического давления, промышленного загрязнения и неконтролируемого роста городов.

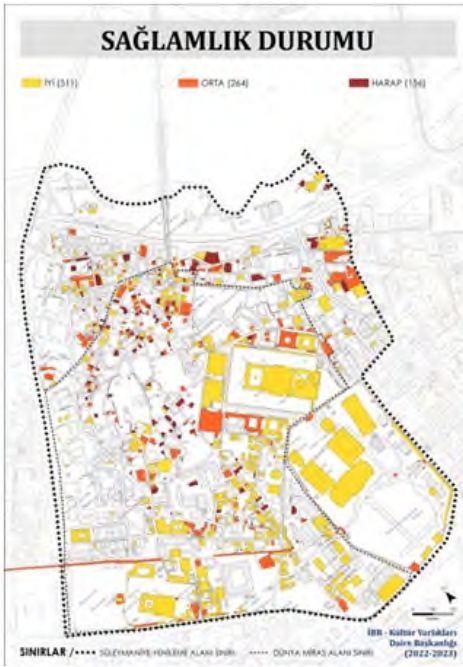
Ключевые слова: Сулеймание, деревянная местная архитектура, Всемирное наследие ЮНЕСКО, сохранение культурного наследия, стратегии сохранения, реконструкция и аутентичность



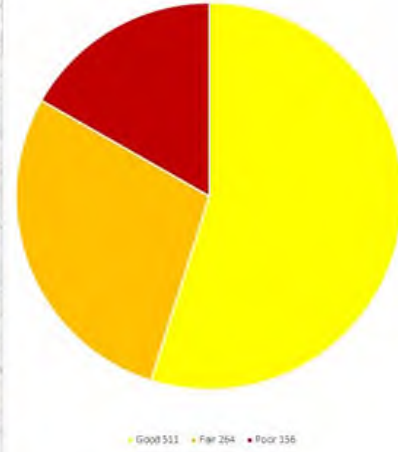
III. 160. Historical Areas of Istanbul © http://www.alanbaskanligi.gov.tr/istanbul_dma.html



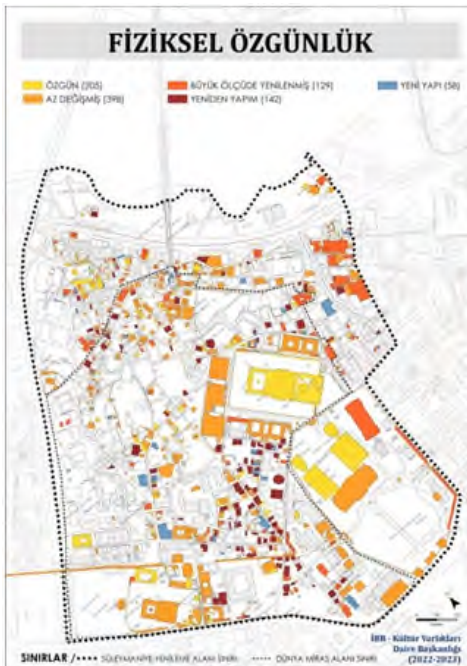
III. 161. Monument types in Süleymaniye Quarter



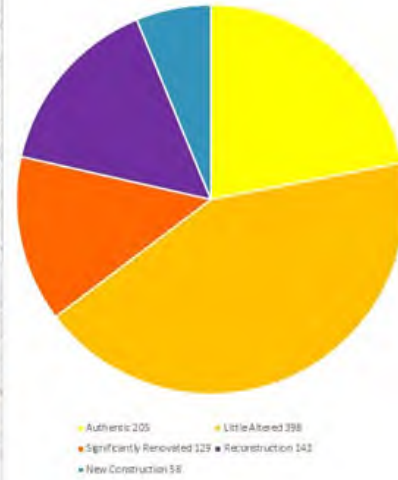
Physical Condition



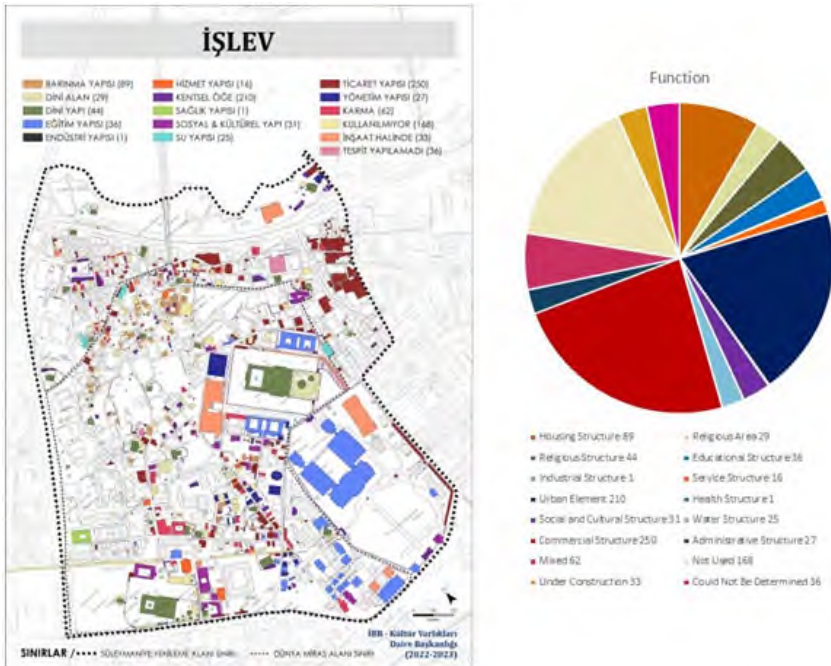
III. 162. Physical Condition of listed monuments in Süleymaniye Quarter



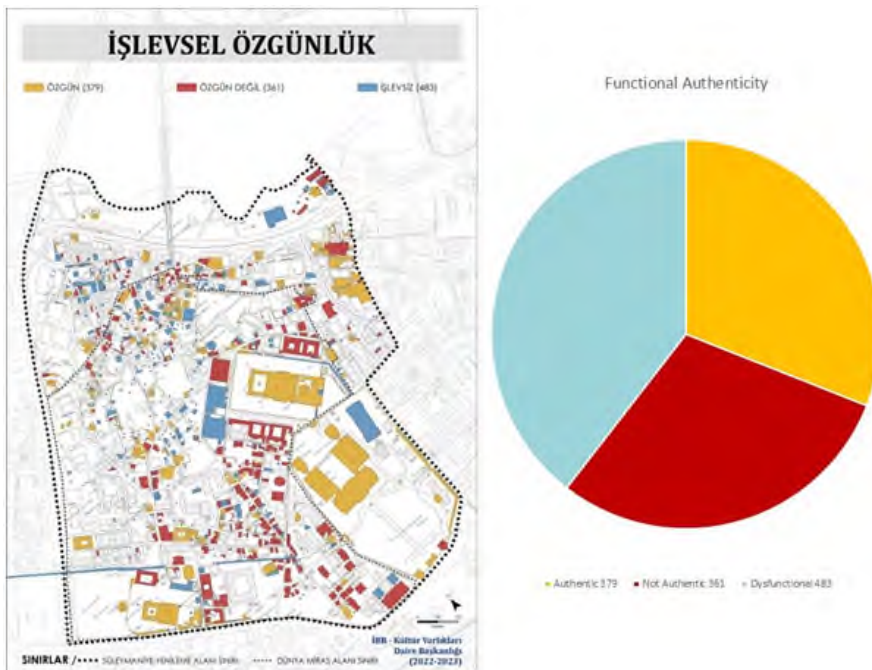
Physical Authenticity



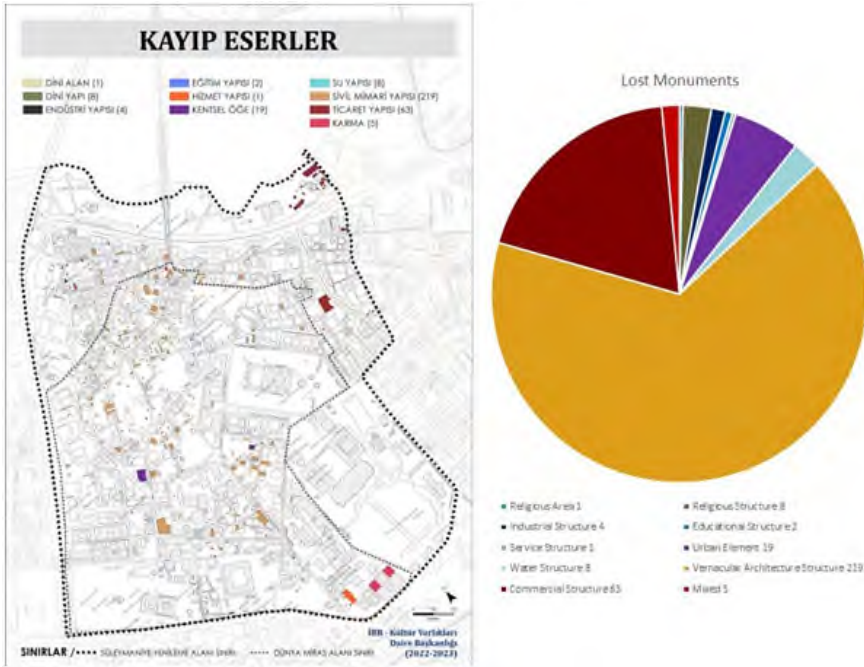
III. 163. Physical Authenticity of listed monuments in Süleymaniye Quarter



III. 164. Functions of monuments in Süleymaniye Quarter



III. 165. Functional Authenticity of listed monuments in Süleymaniye Quarter



III. 166. Lost Monuments in Süleymaniye Quarter



III. 167. Süleymaniye skyline at the beginning of the 20th century © Istanbul Research Institute