



Ankara Arařtırmaları Dergisi

Journal of Ankara Studies

From the Editors

Dear readers,

Along with the ever-changing and transforming urban dynamics, making observations about the city's past and present, and developing recommendations also shape its future. We hope that our journal, which continues on its path with significant accumulations, will make positive contributions to the future of the city. Our 17th issue presents articles focusing on current issues in various parts of the city, local government, elements of cultural memory and identity, architectural history, and urban memory, cultural heritage in need of protection, traditional cultural elements, landscape values, and history of diplomacy.

Designed by German architect Paul Bonatz, the Saraçođlu Neighborhood is a certified cultural asset in its entirety with its trees that created their own habitats in time and buildings where many politicians, scientists, and artists lived. It is the unique venue of the vitalization and nationalization of the Ankara city center, the Republic's first mass housing experiment, and its memory center. The first article of this issue explores the Saraçođlu Neighborhood as a cultural asset and a locus of memory, and it studies the habitations through surveys of literature, observations and conveys the testimony of individuals who lived in these habitations at some point in their lives.

Place names are studied under toponymy, which is simply defined as the discipline studying places. Place names find wide usage in daily life, and any changes made to them may lead to difficulties in their adoption. Administrators use them in the construction of new culture, as they are quite important in terms of urban memory, and they can actually disrupt the transfer of memory when forgotten. The second article of the magazine conducts an analysis on the naming preferences of cultural centers located inside of the service jurisdiction of local governments, which the author also emphasizes. Based on Althusser's concept of the ideological state apparatus, the article investigates how effective naming preferences are in the construction of cultural identity. The article analyzes names through the relationship between political ideologies and the naming preferences of cultural centers in Ankara's central districts.

Another article in the issue focuses on Siteleler, which is one of Turkey's most established furniture production centers. Based on the research conducted on companies operating in this neighborhood, the author proposes a "design center" that would solve the design-related troubles that the local industry is experiencing. The author also predicts that the study will make great contributions to many activities in the area.

Another article, which we hope our readers will find interesting, focuses on Hamamönü and examines how elements of the "henna night," a traditional Turkish cultural celebration, were modified to highlight performance and entertainment, and how many of the aspects considered sacred and social were functionally transformed.

Yet another article focuses on Atatürk Boulevard and Hatip Brooke valley to investigate the present-day landscape texture, in which the holistic landscape understanding of the Republican Era has been replaced by atomistic green areas that are repetitions of each other, and where existing landscape values were rendered invisible. The article aims to enable a discussion of landscape focused urbanism in the context of Ankara, which issues such as climate change and resilient cities require, and which many world cities have included into their agendas in the last two or three decades.

Throughout World War II, not only the Axis Powers states but also those of the Allies have attempted to influence the Turkish government and public opinion via propaganda they conducted in Turkey through various means. Despite the massive defeat that it experienced in the war, Nazi Germany successfully turned its architectural works into an instrument of propaganda via exhibitions held in Turkey. This subject matter was dealt with in the 13th issue of our journal our published in 2018. The current issue discusses how Britain aimed to draw Turkey to its side as an ally and how it succeeded in strengthening the diplomatic relations between the two countries through painting and graphics, architecture, education institutions, book fairs, urban planning, furniture, photography exhibitions that the British Council organized in Ankara during and after the war.

Another article which discusses the impact of neoliberal urban renovation process in the Ulus area on the construct of the "acceptable" woman and focusing on the marketing of the area "for the conservative family" will be of great interest as it makes various observations on the subject matter.

The article investigating the early 20th century ornaments of Karahoca Köyü Mosque in Haymana, and the article elucidating the historical process of the start and development of Jazz music from 1940 to 1980 in Ankara are also making important contributions to the records of the city's art and history.

This issue features an opinion piece, which uncovers for the first time Soviet author Lev Nikulin's notes and impressions from his trip to Turkey, which were published in 1934 in the magazine *Novy Mir* and translated into Turkish by the author of the article. In the aftermath of his Ankara visit in 1933 which coincided with the 10th year of the foundation of the republic, Nikulin presented an impressive picture of the ideology of the new Turkey that was being built quickly and with determination. He described Ankara as "the land where independent Turkey is born," and conveyed the enthusiasm surrounding the construction of the city as the country's new capital.

We hope that you enjoy your reading.

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