

## METHODOLOGY

The main purpose of this study, focusing on structures built by communities that no longer remain in Anatolia, is to scientifically document the present conditions of these architectural works under risk and contribute to extending their lifespan. We hope that this report, which includes historical research, architectural analysis, legal assessment and possible scenarios for the future may prove helpful in decision-making processes that are to come.

Along with the physical destruction these structures suffer, the loss of original information on them also constitutes an important threat. If not documented properly, this inheritance left to us and to future generations shall lose its value. For this reason, one of the most important stages of this field study was the process of architectural measurement and detailed photography of these structures in question. These buildings also reflect the multiple and ever-changing stories they have become home to over the years, taking shape according to these, throughout the multi-layered history of Turkey. We have therefore considered them within their own context and in light of information on historical processes in the region.

While preparing for our field visits, we applied to Regional Protection Boards in order to gain an understanding of existing information regarding structures registered as immovable cultural property. Since those that have been repurposed and are currently being used as public spaces (such as a church turned into a cultural center) face less of a risk in physical terms. These were left outside the scope of this study. An important portion of architectural works examined here were structures that have been abandoned to their fate, in ruins and facing the threat of complete destruction.

The Inventory of Cultural Heritage in Turkey prepared by the Hrant Dink Foundation also proved to be an important source of information for us. Having completed the first stage in the process of research, we commenced our field visits. We made an effort to establish dialogue and collaborate with academics who had conducted field work in areas we visited, with local organizations and civil initiatives sensitive to issues regarding cultural heritage in these areas.

In 7 field visits carried out between June 2015 and October 2016 in Kayseri, Adana, Izmir, Elazığ, Niğde, Bursa and Artvin, experts in different fields such as art history, architectural preservation, and structural statics examined a total of 130 buildings. Care was taken to make sure that experts were already acquainted with the architectural traditions in these areas surveyed. Some participants took part in more than one field visit, thus helping to ensure the consistency of assessment work carried out in different regions.

The present conditions of buildings and the damage they have suffered were documented, and the physical conditions of their surroundings were examined. All of the data regarding the architectural properties, history, function (or functions), the relationship with its context, structural and material problems of the building in question gathered through historical research and field studies were entered into tables by experts. Approximate measurements of buildings carrying the risk of collapse or lacking architectural plans were taken, and these were digitalized through architectural drawing programs. General photographs of each building, as well as close-ups of their architectural and artistic details were placed alongside these architectural drawings.

Risk assessment and suggestions regarding precautions to be taken against existing threats and in order to minimize the risks in question were provided in reports prepared for each structure examined during these studies. The methods of architectural preservation to be employed were considered separately according to the conditions and specific context of each building. Care was taken to cite all of the known names of each structure in question.

Experts taking part in this study classified these structures according to how much of a priority they carried in terms of our cultural heritage and according to the threats they were facing. Risk assessment matrices were prepared in which these were translated into numerical data. In order to

prioritize preservation among structures at risk, those with high probability and scope of damage were identified.

The evaluation system used for this study was based on Herb Stovel's report titled "Risk Preparedness: A Management Manual for Cultural World Heritage" (ICCROM Rome, 1998). In this report, each structure is ranked in terms of criteria relating to "vulnerability" and "significance". "Vulnerability" is evaluated based on the various risks (including structural weakness, difficulty of access, earthquakes, erosion by wind and rain, infirmity of the ground, floods and human-related damage) faced by the structure, and "value" is based on the importance of the structure as part of cultural heritage (its authenticity, interior space, exterior façades, and the extent to which its integrity is preserved).

Although the damages suffered by these structures may categorically seem similar; for each structure, they have diverse characteristics and pose possible future risks in varying levels. All the risks threatening the buildings studied in these reports are classified and the structures that are under greater risk due to existing damages are identified.

We believe that this systematic documentation of every structure, as well as the comparative tables prepared according to criteria based on vulnerability and significance shall contribute to the determination of priorities in decisions regarding the allocation of resources for preservation and restoration.

Although a great majority of the structures examined were registered as immovable cultural property, we observed during field visits that this, on its own, was not sufficient in ensuring preservation, and that most structures required urgent intervention. The responsibility of protecting cultural heritage should not, however, rest solely with public institutions and professionals working in this field. Public sensibility regarding protection and preservation can only be raised to the extent that this cultural wealth becomes known and appreciated as their own by the entire society. We therefore share our publications online as electronic books in order to serve this purpose ([www.kulturelmirasikorumama.org](http://www.kulturelmirasikorumama.org)).

The attitudes of people living in the areas where these authentic structures are located have the most direct effect on their state of preservation or damage. We believe that local work to be carried out by civil society organizations may lead to the development of a dialogue with all stakeholders.

We hope that our study shall contribute to the promotion of the multi-layered, rich cultural heritage of Anatolia, and to an appreciation of these structures' public significance.

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