

## Chapter 19

# Preservation of Abandoned Rural Settlements Through Re-Functionalization: The Case of the Ancient City of Side

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### Introduction

Historic environments are urban textures that have preserved their originality from the past to the present, which allow the establishment of a connection between the past and the future, and which contain cultural heritage elements that distinguish each city from each other. Preventing the historical environments from being negatively affected by the change and development process in the city and the concern to transfer the original values to future generations play a very important role in conservation efforts. These historical environments that need to be preserved cannot fulfill their original functions with this change and development over time. With re-functionalization, historical urban textures are made active in social life in line with their original identities.

Rural settlements, which are a part of historical urban textures, constitute our rural architectural heritage. Rural architectural heritage can be defined as a settlement culture where the natural and built environment coexist, which has a unique identity formed by socio-cultural activities, traditional, historical and settlement characteristics, tangible and intangible heritage.

With the rapidly increasing population, change and development in the world, it is seen that rural heritage areas and rural life are decreasing and disappearing. The dehumanization of the region as a result of the abandonment of the settlements by people, the main element that enables the formation of rural living areas, is one of the important factors that cause the disappearance of rural settlements and rural heritage. For this reason, in this study, before examining and evaluating the abandoned rural heritage, the factors that cause the dehumanization of these areas were revealed.

It is possible to say that many of the rural settlements in the world and in our country have been abandoned or are about to be abandoned for different reasons. The reasons for the abandonment of rural settlements depend on many reasons. It is possible to classify the reasons for abandonment in two main groups as human and natural causes. Human-induced reasons can be classified as socio-cultural, economic-political and other reasons. Natural causes can be classified as climate changes, earthquakes, fires, avalanches and landslides, floods, volcanic eruptions. In many regions of our country, there are villages with almost no population or completely abandoned villages.

Side is a historically and culturally rich ancient port city that has been home to many civilizations, which had to be abandoned for many reasons throughout its historical process. In the 12th century, it was abandoned by the people of the region due to the Crusades, Arab invasion, epidemics, economic difficulties, fires, earthquakes, especially the loss of the importance of the port. No settlement could be established in the region for a very long time. During the time it was abandoned, the ancient city was looted, destroyed and buried under the ground. In 1924, immigrants from Crete settled in this region and founded Selimiye Village. The village was built on the old ancient city as a continuation of it and mostly using the stones of the buildings in the ancient city.

Archaeological excavations in the ancient city started in 1947 and still continue today. The area was opened to visitors as Turkey's first open-air exhibition. In the village of Selimiye, the buildings above the elevation were taken under preservation in accordance with the original, and the remains of the ancient period under the elevation were

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covered with steel construction and glass material and aimed to be exhibited. It is aimed to ensure the cultural and historical sustainability of the area by taking the buildings under preservation and giving them new functions. In this study, examples of abandoned rural architectural heritage from the world and Turkey were investigated. Within the scope of the researched examples, it is aimed to evaluate the re-functioning practices in the ancient city of Side and Selimiye Village with their positive and negative aspects.

### **Material and Methods**

At the beginning of the research, a theoretical infrastructure was created by reviewing the literature. In this theoretical framework, definitions of historical environment, re-functioning and rural architectural heritage were made. The reasons why rural architectural heritages were abandoned and with which approaches they were re-functionalized were investigated and tabulated.

In the next step, rural architectural heritages of the world, which can form the basis for the study examples, were examined and the solutions and suggestions made for rural heritage conservation problems were compared. These comparisons were tabulated.

Then the location and history of the ancient city of Side, which is the study area, was examined. Literature research was conducted on when the ancient city of Side was abandoned and why it was abandoned.

The abandonment process of Side and then the process of its re-functioning was determined through fieldwork and literature studies. These findings were tabulated and the applications, functionalizations and their positive and negative aspects were compared.

Suggestions have been made for similarly abandoned rural architectural heritages.

### **Historic Environment**

Historical environments are the places shaped by civilizations from the past to the present according to their own cultures. Historical environments provide information about the lifestyles, social and cultural structure of ancient civilizations. The buildings that have survived until this time give information about the architectural styles and construction techniques of the periods in which they were built. All of the urban fabric of the city, which has survived from the past to the present, has shown development and change over time, has harbored all these in order and has carried them to the present day by keeping them alive, is called "historical environment".

### **Historic Environment Preservation**

Historic environments change and develop in order to respond to the needs of the day, to meet these needs and to continue to be a living environment. In this process of change, the historical environment describes the dimension of society over time. Today, cities facing major problems such as rapid urbanization, irregular and complex structuring, and migration are a natural situation for the change and development of the built environment that is not sufficient for the needs of the day (Arabacıoğlu & Aydemir, 2007). Historical environments are areas where we examine and experience the lives of societies from the past to the present.

The preservation of cultural heritage areas in urban textures is important for the continuity of historical and cultural values. It will also ensure the recycling of the built environments of cities in the future by preserving their original textures (Kiper, 2004).

Historic environments have many values such as continuity, historicity, aesthetics and technique, and authenticity; it is important not to lose these values and they should be preserved. The fact that historical environments continue to be used today and find a place in contemporary life is perceived as continuity value (Duralı, 2007). Keeping historical environments alive is achieved by giving them function and ensuring their continuity. The value of historical buildings and their surroundings is related to the events they witnessed in the past, their architectural styles and the way they are used. Thanks to these buildings, the stages of culture, art and style concepts from the past to the present are revealed. One of the elements of the built environment is the transfer of conservation awareness to people in the historical environment. Societies without conservation awareness face the danger of destruction and extinction due to the change of structures. In order not to face this danger, the phenomenon of conservation, the awareness of preservation and transmission should be conveyed to all users correctly.

### **The Concept of Repurposing**

The transformation of historical buildings from a state that has survived from the past to the present but is not usable in the past to another function without harming its original value and urban identity by ensuring that it maintains its value in today's conditions is called re-functioning (Nurlu, 2020).

Refunctioning is a method that can be used to prevent old buildings from becoming dilapidated and demolished (Ahunbay, 2009). Although the buildings, which are considered as cultural heritage and have an identity feature for the city, are physically standing, they are abandoned and not used because they cannot provide their function today, which damages these historical textures. At this point, refunctioning contributes to the city

identity and increases the attractiveness of cultural heritage buildings. With re-functioning, historical textures can be transferred to future generations by adapting to today's conditions together with the traces they carry from the past and their original value.

### Reasons and Importance of Repurposing

Each building was built in line with the conditions of its time. Changes in historical, socio-cultural, functional, environmental and economic values over time have led to differentiation of usage needs in buildings (Burden, 2004). Today, demolition is not seen as the right decision in order to provide different uses. Demolishing historic buildings erases them from the urban memory and prevents them from reaching future generations. Repurposing is done for economic, social and historical reasons. The aim is not only to provide economic gain but also to ensure sustainability in terms of urban identity. Historical buildings contribute to tourism and urban development by meeting the needs of the time and in accordance with the conditions of the time with their new functions (Kervankiran, 2014).

### Rural Architectural Heritage

Rural architectural heritage can be defined as the combination of values that are characteristic of the place where the natural and built environment coexist. It is also possible to define it as a settlement culture that has a unique identity in terms of spatial and functional aspects formed by socio-cultural activities, traditional formations, historical and settlement characteristics, tangible and intangible heritage related to rural life (Özcan 2017, Karkul, Özünel 2011).

### Abandonment Process and Causes of Historic Rural Settlements

With the rapidly increasing population, change and development in the world, it is seen that rural settlements and rural life are decreasing and disappearing. It is possible to say that many of the rural settlements in the world have been abandoned or are about to be abandoned for different reasons. In many regions of our country, there are villages whose population has almost disappeared or completely abandoned due to different reasons. Political conflicts are at the forefront of these reasons. For example, in our past history, many rural settlements had to be abandoned as a result of population exchanges. There are multiple human-induced or natural reasons for abandonment such as economic reasons, difficult geographical conditions, natural disasters, population changes, and the construction of dams close to the region (Table 1) (Altun, Arısoy, Sivuran, Erkal, Güngördü 2020).

**Table 1.** Abandonment Process and Causes of Historic Rural Settlements (Author, 2024)

| HUMAN CAUSES  |                            |  | NATURAL CAUSES     |
|---|----------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Socio-Cultural and Economic Causes                              | Political Causes/Conflicts | Other Causes                                     | Natural Causes     |
| Increased Unemployment  | Security Problems          | Depletion of Reserves                            | Climate Change     |
| Decrease in Agricultural Productivity                           | Public Under Pressure      | Location on Mineral Reserves                     | Earthquakes        |
| Inadequacy and Remoteness of Public Services                    | Terrorist Incidents        | Increase in Urbanization Activities              | Fires              |
| Difficulty in Access to Education, Health and Cultural Services | Internal and External Wars | Public and Private Sector Investments Avalanches | Landslides         |
| Inadequacy of Transportation and Infrastructure                 | Forced Migrations          | Formation of Areas Threatening Human Health      | Floods             |
| In Search of a Better Life                                      | Political Discrimination   | Location on Archaeological Sites                 | Volcanic Eruptions |
| Desire to reach the living conditions in big cities             | Exposure to Racism         | Zoning Policies                                  | Disaster Risk      |

### Preservation of Historic Rural Settlements through Re-functionalization

The preservatio of abandoned or nearly abandoned rural heritage settlements by re-functionalizing them may be possible with adaptive approaches such as improving living conditions, providing employment to those living in the region, preserving the cultural heritage in the settlement area and turning the unique value and

## 17 Preservation of Side's Abandoned Rural Settlements

cultural heritage of the region into a point of attraction. The approaches seen in the reuse of rural settlements can be analyzed in three groups (Eres 2016, Güler 2019, Kahya 2019).

### **Museumization Approach**

The first examples of the museumization approach were seen in Europe. It is seen that singular historical rural heritage buildings selected from various regions of the countries are moved to an area close to the city centers and open-air museums are established and exhibited (Figure 1) (Eres 2016, Güler 2019, Kahya 2019).



**Figure 1.** Altinköy Open Air Museum , Ankara, Altındağ

### **Tourism Approach**

Another approach to preservation historic rural settlements that are about to lose their population is to re-functionalize the settlement in accordance with tourism movements (Figure 2) (Eres 2016, Güler 2019, Kahya 2019).



**Figure 2.** Side Ancient Theater, Antalya

### **Resettlement Approach**

The most preferred approach to the re-functionalization of abandoned rural settlements is the resettlement of the former inhabitants, and the second option of the resettlement approach is the settlement of settlers called the new rural population (Figure 3) (Eres 2016, Güler 2019, Kahya 2019).



**Figure 3.** Adatepe Village, Çanakkale

## Examples of Abandoned and Repurposed Rural Architectural Heritage

**Table 2.** Examples of architectural heritage (Author, 2024)

|                       | PLACE                     | REASON FOR ABANDONMENT |                  | CURRENT SITUATION   |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------|---|
|                       |                           | PEOPLE SOURCED         | NATURE SOURCED   |   |
| Oyuklu Village        | Mardin-Midyat             | War, terror            |                  | Some of the former inhabitants are known to have returned.  |
| Beğiş Village         | Antalya-Korkuteli         | Economic               |                  | With the tourism approach, necessary repairs were made and it was reopened for use.   |
| Savaşan Village       | Şanlıurfa-Halfeti         |                        | Water Floods     | It is aimed to restore the abandoned stone houses and turn them into boutique hotels. Due to the interesting appearance of the village, it is used as a movie plateau.                      |
| Sazak Village         | İzmir-Karaburun           | Exchange               |                  | It will be brought to tourism with restoration works.   |
| Kayaköy               | Muğla-Fethiye             | Exchange               |                  | It has been functioned as a ruin site.  |
| Yeşilbağcılar Village | Muğla-Yatağan             | Thermal Power Plant    |                  | The people of the village have been evacuated due to the construction of a thermal power plant.   |
| Yörük Village         | Karabük-Safranbolu        | Economic               |                  | Some of the traditional houses have been revitalized in terms of tourism by adapting them to uses such as museum-houses, pensions, art galleries, souvenir sales units, and pancake houses. |
| Okçular Village       | Elazığ-Kovancılar         |                        | Earthquake       | The devastating damage left by the earthquake is being repaired.  |
| Shatili Village       | Georgia Khevsureti Region | Health Conditions      |                  | There are studies on tourism-oriented rural development model.  |
| Tyneham Village       | England Dorset Region     | War                    |                  | The traces of the war have been restored with minor interventions and opened to the public  |
| Roghudi Village       | Italy Calabria Region     |                        | Flood, Landslide | It is tried to be revived with trips organized to the village.  |
| Farsa Village         | Greece Kefalonia Island   |                        | Earthquake       | A research project was developed for the restoration and reuse of traditional masonry buildings in the village.   |

### Mardin Midyat, Oyuklu Village

One of the options used for the reuse of abandoned rural settlements is the resettlement of the indigenous people who lived in that region (Güler, 2019). The residents of Oyuklu Village, who had to migrate due to security problems such as war, terrorism, etc., returned to their villages again with the provision of security and prosperity in the region (Figure 4,5) (Güler, 2019).



**Figure 4.** Aerial view of Oyuklu Village (Sami,2019)

**Figure 5.** Oyuklu Village texture and residents (Sami,2019)

### **Antalya Korkuteli, Beğiş Village**

The village of Beğiş in Antalya has largely lost its population over time due to economic and cultural reasons. The masonry buildings with wooden floors that make up the traditional texture of the village have deteriorated due to the effect of abandonment (Figure 6). In 2012, with the idea of "Life Village", some of the buildings were purchased and the necessary interventions were made for reuse. Within the scope of this project, infrastructure foundations were established, traditional houses were repaired, and the village was reopened for use with a tourism approach with various social and cultural activities (Figure 7) (Güler, 2019).

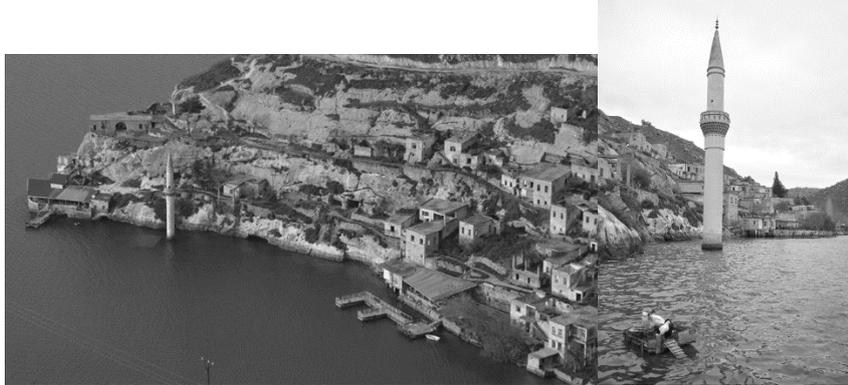


**Figure 6.** Traditional texture of Beğiş Village (Yaman,2019)

**Figure 7.** Aerial View of Beğiş Village (Korkan,2023)

### **Şanlıurfa Halfeti, Savaşan Village**

Halfeti was flooded in 2000 as a result of the construction and overflow of the Birecik Dam (Figure 9). Today, the abandoned Savaşan Village is referred to as 'Old Halfeti'. The village, which is described as a 'sunken city', which visitors can see by boat tour and most of which is under water, attracts the attention of tourists (Figure 8). In 2013, the abandoned stone houses in Savaşan village in Halfeti district of Şanlıurfa, which was included in the "Sakin City" network, are planned to be restored and serve as boutique hotels (Güler, 2016).



**Figure 8.** Aerial view of Savaşan Village (Anadolu Ajansı,2019)

**Figure 9.** Savaşan Village under water (Anadolu Ajansı,2019)

### **İzmir Karaburun, Sazak Village**

Sazak Village is located in the Karaburun district of Izmir. Greeks once lived in the village. In 1923, after the exchange agreement signed between Turkey and Greece, the Greeks left the village. Treasure hunters haunted the village, which remained empty afterwards. The village was heavily plundered and only ruined historical ruins remain (Figure 10). The village, which has been declared an urban preservation area, will be restored and will be brought into tourism. Sazak Village has already become the center of attention of photographers and movie directors. The historical village also hosts artistic events (Figure 11) (İzGazete, 2023).

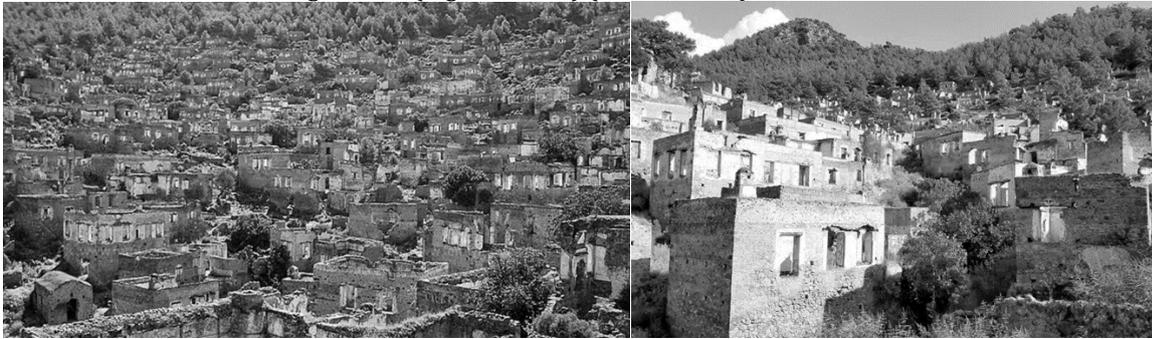


**Figure 10.** Traditional texture of Sazak Village (İzGazete, 2023)

**Figure 11.** Activities organized in Sazak Village (İzGazete, 2023)

### Muğla Fethiye, Kayaköy

After the War of Independence, the Greeks in Kayaköy and the Turks in Western Thrace migrated mutually in accordance with the Exchange Agreement signed between the Turkish and Greek governments. The village, which was neglected after the exchange, has been under the leadership of the Chamber of Architects since the 1980s and efforts have been made to make the village a "Turkish-Greek village of peace and friendship". Today, it is functioned as an archaeological site (Figure 12-13) (Ekinci, 1997).



**Figure 12-13.** The traditional texture of Kayaköy (Rehbername,2020)

### Muğla Yatağan, Yeşilbağcılar Village

Yeşilbağcılar Village was expropriated by the state in 2012 and then privatized and bought by the mines that supply coal to the thermal power plant. The villagers abandoned the village in 2011-2012 and today it looks like a ghost village. Those who have left their olive groves in the abandoned village are unable to cultivate their lands today due to the miners blocking access to and from the village (Figure 14-15) (Güler ,2016).



**Figure 14-15.** The traditional texture of Yeşilbağcılar Village(AnkaHaber, 2021)

### Karabük Safranbolu, Yörük Village

Yörük Village has lost more than half of its population due to migration from the village to the city. As a result of the abandonment of the village, the cultural heritage buildings remain empty and are gradually becoming dilapidated (Figure 16). Tourism has been used as a tool to improve the economic conditions of the people living in Safranbolu Yörük Village, which is on the UNESCO World Heritage List, and to ensure the preservation of cultural heritage. In this context, it is seen that some of the traditional houses have been functionalized as museum-houses, pensions, art galleries, souvenir sales units, and pancake houses. On the streets, it is seen that

## 17 Preservation of Side's Abandoned Rural Settlements

the people of the village try to earn additional income by selling food products such as tarhana, various dried fruits, jams, molasses, tomato paste, etc. (Figure 17) (Kiper, 2006).



**Figure 16.** The traditional texture of Yörük Village(Kiper,2006)  
**Figure 17.** Yörük Village revitalization activities (Karabük Haber,2019)

### Elazığ Kovancılar, Okçular Village

2010, a moderate earthquake occurred in Kovancılar district of Elazığ, killing 42 people and destroying many houses in the villages. The settlement that suffered the greatest loss of life and property in the Kovancılar earthquake was Okçular Village (Figure 19). In the examinations made by experts in Okçular Village, they attribute the high damage of the settlement in the earthquake to the use of poor quality materials in traditional structures built with mudbrick and stone materials (Figure18) (Sunkar , 2011).



**Figure 18.** The traditional texture of Okçular Village (Sunkar ,2011).  
**Figure 19.** Post-earthquake situation of Okçular Village (Sunkar ,2011).

### Shatili Village, Khevsureti District, Georgia

Shatili was evacuated by the government during the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) period on the grounds that it did not meet the minimum health conditions, and the people were settled in the new village established in the plain. Today, it is known that scientific studies are being carried out to re-evaluate the abandoned Shatili village with a tourism-oriented rural development model (Figure 20-21) (Güler, 2016).



**Figure 20-21.** The traditional texture of Shatili Village (Güler, 2016)

### Tyneham Village, Dorset, England

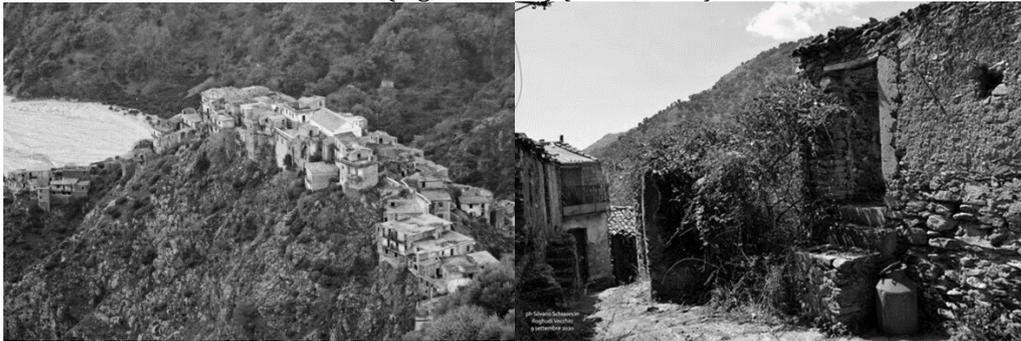
In 1967, following the devastation of war-damaged Tyneham, the NGO Friends of Tyneham spearheaded a campaign to restore the crumbling village houses and bring the old inhabitants back to the village. Some buildings in the village have been restored and opened to the public. In the restoration of buildings that were heavily damaged during the war, it is seen that small interventions that preserve the existing traces of war are preferred instead of comprehensive interventions such as reconstruction (Figure 20-21) (Güler, 2016).



**Figure 20-21.** The traditional texture of Tyneham Village (Güler, 2016)

### Roghudi Village, Calabria Region, Italy

Situated on a sloping terrain, Roghudi village, with its narrow streets and traditional buildings, presents an image of man and nature in partnership. The depopulation of Roghudi Village started in the 1940s with the migration of villagers who could not earn the income they wanted from agriculture and animal husbandry towards the coastal areas, and the settlement was completely abandoned after the village was flooded after a series of floods and landslides in the 1970s (Figure 22-23) (Güler, 2016).



**Figure 22.** Aerial view of Roghudi Village (Güler,2016).

**Figure 23.** The traditional texture of Roghudi Village (Güler,2016).

### Farsa Village, Kefalonia Island, Greece

The village of Farsa, located on the Greek island of Kefalonia, was severely damaged and rendered unusable after the Great Ionian earthquake in 1953. It is known that some of the homeless people of the village settled in different parts of the island with the support of the Greek government, and some of them settled in the new village established close to the old settlement. A research project has been developed for the restoration and reuse of traditional masonry buildings in Farsa Village (Figure 24-25) (Güler, 2016).

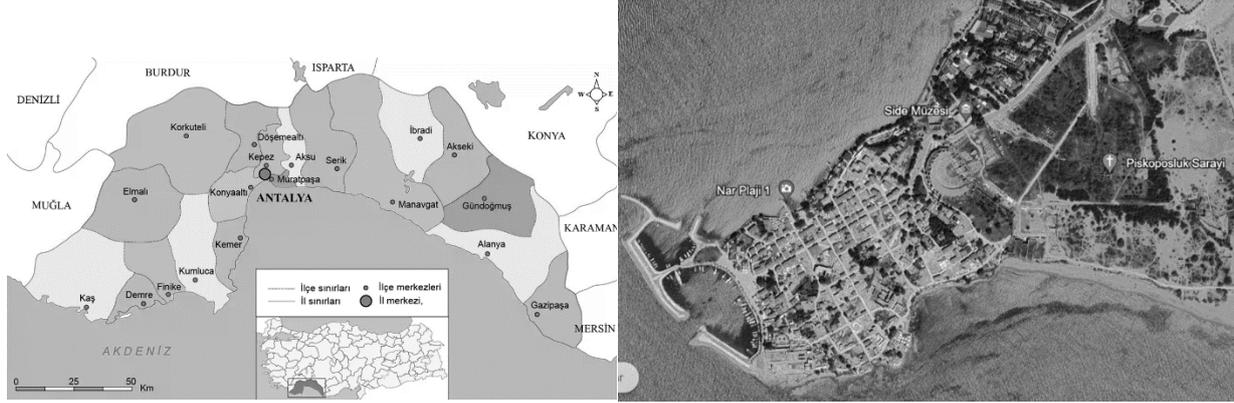


**Figure 24.** Aerial view of Farsa Village (Zaferatos, 2006)

**Figure 25.** The traditional texture of Farsa Village (Zaferatos, 2006)

## Side Ancient City

Antalya is one of the oldest port cities in the Mediterranean. Being a port city has made it a trade route since the early ages (Figure 27). As it was a commercial center, many societies established settlements here. Cities that were port cities were generally developed and rich cities. Rome, Byzantium, Abbasids, Crusaders established sovereignty and settlements in the city. Turks conquered the city in 1207 during the Seljuk period. Although it changed hands for a short time afterwards, it remained under the rule of the Turks. Side is one of the ancient city centers in Antalya, which hosts many ancient port cities. It is 60 km away from Antalya. It is located east of Antalya (Figure 26). Today, the region is very open to touristic visits. There are hotels and tourism bazaars around it. The vast majority of the people's income is tourism (Şimşek, 2023).



**Figure 26.** Antalya's position in Turkey (Milliyet, 2021)

**Figure 27.** Bird's eye view of Side Ancient City (Google Maps, 2024)

The plan of the city is a continuation of the previous settlement. The settlement was established before the Neolithic and pre-Caelotic periods. The period with the most dominant traces is the Hellenistic period. The Hellenes migrated after the Anatolian civilizations. Hellenes fused with Anatolian civilization. It is thought to represent the Anatolian tradition that Athena, who chose this city with the demonstration of the Roman period city foundation mythology Appolon, carried a shield and pomegranate, a symbol of fertility. Archaic and Classical Period VI century BC. the whole region came under the rule of the Lydian kingdom and then the Persians. In 334 BC, it opened its doors to Alexander the Great without any objection. The city has been a subject of constant debate by the Hellenic kings. Jews continued to exist in Side during the Hellenistic Period (Figure 28-29).

Zoning in Side started with the development of agriculture and maritime activities in II. III. century AD. Theater and Colonnaded Street were repaired and columns were erected in honor of people (Kaderli, 2009).



**Figure 28.** Side Ancient City general view

**Figure 29.** Model of Side Ancient City (Kaderli, 2009)

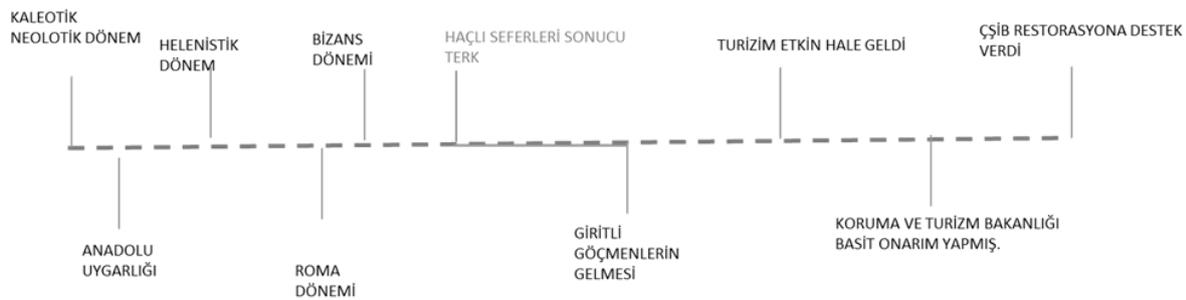
## The Process And Reasons Behind The Abandonment Of The Ancient City Of Side

There is no information about when the city of Side was abandoned. However, some sources say that the people were affected by the Crusades and Arab raids and had to flee the region. The end of the activity of the harbor in which it was located caused economic difficulties for the people of the village who lived on the income of the harbor. Trade and living conditions became difficult. Earthquakes and attacks damaged the city. Epidemic diseases came from overseas. The people of Side had to migrate to Attaleia (Kaderli, 2009). Although the city passed to the Ottoman Seljuk sovereignty, this village was never used in those periods. In the 12th century, the Arab geographer

El Idris shows this region as a dead city. He describes it as burnt Antalya. According to Idrisi, the city started to be abandoned around 1150. In the 12th century it was completely abandoned (Figure 30-31) (Table 3)(Mansel, 1978).

**Table 3.** Reasons for the abandonment of the ancient city of Side (Author, 2024)

|                                      | Place   | REASON FOR ABANDONMENT         |                | CURRENT STATUS  |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|----------------|---|
|                                      |         | HUMAN-INDUCED                  | NATURE-INDUCED |   |
| ANCIENT CITY OF SIDDA (12TH CENTURY) | ANTALYA | Arab invasion                  | Earthquake     | After it was abandoned, the Cretan people came to the city.   |
|                                      |         | Crusades                       |                | The village of Giritli was established right next to the ancient city.  |
|                                      |         | Loss of importance of the port |                | Over time, with the support of the state, the people continued restoration works in the region.                 |
|                                      |         | Economic hardship              |                | The ancient city was revitalized.   |
|                                      |         | Epidemic diseases              |                | The region was preserved together with the Giritli village and the ancient city and turned into a tourism area. |
|                                      |         |                                |                | The people living in the region have been enriched and the source of income has been tourism.                   |



**Figure 30.** Side Ancient City timeline (Author, 2024)

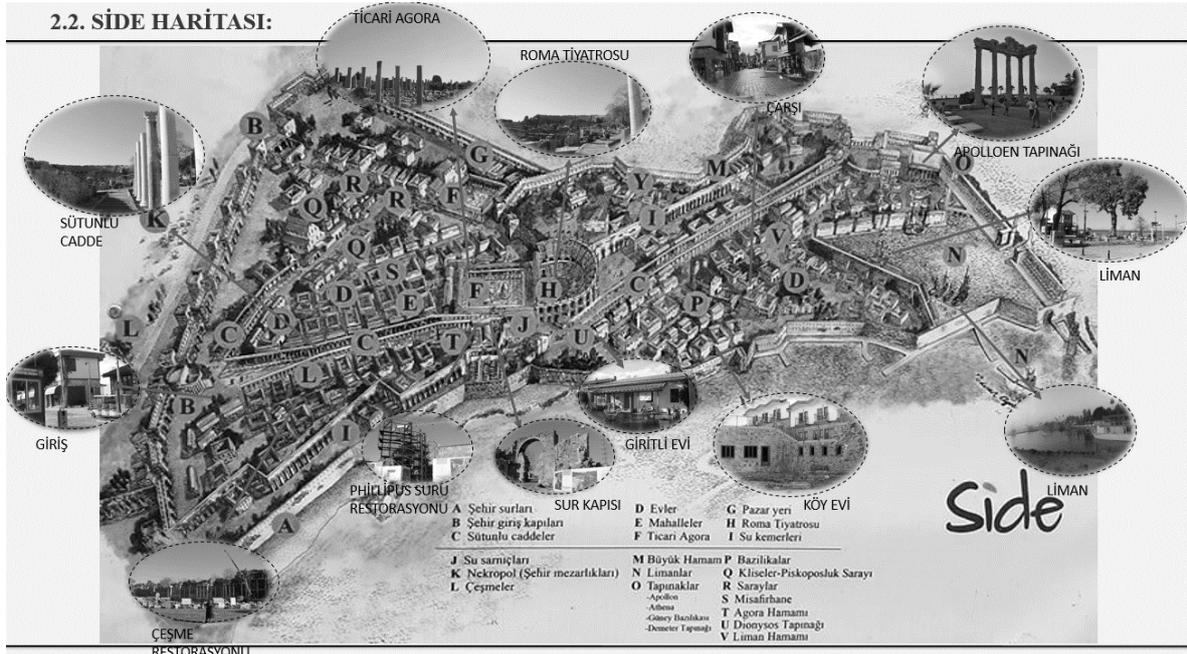


**Figure 31.** Ancient ruins of Side and Selimiye village houses (Author, 2024)

### Side Ancient City in the 20th century:

Since the city was abandoned after the crusades, the buildings suffered a great devastation. Many buildings were destroyed and remained under the ground. In 1924, Cretan immigrants came to the region. Selimiye village with 68 households was established. Uniform houses were built and during the construction of these houses, marbles and stones from the surrounding historical monuments were used. It is said that Italian minorities used the area as a quarry and ruined historical monuments. The immigrants who came here scared them away. At first, immigrants were engaged in agriculture and olive cultivation. In the 70s, tourism started to become active (Kaderli, 2009). In the 80s, the Ministry of Conservation and Tourism started to carry out conservation and restoration works in this region. Later, with the support of the state, the state carried out restoration works together with the people. The ancient city and the newly established Cretan village were turned into a tourism city together (Figure 32)(ÇŞİB).

## Side Map



**Figure 32.** Plan of the ancient city of Side and photographs of the current situation (edited by the author with reference to the Rehbername, 2024).

## Side Historical Buildings

### Temples and Ancient Harbor

All the known and unearthed temples belong to the Roman period. Mansel and his team started the first excavations in 1947. The temple excavations started again in 1962 and new remains were found. Mansel says that there was a square and temples surrounded it. Among the restored temples, only the Temple of Apollo was uncovered (Şener, 2022). There are 5 temples: Apollo, Athena, South Basilica, Temple of Dionos, Temple of Man. The remains of the temples were uncovered over time. The restoration of the Temple of Apollo was carried out by Zeynep Ahunbay under the leadership of Jale Inan between 1977 and 1991. The ruins of the temple were uncovered over time and revitalized together with the harbor. It was illuminated and landscaped for tourism. The area was illuminated and re-functionalized for concerts and festivals (Figure 33) (ÇŞİB)



**Figure 33.** Apollo temple change (ÇŞİB, Neredekal,2024) (Hurses,2023)

It is planned to revive the important ancient harbor used for trade purposes in the Roman and Hellenistic period and transform it into a marina (Figure 34-35) (Çubuk, 2013).



Figure 34, 35. Side Ancient City Ancient harbor today (Çubuk,2013)

### C Street - Houses and Tak

They were unearthed by excavations between 1947- 49 and 1959- 60 (ÇŞİB). They belong to the Roman and Hellenistic periods. The street was unearthed from the main gate towards the modern settlement. The arch is located at the point where the street starts to slope. The street was later paved with stones and arranged in such a way that vehicles could pass. The arch is preserved and restoration works are still ongoing around it (Figure 36-37) (Atalay, 2016).

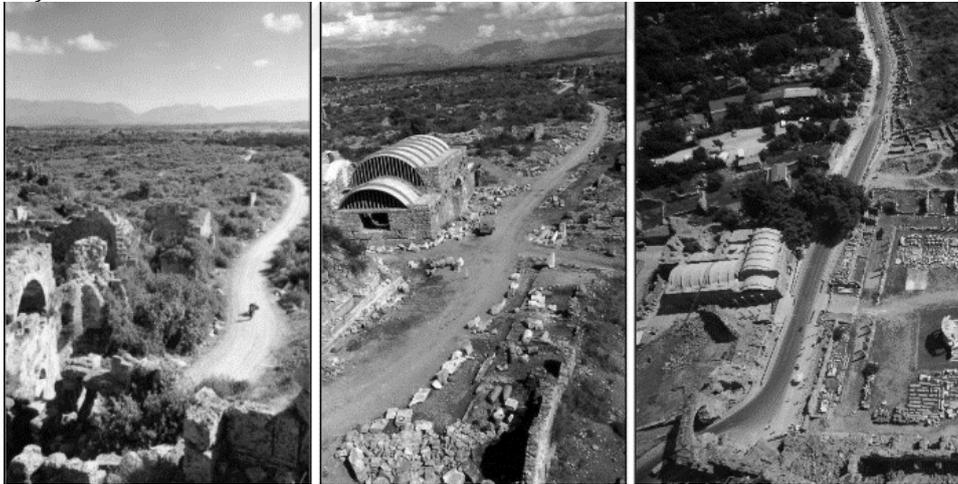


Figure 36 a. Photograph of the colonnaded street (C Street) in the 1950s, 1960s and 2015 (Atalay, 2016)



Figure 36 b. Pre-functionalization Tak (ÇŞİB)

Figure 37. Tak's outlook for 2024 (Author, 2024)

### Theater

It is thought that the building belongs to the Hellenistic or Roman period and there is no clear information supporting this. Theater repairs were started in 1971 without a survey. Then it was stopped and continued by drawing a survey. In 1982, the project was started by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism by integrating it with the surrounding area. It lasted between 1982 and 2008. The demolished blocks of the stage building of the orchestra

## 17 Preservation of Side's Abandoned Rural Settlements

were stacked in a corner of the theater. Architectural measurement, drawing, analysis and restitution studies were carried out. Excavation, cleaning and repair works were carried out and the building reached its present position. The theater was later functionalized and turned into a concert area (Figure 38-39) (Kaderlı, 2009).



**Figure 38.** Bird's eye view of the ancient theater (ÇŞİB)

**Figure 39.** Functionalization of the ancient theater as a concert venue ( Milliyet, 2018)

### Girtli Village

After Side was abandoned, Cretan immigrants came to the city in 1924 and established the village of Selimiye on top of the old ancient city. Restoration works are still ongoing in Side, where houses built in the tradition of ancient and Ottoman architecture are intertwined (Figure 40). In 2014, the Side Ancient City Conservation Revision Zoning Plan was approved by the Antalya Conservation Regional Board and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and entered into force. Buildings that did not belong in the traditional housing texture were demolished. While the historical buildings were repaired, the buildings above the ground and the remains of the historical archaeological excavations below the soil level, the colonnaded street and old buildings were unearthed. Archaeological remains were examined together with experts and their preservation and repair were carried out (Figure 43) (ÇŞİB). Most of them were monitored under the glass floor (Figure 41). Urban design and pedestrianization works were carried out in 2 stages in the historical peninsula, improving the quality of public spaces and making access to these areas safer. In addition to these, in order to preservation and ensure the continuity of the Cretan culture, the old school building in the area was functionalized as the Cretan Culture House - Cretan Museum (Figure 47). Again, it was aimed to preserve the traces of daily life by opening a Cretan Coffee House in the square (Figure 44-45-46). The implementation of approximately 30 percent of the parcels within the planning area of the Ancient City of Side has been completed; work is ongoing.



**Figure 40.** Restored houses in Selimiye Village (Author, 2024)

**Figure 41.** Selimiye village glass lantern application (Yazar, 2024)

**Figure 42.** Ancient ruin reinforcement application (Author, 2024)

**Figure 43.** Remains under the level (Author, 2024)

**Figure 44, 45, 46.** Selimiye Village street silhouette (Author, 2024)

**Figure 47.** Cretans house (Author, 2024)

## Applications in the Ancient City



1. CHECKPOINT AND RINK BIKES



4. THE GUILDHOUSES WITH THE GLASS LANTERN IN FRONT BUILT TERRACES.



2. GİRİTLİ SQUARE GLASS AND COFFEEHOUSE



5. WOODEN WALKWAY ON COLONNADED AVENUE.



3. ANTIQUE FORTIFICATION AND GİRİTLİ HOUSES.



6. INFORMATION SIGN ON THE EXCURSION ROUTE



7. OPENING TO TAK AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC



8. PERIOD-COMPATIBLE WOODEN CANOPY



9. THE APPLICATION OF DISPLAYING THE GİRİTLİ HOUSE AND THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE UNDER IT WITH GLASS.



10. VEGETATION AND WATER DROPLET FORMATION IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AS A RESULT OF GLASS APPLICATION.



**Figure 48.** Practices in the ancient city of Side (Author, 2024)

## Discussion and Conclusion

### Investigation of the Ancient City of Side in Abandoned and Refunctionalized Rural Architecture

**Table 4.** Side structures refunctionalization

| STRUCTURE                    | PERIOD                       | RE-FUNCTIONALIZATION                               | APPLICATION   | POSITIVE SIDE  | NEGATIVE SIDE  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Temple                       | Roman Period                 | Open Air Exhibition Space, Concert Area            | Exposure and consolidation of archaeological excavation                                 | Maintenance, Repair, By Consolidation Structure Preserved And Revealed                                   | Use as a Concert Venue History Due to Sound and Light Damaging Residues  |
| Ancient harbor               | Roman and Hellenistic Period | Coastal road, marina It is being considered.       | Revitalization, filling   | Interesting for tourists may be possible.  | The harbor part has to be filled The border of Kalcak and ancient harbor Their traces will be erased.  |
| Avenue C (colonnaded street) | Hellenistic Period           | Touristic-cultural route Open-air exhibition space | Archaeological excavations Excavation and Exhibition.                                   | Creating a cultural route For visitors to the area Creating convenience                                  | Archaeological exhibits in the Open Damage to artifacts for different reasons Seeing   |
| Theater                      | Rome and Hellenistic Period  | Tourism and Cultural Visit Area, Concert Area      | Excavation, Cleaning and Repair.  | Cultural Thanks to Events Making the Area More Attractive  | Use as a concert venue Historical due to sound and light damages residues  |
| Tak                          | Roman Period                 | Open Air Exhibition Area                           | Consolidation   | Conservation Practices Transmission to Future Generations Thanks to                                      | Six of them are open to vehicular traffic. Vehicles Damage the Taka.   |
| Ancient houses               | Roman and Hellenistic Period | Open-air exhibition space                          | Archaeological remains to uncover and stabilize the site.                               | Visitors to the area Experience remnants of the past   | Visitors can damage it.  |
| Giritli houses               | 1924 Ottoman                 | House, shop, cafe                                  | Above ground restoration Underneath The sections were covered with glass and exhibited. | Different period suffixes and tried to preserve them.  | The part covered with glass can be damaged then there has been dampness and moisture in some glazed places has caused vegetation. It damages the historical remains. |
| Giritli School               | 1924 Ottoman                 | Cretan culture house-Museum                        | Restoration   | Building with restoration saved from decay.  | Visitors can damage it.  |
| Giritli Square Coffee House  | 1924 Ottoman                 | Coffee house and square                            | Restoration, underground part is covered with glass.                                    | Revitalization and restoration were carried out and the ruins under the square were revealed with glass. | The part that is covered with glass then there has been dampness and moisture in some glazed places has caused vegetation. It damages the historical remains.        |

There are many civilizations in the world and in our country from the past to the present and rural settlements where these civilizations have survived. These rural settlements, which bear important traces of the social and cultural lives of these civilizations, have entered the process of dehumanization due to natural and human-induced reasons such as the inability of people to meet their daily life needs, staying away from technological and social developments, the neglect of the traditional texture and its surroundings over time, the increase in terrorist incidents in the region, the construction of a dam in a region close to the settlements. As a result of rural heritage areas losing their population and not being kept alive, it causes people to lose their social and cultural ties with their past. It is thought that these areas should not lose their population in order to preserve the rural heritage and not to break the ties with the past.

Today, we have many rural heritage areas that have lost their population for different reasons but continue to exist again with reuse approaches. Some of these rural heritage areas have increased the population of the region by adopting a resettlement approach, while others have tried to prevent dehumanization by using tourism and museumization approaches.

As a result of the studies and practices carried out in the ancient city of Side, which is examined as an example of reuse approaches in this study, population loss has been prevented and at the same time, it has served as an important bridge between the past and the future as a tourism city. Due to all these important features, the historical heritage, villages, traditional texture and environment in the ancient city of Side should be documented and preserved.

With this example examined within the scope of the study, it has been concluded that in order to preservation rural settlements as a whole, the factors that cause the abandonment of settlements should be eliminated by preventing population decline with various approaches and practices.

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## Conflict of Interests

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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