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İSTANBUL SPECIAL ISSUE

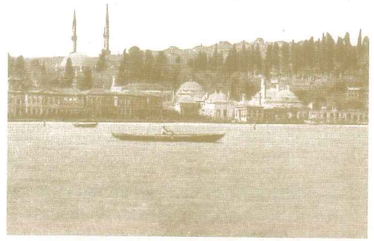
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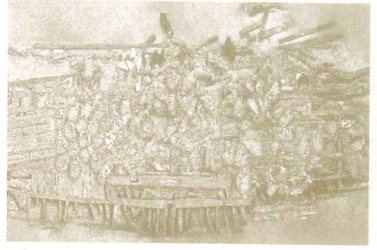
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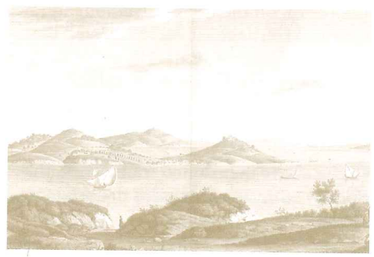
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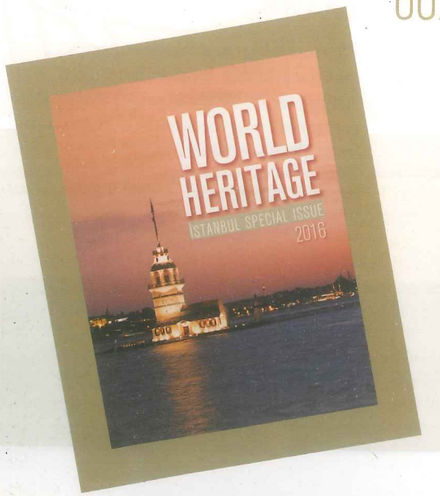
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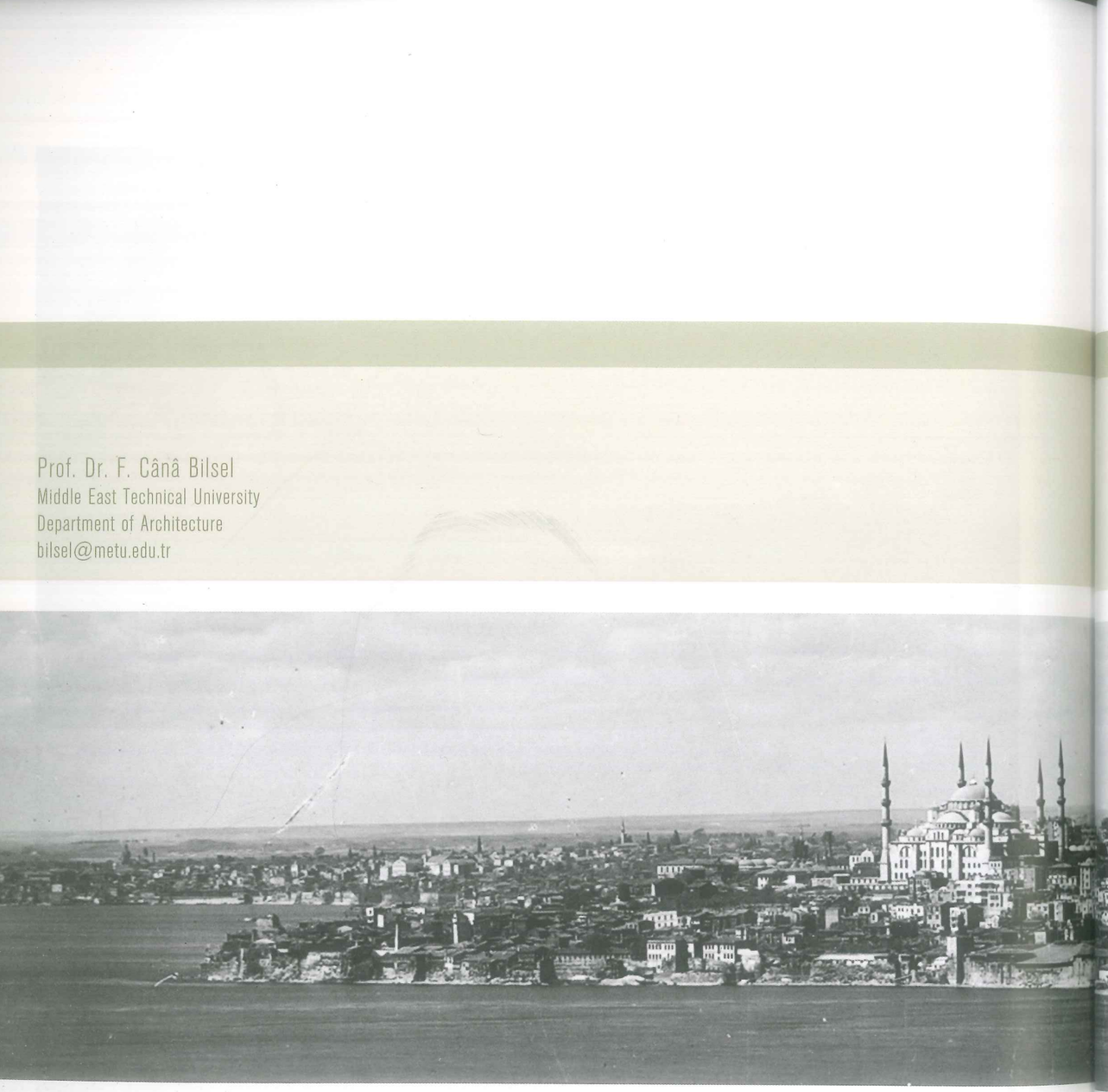
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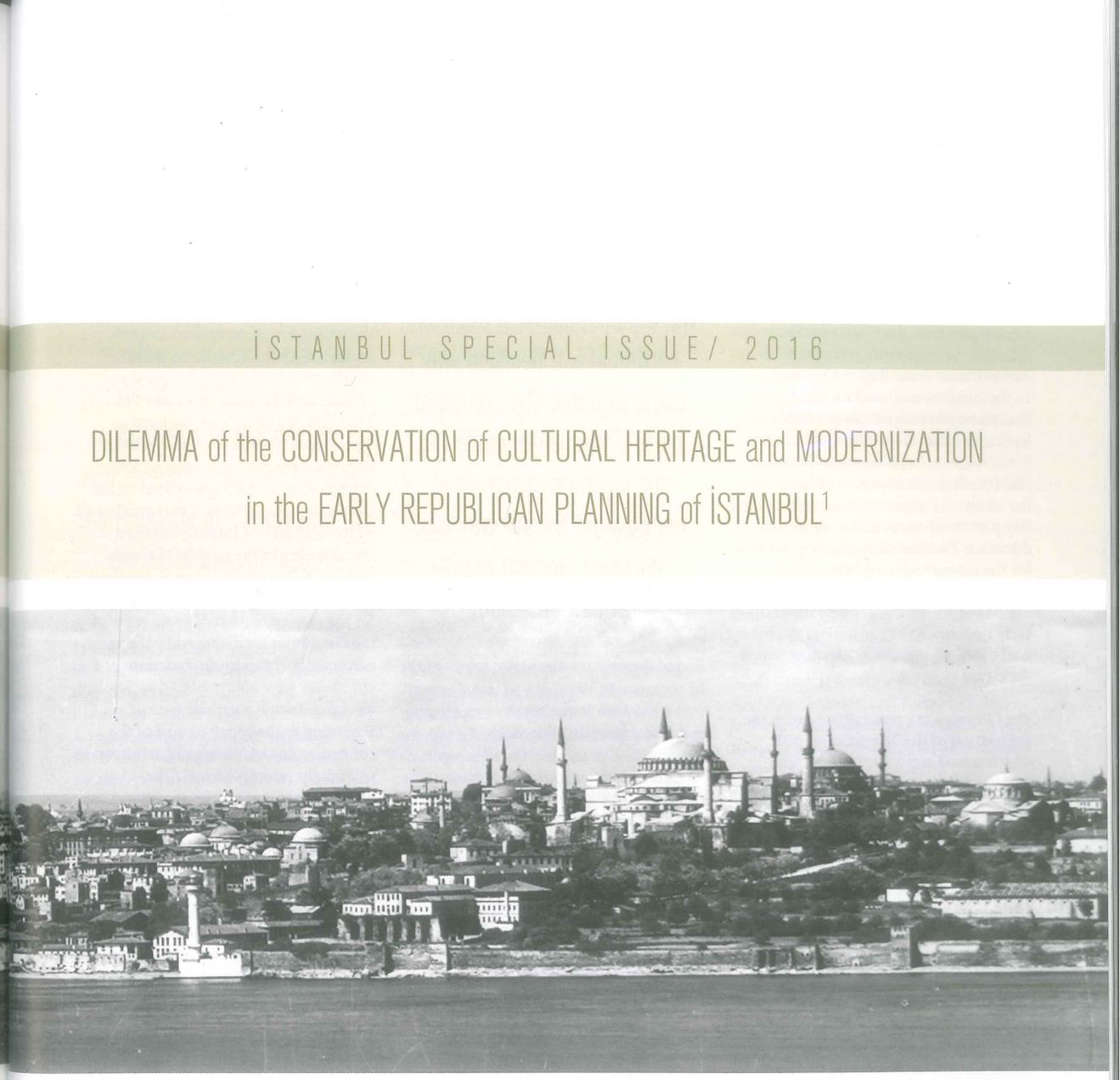
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DILEMMA of the CONSERVATION of CULTURAL HERITAGE and MODERNIZATION in the EARLY REPUBLICAN PLANNING of İSTANBUL[1]

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1 The present article is partly based on the research conducted by the author in the personal archieve of Henri Prost in Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine, Archives d'Architecture du XXe Siècle in Paris. The research was jointly supported by TÜBİTAK and EGIDE within the framework of Bosphorus Programme in September 2004 and Turkish Academy of Sciences in October-January 2005. The visual materials are from the Henri Prost archieve of Académie d'Architecture held by Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine, Archives d'Architecture du XXe Siècle if not indicated differently.

The capital of the Eastern Roman and Ottoman Empires for nearly 1600 years, İstanbul abounds with vestiges of an imperial past.[2] As in many other world cities, in İstanbul, too, the conservation of the historic monuments and sites emerged as a modern practice in response to the rapid destruction caused by urban development. The dilemma of modernization versus conservation presented itself as early as the late Ottoman period, during the first planned modernization of the city. In the first half of the twentieth century when the new Republican government undertook the master plan of İstanbul, the modernization or conservation of the city presented once more a significant dilemma. Paradoxically, the first policies for the conservation of cultural and natural heritage at an urban scale were developed within the framework of the early Republican city planning, the main goal of which was the modernization of the city.

The Ottoman reforms initiated with the declaration of the Tanzimat in 1839, which aimed at the institutional and societal modernization of the Empire, comprised also a comprehensive project of transforming the urban space.[3] This project sought to reshape the Ottoman capital after the image of contemporary European cities, by opening wide avenues, plazas and squares, and this was to be achieved by the implementation of street alignment and building regulations. These regulations were particularly effective in the rebuilding of the neighborhoods destroyed by fires, which were frequent and highly destructive of the wooden residential built-environment in particular.[4] At the end of the century, the urban fabric of the historic city of İstanbul was transformed into a patchwork as a result of numerous piecemeal reconstructions.

> The land walls were declared as 'ancient assets' for the first time in 1884, by a firman from the Sultan. Following the 1894 earthquake, a decision was taken to repair the collapsed parts of the walls, while the still standing structure of the Covered Bazaar was also declared 'ancient asset' at that occasion.

The first reactions for safeguarding historic buildings from destruction, dated back to the urban interventions initiated by progressive administrators of mid-nineteenth century. The demolition of a number of religious buildings and removal of cemeteries undertaken by the Commission of the Improvement of Roads, during the widening of the major street of Divanyolu following the 1865 Hocapaşa fire, provoked a reaction among the conservative circles.[5] However, neither these reactions, nor the efforts of the Ministry of Evkaf (Pious Foundations) could prevent the demolition of significant historic monuments including some parts of Atik Ali Pasha Madrasa, Köprülü Madrasa among others.[6] Nevertheless, in the same period, certain important initiatives, i.e. the foundation of Müze-i Hümayûn -the Imperial Museum [of Archaeology]- and the enactment of the first regulation for the protection of antiquities in 1869, marked the beginning of the history of conservation of archaeological and architectural heritage in Turkey.[7] In 1884, the city walls were declared as "antiquities" for the first time in an imperial firman, which ordered their conservation at the highest level.[8] After the earthquake of 1894, a decision issued by the Ministry of Interior required the repairing of the parts of the walls that had fallen apart, pointing out their historic significance. In a report written for the reconstruction of some parts of the Grand Bazaar damaged by the same earthquake, the existing structures of the old bazaar were also qualified as "ancient works" although their reconstruction according to the requirements of the contemporary technology of architecture was finally recommended[9]. The Regulation of Antiquities issued in 1906, contained articles for the protection of historic buildings, besides archaeological vestiges, and included measures for the provision of funds for this end[10]. However, the first Regulation for the Conservation of Monuments was issued in 1912, at a period when the Mayor Cemil Pasha undertook a series of ambitious urban operations in İstanbul. The regulation, which defined the city walls once again as antiquities, did not, however, provide a clear definition for historic monuments[11].

2 S. Yerasimos, "Istanbul: Heritage and Hazards of Modernity," World Heritage Review 10, 1998: 6-15.
3 Z. Çelik, The Remaking of Istanbul, Portrait of an Ottoman City in the Nineteenth Century. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London, 1993, 49-67, and S. Yerasimos, "A propos des réformes urbaines de Tanzimat", Villes Ottomanes à la fin de l'Empire, P. Dumont, F. Georgeon, eds., Paris 1992: 17-32.
4 According to Osman Nuri Ergin, archivist and historian of Istanbul, 117 great fires ravaged large areas in Istanbul in half a century between 1853 and 1906. O. N. Ergin, Mecelle-i Umûr-ı Belediyye, vol. 3. Istanbul, 1995: 1228-1235.
5 Z. Çelik, op.cit., 60-63.
6 While several tombs were demolished, Köprülü's mausoleum was dismantled and moved elsewhere and a portion of Çemberlitaş Hamam was cut out during these interventions. N. Altınyıldız, "The Architectural Heritage of Istanbul and the Ideology of Preservation", Muqarnas, 24: 285.
7 Âsâr-ı Atika Nizamnamesi enacted in 1869, involved mainly the archaeological remnants and regulating the excavations to be held. E. Madran, "Cumhuriyet'in İlk Otuz Yılında Koruma Alanının Örgütlenmesi / Notes on the Organization of the Field of Restoration During the First Thirty Years of the Republic," METU Journal of Faculty of Architecture 16.1-2, 1996: 61, 88.
8 Firman dated 5 June 1884, cited by O. N. Ergin, op. cit., vol. 4: 1777, and vol. 7: 3894, cited by S. Yerasimos, "Tanzimat'tan Günümüze Türkiye'de Kültürel Mirası Koruma Söylemi", İstanbul Dergisi 56, 2005.
9 O. N. Ergin, op.cit., vol. 7, p. 3893, cited by S. Yerasimos, "Tanzimat'tan Günümüze…," op. cit.
10 In this new regulation of antiquities -Âsâr-ı Atika Nizamnamesi, enacted in 1906, historic building types such as, mosques, hans, hamams and kümbets were enumerated. E. Madran, op. cit., 62.
11 "Muhafaza-i Âbidât Hakkında Nizamname" issued in 30 July 1912, O. N. Ergin, op. cit., vol. 4, 1784, cited by S. Yerasimos, op. cit.

> In awareness that the history of İstanbul belongs not to any single nation, but to the whole of humanity, the Republican ideology adopted a plan to create an Archaeological Park in the heart of the city, as a sign stressing the ties between the Republic of Turkey and the universal human history.

A civil society, the Association of the Friends of İstanbul founded in 1911, was particularly concerned with the conservation of antiquities and historic monuments in the city[12]. The association did significant work for the conservation of the city walls and Boukoleon Palace, for the cleaning of Rumelihisar, the surveying of Amcazade Hüseyin Pasha's mansion on Bosphorus, besides the preparation of an İstanbul guide[13]. The activities of this association were effective also in safeguarding a number of significant Ottoman buildings endangered. The years that followed the proclamation of the Second Constitution –known also as the Revolution of the Young Turks- were, in fact, an eventful period when the magnitude of the urban interventions and the efforts for the conservation of historic monuments are concerned. Dr. Cemil Pasha –a surgeon educated in Paris, served as the mayor of İstanbul twice, from 1912 to 1914 and 1919 to 1920. A determined advocate of modernization, he undertook a series of urban operations for modernizing the urban infrastructure and spaces, including the creation of public gardens, squares and plazas, and the opening of avenues. When the opening of a grand plaza between Hagia Sophia and Sultan Ahmet Mosque in the Hippodrome area was being considered, the campaign lead by the Association of the Friends of İstanbul saved Haseki Hürrem Sultan Hamam –a work of Architect Sinan- from being demolished. Other historical buildings were also saved by the opposition of the Ministry of Evkaf[14]. Despite such significant initiatives, however, several other historic monuments were damaged because of the municipality's operations, during the opening of avenues for the installation of tramway lines in particular. With the objective of preventing historic monuments from being destroyed, a council was founded, by the Ministry of Education in 1917. The Council of Antiquities[15], which was composed of the director of Museums Halil Edhem (Eldem) Bey, architect Kemalettin Bey[16], art historian Celâl Esad (Arseven) among others, continued its function during the Republican period, until 1950s when it was renamed the Higher Council of Antiquities and Monuments.[17] The foundation of the Republic in 1923 definitely marked a rupture in the political history of Turkey, yet there were also continuities that the Republic inherited from the late Ottoman period.

First Planning Initiatives in İstanbul in the Early Republican Period

When Ankara became the capital of the new Republic of Turkey in 1923, İstanbul was deprived of its status of capital city. The limited funds of the Republic were allocated primarily to the new capital and the development of İstanbul was neglected in the first decade following the foundation of the Republic. The city's population, which had exceeded one million before the First World War, decreased to 740.000 inhabitants in 1930s. Although a number of interventions such as the widening of the tramway avenue between Fatih and Edirnekapı, the traffic arrangement in Beyazıt Square were undertaken in this period, large areas devastated by fires still awaited to be rebuilt. The historic city of İstanbul was in ruins, due to the socio-economic depression caused by long lasting wars since the end of the nineteenth century. Numerous religious and civic buildings, which had been once maintained by pious foundations –the wakfs- were abandoned and ruined. Halil Edhem Bey, member of the Council of Antiquities, wrote in a report: "If we were to pass by one of the many burned areas in the city, we would see hundreds of mosque ruins, wrecked tombs and cemetery remains. These are beyond being repaired and restored. Their presence in destitution, on the other hand, is a shame for our city…" And he concluded as: "Today İstanbul is the greatest ruined city (virane) of the world… some buildings can be sacrificed to put an end to this situation[18]."

> Despite the fact that Turkey first made her application to the UNESCO for protection of her historical monuments and for the Archaeological Park Project as early as 1950, due to political reasons the application process has not been brought to a conclusion.

12 Istanbul Şehri Muhipleri Cemiyeti. The director of the Imperial Museum, Halil Edhem Bey, his assistant Makridi Bey, architect Vedad Bey, Prince Said Halim Pasha, the director of the Banque Ottomane, M. Revoil, Ahmet Midhat, Dikran Kelekyan were among the founding members of this association. S. Yerasimos, "Le discours sur la protection du patrimoine en Turquie des Tanzimat à nos jours", the above mentioned article translated into French by J.-F. Pérouse, European Journal of Turkish Studies, Heritage Production in Turkey, Actors, Issues and Scales, Part I, 19, 2014: 3.
13 A number of renowned international figures, the Byzantinist Charles Diehl, art historian Jean Richepin and Mme Bompard, the wife of the French ambassador supported the association in these initiatives. S. Yerasimos, ibid.
14 N. Altınyıldız, op. cit., 284-285.
15 Âsâr-ı Atika Encümen-i Daimisi, S. Eyice, "İstanbul Eski Eserleri Koruma Encümeni", Dünden Bugüne İstanbul Ansiklopedisi, vol. 4. Istanbul, 1994, 222.
16 Kemalettin Bey who had been the chief architect in the Ministry of Evkaf (Pious Foundations) since 1909, became the director of the technical department at the Municipality of Istanbul in 1914. He was one of the most influential figures in the institutionalization of conservation of historic monuments in Turkey. İ. Tekeli, S. İlkin, Mimar Kemalettin'in Yazdıkları. Ankara,1997.
17 S. Eyice, op. cit., 222.
18 Halil Ethem, "Âbidelerimizin Hâli," Tarihi Abide ve Eserlerimizi Korumağa Mecburuz, Maarif Vekâleti. Istanbul, 1933, 5, cited by N. Altınyıldız, op.cit., 289.

The Republican modernization was meant to be more comprehensive and radical, compared to the Ottoman reforms. Town planning, which was born as a new discipline in the West at the turn of the twentieth century, was perceived as a scientific and technical expertise for modernizing cities and their infrastructure, providing public spaces and facilities that would support the societal modernization aimed by the Republican government in Turkey. In this perspective, European architects and planners, renowned as distinguished experts in this field, were invited to develop plans for the Turkish cities. Following the first competition held for the planning of the new capital Ankara by an invitation made to three experts of town planning from Germany and France in 1927, the same model was adopted for İstanbul in 1932. The planning of the historical capital was a critical task not less important than the construction of the Republican capital city. In the same period, prominent Turkish architects, Sedad Hakkı (Eldem) and Burhan Arif (Ongun) wrote articles on the questions of reconstruction and planning of İstanbul. In his article entitled "İstanbul and Urbanism" published in Mimar, Sedad Hakkı deplored the historic city's ruinous condition, and emphasized the delicacy of the task of the town planner, stressing the necessity of coping with the contemporary developments while paying due attention to the historic monuments. He particularly advised



Figure 1. Henri Prost's İstanbul European Side Master Plan – Old İstanbul, dated 1937

protecting the monuments with their surroundings as far as possible[19]. Burhan Arif argued that only Turkish experts who knew well the city and understood its spirit could do the task of planning İstanbul[20]. However, these points of view apparently did not seem to convince the government of the time. Three renowned architect-planners from France and Germany were called upon to participate in the planning competition held by the Municipality of İstanbul. German planner Hermann Ehlgötz, and French architect-urbanists Donate Alfred Agache and Henri Prost were personally invited to present their ideas and projects for the future city in 1933. Prost having declined the invitation, Jacques Lambert replaced him on his advice. The three planners, came to İstanbul to study the city, and submitted their proposals toward the end of the same year. The competition jury, composed of Turkish parliamentarians and officials, having thoroughly studied the three entries, finally selected Hermann Ehlgötz's proposal. The German planner's project, which mainly contended with minor interventions on the existing city, while its French counterparts proposed to open new boulevards and plazas, was found "more realistic" and also more respectful to the character of the historic city, by the jury. Indeed, in his project report, Ehlgötz stressed the importance of conserving the old city not only with its monuments but also with its street fabric and cemeteries, which he understood as characteristic features of the "oriental civilization." He argued that, in İstanbul, there was no need to open new parks as in the modern cities of the West, instead, he suggested conserving the old cemeteries as green areas[21]. His conservative suggestions, vis-à-vis the historic city, which were perceived by the jury as being respectful to the city's historical "character" contained, however, an orientalist tone and, although it convinced the jury, it did not meet Republican government's the expectation.



Image 1. Henri Silhouette of the historic peninsula from Golden Horn from Henri

19 Alişanzade Sedad Hakkı, "İstanbul ve Şehircilik," Mimar 1, 1931:1-4.
20 Burhan Arif, "İstanbul'un plânı," Mimar 3/5, 1933:154-161.
21 H. Ehlgötz, "İstanbul Şehrinin Umumî Plânı", Cumhuriyet Dönemi İstanbul Planlama Raporları: 1934-1995, Ş. Özler (ed.) Istanbul, 2007: 13-38.



Image 2. The urban blocks to be demolished indicated on the aerial photograph of Eminönü (Güzelleşen İstanbul, 1944)



Image 3. The façade of Yeni Valide Mosque opened with the demolition of buildings that had blocked the view (Güzelleşen İstanbul, 1944)

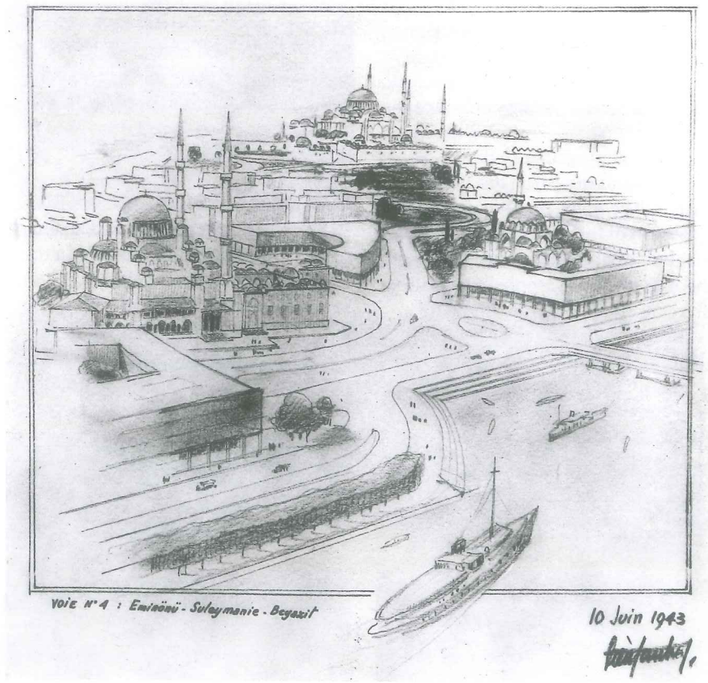


Image 4. Henri Prost's project for the arrangement of Eminönü Square and the proposed road with a perspective opened toward Süleymaniye Mosque, perspective drawn by P. Jaubert in 1943

Henri Prost's Period in the Planning of İstanbul

Hermann Ehlgötz's proposal was not put into implementation, and the French urbanist Henri Prost, who was the chief planner of the Greater Paris at that time, was re-invited as a consultant in the preparation of a master plan for İstanbul[22]. Prost was renown particularly with his planning of Moroccan cities, including Fes, Rabat and Casablanca, the implementation of which he conducted from 1914 to 1922[23]. Following this period, he conducted the regional planning of Côte Varoise, before he was appointed the chief planner for the metropolitan planning of Greater Paris in 1932[24]. In all these previous planning experiences, Prost was acknowledged particularly for his sensibility towards the conservation of both the cultural heritage and natural landscapes.

The French urbanist, who conducted the planning of İstanbul, from 1936 to 1951, became influential in shaping the future city. The fifteen years of planning activity in İstanbul covered a wide range of planning works including the Master Plan for the European Side of İstanbul (1937), Master Plan of the Asian Side (1939), the planning of the two shores of the Bosphorus (1936-1948), sector plans for the existing and new development areas and numerous detailed urban design projects for plazas, squares, construction of new avenues, parks and promenades in the city[25]. In line with the anticipation of the Republican government in Turkey, however, he adopted a highly interventionist attitude vis-à-vis the urban fabric of Old İstanbul. In his Master Plan for the European Side of İstanbul, he proposed a complete reorganization of the street fabric by opening new thoroughfares that crossed the city from one side to another. Prost's master plan was structured around a new transportation network and it contained large green areas, parks and public open spaces, all arranged according to the precepts of the rationalization of transportation, hygiene and aesthetics[26]. (Figure 1)

22 For the details the governor-mayor's invitation of Henri Prost to Istanbul, see F. C. Bilsel, "Henri Prost's Planning Works in Istanbul (1936-1951): Transforming the Structure of a City through Master Plans and Urban Operations", F. C. Bilsel, P. Pinon, eds., From the Imperial Capital to the Republican Modern City: Henri Prost's Planning of Istanbul. Istanbul, 2010: 103-107.
23 J.-L. Cohen, "From Grand Landscapes to Metropolises: Henri Prost", F. C. Bilsel, P. Pinon, eds., op. cit., 49-70.
24 The Plan d'Aménagement de la Région Parisienne was completed and approved in 1939. J.-P. Gaudin, Desseins de Villes, 'Art Urbain' et Urbanisme, Anthologie. Paris, 1991: 169.
25 F. C. Bilsel, "Henri Prost's Planning Works in Istanbul...," F. C. Bilsel, P. Pinon, eds., op. cit., 115-165.
26 C. Bilsel, "Les Transformations d'Istanbul: Transformation of Istanbul by Henri Prost", AIZ Journal of Faculty of Architecture, vol. 8, issue n. 1, Spring 2011: 100-116.

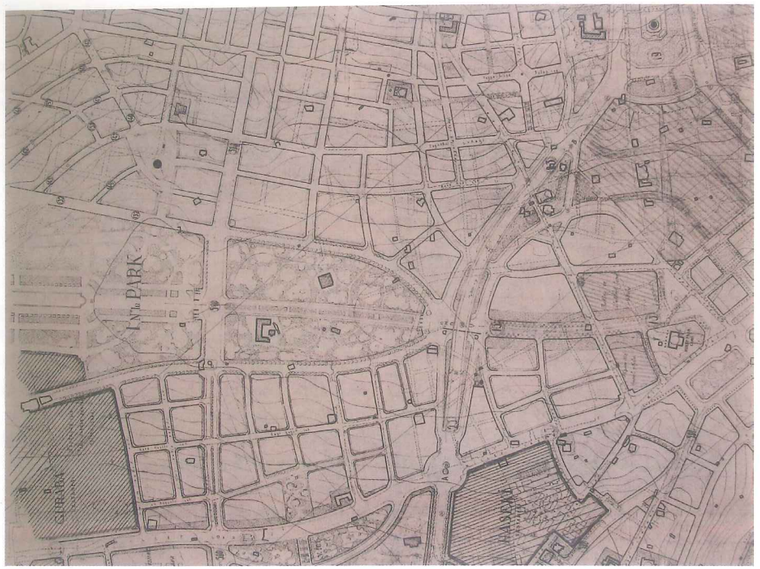


Figure 2. Historic monuments to be integrated in Park no. 1 and in its vicinity, as proposed in Yedikule-Yenikapı sector plan of 1/2000 scale, 1943

The Dilemma of Planning: Modernization and Conservation

In his conference entitled "Les Transformations d'İstanbul[27]" that he gave at the Académie des Beaux-Arts in Paris in 1947, Henri Prost indicated the main goal of his planning in İstanbul as modernizing the city, a goal determined by the socio-political circumstances of the period in Turkey. Yet he compared the modernization of İstanbul to a "chirurgical operation," stressing that special attention had to be paid to the historical heritage of the city. In this perspective, he put forward a master plan, which aimed to combine urban modernization and conservation.

In his conference, while he pointed to the necessity of opening new transportation arteries in order to enhance the commercial and industrial development of the city, he emphasized the preservation of the historical landscape of İstanbul. In his planning of Old İstanbul, Henri Prost worked especially for the conservation of the silhouette of the historic city through a number of planning decisions devised for this purpose. (Image 1) Limitation of building heights above 40 m altitude from the sea level was one of the well-known

> Henri Prost set the targets for his plans on the historical city as 'modernizing the urban space while protecting the 'unique landscape and historical monuments'.

restrictions that he brought in order to preserve the silhouette of the historic city. However, it is the "total effect" of İstanbul's townscape, which Prost envisaged to safeguard together with the principal monuments, and not the historic built-environment per se. When Atatürk Boulevard was first opened, in the early 1940s, it cut through the old neighborhoods in-between Zeyrek and Süleymaniye, causing the demolition of the old residential fabric, while the two significant Byzantine monuments, the Aqueduct of Valens and Zeyrek Mosque (Pantocrator Monastery) were brought to the fore.

Urban aesthetics was, indeed, pivotal in Prost's planning, that reflected an almost baroque approach to urbanism. In the Master Plan for Old İstanbul, perspective axes opened on significant monuments of the city such as the grand mosques. The arrangement of Eminönü Square in 1940s, illustrated such an aesthetical understanding. The square was widened by the demolition of surrounding



Image 5. Mihrimah Mosque, a work of Architect Sinan



Image 6. A view from the Medrese of Sultan Selim in 1947



Image 7. View of the türbe (mausoleum) next to the Medrese of Sultan Selim in 1947

27 H. Prost, Communication de Henri Prost, 17 Septembre 1947 à l'Académie des Beaux-Arts, Institut de France, Les Transformations d'Istanbul. unpublished conference, 1947.

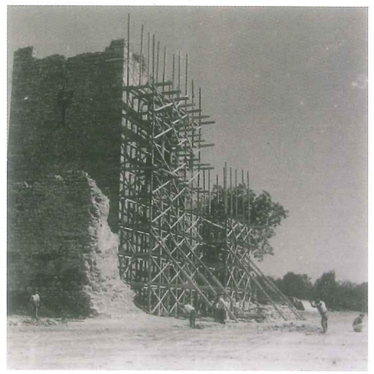


Image 8. The Land Walls and Topkapı Gate being consolidated



Image 9. Edirnekapı Gate and the Land Walls, photograph dated 1947

buildings, the façades of Yeni Valide Mosque and the Egyptian Bazar were brought to the fore and the perspective towards Süleymaniye Mosque was opened[28]. Other than the arrangement of the traffic and pedestrian spaces, creating a proportional harmony between the horizontal extension of the open space and the built volumes of the mosque was one of the urbanist's primary concerns. (Image 2, 3 and 4) Such an aesthetic understanding was certainly different from the spatial solid-void relation of the preexisting built environment, which had been characterized by the density of the port and commercial activity in Eminönü[29].

Inventorying, Conservation and Re-use of Historical Monuments

While adopting an interventionist attitude towards the urban fabric, Henri Prost paid particular attention to the historical monuments from Byzantine and Ottoman periods in his planning studies. Documentation an inventorying of these monuments had started to be conducted in İstanbul by the Directory of the Antiquities and Museums, founded under the Ministry of Education, and reorganized in 1933[30]. A bureau of architectural survey was also founded under the General Directory of Antiquities for the documentation

> What Prost targeted in his planning work, was to protect the general impression of the city's appearance, with special care for the skyline of the historical peninsula and for keeping in place the natural and cultural heritage in the historical areas.

and surveying of national monuments. Sedat Çetintaş, who was designated as the chief architect to this bureau, elaborated precise survey drawings of the principal historic monuments and complexes of İstanbul. Henri Prost, worked in collaboration with the Council of Antiquities, Association of the Friends of İstanbul and later the French and British Institutes of Archaeology in order to determine the historic monuments and vestiges to be preserved by planning decisions. He asserted in his reports that these historic buildings had to be protected, restored and carried into the future as "monuments" that "stand

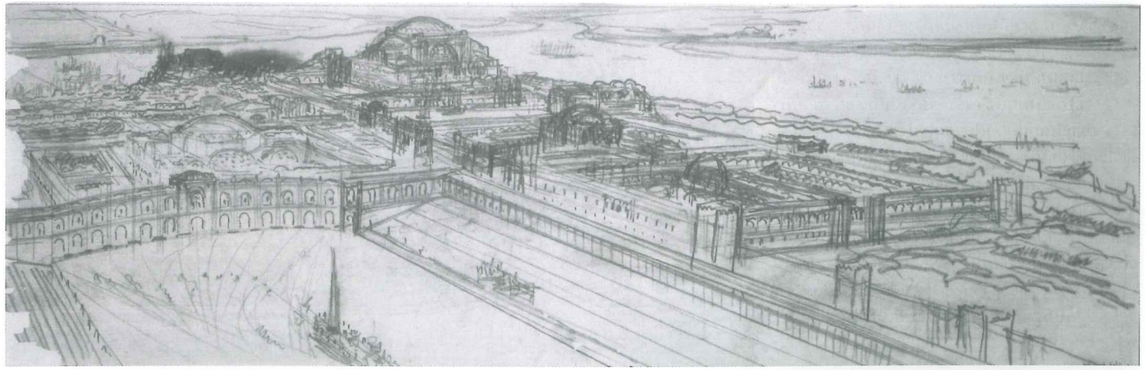


Image 10. Hypothetical Restitution of Hagia Sophia, the Hippodrome and the Imperial Palace, perspective drawing. Henri Prost's study within the framework of Prix de Rome programme of Académie de France in Rome, 1905-1907. (Académie d'Architecture/Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine/Archives d'Architecture du XXe Siècle, 343 AA 144 (doc. HP.DES.10-2.2)).

28 "Eminönü Meydanı", Güzelleşen İstanbul, XX. Yıl. Istanbul, 1944.
29 C. Bilsel, T. Arıcan Çin, "Eminönü Meydanı ve Çevresi Tarihi Kent Mekânının Başkalaşımı: Kentsel Tasarım Kuramları ve Biçim-bilim Yöntemleri ile bir Mekânsal Çözümleme Çalışması", Mimar.İst, 8. 29, 2008: 83-97.
30 E. Madran, Tanzimat'tan Cumhuriyete Kültür Varlıklarının Korunmasına İlişkin Tutumlar ve Düzenlemeler:1800-1950, Ankara, 2002, 119 and N. Candaş Kahya, A. Sağsöz, S. Al, "Türkiye'de Korumacılık ve Kültür ve Tabiat Varlıklarının Koruma Bilincinin Gelişimi: 1938-1960 Dönemi", Turkish Studies, 9.10, 2014: 278.

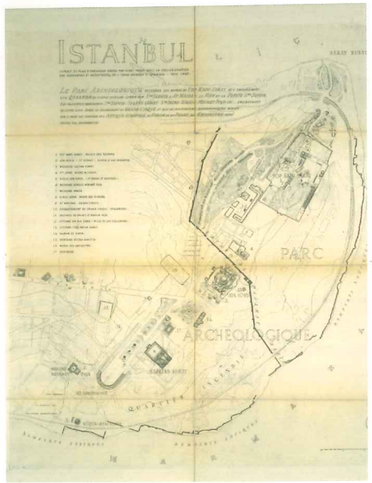


Figure 3. The plan of the Archaeological Park and the historic monuments that it embraces, "based on the studies held by Henri Prost and the engineers and architects of the Urban Planning Department of İstanbul Municipality between 1936 and 1947." (Académie d'Architecture/Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine/Archives d'Architecture du XXe Siècle, 343 AA 47/3 (doc. HP.DES.32-1.1))



Image 11. Sultan Ahmet Mosque, Ayasofya Square and Sultanahmet Square within the Archaeological Park

testimony to the history" of the city[31]. He searched for ways of reintegrating dilapidated historic structures, which were out of use, by giving them new functions as "picturesque monuments to be contemplated together with the monumental trees that completed the composition[32]." The planner's approach to different kinds of historical buildings was best exemplified in the Park no. 1 that Prost proposed to create along Bayrampaşa (Lycos) Creek. (Figure 2) In this park, the historic monuments – Fenari İsa Mosque (Byzantine Monastery of Constantine Lips), Selimiye Madrasa and Architect Sinan's Mihrimah Mosque in Edirnekapı- were to be incorporated as picturesque elements into the landscape design and except Mihrimah Mosque, the other buildings, which were dilapidated, were to be re-used for cultural activities. (Images 5 to 7)

Labeled as historic monuments, the conservation of the Byzantine fortifications was one of the significant concerns of Prost's planning in İstanbul. He spent particular efforts for the preservation and restoration of Theodosian Land Walls in particular. In the Master Plan of Old İstanbul, a zone of non-aedificandi, was imposed to form a green belt where construction was to

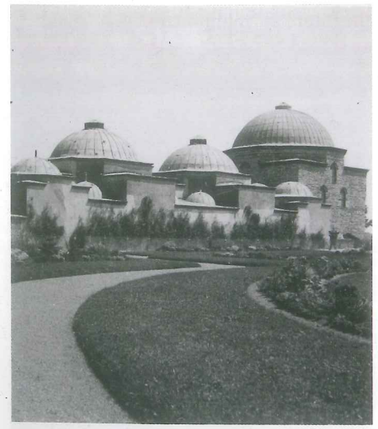


Image 12. Haseki Hürem Sultan Hamam, work of Architect Sinan, located next to Ayasofya Square



Image 13. The Fountain of Ahmet III in front of the main gate of Topkapı Palace, within the Archaeological Park

31 H. Prost, "Protection des sites et transformation de certains édifices", note C, 29 June 1936, Les Transformations d'Istanbul, vol. III, 6, cited by F. C. Bilsel, "Henri Prost's Planning Works in Istanbul..." F. C. Bilsel, P. Pinon, eds., op. cit., 128-129.
32 H. Prost, Communication… , op. cit., 16-17.

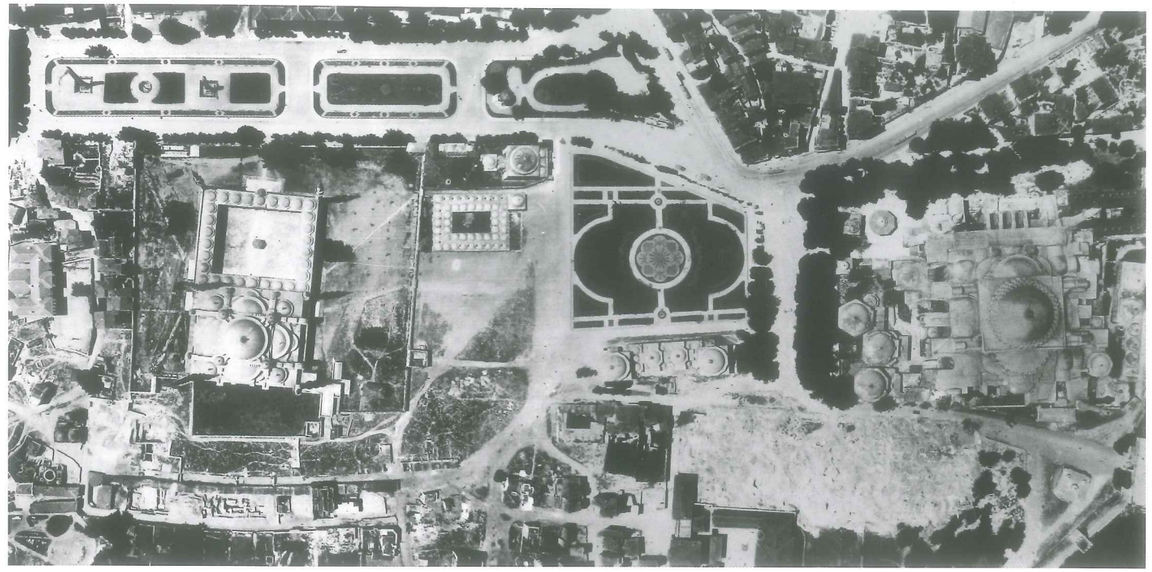


Image 14. The aerial photograph of the Archaeology Park, showing the archaeological excavation areas next to Sultan Ahmet Mosque and Hagia Sophia



Image 15. Ruins of Arasta on the east of Sultan Ahmet Mosque



Image 16. Dilapidated structures of Sultan Ahmet Arasta



Image 17. Sultan Ahmet Mosque, Hagia Sophia and the Archaeological Park area seen from Üsküdar at the other side of Bosphorus



Image 18. The aerial photograph of Eyüp funerary site and the industrial plants on the shore of Golden Horn



Image 19. View from a path cutting through the cemeteries of Eyüp



Image 20. View from Zal Mahmut Paşa Complex near Eyüp, photograph dated 1944

The concept of 'protected area' is a significant contribution of Prost to planning and applications; this concept has later been transposed to Turkey's protection laws.

be prohibited. Covering an area of 500 m. outside and 50 m. inside the land walls, this green strip was suggested to conserve the walls in their integrity and to accentuate their monumental total effect. The restoration of the fortifications and gates started in 1940s as part of the commemoration program of the 500th anniversary of the Ottoman conquest of İstanbul[33]. (Images 8, 9)

The Archaeological Park Project

Henri Prost's particular interest in the East Roman vestiges of the city went back to the turn of the century, when he first came to İstanbul for studying the vestiges of Constantinopolis as a young architect in the framework of the Prix de Rome program of Beaux-Arts School.

The restitution of the Basilica of Hagia Sophia and that of the Byzantine imperial palace in the seventh century constituted the subject of his research project[34]. (Image 10) Prost's attention towards the Byzantine heritage of İstanbul reflected later in his planning proposals and reports. He attributed a particular importance to archaeology as a means of bringing to light the memory of the past ages of the city.

The proposal of creating a park of archaeology first appeared in Prost's Master Plan of İstanbul Old City as early as 1937. Located at the eastern tip of the historic peninsula, the archaeology park extended from Kadırga at the west, to Bahçekapı at the east, and incorporated Hagia Sophia, the Hippodrome and the remains of the Byzantine Imperial Palace, Sultan Ahmet Mosque, Topkapı Palace and the Acropolis of Ancient Byzantion. Prost envisaged the Archaeology Park as an open-air museum open to public and as an archaeological site where excavations were to be held[35]. (Figure 3, Image 11-17) He stated later, in his conference at the Académie des Beaux-Arts, that his proposal for the Archaeological Park was approved by President Atatürk who had ordered the transformation of Hagia Sophia into a museum a few years before. By referring to Atatürk's declaration about Hagia Sophia, the architect-planner asserted that the history of İstanbul belonged to all humanity, rather than to one nation or another[36]. Prost's proposal for creating an archaeological park at the heart of İstanbul was well received by the Republican authorities and by Atatürk in particular, as it linked the history of the Republic of Turkey to the universal history of humanity[37].

Henri Prost continued to work on the implementation of the Archaeology Park, in collaboration with the Archaeology Institutes, which conducted excavations in the area, until he left in 1951. Albert Gabriel, who was the founder and director of French Archaeological Institute of İstanbul, was highly supportive of the Archaeology Park initiative in particular. Prost and Gabriel worked together for providing an international support for the preservation of historical heritage and the implementation of the project[38]. In his conference in the Academy of Beaux-Arts in Paris, Henri Prost emphasized the urgency of safeguarding the Byzantine monuments and vestiges of İstanbul, given the scarcity of the funds that the Turkish government could allocate to these. He also pointed that the area where the Archaeology Park would be located had been cleared by a recent fire, which enabled the implementation of the project. But, given the present division of the area into multiple private properties, their expropriation would bring a considerable burden to the municipality. Although the Park of Archaeology could not be implemented in its totality, the British archaeologists excavated parts of the Byzantine imperial palace and found the mosaics of the palace; a new museum was to be built to display the mosaics in situ. In the meantime, Albert Gabriel sent to UNESCO, a "Memorandum regarding the archaeological discovery of the Imperial district of Constantinople" dated 31 July 1947. It is interesting to note that the Turkish National Assembly approved the UNESCO Agreement on 30 May 1946[39]. A year later, he presented a second memorandum entitled "The Archaeological Park of İstanbul" in the Byzantine Studies Conference held in Paris. Turkey's first application to UNESCO for the conservation of historical monuments and the implementation of the Park of Archaeology project was initiated, in 1950s, based on Prost's and Gabriel's reports, although it could not be concluded for political reasons[40]. Nevertheless, the Higher Committee of Antiquities and Monuments declared the area surrounding Hagia Sophia, Sultanahmet Mosque and the Plaza of Sultan Ahmet, as a protection area, for the first time in 1953[41].

"Sites de Protection": A Tool for Preserving the "Picturesque Unity" of the Landscape

The approach to conservation during this period was mostly limited to single monuments and archaeological sites. Although Henri Prost's planning decisions in the historic city exemplified understanding, it is also important to stress here the idea of "site de protection" that he introduced as a planning tool in İstanbul, as early as 1940s[42]. The first area that was declared a site to be preserved was the historic neighborhood of Eyüp, located on the Golden Horn outside the walled city. The Muslims consider this neighborhood, where the tomb of Ayyub al Ansari -called as Eyüp Sultan by Turks- is situated, a holy site. With its topographic location overlooking the Golden Horn, western travellers and writers also revered this site, composed of religious complexes, tombs and cemeteries, for its beautiful landscape and atmosphere. Surrounded by the industrial sprawl around Golden Horn, however, Eyüp was confronted with the risk of losing its urban integrity and historic character in 1930s and 1940s. In a report where Henri Prost proposed Eyüp as a "site to be preserved," he highlighted the "picturesque unity" of this funerary site and aimed at protecting the whole area as an urban ensemble[43]. (Images 18-20) Recommendations by the Commission of Ancient Monuments were also supported Prost's proposal. The commission helped the planner identify "the religious monuments to be preserved" in the area. It was due to Prost's planning decision that Eyüp became Turkey's first urban "site of preservation."

In his planning reports, Prost employed a similar notion of "picturesque unity" to describe other sites such as the cemetery of Karacaahmet on the Asian side, (Images 21, 22) and the settlements on both sides of Bosphorus, which were documented with numerous photographs. Faced with a scattered development of coal yards, fuel tanks and industrial plants, preserving the "incomparable landscape" of both sides of Bosphorus was one of the planner's principal concerns. Although the planning of the settlements along Bosphorus extended to a long period from 1939 to 1948, preserving the integrity of natural and man-made



Image 21. A picturesque view of the old Karacahmet Cemetery, parts of which Henri Prost proposed to transform into a park



Image 22. The picturesque unity of tombs and cypresses in the old Karacaahmet Cemetery. Photograph dated Spring 1941.



Image 23. Yalıs and sail barges in Kuruçeşme, on Bosphorus

33 H. Prost, "Le Plan Décennal", note no. 265, dated 26 April 1943, in Les Transformations d'Istanbul, Vieil Istanbul, vol. VII: 240-270 and "İstanbul'un Fethinin 500ncü yılının kutlanması", İstanbul Belediyesi, Güzelleşen İstanbul. Istanbul, 1944.
34 P. Pinon, "Henri Prost: From Paris and Rome to Morocco and Istanbul", F. C. Bilsel, P. Pinon, eds., From the Imperial Capital to the Republican Modern City, op. cit., 15-22.
35 H. Prost, Mémoire Descriptif du Plan Directeur de la Rive Européenne d'Istanbul, Les Transformations d'Istanbul, Plans Directeurs, vol. 3, unpublished reports, 1937: 4, H. Prost, Commu nication, op. cit. pp. 28-29; Pierre Pinon, "The Archaeological Park," F. C. Bilsel, P. Pinon, eds., From the Imperial Capital to the Republican Modern City, op. cit., 289-300.
36 H. Prost, Communication, op. cit., 29.
37 H. Prost, Mémoire…, op. cit., 5.
38 P. Pinon, "Le projet de Parc Archéologique d'Istanbul de Henri Prost et sa tentative de mise en œuvre par Albert Gabriel," Anatolia Antiqua, 16, 2008: 181-205.
39 E. Madran, Tanzimat'tan Cumhuriyete Kültür Varlıklarının..., op. cit., 162
40 P. Pinon, "The Archaeological Park", op.cit. 294-298. Founded in 1941, the Turing Club contributed to the conservation, repair and re-use of several historic buildings in this period.
41 The decision of the Higher Council of Antiquities and Monuments, dated 13 November 1953. The limits of the area were revised in a second decision dated 17 July 1956, cited in N. Duranay, E. Gürsel ve S. Ural, "Cumhuriyet'ten Bu Yana İstanbul Planlaması", op. cit., 425.
42 H. Prost, "Protection des sites et transformations de certains édifices," Note C, 29 June 1936, Les Transformations d'Istanbul, Volume III, Plan Directeurs, (unpublished reports), 6.
43 H. Prost, "Mémoire descriptif du plan directeur de la Cité funéraire Eyüb," Note no. 262, "Protections des sites historiques, archéologiques et pittoresques," 15 April 1943, Note no. 262, Les Transformations d'Istanbul, Volume III, Plan Directeurs, (unpublished reports), 84-86, cited by F. C. Bilsel, "Henri Prost's Planning Works in Istanbul (1936-1951) ...," op. cit., 129-133.



Image 24. The revised Master Plan of İstanbul on a topography model together with a detailed model of Süleymaniye Mosque and the rearrangement of a park in its surroundings. Photograph taken from an exhibition in early1940s.

landscape of the two coasts constituted the principal planning decision of the Master Plan for the European Side of İstanbul, as well as the more detailed sector plans and urban design arrangements that Henri Prost and his team produced. A number of "korus" (groves and parks) in Emirgân, Küçük Çamlıca and Çubuklu were expropriated by the Municipality and opened to public use including Yıldız Park, in conformity with the planner's suggestions[44]. The picturesque unity created by the integration of natural and cultural assets of these sites were given a particular emphasis in the planning of both sides of Bosphorus. Pointing out the aesthetic interaction between the yalıs and the trees that surrounded them, the harmony of colors, Prost recommended working with artists in order to conserve this picturesque quality[45]. (Image 23) In order to conserve the aesthetic qualities of the waterfront, the urbanist was opposed to the construction of the coastal road. He instead proposed the road to be built behind the yalıs, in order not to disturb their relation with Bosphorus. Although his suggestion was followed on the Anatolian side, on the European side, the coastal road was constructed, in 1950s, disregarding the planner's advice.

Conclusion

The dilemma of modernization and conservation constituted a major concern in İstanbul beginning the late Ottoman period. While ambitious plans envisaging the reorganizion of the urban space were put into implementation, civic as well as official initiatives could be successful in safeguarding significant historic monuments. These initiatives gave way to the creation of governmental organizations that were responsible from the conservation of historic monuments, which continued their function after the foundation of the Republic.

The organization of a planning competition in 1933 reveals the Republican authorities' will to direct the future urban development in conformity with the precepts of town planning. The French urbanist Henri Prost, whom they finally selected as the city's master planner, set the two principal goals of planning in İstanbul as the modernization of the urban space and the conservation of the city's "incomparable landscape" and its historical monuments. Prost's plan illustrated, indeed, a dilemma that the planners faced within the early Republican context of societal modernization. The Master Plan for the European Side of İstanbul and numerous sectorial plans that Prost prepared with his team in İstanbul from 1936 to 1951, are mainly directed to modernize the urban setting and infrastructure. In line with the understanding of the period, the planner's approach to conservation was mainly confined with the monuments and not the built-environment as a whole. (Image 24)

Despite his interventionist attitude towards the historic urban fabric, Henri Prost played an important role in the adoption of certain conservation policies in this period. He developed a number of planning tools and decisions that were critical in the conservation of not only monuments but also the natural and cultural landscapes of İstanbul. The regulations that he proposed for maintaining the historical silhouette of İstanbul could be relatively successful in spite of almost complete renewal of the Old City. The notion of "site to be preserved" is another important contribution of Henri Prost to planning practice, which was later introduced to the conservation legislation in Turkey. The declaration of Eyüp as a "site to be preserved" enabled its conservation as a whole and most probably saved the historic neighborhood from being compromised by the industrial sprawl of the time.

The declaration of the Byzantine city walls as monuments went back to an ordinance of late 19th century. Half a century later, in Henri Prost's Master Plan for the Old City, approved in 1939, the Land Walls were to be conserved by the declaration of a protection zone that allowed the aesthetical appreciation of the fortifications as a whole. Finally, the Archeology Park was one of the most significant projects that Henri Prost introduced in the Master Plan of Old İstanbul as early as 1937. Today, both the Land Walls and the Archaeology Park constitute two important sites of İstanbul in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

After Henri Prost left his position, the Committee of Consultants constituted by the Turkish professors of architecture and city planning, worked on the revision of the master plans prepared by Prost and his team. However, starting from 1956, İstanbul was subjected to large-scale urban demolitions that were personally directed by the Prime Minister Adnan Menderes who decided to lead the modernization of the city[46]. Although Prost's Master Plan was superficially taken as a reference in these operations, the roads were opened in dimensions that matched the standards of a highway, cutting through the historic city, and causing the destruction of several neighborhoods and the demolition of numerous historic buildings, while monumental mosques were restored. The studies for the preparation of a master plan in metropolitan scale recommenced in 1958, with the consultancy of the Italian architect and planner Luigi Piccinato. In the master plan report, Piccinato defined the principal vision for İstanbul as a center for commerce, culture and tourism[47]. It is interesting to note that André Gutton, the president of the committee of urbanism of UIA, who was invited to give a conference in İstanbul in 1959, stressed also the importance of the historic and cultural heritage and pointed particularly to the potential of tourism that could be the principal industry in İstanbul[48]. Conservation of cultural heritage for the sake of attracting tourism activity has developed into a well-known discourse ever since.

The Planning Direction of the Municipality, conducted by architect Turgut Cansever, elaborated a conservation oriented plan in 1/5.000 scale for the historical peninsula and the protection area of Eyüp in 1964[49]. The plan divided the historic peninsula into different zones in which special planning decisions and building regulations were imposed in consideration with the degree of conservation and the eventual impact of new buildings on the silhouette for each zone. The area surrounding Hagia Sophia and Sultanahmet Mosque, the land walls and the area of non-aedificandi extending along the walls were demarcated as two special zones of protection as defined by Henri Prost. While the status of protection area was continued for these areas, Prost's plans for three sectors of the old city were cancelled, with the objective to conserve the historic urban fabric. A preliminary study and a report was prepared by Doğan Kuban, professor at İstanbul Technical University Faculty of Architecture, to determine the bases for a conservation plan in İstanbul[50]. Unfortunately, the Plan for the Walled City –Suriçi İmar Planı- did not gain approval, and a contradictory plan – İstanbul Kat Nizamları Planı (Building Heights Zoning Plan)- was put into implementation in the same year, annihilating the fundamental decisions of the former plan.

Due to the accelerating immigration from rural areas and other towns of the country, the population of İstanbul multiplied at an unprecedented rate in the following decades. As a result, the historic built-environment in İstanbul, which had already been transformed through large-scale urban operations, could hardly resist the pressure of urbanization and was subject to a piecemeal, and yet decisive renewal that caused an exceptional increase in building densities. Nonetheless, although the dilemma of modernization versus conservation seem to be concluded in favor of the former, multiple planning decisions to preserve parts of the city have contributed to the safeguard of the cultural and natural heritage of Istanbul to a certain extent.

44 Istanbul Municipality, Güzelleşen İstanbul. Istanbul, 1944, cited by F. C. Bilsel, "Espaces libres: Parks, promenades, public squares...," C. Bilsel, P. Pinon (eds.), From the Imperial Capital to the Republican Modern City, op.cit., 369-370

45 H. Prost, "Aménagement des Rives du Bosphore – Aménagement pittoresque des rives," Not no. 29, Les Transformations d'Istanbul, cilt IV, Bosphore, 51-52.

46 İ. Yada Akpınar, "The Making of a Modern Pay-ı That in Istanbul: Menderes' Executions After Prost's Plan", F. C. Bilsel, P. Pinon (eds.), From the Imperial Capital to the Republican Modern City, op.cit., 168-199.

47 "İstanbul Metropoliten Alan Çalışmaları." Mimarlık 7, 1972: 60.

48 Ibid., p. 92. Turgut Cansever evaluated André Goutton's conference and report later in his article. T. Cansever, "UIA Şehircilik Komisyonunun İstanbul'daki Toplantısı Münasebetiyle." Arkitekt. 1959: 31-32.

49 N. Duranay, E. Gürsel, S. Ural, "Cumhuriyet'ten bu yana İstanbul planlaması," Ş. Özler (ed.), Cumhuriyet Dönemi İstanbul Planlama Raporları…, op.cit., 423-426, and İ. Tekeli, İstanbul'un Planlaması ve Gelişmesinin Öyküsü. Istanbul, 2013, 203-204.

50 D. Kuban, "İstanbul'un Tarihsel Yapısının Genel Özellikleri ve Koruma Yöntemleri," report republished in D. Kuban, Türkiye'de Kentsel Koruma, Kent Tarihleri ve Koruma Yöntemleri. Second edition, Istanbul, 2010, 3-46.