

The Evaluation of Functional and Visual Changes in the Atapark (Trabzon)

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Abstract

The idea of modernity as to architecture and urban planning entered with the acts of foreign architects in Turkey. Despite eighteenth and nineteenth century, In the 20th century, recreational gardens or practical gardens were created because gardens had responsible for meeting new needs which arising with the multiplicity of urban residents. In this period, parks in city of Trabzon turned into a topic which fully discusses the media. At first, "Atapark" was located in a public cemetery near the city center and then it became the most important park of the 20th century built in city of Trabzon. Atapark has been changed over time in every aspects and the analysis of this changes is the main purpose of this research as an interpretative - historical research. The interpretation is Medicare composed of three stages included; the data collection, organization, and evaluation. By putting together the date of events, rational interpretation, and connecting events together, it is derived complete history of the park finally. As a result, in the first years, Atapark was a green space which led people to enter the mosque. Over time, it became the park with its actual true meaning and function. The main aim of this research is to indicate and substantiate various factors which can influence in creating, changing forms, and using spaces of a park, in particular. In creation of this park, sociopolitical issues have had fundamental impacts and over time the park has undergone culture and needs of visitors. In this research, it is tried to illustrate how much important is process of designing which designers might give less attention to.

Keywords: Atapark, Mosque of Gülbahar Hatun, Imaret cemetery, Modernity in Trabzon

1. Introduction

In the early years of 20th century, modernity manifested it's meaning in the face of streets, spaces, and composition (Piermoure et al. 1995).The idea of modernity is started with the effort of foreign architects in Turkey (Davison 2006). The architects such as Clemens Holzmeister, Bruno Taut and Ernst Egli got it built the important buildings which represented the concept of modernity in public places in the city (Albayrak, 1998). In many parts of the Anatolia and Ankara, in particular, planning studies were started in the suburban areas which were provided the identity of modernity along with actions of people so that it could form a culture of life (Note 1).

In this regard, during the period of the republic, the modernity plans focused on education, culture, health, buildings, streets, roads, squares, modern behavior, sports, entertainment, and social places. In 20th century in spite of 19th century, recreational gardens or functional gardens were created and gardens were responsible to meet all needs of people arisen from the multiplicity of urban residents (Piermoure et al. 1995). In this period, parks inside Trabzon became as one of the topics discussed in the Middle Ages. In the early republican period, the park of Meydan in the Trabzon was the only area available for use of public. However, in the local media pressed news about the organization of the old Taksim, Imaret cemetery and consideration two separate parks in the outskirts of Moloz (Albayrak 1998).

In fact, , in accordance with the Lambert plan, plan green areas, sports fields, play fields, beaches, parks, orchards and balconies have become more important since1938 in the city. At this time, Jamal Reza Chinar focused on the planned works in his writing titled, "Investigations of records with the new plan". On 1949, for increasing fresh air, there were four parks in total: Kaleparkı, Square Park, Taksim Park, and Atapark in Trabzon. Parks especially children's gardens had influence on the modern life in many ways. So, taking fresh air was the aim of creating these parks and especially with the growth of population and vehicles, the need to green spaces increased. In addition, on 1937, the article of the Yenyol, with title of "Children's Playground" had profound influence on the development of the next generation. In this context, the idea of transition into the social life in modern cities, the architectural tissues, and cemeteries, in particular, was issued by tremendous designer and architects. With this purpose, the creation of the playground has been initiated in the old Taksim cemetery but, it is not completed yet. A settlement in the western part of the city was lower so that with organization of the old cemetery and its proceeding changing, Atapark landscape became derelict for a while. Atapark was located as a public cemetery near the city center at first and then it became one of the important parks of 20th century which was built in Trabzon. Atapark had enormous changes over time. These changes include the functional changes

and the objective changes and the evaluation of these changes is the main purpose of this research.

2. Material and Method

Atapark was located in a public cemetery near the center of city at first and then it became a favorite and famous park built in Trabzon. Atapark have changed quite a few over time. These changes have included the functional changes and the changes related its appearance. In this study, it is used an interpretative - historical research of Tash Barzan / Graph (Groat and Wang 1998). Interpretation is composed of three stages; the data collection, organization and evaluation. By putting together date of events, rational interpretation, and connected events, history of the park completes. In the study, Data is achieved by historical photographs which were provided from various sources. According to the time's changes, images reviewed and organized in the three period of the time; 1937-1960, 1960- 2000, and 2000 to now (Fig 1).

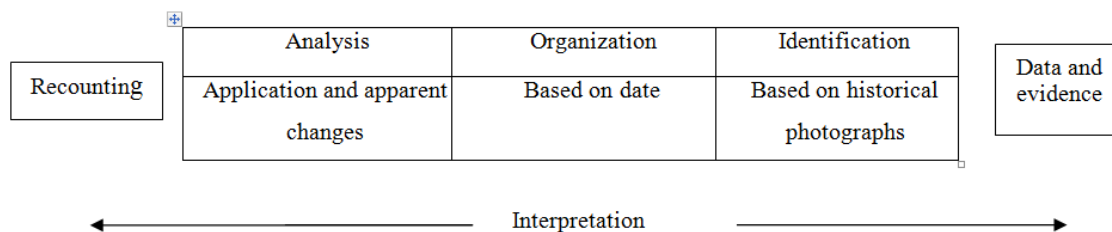


Figure 1. Framework of study

2.1. Study Area

The field of study is a park named Atapark and placed in Trabzon /Turkey. It is in front of the Hatuniye mosque which was built in memory of Gülbahar Hatun in the west of the Ortahisar, next to Zağnos Bridge within a complex of buildings. Trabzon is a city on the beach of Black Sea and in north-eastern part of Turkey. Trabzon also acts as the capital of Trabzon Province (Fig 2)

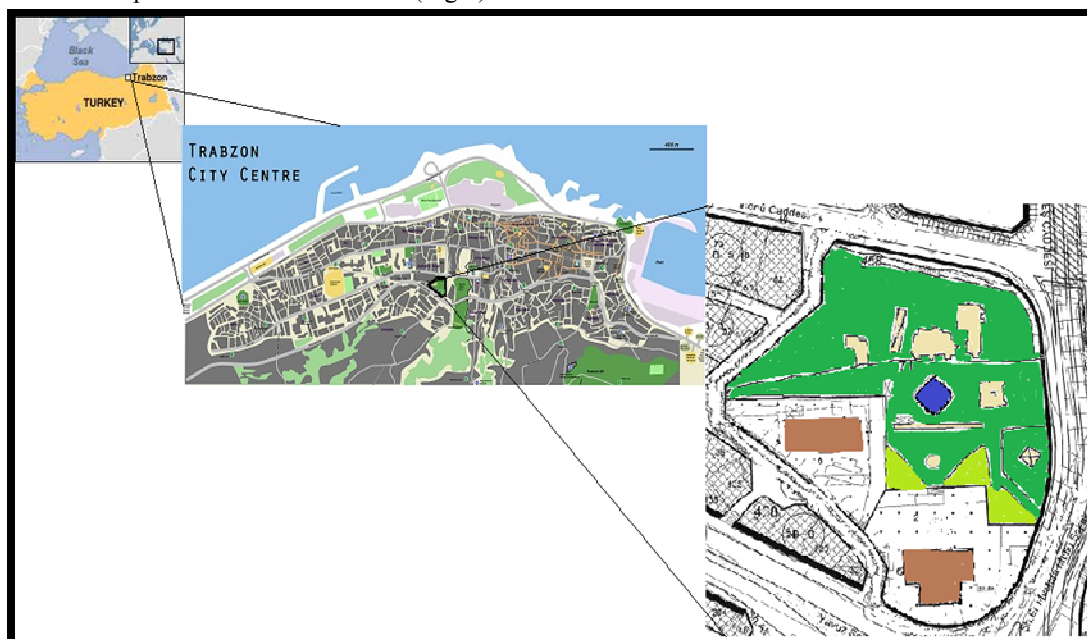


Figure 2: Location of study area

3. Finding

3.1. Mosque of Gülbahar Hatun and cemetery of Imarat (Note 2)

Mosque was built in 1514 in the memory of Gülbahar Hatun- the mother of Yavuz Sultan Selim (Note 3). The building was known as Büyük Imaret or Hatuniye Mosque which was situated in the middle of a dense of buildings among which only the mosque and the tomb have survived (Horlouogu 1978).

The Mosque has categorized in the Zaviye (i.e. with hermit cells) group- an architectural style in the early Ottoman Empire (Note 4). The mosque consists of an external area for prayers, a cell, and a interior part

surrounded by a big dome. The dome surrounding the external area was built upon the arches and marble columns had helmets in the shape of diamond. The pulpit and the alter niches are of marble. The borders of the alternation of niches are visible in the sides and adorned with motifs at the top. The pentagonal niche terminates in the vault. On each of the cup is a damaged rosette. The classical ornamentation of the mosque has been spoilt by later modifications (Karpuz 1990, Ballance 1997). These ornamentation has been carried outside in the subsequent years. From the inscription of the door, it is obvious that the mosque was underwent a number of repairs in 1885. The fountain in the courtyard which once was encircled by the dome, have been substituted with a conical stairs through the recent repairs. In fact, It is a famous mosque in Trabzon which are located in the Atapark now and It is defined a meeting place for people of Trabzon (Fig 3).



Figure 3. Gülbahar hatun Mosque (Trabzon Province Yearbook 1973)

3.2. From imaret cemetery to Atapark

Jamal Reza Chinar, in the Halk newspaper, printed interesting information about the provision of Atapark name. "Atatürk, (Note 5) in the his last visit, when he came to meet the government in the morning, he showed cemetery to Hasan Tahsin Uzer, who was the third general inspector, and said "what is it in the most beautiful place of city!" (Note 6).

According to his sentence, the mayor was accelerated on their decision in changing of the cemetery to park which remained too much years ago without practical. Therefore, the cemetery was turned into Atapark. The governor of Trabzon in that period, Refik Koraltan (Note 7) send telegram to Tahsin Uzer who was in 1938 and reported complexion of the park organization and "Atapark" determined as the name of the park. In addition, in 1937, the majority of schools, which destroyed completely, have been eliminated; tomb stones removed; giant Cypress trees that are pivotal characteristics for cemeteries abolished and other types of trees were planted in their places. Regarding to the report of architect Sedat Cetintashin (Note 8) in 1937, who was a member of the board of protecting historic sites in Trabzon, it is showed that it took a few months of working to remove plants, thorns, and destructions of the old cemetery through the great street. When pedestrians passed the cemetery, they felt comfortable because this place gave them a sense of calmness and vivacity which aren't in cemeteries.

The road (Soğuksu way) passed of the eastern tomb, as roadway. Grave stones and Cupress trees on the slopes of the Zagnos valley which was a continuation of the cemetery and stand in the east of the road. With sentence of Chetintash, Gülbahar Hatun mosque and tomb's surroundings were clean with expanded trees and it transformed to the park in accordance to landscape design in that period (Figure 4). Some old photographs from the Gülbahar Hatun mosque and tomb of the building are remarkable in terms of the process of making arrangements. Those photos show in 1938 that the fountain, and parts of the cemetery were damaged, but cemetery has not translated into to Atapark yet. From Hatuniye complex that includes a kitchen, mosques, cemetery, mausoleums, shrines, and school, are remained only Gülbahar Hatun mosque and its shrine mausoleum today.



Figure 4. Mosque of Gülbahar Hatun and Atapark (Kardesh 1999)

3.3. From 1937 to 1960

In 1937, the first changes were started. The cemetery was removed completely and trees were cut in order to the new design (Fig 5). In addition of new activities, hard materials were amplified and green and Grass-green spaces were identified by thin boundaries and with trees. According to new activities, the lights with different lengths were designed (Fig 6).

Tables and sitting places were placed under the trees in turn. A rectangular pool was built in 1950 and one open space created in front of it so that it was possible to put a white monument in the middle of the space. Later, that monument was substituted with the monument of Ataturk (Fig 7).

During these years, trees in the park have grown although it was a field in support of the mosque. In the north of the park, a series of stairs were designed toward mosque. In the years among 1937-1960, old and indigenous people were waiting for the call to prayers in the park, doing things which related to mosque, or passing through the park. According to the pictures of 1960, green covers and hard material increased on the park. Furthermore, the park was given repairs, maintenances, and other renewal actions.

In the pool, fountain was designed and plants and flowers were implanted around it. Axis of the park derived from the central pool and open space which distributed throughout the park (Figure 8). According to the pictures from 1955, gate of the park was built in the western part due to allow visitors to entrance. Based on the investigations, the aim of hexagonal pavilion in front of the door was to serve as the entrance of the park (Fig 9).



Figure7. The pool of the Atapark in 1960 (Trabzon Province Yearbook 1973)



Figure8. The pool of the Atapark in 1960 (Trabzon Province Yearbook 1973)

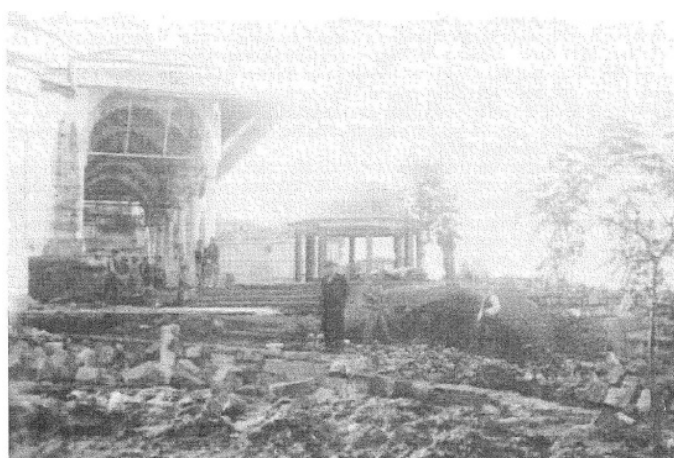


Figure 5. The Gülbahar Hatun mosque when the cemetery removed, 1937



Figure 6. The first regulation in the park, 1955

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Figure9. The entrance of the park, 1955 (Sumerkan, Okuman 1999)

3.4. From 1960 to 2000

In these years, the park has been seen a lot of changes especially in the area of the pool around. At first, the park was a place where supported the mosque, but gradually it found its own identity and became popular with getting materials and so on.

Figure 10 shows the space around the pool and the white monument in front of it. A row of trees planted and flowers around the pool are drawing attention. In the 1975, the new adjunctions and changes such as shelters and arbors were added in the park especially around the pool. In Number of 11 figure were created for protection of people against sunlight which is one of the actions led to more visions of people. Equipment and

facilities were more these years in concerned with people's demands. A direct way to the mosque was defined by many steps which led to the park. Two small areas were grassed in the surrounding of the mosque which begun increasing since 1997. Eating and drinking possibilities multiplied and hard materials changed into functions for children and youth in the park.

In the 1997, the area around the pool was changed again. According to figure 10, the hard material has been removed and a portion of the area became field of grass and in the portion, has been planted flowers. In these years, visitors go to the park for fun, relaxation and similar activities, and few people were aware of the historic of the mosque there.



Figure10. The pool of the Atapark in 1960



Fig 11. The pool of the Atapark in 1975

3.5. From 2000 to 2011

After 2000, a number of repairs and renovation was done again and the shape of the pool became smaller. Appearance of some swans added more beauty on it (Fig 12). Colorful lights were designed in the bottom of the pool were spectacular landscape of the park which with the tea desks let people have more pleasure around the pool (Fig 13).

In the republican period, one of the formal elements which represent the dynamics of innovation in city was constructed. In this period, symbols of Atatürk were the biggest support of the matter as to monument and sculpture so that the monument of Atatürk was placed instead of white monument in front of the pool (Fig 14). One of the important innovations in the park was children's play ground that was located in the west of the park a café was created next to it for visitors (Fig 15).

Tables of cafes are scattered in the northern part of the park. In these years, activities increased in the park and it became like what is today. Some sculptures such as one called an horreo was made in eastern corner of the park. Horreo (Note 9) in the Trabzon city was a symbol of suburban life (Fig 16). Sometimes ceremonies held in the open space around the memorial.

As a result, more people began to come for walking, relaxing, eating, drinking, and doing recreation with their children in the park (Fig 17).



Figure12. Atapark in the year of 2007 (Trabzon Photo Albums 2000)



Figure13. Atapark at night in the year of 2000 (Trabzon Photo Albums 2000)



Figure14. The view from the Ataturk statue as the focal point (Kızılaslan 1995)



Figure15. Playground of Atapark in the year of 2011



Figure 16. An hórreo in the Atapark, 2011



Figure 17. Atapark in the year of 2011

4. Conclusion

In the first years, Atapark was a green space which serves as an entrance for people who wanted to reach the mosque. Over the time, park became more spacious and found the true meaning of the space. Over the years, many fluctuations were made in the park and Fields of the various activities increased so that soft grounds decreased and hard ground increased for creating those activities. Gradually, many people in different groups of ages begun to come the park. Moreover, zoo and children's play zone was constructed with nice furnisher which has embellished the park. Eating and drinking facilities increased in the park, too (Table 1).

The main aim of this research is to indicate and substantiate various factors which can influence in creating, changing forms, and using spaces of a park, in particular. In creation of this park, sociopolitical issues have had fundamental impacts and over time the park has undergone culture and needs of visitors. In this research, it is tried to illustrate how much important is process of designing which designers might give less attention to.

Process of the project planning consists of three phases; first: designing, second: construction, and third: using. These steps are relevant to one another in a raw. It is wise that architects and planners should predict

visitor's behaviors toward design spaces in first step and at the end, they should try to evaluate the practical actions of visitors and compare it with what they predicted at first.

However, it is rarely seen that designer decide to evaluate their works over time in a real space based on their primarily aims, since sometimes, it is essential that some changes are planned based on people's reactions. As usual, designers and planners consider the first and second steps as important phases. Therefore, people's manners might manipulate extremely the previous draw or might pose subsequent financial losses. This research gives a comprehensive view especially to landscape designers to ponder vast evaluations about person conductions in the real spaces after designing.

Table 1. The functional and visual changes of the Atapark

Time	The functional and appearance changes
1937-1960	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The cemetery was extirpated completely and trees were cut in order to the new design. ▪ Hard materials were amplified and grass-green spaces were defined by thin boundaries. ▪ Tables and sitting place were placed under the trees. ▪ A rectangular pool was built in the 1950 and one open space created in front of. ▪ During these years, trees in the park have grown although it was a field in support of the mosque.
2000-1960	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Around the pool, row of beautiful flowers were planted. ▪ Facilities for eating and drinking were multiplied. ▪ In these years, many visitors came to the park for fun, relaxation and like those activities and most of them were unaware about the historic of the mosque
2000-2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dimensions of the pool decreased and became more beautiful. ▪ Colorful lights were designed in the bottom of the pool. ▪ The monument of Atatürk was placed instead of white monument in front of the pool. ▪ Some sculptures was appeared in the park. ▪ The children's playground located in the west of the park. ▪ Functional changes increased in these years. ▪ In these, more people begun to come. ▪ Visitors in order to walk, get relaxed, eat, drink, and do recreation with their children came to the park.

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Notes

- Note 1. German architects, during the period of modernity in Turkey
- Note 2. Gülbahar Hatun (c. 1432–1492) was the first wife Ottoman Sultan Mehmed II, and Valide Sultanduring the reign of Ottoman Sultan Bayezid II for eleven years from 1481 until 1492.
- Note 3. Yavuz Sultan Selim was the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire from 1512 to 1520.
- Note 4. The Ottoman Empire sometimes referred to as the Turkish Empire or simply Turkey, was an empire founded by Oghuz Turks under Osman Bey in north-western Anatolia in 1299.
- Note 5. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was a Turkish army officer in the Ottoman military, revolutionary statesman, and the first President of Turkey.
- Note 6. Hasan Tahsin Uzer (1878, Salonica - 1939), during I world war was serving various governorates and in

third army was general inspector.

Note 7. Refik Koraltan was a Turkish politician, having served as the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM) from May 22, 1950 to May 27, 1960.

Note 8. Sadat Chetintash was one of the first architects that graduated of Sanayi-i Nefise Academy.

Note 9. An hórreo is a typical granary from the northwest of the Iberian Peninsula (built in wood or stone, raised from the ground by pillars ending in flat staddle stones to avoid the access of rodents).