

Urban Transformation In 1950'S: The Case of Hacettepe District, Ankara

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Abstract

Modernism period indicates an important period because it created new ontology of individuals and society structure through changing world view. Modernism affected urbanisation in different ways. Some researchers believe that modernism like a sharp knife divides a city into two pieces and draws restricted boundaries. On the other hand, some of them claim that modernism is necessary for development. It is important here to understand and evaluate the modernism perception and policies of political authority who adopts the modernist approach as an ideology. In this study, the effects of 1950's modernist approach to the historical urban pattern in Ankara is particularly addressed and discussed. Deciding on an area for a case study seems beneficial and necessary to understand and evaluate the effects of modernist approach on a historical site. Altındağ district which dates back to 15th century has important historical and cultural characteristics for Ankara city. Therefore, the development of Hacettepe University Campus between 1954 and 1973 along with the historical site of Sıhhiye district which is under the jurisdiction of Altındağ Municipality is studied as a case study area in order to reveal the reflections of modernist ideology in those years. This transformation affected the Hacettepe district not only physically but also socio-culturally very profoundly.

Keywords: modernism in 1950s, urban transformation, urban conservation, Hacettepe district, Ankara

1. Introduction

The transformation of historical Hacettepe district in Ankara which was oriented by modernist planning approach in 1950's is analyzed in the context of the study. The paper summarizes the urban development history of Ankara, and particularly urban planning process and experience between 1923 and 1960 which changed the urban form. Particular attention is given to Hacettepe district which was one of the most affected quarters from the modernist planning and urban transformation purposes and reflections of 1950s in Ankara. Parallel to this, the conservation approaches in the period of 1923 and 1970 in Turkey is also briefly examined in order to clarify the reformation of historical Hacettepe district in 1950's.

Data for the analysis and evaluation of Hacettepe's transformation experience are obtained mainly from archive documents and interviews conducted in different institutions in Ankara. Aforementioned Institutions were: Hacettepe University; Office of the Presidency, Directorate of Construction and Technical Works, Faculty of Medicine; Bilkent University, Office of the Presidency; Ankara Metropolitan Municipality; Altındağ Municipality; the General Directorate of Foundations; The Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Other than the archive studies, various sources such as thesis, journal papers, books and websites related to case and historical background of Ankara were used as references as well.

2. From A Small Anatolian Town To A Modern Capital City – Ankara

Important, rich and valuable archaeological remains belong to the many civilizations including the earliest ones in Anatolia were found during excavations even some of which have been continuing for many years in and around Ankara. In classical period, the city was known as "Ancyra", whereas Seljuk Turks named as "Engürü", and in the Ottoman period, it was renamed as "Angora". History of Ankara and its surrounding areas date back to the Hittites period, about 2000 B.C. (Danielson & Keleş, 1985). In the 10th century B.C. Ankara was occupied by the Phrygians, and following centuries it was occupied respectively by the Lydians, Persians, Macedonians, Galatians, Romans, Byzantines, Seljuks and Ottomans (Kinross & Mantran, 1959; Cengizkan, 2010) as well.

During the period of Ottoman Empire, Ankara was a small town in the Central Anatolia. This small town became an important place due to hosting the general headquarters of Turkish Military Forces during the Independence War of Turkey between 1919 and 1923. The Republic of Turkey was founded on October 29th 1923, under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk who was the first President of Turkey, following the abolition of the Ottoman Empire after the Independence War. By the foundation of the Republic of Turkey, a

series of significant reforms were initiated and adapted to rebuild the country as a developed modern nation-state on the ruins of Ottoman State. One of the crucial reforms was developing a new capital city and creating a modern urban area which would have been a model for Turkey. Building a new capital city was a very difficult mission because the new capital had to shoulder the responsibility of being a symbol of nation-state and representing the Turkey's modern future. The capital city should have been different from the other cities of the country because it has been hosting the Turkish Parliamentary and all of the governmental institutions all of which had already started to be located in the city.

Ankara was proclaimed as the capital city on October 13th, 1923, and had a new role as the representative of the young nation-state in a modern era. Physical appearance of the capital city was important because it represented national continuity and competence. Therefore, city plan should have been implemented directly by the central government without accepting any public opinion or tolerating any natural growing tendencies to build a new national capital rapidly in a limited time. The capital should had wide boulevards, attractive buildings, planned residential areas, parks and efficient public services (Danielson & Keleş, 1985). In 1924, initial ideas and city plan for Ankara, best known as Lörcher Plan, was prepared by Carl Christoph Lörcher. Lörcher proposed a new commercial and governmental district for Ankara, called Yenışehir (New City), located about two kilometres away the old town (Danielson & Keleş, 1985). Lörcher Plan, which planned Yenışehir, was fully implemented because government had a full control over the land in those times (Danielson & Keleş, 1985).

Depending on the Lörcher scheme, main principles of new commercial and government centre were determined; however, Ankara needed a master plan which had to comprise and re-form the whole land. Hermann Jansen, who was a German urban planner, won the competition which was organized for developing the city's master plan. According to the new perspective of Ankara in Jansen Plan, the city consisted of two urban areas. One of the areas included the old and traditional part of the city, called *Ulus*; whereas the other part was forming the modern and newly constructed area of Ankara, called *Yenışehir* (Tunçer, 1998).

Ulus had important historical characteristics and many historical buildings which belong to Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman periods. *Ankara Citadel*, which was determined as a national symbol in Jansen Plan, was fortified by the Galatians, strengthened by Romans, rebuilt by the Byzantines, and maintained by the Seljuks and Ottomans (Fodor's, 1997). The city's oldest mosque, *Alaaddin Mosque*, was built in 1178 within the citadel (Fodor's, 1997). *The Temple of Augustus* which was built in 2nd century B.C. as a shrine to Cybele, a nature goddess of Asia Minor, is located behind *the Hacı Bayram Mosque* (Fodor's, 1997). In addition, *The Column of Julian* and *the Roman Bath*, which is situated on Çankırı Avenue in Ulus, have been also representing the historical and cultural characteristics of the old part of Ankara.



Figure 1. View from the Ankara Citadel to Hacıbayram District, the Traditional Ankara Houses, in 1950's (Kinross & Mantran, 1959)

Besides these historical places, The Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, one of the most prestigious and modern museums in Turkey, was located next to the Ankara citadel and it has been exhibiting many historical artifacts belong to the various civilizations lived and disappeared in Anatolia, ranging from the Stone Age to the Roman Period. In addition, old part included many residential neighbourhoods with narrow streets and traditional wooden Ankara houses which had typical courtyards. Moreover, Hamamönü, the Cıkırıçılar Street and the Bakırcılar Market which have been located in the historical part of the city were traditional, authentic and impressive shopping areas in those periods.

According to Jansen Plan, Hacettepe Park was planned as one of the few green areas of the modern capital in

Hacettepe District (Burat, 2011; Akdeniz, n.d.). During his consultancy period, Jansen strove to protect the Hacattepe region as a recreation area. According to Burat (2011), Jansen described this place as an important hill on which the sunset could be watched clearly and children could benefit as a playground. Although various public institutions attempted at different times to construct buildings in the area, Jansen advised to not to arrange much things on the area but plan simple planting with trees. Jansen's primary approach was to protect the area and leave the environment as it was. In consistent with this approach, he developed a simple planting plan for Hacettepe in December 11, 1935 (Burat, 2011).

Besides Hacettepe Park, some other areas like Gençlik Park (Youth Park), which was modified by the landscape architect and planner Theo Leveau, Güven Park, Kurtuluş Park, Havuzbaşı, Atatürk Boulevard, Stadium and Hippodrome were planned in this plan as public areas and social interaction spaces which represented newly developing citizenship model of nation-state and modern capital of the Republic (Gültekin & Onsekiz, 2005).

It is asserted that important point of Jansen Plan was that monuments, historical areas and old neighbourhoods of Ankara were tried to be protected (Günay, 2009). However, the protection idea of the district without implementing any rehabilitation studies upon the necessary historical part of city caused emergence of physical corrosion in some parts of historical pattern (Tunçer, 2009). The old and traditional neighbourhoods were surrounded by the illicit housing and slum areas due to massive migration in 1950's (Günay, 2009), and the isolation from the newly developing city centre due to uncontrolled growth which emerged in the historical part started to be clearly observed. The Republican administration deals with the production of the new part of the city by using financial sources, whereas they did not handle the traditional part of city (Günay, 2009). Therefore, the scarcity of public financial sources allocated for the historical region resulted in poor constructions which were improper for the historical characteristics and also deteriorating the existing historical environment.

Jansen Plan was used to direct the physical development of Ankara until 1950's (Tunçer, 2009). Nevertheless, Jansen's plan was not appropriate for the rapidly growing population of Ankara in general and Hacettepe district in particular. Ankara's population, which was about 75.000 in 1927, increased more than two times (157.000) in a 13 years period (between 1927 and 1940) mainly due to the migration from rural areas (Danielson & Keleş, 1985). However, Jansen Plan was anticipating that Ankara's total population would have not reached to even 300.000 within a fifty years period (Danielson & Keleş, 1985).

Uncontrolled population growth caused serious problems on urban areas such as inadequate housing, emerging slum areas, insufficient infrastructure, insanitary conditions and unemployment. Therefore, developing a new plan for Ankara urgently needed. In 1957, Yücel-Uybadin Plan, which predicted Ankara's population as 750.000 in 2006¹, was put into effect (Tunçer, 2009). However, population had already reached to 646,000 in 1960 because of the rapidly and uncontrolled migration which had particularly started by the beginning of 1950's (Danielson & Keleş, 1985). Thus, Yücel-Uybadin Plan could not correspond to the needs of rapidly growing city and it only proposed short-term solutions for the emerging problems. In addition, Burat (2011) emphasized that although the green structure was proposed in Jansen Plan, those areas were substantially changed in the Yücel-Uybadin Plan.

Property Ownership Law which was put into effect by 1965, accelerated the construction of multi-storey apartments in the region. This rapid apartment construction approach caused improper building development practices in historical environments. Policies for demolishing or changing function had become dominating approaches instead of protecting and rehabilitating policies. Tuncer (2000 cited in Kurtar, 2012) briefly specifies some of the examples for the policy applications as follows:

- Buildings around Hacı Bayram Mosque were demolished in order to create an open space,
- Many buildings were demolished in order to develop Ulucanlar Street,
- Kurtuluş and Kırgız neighbourhoods in which many invaluable and historical Ankara houses and monuments located were demolished in order to construct Hacettepe Hospital complex.

In 1946, the governmental and political system of Turkey shifted from single-party ruling to multi-parties democracy. By the 1950's new elected government, which had a different perspective in terms of developing the society and the country, focused on industrialization and urbanisation through the liberal economic politics. Although it was expected from the new liberal economic ideology that it would have brought about a shift from state-based to private-based investments related to urbanisation and architecture, the new government concentrated to the public investments. These public investments which were also a part of modernist approach needed new empty urban areas and/or existing areas which were to be cleared out for the realization of huge public investments and constructions. It can be asserted that the strict modernist approach dominated in the period of 1950 and 1960 had pressure on the historical environment. Therefore, especially historical urban areas were affected negatively by the implementation of the new modernist perspective. The modernist planning

¹ According to census statistics of Ankara related to the year 2007, the population was 3.763.591

approach of 1950's sought a pure rationalist view point which tried to re-organize resident-building, resident-neighbourhood, building-street, building-neighbourhood relations which also directly related to the functional and aesthetic characteristics of a physical environment. This rational controlling and organizing desire of modernist approach in the built environment had difficulties to develop reliable and satisfactory relations between physical and social-cultural structures most of which had been developed throughout decades even centuries. Rationality, logic, regularity, scientific facts, and universal truths had significant roles in modernist approach in this period. Urban areas were separated as good or bad (*binary oppositions*) and created *the others* (Işık, 2006).

There was a desire to manage all of the urban form which was shaped by the principles of order and wholeness (Işık, 2006). The purpose of modernist planning in 1950's was to rule the city according to its principles, create a new future, and emerge homogenous society and universal truth. In a homogenous and pre-definable society which was created by modernist planning, rules and orders were provided with the *authoritarian* and sometimes *destructive* modernist movement (Işık, 2006). In this context, *comprehensive planning* and *architecture* was the most important tools of the modernism because the cities could be directed, controlled and reorganized most conveniently via planning. The planning ideology was the "*demolishment of existing urban fabric and traditional neighbourhoods for the construction of new road systems and buildings*" (Günay, 2009, p.132). It would be asserted that the legitimization tool of the strict modernist planning in 1950's was *public interest*. With the rapid urbanisation in 1950's, *tear down-build* process has started to influence the cities and the new process "*has not been able to create the conditions of place community*" (Günay, 2009, p.132).

3. Transforming Hacettepe District: A Modernist Planning Experience

As aforementioned before, archaeological findings have revealed that Hittites, Frigs, Lydian and Galats had settled in different periods in the historical part of Ankara (Ulus-Altındağ). The historical pattern (which dates back to 15th century) and the cultural features of the Hacettepe district along with its geological characteristic (which indicates a hill in Altındağ) makes the region a valuable and beautiful place (Figure 2) (Vural, 2007). In the Ottoman period, population of Ankara was estimated about 25.000 at the end of the 16th century. Hacettepe district was assumed as one of the crowded areas in the city centre. Hacettepe district, which consisted of İmaret-i Karacabey neighbourhood and Hacı Musa neighbourhood, was located nearby city walls (Faroqhi, 1987). Until the beginning of 17th century, this district was named as *Hacı Tepesi*; however, its name was changed and *Hacettepe* name has started to be used because this area had a function as *namazgah* (Şenol & Cantek, 2007). *Hacettepe* word connotes to an area where God corresponds and accepts your prays about your needs, hopes and requirements.



Figure 2. Altındağ and the Traditional Ankara Houses, in 1929
(Gökçe Günel's personal archive, 2007)

Right after Ankara had become the capital city of Turkish Republic, Hacettepe district started to develop and growing rapidly, and an attractive park was built in the district. Hacettepe Park had become one of the popular public areas of Ankara, and also used as a traditional recreational area (*mesire yeri* in Turkish) which was designed as a green area with walkways, sculptures, and pools (Özaloğlu, 2008).

The district was located in the north side of Sıhhiye-Cebeci Road, and was surrounded by the Erzurum neighbourhood, Samanpazarı and Hamamönü (Şenol & Cantek, 2007) (Figure 3). Different ethnic groups who were also immigrants from different parts of the country had settled in close neighbourhoods within the region, and this view enriched the multiculturalistic structure of the district. There were strong sense of community and belonging in the neighbourhoods of Hacettepe district, besides its authenticity and cultural identity.

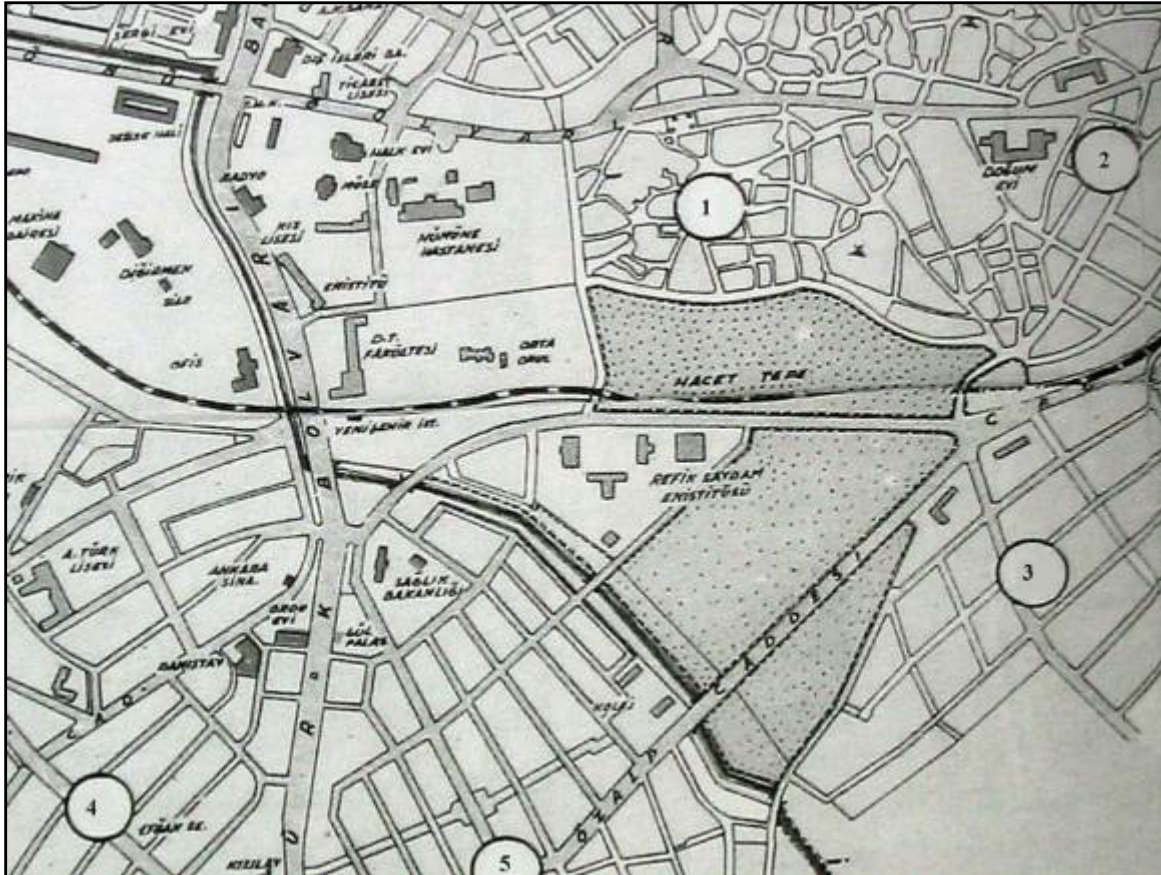


Figure 3. The Plan of Hacettepe District and Its Surrounding in 1949 (*In the map: 1 Saman Pazarı; 2 Hamamönü; 3 Kurtuluş-Cebeci; 4 and 5 Kızılay-Yenişehir*) (Cengizkan, 2004, p. 114)

In 1950's, Hacettepe district was one of the preferred and attractive areas by immigrants who came from rural areas to this district because it was a convenient area to find low price land and/or housing opportunities. The growing population triggered the urgent housing needs for the new comers. Hacettepe and its surrounding were serving housing opportunities for low-income families migrated from rural areas of Anatolia to find new job and hope for welfare. The uncontrolled population expanding in Hacettepe district shifted the region from secure and healthy environment to unsafe and chaotic area which also rapidly declined the sanitary conditions of the environment. Although the social structure of Hacettepe had been changing, it was trying to sustain and protect the sense of community and neighbouring. Bounding to this, the district was defending itself from the newly developing city centre which forced to becoming a compulsory isolated area, and marginalized as *the others* (Vural, 2007). The radical and strict modernist approach which came into force from top to down in 1950's perceived Hacettepe district and its surrounding as one of the problematic, chaotic, and depressive settlements of Ankara which should be collapsed.



Figure 4. Altındağ and Hacettepe district in the past (Gökçe Günel's personal archive, 2007)

The new regime in 1950's conducted radical and functionalist modernist decisions upon the cities which sometimes demolished the historical and traditional districts arrived from the new city development strategy. According to this political ideology, Hacettepe was recognized as a barrier due to its problematic structure which hinders to apply modern urbanisation decisions in the city centre. Hacettepe which was perceived as a marginalized and problematic region by the political authority experienced the modernist ideology reflections which would have extreme changes on people's lives living in and around the district.

In 1951, İhsan Doğramacı, a pediatric physician and professor in Ankara University, proposed a new idea of developing a Child Health Institution in Hacettepe district. This project made the things easier for the political authority in terms of applying modernist planning approach in consistent with *public interest* through the development of a health institution idea in the region. In addition, the characteristics of the district which increased its value were the transportation facilities, proximity to the new city centre, and being one of the central areas of Ankara all of which made the area as convenient as for a hospital project. In 1959, the act of compulsory purchase came into force for the Hacettepe district according to the above considerations. The

historical and social pattern of the district was gradually intervened and affected by the compulsory purchase or nationalization policies. Originally, the affected area had been protected in the Jansen Plan which was targeting to develop a public area while maintaining the historical and social pattern. On the contrary, the political view of that period differed from the Jansen's original idea and plan which had been trying to protect the existing socio-cultural and environmental conditions. Although today a very modern and one of the largest hospitals of the city rises in the region, the loss of former settlement including socio-cultural context raises the issue on the controversial side of modernist approach.



Figure 5. The First Construction on Hacettepe District, in 1954 (Hacettepe University, The Archives of Directorate of Construction and Technical Works, 2007)

First of all, doctors started to work in a squatter house in Cebeci. At the same time construction of hospital building was started. On July 8th, 1958 Child Health Institution, in 1962 Home Economics, on June 15th, 1963 Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine with a general teaching hospital, and in 1963 the Faculty of Dentistry were established (The Handbook of Hacettepe University, 2007). In 1964, the School of Basic Sciences was opened in which it was given lectures about the sections of Nursing, Medical Technology, Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation (The Handbook of Hacettepe University, 2007). At the time, all Hacettepe teaching institutions were affiliated to Ankara University and grouped under the name of Hacettepe Science Centre (The Handbook of Hacettepe University, 2007). Hacettepe University City Campus was constructed on an area of 228250 square meters (The Handbook of Hacettepe University, 2007). The Campus area is comprised of the faculties of Dentistry, Medicine and Pharmacy together with the Schools of Health Administration, Health Services, Health Technology, Home Economics, Nursing, Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation and Hacettepe Vocational School. Hacettepe University Hospital consists of three main healthcare segments: Adult Hospital, Oncology Hospital and İhsan Doğramacı Children's Hospital. In these hospitals diagnosis and treatment services are provided in patient clinics with utmost care. In addition, this setting is also used for undergraduate and graduate medical education. The Adult Hospital has started serving in 1966 and this has created the opportunity to provide the adult patients a qualified service" (The Handbook of Hacettepe University, 2007).



Figure 6. Old Photos from Hacettepe University City Campus (Hacettepe University, The Archives of Directorate of Construction and Technical Works, 2007)

Hacettepe University City Campus did not have a macro plan and a program in the beginning before the construction. After the accomplishment of the campus area, building scheme and development plan were prepared. During the construction process of the campus area, the suitable place for the first building was determined due to the easiest and fastest expropriation site in the region. Hacettepe region experienced the modern planning approach in different conditions due to its historical and cultural structures. Among the others, modern planning indicates two basic and important concepts which are defined as holistic and comprehensiveness. Modern planning needs a rational and comprehensive planning approach. However, conditions of the period did not allow to plan in a holistic and comprehensive way, and limited the application of a rational and reliable strategy because of the historical texture of the area which made things difficult in terms of expropriation. On the other hand, Hacettepe University with its medical units were used as legitimate force of modern planning which was also assumed as *public interest*. Hacettepe was an ideal model to realize and

integrate public scientific investments on health, education and research in a campus area which also corresponded needs of people and very welcomed by residents who were living in Ankara and even surrounding regions. These purposes made the Hacettepe University unique and very important not only for Ankara but also for the whole country.

Various institutions have ownerships on the campus area in different ratios because those institutions owned some properties in the Hacettepe district before the transformation of the region. The total area of the campus is 228,250 (m²) as mentioned before (Hacettepe University, The Archives of Directorate of Construction and Technical Works, 2007). Due to those ownerships, the biggest proportion of the campus area belongs to Hacettepe University with the scale of 208, 596 (m²) which equals to more than 91.38 % of the total area (Hacettepe University, The Archives of Directorate of Construction and Technical Works, 2007). The other ownerships are shared by Altındağ Municipality with a 11,654 (m²) (which equals to about 5.1%), The General Directorate of Foundations with a 7,447 (m²) (which equals to about 3.2%), and Ministry of Finance with a 553 (m²) (which equals to about 0.24%) (Hacettepe University, The Archives of Directorate of Construction and Technical Works, 2007).



Figure 7. The Satellite Image of Hacettepe University City Campus, Traditional Pattern and Immovable Cultural Properties (In the map: 1 The house of Mehmet Akif Ersoy; 2 Tacettin Mosque; 3 Karacabey Mosque; 4 Hacı Musa Mosque; 5 Hacı İlyas Mosque) (Hacettepe University, The Archives of Directorate of Construction and Technical Works, 2007)

Hacettepe University City Campus, which consists of hospitals and education institutions, is located on the Hacettepe Park and some parts of Hacettepe neighbourhood which partly have picturesque value and important historical architectural structures of Ankara. Therefore, Hacettepe University City Campus still hosts valuable historical artifacts and immovable cultural properties (Figure 7). Some of the outstanding ones are; *Karacabey Mosque* which was constructed in 1440 by Karacabey, who was one of the Ottoman Governors, *Hacı İlyas Mosque*, *Sarikadı Mosque*, *Hacı Musa Mosque*, *Tacettin Mosque* (The Handbook of Altındağ Municipality, 2007). In addition, *The House of Mehmet Akif Ersoy*, who was one of the most famous poets of Turkey and the writer of Turkish National Anthem, which is a two storey traditional wooden Ankara House is still located and tried to be protected in the campus area. Some of the Mosques were restored by Hacettepe University and The General Directorate of Foundations. The House of Mehmet Akif Ersoy is used as a museum today. During the foundation of the University Central Campus, the Honorary President of the University, Prof. Dr. İhsan Doğramacı, contributed to and supported the works conducted for the restoration of the building as remaining its

original form (The Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2010). The University attempted to restore the building in 1982 and the studies were completed with the contributions of the Ministry of Culture, the General Directorate of Foundations, the Turkish Foundation of Religious Affairs, and with some private and individual supports (The Museum House of Mehmet Akif Ersoy, n.d.). In addition, there are few old Ankara houses neighbour to Hacettepe City Campus which remains until now.

In the beginning period of the Republic, conservation was neglected due to effects of the war and economical problems. In 1930, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk designated some politics about conservation. Developing and enhancing the awareness level of individuals on conservation, providing financial sources and supports, developing a conservation institute under a state organization, developing and archiving cultural and historical values can be given as specific examples to understand Atatürk's approach and attempts in order to promote and protect the history of the nation-state. In the same year (1930), the Municipality Law was put into effect which charged every municipality as the responsible organization to keep, maintain and repair of historical values which were located in their own boundaries (Kejanlı, Akın, & Yılmaz, 2007). Although there were some important attempts to organize and develop regulations for preserving historical and cultural values, the application process was complicated. This insufficiency of regulation enforcement, among the other problems, mainly depended on the deficient or missing development of responsible institutions and organizations including specialists and technical staff in the country. In addition, the financial problems of the municipal organizations also made many things difficult such as effective application and inspection of conservation and renovation ordinances.

In the year of 1951, a new law, the law of the High Council of Immovable Monuments and Antiquities was put into effect as the first legislative regulation which related to conservation concept directly (Kejanlı, Akın, & Yılmaz, 2007). To organize some principles about restoration, conservation, repair and hold a place application project were the fundamental aims of the High Council of Immovable Monuments and Antiquities (Kejanlı, Akın, & Yılmaz, 2007). Although there are a number of regulations related to the conservation of monuments, it can be asserted that only monuments were accepted as a cultural property and there was not any development in Turkey about conservation in environmental scale until 1960's (Bilgiç, 2004). In 1960's, the new period was started in the governmental authority in Turkey, and a new constitution which was accepted in 1960 was seen as an important progress in the conservation history (Kejanlı, Akın, & Yılmaz, 2007). The new constitution obligated government to protect the monuments which has the historical and cultural values (Kejanlı, Akın, & Yılmaz, 2007).

By the 1970's, Conservation policies and approaches were taken into account in terms of legal issues and applications. In Ancient Monuments Law, which was accepted in 1970, conservation plans are defined in which the terms *urban site* and *cultural property* are introduced separately from Development Plans (Bilgiç, 2004). In addition, the concept of *protected area* (*kentsel sit* in Turkish) and the tasks of the institutions were mentioned for the first time (Kejanlı, Akın, & Yılmaz, 2007). In 1970's, The Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality and The General Directorate of Foundations worked together to develop a plan in which ancient monuments that were located as a solitary form were determined in a holistic way under the name of *The Conservation and Development Plan*. By the establishment of necessary improvements in regulations, historical values and architectural structures have been gaining importance for which some conservation measures have been taken into account, and also conservation plans which have been prepared for historical sites carried the conservation concept to urban scale (Bilgiç, 2004).

Ulus, Ankara Castle, Rome Bath, Bentderesi, Hamamönü, Samanpazarı and Ulucanlar were evaluated and considered as important parts of historical city centre of Ankara. Ministerial Cabinet of Turkish Parliamentary published a resolution (No. 2005/9289) in 2005 (August 8) which decided the region as *Historical City Centre Revitalization Area of Ankara*. This decision based on the second article of the Law for *the Renovation, Protection and Revitalization of Eroded Historical and Cultural Property* (Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, n.d. cited in Kurtar, 2012). Surrounding area of the Hacettepe campus is one of the areas which were specified and included within this law.

The Sarıkadı Street, which is located in Hacettepe neighbourhood of Altındağ municipality, has taken its name from the mosque which has the same name (Sarıkadı Mosque) and located in the same region. The original name of the street is believed to be *Sarkadioğlu*, and then the name was transformed to *Sarıkadın*, and in the end it has taken its present name (Altındağ Municipality, 2008 cited in Kurtar, 2012). This street has been generally crowded because it is the shortest way which is connecting to two settlement areas in the region. Most of the buildings were composed of residential houses along with a few commercial houses before the construction of Hacettepe Health Campus Buildings and hospital units (Kurtar, 2012). After the development of Hacettepe Hospital and related buildings, the functions on the street has transformed to small food and restaurant commercial buildings (Kurtar, 2012). Due to this functional transformation, the residential units have become very few in the street. Most of the ground floors of the buildings have separated for and transformed to

commercial units (Kurtar, 2012). Thus, most of the buildings have lost their originality in terms of form and function. Some of the buildings were demolished because of the Hacettepe Hospital construction. Those were the ones located in block number 356 (covering plots of 1-6 and 8) (Kurtar, 2012). The buildings located beside the Sarıkadı Mosque in the block 357 (plots of 1, 2, 4 and 40) were also demolished in order to construct Hacettepe University Dormitory Buildings (Altındağ Municipality, 2008 cited in Kurtar, 2012).



Figure 8. Today's View of the Hacettepe District and Hacettepe University City Campus (Hacettepe University, The Archives of Directorate of Construction and Technical Works, 2007)

4. Conclusion

In this study, Hacettepe district and its transformation experience in 1950's are analyzed, and some inferences are drawn related to effects of the planning approaches in those years on historical urban areas. It is critically evaluated that policies and planning decisions in 1950's were far from providing the preservation of the historical and cultural environment and finding solutions to socio-cultural and spatial problems of urbanisation. It is asserted that in 1950's in Turkey, the *creative destruction* was the dominant metaphor of developing, recreating and reproducing of the city. Historical values and socio-cultural specialities of the city were destructed with the aim of removing barriers to growth.

Nevertheless, after 1950's the district was seen as an isolated newly developing part of the city. This isolation which was strongly marked in 1950's depending on many reasons, one of which was the growing population in the region due to the uncontrolled migration. Rapidly growing city centres due to migration from rural to urban areas particularly after 1950s had dramatic impacts on many historical areas such as Hacettepe district. The physical and socio-cultural environment in these areas had started to decline and turn into slum-like areas. Increase of inharmonic and poor quality constructions had started to threaten the historical physical environment. On the other hand, the solution for this rapid decline was found as a total clean up approach in the region which means demolishing of all buildings. Elimination attempts of chaotic conditions in the physical environment through a destructive modernist approach had significant impacts on the region. The balance between cleaning and protecting of physical environment in a historical area was not constructed successfully. As a result, on the one hand, there were some innocent and reasonable ideas to enhance the physical as well as socio-cultural and economic environment for the sake of residents in the region, on the other hand, these attempts created new problems and victims within the district. Displacement of the many dwellers living in the region, loss of sense of belonging and community sustainability, damages on the historical and socio-cultural patterns as well as mixed-cultured neighbourhoods of the district could be asserted as some of the important impacts. All of these negative impacts shadowed on success of a modernist approach in a historical environment. Cantek (2006) asserts that during the expropriating period of the many houses in the region, the neighbourhood reaction to this dramatic event was unexpectedly very low. Although there was a strong sense of community in the district, many people accepted to leave their houses and moved to small apartment flats. Cantek (2006) seeks for the root causes of this nonresistance to the re-location and claims that most of the people living in the area were attracted by the apartment life which was assumed as a modern way of life in those years. Today, historical Hacettepe district has not been existed in the *collective memory* of individuals living in Ankara anymore (Cantek, 2006).

The first decades of modernist planning approach and experiences have revealed the fact that the balance between protecting environment and development concept were not integrated. The rapid urbanisation desire and increasing demand to housing as well as infrastructures in rapidly growing urban areas resulted in demolishing historical and cultural values. The attempts to protect the environment remained very limited due to technical, political and regulative insufficiencies in those years. Missing understanding related to modernist planning

approach caused serious damages and losses among collective memory of the residents and the city. Therefore, it should be provided well-planned cities which are not only developed but also respectful to their own historical and cultural values. Moreover, the transformation and reproduction of historical urban spaces should be emphasized on processes of conservation and protection of cultural assets, as well as socio-cultural characteristics in the region. To sum up, to sustain balance between development, usage and preservation should be kept in mind always as a key phrase in the planning and application processes.

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