



Research Article

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# Urban Design Project for Historical Mevlana Türbeönü Square and Holistic Protection of Environment and Reassessment

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## **Abstract**

Urban design project for historical Mevlana Türbeönü Square and immediate environment is a study conducted on the request of Metropolitan Municipality of Konya. This project covers draft of an urban design project in an area of approximately 25,000 m<sup>2</sup> regarding to Konya Türbeönü Square in direction of primarily city development plan decisions. The target is to be able execute a study which can be integrated with the existing urban recreation fabric and which may provide a concept idea to the urban fabric which shall be in the extents of Konya Türbeönü Square. This study shall be a driving force for development of cultural, artistic and recreation structure of the city in a totality and shall provide hints which shall ensure transformation of the fabric in its immediate environment within the process.

**Keywords:** Historical Mevlana Türbeönü Square, urban design project, reassessment.

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## INTRODUCTION

As a living being, continuous renovation and transformation of the cities are unavoidable. Historical environments gain important as long as they are able to keep in step with today's conditions with their cultural identities which they show as the result of the transformation they have undergone within the period of time and to sustain these identities. Physical environments created by the communities in various periods reflect the cultural structure of that community. Historical places are qualified as "old" in spoken language when being defined and this characterization tells us both physical and functional ageing. Since these places are a part of human culture, they also have historical quality. Remains of our culture are our historical environment. Environment is an expression for an historical accumulation of a culture. Environment is born, grows up, and develops in parallel with human. Historical city fabrics are the places arranged in the scale of human which reflect social, cultural, and economic structure, living philosophy, and aesthetic concerns of the ancient civilizations. History does not only tell the past but also is a part of history today. Traces on the historical environment were established by different generations of different eras in accordance with the different opportunities and conditions. It means a continuous renovation and interaction of new and old concepts. Communities reflect their identities to the extent that they are able to protect their historical and cultural values and to combine these values with the lifestyle of today. Another method to prevent extinction of these values is to sustain historical environments with necessary functional changes and integrate them with community life. (Arabacıoğlu ve Aydemir, 2007).

## SUBJECT OF THE PROJECT/ OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

The objective to draft urban design project is preparation of urban design projects regarding to Mevlana Square, design on social equipment, kiosks, cafeterias, and urban furniture, preparation of lighting projects, and preliminary project for the design creating economic, applicable, and easy to apply, maintain, and clean environments to get a healthy, livable, ergonomic, sustainable, and aesthetic environment in order to meet the needs of the area, and execution of application projects.

Within this scope, every kind of project required in engineering in company with urban design projects shall be obtained, targets, principles, approaches, and techniques related to every kind of physical-spatial for practice depending on the characteristics of the project (archaeological, natural, urban, historical etc.) shall be determined, management models shall be



detected and promoted in a way which shall protect the potential of project area, problems arising out of existing use and circulation shall be solved, the needs of the area shall be removed with the equipment required by modern and technology improvements require, and procedures to be applied for this purpose shall be determined in the projects.

It has been tried to establish suitable environmental quality in the project within the framework of that procedure. As already known, environmental quality includes many components such as assessment of identity, vista, and natural view points and corridors, human scale, comfort in pedestrian traffic, being able to get away from traffic noise, existence of public areas in which people can rest and chat, development of heritage awareness, and reassessment of cultural and historical heritage as well as "being aesthetic". Scale which is required for every branch of science and occupation is valid for urban design.

### **TRANSFORMATIONS IN MEVLANA TÜRBEÖNÜ HISTORICAL CITY SQUARE**

Many structural changes have been experienced within the process in the area studied and changes in this area have caused formations opposite to the ontological character of the square. Until the recent times, Çelebi Konakları were demolished in order to open the surrounding area of Mevlana Türbesi although road expansion zoning activities for Mevlana Avenue were completed. In a similar way, former provincial public library (Mevlana Documentation Center) was demolished before square urban design project due to transportation master plan. "Dervişan Kapısı" having been used for ages among the gates identified by the square was stopped to be used. Many quality architectural structures bearing witness to immediate and far history on the urban fabric providing identity for the city on Mevlana Avenue connecting Alaaddin Hill and Türbeönü (allegedly to be able to directly see Mevlana Türbesi!). (Ulusoy, 2014)

### **LOCATION OF THE WORKING AREA IN HISTORICAL CITY CENTER OF KONYA**

Historical city center of Konya is an urban protection zone determined as "historical, commercial, urban protected area" with the decision of High Council of Real Estate Relics and Monuments (GEEAYK) dated 13.11.1982 and numbered A-3861 as "natural, archaeological, and historical protected areas", "areas requiring controlled excavation", and "areas requiring protection of ancient covered bazaar structure". Historical city center of Konya is an urban area open for cultural tourism and spatial and functional developments with the urban center function in which economic

activities and administrative services addressing all the urban population are intensified in terms of urban area using pattern and functional zoning as well as geographically central position and opportunities of easy accessibility and with spatial and functional pattern formed in company with cultural heritage assets and cultural heritage asset in its immediate neighborhood (Özcan, K, 2009). Working area discussed is in Mevlana Türbeönü which is considered focus point of historical city center. It has been considered that a good opportunity shall be taken for uplifting the region with establishment of various commercial functions as well as touristic sites and social and cultural centers which shall provide service to local and foreign tourists and study has been conducted in this direction.

### **METHOD USED IN URBAN DESIGN STUDY**

The area has been categorized in subgroups in urban design study and planned with the method mentioned below.

#### **Data obtained as the result of Data/Preliminary Studies:**

- Structured and empty lot relationship in the pattern (Occupancy rate),
- Land use,
- Structural status of buildings,
- Documentation of the land with images,

#### **Evaluation of the Data**

Existing problems in the working area have been determined based on the data mentioned above. In a way which shall lead the solution offers in the whole area;

- Social and physical arrangements have been made based on plan (pattern) for city block.
- New recommended building facades have been designed as the result of analyses conducted for facades of structures which are also facades for the area (existing facade, occupancy rates in facades, horizontal and vertical lines, silhouette effect, template status, typology etc.).
- Transportation status in the working area, borders of which were determined, has been discussed by assessing the totality of history and city. Connections of the mentioned area with the other regions of the city have been analyzed and decisions having been previously taken (pedestrianization of the covered bazaar) as data. Parking problem and failure of



pedestrians to move safely have been determined to be issues required to be paid attention to.

-Analyses conducted based on the land have been integrated within the borders of working area and decision recommendations in relation with the area have been discussed.

## **PLAN/PROJECT PREPARATION PROCESS (WRITTEN AND DRAWN DOCUMENTS)**

### **I. PHASE WORKS**

In direction of the Zoning Plan decisions, documents which shall provide data to the project have been updated, documents have been collected, they have been compared to the former documents, analytic studies have been made, and preliminary projects and final projects have been prepared. All maps, plans, documents, and projects have been transferred to the digital context.

#### **I. A. RELATED ANALYTIC STUDIES**

##### **I. A. 1. DOCUMENTATION**

***I.A.1.1. Plans*** - 1/1000 Scaled Implementary Development Plan - Delivered by the Administration.

***I.A.1.2. Orthophotographs*** - They have been displayed on A3 Album with markings on orthophotographs in a way which shall show the project area.

***I.A.1.3. Ownership Details*** - Within the Borders of Analytic Survey, "Ownership Map Section" containing the ownership details in which the up-to-date map showing the cadastral status has been used as background.

***I.A.1.4. Infrastructure Details and Map Sections*** - Map sections regarding with the existing and planned infrastructure to be constructed by other related units (Sewerage, Clean Water, Rainwater, if any, Drainage, Natural Gas, Electricity, Phone and Cable etc.) have been obtained from the relevant establishments.

***I.A.1.5. Transportation Plans and Projects and Transportation Coordination Center (UKOME) Decisions*** - Development plan decisions, transportation plans and projects, UKOME Decisions and Investment Programs drafted in the digital media regarding to the area within the borders of analytic area have taken part in A3 Album of 1st Phase Studies as a report and general transportation scheme with the scale of 1/1000 has been drafted.

## **I. A. 2. DETECTIONS and ANALYSES**

### ***I. A. 2. 1. Preparation of Dimensional Drawing***

\*Existing triangulation and polygon points have been determined and those missing have been established.

\*Superstructure facilities in the project area (Tree, bush groups, park details, transformers, buildings etc.) have been measured.

\*Dimensional drawing map sheet has been drafted in suitable scale showing the up-to-date status of the project area in order to establish base for the application projects.

### ***I. A. 2. 2. Transportation Analysis***

- Junctions in the transportation impact area and in a close proximity to the impact area, width of the roads, number of lanes, directional conditions, physical characteristic, vertical and horizontal traffic signs and boards, pedestrian crossings and signalization points have been detected.
- Transportation values of the public transportation types, bus and minibus lines, stops and terminal locations within the transportation impact area have been detected.

### ***I. A. 2. 3. Detection and Analyses of Existing Plantal Elements***

Map section for detection of plantal elements has been drafted on the scaled city maps by detecting the botanic, physiologic etc. characteristics of the plants in the project area. Specific plantal pattern or those obliged to be protected have been shown with separate legend on the map section.

## **I. B. PRELIMINARY PROJECTS**

Preliminary project map sections covering the studies which provide base for the application projects and in which design decisions for the area of approximately 25,000 m<sup>2</sup> consisting of roads, pavements, and squares in Urban Design Areas are shown have been prepared.

Preliminary projects cover the arrangements of outdoor areas and outdoor areas with indoor areas, general transportation, solution of short and long-term park problems, recommendations regarding to the infrastructure, establishment of relationship with the surrounding structures, and main principles of every kind of basic arrangements in direction of the need program of Project area and area data.

City equipment album has been prepared with preliminary scaled structural and plantal landscaping projects of the designs



assessing the environmental impact values, economy and function interaction factors within a totality with the explanatory studies such as report, perspective, section, view etc.

Three-dimensional animations have been prepared with photos, free hand drawings, and perspective which explain the functions. Requirements and standards for the people with physical disability have been taken as data in designs.

### **I. B. 1. PRELIMINARY STRUCTURAL DESIGN PROJECT**

In the preliminary project, information such as plan data, cadastral status, transportation project data in the dimensional drawing integrated with city maps covering the grades, entrance - exit points of the area, transportation decisions in open areas, water elements, recreation and activity areas, material selection etc. have been specified on the map section.

In these designs,

1. Standard measurements,
2. Grades,
3. Ladder - ramp values,
4. Material selection and passages,
5. Layout plan of the city equipment etc. have been specified on the map sheet.

Projects and reports containing the details for the structural elements given place in the open area arrangements, symbols of city equipment used in the project and designed (furniture, lighting elements, artistic objects, announcement panels etc.) and total counts have been drafted.

### **I. B. 2. PRELIMINARY PLANTAL DESIGN PROJECTS**

Scaled plantation project on which plants to be protected and prescribed to be transferred on the Preliminary Structural Design Project has been prepared.

### **I. B. 3. PRELIMINARY CITY EQUIPMENT PROJECTS ALBUM**

In the urban design project in which there are details for the city equipment and structural elements prescribed in the project design, researches have been made for all equipment required to be given place in the project such as seating units, lighting elements, sign and information boards, border elements, sales units, artistic objects, trash bins, flower beds, grates, manhole covers and covers of other transmission lines, grates under the trees and tree protectors, elder and disabled ramps, ladders, floorings and wall panels etc., aquatic and plantal elements and

materials and flooring types and there are alternative recommendations.

### **I. C. FINAL PROJECTS**

Final project is the project phase based on the preliminary project approved in which uses agreed upon (considered appropriate/approved) are developed and final solutions are shown. This stage includes the designs regarding to the transportation and open areas in the project area, general characteristics of the plantation, measurement of all elements, determining the materials, preparation of minimum two sections and silhouettes, projecting the indoor areas if deemed required and preparation studies of management plan. Also, final projects for city equipment such as the detail list, lighting equipment, direction and introduction boards, trash bins etc. and artistic objects have been prepared.

### **II. PHASE WORKS**

This phase includes the preparation of Urban Design, Landscape Architecture and Engineering Application Projects and reports, surveys and technical specifications and studies of project promotion, introduction and animation.

Urban Design Projects are those including suitable architectural and engineering detail references, materials, landscaping elements, equipment and plantal arrangements which may be used in office or worksite at every stage of the project containing grades and measurements allowed by the scale desired for the application projects according to the approved final project for the project area, 1/100 and/or 1/200 and also 1/50 application projects as well as detail references. It must be delivered with Application Project Report.

#### **II. A. APPLICATION PROJECTS FOR LANDSCAPING ARCHITECTURE**

##### **II. A. 1. APPLICATION PROJECT**

1/200 scaled Application Project shall be prepared for application of the design, it shall cover the structural and plantal design, partial and specific details (with the scale of 1/100 and 1/50) have been taken from the places where deemed required.

Requirements and standards for the disabled have been taken into consideration within the scope of the plan.

Application projects with the scale of 1/200 have been attached to the design map section with the scale of 1/500.



## **II. A. 2. CITY EQUIPMENT APPLICATION PROJECTS ALBUM**

It is the album with the size of A3 in which there are details for city equipment and structural elements prescribed in the project design. Material characteristics, specific details, connection elements and details and anchoring system detail plan which shall provide data to the application within this scope are given in detail in plans, sections and perspective.

### ***II. A. 2. 1. Details***

Material selections, material transitions and details for the equipment and structural elements (flooring, ladder, aquatic elements, entrances, roads, squares, shadow elements etc.) used in the structural landscaping application project and recommended have taken part in company with plans, sections, looks and detail references in scales of 1/50, 1/20 and 1/10 etc.

### ***II. A. 2. 2. City Equipment***

Material selections and details for the city equipment (lighting elements, artistic elements, trash bins, seating units, direction panels, bordering elements, stops etc.) used in the structural landscaping application project and recommended have taken part in company with plans, sections, looks and detail references in scales of 1/50, 1/20 and 1/10 etc.

## **PROBLEMS IN THE WORKING AREA**

Problems in the Working Area; Problems detected as the results of physical and social analyses have been gathered under these headings:

- a. Structural Problems
  - Lack of structural repair and maintenance on building facades in the area
  - Cantilevers added to buildings
  - Color, material and size chaos on the building facades
  - Structural height which is not suitable for development plan
- b. Problems On the Basis of Texture
  - Deformation of historical silhouette (facades) by the new architectural formations between the civil and monumental architectural structures, (Such as Mevlana Bazaar)

- Visual pollution in color and size of the advertisement boards on the building facades
  - Visual pollution created by disharmonious additions to the buildings such as TV antenna, air conditioner, hood and window blinds
  - Problems in use of units such as trash bin, lighting poles and wires and pavement (asphalt)
- c. Problems Related to Transportation
- Limitation of daily life by the intense vehicle traffic loaded on the main axes in the working area
  - Failure of secondary byroads to serve to vehicle and pedestrian traffic
  - Disorder and interruption of pedestrian ways
  - Lack of pull-offs or car parks which shall provide service to stopping vehicle traffic
- d. Lack of Gathering (Square) or Recreation Points (Park) Which Shall Meet the Needs of the Region in the Working Area

### **BASIC DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND APPROACHES SHAPING URBAN DESIGN PROJECT AND DETERMINING ITS FORMATION**

The concept named as 'Urban design principles' or 'urban design objectives' has been defined in various sources as a concept covering various matters. Some of the urban design principles listed commonly in various sources are:

- \*Character,
- \*Sustainability and confinedness
- \*Public space quality
- \*Mobility,
- \*Readability,
- \*Adaptability
- \*Diversity,

Apart from that, the objectives are listed as sustainability, image formation, human scale, transparency, complexity, consistency (Ewing, 2006) While some of these principles have emerged in relation to the functioning of urban space, others have arisen from features related to the perception of space. According to the



approaches, the following points have been evaluated primarily in the urban design project to be carried out here.

\* The square should be physically well-defined in order to create identity and sense of place.

\* The square should be supported by historical, social, cultural and aesthetic characteristics, taking into consideration the contribution of establishing links with the past to urban sustainability.

\* Functional diversity within the scope of the square should be supported and the place should be kept alive night and day.

\* Visual appreciation, order and contrasts should be created and the artistic elements in the square should be designed from scratch as a part of the space. In this context, the issue how the public art products may contribute to the creation of the sense of belonging 'spirit of the place' should be tackled in cooperation with the artist. (Oktaç, 2007)

\* Designing or improving the major squares of the cities in line with the proposed principles will be urban designs contribution to the social integration (Oktaç, 2007)

\* The application to be realized should provide a 'square integrity' and accordingly over diversity of functions and materials used should be avoided.

\* The established identity of the space should not be destroyed and utmost sensitivity must be displayed in respect thereof.

## **URBAN DESIGN PROJECT OF MEVLANA TOMB SQUARE AND SURROUNDINGS**

### **Goals and Principles**

- Projects have been prepared in accordance with the current implementation plan decisions.
- A project design approach that gives priority to the environment and the area and protects its natural, cultural, architectural, historical, economic, aesthetic, visual values and authentic identity has been adopted.
- Projects include design and programming of the actions that are practicable in terms of legal, administrative, economic and technical aspects and that take place in the implementation process.
- During the project design process, the factors related to the natural environment (climate, soil, water, natural structure, flora,

fauna etc.) have been determined and their impacts on the constructed environment (structures, buildings, cultural assets, etc.) and social (life, working, recreation facilities, etc.) environment and interactions between them have been determined and based on these data, the protection use balance has been formed.

- During the project design process, it has been aimed to improve the environmental quality with harmonious designs.
- Projects have been prepared on the approved current city map cadastral map and dimensional drawing on which all kinds of architectural, historical and natural elements in the area have been processed in an applied and manner.
- Designed according to the users by determining the user profile and settings designed for addressing the needs of disadvantaged users such as disabled, children, elderly, etc. have been included.
- While the contemporary uses and landscape arrangements have been made possible by preserving the traditional, regional, historical, cultural, natural qualities and surrounding areas and their functional integrity of the areas such as open spaces, squares, garden, yards, pedestrian paths, etc., traditional architectural texture has been improved.
- While the accessibility of the project area has been increased and the main pedestrian and vehicle transportation have been separated as much as possible and service facilities have been provided without damaging the transportation system and the natural environment and traditional/structured texture and contemporary solutions have been used.
- Functional, spatial, etc. integrity and continuity have been achieved in pedestrian and vehicular transportation between the project area and the whole city or its surroundings.
- The existing structures in the project area have been improved firstly and possible uses have been investigated.
- Arrangements have been made to eliminate the complexity created by the electricity and telephone poles, advertising boards, infrastructure lines and so on.
- Optimum conditions have been provided in terms of necessary natural and artificial light level in the indoor and outdoor areas and climate compatibility.
- The sufficiency and effectiveness of clean water, sewage, waste, garbage and fire etc. infrastructure systems have been ensured.



- It has been aimed to protect and sustain the ecological balance in the designs made.

### GENERAL APPROACHES

The first thing to remember when it comes to the nature of urban environment is that the city exists for people. Urban public spaces are the most important means of realizing these functions in the context of creating the basis for the communication and activities of the people. The social integrity of the city and the revitalization of urban life depends, in part, on the relationship of structural style and outdoor spaces and the diversity and character.

Perhaps the most important dimension of urban design is related to the concept of 'center'. Lynch (Lynch, 1961) in his study of perception of urban fiction, has argued that 'nodes' are the most important elements in the perception and understanding of a city and the image of a city. Whyte (White, 1989) emphasizes beyond that a city with a distinct center and a strong unity can be said to be integral to the whole region.

A crucial issue to consider when evaluating the squares is that they create a sense of place and belonging in their users. Establishing ties with the past in the urban is essential for enhancing identity and sense of place and strengthening the social memory (Rossi, 1982)

For this reason, in places where old and historical buildings are part of the urban landscape, preservation and revitalization and sustainability in accordance with the socio-economic and cultural structure gain particular importance. (Oktay, 2007) Art practices in the square can also strengthen meaning, identity and orientation. While these elements strengthen the image and readability of the space they are in, sometimes they also attribute a sacred meaning to them. What is important here is to ensure a harmonious relationship and integration between the artistic elements and the structural texture in the square they are in, and to position the works of art considering the pedestrian movement. (Oktay, 2007) Creating the desired positive effect of a square is not only dependent on its qualities but also its relation to other squares and streets within the urban texture, and operation capacity of the pedestrian artery in these spaces and the perception when reaching the square also create an effect of stronger and striking space. (Oktay, 2007)

Within the framework of all the above mentioned issues, the 'Urban Design Project of Mevlana Türbeönü Square and its Environment' will also allow for the formation of units that are lacking in that area. In this regard; the project will feature tea,

coffee houses in traditional texture, and amphitheater units for mini-gatherings, square fountains, and small functional units.

These units which will be positioned on the land of the existing public city library to be demolished will also build a barrier in front of the campuses in the back and create a sense of isolation. The urban design project of Mevlana square will have a concept to meet the urban reinforcement that the city lacks (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Mevlana Tırbeözü Square/General View.

Mevlana urban design project has been carried out as a design approach that creates a flexible, participatory and systematic network that can be transformed over time, allowing the other elements to be articulated to itself, from the upper scale to the lower scales.

On the basis of the project, there lies the matter of protecting the existing trees and qualified green texture in the arrangements to be made in an area of 25.000 m<sup>2</sup> to be constructed together with the tram route.

The present green texture to be protected is a part of the green continuity in the city. It has a setup that can respond to the environmental activities and activities that the city's residents and those who come here need. It has been considered as the most important focal point to contribute to the development and change of the city.

The transportation master plan in the project includes the stores and sitting areas to be built on the land of the demolished library (Mevlana Documentation Center), a mini-amphitheater with seating elements, Üçler Cemetery entrance arch, the pool to be restructured, restored taxi stand, tea drinking areas, a public wc and restroom, urban design elements to be constructed and tram route to be restructured

Within the scope of the project, the floor tiles to be renewed, the lighting elements to be constructed and the city furniture will change the existing worn-out texture in the Konya Türbeönü square, allowing for the revision of the nearby environment to be evaluated in the second stage. The arrangements to be made will appeal to people from all strata, to disabled and able people. By making different zoning in the space, the square will gain three dimensional effects.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WORKING AREA

Roads to the Historical Mevlana Türbeönü Square from Mevlana Avenue have been regulated again. The biggest change at this point is the transfer of the light rail system from Alâaddin Hill to this historical main road, passing in front of the temple, and connection to the Mevlana Culture Central between Selimiye Mosque and Üçler Cemetery. Grade of the Selimiye Mosque shattered with plateaus at different grades (Fountain has been transferred to the square within the technical problems) has been regulated with square grade. (Figure 2)

Set of nonregistered old stores obscuring Aziziye Mosque region of the Square has been removed and spatial totality has been formed. Removal of Mevlana bazaar between Aziziye Mosque and Selimiye Mosque in Türbeönü Square has been left to the process within the scope of master plan. (Figure. 3) Grade differences between the road and square have been removed to ensure inclusion of Aziziye Mosque and Historical Covered Bazaar texture to the design environment of the Square. Physical conditions and functions of the stores at the border of Historical Covered Bazaar texture have been renovated. (Figure. 4, 5)



**Figure 2.** General Overview of Mevlana Türbeönü Square and its Immediate Environment.



**Figure 3.** Mevlana Bazaar between Aziziye Mosque and Selimiye Mosque.



**Figure 4.** Improvements/Function Recommendations in the Existing Facade Texture in Mevlana Türbeönü Square.



**Figure 5.** Traditional Texture Recommendation for Mevlana Türbeönü and its Immediate Environment. Existing Facade Texture in Mevlana Türbeönü Square.

"Mevlana Documentation Center Building" among the republican period at west of the Square has been demolished (within the scope of Transportation Master Plan) although there is no decision in the project for it with the initiative of local administration since it is on the route of light rail system. (Figure. 6, 7)



**Figure 6.** General Overview of Türbeönü Square. Environment. Existing Facade Texture in Mevlana Türbeönü Square.



**Figure 7.** Mevlana Documentation Center/Former Provincial Public Library. Texture in Mevlana Türbeönü Square.

Structures around which are not in harmony with the square identity (Provincial Culture Building) shall be built by being re-designed. (Figure. 8, 9)

**Figure 8.** Provincial Culture Building in Türbeönü Square.  
**Figure. 8. 9.** Provincial Texture in Mevlana Türbeönü Square.



**Figure 9.** Provincial Culture Building Project Offered in Türbeönü Square. Mevlana Türbeönü Square.



Rearrangement has been made on the surface to the square in order to strengthen the integration of Üçler Cemetery with the square. (Figure 10) Recreation areas have been prescribed in the Square. (Figure. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.)

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**Figure 10.** Üçler Cemetery Entrance Arch Offered in Türbeönü Square. (Author) Mevlana Türbeönü Square.





**Figure 11.** Alternative/Urban Design Project (Author)



**Figure 12.** Alternative/Urban Design Project (Author) Mevlana Türbeönü Square.



**Figure 13.** New Seating Elements Offered in the Design (Author) Mevlana Türbeönü Square.



**Figure 14.** New Shade Elements Offered in the Design (Author)



**Figure 15.** View of Türbeönü Square from Mevlana Avenue (Author)



**Figure 16.** Selimiye Mosque in Türbeönü Square (Author)

Pavement of the Square (Green Diabase Stone), natural texture, lighting and direction of surface waters have been projected again. Aquatic/green textures in the direction of kiblah of Selimiye Mosque damaging the surface wall have been restored. Urban equipment selection and placement in the Square have been made. It has been recommended that window blinds, advertisement panels and external units of the air conditioners which cause environmental pollution on the building facades surrounding the Square are to be rearranged. (Figure. 17)



**Figure 17.** Facade Improvement Work on the Facade Against Türbeönü Square. (Author)

Many recommendations have been produced within the scope of this project in design of immediate environment of the Square. Primarily, a mystical trip full of sense has been prescribed for special planning area identified as "Special Project Area (ÖPA)". Existing structures in this area shall be improved and shall have functions which shall support the senses. (Structural and detail recommendations such as Private Room etc.)(Figure. 18, 19) In the similar way, side connections on the route of Mevlana and arrangements such as "Small Parks" which shall include urban memory have been considered for the immediate environment of the Square. (Figure 20)



**Figure 18.** Facade I Mevlana Türbeönü Square/Special Planning Area 2.Square. (Author)



**Figure 19.** Mevlana Türbeönü Square/Special Planning Area 2. (Author)



**Figure 20.** Mevlana Türbeönü Square/Small Park Arrangements.

## CONCLUSION

Planning, design and execution of the urban design studies in historical places are the final phase of integrated restoration process of the heritage. In this context, methodological styles and approaches related to planning and design of application studies are the integral parts of a whole.

As mentioned above, Mevlana Historical Türbeönü Square Urban Design Project including the wide-ranging studies and phases has been submitted to the relevant municipalities and approved by the Preservation Board of Cultural Properties. With Urban Design Project, this part of historical city square which has become old shall be made livable in every hour of the day. What is expected from the relevant institution is the execution of the project in compliance with its approved form.

## Acknowledgement

*This study is generated from urban design implementation in Konya Mevlana Türbeönü Square.*



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**Resume**

*Assist. Prof. Dr. Murat Oral had his Architectural Graduate Degree from Selcuk University, Faculty of Architecture. He completed his graduate and doctoral studies at Selcuk University, graduate school of science and technology. He got his graduate doctorate courses from Itu and Msgsu, Faculty of Architecture. He has worked as a lecturer at Selcuk University, the Faculty of Architecture since in 1990. He teaches basic design, urban design and building information and architectural project courses at the same faculty, in the department of architecture. He also works as vice chair at that department.*