



## **Archaeological Parks and their Integration to Urban Layout of Istanbul**

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This paper aims to evaluate the archaeological sites of Istanbul from the perspective of landscape architecture, and provide a new approach to the concept of heritage preservation with regards to landscape planning and urban design principles. In order for our heritage values to remain preserved and accessible to contemporary and future generations, it is imperative to develop and advance an integrated planning concept. Istanbul is a multi-layered city, harboring the remains of different eras within its contemporary urban layout. Throughout history, this land has been referred to by three distinct titles: Byzantium, Constantinople, and lastly Istanbul. Urban development therein has been shaped by the influences of Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman and Turkish cultures.

This paper begins by examining the historical characteristics of Istanbul and later focuses on the 'archaeological park' as an emerging developmental concept, in the preservation of historical and cultural heritage sites. An archaeological park is a medium by which the 'past' is presented to the public. The development of such a park not only preserves ancient and historical landscapes within an open space setting, but also promotes local heritage, increases tourism, and creates economic growth. The actual and potential conflicts that may arise from the use of heritage sites in Istanbul for such purpose can be diminished by identifying and setting criteria for defining archaeological parks.

In conveying the spatial and visual connection between the archaeological setting and its contemporary urban form, Landscape Architecture transpires as a vital approach to Urban Archaeology. Since the visibility of archaeological heritage is strongly related to the integration of the archaeological site with its urban landscape (such as in preservation and site landscaping); the use of space syntax methodology will be helpful in exploring such an integration of a site to the urban layout. Hence, the analysis of the selected archaeological park will provide knowledge about the dynamic interrelation between urban layers.

The results of this study will provide a general understanding of archaeological parks as an interrelated concept between archaeological heritage and urban archaeology. Moreover, it will set the criteria in defining archaeological parks. Finally, it will examine the integration of selected archaeological sites to Istanbul's contemporary urban form.

**KEY WORDS:** Archaeological parks, heritage preservation, Istanbul, space syntax, urban history.