

USE OF ADAPTIVE RE-USED STRUCTURES AND LOCAL LANDSCAPE IN RURAL TOURISM

Filiz CETINKAYA KARAFKI¹, Cigdem CETiN²

¹Ankara University
filizcetinkaya@gmail.com.tr

²Yasar University
cigdem.cetinkaya@yasar.edu.r

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Abstract: *Reintegrating abandoned buildings with historical and cultural values in social life through adaptive- reusing provides many benefits in cultural, social and environmental aspects. Especially, adaptive- reusing the culturally valuable structures in rural areas is quite important in preserving the cultural heritage, architectural identity and the structure's place in the collective memory of a society. Moreover, the effect of adaptive- reused structures and local landscape is significant on rural tourism activities in the area.*

Rural tourism is a form of tourism with a very low negative impact on environment compared to other types of tourism. This is due to rural tourism using the local culture, local architecture and local landscape as its resources. In many rural areas, tourism activities are shaped according directly to the characteristic architecture and landscape features of the area, furthermore, the tourism activity, structures in the area and the landscape are in constant interaction.

This study aims to reveal the effects of adaptive- reused structures and local landscape on rural tourism activities, identify the criteria for adaptive- reused structures and uses of local landscape features in tourism, and reveal the importance this interaction on sustainable resource use, sustainable economic input and sustainable tourism activity.

Key Words: *Adaptive Reuse Landscape, Rural Tourism, Landscape, Rural Landscape*

INTRODUCTION

Increasing use of natural resources, rising population in cities and large economic and social disparities between rural and urban areas urge countries to find alternative solutions to these problems. Among these alternative solutions is rural tourism; rural tourism is a type of tourism promoted in relatively underdeveloped areas in terms of economy and technology and is distinguished from other touristic regions with their natural and cultural values. As well as contributing to the economic, social and cultural development of the region, it also unravels the local landscape features and allows their recreational use.

The fact that rural tourism is a type of tourism intertwined with rural settlements and is based on natural resources [13]. increases the significance of local landscape characteristics of the region. One of the most important inputs of rural tourism, local landscape features (natural landscape features such as the presence of vegetation and water and interesting topographic formations; and the cultural landscape features like the characteristic structural identity of the region, the history of the region, the daily life in the region, the region's eating and drinking habits and culture) distinguish the region from cities and allows recreational use for the city dwellers.

Another factor supporting recreational use and increasing local tourism is the concept of adaptive-reusing. The concept of adaptive- reusing, usually mentioned under urban landscape in literature, increases rural tourism and allows the **cultural, social and environmental** development of the region.

Adaptive- reusing is the preservation of the physical assets of the preservation-worthy structures that have become unusable due to their current functions and other reasons and enabling their use with different functions [12]. The concept of adaptive- reusing may be described as the reuse of old buildings within the context of economic benefits, collective memory, energy management and historical attributes while preserving the exterior surface but changing them through a new spatial program [19]. Contributions of the adaptive- reused historical buildings to the region may be categorized under three main headings.

Social Contributions: Maintaining and adapting socially valued buildings could provide continuity of the heritage and cultural value of the area [22].

Environmental Contributions: Adaptive reuse of architecture is very beneficial to the environment since it is using minimal resources for repairing and adapting an existing structure instead of building a new one [22]. Also, structures built by considering the local data (topographic, climatic, etc.) not only during the construction phase but also in the management phase helps reducing the energy consumption of the structure [10].

Cultural Contributions: Adaptive reuse should not seem just as a conservation of historical monuments but also, they have a value of preserving culture and a community's social heritage [22]. In a similar vein, adaptive- reusing is also seen as valuable in ensuring cultural continuity. Cultural continuity may be defined as adapting to changes of time without losing the identity and essence of the society [8]. In order to preserve the cultural identity, a society needs to preserve its unique qualities, subjective values and ensure a feeling of belonging [19]. In this context, it is thought that adaptive- reusing will contribute to preserving the cultural values during the process of adapting to the change, especially in rural areas.

In summary, re-functioning provides a lot of advantages in many different areas such as ensuring economic [18], cultural and historical continuity, enabling a process in which humanpower and handwork outweighs an energy-intensive effort [19] and decreasing energy consumption [16] therefore adopting an environmentalist approach [9], [10]. At the same time, structures with cultural value have an important place in collective memory. Ensuring the places where memories of societies are experienced are recorded in the collective memory contributes to the increase in cultural assets of societies.

MATERIAL (IZMIR HISTORICAL COAL GAS CULTURAL CENTER)

This study uses sample studies on rural tourism, recreational use of local landscape features, usage stages and natural processes as its materials. In addition to these studies, another material are the cases in which adaptive- reusing in rural areas contribute to local tourism. And the method is synthesizing the inferences from these studies to use local landscape features in rural tourism. The method consists of three different literature reviews; definition of the adaptive- reusing concept, required criteria in adaptive- reusing process, and contribution of adaptive- reusing. The data will also be subjected to the same three evaluation during the analysis phase of the materials.

DISCUSSION

A. Importance of Local Landscape Features in Rural Tourism

The primary resource in rural tourism is the local values of the region, and at this point clarifying the concept of local is important.

The concept of local, meaning unique to a region, is a form of understanding which keeps its traditions and customs, its own daily life, its own people and materials above all else even though it is in exchange with other cultures. Life in the region has been identified with the region itself, and integrated the minerals, soil, water, climate into its culture. Thus, the language, beliefs, and daily lives of the people have formed a culture unique to the region and the society. Discussing the concept of local in a more concrete matter; contrary to the deepening and accelerating temporal/spatial interdependent relations between states, societies and cultures [5], local concept means societies displaying unique behavior even if they live in the same geography, and the desire to transfer this behavior from generation to generation [14].

In this context, the study uses the local landscape to refer the natural landscape values belonging to the region, and the visible results of the mutual relationship the region's people and cultural landscape values of the past and present. The fact that local landscape features are closely related to rural tourism activity may be explained by these features being one of the major reasons for the touristic function of the

region. Rural landscaping opportunities, which are closely related to the rural tourism activities, are among the primary local features distinguishing the region from the city and make it attractive to the city dwellers.

Rural landscape is the appearance of all or most of the elements that constitute the environment in a certain period. The interrelation between these natural elements are constantly evolving and changing, therefore the rural landscape environment is in constant change too. Consequently, rural landscape is very attractive for the city dwellers who have been withdrawn from the nature.

Activities such as agricultural production, which is also the livelihood of the local people living in rural landscape, and forestry industry reinforce the rural appearance of the landscape and facilitate the integration of the structural elements added to the landscape. The rural landscape may vary according to the most prevalent appearance and different activities in the region. Forest landscape, agricultural landscaping, stream landscape and road landscape are some of the examples. The most important factor here is the landscape referred as the rural landscape being away from the city view. Urban settlements, heavy traffic and industrialization, elements of urban landscape, should not be within rural landscape.

Another important factor distinguishing the rural landscape from the urban landscape is the cultural lives of the local people. The rural landscape dynamics are much more local compared to the urban life in an urban landscape. In the rural landscapes where local culture prevails, the relationships are based on a more individual, intimate and traditional way. This also increases the city dwellers' desire to spend time in rural landscapes. The aforementioned reasons make rural landscape areas attractive to the city dwellers where they want to spend some of their time. The desire for living in the rural areas, even for a short period of time, and therefore escaping the intense and fast-paced urban life, led the way to organization in rural landscape areas and the concept of rural tourism.

Rural tourism is a type of tourism occurs in places where natural landscape, climate differences, underground and above ground topographic areas of interest, water surfaces and wetlands, archeological values and historical-cultural values stand out, giving the visitor the opportunity to spend time in rural areas and uses the local products and local workforce of the region as inputs.

The use of landscape features, which are the largest resource of rural tourism, should be organized in a way that these features can be used for touristic purposes and have recreational use.

The most important input of rural tourism, the subject of the study, is the rural landscape and refers to the appearance of the areas reserved for the purposes of resting places, leisure activities and recreation in rural areas. Fields and structures such as picnic and camping areas, beaches, motels, hotels, resorts, recreational landscaping areas, outdoor (non-urban) sport fields, hot springs, caves, historical ruins, archaeological artworks, golf fields, sport complexes make up the elements of the rural landscape [11].

In order for rural landscape values to make a difference in terms of locality of the region and usability for active touristic purposes its features also must have recreational usability. Therefore, it is very important for any initiative for this purpose to maintain a preservation - function balance.

B. Understanding Rural Landscape Features in Rural Tourism and Recreational Use of Rural Landscape Features

Nowadays, with the developments in science, industry and technology, unplanned urbanization causes physical and psychological as well as sociocultural problems for the city dwellers.

It is a known fact that living conditions in urban areas and the desired environment (beauty of nature, clean air, clean water, comfort, silence, freedom, etc.) are not quite in accord. In order to maintain this balance, an individual needs nature-based recreational activities. Due to the unfavorable conditions in urban areas and the lack of outdoor recreation sources, city dwellers tend to participate in outdoor recreation sources outside of the city [6]. Since the access to these resources is controlled and allows them to be intertwined with these natural resources for a while, rural tourism turned to a touristic activity type for city dwellers who are searching for the natural.

The natural landscape, which is one of the most important elements of rural tourism, makes the region attractive for the sustained recreational activities. Natural factors such as the vegetation, climate, water surfaces and different topographic formations and the opportunity to spend time with these causes the visitors to feel different moods such happiness, excitement, curiosity, tranquility and etc. However, it is crucial to analyze these local features, identify how utilizable they are and integrate them into recreational activities.

While the physical elements such as terrain features, natural vegetation and soil constitute the natural landscape, cultural landscape is made up as a result of people shaping the landscape due to their own

activities, changing it and processing it in a way that reflects its own unique character [7]. Cultural landscape is one of the most important elements of the local landscape of a region too. In order to integrate cultural landscape elements constituting the local landscape features where rural tourism activities are carried out with the tourist and its recreational use, it is crucial to understand the versatility of the prevailing cultural landscape in the region.

According to Ari [7], Lewis [17] presents a number of principles for understanding the versatility cultural landscape. In accordance with these principles, the analysis of the cultural landscape of the region will ensure that the tourism activity in the region will be compatible with the principles of cultural continuity.

Lewis [17] and Ari [7], point out the important place of landscape in understanding the culture of a region. The landscape, especially those made with contributions of the people, provides information about the people who have created the landscape. Based on this information, inferences may be made about both the current and future events. This provides the knowledge that different physical and cultural landscape features in the country originate from different cultures. According to the Lewis' second principle, each element that constitutes a cultural landscape is a sign of cultural interpretation. In this sense it is necessary to be aware of different landscapes are neither more nor less important than each other. The third principle is the vital need for academic studies to ensure correct identification and recognition of these common landscape areas. The fourth principle is understanding the importance of history. Because, people founded the current world based on the influences of the past and the current world will influence the world the future generations will establish. While many elements, daily lives, changes in way of thinking, livelihoods and desires are different, they are affected by the cultures constituting our past. Another factor that will be effective in understanding the culture is that many of the landscape elements can only be evaluated considering the region they are in. The last principle is that the landscape is housing many sophisticated and intertwined cycles.

It is important for the planner to understand the region correctly and consider all these principles during recreational planning, the practitioner during the practice and the visitor during recreational activities to maximize the pleasure derived from the recreational activities in the region.

The fact that the landscaping elements mentioned above are unique to the region, in other words local, distinguishes them from other regions and makes them meaningful in terms of tourism. These recreational properties, which are one of the most important purposes of tourism activities, may be integrated into the recreational planning in the region and diversified. It is possible to ensure natural and cultural landscape is not damaged, on the contrary, enabling their continuity and enrichment during these plans through scientific planning. Therefore, the most important topic at hand is the preserving the current nature and culture, ensure the capacity is below the maximum visitors, and considering the sustainability of the nature and culture of the region during planning.

C. The Recreational Use of Adaptive- Reused Areas in Rural Tourism

The adaptive- reused structures, claimed to increase cultural, social and environmental contexts in the region within the scope of the study, strengthen rural tourism thanks to these values. It is thought that these structures would be preferred by the users for different activities if they are planned considering the local landscape elements in the environment.

There are many variables in the function selection of the structure to be adaptive- reused. These are; the location of the structure, its spatial and volumetric relations, and the connection between aesthetics and physical use [10].

Location of the Structure: The physical and geographical characteristics of the spatial status of the structure and the sociocultural levels and economic structures of the inhabitants should be taken into consideration when determining the function [12]. It is necessary to correctly identify the relationship of the region with water, its seasonal features, whether or not it has elevations, its landscape features, daily routines of the visitors, family structures, leisure time activities etc. In the rural areas of the North Aegean coast such as Burhaniye and Ayvalık, for example, it is observed that assigning different functions to the enterprises that used to produce olive oil, such as museums and so on, led to the revitalization of the structures [20] are cultural tour routes for these adaptive- reused structures. Izmir Kuşadası Eski Tabakhaneler (Old Town Tanneries) region, which is made with a similar understanding, contributes to rural tourism with its functions such as cafés, bars, restaurants, museums and etc.

Spatial and Volumetric Relationship: It is necessary to ensure the current volumetric values are not damaged and rendered functional during reevaluation phase. Therefore, the relationship between the load-

bearing system of the structure, dimensions of the space, flow of the space [20] and the volumetric relationship between surrounding landscape values must be considered.

Relationship of Aesthetics and Physical Use: The relationship between the previous and present state of the building may be achieved through aesthetic concern during physical use of its function. The spatial values of the previous state should be consistent with the spatial setup in the new state. The relationship between the structure of the building with the volume of the previous state, for example, should be preserved in its new state.

In addition to function selection, it is necessary to preserve the adaptive- reused structure's preservation-worthy values, avoid any intervention that may disrupt the physical and connotational meaning, ensure the interventions should be open to changes and are suitable for flexible planning, enable the visibility for the interventions, and examine the physical state and especially the historical features of the structure [15].

D. Examples of Adaptive- Reused Buildings Supporting Rural Tourism

Urla Bağevi (Vineyard Estate) Butik Otel (Boutique Hotel)- Urla- Izmir- Turkey

The building located in Yağcılar Village of Urla District in İzmir was used as a vineyard estate as its previous function, but now it serves as a boutique hotel with six rooms. In a social context, the hotel is a social hub for tourists from İzmir due to its proximity to İzmir city center. It also contributes to the region's tourism in the social sense due to its proximity to the "Urla Bağ Yolu (Urla Wine Route)" for people who may want wine tasting. The concept approach highlighting the grape production and the fact that it is designed in accordance to the regional architectural style shows the contribution of the structure to the tourism in the cultural sense. The hotel is built with local materials such as Urla local stone and pine tree, and all of the wood used in the construction have been produced by the local craftsman in local workshops, and is a building that is environment-friendly and has low construction and management costs (Fig.1, Fig.2, Fig.3). Project Information

Design Team: Serhat Akbay, Assistant Architects: Azize Andıç, Onur Çakıroğlu, Architectural Office: Serhat Akbay,

Architectural Office Employer: Serhat Akbay/Sema Akbay, Project Date: 2008, Construction Date: 2010-2013, Land Area: 614 m², Total Construction Area: 330 m². Static Project: Onur Kutlukaya, Interior Design: Serhat Akbay, Project Manager: Serhat Akbay, Production Type: 185 m², Masonry-145 m², Constructional Wood Access for Handicapped: Suitable Photographs: Serhat Akbay, 2013.



Fig 1: Vineyard Estate [1]



Fig 2: Vineyard Estate [2]**Fig 3:** Vineyard Estate [3]

Zehr Zollverein Project

In 2001, the Zehr Zollverein mine, which was included in the World Cultural Heritage List by the United Nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - UNESCO, was opened to the public for recreational use. The historical building was active during 19th and 20th century, but was left as a museum and a band surrounding all the buildings was designed. The band system surrounding the entire industrial heritage makes it possible for tourists to have a tour within the landscape and allows them to perform activities such as skating, walking and running [21]. The functional relationship with the main buildings was established by preserving the previous train tracks. The building, which serves as a public space with its landscaping, contributes to a wide range of social rural tourism thanks to the activities it provides. The detailed preservation that reflects the old function of the main mining building supports cultural tourism by strengthening its bond with the past. Preserving the natural landscape in the landscape area and ensuring the interaction of the visitors with the landscape contributes to environmental rural tourism in the region (Fig. 4).

**Fig 4:** Zehr Zollverein Project [4]

CONCLUSION

It is very important to analyze the characteristics of the region in the areas planned for rural tourism purposes. It is vital to identify the details which may provide direct interaction with the visitors and determine the preservation status of the surrounding natural environment according to the intensity of interaction. The fact that tourism activity providing an economic input for the people of the region leads to the people ignoring the importance of preservation. In this sense, green consciousness should be taught to the local people and they should be informed about the landscape characteristics and local values of the region. Additionally, local people should be educated about the concept of rural tourism and its the positive or negative effects. The landscape values should be promoted by provincial tourism directorates, municipalities and local authorities (through brochures, booklets, promotional films, participation in relevant fairs and exhibitions, promotional and directional signs on the main and byroads, education in regional institutions of education, etc.) In order to protect these values, the domestic and foreign tourists should be informed about the points to consider in a way everyone can understand, and they should be reminded of these with warning signs in the region.

Pollution has become the problem of every region that is in high demand. In this respect, regional infrastructure should be completed before tourism value is assigned, and its potential should be increased

considering the peak period of the region. Users and local people should be warned against all kinds of pollution (solid waste pollution, water pollution, air pollution, noise and visual pollution).

It is crucial that preparation phase for touristic activities where rural tourism will be conducted is planned and controlled and ensure the participation of local people in this stage. Thus, local people will reflect their own unique cultures to the planning and therefore preventing the social and cultural conflicts which may arise in the future. This will facilitate the local people's adaptation to the tourism activities.

The study considered adaptive- reused historical structures as well as local landscape to support rural tourism. In this context, it is emphasized how historical structures may contribute to regional tourism in terms of social, cultural and environmental sense. Renovation of these structures while considering local landscape opportunities is quite significant for continuity of social values.

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