



The Archaeological Settlements of Turkey

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESTRUCTION IN TURKEY

YEAR 2008 PRELIMINARY REPORT

MARMARA REGION - BYZANTINE PERIOD
APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2008

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CONTENTS

TAYEX (TAY EXPEDITION)

TAYEX YEAR 2008 ACTIVITIES

CONCLUSION

REGION REPORT

MARMARA REGION - BYZANTINE PERIOD

EXPEDITION DATA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA

DESTRUCTION DATA

SELECTED VISUAL DOCUMENTATION OF DESTRUCTION

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With our sincerest gratitude ...

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And all villagers and village executives...

“...you can’t connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards.”

(the Commencement address by Steve Jobs delivered at Stanford on June, 2005)

TAYEX (TAY EXPEDITION)

The Archaeological Settlements of Turkey



The inventory of Turkish archaeological settlements, as compiled over 15 years by the Archaeological Settlements of Turkey (TAY) Project, is based on sites documented by archaeological surveys and excavations from 1880’s to the present. Explorative fieldwork was necessitated

due to scattered and disorganized nature of the existing documentation. TAYEX – TAY Expedition was initiated in 2000 to tackle this problem, and the first phase was completed in 2004, followed by the Byzantine buildings located in the Marmara Region in the last phase.

Results of a Four-Year Fieldwork

Accomplishments

The first phase of the explorative fieldwork initiated in 2000 was completed in 2004, and all settlements/findspots from the Palaeolithic Age to the Early Bronze Age were explored on the basis of the seven geographical regions system in Turkey.

-
- ¹ Harmankaya, S. – O. Tanındı
1996 Archaeological Settlements of Turkey-1/The Palaeolithic and the Epipalaeolithic, Istanbul, Ege Publishing Co. (in Turkish)
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Erdoglu, B. – O. Tanındı – D. Uygun
2003 Archaeological Settlements of Turkey ¹⁴C Database, Istanbul, Ege Publishing Co. (in Turkish)
Tanındı, O. (Ed.)
2005 arkeo / archaeo / archéo / archão - Sozcuk Tabani / Word Base / Base de Mot / Wort Basis, Istanbul, Ege Publishing Co.
Gurcan, G. - A. Yamac - S. Kirlangic - M. Pelen - Z. Talay - P. Zorlu
2006 The Cave Inventory of Turkey-Ma/Mb, Istanbul, Ege Publishing Co. (in Turkish)
Ozden, S. - M. Aksan
2007 Archaeological Settlements of Turkey-7/Greek-Roman Period/Pisidia and Caria Regions, Istanbul, Ege Publishing Co. (in Turkish)
Akyurek, E. - A. Tiryaki – O. Comezoglu – M. Ermis
2007 Archaeological Settlements of Turkey-8/Byzantine Period/Marmara Region, Istanbul, Ege Publishing Co. (in Turkish)
Kozbe, G. - A. Ceylan - Y. Polat - T. Sivas - H. Sivas - I. Sahin - D.A. Tanrıver
2008 Archaeological Settlements of Turkey-6a/6b/Iron Age, Istanbul, Ege Publishing Co. (in Turkish)

The first phase of the TAY Expedition, which lasted for four years,

- included a team of almost 100 people
- covered a total of 82.309 km (51.144 miles)
- documented over 2000 settlements –accompanied by reports, coordinates and measurements with following outcomes;
- 18.616 (≈11 Gb) digital photographs
- 10.382 analogue slides
- 142 hours of video.

The Byzantine Buildings Inventory works of TAY initiated in 2004 have been already completed to a great extent with the fieldworks (TAYEx) carried out in 2008. Thus, data on the published archaeological remains were updated; geographic locations of these buildings and finds were verified using new technologies; and a visual archive of the archaeological remains was created. The fieldworks revealed that numerous remains, particularly those with no visual quality and touristic income in the modern sense, but of highly cultural value, have been heavily damaged. Furthermore, various Byzantine works with touristic values or still in use for several functions have been under persistent and intense threat due to unconscious use and modern housing. Based on these observations, the present “Archaeological Destruction Report” was prepared in Turkish and English specifically for the expedition area, and dispatched to nearly 500 individuals and organizations following a press conference in order to announce the data obtained in relation to the reasons, types and distribution of destruction in an organized manner to the public, scientific community and authorities.

What is on the Agenda?

With the addition of expedition results into the database, visual data for each settlement/building covered during the expedition will be accessible in full through the Internet.

All the Byzantine buildings in the Marmara Region will be integrated onto the GIS-based (*Geographic Information System*) multi-layered electronic maps, allowing several search options over digital and definitional data about these settlements.

Completion of the 2008 TAY Expedition exposed a full panorama of the destruction in the Byzantine settlements and buildings in the Marmara Region. In the next few years, inventory efforts for the Byzantine works in other regions will be put into practice, and their recent status will be determined through fieldworks by the TAY Expedition team.



Furthermore, preparations for a final publication covering all the data obtained as a result of 6-year TAY Expeditions are in effect. This publication will cover archaeological settlements in Anatolia and Thrace as integrated in terms of their geographic and textural distributions and interrelationships. The basis for the publication will be provided by statistical results, which will be derived from the database in the TAY repository.

TAYEX 2008



During the first phase, which covers preparation of the inventory data, and fieldworks as in the previous years, literature on the Byzantine buildings in the Marmara Region was intensely and completely screened as far as possible; some

data groups on the buildings were updated; additional information was obtained; and a route/camping site plan was designated using the maps. Following this work, which took four years to finish, TAYEX 2008 program was put into action in three legs, with fieldworks over a period of 88 days between April and September in the Marmara Region. The fieldworks were performed in accordance with the route prepared depending on the distribution of settlements. Additionally, about 10 sites, which had been left unexplored due to several reasons during the 2000 expedition for prehistoric settlements in the Marmara Region were visited and documented within the course of this recent expedition.

Like every year, definite coordinates and altitude of the structures and settlements/find spots were determined using the Global Positioning System (GPS), appropriate measurements, photographs and videos were taken; reports were prepared; location definitions were made; and information on the available literature was checked and confirmed. Furthermore, the extent of the destruction that these artifacts were exposed to, has been documented by providing their descriptions with the aid of additional media, such as photographs, and movies.

Destruction observed during the fieldworks in 2008 is, unfortunately, at least as severe as the ones observed in previous years. This inconvenience regarding the Byzantine remains, which constitute a significant part of our cultural heritage is vital in demonstrating how such cultural assets are gradually vanished.

Dissimilar to other regions and periods, “housing” on Byzantine remains in the Marmara Region is the primary factor among all others, resulting in intense and persistent destruction. “Road construction” is another destruction factor accompanying the “housing”. These two destruction factors account for more than 50% among all other factors. The Byzantine remains are likely being lost to eternity, not leaving any opportunity for scientific studies in the Marmara Region, particularly intensive in the big cities due to principally unplanned and unguided urbanization as well as housing and road constructions accompanied with getting unearned incomes.

Destruction by housing and road constructions is most common in Istanbul. Unfortunately heavy destruction by contemporary buildings and roads in the city centers of Kocaeli, Bursa and Iznik have also been observed in sites, which had been systematically excavated in previous years. One of the most striking examples of such destruction is the monastery in Pendik. Located at the intersection of Visne Street and

Çinardere Viaduct leading from Pendik to Kurtköy, a major part of the monastery, which was excavated between 1973 and 1975, has been already obscured by the viaduct constructed in 1995-96, and some ongoing constructions for apartment blocks in the neighborhood. The walls of Istanbul represent another striking example for destruction by housing and road constructions. A major part of these walls, **where almost all types of destruction factors can be observed**, will be destroyed without leaving any trace (The Edirnekapi and Topkapi sections vanished during the construction of Adnan Menderes Boulevard and Millet Street, and a major part of the sea walls had been demolished during the railway constructions starting from the 19th century. Intense housing is observed on the Blachernae Palace and many sections of the sea walls. As part of the natural destruction, almost all sections of the walls are under the threat of trees, some even being collapsed. The ditches, first step of the defense system on the Yedikule section of the walls are presently used as vegetable gardens. The historical characteristics of the walls have been lost, particularly due to recent controversial restoration works. The humongous screen in front of the Golden Gate in Yedikule, veiling the gate is a good example of thoughtless modern use. The land walls of Istanbul have been damaged not only as a result of failing to preserve them as required, but also of making erroneous interventions although the walls are inscribed in the World Heritage List by UNESCO under the title of Historic Areas of Istanbul.

Destruction by housing has been actively retained in the developed or developing provinces and districts in the Marmara Region. It has been noted that the architectural remains in the neighborhood of modern Bagkur Evleri, which are located at the district center of Iznik, and which were excavated by Oktay Aslanapa between 1988 and 1994, have been badly damaged due to surrounding buildings and recently constructed roads.

Some other examples exposed to destruction by housing will be accessible from the TAY database. The present conditions obviously display the necessity and the urgency of raising public and official awareness on conservation of cultural assets, and also insufficiency of the measurements taken by the central administration, local administrations, conservation boards and museums once again. Residential requirements and relevant financial incomes in the cities allowing immigrants, destroy all or some of the Byzantine remains.

Factors like road construction and infrastructure works as secondary components of housing facilitate destruction and enhance its severity. Recently accelerated new road constructions or enlargement of available motorways are very common in the region. For example, it was noted during the TAYEx 2008 that Çobankale, which lies to the north of Geyve on the Adapazari-Bilecik road, remains on the construction line of the new road, and authorities were informed accordingly. Similarly, it has been observed that the city walls of Izmit have been heavily damaged due to underpass construction in the section in front of the Seka Park.

The 2008 fieldworks dramatically revealed, that destruction resulting from housing, road and dam constructions, infrastructure and superstructure works related with electricity, water supply and communication has mainly occurred upon permission and works of governmental bodies such as municipalities, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Areas, State Hydraulic Works and Highways Commission. It is once again

demonstrated that comprehensive preliminary examinations are required prior to construction works to be conducted by these institutions in coordination with related museums and conservations boards. This is the only way to avoid destruction of irreplaceable cultural heritage as a result of unconscious social and economic actions.

It was concluded that the second leading destruction factor is related with natural hazards such as vegetation cover, earthquake, erosion, land subsidence, stream/river floods as well as fires. The most dominant natural destruction occurs by weeds. Plants growing on archaeological remains pose a threat to them, resulting in wall cracks, even collapse, and damaged foundations. It indicates the urgency for preservation and conservation works against this destruction factor, particularly seen on the aqueducts in the rural areas and fortresses resting on hilltops.

Subsequent occupancy of buildings with alterations in their original identity and/or architectural modifications for using them with different functions is another type of destruction, ranking number three among all others. The most obvious damage exposed under such destruction, which is particularly common in buildings located at metropolitan areas, is the loss of historical values and characteristics possessed by these buildings. In case extant and to-be-preserved Byzantine works are in use with different functions, priority should be given to preserving their original features. This is a historic and prospective responsibility as well as a tool in achieving enduring values in intercultural relationships.

It has been observed that the Byzantine remains suffered grave damage due to illicit diggings, which rank the fourth in proportion to other factors although usually they didn't harm to the extent that leads to destruction. More systematic inspections are required in order to prevent such destruction, which results in collapse of the Byzantine buildings, disappearance of pavements and disturbed decorations. In the struggle against illicit diggings, which are intensively observed in the southern section of the Marmara Region, around Adapazari and in the inner parts of Thrace, it is a must to raise the awareness of local people. Another conclusion made following the fieldworks is that increasingly growing economic challenges canalize people to the cultural assets by an ambition to earn easy and rapid money.

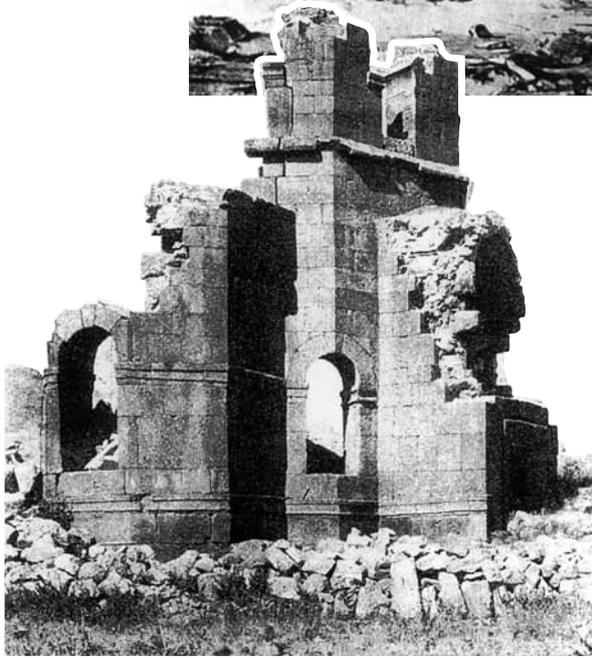
Another destruction factor exposed on the Byzantine buildings in the Marmara Region is agricultural activities, which are less destructive than the other factors because of the geographic conditions of the region and distance of Byzantine remains from the agricultural lands. Such destruction is, in fact, a consequence of ignorance and unconsciousness, and unfortunately, sometimes local people justify these activities for enlarging fields, leveling and terracing, and opening irrigation canals. In agricultural lands, housing cultural assets, awareness of farmers should be heightened to continue their agricultural production without damaging the remains, and guidance by an expert should be provided. The fieldworks revealed that even the registered buildings and archaeological sites are under threat. Either registered or unregistered, opening these remains to modern housing leads these cultural acquisitions obtained for thousands of years to disappear. It becomes obligatory to keep these sites under consistent surveillance as agricultural activities, housing and illicit diggings still go on even after registration, sometimes they become even more frequent. We believe that it can be changed only after raising the awareness of local people to embrace these cultural heritages and making them to contribute to their preservation.

OBSERVATIONS - SUGGESTIONS

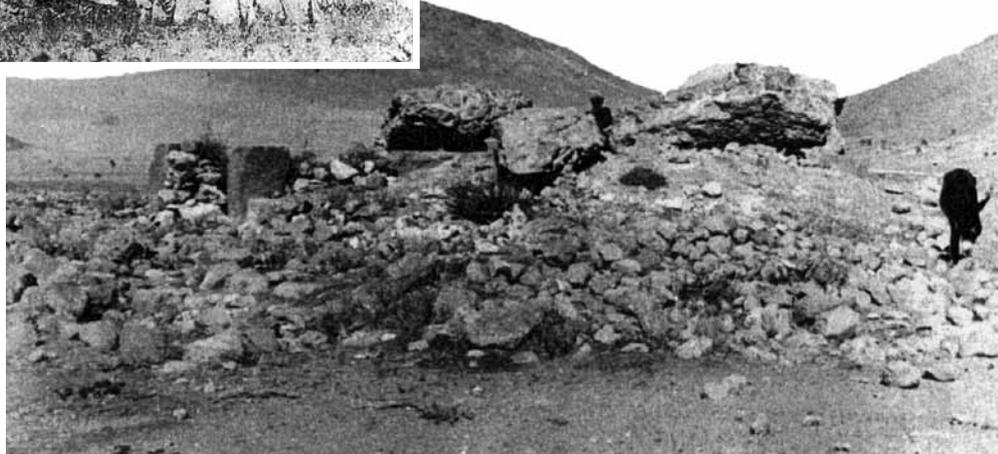
Binbir Kilise Nr: 8,
Karaman,
Turkey.



1830,
engraving Leon de Laborde



1900,
photo J.W. Crowfoot



1970,
photo S. Eyice

The aim of the present report is to emphasize the need to take urgent and necessary precautions against the destruction documented during our fieldworks in the Marmara Region. The data obtained during the 2008 fieldworks covering the

Byzantine remains in the Marmara Region is updated in the TAY database by the TAY Project. Thus, this report serves as an interim report, which displays panorama of the ongoing destruction in the region.

Based on the fieldworks carried out regarding the Byzantine remains in the Marmara Region by TAYEx, it can be concluded that our observations on the destruction highlighted following our fieldwork experiences gained from 2000 till the present still remain valid. Some of our suggestions in the previous reports are summarized as follows;

- Public and governmental agencies and organizations should be informed on how immovable cultural heritage and archaeological sites are formed, from which civilizations and cultures they are inherited, and how valuable they are for our country, even though they are not directly involved in the destruction.
- Registration procedures for all listed buildings and archaeological sites should be immediately initiated, and ongoing procedures should be expedited.
- Urgent preventive measures should be taken for all registered or unregistered evident/known sites, and downgrading the status of registered buildings and sites should not be allowed so that any housing can be prevented.
- Our cultural heritage should not only be considered as a touristic or financial value, and the awareness of the fact that all cultural assets we have are “entrusts, but not inheritances” should be popularized.
- In our country almost no coordination exists on the preservation of cultural heritage between the governmental units related with cultural, local, public, agricultural works and forests. A sound coordination should be established between all related parties in that sense with an aim to achieve consistency.

In addition to above, please find below a few problems and our suggestions for preservation of our cultural assets that require urgent attention based on the fieldworks carried out in 2008;

- One of the problems observed during the fieldworks in the Marmara Region is the lack of information on cultural assets by local administrations in their region.

This problem can only be eliminated by central, comprehensive and integrated efforts. As elimination of this problem will also ensure acquaintance and awareness of the local people, destruction on buildings will be reduced accordingly. The central administration, related institutions (Ministry of Culture and Tourism, State Hydraulic Works, Highway Commission, etc.), universities and local administrations should benefit more from the inventory system established and being updated by TAY Project over 15 years.
- Maybe the most significant problem we encountered during our fieldworks in 2008 is that museums are made indifferent and non-reactive to the problems in their regions with their lack of equipment, trained staff, and information. For example, as buildings such as Holy Spring of Böcek, St. Sophia and Elbeyli Hypogeum under the responsibility of the Iznik Museum were closed for a long

time due to lack of equipment and staff, it was not possible to enter and document the interior parts. Similarly, the Monastery of Studious (Imrahor Mosque), the earliest remaining basilica in Istanbul is also closed to visits. Subordinate to the Museum of Ayasofya, it is one of the most striking examples of the Byzantine works which remained behind the closed doors due to lack of staff and equipments in museums. Also, no detailed information was obtained about the remains with no definite descriptions because of lack of inventory in the Museum of Kirklareli. Such problems witnessed during our fieldworks indicate that organizations affiliated to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism are unreactive to destruction –or they are left unauthorized by the ministry- under present conditions.

Museums should immediately establish their own computer-based inventory for their own region in order to access information on the surveys and excavations conducted in the regions. Previous inventories prepared by several institutions and organizations and contributions of scientists who worked or are still working in the region should be taken into account while creating the inventories. It is also very practical to contact and establish a strong coordination with related organizations, mainly universities. These regional inventories should be combined in a national data pool, providing a source of information, which is accessible over network whenever required by those concerned.

- It was observed that establishments such as quarries, mines and factories gave great harm to the historic buildings in their vicinity like Sultancayir Fortress and Delikkaya Burial Chambers, and resulted in complete demolition of these remains.

The significance of defining protected areas, and considering the cultural architecture of the region when granting license to establishments such as quarries and mines was once again highlighted. It is very obvious that operating permissions granted without any coordination between related organizations lead to irreversible damages on the cultural assets. For example, the cement plant that will be constructed near the Çakilli Town of Vize in Kirklareli should be considered in relation to the Byzantine aqueducts in the vicinity and the cisterns at Lala Alani, which recently had been subject to illicit diggings noticed during our fieldworks. Neighborhood of immovable cultural assets should be avoided in determining locations for establishments such as mine, quarry and plant.

- The provision stating that “license to hunt treasure will be granted by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism” as per Article 50 of the Law no. 2863 for Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets provides legal ground for non-systematic excavations conducted by people, who seek for easy money and have no passion for archaeology and history. It is very obvious that this process, which is particularly on the agenda of Edirne since 2005, will give great harm to the archaeological and cultural background of the city. Non-systematic approach is a well-acknowledged fact of licensed and permitted treasure huntings in Turkey by numerous evidences.

Thus, abolition of the Article 50 of the Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets and rejection of any requests for treasure hunting will prevent destructions exposed under legal covering.

- Legal holes and deficiencies in determination and implementation of renovation areas in the Law No. 5366 for Preservation by Renovation and Utilization by Revitalizing of Deteriorated Immovable Historical and Cultural Properties” gave rise to considerable concern on seeing cultural assets directly as a source of income. Apparently, more effective and first-hand protective regulations are required in preservation and renovation instead of available ones. Projects initiated within the content of “renovation areas” particularly in Zeyrek, and its vicinity, Süleymaniye and many zones on the Historic Peninsula clearly do not/will not produce positive outcomes in terms of historical buildings of the city.

In one of the most important articles (Article 3) of this law, the paragraph stating, that “The renovation projects and their implementation in regions identified as renovation areas, which have been prepared or commissioned by the special provincial administration and municipality shall be undertaken by the respective special provincial administrations and municipalities or be implemented upon being commissioned to public institutions and organizations or real and legal persons.” must be omitted. This article designating project implementers must be amended on the basis of commissioning experts in their fields. Beforehand, inspection by a scientific board to be established –and not income oriented- or preservation board must be grounded during the determination phase of the renovation areas, and protection of historic buildings remaining within these renovation areas must be warranted. Furthermore, surroundings of these buildings should be approached avoiding any damage on their historical characteristics within the content of renovation areas. Also Article 1 stating the objective of this law as “to ensure that conservation areas registered and declared conservation sites by the councils for conservation of cultural and natural property and their conservation zones, which are wornout and on the verge of losing their specificity are re-constructed and restored by metropolitan municipalities, district and first degree municipalities within the borders of metropolitan municipalities and by provincial and sub-provincial or district municipalities and municipalities with a population exceeding 50.000 and by special provincial administrations in regions outside the jurisdictions of these municipalities in harmony with regional development activities; hence, to develop housing, trade, culture, tourism and social facilities in these areas, to take precautions against natural disaster risks, to protect by renovation and use by revitalization immovable historical and cultural property.” must be completely omitted so that present threat exposed to conservation sites and their surroundings by housing can be avoided. Conservation sites, which are secured by law, should not be sacrificed by law again.

- Destruction by subsequent occupancy of buildings with alterations in their original function and/or architectural modifications for use with different functions is another significant issue that should be emphasized. It is usual that extant and utilizable buildings are occupied in later periods with different functions, but particularly during the recent years, works undertaken under the framework “repair”, “restoration” and “renovation” resulted in damaged historic identity of present buildings and loss of their original characteristics.

In order to eliminate this type of destruction very frequently seen on the Byzantine buildings, any modifications to be made on them, either still in use or planned to be used, should be reevaluated without leading to any harm on the historic identity of the concerned edifices, and principles of preservation should not be compromised. Recently increasing implementations based on preservation by renovation and utilization by revitalizing and renovation areas as recently adopted by the respective law and regulations should be discontinued, and utilization of these buildings only on the basis of financial income other than inevitable uses should be prevented. Consistent and comprehensive inspections are essential in subsequent occupation of historic buildings. Such inspections should be executed at regular intervals by organizations like conservation boards and museums, or by scientific boards to be established. As an actual major topic, restoration works, intensified within the framework of the Istanbul European Capital of Culture 2010 program should be considered in this context. It is apparent that majority of harms given by subsequent occupation results from inadequate inspection and unconscious utilization.

- “The Historic Peninsula” in Istanbul doesn’t attract the attention it deserves although it is one of the most significant historic areas of Turkey, mainly Istanbul. Inscribed in the World Heritage List of UNESCO since 1985, negative impacts of the unguided and unplanned urbanization lasting for several years on the Historic Peninsula became a significant issue for all under- and over-ground historic structures.

Almost becoming irreversible, this destruction should be ended promptly by enacting necessary legislations devoted to the region, and preventive measures should be rapidly taken. Constructions plan to be prepared should define the Historic Peninsula as a privileged area, and each construction activity in the area should be under the supervision of central boards, including occupational groups such as archaeologists, art historians, architects, and city planners. The fact that majority of the visuals in the section “Examples from Visual Evidence of Destruction” in the present report are from the Historic Peninsula verifies this unpleasant situation.

- It is quite apparent that urban transformation projects, defined as providing added value to the city by means of alteration, transformation, regeneration and revitalization of the urban fabric, which was worn out, deteriorated, outdated or sometimes abandoned, and forsaken in time for various reasons, by taking the actual socio-economic and physical conditions into account, result in grave damages to the cultural and historic values of the city. The progressive hegemony of such projects over historical acquisitions of the city, with prominent efforts on rent seeking, becomes a serious issue in the overall agenda. Prospective projects should be designed to avoid any complications that will be produced by the historical accumulation on the development of the city. In that sense, challenges experienced in projects like Marmaray Rail Project, 3rd Bridge Project across the Bosphorus, excavations for new metro lines, and so-called urban transformation projects upset public opinion as well as those who are directly involved in it.

In order to get rid of these challenges, policies for transparent and public-oriented implementation should be generated. For example, if the Byzantine remains in the Yenikapi section of the Marmaray Project could have been evaluated during the feasibility phase of the project or prior to implementation of the project, then problems experienced now may have been eliminated. Furthermore, social problems imposed upon city-dwellers as a result of urban transformation projects direct them to new living areas, and this transformation process itself produces a profound impact on the historic integrity of the city.

- Literature screening for the Byzantine Period in the region and respective fieldworks yielded no Byzantine remains in the central parts of Thrace, i.e. the area remaining between north of Malkara, east of Uzunköprü, and Lüleburgaz, and southern Marmara, interior sections of Balıkesir Province, and north of Kocaeli Province. This area devoid of any traces so close to the Byzantine capital, and lying on the major routes of the period can only be explained by lack of survey and publications.

Traditional survey procedures, which gained admission for a very long time, should be replaced. The information on period, duration and area of the research in relation to permission obtained for investigations in a specific region should be definitely indicated; and exclusive rights restricted only to the applicant should be ended. Permission for survey/excavation should be limited in period, area, scope and duration, and should also allow different archaeologists to conduct evaluations within the specified area. It should be obligatory to issue an international scientific publication during the investigation with predefined standards and in certain periods; and to publish a final comprehensive report at the end of the investigation period, that will be stipulated on the maintenance of permission for survey/excavation.

- Limited, inefficient, inadequate, and mostly incorrect descriptions of immovable cultural assets identified during evaluations and surveys carried out in Thrace in the past revealed necessity of conducting new and comprehensive scientific investigations and systematic surveys in the region. This unpleasant situation experienced in remains such as Chapel at Didymoteicho (Dimitoka), Ayazmatepe Water Channel, Holy Spring of Kizilagaç, Holy Spring of Manastir Mevkii, and Midye Chapel necessitated new evaluations and/or updates on previous publications. Location of above mentioned buildings and many others couldn't be verified due to insufficient descriptions.

Fulfillment of absent information on locations and descriptions using contemporary techniques is vital for archaeologists who will conduct new investigations in the region, and for preventing further destruction. We believe that definite information on geographical locations is the first step of preserving cultural assets.

- Another challenge is use of different site-namings, and different localizations made as a result of investigations conducted in the Marmara Region in different time periods. For example, we have found out that Midye Fortress and Çingene

Fortress; Karacakaya Fortress and Wall Remains at Iznik; Adliye Fortress and Akçukur Fortress; Burcun Fortress and Kale Tepe Fortress; Ahmetli Fortress and Büyükçekmece Fortress; and Palamutdere Water Channel and Vize-Saray Waterway are, in fact, probably the same places referred with different names.

Archaeologists shoulder the responsibility in eliminating this confusion. Surveys should be carried out on the basis of systematic principles, including a survey area screening using grid system, coordination with local authorities and related organizations, prespecified survey area and duration, use of modern technologies during documentation, particularly during localization phase, accompanied with financial incentives, consultations with local people, efforts to raise their awareness, and easy access to outcomes within a regional and/or national inventory system for future investigations.

- As in many other historical and archaeological sites, affiliations of Ministry of Environment and Forestry are involved in irregular and unplanned afforestation in the name of rehabilitation of available forests or new planting works. Accordingly, trees are planted around the historic buildings, even inside them particularly by local administrations.

Even though these afforestations are performed for good reasons such as beautifying the environment of extant buildings or historic areas with parks, recreation spots, picnic areas or by developing new forests, those planted trees do great harm to the historic buildings. The organization, to be involved in afforestation activities (Ministry of Environment and Forestry, municipalities, etc.) should inform related organizations (museums, conservation boards, etc.) and obtain their approval prior to implementation. Afforestations should be performed in a controlled way avoiding any damage to the architectural remains and sites. Absence of above-mentioned regional inventories provides basis for such problems.

The major causes of destruction on the cultural assets as observed and documented by TAY Expedition are lack of information and inventory, and unconscious practices. Therefore, all related parties and organizations should immediately concentrate upon raising the awareness of local people and young generations by adopting new educational policies.

Only those who are familiar with their past can construct a better today and future for themselves. Thus, TAY Project perceives educational actions to be taken accompanied with urging on awareness and documentation of our present cultural values, and activating all segments of society.

CONCLUSION

Impact of intense, unplanned and unguided urbanization is obviously a leading factor in the destruction, particularly in the Marmara Region. Other destruction factors such as subsequent occupation are, in a sense, extensions of destruction resulting from unplanned and unguided urbanization. Our fieldworks revealed that the main destruction factors in the Byzantine buildings and other immovable cultural assets are related with damages resulting from construction activities such as public improvements, road constructions, and subsequent occupancy, i.e. it relates to materialistic justifications.

Our suggestions and recommendations summarized here are based on not endangering any of our cultural assets, providing urgent solutions and taking necessary precautions against loss of such an irreplaceable heritage, which, in fact, should be perceived not as a 'cultural heritage' but as a 'cultural trust'.

This document is the last, for now, regional report dispatched to you as a result of more or less 8-year works performed by TAY Project all over Turkey. We, as TAY Project, on one hand, commit ourselves to finalize our main concern, inventory of cultural trusts, as well as updating and sharing it with the public, and on the other hand we pursue with our monitoring mission on destruction. We will maintain our mission to warn national and international public and authorities on this subject.

Although destruction factors identified in the urban and rural areas during the our fieldworks on the Byzantine remains in the Marmara Region by TAY Expedition are reflected in different proportions, they are almost identical to the factors encountered in the remaining parts of Turkey. As it is valid for overall Turkey, destruction on the cultural assets and archaeological remains in the Marmara Region is not specific to a region or type of building, but it is **intense, widespread, and continuous**.

Furthermore, as we try to emphasize in each report, we are ready to share our 15-years' worth experience and knowledge on destruction and other issues with any person or organization that believes in the necessity of investigation and preservation of cultural heritage, and transferring them to next generations.



MARMARA - BYZANTINE PERIOD

EXPEDITION DATA:

Duration of expedition: 88 days (April-September 2008)

Road traveled: 16804 km (10442 miles)

Provinces surveyed: Balıkesir, Bilecik, Bursa, Çanakkale, Edirne, İstanbul, Kırklareli, Kocaeli, Sakarya, Tekirdağ, Yalova

Recorded visual data: 16.126 shots of digital photography (36.6 Gb)
165 Gb video

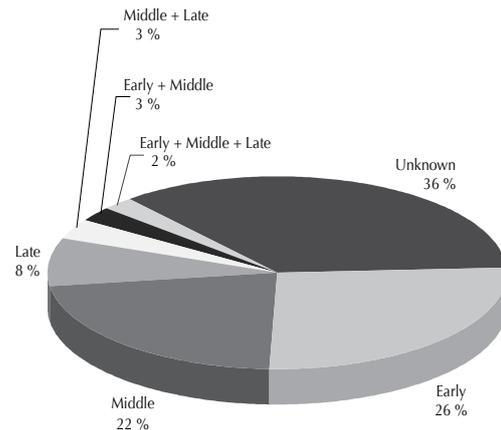
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA:

Archaeological periods surveyed: Byzantine

Number of target buildings: 466

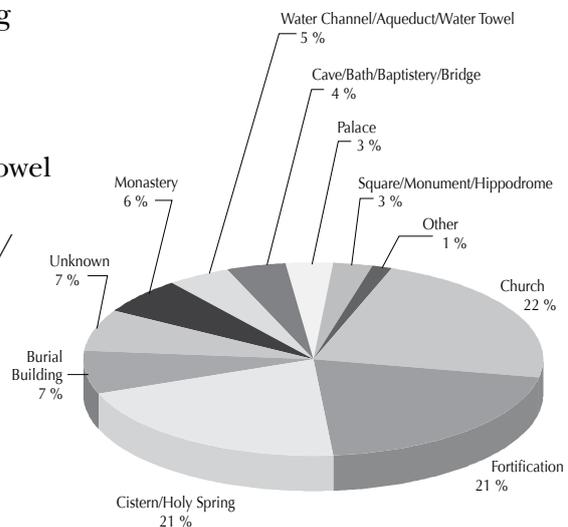
Distribution of sub-periods over target buildings:

123	Early
104	Middle
38	Late
12	Early + Middle
1	Early + Late
15	Middle + Late
9	Early + Middle + Late
164	Unknown



Distribution of building types over target buildings:

105	Church
96	Fortification
96	Cistern/Holy Spring
33	Burial Building
28	Monastery
21	Water Channel/ Aqueduct/Water Towel
15	Palace
14	Square/Monument/ Hippodrome
5	Cave
5	Bath
5	Baptistry
4	Bridge
33	Unknown
6	Other



Number of buildings not visited:

30 (Buildings in military zones; sites that are completely demolished; sites mentioned only by name in publications)

Number of buildings not documented:

44 (Sites with scarce description of location; sites completely destroyed by agriculture or by contemporary settlements)

Number of documented buildings:

427

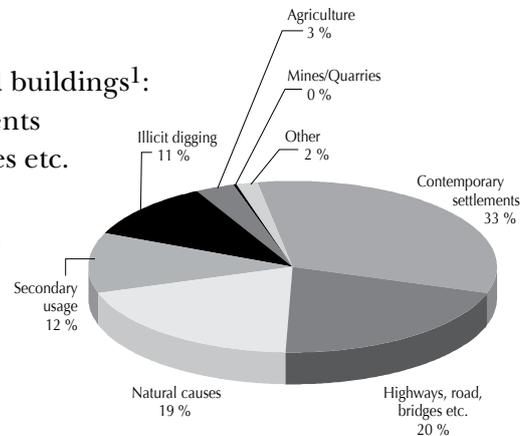
DESTRUCTION DATA:

Number of documented buildings subject to destruction:

377

Distribution of types of destruction over documented buildings¹:

228 Contemporary settlements
142 Highways, roads, bridges etc.
135 Natural causes
80 Subsequent occupation
76 Illicit digging
20 Agriculture
3 Mines/Quarries
11 Other



(Numbers mentioned above include more than one destruction type on a single building)

COMMON DESTRUCTION FACTORS IN THE REGION:

Housing resulting from unplanned urbanization account for majority of the destruction on the Byzantine buildings in the Marmara Region. It has been observed that impact of unplanned and unguided urbanization on the Byzantine sites in Kocaeli, Bursa, and mainly in Istanbul has already reached to an irreversible extent of damage. Also, destruction by organizations such as municipalities of Kocaeli, Istanbul,

¹ Clarification of primary causes of destruction:

Contemporary settlements: Houses, hotels, recreational areas and holiday complexes, petrol stations, factories, dams, power lines, pipelines, cemeteries, etc.

Agriculture: All kinds of agricultural activity on and around the sites / buildings (afforestations, cultivation, terracing, levelling, soil removal, irrigation channels, etc.).

Subsequent occupation: Architectural modifications and alterations made for subsequent usage of the building (church used as a mosque, cistern used as a restaurant, castle used as a barn, etc.)

Illicit digging/treasure hunting: By locals and smugglers.

Mines/quarries: Stone, sand and lime mining.

Highways/roads: Highways, country roads and railways passing over or through archaeological sites/buildings, bridges built upon historical structures.

Natural causes: Earthquakes, fires, soil erosion, riverbed reformations, floods, etc.

Other: Unappropriate intervention / restoration, etc.

Bursa and Adapazari, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Areas, State Hydraulic Works and Highway Commission are noteworthy in the Marmara Region, which has an intense transportation network. In addition to this type of destruction encountered in metropolitan districts and dense residential areas, new road constructions and enlargement activities have considerable impact, which can be clearly observed in cities with rapidly increasing populations such as Iznik, Silivri, Çatalca, Vize and Hereke.

Along with these factors, selection of localizations for motorways, water tanks, high-voltage transmission lines, wind turbines, plants and dams within the scope of social requirements and developing technologies near cultural assets and their vicinity increases intensity of irreversible damages exposed on these assets. Destruction by unplanned housing and new areas to be developed based on rent-seeking in cities like Istanbul, Bursa and Kocaeli and their vicinities is the most important factor to deal with in this region.

Destruction by illicit diggings observed in the areas other than city centers and in almost any of the architectural remains in the Marmara Region results in extinction of stratifications and elements characterizing these stratifications such as walls, decorations and finds in such an extent that they can not be systematically examined anymore. Illicit diggings are more common in Kirklareli, Iznik and Bursa.

The destruction type so-called subsequent occupation, which is frequent particularly in the Byzantine buildings, is another type observed in the region. This type of destruction can be analyzed in several groups including cities, villages and unpopulated places. In cities, destruction is mostly reflected by architectural modifications in churches, which had been converted into mosques. Removal of figurative Byzantine paintings, and religious motifs such as crosses by various methods for religious purposes represents the most significant type of destruction. Prominent methods include painting of marble architectural elements, destroying pavements, installation of modern door and window systems onto openings. In villages, it is common that Byzantine remains are mainly occupied as warehouse, barn and sheepfold. It was observed that the interior of Byzantine remains in unpopulated areas, mainly of fortresses, are intensely used as sheepfolds while their surrounding areas are cultivated as fields.

One of the most interesting results is that destruction type so-called natural destruction accounts for major part of the destruction among all others. In case of Byzantine remains, weeds play a significant role in the destruction of remains. It is very common to observe tree roots damaging foundations of buildings, tree branches leading to collapse of walls or deformation of walls by roots developing inside the walls, particularly in the northern wooded sections of the Marmara Region.

The major destruction exposed by a single factor, at least as much as housing, is caused by establishments such as mines and quarries. Damages by such establishments, operating without evaluation of regional historic background, are every common in the provinces of Balıkesir and Bursa.

Following is an inventory of the buildings that are in a state of emergency as observed and evaluated by the TAYEx 2008 team:

313 sites

(Buildings that are severely damaged or those that have entirely vanished are marked in black)

Building	Type	Province	District	Village/ Neighborhood	Destruction Type
Lentiana Kalesi	Castle	Balıkesir	Bandırma	Tophisar	Natural causes, Illicit digging
Anna Manastırı	Monastery	Balıkesir	Bandırma	Yenice	Illicit digging, Natural causes
Akhyraos Kalesi	Castle	Balıkesir	Bigadiç		Contemporary settlements, Road
Erdek Kalesi	Castle	Balıkesir	Erdek	Merkez	Contemporary settlements, Road
Keramidas Surları	Castle	Balıkesir	Erdek	Ocaklar	Illicit digging, Natural causes
Gönen'deki Kilise	Church	Balıkesir	Gönen	Kurtuluş	Contemporary settlements
Poimananon (Eski Manyas) Kalesi	Castle	Balıkesir	Manyas	Soğuksu	Natural causes, Illicit digging
Sultançayır Kalesi	Castle	Balıkesir	SuFortificationluk	Sultançayır	Mines/quarries
Kuleler Kale	Castle	Bilecik	Osmaneli		Agriculture, Illicit digging, Natural causes
Taşköprü	Bridge	Bilecik	Osmaneli		Agriculture, Natural causes, Mines/quarries
Gemlik Kalesi	Castle	Bursa	Gemlik		Contemporary settlements, Road
Gemlik Duvar Kalıntısı	Unknown	Bursa	Gemlik	Genç Ali Köyü	Agriculture, Road, Contemporary settlements
Aberkios	Church	Bursa	Gemlik	Kurşunlu	Illicit digging, Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Abdülvahap Mezar Odası	Bural Building	Bursa	İznic		Illicit digging, Other
Delikli Kaya Mezar Odası	Bural Building	Bursa	İznic		Mines/quarries, Illicit digging
Dirazali Mezar Odası	Bural Building	Bursa	İznic	Dirazali	Road, Other
Elbeyli Mezarlığı'nın GB'sındaki Mezar Odası	Bural Building	Bursa	İznic	Elbeyli	Illicit digging, Other
Elbeyli Mezar Odaları 1, 3, 4, 5	Bural Building	Bursa	İznic	Elbeyli	Illicit digging, Contemporary settlements, Road
Karadere Köprüsü	Bridge	Bursa	İznic	Elbeyli	Natural causes, Road
İznic Eşrefzade Mahallesi Sarmıcı	Cistern	Bursa	İznic	Eşrefzade	Contemporary settlements, Natural causes, Other
Yeniören Kilise Kalıntısı	Church	Bursa	İznic	Haciosman	Illicit digging, Natural causes
Hocaköy Mezar Odası	Bural Building	Bursa	İznic	Hocaköy	Illicit digging, Natural causes
Karacakaya Kalesi	Castle	Bursa	İznic	Karacakaya	Illicit digging, Natural causes
Karatekin Kalesi	Castle	Bursa	İznic	Karatekin	Agriculture, Natural causes, Road
Kaynarca Kalesi	Castle	Bursa	İznic	Kaynarca	Agriculture, Natural causes, Illicit digging
İznic'te Yapı Kalıntısı	Church	Bursa	İznic	M. Kemal Paşa	Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
İznic Arabacı Sok.'taki Altyapı	Unknown	Bursa	İznic	M. Kemal Paşa	Contemporary settlements, Natural causes, Road, Other
İznic Kilise Kalıntısı 1	Church	Bursa	İznic	M. Kemal Paşa	Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
Ayasofya	Church	Bursa	İznic	Mahmut Çelebi	Natural causes, Other
Böcek Ayazması	Baptistery	Bursa	İznic	Mahmut Çelebi	Contemporary settlements
Koimesis Kilisesi	Church	Bursa	İznic	Mahmut Çelebi	Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
İznic Surları	Castle	Bursa	İznic	Merkez	Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes, Illicit digging
Kale Tepe Kalesi	Castle	Bursa	İznic	Müşküdere	Illicit digging, Natural causes
İznic Tiyatrosu Yakınındaki Kilise Altyapısı	Church	Bursa	İznic	Selçuk	Road, Natural causes

Building	Type	Province	District	Village/ Neighborhood	Destruction Type
İznik Kilise Kalıntısı 2	Church	Bursa	İznik	Selçuk	Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
Trikonkos	Church	Bursa	İznik	Şerefiye	Agriculture, Natural causes
Berberkaya Mezar Odası	Bural Building	Bursa	İznik	Yenimahalle	Illicit digging, Natural causes
Eski Karaağaç Kalesi	Castle	Bursa	Karacabey	Eski Karaağaç	Contemporary settlements
Uluabat Köprüsü	Bridge	Bursa	Karacabey	Uluabat	Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Lopadion (Ulubat) Kalesi	Castle	Bursa	Karacabey	Ulubat	Subsequent occupation, Illicit digging
Kestel Kalesi	Castle	Bursa	Kestel		Contemporary settlements
Bursa Kalesi	Castle	Bursa	Merkez		Contemporary settlements, Road
Osman Gazi Türbesi	Church	Bursa	Merkez	Tophane	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements
Orhan Gazi Türbesi	Church	Bursa	Merkez	Tophane	Contemporary settlements
Taksiarkhi Kilisesi	Church	Bursa	Mudanya	Kumyaka	Contemporary settlements
Fatih Camisi	Church	Bursa	Mudanya	Zeytinbağı	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements
Ioannes Theologos Pelekete Manastırı	Monastery	Bursa	Mudanya	Zeytinbağı	Agriculture
Medikion Manastırı	Monastery	Bursa	Mudanya	Zeytinbağı	Contemporary settlements
Aya Sotiri Kilisesi	Church	Bursa	Mudanya	Zeytinbağı	Contemporary settlements, Illicit digging
Konstantinos Manastırı Kilisesi	Church	Bursa	Nilüfer	Gölyazı	Subsequent occupation, Illicit digging
Gölyazı Kilisesi	Church	Bursa	Nilüfer	Gölyazı	Contemporary settlements
Apollonia/Ulubat Kalesi	Castle	Bursa	Nilüfer	Gölyazı	Contemporary settlements, Road
Theodoros (Tahtalı) Kilisesi	Church	Bursa	Nilüfer	Tahtalı	Illicit digging
Tahtalı Kalesi	Castle	Bursa	Nilüfer	Tahtalı	Contemporary settlements, Illicit digging
Kite Kalesi	Castle	Bursa	Nilüfer	Ürünlü	Agriculture
Kiril Manastırı	Monastery	Bursa	Osmangazi		Illicit digging, Natural causes
Konstantin Manastırı	Monastery	Bursa	Osmangazi		Illicit digging, Natural causes
Osmangazi Yapı Kompleksi	Unknown	Bursa	Osmangazi		Contemporary settlements
Erikli Yayla Kalıntıları	Unknown	Bursa	Osmangazi	Erikli Yayla	Illicit digging
Çiftkayalar Kalesi	Castle	Bursa	Osmangazi	Gündoğdu	Contemporary settlements, Natural causes, Illicit digging
Yurtyeri Manastırı	Monastery	Bursa	Yıldırım	Cumalı Kızık	Natural causes, Illicit digging
Elbeyli Mezarlığı'ndaki Mezar Odası	Bural Building	Bursa	İznik	Elbeyli	Illicit digging
Kilise Tepesi Yapı Kompleksi	Building Complex	Bursa	Yıldırım	Fidyeye Kızık	Natural causes, Illicit digging
Karabiga Kalesi	Castle	Çanakkale	Biga	Karabiga	Subsequent occupation, Natural causes, Agriculture
Sestos Kalesi	Castle	Çanakkale	Eceabat	Yalova	Illicit digging
Gökçeada Palaiokastro Kalesi	Castle	Çanakkale	Gökçeada	Dereköy	Natural causes
Gökçeada Kaleköy Kalesi	Castle	Çanakkale	Gökçeada	Kaleköy	Natural causes
Gökçeada Pyrgos Kulesi	Tower	Çanakkale	Gökçeada	Yuvalı	Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Atık Hisar	Castle	Çanakkale	Merkez	Kayadere	Agriculture, Natural causes
Kaleiçi 1 No'lu Şapel	Church	Edirne	Enez		Illicit digging
Enez'deki Konut	House	Edirne	Enez		Illicit digging, Natural causes
Khrysopege Şapeli	Church	Edirne	Enez		Natural causes
Ayasofya	Church	Edirne	Enez		Contemporary settlements

Building	Type	Province	District	Village/ Neighborhood	Destruction Type
Triada Şapeli	Bural Building	Edirne	Enez		Contemporary settlements, Illicit digging
Gazi Ömer Bey Mahallesi Kilisesi	Church	Edirne	Enez	Gazi Ömer Bey	Contemporary settlements, Road
Yayla Kalesi	Castle	Edirne	Keşan		Illicit digging, Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Gökçetepe Kalesi	Castle	Edirne	Keşan	Gökçetepe	Natural causes
Edirne Surları	Castle	Edirne	Merkez		Contemporary settlements
Edirne Surlarının GD'sundaki Kilise	Church	Edirne	Merkez		Contemporary settlements
Ayasofya	Church	Edirne	Merkez	Kaleiçi	Contemporary settlements, Road
Büyükkada Kadınlar Manastırı	Monastery	İstanbul	Adalar	Büyükkada	Contemporary settlements, Road
Taksiarkhi/Terevinthos	Monastery	İstanbul	Adalar	Sedefadası	Natural causes
Okseia Manastırı	Monastery	İstanbul	Adalar	Sivriada	Illicit digging, Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Tavşanadası Manastırı	Monastery	İstanbul	Adalar	Tavşanadası	Illicit digging, Natural causes
Hebdomon Hipojesi	Bural Building	İstanbul	Bakırköy		Contemporary settlements
Barutluk Sarmıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Bakırköy		Contemporary settlements
Campus Tribunalis	Square	İstanbul	Bakırköy		Contemporary settlements
Bakırköy Sarmıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Bakırköy		Contemporary settlements, Road
Domuzdamı Sarmıcı 1, 2	Cistern	İstanbul	Bakırköy		Contemporary settlements, Road
Hebdomon (Fildamı) Sarmıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Bakırköy	Osmaniye	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Ioannes Theologos Hebdomon Kilisesi	Church	İstanbul	Bakırköy	Yenimahalle	Contemporary settlements
Ioannes Prodromos Hebdomon Kilisesi	Church	İstanbul	Bakırköy	Yenimahalle	Contemporary settlements
Tophane Duvar Kalıntıları	Unknown	İstanbul	Beşiktaş	Tophane	Contemporary settlements, Road
Yoros Kalesi	Castle	İstanbul	Beykoz	Anadolu Kavağı	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
St. Paolo Kilisesi/Arap Camisi	Church	İstanbul	Beyoğlu	Galata	Subsequent occupation
Galata Surları	Castle	İstanbul	Beyoğlu	Galata	Contemporary settlements, Road
Saint Benoit Kilisesi	Monastery	İstanbul	Beyoğlu	Karaköy	Subsequent occupation
Galata Kulesi	Castle	İstanbul	Beyoğlu	Şahkulu	Subsequent occupation
Şişhane Sarmıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Beyoğlu	Şişhane	Contemporary settlements, Road
Karamanoğlu Deresi Kemerli	Water Channel/ Aqueduct	İstanbul	Çatalca		Illicit digging, Natural causes
Kemikharman Tepesi Kemerli	Water Channel/ Aqueduct	İstanbul	Çatalca		Natural causes
Talas Kemerleri	Water Channel/ Aqueduct	İstanbul	Çatalca		Natural causes
Ahmetli Kalesi	Castle	İstanbul	Çatalca	Ahmetli	Agriculture, Natural causes, Road
Elmahidere Kemerli	Water Channel/ Aqueduct	İstanbul	Çatalca	Aydınlar	Illicit digging, Natural causes
Binkılıç Kalesi	Castle	İstanbul	Çatalca	Binkılıç Beldesi	Illicit digging, Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Büyükgerme Kemerli	Water Channel/ Aqueduct	İstanbul	Çatalca	Çiftlikköy	Illicit digging, Natural causes
Kumarlıdere Kemerli	Water Channel/ Aqueduct	İstanbul	Çatalca	Çiftlikköy	Illicit digging, Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Keçiğirme Kemerli	Water Channel/ Aqueduct	İstanbul	Çatalca	Çiftlikköy	Natural causes
Durusu Kalesi	Castle	İstanbul	Çatalca	Durusu	Contemporary settlements, Natural causes

Building	Type	Province	District	Village/ Neighborhood	Destruction Type
Evcik Georgios Kilisesi	Church	İstanbul	Çatalca	Evcik	Illicit digging, Natural causes
İnceğiz Mağara Manastırları 1, 2, ve 3. Grup	Monastery	İstanbul	Çatalca	İnceğiz	Subsequent occupation, Natural causes, Illicit digging, Contemporary settlements
Çatalca Merkezdeki Sur Kalıntısı	Castle	İstanbul	Çatalca	Kaleiçi	Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
Khalkoprteia Kilisesi	Church	İstanbul	Eminönü	Alemdar	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements
Milion	Monument	İstanbul	Eminönü	Alemdar	Contemporary settlements, Road
Adem İş Merkezi Altındaki Kalıntı	Unknown	İstanbul	Eminönü	Balabanağa	Subsequent occupation
Sekbanbaşı Mevkii Yapı Kalıntısı	Unknown	İstanbul	Eminönü	Balabanağa	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements
Balaban Ağa Mescidi	Bural Building	İstanbul	Eminönü	Balabanağa	Contemporary settlements, Road
Beyazıt Kiliseleri A, B, C, D	Church	İstanbul	Eminönü	Balabanağa	Contemporary settlements, Road
Beyazıt Sarnıcı 1	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Beyazıt	Contemporary settlements, Road
Theodosius Takı	Monument	İstanbul	Eminönü	Beyazıt	Contemporary settlements, Road
Theodosius/Tauri Forumu	Square	İstanbul	Eminönü	Beyazıt	Contemporary settlements, Road
Binbirdirek Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Binbirdirek	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements
Lausos Sarayı	Palace	İstanbul	Eminönü	Binbirdirek	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements, Road
Euphemia	Palace, Church	İstanbul	Eminönü	Binbirdirek	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
Dizdarıye Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Binbirdirek	Contemporary settlements, Road
Eminönü Belediyesi Altındaki Sarnıç	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Binbirdirek	Contemporary settlements, Road
Fuad Paşa Türbesi'ndeki Kalıntılar	Unknown	İstanbul	Eminönü	Binbirdirek	Contemporary settlements, Road
Terzioğlu Holding Binası Kalıntıları	Unknown	İstanbul	Eminönü	Binbirdirek	Contemporary settlements, Road
Mecidiye Köşkü Altındaki Vafızhane	Baptistery	İstanbul	Eminönü	Cankurtaran	Subsequent occupation
İst. Ark. Müz. Ek Binası Büyük Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Cankurtaran	Subsequent occupation
Soğukçeşme Sok. Sarnıcı 1, 2 ve Holy Spring	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Cankurtaran	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements, Road
Gotlar Sütunu	Monument	İstanbul	Eminönü	Cankurtaran	Natural causes
Gotlar Sütunu Çevresindeki Yapılar	Palace	İstanbul	Eminönü	Cankurtaran	Natural causes, Other
Topkapı Sarayı Bodrum 1, 2 Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Cankurtaran	Natural causes, Contemporary settlements
Topkapı Sarayı 4 No'lu Sarnıç	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Cankurtaran	Other
Topkapı Sarayı Bazilikası	Church	İstanbul	Eminönü	Cankurtaran	Contemporary settlements
Aya İrini'nin GD'sundaki Sarnıç	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Cankurtaran	Contemporary settlements
Cephanelik Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Cankurtaran	Contemporary settlements
Darphane Yakınındaki Sarnıç	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Cankurtaran	Contemporary settlements
İst. Ark. Müz. Ek İnsaatı Yanındaki Alt Yapı	Substructure	İstanbul	Eminönü	Cankurtaran	Contemporary settlements
Benzinlik Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Cankurtaran	Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Gülhane Hastanesi Altındaki Sarnıç	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Cankurtaran	Contemporary settlements, Road

Building	Type	Province	District	Village/ Neighborhood	Destruction Type
Gülhane Hastanesi Avlusundaki Sarnıç	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Cankurtaran	Contemporary settlements, Road
Gülhane Parkı Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Cankurtaran	Contemporary settlements, Road
Yeşildirek Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Fortificationuri	Contemporary settlements, Road
Yanıksaraylar Sok. Sarnıçları	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Fortificationuri	Contemporary settlements, Road
Acımusluk Sok. Kalıntıları	Substructure, Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Hobyar	Contemporary settlements, Road
Vefa Kilise Camisi	Church	İstanbul	Eminönü	Hoca Gıyasettin	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements
Sirkeci Ebusuut Caddesi Kilisesi	Church	İstanbul	Eminönü	Hoca Paşa	Contemporary settlements
Vilayet Binası Mozaik Döşemesi	Mosaic Pavement	İstanbul	Eminönü	Hoca Paşa	Contemporary settlements
Kalenderhane Camisi	Church	İstanbul	Eminönü	Kalenderhane	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
Kalenderhane Camisi	Church	İstanbul	Eminönü	Kalenderhane	Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Ağa Yokuşu Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Kemal Paşa	Contemporary settlements, Road
Nakilbent Sok. Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Küçük Ayasofya	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements, Road
Küçük Ayasofya'daki Sarnıç	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Küçük Ayasofya	Contemporary settlements, Road
Nakilbent Sok.'taki Kalıntı	Unknown	İstanbul	Eminönü	Küçük Ayasofya	Contemporary settlements, Road
Bukoleon Sarayı	Palace, Harbour	İstanbul	Eminönü	Küçük Ayasofya	Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
Soğan Ağa İş Merkezi Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Laleli	Subsequent occupation
Mercan'daki Altyapı	Unknown	İstanbul	Eminönü	Mercan	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements, Road
Mercan Yokuşu Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Mercan	Contemporary settlements
Myrelaion Kilisesi/ Bodrum Camisi	Church	İstanbul	Eminönü	Mesih Paşa	Subsequent occupation
Myrelaion Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Mesih Paşa	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements
Cağaloğlu Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Molla Fenari	Contemporary settlements
Mengene Sok. Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Molla Fenari	Contemporary settlements, Road
Nuruosmaniye Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Molla Fenari	Contemporary settlements, Road
Constantinus Forumu ve Sütunu	Monument	İstanbul	Eminönü	Molla Fenari	Contemporary settlements, Road
Turkuaz İş Merkezi'nin Altındaki Sarnıç	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Nişanca	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements
Büyük Saray	Palace	İstanbul	Eminönü	Sultanahmet	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements, Road
Zeuxippos Hamamları	Bath	İstanbul	Eminönü	Sultanahmet	Contemporary settlements, Road
Augusteion Meydanı	Square	İstanbul	Eminönü	Sultanahmet	Contemporary settlements, Road
Hippodrome ve Hippodrome Sarnıcı	Hippodrome, Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Sultanahmet	Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
Grand Savur Otel Altındaki Sarnıç	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Şehzadebaşı	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements
History Otel Altındaki Sarnıç	Cistern	İstanbul	Eminönü	Şehzadebaşı	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements
İrini Kulesi	Tower	İstanbul	Eminönü	Tahtakale	Subsequent occupation
İstanbul Surları	Fortification	İstanbul	Eminönü - Fatih		Subsequent occupation, Agriculture, Contemporary settlements, Illicit digging, Road

Building	Type	Province	District	Village/ Neighborhood	Destruction Type
Valens (Bozdoğan) Kemerli	Water Channel/ Aqueduct	İstanbul	Eminönü - Fatih	Saraçhane	Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
Karpos - Papylos/Menas Kilisesi	Bural Building	İstanbul	Fatih	Abdi Çelebi	Contemporary settlements, Road
Sinan Paşa Mescidi	Church	İstanbul	Fatih	Abdi Subaşı	Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Ayakapı Şapeli	Church	İstanbul	Fatih	Abdi Subaşı	Contemporary settlements, Road
Forum Bovis	Square	İstanbul	Fatih	Aksaray	Contemporary settlements, Road
Kocamustafapaşa Camisi	Church	İstanbul	Fatih	Ali Fakih	Subsequent occupation
Ebuzer Gifari Camisi'ndeki Altyapı	Unknown	İstanbul	Fatih	Atik Mustafa Paşa	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements, Road
Ayvansaray Hamam Kalıntısı	Bath	İstanbul	Fatih	Atik Mustafa Paşa	Contemporary settlements, Road
Anemas Zindanı	Castle	İstanbul	Fatih	Atik Mustafa Paşa	Contemporary settlements, Road
Toklu Dede Mescidi	Church	İstanbul	Fatih	Atik Mustafa Paşa	Contemporary settlements, Road
Tekfur Sarayı	Palace	İstanbul	Fatih	Avcıbey	Contemporary settlements
Blakhernai Sarayı	Palace	İstanbul	Fatih	Ayvansaray	Contemporary settlements, Road
Polyeuktos	Church	İstanbul	Fatih	Baba Hasan Alemi	Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
Atik Mustafa Paşa Camisi	Church	İstanbul	Fatih	Balat Karabaş	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements
Kariana Portikosu	Building Complex	İstanbul	Fatih	Balat Karabaş	Contemporary settlements, Road
Purkuyu (Kandiligüzel) Mescidi	Church	İstanbul	Fatih	Cibali	Contemporary settlements, Road
Ese Kapı Mescidi	Church	İstanbul	Fatih	Davutpaşa	Contemporary settlements, Road
Aetios/Çukurbostan Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Fatih	Dervişali	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements, Road
Odalar Camisi	Church	İstanbul	Fatih	Dervişali	Contemporary settlements, Road
Manastır Mescidi	Church	İstanbul	Fatih	Ereğli	Subsequent occupation
Ali Fakih Paşa Camisi Kalıntıları	Cistern	İstanbul	Fatih	Hacı Hamza	Contemporary settlements, Road
Konstantinos Lips Kilisesi/Fenari İsa Camisi	Church	İstanbul	Fatih	Hasan Halife	Subsequent occupation
Pantepoptes Manastırı Kilisesi	Church	İstanbul	Fatih	Haydar	Subsequent occupation
İtfaiye Yakınındaki Sarnıç	Cistern	İstanbul	Fatih	Hüsambey	Contemporary settlements, Road
Studios Manastırı/ İmrahor Camisi	Church	İstanbul	Fatih	İmrahor İlyasbey	Natural causes
Studios Manastırı/ İmrahor Camisi	Church	İstanbul	Fatih	İmrahor İlyasbey	Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Yayla Mescidi Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Fatih	İskender Paşa	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements, Road
Etmeydanı Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Fatih	İskenderpaşa	Contemporary settlements, Road
Kariye Cami Sok.'taki Sarnıç	Cistern	İstanbul	Fatih	Kariye	Contemporary settlements, Road
Pantokrator Manastırı Büyük Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Fatih	Kasap Demirhun	Subsequent occupation
Theodosia Ayazması	Holy Spring	İstanbul	Fatih	Kasap Demirhun	Subsequent occupation, Natural causes, Illicit digging
Unkapamı Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Fatih	Kasap Demirhun	Contemporary settlements, Road
Boğdan Sarayı	Church	İstanbul	Fatih	Kasım Gürani	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements, Road

Building	Type	Province	District	Village/ Neighborhood	Destruction Type
Arcadius Sütunu	Monument	İstanbul	Fatih	Keçi Hatun	Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
Atpazarı Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Fatih	Kirmasti	Contemporary settlements, Road
Fatih Camisi Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Fatih	Kirmasti	Contemporary settlements, Road
Peribleptos	Church	İstanbul	Fatih	Koca Mustafa Paşa	Contemporary settlements
Murat Paşa Camisi Hipojesi	Bural Building	İstanbul	Fatih	Murat Paşa	Contemporary settlements, Road
Bonos Sarayı Kalıntıları	Palace	İstanbul	Fatih	Müftü Ali	Subsequent occupation
Mokios (Altmermer) Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Fatih	Seyit Ömer	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements
Pantokrator Manastırı/ Zeyrek Camisi	Monastery	İstanbul	Fatih	Sinan Ağa	Subsequent occupation
Zeyrek Camisi Batusındaki Sarnıç	Cistern	İstanbul	Fatih	Sinan Ağa	Contemporary settlements
Sofular Sok. Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Fatih	Sofular	Contemporary settlements, Road
Yeşil Tekke Sok. Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Fatih	Sofular	Contemporary settlements, Road
Bıçakçı Alaaddin Mescidi Kalıntısı	Unknown	İstanbul	Fatih	Sofular	Contemporary settlements, Road
Marcianus Sütunu (Kıztaşı)	Monument	İstanbul	Fatih	Sofular	Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
Sivasi Tekke Mescidi Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Fatih	Şeyhresmi	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements, Road
Büyük Otlukçu Yokuşu Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Fatih	Şeyhresmi	Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
Theodosius/ Eleutherios Limanı	Harbour	İstanbul	Fatih	Yalı	Contemporary settlements, Road
Hadım İbrahim Paşa Türbe Sok. 'taki Duvar	Unknown	İstanbul	Fatih	Cambaziye	Contemporary settlements, Road
Aspar/ Yavuz Selim Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Fatih	Hatip Muslihittin	Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
Sekbanbaşı İbrahim Ağa Mescidi	Church	İstanbul	Fatih	İtfaiye caddesi	Contemporary settlements, Road
Kayışdağı Manastır Kalıntısı	Unknown	İstanbul	Kadıköy	Kayışdağı	Contemporary settlements, Road
Merdivenköy'deki Yapı	Monastery	İstanbul	Kadıköy	Merdivenköy	Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
Dragos Hamamı	Bath	İstanbul	Kartal	Dragos	Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Yakacık Kilisesi	Church	İstanbul	Kartal	Yakacık	Contemporary settlements, Road
Rhegion Sarayı	Palace	İstanbul	Küçükçekmece		Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
Yarımburgaz Mağarası Kilisesi	Church	İstanbul	Küçükçekmece	Altınşehir	Illicit digging
Maltepe Süreyyapaşa Kilisesi	Church	İstanbul	Maltepe		Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
Bryas Sarayı - Küçükyalı Kalıntıları	Palace	İstanbul	Maltepe	Küçükyalı	Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Aydos Kalesi	Castle	İstanbul	Pendik	Aydos	Illicit digging, Natural causes
Pendik Manastırı	Monastery	İstanbul	Pendik	Dolayoba	Contemporary settlements
Sarıyer Kalesi	Castle	İstanbul	Sarıyer	Garipçe	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Sarıyer Kulesi	Castle	İstanbul	Sarıyer	Uskumru	Subsequent occupation
Aleksios Apokaukos Kilisesi Sarnıcı	Cistern	İstanbul	Silivri		Subsequent occupation, Other
Anastasius Surları	Fortification	İstanbul	Silivri		Natural causes, Road

Building	Type	Province	District	Village/ Neighborhood	Destruction Type
Aleksios Apokaukos Kilisesi	Church	İstanbul	Silivri		Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Spridon Kilisesi	Church	İstanbul	Silivri		Contemporary settlements, Road
Kurşunlugerme Batı Kemerli	Water Channel/ Aqueduct	İstanbul	Silivri	Gümüşpınar	Illicit digging, Natural causes
Ballıgerme Kemerli	Water Channel/ Aqueduct	İstanbul	Silivri	Gümüşpınar	Natural causes, Illicit digging
Kurşunlugerme Doğu Kemerli	Water Channel/ Aqueduct	İstanbul	Silivri	Gümüşpınar	Natural causes, Illicit digging
Silivri Kalesi	Castle	İstanbul	Silivri	Kale	Contemporary settlements
Samandıra Yazlık Sarayı	Palace	İstanbul	Sultanbeyli	Samandıra	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes, Illicit digging
Değirmenaltı Kilisesi	Church	İstanbul	Tuzla		Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Sakız Yarımadası Kalıntıları	Unknown	İstanbul	Tuzla	Sakız Yarımadası	Illicit digging, Natural causes
Beylerbeyi Kilisesi	Church	İstanbul	Üsküdar	Beylerbeyi	Contemporary settlements, Road
Yeşilköy Hipojesi	Bural Building	İstanbul	Yeşilköy	Havaalanı	Contemporary settlements
Silivrikapı Hipojesi	Bural Building	İstanbul	Zeytinburnu		Illicit digging
Kapaklı Kulesi	Tower	Kırklareli	Dereköy	Kapaklı	Illicit digging
Koruköy Kilisesi	Church	Kırklareli	Dereköy	Koruköy	Contemporary settlements, Agriculture
Koyva Kalesi	Castle	Kırklareli	Dereköy	Kuzulu	Illicit digging
Koyva Manastırı	Monastery	Kırklareli	Dereköy	Kuzulu	Illicit digging
Balkaya 1, 2, 3, 4 no'lu Kiliseler	Church	Kırklareli	Kıyıköy	Balkaya	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements, Illicit digging, Natural causes
Pınarhisar Kalesi	Castle	Kırklareli	Pınarhisar		Contemporary settlements
Direkli Mağara Manastırı	Monastery	Kırklareli	Vize		Subsequent occupation
Vize Manastırı	Monastery	Kırklareli	Vize		Subsequent occupation, Natural causes, Illicit digging
Vize Tetrakonkhosu	Church	Kırklareli	Vize		Contemporary settlements
Vize Surları	Castle	Kırklareli	Vize		Contemporary settlements, Illicit digging, Road, Natural causes
Lale Alanı Mevkii Sarnıcı	Cistern	Kırklareli	Vize	Çakıllı	Illicit digging
Evrenli Mağarası	Cave	Kırklareli	Vize	Evrenli	Subsequent occupation
Çingene Kalesi	Castle	Kırklareli	Vize	Kıyıköy	Contemporary settlements
Midye Kalesi	Castle	Kırklareli	Vize	Kıyıköy	Contemporary settlements
Kızılağaç Mezar Odası	Bural Building	Kırklareli	Vize	Kızılağaç	Illicit digging
Yoğuntaş Kalesi	Castle	Kırklareli	Yoğuntaş		Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Philokrene Kalesi	Castle	Kocaeli	Darıca	Bayramoğlu	Contemporary settlements, Road
Ritzion Kalesi	Castle	Kocaeli	Darıca	Merkez	Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
Solucak Mezar Odası	Bural Building	Kocaeli	Derince		Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Eskihisar Kalesi	Castle	Kocaeli	Gebze	Eskihisar	Other
Gölcük'teki İlica	Unknown	Kocaeli	Gölcük	Yazlık	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements
Hereke Kalesi	Castle	Kocaeli	Hereke		Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
İzmit'teki Sarnıç	Cistern	Kocaeli	İzmit	Cedit	Contemporary settlements
İzmit Tonozlu Mekan	Unknown	Kocaeli	İzmit	Cedit	Contemporary settlements, Road
İzmit Su Kanalı	Water Channel/ Aqueduct	Kocaeli	İzmit	Yenimahalle	Contemporary settlements

Building	Type	Province	District	Village/ Neighborhood	Destruction Type
Kerpe Kalesi	Castle	Kocaeli	Kandıra	Kerpe	Natural causes
Bekirderesi Mevkii Kilisesi	Church	Kocaeli	Merkez		Contemporary settlements, Road
İzmit Doğu Nekropolü Mezar Odası	Bural Building	Kocaeli	Merkez	Cedit	Contemporary settlements, Road
İzmit Şehir Surları	Castle	Kocaeli	Merkez	Merkez	Subsequent occupation, Contemporary settlements, Road
İzmit Kuzey Nekropolü Mezar Odası	Bural Building	Kocaeli	Merkez	Orhan	Road, Natural causes
İzmit Batı Nekropolü Mezar Odası	Bural Building	Kocaeli	Merkez	Yenidoğan	Contemporary settlements
Panteleimon Manastırı	Monastery	Kocaeli	Merkez	Yenidoğan	Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
Konca Mevkii Mezar Odası	Bural Building	Kocaeli	Ulaşlı		Road
Seyifler Kalesi	Castle	Sakarya	Ferizli	Seyifler	Agriculture, Illicit digging, Natural causes
Çobankale	Castle	Sakarya	Geyve	Şerifiye	Subsequent occupation, Road, Natural causes
Bağlarbaşı Kalesi	Castle	Sakarya	Geyve	Yukarı Bağlarbaşı	Contemporary settlements, Road
Adliye Kalesi	Castle	Sakarya	Merkez	Adliye	Agriculture, Natural causes
Mekece Kalesi	Castle	Sakarya	Pamukova	Mekece	Agriculture, Road, Natural causes
Metabole (Paşalar) Kalesi	Castle	Sakarya	Pamukova	Paşalar	Illicit digging, Natural causes
Cave Kale	Castle	Sakarya	Söğütlü	Cave	Agriculture, Road
Harmantepe Kalesi	Castle	Sakarya	Söğütlü	Harmantepe	Agriculture, Contemporary settlements, Illicit digging
Sangarios Köprüsü	Bridge	Sakarya	Merkez	Beşköprü	Contemporary settlements, Road
Misinli Kalesi	Castle	Tekirdağ	Çorlu	Misinli	Contemporary settlements, Agriculture
Hoşköy Seramik Atölyesi	Workshop	Tekirdağ	Hoşköy		Subsequent occupation
Perinthos Anıtsal Yapısı	Unknown	Tekirdağ	Marmara Ereğlisi		Subsequent occupation, Road
Perinthos Bazilikası	Church	Tekirdağ	Marmara Ereğlisi		Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Marmara Ereğlisi Surları	Fortification	Tekirdağ	Marmara Ereğlisi		Contemporary settlements, Natural causes, Road
Perinthos Su Yolu	Water Channel/ Aqueduct	Tekirdağ	Marmara Ereğlisi	Veliköy	Illicit digging, Natural causes
Panion Yapı Kalıntısı	Unknown	Tekirdağ	Merkez	Barbaros	Contemporary settlements, Natural causes
Kalash Mağarası	Cave	Tekirdağ	Saray		Illicit digging
Palamutdere Mağaraları 1, 2, 3	Cave	Tekirdağ	Saray		Illicit digging
Vize-Saray Su Yolu	Water Channel/ Aqueduct	Tekirdağ	Saray	Ayvacık	Road, Illicit digging, Natural causes
Çoban Kale	Castle	Yalova	Altınova	Karadere	Natural causes
Tavşanlı Kilisesi	Church	Yalova	Altınova	Tavşanlı	Contemporary settlements, Natural causes, Illicit digging
Koru Köy Ayazması	Holy Spring	Yalova	Çınarcık	Koru Köy	Contemporary settlements, Road
Yalova Su Kemerli	Water Channel/ Aqueduct	Yalova	Çınarcık	Teşvikiye	Contemporary settlements, Road, Natural causes
Kara Kilise	Unknown	Yalova	Çiftlikköy	Sahil	Contemporary settlements
Yalova'da Altyapı	Unknown	Yalova	Merkez	Çiftlikköy	Contemporary settlements
Pylaea Kalesi	Castle	Yalova	Merkez	Çiftlikköy	Contemporary settlements, Road
Yalova Termal'deki Yapı	Unknown	Yalova	Merkez	Gökçedere	Contemporary settlements

SELECTED VISUAL DOCUMENTATION OF DESTRUCTION (MARMARA - BYZANTINE)



Northern Necropolis of İzmit: The building complex at the Orhan Quarter to the north of İzmit is one of the most important ancient cemeteries in the region with public type of graves from the Late Roman and Early Byzantine Periods. Dated to the 4th century, they are now under the threat of a ring road linking to the İstanbul-Ankara highway, and of one of the most rapidly developing quarters of İzmit known as Turgut Mahallesi.



City Walls of İzmit: First erected by Nicomedes I (278-250 BC), founder of İznik (Nicomedia), the extant sections of the walls bear traces of four main periods from the 4th century till the 15th century. The sea walls were destroyed and demolished during the construction of the D-100 motorway in 1995. Recently, the construction of an underpass at the SSK Junction revealed that re-exposed walls extend for approximately 2 km. At present these fortifications, older than 2000 years, still traceable at some sections, will be demolished during these road construction activities, and the distance between İstanbul and Ankara will be shortened for 2 minutes more by the highway.



Church Ruins 2 at İznik: Unfortunately the destiny of İznik Church 2, dated to the 11th century is not any different than the other churches in İznik. The southern section has been obscured by the parking lot, the northern section by the road, and the eastern section by the shops. On top of it, trees planted by local authorities as if they are implying that “we destroyed all, but at least it looks nice”... What remains from the church is only a wall of one or two rows, and a stone of one or two pieces... which also will be lying under the parking lot very soon.



Direkli Cave Monastery: This cave monastery situated near Vize is a complex entirely carved into the rocks. It consists of many rooms, and a large church, but now it shelters stray dogs and goats. It is almost impossible to access the monastery due to inhospitable dogs and owners of the shelter, which is full of goats anyway.



Ayasofya Church of İznik: Ayasofya, which is situated at the district center of İznik, has been completely modified due to recent interventions by unexperienced, ignorant and unconscious authorities and contractors in such a way that almost nothing has been left from its original identity and historical value. With its collapsed walls, high tile hipped roof, flaked off domes, openings closed by glass, minaret built with concrete, electrical wirings and water pipes...



Church Ruins 1 at İznik: Situated near the İstanbul Gate at İznik, only the southern section of this 11th century church is still extant. Part of the church had been demolished during the construction of the Kumbaşı Street while the remaining parts were destroyed during the enlargement activities of the same street in 2006. The environs of the church have been converted into a public park, with trees planted and benches installed. The architectural elements of the building were used for the park benches. The only thing that is done in the name of preservation of cultural assets nowadays is that: the church is being washed every day!



Building Remains at İznik: These remains in the Mustafa Kemal Paşa quarter were excavated between 1988 and 1994. The building complex with a large church was presumably part of the İznik Palace during the Byzantine period. However, many new buildings, including the Bagkur Houses, have been, and are still being, constructed over the remains. Walls to the right and left, scattered fragments of ceramics on the ground, surrounding architectural elements here and there... Apparently the contractor convinced the Preservation Board that the area is free of any artifacts so that they laid the foundations of his modern building right on top of the Byzantine structure.



Church Near İznik Theater: Nobody recalls this church, lying to the immediate east of the İznik Theater, as a church anymore. As locals refer to it, it is now “a warehouse, not a church!”. Why? Because until recently it had been used as a warehouse and a barn. On top of it, this building currently filled with garbage up to the roofing, and partly obscured by the newly built roads, is a registered site which had been excavated within the scope of excavations initiated at the İznik theater.



Beyazıt Cistern 1: Two of the three cisterns located in Beyazıt were demolished during the construction of subterranean passage at Vezneciler. One of these can still be seen right below the precinct and electric company at the beginning of the tunnel. The refreshment booth, adjacent to the two extant colonnades of the cistern in east-west direction arranged a seating area inside the cistern for their clients. The roof and the decorated capitals of the cistern that extend under the buildings at upper level, so to speak, invites (!) us to have “döner kebab under cistern”.



Atpazarı Cistern: This is the intersection of the Mihçılar Avenue and the Keserciler Street in the Kırmaslı Quarter of Fatih District. Here, there is a large cistern, which was unearthed during the installation of telecommunication lines by PTT in 1978. The survey conducted during that period revealed that the cistern measures 35x18 m in dimensions. At present, it has been obscured by many blocks of flats and two avenues.



Cistern at Eşrefzade Quarter of İzmit: The cistern is situated on the Eşref Eroğlu Street of the Eşrefzade Quarter. Only a few ruins are available, hardly noticeable among high grass. The process of destruction was initiated in 1972 when the landowner demolished the cistern by bulldozers to construct a road and a building. The cistern doesn't exist anymore. Ironically both the cistern and the quarter were named after the demolisher: Eşrefzade Quarter - Eşrefzade Cistern.



Balaban Ağa Masjid: The excavation of the Balaban Ağa Masjid by Arif Müfid Mansel in 1930 is the first excavation conducted in the İstanbul Citadel by the Turkish scientists. Mansel published his excavation results within the same year. Actually a 5th century Byzantine burial structure, it was converted into a mosque during the 15th century right after the Sultan Mehmed II period. The building suffered grave damage from a fire in 1911, and it was completely demolished during road enlargement works in 1930. This picture shows current view of the place where the small mosque used to be located at, in the Balabanağa Quarter of Fatih District.



Abdülvahap Burial Chamber: You may look at this picture and think “See, these Byzantines had even plastic graves”, but this not the case here. It is actually our artistic production... three burial chambers under plastic covers and a pile of soil - all decorated with paintings, dating back to almost 1700 years ago. Following the salvage excavations by the museum in 2006, the burial chambers were packed in plastics and covered with a heap of earth. And, then in 2008 State Hydraulic Works threw opened the chambers while trying to open channels! And, later on, thanks to those people highly interested in history (!) the burial chambers dating to the Byzantine Period became like this.



Balkaya Church 1: There are 3 cavern churches in the Kıyıköy District of Kırklareli, which are very close to each other. All three churches are currently used as goat shelters. As seen in this shot, many decorations including the cross figures are destroyed to make sure that the goats are not disturbed in any way! But more harm was given to these churches by robbers than these “ignorant” goats. The small picture shows one of the illumination gadgets used by these treasure hunters.



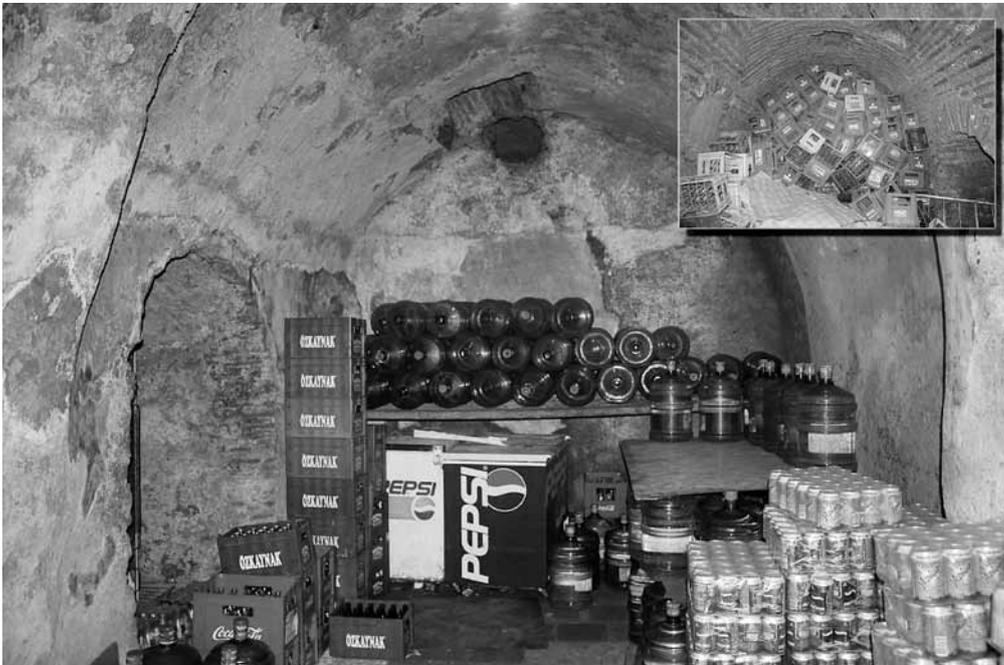
Evrenli Cave: Since it is a very common practice in Thrace, we see that this cave is also used as an animal shelter. With clear traces from the Byzantine Period, it is under the threat of constant destruction, apparently due to lack of another spot in the region to shelter the goats and for the sake of their owner.



Beyazıt Church D: There are late 11th century church remains on the basement of the Faculty of Sciences of the İstanbul University at Laleli in the section where there are lecture halls and the boiler room. The boiler that is used to heat the faculty building is right at the center of the church. Next to this building, subway construction works continue on the Reşit Paşa Avenue.



Remains Underneath the Hotel Grand Savur: A large section of the remains unearthed during the construction of the Hotel Grand Savur in the Şehzadebaşı Quarter of Eminönü District in İstanbul in 1990 is currently being used as boiler room of the hotel. The remains, actually extending under the hotel across named the History Hotel, have been already under protection! As seen here, even fake columns were erected at the center to support the building, and the walls were strengthened with concrete. Now the clients of the hotel can sleep in peace in their rooms!



Remains at Acmusluk Street: This magnificent building at the intersection of the Cağaloğlu Ramp and the Cemal Nadir Street in the Hobyar Quarter of Istanbul, is probably part of one of the few extant Byzantine palaces in İstanbul. This enduring structure, of which another section was partially exposed during the construction of an inn nearby, and then immediately demolished in 1965, still supports a huge “inn” even today. It has been currently used for storing soft drink crates. So, if you'd like to have some refreshments from the cellar of the Botaniates' palace ...



Kalenderhane Mosque: Interior of the chapel dating to the 12th century, lying to the northeast of the Kalenderhane Mosque, one of the most important Byzantine artifacts in İstanbul. This section, which was allocated to a cleaning contractor by the municipality, is no longer a church or a religious building, but a storage facility. Furthermore, a huge iron door was installed at the entrance to keep their invaluable garbage carts and brooms from being stolen.



Remains Underneath the Adem Trade Center: These remains can only be accessed through a fabrics shop at the bottom floor of the Adem Trade Center on the Ali Şuaip Street at No. 25 in the Balaban Ağa Quarter of Eminönü District. It is used as warehouse of a trade center which was constructed upon permission immediately after the salvage excavations performed by the Archaeological Museums of İstanbul between 1990-91. The Byzantine architectural elements have been superimposed for decorative purposes to have a “nice” ambience.



Karpos - Papylos/Menas Church: The church which was dated to the 5th century is situated on the Nafiz Gürman Avenue in the Samatya Neighbourhood of İstanbul. The building was used as a nunnery between the 10th and 12th centuries, and now it houses two shops, an iron workshop and a car wash shop. Believe it or not!



Konstantinos Lips Church/Fenari İsa Mosque: Founded by a Byzantine admiral in 907, it was converted into a masjid in 1496, and then into a mosque in 1636. It is located in the Hasan Halife Quarter of Fatih District in İstanbul, and it currently serves as a mosque. It represents example of the most effective destruction by subsequent occupation in İstanbul documented with its PVC coverings, interior full of carpets, extent of destruction caused by electrical and water pipes.



Soğanağa Trade Center: This building underlying the Star Trade Center at Laleli, a neighbourhood which witnessed one of the greatest destructions on the Historic Peninsula, probably dates to the early Byzantine Period. No systematic investigation was carried out on the remains, which were exposed during the construction of the center in 1996-97. Suffering under steel pillars erected to support approximately 50 shops inside the trade center, this Byzantine structure extends under the adjacent trade centers and shops. And if this is not the perfect example of a terrible destruction, then, what is it?



Cistern at Sivasi Tekke Masjid: There is a huge 5th century cistern under the Sivasi Tekke Masjid which did not survive to the present day at the intersection of the Yavuz Selim Avenue and the Ali Naki Street in the Fatih District of İstanbul. Currently known as Sultan's cistern, it is being used as a restaurant, it is nowhere near a cistern anymore, no matter wherever you look at it from...



Boğdan Palace: What you see here is part of a 13th century Byzantine church. Located on the Draman Avenue in the Fatih District, the remains are being used as a tyre repair shop at present! See what became of cultural assets. That must be the real essence of preservation! If these remains, which are almost to be completely vanished, are not urgently taken under protection, a little while later another photograph will display nothing else, but the “emperor’s car wheels”...



Bonos Palace: The remains near the Islamic-Ottoman Social Complex of Sultan Yavuz Selim in the Müftü Ali Quarter of Fatih District in İstanbul, belong to a Byzantine palace. The houses inside the palace and the dense urbanization in the environs will pretty soon destroy all traces of the palace.



Antiochos Palace and Euphemia Church: Several salvage excavations were conducted in this important building situated at Sultanahmet as a 5th century palace and church between 1952 and 1964 before construction of the modern courthouse of İstanbul. A large section of the remains were destroyed as a result of this construction. Wall painting consisting of 14 scenes depicting the biography and the tortures experienced by Saint Euphemia from the 13th century lie to the west of the neglected remains that are situated in the parking lot of the courthouse. These frescoes will also disappear soon if not protected just like others which were on other sections of the remains known to be existing until very recently.



Rhegion Palace: The Rhegion Palace dating to the 5th century was a building complex that consisted of many structures. An important part of this complex was situated in the Cennet Quarter of Küçükçekmece in İstanbul. We use past tense because there are no traces of the palace at present except for four columns. The enormous land on the “Antika Avenue” where the palace was once located, clearly shows how the cultural assets get destroyed and lost from the records of history.



Cave Fortress: There is no fortress in this shot, you can only trace only a few irrigation canals here and there, new plantation areas, and some collapsed walls. From the Cave Fortress lying to the south of the Mağara Village in the Söğütlü District of Sakarya, nothing but only some building stones remained under the roads running over its four walls at present. This is an example of how destruction by agriculture destroyed a Byzantine fortress.



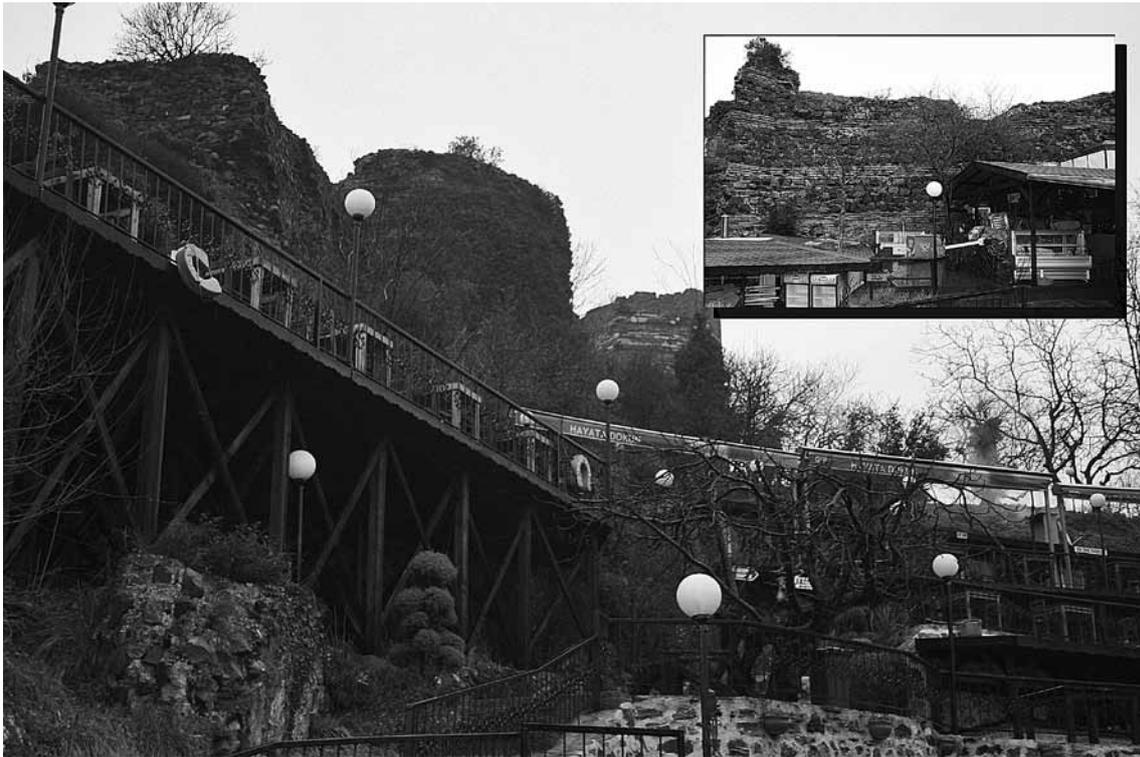
Çatalca Fortress: The fortress resting in the Kaleiçi Quarter of Çatalca has been under the threat of intense destruction resulting from urbanization and new road constructions. Who bothers for a new foundation while there are Byzantine walls all ready. Some leveling on top of these fortifications, and adding the fallen stones into the foundation; here we go, we have our house ready! Who cares about preservation anyway! In case of any hostile attack, we pull them back...



Edirne Walls: The walls which protected Edirne for approximately 1000 years from the 2nd century to the 12th century are in urgent need of protection. In fact, nothing has been left to protect. This shot portrays the modern buildings rising above the chapel dating to the 10th century, situated to the immediate south-east of the Macedonian tower, which is the only remaining structure from the Edirne walls. The chapel itself had been almost completely destroyed 25 years ago with a building constructed over it.



Ahmetli Fortress: The building stones of the fortress situated at Gölboyu Mevkii of the Ahmetli Village in Çatalca were used in the construction of the road. Some foundations were demolished during the construction of canals in the region. Parts of the walls can be traced inside the lake, while the bastions on the land are used as fishermen's shelter. Plenty of sherds and building elements has been scattered around.



Yoros Fortress: The only extant Byzantine fortress in İstanbul dating to the 13th century is situated at Anadolu Kavağı. Therefore, it is increasingly under the threat of heavy destruction due to rent seeking opportunities in this region. Particularly the southern walls were destroyed in 2005 to be used as a tea garden and restaurant.



Kerpe Fortress: It rests on a rocky area overlooking the sea to the north of Kerpe in the Kandıra District of Kocaeli. Nothing was left from the fortress, in which the ancient harbor of Kerpe is also situated, except a few meters long wall and a few vacationers who go swimming from the rocks!



Aya Sotiri Church: Nothing remained from the Byzantine church, which was located at Kumi Mevkii of the Zeytinbağı Town in Mudanya. The church collapsed completely, and a concrete flimsy house was built upon it. The people who constructed the building were also involved in a number of illicit diggings around and inside the church. Now, deep pits dug by treasure hunters are observed inside the building, which has been already abandoned.



Ayakapı Chapel: A building and a log storage were built above what was left from the Ayakapı Chapel, which was dated to the 11th and 12th centuries (situated in the Ayakapı Street of the Abdi Subaşı Quarter in Fatih District). The apse of this small church, where the priests offered their services, now can be seen through the piles of logs inside the store. We have seen churches converted into mosques, but this is the first example of a church converted into a timber shop...



Veliefendi Hippodrome or Campus Tribunalis: Campus Tribunalis was a famous Byzantine structure complex, famous with its swimming pools and baths lying on a very large piece of land. This area which was built by Emperor Valentinian I in the 4th century had stepped seatings called tribunal. This unfortunate area was also a camping site for the Byzantine army before and after a campaign. It is currently being used as Veliefendi Hipodromu. That means, where Valentinian I saluted his armies in the 4th century, now the bets are on horses...



Ayasofya of Edirne: Courtyard of the old warehouses of the State Monopoly, now the Murat I High School in the Kaleiçi Quarter of Edirne. It is known that once the church of Ayasofya was rising in that courtyard. And now it is completely “gone with the wind”...



Kara Kilise: It represents a very important example of the Byzantine architecture with its masonry consisting of solely bricks, from the Early Byzantine Period. It is situated at the Başkent Summer Resorts 1 in the Sahil Quarter of Çiftlikköy in Yalova. Lying in the middle of the recreation center which is in the service of inhabitants and vacationers, it survived many destructive earthquakes, but looks helpless against the harm human beings can give.



Building at Merdivenköy: The monastery remains at Merdivenköy in the Kadıköy District of İstanbul are currently being used as parking lot of an apartment complex built in 2005. Forget its authentic identity, it is now nothing, but an element of landscaping. The major part of the structure was destroyed during the construction of this building.



Odalar Mosque: Almost no remains are available from the building situated at the Karagömrük Neighbourhood of Fatih District. Being used until a fire in 1919 with many modifications, it was considered as an important artifact representing the Byzantine architecture as well as wooden architecture of the 19th century. As of today, only some walls can be seen among the houses on the Kasım Odalar Street.



Osmangazi Building Complex: These building remains which were unearthed during a campaign by the Bursa Museum in 2000, are situated inside a public park at Hisar in the Osmangazi District of Bursa. It seems that the nice Bursa view from the park was not enough, so the business owners decided to place a TV set inside the tea garden, which was installed by hammering a steel support inside the 1000 years old walls...



Pylaea Fortress: Based on the resources, the Pylaea fortress was built by Emperor Manuel Comnenus in 1145. What remained of the fortress' harbor at the Huzur summer resorts in the Çiftlikköy District of Yalova can be seen in this picture. The enclosing walls of the summer resorts were seated onto the fortress walls. It is known that the fortifications were destroyed during the construction of the resorts. Usually preferred by vacationers looking for peace in summer, these resorts gave no rest to the 900 years old Pylaea fortress.



Theodoros/Tahtalı Church: What survived from the church situated just out of the Tahtalı Village to the west of Bursa is a large pit, full of garbage. Many building elements are scattered around the church, situated in the middle of the wood, and many pits are observed in the vicinity due to illicit diggings.



Triada Chapel: This cave which had been inhabited since the Hellenistic Period was also used as a subterranean church during the Byzantine period in the 14th century with its own cemetery. This impressive chapel, with plenty of frescoes on its walls, is accessible through a flimsy cottage in the garden of a house at the Gazi Ömer Quarter of Enez District in Edirne. The description of St. Mary carved onto the rock witnessed numerous illicit diggings, waiting for a hand to reach her along with the skeletons exposed during these illicit diggings.



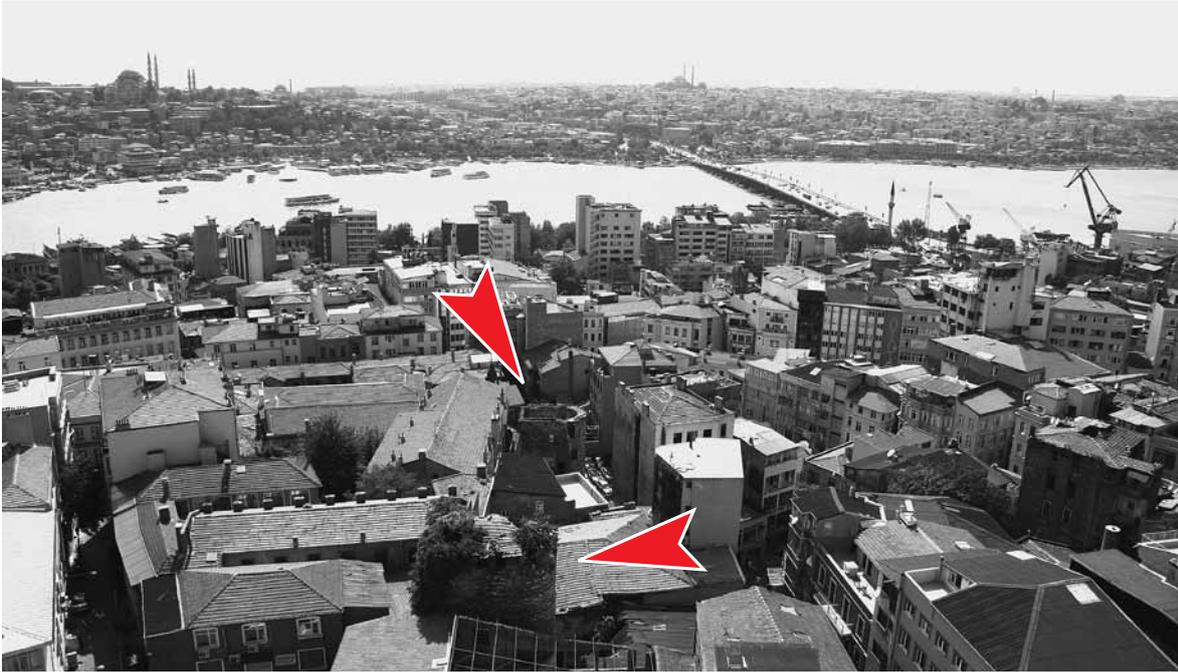
Tetraconchos of Vize: It is believed that the tetraconchos, i.e. four bays in semi-circular plan covered by a half-dome and added symmetrically onto a central bay, was used as a baptistry or martyrium (monumental building above the graves of religious martyres). This tiny structure is situated next to the Şarapdar Hasan Bey Camii in the district of Vize at Kırklareli, and a major part of it has been destroyed, some parts extending under courtyard wall of the mosque, and the remaining parts used as chicken coop.



Yurtyeri Monastery: The remains situated at Cumalı Kızık on the skirts of the Uludağ mountain in the Yıldırım Quarter of Bursa probably belong to one of the many monasteries well-known in the region. No systematic survey has been conducted at the site yet. The structure and its building elements had been completely shattered by the thieves, and the eastern section disappears gradually towards the Balıklı stream due to landslide.



Pendik Monastery: A very important Byzantine structure excavated by the İstanbul Museums of Archaeology between 1973 and 1975: Pendik Monastery. Even registered! The monastery which is situated at the intersection of the Vişne Street and the Çınardere Viaduct while driving from Pendik to Kurtköy, almost disappeared under the apartment blocks which are still under construction and the viaduct which was finished between 1995-96. Here is the Pendik Monastery!



Galata Walls: This shot beautifully displays how the Galata walls disappear under such an urbanization process. The two large bastions, –as shown with arrows– are situated to the southwest of the Galata tower. These bastions from the Galata walls which were systematically destroyed from 1864-65 till now survived to the present day along with the Galata tower, and limited number of wall remains near the tower, walls at Azapkapı and Yanık Gate.



Istanbul Walls: All destruction types are visible on the Istanbul walls: Since some sections just “took off and flew away” during the construction of the main roads near Edirnekapı and Topkapı, and some other parts on the seaside “were taken away” during the construction of railways, nothing can be done anymore to save these. And we are all familiar with the unskillful fictitious restoration implementations. Housing seen almost everywhere now became an ordinary part of the walls. The trees that grew on the walls and the plantation fields around add to the momentum of the destruction process. The attack against historic assets is being poorly hidden by a humongous performing arts’ scene veiling the Yedikule walls, however it is far from concealing the horrible destruction on the 21 km long walls...

