

Tracing the Modern Architecture of the Republican Era on Housing in Antakya

With its cultural context and its architectural texture shaped by this structure, Antakya is a city that has a unique atmosphere. It has had spaces that have largely preserved their originality. However, the city of Antakya is among the regions most affected by the February 6 earthquakes. Almost all the buildings in the city memory, whether qualified or unqualified, have been destroyed or damaged. Volunteer architects, engineers, non-governmental organizations and academics are struggling to protect and resolve the debris of registered and qualified buildings in the urban site and to ensure that the buildings will be reconstructed in accordance with their original form.

Antakya has entered into a process that requires highly sensitive work in order to come back to life with its own unique structure. Many of the residential buildings reflecting the modern architecture of the Republican era have disappeared in this chaotic atmosphere, without their values have been recognized and their place in Turkish architecture has been discussed yet. Only a few of these residences have survived. For the houses that do not exist anymore, photographs, plans and facade data of these buildings can be obtained by contacting the municipalities, users and other city residents. Research on these houses will reveal the transformation of residential spaces in the historical process. This information will provide important data about the socio-economic and cultural structure of the city. These works should be carried out before the residential buildings reflecting the modern architecture of the Republican era are erased from the memory of the city while the city is trying to get rid of the debris quickly in order to return to its normal life,

We can read the modern architectural features of the Republican era in the houses built between 1950-1970 in Antakya. While Yüz Evler in Sümerler neighborhood and Ak-İş in Akevler neighborhood are examples of mass housings; apartment block type residences are concentrated around Kemalpaşa Street, Kışlasaray Neighborhood and Vali Ürgen area. Many of the houses with modern architectural features of the Republican era had been destroyed by urban transformations before the earthquake took place, and a significant part of the remaining ones were destroyed in the February 6 earthquakes. Comprehensive studies involving various actors of the city are needed to identify these structures, which are an important part of urban memory.

The aim of this study is; Firstly, to expand the scope and increase the number of housing samples examined within the scope of the master's thesis titled "Reading the Practices of Modern Architecture of the Republican Era on Housing in Antakya (1950-1970)" and to create the Republican era modern housing archive in Antakya. Then, by determining the current status of these houses after urban transformation and earthquakes, to support the preservation of the houses that have survived to the present day, and thus to create an awareness about the practices of modern architecture of the Republican Era on housing in Antakya.