

## Features of the development of the city of Samsun

The city Samsun is located in the north of Turkey next to Kizilirmak River on the Black Sea coast. The planning structure of this city, with a semi-linear, central semi-closed zone, differs from a rich collection of monuments. Very favourable climatic conditions, natural surrounding forests, waterfalls, ancient caves make it interesting for tourists. In the article, the value of the city of Samsun can be estimated from four aspects: historical-archaeological excavations; ancient architecture-urban monuments; touristic importance and industrial potential. The study put forward some suggestions for their preservation. The trends of construction and modernization in the city have led to the destruction of many historical buildings. Especially in the post-1950 period, when the city's population grew rapidly, rapid and unplanned construction and zoning methods that ignore the preservation of historical texture has accelerated the destruction of historical heritage. The city's historic buildings have recently been renovated, they have entered the modern life of the city, and the historical and cultural heritage of the city has been passed on to future generations.

**Keywords:** Samsun, ancient city, Ottoman Empire, monuments, caves, museums, wooden houses.



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Особенности развития города Самсун

Город Самсун находится на севере Турции, у побережья Черного моря, в месте впадения в него реки Кызылрмак. Планировочная структура города, представляющего собой полулинейный полузамкнутый центральный район, богата историческими памятниками. Благоприятные климатические условия, окружающие леса, водопады, древние пещеры делают его интересным для туристов. В статье ценность города Самсун рассмотрена с четырех точек зрения: историко-археологические раскопки; памятники древней архитектуры; городские памятники; туристическая значимость и промышленный потенциал. Выдвинут ряд предложений по их сохранению. Тенденции строительства и модернизации города привели к разрушению многих исторических зданий. Особенно в период после 1950-х годов, когда население города стало быстро расти, быстрое и незапланированное строительство и методы зонирования, игнорирующие сохранение исторической фактуры, ускорили разрушение исторического наследия. Исторические здания города недавно были отреставрированы, они вошли в современную жизнь города, а историческое и культурное наследие города было передано будущим поколениям.

**Ключевые слова:** Самсун, древний город, Османская империя, памятники, пещеры, музеи, деревянные дома.

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### Introduction

Samsun has been a settlement since the earliest known times of history. It is known that since the 5000s BC, many states and civilizations dominated and ruled this region. People and communities with different faiths and cultural structures have lived here at different periods of history. Samsun and its environs remained under the rule of the Hittites, Phrygians, Cimmerians, Lydians, Persians, Macedonians, Pontians, Romans and Byzantine states.

The study of the rich architectural heritage of the cities of the Middle East countries and the problems of restoration and reconstruction of monuments attracts. Formation of the city of Samsun dates to BC, but it was popular long ago among the countries of the Middle East since it is located on the seacoast. Samsun evolved as a city due to its long-standing connection with

ancient caravans and waterways. Although Samsun has historically been a settlement of various civilizations, there were no major monumental structures and works of art in the city, as it could not have become an administrative or important centre in the past. Most of the historical heritage of the city consists of examples of civil architecture. Among them, commercial structures occupy an important place, as it is a commercial and port city.

Along with religious and memorial monuments, it was famous for ancient residential buildings. The city, founded by the Greeks, later had been under the reign of many Rulers, but afterwards being included in Ottoman Empire has undergone many changes due to objective reasons [14].

Therefore, the study of its monuments is relevant and interesting. Today, the population of the city of Samsun is 0.5 million. For its wide potential and political activity, the city is an

important administrative centre at the same time. If we refer to history, we will see that the name of the city founded by the Greeks as «Amisos» was one of the colonies of Pontanino times. Even in the VII century BC, this city had access to the Mediterranean.

In the manuscripts of Strabo, it is also noted that II and I centuries BC, after the reign of Rome Empire, current Samsun, during the rule of Byzantine Empire was one of its main ports. In the middle of the Middle Ages (1204) was the second city of the Empire of Trebizond. In the XV century, it passed from the Greeks under the reign of the Turkish Seljuks and accepted Islam in the Ottoman Empire. Samsun was an important port city during the Seljuk period. Although it remained important during the Ottoman period, the city of Samsun, like other Black Sea port cities, decreased in importance as the Black Sea became the inland sea of the Ottoman Empire in the 15th and 16th centuries and the entry of foreign ships was prohibited. From the middle of the 19th century, the city began to develop again. During this period, the entry of European ships into the ports of the Black Sea, the development of tobacco industry in Bafra and Samsun and the creation of a tobacco factory, the beginning of use by migrants from the Caucasus of the port of Trabzon, as well as the port of Samsun and the relocation of a significant part of migrants to Samsun and its environs accelerated the development of the city.

A deeper study of the monuments of the city with such a rich history and analysis of the essence of architecture is perceived as the ultimate objective of the paper. The following issues were brought to the fore during the study relevant to the purpose.

- Determination of the place and role of the city of Samsun in the country settlement system;
- The growth of the scale of the planning changes that took place throughout the historical quarters of the city of Samsun and the increase in its essence manifested itself per its resources and monuments.
- Disclosure of the typological features of the monuments of the city of Samsun and restoration of the existing monuments in a possible way and their use under modern requirements remains an important issue.

## Materials and methods

Data used were obtained from the Ministry of Urban Planning and the Municipality of Samsun. The method is based on complex analysis, including



Illustration 1. Port of Samsun (<https://altinoz.com.tr/samsun-lojistik-koy-ihracatta-sicrama-yaratacak/samsun-lojistik-koy/>)



Illustration 2. Geographic location of the port Samsun (<https://www.samsunport.com.tr/tr/anasayfa>)

historical, archival, and literary analysis. The research methodology is based on the search and study of the information found. In this study, the presence of spatial segregation in the rapidly populated city of Samsun, which spreads around, was investigated. Since some data were not presented at the neighborhood level, the state of segregation was investigated at the district level.

The history of the opening of the topic and analysis of the modern city of Samsun consistently determine the possibilities of using the buildings considered as monuments of the ancient, Middle, and 19th-20th centuries and their natural climate, economic, urbanization and the ecological situation is studied in the definition of the architectural-planning feature [21].

Since the population of the city is very diverse, their settlement forms differ little from each other. On the other hand, the natural conditions of the urban area also allowed to expand the process of urbanization, as the summer temperature in the areas of Samsun, which has a subtropical climate, is not more than 30° so that for the growth of agricultural products (tobacco, wool, fruit, Paddy, etc.) there are all conditions [22]. Samsun has favourable

conditions in terms of transport. Along with a major water port, the city also has an airport. At the same time, the city of Samsun stands at the junction of railways and highways, so foreign relations were the impetus for the development of its food and chemical industry. The population here is also engaged in fishing (Illustration 1, 2).

The city of Samsun attracts tourists from all countries at the expense of its centuries-old history and numerous architectural structures and monuments as a research object. Natural architectural structures (ancient settlements, waterfalls, temples, museums, ancient wooden houses) increases their popularity.

Identification of ways to solve issues of restoration and reconstruction of this heritage, reconciliation with the architectural heritage of many eastern countries, remain valid in modern times. Thus, analyzing the city from a historical point of view, it turns out that the architectural and urban experience of Samsun with ancient history located in the northern region of Turkey and acting as a historical place is very rich.

When analyzing the architectural monuments of the city of Samsun, first, it is necessary to indicate the construction of a famous wooden house from the early Middle Ages. Their forms





Illustration 3. Satellite image of the Kyzylirmak river delta (<https://bolge07.dsi.gov.tr/>)

and constructive solution are so interesting that by analyzing them it would be convenient to reveal many structural points and use them in a modern way of life [2].

The historical houses of Samsun, as a rule, are two-story above the ground, the external walls are made of masonry brick (some large structures are made of stone), the internal partitions are made of baghdadi. For example, in some structures it is carried by two (sometimes four) wooden or stone poles, and in some structures, it is supported by iron rods. The destroyed roof is covered with alatur tiles, the cornices of these structures are faced with wood. There are also putrelled, vaulted floors in the old buildings, the floors and basements of which are made of stone and brick, the mutual walls of which are connected by thick lamellas, forming floors. Examples of civil architectural structures such as mansions in the city are better preserved than other public dwellings. These structures, generally more visible in the central part of the city, were rebuilt and preserved by both the owners and the central and local government because many of them have been transferred to the public.

However, the construction of a large-scale city monument can be attributed to its socio-religious construction, among which are Haji-Khatun, Pazar mosques and several piers.

The city of Samsun is famous for its multifaceted natural sights, archaeological museums (Ship-Museum and Bandirma Museum) [3]. The Bandirma museum was formed in the nineteenth century as a knot of the Scottish Turkish navy [23].

What makes the city of Samsun fascinating to its natural historical environment monument is the Kızılırmak River [15] (Illustration 3).

At its source live birds of a very rare type. Takkikoy cave and Ikieten near the city which is the old settlement of Samsun are the ruins of the ancient town [18]. Along with these, it is the wooden houses that make it famous, there are roofs with a sharp inclination of residential houses built of rough wood trunks. It consists of various premises. Although the houses are made of wood, their exteriors and yard environments are provided with very beautiful greenery. The architectural and constructive solution of houses differs significantly from the low-rise type of houses [1]. Great attention was paid to the comfort of the home, not the artistic design (Illustration 4).

Although not very convincing, this industrial city can also be called a tourist centre, where many international festivals are held throughout the year. In general, ancient Samsun was also called the homeland of the amazons [6]. It should be noted that, in the paper, the organization, which characterizes the architectural and planning monuments of the

city of Samsun, is adapted to their natural climatic conditions, which has always manifested itself in the constructive elements of residential houses [5]. Thus, because of the changes in time, the group of local factors, combined with the technological level, material, and production markets, identified ways of rational plan-space solutions, which in total acquitted itself from any and economic point of view [8].

It should also be noted that the temperature-humidity indicator of the city of Samsun extends the rest season here [13]. Its mild and sometimes hot climate conditions reveal the undesirable features of some buildings under the influence of winds blowing from the Black Sea, which prevails all year round, but it has the power to give up these conditions. In this case, some buildings allow thermal insulation by giving them a wavy shape, rather than a rectangular transmission, making it possible to regulate the air in constructions from the outside and create conditions for optimal creation.

Necessary tools for the favourable use of sun protection devices (screens, blinds, roofs, etc.) help itself is most often convenient when the windows are oriented to the South. Therefore, the «southeast» direction is considered the most favourable direction for the provision of windows.

But there are houses in Samsun that are in both directions (between 200–290° according to the geographical area). In the modern construction of residential houses, the volume of mid-storey houses-planning dimensions is mainly built on a modular system (width 4, 80, 5, 40, 640 m and from floor to floor — up to 280–300 m) to create comfortable conditions [7].

Sometimes even in experimental design, the number of rooms in the buildings assembled based on a carcass is like each other, and for them, the accumulated constructive elements are collected in factory conditions, which reduces the construction time of buildings [16].

In this sense, the construction of one-two-section houses in the city of Samsun in 30 years is commendable. However, the release of high-rise houses is typical for the southern districts of Samsun [9–10].

## Results

In the study, extensive explanations were given about the construction of houses with such meridian features, mainly directed to the south and north with windows.

The experience of designing a sectional house adapted to such natural conditions brings great success since in this case, it is possible to organize the double aspect of houses, as well as their normal insulation and ventilation are provided [24].

However, one sectional house can be oriented on the other side. For example, it can be oriented to the sea, park, or open space squares. For this reason, it is important to issue detailed regulations on the construction of multi-apartment houses in the city [20]. Even if the house has a lot of apartments, or even if the rooms in the apartment take one-sided direction, the difference in the assessment does not exist, because the floor increases, the cost of vertical communication also increases. Under these conditions, it is recommended to provide dead-end corridors in houses with 6–8 apartments on each floor [17].

It should be noted that the increase in the construction of such houses is very favourable due to numerous young people in the city. However, some houses are both affordable and economical because they are two-block sliding models.

Recently, a sub-storey of hotel-type houses have been built in the city of Samsun, which is very suitable for public catering, household, and children's rest.

However, during construction, the assembling of apartments around vertical single communication. In terms of health and technical conditions, the corner also provides



Illustration 4. Historical houses of Samsun (<https://samsun.ktb.gov.tr/TR-216943/tarihi-evler.html>)

good insulation and favourable accommodation of rooms and apartments.

### Discussion

Since the planned structure of the city of Samsun is urban-oriented, it allows for an unobstructed reconstruction of the old residential quarters. Thus, the forms of one-sectional houses in the maintenance of the picturesque building view bring revival to the sea panorama of the city [19]. Another advantage of such houses and what distinguishes them from other houses is that they are free of a long corridor system compared to sectional houses. Unfortunately, there are no gallery-type houses in the city, although linear corridors reminiscent of such a transit open corridor protect living rooms from heat [11]. In the paper, it is recommended that special attention be paid to the design of houses with bilateral windings. Such an approach is considered very convenient for the city of Samsun because the beautiful surroundings allow connection with beautiful nature [12].

Designed for the city of Samsun, accommodation in front of the kitchen and living rooms in the gallery houses allowed to protect the living rooms from street noise. In addition, it can be said that the inclusion of one-block high-rise houses in the mid-storey residential areas, which have recently been a planning liner structure, the use of a mixed form of the building prevents the spread of the construction along the sea and allows the addition of greenery in liberated areas [25].

Thus, maintenance of centuries-old tradition in residential construction in Samsun, a modern coastal city in the historical period, ensuring the progress of the sustainable urbanization process leads to the following results.

- The city of Samsun is continuing projects aimed at historical protection, as well as the examples of conservation, related to the preservation of cities and the transfer of cultural heritage to future generations. One such project is «Project Hour Square».
- Despite recent positive developments towards urban conservation, as shown in the above examples, many historic structures, especially private ones, have been abandoned.
- The social dimension and social benefits of protection require conservation cooperation that extends to society. Public and voluntary participation in protection practices is important.
- In addition to forming public opinion in the field of protection with foundations or non-profit organizations, in the field of restoration and maintenance of historical buildings, the provision of credit funds and technical assistance to individual enterprises, as well as assistance to individuals in the rental, sale and operation of these buildings.

### Conclusion

When studying the social and cultural history of Samsun, it is necessary to divide it into historical periods in parallel with the general political developments in the country. Throughout history, the painful and sweet lives of people living in this region and different faith structures have been a factor in the formation of this cultural structure. It is possible to see all the features of Turkish culture in Samsun during the Ottoman period. The political and social upheavals experienced in the country during the last Ottoman period and the transition to the Republic have brought about great social and cultural transformations in Samsun.

It also made it possible to list the following findings, which showed themselves at the beginning of the content of the paper and the analysis of the study:

1. The basis of the modern status of the city of Samsun is its deep and strong relationship with the historical roots of architectural and planning activities. For many centuries, by changing the plan of the city, instead of the old castle structure, it had received a linear structure extending along the Black Sea [4].

2. The architectural features of the architectural monuments (residential, public, religious, welfare and so on.) of the city of Samsun created naturally climatic, economic-urban, historical, and social resources and conditions, which together contributed to its formation as an industrial and tourism hub. Although its industrial profile prevails today, it is its tourist resources that make the city famous, which further elevates its functional destination.

3. Analyzing the situation of the old districts of the city of Samsun, it becomes clear that it was possible to allocate several zones on the territory in the old part compared to the new residential districts. These are the zones of residential neighbourhoods and public buildings located in the religious-memorial area and the central zone with the middle stores. Although the city's high-rise residential area is relatively isolated from the centre, it has created a different architectural image in the overall city planning structure. Thus, together with the unique image of the port city, they have created a city with great tourism potential.

It is believed that the above-mentioned studies allowed to analyze the explanation of the scientific paper about the city of Samsun, located on the northern borders of Turkey, and allowed to highlight the main points of the chosen topic and make it necessary to analyze it as an independent research object.

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