

CIVVIH

Multilayered Historic City : İzmir

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According to the present information, İzmir City has a deep rooted history of 8,500 years and always existed as a big city due to his very important strategical and geopolitical location. However, disasters like fire, earthquakes that the city encountered during the historical process, some wrong urban development decisions, road construction and enlargement activities, the fact that the ancient works were regarded as construction materials, caused that only part of those works subsist at the present time. Besides, there are some works which their locations are known and await to be unearthed.

The Kemeraltı urban site which constitutes the historical core of the city, encompasses an extensive area and in the 1st and 2nd regions, involves works of different attributes and from different periods. The Kemeraltı urban site comprises also the archeological site. The Smyrna Agora of the Hellenistic-Roman period is an archeological site that involves in the surrounding buildings with varied functions like houses, bath, fountain, mosque etc. belonging to Ottoman-Turkish period.

As the multilayered and multicultural structure of İzmir reflects its richness, it necessitates at the same time, particular conservation approaches. The multilayered structure of the city can be viewed from the ruins of works from different periods emerged during the foundation stage of buildings or during road construction activities. In this respect, the archeological ruins revealed during Metro construction activities in Fevzi Paşa Boulevard, the works that are thought to be port ruins found in the foundation stage of İhsan Kayın business center, those discovered in Şifa Hospital can be stated as some examples.