

Resolutions of the Scientific Meeting of ICOMOS/CIVVIH Mediterranean Sub-Committee on “Fortified Port cities in the Mediterranean of 21 century: Sites, values and genius loci” held on 2-3 May in Alanya

The characteristics of the city and its WH nomination process:

The Historic City of Alanya built on a peninsula and called throughout history with different names like Alā'īya, Candeloro, Candel(l)orum, Candelorus, Kalon (Kalliston) Oros and so on, is surrounded by 6.0 kilometers of walls with a 2.500-year continuous habitation inside. Together with its natural beauty it represents a historic urban cultural landscape.

The walls with bastions and six gates - built and continuously modified between the 2nd century BC and the 19th century A.D (Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk, Ottoman) - are mostly dated to the 13th century. In addition to these, outstanding examples of the architectural and artistic accomplishment of the Anatolian Seljuk's and of other civilizations are representing a well-preserved medieval city. Within these walls the evolving and continuing urban life creates the spirit of the place.

The area with walls surrounding the peninsula can be divided into six separate areas by internal divider walls. The first area represents the development of maritime architecture from the Seljuk period and includes the Shipyard (Tersane), the only surviving and well-preserved example of a shipyard from the Seljuk period; the octagonal Red Tower (Kızılkule), the most conspicuous single feature of the walls that overlooks the harbor on the north side built together with the Cannon House (Tophane) to protect the harbor and the shipyard; remain of a vaulted structure - probably a warehouse - that represents the harbor activity in medieval times; a bathhouse from 13th century and excavated ateliers for production of ship tools. The second area occupies the whole lower slope of the hill; its upper limit is the old Hellenistic wall. It includes traditional Ottoman houses from end of 19th century, religious structures such as mosques and churches. The third area with a group of buildings such as three polygonal bastions, a bathhouse and three cistern, is one of the two citadels which is called Ehmedek, built upon the site of an older Hellenistic fortress. The fourth area is that to the south of Ehmedek, through which passes the main approach to the other citadel (İçkale). Beside Ottoman houses from end of 19th century there are structures such as a bazaar, arasta, a large mosque, tomb which provide the urban dynamism. The fifth area is the Citadel (İçkale) itself and includes a 13th century Seljuk Sultan palace on remains of Kyr Vard's residence; a Byzantine church, military buildings and huge cisterns. The sixth area, which lies outside the walls, is the Cilvarda cape with a 12th century Byzantine monastery.

Beside all these monumental and residential structures; the hydraulic system with more than 400 public and nonpublic cisterns (between them very huge public cisterns, dating back to Seljuk times, which were used until the 1970's) is spectacular. Earthen pipes and canals unveiled by archaeological excavations, exhibit surprising designs of engineering and a complex distribution network in this topography where rain was of crucial importance.

Many graffiti from various periods depicting the ships are testimonials for trade and communication with places on the Mediterranean shore. The harbor activity was mentioned in various portulans (in a portulan of 2th century BC it was described as an important Hellenistic harbor which exports to Egypt honey and wine and the city was denoted with different names in Italian portulans of the medieval time and also in the Genoese notarial documents of Famagusta), sea maps (such as Medici Lazara, Piri Reis) and travellers (such as Ibn Battuta, Evliya Çelebi).

Boundaries of the property captures all historical periods that have contributed to the Historic City of Alanya today and all its attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the property are included within the boundaries of the site. The site was registered in 1999 as a historical, urban, archaeological and natural site with adequate legal protection which means any changes in the

functions and the land use in the site and any conservation projects for the historical properties are subject to evaluation and permission of legal authorities that provides the assurance of the integrity of all components and the site itself.

The Site Management applied since 2007 and the Management Plan prepared by attendants and volunteers with shareholders have allowed the implementation of many projects in the area. Restoration of dwellings, which cannot be repaired due to multi-ownership, by municipality; restoration of a 13th century small mosque; renovation of the Main Gate; conservation of frescoes; restoration of a small mosque, which has 176 ship graffiti on its walls (belonging to 14th – 17th century) and their conservation; open to visit Mecduddin Cistern, which is one of the largest cistern of the castle, and another one; herbarium exhibiting castle flora and fauna; infrastructure works; grass and plant with cleaning works on walls made periodically and different education studies with inventory works have been included. Works have been continued to spread all around. Cleaning and excavation reserves of archeological sites (such as inside the moat, Greek Neighborhood) in time and projects, which will be enhanced by the lights of revealed data, will undoubtedly lead more diversification and understanding of the characteristics of the area.

Due to the characteristics written above, Alanya Municipality, Alanya Museum and the Ministry of Tourism have entered into a common work process for the Historic City of Alanya to be registered in international area and to include in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The nomination dossier of the World Heritage List named as “Old City with Ramparts of Alanya with Seljuk Shipyard”, prepared in cooperation with Alanya Municipality and was firstly delivered to the World Heritage Centre in 2010. In the report arranged by ICOMOS about the nomination dossier, evaluating as negative to the nomination of the World Heritage List for the site; the dossier was withdrawn. Within the scope of points described in the report of ICOMOS, the nomination dossier, which was re-prepared by strengthening and working together with national and international medieval experts, was sent to the World Heritage List as named “Historic city of Alanya” on 31.01.2012. In order to evaluation of the nomination dossier, an ICOMOS expert conducted the site observation on 15-20.09.2012. As request of ICOMOS Department of World Heritage, additional information and documents related with buildings from Seljuk period, graffiti, hydraulic system, comparative analysis, authenticity and integrity of the site and management plan were transmitted to ICOMOS on November 2012.

Resolutions of the meeting

During the scientific meeting, many CIVVIH members presented papers related to the “Fortified Port cities in the Mediterranean of 21 century: Sites, values and genius loci”, and as the time was limited, only a small part of the historic area was visited. On the final meeting organized for the resolutions five main points such as: What are the values that permits Alanya to be considered as an OUV?; The comparison with Alanya and other cases; What is the integrity of the Greek neighborhood compared to the entire site treated? How we can delimit the concerned site?; How people concerted and participate for the establishment of management plan?; Is there any information or rapport about the interest of people, are they involved in this project? were discussed.

Finally ICOMOS/CIVVIH Mediterranean Sub-Committee underlines the following main topics at the end of the scientific symposium on “Fortified Port cities in the Mediterranean of 21 century: Sites, values and genius loci” held on 2-3 May in Alanya:

a) Alanya city of today is the expansion of the limited area on the peninsula outside the walls since the beginning of 1900's. Until these years fabric on the peninsula produced by different cultures was overlapped and created a special fabric by combining with its previous. Therefore, a complicated residential fabric was arisen in the area which could not be separated with sharp lines.

So today the peninsula settlement, which can be seen easily by everyone, owns defense structures and multi-layered walls which are survived until today with replacement and extension from Hellenistic time to the Ottoman area (traces of different periods can be easily monitored), completely surrounding the peninsula and providing a strong protection for the settlement inside; thousands of ship graffiti (14-17th century), demonstrating the relationship with the sea and the monumental structures; the neighborhood spirit while maintaining by the inhabitants who live still inside the walls.

b) Urban cultural landscape of Alanya is very important to emphasize.

c) As heritage is a part of community development and a part of the identity of Alanya, the municipality and the inhabitants should be aware of its importance.

d) The application of the management plan of Alanya is very important for the sustainable development of the old city.

e) For the success of the urban conservation planning decisions, the importance of the public participation essential.

f) Restoration of historic buildings is not their reconstruction. So the restorations should take care of the historic value of the building, a new constructions should take care of the cultural environmental values of the area.

g) The Greek district which is an important part of the old city should be carefully excavated and all historic layers should be consolidated and exhibited according to the international conservation principles.

h) To create new activities conform to the environmental values in the historic city of Alanya is important for improving the quality of the inhabitants as well as the economic improvement of the area.