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Preserving Traditional Building Knowledge through Authentic Conservation Practices: A Case Study from Pınarbaşı, Kayseri

Asst. Prof. Penbegül Öztürk
Ertuğrul Gazi Mah. Nuh Naci Yazgan Yerleşkesi Küme Evler, 38170 Kocasinan/Kayseri
pozturk@nny.edu.tr, pgl.mimarlik@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The conservation of traditional architectural heritage involves not only ensuring the physical sustainability of historic buildings but also preserving and transmitting the traditional materials, construction techniques, and craftsmanship that constitute their cultural significance. In particular, conservation interventions applied to earthen and other traditional building systems provide valuable opportunities for safeguarding and revitalizing traditional building knowledge. However, the limited number of studies documenting these practices through systematic scientific approaches restricts the transfer of this valuable knowledge to the conservation literature.

This study aims to evaluate the conservation and restoration process of a privately owned historic building located in the Pınarbaşı district of Kayseri, Türkiye, from the perspective of architectural conservation. Within the scope of the intervention, the existing structure was carefully dismantled to analyze its original construction system, after which it was reconstructed using traditional materials and authentic construction techniques. This approach ensured the preservation of the building's architectural authenticity while enabling its adaptation to contemporary functional requirements through a sustainable conservation strategy.

The research examines the conservation process by analyzing the implementation stages, construction techniques, material characteristics, conservation decisions, and overall intervention strategy through on-site observations, technical documentation, photographic records, and archival data obtained from the relevant conservation authorities. The findings are evaluated in relation to national and international conservation principles to assess their contribution to the preservation and transmission of traditional building knowledge.

The study is expected to demonstrate that conservation practices based on authentic construction techniques contribute not only to the preservation of the physical fabric of historic buildings but also to the continuity of intangible traditional construction knowledge. In this respect, the research is anticipated to provide a valuable scientific reference for future

conservation practices and methodological studies, particularly those focusing on the preservation of earthen architectural heritage.

KEY WORDS:
Traditional architectural heritage, earthen architecture, conservation and restoration, authentic construction techniques, traditional building knowledge, Pınarbaşı, Kayseri, Türkiye.