

Documentation and Conservation Assessment of Adobe Structures in Ayanbey Neighborhood, Konya



Şükran Oksoy^a, Zeynep Eres Özdoğan^b

^a Istanbul Technical University, Graduate School,
Restoration Program, Türkiye

^b Istanbul Technical University, Faculty of Architecture,
Department of Architecture, Türkiye
(oksoy24@itu.edu.tr)

ABSTRACT

Ayanbey Neighborhood in the Meram district of Konya represents a critical interface between the region's historical vineyard culture and ongoing urban expansion. The area contains a significant stock of traditional adobe houses, many of which are currently threatened by population pressure, socio-economic change, and contemporary development practices. This study aims to document these structures, identify conservation challenges at both urban and building scales, and evaluate their heritage values to support the transmission of this residential legacy to future generations.

The research employed a comprehensive, multi-layered methodology. Archival investigations involving historical cadastral maps, photographs, and written records were combined with field surveys conducted in 2025 and 2026 to identify and document the neighborhood's adobe building stock. At the building scale, two representative houses located on Cirit Street and Çağlayan Street were surveyed using traditional measurement techniques. Analytical plans at 1/50 and 1/100 scales were produced to examine spatial organization, original joinery elements, and interior features such as niches and shower cabinets. Interviews with local residents were also conducted to document aspects of intangible cultural heritage associated with the neighborhood.

The findings indicate that adobe construction remains a defining component of Ayanbey's architectural identity. However, changing functional requirements, increasing land values and inadequate interventions have accelerated the deterioration and loss of traditional buildings. From an environmental perspective, the thick adobe walls provide effective adaptation to Konya's continental climate through passive thermal regulation while maintaining a low carbon footprint. Nevertheless, the traditional maintenance practices essential for the long-term preservation of adobe structures are becoming increasingly rare.

The study concludes that the demand for new construction, coupled with insufficient heritage awareness, is contributing to the rapid disappearance of Ayanbey's adobe houses. To address these challenges, it recommends the formal registration of identified adobe structures, the removal of inappropriate additions, and the implementation of awareness-raising programs and financial incentives. These measures would help revive periodic maintenance practices and safeguard the neighborhood's distinctive architectural character for future generations.

KEY WORDS:

Adobe, Ayanbey, Conservation, Cultural Heritage, Konya.