

CITY CEREMONIES IN BURDUR CUMHURİYET SQUARE

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ABSTRACT

Burdur is a small scale Anatolian city which has only one central square, and its all borders are in the walking distance. Hence, the address of all national holidays, memorial days, local festivals and other ceremonies is its main square called Cumhuriyet Square, and activities in the Square affect the whole city. Cumhuriyet Square was constructed as the new city center after the construction of the first railway station and the railway street in 1936. Since then, the Square has three significant periods; 1) a circular square design with a circular pool 2) a circular square with an Atatürk Monument by sculptor Şadi Çalık 3) a rectangular square with ceremony platform and Republic Monument by designer and sculptor Yavuz Görey. Nowadays, there are various discussions to change the Square again.

In this study, the uses of Burdur Cumhuriyet Square for city ceremonies are examined from past to present. The main resources are photography archive of Burdur Governorship and Burdur Municipality, and the city yearbooks. It is seen that the three different design of the square affected the practices of the ceremonies.

Keywords: Burdur, Cumhuriyet Square, square design, city ceremonies, urban photography.

1. INTRODUCTION

City centers are the main addresses of urban rituals and celebrations. As in the case of Burdur, if it is a small scale city with one main square, the square becomes the witness of all urban activities.

This study aims to examine the interaction of the city ceremonies and the design of the Cumhuriyet Square. Since there is very few reliable written sources, old photographs have been major sources of this study. However, even the date of the photographs, the names of the buildings and places, and the activity in the photographs might be unknown. In this respect, finding reference images and putting photographs in chronological order, finding exact clues to interpret the images might be crucial. Key notes to interpret the images are obtained from City Yearbooks.

This study is composed of four main parts; first one is about the old city center Ulu Mosque before the Republican Period, and the following three parts are about the three significant periods of the Cumhuriyet Square, which are briefly explained in Figure 1 and Table 1.

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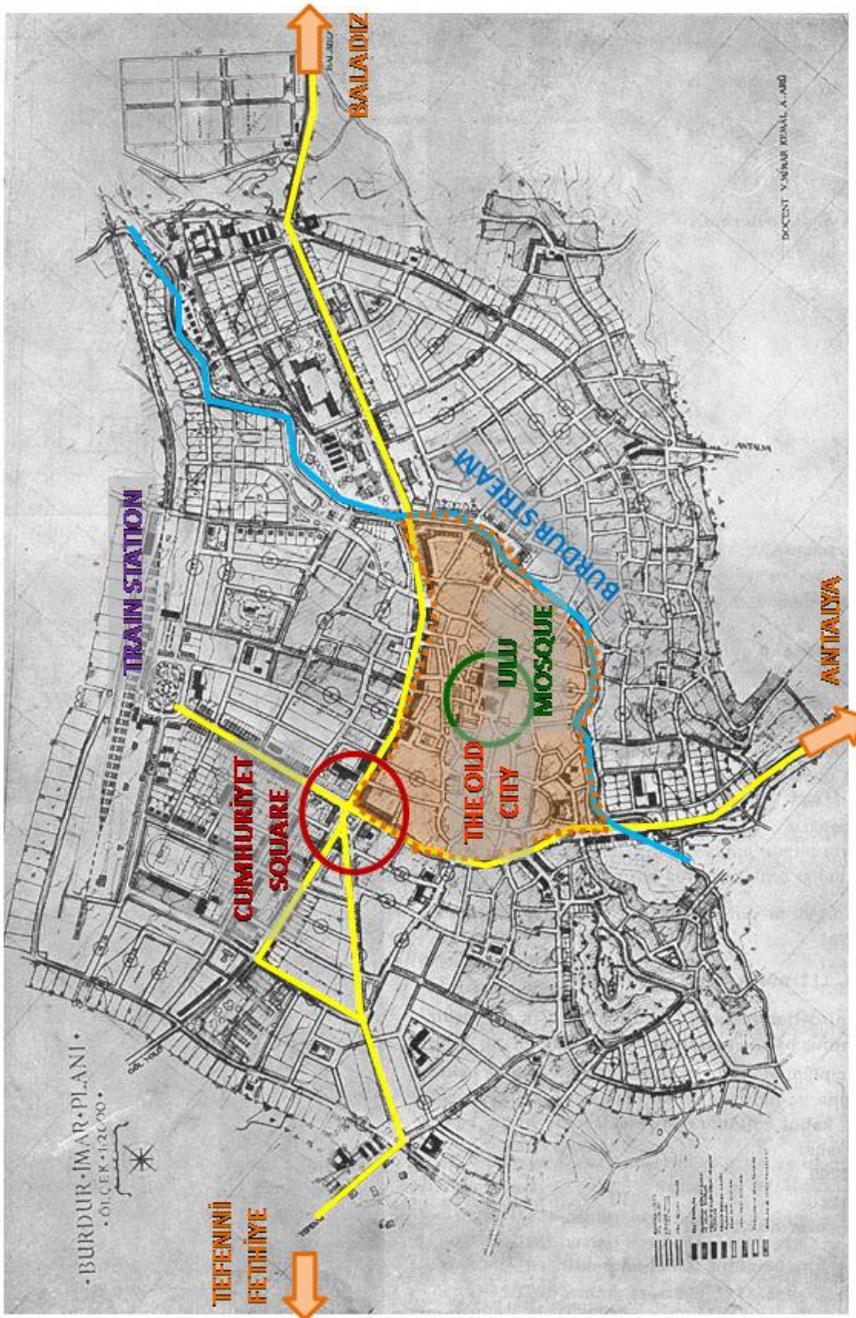


Figure 1. 1948 Burdur Master Plan together with the author's colored illustrations: yellow is the main road axis, orange hatch is the old city region, green is Ulu Mosque as the old city center, red is Cumhuriyet Square as the new city center

Table 1. The three periods of Burdur Cumhuriyet Square with photographs taken from almost the same view points. (Photographs in item 1 and 3 were taken from postcards, and the one in the item 2 is taken from www.eba.gov.tr).

1		<p>1936-1963 Period: The first design of Cumhuriyet Square with a circular pool. Left: Halkevi Building, Right: Gazi Primary School.</p>
2		<p>1963-1973 Period: The second design of Cumhuriyet Square with Atatürk Monument. Left: Halkevi Building and Special Provincial Administration Building Right: Municipality Building and Cultural Center (AKM).</p>
3		<p>Post-1973 period: The third design of Cumhuriyet Square with Cumhuriyet Monument. Left: The new and old buildings of Special Provincial Administration (50. Yıl Kültür Sarayı). Right: Municipality Building and Cultural Center (AKM).</p>

2. THE OLD CITY CENTER FROM THE SELJUKIAN PERIOD TO 1936: ULU MOSQUE ON TOP OF THE HISTORIC HILL

The old city center of Burdur was the Ulu Mosque located on top of a hill. The mosque has three main entrances, each of which was located on one of its four main walls, except the one directed to the kiblah. Hence, for the old city, the mosque became the focal point due to its location and its welcoming entrances towards three different axes of the old city. An historic clock tower next to the mosque supports its dominance as a landmark (see Figure 2). These detached buildings are seen as built in the center of an open square. The old city center is surrounded by sloping narrow streets full of commercial low-storey buildings. Hence, the Ulu Mosque is in the hearth of the commercial activities of the old city. Unfortunately, due to the 1914 Burdur Earthquake and other disasters, the old city region is now full of 20th century reconstructions of historic buildings. However, we can still follow some continuing activities of the old city center, such as historic shops and Friday Open Bazaars around the Ulu Mosque (see Figure 3).



Figure 2. a) Burdur Clock Tower and its surroundings, 1951 (source: www.eba.gov.tr), b) The old city center: Ulu Mosque and Clock Tower, 2008 (photographed by Özyıldırım).



Figure 3. a) Carpet Bazaar in front of the Ulu Mosque, 1972 b) one of the historic commercial streets around the Ulu Mosque, 1972 (Sources: www.eba.gov.tr).

3. 1936-1963 PERIOD: THE FIRST DESIGN OF CUMHURİYET SQUARE WITH A CIRCULAR POOL

The constructions of railways and railway stations had been a significant milestone for the modernization of some Anatolian cities in the early Republican period. Burdur is one of those cities, which were reshaped by the construction of Railway Stations. Figure 4 illustrates the people's enthusiasm for the arrival of the first train in Burdur in May 26, 1936.

The construction of the Railway Station, led to the construction of the Railway Street and Cumhuriyet Square (see Figure 5). The new square connected the Railway Street and the old city region. Hence, in addition to the old city center, a second focal point was developed for the city.



Figure 4. a) People waiting for the first train to come in Burdur, 26th May 1936, b) The opening ceremony of Burdur Railway Station and welcoming the first train, 26th May 1936 (source: photo archive of Burdur Valiliği).



Figure 5. Construction of the first Cumhuriyet Square with a circular pool in 1936. (source: photo archive of Burdur Valiliği).

Burdur Cumhuriyet Square was opened in the Republic Day celebrations in 29th October 1936 (see Figure 6). When Figure 6 is followed from left to right, the new Railway Street with a ceremony portal and waving flag, the old Governorship building facing to the old city center, and a house from the old city region are seen. On the other sides of the square, as previously illustrated in Table 1, Gazi Primary School and Halkevi buildings were located.

The circular pool in the center of the square was constructed in the place of the old garden of the Halkevi building. The pool was used to define the square design. Circular shaped pool was not only used in the Cumhuriyet Square, but also in the front garden of the old Governorship building. Additionally, there was a bust of Ataturk, in the side of the pool in Figure 7. Although the pool was located in the green garden, it is seen as a symbol of the ceremonial area.



Figure 6. The opening ceremony of Burdur Cumhuriyet Square in the Republic Day celebrations, 29th October 1936 (source: photo archive of Burdur Valiliği).

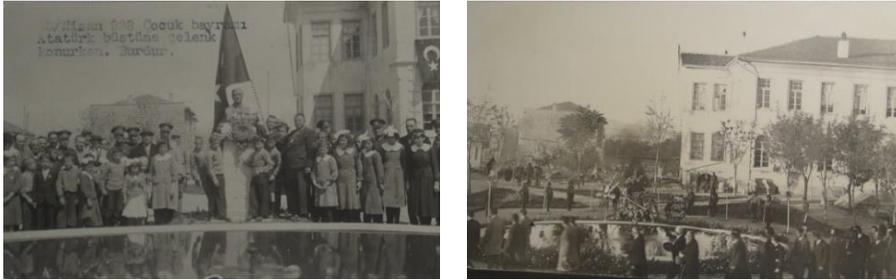


Figure 7. A circular pool in front of the old Governorship building in Burdur, 1938. a) Children Festival in 23rd April 1938 b) Memorial Day for Atatürk. (source: photo archive of Burdur Municipality).

The opening ceremony of the Cumhuriyet Square together with the Republic Day celebrations in 29th October 1936 has been the first public ceremony in the square. For the following national celebrations and memorial days, the square became the address, such as seen in Children Festival in 1942 and 1949 in Figure 8. However, the focal point of the public was not the pool in the center of the square. It was fallen behind the people, since they were focusing on the road coming from the old city to the Railway Street. It can be inferred that while the pool with a bust in the old Governorship Garden had a symbolic meaning, the pool in the Cumhuriyet Square was only a decor which can be ignored during the ceremonies.



Figure 8. a) Children Festival, 23rd April 1942, b) Children Festival, 23rd April 1949 (source: photo archive of Burdur Valiliği).

4. 1963-1973 PERIOD: THE SECOND DESIGN OF CUMHURİYET SQUARE WITH ATATÜRK MONUMENT

When the first master plan of the city was designed by Kemal Ahmet Aru in 1948, the location of the railway station had been a significant input for its functional and symbolic significance, and he considered Cumhuriyet Square as the new center of the city (Aru, 1948). Its flat terrain and empty surroundings open to the development made the Cumhuriyet Square a more advantageous city center than the old one, which has sloped terrain surrounded by irrational narrow streets. Accordingly, Aru wanted administrative and commercial buildings to be moved around the new city center (Aru, 1948).

The first change about the surroundings of the square was the reconstruction of the Burdur Governorship building at the end of the 1940s. The new building was constructed in the front garden of the old one. The front façade of the new building was facing towards the Railway Street, instead of the old city center. The major transformations of the new city center started when the pool in the center of the square was changed with Atatürk Monument in 1963. The base of the new monument was again in circular shape and it was a combination of small pools, greens and stairs (see Figure 9 and Figure 10). The Atatürk statue of the monument was sculptor Şadi Çalık's work-of-art, and a similar statue was also constructed in Niğde in the same year (Sözen, 1963).



Figure 9. a) Opening ceremony of Atatürk Monument in 1963 (source: photo archive of Burdur Valiliği). b) Students and soldiers waiting for the new monument (source: www.tarihtarih.com)

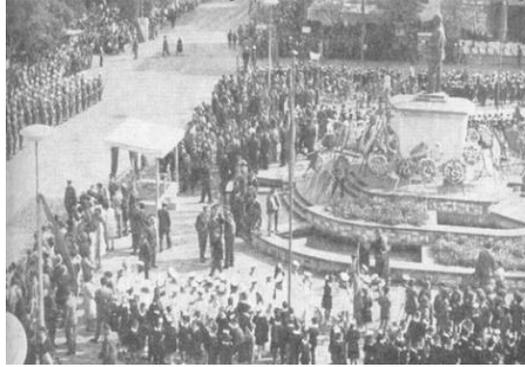


Figure 10. Republic Day celebrations in 1964 (source: photo archive of Burdur Valiliği).

Following the directives of the 1948 Kemal Aru Master Plan (Aru, 1948), Cumhuriyet Square became the new city center and the surrounding buildings changed accordingly (see Figure 11). While the north side of the square was left as a green park, the third sides were surrounded by five-storey reinforce concrete modern buildings, which were commercial buildings, Special Administrations of Burdur Governorship, and Burdur Municipality respectively. Hence, Aru attempted to develop a well-defined modern square.



Figure 11. a&b) Cumhuriyet Square between 1963-1973 (source: www.eba.gov.tr).

5. POST-1973 PERIOD: THE THIRD DESIGN OF CUMHURIYET SQUARE WITH CUMHURIYET MONUMENT

1971 Burdur Earthquake had significant effect for the change of the Cumhuriyet Square design. Halkevi building was the last building of 1930s which could stay intact around the square until 1970s. However, it collapsed after the 1971 earthquake. In addition to the celebrations and the memorial days, Cumhuriyet Square experienced a disaster, and acted as a disaster relief center. Figure 12 illustrated some public institutions serving in post-earthquake tents in the square.

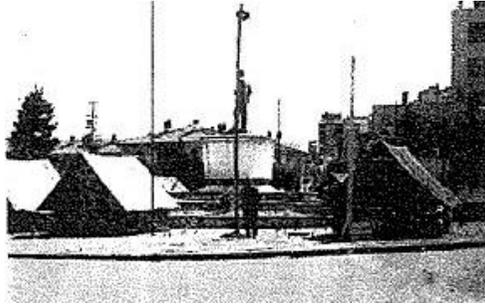


Figure 12. Public institutions serving in post-earthquake tents in Cumhuriyet Square just after the 1971 Earthquake (Source: Burdur Valiliği, 1973) .

A recovery project was required for Cumhuriyet Square after the 1971 earthquake. Moreover, the 50th anniversary of the Turkish Republic was planned to be celebrated more enthusiastically than the previous ones (Law No.1701, 1973). In this respect, the collapsed Halkevi building, the park, and the monument were redesigned. A committee composed of scientists and artist organized both the recovery and the celebration projects (Burdur Valiliği, 1973). The park was designed as an open-air museum full of monuments telling the Turkish history, and the square was designed as the continuation of these monuments, as the final stage, called "Cumhuriyet Monument" (Diyarbakirli, 1982). The monument is composed of sculptures and a platform designed for public ceremonies (see Figure 13). The sculptures were composed of five human figures; Atatürk in the forefront, a soldier holding out an olive branch, an *Efe* (a local man) holding a flag, and in the back row an old man carrying munitions, and a woman praying. These are iconic characters for the War of Independence. The platform was designed according to all kinds of public ceremonies; such as, formal ceremonies, festivals, concerts. Both the sculptures and the platform was designed by sculptor Yavuz Görey (Diyarbakirli, 1982). The removed Atatürk Monument was placed in Çatalpınar Area, where Atatürk was first arrived in Burdur and welcomed by Burdur citizens in 6th March 1936. Since 1973, every 6th March has been celebrated as "Honor Day", and the ceremony starts in front of the Atatürk Monument, continues with a walking to Cumhuriyet Monument, and ends in front of the Cumhuriyet Monument (Burdur Valiliği, 1973) (see Figure 14).



Figure 13. a) Bird's eye view of Cumhuriyet Monument, 2010 (photographed by Mesut Madan). b) Close view of Cumhuriyet Monument, 2013 (photographed by Güler Özyıldırım).



Figure 14. a&b) Honor Day Ceremonies in the anniversary of Atatürk's first arrival in Burdur, 6th March 2013. (photographed by Mesut Madan)

6. CONCLUSION

As mentioned in the previous subtitles, the design and the construction of the Cumhuriyet Square was started in 1936, and transformed until 1973, and reached the present day. It can be inferred that the city rituals affected the square design, on the other hand, square design affected the city rituals. As time passes, the new kinds of public activities are emerging (see Figure 15). The final design of the square have met the different requirements for the last 44 years. Unfortunately, instead of the conservation of the current square design, the collapse of the surrounding buildings and the transportation of the monument to a different area have been discussed for the last ten years. The main reason is giving priority to car traffic and car parks and the needs to extend the existing areas. However, such kind of spaces should be conserved to refresh public memories and to sustain public activities.



Figure 15. A meeting to raise awareness about the drawdown of Burdur Lake, 16th March 2013 (source: photo archive of Burdur Valiliği).

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