

READING REPUBLICAN PERIOD OF AN ANATOLIAN CITY THROUGH CITY YEARBOOKS: CASE OF BURDUR

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ABSTRACT

The documentation of cultural and architectural pattern of a city is a crucial issue in order to conserve past and plan future. Nevertheless, modern urban history of small Anatolian cities are not well documented when compared to big cities such as Ankara and İstanbul. In this respect, city yearbooks, which were published by the governorships in specific periods, become significant reliable references for the Republican period. This study aimed to examine the city yearbooks as the witnesses of the history of the modern architecture and planning in Turkey, and questioned how they can be used as references by architectural historians. First, city yearbooks were generally examined in terms of their context, publication periods, and availability for Anatolian cities. Second, as a case study, the Republican period of Burdur was attempted to be read through the city yearbooks of 1938, 1967 and 1973. Actually, these yearbooks are not academic documents written by architects and planners. They are mostly collected writings of Governorship employees in order to present various issues of the city. However, with an analytical reading, these yearbooks may turn into fundamental resources for the history of modern architecture and planning.

Keywords: City yearbooks, republican period, modern architecture, research method, Burdur.

1. INTRODUCTION

By the establishment of the Republic of Turkey, Anatolian cities started to gain modern faces with the constructions of railway stations, new streets, new city centers, new squares, new institutions and new buildings. Nowadays, some buildings and constructions of the early Republican period are demolished and some are prone to be demolished due to various reasons, such as disasters, new needs, developing technologies, and urban transformations. In this regard, the documentation of cultural and architectural pattern of a city is a crucial issue to conserve past and plan future. In terms of achieved references, however, small Anatolian cities are not as lucky as big cities such as Ankara and İstanbul. In this regard, city yearbooks, which were published by the governorship in specific periods, become significant reliable references. The current study is composed of three main parts. First, references for the historiography of the 20th century architecture in Turkey are generally introduced, and second, city yearbooks

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are examined in more detail. Third, as an example, Republican period of Burdur is read through the selected three yearbooks; 1938, 1967 and 1973.

2. REFERENCES FOR THE HISTORIOGRAPHY OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE IN TURKEY

Altan (2010) stated that the historiography of the 20th century architecture in Turkey basically started by the publications of 1970s. She emphasized that, although the amount of thesis studies and research projects have been increased since 1970s, the number of published products are still insufficient in this area.

The consciousness about the documentation of modern times of cities started to raise by the establishment of the international institution called DOCOMOMO (Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and Neighborhoods of the Modern Movement) in 1990, and started to raise in Turkey by the establishment of its local branch called DOCOMOMO_TR in 2002. Annual conferences of DOCOMOMO_TR indicates that small Anatolian cities have various issues which are waiting researchers to be searched, documented and discussed.

For the 20th century architecture of Turkey, one of the most significant references is *Arkitekt-Mimar Journal*, which was the first and long-term journal of architecture in Turkey (Altan, 2010). Its all volumes between 1931 and 1980 have been opened to readers as an online database since 2012 (*Arkitekt Database*). While the journal is a comprehensive database for big cities, such as İstanbul and Ankara, some small Anatolian cities are not addressed enough. For instance, when "Burdur" is searched as a keyword within the titles in the database, there is only Aru's (1948) article about the city master plan of Burdur.

There are various amateur memoirs trying to tell republican period of Anatolian cities, however, their reliability as a reference for architectural history is questionable. Although they may have well-intentions, they may also have misleading information which contradicts each other and the existing photographs, as in the case of Burdur. Since they mostly use second-hand oral resources, they may cause fallacious findings. Unfortunately, even some researchers and public institutions may use these amateur memoirs as a resource without crosschecking. Old photographs may be reliable resources for the cities; nonetheless, to interpret the photographs, extra information about their exact dates, names and functions are required. For instance, Figure 1 illustrates two photographs of the same building with different labels. In this regard, additional reliable written references are required to resolve the doubts about the photography information.



Figure 1. Different photographs of the same building with different labels a) Gazi Primary School building b) Burdur Municipality building (sources: online photo archive of Burdur Valiliği, 2013).

3. CITY YEARBOOKS

The tradition of city yearbooks was traced back to "*Salnâme*" in Ottoman Period. The word has a Persian origin, which is composed of "*sal*" (year) and "*nâme*" (written text). The first city *salnâme* was published in 1866 for Saraybosna (Sarajevo) with the title of "*Salnâme-i Vilayet-i Bosna*", and there are 504 known city *salnâme* in total (TDV). The tradition of *salnâme* has been continued with "city yearbooks" (*il yıllığı*) in the period of the Republic of Turkey.

All city yearbooks should be available within the collection of the National Library (*Milli Kütüphane*). According to the old Law No.2527 published in 1934, and the current Law No.6279 published in 2012, one copy of each published material in Turkey should be sent to the National Library. However, the collection of city yearbooks is not complete, as confessed on the official web page of the library. When the keyword "*il yıllığı*" was searched in the automation system of the library (*Milli Kütüphane Kaşif*), starting from 1967 to 2014, a total of 94 results were listed. Among those, 37 of them were dated as 1967, 20 of them were dated as 1973, and other years range from 1 to 8 publications. According to TDV, the city yearbooks were collectively published for all cities in Turkey in 1967 and 1973. Figure 2 illustrates examples of 1973 yearbooks of different cities with similar cover design. Although the collection is not complete, it is clearly seen that 1963 and 1973 years were better documented than other years. For the alternative access of the missing copies, City Public Libraries are the second significant addresses. Moreover, university libraries might have a considerable amount of copies by donations (see Figure 3).



Figure 2. Two examples of 1973 City Yearbooks from different cities; Afyon and Bitlis (photographed by Özyıldırım, 2015)



Figure 3. The City Yearbooks donated from around Turkey in the main library of Middle East Technical University (photographed by Özyıldiran, 2015)

4. READING CITY YEARBOOKS: CASE OF BURDUR

Burdur Governorship published its first yearbook in 1938, for the 15th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey. It is significant to learn the early Republican period of the new city center. The second selected one was the "1967 Yearbook", which was published before the 1971 Burdur Earthquake, and indicates the transformations until the earthquake. The third one is the "1973 Yearbook", which was published for the 50th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey. It is significant to understand the third period of buildings and constructions, which were demolished or prone to demolished in the last decade.

4.1. 1938 City Yearbook of Burdur: 15th Anniversary of the Republic

The earliest version of the Burdur City Yearbooks was published in 1938. It was unreachable until one of its copies was donated to the Library of Boğaziçi University in 2002. As Figure 4 illustrates, the word of yearbook (*yıllık*) was not mentioned in the title of the book. Its title is "Burdur in the 15th Anniversary of Republic" (*15. Cumhuriyet Yılında Burdur*). However, in this study, it is examined as the earliest version of the yearbooks, since it was also prepared by Burdur Governorship and contains the similar issues with the following yearbooks.



Figure 4. a) Cover of the 1938 Burdur City Yearbook, b) its inner cover (photographed by Özyıldiran, 2015, from Boğaziçi University Library).

The book is composed of 77 pages and seven main titles. It does not have a standardized book design of today. For instance, it has no table of contents and each title is in a different writing style, which makes it difficult to follow. Some subtitles were written under irrelevant titles. However, as a document of the city in the 15th anniversary of the republic, it has valuable information. Basic titles can be summarized as follows; 1) history and geography of Burdur, 2) historical artifacts, 3) works completed in villages, 4) cultural profile, 5) the completed works of Municipality, 6) agricultural works, 7) activities of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 8) activities of Burdur Halkevi and other institutions, 9) activities of Children Protection Institution.

It is interesting that historical artifacts referred only in a half page. In the cultural profile title, mostly the schools were mentioned, for instance, the number schools, the total number students per year and so on. Cultural activities can be read under the titles of Halkevi and Children Protection Institution. Confusingly, health services was a subtitle written under the Agricultural works.

The most significant part of the book for architectural history is the title of "Municipality Works". The arrival of the first train and the construction of the Railway Station in 1936 was one of the significant milestones in the urban history of Burdur. Hence, the construction of Railway Street and Cumhuriyet Square were the significant issues, which were also illustrated in the cover and inner cover of the book (see Figure 4). Moreover, newly constructed city roads and beach of Burdur Lake were emphasized.

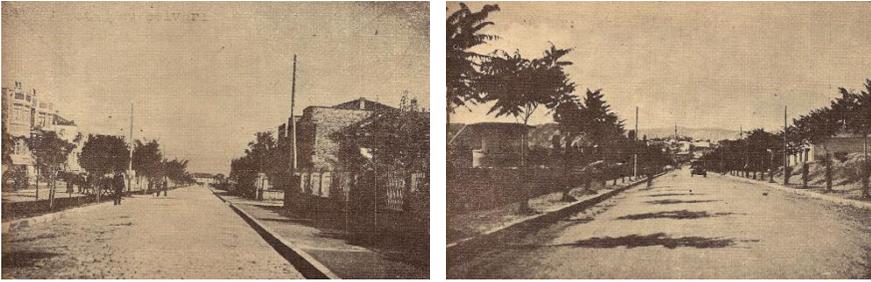


Figure 5. a) Railway Street b) the road entering the city. (Burdur Valiliği, 1938).

4.2. 1967 City Yearbook of Burdur

As previously mentioned, all cities published yearbooks in 1967. Different than the one in 1938, 1967 yearbook of Burdur has an organized book design, which contains table of contents, numbered titles and subtitles, bibliography, and 300s of pages. The book is mainly divided in 12 part: 1) formal part, 2) administrative part, 3) demographic part, 4) geography, 5) history (with some refers to Konya *Salnâmeleri*), 6) social part, 7) culture, 8) tourism, 9) folk (music and dance), 10) economy, 11) transportation, 12) local administrations. The cover of the book is a cubic picture, describing the cultural and commercial activities of the people in Burdur (see Figure 6).

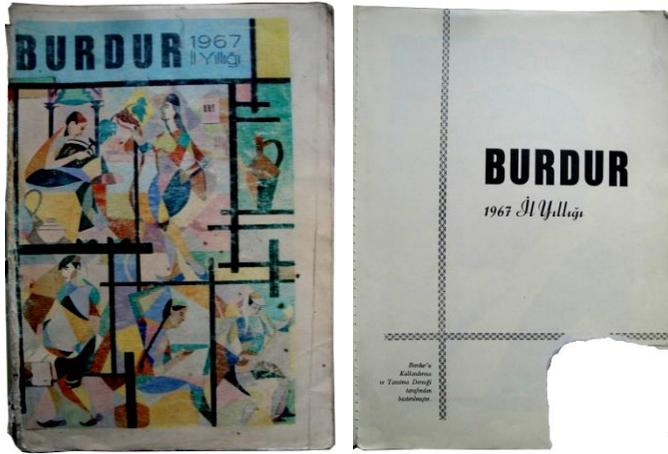


Figure 6. a) Cover of the 1967 Burdur City Yearbook, b) its inner cover (photographed by Özyıldırım, 2015, from her personal archive).

Although the arrival of the first train accelerated the modernization of Burdur in 1936, and its first city master plan was designed by Aru in 1948, the depression of World War II decelerated the reconstructions of the city, as in the case of most Anatolian cities. By the end of the 1950s, Burdur gained acceleration again to reconstruct the city in the light of the 1948 Aru Master plan. Hence, 1967 yearbook is a significant reference to follow all these constructions (see Figure 7).



Figure 7. Burdur Gazi Street, the new trade center of the city after 1960s. (Burdur Valiliği, 1967).

A major earthquake occurred in 1971 in Burdur, and the city has significant changes in sequel. Thus, 1967 yearbook is also significant to follow the changes before and after the earthquake (Özyıldırım, 2015).

4.3. 1973 City Yearbook of Burdur: 50th Anniversary of the Republic

As in the case of 1967 yearbooks, all cities collectively published yearbooks in 1973 dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey. As previously illustrated in Figure 2, 1973 yearbooks have similar cover designs with other cities. Since most of the books were rebounded in a course of time, it is hard to see original covers. Figure 8-a illustrates the original cover of 1973 Burdur City Yearbook, and Figure 8-b illustrates the inner cover with a handwriting of Burdur Governor.

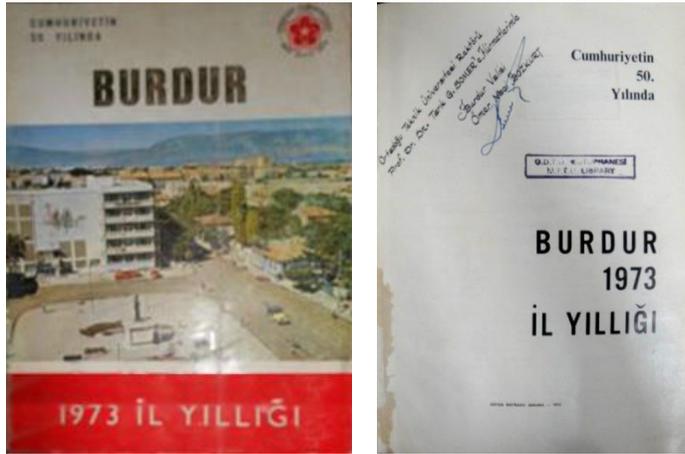


Figure 8. a) An original cover of the 1973 Burdur City Yearbook, retrieved from web. b) inner cover with a handwriting of the respect of Burdur Governor to the President of the Middle East Technical University (photographed by Özyıldırım, 2015, from METU Library).

The 50th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey was expected to be celebrated more enthusiastically than the previous ones. Hence, Law No. 1701. (*Türkiye Cumhuriyetinin Kuruluşunun 50nci Yıl Dönümünün Kutlanması Hakkında Kanun*) was published in 1973. In the directives of this Law, the city yearbooks were published all around Turkey.

Similar with the 1967 yearbook, the book contains table of contents, numbered titles and subtitles, and bibliography. Different from the one in 1967, 1973 yearbook has 500s of pages. Since it is full of various issues published in a short period of time, the title and subtitle organizations are not well defined, and it is not easy to read. Since some page numbers, such as 406, are repeating with additional codes, it can be inferred that additional pages were written after the general construct of the book was finished. However, with a patient and careful reading, various significant references can be found in the book.

Due to the collapses of the 1971 Burdur Earthquake, reconstruction of the city was required. Burdur Governorship established a committee composed of scientists and artist, and designed the construction plan of post-earthquake Burdur together with the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Republic. In this context, the 1973 yearbook documented all these activities. Since the word of "celebration" is more refreshing than the word of "post-earthquake", the most of the constructions were dedicated to the celebrity of the Republic Day. Moreover, with a far-sighted approach, the committee not only planned the reconstruction of the collapsed part of the city, but also planned its future developments to worth the 50th anniversary. Some of the constructions were written as follows; organized industrial site, new factories, new schools, new sports hall and so on.

4.4. An Example of the Use of City Yearbooks for Documenting Burdur Cumhuriyet Square

In the scope of DOCOMOMO_TR, Özyıldırım (2013) studied the Burdur city center and its surroundings, and realized the lack of reliable written sources about the subject. Hence, in the Özyıldırım's (2013) study about the Burdur Cumhuriyet Square, old photographs were collected as primary sources. Some of the photographs had no written information and some of them had information that should be checked. The paper of Aru (1948) about the master plan, and the city yearbooks were used as main written sources to interpret the photographs. First, the locations of each building in the photographs were identified, and second, they were arranged in a chronological order. Third, the exact dates of each photograph, the names of the buildings, their construction dates, their first and following functions, and their collapse or existence were attempted to be identified by following these written sources (see Figure 9).



Figure 9. DOCOMOMO_TR poster studies about the two period of the Burdur Cumhuriyet Square, (Özyıldırım, 2013).

5. CONCLUSION

For the 20th century architectural history of small Anatolian cities, such as Burdur, the city yearbooks are one of the significant references. In 1967 and 1973, the yearbooks were published for each of all cities. Moreover, there might be older yearbooks, as in the case of 1938 Burdur yearbook, which may not have a name of yearbook but have similar context. When there is lack of reliable published references, the city yearbooks together with old photographs might be a reliable ones. Although they are not academic writings and might need crosscheck, they might be a reliable starting point of new research studies.

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