

# TRANSFORMATION OF LANDSCAPE IN THE HISTORICAL PROCESS

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## ABSTRACT

Spaces are always formed by societies according to the social, economic, political and belief values of the time. Like buildings, landscapes also take shape according to different functions and purposes within the scope of these values. With this study, it is aimed to examine the symbolic and functional values of the landscape by evaluating the change of the landscape in the historical process. It has been examined how landscapes are produced periodically in the history of humanity, depending on the social, cultural and economic structure. In the study, verbal and visual data were evaluated in the analysis process by using literature data from primary and secondary sources, and findings were obtained. According to the data obtained from the study, although the landscape exists with the history of humanity, it has evolved from the garden scale designed for private purposes in the first periods of history to the design of urban areas for the whole society / arrangement of public lands. Landscape, with its social, economic and environmental dimensions, has become an indicator of modernity, which is a solution to the problems of every period. It is seen that the landscape, which is an integral part of humanity, will continue to develop and transform within the framework of the interaction in the context of time-space.

**Keywords:** Landscape, time-space, transformation.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The combined effect of driving forces such as urbanization, accessibility, globalization, and disaster, albeit different in each period, causes people's perceptions of nature to change. For this reason, it is observed that the way of using and shaping the landscape changes with the value of the landscape every period (Antrop 2005). The change of the landscape is continuous because it is the result of the interaction of dynamics between the natural and cultural forces

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in the environment. Although the landscape has a complex structure consisting of unique natural and cultural combinations in various geographical regions, it is constantly changing due to internal and external factors. Although internal factors can be controlled at the local level, external factors are mostly indirect and international economic strategies and actions at different policy levels are effective on external factors (Antrop 2000). The landscape takes shape according to the complex history and lifestyle of a region, and the cultural diversity in the regions in the historical process causes rich landscape diversity.

According to Henri Lefebvre (2014), every society that was born in history has shaped its own spaces with its geographical, political and social characteristics. Society builds these places through labor, war and revolutions, politically and diplomatically. According to Lefebvre (2017) Ritmanaliz, the formation of time and space consists of cyclic and linear repetitions. Cyclic repetition comes from nature; days, seasons, monthly cycles, etc.; linear repetition comes from social practice, hence human activities; The monotony of actions includes imposed structures. According to David Harvey (2003), understanding the connections between economic, political and cultural processes is possible with time-space definitions. He expresses the destruction of spatial boundaries, that is, the destruction of space in time, as a time-space compression. The landscape undergoes symbolic and functional changes over time by intertwining changes at the local scale with capitalism, globalization trends, time-space compression, consumption, identity, technological and scientific discoveries (Terkenli 2005). The concept of landscape and its perceived reality is a registered cultural object that changes according to the perception frameworks of space and time (Cauquelin 2007). In this study, evaluating the transformation of the landscape in the historical process; How landscapes are produced periodically in history is examined.

## **2. PERIOD OF LANDSCAPE**

According to Marc Antrop (2005), it is necessary to understand three periods in order to understand the landscape. Firstly; It is the traditional landscape before the 18th century. The second is; industrialization and the process from the 19th century to the second world war. Changing lifestyle and thinking on land and environment; It forms the landscape of the industrial revolution, where the traces of the past are diminished and irreversible breaks exist. As the third; It is the landscape formed after the world wars with the increase of globalization and urbanization. These landscapes are called post-modern new landscapes.

### **2.1. Traditional Landscape**

As stated in historical sources, the first place where mankind established a settled civilization is lower Mesopotamia. The reason for this is the existence of fertile

alluvial soils carried by the Euphrates and Tigris rivers and that these lands provide people with the opportunity to farm; Due to the annual floods of the river, the first communities in history made the Sumerians and Babylonians an obligation to fight nature. The city of Babylon in Lower Mesopotamia gave the first garden example in history. As seen in Figure 1.a, hanging gardens of Babylon were built that covered the royal palaces. These gardens are in the form of a roof garden or a roof garden, and there are some lodges and pergolas that are generally made of bricks. Another of the ancient civilizations is the Egyptian Civilization developed in the valley of the Nile. Elements of monumental character are included in the Egyptian landscaping, this majesty of ideas, It has been applied wherever it can display splendor and power. Symmetrical layout, high walls and magnificent trees are seen in the temple and the king's gardens (Gültekin 2001). In this period, the desire to reach the sky is supported by high temples and magnificent landscape elements.

Ancient Greek culture was born with the combination of Egyptian, Aegean and West Asian cultures. Urban texture, ecological conditions, social life of the people and religious beliefs are the most important factors in shaping the Greek landscape. For this reason, garden arrangements were made in parts of the city such as Agora, Gymnasium, Hippodrome and Temple (Figure 1.c) in ancient Greece. Especially as seen in Figure 1.b, the city square (Agora) is the squares where the people are shaded under big trees. In Ancient Rome, which was founded on ancient Greek culture, the example of home and garden was taken from Ancient Greece. Tree boulevards, geometric water channels, sculptures, columns are common. As a continuation of the agoras, it has turned into forums with theater, bath and circus areas (Gültekin 2001). Symbolic landscape elements such as wide boulevards and road afforestation and sculpture are seen to increase in ancient Rome.

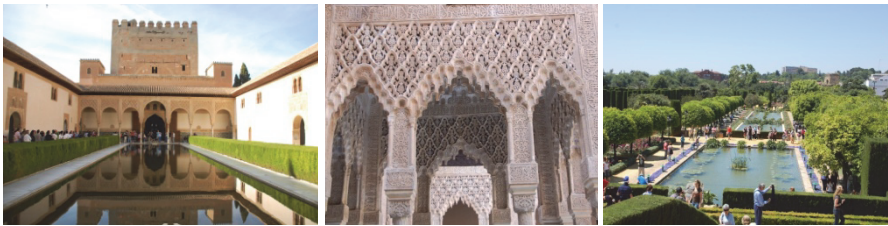


**Figure 1: a. Hanging Gardens of Babylon (Mesopotamia), b. Ancient Agora of Athens c. Temple of Hephaistos Garden (Athens)**

When the Roman Empire broke up in 330 BC, the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine) was born in the east and the Western Rome was born in the west. While the capital of Byzantium was declared Istanbul (Constantinople), on the

other hand, the empire was affected by eastern culture due to trade and war in Asia. Byzantine gardens are highly influenced by Persian gardens. Byzantine gardens resemble imitations of Persian carpet patterns (Jellicoe 1975).

When it comes to Islamic gardens, the first thing that comes to mind is Turkish gardens in Central Asia and India, and Iran and other Arab gardens after Islam. The most important of these they are gardens of Spain, and as seen in Figure 2, elegant thin columns, horseshoe triangular or circular arches, tiled floors, and steadiness and simplicity are also present in architecture. Spanish gardens are dignified and calm places. The sense of privacy prevails in the garden features; introversion is a general feature of Islamic gardens. The usage style of water in Islamic gardens draws attention. Water is a landscape element for muslims that they can put their hands in and play with (Akdoğan 1974). Islamic gardens stand out with their elegance, simplicity, privacy and calming effects. The effect of the longing and dream of a paradise garden in the understanding of Islam is seen in the garden space.



**Figure 2: a.b. Alhambra (Andalusia, Spain), c. El Cesar (Spain)**

After the collapse of the Roman Empire, medieval cities have an organic urban texture suitable for human scale and natural conditions, topography and climate. Narrow and winding streets; Adjacent regular residences and back gardens are visible along these streets. Since the city is clustered around the church and the cathedral, it has always been considered with large squares (Mumford 2007). In the medieval period, squares are landscape elements used as an important public space where urban life is maintained as a part of social and economic processes.

In medieval cities, narrow and cramped streets, deprived of green and irregular urban structure are observed due to being surrounded by ramparts as seen in Figure 3.a due to protection concerns. In Medieval Europe, which has a closed economy, vegetables and fruits are grown to feed only in small areas between buildings and herbaceous plants for diseases. As seen in Figure 3.b, the monastery gardens, pools, terraces, fruit and vegetables serve as a recreation with the parts where medicinal plants are grown. (Laurie 1976). In this period, private gardens were not given much space due to the limited time in other parts of the society except for very wealthy people for pleasure and pleasure

(Var, 2015). In the Middle Ages, monasteries and castle gardens (Figure 3.c) are gardens with courtyards where daily and special activities are held.



**Figure 3: a. Osnabrück (Germany), b. Monastery Gardens (Germany)  
c. Castle Gardens (Cardiff)**

A new Islamic power developed in West Asia during the Mongol Empire; Seljuk Empire. There is very limited information about the quality of Turkish-Islamic garden art during the reign of Anatolian Seljuks. The reason for this is the ban on painting in the understanding of Islam. While the Seljuks collapsed, the Ottoman Empire emerged as a new state. The Ottomans conquered Istanbul in 1453 in a short time (Evyapan, 1974). With the conquest of Istanbul, the Middle Ages closed and the New Age started.

Between the 15th and 19th centuries in Europe, social and urban changes that form the foundations of the industrial revolution are observed in the periods described as Renaissance and Baroque periods. In the 15th and 16th centuries, the Renaissance period is the age of art as well as the information age. It is based on the perspective of ideal city, ideal person, ideal society. In the Middle Ages, there was fear of nature due to religious belief, but the idea of approaching nature was developed in this period. Renaissance gardens emerge in accordance with this idea. In this regard, the city of Florence leads the way with its special artist staff (Oldham and Ray 1980).

The emergence of the Renaissance gardens was revealed by the active work of architect Leon Baptista Alberti. Alberti considers the garden together with the building (Villa) architecture. Villa d Este (Figure 4.a) in Tivoli and Villa Lante (Figure 4.b) in Bagnania, made in Italy in the mid-16th century, are important works (Gültekin 2001). Despite the possibility of war in the future, strong love of nature could not prevent people from spreading outside the city walls. In parallel with the increase in culture and wealth, the love and curiosity of villas has increased and villas have gained importance as living spaces where tranquility and happiness can be found with their beautiful gardens. The first Renaissance villas were originally built in the vicinity of the city's fortress walls and on fairly flat terrain. However, the polluted air of the city, various chaos, and most importantly, the concern for protection from epidemic diseases, especially from

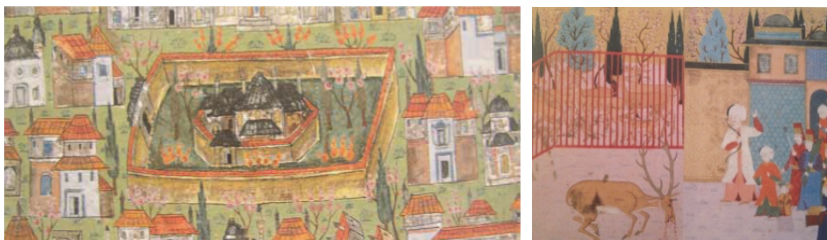
the plague, gradually attracts the villas to the hills and areas overlooking the landscape (Var 2015). Cultural landscapes were built after the Renaissance; villas, palaces and castles were used as indicators of wealth and power; ordinary landscapes are hardly covered (Preece, 1991). As seen in Figure 4.c, in the Renaissance period, an effort to create a conscious order and aesthetics against the natural structure of the Middle Ages is observed. It is desired that the landscape in the city form an integrity with the surrounding buildings.



**Figure 4: a. Villa D'este (Tivoli, Rome), b. Villa Lante (Bagnaia, Italy), c. Medici Villa Castello (Italy)**

During the Renaissance, Hyde Park in London, which was designed as a hunting area for the Royal in 1536, was opened to the public by Charles I in 1637 (Porter 2000). In the same period, it is seen that areas used for different purposes in Europe were transformed into city parks.

When we look at the landscape and garden art in Istanbul after the conquest of Istanbul, the first palace built by Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror in Istanbul after the conquest is the "Old Palace", which is a high hill, located in the area where Istanbul University is located today. The Old Palace is seen in the center of the city, surrounded by four-corner high walls as seen in Figure 5.a. As seen in the second volume of Hünername, as seen in Figure 5.b, a deer with green horns collapsed in blood with the arrow shot by Sultan Süleyman and a high red painted fence of the palace at the back are seen, there are cypresses and flowering trees in the garden. It can be stated that the garden of this palace is not very small, since special sections can be allocated for this kind of hunting games (Atasoy 2002).



**Figure 5: a. b. Old Place Garden**

The Ottomans established many palaces and gardens after the 15th century. The most important of these is Topkapı Palace. The palace consists of five courtyards. The courtyards consist of squares where great ceremonies are held, pavilions, paths with trees, gardens where vegetables and fruits are grown and adorned with bushes and flowers (Atasoy 2002). Turkish landscape art is a combination of formal and informal order, the feeling of being close to the ground, a closed courtyard system, a place for animals in the garden and giving pleasure and peace. Topkapı Palace has planning features in which Turkish landscape art features are seen (Bekar 2016). It is seen that palace gardens are intertwined with nature, unpretentious, simple, with love and respect for nature, and based on the longing for paradise in the Islamic belief.

In the middle of the 16th century, Turkish gardens showed great improvements by preserving Iran's traditional understanding of gardens. Plants such as tulips and hyacinths unique to the Turks attracted attention and admired by foreigners (Johnson 1979). In the 17th century, the effects of the Grand Style French gardens can be seen in the palace gardens. Palaces and gardens were built in various parts of Istanbul, including the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn, in a short time known as the 18th century Tulip Era (1703-1730). The most important of these is the Sadabat Palace and Garden, which was established on the plain of the Kağıthane valley, seen in Figure 6a. As seen in Figure 6.b, Kağıthane valley has been used as a promenade and a picnic area in Istanbul (Eldem 1977).



**Figure 6: a.Kağıthane Sadabat Place b. Kağıthane Promenade (Picnic Area)**

Renaissance innovations are exemplified by Italian garden art with large style gardens and chateau, royal gardens and villa experiments in France. The French large style garden approach that emerged in the 17th century spread to Europe over time. In the French grand style garden approach, geometrical order, regular axes, vistas, water surfaces, sculptures come to the fore (Figure 7 a.b.c) (Gültekin 2001). It is seen that garden architecture came to the fore in the field of landscape and landscape architecture from the 16th to the 19th century.



**Figure 7: a. Versailles Palace (Paris), b. Herrenhausen Palace (Hannover), c. Schönbrunn Palace (Austria)**

This period, known as the Baroque period with magnificent structures and landscapes in the 17th and 18th centuries, is a period when Renaissance plans were implemented. Building and garden elements in the Baroque period; There are formal order, radial axes, perceptibility at a glance, circular lines, transition from architecture to nature, the perception of space reaching eternity, unity of measure between the building and the garden (Bekar 2016). Washington D.C. As seen in Figure 8.a.b.c, in L'Enfant Plan (1791) prepared for It is seen that it entered the city in its parks and gardens that are not open to the public, and in the Baroque period, the buildings and landscapes in the city became a means of demonstrating power.



**Figure 8: a.b.c. L'Enfant Plan Washington (1791)**

In the 18th century, the Ottoman state entered a period of decline, and western influences are observed in the palaces and gardens. In the 19th century, Dolmabahçe Palace, Beylerbeyi Palace, Yıldız Palace, Emirgan Mansion and Woodland were shaped by western influence. In the 19th century, baroque-influenced axes and symmetry, and garden arrangements that attach importance to plant shaping, are seen through western consulates, which are effective in palaces, mansions and pavilions (Yaltrık et al.1997). Although Dolmabahçe Palace, Beylerbeyi Palace and Yıldız Palace have the landscape features, they have a westernization effect under the influence of Renaissance and Baroque (Bekar 2016). In this period, it is seen that the functional use of the landscape has decreased and there are more aesthetic applications. In the Ottoman period, the landscape is generally shaped within the framework of social life and religious belief.



## 2.2. Landscapes of the Revolutions Age

With the start of an economic transition in England in the 18th century, the transition from labor to machine-based production, the development of the textile industry, new iron making techniques, refined coal for energy began to be used. This fuel promoted the transportation of goods and people through the development of steam power, railways and ships, which greatly increased production capacity. One result of this technological progress has been the uncontrolled growth of cities. However, the physical and institutional infrastructure of the cities is not ready for urban growth, which has caused poor living conditions. As shown in Figure 9.abc, air pollution due to coal-fired factories, polluted drinking water, diseases caused by hazardous waste and solid waste management, narrow streets filled with animal corpses and manure, insufficient roads for the transmission of goods and services, airless and lightless residences problems such as dangerous and unethical working conditions and excessive income inequality have emerged (Eisenman 2013).



**Figure 9: a. Manchester (England), b. Yorkshire (England), c. Hamburg (Germany)**

The mass production of modernity, commodification, new technologies, and the concentration of capital have led to the emergence of new urban regions and social movements. Thinkers like Le Corbusier, Ebenezer Howard, and Frank Lloyd Wright have been representatives of some of the spatial approaches in which these changes occur. Corbusier's skyscrapers in the park, Howard's Garden Towns and Wright's Broadacre City offer alternatives to the dysfunctions of the medieval urban form disrupted by industrialization (Young 2016). Another of the various urban movements to correct the changing urban structure with the industrial revolution is the Beautiful City Movement, which is the most effective in America. The aim of this movement has been to provide social and physical recovery by planning green areas in cities as well as physically renewing the cities. In the 19th century, parks are seen as natural shelters for the problems of industrial cities. Central Park in New York (Figure 10.a) was first planned by Olmsted by examining the parks in Europe and was built between 1857 and 1861. The Beautiful City movement in the early 20th century resulted in the construction of numerous parks (Steiner 2008). In Boston, which coincides with

the same period, Back Bay Fens (Figure 10.b) forms the city's drainage system connecting the green areas of the city in the city (Corner 2006). During this period, parks responded to human demands such as recreation, environmental quality, and physical and social activity (Pankhurst, H. 2010). As seen in Figure 10.c, with the park movement that started with Olmsted, many parks and romantic sub-cities were implemented in America.



**Figure 10: a. Central Park (New York), b. Back Bay Fens (Boston), c. Prospect Park (Brooklyn)**

### 2.3. Post-modern New Landscape

World wars took place due to the increase in the need for raw materials and colonialism in the world with the industrial revolution and resulted in the destruction of European cities. During this period, parks were used as evacuation, first aid areas and to prevent the spread of fires. After the World Wars, the period of physical and social restoration started in the cities. Cities are undergoing transformation with the renewal of the city that was destroyed during the restoration, the relocation of industrial areas outside the city, and the use of the remaining old areas as green areas. One of these works is the project of transforming the old industrial and slaughterhouse areas in Paris into city parks. "21 for a former Paris slaughterhouse of about 51 hectares. 1982 Park de la Villette competition was opened with the name "City Park for the Century" (Waldheim 2006). According to the winner of the competition, Bernard Tschumi, the lifestyles and needs of the 21st century urbanite are different from the 19th century urbanite (Tschumi 1983). Landscape allows the solution of physical and social problems in the city in this period.

The dynamics and breadth of modernism reveal their own stress factors, and the global conflict in the markets at the end of the world wars, the centralization of science and technology, the attachment of social controls to institutions, and criticism of alienation in new metropolises led to post-modernism (Young 2016). After the second half of the 20th century, with the rise of socio-ecological awareness in the world, the development of computer technology, and the "Design with Nature" work of Ian Mcharg, published in 1969, an important breaking point was experienced in the landscape. It is stated that the biophysical,

social and economic characteristics of the landscape should be evaluated in a holistic manner (McHarg 1969). In the second half of the 20th century, a more holistic approach towards landscape management is seen and interdisciplinary studies are aimed.

In the 21st century, the concept of landscape is changing due to environmental and global awareness, developing tourism and identity creation, and the rural pressure of urban sprawl. Landscape creates an alternative cross-section in contemporary urban planning, with the ability to conceptually organize places, regions, ecosystems, networks, infrastructures and large urban areas. This paradigm, defined as landscape urbanism, was introduced in 1997, and today, successful examples are seen in recent years, which see the dynamics of the landscape as an alternative to architectural blocks. In the High Line (Figure 11.a) project in New York in 2008, it was transformed into a city park by preserving the identity of the old railway. Fresh Kills Lifespace (Figure 11.b) is the project of rehabilitating the old waste storage area planned to be completed in 2035 and transforming it into a city park (Corner 2006). Nord Steelworks Park (Duisburg), former coal gas plant and its environs transformation project Gas Works Park (Washington) (Figure 11.c), military air superstructure Downsview Park (Toronto) et al. are examples where the landscape allows for change and transformation (Waldheim 2006). In this context, today it is seen that the landscape is a pioneer in the renewal of public land management (Cauquelin 2007).



**Figure 11: a. High Line (New York), b. Fresh Kills Lifespace (New York), c. Gas Works Park (Washington)**

Landscape urbanism, urban space organization; regulating the economic, political and social future; seeing urban areas as self-regulating spaces; It is an approach that suggests the use of public landscape areas. Landscape has layered, anti-hierarchical, flexible and strategic features in all urban activities (Waldheim 2006). The pressure of globalization from the 20th century to the 21st century creates awareness on local identity and regional diversity. Various attempts are made to create new spaces and these areas are urban spaces that can adapt to the changes of contemporary cities and citizens. In this context, landscape urbanism is the production of urban flexible areas by superimposing

the ecological, economic, social and political regulation values of the landscape. These are studies in which natural ecologies, infrastructure, social and cultural layers of the city are integrated. It is aimed to design areas with identity, long-term economic gain, natural permeability in urban areas.

### 3. CONCLUSION

In the medieval period, especially due to social, economic and religious beliefs, the landscape in the city was used in a smaller scale, organic and functionally to meet daily needs. With the Renaissance period, it is seen that it has a more organized and more artistic and aesthetic structure. In the Baroque period, which is a continuation of the Renaissance period, there are magnificent and large landscape arrangements. With the industrial revolution, the infrastructure of which was prepared with various inventions during the Renaissance period, physical and social problems in cities are increasing rapidly. After the industrial revolution, urban parks emerged as a response to the pollution in the city, the increase in the need for people to use the city, social and physical needs, and as a remedial practice. Urban parks, which were used for various purposes in early Europe, were transformed into a park movement with Olmsted. When we look at the landscape applications of the Ottoman period in Istanbul, the first thing that comes to the fore is the palace gardens. Landscape art, which started under the influence of eastern garden art, shows the characteristics of Turkish-Islamic garden art. After the 17th century, under the influence of the age of science and art in Europe, the westernization effect is seen in the palace gardens.

In the last century, it is seen that various landscapes have been designed in order to increase human and environmental welfare in cities whose quality of life has decreased with the increase of urbanization, industrialization, globalization and accessibility. This approach, called landscape urbanism, is seen to be a guide in the planning of physical, social, economic and ecological processes targeted in urban planning. In this context, it is known that the landscape was born symbolically and was accepted in the early periods. Landscape began as a long-awaited image that could be realized with a garden approach. Over time, political, scientific and technical researches on land arrangement put the purely aesthetic concerns of the landscape perception into the background and revealed the necessity of public land arrangements (Cauquelin 2007). In this study, where we examine the change of the landscape periodically, it is seen that the landscape allows change and transformation in every period. It is seen that landscape has gained a universal value by periodically transforming from a private garden design scale to the design of large urban areas for the whole society.

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