

ADAPTIVE RE-USE EXAMPLE OF AN INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE BUILDING “IZMIR GAS PLANT BUILDING”

Mine TANAC ZEREN

Dokuz Eylul University Faculty of Architecture, Turkey, mine.tanac@deu.edu.tr

Summary

This paper deals with an preservation case an industrial heritage building in Izmir the Gas Plant Building which is one of the important industry buildings of Izmir built in the mid of 19th century by French. The main factory building and its annexes located on a 24 square meters land. This building and its environment re-adapted by Izmir Municipality as a cultural platform for public as the industrial archaeology site. The renovated building complex played a very important role in reducing the urban sprawl of the area, transformed its environment, enhanced the aesthetic appeal of the built environment, increased the demand for retained existing buildings, and retained streetscapes that maintain sense of place, visual amenity and cultural heritage.

Keywords: contemporary additions, refurbishment of historical buildings, sustainable modernization of historical buildings,

1 Introduction

Adaptive re-use is seen as an effective way of reducing urban sprawl and environmental impact. By reusing an existing structure within a site, the energy required to create these spaces is lessened, as is the material waste that comes from destroying old sites and rebuilding using new materials. Through adaptive re-use old, unoccupied buildings can become suitable sites for many different types of use. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5].

Historical buildings may have a character that can significantly contribute to the culture of a society and converse aspects of its history. Preservation of these buildings is important and maintains their intrinsic heritage and cultural values.

Prestigious buildings such as palaces, castles, monuments and chateaux attract kudos to those who own them and are therefore more likely to have been preserved by the individuals who have them or by the communities in which they are situated. Industrial and domestic property, particularly in urban areas of large cities, is unlikely to enjoy this privilege. The main thing which is very important in the case of preservation of industrial heritage is to preserve not only the physical environment but to preserve the how the industry works. [4].

If the Adapted re-use attempt maintains the following items, than it can be considered as a successful and sustainable work. [6].

- Transform the environment of the building in a positive way.
- Fit to the existing structures spatial organization
- Eligible of preserving both the tangible and intangible value of the existing building
- Adapted function make the structure liveable in the meaning of sustainability

- The interventions that make the structure adapt to nowadays use would not ruin the originality of the structure.
- The adapted function would not modify the envelope of the building

2 The explanation of the Case

The Gas Plant Building is one of the important industry buildings of Izmir built in the mid of 19th century by French [7].The main factory building and its annexes located on a 24 square meters land. This building and its environment re-adapted by Izmir Municipality as a cultural platform for public as the industrial archeology site. The renovated building complex played a very important role in reducing the urban sprawl of the area, transformed its environment, enhanced the aesthetic appeal of the built environment, increased the demand for retained existing buildings, and retained streetscapes that maintain sense of place, visual amenity and cultural heritage.

The adaptive re-use attempt of the building can be taken into consideration as successful because mainly it turned the structure into a livable place by the public in the meaning of sustainability, the spatial organization, the envelope of the original structure has been carried out to future use, the tangible and intangible values has been preserved as well. The main important issue is that the isolated environment of the complex has been adapted to life; the adaptive re-use attempt transformed the environment of the structure in a positive way. This site has been joined with the public and nowadays use. The 24 square meters land retained sense of place, visual amenity and cultural heritage.



Fig. 1 Gas Plant Building (Mine Tanac Zeren Archive)

The main factory building has been turned into a restaurant, the intangible values such as the equipments for procuding gas has been preserved within the space as the display elements. The houses of the workers has been turned into workshops for art activities. The whole open area has been turned into open concert spaces, open air movie area, etc. This complex is now the new art area for City of Izmir.

3 Conclusions

The rescue of industrial survivals has been quite a difficult process in history. After the Second World War, and especially after the 1970s, in which urbanization movements increased all over the world, many industrial, historical and cultural buildings were demolished due to the futurist approaches of governments, under so-called “modernization” discourses. The basic reason for the destruction of these heritages was the lack of an official policy. Most of the conservation proclamations aimed to conserve only aesthetically beautiful historical buildings until the mid 20th century. Now that most of the industrial buildings are not as architecturally attractive as monumental or civic buildings, they were considered as brutal, and unnecessary. Even though the origin of conservation attitudes dates back to the Renaissance, conservation of the industrial heritage is a very new issue, which is originated in the mid 20th century.

In brief, since the 1950s, the discipline has aimed to examine the living and working environments of the labourers of the past, and thus, focuses its study on all monuments and tools that were constructed and used for the purpose of producing goods and services. Industrial buildings and structures are generally monumental in character; therefore industrial buildings are accepted as the symbols of continuity of societies.

Furthermore, since each monument is the product of shared cultural and social values, they are perceived as the generators of a collective memory and shared urban identity. This identity and collective memory is accepted to be an essential entity for the generation of citizenship, and thus as a tool to create a public realm within the cityscape. Secondly, industrial landscapes occupy huge amounts of land. In today’s congested inner cities, where modern societies continue to destroy public lands for the sake of creating spaces of consumption, societies could use this potential vacant land stock as an important tool to recreate former communal areas. [8]. Much of the literature related to industrial heritage management refers to the advantages of industrial archaeological parks and open-air technology museums that exhibit the industrial heritages *in situ*. Thirdly, abandoned industrial sites have a potentially usable vacant building stock. An advantage to these buildings is that most of them allow a variety of re-uses due to their wide spatial features. Finally, abandoned industrial landscapes are usually on public property.

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