



portfolio



2021-2025
SELECTED WORKS

Beste Köken

URBAN PLANNER

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 **beste.kokenn@gmail.com**

 **beste-koken**

about me

I'm Beste Köken, an Urban Planner exploring how design and data can help shape sustainable, people-friendly cities. With a background in urban design and GIS, I enjoy using tools like ArcGIS Pro, QGIS, and Adobe software to reveal the stories behind urban spaces. I believe planning thrives on listening, creativity, and practical solutions, and I'm eager to keep learning and contributing to better cities for all.

EDUCATION

Anadolu University Eskişehir, Türkiye Associate Degree in Geographic Information System	2024-Present
Izmir Institute of Technology İzmir, Türkiye Bachelor's Degree in City and Regional Planning 2,54/4	2020-2025
Menderes Fatma Ramazan Büküşoğlu Anatolian High School İzmir, Türkiye 87,37/100	2016-2020

EXPERIENCE

Parabol, Teknopark İzmir Office Internship Urban and regional planning knowledge gained in undergraduate education was applied in real market conditions. Working on urban design and sustainability projects reinforced theoretical knowledge and provided professional experience.	August-September 2024 Duration: 20 Days
ZG Mim Restorasyon, Karşıyaka/İzmir Measured Drawings Internship It involved research, measurement, drawing, and reporting on conservation practices to understand historical buildings and their surroundings.	July 2023 Duration: 10 Days
IZTECH, İzmir/Türkiye Surveying & Mapping Internship All existing details of a designated open area were measured, and a digital map and file were created. A basemap was produced in AutoCAD, incorporating land scaling, natural and artificial elements	August-September 2022 Duration: 20 Days
Merve Boran Mimarlık, İzmir/Türkiye Volunteer Summer Internship The cooperation between the municipality and the offices, municipal activities, project execution with engineering units and the use of programs such as Photoshop, Rhino, Revit and Lumion in project preparation were observed and practiced.	July-August 2022 Duration: 30 Days

SKILLS

GIS & Spatial Analysis

ArcMap	<div><div></div></div>
ArcGIS Pro	<div><div></div></div>
QGIS	<div><div></div></div>
NetCAD	<div><div></div></div>

2D Drafting

AutoCAD	<div><div></div></div>
Revit	<div><div></div></div>

3D Modeling

SketchUp	<div><div></div></div>
Revit	<div><div></div></div>

Presentation

Photoshop	<div><div></div></div>
InDesign	<div><div></div></div>
MS Office	<div><div></div></div>
Canva	<div><div></div></div>

LANGUAGE

Turkish	<div><div></div></div>
English	<div><div></div></div>
German	<div><div></div></div>



project highlights

01



RECREATING INDUSTRIAL
HERITAGE, ALLSANCAK

02



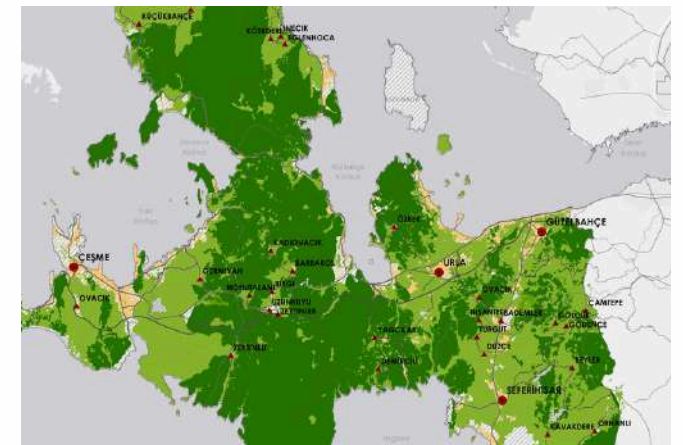
MOBISPINE IN URLA

03



DENIZLI URBAN AND REGIONAL
STRATEGIC VISION: 2040

04



ADDITIONAL WORKS

Recreating Industrial Heritage, Alsancak

Location : Alsancak, İzmir

Team Members: Ayda Kalemci, Gizem Sever, Hatice Taşdemir, Merve Kasapoğlu

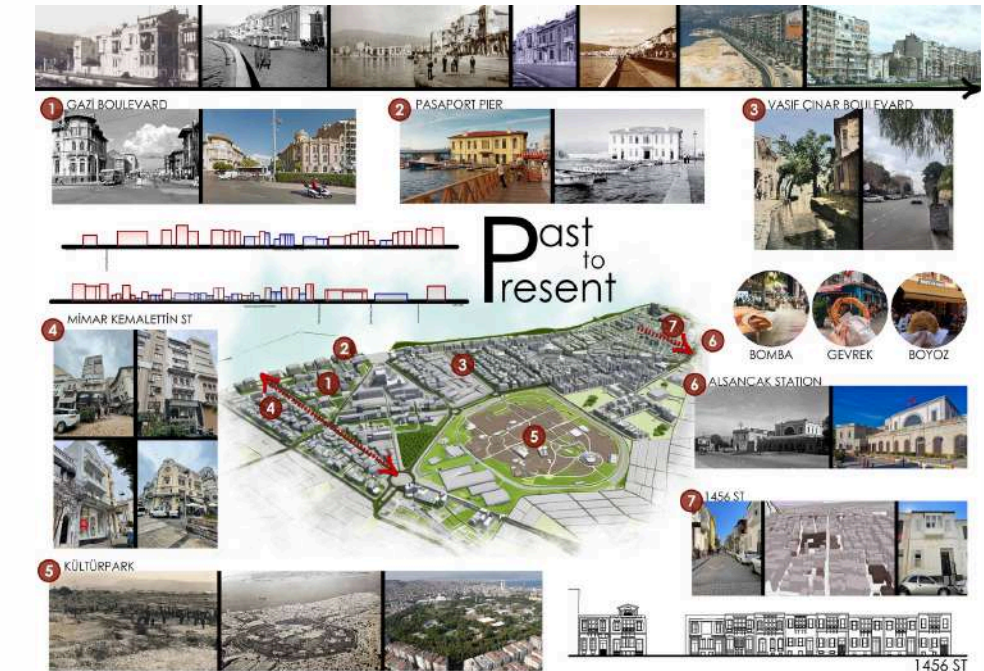
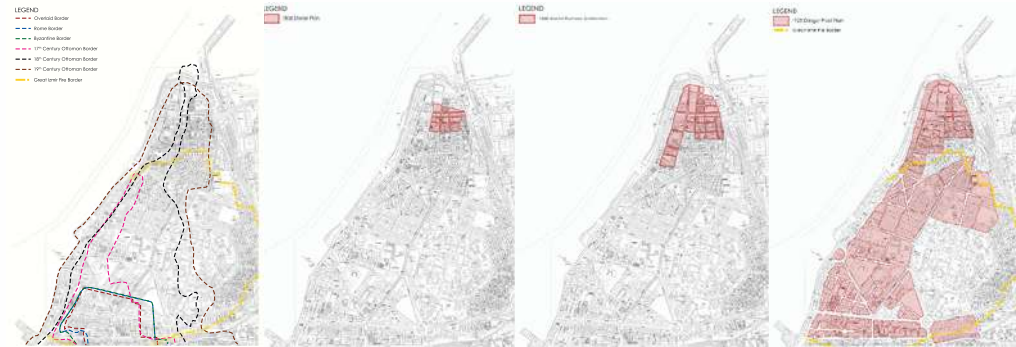
Softwares: AutoCAD, ArcGIS Pro, Netcad, Adobe Photoshop, Canva

This 4th-year, 2nd-semester graduation project focused on revitalizing Alsancak's historical core through a human-centered, conservation-oriented approach. Centered on Mimar Kemalettin Street, the design aimed to create a pedestrian-friendly and culturally vibrant urban environment. Recognized with the **Murat Balamir Risk-Sensitive Planning Encouragement Equivalent Award at the TUPOB National Urban and Regional Planning Students Graduation Project Competition (2025)** and awarded **2nd place in the Atlas Planning Graduation Project Competition (2025)**, it balances heritage preservation with contemporary urban life.

2025, SPRING SEMESTER

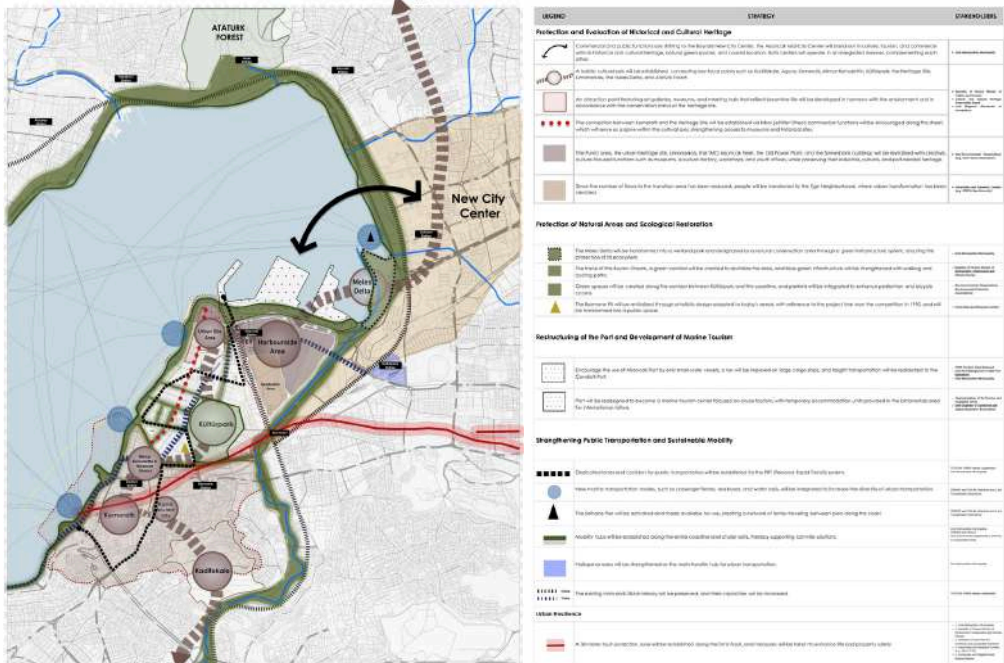


As part of the analysis, historical plans of Alsancak were overlaid with contemporary maps to assess how much of the original street pattern and building blocks have been preserved. In addition, the boundaries of the Roman, Byzantine, and 17th–19th century Ottoman periods were compared, allowing the identification of the most layered historical borders. This multi-temporal approach provided a foundation for conservation strategies and emphasized the importance of integrating heritage continuity into the planning process.



At the 1/10,000 scale, the concept plan for Alsancak focused on strengthening connections between historical, cultural, and ecological assets while addressing the shift of the new city center toward the Bayraklı-Bornova axis. The strategy emphasized pedestrian-oriented design, integration of green corridors, and adaptive reuse of heritage buildings. By linking public spaces with cultural venues, sustainable mobility networks, and the emerging city center, the plan aimed to create a cohesive and vibrant urban fabric that balances conservation with contemporary urban needs.

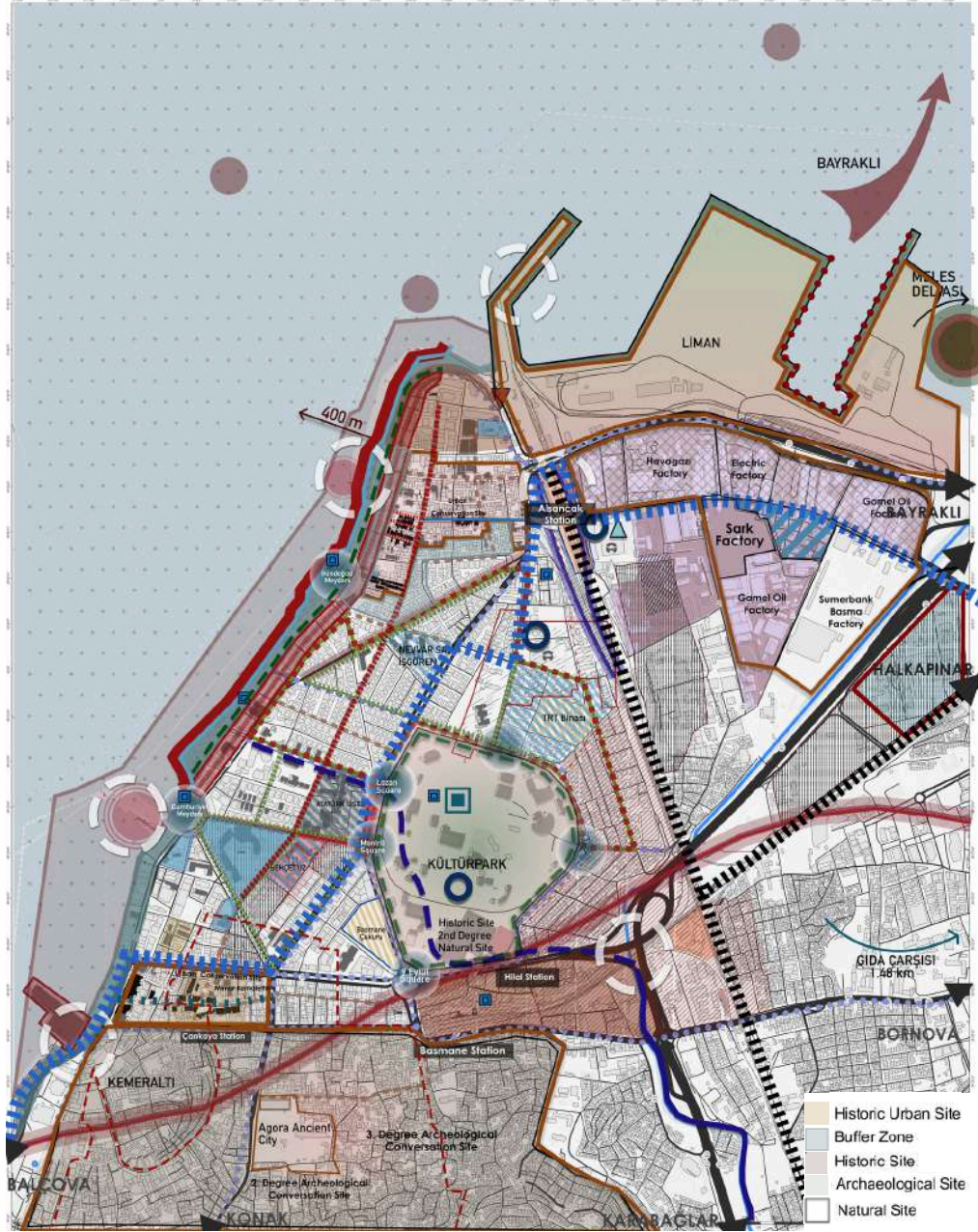
1/10000 Scale Concept Plan



1/5000 Scale Concept Plan

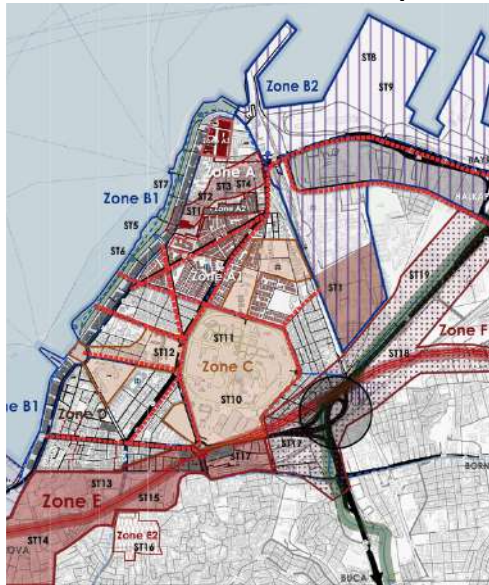


1:5000 Scale Problem-Potential-Value Analysis



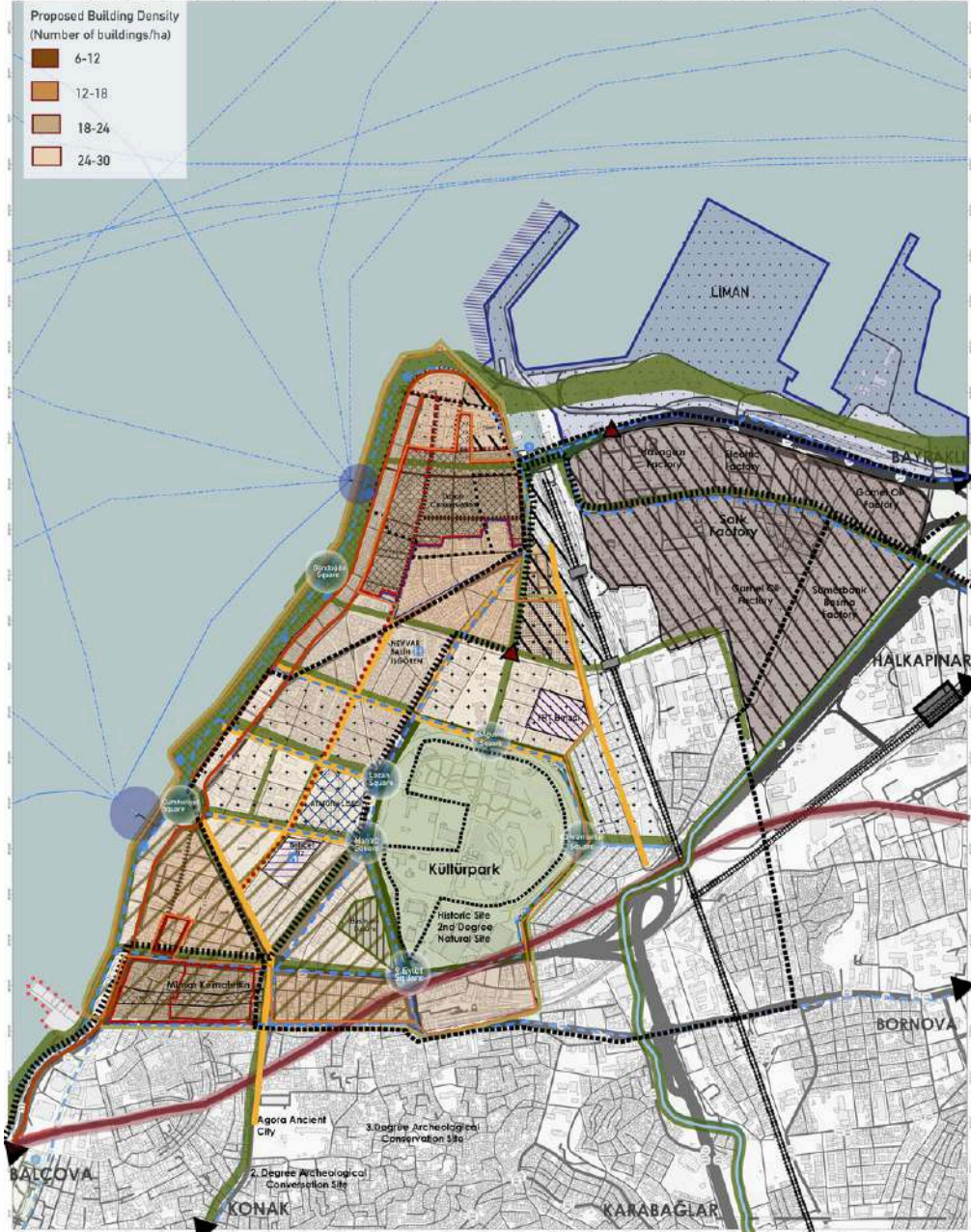
The analysis of Alsancak highlighted fragmented urban fabric, limited green spaces, traffic congestion, and vulnerability of historical buildings as key problems. Potentials included its central location, strong pedestrian links, cultural facilities, and active commerce. Values were based on preserved street patterns, architectural heritage, and vibrant social life. These insights support strategies to improve walkability, enhance green and cultural corridors, and balance conservation with sustainable development.

1:5000 Scale Disaster Risk Analysis



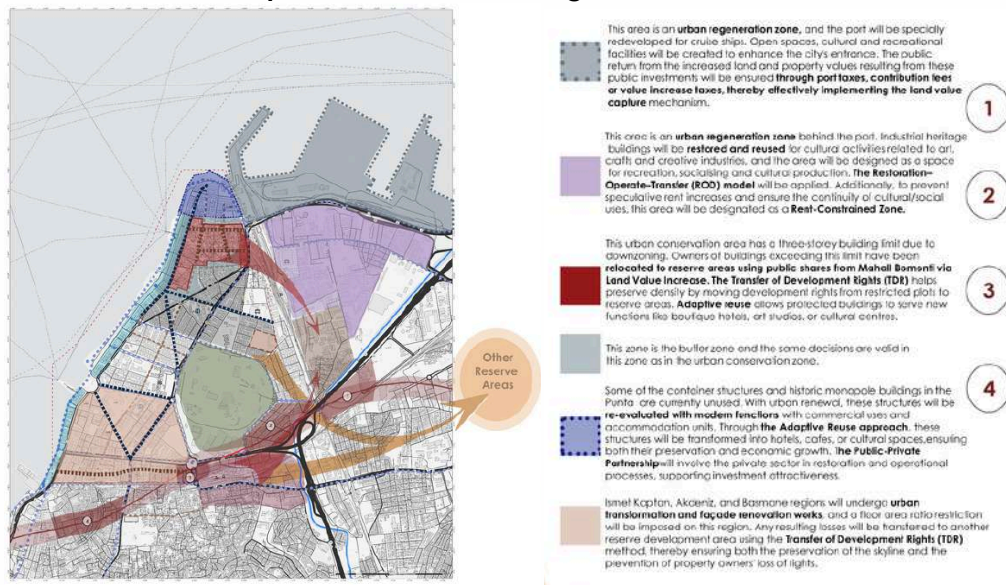
Zone	Building Density	Disaster Risk	Disaster Risk
ZONE A	6-12	Low	Low
ZONE A1	12-18	Medium	Medium
ZONE A2	18-24	High	High
ZONE A3	24-30	Very High	Very High
ZONE B1	6-12	Low	Low
ZONE B2	12-18	Medium	Medium
ZONE C	18-24	High	High
ZONE D	24-30	Very High	Very High
ZONE E1	6-12	Low	Low
ZONE E2	12-18	Medium	Medium
ZONE E3	18-24	High	High
ZONE E4	24-30	Very High	Very High
ZONE F	6-12	Low	Low
ZONE G	12-18	Medium	Medium
ZONE H	18-24	High	High
ZONE I	24-30	Very High	Very High
ZONE J	6-12	Low	Low
ZONE K	12-18	Medium	Medium
ZONE L	18-24	High	High
ZONE M	24-30	Very High	Very High
ZONE N	6-12	Low	Low
ZONE O	12-18	Medium	Medium
ZONE P	18-24	High	High
ZONE Q	24-30	Very High	Very High
ZONE R	6-12	Low	Low
ZONE S	12-18	Medium	Medium
ZONE T	18-24	High	High
ZONE U	24-30	Very High	Very High
ZONE V	6-12	Low	Low
ZONE W	12-18	Medium	Medium
ZONE X	18-24	High	High
ZONE Y	24-30	Very High	Very High
ZONE Z	6-12	Low	Low

1:5000 Scale Strategy Plan



The 1/5000 scale strategy plan for Alsancak emphasizes strengthening blue-green infrastructure, creating cultural and ecological corridors, and enhancing walkability through pedestrian-prioritized mobility. It proposes adaptive reuse of heritage assets, sustainable development controls, and disaster-resilient urban renewal. Strategies also focus on integrating the coastline with the city, promoting inclusive public spaces, and balancing conservation with contemporary urban needs.

1:5000 Scale Plan Implementation Tools' Diagram



Detailed Conservation and Design Approaches

In our part with Ayda, we focused on the 1/2000 and 1/500 scales, where the strategic framework was transformed into detailed design decisions. At 1/2000 scale, we developed conservation and renewal strategies through typological zoning, public space interventions, and disaster-resilient planning approaches. At 1/500 scale, we translated these principles into concrete applications with parcel and block-based interventions, façade improvements, and pedestrian-oriented arrangements. This layered approach allowed us to connect Alsancak's historical identity with ecological continuity and sustainable urban transformation.

1:2000 Scale Site Plan



Design Process

Design Idea

Design aims to ensure spatial continuity while preserving the historical and commercial fabric. New interventions have been proposed based on the bazaar structure and circulation flows.

Design Area

The study area encompasses a bazaar district where urban fabric is dense and various functional uses coexist.



Design Idea

The design aimed to preserve Alsancak's historic 3-4 story silhouette while introducing openings to connect city and coast. A balance between heritage and contemporary needs was targeted.



Mimar Kemalettin St.

The building blocks in the area exhibit a courtyard-oriented layout. The courtyards are generally inward-facing, with limited connectivity between them.



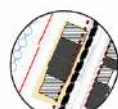
Yeni Kavafkar Bazaar

At the ground level, linear passages create a circulation pattern similar to that of an arcade. Various commercial units are located beneath the overhead cover.



Technology Bazaar

The building blocks have been preserved. The street fabric and parcel structure largely maintain their original form.



Kordon Typology

Kordon is characterized by attached buildings. The design proposes a 3-4 story limit for new structures and reducing the height of existing taller buildings. This aims to preserve the silhouette and create a more balanced, human-scaled waterfront.



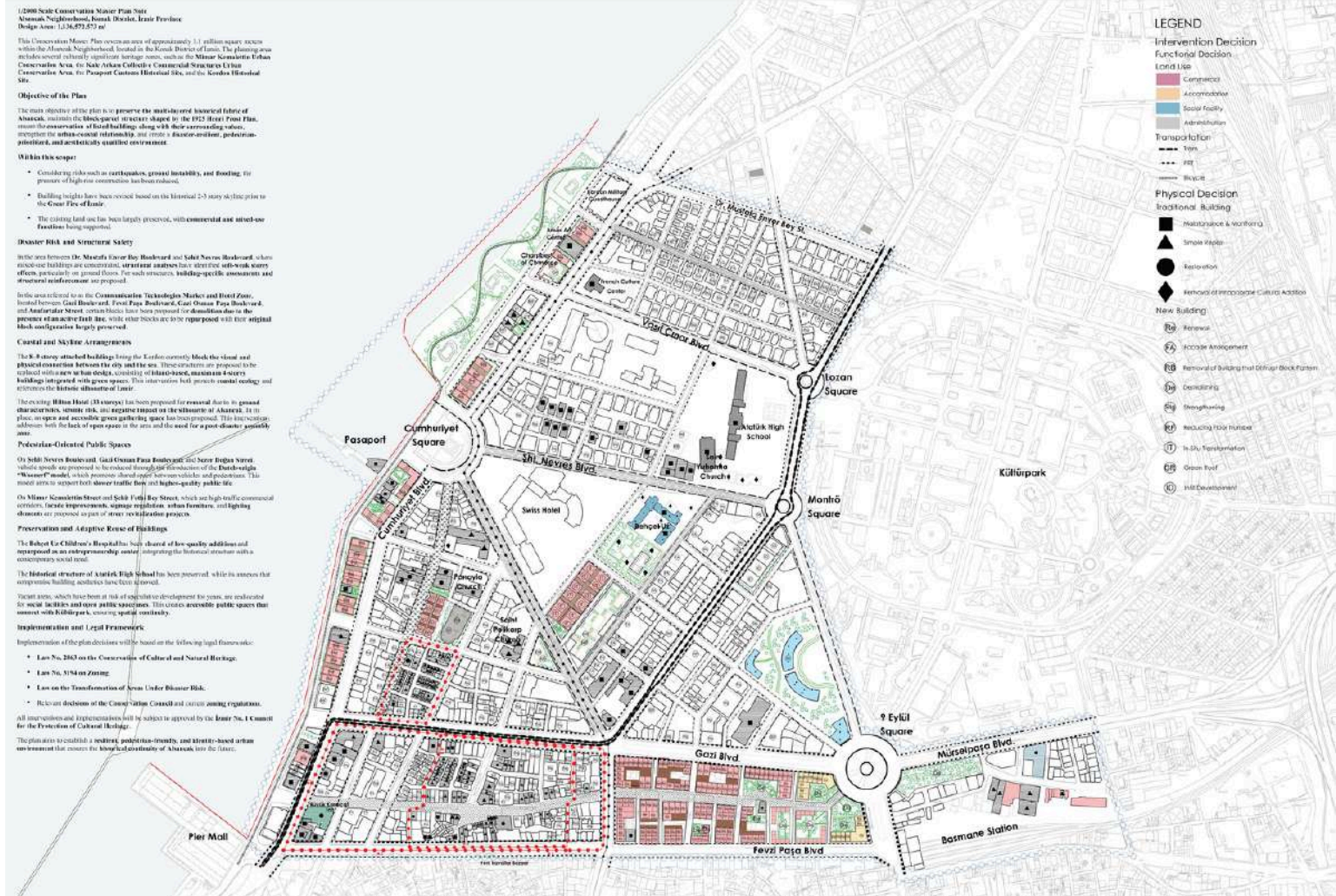
Kordon Openings

Kordon has few and undesigned open spaces, which weakens the city-coast connection. The design aims to improve this by creating intentional, accessible openings that strengthen public use and visual continuity.

Main Decision Components



1:2000 Scale Conservation Plan



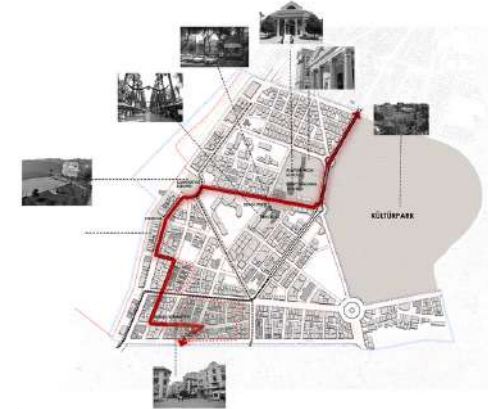
Interventions



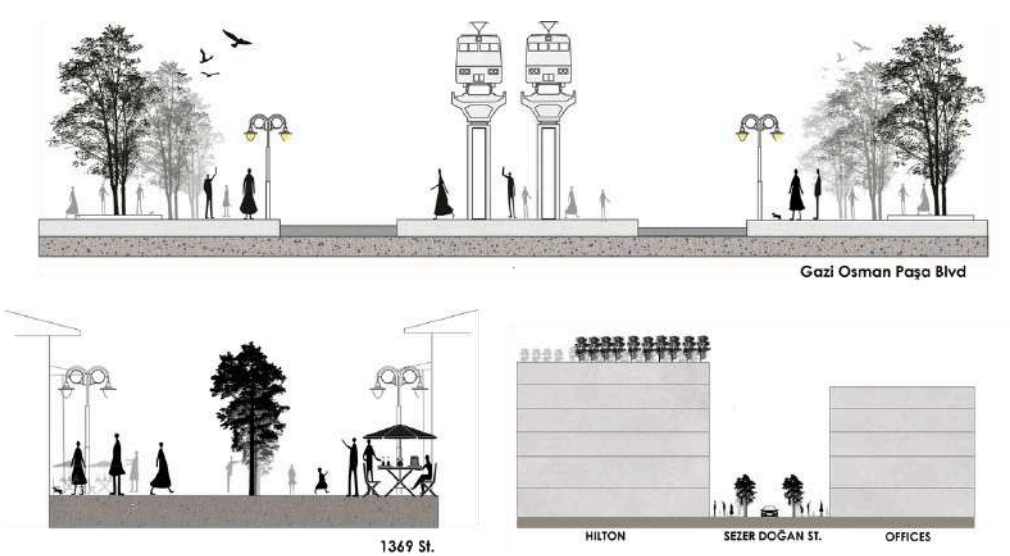
Siluet Changes



Culture Axis



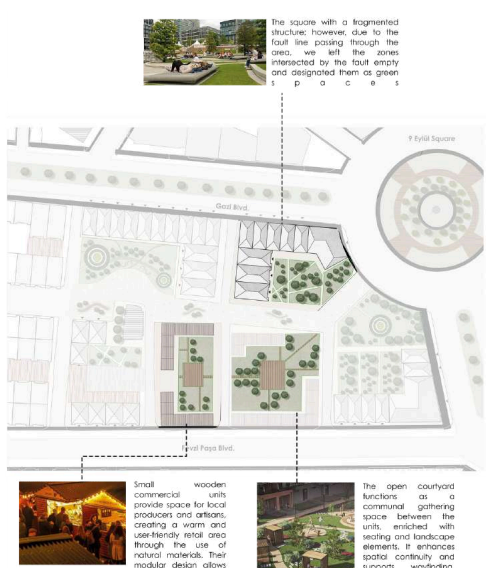
Sections



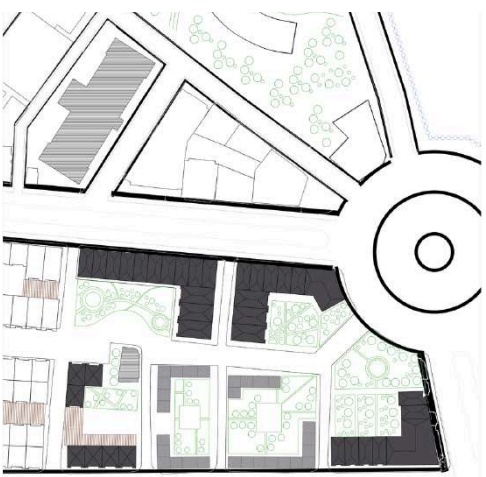
The Design Area



Design Elements



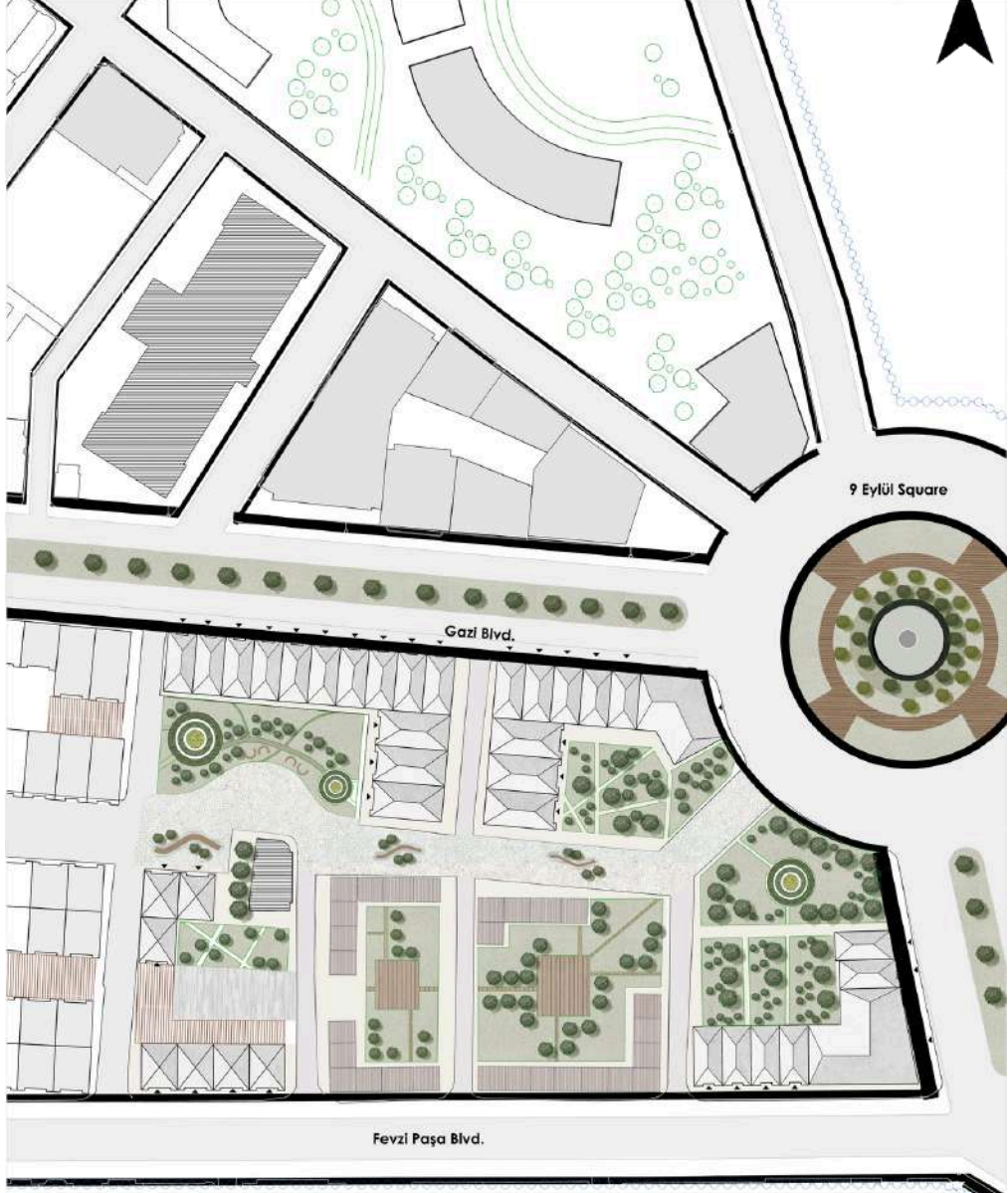
Solid-Void



Green Area



1:500 Scale Site Plan



At 1/500 scale, the design focuses on reconfiguring blocks with permeable courtyards, integrating green pockets, and activating ground floors to strengthen social interaction. The circular square is redesigned as a focal point, linking pedestrian routes with open spaces and creating a cohesive urban fabric.

Functions



Due to earthquake risk in this area, buildings without foundations were placed, and a small plaza was designed as an additional takeaway point. This area is designated as a social area.

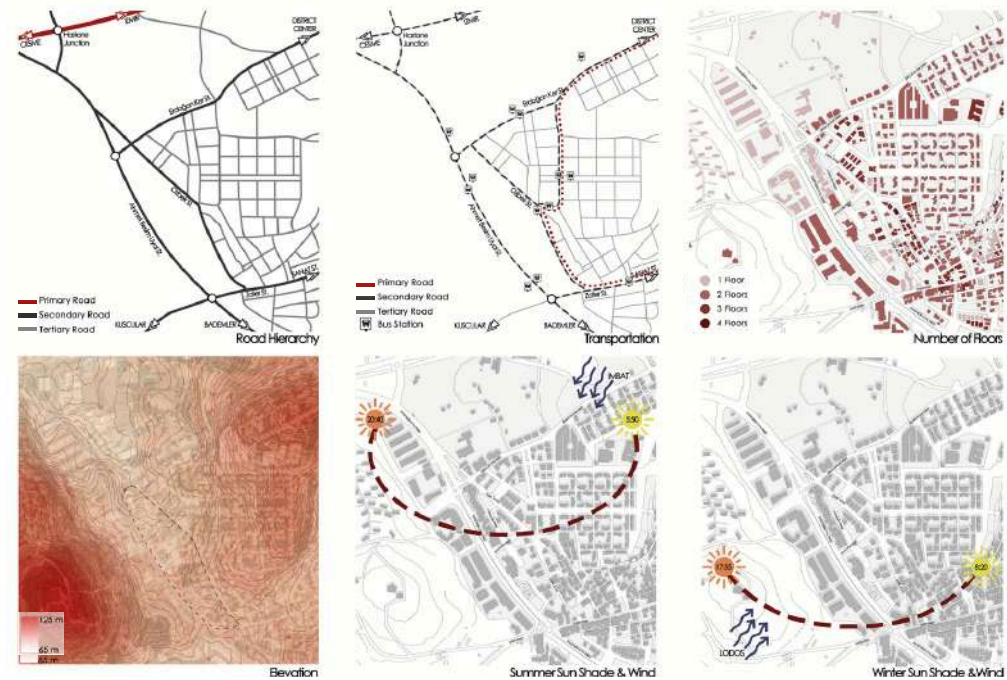
In this area, hotel functions continue to operate. The design integrates these functions smoothly with the surrounding urban fabric.

mobiSpine in Urla

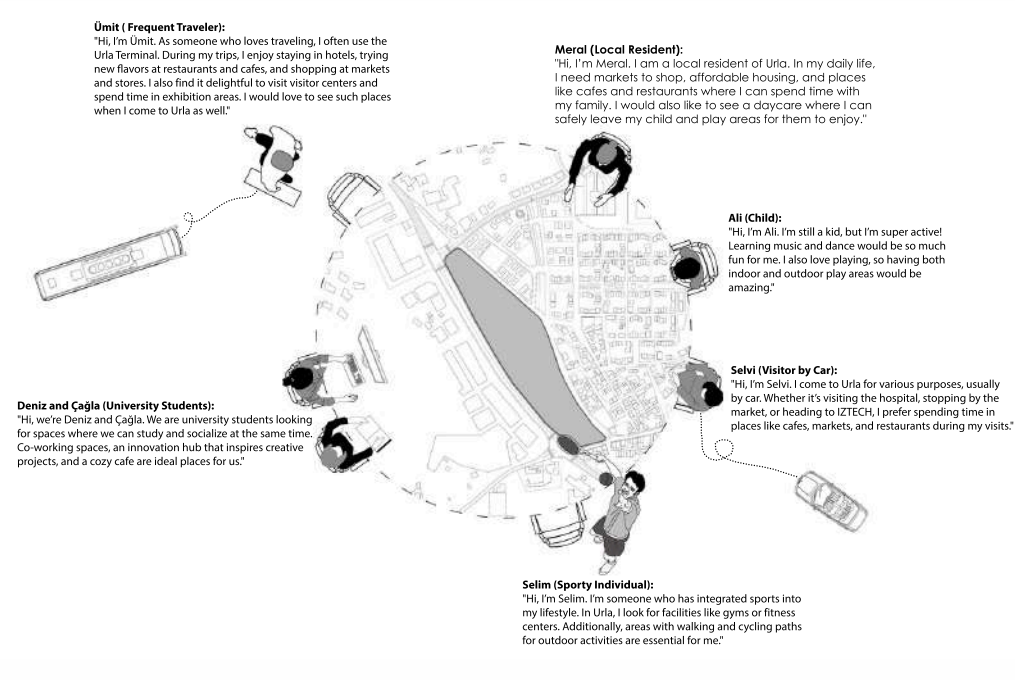
Location : Urla, İzmir
Team Members: Ayda Kalemci, Damla Su AKÇAY, Gül SEVAY, Öyküm POLAT, Selin ÖZ, Zeynep FİRİDİNOĞLU
Softwares: ArchiCAD, AutoCAD, Adobe Photoshop, SketchUp, Lumion

This 4rd-year, 1st-semester, a pedestrian-oriented, sustainable, and accessible living space is designed in Urla. The project connects users through service areas, cultural venues, and public open spaces that encourage social interaction. By integrating culture, nature, and technology, it aims to offer an environmentally conscious and inclusive urban experience.

Site Analysis



Personas



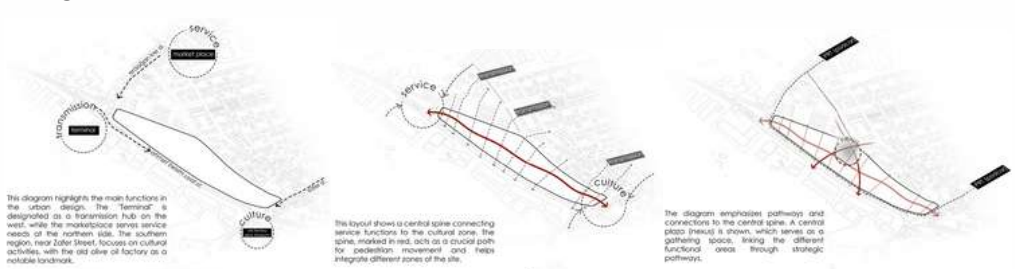
1/1000 Scale Site Plan



Why did we choose this area?

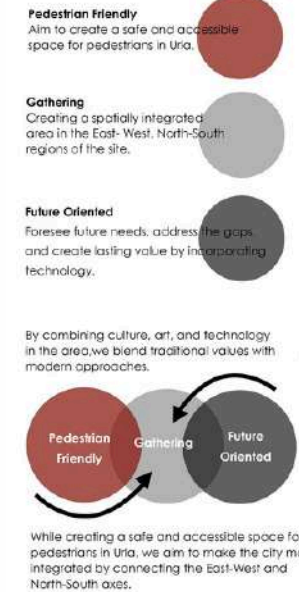
The opportunity to create a transfer route between east and west, the opportunity to evaluate the human attraction potential of the surrounding bazaar area, Sanat Street, and the terminal. Finally, the first impression when entering Urla is inadequate.

Design Approach

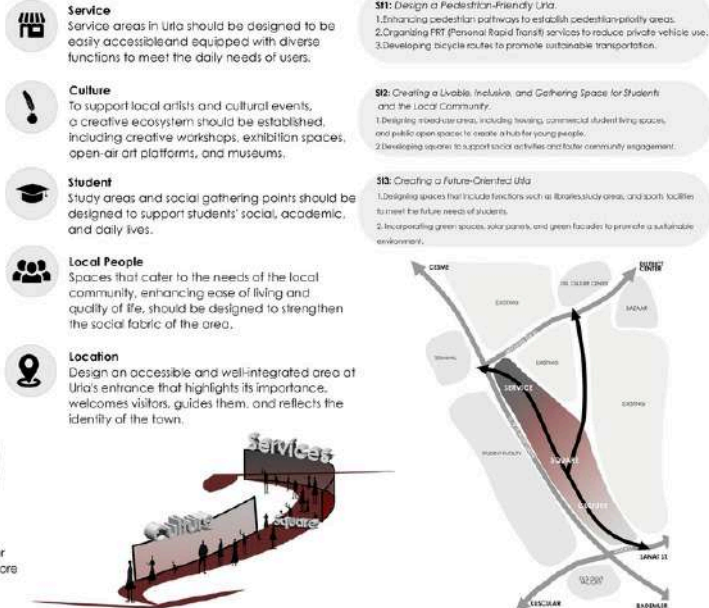


CONCEPT "Resolve the disconnection and turning this area into a vibrant living environment"

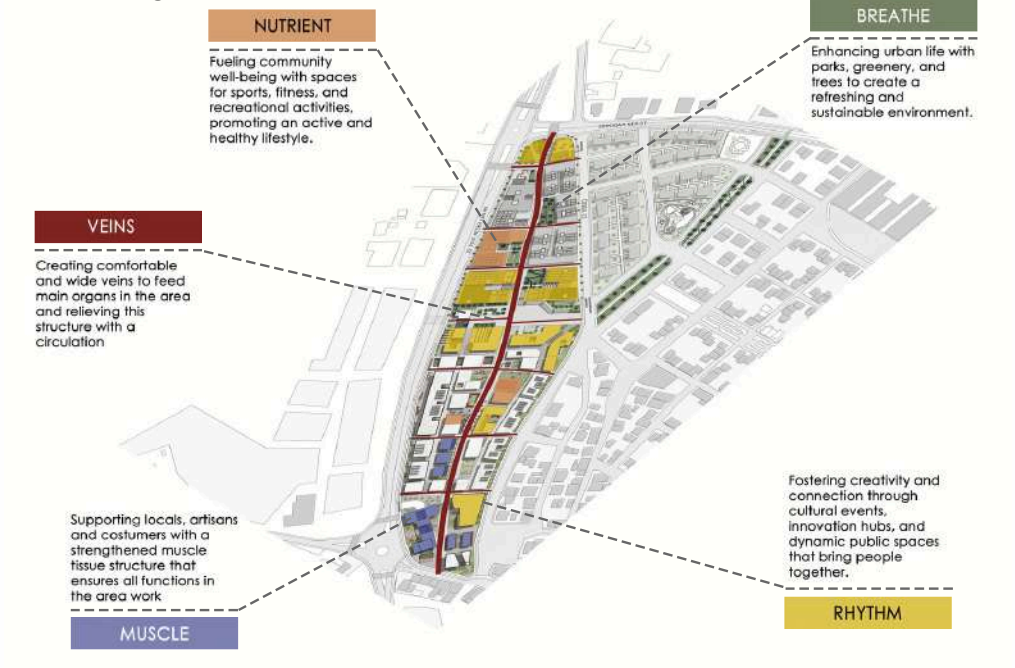
3 Focused Topics

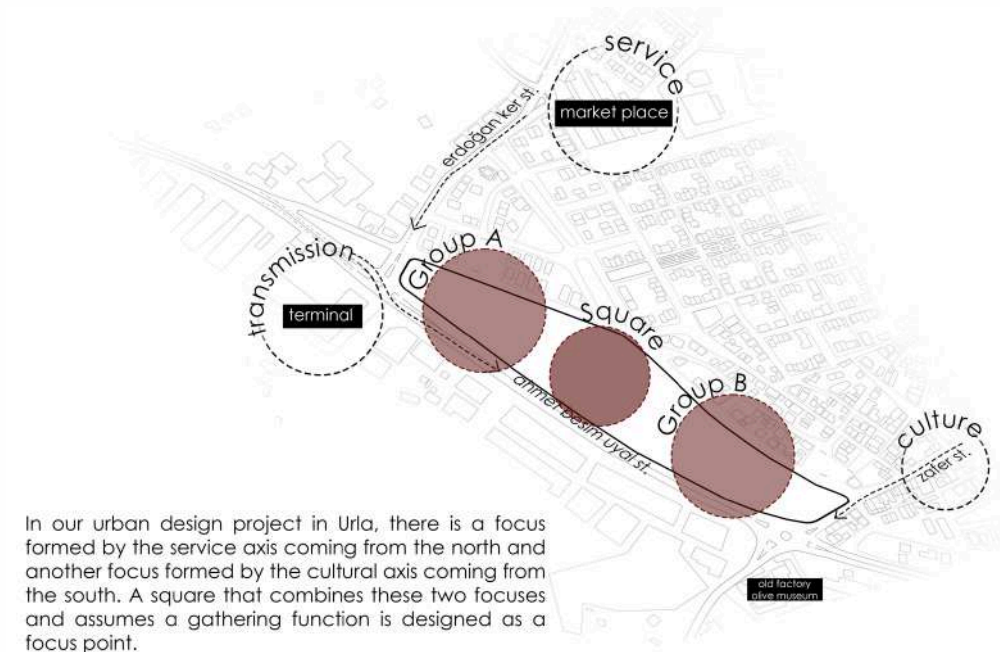


Design Components



Macro Design

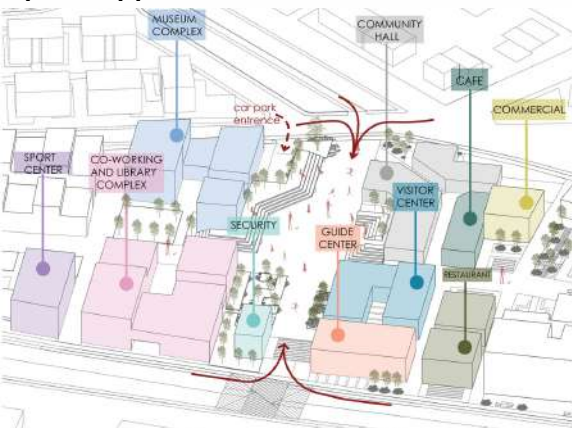




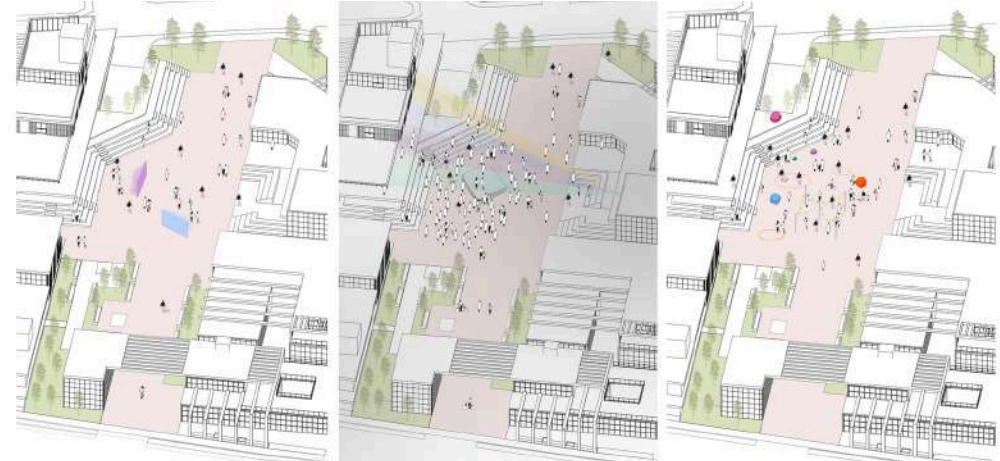
1/500 Scale Square Site Plan



Square Approach



Square Activities

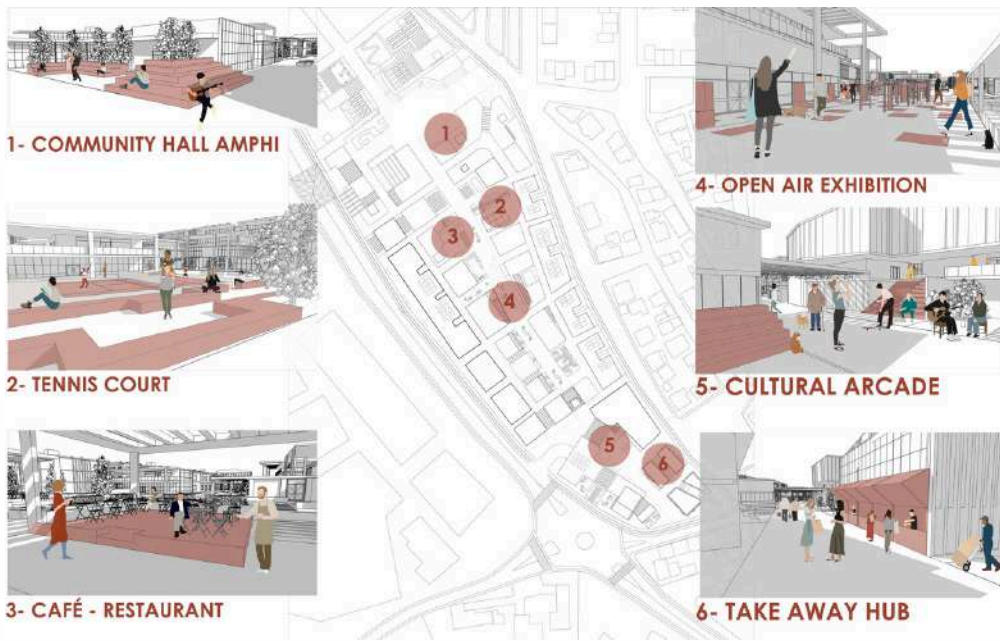


In this project, we were divided into two sub-groups, Group A and Group B, while the central square was designed collaboratively. As Group B, our vision for Urla was to create a living canvas where culture and innovation meet, weaving art, nature, and technology into a sustainable urban future. "Community Tapestry" frames Urla as an urban fabric where culture, community, and sustainability are seamlessly interwoven. Anchored by a central spine with public spaces, cultural hubs, and creative workshops, the design fosters gathering, creativity, and social connection. Through eco-friendly materials, renewable energy, and walkable green infrastructure, it establishes a resilient environment that honors the past while shaping a connected and innovative future.

Design Process



Functions



1/500 Scale Site Plan



Sections

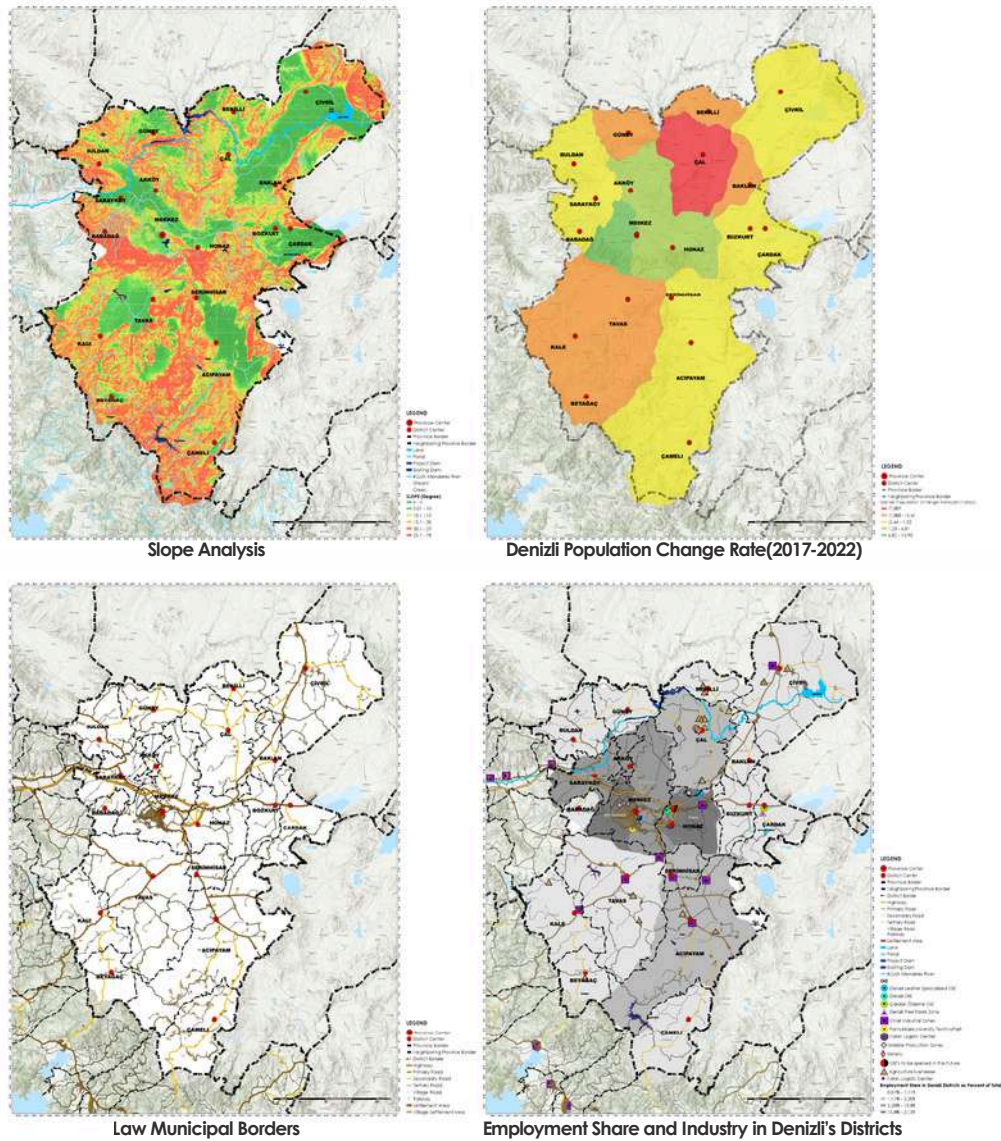


Denizli Urban and Regional Strategic Vision: 2040

Location : Denizli
Team Members: Gizem Sever
Softwares: ArcGIS Pro, Adobe Photoshop, Canva

Throughout three academic terms, I contributed to different group works with varying teammates. By consolidating these outputs, I created an integrated framework that reflects both collective insights and my individual synthesis skills.

SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT DENİZLİ THROUGH CIRCULAR AND SMART SYSTEMS

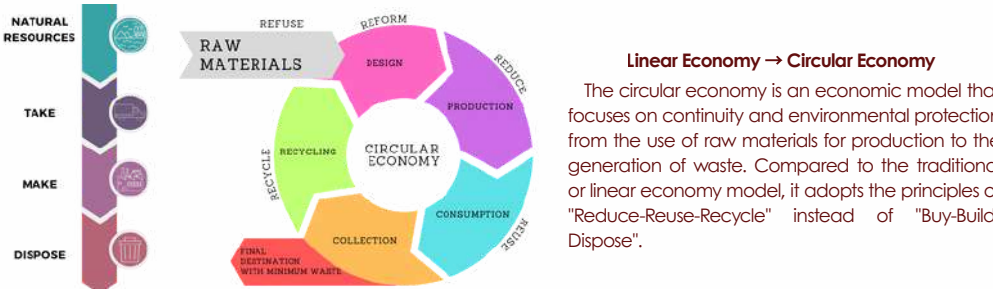


We examined Denizli province across three different scales – province (1/200,000), central city (1/10,000), and neighborhood scale (1/5,000). At each level, we conducted analyses and developed strategies aligned with the themes we studied.

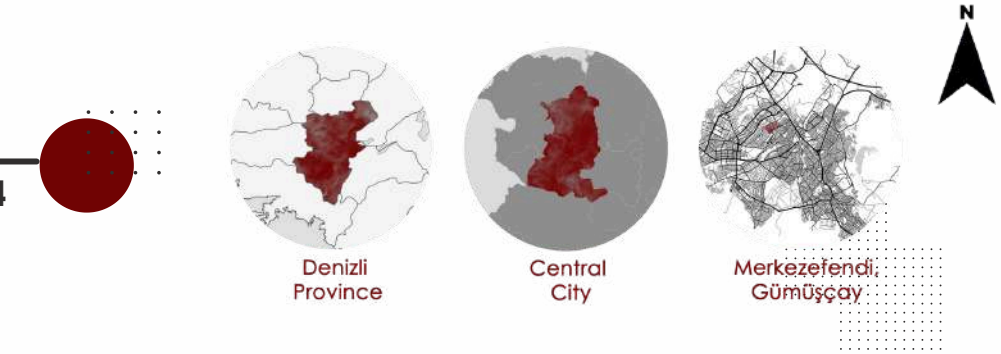
Energy & Resources → "Renewable energy investments, circular waste management"



Our vision is to strengthen Denizli's resilience by using local resources efficiently, encouraging recycling, and fostering economic activities through circular and smart systems.



1/200.000 Scale SWOT Analysis



Geographical and Natural Assets:

- Geothermal Potential: Rich geothermal resources in Babacık, Buldan, and Sarayköy provide significant advantages for both energy production and thermal tourism.
- Water Resources: The Büyük Menderes River and abundant groundwater reserves are crucial for agriculture and urban water supply.
- Forest Coverage: Forest areas cover 48.3% of the province, above the national average.
- Protected Natural Areas: Honaz National Park, Kartal Lake, and Işıkli Lakes enhance biodiversity and support ecotourism.
- Economy and Industry:**
 - Developed Industry: A strong industrial base with international competitiveness, particularly in textiles and marble. Denizli is home to Turkey's second-largest marble basin.
 - Organized Industrial Zones (OIZs): With 3 OIZs and 1 Free Zone (DENSER), Denizli offers robust institutional infrastructure. Denizli OIZ has a 100% occupancy rate.
 - Logistics Infrastructure: Kaklık Logistics Center, Çardak Airport, and railway connections to İzmir Port strengthen export capacity.
- Cultural and Historical Assets:**
 - UNESCO Heritage: Pamukkale Special Environmental Protection Area (together with Hierapolis) is on the UNESCO World Heritage List, making it a unique thermal and cultural tourism hub.
 - Ancient Cities: Colossae, Tripolis, and Laodicea add significant value for cultural and historical tourism.
- Administrative and Social Structure:**
 - Institutional Competence: Local institutions have decision-making authority, and disaster management plans (TAMP, DAMP) are already in place.
 - Education: Presence of universities and a technopark across the region supports qualified workforce development.

STRENGTH

WEAKNESS

Urbanization and Infrastructure Issues:

- Unplanned Growth: From the early Republican era until the 1960s, unplanned urbanization caused significant infrastructure and zoning challenges.
- Irregular Industrialization: Informal housing around the textile sector in the 1980s and the spread of industrial areas into residential zones reduced quality of life.
- Low Occupancy Rates: Low occupancy in Denizli Leather OIZ (19%) and Çardak OIZ (1%) reflects inefficient use of resources.
- Traffic and Transport: High vehicle density, sudden road narrowing, and inadequate central train stations cause congestion and accidents.
- Environmental Problems:**
 - Air and Water Pollution: Discharge of hot wastewater from textile and dye industries into Çürüksu Stream damages ecosystems. Traffic and heating-related PM10 emissions worsen air quality.
 - Depletion of Water Resources: Excessive water consumption by the textile sector and industrial activities lower groundwater levels, increasing drought risk.
 - Waste Management: About 20% of total waste is textile-related, and marble waste is disposed of without recycling, highlighting major gaps in waste management.
- Disaster Management:**
 - Preparedness and Awareness: Fatalistic attitudes toward disasters, poor-quality buildings in rural areas due to low income, and narrow streets in old settlements hinder effective response.
 - Personnel Challenges: Aging firefighting personnel raise concerns about declining efficiency in the future.
- Economic and Social:**
 - Lack of R&D: Limited research and innovation in key sectors such as agriculture and textiles lead to low value-added production.
 - Regional Disparities: Rapid population growth in central districts (Merkezefendi, Pamukkale) contrasts with low population and limited development in Babadağ and Çardak.

OPPORTUNITY

Technology and Innovation:

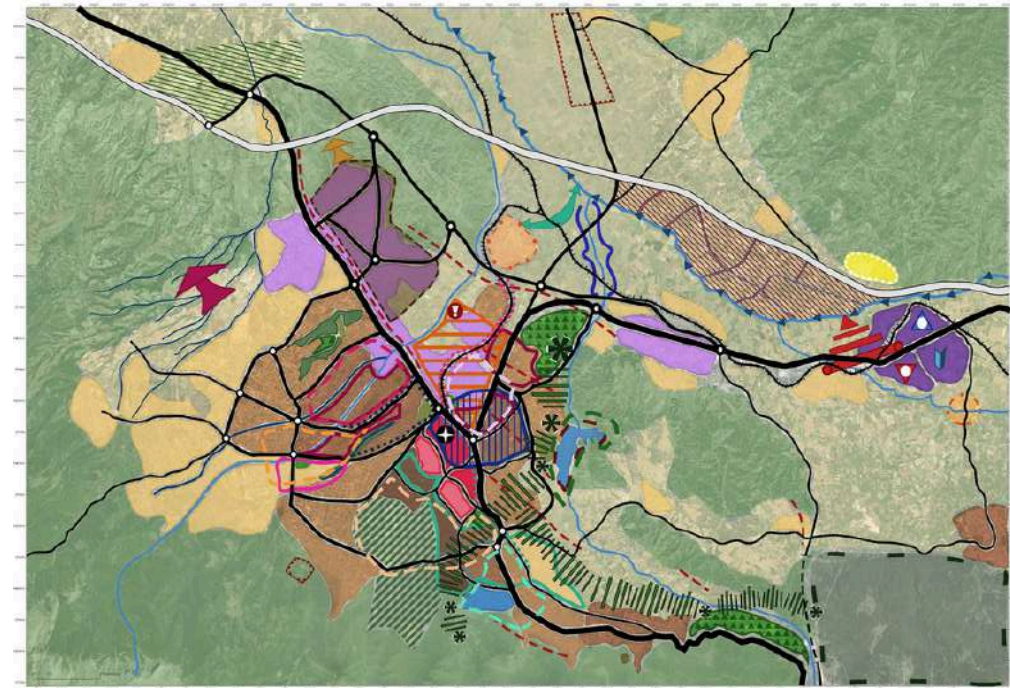
- Smart City Transformation: Use of IoT, AI, and smart traffic systems can improve urban planning and public services.
- Green OIZs: Transforming underutilized OIZs into "Green OIZs," supported by national and international funds (World Bank, EU), can attract new investors and create jobs.
- Sustainable Industry: Initiatives like plant-based textile production and energy recovery from waste heat can make industrial processes more environmentally friendly.
- Environment and Sustainability:**
 - Renewable Energy: Solar, wind, and geothermal potential allows Denizli to aim for carbon-neutral energy production.
 - Eco-Tourism: Natural attractions such as Honaz Mountain National Park and Vali Recep Yazicioğlu Dam provide opportunities for diversified tourism.
 - Circular Economy: Recycling textile waste and producing biodiesel from leather waste can both address waste problems and create new economic value chains.
- Urban Planning and Development:**
 - Urban Renewal: Redevelopment of earthquake-prone old settlements presents an opportunity to build safer, modern housing.
 - New Infrastructure Projects: Planned relocation of the bus terminal, establishment of technology development zones, and cargo hubs will strengthen urban infrastructure.

THREAT

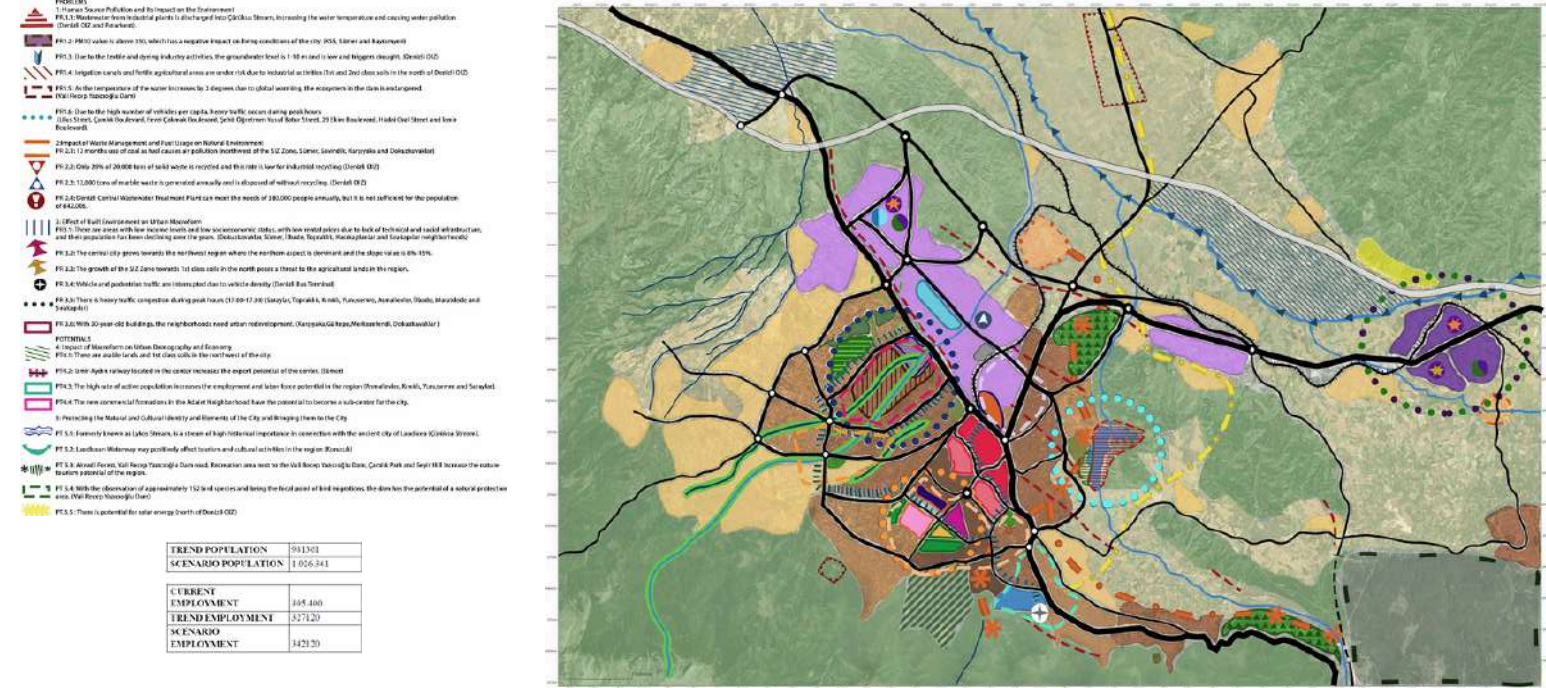
Natural Hazards and Environmental Risks:

- Earthquake and Landslide: Being in Turkey's 1st-degree seismic zone with multiple active fault lines poses a major risk. Landslides are significant in Babadağ, Çameli, and Buldan. Soil liquefaction risk adds to the vulnerability.
- Climate Change: Short, heavy rainfall events raise flood risks, while drought threatens water resources.
- Fire Risk: Forests covering nearly half of the province face high wildfire risk due to rising temperatures and human activity. Historical areas like Kaleiçi Bazaar are also vulnerable to fire.
- Unplanned Urbanization:**
 - Pressure on Agricultural Land: Expansion of urban and industrial areas into fertile farmland reduces agricultural productivity.
 - Infrastructure Deficiency: Construction in stream beds, narrowing of river channels, and mixed drainage systems increase flood risks.
 - Limited Supervision: Informal construction, weak fire safety inspections, and low building quality in rural areas amplify vulnerabilities.
- Economic and Social Challenges:**
 - Sectoral Problems: Rising fish feed prices negatively impact aquaculture; conversion of farmland into industrial areas and improper waste disposal threaten sustainable growth.
 - Demographic Imbalances: Rapid urban population growth in central districts combined with rural depopulation creates uneven development.

1/40.000 Scale Problem-Potential Analysis



1/40.000 Scale Strategy Plan



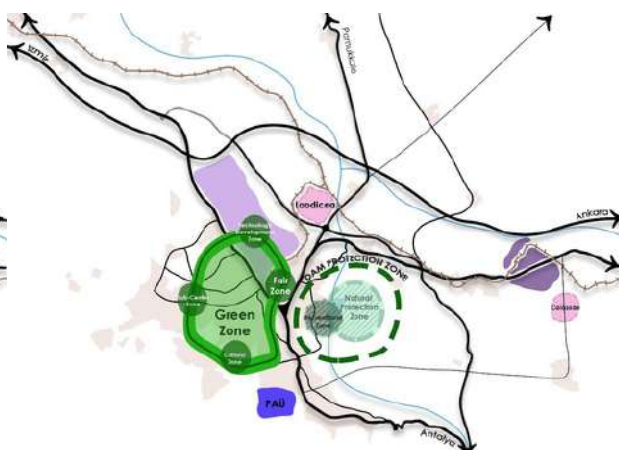
Focus Point Diagram



Population Diagram



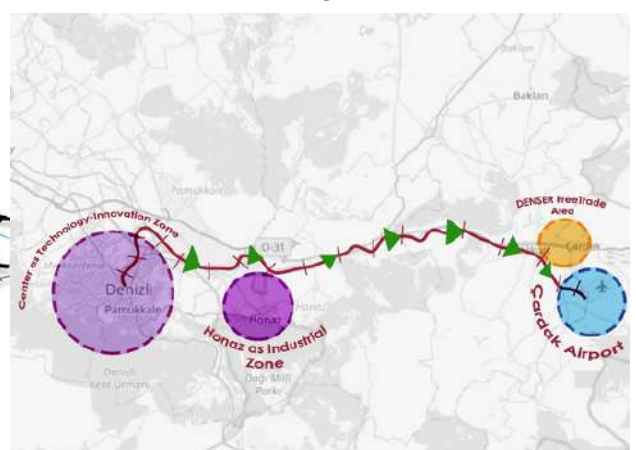
Green Axes and Preservation Areas Diagram



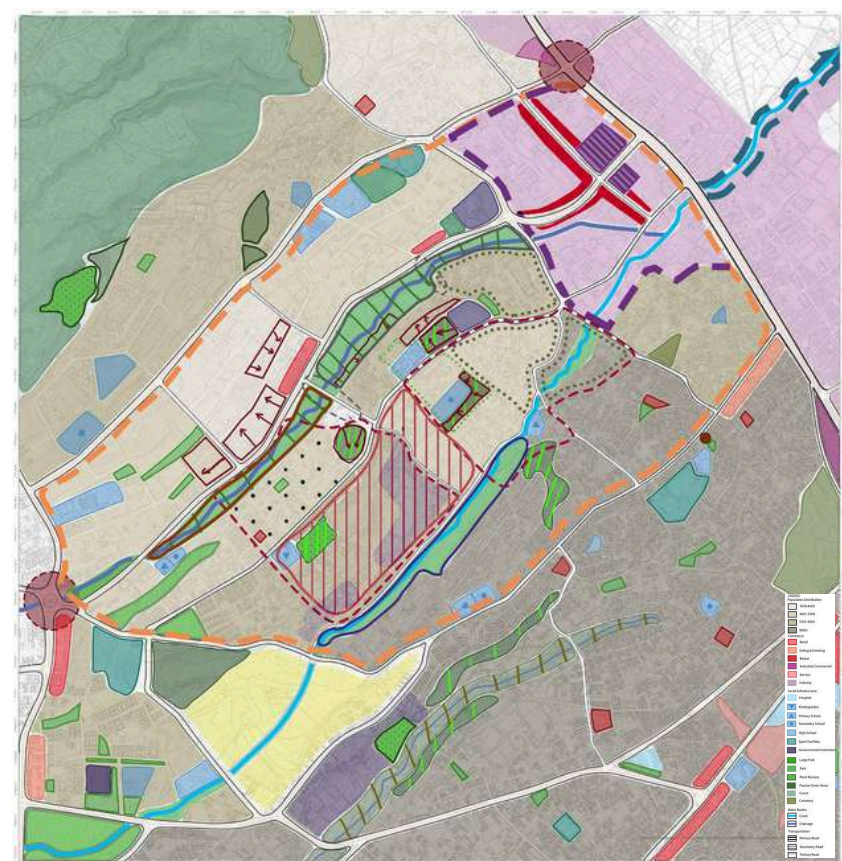
Transportation Diagram



Railway Connection Diagram

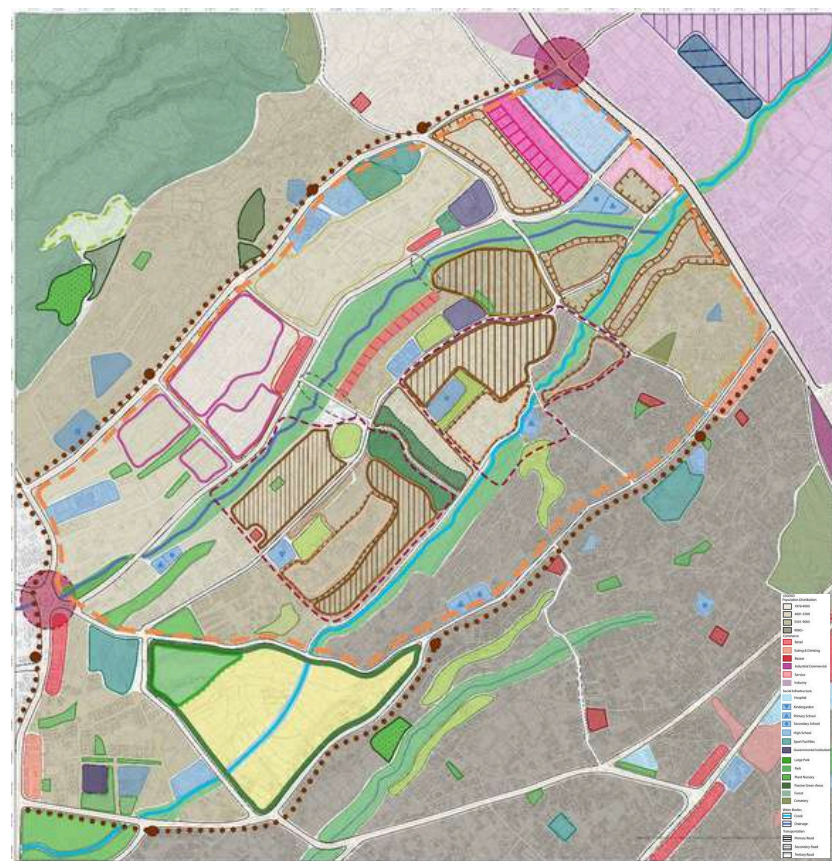


1/5.000 Scale Problem-Potential Analysis



The area suffers from industrial pollution, inadequate infrastructure, and social inequalities, which reduce quality of life. However, its green spaces, streams, and underused housing stock present strong opportunities for urban redevelopment, recreation, and sustainable growth.

1/5.000 Scale Strategy Plan



The strategy focuses on transforming industrial areas and supporting green industry, while promoting urban infill and redevelopment. By expanding green and recreational spaces, improving social infrastructure, and reducing carbon emissions, it aims to create a more sustainable and livable urban environment.

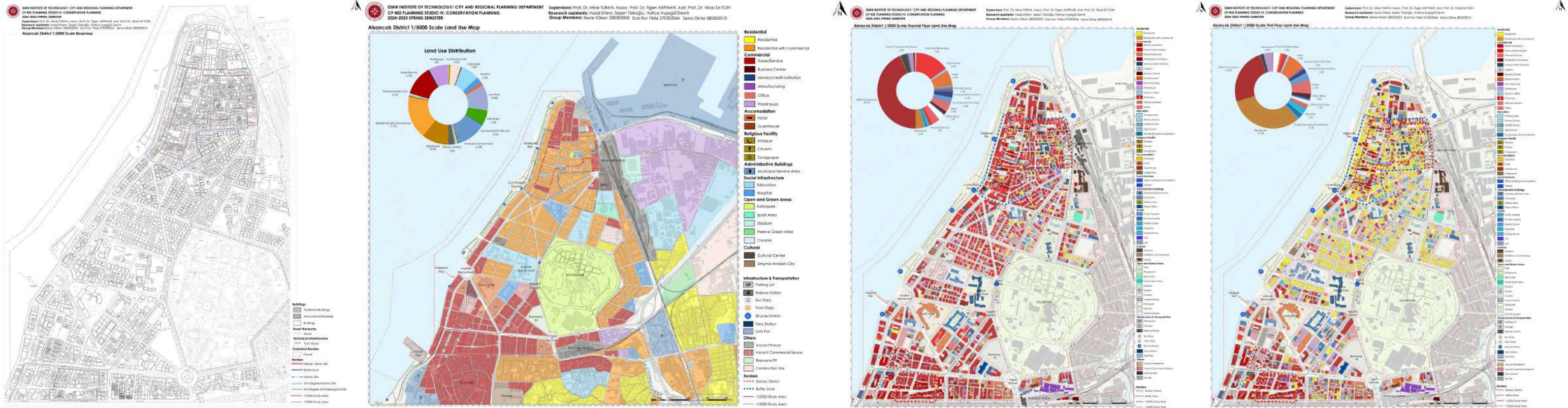
1/1.000 Scale Intervention Plan



Additional Works

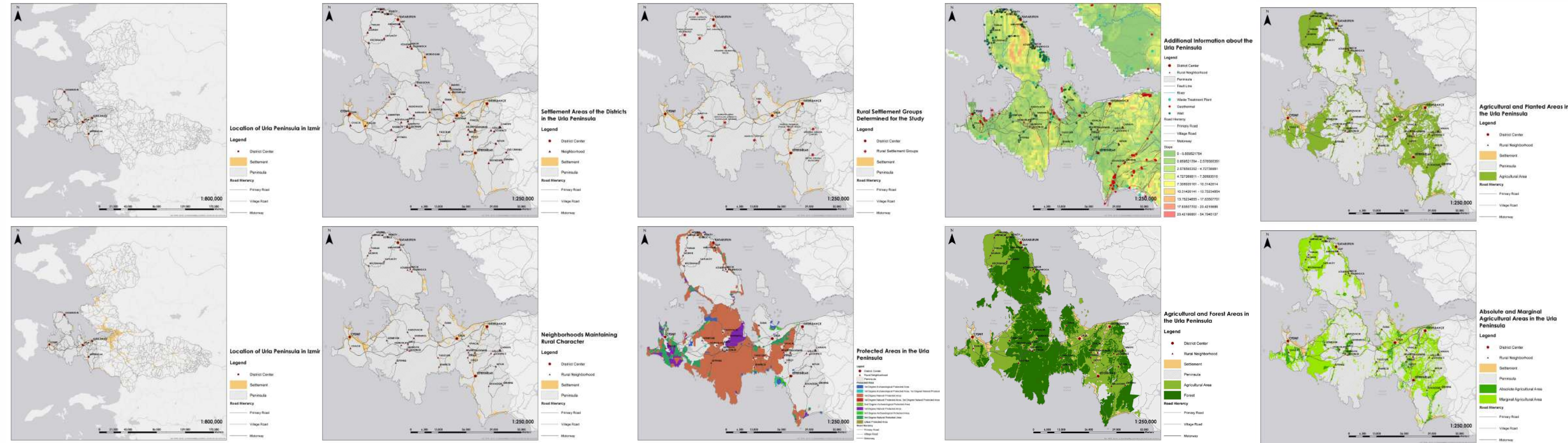
GIS Analysis – Alsancak Urban Area (Fourth Year, Second Semester)

In the fourth year, I collaborated with Ece Yıldız and Serra Oktar on a land use analysis of the Alsancak area. Using ArcGIS Pro, we first generated a 1/5000 basemap and extracted general land use, then conducted detailed 1/2000-scale analyses for eight building floors, based on field-collected data.



GIS Analysis – Unpublished Research Project of Yeliz Kurpinar (Fourth Year)

In my fourth year, I applied similar ArcMap-based techniques for an unpublished research project led by Yeliz Kurpinar, conducted for her study on the Urla Peninsula.



Beste Köken

URBAN PLANNER

SCAN FOR MORE!



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