



## Adaptable Reuse and Restoration of Florya, Senlikkoy Old Church - Mosque

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### Abstract

The church, at Şenlikköy, (a small Rum village in the 1800's), was built in the 1900's. The decrease of the Anatolian Rum population in years and even the extinction due to migration, the church was converted into a mosque as Muslim families settled in the village. In the oral history interviews with the elders and the headman (muhtar) of Şenlikköy, it was used as a mosque. It was learned that a timber minaret was added to the structure, but any visual material could not be obtained about it.

Due to the decrease or even disappearance of the Christian community, minarets were added to some churches. Such Greek, Rum and Armenian churches in Anatolia and some districts of Istanbul were converted into a mosque. It is mostly seen similar examples in Fatih District, İstanbul. Imrahor Mosque is the most well-known example of the basilica church type in Turkey (Church of Yoharines Studios). Over time Basilicas in Anatolia, a development has occurred that will affect the form. The best-known examples in Istanbul can be listed as follows:

- Acem Ağa Masjid (1484) (Chelkopratia Church) (5th century)
- Atik Mustafa Pasha Mosque (16th century) (St. Peter's Church) (11th century)
- Kefeli Masjid (1935) (St. Nikolaus Church) (16th century)
- Monastery Masjid (15th century) (Monastery Church) (11th century)
- Sekbanbaşı Masjid (15th century) (Name not known) (?)
- Sinan Pasha Masjid (16th century) (Red Church) (14th century)

The political and religious aspects of the conversion of small-scale churches into mosques are not discussed in this report, it is not the subject.

A new function as a library and cultural center is aimed to be given this historic building as mentioned (FLORYA, SENLIKKOY OLD CHURCH / MOSQUE) with a revitalization project.

**Keywords:** The church in Şenlikköy, revitalization project, new use, adaptable reuse, Florya, restoration.

### 1 Introduction

It was built on a plot of 688.48 square meters located on Area 80, Block 285, Plot 9 in Florya District, Şenlikköy, Bakırköy, İstanbul. By the decision of İstanbul Cultural and Natural Assets Conservation Board No. 7. (Fig.1,2,3,4). It was registered as an immovable cultural property to be protected by the decision dated 2008 and numbered 811 (Sedes Arch.archive).

It was determined as the 1'st group as the protection group with the decision of the same board (Fig.5,6). Analytical survey, the restitution proposal and the restoration project of the historic asset was approved, in question by Bakırköy Mufti, since eight years have passed since the approval date of the restoration project, the Board's opinion was requested on whether it should

be revised and updated for the implementation of the project. Istanbul No. 1 Cultural Heritage Preservation Regional Board has decided that the approved project can be implemented (Fig 11-22).

## **2 history about the surroundings of the şenlikköy church/ mosque**

At the end of the Ottoman-Russian war (1877-1878), there was an orthodox community in Florya, Galateria-Kalkiratya (now named Şenlikköy). This congregation built a small church for themselves. They built a rectangular basilical masonry church. The tile roof of Marseille probably belongs to the years it was first built. The apse niche is in the south direction. After the church was converted into a mosque, an artificial mihrab niche was created, but this mihrab disappeared over time. At the same time, the wooden minaret built by the Muslim community was destroyed and disappeared. The women's mahfili, which is thought to have been built in the 1930s, was a wooden structure. Today any part of it has been remained. The trees in the garden are in a neglected condition. They are all covered with weeds. The front façade is covered with ivy, which will erode and damage the stones and joints of the historical building (Fig 7,8, 9, 10). However, with the finalization of the Ottoman state's siding with the Central Powers, the demolition of the Ayastefanos Russian Monument came to the fore. The monument was dynamited and blown up by Lieutenant Bahri Doğanay in front of a large crowd on 14 November 1914, thirteen days after the official declaration of war. The Christian community continued to live in Florya until 1925 ((Sedes Arch.archive).

## **3 objective / adaptable reuse and restoration**

The voluntarily people of the Şenlikköy, who knew and saw, that the old church/ mosque was in a dilapidated and neglected condition, gathered signatures and wanted to raise a voice that the Mufti and the district governor's office were responsible for restoring the church/ mosque. This restoration is required in accordance with the law on the protection of cultural assets (2863 law number). It is expected to be brought to a location where the children of the neighbourhood can do sports, play games, set up libraries and open

exhibitions in its garden during the summer months (Fig 19) .Because a new mosque was built ten meters away for the people of the environment. Besides there is no Christian population to go to the church in this area. So, it is decided to restore the old church/ mosque and give it a new function.

Adaptive reuse of heritage buildings is a way to preserve and protect the historical and cultural value of old structures while giving them new functions and uses (Ahunbay,Z, 1999). It can be a sustainable and creative way to revitalize urban areas and enhance their identity and diversity. In the continuity of time, the change seen in societies changing their needs, shaped according to the time and context they belong to. It changes the spaces and therefore the structures. In the continuity of time, the change seen in societies changing their needs, shaped according to the time and context they belong to. It changes the spaces and therefore the structures. As a result of the above-mentioned change, the structural life of buildings reasons for the completion of their functional life before they are completed can be grouped as follows (Kuban,D.1969);

- Loss of Original Function of Buildings
- Functional Aging of Buildings
- Impact of Urban Environment and Zoning Legislation Changes
- Economic Reasons
- Other Reasons

Today the continuous increase in the pace of development and change we live in, about our predictions, while causing us to expect more. As societies change, new needs new structures are produced in accordance with these needs (Sağlam,K.2019). Even in structures shaped according to the needs program, with the speed of change, more complex after a while, or simpler with the contribution of technology spatial requirements arise. This situation makes the current affects the way of use, and as a result, all the building-related challenges the architectural and engineering disciplines (Miano,P.,Coppolino,F.2024). Response to need structures that can not be given a function or maintain their original function until today, by demolishing them before completing their structural

life and constructing a new structure in their place , result is lost. Structures that lose their original "Building Reuse" existing building stock. Both in the world and in Turkey in terms of the evaluation of each time has been the subject of controversy. Functionally obsolete but structurally buildings that have not completed their life are not given due importance and new destroyed to fit the currents; sometimes they were first made tried to be brought back to their state and unfortunately most of the time left alone or left to rot. Even if they lose their functions, preserves its properties, therefore it is suitable for reuse (ICOMOS,2003).

Especially with the economic and social developments at the end of the 19th century ,together with changes in lifestyles and needs has arrived. With this change, many types of structures are no longer needed. These building types, which have lost their function, have not completed their structural life and appear as structures suitable for re-functioning (Moschetti, V.). As a result of the post-Republican revolutions in our country, many Ottoman structure has completely lost its function. Palaces, defensive structures, many building types such as madrasas and inns are not used today. For example, Rumeli Fortress, which is a defensive structure, does not need this function. Today, recreation and open-air museum take place. Changes while continuing to function there are also building groups that are not used depending on the conditions. Buildings such as inns, baths, and caravanserais continue to function today. However, there have been some changes in needs. This changes to a dimension that cannot be eliminated by spatial and structural interventions. As a result of the construction, many bath structures have undergone functional changes (ICOMOS,2003).

On the other hand the new building requires an "energy intensive" effort, requires "labor intensive" work. It is a production process that requires intense energy and machine power. To build a new building, from infrastructure works to excavation works,from the structural system to finishing work and even pre-use cleaning.Petroleum fuel is used too much for the operation of the machines and there is a great need

for such tools. Likewise, excavation...In the evaluation process, by giving a new function to an old structure, energy is saved (ICOMOS;2011).

#### **4 Technical method / restoration process**

today, many historical buildings are protected and registered. Thus, the needs of such structures such as periodic maintenance and cleaning carried out by a central institution. The most realistic work to be done for such structures that have been forgotten and left to their fethe solution is to reopen it for human use and thus the use of the building, to ensure their maintenance and cleaning (ICOMOS;1987).

Structures that do not interact with people are forgotten or they turn into a structure that is watched as "spectacular". As a result of this, through a number of tenders made by the central institution or to a temporary structure. They are maintained by the personnel providing service, which is a financial resource. By re-functioning such structures, regular maintenance by the operator as a result of being put into use. Continuation of the structural life of the building will be ensured, structure helps many more people connect with the past (Ünay,A.İ.,2002). It is necessary to carry out the healthy restoration process by adhering to national and international rules (Sağlam,K.2019). Attention must be taken to the quality of the material to be used during the restoration of the historic building and their suitability with the building. The physical interventions to be made, below are summarized as a short specification (Akman,M.S, 2003):

The tiles to be used in the building are well-molded, well-cooked, uniform in color. The reddish surface is smooth and free of any cracks, burrs and holes. The cross-section will be void-free and homogeneous.

Laying the tile: The tiles must fit together exactly while being laid.

The piece of tiles will be cut properly according to their location and additionally small parts will not be used. Marseille type tiles are placed with galvanized wire in

one row. It will be attached to the roof or under-tile board. Tiles to be used on an inclined surface It will be the same factory production. An additional lath under the tiles coming to the eaves ends should be placed. The ridge tiles are placed in their places to be completely filled with mortar (Akman,M.S,Güner,A.,Aksoy,İ.H. 1986). Tiles missing a part will be replaced with new ones). Cleaning surfaces made of similar materials from oil, dust and dirt, washing extremely alkaline surfaces with 1% hydrochloric acid, removing alkalinity and should be washed with clean water. before application; wood, metal, plaster, plastic, bitumen (Madran,E.2009).

Scaffolds will be constructed in accordance with their projects (Fig .14,15,16,17,18,). Before starting the masonry construction, the scaffolds should be seen and approved by the restorer.

Scaffolding can be steel or wood. Scaffolding timbers will generally be in square cross section. In the round section of the props there is nothing wrong with it.

Roof; it is a system that covers the structures and protects them from external influences. influencing on higher in the special specification on the roofs that transport snow, wind, etc. to the building parts (Fig 22). The project arrangement, provided that the wood stresses are not more than the following values will be. In the construction deemed necessary by the administration, under the loads that the scaffold will be exposed to, deformation of the structure under its own weight after the scaffold is taken.

Parts to be used in important scaffoldings such as trusses, trusses, beams, etc. cut according to the drawn full-size pictures, with all the details in full It will be put in place after it is ready. These are aggregates formed by natural or artificial fragmentation of stones (Aköz,F.,Yüzer,N.2005).

Natural stones to be used in coating works are fine-cut construction stones.

- 1) The lower faces are roughly chiselled or hammered,
- 2) The lower faces are finely carved. The floor covering is done in two ways with chipped stones.

To be used as floor covering, in the special specification or project of the stones (Fig 14,15).

The thickness of the covering stones is maximum 20 cm. will be. The surface to be coated will be thoroughly cleaned and washed with plenty of water. this surface stones on it, 400 kg, with a dosed base mortar, the joints should be in accordance with the detail drawing and 1 cm. will be placed to pass. Skirting will not be made with this type of stone. The stones are in a way that their upper faces will not protrude from each other, in accordance with the project. Stone faces will be cleaned so that no mortar dishes and no dirt remain (Akman,M.S,Güner,A.,Aksoy,İ.H. 1986).

Natural stone, was used. Stones will be placed by ramming. During placement cracked, broken stones will be replaced. Frames to make the gaps even will be used. The joints of the stones to be laid continuously, 3 cm from the upper face. The stone pavement surface is flat and uniformly indented and protruding from each other. Recessed, corrugated and relief joints are made on the wall surfaces upon request. Joint surfaces ( 3-5 cm.) will be scraped and cleaned to the depth and before starting the joint work. Before grouting, the gaps to be grouted will be wetted with a brush and the thin joint mortar should be filled with little water (Akbulut,D.2006).

It will be filled in the gaps and compacted strongly and all mortar residues will be cleaned. When the mortar absorbs enough water and gains hardness, the direction of the stones (facade) 1 cm from the sharp corners of the stones. It will be well compressed by pulling along the joint with an iron suitable for the profile of the joint and this compaction work several times until the joint mortar cracks and hardens well.

The consistency to withstand light pressure to be gauged so that the surface becomes smooth.

When they come, they will be polished with a metal trowel without leaving any traces.

Screed surface to protect from sun, rain and frost in open screed works should be covered with paper, straw, sand, sawdust and similar materials ( Aköz,F.,Yüzer,N.2005).

In order to complete the screed, set and to prevent cracking, it should be sufficient according to the season. It will be watered and kept moist for the required time.

In wide screed coatings, partitions will be made in accordance with the request or detail drawing. It does not damage any structure, facility or cause any interference between the public and workers.

Necessary safety and equipment will be taken to prevent an accident and the relevant regulations will be followed. During the dismantling, the round trip will not be interrupted, the road or pavement head of that part will not be interrupted.

Signs, barriers and guards will be placed to show whether there is a passage or not, and these parts will also be placed. It will be illuminated at night. The useful material that comes out during the dismantling is properly stacked to the desired place by the administration, shall be submitted to the administration with a mutual report.

## 5 Results and discussion/ conclusion

Structures that have completed their functional life but not their structural life those with historical value can be preserved by being improved, restored or more comprehensive interventions due to their registered status (Ahunbay, Z, 1999). Since protectionist approaches transform the structure into a "monitored" structure, the structure turns into a monument that is forgotten or no longer useful to society, frozen in time. In addition, since these structures that have become monuments do not have regular users, their maintenance cannot be done, and as a result, their deterioration due to external effects accelerates. Structures that are not historical or registered, which we can evaluate as building stock, are demolished to build a new structure according to new needs, and as a result, a resource with material value cannot be used sufficiently. The concept of re-functioning is a transformation process that brings the structure back to life, especially for registered structures, beyond re-evaluation. Although it seems that only the structure is brought back to life here, another striking dimension of the issue is that, beyond meeting a need

of the society, The society has the chance to establish an interactive interaction with its own past. This situation reveals the relationship between the concept of re-functioning and the concept of "Public Memory", Re-programming, which constitutes the beginning of the re-functioning process, emerges as a multi-dimensional concept that can be understood together with all the components we have explained above and that will take shape together with all these components in the retransformation process. It points to a design process that is very different and feedback-based than the process of creating a new building program. The programming discipline, which has direct participation in the practical field due to its function, initially defined itself as a systematic research of knowledge and positioned itself at a point close to science. At its final point, programming must comply with the complex and multi-component structure of the field of "architecture", which is based on values, therefore dependent on actors, based on interpretations and acceptances, and requires re-definition in every new building.

The program is no longer a frozen and static definition that is completed before design, never changes again but has become a field that is renewed over time and can interact with design at every stage and area where design needs it. There is an approach that puts discovering values at the very beginning of the programming process, which actually suggests a simultaneous start for design and programming. The distinction between programmer and designer, which made itself felt intensely at the beginning, has been overcome today with both actor groups focusing on values, regardless of whether there is a distinction or not. Therefore, programming has become a field as variable and active as life. Because its duty is to monitor and support it. This situation was also valid before programming emerged as a separate discipline. The adoption and repetition of the most suitable ones for cultural and physical conditions among the buildings obtained through trial and error is proof that the connection of the program with life is a valid connection in every period.

The term "existing building", which is one of the basic concepts of re-functioning, generally brings to

mind buildings that are historically and architecturally important, that is, those that constitute our architectural heritage. The term “existing building” in this study is used for buildings that have completed their functional life but not their structural life, whether they have historical value or not, whether they are registered or not. Words such as “obsolescence” or “redundancy” in English also refer to such existing but dysfunctional buildings (Hasol,D.202). In addition to these definitions, we can define obsolete buildings as buildings that cannot meet renovation, repair and maintenance expenses due to their economic status by referring to obsolescence problems. Therefore, it would not be wrong to evaluate buildings where renovation, maintenance and repair expenses can be met as structures that are not obsolete and can be reused, and to define them as existing buildings suitable for re-functioning. This approach is based on the approach of re-evaluation and more effective use of available resource. It is the description of elements and/or structures that have been changed, added, partially demolished or destroyed over periods, with scale drawings and a report/document indicating their historical situation, starting from the initial design process. This is a scientific and mandatory study. Although reassembly of the pieces is not possible, such restitution studies are carried out to explain the original design of a work, to examine its historical development, and to enable a better understanding of the remains.

Therefore, it is necessary to save the historical building from demolition, to restore it under appropriate conditions, and give new life with its new function by putting the necessary equipment in the interior. As can be seen, the economy and good use of resources, while it is one of the advantages of the functionalization process, especially for developing countries like Türkiye, which cannot be wasted the effective use of the resource. The structure produced in our country every year it is seen as a building production technique. Cultural continuity, without losing the identity and essence of the society, can be defined as changing by adapting to the requirements. Identity, qualities that distinguish or common an individual or society from others, body of subjective values and relations, in other

words, an identity. The identification of difference is a problem of belonging (Kuban,D.1969).

## 6 Originality /value

Culture is the “things left over from previous periods and passed on to new generations, defines it as “the reality of heritage”. With this approach, cultural experience, social identity by transferring social values from generation to generation, presumably to ensure its continuity (Kuban,D.1969).

Places, which are a cultural identity identification element, are in memory. Objects that are shaped according to the stored information. Space, with its physical features, an arrangement that determines the boundaries of belonging and at the same time sociological three-dimensional, on which the values that make up the association system are coded. With this approach, architectural structures historical documents containing data about the period.

Experiencing the space means belonging to that culture rather than architectural knowledge. Monuments are the spatial traces of shared experiences (Sirel,A.,Sirel,O;Ü.2014). Its understanding and continuity depends on shared experience; physical in our memory. It is the objectification of environmental information. those stored on the monument.

The main values that make up the institutional structure of the society are the essences of identity.

## 7 Figures and pictures



Fig 1 Situation Plan. Source: Arch. SEDES, F.



Fig 2 Front view, Source: Arch. SEDES, F.



Fig 3 View from "Cami arası Row", Source: Arch. SEDES, F.



Fig.4 Front Elevation, Source: Arch. SEDES, F.



Fig. 5 Old Houses near the church/ mosque  
Source: Arch. SEDES, F.



Fig. 6 view from the garden, Source: Arch. SEDES, F.





Fig. 7 View from the garden, Source: Arch. SEDES, F.



Fig. 8 Front elevation, Source: Arch. SEDES, F.



Fig. 9 View from the garden, Source: Arch. SEDES, F.

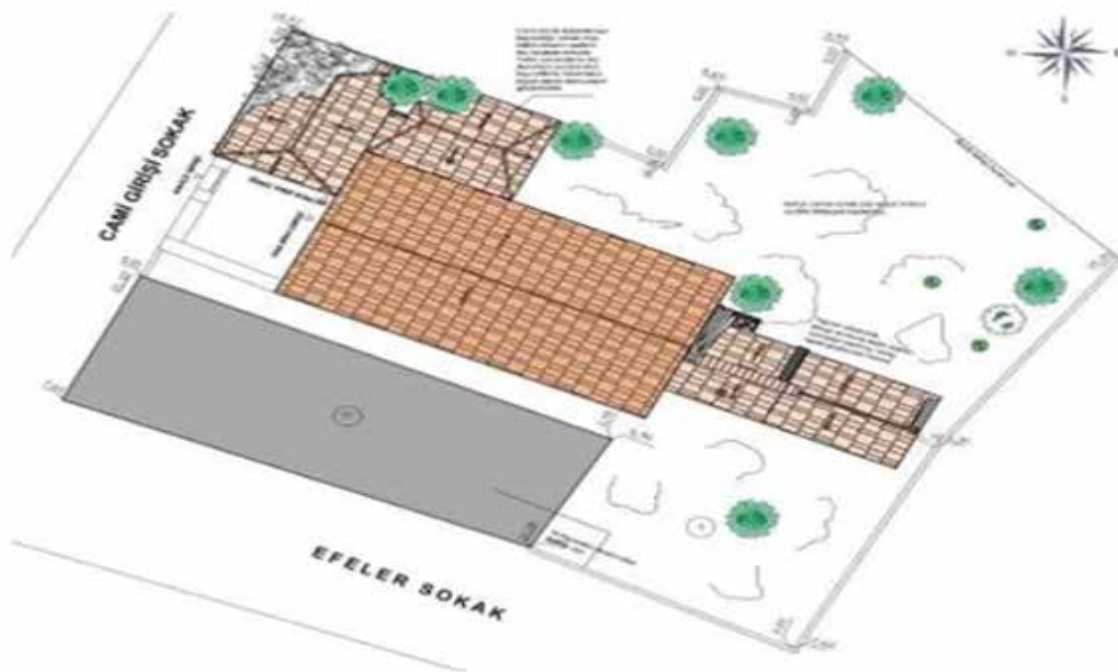


Fig. 10 Situation plan, Source: Arch. SEDES, F.

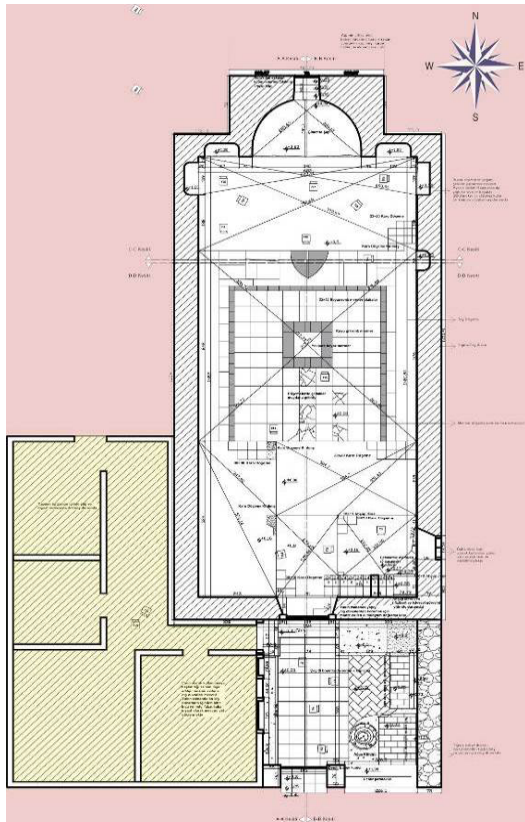


Fig 11 Ground Plan, Source: Arch. SEDES, F.

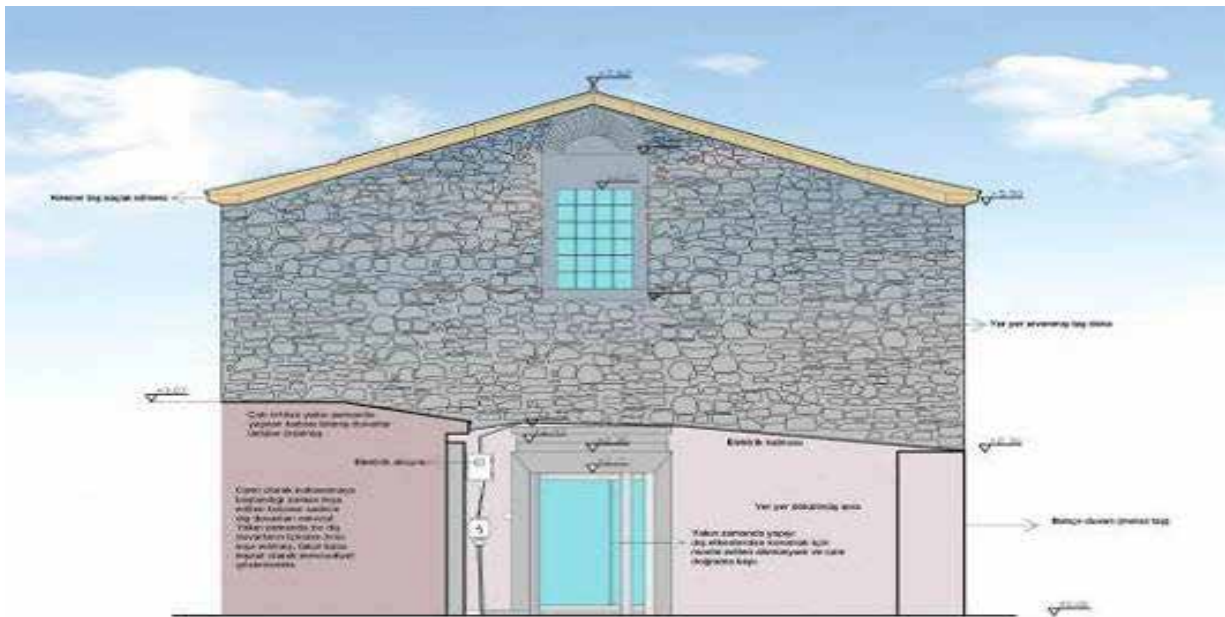


Fig 12 Front View, Source: Arch. SEDES, F.



Fig 13 Section, Source: Arch. SEDES, F.

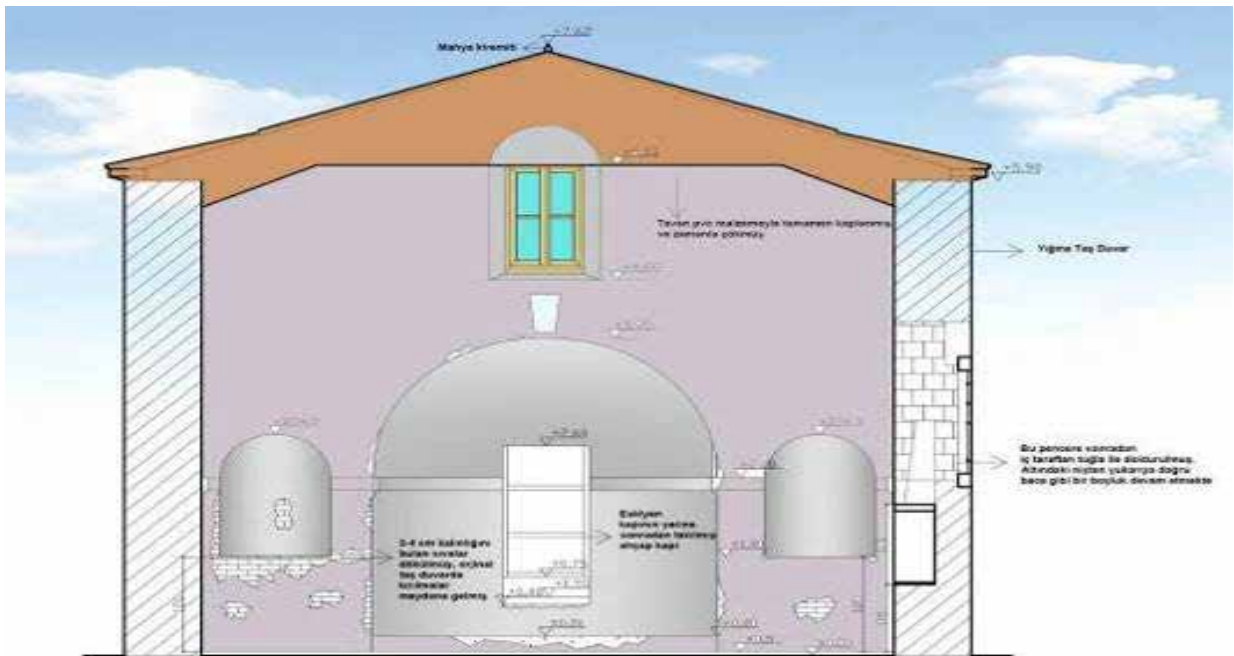


Fig. 14 Section, Source: Arch. SEDES, F.

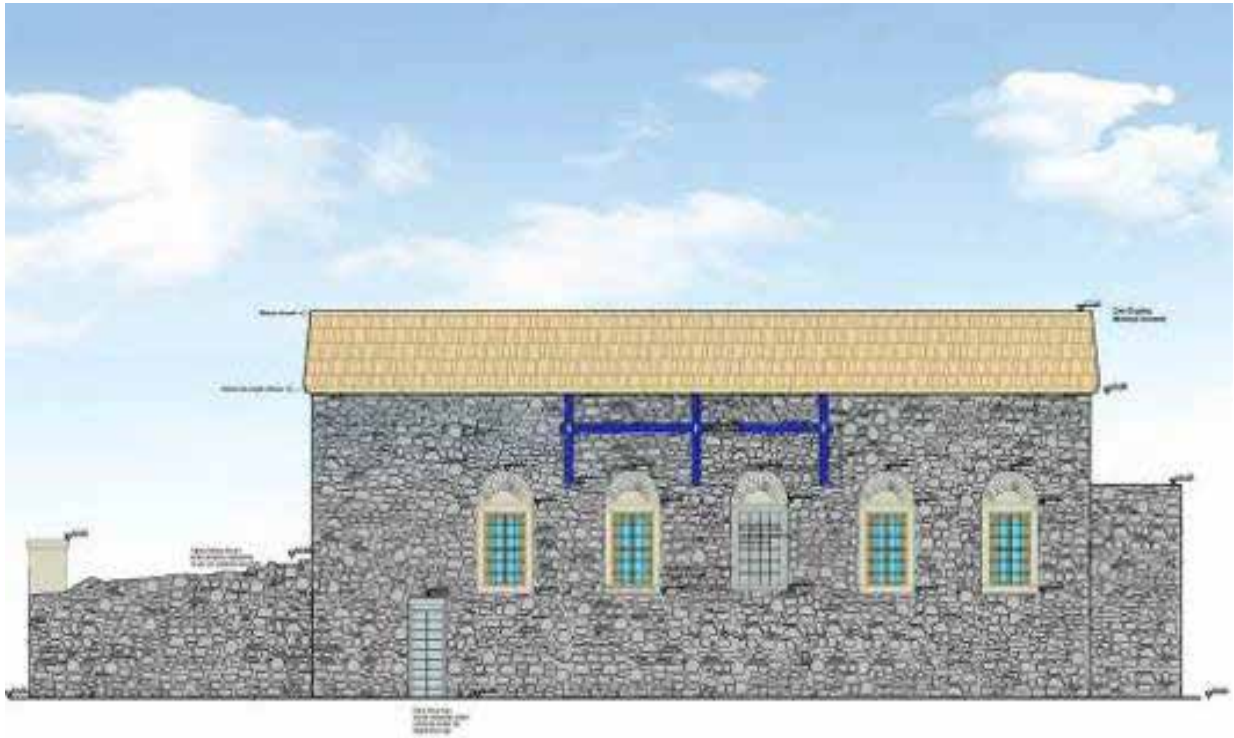


Fig 15 East Elevation, Source: Arch. SEDES, F.

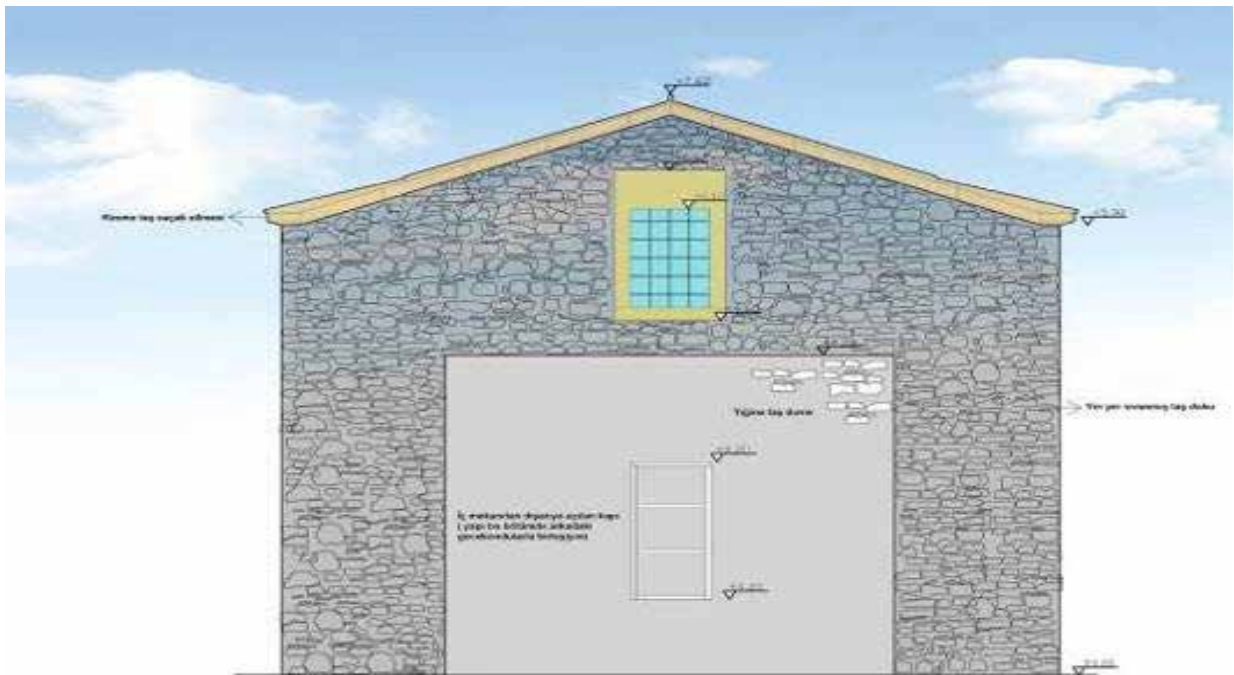


Fig 16 South Elevation, Source: Arch. SEDES, F.



Fig 17 Section, Source: Arch. SEDES, F.

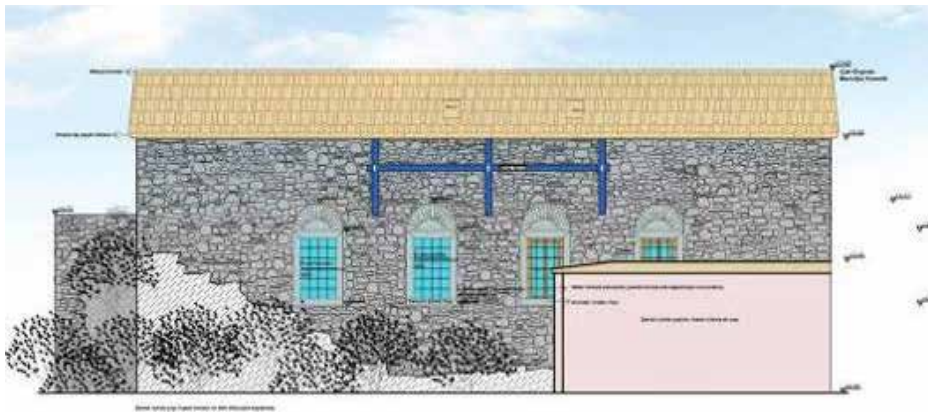


Fig 18 West Elevation, Source: Arch. SEDES, F.



Fig. 19 3D with new function, Source: Arch. SEDES, F.

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