

AN APPROACH FOR DEFINING, ASSESSMENT AND DOCUMENTATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ON MULTI-LAYERED CITIES, CASE OF BERGAMA (PERGAMON) – TURKEY

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The Historical Development of the City

Bergama is the largest borough of İzmir Province due to its surface area and the number of its villages (116 villages).

Bergama is a multi-layered Anatolian city that includes Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Karesi Principality, Ottoman and Turkish Republican periods. (Binan, 2004, 30)

Bergama, the foundation date of which is not known exactly, is named after Pergamon that is an ancient period settlement. Pergamon is a very old name and belongs to a language peculiar to eastern Mediterranean basin. “Pergamos” or “Pergamon” means “castle” or “fortified place” in that language. (Bayatlı, 1949, 18-19, Radt, 2001, 21-23)

Kale (Castle) or Kent (City) Mountain where Pergamon settlement has been established is approximately 330 meters high from the sea level. (Radt, 2001, 16). The findings prove that Bergama had not been founded as just a castle at the highest point, but had been built as a city surrounded by fortification walls and the existence of a settlement that can be dated from 7th – 6th and 5th centuries BC. (Radt, 2001, 51). Although the city was located within a restricted area at the top of the mountain during the 3rd century BC, it has expanded towards the Bakır Stream in the 2nd century BC. Asklepion that has been built as the health centre of that period, was constructed due to the formation of the city (Eriş, 2003; 148, Radt, 2001; 55). The Zeus Altar, the Athena Temple, The Library, the Great Palace and the Theatre on the “Acropolis” are the buildings that reflect magnificence of this period best. (Radt, 2001, 53, 82).

The city has had a grid planned structure outside the castle walls during Roman Empire Period. Outside the city, there is sacred “Asklepion” area that is connected to the city with a road 1 km long. A Roman theatre, an amphitheatre and a stadium have been built in the western side of the city and a Roman Temple “Kızıl Avlu” (Red Courtyard) dedicated to Egyptian Gods and covers an area of 100 x 270 m. has been

built in the southern side. (Radt, 2001, 57, 198). This building is related to Serapis who is one of the Egyptian gods – the god of underground and also called as Serapion. (Soyaker, 1993; 57-61, Bayatlı, 1951; 53) The city has lived its brightest period during the first thirty years of the 2nd century AC. The settlement that was located within the castle city at the hill during the ancient period, has expanded towards the plain during the Romans. This settlement position has continued during the Ottoman and later the Republican periods.

The city that has become a part of Ottoman land in 14th century, has had a settlement expanded on the plain that has not been surrounded with fortification walls. (Emecen, 1992, 493, Radt, 2001, 59). The traditional urban fabric that has survived today has been formed since that date. Compared to Roman and Hellenistic Perion Urban Fabric, the traditional urban fabric is placed above the urban fabric of both periods. (Figure 1)

The Reasons of Decay in the Traditional Urban Fabric

The disasters known to have damaged Traditional Urban Fabric are the flood in 1842 and the fire in 1853. (Bayatlı, 1997, 78) Nearly 400 shops, 200 houses and 5 bazaars have been burned during this fire. Bayatlı has stated that the traces of this fire could still be seen in “Mermer Direkler”, “Kızılavlu”, “Çukurhan”, “Acemhan”, “Pamuk Han”, the Bath of the market and the Covered Market. (Bayatlı, 1997, 89)

German M. Wiegand who has performed the “Asklepion” excavation has taken permission for digging in the “Kızıl Avlu” and this excavation has started on 17th April 1932 and continued until the year 1938. During this excavation that has lasted nearly six years, nearly thirty houses, stores and shops that were placed within and attached to the outer walls of the “Kızıl Avlu” that is an intersection point of urban fabric and archeological site in Bergama have been demolished. (Bayatlı, 1951, 47; Soyaker, 1993, 55-62)

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It is seen that the historical development of the city, the archeological sites and monumental public buildings have been mentioned in the Urban Plan Report of 1943; but the traditional houses and the fabric they have formed have not been mentioned. There is no other information else than the number of houses is 4000; they are generally two-storey houses made of stone, adobe and timber frame construction. (Bergama City Urban Plan Report, 1943, 29, 31). The width and material of the roads, and the names of the main roads of the city have been told. (Bergama City Urban Report, 1943, 30)

The traditional urban fabric has protected its structure until 1960s. During these years, on the eastern side of Cumhuriyet Street that can be described as the main axis of the city, some mosques, some historical buildings and timber houses have been demolished and a period, during which new reinforced concrete houses have been built has begun. This change that destroyed traditional fabric has reached the southern border of the Ottoman city with the areas that expanded towards the south-eastern side of the Market and were renovated. (Sönmez, 1998, 30)

In the Bergama City Urban Plan Report of 1968, the archeological area characteristic of the city is still in the foreground. In this report, the importance of the archeological area within the city – apart from Asklepion and Acropolis has been underlined and the necessity of the excavation, revaluation and conservation of these districts has been mentioned. In the urban plan, the revaluation of “the sacred road” that lied between the Asklepion and the city from the soil and its allocation for pedestrians and building a road parallel to it allocated for drivers have been proposed. The necessity of the revaluation and the excavation of the hippodrome that is placed below the houses, in the residential district that is called as “Selçuk Neighbourhood” today and where its curved wall can be seen above the soil has been proposed.

The area the “Kızıl Avlu” has covered is exactly 100x270m. and a part of its outer walls has been located in the “Mermer Direkler Street”. In the Urban Plan the destruction of the houses next to this wall and the enlargement of the road that lied in front of it have been proposed.

The remains of the Roman period building located on the block 319 in the “Atmaca Neighbourhood” today has been defined as hamam/bath and the houses built upon this

building have been proposed to be expropriated and abandoned as an archeological area.

Except the proposals about important archeological monuments, the general solution foreseen in the urban plan has been the conservation of the historical structure of the town built upon a completely historical substructure as much as possible and providing the settlement of the increasing city population in the districts suitable for housing, away from the historical, archeological areas. It has been mentioned that the city has been completely full and it was necessary to find new expansion areas.

Within the traditional urban fabric borders, the place on the slope in the northern side of “Bakır Stream” (named as “Üçkemer Stream” in the report) has been defined as “protocol district” and the neighbourhoods within this district have been shown as areas where the existing building zone and population shall be frozen and the development shall be restricted. By giving no permission for new buildings within this district where Roman and Hellenistic period remains exist under the urban blocks, the evacuation of this area in time and leaving it for archeological digs have been foreseen. It has been mentioned that the highest density in population has been seen within the neighbourhoods in this district.

The other district located within traditional urban fabric has been described as “the settlement area that includes the existing trade centre.” For this district that has been defined as the oldest settlement area of the town where the functions of trade and residence exist together; it has been proposed to obey the existing building rules in new buildings and not to change the characteristic of the district.

Northern, north-eastern and north-western directions have not been proposed as expansion areas as they are restricted with archeological sites and southern direction has not been proposed as it is an agricultural land in the first degree. “Yığmaca Hill” at the south, “Maltepe” at the west and the areas within “Gazi Osman Paşa Neighbourhood” at the east have been chosen as first expansion areas. The slopes in İzmir entrance and both sides of the road have been recommended as the most appropriate development areas. (Bergama Urban Plan, 1968, 1 – 8)

The Conditions for Conservation and Use of Urban, Archeological and Urban Archeological Sites in Turkey and Bergama Case

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The “Site” concept has first entered the legal definitions in our country about conservation on the publishing date 06.11.1973 of Ancient Monuments Law numbered 1710. Also on the Conservation Law of Cultural and Natural Assets numbered 2863 that has still been valid in 1983; the definition of site and conditions for the conservation and use of sites have been explained.¹

After the “site” concept had first been defined on 06.11.1973, in the 1710 numbered Ancient Monuments Law, the archeological sites and their borders in Bergama were registered by Ancient Works and Monuments Council (GEEAYK) on 9.7.1976.²

Archeological sites have been classified according to their importance, characteristics and the conditions for conservation and use that shall be applied in that district.:

1st Degree Archeological Site; refers to the sites that shall be conserved as they are except the scientific studies for conservation. There is no permission for any construction. There is no permission for any construction but excavations for scientific research. Within the ruins in this district, only arrangements such as walking path, the organization of the square, open parking area, WC, ticket office, the watchman box can be made by the permission of the conservation council.

In case there is an existing construction on 1st degree archeological site, only the restoration of the registered ones is allowed. The restoration of the unregistered ones is not allowed; another land in another place is found and the buildings are moved there.

2nd Degree Archeological Site; refers to archeological sites that should be conserved and the conservation conditions which shall be defined by the conservation councils and shall be conserved as they are except the scientific studies.

New constructions are not allowed within these districts, but simple restorations of unregistered buildings are allowed.

¹ Site: Cities and remains of cities that that are the products of various civilizations since prehistoric ages up to today that reflect the social, economic, architectural and other characteristics of their period; the places where important historical events have been taken place and districts that should be conserved with their specific natural characteristics.

² The A-77 numbered decision of G.E.E.A.Y.K. on 9.7.1976

3rd Degree Archeological Site; refers to archeological sites where new arrangements can be allowed according to the decisions for conservation and use. Within these districts, “transition period building conditions” are established in accordance with the decisions conservation council has made until an “urban plan for conservation” has been prepared. The areas for construction are defined after the drilling performed by the experts of museum directorate and the decisions of the conservation council.

There is not a gradation in the aspect of conservation and use conditions in Urban Sites³

Just after the decision about the declaration of Archeological Site; some decisions for the studies that shall define the borders of site and the conditions for construction that shall be valid until the preparation of urban plan for conservation have been made by Ancient Works and Monuments Council⁴ as Bergama city had been built upon the remains of Ancient Pergamon city and also carried the characteristics of “Urban Site” as an old settlement area of our time. In spite of these decisions, “Urban” and “Archeological Site” borders were registered in 1983⁵ and re-assessed in 1984.⁶

As Bergama City is built upon the remains of Ancient Pergamon city and also has the characteristics of Urban Site as an old settlement area, some decisions have been made by the Ancient Works and Monuments Council for the studies that shall define the borders of site and the conditions for construction that shall be valid until the preparation of urban plan for conservation. In spite of these decisions, the registration of “Urban Site” and “Archeological Site” borders have been made in 1983 and re-assessed in 1984.

After 20 years from the definition of the “Site”, on 30.11.1993, Urban Archeological Site definition and

³ Urban Sites are the districts that have urban and vernacular characteristics, physical properties in the aspect of architecture and history of art and reflect and hold together the socio-economic, socio-cultural structure and lifestyle of that period with these properties and show an integrity of fabric in these aspects. (KTVKYK Basic Decision, 2000, 2)

⁴ A-910 numbered decision of GEEAYK on 13.01.1978

⁵ A-4051 numbered decision of GEEAYK on 21.01.1983
1/4330 numbered decision of GEEAYK on 08.01.1983

⁶ 85 numbered decision of GEEAYK on 13.01.1984

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conservation conditions have been declared with the basic decision of the Cultural and Natural Heritage Conservation Council.⁷ Urban Archeological Sites are the districts that include cultural properties that should be conserved described in the 6th article of the law numbered 2863 besides archeological sites and urban fabric that should be conserved in accordance with the same article of the same law. In these districts, a healthy and comprehensive inventory of archeological properties should be made and no application on a lot should be started until the plans that shall be prepared as a result of this research have been approved. The building technique and material of new buildings should be in harmony with the traditional fabric. The restoration and re-construction – if necessary – of cultural properties should be done with the approval of the conservation council.

During the period before the definition of “Urban Archeological Site” in multi-layered cities that carry Urban Archeological Site characteristics, hesitations and indecisions have occurred besides the wrong decisions of the conservation councils about the conservation of either urban or archeological cultural heritage. This interruption has been overcome with the definition of urban archeological site.

This interruption has also occurred in Bergama city. The building conditions of the transition period that shall be valid until “urban plan for conservation” of the city have been defined on 07.11.2001, 18 years after the declaration of Urban Site, with the declaration of the city as Urban Archeological Site by İzmir District Number 2 Cultural and Natural Heritage Conservation Council⁸ According to this decision, the sites in Bergama city have been described as Urban Archeological Site, 1st Degree Archeological Site, 2nd Degree Archeological Site, and 3rd Degree Archeological Site. (Figure 2)

Defining, Assessment and Documentation of Cultural Heritage on Bergama

Bergama is a city that has had traditional Ottoman Urban Fabric composed of organic shaped building blocks surrounded with dead-end roads on grid planned ancient urban fabric since 14th century. Traditional urban fabric is also seen in the district registered as archeological site in the 2nd and 3rd degrees beside the district defined as Urban Archeological Site. (Figure 3)

⁷ 338 numbered decision of KTVKYK on 30.11.1993

⁸ 10213 numbered decision of İzmir District Number 2 KTVKK on 07.11.2001

The beginning of archeological excavations by Carl Humann in 1878, in Bergama (Radt, 2001, 11) and the discovery of important findings day by day have caused the city to be known with its archeological characteristics.

Before the declaration of site, it has been foreseen to freeze the traditional urban fabric located on archeological site and to restrict its development and to abandon these areas for archeological excavations in the Urban Plan of 1968.

On the other hand, the importance given to ancient buildings has made a secret contribution to the protection of traditional houses. As the existing buildings have been frozen in order not to cause any damage on the ancient city under the traditional housing structure, new areas for settlement away from these districts have been opened for construction. During the period until 1984, when the city has been declared as Urban Site, the construction of multi-storey houses in the place of traditional houses just like many examples in other cities has not taken place – with the exception of a limited number of examples.

As transition Period Building Conditions that shall not be valid in the period between the declaration of the Traditional Urban Fabric as Urban Site in 1983 and the preparation of the conservation plan have not been defined until the declaration of the city as Urban Archeological Site in 2001, construction and restoration have stopped for 18 years.

As a result of these, the houses within the site have survived today as ruined original, authentic buildings that have not even gone through restoration.

The inventory workshop of Urban Cultural Heritage has put forward that there is an important number of houses that have survived today ruined but by keeping their originality and many of them are rare.

“Traditional houses” with outer halls (sofa) built with timber frame system have been common in Bergama. Also the traditional houses with open/outer halls defined as “the 18th century house” in the documents that are very rare in Anatolia with their “plaster upper window” and seen until the first quarter of 19th century outside Istanbul have been found out. In “traditional houses” of late 19th and early 20th century, it has been observed that plans with closed/inner halls have started to be widely used besides open/outer halls.

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The inclined settlement on the northern side of Bergama Stream is a district where “Western influenced houses” with a masonry appearance and a mixed construction system where outer walls made of masonry bond are attached to timber frame construction, without a courtyard or with a small courtyard behind have been common. “Western influenced houses” are important buildings that reflect the westernization/modernization period all through the country during late 19th century with their architecture and originality. The one or two storey examples of “western influenced houses” with closed/inner halls have been common. Among these houses, some examples, in which the hall has been changed into a corridor have been discovered.

What is precedent for transferring cultural heritage that make up urban archeological site and should be protected as a whole to the future is doing a healthy and comprehensive inventory work about what shall be protected, as it is mentioned in the basic decision.⁹

With the cooperation of Turkish Republic The Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Turkish Academy of Science, a project that aimed at the documentation and inventory of our universal cultural heritage and its transfer to the next generations has been started. This endeavour that has been active since 2001 is “The Turkish Cultural Inventory Project” under the scope of Turkish Academy of Science Cultural Department (TÜBA – TÜKSEK). It has been foreseen that the cultural inventory that is planned to be expanded to cover whole Turkey in time would have been completed in a period of ten-fifteen years with teams composed of academicians/experts of various universities. The subjects that are a part of TÜBA – TÜKSEK Turkish Cultural Inventory have been defined as archeology, urban architecture, rural architecture, history (epigraphy), oral history, ethnography, ethnobotany, geo-archaeology, geology and etc in their ecological environment (Esin, 2004;7, Bermek,2003;IX). In Birecik-Suruç and Buldan that have been chosen as pilot area, inventory works have been performed within the areas mentioned. (Bermek, 2004;5)

This initiative means devising, adopting and making use of innovative methods and facilities for managing, accessing , interpreting, preserving and visualization of Turkey’s rich cultural heritage. It is about turning information found in various undocumented heritage related resource s into active knowledge specific to our needs, and readily accessible through new channels such as the Internet. The complete Picture will be idealized as

a series of system elements for culture and will be presented by inputs, outputs, transfers and transformations that all characterize components of a “Cultural System of Turkey”. This will demonstrate the contribution of cultural heritage research to a new product which is entitled as “Kültür-Kitap/Culturebook”and information Technologies (Space Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Technologies) to enhance competitiveness and sustainability for the economic development.

The approach will increase information value in a spatial database for cultural heritage and the level of technology used in the research and academic institutions. The anticipated result after all is making cultural heritage available at the click of Mouse for everyone.

In this direction, an inventory workshop has been started in Urban Archeological site where Bergama traditional urban fabric is located. Bergama Urban Cultural Heritage Inventory Project is one of the projects performed outside the pilot areas. This project that has been performed as a part of Turkish Cultural Inventory Project by The Turkish Academy of Science and Cultural Sector (TÜBA-TÜKSEK) is supported by the Municipality of Bergama, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University and Turkish Academy of Science.

With the Bergama Urban Cultural Inventory Project, the inventory of 6 quarters in Bergama among 11 where urban cultural heritage is placed and 785 urban cultural properties and natural properties has been completed at the end of two years - 2003 and 2004 – of documentation.(Figure 4) Except the monumental buildings, plans of 288 traditional houses have been drawn.

There are two types of inventory forms – “settlement form” prepared for urban blocks and “monumental form” prepared for cultural heritage that should be protected. (Batur, 2003; 22-53) Monumental forms are filled out for urban cultural heritage and natural monuments. In settlement forms, information such as the geographical position of the urban block, general architectural characteristics, the rate of originality and if there are any legally registered buildings that should be protected is given. The documentation is completed by the detailed photographs of the urban block.

In monumental forms, the elements, the inventory of which shall be made are classified as building, urban element and natural element. As urban cultural heritage mainly consists of houses, “the physical properties of the building” section in the inventory form has been prepared due to houses. Besides detailed physical properties and

⁹ 338 numbered decision of KTVKYK on 30.11.1993

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technical implement, the analysis on the solidity and originality of the building, information about if there are any legally registered buildings that should be protected are presented in the form as a list of alternatives. Scaled plans of the cultural and natural property, the inventory of which are made have been drawn in addition to the documentation by photographs.

These forms and visual materials used in field research are transferred into the common database called as “culture-book” on the computers. In order to transform the data to the multilayered inter-active database, a GIS (Geographic Information System) based software has been constructed (Bermek, 2005; 5).

To which period the urban cultural properties belong can be determined with the alternatives as “ancient”, “middle age”, “Ottoman”, “Republic”. In urban archeological districts, when archeological remains are discovered under urban cultural properties, the “ancient” period alternative can be marked besides the period of the building above. For the archeological remains that are not under a cultural property, location is given and “ancient” can be marked as the period alternative. These information forms also provide enough data for the team that shall make the Archeological Cultural Properties Inventory.

The deficient or incorrect definition and documentation of the subject of conservation means the extinction of cultural heritage starting from individual scale to regional scale. The definition of characteristics and borders of site can be possible with healthy and comprehensive inventory works. For the definition of site borders and characteristics in cities like Bergama where traditional urban fabric is defined as “Urban Archeological Site” and surrounded by Archeological Sites, the correct and comprehensive documentation of either urban or archeological cultural properties is a necessity.

In Bergama Cultural Inventory performed by The Ministry of Culture and Tourism, The Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums between 1974 and 2003, 499 cultural properties have been registered. What is more, the borders and degrees of Bergama “Urban Archeological Site” and “Archeological Site” have gone through many changes since 2003 when the inventory workshop under the scope of TÜBA-TÜKSEK had been started.

In the Bergama Urban Cultural Inventory Project under the scope of TÜBA-TÜKSEK, the inventory of 785 urban cultural properties and natural properties has been completed at the end of two periods of work that included the years

2003 and 2004 and two more periods of work are foreseen for the project to be completed.

When the number of registered cultural properties in Bergama is compared to the number of Bergama Urban Cultural Heritage Inventory that has been documented during 2003-2004 periods and is foreseen to last for another two periods, it is very clearly seen that the number of buildings to be registered should be increased.

The inventory that is being made shall make a great contribution to the right definition of site borders and the conservation of Bergama’s cultural heritage. At the end of the “inventory of urban cultural heritage” within the city that should be protected, the borders of Urban Archeological Site shall be drawn in a definite and healthy way.

Today only the inventory of urban cultural properties is made in Bergama . With the inventories of archeological heritage, history (epigraphy), oral history, ethnography, ethnobotany, geological heritage and geo-archaeology, the definition, assessment and documentation of cultural heritage in “Urban Archeological Site” will have been completed in a healthy way.

Abstract

The Bergama City that is the subject of research is a town within Turkey borders connected to Izmir province. Bergama is a multi-layered Anatolian city that contains a historical layering belonging to Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Karesi Principality, Ottoman and Turkish Republican periods. Bergama that had been called as Pergamon during ancient ages, has been established as a city surrounded by high walls dated from BC 7th or 6th centuries upon Kent Mountain that reaches an approximate height of 330 meters. Bergama that is one of the cultural gates to Anatolian civilization history is an important centre for Mediterranean civilization as the first place where Parchment had been used and that had a library comparable with Alexandria Library. Dating from 14th century, a traditional Ottoman urban fabric that consisted of organic shaped land groups surrounded with dead end roads has been developed on ancient urban fabric with grid plans.

Bergama City is a solid example that shows the mistakes in the definition and assessment of cultural heritage can lead to the destruction of cultural assets. Digs have been started at the districts surrounding the traditional urban fabric of the ancient city since the end of 19th period and the conservation of ancient buildings has gained importance. The same approach of conservation has not been used for the traditional urban fabric consisting of traditional houses, the oldest of which was dated from the 18th century. With the urban plan of 1968, traditional urban fabric has been highly damaged as a result of the destruction of traditional houses that should be conserved and were located on the route of large roads that were opened to make transportation easier and passed close to archeological buildings. On the other hand, a decision about freezing the existing traditional settling district and creation of new development areas for new buildings has been taken in order that the ancient city under traditional urban fabric would not be damaged. That decision has provided the survival of traditional urban fabric today by keeping its authenticity.

The traditional urban fabric in Bergama that should be conserved was classified as Urban Archeological Site in 1984 .

In Bergama city that consisted of archeological sites and urban archeological site, an inventory work on cultural heritage has been going on since 2003. With the Turkish Cultural Inventory Project carried out by Turkish Academy of Science - Turkish Cultural Sector (TÜBA-TÜKSEK), the discovery and documentation of the whole cultural heritage within Turkey in a common format has been provided.

The definition, assessment and documentation criteria in the inventory of cultural heritage performed today in Bergama city that is a solid example that shows the mistakes in the definition and assessment of cultural heritage can lead to the destruction of cultural assets shall be put forward. A solid examination shall be made about how the static structure of archeological characteristics and dynamic structure of urban characteristics in Urban Archeological Sites have been defined, assessed and documented within the example of Bergama.

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AN APPROACH FOR DEFINING, ASSESSMENT AND DOCUMENTATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ON MULTI-LAYERED CITIES, CASE OF BERGAMA (PERGAMON) – TURKEY

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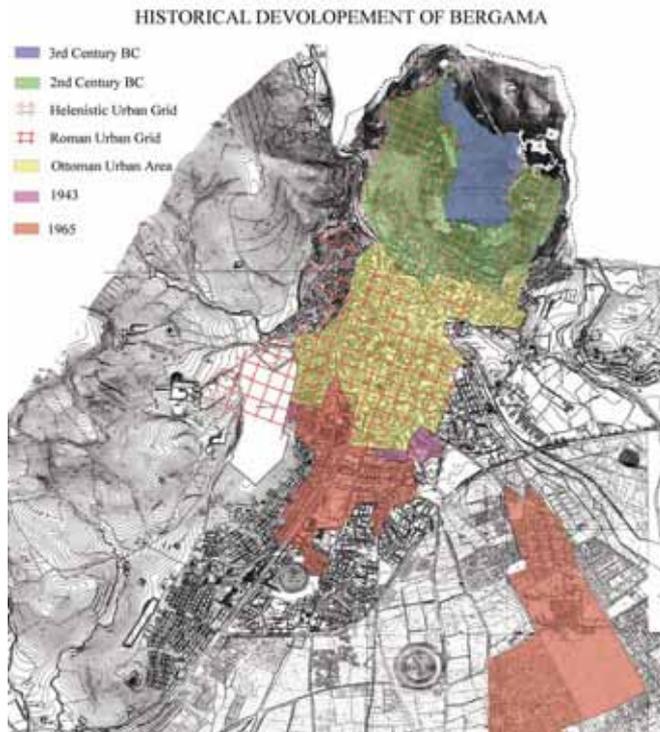


Fig.1

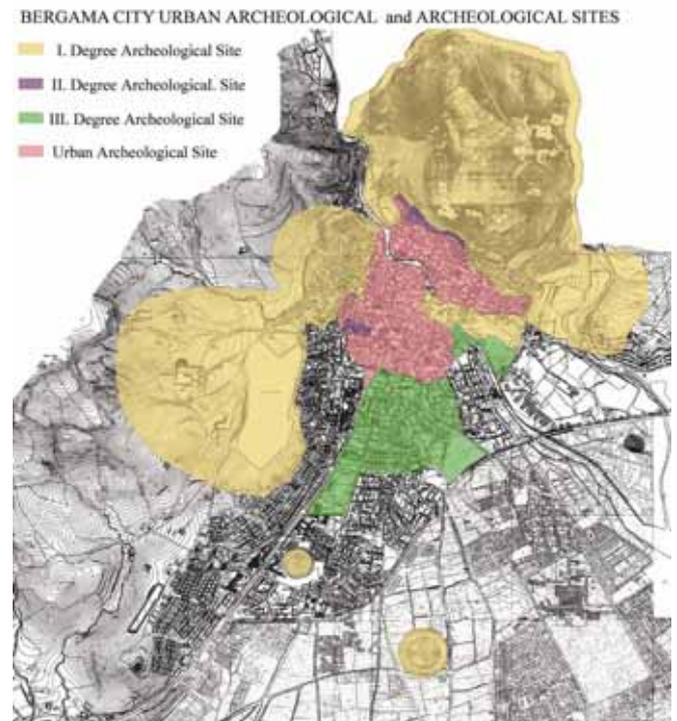


Fig.2

Section I: Defining the setting of monuments and sites:
 The significance of tangible and intangible cultural and natural qualities
 Section I: Définir le milieu des monuments et des sites-
 Dimensions matérielles et immatérielles, valeur culturelle et naturelle

TRADITIONAL URBAN AREA AND ARCHEOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF BERGAMA

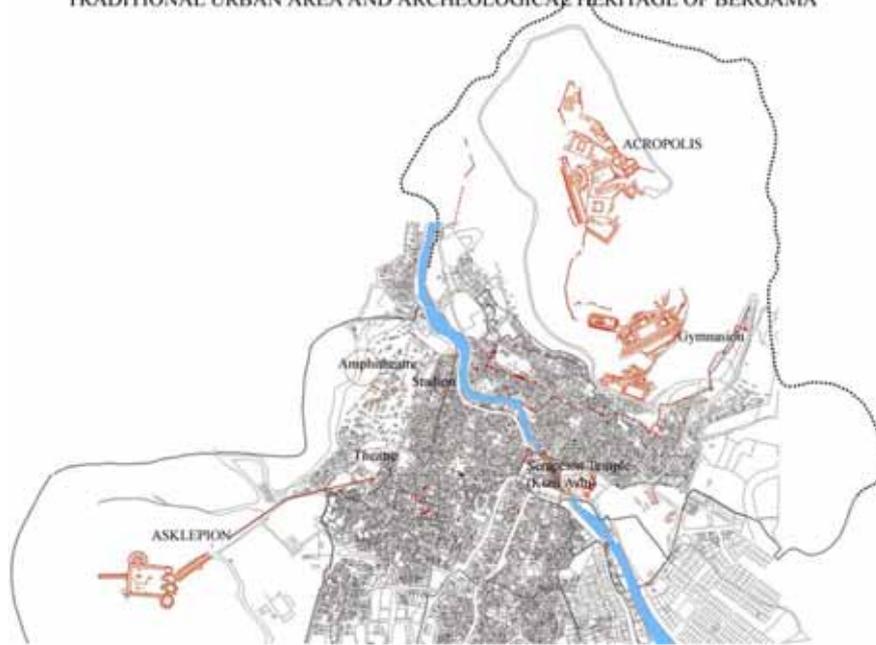


Fig.3

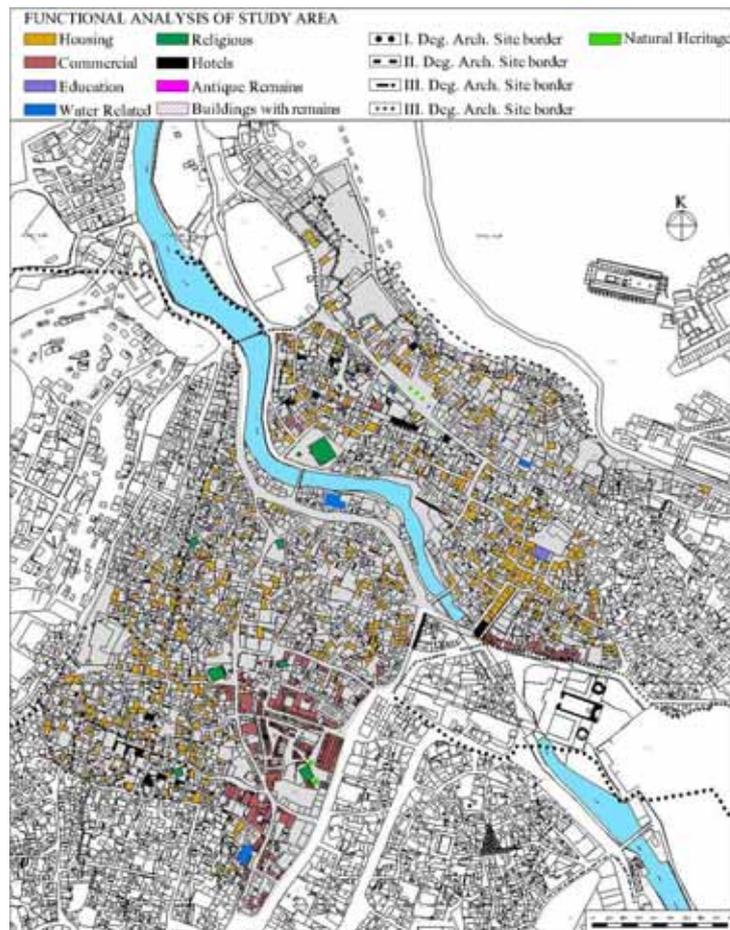


Fig.4