

ABDULLAH GÜL PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM & LIBRARY AS AN ADAPTIVE REUSE PROJECT

1.0 Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to discuss definition of adaptive reuse based on a case study and tackle issues concerning adaptive reuse. For this purpose, Abdullah Gül Presidential Museum and Library in Kayseri is chosen as a case study. The building was once used as power and stream plant of Sümerbank Textile Settlement in Kayseri. The chief architect of initial project was a well known Russian architect, Ivan Nikolaev. The construction of initial design finished at 1934 and the factory was in use between 1934-1999. With Turkish Government decision of ending state-based industrial activities, the whole settlement was shut down.¹ In 2012, the ownership of this industrial settlement is given to Abdullah Gül University to be reused as Sümer Campus in order propose a cultural activity centre. Emre Arolat Architecture(EAA) designed the new proposal of Abdullah Gül Presidential Museum & Library and led the renovation project of whole settlement.

2.0 Definition of Adaptive-reuse

As societies became more conscious about the significance of conservation, adapting new functions to existing buildings became challenging but creative strategy to conserve tangible & intangible cultural heritages. In order to discuss to what extent Abdullah Gül Presidential Museum & Library is an adaptive reuse project within conservational framework, the definition of adaptive re-use must be identified. In this paper, adaptative-reuse is defined as all the process of adapting a new function to an existing place so as to retain its cultural significance. Brooker and Stone also defines adaptive-reuse as “remodelling”, “Retrofitting”, “reworking” while stating “the function is the most obvious change, but other alterations may be made to the building itself such as the circulation route, the orientation, the relationships between spaces; additions may be built and the other areas may be demolished”.² . For this specific case study, It is feasible

¹ Asiliskender, Burak. (2014). From Industrial Site to University Campus. Sümerbank Kayseri Textile Factory. Docomomo Journal. 49. 86-89.

² Brooker, G & Stone S.,(2014). Re-readings: Interior architecture and the design principles of remodelling existing buildings.RIBA Enterprises:London.

to discuss certain criterias of adaptive reuse such as memory and sense of place, authenticity, planning controls, materials & rehabilitation of old structures and social&environmental sustainability to present a explicit understanding of adaptive-reuse. As a strategy, adaptive reuse can be used to protect heritage townscapes to protect parts of urban images. It deals with changing norms of society and its impacts on both immediate and wider context of built fabric. As the city life values are based on change and continuity, town heritage should evolve in a way that people keep appreciating it and use it as a creative force.

According to Plevoets & Cleempoel, there are three main approach of adaptive reuse: typological, technical and architectural strategies. In this paper, meaning of adaptive reuse is linked to architectural strategy. Plevoets & Cleempoel defines main intention of strategic approach as “focusing on the process and strategies applied for converting significant buildings”³. It is observed strategic approach deals more explicitly with genius loci (sense of place) than the other two strategy of adaptive reuse⁴. Under heading 4.1, conservation strategy of EAA, is to be discussed in detail in terms of their approach and how they perceived the relation between existing building and its immediate & wider context.

When examining an adaptive reuse project, it is a must to understand which heritage values of the building or site are to be concerned. For this reason, taking Burra Charter as a guide is substantial since it suggests value based approach. Evaluating this case study with respect to Burra Charter process, will convey an understanding of its new uses and approaches taken into account to evaluate what is kept, what is changed in short & long term. Burra Charter helps to understand how did the architects respond the challenges in most beneficial and unique way to achieve the goal of creating a cultural activity centre which is once used as power and stream building of Sümerbank Textile Settlement. In particular, Article 6 of Burra Charter states: “Policy development should also include consideration of other factors affecting the

³ Plevoets, Bie & Van Cleempoel, Koenraad. (2011). Adaptive Reuse as a Strategy towards Conservation of Cultural Heritage: a Literature Review. 155-164. 10.2495/STR110131.

⁴ Plevoets, Bie & Van Cleempoel, Koenraad. (2011). Adaptive Reuse as a Strategy towards Conservation of Cultural Heritage: a Literature Review. 155-164. 10.2495/STR110131.

future of a place such as the owner's needs, resources, external constraints and its physical condition.”⁵ .

Thus, EAA's conservation approach in this case study will be evaluated with respect to this criterias.

3.0 Definition of Industrial Heritage

All around the World, old factories and insdustrial buildings are taken considered as industrial heritage since they are part of a collective memory of different cultures and nations. In most of the cases, their presence became a symbol of economical development and growth especially for a time period around World World II and Industrial Revolution. These buildings play crucial role in identifying of narratives of a place to represent national/cultural identity and act as a way to describe or know that place.

Justine Clarke defines main intention of adapting a new use to industrial heritage as saying “Adaptive reuse gives new life to a site, rather than seeking to freze it at a particular moment in time, it explores the options that lie between the extremes of demolition or turning a site into a museum. Adding a new layer without erasing earlier layers, an adaptive reuse project becomes part of the long history of the site. It is another stage, nor the final outcome.”⁶ . EAA's approach on adaptive reuse is quite similar to Justin Clarke's statement as they took the advantage transforming an industrial heritage into a presidential museum and library while adding a new layer without erasing earlier layer. In a way, they conserved the values generated by Sümerbank Textile Settlement and fused those values into provincial life of Kayseri.

4.0 Significance of Abdullah Gül Presidential Museum & Library's past and present use

As it is stated previously, Abdullah Gül Presidential library is designed by Russian architect Ivan Nikolaev. The settlement symbolizes industrialisation and modernisation movements of Republican period of Turkey. The goal of the industrial settlement was not only economic growth but also developing a spatial form which will symbolize modern Turkish settlement & modern Turkish citizen⁷.For this reason “Sümerbank industrial Settlements, conceived as small factory towns, comprised not only production facilities (factories) and support facilities (warehouses, workshops, boiler house, water tower and fire

⁵ ICOMOS, “International Charter fort he Conservation and Restoration of Monument and Sites”, Decision and Rresolutions, Venince 31.V.1964, ICOMOS,1, Paris:1966.

⁶ Clarke, Justin. (2013). Adaptive Re-use of Industrial Heritage, Heritage Council Victoria.

⁷ Himam, Dilek, and Burkay Pasin. (2011) “Designing a National Uniform(Ity): The Culture of Sümerbank within the Context of the Turkish Nation-State Project.” *Http://psi203.Cankaya.edu.tr*, Çankaya University, 28 Dec. 2012,

station) but also residential (family houses, single houses and dormitories⁹, social/cultural (cafeterias, social clubs, cinemas, guest houses and day-care centres) recreational (parks, swimming pools and sports fields) and educational facilities.”⁸. After the settlement is owned by Abdullah Gül University(AGU), the settlement is transformed into an open campus that it become both cultural and educational settlement. Within this settlement our main object is chosen as power and steam building.

From architectural point of view, past use of power and steam building points out the building was once the heart of the whole settlement as it generated all power to sustain production process. Now its new function is defined as presidential library and museum. Decision of new functions are given by mutual agreement of client and EAA⁹. In masterplan level, the mentioned building is chosen as presidential library and museum since it the most characteristic majestic building in the site. Arolat, states it is a ceremonial building which has the traces of russian constructivism and Turkish Industrialization attempts.¹⁰ It is obvious that the old building will still function as the heart of the whole settlement due to its new use. In another words, a power generator is adapted into being a culture generator as it exhibits an identity. In a way, a transition of one state of mind to another is observed while conserving the identity and memory of an old building: rather than seeking it to freeze as an industrial heritage, it is transformed into an cultural building which will survive as an industrial heritage whereas social production will continue.

4.1 Conservation strategy of EAA on adaptive reuse

The chief architect of the project, Emre Arolat, states that at the end of a long and grueling preparation process, the masterplan defined the overall design principles for the whole campus. With this statement, it is proven that EAA proposed strategic approach of adaptive reuse while dealing with genius loci. In wider contexts, the new masterplan sticks to old masterplan as sport facilities and agricultural areas, accomodation facilities are kept in same place/boundaries and factory buildings were transformed into educational facilities.

⁸ Hımmam, Dilek, and Burkıay Pasın. (2011) “Designing a National Uniform(Ity): The Culture of Sümerbank within the Context of the Turkish Nation-State Project.” *Http://psi203.Cankaya.edu.tr*, Çankaya University, 28 Dec. 2012,

⁹ Arolat, Emre. Personal Interview. 13 Dec. 2018.

¹⁰ Arolat, Emre. Personal Interview. 13 Dec. 2018.

EAA perceived Kayseri as a “provincial city” .¹¹ Their strategic approach is “not to alienate them by regarding them untouchable nor to over-intervene and damage the existing character. Thus buildings are functionalised as they can sustain their existing qualities and enhanced with contemporary additions or removals.”¹² . Thus, we can perceive adaptive reuse project is explicitly designed rather than conserving the only facade of existing building and changing the whole spatial organisation like it happened in many adaption projects of industrial heritages. It respects the existing qualities while adding a new layer onto it. The new and old exist at the same time and their fate became dependant to each other: old layer needs new layer to survive while new layer needs old one to create unique experience.

The whole approach, correlates to Article 21(Adaptation) of Burra Charter. Adaptation has minimal impact on the industrial significance of the place as it does not erase existing qualities and machinery but it involves the introduction of new use. Further more, EAA’s adaptive reuse approach is coherent with Article-5 Venice Charter. The new uses have tendency to regenerate industrial values with a new useful purpose while there is no change observed in original layout of the building. Although keeping the original layout of plans, the new arrangement of museum can be defined as open and permeable. The museum is composed in two parts: the presidential exhibition and the temporary exhibitions. It is clear that minimum intervention is made not to spoil its cultural significance and original fabric. For instance, the exhibition units are enlightened by suspended wire mesh cages. Those cages are attached to the ceiling means of metal profiles with minimum intervention. The new additions become a part of old building though they do not touch it but float above it. Moreover, the intervention follows the Venice Charter’s objects as new additions are distinguishable from the original as it does not disturb the authenticity of historic evidence.

EAA’s approach on this adaptive reuse project is not only limited combining old with means of new function but it deals with management of the space. It is stated that significant amount of care is given

¹¹ Jodidio, Philip, and Özkan Suha. (2013) *EAA: Emre Arolat Architects, Context and Plurality*. Rizzoli.

¹² Arolat, Emre. (2016).“EAA-Emre Arolat Architecture » Abdullah Gul Presidential Museum and Library.” *EAAEmre Arolat Architecture*, emrearolat.com/gallery/abdullah-gul-presidential-museum-and-library/.

to maintain building services to meet safety and accesibility codes. It can be linked to Article 16 (Maintenance) from Burra Charter that maintenance was necessary to retain the cultural significan within the context of rehabilitation of the building to adapt a new use.

In conclusion, It is deduced EAA's approach in this case study became a prototype of adaptive reuse as a bridge between past and present to protect the identity of place as a modernization and industrialization symbol of Republican movements in Turkey.

5.1 Criterias of adaptive re-use

In order to discuss whether the project is a successful or unsuccessful adaptive reuse example, certain criteria must be assessed to make a decision. Those criterias are memory & sense of place, planning controls, environmental sustainability, social sustainability, materials & old structure and project's relevance to urban structure.

a) Memory and Sense of Place

Memory and sense of a place is an important issue to be discussed in adaptive reuse cases. It is previously stated that Abdullah Gül Presidential Museum and Library symbolizes certain identity of Turkish nation such as industrialization and modernization of modern Turkey throuout Republican moves. It can be deduced, EAA's approach on adaptive reuse defends the memory of its old use. The way they exposed decay and preserved the traces of patine composed in time keeps the sense of place and its memory. Further more, the way characteristics of industrial heritage such as ash and coal chimneys are restored and integrated into exhibition experience keeps the memory alive. EAA preserved ash and coal chimneys which have survived over time and reconstructed the damaged parts to exhibit the original function of chimneys as a whole. (See Appendix Image-1 & Image-2)

b) Authenticity

Revealing authenticity is another factor to take advantage when architects intend to adapt a new functions onto an existing building. Advantage of authenticity is taken into account when the chief architect of conservation decided to follow value-based approach. With respect to values taken into account,

revealing authenticity means of adaptive reuse fulfils the lackness of narrative and identity in the new environment developed around the heritage. This circumstance is valid for our case study. The aforementioned adaptive reuse project is authentic as it seeks to keep alive memory and sense of industrial heritage. To achieve this goal, EAA's strategy revolves around preservation of patine to scent traces of time. In other words, their intention was "to conserve whatever substance has survived over time and preserve the original features".¹³ In general, EAA revealed industrial building's patine composed in time to become part of experience. Hence, exhibited layers became authentic to represent decay and decadence and becomes a way of experiencing memory and sense of place. In a way, as the new function is being musuem, the authentic layers become a permanent part of exhibited material of musuem. Thus, the spectators are not only experiencing the presidential and temporary exhibitions but also the traces of industrial architecture of Turkey.

EAA applied several methods to preserve patina of time and rasterization is one of the most authentic technique to exhibit all layers of patina. Before redapting the space, layers of walls were peeled off and original ash pits became visible as a result of decaying. In order to expose patine layers, the walls were rasterized and rehabilitated. As a result of this process, a colorful composition is formed while preserving different layers. This composition observed in walls behaved if they were artworks. Thus, patina revealed authentic identity of industrial heritage (See Appendix Image-3 & Image-4).The composition is unique to Abdullah Gül Presidential Museum and Library that it became a part of the experience. Moreover, this attitude can be discussed with respect to Article -11 from Venice Charter. The valid contrinutions of all layers of patina is respected since "unity of style is not aim of restoration".¹⁴ EAA describes their approach as "The buildings are regarded as whole with all the layers are added to them in time, as a result of certain effort was given to refrain from resporation process that will bring foth any

¹³ "Abdullah Gül Presidential Museum and Library." *Architizer*, Architizer, architizer.com/projects/abdullah-guel-presidential-museum-and-library/.

¹⁴ ICOMOS, "International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monument and Sites", Decision and Rresolutions, Venince 31.V.1964, ICOMOS,1, Paris:1966.

period rather than existing condition”.¹⁵ Thus, EAA corresponded to Venice Charter as they respected the traces of patina in different periods.

As it is stated previously in memory and sense of place heading, coal and ash chimneys are integrated into exhibition experience. (See Appendix Image-1 & Image-2). This strategy also correlates with revealing authenticity as their presence was once specific to its old function. Thus, it is concluded existing buildings has potential to regenerate contemporary experiences means of authenticity of functions.

The case study can be evaluated as successful in terms of retaining its authenticity. EAA introduced new functions to convey the original narrative of the site which is desired by The Burra Charter.

c) Planning Scheme

Compatibility of spaces with newly assigned function is another challenge to determine the fate of adaptive reuse cases. In order to meet needs of new uses assigned to existing building, planning controls and their target users should be taken into account. Physical form and use of spaces should aim to protect narrative identity of existing building though it can have additions whereas it is necessary. This intervention is viable according Burra Charter Article 10 (Contents) & 12 (Participation). Content of objects to contribute cultural significance both on permanent and temporary base. Under these titles, introduction of spaces such as children workshop areas, video display rooms are vital planning strategies to provoke participation of people for whom the place has certain associations and meanings. Participation of children and media presentations can increase the awareness on industrial heritage. By educating locals with introduction of this functions, adaptive reuse cases may help to rebuild (strengthen) the local identity.

Another important factor of compatibility of spaces in adaptive reuse projects is transformation of circulation. Circulation of each building is unique to their own character in terms of function and style. The architects must take in to account Article 15(Change) from Burra Charter. Since new functions require a different character in circulation, architects should be careful about the level of intervention when adapting circulation. In general, EAA, kept the planning scheme of museum part as original, permeable and open as much as possible. They introduced additional circulation cores rather than demolishing walls and changing

¹⁵ Arolat, Emre. (2016). “EAA-Emre Arolat Architecture » Abdullah Gul Presidential Museum and Library.” *EAAEmre Arolat Architecture*, emrearolat.com/gallery/abdullah-gul-presidential-museum-and-library/.

character of plan layout. Their attitude implies they tried to retain identity of place while they reshaped the circulation of existing building.

Besides museum part, adaptation of library is also critical. Adapting presidential library can be referred as one of the boldest intervention in the project. The library has almost a quality of archive. Three storey bookshelf structures are integrated into the main hall of the stream plant to fulfill its new function. The materials used in construction of bookshelf are quite distinguishable from the surroundings that the intervention is still following the path of Venice Charter. On the other hand, “Existing concrete silo bases have been preserved, now in relaxed reading rooms accentuating the volume of the space.”¹⁶ This adaptation of plan scheme gives new definition to space and experience. The transformation of concrete silo bases is used to generate new values as it becomes a learning space. It is an undeniable fact that a learning space is cornerstone of value generation process. Thus, potential of industrial heritage to generate contemporary values is explored with this touch. In other words, rearrangement of plans play crucial role in adapting a place to protect its identity while creating contemporary values unique to their context.

d) Materials & Structure

EAA’s attitude towards material palette and structure of Abdullah Gül Presidential Museum & Library, conserves the identity of Sümerbank and the values it symbolizes. So it is worth to explicitly discuss its elements. The original concrete is protected and repaired where as it is necessary. Minimum intervention is aimed not to touch Ivan Nikolaev’s monumental and constructivist approach. However, the new addition of concrete walls are left exposed to be distinguishable whereas old ones are painted to their original colors. The original material choices are driven by two factors such as Sümerbank’s identity and locality¹⁷. In general raw affordable materials were preferred such as stone and marble. ¹⁸What’s more, “Sümerbank fabrics were responsive to context, their materials, pattern making and structural techniques

¹⁶ “Abdullah Gül Presidential Museum and Library.” *Architizer*, Architizer, architizer.com/projects/abdullah-guel-presidential-museum-and-library/.

¹⁷ Himam, Dilek, and Burak Pasin. (2011)“Designing a National Uniform(Ity): The Culture of Sümerbank within the Context of the Turkish Nation-State Project.” *Http://psi203.Cankaya.edu.tr*, Çankaya University, 28 Dec. 2012,

¹⁸ Asiliskender, Burak & Baturayoglu Yoney, Nilufer. (2015). The Technology of an Early Reinforced Concrete Structure in Turkey: The Great Storehouse of the Kayseri Sümerbank Textile Factory.

were stereotypically not only used for clothing but also for interior decoration.”¹⁹ Thus, it is deduced interior decoration is inspired by the modern Turkish citizen picture which Sümerbank once wanted to convey. Hence, we can say the building once engaged with certain values and now it is contextualized.

It is feasible to say EAA respected those approaches as they kept the existing fabric. They preserved the materials and their original colors with some additions. For instance, they preserved the with reparation of fenestrations, etc... Their main aim was to include new elements “to the scenarios of contemporary daily use in addition to the preserved and partially adjoined existing fabric, as a principle, are followed by the traces of the existing buildings and also by employing contemporary materials where the integrity of the existing industrial atmosphere will be established.”²⁰

The retouches of EAA is more obvious if we are to speak about maintenance. HVAC systems and other maintenance services such as lighting are not hidden. The main reason of this attitude might be not to give harm to buildings identity. The contrast between the old and technological equipment is eye-catching but it is obvious a great deal of effort was paid to maintain the building services to meet the necessary safety and accessibility codes. Both Venice and Burra Charters discusses the need of maintenance whereas it is necessary that this adaptive reuse is obviously acting compatible with them. Thus, it is concluded maintenance is a must for survival of adaptive reuse projects to cope up with certain problems.

In addition to all these effort, they accentuated building by proposing outdoor lighting scheme. A layered approach is proposed as columns and walls are washed with spotlights and light coming out from fenestrations became another layer. It could be a way to discriminate the building from all the others present in the masterplan to remind once the building was the heart of whole settlement. Thus, the new approach is engaging with old values to survive as industrial heritage.

e) Environmental & Social Sustainability

¹⁹ Hımmam, Dilek, and Burak Pasın. (2011) “Designing a National Uniform (İty): The Culture of Sümerbank within the Context of the Turkish Nation-State Project.” [Http://psi203.Cankaya.edu.tr](http://psi203.Cankaya.edu.tr), Çankaya University, 28 Dec. 2012,

²⁰ “Abdullah Gül Presidential Museum and Library | Emre Arolat Architecture.” *Archello*, archello.com/project/abdullah-gul-presidential-museum-and-library.

According to Professor Laure Lee, “Conceiving, designing and delivering a sustainable built environment represents a significant responsibility for all of us. Our decisions today will define the “heritage of the future”.²¹ Our case study addresses both environmental and social sustainability.

It is environmentally friendly since a place close to railway is chosen to be readapted. The way it is close to public transportation can reduce the cost or increase the number of visitors from surrounding villages/cities. Moreover, the way floor space is used without new construction didn't contribute to carbon footprint.

From a social sustainability point of view, the adaptive reuse proposal acted as a cohesive social bridge and provincial catalyst. It conserved core values such as pride of Sümerbank and its memory. Furthermore, continuity of public participation is provided by the functions introduced in planning schemes. Hence, it became a part and culture generator of a university settlement since a library is integrated as a new function.

f) Building's relationship between Sümer Campus Masterplan & Landscape

The last criteria for discussing our case study is its relationship with Sümer Campus Masterplan to get a deep insight since the building functions as a part of the settlement. The whole textile fabric settlement is converted into an open city campus.²² To what extent the goal is reached is still a question mark. Arolat states that due to changes of the executives of the project, they did not implement all parts of the new masterplan. In the initial design, they proposed underground passages to link educational buildings to accommodation settlements. Thus our case studies' interaction with another part is decreased to a certain extent. As a result, we understand in adaptive reuse projects, the relationship with surroundings is critical and considering the whole masterplan is important. However, it is worth to state openness is maintained by using buildings as walls instead of having lines of continuous security walls. Furthermore, the way industrial buildings are located close to railway roads is important to evaluate our case studies' relationship

²¹ Lee, Laure. (2012). *Thinker in Residence*

²² Asiliskender, Burak. (2014). *From Industrial Site to University Campus. Sümerbank Kayseri Textile Factory. Docomomo Journal. 49. 86-89.*

in masterplan level. The building might act as an cultural generator for not only locals but people from near towns since public transportation is effortless. Moreover, as it is stated in the definition of adaptive reuse definition, the case study can be analyzed has strategic approach since a building close to public transportation nodes is chosen to be adapted: it has potential attract people surrounding towns. Thus, impacts of conserved values can be seen on macro level.

6.0 Conclusion

In conclusion Abdullah Gül Presidential Museum and Library can be mentioned as a successful adaptive reuse since it conserves certain identity of a nation and industrial heritage. Thus, rather than seeking to freeze the power and stream building of Sümerbank Textile Settlement, EAA explored its potential by adapting it as a museum and library. Hence, a new layer is added onto earlier ones. Their mutual existence become another stage, not the final one since the building regenerates values within its narratives. What's more , EAA's approach is evaluated with respect to Venice and Burra Charter that it is feasible to say they showed important amount of consideration to their processes & procedures. Within this framework, we can infer, adaptive reuse projects should follow a value based approach to be successful in terms of how much people will appreciate and use it as creative force. It is still too early to make a comment about its future relation with city life since it's been two years after its opening. However, the way EAA followed a value based approach and the building is a part of educational institute, we can say that it's future looks quite promising in terms of forming unique associations and meanings within its context.

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8.0) APPENDIX

A) Pictures



Image-1 Coal & Ash Chimneys before restoration



Image-2 Coal & Ash Chimneys after restoration

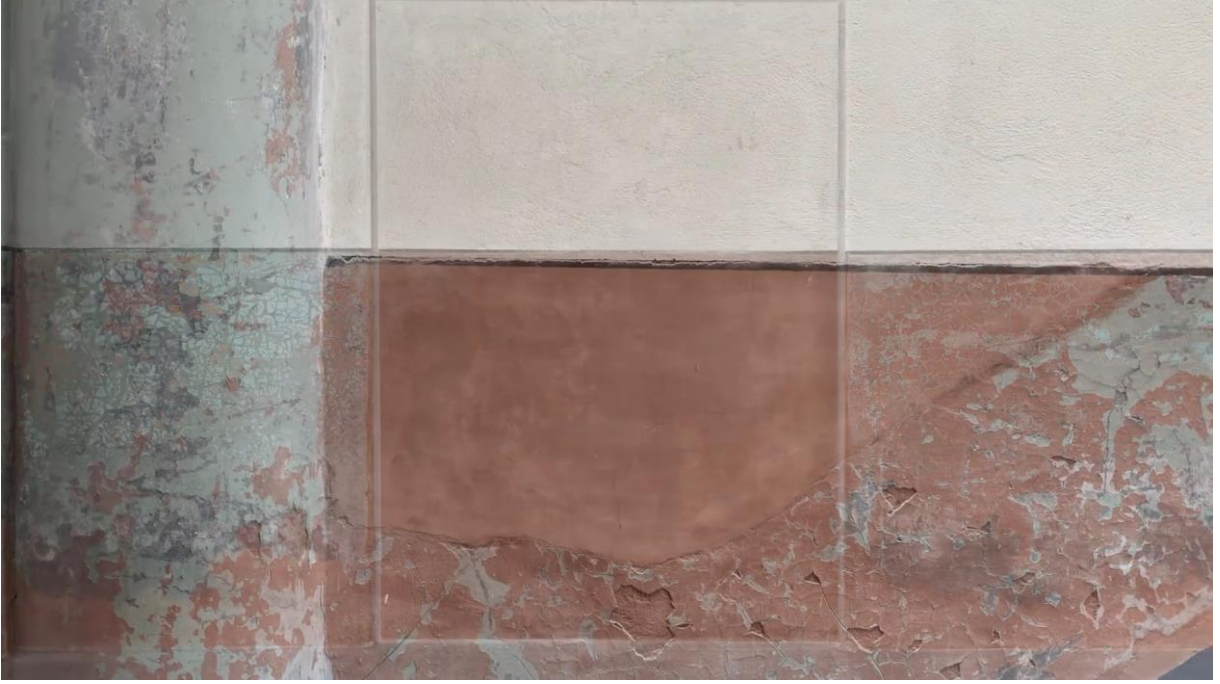


Image -3 Patina of walls before preservation



Image-4 Patina of walls after preservation