

CONSERVATION IN RURAL AREAS:  
A CASE STUDY IN ÖRENLİ VILLAGE IN KEPSUT, BALIKESİR

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## ABSTRACT

### CONSERVATION IN RURAL AREAS, CASE STUDY: ÖRENLİ VILLAGE IN KEPSUT, BALIKESİR

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Rural settlements are formed according to local people's needs, harmonious with the land form and the climate, and have a rich variety of buildings using local material. But changes in lifestyle due to urbanization and tourism, socio economic degradation and poor living conditions have a negative effect on rural heritage and as a result, rural settlements become inharmonious with vernacular architecture and current lifestyle. Besides, due to its geographical and quantitative vastness, rural heritage is rarely recorded and legislations for rural settlements are so inadequate in Turkey.

The aim of this thesis is to understand the values of rural heritage and suggest proposals for the conservation of these areas. As a case study Örenli Village in Kepsut, Balıkesir was selected and architectural characteristics of traditional buildings, lifestyles of local people in Örenli Village, written and unwritten rules of this rural settlement were analyzed. In conclusion, recommendations were done for conserving rural heritage while trying to meet the local people's arising needs.

Keywords: Rural Heritage, Sustainability, Balıkesir



## ÖZ

### KIRSAL ALAN KORUMASI, BALIKESİR KEPSUT, ÖRENLİ KÖYÜ ÖRNEĞİ

Yeşilyurt, Gülsüm Hande

Yüksek Lisans, Restorasyon, Mimarlık Bölümü

Tez Yöneticisi: Dr. Fuat GÖKÇE

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Kırsal alanlar yöre insanının ihtiyaçlarına göre oluşturulmuş, arazi yapısı ve iklim ile uyumlu, yöresel malzemeyi kullanan zengin bir yapı çeşitliliğine sahiptir. Fakat kentleşme ve turizm etkisinde değişen yaşam koşulları, sosyo-ekonomik bozulma, kötü yaşam koşulları kırsal mirası olumsuz etkilemekte, bu nedenle kırsal yerleşimler yöresel mimari ve süregelen yaşam koşulları ile uyumsuz hale gelmektedir. Ayrıca coğrafi yayılım ve sayısal çokluk nedeniyle kırsal miras nadiren belgelenmekte, Türkiye'deki mevcut yasal düzenlemeler de bu konuda yetersiz kalmaktadır.

Tezin amacı kırsal mirasın değerlerini anlamak ve kırsal alan koruması hakkında öneriler geliştirmektir. Çalışma alanı Balıkesir Kepsut'taki Örenli köyü seçilmiş ve seçilen kırsal yerleşime dair yazılı ve yazılı olmayan kurallar incelenmiştir. Sonuç olarak yeni ihtiyaçların karşılanarak kırsal mirasın korunması çerçevesinde öneriler geliştirilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kırsal Miras, Sürdürülebilirlik, Balıkesir

To my family

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. DEFINITION OF THE PROBLEM

Rural settlements have been formed according to local people's needs; they have been harmonious with the land and the climate, and have a rich variety of buildings using local material. "Inhabitants integrate materials, climate, other physical constraints and cultural practice into architectural forms that meet the needs of individuals or groups" (CROUCH, JOHNSON 2001). Lifestyle, culture, social relations and traditions give identity to the rural settlements. Besides, rural heritage contains roots of the culture and it is a representation of the common memory.

But changes in the lifestyle due to urbanization and tourism, socio economic degradation, change in production style and poor living conditions have a negative effect on rural heritage. As a result, vernacular architecture forming rural settlements become inharmonious with the current lifestyle. "Also migration to city centers, seasonal residence in rural areas, the impact of globalization and mass production transform the rural fabric and current use of the buildings. Inhabitants are leaving their traditional houses deteriorated, or, they just demolish them to build new concrete frame houses instead. People are seeking contemporary life facilities that their old houses do not satisfy any more" (DABAIEH, 2009:29). Residents in rural areas are also tending to adapt to city habits and the fashion of the day.

De Filippi and Balbo (2005) state that: "To preserve the vernacular heritage means to deal with "living" environments, not merely built up sites". Therefore, components of rural heritage are important in the conservation of these areas. Although there are

many regulations for conserving our cultural heritage, they only consist of standard rules and rural heritage is not defined. Conservation of rural heritage is not defined and organized in current legislations in Turkey; therefore they are conserved indirectly as a result of the lack of regulations.

Inhabitants, locality, lifestyle and unique characteristics of rural areas are not considered in regulations. This “minor” heritage is not paid attention to as monumental heritage. In addition, due to its geographical and quantitative vastness, rural heritage is rarely recorded. Moreover, “in many places a tourist-oriented fake vernacular has developed, often condemning to the decay and abandonment of existing vernacular buildings and settlements” (DE FILIPPI – BALBO, 2005).

Planning activities in rural settlements have also negative effects on their conservation. These are held according to the standard rules; so authentic lifestyle, the traditional architecture which differs from urban areas is not considered, while planning and conserving rural settlements.

As a result of destructive effects in rural areas and lack of regulations, rural heritage is vulnerable to loss. And developing settlements become inharmonious with vernacular architecture and current lifestyle. It becomes important to both ensure modernization for better living conditions, and conserve rural character in the process of change in rural areas.

## **1.2. AIM AND CONTENT OF THE STUDY**

Every rural settlement has different lifestyles and unique characteristics different from urban areas. However, current legislations in Turkey do not focus on every local difference and also they are not directly related with rural areas. Only general principles for conservation take place in these legislations and there are no mature-deeply studied methods for rural heritage. Therefore general regulations for our cultural heritage are not satisfactory for this heritage.

It is essential that besides the current legislations in Turkey, additional regulations have to be organized specific to rural areas regarding locality. In order to make new regulations and to develop strategies for rural settlements; understanding the problems and values of rural heritage, developing survey methods specific to the locality are very important. Therefore insufficient conservation methods for the rural areas in Turkey would be enhanced and the rate of the loss of our common heritage would be minimized.

Rural areas are “living” areas and rural heritage does not only include built up heritage. Therefore; conserving rural heritage does not only mean to deal with physical features it also means to deal with economy, local production, social life, traditions, inhabitants, etc. Although the threats on rural settlements, changes in production styles and migration to city centers; life is still continuing in these areas and inhabitants make interventions due to their rising demands. Architectural characteristics and physical environment are changing parallel to lifestyles. While conserving rural areas, it is important to understand the factor of inhabitants that have a leading role on conserving their own environments. Therefore continuity of rural life and how to sustain it are the main factors while conserving rural areas.

In this thesis; the intention is to explore how rural heritage has been created in accordance with the physical factors, and how it is developed according to the changing conditions and new demands. It will endeavor to understand the values of rural heritage, investigate problems and develop proposals for the conservation of these areas. In light of this information, a survey method for conserving rural heritage is developed within the concept of this thesis and it is aimed to support further studies on rural heritage.

In order to develop strategies in conservation of rural areas, Örenli Village in Kepsut, Balıkesir was selected as a case study. The village is situated on a mountainous topography and has a distinctive vernacular property. Because of limited accessibility to the village, most of its characteristics have been conserved and the life style continues in general. But, due to changing life styles, habits and

socio-economic conditions, the natural and built up environment of the village is losing its qualities and is being re-shaped with structures which are inharmonious with the traditional pattern. The village has not been conserved legally and none of the buildings in the village have been registered. Even though most of the buildings represent the local identity and have to be conserved; there is not any conservation study about this village as in many rural areas in Turkey.

Rural heritage has many components such as vernacular architecture, landscape, economic and social factors, intangible values and traditions. Therefore, conserving rural heritage with all factors has to be held by a multi-disciplinary study involving urban planners, sociologists, local authorities, etc. Within the concept of this thesis tangible values and vernacular architecture in rural areas will be focused on.

### **1.3. METHODOLOGY**

In order to understand the characteristics of rural areas, a literature survey was conducted. The components and values of rural settlements, lifestyle and its continuity and how to sustain the values in rural areas were studied within the literature including books, articles, thesis and proceedings in Turkish and English. The definitions of the terms of rural heritage, vernacular architecture and sustainability are studied as theoretical background of the thesis.

Main theoretical approaches on the conservation of rural settlements are analyzed in the light of charters and legislations in Turkey and around the world. Current legislations and regulations in Turkey are also studied to analyze the current situation of conservation related to rural settlements. Chronological development of rural conservation is analyzed and an attempt is made to understand which steps have to be taken to generate valuable rural heritage conservation in Turkey.

Some recent research and projects are also studied. These are "Dissemination of Housing in Accordance with Vernacular Fabric and Architectural Features in Rural Areas" that was conducted in Kayseri in 2008 and in Balıkesir in 2010. These projects were held by the Ministry of Public Works and Settlement and Mimar Sinan



Fine Arts University (from now on it will be called as MSGSU). Aims of the project are: understanding the vernacular architecture in rural areas, creating typologies of traditional houses and designing new projects in accordance with the local pattern. Within the mentioned project, the studied cities' rural pattern was evaluated, new projects were designed and a guide for villagers who plan to build new houses was developed.

General information about Balıkesir and properties of rural areas were then studied. While researching information about Balıkesir; the main sources were *Yurt Ansiklopedisi*, City Annuals and the books of the project called "Dissemination of Housing in Accordance with Vernacular Fabric and Architectural Features in Rural Areas" that was conducted by Ministry of Public Works and Settlement with Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University. General properties and their effects on the architectural characteristics, typology and rural settlements were also taken into consideration. The dynamics and components of rural settlements were also analyzed.

11 villages of Balıkesir were surveyed in the field and the characteristics of the villages, continuity of lifestyles, architectural properties that have to be conserved were evaluated. Örenli village in Kepsut town was selected as a case study among the surveyed villages. Then, selected village was surveyed again in general manner and interviews with the village headman, imam and the owner of the coffee house were done to understand the general properties of the village, photos were taken to represent the village as a whole.

After the general survey of the village two kinds of survey sheets were prepared to collect more detailed information on dwellings. These are Rural Housing Survey Sheets and Social Survey Sheets (**APPENDIX A**). Rural Housing Survey Sheets were used to collect information about general characteristics of the houses, construction techniques and materials and types of interventions. Site plan and floor plans were drawn onto these sheets and the houses were photographed both externally and internally.

Social Survey Sheets were used to collect information about residents, the lifestyle, the residents' thoughts about the village and about their houses, their demands and their assessments about their current life. In addition verbal information was also collected from the village headman and the community council (*ihdiyar heyeti*), imam, owner of the coffee house and elder inhabitants of the village.

78 lots and 109 buildings were studied externally and the survey sheets were applied to 16 houses (**Figure 1**). Three of them are new houses and the rest of them are traditional houses. There are also measured drawings for 4 houses in the village. These drawings were drawn by MSGSU and they are also used in this study. Public used buildings are photographed both externally and internally, and verbal information about these buildings was collected at the site. There were measured drawings that were drawn by MSGSU and these are also used in the thesis.

The information collected from the field, and the drawings, were applied to sheets and charts. Surveyed houses were analyzed in the sheets regarding to their general characteristics, construction techniques and materials, interventions done to the rural houses, their lifestyle and the current use of the spaces (**APPENDIX B**). New houses and new demands were assessed in order to understand the continuity and the differentiations in a changing rural settlement.

The case study was evaluated as a whole to reveal values, problems and potentials of a rural settlement. The problems encountered at the site were aligned with the current approaches in Turkey and around the world. And, as a result, a survey method is identified to conserve the rural settlements in legal, managerial and physical manner; and to transfer the rural heritage to the future generations.



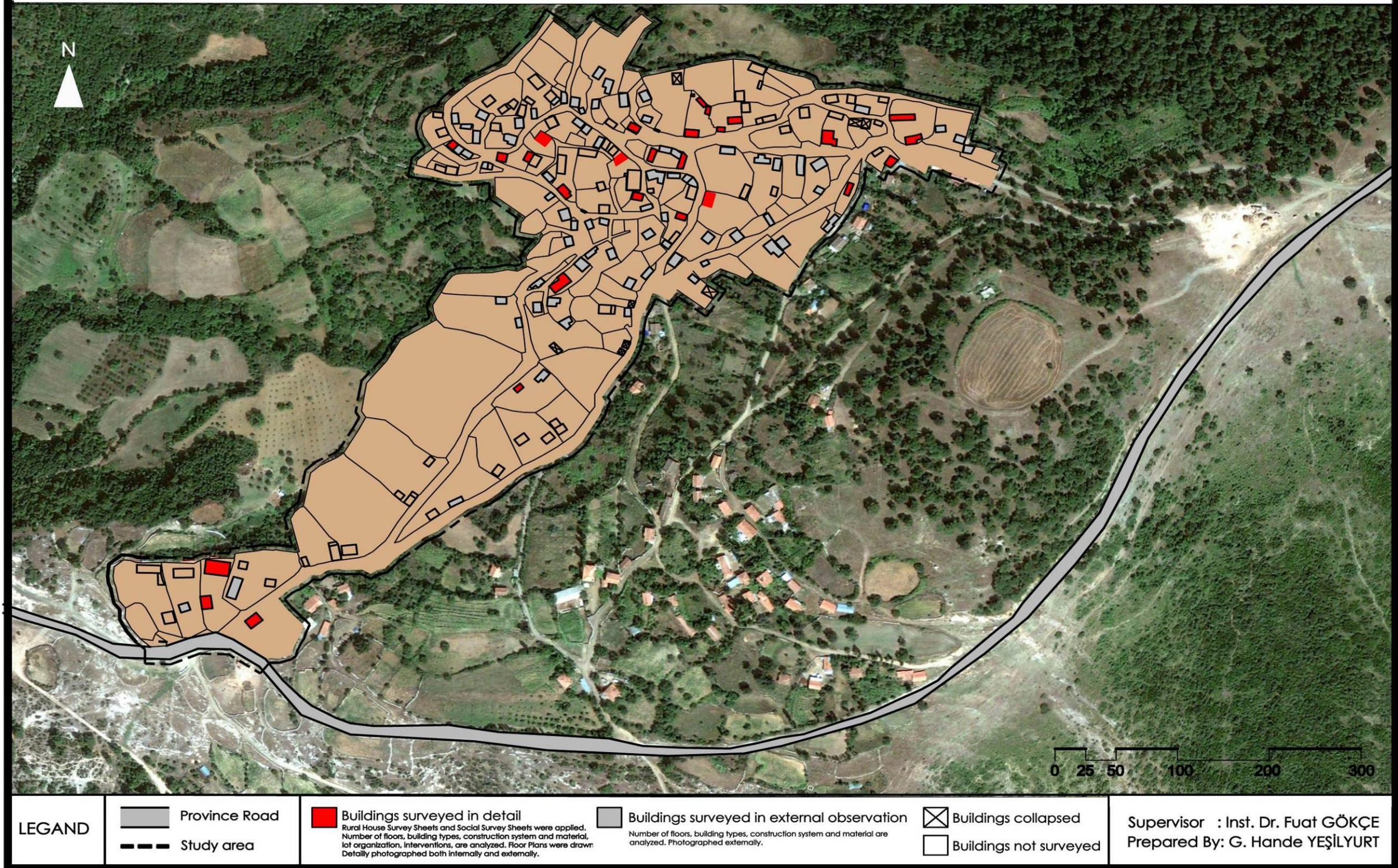


Figure 1. Study area and surveyed buildings



## CHAPTER 2

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND MAIN APPROACHES

To evaluate the values, problems and potentials of rural areas and to generate survey methods for conserving them, firstly, main approaches and studies in Turkey and around the world were studied. Main terms that would be the theoretical background of this thesis is tried to be understood by the charters, legislations and publications. To conserve our rural heritage and to develop methods, the components of the rural heritage are evaluated in the light of charters, publications and the related thesis.

According to the relationship between the conservation of rural heritage and the continuity in the lifestyle with all components, sustainability is analyzed in the light of further research from around the world. And in order to understand the sustainable development, it is studied in relation to the declarations. After the term of sustainability and the components of rural heritage are defined; the importance of the sustainability in conserving rural areas is discussed.

#### 2.1. SUSTAINABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In the **4th Annual US / ICOMOS International Symposium** “sustainability” is defined as the need for a long-term view. It is also mentioned by Teutonuco and Matero (2001:8) as:

“Unless we understand how cultural heritage is being lost or affected and what factors are contributing to those processes, we will not be able to manage it, let alone pass it on. Effective heritage site management involves both knowing what is important and understanding how that importance is vulnerable to loss”.

De Filippi and Balbo (2005) state that “sustainability of cultural heritage is about managing the balance between preservation and use, so that as much as possible of the significance of the built heritage is passed on future generations”. The most important factor that the rural settlements (as “living” environments) have been more conserved than urban regions is the continuity of lifestyle. The inhabitants have managed the balance between preservation and use throughout history. As a result, the interventions done to these areas have been in accordance with the pattern for a long time.

While conserving “living” rural heritage, confronting today’s needs and inhabitants’ demands becomes a very important issue. As a result of the studies on declarations and reports; sustainable development is evaluated as an important factor to provide the continuity and make the living conditions better in rural settlements. The concept term has steadily risen throughout the 1990’s and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century according to the Council of European Conference of Ministers Responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning.

Sustainable Development first became a current issue in the 1987 Brundtland Report. The report is also called as “Our Common Future” and in the report; sustainable development is defined as **“the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”**. In 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development also called Agenda 21, actions have to be taken in areas - like environment, economy, urban and management - for a sustainable development are explained and it is accepted that **“human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.”**

Following this declaration, “Sustainable Development Commission” is established under UN and for the assessment of the past ten years and to develop future strategies; “World Sustainable Development Conference” in Johannesburg was planned for 2002. In 2002, Johannesburg Conference was held and it was more participatory than the other conferences of UN. Delegates from government, NGO’s

and the private sector participated in the conference. In the conference countries' sustainable development strategies and the problems in the meantime were discussed. Besides, difficulties at the implementation of Agenda 21 were analyzed and it was decided to benefit more from NGO's and private sectors' experiences. (BOZLOĀAN, 2007:1024)

In the 2003 Ljubljana Declaration on the Territorial Dimension of Sustainable Development; components of sustainable development were defined. Three aspects of sustainable development were agreed upon:

- economic sustainability
- environmental sustainability
- social sustainability

In addition to these three components, the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent introduced a fourth dimension: that of **cultural sustainability**. In order to achieve sustainable development, a variety of tasks have been defined. These are:

- protecting and improving the natural and the built environment
- achieving a balance between preserving the existing cultural heritage
- attracting new investments and supporting existing living and working communities in rural areas
- increasing public participation in spatial development approaches

In addition; for a sustainable development the importance of active participation and adaptation based on regional differences and local needs are mentioned.

## **2.2. RURAL HERITAGE**

Rural Heritage has many components, and while conserving this heritage, it is important to understand the types of the components that build up the rural heritage. According to the accepted definitions around the world, rural heritage is defined as 'tangible' and 'intangible' heritage. Tangible heritage is focused on and

the components of the tangible heritage are analyzed as vernacular architecture, rural landscape and movable heritage.

While conserving rural heritage, intangible values are so important with their impacts on tangible heritage and also it is an important factor to understand the continuity of the lifestyle in a rural settlement. Intangible heritage is studied in general manner in order to understand the sustainability of the rural areas in more integral ways.

### **2.2.1. TANGIBLE HERITAGE**

#### **2.2.1.1. Vernacular Architecture**

Vernacular architecture is defined as **“a product of a natural cycle of sustainable building tradition”** by Dabaieh (2009:29). The knowledge has been transferred and developed from generation to generation. In addition, habitants respond to their surrounding environment and climate through trial and error in a way satisfying their needs and aspirations. Vernacular built heritage is considered as **“the essence of sustainability, being constructed with local materials and the minimum waste of resources”** by De Filippi (2005). He also mentions that vernacular architecture can be considered as a fundamental resource for the economic development.

De Filippi (2005) also states that “to conserve vernacular built heritage means to deal with living environments and to ensure that heritage policies directly benefit the people, improving the quality of their physical surroundings, both from the constructional and the socioeconomic point of view”.

In 1999, ICOMOS announced the importance of preserving vernacular as a heritage suffering a great risk and “Charter on the Built Vernacular Heritage” was published. The vernacular heritage is defined as **“expression of the world’s cultural diversity”** (ICOMOS, 1999:1). Risks against vernacular heritage are labeled as economic, cultural, architectural homogenization and global socio-economic transformation. Therefore this heritage is facing serious problems of obsolescence, internal

equilibrium and integration. Vernacular building is described as **“a continuing process including necessary changes and continuous adaptation as a response to social and environmental constraints”** (ICOMOS, 1999:1).

In the Charter of the Built Vernacular Heritage it is also emphasized that **“the appreciation and successful protection of the vernacular heritage depend on the involvement and support of the community, continuing use and maintenance.”**

Human factor in the vernacular heritage is so important therefore local people have built and developed this vernacular heritage for many years.

As Sandstroem (1988:12) states; “vernacular heritage is a kind of interaction between people and nature. Differing from one region to next, rural heritage is local while influenced by the international or national styles. Locality is an important factor while understanding, listing and conserving the vernacular heritage”.

#### **2.2.1.2. Rural Landscape**

A rural settlement has to be considered as a whole and landscape is an important feature for understanding rural heritage. In rural settlements, inhabitants modify their environment to their own advantage with the least impact and all of these modifications characterize the landscape. According to Sangiorgi (2008:4); “rural settlements represent the synthesis of people’s ability to modify the environment”.

The architectural characteristics of a rural heritage also come into being in a relationship with its environment. Throughout history, rural settlements are formed according to natural features with less harm to nature. Therefore landscape has been developed with the rural buildings and has become a component of rural heritage.



Landscape is defined in European Landscape Convention (2000) as: “an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.”<sup>1</sup>

The World Heritage Convention (1992) is the first international legal instrument to recognize and conserve the cultural landscape. The Committee defined the cultural landscape as “**combined works of nature and of man.**”

The term "cultural landscape" is an interaction between humankind and its natural environment.<sup>2</sup> Cultural landscapes are defined as “the reflection of specific techniques of sustainable land-use, considering the characteristics and limits of the natural environment they are established in”.

### **2.2.1.3. Movable Heritage**

Besides the landscape and the buildings, moveable properties are also representing the rural heritage. According to Australia Heritage Branch; movable heritage is defined as: **any natural or manufactured object of heritage significance**. Movable heritage assists indigenous people to keep their culture alive and maintain traditions and practices. But it is important to document and try to keep them in their own place, because movable heritage is portable, it is easily sold, relocated or thrown away during changes of ownership, fashion or use.

### **2.2.2. INTANGIBLE HERITAGE**

Values of the rural heritage cannot be limited by only tangible features such as buildings and objects. Local culture, lifestyle, traditions and social relationships also build up rural heritage.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/default_en.asp) date retrieved: 08.05.2012

<sup>2</sup> <http://whc.unesco.org/en/culturallandscape/#1> date retrieved: 08.05.2012

In the UNESCO Convention of 2003 “intangible heritage” is defined as “**practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage**”. This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity (UNESCO, 2003).

The components of intangible heritage can be classified as follows:

- Techniques and skills
- Non written traditions
- Ways of organizing social life and specific forms of social organization (BAŞKAN, 2008)

### **2.2.3. LEGISLATIONS ON CONSERVATION OF RURAL HERITAGE**

To draw a frame for the conservation of rural heritage; main approaches in the world and in Turkey are studied. Charters, declarations, legislations directly or indirectly related with the conserving rural heritage are studied in a chronological order.

#### **2.2.3.1. Around the World**

- **Venice Charter (1964):** In the charter rural areas are also considered while defining the concept of the historic monument. It is defined as: “...not only a single architectural work but also urban or rural setting in which is found the evidence of a particular civilization, a significant development or an historic event. Besides the great works of architecture, modest works are also assessed as “works of the past which have acquired cultural significance with the passing of time”.

- **Amsterdam Declaration (1975):** Declaration was accepted by the delegates from all parts of Europe in 1975 at European Architectural Heritage Year. And it was a declaration of Europe's unique architecture is the common heritage of all people and the intention of the Member States to work with one another and with other European governments for its protection. In this declaration the concept of the architectural heritage is defined not only as individual historic building but also urban and rural architectural complexes. In addition, for an integrated conservation, it is mentioned that continuity of existing social and physical realities in urban and rural communities should be considered.
- **The Granada Appeal: Rural Architecture in Regional Planning (1977):** It is mentioned that rural heritage is vulnerable to loss because of migration, industrial factors upon agriculture, over consumption of nature, etc. It is expressed that to overcome these risks and prevent migration from rural areas; economic activities in these areas should be diversified.
- **Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 1985):** The convention mentioned “the importance of handing down to future generations a system of cultural references, improving the urban and rural environment and thereby fostering the economic, social and cultural development of States and regions”. Heritage definition includes both urban and rural sites and also Conservation policies and European coordination are listed in detail in the convention.
- **Recommendation on the Protection and Enhancement of the Rural Architectural Heritage (1989):** Rural heritage is assessed as in danger because of the transformation in agricultural production and social life. Instruments for the safeguard the collective memory are identified in the recommendation. The rural heritage is evaluated as a part of the planning and environmental protection process. The incorporation of the protection of built heritage into the planning, regional development and environmental protection process and its tools are emphasized. In addition; rural heritage is handled as a vital factor for the local

development and economic support such as public grants or loans are defined to activate the enhancement of the heritage.

- **Cork Declaration – A Living Country Outside “The European Conference on Rural Development” (1996)**: The declaration issued at the rural development conference that was organized in Cork in 1996. It was expressed that “sustainable rural development must be at the top of the agenda of European Union”. Integration into all community policies related to the rural development, sustainability, integrated approach and legislative regulations were emphasized in the declaration.
- **Charter on the Built Vernacular Heritage (ICOMOS, 1999)**: Vernacular building is defined as “the traditional and natural way by which communities house themselves.” It is also emphasized as a process that includes necessary changes and continuous adaptation to social and environmental factors. Homogenization of culture and socio economic transformation is assessed as a problem against vernacular structures. Organization of conserving this heritage is defined with a multidisciplinary expertise dealing with traditions and intangible associations. In the charter; baselines for guidelines in practice are defined and the main headlines are defined as:

- Research and documentation
- Siting, landscape and groups of buildings
- Traditional building systems
- Replacement of materials and parts
- Adaptation
- Changes and period restoration
- Training

In addition to these declarations, there are **Village Design Guidelines** that are used in many countries such as Germany, England, Canada, Ireland and USA to obtain design policies for local housing. These guidelines are community based and they are created with an integrated study involving planners, architects, legal authorities

and village residents. They are advisory documents and they are about how to conserve the rural heritage with its characteristics while obtaining design principles for the new houses in accordance with the local identity.

“In developed countries; village design guidelines are one of the most widespread tools that are used by local authorities. These guidelines are generally used as planning tools and also they are directly applicable to the statutory planning system” (EMİNAĞAOĞLU, Z.; ÇEVİK, S.; 2007).

Two village design guidelines in Ireland and England are studied as a sample to understand these tools that are used as a part of the rural heritage conservation in the world.

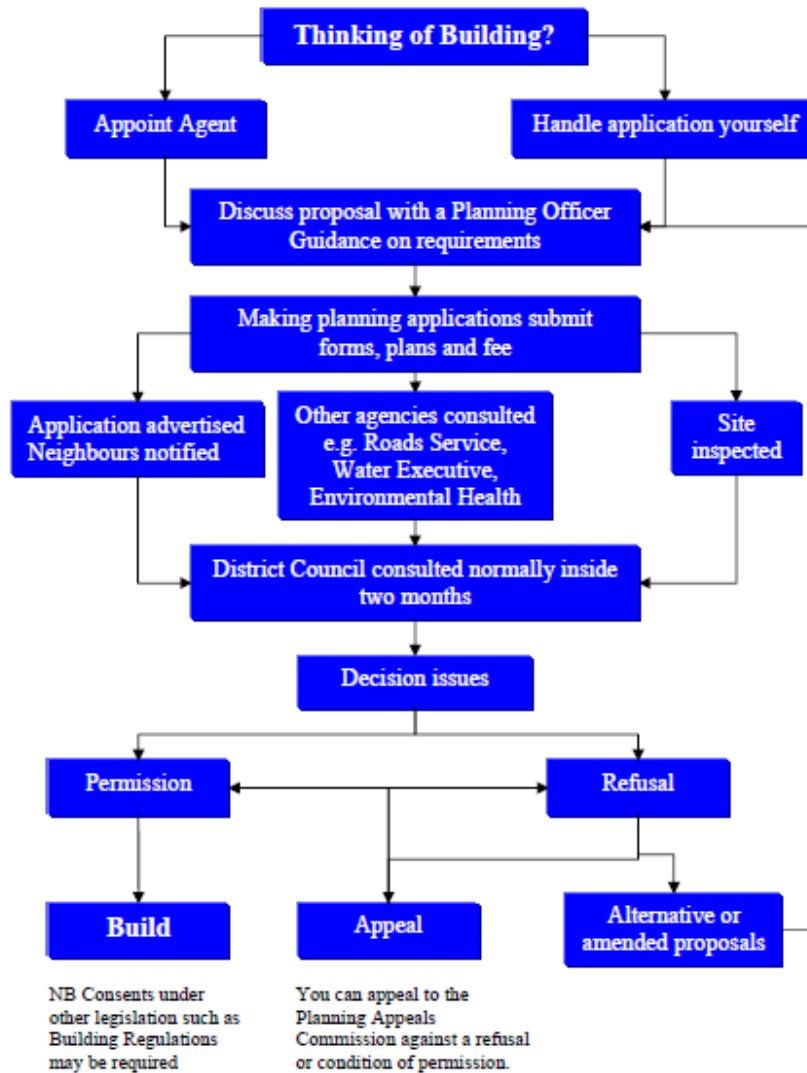
- **Design Guide for Rural Northern Ireland (1994):** Ministry of the Economy and the Environment published a design guide for the rural areas in Northern Ireland. Its purpose is to support rural development, to improve the quality of design, to help to ensure that new buildings fit into the landscape and to produce guidance for the people that want to build a new house in rural areas.

The guide includes:

- analyzing the typical landscapes in Northern Ireland
- traditional qualities such as siting, plan form, boundaries, evolution of the plan types and extensions
- planning context definition including site, landscape, access and design
- finding the right site for a new housing by taking into consideration of planning policy/technical requirements, vantage points, access position and standards and impact of development
- scheme design consisting scale, development pattern, landscape, rural forms, architectural elements, materials and colors.

After a new rural house is designed according to the guide, the scheme design is prepared due to the guidebook and then it is presented to the Department. The planning application is represented in a chart at the end of the guidebook (**Table 1**).

**Table 1. Planning Application Chart<sup>3</sup>**

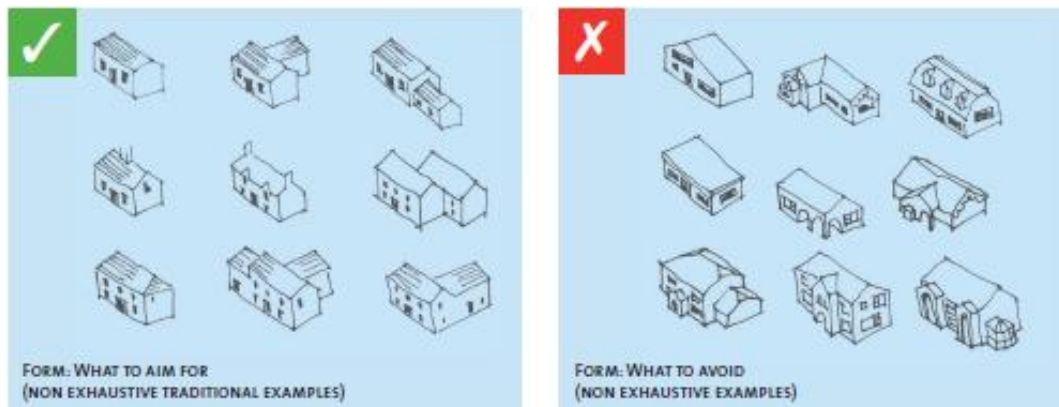


<sup>3</sup> [http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/supplementary\\_guidance/guides/dgrni.pdf](http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/supplementary_guidance/guides/dgrni.pdf) date retrieved 23.04.2012

- **Offaly County Rural Design Guideline Designing Houses Creating Homes (2008)**: The guideline aims to guide to the people that will build a new house in Offaly while avoiding people from using standard plan types. It is stressed that traditional characteristics have to be conserved while compromising today's needs. Sustainability and energy efficiency are also highlighted in the guideline.

The guideline defines what to aim and what to avoid for the following titles  
**(Figure 2)**:

- site location and site layout
- scale and form
- design
- materials, finishes and colors
- roadside boundary treatments
- landscaping
- sustainability and energy efficiency
- accessibility, lifetime adaptability and extensions



**Figure 2. Advised Scales and Forms in The Village Design Guideline**

### 2.2.3.2. In Turkey

Contrary to several regulations around the world, Turkey has a limited legal framework for the conservation of rural heritage. There is not a legislation or regulation special to rural heritage. Moreover there is not a definition of the rural heritage in the legislations of Turkey.

442 Numbered Village Law / *442 Sayılı Köy Kanunu* (1924) and 3194 Numbered Development Law / *3194 Sayılı İmar Kanunu* (1985) are the main legislations to organize rural areas. The 2863 numbered Law on The Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage / *2863 Sayılı Kültür ve Tabiat Varlıklarını Koruma Kanunu* is the basic legal document on protection, for rural areas.

Rural heritage conservation relies on the laws that are directly or indirectly related with different institutions on protection. Main legislations and researches are studied to understand the legal framework related to rural heritage.

- **442 Numbered Village Law / 442 Sayılı Köy Kanunu (1924):** The first legal regulation on rural settlements was the Village Law of 1924. In this law, the definition and limits of a village, decisions related to the usage of common areas and work that has to be done in the village is defined. But there is no directly related article for conserving rural areas. And the definition of a village is far from explaining rural areas. A village is defined as “**a settlement that has a population of fewer than 2000 people**”. But there is no definition about the local identity, architectural characteristics or lifestyle and there is no regulation for conserving traditional settlements. This law is still in use today.

- **2863 numbered Law on The Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage / 2863 Sayılı Kültür ve Tabiat Varlıklarını Koruma Kanunu (1983):** Within the concept of the law; sites are defined as: “*the products of various civilizations from pre historic times to today, cities and city ruins of urban settlements representing their periods’ social, economic, architectural and other components, places where the cultural heritage*



*densely present which represent social living conditions or represent historic facts are places to be conserved and be conserved with their authentic natural identities.”*

Sites are categorized such as urban, archeological, and natural but there is no specific conservation status as “rural site”; therefore they are conserved according to the defined sites.

In 2005, 2863 numbered law amended by law no 5226. According to this amendment; the responsibility of conserving national and cultural heritage was given to local authorities that are municipalities and special provincial administrations.

- **3194 Numbered Development Law / 3194 Sayılı İmar Kanunu (1985):** Rural settlements are defined in the scope of built-up areas and, it is aimed to control the development of new settlements in harmony with technical, sanitary and environmental conditions. With a Decree of Council Of Ministers in 2011; there is a regulation on new housing in rural settlements. According to this regulation new buildings in the rural settlements have to be in accordance with the vernacular fabric and architectural characteristics of the rural settlement<sup>4</sup>.

In addition; there is a regulation in 2011 about the usage and the building principles in pasture areas. In these areas all new buildings, except for the public ones, have to be maximum 2-storey high and the total area of the building should be maximum

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<sup>4</sup> Köylerde yapılacak yapılar ve uyulacak esaslar;

Madde 27 –(Değişik: 8/8/2011- KHK-648/22 md.)

“Belediye ve mücavir alanlar dışında köylerin köy yerleşik alanlarında, civarında ve mezralarda yapılacak konut, entegre tesis niteliğinde olmayan ve imar planı gerektirmeyen tarım ve hayvancılık amaçlı yapılar ile köyde oturanların ihtiyaçlarını karşılayacak bakkal, manav, berber, köy fırını, köy kahvesi, köy lokantası, tanıtım ve teşhir büfeleri ve köy halkı tarafından kurulan ve işletilen kooperatiflerin işletme binası gibi yapılar için yapı ruhsatı aranmaz. Ancak etüt ve projelerinin valilikçe incelenmesi, muhtarlıktan yazılı izin alınması ve bu yapıların yöresel doku ve mimari özelliklere, fen, sanat ve sağlık kurallarına uygun olması zorunludur.”

200 m<sup>2</sup>. Also the new buildings should be built with the local materials and in accordance with the vernacular architecture<sup>5</sup>

- **4342 Numbered Pasture Law / 4342 Sayılı Mera Kanunu (1998):** Pasture Law deals with the pasture areas that are important as both landscape features and production style in the village. Contents of this law are to determine pasture areas, to control the usage of these areas according to the defined rules, to improve these areas' productivity and to provide sustainability with maintenance, and to conserve them. According to the Pasture Law, pastures are assigned to municipalities or village communities once their boundaries are determined and certified.
- **Regulation on Establishment, Authorization, Working Procedures and Principles of Conservation, Implementation and Supervision Bureaus, Project Design Bureaus and Training Units / Koruma, Uygulama ve Denetim Büroları, Proje Büroları İle Eğitim Birimlerinin Kuruluş, İzin, Çalışma Usul ve Esaslarına Dair Yönetmelik (2005):** In 2005 the 1<sup>th</sup> of July, a regulation was published in the official journal (Ref No: 25842). It was prepared on the basis of 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> articles of 2863 Numbered Cultural and Natural Heritage Protection Act / 2863 Sayılı Kültür ve Tabiat Varlıklarını Koruma Kanunu.

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<sup>5</sup> Ek Madde 4 – (Ek: 8/8/2011- KHK-648/23 md.)

“Mera, yaylak ve kışlakların geleneksel kullanım amacıyla geçici yerleşme yeri olarak uygun görülen kısımları valilikçe bu amaçla kurulacak bir komisyon tarafından tespit edilir. Bu yerlerin ot bedeli alınmaksızın tahsis amacı değiştirilerek tapuda Hazine adına tescilleri yapılır. Bu taşınmazlar, bu madde kapsamında kullanılmak ve değerlendirilmek üzere, belediye ve mücavir alan sınırları içinde kalanlar ilgili belediyelerine, diğer alanlarda kalanlar ise il özel idarelerine veya özel kanunlarla belirlenen ilgili idarelere tahsis edilir. Özel kanunlar kapsamı dışında kalan alanlarda belediyesince veya il özel idaresince geçici yerleşme alanının vaziyet planı ve yapılaşma şartları hazırlanır ve onaylanır. Bu taşınmazlardan kamu hizmetleri için gerekli olanların dışındakiler, il özel idaresince veya belediyesince ve özel kanunlarla belirlenmiş alanlarda ilgili idarece kadastro verileri işlenmiş hâlihazır haritalar üzerine yapılmış vaziyet planına veya onaylı imar planına uygun olarak talep sahiplerine bedeli karşılığında yirmi dokuz yıla kadar tahsis edilebilir. **Bu yerlerde umumi ve kamusal yapılar hariç, inşa edilecek yapıların kat adedi bodrum hariç olmak üzere ikiyi, yapı inşaat alanı 200 metrekareyi geçemez. Bu yapıların yöresel mimariye uygun ve yöresel malzeme kullanılmak suretiyle yapılması zorunludur.**”

In the regulation; the working principles of Conservation, Implementation and Control Bureaus (KUDEB), Project Bureaus and Training Units are defined. According to the definitions; KUDEB's are founded within the body of special provincial administrations, metropolitan municipalities and the municipalities that have permission by Ministry. The bureaus conduct the simple repair and maintenance procedures and implementations about the immovable cultural and natural assets.

Project bureaus are founded in special provincial administrations and these bureaus are responsible for preparing and implementing measured drawings, restitution and restoration projects with related reports. Training units are also founded in special provincial administrations and certificated craftsmen are educated here. These bureaus take place in the Development Directorates (*İmar Müdürlüğü*) of Special Provincial Administrations and in Municipalities. These directorates deal with the rural settlements and therefore these bureaus have an important role on the conservation of rural settlements. Also, there is education for craftsman and, by this way, traditional materials are conserved and sustained.

Therefore, there is no directly related regulation for conserving rural areas in Turkey. These areas are generally registered as natural or urban site areas and conserved indirectly by the laws that are sensitive to conservation and environment. There are no specific laws for rural settlements, so some gaps arise in the laws and sometimes there are disorders in authorizations.

But in recent years, some projects have been conducted by the Ministry of Public Works and Settlement. In these projects authentic characteristics of rural settlements are considered.

- **Dissemination of Housing in Accordance with Vernacular Fabric and Architectural Features in Rural Areas / Kırsal Alanlarda Yöresel Doku ve Mimari Özelliklere Uygun Yapılaşmanın Yaygınlaştırılması (2008):** This is a project held by the Ministry of Public Works and Settlement with the support of the State Planning

Organization. The first part of the project was started in 2008 for selected villages in Kayseri and conducted with Mimar Sinan University. In 2010 Balıkesir was selected for the second pilot region and it is still an ongoing project. In this project, new buildings in rural settlements with a vernacular identity that must be conserved are designed in accordance with nearby environments. The typologies of the houses are analyzed and design criteria for new buildings are determined with some sample projects.

- **Rural Planning Focusing on Conservation: A Model Proposal / Koruma Odaklı Kırsal Alan Planlaması: Model Önerisi (2010):** This project is held by Ministry of Public Works and Settlement with sponsorship of TÜBİTAK and it is an ongoing project. This project comprises to model and test, in general rural areas, in especially economic, ecologic and culturally protected/ should be protected rural areas' development, control and planning. The model should tackle systematically with rural areas giving equal weight as urban areas in planning hierarchies. Resource conservation and efficiency in use, sustainability, social inclusion, from bottom to top approach will be the principals of the model.

## CHAPTER 3

### CASE STUDY

#### 3.1. THE REGION

Örenli is a village in Kepsut that is a town of Balıkesir. In order to understand the characteristics of the village, firstly natural, historical, demographical and socio cultural features of the city and the town are analyzed in general terms.

##### 3.1.1. NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS

Balıkesir is a province at Midwest of Turkey, having coastlines on both the Sea of Marmara and the Aegean. Its adjacent provinces are Çanakkale at the west, İzmir at the southwest, Manisa at the south, Kütahya at the southeast, and Bursa at the east (**Figure 3**).

Balıkesir has a surface area of 14.292 km<sup>2</sup>. Most of the city is located in the Marmara Region and some provinces lie in Aegean Region. Balıkesir province consists of 19 towns (**Figure 4**) and 902 villages. The towns of Balıkesir are Ayvalık, Balıkesir, Balya, Bandırma, Bigadiç, Burhaniye, Dursunbey, Edremit, Erdek, Gömeç, Gönen, Havran, İvrindi, Kepsut, Manyas, Marmara, Savaştepe, Sındırgı and Susurluk.<sup>6</sup>

Kepsut is located at the east part of the province and it is 25 km far away from the city center. Nearby towns are Dursunbey at the east, Bigadiç at the south, Susurluk at the north and Balıkesir at the west. Some of the town's lands are located in the Marmara Region and some of them are in Aegean Region. Kepsut has a surface area of 894 km<sup>2</sup> and there are 63 villages in the town.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org> date retrieved: 16 June 2010



Figure 3. Location of Balıkesir<sup>7</sup>

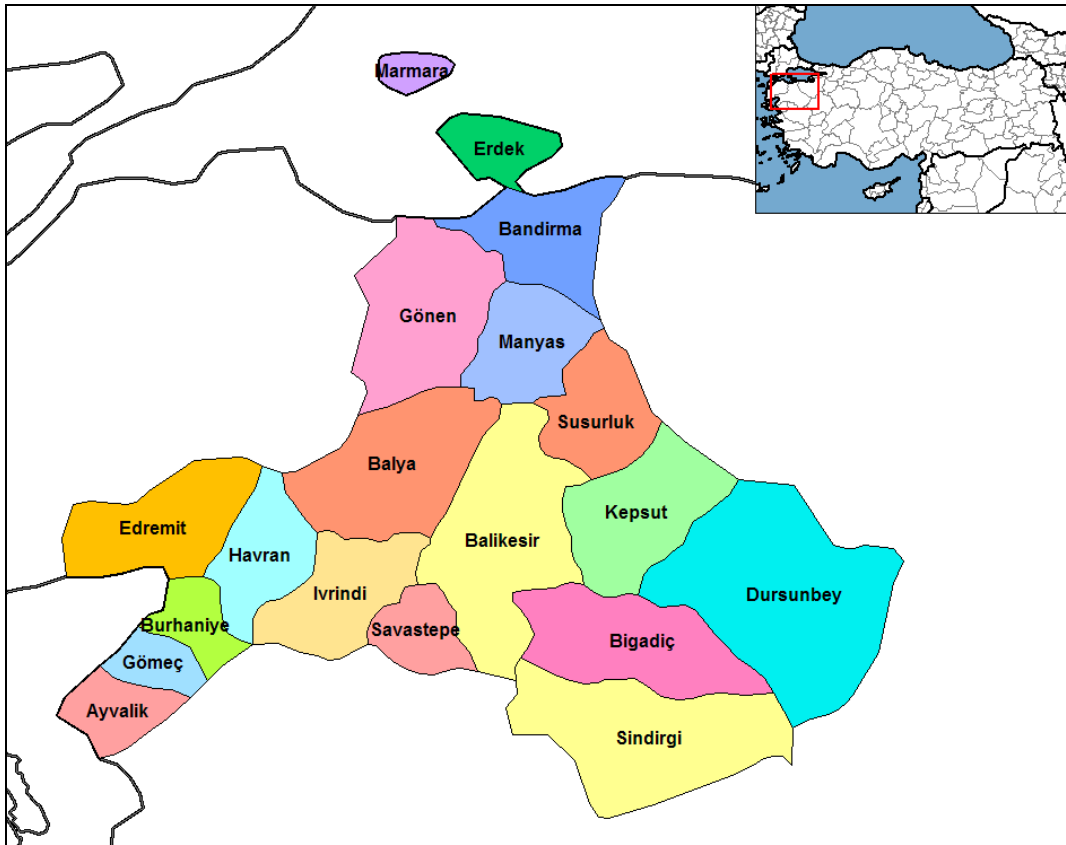


Figure 4. Towns of Balıkesir

<sup>7</sup> <http://tr.wikipedia.org> date retrieved: 13 October 2010

**Topography:** Balıkesir is surrounded with mountains in the south, southeast, and west, and there are plain areas in the north and southwest (Figure 5). Kazdağı, called İda in ancient times, separates Marmara and Aegean regions and it is about 1770 m high. Other main mountains are Alaçam, Ulus, Çataldağ, Kapıdağ, Edincik, Hodul, Madra, Karadağ, Sularya, Gelçal (Keltepe), Yaylacık, Davullu and Gökseki Mountains.



Figure 5. Topographical map of Balıkesir (BİÇDR, 2006)

There are many plain areas that are very important for agriculture. Main plains are Gönen, Manya, Balıkesir, Kepsut and Körfez (Edremit, Burhaniye and Ayvalık) plains. Balıkesir is rich in terms of streams and rivers. Main rivers are Gönen Çayı, Kocaçay, Havran Çayı and Susurluk Çayı. In addition, there is Lake Manyas located in Bandırma region.

Lands of Kepsut consist of plain areas in general but there are the Alaçam Mountains in the east and this part of the town has a mountainous topography. One of the main plains of the city is Kepsut Plain which is a continuation of the Balıkesir Plain. Kepsut Plain has a square area of 24 km<sup>2</sup>. Simav and Kille Rivers are the water sources of the town.

**Climate:** Balıkesir is located both in the Marmara and Aegean regions so the city is like a transition region between Mediterranean and Black sea climates. In general, there are three types of climate in Balıkesir according to meteorological data. In the Aegean, coasts are hot and a humid climate exists, in the inner regions, a mild and dry climate is experienced and at the west part of the city, there is a continental climate with mild and dry characteristics. Mean annual temperature is 14.5°C in Balıkesir but it differs in coastal and mountainous areas. Mountainous regions have cool summers and cold winters.

According to measurements of meteorological stations in the provinces of Balıkesir, the average values between years 1975 – 2010 are as follows:

**Table 2. Average climatic values of Balıkesir (DMİGM, 2010)**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Mean Temp. °C</b>	4.8	5.8	8.4	13.2	17.9	22.7	24.8	24.5	20.6	15.7	10.1	6.4
<b>Mean Max. Temp. °C</b>	8.9	10.3	13.9	19.4	24.5	29.3	31.1	30.9	27.5	21.9	15.4	10.3
<b>Mean Min. Temp. °C</b>	1.1	1.7	3.4	7.1	10.9	15.1	17.8	18.0	14.1	10.3	5.5	2.8
<b>Average Sunshine Duration (hours)</b>	2.9	3.5	4.7	6.2	8.6	10.8	11.4	10.7	8.6	6.0	4.0	2.5
<b>Average Number of Rainy Days</b>	13.4	11.8	11.0	9.5	7.5	4.7	2.4	2.4	4.1	7.2	9.8	13.4
<b>Average Rainfall (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	68.8	63.8	57.2	50.4	42.0	20.4	9.6	6.5	22.4	46.6	81.5	88.2



**Landscape:** Balıkesir has a topography including mountains, hills and plains in general, and it has a diverse flora as a result of its geological, climatic and topographical richness. Mount İda (Kaz Dağı) and Manyas Lake are rich in terms of fauna and flora. Kazdağı National Park, founded in 1993, includes an area of 21 000 ha that is about just 20-30% of the mountain. Lake Manyas is an important site for water birds and there is Kuş Cenneti National Park inside the lake. This park is the smallest national park in Turkey, covering only 64 Hectares and occupies a special place among Turkey's national parks, since the only reason for its classification as a national park are its bird colonies. The Kuş Cenneti was introduced under the Forest Regime in 1959 and was hence classified as a national park by the General Directorate of Forestry.<sup>8</sup>

The islands of Ayvalık are also rich in underwater flora and an important place for diving. The islands were registered as a Natural Park on 21th of April, 1995. Total area of the natural park is 17.950 hectare and includes 19 islands<sup>9</sup>. There are scrubs, oil groves at coasts and there is forestry at mountainous areas. Forests occupy 45% of the whole city land. There are many unique herbs especially in Kazdağı and local people use them to recover from illnesses.

In addition to natural landscape features, there is a cultural landscape, which is the result of manmade interventions on nature. It was developed as a result of the different needs and is an important factor for the identity of the place. The main elements of the rural landscape of Balıkesir are agricultural lands, building types, barns and storage houses, etc. **(Figure 6)**. In addition, vegetable gardens, flowers, trees, fireplaces and wells at the courtyards of the houses constitute the pattern of the rural landscape **(Figure 7)**.

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.birdwatchingtourturkey.com/index/?BASLIK=109>, date retrieved 28 May 2011

<sup>9</sup> [http://balikesir.cevreorman.gov.tr/Balikesir/AnaSayfa/ka/ka\\_tp\\_aa.aspx?sflang=tr](http://balikesir.cevreorman.gov.tr/Balikesir/AnaSayfa/ka/ka_tp_aa.aspx?sflang=tr) date retrieved 16 April 2012



**Figure 6. Storage houses (Photo taken by Ergün Şimşek)**



**Figure 7. Sındırgı Çoturtepe Village (Photo taken by Ergün Şimşek)**

Local material obtained from the village is also one of the main features to identify the characteristics of the village, and it affects the landscape. As a result of the richness in topography, climate and natural characteristics, Balıkesir is very rich in terms of construction materials. There are different types of stones due to quarries there, and it constitutes the richness of the visual characteristics and landscape features. There are many kinds of trees as a result of the floral variety. For example; in mountainous villages, especially in Marmara and inner regions, pinewood (black pine and calabrian pine) is widely used. Even pine cones are used as infill material in traditional houses and it constitutes different characteristics of the landscape.

Street elements, courtyard walls and their materials also affect the landscape. In rural areas; there are different characteristics of separator elements in the lots. In inner regions, courtyard walls are built with low stone walls or scrubs. But in plain areas especially near to the city center, walls become higher and stone, brick or mud brick are used as construction materials in courtyard walls. Privacy becomes important in more developed plain areas and separations are constituted with solid elements.

### **3.1.2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Information about Balıkesir before written history is so limited and there are only a few excavations. Studies on the history of Balıkesir were first started at the caves nearby İnönü village in Havran. Some remains were found from the Paleolithic Age after surveys and excavations in these caves. There were also some remains found in Babaköy and Yortan; nearby Kepsut town. These remains belong to 6000-3000 BC (HÜRYILMAZ, 2003).

There are more findings from the Early Bronze Age. Bronze weapons, stone tools, various farming devices, stores for vegetables and grain found from the excavations nearby Balıkesir, especially at Naipli village. Balıkesir was called Mysia in ancient times. Mysians came to Anatolia and gave their own name to the settlement. But they did not own an independent city; they had lived under the hegemony of different governments<sup>10</sup>.

Hittites, Bithynians, Lydians and Persians ruled this region between 17th – 3rd centuries BC. According to Herodotos, Herakles people had ruled this region for 505 years. Bithynians were under Persian control and the administration was held by the Daskyleion satrapy. The importance of Bithynians increased during the wars at this period.

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<sup>10</sup> Balıkesir İl Yıllığı (1967)

### **3.1.2.1. Roman and Byzantine Period**

Balıkesir entered under the dominance of the Roman Empire in 85 BC. In this period many buildings were reconstructed and there was a rise in cultural activities. The most important building that had been reconstructed was the temple of Hadrianus in Kyzikos (MSGSU, 2010).

After the migration of tribes, the Roman Empire was divided into two regions and Balıkesir became a settlement under the control of Byzantine Empire. Castle remains are an example of defense against intruders in Byzantine period. These castles are now in ruin and their coating materials have been used as construction material in the villages. As a result, only infill of the castles remains today (MERCANGÖZ, 2003).

In Roman period; Emperor Hadrian constructed a summerhouse resembling a stud (*hara*) when he came to Kepsut during his Anatolian tour. And he called this place "Hadrianutheai". In Byzantine period the region including Kepsut remained under administration region of Kyzikos (AYHAN, 2004). The building remains from Byzantine period are called "from Genoese" among the inhabitants of Kepsut. The buildings and castles became empty during trade facilities, and then Genoese used them as storage. So they are known as Geneoses' among the community (AYHAN, 2004).

### **3.1.2.2. Karesi Principality and Ottoman Period**

Karesi Bey conquered Balıkesir and Bergama, and he founded a principality with his name in 1303. Balıkesir became the capital of this principality. This principality had been under the control of Seljukids for 5 years, between 1308 and 1313 İlkhanids ruled here. Population of Turkmens increased during this period. Settled Turkmen people at the period of Karesi Principality are called *Manav*.

The exact date of the death of Karesi Bey is not known, but the tomb of Karesi Beyi was constructed in the early 20th century. According to the inscription panel on the

tomb, the construction date is 1338 H. After the death of Karesi Bey, the integrity of the principality was destroyed and it was divided into two regions. Capital cities were Bergama and Balıkesir of these two regions.

Karesi Principality joined the Ottoman lands in 1345 and it was under the control of Süleyman Gazi as an independent sanjak<sup>11</sup>. The Ottoman Empire became stronger in its navy; therefore passing through Rumeli became easier.

In the early 15<sup>th</sup> century, animal husbandry was an important factor in its economic growth. During this period, village communities became settled in different locations. The policies on population became very important in towns such as Ayvalık, Erdek and Edremit where Greek people had lived. Therefore migrants from Rumeli were settled in these places to balance the population in favor of the Muslims.

In the Ottoman period, there were many khans, together with fountains, and the city had an important role in the development of education with many madrasahs. According to Vital Cuinet there were 376 educational buildings in Karesi in 1894. There was a highly destructive earthquake in 1897, in which many people died and many buildings collapsed.

In addition; in this period Balıkesir Reddi İlhak Cemiyeti was established and two congresses were arranged. Kuvayi Milliye unions were established against the Greek occupation. Balıkesir had a very important role in the Kuvayi Milliye movements<sup>12</sup>.

There were some disasters and epidemics in this period. Between the years 1494-1503 there was a drought and outbreak of plague in Kepsut and that was called the

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<sup>11</sup> www.balikesir.gov.tr date retrieved 13 October 2010

<sup>12</sup> YURT ANSİKLOPEDİSİ (1982) İstanbul, p:1123-1128

“black death”. Between the years 1525-1527, there was an attack of grasshoppers. Most of the villages became empty because people left their villages and went to the coasts for work as crew of ships (AYHAN, 2004).

### **3.1.2.3. Turkish Republic Period**

In 1923 Karesi became a city like all other sanjaks. The name of the city was changed to Balıkesir in 1926. In Turkish Republic period, between the years of 1926-1944, Susurluk, Ayvalık, Erdek, Manyas, Bigadiç and İvrindi became town in chronological order. Kepsut became a town in 1953.

There was a destructive earthquake in 1942. Many buildings collapsed and many people died. A big fire occurred in 1950 and after this; Balıkesir had entered into reconstruction period.

### **3.1.3. DEMOGRAPHICAL AND SOCIO-CULTURAL FEATURES**

In order to understand the population pattern of Balıkesir and its effects on the settlement in terms of architecture, landscape, lifestyle etc.; demographical and socio cultural features are studied in general manner.

#### **3.1.3.1. Demography**

According to the census results of 2008, the population of Balıkesir was 1.130.276. 59% of these people lived in the city and the rest of them lived in rural areas. Average population density was 79 people per km<sup>2</sup>.

In coastal areas like Bandırma, Ayvalık, Burhaniye and Edremit; tourism is developed and the population is higher as a result of the immigration. In plain areas like Manyas, Merkez, Gönen and Susurluk; transportation is easier and agricultural activities are developed. In these towns population and density are also higher.

Development of agricultural activities led an increase in population growth, but new buildings that were constructed for new demands are not in accordance with

rural pattern. In mountainous areas like Dursunbey, Kepsut and Balya population and density are low as a result of topography (**Table 3**).

Different communities have lived in Balıkesir from the early ages. Today the inhabitants can be classified in 6 groups. These are *Manav*, *Yörük*, *Çepni*, *Türkmen (Tahtacı)*, *Tatar* and *Muhacir*. These communities and their authentic lifestyles are important for the differences in rural patterns. *Manav* people are the first community that settled. The name of *Yörük* derived from “*yürümek*” and they are migrant people. They had lived unsettled for many years, but in 1862 they were forced to be settled. *Çepni* people had come from Tokat, Sivas and Yozgat. *Tahtacı* people are Turkmens that had done woodworking for ages in Anatolia. Tatars came from Crimea and *Muhacirs* are the people that were forced to migrate after the Balkan War. All these communities have different lifestyles. Rural patterns and architectural identity were created as a result of these differences.

AYHAN (1999) explains the ethnographical variety of Balıkesir by being the settlement center after the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In this region communities from the Balkans (Bosnians, Albanians, etc.), Circassian and Georgian people are settled after 17<sup>th</sup>s. The decrease in the population of Rum people is explained as a result of the immigrations after the war.

These migrations of the different ethnics affect the housing and rural pattern that is the representation of their lifestyle. *Manavs* are the first community that settled in Balıkesir so they have lived longer in the rural areas than other communities.

**Table 3. The distribution of population in the towns<sup>13</sup>**

Towns	Number of the Villages	Rural Population	Urban Population	Total Population	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Density
Merkez	120	70767	247072	317839	1454	218
Ayvalık	17	26762	34968	61730	265	23
Balya	43	13923	2038	15961	936	17
Bandırma	34	18980	111494	130474	592	220
Bigadiç	70	33537	15724	49261	1028	48
Burhaniye	20	11965	37415	49380	280	18
Dursunbey	102	28416	17364	45780	1948	24
Edremit	20	64331	49122	113453	731	155
Erdek	21	13044	21660	34704	333	104
Gömeç	9	6831	4750	11581	223	51
Gönen	88	30577	42428	73005	1118	65
Havran	24	17445	10713	28158	543	52
İvrindi	63	31715	6357	38072	761	50
Kepsut	62	19359	5811	25170	908	3
Manyas	42	16494	6503	22997	593	39
Marmara	4	6368	2540	8908	154	58
Savaştepe	44	11261	9366	20627	409	50
Sındırgı	68	27824	12824	40648	1378	29
Susurluk	43	18478	24050	42528	645	66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>468077</b>	<b>662199</b>	<b>1130276</b>	<b>14299</b>	<b>79</b>

### 3.1.3.2. Economic Sectors

Agriculture and animal husbandry are the main sources of income in Balıkesir. 57% of the population lives on agriculture. Olive production is so wide in the city and the production has a percentage of 10.7% of the country's economy. Other main agricultural products are wheat, barley, sesame, hash, corn, melon, watermelon, citrus fruit (especially tangerine), garlic, asparagus, black-eyed pea, gram, peach, apple, rice, cotton and forage plants (BİÇDR, 2007).

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<sup>13</sup> www.balikesir.gov.tr date retrieved 2010



**Table 4. Distribution of agricultural land in Balıkesir (BİÇDR, 2007)**

	Area (Ha)	Percentage (%)
<b>Farm Land</b>	324077	63
<b>Olive Grove</b>	79962	16
<b>Vegetable Garden</b>	32164	6
<b>Fruit Garden</b>	7382	1
<b>Orchard</b>	2676	0,5
<b>Fallow</b>	2894	0,5
<b>Others</b>	66434	13
<b>Total</b>	515589	100

In rural areas agricultural activities are so wide; therefore it affects the village pattern. Products, their storage types and agricultural lands form the rural pattern. Traditional production styles are still continuing in the villages and there are many authentic storages that varies (MSGSU, 2010) **(Figure 8)**.



**Figure 8. Storage houses in the villages (Photos taken by Kemal Çorapçioğlu)**

Especially in inner regions, animal husbandry is a very important source of income. Balıkesir is the leading city in the meat sector. Other main sectors are poultry, fishery, beekeeping and sericulture. Besides, for meat, dairy products and egg

production, there are slaughter houses, dairy farms and poultry houses<sup>14</sup>. There are dairy co-operatives including the union of one or two villages.

The economy of Kepsut is also based on animal husbandry and farming. Main products of the town are wheat, barley, sugar beet, corn, legume, sunflower, cotton, various vegetables, grape, apple, sour cherry and peach. Peaches especially are very important product in Kepsut and every year there is a Peach Festival at the town. Peaches became a symbol of Kepsut. In addition, forestry is an important source of income in the town. Main quarries include lead, iron and lignite.

Tourism is also an important sector in Balıkesir and especially in coastal regions many people live through tourism<sup>15</sup>. Kazdağı National Park, Manyas Lake, and ancient cities nearby Edremit are important touristic regions. Traditional handicrafts are also still current in some regions of Balıkesir. Main handicrafts are weaving, quilting (yorgancılık), abacılık, saraçlık, keçecilik, etc.

According to the study of State Planning Organization (SPO) of 2004, development status of 872 towns is examined. Population, urbanization, distribution of agriculture and industrial production, income of the towns are examined to specify the socio economic status of the 872 towns. Kepsut is 19<sup>th</sup> among the towns of Balıkesir and at the 674<sup>th</sup> order among all studied towns in general (**Table 5**). In addition some ratios that affect the socio economic status are analyzed for all towns. Development order of Kepsut in 2004 was analyzed regarding some qualifications such as population, urbanization, unemployment and literacy rates (**Table 6**).

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<sup>14</sup> [www.balikesir.gov.tr](http://www.balikesir.gov.tr) date retrieved 2010

<sup>15</sup> [www.balikesir.gov.tr](http://www.balikesir.gov.tr) date retrieved 2010

Table 5. Development Status of Towns in Balıkesir (SPO, 2004)

Town	Development Order Among 872 Towns	Development Group	Development Index
Bandırma	23	2	2,51255
Merkez	33	2	2,09334
Ayvalık	64	2	1,4598
Edremit	76	2	1,3315
Burhaniye	96	2	1,1276
Erdek	123	2	0,96294
Marmara	125	2	0,94883
Gönen	159	2	0,67568
Susurluk	169	3	0,59933
Gömeç	240	3	0,25481
Havran	383	3	-0,11492
Bigadiç	426	3	-0,19705
Manyas	465	3	-0,24757
Savaştepe	466	3	-0,24773
Dursunbey	604	4	-0,50857
İvrindi	618	4	-0,54161
Sındırgı	640	4	-0,57904
Kepsut	674	5	-0,63967
Balya	701	5	-0,68318

Table 6. Development Order of Kepsut (SPO, 2004)

Population	28.022 (472)
Urbanization Rate (%)	19,79 (806)
Population Growth Rate (%)	-7,28 (626)
Population Density	31 (610)
Population Dependency Rate (%)	55,22 (516)
Average Number of Inhabitants per Household	3,89 (716)
Employment Rate in Agriculture (%)	84,75 (142)
Employment Rate in Industry (%)	3,79 (442)
Employment Rate in Service Sector (%)	11,46 (800)
Unemployment Rate (%)	2,18 (815)
Literacy Rate (%)	81,22 (628)
Infant Mortality Rate (%)	67,16 (49)
Income per Person (TL)	40.665 (399)
Tax Income Rate in the Country (%)	0,00499 (451)
Agricultural Income Rate in the Country (%)	0,16375 (183)

### 3.2. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RURAL AREAS IN BALIKESIR

The rural settlements are situated on coastal, mountainous, plains and hillside areas due to topographical richness. In northern parts; the mountainous characteristics of Kapıdağ peninsula allow coastal settlements (**Figure 9**). In plain areas like Manyas plain; villages are situated on plains and hillside areas (**Figure 10**). In southern parts; between Aegean coast and eastern region; villages are situated on hillside (**Figure 11**), forestry and mountainous land.



Figure 9. Erdek Ormanlı village (Photo taken by Ergün Şimşek)

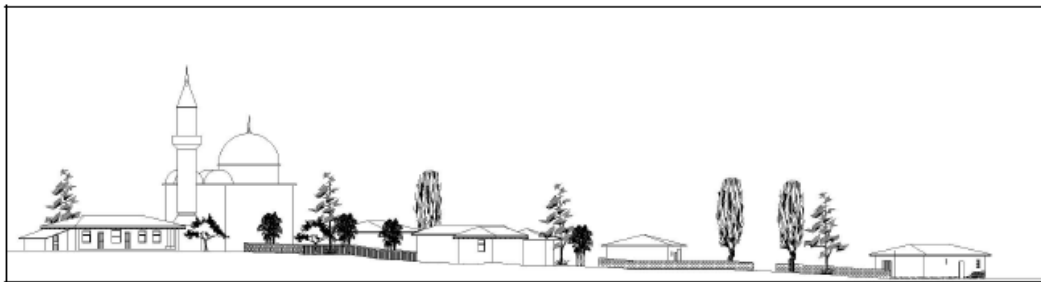


Figure 10. Topographical section of Bandırma Emre village (MSGSU, 2010)



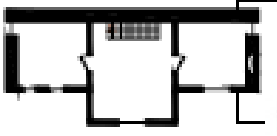
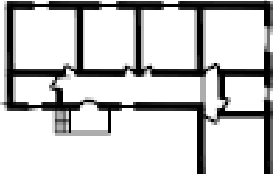
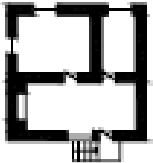

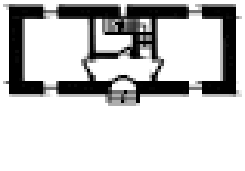



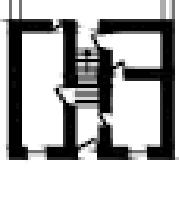
**Figure 11. Burhaniye Kuyucak village (Photo taken by Serkan Palabıyık)**

Plan types of houses in rural areas of Balıkesir differentiate according to the climate (**Table 7**). In Aegean coasts, where hot and humid climate is seen, plan types are rectangular and the houses have dynamic facades to take the advantage of the wind. However in inner regions like Dursunbey, where mild and dry climates are seen, plans of the houses are square shaped to avoid from the wind. In northern parts, plans are rectangular and designed both to take the advantage of the wind in warmest days and also to avoid the wind in coldest days. In some mountainous villages, there are rectangular plans but because of the topography, the long side of the house is situated under the land so heat loss is decreased.

In rural areas different structural systems are seen due to obtained material near the village. The variety of construction materials is a result of the province's topographical and geographical richness. Traditional structural systems are of masonry with stone, brick, mud brick and timber masonry and timber frame

construction with various infill materials. Also there are houses where masonry and timber frame construction are used together.

**Table 7. Plan types in Balıkesir (MSGSU, 2010)**

Aegean Coasts	Marmara Coasts	Inner Regions
		
		
		

### 3.3. ÖRENLİ VILLAGE

#### 3.3.1. LOCATION

Örenli is one of the rural settlements in Kepsut (**Figure 12**) located on the east side of Balıkesir. It is situated on a mountain (**Figure 13**) at an altitude of approximately 550 m. from sea level. The village is in the transition region between the Black sea and Aegean climatic regions (summers are dry and hot, winters are cool and rainy). The village is 25 km away from the town center and access to the village is provided by a mountain road; as a result, most of the traditional houses are conserved.





### 3.3.2. ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES AND THE RURAL PATTERN

Örenli Village is situated on a mountain; it is surrounded by forest and has an organic pattern with its sloped area and natural characteristics (**Figure 14**). Most of the village is on land with the status of 2B. The village is situated on a rocky land; as a result there are not many rich lands suitable for agriculture. Inhabitants especially sustain their lives through stockbreeding. There are also some trees and vegetable gardens on lots. In addition residents obtain stone from the land, for especially constructing retaining walls.



**Figure 14. Satellite photo of Örenli village (Google Earth, 2011)**

Access to the village is provided through a road from the town center of Kepsut. The road is 25 km long and curvy as a result of the mountainous topography. This road is paved but very narrow and allows only two vehicles from the opposite directions. The slope of the road increases with making curves to the direction of the village. Accesses from the other villages are limited because of the topography and therefore the village became introverted as a result of this situation.



### 3.3.2.1. Streets and Pathways

Transportation between the town center and the village is provided by only one mountain road. This limited access to the village has an impact on the development and the conservation of the village's unique rural identity. The mountain road is also curved and sloped.

In the village, there is one main street which starts from the entrance and continues in a linear form into the village. After a square where the new coffee house and *muhtarlık* are located, the street is divided into branches. Here is the area that traditional houses are densely constructed on. In the village, the circulation is provided by mostly unpaved streets and paths (**Figure 15**).

Topography is an important factor on the lot and street organization. Streets are sloped and except for a few streets, all of them are unpaved. The streets are formed with earth and rocky land. The street between the mosque and the coffee house/*muhtarlık* was paved by the inhabitants of the village in order to create clean gateway to the mosque. Streets are surrounded with stone retaining walls as a result of level differences in topography (**Figure 16**).

The village is located on a very sloped land and there are level differences between the paths and streets. Between courtyards and houses, there are paths, gateways and stairs that were constructed with stone. Because of the inclined topography the land is terraced in varying levels. Between the different levels there are stairs and retaining walls constructed with stone. Retaining walls are constructed using dry-wall techniques to drain the water easily (**Figure 17**).



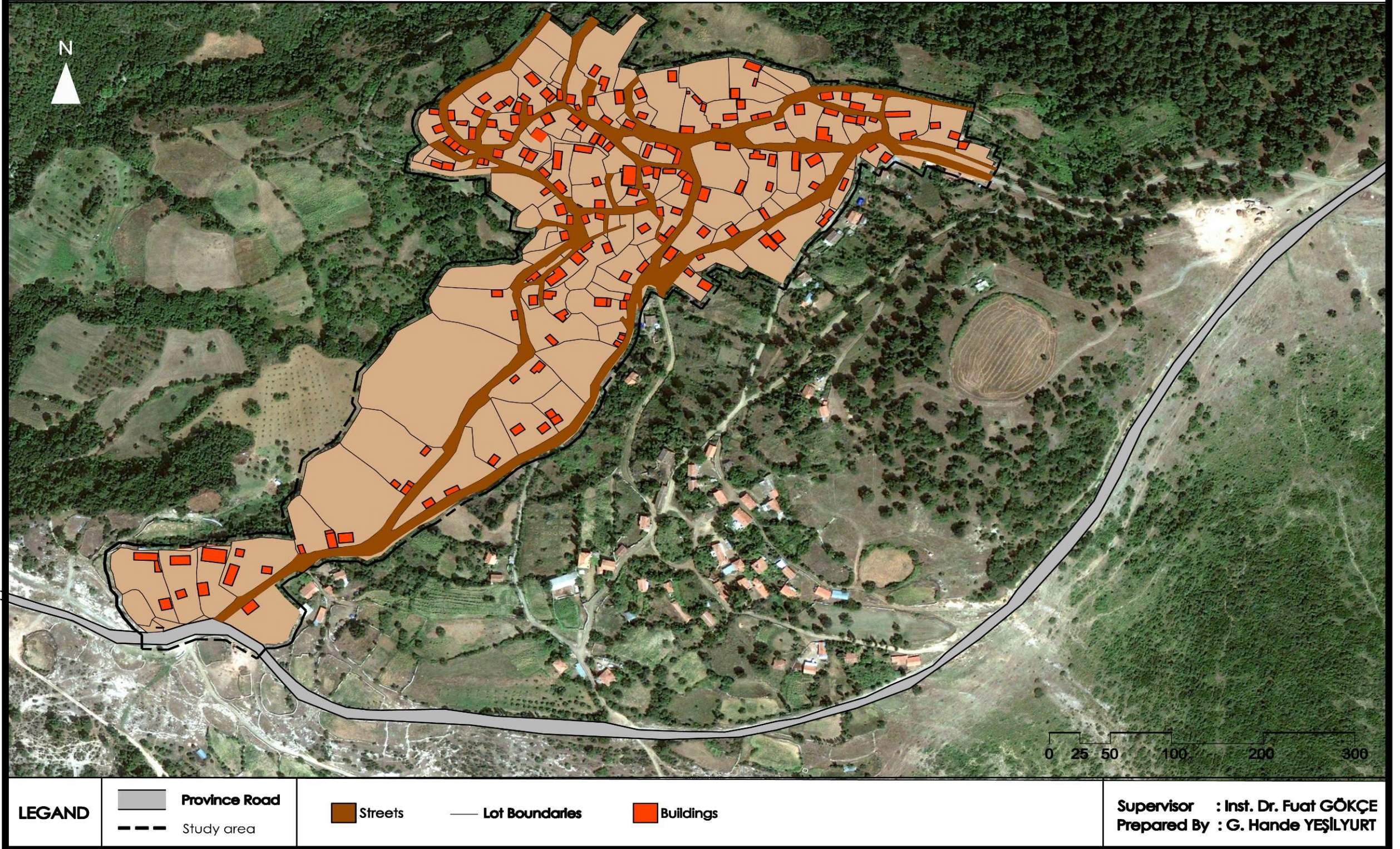


Figure 15. Street pattern





**Figure 16. Unpaved street**



**Figure 17. Retaining walls (Photo taken by Fuat Gökçe)**

### 3.3.2.2. Lot Organization

Dimensions of the lots are very different and the area of the lots differs between 28.97 m<sup>2</sup> and 2240.38 m<sup>2</sup> (MSGSU, 2010). Lots are located on inclined topography and there are also level differences in the lots. Lots are bordered with local stone material and also there are stone retaining walls with stairs between the level differences. The blocks of the local stone are used as steps of the stairs (**Figure 18**).



**Figure 18. Lot organization at the level differences**

Lots are divided into two courtyards in many cases due to the topography and the activities conducted in the lot. Living and planting activities take place in one courtyard; husbandry and related activities take place in the other courtyard.

There are stone retaining walls between the lots due to the topography but not for the privacy. Courtyard doors are constructed with tiny fences and access to the lots are provided through these gates. Ovens in the courtyards are shared in general, and activities such as baking, preparing food for winter are done together.

### 3.3.3. BUILDING TYPES

109 buildings among the 140 buildings in the village are studied to classify the building types. There are 81 houses and 20 service buildings (**Figure 20**) in the study area (**Table 8**).

**Table 8. Building Types**

<b>Function</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>
Residential	Dwelling	81
	Service	20
Public	School	1
	Coffee House	3
	Bakkal	1
	Mosque	1
	Fountain	2

Service buildings are barns, WC, ovens, *ambars* that take place in the courtyard. Especially stone masonry ovens and timber masonry *ambars* are the unique features of the village that give rural identity to the settlement.

Public buildings are a school, a mosque, coffee houses, a *bakkal* and fountains. There is a village mosque in the center of the village (**Figure 19a**). It was constructed in 1964 (AYHAN, 2004). The inhabitants get together at the square in front of the mosque. There is a school with one storey in the village (**Figure 19b**). It has been used until recent years but it is not in use anymore. Children in the village go to the school in the neighboring village.

There are three coffee-houses, but only two of them are in use today. One of them was constructed in recent years with reinforced concrete. The ground floor of the



coffee-house is used as *muhtarlık* (Figure 19c). There is also one bakkal that is constructed with stone masonry (Figure 19d) and that is still in use today. There are two fountains in the village but they are not in use anymore.



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

**Figure 19. Public buildings in the village a) Mosque b) School c) New coffee-house and *muhtarlık* d) Bakkal**



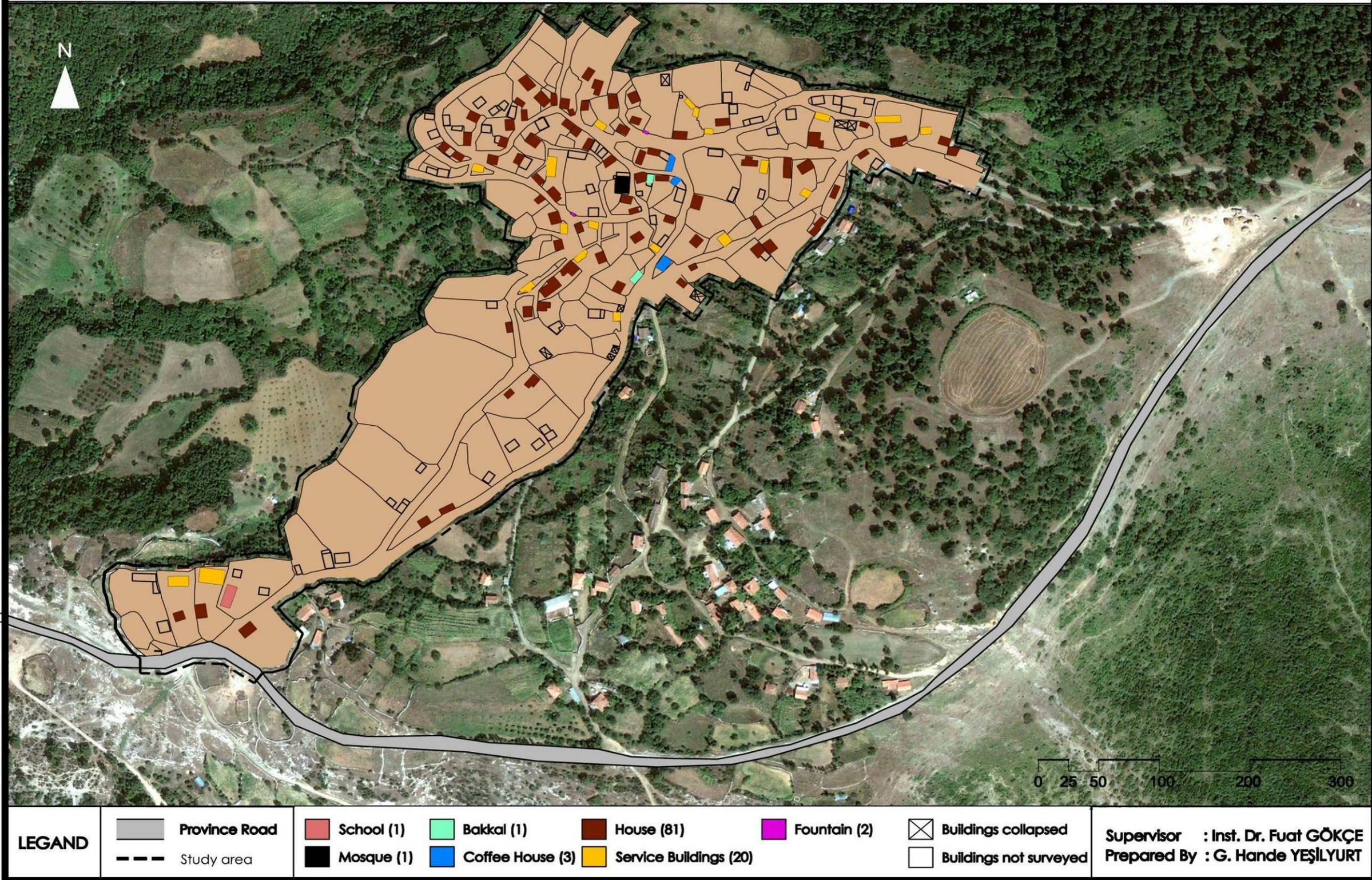


Figure 20. Building Types



The oldest one of the coffee-houses is not used today. There are two floors of the building; the ground floor was used as *bakkal* and the first floor was used as coffee-house and *köy konağı*. It is constructed with stone masonry on the ground floor and timber frame on the first floor. There is a semi-open area on the first floor and there is a gate under the building providing passage between the street and the lot (Figure 21).

There are 81 houses and 20 service buildings in the study area. Service buildings are barns, WC, ovens, *ambars* that take place in the courtyard. Especially ovens and *ambars* are the unique features of the village that give the rural identity to the settlement.

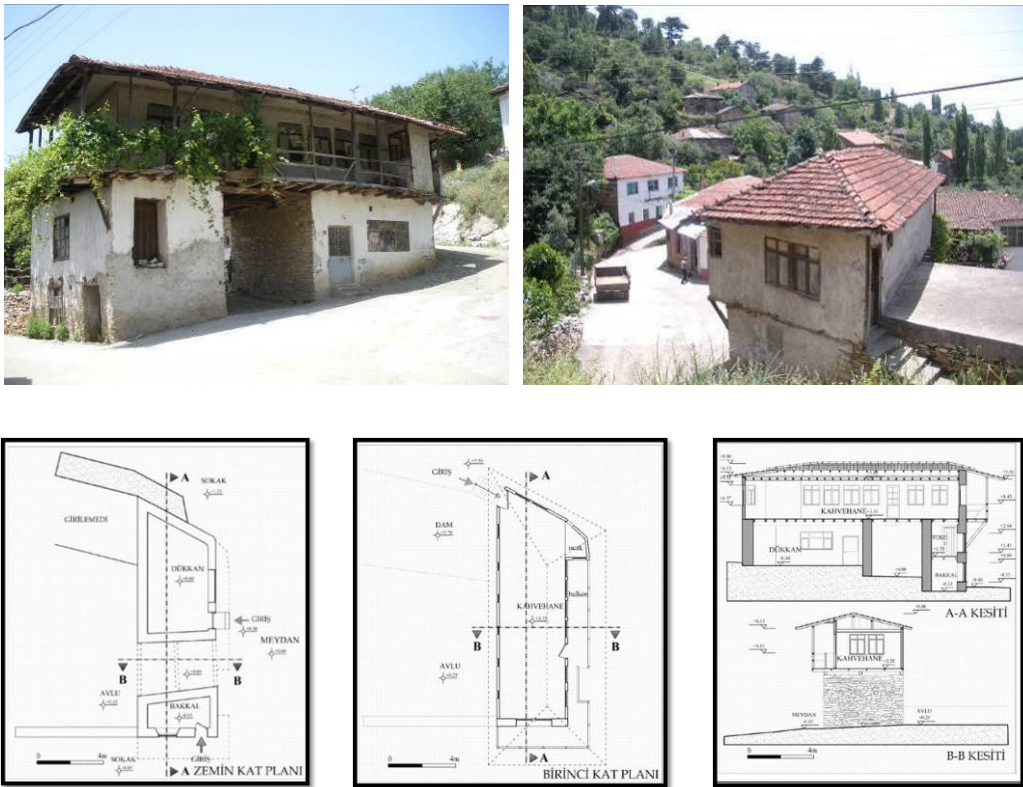


Figure 21. The drawings (MSGSU) and the photos of the coffee-house



The residents in the village bake bread and cook in stone ovens (**Figure 22**) in their courtyards, and it is also a shared activity. Ovens are located separately from the house in the courtyard. Cooking part of the oven is 0.5 - 1m high from the ground and they use scrubby for firing. All of the ovens are constructed with stone masonry, walls are bound with timber beams and there is a roof at the top. There is a preparation space in front of the oven and instead of a chimney there are some holes for venting smoke.



**Figure 22. Stone ovens in the village (drawings of oven is drawn by MSGSU)**

There are some storage sections that are called *ambar* in the village. They are located next to the house or separately in the courtyard (**Figure 23**). The residents in the village, store their food in these *ambars* for the winter. *Ambars* are constructed with timber and there are timber separators inside the storage in order to store different foods together. Some *ambars* are located separately from the house and these are

also constructed with timber masonry. There is a small door in front of the *ambar* and there are separations inside.



(a)



(b)

**Figure 23. Ambars a) separately located b) located next to the house**

### **3.3.4. CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUE AND MATERIAL**

There are three main types of construction systems in the village however most of the houses are constructed with stone masonry. As a local material, slate is used in many places. At the entrance of the village there is a stone quarry and also the village is located on rocky land where the stone can easily be obtained. The stone has a layered structure and it is easy to process (**Figure 24**). In addition, there are timber masonry and timber frame construction systems used secondarily with the stone masonry. The stone material is special to the village and the stone is quarried inside the village.



**Figure 24. Formation of the local stone material**

Types of construction systems are as follows:

#### **3.3.4.1. Stone Masonry**

Most of the houses are constructed with stone and the common use of this stone in the village became an important factor in the formation of the vernacular fabric of the village (**Figure 25**). Layers of stone are put one upon another in dry wall technique or with mud mortar as binding material. Stone masonry with tiny timber beams, the color of the local stone material, and the continuous usage of it constitute the harmony between nature and the built environment.

The stone can be obtained from rocky land of the village or from the quarry at the entrance of the village. The characteristics of the stone differ due to its location. Inhabitants use the stone obtained from rocky land in retaining walls, and they use the stone obtained from the quarry as construction material. All of the retaining walls are constructed with stone masonry by dry-wall techniques in order to drain the water easily. The mountainous and highly sloped land brings drainage problems. And by the using dry wall construction, water is drained easily from the land.



**Figure 25. Harmony of the buildings with the natural environment**

Stone is used in many places in the village. Besides the construction material in houses, fireplaces, etc. it is also used in stairs in sequence of layers (**Figure 26a**), in retaining walls with smaller pieces (**Figure 26b**, **Figure 26c**) and it is even used for a sitting bench (**Figure 26d**). This renewable and easily obtained material can be observed everywhere in the village in different uses.

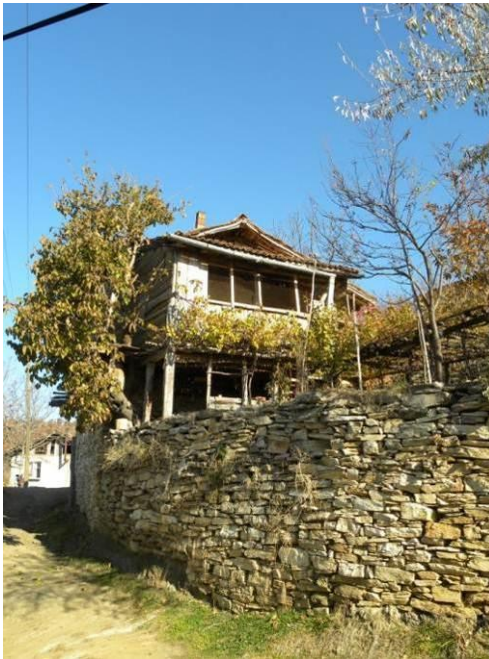




(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

**Figure 26. Various usage of the stone a) Stone stairs at the entrance of a house, b) Stone retaining wall with the continuity of building, c) Stone retaining wall (Photo taken by Fuat Gökçe), d) Stone sitting bench near a fireplace.**

### 3.3.4.2. Timber Masonry

Another material which is commonly used in the village is timber. Timber masonry is only used in service buildings. There are some barns constructed with timber masonry with a primitive form. Timber logs are used by interlacing each other. Ground floor or basement levels are constructed with stone masonry to avoid the damp and to adjust the level in the inclined topography (**Figure 27**).



**Figure 27. Unused barn in the village**

*Ambars* in the village are also constructed with timber masonry. Some of them are located separately in the courtyard (**Figure 28**). Timber planks are used in smooth rectangular forms. *Ambar* is elevated 15 cm from the earth and there is a platform in front of it. Entrance to the *ambar* is provided by a small timber door and there are some separations with timber inside of the storage area in order to store different foods together. Storage section of the *ambar* is covered by a timber vault and the whole of the building is covered with a gable roof constructed of timber.





Figure 28. Separate *ambar* buildings in the village (Photos taken by Fuat Gökçe).

There are also *ambars* located adjacent to the houses. These storage sections constructed with timber and covered with the extension of the building roof. There are divisions inside the *ambar* for storing different foods and this kind of *ambar* is also elevated from the earth with stone (Figure 29).



Figure 29. *Ambar* buildings located adjacent to the houses.

#### 3.3.4.3. Timber Frame Construction

Timber frame construction is also used in traditional houses with stone infill. In some of the traditional houses the ground floor is constructed with stone masonry

but one or two façades of the upper floors are constructed with timber frame construction and stone infill (**Figure 30**).

Timber frame is used in both interior and exterior walls. Tree branches are used horizontally on the vertical timber posts. The wall is filled with stone and mud, and then covered with mud mortar (**Figure 31**).



**Figure 30. Timber frame construction in traditional houses**



**Figure 31. Interior walls with timber frame construction**



### **3.3.5. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DWELLING UNITS**

Traditional houses in the village are settled on inclined land and they are commonly two-storey high, in some cases there are also three storey examples. Most of the houses are constructed with stone masonry; timber frame construction is also used on the upper floors. In this section; organization and architectural features of the house and its nearby environment are analyzed in order to understand the architectural identity of the village.

#### **3.3.5.1. Lots**

The village has an organic pattern and dimensions of the lots are very different. The area of the lots differs between 28.97 m<sup>2</sup> and 2240.38 m<sup>2</sup> (MSGSU, 2010). Lot organization includes the house as the main building, service spaces and open areas. Except for a few examples, most of the houses have a courtyard, and entrance to the house is provided through the courtyard.

As a result of the inclined topography; lots are separated from the street and other lots with stone retaining walls. Also, there are terraces and different levels in lots due to the topography (**Figure 32**).



**Figure 32. Terraces at the land due to the topography**

There are stone retaining walls at the level differences and there are also stone stairs constructed by layers of the stone blocks (**Figure 33**). The gates between the floor levels are organized by natural sources and in harmony with nature.



**Figure 33. Stairs between level differences at lots**

If there is a courtyard; entrances to the lots are provided through timber fences and there are stone walls or scrubs for the separation between the lots. The courtyard walls are not high unless they act as retaining walls. This separation identifies ownership but there is no privacy (**Figure 34**).



**Figure 34. Entrance and separation elements for a dwelling unit**

The only entrance of the house is in general paved. Courtyard and circulation areas are unpaved. There is no agricultural activity except vegetable gardens in the lots. However this production is not for an economical purposes, but only for daily needs. Plants are also used at the entrance of the house for shading.

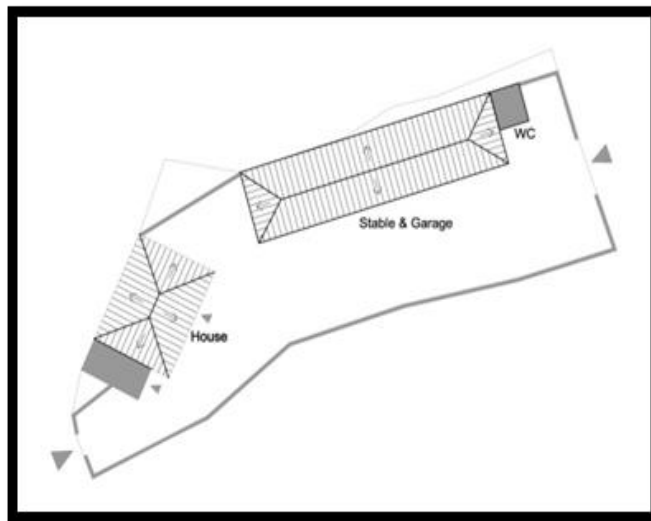
There are three types of lots according to the courtyard usage and the location of the buildings on the lot. Most of the houses have a courtyard, and also in some cases, there are two courtyards organized due to the inclined topography. The level differences are so high in some cases, and the organization of the lot is generated due to the land.

**Lots without courtyard:** Except rare examples, all of the houses have a courtyard. There is only one example without a courtyard among the detailed studied houses (**Figure 35**). There is only one main building on the lot and the service spaces are located on the ground floor. Houses are reached directly from the street and there is no place for a garden or planting. Service spaces are located on the ground floor and they are reached from the side façade of the house by a lower level. This floor is separated from the living floor and is only reached from outside.



**Figure 35. Traditional house without a courtyard a) Site plan of Feride İlder House, b) Photo of Feride İlder House**

**Lots with one courtyard:** The house and service buildings are organized in one courtyard due to the slope of the land (**Figure 36**). All of the houses have *mağaza* (ground floor of the house that hayloft and barn take place) on the ground floor. But in some dwelling units, there are separate service buildings such as oven, barn and hayloft.



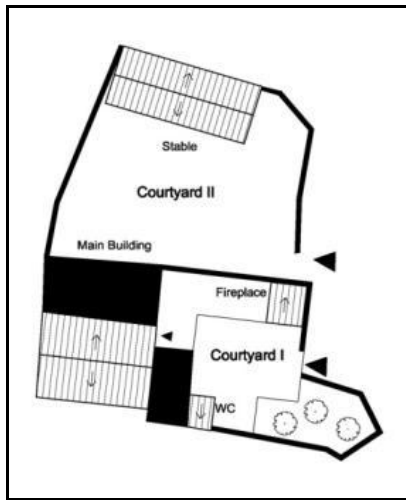
(a)



(b)

**Figure 36. Traditional house with one courtyard. a) Site plan of İbrahim Sari House, b) View from the courtyard of İbrahim Sari House**

**Lots with two courtyards:** There are two courtyards in some dwelling units (**Figure 37**). Entrances of the lots are provided in different levels. Higher levels are generally organized for living and daily activities; also the garden is on the higher level. The ground floor of the house is organized for service spaces (called *mağaza*) and therefore related activities take place here. They have barns on the lower level and they store food for their animals there.



(a)



(b)

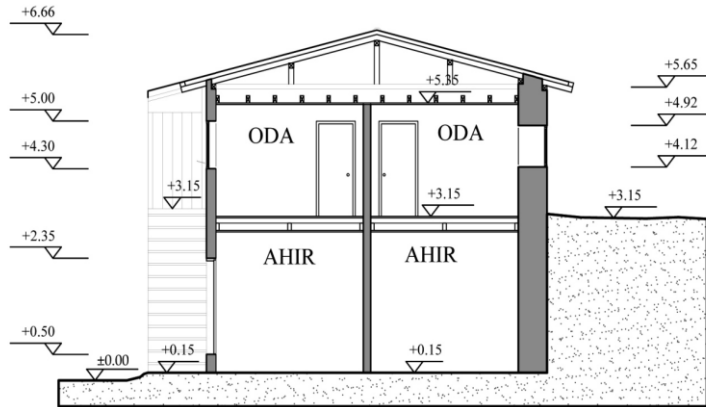
**Figure 37. Traditional house with two courtyards a) Site plan of İlyas Akbaş House, b) View from the courtyard of İlyas Akbaş House**

### 3.3.5.2. Buildings

- **Main Building:** Most of the houses are situated on inclined land (**Figure 38**). They commonly have two floors; there are also 1 and 3 storey samples (**Figure 39**). The ground floor is used for *mağaza* and upper floors used for living. These floors are completely separate from each other. The floor includes *mağaza* reached from side facades and are at a lower level.



In most of the houses; the ground floor is of stone masonry with mud mortar and the other floors vary as timber frame with stone infill, timber masonry, stone masonry or brick masonry . Inner walls are constructed with timber frame with stone infill or bagdadi.



(a)



(b)

**Figure 38. Location of the traditional house on slope**



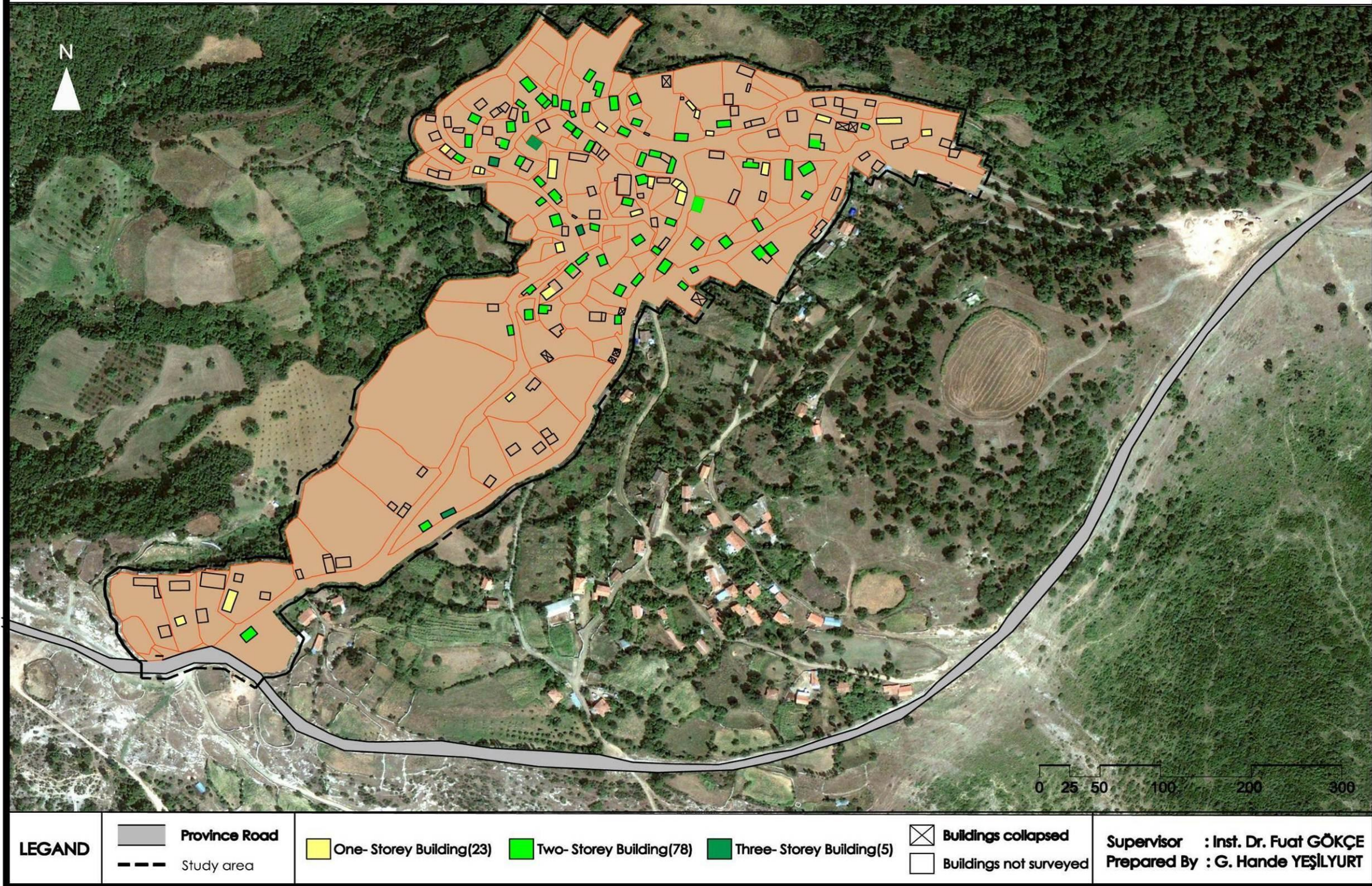


Figure 39. Number of floors



According to the site survey and measured drawings on the main floors of 20 houses there are 4 plan types in the village. All of the houses have one *sofa* but the location of the *sofa* is different. Cooking, living activities and circulation take place here. In addition, there are two odd examples that are three storey high and these have two living floors.

First type includes one *sofa* and two rooms opening to the *sofa* (**Figure 40a**). The most common type is this plan type, and 6 houses in the study area have a plan organization like this. *Sofa* acts as both circulation and living space. Especially in winter, only *sofa* or one room and a *sofa* are used. *Sofa* includes fireplace but except for two houses they are not in use. Cooking activities also take place in the *sofa*. There are two rooms, and in most of the houses, there is an additional stove in one of the rooms. *Gusülhanes* in the houses are still in use in most of the examples.

In the second common type there is one *sofa* and three rooms around the *sofa* (**Figure 40b**). There are 4 examples of this plan type in the study area. Two rooms are reached from the *sofa* and one room is reached from another rooms. Especially *sofa* and one room is used commonly in the winter. *Sofa* and the rooms have nearly equal areas, only the uses are different.

The third one consists of one *sofa* in front of the rooms and there are three rooms that are reached from the *sofa* (**Figure 40c**). There is a fireplace and cooking section at the *sofa*. It is nearly same with the first plan type, moreover additional room is used as storage in general.

Fourth type includes a middle *sofa* and four rooms opening to the *sofa* (**Figure 40d**). *Sofa* is used as living room and cooking activities take place in one room that acts as kitchen Stove of the fireplace acts as the chimney for the stove in the kitchen. All of the rooms have fireplaces but they are not used any more. This type of the house is larger than the other types and two of the studied houses have this plan type.



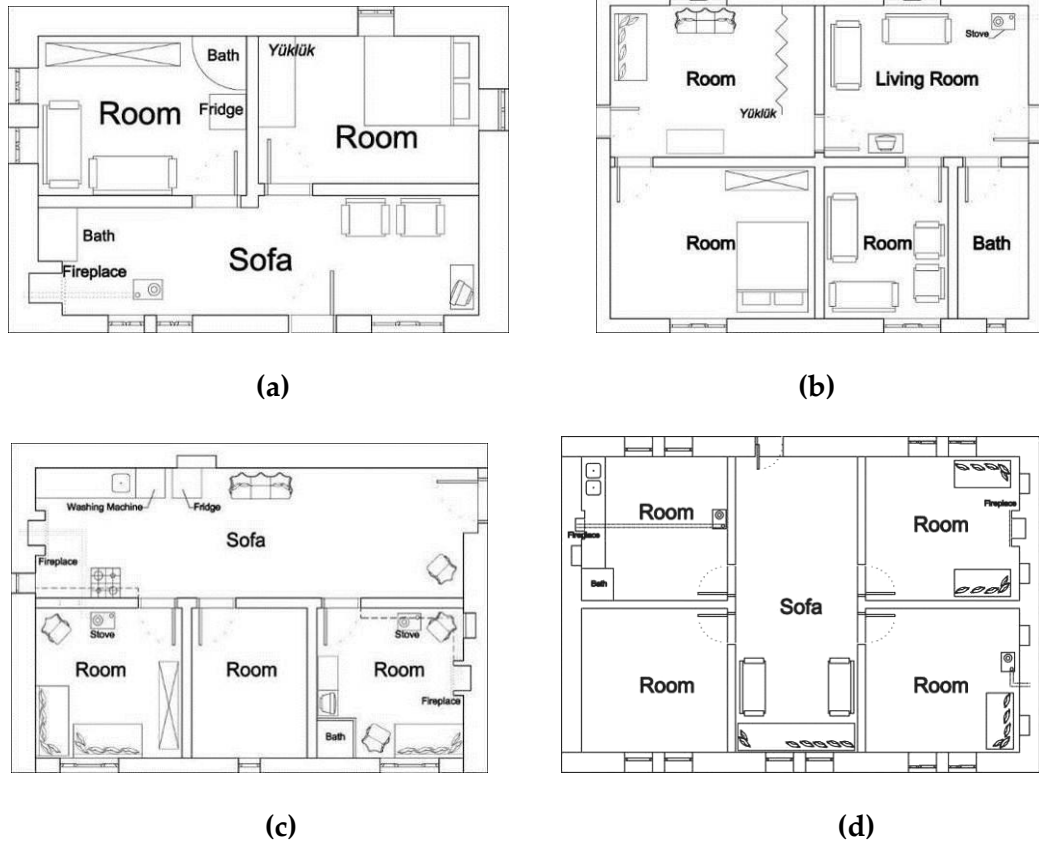


Figure 40. Most common plan types in the study area

Besides these plan types there are two odd examples of the studied 20 houses. These houses have three floors and two main living floors.

One of them has a *sofa* on the ground floor and the first floor is reached with timber stairs from the *sofa*. All rooms and *sofa* has a fireplace and all of the rooms have *gusülhane*. Cooking activities are carried out in the *sofa* (Figure 41a).

The other type has one entrance hall in the middle, on the ground floor and two rooms that are located at both sides are reached from this hall. On the first floor, there is one hall and two rooms. Also in this type there are fireplaces in each room. One room on the ground floor is used as a kitchen and living room. Also the *gusülhane* is in the same room (Figure 41b).

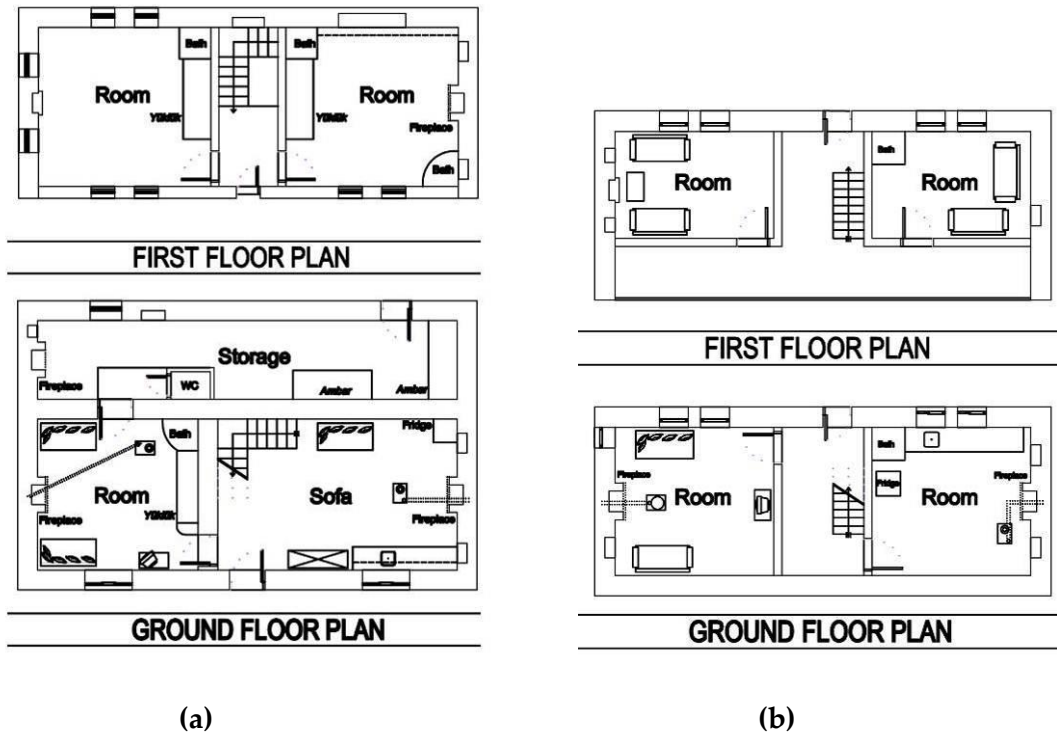


Figure 41. Rare plan types in the study area a) Plan of Fadime Avcı House, b) Plan of Avni Abak House

- **Service Buildings:**

Stable and Hayloft: Örenli is a mountain village and the residents maintain their life through stockbreeding. As a result, they have stables and haylofts at the courtyard in general. Stables and haylofts are one storey and they are constructed with stone masonry. In some cases according to the rising needs, stables are enlarged with brick.

WC: Another building used in the courtyard is the WC. In some houses it is located adjacent to the house, and in some cases it is located at the courtyard far from the house. In older houses, especially unused ones, the WC is constructed with timber masonry but today all of the WC buildings are constructed with brick masonry.

Ovens: They bake bread and cook in stone ovens in the courtyards and it is also a shared activity. Ovens are located separately from the house in the courtyard. Even

in new houses they construct ovens with stone in the courtyard. The cooking part of the oven is 0.5 - 1m high from the ground and they use scrubby for firing. All of the ovens are constructed with stone masonry, side walls are bound with timber beams on the external surface and there is a roof at the top. There is a preparation space in front of the oven and instead of a chimney there are some holes for venting smoke (Figure 42).



Figure 42. Ovens in the courtyards

### 3.3.5.3. Architectural Elements

- Windows: All of the original windows are constructed with timber and they are in rectangular forms. Most of them are sash windows but there are also winged examples. In new and repaired houses, they usually prefer pvc or aluminum material (Figure 43).



**Figure 43. Window types in the village**

There are some ornamentations on the windows. All of the windows are in rectangular form except for only one example. The house of the owner of the coffee-house has brick arches at the top of the windows. The house is one of the oldest houses in the village and the earliest owner of the house was an omniscient (*alim*). He constructed a house very different from the other traditional houses in the village. Windows are smaller and there are brick arches at the top of the windows. In a few examples, there are holes at the top of the windows for ventilation. These holes are made from Turkish tiles and between the tiles ventilation and lightening occur (**Figure 44**).





Figure 44. Ornamentations of windows

- Doors: All of the exterior doors are timber, ledged doors but in some cases, inhabitants replace them with iron ones. Interior doors are also timber and ledged in general but in some cases there are paneled timber doors with a window (Figure 45).



Figure 45. Exterior and interior door types

Fireplaces: There are fireplaces in *sofa* and the rooms of the traditional houses. They are conserved but, except for a few examples, they are not in use today. There are niches and shelves flanking both sides and tops of the fireplaces. Only one example is constructed with timber and the others are from stone (Figure 46).





**Figure 46. Fireplaces in rooms**

Bath sections (Gusülhane): *Gusülhanes* are used today. Inhabitants prefer using the *gusülhanes* inside the rooms even though they have new, separate bathrooms. Bathrooms are organized with *yüklük* in some cases, and they are constructed with timber. Also there are some platforms at the corners and they are used as *gusülhanes* too (Figure 47).



**Figure 47. Gusülhanes**

### **3.3.6. SOCIAL FEATURES OF THE VILLAGE**

In order to understand the social characteristics of the site, prepared survey sheets are applied to 15 houses. In addition, interviews were done with the village headman, imam, owner of the coffee house and the elders of the village. Due to these interviews general information about the village was obtained.

According to these interviews; the population pattern of the village is *manav*<sup>17</sup> in general but there are also *yörüks* in the village. There are 140 house and only 80 of them are used today. It is stated that, migration to the town and city center is so wide. Especially younger people do not want to live in the village because of the lack of job opportunities.

Sources of income are agriculture and animal breeding. There is no water source for agriculture so only dry farming is done. Main agricultural products are gram, sesame, corn, melon and water melon. But the agricultural activity suffices only the

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<sup>17</sup> Turkmen people who settled and started to agricultural activities at the period of Karesi Principality.



inhabitants' own needs. Animal breeding is the main source of living for the villagers (**Figure 48**).

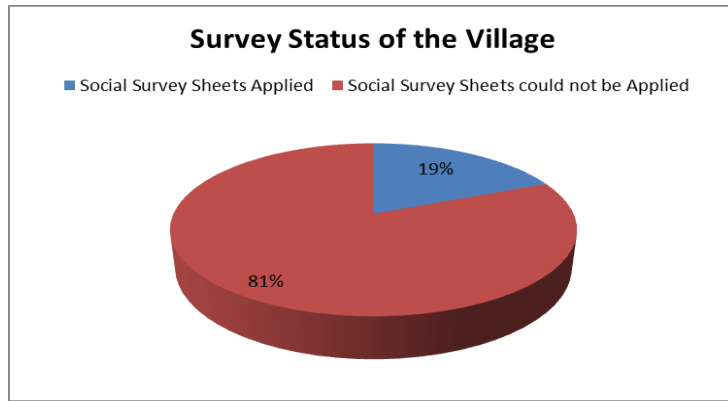


**Figure 48. Animal breeding at the courtyard**

Once a year inhabitants organize "*hidrellez hayrı*" and they invite people from nearby villages. They prepare local meals and distribute them to all the guests and inhabitants of the village. They also pray for rain after the meal.

The interviewees stated that traditional houses are inadequate and are not large enough for today's needs. In the past 15-20 years, reinforced concrete houses were constructed but retaining walls are still constructed with the local stone. The local stone is found in sequence of layers and is easy to process. They use mud mortar as binding material.

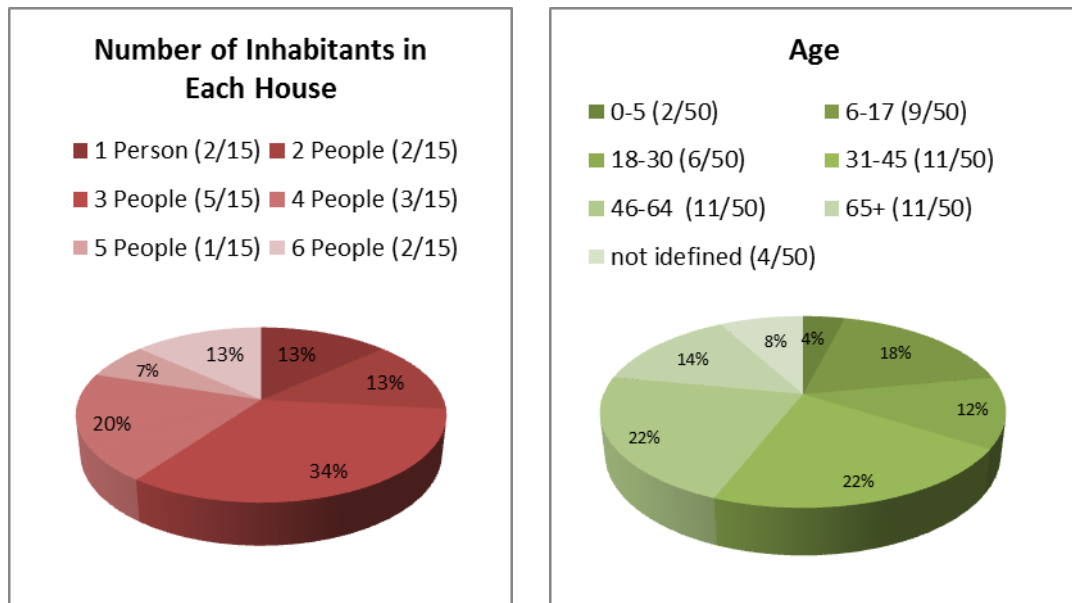
Besides this information the prepared social survey sheets were applied to 15 houses in the village. There are 80 houses used in the village and 19% of the houses were analyzed in order to obtain information about the social aspects of the village (**Figure 49**). Three of these houses are new houses and the rest of them are traditional.



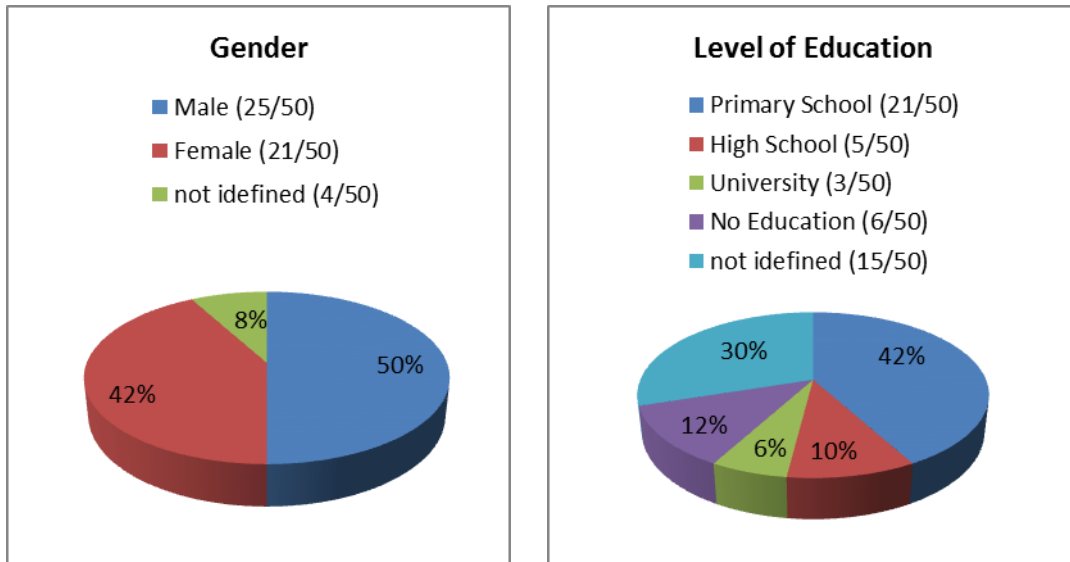
**Figure 49. Social Survey Status of the Village**

The results from the social survey sheets are grouped in the following fields:

- **Demographic aspects:** To analyze the demographic aspects of the village, number of the occupants living in each house, ages, genders of the residents and education level of them are asked to the inhabitants (**Figure 50**).



**Figure 50. a) Demographic aspects of the site**

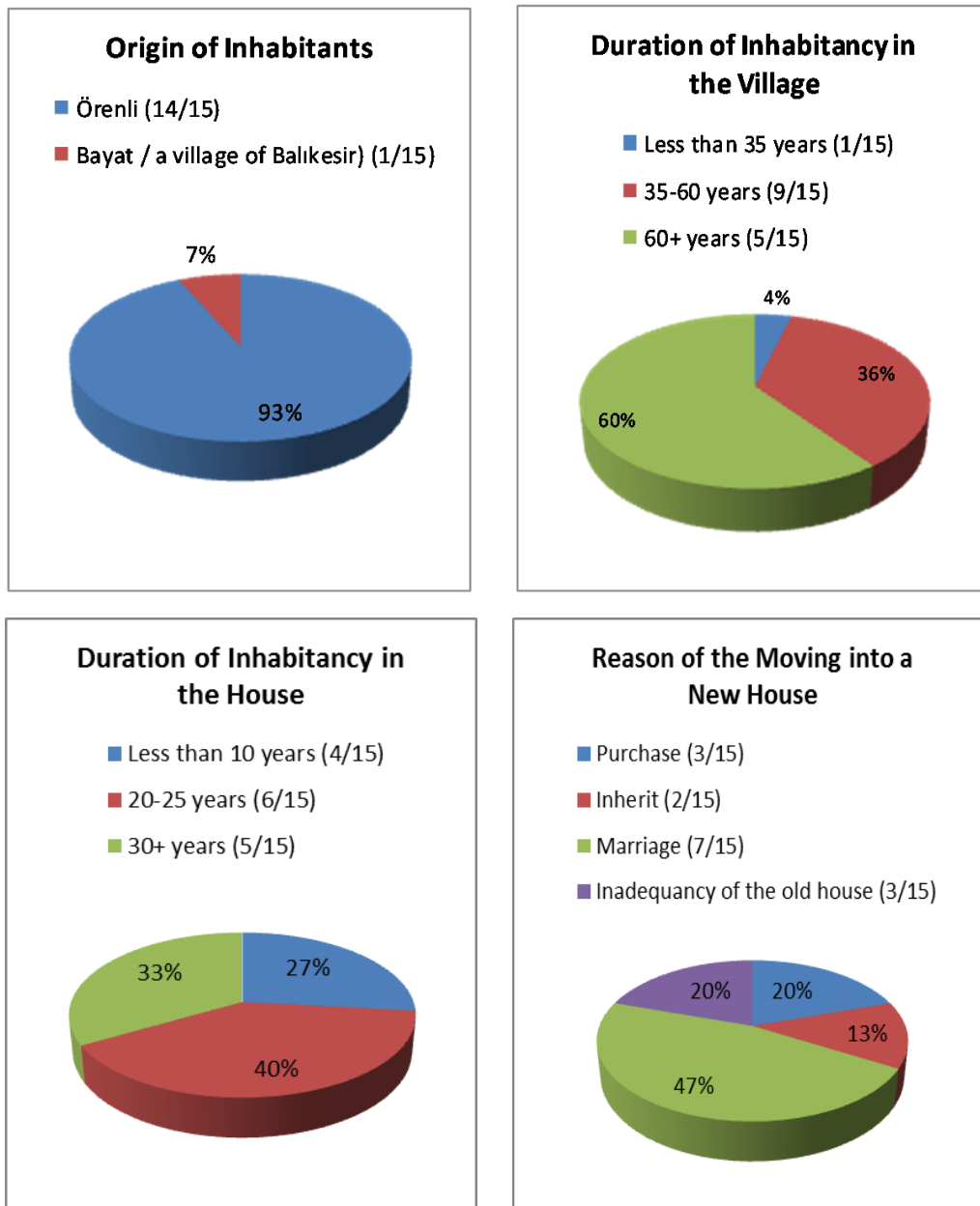


**Figure 50. b) Demographic aspects of the site (cont'd)**

There are 1 to 6 inhabitants living in each house. But in general the population of each dwelling unit consists of 3-4 people. Most of the people in the village are middle aged or young, and the male/female ratio is nearly equal.

Educational level is of primary school in general but there are also 5 people graduated from high school and 3 people graduated from university. The children at primary school age are going to school in another village Serçeören. And teenagers go to high school in Balıkesir or Kemalpaşa, Bursa.

- **Inhabitancy:** Origin and the duration of inhabitancy in the village were analyzed to understand the relation between the residents and the village. If they moved into this village from another place; the reason of the migration to this village was asked. If they moved into another house in the village, the reason of the changing their home was also asked. Desires of moving into another house and another village were also asked and the residents evaluation about their home and the village was analyzed (**Figure 51**).



**Figure 51. Inhabitancy analysis in the village**

Except for one family, all of them are from Örenli village and have lived there for more than 40 years. The family that was from the other villages is the imam's family and they came here because of his assignment. The inhabitants of the village do not want to move into another village except two families. These two families desire to move because of the job opportunities and both of them want to move into Balıkesir.

Most of the families have lived in their current houses for more than 20 years, and the reason of changing their own house was due to marriage in general. Only three of them moved into another house because their former house collapsed or did not meet their rising needs. All of the families have their own house except the imam's family. Three of the families in the village are not pleased with their current house and want to move into a new and bigger house.

In the social survey analysis, assessment about the village was sought from the inhabitants. They are pleased with the relationship between residents in the village, the nature of the village, and living in one of the oldest villages in Kepsut. On the other hand they are complaining about the lack of income in the village and unproductiveness because of the rocky land.

- **Standard of Living:** The residents' sources of income, land, vehicle, electronic equipment ownership were also analyzed. Also the adequacy of the spaces for their needs is examined. The questions were about the space for their animals, for storing food for their own and for their animals, and for storing wood. The adequacy of wet spaces and desired repairs and changes were analyzed according to residents' answers.

Most of the people in the village are farmers or they live through animal breeding. There is one imam, one headman, one owner of the coffeehouse, one driver and one teacher in the village. Others live through farming. 8 of the 15 families have animals and they breed them in the barn at the courtyard or in *mağaza* on the ground floor of their houses.

In order to understand the standard of living; ownership of some electronic equipment was analyzed among 15 families. Unless they don't have one of the electronic equipment; their tendencies to own this equipment were asked. Ownership of a television, dishwasher, washing machine, fridge, oven or computer was examined and asked if they wanted to buy one of them (**Table 9**). This analysis was applied to people living in traditional houses.

**Table 9. Assessment of the Ownership of Comfort Items and Tendency to Have One of the Electronic Equipments**

Ownership of electrical equipments		Tendency on the Ownership of elc. equipments	
TV	10	TV	2
Dishwasher	0	Dishwasher	7
Washing Machine	7	Washing Machine	4
Fridge	10	Fridge	0
Oven	3	Oven	4
Computer	1	Computer	0

The inhabitants made some general assessments about their current houses. They were pleased with the heating in the house and like the panoramic views from the houses. On the other hand they complained about dampness, location of the WC (out of the house), inadequacy of the kitchen, lack of water installation, oldness and smallness of the house and problems with the chimneys. Only three of them are not pleased with their current bath and WC. All of the houses use the original *gusülhanes* even though they have additional bath space.

There are some desired repairs to the house. These are:

- Addition of WC and bath spaces inside the house rather than the current WC in the courtyard (4/15 people).
- Addition of kitchen inside the house (3/15 people).
- Repair of roof (2/15 people).
- Repair of windows, plasters or ceilings (2/15 people).
- Repairs at the courtyard (1/15 people).

### **3.7. INTERVENTIONS**

The inhabitants are changing their environments due to the changing lifestyles and new needs. The interventions done are classified in two groups, interventions in environmental scale and interventions related to the houses.

### 3.7.1. INTERVENTIONS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCALE

Due to the changes in village's lifestyle, new needs occur and there are some changes in the open areas and the public buildings. Streets are unpaved in general except for a few streets. The path between the mosque and the coffee-house are paved by paving stone. The school in the village and the fountains are not used anymore. The former coffee-house that was used as *muhtarlık* and coffee is abandoned and instead a new building was constructed with reinforced concrete (Figure 52).



(a)



(b)

**Figure 52. a) Unused coffee-house, b) New coffee house used today.**



### 3.7.2. INTERVENTIONS RELATED TO THE HOUSES

Most of the houses are constructed with local stone material but today new buildings and repaired parts of the traditional buildings are constructed with reinforced concrete, brick or briquette. Due to rising needs, the barns in the courtyards are enlarged (**Figure 53a**) or they construct WC instead of the old ones (**Figure 53b**). These are constructed with brick masonry and plastered with cement. Also destroyed walls are repaired with brick or briquette (**Figure 53c**). They use cement mortar and plaster instead of the mud mortar that has been used for years. Also stone entrance stairs of the houses are covered with concrete (**Figure 53d**).



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

**Figure 53. Interventions done to the houses a) Enlarged barn, b) WC addition, c) Repair of the demolished wall, d) Cement cover on the stone stairs**



Also there are some interventions in terms of space addition or division of the spaces to create additional rooms. There are 5 kinds of space **(Figure 54)** requirement and they are added to the traditional houses as follows:

- Wet Spaces (Kitchen – Bathroom – WC): The most common type of intervention is addition of the wet spaces to the houses. Required spaces are integrated to the traditional house by a separate space next to the house, room or *sofa* division and alteration of one room.
- Storage: To store the foods or their stuff a room is divided or a space is constructed next to the house.
- Entrance Hall: In a few cases there is a space addition at the entrance of the house to create an entrance hall.
- Stable: In one house there is a space addition next to the house for stable.
- Room: In one house there is a space addition next to the house for an additional room.



CONSERVATION IN RURAL AREAS, CASE STUDY: ÖRENLİ VILLAGE IN KEPSUT, BALIKESİR  
SPACE ADDITIONS TO TRADITIONAL HOUSES

PLAN TYPE	ADDITIONS							CURRENT SITUATION
	Room	Stable	Entrance Hall	Kitchen	Bathroom	WC	Storage	
								<b>Fatma Aras House</b> 
								<b>Erdoğan Akın House</b> 
								<b>House Studied By MSGSU</b> 
								<b>İbrahim Sarı House</b> 
								<b>Feride İlter House</b> 
								<b>İlyas Akbaş House</b> 

Figure 54.a) Space Additions to Traditional House



CONSERVATION IN RURAL AREAS, CASE STUDY: ÖRENLİ VILLAGE IN KEPSUT, BALIKESİR  
SPACE ADDITIONS TO TRADITIONAL HOUSES

PLAN TYPE	ADDITIONS							CURRENT SITUATION
	Room	Stable	Entrance Hall	Kitchen	Bathroom	WC	Storage	
								Dursun İter House 
								Emine Ceyhan House 
								House Studied By MSGSU 
								House Studied By MSGSU 
								Bingül Abak House 
								Hasbiye Akboğa House 
								Bedriye Sözeri House 

Figure 54.b) Space Additions to Traditional Houses (cont'd)

## CHAPTER 4

### EVALUATION

The rural areas have been formed according to the local people's needs and villages faced with the destructive effects of modernization, industrialization or urbanization later than the cities. In recent years, the people living in the cities tended to settle in the villages so tourism and urbanization became threats for the rural settlements. Also the development of communication and transportation tools and the daily trends affected the lifestyle in rural areas. On the other hand rural areas are not defined within the context of Turkish conservative legislation and this huge heritage of our country is left to be destroyed, in order to meet today's needs for architectural heritage to be transformed without harmony, and therefore our rural settlements are losing their identities.

Örenli has been a settlement for many years and during the years the inhabitants created their own environments and made interventions due to the changing life styles. Örenli, fortunately, has not been exposed to destructive effects and it has been conserved by the inhabitants for many years. Isolation from the city center and the difficulty of transportation from town and the other villages ensured the continuity of the village in terms of architectural features and social life. The topography and distant location of the village from the city center are also advantages for conserving its identity. Besides, the village's owners have created their own environment and if needed, they developed the village with the continuity of their knowledge and traditions.

Rural settlements are living environments and conservation come true parallel to the sustainability. Rural heritage has been created and conserved through the years by using and developing the settlement. Despite the concrete monumental heritage, rural areas are alive and dynamic places, so the conservation problems in the rural

areas have to be considered with a human factor, traditions, living conditions, the inhabitants' future demands, etc.

Sustainability is defined by Oktay as "the way of thinking about one's relationship to the natural world in the context of time". In addition Oktay indicates that "Traditional planning and building methods were often good examples of sustainable design in their time and represented good uses of local sources matched with local skills" (OKTAY, 2001). Therefore local skills, local materials, building methods are linked together to build up the rural heritage, and for conserving the rural heritage the relationship between the inhabitants / the village's owners and the rural settlement has to be understood.

The evaluation of the village is held parallel to the conserved and changed components of the rural heritage, changing lifestyle and its effects on the settlement and therefore values and problems of the current situation of the rural heritage. The changes in the village, the continuity of traditions and lifestyle were studied in order to understand how the village is conserved and developed from past to the present. The reasons of the interventions and conserved features were analyzed to explore the dynamics of the continuum of the rural heritage. Evaluation is classified in three sections; environmental, architectural and cultural aspects.

#### **4.1. ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES AND RURAL PATTERN**

Örenli village is located on a mountain and the only connection with the town center is provided by a curvy, sloped mountain road. This characteristic of the village lead to the unique pattern of the village. There is a stone quarry at the entrance of the village, so from past to present they used the stone material in many ways in the village. The landscape of the village is so unique with trees, rocky land and stone houses. There is harmony between all natural and architectural features in the village in terms of material, color and shape (**Figure 55**)

The organization of the open areas in the village is a result of the topography. There are paths and gateways between the courtyards constructed with stone. In addition

there are terraces at the courtyard as a result of the inclined land. At the level differences there are stone stairs that was created with the stone blocks (Figure 56)



**Figure 55. Harmony between the natural and built environment  
(Photo taken by Fuat Gökçe)**



**Figure 56. Terraces at the courtyard.**



The rural pattern of the village consists of the harmony and the continuity of the using the same stone in different locations and for different purposes. Streets are unpaved in general and bordered with stone retaining walls that are constructed with dry wall technique. Rocky land constitutes a pattern on the streets and open areas. Buildings, rocks and streets integrate each other and create a landscape property peculiar to Örenli village (**Figure 57**)



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

**Figure 57. a) Facade of a traditional house, b) Street formation on the rocky land, c) House on the rocks, d) Harmony of the house and retaining walls (photo taken by Fuat Gökçe)**



There was a river in the village but it dried up years ago. So the agricultural facilities were affected and only dry farming continues today. In addition there are gardens in the courtyards for the families' own needs and they use plants for shading in the garden.

The streets, squares and publicly used buildings are the spaces that the inhabitants get together in. Streets and pathways consist of earth and the current rocky land but in a limited area they are paved (**Figure 58**). The inhabitants paved some streets on their own, to create a dry path between the mosque and the coffee house.



**Figure 58. Streets in the village**

There are some publicly used buildings in the village. The school of the village is abandoned and is not used anymore. The children of the village go to the school in the nearby village. The former coffee house is also not used today. Instead, a new one is constructed by reinforced concrete. There is a gateway under the coffee house and reached by the courtyard. There was a *bakkal* at the ground floor and first floor was used as *köy konağı* / coffee-house. Entrance to the coffee-house on the first floor is provided at the side façade and there is a terrace at the entrance of the coffee-house (**Figure 59**).

The place where the former coffee-house is located was a square at the past. But as a result of the condemnation of the fountain and the coffee-house, this square has lost its function. The new coffee-house and *muhtarlık* building constructed at a square nearer to the entrance of the village (**Figure 60**)



**Figure 59. Photos of the former coffee-house and the square**



**Figure 60. New *muhtarlık* and coffee house**

There are some stone ovens in some of the courtyards. Baking bread is a shared activity and it is still going on. Stone ovens have architectural value and also they are representations of the continuing lifestyle. The oven, with its construction style, material and shape, is a unique building. There is no chimney and the ventilation is provided by some holes on the facades.

On the other hand ovens represent rural identity and lifestyle. When the inhabitants fire up the oven, other neighbors also get together. They bake bread together and it is a social activity as well. There is a stone block next to the oven and it is used as sitting bench. Moreover in some cases, there is a sitting corner nearby the oven **(Figure 61)**



(a)



(b)

**Figure 61.a) Stone oven and the stone sitting bench, b) Nearby the oven, people sit and talk to each other.**

*Ambars* are also characteristic buildings in the village. They are constructed with timber masonry and there are some separators made with timber inside. They are still in use and the villagers store their food in the separate sections inside the *ambar*. There are also storage sections (that are also called *ambar*) located next to the house or inside the house **(Figure 62)**. Some rooms are used as storage and there are *ambars* in that room for storing grain in it. These *ambars* are conserved and have been used for many years. Today it also meets the storing needs of the village residents.

Most life in the village takes place in the courtyard so they prefer a WC in the courtyard. They build a brick WC near to the house or separately in the courtyard. All of the houses have WC in the courtyards even though they have one inside the house. There are separate stables and haylofts nearly all of the houses. In some cases



they are enlarged with brick due to the new needs but old ones are still in use (Figure 63).



Figure 62. *Ambars* located separately and inside the house.



Figure 63. WC and stable addition at the courtyard of Hasbiye Akboğa House

#### 4.2. HOUSES

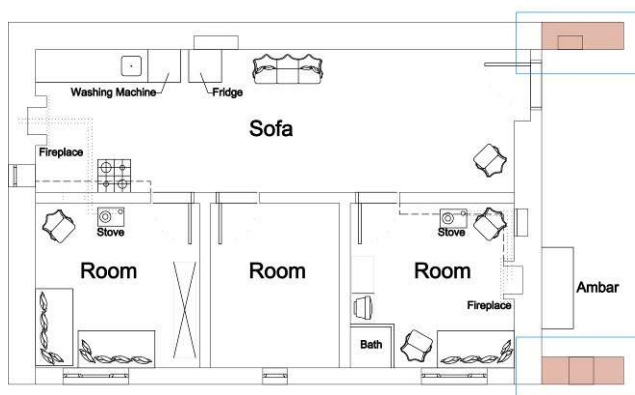
A rural house is both a building and a social structure that act as a witness to changing conditions. Oktay mentions that "Housing act as a container of changing

circumstances, where individuals and groups play an important role in the creation of their habitats, and at the same time it provides opportunities for long term flexibility and adaptability” (OKTAY, 2001). The conserved and changed features related to lifestyle can be observed from the rural houses.

Bernard KAYSER states that “The home is in itself an instrument of transformation, an active element in processes of change” (KAYSER, 1987) and he indicates that the changing (not only deteriorating) process in rural settlements can be easily observed from rural housing. The house and its nearby environment that the daily activities take place, reflect the continuing lifestyle.

In the village, nearly all of the houses are constructed with stone masonry and this gives identity to the village. Most of the houses in the village are conserved but due to new needs, there are some interventions to the traditional houses. Some of the interventions are done with the local stone (**Figure 64**).

But in general collapsed or deteriorated parts of the houses are repaired with brick,etc. although the stone can easily be provided from the village (**Figure 65**). The pattern regarding nature is under the threat of today’s destructive effects. Additions to the traditional houses are also not in harmony with the building tradition and the rural identity of the village.



**Figure 64. Stone wall addition at Dursun İlter House**





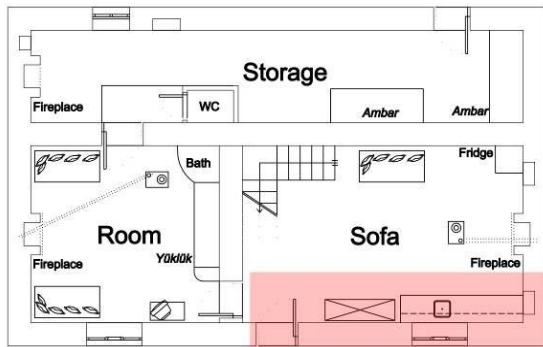
(a)



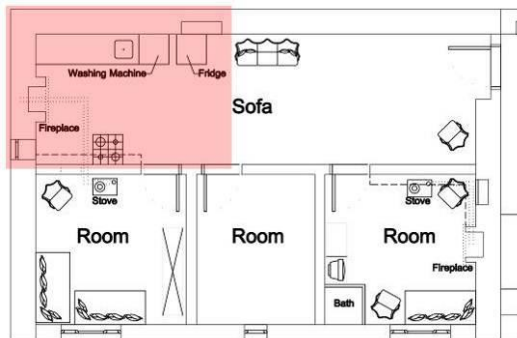
(b)

**Figure 65. Repairs of traditional houses with new materials.**

There are some space requirements in the houses due to rising needs. Most common of them are wet spaces, kitchen and storage. One part of the *sofa* is used as a kitchen in general . Kitchen top is located at one side of the *sofa* and oven, fridge, required storage sections are located here. Chimney of the fireplace at the *sofa* is also used for the stove that is used both heating and cooking in the kitchen (Figure 66).



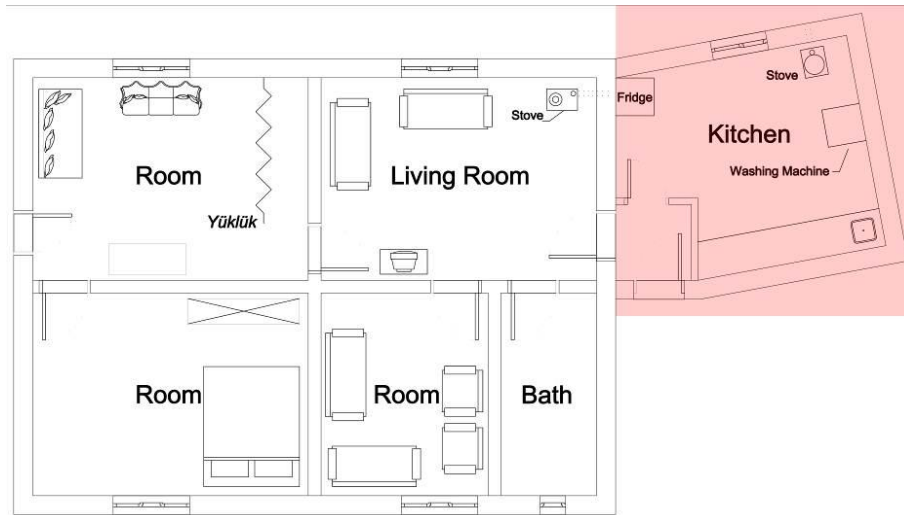
(a)



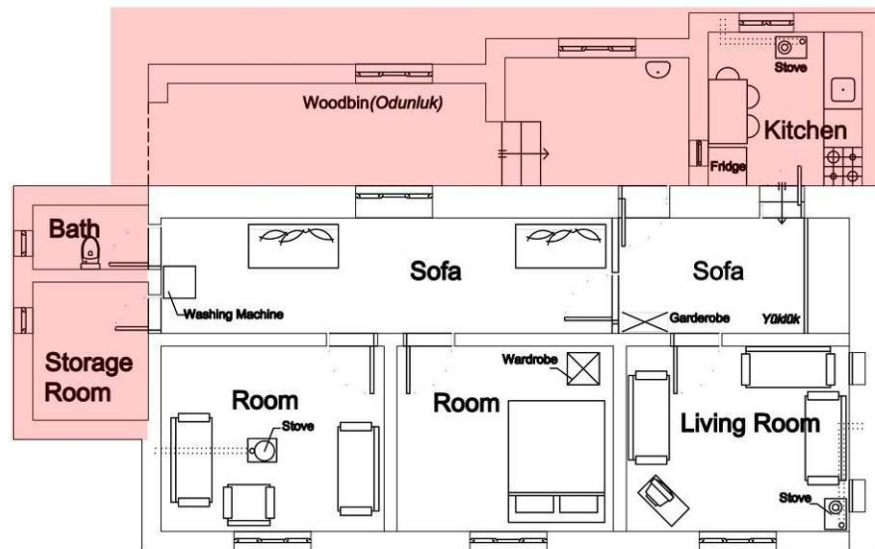
(b)

**Figure 66. Kitchen usage at some part of the *sofa* a) Fadime Avcı House, b) Dursun İlder House**

In some cases there are additional spaces for a kitchen, bathroom or storage area near the house (Figure 67). These are all constructed with brick and not in harmony with traditional houses. Some rooms are also used as storage spaces in some houses.



(a)



(b)

Figure 67. Space additions to the houses a) Hasbiye Akboğa House, b) Emine Ceyhan House

The original architectural elements in the traditional houses are mostly conserved. The fireplaces in the traditional houses are not used anymore except for a few examples. But they do not demolish them and instead of the fireplace they use a stove (*kuzine*) on the location of the original fireplace. They do not use the fireplace

but they use the chimney of it (**Figure 68**). They prefer *kuzine* for both cooking and heating. They cook their meals here even though they have a separate kitchen. Moreover, in new houses they still use *kuzine* in their kitchen and living rooms. In fact they did not leave their former living conditions although they move into a new house. They dry their clothes and they always have hot water on the stove that they need during the day.



(a)



(b)

**Figure 68. Fireplaces and stoves in the traditional houses**



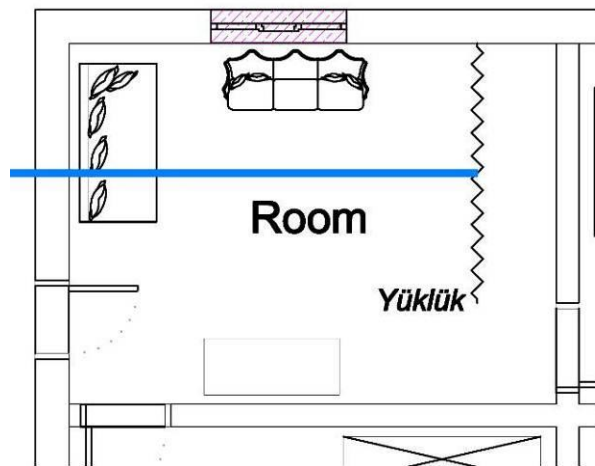
The inhabitants use all of the current bath spaces in the houses even though they have a separate bath space. *Yüklük* in the rooms are also used but in some houses *yüklüks* are removed. Instead they use a curtain for a separator element or a wall to wall cupboard (*vitrin*) is used in the room. They also hang their things and use one side of the room as *yüklük* (**Figure 69**).



(a)



(b)



(c)

**Figure 69. Solutions for the need of *yüklük*.**



In repaired or even in new houses there are traces of the sustainability of the architectural and social features. But only one house is really different from the other houses in the village (**Figure 70**). Because it was constructed by a person who came abroad and the house is used seasonally. The village met a different type of house by this new building and the evaluation of the building by the inhabitants is as a “modern house”.



**Figure 70. New house in the village**

There are four common plan types as mentioned before and types of interventions were analyzed in the previous chapter. Plan organization of new houses are very similar to the original plan type with interventions. They used to live in a house with a *sofa* where most of the activities took place. They integrated the wet spaces at the sides of the *sofa*. When they build a new house they sustained their former lifestyle and organized their living environment with the knowledge and traditions that they have learned before.

Üzeyir Akgün house is one of the studied new houses. The family left their old demolished house and built a new house nearer to the entrance of the village. They

have a courtyard and in the courtyard they have a stone oven. The courtyard walls are also constructed with local stone in dry wall technique (**Figure 71**) Facade proportions are also similar to the traditional houses.



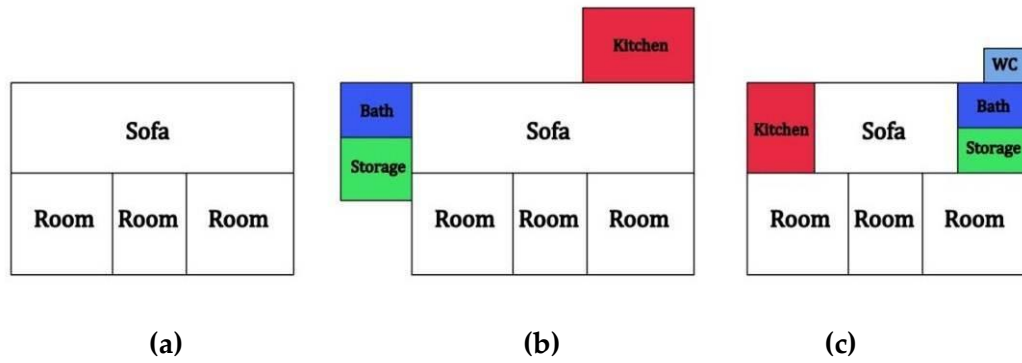
(a)



(b)

**Figure 71.a) Stone oven in the courtyard, b) Courtyard walls constructed with local stone**

In this house, the ground floor is constructed with stone masonry and used as *mağaza* like in the traditional houses. Plan of the house is like a continuum of the other traditional houses in the village (**Figure 72**).



**Figure 72. Plan of the Üzeyir Akgün House a) traditional house, b) traditional house with interventions, c) new house**

They constructed one type of the traditional house and then divided *sofa* for needed spaces. The wet spaces are also integrated with the house like previous interventions. In traditional houses, the WC is located in the courtyard or next to the house and it was reached outside. The WC in this house is added beside the entrance and located outside of the house on the first floor. In addition, the installation of the WC was added later and can be seen at the facade of the house (**Figure 73**). The tradition of construction is still continuing but only the living floor of the house is constructed with reinforced concrete.

Other studied new houses are, the houses of the imam and village headman. Plan of these houses are also the transformation of a plan type that is commonly used in the village. *Sofa* is located in the middle and the rooms are reached from the *sofa*. Most of the activities take place in the *sofa*. Especially in winter they use a *kuzine* in the *sofa* for cooking and they eat together in the *sofa* (**Figure 74**).





Figure 73. Location of the WC in a new house.



Figure 74. *Sofa* of the new house of the village headman.

Both plans of the houses of the village headman and imam are transformed from a traditional plan type. Addition of the wet spaces are designed whereas the types of interventions at the original plan type. They transformed a room into a kitchen and the new plan type is also designed like that (Figure 75).

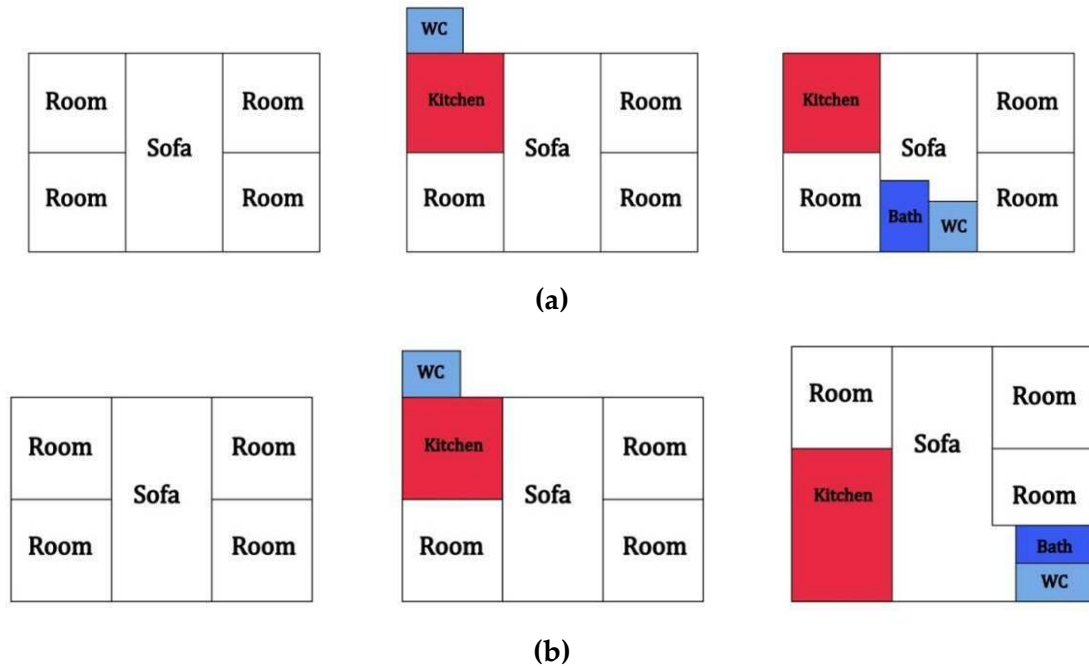


Figure 75.a) Plan of the new house of the village headman, b) Plan of the imam's house.

### 4.3. SOCIAL LIFE

Örenli is a village that has a population pattern consisting of *manav* people in general. Except for a few people, in the village all of the inhabitants have been living here for many years. They all know each other and the village is a "living" settlement. Relationships and neighborliness between the inhabitants is very strong, they get together at the coffee-house, they visit the mosque together and the women bake bread or meals and eat together (Figure 76). Streets and courtyards are also lively places. They get together on the streets and in courtyards.



Moreover, they organize a festival for *hudrellez* and they invite the people from other villages. This tradition has continued for many years, they cook meals peculiar to the village and they share them with all the people coming to the village. They pray together for rain after the meal.



**Figure 76. Baking bread as a shared activity**

There are inhabitants from all ages. Children go to the neighboring village for primary school. For high school and university they go to Balıkesir or Bursa in general. There are no job opportunities in the village and the younger people in the village go to Kepsut or Balıkesir for work. Elders of the village spend their time in the village by breeding animals, baking bread or talking to each other (**Figure 77**).

Agriculture is not very profitable production type today because of the characteristics of the soil and the lack of water sources. But they do animal breeding and nearly all of the people have animals. Agriculture is done in a limited way; in

the gardens they store food for the winter. They use some local cups to weigh agricultural products. An *urup* has a capacity of 5 liters and it is used to weigh grain. It is also a local movable property in the village (**Figure 78**).



**Figure 77.** Daily life in the village



**(a)**



**(b)**



**(c)**

**Figure 78.**a) Dried vegetables outside the house, b) *Urup* as a weigh cup

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this thesis, conducted through of a case study in Örenli Village in Kepsut, Balıkesir; it is aimed to explore how the rural heritage has been created in accordance with the physical factors, and how it is developed according to the changing conditions and new demands. With this purpose, the lost and ongoing values of the village are explored in the light of the term sustainability. The evaluation was conducted in three ways; environmental scale, building scale and social aspects. These are held together to understand the method that the inhabitants created to integrate the traditions with today's needs. In the light of this information, decisions related to the three scales of the evaluation are taken.

By analyzing the main approaches and current legislations both around the world and Turkey; it is clear that the rural heritage is paid less attention to in Turkey, despite its geographical vastness. Also, the current legislation in Turkey is so inadequate and is not directly related to the rural areas. Every rural settlement has its own values and every settlement is local. In addition, rural areas are living places, and they sustain their life due to their lifestyles. But unfortunately contrary to regulations around the world, there is no local approach in Turkey.

Legislations are prepared according to standard rules and without considering the lifestyles. But in rural areas life still continues and these areas are also changing due to the needs and people's choices.

Legislation in Turkey does not meet the requirements of conserving rural heritage because of the lack of the local approaches specific to the rural areas. The

regulations for rural areas have to be generated by the authorities to conserve this heritage.

As a result of the case study; the dynamics of the conservation and changes in this village is attempted to be understood. Problems in the interventions, incompatibility between the local and contemporary styles, and reasons of interventions are analyzed. After understanding the potentials, problems and needs of the village, some recommendations are proposed for Örenli village related to environmental features and houses. Then general principles for the conservation of the rural heritage are recommended for the further studies.

### **5.1. PRINCIPLES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ÖRENLI VILLAGE**

Örenli village is mostly conserved in terms of rural pattern, architectural characteristics and life style. But in recent years there are some changes in the rural pattern due to the changing requirements. Conserved and non-conserved values of the rural heritage in the village are analyzed within the concept of this study. And as a result some principles are taken regarding the continuity of the pattern, housing and social life.

#### **Environmental Features and Rural Pattern:**

- The stone quarry at the entrance of the village should be financially supported. Therefore the local material can easily and economically be obtained close to the village. Job opportunities would be created as a result of this support.
- Stone retaining walls as a result of the inclined land are one of the properties seen in the rural pattern. As a result of the dry wall technique, water can be drained easily and it is also economic and feasible for Örenli village even today. In addition it is in harmony with the topography and rural pattern of the village. It should be conserved and continued with traditional techniques and materials.
- There are some public used buildings in the village that are not used anymore. Former coffee house / *köy konağı* is not used but structurally in a good

condition. It has both architectural and social value where people gather together; therefore the coffee-house should be conserved and reused.

- Stone ovens and *ambars* are still in use and meet today's requirements due to the current lifestyle in the village. In addition they are the properties of rural identity and also they are parts of the village landscape. The continuity of the usage of these buildings should be conserved and the maintenance of the buildings should be done properly.

### **Housing:**

- Local stone material is the main factor on the identity of the village. So continuity of using local material should be provided. Even in new houses stone is used on the ground floor, so the local material is adaptable within the new houses. Maintenance and repairs should be done periodically by the inhabitants and should be supported. Additions, repairs and new constructions should be done with the local stone and in harmony with the existing pattern.

- Inhabitants complain about the inadequacy of the traditional houses in terms of the capacity of the rooms but plan typologies do not change in new buildings as a result of lifestyle. There are additions of wet spaces according to today's needs. Plan typology should be conserved and developed to sustain lifestyle while compromising today's needs.

- There are original architectural elements in the houses like *ambars*, fireplaces and *yüklüks*. *Ambars* and *yüklüks* are still in use but fireplaces are not used anymore. Only the chimney of the fireplace is used for the stove. Today fireplaces do not meet modern requirements but the unused fireplaces should be conserved physically.

## **5.2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR CONSERVING RURAL HERITAGE**

### **- Understanding the process of the "living" rural heritage**

Rural areas are "living" environments and instead of inflexible solutions, providing the sustainability is the way of conserving the rural heritage. It is essential to explore



how the physical environment is constructed with the traditional techniques and materials. The nature of the material and its accessibility is the main factor for sustaining architectural heritage. In addition, today's requirements are also important. Transformation of traditional techniques with today's needs and using the local material with efficient way is important.

**- Recording the rural heritage**

Due to legislations and regulations on conserving architectural heritage, the rural settlements are conserved indirectly as natural, urban or archeological sites. There is no special conservation status for rural areas. In addition, because of its geographical and quantitative vastness, rural heritage is rarely recorded. It is important to record the rural heritage with its natural, architectural and social features. Local authorities and technical personnel working in the towns must be supported by economical and technical ways. Local techniques, building masters and craftsmen should also be recorded for the continuity and conservation of vernacular architecture.

**- Supporting local materials and construction techniques**

Inhabitants have used local material that was a more economic and efficient way of construction. They also used traditional techniques for constructing their environment that they had learned from their ancestors. But the tradition of construction is about to be left from many rural settlements. Because local materials are more expensive than the industrial materials, and there are no masters using traditional techniques anymore.

It is essential to promote the techniques and local materials economically by the government. Also there have to be some courses to educate the building masters and to improve the usage of traditional techniques. These courses may be held by Municipalities, Special Provincial Directorate of Administrations or Provincial Directorates of the Ministries.

Quarries of local materials should be obtained and an inventory should be done for the sources of local materials. Competition of local materials and techniques against the modern ones should be supported by the authorities in order to deal with economic issues. Local materials at the villages may be distributed to the villagers without any charge or for a determined tariff.

**- Regulating current legislations**

Legislation about rural heritage is not the only main device for its sustainability and conservation. But it can be a safeguard for rural heritage. In these living areas; continuity of the traditional fabric and sustainability of vernacular architecture have to be considered. Continuing lifestyle is the most important factor while conserving these areas. Locality and the unique characteristics of rural settlements should be taken in consideration. Local authorities should be improved both in economic and technical ways.

It is compulsory to define cultural heritage for the living areas. There is no definition for rural heritage in the legislations in Turkey. Definition and assessment of "Rural Heritage" should take place in legislations and regulations. But it should not be defined due to the standard rules. Sustainability should be the main framework of the definition of "Rural Heritage" and continuing lifestyle should be considered.

Conserving traditional architecture without compromising today's needs is also an important factor in legal basis. Comfort requirements can be solved with traditional techniques today. But new studies should be done for the disaster resistant houses in rural areas. Especially for the earthquake performance of the traditional houses should be analyzed and considered in new regulations.

**- Community participation**

Inhabitants of a rural settlement are the main actors in the creation of the rural heritage, its conservation and sustainability; and they know the requirements of the

place better than the people outside. So the village community should be supported while integrating tradition with the living conditions and today's needs.

In order to conserve tradition with compromising today's needs, the process and the requirements should be understood and sustainability should be ensured while developing the rural settlements. Maintenance and conservation activities should be held as a shared activity and therefore; raising awareness together with a sense of belonging should also be ensured among the community.

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APPENDIX A

SURVEY SHEETS

Table A1. Rural Housing Survey Sheets

Balıkesir Kepsut Örenli Köyü Kırsal Yapı Envanteri												
Adres:				Fotoğraf No:				Vaziyet Planı:				
Kullanım Durumu:				Sağlamlık Durumu:								
Yapı Türü:		Kat Sayısı:		Altyapı:Elk. <input type="checkbox"/> Su <input type="checkbox"/> Telefon <input type="checkbox"/> Isıtma <input type="checkbox"/>								
Yapım Yılı:		Çatı Sistemi:				Çatı Örtüsü:						
Yapım Sistemi		Dış Duvarlar				İç Duvarlar						
		Bodrum	Zemin	1. Kat	2. Kat	Bodrum	Zemin	1. Kat	2. Kat			
Yapım Tekniği	Yığılma	Taş										
		Ahşap										
		Tuğla										
	Ahşap İskelet	Doğu	Taş									
			Tuğla									
		Kerpiç										
		Bağdadı										
	Bitim Mlz.	Sivasız										
Kerpiç Sıva												
Kireç Sıva												
Çimento Sıva												
Döşeme Sistemi		Yer döşemesi				Tavan döşemesi						
		Bodrum	Zemin	1. Kat	2. Kat	Bodrum	Zemin	1. Kat	2. Kat			
Ahşap												
Taş												
Beton												
Diğer												
Yapılan Müdahaleler			Müdahalenin Niteliği				Kırsal Konut ile Uyumu					
Parsele Yeni Konut Eklenmesi												
İlave Oda Eklenmesi												
Oda İşlevinin Değiştirilmesi												
Islak Hacim Eki (Banyo-wc)												
Mutfak Eki												
Kapı- Pencere Doğ. Değişmesi												
Sıva- Boya												
Detay Çizimleri												



Table A2. Social Survey Sheets

<b>Balıkesir Kepsut Örenli Köyü Sosyal Anket</b>										
<b>Adres:</b>										
NO	Hane Bireyleri	Yaşı	Cinsiyet	Eğitim Düzeyi	Mesleği					
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
<b>Eğitimine devam eden bireylerin okul adı/yeri</b>										
Nerelisiniz? <input type="checkbox"/> Örenli <input type="checkbox"/> Diğer / Aslen nerelisiniz?										
Kaç yıldır bu köyde oturuyorsunuz?		Buraya taşınma sebebiniz nedir?		Başka bir köye taşınmak ister misiniz? Neden?						
Kaç yıldır bu evde oturuyorsunuz?		Ev değiştirme sebebiniz nedir?		Yeni bir eve taşınmak ister misiniz? Neden?						
Evin sahibi misiniz? <input type="checkbox"/> Evet <input type="checkbox"/> Hayır		Evinizden memnun musunuz? <input type="checkbox"/> Evet <input type="checkbox"/> Hayır		Evinizde tadilat yaptırınız mı? <input type="checkbox"/> Evet <input type="checkbox"/> Hayır						
Nasıl bir tadilat yaptınız?			Evinizde yaptırmak istediğiniz başka tadilat var mı?							
Evinizin tarihi ile ilgili bilginiz var mı?			Köyünüzün tarihi ile ilgili bilginiz var mı?							
Hayvanlarınız var mı? Nerede bakıyorsunuz?			Mevcut banyo/wc yeterli mi?							
Kişin ne ile ısınıyorsunuz?		Yakacaklarınızı nerede depoluyorsunuz?		Kışlık yiyeceğinizi nerede depoluyorsunuz?						
Geçim kaynağınız nedir?	Arazi, otomobil sahipliği		Konfor öğeleri	TV	B. Mak	Ç. Mak	Fırın	Bilg.		
	Tarım Arazisi <input type="checkbox"/>	Ev <input type="checkbox"/>	Dükkan <input type="checkbox"/>	Mevcut Durum						
	Otomobil <input type="checkbox"/>	Tarım arac <input type="checkbox"/>	Sahip olma isteği							
Evinizin iyi ve kötü yanları nelerdir?					Köyünüzün iyi ve kötü yanları nelerdir?					

APPENDIX B

SHEETS FOR TRADITIONAL HOUSES

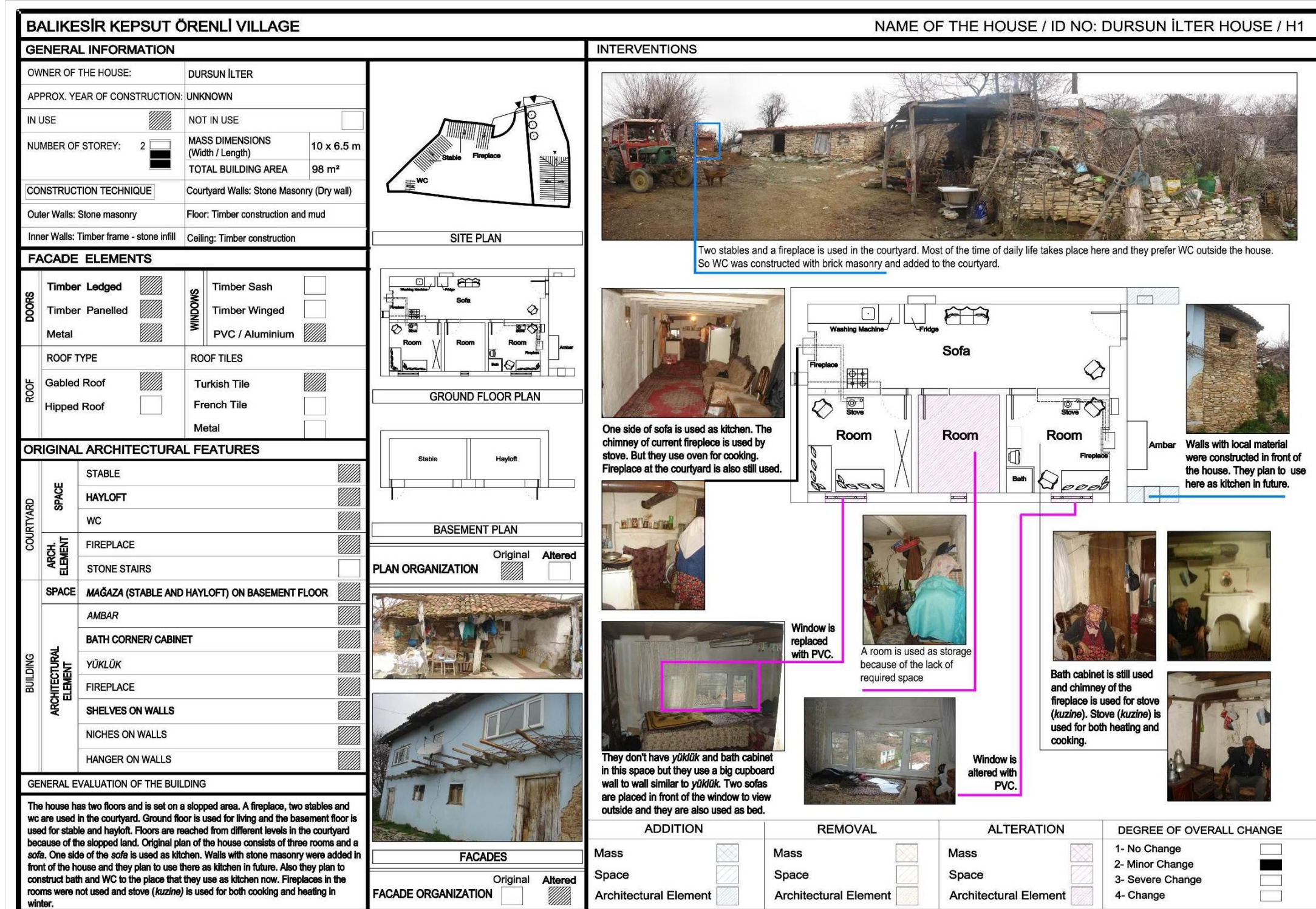


Figure B1. Dursun İlter House



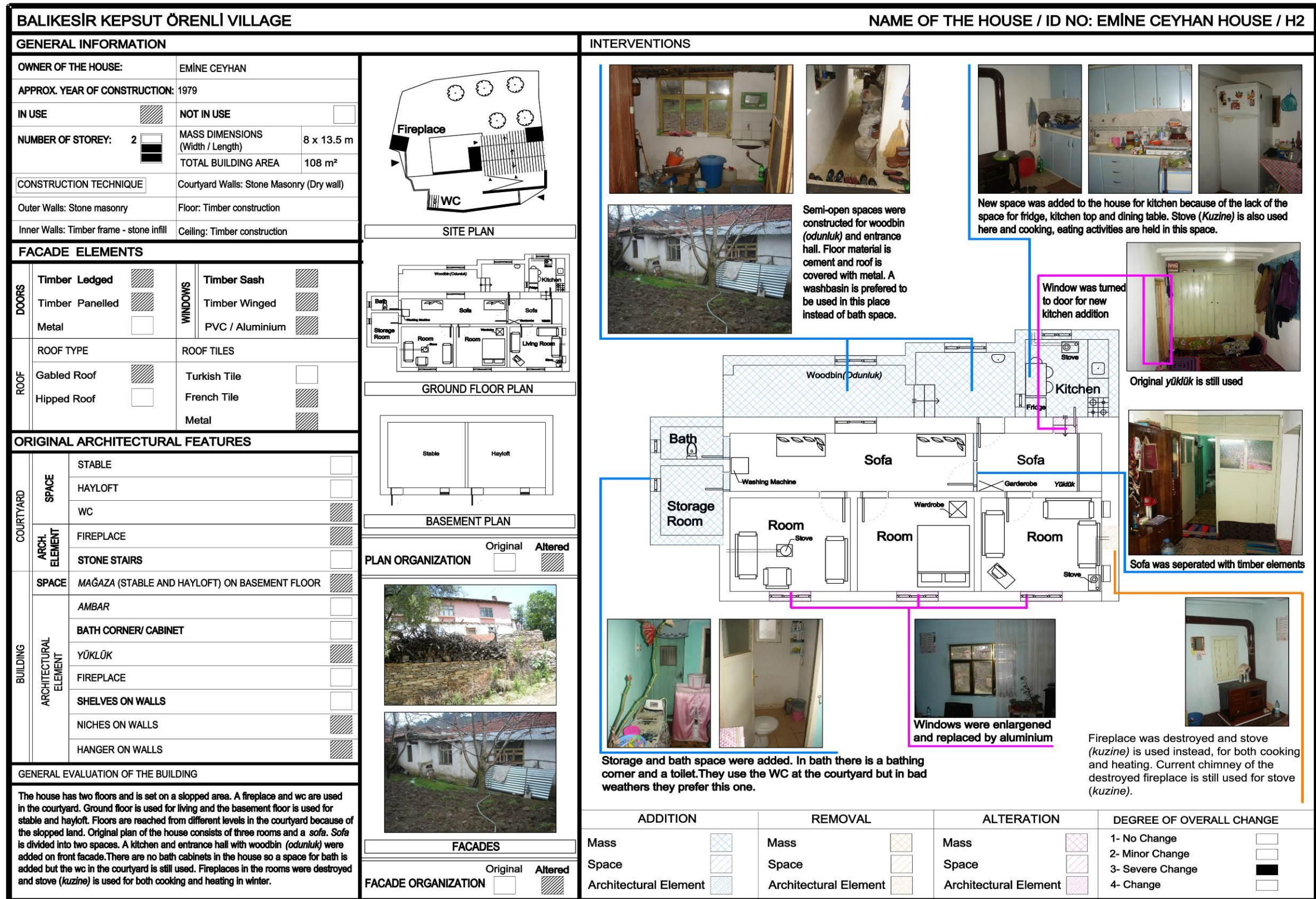


Figure B2. Emine Ceyhan House



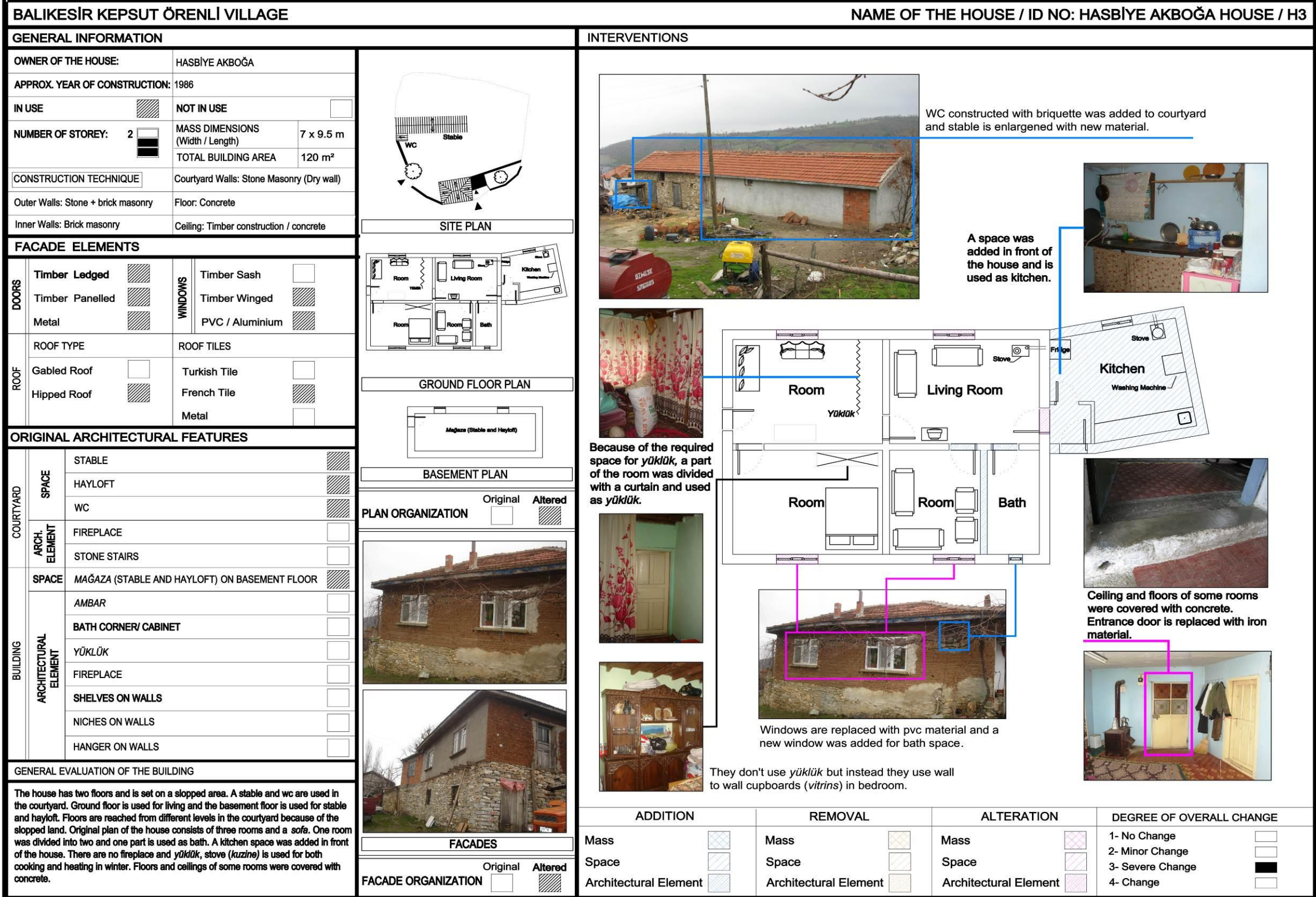


Figure B3. Hasbiye Akboğa House



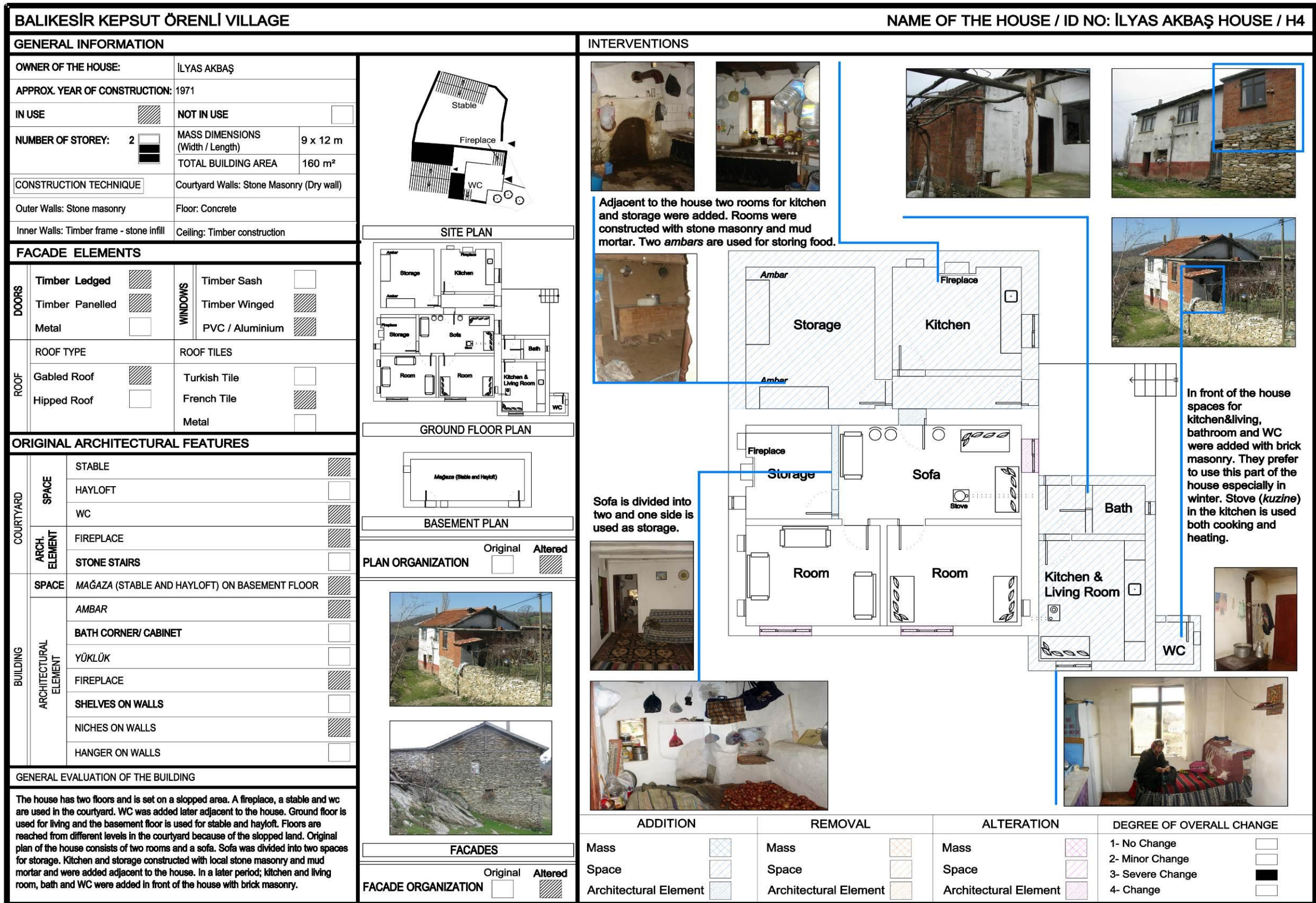


Figure B4. İlyas Akbaş House



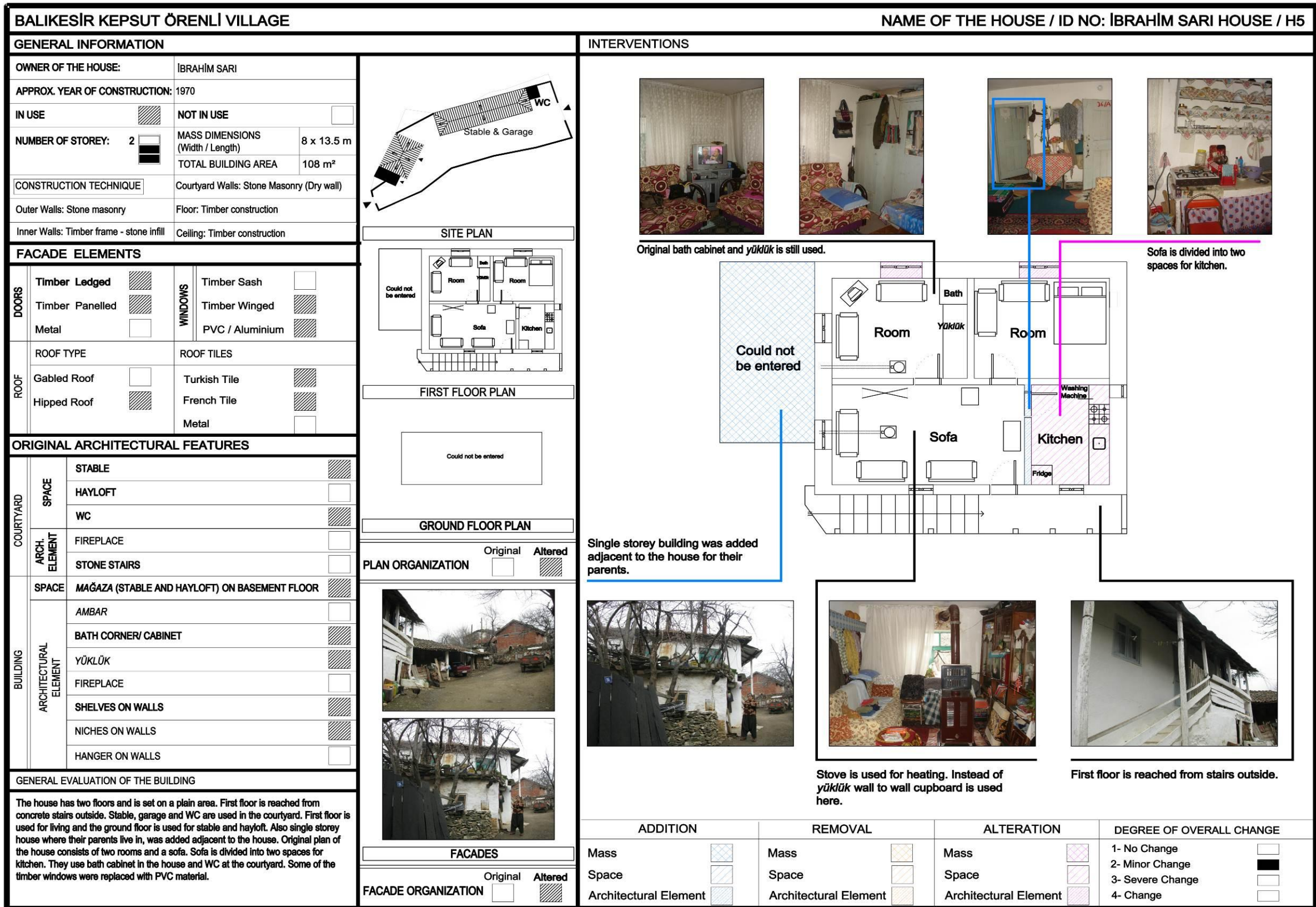


Figure B5. İbrahim Sarı House



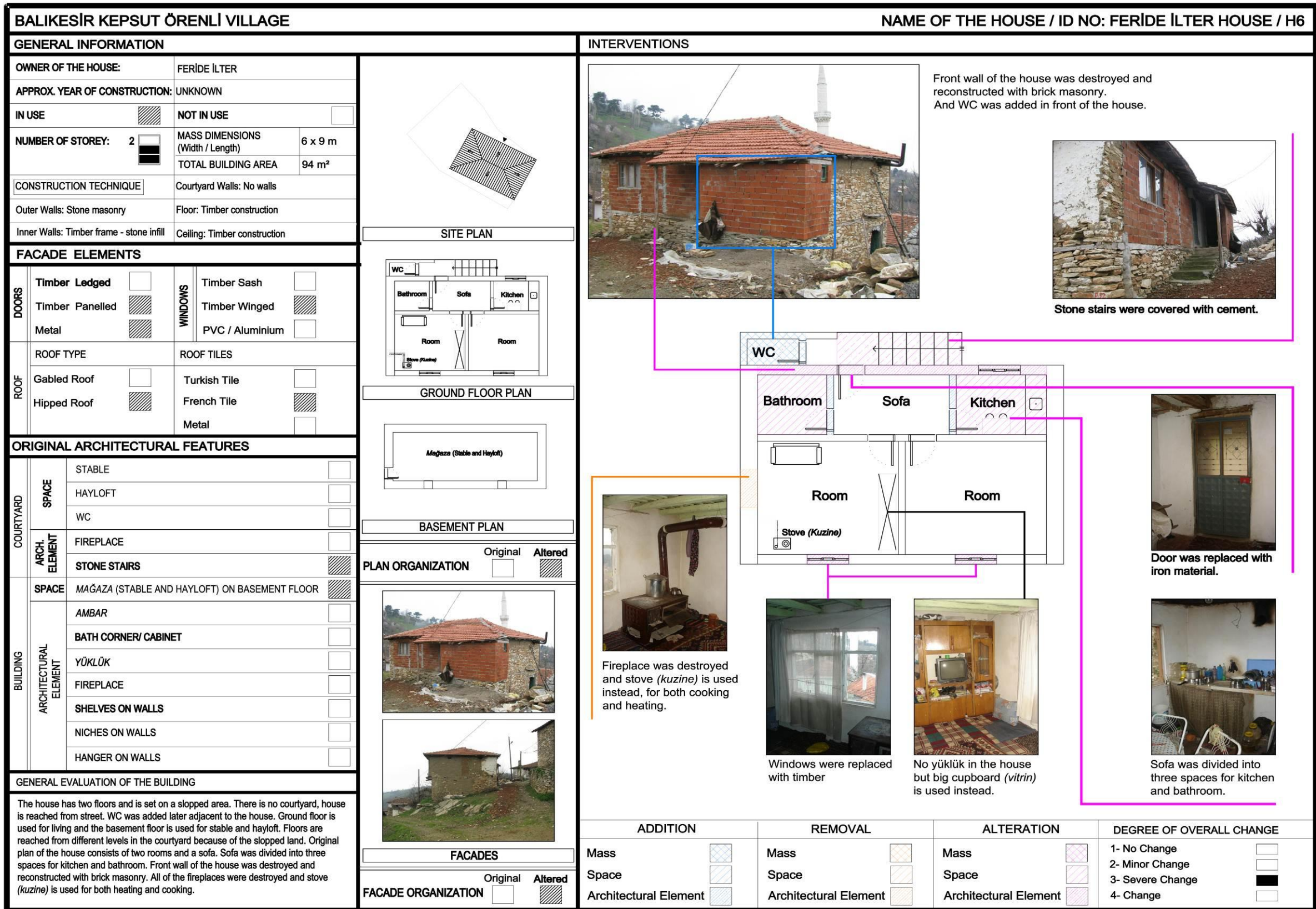


Figure B6. Feride İlter House



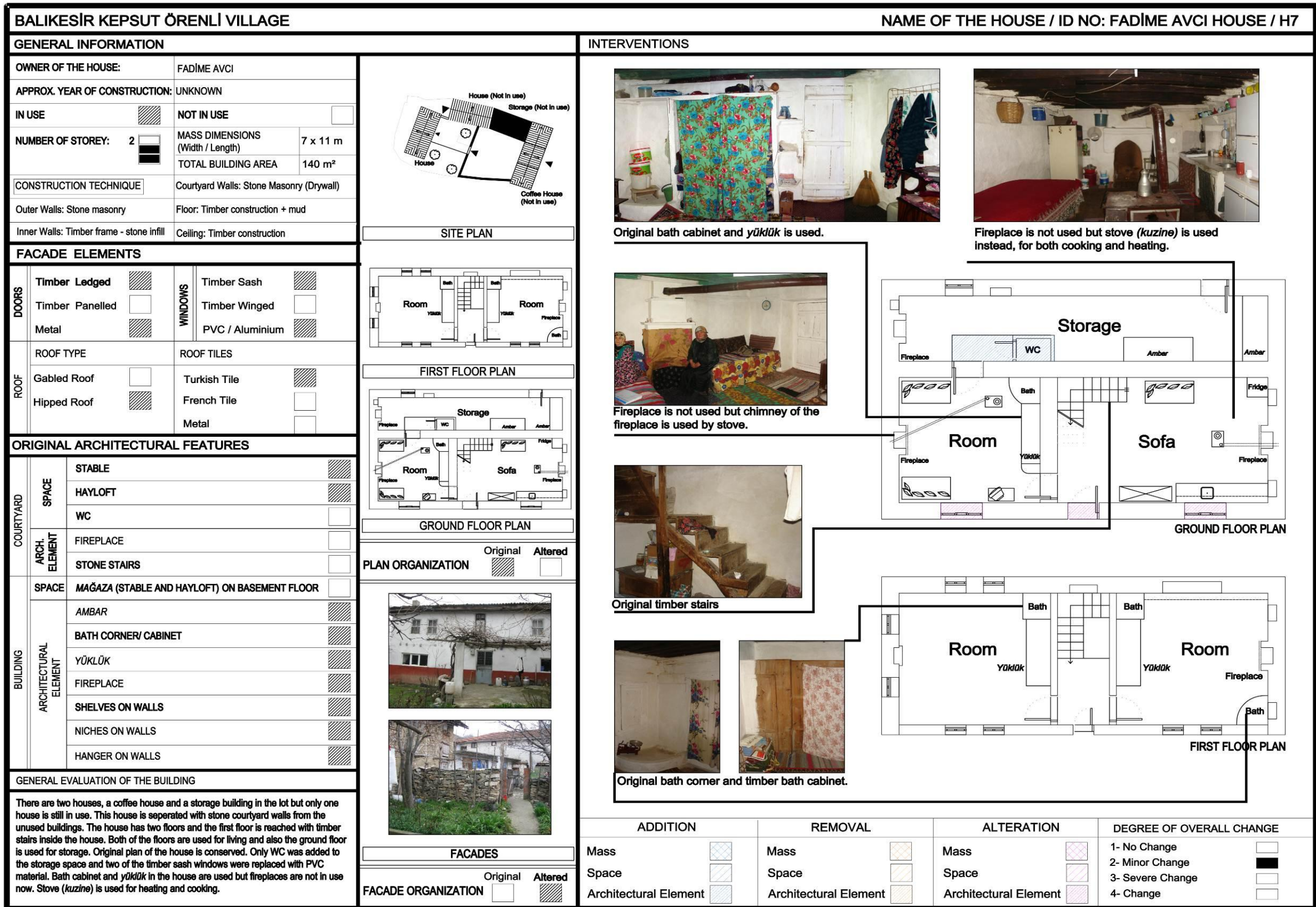


Figure B7. Fadime Avcı House



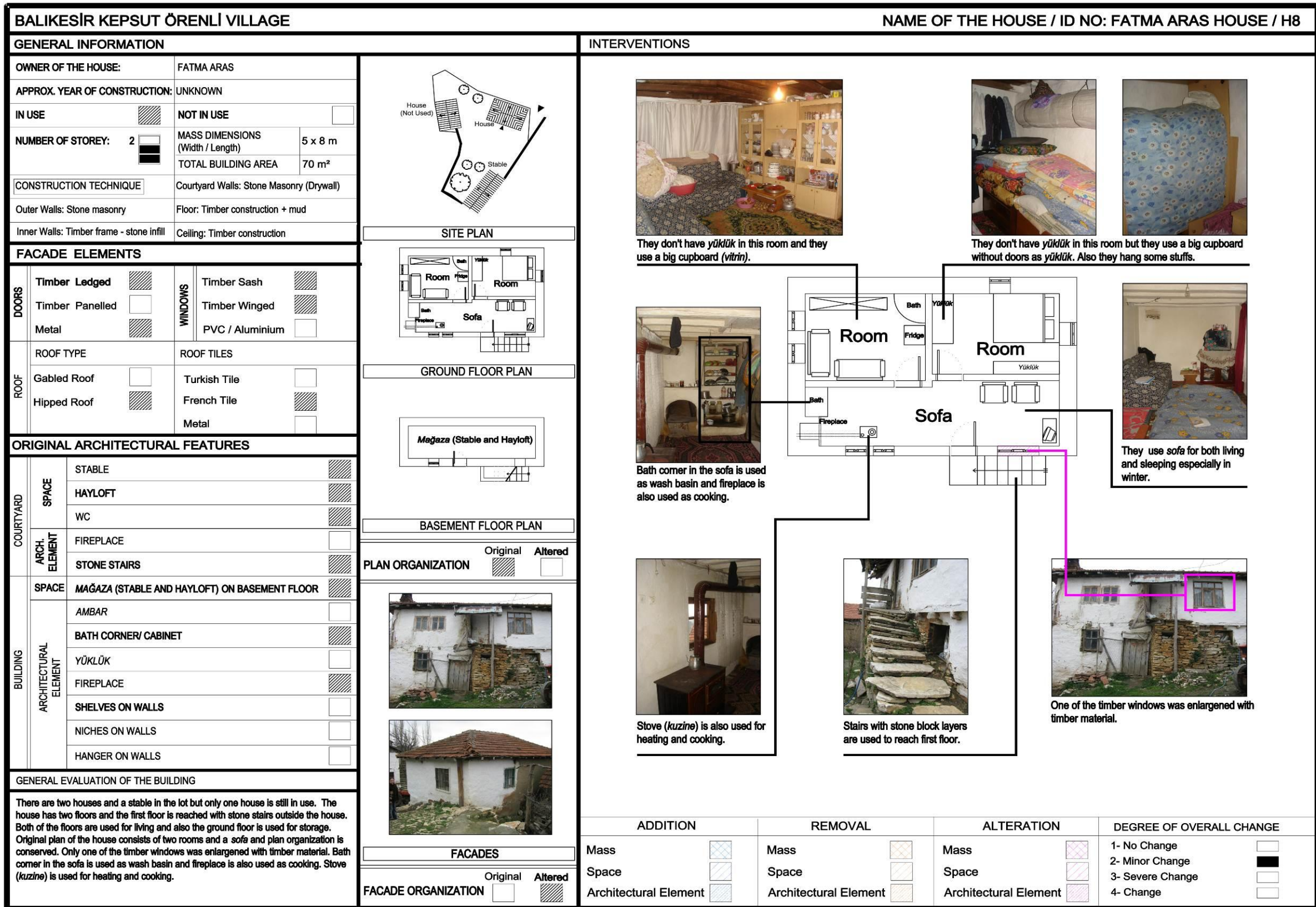


Figure B8. Fatma Aras House







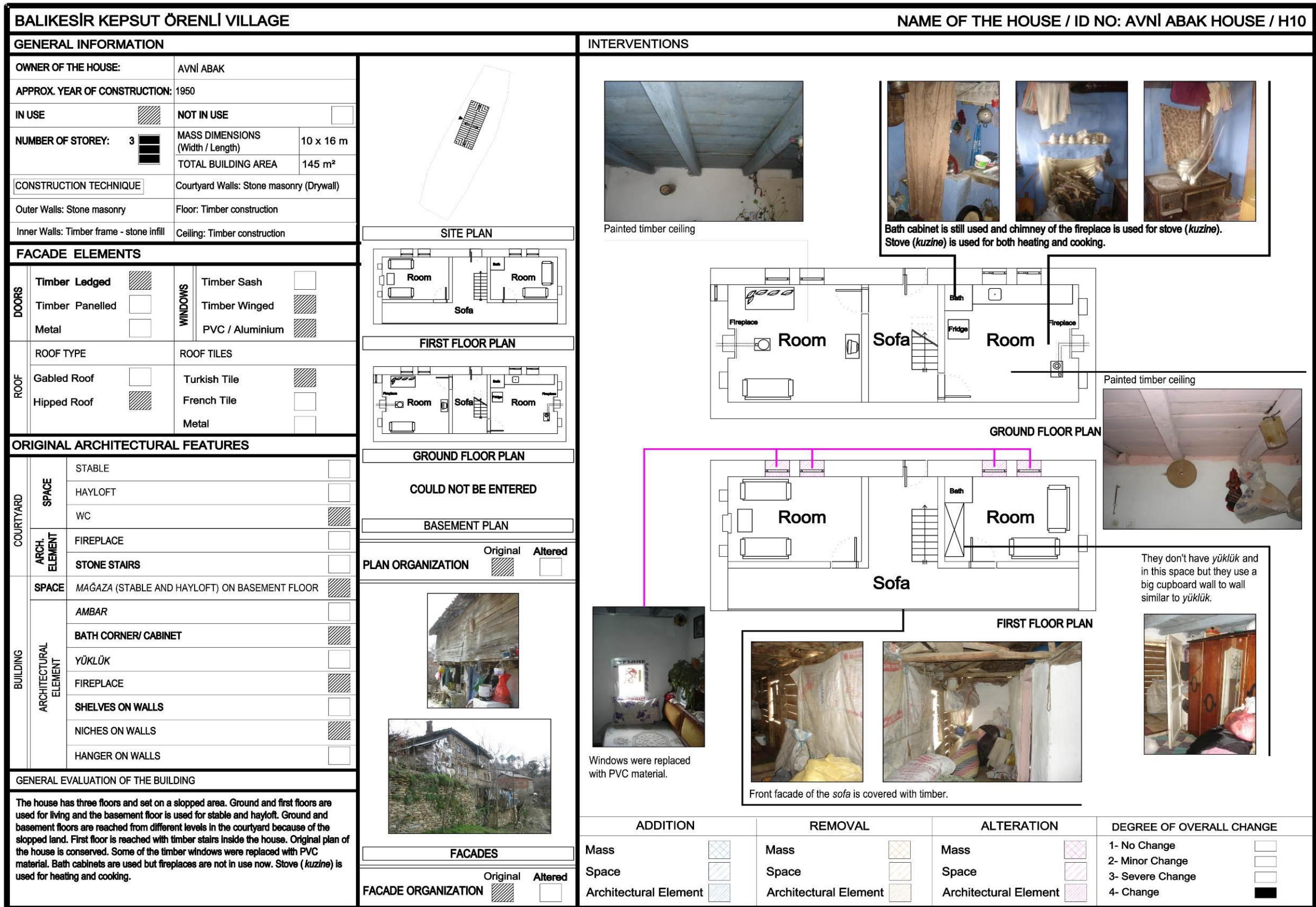


Figure B10. Avni Abak House



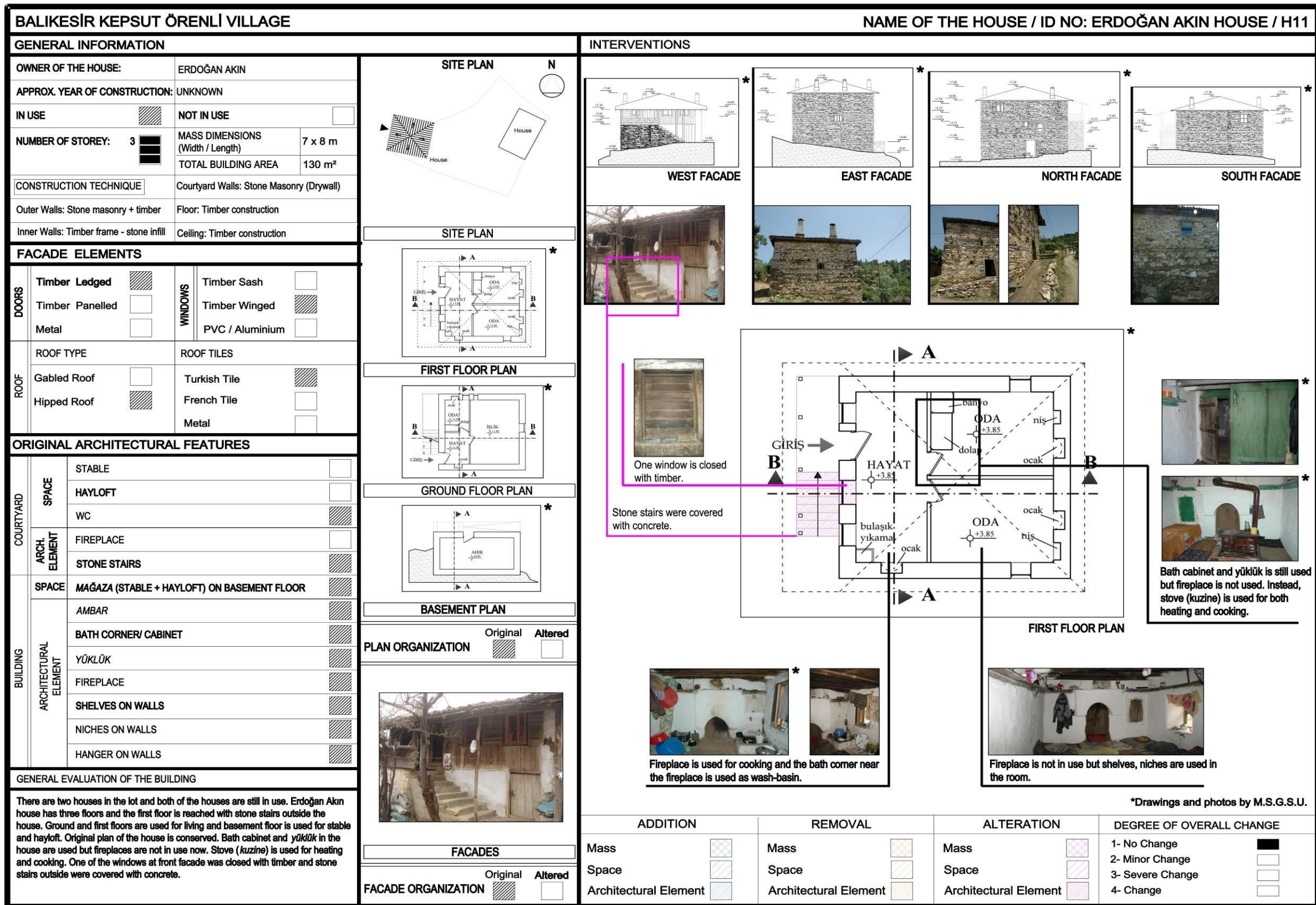


Figure B11. Erdoğan Akin House



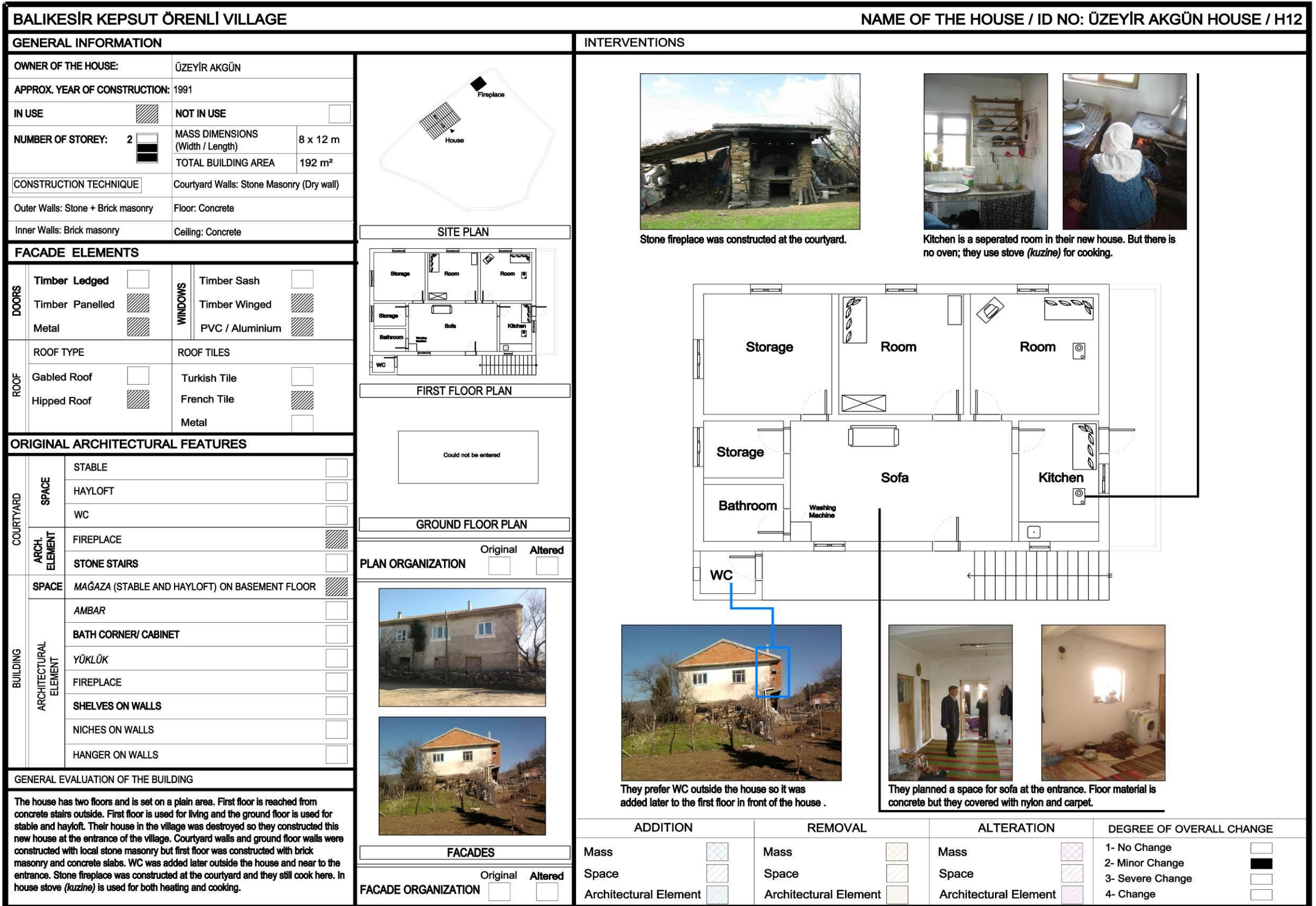


Figure B12. Üzeyir Akgün House