



Changing Roles in Urban Transformation: A Brief History of Spatial Transformation in Kayseri Metropolis

Fusun KOCATÜRK, Assistant Professor
Erciyes University, Faculty of Architecture, Turkey
fusunko@yahoo.com

Ceyhan YÜCEL, Assistant Professor
Erciyes University, Faculty of Architecture, Turkey
ceyhanyucel@gmail.com

Kayseri has always been an important centre within its hinterland for ages. Commercial activities have been the characteristic function for the city while it is outweighed by industrial activities recently. 20th century caused radical developments that resulted in spatial transformation on city structure in economic and social manner. In this paper, the urbanization process of Kayseri is handled in different periods as below.

According to the national development movement, until the midst of the 20th century, the new large-scale industrial and infrastructural establishments have taken place in Kayseri such as “the airplane factory”, “the railway station”, “Sumerbank textile factory” and “State Hospital” etc. These developments were the main steps of the new modern state and can be seen the starting point of the transformation of society and the city because of completely different features in land use, size and building. The foundation of these factories also created new development areas presenting new urban pattern. In addition, the 1st urban plan of Kayseri (1945) that aimed to organize the current urban fabric included very dramatic changes and transformations in urban form, building styles and street network. This period was mainly shaped by the national state policies. Following these developments, the current fabric of the city started to change widely while new residential areas and new functions were taking place outskirts of the city. Additionally, a new urban plan was prepared in 70’s including decisions about new economic activities and development areas. The establishment of small-size industrial areas, new residential areas, spreading commercial areas in city centre and construction of wider traffic roads were the important developments of this period. The more active participation of private sector and increasing power of local authority have made this renovation process occurred faster. Urban transformation in the last quarter of the century was mainly shaped by a new urban plan (1987) that caused the most dramatic renovation in urban fabric even on those were built up in the midst of the century. In this period, the boundaries of the city widened, remains of the older city fabric were removed, the pattern of the city was renewed with denser buildings, CBD started to centralize in the core and the organized industrial activities became the other leading economic activity with the raising power of local capital. In this period, local authority acted as the moderator to create suitable conditions for investments by private sector. After 2000, the boundary of the metropolitan area was enlarged by legal regulations. The municipality realized some planning revisions on behalf of the private sector investments including large-scale regeneration projects. As mentioned above, the development process of Kayseri in 20th century,

- started with the national policies,
- was proceeded by local government,
- changed, however, its direction and scale by the contribution of private sector.

This paper aims to present and criticize the spatial transformation arose from the changing roles of the actors in Kayseri during the 20th century.

KEY WORDS: Urban transformation, urban management, planning and transformation.