Preserving Elaiussa Sebaste: Architectural Heritage at the Crossroads of Civilizations

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Abstract

This thesis studies a multi-scale exploration to understand and preserve the unique heritage of Elaiussa Sebaste, an ancient city on the Mediterranean coast of Türkiye.
Beginning with a broad study of Asia Minor and narrowing down to Rough Cilicia, the research then focuses on Elaiussa Sebaste, where geographical and historical aspects have an inseparable link and shape a landscape of incredible value. By moving across different scales, the study aims to reveal the essential context of Elaiussa Sebaste's significance within a larger historical and geographical framework.
Each research chapter is organized around two core themes: geographical and historical. They reflect how physical landscapes and cultural evolution are inseparably linked across all scales. For Asia Minor, a vast territory, the study presents key points that have a connection with the context of Elaiussa Sebaste. Moving to Rough Cilicia, the research narrows to explore the more localized influences that define the region's unique identity and connections to the ancient city. Finally, a detailed study of Elaiussa Sebaste itself reveals the relationship between its landscape and history, as well as its importance in its time and the details of its monuments that reveal so much about its character and history.
Upon this layered study, the final chapters shift focus to the challenges Elaiussa Sebaste faces today, identifying preservation issues and the need for design interventions. The proposed design for the promontory area derives from the findings of the previous and ongoing research, integrating the particular geographical features and rich historical narrative of the site. This intervention seeks not only to preserve the architectural heritage of Elaiussa Sebaste but also seeks a deeper connection between the site and its visitors; it aims to remain important and lasting for future generations.
Through this approach, this thesis offers a comprehensive study of heritage conservation that respects the ancient site's cultural and natural landscape. By carefully linking historical insight with geographical understanding, it envisions a sustainable path forward for Elaiussa Sebaste, preserving its story at the crossroads of civilizations for generations to come.

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CHAPTER I

Macro Territory: Asia Minor

Asia Minor, the ancient region located at the crossroads of continents and civilizations, is a subject of various interpretations among historians. The geographical boundaries and historical significance of Asia Minor have been carefully examined and discussed, resulting in diverse viewpoints regarding its definition and impact on the course of history.

M. J. Mellink (1965), defines Asia Minor to be a part of the classical Greek and Roman world, where classical archaeology, history, and epigraphy come together to shed light on its rich heritage.

On the other hand, W. M. Ramsey (1890, p.23-26) writes the first definition of Asia Minor from a territorial standpoint, highlighting its strategic position as a link between Asia and Europe. According to Ramsey (1890), the Asia Minor peninsula has been a continuous battleground between the East and West since antiquity. This geographical location facilitated the exchange of religion, art, and civilization between the two continents. As Ramsey suggests, Asia Minor functioned as a passage through which the cultural accomplishments of the East influenced Greece, while Greek civilization, driven by figures such as Alexander the Great, crossed the same bridge to make a lasting impact on the East, reshaping societies as distant as India.

However, both are important standpoints to start investigating, we will first address its territorial context as a focal crossroad between Asia and Europe, before illustrating the layers of its complex history.

1.1 Geographical Location and Climate

Geographically, Asia Minor refers to the western half of Turkey-in-Asia, or Anatolia[1], which is a peninsula surrounded by the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmara, the Aegean Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea (During, 2010, p. 4-20).
Anatolia's geographical location is the most important gateway connecting the world's ancient continents: Asia, Europe, and Africa. This feature has enabled Anatolia to be a bridge[2] used by tribes as a migration route to cross from the three mentioned continents to the other. Acting as a bridge, Anatolia has become not only a road through which tribes migrated but also a geography where some people settled and created civilizations. For these reasons, Anatolia has exhibited suitable characteristics for the encounter and interaction of many different races and cultures and the formation of new cultures (Coban, 2013, p 28-35).

In addition to having three important climates (continental, continental-marine, and Mediterranean climate), a large part of its territory is under the influence of the Mediterranean climate, although the regions show significant differences according to their proximity to the sea, altitude, and the way the mountains extend to the coast. Depending on the climate characteristics, a wide variety of agricultural products can be grown in this geography. Thanks to this feature, people in Asia Minor can be fed without importing food from abroad.

When we look at the history of Anatolia, we can see that the natural conditions[3] heavily influenced the development of different civilizations in the region.
Moreover, since Anatolia spans over 1500 km from east to west, it is understood that the tribes that settled here could only dominate a part of the land. The civilizations that emerged due to such reasons were influenced by the centers of civilization with which they were close and in contact, which led to the establishment and development of civilizations sometimes connected to the Eastern and sometimes Western world. (Akurgal, 2003, pp. 14-16). The geography of Asia Minor is an essential element in studying its history.

1 Anatolia, in Turkish *Anadolu*, the word originally derives from the Greek word Ανατολή, meaning east or sunrise. (Ramsey, 1890)

2 From a geographical point of view Turkey acts as a bridge, figuratively, connecting the Mediterranean to the Black Sea and connecting the Balkans, the Caucasus, and the Middle East. This feature makes it not only a physical bridge to Anatolia but also a mediator of intercultural transition and interaction.

3 The climate of Anatolia, because of a wide range of temperatures and varying altitudes, results in different ecosystems and habitats that support diverse flora and fauna.

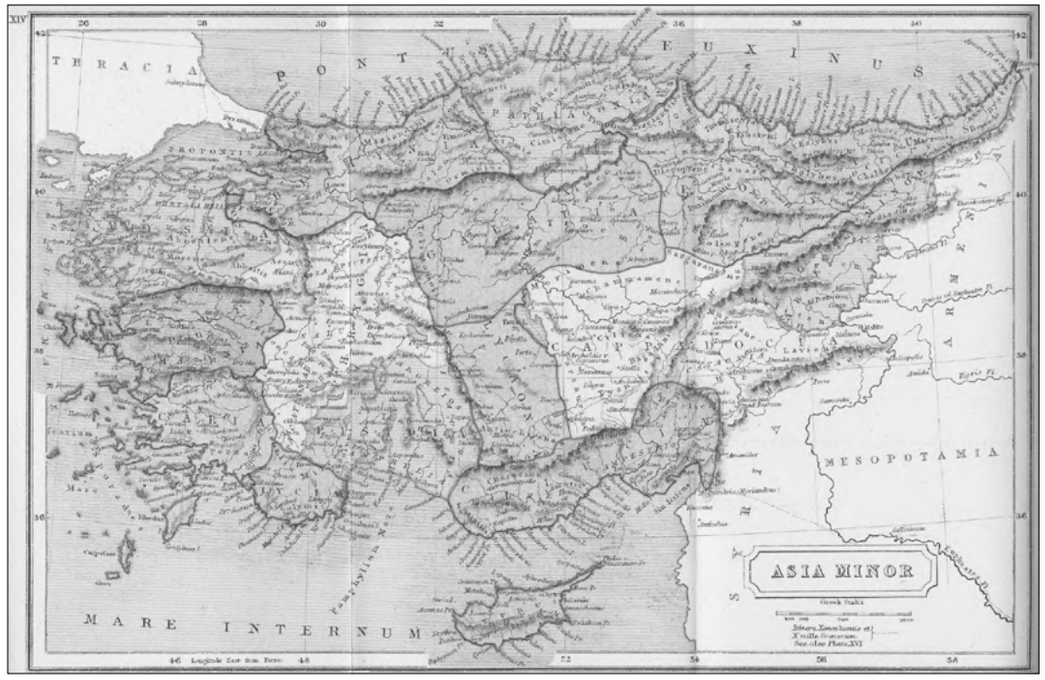

Figure 1 Samuel Butler, Asia Minor Atlas of Ancient and Classical Geography, 1907

1.2 Historical Layers

The historical periods of Asia Minor can be examined under these periods; the Prehistory, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Classical Age, Medieval Age, New Age, and finally the Modern Period-which we are in now.
However, the focus in the historical chapter is concentrated on the three periods; prehistory, classical age, and medieval period; which are the dominant historical layers of Elaiussa Sebaste.

1.2.1 Prehistory

It is important to mention the prehistoric period to understand the age of this land; the layers that it inherits in it and have an idea of the evolution of the territory from back then, to this day.
The first era of the Prehistory of Anatolia starts from the Paleolithic era[4]. As far as currently known it dates to 1.2 million years ago with the discovery of a stone tool that was found in the Gediz River in 2014 (Maddy, 2015, p. 68-75). Their presence spotted in different locations throughout Asia Minor; such as Istanbul (Yarimburgaz Cave), Antalya (Karain, Beldibi, Kadiini Caves…). The further findings in the Mediterranean region are exhibited in the Archeological Museum of Antalya.
Further on the Prehistoric Age, follows the Neolithic Era, which is considered as "the biggest groundbreaking point in human history" by Prof. Konyar (2011). The melting of glaciers and their retreat further north made the climate and natural environment in the Near East suitable for human life. A milder climate and richer vegetation have brought many advantages to daily life. This climate zone suitable for human habitation began to form on the southern slopes of Central Anatolia, Southeastern Anatolia, and the Zagros Mountain Range. (Konyar, 2011, p. 34-39). Anatolia was one of the first regions where settled life was established. As mentioned before, the suitability of climatic conditions was a very important factor in this. The greatest examples of these settlements are Çatalhöyük in the central Anatolia, Çayönü and Göbekli Tepe in southeast Anatolia.
This era follows the Bronze and Iron Ages with greatly important inventions and developments.

4 Paleolithic is considered to be the first era of the Stone Age, in which people inhabited caves and made their first tools by carving stones, making their living by hunting and gathering. (Konyar, 2011, p. 1-5)

1.2.2 Classical Age

"So the Persian forces departed and marched through Asia, and the Greeks, according to the ancient prophecies, armed themselves and prepared to meet the foe. Now I cannot say with exactness whether these prophecies were indeed uttered concerning this war, or whether the event itself suggested the interpretation to men's minds, for both views have been maintained; but they certainly proved to be true of this expedition,"[5] Herodotus[6] wrote in his book about his thoughts regarding the upcoming war between Persians and Greeks that went on throughout the classical age in Asia Minor. His writings were the leading source for the Greco-Persian Wars.

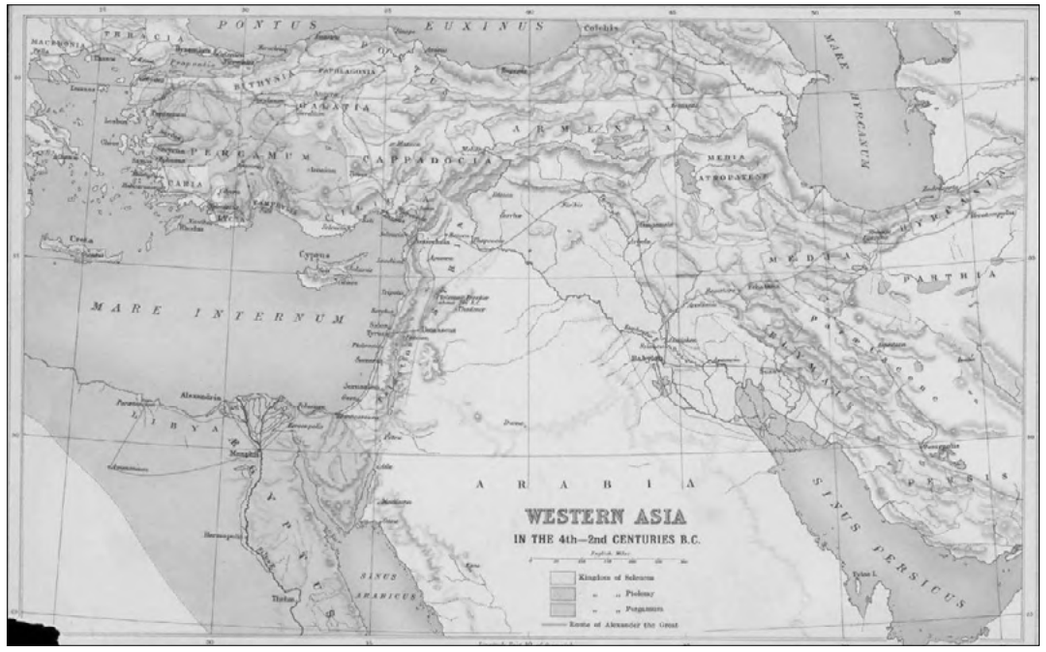

Figure 2: George Adam Smith, Atlas of the Historical Geography of the Holy Land, 1915. Map of Asia Minor in the 4th and 2nd centuries BC

After the Persian defeat in the early 4th century BCE, Anatolia underwent a transformative period under the rule of Alexander the Great and his successors. The conquests of Alexander brought Anatolia under Greek influence, as Greek settlers established colonies and Greek culture spread to the region (Brewster, 1993).
This period, from 323 to 31 BC, is known to modern historians as the Hellenistic age, for they see it as the period when much of the ancient world which had previously been beyond the reach of Greek cultural influence, became Greek, at least in a superficial

5 Heredotus, "The Histories", Book 7, Chapter 140, online available at The Persus Digital Library

6 Heredotus was a Greek historian, believed to be born in Halicarnassus, from the classical age who lived in southwest Asia Minor. He is well known for his writings regarding the political conflicts between Greece and Persia.

way. It was also the period in which the Greek language spread to most of the region (Mitchell, 1984, p. 131-139). (not sure)
However, Greek influence was weaker in central and eastern Anatolia, and even more superficial in the more distant regions around Syria, Mesopotamia, and Iran, here the older traditions remained strong, but Alexander had done nothing to destroy them.

Within three generations of Alexander's death, the Greek and Hellenized cities of Anatolia had acquired powerful political, religious, and cultural identities, and their ruling classes saw themselves as the heirs of the polis and the achievements of the Classical age (Harl, 2012, p. 752). Nevertheless, the Greek cities throughout Asia Minor were not bound to the fates of any of the Hellenistic monarchies; therefore, they turned to Rome for safeguard against the Seleucid king Antiochus III (223–187 b.c.e.), who sought to bring the peninsula under his dominion. As Harl (2012, p. 772) puts in words, they invited Rome into Asia Minor, ending the period of Hellenic and Hellenistic Anatolia; and leading it to the centuries-long Roman era.

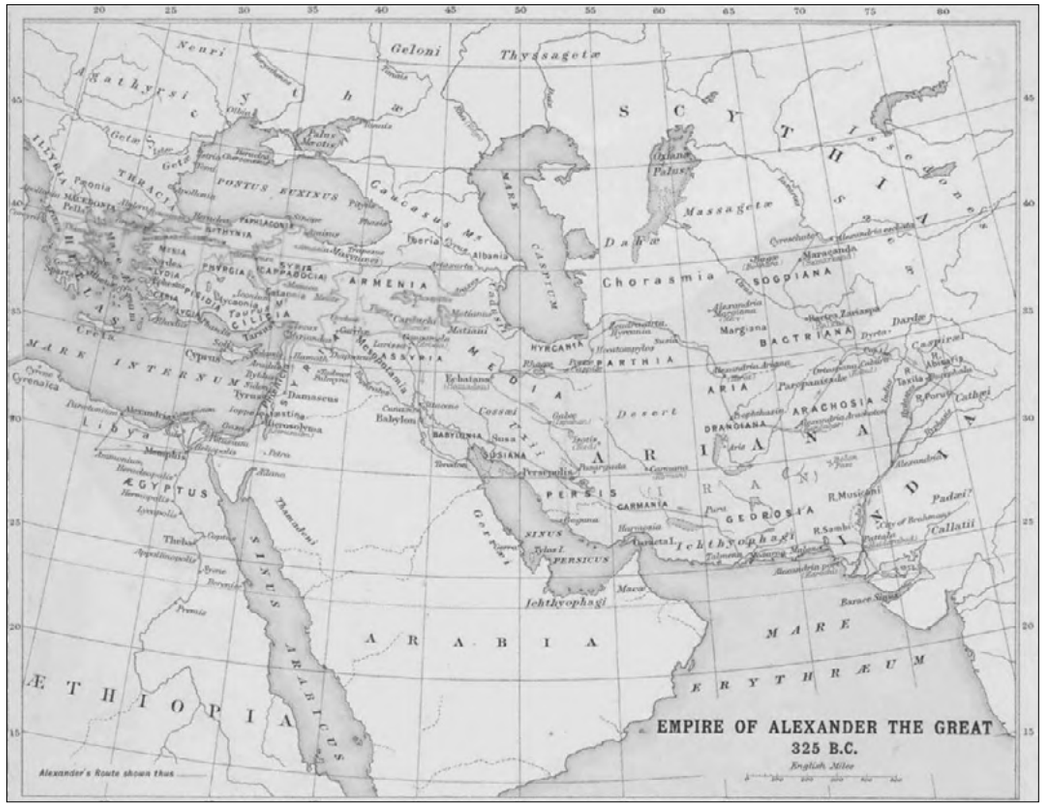

Figure 3: George Adam Smith, Atlas of the Historical Geography of the Holy Land, 1915 Map of the Asia Minor and Eastern States in the 3rd century BC.

But as a conclusion, The Hellenistic period in Anatolia saw the rise of influential cities such as Pergamon, Ephesus, and Miletus[7], which became thriving centers of commerce, art, and intellectual discourse. Under the patronage of Hellenistic rulers, Anatolia experienced a golden age of cultural and scientific achievement, with the fusion of Greek and Anatolian traditions contributing to a vibrant cultural landscape (Akurgal, 1998, p. 342-353). Despite political upheavals and conflicts, Anatolia during the Hellenistic era emerged as a melting pot of cultural exchange, leaving a lasting imprint on the history of the region and the wider Mediterranean world.

With the beginning of the Macedonian War (214 BC.), Romans appeared in the eastern scene. However, it was only in 133 that the Roman Empire acquired any formal territories in Anatolia after Attalus III of Pergamum designated his kingdom to Rome (Sherwin-White, 1977, p. 62-75).

The Roman involvement in Asia Minor initiated a complex interaction of cultural exchange and political dynamics, significantly influencing the region (Gatzke, 2013, p.42-57). According to Dmitriev (2005), while Romans and Greeks reached agreements on city governance, Rome's presence fundamentally influenced the development of Greek cities, leading to modifications in social relations, governmental structures, and urban features. These changes, occurring under Roman presence, have often been interpreted as manifestations of Romanization, a concept Dmitriev finds full of uncertainty. He argues that Romanization, far from being an imposition, emerged organically through the adaptation to political changes, including the dissemination of Roman law, citizenship, and economic practices.

On the other hand, many scholars reject the notion that Romans consciously aimed to elevate their culture above the Greeks, suggesting instead a process of integration rather than subjugation (Gatzke, 2013). Curchin (2004), similarly argues that Romanization was a gradual, spontaneous phenomenon, resulting from the fusion of Roman and Greek cultures. Contrary to the belief that Romanization threatened Greek identity, residents of Anatolia effectively preserved their Greek heritage while accommodating Roman rule, a practice observed across centuries of diverse foreign dominions. However, Woolf (1994) critiques claims suggesting that Romanization was absent in the Greek East, pointing to numerous exceptions such as gladiatorial games and the spread of Roman traditions in colonies and administrative centers. He says that those closely interacting with Romans felt most alienated from Roman culture, emphasizing the resilience of Greek identity amidst cultural exchange.

7 They are all on the West Coast of Anatolia, neighbor to each other.

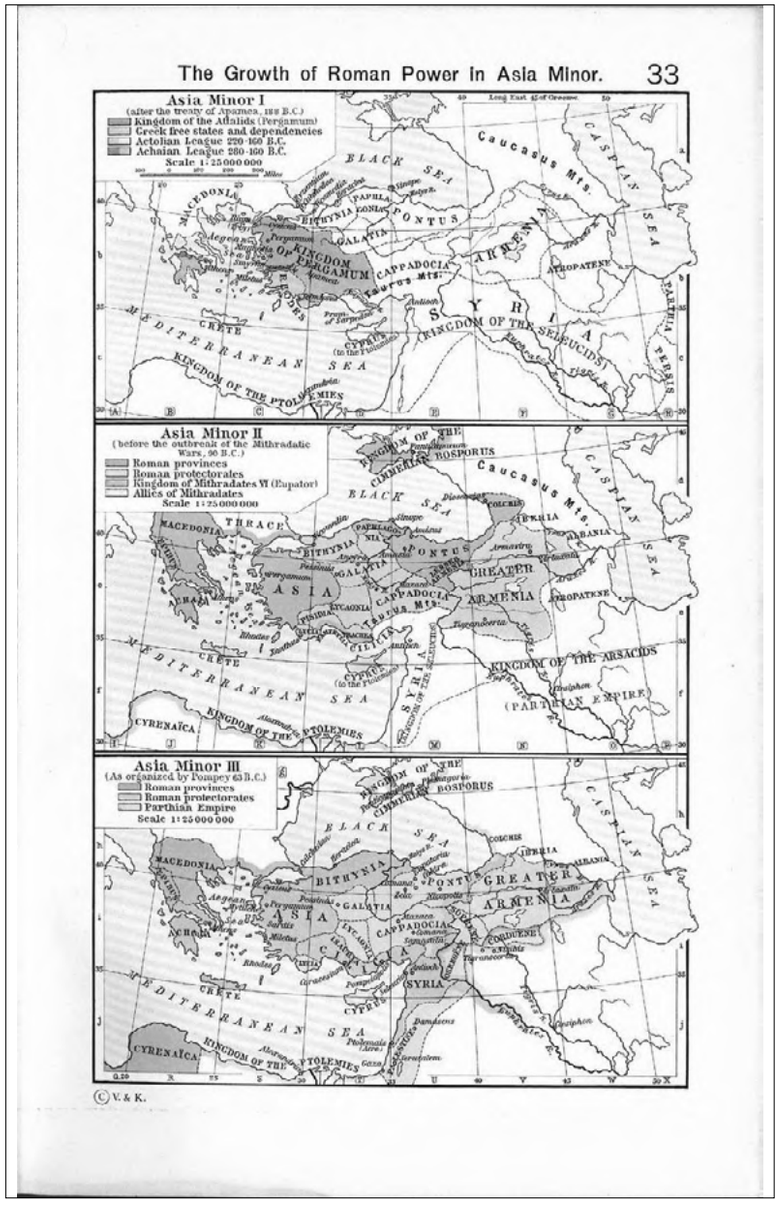

Figure 4: George Adam Smith, Atlas of the Historical Geography of the Holy Land, 1915. Map showing the Roman dominance over time in Asia Minor

In conclusion, the presence of Romans in Asia Minor gave rise to a complex process of cultural blending and adaptation. While some aspects of Romanization were evident, the region's Greek identity of the region is preserved, demonstrating the ability to incorporate Roman influences without compromising its essence. This dynamic interaction between two influential civilizations continues to be discussed in ancient Anatolia's cultural landscape.

1.2.3 Late Antiquity and Medieval Age

In the words of Philipp Niewöhner (2017, p.1); "Byzantine Anatolia is of special interest, because Anatolia was the only major part of the Roman Empire that did not fall in late antiquity." Until the eleventh century, Anatolia was continuously under Roman domination. Following the decline of Rome, Anatolia came under the governance of Constantinople. From then on, the Eastern Roman Empire was also called the Byzantine Empire in contemporary academic discourse, but the "Byzantines" themselves did not use that term and still identified with the Roman heritage (Niewöhner, 2017).
They identified themselves as Romans and their state as the Roman Empire (Imperium Romanorum). Upon his coronation, Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) looked for a more secure administrative center and ultimately decided to set up a new capital in an area known as Byzantium. Thus, the city, which was officially opened after a major construction activity that started in 324 and was modeled on the city of Rome, was named Constantinople after its founder (Altan, 2023, p. 287-307).

Figure 5: George Adam Smith, Atlas of the Historical Geography of the Holy Land, 1915. Map of Asia Minor and Middle East in Byzantine Era, 3rd century AD.

"The empire gradually became a Greek and Christian empire, remaining Roman." (Morrisson, 2004, p.15).

With the accession of Constantine III. The Christianization process of the Empire, which started in the 19th century, began to accelerate with determined steps on a new level: The Emperor and the State glorifying the new religion instead of trying to crush it. However, while Christianity, which claims universality, was developing on the one hand, it was also taking political authority with it. It tended to crush all other beliefs. The single Roman Empire would increasingly recognize a single religion. (Morrisson, 2004) As the empire became Christianized, Christianity itself entered a process of change.

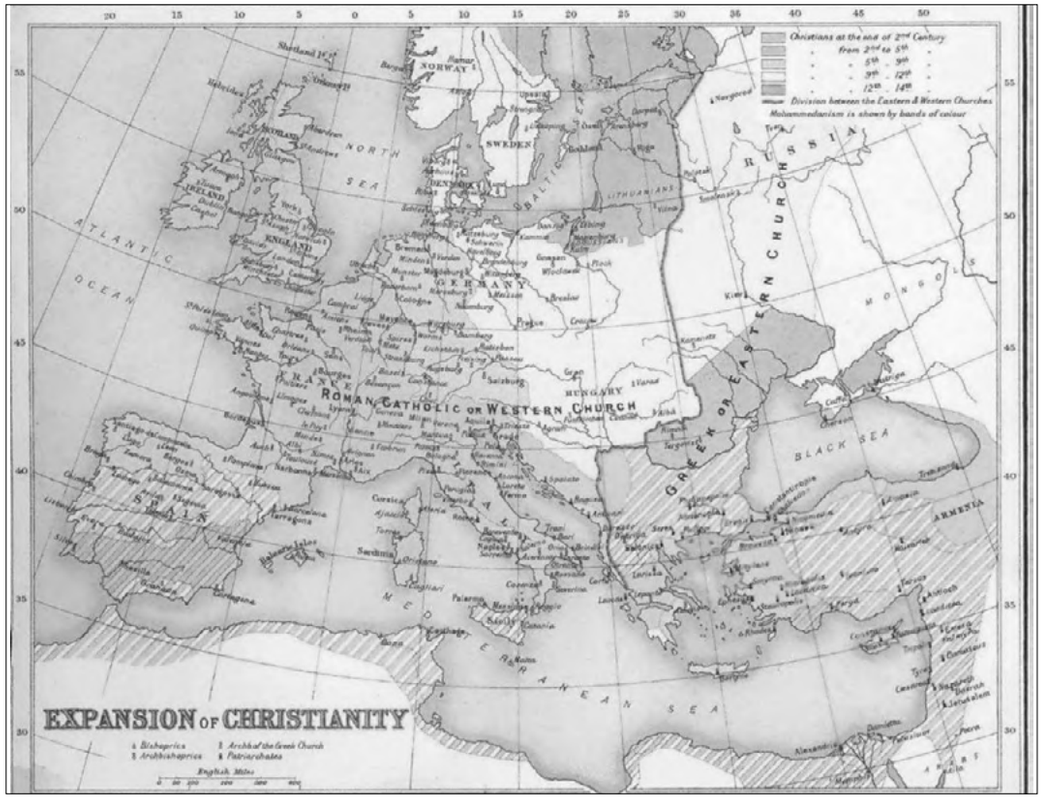

Figure 6 George Adam Smith, Atlas of the Historical Geography of the Holy Land, 1915. Map shows the spread of Christianity from 2nd century to 14th AD.

While this doctrine, steeped in Greek culture, took decisive steps towards becoming the official religion, an increasingly uncompromising Orthodoxy was adopted. As much as it changed religion, culture, and daily life, as a consequence it affected the religious buildings, etc. However, the beginning of the empire is debatable[8] the end of it is agreed by everyone; 1453 when the capital Konstantinopolis is captured by the Ottoman Empire.

8 While some scholars accept the beginning as the monarch of Konstantin the I (324-337), some consider the beginning as a further date. (Stathakopoulos, 2014)

1.2.4 From the Ottoman Era to Today

In the words of Shaw (1976, p. 56) "The conquest made the Ottomans heirs to the imperial tradition as the conquered city once again became the capital of an extensive empire" regarding the conquest of Constantinople, now called Istanbul.

Figure 7: George Adam Smith, Atlas of the Historical Geography of the Holy Land, 1915. Map showing the borders of the Ottoman Empire at the fall of Constantinople

As the Ottoman Empire expanded its territories across Asia Minor, it provoked the exchange of ideas, commerce, cultural exchange, etc. This period saw advancements in architecture, art, and literature, and more significantly; the spread of Islamic influence throughout their territory. With the new influence of art and culture, the empire gained great power during the 16th century, and its borders reached three continents. However the cultural interaction always kept going, the military success didn't last and, along the 19th and beginning of the 20th century, the Ottoman Empire was losing its territories. They entered World War I (1914–1918) on the side of the Central Powers. By signing the Armistice of Mudros, in 1918, the Ottoman Empire ended the First World War with defeat and also entered the process of collapse (Karabulut, 2014).

While the view in Asia Minor struggling with these difficulties, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk emerged as a visionary leader with pioneering efforts to modernize and secularize Turkish society. The Turkish War of Independence (1919-1923), resulted in the defeat of the invading Allied forces and the foundation of the Republic of Turkey on October 29, 1923 (Ugurluoglu, 1999).

In the words of Prof. Afet Inan[9] (1968), after the success of saving the country from this enemy invasion, all the reforms led by Atatürk turned into ashes and brought a new order to the Turkish social delegation. While Ataturk first made the most fundamental revolution in the state system by establishing the Republic, he found it necessary to realize the social reforms that were a result of it.
These reforms Inan (1968) mentions are the fundamental basis of the new republic; including the new legal system, establishment of women's rights, secular education, and abolition of the Sultanate.
Ataturk's legacy started then and continues to this day.

Figure 8: Map showing administrative boundaries of Turkish Republic (Anadolu Turk Kutuphanesi, 1930)

9 Prof. Afet Inan is a respected Turkish scholar in history and sociology. She is a republican who served as an ideologist in laying the foundations of the new understanding of the history of the Republican period and in the construction of women's identity. She is also one of the adopted daughters of Ataturk.

1.3 Architectural History

The final subject discussed in the chapter on Asia Minor is the Architectural History of this territory. Before jumping to this more specific matter, it was quite essential to mention the historical context of each civilization in order to understand their interaction and link with each other. Furthermore, to tell, roughly, in which time they existed it sets in our mind a chronological order of a timeline and allows us an interpretation of their situation back then; coexisting with other civilizations and their indispensable influence on one another.
Overall I structured to guide the readers through a progression of scales, examining selected case studies that serve as connective points leading to the central focus on Elaiussa Sebaste. Therefore, the selected case studies are essential for creating connections and providing context for the upcoming chapters.
In conclusion, we will delve into the architectural landscape of Asia Minor in this topic, examining the legacy left behind by three important civilizations that have influenced the architectural heritage of this region.

1.3.1 Hellenistic Anatolia

As mentioned in the Classical Age, the Hellenistic period, Greek culture was weaker in central and eastern Anatolia. The older culture in the east of the Aegon region remained stronger, and Alexander didn't intervene in the situation (Mitchell, 1984).

Greek settlements in Anatolia were primarily concentrated in the western coastal area, although not exclusively (Greaves, 2012, pp. 500-514). According to the archeological findings that are listed by many scholars, Greaves in this case, results that the main historical sites were established around the 8th BCE, leaving their time of origin still uncertain. However, the excavations still provide a very rich source and archeological evidence.

The importance of monumental public buildings is a defining characteristic, particularly for Greek and Greco-Roman cities (Mitchell, 1984, p. 80-97). According to Mitchell (1984), by the second century AD, cities were expected to possess an extensive series of major buildings and structures. These included fortifications such as walls, gates, and towers; religious edifices like temples, sanctuaries, and altars; political gathering places like bouleuteria or basilicas for city council meetings, along with large spaces for public assembly. Additionally, they featured venues for cultural and educational activities such as gymnasia, odeia, theaters, and libraries, all emblematic of urban civilization. Civic amenities like aqueducts, nymphaea, and bathhouses were also essential. Moreover, decorative monuments of various forms and sizes were not merely ornamental but served to enhance the prestige of the wealthy and powerful, including the emperors. Examples include triumphal arches, statues, monumental inscriptions, and heroes' tombs. Simply listing these types of buildings evokes a vivid "image" of a typical city within the Roman Empire. Mitchell (1984, p. 80) calls Asia Minor "The land with 500 cities" in

the context that nowhere in the Roman world is this "image" more appropriate than in Asia Minor.

Morever, Hellenistic Period architects were the pioneers of Roman art. It incorporated the pseudodipteral temple form of Roman art, the Attic-Ion pedestal on the lon plinth, the deeply carved architectural decorations that provide strong light-shadow games, and the innovations brought by the Hellenistic Period, we can find similar examples in the Greek settlements in in western Asia Minor (Figure X)The development of functional structures, which played an important role in the formation of large engineering structures in Roman architecture, is one of the achievements of the Hellenistic Period. Moreover, as written in Akurgal's (1998) book, innovations such as axial and symmetry order, temples with podiums and front stairs, and multi-story buildings are the creations of the Hellenistic Period.

Akurgal (1998) gives an example of the Temple of Artemis in Magnesia as the principle of strict compliance with the axis system, which is also evident in two other contemporary buildings, the parliament building and the gymnasium in Miletos. These were the first attempts to implement plans based on axial order and would later become one of the main elements of Roman architecture. In Doric architecture, no special attention was paid to the entrance, whereas in Ionic architecture, the entrance was the place that needed to be given importance for the external appearance. The continuous development of this tendency in the Hellenistic Period contributed to the creation of facades.

igure 9: Ionic temple plans imposed on a uniform grid. (Left) Athena at Priene and on (Right) Artemis at Magnesia (Coulton, 1977)

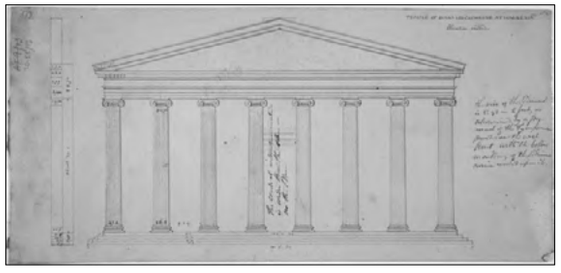

Figure 10 Façade of the Temple of Artemis at Magnesia (Riba Collections, 1810)

1.3.2 Roman Anatolia

"…what Romans have they ever given us in return, besides all that they have taken away?"

"All right… apart from better sanitation and medicine and education and irrigation and public health and roads and a freshwater system and baths and public order… what have the Romans done for us?"[10]

In the 1st and 2nd centuries A.D., Anatolian cities were among the richest and most important art centers of the civilizations of that period (Akurgal, 1998, pp. 401-417). The majority of these have been preserved to this day as beautiful and impressive ruins. Many have been excavated and others are still being researched.

The Anatolian-Hellen tradition continued partially uninterrupted during the Roman Age. According to Akurgal, this tradition lives primarily in the original local architecture of Anatolia. Despite this continuity in tradition, new construction techniques and engineering methods applied in Anatolian architecture completely reflect the Roman character. Even in a few large cities such as Pergamum, Hellenistic Period architects used marble only in the decorated sections of most buildings and built other parts with andesite. In the Roman Age, on the other hand, marble became the main material of buildings. During this period, bricks held together with mortar, a newly created construction material, were used in functional buildings for the first time, and the exteriors of these structures were covered with marble slabs.

i.Amphitheaters

Large buildings were no longer built on stone piles, terraces or on a high elevation as in the past but were built on barrel arches or vaults. Likewise, in the Roman era, theaters were built on arches and vaults, not on hill slopes as in the Hellenic period. However, most of the Anatolian architects preferred to lean their theaters on the slopes. Aspendos Theater (figure 10) is a typical example of this. Although this structure is supported by vaults and arches, it is still built on the slope. It is seen that the architect preferred to stick to the old tradition of building theaters on the hillside (Akurgal, 1998). However, theater structures in Anatolia also applied the Roman construction system. Even the theaters in Pergamon, Ephesus and Miletus, built in the Hellenistic Period, were adapted to the emerging trend.

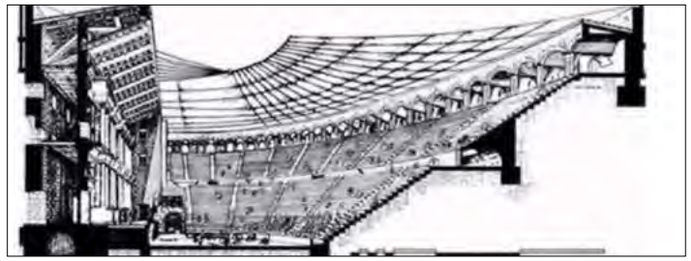

Figure 11: Section of the Aspendos theatre, leaning on a slope (Alfano & Iannace & Ianniello, 2015)

10 From the movie of Monty Python's The Life of Brian. This movie, quoted in a doctoral thesis, by Andrea F. Gatzke, University of Pennsylvania 2013, is where the idea is taken from. It summarizes the cultural conflict of the period and the presence of Romans.

ii.Baths

B.C. in the 80s, the Romans used perforated bricks on the floors and walls. The central heating system they invented by passing hot air through it led to the construction of large thermal structures. These large baths, often combined with gymnasiums, were located in every city of Anatolia. Akurgal (1998) gives examples of The Vedius Gymnasium in Ephesus, the Faustina Bath in Miletus and the thermal bath currently used as a museum in Side are the best examples of these.

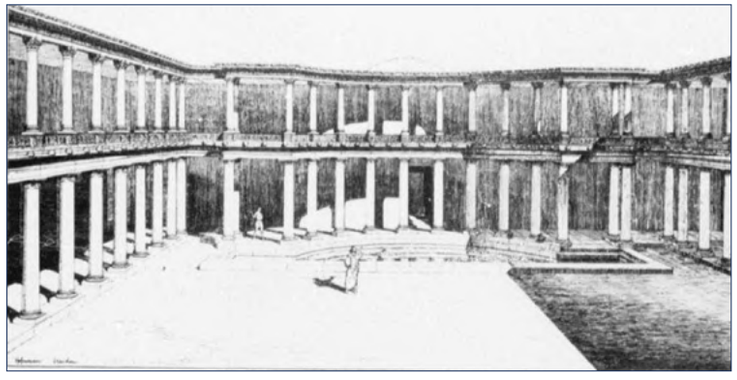

Figure 12: Reconstruction of Baths in the Gymnasium of Miletus (German Documentation Centre for Art History, 1940)

iii. Aqueduct and Road Infrastructures

Kerschbaum (2021, p.154) quotes from Gibbon (1897, p. 47) "The boldness of the enterprise, the solidity of the execution, and the uses to which they were subservient, rank the aqueducts among the noblest monuments of Roman genius and power.". This almost summarizes the Romans in modern times perspective. In their idea of the city, there are certain public needs to be accomplished. In order to use a bath, the city is in need of an aqueduct. Therefore they build kilometers-long stone bridges from the water supply to their urban centers. Moreover, not only a water infrastructure system but also the road infrastructure. As Belke (2017, p. 28) explains that the Romans had built the roads for mainly military purposes. However, they maintained these networks as a secondary connection as well. Later, served for private commercial interest and travel as well.

Figure 13: An aqueduct near Ephesus. Engraving by J. Mathieu after J.R. Hilair, 1782

1.3.3. Byzantine Anatolia

"The history of the Byzantine city is of considerable importance for the social and economic history of the empire. One of the fundamental questions of the field is whether the Byzantine Empire had a vital urban culture like that of classical antiquity and may thus be seen as part of a continuum, or whether, like the early medieval West, urban life was in decline and the landscape instead was dominated by villages and castles. Such information is essential for understanding the nature of the Byzantine state, the transition from the ancient world to the Middle Ages." (Foss, 1977, p. 469).

The period of Constantine was also decisive for Christian architecture: his impetus and the choices he made in Rome, as well as in several cities of the East (the best knowns are the Antakya and especially Jerusalem), made it possible for the buildings of Christian culture to develop immensely.

Constantine and his architects are also the source of the central plan, another type of plan used in churches (Morrison, 2004, p. 302). The three most important architectural elements to emphasize are the construction of the dome, Byzantine churches, and the fortifications.

i. The Dome

The perception of space created by a large-scale dome was undoubtedly a striking aesthetic experience not only for the believers of those centuries but has preserved its striking effect even today.

The formula of a true domed basilica, with a central dome supported by four barrel-shaped vaults, was tried to be claimed that the Hagia Sophia of Thessaloniki, which conformed to this type, was built towards the end of the sixth century following this plan; It would develop later at a date that is difficult to determine. Future Byzantine architecture was built on this basic model (Morrison, 2004, p. 302-312).

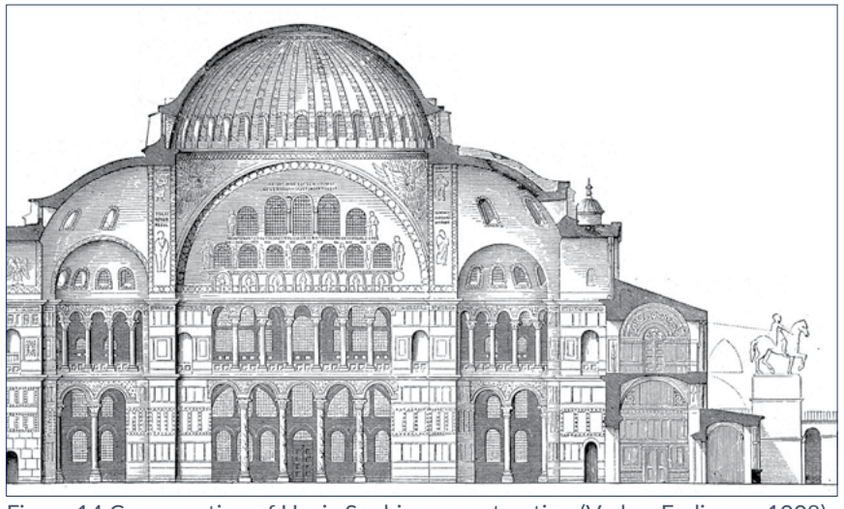

Figure 14 Cross-section of Hagia Sophia, reconstruction (Verlag, Esslingen, 1908)

ii. Reuse of the Churches

Regarding the churches in Asia Minor, represent the most numerous, well-preserved, and extensively documented structures of Byzantine Anatolia. A wide range of early Byzantine churches, including basilicas, centralized churches, and domed churches, mirror significant wealth and resources (Buchwald & Savage, 2017, p. 129-147).

Theodosius I is primarily known in history as the emperor who definitively transitioned to Christianity. In accomplishing this, he solidified the significant physical transformation of the Late Antique city: the mass abandonment of temples and the beginning of widespread church construction (Jacobs, 2012, p.113-164). In reality, the Christianization of the Empire was a gradual process that continued for over a century. Jacobs interprets the abandonment of many temples in the 4th century as an inevitable outcome of two reasons: resistance and opposition to pagan beliefs, and diminished resources. In Jacobs' interpretation, this widespread reuse of secondary materials is a factor that distinguishes the Late Antique city from the Roman city.

In cases where a temple was already deteriorating, restoration was likely unfeasible due to the shifting religious landscape and the limited public funds available at that time. The most viable alternative was to ensure the complete disappearance of the structure. Consequently, damaged and crumbling temples were pragmatically repurposed as quarries for construction projects either within the same vicinity or elsewhere within the city. Jacobs gave some examples to support this information; in Ephesus, numerous temples were being dismantled by the year AD 400. Components from the renowned Artemision, for instance, were repurposed for the refurbishment of the Harbour Baths in the second quarter of the 4th century. Additionally, blocks from its boundary wall were extensively utilized in the construction of the Church of St. Mary and its accompanying 'bishop's palace' in the early 430s. (see figure x)

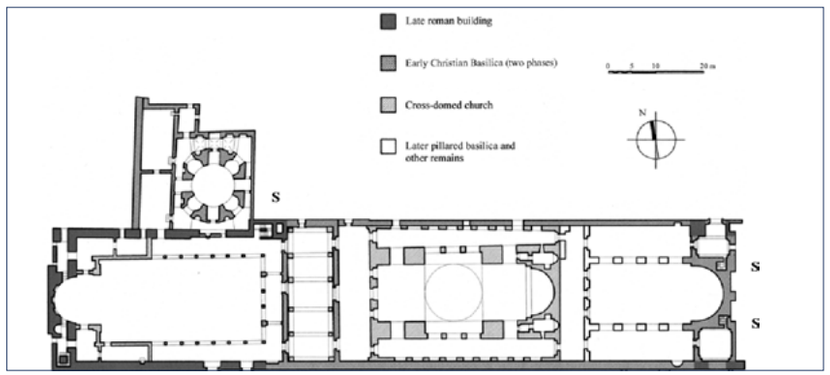

Figure 15: Church of St Mary in Ephesus, Phases of Construction (Vasilikou, 2009)

Temples that were still in good condition were not required to be dismantled. Furthermore, they were even safeguarded by the imperial authorities who, during the later 4th and early 5th century, openly expressed their interest in the urban environment. Intact places of worship were at times repurposed as they were. Particularly during the Theodosian era, temples were adapted for new civic functions.

It appears from all the information given above that, the 'Church' in this period did not yet reach the financial force that it is in the later centuries. Therefore, the reuse of entire buildings, or at least the availability of all necessary structural elements on site, was determinative in the takeover of formerly public and pagan sites.

iii. Fortifications

The history of fortification in Anatolia dates back to even before the Bronze Age; however, it was the establishment of Greek cities and newly Hellenized cities during the period following Alexander the Great's reign that led to a significant legacy of extensive stone-built urban fortifications. (Crow, 2017, p.90-108) According to James Crow, the presence of these walls was not only for the defense and city protection. They became essential elements of the urban display. A large number of examples of these urban environments exist in many parts of Asia Minor, but the arrival of Rome brought a new urban arrival with it; cities under Roman protection no longer needed protection. Such a powerful political presence and a direct influence on the cityscape.

After the establishment of Roman rule and the consequent peace and stability, the construction of fortifications ceased, and the existing Hellenistic walls lost their significance. It wasn't until the 3rd century onwards that the Empire faced new threats from enemies. Traditionally, the building or repair of fortifications has been interpreted as a response to specific historical events such as foreign raids or invasions (Jacobs, 2012). Following the examples of Rome and the Tetrarchic cities, Constantine recognized the importance of fortifying his new capital. Especially, its vast area of 650 hectares enclosed a significant amount of open ground alongside urban development (Jacobs, 2012).

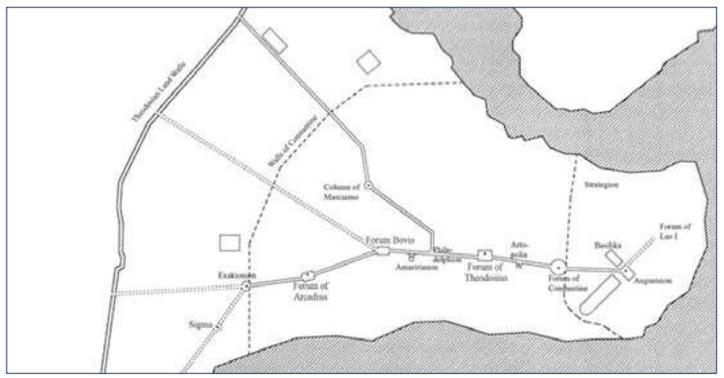

Figure 16: The walls at Constantinople in the Late Antiquity (Bauer, 1996)

TIMELINE OF ASIA MINOR FROM GREEK ARRIVAL

8th Century BCE
Establishment of Greek settlements in western Asia Minor

6th Century BCE
Construction of monumental buildings begins in Asia Minor

547 BCE
Persion Invasion: Persian Empire conquers Asia Minor

499-493 BCE
Greek cities rebel againts Persian rule

499-449 BCE
Greco-Persian Wars

Classical Age | 5th-4th BCE
Greek culture and influence spread thorughout Anatolia

334-323 BCE
Alexander the Great's Conquests: Anatolia comes under Greek influence

Hellenistic Period | 5th-4th BCE
Flourishing of Greek culture and architectural innovation
Development of monumental public buildings: temples, theatres...

133 BCE
Attalus III's Bequest: Pergamum bequeathed to Rome, formalizing Roman presence

Roman Period | 1st BCE- 3rd AD
Expansion and Romanization of Anatolian Cities
Construction of signigicant infrastructues: roads, aqueducts and amphithetres

214-148 BCE
Macedonian Wars: Rome's increasing involcement in Anatolia

Byzantine Period| 4th - 15th AD
Constantiople founded, 330 AD
Spread of Christianity and religous construction

1453 AD
Fall of Constantiople by Ottoman Empire

1453- 1914 AD
Expansion of the Ottoman Empire across three continents

1914- 1918 AD
World War I: Ottoman Empire's involvement and defeat

1919-1923
Turkish War of Independence led by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk

1923
Establishment of the Republic of Turkey follwed by Ataturk's modern reforms

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CHAPTER II

Micro Territory: Cilicia Trachea

Strategically located at the crossroads of Anatolia, Mesopotamia, and the eastern Mediterranean, Cilicia's importance lies in its complex network of land, sea, and river routes, as noted by Girginer and Uygur (2014). Abundant agricultural lands, a temperate climate, and plentiful water sources have long made this region a sanctuary for diverse communities, supporting the growth of unique cultures and civilizations.

This chapter follows the organizational structure established earlier, beginning with an exploration of geographical boundaries and proceeding to the historical layers that define Cilicia's cultural identity. These interlinked phenomena offer insight into how geography shaped civilization, culture, and politics across the entire region. Starting with a broader overview of Cilicia, this chapter will then focus on the distinctive features of Rough Cilicia. The next chapter will continue this focus by centering on Elaiussa Sebaste, the primary subject of this thesis.

2.1 Geographic Limits of Cilicia -+

Introduction to Cilicia

If we define Cilicia[11] by the geographical boundaries, first we need to mention its two distinct geomorphological units: Cilicia Trachea, or Rough Cilicia, the western one, from the border with Pamphylia to Viransehir/Soloi, with its mountains falling directly into the sea. And the second one, Cilicia Pedias, the eastern one, from Viransehir/Soloi to Kinet Höyük/Issos, with large plains enclosed by the Taurus to the North and the Amanus to the East (Jean,2003)

Roughly speaking about the origin of this region, its naming, primary connections, and interactions due to its geographical location can be briefly mentioned; upon further examination of the works by Herodotus, a significant amount of information regarding Cilicians can be collected. In his research paper on the urban history of Cilicians, Gregory McMohan (2011) also draws upon his written sources. Based on this study, the accounts provided by Herodotus trace back to Phoenicia, and his arguments on this topic indicate his consistent view of Anatolians as Greek migrants. McMohan partially concurs with this analysis, particularly highlighting the location of Cilicia. Indeed, it is reasonable that Cilicians might have been Phoenician settlers or adopted the name "Cilix" the Phoenician upon arriving at the southern coast of Anatolia.

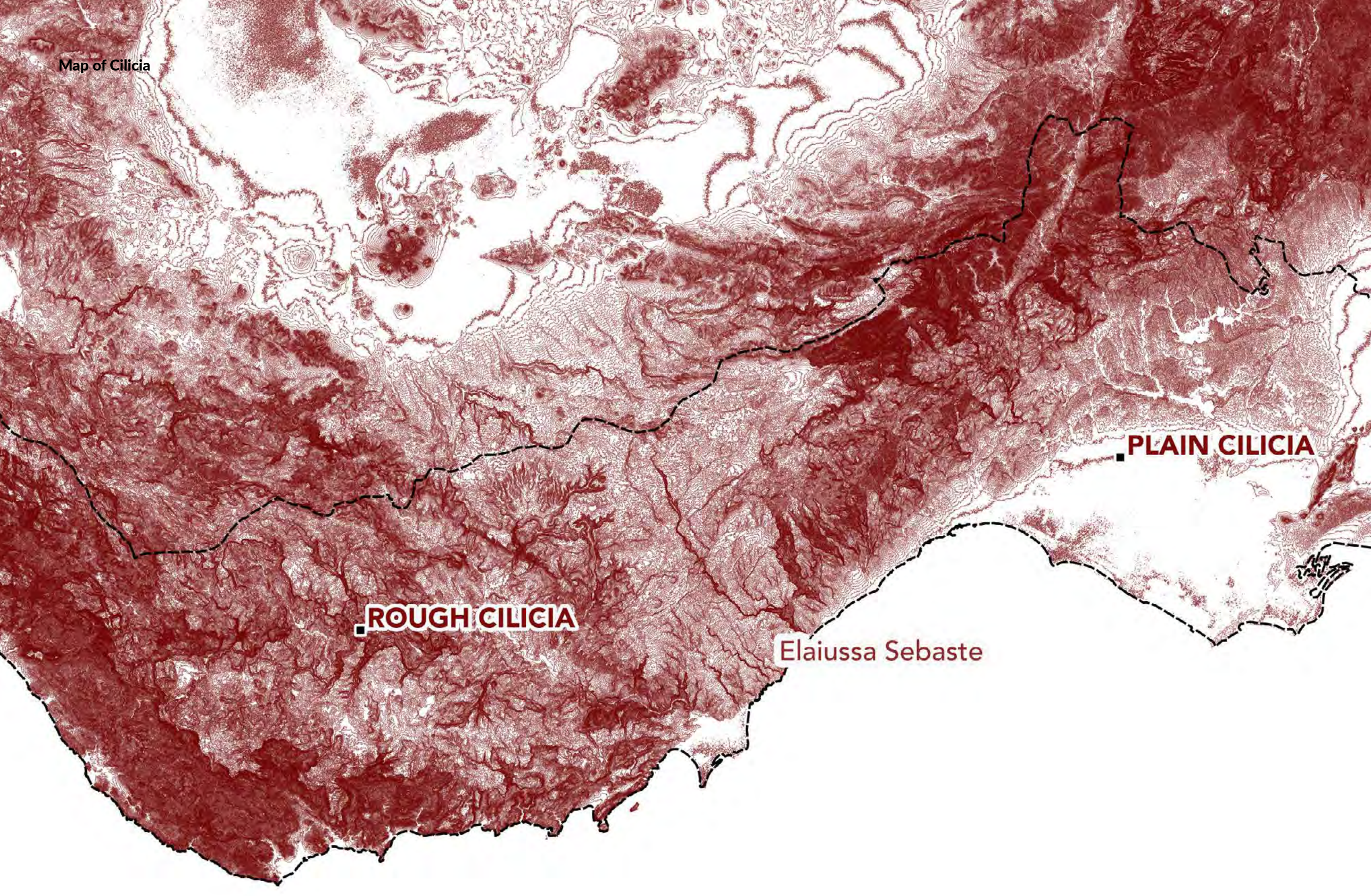
Cortese (2022) points out the complex terrain of Cilicia, drawing the boundary between the rugged western expanse of Cilician Tracheia and the smoother eastern reaches of Cilician Pedias. She expresses how this diverse landscape, characterized by deep river valleys, impenetrable brushwood, and rugged limestone formations, served as both a sanctuary and a challenge for its inhabitants. Cortese further highlights the role of Cilicia's natural features, such as canyons and caves, in shaping the region's identity and offering protection to its people. Meanwhile, Durugonul (2001) emphasizes Cilicia's enduring strategic significance as a pivotal passage zone. By focusing on the famed "Cilician Gates," Durugonul explains how this narrow corridor facilitated trade and military movements, acting as a crucial passage connecting Mesopotamia to the Aegean world. She especially highlights the gates' dual function as both a conduit for armies and a recruitment hub, underlining their pivotal role in shaping the region's history.

Additionally, (Jean 2003) mentions Cilicia's geographical richness and interconnectedness. Like other authors, he also mentions Cilicia's important position as a crossroads connecting Anatolia, Cyprus, Syria, and Egypt, noting its natural resources, but also including mines and fertile plains.

This convergence of diverse cultures and environments is facilitated by Cilicia's strategic location and maritime accessibility. And its significance as a focal point of trade, cultural exchange, and historical interaction.

11 The origin of the word comes from Greek word Kilikiva. (Wilson, 2000)

Map of Cilicia



Cilicia Trachea

It was already explained that Cilicia was naturally divided into two different areas, Cilicia Pedias and Cilicia Trachea (Cortese, 2022). From here on, the focus will scale down to the Cilicia Trachea for the sake of a deeper analysis of the case study site, Elaiussa. Coming up, we will see the natural, environmental, political, and morphological conditions influence very effectively the past and future of the ancient city of Elaiussa Sebaste. Therefore it is crucial to understand and acknowledge the situation of the Cilicia Trachea perfectly.

Hoff and Townsend (2007) called the Cilicia Trachea and Pedias as "sister regions", which I found a very on-point analogy for sharing a territory, yet being very different in their character. Cilicia Trachea, as mentioned before, is characterized by the ruggedness of its territory. And we see the consequences of this mountainous landscape in its history since antiquity. It limited agricultural production that in turn must have had an impact on the economy and size of population centers of the region relative to the larger urban centers of its agriculture-rich neighbors, smooth Cilicia, which bordered Rough Cilicia on the west (Hoff and Townsend, 2007). The forests that dominated the mountains of Selucia[12], however, compensated to some extent for the restricted farming. Well known from the Hellenistic period through the Roman Empire as a source of timber, primarily for shipbuilding, this natural resource had the potential for considerable income. The rugged terrain also offered protection to the inhabitants during times of invasion and played a major role in the acculturation process of the region. In addition, the protection afforded by the high mountains combined with the rugged seacoast fostered the prolific piracy that developed in the late Hellenistic period, bringing much notoriety to Rough Cilicia, to such an extent that the terms "Rough Cilicia" and "piracy" go hand in hand. As will be explained in the other chapter, the inclusion of piracy in the history of Cilicia greatly affected Elaiussa and the neighboring towns as well.

12 Present name is "Silifke".

Cilicia Trachea Natural Sources

Elaiussa Sebaste

Cilicia Trachea Road Networks and Boundaries

TOROSLAR

MEZITLI

YENISEHIR

ERDEMLI

MUT

ERMENEK

SILIFKE

Elaiussa Sebaste

GULNAR

BOZYAZI

AYDINCIK

2.2 Urban History +-

The geographical characteristics of a region not only influence the size, location, and urbanization patterns of settlements but also profoundly impact the architectural landscape. This consideration is particularly relevant when examining the urban history of Cilicia, where layers of diverse civilizations such as the Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine periods have left distinctive imprints. It is essential to investigate these varied historical layers to comprehensively understand the evolution of urban centers in the region.
Of particular significance is the geological composition of Cilicia, with its distinct regions such as Plain Cilicia and the Mountainous Cilicia, both primarily composed of limestone (Durugonul, 2001). The utilization of this durable stone material, capable of being fashioned into polygonal or quadrilateral shapes without the need for mortar, has greatly influenced architectural practices. This characteristic grants builders greater flexibility in realizing various sizes and aesthetic considerations, thus contributing to the diverse architectural heritage of the region.

2.2.1 Hellenistic Cilicia +-

The Hellenistic period in Cilicia was marked by complex power struggles and survival challenges, as noted by Durugonul (2001). This era left a profound imprint on the architectural landscape, characterized by the construction of military structures fortified with towers and garrisons.
This period (The early 2nd century BC) of construction aimed to fortify and safeguard the western borders of the region following the Apameia treaty (Aydinoglu, 2003). These types of constructions are indicative of the existence of Hellenistic settlements.

These settlements, including the seven Hellenistic cities within the Olbian Territory[13], were characterized by distinctive settlement patterns shaped by geographical, economic, and political factors (Aydinoglu, 2003), Contrary to modern cities, these settlements primarily functioned as military garrisons, fortified with walls and towers, strategically positioned to defend and control the territory. The distribution of these settlements formed a cohesive network of military bases across the region, each serving as an acropolis hill fortified with towers, echoing defensive strategies employed elsewhere in the Hellenistic world.
Even the largest settlements primarily comprised military dwellings clustered around the tower residences of leaders (Durugonul, 2001). Durugonul further mentions that sacral structures, such as the houses of priests, were also fortified as towers for security reasons. However, with the arrival of Romans and the establishment of the province of

13 The Olbian Territory is located between the Kalykadnos river and the Lamos river in Rough Cilicia. (Aydinoglu, 2003)

Cilicia, a paradigm shift occurred. The province had to align with the administrative structures of other Mediterranean provinces, necessitating the construction of representative buildings, under Roman imperial policies.

Spanu's (2020) insights on the urbanization dynamics in pre-Roman Cilicia highlight its limited urban development compared to other regions of Asia Minor. Before Roman involvement, Cilicia had few cities, but their numbers increased during the early Hellenistic age, especially under Seleucid influence. According to him, this increase in the number of cities likely resulted from urbanistic programs aimed at Hellenizing the region; however, due to the scarcity of historical sources, detailed hypotheses regarding architectural interventions remain unclear. Furthermore, in Rough Cilicia, urbanization was markedly suppressed, due to both geographical constraints and its border status. Throughout the Hellenistic period, settlements were primarily small, disorganized inhabited areas, concentrated mainly in Plain Cilicia (Spanu, 2020). However, a notable urban revival occurred under Pompey the Great's conquest, marked by land distribution to pirates and the foundation of new cities such as Pompeiopolis.

Despite the challenges posed by the scarcity of historical records, modern research suggests that Hellenistic cities in Cilicia likely followed a Hippodamean[14] plan, characterized by gridiron street layouts (Durugonul, 2001). The city of Antiochia, for instance, displayed a layout oriented along the Orontes River, with main axes strategically positioned to maximize ventilation from the sea. While detailed information regarding the internal organization and typology of the monuments remains unclear, ongoing archaeological research offers promising avenues to learn more about the urban development of Cilicia in the Hellenistic period.

A common architectural trait among these settlements was the widespread use of polygonal masonry, particularly in defensive structures, as highlighted by Aydinoglu. This construction technique served both practical and preventing purposes; preventing potential rivals and strengthen defensive capabilities. Furthermore, the strategic positioning of these settlements along the slopes of deep valleys facilitated control over crucial communication routes between inland and coastal regions, enhancing their defensive efficacy. Additionally, the naturally fortified positions of these settlements facilitated their defense while accommodating necropolis areas in their vicinity.
In summary, the distinctive settlement pattern observed in the Olbian Territory during the Hellenistic period, characterized by a network of acropolis settlements, continued in the later periods. In particular, polygonal masonry emerged as a particular feature of Hellenistic construction techniques, gradually transitioning from skilled craftsmanship to rough workmanship. This architectural legacy, unique to the Hellenistic era, underlines the region's historical and cultural significance in the broader context of ancient architecture and construction practices.

14 The Hippodamian Plan is, essentially, a city plan that looks like a gridiron.

Hellenistic Settlements in the Olbian Territory


Tabureli

Takkadin

Pasli

Kabacam


Elaiussa


Korykos

Karaboculu

Kome

2.2.2 Roman Cilicia

The evolution of urbanism in Cilicia during the Roman period presents a fascinating narrative of transformation and adaptation. The transformation is very evident because the territory had a strong identity with military-based towns in the Hellenistic period (Durugonul, 2001). Also, it is important to mention how the rulers perceived architecture as well; in the Hellenistic period, the kings communicated to the public through architectural constructions, and they sometimes used architecture as a part of their propaganda. Durugonul interprets the motivation of this action as a self-representation of the leaders. However this tradition was influential to Romans, they had more of a pragmatic approach toward structures, and they sought to find practical solutions to real problems, leaving trademarks of incredible examples in the engineering field.

Moving on with the arrival of Romans, their takeover of Cilicia happened differently from the gradual blending seen in the Hellenistic period. Instead, it involved a series of complicated military actions, making the province a complex and significant territory, both geographically and historically (Borgia, 2017).
Furthermore, Spanu (2020) points out that the peak of urbanization in Cilicia occurred at the beginning of the Christian era, leading to a new chapter of growth and development.
Although the Roman rule did not see the necessity of the establishment of new urban areas, the introduction of pax romana[15] and improved infrastructure systems contributed to significant advancements in the urban scene. Aqueducts, which are emblematic of Roman innovations, represented a shift from Hellenistic architectural conventions, prioritizing functionality and enriching urban life. Despite the growth of coastal cities and trade routes leading to significant improvements in harbor infrastructure, Spanu criticizes the fact that scholarly attention to these developments remains limited.
Related to the changes that happened in the transition from the Hellenistic Age to the Romans, Durugonul (2001) states that, obviously the characteristics of Roman settlements in Cilicia differ a lot from the previous age. The observation is like the other scholars mentioned before, related to the political change, the need for hidden mountain fortifications for security purposes diminished; particularly under the leadership of Pompeius. In this time range he was also the one to seek urban growth both in the plains and coastal regions. Moreover to this statement, this new stability in politics enabled strong connections between Cilician cities and their counterparts across the Roman Empire; leading to the new establishment of civic amenities like colonnaded streets, theatres, and agoras.

However, despite all these significant and greatly achieved urban growth witnessed in this period (mid-1st BC- mid-1st AD), Spanu (2003) complains about the lack of detailed information regarding these emerging cities' planning and architectural features. Nonetheless, I would like to emphasize the fact that this era represented the peak of urban development in Cilicia, highlighting the great impact of Roman rule on the region's urban landscape.

This clearly shows their big interest in transportation infrastructure, such as road networks, and aqueducts; a big step forward from previous Hellenistic norms. Related to the road infrastructure, this network increased the importance of Cilicia and assigned a new character of being a transition point towards the further Eastern provinces (Spanu, 2003).

The development of aqueducts and public baths illustrated the utilitas necessaria trait of Roman architecture, addressing practical as well as visual requirements. They later evolved to be part of the Roman conception of the city. Additionally, the construction of infrastructure beyond city limits, such as bridges, harbors, and aqueducts, required significant technical expertise for planning and execution. It seems unlikely that only local workers were involved, given the complexity and scale of these projects. While local labor likely played a major role, the planning, and supervision were likely handled by experienced foreign technicians, estimated by Spanu.
The introduction of water supply led to the establishment of numerous public baths varying in size. These structures, characteristic of Roman civilization, served not only practical purposes but had Roman identity also from a social point of view. Similar to other regions within the Roman Empire, the baths in Cilicia were highly popular due to their versatile functions, including serving as communal gathering spaces and promoting health and sanitation facilities.
Another consideration by Spanu is that we should take into account the fact that these monuments were erected under the historical and social conditions of that period. Therefore the construction of several monuments was influenced by a variety of factors: including the growing economic prosperity of cities and the municipal competition. These competitions among municipalities drove progress in architecture, though occasionally resulting in financial consequences.

The introduction of Roman building techniques, particularly mortared rubble (opus caementicium), revolutionized construction practices in Cilicia (Spanu, 2003). This innovation facilitated the creation of structures with curvilinear plans, vaults, and domes, making a great impact in the region's architectural landscape. Local adaptations of Roman building methods, such as the use of sandstone for vaults in Rough Cilicia, showcased the flexibility and ingenuity of Cilician architects in adapting to local geological conditions.

15 Pax Romana, a state of comparative tranquillity throughout Classical antiquity and the Mediterranean world from the reign of Augustus (27 BCE–14 CE) to the reign of Marcus Aurelius (161 –180 CE). (Britannica)

Furthermore, the widespread presence of architectural sculptures, such as marble and granite, emphasized the wealth and status of Cilician communities (Spanu, 2003). Both private and public buildings decorated with foreign materials demonstrated the economic wealth and significance of the region within the boundaries of the Roman Empire.

In conclusion, the Roman period they marked a significant phase in the urban development of Cilicia, characterized by the adoption of Roman building techniques, advanced infrastructure, and architectural innovations. The shift from Hellenistic military defenses to Roman public hubs showcased the area's development during Roman governance, emphasizing the interaction among geographical elements, technological progress, and socio-political aspects in molding urban development in Cilicia.

Roman Settlements in the Olbian Territory

Olba
(Uzuncaburç)

Tabureli

Adamkayalar

Kanlidivane

Elaiussa

Korykos

Karaboculu

Mezgit Kale

Susanoglu

Silifke

Tasucu

2.2.3 Byzantine Cilicia

"The level of urban activity between the late 3rd and early 7th century (Byzantine period) was not constant: periods of greater activity - 'renaissances' - alternated with decades characterized by stagnation or decline. Due to the size of the Roman Empire and the different histories of its separate dioceses and provinces, this timeline is not necessarily the same everywhere." (Jacobs, 2012, p.113)

Beginning with an overview of urban developments in Asia Minor in the Byzantine period before focusing on the Cilician stage; an important change is the re-emergence of urban fortifications as significant elements in the urban landscape, from the later 4th century onward. By then, the Christian churches had been already introduced to cities, Jacobs (2012) says that this innovation was the most important one in the history of urbanism. Additionally, numerous cities renovated the streets and squares, thereby creating "eclectic" ensembles that are acknowledged as characteristics of late antiquity (Jacobs, 2012, p.113-164).
Simultaneously, many cities established large-scale renovations of their armatures[16], particularly colonnaded streets, which became emblematic of urban pride and identity, Jacobs interprets.

If we were to take a look at the political environment, Asia Minor was among the most stable regions of the late antique Empire. As mentioned earlier, Christianity was well established by the Constantinian period and a lot of urban building went on in the reign of Theodosius and his dynasty.
Different from what Jacobs said already about the reuse of new buildings, Niewöhner (2017) adds that the reuse of ancient ruins was arranged to display their "esteemed antiquity" and "superior workmanship" and to give some respectability; to otherwise mediocre architecture[17].

An example, given by him, the Aezani the Temple of Artemis (figure 9, chapter 1); which was torn down and reused for the building of a colonnaded street. We will take a closer look at it.

"Numerous new city walls also employed spolia[18], particularly around the gates, where

16 "The word "armature" can suggest structural support. The urban armature is in some ways like this because it connotes the tying together of a community or other entity through similar forms and materials. In Rome, arches like the Arch of Titus were broadly embraced, just as fountains, forums, and columns could be found in almost every city that fell under Rome's grasp." defined by Eric Johnson (University of Brown, 2008). It is very interesting how the word's real meaning and its use in urbanism are linked.

17 To my understanding, this strong "mediocre" comment is not related to the architecture of the period but to the state of the ruin discussed.

18 "Spolia: the reused remains of earlier imperial monuments, in towns all over the Roman

they would have attracted the greatest attention and—in conjunction with a pair of flanking towers in the grand Hellenistic tradition—propagated a long and distinguished urban history." This statement to reason the intervention in the cityscape derives from storytelling, and historical propaganda, rather than it being a consolidation intervention to increase its defensive value. Because these changes seem to be far from the strategic needs of the fortifications.

Subsequently, from the 5th century onwards, urban development in Asia Minor experienced a period of decline. More thermae[19] stopped functioning; porticoes were downgraded, subdivided, and given up; and city walls were once again demolished or compromised by lean-to structures (Niewöhner, 2017, p.39-59). During the Byzantine era, many churches were constructed, representing a major exception to the overall urban decline. Nevertheless, churches were not exclusively urban features, as they were even more widespread in rural areas, this confirms the rural wealth increased with urban decline.

Following the Byzantine control over Asia Minor, the use of fortification nearly stopped being used until the arrival of Turks in the late 11th. Later in this period, the Byzantine population returned to urban centers, seeking refuge within fortified city walls (Niewöhner, 2017).

Shifting the focus to the Byzantine settlements in Cilicia, particularly between Seleucia and the river Lamus, numerous late antique to early Byzantine settlements have well-preserved architecture. These architectural elements, streets, lanes, and olive presses provide insights into rural village life of that period (Eichner, 2018, p. 267-292).
Cilician churches typically exhibit a three-aisled galleried structure with semicircular apses. Eichner further analyzes that the side aisles are divided from the nave in most of the churches by columned arcades but also, if rarely, by pillared arcades. Another significant feature of Cilician churches are a design called "eastern passage" by Stephen Hill (1996, p.28-37). Important architectural features include columned or pillared arcades dividing the nave from side aisles, as well as the presence of eastern passages, a distinctive characteristic of Cilician church architecture (Eichner, 2018).

In terms of material, as mentioned in the geographical features of Cilicia, locally available limestone is used for masonry construction. Eichner (2018, p.271) observes both types of masonry, that are significant for the early Byzantine houses of Cilicia: one is double-leaf mortared small stonework and the other one is combined masonry of large ashlars and small stones. However, sometimes sandstone is preferred for vaulted construction, because it is lighter than limestone (Varinlioglu, 2019, p.188-194)

world." Alchermes, 1994, p. 167-178)

19 Public bath in ancient Rome. (Encyclopedia Brittanica)

The settlement patterns in Byzantine Cilicia reveal a continuity from the Hellenistic to the early Byzantine periods, with a peak in urbanization observed during the 4th to 6th centuries AD (Vandekerckhove, 2019, p. 51-86). Another important point that Vandekerckhove (2019) emphasizes when reflecting on the socio-economic environment of this period is that urban wealth, based primarily on agriculture and supported by trade and flax manufacturing, supported the developing Cilician cities. Settlements were strategically located in well-watered areas, fostering agricultural productivity, and facilitating trade routes connecting Pompeiopolis and Zephyrion with central Anatolia. Despite differences in settlement patterns between coastal areas and mountainous regions, the Taurus range did not serve as a significant political divide until the seventh century AD. However, the advent of Islam in the region marked a turning point, leading to a decline in trade and population, culminating in the Arab occupation of Cilicia by the early eighth century (Vandekerckhove, 2019).

Byzantine Settlements in the Olbian Territory

Mut

Cambazli

Adamkayalar

Kanlidivane

Elaiussa

Mezgit Kale

Korykos

Susanoglu

Silifke

Tasucu

2.3 Settlement Morphology and Connectivity of Cilicia

"In order to understand an ancient settlement, the reasons why the modern settlement is founded in that area and the relation of the ecological environment with the economic periphery offer important clues. This method can be applied in Cilicia, as the ancient routes are still in use depending on the topographical setting. Furthermore, modern roads are constructed over the ancient ones in many cases." (Durugonul & Kaplan, 2019, p. 39)

In Rough Cilicia, three main factors have had a profound influence on the development and distribution of settlements: agricultural practices, road infrastructure, and maritime connections. Firstly, The challenging geography required adaptive agricultural strategies, which in turn influenced settlement patterns. Secondly, the establishment and maintenance of road networks were vital in determining the accessibility and connectivity of various settlements. Lastly, the proximity to the sea and the presence of maritime routes had a significant impact in trade and communication, further influencing where and how settlements developed.

As a final analysis in the Rough Cilicia chapter, these three factors will be examined in detail to understand their roles in shaping the settlement morphology of Cilicia.

2.3.1 Agriculture and Settlement Patterns

Through an examination of olive oil production workshops[20] and their spatial distribution, we can explore how geographical features, trade links, and agricultural suitability influenced the organization of settlements in Cilicia Trachea.

Olive oil production workshops, identified as key indicators of ancient settlement patterns and production organization, exhibit a distinct spatial distribution across Cilicia. These workshops are strategically located near ancient cities along the coastline and along roads leading to settlements in the interior, reflecting the influence of trade routes and geographical features on settlement morphology (Aydinoglu, 2008).

Geographically, recalling the beginning of the chapter, Cilicia's terrain, characterized by the Taurus Mountains running parallel to the coastline, presents both challenges and opportunities for settlement. While the rugged landscape restricts passage through mountain ranges, the eastern end of Rough Cilicia features relatively favorable terrain for ancient settlements. Valleys connecting the interior to the coastline serve as natural conduits for settlement and transportation, shaping the spatial distribution of settlements.

The location of olive oil workshops near ancient cities on the coastline and along interior roads is closely tied to trade links. Unlike wine production, olive oil production does not necessitate sunlight for fermentation or extended waiting periods, making it feasible to transport olives to workshops near the coastline (Aydinoglu, 2008). Moreover, the coastal region's favorable climate for olive cultivation and the formation of terraces suitable for cultivation further contribute to the concentration of production facilities along the coastline.

In mountainous terrain, olive oil workshops are often integrated within ancient settlements, suggesting a close connection between settlement and production. Aydinoglu (2008) gives the examples of two towns from Rough Cilicia, such as Öküzlü and Köşkerli demonstrate how workshops were situated within settlements, alongside houses and churches, indicating the intertwined nature of agricultural production and urban life.
However, some workshops stand independent of ancient settlements, yet remain in close proximity to coastal cities or other settlements. With this observation, Aydinoglu gives a reasoning for these standalone workshops as they signify the importance of strategic location and accessibility to trade routes in determining production sites.
Furthermore, certain workshops are identified within towers, originally constructed during the Hellenistic period for defense purposes. These towers, strategically positioned to overlook farmland, were later repurposed as olive oil workshops, showcasing the adaptive reuse of architectural structures for agricultural activities. The presence of olive oil processing equipment within these towers highlights their transformation into production facilities, with their proximity to ancient roads facilitating their function as workshops.

2.3.2 Road Network and Settlement Patterns

Since antiquity, road networks have played a crucial role in facilitating connectivity and trade. The extensive Roman road network, spanning approximately 80,000 to 100,000 kilometers, highlights the importance of efficient transportation infrastructure in fostering economic and military endeavors.
Scholars have long been intrigued by the classification and function of Roman roads, with legal distinctions between 'Viae Publicae,' 'Viae Privatae,' and 'Viae Vicinales' dating back to Roman jurisprudence (Durugonul & Kaplan, 2019, p.39-52).

In Mediterranean regions, where paved roads remain visible, tracing ancient routes is relatively straightforward. However, in northern regions, the identification of Roman roads often relies on landscape features such as old field boundaries and tree lines.

20 Buildings identified as workshops where olive oil was produced.

Modern technology, including geophysical surveys, has enhanced the study of ancient road networks, shedding light on their multifaceted roles in military, agricultural, and commercial activities.

According to Durugonul and Kaplan (2019) the military character of many ancient roads highlights their strategic importance in both defensive and offensive operations. Roads constructed or widened for military purposes served multiple functions, including facilitating agricultural trade and public transportation. Consequently, understanding the motivations behind road construction and their intended purposes is essential for interpreting settlement patterns and socioeconomic dynamics.

In Cilicia, the interaction between road networks and settlement patterns is evident in the spatial distribution of ancient cities and rural settlements. Roman roads and routes, such as those connecting Ikonion-Lystra, Laranda-Claudiopolis, and Ikonion-Seleucia, played pivotal roles in linking coastal cities with inland agricultural regions. Milestones dating to the Roman Imperial and Early Christian periods provide tangible evidence of road construction and maintenance efforts.

The topographical characteristics of Cilicia, including the presence of rivers and mountain ranges, influenced the development of road networks and settlement patterns. The construction of roads in the Olbian region during the Roman period, particularly in proximity to Hellenistic settlements, facilitated the expansion of agricultural territories and the establishment of new urban centers. Hellenistic towers, initially constructed for defense and agricultural control, evolved into Roman settlements and villa rusticae, reflecting the close relationship between road infrastructure and agricultural land use.

Archaeological evidence suggests that Roman roads transformed the social and economic fabric of ancient Cilician communities. Increased connectivity between hinterland settlements and coastal cities facilitated the exchange of goods and ideas, leading to urbanization and cultural diffusion. The construction of peristyled houses and theaters, characteristic of Greek-Roman architectural styles, exemplifies the influence of road networks on urban development and social practices.

In conclusion, the study of road networks in Cilicia offers valuable insights into the complex interplay between infrastructure, agriculture, and urbanization in antiquity. By analyzing the spatial distribution of roads and settlements and examining their socio-economic implications, scholars can better understand the dynamic processes that shaped ancient Cilician society. Through interdisciplinary research methodologies, encompassing epigraphic evidence, archaeological findings, and historical narratives, we can unravel the intricate relationship between road networks and settlement patterns, illuminating the enduring significance of transportation infrastructure in shaping human societies.

2.3.3 Maritime Connection and Settlement Patterns

In the exchange of goods between production sites and markets, maritime transport served as a vital link in the chain of transactions. McCormick conceptualized this process as a series of interconnected transactions involving producers, traders, and consumers, emphasizing the role of transportation in facilitating trade (McCormick, cited in Albay, 2020). For exports destined for distant markets, transportation to ports was essential, necessitating efficient overland routes to connect inland production centers with maritime hubs.

While water transport was favored for its cost-effectiveness and speed, regions lacking navigable rivers or located far from the coast relied heavily on land-based transportation infrastructure. Rough Cilicia exemplifies the importance of terrestrial road networks in facilitating trade and economic exchange (Albay, 2020). The transportation of goods, particularly liquids like wine and olive oil, relied on containers and means of conveyance ranging from animal skins to ceramic amphorae.

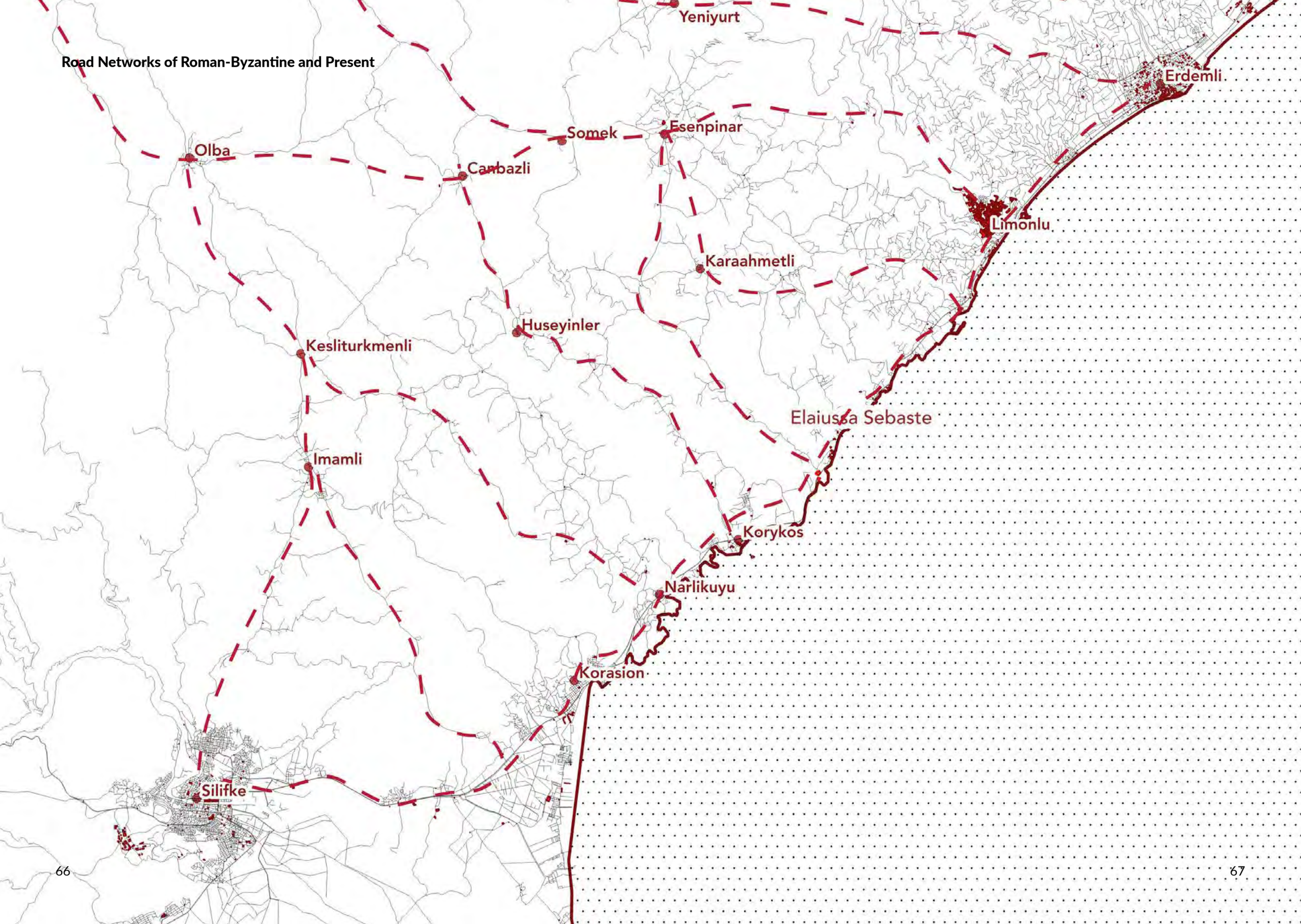
Maritime trade in the Mediterranean was characterized by a combination of large-scale imperial activities and local interactions. While long-distance maritime trade involved large ships and high-volume cargoes, local movements with small vessels were equally fundamental to the maritime economy (Albay, 2020). The Pax Romana and the demand for staples in imperial capitals contributed to the expansion of maritime activities in Cilicia during the Imperial Period. Political stability and the suppression of piracy fostered a conducive environment for maritime trade, while the annona[21] trade necessitated increased shipbuilding and port infrastructure.

The southern coast of Anatolia, including Rough Cilicia, served as a vital maritime thoroughfare connecting the eastern and western Mediterranean. Ports such as Korykos and Elaiussa Sebaste boasted permanent installations indicative of thriving maritime commerce (Albay, 2020). Despite fewer natural harbors compared to the Aegean coast, Rough Cilicia's strategic location on major sea routes facilitated extensive maritime trade.

The East-West maritime route linking the Levant with the Western Mediterranean played a crucial role in transporting essential commodities such as grain, wine, and olive oil. Before the decline of the Roman Empire, this maritime corridor facilitated the flow of goods between regions, as Albay (2020) interprets it, contributing to economic prosperity and urban development in Cilicia.

21

Road Networks of Roman-Byzantine and Present



TIMELINE OF CILICIA FROM PRE-HELLENISTIC PERIOD

Early 2nd century BC
Complex power struggles and survival challanges post-Apameia treaty

HELLENISTIC CILICIA | EARLY 2ND CENTURY BC-63 BC

Architectural Features
Use of polygonal masonry in defensive structures

Urban development
Limited urban development pre-Roman involvement

167 BCE
Cilicia gains brief independence from the Seleucid Empire, marked by the establishment of Hellenistic settlements

Mid 2nd Century BC
Seven Hellenistic cities within the Olbian Territory functioned as acropolis hills fortified with towers

Settlements positioned along slopes of deep valleys to control communication routes.

67 BC
Urban revival marked by Pompey the Great's conquests, leading to new cities like Pompeiopolis.

Establishment of public baths, serving practical and social functions
1st - 2nd century AD

Significant urban growth under Roman rule, emphasizing transportation infrastructure
Mid-1st BC - Mid-1st century AD

Introduction of Roman building techniques, such as mortared rubble (opus caementicium
1st century BCE

ROMAN CILICIA | 63 BC- Early 4th Century AD

Widespread presence of architectural sculptures, such as marble and granite, highlighting economic prosperity

Early 1st century AD
Peak of urbanization in Cilicia, marked by the construction of civic amenities like colonnaded streets, theatres, and agoras.

63 BC
Pompey the Great's conquest of Cilicia, leading to urban growth and land distribution.

BYZANTINE CILICIA | Late 3rd- Early 7th Century AD

Urban Development
Large-scale renovations of streets and squares, creating eclectic ensembles.

5th Century CE
xxChurches with three-aisled galleried structures and semicircular apses

Early 8th Century CE
Arab occupation of Cilicia.

4th Century AD
Re-emergence of urban fortifications and introduction of Christian churches in cities

Architectural Features
Use of double-leaf mortared small stonework and combined masonry of large ashlars and small stones.

7th Century CE
Decline in trade and population with the advent of Islam.

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CHAPTER III

The Territory: Elaiussa Sebaste

"…Entering the city from the west, the impact is incredible: past the cemetery area, one is suddenly led both physically and visually into the monumental heart of Elaioussa.
Its north side stands completely on the rock, out of which the cavea[22] of the theatre and a large cistern has been carved.
What suddenly caught my sight was a majestic complex of religious buildings, which made me feel tiny compared to the site's *beauty and magnificence.*

The pinkish-yellow color of the two buildings, contrasting with the blue sky and the green of the numerous olive trees that grow in the hills behind, makes this coastal city particularly impressive." (Cortese, 2022, p.158)

As usual, the chapter begins with a geographical analysis of the region, outlining the landscape of Elaiussa Sebaste. Equini Schenider (2008), also starts her book with these words "The birth and development of Elaiussa are linked primarily to the geographical position of the site…". So this is where we will begin as well. According to Equini Schneider, the geomorphological factors have partly guided its evolution over time, from a Hellenistic city first to a city and port during imperial Rome and under Byzantium and finally complete abandonment after the Middle Ages.
At the other half of the chapter, focus shifts to the historical narrative of the ancient city with particular attention the architectural monuments.

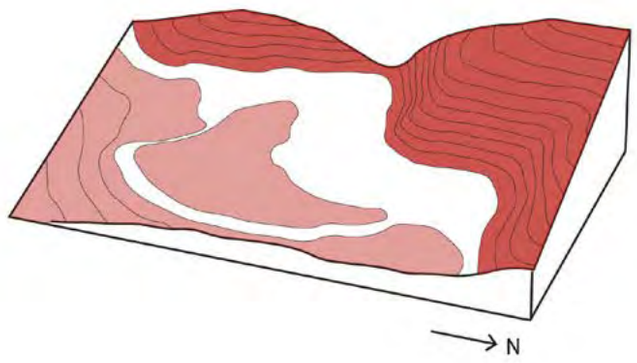
22 Latin term for the seating surrounding an amphitheatre arena (Darvill, 2008). (Oxford Dictionary of Archelogy)

3.1 Geomorphological Characteristics of the Territory

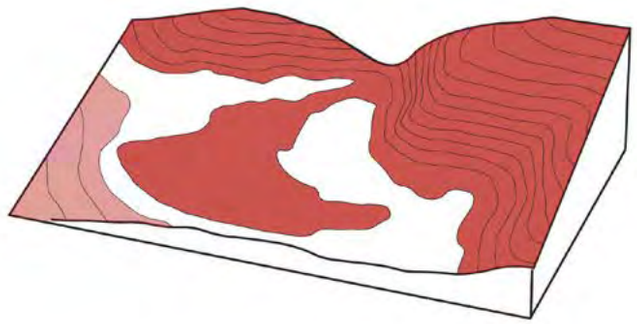
"The birth and development of Elaiussa are linked primarily to the geographical position of the site, located along the important coastal road that connected Asia Minor and Syria and projected into the intense maritime commercial traffic of the eastern Mediterranean, and secondly to the richness of the natural resources of the hinterland - the wood of the Taurus forests, the vine and the olive tree (elaion) to which, as is known, the very name of Elaiussa alludes." (Equini Schneider, 2008, p.13)

The Roman city of Elaiussa Sebaste is located along the south-eastern coast of Turkey, north of the island of Cyprus, between Silifke and Mersin. This stretch of coast is made up of the southern side of the Tauern Mountains; in a few tens of kilometers you climb from the sea to the highest mountains which represent the watershed between the Mediterranean and the vast endorheic areas of the Anatolian plateau. Important waterways, the Göksü, Limonlu and Sorgun rivers, descend from these mountains towards the Mediterranean, carrying a considerable load of sediments (Equini Schneider, 2008). The trend of the river networks present in this area is strongly controlled by regional tectonics. The grids have sections with orientations perpendicular to each other and are significantly recessed.

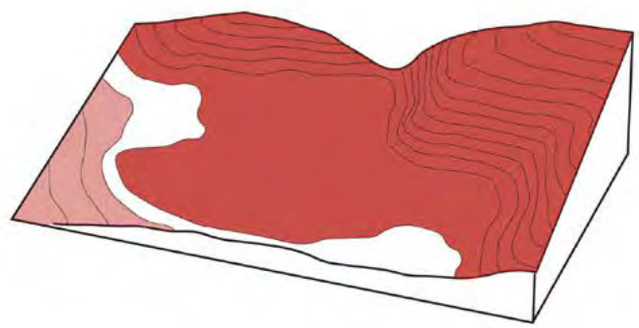
Near Elaiussa, the morphology is purely hilly, with modest reliefs and large plateaus on the advanced line; further west the hills reach considerable heights with mountain peaks exceeding 1800 m in height. These features arise from the location of the Rough Cilicia region, as explained in the previous chapter. But especially in the territory of Elaiussa, various streams originate from there, mostly torrential, which have carved out deep and narrow valleys.
South of Lamos, along the low and rocky coast, there are small bays and valley edges of alluvial origin, intended for agricultural activities and intensively trained in recent years.
The ancient city began to occupy the only peninsula extending into the sea, which is now between two large sandy bays.
However, in historical times, the sea embraced the monumental complexes built on the mainland, giving the rocky headland the appearance of an island connected to the coastal front only by a thin strip of land. And in fact, literary sources refer to Elaiussa's location as an island, and Strabo in particular recalls its fertility (or wealth), its proximity to the coast. Some scholars, relying precisely on literary testimonies, have suggested that it was formed only in late antiquity or the Byzantine period. The hypothesis by Equini can be seen in the figure x.
In fact, while an island is mentioned in literary sources, the question of the existence of a narrow strip of land for the Roman period does not arise. This is because exploration in the area has revealed the existence of various archaeological remains from the imperial age, such as a section of the Byzantine aqueduct built entirely on limestone bedrock.
The formation of a vast sand cover effectively connected the island with the mainland, burying the intervening sea.



Prehistoric age



Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine age



Present

Figure 17: The evolution of topography

Both the city of Elaiussa Sebaste and its surroundings are located on the lower Miocene limestones that are widely exposed in the surrounding area (Equini Schneider, 2008). These are approximately 1-2 m thick, sometimes massive, white-colored, layered limestones containing fossils produced by Pecten, Ostree, Echinids (Clipeaster) and Corals. It is important for us because these rocks constitute the main material on which the most important structures in Elaiussa and its surroundings are built. The outcrop surface of the limestones is abundantly karstified and red soil is now found in karst depressions, sinkholes, poljes, and cliffs. These red soils currently constitute suitable soil for growing olive and lemon trees (Equini Schneider, 1998), which are the typical agricultural products of the territory.

Agriculture and road network

From the Hellenistic period onwards, the coastal city of Elaiussa Sebaste was one of the most important centres of Eastern Rough Cilicia. Tempesta, Pipere, and Cassiani (2018, p.39) emphasize its importance, highlighting its strategic positioning enhanced by two expansive and well-protected port basins.

These basins were closely connected to a strong road network that enabled links to nearby coastal cities and inland farming settlements. The settlement took on dual roles over time. First, it served as a vital clearing center for the agricultural products of the hinterland. Secondly, it served as a crucial commercial and military harbor. The existence of a rocky promontory provided natural defense benefits, making fortification against potential dangers easier (Tempesta, Pipere, Cassiani, 2018).

The northern harbor, surrounded by steep slopes, offered natural protection but was exposed to winter winds and sea currents. On the other hand, the smaller southern harbor was shielded from south-western winds. Both harbors extended towards the mainland's lowest spurs, aligning with the coastal road (Tempesta, Pipere, Cassiani, 2018). The intensive utilization of natural resources around Elaiussa Sebaste is evident from the discovery of seven olive pressing plants along the city's outskirts. Equini Schneider (1998) stresses this observation, highlighting the interconnectedness between resource exploitation and the expansion of road networks. These pressing plants, equipped with crushers and related structures, were strategically located along ancient routes, both inland and coastal. This indicates a purposeful integration of economic endeavors with transportation infrastructure.

Additionally, the enhancement of water supply systems, crucial for irrigation, progressed alongside the growth of these road networks (Equini Schneider, 1998). The interaction among geographical features, economic needs, and strategic concerns emphasizes the pivotal role of the road network in shaping the course of Elaiussa Sebaste. Upon further exploration of the city's historical and geographical ground, it becomes clear that its road network was not just a means of transportation but a vital channel pulsating with the essence of trade, culture, and military protection.

3.2 History

4.2.1 Hellenistic Period

The combination of historical accounts and numismatic evidence provides a chronological view of Elaiussa Sebaste's development in the Hellenistic period, highlighting its importance in regional history. The origins of Elaiussa Sebaste can be traced back to the Hellenistic era, with its name originating from the cultivation of olive trees (Equini, 2008). During this time, the city's independence is evident through its coinage starting from the early 1st century BC. Kızılarslanoğlu (2016) underlines that the coins found in the region contain various images reflecting the cultural and religious influences of the city at that time, including the depiction of Zeus with Nike, Tyche with Hermes, and sometimes Athena with Aphrodite.

The historical timeline of Elaiussa overlaps with the phases of the Cilicia region. Due to its strategic location, as mentioned in the Cilicia chapter, Cilicia has always been an important port region, a focal point between east and West. As seen in figures 20, 21, and 22, the settlements show that the cities are often located on the shore due to the geographical characteristic of Rough Cilicia, and big mountainous land creates a natural barrier from the west. This naturally led them to small-scale commercial activities between cities in the region until the Hellenistic period, an as a result they couldn't develop sufficiently (Durukan, 2005).

But as already analyzed in the Cilicia chapter, we know that Cilicia has always been an attraction and was conquered by many civilizations, with its fertile lands producing olive, and wine and the forests providing wood, as Strabo has written.

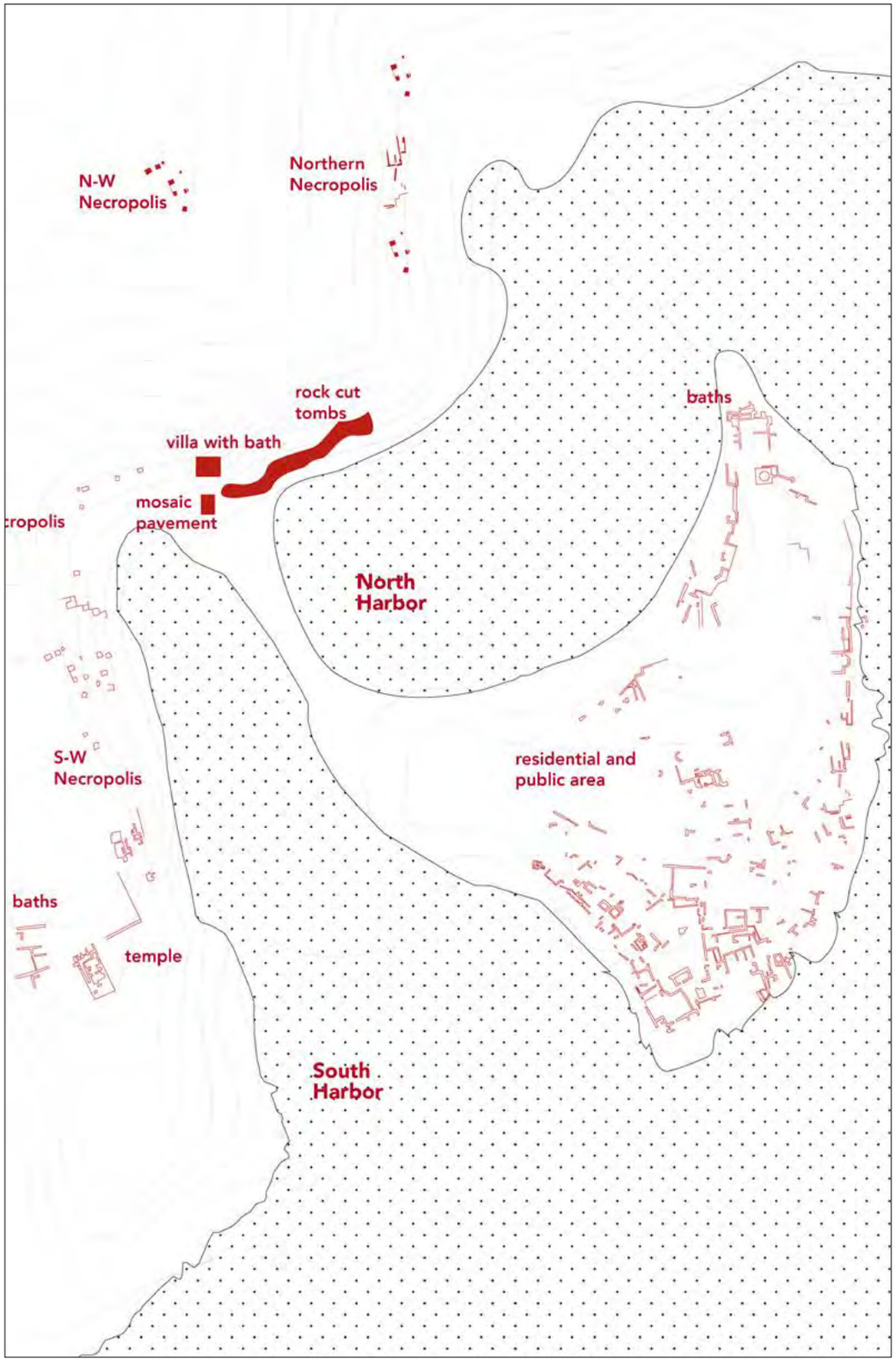
The earliest findings date back to the Bronze Age, but evidence suggests that the city was urbanized during the Hellenistic period. At the beginning of the 1st century BC, Elaiussa gained the status of a city center, indicating a level of self-government and autonomy (Equini, 2008). Historical and numismatic findings point to its possible role as a late location of the Seleucid royal mint. Strabo says that the rise of Archelaus to power in the mid-1st century BC marked a significant turning point for the whole of Cilicia as well as Elaiussa. During his reign, the city underwent substantial growth and development, characterized by architectural projects and improvements in infrastructure.

The core of the Hellenistic city was located on the island, which hosted important structures such as the port and civil buildings (Kızılarslanoğlu, 2016). Intense pirate activities in the region interrupted the commercial activities of Sebaste and Korykos. After Pompey cleared the Mediterranean coast from pirates in 67 BC, the cities began to develop again. Elaiussa truly became urbanized after the liberation, between the 1st century BC and the end of the 1st century AD (Sayar, 1994)

Around 20 BC, Archelaus took control of Elaiussa, marking a new era in its history. The

city was renamed “Sebaste” as a gesture of appreciation to Augustus by the Cappadocian king, who was granted authority over the city by Augustus in 20 BC (Tekin, 1997). Despite the name change, the name Elaiussa continued to be used.

Under the Archelaos rule, the city became a trade and administrative center. As Strabo has written, they had overseas shipments from their ports with their products; olive, wine, and timber.
Also, an interesting fact is that the cedar trees from the Taurus Mountains were transported to Egypt from the ports of Elaiussa Sebaste (Ozbay, 2001).



Elaiussa in the first century AD

3.2.2 Roman Imperial Era

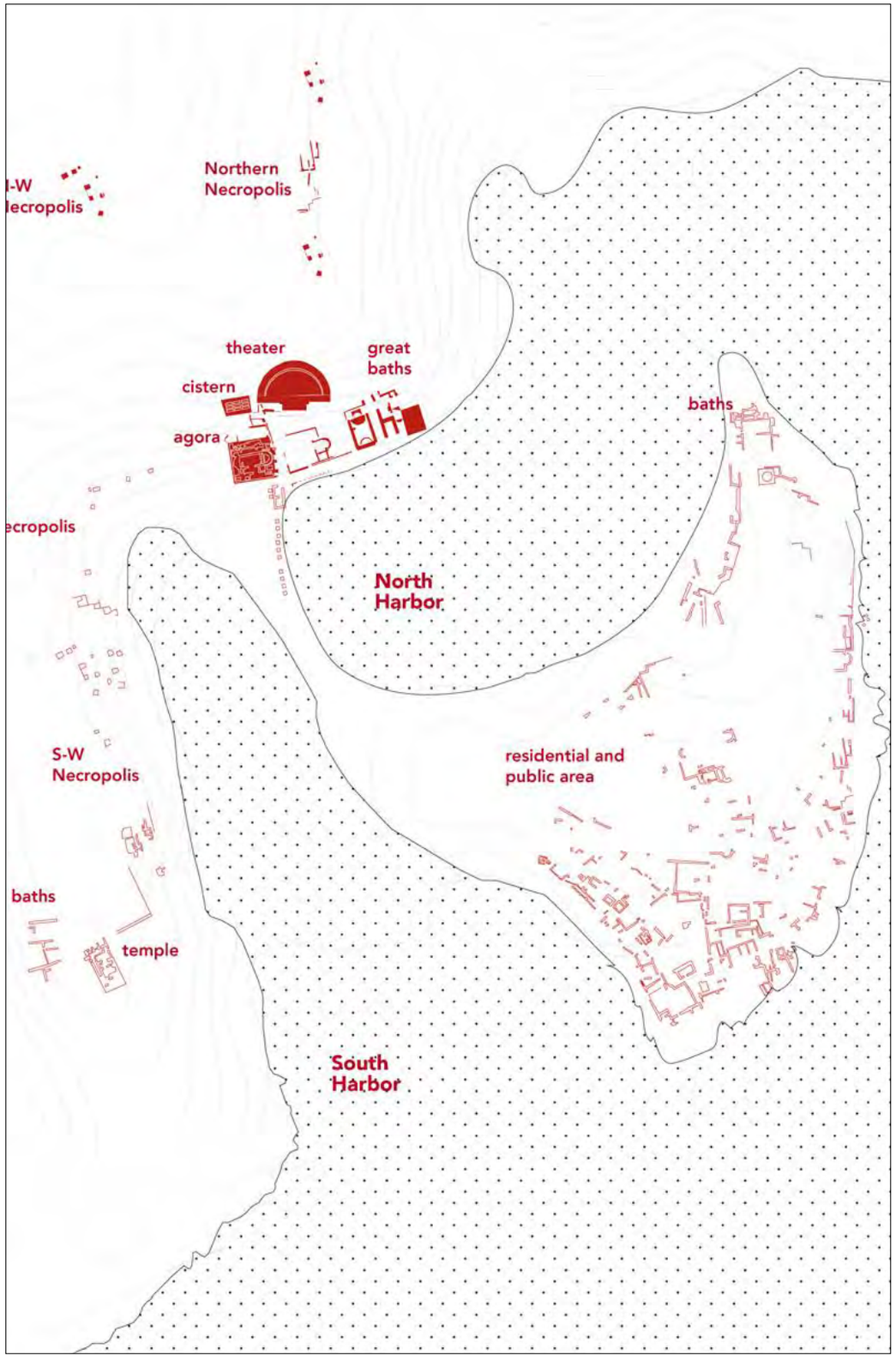
After the death of Archelaus in 17 BC, his son II Archelaus ascended to the throne, and in 38 AD, the region was transferred to the King of Commagene IV by Emperor Caligula, under the sovereignty of Antiochus (Tekin, 1997). Following this transition, Elaiussa began expanding towards the mainland, evidenced by the construction of public and private buildings, including complexes with mosaic-paved roads, villas, and tombs. Emperor Vespasian's incorporation of Cilicia, including Elaiussa, into the Roman Empire in 72 - 74 AD marked a period of development and prosperity, characterized by urban expansion and monumental construction (Kizilarslanoglu, 2016).

The city's urban development during the imperial age included the construction of a long aqueduct originating from the Lamos River, crossing the necropolis, and serving nearby cities like Korykos (Ozbay, 2001). Numerous cisterns throughout the urban area attested to the importance given to water conservation. The expansion of the city on the mainland, particularly around the large northern port basin, saw the construction of monumental public structures, including a theater. As a result, the presence of water accelerated the urban development.

In the mid-imperial era, a peaceful coexistence emerged between mountain populations engaged in livestock farming and pastoralism and those of coastal cities involved in agriculture and commerce (Equini Schneider, 1999). This period, particularly the second half of the 2nd century AD, witnessed the greatest prosperity for the province and the city, driven by intense commercial activities.
The exploitation of natural resources, such as timber from the Taurus forests, played a significant role in the city's economy, supported by the development of new road axes and water supply systems. The large flat area southwest of the theater likely served as the commercial agora before its transformation into a Byzantine complex. Particularly, the richness of the trees in the mountain area, an indispensable resource for shipyards is widely praised by Strabo.
This intensive exploitation of the natural resources of the area around the city it must have also developed in connection with the creation of new axes roads - it is no coincidence that the plants identified are all located near ancient routes, both inland and along the coastline and the progressive increase ment of the water supply, essential for irrigation.

According to Equini (2008), it is clear that a new phase of urban planning aims to meet not only the needs of the urban population that can no longer be contained on the island, but also the "in transit" needs associated with the vitality and increase in port activities.

The Roman Empire, which reached its peak during the reign of Augustus and declined in the 3rd century AD, was divided into two in 395 AD. This marks the beginning of the transition that formed the foundation of the Byzantine Empire (Aksit, 1970). This significant historical shift had a notable impact on Elaiussa Sebaste and the wider Cilicia region.
In 479 AD, Elaiussa and Korykos were at risk of being captured by the Isaurians, leading Byzantine Emperor Anastasios to take steps to strengthen Cilicia against further attacks. Subsequently, following a successful war in 498 AD, peace returned to the region after the defeat of the Isaurians (Hild, 1990).



Elaiussa from 2nd to 5th centuries

3.2.3 Byzantine Period

Elaiussa's importance in Byzantine times is highlighted by literary sources and the city's architectural growth, reflecting its vital role in the Empire's production and trade systems. The export of Cilician goods, marked by the distribution of their amphora was significant in Mediterranean markets (Tempesta & Pipere & Cassiani, 2018).

The transformation of the city over time is clearly seen in its changing geography; gradual siltation causes the island to be connected to the mainland. It is known how Elaiussa, certainly the urban center in the Byzantine era, was located on the island: the evidence that can be seen today of the silting phenomenon that was previously reported has made it an appendage to the sea. Ruggieri (1998, p.43-47) points out the fact that the city was also seen in this configuration by travelers who traveled through it in the past century, but we still don't know when the cover-up occurred. As it was mentioned previously under the geomorphological characteristics, some scholars believe this island was connected to the mainland only in late antiquity, because the literary sources mention Elaiussa as an island in the Roman Era (Equini, 1999).

To Ruggieri's (1999) interpretation, this geological phenomenon took place slowly over time, and we know well how the silting of ports became an economic burden and a scourge for cities located on sandy coasts. As an example, we can consider the epigraphically documented case of the city of Side. It is also known that such a geomorphological event is a determining factor for the economic and housing stability of the region, leading to changes in vital urban features.

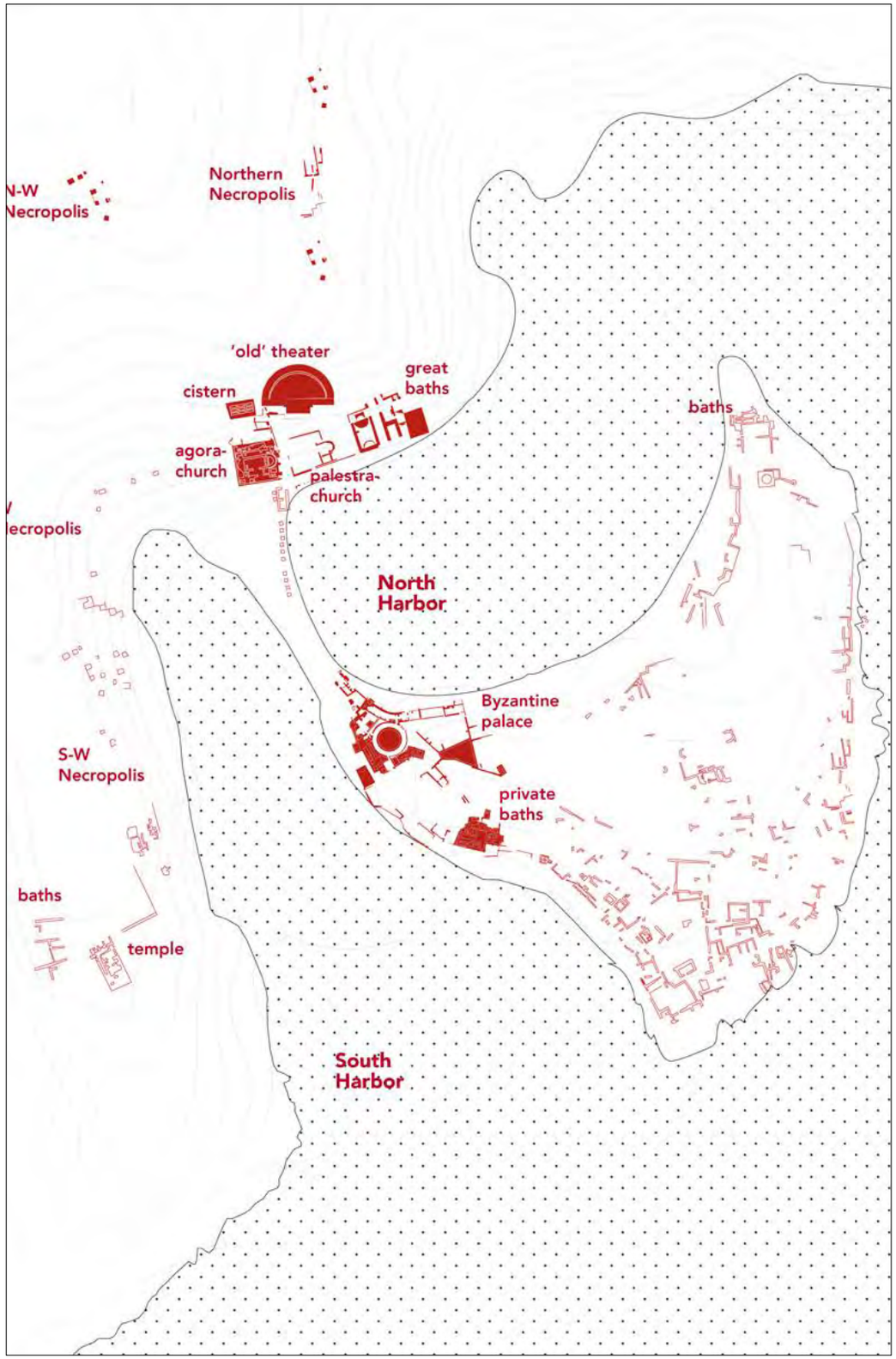
In the mid-5th century, a large palace was built for civil authorities on the southwestern side of the promontory within the Byzantine Empire. This palace, which erased any signs of previous constructions, included a central circular columned courtyard leading to different wings such as an audience hall, chapel, service rooms, and residential apartments on the upper floor. Moreover, between the late 5th and 6th centuries, several Christian churches were constructed, often utilizing existing materials or integrating pre-existing structures with minimal modifications.

The Byzantine city of Sebaste is divided into two distinct areas, referred to as urban and extra-urban for convenience. The urban area corresponds to the ancient central nucleus, enclosed by walls on the island, while the extra-urban section follows the mainland's topography, conforming to the hill's slope and the path of the ancient road. This initial observation, supported by three years of excavations (Ruggieri, 1998). The eastern part of the island, currently excavated, reveals numerous Byzantine structures, the exact nature of which has not yet been determined. Excavations on the northern mainland, including artifacts ranging from temples to theaters, confirm the assumption that the Byzantine city was the same as the ancient city.

Although care was taken in identifying the walls and mortars, it seems certain that the wall perimeter on the island was revived by the Byzantines, as is clearly visible in the northwestern corner of the isthmus. This wall section, which starts from a circular and angular shape, is preserved at a height of 258 cm and a thickness varying between 98 and 115 cm. Moving towards the west, there is a large cistern with a distinct Byzantine return. The bastion, which we think may belong to the Byzantine period, and a series of rooms lined up in the north-east south-west direction, the continuation of the defensive wall rising right above the harbour, bears the traces of various construction interventions that cannot all be attributed to ancient times (Ruggieri, 1998).

In Ruggieri's opinion, the clarification of the Byzantine interventions at the harbor mouths may provide evidence to support the idea that the Christian city used this area for a significant period of time. Building interventions that display elaborate decorations and a sense of glory, in line with the desired characteristics of the architectural styles of that period, strengthened the presence of the port in the Byzantine period and shed light on the economic prosperity of the city.
It is important to note that one factor that affects the harmony of religious buildings is the context in which they are built. The orientation of the two churches on the island deviates from the standard 90° north; The "south church" positions its central apse at a 40° angle and the minor basilica at a 75° angle. The unusual placement of these churches in the urban layout suggests that space was limited on the island, leading to the use of available areas to create religious spaces.

Significant transformations in the cityscape during the Late Antique Period included the construction of a church in the Agora and the conversion of both the temple and the Great Bath into Christian basilicas. By the 5th century AD, a temple in the southwestern area overlooking the South Harbor had been transformed into a monastery complex, complete with a small church and several rooms designated for oil and wine production, indicating its use in food processing and storage. Additionally, a Byzantine palace was established on the island in the 5th century AD (Albay 2020).



Elaiussa in the Late Antiquity

3.2.4 Abandonment

To summarize the late Byzantine Era of Elaiussa Sebaste, it declined from the late 3rd century AD to the 4th century AD, revived in the 5th century AD, and became an important center in Eastern Mediterranean trade. Adapting Roman buildings, the newly established city prospered economically in the 5th and 6th centuries AD, while also shaping a religious identity with the construction of basilicas and churches. The kilns of that time produced Late Roman amphoras used for making olive oil and wine, boosting commercial activities.

Figure 18: After abandonment

Around the middle of the sixth century, a fire destroyed the Byzantine palace and its rooms were reused later for craft activities (Cortese, 2022). Also marked by Cortese that the Agora Church was also not in good condition. One after another, along with the political changes, the city was going towards a decline.
However, the city's decline accelerated due to social and political unrest during the reign of Emperor Justinian in the 6th century AD, leading to a mass migration during the Arab invasions in 672 AD.
At the beginning of the 7th century AD, there were earthquakes and intense sand accumulation, and the ports were filled with sand (Equini, 1999).

3.2.5 Research and Excavation Works

The archaeological exploration and excavation of the ancient city of Elaioussa Sebaste have been ongoing for centuries, beginning with its initial identification by Francis Beaufort during a hydrographic survey of the Asian Minor coast in 1811-1812 (Beaufort, 1817). Subsequent journeys and explorations in the 19th and 20th centuries, including those by Victor Langlois between 1852 and 1853, contributed to the understanding of the site's significance.

Between 1870 and 1930, the initial archaeological efforts, mainly focused on epigraphy, complemented the geographical surveys of the region. Nevertheless, it was not until 1952-1953 that Michael and Mary Gough carried out a comprehensive archaeological investigation, representing a crucial milestone in the study of Elaiussa Sebaste (Gogh, 1954).

Since 1995, the University La Sapienza in Rome has led extensive excavation projects at the site, covering approximately 23 hectares, they are the first systematic excavations in the city. In the last 25 years, notable advancements have been achieved, such as the detailed mapping of the site for an accurate archaeological blueprint and the documentation of architectural remains.

The excavation supervisor, Prof. Eugenia Equini Schneider, has authored three volumes outlining the city's evolution from the Hellenistic era to the early Byzantine period (Elaiussa Sebaste I, II, III, IV), providing insights into construction methods and guidelines for establishing an archaeological park. Furthermore, various specialized studies by researchers participating in the excavations have enhanced comprehension of Elaioussa Sebaste's imperial stages, as can be seen in the next section, almost all of the data source consists of these books (Cortese, 2022).

Equini Schneider and Borgia, two prominent scientists known for their significant contributions to the site, outlined in their paper (2020) the project's objective to pursue a multidisciplinary program. This program aims to enhance the understanding of the city and reconstruct its development from historical, topographical, and climatic perspectives. Additionally, it seeks to safeguard and enhance the site's cultural heritage.

They highlight the fact that the archaeological research has been accompanied by restoration interventions since the project's early stages, stopping the site's degradation and preventing real estate developments that could harm the identity of the site. When the Sapienza University project commenced in 1995 under Prof. E. Equini Schneider's direction, the archaeological potential of Elaiussa Sebaste was entirely unknown. Many ancient monuments were neglected, risking loss as they were sometimes used inappropriately as storerooms or for agricultural purposes (Equini Schneider & Borgia, 2002)

They say that the Italian team's primary goal was to involve local communities in preserving the rich cultural heritage of the site. Excavation activities began in the monumental quarter on the mainland, including the theatre, the agora-Byzantine basilica complex, and great baths, as it was closest to the modern village and main coastal road, thus more vulnerable to damage. Another critical area they consider is the northeastern necropolis, utilized from Roman to Byzantine times and one of the widest and best-preserved in ancient Asia Minor. This area faced threats from modern building speculation, which was limited with the assistance of local authorities. Cooperation with the Mersin Museum and Adana Koruma Kurulu (Adana Protection Board) resulted in expanding the Archaeological Site's boundaries to include the urban area and a large part of the suburbs under protection.

Preservation activities connected to archaeological excavations included prompt consolidation and restoration of monuments. Modern methodologies and techniques were employed, focusing on the varied conditions of structures and buildings. Restoration efforts, including the use of modern machinery, aimed to preserve the original condition of monuments and ensure visitor safety. For instance, restoration works in the apsidal hall of the Byzantine Palace during the 2011 campaign were undertaken in preparation for the future public opening of the complex (Equini Schneider, Borgia, 2004).

Figure 19: Before restoration works

Figure 20: After restoration works

Masterplan after excavation

Aereal view after excavation

TIMELINE OF ELAIUSSA SEBASTE

Early 1st century BC
Elaiussa begins minting its own coins, indicating independence.

20 BCE
Archelaus takes control of Elaiussa, renaming it Sebaste to honor Augustus

Pompey clears the Mediterranean coast of pirates, allowing Elaiussa and neighboring cities to develop again
67 BCE

Death of Archelaus; his son Archelaus II ascends the throne
17 BCE

38 AD
Region transferred to King of Commagene IV by Emperor Caligula

Construction of major public buildings, including temples and a theater, reflecting Hellenistic architectural influence
Early 1st century BCE

20 BCE
Augustus reorganizes the region, integrating Elaiussa Sebaste into the Roman Empire

Extensive Roman construction projects, including aqueducts, baths, and colonnaded streets
Early 1st century AD

Development of the Roman harbor, enhancing trade and connectivity
1st century AD

Elaiussa experiences its greatest prosperity driven by intense commercial activities
Mid-2nd century AD

72-74 AD
Emperor Vespasian incorporates Cilicia, including Elaiussa, into the Roman Empire, marking a period of urban expansion and prosperity

Roman Empire divides, impacting Elaiussa and the wider Cilicia region
395 AD

3rd century AD
Decline begins in the late 3rd century

Peace returns to the region after Isaurians' defeat
498 AD

479 AD
Byzantine Emperor Anastasios strengthens Cilicia against Isaurian attacks

5th century AD
Elaiussa revives and prospers economically; significant urban development includes construction of a Byzantine palace and several Christian churches

Francis Beaufort identifies Elaiussa Sebaste during a hydrographic survey of the Asian Minor coast
1811-1812

University La Sapienza in Rome begins extensive excavation projects
1995

Arab invasions lead to mass migration and further decline
672 AD

6th century AD
Decline accelerates due to social and political unrest during Emperor Justinian's reign

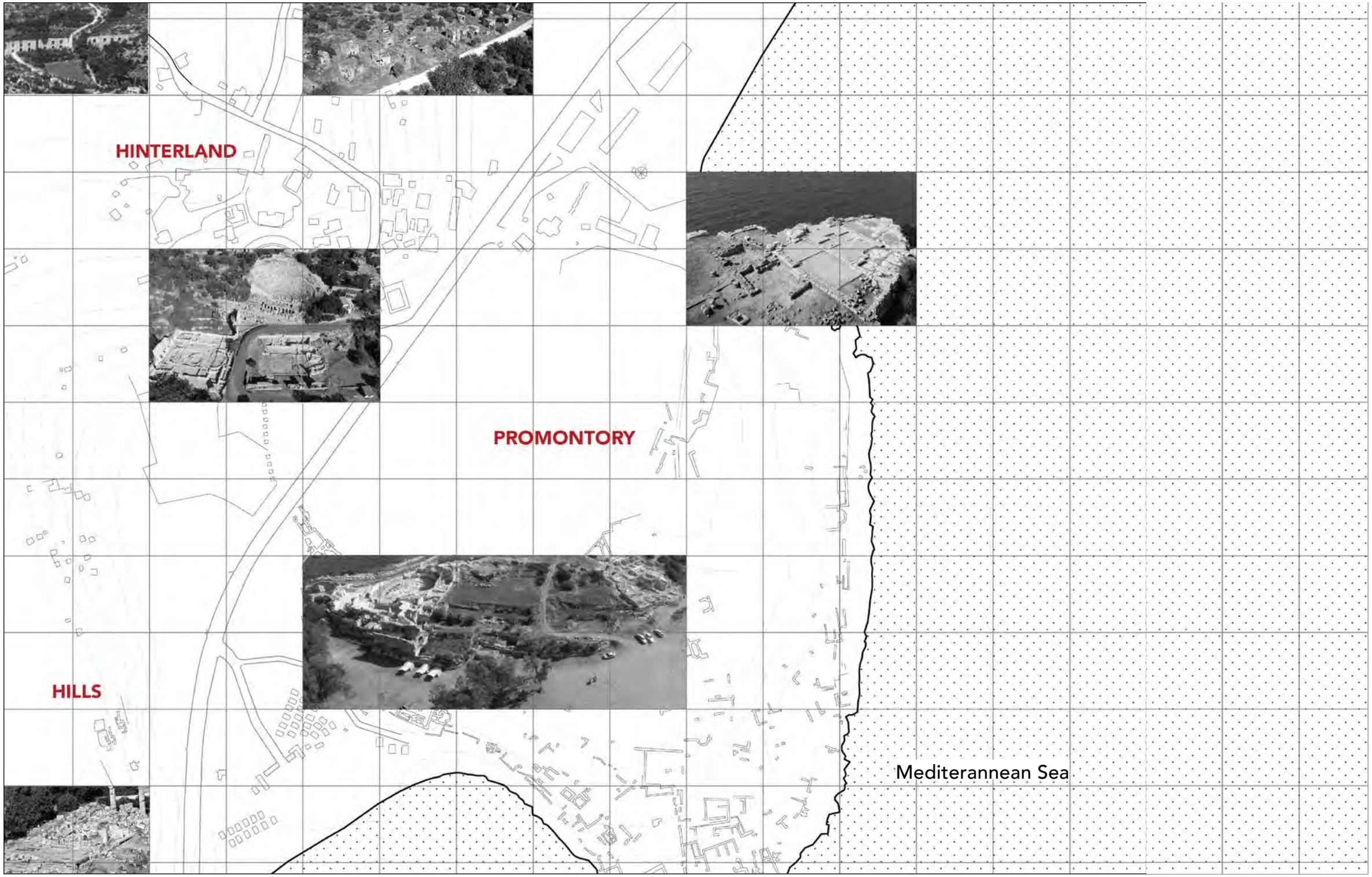
7th century AD
Earthquakes and intense sand accumulation fill the ports, further declining the city

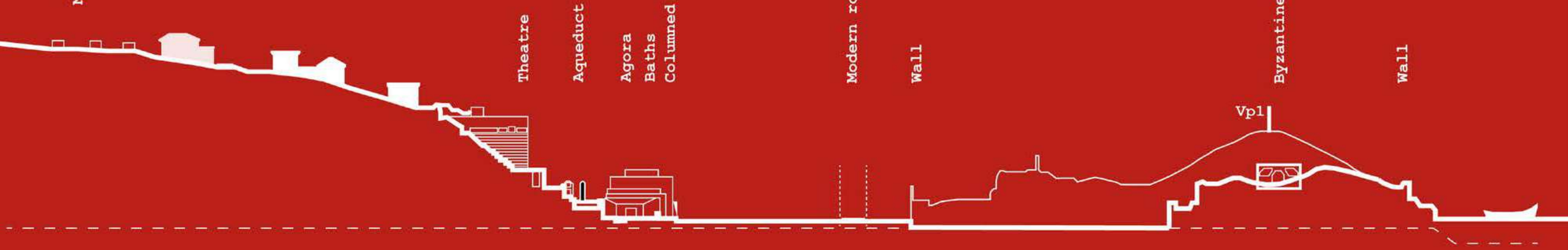
1952-1953
Michael and Mary Gough carry out comprehensive archaeological investigations

1995-present
Excavations reveal detailed mapping and documentation of architectural remains under Prof. Eugenia Equini Schneider

3.3 Architectural Monuments

Three urban centers of Elaiussa Sebaste are; **hinterland**, **promontory** and **the hills**.





HILLS

HINTERLAND

Northern Harbour

PROMONTORIO

Southern Harb

Current Masterplan

There are various discussions about the location of the Elaiussa Sebaste city settlement. One of them is that Archelaos[1] founded the city opposite the island of Elaiussa. The other view is that the city of Elaiussa was located on the island and spread to the mainland with the construction of the theater in 140 AD (Ozbay, 2001, p.145-163). However, the second of these seems more likely to come to mind, according to the interpretation of Ozbay. On the mainland, there are social structures such as baths, theaters and agoras, and the necropolis area of the city surrounding them. These social structures were built between 140-260 AD, when the city of Elaiussa Sebaste was in its most glorious period. As a result of the growth of the city on the island of Elaiussa, it must have turned towards the mainland during this period and spread to the area used as a necropolis. A part of the old necropolis belonging to Korykos and located in the Elaiussa Sebaste area was destroyed (Ozbay, 2001). Today, no trace of these graves remains. After the 4th century AD, as a result of the city's harbor being covered with dunes, the island and the harbor merged and turned into a peninsula. The ruins must have remained under this dense sand layer.

LEGEND

A | Hinterland

1 Theatre

2 Cistern

3 Agora-Basilica

4 Big Baths

B | Promontory

5 Byzantine Palace

6 Settlements & Workshops

7 Harbour Baths

C | Hills

8 Roman Temple

9 S-W Necropolis

10 Northern Necropolis

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1 Archelaos was a Cappadocian prince and a Roman client king of Cilicia Trachea and Eastern Lycaonia.

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HINTERLAND

3.3.1 HINTERLAND

The Hinterland forms the social and civic heart of Elaiussa Sebaste, where the city's daily life and cultural activities were concentrated. In this area, there are key Roman public structures, including the agora, the Roman theatre, and the public baths, which collectively illustrate the urban planning and architectural strategies of the Roman era. Additionally, the Hinterland features the ruins of an aqueduct, a vital piece of infrastructure that not only served Elaiussa Sebaste but also extended its reach to the nearby city of Korykos. This aqueduct stands as a testament to the advanced engineering and regional connectivity of the time.

Roman Theatre

As discussed previously, Elaiussa Sebaste witnessed a significant period of prosperity following its integration into the Roman province of Cilicia in 72-74 AD. To recall the Roman era of Elaiussa, similar to numerous other centers in Asia Minor, the city experienced substantial growth and prosperity during the second and first decades of the third century AD.

his era also saw the expansion of the urban area beyond the original core concentrated on the promontory. Particularly significant was the development of the area northwest of the northern port in the second half of the 2nd century AD, resulting from an ambitious urban planning project This project aimed to create a neighborhood for public use, incorporating important facilities such as a large spa, an agora, and a theater (Borgia, 2010, p.293-328).

The theater, a key element of this urban growth, was strategically positioned on the slopes of a hilly ridge above the flat coastal area where the baths and agora were situated. However, constructing the theater required changes to the existing landscape, including diverting the urban aqueduct and demolishing a residential complex (Borgia, 2010). Additionally, older structures such as rock tombs dating from the 1st century BC to the 1st century AD and a large residence dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD may have been affected or completely destroyed during this phase of urban development[23].

The theater itself, facing south, features a plan that goes beyond a semicircle, with a total angle of 191° and a diameter of 55 m. The cavea, mainly carved from the natural rocky bank, underwent significant improvements with cement castings, particularly in areas where the rock was insufficient or fragile. Although none of the seats were preserved in their original position, excavations uncovered fragments and intact pieces that aided in reconstructing their form. The external perimeter wall, built in opus quadratum, displayed precise craftsmanship and attention to detail, reaching a height of 3.70 m in certain parts (Spanu, 2003).

Borgia highlights an interesting aspect of the Elaiussa theater is the integration of a portion of the urban aqueduct within the cavea, running parallel to the steps. Initially constructed with a straight canal along the hill, adjustments were made to the aqueduct to accommodate the construction of the theater, leading to a deviation from its initial path. Despite these changes, remains of the original canal are still preserved within the cavea, providing insights into the hydraulic infrastructure of the theater.

23 See Aqueduct and Cistern for further information regarding the destroyed urban features after the construction of the theatre.

Figure 21 The Restored portion of the theatre

Figure 22

Figure 23

Figure 24

Cisterns

The primary cistern, located to the west of the theater, played a critical role in the city's water management system. This cistern, sometimes referred to as Merdivenlikuyu[24], is significant for its considerable size and the advanced engineering techniques used in its construction.

The cistern system began with a waterway passing under the theater and extending to the city cistern, positioned to the west of the theater. During the theater's construction, the canals in this section of the waterway were destroyed, and the original barrel vault roof system was altered. The seating stones of the theater were used to cover the canal within the theater's borders (Ozbay, 2001). Furthermore, the roof was constructed from large plate stones placed at right angles on the arches. The cistern's base, made of rectangular limestone, was carved into the bedrock, and water entered through a channel on the south wall.

Equini (1998) underlines that this cistern has largely been ignored by the scientific community. Despite being almost completely surrounded by lemon trees today, it is evident that this structure was located at the city's extreme urban limits, close to funerary areas. The cistern is nearly entirely carved into the rocky bank of the hill, sloping towards the south. Access is provided by a staircase along the southern wall, divided into three ramps. The interior space is divided into three naves by two rows of five pillars. These pillars, with an approximate square section of 1.20 by 1.20 meters, were constructed from reused limestone blocks of various sizes. The roof was created using a unique method: large slabs were placed upright between tangent arches, forming a mutual support system (Equini, 1998).

Additionally, numerous cisterns are located on the promontory, some partially or entirely carved into the rock (Equini, 2008). These cisterns vary in shape, including rectangular, circular, or slightly widening circular bases. Although their exact functions remain uncertain, Prof. Equini (2008) hypothesizes that these structures were used primarily for water storage, and potentially for storing wine or oil.

24 In Turkish, the word translates to "the well with the stairs".

Figure 25

Figure 26

Big Baths

In the archeological excavations, in addition to the Harbor Baths, at least four more bath complexes have been identified in Elaiussa (Equini, 2008) Great Baths are located to the south of the theater and to the east of the agora.

These complexes must be associated with the large-scale monumental urban project that underwent during the peak period of the Roman Imperial era, along with the theatre and agora according to the interpretations of the scholars Ozbay (2001) and Equini (2008).

Furthermore, the baths were constructed in a location close to the ancient harbor and were easily accessible from the main road running along the coastline during the Ancient Period.

With the archeological excavations under the directorship of Prof. Equini the existence of at least five rooms has been confirmed; in addition to these, it appears that there was a partially carved room in the western wing, which may have been used as a monumental fountain.

The walls are built with rubble masonry and are neatly faced with large limestone blocks according to the prevalent construction technique of the period. It is thought that the bath was connected to a waterway (Ozbay, 2001). The opus reticulatum technique used on the bath was first used in Italy (Vann, 1976). It was also used for a short period in the Cilicia region in the 1st century AD. It is also known that concrete was used in Cilicia during this period. In the light of this information, Ozbay (2001) and Equini (2008) interpret these facts as it is possible to date the Elaiussa Sebaste bath to the end of the 1st century AD.

Another significant bathhouse, referred to as the "Opus Mixtum (mixed technique) Bath," is situated on the western slope where the temple was located, indicating the western boundary of the settlement area of Elaiussa.

Figure 27

Figure 28

Agora and Byzantine Basilica

The Agora Church in Elaiussa Sebaste is a remarkable example of how the city's architectural landscape evolved from its Roman roots into a Christian center during late antiquity. Initially, the site served as an Agora, built in the latter part of the 2nd century AD, functioning primarily as a commercial hub (Equini, 2008). This Agora was distinguished by a square layout surrounded by tall walls and featured a central circular tholos, encircled by a portico supported by columns. However, by the second half of the 5th century AD, this civic space was transformed into a Christian basilica, reflecting the shift in religious and social priorities as Christianity became more prominent in the region.

As it was already explained under 3.2.2 Byzantine Cilicia, the transformation of the Agora into a basilica is not only an example of the adaptive reuse of space but also a reflection of the broader urban changes occurring in Asia Minor during this period. However, from the 5th century onwards, urban development across Asia Minor experienced a decline, in contrast, the construction of churches during the Byzantine era stood as a notable exception to this decline (Niewöhner, 2017). And the situation seems no different in the Elaiussa scene as well, as the events were parallel to the Asia Minor.

Equini (2008) details the architectural transformation of the Roman Agora into a basilica, noting the reuse of the monumental complex's existing structures, including the walls constructed in opus quadratum and the remains of the colonnaded portico. The basilica, oriented in an east-west direction, featured a nave and two aisles, with richly decorated opus sectile floors and Corinthian-style columns . This transformation reflects not only the religious shift but also the practical adaptation of existing urban structures to meet new needs, which was reflecting the shift in religious and social priorities as Christianity became more prominent in the region.

Cortese (2022) also elaborates on this transformation within the broader religious and cultural dynamics of the region. The area of the Agora-Church, located west of the north port, had been a significant part of Elaiussa Sebaste's urban fabric since the 2nd century AD. The continuity of occupation and the strategic reuse of structures highlight the city's effort to maintain its historical significance while also embracing its new Christian identity. The basilica, with its unique layout characterized by opposing apses and polygonal side chambers, was likely intended to assert Elaiussa Sebaste's status as a religious center. Cortese (2022) expresses that Elaiussa possibly competed with the nearby city of Korykos, which had established itself as an important center of Christian worship.

Overall, the architectural evolution from a Roman Agora to a Christian basilica exemplifies the adaptive reuse of space in late antiquity. Deriving from the analysis of Equini and Cortese, the dual function of the Agora Church had both a religious and a socio-political symbol, reflecting the city's desire to retain its historical grandeur while redefining its identity in the Christian era in that region.

Figure 29

Figure 30

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path
PROMONTORY

3.3.2 PROMONTORY

The Promontory represents the maritime gateway to Elaiussa Sebaste, with its two significant ports and expansive seaside land. This area not only served as the main entry point for marine arrivals but also had crucial structures like the Byzantine palace, defensive walls, and port baths. The Promontory's architecture reflects the city's strategic importance as a coastal settlement, as well as its role in trade, defense, and daily life. This section will analyze the architectural elements that defined the Promontory, highlighting how the natural landscape influenced the city's development and how the structures served both functional and protective purposes.

Byzantine Palace

Roman Era

The earliest evidence of construction in the area that would later become the site of the Byzantine Palace is the polygonal stone wall dating back to the 2nd and 1st centuries BCE (Equini, 2008). This wall, constructed of large, irregular limestone blocks, was typical of Hellenistic and early Roman defensive architecture in the Eastern Mediterranean. Equini (2008) emphasizes that this polygonal masonry was both monumental and relatively easy to construct, making it a common feature along the Eastern Cilician coastline. Quattrocchi (2004, p.337-339) adds that the strategic location of the wall, protecting the promontory on the mainland side, highlights its importance in the city's early defensive system.

As was already mentioned in the history chapter, during the Roman period, particularly in the mid-2nd century AD, this area underwent significant architectural enhancements. Equini (2008) notes that the polygonal wall was replaced by more sophisticated *opus quadratum* walls, which extended beyond the earlier fortifications and featured semicircular and rectangular towers at irregular intervals. These improvements not only strengthened the city's defenses but also gave it a more monumental appearance, especially with the addition of a columned portico facing the northern harbor. Oral (2004) supports this, mentioning that the wall's construction involved large cubic limestone blocks and that the southwest corner of the promontory was marked by a massive semicircular tower, further emphasizing the site's strategic importance.

The Byzantine Era

The transition from the Roman to the Byzantine period brought severe changes to this area. According to Equini (2008), the construction of the Byzantine Palace around the mid-5th century AD was a key development, transforming the architectural landscape of Elaiussa Sebaste. The palace, occupying a vast area between the two harbors, was divided into two wings at different elevations, with the northern wing containing an impressive circular portico, a massive apsidal hall, and several smaller rooms. Oral (2004) further adds that its design took full advantage of the natural rock formations of the site.

The palace has monumental scale and rich decoration, which set it apart from other contemporary structures in the city Quattrocchi (2004). Unlike typical Byzantine buildings that often incorporated religious elements, the palace was purely secular, serving as the residence of military and civil authorities. This lack of religious iconography, as noted by Equini (2008), indicates the palace's function as a center of political and military power rather than as a religious institution. The symmetrical arrangement of apsidal halls around the circular portico suggests that the palace also served a ceremonial role, hosting official receptions and banquets.

Decline and Abandonment

The palace's prominence was, however, short-lived. Both Equini (2008) and Quattroc-

chi (2004) discuss the severe event in the mid-6th century AD that led to the palace's destruction. Traces of fire, still visible in various parts of the structure, suggest that the palace was likely damaged during a period of social or political unrest, possibly during the reign of Emperor Justinian I. Following this destruction, the palace was not repaired but was instead systematically looted, with much of its flooring and wall decorations removed (Oral, 2004). By the mid-7th century AD, the entire area, including the road connecting the palace to the northern harbor, was abandoned, coinciding with the period of Persian and Arab raids.

Figure 31

Figure 32

Harbor Baths

"A structure rising along the limestone cliffs of the hill, parallel to the shore of the northern harbor canal, appears to have been designed and built in accordance with its purpose." (Equini, 2008, p.77)

The Roman origins of the baths are evident in their monumental scale and sophisticated design, characterized by a large frigidarium and geometric mosaics (Equini, 2008). This structure, constructed using Roman techniques such as opus reticulatum, shows evidently the involvement of skilled foreign labor, a practice common in large-scale public works of the early 1st century AD in Cilicia, as Spanu (2003) noted. The bath complex, initially built to serve the Roman elite, played a vital role in the city's social and urban life, demonstrating the significance of water management facilitated by the region's lead-rich resources.

However, the glory of the Roman-era bathhouse was gradually obscured by subsequent Byzantine modifications, which included the construction of massive defensive walls. These later alterations, while necessary for the defense of the city, significantly altered the original architectural layout, with parts of the complex, including the main entrance and northern chambers, hidden under buttresses (Equini, 2008).

Additionally to Spanu's paper (2003), Borgia and Spanu (2004) further analyzed and detailed the excavation activities of the harbor baths in Elaiussa Sebaste, providing information and analysis of the site's complex evolution, emphasizing the strategic importance of the baths' location near the harbor. We can conclude that their research highlights the role of this facility not just as a place of public bathing, but as a critical element in the urban landscape, contributing to the city's economic and social vitality.

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Figure 33

Figure 34

3803900 3804000 3804100 3804200 3804300 3804400 3804500 3804600 3804700 3804800

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367300

367200

THE HILLS

3.3.3 HILLS

The Hills, encompassing the necropolises and the Roman temple, occupy a distinct position in the landscape of Elaiussa Sebaste; located at varying elevations and separated by the challenging topography of the Cilicia Trachea region, these sites provide a glimpse into the city's funerary practices and religious life. The South Necropolis, along with the Roman temple, and the North Necropolis, positioned across the promontory. I will analyze the spatial organization, architectural style, and cultural significance of these sites, illustrating how the topographical constraints shaped the layout and accessibility of these monumental structures.

Roman Temple

The Temple of Elaioussa Sebaste is a remarkable testament to the architectural heritage of Cilicia, a region with fewer temples compared to other parts of Asia Minor. Borgia (2020, p. 41-56) emphasizes its rarity, mentioning that only a few similar buildings have been preserved and thoroughly studied. Dating back to the early 1st century A.D., this temple is an early example of Roman influence in a region that was independent from the Roman Empire at that time but open to new cultural trends. Located in a suburban area south of the city on a prominent ridge, the temple attracts attention due to its strategic visibility from a distance. Its significance goes beyond its original purpose, as seen in its conversion into a Christian religious complex during the Early Byzantine period.

Bayliss (2001, pp.156-164) mentions that the temple's unique context within the necropolis, highlighting its suburban setting within the ancient city's cemetery. Unlike typical rural temples, this structure sits on an elevated headland overlooking both the city and the harbor. The temple's connection to a church built later adds another layer of interest; the smaller church is placed sideways across the vast temple podium, a layout with no known comparisons. Despite its visible location, the purpose of the temple's dedication remains unknown, though its link to the cemetery or its function as a landmark visible from the sea are plausible explanations. Evidence indicates the presence of a temple to Zeus in Elaioussa's territory as early as the 1st century BC, suggesting the site's enduring religious importance and historical depth.

The temple, situated within a broader architectural ensemble, serves as the focal point of a carefully organized landscape. The hill on which it stands is composed of at least two rectangular terraces, partially carved into the natural bedrock and likely connected by monumental steps or ramps. However, despite the partial exposure of these terraces, much remains unknown about the internal organization of the sanctuary due to centuries of transformation and pillaging activities. Borgia compared this temple with several Hellenistic temples such as the Temple of Zeus Olbios, also in Cilicia, and the Temple of Athena at Ilion, and therefore she concludes that "…I can cautiously suggest that possibly this solution may be a heritage of Hellenistic patterns, as in Roman temples it is very rare." (Borgia, 2020, p. X)

However, uncertainties remain about the exact layout of the temple, highlighting the challenges of understanding ancient architecture and the importance of more research and analysis.

Another example of innovative building techniques can be seen in the retaining wall of the upper terrace, which was built with the opus reticulatum technique imported from Italy. Borgia (2020) hypothesizes that this demonstrates the direct involvement of Roman builders and suggests a precise chronological range for the initial phase of construction. The adoption of Roman forms and techniques often indicates the influence of local elites or direct imperial intervention and reflects a desire to imitate Roman

architecture and ideology.

Described by Cockerell in the late 18th century as a “striking fame”, it was probably the most prominent landmark visible from the sea (Bayliss, 2001). Although its visibility was important, its primary function as a church was apparently designed to serve a specific role within the city’s cemetery.

Figure 35

Figure 36

Aqueduct

"The aqueduct of Elaiussa Sebaste provides an excellent opportunity to study how ancient water systems can be utilized in a modern environment and to see how many of the technical problems faced by the ancient Romans are the same for today's modern engineers." (Murphy, 2013, p.71)

The aqueduct conveyed water from the Lamos River, located about 15 kilometers northeast of Elaiussa Sebaste, into the city. (Falcone, 2019, p. 259-279) This aqueduct, which spans approximately 26 kilometers along a rugged coastline, utilizes both in-ground rock-cut channels and above-ground masonry water channels constructed from mortared rubble. The route includes seven aqueduct bridges leading to Elaiussa Sebaste and an additional two bridges extending from Elaiussa to Korykos. A small extension of the aqueduct system provided water to the promontory area of the original city (Murphy, 2013, p.71-84)

The aqueduct's extra-urban course features multi-level arches that allowed the water channel to maintain a constant altitude across the region's deep valleys. Although the urban route is not fully definable, it can be traced through the north-eastern necropolis and along the theater hill, reaching a circular structure near the stage building, likely the castellum aquae[25] (Falcone, 2019). From this point, one branch of the aqueduct directed water southwards to the neighborhoods on the city's island, while another branch continued along the coast towards Korykos, ending at a large open-air catchment basin.

Elaiussa Sebaste and the History of the Korykos Water System

The water system of Elaiussa Sebaste, part of the larger Korykos water network, begins 4 kilometers from the Lamos River's mouth, in the Kayacı Valley near the town of Limonlu. Situated at an altitude of 100 meters above sea level, the source utilizes the "side water intake method" to draw water. This water is then channeled through a gallery carved into the bedrock on the valley's western slope, spanning a total length of 25 kilometers (Ozbay, 2001).

Upon reaching Elaiussa Sebaste, the waterway passes under the theater and leads to an arched cistern. During the Byzantine period, the entire waterway was repaired by Commander Illos, as indicated by an inscription on the first aqueduct in Tirtar. Due to the rising importance of Korykos, the aqueduct system was extended to this city. The seventh aqueduct crosses the valley in the Pasha tomb area, directing water to a large cistern in Korykos.

According to Ozbay's interpretation, dating the Elaiussa Sebaste and Korykos water system is crucial for understanding the historical context of this Roman imperial period structure in Eastern Rough Cilicia. It reflects Rome's preference for enhancing the welfare of the populace rather than relying solely on force to maintain control over the

25 A Latin term for a water cistern fed by an aqueduct and in turn feeding a network of distribution pipes. (Oxford Dictionary of Archeology)

Figure 37

Figure 38

region. The rapid growth of Elaiussa Sebaste and Korykos, accompanied by an increase in population and diverse needs, necessitated the construction of the waterway.

During the Roman period in Mountainous Cilicia, three construction movements occurred, with the first starting at the end of the 1st century AD. The architectural features of Elaiussa Sebaste align with this period, notably evidenced by the construction of the city theater around 140 AD. Significantly, part of the waterway passes beneath the theater's top cavea, suggesting that its construction predates that of the theater.

Another key dating clue is provided by the Elaiussa bath, believed to be linked to the waterway. Initially, Korykos was a small town connected to Elaiussa Sebaste, while the latter flourished as a metropolis in the region (Ozbay, 2001). Archaeological evidence, including temple tombs, the theater, and the agora within Elaiussa Sebaste, supports the notion that the water system was primarily constructed to serve this bustling city.

However, historical shifts in the region impacted the importance of both Elaiussa Sebaste and Korykos. Seleukeia became the center of the Isauria province after the 4th century AD, elevating Korykos's significance due to its proximity to this city and its port (Ozbay, 2001). Conversely, Elaiussa Sebaste declined in importance as its port was rendered inaccessible by sand dunes. Consequently, the waterway underwent repairs around the end of the 5th century AD and the beginning of the 6th century AD, with the construction of Aqueduct VII extending the water supply to Korykos.

Necropolis

"In the territories of the ancient Cilicia Trachea and Lycia, the rocky necropolises, the graves and the sarcophaguses constitute a dense network of monuments that, starting from the backcountry, reaches and connects all the ancient cities of the area. Such sets of buildings strongly characterize the territory.
… in the light of an almost unchanged landscape over time, it is interesting to analyze the entire area, considering some particularly noteworthy sites and paying special attention to the Nord-eastern necropolis of Elaiussa Sebaste, and to suggest a couple of guidelines for the preservation of a cultural heritage that autonomously maintained itself over time, thanks to the joint action of man and nature.
The vegetal matter has grown and regenerated, while the architecture has kept its cultural and scenic value, even if changing destination and overcoming lootings or functional transformations." (Morezzi, 2016, p.347)

The necropolises of ancient cities held a significant place in the surrounding landscape, often built along main access roads as extensions of the urban center into the countryside (Morezzi, 2016). This strategic positioning served dual purposes: it expanded the influence of the city into the rural areas, while also providing a symbolic gateway along travel routes frequented by travelers and merchants. As a result, the proliferation of necropolises led to the organic growth of adjacent urban centers, forming a network of, in the words of Morezzi (2016), "cities of the dead" interconnected by Roman-era roadways.

The northeastern necropolis of Elaiussa Sebaste spans approximately 700 meters along the eastern edge of the plateau overlooking the city's northern gulf, presents a complex and diverse architectural layout (Equini Schenider, 2003, p. 261-273). Over time, the original appearance of the cemetery has been disguised by the lemon tree plantations covering the sloping terrain towards the sea. Despite this, the south and central parts of the necropolis would have been particularly imposing, featuring monumental tombs arranged along natural terraces formed by the uneven terrain. Spatially, the necropolis appears fragmented, with distinct areas rather than a cohesive whole. Equini Schneider (2003) notes that the south sector exhibits greater architectural diversity, particularly evident in the facades of house graves characterized by small arches framing the entrances, constructed from alternating limestone and brick materials.

The central core of the necropolis, as described by Equini Schneider (2003), displays a unique look with large funerary areas that have been altered multiple times. These changes, ancient and modern, present challenges in understanding the original layout, size, and architectural details of the precincts. Recent farming activities in these zones further obscure the original design, making it hard to determine entrances, levels, and burial evidence. Equini Schneider (2003) suggests that these precincts, located along a raised terrace possibly crossed by an ancient road, might have initially been large suburban lands, later divided due to property sales. Out of the 27 preserved monuments in

Figure 39

Figure 40

this region, Equini Schneider (2003) points out that five are funerary temples, which were initially freestanding but were gradually split as the precincts were divided into smaller sections. The impressive architecture of these temples, as mentioned by the author, mirrors the wealth and status of their owners, symbolizing familial prestige and financial means. Despite the addition of simpler tombs in peripheral areas of the precincts, the temples maintain their importance and visibility, emphasizing their significance within the necropolis.

The construction methods used in the necropolis offer insights into the funeral industry of the Roman era, as explained by Equini Schneider (2003). The main types, temple-style and house-style graves, have different shapes, building techniques, and material properties. Temple-style graves, found near the city, are built with local porous stone without mortar, enabling detailed examination of architectural elements and seismic effects over time. Although these structures are deteriorating, they reveal signs of earthquakes and human actions, like alterations and damage. On the other hand, house-style graves, smaller in scale, use local stones with mortar, creating more resilient structures against seismic activity and environmental factors. Equini Schneider (2003) mentions the presence of intact cocciopesto surfaces, which contribute to the preservation of these graves, maintaining their structure despite years of neglect. Similar ancient necropolises are discovered across the Cilician hinterland, including places like Diocaesarea and Olba, where burial chambers are carved directly into rocky slopes. These necropolises, each with unique architectural styles and locations, collectively enrich the cultural heritage of the region.

In the landscape analysis, Morezzi (2016) shows that Elaiussa Sebaste and the surrounding necropolises form an interconnected network of funerary structures spreaded throughout the landscape and seamlessly integrated with the natural environment. These necropolises, act as symbolic landmarks and heritage sites, influencing the landscape and showing the strong connections between ancient urban centers and their rural areas. Whether in coastal cities such as Elaiussa Sebaste or inland hubs like Diocaesarea, the necropolises play a vital role in the cultural heritage of the region, preserving the memory of past societies and enhancing the landscape with their architectural beauty, or in the words of Morezzi (2016), “a landscape of rare beauty”.

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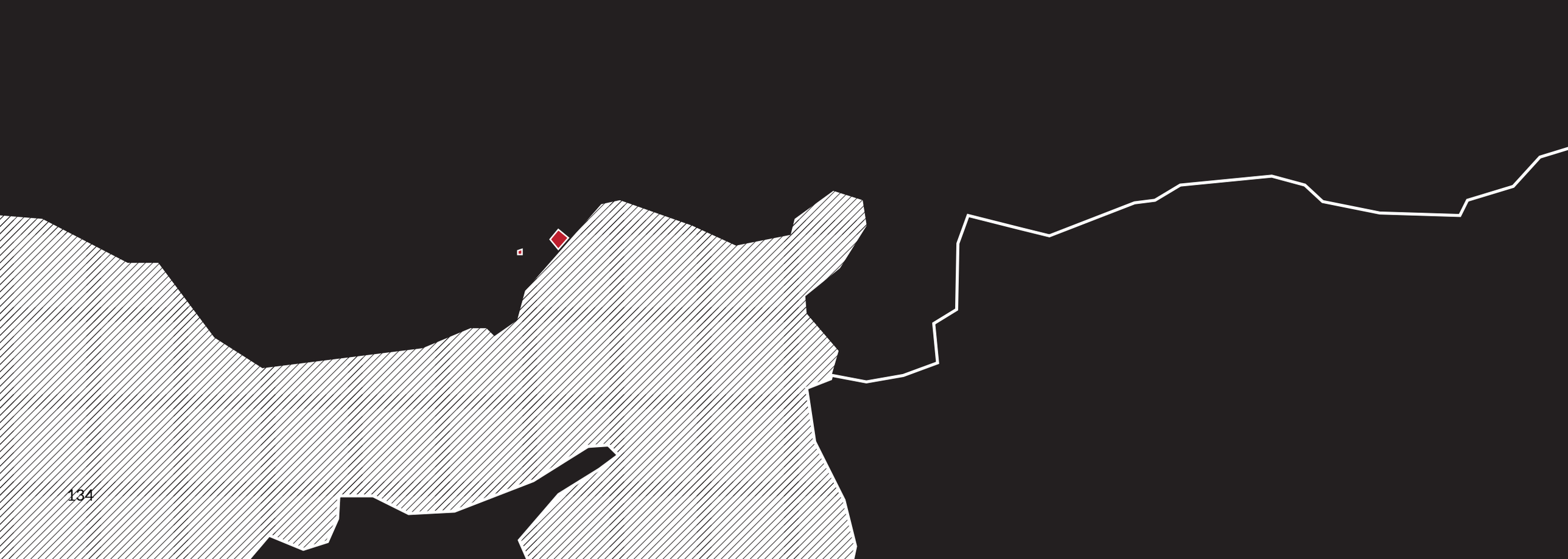
CHAPTER IV

Elaiussa Sebaste: Ongoing Situation

This chapter focuses on the current state of Elaiussa Sebaste. The research is made on recent excavation activities, preservation efforts, and the perspectives of various stakeholders involved with the site. Through field research and interviews, it highlights the challenges and limitations faced by preservation teams, local communities, visitors, and governing bodies. By analyzing these dynamics, the chapter provides a comprehensive view of the practical and social issues impacting the conservation and development of Elaiussa Sebaste.

Considering recent field observations, interviews, and studies, the analysis explores the practical, social, and regulation factors that shape the site's ongoing management. The focus includes the state of conservation, environmental and infrastructural issues, and the interests of various groups.

By discovering these interactions, this chapter reveals some of the deeper tensions and lacks in how the site is managed. Such as the limitations of current preservation methods, the need for stronger community involvement, and the obstacles created by regulaations. This detailed look at the "ongoing situation" not only point out the site's challenges but also it is an important outcome for the design and intervention strategies that will be presented in the following chapter.



4.1 Excavation Activities

As briefly mentioned in the previous chapter, I will elaborate more on the excavation works that have been done since 1995. In Prof. Schneider and Prof. Borgia's (2022) paper, they say that the excavation and research project at Elaiussa Sebaste started in 1995 at the request of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Turkey. It aimed to comprehensively investigate the rich archaeological heritage of the ancient port city, which faced threats from neglect and building speculation. According to them, over the years, the Italian team, in collaboration with local authorities, played a pivotal role in preventing potentially damaging building projects and preserving the site's ancient remains and natural landscape (Equini Schneider & Borgia, 2002).

Prof. Barbanera writes in the report of 2022, about the works of Prof. Schneider and her team from 1995 to 2014 as part of the Major Excavations Program of Sapienza University of Rome, the excavation campaigns provided fundamental insights into the historical, archaeological, anthropological, and paleoenvironmental aspects of Elaiussa Sebaste.
Initial interventions prioritized protecting archaeological remains, focusing on a sector of the public neighborhood west of the modern road dividing the site into two sections: the island to the east and the mainland to the west. Subsequent excavations concentrated on monumental buildings such as the theater, the Agora, and the basilica within the Great Baths, shedding light on Elaiussa's architectural complexity. Barbanera (2020) calls the publication of two substantial volumes a significant milestone. They detail intensive excavations that fully recovered key areas like the theater, the Agora, and the Great Baths. In recent years, Elaiussa's archaeological investigation has been a focal point for young scholars' doctoral theses who have been to the excavation, contributing to a deeper understanding of Cilicia's history.
Furthermore, the international impact of this archeological work appears on different platforms. Such as, the conference on Cilicia Tracheia held in Lincoln (Nebraska) in 2007, the panel on Cilicia at the 19th International Congress of Classical Archaeology, studies published in honor of Eugenia Equini Schneider, and the proceedings of an international conference on ancient Cilicia held in Munich three years ago.
In 2015, after Prof. Equini retired, Prof. Annalisa Polosa took over as excavation director, until 2020. In 2020, Prof. Barbanera took over and wrote a report on the goals for the 5-year excavation plan at Elaiussa.

Figure 41

Figure 42

Excavation Campaign for 2020-2025:

"The value of archaeology lies in producing knowledge of the past to understand the present. Therefore, the desire for knowledge alone does not justify excavation if the economic, aesthetic, and social impacts are not adequately considered. Public investment must be attractive to recipients and effective in social terms, fostering a relationship with the past and other values (human, social, environmental, economic, aesthetic). Initial evaluations are based on the best available information and are essential for deciding a site's future, both for research and conservation." Barbanera writes regarding his five-year plans. According to him, the Turkish Ministry of Culture asked to work closely with the university departments of architecture and restoration. So, one of the aims is to enhance the restoration of monuments and their valorization.
In his words, Elaiussa faces significant challenges in balancing archaeology and society. The main road through the site disrupts archaeological continuity and creates physical separation. Barbanera defends that Elaiussa is not an open-air museum, it is an active construction site that reconciles visits to excavations and restored monuments as it should be.

In 2013, Equini Schneider introduced a bilingual questionnaire to improve visit routes and explanatory panels, making them more accessible to a diverse audience, including families with children.

Despite efforts to overcome the difficulties, several problems remain around Elaiussa, especially in Ayas, which is affected by increasing marine tourism. Large coastal buildings, often empty due to the economic crisis, spoil the view. The Mission encourages long-term investments by raising awareness among accommodation managers about respecting archaeological remains. However semi-illegal campsites and bureaucratic difficulties have complicated cleanup efforts. An archaeological park is difficult to establish due to site disruptions, but creating internal and external paths is more feasible. A 2013 survey highlighted the lack of connection between the Elaiussa excavation and the Mersin Archaeological Museum. To address this, a web platform with 3D models and virtual reconstructions will be created to show that the ruins represent an advanced past culture. This project aims to increase local and visitor awareness and understanding of the cultural heritage.

In the excavation report of 2021, Matteo Lombardi writes that one of the main objectives of this campaign, which was necessary for the realization of the general program, was to cover the entire excavation area, from the borders of the island in the east to the necropolises forming the border in the northwest with the possibility of going beyond the residential area.

Figure 43

From Lombardi's excavation report, it is clear that he emphasizes the critical need for a well-organized archive for the excavation site of Elaiussa Sebaste. "The ideal archive of an excavation should consist of a physical place in the mission headquarters where all the material is classified and filed, accessible to all those who work there." He highlights that modern digital media quickly become obsolete, making stable, coherent, and accessible archives essential for preserving the longevity and integrity of excavation data. From an architectural and urban perspective, the archive is vital for documenting the site's complex stratigraphy and supporting ongoing research into its historical, archaeological, and urban development. The archive, which should include written reports, drawings, photographs, digital data, and 3D models, not only aids in the reinterpretation of findings but also enriches museum exhibitions, such as those at the Mersin Archaeological Museum, by providing detailed contextual information.
The excavation has been paused for the past two years. However, the excavations will resume this year in August, under the leadership of Prof. Asena Kizilarslanoglu.

4.2 Conversations on Elaiussa

Introduction to Stakeholders

In order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current state and future prospects of the Elaiussa Sebaste archaeological site, I conducted a series of interviews with key stakeholders. These stakeholders are in five distinct categories: management authorities, local residents, tourists, academic experts, and local business owners. Each group provides unique insights that are essential for the design, preservation and enhancement of Elaiussa.

First, I had a meeting with the manager (or someone else, Im waiting to hear from them) the Adana Adana Rölöve ve Anıtlar Müdürlüğü (Adana Surveying and Monuments Directorate), the management body responsible for the site's maintenance and planning. These discussions focused on the ongoing conservation efforts, funding, and future projects planned for the site.

Secondly, I spoke with local residents of Ayaş, the community living close to Elaiussa Sebaste. Their perspectives show the social and economic impacts of the site, as well as their views on its conservation and potential for local development. Their involvement is crucial for the future of the site.

Third, I interviewed tourists who visit Ayaş primarily for its beaches, many of whom were unaware of the nearby ancient city, as I have witnessed in my site visit last summer. These conversations aimes to understand their awareness of the site, their interest in cultural heritage, and how they could be encouraged to explore the historical parts of this place.

Fourth, I consulted with academics who worked in this excavation for many years. Their insights provide a scholarly perspective on the site's significance, preservation challenges, and research potential.

Finally, I gathered input from local business owners to understand the economic aspects of the site and explore opportunities for collaboration and support in promoting Elaiussa Sebaste as a tourist attraction.

These interviews will show the needs, expectations, and potentials of the site in the most up-to-date manner.

Figure 44

Figure 45

i. Interviews with Beach Tourists

Among the tourist groups, two main user types were identified:
Family Groups: Usually with young children, and families who have been visiting the area for many years.
None of the 6 family groups had toured the ancient city.
Groups of Friends/Couples: Younger individuals compared to family groups.
2/6 of the friend groups had not visited the ancient city and were not planning to.
2 had only toured the island area.
2 groups had toured or were planning to tour both the island and the hinterland.

Figure 46

General Situation and Complaints: Beach tourists frequently complained about the site being neglected and dirty. They noted the lack of basic infrastructure such as toilets and showers, and the absence of trash bins, which leads to littering.

Interest in the Site: Tourists were divided into two main groups: families and friends/couples. Family groups, many of whom have been visiting for generations, had never toured Elaiussa Sebaste, whereas among the friends/couples groups, some had visited only the island part or both the island and the hinterland.

Expectations and Suggestions: Tourists expressed a preference for an archaeological open-air museum that offers activities and guided tours. Most of them appreciated recent restorations at Kanlıdivane and Cennet Cehennem caves and indicated that similar efforts at Elaiussa Sebaste would increase their interest in visiting the site.

ii. Interviews with workers

I have talked to 8 business owners/co-workers, who owned the business there or worked there for more than 10 years. These businesses are restaurants, small hotels, and small markets. One business, which runs both a motel and a market, supplied the Mission's food for several years. They know very well the Italian archaeologists and also their place is right across the beach, they observed the ancient city and the beach visitors for the past 30 years.
However, they run different kinds of businesses the outcome of our conversations was the same with each of them. So this analysis has common results.

General Situation and Expectations: Business owners near the archaeological site are primarily concerned with how the site's development will benefit them economically. They hope for increased tourism that will bring more customers to their establishments.

Complaints and Requests: Business owners echoed the complaints about neglect and lack of infrastructure. They also pointed out that the current state of the site discourages tourists, negatively impacting their businesses.

Suggestions and Expectations: Business owners suggested improvements in cleanliness and infrastructure. They also recommended organizing events and activities to attract more tourists, which would directly benefit their businesses.

Figure 47

2023 August Site Visit

Figure 48

Figure 49

2024 June Site Visit

Figure 50

Figure 51

iii. Interviews with Local Residents

I have talked to the village people of Ayas, 15 of them. They were mostly each others' neighbors for over 20 years. Only 2/15 were below 30 years old, the rest of the population was over 45 years old. Their younger generations immigrate to bigger cities around, like Mersin or Adana, because of the lack of job opportunities in town. They commonly and firmly believe that all 15 of them, tourism activities will solve the unemployment issue and their children can come back to live there too.

General Situation and Complaints: Local residents, many of whom have been living in the area for generations, have a deep connection to the site. They remember times when the theatre was covered and lemon trees grew there. They have participated in excavation works and have good relations with the Italian archaeologists.

Participation and Support: Residents have actively participated in excavation activities and are supportive of restoration efforts. 7/15 people took part in the excavation activities and they expressed their feelings of contentment during activities. Regarding the payment and insurance and the good environment of work; as well as the feeling of responsibility for doing something good for in their hometown. Apart from the excavations, 2 people worked as their cook in different years as well. The result shows that 7/15 people, almost half of the people I interviewed took part in the activities in Elaiussa. The advantage of this participation process is that it enhances the locals' sense of belonging to their hometown, so they take care of the site even during off-excavation periods. Additionally, not having to pay for their accommodation, as they already live there, is an economic benefit for the project.
However, they are frustrated by the lack of action and the restrictions imposed by the site's protected status, which prevents them from expanding their homes and utilizing their land effectively.

Suggestions and Expectations: Local residents are eager for the site to be developed and opened to tourism. They support the idea of a museum and believe that increased tourism would provide economic opportunities and help keep the younger generation from moving away. They fondly recall a large turnout during a theatre festival and would welcome similar events.

Figure 52

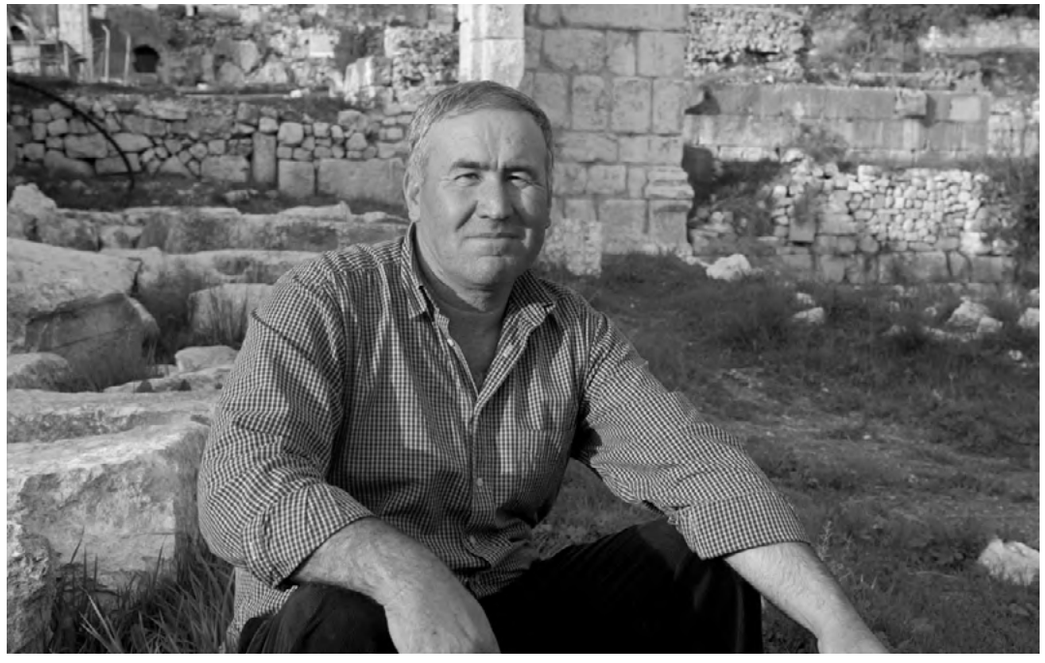


Figure 53

iv. Adana Rölöve ve Anıtlar Müdürlüğü

Adana Rölöve ve Anıtlar Müdürlüğü (Adana Surveying and Monuments Directorate) has a significant role in preserving and managing Turkey's cultural heritage. The Directorate is active in identifying, registering, restoring, and conserving areas of historical and cultural significance. Among its responsibilities are the identification of archaeological sites, conducting the necessary procedures for their protection, development of restoration projects, management of tender processes, monitoring of implementation and inspection phases, overseeing completion and acceptance procedures, as well as initiating regular maintenance and protection activities.

During my visit to Adana, I had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Umit from the Adana Surveying and Monuments Directorate. Serving as the deputy director, he knows very well and worked on Elaiussa and other significant archaeological sites and restoration projects across Turkey. Our discussion primarily revolved around the detailed process of environmental landscaping and restoration of archaeological sites. The restoration and environmental landscaping process includes the following steps:

Identification and Registration: Areas to undergo restoration or environmental landscaping are identified, and their current conditions are assessed. This process is typically carried out by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, museums, and relevant scientific institutions.

Project Development: Detailed studies and project work are conducted. These activities are undertaken by archaeologists, architects, urban planners, and other experts.

Auction Process: The auction process is initiated for approved projects. These procedures are conducted in accordance with the Public Procurement Law and the Cultural Heritage Procurement Regulation.

Implementation and Inspection: Restoration and environmental landscaping activities are commenced and supervised by the project management team. Regular inspections are conducted to ensure compliance.

Completion and Acceptance: After the completion of works, temporary acceptance procedures are carried out. Deficiencies are identified and rectified. Subsequently, final acceptance procedures are conducted.

Post-Completion Maintenance and Protection: Regular maintenance and protection activities are conducted for completed projects. Ongoing monitoring and surveillance are carried out to track the condition of archaeological sites.

Furthermore, I learned that excavation directors can also intervene in fund acquisition, particularly in earthquake-prone regions. Mr. Umit noted that long-term plans often rely on short-term funding. For instance, funding for Elaiussa typically comes from the University of Rome, and excavations usually occur during the summer months, with excavation directors selected from scientific committees.

We also discussed the challenges faced by archaeological sites, such as the traffic congestion on Elaiussa's road preventing access. However, the construction of a new highway

Figure 54

is expected to solve this issue. Additionally, it was emphasized that Elaiussa's beach and the ancient city are intertwined, suggesting that environmental landscaping initiatives could include popular activities like nighttime museum tours.

In my conversation with Mr. Cagri, we delved into the restoration of a designated archaeological site and explored new techniques. We discussed when an archaeological excavation could be transformed into a facility and the necessities for significant environmental landscaping. He stressed the necessity of ensuring that the infrastructure investment does not go to waste, mentioning the importance of careful planning to avoid the need for re-excavation or disruptions caused by infrastructure development.

Moreover, it was mentioned that Elaiussa still contains primary archaeological sites with existing residences, implying that comparing it to surrounding cities may not be entirely accurate. Because I directed a question that has been asked by the visitors, about why Elaiussa is not well developed as the other archeological sites in Cilicia region.

Among the factors that accelerated the project of the archaeological site were the excavation director's requests for restoration and landscaping. If there is not enough funding, promotion and funding efforts are ongoing both domestically and internationally.

Finally, he suggested that my thesis could serve as a concept or framework and provide potential data to assist in this field's endeavors. He proposed the possibility of entering into a process by discussing excavation plans and my designs with the excavation director.

2023 August Site Visit

Figure 55

Figure 56

2024 June Site Visit

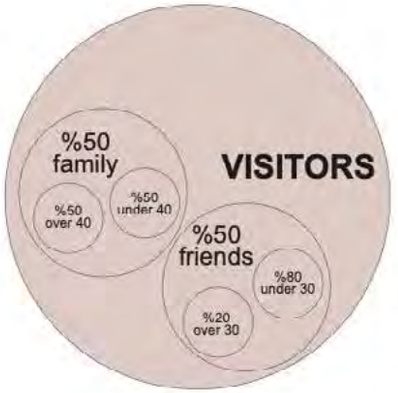
Figure 57

Figure 58

4.3 Situation Overview Diagrams

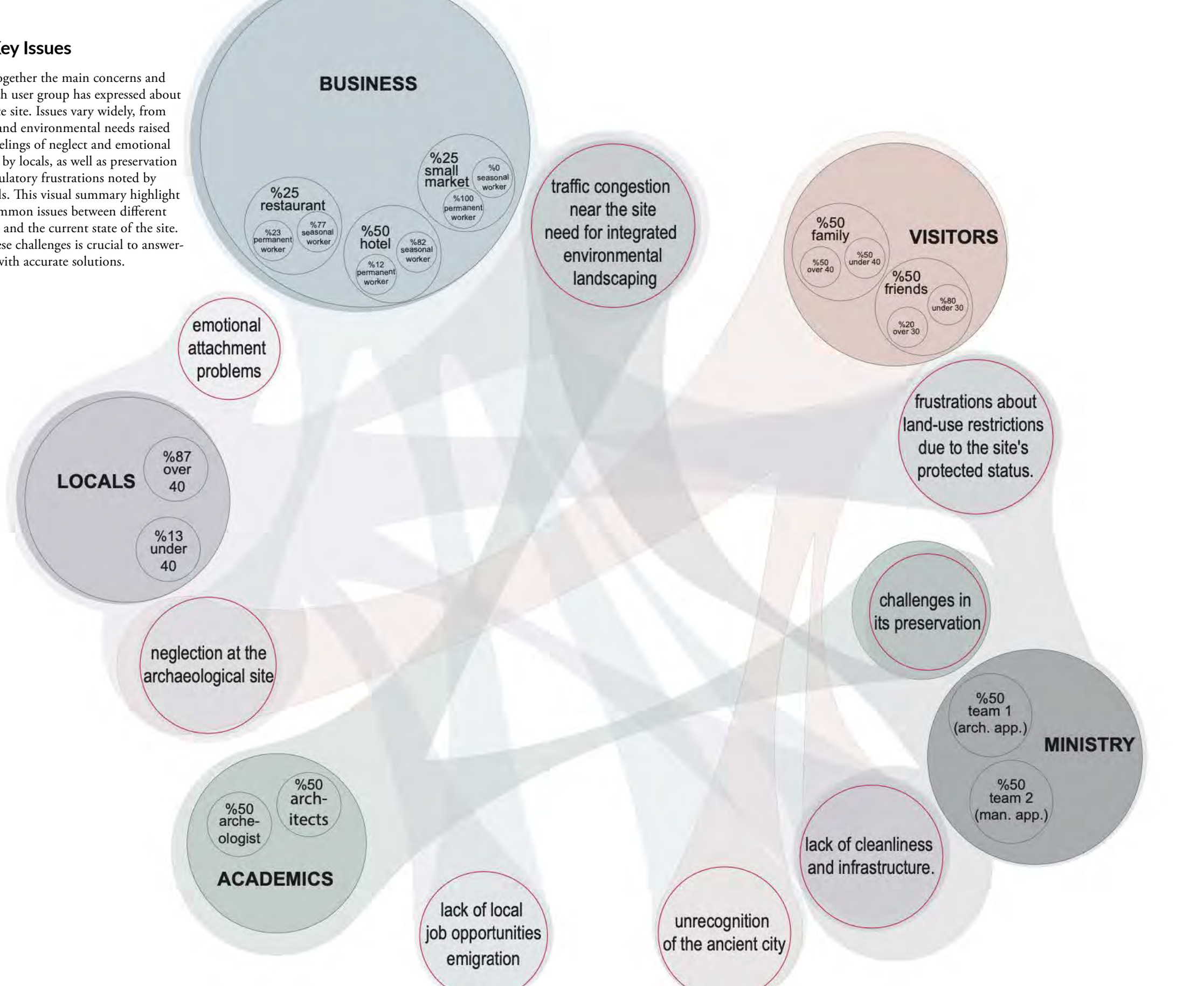
User Groups and Stakeholders in the Elaiussa Sebaste Site

This chart categorizes the five main user groups associated with the Elaiussa Sebaste archaeological site: Locals, Business, Visitors, Academics, and Ministry. Each group is divided into subcategories to represent the various roles and demographics that influence or are impacted by the site. This classification provides a foundation for understanding each group's unique perspective, motivations, and needs, enabling a deeper analysis of their interactions with the site. The chart facilitates an overview of the participants, emphasizing the diversity within each group, which serves as a basis for exploring specific issues and potential improvements.



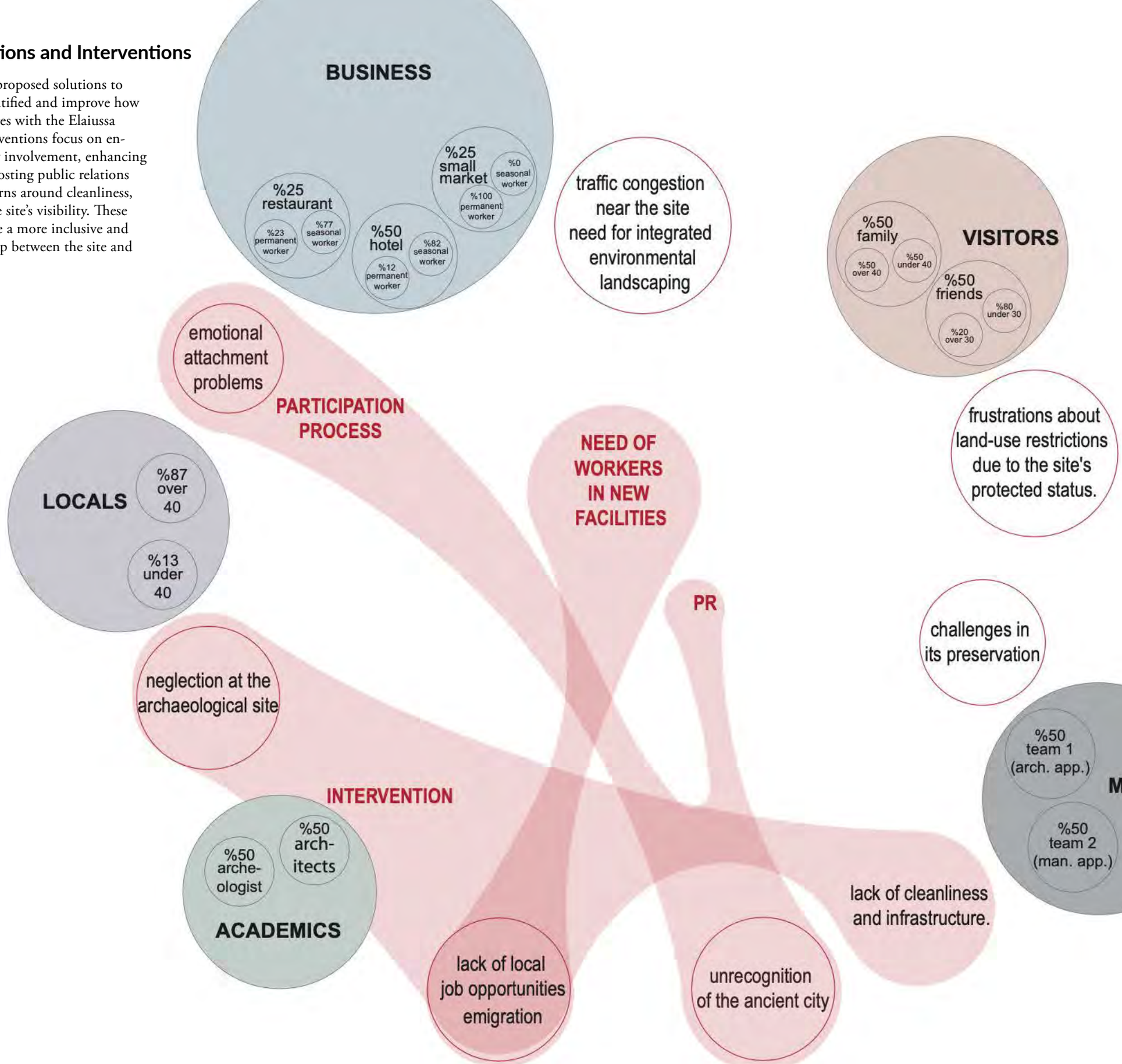
Identifying Key Issues

This page brings together the main concerns and challenges that each user group has expressed about the Elaiussa Sebaste site. Issues vary widely, from traffic congestion and environmental needs raised by businesses to feelings of neglect and emotional connection voiced by locals, as well as preservation challenges and regulatory frustrations noted by visitors and officials. This visual summary highlight the conflicts or common issues between different stakeholders needs and the current state of the site. Understanding these challenges is crucial to answering the problems with accurate solutions.



Proposed Solutions and Interventions

This chart highlights proposed solutions to address the issues identified and improve how each user group engages with the Elaiussa Sebaste site. The interventions focus on encouraging community involvement, enhancing the landscape, and boosting public relations efforts to tackle concerns around cleanliness, infrastructure, and the site's visibility. These solutions aim to create a more inclusive and sustainable relationship between the site and its visitors.



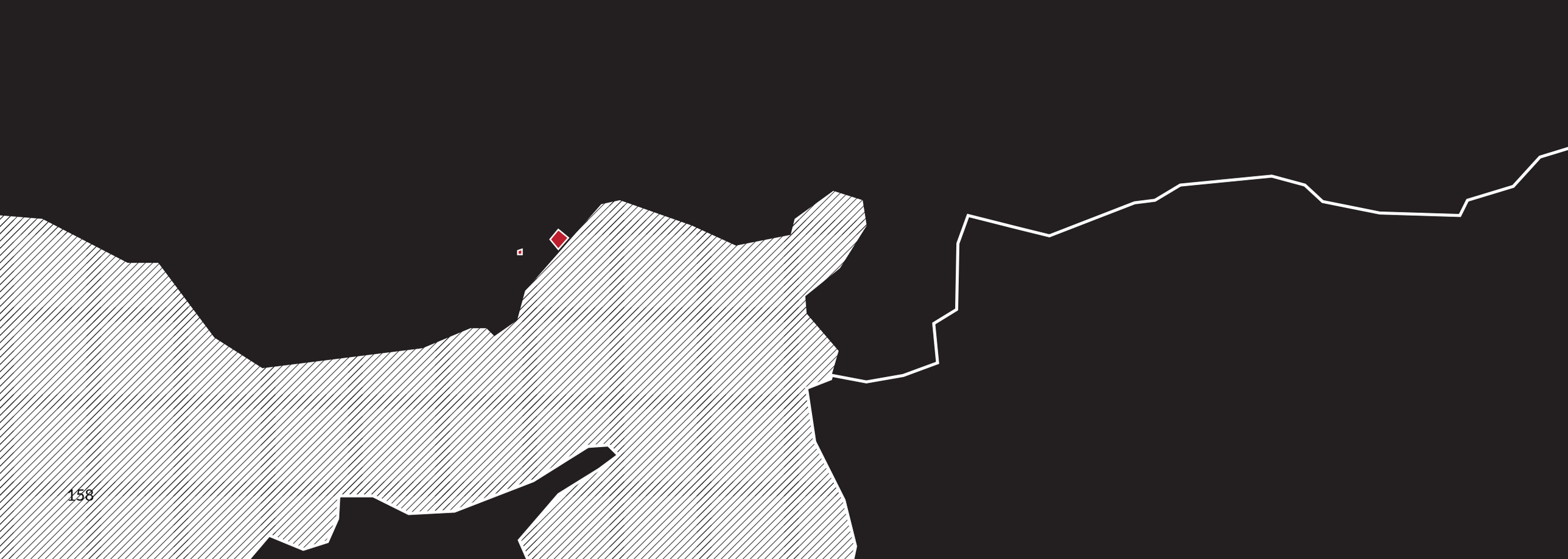
CHAPTER V

Elaiussa Sebaste: Architectural Preservation

The final chapter introduces the design interventions proposed for the Elaiussa Sebaste archaeological site, developed with a deep understanding of the site's historical, social, and environmental context. Building on the challenges explored in the "Ongoing Situation" chapter, these strategies aim to preserve the site's cultural heritage while making it accessible and meaningful for today's visitors.

The proposed interventions are intended to create a sustainable link between the ancient city and its surrounding community, improve accessibility, and support long-term conservation. Key focuses include blending the landscape with the archeological site, reusing architectural fragments in thoughtful ways, and creating visitor pathways that respect the site's delicate environment. Each design takes into account the unique character of Elaiussa Sebaste, using materials and methods that respect both traditional craftsmanship and modern conservation practices.

With these carefully considered interventions, this chapter envisions a future for Elaiussa Sebaste that respects its historical roots while inviting fresh connections with both local and international visitors. These strategies aim to strengthen the site's cultural and educational value, ensuring its vitality and interest for generations to come.



5.1 Laws and Legislations for Preserving Cultural Heritage in Turkey

Cultural heritage in Turkey is protected and managed by a complex system of laws and institutions, which can sometimes consdiered inconsistent. As Vagnarelli (2020) writes, Turkey's heritage management faces several challenges, including outdated protection rules, a speculative approach to heritage, and a complicated division of responsibilities between central and local authorities.
The preservation of cultural heritage in Turkey is primarily governed by Law No. 2863 of 1983 on the Conservation of Cultural and Natural Property. This law defines movable and immovable cultural heritage and is very important for Turkish heritage management. It sets the legal framework for identifying, preserving, and managing heritage properties and establishes key bodies, such as the Higher Council for the Conservation of Cultural and Natural Heritage and Regional Conservation Councils (Vagnarelli, 2020, p. 261-265). These councils supervise the conservation processes, examining that interventions meet scientific and methodological standards.
The primary institution responsible for heritage conservation in Turkey is the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, specifically through its Directorate General of Cultural Heritage and Museums. This body oversees the majority of conservation activities and operates through 126 Museum Directorates and 12 Directorates for Architectural Planning and Monuments, which are tasked with protecting sites and managing museums, as I confirmed this cycle of protection and valorization process during my visit to the Adana Directorate General of Cultural Heritage.

In 2004, Amendment No. 5226 introduced significant changes, including the creation of Site Management Directorates and KUDEB (Conservation Implementation and Supervision Bureaus), which expanded local authority in conservation efforts. This decentralization facilitated more regionally focused preservation approaches, although overlaps between central and local bodies, such as the Ministry of Culture, local municipalities, and the General Directorate of Islamic Foundations, often lead to bureaucratic inefficiencies in Councils (Vagnarelli, 2020, p. 264). Further legislative developments include Law No. 5366 (2005), focusing on the restoration and revitalization of historical at risk urban areas that are threatened to lose their unique characteristics.

In addition to national laws, Turkey is bound by several international agreements, one of the most important is the Venice Charter of 1964 and UNESCO World Heritage Guidelines. They list the requirements such as the minimal intervention, authenticity, and reversibility in restoration, ensuring that contemporary interventions do not distort the historical fabric of the heritage site.

A significant aspect of Law No. 2863 is its emphasis on the inseparability of archaeological and natural heritage (Akin, 2006, p.25-37). The law says that the conservation efforts must preserve both the built environment and the surrounding landscapes. This approach ensures that cultural and natural elements are treated as a whole rather then

individuals. This reflects the strong and inseperable connection between the ancient city and its natural surroundings (Rudieri, 2020).

One of the key challenges in Turkey's heritage preservation is the fragmentation of authority across different institutions. While the Ministry of Culture provides a national framework for conservation, Regional Assemblies often prioritize local economic incentives over cultural preservation. This management fragmentation complicates the appropriate application of preservation laws and sometimes leads to large-scale reconstructions that compromise the historical integrity of sites. An example to this issue, Romeo (2020) criticize, the reconstruction of the Library of Celsus in Ephesus. Because he questions the outcome of this intervention, he thinks it was an idea that was driven by tourism, therefore, sparking concerns about the authenticity of the restoration.

Furthermore, Resolution No. 658 of 1999 sets out tight protection criteria for archaeological sites, commanding that sites in the highest protection categories remain unchanged unless scientific excavation or restoration is required (Vagnarelli, 2020).
This law also applies to a large portion of Ayas. Because of the presence of Elaiussa, its perimeter is also under highest protection category, including the houses of inhabitants as well. The law prohibits any radical changes in or out of the dwellings as well. Even though they were built centuries after the ancient city.
The influence of European guidelines and international archaeological missions, particularly collaborations with Italian teams, has been an important impact on Turkey's conservation practices. The introduction of anastylosis and other non-invasive techniques reflects Western conservation models that have been integrated into Turkish site management, though inconsistencies in the legislation sometimes limit their full adoption and application (Romeo, 2020).

As I have experienced myself, one of the major problems of the current system is the lack of a unified and systematic heritage mapping tool. This absence prevents the effective distrubtion of scientific data and complicates the planning and management of conservation efforts (Özdemir Sari, Ozdemir, 2019,). Non-governmental organizations, such as TÜBA TÜKSEK and The TAY Project, have attempted to solve this problems by creating inventories and GIS platforms, however, according to Ozdemir (2019), their efforts are often limited by insufficient funding and collaboration issues.

Turkey's approach to heritage management is continuously evolving under the pressure of economic and tourism development. While Law No. 2863 and improvements have started a strong foundation, ongoing issues with bureaucracy and the tension between cultural preservation and economic interests need further reform to effectively protect Turkey's vast archaeological heritage (Romeo, 2020).

5.2 Conservation Approach: A Dialogue between the Past and Present

Preservation of archaeological sites is a very tricky process – on the one hand, it requires protection of the historical fabric of the site and on the other hand it also needs to be relevant and alined with the present necessities. This type of interaction can be witnessed in Türkiye, more so at certain locations like Elaiussa Sebaste where there is a need to protect the material remains of ancient structures from the demands of tourism, teaching and cultural interpretation.
Such dynamic processes arise from international policies and developed techniques which aim at non-invasive and non-destructive methods. For the last few decades, that is since the adoption of international charters like the Venice Charter of 1964, international recommendations regarding the conservation practices have been quite similar; that is minimal intervention into the original fabric of the site. Turkey has also been increasingly adopting these recommendations into the frameworks of their preservation approaches.
In the last several decades, international guidelines have influenced the adoption of restoration and conservation practices of archaeological sites. Beginning in the 1950s, these guidelines recommended reversible non-invasive interventions and local materials to replace invasive materials such as reinforced concrete.
Romeo (2020), in his detailed study of archaeological restoration in Turkey, emphasizes the importance of reversible interventions. He defends using original materials in restoration to maintain the authenticity of the site. The purpose was to preserve the historic character of the sites so that they can be changed or replaced by future generations if required (Romeo, 2020).

Gillani (2005) suggests non-destructive methods like aerial archaeology and remote sensing to gather information about archaeological sites without extensive excavation. This approach, used at the Roman villa of Almenara de Adaja/Puras, allows archaeologists to map and understand a site's full extent, preserving untouched areas while focusing excavation on only key parts.
This method is particularly relevant to sites like Elaiussa Sebaste, where economic and time constraints make full excavation impractical. The time is a limit for archeologists since they can only be on site about a month in a year, as well as the economical aspects. The use of digital cartography and remote sensing could offer a similar strategy for Elaiussa Sebaste, allowing for the musealization of undiscovered or partially excavated areas without actually intervening them phsyically.

Moreover, on this topic, Petrucci, Di Lorenzo, and Pancaldi (2013) focus on cataloging and valorizing archaeological sites through regional planning and integrated conservation strategies. Their study of the Marche region in Italy highlights the role of local authorities in developing a sustainable conservation approache that emphasize both protection and public engagement. They argue that conservation must be linked to a multidisciplinary understanding of a site's history and architecture, making valorization

efforts—such as the creation of archaeological parks or musealization—integral to the conservation process. This is useful for Elaiussa Sebaste where it is suggested that such conservation measures should be planned within a larger regional planning context so that they are not only effective in the short run but over time as well.

An additional important element in the conservation strategy of Elaiussa Sebaste that is relevant to this case is the idea that preservation should be viewed as an active, contious and evolving process. As Aykaç (2019) observes, the word musealisation is often used to refer solely to keeping monuments in individual buildings, when in practice it can mean the embedding of heritage in the texture of the city. In the case of Elaiussa Sebaste site, this strategy is used to motivate local communities towards site conservation seeking to empower such communities with responsibilities for the site in the future. Public participation not only strengthens the site's cultural significance but also ensures that conservation efforts remain sustainable by involving a broader range of stakeholders. Sustainable here is in this sense that gaining a sense of ownership and responsibility for the site's long-term preservation.

Rudiero (2020) emphasizes the importance of valorization as a tool for making archaeological sites accessible to the public. In his proposals for Elaiussa Sebaste, he proposes the use of digital tools, including virtual reconstructions, to enhance the visitor experience. Rudiero argues that the publicization of conservation efforts, such as sharing updates and digital content online, can awake a deeper connection between the public and cultural heritage. This approach aligns with modern conservation philosophy, which sees preservation not as a static endeavor but as a *dynamic process* that involves public participation at every stage.

5.3 Intervening in an Archaeological Landscape

Conserving archaeological heritage isn't just about preserving individual structures; it also means protecting the broader landscape that gives these sites their historical and cultural depth. The connection between an archaeological site and its surroundings is vital to understanding its true significance. In the case of Elaiussa Sebaste, the conservation idea must reflect this strict link, ensuring that both the site and its landscape are preserved and valorized as a whole.

As Romeo (2020) points out, a key challenge in archaeological conservation is finding a balance between maintaining the authenticity of the landscape and adapting it for today's needs. This problem is especially complicated in Turkey because of the fragmented management in different authorities.
This absence of collective supervision at Elaiussa Sebaste has often resulted in uneven conservation initiatives, with different missions prioritizing monument preservation over environmental preservation (Romeo 2020).
Yet, the landscape itself, its vegetation, rock formations, and coastline, plays a crucial role in shaping visitors' experience and gives an idea of how ancient inhabitants interacted with their surroundings.

This lack of coordination among different conservation missions, both local and international, often results in decisions driven by immediate concerns rather than a shared, long-term vision. In regions managed by Turkish or European missions, for instance, the approach to preserving individual structures sometimes disconnects from a broader strategy for landscape conservation (Romeo, 2018).

Law No. 2863, which manages cultural heritage conservation in Turkey is about this approach by emphasizing the inseparability of archaeological and natural heritage. The law mentions that conservation efforts must preserve not only immovable structures like rock tombs and fortresses but also the environmental context, such as groves, springs, and natural rock formations, that frame these sites.
However, as Romeo points out, the effective application of this law often faces difficulties due to the complex bureaucratics that manage conservation in Turkey. These challenges are evident at Elaiussa Sebaste, where conservation efforts sometimes focus on individual structures without considering the wider landscape in which they are in (Romeo, 2020).

Rudieri (2020) writes on this idea by stressing the need for valorization strategies that improves public engagement with the landscape. According to him, the landscape is not only a ground for the ruins but a crucial part of the site's cultural significance. For Elaiussa Sebaste, this means integrating the natural terrain and archaeological features into a common narrative, so that we can truly understad and appriciate the site's full historical context.
Rudieri (2020) suggests that modern tools, such as digital platforms and virtual reconstructions, can help visitors visualize how the landscape contributed to the ancient city's development. By using these tools, conservation efforts can enhance public appreciation of the landscape's role in the cultural identity of Elaiussa (Rudieri 2006, 25).

Overall, when intervening in an archeological landscape, as in this case, the conservation of Elaiussa Sebaste must extend beyond the preservation of individual monuments. As scholars highlight that the site's landscape is an inseparable part of its historical narrative, deserving equal attention in any conservation strategy. By adopting integrated approaches that respect both cultural and environmental heritage, both the built environment and the natural environment must be protected for future generations.

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5.4 Premises to the Site

Elaiussa Sebaste's charm lies not only in its ancient architectural ruins but also in the surrounding natural landscape, which adds depth to its historical story. Yet, despite its rich past, the site has been left largely neglected, resulting in low tourist interest. The lack of basic infrastructure and the ongoing excavations have made many parts of the site inaccessible and, in some cases, unsafe for visitors.

During my site visit, I observed that the island section of Elaiussa Sebaste, which is covered with dense vegetation, is particularly unappealing and even perceived as dangerous. Many tourists avoid this area entirely, as it appears overgrown and abandoned, with no clear paths or signage to guide a visit. My observations were confirmed by tourists, who said that they were unaware of the historical significance of the site and found it quite uninviting compared to other more developed archaeological sites in the region that they have visited before.

Tourist feedback from interviews in Chapter 5 highlights several critical issues. Many visitors complained about the site's overall neglect, citing the lack of basic amenities such as toilets, trash bins, and signage. The site lacks guided tours or interactive displays that could help visitors better understand its significance. Without these facilities, most tourists—especially families and groups of friends—showed little interest in exploring the ruins, prefering instead to visit the nearby beaches.

Safety concerns are also prevalent. The overgrown sections of the site, particularly near the island, seem unsafe due to poor maintenance, which discourage visitors from exploring the area. Many tourists I have talked to said that the site would benefit from improved pathways, safety measures, and clearer access routes, which could make it more appealing and accessible.

Given these observations and conversations, the premise for any intervention at Elaiussa Sebaste must be taken into account for its ongoing excavation status. As a "never-ending" excavation site, any conservation or design approach must be temporary and reversible, allowing archaeologists to continue their work without permanent changes to the landscape.

Romeo (2020) emphasizes the importance of adopting reversible conservation techniques in such scenarios, ensuring that interventions can be adjusted or removed as new discoveries are made. This is particularly relevant for Elaiussa Sebaste, where the scale of the site and the long-term plan of its excavation demand flexible, low-impact solutions.

The conservation strategy must also address the inseparability of the ruins and the environment. As it was mentioned under the conservation strategies, the common ground is that the natural landscape around the archaeological site plays a crucial role in shaping the historical experience. At Elaiussa Sebaste, the hills, vegetation, and proximity to the sea are key elements of the site's history. Therefore, interventions must prioritize the preservation of the landscape alongside the built environment, ensuring that the natural and cultural elements of the site are preserved as a unified whole.

This complementary approach aligns with the environmental and cultural challenges Elaiussa faced over time. The dense vegetation covering the island section, while part of the natural landscape, also obscures many of the ruins and makes them difficult to access. As a result, conservation efforts should focus on clearing selective pathways through the vegetation and introducing temporary walkways or viewing platforms that allow visitors to explore the site without causing permanent damage to the archaeological remains.

To attract more visitors, the site could adopt musealization strategies that combine temporary installations with digital enhancements. Romeo suggests the use of virtual reconstructions and interactive digital displays to engage the public, providing them with a clearer understanding of the site's significance without disturbing the ongoing excavation activities (Romeo, 2020). By incorporating digital platforms, visitors can explore parts of the site that are currently inaccessible, enhancing their experience and deepening their connection to the historical and natural elements of the site.

In conclusion, the design approach that will be adopted for Elaiussa Sebaste must integrate these premises into a coherent strategy: a focus on temporary, reversible interventions that respect the site's ongoing excavation status, a commitment to the inseparability of the ruins and the environment, and an emphasis on sustainable interventions. This approach will help protect both the archaeological heritage and natural beauty of the site, while also making Elaiussa Sebaste more inviting and accessible for future visitors, encouraging greater public interest.

5.5 Pre-Design Analysis

In order to design a thoughtful and informative masterplan for Elaiussa Sebaste, a series of spatial and environmental analyses were made. These maps explore the site's natural and historical layers, revealing the essential elements that shape both its heritage value and the possible considerations for future development.

The vegetation analysis identifies the distribution of plants across the site, highlighting areas with rich plants and providing information about their dimension and how much of an area they cover .
The old Roman route map shows the traces of the historical pathways that once connected the important points in the island.
The ground composition map analyses the underlying substrate, such as sand, limestone, and other materials, which informs decisions about structural stability and landscape integration.
Lastly, the visibility analysis, conducted in QGIS, maps optimal viewpoints and sightlines, helping to locate positions that offer clear views of key historical and natural features.

Ground Composition Map

Legend

- Beach sand
- Dune
- Limestone
- Path

Vegetation Distribution Map

Roman Walking Path

Vp2

Vp1

Visibility Analysis for Viewpoint Selection

In order to determine most optimal locations for visitor viewpoints in promontory, a visibility analysis was made using QGIS.

Because some areas are ristricted, during my two different site visits it was not possible to reach to inner core of promontory.Therefore the visibility analysis was used to check factors like elevation, topography and sightlines to understand visibility without even going there.

Furthermore, with this analysis we were able to map out the zones and identify the places that are eligible to place new installations.

At the end, three distinct viewpoints were chosen, each offering its own unique experience: one frames the historic ruins, another brings to life the layered history of the site, and a third captures the natural scenery of the Cilician cost.

5.6 Masterplan Design

This masterplan for the promontory of Elaiussa Sebaste is designed to answer the visitor needs as well as creating an enriching experience for the tourists and researchers.
The design suggests two main entrances (1 and 10), positioned to optimize visitor flow from the north and south sides of the site. The southern entrance serves as the primary access point, with facilities like a ticket office, security station, and restrooms, while the northern entrance provides additional entry for those arriving from the north.

The visitor pathway, highlighted in red, leads guests through the site's most historically significant features, connecting them to key viewpoints that captures the area's beauty and rich history. Vp1, Vp2, Vp3 that offer scenic views and educational insights.

Specific facilities like showers, changing rooms, and additional restrooms (7 and 8) are situated on the beach, improving convenience for sea visitors, which was marked as the biggest lack by the tourists during interview. Additionally, fenced areas (marked in red dotted line) describe protected archaeological zones, restricting unauthorized access and safeguarding sensitive structures.

Overall, the masterplan design aims to offer a fruitful and educational experience that visitors can appriciate and be interested in the cultural heritage of Elaiussa Sebaste while preserving its integrity for future generations.

Masterplan


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1
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3
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Vp1
Vp2
Vp3
1- South entrance
2- Ticket office&security
3- Restrooms&gift shops
4- Parking area
5- Ticket control
6- Cafeteria
7- Showers&changing rooms
8- Restrooms
9- Beach
10- North entrance
11- Ticket office&security
12- Restrooms
Fenced area

Focal Points

Viewpoint 1: Historical Gate Framing the Landscape

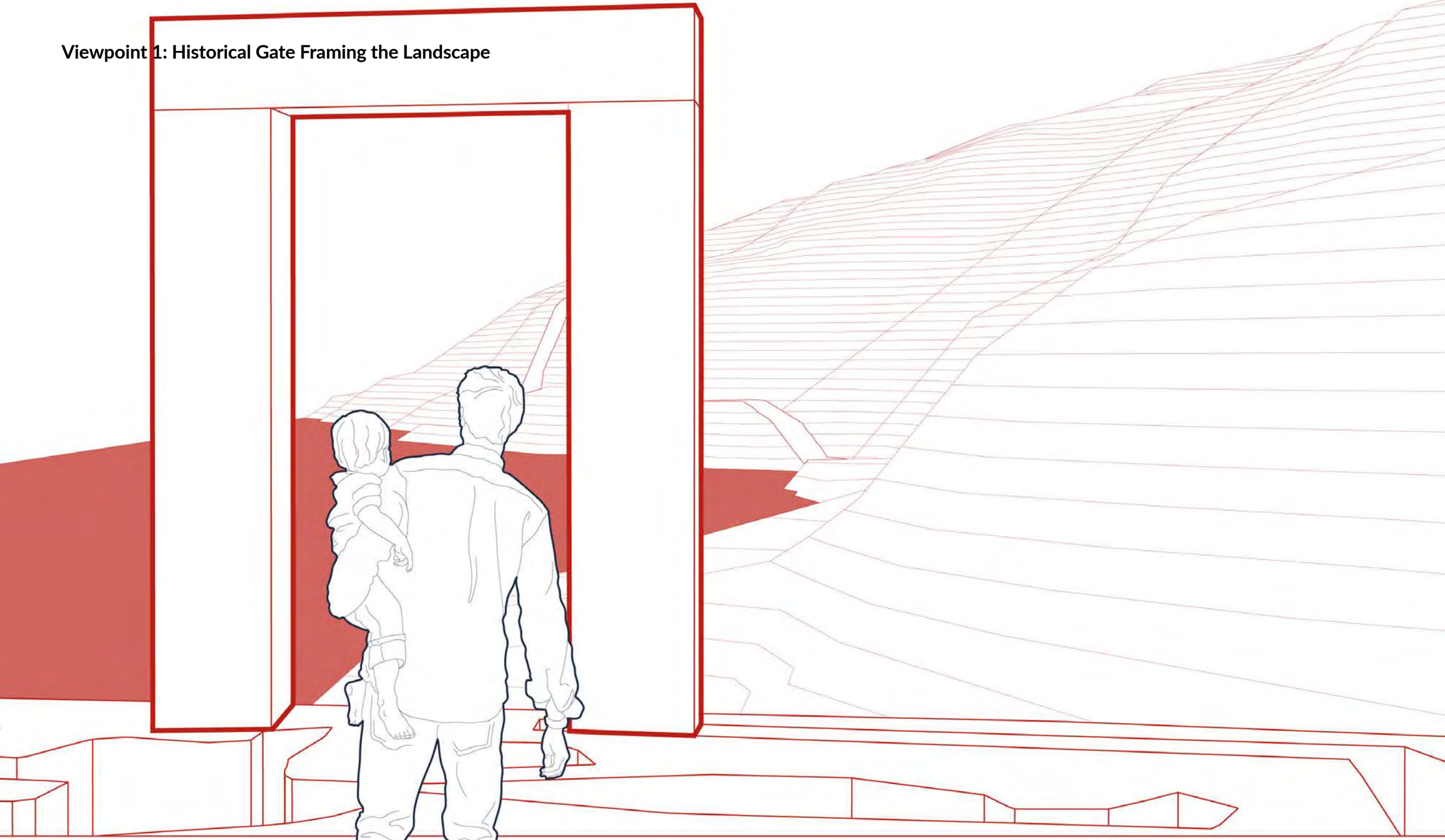
The first viewpoint is the existing stone gateway, an authentic architectural ruin of the ancient city. This monument marks the start of the visiting route of the view points, which I designed to capture meaningful views and highlight significant aspects of Elaiussa Sebaste.

This “window” frames the beach and mediterannean cost beyond the island, forming a natural link between the site’s historical ruins and the impressive environment of Rough Cilicia.

Through visitor feedbacks and shared photos online, I had the opportunity to observe that this gateway captivates attention—many visitors pause to photograph it. I believe, the visitors are greatly interested into to the experience of looking through a historic window onto the landscape.

Recognizing this as an attraction point, I positioned this viewpoint to allow visitors to pause, appreciating how the structure still stands strong and beautiful after centuries.

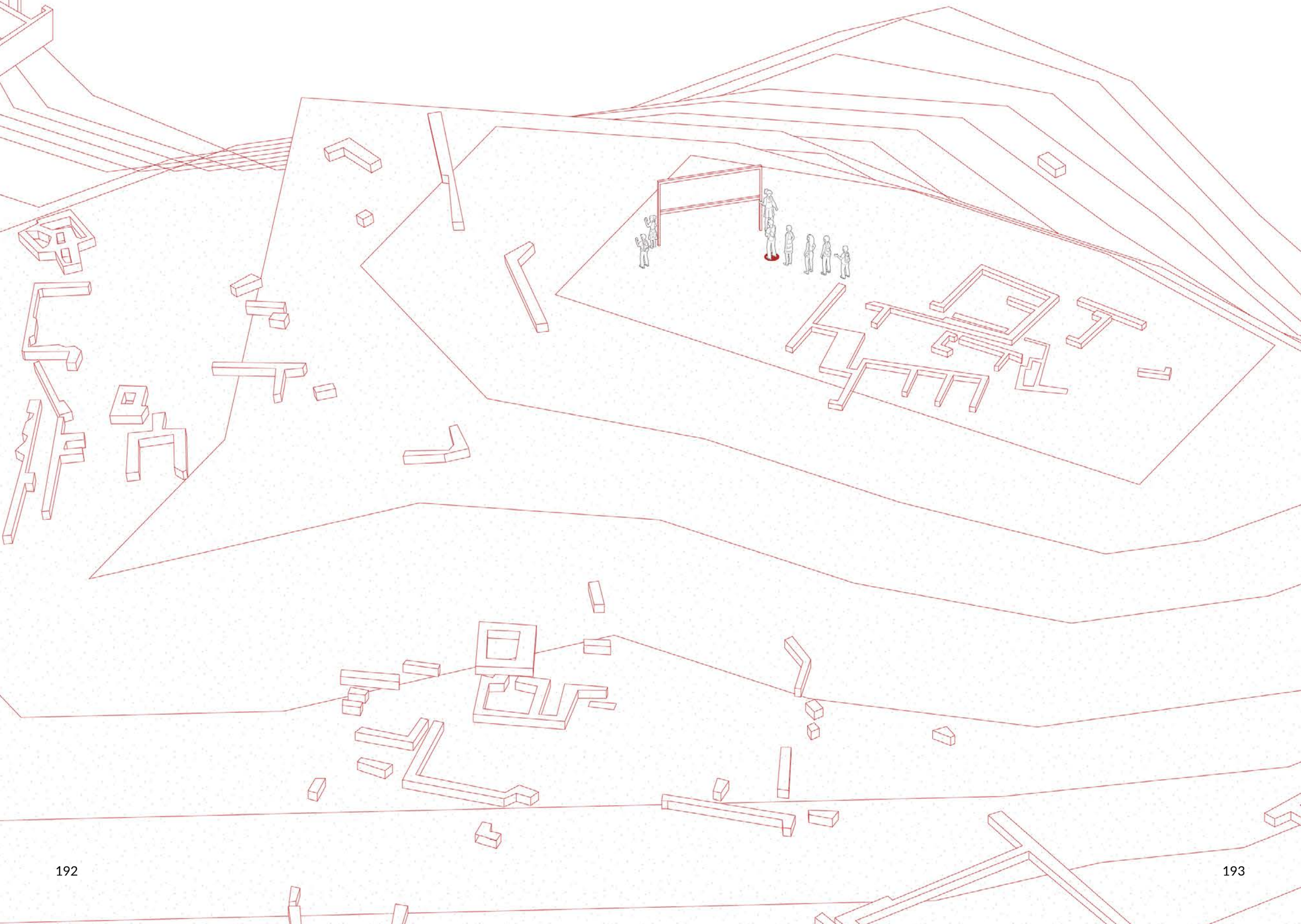
Viewpoint 1: Historical Gate Framing the Landscape



Viewpoint 2: Interpretive Panels and Multi-Layered History

The second viewpoint introduces a series of interpretive panels that guide visitors through the complex, layered history of Elaiussa Sebaste, revealing insights gathered from in-depth research on the site's key historical phases: from the Hellenistic beginnings, through Roman and Byzantine periods, the era of abandonment, to its recent state. These panels provide an engaging, educational experience by contextualizing the visible ruins and connecting them to the city's broader historical narrative.

Each panel offers an opportunity to connect with the past, linking the visible ruins to the larger story of the city. The panels are designed in this way: structures from each era that still stand today are carved out, allowing viewers to see what remains, while buildings that have vanished over time are covered. These sliding panels lets visitors go back in time and imagine what the city looked like during each phase, creating a glimpse how Elaiussa Sebaste has transformed over the centuries.



Viewpoint 2: Interpretive Panels and Multi-Layered History

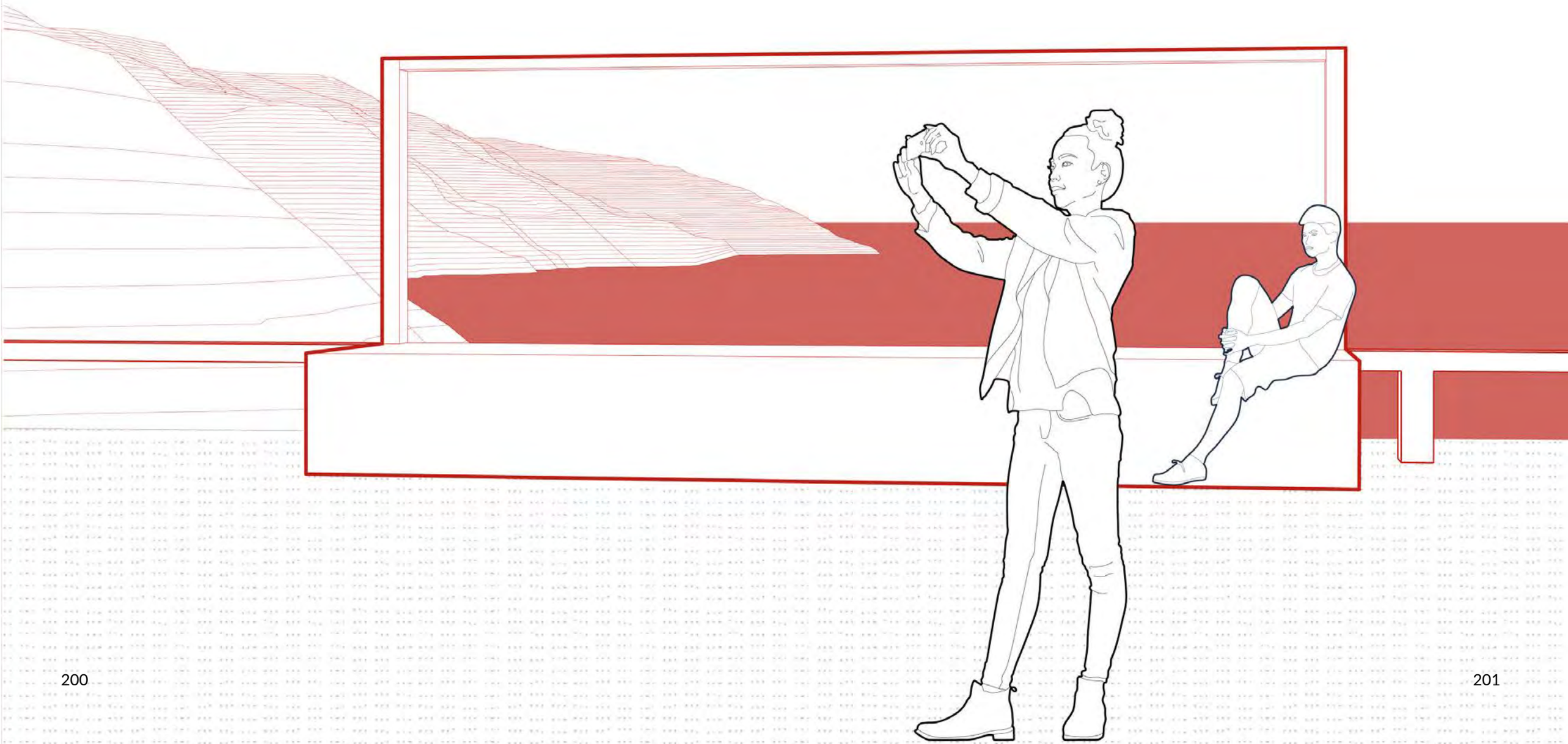
Viewpoint 3: Modular Seating with Community Participation

The third viewpoint positioned to face the breathtaking Mediterranean coast and the mountains, this viewpoint offers a space for relaxation at the end of the visiting tour and appreciation of Elaiussa Sebaste's stunning natural surroundings.

The modular design is aimed to encourage community involvement, enabling the seating to be constructed as part of workshops that invite participation from universities, local communities, and experts, as highlighted the importance of participation process by different scholars in the previous chapter. This approach fosters a shared sense of responsibility for the site, inviting everyone to play a part in its preservation. The modular design makes the seating adaptable, allowing it to evolve with future needs and adjustments.

Crafted from locally sourced wood—a material deeply rooted in the area's history and traditions, valued since Roman times—this choice not only respects locals but also creates a sustainable and meaningful connection to the cultural landscape.

Viewpoint 3: Modular Seating with Community Participation



Permenant Exhibition in Byzantine Palace

This more permanent intervention focuses on the revitaziation of the Byzantine Palace using the anastylosis method. The approach to reconstruct ancient structures by reintegrating their original architectural components. The goal here is to let visitors experience the impressive scale and beauty of the palace as it once was, while preserving the authenticity of its historic ruins.

We recover columns and arches and their remains from the site and reassemble them to reconstruct the spatial organization of the central area of the palace and the rhythmic rhythm of the structure.

To complement the missing pieces, the reassembly of columns will use wood—a material of both historical and local significance in Ayas. Wood has been a valued and rich resource in the region since Roman times, even imported for its quality and availability, making it an ideal choice for this intervention.

Through anastylosis, the partial columns around the central space of the palace are carefully re-assambled to restore spatial order and its structural rhythm, by tracing the ruins. This process emphasizes the original materials, the original dimensions and the feeling of this space. By restoring the columned portico of the palace in this way, the design not only enhances the experience, but also underlines the cultural significance of the Byzantine period in the site.

This intervention aimed to follow principles of sustainable design for archaeological sites by preserving as much original material as possible and minimizing invasive reconstruction. The carefully planned reassembly aims to spark an appreciation of Byzantine architecture and heritage of this ancient city, while maintaining the integrity and historical character of the site for future generations, but create a new landmark as well; that is visible from the highway. This prominent feature is designed to catch the attention of passing drivers and spark curiosity, encouraging them to visit and explore the cultural significance of Elaiussa Sebaste.

Cross Section Byzantine Palace