

### RE-FUNCTIONING FOR SUSTAINABLE CULTURAL HERITAGE, A WORKSHOP ON "CENANI MANSION"

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#### ÖZET

Kentlerin gelişimi ile merkezde işlevini yitirmiş alanların ve yapıların, bulundukları çevre ile dönüşüm geçirmesi ve farklı işlevler kazanması kaçınılmaz hâle gelmiştir. Kentlerin tarihî çevresinde farklı işlevlere sahip olan her yapı, inşa edildikleri dönemin izlerini taşıdığı için bir kültürel mirastır. Sürdürülebilir kültürel miras için bu yapıların sosyal, kültürel, tarihî ve mimari değerlerinin korunması ve böylece gelecek nesillere aktarılması gerekmektedir. Tarihî dokuda işlev değişikliğinin gerçekleştirilmesi, iç mimarlık alanında önemli bir çalışmıştır. Konunun önemi nedeniyle, Gaziantep Üniversitesi Mimarlık Bölümü İç Mekân Organizasyonu seçmeli dersi kapsamında 12 öğrencinin katılımıyla deneyel bir atölye çalışması yürütülmüştür. Bu çalışma, Gaziantep şehir merkezindeki Cenani Konağı'nın kültürel mirasını sürdürülebilir kılmak amacıyla yeniden işlevlendirilmesini kapsamaktadır. Atölye sonunda, tarihî dokunun ve mevcut yapının korunmasını dikkate alan iç mekân tasarımları ortaya çıkmıştır. Süreç boyunca katılımcı öğrencilere aktarılan teorik bilginin, atölyeler ve öğrencilerin kendi araştırmalarıyla nihai ürünlere yansığı belirlenmiştir. Bu atölye ile tarihî binalarımızın, kültürel mirasımızın korunmasını düşünmek ve doğru mimari çözümlerle işlevlendirmek için tasarım pratiği kazandırılması amaçlanmıştır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Kültürel miras, Sürdürülebilir tasarım, Yeniden işlevlendirme, İç mimarlık, Cenani Konağı

#### ABSTRACT

With the growth of cities, it has become inevitable for areas and structures that have lost their function in the center to transform together with their environment and gain different functions. Each of the structures with different functions in the historical surroundings of the cities is a cultural heritage as it carries the traces of the period in which they were built. For sustainable cultural heritage, the social, cultural, historical and architectural values of these structures must be preserved and thus transferred to future generations. Re-functioning in historical texture is an important area of interior design. Due to the importance of the subject, an experimental workshop was conducted with the participation of 12 students within the scope of the Interior Space Organization elective course of the Department of Architecture at Gaziantep University. This study covers the re-functioning of the Cenani Mansion, which is in the historical city center of Gaziantep, to sustain its cultural heritage. At the end of the workshop, interior designs that consider the preservation of the historical texture and the existing structure were revealed. It has been determined that the theoretical knowledge transferred to the participant students throughout the process, workshops and their own researches are reflected in the final theoretical product of this workshop, it is aimed to gain design practices in order to think about the protection of historical buildings, which are our cultural heritage, and to function them with the right architectural solutions.

**Keywords:** Cultural heritage, Sustainable design, Re-functioning, Interior Design, Cenani Mansion.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Integrating architectural heritage, which is one of the most important components of cultural heritage, with contemporary life is important for the cultural continuity of societies. Re-functioning of buildings registered as architectural heritage without compromising their identity and authenticity is one of the most preferred conservation methods today. The reuse of architectural heritage is about negotiating the transition from the past to the future to secure the historical transfer of heritage assets while also meeting the needs of the contemporary world (Chapman 2004). Considering that re-functioning rather than demolishing the building extends the life of the building (Yıldırım and Turan, 2012), the method serves the understanding of conservation in the context of both ecological and social and cultural sustainability (Tuğlu Karslı and Aytıç, 2019). Ecologically, while the practice of adapting it to a new function takes into account the amount of waste that will arise during demolition, the amount of energy and materials to be consumed (Elsorady, 2013), the building, which has continued its life in a socio-cultural dimension, participates in urban life by transferring the traces of the period it was built to the new environmental context (Gazi and Boduroğlu, 2015). Heritage conservation, in turn, contributes to ecologically sustainable development (Pearson & Sullivan, 1999).

Transferring the history without any interruption can be available by sustainable conservation. Giving new functions or conserving the structures by adapting their original functions have become an intervention method. In this sense; the major tool is "new addition". According to Hunt and Boyd, new needs should be done in a contemporary language in order not to cause any confusion and without decreasing the original value (Hunt and Boyd, 2017)

Re-functioning is the adaptation to a different function of historical buildings with function destroyed due to changing lifestyles over time and linked desires or the updating of historical buildings that are below standards due to continuing function but old standards of comfort. (Ahunbay 2011). "Cultural assets may be refurnished in line with current needs, but this should be performed in a way respectful to, and without harming, the existing artistic, original, and historical features" (ICOMOS, 1965). In this reuse process, buildings must be raised to an acceptable standard of living while respecting their authenticity, integrity and meaning. (ICOMOS, 2013)

When assigning a "new function" to a structure:

- Spatial formation of the building (plan scheme)
- The volume dimensions of the building (interior dimensions of the building)
- Attention should be paid to the internal circulation of the building (Altınoluk, 1998)

In this study, the process and results of a workshop for the re-functioning of the historical Cenani Mansion are shared. In the workshop, it was aimed for the students of Architecture to understand the practice of re-functioning in order to sustain the cultural heritage and to comprehend the methods of interior design in historical buildings. This study, which includes practices for re-functioning that should be included in architectural education practice, aims to create a document for future research.

## 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

For this study, Cenani Mansion located in the historical neighborhood of Gaziantep was chosen. The reasons for choosing this building are that it reflects the history and culture of the surrounding area, that it has gained many different functions from the past to the present, and that the building has been well preserved until today. In the study, literature information on the subject, the history of Cenani Mansion, the workshop process and the results of the idea projects will be shared. The workshop consists of the students' re-functioning of the Cenani mansion within the scope of the Interior Space

Organization elective course of the Department of Architecture of Gaziantep University. The participants, consisting of 12 students who took the course, carried out their studies in groups of 4 people.

During the workshop, Cenani Mansion and its surroundings were visited and examined with the students. After examining the survey, restoration projects and other documents taken from KUDEB of Cenani Mansion, which is used as a cultural center by gaining a new function today, theoretical information about re-functioning was given to the students. At the end of the workshop, the function given to the historical urban texture and the original architectural structure of the mansion and the problems that may occur afterwards were questioned at the end of the workshop.

	The importance and justifications of the concept of adaptive reuse in the historical environment
	Analysis of the existing historical building and its surroundings
	Discussion on re-functioning proposals
	Interior design of the re-functioned building
	Conclusion and evaluation

Table 1. Workshop Process Flowchart: Steps and Activities

### Description of Building

Cenani Mansion located between Bey and Eyüboğlu neighborhoods of Gaziantep, the southern part of Turkey, was built in 1870.



Figure 1. Location of Cenani Mansion (Google Earth)

It is a two-storey building made of cut stone (havara stone), which consists of two courtyards and four buildings. There are shops under arched openings on the ground floor of Cenani Mansion. A round-arch door opens to the courtyard of the Mansion. There is pomegranate, apricot, mulberry, plum, apple, fig and pine trees in this large courtyard. The courtyard of the house is entered through a round arched door with a decorative keystone protruding outwards. With its triangular pediment and profiled facade windows, the building has a characteristic architectural originality.



Figure 2. (a) street facade of the building,

b) courtyard of the building

The Cenani Mansion was registered on 10.03.1997 and it was donated to Gaziantep University by the Cenani family in 2010. The building, whose restoration was completed on September 30, 2011, was put into service as Gaziantep University Cenani Mansion Culture and Art Center and serves as one of the most important culture and art centers of the city with exhibitions and artistic events.

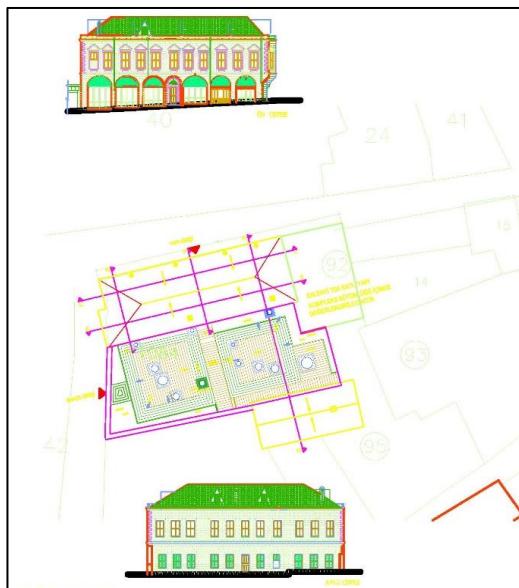


Figure 3. Restoration project of Cenani Mansion- site plan

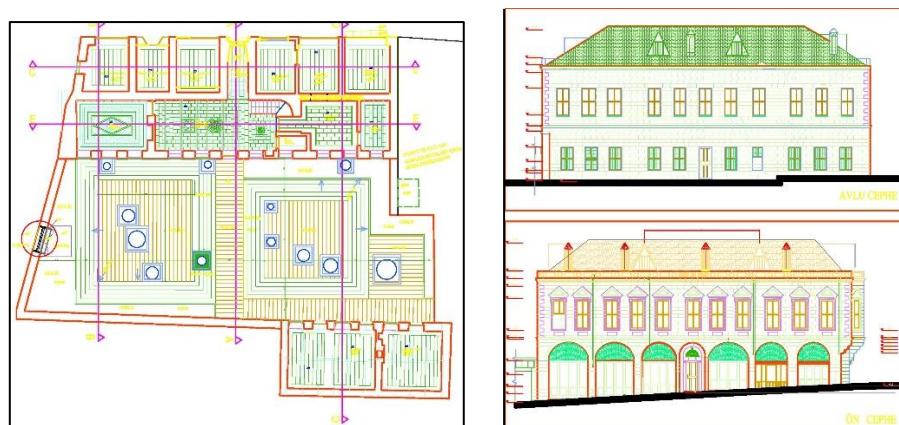


Figure 4. Restoration project of Cenani Mansion- (a)plans (b) elevations

### 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Within the scope of the workshop, students were asked to propose a function for the historical Cenani Mansion and to work on the adaptation of this new function to space. In this section, 3 proposal projects developed within the scope of the workshop are included. Each proposal consists of the work of a group of 4 people. Students presented these works with interior project expression tools (moodboard, material board, rendered plans, lighting plan, sections furniture details and 3d views).

#### ***Proposal 1: Architectural Atelier***

The group that developed this proposal determined the concept of the design as the contrast of the historical texture and the new. The rationale for the new function is the need for a place where architecture students can do their work outside of school. In space design, the modern atmosphere of the new is reflected within the outer borders of the historical mansion. In the interior project, furniture and lighting elements were designed in line with the needs of the function.

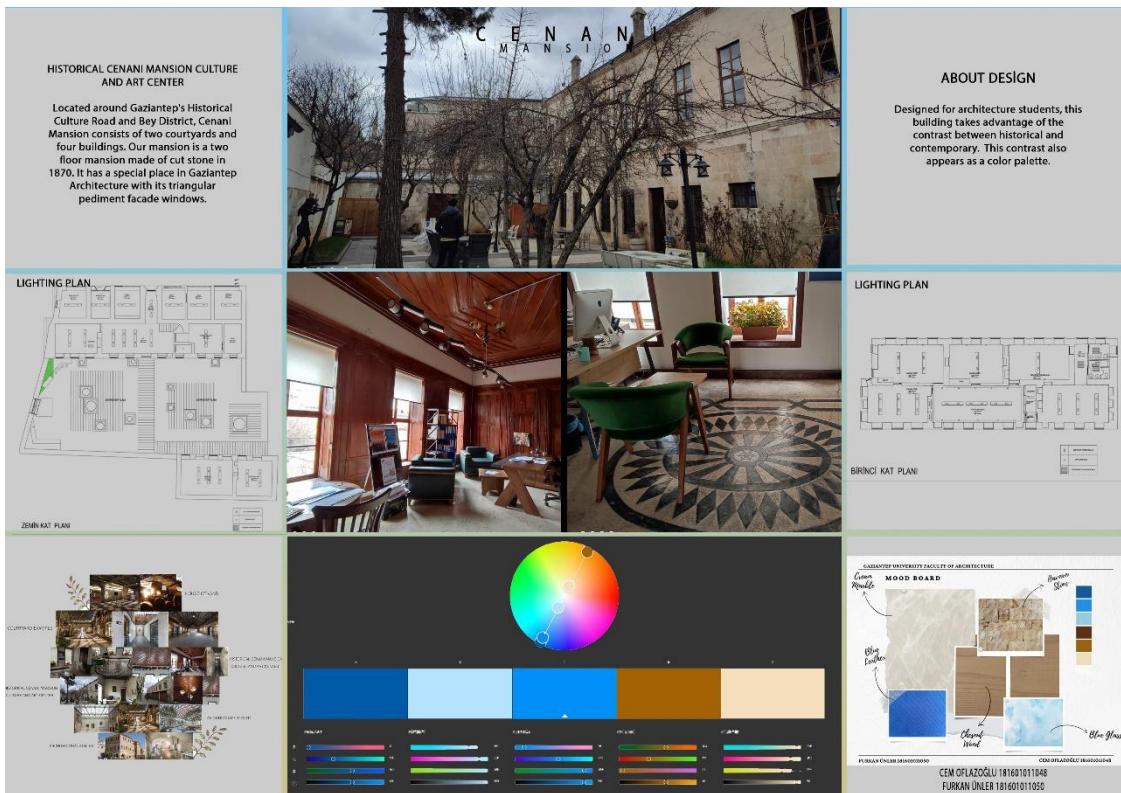


Figure 5. Proposal 1: Architectural Atelier, moodboard, material board, lighting plan

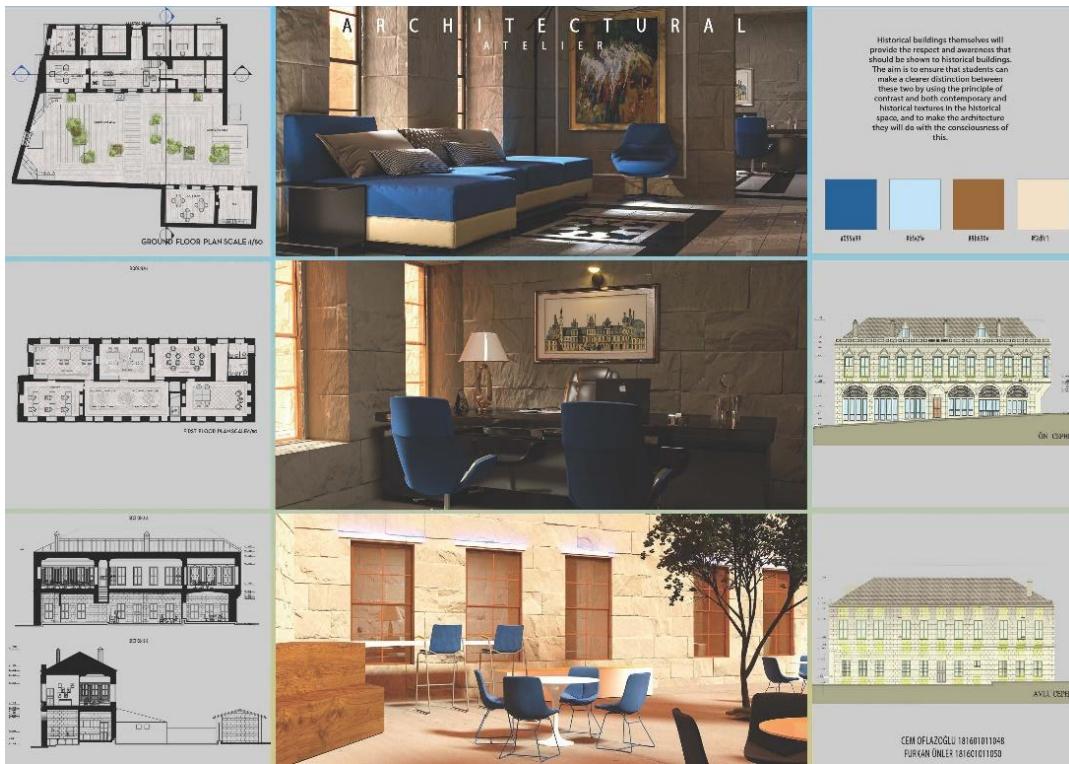


Figure 6. Proposal 1: Architectural Atelier- plans, sections, 3d views

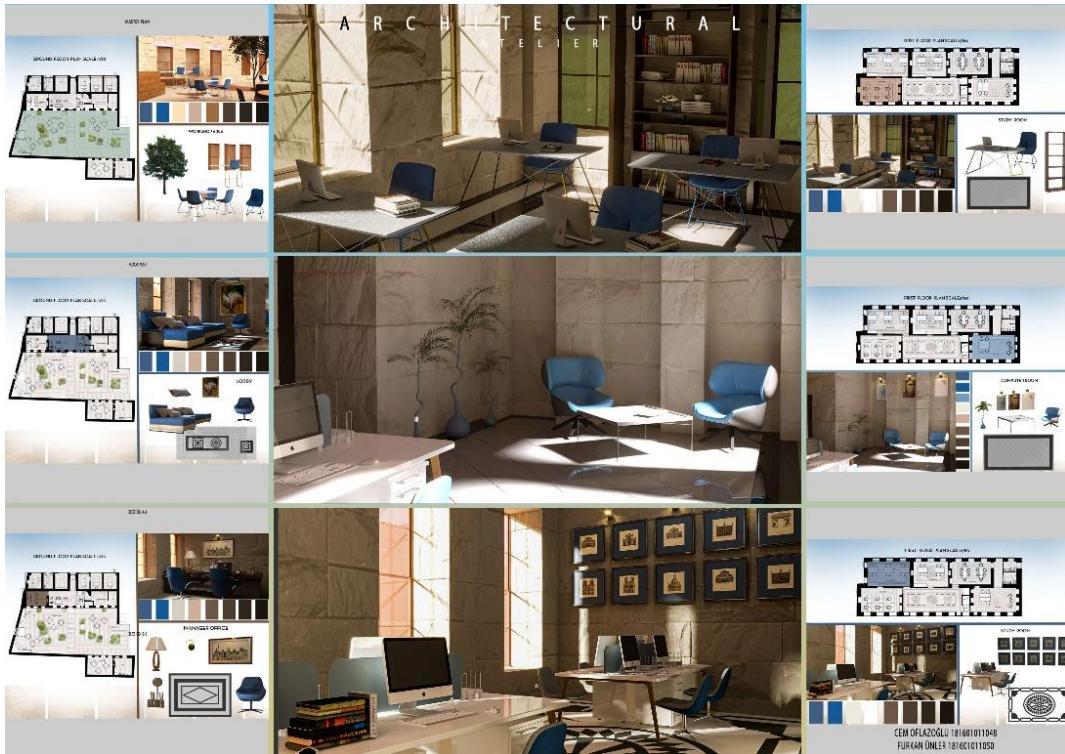


Figure 7. Proposal 1: Architectural Atelier- furniture details

### **Proposal 2 : Boutique Hotel**

The group that developed this proposal built its design concept on simplicity and comfort. The rationale for the new function; to keep the historical texture of Gaziantep alive through tourism. While commercial functions are located on the facades facing the street on the ground floor, an administrative office, kitchen and 5 hotel rooms are designed on the upper floor. There is a restaurant

in the courtyard. The colors used in the design are pastel and earthy tones. Furniture for hotel room bed, nightstand, closet, etc. and the tables and chairs for the restaurant were designed by the students in a simple line.

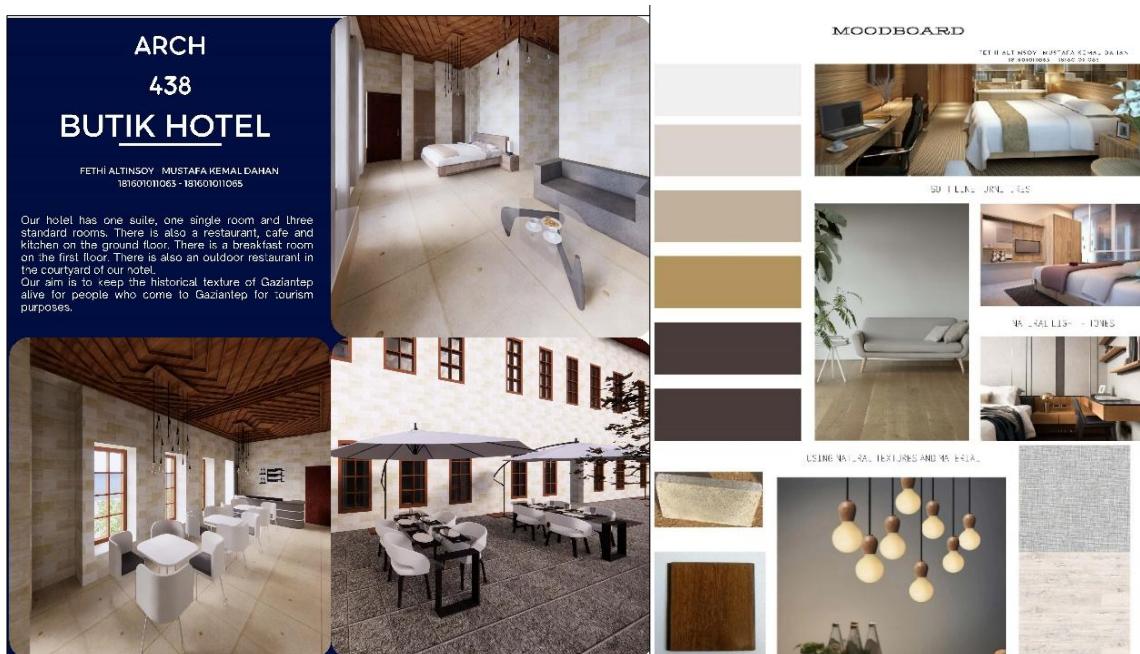


Figure 8. Proposal 2- Boutique Hotel- (a)3d view

(b) moodboard



Figure 9. Proposal 2- Boutique Hotel-(a)plans

(b). furniture details

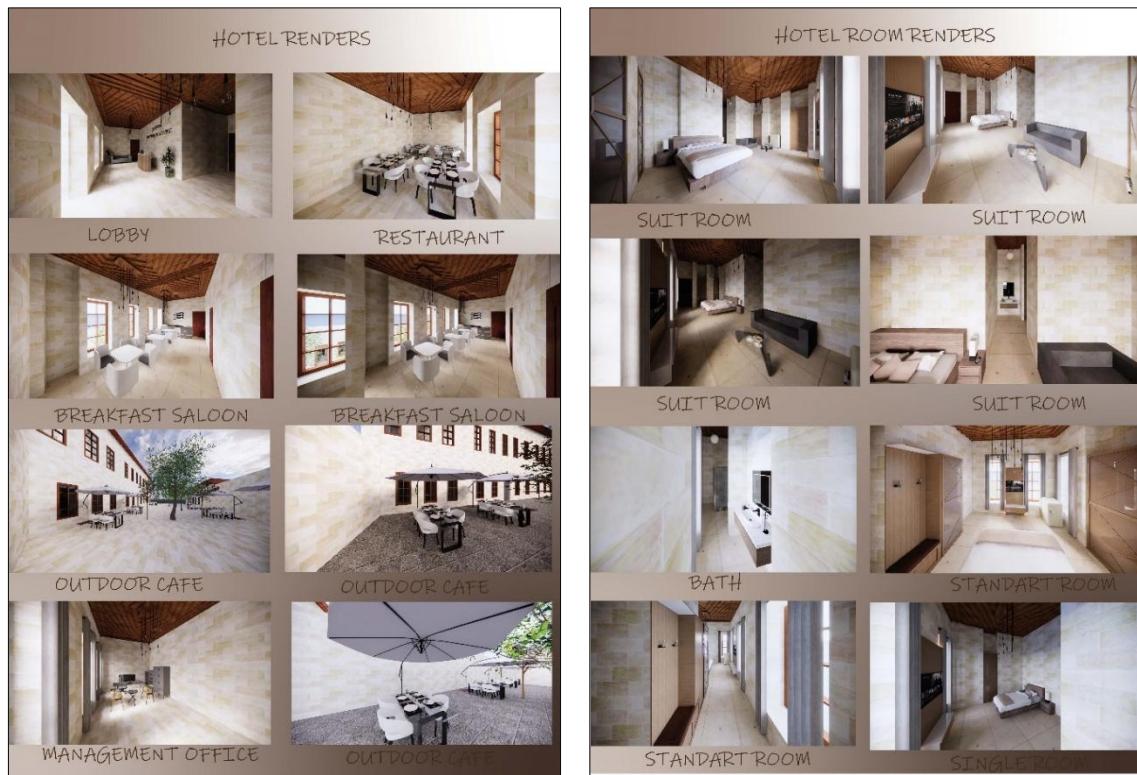


Figure 10. Proposal 2- Boutique Hotel- 3D views

### **Proposal 3: Book store-cafe**

The group that developed this proposal built the design concept on the principles of modernism. The rationale for the new function; It has been determined for the residents of the neighborhood where the mansion is located, for the need for the combination of book sales and cafe functions. On the ground floor, there are book sales shops on the facades facing the street, and on the upper floor, reading rooms and a group study room. There is a cafe and seating units in the courtyard. The colors used in the design are white and earth tones. The furniture is designed with clean, sharp lines reflecting the language of modernism, with metal, wood and glass materials.

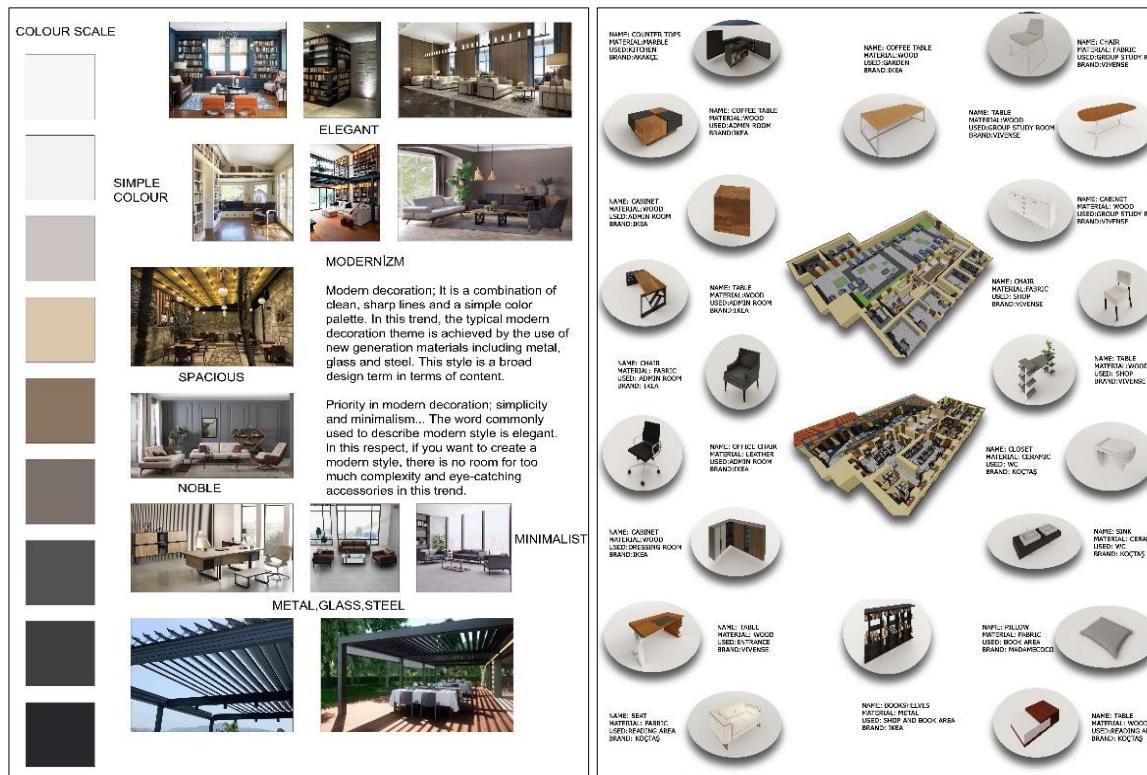


Figure 11. Proposal 3- book store&cafe- **(a)** moodboard **(b)** materialboard

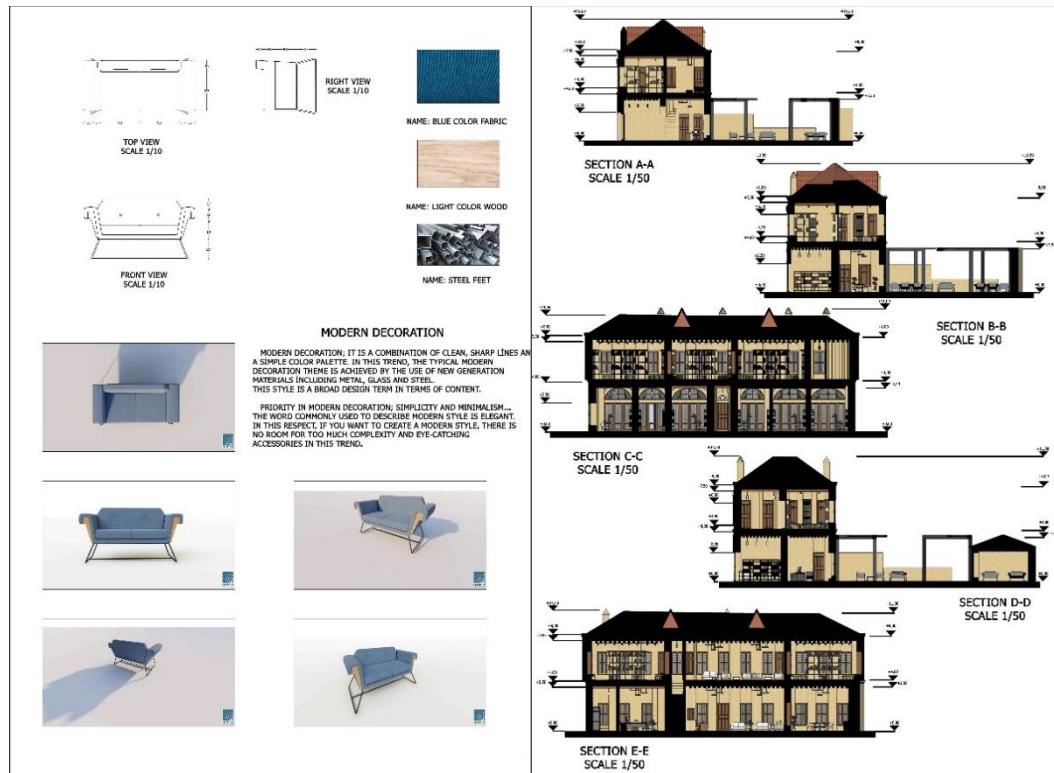


Figure 12. Proposal 3- book store&cafe-**(a)** furniture details      **(b)** sections

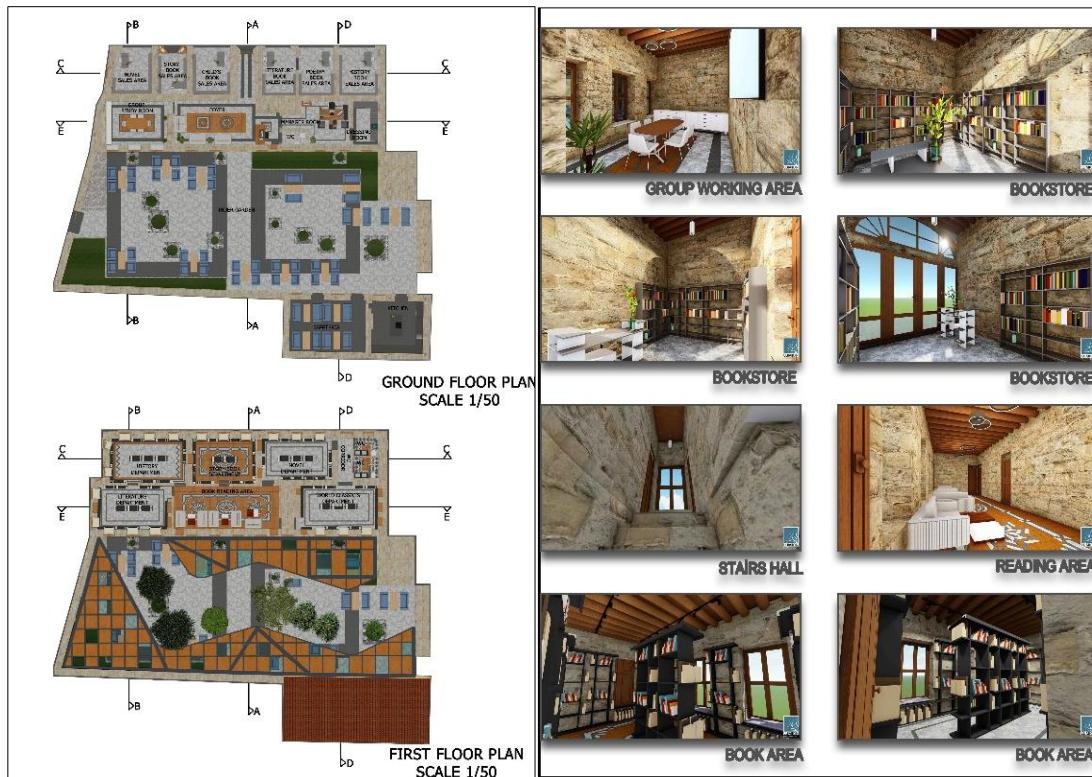


Figure 13. Proposal 3- book store&cafe- (a) plans

### (b) 3d views

## 4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Within the scope of the study, the workshop conducted for the re-functioning of the Cenani Mansion located in the historical Bey Mahallesi of Gaziantep city was examined. In this workshop, which was carried out with architecture students, the existing historical building was examined with visual and physical analysis, and the interior design was realized together with new functions, with three different functions being assigned. In the workshop, creating architectural solutions required by the new function by preserving the existing structural elements has been the primary criterion in ensuring the continuity of the historical texture and the social and cultural sustainability of the building.

As a result of the study, it was observed that the students had insufficient knowledge on this subject at the beginning of the workshop and the existence of innovative and creative ideas. Although the explanation of interior design through re-functioning is insufficient for the duration of the current course, it has been observed that a minimum of knowledge has been formed as a result of the theoretical information conveyed to the students during the workshop and the discussions made so that they can make original designs.

Giving students the awareness of the protection of the historical environment and buildings by practicing with different courses is important in terms of creating awareness. Since it is possible for them to encounter the problem of new building design in the historical texture in their professional life, it is certain that students who have been trained in conservation and re-functioning will make the right decisions about transmitting cultural assets to future generations.

As a result, it is inevitable that the historical and cultural environments of cities will become obsolete and function changes over time. Revitalizing historical buildings with new functions in line with the needs of the place where they are located, meeting the needs of the users and adapting them to their environment are important for the sustainability of our cultural heritage.

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Note: The survey and restoration projects of Cenani Mansion have been taken from KUDEB, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, Department of Conservation, Implementation and Inspection. (Fig.3 and Fig.4)