

ABSTRACT

In Turkey, the late 20th century was the period when need was felt for proper legal measures, required in the conservation of cultural and natural entities. It was realized that the conservation of traditional architecture is a fundamental issue as it is in developed countries.

This has resulted in setting up policies, organizations and legal arrangements in accordance with our national conditions, to transfer our cultural and natural wealth to coming generations through conserving, revitalizing and renewing them.

The law of 1973 marks the beginning of contemporary and scientific conservation activities, which is quite late when compared to European countries. But since that period due to increasing awareness of issues to do with conservation and the renewal of the historic / traditional environment, with the implementation of law 2863 and article about the execution of the Conservation and renewal plans, the Ministry of Culture accelerated the planning process by commissioning the preparation of conservation and renewal plans for traditional urban sites, to be prepared by multi disciplinary teams.

Since then about thirty conservation and renewal plans have been realised by the Ministry of Culture. One of these is the Mardin Conservation Plan approved by the relevant regional committee in 1993.

This paper discusses the legal and organisational aspects of conservation and the renewal of cultural and natural entities in Turkey, the related responsible bodies and the approaches to the application of building regulations of the Mardin Conservation and Development Plan.

Key words: Building Regulations, Shifting Responsibilities, Urban Renewal, Urban Conservation.