



# Evaluation of Çanakkale Kilitbahir Castle in the Context of Refunctioning

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## ABSTRACT

*The Dardanelles Strait functions as a bridge between Biga and Gelibolu peninsulas, connecting the Aegean Sea and Marmara Sea. Many defenses have been built on the Dardanelles Strait, which have hosted many civilizations from the past to the present day, in line with the needs of the time. Kilitbahir Castle, which has a three-leaf clover plan and is located on a slope rising on the Gallipoli peninsula in the narrowest part of the Bosphorus after the conquest of Istanbul by Mehmet the Conqueror; manifests itself as a pioneering structure of the military architecture of the era with the developing artillery technology. The castle consists of a heart-shaped seven-storey inner tower in the core, the inner tower in the form of a three-leaf clover and the outer walls surrounding it. The architectural assembly of the castle is among the most aesthetic and unique among the Ottoman Castles. In terms of protecting the physical environment, it is observed that the defensive buildings which survived up to today are not adequately protected, losing their historical and architectural values. In this context, the restoration of Kilitbahir Castle dating back to Ottoman Period defense structures on the Dardanelles Strait was evaluated. Its phases throughout the process along with the current location and architecture were evaluated by using written and visual resources. European Archives, BNF Archives, Topkapı Palace Archives and İstanbul University Archives were utilized for reaching the castle engravings. In accordance with the information obtained in the historical research process, the exhibition arrangement and environment planning project of the structure, which serves as a museum, were prepared.*

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## 1. Introduction

One of the most important actions of human existence is the concept of protection and defense. These actions led to the emergence of defense structures. They needed to be protected in order to prevent any attack from the opposite side and created defenses that they could protect themselves with. Defense

structures from the past to the present day are one of the important elements forming the urban texture. The castle buildings were built

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