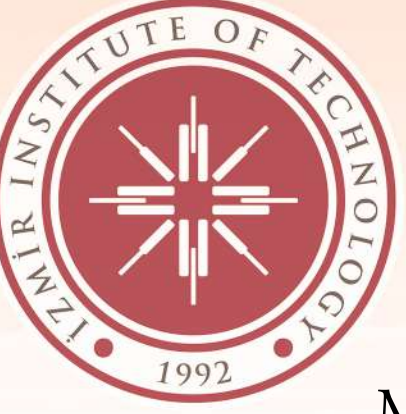




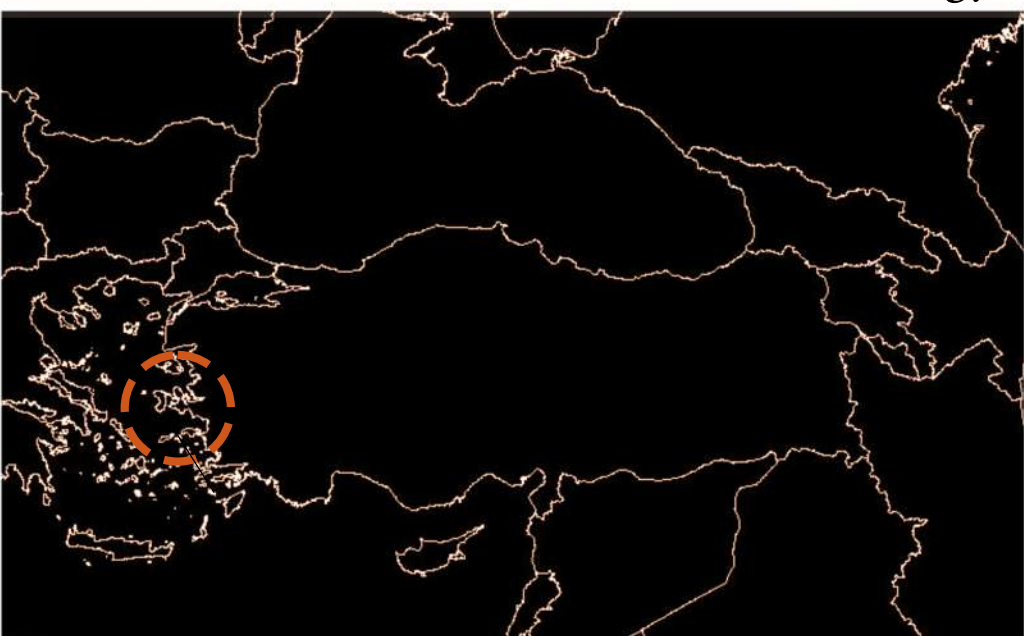
FROM RUIN TO REVIVAL: ALTERNATIVE CONSERVATION SCENARIOS FOR A RELIGIOUS HERITAGE IN ALAÇATI

Hagia Triada Church and Vlamos Family Ossuary

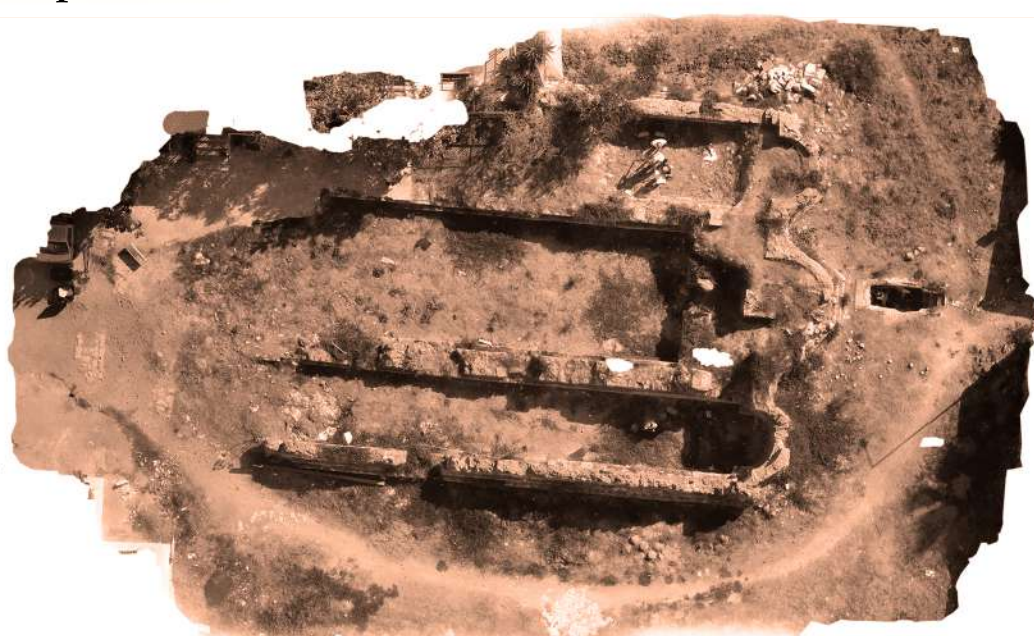


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Located in **Alaçati, İzmir, Türkiye**, the site preserves the surviving foundations and wall remains of Hagia Triada Church, together with the Vlamos Family Ossuary. The church reflects the 19th-century Greek Orthodox heritage of Alaçati and its historical multicultural character.



Begun between 1861 and 1872 and completed in 1884, the structures are a rare and significant example of the 19th-century three-nave Greek Orthodox basilica typology and ossuary typology, reflecting the shared architectural vernacular of the Urla Peninsula and Chios. However, after the population exchange, the structures were abandoned, and today only the foundations and parts of the walls remain, while the ossuary retains a partially damaged interior with a legible spatial organization. The significance of the site extends beyond its architectural remains, representing the physical traces and cultural memory of a lost community. The project treats the surviving remains not as a missing monument to be reconstructed, but as a critical urban void and a starting point for exploring different possibilities of conservation, memory, and contemporary interpretation.

DOCUMENTATION & SURVEY

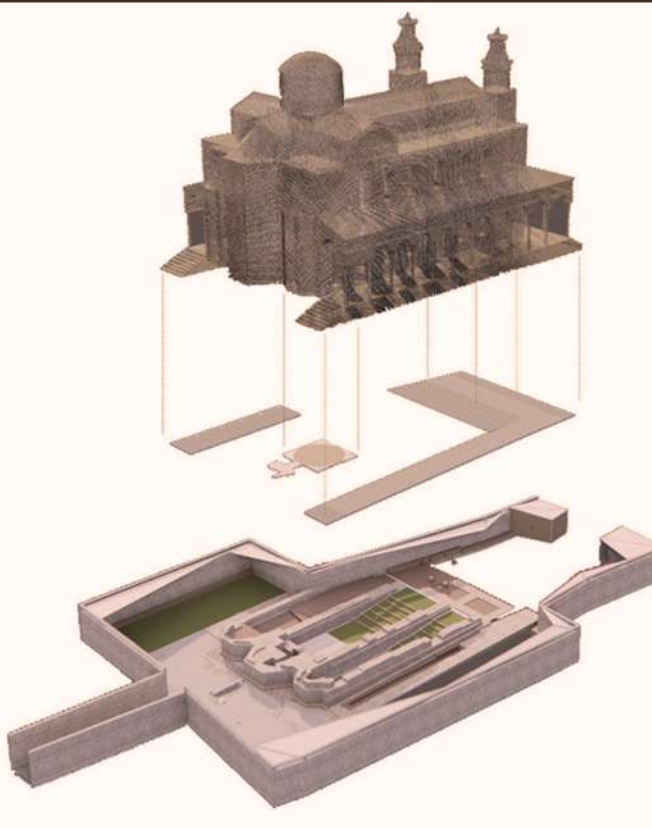
The existing remains were documented through a combination of conventional, tacheometric, and photogrammetric survey methods, providing a comprehensive baseline that informs restitution studies and records the site's physical condition and material decay.

GENERAL INTERVENTION DECISIONS

Guided by the historical, documentary, architectural, cultural and memorial values of the site, the general intervention decisions focus on the structural consolidation of the surviving foundations and walls, vegetation removal, protection of the authentic fabric, and enhancing the spatial legibility of the remains. Based on these conservation principles, five alternative conservation scenarios were developed, each proposing a distinct approach to the relationship between the surviving remains, collective memory, and contemporary use. Each scenario is detailed in the following sections.



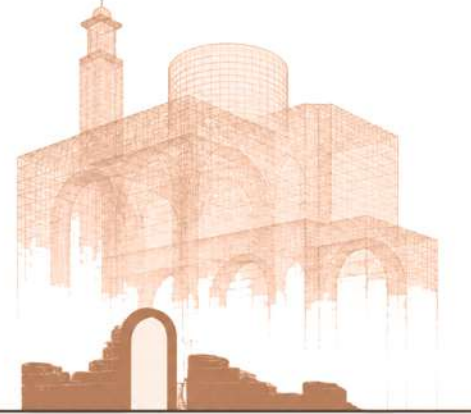
Augmented Reality



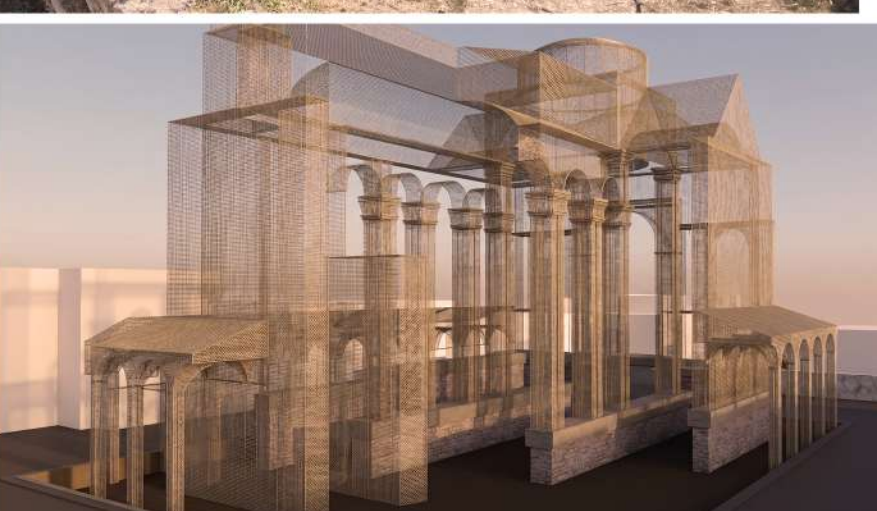
Approach
Preservation of the church as an “unfinished” ruin
Reperception of lost architectural elements through contemporary visualization tools and creating a relationship between society and heritage
Principle
Minimal intervention
Interventions
Platforms reflecting the lost spatial elements
Augmented reality (AR) for the visualization of reconstructed structure
Outcomes
Preservation of ruined characteristics of the church and its authenticity
Reperception of the space through physical and digital tools
Compatible use through concerts, performances, and gatherings to enhanced visitor experience and engagement



Mesh Construction



Approach
Interpretative reconstruction on remains of the church based on the restitution reliability
Principle
Distinguishability



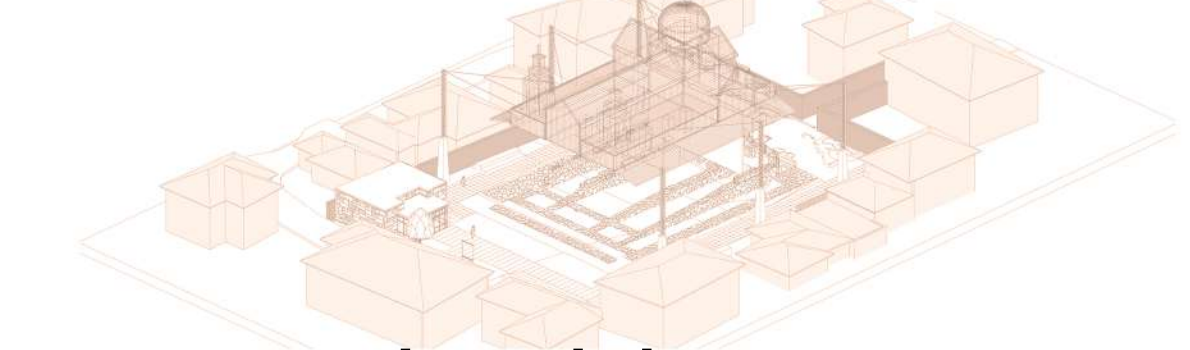
Interventions
Large-scale lightweight mesh structure above the remains
Mesh density is based on data reliability; where it becomes denser, reliability is higher
Glass and steel structure for the underground ossuary
Interactive memory house opposite the ruins
Outcomes
Making the neglected ruin legible by introducing a distinguishable contemporary element
Interpretive legibility of historic remains and archaeological layers
Public awareness of the population exchange with cultural activities



Suspended Intervention

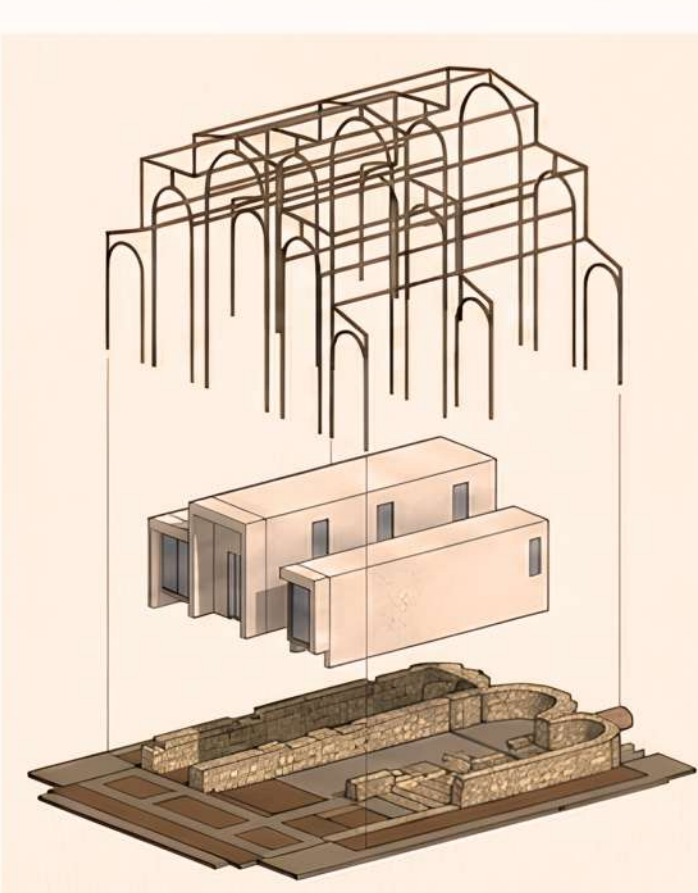
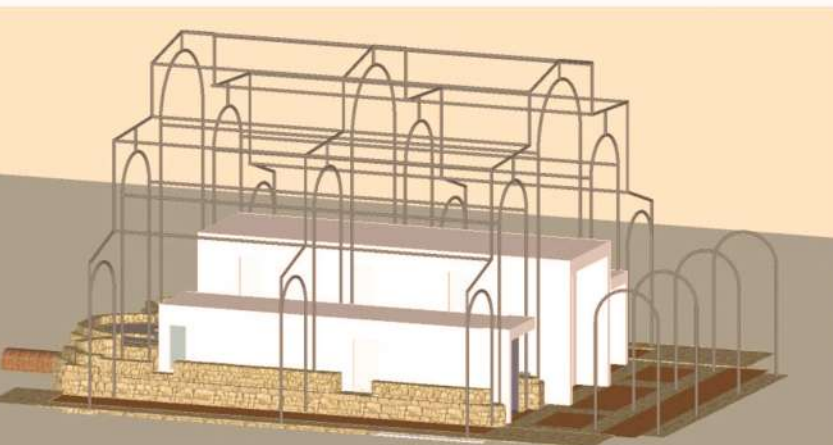


Approach
Preservation of the existing urban void within the dense urban fabric
Contemporary interpretation of the lost architectural form
Principle
Reversibility
Interventions
Partial reconstruction with the reversible and lightweight suspended mesh structure
Transparent restitution boards and digital displays
Light projections to express the previous state of the structure
Outcomes
Self-supporting and reversible intervention with no physical alteration to the historic fabric
Preserving the historic urban void, enhancing heritage visibility and attracting visitors

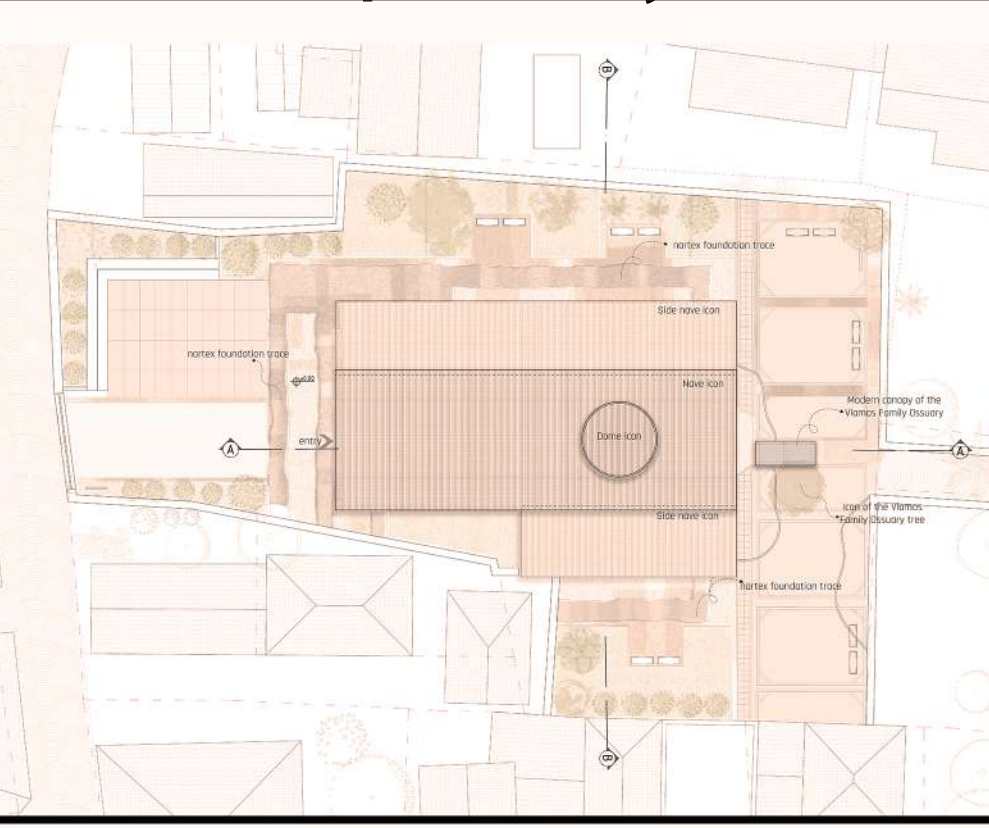


Contrast

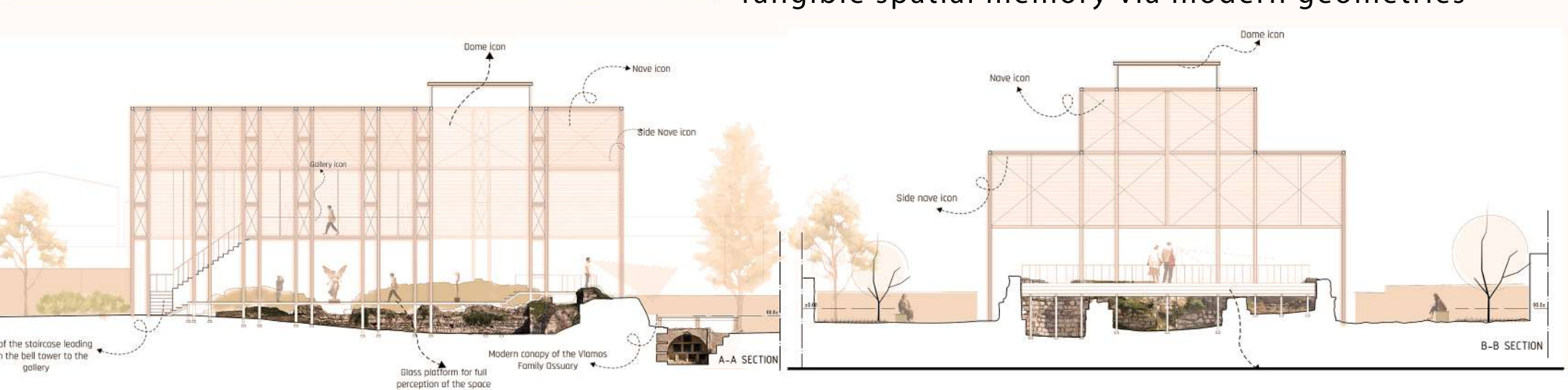
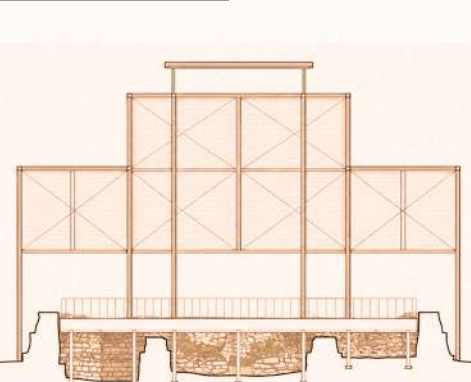
Approach
Contrasting historic fabric with contemporary addition and expressing the church's 3D form
Introducing a new cultural function within the structure
Principle
Adaptive Reuse



Contemporary Architectural Additions



Approach
Conservation and presentation of the ruin as an archaeological artifact
Contemporary reinterpretation of the 3D massing of the church
Principle
Reinterpretation
Interventions
Contemporary steel grid reinterpreting the church's geometry
Glass observation platforms showing the remains and plan layout
Outcomes
Improved understanding of the remains
Tangible spatial memory via modern geometries



Results & Discussion

Currently forming a historic urban void within the dense fabric of Alaçati, the church and ossuary retain significant documentary, historical, architectural, cultural, and memory values. Reconnecting the site with its historical and cultural memory and strengthening public awareness of its heritage significance, five alternative restoration proposals were developed.

Each is based on different conservation approaches and principles. Despite their differences, all proposals share a common objective: to make the Hagia Triada Church and Vlamos Family Ossuary perceptible to local residents, visitors, and the descendants of the displaced population. These proposals explore alternative ways to reactivate this underused space as a publicly accessible heritage environment while respecting the surviving ruins. Collectively, they demonstrate the site's potential to support cultural interaction, public engagement, and the continued transmission of its heritage values through different combinations of conservation, interpretation, and contemporary use.

