

O 35. THE OLD TREES OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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ABSTRACT: Although humanity has destroyed the world faster than Mother Nature could recover. Fortunately, there are still natural wonders in this world that have survived for thousands of years. These are known as memorial trees. Monumental trees are among our indisputable riches that connect the past to the future due to the long life. In the world, it has many natural resources that are highly protected or need to be protected with both cultural and scientific values. In these, monumental trees are among the least interesting. Monumental trees, the oldest and silent historians living in nature, help us gain information about many natural events from the past. The old trees are also possible to associate with cultural events. In this study, information was given about the general characteristics of the plants, whether they are alive or not by conducting a literature research on the oldest trees.

Keywords: *Live elements, Sekoya, Memorial tree*

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the known history of humanity, trees and forests, which have affected the economic and cultural lives of societies, were regarded by the ancient societies as a sign of glory, honor, wealth and greatness (Ankaya et al., 2018; Gülgün et al., 2014; Yazici et al., 2015). At the beginning of the historical ages, some peoples made the old and magnificent trees that they believed to direct their destinies directly totems, while the societies living in ancient Egypt, Lebanon and Iran considered the tree species such as Cedar, Cypress and Juniper and all kinds of items and materials made from these trees were used in palaces, tombs. and they saw them as indispensable elements of their temples (Meyer Sevim, 1959; Evcimen 1961; Aytuğ, 1970; Asan,1987; Gülgün et al., 2015).

It can be said that there is no other being that is as close to human as a tree, that constantly changes its appearance, exhibits almost four unique paintings during four seasons, and who constantly beautifies the environment in which the human life span exceeds twenty or thirty times. The relationship between man and tree begins with human existence. Few of the beings on earth have left no traces in the human soul, human personality as deep as the tree. With the developing civilization, the tree has developed in humans as an aesthetic feeling for centuries until it comes to the present day. (Gülersoy 1984; Sarıbaş, 2015).

Monument trees, which are considered as the oldest trees among living beings, are scientifically long, having dimensions above the usual dimensions of their own species in terms of age, diameter and height, have a special place in local folklore, culture and history, and are long enough to communicate between the past and the present, the present and the future. can be defined as trees that have a natural life. (Asan, 1992; Yaman and Sarıbaş, 2007).

Monumental trees are among our indisputable riches that connect the past to the future due to the long life that nature has bestowed on them. The preservation of these trees both improves the feelings of devotion to soy in young minds and helps to root the love of nature and environmental awareness. These monumental trees, which are the living representatives of cultural heritage, witness some historical events that are almost milestones in the history of the country during their 900-1000 years of life, and sometimes inspire poets and composers by interpreting individual feelings. Preserving these living cultural heritages, which act as a bridge between generations by keeping the social memory alive, is an important task that should be done for future generations. Since monumental trees are living creatures, it is very important to protect these trees, which are the common heritage of the society, to be identified and registered (Asan, 2008; Palabaş Uzun ve ark., 2011).

In terms of their features, Monument trees are collected under 4 main groups.

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- ✓ Historical Monumental Trees: These are monumental trees that have witnessed historical events.
- ✓ Mystical Monumental Trees: These are monumental trees that have a mystical feature in folk culture.
- ✓ Folkloric Monumental Trees: These are monumental trees that have a traditional value in folk culture.
- ✓ Dimensional Monumental Trees: They are prominent monumental trees within the same species with their dimensional characteristics (age, height, trunk diameter or crown diameter) (Genç ve Güner, 2001; Genç vd., 2002; Sabuncu ve ark., 2013).

Famous Traveler Evliya Çelebi (1611–1682) also included depictions of monumental trees in his travel book for the first time. It was seen that Evliya Çelebi recorded the monumental trees between Tavas (Turkey) and Muğla (Turkey) with their names, shapes and features, which he described as "trees to be exemplified" (Baytop 2003; Sarıbaş, 2015).

Monument trees are an important part of our history that shed light on the past, present and future with their longevity found in various parts of the world. This study was carried out in order to determine the monumental trees in the world, to have information about them, to know their value by transferring them to future generations and to ensure that they are taken under protection.

RELATION OF MONUMENT TREES WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

Monumental trees; Due to its scientific, cultural and psychological functions, it has become one of the indispensable parts of both nature tourism and folkloric and mystical tourism in recent years. On the other hand, monumental trees are one of the items most affected by the destruction of nature for many years. Necessary maintenance and protection measures must be taken so that monumental trees can be passed on to future generations without any damage (Özçelik, 2006).

They are dendroclimatological and dendro-ecological as well as dendro-chronological materials, as they are developed and shaped according to the climatic-edaphic-biotic conditions of the environment in which they grow. Since monumental trees and stands can represent rare habitats (biotopes) and rare genotypes of the species or species in question; they also have bio-genetic reserve value. Memorial trees are important archives for phytological and archaeological, dendrological and paleobotanical research (Genç ve Güner 1993; Sarıbaş 2015).

These old trees, which we frequently encounter in the mystical and sacred places around us, in the old complexes, mansions and palace gardens, evoke certain symbols in the memory of the individual and society due to the interesting pathological formations that emerged over time in their huge trunks. Thus, sometimes there is hope for people, miracles are expected from it, and sometimes it becomes the representative of the mystical feelings it evokes in the depths of the human soul and the otherness and tranquility (Asan, 2005).

Huge-sized old trees have attracted the attention of societies throughout human history. Primitive clans accepted such trees directly as totems. Thus, he believed that the life span of his own tribes would be as long as that tree. This approach was accepted by the Lebanese and the flag of the country was decorated with an old cedar tree (Asan, 2005).







Monumental trees are among the important visual elements of the urban and rural landscape due to their size and magnificent habitus. An aesthetic appearance is gained with the plastic values they exhibit in their growing environment. They contribute to nature tourism as well as cultural tourism based on folkloric and mystical values due to their high interest rates (Yaltırık 1993; Sarıbaş, 2015).

Monumental trees are of great importance in terms of being the natural and cultural heritage of a geography. These beings, which serve a unifying function between generations, at the same time transfer very valuable information in terms of botany, history, tradition and legends to the future. Since the monumental tree and forest pieces are of great importance in terms of national culture, local history and folkloric, their currency is increasing day by day. This vibrant heritage, which adds privilege to its location, has an important resource value for the phenomenon of "Rural Tourism", whose trend has risen markedly today, when the passion to protect the green has reached the level of worship and environmental protection activities are at the forefront (Bobat, 2017).







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THE OLDEST TREES IN THE WORLD



Table 1. The oldest trees in World

			
Latin name	<i>Ficus religiosa</i>	Latin name	<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>
Country of Location	Sri Lanka	Country of Location	California- ABD
Age	2.305	Age	3.200
Diameter of	-	Diameter of	8 m
Length	-	Length	75 m
Vitality Status	In Life	Vitality Status	In Life
			
Latin name	<i>Olea europea</i> L. var. <i>europaea</i>	Latin name	<i>Fitzroya cupressoides</i>
Country of Location	Portugal (Portekiz)	Country of Location	Chile (Şili)
Age	3.350	Age	3.646
Diameter of	-	Diameter of	-
Length	-	Length	-
Vitality Status	In Life	Vitality Status	In Life
			
Latin name	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Latin name	<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>
Country of Location	Britanya	Country of Location	Iran (İran)
Age	4.000-5.000	Age	4.000
Diameter of	-	Diameter of	18 m
Length	10.75 m	Length	25 m
Vitality Status	In Life	Vitality Status	In Life

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Latin name	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Latin name	<i>Pinus longaeva</i>
Country of Location	Turkey	Country of Location	California- ABD
Age	4.112	Age	4.845
Diameter of	-	Diameter of	-
Length	-	Length	-
Vitality Status	In Life	Vitality Status	In Life
			
Latin name	<i>Pinus longaeva</i>	Latin name	<i>Picea abies</i>
Country of Location	Nevada, ABD	Country of Location	Sweden (İsveç)
Age	4.862 – 4.900	Age	9.558
Diameter of	-	Diameter of	-
Length	-	Length	-
Vitality Status	Not Alive	Vitality Status	In Life
			
Latin name	<i>Quercus palmeri</i>	Latin name	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>
Country of Location	California- ABD	Country of Location	Utah- ABD
Age	13.000	Age	80.000
Diameter of	-	Diameter of	-
Length	-	Length	-
Vitality Status	In Life	Vitality Status	In Life

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Latin name	<i>Taxodium Ascendens</i>	Latin name	<i>Pinus longaeva</i>
Country of Location	Longwood- Florida	Country of Location	California- ABD
Age	3.500	Age	5.071
Diameter of	10.7 m	Diameter of	-
Length	36 m	Length	-
Vitality Status	Not Alive	Vitality Status	In Life

CONCLUSION

Trees, which are natural elements of the landscape, in urban and rural landscapes; It provides ecological, economic, social and visual benefits (Hah, 2011; Polat, 2017). With all these benefits, monumental trees that support the living spaces of people for centuries are faced with problems due to the lack of planning experienced in protection, registration and management activities (Polat, 2017).

Monumental trees or stands have an important role in examining the ecological conditions of the region where they grow and revealing the intended ecological conditions complex. In order for monumental trees to be passed on to future generations, they must first be recorded for protection and preservation (Özçelik, 2006).

Practices regarding the protection of tree roots are very important in the management of monumental trees. Professional studies on this subject should be carried out, especially in infrastructure works, and successful implementation strategies should be evaluated (Costello and Jones, 2003; Polat, 2017).

In order to keep a memorial tree alive, it is very important to support its ecological environment. Soil, water resources, effects of climatic conditions etc. ecological elements are the source of life for the plant. Soil quality deterioration, changes in groundwater resources, physical and chemical effects, etc. Negative climatic conditions that will directly affect the trees and limit the life of the monumental trees and even make them disappear. The unconscious approach of the public, local governments and practitioners, cutting, scraping, plucking, rotting, desertification, pollution of air, soil and water resources, etc. are very serious threats for monumental trees. The measures to be taken against these pressures and threats will form the basis for monumental tree protection plans (Polat, 2017).

The trees that are identified as monumental trees need to be cared for by experts so that they can continue their life in a healthy way and shed light on future generations. In this context, the diseased and damaged parts of the tree should be cleaned, disinfected and then coated with a special paste. In addition, spraying should be done against fungi and insects. With these maintenance works, the life of the trees will be extended and future generations will be able to see these trees. The necessary procedures should be initiated as soon as possible for the registration of these individuals with the feature of monumental trees by the High Council of Monuments. In addition, necessary measures (informative plate, protection strip, etc.) should be taken to protect these trees. An introductory brochure should be prepared for monumental trees to contribute to the awareness of the local people (Palabaş Uzun ve ark., 2011).

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