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Figure 26. The Memorial of Honour in the city of Samsun  
on 22 January 1932 (Source: Samsun Municipality City  
Municipality)



Figure 25. The Memorial of Honour with its current situation  
(Source: D. Oktay Archive, April 2015)

Street Balkan and Emine Saucuk). Renamed as Atatürk,  
the area has been transformed into a modern square with a  
very long public waterfront with recreational uses and apart-  
ment buildings, while lower grade houses remain (Figure 9).

and public use, and squares have tended not to be the nodes  
for the vehicular circulation.

### 3.2.5 Landmarks

Samsun does not have a landmark in real terms, but has a  
very strong symbol or focal point, the 'Memorial of Honour'  
or the Statue of Atatürk, dedicated to the landing of  
Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in Samsun initiating what was later  
termed the Turkish War of Independence. The statue  
was commissioned by the people of Samsun to honour  
sailor Hacı Krişki (1828-1913), and reveal the glory of  
Atatürk on a steaming horse on a great pedestal (Figures 30  
and 31). The statue is located in the Municipality Park in a  
central location, but the surrounding urban and  
architectural context have totally changed to date, and the  
buildings surrounding the park unfortunately lack archi-  
tectural quality and create a disturbing background to  
the statue due to their inappropriate location. Although  
the Memorial of Honour is still a strong focal point, it is  
difficult to say that the city is more identifiable due to its  
presence.

The lighthouse played an important role in the construction of  
the urban identity of Samsun in the 1950s. It has, however, lost  
its significance as the adjacent public spaces, the popular  
beaches, are not frequented by people. In addition, it has been  
overlooked by the tall hotel building, which somehow takes  
over the role of the lighthouse as an associated landmark in  
the coastal zone of the city.

### 4. Conclusion

Cities should cultivate a well-defined, independent image for  
which people can develop a strong identification and affection,  
and to attract and hold people's attention. Urban identity  
emerges in every aspect of daily life and implicitly exists in  
people's perception of the city. Acknowledging the fact that  
the locale is generally characterised by urban quarters and  
public urban spaces, being most of what is seen in a city,  
these elements should be taken into consideration with their  
own specific sets of functions in order to achieve a more iden-  
tifiable city.

Public urban spaces are the major functional and visual  
facets in determining urban quality. They also serve as

# Samsun Uluslararası Mimarlık Literatüründe

**SAMSUN ilk kez Uluslararası Şehircilik-  
Mimarlık Literatüründe yer aldı.**

Ondokuz Mayıs Üniversitesi (OMÜ) Mi-  
marlık Fakültesi Dekanı Prof. Dr. Derya  
Oktay'ın, "Kent Kimliğinin Değişen Koşul-  
larda Yeniden Değerlendirilmesi: Samsun  
Araştırması" (Reevaluating Urban Identity  
Under Changing Circumstances: The Case  
of Samsun, Turkey) başlıklı araştırma  
makalesi uluslararası Urban Design and  
Planning (Kentsel Tasarım ve Planlama)  
dergisinin "Küreselleşme Çağında Kentsel  
Kimlik" temalı özel sayısında yayımlandı.

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Figure 26. The old tobacco factory which was turned into a  
shopping zone (Source: Samsun Municipality City  
Municipality)



Figure 28. The successful adaptive reuse scheme  
transforming from the tobacco factory to the Samsun Shopping  
and Recreation Centre (Source: D. Oktay Archive, July 2015)



Figure 27. The successful adaptive reuse scheme  
transforming from the tobacco factory to the Samsun  
Shopping and Recreation Centre (Source: D. Oktay Archive,  
July 2015)



Figure 25. The successful adaptive reuse scheme, transforming  
from the tobacco factory to the Samsun Shopping and Recreation  
Centre (Source: D. Oktay Archive, September 2015)