

# Revitalization and Adaptive Re-use in Cappadocia: A Taxonomy of Creative Design Solutions for Uçhisar Boutique Hotels

\* Asst. Prof. Dr. **Suzan Girginkaya Akdağ**<sup>1</sup> , Phd. Stu. **Berna Sayar**<sup>2</sup> 

<sup>1</sup> and <sup>2</sup> Faculty of Architecture and Design, Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul, Turkey

<sup>1</sup> E mail: [suzan.girginkayaakdag@arc.bau.edu.tr](mailto:suzan.girginkayaakdag@arc.bau.edu.tr) , <sup>2</sup> E mail: [berna.sayar@arc.bau.edu.tr](mailto:berna.sayar@arc.bau.edu.tr)

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## ABSTRACT



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*The "architecture without architect" in Cappadocia has always been fairy due to its volcanic stone formations and transforming silhouettes. In 1973, French architect Jack Avizou highlighted the essence of cave houses as vernacular building types and their potentials for local tourism beyond conventional notions of architectural heritage. Upon completing restoration of cave houses in Uçhisar and transforming them to boutique hotels, he was nominated for Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 2010. On the other hand, Aga Khan Award winner Turkish architect Turgut Cansever, had also been advising for Argos Hotel project in Uçhisar since 1996. He gave importance to the concept of "protection" and preserved vernacular identity and characteristics despite the demands of tourism sector. This paper aims to explore Avizou and Cansever's design solutions in Uçhisar's local context. Building / interior design elements and spatial relations in interiors will be analyzed with cluster analysis and ranked according to levels of novelty. Hence, achievement of creativity through transformation, combination and variation of original designs, will be displayed. Understanding Avizou's and Cansever's visions on revitalization and adaptive re-use is substantial since, their creativity shall be a source of inspiration for future sustainable tourism and building practices in local and global context.*

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## 1. Introduction

For economic growth, especially during times of financial crises, tourism is regarded as an accelerator. The UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) research demonstrated that interest in the environment, culture and heritage is a primary motivation for more than 50% of travel, and is consistently growing as a market sector (Brooks, 2011). According to the Council of Europe (Faro Convention, 2005), cultural heritage is valuable in itself and for the 'contribution it can make to other policies'. Many countries have invested large sums in the restoration of various historical sites with the aim of maintaining jobs in the tourism

sector and using cultural heritage as a tool to stimulate cultural and economic development in a period of economic recession (Inkei, 2011). Hence, construction industry and small and medium-size businesses are being preserved besides historic monuments and sites. Beyond economy, cultural tourism has significant socio-cultural and environmental impacts on host society.

### \*Corresponding Author:

Faculty of Architecture and Design, Bahçeşehir University,  
Istanbul, Turkey

Email address: [suzan.girginkayaakdag@arc.bau.edu.tr](mailto:suzan.girginkayaakdag@arc.bau.edu.tr)

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