



Transforming heritage into knowledge: a case of adaptive reuse for children in Midyat

Transformando el patrimonio en conocimiento: un caso de reutilización adaptativa para los niños de Midyat

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ABSTRACT A children's library is one of the important functions provided by historical buildings for educational and cultural purposes. This study aims to evaluate the use of historical buildings as baby and children's libraries. The historical building that was reused as the Midyat Baby and Children's Library was examined in the study area. The suitability of the building for use as a baby and children's library was analysed and evaluated in terms of 'accessibility', 'spatial design', 'interior design', 'technical' and 'building design' criteria. As a result of the analyses, it was determined that historic buildings are suitable for use as baby and children's libraries if they meet the correct design criteria and comply with international historical building conservation regulations. This situation not only ensures the sustainability of the historic building through its reusing but also enables children to learn about cultural heritage through experience.

RESUMEN Una biblioteca infantil es una de las funciones importantes que desempeñan los edificios históricos con fines educativos y culturales. El objetivo de este estudio es evaluar el uso de edificios históricos como bibliotecas para bebés y niños. En el área de estudio se examinó el edificio histórico que se reutilizó como Biblioteca Infantil y Juvenil de Midyat. Se analizó y evaluó la idoneidad del edificio para su uso como biblioteca infantil y juvenil en términos de criterios de "accesibilidad", "diseño espacial", "diseño interior", "técnicos" y "diseño del edificio". Como resultado de los análisis, se determinó que los edificios históricos son adecuados para su uso como bibliotecas infantiles si cumplen los criterios de diseño correctos y se ajustan a la normativa internacional de conservación de edificios históricos. Esta situación no solo garantiza la sostenibilidad del edificio histórico a través de su reutilización, sino que también permite a los niños aprender sobre el patrimonio cultural histórico a través de la experiencia.

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KEYWORDS historical library, historical building, adaptive reuse, cultural heritage, spatial design

PALABRAS CLAVE biblioteca histórica, edificio histórico, reutilización adaptativa, patrimonio cultural, diseño espacial



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1. Introduction

The preservation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings is one of the fundamental components of contemporary conservation approaches in terms of ensuring the sustainability of cultural heritage and keeping the memory of cities alive (Plevoets and Van Cleempoel, 2011). Today's conservation approach aims not only to preserve the physical integrity of the structure but also to ensure its interaction with contemporary society (Jokilehto, 2007; Takva et al., 2023). Reusing enables the transformation of abandoned or disused structures to meet contemporary needs, thereby ensuring cultural continuity (Douglas, 2006; Cucco et al., 2023). The Council of Europe's (CoE) cultural heritage policies, the International Council on Monuments and Sites' (ICOMOS) conservation and declarations, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) decisions also encourage the evaluation of buildings to be preserved in line with current social needs and emphasise the social participation-enhancing effect of such projects. In Turkey, there has been increasing interest recently in the reuse of historic structures for educational, artistic, and cultural purposes. During this process, numerous transformation projects were implemented through the initiatives of local governments and public institutions (Şahin Güçhan and Kurul, 2009).

The reuse of historical buildings as libraries is one of the most notable examples in terms of both cultural continuity and social value (Hauke and Werner, 2012; Beutelspacher and Meschede, 2020; Augustiniok et al., 2025). Libraries are an integral part of a city's identity, facilitating socialisation and the accumulation of knowledge, thereby contributing to the improvement of educational standards (Demir Kayan and Ergün, 2024; Gupta et al., 2017). Russo and Andreucci (2023) emphasise that, with urbanisation, the design of spaces specifically for children increases their sense of belonging. This also demonstrates the importance of children's libraries (Russo and Andreucci, 2023). Children's libraries are a type of library used to provide children with access to accurate information, prepare them for school, develop reading and writing habits, socialise, and enhance their imagination (Şekerçi and Kurnalı, 2023). In addition, children's libraries are places that enable children to improve their language skills, participate in society, access technology, and use it correctly (Lee, 2024; Yılmaz, 2011, 2019). These projects not only serve as educational activities but also play a critical role in helping children meet historical sites at an early age, shaping their identity and sense of belonging.

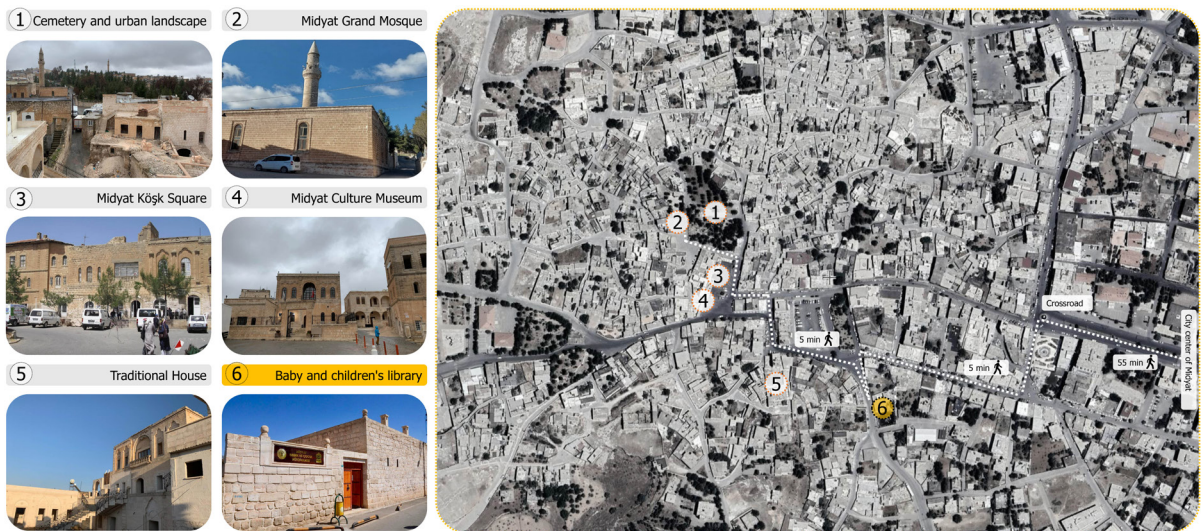


Figure 1: The historical landscape of Midyat and the location of the library. (2025)



Figure 2: Plans of the library and views of the spaces. (2025)

The presence of libraries for babies and children in historical areas has the potential to nurture them as conscious guardians of heritage in the future by enabling them to interact directly with cultural heritage (Marcus and Francis, 1998). Such spaces allow children to integrate with the historical fabric through play, stories, and knowledge. This enhances their spatial awareness, aesthetic perception, and cultural sensitivity (Falk and Dierking, 2013).

The reuse of historical buildings as libraries ensures the continuity of cultural heritage and offers new opportunities in terms of education and social and cultural contexts. International organisations and international recommendations such as UNESCO Recommendation on the historic urban landscape and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) have noted that establishing public reading spaces in buildings with architectural and historical significance has positive outcomes in terms of both preservation and social integration (UNESCO, 2015; IFLA, 2018). In this sense, buildings such as the MVRDV-designed 'Book Mountain' in the Netherlands and 'The Hive' in the United Kingdom are examples of spaces that have been designed to serve as places where people can encounter knowledge while preserving the architectural character of the past (MVRDV, 2012; Feilden and Jokilehto, 1998). The Bitlis Baby and Children's Library, a registered historic building that has been reused as a baby and children's library, is one of the most important examples of this in Turkey (Erten Bilgiç and Keskin, 2021). Another important example is the reuse of a historical mansion in Midyat as a baby and children's library.

The baby and children's library in Midyat can be considered a pedagogical tool that serves to pass on cultural heritage to new generations. In this context, the study aims to reveal the accessibility, building design, spatial design, interior design and technical feature criteria that should be accounted for when converting historical buildings into children's libraries and, at the same time, analyse the qualities of the relationship between the new function and the building through the example of the library. The limited number of studies in the literature on the design of cultural spaces for children and how pedagogical objectives should be addressed in the reuse of historical buildings contributes to the significance of this research in the field.

2. Material and methods

Midyat, with its multi-layered historical features, is an important settlement in the province of Mardin, reflecting the urban fabric of Mesopotamia. The city, which has traces of different cultures, religions and civilisations, displays a unique identity with its stone architecture, and this identity is supported by spatial patterns that are integrated with the local culture. The Midyat Baby and Children's Library, the subject of this study, is located in a central position in the region known as 'Estel'. Estel was a village affiliated with Midyat in the early years of the Republic, but in 1925, due to population growth, a municipal organisation was established. This settlement, located close to Midyat, was merged in 1935 to provide municipal services from a single source and to promote social integration. As a result

of this merger, all settlement areas are now referred to as Midyat (Sevindi and Daşdemir, 2011). The library is surrounded by cultural heritage elements in the city centre, offering historical continuity with the Midyat Ulu Mosque, the Culture Museum, Midyat Köşk Square, and residential buildings that are rich examples of traditional civil architecture (Figure 1). The building has a land area of 632.20 square meters and, based on its location, holds significant potential for both public and cultural memory.

The library building, which is an important example of traditional housing in its original state, began to be used as a library in 2023. Today, the library has three study areas, one management office, one courtyard, one terrace and one garden children's play area (Figure 2). The library was built using yellow limestone from the stone quarries in Midyat. This stone texture can be observed in every room of the building.

Midyat is the first example of the transformation of cultural heritage buildings for babies and children in this region (Midyat Municipality, 2023). The research was conducted in four main stages: literature review, fieldwork, data analysis, and evaluation. This methodological framework is based on a holistic approach that incorporates both qualitative and descriptive research techniques (Figure 3).

In the first stage, a comprehensive literature review was conducted in international scientific databases. The review focused on the themes of 'reusing historical buildings,' 'design criteria for children's libraries,' 'early childhood development and spatial

experience,' and 'international conservation principles and regulations. The 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention and the Law on the Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets are among the international protection principles drawn upon by the (UNESCO, 1972). Additionally, local and national sources directly related to the Midyat Baby and Children's Library were also reviewed. Within this scope, the theoretical framework of the study was established, and criteria sets to guide the analysis stages were determined.

In the second stage, an original 'library observation form' was developed based on the findings in the literature (Figure 4). The observation form was structured under five main headings to evaluate the historical building as a library: 'accessibility,' 'building design,' 'spatial design,' 'interior decoration,' and 'technical specifications.' A total of 39 sub-criteria were defined under these headings, and systematic observations were made according to these criteria. Photography techniques supported field studies by documenting the building at various times and lighting conditions. These methods ensured that spatial use, child ergonomics, and experience areas were also visually documented.

In the third stage, the data obtained from field studies were analysed in accordance with the criteria defined in the observation form. This analysis process was based on qualitative data analysis and was conducted using parameters such as spatial compatibility, functional integrity, capacity to respond to user needs, and balance between historical texture and contemporary use.

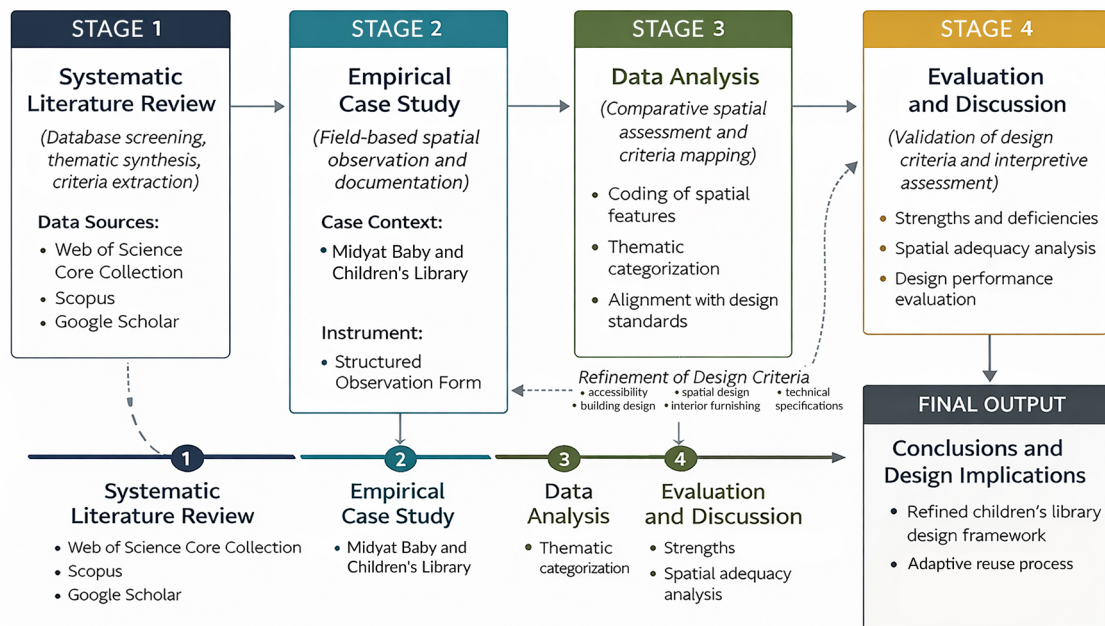


Figure 3: Representation of the stages of the study. (2025)

Accessibility	Building Design	Spatial Design	Interior Design	Technical Features
A1: Central location A2: Car Parking A3: Suitable for pedestrian, vehicle and bicycle access	B1: Original design reflecting sociocultural and geographical characteristics B2: Use of light colours on the exterior B3: Open areas of use B4: Aesthetic building design B5: Building entrance suitable for baby carriages and disabled people	S1: Food and beverage area S2: Interior design that attracts children S3: Location of the information unit S4: Archive room S5: Space dimensions suitable for the age and function of the users S6: Indoor directional signs. S7: Meeting and conference room S8: Staff spaces S9: Film or theatre screening area S10: Baby care room S11: Suitable assembly area S12: Flexible space design S13: Space arrangement suitable for effective use	I1: Attractive colours I2: Abrasion resistant I3: Suitable for anthropometric measurements of children I4: Safety-compliant design I5: Ease of access to computers, internet and digital education tools I6: Adequate use of furnishings	T1: Appropriate level of cleanliness T2: Insulated walls, windows and doors T3: Durable building elements T4: Gender appropriate wc T5: Emergency exit door, fire escape ladder and evacuation system T6: Suitability of slope, width/length dimensions of stair steps T7: Natural/artificial ventilation T8: Suitable humidity T9: Natural/artificial heating-cooling T10: Natural/Artificial lighting T11: Disabled lift T12: Floor covering T13: Entrance and exit security T14: Suitable stair handrail T15: Fire extinguishing system

Figure 4: Observation form and parameters (adapted from IFLA, 2010, 2018; Şeker and Pakih, 2026; Yılmaz, 2011; Yılmaz, 2019). (2025)

In the final stage, based on the findings obtained, the current use of the building was evaluated by authors, and deficiencies were systematically identified. Thus, multi-layered design and protection criteria that should be considered in the conversion of historical buildings into public functions for babies and children were revealed.

With this multi-layered methodological approach, the study not only assessed the physical space but also examined children's spatial experience, their first encounters with cultural memory, and the public role of the reused building. In this context, the aim was to reveal the potential areas of transformation of spaces through the reuse of a historical building and its interaction with child users.

3. Results

The Midyat Baby and Children's Library, which is housed in a restored historical mansion, was analysed according to library building design criteria developed by the authors based on literature.

Located approximately 3.7 km from the centre of Midyat, the library is situated within the historical city fabric and commercial axis and can be described as centrally located. When considering the accessibility of the Baby and Children's Library in Midyat:

- Access to the building is possible by bicycle, foot, or car. The main road integrates the bicycle path, and numerous points in the city provide pedestrian access.
- The lack of any parking area for the building can be considered a significant problem in terms of accessibility. It was determined that vehicles are usually parked on the sides of the road and in open areas in the region. Although this is a temporary solution, the fact that pedestrians and cyclists also use the same roads to access the building can negatively affect traffic safety.

The building, a historical example of civil architecture in urban Midyat, directly reflects and was reused to represent the geographical and sociocultural characteristics of the region. When considering the transformation of the baby and children's library in Midyat in terms of building design:

- Yellow Midyat limestone was used as the building material. The design included the courtyard, terrace, and basement, which are commonly used for climate control, especially during hot summer months. The use of light-coloured materials and the courtyard and terrace as open spaces meet the building design criteria for libraries. Observations showed that the library's use frequently included open spaces for social activities. The children's playground in the courtyard and the use of the terrace and courtyard as reading areas in suitable weather conditions are important examples of this (Figure 5).

- Access to the building entrance and other floors is provided by stairs. The fact that no ramps or lifts were integrated into the historic building reveals that it is not suitable for use by prams and people with disabilities.

In the interior design of reused historical buildings, an approach that preserves the original architectural character and reflects it to new users should be adopted. When considering the transformation of the Midyat baby and children's library in terms of spatial design:

- There is no designated area in the building for children to eat and drink. However, the courtyard can be used for this purpose. The management/consultation unit is integrated into the interior design of the building, although it is not spatially separated. The building did not designate an archive room for collections or other items. No meeting room, conference room, film room, or screening area was designated in the building. However, the reading room can be used for these purposes when necessary. This situation can be in line with flexible design. The restoration of the building did not include a baby care room, despite its use as a children's library. Despite the historical building's spatial layout serving as an example of civil architecture, its use as a library presented no problems.
- Architectural features of historical buildings, such as arched windows, thick walls, skylights in the basement, and the use of stone materials, differ from those found in modern homes where children live today, making these designs particularly interesting. In addition, it was determined that the play areas were equipped with colourful furnishings that would attract the attention of users.

- The historic building maintained its fixed dimensions. These dimensions are suitable for the floor height of children's libraries. There are no directional signs in the building. However, the small size of the historic building and the presence of a reference section have eliminated the need for directional signs. The main building provided collection records, user directions, and regional divisions for relaxation purposes (Figure 6).

The selection of interior furnishings during the reusing process should align with the requirements of the new function. Existing furnishings from the original function can be reused if they are compatible with the new function; however, it is important to establish a balanced relationship between functionality and spatial integrity with interior furnishings during this process. When considering the interior furnishing transformation of the Midyat baby and children's library:

- The interior furnishings, such as chairs and tables in the space designated as a reading room, generally feature an integration of orange and white colours, which is eye-catching and stimulates children's sense of discovery. The toys and play areas in the basement, which is used as a play area, feature colours that encourage children to be active.
- The furnishings in the basement and the seating elements in the courtyard are suitable for children. But the reading room's bookshelves and the shared tables and chairs are too big for kids' anthropometric measurements. In addition, it can be observed that the anthropometric measurements of babies aged 0-2 years lack consideration. Although the toilets are separate for boys and girls, it was determined that the furnishings are not suitable for children.

Building Design

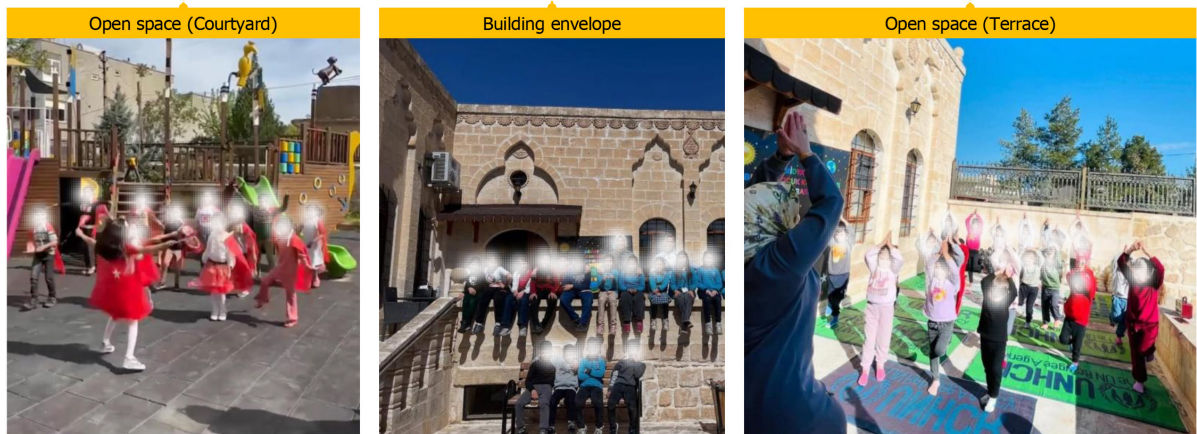


Figure 5: Views of the library's design. (2025)

- The same furnishings used in the library since 2023 are still in use today, and no wear and tear were observed. While the oval design of the corners of chairs and stools is positive for child safety, the sharp corners of bookshelves and tables can be considered a negative aspect in terms of child safety. No computers available for children's use were identified in the library, and only one shared computer was found for the use or education of digital educational tools.
 - The number of furnishings used in the building's interior is appropriate for its capacity. In addition, it was determined that additional portable seating furnishings were available during periods of heavy use (Figure 7).
- The structural capacity and current physical condition of buildings require that interventions in the adaptive reuse process be handled in a manner consistent with traditional construction systems. When considering the technical transformation of the Midyat Baby and Children's Library:
- The library's wall thickness of approximately 60 cm, the positioning of the windows inside the building, and design criteria such as the courtyard demonstrate that the building has a significant advantage in terms of insulation. In addition, the use of traditional stone as a building material increases the building's durability.
 - The historical building lacked emergency exit doors, fire escapes, or evacuation systems suitable for library design. The historical building's vertical circulation elements did not undergo any height interventions.
 - The windows on the ground floor of the building can significantly meet the necessary requirements for natural lighting and ventilation. Artificial lighting hanging from the ceiling enhances the space's lighting. However, the natural lighting in the basement is not suitable for student use. The basement lighting has been intensively addressed with artificial lighting. This indicates that the skylights in the basement of the historical building are not sufficient for natural lighting. Although this use is suitable for children's comfort, the high energy consumption is not appropriate for library design.
 - Although the use of air conditioning as a heating and cooling system in the building is beneficial in terms of climate control, its high energy consumption and the fact that it is an inappropriate intervention in a historical building are notable negative aspects. It can be stated that the humidity level in the library building, which is in a hot and dry climate, is not suitable for the comfort of children, especially during the summer months.

Spatial design

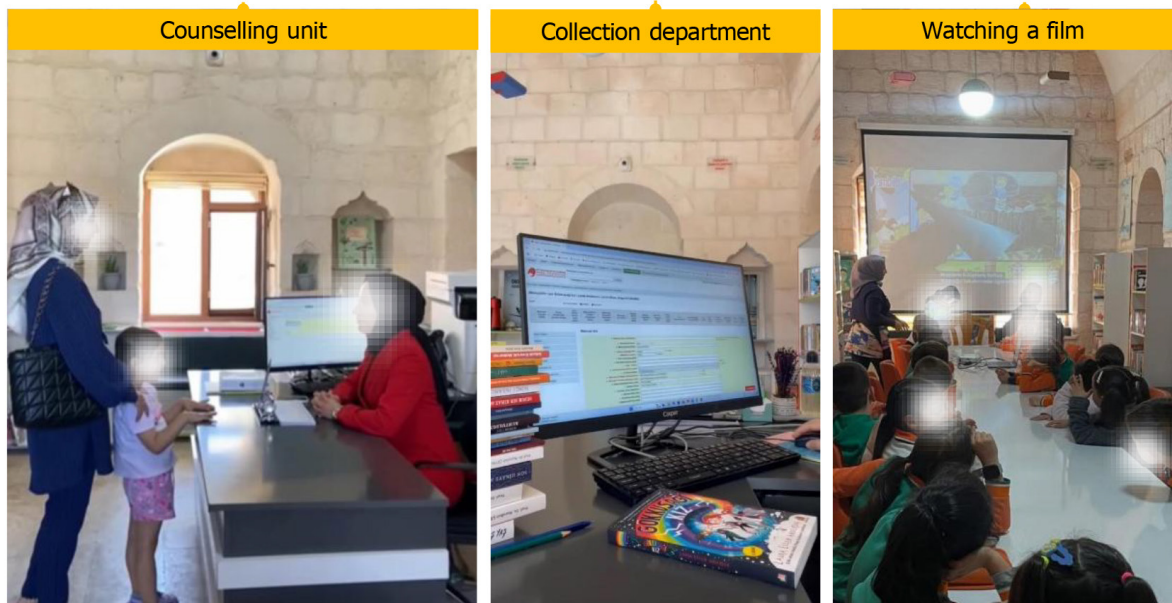


Figure 6: Views of the spatial design of the library. (2025)

- The stone bannisters on the stairs in the historical building are not child-friendly, and no precautions were taken in this regard. Stone bannisters can be considered a negative approach due to the rough texture of the stone and the fact that they are not suitable for children's hand sizes when going up and down the stairs. The courtyard flooring is covered with rubber that is suitable for children's use and will not damage the original floor of the historical building. The stone material used on the building's interior surfaces is suitable for children and the library, but it doesn't match the historical building's technical values, as it can't be distinguished from the original floor covering. Furthermore, the renovation phase of the building did not identify any special measures, such as ramps or lifts, to accommodate disabled users (Figure 8).
- The gender-specific toilets added to the historic building meet library design criteria, even though they are not suitable for use in the building. However, the furnishings were chosen with adults in mind, rather than children. This arrangement is not in line with library design criteria.
- The building maintains an appropriate level of cleanliness and systematically collects rubbish. Although no measures were taken to ensure the safety of users at the entrance and exit of the building, it can be stated that there were no security issues, as the courtyard door was opened and closed by the permanent users of the building.

4. Evaluation and discussion

The reuse of historical buildings as libraries involves not only physical preservation but also the redefinition of cultural continuity in line with contemporary social needs. The transformation of a building constructed as a traditional mansion in Midyat into a library for babies and children is an important example for Turkey. The space combined its cultural and architectural values with a public function for children. This project provided an opportunity to preserve urban memory and support children's relationship with cultural heritage from an early age. The Midyat Baby and Children's Library, which was evaluated as part of the study, was considered as an environment that would enable the transmission of cultural memory from generation to generation over time. The time children spend in this space plays a critical role in helping them understand a historical building, develop a sense of cultural belonging, and learn through experiencing the space. Cultural spaces designed for children must encompass not only architectural perception but also social and pedagogical contexts (Albasan, 2025). Therefore, this application in Midyat can be evaluated as an intervention that supports both the individual development of children and their connection to social memory, setting an example for the transfer of local heritage to the future.

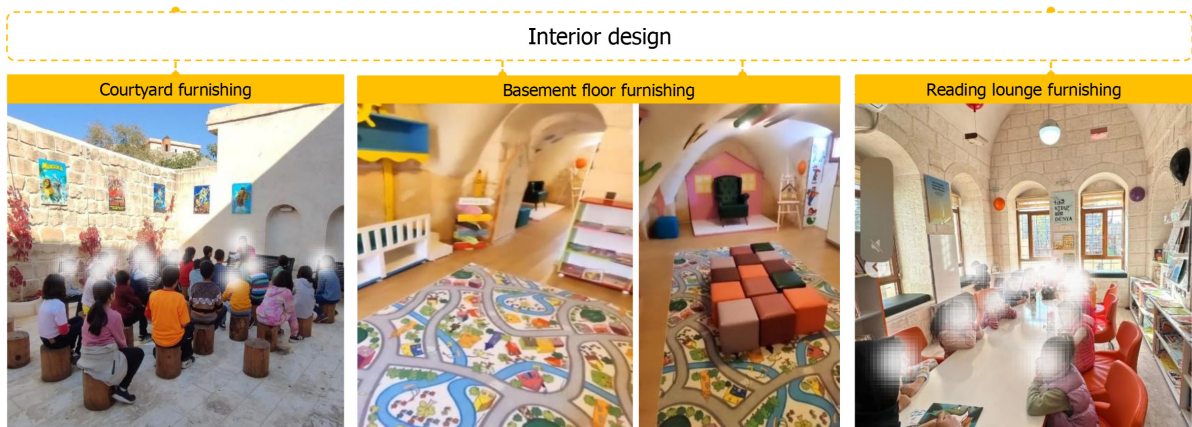


Figure 7: Views of the library's interior design. (2025)

UNESCO's World Heritage for Young Hands program also emphasises that cultural heritage education should begin in childhood and that such spaces are not merely functional structures but also educational and cultural tools (UNESCO, 2002). However, this transformation must be achieved not only at a symbolic level but also in terms of spatial and functional aspects, in accordance with child-friendly principles. The suitability of the Midyat Baby and Children's Library for its new function was examined in terms of the "accessibility," "building design," "spatial design," "interior design," and "technical features" criteria. In this context, it can be said that the building has achieved a success rate of over 80% in terms of accessibility, building design, and interior design (Figure 9).

As a result of the analyses conducted, it can be said that the building needs to be developed primarily in terms of spatial design and technical specifications. The building does not have any measures in place for disabled access. This is one of the important criteria that must be considered when reusing the building. It is particularly important to include disabled toilets and lifts in the design. The disabled toilet can be designed near the other toilets without damaging the actual floor covering of the garden and the cultural values of the historical building. In terms of disabled access, a disabled lift or mobile disabled ramp that can be integrated into the building's stairs for uninterrupted access can be included in the design. The current state of reused buildings may fall short of contemporary children's space standards in terms of accessibility, natural lighting, heating, and cooling. At this point, interventions must be both conservation-friendly and user-focused, considering legal frameworks such as Turkey's Law No. 2863 on the Cultural and Natural Assets Protection Law (Official Gazette, 1983). The creation of a spatial design that allows children to access and interact with the space comfortably, while preserving the building's physical characteristics, directly impacts the success of the reuse process.

Although the humidity level of the building cannot be determined in terms of technical specifications, it can be noted that it is low due to the hot and dry climate in which it is located. This situation may adversely affect the health of children. In this context, the design can incorporate cooling and humidification systems, particularly for semi-open areas like courtyards and terraces. Additionally, increasing the number of landscape elements in the courtyard can provide an important advantage in terms of both shading and increasing the humidity level. The spatial characteristics of the building—the courtyard, stone-vaulted rooms, niches, and local materials—offer rich opportunities for children to establish sensory and experiential relationships with the space. As Kolb (2014), emphasises in his experiential learning theory, the learning process is shaped directly by experiences. In this context, time spent in traditional buildings enables children to internalise cultural values, not only at the cognitive level but also at the physical and emotional levels.

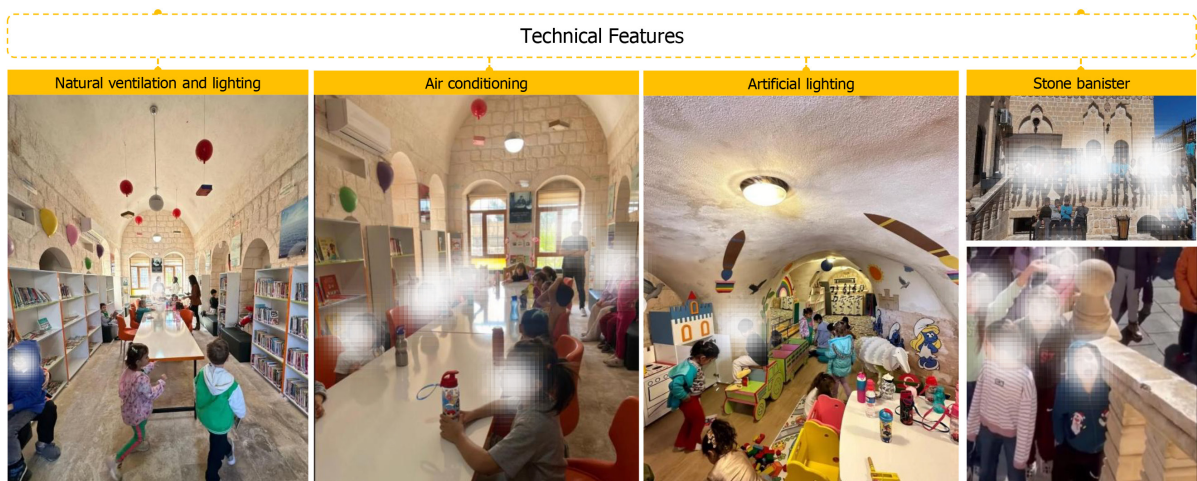


Figure 8: Views of the library's technical features. (2025)

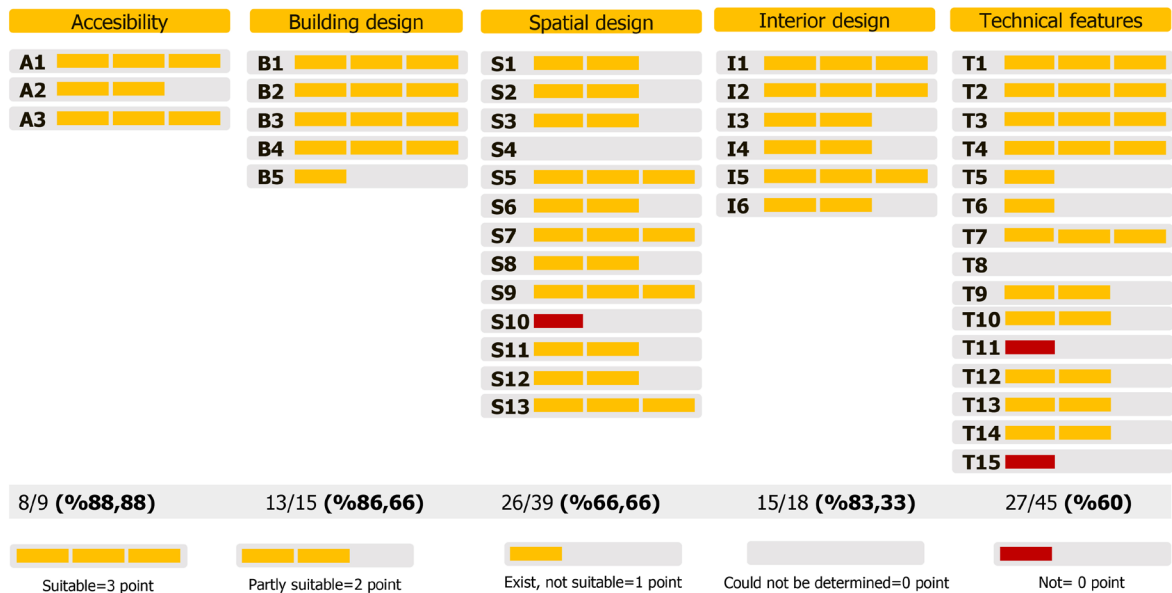


Figure 9: Determining the level of success based on numerical data. (2025)

When examining examples at the international level, projects such as the Liyuan Library in China and Ca' Granda in Italy are notable applications in which the original character of the space was preserved while successfully implementing interventions sensitive to user needs in the functionalisation of historical buildings for children (Figure 10).

These examples highlight the use of natural materials, continuity between open and closed spaces, flexible furniture systems, and space designs compatible with pedagogical scenarios. The application in Midyat has similar potential in terms of transforming a traditional house built with the unique texture of local stone architecture into a cultural space for children.

5. Conclusion

This study evaluated the accessibility, building design, spatial design, interior design and technical suitability of a historical building transformed into the Midyat Baby and Children's Library while preserving its traditional architectural features within the framework of unique design criteria for contemporary children's and baby libraries. The study was based on a multidimensional analysis process, ranging from accessibility to interior furnishings and technical equipment to flexible usage capacity. Elements such as the building's general layout, inner courtyard arrangement, use of local stone materials, and passive climate control potential were positively evaluated in terms of combining the advantages offered by traditional architecture with a public function aimed at children. These features

indicate the historic building's capacity to provide a user experience for children in terms of natural light, ventilation, and physical scale. While these factors are important for children's health, they also offer significant benefits in terms of concentration.

However, some fixed architectural elements inside the building (e.g., steep staircases) are not child-friendly, and this deficiency has not been addressed, indicating weaknesses in the building in terms of safety and accessibility. Within the scope of accessibility criteria, it was determined that the building meets the criteria for access by foot, bicycle, private vehicle, and public transport. However, the absence of a dedicated car park is a significant disadvantage. Additionally, some design weaknesses in terms of functionality indicate the lack of spaces supporting contemporary library functions such as archives, collections, and baby care areas, as well as insufficient consideration of age group differences in interior furnishings. However, the space's suitability for modular use and the courtyard's multi-purpose usage possibilities offer significant potential in terms of flexible design criteria. The courtyard can be used for dining, and the reading room can be used for meetings, conferences, and film viewings, which is a flexible design criterion. In terms of technical equipment, the insulation and passive climate control support provided by the thick stone walls are positive elements. Nevertheless, the lack of sufficient natural lighting, especially in the basement floors, and the high need for artificial lighting have created some challenges in terms of energy efficiency. Insufficient natural light can lead to problems such as poor eye health in children, rapid fatigue, and shorter reading times.

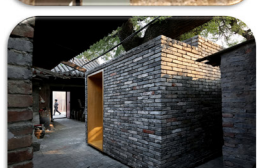
Project	Location	Original function	New function	Features	Images
Üsküdar Selimiye Children Library	Türkiye	Mansion	Children's library	It was built as an elementary school in the 19th century.	
Mihrimah Sultan Children Library	Türkiye	Elementary school	Children's library	It was built in 1547 as part of the Mihrimah Sultan Mosque.	
Giresun Children Library	Türkiye	Kapusen Church	Children's Library	It was built as a residence in the 19th century.	
Lala Sahin Pasha Children Library	Türkiye	Madsarah	Children's Library	It was built as a madrasah in 1399.	
Bitlis Baby and Children's Library	Türkiye	Mansion	Baby and children's library	It is a 3-story mansion.	
Al Khader Library	Palestine	Mosque	Children's Library	Its original function was as the historic Al-Khader Mosque.	
Micro Yuan'er Children's Library	China	Traditional house	Children's library	It is a residential typology defined by its original function as Da-Za-Yuan.	
Midyat Baby and Children's Library	Türkiye	Traditional house	Baby and children's library	It is a historic residential building consisting of a basement and ground floor.	

Figure 10: Reused historical buildings with library areas designed for babies and children. (2025)

Furthermore, the creation of an area with uncomfortable lighting conditions may reduce the number of users. In the context of digital librarianship, the lack of tools to support children's interaction with technology is also an important issue that needs to be considered in the future. In addition, the fact that the furnishings in the reading room and toilets are not entirely suitable for children and that babies are overlooked in the interior design of the furnishings negatively affects the interior design criteria of libraries.

As a result, the historical library in Midyat has significant potential to enhance the spatial experience for children with its unique characteristics. However, it appears to have deficiencies in terms of current library standards. However, this study is important in that it demonstrates that the adaptive reuse of historical buildings requires not only physical preservation but also a comprehensive approach to the spatial, educational, and technical requirements specific to children. In this sense, the Midyat Baby and Children's Library example offers both a prototype model that allows for a reinterpretation of the space-time relationship and a multi-layered proposal that can serve as a reference for similar projects. It is expected that the study will provide conceptual and methodological guidance for future applications involving the repurposing of different historical buildings as baby and children's libraries.

6. Acknowledgements

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Conflict of interest. The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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