New book features 101 buildings and sites in Turkey

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Architect and academic Engin Yenal, known for his books on architecture and urban history in Turkey, recently released a new book through Yapı Kredi Publications, listing 101 architecturally significant buildings and sites in Turkey.

At the beginning of his lengthy treatise, titled "One Hundred and One Buildings and Sites Türkiye," Yenal explains that some of the built environment and man-made structures in Anatolia originate from prehistory and that his book focuses particularly on the dimensions of time and space.

The built environment in Anatolia has a history of nearly 12,000 years. Yenal's catalog starts with Göbeklitepe, an open-air temple in the city of Şanlıurfa in southeast Turkey which dates back to 9600 B.C. His list ends with Halkbank's head office in Ankara, which was designed and constructed by the architects Doğan Tekeli and Sami Sisa between 1983 and 1991.

The 101 settlements and buildings in the book are classified into 11 groups and four subgroups: archaeological sites, urban defense systems, dwellings, religious buildings (including temples, churches, monasteries, synagogues, masjids, mosques and great mosques), education, culture and health buildings, commercial buildings, complexes, monuments, engineering/infrastructure (including bridges, arches and water works), tombs and mausoleums, administrative buildings/contemporary structures.

According to the writer, limiting the collection to 101 buildings allows the focus of the book to be on the comparison of the functional and formal features of the buildings and sites in a historical context. "These landmarks only become iconic and gain meaning in a harmonious relationship with their immediate environment," Yenal writes.

Published in both Turkish and English, the structures and sites are featured alongside photographs and various maps from different centuries. The chronological order of the buildings and sites is also provided to allow a comparative study that focuses on functional and stylistic evolution over the years. "One Hundred and One Buildings and Sites Türkiye" can be found in major bookstores.