



● **ARCADIUS COLOUMN**
OPEN AIR EXHIBITION

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RUINS OF CHURCH OF ST. POLYEUCTUS

Istanbul is a multilayered city with different cultures, religions , ethnicities . This cultural wealth reaches out to Constantinople, a city which belonged to the three big empires from different periods : Roman , Byzantine and Ottoman. Today it is still possible to trace those empire's legacies in the city.

Most of the architectural heritages are concentrated in the historical peninsula. This part of the city is dedicated mostly to tourism and commerce. Even though, it is hard to say that the monuments, ruins , architectural heritages are well integrated with the city in a way that citizens can appreciate these values in their daily lives. While exploring the peninsula, especially the Divanyolu Street (ancient street of Mese) which constitutes the base line of it, one gets to witness remains from different periods. It is very interesting seeing what these once very important parts of the ancient city turned out to be and how less we acknowledge this legacy.

Mese Street, beside being the trunk line of Costantinople , also described a path for processions and forums on this path hosted political, religious, social, ceremonial gatherings. During both Ottoman and Byzantine Empires they were center of the public events as celebrations, parades, tournaments .

"Şenlik" is a turkish word which corresponds these public events of festivity . İstanbul has witnessed various şenlik events starting from the 3rd century AC : the fact that it hosted the biggest empires which were socially developed , it's adequate climate , the cultural richness brought by the cosmopolit structure of the societies lived in it, made Costantinople , to be called İstanbul , the center of cultural and artistic activities.

This project searches a way to bring to life the unforgotten, left-off values of the peninsula and include them to daily life of citizens by keeping alive the legacy of the Mese Street. Therefore, a "şenlik" is proposed, a modern interpretation of the ancient traditional festivities took place in the urban squares has been brought to life. Therefore, the project questions : What does şenlik mean and how can it transform the city? How to improve the existing context of the architectural heritages without damaging them? What does urban area mean and what kind of activities can occur in it?