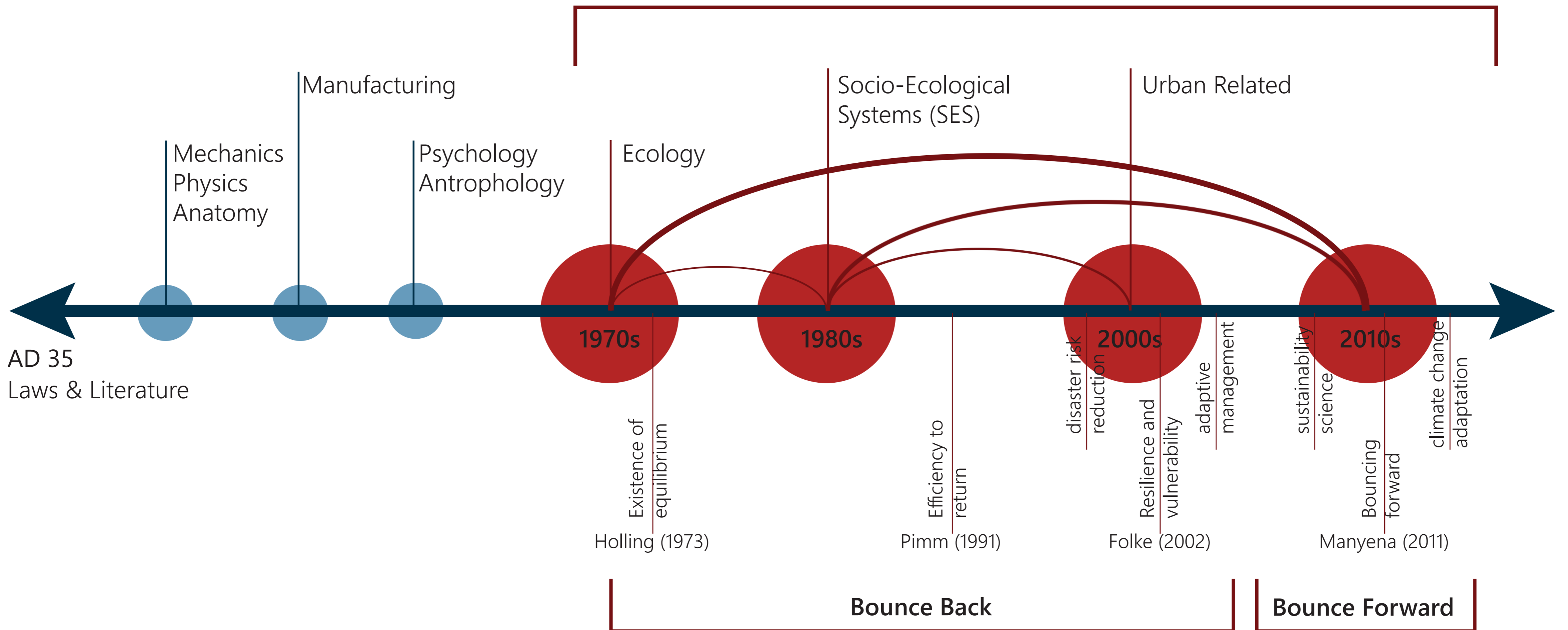
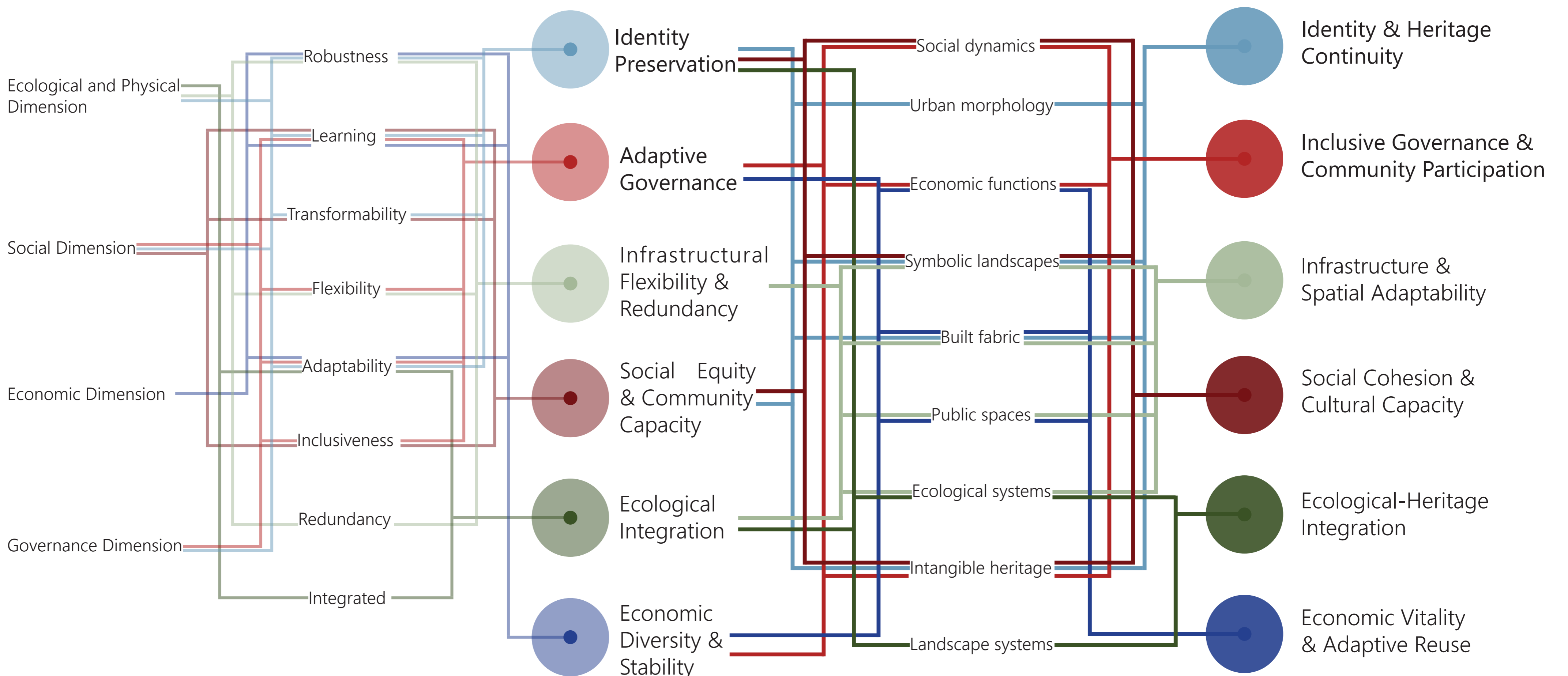


# Theoretical Framework

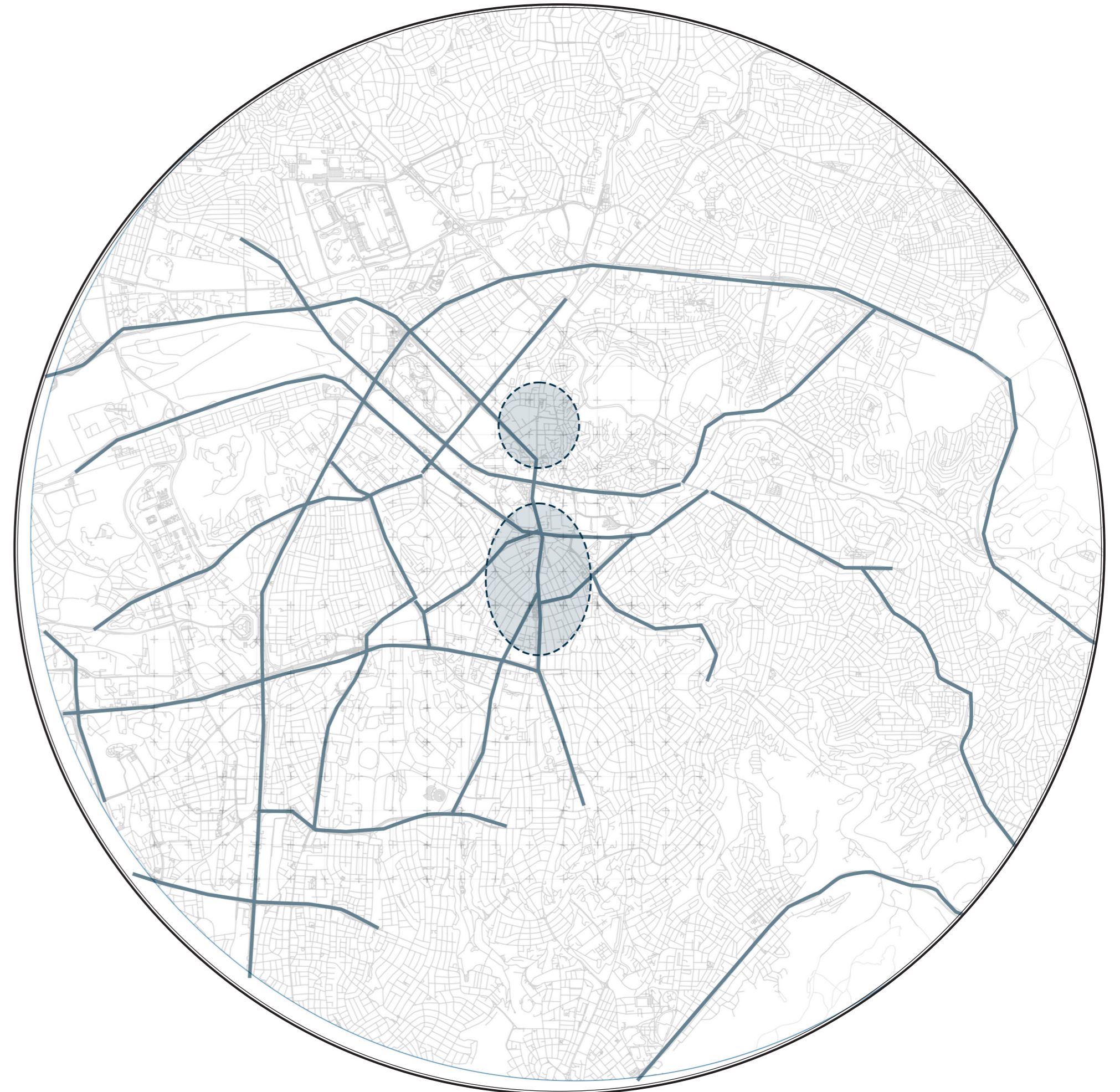
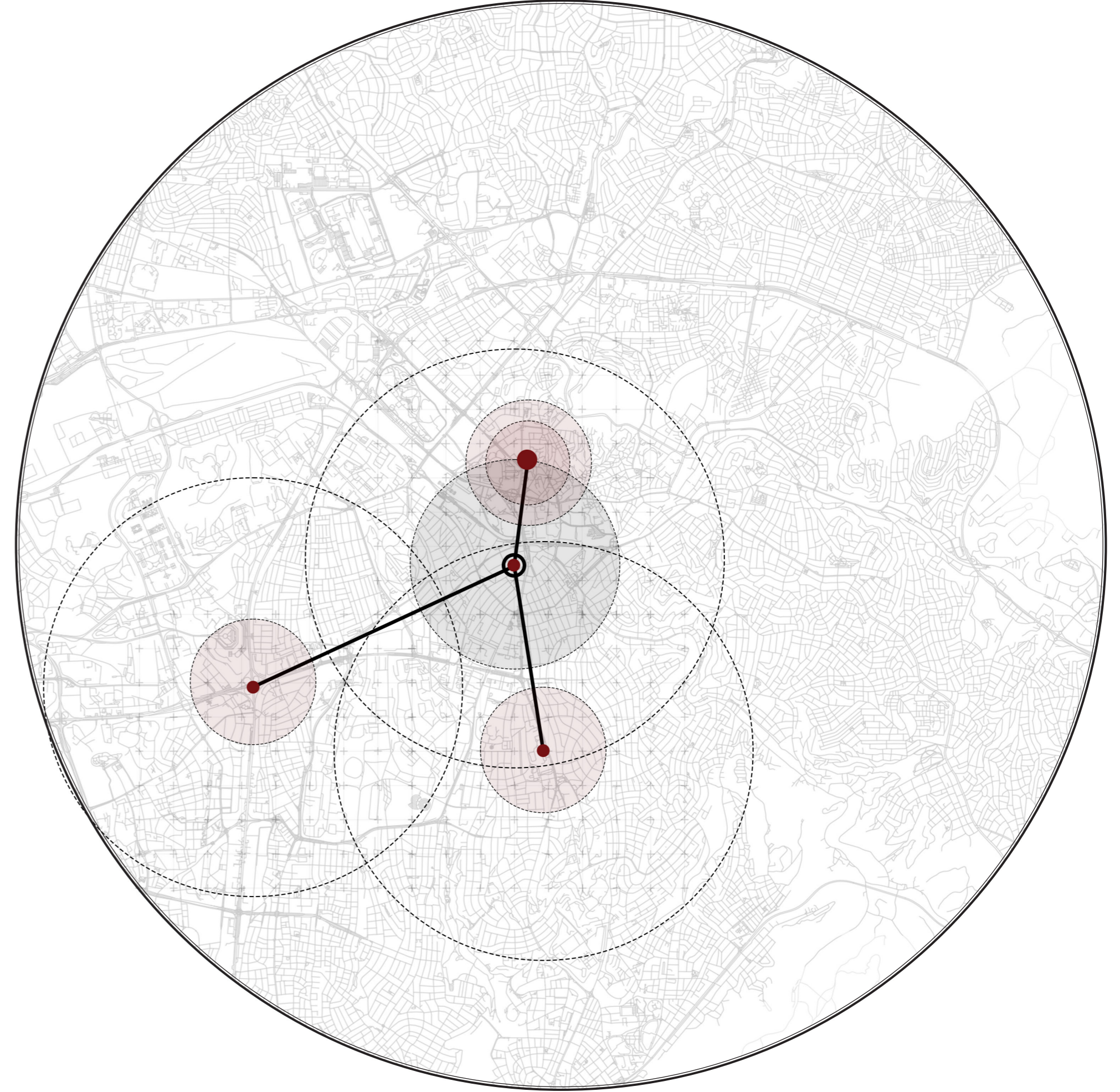
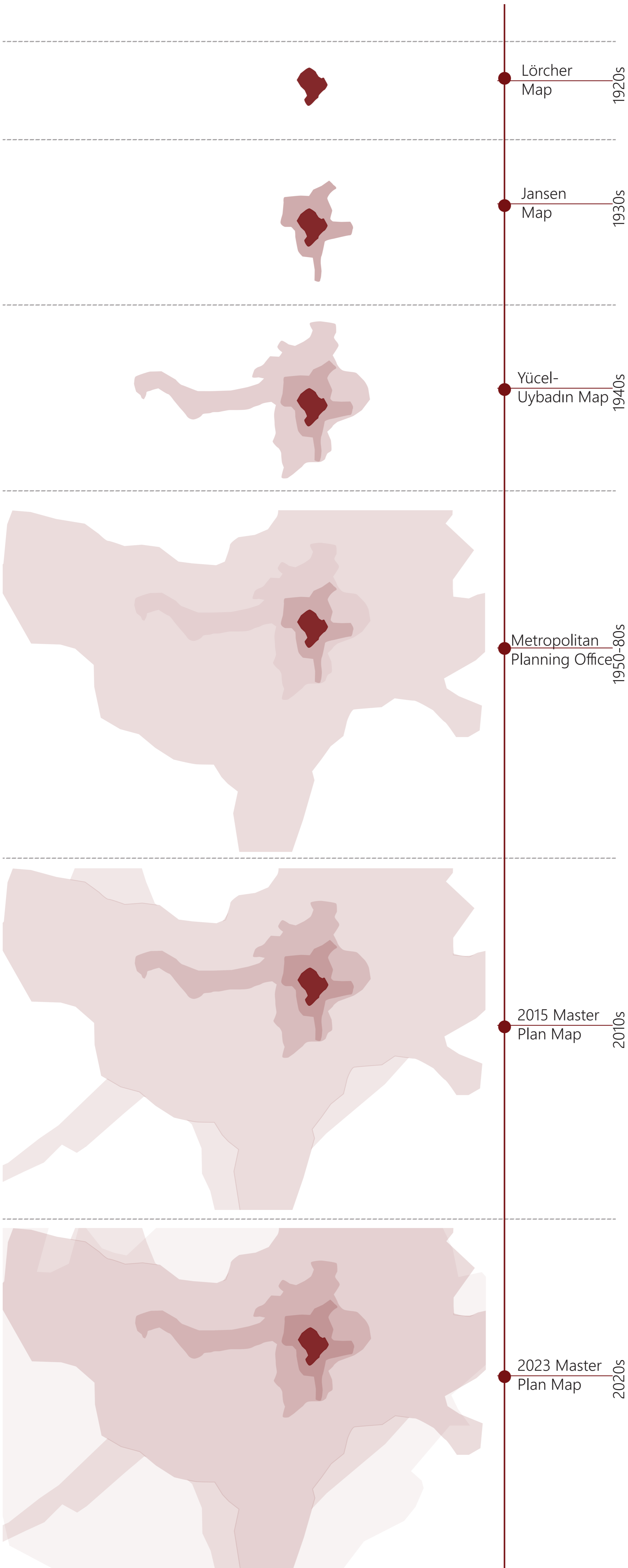


	Ecological Resilience	Urban Resilience	
<b>Definition</b>	Ecosystems absorb disturbance and persist (Holling, 1973).	Cities maintain, adapt, and transform under shocks (Meerow et al., 2016).	<b>0-5 Years</b> Stabilization of core systems and rapid resilience actions.
<b>System characteristics</b>	Non-linear, thresholds, multi-equilibrium	Socio-ecological-technical, networked, multi-scalar	<b>5-10 Years</b> Expansion, diversification, and strengthening of secondary nodes.
<b>Aim of the system</b>	Preserve biodiversity, ecological function.	Protect urban functions, equity, sustainability	<b>10-15 Years</b> Full integration into an adaptive, connected urban network.
<b>Disturbances considered</b>	Natural shocks	Complex crises	
<b>Scale of application</b>	Ecosystem, landscape	Neighborhood, city, region	



# Urban Development of Ankara

Since its designation as the capital in 1923, Ankara has undergone rapid urban expansion shaped by modernization and infrastructured planning. Ulus initially functioned as the city's administrative, commercial, and symbolic center; however, from the mid-20th century onward, urban growth and transportation investments shifted central functions southward toward Kızılay and later to newly emerging business districts.

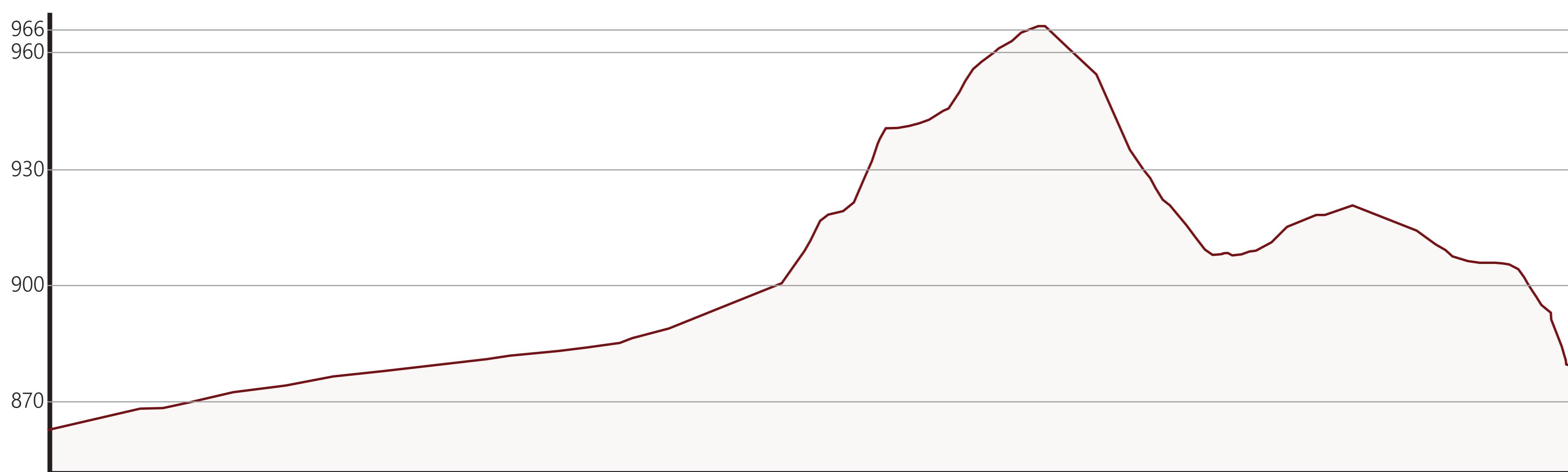


The development of car-oriented boulevards and ring roads supported metropolitan expansion while bypassing the historical core, reducing Ulus's spatial centrality and pedestrian continuity. These transformations contributed to functional displacement, mobility pressures, and heritage vulnerability in Ulus, forming the basis for the need to approach the area through an urban resilience framework.

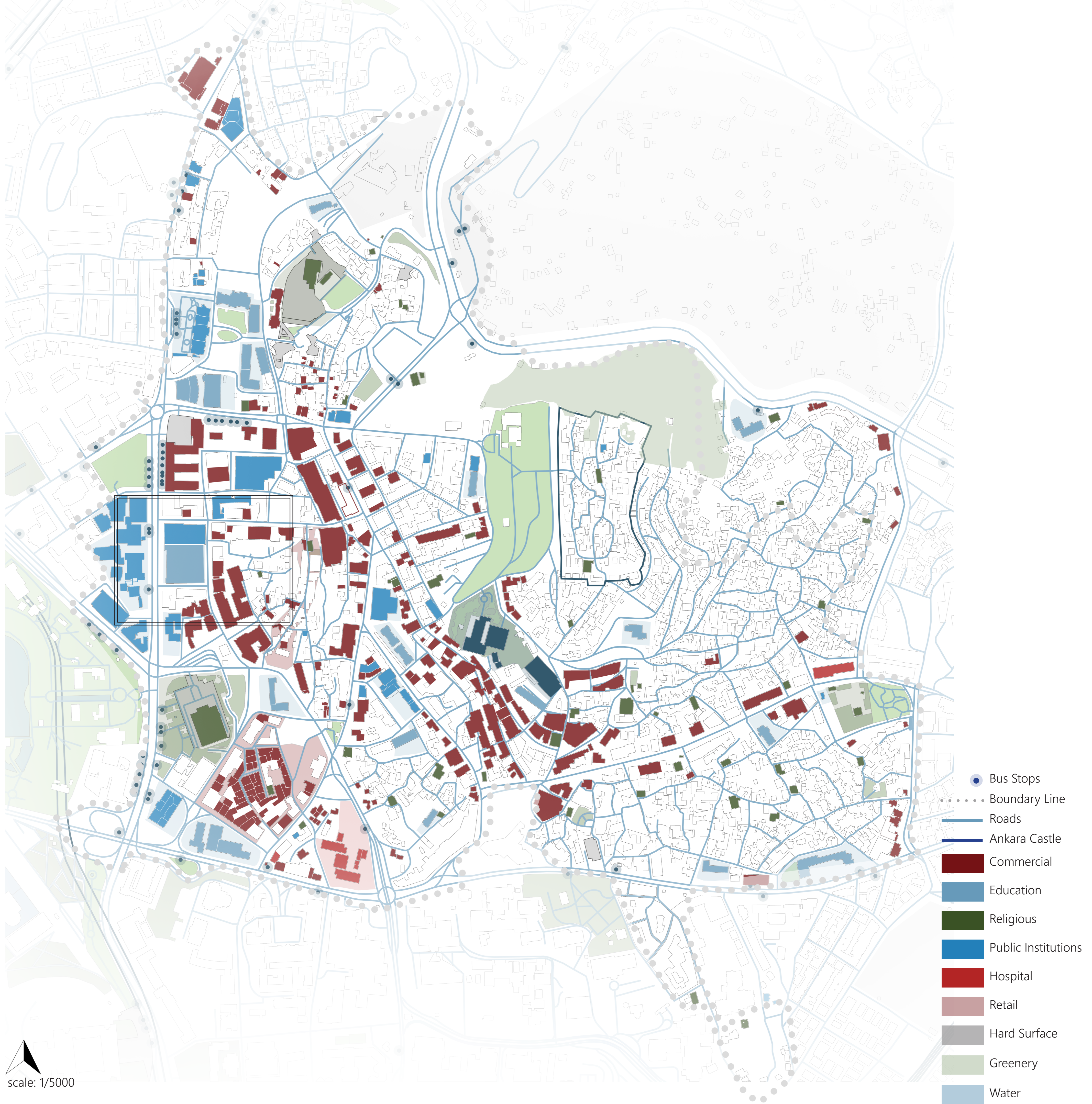
# Analysis of Ulus ecological analysis



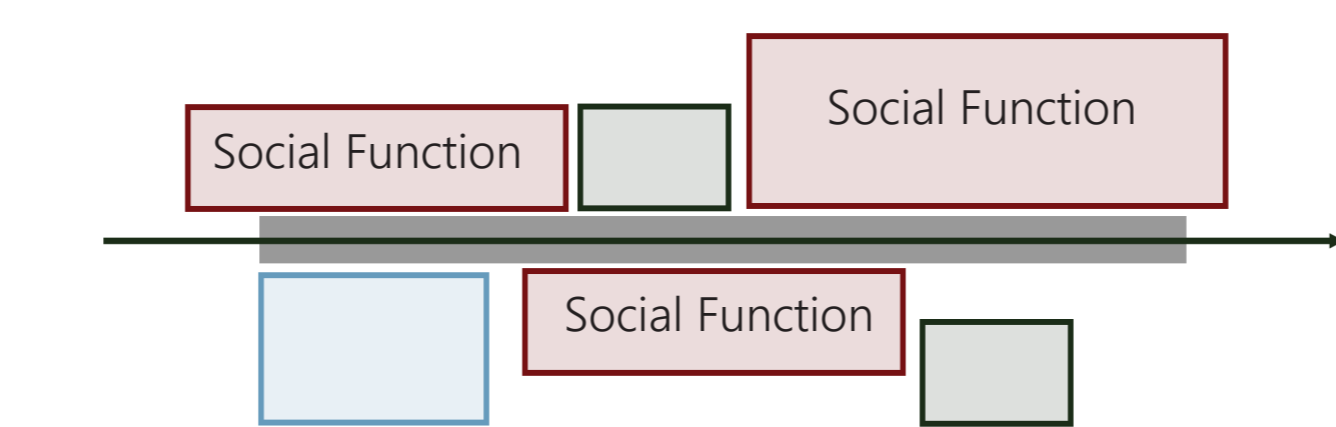
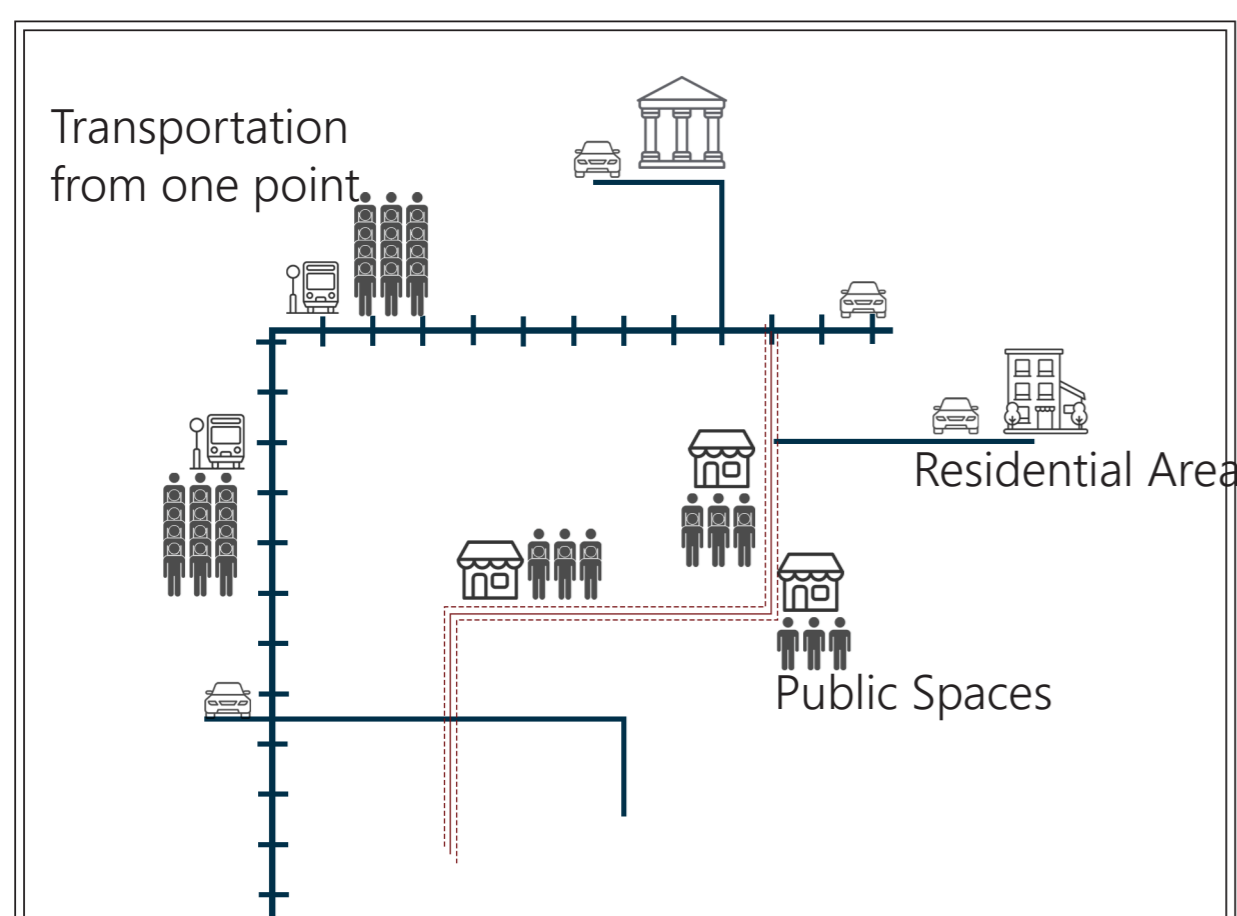
The topographic structure of Ulus reveals significant height differences that shape environmental performance and spatial continuity. These elevation changes also reduce pedestrian accessibility and weaken social connectivity between key urban nodes. Overall, this analysis shows how topography acts as a fundamental constraint affecting infrastructure adaptability, ecological integration, and everyday spatial use in Ulus.



# Analysis of Ulus social and public life analysis



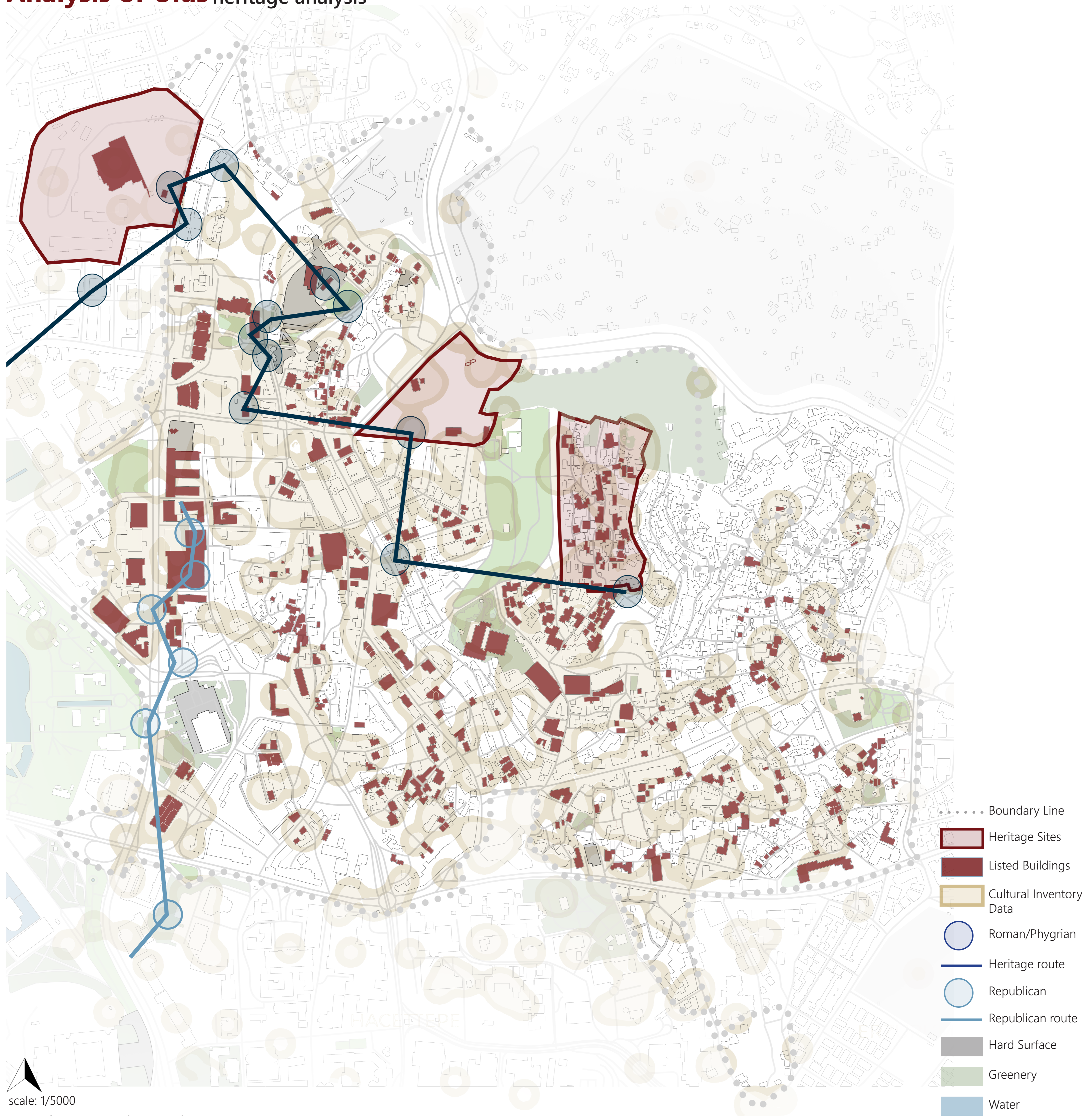
The distribution of social and public functions in Ulus reveals a fragmented pattern of daily urban life. Public activity is concentrated around religious, commercial, and institutional nodes, while surrounding neighborhoods show limited access to active public spaces.



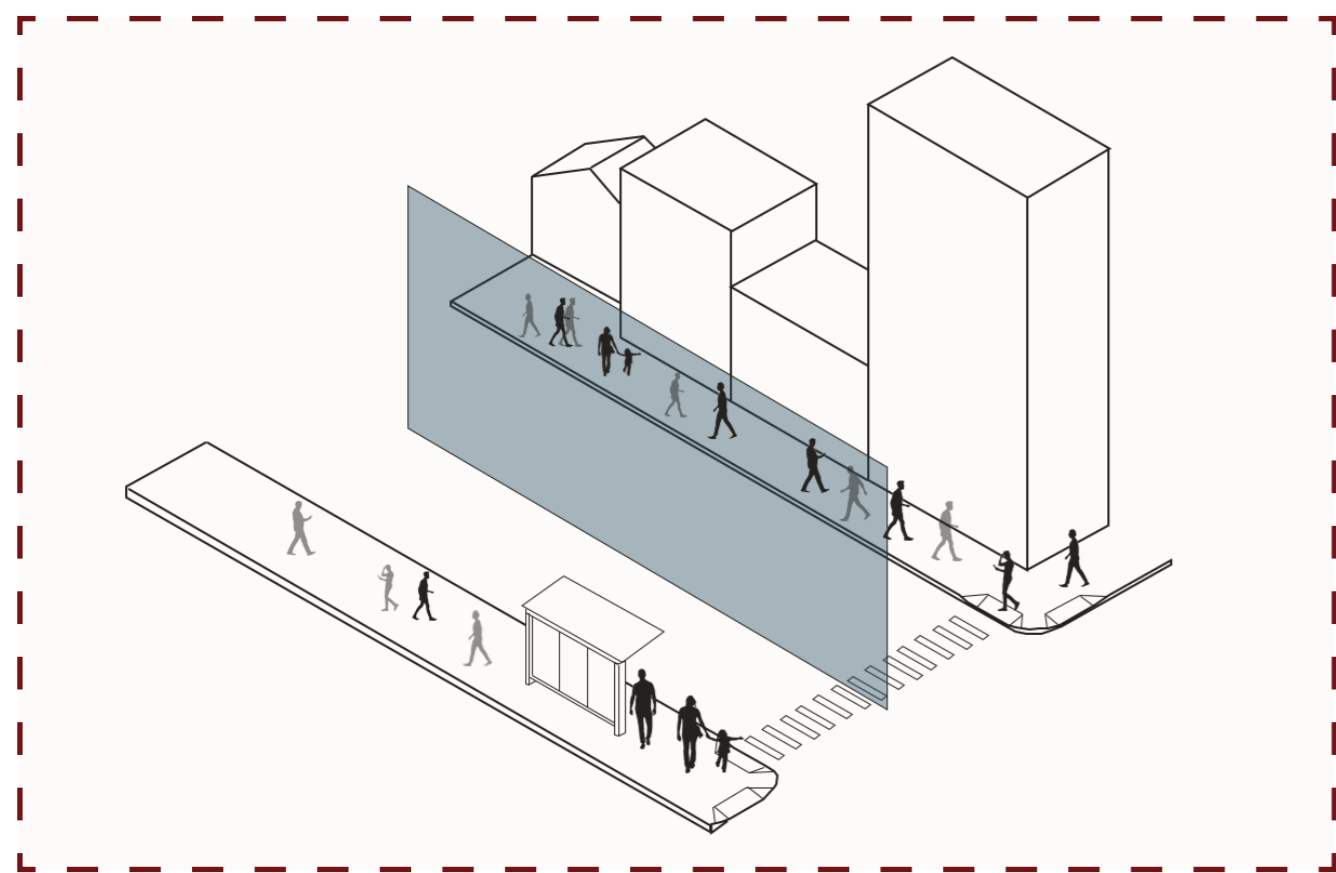
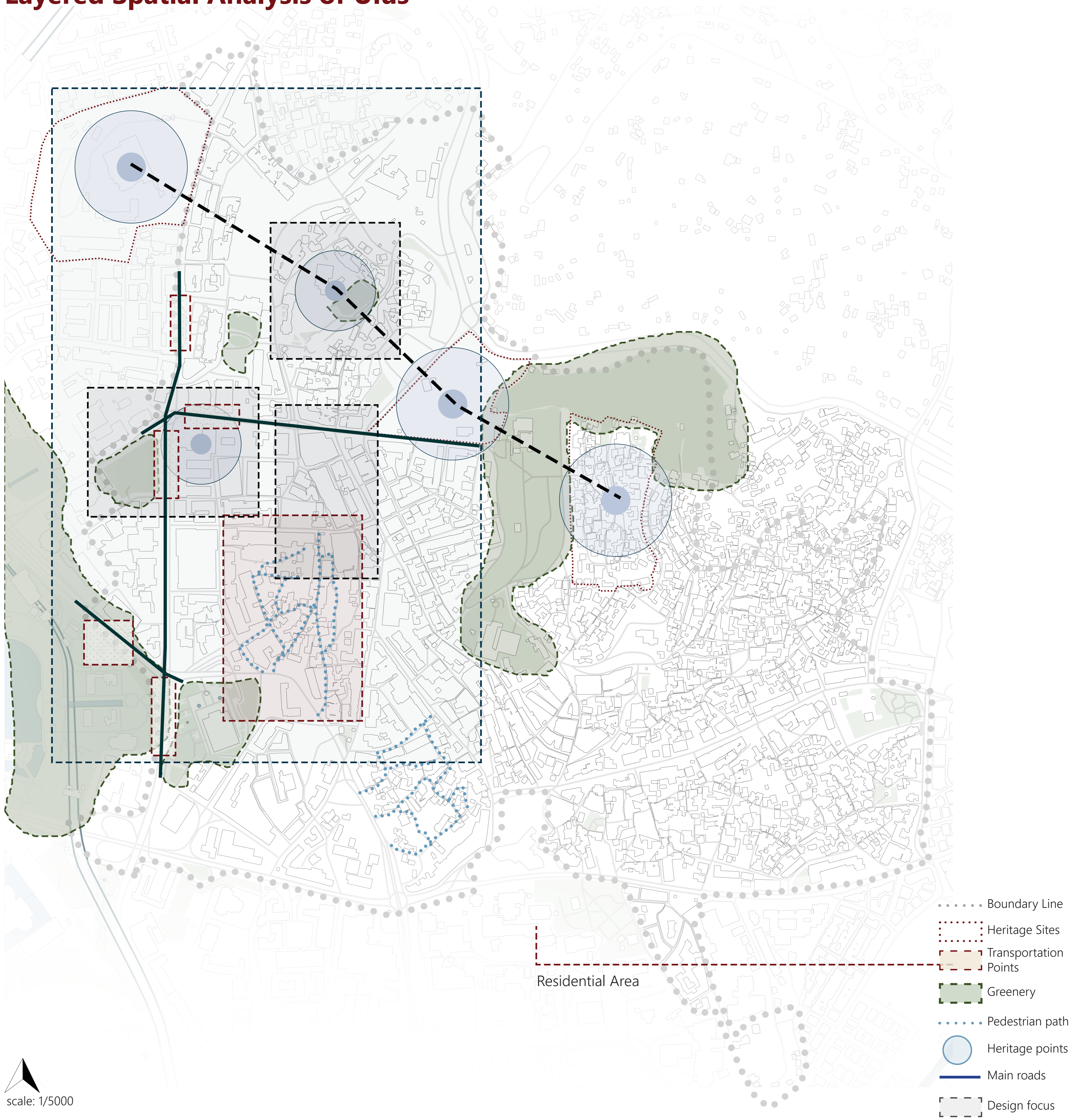
The roads are surrounded with the social activity buildings, increasing the movement of people.

Uneven distribution weakens social continuity and reduces opportunities for inclusive interaction. At the same time, the presence of underused buildings and mono-functional areas highlights the potential for adaptive reuse to support local economic vitality and strengthen everyday public life. The analysis emphasizes the need to reconnect social spaces to enhance cohesion, participation, and long-term resilience.

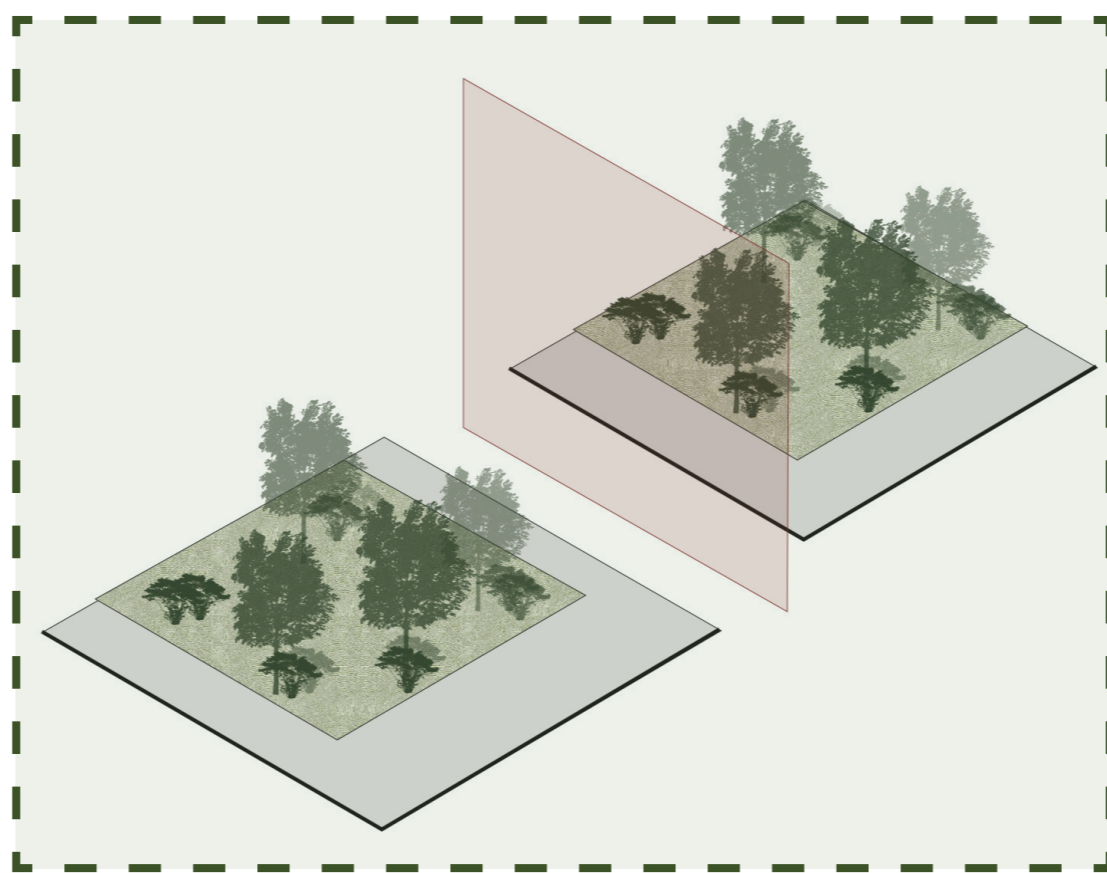
# Analysis of Ulus heritage analysis



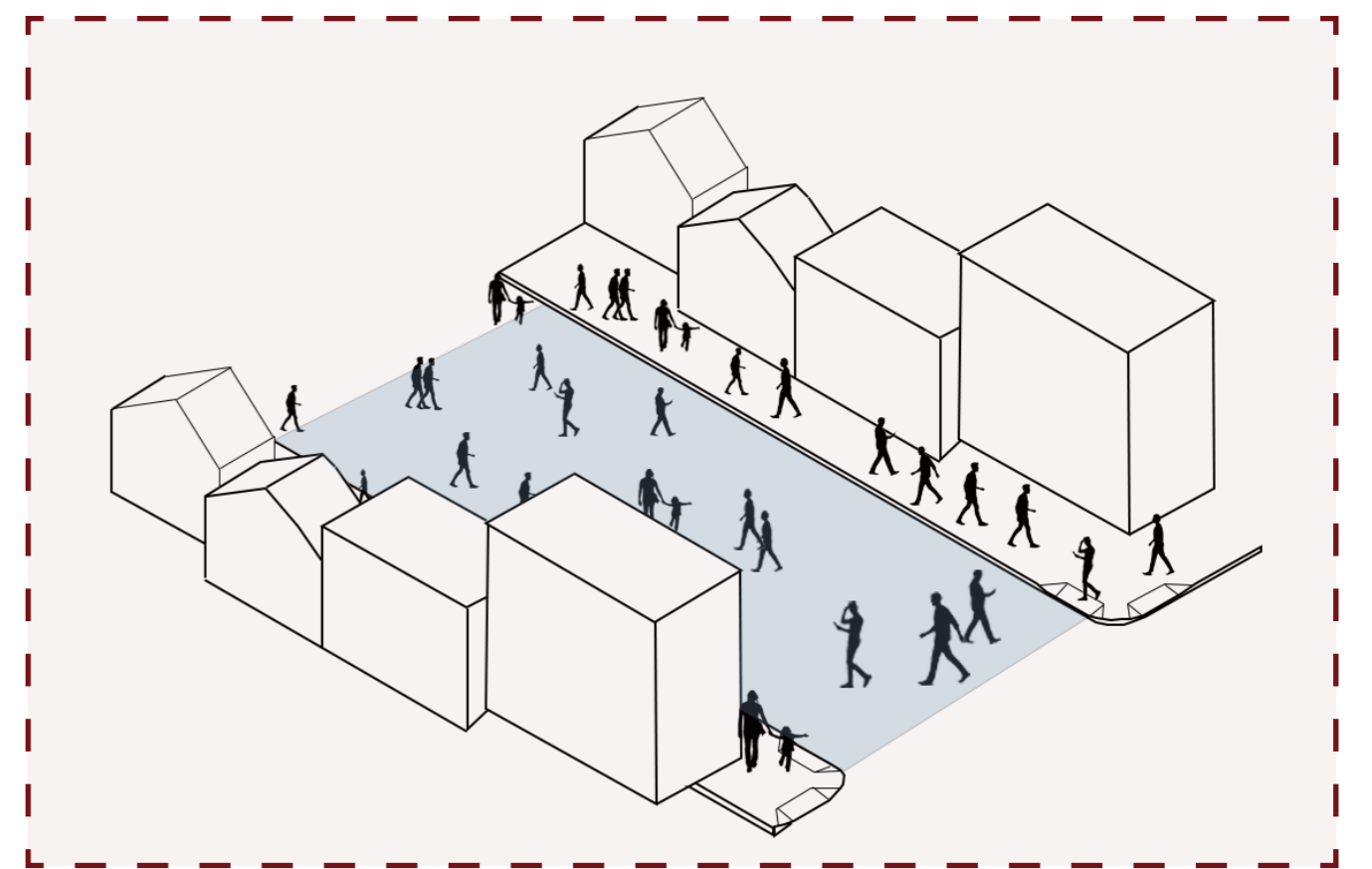
# Layered Spatial Analysis of Ulus



pedestrian continuity is broken by the big roads surrounding the transportation zones

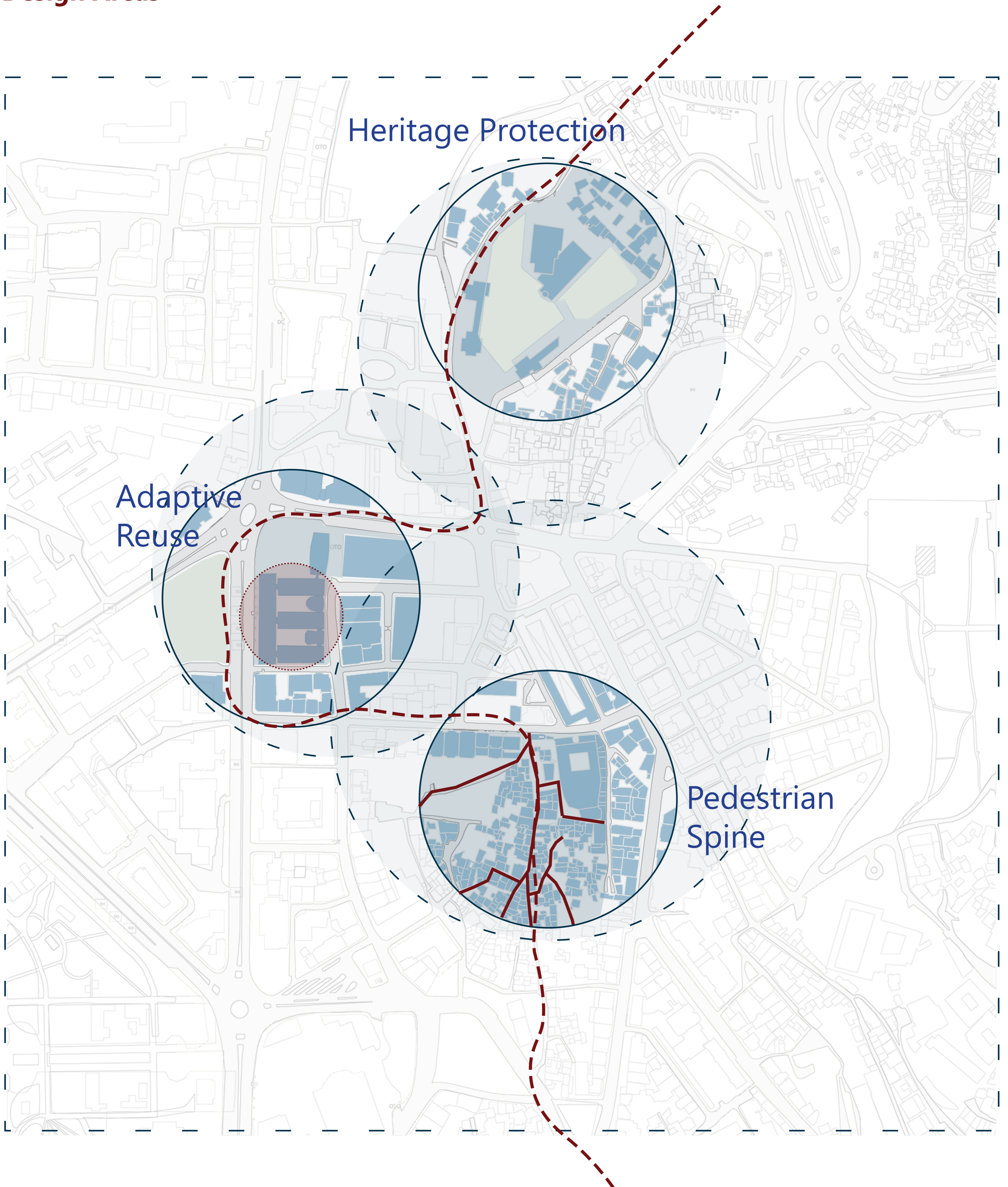


ecological separation emphasizes the cities' lack of greenery



pedestrian movement in the city with the shopping surrounding.

## Design Areas



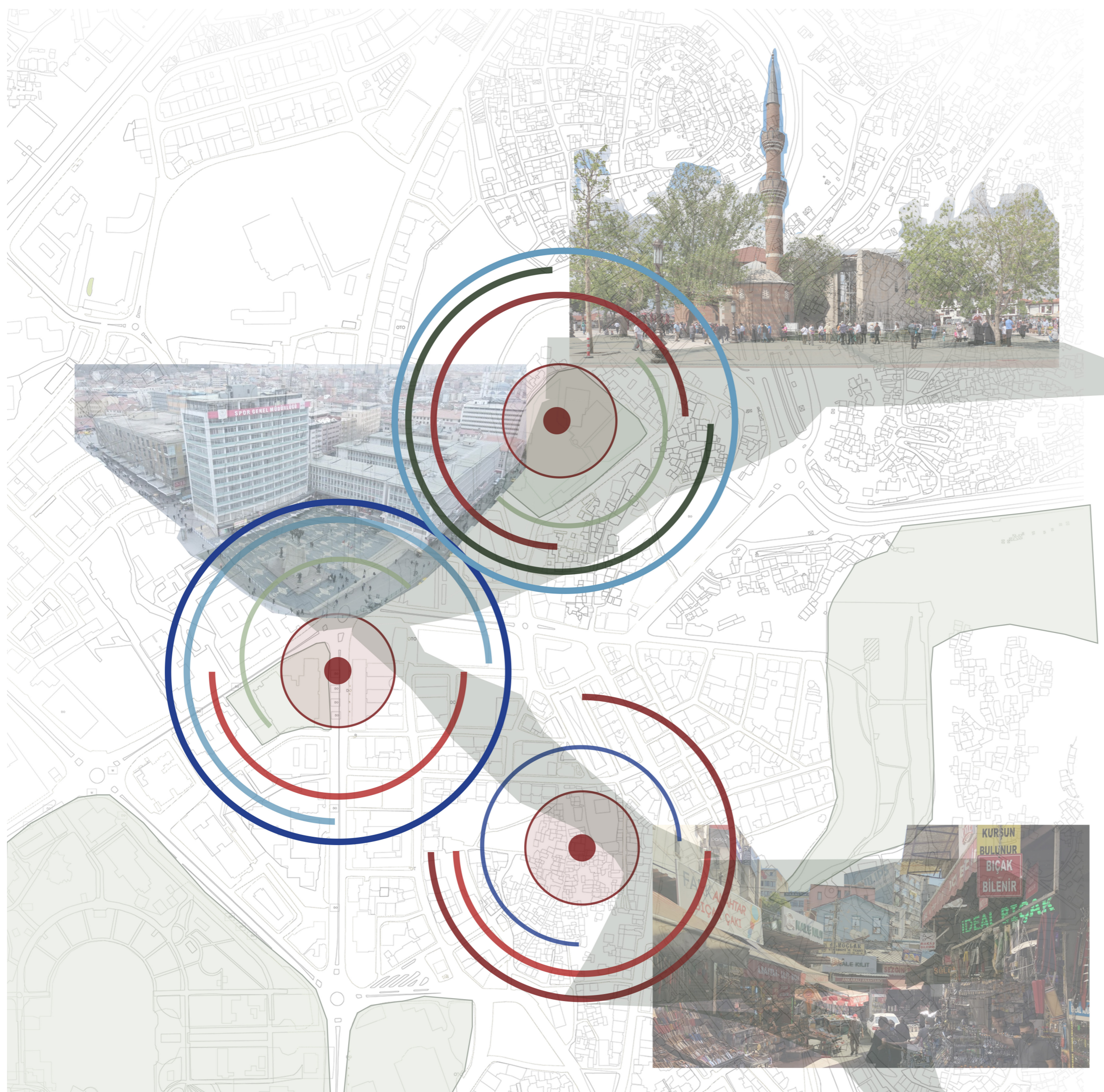
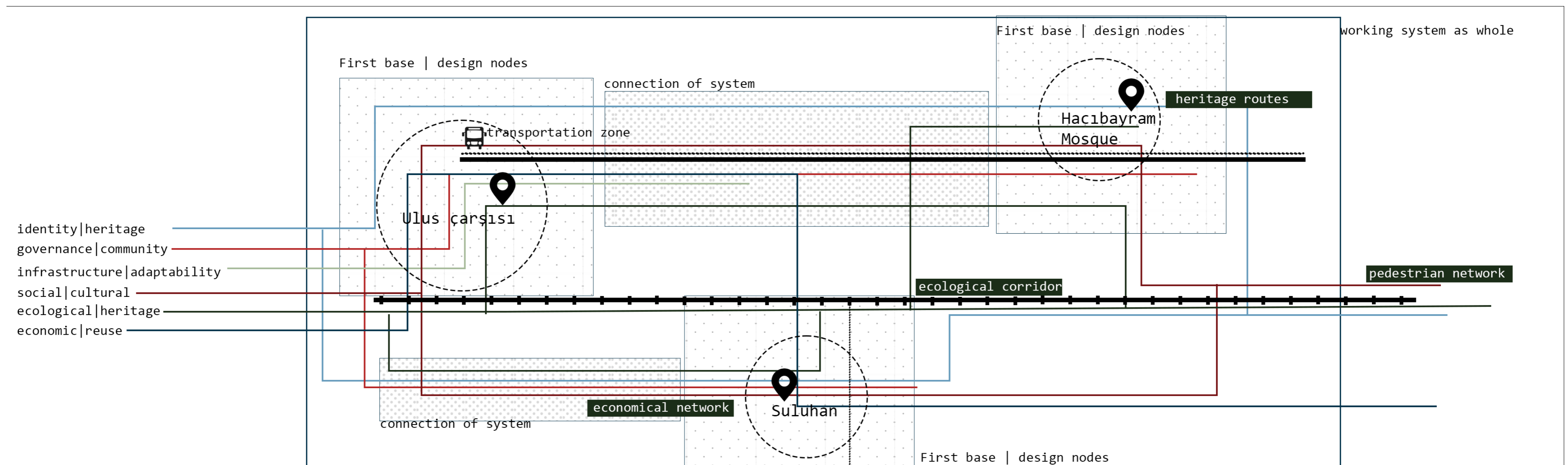
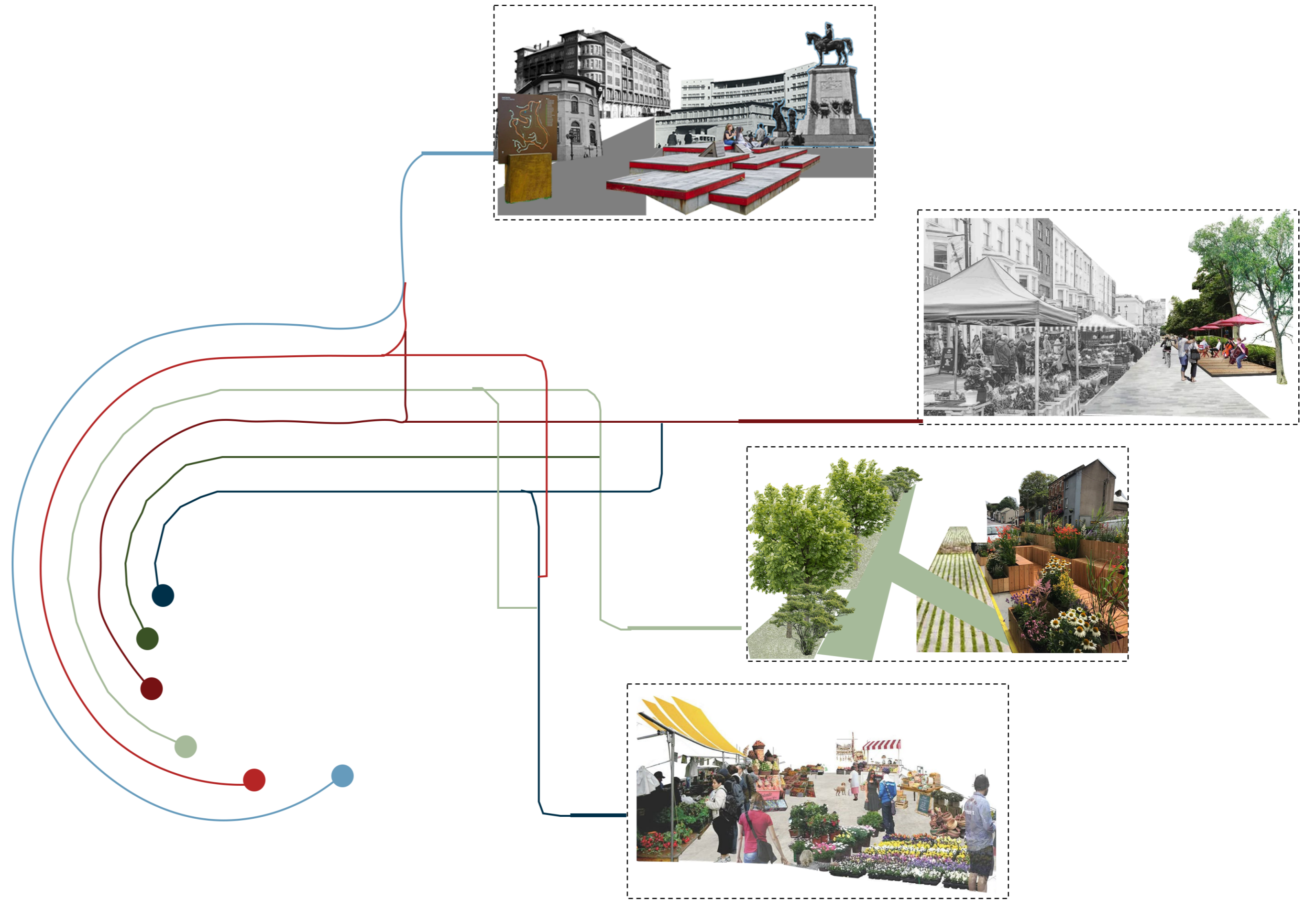
The proposed strategies are implemented through interconnected spatial clusters rather than isolated interventions, allowing multiple actions to reinforce one another across the urban fabric. Pedestrian continuity functions as the primary connective element between the selected design areas, strengthening physical and social links within the historic core. Adaptive reuse plays a central role in supporting both economic vitality and cultural continuity.

It is ensuring that existing structures remain active and relevant. Heritage spaces are carefully activated to enhance public use while preserving their symbolic and historical integrity. Finally, a phased implementation approach enables gradual transformation over time, allowing strategies to adapt to changing social, economic, and environmental conditions.

# Design Vision and Concept

The design vision proposes a node-based and system-oriented approach to strengthen urban resilience in the historic core of Ulus. Based on six resilience pillars, the project translates theoretical principles into spatial strategies that activate key urban nodes and connect them through pedestrian, ecological, economic, and heritage systems. Rather than applying isolated interventions, the proposal focuses on reinforcing existing assets and improving spatial continuity. Each node functions as a catalyst where localized design decisions generate broader urban systems. Over time, these interconnected systems form an integrated resilience network that enhances adaptability, strengthens heritage identity, and supports long-term social, environmental, and economic sustainability within the district.

The design vision interprets urban resilience in Ulus as a spatial system emerging from the interaction of six resilience pillars: identity and heritage continuity, social cohesion, spatial adaptability, ecological integration, economic vitality, and governance capacity. Rather than proposing large-scale transformation, the project introduces targeted spatial interventions that reinforce existing urban structures and enable gradual adaptation within the historic city core.



In Ulus, resilience is generated through three strategic nodes each activating different dimensions of the resilience framework. Heritage continuity strengthens cultural identity through connected heritage routes, interpretation elements, and visual corridors centered around Hacıbayram. Social cohesion and economic vitality converge in Suluhan, where public spaces and commercial extensions transform streets into active social environments. Spatial adaptability and governance capacity guide flexible and reversible interventions, allowing incremental implementation without disrupting the historic fabric. Ecological integration supports pedestrian comfort through shaded walking corridors, green infrastructure, and climate-responsive public spaces that connect the nodes.

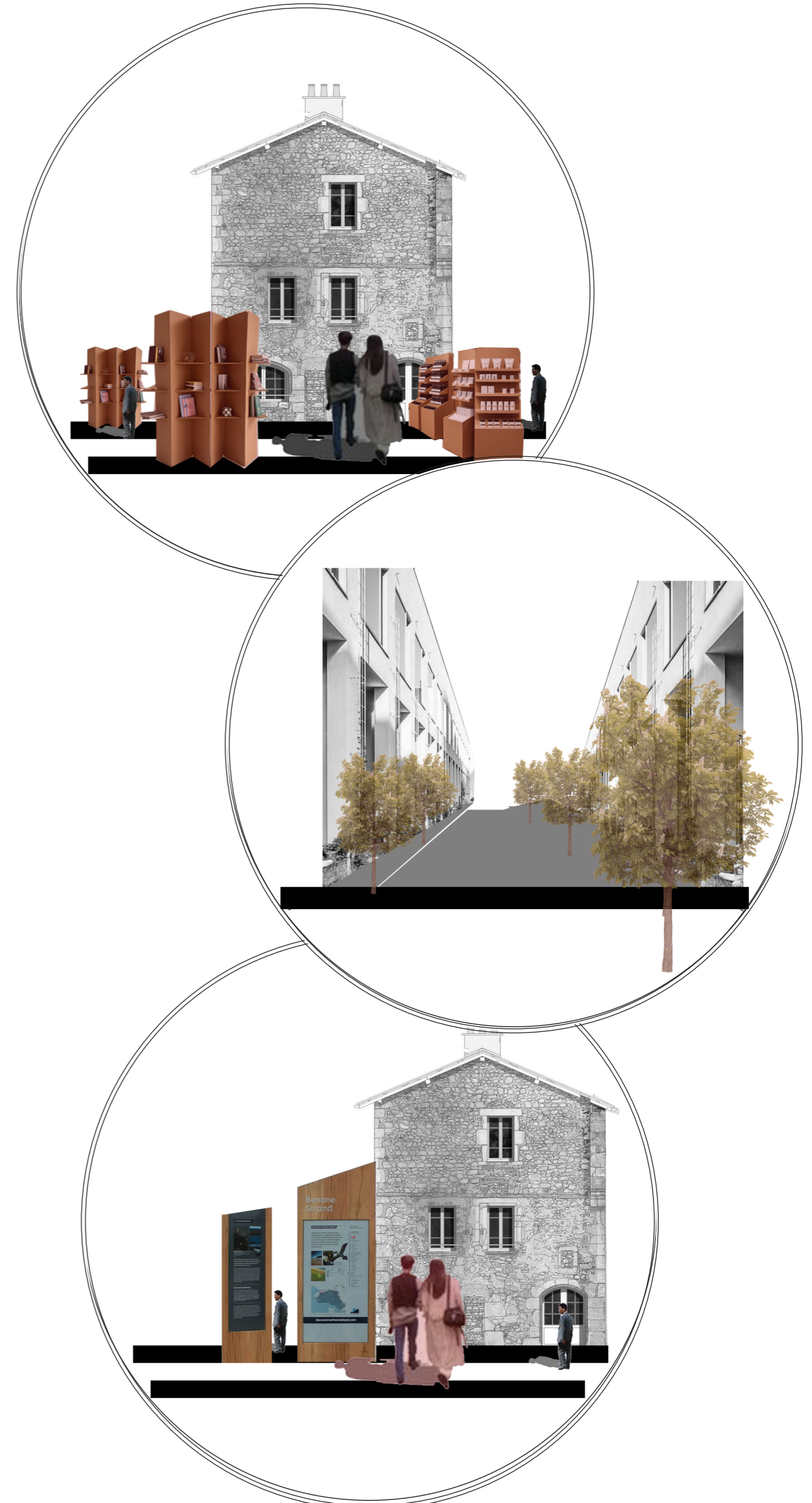
These localized interventions collectively produce interconnected urban systems: a pedestrian mobility network, an ecological comfort corridor, a distributed economic activation system, and a continuous heritage landscape. The proposal therefore shifts Ulus from a collection of fragmented spaces into a cohesive urban system where movement, culture, ecology, and economy operate together. Over time, the integration of these systems establishes a resilient historic core capable of adapting to contemporary urban pressures while maintaining its spatial identity and cultural continuity.

# Design Node - 01 suluhan

Suluhan functions as an economic anchor within the historic fabric of Ulus, yet its activity remains concentrated within the courtyard. The design proposal extends commercial life into surrounding streets through adaptive reuse strategies, modular kiosks, and pedestrian-oriented spaces. Shaded walkways, seating areas, and public platforms transform circulation areas into active social environments. Heritage interpretation elements strengthen the visibility of the historic structure within the urban fabric. Through these interventions, Suluhan evolves from an inward-oriented commercial courtyard into an outward-facing economic and pedestrian catalyst connected to district-scale systems.



Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong historical commercial identity</li> <li>Existing economic activity</li> <li>Central location within historic commercial district</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic activity concentrated internally</li> <li>Weak spatial connection to surrounding streets</li> <li>Limited public space infrastructure</li> <li>Lack of ecological elements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for adaptive reuse and economic expansion</li> <li>Ability to activate surrounding public spaces</li> <li>Potential to function as economic anchor node</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued economic decline due to competition from modern commercial areas</li> <li>Risk of functional stagnation</li> </ul>



# Design Node - 02 hacıbayram

Hacıbayram represents one of the strongest cultural and symbolic anchors of Ulus. The proposal reinforces its role by enhancing public space usability, improving pedestrian accessibility, and integrating ecological comfort elements such as shading and greenery. Heritage routes and visual corridors strengthen cultural continuity, while gathering terraces and flexible public platforms support social interaction. The node becomes a cultural and social connector, extending identity continuity beyond its boundaries and linking heritage spaces into a broader resilience network.

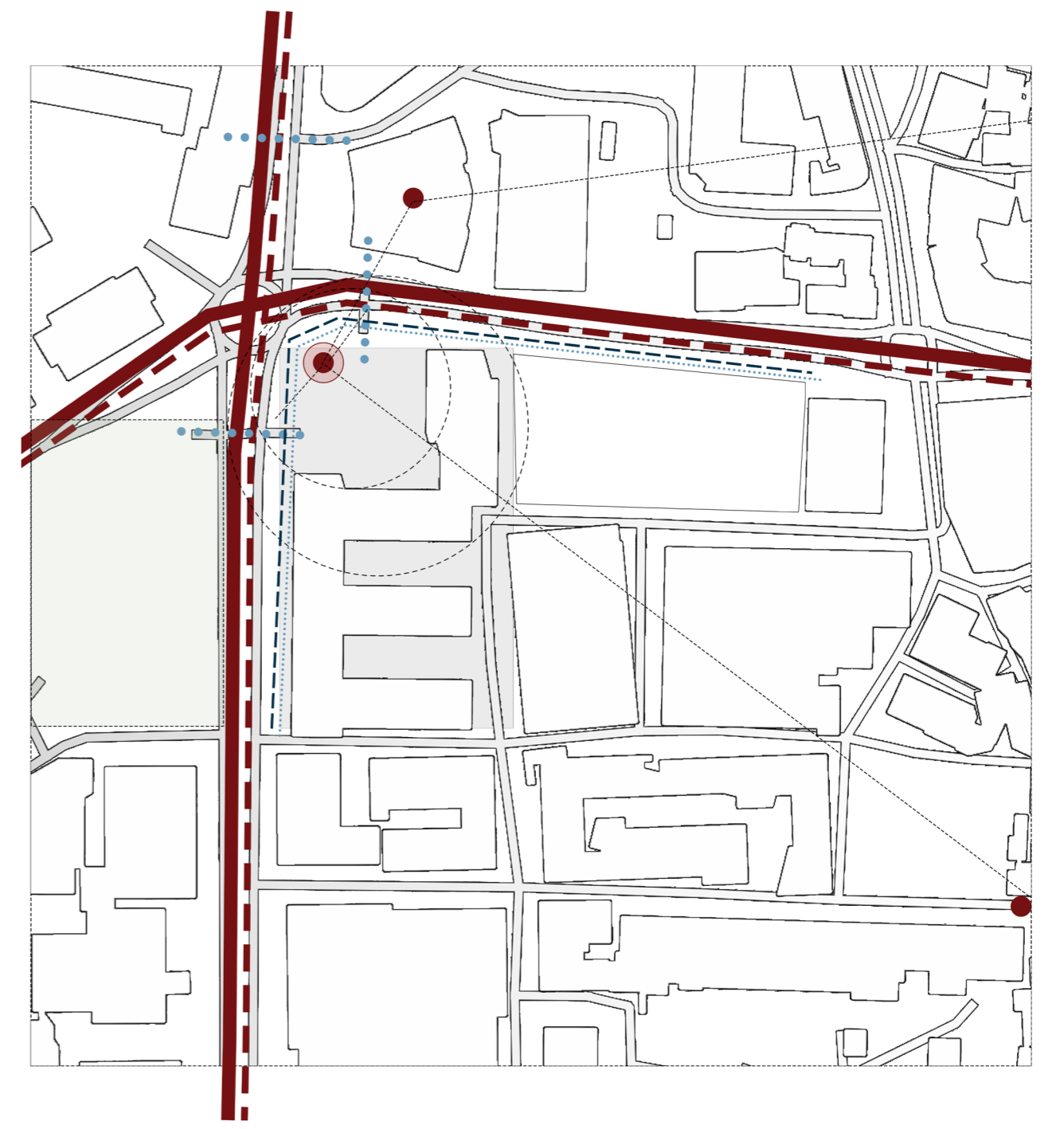


Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong heritage identity</li> <li>Significant historical and symbolic value</li> <li>Existing public gathering space</li> <li>High visitor presence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spatial isolation from surrounding urban fabric</li> <li>Lack of ecological infrastructure</li> <li>Limited spatial integration with adjacent areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential to strengthen heritage continuity system</li> <li>Ability to function as cultural and identity anchor</li> <li>Opportunity to improve ecological and social infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk of becoming isolated tourist destination without integration into everyday urban life</li> </ul>



# Design Node - 03 ulus bazaar

Ulus Çarşısı occupies a strategic position within the district but lacks spatial integration and adaptive functionality. The proposal strengthens pedestrian infrastructure, introduces flexible commercial spaces, and activates underutilized areas through adaptive reuse. Shaded corridors, seating zones, and public interfaces transform the surrounding streets into connective urban spaces. By functioning as a mobility and economic distribution hub, Ulus Çarşısı reinforces pedestrian continuity and supports the formation of an integrated urban resilience system.



Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Strategic central location Strong accessibility Large spatial capacity Potential for adaptive reuse	Underutilized spaces Weak pedestrian integration Lack of public space infrastructure Limited ecological integration	Potential to function as mobility and connectivity anchor Opportunity for adaptive reuse Ability to strengthen spatial integration between nodes	Continued functional decline and underutilization Risk of spatial and economic isolation



# Masterplan

The masterplan establishes a system-based approach to strengthen urban resilience within the historic core of Ulus. Rather than introducing large-scale transformation, the proposal connects strategic nodes through interconnected pedestrian, ecological, economic, and heritage systems. Localized interventions implemented at Suluhan, Hacibayram, and Ulus Çarşısı expand into district-scale networks that improve accessibility, support everyday public life, enhance environmental comfort, and reinforce cultural continuity. Shaded pedestrian corridors, activated public spaces, adaptive economic zones, and continuous heritage routes operate together as complementary urban layers. Through this integrated system, the historic city core evolves as an adaptable and connected urban environment, preserving its identity while responding to contemporary social, environmental, and economic needs.

