

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

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Mayor of Bakırköy

Subject: Heritage Alert - Ataköy Housing Estate (Phases I-II), Istanbul, Türkiye

Dear Madam, Sir, Your Excellency,

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and its International Scientific Committee on 20th Century heritage (ISC20C) are alarmed by the information brought to our attention regarding the ongoing threats faced by the **Ataköy Housing Estate (Phases I-II)**, in Bakırköy district of Istanbul (Türkiye).

Heritage Significance

The complex represents one of the earliest examples of new-town housing estates in Türkiye, and it has acquired international recognition as an iconic example of modernist urban planning and architecture of the late 1950s and 1960s.

The development exemplifies a holistic approach to urban planning, integrating social, cultural, educational, and commercial spaces at the neighbourhood level. Within the housing units, exceptional architectural quality was achieved through meticulous attention to climatic, lighting, and functional standards.

The estate's 90 high-rise residential blocks embody the architectural trends of the 1950s, featuring cubist façades, *pilotis*, flat roofs, and carefully oriented designs that enhance natural ventilation and light. The efforts of the prominent Turkish architects, engineers, and planners involved reflect an innovative approach to mid-20th-century design, marked by structures set in thoughtfully planned landscapes and robust infrastructure, remaining noteworthy in an international context.

The recent demolition of one of the housing estate blocks (F Block) constitutes a notable loss of part of this significant 20th century heritage site, and it contributes to raising awareness about the risks to which the preservation of the whole ensemble is exposed.

ICOMOS recommendations

Twentieth Century heritage remains underappreciated, often neglected and too often demolished through lack of recognition, protection and conservation. ICOMOS is aware that Ataköy Housing Estate still preserves its integrity despite the recent demolitions and urges its retention and adaptation, in line with current efforts for sustainable development.

For this reason, ICOMOS is issuing an international Heritage Alert for the **Ataköy Housing Estate (Phases I-II)** in order to raise awareness about the national and international heritage significance of the site, and to highlight the importance of its safeguarding and future conservation.

ICOMOS, through this Heritage Alert, recommends the:

1. **Listing of Ataköy Housing Estate (Phases I-II)** as an urban site in the Turkish national inventory, to ensure that its future development is well managed.
2. **Development of appropriate conservation and future adaptation** guidance, based on the international guidelines established in documents dealing with the conservation of cultural heritage in general - [The Venice Charter](#) - and modern heritage specifically - [Approaches to the Conservation of Twentieth Century Cultural Heritage \(the Madrid-New Delhi Document\)](#).
3. **Formal recognition of the Ataköy Housing Estate (Phases I-II) as an integral part of the urban landscape** in urban legislation, master plans, and urban strategies.

For further support and action on these recommendations, we encourage you to contact ICOMOS Türkiye at icomostr.20yy@gmail.com. ICOMOS and ISC20C are fully committed to assisting ICOMOS Türkiye with continued reflections and actions aimed at promoting and conserving this complex as a significant 20th-century heritage site.

The Heritage Alert will be published on the ICOMOS website www.icomos.org and disseminated through our social media channels.

Yours sincerely,



Teresa Patricio
President of ICOMOS



Grethe Pontoppidan
Co-president
ICOMOS International Scientific
Committee on Twentieth Century
Heritage

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is a non-governmental, not for profit international organisation, committed to furthering the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of the world's cultural heritage. The ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage (ISC20C) focuses on promoting the conservation of twentieth-century places and advocating for sites that are at risk due to neglect, disfiguration and/or development pressure. www.icomos.org

cc:
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Sent to:

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