

Dossier Editorial: *Urban Transformations*

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The theme of this file is the conference held by Kocaeli University three years ago and constitutes selected and transformed articles. UPAD 2014 (1st International Urban Planning-Architecture-Design Congress) was organized by Kocaeli University Faculty of Architecture and Design in Kocaeli, 8-11 May 2014. The main theme of the Congress - Urban Transformation: Economic, Social and Physical Orientation - has become the current Urban Planning-Architecture-Design agenda in the World, Turkey, and Kocaeli.

The general objectives of the Congress are:

- Bringing together scientific information regarding the international academic environment, Kocaeli city stakeholders, ideas and experiences in urban planning, architecture and design issues in Turkey and abroad academic environments.,
- Taking into account the different types of issues on Turkey and / or Kocaeli, to create academic knowledge base for the use of the institutions and public institutions operating in Kocaeli University-Faculty of Architecture and Design and Kocaeli,
- To create areas and mediums in the fields of Urban Planning, Architecture and Design, which will increase the contribution of Kocaeli University to produce scientific information and build up a regular event scope..

Universities, municipalities, industrial, commercial establishments, construction-architecture firms and non-governmental organizations, which are city stakeholders in UPAD 2014, came together to produce and discuss solutions to urban problems in the academic platform of Kocaeli University related to urban transformation. In addition, examples of urban transformation practices in the World and Turkey were discussed in order to have an idea about the approaches in the world and to share experiences.

Experiences to be achieved within the framework of international examples were one of the main objectives of the congress to produce site-specific solutions.

UPAD2014 was organized around opening/framework speeches, transformation vision forum, roundtable meeting, panels and parallel sessions. SymbioCity/Sweden, which has been developing sustainable urban development models in different regions of the world within the Swedish Development Agency shared experiences and delivered models within this conference in a special roundtable meeting organized with public administration and private sector representatives and academics in the Kocaeli Metropolitan Area. 132 papers (24 international participation) were presented at the Congress (36 invited declaration, 96 parallel session presentations and 14 invited speakers).

Conference was sponsored by; Kocaeli University, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality-Kent Housing, Nuh Cement, Izmit Municipality, Kavanlar Construction, Pekdemir Construction, Haldiz Group, Çolakoğlu Metallurgy, Diler Demirçelik, DASK (Natural Disaster Insurance Institution), Başiskele Municipality, Kocaeli Chamber of Industry, Kocaeli Chamber of Commerce and Welborn Luxury Hotel. The theme of the congress was addressed in its entirety with its economic, social and cultural dimensions, without reducing the transformational problems to the transformation of the physical space. The conference focused on the following topics;

- Transportation and Infrastructure
- Industry
- Tourism and the City
- Development of Service Sector
- Revitalization of Historical Sites
- Disaster Planning, Urban Risk, Resilient Cities
- Urban and Architectural Aesthetics
- Migration, Social Dynamics

The participants included full-paper presenters, organization committee members, scientific committee members from various universities from different cities and countries, architects-planners from private firms,

distinguished invited keynote speakers, researchers from various research centers, and doctoral students from national and international universities.

Opening Keynote speakers were; Prof.Dr. Richard Peiser from Harvard-Graduate School of Design, Prof. Dr. İlhan Tekeli from Middle East Technical University / Department of City and Regional Planning. Transformation Vision Forum covered a total of 18 international and nationally invited speakers within three distinct panel sessions to build a broader perspective.

In addition total 13 international and invited speakers discussed their ideas (8 experts in “Panel for Economic and Political Dimensions of Urban Transformation” and 5 experts in the “Panel for Socio-Spatial Dimensions of Urban Transformation”). Matz Jarnhammar from Sweden gave the presentation, “Swedish Development Agency Sustainable Planning Model: Symposium on Philosophy, Structure, and Approach of SYMBIOCITY Approach”, and discussed how it could be implemented. The conference was completed with the general evaluation session and the “Technical Trip to the Urban Transformation Survey” (Izmit and its surroundings).

K.Harada argues that qualities of Minato City in the center of Tokyo, the port city, the old and the new coming together, the international society, the multifunction, the strong economy build up a strong city brand. Minato has passed through five phases in the last 150 years; The first transformation was the Meiji period (modernization) in 1868, the second was the end of the second world war in 1945, the third was Tokyo Olympic games in 1964, the fourth was 2000 globalization, and the fifth was the second Tokyo Olympics. Harada examines these phases in terms of urban planning and development. Especially in 2020, with the Olympics in Tokyo, the city of Tokyo will be transformed into a world city that will further develop..

D. Atik and N. Erdoğan question the socio-cultural and physical transformation in traditional settlements in their article. A model in the case of Edirne-Kaleiçi traditional residential area is developed to compare design param-

eters in traditional housing areas with design parameters in contemporary housing areas..

E. Karakaya examined the Kocaeli city plan in the context of Turkey’s political structure and urban planning approaches In the 1930s First, she discusses the relation between urbanism approaches that are common in 19th century and 20th century Europe with Turkish city planning practice. Then the general features of the Urban Planning of the Early Republican period reveal the problems and the different revolutions. The article discusses the importance of Kocaeli city plan in this period around planning and design principles by comparing the similarities and differences of these plans with European urbanism models.

T. Erbil and A.E.Erbaş addresses the challenges in transforming industrial areas in Istanbul. They first examine the last three master plans affecting the development of the Metropolitan area of Istanbul, the diminishing of industrial zones of the city as a whole and the development of the service sector. In particular, problems with the planning of the transformation period in the areas expected to be transformed into the services sector in the industry are being revealed with the Istanbul Province Environment Settlement Plan approved in 2009.

K.Arslanlı, V. Dökmeci and İ.H. Kolcu examined the transformation of the land values and functions around the pedestrianization of the İstiklal Promenade in Beyoğlu. It is one of the most successful projects in the world in terms of the high pedestrian flow in Beyoğlu. Especially after 1986, the promenade has been revitalized by replacing warehouses and manufacturing with spaces/places of tourism, culture, arts and entertainment. By means of regression analysis, factors investigating the increase in land values were investigated and the results showed that the effect of distance from Taksim is negative. The article is a valuable guide for city planners, decision makers and investors.

Y. Dülgeroğlu Yüksel’s article is based on the debate about urban architecture when the urban transformation in Istanbul is completed at the end of the first quarter of the 21st century. The

debate is mainly based on residential architecture, which is the predominant zone of the urban structure by attracting attention to urban and architectural difficulties that arise together with urban transformation. In particular, the paper underlined problems arising from transformation practices like “the loss of architectural value of the buildings that emerged with the reconstruction in the urban reconstruction areas”, and “the breakdown of the socio-cultural traditions of residents in the residential areas” within the role architect’s approach to solving design problems.

E. Akaltun discusses the urban transformation in Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar’s literary work “Beş Şehir (Five Cities)” in terms of aesthetic approach. The theme of A.H. Tanpınar’s work is the desire for newness with the sadness of what has been lost in our lives. These so-called lost cities evaluated in the masterpiece are Erzurum, Bursa, Istanbul, Konya, Ankara. *Akaltun demonstrating a thematic approach to the concept of urban transformation, using the theory of modernization by considering the themes of demolition and reconstruction, lost and new, and transformation and conservation.* The author argues that Tanpınar writings are an integral component in the contextualizing and framing of the concept of urban transformation of the concept of aesthetics by reading thematically about the contemporary urban strategy.

N.Erdoğan, H.T.Akarsu, and B.Ö.Çat discussed the ideas of intellectual architecture and utopia, the master plans and projects to be developed in the face of the 2049 dystopic future scenario for the Gulf region of Kocaeli province. The main theme of Kocaeli University Faculty of Architecture and Design, Spring Term 2012-2013 Architectural Design Studio is the study of “utopia” within the scope of the study subject and intellectual framework. The footsteps of the thinkers who opened up new ways of life by establishing utopias in the studio process were evaluated in the article. The students were evaluated through various intellectual phases and produced different architectural design projects in which the imagination of a new world was examined.

E. Koç ve H.Topuz in their article discussed and analyzed legal framework for real-estate principles processes by which users of architectural space and legal public agencies shift their principles in terms of urban transformation. The article covered cases of parcel based investigations on Divided Co-ownership Act, and architectural design projects and processes.

With the articles collected for this special dossier entitled “Urban Transformation: Economic, Social and Physical Orientation”, I am hoping to share knowledge, ideas and experiences in the disciplines of Urban Planning, Architecture and Design, and to share them in academic and practice environments.