

# On informal developments

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## Abstract

Through the last fifty years in most of the world, illegal-unplanned-unde-signed-informal housing/ settlements-informal architectures contemporary vernacular architecture, was produced by using common sense but was created independently from each other. We speculate on the concept “vernacular” once more and claim that informal settlements with its simple solutions, local materials and conditions match with the definition of the “vernacular”. These parasites like informal architectures make big contribution to the planned city. Informal settlements with their way of adaptations and characteristics of growth and may produce motivating questions and resolutions. These settlements contain lessons about ecology, recycling, acclimatization, transiency, sustainability and flexibility which are current areas. In Turkey informal settlements are left to demolition by the architectural intelligentsia and authorities. It is possible to conserve informal areas without losing their quality of life in both building and urban scales. Utopia for some architects has a proposed structure of future cities as collaged views and layers and are provoking a new understanding of today’s metropolis. Most motivating utopian city projects are unfinished, open to contributions, addible and transformative ones. Only informal settlements may be representing better architectural and urban qualities being one of the main sources of architectural knowledge on all scales.

## Keywords

Informal settlement, Collage, Planning, Utopian architecture, Istanbul.

*"People need an identifiable spatial unit to belong to. Today's pattern of development, destroys neighborhoods" (Alexander, 1977).*

### 1. Informal and vernacular

Through the last fifty years in most of the world, illegal-unplanned-undesigned-informal housing/ settlements-informal architectures contemporary vernacular architecture, was produced by using common sense but was created independently from each other. They accumulated and represented similar practices everywhere. If we remind ourselves of the meaning of the concept called until now "vernacular" once more, and if we speculate on it, we can claim that informal settlements with its simple solutions produced by using local materials, local conditions and local lives match with the definition of the "vernacular".

Thus informal housing produced today around the world may deserve the same close interest we already have shown for the old times' vernacular architecture. In this case just like Le Corbusier who studied and drew conclusions from 1910's Turkish vernacular architecture, we may do the same for the informal settlements of today (Le Corbusier, 1971, 1992, 1994).

On the other hand metropolises of today have qualities such as dynamism, liveliness and liquidity. These qualities were probably created by unplanned-informal developments rather than planned ones. In metropolises the speed of this cycle of fluidity-gravity accelerates unplanned and uncontrolled developments. These unplanned developments are like parasites which hang on conflicts in the city.

As a metropolis Istanbul keeps alive

with changes in its inner metabolism and grows continuously by getting denser overtime. Istanbul's formation is being developed by unplanned, uncontrolled, momentary and temporary actions of immigrants more than planned ones. Usually it can be said that newcomers change Istanbul. Istanbul's uncontrolled and self-evolved dynamics create fluidity and gravity. Then this gravity causes new fluidity and dynamics. Everyday open bazaars are erected, many activities overflow into the streets (Figure 1).

Newcomers create surfaces to survive on every street in accordance with their necessities. Stairs-doors-walls are being added or subtracted. Everybody who passes through the city in different times and periods leaves their own trace (Figure 2).

Informal settlements of Istanbul are criticized and continuously slighted and are considered in professional circles as districts of problems. Their potential as living urban laboratories is ignored. But this potential may become the subject of some very interesting questions, problems and thoughts for the zones to be "planned" by architects in the future. We may start without any prejudice to investigate the behaviors and actions set forth by these settlements as primitive samples of relations established with the city.

First we have to be aware of the importance of informal architecture and then try to organize its contribution to the planned city.

#### 1.1. Qualities of informal architecture

Modern planning destroys the existing urban pattern (Alexander, 1977)



**Figure 1.** Activities overflow into the city (Author, 2007).



*Figure 2. Samples of informal buildings (Author, 2007).*

which is based on spontaneous street formation, and enlarges scales in the cityscape, and creates a whole which is not able to constitute an entity with its isolated zones. But informal settlements with their endless energy continuously add to the city new street-fabrics, introduce recycled materials and give samples of integration with the green. Norberg-Schulz too points to the importance of streets in the lives of inhabitants (Norberg-Schulz, 1971) (Figure 3).

When a city starts to become a mass of isolated or separated zones, this new small scale fabric accumulates around zones as lifesavers. The first contribution of unplanned settlements to a city is by site selection or we can say illegal site occupation. By site occupation informal settlements either change existing planned zoning in a positive way or do not allow for “frosting” planned zones as they are intended. They settle next to work zones or hang onto highways. By preventing zone formation, informal settlements keep the city alive. Instead of a model of “dense in the center and looser towards edges”, they provide a bubbling city which is equally dense in almost all of its districts.

Informal settlements with their way

of adaptation to and hanging onto the city, plus having characteristics of growth and change, may produce exciting questions and resolutions which motivate architects. Besides this, informal settlements represent practical and flexible solutions like extendibility, changeability, removability and growth. These are all properties of unplanned settlements that together with their ongoing nature, liquidity and maintainability may constitute potentials to motivate the architect’s mind in many different fields and scales.. Hassan also points out that there are some qualities of informal areas such as appropriate neighborhood planning and appropriate public space (Ghada, 2012). Misselhorn states that these settlements should not be called as slums which is a definition making the inhabitants disturbed and insists on the reality that these are the effective areas of the urban land (Misselhorn, 2010).

Some similar to informal but professional first steps already are seen in certain parts of the world. Providing necessary infrastructure and then leaving the area to be developed by inhabitants should not be seen only as an easy and practical way of development. Environments emerging in this way should be considered as special



*Figure 3. Informal urban patterns: Kağıthane & Güzeltepe districts (Author, 2007).*



places which deserve to be considered as valuable samples to be conserved. Team 10 claims that new city systems might be a backbone and parts hung on it, i.e. a main structure with parasitic unplanned spontaneous attachments (Smithson, 1968).

It is also well-known that some internationally famous architects and some groups developed their philosophy and point of view as well as their ethical and practical behaviors by taking lessons from traditional vernacular architecture (Figure 4). In a time in which the world is being exhausted hopelessly and in an irreversible way, informal settlements deserve to be in the field of interest of architectural students and also practicing architects. These settlements contain lessons about ecology, recycling, retrieval, acclimatization, transiency, sustainability and flexibility which are all current areas of interest in architectural circles. They may be considered as materialized collages. There are lessons in astonishingly intelligent and aesthetic solutions of single building scale as well as in urban scale formation. Because they are formed by the mindfulness of inhabitants, they are respectful to the environment and topographic formations. They occupy the land using not more than their needs; they protect nature in accordance with their traditional values; and they plant trees next to their buildings. So this early stage of informal settlements can and should also be considered as a reference on the urban level (Figure 5).

In our view among all architectural activities of the day, informal settlements, which we may refer to as new vernacular, have a special place. New vernacular constructions have a very special character derived from density levels and respectful approaches to the natural and artificial environment. They certainly contribute to contemporary architecture. They represent the only group which will be the center of attraction and a source for lessons in the future. Very few of today's routine professional architectural practices show sensitivity to nature, climate, and concern sustainability. Towns are being put in a direction that destroys all qualities in an irreversible manner. It is not astonishing that this has be-



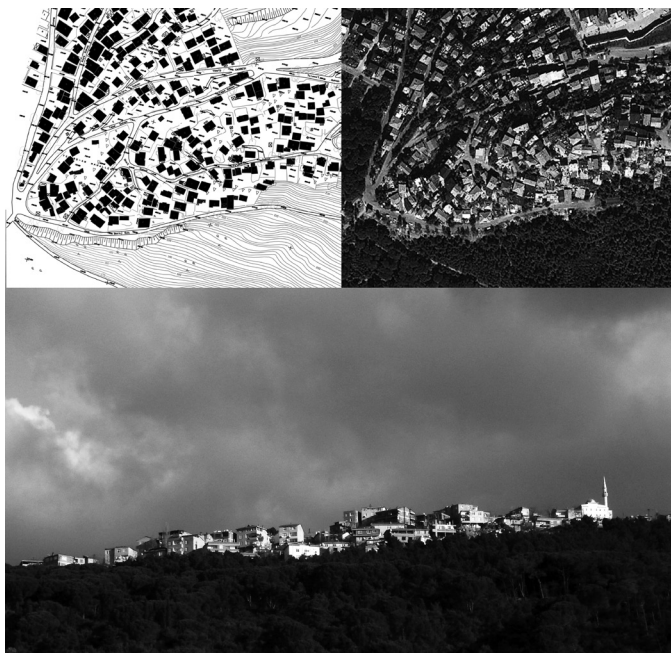
*Figure 4. Drop City and Frank Gehry House (URL- 1).*

come routine. Intellectual architectural circles all over the world are working on this situation. In Turkey, ironically, the only positive way of building in that sense is through informal, without building permits - thus illegally built settlements.

In Turkey existing informal housing and settlements are totally left to demolition and disappearance by the Turkish architectural intelligentsia and professional circles. Thus these areas, which contribute to the urban pattern and life, became places for making financial benefits by continuous 'growth on site' policies i.e. growth by replacing the existing structures with bigger, taller ones. This makes this situation an emergency.

## 1.2. Tradition vs. vernacular

"Surviving" by using knowledge, the city itself, the streets, surfaces, and everything which belongs to the city, by any means and relations, constitute "the lifestyle". Lifestyle gives formation to these informal settlements. The "lifestyle" concept can be a new starting point instead of a concept of "tradition" which does not match with the



**Figure 5.** Informal settlement: Başibüyük district (Author, 2007).

chaotic structure of a metropolis. Tradition is a concrete concept connected to a certain time and place in history. But these relationships, not easily described since in every case they need to be re-described, are reflections of the lifestyle. So they belong to today and to the minds of the inhabitants. Ignoring these new vernacular buildings and only defending conservation of traditional buildings can be considered as running after something without any rationale. Because what we see today as traditional and worthy of strict conservation, were once produced with the local building production rationale just like today's ignored vernacular structures, in conjunction with the time's conditions.

When we look from this point of view, present day vernacular architecture which was similarly produced with local building practices and present technologies should also have value in terms of architectural heritage. Because of financial and technological issues, this kind of architectural heritage is under risk of rapid disappearance. This calls us to action. Informally developed areas should be conserved too. This does not mean reducing them to nothing by sending away the inhabitants, cleaning their content, and renewing and converting them to museums. Instead this conserving act should articulate them into the city in

such a way that their inhabitants who developed them will continue living there with their own conditions and methods.

It is possible to conserve informal areas without losing their quality of life in both single building and urban scale scales. Inhabitants who have gained new status can move and live in other districts of the city. If there are some other places which are not proper for living, they can be documented before demolishing them and thus wide knowledge can be derived from their experience and can be presented for further design practices. Documentation should be conducted as if documenting a professionally designed architectural environment or product.

Transformation of course is the most effective structural recourse of surviving and being dynamic for the cities, especially those being classified as a metropolis. Thus the question is that of how to protect a structural entity which is based on continuous transformation. This question is being asked because of our position against common conservation decisions or perhaps we can better name them as 'conservation orders' which do not care about the end results. The success of this responsibly asked conservation proposal depends on the interpretation of the proposed solution.

The answer to the question could be traced in the sample towns which are protected and have survived. We need to study how those cities were treated for conservation purposes and survived losing their authenticity and afterwards we can derive theories for conservation of vernacular-traditional settlements. Because proposals gain experience after implementation, this approach can be as effective and forceful as the theories which produced them. Thus they exhibit certain solutions.

## 2. Protection and development

There is not a unique total plan, model, solution or approach which can be applied to the whole entity of the city in the name of being consistent and rational. But in fact this is done and advocated very often. An approach which is convenient to the nature of a town or a metropolis should take care



of its timeless, multi-purposed, holistic, structural layers which developed instinctively and should give way to their survival. After all a metropolis is a collage which is being developed out of any controlled and planned frozen situations. Being out of plan is the main thing that enriches a metropolis and keeps it from being a poor and one-dimensional production.

Utopia for some architects has a proposed structure of future cities as collaged views and layers and are provoking a new understanding of today's metropolis. Istanbul could be one of the first cities in which complicated structures, different scales, a multi-layered history, complicated landforms and very many different lives all together constitute a collage. In fact, this assembly is unique. And informal settlements make the biggest contribution to this collage.

When we study utopian city projects, what we are interested in or excited by are the unfinished, open to any contribution, addible and transformative ones. In this sense Constant's collage city images are experiments that bring together the most different elements (Figure 6).

In architectural schools' design studios when experiencing how to add something to cities, this concept of the city collage becomes a main subject of debate. If students can be made conscious of this multi-layered collage then they can produce some proposals which contribute to a city and raise extra energy. Students' designs should not propose brand new, single-sided, single-functional, totally independent, non-recyclable, noncommunicable, buildings which having nothing to do with this unique rich collage, called city. The author's architectural design education studios are being organized as city-collage-montage experiments supported with motivational problems. In this way students can certainly reach encouraging results that also highly motivate their minds. Structural characteristics of informal settlements were one of the encouraging items that provided starting energy for studio experiments.

Developments that were produced related to financial considerations are

being replaced over time by even newer ones because of financial movements through the world and do not gain any special place in the history of architecture. If developers together with some architects build only for property speculation without feeling any responsibility for any other things, this short-sightedness prepares the end of the world as we know it as well as the end of themselves. Focusing only on their own economic benefit and callously sweeping away everything else, even trees, at the end inconceivably displays itself for what it is, callous destruction of the urban environment. Renewal of informal settlements is a common problem in developing countries.

Istanbul has its own distinctive characteristics as mentioned above. The population growth rate, historic background, geography and topography of Istanbul are all idiosyncratic. Thus any universal methods or experiences are not sufficient or meaningful when applied to Istanbul. Therefore Istanbul should provide and experience its own rational and sensitive solutions. But what we see at the moment as planned developments are all adrift from being conscious and sensitive to the existing city and to its future as well as to its very nature.

Being outside of so-called planned and financially motivated, irreversible developments, informal structures are

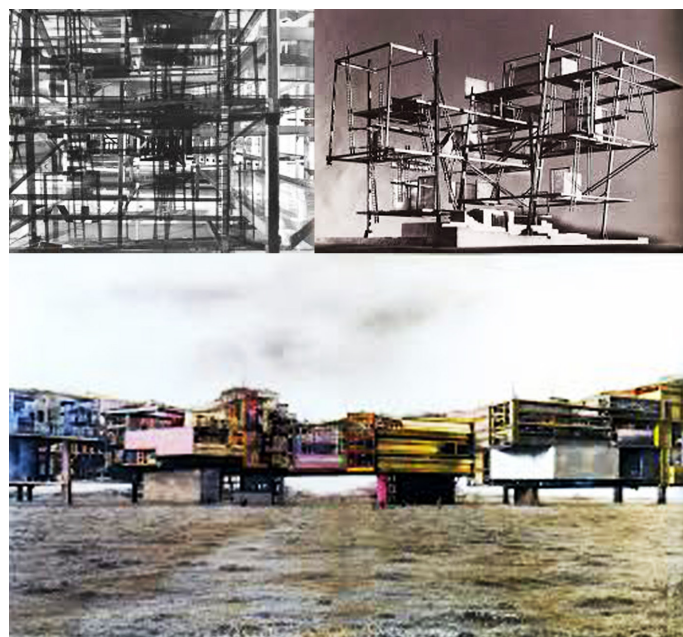


Figure 6. Constant's New Babylon (URL-2).

unplanned but because of their very nature and are more sensitive to the urban experience than planned ones. This makes informal housing very attractive and valuable as an informative and cautionary formation.

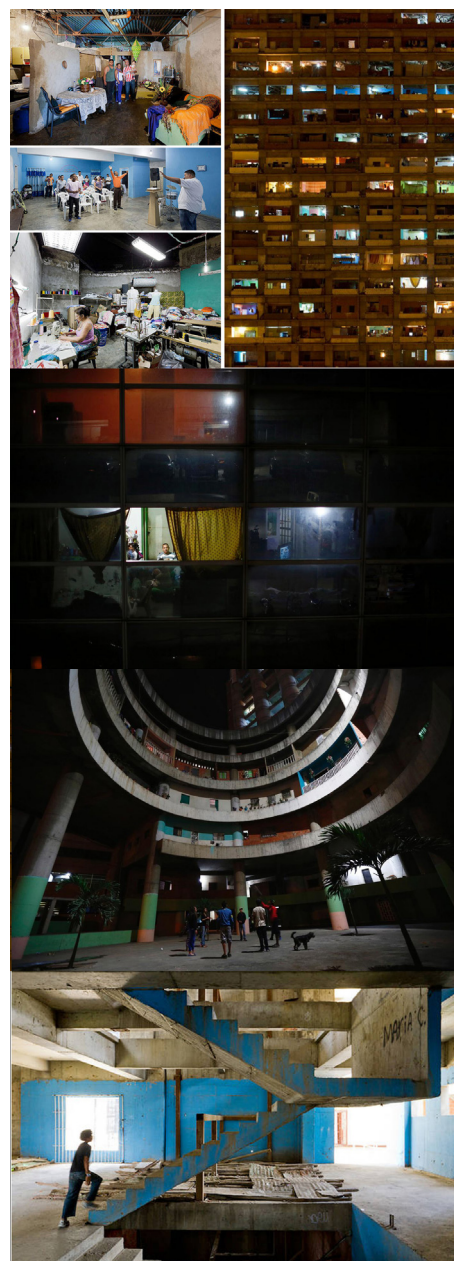
### 3. Discussion

Experiments of 1960's already have shown that towns which are planned by one hand and on one time do not match with the physical and mental expectations of the inhabitants. This kind of cities can not carry the richness and caotic structure of a metropolis. Giant buildings and skyscrapers which planned by the decisions of one architect only can be easily turn to amonotonuous, uninhabitable structure (Figure 7). Informal contrubitions at this point give valuable clues to produce multi layered and rich patterns of liveable environments. We can see this in an occupied unfinished skyscraper in Venezuela (Figure 8). Or even see in the recent examples growing as roof top houses all over the big cities (Figure 9). All those developments clearly show town planners how to plan the future. Just watching these examples can be much more fruitful than deal-



**Figure 7.** Monotonuous, uninhabitable structure (URL-3).

On informal developments



**Figure 8.** Caracas David Tower (URL-4).

ing with questionnaires to gather data directly from participants.

### 4. Conclusions for Istanbul

We can categorize existing housing settlements in Istanbul into five groups:

- Informal settlements. These are settlements formed by the migrated new population's practical solutions and afterwards they have become inner city zones surrounded by newer developments.
- Areas which are developed in middle class unqualified urban districts with lasting design quality and jer-ry-built dense settlements (mostly



renewed informally developed areas).

- Higher middle class naked settlements. These constructions sacrifice trees in their gardens in favor of their car parks.
- Higher class inner-city settlements. These are characterized by high rise towers which ignore the city, its sidewalks and pedestrian relations, lack green space and consist of countless boringly similar apartment units.
- Higher class settlements. These consist of villas and false green areas with surrounding walls on reclaimed areas from forests on and around motorways, i.e. gated communities.

We can claim that only informal settlements represent better architectural and urban qualities. Informal settlement can be considered as one of the main sources of architectural knowledge almost on all scales. Creating neutral spaces and infrastructure by planning and design, can give a chance to the inhabitants to make their contribution which will lead to better and living environments (Figure 10).

When planning to protect informal settlements in Istanbul one should not try to find references to construct theoretical or practical bases. It must be remembered that Istanbul with its own conditions and history constitutes a unique entity. This opens the way to develop peculiar and courageous proposals for its problems. Many times the necessity of referring to existing knowledge easily becomes a handicap for scientific developments by preventing the suggestion of radical proposals. It is not compulsory to reference experimented and approved ways of treatment especially in architectural and urban design. In our view solutions for Istanbul lie in its informal developments.

We can summarize actions to be taken for a better and more livable Istanbul as follows:

- Study informal constructions as potential sources for taking lessons for the education of architects and planners.
- Introduce them to the history of the field of architecture as the “new ver-

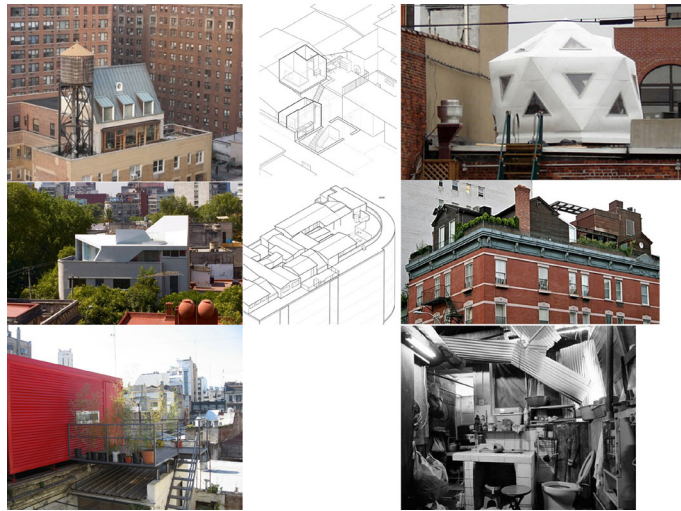


Figure 9. Informal roof top houses from the world (URL-5).



Figure 10. Better and living environments (Author, 2007).

nacular.

- Consider them as places which offer clues for the environments that searched for utopia.
- Take precautions to protect them by letting them survive and by letting them keep their characteristics.
- See them as reconstruction factories of re-use and re-cycling.

If scientific knowledge is continuously produced only to be denied afterwards, we have to be able to speculate over informal settlements.

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### Enformel yerleşmeler üzerine bir deneme

Son elli yıldır dünyanın bir çok yerinde birbirinden habersiz bir şekilde yeni yerel diyebileceğimiz enformel yerleşimler ortak bir bilinç taşıyor gibi çoğalmaktadır. Hemen her farklı koşula rağmen benzer bir çok özellik taşıyor bu enformel yeni oluşumlar. Bu güne kadar yapılmış yerel tanımının anlamına tekrar göz atacak ve biraz spekülasyon yapacak olursak, bu günün enformel yerleşimlerinin, yerel malzeme kullanımı, yerel koşulları değerlendirme ve yerel yaşantılar oluşturma özellikleri ile yeni yerel olarak değerlendirilmeleri gerektiğini söyleyebiliriz.

Bu durumda Le Corbusier'nin Türk mimarisine gösterdiği ilgiye benzer, geçmişin yerel mimarlıklarına gösterdiğimiz derin ilginin bugün üretilen yeni yerellere de yöneltilmesi anlamlı olacaktır. Bugünün metropollerinin sahip olduğu dinamizm, yaşam ve akışkanlık gibi olumlu özelliklerin, planlı yapılan hareketler ve tasarımlar ya da planlama kararlarından çok daha fazla enformel oluşumlardan kaynaklanmaktadır (Le Corbusier, 1971, 1992, 1994). Metropollerin sınırlarında parazitler olarak tutunan bu dinamik ve yaşanabilir enerji noktaları büyümenin hızı ile kontrolsüz ve plansız oluşur.

İstanbul'daki akışkanlık ve dinamiği de yeni gelenlerin yarattığı karmaşa, yerleşme, tutunma ve dönüşüm olarak tanımlayabiliriz İstanbul içinden yo-

ğunlaşan ve aynı yoğunlukla da gelişen özel bir metropol örneğidir. İstanbul'un içinde her gün binlerce akış, kurulup kaldırılan işler, hareket eden eklenen yüzeyler, yeni gelenler kendi izlerini bırakmaktadırlar. Yaşam geçiş halinde ve atmosferler de geçiş halindedir. Bazen anlık da olabilen değişimler, sürekli ve her geçiş yeni bir atmosferle karşılık bulur.

İstanbul'un bu geçiş halindeki durumlarından olan enformel yerleşimler potansiyelleri farkında olunmadan genel olarak sorun bölgeleri olarak görülmektedir. Bu onların yaşayan metropol laboratuvarları olarak görülmelerini engellemektedir. Aslında buralardaki potansiyelleri fark etmek üzere motive olan mimarlar için, bu alanlar gelecek tasarımlar konusunda çok ciddi ipuçları ve deneyimler verebilecektir. Önce enformel yerleşimlerin gerçek önemini farkında olmalı ve daha sonra da onların planlı şehre katkılarını deneyimlemeliyiz.

Modern planlama belirli düzenler oluşturmak amacıyla -ki bu daha çok araba ile ulaşım dayalı kolay akış amacı taşıyan yaklaşım- birbirinden izole olmuş zonalar ve geniş caddeler yaratarak şehri parçalarken, enformel yerleşmeler bu doku yırtıklarını doldurmaya ve yaşanabilir ölçekleri şehre taşımaya devam etmektedir.

Ne zaman bir şehir izole edilmiş ve parçalanmış zonalara dönüşmeye başlasa bu küçük ölçekli durmayan ha-

reket, onu şehrin yaşamına bağlamak için arayı örür. Enformel yerleşimlerin şehirlere ilk katkısı planlı bir bölgenin değişip yaşamasını sağlayan yer seçimleridir. Şehre tutunma ve adaptasyon modelleri, pratik ve esnek tasarım çözümleri ile mimarlara önemli deneyimler sunmaları diğer katkılarıdır. Genişleyebilirlik, değişebilirlik, yenden konumlanabilirlik özellikleri incelenmeye değerdir. Misselhorn bu yerleşim modellerinin asla slum olarak adlandırılmamaları gerektiğini, tanımın yaşayanları incittiğini belirtmiş ve bu alanların şehrin etkili alanları olduğunu vurgulamıştır (Misselhorn 2010). Dünyada şimdiden altyapılarının teslim edilerek kullanıcılarının tamamladığı tasarım denemeleri olmaktadır (Smithson, 1968). Team 10 yeni şehir sistemlerinin, ana bir omurga üzerine asılan parazitik, planlanmamış, spontane eklemelerden oluşması gerektiğini belirtmiştir.

Pek çok ünlü mimar ve tasarımcı grubu, mesleki etik ve davranışlarını geleneksel yerel mimarlıktan aldıkları derslerle oluşturmuşlardır.

Dünyanın geri dönüşü olmayan şekilde tükendiğini fark etmemiz ve enformel yerel yerleşimlerin, mimarlık öğrencileri ve pratik yapanlarının ilgi alanına girmesi gerekmektedir. Enformel yerleşimlerin ilk aşama halleri, hem bina, hem de şehir ölçeğinde, sürdürülebilirlik, şeffaflık, esneklik, geçirgenlik, ekoloji, geri dönüşüm, vb. alanlarda yapılmış örnek kolajlardır.

Türkiye’de bu enformel alanlar tümüyle yıkılması gereken sorunlu bölgeler olarak ilan edilmiş, kentsel temizlik alanlarına dönüşmüş ve finansın yönlendirdiği gelişime açık hale getirilmiştir. Henüz bu yerleşimlerin varlığını sürdürmeleri tartışılmamış, katkıları ile ilgili olumlu tek bir unsur gündeme getirilmemiştir.

Geleneksel yerleşimlerin korunmaları gerekliliğinin yanına enformel yerleşimlerin de korunabilmesi için tartışmanın gelenek tabanından yeni bir tabana alınması önerilebilir. Yaşam stili, yaşam şekli kavramları, daha ortak bir taban olabilir. Bugünün yerel koşullarını, malzemelerini ve yaşam örüntüsünü harmanlayan yeni yereller olan enformel yerleşimleri görmezden gelmek ve sadece geleneksel yaşamın

yerleşimini koruyalım demek olası değildir.

Finansal nedenlerle eski yerellerden daha hızlı bir şekilde hatta günlük dilimlerde yok olabilen yeni yerellerin korunması önceliklidir. Bölgelerin bina ve yerleşim ölçeğinde korunmaları, nostaljik bir yaklaşımla temizlenip, boşaltılıp, kullanıcılarının uzaklaştırılıp arınmış hale getirilip, müzeleştirilmeleri değildir.

Buradaki esas soru var oluşunu değişime ve dinamikliğe temellendirmiş olan bir yerleşimi nasıl saklayabiliriz. Belki kendi haline bırakarak ve temizleyip finansal kaynaklara sunmayarak. Her yerin kendi özel durumları kararlara da doğal olarak yansımalıdır. Her durumda var olan yerleşimlerin ciddi olarak incelenmeleri, belgelenmeleri gereklidir. Korunmuş ancak yaşamaya devam etme başarısı olan yerleşimleri incelemek katkı sağlayabilir.

Her şeyden önce bir metropol, kontrollü ve planlı hareketlerden uzak, anlık değişken ve bundan beslenen, çok katmanlı bir kolaj olarak kabul edilebilir.

Bazı mimarların utopia önerilerinde gelecek şehirler kolajları barındıran çok katmanlı strüktürler olarak yer alır. Bitmemiş ve katkıya açık olan bu şehirler hiç bitmesin diye de tasarlanmış gibidir. Constant’ın önerisi olan New Babylon’da gerçekten yaşayanların varlığı ile zenginleşmiş gibi görünen kolaj da tekrara dönüşme riski taşıyan yatay sürekli bir strüktür üzerindedir. Fakat İstanbul mevcut varlığı, yüzyıllardan gelen birikimi, üç imparatorluk başkenti olmanın bıraktığı izlerle donanmış, pek de farkına olmadan yaşanan özel bir kolajdır. Dinamik halini sürdürmesine izin vererek var olan özel oluşumlarının da yok olmasını nasıl sağlarız?

Finansal gerekçelerle yenilenen alanlardaki mimarlıklar söz edilmeye değer özel çabalar barındırmıyor. Var olan atmosfer, yaşam, akışkanlık, zenginlik doku kaybedilmiş yerine yeşilsiz, yayasız, duvarlı sahte malzemeli, zamanla doku kazanamayacak sadece çöp olacak donanımda yerleşimler ortaya çıkmış olur.

İstanbul benzersiz durumu ile, kendi rasyonel ve duyarlı çözümlerini kendi deneyimi ile oluşturabilmelidir. Bugün



tasarlanan planlı durumlar İstanbul'un dinamiklerini, akışını ve geçişini hiç farkında olamamışlardır. Plansız, minimum, akılcı ve yaşayan yerler olarak enformel yerleşimler planlı hareketler ile kıyaslanamayacak kadar özel olmaktadır.

1960'ların deneyimleri bile göstermiştir ki, bir kişinin, bir seferde tasarladığı yerleşimler, yaşayanlarının fiziksel ve zihinsel beklentilerini karşılayamamaktadır. Bu yerler, metropolün dinamiği, zenginliği ve potansiyelini taşıyamazlar. Büyük ölçekli yapılar, gökdelenler tek mimarın kararı ile donuklaşan ve yaşamayan yerlere dönüşmektedirler. Katmanlı, zengin örüntülü yaşamlar oluşturan enformel katkıların en yakın örneği Venezueladaki tamamlanamamış bir gökdelenin yaşama tutunmaya çalışanlar tarafından işgal edilmesi, ya da dünya üzerinde kullanılmayan çatıların küçük evler tarafından doldurulmasıdır. Bütün bu örnekleri incelemek, geleceği tasarlarırken, yerleşimde yaşayacakların katkıları adına onlara soru yöneltme çalışmalarından daha verimli olabilecektir.

İstanbul'da mevcut konut yerleşimlerini genel olarak beş grupta toplayabiliriz:

Enformel yerleşmeler. Bunlar göç edenlerin yarattıkları pratik çözümlerle şehre tutunmak için, şehrin sınırlarında oluşturdukları ve bir süre sonra şehrin içinde kalan dinamizm alanlarıdır.

Yenilenmiş enformel alanlar. Bunlar, orta sınıfın yerleştiği yenilenmiş ve çok yoğunlaşmış eski enformel yerleşim alanlarıdır.

Yüksek orta sınıfın cıplak alanları. Bunlar, ağaçlarını otoparklarına, güneşlerini ve havalarını yüksekliğe feda etmiş, yoğunlaşmış özensizleşmiş eski az yoğun ancak özenli yerleşim alanlarıdır.

Yüksek sınıf şehir içi yerleşimleri. Bunlar şehri umursamayan kendi çok yüksek duvarları ile kendini şehirden ayıran, sokağı yok eden, yeşili farkında

olmayan, yayayı hiç var etmeyen, kop- yalanmış çok sayıda yüksek bloktan oluşur.

Yüksek sınıf yerleşimleri. Bunlar şehrin merkezinden uzak, orman alanlara yakın, otoyollar ile ulaşılabilen, yüksek duvarlar ile kendini şehirden ve genelde yakınındaki enformel yerleşimlerden ayıran, sahte yeşilliklerle dolu villa alanlarıdır.

Şunu belirtmeliyiz ki sadece enformel alanlar gerçekten daha iyi bir şehir yaşamı ve mimarlık atmosferi sunmaktadır. Hatta enformel yerleşimler hemen hemen bütün ölçeklerde en temel mimarlık bilgisi kaynağı olarak düşünülebilir.

Daha iyi ve yaşanabilir bir İstanbul için yapılabilecek olanlar;

Enformel oluşumların, ders çıkarmak üzere öğrenciler ve pratik yapanlar tarafından potansiyel alanlar olarak görülmesi,

Enformel yerleşimlerin, mimarlık tarihi literatürüne yeni yerel olarak girilmesi,

Ütopik yerleşimler yaratma arayışında olanlara ip uçları sunan yerler olarak görülmeleri,

Onları, yeniden kullanım- geri dönüşüm- enerji kazanımı gibi ekolojik önlemleri gerçekten yaratan fabrikalar, ders alınacak yerler olarak görmek.

Benzersiz İstanbul'a eklenen şeyin de bir kolaj olması düşünülmelidir. Enformel yerleşimler yeni kolajlar olarak motive edici özellikleri nedeniyle incelenmelidir.

Eğer bilimsel bilgi yalanlanmak üzere üretiliyorsa, enformel yerleşimler hakkında spekülasyon yapabiliriz.

İstanbul'daki enformel yerleşimlerin korunması konusunda araştırmacıların teorik ya da pratik referanslar bulmaya çalışması anlamsızdır, çünkü İstanbul zaten tarihi, coğrafyası ve konumu ile başlıbaşına çok özel bir oluşumdur ve kendisi bir referans olabilmelidir. Bu nedenle onun çok özel konumunu farkında olmak ve kendi gerekenleri yönünde çalışmalar yapmak olasıdır.