Editorial

Yurdanur Dülgeroğlu Yüksel

The new issue of A|Z has a special dossier theme on Space Syntax and Architectural Design. It contains a valuable collection of articles, each of which is contributing to the theme as well as to the designers who are interested to use space syntax models as a tool in their architectural design. There seems to be no need to say more to the dossier editor's full explanation of the individual articles in the collection and history of development of the theme. In this issue, also there are a number of theory articles on varying subjects, mostly involving field study or case study.

In the article titled as "Does favorite design lead to good design?: Taxi design competitions in Istanbul and New York City", Ekinoğlu and Turan discuss the changes in both urban and national bureaucracy in the last decades. With the rejection of the rationalist design methods in the Seventies, due to their setting the goals in a top-down approach in defining the problem; the participatory design approach were found by the scholars to fit into the diverse needs, values, and interests and priorities of the people. Such a participatory decision-making was concretized in two different design competition conducted for taxi design in Istanbul and in NY City during 2011 was set separately. The common aim was to increase the quality of taxi service as a mobile space. However, The Concept of Participation has the controversy when majority's choice dominates minority's expectations. Therefore, the article explains this controversy in taxi design competition cases: that is, a good design as defined and agreed by the experts does not necessarily be the most popular design for people, and the most popular design is not necessarily the best-quality design. The article shows us that, this paradox does not underestimate the value of participatory process, as it reveals the tastes and values of the people, no matter how different they may be from those of the experts.

Erarslan's article, titled as "Continuity of architectural traditions in the Megaroid buildings of rural Anatolia: The Case of Highlands of Phrygia" is an attempt to prove that architectural continuity, despite changing times and societies. The case selected for the study is Anatolia. Phrygian highlands. In the underlining study, it has been found out that the megaroid structures are similar to the historical megara houses, with respect to their plan types, spatial organization of the house, functional layout, construction materials, and systems. Thus, there seems to be a regional memory of rural architecture. This is evidenced by the cultural adaptation of the newcomers and nomads by the former settlers' cultures. Such an acculturation and cultural adaptation process explains architectural continuity throughout the centuries, despite the transition from nomadic to settled life style. Traditional house patterns and plans, the megaroid buildings in the region, are found to demonstrate not only the regional taste but also the suitability and functionality of these house by their courtyards and sofas. The article sets for an interesting picture and shows how the Anatolian Turkish house has evolved through overlapping cultures and centuries to become a unique architecture of the region. This article, despite the contextual differences, confirm the continuity of certain aspects of culture, to be reflected in the architecture of the houses in the article making Kayseri houses as case.

Atak and Çağdaş, in their article "The reflection of religious diversity and socio-cultural meaning on the spatial configuration of Traditional Kayseri Houses" examine two different cultures' courtyard houses by using a field study. The methodology is space syntax and visibility graph analyses to inquire into inwardness-outwardness, the determination of spatial privacy, control, social hierarchy within the household, and the degree of relations between the household and visitors. These methods are constructed through the relations of permeability (based on movement) and visibility (based on the perception of a moving observer). In addition, while a very

significant proportion of the houses exhibit outward-looking structures, in terms of accessibility relations. Only a small portion exhibit inward-looking structures. The dominancy of extraversion is expressed to be correlated with the extroversion trend in the social structure in the last two centuries. The authors conclude from this study that the courtyard plays a major role in connecting all units of the house to the outer space; and by structuring these spaces of the house. Permeability and visibility relations reveal the spatial mechanisms of houses and how the dwellers and visitors experience these mechanisms. In the fieldwork, the spatial organization of traditional Kayseri houses are explained by their social and cultural factors. It is found that the permeability and visibility structures of the inner spaces of houses function together. Courtyards, gardens and central halls are predominantly more visually integrated spaces. This study by having systematically examined the accessibility and visibility structures of the traditional Kayseri houses, can guide other studies in future to be conducted a new,on similar spatial organizations.

"Cross border cooperation in Edirne-Kırklareli border region: New institutionalist perspectives" by Sezgin and Erkut elaborate on the border issues, especially after the Cold War. They are justifying their study by the expanding scholarly interest on border regions; and explaining it by the changing status of the borders from being barriers into becoming bridges between two countries. However, tensions occurring by such change are understood to be caused by the global forces imposed by supranatural conditions and EU for the purpose of developing flexible socio-economical and political links between the bordering communities; and by the constraints of the existing national institutions. The local/regional dynamics are inevitably affected by this tension between the two different scales of pressure.. While the article gives an in-depth theoretical background on the theme, it also provides a case study from Bulgarian-Turkish Border Communities. It concludes that such change from competition to cooperation status is regularized by the national institutions, but put into practice at the local level by the creative inventions of communities to bypass the restrictions of these institutions. Only then change could be achieved.

Aşcıgil Dincer and Yılmaz in their article "Modelling road traffic noise annoyance by listening tests", aim to measure the response of the dwellers and their level of annoyance when confronting the increasing traffic noise. Their methodology involves simulation technique: they gave sound clips to their subjects by telling them to assume that they are resting at home and hear the noise put into sound clips. Some of their salient findings include the following: settlement types and geometries can cause critical changes in the annoyance level of the subjects; dwellers with bedrooms across the street are more disturbed by the traffic noise than others; gender difference is experienced and women seem to have more sleep disturbance than men when subjected to traffic noise; and horns and motorcycles are found the be the sources for the most annoyance while resting. The findings carry clues for designers in taking into consideration the traffic annoyance for better comfort of the dwellers.