

Investigation of the Success Level of Namik Kemal Square as a Public Open Space

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays one of the most important features of urban life is complication. Some of them were formed in work environment and activities, but concept of most of them was formed in social interaction. Hence, urban space plays an important role in social development of citizens. Social interaction are formed in these places. Therefore, lack of suitable urban space can create social abnormalities in cities. Square is one of the most significant factor, which can be formed social life in the past. There are several of locations in each urban square, which is creating motivate and attractiveness for users. For example, café, waterfront, sculpture, even an event that happened in the square. In fact, some of best urban square have different small attractiveness that improve the quality of square during the day. According the focus of this research the aim is to test the level of success of Namik Kemal square in the Walled City of Famagusta and to make proposals to turn it to make a successful public square. Namik Kemal square is a historic square, which is located in the Walled City of Famagusta. Famagusta is one of the main cities in North of Cyprus with lack of successful urban public open spaces. Main research question of this study is “what’s the level of successful in Namik Kemal square as an important historic public space in Famagusta?” for answering this question ,the research involves both qualitative research methods including literature survey, site analysis and observation and quantitative that including questioner.

Keywords: Public Place, Public Open Space, Square, Namik Kemal Square

ÖZ

Günümüzde kentsel yaşamın en önemli özelliklerinden biri komplikasyonudur. Sosyal etkileşimde kurulmuştur. Bu nedenle, kentsel mekan vatandaşların sosyal gelişiminde önemli bir rol oynar. Sosyal etkileşimler bu yerlerde oluşturulur. Bu nedenle, uygun kentsel mekanın eksikliği şehirlerde sosyal anormallikleri oluşturabilir. Meydan geçmişte sosyal yaşamı oluşturan en önemli faktörlerden biridir. Kullanıcılar için motivasyon ve çekicilik oluşturmak için, her kent meydanında çeşitli yerler vardır. Örneğin kafe, rıhtımlar, heykel, hatta meydanda oldan bir olay. Aslında, en iyi kentsel meydanların bazıları gün boyunca meydanın kalitesini artırmak için farklı küçük etkinliklere sahiptir. Bu araştırmaya göre, amaç Mağusa Suriçinde Namık Kemal Meydanının başarı seviyesini test etmek ve başarılı bir kamu meydanına çevirmek önerilerde bulunmaktır. Mağusa Suriçinde bulunan Namık Kemal meydanı tarihi bir meydandır. Mağusa, başarılı kentsel kamusal açık alanların eksikliği ile Kuzey Kıbrıs'ın önemli şehirlerinden biridir. Bu çalışmanın temel araştırma sorusu "Mağusa'da önemli bir tarihi kamusal alan olarak Namık Kemal meydanında başarı düzeyi nedir?" dir. Bu soruyu cevaplamak için, bu araştırma hem nitel araştırma yöntemleri; literatür taraması, site analizi ve gözlem dahil ve hem araştırma anketi içeren, nicel araştırma yöntemlerini içerir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kamusal Yer, Kamusal Açık Alan, Meydan, Namık Kemal Meydanı

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DEDICATION

To my family

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Problem Statement

Public spaces are important parts of cities. They are, in nature, generally accessible and open to all people. Parks, streets and squares are typically considered as public open spaces. Public open spaces include squares, streets, and parks. Public open spaces are the bed in which human activities are formed, and human social and cultural relations are established. Urban spaces are part of cities', open and public areas that are somehow the identity crystallization of collective life, where citizens attend. They are the confluence of behaviors and thoughts, and at the same time, the place where some of the citizens' daily needs are fulfilled. Urban spaces are the scene on which the collective life story is inaugurated. They let all people have access to them and work in them. One of the most important types of urban public space is the square or the plaza. It is the most important way of designing a good setting for commercial and public buildings in cities. Activity in a square is very important for its vitality and for its visual attraction. Case study of this research is Namik Kemal Square. Namik Kemal Square is a main square, which is located in the Walled City of Famagusta in North Cyprus. Based on these initial discussions, the focus of this research is examining urban public spaces general and square particular and tries to put forward criteria for successful urban squares. Lack of successful urban public space is one of main problems of Famagusta. Because of this reason, this research investigate the level of

success of Namik Kemal square as a main public space in the Walled city of Famagusta.

1.2 Research Aim, Questions and Objectives

This research first goes through the understanding urban public space and clarifies the urban public space and concept of square as a most important public space and turns to Namik Kemal Square in the Walled City of Famagusta as an urban public space. Accordingly, the main aim of this research is to test the level of success of Namik Kemal square in the Walled City of Famagusta and to make proposals to turn it to more successful public square. Base on this aim, the research question will be “How can we turn Namik Kemal Square in the Walled City of Famagusta in to more successful public open space?”

In the following of main question, will framework of the study:

- What is public open space?
- What are the types and characteristics of urban public space?
- What is the success criteria for urban squares?
- What are the characteristic of Namik Kemal square in the Walled City of Famagusta?
- What is the level of success in Namik Kemal square as an important historic publicopen space in walled city of Famagusta?

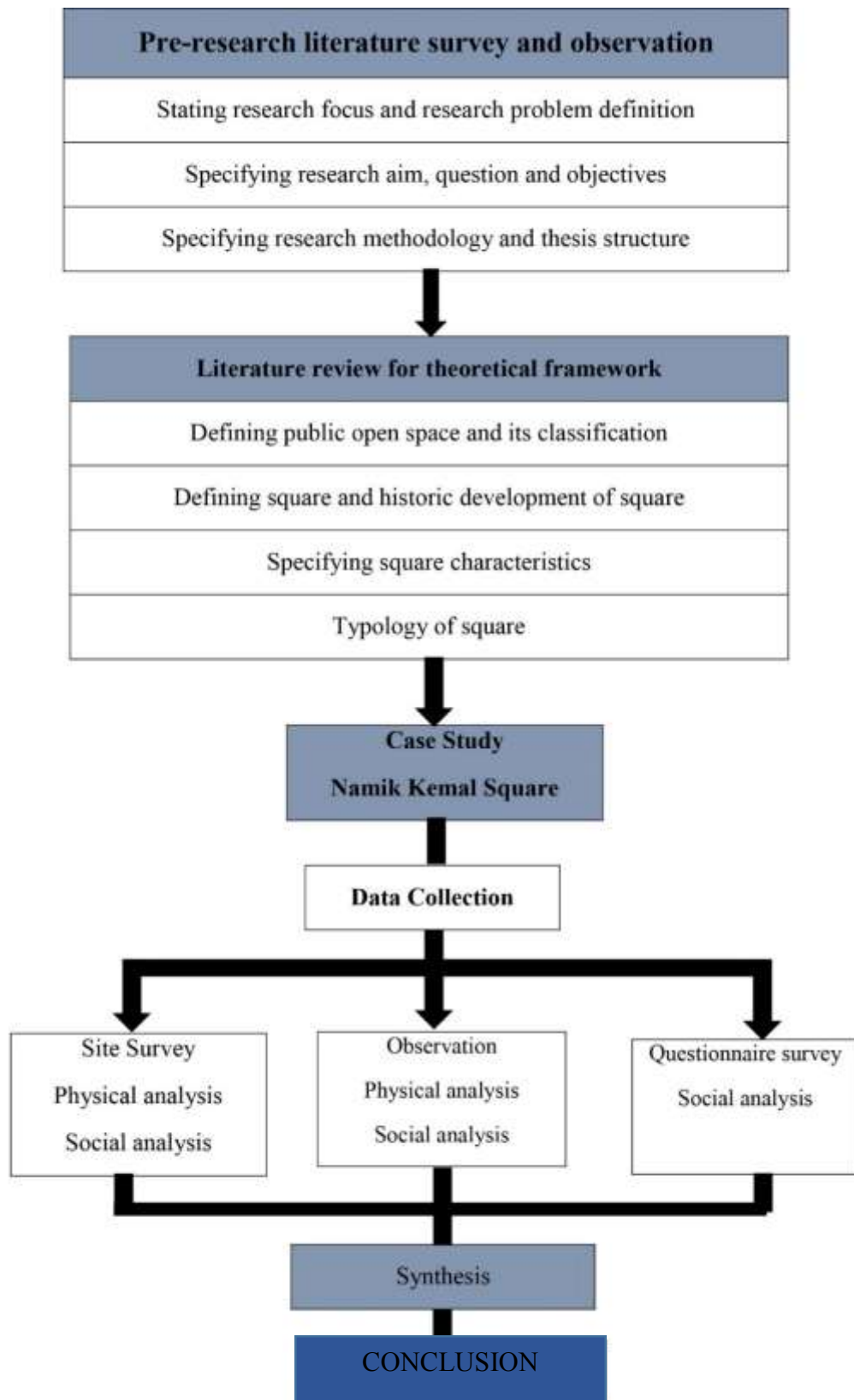
The objectives of this research are, to understand the definition of public open space and its types to evaluate the quality of Namik Kemal square, to measure the qualities of Namik Kemal square as an urban space and to determine types of activities in Namik Kemal square.

1.3 Research methodology and Thesis Structure

The research involves both qualitative and quantitative research methods including literature survey, site analysis and questionnaire survey. Literature survey will include definition of public space, public open space, square and its functional and physical characteristic.

This thesis consist of four chapters. Chapter 1 will be explain the main problem, aim, objective and research methodology. Chapter 2 includes the literature survey on public open spaces in generally and squares in particular. Chapter 3 will present the analysis of the case study according the literature survey. Finally, chapter four is the conclusion of this research.

Table 1: Research Methodology



Chapter 2

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In this chapter will explain the theoretical framework of the study related firstly to the definition of public open space and its types and secondly to the definition of the square concept within the context of urban space. First section of the chapter introduces the public spaces and its types. Second section makes a definition of urban square with a gradual approach in reference to the urban space and public space discussions, and then section introduces the physical characteristics of square, functional characteristics of square and social characteristics of square and types of squares.

2.1 Public Open Spaces

Public space is an integral part of the public realm. The physical public realm means the series of spaces and settings that support or facilitate public life and social interaction. It is considered as sites or settings of formal and informal public life that have physical and social dimensions. The activities and events occurring within urban spaces can make it the socio – cultural public realm (Carmona, 2010, 137). For Montgomery (1998), the public realm in a city accomplishes different functions by providing meeting places, defining spaces for local traditions and identifying meaning and identity (Montgomery, 1998: 110).

The UK's Lord Rogers Urban Task Force Report (1999) says public space should be conceived of as an outdoor room within a neighborhood, somewhere to relax, and enjoy the urban experience, a venue for a range of different activities, from outdoor

eating to street entertainment; from sport and play areas to a venue for civic or political functions; and most importantly of all a place for walking or sitting out. Public spaces work best when they establish a direct relationship between the space and the people who live and work around it (Thompson, 2002, 61).

Public space as a fundamental part of the public realm is penetrating in social sciences and humanities disciplines. Thus, the UK government has adopted the following definition of public space (Carmona et al. 2010: 137):

Public space relates to all those parts of the built and natural environment where the public have free access. It encompasses all the streets, squares and other rights of way, whether predominantly in residential, commercial or community/civic uses; the open spaces and parks; and the public-private spaces where public access is unrestricted (at least during daylight hours). It includes the interfaces with key internal and private spaces to which the public normally has free access.

Cooper and Francis (1998) gave a definition drawn from the work of Lynch (1981) who argues that open space is open when it is accessible; public open spaces are defined as publicly accessible open places designed and built for human activity and enjoyment including parks and downtown plazas (Cooper and Francis, 1998: 76).

2.1.1 Public Open Space Characteristics

According to Carr et al. (1992), in terms of use and design, public space characterized in three main categories. Thus, these places as well as being meaningful– allowing people to make rich linkage and attachments with place, being Democratic – protecting the right of user groups, being accessible to all groups and providing for freedom of

action – should be Responsive – to address resident’s needs (Carmona, 2010, 208-209). A set of features is considered to list the principle public space characteristics and will provide people’s primary needs within the public spaces:

- **Safety:** Feeling safe in an open space has been identified in several studies as an important prerequisite for people’s use of a place particularly for women, children and elderly (Copper and Francis, 1998: 89).
- **Comfort:** This is another theme in urban open space research. Adequate and comfortable seating, solar access, and protection from wind, rain, and other climate elements have been considered as important reasons for open space use and satisfaction (Cooper and Francis, 1998: 90). For Carmona (2010) successful public spaces provide comfort environment for the residents which are measured by people’s activity duration as well as considering environmental (sun, wind), physical (seating choices), psychological (space character) situations as sense of comfort. Physical design and/or management strategies can improve the sense of comfort (Carmona, 2010: 209).
- **Aesthetics, Public art and Perception:** These are important aspects of landscape quality but not understood appropriately. How people perceive a space may contribute to the space use or lack of use. (Cooper and Francis, 1998: 91).
- **Meaning:** There is a growing awareness that use of an open space may not in itself be enough to make a space successful. The larger meaning of an environment for people is an important dimension of urban quality. Applyard (1979) has argued that the environment serves as a social and political symbol filled with meaning. Open spaces can have a larger connectedness for people, as seen for example in the national attachment to Times Square in New York City or local attachment to a central park in

a small town. Some researchers have discussed that people do not have to use the space since it has a particular meaning or value to them. The fact that a space is considered as an important symbol or reference may be enough for people to attach meaning to the open space even though they are not using it (Cooper and Francis 1998,: 91).

- **Control and participation:** The amount, freedom, and control a space offers have been suggested as the basis for people's use and enjoyment of an open space (Lynch, 1981). Use participation in the design and management process can directly contribute to the later satisfaction of nonparticipating users (Cooper and Francis, 1998: 91).
- **Publicness:** Public access is a critical factor to open space quality. Lynch (1981) defines accessibility in terms of open-space rights such as the right of presence, use and action. Lynch's concept of spatial rights provides a useful measure of the effective "Publicness" of an open space (Cooper and Francis, 1998: 92).
- **Natural systems and environmental quality:** open spaces are part of a larger natural system critical to healthy city life. A growing body of research is focused on the relationship between people and the natural environment (Cooper and Francis, 1998: 93).
- **Economic benefits and impacts:** some research has centered on the economic impacts and benefits of urban open spaces (Cooper and Francis, 1998: 94).

2.2 Urban Space

Understanding what the urban space is crucial before moving into the meaning of an urban plaza. In other words, it is important to understand urban space in order to transform it into an urban plaza. Norberg-Schulz (1979, p.11) defines space as the three dimensional organization of the elements, a three dimensional geometry. Urban space, on the other hand, is directly related with people, objects and events (Madanipour,

1996, p.3), where streets, squares, parks, playgrounds and gardens are all voids that have been limited or defined to create an enclosed space by the surrounding structures buildings etc. Similarly Trancik (1986, p.63) and NorbergSchulz (1979, p.11) pointed out the creation of enclosure as a significant factor for the perception of space. Many scholars have been identified urban space with a number of different perspectives. Giedion (2002) identifies space concepts within a historical perspective in three categories. First category covers the Egyptian, Sumerian and Greek space concept, which is created by the interaction between volumes. Second category begins with the Romans, having a space concept same as the interior space. The third category-taking place in the 20th century had a concept of space-emanating qualities of freestanding buildings. Postmodernists criticized modernist urban space concept (in the third category) as being limitless and abstract (Madanipour, 1996, p.9) and modern city buildings as simple shaped volumes, floating in a sea of ill-formed space (Alexander et al., 1987, p.67).

Kevin Lynch (1960) identified the cities and the urban space through the famous five elements: paths, edges, districts, nodes and landmarks; relating both on the physical form and the symbolic aspects. Lynch's elements all together provide a complete image of the city: districts are structured with nodes, defined by edges, penetrated by paths, and sprinkled with landmarks .elements regularly overlap and pierced one another (Lynch, 1960, p.48-9, cited in Carmona et. al., 2003, p.90).

Colquhoun (1989, p.223) defined urban space as social space and built space. While built space concentrates on the physical space and its morphology, the way it affects our perceptions, the way it is used and the meanings it can elicit; social space deals

with the spatial implications of social institutions. Colquhoun (1989) claims that the traditional differentiation of social and physical space depends on the role of social functions, similar to the modernist approach: form follows function. In this respect, he criticized modernists as they see the city a byproduct of social functions and in the end producing one particular type of urban space. He also asserts, like postmodernists, the physical and social spaces should be held separated. Yet he sees physical space as an autonomous formal system (Colquhoun, 1989, p.224). Krier (1979, p.15) also having a physical approach of urban space, identifies space as the form without imposing aesthetic criteria. Therefore, he defines urban space as the external space, all types of space between buildings in towns and other localities. Some other scholars deal with space through a different conception. They define urban space, as it is perceived by senses and intellectual interpretations (Madanipour, 1986, p.12). This approach further detailed by the studies on real space and mental space. Lefebvre is one of the leading scholars who offers a way to fill the gap between mental and real space (Madanipour, 1996, p.15). In order to fill this gap, he introduces the concept of social space, the space of social life, of social and spatial practice (Madanipour, 1996, p.16). He asserts that the mental, physical, and social dimensions of space should not be kept separate. Lefebvre (1991, p.38-40) puts forward the three moments of social space as: perceived, conceived and lived spaces, which he thinks to be interconnected. He introduces perceived space within the context of spatial practice regarding the organizational setting of space and its use materializing such a close association between daily reality (daily routine) and urban reality (the routes and networks which link up the places set aside for work, private life and leisure). Secondly, he introduces the conceived space of the represents calling the moment as representations of space. This is the dominant space in any society, which is the space of scientists, planners, urbanisms, technocratic

sub dividers and social engineers. Thirdly, he introduces the representational space in the moment of lived spaces. This is the space as directly lived through its associated images and symbols, and hence the space of inhabitants and users. Representational space is overlapping physical space and making symbolic use of its objects (Madanipour, 1996, p.17). According to Lefebvre, before the 20th century, the ways in which space was perceived, conceived and lived were interconnected, as was the case in Western towns, from the Italian Renaissance and the 19th century (Madanipour, 1996, p.17-18).

To summarize, the concept of urban space needs to take into consideration the physical, social and symbolic aspects at the same time. Besides these space discussions, place is also a significant notion that is to be considered within this context; since it is a part of space that is occupied by a person or a thing, and is endowed with meaning and value (Madanipour, 1996, p.23). In other words, place is the sensual experience of space. Madanipour (1996, p.23) states that if space is allowing movement to occur, place provides a pause. Norberg-Schulz (1979, p.6) defines the concept of place as; something more than abstract location a totality made up of concrete things having material substance, shape, texture and color . Moreover, apart from these physical properties, (Trancik 1986, p.112) associates the concept of place with the cultural and human characteristics, stressing the contextual meaning based on the cultural or regional scope of the space, as what makes a space a place with a unique character. These intangible cultural aspects of place are fundamental for people to develop themselves, their social lives and their culture (Trancik, 1986, p.113). Place making is significant for the creation of successful public spaces, which constitutes a particular setting in which the social life takes place.

2.3 Urban Square/Plaza

Every society have its own terminology for such urban public open spaces. Italians use the term piazza for a square or open space and in Turkish context, meydan is used to denote a square or wide, plain, open spaces and places of entertainment or meeting. Obviously, all these terms address a common point, which is the open space for public use concept of urban plaza/piazza/square. In this respect, urban squares have a social aspect regarding its public dimension and a spatial aspect due to its physical organization. Scholars further detailed the definition of urban square. Jackson (1985) defines urban square as the urban form that draws people together for passive enjoyment (cited in Marcuse & Francis, 1998, p.14).

According to Lynch (1981, p.443) urban square is the activity focus in the center of dense urban areas. He states that. It will be paved, enclosed by high density structures, and surrounded by streets, or in contact with them. It contains features meant to attract groups of people and to facilitate meetings. Krier (1979) who deals with urban space with a physical perspective, on the other hand, puts square to the center of city design together with streets. However, he criticizes the contemporary squares as being incomparable to the ones created until the 20th century; and claims that squares today should be rediscovered (Krier, 1979, p.19).

Moughtin (2003, p.87) who similarly sees urban plaza as the fundamental component of the city design, defines urban plaza as an area framed by buildings and an area designed to exhibit its buildings to the greatest advantage. Childs (2004, p.22-23) defines squares as designed commons (commons are physical spaces to which a group shares a set of rights. Childs puts three points of square as commons that are:

- Outdoor places enclosed by the fabric of a town
- Of a size and shape that allow members of the fabric to interact as a social group
- Intended as a public commons and regulated and designed to support this role.

They have walls that provide a sense of enclosure. Marcus and Francis (1998, p.14) defined the square with its spatial, physical dimensions as follows; plaza is a mostly hard-surfaced, outdoor public space from which cars are excluded. Its main function is as a place for strolling, sitting, eating, and watching the world go by. Unlike a sidewalk, it is a place in its own right rather than a space to pass through. Consequently, squares are publicly accessible, open spaces, which covers variety of functions in various spatial organizations. Next section will identify the roles and functions of squares.

2.3.1 Historic development of public squares

About 6000 years ago first city were established and city square were formed at the junctions of significant trade paths. Now a day's first example for Public Square is Greek's "Agora". Greek cities there is an important factor for shaping of the cities is democracy. There were all kinds if gathering in Greek agoras such as commercial activities and theatre performances, political meetings, musical games and athletic, (Hölscher, 2007). Rectangle or square was usually geometrical form of agora (Zeka, 2011) (Fig 1).

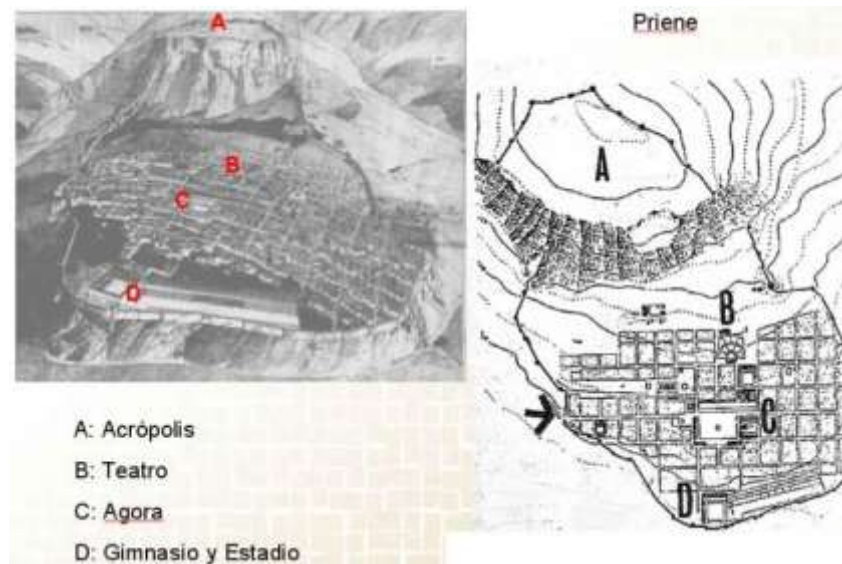


Figure 1. Agora of Priene (Aydin, Turkey). (Source: URL1, 2011)

In addition, the Roman Forum was a great open space where individuals gather for social activities; political and economic (Figure 2). Allowing Mumford (1961) the Roman Forum was the mixture of acropolis and agora and with different activities such temples, shrines, the hall of fairness and the assembly houses (Xing, 2010). Particularly, the forum was known as the heart of the city, during the republican period. Roman Forum lost their users and its importance in last years of Roman Empire. in middle age focus of daily life was on the churches and cathedrals basilicas were changed into cathedrals following the downfall of Roman Empire. Also greatest of the open public spaces were formed round spiritual structures. Public spaces during this period used for commercial activities (Xing, 2010). So open public spaces were used generally for market places and religious ceremonies in middle ages. in this period pizzas and civic squares emerged in some European countries (Ilkay, 2007). There were some apparent modifications in town morphology in the neo-classical period. With the changing economic, political and philosophical perspectives, approaches to planning and design of the towns shifted with the influence of rationalization during the Renaissance. With

the changing economic, political and philosophical perspectives, approaches to planning and design of the towns shifted with the influence of rationalization during the Renaissance. Formal designs and plans were very common in this period. Symmetry and order were the essential principles in design of the squares. Italian piazzas are the very well-known examples of the Renaissance public squares. Monuments and fountains were added to the design to create aesthetically pleasant environments (Fig 2).



Figure 2. The Roman Forum. (Source: URL 2, 2011)

In Baroque period main principles design was hierarchy, balance and axial order. In addition, open spaces design were according to visual and ceremonial effects (Zeka, 2011). One of main samples in Baroques style open spaces is Piazza Del Campidoglio, which is designed by Michelangelo. Baroque perception of “dynamic motion in space” was announced in piazza Del Campidoglio (Zeka, 2011) (Fig 3).



Figure 3. Piazza Del Campidoglio. (Source: URL 3, 2012)

In 19th century, a transformation has been observed on both the character of the societal opposition and the meaning, function, and spatial form of public spaces, which was the result of industrial revolution. Great investments were transferred to transportation projects such as organization of railways. This leads to an increase in interaction and social contact among different groups and individuals. Cities were now offering more jobs and opportunities, so with immigrants cities became more heterogeneous places consisting of different people. Shopping arcade, shopping street, bazaar and department stores were the new emerged consumption places also serving as public spaces. The excluded women from the public sphere in the early industrial revolution period now began to appear in these new emerged consumption spaces (Ilkay, 2007). At the end of 19th century, parks emerged as the natural places for social activities in order to deal with the overpopulation and pollution of cities. The increasing demand to be well- conditioned and the altering quality of relations in different aspects of life have influenced the urban design and planning (Sedláková, 2012). During the next century, we have been facing excessive-populated cities with diversities in welfare level which were becoming larger and larger. Growing number of personal cars and motorcycles were the new occupiers of our freedom such that in the second half of the

20th century crossroads were replaced by squares. An opposing tendency to shopping centers unlike the communication areas has shown the changed public interests. On the other hand, the social relations has transformed from real to virtual world by means of internet.

2.3.2 Physical Characteristics of Squares

Make connection between people and environment is the main goal of designing urban space; especially public space and this relationship is impacts directly by physical environment of public open space, therefore, physical characteristics of square as an public open space must be accurately evaluated (Carmona et.al.,2003.p.106). Physical characteristics of urban square are location, form, size, landscaping, site furniture, microclimate and lighting element.

2.3.2.1 Location

According to Carmona (2010, p.172) communicating people and development of cities are the philosophy to establish a public place. In order to realize these spaces, we need to provide the access route as simple as possible so people can attend thereon and contact together frequently. So apart from the size of the square, the location and its centrality are the main participants to simplify the access. Usually public places like squares are in high traffic path or located at crossing points of many roads. At present time, squares and their connectivity are the main tools, which provide integrity throughout a city. Consequently, selection of the best place to design a square is so important. Contemporarily, it is so difficult to district a number of central places because of the large amount of such locations. That is because the main points of a city have increased and are not limited. As time progresses, central points in a city is increasing. One of the main reasons is that how people live. Unlike the previous, the importance of religion and government as the focus points have

decreased and new centers are created. As a result, the locations where shopping centers are created have been transformed. Working places can be the new centers which shopping malls are emerged beside. Moreover, shopping centers with entertainment facilities can form a central point, which people prefer to go there because of the gathered required solutions and the low free times they have to spend. Today, there is an inverse flow from public places to people, because they prefer to be indoors rather than outdoors. So a new item for design and plan of a public place have been added which states that the location should be selected in a way to encourage people to come to or shorten the path as much as possible. Another words, we are going to say that the best location is the nearest one to living places if possible. In fact people preferences form new (healthy places, 2009).

2.3.2.2 Form

The very first issue about the physical existence of a particular space is its shape, morphology or form. Visual and kina aesthetic (involving awareness of movement of all parts of the body) experiences generates the individual's perception of the form of the built environment (Carmona et al., 2003, p.130).

Built environment is experienced and perceived as a whole rather than with its singular parts, yet however it is the singular attributes that constitute the whole structure; in this respect, Gestalt psychologists states that order and coherence comes from the grouping and recognition of patterns, and to make environments more coherent visually we use principles of organization or grouping to create good form from the parts (Carmona et al., 2003, p.131). Principles of organization and coherence are the similarity, proximity, common ground and common enclosure, orientation, closure and continuity that are all illustrated in the following figure (Fig 4).

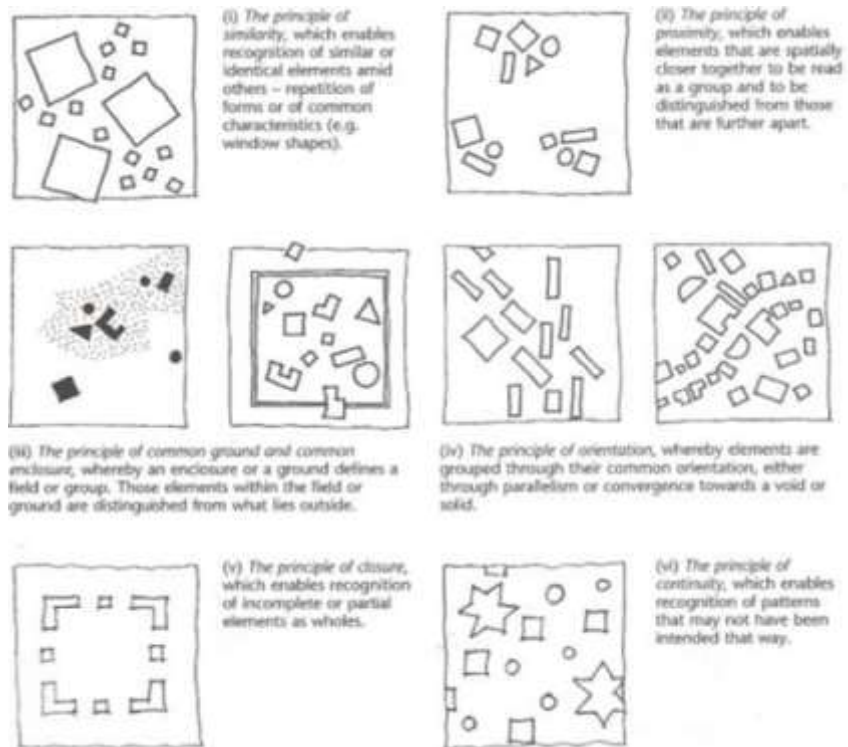


Figure 4. Principles of organization and coherence. (Source: Carmona et al., 2003, p.132.)

Another significant point about the form of a plaza made by Camillo Sitte (1965) in his seminal work, *City Planning According to Artistic Principles*, is the sense of enclosure; where Sitte states that the main requirement for a plaza, as for a room, is the enclosed character of its space (Sitte, 1965, p.32).

The Figure 5 illustrates the formation of enclosure. The surrounding forms define the central form. Although there are differences between a two-dimensional perception (from above) and a three-dimensional perception (through walking in) of a plaza, if the enclosing forms are shaped in the mutual agreement that a volume exists, then we sense the shape of the volume (Childs, 2004, p.120).

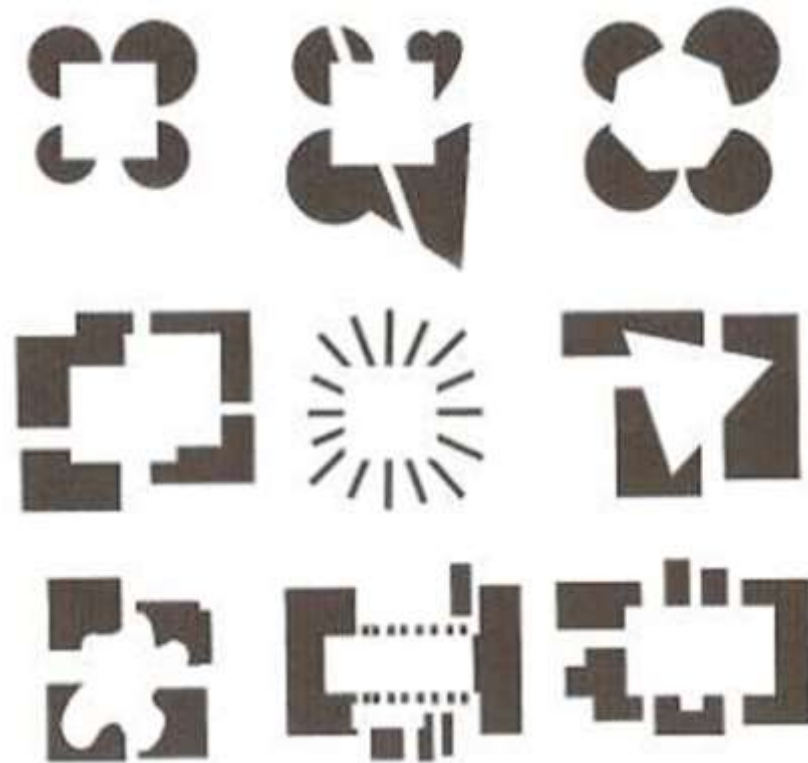


Figure 5. Formation of enclosure. (Source: Childs, 2004, p.120.)

For the perception of an implied figure, corners of the surrounding elements, buildings are critical as illustrated in Figure 6 (Childs, 2004, p.120). Second group with elements having sharp corners creates an image of a larger circle and square, however the first group fails to create such an image.



Figure 6. Corners impact on creating form. (Source: Childs, 2004, p.120.)

Carmona et al. (2003, p.139) refers to Booth's (1983) study on the quality of enclosure, where Booth identifies principles of enclosure through a number of diagrams (Fig 7).According to Booth's (1983) study:

- (a) The singular building is an individual entity taking place in the space rather than defining a space;
- (b) Buildings situated in a long row without having an interaction is the weakest definition of space;
- (c) Buildings situated „at right angles to each other define a space, but a monotonous space would be created if this is overused;
- (d) Relationship between buildings can be enhanced by using imaginary lines that align buildings facing one another;
- (e) Buildings can be grouped around a central space creating an enclosure with open corners;
- (f) A stronger sense of enclosure can be created by using a similar setting however with building walls turning the corners;
- (g) For further involvement of individuals, buildings can be organized as to create subspaces inducing a sense of mystery or intrigue;
- (h) However, the environment created in the previous diagram might result with a disjointed series of separate spaces;
- (i) Final point is about the windmill or whirling square (Sittes ,1965), in which the major point for the enclosure is the design of openings into the space in this respect, streets entering each plaza are organized obliquely not traversing the plaza, but encouraging people to walk through - rather than by - it.

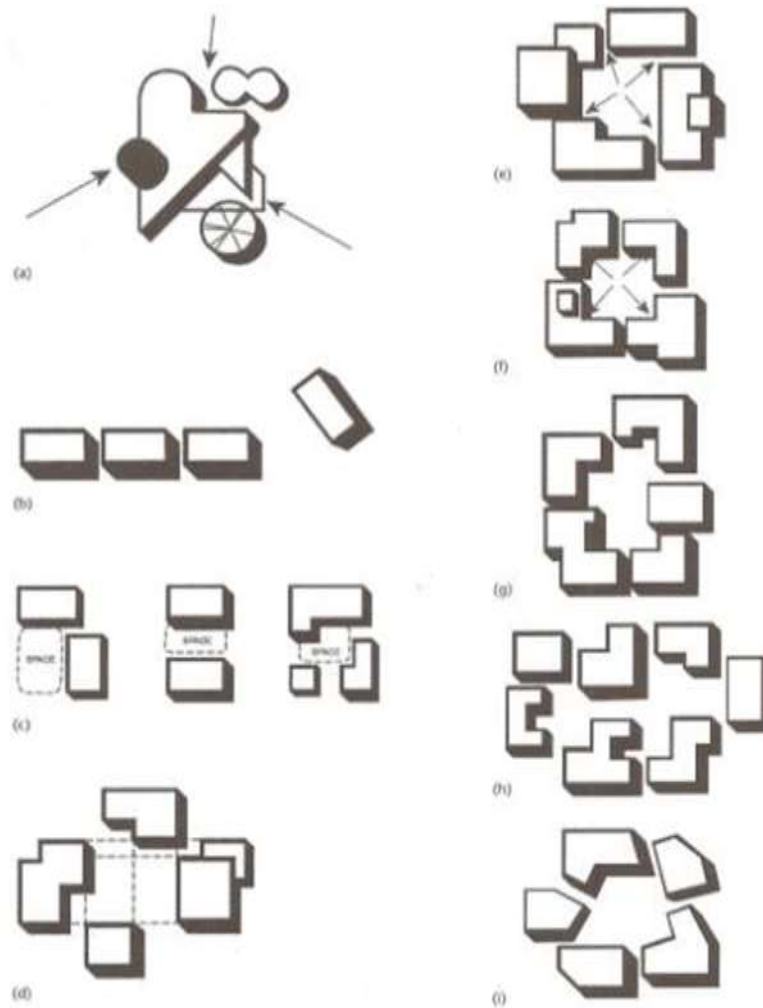


Figure 7. Principles of enclosure, (Source: Carmona et al., 2003, p.140)

Hillier (1996 cited in Carmona et al, 2003, p.173) with a distinct perspective argues that, sense of enclosure should not necessarily be the primary concern of the contemporary public spaces; according to him, the major point of users is integration (connectedness as Hillier calls), in this respect, designers should focus on their movement patterns and create connected systems.

However, a degree of enclosure is needed regarding the form of a square since it creates a feeling of security (Carmona et al., 2003, p.139) and according to some scholar's

people prefer a defined openness (Nasar, 1998, p.68 cited in Carmona et al., 2003, p.141).

Other than studies about Gestalt psychology and sense of enclosure, Rob Krier (1979) made a morphological study with respect to the geometric patterns and developed a typology of urban squares.

According to Kriers study there are three major shapes (squares, circles or triangles) that are to be modified through angling, segmentation, addition, merging, overlapping and distortion; resulting with regular or irregular forms which might be open (to the environment) or closed (by walls, arcades, colonnades from the streets around) (Fig 8).

The number of intersecting streets and position of the entry points as well designates the closed or open character of the square. The shapes can also be modulated by a variety of sections and in various elevations, which in turn influences the quality of the space.

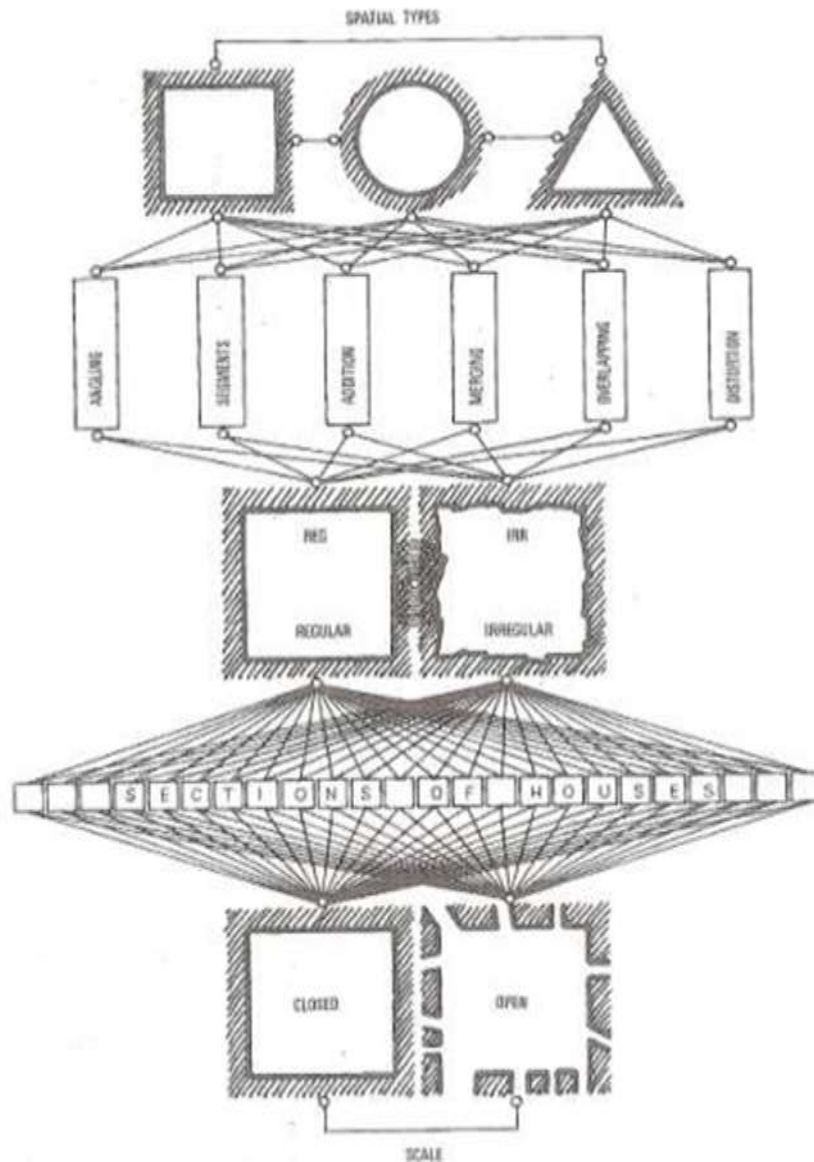


Figure 8. Rob Krier's typology of urban squares. (Source: Krier, 1979, p.29.)

Public spaces are mainly called as squares regarding their shapes; however, there are many spaces within various shapes. As Shaftoe (2008, p.75) argues, curves and bends in public spaces offer intrigue and prospect of something interesting round the corner. Similarly, a number of scholars see straight lines and rectangular forms as unnatural and alien to human beings (Christopher Alexander; Hundertwasser cited in Shaftoe, 2008, p.75). Although there is a great variety of shapes, form is a significant element for the physical perception of a square/plaza.

2.3.2.3 Size of a Square

Size of a plaza depends on the context and the location that the square takes place. The dimensions of plazas represent the character of the space whether it is friendly, cozy, intimate, political, unfriendly etc. (Shaftoe, 2008, p.73). Shaftoe (2008, p.73) argues that very large spaces may feel unfriendly, and too small spaces on the other side may feel claustrophobic. In this respect, there should be an optimum dimension for a successful urban square. Many scholars have made recommendations about the ideal dimensions of a plaza (Lynch, 1971; Alexander, 1977; Gehl, 1987). Kevin Lynch suggests dimensions from 12 meters (representing an intimate scale) to 24 meters (a pleasant human scale) along each side, and goes up to 100 meters for large plazas (like the dimensions of successful historical enclosed squares which is not over about 100 meters; medieval squares had average dimensions of 57x140 meters); Jan Gehl (1987) introduces similar maximum dimensions of 70 to 100 meters and puts forward the maximum distance to understand the facial expressions as about 25 meters; Christopher Alexander points out that the dimension of a small plaza should be 22 meters across at most (Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.25; Shaftoe, 2008, p.74; Childs, 2004, p.124). On the other hand (Whyte, 2009, p.110) asserts that, the size of a plaza does not represent a significant relation with the level of its use; however, very large public spaces may be problematic.

2.3.2.4 Landscaping

Landscaping is a significant component of a successful square within its physical existence, which contribute in ecological and psychological terms as well. Floorscape as Carmona et al. (2003, p.159) call, is composed of hard pavement and soft landscaped areas. In this study landscape, elements will be studied under the headings of hard landscaping and soft landscaping.

Hard Landscaping

The character of a hard landscape is related with the material used for surfacing and cladding such as brick, stone, marble, concrete etc. Creating a floor pattern have utilitarian considerations as well as aesthetic concerns (Carmona et al., 2003, p.159). The fundamental utility of pavement is to provide good traffic spaces regarding a hard, dry, non-slip surface which is aesthetically creating a comfortable and beautiful environment for walking (Childs, 2004, p.140; Carmona et al., 2003, p.159). In this respect, materials that are more durable should be used regarding the differing climatic conditions and the long-term economic benefits (Shaftoe, 2008, p.111).

Paving has aesthetic contributions in terms of introducing scale to urban spaces; for instance, stone paving slabs introduce a human scale and thus make the large, hard spaces easier to perceive (through human proportions) and handle with (Carmona et al., 2003, p.160). Floor patterns can also affect and divert one's perception of a space's actual dimensions by using particular elements and ornamentations (Carmona et al., 2003, p.160). Within this context, paving pattern contributes to the provision of a sense of place, regarding the visual expression of the floor representing a sense of stopping or staying in case of squares (Childs, 2004, p.141; Carmona et al., 2003, p.160).

Soft Landscaping

Soft landscaping is a significant element as well as hard landscaping for creating identity and image of a place. Soft landscaping covers natural elements such as plants, shrubs, trees, grass and lawns. Planting is an advantageous action regarding its contributions to the success of a square within psychological, well-being, aesthetic and practical aspects (Shaftoe, 2008, p.112; Carmona et al., 2003, 162). Planting and greenery served in plazas are indispensable elements for psychological and mental

health of users as they provide a refreshment, relaxation, distress and joy (Shaftoe, 2008, p.111).

In practical terms planting offers a softer environment by covering the hard building surfaces, limits the square space, introduces a human scale, aids the production of subspaces, provides a continuity and integrity within the urban fabric, creates a more convenient microclimate; and aesthetically adds a harmony and generates seasonally changing views and vistas with the variety of vegetation taking place (Shaftoe, 2008, p.112;

Carmona et al., 2003, p. 162-164). There should be a variety of natural elements – such as flowers and trees providing also a variety of color, texture, height and degree of shade – serving for the users in a square, in order to enhance the square's visual complexity (Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.4445). The height of the planting should not be interrupting any user's sight line and prevent their visual access (to an activity space, passer-bys or fountain etc.) (Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.45). As far as environment is experienced through all senses, color and fragrance appear as a significant amenity provided by plants (trees, shrubs, flowers) which should take place within the setting of a square (Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.46). Another natural element, which is to exist in a square, is grass or a lawn area. Provision of grass or lawn areas is also pointed out by Whyte (2009, p.123) as these areas offer an adaptable surface for users where they can sit in numerous positions, sunbathe, have picnic, play games etc. Moreover, lawn users can better observe the others in and around the square over slopes and hills; if such places do not exist they may be created (Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.46). In this

respect, well-organized soft landscaping can make significant contributions to the use and thereby the success of an urban square.

Aesthetic aspect of design should be observed in each part of the square. In order to landscape a square, pavement material and strength, color, smooth, reflection of light and thermal properties have great roles. Prime materials lessen the repair and replacement expense. We can divide a space into many parts and create new areas just by using of different colors. This is a powerful tool, which can make an area as a focus point. Color may highlight a district of space by changing the view from around and there is no need to utilize extra materials for separating different parts. Arrangement of side buildings, integrity and relationship of different areas design, physically disabled or low ability people and control of surface waters by application of suitable piping are the notes should be regarded during the design and planning. If we count the designing tools, the green agents including trees, flowers, etc. might contribute considerably, especially in square planning. They can be used as shades for seating areas. Moderating and distinguishing are two main duties of plants. The plants convert the edges to rounds virtually. They refresh the spirit of life and could be a framework or a background. Simply, they are pretty and accepted by majority of people. They can alter a space from crowded to reclusive mentally. We should pay attention that designing elements must not dominate on the whole project. Selection of suitable plants and trees by the experts according to weather conditions will save the expense and lengthen the green life. Safety factors (e.g. *Taxus baccata*, *Aucuba japonica*, *Viburnum lantana* etc. have poisonous fruits) and beauty in four seasons (*Betula Alba* and *Cornus Alba*) should be observed while choosing. The use of water and selection of how it flows with an arrangement of lights could produce a beautiful view to visitors (Fig 4). Calm water for quiet and running water

for high movement Places are recommended. Sometimes a combination of silence and excitement are applied. In fact, a long time of calmness and a sudden change to dynamism. A closed system to use the waste and used water can decrease the costs. A couple of water, plants and lights are usually used to satisfy people for being in a public place and encourage them to attend there more and more.



Figure 9. Victoria square, Birmingham, UK. (Source: URL4, 2010)

2.3.2.5 Street furniture

Mainly, a top site will show itself with planning of its furniture including Seats/benches, outdoor luminaries, trash bins, direction signs, etc. we have to consider a large number of notes while designing a site furniture. The quality of materials in order to be able to support bad conditions of weather would remain the site furniture unchanged. The order and the quantity of around buildings arrangements should be taken into account. Over-utilization and jamming of furniture for some areas of site might disorder the homogenous form of design. Furniture tools in access should be secured enough not to damage people (healthy places, 2009).Single functionality in not allowed. For instance, short walls and steps beside seats can be used as a place

for seating and resting. People like to contribute to design, so moveable chairs help them to select the best themselves. We can increase the application of furniture by correct planning. For example, someone who wants to rest can lengthen his time and changes to someone who wants to view the beauty of architecture. This can happen by right selection of location and direction of benches. However, it should not be forgotten that function is prior to beauty in site furniture. The visitors should be directed in a simple and not confusing manner at a public place. Aware arrange of signs and lights can help a person to find his object area. A good design of lights can supply relaxation or pretty scenes to visitors. Route design is another key element, which can be well planned. Therefore, accessibility will be easier. In all we can say that an architecture can add a facility to the environment apart from the previous ones taken before and provide a subject for people to talk about. The seats can be place that gathers. This is the beauty and attract of the surroundings. We should remember that furniture is a tool, which leads to object and not the object itself (URL 5, 2011).

Seating

The most significant visual element that is to be provided in an urban square is the sitting places. William Whytes (2009, p.110) pioneer study points out that the major factor designating the success of a square is not the location or size but the amount of sittable space. According to Whyte (2009, p.112) sitting space is most certainly prerequisite. Whatever the attractions of a space, it cannot induce people to come and sit if there is no place to sit. As far as squares, plazas are gathering, pausing and resting places (apart from serving for the activities such as walking through), a variety of sitting, leaning and resting opportunities should be provided (Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.39). Whyte (2009, p.110) states that people tend to sit most where there are places to sit, however there is a diversity between users of a square in terms of where they would

like to sit (such as on the edge looking out, on the edge looking in, around square edges, on islands, or in secluded alcoves) (Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.40). The right type of seating should be placed in the right place according to those varying demands (in terms of both location and form of seating) (Fig 10).



Figure 10. Variety of the sitting preferences (Source: adapted from Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.40.)

People generally prefer to sit „not too close to traffic and sidewalks and not too close to building entries and mainly select the edge of the squares at first (Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.39). Pointing out the feeling of security that enclosure provides, Alexander et al (1987, p.521) similarly state that when a person looks for a place to sit down outdoors, he rarely chooses to sit exposed in the middle of an open space – he usually looks for a tree to put his back against; a hollow in the ground, a natural cleft which will partly enclose and shelter him. Places to sit: Primary and secondary sitting places
 Primary sitting places are provided formally in the squares like benches and chairs. Secondary sitting places on the other hand, are provided informally in term of steps, ledges, building walls, planter-bed edges, mounds of grass etc. Such secondary sitting places contribute to the presentation of a square by providing a balance in its empty look when there is a few people in the place; instead of the look, which is intimidating

and unwelcoming when the plaza is only composed of a row of benches (Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.40).

Style of the sitting places is another point to be mentioned. There are various styles serving for the different settings of plazas. Most common sitting places are benches, steps and ledges and table seating, however there is no one size fits all (Shaftoe, 2008, p.94).

Benches may be designed either backed (with a backside protection) or backless. The ones with protection in the backside may be convenient for the elderly (Shaftoe, 2008, p.94), and on the other hand, the backless ones may contribute to the generation of social interactions through social groupings and sight lines (Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.41).

Table-sitting places are also significant since they provide suitable and comfortable spaces for outdoor eating and drinking facilities and the ones with umbrellas or roof provide shelter for people from sun and rain (Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.42-43). They can provide surfaces for other facilities as well, for instance there may be tables with built-in game boards which can attract users (Child, 2004, p.157).

Steps and ledges are the simplest places to sit but the best places that can offer many sitting options (Shaftoe, 2008, p. 94; Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.41). As Childs (2004, p.157) argues these places suggest a different set of social possibilities than do chairs and tables. Other than steps, the corners of pools and planter-bed edges are used for sitting as well. Consequently, the more articulated the edges and ledges are, the more they will probably be used (Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.41).

The materials of the provided sitting places should also be responsive to the environmental conditions. Wood is a soft, warm and thermally appropriate and smooth material; yet metal and such other materials are harder and uncomfortable (Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.44; Childs, 2004, p.158). However, concrete, tile and stone may also be used as a sitting place material, because it can provide a warm seat on a cool evening or a cool seat on a warm morning (Childs, 2004, p.158).

Orientation is a crucial point as well as the material and the type of seating which is about both the people watching what while sitting (the passerby, water, foliage, distant views, nearby programs etc. In addition, organization according to sun and shade (not only regarding the season, but also regarding individuals personal conditions (Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.43; Shaftoe, 2008, p.94). In this respect, Shaftoe (2008, p.94) states that in northern climates they [sitting places] should be south facing to catch the sun; in southern climates the converse is true. They should also offer some kind of spectacle – usually a street scene – as steps in particular make an ideal grandstand. Moveable seating is also recommended by Whyte (2009, p.123) as an alternative but exciting opportunity which make users free in terms of creating sitting places in various positions as they wish. These sitting places are generally supposed to take place in secured areas, yet there are a number of instances where moveable seats are provided and have successfully contributed to the use of plazas (Shaftoe, 2008, p.102).

Shaftoe (2008, p.96) also points out the notion of observation as an enjoyable activity (signifying that users would like to observe other people), thereby Shaftoe emphasizes vantage points being significant components in the whole setting of plazas and sitting places should be designed considering this kind of a use. Leaning is a type of a

pedestrian activity, which can also take place in a square that people would prefer when they do not want to sit aside, but they would like to observe the scene within a standing position (Shaftoe, 2008, p.104; Childs, 2004, p.158).

Squares should provide spaces for leaning such as a piece of public art, plinth, bollards, parking meters, lampposts or suitable walls (Shaftoe, 2008, p. 104; Childs, 2004, p. 158). To conclude, seating is probably the most significant component of a successful square; and in this respect should be provided within various forms, styles and materials. A variety of seating places can be provided in different subspaces of a square, provision of moveable seating opportunities may attract users and child-size tables and chairs may draw on children's attention (Childs, 2004, p.157).

2.3.2.6 Microclimate

The fundamental aim of a successful square is to assure the comfort of its users; unless squares are comfortable, they will not be preferred and used. Such climatic elements as sun, shade, temperature, rain, snow, wind, and humidity affect the user's feeling of comfort (Carmona et al., 2003, p.185; Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.32).

Microclimate, having influences on users comfort (in terms of feeling warmth or coolness), can be designed through proper organization of streets and buildings around the square and use of landscape elements as well (Carmona et al., 2003, p.185). Public spaces should reach to the maximum level of sunlight (daylight), concurrently a shading shelter should be provided for the sun and protection from cold and wind. Introduction of sunlight into a space makes that space more delightful and enjoyable; however, the preferred amount of sun or shade varies depending on the seasons (Carmona et al., 2003, p.185; Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.32). Orientation and

overshadowing are the two principal issues about sun and shade to be considered (Carmona et al., 2003, p.185). In terms of orientation, for instance, in northern climates, places should be south facing to catch the sun; in southern climates, the converse should be provided. In places with hot summers, shade may be obtained through vegetation and surrounding buildings. Deciduous trees, in this respect, provide an advantageous position both allowing light in winter when sheds its leaves and creating shade in summer (Carmona et al., 2003, p.186). Places with high summer temperatures, provision of shaded areas should particularly be considered, especially for elderly and children who are critical regarding the sun expose (Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.33). On the other hand, spacing between buildings and between buildings and trees is critical and should be considered in terms of overshadowing (Carmona et al., 2003, p.186), and additionally solar access analysis should be prepared while the design of a square (Marcus & Francis,1998, p.34).

Wind as another critical climatic element is influential on the users feeling of comfort. When in relatively hot spots and humid climates, wind serves as a tool for cooling the environment, however in cold temperatures or excessive windiness, it makes users rather uncomfortable (Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.33). As previously mentioned above, proper design of buildings and streets, together with landscape elements, can contribute to the air-ventilation of the environment (Carmona et al., 2003, p.186-187). For the no humid (droughty) spaces, apart from arrangements about wind and sun, use of water elements may be effective (Carmona et al., 2003, p.187). Such climatic elements as wind and sun should be taken into account during the design processes, in order to create usable and successful squares. Design of buildings and their relations with each other, along with landscaping should be critically considered.

2.3.2.7 Lighting

Lighting is a significant physical element that influences the use and contributes to the success of squares especially during nighttime. The lighting of a square should provide a sense of welcome and should ensure safety and security. Lighting for town squares must form a balance between good seeing conditions over the entire area and a light pattern that provides an attractive and welcoming visual environment (Phillips, 2002 cited in Ünver, 2009, p.59). The lighting of a square also aid creating image and identity of a place (Carmona et al., 2003, p.187). Access of natural daylight into a square allowing various play of light makes significant aesthetic contributions (Carmona et al, 2003, p.187); similarly particular night lighting creates interest in the place and stimulates a sense of discovery (Phillips, 2002 cited in Ünver,2009, p.59).

2.3.2.8 Visual Complexity of a Square: Visual and Aesthetic Elements

According to many studies on visual complexity, visual and aesthetic elements (such as seating and landscape elements) are significant components of a successful plaza in physical terms (Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.25). Alexander et al. (1977) point out center and edge as the major design foci in a public space noting that without a middle a public space is quite likely to stay empty (1977, p.606); and the life of a public square forms naturally around its edge. If the edge fails, then the space never becomes lively (1977, p.600). Visual and aesthetic elements taking place in center and edge of a square are as follows, seating; hard and soft landscaping such as paving, planting (natural elements); street furniture; shelter and protection (microclimate); subspaces; lighting, human scale and public art.

2.3.3 Functional Characteristics of Urban Squares

This part of the study focuses on the roles and functions of contemporary urban squares. It gives brief information about reasons of using a square and identifies the utilities that squares provide. Urban squares have a variety of roles and functions since they are the essential forms of public spaces that attract large number of people with a wide range of activities. Looking at the agora of Ancient Greece sets out the basic roles and functions of a plaza. William Whyte (2009, p.339) quotes from R. E. Wycherley's (1969) study of the agora, in order to highlight the "parallel" roles that are still considerable today. Wycherley (1969) writes as follows: A fairly open space was all that was needed. A roughly central site was adopted, since the agora had to provide a convenient focus for the city life in general and for the main streets. The same free space sufficed for all kinds of purposes. Here people could assemble to be harangued; the only equipment needed was some sort of tribune for the speakers, and possibly seats for men of dignity. In time, some administrative buildings were included; open colonnade with a general-purpose structure, served as a place for shops. Whyte (2009, p.339) states that the agora was a sociable space since it allowed one to amble through and pause to chat with a friend under the shading trees and it provides a number of convivial places at which to stop. Whyte puts out such major roles of agora as political, economic and social roles, pointing that they are valid even today. With the idea of agora in mind, the contemporary roles of squares will subsequently be identified. Urban Square is a place where people gather and fulfill their variety of social, cultural, political and economic needs. It is a place where people have positive social interactions, meet each other, have lunch, hold a friendly chat, watch the world go by, read something, rest for a while or shop around. Besides, urban plazas are the stages

of political debates yet today this is not the main function as it used to be (Tavakolian, 1990, p.3; Whyte, 2009, p.339).

In general, similar to the overall public spaces, an urban square has physical, ecological, psychological (including mental health and wellbeing), social (including learning experiences and human communication), and political, economic and symbolic (Akkar Ercan, 2007, p.115-119; Shaftoe, 2008, p.12-15; Tavakolian, 1990, p.10-17).

2.3.3.1 Psychological Roles

Together with the ecological roles, squares contribute to the mental health and wellbeing of the people by their psychological roles. Some research shows that increasing health problems like obesity or heart disease are resulting from more sedentary lifestyles (National Heart Forum et al. 2007, Ward Thompson and Travlou, 2007, cited in Shaftoe, 2008, p.12).

Moreover, squares assure social communication and greenery, which are indispensable elements for psychological and mental health of human beings since they provide a relief, relaxation and distress (Carr et al. 1992, cited in Akkar Ercan, 2007, p.117). As Shaftoe (2008, p.12) points out, this is presumably why people go mad when held in solitary confinement and why this is used as the cruelest form of punishment. Plazas provide convenient places for outdoor activities and social interactions and thus contribute to the psychological, mental health and wellbeing of people.

2.3.3.2 Political Roles

A square being a public space incorporates also political roles. It constitutes an effective medium for political action (Tavakolian, 1990, p.16). Plazas, as gathering

spaces available/accessible for everyone and belonging to public, are locations of democracy (Shaftoe, 2008, p.15; Akkar Ercan, 2007, p.117). They provide convenient places for political participation and public discussions in order to voice both solidarity and dissent (Shaftoe, 2008, p.15; Akkar Ercan, 2007, p.118; Tavakolian, 1990, p.16).

2.3.3.3 Access & Linkage

Accessibility is another major point contributing to the success of a public space. Location of a square directly influences the accessibility regarding whether it is located within a close distance to main pedestrian and vehicular traffic routes and transportation nodes (referring to the accessibility of the square by all means of transport (vehicular), but not being dominated by them) (Shaftoe, 2008, p.140). Whyte (2009, p.129) introduces a visual accessibility concept apart from physical accessibility for the catchment of people. In other words, the visual access (visibility) of an urban square is important for the society's utilization from the square (Marcus & Francis, 1998, p.32).

2.3.3.4 Economic Roles

Economic roles are the most significant roles of a square since the Greek agora. Squares have been primary locations of commerce and economic activities (Whyte, 2009; Gehl, 1987, Akkar Ercan, 2007). There is such a strong bond between squares and commercial facilities. Although specific locations in towns are provided for commercial activities to take place, this bond remained the same since the squares are major people attractors and generating financial benefits (Akkar Ercan, 2007, p.118; Shaftoe, 2008, p.14). Additionally, squares provided that in good conditions increase the economic value of the surrounding lands and properties and consequently are good for business (Shaftoe, 2008, p.14; Akkar Ercan, 2007, p.118).

2.3.3.5 Symbolic Roles

Symbolic roles associated with squares are common throughout the history. The symbolic meaning dedicated to a place is the most significant element for its perception (Moughtin, 2003, p.88). The concept of identity in this respect is directly related with symbolic roles of a plaza. According to Lynch (1960, p.8) identity represents a particularity of an object in the whole context with the meaning of individuality or oneness. The awareness of people about their surrounding environments are strongly related with the architectural and urban forms and the meanings they attribute to them. Therefore, squares can give identity to the places, with their particularity as a form of urban public space, where they are located (Akkar Ercan, 2007, p.118; Moughtin, 2003, p.88). For instance, Piazza San Marco in Venice, the Spanish Steps in Rome or the Trafalgar Square in London are regarded as the public images of their cities (Akkar Ercan, 2007, p.118). Squares furthermore can become distinct places for a group of people or a society within which, there exists such a collective cultural, historical, religious or other social and political values for them (Akkar Ercan, 2007, p.118-119). Symbolic roles of a square in this context contribute to the continuity of a group or society and enhance the ties between the members (Akkar Ercan, 2007, p.119).

2.3.4 Social Characteristics of Squares

Sociability in square is based on peoples need to affiliate and interact with others. This affiliation involves people participating in a supportive social system in order to acquire psychological comfort (Lang 1994).sociability is also related to the public life a place, which will be discussed further in this section. Squares should provide opportunities for people to interact and engage. This interaction may occur at different levels of people involvement, which will depend on the condition of squares. Public Square have an important role in a community life, which could enhance the people

satisfaction, experience and enjoyment of outdoors setting of a city. Comfort, safety and security, relaxation, passive and active engagement and discovery are six main factors for social characteristic of squares (Carr, & Francis, 1992).

2.3.4.1 Comfort

Comfort appears as the primary concern of the successful squares regarding its effect on the use of a place. Behavioral and psychological experience of comfort is realized through the provision of microclimatic conditions physical elements Whyte (2009). Moreover, psychological satisfaction (Carmona et al. 2003, p.166; Shaftoe, 2008, p.60). Comfort of a space can be developed by means of physical design and management strategies (Carmona et al., 2003, p.166).

2.3.4.2 Safety and Security

Carr et al. (1992, p.97) states that social and psychological comfort is a deep and pervasive need that extends to people's experiences in public spaces. It is a sense of security, a feeling that one's person and possessions are not vulnerable. In this respect, it could be argued that there is a relationship between comfort and safety and security. Once an individual experiences a comfortable sitting place and senses that he is in a safe environment, this delineates the relationship (Shaftoe, 2008, p.60). A safe and secure environment is generated through providing spaces with firstly minimized crime opportunities and antisocial behavior; and on the other hand, providing maximized help options in any safety threats (Shaftoe, 2008, p.60). Developing safety and security conditions results with the increase in the comfort of the space; therefore in order to sustain the comfort regarding the safe environment of a square various managerial (such as the use of a security personnel) and physical design (providing visual access into the square) strategies may be adopted (Carr et al, 1992, p.97).

2.3.4.3 Relaxation

Relaxation is directly related with psychological comfort, yet it is a more developed state with the body and mind at ease (Carr et al., 1992, p.98). Various studies show that individuals look for physical settings particularly for relaxing and resting. However, relaxation does not need to be the major concern of every public space design (Carr et al., 1992, p.104). A relaxing environment can be created with the proper use of natural elements (trees, grass, water elements) and segregation of site from the vehicular traffic; but both provision of visual access into the space (regarding the natural elements) and safety and security concerns (regarding the separation of the space from the Surrounding environment and traffic) should be taken into consideration (Carmona et al., 2003, p.166).

2.3.4.4 Passive Engagement

Passive engagement with the environment, although it is related with creating relaxation up to a degree, implies that the person takes place in the environment, but does not present an active role (Carr et al., 1992, p.105). People-watching (observing others without eye contact) is the major type of passive engagement that can be actualized commonly in public spaces; other means of passive engagement are offered along fountains, views, public art and sitting, reading, observing performers etc. (Carmona et al., 2003, p. 166; Francis, M., 2003, p.23). Passive engagement makes significant contributions to the success of a square by introducing vitality to the place, which is a crucial aspect according to Montgomery (1998, p.96) referring to the number of people around the place. In this respect, passive engagement like observing others attracts people and consequently, people attract more people. On the other hand, being in the presence of other human beings is reassuring (Shaftoe, 2008, p.66).

2.3.4.5 Active Engagement

In active engagement with the environment, there is a more physical and direct interaction among users and place, and between users – within each other (Carr et al., 1992, p. 1992). Being among other people in a public space provides chances of social interaction. Gehl (1987, p.18-19) introduces a scale of contact forms ranging from passive contacts to chance contacts, acquaintances, friends and close friendships; which is in other words, ranging from being alone to being together . Other than, the satisfaction gained with passive engagement through people-watching, one may prefer being together and want to create a more direct contact whether with friends, family or strangers (Carr et al., 1992, p.119).

In this respect, Carmona et al. (2003, p. 167) states that successful public spaces provide opportunities for varying degrees of engagement, and also for disengagement from contact ; such design elements as fountains, seating elements, sculptures, statues (public art) , kiosks etc. and activities should be considerably organized in order to induce social interaction and thus, active engagement. This is what Whyte (2009, p.154) calls triangulation the process by which some external stimulus provides a linkage between people and prompt strangers to talk to other strangers as if they knew each other. Previously mentioned elements can be designed in a setting that individuals would have an excuse to talk to other people they do not know.

2.3.4.6 Discovery

Discovery is related with feelings of curiosity and excitement that will make people come to a place; therefore it depends on variety and change in the organization of the space (Carmona et al., 2003, p.168). There is also a kind of mystery in the place that

stimulates the experience of discovery (Carr et al., 1992, p.135). The setting of space may take a variety of forms according to seasonal changes, management strategies, and animation such as concerts, art exhibitions, street theatre, festivals, society events etc. (Carmona et al., 2003, p.168).

2.3.4.7 Joy

Within the context of previously mentioned behavioral and psychological needs of people to use a place, the need of joy appears as a concluding and complementing aspect for the comprehension of the successful squares. Each of the needs that are pointed out, in a sense, aims at attaining joy in the end. For instance, people watching in terms of passive engagement and actively having further interactions with others create joy up to a degree, however this can be enhanced by providing focal points to draw people in and encourage them to linger (Shaftoe, 2008, p.111). The use of appropriate hard and soft landscape elements (good materials and natural elements producing much delight), color (brightening up the environment with colors), public art and provision of entertainment facilities (like animation: concerts, festivals, social events etc.) create considerable amounts of joy and result with social interaction (Shaftoe, 2008, p.112-121).

2.3.5 Typology of Squares

In American cities, squares were classified from small scale to big scale based on a background of San Francisco by Marcus and Francis. They spread out every kind of square as following: The Street Plaza (Marcus and Francis, 1998, p.20), which means a widen sidewalk, different forms are listed as the seating edge, the widen sidewalk, the bus-waiting place, the pedestrian link, the corner sun pocket', and 'the arcade plaza'; (Marcus and Francis, 1998, p.20)The corporate foyer(Marcus and Francis, 1998, p.21), which refers to the open space in front of some large-scale architectures,

to stress the entrance or provide some space for people come to or pass by the building, listed as the decorative porch, the impressive forecourt, and the stage set (Marcus and Francis, 1998, p.21).

The urban oasis (Marcus and Francis, 1998, p.22), that is, an open space with well planted, specific for people to spend some leisure time, listed as ‘the outdoor lunch plaza , the garden oasis, and the roof garden ; (Marcus and Francis, 1998, p.22).

The transit foyer (Marcus and Francis, 1998, p.22), which in front of public transit terminals, including the subway entry place and the bus terminal; (Marcus and Francis, 1998, p.22).

The street as plaza - pedestrian and transit malls (Marcus and Francis, 1998, p.23), which is considered as a product of American transportation plan that is perpendicular to each other, traditional pedestrian mall, and mixed mall and transit mall (Marcus and Francis, 1998, p.23) are mentioned.

The grand public space (Marcus and Francis, 1998, p.23) is the most typical urban square, which is often considered the heart of the city. Their mode of typology is exhaustively that every sort of public open space has been taken into consideration. However, according to the definition of square from Kevin Lynch, Typically, it will be paved, enclosed by high-density structures, and surrounded by streets, or in contact with them. (Lynch, 1981, p.443), street plaza and the street as plaza could be considered as a type of square with the reason that the banding shape of the two types (Fig 11, 12) is long and approaches to streets. Additionally, Cliff Moughtin claimed the most important physical quality of public squares is enclosure (Moughtin, 2003,

p.123). However, due to the shape, which has a sense of extension, buildings are along two sides, these two types are not enclosed.



Figure 11. The seated edge, listed as a form of Source: Street Square (Marcus and Francis, 1998, p.20)



Figure 12. The third street promenade, Santa Monica, California (Source. URL 5, 29011)

In *Street and Square*, Cliff Moughtin (2003) classified the square according to different forms based on Paul Zucker and Sittes's theory. There he discussed the enclosed square, the dominated square, linked squares and spaces linked by an external reference point; he also mentioned the nuclear square and the amorphous square as supplement. (Moughtin, 2003, p.99-123).

The enclosed square: is square closed by architectures on three sides, usually has a simple geometrical volume such as square, rectangular, or circle (Fig 13).



Figure 13. Place des Vosges in Paris. (Source: Kangur&Traks, 2011)

The dominated square: is the square in front of or surrounded by some main constructed structure, could be an architecture or a landscape architecture, for example a cathedral or a sculpture (Fig 14).

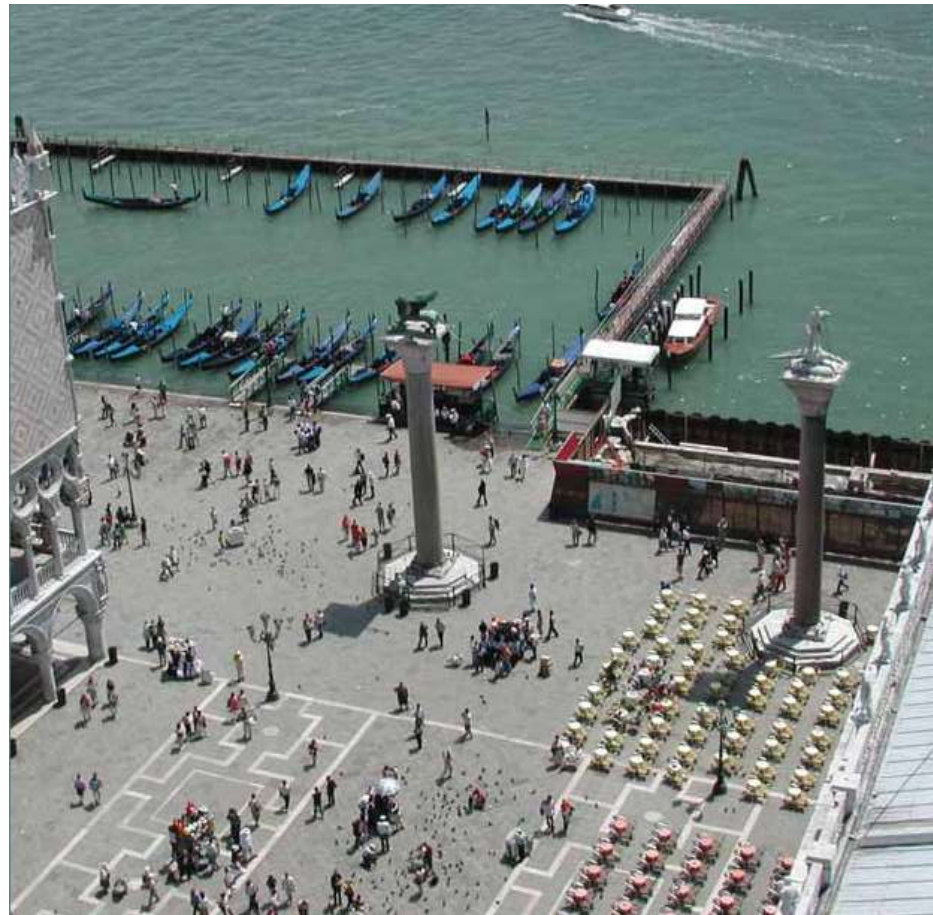


Figure 14. Piazza San Marco Piazza in Venice. (Source: Kangur & Traks, 2011)

The linked square: means quite a complex shape of square that consists of several clearly defined spaces, in other words, they can be seen as overlapping or interpenetrating subspaces, which form the whole space. This kind of linked square can be found in many medieval towns (Fig 15).



Figure15. The Imperial Fora in Rome. (Source: Kangur & Traks, 2011)

The nuclear square is a definite spatial shape ordered space, for instance the traffic island where several streets intersection. It is a kind of traffic square or a green island (Fig 16).



Figure 16. Piazza di SS. Giovanni e Paolo in Venice. (Source: Kangur & Traks., 2011)

The amorphous square is the one that has an irregular spatial shape instead of a simple geometrical volume (Fig 11).



Figure 17. Times Square became New York's agora. (Source: Kangur & Traks, 2011)

According to Camillo Sitte (1843-1903) classification there are two categories of city squares, the deep type and wide type, and to know whether a plaza is deep or wide the observer needs to stand opposite the major building that dominates the whole layout. Thus, Piazza S.Croce in Florence should be regarded as a deep plaza since all of its components are designed according to their relationship to the main façade. Therefore, the classification is not about dimensions but is dependent on the relationship between the plaza and its surroundings.

Typology of the urban square according to Karier (1979):

1. Rectangular squares with variations
2. Orthogonal plans for square
3. Circuses and variations
4. Triangular squares and their derivatives
5. Spaces which are angled, divided, added and superimposed
6. Geometrically complex system (Carmona, Tiesdeed, 2010).

2.3.6 Summary of Chapter

Public space is an important part of public realm. Public place is a place for walking, sitting, relaxing and enjoying of urban space. Public spaces are related to all parts of natural environment that people has free access which including streets, squares and parks. Characteristics of public spaces are safety, comfort, aesthetic, meaning, control, publicness, natural system and economic benefits these factors provided people primary in public spaces. Urban space is built space and social spaces. Generally urban space including parks, streets and squares. One of most important parts of urban spaces are squares. Urban Square is an urban form which providing livable and vital space for people. Squares help to people for use the experience of other people also increase the social interaction of people. Vitality in 24 hours of days is one of principle for successful square. The first example for square is Agora in Greek city. For renaissance period, Italian plaza is the best example for square. Form, location and size, activates, landscaping, site furniture and focal point elements are physical characteristics of square. Roles and functions of urban square are divided to five categorize that are: physical roles, ecological roles, psychological roles, social roles and economic roles, Urban Square can classified according many aspect such as main function, size, style, shape or location. Public square according their form are classified in five categorize: enclosed square, dominated square, and linked square, nuclear square and the amorphous square. Physical characteristic of square are: location, form, size, landscaping, street furniture, microclimate, lighting, focal point elements and visual complexity. Functional of square divided five factors, which are physiological role, political role, access and linkage, economic role and symbol role. Social characteristic of square are comfort, safety and security, relaxation, passive engagement, active engagement, discovery and joy.

Table 2. Square Characteristics

Physical	Functional	Social
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location • Form • Size of Square • Landscaping(hard, soft) • Street Furniture(seating) • Microclimate • Lighting • Visual Complexity of a square 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychological Role • Political Role • Access & Linkage • Economic Role • Symbolic Role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comfort • Safety and Security • Relaxation • Passive Engagement • Active Engagement • Discovery • Joy

Chapter 3

CASE STUDY: EVALUATION NAMIK KEMAL SQUARE IN THE WALLED CITY OF FAMAGUSTA, NORTH CYPRUS

According to the outcomes of last chapter, this chapter will focus on the case study that is Namik Kemal square of Walled City of Famagusta. Data collection and methodology of analysis to evaluate the case study as a public open space are described in the first part of the chapter and followed by some general information to introduce the case study. In the second part of the chapter and followed by some general information to introduce the case study. In the third part of the chapter, all analysis related to the case area is explained. The summary of chapter will be presented in last section of chapter as combination and characteristics.

3.1 Methodology of Analysis of the Case Study

Methodology of this research up to now was based on documentary and empirical theoretical review. In this chapter current situation of Namik Kemal square as the case study area, would be analyzed by three different methods. That are observation, site survey and questionnaire survey. In this part, based on the theoretical framework of the study, three levels of analysis are carried out: for the physical, functional and social characteristics. To be able to understand the physical, functional and social characteristics of the square, in addition to documentary survey, three types of data collection techniques and methods have been used as below: Observation, Site Survey and Questionnaire survey.

3.1.1 Observation

In data collection and evaluating, some characteristics of square, observation method of analysis have been used. The quality of square furniture and legibility analysis, which somehow effect the people behavior in square and categorized in physical characteristics of square have been observed.

3.1.2 Site Survey

For the parameters such as comfort and safety, which included factors, efficiency, and appropriateness of square furniture questionnaires have been prepared in order to measure social analysis and testing to user satisfaction and understanding their expectation. Questionnaire also considered for satisfaction of users for facilities of square. Questionnaire, which are given 120 users including 40 tourists, 40 local people and resident and 40 students.

3.2 History of Famagusta and its urban pattern

There are many historic cities with unique identity around the world. “Famagusta (in Turkish: Mağusa / Gazimağusa; in Greek: Αμμ?χωστος / Ammochostos) is a city on the east coast of the island of Cyprus” (URL 6), and the third largest city of North Cyprus (Turkish part of Cyprus) with more than 42000 populations (Fig 18). Famagusta has been affected by different civilization periods and therefore reveals different layers in terms of architectural and urban character. “The urban fabric of these cities is composed of several fragments - a historic core, colonial quarters, and urban development’s built in the post-colonial era - presenting striking physical contrasts and separate economic and social environments which co-exist without much integration” (Doratli.N, et.al, 1999).

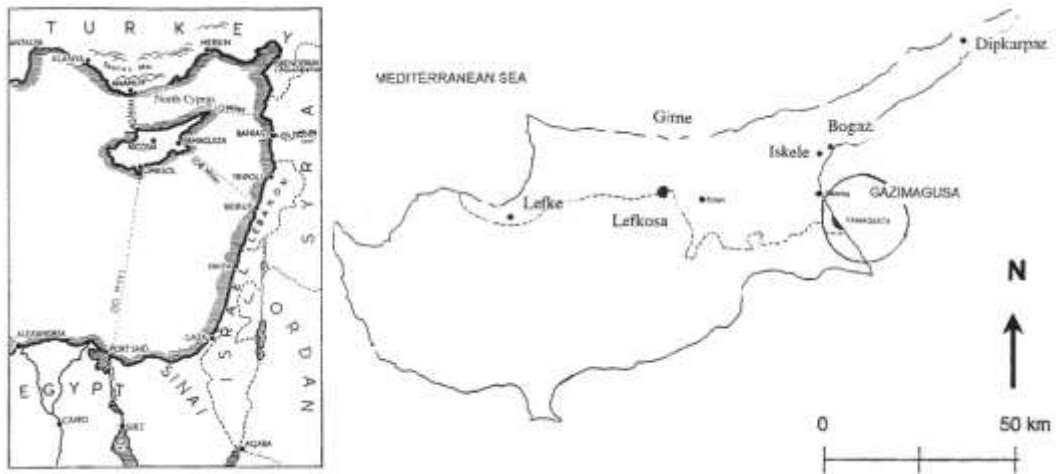


Figure 18. Location of Cyprus and Famagusta. (Source .URL 7, 2012)

Over the course of times, the city was affected by uncontrolled urbanization and some other external factors such as war. “The history and urban development of Famagusta (Gazimagusa) dates back to the first century AD and the contemporary city has developed throughout seven particular periods: the early periods (648–1192 AD — the foundation of the city); the Lusignan (1192–1489); the Venetian (1489–1571); the Ottoman (1571–1878); the British (1878–1960); 1960–1974; and the period after the war in 1974” (Fig 19).

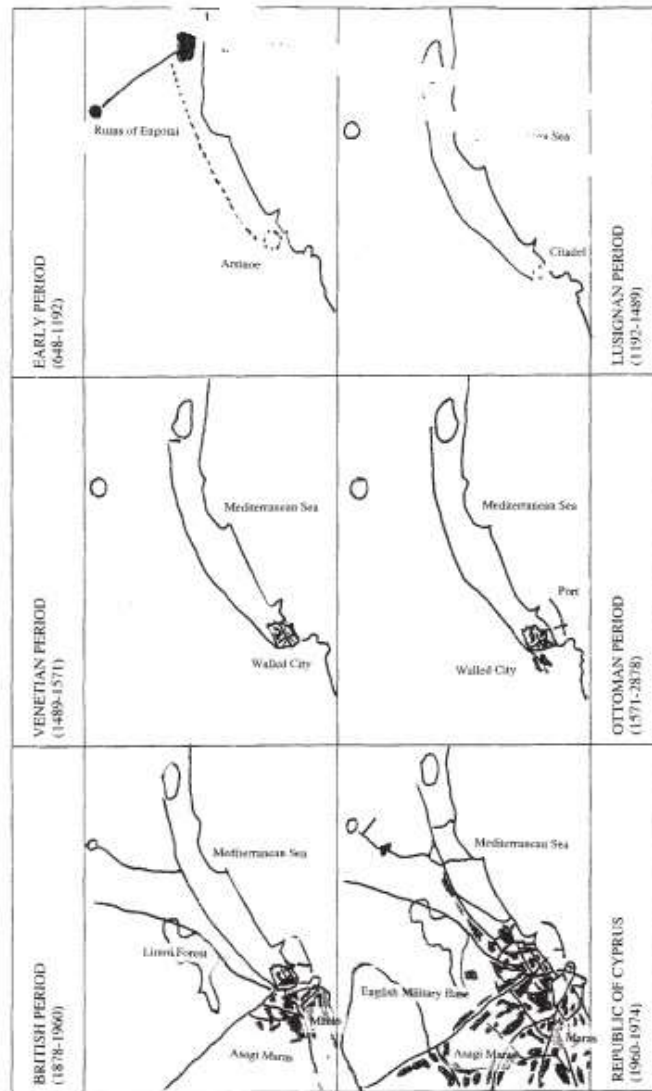


Figure 19. Urban development of Gazimağusa Source: Onal, Dagli, & Doratli, 1999, p.337

The development of the city can be categorized to four main parts:

- 1) Historic core (The walled city)
- 2) Aşağı Maraş district, this part has been developed by Greek Cypriots
- 3) Maraş district, the large district which has been expand on the South-East of the wall since 1974
- 4) The newly developed area, which is located on North-West of the Walled City (Doratli.N, et.al, 1999).(Fig 20)

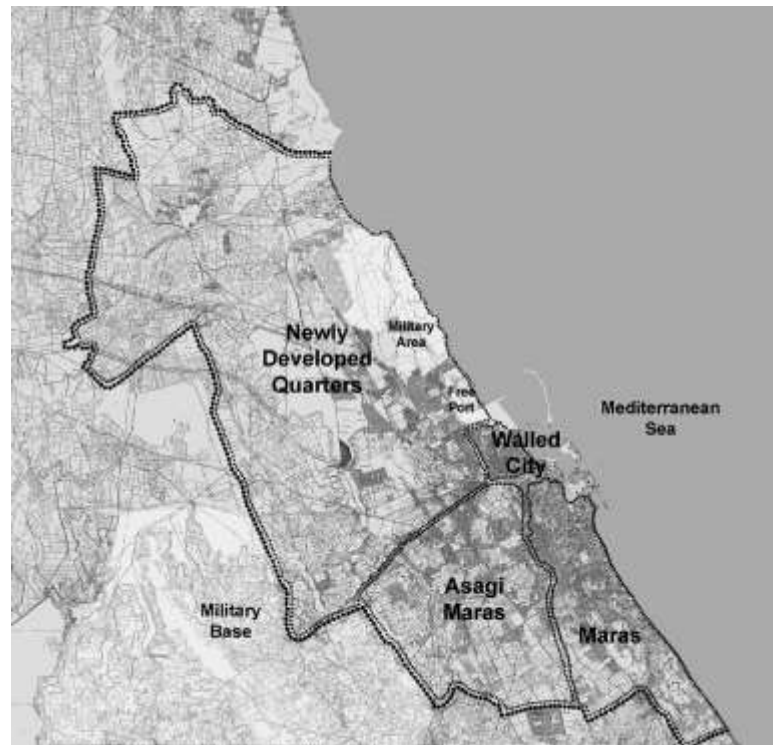


Figure 20. Segmentation of Famagusta as four main part. (Source. Doratlı, N. et.all. 1999)

The traditional Cypriot town has a specific, informal urban pattern. As Oktay (2002) mentioned, "Ever since Hellenistic periods, Cyprus had been noted for its highly developed urban life. The traditional Cypriot settlements reveal a cohesive character with well-scaled narrow streets and cul-de-sacs and organic open public spaces at the intersection of streets. In the central parts of the traditional city, the urban spatial pattern reflects a great variety both in terms of functional layout and physical components." Urban pattern of Famagusta does not follow the strong characteristic of western urban culture, and also there were social and psychological tendencies towards meeting and gathering in open spaces that are today's can be recognize in historic part of city (The Walled city). The *Walled City* (Surici in Turkish) is the historical part of the city where the remains of many notable historical heritage, architecture and culture are located. The history of walled city is going back to 15th century; this city is a kind of medieval city with special citadel, moat, sea gate and land gate. Development of the

city during this time has been along mainly south/north and south-east/north-west axis, and the city centre of the city defined by St Nicholas church, its square and the Venetian Palace (Doratli.N, et.al, 1999). (Fig 21)When Ottomans gained to the city in 1571, Muslim population came to the city from Anatoly and Non-Muslim population was forced to move out of the wall. During this period, because of the using the region as military base, the city lost their economic and commercial power (Doratli.N, et.al, 1999). They created new cities as well as rebuilt the old ones. Also according to their historical background, they adopt their specific life styles to spread the culture in their empire. The first settlement of Ottoman Empire took place on Byzantine basis. Following this settlement, there are some changes in administration and building's function, such as appointment of some official like "judge (kadi), a scribe (katib) and a prayer-leader (imam)" (Acun, 2002), also converted some buildings such as church by mosque.



Figure 21.Walled city of Famagusta. (Source: URL 8, 2012)

After Ottoman and during the British period, the population of city became to two ethnic groups; 1) Turkish Cypriot where lived inside the wall 2) Greek Cypriot where lived out of wall in Maraş and Aşağı Maraş districts (Doratli.N, et.al, 1999). Expansion of city had been continued before the war in 1974. After the war development of city was very dramatically until establishment of university in 1986.Establishment of the

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), the city faced to new growth and development, Because of increasing of number of students and academic staff. The main structural change of Famagusta was in development directions, which was toward the south of wall before 1974, and suddenly changed to opposite side toward the university (Doratli.N, et.al, 1999).

Namik Kemal square is located in Walled city which is located in South-West of Famagusta in North Cyprus (Fig 22).Lack of successful urban public space and low quality of them are one of main problem of Famagusta city, according this issue Namik Kemal will be evaluated as a public open space in Famagusta.

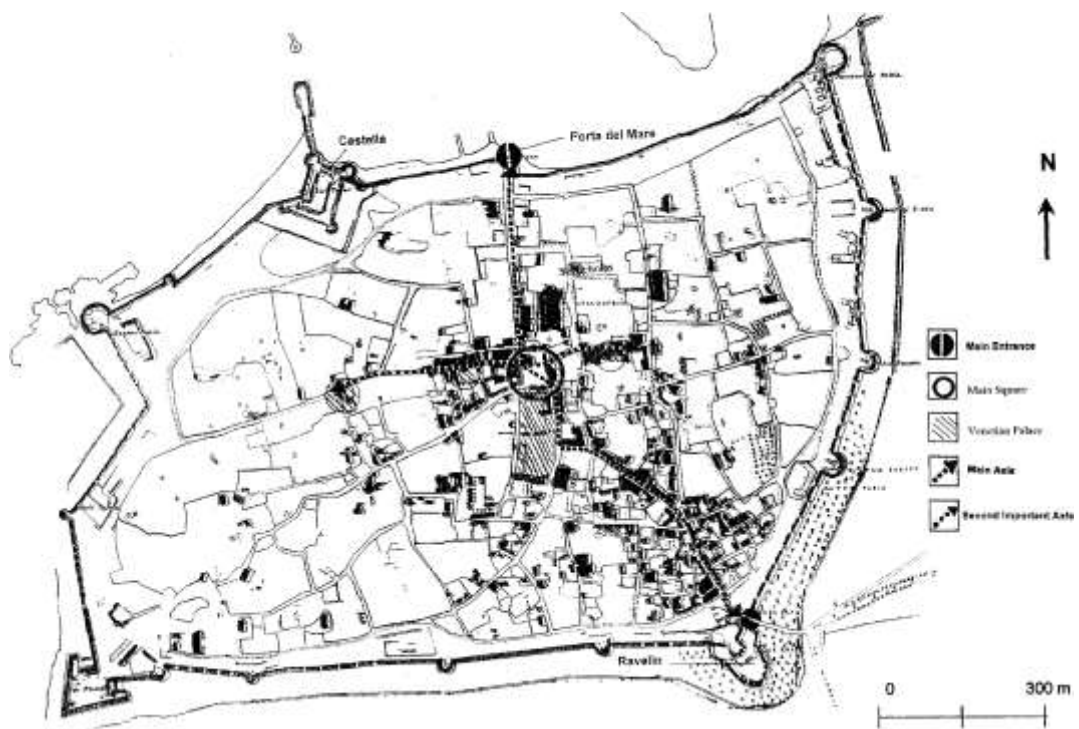


Figure 22. Location of Namik Kemal Square. (Source: Onal, Dagli, & Doratli, 1999, p339)

3.3 Physical Characteristic

Physical characteristics of Namik Kemal square are analyzed in terms of location, form, size, landscaping, site furniture, and microclimate.

Location

Namik Kemal Square is the main square, which is located in heart of Walled City of Famagusta. P1, which is presented in Appendix B, shows location of Namik Kemal Square as a main square of Famagusta. Namik Kemal square is connect with Main Street that is Pedestrian Street and the name of this is Istiklal Street (Fig 23). Namik Kemal Square is a node in Walled City have a good access from the Istiklal Avenue just by pedestrians, which is the most that people use to get to the square and also there are car links to the square but officially its closed for cars, which improves the quality of pedestrians and links between the adjacent buildings which are cafes and restaurants and shopping markets. Now days Namik Kemal Square importance is continuing but most important differences than the previous period the city square only live the days' time and previous times the city center were livable twenty-four hours.



Figure 23. Location of Namik Kemal Square. (Source: URL 9, 2010)

Square Form

Namik Kemal square has regular form, which shaped combination of one rectangle and a square (Fig24). Buildings and their facades, which located around the Namik Kemal Square have important role in its character. The Namik Kemal Square is clearly defined by buildings, which is located in square. The most important character of square is sense of enclosure. In that sense, Namik Kemal square has good potential for social interaction.

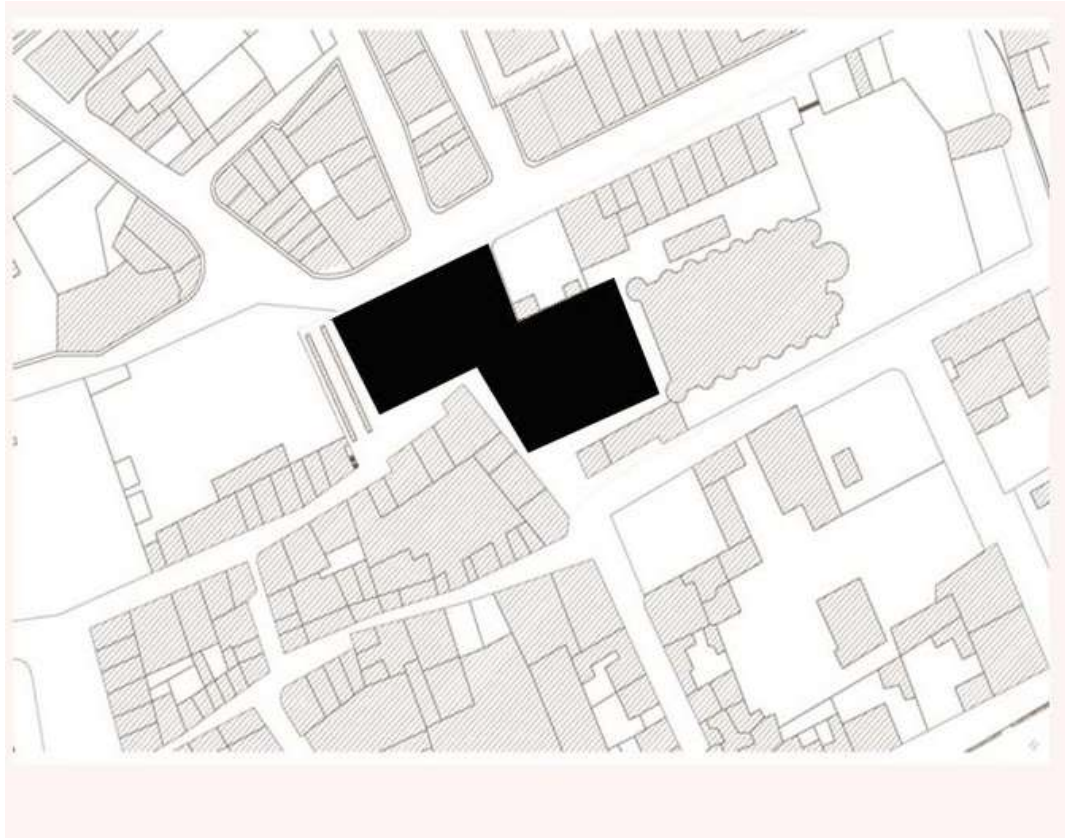


Figure 24. Form of Namik Kemal square

Buildings: The buildings are evaluated according to their location, entrance, and high, so in blow each of them are explained.

- Majority of building of Namik Kemal Square are cafes and restaurant, which is located in edges of square. Lala Mustafa Pasa Mosque as a most important building in Namik Kemal, which is located in eastern edge of square.
- Entrance of most of them is from inside of the square and its influences on physical relationships between squares and users (Fig 25).
- Elevation of buildings, which is located in Namik Kemal Square, are between two and three floor. Lala Mustafa Pasa Mosque as a landmark has different high about 30 meters, which is dominant building in square (Appendix B, P3).

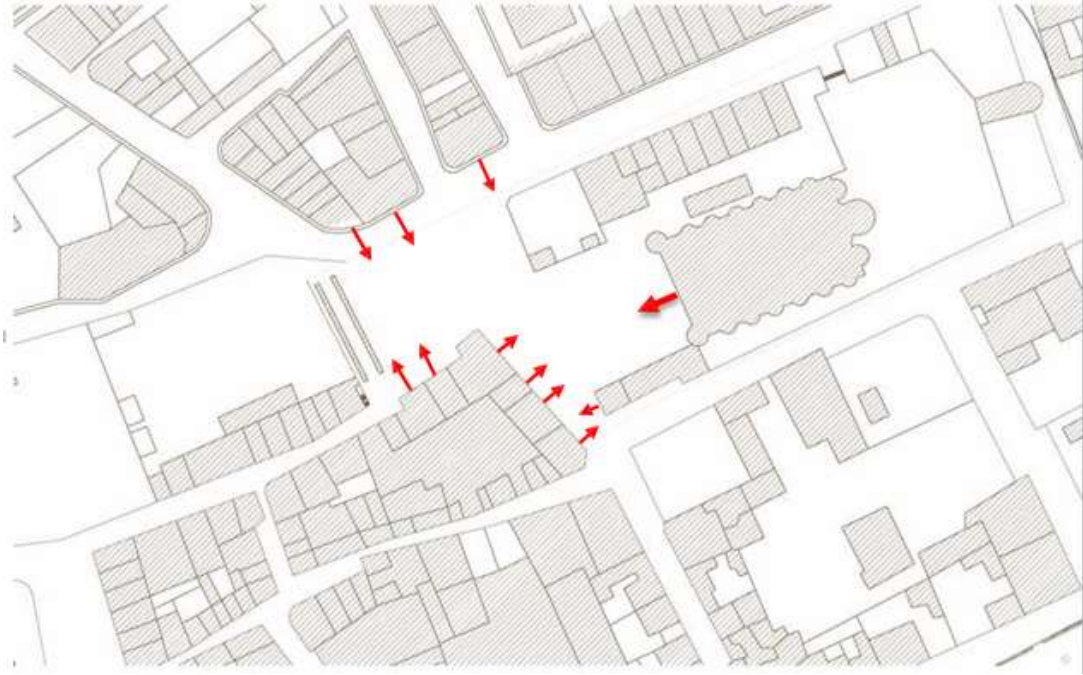


Figure 25. Permeability map of Namik Kemal Square

Edge of Namik Kemal Square: One edge of Namik Kemal Square is covered by fencing (Fig 26), other edges is clearly defined and covered by buildings.



Figure 26. Edge of Namik Kemal Square which defined by fence

Size of Namik Kemal Square

As mentioned in previews chapter size of square, depend on the context and the location that square take place. Shaftoe, (2008) argues that very large spaces may feel

unfriendly, and too small spaces on the other side may feel claustrophobic. Generally according Whyte, 2009 the size of a plaza does not represent a significant relation with the level of its use; however, very large public spaces may be problematic. The area size of Namik Kemal Square is about 4000 meter.

Landscaping

Landscaping in Namik Kemal Square will be explained under the heading of hard and soft landscaping.

The character of a hard landscape of Namik Kemal Square is related with the material used for surfacing which is stone (Fig 27). . Stone paving slabs introduce a human scale and thus make the large, hard space easier; also stone is good material for climate of Famagusta because of the humid weather.



Figure 27. Namik Kemal Square pavement

Soft landscaping of Namik Kemal covers natural elements such as plants, shrubs, tree, graas and lawns. According shafto (2008) Planting and greenery served in plazas are indispensable elements for psychological and mental health of users as they provide a refreshment, relaxation, distress and joy. P3, which is presented in Appendix B, shown the greenery of Namik Kemal Square one of important point of greenery in

Namik Kemal Square is an infrequent tree in north of island which is located in front of church which name is cumbez (Fig 29). According to questionnaire survey 73% of users believe that square has poor greenery while 8% state that greenery is fair (Fig 28).

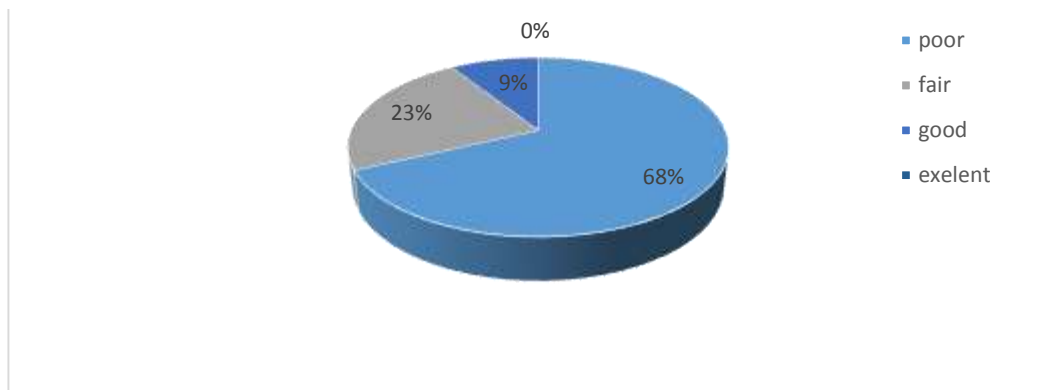


Figure 28. Greenery rating by the user



Figure 29. Cumbez tree in front of Namik Kemal Square

Street furniture of Namik Kemal Square

It is very crucial to provide comfortable condition in each in each public space, and to make a square more comfortable and a place to stay, square furniture may become important. According to questionnaire survey 79% of users believe that Namik Kemal

Square is not well-equip in terms of square furniture. Also 82% think that there is a need to have more facility such as sitting place; lighting etc. p6, which is presented in Appendix B shows the distribution of site furniture of sitting place, is the most important visual element in squares. one of factors in sitting place in square is variety. Each square has variety of users such as children, teenager, old people and etc. so the right type of seating should be placed in the right place according to those varying demands. According this in Namik Kemal Square there are limited sitting place for users. In addition, users have limited choices for sit. Another pion that should be attention in square is style of seating. Style of seating in Namik Kemal are benches with backless. Material of seating place should be responsive to the environmental conditions. In Namik Kemal Square material of seating place are wood and metal. Seating has poor condition they are old and broke (Fig 30).



Figure 30. Seating in Namik Kemal Square

Shading element is another factor of square furniture. According the questionnaire 54% of users believed that shading elements of Namik Kemal Square are needed while there is no shading elements (Fig 31, 32). Another Square furniture, which is mentioned in square furniture, is bins. Square furniture map shows bins in square, most of them has poor condition, also generally have no good image in the square picture.

Accordinging analysis there is not enough bin in Namik Kemal Square and they are not properly designed and placed.

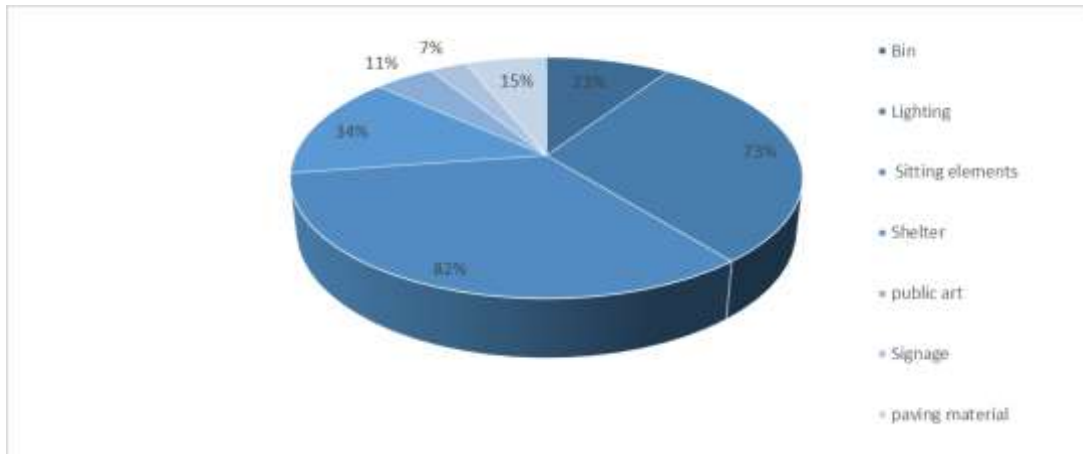


Figure 31. Need of Square from user's point of view



Figure 32. Lack of shading in Namik Kemal Square

Accordinging questionnaire survey, 82% of users choose the all option in questionnaire , 82% of users are not satisfied for sitting elements, 73% lighting , 34% shelter(Fig 32).in general according to the site survey the quality of furniture are very poor.

Microclimate

Cyprus somewhat is located in the warmest zone of Mediterranean Sea which possess characteristic such as long hot and dry summer and short, mild and rainy winters. It

can be resulted that shadow is needed in such a climate not only to avoid the sunshine in the summer but also for the rainy days of winter. As Namik Kemal in main historic square in Famagusta which located heart of walled city. Therefor it is needed to provide comfortable condition for its users. Early in the morning and evening while the angel of sunlight, the square has an enjoyable condition to walk. Position of buildings around the square are not dense enough to provide shadow in hot summer days. Movement of shadows in two different times of the day .According to the analysis the square is not comfortable for seating and relaxing. Instead of lacking shadow by buildings and shading elements, three in front of Lala Mustafa Pasa provide good shadow (Fig 33).



Figure 33. Cumbez three create shading for users

Lighting

Namik Kemal Square has poor lighting at nighttime. The lighting of Namik Kemal Square did not provide a sense of welcome and did not ensure safety and security. Also the light elements in Namik Kemal Square has poor condition .because of the poor lighting at nighttime in Namik Kemal Square this square isn't active at livable at nigh (Fig 34).



Figure 34. Namik Kemal Square at time

Visual Complexity of a Namik Kemal Square

Visual complexity, are significant elements such as seating, hard and soft landscaping and lighting which explained in previews sections.

3.4 Functional Characteristics of Namik Kemal Square

This section will be explain the role and functional of the Namik Kemal Square, which are psychological role, political role, access and linkage, functions of the square, economic role and symbolic role.

Psychological Role

Namik Kemal Square as a public open space should be create space for social communication and greenery, which provide a relief, relaxation and distress. According questionnaire survey people feeling relax in Namik Kemal Square; they use the café and restaurant which is located in square and fresh air (Fig 35).

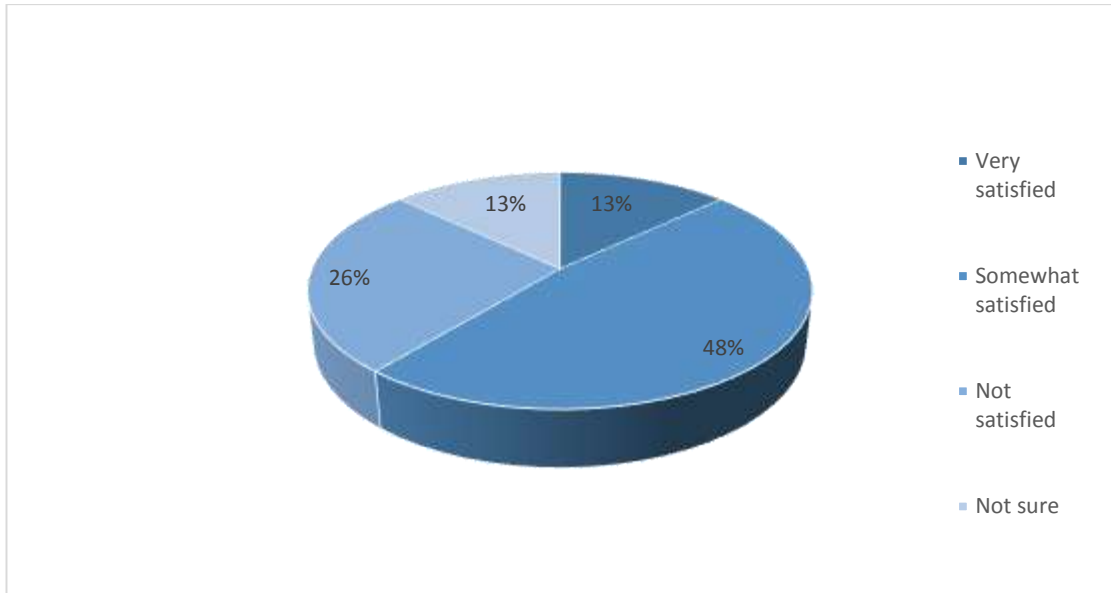


Fig 35: Investigate the rate of satisfaction of users from Namik Kemal Square

Political Roles

Namik Kemal Square, as Main Square in Famagusta provide is a place for political participation and public discussions, which is, crate political activities such as Election of the President, Parliamentary elections etc. (Fig 36).



Figure 36. Political activity in Namik Kemal Square (Source: URL 10, 2010)

Access & Linkage

Accessibility of Namik Kemal Square are analyzed in P 8, map that is presented in Appendix B. Namik Kemal Square is closed for cars ,most of people for access the square use Istiklal road. Namik Kemal Square as a node in Walled City of Famagusta has good accessibility for pedestrian. In addition, it has poor public transportation; there is not any bus station near the square and it is difficult to reach the square.

Functions of square

Acording land use map P 5 Appendix B most of functions of Square lesure such as café and resturants. One of most important building which is located in square in Lala Musta Pasa Musquae that has rich historic and also it's the most important building in Famagusta and is a historic landmark for this city (Fig 37).



Figure 37. Lala Mustafa Pasa Mosque

Another building in this square is IS bank that is located in corner of square in front of Lala Mustafa Pasa it is not a compatible building to the context, materials and function that is not active during the day and uses as indoor space (Fig 38).



Figure 38. IS bank IS in corner of Namik Kemal

Another building in this square is D&B café and restaurant. It has two floor and there are three balcony in second floor that make a good view to Namik Kamal square. People can use both tow floor , also this building has two function its restaurant and bar that help to physical and social dimension of Namik Kemal square (Fig 39).



Figure 39. D&B café and Restaurant

In general, it can be said that usage of street by people also effect its function. They use square in various ways like only eating, drinking or throw the pass. According to questionnaire survey people mostly come to the square only to use of restaurant and café and relax (Fig 40).

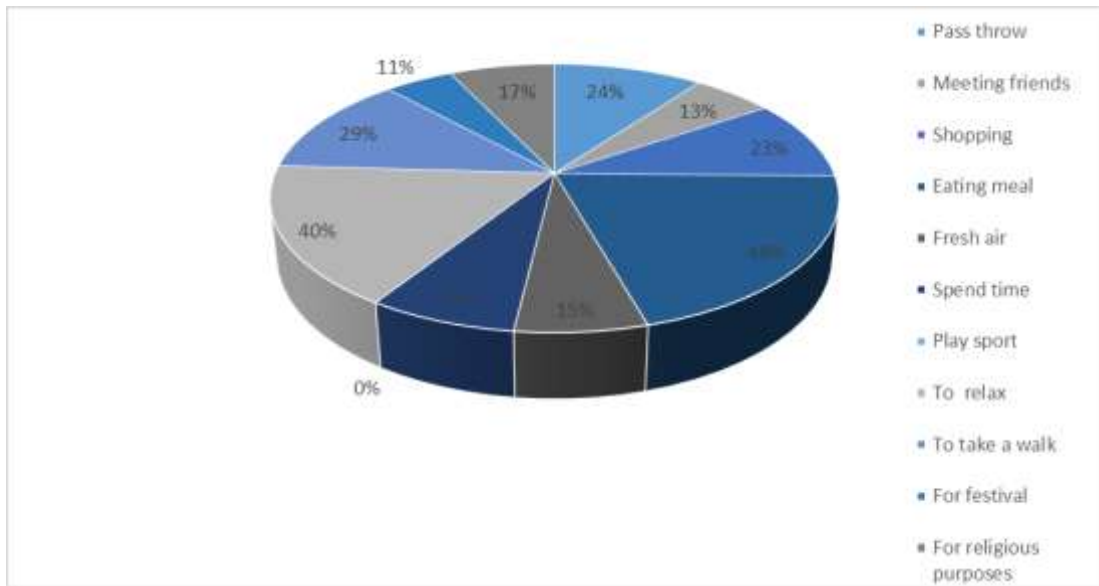


Figure 40. Propose of users of coming to the Namik Kemal Square

Economic Role of Namik Kemal Square

Namik Kemal square as historic square has important economic role, it is attractive for users and many tourists come for visiting Namik Kemal square, especial Lala Mustafa Pasa mosque as monument. Cafes and restaurants in Namik Kemal square is used by several groups and ages during the day, from breakfast to dinner and this is an opportunity for eating, relaxing, reading and gathering, these facilities are creating good economic potential in Namik Kemal Square and also there are two bars (Ginkgo & Bandabulia) which play music at nights mostly in weekends and holidays that improve the economic value in this square (Fig 41).



Figure 41. Ginkgo & Bandabullia

Symbolic Role of Namik Kemal Square

As mentioned in previews chapter the concept of identity in this respect is directly related with symbolic roles of a plaza. Squares furthermore can become distinct places for a group of people or a society within which, there exists such a collective cultural, historical, religious or other social and political values for them. Lala Mustafa Pasa Mosque has symbolic role for Famagusta city, because it is landmark and has rich history. In addition, it contribute the continuity of group or society and enhance the ties between the members.

3.5 Social Characteristics of Namik Kemal Square

In this section social characteristic under the comfort, safety, relaxation, passive engagement, active engagement, discovery and joy will be presented.

Comfort

Comfort in the square can be evaluated throw environmental experience of square users and somehow is related to social analysis. According the questionnaire survey, it

can be concluded that people feel not comfortable in this square in terms of environment and physical together with security. 28% of respondents feel lack of any kind of square furniture in the square while 34% need sitting elements feel lack of any kind of square furniture in the square while 29% need sitting elements and 46% wants to have more lighting elements along the square which mean that users do not feel comfortable in terms of physical characteristic. Lack of these factors can reduce the level of comfort in square. so based on the above result it can be argued that Namik Kemal Square is not comfortable for its users especially in terms of physical and environmental comfort.

Safety of Namik Kemal Square

Safety and security in the square is a parameter that can be evaluated from questionnaire survey. 72% of respondents believe that square is safe. A safe environment is a place that can save all groups of people, in such a place they can feel safe and comfortable during day and night. According to the social analysis Namik Kemal Square variety of users in various time of day, which can be resulted, that square have secure atmosphere.

Relaxation

There are two parameters for evaluation of relaxation in public space. one of them is physiological behavior. According the questioner survey 40% of users in Namik Kemal square mention to relax, eating meal, shopping and to take a walk for their relaxation. Natural environment existing is the second parameter for relaxation such as fountain, trees, and landscape. According analysis in landscape Namik Kemal Square has poor quality of greenery (Fig 42).

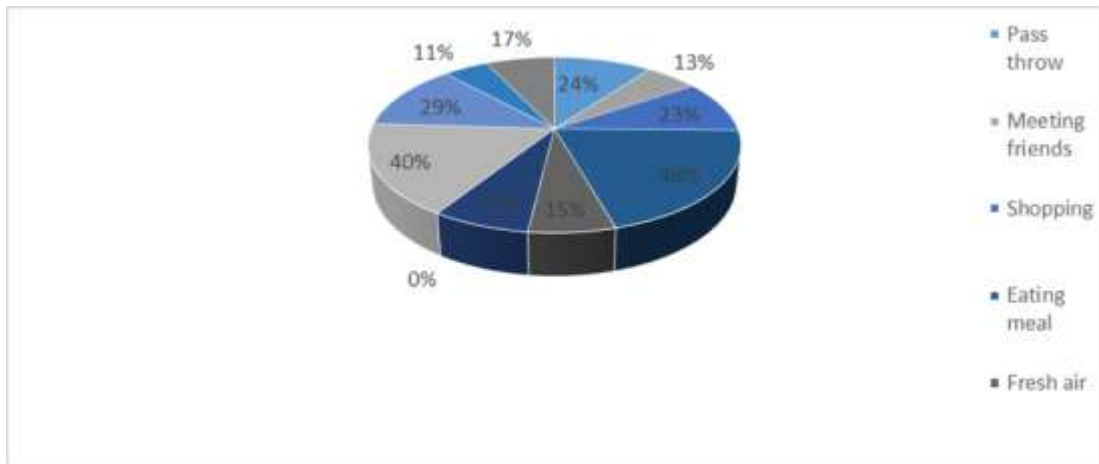


Figure 42. The elements the cause users feeling relax

Passive engagement

Passive engagement is related with creating relaxation up to a degree, implies that the person takes place in the environment, but not present an active role. There are some activities in Namik Kemal Square, which is created passive engagement for people. For example, live music of cafes and restaurants.

Active engagement

Namik Kemal has well some recreation facility. There are variety of physical activities such as festivals, concert, New Year ceremony etc, which are create active engagement in Namik Kemal Square (Fig 43). However, these are not enough for successful public place. In addition, it needs some other facilities such as exhibition, culture program, etc.



Figure 43. Social activity in Namik Kemal Square

Discovery

Discovery in square is a bout variety social activity in square such as public art, exhibition, special event and festivals. Namik Kemal as a public open space with some special events such as cultural festival and concert can be an opportunity for knowing other culture (Fig 44).



Figure 44. Festival in Namik Kemal Square (Source: URL 11, 2011)

Joy

Joy in square is about the facilities that create happy place for users. Such as public art, café and restaurant, social events and etc (Fig 45). Live music of restaurant that

located in Namik Kemal square create a happy place for users, but it's just at summer and weekend. Square should be joy all the time.



Figure 45. Leisure activity in Namik Kemal Square

3.6 Summary of Chapter

Famagusta city is one of main city in north Cyprus according the cultural and heritage it categories to four district Walled city; Asagi Maras district; Maras district; New established district. Development of walled city of Famagusta was limitation in three parts: walled city, Asagi Maras, and Maras before 1974.this period including six zone which are: early period (648-1992 AD), Lusignian period, Venetian period, ottoman period, first British period and republic of Cyprus. Namik Kemal of Walled City of Famagusta is main historic urban Square in the area. Quality of Namik Kemal Square evaluate according physical, functional and social characteristic. Physical characteristic of Namik Kemal Square are location, form, size, landscaping, site furniture, and microclimate. Namik Kemal Square located in heart of Walled City of Famagusta, it has regular and 4000-meter area. Functional of the Namik Kemal Square, which are psychological role, political role, access and linkage, functions of the square, economic role and symbolic role. Social characteristic of Namik Kemal Square are comfort, safety, relaxation, passive engagement, active engagement, discovery and joy, which explained with details in this chapter.

Table 3. Evolution Characteristics of Namik Kemal Square

Characteristics of Square		Very good	Good	Average	Bad
Physical	Location		●		
	Form		●		
	Size of Square		●		
	Hard landscaping			●	
	Soft landscaping				●
	Street Furniture(seating)				●
	Microclimate			●	
	Lighting				●
Social	Psychological Role			●	
	Political Role		●		
	Access and linkage				
	Economic Role			●	
	Symbolic Role		●		
Functional	Comfort			●	
	Safety and Security			●	
	Relaxation			●	
	Passive Engagement			●	
	Active Engagement			●	
	Discovery			●	
	Joy			●	

Chapter 4

CONCLUSION

Urban public squares are more than just physical spaces; they have symbolic meaning for people. They are vibrant, active and interesting places. Most of the contemporary urban squares involve a historical value or importance for the community, as well as for the tourists and visitors. Hence, authorities should realize that urban public squares are essential for enhancing city image and community development. Nowadays concerns for the vitality and livability of the increments due to decrease in public space. For establish physical and mental connection between public and urban environment we need public space, without people we cannot establish public space, therefore people are the main ingredients of the city. Globalization and privatization have negatively affected urban public space. Moreover, within the communities' incrementing the individualism can being caused social fragmentation, which presents itself in the alteration of public space. Internet substantially modified public life and it becomes a major component of our daily life. So it can effect on education, economic and time saving benefits. People prefer to spend their time individually rather than going to public space when they have internet because it can make a virtual environment and isolate people. Social relations are affecting cohesion of communities and local and national identity. Therefore, urban public spaces are significant venues for producing social communications between people. Two major issues of contemporary urban environments are urban expansion and decentralization. If urban designers and planners had ignored urban public spaces, in some point it might have

been prevented decentralization. Urban squares are principal city elements in democratic and livable cities and it is one of the most important elements of open public spaces. So for establish social cohesion and enliven the public life, it is needed to reproduce and design urban squares. Safety, comfort, engagement and satisfaction of user must be provided to create successful physical design of urban public spaces. Urban designers and planners must consider psychological features.

In summary basic design, principles for urban squares can be listed as:

- To create identity, sense of place and contribute to the overall city image,
- To promote public use and participation,
- To encourage social activities, communication and social integration,
- To enhance the character of the environment,
- To create a public square which is legible, enjoyable and long-lasting,
- To create both physically and socially accessible environments,
- To achieve environmental sustainability and low-cost maintenance through environmental friendly design strategies.
- To promote art, cultural activities and entertainment.

4.1 Criteria for Turning Namik Kemal Square in to successful public space

According to the main aim of this research is to test the level of success of Namik Kemal square in the Walled City of Famagusta and to make proposals to turn it to a make successful public square. Base on this aim, the research question will be “what’s the level of successful in Namik Kemal square as an important historic public space in Famagusta?”

To find the answer for these questions research following purposes has been set up:

- Understanding the definition of urban public space and its type evaluate the quality of Namik Kemal square as an urban public space of the city
- Measure the qualities of Namik Kemal square as a public urban space
- Determine types of activities in Nami Kemal square

Namik Kemal square can know as the most important social place in Famagusta, because everyone visit it in several times in a month or take their guests to that place at least once. There are tourists almost all day long and Small groups of people, which do their hobbies in outdoor spaces and brings a social life to the place. This square can be able to successful urban square in Famagusta but it has some problems, if they problem solve it will be a successful urban square. To reach a hypothesis there are several factor which need to more attention to make a livable and successful city square:

According to physical, functional and social characteristics of Namik Kemal Square and public space, Namik Kemal square has potential for working successful urban public square in walled city and Famagusta. If some enhancements are drop at physical, functional and social levels. The following lines presents the suggestions. On this research based on its analysis findings.

4.1.1 Physical Enhancements

Namik Kemal Square as a node in Walled City have a good access from the Istiklal road just by pedestrians, Lala Mustafa Pasa Mosque is landmark in this city, which can be seen from distance. The first impression at Namik Kemal square seems to be very

well. The clean space with too many places to visit around, different choice of seats and cafes, and seeing people, men and women which many of them are tourists, doing photography, buying things and joining cafes makes to users feel comfortable and also safe ,although they don't see any security presence .IS BANK building which is located on the corner of Istiklal Street, in front of the mosque gives a bad sense. Because it's a compatible building to the context, materials and functions that is not active during the day and uses as indoor space, can named as the worst point of all.

The space can be enhanced physically by the application on the following steps:

- Create more attractiveness by active functions
- Make sense of place to users
- Enhance and make diverse accessibility as efficient public transportation, bicycle rout, pedestrian and vehicle access

4.1.2 Functional Enhancements

Namik Kemal Square as a main square of Famagusta create a place for relaxing, safety and security for users also it has political role as a main public square. There are variety of functions in square such as café, restaurant, shops and etc. On of most important function is Lala Mustafa Mosque whit rich history also it known as a landmark in Famagusta. There are many cafés and restaurants that help to economic of city. Namik Kemal Square as a historic square is symbol of Famagusta Lala Mustafa Pasa Mosque has symbolic role for Famagusta city, because it is landmark and has rich history. In addition, it contribute the continuity of group or society and enhance the ties between the members. The following steps could be taken to improve the space functionally:

- Create more attractiveness by active functions
- Make sense of place to users

- Enhance and make diverse accessibility as efficient public transportation, bicycle route, pedestrian and vehicle access

4.1.3 Social Enhancements

The square with variety of functions makes it active almost to the midnight, and different type of people use it. Shopping by tourists (usually mosque visitors) and some native people which are middle age and older. Cafes and restaurants by several groups and ages during the day, from breakfast to dinner is an opportunity for eating, relaxing, reading and gathering. Two bars (Ginkgo & Bandabulia) which play music at nights mostly in weekends and holidays which most of users are young ages. Also, arrange some meetings or using bars and cafes. A friendly and happy area with different choices and different people from other cultures that allows making contact with them, talking and discussing and that feels users respect. Overall, the square is a well-organized and characterized one in the area.

To improve the social characteristics the following should be done:

- Create some spaces to participate in cultural/ recreational activities
- Increase the level of safety and security especially at nighttime
- Make sense of place to users
- Increase leisure activities for different group of ages and for different users by the year.

Further Research

Squares as a main part of cities should be created sense of place for people. Historic squares same, as Namik Kemal Square need more attention. Urban planners and designers should care about these squares. In this research so many information explained about squares but more research is still required. Further analyses of survey of the study can focus on different topics of success and sustainable squares. Also urban planners, architectures, municipality, architecture and urban designer students will get benefit of this research.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Sample of English Questionnaire

Questionnaire

This questionnaire survey is conducted by Shirin Moallem Master candidate of M.S in Urban Design program, in the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture, Eastern Mediterranean University, Famagusta, North Cyprus, as a part of her Master studies under the supervision by Prof. Dr. Şebnem Onal Hoskara. Furthermore, Shirin Moallem will analyze all collected data under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Şebnem Onal Hoskara.

Direction:

- Put a check (√) to your corresponding answer. (If you have more than one option please mention)

Thank you in advance for your time and support.

A: Personal Information:

Gender		Age					Marriage status				Employment					Education						
M	F	13-18	19-24	25-34	35-50	51-64	65 and older	Married	Single	Widow	Divorced	Working	University Student	School student	Retired	Unemployed	Housewife	never attended school	Primary/Secondary School	High School	University	Post-Grad. Degree (Master/PhD)

1- What is your nationality?

Turkish Cypriot Turkish Other (Please specify)

2- Are you a

Student Tourist Local Resident

3- Where do you live?

- Walled city Baykal Gulseren Karakol Sakarya
EMU campus Other (Please specify).....

4- How often do you come to Namik Kemal Square?

- Daily or more than three times a week 1-3 times a week
1-3 times a month Monthly Never

5- When do you prefer to visit the Namik Kemal Square?

- During the daytime In the evening At night
During the week At weekends

6- Is Namik Kemal accessible enough for you?

- Yes No Not bad No idea

7- Do you like to spend some free time in Namik Kemal Square?

- Yes No

8- Do you feel safe during the time of the day in Namik Kemal Square?

- Yes No Sometimes

9- Do you feel safe at night in Namik Kemal square?

- Yes No Sometimes

10- Is Namik Kemal Square equipped well in terms of street furniture?

- Yes No

If no what is needed?

- Bin Lighting Sitting elements Shelter
Public art Signage Paving material

11- What do you think about lighting of pedestrian paths at nights in Namik Kemal Square?

- Poor Fair Good Excellent

12- How do you rate the greenery along the Namik Kemal Square?

Poor Fair Good Excellent

13- How do you rate the sitting elements in Namik Kemal Square?

Poor Fair Good Excellent

14- How do you see the safety in interaction points between pedestrians and vehicles in Namik Kemal Square?

Poor Fair Good Excellent

15- Do you think the existing functions in Namik Kemal Square are adequate?

Yes No

16- Why do you use Namik Kemal Square usually?

Pass through Meeting friends Shopping Having a meal /café
for beach facility For fresh air To spend time To play and sport To
relax To take a walk Other (Please specify)..... For
festivals For religious purposes

17- What are the negative points of Namik Kemal Square?

Poor quality of buildings Safety Pollution Lack facilities
Bad quality of pavements Lack of restaurants and cafes Lack
of greenery Lack of street elements, furniture (please
specify)..... Other (Please
specify).....

18- What are the factors, which encourage you to spend time in Namik Kemal Square?

Attractiveness Safety Sense of belonging Comfort livability
Cleanliness Mixed use Access Facilities/Functions Sitting
opportunity Maintenance Ease of circulation Other (Please
specify).....

19- In general, are you satisfied with the quality of Namik Kemal Square?

Very satisfied

Somewhat satisfied

Not satisfied

Not sure

20- Do you have any comments regarding the improvements of Namik Kemal Square?

.....

Thank for your time and support