Analyzing the Social, Physical, and Functional, Qualities of Long Beach, Iskele, Cyprus

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We certify that we have read this thesis and that in our opinion it is fully adequate in scope and quality as a thesis for the degree of Master of Science in Architecture.

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ABSTRACT

Waterfronts are the defining features of coastal settlements. In general, they have evolved over the centuries, witnessing significant transformations and increasingly shaping urban political discourse. Among these, the Iskele Waterfront, colloquially known as Long Beach, stands out as a premier attraction in Cyprus. However, despite its prominence, the seafront faces challenges in its physical and social qualities, drawing potential concerns from both local residents and tourists. This thesis investigates the dual dimensions of the Long Beach seafront, emphasizing its architectural structures, amenities, landscapes, demographics, and economic profiles. Initial assessments indicate that while the Iskele seafront excels in comparison to its regional counterparts, it stays behind when gauged against global standards, especially in terms of public accessibility and areas of compromised safety due to lighting issues. This study is designed to comprehensively examine the seafront, aiming to identify its core attributes and areas necessitating enhancement. The research uses primary and sub-questions to understand the seafront's broader context as a public open space and its role within urban coastal settlements. The methodology integrates qualitative and quantitative approaches, including a rich literature review and interviews with a diverse sample from the local population. This study's recommendations aim to introduce eco-friendly public transport systems, ensure inclusivity for all user groups, integrate public art for cultural representation, and devise specialized activity zones to breathe life into the seafront's environment.

Keywords: Urban waterfront development; Public open spaces; Long Beach analysis; Coastal urban design.

ÖZ

Kıyılar, kıyı yerleşimlerinin belirleyici özellikleridir. Genel olarak, yüzyıllar boyunca bu gelişmişler, önemli dönüşümlere tanık olmuşlar ve kentsel politikaları şekillendirmişlerdir. Bunlar arasında halk dilinde Long Beach olarak bilinen İskele Sahili, Kıbrıs'ın önde gelen turistik mekanlarından biri olarak öne çıkmaktadır. Ancak, bu önemine rağmen deniz kıyısı fiziksel ve sosyal nitelikleri açısından bazı sorunlarla karşı karşıyadır ve bu durum hem yerel halkın hem de turistlerin kaygılarına neden olmaktadır. Bu tez kapsamında, Long Beach Sahili'nin mimari yapıları, olanakları, peyzajı, demografik yapısı ve ekonomik profilleri ele alınacaktır. İlk değerlendirmeler, İskele sahilinin bölgedeki benzerleriyle karşılaştırıldığında daha başarılı olduğunu, ancak küresel standartlarla karşılaştırıldığında, özellikle toplu erişilebilirlik ve aydınlatma yetersizliği nedeniyle bazı alanlarda güvenlik sorunları olduğu ortaya çıkmıştır. Bu çalışma, deniz kıyısını kapsamlı bir şekilde incelemek, mevcut donanımını ve iyileştirilmesi için gereken alanları belirlemek amacıyla hazırlanmıştır. Araştırma, sahilin kamusal açık alan olarak kalitesini ve kentsel kıyı yerleşimleri içindeki rolünü anlamak için birincil ve alt sorulara cevap aramaktadır. Gerekli literatür taraması, gözlem ve röportaj yöntemi ile nitel ve nicel veriler toplanmıştır. Bu çalışmanın önerileri, çevre dostu toplu taşıma sistemlerinin kullanılmasını, tüm kullanıcı grupları için kapsayıcılığın sağlanmasını, kültürel sanatı entegre etmeyi ve sahil ortamını daha canlı kılmak adına özel aktiviterin entegre edilmesini içermektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kentsel Kıyı Gelişimi; Kamusal Açık Alanlar; Long Beach Sahil Analizi; Kıyı Kentsel Tasarımı

To my family…

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

Waterfronts serve as principal attraction points for coastal settlements. These spaces are often designed with marinas and diverse recreational activities. Besides, they function as social gathering places for entertainment, relaxation, and more. The distinct characteristic of a coastal settlement is its coastline, setting it apart from other entities. Coastal environments offer a dynamic milieu with varied functions, presenting cities with unique aesthetics, tourist attractions, host areas, economic benefits, and global transportation avenues. Fasli & Pakdel (2010) noted their potential to offer users pleasurable experiences. Moreover, Breen & Rigby (1996) pointed that urban coastal areas have significantly transformed over the past centuries. The reliance on various public spaces has decreased due to the existence of more methods are identified for enhancing waterfront enjoyment (Sairinen & Kumpulainen, 2006). The social facets of urban waterfronts have gained increasing prominence in urban political discourse. This thesis delves into the physical and social attributes of the Long Beach seafront. The physical quality of the discussed space is shaped by factors such as access, architectural structure, public spaces, ground cover, street furnishing, and landscaping. Conversely, the social attributes of its users are molded by their demographic and economic profiles, as well as their activities. In conclusion, this study explore the evolving nature of waterfronts, highlighting their dual role in both urban development and as hubs of community engagement, thereby reflecting the changing needs and preferences of city dwellers and tourists alike.

1.1 Problem Statement

The Iskele Waterfront, also known as Long Beach, is an attraction both for residents and tourists. However, the waterfront has limited actively recreational spaces that compromise its physical and social qualities as week as some physical issues. The seafront, being a type of public open space, has gained popularity in recent years among both locals and visitors to Cyprus. Thus, enhancing the physical and social attributes of the public open spaces along the seafront could lead to more efficient use. Based on the analysis, the prevalent issues include:

- The physical quality of the Iskele seafront is generally effective compared to other seafronts in Northern Cyprus. However, compared to global standards, several tasks are directly or indirectly related to surroundings and physical functions, particularly public accessibility.

- Regarding social quality, although the seafront is generally safe, there are some areas where lighting is not available, especially at night. Additionally, certain regions lack comfort, marking them as poor in social quality.

1.2 Aim of the Study

This study seeks to examine the Iskele Waterfront (Long Beach), focusing on its social, physical and functional qualities for improvement. The central questions guiding this study are:

- What are the primary social, physical and functional qualities of the Iskele Seafront?

Besides this primary question, several sub-questions have been formulated, including:

- How public open spaces can be defined?
- How public open spaces can be classified?

- How is a waterfront classified as a public open space?

- How does a seafront differ from other waterfronts?

- What constitutes public open spaces on the seafront?

- What characteristics define a successful seafront?

- What are the influential qualities on the seafront?

The objective of this study includes:

- Understanding the concept of public open spaces and their classifications.

- Recognizing successful seafront characteristics.

- Grasping the influential attributes of public spaces, especially on the seafront. Which qualities should be targeted for improvement.

1.3 Limitation

The scope of this research is confined to the public open spaces of the Long Beach seafront, ranging from Pera Mackenzie to the last car parking space on the seafront. Public open spaces are influenced by multiple elements such as accessibility, public open spaces, base coverings, street furnishings elements, landscape, as well as demographic and socio-economic features. These elements, uses, and activities are elaborated upon under this thesis's social, physical, and functional categories.

1.4 Methodology

This research employs a combination of qualitative and quantitative methodologies. A literature review has been done to collect the data about physical qualities. A survey was completed to collect data about social qualities and then an interview was conducted. In this context, a sample of 96 individuals, including locals, students, retirees, merchants, the unemployed, and waterfront employees, are interviewed using 22

closed and 2 open-ended questions. Furthermore, this thesis is divided into four principal phases. The first entails establishing a theoretical framework grounded in a detailed literature review. The second phase consists of a comprehensive case study analysis from physical, functional, and social perspectives. In the third phase, the collected data are evaluated. The final phase presents conclusions and recommendations based on the established evaluation criteria. Table 1 provides further details regarding this point. For the sample size determination in the case study's location, the investigation focused on individuals residing or working within a short distance from the seafront, specifically within approximately 800 meters or a 10-minute walk. This selection criterion ensured that the respondents were directly involved in improving their immediate surroundings and the adjacent area. To ascertain the appropriate sample size for this study, The formula proposed by Terrell and Daniel (1995) was utilized in this context. It is specifically tailored for applications that include finite populations and has been cited by Fasil et al. (2016), Cengiz (2012), and Atici (2012). The population at the designated site's final results formed the basis for this strategy. The formula size for this thesis is 96, which was selected through random sampling.

$$n \geq \frac{Z^2 \times N \times p \times q}{N \times D^2 + Z^2 \times p \times q}$$

n = Sample size, Z = Confidence coefficient (z = 1.96 for 95% confidence level), N = Population size. p = Proportion of the sample in the population, q = 1-p = 0.5, D = Sampling error (% 10)

$$n \geq \frac{(1.96)^2 \times 10.100 \times (0.5) \times (0.5)}{10.100 \times (0.10)^2 \times (1.96)^2 \times (0.5) \times (0.5)}$$

$$n \geq 95$$

Figure 1: Sample size determination formula (Daniel &Terrel,1995)

Table 1: Thesis structure

Introduction
→ Definition of the thesis subject and research problem clearly
→ Naming the thesis questions and objectives clearly
Theoretical Framework and Literature Review
→ Public open spaces definition and their types
→ Waterfront
→ Seafront definition as a type of waterfront
→ Seafront successful characteristics
→ Influencing Qualities on the Seafront physical and social qualities
Data Collection
Physical and functional qualities analysis
→ Photographs
→ Interview surveys
→ Observation of the case study by being there at different time
Social quality analysis
→ Interview questionnaires
Data Evaluation
→ Physical and functional qualities
→ Social qualities
Conclusion and Recommendation

Chapter 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Public open spaces have historically been a crucial aspect of urban architectural life. These spaces, characterized by their functions, values, and identities, predominantly include streets, squares, parks, and waterfronts (Carmona, Matthew et al. 2003). Such spaces, which also encompass gardens, playing fields, pavements, public coastlines, riverbanks, and more, are typically open to the public and often owned and managed by the government (UN-Habitat 2018).

The cityscape is significantly influenced by its public spaces, whether parks, gardens, or playgrounds for children (Carmona et al., 2003). As public open spaces, waterfronts distinguish themselves due to their unique transitional nature at the junction of water and land (Giovinazzi & Moretti 2009). They provided various activity spaces for different user groups. They are breathing areas for the cities.

2.2 Public Open Spaces

Jacobs (1961) and Madanipour (1999) define "public open space" as outdoor areas accessible to the public without charge, including streets, squares, pedestrian areas, waterfronts, and more. Sir Stuart Lipton, chairman of CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment), in a study titled "The Value of Public Spaces," posited that public open spaces are important to urban life. They include familiar areas such as streets traversed daily, playgrounds, places of natural beauty,

and local parks. These spaces serve as leisure places for daily urban life chaos out of the cities. Furthermore, Addas & Maghrabi (2020) mentioned that such spaces are pivotal for enhancing their users' physical, mental, and social well-being.

However, the design and management of public open spaces should enhance the quality of life. Factors such as safety, usage opportunities, relaxation, and joyfulness must be considered (Carr,1992). In order to maintain high-quality public spaces, user satisfaction should satisfy. This involves creating universally accessible spaces that adhere to consistent standards. Design should also facilitate ease of understanding and navigation, ensuring effective utilization by the public. In summary, the quality of public spaces profoundly affects the quality of life, and emphasizing elements that bolster this quality is paramount. By fostering areas that are safe, accessible, enjoyable, and user-friendly, society ensures that all individuals can derive value from these crucial urban assets (Table 2).

Table 2: Stephen Carr's approach to public open spaces (Carr, 1992. Page 10)

Stephen Carr's Approach for Public Open Spaces in 1992	Satisfaction	Public open spaces are areas that meet people needs.
	Equality	Public Areas are respecting the human rights and giving services democratically.
	Legibility	Meaningful public areas are provide the strong connection between people-place and people-world.

According to Jacobs (1961) and Madanipour (1999), the term "public open space" denotes outdoor areas freely accessible to the public. Sir Stuart Lipton, chairman of CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment), in a study titled "The Value of Public Spaces," asserted that public open spaces are ubiquitous and integral to urban life. Lipton (UN-Habitat, 2018) also equated public open spaces to

open-air living rooms or leisure centers. Furthermore, Addas and Maghrabi (2020) posited that such spaces play a pivotal role in enhancing users' physical, mental, and social well-being.

For public open spaces to elevate the quality of life, their design and management must consider factors like safety, usability, relaxation, and joyfulness (Carr, 1992). Ensuring high-quality public spaces necessitates prioritizing user satisfaction by creating universally accessible and standardized spaces. It is equally vital for these spaces to be intuitively designed to foster practical usage. The quality of public spaces profoundly influences individuals' lives; hence, it is crucial to prioritize elements that enable quality living within these spaces. Establishing safe, accessible, pleasant, and user-friendly public spaces ensures their optimal benefit to all.

Such spaces bolster city resilience and economy and rank among a city's prime amenities. They promise many health, economic, environmental, and social benefits. Socially, they offer opportunities for community interaction and foster connections among diverse groups. Gehl (2011), in "Life Between Buildings: Using Public Spaces," delineated three categories of outdoor activities in public open spaces, each with distinct demands on the environment:

Necessary activity-under all conditions:

These are obligatory activities like commuting to work or school, grocery shopping, or urgent errands, where alternatives are scant.

Optional activities-only under favorable exterior conditions

These activities are pursued when conducive circumstances include strolling in a serene open space or relaxing in a recreational area.

Social or resultant activities:

Other public space users mainly influence these activities, including children's playing, casual interactions, and community endeavors. Notable among these is the act of observing and interacting with others, which might transpire in gardens, balconies, private outdoor areas, or docks. Effective public spaces enable users to engage and communicate.

Public spaces play a key role in allowing users to interact and engage with one another. A notable study regarding this issue discusses the relationship between outdoor activities and the quality of public open spaces, as summarized in Table 3.

Table 3: Jan Gehl's concept of variable contact intensity (Gehl, 1996. Page 11)

| | Quality of the physical environment | |
	Poor	Good
Necessary activities	●	●
Optional activities	·	⬤
"Resultant" activities (Social activities)	●	●

When open spaces are inadequately maintained, they tend to support only the most essential activities. On the other hand, high-quality public open spaces promote

necessary activities and extend the time pedestrians spend in these areas. These enhanced environments encourage optional activities that cater to the diverse needs of participants, whether it be casual meetups, leisurely meals, or recreational pursuits. Public open spaces act as arenas for social interaction, allowing individuals to immerse themselves in a broader community. They serve as venues where people can encounter novelty, experience emotions, acquire knowledge, and find inspiration. These spaces foster social growth across different community levels, from small neighborhood parks to large urban squares. Such areas become melting pots where individuals, regardless of their backgrounds, gather and benefit merely from being present. Encountering others and deriving stimuli from such interactions offers a welcome respite from solitude.

Moreover, public spaces are confluences where individuals from diverse cultures, ethnicities, and races can showcase their traditions and experience unfamiliar ones. They offer an avenue for cultural and social events. Each culture is characterized by its unique attire, language, customs, beliefs, philosophy, and behaviors. Public spaces provide an environment where these myriad cultural facets can be shared and appreciated. Such exchanges pave the way for the emergence of new perspectives and expand the horizon of social and cultural opportunities in realms like art, music, and cuisine. As Zukin, S. (1995, p. 259) mentioned, "Public spaces are the principal venue of public culture; they serve as a window into the soul of the city".

When waterfronts are considered, they are the public spaces accessible to public adjacent to water bodies designed for recreational, social, or cultural purposes. These spaces can encompass parks, beaches, boardwalks, and various facilities, offering a range of activities to cater to diverse age groups and preferences, such as sports courts,

picnic spots, and public art displays. Besides fostering social interactions, promoting

health, and facilitating community engagement, waterfront public spaces can also

drive economic growth in their vicinity. Notable examples of such spaces are Battery

Park, Stanley Park, and the Thames Path, as depicted in Figure 2 to Figure 4.

Figure 2: Battery Park, Southern tip of Manhattan Island in New York City (URL 1)

Figure 3: Stanley Park, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada (URL 2)
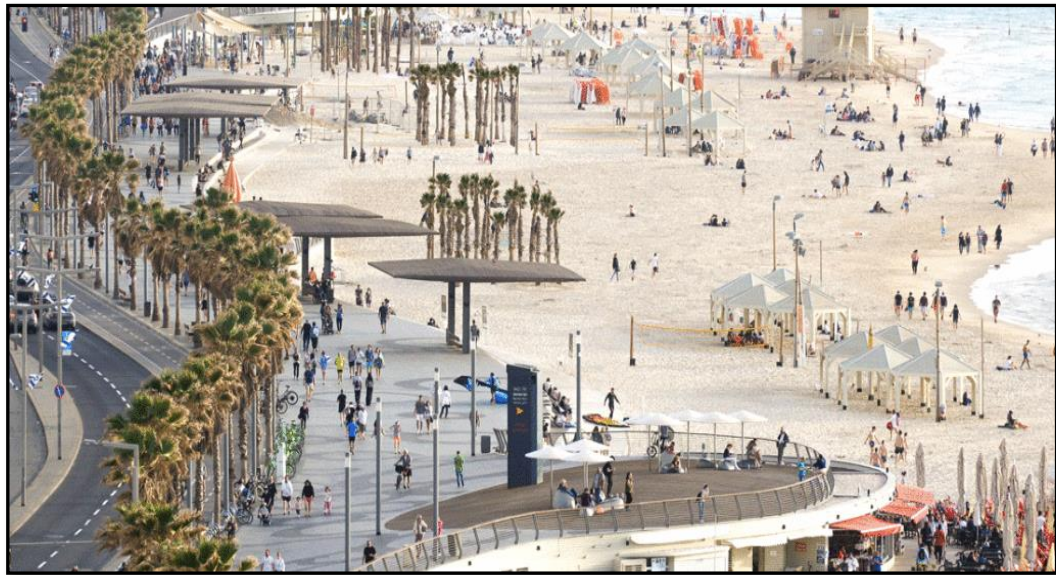
Figure 4: The central promenade of the young Bauhaus city of Tel Aviv (URL 3)

2.2.1 Types of Public Open Spaces

2.2.1.1 Streets

Streets are essential components of the environment. Their form can be understood through their diverse attributes, such as dynamically vibrant or visually static, enclosed or open, long or short, broad or narrow, and straight or curved. Carmona et al. (2008) posited that these primary public areas of cities serve as crucial organs, functioning as multifunctional spaces (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Dam Street, Amsterdam, the street serves as multiple areas where people can socialize and enjoy (URL 4)

Beyond serving as spaces for amenities like seating, resting areas, entertainment venues, food enterprises, and public art pieces, streets also foster social interactions. Kostov (1991) asserted that cities are inconceivable without streets, which can consist of roads, walkways, and buildings. The book "Public Space Management Dimension" suggests that streets accentuate the quality of public life, thereby illuminating the community and fostering connections among individuals by acting as social spaces, efficient movement channels, and visual elements. Carmona et al. (2008) described them as enjoyable social environments that bestow aesthetic and interpersonal pleasures. Jacobs (1961) emphasized that cities are defined by their streets and sidewalks, central public spaces that shape the city's personality. Interestingly, while streets appear as unified entities, they often result from the fragmented efforts of multiple stakeholders (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Damrak Street, Amsterdam Central Station to Dam Square, with its many attractions, is located on this busy and crowded street (URL 5)
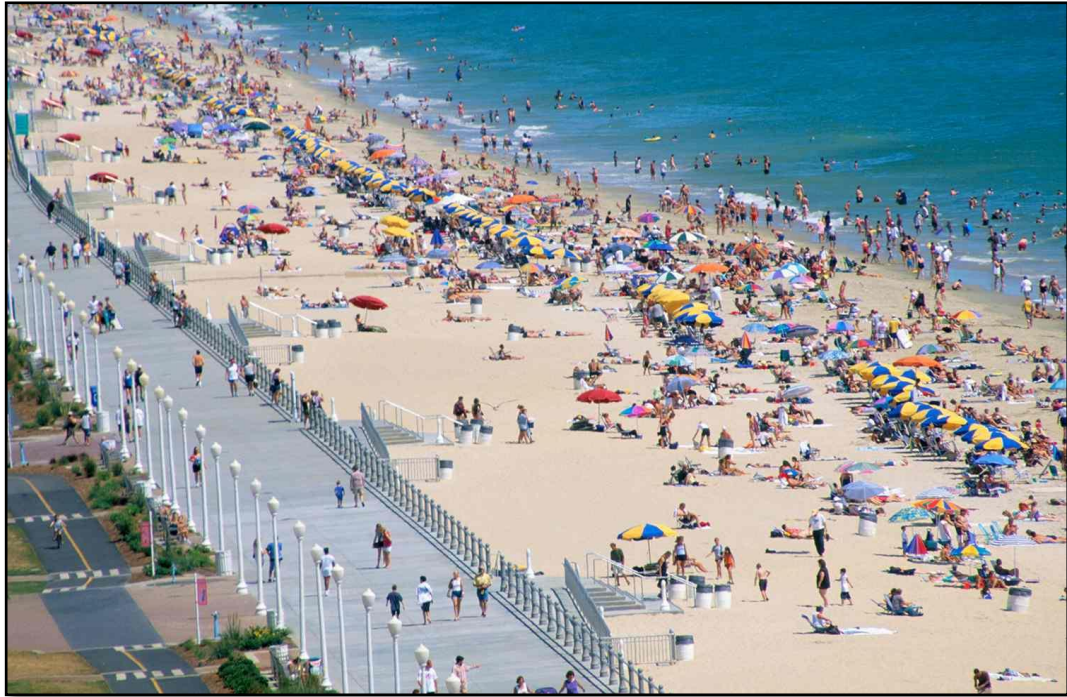
Figure 7: Virginia Beach Boardwalk, cycling, and rollerblading are permitted separately on the boardwalk (URL 6)

Seaside streets and sidewalks are significant urban design elements that ensure accessibility and connectivity for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles (Figure 7). These spaces are designed with the safety and comfort of users in mind to integrate features like dedicated bike lanes, pedestrian crossings, and traffic-calming measures. Chen, J. (2019) emphasized the importance of prioritizing safety and comfort in the design of these spaces. Additionally, they enhance the aesthetic allure of the area with landscaping, street furniture, and public art installations. Wu & Jiang (2016) categorized waterfront streets into main streets, boardwalks, esplanades, and quays. Main streets typically run alongside the water as primary commercial and transportation routes. Boardwalks are exclusive pedestrian zones, often lined with shops and eateries. Esplanades, with their scenic vantage points, may have gardens and art installations (Figure 8), while quays typically align with docks and piers, primarily serving cargo purposes (Figure 9).

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Figure 8: Three Waves Esplanade - a new seafront in Dover, England (URL 7)

Figure 9: Gun Wharf Quays (URL 8)

Biddulph & Wylde (2014) argued that well-designed waterfront streets can elevate the quality of life for residents and tourists, fostering economic growth by attracting tourism and investments.

2.2.1.2 Squares

Squares, a specific public open space, offer numerous communal benefits, such as opportunities for social interaction, recreation, and civic participation. The American Planning Association (APA, 2018) defined squares as open spaces that serve as public

gathering places or intersections for multiple streets or pedestrian paths. Often centered around a focal point, like a statue, they might be surrounded by structures, eateries, and other amenities, making them attractive to locals and tourists alike. Frumkin et al. (2011) emphasized squares' potential in nurturing community spirit and fostering social ties. The APA (2018) further stated that public open spaces can combat social isolation and promote mental well-being by enabling social interactions and physical activities. Waterfront squares, positioned along water bodies, become prime destinations for residents and visitors, offering activities ranging from walks and runs to cycling and boating. Their designs vary based on community needs, from formal gardens to organic settings with water features such as fountains or reflecting pools Figure 10.

Figure 10: A view of a waterfront square (URL 9)

2.2.1.3 Parks

Parks, as public open spaces, are designed and maintained for community recreation and enjoyment. These spaces can vary in size from small neighborhood parks to expansive regional ones, and they often feature amenities like playgrounds, sports fields, trails, picnic areas, and gardens. Parks serve critical functions and offer physical activity, social interaction, and relaxation opportunities. They can also function as venues for community events and cultural activities. By providing access to green spaces and outdoor recreational activities, parks promote the health and well-being of residents. Furthermore, such open areas encourage active and leisurely pursuits (Clayton, 2003). Parks enhance urban regions by offering natural spaces for enjoyment. They positively impact physical and mental health, foster community, and render cities and neighborhoods more attractive (Sherer, 2006). Effectively, they play a pivotal role in bolstering the community's image and redefining its character.

Concerning waterfront parts, they are public spaces with distinctive recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. Often, these parks are designed to maximize the inherent beauty of waterfronts, providing breathtaking views of the water and the adjacent landscape. In 2018, the National Recreation and Park Association articulated that the objective of waterfront parks is to offer public water access while nurturing an appreciation for the environment. Such parks can also yield revenue by attracting tourists and serving as local destinations. Moreover, the United Nations Environment Program's report titled "Urban Ecosystems: City Parks" mentioned that the design of waterfront parks can differ based on geography and community requirements. While some waterfront parks prioritize sports and recreation, others emphasize natural allure

and conservation. Regardless of design, waterfront parks are indispensable in granting public water access and promoting outdoor activities and environmental stewardship.

2.2.1.4   Waterfronts

Waterfronts are segments of urban areas adjacent to or overlooking rivers, lakes, canals, and artificial water bodies. In numerous major cities, waterfront buildings, which became popular in the 1980s, remain in vogue. Cities with remarkable ocean or bay views recognize an evident truth: enhanced public access augments the value of their port regions (Shaziman et al., 2010). Furthermore, strong, clear, interconnected pedestrian pathways are foundational to a thriving public domain. When a promenade links to streets, it transforms into a communal space, connecting the city to the sea. Integrating building design with the waterfront fosters a vibrant public area, which provides occupants with invaluable usable space. The major types of waterfronts are explored below.

Waterfronts are categorized by various authors based on different criteria, such as physical features, functions, or locations. For example, they are divided into three groups by Moughtin (2003): fishing settlements, beaches, and costal cliffs. Additionally, waterfronts can be classified by the water bodies they adjoin:

1. Oceanfront: By bordering oceans or seas, these waterfronts may feature sandy beaches, rocky cliffs, or mangrove forests (figure 11).

Figure 11: Oceanfront, The pier of Scheveningen (The Hague, Netherlands)
(URL 10)

2. Riverfronts: Adjacent to rivers or other flowing bodies, these can range from slender urban strips to broad natural banks (Figure 12).
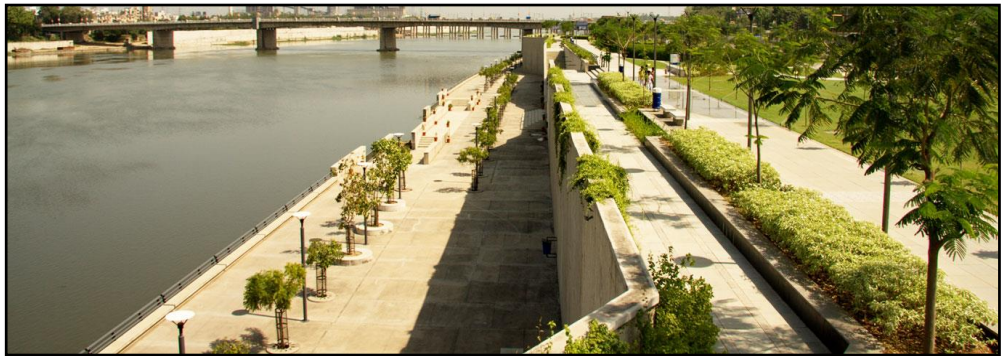
Figure 12: Riverfront, Sabarmati River Front Development Project, Ahmedabad
(URL 11)

3. Lakefronts: Lining lakes or other stagnant water bodies, they can showcase sandy shores, rocky edges, or marshlands. (figure 13)

Figure 13: Lakefronts, Rotorua, New Zealand (URL 12)

4. Estuarine waterfronts: Located beside estuaries, where rivers merge with seas, these waterfronts possess unique ecological features, often serving as critical habitats for diverse species. (figure 14)
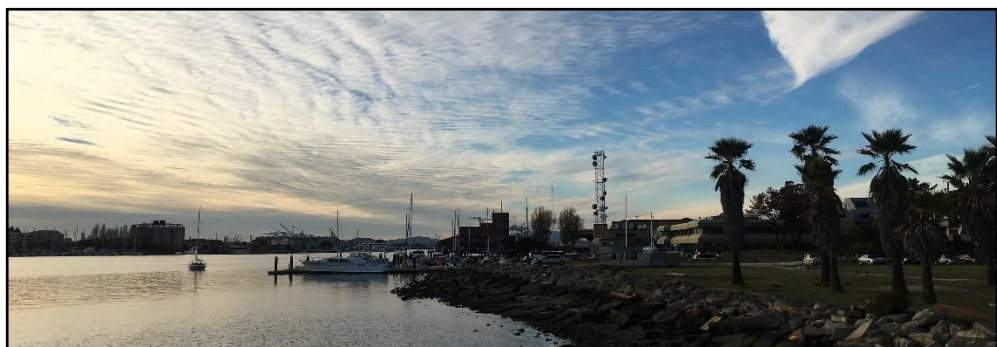
Figure 14: Estuarine waterfronts, city of Oklohand. (URL 13)

5. Canal waterfronts: Abutting canals or artificial waterways used for various purposes; these waterfronts exhibit diverse characteristics depending on the specific canal (Figure 15).

Figure 15: Canal waterfront. Adventurous Amsterdam (URL 14)

Accordingly, waterfronts can exhibit diverse utilities and attributes based on their adjoining water bodies. Therefore, this study will exclusively focus on seafronts for thesis control.

2.3 Seafront as a Kind of Waterfront Definition

A seafront is a type of waterfront where land meets the sea, typically found in coastal towns or cities. Such areas often feature a promenade or boardwalk along the water's edge, providing a scenic space for individuals to stroll, jog, or relax while observing the sea views. Beyond this, seafronts offer various amenities, including parks, gardens, restaurants, and recreational facilities, catering to tourists and residents. For instance, swimming pools and water sports centers provide opportunities for water-based activities, while fishing spots and boating docks appeal to those pursuing outdoor adventures. Owing to these attractions, seafronts are popular venues for numerous

recreational pursuits, from sunbathing to picnicking. These areas also bring significant economic and social benefits, attracting tourists and serving as communal gathering spots. The lively seafront atmosphere fosters community and bolsters the local economy. In conclusion, seafronts benefit coastal communities by offering diverse leisure activities, promoting tourism, and enhancing social cohesion (figure 2.17).

2.3.1 Public Open Spaces on the Seafront

Seafronts encompass a range of public spaces, including promenades and boardwalks, which offer stunning vistas and recreational avenues such as walking and cycling. Beaches are other favored spots for swimming, sunbathing, and water sports. Seafronts often house parks and gardens featuring green spaces, benches, and picnic areas. Public squares act as focal points for events and social interactions. Elevated viewing platforms and waterfront plazas are also prevalent, replete with features like fountains and sculptures. These areas might even present sports facilities, such as basketball courts. All these spaces contribute to the vibrant ambiance of the seafronts, drawing visitors and residents.

The term "seafront" delineates the strip of land abutting a sea or ocean. While a waterfront is a juncture where land meets any water body, including rivers and lakes, seafronts are exclusively adjacent to seas or oceans. They often boast amenities like beaches and promenades that allure visitors and locals. Rigby (1996) introduced a classification for waterfronts based on usage, encompassing categories from commercial to environmental waterfronts. Conversely, Hudson (1996) segmented waterfronts into straight coasts, bays, gulfs, straits, and islands. Oktay (2001) states seafronts offer myriad benefits, from facilitating social interactions to promoting urban revitalization. Waterfronts, in general, contribute to personal satisfaction, happiness,

and vitality. Echoing this sentiment, Fasli and Pakdel (2010) emphasize the coastline's role in offering a break from urban pollutants. Thus, Fasli et al. (2010) noted that public waterfronts can manifest in diverse forms, from seafronts to riverbanks. They play an indispensable role in urban settings, enhancing communities' social, cultural, economic, and environmental fabric, as highlighted by Madenipour (2004). Economically vibrant waterfronts provide myriad opportunities for interactions and tourism, enriching the experiences of both visitors and locals.

2.3.2 History of Seafront

According to six authors on seafront changes over time, seafronts have ancient origins Björn (2013), Gissen (2013), Hall et al. (2006), Kostopoulou et al. (2013), Molloy (2013), and Talen & Anselin (1998). Civilizations such as the Greeks and Romans constructed ports and cities along the Mediterranean, while the Phoenicians built their cities on the Red Sea and the Mediterranean. In medieval periods, ports were pivotal commercial hubs with warehouses, docks, and shipyards lining the coastlines, safeguarded by seawalls and breakwaters. During the Renaissance, seafronts evolved into crucial centers for trade, culture, and leisure, with the construction of elaborate promenades and plazas. The 19th century witnessed the advent of technologies like steamships and railroads, expanding many ports and waterfront cities. However, the 20th century brought about significant transformations in seafronts due to urbanization and modernization, often converting historic ports and waterfronts into commercial and industrial zones. Numerous cities are investing in preserving and revitalizing seafronts, incorporating new public spaces, parks, and cultural attractions.

2.3.3 Successful Seafront Characteristics

In Harriet Minter's article, "What Makes a Successful Seafront," published in The Guardian, she delves into the features of successful seafronts and their benefits to local

communities. Minter underscores the importance of a clear seafront vision tailored to the community's needs and aspirations. She posits, "A well-defined vision can guide development, attract investment, and foster a sense of identity for the area." Minter then identifies accessibility as a pivotal characteristic of successful seafronts, emphasizing its importance for individuals of all ages and abilities. This entails physical access and the availability of amenities such as restrooms, seating, and shade. Additionally, she highlights the significance of offering many activities and attractions, ranging from water sports and beach activities to cultural events and festivals. Such actions can foster community spirit and incentivize longer stays in the area. Furthermore, the need for a meticulously designed public realm emerges based on established urban planning, tourism, and waterfront development practices. This realm should emphasize pedestrian access, safety, and comfort, encompassing wide paths, ample seating, and verdant spaces. Aesthetic and functional designs are essential in crafting a hospitable and appealing environment that encourages visitors to stay. Successful seafront characteristics are detailed in Figure 16. The factors that are mentioned herein are recognized across a multitude of popular seaside destinations.
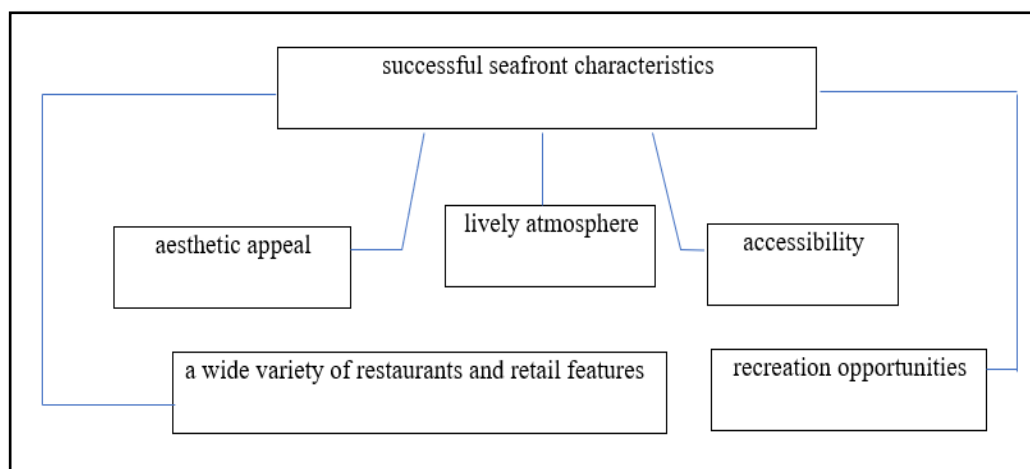
Figure 16: Successful seafront characteristics (modified from Gehl, 1996.)

2.3.4 Major Qualities at the Seafront

Mainly there are three main qualities which influence the satisfaction at seafront. These are physical, functional, and social qualities. The social quality of the waterfront is also pivotal, shaped by three crucial factors: the demographic traits of the users, their economic characteristics, and the interplay between users and activities. Physical qualities include accessible circulation pedestrian and bicycle orientation, connection, mobility, streets furnishing elements, and landscapes. and functional dominations included by building structure, open space, base coverings. Subsequent sections of this chapter will provide information about physical, Functional, and social qualities.

2.3.4.1 Social Qualities

Social qualities of waterfront namely included demographic characteristic of the users, economic level of the users as well as users and activity.

Demographic Characteristics of the Users:

Demographic factors encompass age, gender, ethnicity, race, and geography. A city's demographic composition may influence the use of public open spaces. For instance, age can affect societal perceptions and treatment of individuals, while gender influences the formation of gender identity. Race and ethnicity also shape demographic attributes, and geographical subgroups might influence these factors; however, the latter's reliability as indicators of cultural or socioeconomic similarities might be diminished due to increased mobility.

Economic Characteristics of the Users:

Social economics primarily focuses on a community's social processes and economic activities. This field posits that an individual's or group's actions within a community can be interpreted through their purchasing habits, among other factors. Social

25

economists predominantly examine economic decisions made by individuals from diverse social backgrounds. Furthermore, education, family structure, employment, and affiliation with specific ethnic minority groups influence socioeconomic status beyond merely financial means.

Users and Activities:

The seafront, consisting of the coastal zone and its adjoining terrestrial areas, is a favored destination for tourists and locals, boasting many activities and attractions catering to varied preferences. Predominant activities at the seafront include beach-based ones such as sunbathing, swimming, surfing, paddle boarding, and other aquatic sports. Many seafront regions designate specific zones on the beach for these pursuits, often supervised by professional lifeguards to ensure safety. Moreover, strolling and bicycling along the coastline rank high among preferred activities, with dedicated pathways offering unparalleled oceanic views. These paths enjoy equal patronage from locals and tourists. In several locales, bicycle rental services allow visitors to appreciate the seafront's beauty at their leisure. Fishing, too, enjoys popularity, with enthusiasts casting from piers or sandy stretches. They can catch various fish species while savoring the seafront's tranquility. Boating, another preferred pastime, grants visitors a unique perspective of the shoreline, with many regions providing boat rental or guided tour services. Numerous seafront locales present diverse dining choices, ranging from indigenous seafood eateries to global culinary offerings, cafes, and stores where visitors can dine or shop for souvenirs. Several seafronts also house amusement centers, gaming arcades, and varied attractions, ensuring wholesome family entertainment. Cultural and historical sites such as museums, art exhibitions, and landmarks are abundant, enabling visitors to delve into local heritage and artistic

expressions. In summary, the seafront emerges as a vibrant and multifaceted locale with engagements and attractions that appeal to a broad spectrum of age groups and preferences (Table 4).

Table 4: Activities running around the seafront created by author

Activities	Description
Beach activities	Activities that take place at the beach, such as sunbathing, swimming, surfing, paddleboarding, and water sports.
Walking and cycling	Dedicated paths for walking and cycling, offering beautiful views of the sea, and often bike rentals available.
Fishing	Casting lines from piers or the beach for catching fish.
Boating	Renting boats or taking tours to explore the coast from a different perspective.
Dining and shopping	Various options for eating and shopping, including restaurants, cafes, and souvenir shops.
Amusement parks	Parks with rides and entertainment, including arcades and other attractions for families.
Cultural and historical attractions	Museums, art galleries, historical landmarks, and other cultural and historical attractions for learning about the local history and culture.

2.3.4.2 Physical Qualities

Physical qualities encompass the built structure designed by man within the built environment. At seafront there are various components that can be categorized as physical qualities, such as accessible circulation such as pedestrian and bicycle orientation, connection, accessibility, mobility, legibility, and landscapes. The most common types of built structure at seafront include:

Accessible circulation such as pedestrian and bicycle orientation:

As articulated by Lau and chino (2003, p.197), the concept of accessibility entitles the freedom or capability of individuals to meet their fundamental needs, thereby ensuring the preservation and enhancement of their overall quality of life. The effectiveness of public spaces is greatly impacted by the quality of their accessibility, encompassing reach and entry. Location, proximity, travel time, and the physical and functional

aspects of streets and transportation system play a pivotal role in influencing accessibility. (Pasaogullari, Doratli, 2004). Calming by Vescovi, 2011, creating easily navigable spaces with clear connectivity, well-organized public transportation, high quality infrastructure, and minimal density is important for public open spaces. also, it mentioned pedestrian and bicycle-friendly orientation is the key to sustainable public transportation and walkability. (Welch et.al, n.d. (2014)).

Connection and mobility:

The significance of places is highlighted when they are interconnected through meaningful links, with linkage playing a vital role in public utility. In this context, the essential requirement for public urban spaces are accessibility and mobility, fostering increased social interactions and creating a well utilized atmosphere.

Streets Furnishing Elements:

The seafront often includes benches, litter bins, planters, and bicycle racks to enhance its functionality, aesthetic value, or sitting opportunity and safety. These components, positioned along pedestrian areas, serve myriad purposes, such as offering seating, elevating ambiance, and reducing litter. Lighting fixtures, including lampposts and bollards, are installed to bolster nighttime visibility and safety.

Figure 17: Street furnishing benches (URL 15)

Figure 18: Bikes racks made of steel and concrete (URL 16)

Landscapes:

Landscape design, the art of planning and crafting outdoor spaces, aims to produce visually captivating, functional, and sustainable areas. It employs diverse elements, from plants and water features to hardscapes and lighting, to curate outdoor environments tailored to users' needs while augmenting the natural setting. Landscape design's scope spans from small home gardens to expansive public parks, reflecting various styles and themes tailored to the space's purpose and location. For instance, thoughtful positioning of vegetation can provide shade, reduce erosion, and offer privacy. Water features can enhance aesthetic appeal and ambiance, while hardscape elements like pathways and seating zones increase accessibility and opportunities for relaxation. Furthermore, a well-conceived seafront can draw visitors, stimulate the local economy, and promote area development. Landscape design is paramount in molding the seafront, producing spaces that captivate, function efficiently, and benefit the community and the environment.

Figure 19: Landscapes treatment at waterfronts (URL 17)

2.3.4.3 Functional Qualities

Functional dominations included by building structure, open space, base coverings, street furnishing elements.

Existing buildings:

the incorporation of mixed-use building structures and communal spaces enhances the appeal of a location, diverse public facilities in the following contribute to overall attractiveness of the area (Welch, A. et al., (2015)). The multiplicity of public amenities fosters a sense of community and enriches the social and recreational aspects of the built environment.

1.   Hotels and resorts: Many seafronts feature hotels and resorts that provide accommodation and leisure facilities for tourists and visitors.

2.   Restaurants and cafes: Various food and beverage establishments, such as restaurants, cafes, bars, and snack bars, are prevalent.

3.   Shops and markets: Certain seafronts offer shops and markets selling souvenirs, beach gear, and local products.

4.   Entertainment and cultural venues: Some seafronts boast cinemas, theaters, music venues, art galleries, museums, and cultural centers.

5.   Residential buildings: Residential structures, including apartments and houses, are present on certain seafronts for permanent residents and holiday homeowners.

6.   Public facilities: Common amenities include public restrooms, parks, playgrounds, and sports facilities.

7.   Transportation infrastructure: Features like piers, docks, marinas, ferry terminals, parking areas, and bus stops can be found on some seafronts.

These building types can combine to cultivate a vibrant seafront environment in diverse ways.

Public spaces at seafronts provide a variety of public spaces, such as promenades and boardwalks that offer picturesque views and recreational opportunities, including walking, cycling, and rollerblading. Beaches serve as focal points for swimming, sunbathing, and water sports. Additionally, seafronts may host parks, gardens, public squares, elevated viewing platforms, waterfront plazas, and sports facilities. All these amenities contribute to the seafront's vibrant ambiance, drawing visitors and residents.

Open spaces:

 Seafronts provide a variety of public spaces, such as promenades and boardwalks, that offer picturesque views and recreational opportunities, including walking, cycling, and rollerblading. Beaches serve as focal points for swimming, sunbathing, and water sports. Additionally, seafronts may host parks, gardens, public squares, elevated viewing platforms, waterfront plazas, and sports facilities. All these amenities contribute to the seafront's vibrant ambiance, drawing visitors and residents.

Base Covering Treatment:

The choice of base coverings is pivotal in determining the functionality and aesthetics of public open spaces along the seafront. The selection of materials, including sand, pebbles, rocks, asphalt, concrete, and wood decking, is influenced by foot traffic, environmental considerations, desired activities, visual appeal, and maintenance demands (Figure 20).

Figure 20: Base covering (URL 18)

Aesthetics appear:

According to Merriam Webster the definition of aesthetics appear is "relating or dealing with aesthetics or the beautifulness and pleasing in appearance."

2.4 Summary of the Chapter

In conclusion, this chapter has focused on the nature and significance of open spaces in urban settings. It underscores the vital role these spaces play in enhancing the quality life by providing areas for relaxation, socialization, and engagement with nature. Each type of open spaces offers unique benefits and opportunities for interaction, contributing to the physical, mental, and social well-being of urban residents and tourists. Additionally, the chapter explored the distinct characteristics and benefits of these various types, such as seafronts, emphasizing their role in urban revitalization

and community building. This chapter has highlighted that waterfronts service as hubs for social gatherings, cultural events, and economic activities, drawing both residents and tourists alike. Seafronts, in particular, stand out for their ability to blend natural beauty with recreational facilities, making them highly attractive for various leisure and tourism activities. They offer spaces for relaxation and escape from urban stress, while also acting as catalysts for economic growth through tourism and related businesses. also, the scope of this chapter covers the core qualities influence Public open spaces specifically at seafront.

Table 5: Keywords collections from literature

Physical Diminutions	Functional Diminutions	Social Diminutions
Accessibility (cycles, pedestrians, public trans	Food kiosk types	Attractivity for different age, income, education
Safety (kids and adults)	Café and restaurant adequacy	Clean and well maintained
Visual quality	Adequate parking lots	Safety and comfort
Lighting dequincy	Performance area	User activity
Seating areas adequacy	Open air activities	Equal rights (disabled and abled
Kids parks	User satisfaction	Visual vibration
Existing and entry		
Circulation base covering		

Chapter 3

ISKELE WATERFRONT ANALYSIS AND

EVALUATION

3.1 Introduction

Due to its large sandy beaches and well-developed infrastructure, the Iskele District is perfect for both summer holidays and year-round living. Currently, Iskele's seashore is increasing rapidly, attracting both visitors and locals. Long Beach, which is characterized by its white sand, palm trees, strolling areas, and expansive shoreline, is one of the most popular beaches in Northern Cyprus. Therefore, this study will focus on these three-kilometer-long coastlines, which will examine their physical and social characteristics. These characteristics consist of six physical and functional factors: physical access, existing building structures, public open space, base covering treatments, street furnishings, and landscapes. Five components form the social attributes: demographic characteristics of users, economic levels of users, user activities, safety, and comfort.

3.2 Research Location

The study area is in the Iskele District of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Its 25 km long coastline is a sought-after tourist attraction boasting Northern Cyprus's distinct seafronts and natural wonders. The district, characterized by a predominantly Mediterranean climate, is renowned for its location, vegetation, and natural life. The Iskele District has a population of approximately remareked as 26,564 until the year

2015 (Northen Cyprus's Iskele Pupulation). The local economy thrives on tourism, public service, craftsmanship, agriculture, fishing, and handicrafts. Moreover, consistent economic growth in the area is driven by investment projects, existing businesses, historical and tourist sites, and agricultural and livestock farming endeavors.

3.3 Research Methodology

This thesis employs a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, supplemented by a literature review. Initially, maps related to the site were gathered, and preliminary analyses were conducted to develop a base map. Qualitative surveys entailed physical analyses of the site, accompanied by photographic documentation and annotations on the maps. Additionally, insights into varied user behaviors, perceptions, and attitudes were derived through observation. The procedures for formulating the base map, analysis, and survey are as follows:

Step One: Preparation of the Base Map

A base map was constructed using Google Earth and an AutoCAD map provided by the Municipality of Iskele Province. (Figure 21)

Figure 21: Cyprus Iskele map, (Modified from Debes, & Alipour (2011))

Figure 22: Iskele waterfront (Modified from google earth map.)

Step Two: Photo Survey

Multiple visits to the Long Beach Seafront were made at different times: morning, lunchtime, evening, and night. (7 days) Photographs were taken to capture usage, activities, lighting, shading, seating areas, trash bins, base coverings, walking pavements, bike lanes, structures, and user safety and comfort as well as social life and activities.

Shore usage   Green area usage

Figure 23: Images from Iskele waterfront
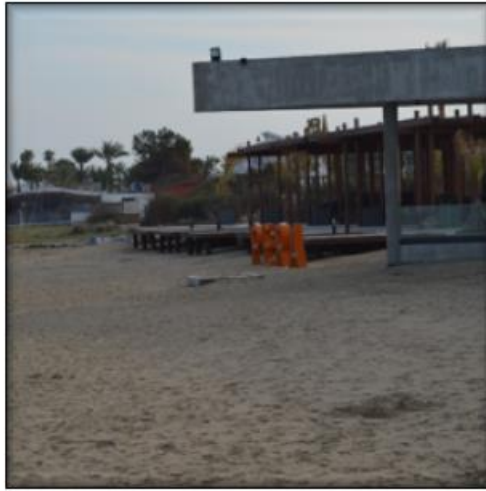
diffrent building and usage , Pera, long beach
seashore,Cyprus photographed by athor

2 diffrent buffes, long beach seafront, Cyprus
photographed by athor.

Figure 24: Different shopping opportunities throughout the long beach.

Step Three: Zoning on the Map

The map was color-coded to represent different zones: car parking, walking paths, bike

lanes, parks, green spaces, existing structures, vacant plots, and the beachfront.

Figure 25: Zoning on the Map (Modified from google earth map.)

Step Four: Interview Survey

In order to gather information about user profiles, satisfaction, usage patterns, and feedback, 96 interview surveys were conducted with locals, workers, and tourists aged 18 to 65 at the Long Beach Seafront in March 2023 (Appendix A). The interview was structured as follows:

- First Part:

This section collected information on the demographic characteristics of users:

  ✓ Nationality.

  ✓ Gender, age, employment, and educational background.

  ✓ Classification as students, tourists, locals, or residents; others were categorized separately.

  ✓ Frequency of visits to the study area.

- Second Part:

This section contained 20 closed-ended questions concerning users:

  ✓ The Long Beach Seafront's expectations include satisfaction with street furnishings such as lighting, seating, public art, playground equipment, bicycle lanes, walking paths, beaches, accessibility for disabled individuals, public transportation, and landscaping.

  ✓ Satisfaction with various activities, infrastructure, cleanliness, green spaces, and overall appeal.

- Third Part:

This section posed two open-ended questions regarding user evaluations and experiences. The interview survey was designed in order to get information about physical and social attributes, user satisfaction with the area, environmental consciousness, and user expectations for the region.

3.4 Evaluation of the Long Beach Seafront

According to the Long Beach seafront zoning map (Appendix B), the area is divided into eight zones: automobile parking, pedestrian routes, bike lanes, parks, green areas, existing structures, unoccupied fields, and the beach line. The entire region was evaluated based on two primary features: social and physical. The social feature encompasses four categories, while the physical feature includes six categories.

3.4.1 Social Qualities

Demographic characteristics:

The demographic characteristics and social qualities of the users of Long Beach Seafront are instrumental in understanding its relevance and appeal to the public. This section dives into demographic parameters such as gender, age, employment, and educational background of the respondents. Furthermore, it categorizes them based on their residency status, including tourists, locals, or inhabitants. As depicted in figure 26, a slight majority of respondent users, 59%, are female, while a significant 41% are male. Such an almost balanced gender distribution underscores the seafront's universal appeal, drawing in a diverse gender audience.
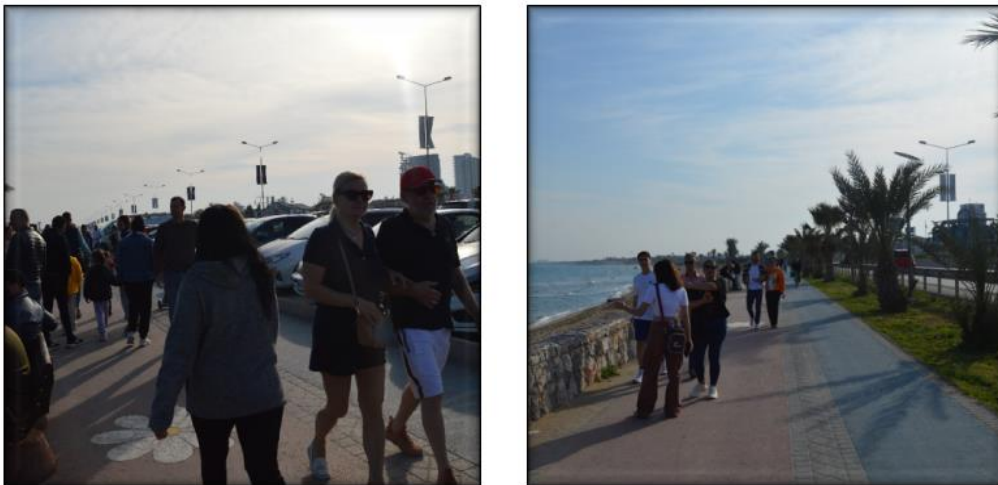
Figure 26: User of the Iskele waterfront (taken by Author)
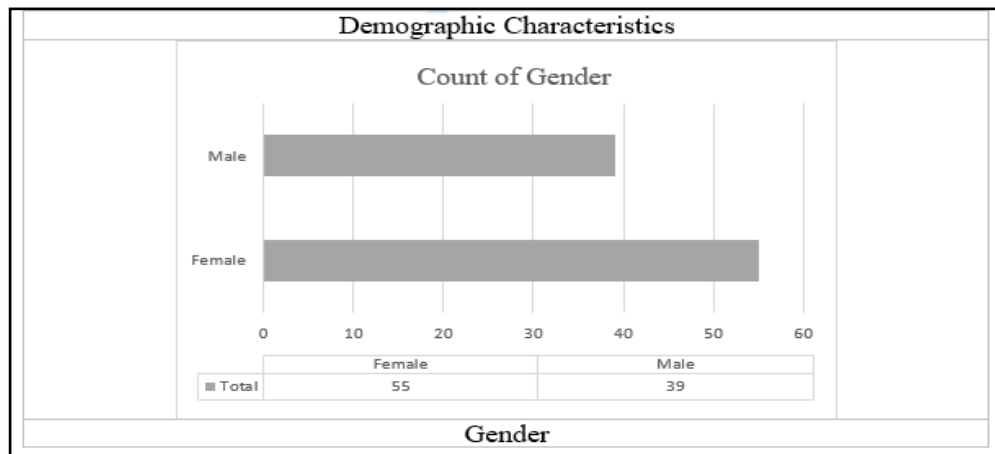
Figure 27: Gender assessment of the survey respondents.

Figure 29 explores the age distribution of the users. From the data, the age groups 18-44 show predominant usage, distributed as follows: 31% of the respondents fall within the 18-29 bracket, 29% in the 30-37 range, and 24% between 38-44. This concentration of users in the younger age groups might suggest that the seafront resonates more with younger demographics. However, for a comprehensive understanding, knowing the distribution in the older age groups would also be beneficial.

Figure 28: Different gender and ages of users (taken by users)
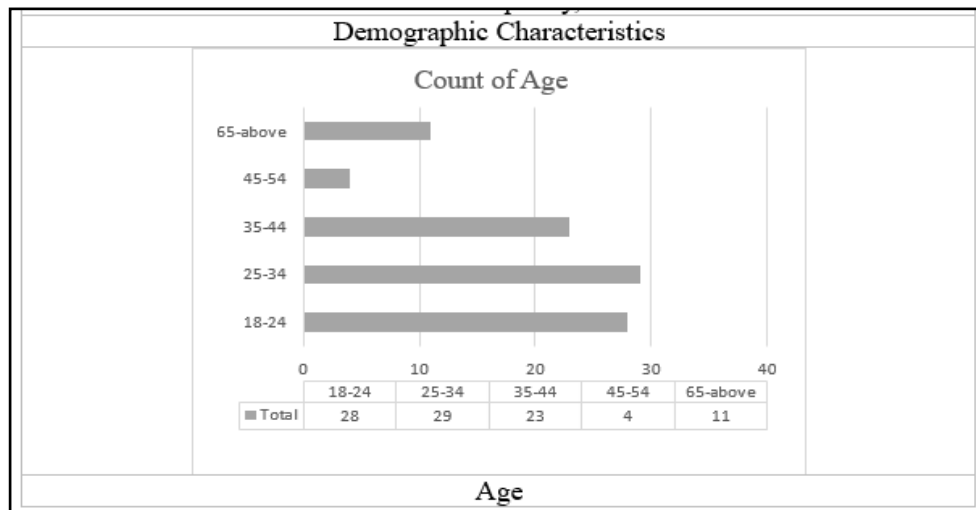
Figure 29: Age assessment of the survey respondents.

As it is shown in Figure 30, most visitors frequently visit the seafront once a week. Interestingly, a distinct segment of respondents reported visiting the park daily, indicating a strong habitual or possibly residential connection to the seafront.
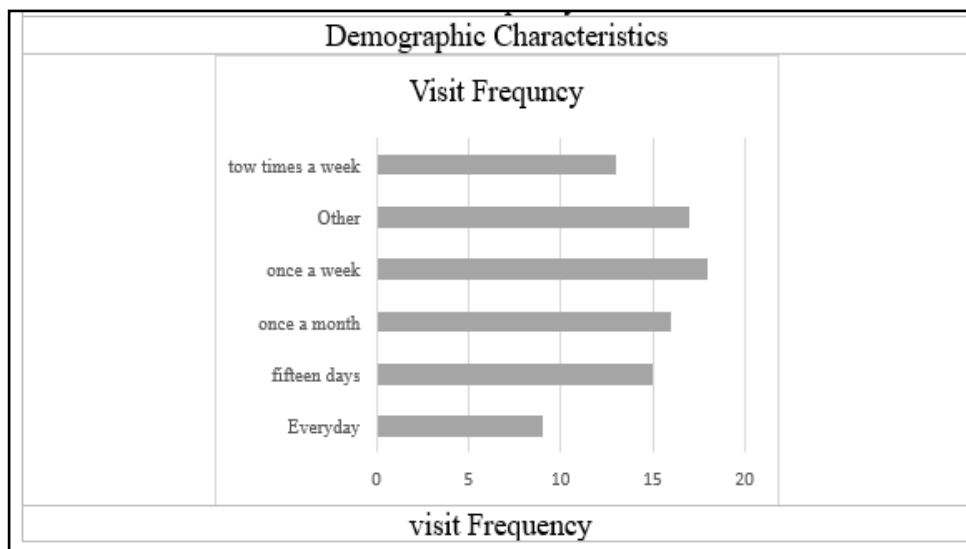
Figure 30: Visit frequency of the seafront.

As it is shown in fFigure 31, students are the dominant user group at 55%. Furthermore, about 31% of users are gainfully employed. Such a high percentage of students explains that the seafront is popular for relaxation or recreational spot for

younger individuals, possibly offering study-friendly environments or recreational activities.
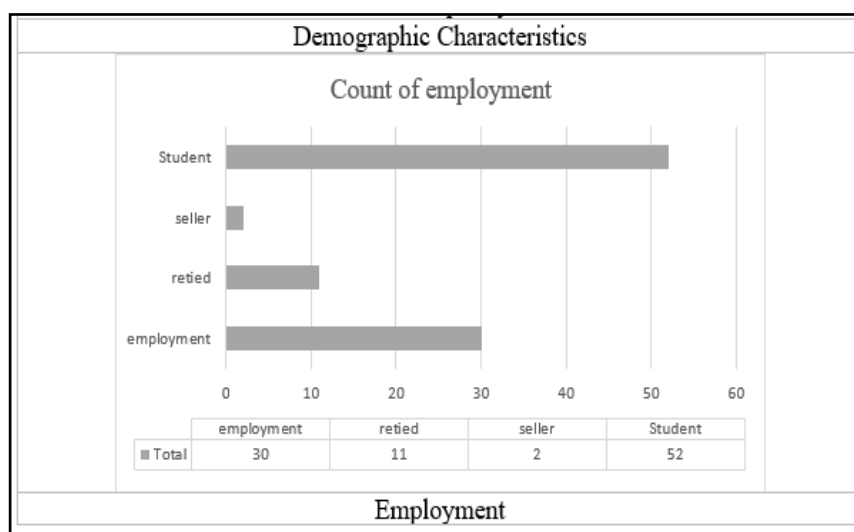
Figure 31: Employment status of the survey respondents.

In the case of the visitor's status in figure 32, it can be seen that locals dominate the user base, comprising 45%. The presence of tourists and residence visitor who lives in the long beach area (categories as others) confirms the seafront's attractiveness to residents and outsiders.
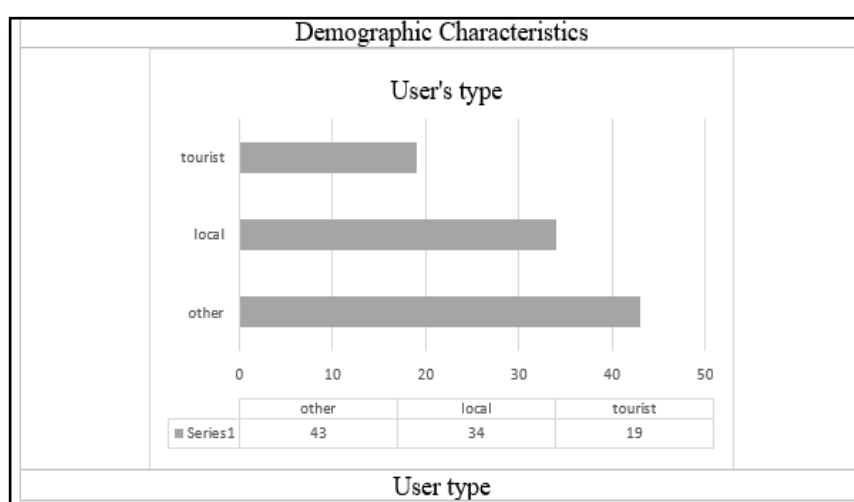
Figure 32: Status of the visitors

In Figure 33, there's an exploration of the enjoyment level of visitors from different educational, age, and income backgrounds. It would be advantageous to explain the exact parameters used to categorize enjoyment. However, 73% of respondents associate the seafront with enjoyment and accessibility. Conversely, a minority, 19%, feels some barriers or limitations curtail their full enjoyment. For a clear visualization, it would be beneficial to plot this data. 40% others did not comment on this issue.

The enjoyment of people with different education level age group, income level at seafront.

	No	other	yes
■ Total	19	4	73

Economic characteristics
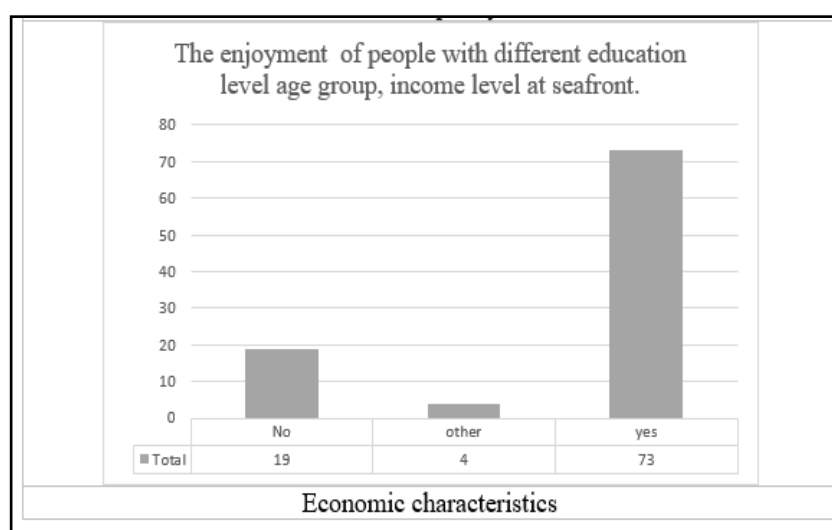
Figure 33: Rating of the enjoyment of people with different backgrounds

Figure 34 shows that the cleanliness and maintenance of Long Beach Seafront received positive feedback. A significant 73% of the respondents find its upkeep satisfactory. However, a not-so-insignificant 22% highlight the importance of regular evaluations and renovations.

the cleanliness and maintenance
of the area.

	No	other	Yes
■Total	21	5	70

cleanliness and maintenance

Figure 34: Satisfaction from the cleanliness and maintenance of the area.

Figure 35 represents the user's perceptions regarding the adequacy and appropriateness of open spaces for various activities. Encouragingly, the majority are using the existing facilities: 84% for adequacy, 82% for appropriation, and 76% for didactic spaces. This level of satisfaction can be attributed to the visitors' being able to relax and enjoy the facilities with the existing cleanliness and maintenance and indicate the dedication of the mangers to reach high standards of cleanliness and maintenance. Despite this positive feedback, a section of users (16%, 18%, and 24%) expressed the need for enhancements and revisions. Their feedback could be vital for future developmental plans.
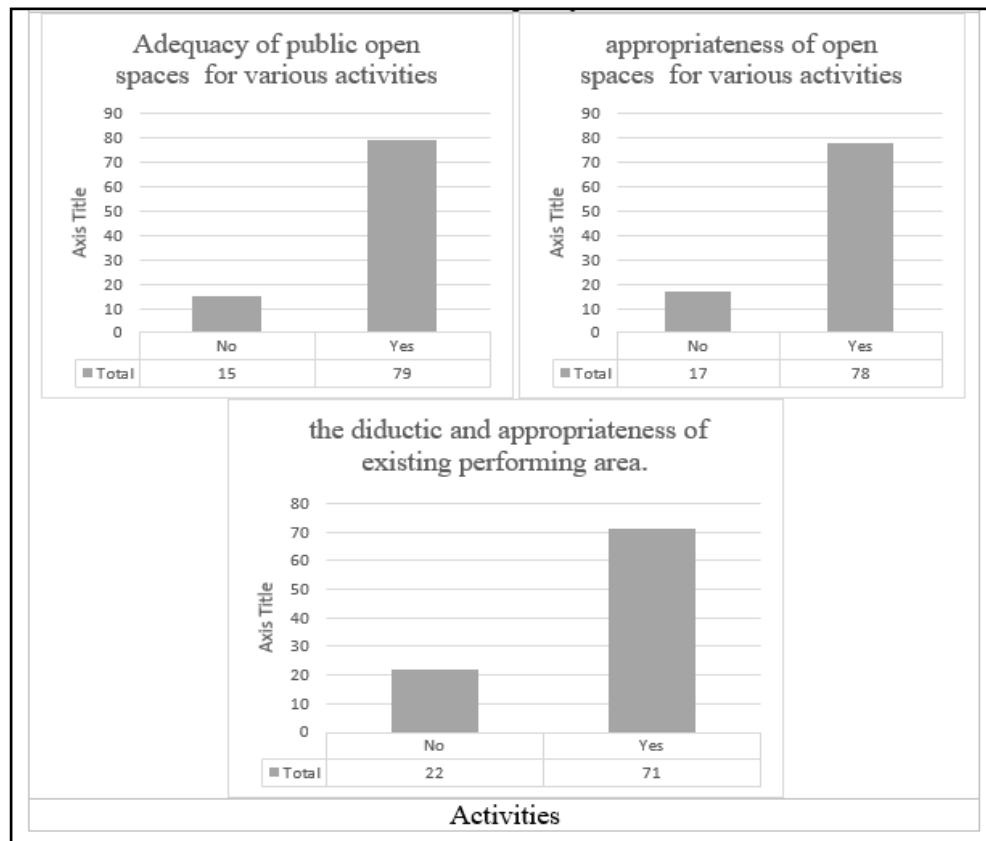
Figure 35: Response of the people regarding the adequacy of public open spaces, appropriateness of open spaces, and didactic and appropriation of existing performing area

Lastly, Figure 36 presents various activities users engage in at the seafront. These images would provide insights into the diversity of activities available and their popularity among visitors. Accordingly, the Long Beach Seafront stands out as a location frequented by diverse individuals. While the majority of feedback is positive, consistent evaluations, like this study, are paramount to ensure it continues to cater to the evolving needs of its users.
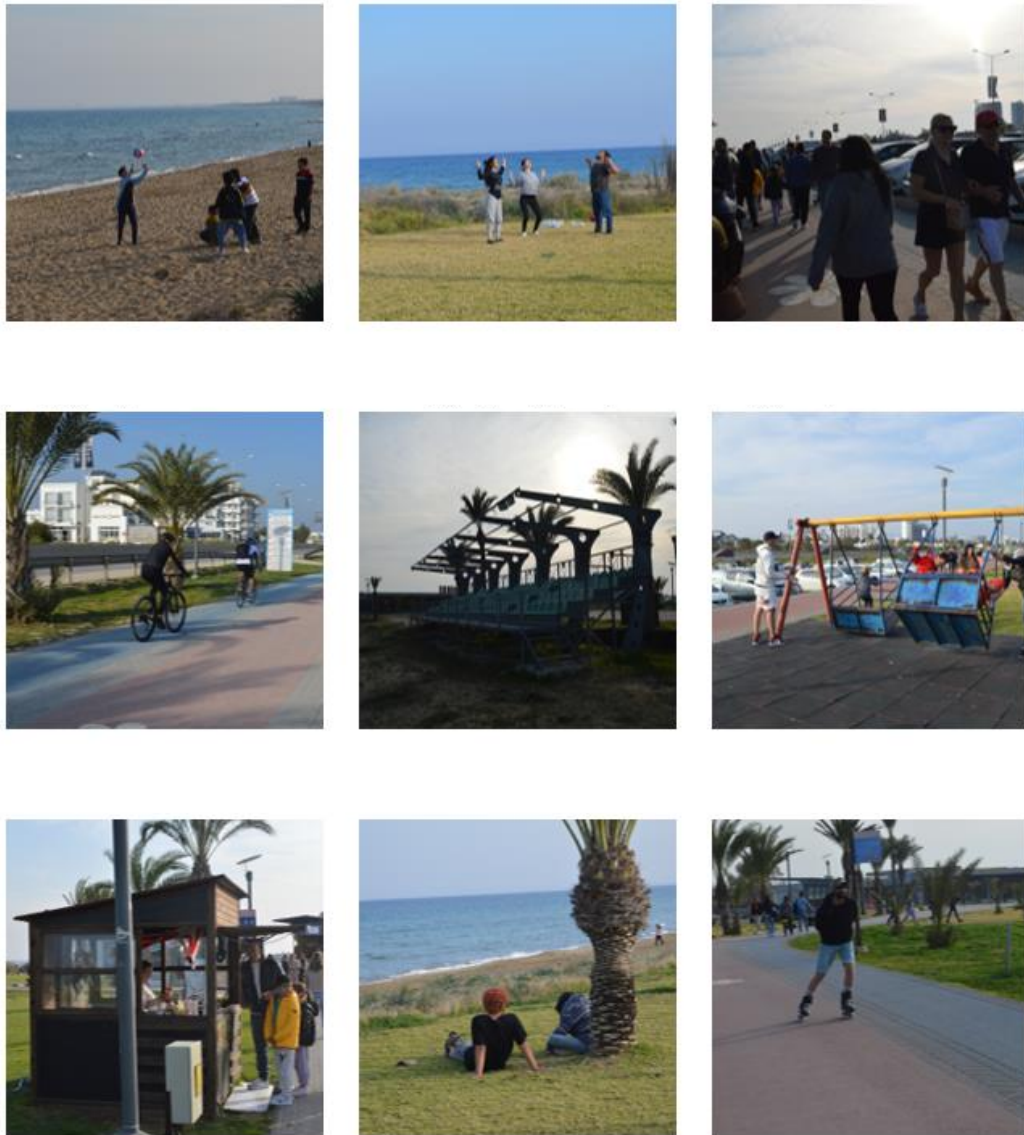
Figure 36: Various activities being held at the seafront (taken by author).

3.4.2 Physical Qualities of Long Beach Waterfront

- **Category 1: Accessible circulation such as pedestrian and bicycle orientation, Connection, and mobility:**

Physical accessibility, both to and within the site, is paramount when considering Long Beach Waterfront's user experience. Currently, the area features three car parking spaces at various points along the seafront. In terms of public transport, it lacks a bus station. However, well-maintained bike lanes and walking paths complement each

other, as depicted in figure 37. The current description demands a more precise representation of these accessibility. Moreover, throughout the site, there is also a reach linkage caused by pedestrian area, fostering increased social interaction but not very well utilized atmosphere under the field of connection and mobility.
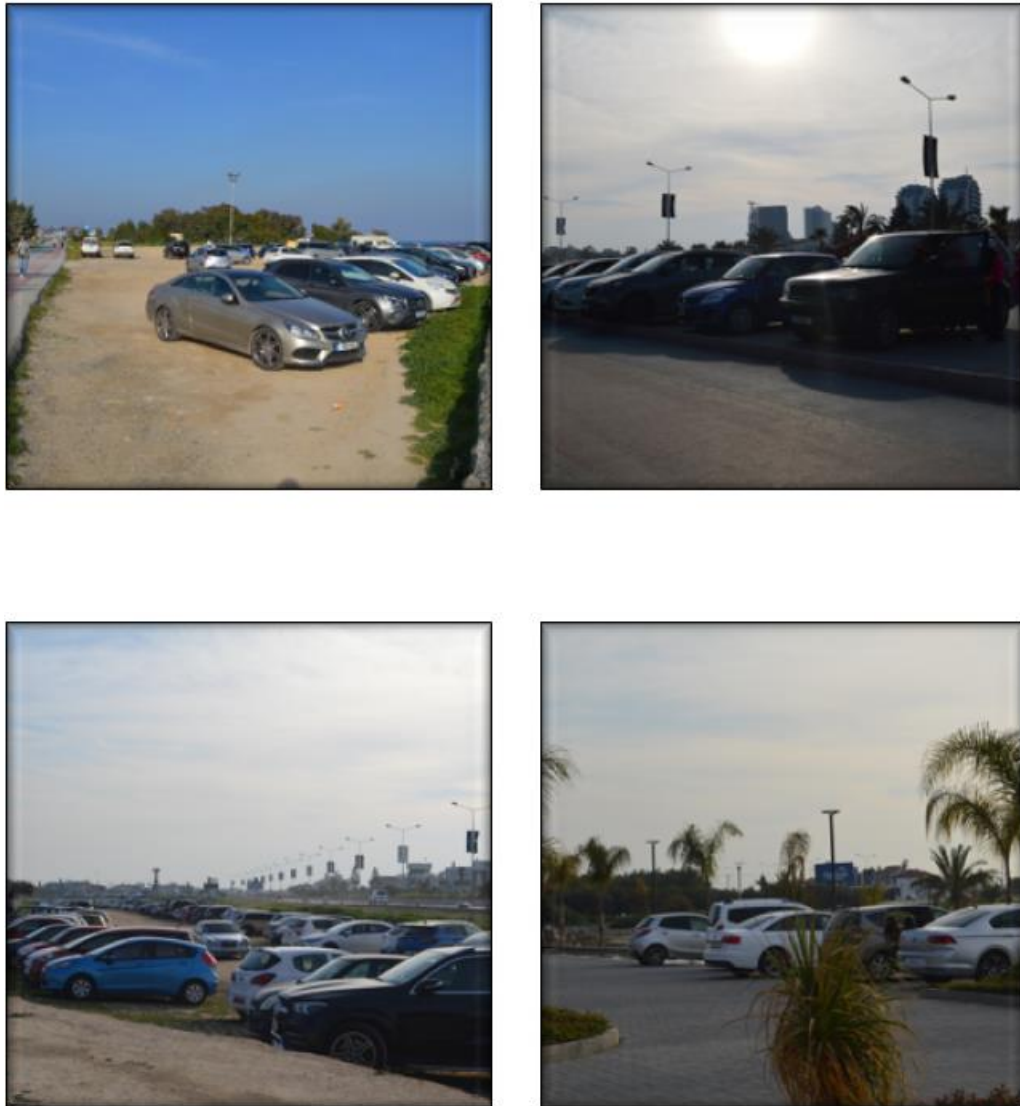
Figure 37: different parking areas at the long beach waterfront (taken by author)

Figure 38: Various physical accessibility such as parking, walking path, and bike path that caused mobility and connection (taken by author)

In order to gauge visitor satisfaction regarding this accessibility, an interview survey was conducted. The results in figure 39 show that nearly half of the respondents, 48% or 46 individuals, expressed dissatisfaction with their access to Long Beach. This dissatisfaction comes from inadequate public transportation and the seafront's propensity to get overcrowded, particularly during weekends. Contrastingly, 43% of respondents reported being satisfied with their accessibility to the beachfront, indicating that this segment of the population did not encounter significant hurdles in their visits. Additionally, 9% of the surveyed visitors fell under the "other" category, suggesting that their experiences or perspectives diverged from the predominant

positive or negative sentiments. This subset seems to represent individuals who visited the beachfront for a day, possibly skewing their perception of accessibility.
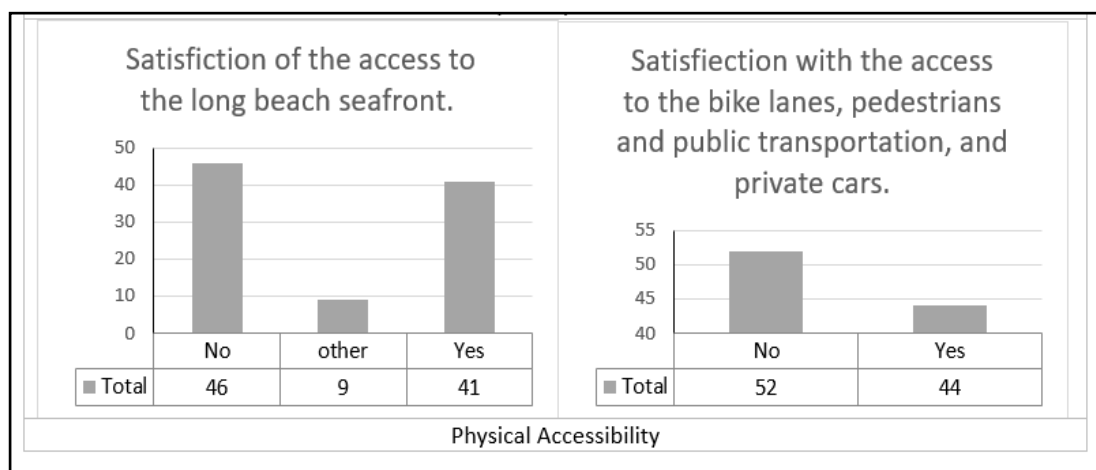
Figure 39: Satisfaction of the people regarding the access to the long beach seafront and the bike lanes, pedestrians, publication transportation, and private cars.

Upon analyzing the data further, it can be seen that despite the local residential status of many respondents or their possession of personal vehicles, there wasn't a considerable difference in the number of positive and negative responses. A secondary query in the questionnaire highlighted 54% of respondents who weren't satisfied with public transportation accessibility and found the bike and pedestrian lanes too narrow, leading to congestion. Conversely, 46% appreciated the convenience of private cars accessing the waterfront. This data implies that many visitors consider personal vehicles a more dependable mode of transportation to the seafront. Thus, the feedback underscores the pressing need for a more robust public transportation system and better infrastructure planning that directly addresses the concerns and preferences of those frequenting Long Beach Waterfront.

- **Category 3: Street Furnishing Elements**

Iskele Long Beach seafront, renowned for its nature, also demonstrates a commitment to the comfort and convenience of its users through its street furnishings. The street furnishing elements at Long Beach seafront includes benches and seating provisions, lighting fixtures, bike racks, waste receptacles, kids' park equipment, public artworks, and signages.

Figure 40: Various seatings in the area (taken by author)

Throughout the site, there are different kinds of trash bins, but they are not enough in numbers, or using efficiently, therefore caused a not quite good cleanliness area. (figure 41)

Figure 41: Various types of trash bins available in the area (taken by author)
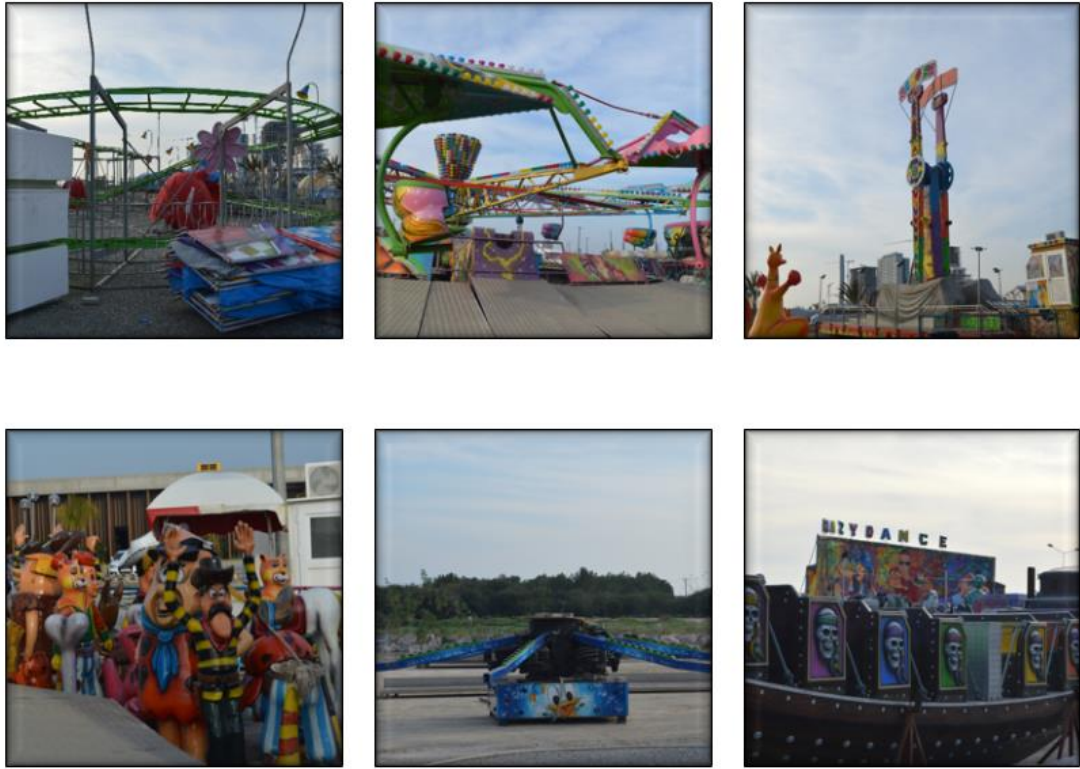
Figure 42: Available equipment in the park (taken by author)

The site is filled with good remarkable signs which can help the space to be more readable and usable for users. (figure 42)
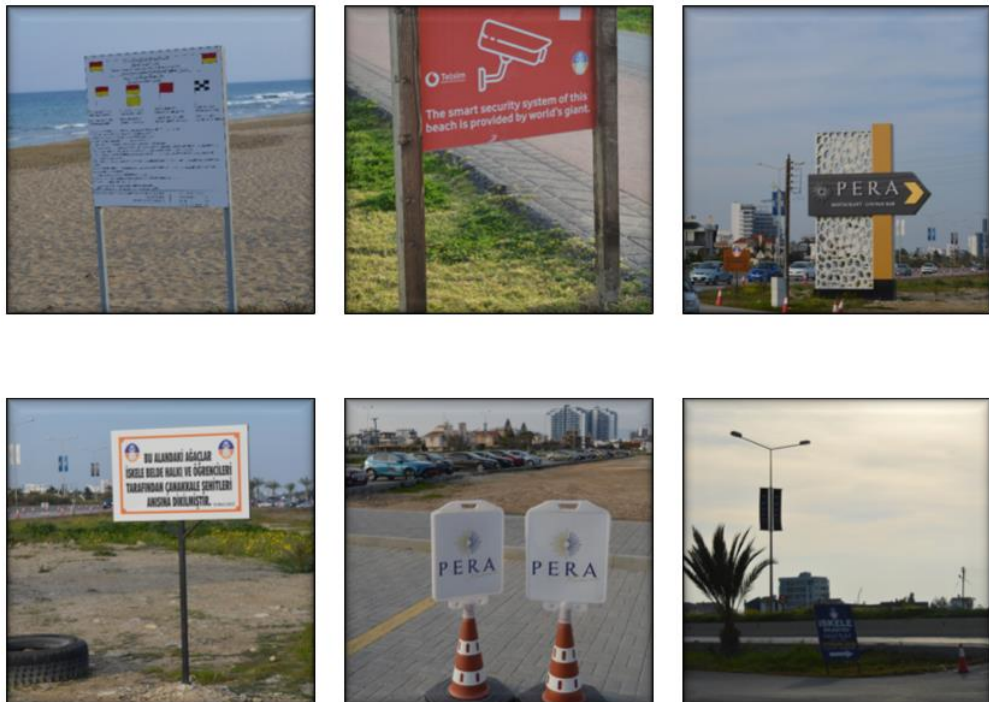
Figure 43: Various signs available throughout the site (taken by author)

Indeed, assessing various physical elements and amenities within a given area, as reflected by respondents' satisfaction, is crucial for understanding the space's strengths and weaknesses and guiding future improvements. figure 43 captures such insights, addressing lighting, seating opportunities, children's park equipment, dustbins, signage, and public art. In figure 44, the lighting emerges as a notable area of concern. Only 17% of respondents expressed satisfaction with the lighting during daytime and nighttime. The overwhelming 83% who express dissatisfaction indicate a problem regarding the area's lighting conditions. Specific aspects, such as nighttime brightness, light coverage, and the warmth or coolness of the color temperature, appear to be issues. The data underscores a pressing need to re-evaluate and potentially upgrade the lighting systems. On the other hand, seating opportunities within the area also receive mixed feedback. About 71% of respondents disagree with the seating conditions, while only 29% are satisfied. This feedback hints at issues related to the variety of seating options available and the overall comfort and design of the seating arrangements. The input points to a clear mandate for evaluating seating design and distribution. Besides, equipment within children's parks receives positive feedback, with 82% expressing satisfaction. This high satisfaction rate suggests that the equipment aligns well with users' expectations and provides children with a wholesome experience. However, it's essential not to overlook the 18% who expressed concerns, potentially highlighting areas like safety or equipment diversity that may need further attention. As gauged through respondents' satisfaction with dustbins, waste management also fares well. A substantial 89% of respondents are content with the dustbin provisions. This satisfaction might be attributed to well-maintained bins, their strategic placements, and their capability to manage the area's waste. Nonetheless, feedback from the 11% who

expressed dissatisfaction can offer insights into potential areas of improvement, such as bin capacity or maintenance frequency.
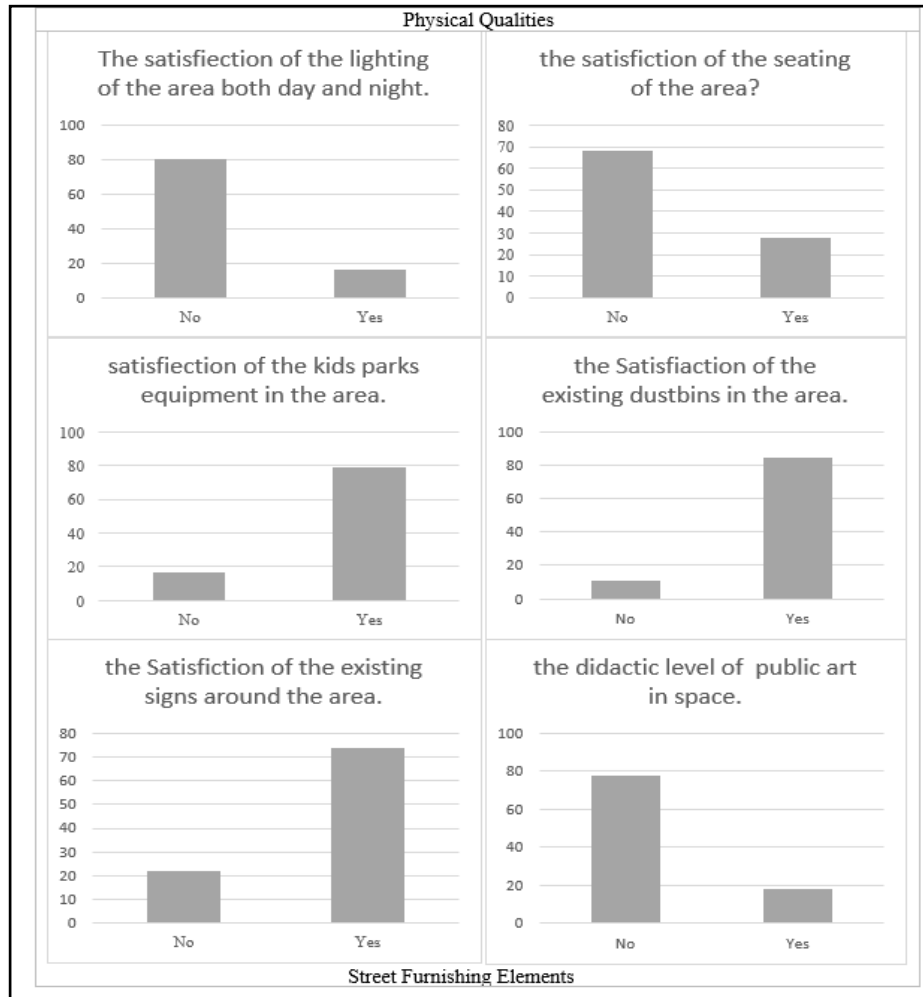
Figure 44: Assessment of physical quantities in the survey.

- **Category 4: Landscape**

The landscape of a seafront often defines its appeal, with greenery playing a pivotal role in enhancing the aesthetics and overall user experience. The Long Beach seafront is recognized as a serene location for relaxation and recreation thanks to its inherent landscape attributes.

As shown in Figure 45, greenery embellishes the seafront, serving as an attraction for many.
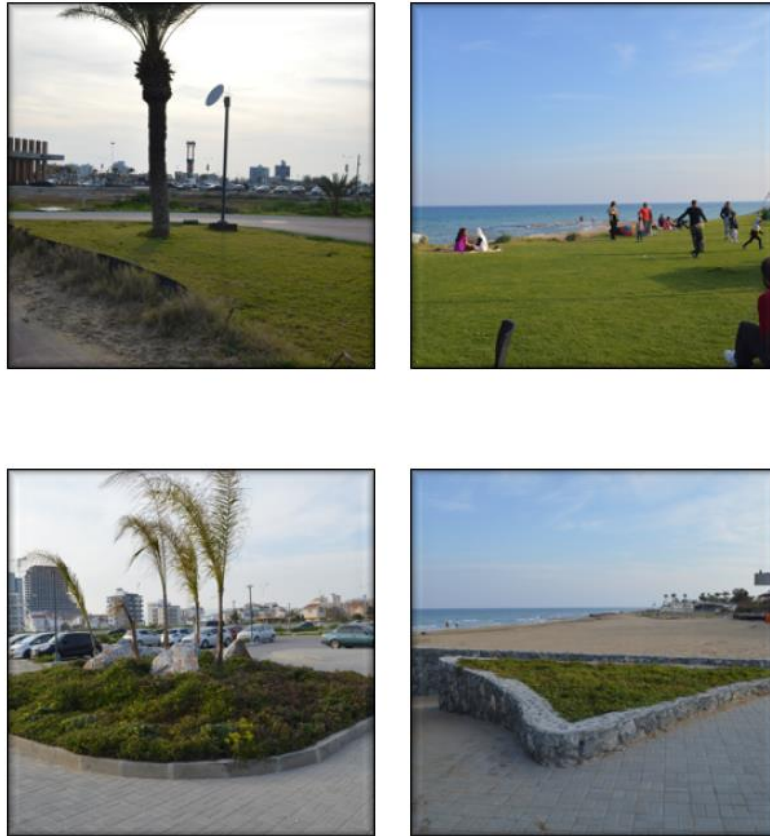
Figure 45: Existing greenery at the seafront. (taken by author)

Vacant field

However, as highlighted in figure 46, areas of unkempt terrains stand out as missed opportunities. Incorporating these spaces into the overall landscape design by introducing more green elements could elevate the site's attractiveness, making it even more compelling for visitors.

Figure 46: The vacant fields at the seafront. (taken by author)

Figure 46: reveals intriguing insights about user satisfaction with the existing greenery. A commanding 79% of respondents express satisfaction with the current state of vegetation. Their feedback underscores the importance and appreciation of green spaces in urban settings. Conversely, 15% express dissatisfaction, likely referencing areas like those highlighted in figure 47. An additional 6% of respondents harbor mixed feelings, suggesting that while they might appreciate parts of the landscape, there are areas they believe could benefit from enhancement.
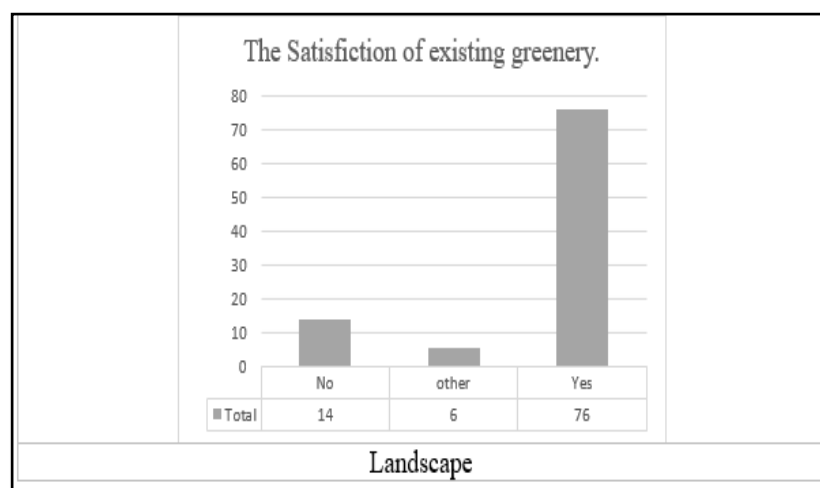
Figure 47: Satisfaction of the people regarding existing greenery in the area.

3.4.3   Functional Qualities of Long Beach Waterfront

- **Category 1: Existing Buildings' Structures**

Long Beach seafront boasts diverse building structures catering to varied user needs. Figure 48, depicts two buffets with direct accessibility from the car park, positioned prominently in front of the underpass. There are also seven food kiosks interspersed along the bike and walking lanes. The Pera Restaurant and bar strategically lie at the terminus of the bike lane. Moreover, there's a pathway adjacent to Luna Park.
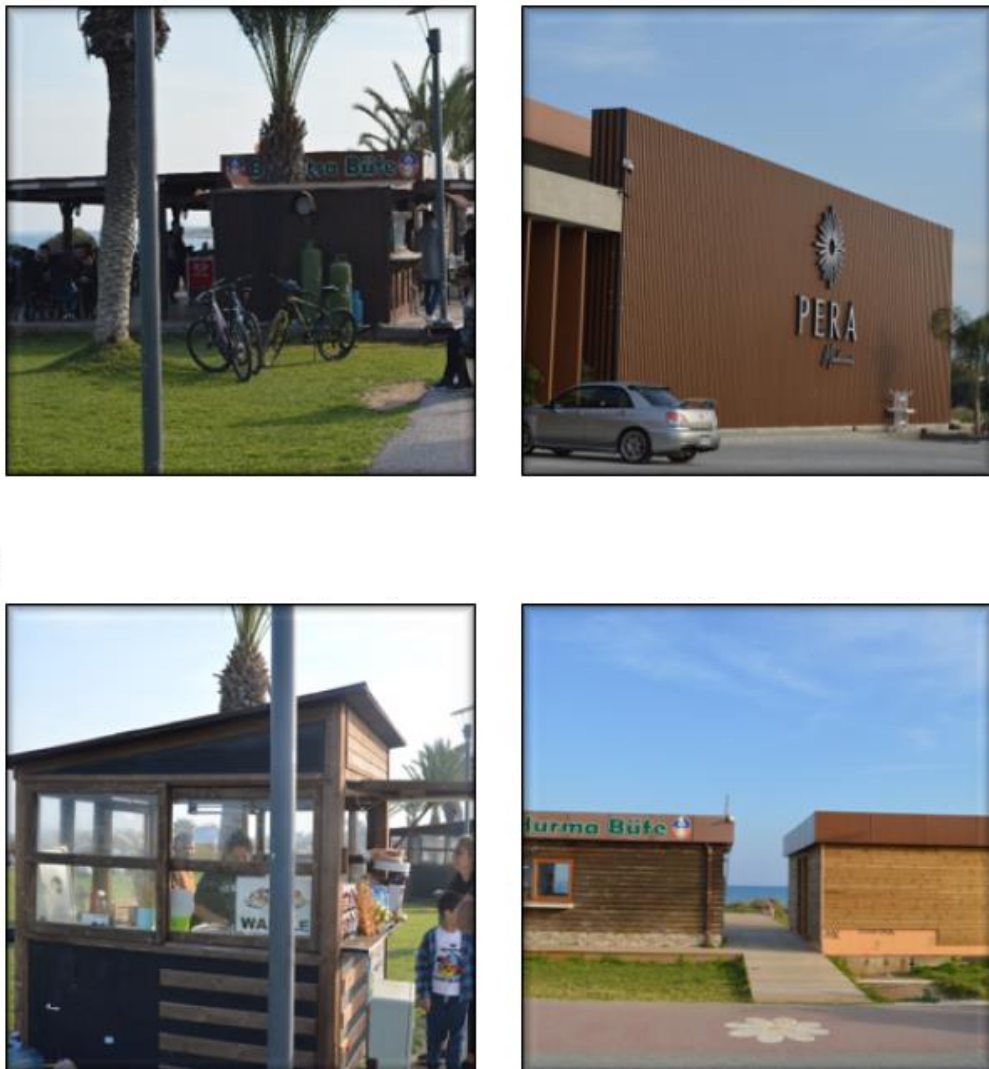
Figure 48: Existing building structures at the Long Beach seafront (taken by author)

Figure 49, explores the users' satisfaction with the current buildings and food kiosks. Analysis from this figure elucidates that the majority (70%) are satisfied with the range of food kiosks peppered across the seafront. However, 23% of respondents have expressed reservations or disappointments. Understanding the reasons behind such dissatisfaction can be invaluable. There might be quality, variety, or service issues to address. The remaining portion of respondents fell into the "other" category, suggesting nuanced opinions that didn't fit a binary response format. In cafes and restaurants specifically, user feedback was more mixed. While a positive 44% expressed contentment, a significant 34% were not satisfied. An additional 22% of the respondents had varied experiences that placed them in the "other" category. One emerging issue is the potential clash between pedestrians and those awaiting food orders, particularly during peak times such as weekends. This highlights a need for improved spatial planning and design to facilitate smoother user experiences.
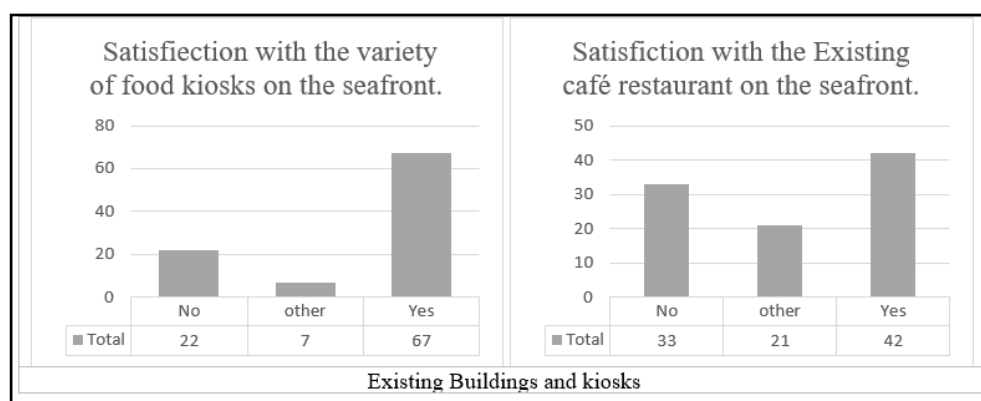
Figure 49: Satisfaction of the people regarding the variation in the food kiosks and existing café and restaurants on the seafront

- **Category 2: Public Open Spaces**

The Long Beach seafront possesses many public open spaces tailored to a diverse demographic. These include two adjacent playgrounds, one designed for non-disabled

individuals and another for those with disabilities. Furthermore, there's a pocket park, a Luna Park adorned with varied seating arrangements and innovative rope climbing playground equipment. These diverse structures are illustrated in.
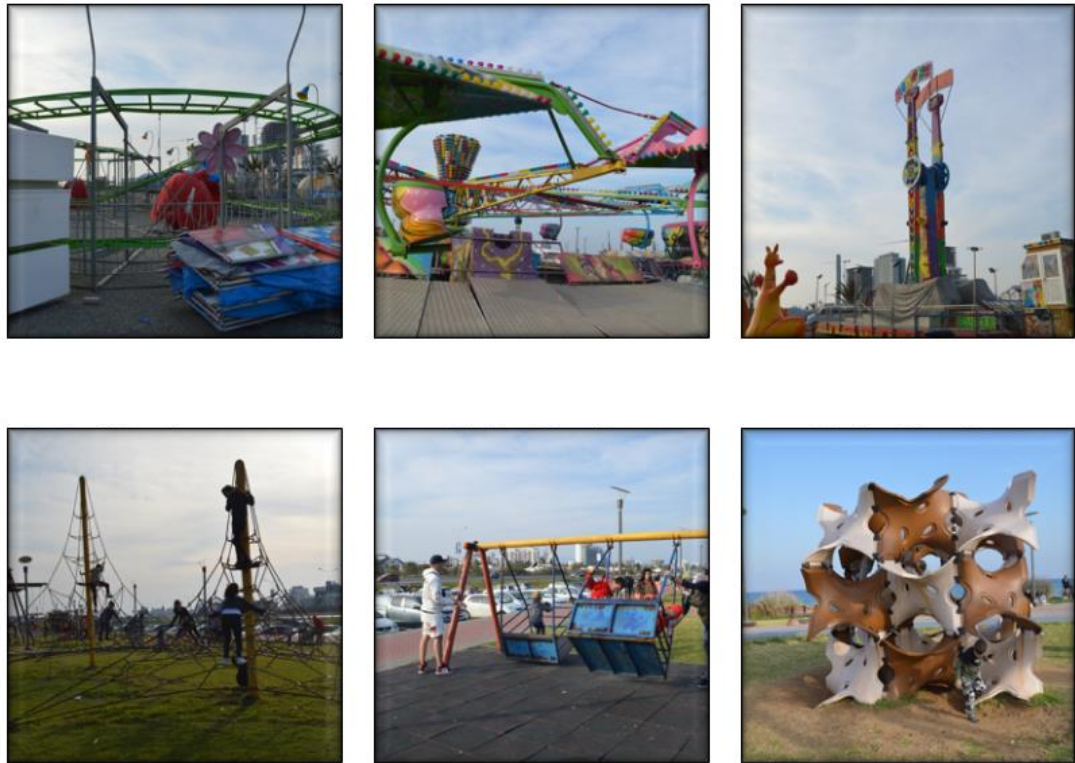
Figure 50: Various playground tools in the park (taken by author)

Figure 50 shows the public's perception of the adequacy of these open spaces. About 76% of respondents believe the spaces are satisfactory for non-disabled and disabled people. Nevertheless, 19% voiced concerns, and 5% provided feedback that didn't neatly align with binary choices. Despite the generally positive feedback, there's a discernible need to refine the open spaces. Whether enhancing accessibility, augmenting amenities, or rethinking the overall design, user feedback is paramount. Additionally, most (75%) respondents deemed the parking facilities adequate. Nonetheless, it's crucial to note that a quarter of the respondents found issues, perhaps in its capacity, de-

sign, management, or accessibility. Delving deeper into the root causes of these griev-ances can aid in ensuring a more inclusive and efficient parking experience for all users.
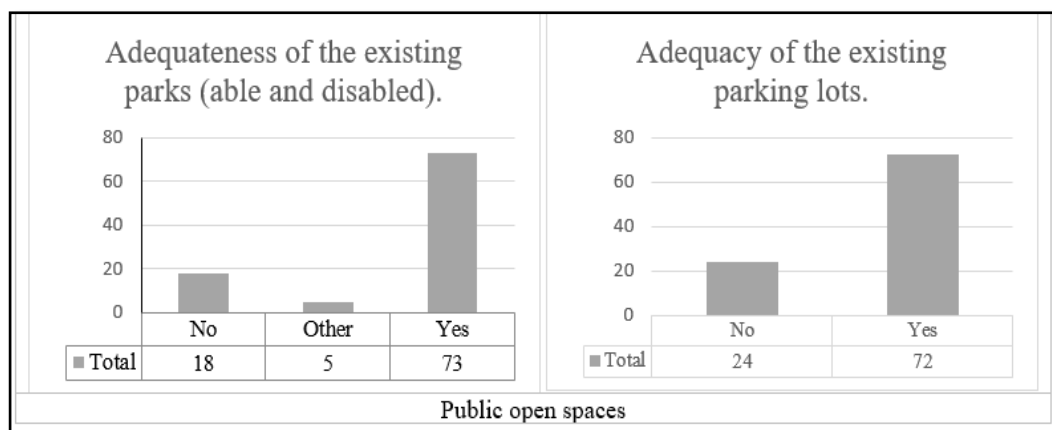
Figure 51: Adequacy of existing parks and parking lots

- **Category 3: Base Covering Treatments**

An integral component of the Long Beach seafront is its base covering, a significant physical attribute. As delineated in figure 52, the general sentiment surrounding the seafront circulation base covering appears to be dissatisfaction. Specifically, 61% of the respondents expressed discontent with the current base covering, as opposed to the 33% who expressed satisfaction. An interesting aspect is that 6% of participants chose "Other" as their response. These individuals have highlighted concerns regarding the uniformity of materials used in unbuilt fields, which are the same as those used for walking paths. Moreover, there's a suggestion to include greenery as an alternative covering material.
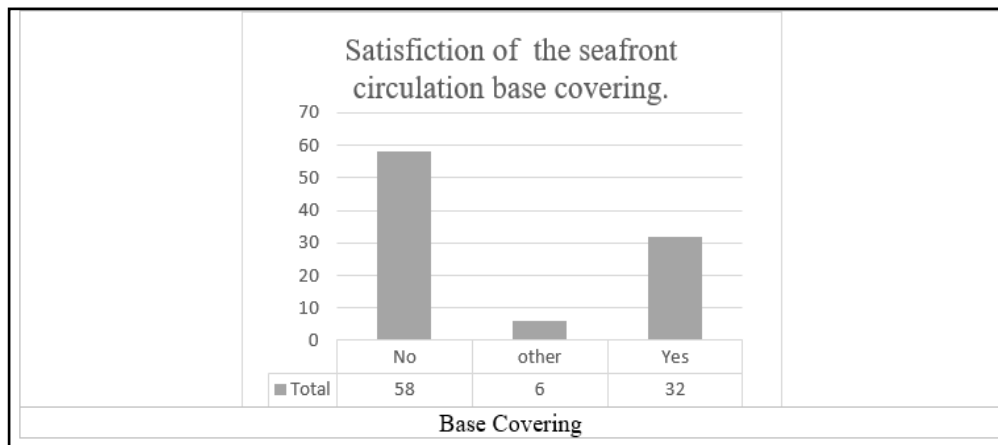
Figure 52: Satisfaction of people regarding the seafront circulation base covering

Signage within the area is another component receiving favorable reviews, with 77% of respondents expressing satisfaction. Such feedback implies that the signs in the area effectively guide and inform users, be they residents or visitors. These signs, as suggested, are clear, adequately visible, and serve their intended purpose. However, the 23% who expressed concerns about misleading or improperly placed signs provide a valuable direction for future sign-placement strategies and content design. Finally, public art in the area offers a unique perspective. About 81% of respondents do not perceive the art as didactic or educational. Only 19% believe that the art provides instructive content. While public art doesn't always have to be educational, this feedback brings an important observation. It underscores the idea that art's purpose can vary and be open to diverse interpretations. What might be seen as informative or instructive to one individual might be seen differently by another. This variability offers opportunities to diversify art installations or provide plaques or guides that help visitors engage more deeply with the art.

- **Category 4: Aesthetic appeal**

The aesthetic charm of a seafront is invariably linked to its natural allure, panoramic vistas, and landscape design. Figure 53 provides a comprehensive view of respondents' perceptions regarding the aesthetic appeal of Long Beach. Interestingly, 54% of respondents appreciate the aesthetics of Long Beach, suggesting that its natural beauty, perhaps combined with aspects of its landscape design, resonates with the majority. Conversely, 13% do not find the seafront aesthetically pleasing. Their perceptions might stem from areas of the seafront that appear neglected or lack greenery. Furthermore, 33% of respondents fall under the "other" category. This significant percentage suggests diverse opinions and perhaps nuances in views not captured by the primary options. Such a category could encompass those who appreciate specific parts of the beach but believe other areas need improvement. A more detailed breakdown shows that while 38% view the seafront's environment favorably, most cite shortcomings in landscape and greenery as detractors. Additionally, the 8% categorized under "other" signify uncertainties, potentially driven by factors not directly covered in the survey. Reasons for these results might range from individual aesthetic preferences to more tangible elements. The area's inherent natural beauty, its general cleanliness, available amenities, and unique features undoubtedly contribute to its appeal. However, challenges like overcrowding, especially during weekends, and pollution can detract from its charm. Addressing these issues while enhancing and maintaining the greenery could be instrumental in elevating the overall aesthetic appeal of Long Beach seafront.
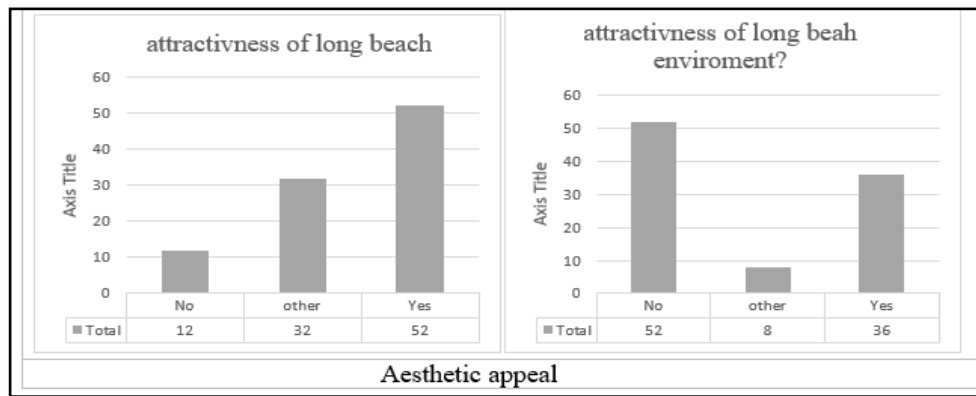
Figure 53: Attractiveness of the Long Beach area and its environment.

In conclusion, the Iskele Long Beach seafront, with its captivating natural beauty, also boasts street furnishings that cater to its users' convenience, including benches, lights, bike racks, waste bins, park equipment for children, public artworks, and signages. Yet, an assessment shows varied satisfaction levels amongst its visitors. A concerning 83% find the area's lighting inadequate, with issues arising from nighttime brightness and light coverage. Seating receives mixed reviews; while 29% find them satisfactory, 71% think otherwise, suggesting a need for varied seating options and better designs. Children's park equipment is positively reviewed with 82% satisfaction, but the 18% dissent indicates room for enhancement, perhaps in safety or diversity. Dustbin provisions fare well with 89% satisfaction, while signage gets a 77% approval rate, meaning their clarity and visibility. Public art, intriguingly, isn't seen as educational by 81%, highlighting the subjective interpretations of art. The seafront's landscape, a crucial aspect, showcases plentiful greenery that garners 79% approval. However, areas of unkempt terrains suggest possible improvements. The aesthetic appeal, intertwined with natural allure and landscape, resonates with 54% of the respondents, yet 13% don't find it pleasing, possibly due to neglected areas or lack of greenery. Another 33% have nuanced opinions, pointing to aspects they like or think could be enhanced. Addressing these findings, especially the challenges like overcrowding and

pollution, and further developing the landscape could amplify the charm of Long Beach's seafront.

3.5 Summary of Chapter

Considering the core of thesis, there are findings of three dimensions to be considered as the following:

Table 6: Findings of the social, physical, and functional

Social diminution:
• It is proper for any aged to be used, with any different background.
• Although the modernity can be felled on the site, but it can be still improved.
• The safety is not covered during the night-time therefore people are not protected. Also, the cleanliness is not proper.
• Visual vibration can be so confusing and getting tense specially in the weekend so people cannot really understand what is going on.
Physical dimension:
• Although Long Beach Seafront has many factors of the global standards, it could be in different shapes, widely more of walking path and bike lens to gain better mobility.
• Public transport is a numerous missing element needs to be placed at least in one part of site (the middle for better accessibility) because the main emphasis is on the private car as the area has three but not, public transport area for who doesn't gain access to any.
• The location of the areas is easy to find but not in proper design or visual quality.
• Seats areas need to be in more different shapes throughout the area.
Functional dimensions
• There is a diversity of different public open spaces and building structures, all within walking distance but not in a proper design or visually qualified.
• The base covering materials could be more flexible, and in more different types.
• Although the is vast areas that can be used for performing areas, there is lack of pre-designed ones.
• There is lack of enough public service places throughout the site need to be considered.
• There is lack of public art which can be adequate for users specially kids.

Chapter 4

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Public open spaces serve as invaluable societal hubs, bringing together diverse individuals irrespective of their backgrounds, ethnicities, or social standings. These freely accessible spaces, caressed by the natural climate under the vast sky, stand as testimonials to urban harmony. Beyond their essential utility, they enable community interactions, cultural exchanges, and holistic human experiences. This thesis explores such spaces, focusing on the Long Beach Seafront. The thesis structure is as follows:

- Chapter 1: This introductory chapter lays a comprehensive groundwork, succinctly defining the problem statement. It articulates the purpose of the study, outlining primary and secondary questions, the research objectives, the methodologies employed, and inherent limitations.

- Chapter 2: A deep dive into the theoretical facets of public open spaces ensues in this chapter. It elucidates their significance in urban planning, various typologies, and their overarching roles in urban ecosystems. A detailed section then focuses on the seafront as an archetype of public open spaces, dissecting its unique attributes.

- Chapter 3: This empirical chapter delves into the heart of the thesis – a meticulously executed case study on the Long Beach Seafront. It examines its development, analyzing how the physical, functional, and social dimensions of the space interact and influence user experience.

- Chapter 4: Drawing from the analyses of previous chapters, this section synthesizes key findings and extrapolates actionable recommendations.

The major challenges revealed in this thesis based on the Long Beach Seafront analysis are as follows:

Table 7: major challenges revealed in this thesis based on the Long Beach Seafront analysis coming under social, physical and functional categories. (Created by author)

Social quality:
• There is a lack of equal rights specifically for elderly, and disabled people.
• While parks, parking lots, and green areas are abundant, there is a notable void in performance-centric spaces, potentially limiting cultural or community events or educational usage.
• Unsafety issues specifically at nights, caused by dogs, and lights all around the site,
• The place is lack of different social activities for all ages. Area can be more facilitated by indoor activities places and the area is the lack of designed meeting area therefore, the area become unreadable specially in its pick time.
Physical quality:
• Walking paths and bicycle tracks don't adhere to ergonomic standards. Moreover, a conspicuous absence of public transportation leads to accessibility challenges.
• Several amenities, like street lighting, seating provisions, and public utilities, such as trash bins and restrooms, are either inadequate or poorly maintained.
• A distinct lack of demarcated zones for pedestrians and fitness enthusiasts leads to potential safety hazards.
• Physical accessibility can primarily center around the absence of public transport options. With limited accessibility, users rely on personal vehicles, further exacerbating traffic and environmental concerns. (physical quality)
• There's a palpable need to upgrade and diversify seating options, lighting fixtures, and other street utilities. Concepts like modular seating, interactive lighting, and multifunctional furniture could be considered.
Functional quality:
• A diversified approach towards base coverings could amplify Seafront's aesthetic quotient exponentially. Creative urban design interventions, such as vibrant mats or thematic zones, can improve user experience.
• Even though there is an evident effort in landscaping, a more strategic, ecologically sensitive approach could be employed. Introducing native species, thematic gardens, or sensory trails could enhance aesthetic and functional aspects.
• The aesthetic appeal category touches upon the holistic visual appeal of the Seafront. The design language, the synergy between built and unbuilt, and the space's narrative are all crucial in defining its aesthetic essence.

In general, several recommendations are made based on the study findings:

4.1 Social Quality

Implanting lighting equipment, semi-indoor public spaces, can be considered as an improvement safety specially at nights.

Public art, cultural activity places, open air activity center, can help the area, providing opportunities for more users with specific background.

4.2 Physical Quality

- A robust, eco-friendly public transport system, potentially electric shuttles or solar-powered trams could address accessibility issues.

- The Seafront should be more accommodating to diverse user groups. Features such as tactile paths for the visually impaired, wheelchair-friendly zones, and child-safe areas are essential.

- Integrating public art installations, murals, and sculptures could serve a dual purpose: improving the space's beauty and promoting local artists and culture.

- The streets furnishing elements, especially seating opportunities should be improved for the sake of aesthetic appeal.

4.3 Functional Quality

- The beach and waterfront could be added with additional functions associated with the ocean.

- Additional features could be incorporated to allow for diverse age groups and user profiles.

- Creating specialized zones for different activities can animate the Seafront, ensuring a vibrant atmosphere throughout the day.

4.4 Remarks for Future Study

While this thesis offers a comprehensive overview of the Long Beach Seafront, the dynamic nature of public spaces demands continuous study. Subsequent research can delve into user behavior, ecological impacts, or even the socioeconomic implications of the proposed interventions. This study stands as a foundation, inviting scholars, urban planners, and policymakers to further the discourse, ensuring that the Seafront remains a cherished urban landmark.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Survey Questions

Dear participant

Please take a few minutes to read the following information on this research carefully before you agree to participate. If at any time you have a question regarding the study, please feel free to ask the researcher, who will provide more information.

Behshid Baharani is conducting this study under Prof. Dr. Mukaddes Polay's supervision. The research aims to analyze the Iskele Waterfront namely Long Beach in terms of physical and social qualities to determine its potential for further improvements. Accordingly, it will be answered to the following questions:

1. What are the main social and physical features of the Iskele Waterfront?

2. What resources can be considered for its improvements?

You are not obliged to participate in this research and are free to refuse to participate; you may also withdraw from the study at any point without giving any reason. In this case, all of your responses will be destroyed and omitted from the research. If you agree to participate in and complete the study, your name and identifying information will not be disclosed except for data analysis and scientific research. Once the data is analyzed, a report of the findings may be submitted for publication.

Individuals 'facts:													
Gender	Male female ☑	Age:	18-24	25-	35-44	45-54	65-above	Jobs:	Employment	Student	Retired	Unemployed	Experts	Seller

You are   Tourist   Local   Other   **Interview duration:**

How often do you visit Long Beach Seafront?

Everyday   Two times a week   Once a week   Fifteen days   Once a month
Other

	Interview Questions (physical qualities)	Yes	No	Other
Access	Are you satisfied with the access to the Long Beach Seafront?			
	Are you satisfied with the access to the bike lanes, pedestrians and public transportation, and private cars?			
Safety	Are you satisfied with safety of existing Public open space on the seafront especially for kids?			
Public open spaces:	Are you satisfied with the variety of food kiosks on the seafront?			
	Are you satisfied with the Existing café restaurant on the seafront?			
	Do you think that existing parks (able and disable) are adequate and satisfying?			
	Do you think that the existing parking lots are enough?			
Base	Are you satisfied with the seafront circulation base covering?			
Street furnishing Elements	Are you satisfied with the lighting of the area in both day and night?			
	Are you satisfied with the seating of the area?			
	Are you satisfied with the kids parks equipment of the area?			
	Are you satisfied with the existing dustbins in the area?			
	Are you satisfied with the existing signs around the area?			
	Do you think that public art is educated in space?			

Interview closed Questions (physical qualities)		Yes	No	Other
Landscape	Are you satisfied with existing greenery?			
Attractiveness:	Do you think that beach is attractive?			
	Do you think the environment is attractive?			
Activities:	Do you think that open spaces are adequate for various activities?			
	Do you think that open spaces are appropriate for various activities?			
	Do you think the existing performing area is educated and appropriate?			
Interview closed Questions (social questions)		Yes	No	Other
Sociality	people with different education level age group, income level can enjoy this space?			
	Do you this that the place is clean and well maintained?			
Follow-Up Questions				
Can you mention about the problems you face at Iskele Waterfront?				
How could the Iskele Waterfront be improved?				

FOOD KIOSK

FOOD KIOSK

FOOD KIOSK

FOOD KIOSK

FOOD KIOSK

FOOD KIOSK

FOOD KIOSK

LUNAPARK

DISABLED RECREATION GROUND

GREENERY

EMPTY SPACES

PRIVATE RECREACTINAL ACTIVITY CENTER(PERA)

PARKING AREAS

Created by Author (Modifies from the Goggle Earth Map)

Appendix B: Assessment Check Point List

Created by author (Modified from Doğa Üzümcüoğlu, 2016).

ASSESSMENT CHECK POINT LIST		
Physical Quality		An accessible route for pedestrians
		Bikes Usage
		Provision of bus services
		Taxi Services /Private Car Services
		Disabled accessibility
		Dedicated parking areas
		Daylight and nighttime safety
		Modernity Viewpoint
		Landscape
		Safe, and Active
		Clean, Qualified, and Walkable
		Attractiveness
		Street Lighting
		Seating area equipment
		existing signs
		Playing Equipment
Functional Quality		Visual Adequacy
		Multipurposed Functions
		Playground for children
		base covering variation
		people /cultures variation
		Young and adult multiuse areas
		Multipurpose usage of areas
		Easier, Comfortable Use
		Sidewalks
		A simplicity of design
		Affordability
		User-friendly interface
		Public art
		Functionality sufficient
Social Quality		Age appropriate
		Social activities variation
		Responsibility
		Equality of rights for the usage (able and disabled)
		Appealing to all kinds of users
		Protection from Crime, Bullying
		Cleanliness
		Chilling opportunities
		Area's satisfaction
		Visual Accessibility
		comprehensible functions
		Economic street furniture
		Modern appearance and high quality

Left vertical labels: EVALUATION OF ISKELE LONG BEACH SEAFRONT | PHYSICAL, FUNCTINAL & SOCIAL QUALITIES

ISKELE LONG BEACH MAP / ASSESSMENT CHECK POINT LIST

ASSESSMENT CHECK POINT LIST	GOOD	AVRAGE	POOR
An accessible route for pedestrians			×
Bikes Usage	×		
Provision of bus services		×	
Taxi Services /Private Car Services		×	
Disabled accessibility		×	
Dedicated parking areas		×	
Daylight and nighttime safety		×	
Modernity Viewpoint	×		
Landscape		×	
Safe, and Active	×		
Clean, Qualified, and Walkable		×	
Attractiveness	×		
Street Lighting	×		
Seating area equipment	×		
existing signs	×		
Playing Equipment		×	
Visual Adequacy		×	
Multipurposed Functions	×		
Playground for children			
base covering variation	×		
people /cultures variation		×	
Young and adult multiuse areas		×	
Multipurpose usage of areas		×	
Easier, Comfortable Use	×		
Sidewalks			×
A simplicity of design			×
Affordability	×		
User-friendly interface			×
Public art	×		
Functionality sufficient	×		
Age appropriate	×		
Social activities variation		×	
Responsibility			
Equality of rights for the usage (able and disabled)			
Appealing to all kinds of users	×		
Protection from Crime, Bullying		×	
Cleanliness		×	
Chilling opportunities		×	
Area's satisfaction	×		
Visual Accessibility	×		
comprehensible functions	×		
Economic street furniture		×	

EVALUATION OF ISKELE LONG BEACH SEAFRONT

PHYSICAL, FUNCTINAL & SOCIAL QUALITIES