

Evaluation of Civic Vitality in Urban Squares: Case of Selimiye and Namik Kemal Squares

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ABSTRACT

Urban Square as one of the urban space have an important role for city life. They act as main social node, meeting place and center from middle ages and an area for social activities. However, changing lifestyles and way of life led these areas to be used rarely by human beings. People prefer to have meet and/or communicate with their friends in city malls or through social media. Beside, changing social structure, the physical condition of the cities also makes people not to prefer to go urban squares especially in historic centers. Thus, these negative changes had effect on the vitality of urban squares. The Walled City of Famagusta and Nicosia in Cyprus are selected as a case study area to question the level of the civic vitality in the two squares, namely Selimiye and Namik Kemal squares. This research aims to thoroughly evaluate how the vitality of open spaces can be improved in the Selimiye and Namik Kemal Squares and to find the criteria that help to meet vitality in Public Open Space. This thesis organized in four chapters. In the first chapter an introduction is given. In the second chapter, urban square, its physical characteristics, vitality are explained. Criteria for achieving vitality in urban spaces are obtained from the literature and tested in case studies in the chapter 3. Methodology of the case study includes physical and social analyses together with observations. Finally, conclusion and recommendations are given in the fourth chapter.

Keywords: Public Open Space, Square, Vitality, Namik Kemal Square, Selimiye Square

ÖZ

Kamusal açık alanlardan biri olan kent meydanının, kent yaşamı için önemli bir rolü vardır. Orta çağlardan beridir, meydanlar kentlerin ana toplanma alanı, sosyal düğüm noktası ve kentin merkezi olarak kullanılmaktadır. Fakat değişen yaşam biçimi ve alışkanlıklar, meydanların insanlar tarafından daha seyrek kullanılmasına neden olmaktadır. İnsanlar birbirleri ile alışveriş merkezlerinde veya sosyal medya yolu ile iletişim kurmakta veya buluşmaktadır. Sosyal yapıda oluşan değişikliklerin yanında kentlerdeki özellikle tarihi kentlerdeki fiziksel yapıdaki bozulmalar da insanların meydanları tercih etmemeleri için bir nedendir. Bütün bu olumsuz değişiklikler meydanların canlılığını etkilemektedir. Mağusa ve Lefkoşa surlarıçinde bulunan iki meydan-Selimiye ve Namık Kemal- ne kadar canlı oldukları sorusunu sormak için, bu çalışmanın örnek alanları olarak seçilmiştir. Bu çalışmanın amacı Selimiye ve namık Kemal meydanlarının canlılıklarının nasıl artırılacağını değerlendirmek ve bunun için kriterleri ortaya koymaktır. Bu tez dört bölümden oluşmaktadır. Birinci bölümde giriş verilirken, meydan ve meydanın fiziksel özellikleri ile canlılık kavramları ikinci bölümde incelenmiştir. Kent meydanlarının canlı olması için gereken kriterler üçüncü bölümde alan çalışmalarında test edilmiştir. Çalışma alanlarında veriler fiziksel ve sosyal analiz ve gözlemlerle elde edilmiştir. Çalışmadan elde edilen sonuç ve öneriler dördüncü bölümde verilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kamusal açık alan, meydan, canlılık, Namık Kemal Meydanı, Selimiye Meydanı

DEDICATION

To my family

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	iii
ÖZ	iii
DEDICATION	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	vi
LIST OF TABLES.....	vii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Problem Statement	3
1.2 Research Aims and Objectives.....	3
1.3 The Research Methods	4
2 URBAN SQUARES: DEFINITION AND ROLES FOR PUBLIC LIFE	5
2.1 Introduction	5
2.2 Definition of Public open Space	6
2.2.1 The Role of Public Open Spaces for Public Life	7
2.2.2 Types of Public Open Space.....	8
2.3. Definition of Squares	16
2.3.1 Types of Squares.....	18
2.3.2 Form of Square	20
2.3.3 Elements of Successful Square.....	24
2.3.3.1 Architectural Front	24

2.3.3.2 Floor and Place	25
2.3.3.3 Skyline Properties.....	27
2.3.3.4 Landscape	28
2.3.3.5 Accessibility	30
2.4 Conclusion of the Chapter.....	31
3 ROLE OF VITALITY IN URBAN SQUARE.....	32
3.1 Introduction	32
3.2 Definition of Urban Vitality	32
3.3 Elements of Vitality in Urban Environment.....	33
3.3.1 Activities.....	35
3.3.1.1 Mixture of Primary Uses	39
3.3.1.2 Permeability and Accessibility	40
3.3.1.3 Mixture of Building Types, Ages, Sizes and Conditions.....	40
3.3.1.4 Intensity	41
3.3 Conclusion of the Chapter.....	41
4 CASE STUDIES	44
4.1 Introduction	44
4.2 Selection of Case Study Area.....	44
4.2.1 History of the Walled City of Nicosia	44
4.2.1.1 Historic Development of Selimiye Square	46
4.2.1.2 Overall Problems of City and Square.....	49
4.2.2 History of the Walled City of Famagusta	49

4.2.2.1	Historic Development of Namik Kemal Square.....	53
4.2.2.2	Overall Problems of City and Square.....	54
4.3	Methodology of Analysis	55
4.4	Analyzing the Vitality of Selimiye Square.....	57
4.4.1	Physical Characteristics and Location.....	57
4.4.2	Mix-use.....	58
4.4.3	Permeability and Accessibility	60
4.4.4	Mixture of Building.....	62
4.4.5	Intensity	64
4.4.6	Architectural Front	65
4.4.7	Floor and Place	66
4.4.8	Skyline Properties.....	68
4.4.8	Landscape	69
4.5	Analyzing the Vitality in Namik Kemal Square.....	72
4.5.1	Physical Characteristics and Location.....	72
4.5.2	Mix-use.....	72
4.5.3	Permeability and Accessibility	75
4.5.4	Mixture of Building.....	77
4.5.5	Intensity	78
4.5.6	Architectural Front	79
4.5.7	Floor and Place	80
4.5.8	Skyline Properties.....	81

4.5.9 Landscape	82
4.6 A Comparative Evaluation of the Vitality of Selimiye and Namik Kemal Square	85
4.7 Summary of the Chapter	86
5 CONCLUSION	87
5.1 Recommendations for Improving the Squares	88
5.1.1 Selimiye Square.....	88
5.1.2 Namik Kemal Square	89
5.2 Further Research	89
REFERENCES.....	91
APPENDICES	98
Appendix A: maps.....	99
Appendix B: English Questionnaire Sample.....	112
Appendix C: Response summary for Selimiye square.....	116
Appendix D: Response summary for Namik Kemal square.....	121

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Vitality concept and measurement according to different theorists.....	35
Table 2: Outdoor activities and quality of environment (Gehl, 1996).....	41
Table 3: Conclusive table of the elements of vitality in urban space.....	42
Table 4: Methodology of the Case Study Analysis.....	55
Table 5: Summary of the elements of Vitality of the Selimiye square.....	70
Table 6: Outdoor activity & quality of the Selimiye square – Adopted from Gehl....	71
Table 7: Summary of the elements of Vitality of the Namik Kemal square.....	83
Table 8: Outdoor activity and quality of the Namik Kemal square – Adopted from Gehl.....	84
Table 9: Comparative evaluation of the vitality of Selimiye and Namik Kemal Square.....	85

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Faneromeni square Bracerie. Nicosia, Cyprus	7
Figure 2: 1.5 acre, PNC Firstside Park. Private Park in front of the downtown building; truly public, freely accessible. Pittsburgh, PA.....	8
Figure 3: The Virgin’s Square. Valencia	9
Figure 4: Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. View of Crowd at 1963 March on Washington.	10
Figure 5: In İstanbul’s street markets.....	10
Figure 6: A street behind Selimiye Mosque.....	11
Figure 7: Bonython Park-Australia.	12
Figure 8: Iranians celebrating the national “Picnic celebration”. Photo by Mehdi Ghasemi.....	13
Figure 9: Greenway along a river.....	13
Figure 10: Urban wilderness	14
Figure 11: The Grand Bazaar – Istanbul	15
Figure 12: Outdoor dining in Germany.....	15
Figure 13: Summer Paris Plage at Pompidou Expressway	16
Figure 14: Marktplatz in Germany.....	19
Figure 15: The Burg, Brugge’s administrative square	19
Figure 16: Some forms of Krier’s urban spaces.....	21
Figure 17: Modulating features of urban space.....	22
Figure 18: Atatürk Square in Nicosia.	23
Figure 19: Elements (ceiling, walls, floor and urban furniture). Reference: (Hadelich, n.d.)	24

Figure 20: Architectural front effect on users. Source: Bentley et al., 1985.....	25
Figure 21: Sergels Torg, Stockholm public square. The pavement gives a sense of direction and a sense of infinity of space and continuity. Source: URL 12.....	26
Figure 22: Panoramic Manila skyline – Philippine.....	28
Figure 23: the circle in Uptown Normal, Illinois. Source: Schaudt landscape architects	29
Figure 24. Saint Peter’s square with focal point element. Source URL 13	30
Figure 25: Street in the Walled City of Famagusta with variety of activities.....	37
Figure 26: ‘Le village de Noël de La Défense’ on 20 November 2014, 20 th edition.	38
Figure 27: Location of Nicosia in Cyprus.....	46
Figure 28: Selimiye area and functional zones in Walled City of Nicosia	48
Figure 29: Historical Buildings near the Selimiye Square.....	48
Figure 30: (Before) location of Famagusta in Cyprus. Location of the walled City of Famagusta	51
Figure 31: Historical development of the Walled City of Famagusta	52
Figure 32: Namik Kemal Square area streets and buildings	53
Figure 33: Restaurant at the Selimiye square.....	58
Figure 34: Mini Market at the Selimiye Square.....	59
Figure 35: Shops at the Selimiye Square	60
Figure 36: Users along the shop.....	60
Figure 37: A map with the indication of the actual position.....	61
Figure 38: Cars block the pedestrian.....	62
Figure 39: Small parking area near the square.....	62
Figure 40: An abandoned Ottoman building at the square	63
Figure 41: Medieval façade at the square	63

Figure 42: Restored traditional façade	64
Figure 43: Men coming at the square for a meeting	65
Figure 44: Turkey's EU Minister Volkan Bozkır visiting the square	65
Figure 45: photo collation of the buildings surrounding the square	66
Figure 46: Pavement on the square	67
Figure 47: Pavement in front of the Selimiye Mosque entrance.....	67
Figure 48: Other pavement along the southern façade of the Selimiye Mosque	67
Figure 49: Skyline at the Selimiye Square	69
Figure 50: Furniture in the square	70
Figure 51: Shops in the old walled-city of Famagusta.....	73
Figure 52: Is bank inthe Namik Kemal square.....	74
Figure 53: People waiting to see the Religious Affairs authorities.....	75
Figure 54: Organized parking lot	76
Figure 55: Rampart on the atft and urban furniture on the right obstructing the way	76
Figure 56: Visible Lala Mustafa Paşa from the main street.....	77
Figure 57: An abandoned building at the square	78
Figure 58: New buildings and Historical Medrese	78
Figure 59: Users chatting at the square	79
Figure 60: Pavement on the square	80
Figure 61: Pavement with mix materials	81
Figure 62: Palm trees along the buildings on the periphery.....	82
Figure 63: Furniture in the square	83

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

The first city creation dated for six thousand years to now and the first squares evolved at the intersection of major trade routes. Public squares in ancient Greek cities were open spaces that were located in the center of the city. They were spaces for all sorts of gatherings. In squares, the commercial areas were disconnected from the religious areas first in Mesopotamia and Greece and the commercial part was transformed into a place for gathering people and exchanging their experience and news (Munford, 1966). Therefore, public open space are places are not a new concept. Over time, cities developed and many had public open space in their centers and have played several roles in the societies.

Zucker explains that the use within and about the public square changes over time. In his opinion, the spatial form continues regardless of the changes of use, but that form is as permanent as the elements that create it (buildings). He classifies public squares into five main categories, namely the closed square, the dominated square, the nuclear square, the grouped squares and the amorphous square (Zucher,1959).

The Industrial Revolution marks a major turning point in history; most aspect of daily life were influenced in some way. One of the defining and most permanent features of the Industrial Revolution was the expansion of cities. Unfortunately, many changes in the cities are stimulated by a belief that economic growth

automatically ameliorates life condition and that in response the surrounding environment should be the prey. Thus, one of the most frequent victims of such a model of progress is the public open spaces that are indeed so vital to cities. Thus, today's city of skyscrapers, giant shopping malls, leveled highways, and gated and enclosed communities encourages consumption; while the aged city urban public spaces encourage interaction. The present understanding of public open spaces is that they are misused areas that can serve for better economic purposes (shopping malls, markets). On the other hand, such spaces are a socialization tool for gathering people together and enhancing quality of life, health and well-being. For instance, Gehl quoted that “ ... people and human activity are the greatest object of attention and interest. Even the modest form of contact of merely seeing and hearing or being near to others is apparently more rewarding and more in demand than the majority of other attractions offered in the public spaces of cities and residential areas. Life in buildings and between buildings seems in nearly all situations to rank as more essential and more relevant than the spaces and buildings themselves.” (Gehl 2001)

Nevertheless, in order to achieve this, the public open spaces must have vitality. Many elements are involved in order to add vitality and livelihood to public open spaces. One of these are the activities; a public open space must offer surprises and pleasure, they are free of entrances fees or dress codes. Thus, it is clear that the vitality of public urban spaces is important not only to the well-being of the city, but also to that of the citizens whether it be through physical, ecological, psychological or social role of the public open square.

1.1 Problem Statement

Technology in the world of communication is growing daily at a rapid rate and changing the means of interaction between human beings. The meeting place is no longer the bench on the sidewalk facing the sea, or the garden near the house talking less about other public open space that was designed for the purpose of community. As a matter of fact, social networking tools are slowly replacing the sense of gathering in public open spaces. A social network is a tie between two or more people. Today, the majority of the urban population interact through social networking tools such as Facebook, Skype, and Twitter; leaving them the choice to stay home and not need to go out to meet and interact with others in public open spaces. Apart from technology, physical, social and economic overall problems in historical squares lead them to become derelict and to lose their attractiveness. These problems in historic urban areas may cause negative effects on the safety, cleanness, the comfort and the activity in the square. Unfortunately, this appears to be the case for Famagusta and Nicosia cities, which leads to the questioning of the level of vitality of the two case studies that were chosen; Selimiye and Namik Kemal squares, as the subject of this research.

1.2 Research Aims and Objectives

This research aims to evaluate how the vitality of open spaces can be improved in the Selimiye and Namik Kemal Squares and to determine the criteria that helps to achieve vitality in Public Open Space. Therefore, the main research question of the study is “What are the criteria to achieve vitality in Public open spaces?” Hence, the objectives of this work are:

- to explain the role and types of public open space in the public life

- to determine the elements of vitality in public open spaces
- to question the vitality of the selected squares

1.3 The Research Methods

The first part of this research is literature review where earlier works on similar topics are analyzed and information is collected from them. This helped have a large understanding of the definition and roles of public open spaces but also to see how different theorist define the question of vitality of urban square. In the second part, data and facts were collected in an observational and investigatory way and were assembled regarding each case study. Maps were used to analyze the squares. The questioning of the civic vitality of Selimiye and Namik Kemal squares is based on observation, examination of photographs, video's, interviews of the people who came to visit the square and other accounts such as the activities and the uses of the squares. The conclusion of these cases study is due to the literature survey and comparative nature of the research.

Chapter 2

URBAN SQUARES: DEFINITION AND ROLES FOR PUBLIC LIFE

2.1 Introduction

An urban space is a city component that forms and changes during the history of a nation; it is a place to experience civic & social habits (Iranmanesh, N., & Etaati, 2004). Public open spaces are areas open to public use and accessible to all. This chapter will first describe the role of urban open spaces under four different categories: physical, ecological, psychological and social. Though the roles are more than four, the chosen ones were the most relevant to this research topic, which is related to “vitality”. This is to illustrate that the role of urban space is important both in the built environment and in the life of the users. The description is based on the review of literature of earlier works that relate to the topic of this study. Secondly, the chapter briefly describes the typology of public open spaces as categorized by Carr et al. (Carr, Francis, Rivlin and Carr, 1992). Finally, this section of the research focuses specifically on the typology of squares, their historical background, shapes, location and features and on how these aspects affect the vitality of the urban squares.

2.2 Definition of Public open Space

One of the definitions of a public open space is that it is accessible, action free, and without any ownership claim (Altman & Zube, 1989; Carr, Francis, Rivlin, & Stone, 1992).

Some of the public open spaces during changes and development of the modern cities, have seen their functions modify or disappear. In fact, the movement of globalization and urbanization over modern architecture and urban design has resulted in the transformation of the visual identity of many urban environments. Modern public open spaces of some cities have been transformed into clean, minimum lines, simple forms, sometimes free from association and meaning. Some of the studies on the public open spaces by (Carr, at all., 1992; Lennard, S.H.C. & Lennard, H, 1984; Lennard, S., Crowhurst, H., & Lennard, H.L., 1993; Marcus & Francis, 1990; Wooley, 2003) indicated the significance in the structure of the urban space, particularly in the formation of the social-cultural and identity of the local built environment and its users. Therefore, public open space should be accessible and attractive for different users of all ages, genders, and cultural background. It should be a land that could be used with, by every citizen. Public open space has an important role in the cities throughout history (Mumford, 1970) although, the role of 'public sense' increased over time.

In brief, public open space have a variety of roles that can be categorized as physical, ecological, psychological, social, political, economic, symbolic, and aesthetic (Ercan, 2007). In the next section, the first four roles will be defined.

2.2.1 The Role of Public Open Spaces for Public Life

Seen in a myriad of forms, public spaces play a number of **physical** roles and are unavoidable elements of a city. First, streets and their sidewalks, the main public spaces of a city, are its most vital organs. “Think of a city and what comes to mind? Its streets” (Jacobs, 1961, 29). They ease movements one point to another. Secondly, for **social** role for the public daily by having several facilities. Thirdly, they play an **ecological** role as components that delimit and define open spaces in the city.

Also, public spaces contribute to **psychological** and mental health by offering places for ‘social interaction’ that can help overcome stress and give an opportunity to relax (Carr et al., 1992; Lynch, 1992). In these places, environmental, physical features like seating, shelter, food, people, and activities should be considered to provide a sense of community (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Faneromeni square Bracerie. Nicosia, Cyprus. Source URL1

Briefly, public spaces are useful to human beings because of their physical, ecological, psychological and social roles, which qualifies them to also be an important element for societies and cities. Therefore, the following section will be dedicated to the description of the main typology of public open spaces.

2.2.2 Types of Public Open Space

Open space has a wide range of notion and typologies such as public parks, squares and plazas, memorials, markets, streets, playgrounds, community open spaces, green ways and linear parkways, urban wilderness, atrium and marketplaces, found and neighborhood spaces, and waterfronts (Carr, Francis, Rivlin and Carr, 1992).

- Public Parks

A well-known definition of an urban park, given by Frederick Law Olmstead, is “a naturalized passive retreat” (Rutledge & Molnar, 1986, p. 4). Public parks are located in zoned spaces and characterized by the presence of green nature (Figure 2). Their sub-types are Public/Central Park, Downtown Parks, Commons, Neighborhood Park, and Mini/Vest-pocket Park. In the western world, it is during the 19th century Industrial Revolution that public parks started to be seen as a land misuse. Earlier, they were for the amelioration of neighborhoods’ physical and aesthetic qualities.



Figure 2: 1.5 acre, PNC Firstside Park. Private Park in front of the downtown building; truly public, freely accessible. Pittsburgh, PA. Source: URL 2

- Squares and Plazas

They are often part of historic city centers and created at the meeting place of streets. Moughtin (2003) defines an urban plaza as an area surrounded by buildings and with the purpose of displaying the building to the maximum (Figure 3). Generally, squares and plazas are widely developed and managed.



Figure 3: The Virgin's Square. Valencia. Source: URL 3

- Memorials

They are known as public places for memorizing popular people or for parades and historical event (Figure 4). They are landscapes which help to keep past events alive through physical representation in public areas. Public memorials serve for both transferring information to all visitors and giving tourists the opportunity sympathize with past events experienced by the society they are visiting (Gürler & Özer, 2013).

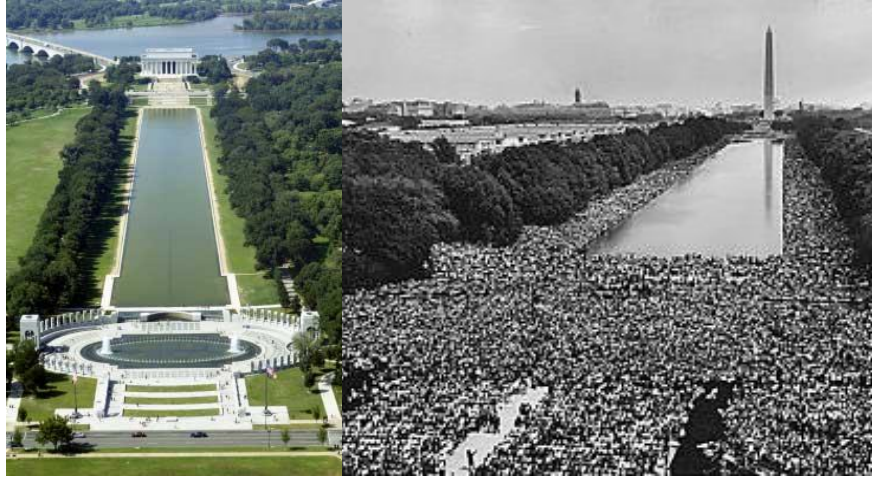


Figure 4: Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. View of Crowd at 1963 March on Washington. Source: URL 4

- Market

A traditional type was the farmer's market. Farmers used these open spaces for commercial activities that were often temporary or held at a specific time. They could be found in parks, downtown streets or parking lots (Francis, 1987) (Figure 5). Due to industrialization and architecture development, some changes have occurred. Markets can also be located in spaces between buildings where space would be wide and allow diversity.



Figure 5: In İstanbul's street markets. Source: Todays Zaman (Nov, 2014)

- Streets

Streets are spaces for walking, driving cars, and riding bicycles and mainly planned to connect destinations to each other. Streets include pedestrian sidewalks, pedestrian mall, transit mall, and Traffic Restricted Streets and Town Trails (Figure 6). Kostof's describes the street as an entity composed of a roadway, often a pedestrian way and bordered by buildings." (Kostof, 1992; pp: 189). Jacobs described a street as a place of encounters and exchanges and as a public, political, symbolic and ceremonial space in the city (Jacobs 1961). Therefore, streets can be used as places for mass gatherings connected to sport, political cultural or other activities.



Figure 6: A street behind Selimiye Mosque. Photo by Author

- Playgrounds

They are usually located in the neighborhood. They can be schoolyard for playing, environmental learning or community use. Historically, playgrounds had a pedagogical significance. Later, there were transformed to be a safe place for children, away from the perceived and physical danger of the streets (Figure 7). Manufactured products and safety modification were gradually introduced into the playgrounds (Moore, 2006).



Figure 7: Bonython Park-Australia. Source: URL 5

- Community open spaces

Located in neighborhoods and they can be gardens, playing areas or community gardens designed, developed or managed by local residents on vacant land (Carr, Francis, Rivlin and Carr, 1992). They provide aesthetic benefits to the surrounding residents and their preservation can offer relief from the negative effects of urban and economic development (Figure 8).



Figure 8: Iranians celebrating the national “Picnic celebration”. Photo by Ghasemi

- Greenways and Linear Parkways

They are usually long, narrow, and used for bicycle and pedestrian. They were used to stick together dispersed cities and they have expanded excessively. Axes, boulevards and parkways were the ancestral greenways and they provide access to rivers, streams other corridors. Greenways are often automobile free, they are usually long and narrow and used for bicycle and pedestrian (Searns, 1995) (Figure 9).

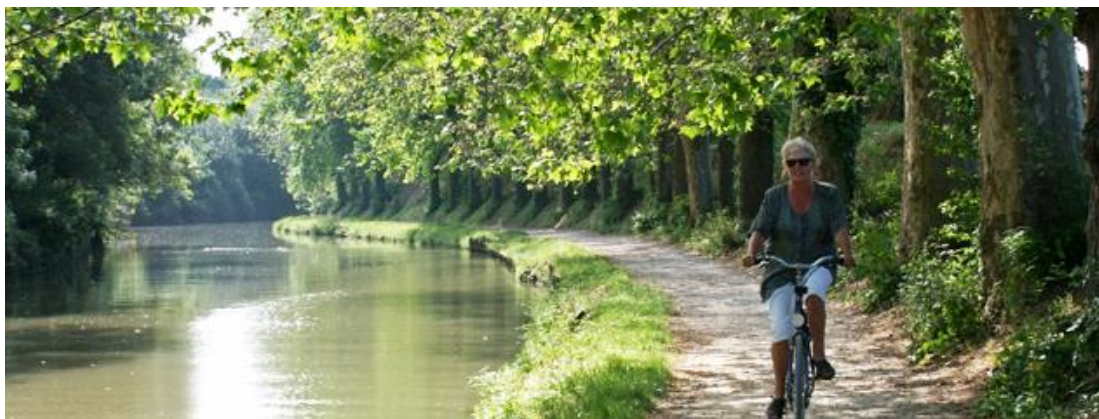


Figure 9: Greenway along a river. Source: URL 6

- Urban Wilderness

These are undeveloped areas in or out of the city that can be used for activities such as riding bicycles, dog walking and a multitude of other uses spanning the extremes of recreational playgrounds or picnic areas to spend free time. Below is an image of the Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness Area in Oklahoma and open to the public (Figure 10) (Diemer et al., 2003).



Figure 10: Urban wilderness. Source URL 7

- Atrium/Indoor/Marketplaces

They are usually indoor spaces but can also include exterior spaces (Figure 11). It can be a plaza or a pedestrian street that is part of the public open space system. Sometimes, it is called festival marketplace (Francis, 1987).



Figure 11: The Grand Bazaar – Istanbul. Source: URL 8

- Found/Neighborhood Spaces

They are public open spaces that users can claim and use every day such as street corners, steps of the buildings, etc. (Carr et al., 1992) (Figure 12).



Figure 12: Outdoor dining in Germany. Photo by: Simeon Jackson

- Waterfronts

Water can be incorporated into cities in four different ways: first as water points or fountains, second as pool, third as water which flows in a linear direction (river, canal, streams, etc.), at last is the coastline (Figure 13). The uses are divided into the

following categories: marketable, the social, educational, ecological, historic, leisure and amusement, working and residential waterfronts (Fasli and Pakdel, 2010).



Figure 13: Summer Paris Plage at Pompidou Expressway. Source: URL 9

It is clear that the typology of public open spaces is diverse in form, size, use and in many other features. Nevertheless, this study will focus on urban squares. Therefore, in the following section, urban squares will be defined in a more detailed way. After giving a few definitions of an urban square, the types, form and elements of successful squares will be reviewed.

2.3 Definition of Squares

There is a broad way of how practitioners and theorists define a square. There are different characteristics on which the understanding of what a square is based on. Architect, landscape architect, sociologist, psychologist and so on could formulate it and each of them brings out some specific aspect in one way or another. Therefore, it is possible to find both general definitions and specific ones of a square.

According to the Dictionary of Architecture and Building Construction an urban square, is ‘an urban public open space, often planted or paved, surrounded on all sides by, in front of or between buildings’ (Davies and Jokiniemi, 2008, p. 357). According to Lynch, it is the ‘activity focus’ in the center of dense urban areas. He states that ‘. . . it will be paved, enclosed by high density structures, and surrounded by streets, or in contact with them. It contains features meant to attract groups of people and to facilitate meetings’. (Lynch, 1981, p. 443).

Krier (1979), besides, adds the streets to the focal point of a city design and claims that the square should be re-experienced.

Marcus and Francis (1998) see the square with a different perspective. They defined its physical and spatial dimensions. They emphasize the importance of the focus on the place it is located in and on the activities that can be done with it and keep it active for the entire day.

Also, Goodman (1960) defines a square as a central and most important part of a city’s landscape; irreplaceable and vital. Most of the squares are defined so clearly by the buildings that surround them. In many examples squares linked with streets in the center of cities. Urban squares work as a magnet and attract people because mostly in the day time they are active, alive, and safe and provide an ideal place for people’s gathering. In the whole world squares have common characteristic but also some differences in their settings. The squares are utilized by different types of users, which differ by age, gender, social class, etc. In fact, a successful urban square

should be able to support all types of users and provide sufficient conditions for their needs such as walking, sitting, dancing and so on.

As a conclusion, urban square can be defined as a type of urban open public space that forms a central arena for the cities network, and a place for civic honor and community exchange (Liu, 2013).

2.3.1 Types of Squares

Urban squares, civic spaces, town squares, piazzas, plazas, circuses, courts, etc. have a common meaning that is a focal point in public networks. Squares are known as ‘static’ spaces with less sense of movement than the street. Squares can be categorized as formal and informal. Formal spaces have a strong sense of enclosure with formal surrounding buildings and maybe with symmetrical layout. Informal squares have a more relaxing character with surrounding architectural buildings and an asymmetrical and geometrical layout (Carmona, Public places - urban spaces: the dimensions of urban design, 2003). Squares can be classified in markets, religious, administrative, and recreation or leisure square.

- **The Market square** is a space for the public use. Usually, markets, parades, and festivals can be held in such squares. Most of the time it is located next or center of the city and next to the main street or bordered by four streets. In some other case it is surrounded by buildings (Figure 14).



Figure 14: Marktplatz in Germany. Source: URL 10

- **Religious Square:** it is a square located close to a religious buildings (Morris, 2013). In this square the activities that may occur are like religious preaching, ceremonies, festivals, and celebrations (Peter, 1963).
- **Administrative Square:** it is a square that surrounded with the administrative buildings (Figure 15). This area is for popular gathering and civic encounter (Fernandes, 2012).



Figure 15: The Burg, Brugge's administrative square. Source: URL 11

- **The recreation / Leisure square** should be designed for every type of user, including disabled people, and also should be safe and accessible for everyone. It is designed for the gathering of people without any specific activity who want to spend free time with each other in meetings, festivals, parades, athletic events, political events and in children's playgrounds (Peter, 1963).

Additionally, squares can be classified according to their design. 'Dominated squares' have a space directed to a construction or a group of buildings. A 'nuclear square' has a central element that plays the role of attracting and gathering. A 'grouped square' is the combination of individual squares that are connected originally or appealingly. The other type is the 'amorphous square', which has no special form or organization in comparison with the other types.

2.3.2 Form of Square

Squares are also known as Plazas (from Spanish) and literally means 'urban square'. The Dictionary of Architecture and Building Construction defines the plaza as 'any large open urban space, often linked to a prestigious building'. (Davies and Jokiniemi, 2008, p. 284). Also, Moughtin, defines it as 'an area framed by buildings and an area designed to exhibit its buildings to the greatest advantage' (Moughtin, 2003, p. 87).

Therefore, it is evident that the form of a square is affected by its surrounding buildings and environment (Figure 16). According to the figure 23, some forms of square are visible, generally squares form divided in two major groups, regular and irregular.

A public square can have different shapes such as rectangle, square, circle or triangle, multi sides, oval, and curved (Morris, 2013). Hereby, it means that squares can be analyzed by their forms.

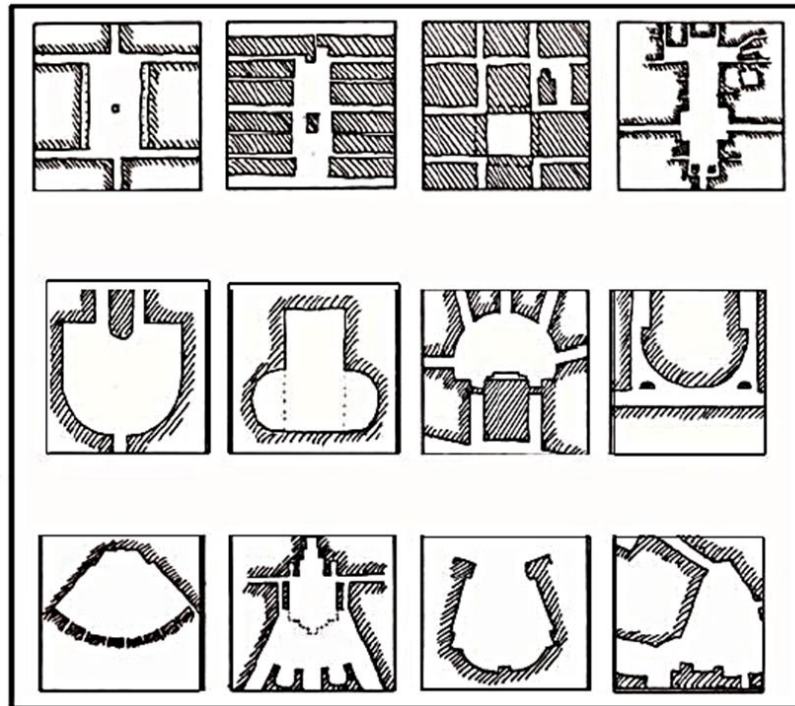


Figure 16: Some forms of Krier's urban spaces (Krier, 1979).

Camillo Sitte, in his framework focuses on the visual shape more than the function of the square and introduces some morphological principles for urban square such as an enclosure (surrounded and controllable space); a free center and memorials located on the perimeter and considered them as the fundamentals of amazement, attractions but also architectural facades, concavity and beautiful pavement.

Sitte believed the first important characteristic of the square is the sense of enclosure that is the rules of realizing organization according to Gestalt's psychology. Making groups is the basic concept of the Gestalt method. In addition, enclosure helps us to

visualize objects as a whole. For example, the easiest choice is to put group of building around the central space. Also, Zucker (1959) states that a closed square most of the time has the regular geometric form and can only be accessed through the streets. Squares have three general shapes: circular, rectangular, triangular. Or, they can classify into two major categories: regular or irregular forms. The forms of squares most of the time directly dependent to the surrounded buildings. Indeed the surrounded buildings provide square's shapes (Figure 17).

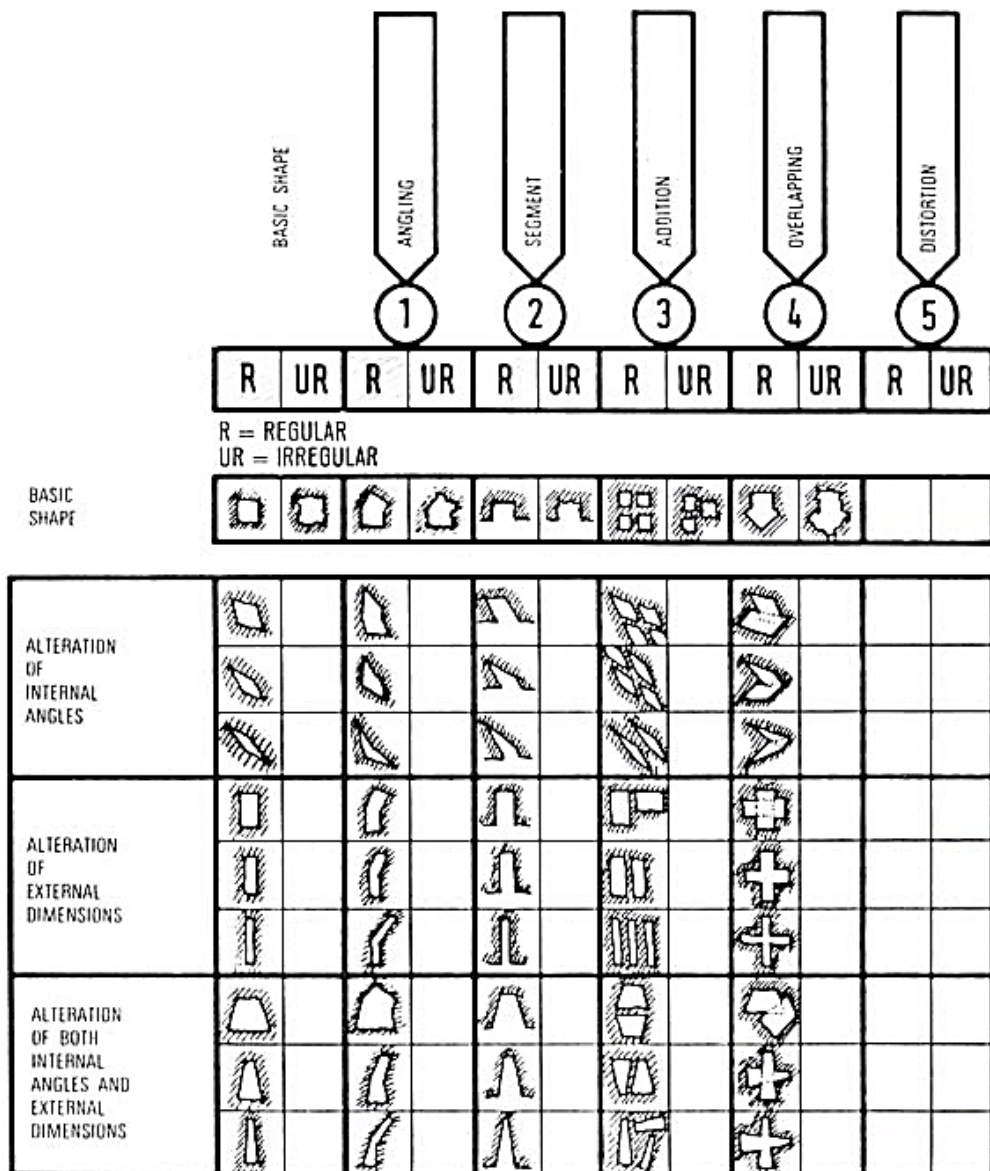


Figure 17: Modulating features of urban space. Source: Krier R., 1979, Urban space, Academy Edition, London, p. 23

In the past, most of the squares were situated next to important places such as religious and governmental buildings that are central to public life and important for people. In addition, the main function of the public space should be to consider the users' pleasure and encourage their needs as well as communication (Levy, 2012). Therefore, if the human requirements and activities are the first important issues, public squares should be accessible easily for everyone and locate in the center of the city. These days, peoples' interests are changing, therefore the public square's focus should be changed as well. For example, some people are working every day, their activities are different, and therefore the public squares should be designed according to their needs and requirements. Some of the citizens are spending their time indoor more than outdoor these days and many examples of public squares illustrate how, nowadays, public squares are placed next to shopping centers and buildings or shopping malls in modern cities. Therefore, in designing of the public space several aspects should be considered by the designer to make it attractive for the users when they go out and when they choose a public square for spending their free time (Memluk, 2013) (Figure 18).



Figure 18: Atatürk Square in Nicosia.

2.3.3 Elements of Successful Square

Some elements in all public spaces as well as urban square have an important role in defining the meaning of the square like walls, floor, ceiling and any objects that may be in the space (Figure 19). These elements complete the quality of the square. Also, the quality of a good public space is indicated when it provides appropriate and appropriately organized areas for users, pleasant conditions for spending time and a sense of protection and comfort in public in that area (Hadelich, n.d.).

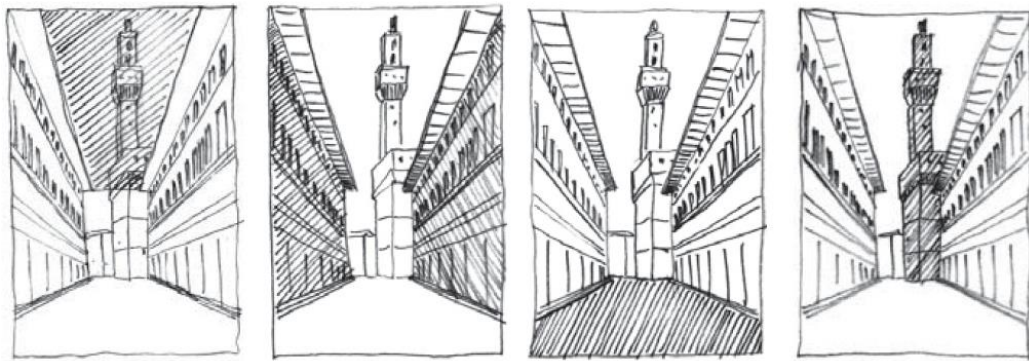


Figure 19: Elements (ceiling, walls, floor and urban furniture). Reference: (Hadelich, n.d.)

2.3.3.1 Architectural Front

The surrounding buildings usually frame squares and there should be a difference between squares for commercial grandeur, and people spaces. These places designed for a particular building or for certain civic functions (Carmona, Public Places - Urban Spaces: the dimensions of urban design, 2003). In most medieval European cities, squares were designed around valuable buildings. The screen façade or false front is the non-structural grand front of a building, especially in Italian Renaissance architecture, which disguises the true interior form or size of the building (Davies and Jokiniemi, 2008). Buildings around the squares can provide a good sense of

space by providing suitable front. A proper urban open space is enclosed by the buildings' front to form a space or 'outdoor room' that provides comfort to the users. Visual contrasts, which can be created by differences of color or tone on a two-dimensional surface should be present in order to avoid the sense of monotony for the user (Figure 20). The main entrance should be located on the building front facing the primary public space. The entrances should be noticeable on the fronting façade (Bentley et al., 1985).



Figure 20: Architectural front effect on users. Source: Bentley et al., 1985

2.3.3.2 Floor and Place

According to Ashihara (1983) "Floor surfacing that extends to a boundary and makes the extents of spaces legible". In the design of the landscape materials should be select perfectly due to it has influence on the urban square such as pavement materials. In addition, it has an effect on the visual appearance and function of the

urban square. Stone, brick, concrete, and etc. are different types of materials that are available for use in public square design. Materials for the pavements have to be durable and appealingly interesting which has an effect on increasing the expenses. Moreover, Environment and surrounding construction should be considered in selecting the types of materials in terms of the importance of harmony. Like the point, the line can also be interpreted as a quality of an urban space that denotes directionality. Directionality can also be produced by sight lines or lines of movement, such as paths, axes or symmetrically arranged elements. (Figure 21).



Figure 21: Sergels Torg, Stockholm public square. The pavement gives a sense of direction and a sense of infinity of space and continuity. Source: URL 12

Central areas can be designed in contrast with color, form or texture and the pavement material. Centrality is generally created through the introduction of a mass, built object or point-like element within the space. The urban nucleus, as Zucker calls it, is perhaps the most elementary form of a square that defines centrality. The centrality of a space is a spatial quality that lends it a restful, stable constitution.

Adding to this the pavement should not be slippery, heat reflecting and nor should it be glare. Moreover, in the selection of material and design of urban squares disable and elderly citizens should be considered in order to provide appropriate accessibility and comfort. Drainage need to be considered to offer coziness in different weather situations.

2.3.3.3 Skyline Properties

Skylines are “ the outline or silhouette of a building or number of buildings or other objects seen against the sky ” (Oxford English Dictionary). Lynch states that “The city is in itself the powerful symbol of a complex society. If visually well set forth, it can also have strong expressive meaning ” (Lynch, 1960, p. 5). Therefore, Skylines are a visual unit and consequently a perception of our environment.

In order to observe a skyline, it requires to observe the city from a distance (Figure 22). There has been research on people’s perceptions of cities from the inside. Lynch performed a series of whereby citizens from in different areas were asked how they perceived that place. Lynch placed his attention on the image of the city from inside at street level, and suggested that it was possible to learn about the “character and structure of the urban image” (Lynch, 1960, p. 45). Therefore, if the buildings that surrounded the squares are not in suitable height to give a sense of the urbanized area, other vertical elements should utilize the compensation of this gap and the amplification of the sense of square and urban emphasis. Squares, as a type of urban space, can provide good condition and sufficient status for built the environment.



Figure 22: Panoramic Manila skyline – Philippine

2.3.3.4 Landscape

Varieties of the plants, herbage and verdure can be planted in the urban squares for its beauty, shading, view. Plants provide a picturesque place for relaxation and rest (Figure 23). Trees can provide shade for users when the weather is hot or sunny. If there is a monument, plants can provide the aesthetical background or view for the urban square.

Plants should be chosen depending on the climate, which will decline the costs, and plantation will be successful in the public square. There are different types of plants that make a place beautiful and colorful in every season, for example, some trees stay green in winter. Plants can make division the spaces or create an enclosure (Memluk, 2013).

Water surfaces are the other elements that should be used in the public squares for providing picturesque views and central point. The still water surface provides relaxation, liveliness and vitality to the place. In order to decrease the costs, designer can integrate water and rain water reuse technics. The combination of the light, plants, and water surfaces and other elements can be much more attractive for the citizens. As a matter of fact, these elements of the nature are have become rare in the

built environment due to the growing need in housing. Therefore, the presence of these elements play a great role in the attraction of users to the square and as a result increases its activeness and life.

Urban furniture, as part of the landscape, also give the square a comforting and appealing air and draw people into them.



Figure 23: the circle in Uptown Normal, Illinois. Source: Schaudt landscape architects

Focal point elements in the landscape do not only help attract people, but they contribute to the square's individuality. Having this is not a necessity, instead it is better to place the element at the periphery and leave the center empty.

Squares historically known as the center of communities and as places where traditions and cultures were that shaped the identity and image of communities were formed. To this end, it was generally a fountain or a sculpture that was used (Figure 24). Today, it is a difficult challenge, but regarding the fact that squares are still an important space to a place, it is important to meet this challenge in order to create

great civic squares. In fact, Carr et al. (1992) accept as true the need of the connection between the square, the world and people's lives.



Figure 24. Saint Peter's square with focal point element. Source URL 13

2.3.3.5 Accessibility

Accessibility is one of the most significant pillars for a square. A good square should be easy to get to. Bentley et al. cite that the accessibility to a public square should depend on the number of routes that connect to it. The linking must also be visible and transparent to the user. They go on saying that the visual and physical accessibility is a result of how the routes are joined and that smaller blocks are preferable to larger blocks. The user has more choices while trying to access the public space (Figure 25) (Bentley et al.,1985).

Another aspect of accessibility is that the surrounding street should not be highways so that's traffic can be slow and crosswalks should be well marked so that the users can easily cross. Bus stops should also be nearby. Thus, the square should be more accessible than other urban spaces for all types of users because squares will count as a focal point for gathering people for social activities and commercial activities.

Thus, it should be more legible and accessible (internal and external accessible) (Carmona, 2010). In this way, the square is more active and alive as many users are able to access to it in an easy way.

2.4 Conclusion of the Chapter

Public open space crucial to the city and to its citizens. The physical, ecological, psychological and social roles of public urban spaces illustrated in this chapter have been an evidence of their importance. These factors contribute in attracting the users and therefore induce vitality and activity. Public open space are of a great variety. They differ from location, size, shape, spatiality, etc. Based on the focus of this research, urban squares were described in a more detailed way with the help of literature survey of earlier researches. In this way, the typology of the square way analyzed and the elements of successful square and their contribution to the vitality of the square was mentioned and briefly described. This lead to the next chapter that is dedicated to the understanding and definition of the vitality concept in urban square in a broader way and according to the definitions of several theorists.

Chapter 3

ROLE OF VITALITY IN URBAN SQUARE

3.1 Introduction

A livable place should have some characteristics such as safe, clean, beautiful, economically vital, human variety, etc. and sense of community (Balsas, 2001). About the notion of vitality, Montgomery (1995) stated that the dynamic power of the place is its ability to be used by different people in different times. In this chapter, the vitality will be defined according to different theorist and narrowed down into a general understanding. The vitality of the urban square will be assessed at the level of the activities that take place in it.

3.2 Definition of Urban Vitality

Vitality means how much a place is busy at different locations and times (Oruç & Giritlioğlu, 2008). Landry (2000) compares urban vitality to ‘raw power’ and ‘energy’. He believes that the vitality of the city is stimulated by once there is a purpose for the use of the urban space.

De Bois (2010) sees the vital city as a sustaining of a city and a facilitator of its spatial metamorphose. He believes that it is the single way to keep a relationship between suppliers and users in order to evolve the urban environment. Thus, a vital city is not static; it changes as well with its users (De Koe, 2013).

The vitality of urban squares can be defined in many ways. As an example, vitality can refer to the building's accessibility; when the building's networks are properly connected to the adjacent city. In the next section, some elements of vitality will be surveyed.

3.3 Elements of Vitality in Urban Environment

Comfort, passive and active engagement, relaxation and discovery are the elements of vitality according to Carr et al. (1992). Strong attention is paid to the connectivity between spaces and its users. Earlier, Jacobs and Appleyard (1987) had presented this idea through their aim of establishing a better urban environment, with accessible space, deep communal and public life and where other notion such as sustainability and democracy are considered. Shaft (2008) emphasis on the ability of a space to provoke joy and delight. According to him, this can be achieved through a good landscaping and with the incorporation of public art and enjoyment activities in the square in order to create a 'convivial spaces'. The size of the urban public square related to the context and location of the square and the dimensions of the square has influence on the character of the place that can be friendly, comfortable, intimate, political, unfriendly, and etc. (Shaftoe, 2008, p. 73). Shaftoe stated that an extremely small place may feel claustrophobic and an extremely big place may feel unfriendly. Therefore, the logical dimensions should be considered for successful urban square (Memluk, 2013). Medieval squares had a regular size of 57x140 meters. In 1987, Jan Gehl stated similar dimension of maximum of 70 to 100 meters and puts forward the maximum distance to understand the facial expressions as about 25 meters. On the other hand, Whyte (2009) discussed the size of the urban square is not related to the level of its usage.

The Project for Public Spaces (2000), based on a White's study, developed a method to design space, which recognized the following qualities: access and linkages; uses and activities; comfort and image and sociability.

According to Gehl (2001) protection, comfort, and enjoyment are the three main factors determining the users' perception of space while, Montgomery (1998), considers that the activities, the image and the form of the urban space are the key features to its success.

Lynch believes that the city is desirable when it is vibrant, meaningful, relevant, accessible and well supervised. The central human vitality is described by how the city supports the vital functions and capabilities of the human biological needs and the survival of all organisms (Lynch, 1997: 307). Charles vitality and viability is defined in a different way from Landry's definition, who defines the vitality and viability as: first, economic vitality, second social vitality, third vitality and viability of peripheral and fourth the cultural vitality and viability (Landry, (4: 2000). "Lively urban space" means an urban space in which the presence of a significant number of people and its diversity) for age and sex (along the day the activities of the people are largely elective. The studies concluded that providing the context for attracting people into space and keeping them into space must the first element to be considered; in other words an urban space should be such as people come and stay (Samvati, Nikookhooy, & Izadi, 2013).

Table 1: Vitality concept according to different theorists.

Theorists	Criteria of Vitality
Jacobs 1987	User-space relationship Sustainability, accessibility, democracy
Carr et al. 1992	Demographic inclusion Comfort, relaxation and engagement
Lynch 1997	Response to biological and ecological needs Vibrancy, meaning, accessibility, relevance and supervision
Montgomery 1998	Physical appearance and condition Activity, image and form
William H. White 2000	Design themes division Access, linkage, use, activity, comfort, image and sociability
Gehl 2001	Perception of space Protection, comfort and enjoyment
Shaftoe 2008	Convivial space Good landscape, public art, entertainment, square size, dimensions and location

In the following section, main activities that affect the vitality of urban squares will be presented.

3.3.1 Activities

Residences can do some outdoor activities and have a lot of fun in the public squares. In public areas, citizens are able to read, relax, sit, play game, meet their friends and families and etc. Moreover, activities should not have any limitation in the urban squares. Using cultural animation and special programs activates the public realm and urban vitality can be achieved (Montgomery, 1995: 15). For example, some rituals, ceremonies, political activities, musical events, e Gehl investigate urban conditions and properties of open spaces in order to find out some planning

principles (i.e. assembling-dispersing, integrating-segregating, inviting-repelling and opening up closing in) depend on the person's activity patterns. He stated "if activities and people are assembled, it is possible for individual elements to stimulate one another" (Gehl, 1996).

Actually, for making a safer environment, high-speed traffic should be removed from pedestrian routes for user in public spaces. In addition, public spaces can be welcoming and easily accessible or repelling, due to their boundary features among public and private activities. If there is a smooth transition from private to public spaces, people can participate and be in contact with each other. In addition, to provide the "contact through experience between what is taking place in the public environment and what is taking place in the adjacent environment" (Gehl, 1996) to give information about common interaction, environment and activity.

Furthermore, it is important to create at least enough activities in the street, square, and spaces in the city. Therefore, the public realm and related semi-public spaces make the space for socially interacting and a noteworthy part of an area's transaction base (the shop frontage, the market square, the street vendor, and the sidewalk café). Other important activities like promenading and people watching provide the dynamic quality of successful urban places and cultural quarters in particular.

Human activities within urban spaces can provide vital life. Also, activities produce a diverse and attractive environment and might give a positive impact to these places. A vital urban life also helps to presence identity of a place and that increases sense of place. Activities are one of the important factors for successful urban places

(Montgomery, 1998) states that without activity, there cannot be city life. Activities have direct impact on vitality and diversity of urban spaces.

Montgomery (1998: 96) stated, “Without activity, there can be no urbanity. Features of the activity are vitality and diversity in urban space. He explained the meaning of vitality as “the numbers of people in and around an urban space, pedestrian flows at different times of the day and night, the mixture of facilities, the number of cultural events and celebrations over the year.” The city life is a combination of different activities and their interactions like economic, social and cultural activities that are related to the physical-spatial, social-cultural and economic basis of urban space. Furthermore, urban space is a socio-spatial occurrence, and one of the basic occurrences of the urban public space is activity. The presence of a variety of activities is the key to successful urban places (Montgomery, 1998: 96) (Figure 25).



Figure 25: Street in the Walled City of Famagusta with variety of activities

In public space diversity, different activities, events, movement and meetings create urban vitality. Montgomery argues that meeting places represent diaries, customs,

and tradition of the society play an effective role in making the image and meaning of urban public places (Montgomery, 1998: 100). In addition, he discussed the concept of ‘cultural animation’, important in France in the 1970s: the idea was to actively create entertainment programs in order to attract people to urban places (Figure 26).



Figure 26: ‘Le village de Noël de La Défense’ on 20 November 2014, 20th edition.

Activities can provide special places in urban and it may give identity to the place. Therefore, the identity of a place is one of the feature of vital urban life that increases a sense of place. To share a variety of common activities in a place can make the sense of belonging to a place so, public realm can become the major attraction of the city. Consequently, it indicates that the variety of activities can be defined the environment of the urban place influences the concentration of people and activities. Moreover, spending time in an area may increase the human self-identification within the life of urban place.

Furthermore, an urban place has a vital role to sustain the social bounds and unity between the residences as being the arena of public life. To have successful and vital urban place, an active public realm is required by connection where meeting, interaction, movement and exchange are possible (Montgomery, 1998: 100). The combination of form, image, and activity with other people can create a public experience in an urban place and they should complete each other to reach livable, vivid, image able, identifiable to satisfy the users need, and their social life that can create an active life. Therefore, the key point is the interrelation of physical and spatial forms easily image able and identifiable as distinct places with a variety of activities, theatre, and market places (Memluk, 2013).

Jane Jacobs was the pioneer of the four key determinants to evaluate the activity of a square as follow: mixture of primary use, permeability, mixture of building types, ages, sizes, conditions and intensity (Jacobs, 1961).

3.3.1.1 Mixture of Primary Uses

Primary functions should be considered for the vitality of an urban area. This functions is living, working, shopping, eating and so on. These activities are for a variety of people who come and go every time with different purposes and ways. Jacob categorized mixed-use diversity in two parts as primary uses and secondary uses (Jacobs, 1961).

- **Primary Uses** attract people to place because they are anchorages (workplace shops, residences, educational institutions, recreation and entertainment and others).

- **Secondary Uses** denote to the enterprises that are considered to respond to the primary uses are and respond to the needs of whom the primary uses gather.

Jacobs (1998) believed in the fine grain economy in urban space and in the high amount of small shops to make live and active urban places with commercial variety. It would enable the increase of flexibility of use or adaptability in urban places (Jacobs and Montgomery, 1998: 106).

3.3.1.2 Permeability and Accessibility

As mentioned and illustrated in the earlier chapter, for Bentley et al. (1985) city blocks should be small in order to give more access to the pedestrians to walk and join other streets. Shorter blocks also increase vitality (Jacob and Montgomery, 1998). Accessibility to urban space also has a positive impact on interaction and the development of economic and social efficiency. Shorter urban blocks give a chance to have more streets and increase interaction and contact between people. To sum up, shorter city blocks can be effective tool to increase vitality in urban spaces (Jacobs, 1961).







3.3.1.3 Mixture of Building Types, Ages, Sizes and Conditions

Jacob called an old building ‘close-grain’ that has an important role for urban activities in public places. She believed that a high amount of old and new buildings had an effective role for economic issues in urban places. Furthermore, if all buildings in the cities are new it may decrease the enterprises. In this situation, just enterprises can support the high amount of expenses of new constructions. Then, a mixture of the buildings with different ages may make diversity of commercial activities in the urban space (Jacobs, 1961).

3.3.1.4 Intensity

Gehl in “The life Between Building” highlighted the importance of activities in urban space and the built environment. He had defined three main groups of human activities that affect the physical environment. They are necessary, optional and social activity. Necessary activities are daily activities like going to work or school, shopping, waiting for the bus, etc. All of these activities should be placed in close to exterior environments. Optional activities happen when the exterior environment is safe. Social activities are related both to opportunity to get into the social interaction and with other activities in urban spaces, that is to meet, see, and hear other people is a form of social activities (Gehl, 1996).

Table 3: Outdoor activities and quality of environment (Gehl, 1996)

	Poor	Good
Necessary activities		
Optional activities		
Social activities		

3.3 Conclusion of the Chapter

The second section of this chapter drew us to the general understanding of the urban space vitality as centered upon the elements of vitality. It was done by assessing how these elements differ from one theorist to another which gave the concept of vitality a broader definition. Therefore, in the third section the study of the criteria of vitality was narrowed down to the activities held in urban squares.

In this way, it was possible to have a conclusive table of reference to what are the main elements of vitality. A Brief description of the elements of vitality of urban square was deducted from the theorists' scholars (table 4). In the light of this, the following chapter will be built upon this conclusion.

Table 4: Elements of vitality in urban space

Elements of Vitality of Urban Squares		
Activities	Mixture of primary uses	Considering the primary and secondary needs of the users and retailers.
	Permeability and accessibility	Developing the infrastructures for the pedestrians and the space used for interaction.
	Mixture of building types, ages, sizes and conditions	Diversity of a building affects the city health and city development.
Elements of Successful Square	Architectural front	The front of the building is for the public. Perception of frontal façade elements.
	Floor and place	Pavement and the spatiality of the square. Type, form and layout
	Skyline properties	The visual perception of the height and roofline of the buildings.
	Landscape	Plants, waterfront and other furnishing elements of the square.

Chapter 4

CASE STUDIES

4.1 Introduction

This chapter is dedicated to the case studies of the dissertation with the aim of evaluating the civic vitality in urban squares. The first section explores the historical development and the overall problems of the case studies. The second section is a presentation of the methodology of the analysis. The next section is a physical analysis of the case studies followed by a section for social analysis, which comes before the conclusion of the chapter.

4.2 Selection of Case Study Area

In order to carry out this research, it is necessary to select case studies to analyze. Therefore, two squares are selected: Selimiye Square that is located in the Walled city of Nicosia and the Namik Kemal square that is located in the Walled city of Famagusta. Chronically, the island had experienced a Lusignan period (1192-1489), a Venetian period (1489-1571), an Ottoman period (1571-1878) and a British period (1878-1960). Therefore, the history of these cities will be reviewed accordingly.

4.2.1 History of the Walled City of Nicosia

Nicosia (Lefkoşa), the only divided capital city in Europe, is approximately located at the center of Cyprus (Figure 28). In the 11th century, it emerged as the capital of the island. During their period of occupation, the Lusignan developed it into a splendid city with a Royal Palace and over 50 churches. 16th century Venetian walls

frame the heart of the city, which contains museums, ancient churches and medieval buildings inside (Cyprus Tourism Organization, 2001). Perhaps the most popular and important place is the area of the 'Old Lefkoşa' that is located in the old city walls. It is during the Lusignan period (1192–1489) that walls first fortified the city and the purpose was to protect and defend the inhabitants. The Walls were also an expression of economic, social and political authority. Later, during the Venetian period (1489-1571) new walls were built. This was a result of the perceived possible attack of the Ottomans so the walls played a defensive role. During this period, the gates of the city were reduced to three and the walls played a role of the border or delimitation of the city. In the Ottoman period (1571-1878), the function of the walls remained unchanged, but a rebuilding was made in the social level because an ethnically mixed population was growing within the enclosed walls. The wall, during the British period (1878-1960), received more openings. In this way, traffic flow was facilitated. The Venetian walls were now a threshold; a border between the new and the old developing parts, but urban development was taking place on both sides. Finally, in the 1962-1963 period, the walls were interpreted differently by the Turkish Cypriots and by the Greek Cypriots. The first community defined them as a protection, a safest place and as a prison wall, while the second community defined them as a monument and a historic neighborhood of the city. Nevertheless, for both communities, the walls were an official symbol and a monument (Alpar et al., 2009). The map of the city through these periods shows the appearance of the walls and the development of the city.

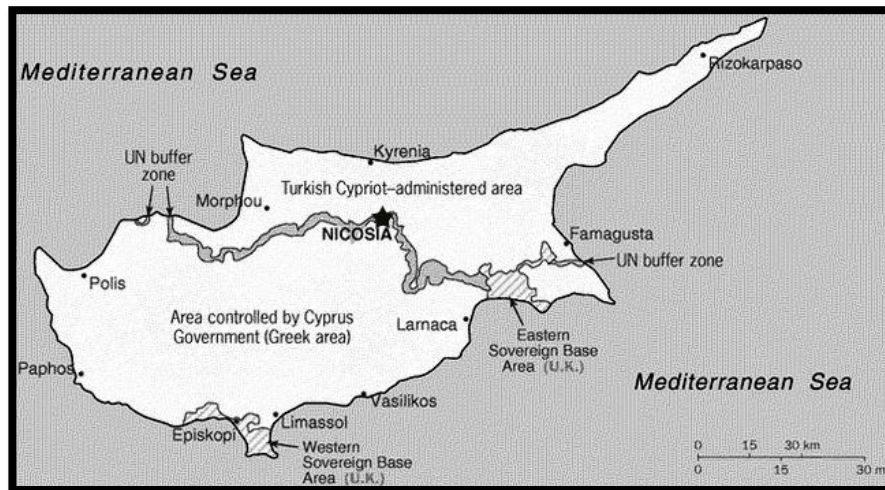


Figure 27: Location of Nicosia in Cyprus. Source: geography.about.com

4.2.1.1 Historic Development of Selimiye Square

The Selimiye square is located at the north side of the Selimiye Mosque (former Saint Sophia Cathedral) which is the main mosque of the city. The cathedral of St. Sophia, broadly accepted as an example of a fine and old Gothic art in Cyprus, was first built in the period 1209 A.D. to 1228 (URL 14). Construction started in 1209 under the reign of Henry I, the Lusignan king. In "A Description of the Historic Monuments of Cyprus" (1918), Jeffrey states:

(...) Converted into the tenancies of private owners the whole range of buildings formerly the Archbishop's Palace has been completely reconstructed internally and not even a trace of the Venetian period of construction, to which the coats of arms still upon the facade belong. (URL 15)

There was an attempt to modernize the square first by the Ottoman administrators who constructed new schools and houses in the late 19th century and later by the British colonial 'to regain its Medieval Latin Character'. However, in order to provide more space for the square, the British authorities demolished a large Turkish

domed educational complex in 1931. Further changes took place in the 1970s with the erection memorial monument in the center of the roundabout (Yildiz, 2007).

Near the square are the following historical buildings (Figure 29):

- **Buyuk Han** (the Great Inn): The largest and one of the finest buildings in Cyprus. It is located in Asmaaltı Street. It is a medieval building built in the 16th century.
- **Bedestan**: in the south side of the Selimiye mosque is a Greek church built in the Byzantine and mediaval style (The Saint Nicholas Church). In the Ottoman period, it served as a depot and market.
- **The Chapter House**: at the southeast side of Selimiye mosque. A 12th century building used today as a restaurant. It was a place for the gathering of priests.
- **The Sultan's library**: built in 19th century near the eastern entrance of the Selimiye mosque. It has a handwritten Koran.
- **Lapidary museum**: Venetian building at the east side of Selimiye mosque. Under the British, it was known as the Jeffrey museum. Opened to visitors in 2003.
- **The Archbishops Palace**: Camille Enlart (n.d.), a French archeologist wrote:

"The palace of the archbishops of Cyprus was built by Eustorgius of Montaigu (1217-1250). It was much modified under his successors and in 1313, on the 1st of May, the Greeks, enraged by the exactions of the Latin church, sacked it and tried to burn it down. In 1458, or early in 1459, it was sacked again by the nobles opposed to James the Bastard who was then archbishop. (URL 16)

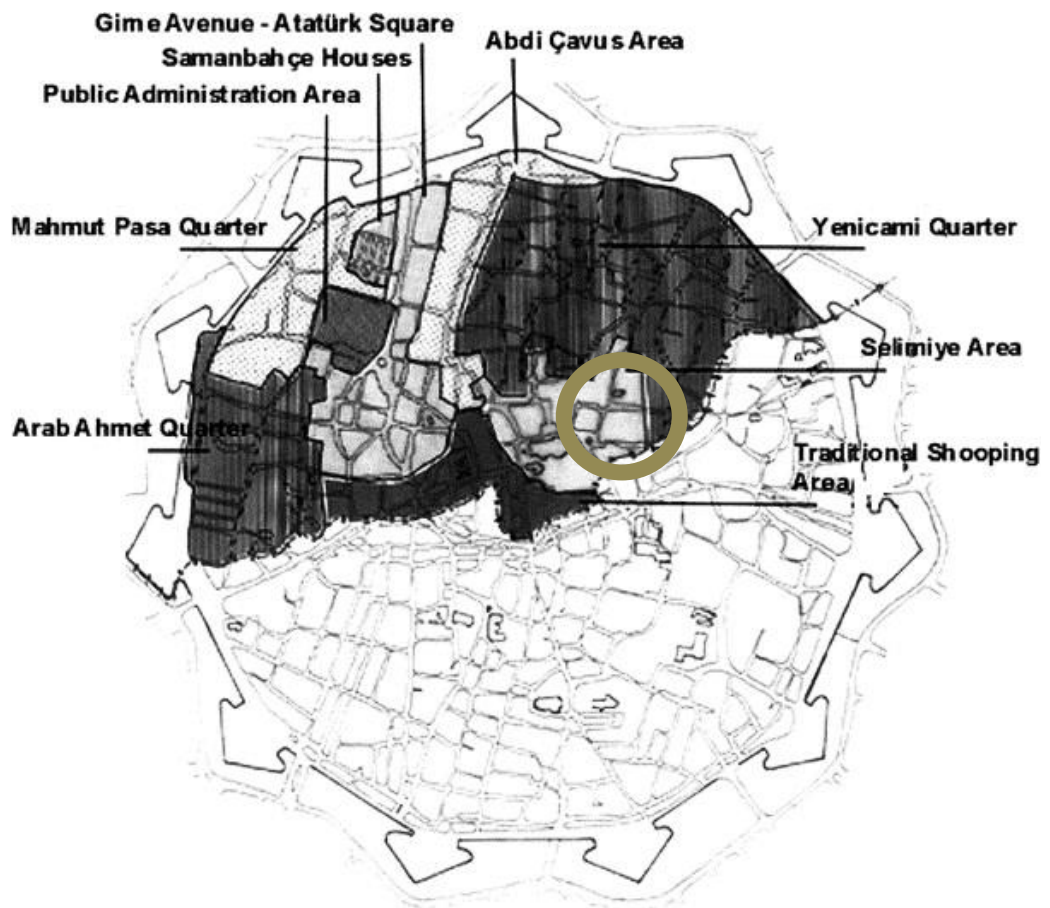


Figure 28: Selimiye area and functional zones in Walled City of Nicosia (Doratlı, et al., 2004, pg. 339)

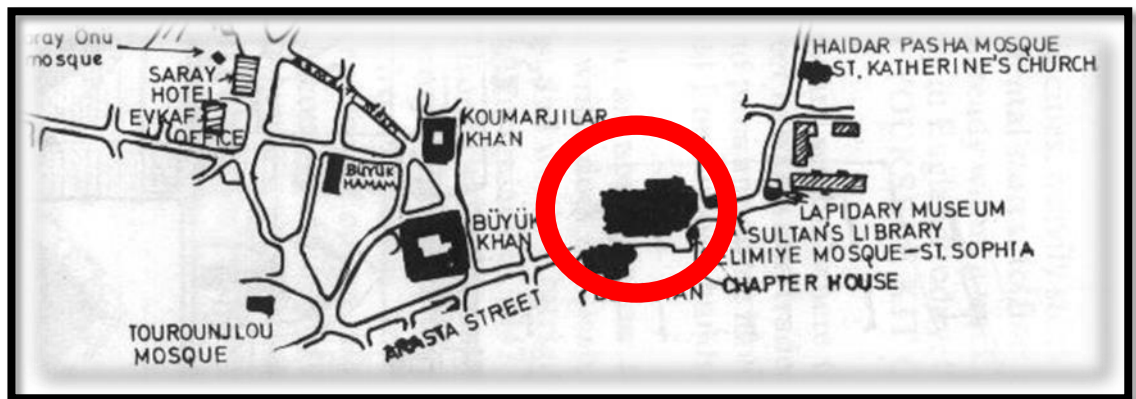


Figure 29: Historical Buildings near the Selimiye Square. Source URL16

4.2.1.2 Overall Problems of City and Square

It is known that historic urban squares have an important position in the cultural and historical heritage of any country. They are well-known by their local character and architectural value. The Walled City of Nicosia has been a declared “conservation area” since 1989. Notwithstanding that declaration, the Walled City has gone through a narrow level of modifications towards conservation and development. Unfortunately, worsening continue, and political, financial, environmental and cultural factors against and revitalization are prominent. (Doratli, et al., 2004). These factors may influence the safety, cleanliness and level of comfort in the public areas and therefore bring a negative impact to the vitality of the square. In an addition, in the Selimiye quarter, most of the buildings are in a bad physical condition. However, because the habitants do not have an alternative place to stay, there is an overall satisfaction with the living environment. Besides, the number of activities in public spaces is very low; only a few of them are activities such as going to the cinema, theater, exhibition, etc. Instead, the average number of the people spend time with close neighbors or family friends (Pasaoglulari, et al., n.d.). Thus, it is evident that the vitality of the square is seriously threatened.

4.2.2 History of the Walled City of Famagusta

The City of Famagusta is located in the northeast of the island (Figure 32). The city played a pivotal role in relations between the Christians and Islamic world. After the fall of Acre, Famagusta gained particular importance as a port city. Ever known as an important trading point in the Mediterranean, Famagusta has accommodated many different cultures and was once known as the richest city in the world. During the Lusignan period, trade was strong and therefore life in the walled city was vibrant (Walsh et al., 2012). Later, the layout of the city was influenced by the strong

military activities of the Venetian era. The city had two gates and a square near the St Nicholas cathedral, which was the center of the city. During the Ottoman period, the old morphology was kept but some transformations were made in order to fit the socioeconomic changes of the time. Also, the city started growing outside the walls towards the south. But this became more significant during the British period as the trade was also flourishing. This period was also characterized by the evolving of new buildings that ignored the building traditions. In the time of the republics, not much change occurred in the city pattern because of neglect (Figure 31) (Doratlı, et al., 2003).

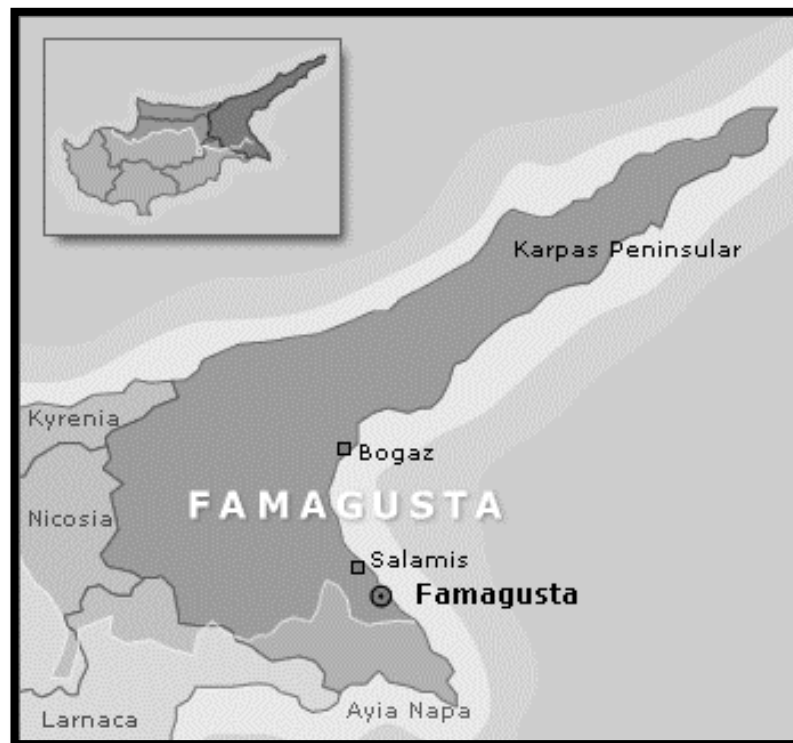




Figure 30: (Before) location of Famagusta in Cyprus. Location of the walled City of Famagusta. Source: www.famagustawalledcity.net

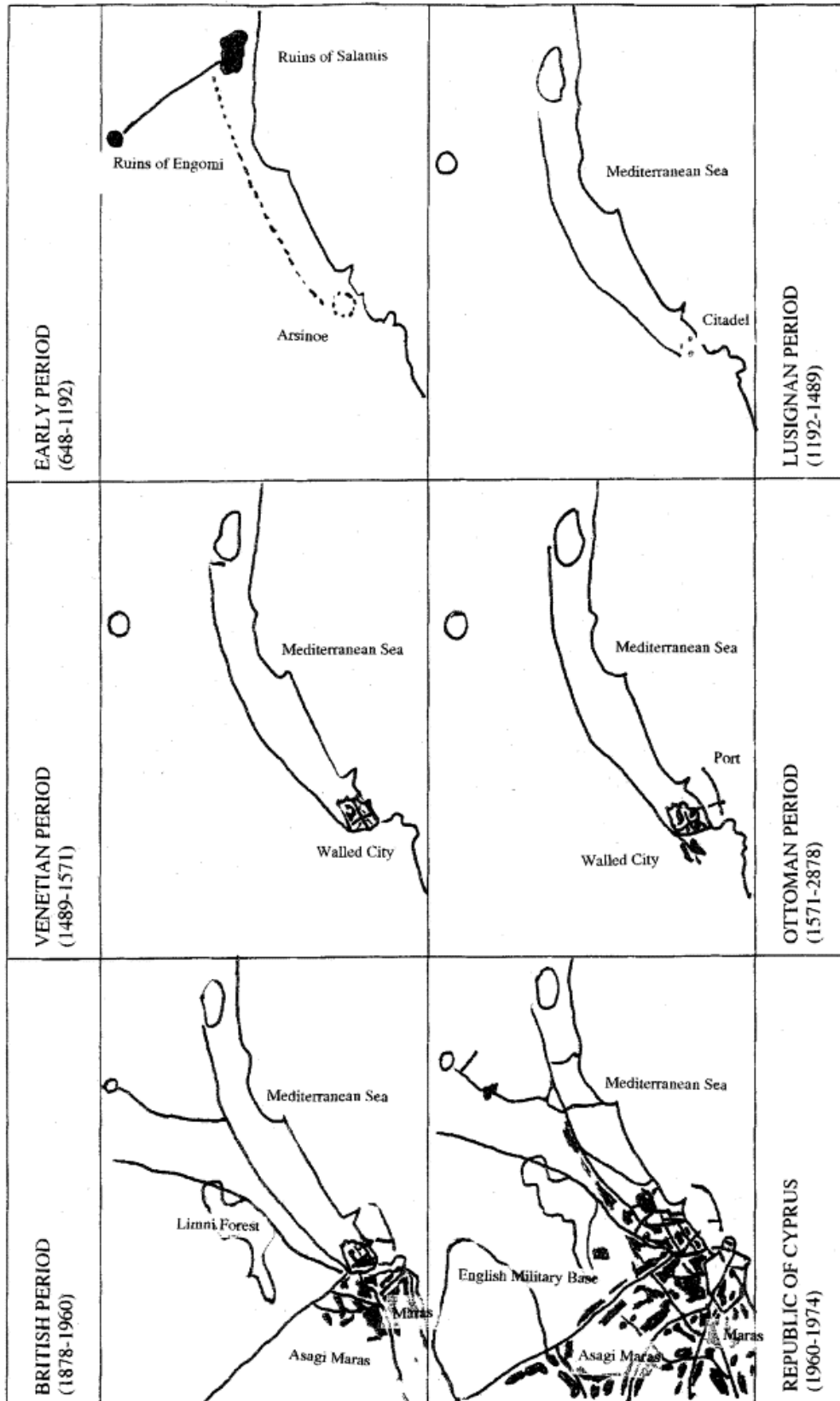


Figure 31: Historical development of the Walled City of Famagusta (Önal, ET AL., 1999).



4.2.2.1 Historic Development of Namik Kemal Square

The Namik Kemal square is originally a *piazza*, which was seemingly the central point of the Walled City since Lusignan period. The central *piazza* was not only an administrative and religious activities center, but also a social center. This *piazza*, at a point in time, was the largest and richest square piazza in Europe (Doratlı, et al., 2003).

The Namik Kemal square was framed by the palace of the governor, which at that time was the administrative unit facing the significant St. Nicholas cathedral (today, The Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque) (Figure 32).



Figure 32: Namik Kemal Square area streets and buildings

First built between 1298 and 1326, St Nicholas was modelled on the cathedral of Rheims in France and was a centerpiece Famagusta during the Lusignan heyday. The Last Lusignan king and his son were buried here. The west façade is impressive and easily visible; the area in front the mosque is a pedestrian. The western end of the Namik Kemal square is dotted with the remains of the Venetian governor's palace (Palazzo Del Proveditore). Until 1369, the palace served as a living accommodation for the kings of Cyprus before earthquakes destroyed it. The other noticeable remains are a result of the Ottoman destruction of the palace. The most impressive part is the three-arched entrance to one side of the Namik Kemal Square. The area is now paved and it has served as a car park. However, it is a famous venue for open-air concerts (URL 17).

The square is located between the mosque and a dungeon. Built during the Ottoman era on the ruins of the royal palace, the dungeon is named after the famous poet Namik Kemal (1840 – 1888) who was imprisoned in the building from 1873 to 1876. A small museum is located on the top floor of the dungeon.

The square is directly accessible through the Istiklal street that dates back to the 1st century. It is during the British period (1878 – 1960) that this access to the square took an urban form.

4.2.2.2 Overall Problems of City and Square

Famagusta went through myriad problems that affected its progress and urban arrangement. Prior to 1974's events, the city landmark was trade and tourism. Though the war disturbed the trading and touristic character of Famagusta, the

‘traditional core’ in the Walled city demonstrated growth tendencies since Maras was out of use and habitation because of the decisions that were taken by the UN.

“The main problems which are threatening the Walled City today are, the neglected areas which have a great potential, the vacant historic buildings and the public spaces around them; the incompatible uses given to these spaces, such as repair shops, depots, etc. Also, the city is under the threat of negative development with unique problems, urgently requiring healthy planning principals and some design solutions for the near future”. (Önal et al.,1999)

As seen in earlier chapters, the physical state of the building is crucial to the vitality of a square. Neglecting of urban areas within the walled city and the vacancy of historical building may create a sense of lack of comfort, security and meaning toward the open space surrounding the areas. Additionally, these factors lead to a lack of sustainability in terms of ecological and biological needs for the users as abandonment usually stimulates lack of cleanliness and unappropriated landscape. The square, having a characteristic of a place for relaxation and leisure, needs to be maintained and furnished in order to respond to fulfil its role. Therefore, the state of degradation of most buildings and areas in the walled city will not give a sense of urbanization, protection and enclosure for the user; but rather, users will feel tensed, unsecured and unable to relax or meet with friend in such places. Therefore, the vitality of the urban spaces in the city is at great risk of deterioration.

4.3 Methodology of Analysis

At this level, the research based on two types of analysis: physical and social. In order to carry out the physical analysis, data and facts are collected in an observational and investigative way and then assembled regarding each case study. Photography and mapping of the location of the squares will serve to examine the accessibility and spatiality of the square. For the social analysis, the questioning of

the civic vitality of Selimiye and Namik Kemal squares is based on interviewing the people who come to visit the square and other accounts such as the activities and the uses of the squares. Participants were chosen randomly at the square. Due to distance limitations, the questionnaires were distributed during the daytime. 50 questionnaires were filled. The questionnaires were in English language (Appendix B) and translated into Turkish language as well.

The table below is a summary of the tools and technics used for the data collection and analysis. It contains the elements of vitality that will be studied.

Table 4: Methodology of the case study analysis.

Elements of Vitality		Technics	Tools
Activities	Mix use	Land use Social analysis Observation	Maps Questionnaire Photographs
	Permeability and accessibility	Land use Social analysis Observation	Maps Questionnaire Photographs
	Mixture of building	Observation	Photographs
	Intensity	Social analysis Observation	Questionnaire Photographs
Elements of successful square	Architectural front	Façade	Photographs
	Floor and place	Figure-ground	Photographs
	Skyline properties	Observation	Photographs
	Landscape	Observation, Vegetation	Photographs

4.4 Analyzing the Vitality of Selimiye Square

This section will analyze each of the elements of vitality. Collected data will be evaluated and assessed. The analysis procedure will be qualitative and quantitative, which will allow the establishment of an empirical summary of the elements of vitality in the form of a table. Finally, a comparison between the levels of the vitality elements of each square will be done.

4.4.1 Physical Characteristics and Location

Selimiye square has a regular shape; it is a combination of two rectangles in a longitudinal direction. According to the earlier literature review, a geometrical and asymmetrical character of the landscape provides relaxation. It is the case of the Selimiye square where its shape is defined by its surrounding buildings. Therefore, the square can provide for the needs of the users as a place for walking in, sit in, play in, dance in, etc. Indeed, there is a lack of centrality of the square, which gives it an aspect of directionality. In the Selimiye square, the users may see the memorial as a starting point of the square directing toward the area near the entrance of the mosque. However, in the earlier chapters, it is reviewed that directionality is not a good characteristic for the vitality of the square. A square should rather have a sense of centrality in order not to be a place to pass through. Centrality provides the sense of protection and comfort. The character of pass through of the square and the fact that tourists are those who visit the square the most shows that the square does not provide comfort or enjoyment to the users. This is a negative aspect for the vitality of the square.

4.4.2 Mix-use

The mix use relates to primary and secondary activities. The Walled city of Nicosia has kept its historical appearance. Though some buildings may have been renewed or modernize, most buildings are historical. This makes the Walls to attract foreigners from all around the world as a contemporary cultural and business center. The main mosque of the city is Selimiye Mosque and it hosts great religious activities at Bairam. In addition, many tourists come to visit the mosque as a cultural artifact and visit the square as well. The restaurant and the small shopping Mini Market in the area also attract people. According to the analysis, restaurants serve as a major element in the creation of activity in the square. They create the opportunity to sit, relax, and offer a place for interaction. The items sold in the Mini Market are both useful for tourists and locals and especially for those that do not want to stay long or that want to get something quick (Appaendix A, A1 & A2).



Figure 33: Restaurant at the Selimiye square



Figure 34: Mini Market at the Selimiye Square

The square is not only dotted with restaurants, but also with shops and historical buildings as listed in the section dedicated to the historic development of the Selimiye square (section 4.2.2.1). They are the Bedestan, the Chapter House, the Sultan's library, the Lapidary museum. These facilities attract visitors and tourist and increase the activity of the square.

Along a pedestrian leading directly to the square is a set of shops (Figure 35). According to the analysis made doing this study, 67% of the participants were female. Normally, shopping is a leisure for women and the results indicate that recreation is a major reason of visiting the square (Figure 36). Adding to this, there is a souvenir shop along the same pedestrian. The findings indicate that the majority of the users are tourists. Therefore, it is evident that the shops add to the vitality of the

square because they answer the needs of both the users and the retailer in a positive and satisfactory way.



Figure 35: Shops at the Selimiye Square



Figure 36: Users along the shop

4.4.3 Permeability and Accessibility

The historical nature of the Walled City of Nicosia leads to a compact urban organized area. The walls can be entered via three gates: Porta San Domenico (Paphos Gate), Porta Guiliana (Famagusta Gate), and Porta Del Proveditore (Kyrenia

Gate). Four streets access the square and buildings are organized into small blocks making the access easier (Appendix A, A3). A map with the indication of the actual position helps guide the users to the square (Figure 37). Roads are narrow but they always have pedestrians on both sides. Sometimes, cars park on the side walking area and block the way for the pedestrians (Figure 38). These maps are located in several street junctions. The walking distance from the gate of the wall is approximately 10 minutes. There is no bus system in the area and no bus stop at the square. However, cars can access the square easily. In addition, a small area serves as a parking lot on the Selimiye Street, just behind the Selimiye Mosque. The street and parking areas do not have any facilities for the disabled people. No indication or sign for disabled people were noticeable in the area. The quality of the pedestrian does not favor them as well since the material used is not adequate for the use of a wheelchair and no rampart seen. According to the questionnaire, the accessibility is fair according to 58% of the participants and good for the remaining. Despite these statistics, the majority of the participants suggested the amelioration of the accessibility of the square.



Figure 37: A map with the indication of the actual position



Figure 38: Cars block the pedestrian



Figure 39: Small parking area near the square

4.4.4 Mixture of Building

Historical buildings surround the square. Some have been restored, another is in a state of abandonment. The shutters and *Mashrabiyas* on the façade of the restaurant located in the central part of the building blocks reflects the Ottoman style. The first floor, today a restaurant, still evidences traces of obstructed openings of the medieval era. The walls of the ground floor are uncovered, revealing the dry burnt bricks that were used as building materials. 50% of the respondents qualified the buildings as old and 42% percent historical. There are no new buildings at the periphery of the square. The same is along the roads that accesses to the road.



Figure 40: An abandoned Ottoman building at the square



Figure 41: Medieval façade at the square



Figure 42: Restored traditional façade

4.4.5 Intensity

As seen in earlier chapters, the intensity of the square's activity is categorized by Gehl in three categories: necessary, optional and social activities. Among the necessary activities, waiting and shopping can be done on the square. Optional activities depend on the exterior safety of the area (Appendix A, A4). The social analysis rates the safety as 42%, which is fair. 92% of the respondents agreed that they organize meetings with friends at the square. 75% of the users are elders according to the results. This can be interpreted as a conservation of the traditional use of a square as a place of recreation and community.

There is the Medieval Lapidary Museum, a library, the Mausoleum of Ittik DEDE and the Küçük Medresse Fountain near the square. These are facilities that may also attract people to come visit and use the square; especially the tourists (Appendix A, A5).



Figure 43: Men coming at the square for a meeting



Figure 44: Turkey's EU Minister Volkan Bozkır visiting the square

4.4.6 Architectural Front

A square should be surrounded by different types of buildings with a variety of elements on the façades. The façade of the main building in the square – the mosque – is medieval. The other dominant façade belongs to the former Archbishop Palace. On the first floor the building materials are without any paint; it gives to the buildings a brown tone. The second floor is painted in white. The openings of the

first floor are partially closed and the ones on the second floor are covered with shutters. The façade facing the square is not the main façade of the building. The roof of the building is a slightly hipped roof. The restaurants' main façade face the square, however, their main entrances are not elaborated to help the user be attracted to them. The image briefly describes the façades/fronfs of the buildings in general.



Figure 45: photo collation of the buildings surrounding the square

4.4.7 Floor and Place

The selection of material for the landscape is an important aspect during the design process because it has an important influence on the visual aspect of the space. It is the case for the selection of the material for pavement. Size, pattern, surface and material used for the pavement play an important role and have a great impact on the square. The whole Selimiye square is covered with the same type of pavement (Figure 46). Also, the pavement and the buildings should be in harmony. Other wings of the buildings are paved with different materials that are in good concordance with the facades' building material (Figures 47 & 48). Unfortunately, the floor of the square (north wing of the building) is covered with rectangular concrete tile of approximately 30 centimeters long and 15 centimeters large with a

gray tone and a modern appearance, which is in contrast with the old stone and brown tone of the building' facades.



Figure 46: Pavement on the square

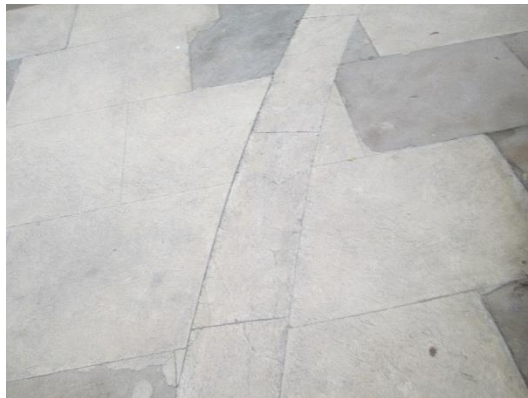


Figure 47: Pavement in front of the Selimiye Mosque entrance



Figure 48: Other pavement along the southern façade of the Selimiye Mosque

As reviewed in the earlier stages of this study, a good appearance of the place influences the sense of place of the user. Harmony between the material used in the square and on the buildings may consequently be a key element of vitality of the square.

4.4.8 Skyline Properties

The combination of the vertical mosque minaret and the flat and the slightly hipped roof of the buildings surrounding the square create a skyline follows two perpendicular directions (Figure 50). As we have seen in the earlier section, building height is a visual perception and affects the human beings either positively or negatively since space can interpreted in several ways. In the case of Selimiye square, the buildings' height is balanced and flat and in some cases with a slightly hipped roof in the central area of the building horizontal axes (apart from the mosque that is dominant with its medieval roof style combined with the minarets). Another aspect is that the buildings are close enough to create a sense of closed space. The small size of the square and the compact layout of the building may make the user perceive the skyline as height enough to create this sense. According to social analysis, the users feel secure in the square. For this reason, this may motivate the users to visit and spend time in the square, which is positive for the vitality of the square.



Figure 49: Skyline at the Selimiye Square

4.4.8 Landscape

The landscape in the Selimiye square is poor. Very few plants can be found in the areas (Appendix A, A6). Most are placed in the potteries and are located near the restaurants. Trees are near the buildings and therefore to not provide any shading for the user. No water surface is present in the square; however, there is a memorial monument in the center of the roundabout. Some plants grown around the memorial. It is clear that the landscape needs more attention and consideration as important for the square's vitality. Considering climate in the island, trees' shading help considerably the user to be comfortable and be able to relax in the square. Social analysis indicated that the users want the amelioration of the landscape, meaning that they are not satisfied with it. Not responding to this need may decrease the level of activity in the square since the main purpose of a square is leisure and community.

In urban areas, greenery does not only help with shading, but also with the provision of pure air. It also adds to the aesthetic of the area. As seen in the earlier stages of this work, the urban square plays an ecological since vegetation can improve a

hostile microclimate and increase air circulation, filter dust, provide cooling and cleansing. In the case of the Selimiye square, this response is not good. Vegetation, as seen in the assessment of the landscape is not satisfactory. Therefore, the user does not benefit of any of the advantages of a vegetation in the square.

There is also a need of adequate urban furniture to accomplish this element of vitality (Appendix A, A7). Urban furniture contributes to relaxation and engagement. If the users find nothing to attract him to the square, he/she may not develop any engagement with it. In the images below, it is visible that urban furniture is in degradation. For instance, there are no public dustbins. 58% of the respondents suggested an amelioration of the urban furniture and only 33% rated the furniture good.

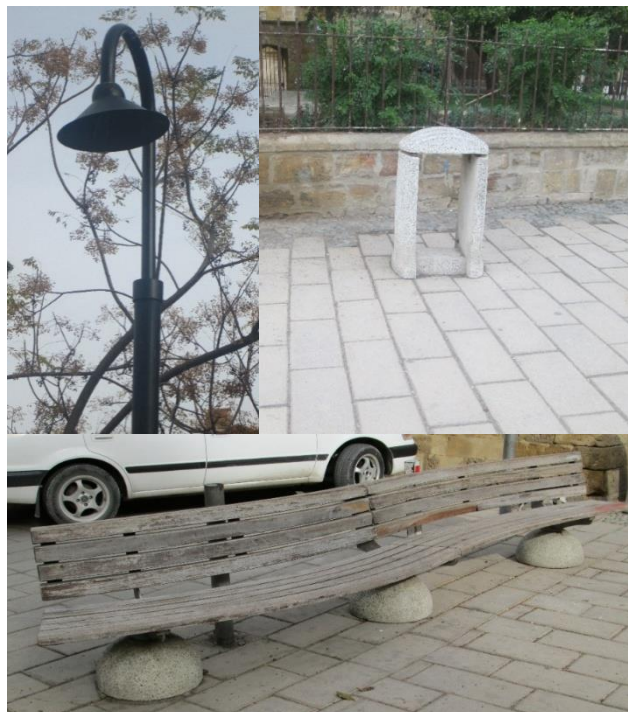


Figure 50: Furniture in the square

The square is located near a religious building; as a result, the activities in the square connect more to religious events. This does not eliminate the fact that the square should provide playgrounds for kids and other forms of enjoyment and entertainment for youth and elders. It should be a place to be and spend quality time. Unfortunately, the element of entertainment is lacking in the square. There is no children's playground. This may explain the fact that, according to the social analysis, 0% of the users have witnessed the presents of parents and children as the people they often meet. One of the roles of the square was defined as to provide a sense of community and gather people of all ages. In this case, there is a gap to fill in the aspects of landscape of the square as an element of vitality.

Table 5: Summary of the elements of vitality of the Selimiye square.

Elements of Vitality		Good	Poor	Comments
Activities	Mix use			Only shops and restaurants are located on the square. Behind the square is a library and museum that can attract users
	Permeability and accessibility			The square is easy to access. There is a car park and indication maps, short blocks
	Mixture of building			The buildings are old or historical
	Intensity			Religious and tourist activities take place
Elements of successful square	Architectural front			Smoothly fluctuating roofline, deteriorated facades, monotone color fading,
	Floor and place			Monotone floor
	Skyline properties			The dominance of the mosque in height, closed space perception
	Landscape			Lack of greenery and poor urban furnishing elements and playgrounds

Table 6: Outdoor activities and quality of the Selimiye square - adopted from Gehl, 1996)

	Poor	Good
Necessary activities	●	●
Optional activities	●●●	●
Social activities	●	●

4.5 Analyzing the Vitality in Namik Kemal Square

4.5.1 Physical Characteristics and Location

The square is asymmetrical with a geometric shape formed by the surrounding buildings and streets. Urban elements are placed to set a delimitation to the square. The square has a sense of directionality because of the layout of the pavement. This sense is also a result of the outstanding façade of the mosque that attracts the users to walk towards it. There is no central element of the square. The only focus point is the imposing height of the frontal façade of the square. This accentuates the character of pass through since tourists tend to head toward the mosque or the ruins of the governor’s palace. This is a negative feature for the vitality of the square.

4.5.2 Mix-use

The old walled-city of Famagusta encloses the finest examples of medieval architecture of the east Mediterranean area (Appendix A, A8). It is also located nearby a beach and therefore attracts many tourists as well as locals. Since the walled city is known as a trade center for centuries ago, trade and shopping are a must activity during a visit to the city. There are many stores, offices, banks, parking lots, a

municipal covered bazaar, mosques and small artisan shops in the old city making it a fully mix-used area (Figure 51).



Figure 51: Shops in the old walled-city of Famagusta

The Lala Mustafa Paşa, formerly Saint Nicholas Cathedral, is the main mosque of the area. It hosts religious festivals and many tourists come to visit the mosque. The cathedral was converted into a mosque in order to answer to the social-cultural needs of the inhabitants. The mosque is located in the traditional core.

Famagusta is also the nest of the largest and oldest university in the area, the Eastern Mediterranean University. Therefore, many students visit the square both on an individual basis or during group trips organized by the university. Every beginning of a semester, all new students are brought to the old walled city to see the cultural and architectural heritage of the city.

Because of the active tourism, around the square are many buildings with different functions (Appendix A, A9). In the figure below, it is evident how the mix use is more developed than in the Selimiye square. Here are banks, jewelry shops, Restaurants, cafes, agencies as well as ruins of the Governor's Palace. The banks and shops are modern buildings. They are almost all two-storey buildings. The Is bank building is the most outstanding in terms of modern style with three storeys and large

tinted glass on the façade (Figure 52). The other building evidence Ottoman' traditional architecture, especially and former Medrese building and its small units. The existence of all these facilities generates a larger mix-use and therefore contributes a lot to the vitality of the square, allowing the user to do many things around and inside the square.



Figure 52: Is bank inthe Namik Kemal square



Figure 54: Restaurant at the Namik Kemal Square



Figure 53: People waiting to see the Religious Affairs authorities

4.5.3 Permeability and Accessibility

Walls surround the city. It is possible to drive around the moat or walk on the walls. The restoration of the historical center of Famagusta took place since 1996, and the ‘pedestrianized center’ is now easy to gaze and wander. The average short blocks are also an asset for the pedestrians locate the square quickly and easily. Driving through the city is easy, but it is better to park and walk in order to better explore the city (Appendix A, A10).

The Walled City of Famagusta has two original Lusignan gates: Porta del Mare (The Sea Gate), and Ravalin / Akkule Bastion (The Land Gate). Two more were opened during the British era: the Djanboulat Gate and the New Gate. Which makes gates four in total.

The Land Gate is the best access to the square. It is the main entrance located in the south. Most of the routes in the walled are two ways except for the Istiklal Street that was made a pedestrian way to the square.

There are organized parking lots in the city (Figure 54). However, public transportation is not so good. Most people use their own car to drive to the square. The pavement of the pedestrian street is not good and needs amelioration. The social analysis indicates a fair accessibility and a poor pavement (Figure 58). Indication maps, as seen in the case of the old walled-city of Nicosia were not observed in the walls of Famagusta. However, the visible tower of the Lala Mustafa Paşa can help the user easily find his/her way to the square (Figure 59).



Figure 54: Organized parking lot



Figure 55: Rampart on the atft and urban furniture on the right obstructing the way



Figure 56: Visible Lala Mustafa Paşa from the main street

4.5.4 Mixture of Building

Lala Mustafa Paşa and the Governor's Palace are the two main historical buildings of directly surrounding the square dating from the Lusignan and Venetian periods (Figure 57). The Mosque is the landmark of the city center and square. As seen earlier, these buildings were built in the medieval architectural style. The building material for the old buildings is stone. Others are for retail and community service buildings constructed in the Ottoman period along with the Historical Medrese of Famagusta. The new buildings belong to the Republic of Cyprus and Turkish Republic of Cyprus (1878 – now) with reinforced concrete and are new with preserved façades (Figure 61).



Figure 57: An abandoned building at the square



Figure 58: New buildings and Historical Medrese

4.5.5 Intensity

Many of the necessary activities such as waiting and shopping can be done on the square (Appendix A, A11). Optional activities that are connected to the exterior safety of the area can also be done. Most activities are religious because of the location of the square. 83% of the participants visit the square because it is located near the mosque or good restaurants. Other activities are connected to promotional festival, usually organized by the Eastern Mediterranean University during the summer period in order to commercialize the institution. However, according to the social analysis, the activity of the square is poor; the safety is 50% fair. All participants agreed that they organize meetings with friends at the square. 67% of the users are elders according to the results. This can be interpreted, as it was the case for

Selimiye square, as a conservation of the traditional use of a square as a place of recreation and community.

The three-arched entrance to one side of the Namik Kemal square are a beautiful historical remain. The dungeon with a museum on its second floor plays an import role in attracting tourists, especially that it has a historical story related to a famous writer. The area before the entrance is now paved and is a car park. Easy access and car park are a positive element for the vitality of a square.



Figure 59: Users chatting at the square

4.5.6 Architectural Front

As already mentioned, square for people should be surrounded by different types of buildings (Appendix A, A12).. The height of the buildings is balanced. The facades are more homogeneous and the fronts of the buildings surrounding the square are all directed towards it. However, the main entrances are not properly revealed. The retail function of most buildings leads them to have a first floor that is mostly a

glassed façade. Some show evidence of arches at the first level, which recalls the vernacular building traditions. The surrounding buildings are mostly new buildings, apart from the medieval mosque and the historical Medrese. There are more openings and dynamism in their facades compared to Selimiye square. The second floors are usually with balconies or large windows with shutters. The building material for these buildings is reinforced concrete and they are painted mostly in white or light brown or yellow tones. The roofs are mainly flat. This creates a balanced roofline around the square. It is a positive aspect for the vitality of the square because it visually attracts users by breaking monotony in the buildings facades or front.

4.5.7 Floor and Place

Unlike the Selimiye square, the Namik Kemal square has a better pavement as observed. However, as mentioned an earlier section, the social analysis revealed the opposite. The users are not satisfied by the pavement. Thus, the mixture of stone and concrete blocks merges better with the general visual aesthetic satisfaction of the square and surrounding building. In addition, the layout gives a sense of direction to the users and gives them a sense of urbanization.



Figure 60: Pavement on the square



Figure 61: Pavement with mix materials

As reviewed in the earlier stages of this study, a good appearance of the place influences the sense of place of the user. Harmony between the material used in the square and on the buildings may consequently be a key element of vitality of the square.

4.5.8 Skyline Properties

In this case, the buildings are not so close to the mosque. The others that are connected have almost the exact same height and a flat roof. According to social analysis, the users feel average secure in the square. The wideness of the square has an effect on the user; however, the spatiality of the square may reduce the perception of the skyline of the user. The user may no longer visualize the skyline with an inward perspective, but from a distance. Therefore, its effect on the users will be different. Perhaps, if the buildings were higher, the users would feel more enclosed and safe. For this reason, this may cause the users to not visit the square during evening time or spend quality time in the square, which is negative for the vitality of the square.

4.5.9 Landscape

The landscape in the Namik square can be classified as the same with the one in Selimiye square. Greenery is better in the square (Appendix A, A13). Considering the hot weather of the island, it is a positive aspect of the square not to have natural vegetation for shading and cooling. Social analysis indicated, just like in the case of Selimiye square, that the users want the amelioration of the landscape. Nevertheless, some palm trees are observed along the buildings that surround the square. However, the trees are too far from the square to provide any shading for the users.

The lack of greenery creates a sense of a monochrome visual aspect of the square. The floor and builds merge. The only contrast is created by the sky. The lack of sufficient and aesthetical vegetation deprives the users, to some extent, of shadow and fresh filtered air. The roads around the square can also produce dust when cars pass by and the absence of vegetation causes the users not be protected from it. This is a negative aspect for the vitality of the square.



Figure 62: Palm trees along the buildings on the periphery

Just as it was explained in the case of Selimiye square, urban furniture helps to relax. In the images below, it is visible that urban furniture is better than in the Selimiye square (Appendix A, A14). However, 67% of the respondents suggested an

amelioration of the urban furniture against 58% in the Selimiye square. This might be a result of the fact that the walled city of Famagusta has a more modern aspect than the one in Nicosia. None of the participants rated the furniture good. It should be also mentioned that the square has public WC and rainwater drainage elements which was not the case for the Selimiye square.

A playground for children, just as in the case of the Selimiye square, but also enjoyment and entertainment facilities for youth and elders, are needed. This may explain the fact that, according to the social analysis, only 1% of the users have seen parents and children in the square. Eventually, a historical façade, a restaurant or shop would not entertain a child. Noticeably, the square's landscape has failed to provide a sense of community and attract all types of users.









Figure 63: Furniture in the square

Elements of Vitality		Good	Poor	Comments
Activities	Mix use			Several types of building and activities can be done
	Permeability and accessibility			The square is easy to find. There is a car park and pedestrian street, average short blocks
	Mixture of building			The buildings are historic, modern
	Intensity			Religious and tourist activities take place
Elements of successful square	Architectural front			Façade are historical or new. No deteriorated façades, many openings, flat roofs
	Floor and place			Mixture of material, organized layout
	Skyline properties			Balanced general view, flat skyline
	Landscape			poor furniture, no children's playground

Table 7: Summary of the elements of vitality of The Namik Kemal square

Table 8: Outdoor activities and quality of the Namik Kemal square - adopted from Gehl, 1996)

	Poor	Good
Necessary activities		
Optional activities		
Social activities		

4.6 A Comparative Evaluation of the Vitality of Selimiye and Namik Kemal Square

Table 10: Comparative evaluation of the vitality of Selimiye and Namik Kemal Square

Elements of Vitality	Selimiye Square	Comparison	Namik Kemal Square
Activities	Mix use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only shops and restaurants are located on the square. Behind the square is a library and museum that can attract users 	<p>Namik Kemal square has a greater variety of buildings with different functions and therefore creates more activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several types of building and activities can be done
	Permeability and accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The square is easy to access. There is a car park and indication maps, short blocks 	<p>The shorter blocks make Selimiye square easier to access. Also, the indication maps enable tourists and visitors to easily find the square</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The square is easy to find. There is a car park and pedestrian street, average short blocks
	Mixture of building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The buildings are old or historical 	<p>The mixture of building in Namik Kemal offers a visual comfort and richness to the users.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The buildings are historic, modern
	Intensity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious and tourist activities take place 	<p>Both squares are located near a mosque and in tourist areas, thus the presence of the users is intense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious and tourist activities take place
Elements of successful square	Architectural front	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smoothly fluctuating roofline, deteriorated facades, monotone color fading, 	<p>The presence of an abandoned house with a deteriorated façade as well as the monotony diminishes the quality of the architectural front in Selimiye square.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Façade are historical or new. No deteriorated façades, many openings, flat roofs
	Floor and place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monotone floor 	<p>The layout and the mixture of the material in Namik square is good. By this, the users see a pattern and direction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixture of material, organized layout
	Skyline properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dominance of the mosque in height, closed space perception 	<p>Though the Selimiye mosque dominates the other buildings in height, the perception of the skyline from inside is better because of the buildings that are close to each other. It gives a sense of security to the users.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balanced general view, flat skyline
	Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of greenery and poor urban furnishing elements and playgrounds 	<p>In this case, both squares equally, appropriate furniture, children's playgrounds .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenery is good, poor furniture, no children's playground

- ✓ Indicates that the element is best
- Indicates the element of vitality is poorest

In summary, Namik Kemal square has activities that are more necessary for the users than the Selimiye square. The level of urbanization is different at the disadvantage of Selimiye square. Therefore, for this aspect, Namik Kemal square has more potential. Unfortunately, both square share the aspect of having a poor level of social activity. They do not offer to the user enough possibilities to relax and interact. Thus, according to the analysis of the elements of vitality, and as shown in the table above, the empirical conclusion reveals that Namik Kemal square is more vital than Selimiye square.

4.7 Summary of the Chapter

The results of the chapter are an outcome of the physical and social assessment of the elements of vitality of a square reviewed in earlier chapters. Some of the elements of vitality were similar in definition, but differed in nomenclature; therefore, the number of the elements was narrowed down to twelve. These elements were analyzed thoroughly and the results were presented in a summarized form in a table for each square. Thus, this will help establish a conclusion, according the aims and objectives of this research.

Chapter 5

CONCLUSION

The character of urban square is more than just physical; it also has a symbolic aspect. They are places of community and enjoyment; places for social inclusion and acquaintance. They are of an important value for the tourists and visitors. However, the fact that youth and parents with children visit the square is an indication that; truly, the sense of urban space is being lost amongst the youth and the urban space is not providing a place for activity for the children. Physically, psychologically and physiologically, the urban space has many advantages that all other human communications way can ever offer. Hence, in order to achieve this, the vitality of the urban square must be very good. The urban space must have an activity that can attract users of all types and offer more than what social media are offering. In order for this to be realized, the authorities need to take certain measures of revitalizing the urban squares. Every element of vitality must be ameliorated. The urban spaces must be able to fit and answer to the needs of the present generation. The ancient architects and designers of the past centuries took time to elaborate the square in both aesthetic and functionality according to the task and life style of the society they serve. Thus, today's urban and landscape designers must take the same precautions and measure for the design and restoration projects.

5.1 Recommendations for Improving the Squares

In this research, the aim was to evaluate the vitality of open spaces and see how it can be improved. In order to achieve this, the research first examined the meaning of public open spaces. Second, the role of open spaces, based on several scholars, was defined. Third, the study defined squares in different angle. Forth, the elements of vitality in public open spaces were pointed out, then finally questioned with the help of analyzing tools and methods.

5.1.1 Selimiye Square

- Primary and secondary activities in the square should be increased. The abandoned building can be used for retail or service in order to increase the vitality of the square.
- The square is easy to find. There is a car park and indication maps. However, facilities for disabled people are absent. Special pavement, the reserved parking lot and special urban furniture for the disabled should be introduced to the square.
- Restoration of the facades of the buildings surrounding the square should be considered
- Religious and tourist activities take place. However, the authorities can organize events that can attract youth and motivate parents to bring their children to the square
- In order to avoid monotony of the floor, the materials used for the pavement diversified.
- Add greenery and to the square. A small fountain can be introduced to the square and trees can be planed. The trees must have superficial roots in order

not to destroy the foundations of the buildings that are quite close to each other. The trees can provide good shading and climatic advantages.

- The urban furniture need to be modernized (harmonized). Sit should be made more comfortable and with materials that do not rust.
- Ameliorate the sustainability of the square (WC, facilities for mothers to change diapers and feed their babies, etc.).

5.1.2 Namik Kemal Square

- Facilities for disabled people are absent. reserved parking lots and special urban furniture for the disabled should be introduced to the square.
- Religious and tourist activities take place. However, the authorities can organize events that can attract youth and motivate parents to bring their children to the square
- The size of the Namik Keal square allows more variation in the landscape design and ecological actions.
- The urban furniture need to be modernized (harmonized). The benches should be made more comfortable and with materials that do not rust.
- Parents should be able to find facilities for their children to be entertained. Small playgrounds can be introduced to the square.

5.2 Further Research

The square is a heart of a city. Medieval squares were always located near a monumental building. This is the case for both squares that were analyzed in this research. The study evaluated the elements of vitality in general. Further researches may analyze with more in-depth the ecological aspect of the vitality of the squares. How a square can be made eco-friendly. The word climate is changing and global

heating is being generated by the pollution and deterioration of the Ozone. Therefore, ecological elements in the near future will perform a crucial impact to the vitality of the built environment.

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URL13: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com>

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Maps

AI

Evaluation of Civic Vitality in Urban Squares: Case of Selimiye and Namik Kemal

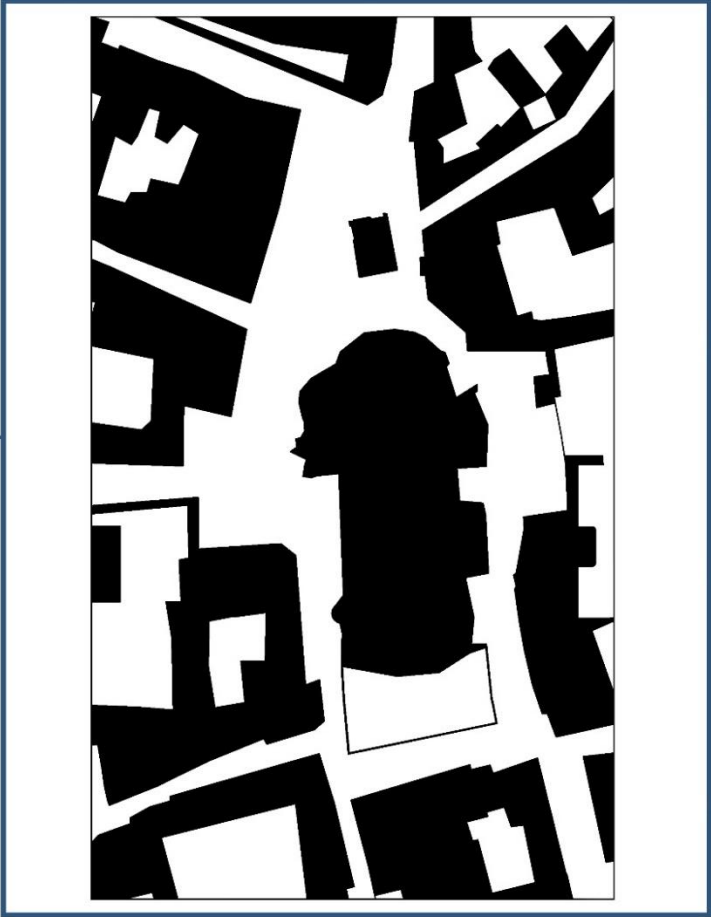




FIGURE GROUND MAP






LEGEND

SIZE OF SQUARE
approximately
1692m²

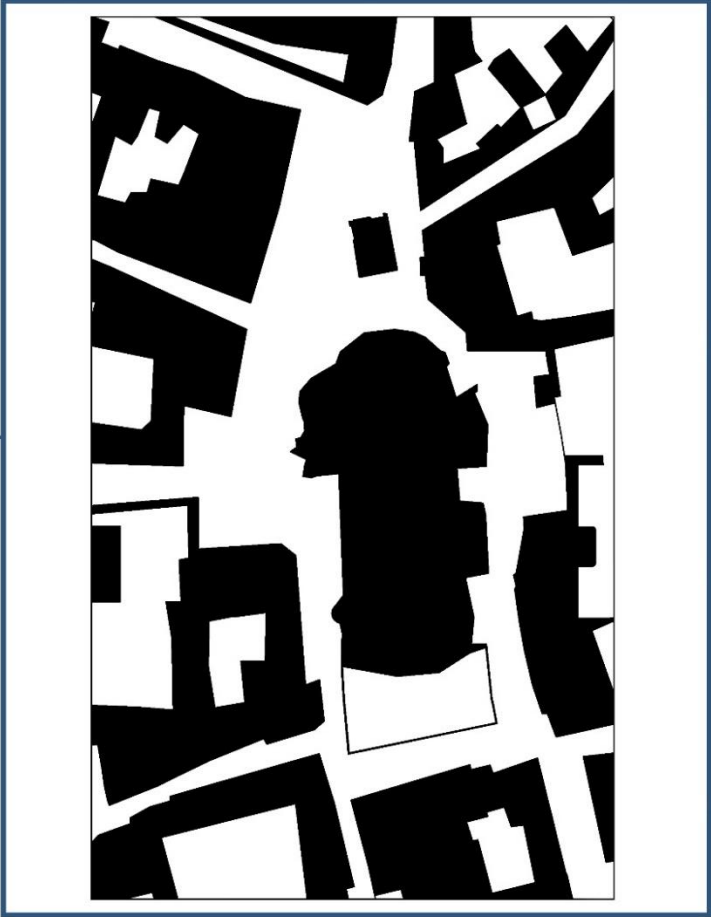
FORM OF SQUARE
Amorphous





TYPE OF SQUARE
Religious

EVALUATION
Buildings that surround the square are condense and close to one another. They enclose the square. They have irregular forms and attached to each other.



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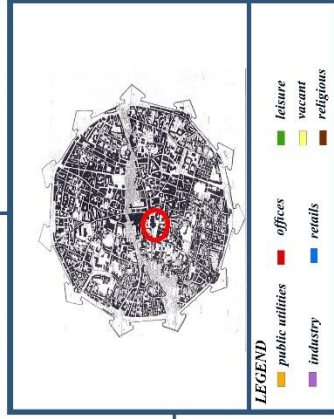


A2

Evaluation of Civic Vitality in Urban Squares: Case of Selimiye and Namik Kemal

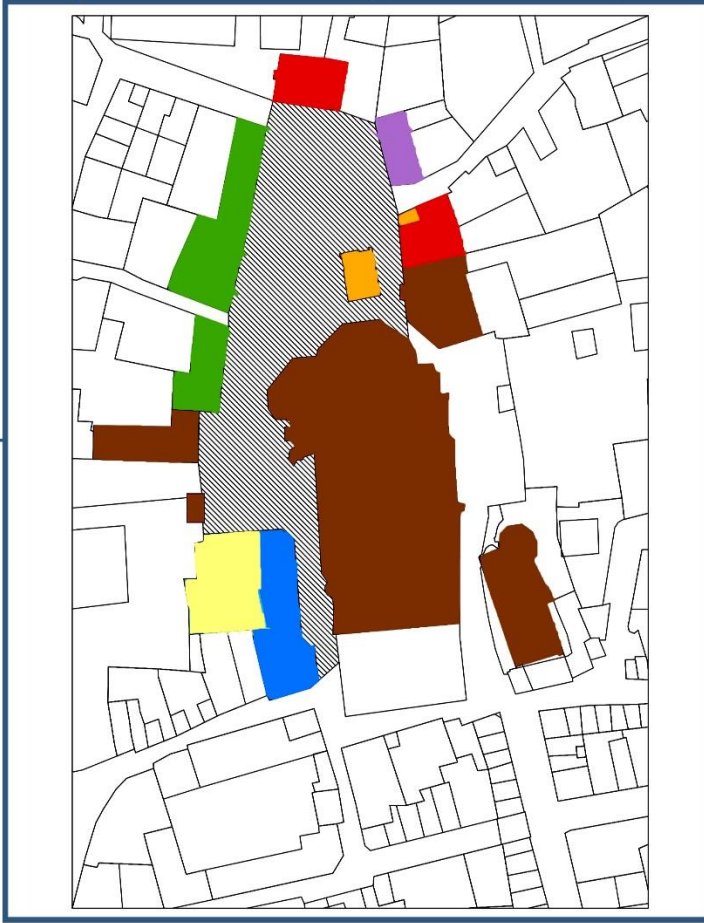
LANDUSE



SIZE OF SQUARE approximately 1692m ²	FORM OF SQUARE Amorphous	TYPE OF SQUARE Religious
---	------------------------------------	------------------------------------

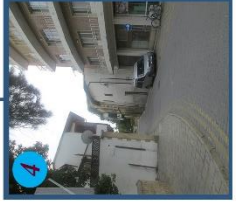
EVALUATION
The majority of the buildings around the area are historical the square is also dotted with restaurants and shops


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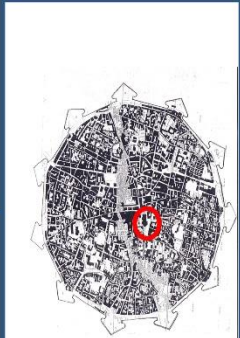


A3

Evaluation of Civic Vitality in Urban Squares: Case of Selimiye and Namik Kemal



ACCESSIBILITY



LEGEND
● Streets with pedestrian side walks
P Parking

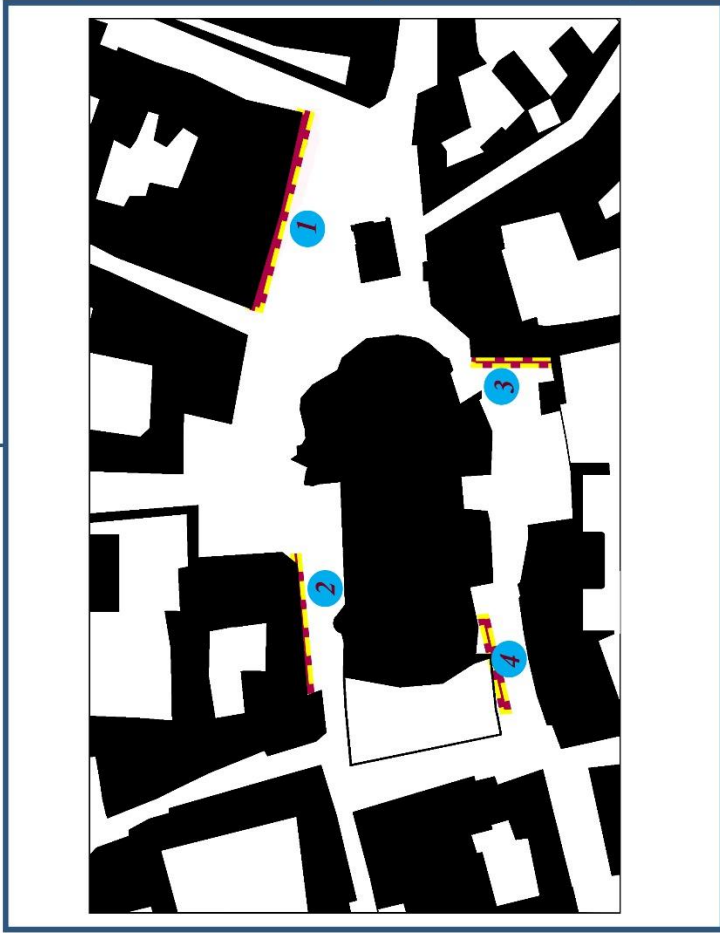
SIZE OF SQUARE approximately 1692m²	FORM OF SQUARE Amorphous	TYPE OF SQUARE Religious
---	------------------------------------	------------------------------------

EVALUATION
the square is accessible from four main points. The square is easy to find and access, but there is a need of facilities for disabled, the short urban blocks have important effect on the square accessibility


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A4

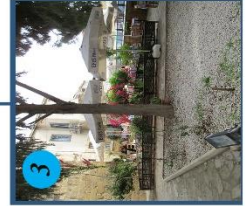
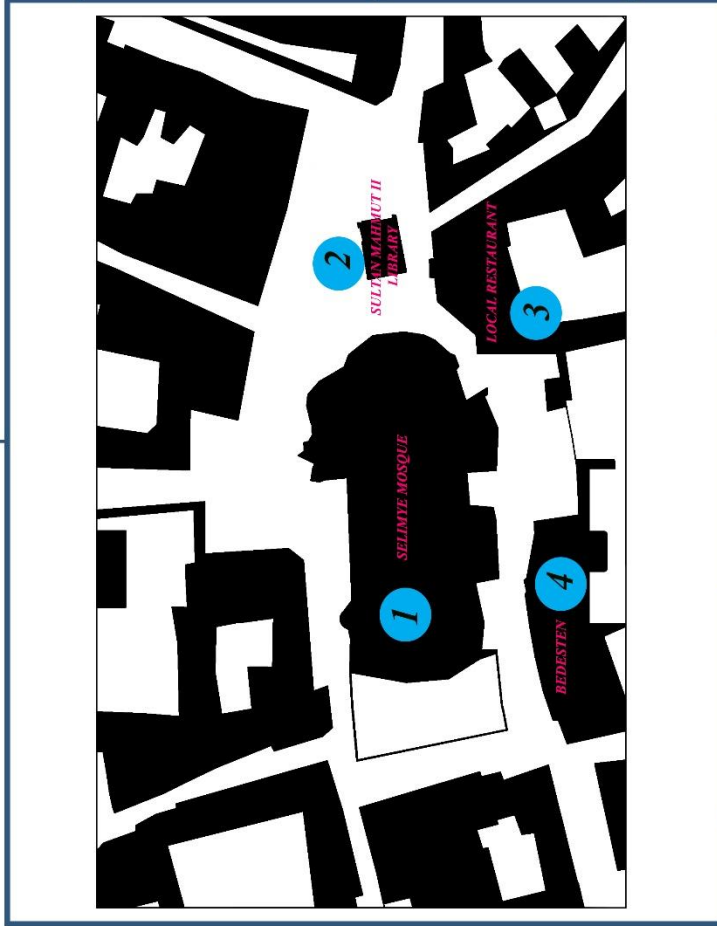
Evaluation of Civic Vitality in Urban Squares: Case of Selimiye and Namik Kemal



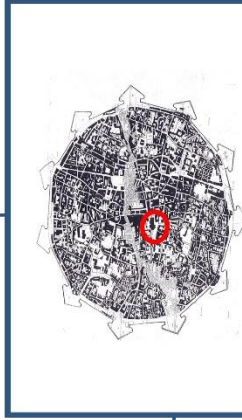
ACTIVE EDGES		
SIZE OF SQUARE approximately 1692m²	FORM OF SQUARE Amorphous	TYPE OF SQUARE Religious
EVALUATION Restaurants and shops are the most active edges in the square		
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A5

Evaluation of Civic Vitality in Urban Squares: Case of Selimiye and Namik Kemal



IMPORTANT BUILDINGS



LEGEND

SIZE OF SQUARE approximately 1692m ²	FORM OF SQUARE <i>Amorphous</i>	TYPE OF SQUARE <i>Religious</i>
---	------------------------------------	------------------------------------

EVALUATION

Important buildings attract users and give value to the square. The restaurant located in south part of square can mentioned as socially important, many local and tourists prefer to eat local meals there

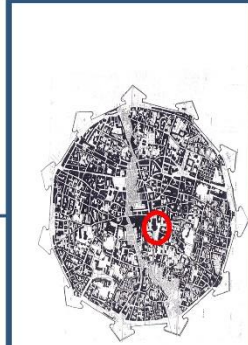


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A7

Evaluation of Civic Vitality in Urban Squares: Case of Selimiye and Namik Kemal

URBAN FURNITURE



- LEGEND**
- bins
 - benches
 - lighting
 - benches

SIZE OF SQUARE approximately 1692m²	FORM OF SQUARE Amorphous	TYPE OF SQUARE Religious
---	------------------------------------	------------------------------------

EVALUATION
Urban furniture needs to be ameliorated and the users are not satisfied with it. the material of benches is wood and concrete. the lights need to be change also the bins



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A8

Evaluation of Civic Vitality in Urban Squares: Case of Selimiye and Namik Kemal

FIGURE GROUND



LEGEND

SIZE OF SQUARE <i>approximately 1575m²</i>	FORM OF SQUARE <i>Amorphous</i>	TYPE OF SQUARE <i>Religious</i>
--	------------------------------------	------------------------------------

EVALUATION
Buildings are less condense than in the case of Selimiye Square. The square is more open and wider


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A9

Evaluation of Civic Vitality in Urban Squares: Case of Selimiye and Namik Kemal

LAND USE



LEGEND

public utilities	offices	leisure
residential	retails	vacant
industry		religious

SIZE OF SQUARE	FORM OF SQUARE	TYPE OF SQUARE
approximately 1575m ²	Amorphous	Religious

EVALUATION

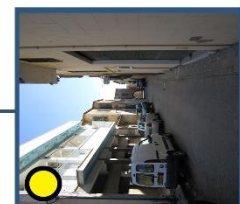
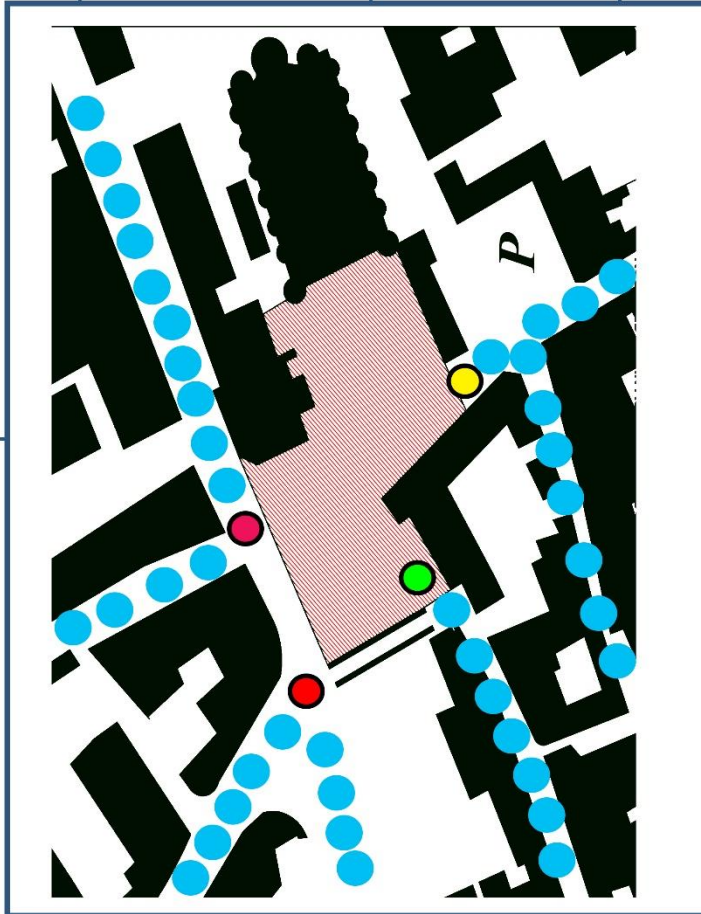
Buildings are more mixed than in the Selimiye square users may have more activities to do However this element needs amelioration

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A10

Evaluation of Civic Vitality in Urban Squares: Case of Selimiye and Namik Kemal



ACCESSIBILITY



LEGEND
 streets with pedestrian side walks
 parking area

SIZE OF SQUARE approximately 1575m²	FORM OF SQUARE Amorphous	TYPE OF SQUARE Religious
---	------------------------------------	------------------------------------

EVALUATION
 the accessibility is more organized in the Namik Kemal square. The presence of organized parking areas is also an advantage. However, as it is the case for Selimiye square, there is a need of facilities for the disable

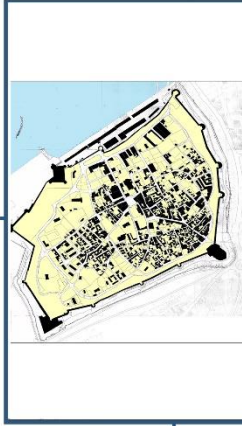
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All

Evaluation of Civic Vitality in Urban Squares: Case of Selimiye and Namik Kemal



ACTIVE EDGES



LEGEND



Active edges

SIZE OF SQUARE
approximately
1575m²

FORM OF SQUARE
Amorphous

TYPE OF SQUARE
Religious

EVALUATION

The whole periphery is active. The mixture of building also plays a role in attracting the users to the squares



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A12

Evaluation of Civic Vitality in Urban Squares: Case of Selimiye and Namik Kemal

IMPORTANT BUILDINGS

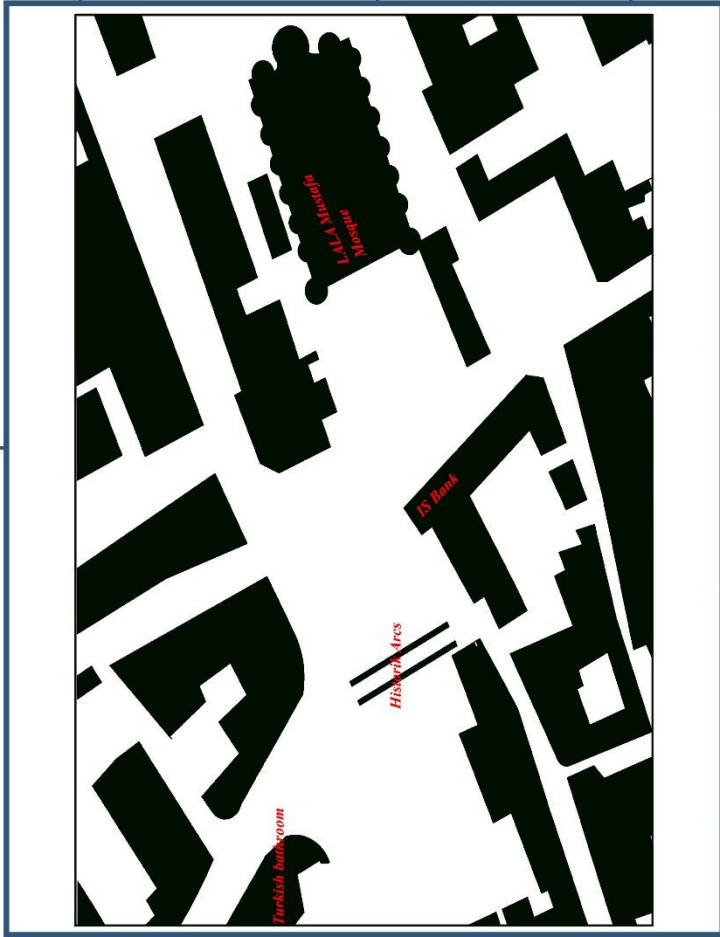


LEGEND

SIZE OF SQUARE approximately 1575m²	FORM OF SQUARE Amorphous	TYPE OF SQUARE Religious
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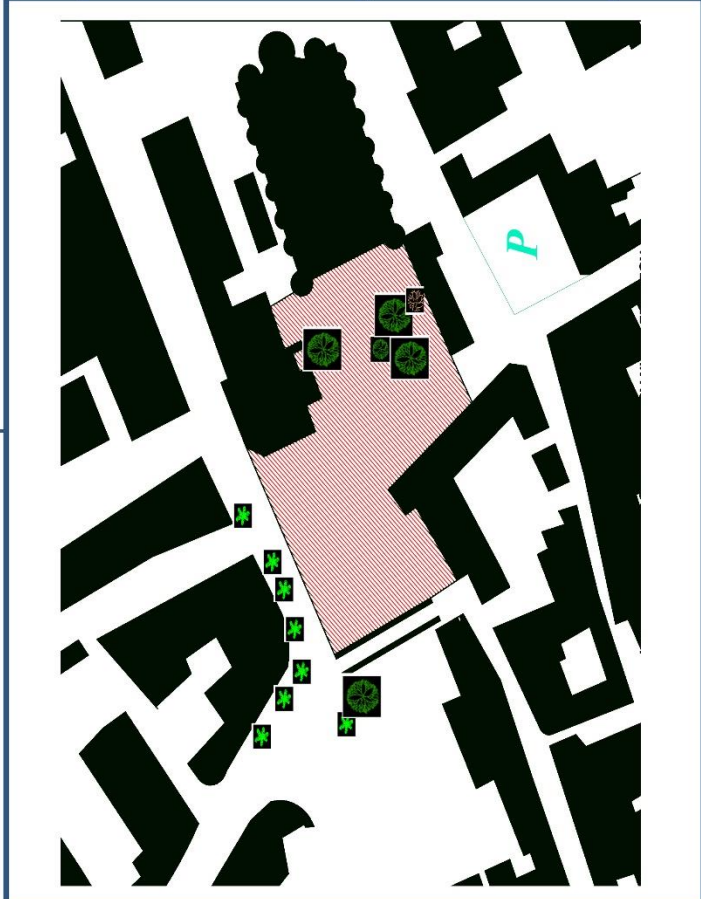
EVALUATION
These buildings attract people to the square, especially tourists


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 Faculty of Architecture
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A13

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VEGETATION



LEGEND

	Palm tree
	cupressus sempervirens
	Platanus orientalis

SIZE OF SQUARE	FORM OF SQUARE	TYPE OF SQUARE
approximately 1575m ²	Amorphous	Religious

EVALUATION

The vegetation is poor. Users consider the landscape to be in need of amelioration in order for the square to have more life

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A14

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URBAN FURNITURE

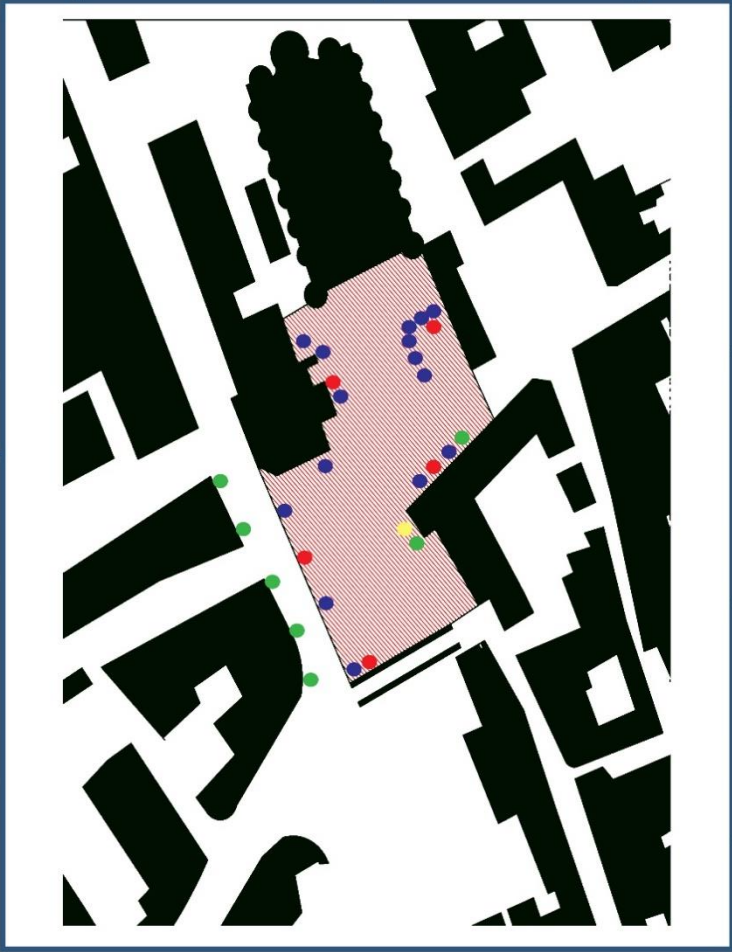


- LEGEND**
- Chairs (Blue circle)
 - Lights (Green circle)
 - Bins (Red circle)
 - Bicycle stand (Yellow circle)

SIZE OF SQUARE	FORM OF SQUARE	TYPE OF SQUARE
approximately 1575m ²	Amorphous	Religious

EVALUATION
Furniture in the square is not appreciated by the users. Ameliorating it should be considered


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Appendix B: English Questionnaire Sample

1. **Gender ***

Mark only one oval.

- Male
 Female

2. **Age ***

Mark only one oval.

- 18 to 22
 23 to 29
 30 to 49
 50 to 60
 Over 60

3. **Occupation ***

Mark only one oval.

- student
 employee
 unemployed
 pensioned

4. **nationality ***

.....

5. **How often to you visit the square ?**

Mark only one oval.

- regularly
 occasionally
 rarely

6 What makes you visit the square?

Check all that apply

- It is located near your residence
- It is located near your office
- it is located near your school
- It is located near the mosque
- The area has good restaurants
- The are is good for recreation

7. Who do you often meet at the square?

Check all that apply.

- Children and their parents
- Youth
- Tourists
- Elders

8. Do you ever organize meetings with your friends at the square?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

9. How do rate the accessibility of the square?

Mark only one oval.

- Excellent
- Good
- Faire
- Poor

10. How do rate the safety of the square?

Mark only one oval.

- Excellent
- Good
- Faire
- Poor

11 How do rate the pavement of the square?

Mark on y one ova

- Excellent
- Good
- Faire
- Poor

12. How do rate the urban furniture of the square?

Mark only one oval.

- Excellent
- Good
- Faire
- Poor

13. How do rate the cleanliness of the square?

Mark only one oval.

- Excellent
- Good
- Faire
- Poor

14. How do rate the activity of the square?

Mark only one oval.

- Excellent
- Good
- Faire
- Poor

15. What do you think about the surrounding buildings?

Check all that apply.

- Historical
- Old
- Modern
- Neutral

16 What do you think can contribute to the vitality of the square?

Check all that apply

- Landscape
- Safety
- Cleaness
- Accessibility
- Urban furniture

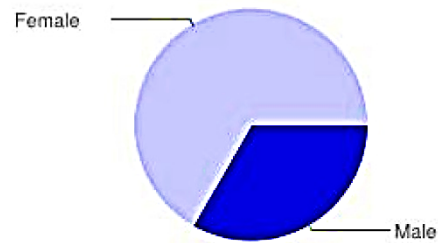
17. Would you like to receive feedback of the results?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

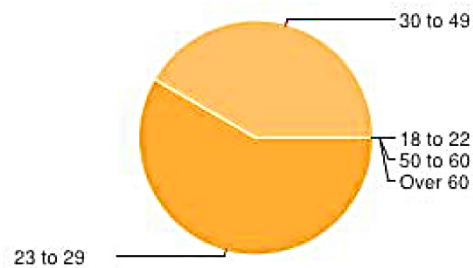
Appendix C: Response summary for Selimiye square

Gender



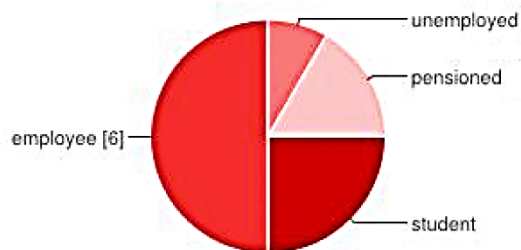
Male	33%
Female	67%

Age



18 to 22	0%
23 to 29	58%
30 to 49	42%
50 to 60	0%
Over 60	0%

Occupation

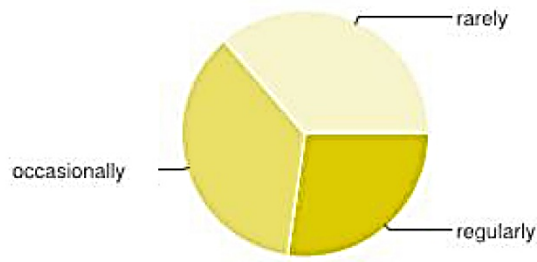


student	25%
employee	50%
unemployed	8%
pensioned	17%

nationality

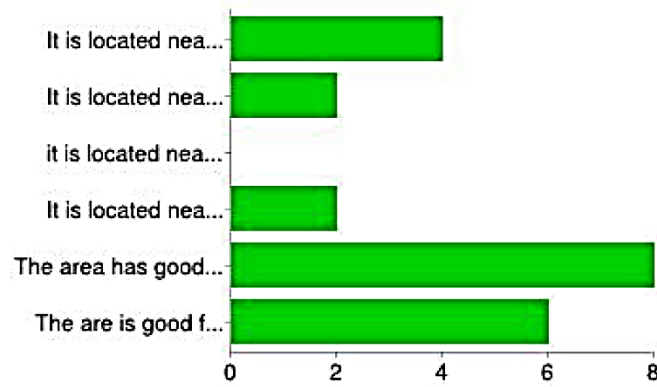
iranian
 Ukrainian
 German
 Turkish

How often to you visit the square ?



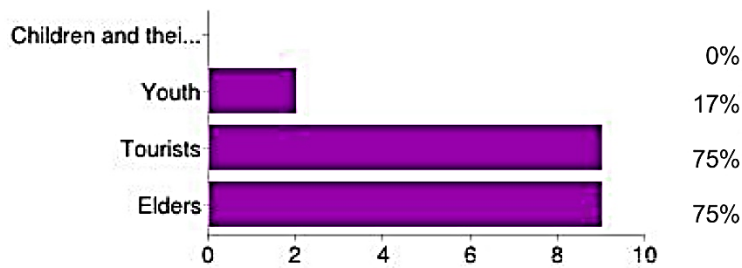
regularly	25%
occasionally	33%
rarely	33%

What makes you visit the square?

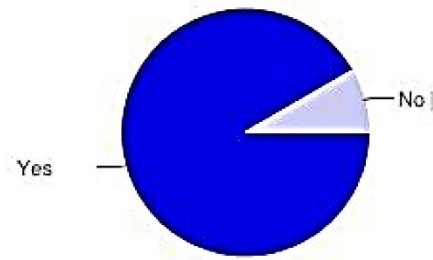


It is located near your residence	33%
It is located near your office	17%
it is located near your school	0%
It is located near the mosque	17%
The area has good restaurants	67%
The area is good for recreation	50%

Who do you often meet at the square?

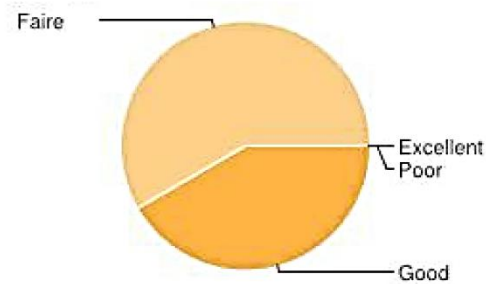


Do you ever organize meetings with your friends at the square?



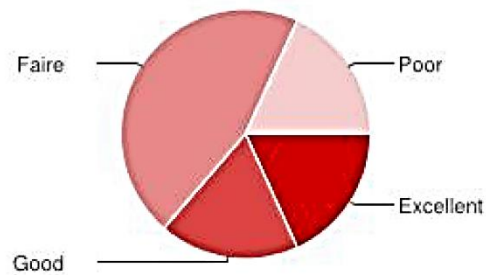
Yes	92%
No	8%

How do rate the accessibility of the square?



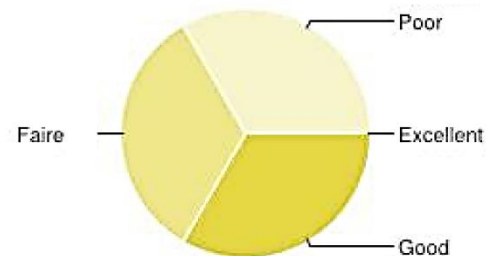
Excellent	0%
Good	42%
Faire	58%
Poor	0%

How do rate the safety of the square?



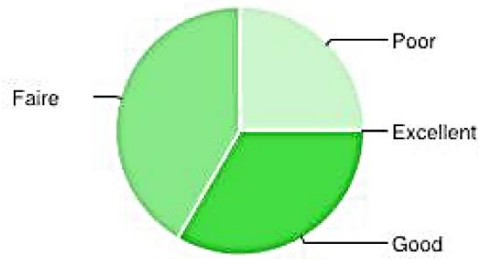
Excellent	17%
Good	17%
Faire	42%
Poor	17%

How do rate the pavement of the square?



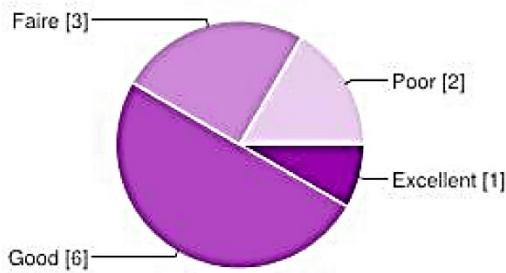
Excellent	0%
Good	33%
Faire	33%
Poor	33%

How do rate the urban furniture of the square?



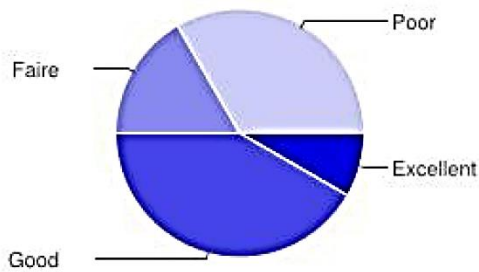
Excellent	0%
Good	33%
Faire	42%
Poor	25%

How do rate the cleanness of the square?



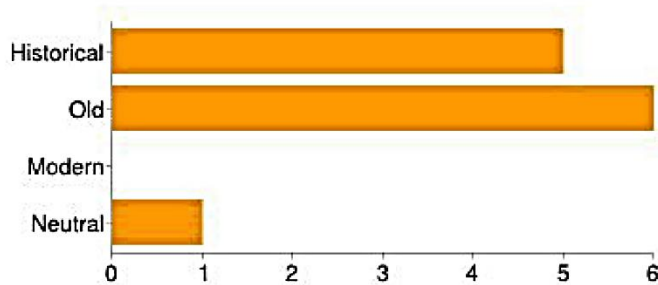
Excellent	8%
Good	50%
Faire	25%
Poor	17%

How do rate the activity of the square?



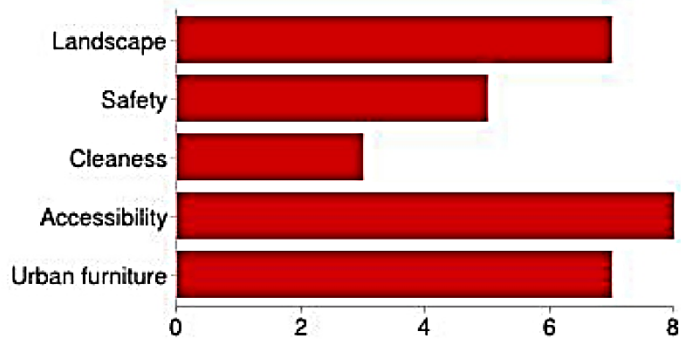
Excellent	8%
Good	42%
Faire	17%
Poor	33%

What do you think about the surrounding buildings?



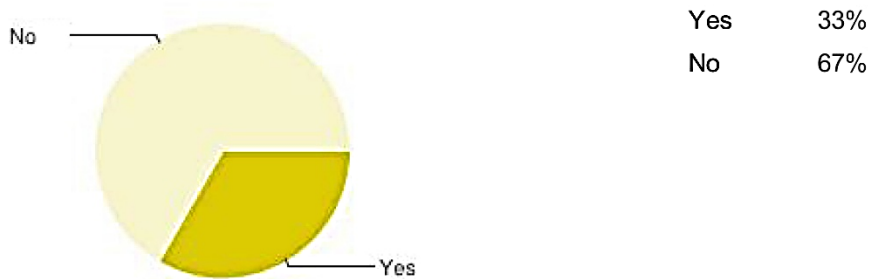
Historical	42%
Old	50%
Modern	0%
Neutral	8%

What do you think can contribute to the vitality of the square?



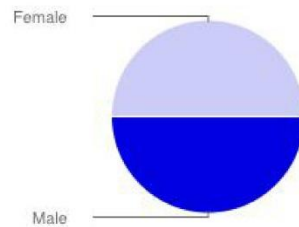
Landscape	58%
Safety	42%
Cleaness	25%
Accessibility	67%
Urban furniture	58%

Would you like to receive feedback of the results?



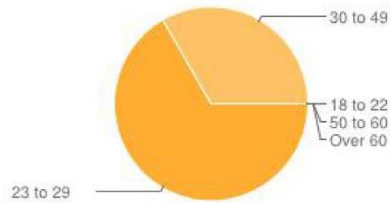
Appendix D: Response summary for Namik Kemal square

Gender



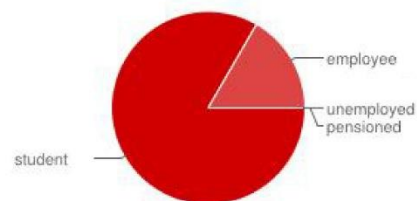
Male	50%
Female	50%

Age



18 to 22	0%
23 to 29	67%
30 to 49	33%
50 to 60	0%
Over 60	0%

Occupation

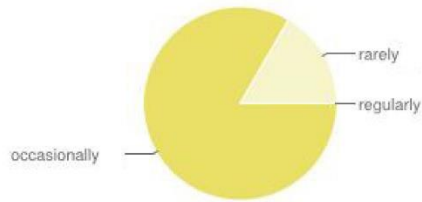


student	83%
employee	17%
unemployed	0%
pensioned	0%

nationality

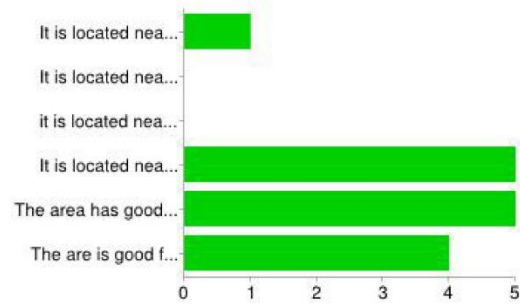
Iranian
 Turkish
 Romanian

How often to you visit the square ?



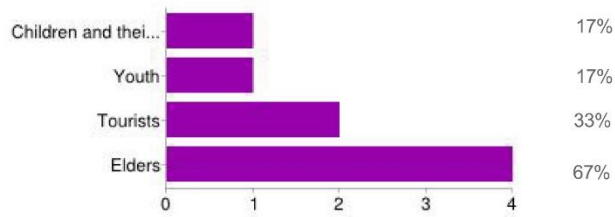
regularly	0%
occasionally	83%
rarely	17%

What makes you visit the square?

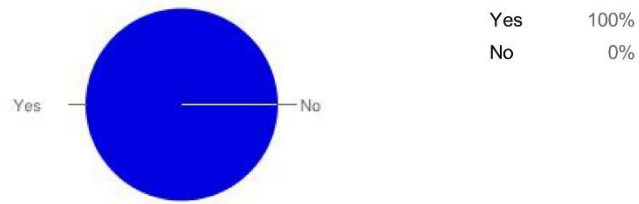


It is located near your residence	17%
It is located near your office	0%
it is located near your school	0%
It is located near the mosque	83%
The area has good restaurants	83%
The area is good for recreation	67%

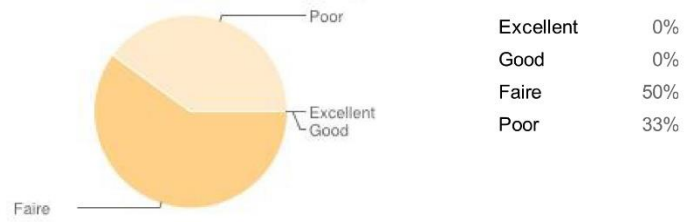
Who do you often meet at the square?



Do you ever organize meetings with your friends at the square?



How do rate the accessibility of the square?



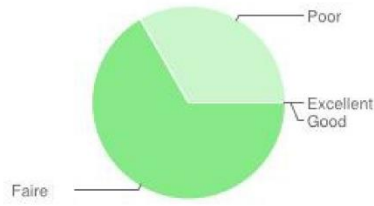
How do rate the safety of the square?



How do rate the pavement of the square?

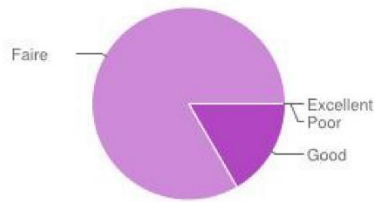


How do rate the urban furniture of the square?



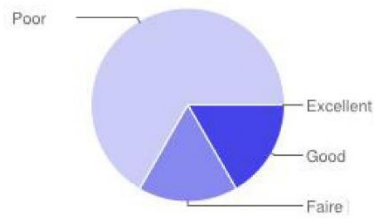
Excellent	0%
Good	0%
Faire	67%
Poor	33%

How do rate the cleanness of the square?



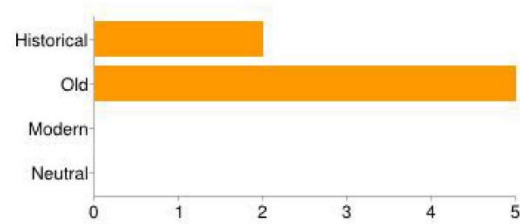
Excellent	0%
Good	17%
Faire	83%
Poor	0%

How do rate the activity of the square?



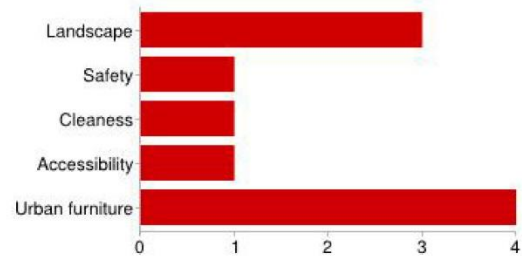
Excellent	0%
Good	17%
Faire	17%
Poor	67%

What do you think about the surrounding buildings



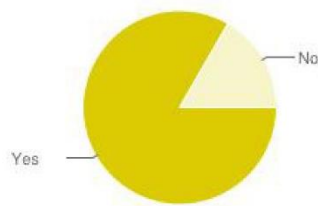
Historical	33%
Old	83%
Modern	0%
Neutral	0%

What do you think can contribute to the vitality of the square?



Landscape	50%
Safety	17%
Cleaness	17%
Accessibility	17%
Urban furniture	67%

Would you like to receive feedback of the results?



Yes	83%
No	17%