

AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH FOR ANALYSIS OF TRADITIONAL SHOPPING SPACES AND A CASE STUDY ON BALIKESİR

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Abstract: One of the most salient features of traditional shopping spaces is the association between urban fabric and social structure. However, today's shopping spaces are dislocated towards the new shopping complexes outskirts of cities. Thus, shopping spaces in city centres are neglected causing them to lose their spatial value as traditional spaces enhancing public interactions, and to dilapidate. Therefore, it is seen, in city centres, that the unity of 'urban fabric-shopping place' is impaired.

This impairment is also observed in traditional shopping places in Balıkesir. Thus, urban values that maintain the unity of 'urban fabric-shopping place' in traditional core of the city should urgently be clarified. For that reason, this paper aims to analyse the morphological features of traditional shopping spaces in Balıkesir, in terms of urban design principles and tissue characteristics of the urban core. To this aim, an alternative approach was developed for analysing traditional shopping spaces in town centres. This analysis approach is intended to take its reference from spatial characteristics in traditional urban spaces. The essential components of the approach are morphological features of squares (nodes) and streets (paths) and their characteristics regarding spatial configuration.

Key words: Balıkesir, traditional shopping place, urban fabric, morphological analysis of traditional urban space.

Geleneksel Alışveriş Mekanlarının Analizi İçin Alternatif Bir Yaklaşım ve Bu Yaklaşımın Balıkesir'de Uygulanması

Özet: Geleneksel alışveriş mekanlarının en temel özelliklerinden biri, kent dokusu ve kentteki sosyal yaşantı ile bütünleşmeleridir. Ancak, son dönemde alışveriş mekanları kent dışındaki yeni alışveriş komplekslerine doğru yer değiştirmiştir. Böylece, kent merkezlerindeki alışveriş mekanları, kamusal etkileşimleri güçlendiren mekansal değerlerinin kaybına ve bozulmasına yol açacak biçimde göz ardı edilmiştir. Bunun sonucunda, geleneksel kent merkezlerinde 'kent dokusu-alışveriş mekanı' bütünlüğünün zedelendiği görülmektedir.

Bu bozulma, Balıkesir'deki geleneksel alışveriş mekanlarında da gözlenmektedir. Bu nedenle, öncelikle kentten geleneksel merkezindeki 'kent dokusu-alışveriş mekanı' bütünlüğünü sağlayan kentsel değerlerin belirlenmesi gerekmektedir. Bu nedenle, bu çalışmada, Balıkesir'deki geleneksel alışveriş mekanlarının biçimsel özelliklerinin kentsel tasarım ilkeleri ve kent çekirdeğinin doku özellikleri açısından analiz edilmesi amaçlanmıştır. Bu amaç doğrultusunda, kent merkezlerindeki geleneksel alışveriş mekanlarının analizi için alternatif bir yaklaşım geliştirilmiştir. Bu analiz yaklaşımın referanslarını geleneksel kent mekanlarındaki mekansal değerlerden almaya planlanmıştır. Bu yaklaşımın temel bileşenleri, geleneksel kent mekanındaki meydan (toplayıcı alanlar) ve sokakların (sirkülasyon elemanları) morfolojik karakteristikleri ve oluşturdukları mekansal konfigürasyonun özellikleridir.

Anahtar kelimeler: Balıkesir, geleneksel alışveriş yeri, kent dokusu, geleneksel kent mekanının biçimsel analizi.

Introduction

Shopping has been a social and urban activity, which has continually been the main socialisation device throughout the ages. Traditional shopping places are vibrant places; they set a stage for social interactions, and enhance communication among humans. These places such as agora, forum, medieval square, covered bazaar,

han, arasta and bedesten were the most significant parts of town centres because of various activities they accommodate, and they also created unique social environments. From this viewpoint, it should be accepted that they were ‘*shopping places with social attributes*’ (Birol, 2003). The central position of them within the cities, their dimensions and harmonious form with urban tissue show how integrated they were with the urban fabric (Morris, 1994) (Roth, 2000) (Wycherley, 1993). Specially, shopping places in medieval cities were entirely compatible with urban fabric by reason of their location that used to spread out all over the open areas of the city. These places also supported self-organising behaviours and self-emerging activities of various users, enhanced ‘*sense of belonging*’ of citizens and thus, provided the spatial characteristics required the constitution of ‘*shopping places with social attributes*’.

However, it is observed that traditional shopping places in town centres have rapidly been losing their significances and morphological features (Trancik, 1986), (Türkoğlu, 1998). In fact, it is claimed in this paper that unity of ‘*urban fabric-shopping place*’ was seriously broken with the emergence of modernist planning approach. In that period, changes in social relations and technology have eroded the traditional functions of *public space* (Sennett, 1993). Furthermore, characteristics of ‘*place*’ once existed in traditional settlement seem to have disappeared in modern city. This disappearance has also caused the loss of morphological features of ‘*shopping place*’, which is the most indispensable part of traditional urban space.

Traditional urban core and shopping place in Balıkesir have also been losing their spatial features of ‘*shopping places with social attributes*’. Therefore, the investigation of the level of deviation from the salient characteristics of traditional shopping place in urban core of the city is aimed in the paper. Accordingly, an analysis approach, which is based on the urban components of ‘*traditional shopping place*’ and their morphological features, is constituted. This approach is explained in the next section.

Methodology

The method of the study is developed through two main phases summarised below:

Firstly, the spatial values that constitute the unity of ‘*urban fabric-shopping place*’ in traditional settlements are defined. To this aim, theories of Lynch (1960), Jacobs (1961), Krier (1979), Cullen (1971), Norberg-Schulz (1971), Rowe and Koetter (1979) are investigated.

Before proceeding, it is required to widen above-mentioned literature on this subject. As known, modernist approach has started to be criticised particularly in late 1950s and 1960s. The essence of these criticisms concentrates upon modernist planning approach and its way of tackling buildings in isolation from their surrounding. As expressed in anti-modern views (Krier 1991) (Lynch 1960) (Rossi 1982), city has been re-considered as a formal ensemble, as it was in pre-industrial era, and concepts of architecture and city have been redefined by departing from traditional values (Yıldırım 1996). The critical theories that relevant to the spatial values in pre-industrial city are highlighted in Table 1.

Table 1. Critical Theories Investigating the Spatial Values in Pre-Industrial City

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Lynch, 1960 | Analyses and formulates urban components and organising principles of individuals’ mental maps which help the <i>legibility</i> of urban areas. |
| Jacobs, 1961 | Asserts that for the shaping of healthy and liveable cities; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathering of various functions in city fabric as opposed to zoning (<i>mixed use</i>), • Diminution of urban block-size, • Increasing the pedestrian density (<i>crowd</i>), are required. |
| Krier, 1979 | Classifies urban spaces from morphological point of view. Elucidates the issue of spatial disintegration in 20 th century city planning. Makes morphological suggestions (such as <i>formal diversity</i>) for the reconstruction of disintegrated urban space. |
| Cullen, 1971 | Investigates the perception of ‘here’ and ‘there’ as the conditions of ‘place’ and the continuity of this perception through its optical-visual and morphological qualities. Determines the morphological counterparts of various human values within this sequential perception (<i>serial vision</i>). Makes assessments regarding the control of urban space in traditional settlements. |
| Norberg-Schulz, 1971 | Examines the concept of ‘place’ in different spatial types and spatial characteristics such as <i>proximity, centralisation, enclosure</i> . |
| Rowe&Koetter, 1979 | Explores <i>figure-ground relationship</i> in traditional urban space. Makes morphological suggestions regarding the transformation of such relations in modern city, resulting social problem and their rehabilitation. |

It is revealed through the research of critical theories that main spatial values of traditional city are *legibility* (Lynch, 1960), *crowd and mixed use* (Jacobs, 1961), *formal diversity* (Krier, 1979), *serial vision* (Cullen, 1971), *proximity, centralisation, enclosure* (Norberg-Schulz, 1971), and *figure-ground equilibrium* (Rowe, 1979).

Secondly, an analysis approach is developed through investigation of urban design theories related to above-mentioned spatial values (see Table 2). To this aim, analysis approaches of urban space are reviewed by illustrating them with the works of Moughtin (1992), Alexander (1977), Trancik (1986), Lynch (1960), Norberg-Schulz (1971), Krier (1991) and Ching (1996). It is no means that there are no other studies on the same topic. There exist other relevant studies (for example, see Kılıç&Türkoğlu, 2004; Korkmaz&Türkoğlu, 2003; Türkoğlu, 2002; Çevik et al., 2003; Inam, 2002; Montgomery, 1998; Yıldırım, 1996), but for the specific purpose of this paper, these former mentioned examples will suffice.

Table 2. Analysis Approaches of Urban Space

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Moughtin, 1992 | Asserts that when urban space is considered as three-dimensional elements, urban space becomes 'figure-ground' as a positive element and buildings become its 'ground'. Suggests analysis of <i>figure-ground relationship</i> in order to rehabilitation of urban structure. |
| Alexander, 1977 | Similar to Moughtin, when classifying urban space as positive or negative spaces, suggests analysis of <i>figure-ground relationship</i> in order to identify positive space. |
| Trancik, 1986 | Classifies <i>figure-ground relationships</i> of urban spaces, from typological point of view, into six different groups as; <i>grid, angular, curvilinear, radial-concentric, axial</i> and <i>organic</i> . Gives an account of three different approaches to the evaluation of urban space as, <i>figure-ground theory, linkage theory</i> and <i>place theory</i> . Explains the system of relationships in an urban space on the basis of Fumihiko Maki's classification of spatial relation types, and asserts that types of linkage schemes in an urban space are <i>compositional form, mega form, and group form</i> . |
| Lynch, 1960 | Defines the <i>legibility</i> of a city and its components, which help one to orient within it, as <i>paths, edges, districts, nodes</i> and <i>landmarks</i> . Asserts that <i>paths</i> and <i>nodes</i> are the primary components to constitute 'mental maps', and to connect particularly the voids in urban fabric. |
| Norberg-Schulz, 1971 | Puts forward the components of existential and architectural spaces with frequent references to Lynch. Asserts that <i>district, street</i> and <i>square</i> are essential components of a city, and they provide orientation. Determines the morphological features, which an urban space should have, as <i>domain texture, path continuity, and enclosure of square</i> . |
| Krier, 1979, 1991 | Classifies streets and squares from morphological viewpoint. Suggests geometric classification of urban spaces (squares and streets) and elucidates rules of this classification in order to rehabilitation of urban spaces. Puts forward the compositional set of rules that determine the combination of urban and architectural elements regarding <i>circulation scheme, spatial hierarchy</i> and <i>rhythm</i> . |
| Ching, 1996 | Tackles the issue of how components of form and space are brought together. Defines <i>spatial combinatory relationships</i> as; <i>space within space, interlocking spaces, adjacent spaces</i> and <i>spaces connected with another space</i> ; and <i>spatial organisation types</i> as; <i>central, linear, radial, cluster</i> and <i>grid</i> organisations |

After the evaluation of above-investigated theories, urban components, morphological features and parameters that are taken as major devices of the intended analysis approach are systematised as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Alternative Approach for Analysing Morphological Features of ‘*Shopping Place With Social Attributes*’

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| I. Definition of the Boundaries of Traditional Shopping Place | Historical Criterion: Identifying the place that was the traditional shopping place of the city | | |
| | Functional Criterion: Identifying the place in which shopping activity is more concentrated in comparison to other areas | | |
| | Spatial Criterion: Identifying the place where tissue characteristics differ from other places | | |
| | URBAN COMPONENT | MORPHOLOGICAL FEATURE | PARAMETERS |
| II. Definition of Urban Components (Paths and Nodes) | a. Paths | 1. Characteristics of the Fabric | organic/regular |
| | | 2. Type of Linkage Scheme | compositional form, megaform, group form |
| | | 3. Distribution of Paths | linear/planar distribution |
| | | 4. Continuity of Paths | continuous external, discontinuous, continuous internal |
| | | 5. Lengths of Paths | 0-50, 50-100, 100-150 meters |
| | | 6. Orientations and Angles of Paths | linear/angular |
| | | 7. Rhythmic Characteristics of Commercial Urban Blocks | existence/absence of rhythmic order |
| | b. Nodes | 1. Spatial Characteristics | piecemeal/monolithic, complex/simple, free and organic/strict and regular |
| | | 2. Geometric-Typological Characteristics | square, circle, triangle and their combinations |
| | | 3. Enclosure Levels | enclosed, semi-enclosed, unenclosed |
| | | 4. Balance of Shopping Activity-Social Activity (functional diversity or mixed use) | shopping dominant, equilibrium of shopping and social activities, social activity dominant |
| | | 5. Distribution of Nodes | linear/planar distribution |
| | | 6. Number of Path Intersections on Nodes | whether or not they are optional |
| III. Definition of the Characteristics of Spatial Organisation | 1. Figure-Ground Relationship | grid, angular, curvilinear, radial, axial, organic. | |
| | 2. Spatial Hierarchy | existence/absence of hierarchical order | |
| | 3. Classification of Spatial Organisation | central, linear, radial, cluster, grid | |
| | 4. Classification of Spatial Combinatory Relationships | space within space, interlocked spaces, adjacent spaces, spaces connected with another space | |

This approach contains three main stages summarised below:

Firstly, boundaries of the study area, which reflects essential characteristics of traditional shopping space fabric, from historical, functional, and spatial viewpoints, should be defined. Secondly, morphological features of paths and those of nodes in the study area should be clarified. Finally, the characteristics of spatial configuration should be identified. In the next stage, traditional shopping place of Balıkesir is analysed within this framework.

Traditional Shopping Places in Balıkesir

General Description and Historical Evolution of Traditional Shopping Place in Balıkesir

Balıkesir, in history, is one of the significant Ottoman cities. The city has witnessed a very intense and lively commercial activity particularly in the period during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries (Su, 1937; Eren, 1993; Egli, 1945). Social life used to occur in commercial spaces taking place in the urban core in the city at that time.

The transformation of urban fabric and shopping spaces in Balıkesir has started with the public works at the beginning of the 20th century. However, this transformation becomes clearer when traditional shopping spaces in city centre were largely replaced with new building complexes. The differentiation at that time is the genuine break between traditional and modern shopping places. This break has also led the removal of the qualities once existed in the traditional fabric, and this area to become incapable of reflecting spatial features of 'shopping place with social attributes'. The characteristics of this break are defined below in the light of the terminology established in this paper.

Analysis and Findings

1. Definition of the Boundaries of Traditional Shopping Place

The study area (Figure 1) is limited with the market hall in the north, commercial buildings surrounding the Ali Hikmet Paşa Square towards east, the part of Anafartalar Street in the south, and Aygören quarter where housing is quite dense in the west. From historical viewpoint, the study area is a place that preserved its main characteristics of being the urban core for about 500 years. On the other hand, from functional viewpoint, commercial activities are predominantly concentrated in the area. Eventually, from spatial viewpoint, characteristics of the urban tissue in the area are remarkably varied than the other areas. Commercial building complexes take place in the area are market hall, Yeni Çarşı (Figure 2) and Hasan Baba Çarşı (Figure 3).



Figure 1. Boundaries of the study area (left was taken from Aru, K. A.; Türk Kenti, YEM Publications, İstanbul 1998, p.225)



Figure 2. Yeni Çarşı.



Figure 3. Hasan Baba Çarşı

II. Definition of Urban Components (Paths And Nodes)

a. Paths: The path forms the primary structural network of the city (Roberts, et al., 1999). As Lynch (1960) notes, the path was the most important organising principle of most individuals' mental maps. It comprises the pedestrian circulation network, which connect different functional zones in cities and provide continuity through serial vision. It is important to solve the problems of movement, speed, changing direction, stopping and walking, communicating with other users, perception of the environment, sitting somewhere, etc. in this space (Çevik et al., 2003).

1) Characteristics of the Fabric (organic/regular): Organic arranged paths perform the dual function of movement in space and living in space, minimising the space use purely for movement. This arrangement of paths means that there were many combinations of routes, making each journey more interesting and increasing the variety of interactions one could potentially engage in.

It is observed that study area was intended to be formed into a regular tissue taking its references from the organic street layout of Aygören Quarter on its west. A partially regular tissue of shopping streets was established via Yeni Çarşı. It can be seen that the provision of permeability between Ali Hikmet Paşa Square (Figure 4) and Zağnos Paşa Mosque (Figure 5) was intended in the formation of Yeni Çarşı. However, traditional organic street layout in the study area is almost imperceptible (Figure 6).



Figure 4. Ali Hikmet Paşa Square



Figure 5. Zağnos Paşa Mosque

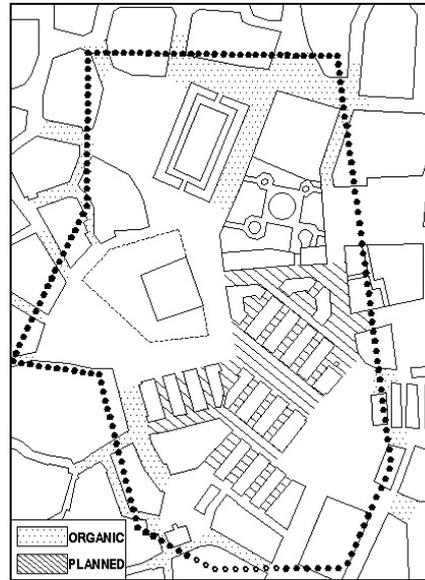


Figure 6. Characteristics of the fabric

2) Type of Linkage Scheme (compositional form, megaform, group form): As Maki asserts (1964), there are three different formal types of urban space; compositional form, megaform, and group form. Compositional form is typical of functionalist urban design approaches. Megaform consists of individual components that are integrated into a larger framework in a hierarchical, open-ended and interconnected system. Group form is the result of incremental accumulation of elements in space and is particularly typical of the spatial organisation of many historic towns. Linkage is neither implied nor imposed but naturally evolved as an integral part of the organic structure in group form.

In the study area, type of linkage scheme is almost imperceptible. However, it seems that there is a pre-mature type of linkage scheme, which is composed of the resultant of both group form of the traditional fabric and compositional form of the functionalist urban design approaches (Figure 7). Compositional form could not be wholly implemented; consequently, the spatial order is not totally modernised.

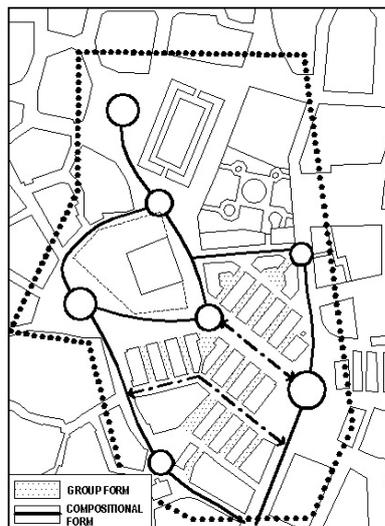


Figure 7. Type of linkage scheme

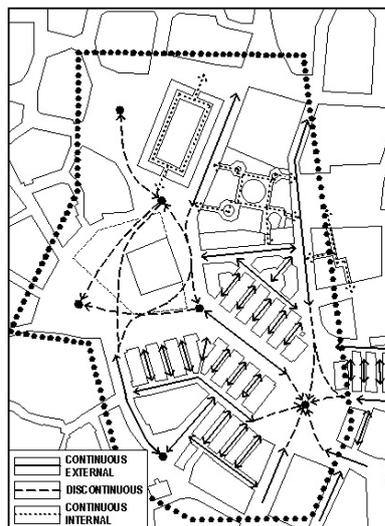


Figure 8. Continuity of paths

3) Distribution of Paths (linear/planar distribution): Planar distribution of urban elements (paths and nodes) in an area shows that there exists a multi-directional and optional spatial order. However, linear distribution of these elements means that this space is monotonous, enforcing and insistent.

While this distribution of paths in the study area displays a linear characteristic along Milli Kuvvetler Street and Anafartalar Street, a more planar distribution can be discerned in the area located in the north and west of Hasan Baba Çarşı. Additionally, Yeni Çarşı constitutes a different tissue, as a new model, with the inner streets created inside it. Even though this is not a totally planar distribution, it creates a new approach towards the interruption of linear distribution (see Figure 6).

4) Continuity of Paths (continuous external, discontinuous, continuous internal): Shopping is a pedestrian activity, and requires a continuous circulation area for pedestrians. It cannot be said that circulation elements in the study area are continuous in that sense. Although this continuity is physically possible, the inadequacy of functional diversity and visual richness makes the perception of this continuity much more difficult. On the other hand, these circulation elements are oriented mainly for vehicular traffic. Therefore, although the physical continuity can be partially provided for cars, pedestrian flow in the study area is impaired via vehicular traffic arrangements (Figure 8).

5) Lengths of Paths (0-50, 50-100, 100-150 meters): The lengths of paths can be investigated under three different categories pertaining to the traditional town fabric:

a. 0-50 meters: It is the average path length that is observable in cul-de-sacs.

b. 50-100 meters: It is the average path length that is observable in housing fabric.

c. 100-150 meters: It is the average length of the paths connecting the areas of urban services and streets related to commercial activities which mostly take place in traditional city centre.

Almost all of the paths in the study area can be grouped within categories a or b, and thus, provide the dimensional characteristics of the traditional city. When their distribution is examined, one can see that the category, which is valid in the central district where shopping is quite intense, is b with 50-100 meters length (Figure 9). This distribution pattern helps perceptibility, thus legibility of commercial-urban spaces.

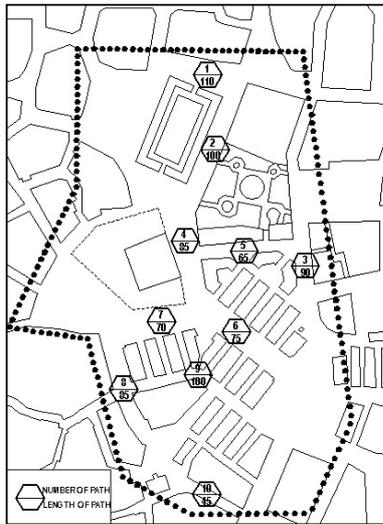


Figure 9. Lengths of paths

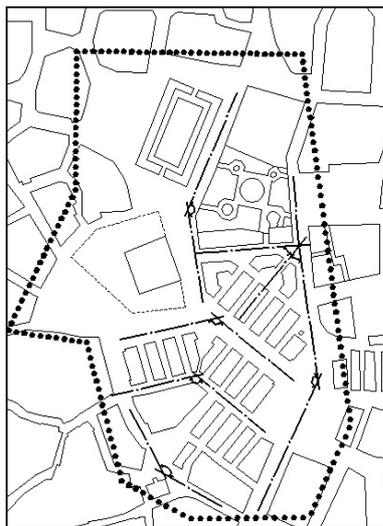


Figure 10. Orientations and angles of paths

kind of interaction. Alexander et al. (1977) describe nodes as ‘outdoor rooms’.

1) Spatial Characteristics (piecemeal/monolithic, complex/simple, free and organic/strict and regular): Piecemeal, complex, free and organic spatial order is the quality of traditional cities, and refers spatial diversity, and thus, it provides the conditions required for creating ‘shopping places with social attributes’.

Spatial characteristics of the nodes in the study area are shown in Table 4. These nodes are mostly far from traditional features.

6) *Orientations and Angles of Paths (linear/angular):* Angular connections of paths provide opportunities for pause, rest and re-orientation, and offer an amazing spatial experience to users. On the other hand, more changes in direction along the path provide longer use of the space (Roberts et al., 1999). This path layout is generally seen in traditional settlements.

In the study area, it can be seen that paths are connected with each other through various angles (Figure 10). A linear path layout can be observed in Yeni Çarşı. Yet this layout is not in total contrast with the angular path layout, on the contrary, it delicately associates with this fabric through various articulations. The path layout is one of the characteristics that associate the study area with traditional city.

7) *Rhythmic Characteristics of Commercial Urban Blocks (existence/absence of rhythmic order):* As a compositional rule, rhythm refers to repetition of elements. In the design of paths, the most important components that are repeated are urban blocks and their sizes. Krier (1984) suggests that urban blocks should be: ‘as small in length and width as is typologically viable’, thus providing more streets to walk down and more opportunities to turn corners. The smallest urban blocks are generally found in the centre of traditional cities (Moughtin, 1996), and such urban blocks maximises commercial benefit, and also tend to generate more street life.

When the dimensions of urban blocks in the study area are examined, one can notice the traces of a rhythmic order of the past, among the blocks located in the north of market hall. Today, this order seems to have lost, and displays a development towards a non-rhythmic order consisting of two or more blocks merging together. Hasan Baba Çarşı offers a rhythmic order within its interior space with sensitive references to the urban fabric which itself replaced. In spite of its strict planning approach, Yeni Çarşı attempts to rehabilitate the rhythms of the commercial urban block by the spatial organisation it offers through the dimensions that are reminiscent of traditional fabric. Thus, these two shopping complexes provide the conditions required for creating ‘shopping places with social attributes’ within themselves. Nevertheless, the failure of the relationship between them may have caused to the loss of the conditions of urban unity in the traditional fabric.

b. *Nodes:* Nodes (or squares) are strategic areas from viewpoints of ‘orientation’ and ‘legibility’ (Lynch, 1960). Generally, the places where several paths join together can be regarded as nodes. The psychological message of a node is that it is an invitation to pause and engage in some

Table 4. Spatial characteristics of the nodes

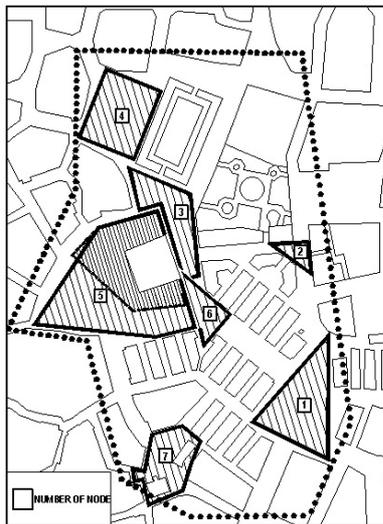
| No | Name of the node | Spatial characteristics |
|----|---|--|
| 1 | Ali Hikmet Paşa Square | Monolithic, simple, strict yet organic |
| 2 | Intersection of Yeni Çarşı-Hasan Baba Çarşı | Monolithic, simple, organic |
| 3 | The area in the south of market hall | Piecemeal, complex, free and organic |
| 4 | The area used as bus stops in the west of market hall | Monolithic, simple, organic |
| 5 | The courtyard used as bus stops in the west of Zağnos Paşa Mosque | Piecemeal, simple, free and organic |
| 6 | The area where Zağnos Paşa Mosque and Yeni Çarşı intersect | Piecemeal, complex, organic |
| 7 | The area in the north of İncirli Mosque | Piecemeal, complex, organic |

2) Geometric-Typological Characteristics (square, circle, triangle and their combinations): In Krier's classification of squares (1979), geometric-typological characteristics are determining factors rather than historical development patterns. In the first phase of his classification squares are categorised into three groups as square, triangle and circle. In the next stage, each of these groups is further divided into groups as regular and irregular. Thus, numerous types of squares can be obtained.

Geometric-Typological characteristics of the nodes in the study area are shown in Table 5 and Figure 11. Nodes in the study area are partially clear geometric shapes, but they need to be re-arranged in order to provide legibility and perception.

Table 5. Geometric-typological characteristics of the nodes

| No | Name of the node | Geometric-typological characteristics |
|----|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Ali Hikmet Paşa Square | Triangle |
| 2 | Intersection of Yeni Çarşı-Hasan Baba Çarşı | Triangle |
| 3 | The area in the south of market hall | Amorphous |
| 4 | The area used as bus stops in the west of market hall | Rectangular |
| 5 | The courtyard used as bus stops in the west of Zağnos Paşa Mosque | Trapezoid |
| 6 | The area where Zağnos Paşa Mosque and Yeni Çarşı intersect | Triangle |
| 7 | The area in the north of İncirli Mosque | Amorphous |

**Figure 11.** Geometric-typological characteristics

3) Enclosure Levels (enclosed, semi-enclosed, unenclosed): As mentioned before, 'enclosure' is one of the most critical features an urban space should have (Norberg-Schulz, 1971). High level of enclosure means spatial definition, and many of the negative aspects of nodes are related to lack of definition.

As it is seen in Figure 12, enclosure levels of the nodes in the study area are inadequate resulting in difficulties in their perception as positive urban spaces.

4) Balance of Shopping Activity-Social Activity (functional diversity) (shopping dominant, equilibrium of shopping and social activities, social activity dominant): Functional diversity (or mixed use) facilitates the formation of 'place' in urban space through longer use of urban space by various users (Jacobs 1961). If functional diversity is provided, people use many facilities in common. Therefore, this feature is strongly connected with providing the formation of 'shopping places with social attributes'.

Balance of shopping activity-social activity of the nodes in the study area is shown in Figure 13. It is seen in the study area that nodes are isolated from social functions for the sake of providing spaces for mere shopping and thus, the formation of 'shopping places with social attributes' is insufficient.

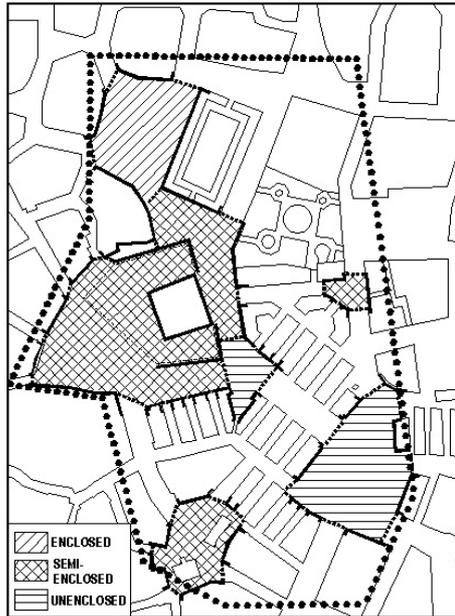


Figure 12. Enclosure levels



Figure 13. Balance of shopping activity-social activity

5) Distribution of Nodes (linear/planar distribution): As expressed before, planar distribution of urban elements in an urban area demonstrates that a multi-directional and optional spatial order is provided. On the contrary, linear distribution of them causes monotony and enforcement. Planar distribution is the most salient feature of concept of ‘place’ in traditional cities, and thus, ‘shopping places with social attributes’ (Bırol, 2003).

Nodes in the study area have the general characteristics of a planar distribution. This distribution partially reflects the characteristics of traditional fabric (Figure 14). However, they cannot be perceived at all, let alone being perceived linearly or planar, mainly because they neither do have genuine characteristics to be able to gather and distribute people, nor are related to one another. Only nodes with number 4 and 5 can be perceived since they are currently used as bus stops and thus they continually collect and distribute people from and into the city.

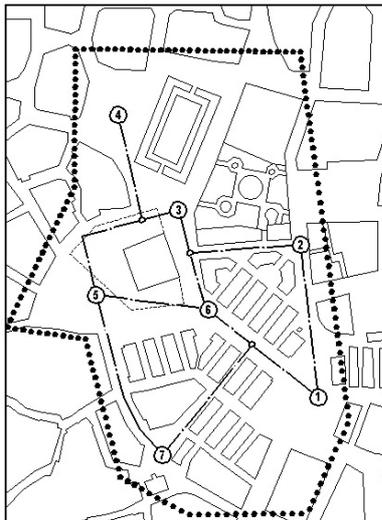


Figure 14. Distribution of nodes

6) Number of Path Intersections (whether or not they are optional): Abundance of path intersections on nodes means that there is an optional spatial order. The nodes in the study area where various paths intersect have great significance from the viewpoint of their capability of creating ‘shopping places with social attributes’ within the urban fabric. Nevertheless, these nodes are mostly utilised as vehicular traffic intersections, the possibility of creating such places in these locations are considerably weakened (Figure 15) (Figure 16).

III. Definition of the Characteristics of Spatial Organisation

1. Figure-Ground Relationship (grid, angular, curvilinear, radial, axial, organic): As stated before, analysis of figure-ground relationship constitutes the first phase for the formal classification of the relationships between the building masses and the surrounding voids (Moughtin, 1992) (Trancik, 1986).

The study area exhibits an organic distribution of solids and voids (Figure 17). Thus, this area is still carrying the features of the figure-ground relationship of traditional city. However, angular and linear solid-void equilibrium of Yeni Çarşı seems to be injected into the tradi-

tional urban structure. The contradiction between organic and linear figure-ground relationships results deficiency in the legibility of space by pedestrians.



Figure 15. Pedestrian continuity interrupted by vehicular traffic in Yeni Çarşı



Figure 16. A view from Zağnos Paşa Mosque towards the square on its west, the problem of enclosure and the impairment of spatial unity with bus stops

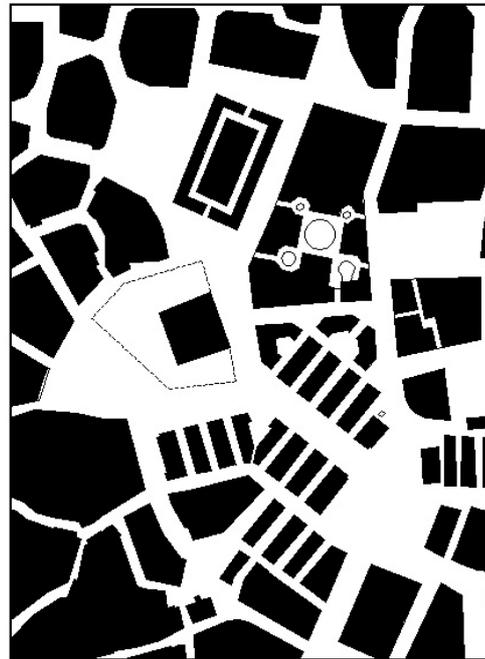


Figure 17. Figure-ground relationship

2. Spatial Hierarchy (existence/absence of hierarchical order): As a design idea, hierarchy implies a rank ordered change from one condition to another, and it refers degree of importance exist among forms and spaces. Krier (1991) and Ching (1996) explain that hierarchy by size, by shape and by placement are the main compositional rules in architecture.

Although there is a great potential to constitute a hierarchical order from viewpoints of form, enclosure, position and size in the study area, such an order does not exist. Lack of hierarchical order among the various spatial components in the area causes difficulties in legibility.

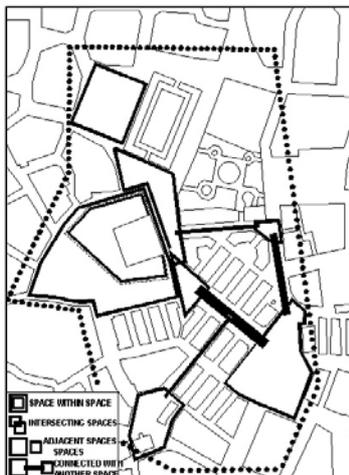


Figure 18. Classification of spatial combinatory relationships

3. Classification of Spatial Organisation (central, linear, radial, cluster, grid):

As mentioned before, Ching (1996) classifies spatial organisation types as central, linear, radial, cluster and grid organisations.

It can be seen that the spatial elements in the study area generally have a cluster type of organisation, which reflect traditional characteristics of the fabric, yet linear spatial organisation of Yeni Çarşı differentiates from this overall organisation. However, these two types of spatial organisation are not well integrated causing spatial disintegration.

4. Classification of Spatial Combinatory Relationships (space within space, interlocked spaces, adjacent spaces, spaces connected with another space):

It can be observed that urban components in the area are usually the spaces connected with another space (each node having the quality of a square are connected with a circulation element that is another space) (Figure 18). Such an organisation causes absence of spatial diversity in the study area.

Proposals and Conclusion

As a result of this study, it was observed that the morphological features of traditional shopping spaces in the study area have almost totally lost their traditional significance, and thus, have become almost unperceivable. However, existent yet illegible morphological features of urban image still carry the inherent potential, in essence, for transforming itself into a '*shopping place with social attributes*'. Therefore, it is concluded that the area must be transformed into a shopping place that can enhance social relationships by rehabilitation of the existing fabric. In order to transform traditional shopping spaces in the study area into its original outlook of a shopping place that can enhance social relationships, paths and nodes, and their spatial configuration have to be reorganised. This reorganisation will contribute to a pleasant urban environment and the strengthening of social life and enable the study area to re-gain its characteristics of enhancing social interactions.

To this aim, initially, linkage scheme in the study area should be transformed into 'group form' in accordance with the form of traditional fabric. On the other hand, distribution of paths should be converted into planar arrangement and should offer 'optional spatial order' to the users. While this order is being re-established, vehicle and pedestrian traffic should be arranged in order to strengthen social aspect of shopping through the continuity of pedestrian circulation. Repetition of small urban blocks in a rhythmic order is another notable aspect that can facilitate spatial unity in the study area.

The most significant deficiency of the nodes, which appears to weaken the quality of '*shopping places with social attributes*' in the study area, is disclosed to be the lack of required enclosure level. In other words, the main problem is lack of physical definition around them. Therefore, peripheral arrangement should immediately be made in these nodes. At the same time, the nodes in the area, which exhibit amorphous geometric-typological characteristics, should be transformed into gathering spaces that could be perceived as clear geometric shapes and could facilitate legibility and social activities in these spaces. Fragmentation of squares in the study area by vehicular traffic and bus stops is another significant factor that weakens both legibility and social attributes of this shopping place. Therefore, required arrangements should be done in order to increase pedestrian circulation. Eventually, provision of the balance of shopping spaces-social gathering spaces (functional diversity) inside or on the peripheries of the nodes could be another precaution that can facilitate constitution of '*shopping places with social attributes*'.

Rehabilitation of spatial organisation will enable the study area to re-gain its morphological features of enhancing social interactions. Despite figure-ground relationship may seem to be in equilibrium in the study area, it is observed in the intersection of traditional and modern fabrics that this equilibrium is impaired. Therefore, the connections of organic distribution of solid-void in the existing fabric and axial figure-ground relationship should be enhanced through the formation of positive outdoor spaces at the locations where these two different fabrics are hinged. On the other hand, it seems necessary to establish a hierarchical order in the study area since such an order would enrich the legibility of the urban space from spatial and morphological point of view. Implementation of the spatial arrangements for the linear and clustered spatial organisations to be integrated would at the same time provide a solution to the problem of spatial fragmentation in shopping place. Finally, the absence of spatial diversity in the grouping of paths and nodes seems to cause impairment of continuous perception for the user and thus, difficulties of orientation. In order to overcome these problems, the use of other connection types such as 'space within space', 'intersecting spaces', and 'adjacent spaces' in addition to substantial use of 'spaces linked by a common space' in the distribution of nodes, would be appropriate.

It is claimed in this paper that such rehabilitation would contribute to the provision of much more vital and liveable urban environment and increasing the significance of traditional urban core in Balıkesir.

Consequently, this paper is concluded by suggesting that such approach can potentially play a crucial role to the definition and systematisation of urban problems observed in traditional shopping places in town centres.

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