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Analysis of Atikvalide's Book According to Kevin Lynch's Concepts

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Abstract

A city's form refers to its physical layout, structure, and organization, which encompasses streets, buildings, landmarks, open spaces, and overall urban design. City planners play an important role in defining the city's form so that it is memorable and easy to navigate for its inhabitants. This approach is consistent with Lynch's book (Lynch, 1960), which investigates how humans perceive and mentally map metropolitan environments. It fosters a stronger bond between individuals and their cities, creating a sense of belonging and connecting them to the urban environment. Lynch discusses concepts like pathways, nodes, edges, districts, and landmarks. He wanted to explain how people saw cities. When we look at Atikvalide work, the author (Kahraman, 2009) attempts to visualize the setting by providing readers with intriguing characterizations that aim to create a lasting and vivid mental map. Methodologically, the study employed both qualitative and quantitative analysis to broaden the discussion of urban perception and cognitive mapping, emphasizing Lynch's work's long-term significance in modern urban studies. This strategy was used in this study by selecting specific excerpts that highlighted these urban aspects, which were supplemented with an analytical table to aid comprehension. The findings emphasize the preservation of historical and cultural identity in Üsküdar, despite modern advancements, and demonstrate how Lynch's urban aspects are reflected in the author's depiction of Valide-i Atik. The study finds that the readability of the Valide-i Atik region is consistent with Lynch's ideas, emphasizing the importance of historical preservation, community interaction, and incorporating modern and traditional elements into urban planning.

Keywords: Lynch's concepts, Valide-i Atik, mental mapping, urban perception, visualization.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The physical environment influences perceptions, feelings, and behaviors (Rapoport, 1982). Novels provide perspectives on areas by depicting physical scenery and cultural, social, and emotional characteristics. Through descriptions, character interactions, and plot, novels construct multifaceted depictions of regions, affecting our perception. Literature and architecture share a complex relationship. Pallasmaa (2012) states, "Architecture articulates human existence in dialogue with literature, philosophy, music, and poetry." Both fields create narratives and immersive experiences. Architects design spaces that evoke emotions and meet human needs, similar to how authors craft stories that engage readers. Literary depictions of areas help readers form mental images of unfamiliar places or see familiar ones from new perspectives, enhancing understanding of the built environment's emotional, historical, and cultural aspects. This study evaluates and extracts Lynch's concepts (Figure 1) that stated in his book the image of the city (Lynch, 1960), from passages in the novel Atikvalide, which depicts Üsküdar. The goal is to show how these urban aspects are demonstrated in descriptions of Valide-i Atik region, highlighting instances where Lynch's principles and distinctive city attributes are represented.
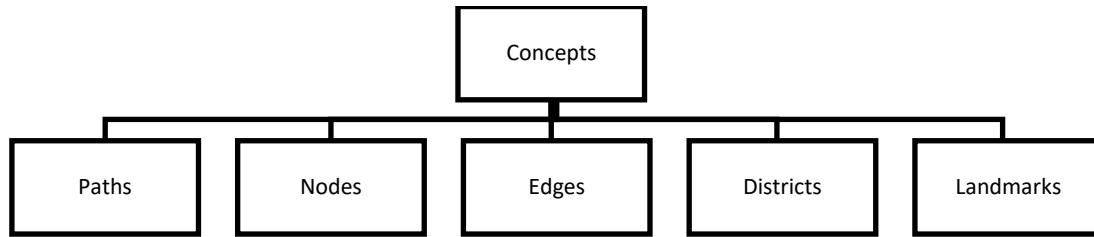

Figure 1. Lynch's concepts (Lynch, 1960)

1.1. Necessary Definitions

According to Lynch (1960), he described the definitions of the five elements as shown in Figure 2.

Paths	Routes that people take around the city, such as streets, walkways, and transportation lines.
Nodes	Nodes are strategic spots in a city, such as squares and junctions, where people gather.
Edges	Edges are the real and imagined boundaries and obstacles that divide distinct regions of the city.
Districts	Districts are medium- to large-scale areas of a city that are designed to have some distinguishing.
Landmarks	Landmarks are immediately recognized points of reference that act as navigational aids in urban landscapes.

Figure 2. The definitions of Lynch's concepts (Lynch, 1960)

1.2. Rationale for Choosing Valide-i Atik

The choice of Valide-i Atik region as the study's focus is motivated by its rich historical and cultural value, as well as its peculiar urban fabric. Valide-i Atik, located in Üsküdar, is an interesting case study because to its complicated structure and the way it incorporates many

components of Lynch's urban planning idea. Kahraman's novel Atikvalide (2009) provides vivid characterizations of the region, making it a suitable subject for evaluating Lynch's urban components. By focusing on Valide-i Atik, the study hopes to give a thorough cognitive map of this historically significant location, as well as findings that will help to further our knowledge of urban perception and design.

1.3. Literature Review

Lynch's work (1960) laid the foundation for understanding how people create cognitive maps of their surroundings. His concepts have since been used in various studies to analyze and improve the design and perception of urban spaces. Notable researchers, such as Appleyard (1970) and Whyte (1980) extended Lynch's ideas to explore the social aspects of urban design and how people interact with and shape their environments. Furthermore, the combination of qualitative and quantitative analysis proposed in the current research mirrors the interdisciplinary nature of studies in urban planning and design. Research by (Hillier et al., 1984) emphasized the importance of qualitative and quantitative methods in understanding urban spaces, arguing that a comprehensive analysis requires a combination of subjective experiences and measurable parameters. Using an analytical table as a tool for enhancing comprehension aligns with the methodological practices recommended by scholars (Creswell and Creswell, 2017). They emphasized the significance of organizing and presenting data systematically, especially when dealing with complex qualitative information, to facilitate a clear understanding of the relationships between different elements. Additional studies have reinforced and expanded upon Lynch's concepts in various contexts. For instance, Banerjee and Southworth (1990) revisited and evaluated the relevance of Lynch's work in contemporary urban settings, emphasizing the continued importance of cognitive mapping in urban design. Similarly, Tversky (1993) examined the psychological underpinnings of spatial cognition, offering insights into how people process and understand spatial information, further supporting Lynch's theories on urban perception. More recent research by (Mehta, 2014) applied Lynch's elements to different urban settings, showing their universal relevance and how cultural context shapes urban perception. This study combines Lynch's principles with modern methods, using both qualitative and quantitative approaches. By focusing on specific neighborhoods and their broader context, it aims to add to the ongoing discussion about how we perceive urban design.

1.4. Urban Identity

Urban identity is the distinct set of qualities and attributes that constitute a city's personality and sense of place. It includes a city's history, culture, architecture, social dynamics, and people' shared experiences (Proshansky, Fabian, and Kaminoff, 1983). Concrete components (buildings, streets, and public spaces) and intangible features (traditions, ideas) work together to establish urban identity. Rapoport (1982) addresses communal memory. It differentiates one city from another and contributes to individuals' emotions of belonging and allegiance to their community (Relph, 1976). According to Lynch (1981), urban identity is essential for instilling a sense of belonging and continuity among city dwellers. It allows individuals and organizations to connect with their environment, giving them a sense of belonging to something larger. Furthermore, urban identity may influence how strangers see a city, affecting tourism, economic growth, and cultural interchange (Ashworth and Voogd, 1990).

1.5. Urban Image

Urban image refers to people's mental perceptions of a city (Lynch, 1960), shaped by personal experiences, media, and cultural narratives (Hall, 1997). Factors influencing urban image include a city's physical form, landmarks, activities, and residents' behavior (Pocock and Hudson, 1978). A positive urban image can attract visitors and investors, while a negative one can deter them (Kotler, Haider and Rein, 1993). Lynch's "The Image of the City" (1960) highlighted essential elements like paths, edges, districts, nodes, and landmarks, which help people navigate and form a coherent image of the city. A well-defined urban image is crucial for city functioning and residents' well-being (Lynch, 1960). This image evolves over time with urban growth and changes. Urban planners and designers influence a city's image through thoughtful design and development (Carmona et al., 2003). Strategies like public art, green spaces, transportation networks, and community events enhance a city's livability and appeal (Gehl, 2010).

1.6. The Purpose of Sampling

According to (Palinkas et al., 2015), purposive sampling is common in qualitative research, selecting individuals or groups with relevant knowledge or experience. Availability and willingness also influence participant selection. (Cochran, 1977) noted that sampling helps researchers obtain a representative sample, enabling conclusions to be extended to the entire population. (Kothari, 2004) highlighted that sampling reduces expenses and time for data collection and analysis, particularly in large populations, while yielding comparable results to studying the whole population. Sampson and Wagg (2017) emphasized that sampling makes research feasible when studying the entire population is impractical or too costly, improving data management. Subedi (2021) discussed purposive sampling's role in capturing diverse perspectives in qualitative research, particularly for complex social phenomena, by selecting participants with the most relevant experiences. Cohen, Manion and Morrison (2018) suggested that sampling allows findings from a small, carefully selected group to be extended to the broader population. Initially, the focus was on passages related to Valide-i Atik's perception, aligning with Lynch's ideas, centering specifically on the Valide-i Atik neighborhood for precise outcomes.

1.7. Methodology

The primary goal of this study is to depict the Valide-i Atik area through a comprehensive examination of excerpts from the book, aligning each example with Lynch's thoughts and emphasizing their detailed descriptions of Valide-i Atik. Extending beyond Valide-i Atik to include adjacent communities, the study captures a broader urban context influenced by Lynch's urban theories. Integrating qualitative and quantitative analysis, the study explores Lynch's concepts by analyzing selected excerpts to understand urban elements such as Paths, Nodes, Edges, Districts, and Landmarks within Valide-i Atik and its surroundings. An analytical table is central to the methodology, systematically illustrating how Lynch's concepts manifest in the chosen excerpts and enhancing clarity by breaking down complex qualitative data. Descriptive methodologies are used to vividly depict Valide-i Atik's physical and cultural landscape, aligning these descriptions with Lynch's theoretical framework to effectively capture and relate qualitative insights to quantitative analyses. The reasons behind the selected methodology are shown in Figure 3.
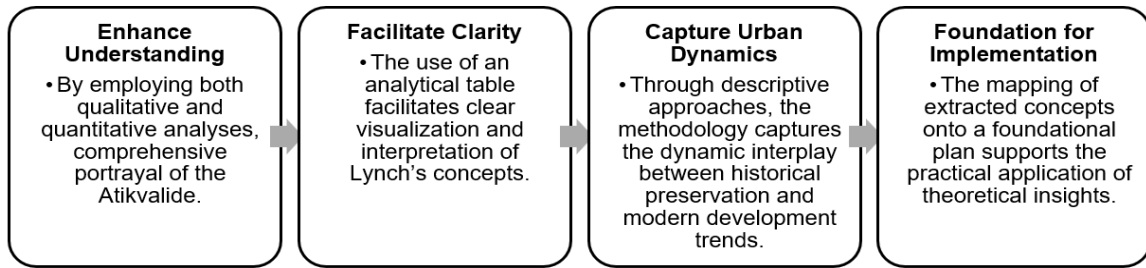
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Figure 3: The reasons for the chosen methodology (Hamvi, 2024)

In Table 1 below, descriptions of the five selected samples from the Atikvalide book are shown.

Table 1: Selected samples with their locations and information

Sample 1 (P 19-20)
As we drew and approached the Kartalbaba Mosque, we immersed ourselves in the atmosphere of the past. From the hilltop, Kartalbaba Street descends to Valide-i Atik, maintaining the character of an old Üsküdar street with its narrow, slightly broken path, flanked by standing towers, trees, and the distant lines of the Mosque. To the right, the ruins of an old cemetery are visible. The opening of Fahri Atabey Street in 1969 shifted the district's focus to Zeynep-Kamil Hospital, leaving Topus Street, which connected to Üsküdar, abandoned as "Old" Toptaşı Street, now a narrow, dark byway. Eski Topuşu Street, particularly the Atik Valide Social Complex, lost its centrality. Despite this, the historical texture persisted, secluded from the new life emerging nearby. Yahya Kemal preserved Valide-i Atik's memory with his monumental poems, preventing its complete erasure. Notably, Yahya Kemal first noticed Valide-i Atik during his embassy tenure abroad, missing the district's essence after seven years at the stadium. His connection to Istanbul remains profound.
Valide-i Atik general view with mentioned locations in Sample 1 (İstanbul Büyükşehir Belediyesi, 2024)
Sample 2 (P 26)
We moved to Yamacı Street from Koşuyolu in the autumn of 1977 and lived there until autumn 1984. Our first house was on the ground floor of Şenal Apartment, overlooking the backyard. When my brother got married, I left that flat to him and rented the ground floor of house number two at the end of the street, which was the first floor when viewed from the backyard. During this period, my son and eldest daughter were born, and I began writing and expanding my social circle. Yamacı Street, a humble and typical Üsküdar street between Kartalbaba Street and Lokmacıoğlu Street, is notable for the Kartal Baba Mosque on the corner. The mosque's qibla wall is on Nuhkuyusu Street, a side wall is on Kartalbaba Street, and the courtyard entrance wall is on Yamacı Street. When I lived there, most houses were not apartments, but over time, these houses with backyard gardens were replaced by apartment buildings. The gardens fell into disrepair.
Valide-i Atik general view with mentioned locations in Sample 2 (İstanbul Büyükşehir Belediyesi, 2024)

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Sample 3 (SP 27)
1980 was a turning point for my life and our street in Turkey. The milkman, who delivered milk daily to our house on Yamacı street, and the yoghurt maker, identified by his small rattle, soon disappeared, along with the unique taste of his yoghurt. Our backyard had a date palm tree that reached our balcony, but it vanished when our house was converted into an apartment. Ziya, the vegetable seller, was a familiar figure in our neighborhood, known for his wheelbarrow and minimal conversation. The main greengrocer was Manav Muzaffer, whose shop stood at the corner of Tahtaravancı and Kartalbaba streets. This independent masonry building, shaded by a tree, displayed a rich variety of bananas and seasonal produce. Despite the distance, the variety and hospitality of the Muzaffer brothers drew us to their shop. Muzaffer worked tirelessly with his wife and sometimes an assistant, always busy with new stock or serving customers.

Valide-i Atik general view with mentioned locations in Sample 3 (İstanbul Büyükşehir Belediyesi, 2024)

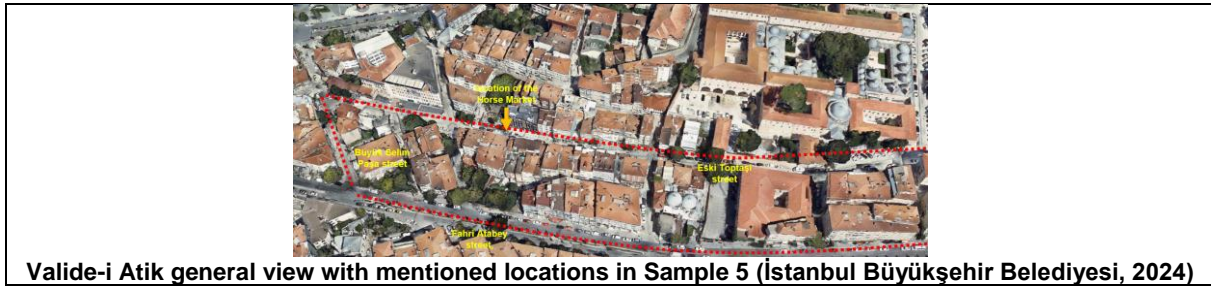| |
|---|
| **Sample 4 (P 34-35)** |
| We were in house number two on Yamacı Street, two months into our marriage, when we woke up around four or five in the morning to a loud explosion. Still groggy, I struggled to distinguish between dream and reality, imagining a gas cylinder explosion in one of the nearby buildings, possibly the Şenal Apartment where my brothers live. Fearful of what I might find, I hesitated to go outside. More explosions followed, intensifying my worry. Eventually, I put on my coat over my pajamas and went outside. During this period of rampant anarchy and student unrest, there was a general fear of venturing out at night. This fear was reinforced by a recent memory: one Ramadan evening, after tarawih prayers at the Kartalbaba Mosque at the start of our street, I invited my friend Zekai for tea. We used to gather for tea and chat until sahur during Ramadan nights. Zekai, a colleague from Balıkesir and a theology student, stayed at the Atik Valide Mosque complex, which served as a student dormitory, at the end of the street from the Kartalbaba Mosque. |

Valide-i Atik general view with mentioned locations in Sample 4 (İstanbul Büyükşehir Belediyesi, 2024)

Sample 5 (P 94-95)
Let's continue our descent down Toptaşı Street. Past Sokullu Primary School is Atik Valide Hammam, which is still operational. Further down, the street intersects with Büyük Selim Paşa Street at a square where a large building on the right was once a cinema. This square was historically Üsküdar's Atpazarı, a bustling area reminiscent of a large car dealership for horses. Beygirciler Street, once lined with saddlery shops, is a remnant of this market. The market extended up to Sokullu Primary School, with numerous inns around the square. Originally located near the Mihrimah Sultan Mosque on the beach, the market moved to Toptaşı Street and operated on Fridays. Horses were displayed in the square for buyers. Toptaşı Street, formerly Atpazarı Street, was the hub of horsemanship crafts. Further down is Atpazarı Osman Efendi Mosque, built in the 18th century by Sheikh Osman Efendi and rebuilt in 1985 by Ms. Semiha Şakir. Today, Toptaşı Street has lost its vibrancy, with Fahri Atabey Boulevard, opened in 1969, becoming the main artery. Many have forgotten this historic street that once connected upper Üsküdar to its center for centuries.

Valide-i Atik general view with mentioned locations in Sample 5 (İstanbul Büyükşehir Belediyesi, 2024)

1.8. About Atikvalide Book

The book recounts the author's visit to Valide-i Atik in 1977, vividly describing the calm atmosphere created by the harmonious architecture, water, and trees. The setting includes a courtyard with a fountain, a historical plane tree, and other trees, forming a unique and timeless environment. The narrative explores the historical context and changes in the district, particularly after Fahri Atabey Street opened. It mentions old Toptaşı Street, the Atik Valide social complex, and the evolving district dynamics, providing insights into the region's historical and cultural layers. The book also highlights the scholar Yahya Kemal's role in preserving Valide-i Atik's memory through literature, despite physical changes. Overall, the book is a reflective exploration of Valide-i Atik, blending personal experiences, historical context, and literary perspectives to convey the region's significance. The book includes some photos to complement the narrative (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Photos from the Atikvalide book; Fahri Atabey Street (left), Kartal Baba mosque from Nuhkuyusu Street (middle), Fahti Atabey Street (right), (Kahraman, 2009)

1.9. Valide-i Atik Neighborhood

Valide-i Atik is a historic neighborhood located in Istanbul. Situated within the Üsküdar district on the Asian side of the city, it includes a rich heritage and a blend of architectural styles from various periods. The area is characterized by its diverse array of landmarks, including the Atik Valide Mosque complex, which stands as a prominent historical site. Atik Valide Mosque, dating back centuries, serves as the focal point of the neighborhood. The complex comprises a central mosque, a madrasa, an elementary school, a dervish lodge, a Quran recitation school, an imaret (soup kitchen), a hospital, and a hamam (Yenen, 2020). Before presenting the findings, looking at some photos of the neighborhood helps for better understanding of context (Table 2).

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Table 2. Photos from the Valide-i Atik neighborhood

Fahri Atabey street (Google maps, 2023a)

Kartal Baba mosque from Nuhkuyusu street (Google maps, 2023b)

Eski Toptaşı street (Google maps, 2023c)

Sokullu Primary School (Google maps, 2023d)

Atik Valide complex (Üsküdar Belediyesi, 2023)

General map of Üsküdar district and the location of Valide-i Atik Neighborhood (Üsküdar Belediyesi, 2019)

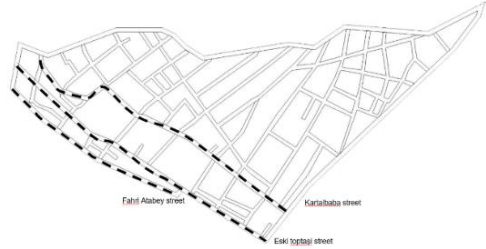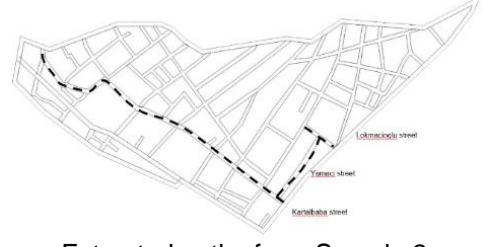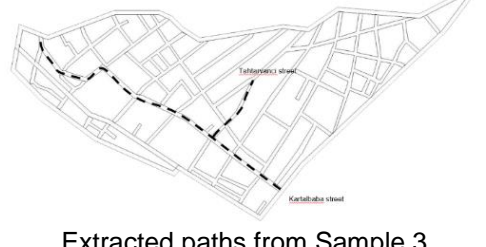General map of Valide-i Atik with names of its areas (Üsküdar Belediyesi, 2023)
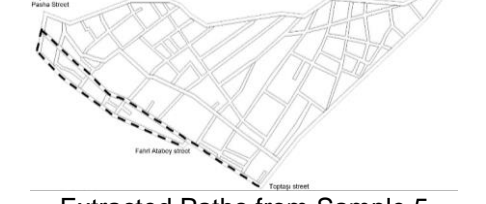
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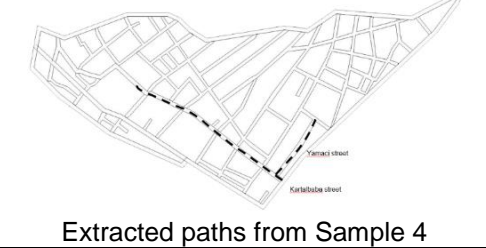
2.1. From Samples to Lynch's Concepts

Exploring Üsküdar's Valide-i Atik region through Kevin Lynch's urban design concepts reveals its spatial dynamics. Lynch's paths, nodes, edges, districts and landmarks framework helps analyze how urban elements shape this historical neighborhood's identity and functionality. Paths define movement, nodes are key interaction points, edges mark boundaries, districts provide unique identities, and landmarks serve as reference points. This section examines these elements across five samples (Table 3), showing how they contribute to Üsküdar's cohesive urban fabric.

2.1.1. Analyzing the Paths from the Five Samples

Paths are routes people use to travel, such as streets, walkways, transit lines, canals, and railroads. They facilitate movement, structure the city's layout, and are essential for navigation and orientation (Lynch, 1981). Analysis of paths in Üsküdar's Valide-i Atik region are shown in Table 3.
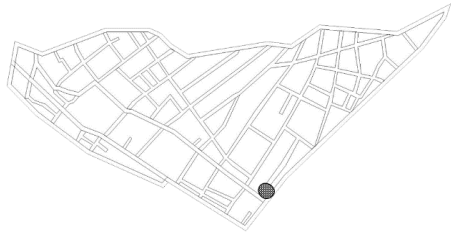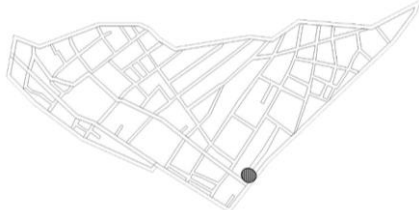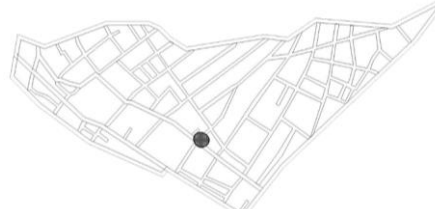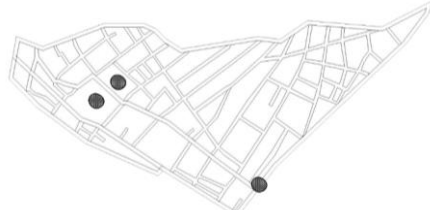
Table 3. Analysis of paths (Hamvi, 2024)

Location of Paths	Description	Visualization & Simulation
Sample 1	Eski Toptaşı street, Fahri Atabey street, and Kartalbaba street	Extracted paths from Sample 1
Sample 2	Yamacı street location between Kartalbaba street and Lokmacıoğlu street	Extracted paths from Sample 2
Sample 3	Tahtaravancı street, Kartalbaba street	Extracted paths from Sample 3
Sample 4	The mention of Yamacı street, the street leading from Kartal Baba Mosque	Extracted paths from Sample 4
Sample 5	Descriptions of streets such as Büyük Selim Paşa street, Toptaşı street, and Fahri Atabey Boulevard illustrate the pathways within the region	Extracted Paths from Sample 5

2.1.2. Analyzing the nodes from the five samples

Kevin Lynch describes nodes as key points in the urban landscape, like squares, open areas, and intersections. These nodes act as hubs of city life, hosting both planned and spontaneous events. They uncover opportunities and encourage meaningful interactions, enhancing the urban experience (Lynch, 1981). Analysis of nodes in Üsküdar's Valide-i Atik region are shown in Table 4.

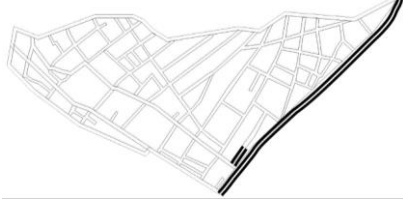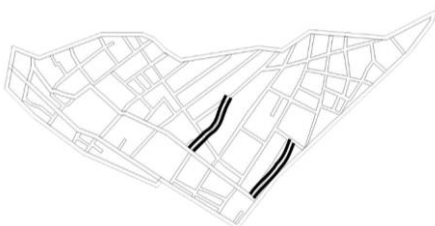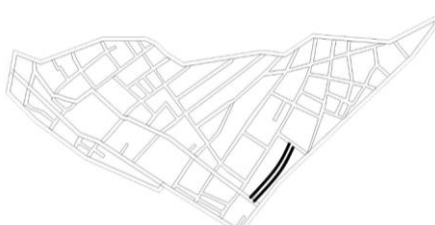Table 4. Analysis of nodes (Hamvi, 2024)

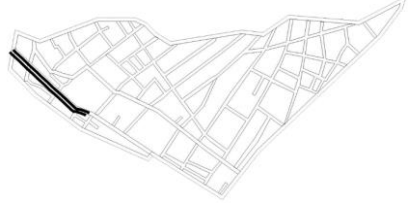| Location of Nodes	Description	Visualization & Simulation
Sample 1	Kartal Baba Mosque: Draws people and serves as a reference point.	Extracted Nodes from Sample 1
Sample 2	The courtyard of Kartal Baba Mosque its entrance on Yamacı street, serves as a significant node or focal point in the neighborhood.	Extracted Nodes from Sample 2
Sample 3	The corner where Tahtaravancı street intersects with Kartalbaba street and the spot in front of Manav Muzaffer's shop, which serve as nodes or focal points within the neighborhood.	Extracted Nodes from Sample 3
Sample 4	The Kartal Baba Mosque and Atik Valide Mosque complex are mentioned as points of gathering or interaction, potentially serving as nodes within the urban context.	Extracted Nodes from Sample 4
Sample 5	The square where Toptaşı street intersects with Büyük Selim Paşa street represents a node, a point of intersection and gathering within the urban fabric.	Extracted Nodes from Sample 5

From the analysis, nodes in the urban fabric, such as the Kartal Baba Mosque and the intersections of Toptaşı and Büyük Selim Paşa Streets, serve as critical junctures and focal points for significant interactions. These central gathering places facilitate movement, foster meaningful interactions, and enrich the urban experience, enhancing the city's social and cultural vitality.

2.1.3. Analyzing the Edges from the Five Samples

Edges are the boundaries that define and separate different areas within a city. These can be physical barriers like walls, rivers, railways, or perceived boundaries like changes in building styles or land use. Edges delineate areas, helping to frame and structure the city. They can serve as barriers or seams, influencing how people move and interact across different parts of the city (Lynch, 1981). Analysis of edges in Üsküdar's Valide-i Atik region are shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Analysis of edges (Hamvi, 2024)

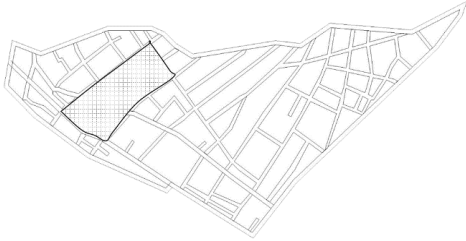| Location of Edges	Description	Visualization & Simulation
Sample 1	The distinct visual boundaries formed by the ruins of an old cemetery and the prominent lines of the Mosque in the lower area. Additionally, the trees that extends beyond upon the view from both sides contribute to defining and framing this spatial edge.	Extracted Edges from Sample 1
Sample 2	References to specific streets, such as Nuhkuyusu street, Kartalbaba street and the courtyard entrance wall on Yamacı street, delineate the boundaries or edges of the Kartal Baba Mosque within the urban fabric.	Extracted Edges from Sample 2
Sample 3	The presence of the yoghurt seller in front of number two on Yamacı street, and the location of Manav Muzaffer's shop at the corner represent edges or boundaries in the neighborhood.	Extracted Edges from Sample 3
Sample 4	The reference to the buildings, streets, and the neighborhood itself can represent the edge elements. These details give a sense of the surrounding boundaries and structures.	Extracted Edges from Sample 4

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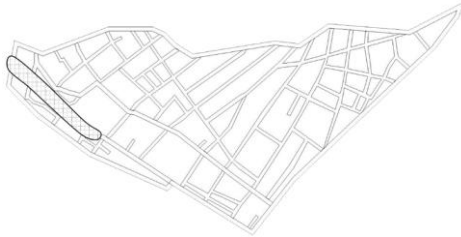| Sample 5	The boundaries and transitions described, such as the location of the Horse Market on Toptaşı street, form edges delineating the spatial extents and historical shifts within the urban environment.	 Extracted Edges from Sample 5

The role of edges is evident in diverse examples: from the visual boundaries formed by historical ruins and prominent architectural lines to the delineation provided by streets, courtyard walls, and notable shop locations. These edges not only frame and structure the city but also highlight transitions and historical shifts within the urban fabric, contributing to the city's identity and coherence.

2.1.4. Analyzing the Districts from the Five Samples

Districts are large sections of the city that have a distinct character. These areas are recognizable by their unique identity and homogeneous features. They help in organizing the city into manageable and identifiable parts. They provide residents and visitors with a sense of place and belonging, making it easier to navigate and understand the urban fabric. Analysis of districts in Üsküdar's Valide-i Atik region are shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Analysis of districts (Hamvi, 2024)

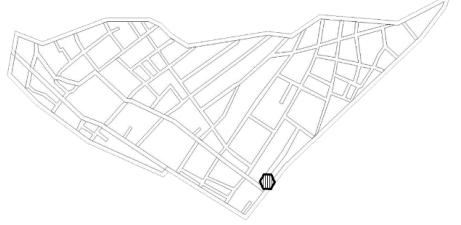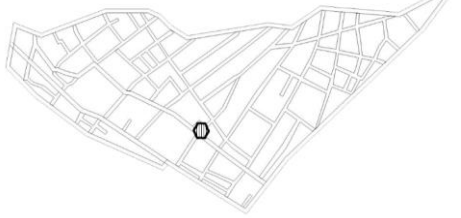| Location of Districts	Description	Visualization & Simulation
sample 1	The opening of Fahri Atabey street, affecting the old fabric and the character of Eski Toptaşı street. This illustrates the concept of districts, which are larger sections with a unique identity.	Extracted districts from Sample 1
sample 2	Not mentioned	
sample 3	Not mentioned	
sample 4	While not explicitly defined in this Sample, the mention of different locations within the cityscape (like different streets, buildings, and areas) could represent elements of districts or neighborhoods.	Extracted Districts from Sample 4

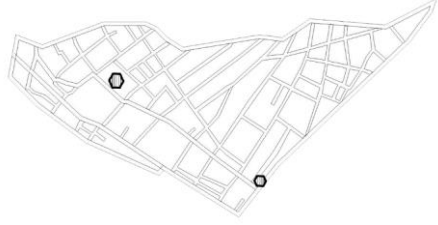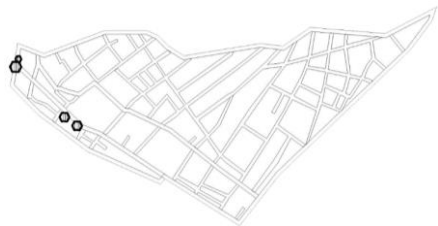| sample 5	Üsküdar's Atpazarı, mentioned in various contexts within the passage, represents a district. It's an area with its own identity and character within the city.	 Extracted Districts from Sample 5

The opening of Fahri Atabey Street affects the old fabric and character of Eski Toptaşı Street, illustrating how districts with unique identities contribute to the overall structure of the city. In Üsküdar, the Atpazarı serves as a district, representing an area with its own distinct identity and character. Even when not clearly mentioned, references to different locations within the cityscape can indicate the presence of districts, highlighting their importance in defining the city's layout and identity.

2.1.5. Analyzing the Landmarks from the Samples

Landmarks are distinctive, often visible structures or features that serve as points of reference. These can include buildings, monuments, natural features, or any other prominent object in the landscape. Landmarks aid in navigation and orientation, providing reference points that help people understand their location within the city. They also contribute to the identity and visual character of the urban environment. Analysis of landmarks in Üsküdar's Valide-i Atik region are shown in Table 7.

Table 7. Analysis of landmarks (Hamvi, 2024)

Location of Landmarks	Description	Visualization & Simulation
sample 1	The mention of Atik Valide Social Complex can be seen as a landmark, which are distinctive and easily recognizable features within a city.	 Extracted Landmarks from Sample 1
sample 2	While not clearly identified as landmarks, the mosque, and the description of the neighborhood's transformation over time can be seen as elements that contribute to the residents' mental map of the area.	 Extracted Landmarks from Sample 2
sample 3	It doesn't clearly mention landmarks, it describes the physical features and shop of (greengrocer Muzaffer) that would have been recognizable and memorable to the residents of the neighborhood.	

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		Extracted Landmarks from Sample 3
sample 4	The Kartal Baba Mosque and the Atik Valide Mosque complex serve as notable landmarks	Extracted Landmarks from Sample 4
sample 5	The Atik Valide Hammam, the cinema building, the Atpazarı, Sokullu Primary School serve as significant landmarks within the region.	Extracted Landmarks from Sample 5

From the analysis of landmarks across the samples, various elements such as the Atik Valide Social Complex, Kartal Baba Mosque, and Atik Valide Hammam are identified as prominent landmarks. These landmarks are not only easily recognizable but also hold cultural and historical significance, enhancing the residents' mental maps and reinforcing the unique identity of the Üsküdar region. Thus, landmarks play a dual role in facilitating spatial orientation and enriching the cultural and historical texture of urban environments.

After the analysis, if we superpose all extracted elements from the five samples, we will come up with a map for Valide-i Atik region. The map below shows variations in the size and area of each element within the examined areas (Figure 5).

Path	- -
Edge	▬▬
Nodes	●
Ddistrict	▦
Landmark	⬡
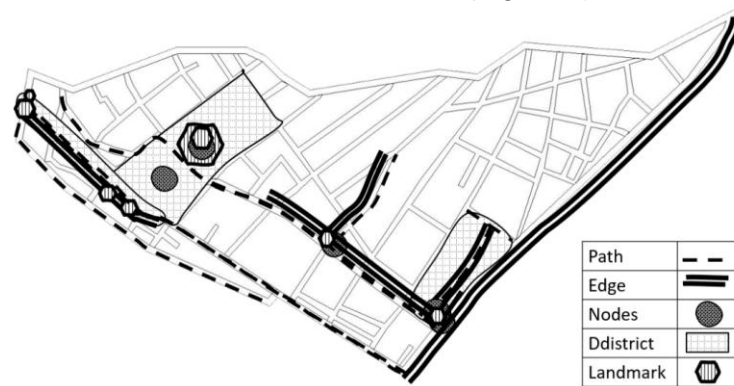
Figure 5. The visual form of Valide-i Atik with extracted elements from the five samples (Outline map from Üsküdar Belediyesi, 2023 and redrawing by Yasemin Hamvi, 2024)

For instance, in sample 3, a small shop served as a memorable landmark for the residents. In contrast, in sample 1, the Atik Valide complex was the largest landmark in the neighborhood, as evident from the region being named after it. This serves as an example that the volume of landmarks, nodes, edges, paths, and districts varies. Moreover, each region can have multiple elements within the same examined area, while some areas may lack certain elements due to the unique physical characteristics of the region.

Overall, the superposition of these elements reveals a cohesive urban fabric where each component plays a crucial role in shaping the identity, functionality, and character of Üsküdar. This integrated approach underscores the importance of preserving historical elements while accommodating modern urban development, ensuring a harmonious blend of past and present in the city's landscape.

The chart in Figure 6 illustrates the urban elements identified across five samples within the Valide-i Atik region, aligning with Kevin Lynch's urban design concepts. This chart visually represents how these elements vary and overlap across different samples, providing insights into the urban structure and cultural significance of the Valide-i Atik region in Üsküdar, Istanbul.
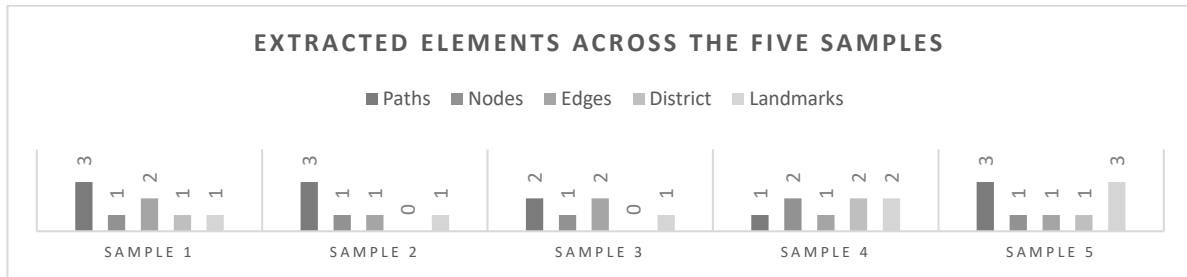

Figure 6. Extracted elements across the five samples (Hamvi, 2024)

3. CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Conclusions

The study shows that, despite development and modernization, Üsküdar's urban fabric preserves its historical and cultural character, contributing to a multifaceted urban tale. Key results from the samples show the following:

- **Cultural heritage preservation**: The Atik Valide Social Complex, Hammam, and abandoned cinema preserve Istanbul's cultural heritage and collective memory. This aligns with Lynch's ideas on landmarks and their role in cognitive mapping, highlighting the importance of maintaining historical and cultural continuity in urban spaces (Banerjee and Southworth, 1990).
- **Urban development trends**: Yamacı Street's shift from traditional dwellings to contemporary flats illustrates urban development trends and changes in the urban fabric, reflecting the dynamic nature of metropolitan environments and the impact of social interactions on urban development (Appleyard, 1970; Whyte, 1980).
- **Social interactions and urban identity**: Cohesive neighborhoods and local stores emphasize social interactions in shaping urban identity. The loss of these components due to modernization shows the impact of economic and sociological changes on neighborhood character (Hillier and Hanson, 1984).
- **Sensory and emotional experiences**: Sensory and emotional experiences connect physical space and human perception, contributing to cognitive mapping and providing insights into social and cultural dynamics (Tversky, 1993).
- **Diversity in urban components**: Variations in Lynch's urban components (Paths, Nodes, Edges, Districts, Landmarks) among locales show the diversity in urban spaces. Some locations include several components, while others may lack some

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due to physical limits, supporting an interdisciplinary approach to organizing and presenting complex qualitative data (Creswell and Creswell, 2017).

The study reinforces Lynch's relevance in modern urban research and contributes to the discourse on urban design perception. It echoes Mehta's (2014) work on Lynch's concepts in various urban contexts and highlights how cultural factors influence urban perception. Overall, the research integrates historical theories with modern methods to analyze urban environments, demonstrating the continued relevance of Lynch's theories while offering new insights into the unique character of Istanbul's Valide-i Atik region.

3.2. Recommendations

- **Preserve historical landmarks and cultural sites**: To maintain Üsküdar's unique character and collective memory, it is necessary to preserve its historical landmarks and cultural sites. Efforts should be made to protect these areas from over-modernization while simultaneously integrating them into the current urban fabric. This will enhance local residents' connection to their heritage and attract tourists seeking an authentic experience.
- **Balanced urban planning**: Urban planners should strive for a balanced strategy that preserves historical traits while fulfilling present expectations. This may be done by repurposing ancient structures and incorporating traditional architectural elements into modern structures. Such an approach provides urban planners, architects, and policymakers with a framework for sustainable development that respects historical context.
- **Enhance readability and navigability**: Use urban design ideas that are aligned with Lynch's goals to improve the city's readability and navigability. Clear signage, well-defined pathways, and visible landmarks can help locals and tourists create unified mental maps of the area, making the urban environment more accessible and easier to navigate for both residents and visitors.
- **Encourage recording and sharing narratives**: Encourage the recording and sharing of personal and community narratives regarding urban environments. These narratives can provide valuable insights into the city's human experience, resulting in a better understanding of its identity. This initiative will help researchers, historians, and community members preserve the intangible cultural heritage, enhancing the collective memory of the city.

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3.3. Discussion

- **Integration of lynch's concepts:** The study emphasizes Lynch's elements (Paths, Nodes, Edges, Districts, and Landmarks) in shaping urban environments. Preserving landmarks like the Atik Valide Social Complex helps maintain cultural continuity and aids navigation in Üsküdar.

- **Balancing preservation and development:** The transformation of Yamacı Street from traditional houses to modern flats shows how urban planning can balance historical preservation with contemporary needs through adaptive reuse and integration of traditional elements.

To cite: HAMVİ, Y., 2025. Analysis of Atikvalide's book according to Kevin Lynch's concepts. *bab Journal of FSMVU Faculty of Architecture and Design.* 6 (1), s. 27-47.

- **Social interactions and urban identity:** Local stores and cohesive neighborhoods shape urban identity. Preserving these elements amid modernization is crucial for maintaining the social fabric of historical neighborhoods.

- **Sensory and emotional experiences:** Focusing on sensory and emotional experiences highlights the link between physical space and human perception, enhancing cognitive mapping and aligning with Tversky's research on spatial cognition.

- **Diversity in urban components:** Variations in Lynch's elements across Üsküdar suggest that a context-sensitive approach is necessary for effective urban planning, considering each locale's unique characteristics.

- **Implications for urban planning:** Recommendations include:

    a) Adaptive Reuse: Repurpose historical structures for modern use.

    b) Mixed-Use Development: Combine residential, commercial, and cultural uses.

    c) Public Space Enhancement: Improve public spaces to foster social interaction and urban identity.

- **Policy recommendations:** Policymakers should prioritize historical conservation and support community-led projects. Collaboration among government, academia, and communities is crucial for sustainable development while preserving Üsküdar's cultural heritage.

3.4. Future research

- **Comparative studies**: Conduct comparative studies between Üsküdar and other historic districts in Istanbul to identify commonalities and unique characteristics in urban transformation and preservation practices.

- **Digital and technological integration**: Explore the integration of digital technologies such as GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and 3D mapping techniques to enhance the documentation, preservation, and visualization of cultural heritage in urban environments.

- **Community engagement**: Further investigate the role of community-led initiatives in preserving local culture and identity amidst urbanization, exploring strategies for sustainable community development and empowerment.

- **Policy and planning implications**: Investigate the policy implications of balancing historical preservation with contemporary urban development, focusing on effective regulatory frameworks and governance structures.

Conflict of Interest Statement and Liability Statement

This article complies with research and publication ethics, and there is no possible conflict of interest.

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The article was designed and produced by the author.

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Yasemin Hamvi

Yasemin Hamvi was born in 1987 in Homs Syria. She graduated from Alba'ath University, Department of Architecture in 2010. Before graduation, she was nominated to work on a project related to reviving the Barada River in Damascus. She attended a workshop from Hannover University, Germany. Subsequently, she was selected as one of the top four in the design subject, allowing her to travel to Germany to complete the project at Hannover University. Additionally, she had the opportunity to work on other projects in Hannover. Due to the war, she couldn't complete her master's degree in Syria. Fortunately, she had the opportunity to finish her master's degree at Fatih Sultan Mehmet University, Department of Architecture in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2021; Her thesis was about (Reviving Architectural Values of Damascene Domestic Buildings from Ottoman Period); Hamvi started her doctorate in 2023 at Fatih Sultan Mehmet University, Istanbul, Türkiye, Department of Architecture. Between 2011-2012, she has taught at Alba'ath University, Department of Architecture, Homs, Syria. At the same time, she worked on huge project with Homs municipality about redesigning the whole facades of extended region of ALwaer neighborhood. From 2012 till present, she has worked as a freelance architect on a variety of projects, including the design of a medicine factory, sports faculty, different types of villas, and the decoration of various spaces. In addition to working as an architect, she has volunteered with humanitarian organizations that provide training and education to refugees in Turkiye.