

AN INVESTIGATION OF TERRITORY CONCEPT IN THE CONTEXT OF TWO RESIDENTIAL UNITS IN ANKARA: ISRAEL HOUSES AND SARAÇOĞLU NEIGHBORHOOD

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ABSTRACT

The term of territoriality has been a significant concept since the beginning of history for both animals and human being. It is required for the maintenance of their lives to sustain their nourishment, sheltering and the other needs. Accordingly, the reflection of this situation has shown itself as an occupancy desire. A special space which its boundaries are defined is needed to be occupied for that purposes by promoted by the archetype which is inside of us. In this sense, the space regulates the behavior of people depending on its hierarchical structure. As the hierarchy of the space changes, then the interaction between people also changes. To this respect, the term of space could be defined as a regulative mechanism which alters the connection among people. This is directly linked with the territoriality concept. The more personal the space, the less interaction between people. The less personal the space, the more interaction between people. The first type of the territoriality concept might cause introversion or aloneness. On the other hand, the second type of the territoriality concept might cause extraversion or socialness. Introversion / aloneness and extraversion / socialness are related with the privacy levels which are defined by the inhabitants of a specific territory. The relationship between the desired and achieved privacy levels constitutes the formation of introversion / aloneness or extraversion / socialness of the people in their boundaries of defined territories. In this context, territoriality concept is examined considering two residential areas in Ankara, named as Israel Houses residential unit and Saraçoğlu Neighborhood. The study is supported by field survey. In the process of field survey, the territorial boundaries in the residential areas have been recognized depending on their types. Whether the territory boundaries are defined or not is determined for the both residential area. Then, it is linked with the occupancy, privacy and archetype concepts. As a result of the field survey, it is observed that Israel Houses residential unit has exactly defined territory boundaries which constitutes an ideal situation for the interaction between people. However, it is confirmed that Saraçoğlu Neighborhood does not have exactly defined territory boundaries as in Israel Houses residential unit. Therefore, it could be stated that the interaction between people constitutes a level which might disturbs the inhabitants of the neighborhood which creates an unfavorable situation for them.

Key words: Territoriality, Privacy, Archetype, Space

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1. INTRODUCTION

Human being has always needed a space which is possessed by them. This is a law of nature which is adopted by both human being and animals. The possessed space is required for living species to maintain their existence, to maintain their vital activities. This is actually an interesting fact that causes the formation of boundaries in terms of space. Each living creature should have a certain amount of space to live. In the case of occupation of this space, the existence of them would be in danger. Accordingly, the living creatures are in the tendency to protect their own existence spaces, in other words their boundaries to sustain their features of animacy. Looking at a different standpoint, a spatial territory is appropriated. It is highly connected with the privacy issue. People look forward privacy to resume their own spaces, namely their appropriated spatial territories by occupying these territories.

2. THE TERRITORY CONCEPT AND ITS RELATED FEATURES

Privacy constitutes the fundamental term which is required for the protection of the boundaries of territories. This term is defined as main regulatory tool which sustains the level of accessibility of a person or a group considering the others (Altman 1975). Privacy determines the openness of the territorial boundaries of a person to the others. If a person or group prefers to add another person or group, the level of privacy is decreased by them to include the others to their own spatial territories. It is determined by the desired privacy preference of people. There exists two level of privacy. The first one is defined as desired privacy and the second one is defined as achieved privacy (Altman 1975). Desired privacy could be identified as desirable privacy level which a person or group prefer. If desired privacy is sustained, then it could be stated that people show the ability to adjust ideal level of privacy considering their interaction relationship with the other people. On the other hand, achieved privacy could be stated as the occurred level of privacy apart from the desired privacy level. It is claimed that if the desired privacy is equal to achieved privacy, the ideal privacy level is sustained (Altman 1975). In the light of this information it could be asserted that if the desired privacy level is greater than the achieved privacy level, then it is stated that more interaction is sustained than the desired level. On the other hand, if desired privacy level is less than the achieved privacy level, then it is stated that the person or the group is defined as alone, little interaction than the desired level.

The ensuring elements which privacy sustains could be considered in two dimensions. First of all, privacy is significant in the sense of regulating relations with the other people. It is a tool for people to regulate their social relationships with other people. Second, it sustains the psychological wellbeing of people since it ensures the self identity (Altman and Wohlwill 1994). Thence, it could be specified that privacy give people an opportunity to alter their egregiousness level to other people. Accordingly, they have a chance to choose people that they want to included in their personal space. On the other hand, privacy is required to sustain the self

identity of people. Boundary protection of the boundaries of the personal spaces is significant in the context that people feel safe themselves in these boundaries and it is not possible for people to develop their self identities without a safe environment. The privacy needs of people are related with four occupancy issue. The occupied territory is protected or appealed by different levels of privacy. Occupancy of a specific territory could be analyzed under three titles as personal, community and society occupancy. Personal occupancy could be defined as territories which belong to the people who have deep relations, for instance people who are married or having blood relations. Community occupancy could be defined as territories which are more open to the stranger people. In these territories, there is less freedom exists considering the territories occupied by personal. The last type of occupancy, namely society occupancy can be divided into two. Social occupancy could be defined as territories which are accessible to the public generally. However, it is not required to always open to the whole public. Additionally, free occupancy could be defined as territories which have not persistence rules to follow (Altman and Wohlwill 1994). In the light of this information it could be indicated that the more occupancy level exists, for instance as in the personal occupancy, the more privacy degree is observed. People are more inclined to protect their boundaries of territories as in the personal occupancy. Thus, this situation increases the level of privacy needs of the people.

The mentioned privacy and occupancy issues are directly related with the space, in other words territory. Territory is defined as the fact that the related aspects with the spatial behavior of people are called as territoriality (Altman and Wohlwill 1994). As different definition, territories imply a spatial area which is defined by a specific boundary and this area is generated with a sense of ownership. In the context of ownership, people constitute their daily performances to sustain their lives. This can be also observed in the case of the other living creatures. Another aspect which territories has that they are marked in order to indicate that they are the special boundaries possessed by certain groups. This marking issue could be implemented by some types of specific signs which define the boundaries of territories. These markings might include elevation differentiations or fences in the spatial sense. These markings refer that the boundary of an occupied space, namely territory, begins with the marking. Therefore, the stranger stays out of the defined territory (Altman 1975).

Territories are comprised of three types as primary, secondary and public territory. Primary territory could be defined as owned by people with strict rules to define the boundaries of the territory to keep away the others from that area. Additionally, owners of primary territories maintain their daily lives in the boundaries of these territories. The homes of the people could be defined as primary territories of that people. Secondary territory could be defined as having less strict rules comparing with primary territories in the context of interaction with the other people. These territories show less private characteristic. They might be identified as semi public areas. The last type of territory, public territory could be defined as an area which boundaries are open to the general public and there are no rules to keep away any specific groups from that area. Everyone has the right to involved in public territories.

The issue of the occupation level of territories and types of territories are highly interconnected with themselves. As stated earlier, personally occupied territories are shared with people who have close relations, therefore it would not be wrong to state that personally occupied territories could also be defined in the context of primary territory concept. Similarly, community occupancy issue is related with the secondary territories. The occupancy of specific territories by the specific communities causes the formation of secondary territories which boundaries are protected by the rules to allow specific communities to include in. Lastly, social occupancy and free occupancy are related with public territory. In the socially occupied territories, whole public could not be included in the boundaries of these areas. However considering in the free occupancy context, everyone could be included within these areas. Therefore; although both social and free occupancy concepts could be defined under the head of public territories, there exists a bit level differentiation between them.

After the definitions of privacy needs and occupancy of territories arising from these needs, the feelings in which people develop within the boundaries of certain territories should be investigated. These feeling are in a relationship with the terms called as appropriation, attachment or identity. These three terms identifies meaning and importance which are developed by people living in using their certain types of territories. Their territories gain value when they develop a meaning about that territory. This situation causes the formation of a relation with the people and the territory as a significant place. Therefore, meanings attached to the territories are significant in the sense of the determination of a certain territory's characteristics related with the human behavior included in. This causes the attachment of people to particular place, namely territory, called as place attachment. Both place attachment and place identity refer that when people develop social, cultural and psychological importance to those places, they feel themselves as a unity with those places (Altman and Werner 1985). Additionally, as another definition, attachment feelings of people to certain places reflect the feeling of possessiveness arising from developed image and identity (Franck and Schneekloth 1994). Therefore, it could be stated that place gain its value, in other words its meaning, when people living in it develop mentally relations with it considering socially, psychologically and culturally. So that it would be possible to think the place and the habitants included in as a single component, compatible with each other.

It could be stated that the territoriality term could be related with the archetypes which people develop. Archetype could be defined as learnt behavior which is derived from ancestors. Most of the time we could not recognize the fact that some of the behaviors we show in our daily lives are highly connected with the archetypes which come from previous generations by birth. These behaviors constitute basic daily behaviors as sheltering and nourishment. Attendantly, it could be stated that basic daily activities could be considered as instinctively learnt. This instinctively learnt behaviors show themselves in an unconscious way. This concept is also discussed by Jung under the perspective of title called as collective unconscious. Individual unconscious which is obtained by the person from the community life and its integration with collective unconscious which is obtained by birth, come down from ancestors, is called by Jung as archetypes.

As said, archetypes could be defined as unconscious behavior or feelings of people which obtained by ancestors by birth. One of the unconscious behaviors could be asserted as the need of people to have a personal space. As stated above, territories constitute the personal spaces of an individual or a group of people. These personal spaces, namely territories, should be protected by its owner to maintain its existence and its existence depends on the need of a protected personal space, which could be considered as an archetype. In their protected personal spaces, people try to maintain their lives by sustaining their needs in these boundaries. Therefore, they do not want anybody to reach beyond these boundaries without having permission from them. In the view of such information, primary, secondary and public territory types will be analyzed in the context of some certain residential units in Ankara, named as Israel Houses and Saraçoğlu Neighborhood. In the analysis of these examples, which kinds of territories are identified will be explained for each residential unit example supported by the images of these examples in order to understand the spatial reflection of “the unconsciousness feeling of possessing the space”.

2.1. Israel Houses

Israel houses could be stated as one of the successful residential units which protect the territorial boundary of its habitants. Israel Houses were built by an Israel construction firm in 1950s named as Solel Boneh, that’s why these houses are called as Israel Houses (Küçük 2005) and these houses show the clear spatial identification characteristics. It could be argued that the main theme in the context of territory concept has not changed since the construction period of these houses since the division of primary, secondary and public territory concepts could still be clearly identified, thanks to the design characteristics of the site. As a matter of fact, this residential unit was successfully built by developers since it shows the characteristics of an ideal neighborhood unit. Thereby, it could be asserted that this residential unit could be considered as a small scaled neighborhood unit. The recreational usages and a square which was designed for commercial purposes within the scope of human scaled design sustain a prosperous and livable area. These places could be identified in the context of territory types. The commercial square could be identified as public territory indicated in Figure 1. and Figure 2. However, not so much people use this square except the habitants of the residential unit. Accordingly, this place could also be considered as the combination of public and secondary territories. In addition to this, the built of recreational usages is sustained by the successful arrangement of the buildings’ backyards (Figure 3.). The consideration of backyards as together enables the formation of an effective recreational area for the habitants. Therefore, it could be claimed that the hierarchical sequence of the territory types could be easily understood in the context of this residential unit.



Figure 1. Location of the residential unit



Figure 2. Market square as public territory

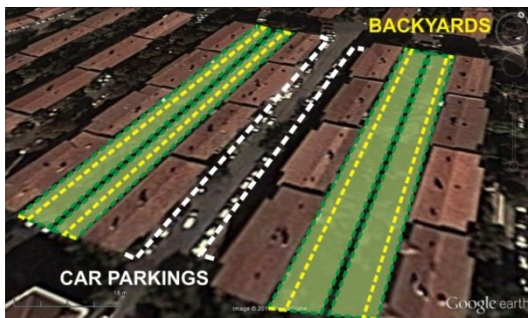


Figure 3. Aerial view of the site



Figure 4. Conceptual side view of the site

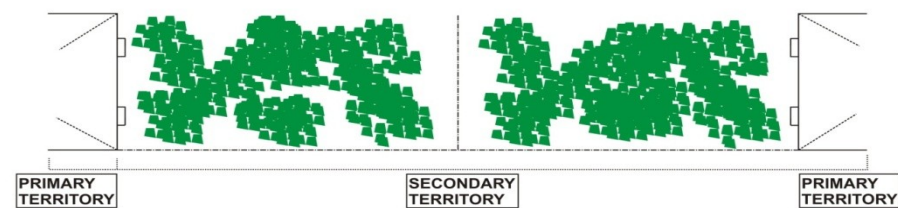


Figure 5. Conceptual top view of the site

As indicated in Figure 3.-4.-5., the back yards of the buildings constitute a well designed recreational area for the habitants of the residential unit. In this example, the floor of the backyards is under the road level. This situation generates the exact

division between the backyards and road, one of them is secondary territory and the other one is public territory, respectively. The buildings, in this case, are primary territories; backyards are secondary territories and are used effectively for recreational purposes by the residential units' habitants and the roads including sidewalks are public territories. Additionally, a market square was designed to provide necessary daily needs of the habitants of the residential unit. This square could be considered as public territory; however, it also shows the characteristics of a secondary territory since most of the time habitants of the residential unit and the people from immediate environment use this square.

In addition to this, this residential unit is a successful example in which its habitants have equal desired and actual privacy levels. It is due to the division between primary, secondary and public territories are clearly defined in this example. People continue their daily lives in their flats which are primary territory, socialize with the other habitants of the residential unit at their secondary territories which are created by the effective arrangement of the backyards. Additionally, strangers cannot enter to this secondary territory of the habitants since this area has exact distinction with the road used by the public, defined as public territory. This distinction was procured by the ground level differentiation between the back yards and the road, secondary territory and public territory, respectively.

2.2. Saraçoğlu Neighborhood

Saraçoğlu neighborhood stands on Kızılay, central business district of Ankara, exists on a central position of the city, nearby the ministries zone (Figure 6.). The neighborhood was built for the bureaucrats who work for ministries. Accordingly, it could be stated that the neighborhood was built for meeting the residential needs of top-tier public officers. The neighborhood has similar design characteristics with Israel Houses residential unit explained previously. Buildings stand as human scaled perspective makes the neighborhood having a calmer environment which reflects the built environment characteristics of mid-1940s, the period which the built of Saraçoğlu Neighborhood was started. The neighborhood and the ministries area attached with the neighborhood had an effective relationship considering in the context of territory concept beginning from the period of mid 1940s. However, when Kızılay area has had the characteristics of central business district of the city, the division of territories could not be differentiated clearly as it could be before (Figure 7.-8.-9.). The main reason for this constitutes the population increase of the area, which rises the circulation of people who desire to benefit from central business activities. Therefore, at the present time, it could be claimed that the houses constitute primary territories; however, the front yards of the buildings do not constitute a defined primary or secondary territory. It seems like enabling strangers to enter these yards. Apart from primary and secondary territories, public territory includes the sidewalk and continues with roads (Figure 10. and Figure 11.).



Figure 6. The location of the neighborhood



Figure 7. Building, yard and sidewalk



Figure 8. Building and front yard



Figure 9. Façade and front yard

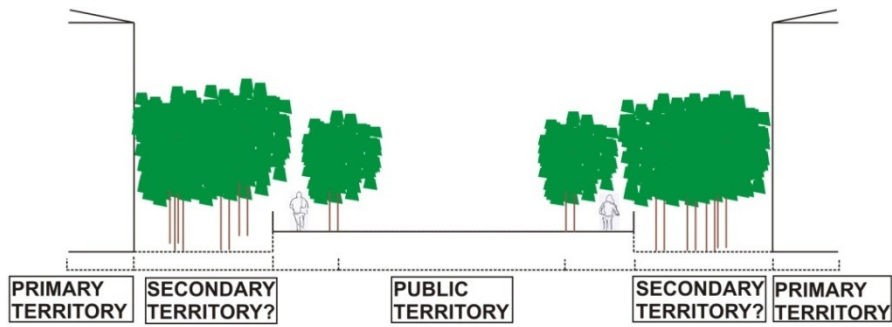


Figure 10. Conceptual side view of the neighborhood

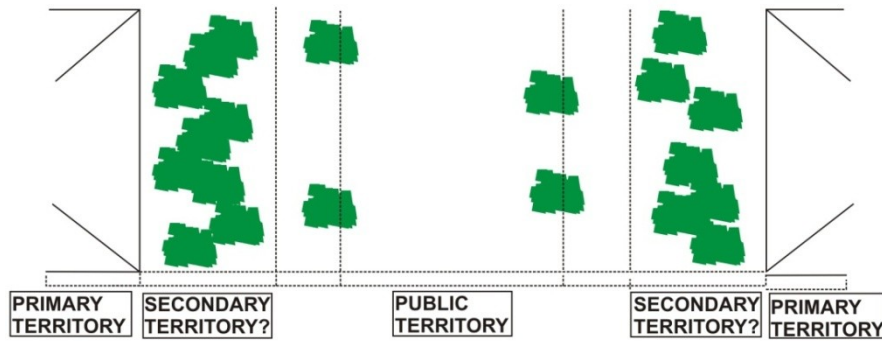


Figure 11. Conceptual top view of the neighborhood

As indicated in the Figure 10. And Figure 11., the front yards of the each building constitute a secondary territory (might private or public territories, also) for each buildings' habitants as well as each buildings constitute primary territory for their dwellers. In this example, secondary territory and the public territory cannot be separated in an obvious way. Although the front yards of the buildings, as indicated in Figure 10., mostly located below of the road level, the clear division between the sidewalk and the front yard could not be sustained. This situation occurs due to the neighborhood is located on one of the most crowded area of the city. In this neighborhood, both pedestrian and public transport transit levels are high. Accordingly, it could be claimed that since the neighborhood is located on a high density central business district and the boundaries of each territory types are not defined clearly, the neighborhood is easily accessible to strangers.

3. GENERAL EVALUATION AND CONCLUSION

In this study, people's desire of achieving dominance and its reflections to the design are analyzed. For this reason, the territory types which are the reflections of different occupancy types (personal, community and society) are examined in two examples as Israel houses residential unit and Saraçoğlu neighborhood. Among these two examples, Israel houses residential unit is determined as having territory types at the exact places as they should be. Although, this residential unit was not designed as a gated community, the habitants of the unit do not feel unsafe since their private territories (primary and secondary) were defined in an effective way by design. For instance, secondary territories created by the back yards are only used by the habitants. Strangers are separated from this area in an exact way. The second example, Saraçoğlu neighborhood has some unclear territory boundaries comparing with Israel houses example. The obvious differentiation of this neighborhood from Israel houses is that it is more open to the public; it is more accessible by the strangers apart from its habitants and this situation creates an indefinite situation about the boundaries. In this context, although the front yards of the buildings do not constitute an active greenery area, namely recreational area for the public use,

strangers could easily enter to these yards or could interrupt the process of the usage of local people.

Both of the examples were built to sustain ideal neighborhood life to their residents by providing clear identification of territory types. However, the rise of the central business district characteristics of Kızılay, nearby Saraçoğlu Neighbourhood, has caused the neighborhood to lose its defined boundaries of territory types. On the other hand, the location advantage of Israel Houses, namely located on the residential area of the city where does not constitute central business district characteristics, has ensured these houses to provide their clearly defined territory types.

To sum, at the present time, Israel houses residential building has the ideal territory types division. The area enables people both to live their personal lives in their personal territories and to socialize with the habitants of the site providing efficient recreational usage created by its back yards. Habitants of Israel houses could adjust their privacy levels as they wish since design opportunities which their living area sustains. On the other hand, Saraçoğlu neighborhood has indefinite territory types division. In the area, the habitants could have difficulty in adjusting their desired privacy levels since the secondary territories are under the threat of public one. Therefore, what is the ideal one between these two examples? The answer is Israel houses residential unit. Since this unit allows people to live their both private and social lives by sustaining a successful design, namely a livable environment has appropriate territorial divisions, it could be indicated as a good example about how territories should be designed considering people's need of occupancy related with their privacy levels.

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