

## **Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?**

### **1. Paper / Proposal Title:**

Overcoming urban alienation: Rereading the social history of 'building home' in the Tuzluçayır Neighbourhood in Ankara in the 1970s

### **2. Format:**

Written paper (3,000 words) and Verbal presentation

### **3. Author(s) Name:**

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### **4. University or Company Affiliation:**

Middle East Technical University

### **5. Abstract (300 words):**

The concept of alienation within Marxist thinking can be developed and redefined through the concerns of urban space. The alienating roots of urban spaces insinuate the semiotic, bodily and socio-spatial processes that constitute subjectivities. Overcoming urban alienation requires a position of counter-resistance. To that end, some lessons may be taken from the social history of informal housing built by marginal communities in major urban areas. In this paper, then, urban alienation and overcoming urban alienation will be elaborated through a look back at the distinctive history of a marginal and counter-resistant neighbourhood in Ankara, Turkey, during the 1970s. The narrative of the Tuzluçayır Neighbourhood points to two important features that provide insight into the issue of overcoming urban alienation: Firstly, this was achieved by breaking the usual socioeconomic production processes and thereby resisting hegemony; the second factor relates to the collective and bodily experience of building homes that characterises Tuzluçayır. To frame this special field, three major conceptualisations will form the backbone of the discussion: Marx's conceptualisation of the theory of alienation, the Hegelian approach to collectivity and production, and finally Bloch's three motives of Utopia. The aim of this research is to interpret the social

history of building homes through a spatiotemporal lens, and consequently to problematise urban alienation and how to overcome it in light of its multiple dimensions, including production, collectivity, the body and politics, in search of the possible common future of cities, communities and homes. Redefining and overcoming urban alienation may lead to new interpretations of the problematic of the 'liveable urban future for cities, communities and homes'.

**6. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Gülşah Aykaç is a PhD candidate at Middle East Technical University. She earned her BA and MA degrees at Istanbul Technical University. Her MA thesis, which is on dance, body and space, proposes a new research methodology for architecture. Since she has shifted her studies to bio-politics and space, and is currently studying the evolution of theories on the body as a spatial and political agent, along with its reflections in architecture since the 1960s. She teaches at Çankaya University, Ankara. In addition, she has been taking part in design competition teams, design-studio juries and workshop organisations.