

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

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Urban Parks for Urban Future

- **Format:**

Written paper / verbal presentation

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

Livable cities must encourage social diversity in urban spaces in order to create a socially sustainable future. While housing is of primary importance for urban living, outdoor spaces, in which social interactions occur, are equally vital and complementary. Therefore, it is required to develop an understanding of inclusive urban spaces.

Hence the present study aims to create an understanding of urban spaces through readings on urban parks by investigating their spatial settings with their inclusionary and exclusionary characteristics for their users. This reading on urban parks also aims to represent a projection of the community living in the neighbourhood where the parks are located.

The theoretical approach of the study is based on the modernist utopia of space and its contradictions through conceptions of Lefebvre, Mike Davis and Jane Jacobs.

Central Park, which displays Olmsted's modernist vision of ideal inclusionary space and modern society, is taken as reference for the theoretical discussion.

The spatial settings of parks are investigated in terms of whether they have inclusive aspects, which appeal to their users from different socio-economic backgrounds and bring them together to build egalitarian relationships, or exclusive aspects that appeal to specific users of a certain socio-economic class and impose them upon building hierarchical relationships.

The case study investigates three non-historical parks from different districts with similar types of urbanisation processes that are based on an unplanned growth due to the migration to Istanbul. These parks with different extensities also represent three types of scales: city, neighbourhood and coastal.

As a result of the study, design strategies and theoretical understandings of architects and urban designers are found to be overly idealised and the conceptions of inclusionary space observed to be overwhelmed by urban living that resists to comply with the regulations or projections.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Nazmiye Nurdogan is a PhD candidate working under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Ayşe Sentürer at Istanbul Technical University (ITU). She is currently interested in interdisciplinary design and research, architecture-landscape and architecture-philosophy intersections. She also works as a research assistant at Istanbul Arel University, Turkey.

She has her bachelor's degree in architecture from Istanbul Technical University in 2011. She has a Master of Science degree in Architectural Design from Istanbul Technical University in 2014. She wrote her master thesis under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Ayşe Sentürer. In her master thesis titled "Architecture as the Topography of Movement" she discussed the relationship between architecture and movement.

Her works include articles published in several architecture and design journals and conference books. She has also prepared competition entries, worked as a workshop co-tutor and an architect in professional architecture offices.