• Paper / Proposal Title:
A Virtual Panopticon in Turkey during the Covid-19 Pandemic: The Case of the Location-Based Mobile Application ‘Hayat Eve Sığar’

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• Abstract (300 words):
Based on Jeremy Bentham’s panopticon design (1785) as the architectural manifestation of surveillance, Foucault theorizes how modern societies are built upon the relationship between power and knowledge operated by surveillance, self-regulation, and participation. With the development of information and communication technologies, these power and surveillance mechanisms expand beyond the spatial boundaries. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the measures against the disease such as tracing, quarantine, and especially virtual surveillance to provide order and discipline for the public health with the citizens’ compliance create panopticon-like organizations. With the locative media and surveillance, exemplified by the mobile application called 'Hayat Eve Sığar' (literally translated as 'life fits into home'), which is a part of the official
precautionary measures against the Covid-19 disease in Turkey to trace and isolate the diseased, surveillance mechanisms become a binary system incorporating physical and virtual spaces. The ‘Hayat Eve Sığar’ application tracks the health statuses of the individuals and residences like the panopticon cells and shares the necessary information to protect the public. It transforms the perception and interpretation of space through the mediation of information and communication. In this regard, this study aims to investigate the intersections and ambiguity between information and surveillance, security and control, physical and virtual, urban places and electronic spaces, the public, and private spheres.

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

Başak Tükenmez received her B.Arch in Architecture from Middle East Technical University Faculty of Architecture (2010-2017). Continues her M.A. in Architectural History at Middle East Technical University (2017-present). Currently works as a Research Assistant at İzmir Katip Çelebi University. Major research interests include modern architecture, postmodern architecture, domestic architecture, media, and consumption.

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