

THEORY, DESIGN, PLANNING AND PRAXIS PERSPECTIVES IN THE CONTEXT OF
SPACE, BUILDING AND CITY

Editor

Prof. Dr. Fatma Zehra AKICI



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FOREWORD

Space, buildings, and cities are never static entities. They are continuously shaped and reshaped by social values, cultural practices, technological innovations, environmental conditions, and political decisions. As contemporary societies confront unprecedented challenges—including rapid urbanization, digital transformation, climate change, heritage conservation, and evolving social expectations—the need to understand the built environment through multiple perspectives has become increasingly important. Theoretical inquiry, design experimentation, planning strategies, and practical applications must therefore be considered together in order to address the complexity of contemporary spatial issues.

This book, *Theory, Design, Planning and Praxis Perspectives in the Context of Space, Building and City*, brings together diverse scholarly contributions that explore the built environment across different scales, from the interior space and architectural element to the building, the public realm, and the urban landscape. Collectively, the chapters demonstrate that space is not merely a physical container of human activity; rather, it is a dynamic construct shaped by cultural meanings, technological developments, environmental concerns, and social interactions.

The opening chapter, which examines architecture in the post-truth age, invites readers to reflect upon the changing nature of reality and its implications for architectural thought and spatial production. By questioning how contemporary perceptions of truth influence the experience and representation of space, the chapter establishes an important theoretical foundation for understanding architecture in an era characterized by fragmented realities and rapidly shifting social narratives.

The role of emerging technologies in design processes is further explored through the discussion of virtual reality, augmented reality, and artificial intelligence applications in landscape architecture. The increasing integration of immersive technologies into design practice highlights how digital tools are transforming spatial visualization, participatory processes, and user experience. These developments signal a significant shift in how designers communicate ideas and how users engage with future environments before they are physically realized.

Several chapters focus on the relationship between public space, social life, and urban justice. The study of waterfront accessibility along the Bosphorus examines how spatial inequalities emerge through restrictions on public access and emphasizes the importance of the “right to the city” within contemporary planning discourse. Similarly, the investigation of Al-Mutanabbi Street in Baghdad demonstrates how street design can support social interaction, cultural continuity, and collective urban identity. Together, these contributions reaffirm the central role of public space in fostering inclusive and socially sustainable cities.

Questions of identity and place are addressed through the chapter on architectural identity loss in Erzurum. By proposing a measurable framework for evaluating architectural character, the study contributes to ongoing debates regarding urban standardization, placelessness, and the preservation of local identity in rapidly transforming cities. This concern for identity resonates strongly with several other chapters that examine the relationship between cultural heritage and contemporary urban development.

The experiential dimensions of architecture are explored through the chapter investigating the integration of water into building design. Water is presented not only as a functional element but also as a medium capable of enriching sensory experience, environmental quality, and spatial meaning. This perspective reminds us that architectural design extends beyond physical form to encompass human perception and emotional engagement with space.

Environmental sustainability emerges as another major theme throughout the volume. The bibliometric analysis of vernacular wooden architecture highlights the relevance of traditional building knowledge in addressing climate change challenges. By examining the adaptive capacities of timber-based heritage, the chapter underscores the value of vernacular wisdom as a resource for future sustainable design practices.

The book also makes significant contributions to the field of architectural conservation. Comparative examinations of the Parthenon and the Pantheon reveal how different conservation philosophies respond to varying historical and cultural contexts. Likewise, the analysis of the Urnes Stave Church demonstrates the importance of balancing material authenticity with cultural continuity in the preservation of timber heritage. Together, these studies

illustrate that conservation is not simply a technical intervention but a process of negotiating values, meanings, and historical narratives across generations.

At the scale of domestic architecture, the comparison between the traditional tandirevi and the modern kitchen provides valuable insights into the transformation of social interaction within the home. By examining visibility, spatial organization, and everyday practices, the chapter reveals how changing lifestyles reshape domestic environments while maintaining certain enduring social functions. Complementing this perspective, the study of muqarnas geometry in Narmanlı Mosque demonstrates how traditional architectural knowledge can be understood through contemporary analytical methods, bridging historical craftsmanship and modern research approaches.

Taken together, the chapters in this book reveal the richness and complexity of spatial production across multiple scales and contexts. They demonstrate that understanding contemporary challenges requires an interdisciplinary dialogue among architecture, urban design, planning, landscape architecture, heritage studies, environmental research, and digital technologies. By bringing these perspectives together, the book contributes to ongoing discussions regarding how spaces are conceived, designed, inhabited, conserved, and transformed.

It is our hope that this book will serve as a valuable resource for researchers, practitioners, students, and decision-makers interested in the future of architecture, urbanism, and the built environment. More importantly, we hope that the ideas presented in these chapters will inspire new research, encourage critical reflection, and contribute to the development of more inclusive, resilient, meaningful, and sustainable spaces, buildings, and cities.

Editor

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Atatürk University

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