



Suburban Transformation and New Urbanism: The Evaluation of New Settlement Areas in Istanbul According to the New Urbanism Movement

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The New Urbanism movement arose in 1990's as a reaction to urban sprawl in USA. Architects, planners, developers and city officials involved in the movement aimed to create human scaled and walkable communities. A variety of approaches ranging from infill, transit oriented development and suburban transformation has changed and is changing the urban form not only in suburban areas but also in the infill areas in the city in USA. The movement reflected throughout the world and eventually new housing developments in Istanbul are affected.

Most of the recent housing developments affected by the New Urbanism Movement in Istanbul located at the outskirts of the city are transforming the urban form. The purpose and the outcome of this transformation is questionable regarding the aim and principles of the New Urbanism Movement.

The study aimed to analyze the affects of the New Urbanism Movement on recent housing developments of Istanbul by the evaluation system developed according to the principles of the movement. In the evaluation system criteria created in three different scales based on the New Urbanism Movement. These scales are: the region / city scale, neighborhood scale, and house / surroundings scale. These criteria are set in a grading system and the housing developments have been evaluated according to this system. Twenty-four of the housing developments of Istanbul that have formed in the last few years are evaluated. These housing developments are classified as good, intermediate and weak in according to their appropriateness to New Urbanism.

As the conclusion it is aimed to introduce the affects of New Urbanism Movement on the transformation of urban form in Istanbul by ranking the evaluated housing developments according to their appropriateness to New Urbanism.

KEY WORDS: Suburban transformation, new urbanism.