



Functional and Physical Analysis of Bulgurlu Street in Beşiktaş (Ortaköy)

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A street can be defined as a systematic place where people socialize (to have fun, to take rest and to inform/be informed etc); develop mutual relationships; meet their daily needs and social needs; and take the first step from private space to public space. Having served as one of the most important social spaces throughout history and, being bordered by relatively clear lines when compared to other social spaces, the street is a concept on which different disciplines such as urban planning and architecture achieve mutual agreement in terms of the physical harmony to be created between the buildings.

Turkey is a relatively rich country from an architectural cultural and historical perspective. Among Turkish cities, Istanbul has the highest historical, cultural and economic accumulation. An important settlement area, which served as the capital of the Byzantium and Ottoman Empires, Istanbul has a rich architectural accumulation. Istanbul has always been one of the most popular settlements throughout history, as it served as the capital for many the states founded in its region. As a city which has hosted notable figures of Turkey, Istanbul has always been an innovative city Beşiktaş Bulgurlu Street, one of the historical districts of Istanbul, retains the buildings of a specific period of architectural heritage of Istanbul. Beşiktaş Bulgurlu Street was established for the palace officers. Therefore, this is an important space, as it transfers the architectural heritage of a specific society to today.

The row houses in this area, which were built in the 19th century as the residence of palace officers, also help to characterize the street environment. Beşiktaş Bulgurlu Street was planned as a housing estate; however, its function has started to change due to changing social, cultural and economic factors. Residential houses are gradually being replaced by commercial structures. This paper aims to present Istanbul Beşiktaş Bulgurlu Street, the street selected as the study area, with the help of survey studies and photographs. In light of the understanding that architectural spaces should be conserved together with the corresponding historical social group, this process will be analyzed from the outer space (street) to the inner space.

At the end of the study, based on analysis of the physical and social factors, suggestions will be made to help enable existing buildings and building groups in Istanbul Beşiktaş Bulgurlu Street to survive not only within their physical limits but also together with their historical culture. Previous researchers suggest that spaces that are incompatible with the needs of the users result in high rates of crime. The use and conservation of historical buildings is of great importance for protection of human mental health -i.e. on one hand human psychology and; on the other hand, for creation of healthier future generations by transferring our cultural history to the future.

KEY WORDS: Row house, urban identity, conservation and use process, settlement history of Istanbul, traditional architecture, street concept, street history, gentrification.