

Chapter 3

The Project Site: Survey Studies and Evaluation of Findings

ABSTRACT

Data collection is vital for every design process in order to define the design parameters that will guide the rest of the process. In this chapter data collection procedure and evaluation methods used for the project Re-Coding Homes is discussed by focusing on field research and survey studies. Survey studies are mainly based on semi-structured interviews and spatial mapping methods. The interview was structured to collect data about the family structures, daily routines, social relations, and comparisons between the current and previous living environments. After completing the survey, answers given to the questions were transferred into digital data. During the systematization of the results, the most important problem was to process the complex data in order to support the design model. In this sense, a reporting software was designed to evaluate the data group. The parameters extracted by means of the reporting software became the main input for the expert system.

INTRODUCTION

There have been many ongoing mass housing projects in construction in Istanbul and various cities of Turkey significantly since the end of 1980's, and they are rapidly spreading at the present time. Standardized housing units are presented to the residents as a result of the mass production, which are constructed particularly in the scope of urban transformation projects including many housing units. Depending on this

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circumstance, multifunctional requirements and the various needs in housing units are considerably being neglected. This study aims to create a user-centered model for generating flexible interior design, over examining the spatial qualities that will fulfill the social and functional needs of various family types for standardized housing units in the mass housing projects. In this context, the example of Istanbul-Maltepe Başbüyük Mass Housing, which is constructed by TOKI (Housing Development Administration in Turkey) as an urban transformation project, is determined as the study site due to its sociological structure.

TOKI Başbüyük Houses, which are selected as the project area, are inhabited by people from many different cultural backgrounds and social structures. Furthermore, this diversity is documented through field studies and surveys that are conducted within the region. Concordantly, this diversity is considered a factor that considerably increases the whole impact of the project. In achieving a flexible design model that answers to diverse family structures, diverse cultural backgrounds, and different needs, surveys applied to residents have been remarkably beneficial and it was possible to increase the number of solutions. Several issues have been examined including the demographic characteristics of the households living in the housing units, the ways in which they are currently using the residential areas, their needs, expectations, problems they experienced, etc. subject to the research within the scope of the field studies and surveys. Hence, for achieving more reliable results by increasing the participation of the residents, open-ended questions were asked during the interviews which were made with 50 families that live in the apartments. Then, the data obtained are grouped by using filters. A reporting software containing the numerical analysis and spatial diagrams is developed.

One of the most significant contributions of this phase is the determination of the main satisfactions and dissatisfactions experienced by the families which are living in the settlement. The findings obtained in this stage are transformed into design parameters in the subsequent stage.

BACKGROUND

First urban transformation projects in the world have been constructed in order to renovate the urban areas that have lost their function and to rebuild the destroyed cities after the Second World War, as well. Areas of urban transformation include the transformation of inactive work and industrial areas that have lost their quality and function, informal housing districts, uninhabited historical places that have lost their identity, the sub-zones that create natural and artificial risks in terms of construction, in accordance with the common objective of creating sustainable urban areas (pursuant to the socioeconomic and environmental urban layers).

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