

TACTICAL URBANISM AND PARTICIPATORY APPROACH:  
ISTANBUL CASE

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO  
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES  
OF  
MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

BY  
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IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE  
IN  
URBAN DESIGN IN CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING

APRIL 2023



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## **ABSTRACT**

### **TACTICAL URBANISM AND PARTICIPATORY APPROACH: ISTANBUL CASE**

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Master of Science, Urban Design in City and Regional Planning

Supervisor: Assist. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Burak Büyükcivelek

April 2023, 115 pages

The world has been experiencing a troublesome period owing to environmental, socioeconomic, and political uncertainties and challenges arising from the excessive increase in human population. These challenges have primarily influenced cities and resulted in rapid changes. They triggered various forms of informal urbanism and further stressed the lack of resources in the cities and led to modern urban transformations aiming to respond to these challenges. However, the conventional planning theory fell short in responding to these rapid changes and, thus, began to draw and integrate multiple concepts from the interdisciplinary sciences over the past decades. As one of the responding mechanisms, the tactical urbanism approach, which is low-cost, bottom-up interferences in public spaces to improve usage and organisation of the planning process, began to be favoured.

This thesis aims to examine the tactical urbanism approach to meet the changing urban needs, establish the relationship between tactical urbanism and participatory approaches in planning and urban design, explore the tactical urbanism practices concerning participatory characteristics, and discuss the performance of tactical urbanism projects by type of participation. To this end, five projects were analysed in detail to understand the practical reflections of this approach in the field, and eight people were interviewed. In-depth interviews were conducted in İstanbul with experts and volunteers experienced in urban design. The findings demonstrate that

the cases used in tactical urbanism have various participation methods. In addition, the result shows that the best solutions for urban space, examining them rapidly and ensuring the area's future usage, tactical urbanism methods offer a tool that starts at the local level.

While the tactical urbanism approach considers the participatory approach as a sub-concept, this thesis suggests that the participatory approach should also be regarded as a central concept alongside the tactical urbanism approach. Further explorations should be carried out in Turkey with this perspective.

**Keywords:** Public participation, tactical urbanism, tactical approach in Bottom-up urbanism, participation methods in urban design.

## ÖZ

### TAKTİKSEL ŞEHİRCİLİK VE KATILIMCI YAKLAŞIM: İSTANBUL ÖRNEĞİ

Alpdoğan, Begüm  
Yüksek Lisans, Kentsel Tasarım, Şehir Bölge Planlama  
Tez Yöneticisi: Assist. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Burak Büyükcivelek

Nisan 2023, 115 sayfa

Çevresel, sosyoekonomik ve siyasi belirsizliklerin yanı sıra insan nüfusundaki aşırı artıştan kaynaklanan zorluklar nedeniyle dünya sıkıntılı bir dönemden geçmektedir. Bu zorluklar özellikle kentleri etkilemiş ve hızlı değişimlere yol açmıştır. Çeşitli enformel şehircilik biçimlerini tetiklemiş ve şehirlerdeki kaynak yetersizliğini daha da vurgulayarak bu zorluklara yanıt vermeyi amaçlayan modern kentsel dönüşümlere yol açmıştır. Ancak, geleneksel planlama teorisi bu hızlı değişimlere yanıt vermekte yetersiz kalmış ve bu nedenle son yıllarda disiplinler arası bilimlerden çok sayıda kavram kullanmaya ve entegre etmeye başlamıştır. Bu zorluklara karşı verilen cevap mekanizmalarından biri olarak, planlama sürecinin kullanımını ve organizasyonunu iyileştirmek için kamusal alanlara düşük maliyetli, aşağıdan yukarıya müdahaleler olan taktiksel şehircilik yaklaşımı tercih edilmeye başlanmıştır.

Bu tez, taktiksel şehircilik yaklaşımını değişen kentsel ihtiyaçların karşılanması açısından incelemeyi, taktik şehirciliğin planlama ve kentsel tasarımdaki katılımcı yaklaşımlarla ilişkisini kurmayı, taktik şehircilik uygulamalarını katılımcı özellikleri açısından irdelemeyi ve taktik şehircilik projelerinin performansını katılım türlerine göre tartışmayı amaçlamaktadır. Bu amaçla, bu yaklaşımın sahadaki pratik yansımalarını anlamak için beş proje detaylı olarak incelenmiş ve sekiz kişiyle

görülmüştür. Derinlemesine görüşmeler İstanbul'da kentsel tasarım konusunda deneyimli uzmanlar ve gönüllüler ile gerçekleştirilmiştir. Bulgular, taktiksel şehircilikte kullanılan vakaların çeşitli katılım yöntemlerine sahip olduğunu göstermektedir. Ayrıca sonuçlar göstermektedir ki, kentsel alan için en iyi çözümler, bunların hızlı bir şekilde incelenmesi ve alanın gelecekteki kullanımının sağlanması, taktiksel şehircilik yöntemleri yerel düzeyde başlayan bir araç sunmaktadır.

Taktiksel şehircilik yaklaşımı katılımcı yaklaşımı bir alt kavram olarak ele alırken, bu tez katılımcı yaklaşımın da taktik şehircilik yaklaşımının yanında bir ana kavram olarak ele alınmasını ve Türkiye'de bu perspektifle daha fazla araştırma yapılmasını önermektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Halkın katılımı, taktiksel şehircilik, aşağıdan yukarıya şehircilikte taktiksel yaklaşım, kentsel tasarımda katılım yöntemleri.



To all the important people in my life

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First, I would like to thank my thesis advisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Burak Büyükcivelek for his support, infinite patience, and guidance throughout my thesis research. Whenever I encountered a problem or had a question about my thesis research and writing, he always helped me with his open communication. Without his guidance and help, this research would not have been able to be conducted.

Secondly, I would like to convey my deepest gratitude to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bülent Batuman for his thoughtful guidance, support, and supervision throughout my academic life. I thank him for always opening all his doors for his students.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to my mother, Olcay Alpdoğan, and my father, Osman Alpdoğan, who have supported me while writing my thesis and repeatedly stated throughout my life that they would continue to support me tirelessly. I would also like to personally thank my dear sister Fulya Kaytan and my brother-in-law Melih Kaytan for helping me and being with me in good and bad times. I would also like to thank my grandmother Zeliha Yücel, my aunt Şemsiğül Erdoğan and my uncles Mehmet Yücel and Hakan Yücel for guiding me throughout my entire life.

Finally, I would like to extend my special thanks to my friends Batuhan Tiryaki, and Gökhan Yaman, Hakan Ordu, İrem Güler, Akya Akarsu, who has been with me through this process and to my best friend Tansu Tulinay Korkmaz who has shared her deep friendship, support, positive attitude, and endless energy with me, for their sincere friendship, patience, and support under all circumstances throughout this study.

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Cities are defined as the space of all combined ecological, economic, physical, and social interactions and can interact between global and local scales in the twenty-first century. This can also cause some responsibility to respond to changing economic situations, meeting overpopulation needs, new technology, and environmental issues. Urban planning and urban design disciplines bring different approaches to the problems that cities are facing. The decision-making and implementation processes of the traditional planning approach in long-term planning and design issues may need to be revised to produce solutions to the current problems of cities. Therefore, the contemporary planning approach can no longer meet needs, especially on a local scale and participatory process. A top-down hierarchical approach should be transformed into bottom-up urbanisation, including a participatory process. In parallel with the development of participatory urbanism, tactical urbanism has also emerged, and the intersection of these two approaches constitutes an exciting field of enquiry and study.

The bottom-up form addresses the innovative urban intervention approaches; localised, short-term, low-risk and realistic, and very low-cost applications of the society's educational, reliable living spaces where different segments of society can socialise together. Especially in urban design, small-scale interventions and flexible and transformable design approaches come to the front. This is when a tactical urbanism approach comes into play. Tactical urbanism offers cities to reduce the pressure on the city, especially with the rapid growth of the city population, insufficient urban infrastructure, and public resources, and working as a catalyst for the public's participation in their city design.

## **1.1 The Definition of the Problem**

This article examines the tactical urbanism approach to meet the changing urban needs due to urbanisation. Because of collective production based on this approach, urban design implementations are evaluated within the framework of a participatory approach.

In general terms, the rational planning approach is criticised for being limited to government activities (Friedmann, 1998); being outcome-oriented in terms of desired physical conditions (Cullingworth & Nadin, 2002); ignoring social structure and diversity (Healey, 2006; Lindblom, 1959); not open to consensus and public participation in the planning process (Lindblom, 1959; Davidoff, 1965; Kaufman & Jacobs, 1987); wastes time and resources by demanding economic, political, social, physical and environmental data without selectivity (Lindblom, 1959). Moreover, the rational planning approach must prepare for contingencies during the long final decision-making process, which consumes enormous resources for analyses and extensive data collection (Etzioni, 1967).

At present and in the future, compared to the cities of the 20th century and before, it is seen that cities have a more dynamic, non-linear, multi-layered, complex, and rapidly evolving structure (Yetişkul, 2017). In parallel with this, city planning methods have improved in recent years. In the twentieth century, cities worldwide are responsible for responding to a growing and diverse population, ever-changing economic conditions, new technologies and a climate of change. The environmental, social, and economic impacts of these changes and their spatial effects bring about a crisis environment, and the management of cities is becoming more and more challenging.

For this reason, it has been recognised that traditional urban planning methods no longer meet today's conditions entirely. Cities have been developing and progressing at an unprecedented rate for an extended period, yet do not recognise the radical inequalities they create or consider the urban problems that arise as secondary damage. Several difficulties are accumulating in urban areas, such as rapid growth, unequal accessibility to essential services, loss of local identity, and a growing number of abandoned areas. Such problems were present, but they lay asleep until they were intensified by the recent COVID-19 in 2020. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increased interest in the relationship between temporary interventions on a small scale and the image of local neighbourhoods and streets that result from those interventions. To respond to both the physical and sociological needs of society and cities and to increase the overall well-being of cities and communities, new approaches in urban design have begun to be discussed in academia, and a tactical urbanism approach related to the participatory process that should be handled differently in space production has emerged and adopted.

In recent years, the alternative or integration of tactical urbanism has been discussed as an alternative to conventional methods. Studies clarify how, where, and by which forms and results of tactical urbanism take place in the literature. These examples are where tactical urbanism approaches are carried out, and studies evaluating the potentials and limits of tactical urbanism in today's conditions need to be revised. However, more studies assessing the possibilities and limitations of tactical urbanism are required. Research on this subject and its application areas are becoming increasingly widespread. In addition to this, citizen participation is a crucial principle in incremental place-making experiments.

Therefore, tactical urbanism has shown its maximum potential as a strong game plan for healing back. It was engrossing to notice that some concerned parties implemented masterful approaches in pop-up retails, swap meet, art festivals, or community initiatives while failing to recognise "tactical urbanism" as a term needed

to explain. It is an approach to building using short-term, low-budget, and easily measurable practices and tactics at small scales. At the same time, it has been overused and associated with "placemaking" without understanding its essential intention. Tactical urbanism interventions offered an efficient, urgent, and responsive key that served as a test of concept. Overall, tactical urbanism projects and their benefits can be limited to individuals, groups, and neighbourhoods in low-cost demonstration projects and city-led application-based programs.

To discuss the relationship between tactical urbanism and the participatory approach, the definition of tactical urbanism described in the paragraph above is necessary to explain the participatory approach. Participation enables people to be involved in expressing their views; it gives them the right to influence decisions that affect them and increase participation; it improves the efficiency of services or offers people control over their own lives (Cornwall, 2008). Overview of the concept of participation, which has many definitions; firstly, participation is seen as a way of increasing the legitimacy and accountability of democratic institutions by involving individuals in decisions that directly affect their lives (Cornwall, 2008). Research in the city planning discipline has emphasised the importance of participatory methods since the late 1960s, and their reflections in practice have been observed in the planning discipline since the 1970s (Tekeli, 2009). During this period, social movements in most developed countries focused on urban practices and the social inequalities created by these practices while demanding the right to participate in decision-making processes related to the city (Castells, 1983; Fainstein, 2005). In this context, the traditional approach has been moved away and made it a priority to develop methods to combat the problems caused by urbanisation, defend citizens' rights, and ensure broad public participation (Sanoff, 2008). This combines the potential of the tactical urbanism approach to protect the rights of citizens adopted in the participatory process, increase public participation, and address the need in urban areas. It offers an organisational/citizen-led approach involving short-term, low-cost, scalable interventions.

The relationship with the discussion of these two theories, followed by the examination of spatial reflections, has great potential to examine the urban design examples in Istanbul. In the last fifteen years, Istanbul has hosted significant changes in urban development and demographics. The political changes and the lack of space issues directed the adoption of a new urban design approach called tactical urbanism. The city of Istanbul has been the scene of these movements, known as 'tactical urbanism', which are realised in the light of different objectives and actors. The analytical examination of this new form of organisation, which has become visible especially since 2009 with the increasing use of information and communication technologies, will enable the discussion of a new model specific to Istanbul space.

## **1.2 Aim of the Thesis**

The primary purpose of the thesis is to examine the tactical urbanism approach at the point of meeting the changing urban needs due to the phenomenon of urbanisation and to provide input to the literature on its application in urban areas by evaluating its relation with the participatory approach based on the tactical urbanism approach. The aim of the thesis is;

- Establish the relationship between tactical urbanism and participatory approaches
- The emergence of participatory approach and tactical urbanism
- Define tactical urbanism, its varieties, and components
- Examine the tactical urbanism implementations concerning their participatory characteristics, and discuss the performance of tactical urbanism projects concerning the type of participation.

In this thesis, what is actually of interest is to analyse the effects of tactics on urban space, to observe the existence of tactical, tangible productions and ideas, which are a counter stance to strategies, in many different areas in the city, and to interpret the

quality of the urban space in which they are implemented. However, rather than defining tactics as prescriptions for creating urban areas, the aim is to draw attention to spontaneous productions in life, recognise them, and show how they can intelligently adapt and become part of urban space. The examples given through Istanbul aim to reveal the potentials of today's urban space, alternative uses, and new social relations and forms by observing and documenting them with photographs and interviews with organisations carrying out small intervention projects.

In addition, it is also aimed to discuss the inclusion of these potentials in urban strategies and to make it possible to think about how small interventions, such as tactical interventions instead of significant projects for the city, can create big effects in urban space and even show that such practices are already in practice in different cities.

### **1.3 Method of the Research**

Within the scope of this thesis, tactical urbanism will be examined in line with the relation of the participatory approach. These analyses will be discussed the participatory process of tactical urbanism and the implementation of this approach by analysing and comparing the different cases in Istanbul. In this context, Istanbul has been selected as a case study area to determine the applicability of the tactical urbanism approach with the parameters specified in urban areas and its potential to change the perception of space. The following criteria were considered in the selection of these cases are;

- İstanbul is a metropolitan city with different participants with different views and cultural diversity.
- The lack of functional adequacy of urban areas to meet the needs of the public was considered significant.
- The potential to solve as a solution to the inability to prevent unplanned growth in Istanbul.

In line with these issues, the main research question of the thesis was formed. The main research question in the thesis is framed as follows;

*“What is the relationship between tactical urbanism and participatory planning and urban design approaches?”*

To answer this question, this thesis is based on the following issues;

1. The definition and emergence of participatory planning in urban design
2. The relation between participatory urban design and the tactical urbanism
3. Tactical Urbanism projects concerning their level of participation.
  - a. Discuss the capacity of tactical urbanism approaches to solve community-based problems
  - b. Discuss the participatory approach in people's spatial perceptions and tactical urbanism implemented in the urban area through producing space.

In the thesis, a qualitative research design was planned, and a case study approach was used. The causal relationships analysed in the research required a qualitative method for the study. Firstly, to create the framework of the general concept of the thesis literature reviews, which are searched databases, theses, reports, journals, books, and web-based sources with keywords tactical urbanism and participatory planning. Case studies are discussed in detail to provide this. The data collection method about cases was obtained with the help of a semi-structured interview to understand the context more and interpret responses and documentation research. The tactical production of space, which is the main thesis of the study, will be documented through Istanbul, and current and alternative urban scenarios, shows and ideas involving tactics will be observed.

The theoretical framework is drawn with two interrelated aims: to understand and analyse the tactical urban design process and participation and how the two can be

brought together. The study constitutes the theories of urban planning and theories. Firstly, it focuses on analysing the evaluation of public participation in urban theory and then defining tactical urbanism and cases in different scales and locations, which are essential for the research process. In this thesis, these statements are addressed in the context of the tactical urban design process, how it proceeds, and how it is implemented. At the same time, as a synthesis of the literature study, criteria were determined to facilitate the definition of these areas. The contents explaining the historical processes of the concepts were put forward, and a table containing a scoring system was created to evaluate the physical spaces indicated by the ideas within the framework of all these studies.

An in-depth qualitative study was conducted to analyse the experiences of local citizen participation in tactical urbanism practice cases in Istanbul. The case study technique allows analysing a comprehensive phenomenon in its specific context. Comparative analyses of diverse cases will enable us to identify commonalities and dissimilarities. Tactical urbanism practices applied in these regions were analysed. Interviews and various sources were used to reveal the implementations' processes, spatial problems, and solutions. In this way, both the phases of the practices to be proposed were observed, and a region with less tactical urbanism practices was selected for more detailed examination.

This examination comprises a qualitative research design and uses various research methods: semi-structured interviews with the institution's representatives, official documents, and articles. The cases are different scale tactical urban design cases of the thesis and are comparable in scope, spatial reflection, and public participation strategies.

The case analyses, discussion and evaluation of previous studies, the challenges they faced, the opportunities they presented, and the improvement measures they suggested were used in the evaluation and recommendation sections of the thesis.



The final chapter concludes with a proposal for a participatory urban design process that has been or could be applied to tactical urban design projects.

#### **1.4 The Structure of the Thesis**

After the introduction chapter, the thesis is divided into three significant sections. Additionally, Chapter II is a literature analysis on community involvement and tactical urbanism that seeks to connect and expand upon the urban design. Firstly, the tactical urbanism approach and participatory approach evolution throughout history and the effectiveness of the gaps of literature. Latterly continues with how the tactical urbanism approach is used in city planning to clarify the different approaches to the participatory process with the urban design methods at the end of the chapter.

The literature review begins with the participatory approach and tactical urbanism to clarify the terms of participation that emerged from the 20th century—providing an overview of how community involvement has changed through time in terms of planning theory and the methods used in practice. Generally, it is emphasised to enlighten the emergence of this approach and what were the environmental, social, political, and economic dynamics that affected the reveal of participation as a contemporary decision-making approach and including the method's opportunities, criticism, and gaps in the literature as it relates to community participation and tactical urbanism.

The second section of the literature review has highlighted the explanation of participation and tactical urbanism. Participation may change depending on the setting and is susceptible to manipulation. Regarding the term "tactical urbanism," which has started to employ a new term and approach, it may be vulnerable to manipulation in some situations. Furthermore, the particular meaning of the term and the layer of participation and tactical urbanism are discussed in this section.

Following the literature review, which constitutes the main part of the thesis, case studies are included in Chapter III. This framework consists of analyses of the design phases and methods used in this phase. This chapter focuses on the case study method and gives briefing information about the cases. After that, this chapter focuses on how the cases were structured through data collection using documentation research and semi-structured interview.

Afterwards, this chapter mainly focuses on findings and debates from documentation research and semi-structured interviews with the relevant experts in Istanbul. In this section, cases related to urban design framework are evaluated, results are analysed, and differences are revealed. It is concluded by considering cases associated with the tactical urbanism approach and the effectiveness of participation in the city related to urban design approaches.

The final chapter consists of the summary of the findings and the research's main key element conclusions. In addition, issues not addressed in this thesis are discussed as limitations of this study. At the end of this chapter, suggestions and limitations of the research are made regarding the relationship between participatory urban design and tactical urbanism.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **PARTICIPATION IN URBAN DESIGN AND TACTICAL URBANISM**

#### **2.1 History of Participatory Approach**

Cities have been humankind's universal contribution to Earth throughout history. The relationship of physical space and humanity, a man with nature, is a sense of an individual and communal existence from the ancient urbs to the modernity of contemporary cities. The historical aim of urban planning has been to encompass physical form, economic functions, and social impacts in many variations. Before the 1960s, it was believed that professionals and specialists should handle city planning and urban design. Since then, community participation is becoming part of the decision-making process of urban renewal. Participation can be accepted as a multi-actor decision-making process in which people share the same concern and decisions for the place where they live (Sanoff, 2000). Sanoff (2000) defines participation as the face-to-face interaction of individuals who share values important to everyone. According to him, a minority of people design the environment, but it dramatically impacts many. According to him, involvement gives the community a chance to influence and form the constructed environment in which it lives. Definitions are neither definite, constrictive, or fixed because "community engagement" is complex.

Community participation has become the most important influence from the Third World community development movement of the 1950s and 1960s, western social work, and community radicalism (Midgley, 1986). Because of the increasing urban inequalities in society, community participation becomes a mandatory component of urban design and its processes. The concepts of self-help and self-sufficiency were emphasised in the plans of many emerging nations, which focused on cooperative

and communitarian forms of social and economic organisation (Worsley, 1967). In other words, the evaluation of community participation movements was based on the increasing problems in urban areas caused by growing urbanisation, accelerating complexity in the city.

The basic movements of the industrialisation period emerged out of social injustice and started to deteriorate the environment. Industrialisation led to a revolutionary transformation in citizens' life with changes in production mode, building industry, and housing production processes in urban areas (Toker Z., 2000). The increasing number of factories brought along labour for the growth of the labour workforce, resulting in labourers drifting away from economically depressed rural areas toward the city. The mass housing and densely large buildings became an excessive part of the city fabric, caused isolation between the communities, and created barriers between people of different social statuses. Consequently, social injustice, increased health problems, and crime inevitably result. Robert Goodman (1971, as cited in Sanoff, 2000) criticised the developments as resulting in ugliness, squalor, congestion, pollution, vandalism, and stress, and consequently caused the destruction of communities that represent the modern urban movement in America, as well as many other parts of the world (Sanoff, 2000).

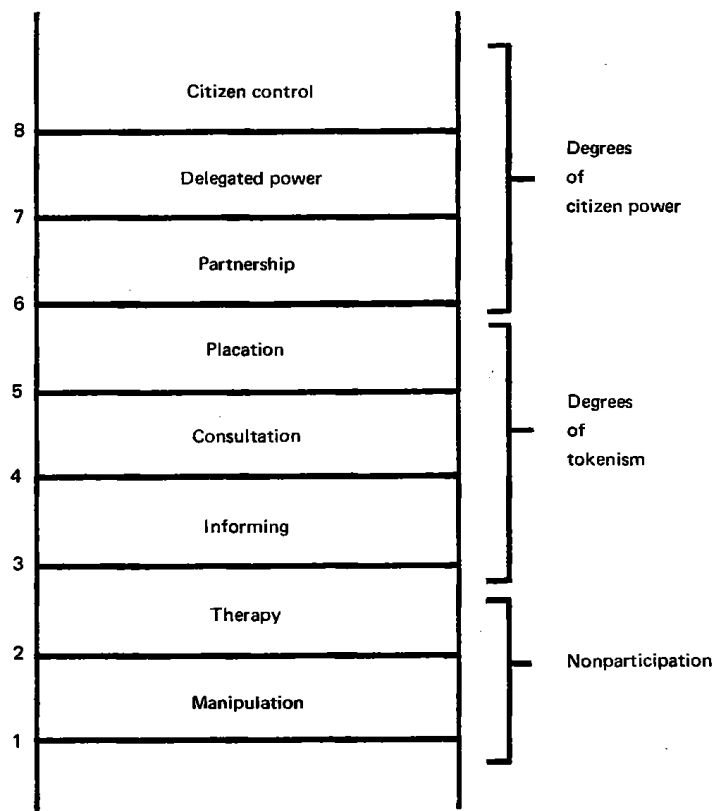
On the other hand, the ideal and vision planning that resulted from the patronising approach of creative and management specialists was regarded as a failed attempt. The plans of many developing countries emphasised cooperative and communitarian forms of social and economic organisation, stressing the values of self-help and self-sufficiency (Worsley, 1967) and promoting the mobilisation of the underprivileged and disadvantaged to advance social and economic progress. Therefore, conventional planning was considered to exploit ordinary people's social and economic progress in urban city life. They have been excluded from the community development process. Social and political developments during the 19th century, namely the industrialisation era, have contributed to the excessive rise of social and environmental challenges. The increasing social injustice and environmental issues

arose from sequential events. As a result, the anarchist roots of the planning movement became visible in the influence of the citizens not only on an alternative built form but also in the impact of creating an alternative society.

Community participation may be interpreted in various ways and scales and may show differences depending on the situation. The idea of community participation is more complicated in the implementation phase rather than in the theoretical one. In principle, participation is also a key element for democracy in the governmental system. Still, on the other hand, when the principal is advocated a minority or low-income segment of the population to redistribute their rights to the city, then a conflict of interest arises. There are also varied views that the concepts and aims of participatory projects can be manipulated, distorted, and ideologically motivated by different actors. In contrast, many professionals clearly define the fundamental purposes of genuine participation and integration. Therefore, the self-help and citizen involvement rhetoric bears the burden of the difference between the reality and theory of citizen participation in urban planning.

In other words, several definitions of literature may change throughout time due to varied contexts and views, both in theory and practice. Sanoff (2000, p. 8) believes that the term's meaning is contextual and varies in type, level of intensity, extent, and frequency. The definition may also change depending on the person, circumstance, and time. In short, the meaning and purposes of community participation might be open for interpretation in particular forms or manipulated by the actors. Alongside manipulating the definition, one of the earliest and most influential models to evaluate public participation came from Sherry R. Arnstein's *A Ladder of Citizen Participation* (1969) (Figure 2.1). To enlighten citizen participation in urban design Sherry R. Arnstein explained the typology of community participation as a ladder pattern. Each ladder corresponds to the extent of citizen power in determining the plan or program. For illustrative purposes, the eight types are arranged in a ladder pattern, with each rung corresponding to the extent of citizens' power in determining the end product.

The phases include nonparticipation (manipulation and therapy), tokenism (informing, consultation, placation), and citizen power (partnership, delegated power, and citizen control). (Arnstein, 1969). These phases focused on citizen power still influence the perfect ideas of public participation in the urban design approach. After that, the participatory planning movement evolved from the revolutionary movement; it was in its heyday in the latter years of the nineteenth and early years of the twentieth centuries.



*Figure 1.1. A Ladders of Arnstein, (1969)*

The ladder juxtaposes powerless citizens with influential people to emphasise their fundamental differences. Each part of people in the community has a divergent point of view, significant cleavages, competing vested interests, and splintered subgroups.

Justification for such use of simple abstractions, which in most cases do not have indeed, they perceive the powerful as a monolithic “system” and those who have the power as “those people”, with little understanding of superficial and social class differences between them.

According to R. Arnstein, the rungs of the ladder are categorised as eight separate rungs. However, in the real world, because of the programs and people, there might be 150 rungs. There may not be specific differences between the rungs; in general, eight types are more clearly analysed and applicable. In this context of power and non-power, the characteristics of the eight steps are illustrated as examples from existing federal social programs. The following chapter will explain the phases mentioned above thoroughly and accordingly.

## **2.2 The Levels of Participatory Approach in Urban Planning**

Firstly, the theory of community participation starts with the non-participation phase. The non-participation is when people present to listen to what is planned for them. In the ladder, the bottom of the rungs starts with *manipulation* and *therapy*. These two rungs describe the level of the non-participation phase in the urban planning approach. R. Arnstein identifies these two rungs as follows;

*“These two rungs describe levels of “non-participation” that some have contrived to substitute for genuine participation. Their real objective is not to enable people to participate in the planning or conducting programs, but to enable powerholders to “educate” or “cure” the participants.”*

In the manipulation steps, the main aim is not integrating people into the process; it serves powerholders to educate the participants in the decision-making process. It refers to deceiving participants by making them feel like they take a role in decision-

making. Therapy means that the decision-makers are trying to change their thoughts and point of view of participants (Arnstein, 1969).

The third (Informing), fourth (Consultation), and fifth (Placation) rungs of the ladder jointly correspond to “tokenism”. In *informing* and *consultation*, the phase is the progress level of “tokenism” that allows the have-nots to hear and to have a voice. In *informing* phase, the citizens’ gaining information about their rights, responsibilities, and options can be the most significant step toward legitimate citizen participation. Still, the emphasis is placed on a one-way flow of information from officials to citizens. (Arnstein, 1969). Under these circumstances, primarily when information is provided at a late stage of planning, there is little opportunity for people to influence the programme designed for their benefit. In the *consultation* phases, citizens’ opinions can be a legitimate step toward their full participation. However, this participation should not be combined with other modes of participation, and still, this rung of the ladder cannot be seen as including citizens’ concerns and ideas considered. The levels of involvement explained are limited because have-nots/citizens do not have the power to lead the change they expect. The placation level is a higher level of tokenism because citizens without power can advise since powerholders have continued rights and vulnerable groups are excluded from the decision-making process (Arnstein, 1969).

The last three steps of the ladder generally correspond to different levels of citizen power, namely *partnership*, *delegated power*, and *citizen control*. A partnership is a company where citizens can negotiate and exchange with power holders. The levels of delegated authority and citizen control, the main part of the decision-making processes, are controlled by have-not citizens (Arnstein, 1969). The actors at the top may talk about participation, but they intend to maintain the status quo.



Arnstein's top rung of the ladder, citizen control, has been customised because it would lead to separatism and fragmentation of public services. Arnstein describes this criticism in her article as follows:

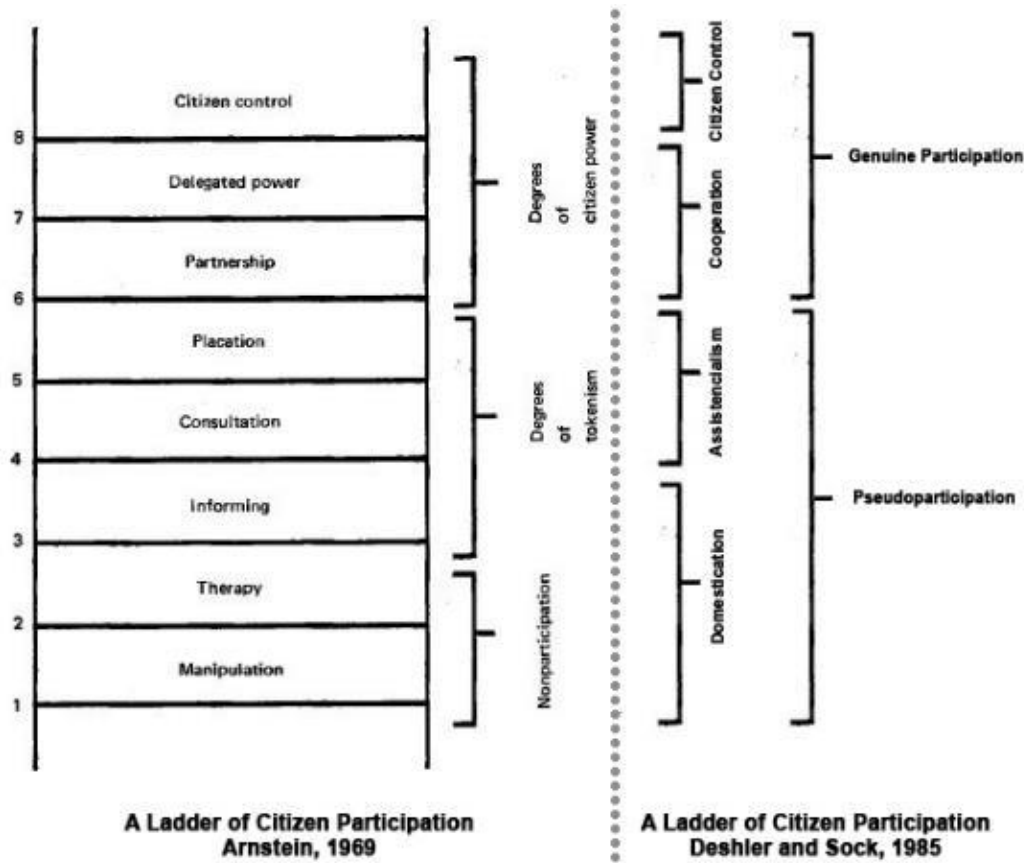
*"It is more costly and less efficient; it enables minority group  
"hustlers" to be just as opportunistic and disdainful of the have-nots as  
their white predecessors; it is incompatible with merit systems and  
professionalism; and ironically enough, it can turn out to be a new  
Mickey Mouse game for the have-nots by allowing them to gain control  
but not allowing them sufficient dollar resources to succeed."*  
(Arnstein, 1969, p. 224).

Arnstein (1969) underlines that all these aspects should be considered. However, she ends her article as follows;

*"These arguments are not to be taken lightly. Nevertheless, neither can  
we take lightly the arguments of embittered community control  
advocates- that every other means of trying to end their victimisation  
has failed!"*

In 1985 the citizen participation notion was interpreted by Deshler and Sock (Figure 2.2). In this categorisation, there are four levels of participation in the R. Arnstein ladder model. The first and second steps of the ladder, namely domestication and assistencialism, are jointly named "pseudo participation". Domestication is equal to informing, therapy, and manipulation, and assistencialism refers to Arnstein's ladder's placation and consultation level (Sanoff,2000). Subsequently, the last two ladders, *cooperation* and *citizen control*, jointly refer to "genuine participation". Similarly to Arnstein's definitions, "pseudo participation" is an entirely non-participatory level, where the community can listen to what power holders or

outsiders have planned for them. In contrast, actual (genuine) participation is where the community is empowered to control the commission (Sanoff, 2000).



*Figure 2.2. Comparison of the Ladders of Arnstein, (1969) and Deshler and Sock (1985) (Sanoff, 2000)*

With its ideal emphasis on citizen power, this ladder continues to shape perceptions of community involvement today. After the interpretation of Deshler and Sock (1985), a widespread understanding is to Arnstein's ladder is the International Association for Public Participation's (IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation (2018). The categories of IAP2 include informing, consulting, involving, collaborating, and empowering, all of which refer to ways of engaging with the public. (International Association for Public Participation, 2018).

Urban design and ideas about community participation corresponded to the various planning theories utilised at the time. Marcus B. Lane, in *Public Participation in Planning: an intellectual history* (2006), identifies multiple planning models/theories and their levels of community participation over time, such as the blueprint planning model, the synoptic model, and the subsequent ‘theoretical pluralism’ of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century that includes models such as advocacy planning and communicative theory. (Lane, 2006).

In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the rational-comprehensive approach was referred to as modernist ideas, and the planner, as an expert, formed blueprinting. Examples of this era’s crucial movements were the schemes for garden cities and suburbs to rehabilitate the slums, such as Ebenezer Howard’s Garden City, the City Beautiful movement influenced by Daniel Burnham, and Le Corbusier’s radiant city model. The Garden City concept aimed to solve urban overcrowding and poor quality of life by creating smaller, master-planned communities out of the city’s centre. The city would be structured around concentric circles of land use and include a sizeable park and greenbelt. Greenbelts were a revolutionary idea at that time and were alternatives to cities. The principle of Garden City depicts the relationship with the neighbours, promoting community participation due to the planning of the housing areas based on promoting interaction and their utilisation of the houses. The values of Garden City are customised by sustaining economic, social, environmental, and cultural benefits by providing safe, pleasant housing while ensuring community social interaction and participation.

Following this, the City Beautiful movement, influenced by Daniel Burnham and Le Corbusier’s Radiant City model, can be an example of this era according to the urban design approach. The City Beautiful movement was born as a response to poor conditions in urban tenements, its emphasis on increasing the pleasure architecture and public spaces that focus on low-income communities. In addition, one of the principles of Le Corbusier’s Radiant City model is the pleasure of

psychophysiological needs, collective participation, and the individual's freedom. However, in the radiant city model, the idealised forms reduce all diversity, which defines the human being. According to Lane, "the early traditions of blueprint planning included no scope what [so] ever for the participation of the public." (Lane, 2006).

In the 1950s and 1960s, the synoptic model followed the blueprint approach and was seen as serving the interests of the public as a whole. The public's ability to provide feedback on professionally generated planning was considered public engagement; the public was perceived as uniform and had little impact on those who made planning decisions. Within the synoptic model were ideas of incrementalism and mixed scanning, which had limited public participation. (Lindblom, 1959; Etzioni, 1968). The synoptic model was based on Incrementalism, which states limited public participation and is based on the policy-making decision on building environment and mixed scanning. Mixed scanning defends small-scale issues, and incrementalism deals with larger-scale problems.

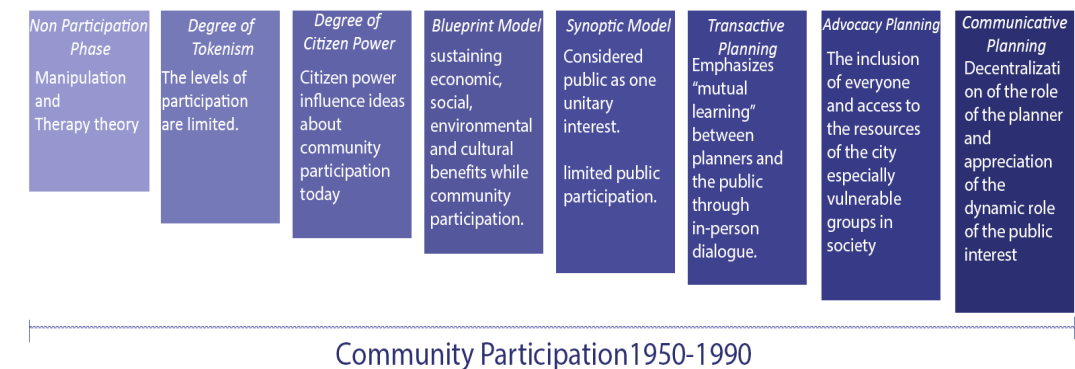
By the end of the 1960s, many planning theories emerged based upon the review of blueprinting planning, the synoptic model, and planning theories, including transactive planning, advocacy planning, and communicative theory. Transactive planning was introduced by John Friedmann (1973) and emphasised "mutual learning" between planners and the public through in-person dialogue. (Lane, 2006). Transactive planning bridges the gap between the planner's technical knowledge and the community's local knowledge. This approach is based on communication to direct regional planning policies so that citizens conform to planning knowledge. (Taufiq, Suhirman, and Kombaitan 2021). Transactive planning also is a democratic value, and it is an approach that is expected to create a common ground to achieve harmonisation between the planners and the community and among the different interests. This approach focuses on the experience of the community to identify the planning issues where they live. For that reason, field surveys and data analysis are

minimalised in the planning process, and the focus is interpersonal dialogues. However, there is a limited understanding of the negotiation process at the community level. Deliberation at the community level is challenged by actors who do not respect the basic decision-making rules and by power-based arguments. Difficulties in building operational consensus on specific issues details arise due to the contradictions between private and collective interests and the lack of control over the policy-making strategies of the planner and the government (Voogd, 2001; Voogd & Woltjer, 1999).

Paul Davidoff introduced advocacy planning, and later D.F. Mazziotti contributed to it. This planning approach was the beginning of including everyone and access to the city's resources, especially vulnerable groups in society, in the planning process. On the other hand, a society that comprises different groups, communities, and individuality is the basis of essential points for this planning approach. Within this, differentiation is the starting point of advocacy planning and is central to planning. As defined by Paul Davidoff, advocacy planning refers to the defence of excluded interests (Fainstein & Fainstein, 1996, p.270). Advocacy planners emphasise the sanctity of groups as separate entities and try to prevent majority decision-making. The main issue is that freedom for different groups causes a problem. The idea of difference inherently implies various needs, resources, and planning practices. Susan and Norman Fainstein argue that expanding individual freedom (to respect differences) in its application is beneficial primarily to privilege social groups. (Fainstein and Fainstein 1996, p.270). Therefore, the advocate planning approach theoretically works for any social group rather than in practice. According to Davidoff, the discussion between society and planners requires an inclusive point of view in the planning process. The community needs an advocate who will affirm the community's ideas and convey their ideas to decision-makers. Speaking for others and assuming the community's needs is an inherited part of the planning profession. To speak for others, a person should learn from others' thoughts. It is a critical point that the planner's interventions are needed. However, it should not be a patronising

communicative theory of planning, introduced by Healey (1992), Habermas (1984), and Forester (1989) argues that the central aim of planning is to “communicate, argue, debate, and engage in discourse” (Lane, 2006, p.296). This approach is offered as an alternative for planners uncomfortable with instrumental rationality that leaves values uncertain—examining what planners do have revealed the role that planners can play in facilitating or hindering such communication (Healey 1992, 1996, Innes 1995; Forester, 1994; Lauria & Soll, 1996). The theory is based on the insights gained by examining communication with other actors in their daily practice in a straightforward way. In other words, the decentralisation of the planner’s role and appreciation of the dynamic role of the public interest becomes more essential in this theory. In literature, new social movements offered a way to examine more explicitly the different codes of meaning developed by neighbourhood groups. It is important to note that planning theory includes these collective actors as protagonists and pays more attention to the effects on implementation, especially in concrete intervention.

The theories that emerged during the 20th century were that community participation was essential, being part of the planning process and emphasising inclusion and communication. In the 21st Century, Susan Fainstein (2000) introduced the just city theory that centres on social justice and equity in planning. In terms of participation, Fainstein argues that the “theory of the just city values both participation in decision-making by relatively powerless groups and equity of outcomes.” (Fainstein, 2000). Fainstein indicates that decision-making and community participation in urban planning does not produce equitable outputs. She criticises communicative planning theory for perceiving action based on consensus can have inequitable outcomes that influential groups in society still have the right to the city. (Figure 2.3)



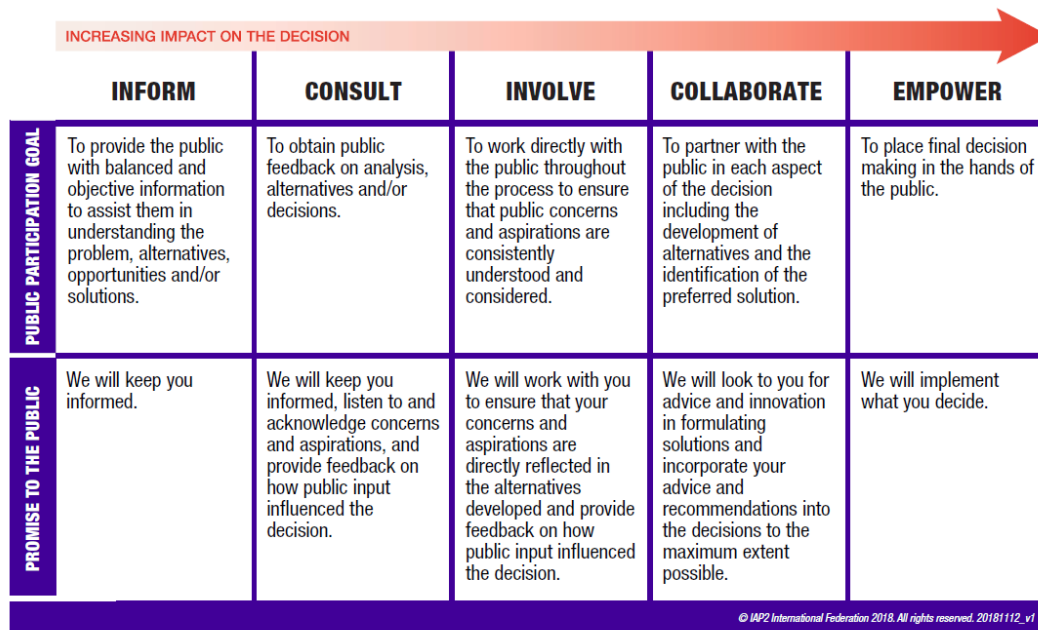
*Figure 3.3. The Evolution of the Community Participation*

(Created by the author by making use of (Lindblom, 1959; Etzioni, 1968; Friedman, 1973)

Overall, there is a growing consensus that the traditional approach in urban design is transformed into community participation planning, but initially, this approach was ineffective. All urban movements started by the community significantly impacted people gaining the right to participate in shaping their surroundings and empowerment. Movements were mainly against the authority, excluding the community in decision-making processes. (Başak, 2016). Protests demonstrated that the public should have a more central role in planning and implementation. The issues against top-down approaches affected the way of production of urban space process. Thus, with the community reactions and city health and safety problems, planners and designers put forward different ideas for solving social and environmental problems (Sanoff, 2000; Toker U, 2012; Toker Z., 2000).

Community participation is frequently described in either the categories from Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation (1969) or the International Association for Public Participation's (IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation (2018). The Spectrum of Public Participation provides a variation aimed at helping professional experts clarify participation goals, select the level of participation, and understand the people's influence on the last decision of a plan (Figure 2.4). While the spectrum ranges from lower levels of public participation (inform) to more levels of public

participation (empower), different community participation tools might apply in different situations. (International Association for Public Participation, 2018)



*Figure 4.4. The Spectrum of Public participation*

(Retrieved from International Association of Public Participation  
(IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation, 2018)

The "Core Values for Public Participation" developed by IAP2 (2020) relate to the characteristics of an effective public participation process. Seven values have been designed to guide better decisions that respond to the public's and organisations' needs and concerns potentially affected by decision-making processes.

According to IAP2 (2020) core values, public participation;

- is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process,
- includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision,
- promotes sustainable decisions by recognising and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision-makers,



- seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision,
- seeks input from participants in designing how they participate,
- provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way,
- communicates to participants how their input affected the decision (IAP2 2020).

The participatory community spectrum of IAP2 is frequently used to identify and describe the level of public participation in decision-making processes. The participation scales in this spectrum mainly correspond to Arnstein's Ladder of Public Participation. However, whereas the IAP2 spectrum relies more on rationalisation regarding the planning and strategies of participation, Arnstein's Ladder of Public Participation is based on a critical pragmatic perspective of evaluating the effects and outcomes of participation.

### **2.3 Participatory Approach in Urban Design**

Multidisciplinary, comprehensive, and multidisciplinary are some of the characteristics of urban design. According to Carmona, the definition of urban design asserts four themes, firstly urban design is for people; and secondly emphasises the value and importance of place, thirdly it operates in the 'real world' that is defined by the limits of economic and political forces, and lastly, it asserts the significance of design as a process (Carmona et al., 2003). There are varied approaches developed and dominate urban or city planning Ecole, and the advantages and disadvantages still discuss by theorists and designers.

To better understand the meaning of urban design and its evolution with the participatory notion, Allan Jacobs and Donald Appleyard's 'Towards an Urban Design Manifesto' (1987, as cited 2003) stated the seven goals that were essential for the future of an excellent urban environment:

1. *Liveability*: A city should be where everyone can live comfortably.
2. *Identity and control*: People should feel that some part of the environment ‘belongs’ to them, individually and collectively, whether they own it or not.
3. *Access to opportunities, imagination, and joy*: People should find a city where they can break from traditional moulds, extend their experience and have fun.
4. *Authenticity and meaning*: People should be able to understand their (and others’) city, its basic layout, public functions and institutions, and the opportunities it offers.
5. *Community and public life*: Cities should encourage the participation of their citizens in the community and public life.
6. *Urban self-reliance*: increasingly, cities will have to become more self-sustaining in their uses of energy and other scarce resources.
7. *An environment for all*: Good environments should be accessible to citizens entitled to minimal environmental liveability, identity, control, and opportunity.

Participatory Approach in urban design has been established in the literature through such contributions and publications and customised citizen participation and equal rights in urban design. Advocacy Planning and Communicative Theory have been at the core of community participation methods as a result of the urban design process through the involvement of participatory design.

It has been defined as community participatory various things such as community-engaged design, community design, participatory design, design in the public interest, etc. All have nuanced shades of difference in focus and meaning, but all focus on design for and with the community (Wilson, 2018). In recent years, there has been an increasing understanding of the complex multicultural nature of cities

with people and places of diverse social, political, economic, and cultural needs and contexts (Sandercock, 1998).

Participation in planning can be considered in five different types to fulfil other functions.

1-Public adoption of the plan

2- Informing the planner

3- Public participation in the plan

4- Participation as a tool of critical rationalism

5- Excitement of co-creation increases participation

A plan that is well explained to the public will increase the likelihood of its implementation by reducing reactions. Since the support of the people is sought through a one-way information flow, it cannot be said that there is full participation in the adoption of the plan, but it can be said that there is limited and indirect participation.

Through information gathering by the planner, the public has the opportunity to convey their problems related to their environment. However, in this case, since the public is not involved in the decision-making steps, we can talk about one-way participation.

A radical change is made in planning with the public's participation in the plan decision. The planner diversifies their knowledge by meeting with different segments of society.

The fourth type of approach is that participation mediates the realisation of Critical Rationalism. Critical rationalists argue that the concepts of "right" and "good" should be related to each other to build a good society.

Here, the direction of participation changes. Unlike the other approaches, this time, the planner participates in the existing process in society.

The fifth approach to participation is the desire to participate in the excitement of creation. Once the demands of society are determined through participation, it becomes difficult to allocate limited resources among individuals and institutions. For this reason, by adding the dimension of “participation” to the excitement of developing something together, people are not limited to public resources but also include their financial resources in participation. This provides a solution to the resource problem in participation.

Each type of participation described above affects the planning process, and in the following section, various approaches to “participation in design” will be discussed.

### **The Henry Sanoff Approach:**

According to Henry Sanoff, “participation” in the urban design process can be effective with a well-defined purpose. The participants must know the gains at the end of the process in advance (Sanoff, 2000). The objectives of the project and expectations from the project should be stated in advance to ensure that the commitment of the participating actors to the project does not decrease or that they are satisfied with the process. Therefore, defining the project’s goals and expectations is vital in engaging the participant in the design process.

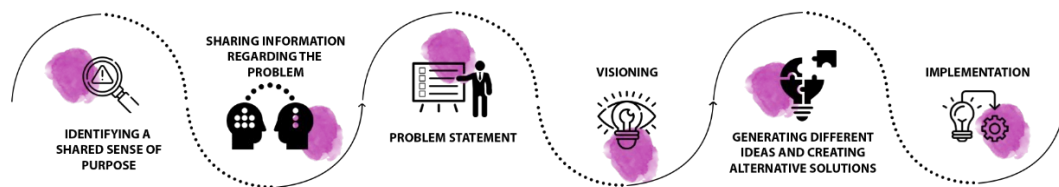
Sanoff argues straightforward design and framework processes can be reconciled with a good management strategy. The consensus process consists of the following stages.

Firstly, there is a need for a clear and explicit project operating procedure for setting a common goal and sharing information among the participants. Secondly, to work effectively on problem identification and solution, an information-sharing platform with common access is required for field visits, analyses, interviews with experts, and reporting. Lastly, the problem must be clearly defined, and the available data must be discussed. At this point, a manageable problem should be identified within the limited time and lack of resources. Various methods, such as verbal explanations, workflow diagrams, and different modelling, can be used in problem identification.

After identifying the problem is expressed in a common ground, creating a shared vision with the participants can begin. At this point, the idea-generation phase has already started. At this stage, participants customise the processes per the determined parameters, brainstorm and detail the options. The advantages and disadvantages of the alternatives are listed, then priorities are listed, and a consensus is reached.

Implementing the recommendations is the final step in the consensus process. A plan of action is prepared at this stage within the scope of the analysis, discussions, and prioritisation processes.

To summarise, according to Sanoff, the general process of consensus building is as follows:



*Figure 5.5. Henry Sanoff Approach Process*

(Created by Author)

### **The Jim Burns Approach:**

Burns categorises participation in design processes into four steps that lead citizens to build consensus about their environment (Burns,1979).

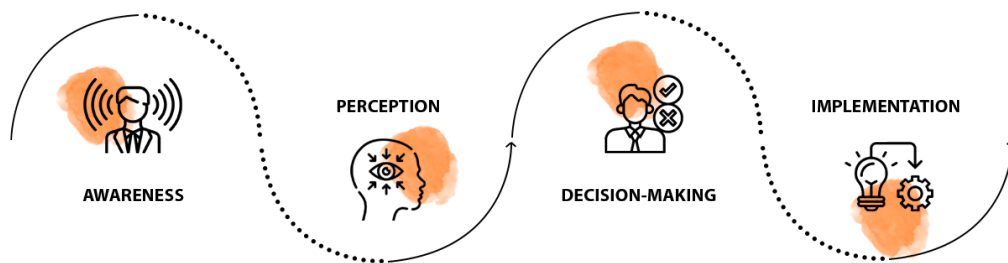
1) Awareness Step: According to Burns, the process begins with citizens becoming “aware” of the realities of their environment. The process of awareness develops the relationship between individuals due to their collective experience in the area in question.

2) Perception Step: Following the awareness stage, citizens begin to perceive their environment in physical, cultural, social and economic terms, which constitutes the second step of the process. In this step, citizens share their expectations about their living spaces to contribute to the design and planning stages.

3) Decision-Making Step: Citizens create authentic designs to help make final and alternative plans prepared by professionals.

4) Implementation Step: The final step is the implementation step, where the community mobilises to implement the project. Ignoring the implementation step in most community participation projects is contrary to the primary purpose of participation. Since the responsibility of the participants will end if the process ends without any implementation, citizens need to stay in the process, take action and take responsibility for their living spaces.

To summarise, according to Burns, the participatory design process is as follows:



*Figure 6.6. Jim Burns Approach Process*

(Created by Author)

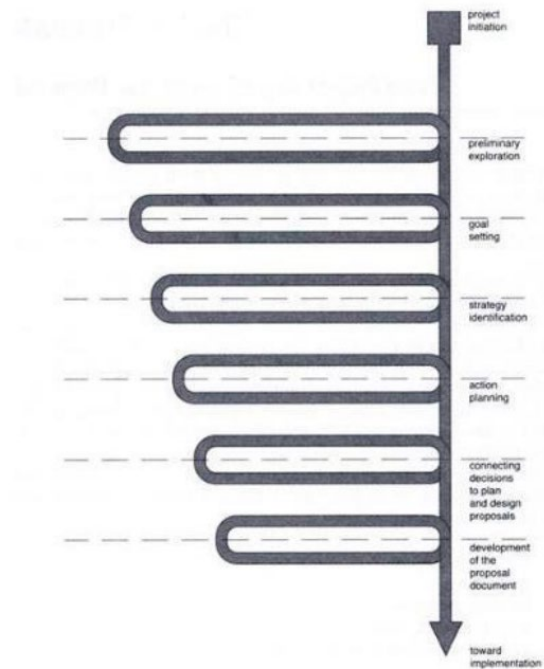
### **The Umut Toker Approach:**

Toker discusses the techniques and methodology of participation in decision-making processes within a framework defined as the “V” Process. (Toker U, 2012)

The “V” process starts with a broad perspective and gradually focuses on different action steps, and decision-making processes are narrowed down in these steps. The V process begins with preliminary research to customise the current situation. The information obtained in this step forms the basis for setting the goal in the next step. In the third stage, strategies are identified to achieve the objectives.

Afterwards, the action plan and design and planning results are integrated. In summary, the “V” process includes all the steps from the project formation to implementation.

Toker U. suggests different tools and methods for each stage in the “V” process. These techniques are given below.



*Figure 7.7. The “V” Process of the Community Design*

(Retrieved from; Toker U., 2012)

By “preliminary research” in the V process, Toker refers to the data collection step and argues that the community should be integrated into this stage. According to Toker, preliminary research consists of three stages: customising existing data, researching similar completed projects, and exploring the local context. The advantage of integrating users into the analysis step for the designer is that the designer gets to know the participant profile and, therefore, the site better, while the advantage for the participants is that the current conditions of the participants are recognised.

After the data collection phase, the data is customised, the problem is defined, and then meetings are organised where the designer shares comment with the community. The designer's comments on the data received from the participants are based on their experience in the design field. However, the designer's interpretations may not coincide with the participants' ideas. Therefore, it is essential for the designer and the participants to discuss and evaluate the conclusions reached.

After these stages, the "goal identification stage" begins. The goal-identification process is also designed together with the participants. Toker suggests some methods at this stage. These include customising likes and dislikes, customising parks, creating wish poems, and similar techniques. These methods encourage the community to think about what they want and do not want about their environment. Strategies are identified once goals and priorities have been decided in this context.

Toker recommends group or individual strategising during the strategy formulation phase.

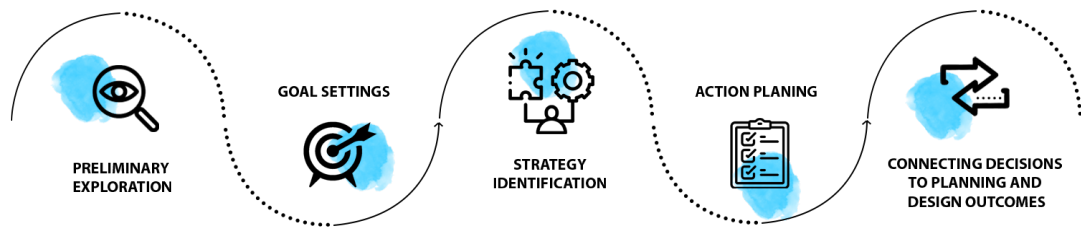
After the identification of strategies, the action planning phase begins. This stage is an important stage for the realisation of the goals and the strategies determined accordingly. The questions expected to be asked in this context are as follows:

- What would be an appropriate first step for implementing the strategy?
- Who/who should be the person(s) to initiate the action?
- What are the best sources of funding for the implementation of the strategy?

Before the design process starts, the action plan filters out the objectives that are not feasible to be implemented in reality and is not transferred to the physical design process, thus focusing on the main goals. The next step is to decide on the material design.

Toker's approach to social design processes can be briefly summarised as follows:





*Figure 8.8. The Umut Toker's Approach Process*

(Created by Author)

In light of all the above information about participatory design models, it is understood that general steps are common for each approach in participatory urban design processes.

### **2.3.1 Community Participation Methods**

Community participation has made tremendous progress in urban design over the years, and the method and process of citizen involvement are still widely discussed. Community participation is a multi-actor process that involves bringing all actors together and seeking specific strategies and techniques to work co-operatively towards a common goal. It has been demonstrated in the literature that there are several ways and methods by which communities can contribute to a decision-making process that shapes their environment. All methods are required for time management, well-defined goals, strategies, and action plans. The methods were criticised for being time-consuming, inefficient, and unproductive and then evolved according to the critiques (Rosener, 1978, as cited in Sanoff, 2005).

According to Diane Day, "It is a difficult task to compare the merits of one participation method over another because no consensus exists on what constitutes successful participation because planning activities vary widely" (Day, 1997, p.432). The critical point is selecting the effective method as crucial as the term itself. Each participatory project needs to modify various methods with its unique necessities.

Each participation project needs to adopt different approaches following local issues and situations. Community participation methods and approaches depend on the land characteristics like district, scale, and aims; the participants' attitudes with professional backgrounds and so on. There are many components in the participatory design process in line with the specific requirements of the neighbourhood. Various methods and techniques can be selected or combined for different uses and characteristics (Wates, 2008; Sanoff, 2000). Professionals have proposed various methods, techniques, and formats in terms of the purposes of participation.

The choice of methods and techniques depends on the opportunity of time and resources, the number of citizens and which types of groups are involved, the complexity of the problem, and the availability of the information. All methods and techniques have been modified, customised to local conditions, and adapted to new circumstances, technological developments, and community profiles. Various types of techniques may be appropriate for different target groups. For example, more extroverted communities often prefer verbal processes, while written versions can be helpful when detailed information is needed. Qualitative and quantitative information can be obtained using various techniques (Toker U., 2012; Sanoff, 2000; Wates, 2008).

Community participation tools are frequently described in either the categories from Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation (1969) or the International Association for Public Participation's (IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation (2018). The Spectrum of Public Participation provides a variation aimed at helping professional experts clarify participation goals, select the level of participation, and understand the people's influence on the last decision of a plan (Figure 2.8). While the spectrum ranges from lower levels of public participation (inform) to more levels of public participation (empower), different community participation tools might apply in different situations. (International Association for Public Participation, 2018)

Sanoff (2000) presents diverse participatory approaches for strategic planning, visioning, charrette process, community action planning, participatory action

research, participation games, workshops, post-occupancy evaluation, visual preference, and appraisal. Each approach has its particular process in itself. For example, community action planning offers a more practice-oriented approach encouraging the community to plan, design, implement, and manage their settlement programmes.

Participatory action research is a comprehensive research approach that has evolved recently and is used in different areas of social practice. Unlike other social research practices, it makes its political and methodological intentions more explicit (Kemmis & McTaggart, 2008). Charrette process implies a collaborative decision-making activity in which all participants work together intensively over a while between a two- or three-day workshop to a two-week event—moreover, this process aims to assist open public forums between all actors and the urban design process.

Toker U. (2012) offers different methods for every stage of the V process, consisting of five steps: preliminary exploration, goal setting, strategy identification, action planning, and connecting decisions to planning and design outcomes. For example, an awareness walk activity can be conducted at the preliminary stage. For the goal-setting stage, likes and dislikes analysis, interviews, wish poems and PARK Analysis can be performed. Design games suggest choosing between life images and alternatives for physical planning and design decisions.

For a participatory design to be successful, participatory methods are essential. Methods are available in the literature, but the most important thing is choosing the most appropriate method for acquiring input from the user. At this point, the creativity of the designer gains vital significance. The urban designer should observe society and act according to the community profile's behaviours. Urban planners and designers increasingly go to their neighbourhood communities to participate rather than wait for people to come to them. Designers intent on collecting information from the public should be careful to choose the proper data collection method without boring or misleading the public. If this happens, the method or strategy should be changed according to the public's interest.

### **2.3.2 Action-oriented Participation**

Contrary to conventional architectural and planning methods, the participatory design emphasises flexible problem-solving and small-scale, low-cost initiatives. As mentioned before, creativity becomes an essential role because of the limitation of resources. According to Ruggeri, small and localised success can give communities the essentials and motivation to replicate their success to achieve more meaningful and long-term goals (Rugger, 2006, p. 154). Small-scale, action-oriented forms of community participation and planning can be followed by the concept of community action planning, which focuses on implementing small-scale, community-led projects (Hamdi, 1997; Sanoff, 2000). Laura J. Lawson provides a case study; creating a group involves planners and residents transforming a vacant lot park into community signage (Lawson, 2017). According to Lawson, the small-scale community-led approach is about making some tangible, particularly for marginalised communities' minor physical improvements, to validate a longer-term plan. Generally, it is appropriate to disadvantage communities working toward alteration, which requires extensive resource and power distribution. In addition, this technique creates an opportunity for professionals to work side by side with the communities. Building moves the conversation away from the drawing, where the designer is an expert (Lawson, 2017, p. 286). Similarly, Barbara Brown Wilson concentrates on small-scale participatory projects; designing for equitable, systemic change in vulnerable communities involves fusing the local knowledge of residents with the technical knowledge of professionals in small, nimble, public projects...crafted with or by vulnerable community residents.” (Wilson, 2018)

There is a growing consensus that traditional forms of community participation could be more effective. Participation needs to be engaging and take place in community engagement. Pop-up urbanism, such as Do-it-yourself (DIY) Urbanism, Guerrilla urbanism, and small-scale, action-oriented projects, represent a new form of community participation. On the other hand, they are also components of the more

significant movements, which are called tactical urbanism. Tactical urbanism acts as an umbrella that brings together all innovative methods of participation on a small scale and can be implemented on a larger scale as a demonstration project which can be transformed into a longer-term project.

## **2.4 Evaluation of the Planning Thought**

In this chapter, to better understand the tactical urbanism approach, the related planning approaches will be discussed. However, it is impossible to say there is a consensus on familiar concepts and definitions of the tactical urbanism approach today. In this study, these approaches are closely related to the essential characteristics of tactical urbanism, defined under tactical urbanism. The approaches that are the basis of tactical urbanism are stated below with their reasons;

- Critical planning brings criticism to the existing planning approaches and is in a search
- Participatory planning as it advocates the public to have a say in the production of the space they live in
- Bottom-up planning rejects the top-down decisions of higher authorities and supports the production of space for the needs of local users
- Flexible planning because it proposes the production of spaces that are open to change and have variable functions

### **Critical Planning**

The emergence of critical planning is related to most planning approaches where the authority and decision-makers are entirely power-holders or power-focused

individuals. Critical approaches to planning practice are diverse, especially Marxist approaches. From a Marxist point of view, the current problem of planning tactical urbanism and similar approaches is that it needs to be recognised as a social phenomenon. The city and planning cannot be considered a phenomenon separate from the society in which they coexist, so society should have a say about the space in which it lives (Ersoy, 2017).

### **Participatory Planning**

One of the leaders of Critical Planning approaches is Habermas. According to Habermas' approach, the main problem in capitalist states is the continuity of the belief in the power holder. The system works as long as society believes in the reality and correctness of all practices. From the point of view of this planning practice, decisions are announced to the public without anyone being aware of the political structure behind the administration of power. To prevent this situation, appropriate communication media and methods are needed. Instead of using planning as a tool, it should be transferred to the user in a healthy communication environment, correct information should be given, and ideas should be taken (Ersoy, 1995).

Critical planning, with its critique of transparent information and participation, directly relates to the following approach associated with tactical urbanism: participatory planning. In the previous chapter, the participatory approach detailed examination according to the evolution of the participatory approach, the levels of participants and the role in the urban design. The relationship between the participatory approach and participation planning with tactical urbanism is addressed. The participatory planning approach describes a process in which each individual using the space has a say in the planning of the space, not only by the authorised persons. Research in the planning discipline has emphasised the importance of participatory methods since the late 1960s, and their reflections in practice have been observed in the planning discipline since the 1970s (Tekeli,

2009). The public always wants to be part of the decisions that affect their lives, but increasing population and urbanisation dynamics make it difficult for citizens to participate in decision-making processes (Sanoff, 2008) actively. One of the most crucial elements in participatory planning is the diversity of the network of actors participating in the planning process. Reaching a conclusion and offering a practical solution within this diversity is challenging. Therefore, some rules and positions should be defined. Some of these are;

- Management of participation
- Educating citizens
- Participation at every stage
- Ensuring the participation of every stakeholder
- The use of appropriate participation techniques
- Correct information transfer

Given the unpredictable nature of today's cities and society due to its rapid change (Beck, 1992), current political preferences, and institutional capacity at the administrative level (Granados-Cabezas, 1995), it is impossible to produce fast and participatory solutions to the extent required. For this reason, participatory planning practice aims to change the passive state from passive to active, to provide an independent process, to produce comprehensive solutions instead of simple methods, to create permanent effects instead of temporary interests, to create a longer-term perspective, to make subordinate-superior relations egalitarian, to increase self-awareness and control in the user (Buckley, 1967). Another concept that often fits with these objectives is tactical urbanism. Therefore, the relationship between these two concepts is very significant.

### **Bottom-up Planning**

Bottom-up planning is based on reversing the mindset of the top-down planning practice dating back to the 1960s. The principles of the top-down approach and instrumentalisation of space have been criticised in many aspects since the 1960s. Top-down planning was an approach that reflected the position of the central authority and its subordinate individuals and institutions as decision-makers in space. Top-down planning was created as an idea against bottom-up planning. It is based on the idea that the actions in the city should not be implemented in a hierarchical order from the strong to the weak but from the bottom up with the request from the society in a hierarchy where everyone has equal rights.

Participatory planning defines the process of public participation and the position of actors. In contrast, bottom-up planning establishes the direction of the process and the relationship between the person in authority and the ordinary person. Tactical urbanism relates the two approaches in the context of the aim of actor diversity and the attempt to build local and social action.

### **Flexible planning**

A flexible planning approach is an approach that exists within tactical urbanism and reflects its power of change. Flexibility is "the ability to establish and maintain the behavioural system-architectural environment harmony in every situation through changes in the architectural environment and the response to the qualities of changeability in the building system" (Yürekli, 1983). Although this definition is more related to the flexibility of architectural building elements, sustainability and adaptability are also important in planning practice. Based on this approach, it can be said that flexibility in planning is related to anticipating the unpredictable in the long term and adapting to changing user needs. Based on the increasing social diversity in cities, this can also mean planning within a diverse range of users. In



addition, there may be flexibility in the planning literature regarding changing administration forms. To summarise, Flexible space production is essential for solving spatial problems in the city, from producing space with changeable structures at the architectural scale to transforming planning into a form that can adapt to changing urban networks. Tactical urbanism relates directly to this approach with its power of change and low-risk criteria.

## **2.5 Tactical Urbanism**

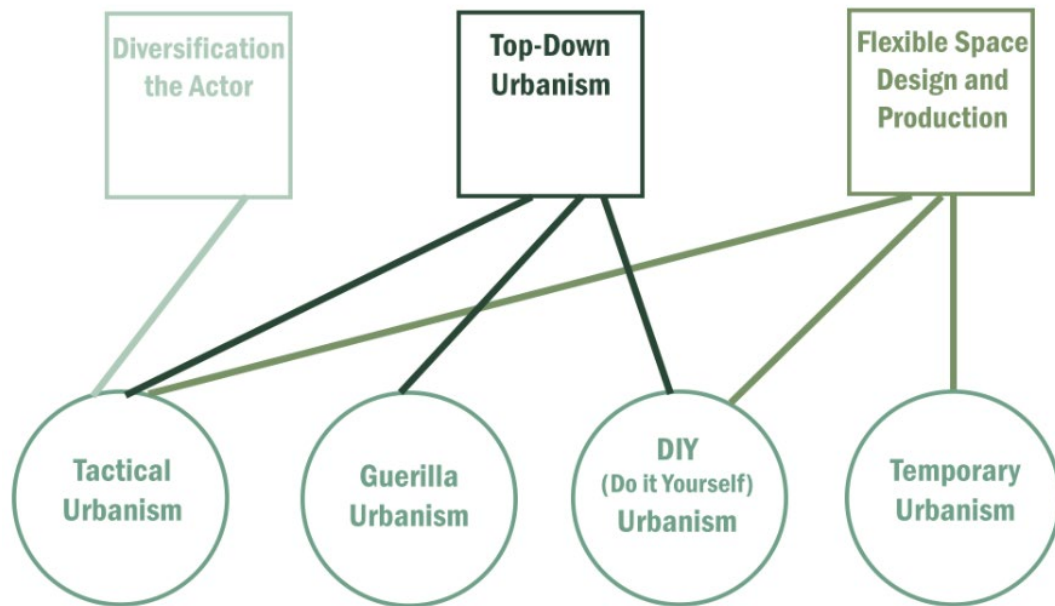
Before explaining tactical urbanism, the definition of the 'tactic' terms needed to be explained. Merriam-Webster describes 'tactic' as "relating to small-scale actions to serve a larger purpose". This is where the term tactical comes from to describe these practices. Tactical urbanism is a process that produces small-scale, low-cost actions to improve urban problems and to develop temporary solutions in shaping the space and designing long-term changes (Alisdairi, 2014; Berg, 2012; Camponeschi, 2010; Colinday, 2018; Dube, 2009; Lara-Hernandez & Melis, 2018; Lydon & Garcia, 2015; Purcell, 2008; Silva, 2016). It is an approach to neighbourhood building that uses short-term, low-budget, and easy-to-scale practices and tactics. At the same time, it is defined as a locally oriented renewal type in terms of creating usable spaces and lands in cities (Derslandes, 2013; Marshal, Duvall and Main, 2016). The definition of Tactical Urbanism corresponds to an attempt to show an orientation contrary to the current planning approaches. Because contemporary planning approaches continue to exist as a practice requiring a large budget, and when they create negative impacts, their return is even more costly. This situation relates to rigid official processes and the inability to keep up with the changing dynamic city (Deniz, 2014). Therefore, the definition of tactical urbanism is a criticism of the existing planning approach. In addition, the tactical urbanism approach proposes that the city work more conveniently and flexibly by giving communities the tools to

shape their environment. It is also scalable and can be done without requiring any authorisation.

In addition, tactical urbanism is often used to refer to low-cost, temporary interventions to improve local neighbourhoods (Dube, 2009, as cited in. Alisdairi, 2014). In this respect, tactical urbanism plays a significant role, as it goes down to the neighbourhood and street scale, has similar objectives to bottom-up planning, and does not get tied up in slow official processes. Therefore, the Tactical Urbanism concept is a criticism of existing planning approaches. At the same time, the rigidity of planning processes explains the desire of tactical urbanism to reach solutions with flexible practices. Tactical urbanism is based on decentralised practices, combining top-down and bottom-up processes and temporary and stakeholder-networked working methods (Pak, 2017). Thus, it is an approach that emerged as the regeneration of the environment and the regeneration of the urban by the environment. This shows that it focuses on the mutual relationship between the environment and human beings (Merker, 2010).

In this context, it is necessary to examine other concepts within the framework of common understanding to explain the concept of tactical urbanism. This study demonstrates the position of tactical urbanism in the literature regarding similar concepts and related approaches. Tactical urbanism is an alternative to existing planning approaches, which envisages participatory processes, accepts a bottom-up process and aims to produce flexible spaces. Related concepts are also explained in the context of these qualities to read the literature more clearly. Concepts used similarly with tactical urbanism are DIY urbanism, guerrilla urbanism, grassroots urbanism, temporary urbanism, ephemeral urbanism, provisional urbanism, Pop-up urbanism, everyday urbanism, spontaneous urbanism, insurgent urbanism, iterative Urbanism, Informal urbanism (Simpson, 2015). Some of these concepts will be criticised for being only a critical approach, some for not addressing the diversity of actors in participatory planning, and some for focusing only on the production of

variable space. Guerrilla urbanism, do-it-yourself urbanism, and temporary urbanism are explained under this heading since they are the main concepts that are relatively more common in the literature. (Figure 2.9)



*Figure 9.9. Common Concepts Between the Tactical Urbanism Approach and Other Approaches*

(Created by the author based on (Douglas, 2020; Lydon, 2015; Madanipour, 2017)

The figure gives the relationship between essential qualities and fundamental approaches. While guerrilla urbanism emphasises its critical structure and bottom-up planning approach, the concept of DIY (Do-It-Yourself) urbanism also stands out with its flexible production of space. While temporary urbanism emphasises only flexible space production among these four qualities, tactical urbanism provides all four qualities. Therefore, it has been chosen as the central concept in this study. Similar approaches are shown with the main approaches with which it is related.

Before the definition of Guerrilla urbanism, the definition of guerrilla should be reviewed. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, a member of an unofficial military group is trying to change the government by making sudden, unexpected attacks on the official army forces. This concept also reveals that it is an action directly against the government. Therefore, it expresses a rebellion in itself. Guerrilla movements seem to have emerged as a response to racist, sexist, and other violations against any minority class (Douglas, 2020). In this way, Guerrilla urbanism has a similar approach to DIY(Do-it-Yourself) urbanism to focus on the minority group's rights on a local scale. When looking at Guerrilla urbanism, it is seen that although property rights vary from country to country, legal problems may arise. Therefore, it meets the criteria of criticising the planning system and bottom-up planning mentioned in the definition of tactical urbanism. However, it does not have a profound statement in the name of variability or participation in the production of space.

On the other hand, one of the most common terms in the literature describing user-initiated practices is DIY (Do-It-Yourself) urbanism. DIY urbanism is a radical alternative to large-scale master plans that develop the city and its capacity for social interaction (Bermann & Marinaro, 2014). The city can be considered a space for social interaction and a tool for social interaction. If the people have a say in the production of the space they live in as a community, the city becomes both a space for social interaction and an instrument of it. This concept, which helps to produce an alternative such as tactical urbanism, also emphasises social interaction and relates to helping revitalise cities.

In addition, DIY urbanism is a tool for criticising capitalism but is also effective in defending minority and discriminated segments of society (Sparato, 2016). Activities that include elements of DIY urbanism (Douglas, 2014; Iveson, 2013), local creativity (Edensor et al., 2010), resistance to direct authority, capitalism, or mainstream culture (Lambert-Beatty, 2010; Pickerill & Chatterton, 2006). The DIY

urbanism approach also addresses the most disadvantaged actors categorised by tactical urbanism, defined as the public. Recently, citizens who affect urban space without government involvement or oppose government policies and regulations have broadly defined DIY urbanism' (Finn, 2014). DIY urbanism often excludes practices that can be implemented in a formalised way. To summarise, although tactical urbanism and DIY practices have similar approaches, they differ. While tactical urbanism describes the formation of a network of actors, including official institutions, do-it-yourself urbanism takes an attitude against this.

Temporary urbanism is actions that occur in the short term and over time in a place. The application is creative, flexible, and variable. While it allows actor groups to produce alternative spaces, it also offers a single space a chance to include multiple actions. It can also be considered an experimental space production method (Madanipour, 2017). For this reason, temporary urbanism is related to creating flexible space. Temporary urbanism refers to a social movement that transforms space in a city to mobilise it in new ways. The idea of the same space serving different activities in different periods is vital in opening the horizon of the planning approach in terms of its limits and potential (Hou, 2010; McGlone, 2016). From this point of view, the official acceptance of temporary urbanism is a positive development; the existing planning approaches have been recognised as inadequate, and the necessity for change has been proved. The concepts of temporary urbanism and tactical urbanism are interrelated. However, tactical urbanism has a more inclusive approach. Temporary urbanism corresponds to the flexible space production characteristic of tactical urbanism.

In line with similar approaches, the tactical urbanism approach draws attention to its potential to apply innovative actions to the needs of cities as a new search for economic systems emerges with changing urban dynamics (Németh & Langhorst, 2014). In these practices, the main actors of tactical urbanism are individuals who are both the creators and users of space. According to Mike Lydon, Tactical

urbanism is a movement no one controls, and everyone can participate (Lydon,2015). It is understood from this that with these practices, projects no longer belong to the owner of the government, the private sector, the designer, or the user. Therefore, it is also argued that there is no situation where any actor dominates the other. At the same time, all actors have a significant impact. The approach is therefore based on the capability of building a solid actor network and organisation (Merker, 2010). In the following chapter, understanding the tactical approach, which includes different theories and concepts as discussed in a short version, will be addressed.

### **2.5.1 Tactical Urbanism Implementation Criteria**

When tactical urbanism practices are analysed, it is seen that they have specific common characteristics and objectives. Low cost and risk, localisation, fast and flexible solutions, diversity in the actor network and raising awareness are the criteria identified in this study. Each standard is also related to another measure. These criteria, produced based on the scientific literature on the subject, can sometimes be a prerequisite or a result of each other. (Figure 2.10.) To make a unique space on a local scale, various actors who are the users of that space may be needed, or the awareness desired to be created can be increased as the diversity of actors in the production of space increases.



*Figure 10.10. Tactical Urbanism Criteria Scheme*

(Created by the author based on Lydon, 2015)

In this section, while determining the criteria, the benefits of tactical urbanism mentioned in various studies were also considered. According to Yassin (2019), the benefits of tactical urbanism are scalability, the potential to become sustainable, and the concept of savings. On the other hand, according to Lydon (2015), the benefits of tactical urbanism are; a progressive and conscious approach to change, local ideas for the challenges of local planning, short-term commitment and realistic expectations, low risk, possibly a high reward, developing people's social capital and building organisational capacities among citizens. The following general criteria have been established as a standard content of these resources.

### **Low-cost and Risk**

Tactical urbanism adopts an approach to urban design with low-budget point interventions instead of large projects with high budgets, which has become a problem today. This is because it is difficult to go back to implementing big projects with high budgets when they do not benefit urban life. Short-term intervention using low-cost materials can be helpful for actions such as redesigning the practice or terminating it without significant losses in capital, provided that the results of the practice fail to achieve the objectives (Yassin, 2019). The most critical point of tactical urbanism is that if the application creates a permanent and effective product, the material used and the land are reversible.

Another cost problem in any spatial practice is the cost of labour. In tactical urbanism practices, citizens usually minimise the cost of workers by showing high participation in their neighbourhoods (Yassin, 2019). However, reducing the financial burden is not only realised with the participation of the citizens in tactical practices. Various non-profit organisations and artists minimise the cost by voluntarily supporting such practices. In addition, the use of cheap and recyclable materials, the participation of citizens as workers, and the support of official institutions and various non-profit organisations have a very positive effect on tactical practices. Low-cost interventions resulting from tactical urbanism practices provide significant savings in planning and implementation (Kheibari, Lak, 2020).

### **Localisation**

Tactical practices can produce practical solutions because they are practices that tend to create solutions specific to the place where they are located. Such practices unite



local communities, stakeholders, organisations and businesses to develop a small-scale space with local solutions (Lydon et al., 2012). In this way, the answer is realised in a way that values the authentic and local. The result is a low-budget but effective intervention in the long term. On the contrary, long-term and large-scale planning approaches cannot produce plans that are unique or responsive to the problem of the place since they cannot involve local stakeholders (Prefier, 2013). Because in conventional planning, local qualities can be ignored in authority-orientated processes (Groth & Corijn, 2005). Today, public participation has been increasingly adopted as a form of practice. This increase is due to the need for more implementation by the administrations or the need to add value and site specificity (Hou, 2010). A fast and efficient way of designing original spaces has been discovered in both cases.

The localisation of tactical urbanism practices does not mean that these practices cannot be used in other areas. Designers and planners are inclined to evaluate successful projects in other places. However, these experiments should be carried out in the context of the characteristics of the site to be applied and following the local conditions. Design, planning and copied implementations should be avoided (Prefier, 2013). An original project implemented in a pilot region can be implemented in another part of the city with similar problems or in cities with a different culture in a completely different country.

### **Fast and Flexible Solution**

Another goal of tactical urbanism is rapidly creating flexible space productions, flexible programmes, and a flexible planning approach. This goal is related to producing spaces that can keep up with the rapidly changing conditions of cities. Seeing space as an experimental field means tactics can be changed quickly when the application does not achieve the expected result. In addition, the flexibility of an application means that it can be produced in various spaces and scales to create

positive effects in different conditions (Marshall et al., 2016). According to Lydon (2015), tactical urbanism allows for the rapid reclamation, reuse, and reprogramming of public space. The ability to quickly adapt to a new plan in every planning process indicates that they have a common goal with tactical urbanism.

### **Diversity in the Actor**

Tactical urbanism adopts a participatory planning approach regarding the people involved in the implementation. It includes all kinds of space users from official institutions, non-governmental organisations, and various planning, decision-making, and implementation experts. If the stakeholders are to be categorised from a general framework, it can be stated as follows;

- Experts in the production of space: Urban planners, architects, urban designers, landscape architects, civil engineers
- Personnel involved in technical processes: Local staff in engineering, maintenance, transport, etc.
- Academicians
- Official governmental organisations and politicians
- Non-profit social organisations
- Unprofessional local community members
- Media (Stevens et al., 2019)

Each actor group has a particular role in the planning process. The city residents play an active role in raising awareness and enabling social interaction. Official institutions provide support as executors and non-profit organisations offer financing. The media contributes by recognising the practice and supporting it to make it effective (Stevens et al., 2019). In such practices, non-professional residents often act as facilitators as they are the ones who experience the urban problem first-hand (Yassin, 2019). While the personnel involved in technical processes are frequently involved in the implementation part, experts and academicians fulfil tasks

such as providing stakeholders with the correct information and carrying out the process effectively. While defining the stakeholders of participatory processes, the stakeholder network in project management can be used.

### **Raising Awareness**

While tactical urbanism is an approach to solving problems related to space production, it can create awareness and consciousness, especially at scales spread throughout the city or the country. According to Lydon (2015), the tactical urbanism approach emphasises creating significant impacts with minor interventions. Therefore, it is seen that tactical urbanism practices, which are often unofficial, put forward to voice an existing urban problem in many cities, have the potential to raise awareness and consciousness.

The ordinary consciousness and awareness created in this way enable city problems to be addressed together. This unity and the uncertainty created by conflict are advantages of the tactical urbanism approach (Enigbokan, 2016). Under current conditions, such collaborative approaches to system transformation are seen as having the potential to develop a social base to support public services (Webb, 2018).

### **2.5.2 Classification of Tactical Urbanism Practices**

As stated in the thesis, the study focuses on the participatory approach, and tactical urbanism is proposed as a solution tool in this classification. Tactical urbanism practices are classified into four categories. The varying area of impact, different functions, actor groups involved in the practice, and formalisation status were used for the categorisation (Table 2.1). Each heading is divided into a different number of classes. In terms of the area of impact, a classification based on scale, a type based on function, and a classification in terms of actor diversity. Under the heading of governmental context, there are three different categorisations.

CLASSIFICATION OF TACTICAL URBANISM PRACTICES			
AREA OF IMPACT	FUNCTION	ACTOR DIVERSITY	GOVERNMENTAL CONTEXT
Street	Green space, Street construction, etc.	One Type actor	Unofficial- Official
Neighbourhood	Street and Space planning etc.	Two type actors	Unofficial-Official
District /Zone	Commercial Area, Public Space, etc.	Three Type actors	Official

*Table 2.1. Classification of tactical urbanism practices*  
(Created by the author)

In the table, the actor diversity part is categorised into four-type actors. One type of actor consists of only all governmental organisations and institutions that refer to stakeholders that provide financial support and carry out formal processes. The two-type actor consists of non-profit organisations, foundations and communities of volunteers besides governmental organisations. Such stakeholders help with financial support and also promote the implementation. The third group comprises a governmental organisation, a volunteer- non-profit organisation, and a professional and technical team. Lastly, in addition to other types of actor groups, four types of an actor include non-professional urban residents (users) and artists.

While tactical urbanism practices can be a solution for only one street, the area of impact can vary considerably, it can also be a practice that impacts a country-wide scale. This situation is related to the objective of flexibility in scale explained under the title of the criteria of tactical urbanism practices. Applications showing micro and macro scale effects have a scale ranging from urban design. At the same time, each practice tends to be applied at the micro-scale and impacts the macro-scale.

This indicates practices that affect the classification at the country or regional scale (Yassin, 2019).

The functional classification of applications is similarly quite diverse. There may also be applications that belong outside the function classification given above. Tactical practices generally refer to flexible spaces that cater to public functions. According to Lydon (2015), any space in the city can be used for a different function. An area can be designed flexibly so that it can sometimes be used as a park and sometimes as a street.

The success of tactical implementation is often related to how many different classes of actors are involved (Stevens et al., 2019). Four types of actor groups are described in the categorisation. All official institutions and organisations refer to stakeholders that provide financial support and carry out official processes. The second group is non-profit and volunteer organisations, foundations, and communities. The third group includes professionals and technical experts. The fourth group comprises non-professional urban residents (users) and artists. They are involved in tactical urbanism practices through creative activities and productions (Stevens et al., 2019).

Another classification of tactical urbanism practice is related to their formal status. Practices only sometimes involve legal organisations or processes. At the same time, when practices are recognised as an effective solutions, an informal practice can be formalised by official institutions. For this reason, the classification is analysed under three headings: Formal, informal, and practices transformed from informal to formal processes. Unlike approaches such as guerrilla urbanism, tactical urbanism seeks to formalise practices. The revitalisation potential of tactical urbanism practices includes the possibility to standardise existing informal practices.

In summary, tactical urbanism practices have powerful, unexpected impacts on the city. It offers an organisational and citizen-led approach that involves short-term, low-cost, and scalable interventions to promote long-term change (Lydon & Garcia,

2015). These implementations enable the creation of platforms that reflect the real experiences of urban dwellers, showing how they respond to their daily lives and living environments (Enigbokan, 2016). The contradictions that may arise if local governments and capital-owning developers use the tactical urbanism approach are frequently discussed in the literature (Mould, 2014; Douglas, 2014; Enigbokan, 2016; Talen, 2015; Fabian & Samson, 2016; Marshall et al., 2016; Webb, 2018; Yassin, 2019). In this context, it is essential to analyse urban experiences that try to mediate between bottom-up initiatives and planning and a planning approach that embraces democratic citizen participation to reveal the contradictions and potentials in this sense. In this context, the assessments' social and spatial consequences are analysed.

## CHAPTER 3

### ANALYSIS

#### 3.1 Hypothesis

Within the scope of this research, the theories related to the tactical urbanism and participatory approach, definitional difficulties in the literature, standard definitions and debates in the context of the tactical urbanism approach, the experiences of incorporating the tactical urbanism approach into urban design processes and learning from the tactics of the citizens are examined and a conceptual framework to explain the phenomenon is established. This chapter aims to answer the main research questions of the thesis by establishing a methodological framework based on the theories and approaches reviewed in the study;

*“What is the relationship between tactical urbanism and participatory planning and urban design approaches?”*

The sub-questions following the main question address the relationship between the subjects and each other. To answer those questions, the selected cases examine tactical urbanism projects as part of community engagement as a tool of the planning process.

#### 3.2 Methodology and Data Gathering

The author conducted a qualitative case study to examine the research question and understand citizen participation's local experiences in tactical urbanism practices. To reveal the controversial issues between the tactical urbanism approach and the participatory planning approach and evaluate the potentials arising from their

alliances through examples, it demonstrates how public participation can be strengthened in urban design and planning processes.

This study focuses on the tactical urbanism practices relations of the participatory approach. For this purpose, these projects have been selected to analyse tactical urban experiences that mediate between bottom-up initiatives and a planning approach that embraces democratic citizen participation. One of the aims is to reveal the contradictions and potentials that may arise in this context. To provide this, the projects were analysed under the headings of evaluation of outcomes based on tactical urbanism criteria, participatory process and level of participation.

The main aspects of the study are divided into sections, each related to a specific set of objectives and criteria and containing leading indicators for assessing the scope of the cases. The first part of the analysis is the process evaluations, the actors of tactical urbanism implementation, and the project's relation with the concepts of tactical urbanism. Also, this section looks at the level of participation, how citizens are involved in all project processes, and what kind of contribution they have. Considering the different models of participation analysed in the literature review, the guideline includes the following levelled range for the level of participation: information, consultation, consensus building, dialogue, discussion, cooperation and partnership, self-management, empowerment, and decision-making, which includes the participation levels of other models.

The second part is about how the planning process takes place in which the participants are actively involved. The first indicator relates to the levels of participation and how the participation process is organised. The second indicator relates to the planning of the process and refers to the main issues of the participatory process involved in the projects.

The final part of the analysis focuses on where tactical urbanism objectives are at issue in the cases. Considering the criteria in the literature review, the concepts of low cost and risk, localisation, awareness raising, actor diversity, and flexible



solution were examined. This part also includes the outcome of the process, both social and spatial outcomes.

This part of the chapter is structured into sections on the cases of the study, the relation with the literature review according to methodological approach, data gathering tools and analysis methods used in the study, and limitations. The researcher first familiarised with the raw data to analyse the chapters mentioned above to provide context, gathered all the notes, and highlighted the initial thoughts, exploring the sites and links between data.

To better understand the process and the result of the participatory approach in the tactical urbanism cases. Cases are chosen according to the participation level in the tactics of the project. Analysing such cases in metropolitan cities offers a critical perspective on the potential of cities. It makes visible the urban tools that can be triggered in different contexts for change for the better (Benner, 2013). The study investigates the spatial reflection of participatory methods in urban space, considering tactical urbanism.

The research is based on qualitative methods because qualitative procedures promote quality, depth, richness and perception rather than statistical representativeness, especially to analyse the participatory approach. The study aims to obtain information about a population's characteristics, behaviour, and attitudes and examine the implications of this information in tactical practices. To provide this, questions are prepared by the author to investigate local experts, Non-profit organisations' volunteer points of view.

This qualitative data collection method involves a semi-structured interview to understand the context and interpret responses and documentation research. After, the site visit to the cases was used as the third data collection method. This study is intended to be explanatory because the literature has focused on participation and tactical urbanisation. In-depth analyses to understand how views are formed and the impact of participation on the concept of tactical urbanisation are rarely included.

### **3.2.1 Documentation Research**

The secondary data collection method provided the author with a wide range of information about the tactical urbanism practices in the cases and participatory approaches. The published materials were used to collect data for the thesis research (books, digital books, articles, photographs, field analyses, maps, websites, archives, etc.).

First, the related cases were searched in published data. To understand projects such as the ‘Zümrütevler’ square project and the TOPUK project, the published report of the project was analysed by non-institutional foundations with the help of the interviewees. In addition, the published technical articles and historical documents on the internet were searched, especially for the Roman Orchard project, to understand the different perspectives. Also, government publications and decrees on official legislation were researched. Thus, for the TAK ‘Canlanan Meydan’ square, the TAK reports and publications were also searched throughout the internet and share documents by the interviewee. For the ‘Alman Deresi Community and Movement’ Project, the original website of Onaranlar Kulübü and their archive were also used as secondary data.

The local newspapers and journals were also used for all cases. The reason for using this secondary data is to understand the project’s objectives from different perspectives and to eliminate misunderstandings. This method helps the research build upon existing knowledge to analyse the cases objectively. Furthermore, the documentation research provides information about the projects and who implemented them and compared the opinions of the interviewees.

### **3.2.2 Semi-Structure Interviews**

Before the interview, a formal invitation and explanation were sent to twenty potential interviewees. However, only eight people could be interviewed. Unfortunately, three could not share any information about their work within the project's scope, as they only comprised research and workshops. Data were collected from five in-depth semi-structured interviews with selected participants who were local experts or volunteers of the cases. Also, data were obtained between 2022-2023 with their full consent. The selected persons were chosen to collect data quickly because If the interviewee has a certain level of knowledge and interest, the expert is more motivated to participate in the interview because of this common ground (Bogner et al., 2009). A semi-structured interview is a verbal interaction in which the interviewer tries to collect information from another person by asking specific questions.

The experts and volunteers were chosen by researching the project and non-profit organisation in Istanbul. During the selection process, the author paid particular attention to participating in participatory projects in tactical practice. The author assisted and conducted all interviews. The author asked both predefined and open-ended questions to the interviewees. Semi-structured interviews were conducted in an online meeting programme.

The interview questions were designed based on the relevant findings from the literature review (e.g. results on purpose, levels, stakeholders, tactical urbanism concepts, and tools). The questions were designed from general to specific (see Annex A). The interviews were approximately 30-45 minutes long. The researcher was careful to ask the questions as sequentially as possible. Since the interviewees approved the audio recording, the audio recordings were taken throughout the interview period.

### **Information About Semi-Structured Interviews**

The first interview was conducted with a city planner Interviewer-1 worked on the TOPUK Women Accessing Public Transport Project and is a member of ‘Sokak Bizim Derneği’. She leads participatory urban design projects in İstanbul and different cities in Turkey. She also provided information about effective participatory design methods to integrate the users into the project. She gave information about the concept of tactical urbanism, part of the projects at some point, and its effects. There was also a discussion on the idea of participation and different levels of participation in the project.

The second interview was conducted with Interviewer-2, an urban planner and founder of Design Workshop Kartal and Kadıköy, to obtain information about the "Canlanan Meydan" Revitalised Square Project in Kartal, as well as a general approach to participatory design practices in Turkey from past to present and methods of obtaining input. He gave information about the Design Atelier Kartal and various projects the volunteer designers and citizens implemented. As a planner, he has extensive experience in participatory design and planning. He has served as a researcher and manager in various projects. His approach to the design process also helped to provide a framework for evaluating the cases. In addition, his comments, particularly on tactical urbanism and its relationship with participatory planning, are also incorporated into the literature review section.

The Third interview was conducted with Interviewer-3, a director of strategy development in Maltepe Municipality and a city planner. He works in urban and regional development, transportation planning, urban renewal and protection, and social project design and management. He gave important information about the ‘Zümrütevler Square’ project. He explained how the institution and project partners handled the tactical urbanism and participatory approach during the design and implementation phases.

The fourth interview was conducted with Interviewer-4, a Project Manager in ‘Onaranlar Kulübü’ who works on sustainable design, recycling, and upcycling. The interview was informative and comprehensive about the project process. It gave information and data about the design process of the project. Online websites containing detailed and up-to-date information that contains project databases were also used as secondary data sources.

The fifth interview was conducted with Interviewer-5, who works in ‘Türkiye Tasarım Vakfı’. She gave information about the general concept of the foundation, project process, and outcomes. During the interview, the focus was mainly on participatory approach processes in tactical urbanism projects.

The sixth interview was conducted with Interviewer-6, who works at the Institute of urban studies. He gave information about the general framework of the institution. During the interview, the participatory process in urban studies mainly focused on projects, especially in academia.

### **3.2.3 Site Visit**

The site visit to the cases provided the author with reflected present-day information about the cases in April 2023, 3 full days of observation were carried out in the analysed sites and between ten and fifteen people was interviewed as daily users of the sites. Furthermore, the sites analysed the everyday use of the local citizen, how the area affects people in their daily use, and the outcomes of the projects physically and socially. Then, interviewers asked local people questions to understand their knowledge about projects. In addition, the evaluation of the projects within the scope of present-day tactical urbanism and their compliance with the criteria were asked. Daily users were also asked how they evaluate project participation processes.

The relation of the site visits with the tactical urbanism criteria and participatory processes of the cases has been analysed. In light of the field review and questions

asked to daily users, some of the projects analysed during the site visit were not recognised because they no longer exist, and some local citizens said they needed to remember something about the project. On the other hand, some of the daily users of the area in the project area still see the impact of these projects, and as mentioned, the area attracts interest from external users. In general, the space's function has changed, and the physical and social structure of the areas has changed negatively and positively. Along with this change, the level of participation in the fields could not be observed today. However, reflections of the projects are still kept in some areas.

### **3.3 The Case of Five Tactical Urbanism Projects From İstanbul**

Istanbul has been the scene of tactical urbanisation movements with different actors for different purposes. Especially since the beginning of the 2000s, the increasing use of information and communication technologies and the gaining of new concepts, forms of organisation and a holistic perspective allow for analytical analysis. In this context, the examples in Istanbul will be discussed within the scope of their motivations, integration and adaptability capacities with the city. It is aimed to understand the place of these examples in the conceptual framework and thus to reveal a potential by tracing the tactical urbanism approach in the city of Istanbul.

The cases were selected from different areas in Istanbul, which are located in Maltepe, Kadıköy, Kartal and Beşiktaş (Figure 3.1.). These cases were reviewed because the design process ended with an output, and participants actively participated in the design process.



Figure 11 Selected Areas in İstanbul  
(Created by Author)

### **TOPUK - Women Accessing Public Transport Project**

TOPUK (TOPlu Taşımaya Ulaşan Kadın) is a project developed in partnership with EKA Creative Studio, IMM Department of Transport, ITU İstanbul Urban Mobility Laboratory, Maltepe Municipality and Sokak Bizim Association. The project aims to develop spatial interventions with participatory methods to make women's access to public transport safe, secure and comfortable. This project was developed under the Civil Society Facility and Media - Civil Society Networks and Platforms Support Program funded by the European Union (Figure 3.2.). The project was entitled to receive support from the Micro-Grant Program of the KAVŞAK civil society network, which is a civil society network of institutions from various sectors acting together to improve sustainable urban transportation in Turkey within the

scope of the "Türkiye Sürdürülebilir Kent İçi Ulaşım Ağı (KAVŞAK)" project coordinated by WRI Turkey Sustainable Cities and carried out in partnership with Aktif Yaşam Association, UCLG-MEWA, UITP and YADA.



Figure 12 *TOPUK Project*

(Retrieved From; <https://kavsak.net/kavsak-agi-mikro-hibe-programindan-faydalanan-projelerin-sonuc-raporlari/>)

### **TAK Association- “Canlanan Meydan” A Square Project in Kartal**

The TAK (Design, Research and Participation) Association is a volunteer-based organisation that aims to bring together local people and designers to create environments with an ordinary mind in solving their environmental problems. This association also cooperated with the Kartal municipality in their project to sustain their project on a local scale. One of the projects of this association is “Canlanan Meydan” (Figure 3.3.)

They published guidelines and project proposals or inquiries for the municipality and the local government institutions to create a better living environment and emphasis a bottom-up approach. One of the branches of this organisation is located in Kartal,



and it is called TAK Kartal, which includes TAK Kamp, TAK Travelling and TAK Kondu project; it is designed to create an environment for designers, researchers, and local people to meet, discuss and generate ideas.

## CANLANAN MEYDAN

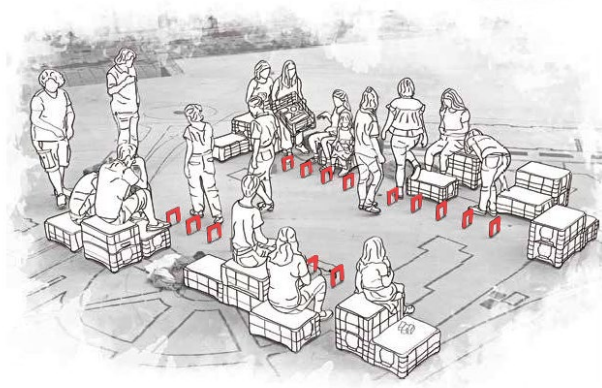


Figure 13 “Canlanan Meydan” Visual Study from the TAK Designers  
(Retrieved from TAK Kartal Canlanan Meydan Archive)

### **Roman Orchard in Istanbul**

Roman Orchard is a self-governing communal space where new ideas, communication networks and connections are developed for mutual sharing and new forms of resistance take root. First established as an autonomous guerrilla garden in 2013 by activists after the Gezi Park resistance, Roman Orchard became a community garden with a new, organised and sustainable plan in May 2015. Located on a hillside in Cihangir, overlooking the mesmerising panoramic view of the Seraglio, where the Bosphorus meets the Golden Horn, Roman Orchard has managed to survive and become an important symbol of the green commons during urban,

environmental and food movements. The volunteers, as they called themselves ‘Roman Garden People’, worked hard to create a "food forest" in this area.

With these actions and the lawsuit filed by Beyoğlu Neighbourhood Associations, it was decided to cancel the Conservation Plans for Beyoğlu Urban Conservation Area. Beyoğlu's "Conservation Zoning Plan" was cancelled in 2013 due to a lawsuit filed by neighbourhood associations in 2011. For this reason, the Roman Garden was designed by volunteers in the light of “permaculture” principles based on acting together with nature (Figure 3.4.).



Figure 14 *The Roman Orchard: Roman Orchard Was Designed by Volunteers*  
(Retrieved from; <https://romabostani.org/beyoglu-planlari/>)

### **Alman Deresi Community and Movement Area” Project**

The ‘Onaranlar Kulübü’ is a social organisation that develops social benefit projects focusing on producing, repairing and sharing in addition to collective production projects developed. The organisation’s main aim is to strengthen the dialogue between the city, environment and people and increase people's identity with the

places where they live. It aims to create democratic production and practice spaces for everyone by organising training and workshops. In this project, the ‘Onaranlar Kulübü’, Beşiktaş Municipality and Akkök Holding created a semi-structured formation in which the stakeholders cooperated within the scope of the transformation project notion.

The project emerged to emphasise the importance of public areas or the community. Especially parks, the largest shared common areas, constitute an essential ground for dialogue with the city. The main aim of the project is to repair the basketball court on the 'Alman Deresi' Walking Park, which has been a walking path and an opportunity for various sports activities for many years, and to create community spaces that will improve the dialogue and social action of people with themselves as well as with their surroundings the project was entitled to receive the identity of the area. Urban furniture designs and field ground applications were carried out (Figure 3.5.). The project aims to restore the area’s identity, and urban furniture designs and field ground applications have been implemented.



Figure 15 *Urban Furniture Designs and Field Ground Applications*

(Retrieved from: <https://www.onaranlarkulubu.com/proje/alman-deresi-topluluk-ve-hareket-alani-projesi/> )

### **“Zümrütevler” Square Project**

“Zümrütevler Meydanı Dönüşüm Provası” Project is the first intersection transformation rehearsal for the improvement of Istanbul's streets and intersections in terms of pedestrian safety. It was carried out in Maltepe Zümrütevler Square by Superpool Architecture Office in cooperation with Maltepe Municipality and in consultation with NACTO Global Urban Design Initiative (NACTO GDCl) (Figure 3.6.). This project was launched in October 2019 and was supported by Bernard van Leer Foundation under the Urban95 program on cities and early childhood. Within the framework of this program, the Foundation asks city administrators, urban planners, architects, designers and entrepreneurs, "If you could see the city from 95 cm, the height of a healthy three-year-old child, what would you change? For this reason, the project aims to research methods to improve the streets in a way that considers young children and their caregivers and to implement these methods within a vast network of stakeholders.



Figure 16 “Zümrütevler Meydanı Dönüşüm Provası” Project

Retrieved from: [https://www.lar.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/28-Nisan\\_Taktiksel-Kentsel-Plan-Cocuk-Haklari-ve-Katilim.pdf](https://www.lar.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/28-Nisan_Taktiksel-Kentsel-Plan-Cocuk-Haklari-ve-Katilim.pdf)

### **3.4 Evaluation of Outcomes Based on Tactical Urbanism Criteria**

In these cases, a detailed examination of tactical urbanism practices has the potential to be a tool that facilitates the identification of the city's problem-need areas by increasing the capacity to learn from the city in terms of revealing the areas that are intervened inadequately by the citizens.

The evaluations to be made are based on the following criteria;

- Meeting the criteria of tactical urbanism; local solutions, realistic expectations in a short time, raising awareness and identifying the capacity of the right target to increase the participation of changing urban users
- Inform all urban actors, especially local governments, civil society organisations and citizens,
- How public participation in urban design and planning processes can be strengthened.

For this reason, physical dimensions (functional, environmental and aesthetic) and human dimensions (social, economic and administrative) are evaluated using semi-structured interviews and documentation research.

The actors of the Istanbul examples accessed within the scope of the research were analysed in the light of literature reviews. According to Interviewer-1, the main actors are volunteer experts from various fields such as academics, architects, urban planners, designers or graffiti artists, local governments, citizen and investor initiatives or partnerships such as foundations. In addition, the actors' motivations differ in how they come together and the problem of interest in the cases. Accordingly, some associations consist of actors who want to reproduce their environment on their terms, exercising their right to react to their environment, such as improving social communication and contributing to urban aesthetics, independent of strict political beliefs. On the other hand, some associations are movements that come together around policies such as environmentalism, women's



rights or cycling and want to create long-term functional effects. However, it is also possible to see examples of both situations combined in the research.

In this context, the TOPUK Project, pedestrian priority design, which stands out as a fundamental problem of the city, is aimed at prioritising fair access. Interviewer-1 stated that it had been developed to raise awareness about using a human-oriented space at the neighbourhood scale and to produce alternative solutions. The project includes basic proposals such as widening the sidewalk by painting the asphalt surface to make pedestrian kept safe and comfortable, placing sustainable urban furniture to meet the needs of pedestrians such as resting and sitting on the route, developing greening and afforestation points to keep walking path pleasant and safe, and a pay wall that will allow children to interact. The implementations were divided into temporary and permanent, and it was planned that the temporary implementations would be completed on the day of the activity. In contrast, the permanent implementations would be completed by Maltepe Municipality in the following process with the approval of the IBB Transportation and Traffic Regulation Commission and after the site implementation was recorded (Figure 3.7.).



Figure 17 *Before and After the Site Implementation*

(Retrieved From; <https://kavsak.net/kavsak-agi-mikro-hibe-programindan-faydalanan-projelerin-sonuc-raporlari/>)

According to the documentation research, in addition to the implementation, spatial arrangements were supported with social activities by organising a painting activity on fabric for children and a pilates activity for women and children in cooperation with Maltepe Municipality Sports Unit. Interviewer-1 stated that physical interventions are insufficient for these social activities, and projects should be supported with activities and social campaigns. That change can only be possible in this way. At the end of the implementations, it was observed that children and their families visiting the cultural centre showed great interest in the painted areas and the newly added urban furniture and seating elements.

On the other hand, after analysing the current state of the TOPUK project, it was observed that the painted areas and pavements to widen pavements have already been occupied by cars. The area, a nodal point for public transport systems (Metrobus,

metro, and bus lines), could have been more effective due to these tactical interventions (Figure 3.8). In addition, due to a lack of maintenance, the pavement for pedestrians is invisible to the public. The main stairs connecting the cultural centre with public transport stations are much better than the street. This is mainly because, according to people who use the road, it is actively used by pedestrians on the stairs daily, and the road is so close to the main arteries. (Figure 3.9)



*Figure 18 Türkan Saylan Cultural Centre Stairs*

(Source; Author's Archive 2023)

Due to the area's location, the mix used typology and main arteries for the public transport network, and the main road can be seen in the same area. Although this tactical urbanism practice raised public awareness when implemented and created a pedestrian-priority space, it still needs to change user behaviour significantly. However, it can attract the attention of people who use less than that area daily. As in the definition of tactical urbanism, it was observed during the field visits that these short-term low-budget solutions are recycled when they do not meet the users' needs.





*Figure 19 TOPUK Project Area Current Status*

(Source; Author's Archive 2023)

If the other project needs to be examined in this context, the TAK ‘Canlanan Meydan’ tactical initiatives can be seen in physical and social dimensions. The programme is creating a floating floor in the square. Mobile units were produced as an alternative to the concrete floor using the recycled wood of old benches. Grounds that offer different experiences, such as sand, water, soil, and soil plants, which were felt lacking in the square, followed the shadows throughout the day and were brought together with the local people, especially children in small areas (Figure 3.10.). Under the canopy created in the square, the designers produced mobile street furniture, especially for the use of children together with children.



Figure 20 *Floating Floor in the Square*

(Retrieved from TAK Kartal Canlanan Meydan Archive)

In addition to this, starting in 2017, each summer, there are many activities planned with the TAK organisation with the participation of the local people. According to Interviewer-2, with the intersection of this project and another programme, the square project takes another dimension with it. In the documentation research, the other projects, such as ‘FilmTAK’, the skateboarding atelier, the Pinhole atelier and the ‘TasarlaTAK’ atelier, contributed to the revitalisation of the Square and the involvement of local people in the process. In the ‘TasarlaTAK’ programme, the public voting of the Kartal City Identity competition took place in Kartal Square simultaneously with the online evaluation for one week. In this process, installations were evaluated as exhibition elements. This also allows users to improve their social interaction and raise public awareness.

According to the observation, the area’s current use includes the installations used in some ateliers within the project scope (Figure 3.11). Still, the use of the area has remained the same. However, it remains a focal centre for local people and daily users.

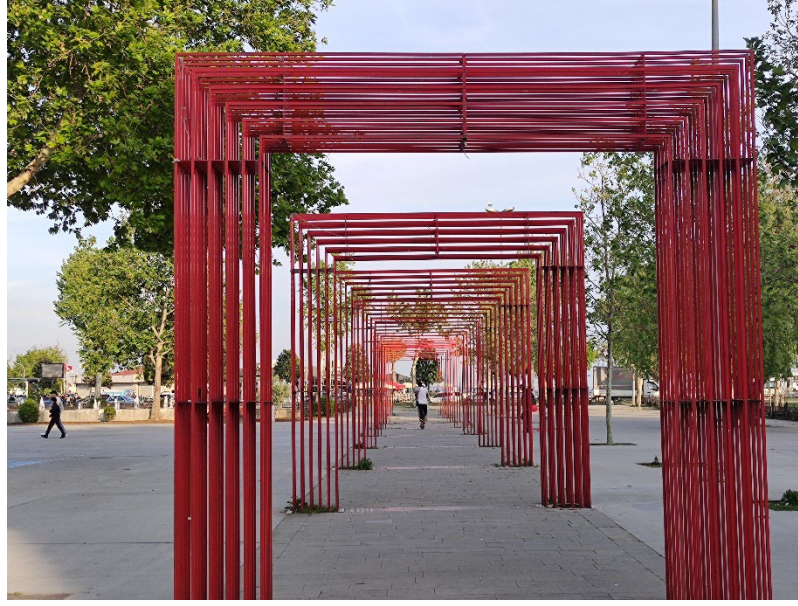


Figure 21 *Kartal Meydanı Street Installation Current Status*  
(Source; Author's Archive 2023)

On the other hand, the Roman Orchard project is an example of civil initiatives for protecting urban green and natural areas, a problem in Istanbul. Although many civil society organisations are actively working to protect natural resources in Istanbul, there are limited urban spatial interventions that can be considered tactical urbanism. For this reason, this project is regarded as an urban agriculture project to sustain natural resources. In this project, the most crucial feature to be examined within the scope of tactical urbanisation is that the volunteers prevent the construction of a building here and create public green space and common urban space in a neighbourhood that does not have enough green space.

It experiences creating an alternative plan for the city and is perceived as a resistance against local politics. In documentation research, within the scope of the highly controversial urban transformation plan of the Beyoğlu region, it was announced in 2011 that the construction of a social facility building was planned on the land where the orchard was located. Because the "Beyoğlu Plans" would damage the city's social, cultural and historic fabric, and urban transformation projects, which were

accelerated without adequate forecasts and conservation plans, would destroy the rare green areas in the region, neighbourhood associations came together and formed a reaction. As a result of two court processes, expert opinion reports, popular magazines, social media and the continuous defence of the neighbourhood, the plans were cancelled in July 2017.

Nowadays, the orchard needs to be addressed. The all-urban agriculture structure has vanished. When the area was observed today, it was observed that wild plants covered the entire area, and any findings related to the project were observed. For instance, there is also no information billboard or presentation materials about the project in the area today. In addition, while the area was analysed, it had a chance to interview the site's daily users. They stated they could not remember the project or any urban agricultural areas on that site. The area usage is also transformed into a seating area, an observation place because of the view and a drinking place for the user (Figure 3.12).



Figure 22 *Roman Orchard Current Status*

(Source; Author's Archive 2023)

The 'Alman Deresi' Project was analysed in a tactical urbanism approach because this project is a small intervention in a short time. This project, a voluntary initiative with municipal authorisation, develops projects to contribute to urban space's aesthetics and encourage dialogue with space in the context of the community's restoration and production of its habitat. According to Interviewer-4, this project is



an example of improving social communication and contributing to urban aesthetics. It consists of actors who want to reproduce it on their conditions.

These actors are examples of partnerships with volunteers and local authorities to find creative, low-cost and flexible solutions to urban problems. In this project, the Onaranlar Kulübü was developed as a project that contributes to the aesthetics of urban space and encourages the community to establish a dialogue with the area in the context of repairing and producing its habitat.

When the site is observed, the project remains almost the same as when the project was implemented. Bridges were built to increase the project's connection located on one side of the stream with the other, and its interaction with the area was increased. The project is well-maintained, and all parts are still available. The neighbourhood uses it. People taking a break from walking, reading books, and sitting were observed. Project information boards are available (Figure 3.13).



Figure 23 *Alman Deresi Current Status*

(Source; Author's Archive 2023)

Furthermore, according to Interviewer-3, the 'Zümrütevler Square Project' applications provide social sustainability and governance capacity by increasing its functional and spatial scope, including spatial belonging, security, public space utilisation, value creation and diversity, and effective citizen participation. As a result of the analyses, various do-it-yourself initiatives targeting different social groups were included. In the documentation research, playgrounds, urban furniture and various practical and low-cost construction methods were used for reproducing

space and local material suggestions for them. The Zümrütevler Square Project utilises the experience of tactical urbanism as a participation mechanism in designing safer streets and intersections for children and their families (Figure 3.14.).



Figure 24 *Painting Process Third Day of Implementation*

(Retrieved from: [https://www.lar.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/28-Nisan\\_Taktiksel-Kentsel-Plan-Cocuk-Haklari-ve-Katilim.pdf](https://www.lar.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/28-Nisan_Taktiksel-Kentsel-Plan-Cocuk-Haklari-ve-Katilim.pdf))

Unfortunately, the project's design has been removed and transformed into a gathering area, which has been substantially modified without considering the impact of the projects made in this modification (Figure 3.15). All that remains of the project are trees and a plastic tunnel for children to play hide and seek, although this tunnel is fixed to concrete to prevent it from moving. In addition, it is no longer a valuable area for pedestrians. It no longer has functionality other than a short-term gathering area used only by a specific social class.



Figure 25 *Zümrütevler Square Current Status*

(Source; Author's Archive 2023)

Tactical urbanism practices are motivated by the tendency of individuals to increase the visibility of problems, often spatial, that affect them or their communities and to solve these problems themselves (Douglas, 2014). Therefore, it can be argued that the potential for tactical urbanism initiatives to be developed purely locally, without the encouragement of external civic initiatives or local governments, is higher in socio-economically developed geographies than in poor and so-called 'ghetto' neighbourhoods (Douglas, 2014). Similarly, initiatives considered tactical urbanism practices are primarily concentrated in developed areas and even in the city centre of Istanbul. On the other hand, despite the activities in the city centre, which have been intensifying in the last decade, environments for tactical urbanism practices are also being created in poor neighbourhoods, with examples supported by civil initiatives or local governments.

The case studies show that in the context of tactical urbanism, projects utilised it as a tool for community engagement as part of the planning process. The motivations and actors behind tactical urbanism practices differ, as are the scales of planned and realised impacts. The impact of low-cost and easily implementable micro-urban

interventions, which form the core of the tactical urbanism approach, can reach the city scale. These projects, implemented in varying scales and contexts, can sometimes turn from a small physical intervention into a significant phenomenon that creates social dynamism by transforming urban plans. Unfortunately, most of the projects analysed in this study and the project's concept do not remain in the current status. Some of the project needs to be remembered by the participants. On the other hand, some of the projects still impact physical and social scales. The reason why the projects still need to be made permanent today may be because they do not have an impact on the public today.

A detailed examination of tactical urbanism practices has the potential to be a tool that facilitates the identification of problem-need areas of the city by increasing the capacity to learn from the city in terms of revealing the areas that are deemed inadequate and intervened by the citizens. The evaluations inform all urban actors, especially local governments, civil society organisations and citizens, on strengthening public participation in urban design and planning processes. In summary, it is vital to search for answers to the questions of what kind of solution the tactical urbanism experience offers, what tools it utilises, how it integrates with space and society, and to evaluate the scale and permanence of the resulting impact to realise a planning and urban design process that is more sensitive to urban experiences and learns directly from the city.

The projects have been analysed based on five criteria put forward as tactical urbanism criteria specified in the literature review, and Table 4.1 is given below.



PROJECTS NAME	LOW- COST AND RISK	ACTOR DIVERSITY	LOCALISATIO N	RAISING AWARENESS	FAST AND FLEXIBLE SOLUTION
<b>TOPUK - PUBLIC TRANSPORT PROJECT</b>	Organisations providing financial support and use of low-cost products	Cooperation with civil organisations & EU funded & Municipality & Local people	Influencing the close neighbourhood for daily use	Access to official organisations, but it does not affect continue	Fast solution
<b>“CANLANAN MEYDAN” SQUARE PROJECT IN KARTAL</b>	Easy-to-manufacture and removable design	Cooperation with civil organisations & Municipality & Local people	Local user support, location-specific production for short-time	—	Fast solution but not sustainable
<b>ROMAN ORCHARD</b>	Use of low-cost products, Voluntary labour participation	Cooperation with civil organisations & Volunteers	Local user support for period, but now the area has turned into a permanent green space.	—	Flexible space functions
<b>“ALMAN DERESI PROJECT</b>	Organisations financial support, Easy to manufacture and easy-to-remove design	Cooperation with civil organisations & Municipality & Private sector	Responding to needs, Location-specific production	Building a conscious society	Flexible space functions
<b>“ZÜMRÜTEVLİ SQUARE” PROJECT</b>	Organisations financial support, Easy to manufacture and easy-to-remove design	Cooperation with civil organisations & Municipality & Local people	Responding to needs in the project time, but now the project does not exist	—	Space open to change of function. After these changes, it has been restored to its former state.

*Table 3.1. Evaluation of the works according to tactical urbanism criteria*

### 3.5 Participatory Process

In this section, the projects are analysed according to the participatory process during the implementation and their impact today, if any. The experts and volunteers in the cases emphasised the importance of interacting with people when it started to the project. Participants are better able to articulate existing problems because they have experienced them. This enables the designer or technical expert to determine the design criteria. Stakeholders with a high level of technical knowledge and expertise, such as those in planning and architecture, participate in participation procedures most frequently. The importance of ensuring enough space for user engagement is emphasised. Interviewer-5 stated that if participants adopt the project, the project becomes more successful. For that reason, the participatory process in the design and implantation phase has an enormous role in the project's success.

The TOPUK Project has emerged to identify women's problems while travelling to and from public transportation routes and develop solutions together. According to interviewer-1, the targets are to continue the urban intervention processes developed by public institutions through participatory methods and ensure citizens' involvement in the project process. Since the project focuses on women who are disadvantaged in transportation, all users in the area, primarily women, have been involved in the process, from identifying problems to the implementation phase and guiding the decisions. This is an indication of the importance of participation in the project.

In addition, according to the information gathered from the documentation research, it was decided to organise a workshop to receive data from the participants in the planning process. Figure 3.16. shows the process and actions taken are given below. At the beginning of the workshop, a questionnaire was sent to the participants, and feedback was received. Interviewer-1 stated that, during the workshop, the answers given by the participants were analysed by experts and the problems related to the area were conveyed in detail. The documentation research also supports what interviewer-1 states. During the feedback process, the areas identified as problematic

by the participants were marked on a scaled map of the site. In addition, spatial problems and solution suggestions were received from the participants on the model prepared to understand the physical condition of the area better. Through a participatory process, the project and the one-day implementation event, although temporary, provided the basic steps and tips to make pedestrian access to public transportation safe, comfortable, and enjoyable permanently. The potential for these key outputs to be used by the local government to create permanent changes is among the critical results of the project.

	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022	October 2022	Process with Numbers
1-Workshop : The news of the event was sent to the people living in the neighbourhood of the region via SMS. Invitations were sent via social media. The workshop was held with the participation of the residents of the neighbourhood.					Number of Workshop Participants is 21
2- Model Study: An open call was made using SMS and social media to participate in the model study. Maltepe residents who use the area added their suggestions to the model exhibited at TSKM for 1 week.					Model Size; 100 cm x 210 cm
3- Design Marathon: An open call for participation in the marathon was made to recent graduates and senior designers across Istanbul using social media adverts. Designers working on urban design, accessibility and inclusive design					Number of Design Marathon Participants is 45
4- Implementation event: The designs from the marathon were finalised and implemented in the area with the participation of the surrounding community. Participants of the design marathon, TSKM employees and residents living/working in					Number of People Participating in the Practise is 32

Figure 26 *Process and Action Planning Table for TOPUK Implementation*

(It was created by author by using; <https://kavsak.net/kavsak-agi-mikro-hibe-programindan-faydalanana-projelerin-sonuc-raporlari/>)

According to Interviewer-6, the projects in which different disciplines participate aim to determine the design criteria instead of bringing the project to the implementation stage. Emphasis is placed on the participatory approach to design criteria. In this project, those project phases can be seen very clearly. For instance, public transport users still prefer to pass through the garden of the existing Türkan

Saylan Cultural Centre instead of using the street because when the project members analyse the site, they care about the participant's point of view (Figure 3.17).



Figure 27 *Public transport node in Türkan Saylan Cultural Centre*

(Source; Author's Archive 2023)

The Canlanan Meydan Project was established by The TAK (Design, Research and Participation) Association. This association also cooperated with the Kartal municipality in their project to sustain their project on a local scale. According to Interviewer-2, the main aim of this project is to bring together local people and designers to create environments with an ordinary mind in solving their environmental problems. Each participant imagines a new spatial organisation, imprints it on the ground, and aims to share their ideas with other participants. After that, the "Revitalizing Square" programme seeks to transform fictionalised to create a square available as a living public space with minor interventions. Interviewer-2 stated that the Kartal Square project uses as a programme that aims to reinvent the local community's perception of the square.

To better understand the participant's experience, some participatory and analytical methods were applied to reflect on the design of the square. This also improves designer's tactical approach to the urban space. For this, a 1/20 scale plan of the square was drawn on a concrete floor, and some aspects of the square were placed on the plan. (Figure 3.18.)



Figure 28 *1/20 Scale Plan of the Square on A Concrete Floor*  
(Retrieved from TAK Kartal Canlanan Meydan Archive)

In addition, according to documentation research, six different types of analysis were conducted with the designers and volunteers in the square. This implementation aimed for Kartal residents and designers to think and dream together on the "Revitalized Square" at two scales. In other words, the participation action starts with analysing their needs and following; they become a part of the design process with this notion. In other words, participation begins with analysing the needs and becomes a part of the design process with this notion.

According to the Interviewer- 6 Participants indicate their needs, and it is essential to combine them with expertise, at which stage the participants should participate and at the right point. It is necessary to guide on technical issues. It is essential to bring together the participants and all stakeholders, to bring experts together, and to share experiences. This perception can be observed in the TAK Canlanan Meydan Square; in different stages of analysis, the participants share their experiences and environment. After that, the design is shaped by the participant's experience.

In the Roman Orchard project, With the cooperation of the Cihangir Beautification Association, Galata Association and the public, an objection was made to constructing a social facility in this area within the scope of the zoning plan prepared with the rapid establishment of an urban orchard using demountable materials. In this context, it was decided to cancel the Beyoğlu Urban Protected Area Conservation Implementation Plan and the Beyoğlu Master Plan.

In the documentation searches, it can be analysed that Roman Orchard people played an active role in this struggle by creating an inclusive and friendly. Orchard open to everyone, organising social gatherings and training, opening this area to collective gardening for everyone, using media resources effectively, and presenting a report on community gardening and permaculture as part of the expert opinion submitted to the court. With the slogan "Less talk, more work", Roma Orchard People became one of the pioneers who interrupted the hegemonic management model of Istanbul (Figure 3.19).

While observing the Roman Orchard, the space remains a green area for the local citizens even if it lost the urban agriculture area identity but has gained a different space identity for users. The user identity of the places has changed. In addition to this, while analysing the site, the daily users stated that the place feels unsafety, especially at night, and some people had to change their route to go home their home. It was said that different actors use this space for other functions. For instance, according to interviews with the local citizens, some people built shelters for animals in that area to protect them from external factors, but they stated that it is hard to reach out to the covers for wild plants (Figure 3.20.).



Figure 29 *The Roman Orchard: Volunteers worked for the permaculture*  
(Retrieved from; <https://romabostani.org/beyoglu-planlari/>)

In addition, the staircase section is used as a transition area for pedestrians, and the walls use as graffiti walls. This shows that the space remains a green area but has gained a different space identity for users even though the function of the area has changed from urban agriculture to green space. According to the observation and ask the question to the user, local citizens are trying to give it a different identity. Some daily users use areas for open-air sitting; some are perceived as green areas and have their habitat.





Figure 30 *The Roman Orchard Usage Today*  
(Source; Author's Archive 2023)

According to Interviewer- 4, the 'Alman Deresi Project, the organisation was created with the basic ideas of creating a concept of urban belonging, enabling people to live in more sustainable communities and designing living spaces for the community. This organisation, which makes applications in different contents and concepts and areas where the community will participate, shows the same ideology in this project.

Documentation research indicates that this project developed in this context and was shaped around the central concept of "dialogue". (Figure 3.21.) It aims to create an area where people can establish a dialogue between the city and the people. This area has different functions where people can dialogue with themselves, the people around them, and the environment in this project rather than directly participate by the citizens and users in that area. The experts and designers analysed users' behavioural patterns in their daily life. Today, when the site is analysed, it is examined that the same participatory approach is still taken care of to be preserved.





Figure 31 *The Billboard of 'Dialogue' Concept*

(Source; Author's Archive 2023)

In Zümrütevler square project used participatory methods from the pre-implementation data collection and emphasised the importance of doing things together throughout the project. The project report shows that, during the pre-implementation, implementation and post-implementation period, all citizen and non-profit organisation experts and volunteers were. Also, in this project, it was observed that volunteer experts, academicians and neighbourhood associations collaborated with citizens. For instance, the data collection process of the project took place between August and October 2019. In this context, a data collection team of six people consisting of the Superpool architecture office and volunteers was established. The team carried out the following activities during the data collection period.

According to Interviewer-3, participation in policy development and decision-making processes should go beyond workshops, and participants in the design process should be part of the community. It encourages dialogue with space in the context of repairing and producing its habitat. However, if it is looked at the current status of the project. Only a few remnants in the area, and the space's usage has

become an utterly former version. However, participation is vital in designing safer streets and intersections for children and their families. Today, unlike this rehearsal project, which was intended to appeal to different demographic and social classes, only elder people living in the area use this area (Figure 3.22). To summarise, according to Interview-6, even if the participatory process is successful in the implementation phase, for the project to be considered successful, it should also meet the needs of different actors after the project.



Figure 32 *The Current Use of Zümretevler Square*

(Source; Author's Archive 2023)

Different from the purpose of this project, this transformation rehearsal project utilised the experience of tactical urbanism in the participation mechanism in designing safer streets and intersections. However, as a result of the rehearsal, it was observed that the local community's needs changed and were shaped according to the users.

### **3.6 The Level of Participation**

Cases are assessed in terms of the level of participation, especially in the implementation and pre-implementation phases. As mentioned in the literature review, the level of participation involvement can be analysed or observed at this stage. The participation story can be interpreted as influencing the design decision and decision-making process. The effect of the level of participation can be seen in the project construction as well as in the post-project utilisation. Each case has different levels of participation level. The non-participation phase also remained in some cases, according to the literature review.

In TOPUK Project, which serves as advocacy. In the literature, the inclusion of everyone and access to the city's resources, especially vulnerable groups in society. Arnstein (1969) and Deshler and Sock (1985) define the genuine participation phase. In terms of the level of collaboration, while a workshop was planned as the project's first activity, an announcement was published on the social media accounts of the project partners to ensure participation in the workshop and informative SMS was sent to the local community through Maltepe Municipality (Figure 3.23.). The reports of the projects show that at the beginning of the workshop, a questionnaire was sent to the participants, and feedback was received. During the workshop, the answers given by the participants were analysed by experts and the problems related to the area were conveyed in detail. It serves as a crucial starting point for information activities and facilitates access to information. Getting solutions were considered to be necessary.



Figure 33 Maltepe Municipality's SMS notification tool

(Retrieved From; <https://kavsak.net/kavsak-agi-mikro-hibe-programindan-faydalanan-projelerin-sonuc-raporlari/>)

In addition, the design part of the project aimed to make inclusive design proposals for the project area determined with the help of the data obtained in the first part. To make these design proposals, a two-day design marathon was organised, and according to interviewer-1, participants developed projects based on user feedback on the area. The final implementation project was then developed through stakeholder meetings and design marathon participants.

On the other hand, in the Roman Orchard project, the participation level is quite different. The main actors of this project are the Roman Orchard volunteers; they are fighting against the rights of the space, and legal problems arise. Thus, it satisfies the requirements of planning system criticism and bottom-up planning as stated in the

concept of tactical urbanism. However, it does not profoundly claim variability or participation in creating space. Describing the level of participation is quite challenging. However, within this project's scope, the public stated that there are obstacles to be overcome for the participation of these stakeholders, who are the users of the space, in spatial decisions, and one of them is the way findings are presented increases this difficulty. In general, it was stated that the participation process can be informative even if the participant level has limits in this project.

Regarding empowerment level, TAK 'Canlanan Meydan' Project participants are involved in every project stage. According to interviewer-2, each participant imagines a new spatial organisation, imprints it on the ground, and aims to share their ideas with other participants. After that, the "Revitalizing Square" programme aims to transform fictionalised to create a square available as a living public space with minor interventions. The documentation research also supports what interviewer-2 states. The Kartal Square project uses a programme to reinvent the local community's perception of the square. Apart from this, there are some applications to analyse the square in different concepts. Four other designer groups in different contexts analysed the area in these methods. According to the project documents, after analysing Sound, Shadow, Image, and Human and Nature Behaviour, the designer groups moved to the collecting concept; they collected the related concepts. Informing each other about their analyses, the groups also produced common concepts. Afterwards, the designers settled on both sides of the subtraction concept and made design proposals aligned with the collected concepts. (Figure 3.25.). This also shows that the project adopted communicative planning in terms of decentralisation of the planner and a dynamic role as a participant.





Figure 34 *Designers Settled on Both Sides of the Subtraction Concept*  
(Retrieved from TAK Kartal Canlanan Meydan Archive)

The 'Zümrütevler Project' can also be analysed as an empowerment phase at the level of participation. According to Interviewer-3, this project is a rehearsal project, so if the project does not meet the needs of users or citizens, the project can be modified for other action-oriented programmes. In addition, it also focuses on the children's needs and a local person's needs. The co-working of the experts and the municipality lists the priority. After the list of requirements is finalised, the data collection starts. A data collection team of six designers and volunteers was established. In the implementation period, the participants also play an active role which requires the necessary empowerment level. In this rehearsal project being tested for the first time in Turkey, it was decided that communication with the neighbourhood residents would be ensured with the participation of the District Mayor during the implementation, and feedback would be provided in the field during the implementation.

Furthermore, the 'Alman Deresi Project' can be analysed as a non-participation phase therapy session. In the literature, it is expressed to inform the participation at the level of participation. The organisation notion describes that it is essential to discuss the physical and social dimensions of the space and to create needs afterwards. According to Interviewer-4, users were observed in their daily routine at the first

stage. Designers' opinions and user feedback were considered when developing the project content. A few visits were made to see how people move here and what they do. It observed that park that is not used for various functions but allows this diversity. To observe the citizen's daily routine and their physical behaviour. The observation analysis process takes a long time to observe different users' behaviour at different times to understand local participants' needs in the spaces. Also, Interviewer-4 stated that this area where people spend time is analysed, and it is observed that people somehow come together, move, meet and rest there.

While all the projects analysed consider the level of participation, each project has different levels. Whether or not local governments play a role or the actors vary, not all projects have reached the optimum level on the ladder of participation.

Level of Participation	TOPUK Project	TAK 'Canlanan Meydan'	Roman Orchard	Onaranlar Kulübü	Zümrütevler Project
Inform					
Consult					
Involve					
Collaborate					
Empower					

*Table.3.2 Levels in participatory planning and design projects in Cases*

(Created by the author)

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **CONCLUSION**

In the modern understanding of the city, it has become a system where people with more diverse social groups and lifestyles live together. Tactical urbanism is an appropriate tool for critically evaluating uncertainty and facilitating access to information for learning about the city. While conventional participatory approaches have provided valuable knowledge about the needs and the profiles of cities thus far, today, it has become necessary to make new efforts and produce new methods that will enable us to gather more reliable information directly from the people themselves and from their relationships with the environment in which they live. The paradigm shifts that started in the 1960s with the experience of learning from the local and developing by doing it for the local, today seek ways of doing it by learning from the local, for the local and with the local. As an approach that meets this need, especially in 2015, tactical urbanism has spread to a broad audience worldwide and started to offer common concepts. Tactical urbanism can positively affect the connectivity of cities' physical and social layers. Tactical urbanism has become necessary due to its flexible structure, effective use of budget, and creation of resilient and more liveable areas. There is no local implementing and owning layer in realising projects in traditional planning.

The thesis is based on how the participatory approach relates to the tactical urbanism approach to producing urban space. To this end, case studies from İstanbul were selected and in-depth interviews were conducted with relevant individuals. The cases were analysed according to the literature explained in Chapter II. Furthermore, the case studies were examined in detail on how project-specific conditions affect the realisation of the design process. Therefore, the thesis is mainly structured around the participatory process and methods of integrating the user into tactical



urbanisation practices. By this objective, the historical development of user participation, followed by the levels of participation aims, benefits and characteristics, reveals why community participation is essential for producing urban space within the context of the tactical urbanism concept and its implementation phase.

#### **4.1 Key Findings of Research**

The results show that the cases differ from the participatory approach in tactical urbanism practices. In a city like Istanbul, where local dynamics and needs are diverse, tactical urbanism approaches for urban areas should be evaluated in design and planning disciplines. These approaches should be evaluated in the policy field at a larger scale. At the same time, the implementation processes should pave the way by considering the local potential. Tactical urbanism approaches provide a tool that starts from the local level to find the right solutions for urban space, to try them quickly and to ensure the continuity of use of the space. These approaches, which focus on achieving practical results through easy and short-term applications, contribute to the resilience of urban space. Thus, it creates a flexible, transformable and adaptable spatial capacity in both ecological and social terms. Tactical urbanism practices are driven by the tendency of individuals to increase the visibility of problems, often spatial, that affect them or their communities and to solve these problems themselves (Douglas, 2014). Tactical urbanism can be argued that the development potential of tactical urbanism initiatives is higher in socio-economically more developed regions than in poor and so-called 'ghetto' neighbourhoods without the encouragement of external civic initiatives or local governments (Douglas, 2014).

The study concluded that tactical urbanism approaches empower the locals with an emphasis on short-term solutions, adaptation and flexible design and, therefore, effectively increase the interest in the locals. Therefore, while providing opportunities in terms of practicality, it also enables the development of local forms

of spatial intervention. It is considered an important step to reveal the locality's potential and provide opportunities to involve it in developing tactical urbanism projects. In this context, projects related to tactical urbanism are analysed as cases.

Each project analysed in the case studies is generally organised top-down approach, as municipalities, private companies, and foundations fund them. However, the level of participation is inclusive, except for the Roman Orchard project. The volunteer actors generated the Roman Orchard project to challenge the decision for the legal regulation, and these actors played a crucial role in changing the regulation. This presents an exact bottom-up approach among those cases. While discussing tactical urbanism practices, since bottom-up and top-down participation practices did not exist in Istanbul before, the participatory planning approach developed through the participation experience of the local administration is generally favourable. Apart from specific differences, all cases have similar features. The project actors vary and emphasise the citizen's participation, even if the citizen participates at different stages.

The cases were also analysed using the five tactical urbanism criteria while considering the participatory approach. Each project provides a good result for the low-cost and risk level because each project produced easily manufacturable and revitalised the former state locally. While achieving this criterion, the labour force is another crucial factor for the project's cost. Generally, each project has a volunteer labour force besides the civil organisation or local government employees. This also helps to reduce the cost of the project in total. Tactical urbanism could be defined in many forms regarding its actors, objectives and constraints. The main actors include residents, civil society organisations, public institutions, universities, private entrepreneurs or experts from various disciplines, such as urban planners, architects and designers (Lydon & Garcia, 2015). As it was mentioned before, diversity classified into four different types. It was seen that all four-type actor diversification was observed in the projects.

The other key element for tactical urbanism is localisation. Each project was produced through user needs analyses and conducted workshops with the actors. The local solutions in the project can be evaluated positively in terms of having temporary uses that encourage social interaction. However, the inadequate variety of activities and the lack of elements that will enable urban users to spend a long time have been seen to have negative results with the analyses based on the parameters. At this point, tactical urbanism practices improve the attractiveness and functionality of urban areas; it is an instrument of an assistant solution with its features of encouraging economic activities.

In addition to that, each project has the potential to raise awareness at the local level. Some actions in the project attracted the attention of the local government when the civil society introduced project ideas such as TAK 'Canlanan Meydan' Square. The users of the city are in the process of change in spatial perceptions through tactical urbanisation practices. It provides the creation of social awareness and consciousness of the space.

Considering both the literature review and the analysis, it can be argued that tactical urbanisation needs to be classified, criteria for implementation, and the necessary participation techniques for the desired participation level must be identified. Despite its advantages, participation in tactical urbanism practices is sometimes ignored or indirect methods such as surveys are used, which do not result in productive participation. In addition, there are different levels of public involvement in these cases. The degree of involvement varies depending on the scale and context. Therefore, it should not be constantly strived for 'empowerment', as there are situations where a lower level, such as tokenism or non-participation, is more appropriate for scales in İstanbul.

As a concluding result, this research first reviewed the various tools and methods for understanding the participatory approach. Then a second key concept, tactical urbanism, was also analysed in-depth to understand its relationship with the participatory approach. After the review of the literature, some cases were analysed

according to the literature review as an indicator. This study contributes to the literature addressing the tactical urbanism practices that exemplify bottom-up urbanisation experiences in Istanbul from a holistic perspective and discussing participation mechanisms. In this context, it is thought that the research will be informative for planners and decision-makers about its potential to offer a new solution to the urban governance framework and form a basis for urban design processes. The challenge is that the participatory approach is seen as a sub-concept of tactical urbanism but the tactical urbanism approach and participatory approach have an enormous linkage between them. In these cases, other relevant projects in urban design cannot be reached at that point in Turkey.

## **4.2 Limitations and Suggestions for Future Research**

This thesis aims to explore the concept of tactical urbanism with a particular focus on participatory approaches. The tactical urbanism approach is considered highly important due to its prominent features, such as providing local solutions to urban problems and being applicable quickly, enabling effective spatial solutions with low costs and increasing the awareness of participation. Nevertheless, without ignoring the contradictions that may arise if local governments and private sectors use it, it should be evaluated whether the tactical urbanism approach could be used not only as a tool to improve the participation mechanism in urban planning and design but also to produce liveable urban spaces for and with everyone. One of the critical points that should not be underestimated in this context is that everyone is an actor in the city, from citizens to local administrators, regardless of a bottom-up or top-down hierarchy. While this concept is crucial in planning and urban design, these interventions are still scarce in Turkey. The minimal examples that could be given for tactical urbanism are found predominantly in İstanbul due to the characteristics of the city. Therefore, in-depth interviews could only be conducted for tactical urbanism projects established in İstanbul. While this could still be an essential first

step to exploring the practical application of this concept in the country, there is a need for further projects and research.

In line with the study findings, the spatial impact of tactical urbanism practices might affect the level and process of participation due to the changes that may occur in the observed process. Based on the concepts introduced in the literature review, the comparative analysis tries to go further than emphasising the relevance of various tactical urbanism projects to public participatory processes by pointing out similarities, differences and expected trends in the analysed case studies. Based on the study findings, the following suggestions could be offered for furthering the tactical urbanism projects in the country:

- Revealing and identifying the potential of the locals and creating opportunities for their involvement are essential steps that need to be considered in developing tactical urbanism projects.
- The tactical urbanism approach should be considered a tool to improve participation in urban design and produce liveable urban spaces for and with everyone.
- The future studies that will be conducted on this concept should not only focus on and observe the implementation process of tactical urbanism projects but also incorporate outcome measurement and specific parameters that will evaluate the impact and the future sustainability of these projects.



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## **APPENDICES**

### **A. Questions for Interviews**

- 1) When and how the projects are added to the institution's agenda? How is the project initiated?
- 2) Can you describe the project's content?
- 3) What were the objectives of initiating the participatory decision-making process?
- 4) How did you inform the public about the project and meetings in advance? In which ways did you reach the public?
  - a) flyers
  - b) advertisements,
  - c) online methods
  - d) Events
  - e) Competitions
  - f) Other
- 5) Many actors are involved in spatial actions; how do you identify the actors?
- 6) Who actively took part in spatial actions?
- 7) Did local governments have any influence and intervention during the implementation of your projects?
  - a) Absolutely not
  - b) Did not happen
  - c) It was a little bit
  - d) Remained neutral

e) It happened

8) To what extent have you considered the demands of the users or actors? Have you eliminated any of their wishes?

9) How do you identify the problem in defining spatial actions? What are the requirements of the area characterised as a problem?

10) What should be done in case the desired efficiency cannot be obtained regarding the sustainability of the projects?

11) What are the indicators of success in the project? What are the criteria that must be met for the project to be considered successful?

12) If the project is successful, are steps taken by your organisation and the actors to use it in different places, or do local governments step in at this point?

13) Are local governments among the stakeholders, and if so, what are the advantages and disadvantages of conducting collaborative business processes?

14) How can elections be held when different sections of society make different demands and when these demands contradict each other?

15) Throughout the process, which methods of participatory approach were used when considering participation?

a) working groups,

b) workshops,

c) surveys

d) workshops

e) stakeholder meetings, dialogues

f) Other

16) Are there alternatives to any spatial application made during the design process? If so, were these alternatives shared with users and actors?

17)As a result of the consultations carried out within the scope of tactical urbanism, did the community participate in the production of the space? If so, what were the opinions of the people?