



Research Article

ICONARP
International Journal of Architecture and Planning
Received: 25.07.2022 Accepted: 21.12.2023
Volume 12, Issue 1/ Published: 30.06.2024
DOI: 10.15320/ICONARP.2024.276 E- ISSN:2147-9380



ICONARP

The Site Narrative: *Mimarlık* 1990-2020

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Abstract

Throughout history, various alternative approaches have been considered that conceptualize the dialogue between architectural objects and their sites. This study explores whether this conceptual richness is reflected in Turkey's contemporary architectural agenda by focusing mainly on the period from 1990 to the present. The *Mimarlık* Journal, one of Turkey's leading architectural journals, was chosen as the object of investigation, presenting the contemporary written language of academics and professionals. In this research, relevant and current literature was first reviewed to identify site-related terms (place, settlement, local, topography, context, environment, nature, history, social, culture and identity) as a toolkit for analyzing the *Mimarlık* Journal. The analysis of the toolkit has led to the creation of a digital database via the application of digital humanities methods of manual text mining and critical reading to highlight the diversity and richness of sites' language(s). The result is the mapping of the terms used in context to understand the diversity, actors, and systems of thought in site narrative. The results show that the discussions in the journal mainly focus on the critique of contemporary architectural practices, rather than theoretically expanding the topic and drawing on production in fields such as art, philosophy, and anthropology. The discussions in the journal refer to the canonical texts of international literature in the field of architectural theory and urbanism between the 1960s and the 1990s. However, there is an evident lack of current sources in the bibliographies, which shows that systems and patterns of thought do not change simultaneously. This study shows that the mapping and deep reading of journal articles represent a very effective research method in the field of architecture by contributing to the site narrative while making apparent the diversity and richness of its language.

Keywords:

Mimarlık journal, Site, Text-mining.

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To cite this article: Şimşek, B., Kömez Dağlıoğlu, E., & Yoncacı Arslan, P. (2024). The Site Narrative: *Mimarlık* 1990-2020. *ICONARP International Journal of Architecture and Planning*, 12 (1), 75-94. DOI: 10.15320/ICONARP.2024.276



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INTRODUCTION: THE *SITE* IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL LITERATURE

Since the mid-20th century, there have been various architectural discussions about the vacillation between the autonomy of architectural form-making processes and the shaping of these processes by the built environment's physical, social, and political conditions. Starting from the second half of the 20th century, the discussions conceptualizing the relationship between architectural products and their immediate environments has diversified, especially with the triggering of criticisms directed towards orthodox modern architecture and urbanism (Komez-Daglioglu, 2015 & 2017). Professionals and theoreticians from different areas of design (for instance, architecture, urban design, and landscape architecture) have reconceptualized the common material ground in various ways. In the early 1950s, Ernesto Rogers (1954) proposed the terms *ambiente* or *preesistenza ambientali*, calling for buildings to prioritize the reflection of their context's historical and formal qualities. In his 1966 book *The Architecture of the City*, Aldo Rossi famously discussed the uniqueness of place and its making through architectural objects in relation to the notion of *locus*. Vittorio Gregotti (1966) discussed the term *territorio* to explain the relationship between architectural objects to topography and geography. The pioneer of phenomenology in architectural discussion, Christian Norberg-Schulz (1980), as influenced by the philosopher Martin Heidegger in the 1970s, described the unique and idiosyncratic nature, essence, and spirit of place via the term *genius loci*.

The multiplicity of proposed terms about the subject of the site and its relationship with physical structure merely cooled down in the 1980s and 1990s. The architectural discussion about site became broader and more expansive. *Critical regionalism* (Frampton, 1983) opposed the historical mimicry of postmodern architecture and argued for the reconciliation of universal civilizational values with the local context's climatic, geographic, and topographic values. The article "Negation and Reconciliation," written by Raimund Abraham (1982), described architectural design as conquering the site and transforming its topography. Alison and Peter Smithson (1990) described the *as found* approach as a new perspective on the 'ordinary' that focuses on the relationship between the built environment and social practices. Stan Allen (1997) discussed the concept of *field* as an alternative term to the traditional definition of site. Tadao Ando's (1996) studies on the consideration of the site's environment, nature, culture, and topography in the architectural design process demonstrated the multi-layered concepts that the notion of site occupied, and indeed still occupies, within architectural thinking.

This brief review demonstrates the multi-layered interpretations and the suggested terms relating to the idea of site since the mid-20th century. Despite their multiple justifications, these discussions are highly fragmented in terms of offering a holistic approach to the subject of site

in architectural discourse. In 2005, to address this gap in the architectural literature, architect Carol J. Burns and landscape architect Andrea Kahn co-edited a book entitled *Site Matters: Design Concepts, Histories and Strategies*. (Burns & Kahn, 2005) The volume argued that the term “site” instead of “place” subsumes and bundles all the fragmented discussions about the understanding of place in architecture since the former term conceptually encompasses the latter. In 2020, Burns and Kahn co-edited a second volume, entitled *Site Matters: Strategies for Uncertainty through Planning and Design*, as a sequel to the first (Burns & Kahn, 2020). This second volume focused on the concepts of nature, environment, and sustainability in the face of threats facing today’s earth such as global warming, climate change, and biodiversity loss. The volumes contribute to the language of site-related issues by utilizing a particular vocabulary when referring to the characteristics of the site, *per se*. The editors first describe and construct a site as a localized physical entity. Therefore, the term site conceptually encompasses a set of terms: *area, field, ground, land, local, location, locus, lot, parcel, place, plot, position, region, setting, settlement, situation, and terrain*. In addition, site provides a context for architectural design interventions and incorporates the concept of *context*, in its entirety, into architectural thinking. A site is part of an *environment, surrounding, nature, and topography*. A site has *cultural, historical, and social* references/values/dimensions that result from human interaction and intervention. And finally, a site has a *character and identity* that connects all these material and immaterial terms. As such, rather than formulating new terminologies such as *ambiente, locus, or genius loci*, the editors provide a thematic, multi-layered, and comprehensive framework through which to discuss contemporary site-related concepts that help to understand, construct, and describe the idea of site in architecture.

With a similar but more focused intention, this paper considers the contemporary language of site in Turkey’s architectural discourse by focusing on the period from 1990 to the present. The *Mimarlık* Journal, one of the leading architecture magazines in Turkey, was chosen as the research venue, showcasing the contemporary written language used by professionals. The terminological set established in the *Site Matters* volumes provides a contemporary set of words, what we refer to as a “toolkit” within this research, framing possible site-related narratives in Turkish architectural media.

METHODOLOGY

The *Mimarlık* Journal, one of the leading actors in the architectural literary media in Turkey, is the primary medium that establishes the boundaries and scope of this study. The Journal has been published bimonthly by the Chamber of Architects since 1963 and is the longest-running and most widely circulated architectural journal in Turkey. The status and importance of the Journal in Turkish architectural and urban planning literature is unambiguous. Several studies conducted by

Turkish scholars underscore the Journal's outstanding influence on Turkish architectural culture in terms of its reshaping of architectural theory and practice in 1980s' Turkey (Goloğlu, 2011), the influence of advertisements in the media on architecture in Turkey (Ozdemir, 2015), and its contribution to architectural criticism (Evirgen, 2018).

Table 1. Site-Related Concepts in the *Site Matters* Volumes and Their Translation to the Turkish language

Site-Related Concepts in the <i>Site Matters</i> Volumes	Translations to the Turkish Language
Area/Field	Alan
Land/Site/Terrain/Lot	Arazi
Plot	Arsa
Context	Bağlam
Region	Bölge
Environment/Surrounding	Çevre
Nature	Doğa
Character	Karakter
Identity	Kimlik
Location/Position	Konum
Culture	Kültür
Location	Lokasyon
Locale/Position/Situation	Mevki
Parcel/Lot/Plot	Parsel
Social (Values/Layers/Dimensions)	Sosyal
History	Tarih
Topography	Topoğrafya
Place/Site/Locus/Locale/Position/Setting	Yer
Local	Yerel
Settlement	Yerleşme
Ground	Zemin

This study begins by borrowing the terminology of site-related concepts as a toolkit from the two *Site Matters* volumes and translating them into Turkish (Table 1). The goal in this translation is to associate the English terms with their corresponding Turkish translations while protecting the content integrity and architectural meaning of the original English to the greatest extent possible. Therefore, in this translation, the site-related concepts respond to the original word with the potentially closest architectural meaning in Turkish rather than necessarily offering a direct translation or, certainly, a literal definition. Regarding the growing number of studies that use digital mapping tools and data mining in architectural studies, the toolset was applied as a virtual “site-related filter” onto the articles published in *Mimarlık* that were digitized and presented online as open source by the Chamber of Architects.

In the recent literature, Juan Cruz-Benito discusses the meaning of systematic literature review and mapping as a tool collecting and analysing studies through a systematic process (Cruz-Benito, 2016). Jaskot and Vaan der Graff discussed the possibilities of digitally documenting historical journals and mapping printed information in their article “Historical Journals as Digital Sources: Mapping Architecture in Germany, 1914-24.” The authors created a digital map using an inventory created via text mining to indicate the locations of construction activities in Germany between 1914 and 1924 (Jaskot & Vaan der Graff, 2017). In Turkey, two dissertation studies completed at Middle East Technical University focused specifically on digital humanities tools as research methods and visualization of textual data in architecture (Acar, 2017, Ekinci, 2019). In another study, “Exploring the Perceived Landscape with the Local People: The Experience of Community Mapping in Orduzu District (Malatya/Turkey)”, Ay and Tuna used the community mapping method to define the perceived landscape elements from the perspective of local people in Malatya, Turkey (2021). In addition, Çakır and Levent mined and analysed data from social media to explore user demands for green spaces in “Data Mining the City: User Demands through Social Media” (2021). Furthermore, as one of the digital humanities tools, text mining allows the mapping of textual information and, thus, the reproduction and interpretation of the knowledge. Such methodologies are used frequently, especially in literature review articles. One very recent example is Nessma A. Q. Al-Hammadi and Kokan Grchev’s (2022) article entitled “Aspects of Contextual Architecture Regarding Traditional/Contemporary Architecture, Physical/Cultural and Place Identity: A Systematic Literature Review”. The authors provided the mapping and systematic review of context literature in architecture using digital search engines and tools. After the initial quantitative phase, the authors offered a qualitative and more in-depth reading of the selected articles.

Our study also utilizes a similar scientific approach yet differs from those previously mentioned in terms of its context, source, the size of the dataset, and the operations included in the data preparation process. With a hybrid method combining manual text mining and critical reading, it analyses the discussions in the *Mimarlık* Journal over the last thirty years, i.e., 178 issues published between 1990 and 2020. This study counts the frequency of repetition of site-related concepts in each article and critically reads the articles to avoid misrepresentation. The frequency of discussion (repetition) of each concept in each article is recorded in a digital database. Using both manual and digital data review methods, this process is repeated for each of the 2.505 articles published in the Journal between 1990 and 2020. Figure 1 below exemplifies a paragraph showing how the manual text-mining and critical reading method is performed.

Yapının çevreyle bir bütün olarak tasarlanması gerekliliğini savunan ekolojik mimarlıkta, yapının konumlandırılacağı arazi verileri, topografya, iklimsel veriler, doğal çevre örtüsü, ekolojik tasarıma ön veri oluşturan kriterlerdir. Bu kriterler yapının konumlandırılmasında, yönlendirilmesinde, yapı formunun oluşturulmasında ve malzeme seçiminde etkilidir.

Yapının çevre ve doğa ile bağlantısı üzerinde bulunduğu arazi ile sağlanır. Yapının arazi üzerine doğru şekilde konumlandırılması ve yönlendirilmesi enerji gereksiniminin belirlenmesinde önemli rol oynamaktadır. (4) Ekolojik tasarımda yapının araziye yerleşiminde arazinin doğal formunun korunması, mevcut durumu bozacak hafriyat ve dolgu gibi maliyeti yüksek uygulamalardan kaçınılması önemlidir. (5)

Ekolojik bina tasarımını etkileyen iklimsel veriler, güneş ısınım, rüzgâr ve hava hareketleri, sıcaklık ve nemdir. Yağış faktörü de yapı tasarımını, kullanılan malzemelerin türünü ve detayları etkilemektedir. En uygun yönlendirme için güneş ve rüzgâr etkileri gözönünde bulundurulmalı gerektiğinde yapının çevresindeki bitki ve ağaçlardan yararlanarak yapının rüzgâr ve güneş etkilerinden korunması sağlanmalıdır.

Figure 1. A Sample Passage Illustrating the Manuel Text-Mining and Critical Reading Method (The passage is taken from "Ekolojik Mimarlık: Doğu Karadeniz Kırsal Konutu," by T. Zorlu and S. Faiz, 2012, Mimarlık, (367).

The initial frequency counts of the proposed framework identified twelve concepts as the final word-set: *yer* (site/place/locus/locale/position/setting), *yerleşme* (settlement), *yerel* (local), *arazi* (land/site/terrain/lot), *topoğrafya* (topography), *bağlam* (context), *çevre* (environment/surrounding), *doğa* (nature), *tarih* (history), *sosyal* (social), *kültür* (culture), and *kimlik* (identity) (in bold in Table 1). In the following step, the digital database is re-analysed to limit the number articles and gain a deeper understanding of this predefined word-set used in these articles. Therefore, the 2.505 articles were sorted twelve times per concept in descending order based on the frequency with which each concept was discussed in the articles. In this regard, a total of 122 articles by 148 authors were selected and carried through to the next stage so that more specific and relevant sources are selected and evaluated through a deep reading process (Table 2).

Table 2. The Number of Selected Articles and Their Authors Discussing Site-Related Concepts in The *Mimarlık* Journal Between 1990 and 2020

Site-Related Concepts	Number of Selected Articles	Number of Authors
<i>Çevre</i> (Environment)	9	9
<i>Kültür</i> (Culture)	12	15
<i>Tarih</i> (History)	16	22
<i>Doğa</i> (Nature)	14	16
<i>Yer</i> (Place)	10	14
<i>Yerleşme</i> (Settlement)	19	25
<i>Kimlik</i> (Identity)	12	13
<i>Bağlam</i> (Context)	5	6
<i>Sosyal</i> (Social)	9	12
<i>Topoğrafya</i> (Topography)	9	12
<i>Yerel</i> (Local)	16	21
TOTAL	122	148

At this stage, the content and discussions in the selected articles, the authors' workplace, field of work, field of education, educational institution, and field of expertise, as well as the bibliographic entries used in the articles, were recorded in the database. Tables 3 and 4 show sample

excerpts from the study of the articles and their authors for the term *çevre* (environment).

Table 3. The Selected Articles Which Discuss the Term *Çevre* (Environment) As A Site-Related Concept in The *Mimarlık* Journal Between 1990 and 2020

Çevre (Environment)			
Year-Issue-Article Number	Article Name	Author Name	The Term Çevre's Discussion Frequency
2014-379-Article 16	"Yenileyici (Rejeneratif) Tasarım Kapsamında Doğal Havalandırmaya Yönelik Bir Yaklaşım"	Polat Darçın	101
2019-409-Article 8	"Türkiye'de Sivil Toplum ve Çevre Politikası"	Defne Gönenç	80
1996-268-Article 8	"Hollanda'da Çevre Duyarlı ve Enerji Sakımlı Konut Alanı Tasarımı"	Sevin Aksoylu	63
1996-269-Article 6	"Kentsel Ekoloji"	Semih Eryıldız	61
1995-264-Article 9	"Ataköy 7. Ve 8. Mahaller Bir Tasarım Deneyimi"	Baykan Günay	57
2004-318-Article 9	"Çevresel Duyarlık Bağlamında Davranış Biçimi Olarak 'SÜRDÜRÜLEBİLİRLİK'"	Deniz İncedayı	57
1999-290-Article 7	"Barajlar, Çevre ve İlisu Barajı"	İlhan Avcı	56
1995-263-Article 12	"Mimari Çevre ile Toplum Yapısı ve Değişimin Etkileşimi"	Faruk Yalçın Uğurlu	44
1990-241-Article 8	"Fiziksel Mekândan İnsani ya da İnsanlı Mekâna"	Nuri Bilgin	43

Table 4. The Author Study of the Selected Articles Which Discuss the Term *Çevre* (Environment) As A Site-Related Concept in The *Mimarlık* Journal Between 1990 and 2020

Çevre (Environment)			
Author Name	Work Place and Work Area	Education Institution and Area	Expertise Area
Polat Darçın- Assistant Professor Dr.	Yıldız Technical University- Construction Information	Yıldız Technical University- Architecture	Construction Technologies/Systems in Architecture Quality Management in Construction and Environment
Defne Gönenç- Researcher	-	-	-
Sevin Aksoylu- Professor Dr.	Anadolu University-Architecture	-	-
Semih Eryıldız- Professor Dr.	Okan University-Architecture	-	-
Baykan Günay- Professor Dr.	TED University-Urban and Regional Planning	-	Urban Planning Urban History

Deniz İncedayı- Professor Dr.	Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University-Building Information	Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University- Architecture	Architectural Design Architecture and Psychology of Environment Criticism and Method in Architecture Planning and Design
İlhan Avcı- Professor Dr.	İstanbul Technical University- Hydraulics	-	-
Faruk Yalçın Uğurlu- Professor Dr.	Nuh Naci Yazgan University- Interior and Environmental Design	Middle East Technical University- Architecture	Architectural Design
Nuri Bilgin- Professor Dr.	Ege University-Social Psychology	Ankara University Strasbourg University	Social Psychology

MAPPING THE CONCEPTS OF *SITE*

The diversity and richness of contemporary language about site in the national architectural literature are somewhat remarkably reflected in books, journal issues, dissertations, and symposia on the subject. As the main motive behind selecting the 1990-2020 time period as this paper's study focus, the first master's theses and doctoral dissertations in architecture completed in Turkey with the term "site" in the title date back to the early 1990s. These studies focused on the study of methods for the preservation of archaeological sites (Turan, 1988; Beşkonaklı, 1990), the preservation of the historical heritage of urban sites (Yılmaz, 1991; Alanyalı, 1991; Baturayoğlu, 1997), and the site planning of mass housing and urban centers (Talı, 1994; Özhisar, 2003). In the 2010s, although there were dissertations that addressed contemporary concerns of site research, such as crowd behaviour algorithms, site organization models, and the relationship between the site and nature (Kruşa, 2013; Bingöl, 2017; Gürsoy, 2019; Yüksel, 2020), the preservation of cultural and historical urban sites was the focus of studies during this period, as it was in the 1990s (Yönetken, 2018).

In addition to these studies, the Second National Architecture Symposium of Turkey in 1993 addressed the relationship between place and architecture, and further discussed the task of architectural design in revealing the identity of a particular place (Guvenc & Erkmen, 1996). In 2014, *Dosya*, the publication of Turkey's Chamber of Architects, Ankara Branch, addressed the relationship between place and identity (Kılıckıran, 2014). The well-known Turkish architectural firm EAA published a book entitled *Emre Arolat Architects Context and Plurality*, which discusses the importance of the contextual qualities of a site for an architectural design (Judidio & Ozkan, 2013). Two volumes entitled *Mimari Bağlamsalcılık* (Architectural Contextualism) and *Mimari Bağlamsalcılık 2* (Architectural Contextualism 2), published in 2017 and 2020, respectively, questioned contemporary architectural design problems and the role of contextual design in solving them (Ozten & Anay, 2017; Ozten & Anay, 2020). In the 2020s, there were further discussions about the relationship between architecture and place. The recent

publication entitled *Mekân ve Yer* (Space and Place) highlights the relationship between space and place through patterns that constitute urban space, such as geography, politics, and social relations (Ozaydın & Aki, 2021). *Coğrafi Bir Mesele Olarak Mimarlık* (Architecture as a Geographical Matter) explains the scope and nature of how geographical understanding can inform architectural thinking. Sayın questions the meaning of grasping the characteristics of geographic places and barriers to reaching these understandings (Sayın, 2021).

In 148 articles published in the *Mimarlık* Journal between 1990 and 2020, this diverse language is quite remarkably reflected in discussions of the relationship between architecture and site in Turkey. The digital database described in the methodology section enabled distant reading and visualization of the textual information. Over the last thirty years, the terms *environment* (*çevre*) and *nature* (*doğa*) have been frequently discussed in the Journal (Figure 2). The discussions about these two terms are informative and critical, and make it clear that a site is a part of the natural environment in architectural understanding. These discussions often inform the reader about sustainable design practices and renewable energy sources. The intensity of the debates on the terms indicates the growing awareness of environmentally friendly architectural design methods, ecological and sustainable architectural design solutions, especially in the face of the threat of global warming and the ecological crisis, which have also been on the international architectural agenda since the early 2000s. The article entitled "Yenileyici (Rejeneratif) Tasarım Kapsamında Doğal Havalandırmaya Yönelik Bir Yaklaşım" (An Approach to Natural Ventilation within the Scope of Regenerative Design) (Darcın, 2014) provides discussions on the above issues. Few discussions criticize architects, planners, and designers of the physical design disciplines for their rejection and ignorance of the ecological crisis facing the earth today. In addition, local administrations are criticized for their inadequate strategies to protect natural areas and habitats. Sonmez's study titled "Dönüşü Olmayan Çevresel Tahribatların Bir Yenisi: Salda Gölü" (A New of Irreversible Environmental Destruction: Lake Salda) (2020) is one such example.

The terms *culture* (*kültür*) and *history* (*tarih*) are the second- and third-most discussed site-related concepts in the Journal (Figure 2). This shows that the frequent discussion of cultural heritage and historic preservation issues has become integral to architectural debates. Discussions of the terms *culture* (*kültür*), *history* (*tarih*), and *social* (values/layers/dimensions) (*sosyal*) revolve around criticisms of various actors involved in speculative real estate movements, rapid construction projects, and rent problems. The article entitled "Kültür Bakanlığı Kültürel Varlıklarımızı Koruyor mu?" (Does the Ministry of Culture Protect Our Cultural Heritage?) (Erder, 1994) contains examples of the above problems. Interestingly, a considerable number of discussions criticize the public for its ignorance of and indifference towards protecting cultural assets and heritage in Turkey. Some of the articles

dealing with these issues include: "Tarihî Kent Merkezlerinin Yaya Eksenli Olarak Yeniden Canlandırılması: Almanya Koblenz Örneği" (Pedestrian Revitalization of Historic City Centers: The Case of Koblenz, Germany) (Sahin & Darby, 2014) and "Hasankeyf'te Sona Yaklaşırken: Korumada İnsan Odaklı Yaklaşımlar ve İnsan Hakkı Olarak Kültürel Miras" (Approaching the End in Hasankeyf: People-oriented Approaches to Preserving and Protecting Cultural Heritage as a Human Right) (Aykac & Kaya, 2020).

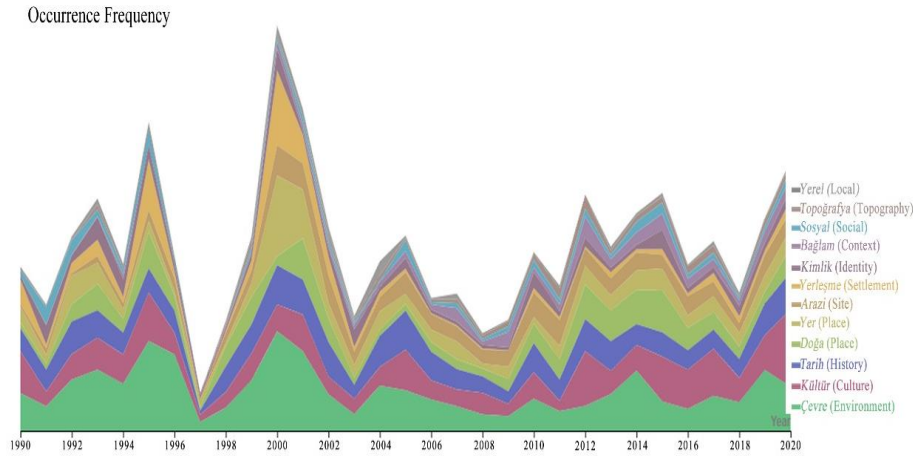


Figure 2. Changes in the Discussion Frequency of Site-Related Concepts in the *Mimarlık* Journal Between 1990 and 2020

The terms *place (yer)*, *settlement (yerleşme)*, and *local (yerel)* were present in the majority of discussions in the *Mimarlık* Journal in the 1990s; today, natural disasters such as fires, floods, and earthquakes in particular have led to an increase in the discussion of these terms. The term *local (yerel)* is the least frequently discussed site-related concept in the Journal in the past three decades. These three terms, which define the area in which the architectural product is located, have gradually decreased in 'interest' and given way to the terms *site (arazi)* and *topography (topoğrafya)* (Figure 2). The frequent discussions about topography imply a greater emphasis on a site's physical characteristics. The fact that topography has now come to the fore as a site-related concept indicates an effort to create/theorize/discuss architecture that interacts with its site's physical characteristics, landforms, and geographic formations. A similar shift in site description language can be observed in the international architectural literature. The terms that appeared in the 1950s and 1960s to describe the intangible depths of site understanding, such as *ambiente* and *locus*, are leaving their justification in discussing the physical conditions of a site, such as its topography, nature, and climate. The post-1980s, and especially post-1990s, studies of Frampton, Abraham, Allen, and Ando exemplify this shift. This observation is also largely consistent with the contemporary language of the *Site Matters* volumes. In general, discussions regarding these five concepts revolve around urban planning processes in Turkey. Unexpectedly, these discussions are political in nature, and result from criticism of local administrations for their exercise of power in the city's

physical design and for allowing construction activities in naturally dangerous places. The discussions in the articles entitled "Kentsel Yapılı Çevrelerin Oluşumunda Aktörlerarası Güç İlişkileri Üzerine: Angora Evleri Örneği" (On Inter-Actor Power Relations in the Formation of Urban Built Environments: The Case of Angora Houses) (Tekel & Aras & Tekel, 2011) and "Menkulleştirilen Bir Kentten Kalan Notlar: Yusufeli" (Remaining Notes from a Securitized City: Yusufeli) (Turk & Erdoğan, 2020) offer similar discussions. Moreover, these five concepts are increasingly discussed in certain periods after natural disasters, especially earthquakes. An example of an article dealing with the relationship between earthquakes, urban planning, and policies are: "Türkiye Yeni Bir Deprem Stratejisi mi Geliştiriyor?" (Is Turkey Developing a New Earthquake Strategy?) (Balamir, 2000). In this context, these concepts are not discussed primarily as architectural problems/questions, but rather as issues related to technology and policy.

Discussions of the concepts of *context (bağlam)* and *identity (kimlik)* revolve around processes of urban formation. The globalization of the world, Westernization, industrialization, and the resulting denial of a specific context in the architectural design process place the loss of a city's unique identity at the center of criticism. Mass houses, shopping malls, and hotels are often cited as evidence of this language of contemporary global architectural style. The articles entitled "Mimarlık ve Kimlik Temrinleri- I: Türkiye'de Modern Yapı Kültürünün Bir Profili" (Architecture and Identity Practices-I: A Profile of Modern Building Culture in Turkey) (Balamir, 2003) and "Mimari Kimlik Temrinleri II: Türkiye'de Modern Yapı Kültürünün Bir Profili" (Architectural Identity Practices II: A Profile of Modern Building Culture in Turkey) (Balamir, 2003) addresses the above issues. There, market conditions, speculative rent-seeking, land use plans, local administrations, and developers/builders are criticized for losing a city's identity. In summary, the concepts of *environment-culture-history-nature-place-site*, which were widely used in international architectural discourse in the post-1970-1980 period as triggered by approaches such as postmodernism and critical regionalism, have remained influential in Turkey since the early 1990s. As such, the language of site narrative is influenced by current developments such as climate change, threats to cultural heritage preservation, and environmental issues.

MAPPING INSTITUTIONAL LANGUAGE OF SITE

To better understand the relationship between disciplines and their approach to site narrative, this step maps the professional specializations and related institutions of the 148 authors of the 122 articles that have frequently discussed site-related concepts in the *Mimarlık* Journal between 1990 and 2020. The results show that the disciplines of architecture and architectural design, urban and regional planning, criticism and method in architecture, theory in planning and design,

Rowe by the anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss and the philosopher Karl Popper, and The Smithsons by the Independent Group of Artists, especially the photographer Nigel Henderson. In *Mimarlık*, however, discussions of site in architecture are mainly led by disciplines concerned with constructing the built environment.

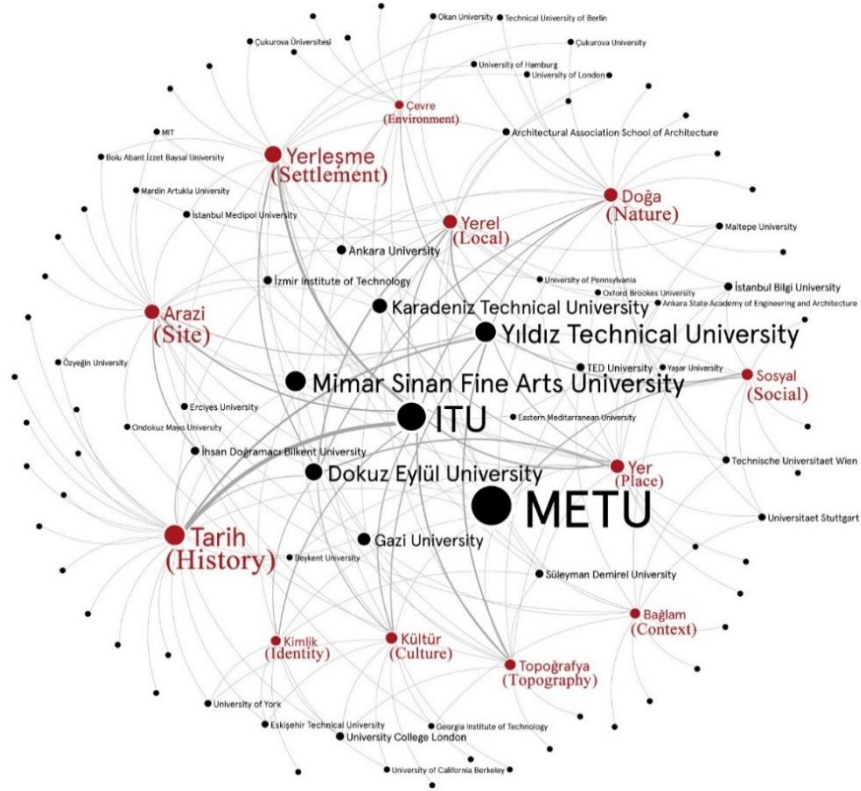


Figure 4. The Work/Education Institutions of the 148 Authors of the 122 Selected Articles Which Most Frequently Discuss Site-Related Concepts in the *Mimarlık* Journal Between 1990-2020

Notably, the authors of the selected articles mainly work or have received education at Istanbul Technical University, Middle East Technical University, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts, and Yıldız Technical University (Figure 4). These institutions have well-established and well-known architecture faculties and offer comprehensive architectural design and planning skills in their educational programs. The curricula of these institutions provide students in the physical design disciplines with knowledge in social, cultural, historical, management, natural and material sciences, conservation, preservation and restoration, industrial design, urban and regional planning, and art and aesthetics, in addition to the necessary knowledge in architecture and planning. Therefore, the studies of these institutions make a remarkable contribution to the discourses on the understanding of site in the architectural agenda of Turkey.

MAPPING THE SOURCES OF *SITE*

The final phase of this paper maps the sources referenced in the 48 articles from the 122 selected articles that frequently discuss site-related concepts in the *Mimarlık* Journal between 1990 and 2020 (Figure 5). Discussions of the *environmental* (*çevre(sel)*) and *natural* (*doğa(l)*)

dimensions of the site narrative refer to studies dealing with sustainable design methods, renewable energy sources, and eco-technologies. The discussions dealing with the *cultural (kültür(el))*, *historical (tarih(i))*, and *social (sosyal)* levels of the understanding of site most often refer to the studies of well-known philosophers and prominent figures in 20th-century architecture.

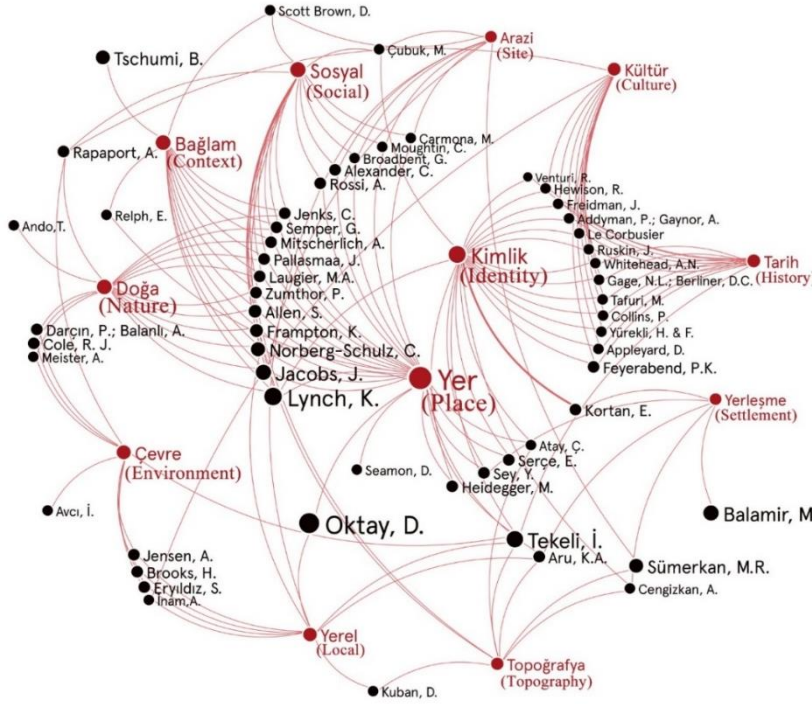


Figure 5. The Authors Referred in The Bibliographies of the 48 Selected Articles Which Most Frequently Discuss the Site-Related Concepts in The *Mimarlık* Journal Between 1990-2020

The most frequently cited authors are Kevin Lynch, Stan Allen, Kenneth Frampton, Jane Jacobs, Christian Norberg-Schulz, and İlhan Tekeli. The studies most frequently cited in this context are Kevin Lynch's *The Image of the City* (1961), Christian Norberg-Schulz's *Genius Loci: Towards a Phenomenology of Architecture* (1980), Kenneth Frampton's *Toward an Urban Landscape* (1995), and Stan Allen's *Landform Building: The New Terrain of Architecture* (2011). In addition to the international architectural figures mentioned above, İlhan Tekeli's studies on urban planning make him the most frequently cited national actor. Jane Jacobs added the element of public space to these discourses with her book *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (1961), translated and discussed with the term *social (sosyal)*.

The studies of these figures mainly deal with ethics, judgment, morality, gentrification, and social values. The discussions on the concepts of *place (yer)*, *settlement (yerleşme)*, *local (yerel)*, *site (arazi)*, and *topography (topoğrafya)* refer to studies of well-known international figures and Turkish scholars on urban and regional planning, earthquakes, and spatial planning laws. The discussions on the concepts of *context (bağlam)* and *identity (kimlik)* refer to the studies of well-known figures in 20th-century architecture. Turkish academics and their

studies on Turkey's national architectural styles and the anthology of Turkish architects are also less represented in these discussions.

The network analysis of the most frequently cited authors reveals further information. It shows that there is a common grouping of authors who are frequently referred to when discussing certain site-related concepts. This group of authors, composed of representatives from different eras and discourses including Charles Jencks, Gottfried Semper, Juhani Pallasmaa, and Peter Zumthor, is closely related to the discussion of the concepts of *nature (doğa)*, *context (bağlam)*, *social (sosyal)*, and *place (yer)*. In this sense, the most cited studies of some of these figures are Pallasmaa's *The Eyes of the Skin* (2005) and Zumthor's *Thinking Architecture* (2006). It is to be expected that among the authors associated with these concepts are Zumthor and Pallasmaa, who are known for their work on architecture and phenomenology.

The discussion of site through the concepts of *culture (kültür)*, *history (tarih)*, and *identity (kimlik)* draws on the studies of Le Corbusier's *Towards a New Architecture* (1946), Manfredo Tafuri's *Architecture and Utopia: Design and Capitalist Development* (1980), and Robert Venturi's *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture* (1966). This finding reveals unexpected relationships between unpredictable actors. Corbusier, Tafuri, and Venturi generally do not represent the same architectural periods and discourses. However, their studies are often cited in discussions of site through an emphasis on its identity and cultural and historical values. The reference to these famous figures in discussions of these three concepts thus reveals an overlooked commonality between their studies and a particular approach to understanding site: a site is a cultural and historical entity that has an identity.

Discussions approaching the concepts of *place (yer)* and *social (sosyal)* draw primarily on the studies of Christopher Alexander, Geoffery Broadbent, Matthew Carmona, Cliff Moughtin, and Aldo Rossi. The most frequently cited studies by these authors make the impact of articles on urban design more apparent in studies where concepts related to site come to the fore. In this regard, the most frequently cited studies by these figures are Christopher Alexander's book *A New Theory of Urban Design* (1987), Geoffrey Broadbent's book *Emerging Concepts of Urban Space Design* (1990), Matthew Carmona's article "Controlling Urban Design-Part 1: A Possible Renaissance" (1996), Cliff Moughtin's book *Urban Design: Street and Square* (1992), and Aldo Rossi's book *The Architecture of the City* (1982). The fact that the terms most associated with these authors are *place* and *social* (values) suggests that urban design, located at the intersection of architecture and planning, bridges these concepts.

In summary, the various approaches to the discourse of site in architecture consider a site as being in a context consisting of natural and social qualities, as a cultural and historical entity that has an identity, as a place that has social values, and a design domain that focuses on human interaction; as an environment consisting of local qualities; and as a unique place with its own identity. The mapping of the sources used in

the description of the site shows that the prominent sources in the field of urban design and architectural theory in the international architectural literature, especially between the 1960s and 1990s, strongly influence the contemporary architectural discourse in *Mimarlık* Journal. The reference to well-known and canonical studies, rather than more recent studies, proves that although the language adapts quickly to current developments, the systems and thought patterns do not change simultaneously.

CONCLUSION

This study analysed the articles published in the *Mimarlık* Journal between 1990 and 2020 using the tools of the digital humanities, consisting of manual and computer-based text mining and critical reading with a focus on the toolset of the concepts of place, settlement, local, site, topography, context, environment, nature, history, social, culture, and identity. The study created a digital database with the aim of mapping the conceptual language of the relationship between architecture and site and to understand the diversity, actors, and systems of thought in their narrative. The paper should also include a conclusion and recommendation section. This should identify the key issues, problems, and consequences for the findings of the research in conjunction with clear recommendations to the theory, methodology, industry, practitioners, the professions and for further research.

The results show that the language of site narrative generally consists of criticism. The critique is primarily directed at architects, planners, and other physical design professionals unwilling to respond to the current ecological crisis and natural disasters via adapted architectural solutions. Current developments that threaten the preservation of cultural and historic heritage, such as speculative real estate movements, and the political and economic interests of local governments, also critically impact the narrative of site. Social, economic, and political developments thus shape this narrative, but the system and patterns of thought do not change at the same pace. In this sense, the contemporary site narrative of the *Mimarlık* Journal attaches great importance to site design in architectural practice. However, the diversity of theoretical debates of site narrative in 20th-century architectural literature and *Site Matters* volumes does not occur in the language of the contemporary architectural discourse of the Journal. This is because the discussions in the Journal focus mainly on the critique of contemporary architectural practices rather than expanding the topic theoretically and drawing on production in fields such as art, philosophy, and anthropology. The discussions in the Journal refer to the canonical texts of international literature in the field of architectural theory and urbanism between the 1960s and the 1990s. However, there is an evident lack of current sources in the bibliographies.

Furthermore, the utilization of the tools and methods of digital humanities here underlines the diversity and richness of sites'

language(s). By drawing conclusions about the discourse of site in contemporary architecture in Turkey, this study shows that mapping printed information is a very effective research method in architecture. It also identifies the references to the canonical texts in the international literature of architectural theory and urbanism between the 1960s and 1990s, highlighting the absence of contemporary sources in the Turkish written media. As authors of this article, whose research goal was to contribute to the conceptual expansion of architecture, we would like to emphasize the importance of the architecture's belonging to a place and wish that this mapping of site narrative also nourishes contemporary architectural practice in Turkey.

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