landscape as FORUM
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reclaiming public space in ISTANBUL

Master of Landscape Architecture terminal project designed by derin yilmaz

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Cliff Ellis, PhD.
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21 april 2009
forum / 'f:rm/

→ n. (pl. forums)
1. a meeting or medium for an exchange of views.
2. (chiefly N. Amer.) a court or tribunal.
3. (pl. fora) (in an ancient Roman city) a public square or marketplace used for judicial and other business.

- ORIGIN ME: from L., lit. ‘what is out of doors’.
Landscape as forum provides opportunities for public interaction, access, cultural exchange, a portal to a web of urban amenities.

This project attempts to reclaim and design an underused urban landscape as a forum in Istanbul.
one out of every six people lives in:

- English squatter settlements
- informal housing
- slums
- ghettos
- peripheries
- shanty towns

- Spanish barrio
- Portuguese favela
- French bidonville
- Indian busti
concept of gecekondu
gecekondu settlements

naturally occurring with desirable components, but physically and culturally isolated

“a makeshift, uncomfortable hut erected overnight on land owned by the state, municipality or individuals in defiance of the building codes”

in 2000s, gecekondu development has become a general concept covering a range of different unauthorized housing developments
in-migration vs out-migration in Turkey
effects of gecekondu

gecekondu areas and their inhabitants in Istanbul and other major cities

seen by older city inhabitants as among the most problematic aspects of urbanization

referred to in negative connotations - backward, rural, ignorant, uncultured, and incapable of assimilation into the “new Istanbul,” the “other” Turkey

“deteriorating the authentic culture” of Turkish cities, particularly Istanbul
order and disorder

the term “gecekondu” originally coined by city residents - reflected negative reaction to the influx of the villagers who defied established urban norms

physically and culturally isolated

prevents interaction and cultural dialogue

conflicts between urban and gecekondu residents

political unrest
Government policies are generally centered around integrating the new migrants recognizing the needs of rural migrants. The desire to improve the quality of life and develop all aspects of the society.

Current controversy is associated with change and modernizing the urban landscape.

Government policies are generally centered around integrating the new migrants.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governance</th>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>Infrastructure / Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Public land, privately occupied simple</td>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>Residential, small vegetable</td>
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<td>structures</td>
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<td>gardening</td>
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<td>Self-governed</td>
<td>Public land, privately occupied simple</td>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>Residential, small vegetable</td>
<td>Pirated Electricity, Public Drinking Water</td>
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<td></td>
<td>structures</td>
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<td>gardening</td>
<td>Fountain, unpaved roads</td>
</tr>
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<td>Elected Government Headman</td>
<td>Public land, structures are traded without legal deeds</td>
<td>Private shuttle system, Public Buses</td>
<td>Residential, Retail, Service (bank, repair)</td>
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<td>Private shuttle system, Public Buses, Taxi</td>
<td>Residential, Retail, Service (bank, repair), Mosque, Elementary School, Children playgrounds, Public Parks</td>
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stages of gecekondu development

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<td>Residential Retail Service (bank, repair) Mosque Elementary School Children playgrounds Public Parks</td>
<td>City Electricity, Water Paved roads and sidewalks Sewer Telephone Cadastral survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elected Government Headman Municipality Metropolitan City Planning Building regulations enforced</td>
<td>Private and Public properties</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Elected Government Headman Municipality Metropolitan City Planning Increased allowable density Building regulations enforced Planning</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Christopher Alexander’s methodology & sequence for building human settlements
process-oriented repeating generative

impacts of sequence
street pattern - built and modified
density - changed
economic life - enhanced

santa rosa de cabal, colombia
The homogeneous and undifferentiated character of modern cities kills all variety of life styles and arrests the growth of individual character.

distribution of people in urban areas

a heterogenous mix of people divided into ghettos arranged into a “mosaic of subcultures”

“The homogeneous and undifferentiated character of modern cities kills all variety of life styles and arrests the growth of individual character.”
current trends

process slowed down significantly
most areas are developed
enforcement is strict
the city demolishes new attempts by squatters
current trends
process slowed down significantly
most areas are developed
enforcement is strict

the city demolishes new attempts by squatters

impacts of globalization
increase in real estate values
privatization to create revenue
the influence of gecekondu residents on political leaders replaced by multinational corporations
future of Istanbul

kartal urban transformation project
Zaha Hadid, 2007

offering a common new terrain for experiencing new forms of space...synchronizing...all different social, cultural, and economic groups by
the project
165.000 TL
99.398 USD / 73.661 EUR / 69.038 POUND
İstanbul Anadolu > Üsküdar > Güzeltpe

Binanın Yaşı : 11 - 15 yıl
Bulunduğu Kat : 3
İstifa : Kombi (Doğalgaz)
Oda Sayısı : 3+1
Metrekare : 145 m²

Banyo Sayısı : 2
Binadaki Kat Sayısı : 3
Kullanım Durumu : Mal sahibi oturuyor
Emlak Tipi : Apartman Dairesi
Emlağın Durumu : İkinci El
Balkon Sayısı : 2

Üsküdar Güzeltpe'de Kısımlı boğaz manzaralı 3+1 daire, büyük Balkonlu.

Adres:

**İlan No:** 4423 - 1179820
**İlan Terihi:** 25.03.2009

199.000 TL
119.880 USD / 88.839 EUR / 83.264 POUND
İstanbul Anadolu > Üsküdar > Güzeltpe

Binanın Yaşı : 26 - 30 yıl
Bulunduğu Kat : 1
Metrekare : 140 m²
Oda Sayısı : 2+1

Banyo Sayısı : 1
Binadaki Kat Sayısı : 1
Emlağın Durumu : İkinci El
Kullanım Durumu : Kiracı
Emlak Tipi : Müstakil Ev
güzeltpe merkezde otoyola yakın iş yerine uygun 200 m² arsa alanı tadiat izinli müstekil ev.

Adres:

**İlan No:** 4423 - 1179820

**Yapı Kredi**

**İlan Ara**

Kredi Tutarı: 132000 TL
Yade: 120 TL
Ay: 1

**Yapı Kredi**

**İlan Ara**

Kategori: Seçiniz
Çeşit: Seçiniz
Bina Durumu: Seçiniz
Bina Dışı Özellikleri: Betonarme Karkas
Lokasyon Özellikleri: Poşar Manzarası

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first and second generation
periodic market
creek area
WATER

The existing Guzeltepe creek flows in a small amount most of the year and is currently used as a storm water drainage channel. In order to retain water to create a promenade by the creek, the water is detained and regulated by the locks located at the beginning and end of the system. The promenade starts where the periodic market is located and terminated at the picnic areas. Along the promenade the creek is enlarged at the nodes.
VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

Streets include on-street parking in order to provide easy access to the pedestrian areas. For safety and security reasons, water walk and pedestrian only areas have wide throughfares to vehicular circulation as well as proximity to the parking. The bus stop located at the center of the neighborhood has views of the pedestrian areas and connected to the sidewalks and the waterfront promenade.
PEDESTRIAN/ BICYCLE CIRCULATION & SIDEWALKS

The sidewalks create a web of pedestrian space and connect the streets to the waterfront promenade, parks, gardens, the amphitheatre, school, mosques, bus stops, market places as well as residential buildings. The sidewalks and bike lanes are abutting each other at the promenade and continue to Cengelkoy by joining and separating wherever necessary. Promenade sidewalks are accessible for emergency and service vehicles.
PRIVATE PROPERTIES

The private properties have been predominantly residential uses, well connected to the public places visually and physically. All properties have access from the streets and are connected to the public spaces by walkways and sidewalks.
PUBLIC PLACES

The green areas, parks, public buildings, water front promenade as well as the sidewalks along the streets are all connected to create a contiguous public realm which is highly accessible and visible from residential areas. Two children playground parks are designed and a third one across the school is suggested, however the entire promenade is suitable for children to play, walk, and interact.
INTEGRATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PLACES

The emergence of public open spaces into the residential areas create a community where public life is an integral part of daily life. The green spaces along the promenade act as natural buffers and also provide privacy for the houses. Both sides of the creek are connected with pedestrian bridges. Areas along the creek provide ample opportunities for artwork installations.