



Urban Narration of the Changing Boundaries in Public and Private Spaces of Traditional Housing Context in Amasya

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Abstract

Boundary, which includes broad and multiple meanings in the city, conceived as natural and built, is not defined as an obstacle but perceived as the focus of interaction. By this means the concept of boundary offers a new perspective in physical and social context. This study aims to explain the changes in social, cultural and social boundaries that occur in public spaces and housing typologies with a focus on public-private oppositions interpreted through conceptual discussions. The case study is Amasya, a city in Turkey, which has historical and natural elements defining the boundary spaces with the effect of new planning regulations and shifts in the identity of the city caused by new urbanization. By reading the morphological development and boundaries of the city through its interacted spaces and interpreting the changes in spatial structures; it is aimed to understand the transformation processes of the city revealing the public-private uses examined through the unique example of Amasya.

Keywords: Boundary, public and private space, spaces of interaction, stream of consciousness

1. INTRODUCTION

From the earliest settlements, social boundaries have been changed and transformed taking into account the relationship between man and the environment. The fact that the dynamic structure of the city is in change and transformation shows that the concept of border has been interpreted according to the conditions of the built environment in different ways. In this context, the reading and interpretation of the morphological development and the borders of the city through the spaces help us to understand the process of transformation of the city. In order to understand this change in the city, it would be correct to examine the effects of the relations between spatial and social structure on the changing borders of the city. The significance of the notion of border changes over time. The boundary is perceived according to environmental factors and is associated with the built environment in this context. In the urban scale, there is a boundary in macro and micro form. This study aims to investigate the traces of the borders in the city by interpreting the situations that occur at these points.

The first meaning of the border that comes to mind is defined as line and obstacle. Literally, it means the last line on which something can spread or expand (TDK). Boundary is a concept discussed in many disciplines, from philosophy to psychology, from architecture to politics. In addition, it expresses different conceptual expansions and approaches. Although boundary is expressed as an element that separates two different areas, it defines conceptual expansions at these points it touches. The boundary is not only considered physically, but also psychologically and socially. It is seen that terms such as privacy, beginning, difference and distinction are used for the connotations of the border. When we examine the sub-meanings, it evokes terms such as prohibition, social status, human,



world, belief, emptiness (Uçar, 2005). This study aims to define the concept of border and to read the spatial, social and physical changes through architectural spaces. The interpretation of the concept of border, which sometimes separates the space and sometimes allows for unification, changes over time. In some areas it is related to, it turns into other concepts and appears in different forms of representation. Although boundaries seem to be restrictive, they sometimes produce different alternatives that lead to movement. The mobile and dynamic nature of the borders allows the boundaries of the space to change physically and perceptually. The study aims to examine through the example of Amasya by evaluating the concept of border and the new conceptual expansions it has produced through urban or spatial examples. It is aimed to examine the transformation of social and cultural boundaries that occur in public-private areas and seen in housing typologies in the context of public-private and evaluating their effects on the changing texture of the city.

The methodology of the study is composed of a field study on Amasya by evaluating four sets of architectural data. First of them is the morphological maps that old and new situations were overlapped. The second group of data is the images reflecting the changes occurring in street- scapes on daily usage. And the third group of data is derived from the architectural sections focused on private and public spaces. In order to understand the user's point of view, as a fourth group of data, personal interviews were evaluated using the method of "stream of consciousness" as a narrative element. Boundary formations that are changed and transformed within the user interaction are defined through theoretical evaluations in order to comprehend of the changing situation and the perception of changing situations. Those interviews are evaluated in relation to fieldwork data. When the studies are evaluated, the reflections of the effects of the expansions produced by the change in spatial areas on the physical and social texture are examined. The concept of the changing border in the city is interpreted through traditional structures and making an assessment with the 'stream of consciousness' method constitutes the original aspect of the study.

2. THE BOUNDARIES OF ARCHITECTURAL SPACE

Boundaries are needed for space to have a defined meaning. Architectural form defines the boundaries of the space. Turning around a piece and separating it from other areas helps to determine the boundaries of the building. Just as the environment must have defined boundaries in order to be a meaningful space for people, that is, to create a space, each space must have defined boundaries/edges in order to reflect its characteristics. While determining the boundaries of the built environment, only physical elements are not sufficient to define the space. Space design is the act of joining the order of an artificial formation that is actually carried out by human beings outside natural conditions (Izgi, 1999). In addition to physical factors, human activities and social relationships play an important role in the determination of the importance and boundaries of space.

When the structure of the borders is physically examined, elements such as coasts, rivers, railways, water channels or high walls are some border elements in the city. Borders are divided into two as natural and artificial. These elements that distinguish or limit two different urban elements, it can also be seen as an element that unites two different areas around a linear form (Lynch, 1960). The topography, green landscape and the river compose the natural borders of the city. As a natural element, water shapes the characteristic structure and borders of the city in the ways it defines along the axis. Other factors that change the city are artificial border elements. City walls, building elements, bridges and roads shape the boundaries of the space or the city. Artificial border elements appear at many points in the city. Walls can be seen in more than one place in the city. First, it is a limiting element in determining the boundaries of the dwelling. Later, it is used to exclude others and to ensure privacy as a factor that determines the internal and external relationship. Also different usage purposes and with the effect of culture, its function and meaning are changing. Physical and social boundaries are a determining factor in defining the changing borders in the city.



According to Boettger (2014), in the architectural language, border is defined as a tool that defines the form of the space. If a boundary is drawn to create a closed space, an interior and exterior concept is defined. The inside and outside of the field is also experienced as it passes from one side of the border to the other. The experience of a border as a line, an area, or a volume depends not only on the border itself, but also on its scope and dimensions. Boundaries have spatial consequences such as space arrangement. Interfaces define the areas that make the relationship between interior and exterior perceptible (Boettger, 2014). For Schulz (1971), does not define the inner and outer relationship as a concept that occurs as a result of the interaction of the space with its environment, but sees this topological relationship as a basic descriptor of the existential space. The person feels alive when he describes the situation of being inside and outside. The direction unites inside and outside. A straight line is geometrically stronger than a topological curve. The space is also affected by this line and stretches outward. The outer penetrates the boundary and defines a transition area (Schulz, 1971, p. 23-25). Internal and external relationship fiction facilitates the perception of spatial relationships. The changes caused by the transforming structure of the border provide the formation of opposing associations such as interior-exterior, permeable-impermeable or public-private. Rather than being a boundary separator, it is reinterpreted at the intersection of two different situations. The transitions that occur at the points where the space communicates with its surroundings turn into areas of interaction. Situations occurring in these defined gaps transforms and changes with the effect of the event and action. The interactions that occur in these defined areas also cause changes in the city's borders.

3. THE CHANGING BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY

Cities are always in a state of change and transformation. Since early times, people have defined living units depending on the conditions of their time. David Harvey (1996) in his book "Social Justice and the City" mentions that "The city can be viewed as a set of objects structured and arranged according to a certain trend in the space, but it is not correct to defend that the city is only this. For an urban theory to be put forward correctly, it must be addressed with the social and historical process. In addition, human behavior is an important element of the spatial formation of the city" (Harvey, 2003). The boundaries of the cities are changing with the effect of the developing community needs, the historical and touristic values of the city and the consumption culture.

The areas where the user interacts with the city are effective in the transformation and determination of the city's borders. In the context of the urban relations with the environment, the social and cultural texture changes and this affects the identity of the city. As the conditions in the city change and new needs arise, the city changes itself. It should understand the individual, social or economic events that take place in the city and evaluate them in relation to other social events and processes within the perspective of past, present and future (Gürkan, 1969). The effects of the change of society on the physical environment are seen at the country, city, settlement and housing scale. By examining these changes, the divisions and transformations that occurred on the city scale were tried to be understood. In this study, the effect of spatial boundaries on the urban fabric in the city of Amasya and the relationship of the city with the built environment were examined. First, the location of the city and its changing structure were mentioned.

3.1. Location and Identity of Amasya City

All the cities we have seen throughout history have developed by acquiring a mandatory or optional form. Some cities have developed depending on geometric forms, some cities have developed due to the necessity of the natural conditions in which they are located, and some according to certain spatial configurations. As a result, they all acquired a formal identity. Cities, which are formed by the necessity of natural conditions, are generally those settled on the waterfront or on a hill. A city's boundaries, slope, water features, vegetation, topography, climate and geographical features play an important role in gaining a unique identity. Amasya, which is settled on the coast of Yeşilirmak, is an example of this type of city. The settlement of Amasya is located between approximately

40 ° 38'12 " -40 ° 40'30" north latitudes and 35 ° 47'30 " -35 ° 51'15" east longitudes (Zeybek, 2007). Located in the inner parts of the Middle Black Sea, Amasya has a surface area of 5,690 km². (Amasya Valiliği, 2006). Amasya, Turkey's position in (Figure. 1) is shown.



Figure 1. Location Map for Amasya in Turkey, Türkiye İstatistik Kurumu (2011)

Amasya, one of the important cities of Anatolian history, has survived until today by preserving the development border around the water for centuries depending on the topography. First, for safety and defense reasons, it was settled on the slopes rising north of Yeşilirmak. Later, as security was ensured, the valley floor was settled from the slopes (Yetman, 1981). The factor affecting the settlement boundaries of the houses in Amasya city has been geomorphological elements. The first settlements are traditional dwellings placed on the city wall. These houses, described as 'Yalıboyu Evleri', are located adjacent to the historic city wall along the north coast of Yeşilirmak.



Figure 2. Panoramic View of Yalıboyu Evleri

The first settlements in the cities are generally located around the castle used for defense purposes (Figure 2). After the city began to lose its military importance, the castle and city walls started to be seen as symbolic elements that determine the characteristic feature of the city. The settlement in the north of the city center, depending on the topography, is bounded by the railway and the mountain where the King Rock Tombs are located. The traditional Turkish house, which constitutes the sample of the study, is located on the city walls in 'Hatuniye neighborhood', which stretches along the river and covers an area of

approximately 800 meters between the 'İstasyon Köprüsü' and the 'Hükümet Köprüsü'. Traditional houses on the north shore are usually two floors high. There are many traditional Turkish houses that are homogeneously settled in this region.

3.2. Changing Structure and Boundaries of the City of Amasya

Located in a strategic position, the valley of the Yeşilirmak River, Amasya is one of the oldest settlements in Anatolia (Doğanbaş, 1996). It has been the center of various civilizations starting from the Hittites. The development and changes of the city since the Roman period have been studied on maps. (Figure 3) Depending on the topography, no slippage was observed in the city center (Kuzucular, 1994). During the Roman period, residential areas developed in parallel with the water. During the Seljuk period, the development direction of the city started to expand a little, the settlements were generally concentrated in the areas where traditional Turkish houses were located. Amasya became a religious center in the Byzantine Period. Churches, Helkis Bridge and Magdenus Bridge were built during this period. Between 527 and 565 AD, the castle and city walls were restored. Between the 7th and 10th centuries, the city was surrounded by Arab invasions several times. The city did not expand during this period, on the contrary, the city narrowed with the walls. The castle of the city, which changed hands many times, was destroyed and the walls of the castle were restored once more. After the 17th century, architectural developments began to decline as a result of military defeats. With the financial decline of the Empire in the 18th century, construction activities in the city declined to a great extent. Only a few commercial buildings, caravanserais, were built in the 18th century in order to accelerate financial development in the region. In the 19th century, administrative reforms and new building types were introduced, and the structure of the city began to change with rapid demolition and construction activities. During the Ottoman Empire, many buildings and bridges were restored because there were many fires and overflows in the city. The fire in 1913 affected a third of the city on the south side of the Green river, and after the disaster the area remained empty for nearly 25 years (Etyemez, 2010). Later, the city continued to advance in the east-west direction and dense residential textures began to form. The emergence of man-made environments in cities with rapid urbanization has affected the elements of urban identity.

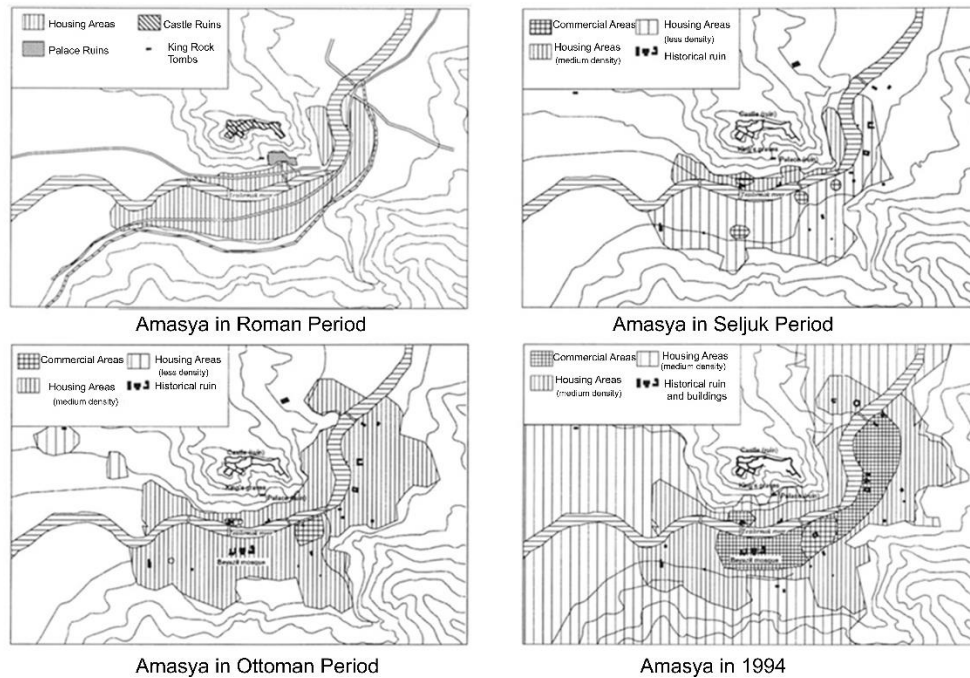


Figure 3: Roman Period, Seljuk Period, Ottoman Period, Amasya in 1994 (Kuzucular, 1994)

Amasya's first reconstruction plan was prepared at the end of World War II in 1945 (Yetman, 1981). Later, reconstruction plan works were carried out for the city in 1966, 1975, 1981 and 1987. All zoning plans have caused degradation of historical textures and monuments, except for the expansion of the city limits. Allowing 5-6 floor buildings to be built on the side of the road caused high-rise structures parallel to the river to form and greatly damaged the historical texture (Seçkin, 2005). Amasya has witnessed different developments in urban areas. During this period, migration and squatterization in Amasya caused physical deterioration in the urban structure (Tekeli, 1982). The transformation of the city due to different reasons also causes its boundaries to change. When the situation today is evaluated, the number of people living in traditional Turkish house has gradually decreased. The developing city continues to grow along a linear axle. The boundaries of the expanding city continue to change with the construction of new buildings. The forming of the city due to the natural structure, the changes in the historical and social texture occurring in different housing typologies affect the city identity. When forming an urban structure, designs are made by ignoring the historical texture of the city. Textures belonging to ancient times have begun to be changed and transformed. These textures, which constitute the identity of the city, are in danger of disappearing over time. The old texture must be preserved and integrated with the newly created urban context. However, modernization processes and improper conservation and planning disrupt the historical integrity of cities (Etyemez, 2010). In other words, unplanned construction decisions pose a threat in this city, and harm the city identity.

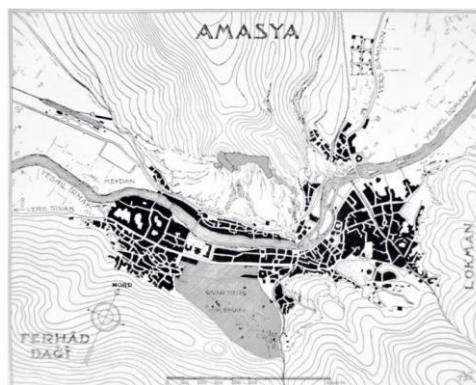


Figure 4. Amasya plan in 1934 (Gabriel, 1934).

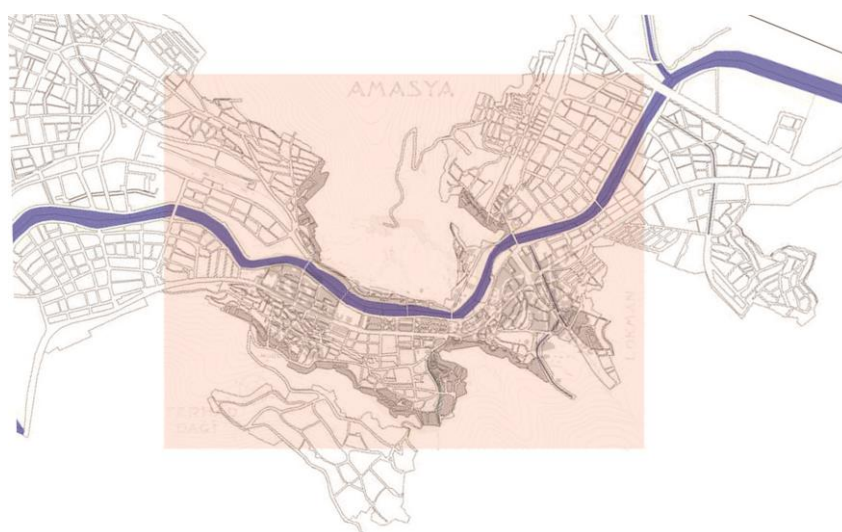


Figure 5. Morphological map that old and new situations were overlapped.

When the Amasya plan of Gabriel (1934) is examined, it is observed that the settlement is mostly located along the streambed due to the high slope of the residential buildings (Figure 4). The city has grown in length with Yeşilirmak (Zeybek, 2007). The old and

current maps are overlapped (Figure 5). According to the data, new construction areas are taking shape depending on topography in the city where geographical characteristics determine the growth strategy of the city.

3.3. Linear and Volumetric Boundaries of Amasya

In the city of Amasya, volumetric and linear boundaries are effective in the occurrence of the city's form. Two-dimensional surfaces create a guiding line with their distinctive shapes. While these linear orientations are sometimes blurred and not felt, in some cases they define the boundary. These surfaces defined by horizontal and vertical lines turn into visible elements. Linear boundaries are generally formed along a linear axle. When the lineal boundary elements are examined, the roads that provide the circulation relations of the city, the water element, the bridges that bring the areas closer together, the walls, the physical elements define the lineal boundaries. Volumetric boundaries can be experienced beyond the three-dimensional perception in space and are mass formations that occur under the influence of natural conditions. Topography and green areas are examples of this.

Lineal boundaries are the main elements that separate or combine areas from each other. The railway, passing through the city's periphery, creates a line between the topography and the residential texture. While the main and side roads form the transportation network of the city, they define the boundaries of the area. The areas determined around this circulation make up the defined areas of the city. Circulation elements that also facilitate the visual identity and configuration of the city are examples of lineal boundaries.

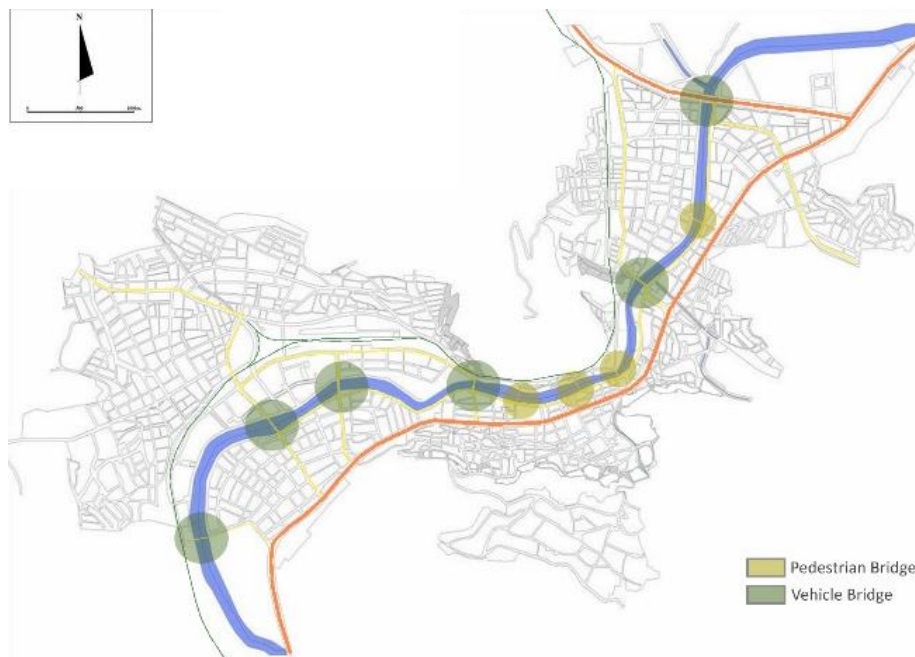


Figure 6. Pedestrian and Vehicle Bridge Graph Increasing with the Expansion of the City
(Map edited by the author from Google Earth)

The boundaries of water that separate the two areas are an element that determines the form of the city. Bridges have been built to eliminate the limit of water. Bridges are linear elements that connect the two sides (Figure 6). The bridges that provide dialectics between water and land define an 'in-between space'. It defines a permeable surface by becoming an 'in-between space' of urban life. Additionally, walls and fortification wall are important physical elements of the city. The walls used to protect the city are gradually losing their function, the city is opening inward, the borders are melting and the new city is merging with its texture. The function of these elements varies and is used differently. The walls,

which are border elements, turn into exhibition areas that can be used functionally in the city.

Volumetric boundaries are effective in the formation of urban texture in structural scale. The organic form of the city is shaped according to natural borders that is, organic texture helps to understand the boundaries of the city. Topography, green areas and residential texture constitute the volumetric areas of the city. The elements that define the characteristics of the city are thought to be elements such as natural structure, topography, river, but artificial elements are important elements that shape the city.

The interaction areas and squares that occur at the intersection points of the paths make up volumetric boundary elements. The defined volumes sometimes compose boundaries and sometimes create areas that allow interaction and combinations. Moreover, stairs and thresholds that offer an alternative space experience are volumetric elements. Structural formations between the sky and the ground can be given as examples. While the street between the topography and traditional Turkish house is permeable, water is a distinctive element between traditional Turkish house and the new urban texture. It becomes easier to understand and perceive the city through linear and volumetric boundaries. The boundaries drawn by the historical texture, topography, residential texture, walls, green texture and water have been effective in understanding the texture of the city. (Figure 7).



Figure 7. Sketching on Photography, Overlapping City Boundaries

Whether a boundary is experienced as linear or volumetric does not depend solely on the physical properties of the boundary. It also varies according to the socio-cultural events it occurs. The change in cities is due to physical social and economic reasons and is also in transformation and change due to the influence of the human factor. For this reason, interactions and changes occurring in the city were examined through morphological maps and images. In this study, the effects of changing borders are discussed through public-private relations. When the social, physical and social effects of changing boundaries are examined through the traditional Turkish house, it is observed that the public-private space relationship is different today. It is possible to understand the effects of this change through the use of public-private spaces.

3.4. Volumetric and Planimetric Boundaries in Related Context

When the development processes from history to the present are examined, economic, political and cultural factors are effective in shaping the cities. One of the factors that shaped urban morphology is the historical texture of the city. The natural and historical

texture of the city is directly related to the changes and transformations in the structure of the city. When the historical texture of the city is examined, the 'Amasya Castle', 'King Rock Tombs' and 'Traditional Turkish house' are the basic elements that form the identity of the city. When the residential texture of the city is examined, a border is observed between the old settlements and the new settlements. The new residential texture consists of high-rise houses and gated community. The old residential texture is similar to the examples of traditional Turkish houses, 2-3 floors high and also has a courtyard and cantilever.

The settlement character of traditional residences is arranged in an adjacent, introverted and courtyard manner. In the housing, open space, semi-open space and internal spaces are aligned around the courtyard. Facades that see the street often have deaf or small windows. The phenomenon of privacy is an important factor in the forming of housing and facade characteristics. In addition to elements such as climate and topography, the phenomenon of privacy, which is a socio-cultural factor, has also been influential in the forming of traditional texture. The rules that regulate the placement of houses are not to interfere with the neighbor's view or to overlook the privacy of a garden. In general, houses are unrelated, connected to other houses only by garden walls, streets are defined by house and garden walls. (Bechhoefer & Yalçın, 1991).

When looking at the space organization fiction in the traditional house texture, lifestyle and behavioral situations offer a unique architectural language. When the facades are examined, differences in window sizes are observed and deaf facades or small windows are preferred on the ground floors. Doors are sometimes defined as a dividing border element between the residence and the street, sometimes they are thresholds that allow crossings. The elements that make up the architectural language of 'Amasya Yaliboyu Evleri' are the same as the traditional residential texture. The houses are composed of elements such as 'sofa', 'oda', 'eyvan' and have different plan types. The coming together of these plan elements are based on certain principles and sometimes show similarities in plans. Entry rules in different typologies are given in Figure 8.

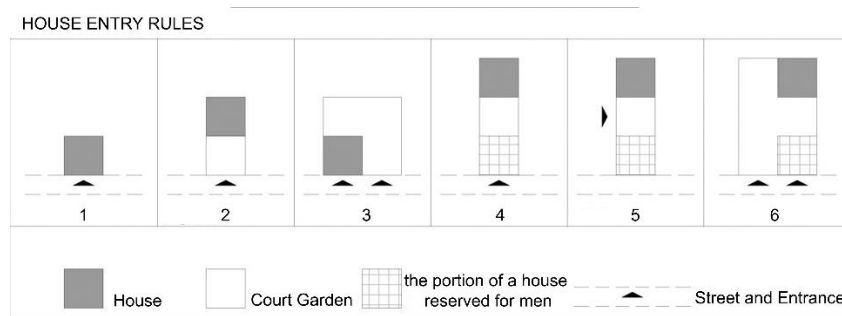


Figure 8. House Entry Rules (Güzelci ,2012)

The first plan type is the houses that do not have a courtyard and the entrance is from the street. In the second plan, there is a door that opens from the street to the courtyard and the structure is reached in the continuation of the courtyard. This system is found in most of 'Yaliboyu Evleri'. The third type of house, which can be entered from the street to both the house and the courtyard, and two different doors open from the street. One of these doors provides access to the structure, while the other provides access to the courtyard. In the fourth plan, the entrance is from 'selamlık' on the street side. In this plan, the courtyard is in the middle of the 'harem' and 'selamlık'. In the fifth plan, the houses consist of 2 parts. After entering the courtyard, passage is provided. The door opens directly to the courtyard. In the sixth plan, the entrances could be from the courtyard and 'selamlık' (Güzelci, 2012). When the typologies of traditional houses are examined, the buildings on the street are designed with the mass movement of the building. The border defines the

garden, the selamlık and the yard, with motions recessed from the earth in a linear axis. Garden borders grow and expand in some places and in some cases only help transitions.

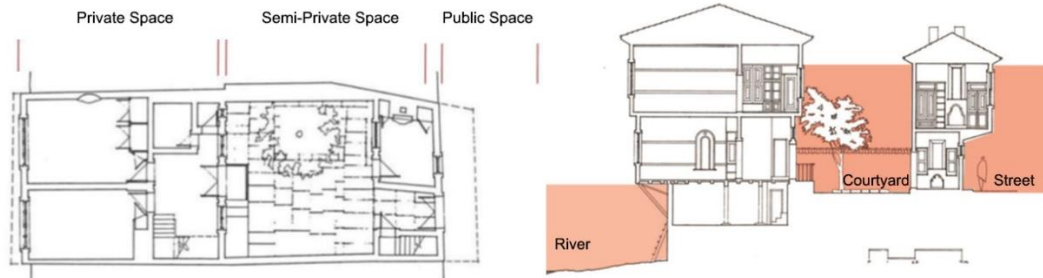


Figure 9. Yaliboyu Evi plan and section has been interpreted (Bechhoefer & Yalçın, 1991)

'Yaliboyu Evi' example has the type of plan number 4 (Figure 9). The interior space is separated from the public area by a garden door. The courtyard in a traditional Turkish house is separated from the street with high walls and a door. More private living spaces separated from the street by a garden. Private relations purified from public interference are experienced in this space. The courtyard door is defined as the point where private life is connected to the street and is a semi-public space.

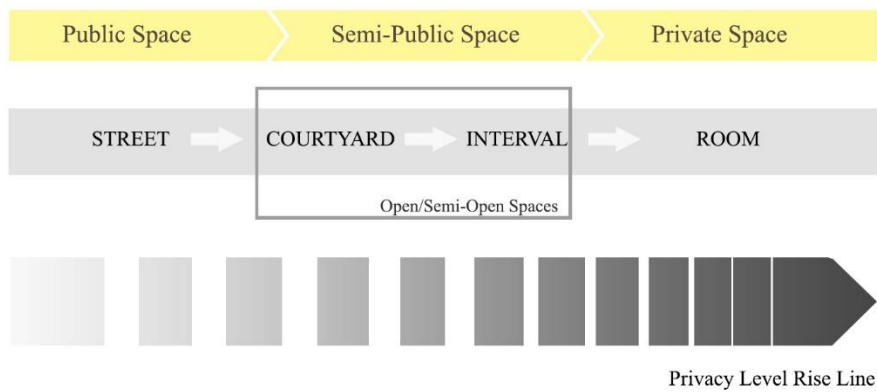


Figure 10. Privacy in Space Configuration

In the traditional housing texture, the room is the most private place of the house (Figure 10). Semi-public spaces, which are places that provide direct passage with many places, are less private spaces. The courtyard in the traditional housing of Amasya is a semi-public space and is shaped according to the concept of independence and sovereignty. Moreover, social relations develop in these areas. When the plan typologies are examined, a hierarchy of street-courtyard-residence-room is observed. Privacy is increasing from public to private. The transition from public space to private space is through the courtyard. The courtyard, which defines a semi-public living space, is an in-between space and daily life activities take place here.

Besides the limiting feature of the door creates privacy. In addition, effects such as obstruction, impenetrability, and restriction of freedom can be mentioned (Izgi, 1999). The doors, which are the vertical limiter of the space, construct visual and physical relationships with the interior and exterior. The door, an element that restricts and separates space also allows for passages and merges. The thresholds in front of the doors are important elements in the spatial configuration.

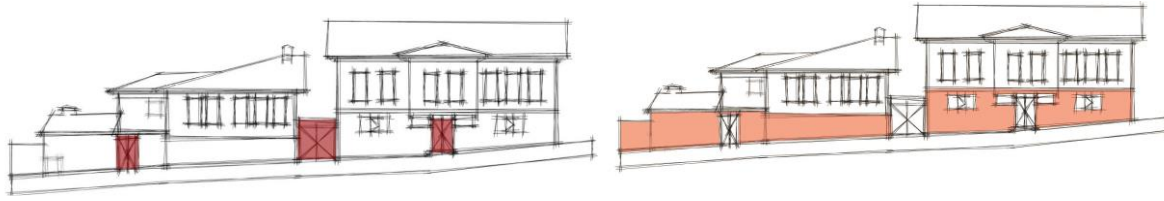


Figure 11. Yaliboyu Evleri Street View, Door and Window Sizes

When the traditional house texture facade is examined, differences are observed in the window size of the ground floor and the first floor. Blind walls or small windows were used on the facades of the ground floors facing the street (Figure 11). On the second floor, the windows are larger. Living areas, living rooms have been preferred on the second floor to ensure privacy. It is seen that the boundaries between public and private also affect the configuration of space and the facade arrangement. All these regulations define the boundaries between the environment and the communities. Privacy creates social and physical boundaries between spaces and also separates the life on the street from the life in the house.

3.4. New Boundaries Generated in the Context of Private and Public Space Shift

Privacy in traditional house texture affects space organization, lifestyle and behavior, the use of floors, facade arrangement. Privacy in residences varies depending on usage. With the change in the use of the street, the distinction between public and private spaces begins to disappear. As the historical and touristic value of the city begins to increase, differences occur in the public / private area usage of the city. The change caused by the touristic influence in the city in traditional residential texture is not denied. Traditional house that was previously used as residences are now used as commercial units and workplace. The differentiation of the function causes the transformation of the residential texture. After the ground floors began to be used as commercial units, the facades began to be used as exhibition surfaces. While the high walls of the traditional Turkish house provide a clear reading of the boundaries between the interior and exterior, it has been determined that these areas transform into spaces of "showcase". Doors and windows define thresholds that adjust the permeability between the door and window interior and exterior. However, the use of these areas also changes over time and turns into exhibition elements. The specific physical structures of the city lose their identity due to socio-cultural reasons. The local architecture of the city of Amasya is getting damaged day by day. Although protection studies are carried out on the street where the traditional residential texture is located, there is only a visual effect. Cultural continuity cannot be achieved and 'Yaliboyu houses' are beginning to lose their texture.

The traditional texture of the city has been severely destroyed by touristic impacts. The need for constant maintenance and repair, and the damage to the texture of wooden structures caused people living in the houses to leave their homes. The texture of the region has changed as the comfort conditions were not provided and low-income people started to live there. The people who live there have sold their homes to hotel restaurant owners. It is observed that some of the houses have been restored and converted for commercial purposes as museums, public houses, boutique hotels, restaurants, commercial units (Figure 12).



Figure 12. Traditional Housing Commercial Units

On the street where the border between private and public sphere started to disappear, people living here moved to other parts of the city. For this reason, the city continues to grow towards new residential areas. The number of buildings used as residential buildings is decreasing considerably. The use of residences for commercial purposes varies (Figure 13,14). In a structure used as a cafe with the transformation of the traditional structure, it is observed that the garden wall disappears and becomes an area that allows interaction.

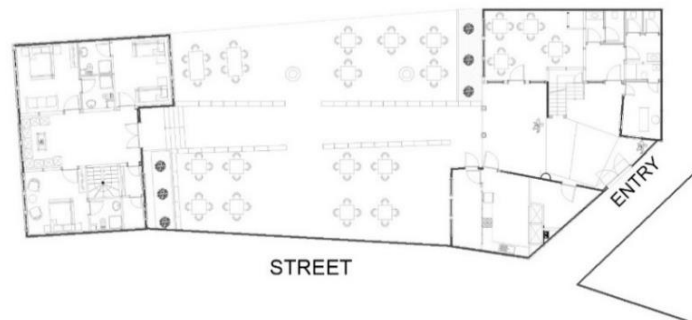


Figure 13. 'Yalıboyu Evi' plan used as a café

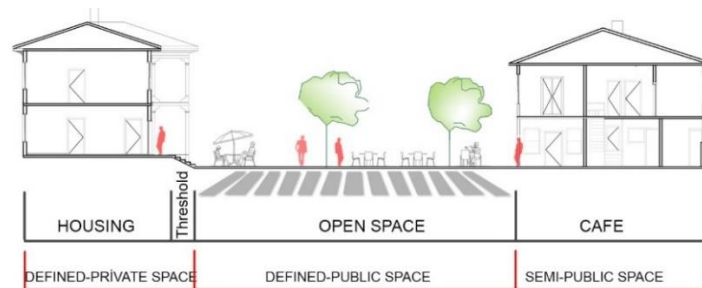


Figure 14. 'Yalıboyu Evi' section used as a cafe

The walls in the housing structure disappear over time and compose 'defined public spaces' with the disappearance of physical borders. Boundaries are melting at these points of transformation. By removing the garden wall and combining the private areas, the borders are melting and intertwined with the social and cultural texture. The wall between the two houses by physical boundaries has been demolished and public space has been formed. As Newman (1996) mentioned, while previously defining private spaces for the front and backyard housing texture, these common spaces have now turned into public spaces. Semi-private and private areas are legally opened to the public. With the transformation of private spaces into public spaces, thresholds and in-between spaces have turned into spaces that are actively used.

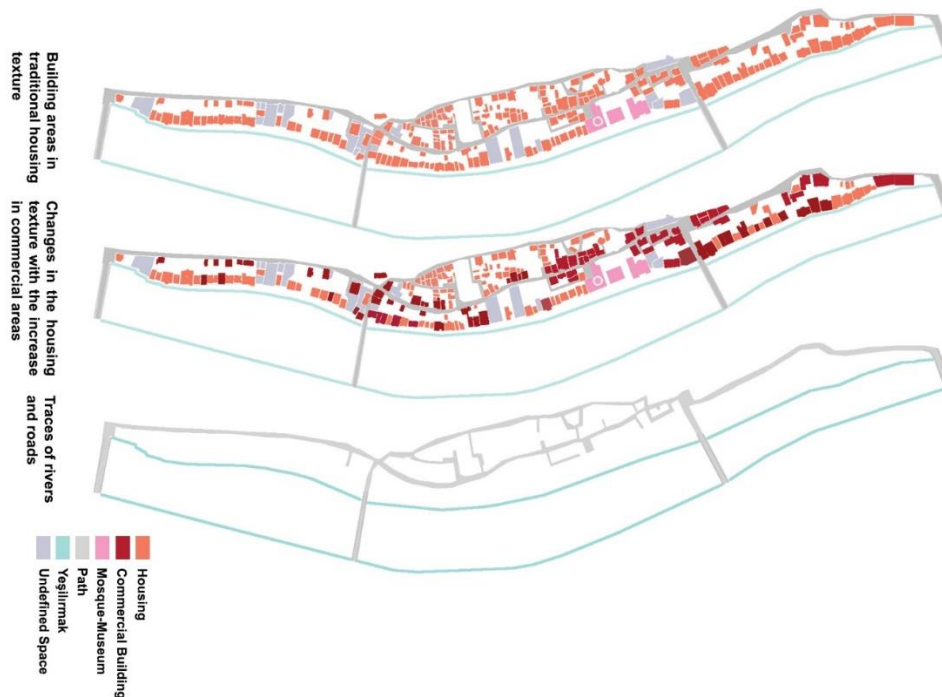


Figure 15. 'Yalıboyu Evleri' Processed on the Amasya Reconstruction Plan Morphological Display from Private to Public

In Figure 15, the morphological situation in Hatuniye neighborhood is developed on the Amasya construction plan. The first map shows areas formerly used as residences. In the second map, the change in residential texture is shown with the increase of commercial areas. The change related to the use of traditional housing texture is shown on the morphological map. In the results obtained from the morphological display, it is observed that the usage rate has turned into public space by 58.8%. (The calculations were made by excluding the undefinable areas and including living parcels to the count, as in the limitations of the study).

When the change in the traditional housing pattern is examined, it is seen that the residences have turned into commercial areas. The use of the streets, the effect of capitalism and the touristic influence have changed the texture of the city of Amasya. The function of some houses has been changed and is used as a cafe. These areas have become places where they are encountered and interacted. It has been shown with city images that the private areas have turned into public places over time. Usage on the street varies according to the user profile, and public space use is increasing with the effect of touristic developments. The buildings, which used to be completely residential, are now used as boutique hotels, restaurants, cafes and cultural houses due to commercial concerns and touristic developments. It has been observed that the number of people living in residences is gradually decreasing, and those who live have started to leave their living spaces due to the lack of privacy and security. Considering the old uses of the facades and streets in the historical texture, there are differences between the new and the old situation. As a result of the tourists being seen as economic contributions, the city and street texture have changed. Even if changes are not seen on the exterior of the house changes in the functions are observed. Changing the user causes the interior and exterior configuration to change. When street-scale interactions are examined, it is observed that there is a change from private spaces to public space.

4. AN EVALUATION AND DISCUSSION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THOSE WHO EXPERIENCE THE CITY

The connection that people establish with their environment over time, the events and experiences they experience form the perception of the city. Even though cities remain the



same in the whole, they undergo changes and transformations in details. These changes and transformations in the city have been discussed through field research and data. In addition to the subjects examined in previous chapters, it is aimed to make an evaluation from the perspective of people who experience the city. In order to understand the user's point of view, personal interviews were evaluated using the method of "stream of consciousness" as a narrative element. During the interview, the following questions were asked to the users.

1. How long have you been living in Amasya?
2. How has privacy changed with the touristic impact in the city?
3. Has the usage in the historical texture changed? Are there any usages that disappear over time?
4. Do you think that the city is changing in a positive way?
5. Did bridges increase connectivity between two sides of the city?
6. Is interaction with Yeşilirmak River available?
7. Did the increase in commercial texture have an effect on the street life?

When the comments on the touristic impact of the city are examined, its effect on privacy and publicity is interpreted differently according to the user. Some users say that this situation is beneficial for the economy of the city and find it positive. Some users think that this situation disturbs the security and peace and interpret this situation negatively. The courtyard concept seen in traditional housing typology has begun to disappear. The disappearance of neighborhood relations creates invisible borders on the street. Unsafe environments negatively affect the users and cause them to leave their living areas. The phenomenon of privacy is slowly disappearing and public spaces are taking its place. Special areas are being transformed for commercial purposes and opened to people outside. Although the existing historical texture is shown to be preserved, only the exterior is designed in a similar way to the historical texture. The same situation is not valid for interior spaces. Window and door dimensions vary according to the use of the space to be built. Changing the historical texture and serving commercial purposes negatively affects the identity of the city. Traditional housing texture is seen physically, but it becomes difficult to perceive the space. Street texture is now used for commercial and touristic purposes. The historical texture of Amasya, which has become a touristic city, has begun to change. The change of lifestyle and intense touristic influence lead to new urban space formations. With the change in the physical quality of the street, the Hatuniye neighborhood has become a corridor where people can spend time. However, the uncontrolled entry and exit makes the public worried about security. Personal interviews help us to understand how touristic impacts affect the spatial boundary and how they create a change in texture.

When asked about the use of the historical texture and the changing housing use, the users talk about the positive and negative aspects of this situation. The traditional residential texture observed since the Roman period preserves its identity, yet it cannot maintain its function. Conservation plans are observed only on the exterior surfaces. However, indoor plans vary according to use. The structure used as house lose their characteristics over time and turn into boutique hotels, restaurants and commercial units with a touristic impact. Although the transformation in the city helped economic contribution it damaged the historical texture.

There are spaces used for different functions on the street. The changes that occur in the physical structure of the street are shaping element of the space organization. Regions that have become consumption areas also affect the nature of the public sphere. The use of the courtyard, where the transitions from the personal space to the common areas has been arranged and started to be included in daily life. Consumption spaces, which are used as a means of communication and socialization, also configure the daily life practices of urban actors.



When the questions about the bridges in the city are examined, bridges are defined as the important vista points of the city. Bridges were needed as the city's borders made progress in the east-west direction. In the past, bridges were only required for transitions to residential texture. Since the population and the number of visitors have increased in recent years, the use and number of bridges are increasing. Bridges, which increase the connection points and are an important element for interaction, are defined as elements that connect the two parts of the city. The connecting elements of the city transform into permeable areas that allow interaction. The river defines the boundary between '*Yalıboyu Evleri*' and the city. The river creates a visual landscape, but the user cannot be contacted. However, this boundary situation is stretched by connecting elements such as bridges. Connecting elements of the city offer people important vista areas.

When asked about the increase in commercial texture, users mention that it increases the touristic value of the city. Image of city changes with the prominence of tourism. Although the positive meaning for some of the people living in traditional residences, many people think necessary measures should be taken in the city against the destruction and threats in commercial areas. According to the cultural lifestyle, the privacy in traditional housing texture gradually loses its characteristic with the effects of commercial areas on the street structure.

Public-private space transformations were examined through the boundary concept that constitutes the main discussion of this article. When personal interviews and data are evaluated together, changes are observed on the borders of the city due to the impact of tourism and trade. Social and economic developments in cities have also affected public spaces where people from different cultures interact. Public spaces have increased in the historical area due to the intense tourist arrival in the city. With the culture of consumption, the impact of socio-economic situations on life practice has become undeniable. It is observed that the natural geography of Amasya city has changed with some factors and is shaped according to user needs and dynamics in the city.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTION

In this study, the effects of changing spatial relations and boundaries on the character of the space within the physical and social context of Amasya were examined in detail. It is found out that the effects of the changes occur when the boundaries are sometimes hardened and sometimes diminished and disappeared on the physical and social texture. The concept of privacy in the traditional Turkish house and settlement as known as "*Yalıboyu evleri*", constitutes an important factor in the formation of the house and its facade characteristics as observed. The introverted house type in the traditional texture defines the boundaries between the physical environment and the communities, where the common spaces open to the courtyard. Therefore, private relations take place in these semi-public spaces secluded from public interventions.

When the current usage is examined, it can be defined that the use of traditional Turkish house has changed throughout time. The concept of the courtyard, which defines a transitional and intermediary space character between private and public spaces, and the use of these spaces vary according to the changes in the function and the usage of the building. The dissolution of the courtyard is obvious when it transforms into semi-open areas of cafes, boutique hotels and restaurants that are started to be used as public spaces, and define areas where users interact with each other. While the high walls of the traditional Turkish house provide a clear reading of the boundaries between the interior and exterior, it has been determined that these areas transform into spaces of "showcase". In similar, door and window openings define thresholds that adjusts the permeability of interior and exterior. However, the use of these openings also changes over time, turning into exhibition elements.

The city walls, which were used to protect the city in the past, gradually lose their functions, so as to open the city inward, where the borders melt and merge with the new urban



texture. The city walls started to be seen as not functional but "symbolic elements" that determine the characteristic feature of the city. The factors transforming the boundaries of the cities are not only addressed physically, but also are accelerated with the developing social needs and historical and touristic values of the city. The city hosts more and more tourists every day, and with the effect of consumed city and consumed culture, public spaces of the city is in transition. As the cultural structure, perception and use of the city change, alterations and transformations in the city are observed. According to the changing cultural and historical structure and texture of the city, the findings define Amasya as a "tourism city" in need of facilitating traditional texture.

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