

Conceptual Structure of 'Claim of Space': Effects on the Placemaking and Social Interactions

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ABSTRACT

Urban design studies stress the importance of transformation of open public spaces into places and its role in supporting social behavior. Therefore, researchers frequently investigate the relevance between the place and the physical, activity and meaning characteristics of the environment. However, few studies refer to the importance of 'claim of space', which is composed as a result of the interaction of these characteristics and mankind, and its contribution to social diversity. This study aims at revealing the relationship between place making and social behavior through a conceptual model by pondering on the notion of 'claim of space' made by various types of users (businesses, outdoor sellers, regular users).

KEYWORDS: Appropriation, Space, Place, Social Interaction.

1.INTRODUCTION

The literature on urban design discusses the effects of the notions of "sense of place" or "place making" on urban life. Placeless outdoor open spaces deprive us from meaningful associations and interaction between people (Mehta, 2013). As spaces transform into 'places', they become not mere vacant spaces where objects move within predefined borders, but spots where people stay and meet their needs (Tuan, 1977; Mehta, 2013). In this way, they become places where several activities are performed and social interaction is strong (Cilliers et al., 2015; Kyle, 2004). Researchers including Canter (1977), Punter (1991) and Montgomery (1998), successfully explained the relationship between the place and the physical, activities and meaning characteristics of the environment (Alpak and Yılmaz, 2022; Alpak et. al., 2019). These studies have been widely acknowledged in the urban design literature and are frequently referred to in other studies. Unlike the above-mentioned studies, Kärrholm (2007) indicated that the relationship between the place and the terms of 'claim of space' or 're-appropriation'- though it is an old one- is underused in the current studies. Cresswell (2004), similarly, indicated that the term 'claim of space' is not used in discussions of the concept of space, and Dovey (1999) suggested that it is not frequently referred to even when spatial control aspects are in question (Kärrholm 2007). The current study focuses on the notion of 'claim of space' and aims at discovering its relationship with place making. To do that, we will discuss what the concept of 'claim of space' is, how it is used in studies, and how it can be employed in open urban spaces through a conceptual model. Claim of space -or appropriation- is an important sub-behavior mechanism of territorial behavior (Gür, 1997; Kärrholm, 2005). Therefore, claim of space - as territoriality and the mechanism of territorial behavior- is explained in the first place in order to be able to explain the appropriation behavior.

1.1. Territoriality

Territoriality can be defined as a spatially delimited control (Kärrholm, 2005) and symbolized with the sense of ownership (Gür, 1997). Personalization of a certain space temporarily or permanently by owning it in the real sense is an important mechanism employed to create a territory (Madanipour, 2003; Mehta, 2007) Researchers point out the first, second and third territories depending on the level of personalization (Altman, 1975; Bell et al., 1996; Madanipour, 2003). The first territory is made up of private spaces, the



second includes the semi-public spaces and open public spaces offered for common use comprise the third one (Madanipour, 2003).

As private spaces include people's homes, tables at workplace etc., they are spaces where people have a high level of personalization, consequently, where they express that they really own objects and claim zones of dominance (Rapoport; 1977; Madanipour; 2003; Brown et al, 2005). As we proceed to public open spaces that are shared by others, such as beaches, squares, avenues and parks, the power of decision-making and dominance of individuals gradually decrease. Therefore, personalization and ownership take place at a low level, or even do not take place in most instances; consequently, no territoriality can be materialized (Brower, 1980; Madanipour; 2003).

However, research studies conducted on urban spaces indicate that territoriality cannot be maintained only through personalization realized over such spaces with the sense of ownership, defense and protection (Altman, 1975). In urban open spaces, temporary or permanent 'symbolic ownership' or 'perceived ownership' occurs (Altman, 1975; Altman and Zube, 1989; Alcock ve Smith, 1999; Henk de Haan, 2005; Bonnin, 2006; Kärrholm, 2005; 2007, 2008; Mehta, 2013). Kärrholm (2017) therefore, said that, researchers have begun that point to the dynamic and non-stable aspects of territoriality. This approach focuses on defining spaces through patterns of relations, events, on the goings-on of everyday life, acts, spatiotemporal processes, rather than focusing on spaces, real control and delimit of a certain land or area (Brighenti, 2010, 2014, Callon, 1986; Kärrholm, 2007, 2017). As a result of different kinds of spatial claims of the users, everyday practice and use of urban space, permanent or temporary micro-scale territories occur (Kärrholm, 2005). From this point of view, there are various researchers who define the spatial claim without classification. Examples of spatial claim concepts addressed by various researchers: Temporary-Permanent Appropriation (Lara-Hernandez, et al. 2019., Graumann, 1976; Korosec-Serfaty, 1976; Yory 2011; Lydon and Garcia 2015), Do-It-Yourself (Fabian and Samson, 2015; Lydon & Garcia, 2015), Pop-up Urbanization, Urban Hacking (Kuyumcuyan, 2021), Guerrilla urbanism (Hou, 2010).

From this perspective, within the field of environmental psychology, concepts of like personalization- appropriation etc. is seen an important sub-behavior mechanism of territorial behavior (Gür, 1997). In many studies on urban open spaces, the territorial behavior exhibited by urban dwellers in public spaces such as streets and parks has been examined through various concepts like "personalization" and "appropriation" (Mehta and Bosson, 2010; Mehta, 2013; Lara Hernandez et al., 2018). One of the primary aims of researchers in analyzing territorial behavior in urban open spaces by breaking it down into sub-concepts is the absence of actual ownership in these commonly used areas. Instead, the behavior observed is often perceived or symbolic ownership. In this context, they have reduced territorial behavior to the urban open space scale using these concepts. Studies on urban open spaces have explored the different forms of ownership manifested through the behaviors of various users, each labeled with distinct concepts. For instance, researchers have defined the permanent claiming behavior of businesses, achieved through barriers, boundaries, or markers in open spaces, as "personalization" (Mehta, 2013). On the other hand, the temporary claiming behavior of users through personal belongings or street vendors through the goods they sell has been defined as "appropriation" (Kärrholm, 2005; Lara Hernandez et al., 2018). The fundamental difference here lies in the type of user and whether the claiming behavior is temporary or permanent. Ultimately, whether it involves businesses, users, or vendors, the territorial behaviors established through symbolic ownership in open spaces fundamentally begin with the user's claim of space. This study aims to propose a model that encompasses all symbolic ownership behaviors exhibited by different users (businesses, outdoor sellers, users) through various actions in urban open spaces. Therefore, in the subsequent sections of this study, the concept of "claim of space," as used by Mehta (2013) and covering all sub-concepts related to this subject in open spaces, will be employed.



1.2. The Concept of Claim of Space

Lefebvre's definition introduces a new dimension to the concept of space. The triad known as the "spatial triad"—perceived space, conceived space, and lived space—is among Lefebvre's most emphasized concepts. Corresponding to these categories are the terms "spatial practice," "representations of space," and "representational space," as proposed by Ghulyan (2017). Representations of space can be identified as the space of designers (architects, landscape architects, etc.) and often correspond to spaces that dominate society. These representations are closely tied to the order and codes imposed by designers and authorities (Lefebvre, 1991).

The phenomenological counterpart to "representations of space," seen as the designers' space where knowledge and ideology play a critical role, is the "conceived space." This space is abstract, comprising mental constructs, designed plans, and symbols materialized through specific spatial practices. As such, representations of space are also defined as conceived space (Ghulyan, 2017).

On the other hand, "representational spaces" are linked to the unofficial aspects of social life, defined by codes representing complex symbolisms beyond the existing spatial codes. In this respect, the concept of representational space is image-laden and subjective. "Users' spaces" are lived spaces, not merely the designed or represented spaces. Unlike the abstract space of authorities, the space of everyday practices is tangible and subjective (Lefebvre, 1991). Representational spaces, therefore, correspond to "lived space" in phenomenological terms.

Lived spaces or representational spaces are where daily life unfolds, creating their own system and linguistic structure. These spaces, resisting standardization, provoke reactions and suggest the possibility of alternative daily practices. Representational spaces also embody the potential to evoke freedom (Ghulyan, 2017). Unlike spaces rooted in thought and planning, representational spaces are spaces that are primarily felt and experienced (Yetişkin, 2023).

As a result, Lefebvre (1991) distinguishes space into two categories: abstract space and concrete space., Abstract space refers to spaces created through the design codes of designers and authorities, while concrete space is defined by the codes of everyday life. In other words, concrete space is constructed through users' experiences and acts of appropriation. Place, therefore, is not lived as imposed by authorities but as shaped and organized by social relations. Consequently, the intersection of abstract and concrete place emerges through acts of appropriation.

Thanks to claim of space, People can rearrange a given space as their area of activity according to their needs. People can rearrange a given space as their area of activity according to their needs. Therefore, "claim of space" is defined as the use of a space in a manner distinct from its conventional and institutionalized forms, that is, outside the purposes for which it was originally designed. This is sometimes achieved through a process in harmony with the environment, and sometimes through a process where physical environment and positions are invaded. However, the important point here is the rearrangement of the built environment in accordance with the needed meaning and implementations (de Certeau, 1980; Benner, 2013; Edinger, 2014; Lydon and Garcia, 2015). Aubert-Gamet (1997) states that the appropriation behavior is a special process that is created to take control of and establish ownership on the environment by people that can interact with it. Lara-Hernandez et al. (2018) and Lara-Hernandez and Melis (2018) said that temporary appropriation become a theoretical concept for understanding the relationship between people and public space and plays a key role in creating the bond between people and places that leads to the social construction of public spaces. In this approach, as an element of the environment, people create the position without becoming a real designer. Studies that perceive the ones performing appropriation or claim of space



behavior as among the founders of spaces, and focus on the appropriation process of physical positions, define the process in the broadest sense as the transformation of space through several ways of intervention (Henk de Haan, 2005; Pfeifer, 2013; Enigbokan, 2016). Feldman and Stall (2004), on the other hand, defined claim of space as 'individuals' or groups' turning a given space into a piece of themselves with selection, adoption, transformation and development of the space.

Claim of space, in this context, represents a community/individual-centered development process achieved through a complex interplay of constructing, operating, and sustaining public spaces. In traditional design approaches, users are often embodied as passive elements of the environment rather than treated as co-creators. This disconnect between urban space and its inhabitants results in unused, vacant, or neglected areas. The placemaking approach, however, considers users—who have long been reduced to passive subjects—as co-creators of space alongside designers (Henk de Haan, 2005; Pfeifer, 2013; Enigbokan, 2016). In this model, users do not simply occupy urban space; they actively produce it (Lefebvre, 1992).

Through micro-level, creative participation models such as place-making, the symbiotic relationship between individuals and the city, which risks being lost, is reestablished. This ensures that public spaces with potential for open access are not privatized and diminished, while vacant or neglected urban areas are transformed. Furthermore, users gain the right to influence these spaces in line with their needs and practices. Lefebvre (1991) asserts that place-making grants users the right to fully utilize and manage their daily lives in urban spaces. This right goes beyond merely visiting or using a space; it includes the ability to access, consume, and transform the resources of the cities they inhabit. Lefebvre (1991) famously stated, "To change life, we must first change space," explaining that this entails reclaiming space for public use and reintegrating it into daily life.

Although interventions vary depending on context, the unifying commonality remains the recognition of needs. The urban consciousness that mobilizes individuals or communities to respond to their needs ultimately transforms both the space itself and the process, resulting in mutual adaptation and evolution.

In other words, claim of space can be seen as the indicator of authority of individuals, society or businesses over the environment that is established through transformation of the space. The individual rearranges and organizes the space s/he claims, and dialectically differentiates it from the spaces of others. The source of this notion is generally the sense of ownership in human beings (Bilgin, 1990, 1997). Several other authors underlined that individuals resorted to appropriation behavior to have power on the environment by means of emotional, perceptual or physical activities (Fischer, 1992), and to establish their dominance on the claimed space (Kärrholm, 2007). Claim of space, in short, is the special pattern of behavior emerging from the human-environment interaction, and it is performed to attain power on environment and to create life in a particular space (Bilgin, 1990; Bonnin, 2006). In other words, claim of space is a process that derives from the human influence on the physical environment (Fischer, 1997; Mollar and Rohmer, 1998).

Changes and transformations realized by people on the environment are frequently studied. In the last ten years, studies conducted on environmental psychology have explained human interventions on environment with new terms (Kaya and Görgün, 2017). These are; Personalization, Pop-Up Urbanism, Third Place, Appropriation, Strategy, Tactic, Do It Yourself, Urban Hacking, Guerrilla Urbanism, Fourth places, Occurrence of events,, Appropriation representation (Mehta ve Bosson, 2010; Benner, 2013; Douglas, 2014; Pfeifer, 2013; Fabian & Samson, 2015; Lydon & Garcia, 2015; Sawhney v.d., 2015; Talen, 2015; Cordan ve Karagöz, 2013; Mehta, 2013; Sawhney v.d., 2015; Aelbrecht, 2016).



All of these terms, in principle, define making changes on a given space and creating new/different places. Differences, on the other hand, lie in the pattern, reason and the doer of these changes. For example, third places are generally limited with changes and claim of space created by such businesses as cafés and stores; and basically, the activities of meeting and chatting are performed in these places. Fourth places include the spontaneous changes made by and claim of space of users in the gaps of the former. People-watching, walking, waiting and spending time are among the activities conducted in the fourth places (Aelbrecht, 2016). As it can be seen, behavioral characteristics of these terms are similar and they are actually types of formal-informal social behavior status. Scrutinizing the earlier studies conducted on this subject reveal that researchers classified appropriation or claim of space, and created a pattern that embrace all of them (Bell et al, 1996; Kärrholm, 2005, 2007). Therefore, making use of the concept of claim of space in studies conducted on interventions on the environment can enable a more in depth analysis as it evaluates the doer of appropriation behavior along with the manner it is performed.

In this regard, the following research questions were determined; •Who performs claim of space behavior?

•How does s/he do it?

1.3. Types of Claim of Space Behavior

Researchers proposed that some classifications should be made (Table 1) when doing research to find out who does the claim of space behavior and how s/he does it (Bell et al, 1996; Kärrholm, 2007).

Researchers	ation of the concept by different researchers Forms of production of 'claim of space'
Bell et al. (1996)	• Formal • İnformal
Bonnin (2006)	Appropriation practiceAppropriation strategies
Fischer (1992)	 Appropriation practice Appropriation representation
Kärrholm (2005, 2007)	Intended productionProduction through use

• Production through use The underlying motive in the attempts of classification works is forming a more concrete understanding relating claim of space behavior and creating a theoretical basis for further studies. With this purpose, Fischer (1992) and Kärrholm (2005) presented the most appealing

Table 2.	Definition	of claim	of space	behavior

explanations about the doer of appropriation behavior and the manner of doing it (Table 2).

Researchers	Types of Production	
Fischer (1992)	1.Appropriation practice	 Nesting behavior; Appropriation would mean a wish to feel "at home". Users nestle into a spatial area and in doing so, they develop some specific practices of installation, rootedness, hiding or protection Stamping behavior; in order to assert power on the environment, the user may use personal things, strewing them into the place. In doing so, he or her stamps his or her territory Investigating behavior: by exploring the settings, the users can express physical control over the place. Users exerts mastery of the environment as if it was a private space. Therefore, this exploration raises opportunities for social exchanges.



	2.Appropriation representation	• The appropriation behavior in symbolic level derives from the sense of ownership. The person can be the owner of the space in the mental level, and can arrange certain properties and meanings of the space according to himself/herself as if s/he is actually the owner of it.
Kärrholm (2005, 2007)	1.Intended production	 Intended production can take place in two different ways; Strategy and tactics: Both are planned or intentional attempts to limit or mark the space so as to allocate it for self-utilization (Kärrholm, 2005). Though they depict similarities in this respect, they were defined differently by Certeau (1988). Strategy; It enables businesses, outdoor sellers, municipalities etc. limit, encircle, mark, delimitate or settle (Kärrholm, 2008; Mehta, 2007,2013) a certain space temporarily or permanently with granted power, that is, with the permission of the applicable authority. Through the strategy, appropriation is always planned for a definite distance or in pre-determined spaces (Kärrholm, 2005). Tactics; on the other hand, is realized through creating temporary symbolic spaces by users (sellers, musicians, painters, artists, protesters, individuals etc.) who penetrate, nest, insinuate into or mark the space without thoroughly invading the space (Simpson, 2011). Tactics involve claiming behavior in ongoing occurrences of daily life and in respect to experienced conditions. Therefore, the tactical appropriation realized through marking the space of an individual or group is generally related with establishing relationship with the place (Kärrholm, 2005). In other words, 'strategy' is the act of powerful, and the 'tactics' is the act of inferior (Kärrholm, 2007; Benner, 2013; Fabian and Samson, 2015; Lydon and Garcia, 2015; Kaya and Görgün, 2017). They are used in space production efforts made in accordance with the permission given by the authority in the first one and as an outcome of the actions of users and outdoor sellers in latter (Kärrholm, 2007).
	2.Production through use	Production through use can take place in two different ways; Association and appropriation: With these two, people do not intentionally seek to create spaces for themselves, but their moves can be pre-planned or affected by logically taken decisions. What discriminates association from appropriation is whether it is done individually or as a group (Brown, 1987; Bell et al, 1996). An individual or a group can appropriate a bank, corner, restaurant etc. as his/her 'favorite spot' (Kärrholm, 2007). Because claiming a space through appropriation is not only a physical action. People can meaningfully appropriate a space by associating it with permanent or recurring utilization forms such as a dining place, resting spot or a space to stand in their minds and mentally branding them (Aubert-Gamet, 1997; Kärrholm, 2005, 2008; Mehta 2013).

Claim of space typically refers to small-scale practices initiated directly by urban actors using their own resources, emphasizing use-oriented activities aimed at creatively appropriating, altering, and transforming space. However, the motivations behind such practices vary depending on the individuals involved and their specific needs (Benner, 2013; Douglas, 2014; Pfeifer, 2013; Fabian & Samson, 2015; Lydon & Garcia, 2015;



Sawhney et al., 2015; Talen, 2015). The reasons for place-making in urban open spaces can be summarized as follows:

• Economic revival-providing commercial benefits

• To make visible the basic problems regarding how and by whom public space can be used.

• Helping users eliminate a perceived deficiency in urban space, revitalizing empty or dysfunctional areas, providing quick solutions to improvements and problems, and transforming negative perceptions about urban space. (

• Responding to situations where official institutions and decision makers fail in urban open spaces

• Changing the use of space and producing new experiences with public space to meet various needs

- Beautifying the space, desire to add aesthetics, art movements
- Determining the level of social relations (privacy-socializatio
- Increasing the liveliness of the place
- Political actions and protests
- Shaping social relations and daily life

The diverse motivations behind claim of space interventions in urban open spaces have led to the emergence of various concepts in environmental psychology over the past decade (Author, 2023). The differences and commonalities among these concepts are categorized and presented in Table 3.

Tab	Ile 3. Types of claim of Strategy Personalization Pop-Up Urbanism Surface painting Third Places	space defined by differe Tactic Appropriation Do It Yourself, Urban Hacking, Guerrilla Urbanism Fourth places Occurrence of events	nt concepts Meaning
Way of productio n	 Authorized Formal Planned Permission 	 Unauthorized Informal Planned/Unplanned Without permission 	MentallyUnplanned
Actors	 Authority Management Municipality Business etc. 	 Individual Society Participant Neighborhood Voluntarily Street Vendor Street Artist etc. 	IndividualSociety
Scale	 Miro-scales such as parks, squares, streets, 	• Miro-scales such as parks, squares, streets, neighborhoods	 Miro-scales such as parks, squares, street
Purpose	 Economic revival- providing commercial benefits Increasing the liveliness of the space Beautifying the space, adding aesthetics, art movements Incorporating idle spaces into daily life 	 Political actions, protests, reaction Eliminating deficiencies, revitalizing dysfunctional areas, improving, providing solutions to problems, Changing its use according to need and producing new 	 Evaluating the place and comparing it with others Emotional and functional attachment to the place Adding meaning to space



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	 Shaping social relationships 	experiences about public space. • Determining the level of social relations	
Practice- use	 Moving Business Functions Outdoors Temporary- Permanent Limitation- Interventions Generally Regular and Traditional Use Market Places- Local Organizations (open- air theatres, festivals, Promotional Activities etc. 	 Participatory approaches Innovative and Attractive Usage in General Temporary and Instant Interventions in general 	 Repeating Pattern of behavior (favorite location) Mental coding A place being the first place that comes to mind for the activity you want to do- association

In addition to the definitions, when we examine explanations made on interventions executed so as to 'claim space' by several other researchers (Table 4), we see that;

• Businesses perform claim of space by extending their services off their scope and enclosure of a portion of the open space at a practical level,

• At the practical level, administrations and municipalities engage in acts of appropriation by enclosing certain portions of open spaces either permanently or temporarily,

• Outdoor sellers and users do claim of space by creating short or long term symbolic spaces for themselves through insinuating into the space at a practical level,

• Users, on the other hand, do mental claim of space by associating things with a given space and branding it in their minds according to associations (Table 4).

	Table 4 Definitions of claim of space proposed by various authors		
	Type of Appropriation	The way it is performed	Author
P R A C T I C E	Enclosure (Businesses (Authority Management Municipality)	 Enclosure of some parts of the street with barriers and other forms of limiting elements by businesses/stores extending their scope to the street Changing the setting of the space by adding objects (surrounding elements, furniture carried onto pavements and streets, fences, barriers, billboards, trees, product exhibitions etc.) into the environment and marking efforts. Businesses/stores' extending their services into the streets (i.e. furniture placement), limiting some parts of the street with barriers, and permanent or temporary appropriation through marking with exhibitions, billboards and other sorts of decoration. With surface painting, municipalities or local authorities can permanently define boundaries in open spaces. With the permission of municipalities, temporary boundaries can be established in open spaces, such as market places, kiosk cafes, open-air cinemas, etc., to create a functional change. With the permission of authorities and municipalities, temporary boundaries in open spaces can be created through installation practices, thereby temporarily redefining the space 	Edney, 1976 Lang, 1987 Gehl, 1987 Altman, 1975 Mehta, 2013
	Produce spaces of representatio n (outdoor	• Temporary spaces produced by street performers to display their performances, a statute placed along the street etc., or different forms of utilizations made by users.	Whyte, 1980 Abdulkarim and Nasar, 2014 Certeau, 1988



	sellers and users)	 Insinuation of street performers and other people into the space and producing temporary interaction scenes at the spot. Temporary stages set up by street artists and new spatial possibilities created Symbolic spaces where people mark, protect their spaces, and in this way, where they arrange their social affairs Production of new spaces in locations via entrance of an activity or persons (like outdoor sellers, performers etc.) in the course of daily routines and patterns of use. 	Harrison- Pepper, 1990, Bäckman, 2005 Well, 2000 Aelbrecht, 2016 Simpson, 2011
M I N	Meaning (users)	 Associating and marking certain spaces permanently or on a temporary basis in people's minds with recurring activities 	Mehta 2013 Aubert-
D	(20010)	 Designating a space as the favorite spot and mentally coding it for certain types of activities 	Gamet,1997

In the light of the above-mentioned studies, all types of claim of space behavior, production forms and their corresponding indicators are classified and presented in Table 5 in detail.

Claim of space		Forms	of Production	D
		Practice	Mind	Researchers
Types	Types Who performer		Indicators	
Enclosure	Businesses	Surround Delimit Marking Embellishing Inclosure Rootedness		Altman, 1975 Edney, 1976 Lang 1987 Gehl, 1986 Kärrholm 2005,2007, 2008 Mehta, 2007;2013
	Authority Management Municipality	Installation Painting Surround		Oliveria et al, 2005 Pooke and Whitham 2013 Bishop, 2014 Florian and Temel, 2006
Produce spaces of representatio	Outdoor Sellers	Nesting Stamping Branding Insinuate Installation Rootedness Marketing		Lefebvre, 1991 Whyte, 1980 Certeau, 1988 Harrison-Pepper, 1990 Kärrholm 2005, 2007 Bäckman ve Rundqvist, 2005 Simpson, 2011
n	Users	Investigating Marketing Rootedness Stamping Nesting Installation Symbolic barriers		Fischer 1992 Well, 2000 Moles, 1976 Bilgin, 1990,1997 Aubert-Gamet 1997 Mehta, 2013
Meaning	Users		Association Mental coding Branding Repeated patterr	Fischer 1992 Aubert-Gamet 1997 Kärrholm 2005 ns Mehta, 2013

Table 5. Types of Claim of Space Behavior, Production Forms and Indicators



of use
of use
Own favorite space

All in all, the conceptual structure of the claim of space behavior is framed in accordance with the mentioned classification and indicators in the current study which aims at revealing the relationship between the claim of space behavior performed in open urban spaces and the space (Figure 1).

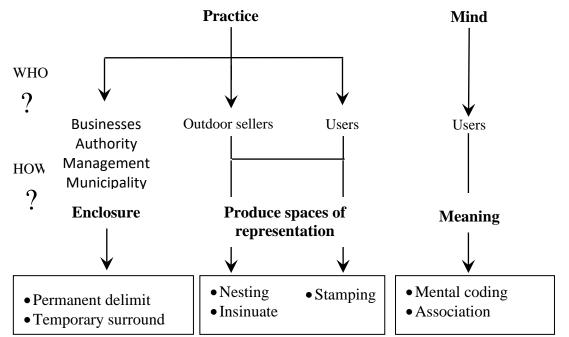


Figure. 1. Structure of the appropriation behavior that can be used in open urban space

Examples of claim of space performed by businesses in open urban spaces through delimitation/enclosure;

- 1. Permanent delimitation of the space by placing such elements as tables, chairs, benches, barriers and umbrellas, or attaining rootedness (Figure 2)
- 2.



Figure. 2. Claim of space done by businesses with permanent delimitation

2. Temporarily surrounding a space by placing elements like products, billboards and other objects or extending the interior business functions into the street through marking (Figure 3).





Figure. 3. Claim of space done by businesses with temporarily surrounding and marking

3. At the practical level, administrations and municipalities engage in acts of appropriation by enclosing certain portions of open spaces either permanently or temporarily (Figure 4)



Figure. 4. Claim of space done by administrations and municipalities with temporarily or permanently Installation and surrounding

Examples of claim of space done by sellers (outdoor sellers, performers etc.) and users in open urban spaces through producing symbolic spaces;

1.Nesting of sellers by placing their goods permanently in the space (i.e. the same seller sells his goods in the same spot every day) (Figure 5),



Figure .5 Claim of space done by sellers with nesting



2. Sellers creating interaction scenes for themselves in a space through insinuating (capturing the space on a temporary basis in accordance with current conditions) (Figure 6)



Figure 6. Claim of space done by sellers with insinuating an open public space

3. Claim of space of people by temporarily marking or stamping streets with certain behaviors (sitting on the stairs, leaning on the walls, catering on street furniture etc.) (Figure 7)



Figure 7. Claim of space done by users though symbolic delimitation

2. RELATIONSHIP OF CLAIM OF SPACE BEHAVIOR-PLACE-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Relph (1976) explains the meaning of place by examining people's experiences on the ground. According to Relph, who tries to define the relationship between space and place by conducting research on the basic behavior of people in the world, the quality of a place is largely based on human thoughts, behaviors and experiences. Indeed, such relationship occurred between the individual and the environment (Eren et. Al., 2021). According to Creswell (2004), place is the spaces that people relate to, touch and connect with, meaningful locations. The difference of space from place is that it is a space that makes no meaning. Space turns into a place when people relate to space and attach a meaning. Place



is a part of the space used, experienced, loaded with meaning and value by people. Yi-Fu-Tuan (1977) defined space as "movement and freedom" and place as "stopping and security". In other words, space is defined as allowing movement, and place by taking a pause. In other words, every stopping point in the movement enables the space to transform into a meaningful place by creating experiences as a result of the ties and relationships established with that space. While Tuan describes the difference between space and place, he defined space as a region with defined boundaries. It has defined special locations where certain needs are met in this area as places.

Claim of space is the special pattern of behavior emerging from the human-environment interaction and by creating a life on this space, it contributes to the use and experience of the space and to give a meaning to it (Korosec-Serfaty, 1976; Bilgin, 1990; Bonnin, 2006). Therefore, claim of space behavior contributes to the creation of places within the space by contributing to the meaning and use of the space.

Numerous researchers have pondered on the questions what purpose the claim of space behavior done in open public spaces serves and what the effect of the claim of space behavior is. The studies conducted to be able to answer these questions found out that the domination spaces produced by appropriation or claim of space behavior serve many purposes like;

- Defining the level of interaction in a society (Proshansky et al, 1970; Altman, 1975; Fabian and Samson, 2015)
- Feeling like home living rooms (Moser et al, 2002; Bäckman and Rundqvist, 2005; Mehta, 2013).
- Establishing the border between the individual and the group, and protecting social order (Gür, 1997)
- Meeting such needs as close relationship and loneliness (Brown, 1987; Madanipour, 2003)
- Enabling activism, social movements and political demonstrations (Iveson, 2013; Enigbokan, 2016; Kaya and Görgün, 2017),
- Revealing spaces for groups and individuals (Porteous, 1976)
- Rehabilitating and protecting urban spaces, and enabling street activities (Shepard, 2014; Enigbokan, 2016; Kaya and Görgün, 2017).

Fischer (1981), who developed these studies even further, stated that appropriation increases the variety of activities in the environment with the help of the senses of ownership and belonging, and this, in return, transforms a space into a place (Bonnin, 2006). In other words, he indicated that appropriation serves for the reinforcement system of the 'place'. The attribute that discriminates a place from space is the relationship that people establish with it (Cresswell, 2004). As a behavioral pattern deriving from interaction with the environment, appropriation has an important effect on transformation of a space into a place.

The changes produced in the space by businesses-sellers and users, who act as other designers of the place, help creating a lot of 'places' with special features that differentiate them from a 'space' (Mehta, 2013). Kärrholm (2005), similarly, stated that same spaces could be turned into several different places which enable different types of activities simultaneously or over time thanks to appropriation behavior. This, consequently, sheds light on the 'places' of individuals and groups, makes them more attractive and creates symbolic stages where people can interact with one another (Becker and Coniglio, 1975). Interaction of people with each other is an indicator of social behavior. "Spaces" where high levels of social interaction are established among individuals become "places" that are preferred and used for a longer period of time by individuals (Alpak et. Al., 2018). Social activities such as seeing, hearing and meeting each other are the starting point and the background for other modes of communication. Over time, with the establishment of initial



communication, these spaces turn into a place where various activities are conducted, masses of people are present and events and stimulations occur and urban open spaces allow for social interaction among individuals (Gehl, 1987). This is one of the most important factors that increase the success and quality of that space (Whyte, 1980; PPS, 2000).

Conversely, in urban open spaces where the level of social interaction is low, it can be expected that the inter-personal relationships would be adversely affected and the common understanding and trust would be impaired (Bourdieu 1986; Coleman 1988; Putnam 1995; Semenza & March, 2009). Within the present living conditions, individuals' communications with each other and with their environment could come to a halt as a result. Thus, urban planning and design research emphasizes the need for urban open spaces to improve social behavior and public life experiences (Alpak et. Al., 2018; Mehta, 2007).

Claim of space behavior has an important influence in transformation and change of the interactions among people (Henk de Haan, 2005), because production of place realized with appropriation behavior is not only a physical phenomenon, it is also related with the production of the society (Kaya and Görgün, 2017). Feldman and Stall (2004) stress that claim of space behavior is an interactive process that not only changes the physical environment, but transforms the relationships of groups and individuals, because places where claim of space can be displayed do not singularly enable short term utilization of the place with opportunities for necessary actions like walking or passing by. They also help creating different places which offer various social activities such as catering, sunbathing, sitting, chatting, people-watching, listening to street performers, and in this way, they ensure utilization for longer periods of time. Such activities, on the other hand, are important for people to have social interactions (Gehl, 1987; Yuen and Chor, 1998; Kärrholm, 2008; Aelbrecht, 2016). Fisher (2004) explained this two-way characteristics of appropriation in these words: 'Anything we change, changes us'.

Gehl (1987) indicated that places of social behavior, the source of relationships among people and intensity of these relationships could be of various types. Therefore, places that are produced out of appropriation behavior (Fischer, 1992; Bonnin, 2006; Kärrholm, 2008) are not used only for necessary and optional activities, they are also used for social activities that proliferate the variety of relationships among people (Gehl, 1987; Yuen and Chor, 1998; Kärrholm, 2008; Aelbrecht, 2016).

In their books called Social Places, Bäckman and Rundqvist (2005) presented that the appropriations done by users, outdoor sellers or businesses brought along other different activities, and reinforced the social interactions.

Appropriation of users of the spaces along the street and transforming them into places according to their needs enables them to have short-term passive interactions by watching people, having chats and listening to others (Whtye, 1980; Bäckman and Rundqvist, 2005) Simpson (2001), on the other hand, stated that the temporary stages created by street artists and sellers could cause random and unexpected interactions between people, and could help generation of temporary or fleeting relationships. Audience who wants to see the street performers, surrounds them in a semi-circle, and establish spontaneous relationships through 'side-by-side' and 'face to face' interactions (Harrison-Pepper, 1990; Bäckman and Rundqvist, 2005; Simpson, 2011). Flock and Breitung (2016) see concept of appropriation as structure that serves the needs of various social groups and individuals in daily life. They take street vending as an example of the complex social production of public space.

Mehta (2013) indicated that the temporary claim of space done by businesses via the goods they place onto the street, would attract people's attention, make them stop and idle around, and cause them spend time over there. Permanent claim of space of businesses



done by placing furniture, fences etc. in the street could enable people to have long-term interactions with their peers in such forms as sitting, catering and chatting (Mehta, 2007, 2009, 2010; Oldenburg, 1989). In this way, these become lively places that ensure passive, fleeting or enduring interactions among people, rather than remaining as spaces where people only walk through.

As a result of that, the claim of space approach which takes the characteristics of both the symbolic places produced by people and the environment created by designers into account can define the environment in the most holistic and comprehensive way. However, the active element that creates and mobilizes its own places in the space are not generally integrated in the studies. That is, in most studies, users are materialized as a constituent of the environment, yet they are neglected as a 'founder element' of it (Aubert-Gamet, 1997). All in all, the claim of space behavior serves such important purposes as:

• Generating a high level of utilization and diversity of activities by transforming the space into the place, and

• Establishing strong social interactions by increasing the variety of relationships among people(passive, fleeting or enduring)

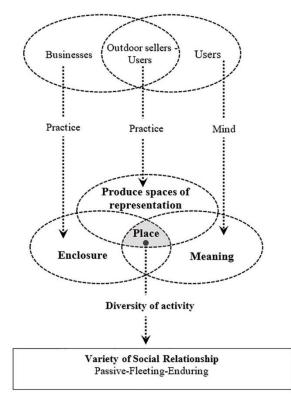


Figure 8. Concordance of claim of space behavior and place-social behavior structure (Alpak, 2017)

In the light of above information, relationships between place and social behavior is schematized and presented in Figure 8. Informal behavioral positions generated as the result of claim of space behavior are perceived as positive human congestions where several events take place, because these spots present the sense of vividness to the place, where people pause and spend enjoyable time. In this way, they can provide opportunities for more spontaneous utilizations and social interaction (Aelbrecht, 2016).



It was found out through observations done in open spaces that users and outdoor sellers perform claim of space behavior relatively more in spring and summer and create places, that is, social behavior positions. In the light of these observations, how the space is transformed into social behavior places with claim of space behavior, and variety of possible activities and spontaneous social interactions brought along with that are presented in a schema (Figure 9).

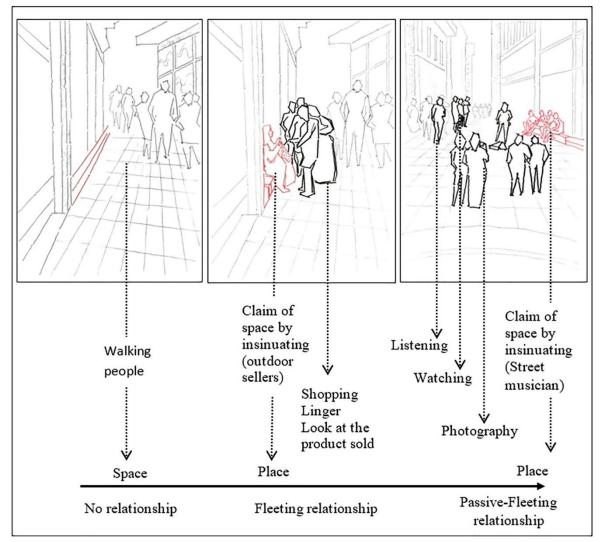


Figure 9. How the space is transformed into social behavior places with claim of space behavior are presented in a schema (Alpak, 2017).

3.CONCLUSION

Some earlier studies explicitly explained the strong relationship between place-social interaction and phenomena including occurrence of events (Mehta, 2013), Personalization (Mehta, 2007, 2013), informal social behavior setting (Aelbrecht, 2016), and triangulation (Whyte, 1980).

All these terms that arose as the result of claim of space, were evaluated in the scope of in the current study as well. Considering the literature on self-directed behavior, selfdirected behavior has been discussed in three groups: Enclosure (businesses with legal permission of authority, municipality, administrator), Produce spaces of representation (Street vendors and users temporary or permanent produce representation space as legal or illegal) and Meaning (users with mental coding).



Studies that focus only on the claim of space done by businesses, by users or outdoor sellers and that do not evaluate them holistically may cause important gaps in this area of research, because these individual types of claim of space support creation of different places simultaneously (place making), enable realization of various activities and different levels of social interactions (passive-fleeting-enduring). For instance, while the places produced by businesses through claim of space as the result of enclosure of outdoor spaces bring along enduring interaction such as meeting with friends, eating and drinking, sitting, chatting, playing games etc. (Mehta, 2013), spaces of representation produced by claim of space of outdoor sellers or users predominantly enable emergence of fleeting interaction such as unacquainted individuals or those who are familiar but met randomly in the form of greeting each other, asking the time, conversation among individuals who walk their dogs or watch street artists together (Gehl, 1987; Lofland, 1998; Mehta, 2013; Aelbrecht, 2016) and passive interaction such as waiting for someone, sitting alone, traveling or resting in the for of watching, listening to and meet each other (Jacobs, 1961; Gehl, 1987; Mehta, 2007; Harrison-Pepper, 1990; Bäckman and Rundqvist, 2005; Simpson, 2011). Claim of space done by users at mental level, on the other hand, can help people establish enduring interactions through repeated patterns of use (Alpak, 2017). Therefore, classifying the structure of claim of space and making use of this conceptualization would yield more reliable results in understanding the relation between place and the social behavior.

Claim of space in open spaces should be investigated by making use of observations as well as through questionnaire studies conducted with users. Different places produced through claim of space behavior at practical level and accompanying activities and social interactions can be revealed with observation. However, claim of space of users at mental level cannot be evaluated without getting their opinions and thoughts. In similar studies, authors indicated that an investigation method that include both personal observations of the researcher and survey data of people -who are the actual users of the place- should be employed in order to be able to evaluate the attained conceptual model with more reliable results (Alpak, 2017; Mehta, 2007).

In the scope of the current study, a conceptual model of the claim of space behavior through which it can be evaluated in open spaces was proposed and the relationship between place and the social behavior was explained. As a result of that, a detailed conceptual framework was formed to investigate empirically the connections of claim of space with place and social interaction. However, in this study, it is not mentioned why some open spaces are suitable for appropriated while others are not. An urban public space can only become appropriation when people become aware of the affordances within the space and utilize those affordances for their own will by performing different activities that were not originally designed for these locations (Lara-Hernandez and Melis, 2018). In other words, the spaces that can be appropriation are closely related to the relationship of the users with the space and the affordances the space has.

Accordingly, researchers in the field of environmental psychology have pointed out environmental characteristics that enable appropriation behavior by increasing the humanenvironment interaction level (Alexander et al., 1977; Brower, 1980, 1988; Whyte, 1980; Gehl 1987; Lang, 1987,1994; Mehta, 2007, 2009). Because environmental characteristics have an important effect on determining people's perception and behavior (Mehta, 2007). In line with the message given by the characteristics of the environment, people either establish a reciprocal relationship with the environment and perform appropriation behavior, and a higher level of social behavior occurs among people, or they do not establish a mutual relationship and perform appropriation behavior and a weak level of social behavior occurs or no relationship occurs (Alpak, 2017).

Within the scope of this study, appropriation in open spaces were grouped and their relationship with social behavior and place was established. However, what are the



affordances of the environment that allow appropriation behavior are not mentioned. Contribution to the literature can be made by eliminating these deficiencies in future studies.

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