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17 New Approaches in Design within the Context of Architectural Production Practice of Local Governments: The Case of Luleburgaz Yildizlari Women's Academy

Abstract: From the point of view of local governance in the context of production of public space, Lüleburgaz Municipality is remarkable with its high quality approaches in the social and spatial intentions. Of special interest are their projects that take care of and target the development of mainly childen, youth and women in a social and spatial context and focus on the concept of Academy such as; *Lüleburgaz Yıldızları (LY) (Stars of Lüleburgaz in English) Football Academy, Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Motorcycle and Bicycle Academy, Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Women's Academy (LYWA), Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Swimming Academy, Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Art Academy.* In addition to their contributions to social and social development goals, these projects stand out with the spatial qualities and architectural insights they intend to or have. This work examines the Lüleburgaz Municipality's method of producing public space in the last decade from the perspective of the relationship of "architecture and space," while investigating the concept of Academy and the approach that brings this way of production into being through "space and social connection." In this regard, this chapter investigates the concept of Academy that Lüleburgaz Municipality proposed as a new education model to the city and its citizens, the concept of competition that local governments prefer/choose as a process of procuring projects and the contexts of architecture/space/social connection/relationship via the concept of competiton; from the lens of the design that won the first prize in the Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Kadın Akdemisi (Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Women's Academy LYWA) architectural project competition that took place in 2015.

Keywords: Space production, Competition, Local government, Academia, Public space

1 Introduction

The main issues discussed in the formation and development process of the city are absence of holistic methods that deal with design and planning approaches, and the inability of achieving a whole with high quality from individual high quality products. Besides, a comprehensive and holistic perspective can create high quality living areas by taking the space-space producing practices, social living conditions and the social relations network of the city into consideration; in addition, it positively affects the whole city in many areas. This approach can more likely to be realized and sustained especially in local scales, in which communication and interaction potentials are strong. At this point, local government and decision-making mechanisms can reach refined results in an either spatial or

social sense by moving with a pluralistic etiquette. From the point of view of local governance in the context of production of public space, Lüleburgaz Municipality is remarkable with its high quality approaches in the social and spatial intentions. Of special interest are their projects that take care of and target the development of mainly childen, youth and women in a social and spatial context and focus on the concept of Academy such as; *Lüleburgaz Yıldızları (LY) (Stars of Lüleburgaz in English) Football Academy, Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Motorcycle and Bicycle Academy, Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Women's Academy (LYWA), Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Swimming Academy, Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Art Academy.* In addition to their contributions to social and social development goals, these projects stand out with the spatial qualities and architectural insights they intend to or have. This work examines the Lüleburgaz Municipality's method of producing public space in the last decade from the perspective of the relationship of "architecture and space," while investigating the concept of Academy and the approach that brings this way of production into being through "space and social connection." In this regard, this work investigates the concept of Academy that Lüleburgaz Municipality proposed as a new education model to the city and its citizens, the concept of competition that local governments prefer/choose as a process of procuring projects, and the contexts of architecture/space/social connection/relationship via the concept of competiton; from the lens of the design that won the first prize in the Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Kadın Akdemisi (Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Women's Academy LYWA) architectural project competition that took place in 2015 [1].

2 Academies in the Context of the Local Governance Vision of Lüleburgaz Municipality

While "Academy" is a concept that prioritises the field of education, it became prominent in the context of local governance for Lüleburgaz Municipality. What the Municipality defines as "good governance" in its 2017–2021 strategic plan is a process, in which Academies play a significant role [2]. This process deals with describing the route of the city via analyzing its workings, and spatialising social functionality in a way particular to the city. Lüleburgaz Municipality nearly offers a new "education" model to the city and its citizens with the idea of Academy in accordance with the Municipality's main principle of increasing the life quality for local citizens. This model incorporates new facilities that deal with increasing the citizen consciousness for the age groups and users it involves. The Academies, which are set up under the main caption of "Lüleburgaz Yıldızları (Stars of Lüleburgaz)" target individuals of all ages; however, the youth have a special place under this caption. The process started with the Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Football Academy (LYFA) that deals with the physical activities of individuals of all ages, the Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Motorcycle and Bicycle Academy (LYMBA) that looks for solutions to the traffic and transportation problems, and the Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Flavor Academy (LYFA). It is continuing to diversify with Information Academy (LYIA), Women's Academy (LYWA), Art Academy (LYAA) and Swimming Academy

(LYSA). Lüleburgaz, with its setup to create "impact," aims to create ties between the academies, and the city and the citizens through the activities that will be realized in the Life Academies. It portrays new common living spaces through academies with an original, analytical, systematic, participatory, holistic and multilateral approach. At this point, the academies that will be opening in a short while such as Happiness Academy (LYHA), Tennis Academy (LYTA), Saloon Sports Academy (LYSSA) and Creativity Academy (LYCA) have to be assessed in this context

Within the Academy format of Lüleburgaz Municipality in the last decade, its way and method of producing "public space" also consolidate the Academies' sayings about the city. This setup can be defined through the relationship between "architecture and space," and it exhibits the spatial transformation the Academy format generates in an urban understanding and the link between "spatial and social relationship" that this way of production creates. This link integrates the perceptions of the concept of Academy and high quality spaces and production of the built environment, which takes the public to the foreground. Therefore, this approach communicates with the city and the citizens in the fields of art, sports and culture, and aims to bring the citizen into existence as an actor equipped with academic thought. It comes into being not only through content/function but through the idea of creating this content in high-quality spaces. This situation supports the perception in the relationship between space and social perception through quality.

3 Competitions in the Context of Local Government's Space Production Practices

An architectural project competition is a pluralistic activity arena and production practice that plays an active role in enhancing the architecture environment in a country; it also provides an arena for putting out and discussing new expansions in the field of architecture [3]. The history of this method in Turkey leads to the 1930s; the production of many high-quality spaces, the production of public buildings in particular, in either the building or urban scale was observed via competitions. More than one actor exists in this process; the actors, who demand, design and evaluate. The common goal of each actor can be defined as reaching a design/space of high quality. Besides its actors, the competition method can also be expressed as a pluralistic environment in terms of products, so that multiple alternatives can be compared, discussed and evaluated in an environment created by diversified and productive approaches. This is significant in space production/acquirement. In this sense, the method of competition contributes to the architectural culture and built environment through the production of buildings/spaces, at the same time it positively affects the perception of architecture and space culture in the social area.

Looking at the ample number of public buildings that were constructed each year, the few number of public buildings that were constructed via the pluralistic environment of competitions are conspicuous. Contrastingly, even though the number of buildings acquired by the competition method is small, their quality levels are quite high. Many local governments obtain either service buildings or

public buildings of various functions for citizens' use via competition method, yet most of these projects are not applied. Therefore, besides the idea of acquiring projects through competition, the continuity, sustainability and application of this concept into the built environment is quite significant.

Lüleburgaz Municipality has been acquiring and applying projects of buildings that became prominent with their public quality and the concept of Academy through competitions since 2013. Within this approach, idea and project competitions were organized for Lüleburgaz Intercity Bus Terminal in 2013, Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Women's Academy and Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Art Academy in 2015, Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Swimming Academy in 2016 and Tosbağa Stream Recreation Area in 2017. As a result of these competitions, the Bus Terminal (in 2016) and the Womens' Academy (in 2017) were built and opened for use; meanwhile the constructions for Art Academy and Swimming Academy are continuing. Moreover, different ideas obtained through the competition process for the Tosbağa Stream Recreation Area provided a stimulating ground for future studies. Looking at these competitions as a pluralistic production environment in the context of the presence of different approaches and ideas, they were selected and applied amongst a number of projects; 94, 48, 27 and 33 for the Bus Terminal, Womens' Academy, Art Academy and Swimming Academy, respectively. In addition, five promising project proposals were identified for the Tosbağa Stream Recreation Area idea competition within 59 different ideas and approaches [4].

In approximately a decade, the Municipality has shown that it gives importance to the idea of a sustainable development that aims at the development of both the society and the individual, as well as high-quality spaces in the relationship between user-space relationships; in addition, it adopted competitions as the space production medium to realize this thought. The reasons that Lüleburgaz Municipality chose competitions as a method for public space production emphasize the necessity for the user to feel happy and at peace in the place, and the significance of the relationship between space, users and the activity. At the same time, the idea that public production issues should be discussed and evaluated by experts gain prominence; in addition, the idea that participating projects and their evaluations during the competition process have created a learning medium for the Municipality is expressed [5]. In recent years, Lüleburgaz Municipality came up as an exemplary of local governance both with the discourse it has set regarding the city and citizen through the idea of Academy, and with the built environment comprising of high-quality spaces it has created through the competition method. The aforementioned two production approaches set forth can be described as a value that can be read through public space and social development.

4 Architecture in the Context of Social Benefits: The Case of Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Women's Academy

Lüleburgaz Municipality has set the year 2016 as "women's year" in order to create awareness with sensitivity to gender equality in its development of



Fig. 1: The project proposal that was presented to the competition and won the first prize.

policies and year-long activities that socially and politically empower women; in addition, it decided to establish a multifaceted Academy for women [6]. This Academy will embody a sustainable development model by providing educational and social services, offering counseling and guidance, organizing professional and artistic courses, and helping with active participation in social life to the women, children and families, who live in the district but need support. With this model, the Municipality multilaterally reexamined the "shelter for abused women" concept that deals with the spatial issues created by an environment of violence against women; moreover, it wanted to obtain the spatial consequence of its Academy model via competing and opened a competition on the subject. The requirements in the Lüleburgaz Yıldızları Women's Academy (LYWA) competition consisted of enclosed spaces to shelter battered women, kindergarden and day care center, common social spaces, cafeteria and recreation areas, and open spaces containing parks, hobby gardens, sport fields and open car parks. The site has an area of 20,846 m^2 and the total construction area of the building would be 5796 m^2 (Fig. 1).

LYWA was designed by Orhan Ersan, Ferhat Hacıalibeyoğlu and Deniz Dokgöz. The project has won the first prize in the national architectural project competition



Fig. 2: Views from construction process of LYWA.

in 2015 and was built till 2017. LYWA is structured to encourage women's participation and production in social life, provide solutions and support to other familial problems. It is a center where children and women can participate in activities related to development and production by communicating with experts, and can produce solutions with the participation of the public through various congresses and seminars. The center that harbors shelter for battered women, kindergarden and day care center ensures its users to have a strong relationship with the building and use it all 24 hours of the day. Therefore, the center creates a life pattern different from what the main city has. This life pattern will establish a new kind of human-nature-life relationship with the effect of sports fields, ecological farming areas and production workshops; thus in a manner of speaking the Academy proposes a communal form of living (Fig 2).

LYWA was designed outside the city center of Lüleburgaz, in an empty building lot, within a newly developing residential zone. Approximately 50% of the building island can be utilized in accordance with the designated boundaries, while the remaining areas can be developed pursuant to open space suggestions. Istasyon Street, which passes to the east of the lot is the most important transportation artery that links the building with the city. While the Academy's main entrance is from this street, the entrance to the shelter for abused women and children-related units are from the street to the north.

The design incorporates three main courtyards and their relationships between platforms and the ground to enhance the spaces scaled according to life and lifestyle



Fig. 3: Perception of the building from the entrance façade and expression of general building tectonic.

requirements; these relate to a number of design sensitivities. The building is low-rise, has courtyards in which it offers activities and a chance to relate to nature, gives its users happiness, and creates surprising spaces with inner streets (Fig 3).

The open space design of the building was obtained by the reinterpretation of the traditional courtyard typologies, it makes itself evident based on the relations between the ground and upper ground floor of the courtyard-space organization. The elements that put fragmented courtyard-space organization together are the solution of function groups in a single mass plasticity. Both the internal relations of the program components and the relations of these components with open space are integrated with this element and the canopy-building constitution that combine this element and open spaces together. The spaces that the building gives



Fig. 4: Views from the kindergarden and entrance courtyards.

to Istasyon Street and hobby gardens form public openings for the city. The design provides openings to the direction of the Istasyon Street with a large amphitheater and to the direction of the park grounds with an event courtyard. These openings stand out as strong public openings created by the mass tectonics of the canopy. Thus, the public can easily access the entrance taken from the Istasyon Street and social spaces located closeby. The amphitheater climbs to the open life platform, which was formed at the upper level and can be described as a new ground floor, and strengthens the public character of the structure with its perception from the main entrance and invitation to the upper ground (Fig 4).

The planimetric design of the project is based on increasing the number of ground floor planes. The plane created at the +4.00 elevation describes another second floor with both its proportions and the distribution of the function groups. While the women's shelter, nursery and day care center provide a controlled access to the courtyards from the (+ -0.00) elevation that is the ground floor of the building, common social spaces, cafeteria and recreation area stand out as the main functions that support the courtyards. While the distribution of the function groups in the building allows access to the upper ground level (+4.00), the women's shelter in this level is distinctive with its own inner courtyard.

Even though the children's spaces and the courtyards of the women's shelters can be opened to the outside, the presence of a sheltered courtyard in particular to the children's spaces and the women's shelter is thought to have a positive impact on the users' psychology. The sequence of spaces that transport women and children users to open terraces, courtyards and then to open spaces forms the general spatial character of the building. Both the public and point access facilities that link the courtyards in the vertical make it possible for the upper and lower floors to work together. This situation nearly describes a second ground floor with its potential of connecting the operation of the programs under the canopy to the upper floor (Fig 5).



Fig. 5: Building tectonics and material organization.

The selection of material organization in the building was simplified to a level that would bring out the building tectonics and not obscure it; this simple mentality supports and reveals the simple mass composition of the building. Wooden surfaces and white washed surfaces are designed to show this simple tectonic form and reinforce its effects (Fig 6).

The spatial arrangement of the building is provided through the continuity of closed, semi-closed and open spaces. In addition to the semi-open spaces such as the courtyards and platforms that were defined as a part of the building, open areas including sport fields, children playgrounds and hobby gardens also exist in the totalitarian setup of the building. While the changes in altitude for sport areas animate the use of outdoors, energy-efficient equipment proposed in open spaces create ecological solutions with functionalities such as opening and closing in order to collect rain water according to climatic changes.

5 Conclusion

Public spaces, which shape living environments, can be built with high quality. While the creation of public spaces with high quality is the responsibility of professional experts, the governing bodies and decision mechanisms in a city have a



Fig. 6: Open space uses, views form hobby gardens, playgrounds and sport fields.

large-scale impact and also responsibility. Yet the subject of a space is human, the individual. The socio-cultural mold of an individual, the individuals' communication with each other and the dynamics of relationships in the urban scale form the social structure. In this context, cities can be discussed and evaluated on their social and spatial productions and the values they exhibit. Lüleburgaz is the topic of this work with the values it exhibits in the spatial and social arena in the context of local governance. The quality of public space was scrutinized in the context of the place, worth and gains of women in the social area in particular to Women's Academy (LYWA).

LYWA can produce value for the city and citizens mainly through elements for women, such as gaining visibility in the social and urban life, participating in all areas of daily life, discovering life-long learning opportunities, encouraging participation in cultural and artistic events. Besides, LYWA's contribution to social life can be seen through its properties like contributing to culture of entrepreneurship, unearthing abilities through society's productivity targets and encouraging production opportunities, discovering values and establishing confidence in individuals.

The main concept that brings these values into existence is space. The quality of space also gives quality to the activity taking place inside the space. To establish architectural culture in the social field and to produce value in the spatial context is possible through the quality of physical spaces that generate the built environment

and the utilization opportunities it serves to society. Thus, while space creates the mode of relationship between architecture and social life, it also provides a communication medium between the stakeholders.

References & Notes

1 Lüleburgaz Municipality Women's Academy was designed by Orhan Ersan, Ferhat Hacıalibeyoğlu and Deniz Dokgöz. The project has won the first prize in the national architectural project competition in 2015 and was built. The applied design also won the *Raci Bademli Good Practices Award* in 2018 and a merit award as part of *Turgut Cansever National Architecture Awards Program* in 2018.

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