

A Holistic View of Urban Design Quality

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Abstract

The concept of urban design was defined as a narrow civilian design in North America in the 1950s. Thus, ideal urban movement and civil design have been the subject of the design of public buildings and related spaces in particular. Public housing and coastal sites, organized parks, small industrial sites, public buildings, bazaars, squares, intersections, business structures are an important part of the urban design process. These original capital cities, which will be the subject of design, should be addressed in the design process in terms of the proper assessment of their potential. In this context, raising design quality in urban design is an important input. Urban design as a planning tool is a spatial policy that designs and sustains urban life at all scales with a search for a form. In this direction, this intermediate scale needs to be utilized in the planning of our country. Urban design tools, which play an important role in urban development, must be used correctly in order to obtain quality in urban design. At the same time, for the creation of quality urban spaces, the concept of urban design should be closely related to issues such as planning and transportation policies, architectural design, economic development and landscape. Within the scope of this study, evaluations are made considering all the components in order to live, construct and direct the city in a quality way.

Keywords: Urban, Urban Design, Urban Quality

INTRODUCTION

Cities have undergone various changes since they started to form. These changes in the landscape of the city lead to positive or negative results. With the change of the urban form, the physical identity of the city, which constitutes the urban identity and people's living environment, undergoes a change.

This change also affects the quality of the city. The availability of this quality in the urban space can be achieved through the use of urban design guide applications.

Urban Design

Urban design is a detailed arrangement and practice in urban scale. Urban design is a detailed organizing method comprising urban multi-dimensional deliberations and analyzes in the context of physical, socio-cultural and socio-economic contexts in urban area[1].

Urban design is an action that emerges from the urbanization of the chaos and gap, the disappearance of values from the past and the emergence of new lifestyles against development. The model established by M. Carmona, one of the urban theorists, is sufficient to understand the concept and scope of Urban Design (Figure 1) [2].

The conceptual structure of urban design consists of eight basic components: formal, spatial, contextual, visual, perceptual, social, functional and sustainable. According to this structure, urban design involves design approaches and criteria that produce solutions to the design problems of all relevant areas. For this reason, today's urban design discipline has a different identity beyond creating only urban spaces or creating large-scale urban / architectural projects.

Continuous development and change are seen in the cities of the rapidly changing and developing global world. In this context, urban design, like cities, is in constant development and change. In this process, proper urban design interventions are needed to sustain and increase urban quality.

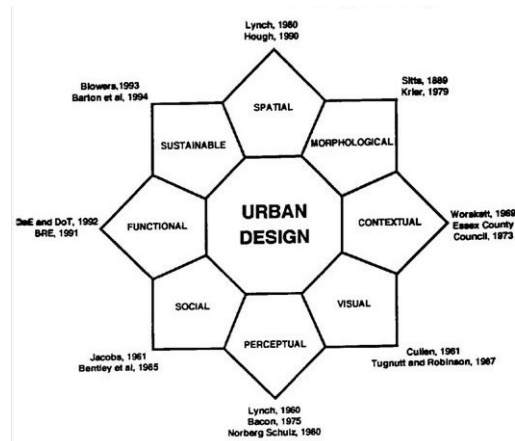


Figure 1. Conceptualizations of urban design thought [2]

Urban design needs application tools to regulate multidimensional and detailed regulation in urban space, to realize all these goals and policies for urban prosperity, to make them traceable in a viable process, to realize all the necessary theoretical and conceptual content in design, and to be effective (see Table-1) [2].

Table 1. Application tools of urban design [2].

1. Physical Tools	Projects	
	Design Controls	Design programs
		Design policies
		Design plans
		Design guides
2. Venture Process and Finance		
3. Managerial Tools		

Urban design application tools are of great importance for solving urban problems such as urban identity and urban

quality, which are one of the biggest problems of cities today. Due to the difference between the speed of change in cities and the speed of planning, it is necessary to prevent unplanned movement. In this context, design controls as an urban design tool direct and influence the whole of the city.

Urban Quality

The concept of quality is a multi-layered and dimensional phenomenon that can be perceived differently depending on the area, subject and discipline.

Burt (1978) defines quality in a broader sense: quality is a total feature that allows the needs to be met. They are also related to individual characteristics. These relationships must be integrated and balanced within or outside the building [4]. Quality is linked to the solution of product problems and the ability to meet physical, social and other needs. Urban quality is also proportional to the fulfillment of vital needs in urban spaces and the achievement of urban comfort [2].

Kevin Lynch tried to find the answer to the question “What makes a city beautiful?” With the aim of understanding the characteristics of a beautiful city in his book, “Good City Form”. With an analytical approach, he tried to develop a hypothesis related to design. According to Lynch, many valuable judgments are hidden in the elegant scientific structures of the cities. In order to achieve a quality urban structure, Lynch identified five key criteria and two main points for measuring urban quality [4].

Table 2. Criteria and titles used in the measurement of quality in urban areas [4].

Efficiency	Justice
Vividness	
Emotion	
Effectiveness	
Access	
Check	

In order to determine the quality and parameters of urban space, the functional and physical characteristics of urban spaces and the factors that constitute the space should be evaluated together (Fig. 2). In order to be able to provide quality in urban areas by determining quality parameters, it is necessary to design the correct space.

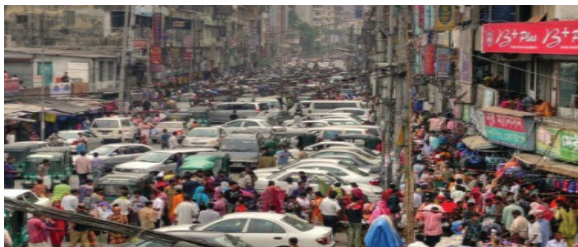


Figure 2. Impact of user density on urban quality (URL1).

In order to increase the quality of the urban area, each intervention to be carried out by the related disciplines on the urban area needs to be reflected in the whole living environment by supporting by social and economic

sustainability [2].

In terms of urban quality, urban spaces must be perceptible, legible and also complementary to urban / identity components (Figs.3,4 and 5).



Figure 3. An illustration quality of urban design (URL2).

The Relationship Between Urban Quality and Urban Design Guidelines

Urban Design Guidelines are a type of design control that enables the realization of design goals. The design guides form a common language by engaging in the provision of urban integrity.

The design guidelines deal with issues such as the green system as well as the relations of materials, urban furniture and building facades with each other, and they form the basis for creating the whole. It is possible to establish a certain quality level and standard in the visual environment by setting up a number of decision rules with the design guide.

The aim of these guidelines, which are condition of the design goals in application areas, can also be described as systematizing the social and physical programs and expressions of projects related to urban problem areas [6].

As urban design guidelines can be prepared for different criteria and purposes, their scope is broadened.

Guides prepared for different focuses can be stated as follows;

- For a theme
- For a specific area
- For a specific feature of a city [7].



Figure 4. An illustration for social life quality and relaxed circulation (URL3).

The guides, in different application scales, lay the groundwork for the proper design criteria for the preservation and sustainability of all existing values on the whole or in parts of the city (architecture, landscape, natural environment etc.) and for all new parts to be added to the urban fabric. All the specified concepts which provide the quality of the city and which should be emphasized on it constitute the conceptual building components of the urban design guides at the same time. Theoretical and conceptual contents that should be included in the basis of the design projects prepared for increasing the urban qualities are as follows [2]:

- Originality
- Sensitivity to environmental information
- Mixed functional designs
- Human scale
- Easy access to social facilities
- Legibility
- Stasis
- Variability
- Particle growth
- Change



Figure 5. San Francisco local housing typology (URL4).

In this context, urban design guidelines are for the area in which they are prepared, and are unique project features. They need to be modified according to the city they are practicing and they should be prepared according to the problems and needs of that region. The identity and quality cities and functional and aesthetic spaces that are formed simultaneously with the new developments in our developing and changing cities in recent years are of great importance for design guides (Fig.6).

Flexibility	Originality	Process Orientation
Control Mechanism	Participation	Public Interest

Figure 6. Urban design guidelines qualifications [2]

SCOPE

It is aimed to examine the components of urban space by means of urban design guides which are used as a design control for the supply of urban qualities, to exhibit criteria for urban design and to develop a framework model for different sized cities. Scope of the research; aiming to determine the solution and applicability of the problems encountered in the planning of urban spaces.

Urban design concept and application tools were presented through the urban design guide which constitutes the purpose of the research. Urban design guidelines have been conceptually addressed and their importance, purpose and formation have been examined. A holistic approach has been tried to be shown in this research.

METHODS

As a method of conducting the work, literature reviews were made on urban design, urban quality and urban design guidelines, and theoretical explanations and conclusions were given. In line with the literature reviews, Urban design quality was tried to be determined and various parameters were conveyed. Information on the use of urban design guidelines as a planning tool has been collected. The impact of the urban design guide on the quality of urban design has been examined.

CONCLUSION

Within the scope of this study, it was tried to convey the evaluations made by considering all the components in order to live, structure and direct the quality of the city.

The quality of urban space also affects the quality of our lives. At the root of urban design quality, there is a decisive influence on the needs of urban users. It is important for the urban design to consider the area where it is working with its environment. The impact area of urban design is a broad and dynamic process. For this reason, design controls form the basis of urban design. Urban design projects planned and programmed for a city can be implemented through design controls. While urban design guides the development and change in the cities, it should also be a guide for the cities.

In this respect, the importance of urban design guidelines is emphasized in the design process of cities, the applicability of urban design guide principles and the creation of high quality urban areas. Another important point is; design guidelines need to be considered separately for each area they are about to apply and it is necessary to prepare them according to the qualifications, identities, sources and language of the area.

At the same time, the concept of urban design for the formation of quality urban spaces should be closely related to topics such as planning and transportation policies,

architectural design, economic development, landscape. In order to solve problems such as increasing design deficiencies, urbanization, chaos and lack of quality, it is necessary to implement urban design projects with urban quality parameters in the direction of urban design guidelines.

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