

Multiple disaster risks in stairways

Faculty members Asst. Prof. Dr. Gül Yücel and Asst. Prof. Dr. İlke Ciritci, who worked on the disaster and accessibility of the stairways in Istanbul, examined 26 examples from different districts.

Asst. Prof. Dr. Gül Yücel and Asst. Prof. Dr. İlke Ciritci from the Architecture Department of Istanbul Gelisim University examined 26 examples from different districts over 100 steps. In the on-site detection and examination, the relationship of the stairs with the topography, landscape, building connections, step structure, purpose of use, density and earthquake, disaster and emergency risks such as flood and fire were evaluated.

“THERE ARE DIFFERENCES DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION IN THE USE OF STAIRS”

Expressing that they are working on streets with many stairs in different districts of Istanbul, Dr. Gül Yücel said: “One of the most important problems of streets with stairs is accessibility in emergency situations. The difference in social life and needs in residential areas with different textures brings differences in the use of streets with stairs.”

“STREETS WITH STAIRS A PART OF SOCIAL LIFE”

Mentioning that they made examinations on many stairs within the scope of the research, Yücel said that in addition to the characteristics of the stairs, they also looked at the physical structure of the surrounding buildings, the number of floors, the elements that could be risk on their facades and the width of the streets.

Stating that the streets with stairs have been a part of the social life of Istanbul from the past to this day, Yücel said, “We met with the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Fire Department and AFAD Istanbul Provincial Directorate to determine the risks of those living in disaster or emergency situations on the streets with stairs. Of course, our main goal was to find the basic elements of how to easily evacuate the people living in the buildings around the stairway street to a safer place in disaster and emergency situations. We made important observations in this regard.”

“SUBSEQUENT ADDITIONS OF BUILDINGS MAY INCREASE THE RISK FOR SAFETY OF LIFE”

Drawing attention to the fact that pedestrianized streets and the stairs leading to these streets are frequently used, Dr. İlke Ciritci, a faculty member of Istanbul GeliSim University, said: “Asmalı Mescit Neighborhood and Cezayir Street in Beyoğlu can be shown as examples. It is important that people living in that area have their escape routes to the streets in a clean and non-dangerous manner in case of a disaster. Subsequent annexes to buildings on these streets and stairs may create the danger of falling on people on the street during an earthquake and increase the risk of outdoor life safety.”

Stressing that they has many observations on this subject, Dr. Ciritci said: “Maybe, restorations can be made by experts on these determinations with the right methods. Thanks to these measures, disaster resistance can be increased and loss of life can be prevented.”

Received an award with the doctoral dissertation on the urban poor

Asst. Prof. Dr. Leyla Bektaş Ata was awarded the İlhan Tekeli Urbanism Culture Foundation 2019 Doctoral Thesis Award with her doctoral dissertation completed in 2019.

Asst. Prof. Dr. Leyla Bektaş Ata from Istanbul Gelisim University Faculty of Health Sciences Social Service Department was the winner of the İlhan Tekeli Urbanism Culture Foundation 2019 PhD Thesis Award, which has been given every year since 1996.

Ata, who gave information about the actors that are the subject of her doctoral dissertation titled as “Home, Neighborhood and Urban Experience at the Verge of Urban Transformation: The Case of Limontepe”, said: “They are the urban poor who emigrated in the 1970s from different points to the slums of Limontepe district of Izmir, Turkey; struggling to access basic services until the second half of the 1990s, and whose neighborhoods were officially declared as urban transformation areas in 2012.”

“DYNAMICS RELATED TO THE MACRO SOCIAL PLANE”

Speaking about the purpose of the awarded doctoral dissertation research, Ata said: “The aim of the study is to analyze the effects of the transformation geography on the use of space by slum dwellers, to examine slum dwelling and living in slums through the current sociality and to reveal the tensions, methods of struggle, reconciliation and separation that this situation carries.”

Ata continued as follows:

“The steps taken by the inhabitants of shantytowns, who cannot gain a rooted place in the city's memory and archive with their temporality, continuity and ambiguity, are made visible in their experience and imaginations of space. While it is based on daily life studies conducted with multiple methods (life stories, ethnography and autoethnography) and an interdisciplinary perspective, the dynamics of the daily life in question are associated with the macro social and political plane.”

“THE MIGRATION CONTINUES”

Stating that immigration continues for those living in slum areas, Ata said: “People who established Turkey's slum districts are by migrating from different rural areas faced with the

possibility of relocation with the effect of urban transformation projects that have taken place intensively in recent years.”

Stating that the slums are mostly closed to those other than the residents, Ata said: “They do not have the socioeconomic opportunities that require those who are not from the neighborhood to visit. This situation brings about observing the diversity of urban life in slums. The anonymity gained in urban life cannot be achieved in slum areas. This situation triggers surveillance and pressure mechanisms especially on young women. The intimate relationship forms resulting from living together in the same region for a long time cause the neighborhood to become related. This situation can legitimize the pressure of the neighborhood.”

Emphasizing that it is difficult to gain class mobility through education for the second generation who grew up in the neighborhood, Ata said: “In this case, the lack of role models, the inadequacy of the regional schools, the limitation of families in orientation are important factors.”

Support for young people's work in technology and artificial intelligence

It was decided to sign a cooperation protocol between Bahçelievler District National Education Directorate and Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) in order to increase the work done in the field of technology, digital education and artificial intelligence and to support entrepreneurial youth.

Bahçelievler District Director of National Education Emin Çıkırıkçı met with the Chairman of IGU Board of Trustees Abdulkadir Gayretli. Within the scope of the cooperation protocol planned to be signed, decisions were made in many areas such as technology development, digital education, artificial intelligence, organizing social and cultural events with joint projects.

ÇIKIRIKÇI: “WE HAVE VERY TALENTED AND PRODUCTIVE YOUNG PEOPLE”

“We trust our young people” said Bahçelievler District Director of National Education Emin Çıkırıkçı, and continued with the following words: “We have very talented and productive young people. We no longer want the children of this country to be wasted. We want to bring together the skills and talents of our youth with the infrastructure and facilities of our universities. This is very important for Turkey to build a strong future. To build great and strong Turkey is possible with domestic and national production.”

Expressing that they want to transform the skills of young people into production by collaborating with universities in every field, Çıkırıkçı said: “In this sense, the breakthroughs made by Istanbul Gelisim University in many areas and the technological infrastructure it has

created have a great meaning for our young people. This cooperation will lead to very successful results both for our students studying at our schools and for the university.”

“WE ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO THE YOUNGSTERS”

Referring to the importance of cooperation with Bahçelievler District Directorate of National Education, Gayretli said: "The total number of students in schools affiliated to national education in the district is more than 112 thousand. We care that our future students receive a good education. We also provide a working area for all young entrepreneurs who develop projects. We care about young people and their opinions.”

“WE WILL ACCELERATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IDEAS”

Emphasizing that young people's projects will be provided with a workforce in the field of science within the university, Gayretli said, “We will accelerate the implementation of ideas.”

“IT WILL BE BENEFICIARY TO THE COUNTRY ECONOMY”

Noting that they will bring entrepreneur young people together with sector representatives, Gayretli said: “I believe that the cooperation protocol to be signed will be beneficial for our university, industry and economy of the country.”