

Examining the Role of Nature in the New Commons

Two Experimental Architectural Design Studios

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müştereklik
deneysel tasarım stüdyolar
yeni mekan yaklaşımları
yeni tasarım parametreleri
commonality
experimental design
studios
new space approach
new design parameters

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COVID-19 salgınının sağlık, ekonomi, kültür ve sanat üzerindeki olumsuz etkileri sürerken, sosyal mesafe ve temassız olma durumu sosyalleşme biçimlerini değiştirmekte ve kamusal alanların kullanımını köklü biçimde dönüştürmektedir. Dijital çağ ve iklim değişikliğinin ortaya çıkardığı yeni durumların salgının etkisiyle hızla geleceğin inşasında etkin olacağı görülmektedir. Post-covid birçok boyutuyla uygarlığın yeniden şekillendiği bir dönem olarak karşımıza çıkacaktır. Gündelik pratiklerin değişmesiyle birlikte gelişen yeni müşterekler salgın öncesi müşterekliklerin yerini alacaktır. Yapılaşmış çevrede yeni müştereklerin tanımlanmasında mimarlık insiyatif alabilir. Ancak mevcut kavramlar yeni müştereklerin tanımlanması için yeterli olmayacak, bunun için önemli paradigma değişimleri gerekecektir. Yeryüzünde yaşamın tehdit altında olduğu bu tarihsel süreçte yeni müştereklerin oluşturulmasında doğa başat paradigma olarak öne çıkmalıdır. Bu anlayışın mimarlık eğitiminde nasıl değerlendirilebileceğini ele alan bu makalenin amacı mimari tasarım stüdyosunda tanımlanan tasarım sorunsalının temel paradigması olan doğa'nın yeni müşterekler oluşturma konusundaki rolünü irdelemektir. Bu bakış açısıyla, Eskişehir Teknik Üniversitesi, Mimarlık Bölümü'nde farklı ölçek ve bağlamlarda iki mimari tasarım stüdyosu gerçekleştirildi. Bu stüdyolarda yeni mekânsal açılımları içeren yeni müştereklerin keşfine dair tasarım problemleri tartışıldı. Tasarım süreçleri sonucunda, doğa ve insanın uzlaşmasına dayanan yeni müştereklerin keşfinde, doğanın belirleyici ve birleştirici rolünün bir mekansal tasarım parametresi olarak değerlendirilmesi gerektiği gözlemlendi.

While the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on health, economy, culture, and art continue, social distancing and non-contact are changing forms of socialization and radically transforming the use of public spaces. It can be seen that the new situation in which we live, arising from the digital age and climate change, will have an effect on the rapid construction of the future caused by the effect of the pandemic. Post-Covid will appear as a period in which civilization is reshaped in its many dimensions. The new commons that develops with the change of daily practices will replace pre-pandemic commonalities. Architecture can take the initiative in defining the new commons in the built environment. However, existing concepts will not be sufficient to define new commons, which will be requiring significant paradigm shifts. In this historical process, where life on earth is under threat, nature should come to the fore as the dominant paradigm in creating the new commons. The purpose of this article, which discusses how this understanding may be evaluated in architectural education, is to examine the role of nature in creating the new commons, which is the basic paradigm of the design problem defined in our architectural design studios. From this perspective, two architectural design studios, of different scales and contexts, were realized in the Department of Architecture at Eskişehir Technical University. In these studios, design problems related to discovering the new commons, including new spatial arenas, are discussed. As a result of the design processes, it was observed that the determining and unifying role of nature should be considered as a spatial design parameter in the discovery of new commons, based on the reconciliation of nature and human beings.

INTRODUCTION

The interaction of nature and human beings, which has differed throughout history, has evolved into a form that affects the environment in which we live today. Changes in the atmospheric abundance of greenhouse gases and the depletion of the ozone layer, combined with the effects of solar radiation on the earth, transform the balance of the climate system. Increasing global temperature has resulted in extraordinary meteorological events. Human beings steadily alter the Earth's surface and its natural cycle, and has become named the Anthropocene Epoch as the recent, new geological time. Human intervention into natural life has caused environmental problems, one of which is the COVID-19 pandemic, which affects the whole world. The globalizing world is connected with cities and public transport networks, where the vast majority of the world's population of up to eight billion live, which causes pandemics to spread rapidly and affect many people. The world will never be the same world after this pandemic.

It is widely accepted that there will be a 'new normal', defined as the adapted way of life to a sudden change in the normal flow. The time, space, and system of modern life, based on industrial production and cities, differs from the Earth's system and time. While the first of these results from a fictional system established by human beings, the second has been in action according to its own rules and order for millions of years.

It can be said that phenomena started to harm each other as they became increasingly incompatible systems due to different time, space, and life cycle parameters. Since the Renaissance, humanism has been the central attitude that determines the course of civilization as a way of perceiving nature. At this point, to redefine the relationship of humans with/to nature is extremely critical. However, both share the same features that set the ground for commonality.

The city presents everyday life in a constructional spatial manner with a mechanical time layout in an artificial fiction. Nature is a creation that sets the life cycle consisting of time, space, matter, and the will for existence. Nature is common to existence. The recent conflict between nature and the man-made environment raises the question of a new commonality. A city and nature are both common spaces of forms of being. The city undoubtedly needs nature to exist, but nature does not need a man-made environment. Nature also has the potential to transform space and to form a new common. So, how can we treat nature as a new parameter of commons? Current concepts of ecology and sustainability are integrated into new design approaches as the main parameter and become the fundamental notion to organize the common space.

Nature as a design parameter, and its role in the new commonality, has gained importance through the pandemic. Nevertheless, the

'new normal' does not need to have a dystopian definition, but can be regarded as an agreement between nature and man. This concept can offer a fresh understanding that may be considered with its positive aspects. The perception of nature has been changed through history, which has also affected the condition of the space. Nature has been the reason for the existence of human beings, providing them a life, space, and cultural code. Nature conditioned the space and time parameters for Man until the modern era. Mathematicians invented the modern conception of space by appropriating space and time scientifically, as Lefebvre (1991:2) points out. Abstract space produced by the rational rules of the modern state was formed according to the function of an economy rooted in industrial production.

The dramatic change in space, from real and natural to abstract and fictional, influenced the social life performed in these spaces. This change resulted in a discussion of the publicness of public space. Arendt (1998) and Habermas (1974) point out the significance of political representation in public space, which consists of private space. Publicness is possible by expressing personal opinions on common issues. Each individual presents themselves and communicates with others in the public space that, in turn, creates commonness. However, as Sennett (2002) indicates, the boundaries between public and private space are uncertain in the modern city.

Space is accepted as a determinant of in and out, where 'in' describes being isolated from an uncontrollable out. 'Out' defines public and nature, while 'in' defines private and human. Therefore, there seems to be a clear boundary between in and out, private and public, human and nature. This strict condition underlines the idea of space as a producible good. When something is produced, it excludes life. The main argument in this statement is the exclusion of everyday life within the sterile constructed patterns of the cities that have developed in modernity. (Lefebvre, 1991). Everyday life is related to the needs of human nature. It is a natural process. This natural process is interrupted by the imposition of the space considered as an object of production. These determinations have brought the concept of thresholds to the agenda, which is frequently discussed today. (Lefebvre, 1998). Boundary means the end in a physical sense. An end can be thought of as the beginning of another point. If 'place' also involves interaction, it means more than physical space (Boettger, 2014 p 10).

Therefore, it can be said that the concept of boundary is also a dynamic phenomenon. This versatile and mobile structure provides opposing associations, such as interior-exterior, open-closed, or public-private. The boundary itself that creates these interactions exists as an 'in-between'. In this context, the threshold plays an essential role in determining spatial qualities. Transition areas, where actions that have

acquired their natural identity within the existing inflexible forms, can transform the space and appear as spatial thresholds. Thresholds are common areas that reveal the spatial potential other than the defined ones. (Stavrides, 2018, 12). There is ambiguity in the concept of threshold, and it draws its strength from this ambiguity.

Sennet does not characterize public and private as contradictory concepts. He mentions that they can be alternatives to each other. The impulses that govern the public sphere are will and artifact; those that rule the private sphere are restrictions and the erasure of artifacts. The public sphere is a human creation, and the private sphere is a human condition. What strikes a balance between public and private is proportionality (Sennet, 1996, 133-135). Nevertheless, will these definitions remain the same when personal freedoms come into play? When public policies and individual characters differ, will the public and private sphere relationships remain the same?

Spaces are conventionally classified as private, semi-private, semi-public, and public spaces. Thresholds connect these intervals. When defining these spatial intervals, boundaries occur. Boundaries are essential for identifying definitions. A human experiences space and thinks and dreams through it (Stavrides, 2016, 53). Public space, semi-private, and private spaces are the means of defining the individual's

urban identity through spatiality. Today, public space and its commonality have gained importance in establishing a sense of belonging and the acquisition of civil initiative and identity. At this point, threshold spaces become essential and act as a mediator that removes hard borders. Creating threshold spaces can mean creating spaces of encounter between identities instead of spaces corresponding to specific identities. Collective inventiveness can take place within the production of threshold spaces. As people use these spaces for constant negotiation, comparisons between emerging identities become possible. Therefore, communities living in these places are constantly emerging communities (Stavrides, 2016, 13).

The concept of the commons has become a phenomenon that has been widely-used in both academic and political fields in recent years. It was initially used for non-proprietary natural assets, such as seas, streams, forests, and air. It is a concept that is now used in a wide range, from the built environment to daily living spaces. According to David Harvey, it is not correct to define the common as a specific object. It is the relationship of a defined social group with its social and physical environment in life and subsistence (Harvey, 2012, 73). Stavrides (2016, 263) contributes to the discussion by suggesting that common space is a form of collective survival strategy against capitalist dominance.

On the other hand, communing is a kind of practice and relationship that leads to different social values, preferences, and influx of newcomers (Stavrides 2016, 262). Common space is not merely a place, and needs reinterpretation by re-evaluating spatial relationships (Stavrides 2016, 262). This paper suggests that nature and the city are places where communing takes place as a form of relationship creating common space. Capitalism dominates today's metropolises and privatizes public spaces, redefining streets, neighborhoods, and parks by disregarding that nature is the only home of life. Public space is reduced to shared space, as space is seen as material production valued economically. The pandemic experience has shown that social relationships are the active agent of public places. Space occurs during the process of social interaction. The relationship between individuals and nature needs to be reinterpreted to define a new communing against the dominance of power and to form a new type of collaboration for the sake of nature, human beings, and the life cycle.

From this point of view, two experiential architectural design studios (ADS) were conducted at Eskişehir Technical University, Department of Architecture, to discuss the role of nature, not only in creating common spaces, but also in redefining the commons. Therefore, the central axis of the discussions was to promote a new spatial design that

reconsidered the interaction of nature and humans and which proposes a new and different vision of our view of nature in the process of defining the 'New Normal' being shaped by climate change and digital technology.

DESIGN BRIEF, ARGUMENTS, AND DISCOVERIES

The two experimental architectural design studios are a medium to discuss the potential of the new normal, deciphering the role of nature in both the natural and urban environment. While the first of these allows a rethinking of the interaction of nature and man, the second aims to evaluate this interaction in the built and social environment. Both studios are designed to discuss possible new forms of social relationships in the new normal, and their spatial reflections in the natural and built environment. These are parallel studios run separately, consisting of third year and fifth semester students. Both of these question nature's new role in discovering new spatial potential. The design brief of both studios is based on the view that nature should be one of the most potent parameters in spatial construction and expression of general commonality in the 'new normal'.

On the one hand, nature constitutes the commonality of existence, while on the other hand, the objective space of the public space, created by man as a social entity, becomes spatial with the realization of social relations. Different forms

of social relations transform the public space into a performance space and, as Stavrides (URL-1) states, evolve into the common space of ordinary lifestyles, where a series of spatial relationships produced by collective practices are experienced. While this state of commonality creates the social representation of urban identity, collective memory enables the commons to emerge. Therefore, the common space attracts attention as the most constructive element that determines the cultural structure. As one of the most important representations of cultural reflection, architecture should evaluate the commons as a design criterion.

Studio I concentrated on the new form of relationship between humans and nature in living areas. The studio's theme was 'Gaia', the ancient Greek goddess who personified the earth. This historical symbol was specially chosen to help students conceptualize the phenomenon of nature. This conceptualization process is thought to be necessary for design, which is above all an intellectual and cognitive activity, to achieve a creative result. Nature's status of being the primary design parameter in the imagination of a new type of life was explored in the same geographical conditions, but with different programs. The life scenarios proposed for this area, that is the programs, created content in which the global conditions of the new normal were considered, but the problem of the local context was also a practical consideration.

Studio II, which had a theme of 'Speculations on Post-Covid Neighborhood Design', concentrated on a new interpretation of Neighborhood Design under the circumstances drawn by post-pandemic perspectives. Studio II aimed to generate spatial speculation on housing, transportation, recreation, daily needs, commonality, work, and study within the scale of a neighborhood. The design was conceptualized through leading ideas, such as sustainability, urban agriculture, pedestrian life, or self-sufficiency, all of which are concepts related to nature. Concerning this embracing idea, the spaces needed to be varied for a new understanding of living, consuming, working, and socializing. In addition, original scenarios were required for transformed habits and the needs of the post-pandemic period.

ADS-I: GAIA

In the fall term of 2020-2021, the architectural design project III (5th semester) course was carried out in fifteen weeks with eight students. The studio aimed to discuss a living space design that reconsidered the interaction of nature and humans and proposed a new and different vision of our view of nature in the process of defining the 'New Normal'. The process was to be carried out face-to-face due to the Covid 19 pandemic and was continued remotely through various digital platforms; Zoom, Google Classroom, platforms provided by the University, and so on. A request was made to construct a 'place' using

architectural tools that would create for children and young people a perspective, contrary to the current understanding that exploits, consumes, and destroys nature. In this, it would enable them to experience this alternative approach with the areas of life, observation and study it would offer. Instead of the existing arrogant civilization that takes and exploits the knowledge of nature, the aim was to design a 'place' that constituted the cycle of nature and tried to explain to children and young people an understanding that human beings are only a tiny part of this cycle. Understanding the common space is a public space involving a collective knowledge of acting, relating, and memorizing in a physical and social environment in which nature and the cityscape generate and determine the form of relationships. In this context, Eskişehir Borabey Pond and its surroundings, which belong to Eskişehir Technical University, have been determined as a design area.

During the first week of the project, students were asked to research current issues relating to the agenda; the ecosystem, biodiversity, global warming, environmental degradation, Society 5.0, climate change, sustainable agriculture, and pollution. They were expected to find and compile news about these issues in the local and foreign press, published in recent years (2019-2020). The students' presentations were made by interpreting their research and the news they compiled, in the context of human impact

on the environment in the Anthropocene Age. Within this context, the human-nature relationship was discussed; a topic which has gained momentum in recent years. The students pointed out that news headlines, such as environmental degradation, pollution, global warming, and climate change proliferate. It was noted that there were many reports on sustainable approaches that aim to reverse the human relationship with the environment which is based on consumption. However, these approaches cannot become widespread, due mainly to economic and political reasons. In the second week, certain key words were created by considering the subjects that the students mentioned in their first-week presentations, such as sustainability, renewable energy, and organic agriculture. A request was made to review the current academic publications (articles, theses, projects) and news on these topics in order to prepare a presentation, including their comments. In addition to this study of the concepts, work has also started on a first analysis of the given project area. In this way, it can be seen that this research is also influential on the projects produced, while at the same time students were provided with an idea of the current topics discussed in the context of the relationship between nature, man, and architecture. In the following process, the students were expected to prepare a report evaluating different situations regarding the concept of nature in the historical process through readings, such as 'The Idea of



Fig. 1 – The project area, Borabey Pond, Eskişehir

Nature' (Collingwood,20020; Andrea, 2015). In the light of all this research, original comments are expected to develop regarding the design question (Fig. 1).

After the first spatial ideas were formulated, the project process continued with updates in line with criticism. In this process and weekly meetings, two midterm juries and one final jury were held. To increase the students' interest in the subject, a seminar on 'New normal: human and environmentally sensitive architecture' was held in the eleventh week of the project process; a specialist architect from the Institute of Building Biology attended and

conveyed his experiences. All this research and activities have fed the project process conceptually and enabled students to internalize the subject by making inquiries in the context of the human, nature, and architecture relationship.

Design Concepts Developed by Students in ADS-I

Following industrialization, contemporary cities became the mega-urban area of the new society, in which public and private spaces are organized according to economic relationships disregarding the natural environment as the basis of life. The activities and relationships of human beings

became limited to urban life, which resulted in a crisis of the environment with severe effects on the health of human beings. Developing a new relationship between human beings and nature would remind people of the possibility of actual place, which can be formed by paying attention to the new relationships between people, leading to an alternative common space. This project, therefore, focuses on the health issues that occur due to the problems people encounter in their daily lives, their daily routines, and the active use of technology in the capitalist society. It is known that these problems primarily cause psychological and

neurological problems. These problems are fairly common in the young generation who need support to cope with the stress. The aim is to create a center that will solve some of the psychological health problems by strengthening the relationship between man and nature. The main idea of the design is based on the healing power of nature. An approach has been set up to create a new vision by changing young people's perspective on nature. Another aim is to bring a new interpretation, to create the new commons within the scope of nature's state of transforming space and its potential.

The other project focuses on an experimentation of the cycle of nature by the route of thematic stations. The main idea of this project is to remind and rehabilitate the relationship between nature and people by developing new practices. New commoning practices will generate alternative common spaces, depending on economic relations and a social relationship. The potential of the project area is to create a new situation between the city and the countryside and to become a visual attraction point. A meeting place on one of the highest points of the area was designed, with the aim to make it a center of attraction. There is an attempt to create a new interpretation of commonality in the context of urban/rural tension. The information center is designed as a starting point for the experience of the natural cycle, which targets children aged 5-7. In the project area, the aim is to provide the opportunity to

observe living forms. For this purpose, observation points and routes for the experience have been designed (Fig. 2).

ADS-II: SPECULATIONS ON POST-COVID NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN

In the fall term of 2020-2021, the Architectural Design Studio III was designed as an experimental studio to develop a discursive and argumentative platform to raise spatial speculation following the pandemic. A group of seventeen candidate-architects, who were all in the third year of their education, had the challenge to discuss, interrogate, criticize and regulate the new socio-spatial conditions concerning the post-covid circumstances.

The studio aimed to conduct this interrogation by and through design. The studio was conducted through digital and online platforms of distanced education, primarily through the Zoom platform. The design process was developed weekly, and students uploaded their work to the Google classroom each week. One midterm and one final jury were organized through the participation of related guests with digital compatibilities.

After a period of restrictions due to the pandemic, experienced as remaining at home and a compulsory shut down, urban and daily routines were all under question, together with spatial preferences. Not only was the perception of space changed,

but also the flow of time was revised. The determinants of work, day, and consumption-based habits were all criticized during this period and how they corresponded spatially. Within the framework of the studio, social and spatial reflections were discussed from a critical and architectural point of view. New urban life elements were reworked and rethought using the design of a neighborhood as a tool. The candidate architects were asked to design an eight-lots-size area having social, commercial, and recreative relations, and at least three housing units, with an alternative transportation/pedestrian scenario.

The designers were free to choose contextual parameters, such as place, climate, topography, solar orientation, precipitation, and so on. They were asked to propose a main design concept, such as sustainable design, energy-efficient design, green design, minimal design, and urban agriculture. They produced a number of possibilities for a new way of life using sections and diagrams and concentrated on ground floor relationships, which organize the interaction of the inner space with the outer.

The proposed new layers of interaction point to other than the ground plane. Another critical contribution of the studio is to adopt intrinsically sustainable ideas into spatial parameters, which have been underestimated by consideration of additional external equipment. The holistic design philosophy is essential for the studio process.

Design Concepts Developed by Students in ADS-II

Pandemics are events that have changed and transformed urban spaces throughout history. Covid-19 is also reducing the density of people in spaces leading to a search for new ways of communing. It causes changes in urban space. Social isolation is crucial behavior in preventing the spread of the pandemic. In this context, while starting to construct the design idea, distance was kept, while trying to ensure healthy ventilation creating isolated areas. People have lost contact with life outside, so the maintenance of human relationships is of great importance in the design approach. Another significant point of the design is the consideration of nature as an integrated design parameter. Nature is adopted as agricultural facilities, yet it is also recreation, socialization, production, and self-sufficiency. The walkways, which form the main scenario of the design, derive from a single linear street axis of circulation. This axis is suitable for different experiences at different heights and integrates with the commercial area. While providing access to the area, it breaks the linearity of the street by establishing a level relationship with the ground. The walkways on the facades are positioned so that they remain interacting with the inner garden. The presence of green roofing in the design, consisting of different levels, ensures the ventilation needs and, at the same time, strengthens its bond with greenery. Sustainability is

also of great importance during the pandemic process. Private aquaponic farming areas within the residential area, where users can produce their own food, form the main structure. Therefore, it is an ecological and sustainable design with a self-sufficient design approach (Fig.3).

The Covid19 outbreak can be regarded as a turning point in terms of accelerating awareness and change. During the pandemic period there have been noticeable changes, such as the need for work and school life at home, an increase in people producing their own food, the proliferation of online shopping (especially in the food sector), changes in neighborhood relationships, and the widespread use of bicycles. The answer to how these factors, which it is thought will continue to affect space and the city after the pandemic, are examined, and solutions are produced based on a continental climate and street structure. The design developed around the idea of a variant upper 'street' that is an idea produced as a model adapted to the city. The circulation area for pedestrians, bicycles, and motorized service vehicles are between commercial areas at the upper from the ground level. Accommodation units are the main elements that add to the design. In this way, terraces and living spaces can establish direct contact with commercial units, neighboring accommodation units, and study/work areas. By isolating itself from the busy flow of traffic and daily life, the design

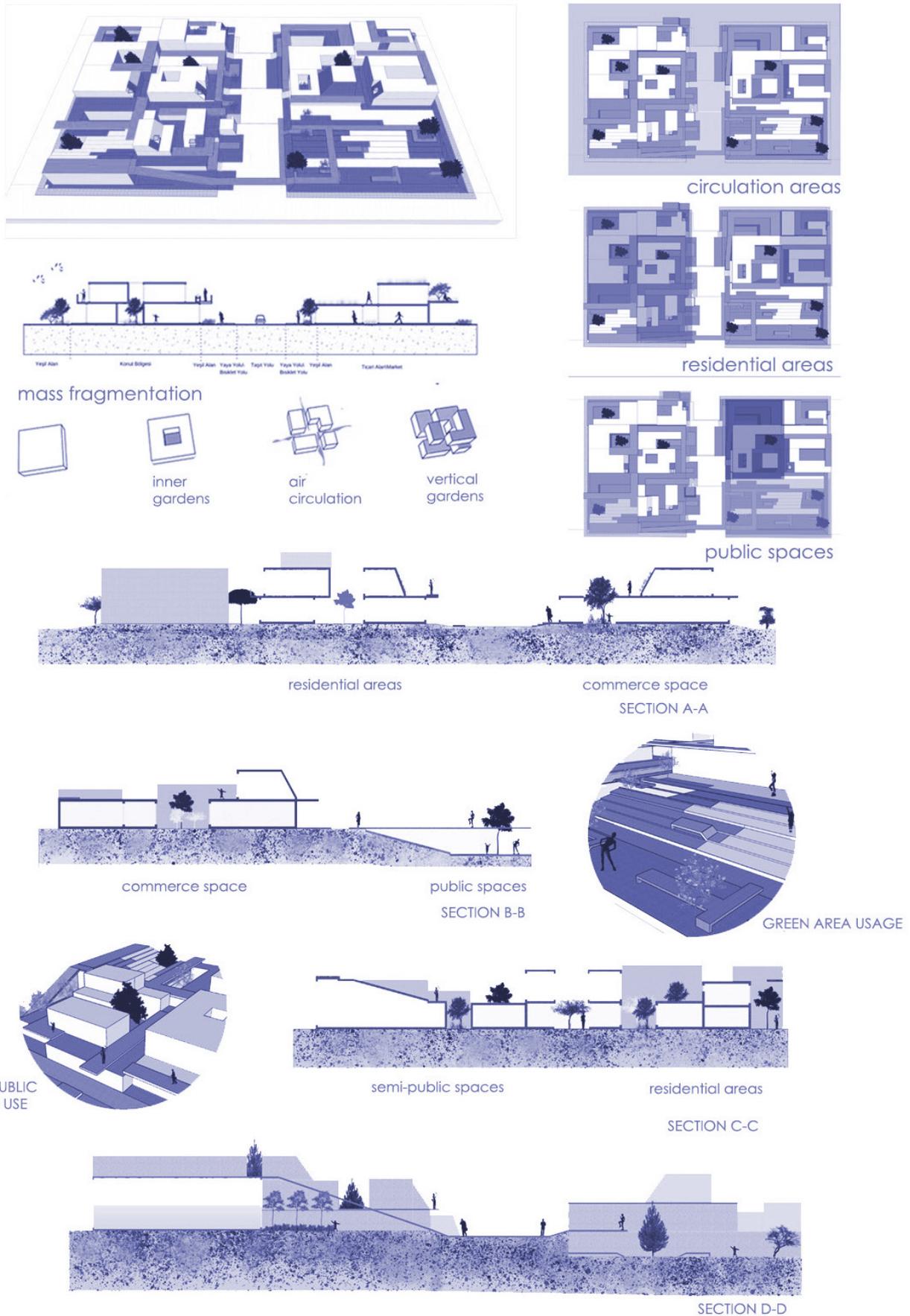
produces semi-public open spaces.

Sustainable solutions for human biology and building ecology have been utilized with sunlight, the serpent effect, with seating units produced from compacted soil. Neighborhood relationships have been developed in the backyards, and social distancing areas have been produced with green walls to promote the rehabilitating effect of nature. In between the semi-borders of the gardens, agriculture is encouraged. It is intended to revive nature's positive and underestimated characteristics through this backyard design of the housing units. In addition, lighting and social distancing in the workplace and public spaces are encompassed by a green border (Fig. 4).

CONCLUSION

The global epidemic has necessarily changed certain seemingly immutable perceptions, habits, and practices. However, this necessary state has increased our capacity to think outside of our comfort zones and without our familiar surroundings. Challenging conditions prepare creative grounds for new understanding. This reflects the way we live, think, and design.

Architectural design studios are mediums to discuss certain socio-economic and actual events from a spatial point of view. Moreover, they are, in a way, the forerunner of new tendencies reflected in society. The pandemic is a compelling case that makes us think about the standards of living we all take for granted. Therefore, the



ADS II - Speculations on Post-Covid Neighborhood Design
CEYDA DÖNMEZ- NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE "NEW NORMAL"

Fig. 3 – ADS-II, Neighborhood Design of Ceyda Dönmez, Emphasizing the New Pedestrian Use, the Public, and Private Aquaponics Agricultural Spaces Integrally Designed for the Whole Neighborhood with Embracing Walkable Terraces

discussion is more profound than customarily posited as a design problem in architectural education. It implies a turning point about the re-positioning of humans, nature, and space, and rethinking them together without keeping them apart. Cities are the product of such a separation, as much as the recreation and commercial spaces designed as supporting elements of the city. Therefore, holistic handling is necessary to discover new potential options for a world where socialization, production, consumption, and commons are under question (Fig. 5).

For this questioning, certain concepts are utilized for the general themes of the design studios and the design ideas of the student proposals. These are:

- The healing power of nature. Nature heals. Discussions are conducted to underline the gap between the natural and the man-made. Therefore, how can we design space to integrate nature as a healing element and to propose alternatives for new possible common spaces?

- The cycle of nature. Nature has its own cycle other than city life. Therefore, can we find a common point to meet with the cyclic facts of nature and discover a possible better relationship between humans and nature?

- Recreation and sports. Can nature be a natural element of recreation? Do we have to encapsulate nature in recreative spaces as an additional element?

- Activities in nature. Is there

a list of activities that can be carried out in nature, or is it not possible to be guided by space in a designed portion of nature?

- Sustainability. What should be sustainable in the new normal?

- New commonality by nature. How can we meet and socialize with other people through a new understanding of common space? The definition of 'the new' and the 'new common' is critical. After all, we can ask if there is a new commonality in or with nature.

- Experiencing by doing. Experiences are more substantial when we actively participate in the event. Therefore, could the power of experience through space be a design concern?

- Urban/domestic agriculture. Production is a crucial concept for the new normal. Most of the proposals include self-sufficient lifestyles with a spatial component providing this self-sufficiency. Urban and domestic agricultural spaces and the usage scenarios are discussed, which is questioned as follows: Could these agricultural aspects be a natural element of the design?

- New alternatives of transportation. Nature is integrated into the urban neighborhood design. However, in an urban context, transportation is still the main requirement for people's mobility. Could there be new alternatives for a nature friendly design?

Both ADS-I and ADS-II examined the role of nature through the students' design

process for a semester regarding the key concepts and questions above. It is difficult to get a clear conclusion and a project-based result at the end. Nevertheless, the negotiation of nature and humans through a holistic spatial design understanding, embracing all the faculties of life such as culture, social life, economy, education, health, and space concerning the new definitions, becomes a very fertile field of research, not only for architectural design studios, but also for all disciplines. It is seen from the two experiential architectural design exercises that a new look for the parameters of design could bring new ideas for different scales of spatial design.

Two studios, where the role of nature in the new commons is examined, attempt to show a spatial threshold where nature and humans could negotiate. There is a new positive approach where nature could become an inseparable design parameter. Moreover, design by and through nature is more than concern for contextual conditions, and it is something that creates the commons of the space that was once defined by the relationships of a cityscape. The commons form the public space that builds identity and memory, which are the basis of cultural existence. As much as nature is involved in forming this common area, it will be possible to build a shared and democratic future that considers the ecological balance. It is time to set a common concern and goal in the education of architects to make this change happen.



ADS II - Speculations on Post-Covid Neighborhood Design

İREM KAHRAMAN - POST COVID CITY MODEL: STREET DESIGN

Fig. 4 – ADS-II, Neighborhood Design of İrem Kahraman Emphasizing the New Bicycle Use and the Agricultural Spaces Integrally Designed for Housing Units.

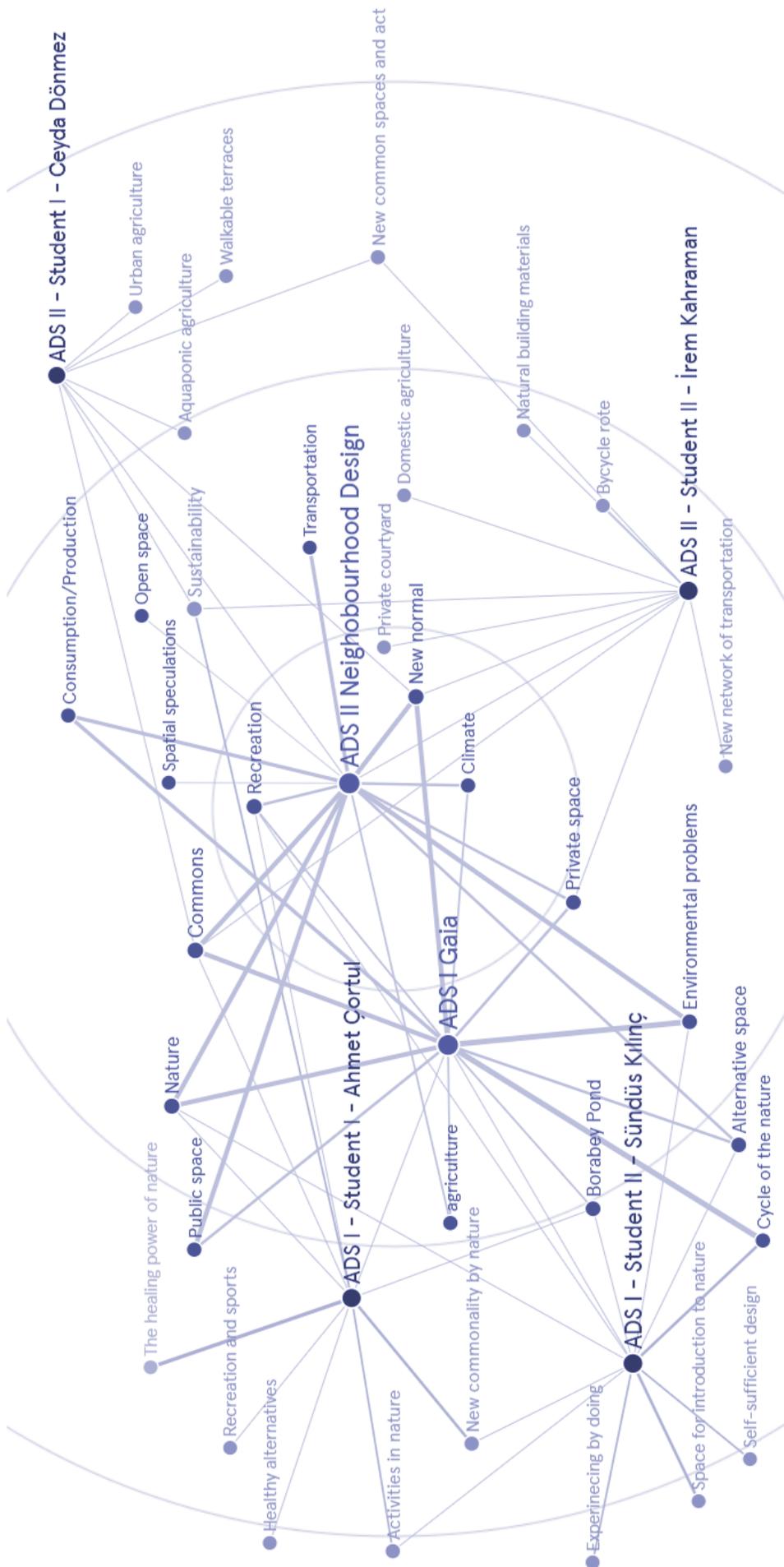


Fig.5 – The Conceptual Mapping of the ADS-I and ADS-II by Correlating Design Ideas of the Students.

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