

CARICATURING THE CONCEPT OF URBAN TRANSFORMATION

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ABSTRACT

Cities have been developing with the finance and service industry as a result of a change and replacement in production today. Living spaces have been created for people who work in these sectors in cities. Global scale activities have been taking place. Hotels, residences, shopping malls, high-rise office buildings, and transportation structures are being built. In this process, urban features change and they acquire a new image and identity. The effects of the process called as “globalization” are seen in transformation project cases. These projects have promises such as qualifying the buildings in areas identified as blighted area, improving people’s living conditions, advancing the physical and social fabric, and raising the life quality. They can be seen as a single building, a neighborhood, and a city on different scales and radius. These applications cause an amount of debate and criticism as they change the living environments and lead to a number of radical changes in life styles. This process is beyond the area of architecture and urban development. Ideas are reflected in the media as well as the academia and politics. The process and applications are evaluated with the help of every day communication tools such as newspapers, magazines, and the internet, and contribution of people from different geographies. Caricatures are also tools to elaborate on this process. As they have humor in their foundations, caricatures point out to their own discourse without disturbing individuals. The text consists of three parts: the first part conveys the aims, applications, and actors of urban transformation, the second part examines the subjects criticized by those who oppose the applications of urban transformation, and the third part focuses on the approach to the concept of urban transformation.

Keywords: Urban Transformation, Discourse, Caricature, Humor

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KENTSEL DÖNÜŞÜM OLGUSUNU KARİKATÜRİZE ETMEK

ÖZ

Günümüzde üretim biçimindeki değişim ve yer değiştirme sonucu, kentler finans ve hizmet sektörü ile gelişim göstermektedir. Kentlerde bu sektörlerde çalışanlar için yaşam alanları yaratılmaktadır. Küresel ölçekte etkinlikler gerçekleşmektedir. Otel, rezidans, alışveriş merkezi, yüksek katlı ofis yapıları, ulaşım yapıları inşa edilmektedir. Sahip oldukları tarihi, kültürel ve turistik özellikleri bağlamında ön plana çıkmaktadırlar. Bu süreçte kentlerin çehresi değişmekte, yeni bir imaj ve kimlik kazanmaktadır. Küreselleşme şeklinde ifade edilen sürecin kentteki etkileri dönüşüm projeleri bağlamında görünür olmaktadır. Projelerin, çöküntü bölgesi şeklinde ifade edilen yerlerdeki yapıları nitelikli hale getirmek, insanların yaşam koşullarını iyileştirmek, fiziksel ve sosyal dokuda iyileşme sağlamak, yaşam kalitesini arttırmak gibi vaatleri vardır. Tek yapı, mahalle ve kent şeklinde farklı ölçeklerde, etki alanına sahip olarak gerçekleştirilir. Uygulamalar yaşam çevrelerini değiştirdikleri ve yaşam biçimlerinde radikal değişikliklere neden oldukları için tartışmalara ve eleştirilere de neden olurlar. Yaşanan süreç mimarlık ve şehirciliğin konusu olmanın ötesindedir. Görüşler akademik ve siyasal ortamın yanı sıra medyaya yansımaktadır. Gazete, dergi, internet gibi gündelik hayata dair iletişim araçları sayesinde, farklı coğrafyalardan insanların katılımı ile süreç ve uygulamalar değerlendirilmektedir. Karikatürlerde de yaşanan bu süreci irdelemenin aracıdır. Karikatürlerin temelinde mizah duygusu olduğundan, kişileri rahatsız etmeden kendi söylemlerini ortaya koyarlar. Metin üç kısımdan oluşmaktadır. İlk bölümde kentsel dönüşümün amaçları, uygulamaları ve aktörleri aktarılmaktadır. İkinci bölümde kentsel dönüşüm uygulamalarına muhalefet edenlerin eleştirdikleri konular incelenmektedir. Üçüncü bölümde karikatürlerde kentsel dönüşüm olgusunun ele alınış biçimi üzerinde durulmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kentsel Dönüşüm, Söylem, Karikatür, Mizah

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INTRODUCTION

Cities are places where people live together in harmony and continue this association within communication, harmony, and contrast. Cities are enriched with the vastness of differences and diversity, and depth of communication network (Soygeniř and Soygeniř, 2006: 10-11). Cities have been formed after societies assumed permanent settlement rather than nomadic life. Changes in intellectual world, production styles, and public and political structure affect cities. Transitions from the primitive society into agricultural society, from the agricultural to the industrial society, and from the industrial to the information society are examples to these milestones. Living spaces, materials used, techniques, and use of technology differs. Each period has its own economic structuring. These processes also led to a number of changes in cities (Yedekçi, 2015: 9-11).

“Globalization” serves as a decisive foundation for the current period. Globalization has been in effect worldwide since 1970s. Since then, capital has become more active and led to a more competitive environment among local units by exceeding the national borders. Cities were also affected by the transformations that have taken place in every part of life. The current urban formation is described as the transformation from the “industrial modern city” to the “global city”. “Global cities” are expected to assume a certain role in the global economic system. They are restructured in order to draw capital. The fact that international finance corporations become central and having high-capacity airports are examples to these arrangements (Yedekçi, 2015: 15). Effects of the globalization process and urban transformations have begun to be seen since 1980s in Turkey and particularly in Istanbul which is promoted as a global city. Regulations that trigger urban transformation and urban transformation projects became numerous and affected wider areas since 2000s. While the applications of projects continue, there are also critical views.

Projects with different scales and contexts come up with aims such as improving the deteriorated and blighted areas in the city, protecting the cultural heritage, introducing new professions and improving the economy, forming places to boost tourism, constructing new and durable structures in areas under the risk of earthquakes (Zeybekođlu Sadri, 2013: 14). There are debates, criticism and oppositions to these practices. The debatable sides of the subject are not getting the ideas of the local people despite the participatory discourse, prioritizing the urge to gain economic rent, expropriation, forcing people to leave their property, city authorities prioritizing the demands of capital groups, applications lacking totality, ignoring the importance of the local, lack of transparency and accountability of authorities (Zeybekođlu Sadri, 2013: 14; Yalçıntan, Çavuřođlu, 2013: 90-91).

Opinions on these practices are expressed through scientific environments such as books, journal essays, and symposiums or through daily life means in popular media. Caricatures are among these means of expression. Humor feeds caricatures and they exist in its tolerant nature. They present information on city and architecture by combining this information with humor, conveying the reader to reconsider concepts. Caricatures are drawings with which people convey their emotions and thoughts through humor in visuals and urge people to perceive in a short time, have fun while thinking, think while having fun, and observe with a smile. They draw attention primarily to politics as well as economics and concepts in social structure. Caricatures that are intertwined with the daily life and shaped with its dynamics also cover the issue of urban transformation because these transformations became dominant and practices lead to radical transformations in human life.

In this text, the concept of urban transformation will be examined through caricatures of the period. The text consists of three parts which are The Concept of Urban Transformation, Opposition to Urban Transformation, and Urban Transformation Concept in Caricatures. Under the title The Concept of Urban Transformation, information on the definition of urban transformation, application styles, project kinds, and significant actors will be given. Opposition to Urban Transformations will argue the group that opposes it and their reservations. The aforesaid critical points which are that it is not sustainable, the urge for rent, not protecting the environmental values, global city vision, loss of identity, and forcing people out of their property will be argued under this topic. In the third part titled as Urban Transformation Concept in Caricatures examines caricatures. Caricatures in books, magazines, and other media organs are evaluated. Caricatures are evaluated in the light of the evaluations on urban transformation projects which were argued in the second part. The text does not give an evaluation on whether the positive or the negative outcome of urban transformation projects is dominant or whichever view is right. The aim is to show how the concept of urban transformation and its practices are approached in caricatures. By examining urban transformation themes in caricatures, a subject of architecture can be evaluated through how it appears in media as well as in scientific texts.

THE CONCEPT OF URBAN TRANSFORMATION

Swift transformations took place in cities in order to revive the economy during the globalization process. As a comprehensive and holistic vision and act which tries to solve the problems particularly in the urban blighted areas caused by urban deterioration processes, urban transformation is a set of course, method, and planning works to enable the environment to reach current standards and to better the

economic, physical, and social conditions of the area with the cooperation of public, private sector, and the community (Lichfield, Donnison, Roberts, Turok; quoted in Yedekçi, 2015: 23-24). The transformation is about reviving the areas where economic activities were diminished and it is carried out renew the nonfunctional public functions, raise the environmental quality, and replace the lost ecological balance. They are based upon physical conditions such as earthquake, fire, aging, and illegal constructions and enhancing the economic, social, and public spaces of the dwellers (Yedekçi, 2015: 23).

Urban transformation practices can be classified as follows:

- **Renewal:** Reconstructing the area by removing the buildings as a whole or partly.
- **Gentrification:** Changes in ownership in the physical and social structure that are in the city center where there is physical and social decay. Low-income is replaced by high-income.
- **Rehabilitation:** Partial renewal and opening the old urban fabric and blighted areas to use.
- **Preservation – Conservation:** Preventing the physical structure from disappearing, unifying the urban fabric with modern life, and rehabilitating.
- **Revitalization:** Revitalizing the historical city centers with social precautions.
- **Redevelopment:** Making new designs for urban areas by demolishing structures.
- **Improvement:** A public action for the future forming the development of a dwelling area for the benefit of public.
- **Clearance:** Clearing the unsanitary structures in the areas occupied by low-income groups.
- **Infill Development:** Adding new activities and buildings to the exiting fabric.
- **Refurbishment:** Renewing the historical places with landscape elements and urban furniture (Görün and Kara, 2010: 145- 146).

Yalçınan and Çavuşoğlu classify projects by separating into four: spontaneous transformations, great metropolitan projects, planned transformations, and transformation projects (Yalçınan, Çavuşoğlu 2013). Erder describes projects

under four headings: great (or mega) projects, transformations in the city center, transformations based on property ownership law, and transformations carried out in slum districts (Erder, 2014). Classifications that Yalçınan, Çavuşoğlu and Erder are covered the projects in Istanbul. Tekeli, dividing the urban transformation projects into three, classify them as projects of transition that cover high-risk structures and slum areas that occurred as a result of the populist policies of the former period; gentrification projects of the empty areas that appear in central places as a result of a change in urban structure; projects that are designed according to the ideological preferences of local authorities (Özdemir, 2010: 23). This text examines the projects in the light of the Yalçınan and Çavuşoğlu classification.

Spontaneous Transformations: These are projects which are carried out in middle class neighborhoods situated between historical city centers and slum districts. They started with delay as the urban middle class was cautious of the urban transformation idea. Later, as they realized the “increasing value” of old housing they participated in the transformation process. Property owners in the buildings cooperated and participated in the process. Encouragement of the Municipalities and earthquake risk are effective in the application process. They serve as an important working area for building control firms and medium-scale contractors. There may appear pressure by private enterprises in areas occupied by lower-middle classes, senior citizens or retired people (Erder, 2014: 383). As they are carried out in specific points, they do not cause radical changes in the physical and social structure (Yalçınan, Çavuşoğlu 2012: 89).

Great (Mega) Metropolitan Projects: These are projects developed to raise the competitiveness of cities in the global race. Their radius may change but they play a trigger role in the transformation of their environment (Yalçınan, Çavuşoğlu 2013: 87). Some of these projects are developed in public areas with international relations to benefit from global funds by Real Estate Investment Trusts. The rest are projects carried out by large capital groups with new construction rights (Erder 2014: 382). These applications define certain consuming and living styles and are effectual on life styles. Demand and estate prices rise with the help of projects (Yalçınan, Çavuşoğlu 2013: 87). For Istanbul the subway and other transportation projects, mass housing estates with or without a shopping center, the Olympic Games Park, Formula 1, the airports, Galataport, and Kanal Istanbul are examples to these (Yalçınan, Çavuşoğlu 2013: 87; Erder, 2014: 382). Projects are generally situated in facilities that belong to state or public areas, green areas, coasts, rural areas or forests. In addition to the fact that Istanbul is promoted as a global city, the projects concentrate here because its conquest was foreseen by the prophet and the conservative society considers it as an alternative to Ankara (Erder, 2014: 382).

Planned Transformations: Practices that take place in developing areas, sub-centers, logistic areas and large enterprises, master and construction plans, and renovation plans that are included in the environmental plan. As urban areas are given new functions, there can appear a higher density. Areas that belong to industrial facilities being transferred to trade and service sector is a common practice. In Istanbul, 1/5000 master plans and 1/1000 development plans carried out in Kavacık, Beykoz; investments like İstinye Park related to the central work area in Maslak; luxurious housing estates; effective transportation networks and the third bridge over Bosphorus are examples to these. Aforementioned projects cause serious transformations (Yalçınan, Çavuşoğlu 2013: 89-90).

Transformation Projects: Projects are carried out in the historical city centers or slum neighborhoods or in order to create a new urban center. Projects in the historical city centers are particularly carried out in the housing areas where either non-Muslims used to live or currently occupied by poorer property owners. These are areas where there are buildings with property issues, abandoned or with multi-owners. Zeyrek, Balat, Çarşamba, Sulukule, Süleymaniye, Cankurtaran, Samatya, Sultanahmet in the Historical Peninsula; Galata, Tarlabası, Beyoğlu, Cihangir, Karaköy, Tophane, and Bomonti in Pera district in Istanbul are examples to these (Erder, 2014: 382). The poorest neighborhoods in the city centers are gentrified, rehabilitated; the living quality raised, and cleared of crime. Along with these, a top transformation value is acquired from the urban area. The dwellers leave their places with persuasion or force or they are moved to housing projects in the outskirts of the city by Republic of Turkey Ministry Housing Development Administration (TOKİ). Estates that appeal to the middle-high income group are built in these areas by TOKİ. Structures such as shopping centers or hotels can also be built (Yalçınan, Çavuşoğlu 2013: 90). Other practices occur in slum neighborhoods. While migration promises fertility and diversity in itself, it also causes poverty and a number of hardships. Migration has caused problems like fast and unplanned urbanization, lack of demand for jobs and housing, formation of slum districts, consumption of natural resources, and traffic (Görün and Kara, 2010: 141). The migrants have settled in either public or forest areas. In the process Erder expresses as “demolition-voting-condoning-legalization” these structures were seen as legal and their dwellers as “beneficiary”. This view has been changed today. Residents of slums, though they tried to resist to demolitions, were not successful. These residents began to live in multi-storey buildings constructed by TOKİ. The process goes on as voluntary, sometimes with force or different persuasion methods (Erder, 2014: 383-384). Another transformation kind is projects that create a new center in upper scale plans. The projects designed for Kartal

by Zaha Hadid is an example. Projects that create a new center are open to debate and their chance to applied is low (Yalçıntan, Çavuşoğlu 2013: 90).

Institutions which are responsible for the legal base, planning, and design of the projects are:

- The government, various ministries, TOKİ – laws particularly formed between 2002-2008 such as municipalities, multiple housing, TOKİ, urban renovation; transportation projects; multiple housing projects constructed by TOKİ and other practices.
- Metropolis and county municipalities – planning works like development plans, urban renovation projects, and transportation projects.
- Real Estate Investment Trusts – applications like housing, shopping centers, multi-purpose structures.
- Contractor Firms on various scales – applications like housing, shopping centers, multi-purpose structures.
- Banks and other public and private, global and local institutions and establishments – deciding on global and local, economic and political matters (Şentürer, 2010: 156).

Upon examining the decision periods of legal base, planning, and design of the projects, it can be seen that the most significant actors are the politic administrations and capital groups. In addition, urban transformation practices also affect the low and middle income urban groups. Lack of participation and having a say in the process are debatable.

OPPOSITION TO URBAN TRANSFORMATION

Urban transformation projects are now welcomed by all parts of the society. There is also opposition to these projects. Central and local authorities, politicians, and practitioners are important actors in the process. The fact that people who prepare the legal base to the projects and the practitioners are the same people is a debatable subject. Specialists such as architects and planners, academicians, non-governmental organizations, trade associations, human rights defenders, archeologists, art historians and, preservers express their negative views. Not paying enough attention to views and avoiding them in regulations and applications are criticized (Keleş, 2011: 25-26; Şentürer, 2010: 157; Özdemir, 2010: 21). Criticism on urban transformation is argued

under titles non-sustainability, the urge for rent, not protecting the environmental values, global city vision, loss of identity, forcing people out of their property.

Non-Sustainability

Overgrowth of cities, radical changes in the urban space; lack of enough planning, programming, and control are the problems of processes of urbanization. Consuming the natural resources, traffic problem, descent in people's life quality, urban life getting difficult, and social injustice are some of these (Görün and Kara, 2010: 141). Based on the approach of capital groups and central administration, not even the local plans are not applied properly (Keleş, 2011: 21). Rising discrimination between the upper and lower income groups, inequality, social isolation, and problems in social unity create issues (Yedekçi, 2015: 20-21).

Based on the existence of more complex interrelations, Istanbul, which has a different status than the European countries, experiences problems. Kuban expresses that the protective approach in the city is inadequate (Kuban, 2010: 321). The city is at its limits in the east-west axis (Bartu Candan, Özbay, 2014: 13) and nowadays it is expanding through the forests and water basins in the north. It is almost as if it is constituted of different cities. Kuban defines the city, whose qualitative and quantitative sizes cannot be determined, as a chaos as a result of the numerical data cannot be known for sure because they are non-recorded. High-rise buildings; unfinished road slabs, sidewalks not used by pedestrians; electric and telephone cables not taken under the ground; flooded roads and squares after rains; waste, exhaust, and air pollution have negative effects on urban life (Kuban, 2010: 323, 325).

Istanbul's current dynamics effectual on urban development and building constructions are strategic place, politics, economy, rent, population and migration, earthquake and history-identity-culture (Şentürer, 2010: 155). Uncontrolled growth and non-sustainable development of city despite the approaches that from the development of the city; traffic problems; environmental and ecological destruction; possible effects of mega projects; destruction, driving out, and evacuation processes; property changes; desire for and strategies about being a global or regional center; project oriented municipalities, and local and central administrations; transition from the industrial city to information, tourism, finance, and media oriented "new economy" city; transition from the industry sector to service sector; social inequalities (Bartu Candan, Özbay, 2014: 13) point out to the non-sustainable condition of urban vision.

The Urge for Rent

Although transformation projects are expressed to be carried out for physical, social, and environmental rehabilitation, economic factors are also powerful motivations. In the new economic construction process, the city and urban areas are considered to be economic means (Yedekçi, 2015: 15-16). Properties, particularly estates are evaluated as easily handed-over and commodities in favor of the economy, and not as national heritage or natural resources (Keleş, 2011: 24). Market oriented policies have become dominant and indicative (Tarhanlı, 2013: XIV). Construction sector is kept alive with the support of government policies and legislations (Yedekçi, 2015: 15).

Wishes of global powers are also effectual in the formation of the city. The chance of determining and applying national policies gets lower with globalization. When the balance between planning and politics is disrupted, plans cannot be followed (Keleş, 2011: 25-26). Urban transformations may include practices that would harm the cultural, societal, and social structure; and may lead to economic, social, and administrative problems (Yedekçi, 2015: 15-16). This approach is also problematic in protecting the urban identity.

When looked at the practices in Turkey, it can be seen that the authority of some institutions like TOKİ are raised. TOKİ, whose priority is to supply low income groups and economically disadvantaged with housing, also designs housing for the wealthy groups (Keleş, 2011: 25). The urban transformation, which started in Turkey in 2000s, started worldwide in 1980s. The approach which sees urban areas as rent because of the problems occurred should be abandoned (Balaban, 2013: 75).

Not Protecting the Environmental Values

Urbanization causes pressure on city, culture, history, and natural environment. These values are affected or harmed in different levels based on the quality of the application. This situation causes problems in the right to use the environment which are secured by international contracts (Keleş, 2011: 22). Bookchin expresses that today urbanization seized the city and rural areas and earned a harmful quality for living creatures. Urbanization threatens identities and wealth constructed by traditions and diversity. This condition causes deterioration in neighborhoods and human relations as well as the harm it caused in the natural environment. Bookchin makes a definite distinction between cities of past and today. He expresses that people who live in today's cities are different than the ones that lived in the past (Bookchin, 1992: 31, 35).

Projects developed by TOKİ in Turkey are criticized in this context. The bases of the criticism are that buildings are unnecessarily high, they do not comply with the norms of their environment, and they disrupt the unity of urban plans (Keleş, 2011: 25). Data about the city are not adequately made use of in the applications of big-middle scale construction firms like TOKİ. Topography, climate, view, historical identity, and social fabric are not paid enough attention. All cities become identical by building apartment blocks.

In order to solve the economic, social, and environmental problems simultaneously and without making sacrifices from any of them the idea of producing urban policies are getting more common. The priority of administrations should be to make cities more equal, habitable, and sustainable (Balaban, 2013: 75).

Global City Vision

The capital, which has become more active on a worldwide scale today, is efficient in urban transformation with structures belonging to finance and service sector, urban spaces that appeal to the needs of directors and well-paid workers in these sectors, international activities, tourism, and new employment ways. Cities also reform to attract capital and therefore there is competition. Restoring the historical neighborhoods in the city centers, uploading new functions to the old industrial structures, building luxurious housing estates in the areas formerly known as blighted areas are examples to the transformation. International mega activities with high income such as festivals, biennials, and sports competitions are held. These are evaluated as activities of sterile and safe urban space with an advanced technology and expected to serve on world standards by the administrators of the city and entrepreneurs (Zeybekoğlu Sadri, 2013: 1-2). This idea puts a pressure on cities from a politic and economic perspective (Yedekçi, 2015: 15, 20). Demolition of the authentic structures of the city, rethinking the historic cities and areas of the city as commercial commodities, destroying the natural environment, and loss of public space in this process can occur (Yedekçi, 2015: 15, 20; Zeybekoğlu Sadri, 2013: 1-2). This condition can be exemplified upon Istanbul in Turkey. Istanbul has recently been described as “Olympic City”, “European Culture Capital”, “Brand City”, “Tourism Center”, “Cool Istanbul”, “City of Islam”, and “Global Communication Crossroad” (Bartu Candan, Özbay, 2014: 12-13). A global city vision is tried to be reached with international highly attractive projects.

This approach and applied projects are developed in order to produce a new image that belongs to the city (Zeybekoğlu Sadri, 2013: 1). Words like “identity” and

“brand” (like objects, individuals, societies, and institutions) have begun to be used for cities and buildings. There are “iconic buildings” designed by “star architects”. “Iconic” describes buildings that are not related to the city, stands on its own, and attracts attention in itself. Differences are erased in an environment in an area of iconic buildings which were designed to make a difference and to be unique. While they want to be remembered with qualities peculiar to themselves, they are not remembered. Usages of these buildings have been standardized on a global scale. Plazas, residences, hotels, shopping centers, and mixed use structures have been standardized in terms of structure typology (Bilgin, 2017: 37-42).

Loss of Identity

Cities gain identities via past, traditions, belief systems and values, and man-made environments. A historical building contributes to daily life by existing in an area and being used. With the continuation of physical environment and social fabric, the liveliness and authenticity of cities is sustained. However, changes and deterioration in the social and physical fabric cause the loss of identity and cities to lose effect of history and culture (Soygeniş and Soygeniş, 2006: 10-11). Swift transformation processes, practices carried out to transform cities into global cities, mega projects that are isolated from the environmental fabric with their sizes, and gentrification processes of the historic city centers lead to the loss of identity.

Approach described as “destructive creation” and “creative destruction” is one of these. The ones primarily and mostly affected by the process are the poor, the disadvantaged, and the groups marginalized by the political administration. The applications carried out by Haussmann in Paris reflect “destructive creation”. The oldest and poorest areas in Paris were destroyed and expropriated and these were expressed to have been done for the benefit of public. The unsanitary industry and majority of the working class were removed from the city center. Even though one of the aims of the practice is to create a suitable foundation for surveillance and control to prevent revolutionary acts, it turned out to not to function through time (Harvey, 2012: 58-59).

Today, the uncontrolled and overgrowth of Istanbul leads to problems. Concepts like “legacy” and “protection” are overlooked in applications focusing on the historic past of the city. As it is not a city constructed later like Dubai or Lanzhou Xinqu (Bartu Candan, Özbay, 2014: 14) the urban identity should be taken into consideration while producing designs. Applications which are in compliance with the traditional and aesthetical values that fit neither in a Western city nor an Islamic city (Kuban, 2010: 325) should be realized. Beautify by demolishing practices (Bartu

Candan, Özbay: 2014, 14) harm the identity of the city. One group prefers Western renovations like Pera; others prefer the areas with a Neo-Ottoman and Neo-Seljukian renovations; tourists do not seem to be disturbed by the artificial “orientalist” places created in the historic centers (Erder, 2014: 383). Identity of city is not something that can be constructed according to the preferences of individuals or groups. It is formed with the continuation of history and culture hundreds of years old to today. In this context, the loss of identity will be avoided with the protection of life and fabric that creates authenticity and distinguishes it from other cities.

Forcing People out of Their Property

Human rights on urban scale can be classified under fourteen titles as equality and avoiding discrimination, sheltering, health, education, work, security, participation and democratic representation, harmonious development, environment, infrastructure and public services, transportation, culture, recreation and sports, and the right to reach information (Zeybekoğlu Sadri, 2013: 4-13). “Adequate sheltering” includes more than a structure with walls and a roof. It includes a variety of qualities such as the guarantee of continuity; supplying service and infrastructure; economically affordable; suitable to settle in terms of natural and environmental factors; accessible for the dwellers; social and economic suitability of the shelter; expressing the cultural identity. There should be an opportunity for people to decide their future, private and public communication tools should be open, participation, plurality, transparency, accountability, the right to opposition etc. (Tarhanlı, 2013: XIII-XIV).

Part of the transformation projects are carried out in areas where the lower-income group lives; there is a lack in terms of transportation, sanitary environment, recreation and sports areas, infrastructure and public services, suitable housing; there are negative aspects in education, social security, participation in city administration, and city opportunities (Zeybekoğlu Sabri, 2013: 14). When there are processes of “forced eviction” in the practice, this situation causes problems in terms of the right of sheltering (Tarhanlı, 2013: XIV). The three factors that are addressed as the predicaments of urban transformation should be supplied, which are joined approach to the urban issues, participation of the local people, and avoiding social isolation (Özdemir, 2010: 23).

Part of the society, who does not have a say in the transformation process, leaves their houses and loses their social bonds, unlike the high-income group that shapes the city according to their own needs and reach the opportunities in the city. Not participation adequately in the decision processes, dispossession through expropriation, and forced evacuation lead to the violation of rights of sheltering,

obtaining information, participation and democratic representation, health, work, and security. In this case, isolation becomes deeper, the outcast community is marginalized more, polarization in the society and breaks in the urban space can occur (Zeybekoğlu Sadri, 2013: 2, 14). Erder expresses this situation as “winners” and “losers” (Erder, 2014: 384).

URBAN TRANSFORMATION CONCEPT IN CARICATURES

Media is an important factor in the representation of social opposition and formation of discourse. International, national and local media, television and radio channels, magazines, newspapers, and internet portals are in this context. The fact that media is engaged in urban actions simplifies the solution of problems and raises the chance to trouble shooting. Sulukule Project exemplifies the notion of media holding an important place in the urban transformation process (Yalçınan, Çavuşoğlu 2013: 100). Media serves as a foundation for broadcasting current issues by making use of people’s views from different communities, and makes way to visuals like television series, films or documentaries. Caricatures are also a means of communication. They are useful for conveying ideas with drawings and visual quality, and not with verbal or written means. It attracts attention, conveys ideas in a short time and aims for entertainment as its foundations are in humor.

Tolerance has fed, improved, and made humor meaningful as humor did tolerance. In the lives of people, who are parts of a community, there is pressure on several subjects such as social, politic, economic, and gender. This situation is expressed as social order. Societies and people do not want this order to break and react violently in such a situation. Humor touches on these pressures. The reason that they are perceives with understanding is that they activate tolerance. Press has a role in the formation of humor. Humorist was freed because of the opportunity to reach a vast number of readers. He can reach readers via books or magazines. On the other side, entertaining the reader is to do with written humor. Majority of written humor takes place in magazines and assumed the mission of relieving the reader of his daily problems. Magazine humor is not shocking unlike political humor as it cannot replace real fear and panic. Humor (written or verbal), no matter in which way it occurs, aims to educate its reader (Öngören, 1999: 16, 23). Caricatures, which cover people’s daily lives, political condition, and urban living, are tools of humor appearing in newspaper or magazines.



Figure 1. Nature is evaluated as a building plot

“Yesterday: A nice slum would look good here”
“Today: A nice skyscraper would look good here” (Oral 2015: 20)

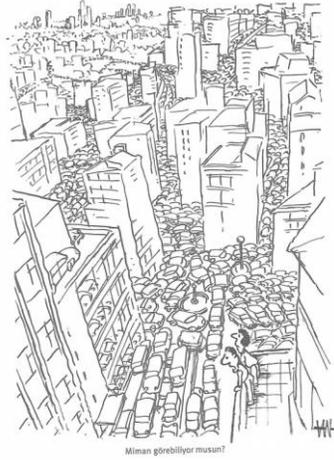


Figure 2. Expressing over-crowd and unplanned urbanization

“Can you see the architect?” (Oral 2015: 38)



Figure 3. Constructing excessive structures (Balçioğlu, nd)

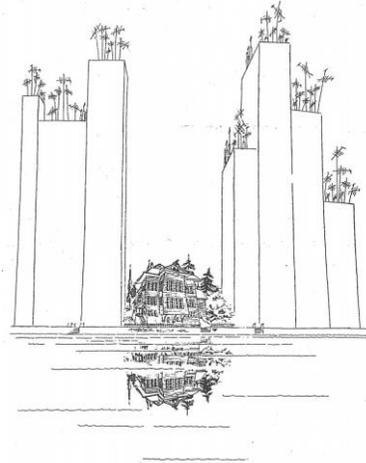


Figure 4. New buildings in historic environment (Balçioğlu, 2007: 40)

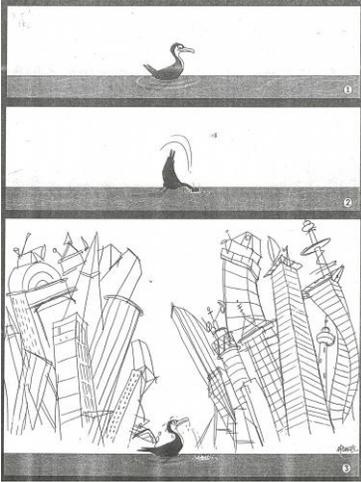


Figure 5. A sudden change (Çelik, 2006: 144)



Figure 6. Change of Istanbul silhouette

“İstanbul 1852”

“İstanbul 2000” (Kabakçıoğlu, 2012)



Figure 7. People not getting used to transformations (Doğan, 2009)



Figure 8. People not happy to live in overcrowded and excessively structured environment (Doğan, 2009)

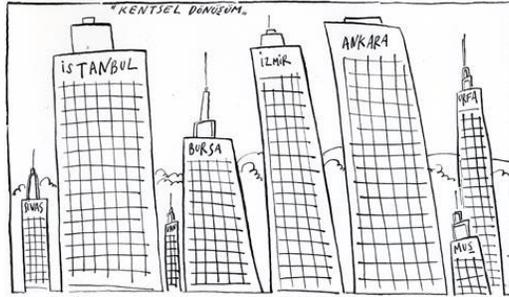


Figure 9: The cities in Turkey become similar to each other
“Urban Transformation: Istanbul, Bursa, Izmir, Ankara, Urfa, Muş” (Ak, 2007)

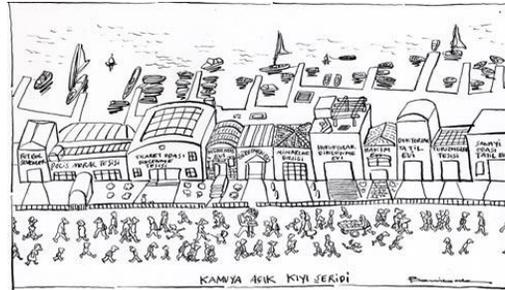


Figure 10: The coastline can't be used due to the buildings
“Public coastline” (Ak, 2007)



Figure 11: The buildings become similar to each other
“Green Valley’ Housing Estate is at the back, ‘Grove’ Housing Estate is in front of it, ‘Piney’ Housing Estate is on the left to it” (Madra, 2002: 97)

When caricatures are examined, views on urban transformation process are expressed as following:

- **Sudden transformation:** As a result of globalization process, the change in people's constructed living environment and, as a result, in living conditions becomes visible. The focuses in the drawings is that transformations are happening fast, sudden and that people are amazed at the transformations around them and have problems adapting in this process.
- **Changes in life standards:** With the effect of globalization, as a result of the change happening in the physical environment, structures that used to be with a garden and detached or examples of civil architecture are replaced by multi-storey apartment buildings.
- **Dedifferentiation – similarity:** It expresses the construction of similar structures in different cities. Similar structures are being constructed, avoiding environmental data such as climate, view, topography, and flora. Different cities and structures are dedifferentiated.
- **Not forming qualified environments:** Though multi-storey buildings are constructed with technological means, people's wishes are not answered adequately, and there occurs a break in the bond between urban space and natural environment.
- **No rehabilitation in life standards:** People have to lead their lives in the density and crowd in the constructed environment. They feel stuck and still strive to lead their lives. They wish to live in detached structures with a garden, away from the urban life. However, this looks like an ideal out of reach.
- **Crowd – density:** Themes of crowd and density are expressed through the height and rising number of these structures; building them close to each other; crowd of vehicle, traffic, and people. Caricatures insinuate that this crowd causes irregular urbanization.
- **Spatial change:** Former small size is expressed as the new big size. This situation is exemplified through housing and religious architecture. High-rise buildings are situated among low-rise buildings. While religious architecture used to be big size according to its environment, today they are perceived as small sized among high-rise buildings.

- **Destructions in historic places:** As an expression of “destructive creation”, it defines destroying the old buildings in historic areas and replacing them with new ones.
- **Deterioration in historic places:** Destructions in historic environments; new big and high-rise buildings cause deterioration in the traditional fabric. With a change in dwellers, this fabric begins to be perceived in a different way. The old and the new are not perceived as harmonious, but they exist together with the historically insensitive new ones.
- **Effect of capitalism:** Capitalism, and in relation to it the urge to earn money, is expressed to be one of the motivations of these applications. Estates, which used to host slums, are used for apartment buildings and skyscrapers.
- **Change in the silhouette:** Change in the silhouette is particularly argued through Istanbul. There are symbolic structures in Istanbul such as Galata Tower, Bosphorus Bridge, and mosques. With the addition of differentiated buildings from their environment, introductory information and the silhouette is changed.
- **The wish to modernize:** Though modernization is a universal discourse and promises advancement in people’s lives, it is argued not to take place. The realized applications are said to be destroying the natural environments.
- **Change in the perception of natural environment:** It can be seen that the green fabric is not perceived as a natural factor today. Natural environment is degraded to garden arranging by planting a couple of trees in a concrete area.
- **Globalization avoiding the local:** The global does not wish to exist in harmony with the local; it wishes to exist with its own construction styles, rules, and life styles.
- **Change in the public spaces:** It is the expression of privatization of public spaces and that people no longer use these places. In other words, it is the loss of public space. Ignoring the plan regulations is a theme shown in caricatures.
- **Constructing surplus structures:** As a result of capitalism and the urge to earn money, buildings are constructed continuously, excessively and redundantly. This takes over the cities as an unstoppable reproduction.
- **Constructing new types of structures:** It is shown that, instead of inner dynamics such as shopping malls or residences, structures with plans that are

applied on a global scale are being built. People are described as impartial to adopting new structure types.

When the expressions of caricatures are examined, it can be seen that the problems encountered and criticism on the subject are forefront. In addition to being the definition of opponent discourse in the academic environment, caricatures are a means to the reproduction of daily life knowledge through the practices of daily life.

CONCLUSION

Transformation processes in cities are common as a result of their nature. Cities change through time. Changes have occurred in cities while transitioning from the agricultural society into industrial, and from the industrial society to information society. Cities experience changing processes based on the life standards of the era; social, economic, and political condition. The transformation processes have acquired a different side today. Transformations have been fast in the globalization process and have become radical sizes with respect to the past. Big scale changes have been taking place in the environment where people live and in their living conditions. A period, which begun in 1970s, its effects becoming visible in Turkey in 1980s, has been happening, and politic administrations assumed the swift urbanization and development, and prepared the foundation of this process with the laws and regulations formed since 2000s. Even though these applications are named differently; their scales on a single structure, on a neighborhood, or a city; their radius changeable according to their characteristics, the aforementioned practices are defined as transformation projects.

Urban transformation concept describes as a dilemma for countries like Turkey who want to be significant in the global platform. On one hand there are law makers, practitioners, local and central administrations, global capital, national and international firms, beneficiaries of environments created for the middle and high-income groups. On the other hand, there are those who moved from the city center to other areas and have adopted an oppositional attitude to the practices; specialists, non-governmental organizations, and human rights organizations who express their views on the practices. The resistance of the urban opposition rises as far as the force of the application based on the quality of the application, its radius, and its effect on human life. The subject is argued in popular media as well as urbanization and architecture debate platforms. There can be seen views in newspapers, magazines, and interned which are assumed as written press. Caricatures can also be used as tools to convey ideas. This situation exemplifies the fact that architecture is an interdisciplinary profession, connected to other disciplines and feed from them.

Urban transformation processes are realized or necessary legal procedure passed by political administration in today's architecture. That is why, the process is defined to be positive in the texts or visuals that belong to the politic administration. The critical sides of the urban transformation processes are expressed more in other media organs. The caricatures that express the urban transformation concept focus on sudden transformation, changes in life standards, dedifferentiation and similarity, not forming qualified environments, no rehabilitation in life standards, crowd and density, spatial change, destructions in historic places, deterioration in historic places, effect of capitalism, change in the silhouette, the wish to modernize, change in the perception of the natural environment, globalization avoiding the local, change in the public spaces, constructing surplus structures, and constructing new types of structures.

Excessiveness is another important theme caricatures focus on. This process is expressed in a distressing way. Sudden changes and people's failure to adopt are described. A certain group approving, supporting, and realizing these projects are significant. On the other side, what people experienced in the adaptation process is conveyed with a humorous style. What is worth attention is that the process is swift and what people and nature experience during the adaptation process. Another theme caricatures focus on is how similar cities, buildings, and people are. As earthquakes are among the basic motivations in realizing the projects, caricatures also feature earthquake themes. The fact that neither buildings nor cities are ready for an earthquake is remarked. Crowd, pollution, and excessive structuring brought about by urbanization are other concepts that attract attention. People in the caricatures miss for the old days when a harmonious life with nature was possible while they are trying to adapt to the new environmental conditions. Overcrowd and loss of identity due to density is also shown in caricatures. With the effect of globalization, the traditional is replaced with the modern. Destructions in the historic environment, new mega scale structures, alienation in the historic fabric, the traditional fabric deteriorating in the process of spatial changes can be seen in caricatures. The fact that globalization ignores the local and exists with its own rules are reflected in the drawings. Not following the existing plans, loss of public spaces, public spaces that are passed to other individual in the process of privatization are expressed. In the caricatures particularly featuring Istanbul, the change in the city and longing to the old Istanbul are pointed. Istanbul, as the biggest metropolitan city of Turkey and featured directly in the transformation process is reflected in caricatures. By featuring symbolic places and structures like Bosphorus, Bosphorus Bridge, and Galata Tower, transformations in the city are referred. It is pointed out that the city is not ready for a possible earthquake. What is desired is a low-rise building with a garden, in a natural environment, a life away from the urban life. It can be seen that what is described as

green are pieces of green areas among concrete structures. Exaggeration and focusing on the excessive in caricatures is reflected the construction of surplus structures. While new structures like shopping centers and residences are constructed, the fact that society does not adapt fully to these structures and life they promise is another subject focused on.

Caricatures handling the debatable sides of urban transformation and focusing in the critical sides of the subject are in a way in their nature. Caricatures involve humor. They are means to conveying opinions via the moderate and tolerant of humor, and at the same time, they entertain people by employing the tool of exaggeration. They express events as they are visually instead of verbally or written as is common. They have aims such as attracting attention, being perceived in a short time, making people think and creating awareness while entertaining and making people smile. Their nature based on exaggeration make them closer to the views of the opponent side. The swift process, its large scale, numerous superiority, its difference from the usual and tradition, difficulties people experience while adapting to the new environment, in other words the surprise, being unable to adapt, oddness the current situation brings about on people are held as significant themes.

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