

Productive face of insurgency in space: planning vs. doing

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The impact of prevailing economic policies on urban planning approaches and inevitably on physical built environment has become more visible especially for the discussion on loss or decrease of public realm, public spaces and public involvement in cities. These impacts are basically the privatization of urban public spaces, lack of solid and consistent framework for the creation, design and maintenance of public spaces and the change in the perception of living together in cities (Sorkin 1992; Newman 1973; Carmona 2010). However, the past ten years witnessed urban movements, new bottom-up organizations that force to form their own spaces in different scales all around the world, triggering the question and critique towards the validity of these mainstream arguments of loss of public space and public life in cities within the planning literature. This study argues that although its method, time-frame, aim and actors differ from the known urban public space planning and design approaches, these space production examples present a crucial discussion in terms of the current and future situation of planning approach and responsibilities of urban planner.

These new ways of space production is defined by the concept of 'insurgency in space' by Hou (2010). The increase in the recent approaches in planning such as tactical urbanism, temporary urbanism, Do-It-Yourself urbanism, guerilla urbanism also underlines the changing conditions that calls for a reevaluation of orthodox planning understanding (Shepard 2013; Chase et al. 2008; Bishop et al. 2012; Oswalt et al. 2013). All and alike underline the demand or realization of the need of creating one's own urban living spaces by claiming and transforming them.

The common point of these approaches is the independency of them from any formal urban plan or legal document. They are usually being realized spontaneously on site without any relation to a central authority. These tendencies include reclamation, transformation of public squares, urban parks, in-between spaces, transition areas, urban-public art activities, urban common spaces not only for protests or oppose but also to enrich urban experience or attract attention to a specific problem in an urban space. These simply point out the power of individuals or small groups in space making rather than an urban planner or a political authority. Thus, they seem to be at the opposite site of urban planning at the first glance. However, to question this simple logic and try to make sense out of these recent tendencies of public space creation are the main aims of this study.

Therefore, there are two main headings appear to analyze the situation. The first one is to search for the meanings of these insurgent spaces in comparison to planned (designed) spaces and the second one is to discuss what they mean for the urban planning theory and role of a planner. Therefore main aim of this study is to discuss the processes and results of the 'new' mode of urban public space production patterns within a theoretical perspective regarding the very ontology of planning itself. What has lost in time, what has emerged and what is there today in terms of urban planning would become the umbrella discussion for this aim. This is supported by a visual and self-experience based inquiry in the city of Ankara in terms of space creation regardless of urban planning and design. This example will be compared to the other cities in the world in terms of its actors, impacts and temporariness. Ankara case will be developed further with the specific cases in which individuals or small groups took over the small scale space production processes. Starting with Gezi Protests in Kızılay Square and what followed it afterwards with th help of neighborhood (100. Yıl Neighborhood Initiative) and art initiatives (Ankara Art Initiative), a spatial reading through photography studies between 2013-2015 will be evaluated to understand the productive face of insurgency in space.

The future of planning theory and role of a planner will be evaluated with the reality of insurgent and spontaneous steps taken in urban areas by individuals and small groups. Since, the common point in all of these space production ways is their

independency of a fixed city plan. What do these emergent spaces mean for a plan? Should they be evaluated as meaningful spaces by urban planners and designers since they seem to make the life within a human settlement? What can planning and planner learn from these insurgencies in urban space? will be the main concluding questions to discuss.