

BOOKLET

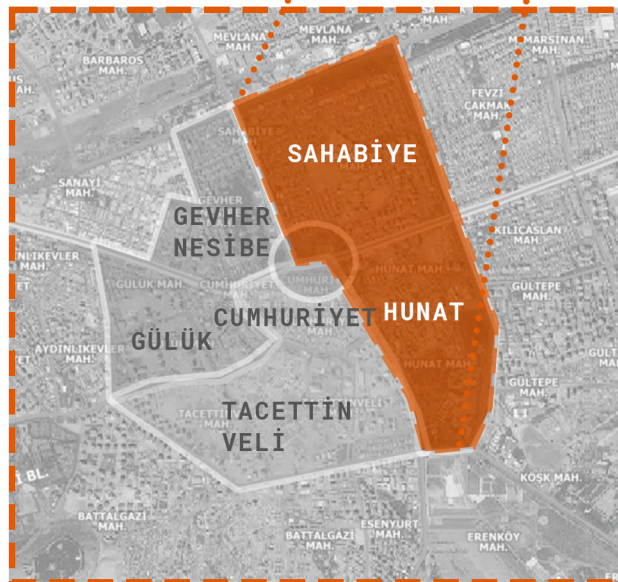
ARCH 501 | STUDIO I

2025-2026 FALL SEMESTER

Instructors: Burak Asiliskender | Özlem Kevseroğlu Kurban

CEREN YILDIZ

2540011005



COURSE CONTENT & APPROACH

This studio explores the city as a layered socio-spatial construct rather than a fixed physical form. Throughout the semester, **Sahabiye, Hunat, Gülük, Gevher Nesibe, Tacettin Veli and Cumhuriyet neighbourhoods** were examined through urban memory, daily life, cultural practices, and spatial transformation.

The course began with an investigation of the theoretical and conceptual foundations of urban form, focusing on the relationship between **space, society, and identity**. Students analyzed both tangible elements (urban form, architectural artifacts) and intangible values (social practices, everyday life, collective memory).

In the later phases, historical transformations and current urban dynamics were explored to establish a **past-present dialectic**. These analyses were then transformed into **socio-spatial projections, proposing alternative spatial narratives and life scenarios**.

Rather than producing a conventional architectural object, the studio approached architecture as a **research practice, emphasizing multi-scalar thinking, critical interpretation, and sustainable urban visions rooted in place-specific dynamics**.

BOOK REVIEW | “SOKAKLARIN ÖLÜMÜ”

In this phase of the studio, *Sokakların Ölümü* by Gürsel Korat was read as a critical text to understand the transformation of urban life and the loss of street culture in Turkish cities. The book discusses how modernization, zoning practices, and changing lifestyles have gradually weakened the social, cultural, and spatial role of streets.

Korat frames the street not only as a physical space, but as a carrier of memory, daily encounters, and social interaction. The disappearance of streets is described as a loss of collective life, identity, and urban continuity rather than merely a spatial change.

Within the studio context, the book was used as a theoretical lens to question the conditions of Sahabiye and Hunat neighbourhoods. It supported discussions on urban memory, everyday life, and the contradictions between past social practices and present spatial realities, forming a conceptual background for subsequent analyses and socio-spatial projections.



URBAN MEMORY WALK

with GÜRSEL KORAT



Building upon Korat's book *Sokakların Ölümü*, the walk focused on tracing the lost streets, erased urban memories, and demolished historical layers of Kayseri. Streets were discussed not merely as physical corridors, but as spaces of everyday life, social interaction, and collective memory.

This experience contributed to the studio by transforming theoretical discussions into on-site observation, strengthening the relationship between urban memory, lived experience, and architectural research. The walk supported a critical reading of the city through its streets, reinforcing the studio's focus on socio-spatial analysis and memory-based inquiry.

STUDIO TALKS



Throughout the semester, ARCH501 Studio 1 hosted a series of **studio talks** with invited researchers and academics whose master's and doctoral studies focus on **urban space, social structures, and architectural research**. These talks created a shared discussion platform where different methodological approaches, research tools, and theoretical frameworks were introduced to the studio.

The presentations addressed themes such as **urban layers, cultural continuity, housing culture, identity, belonging, and socio-spatial reading methods**, often through case studies rooted in Kayseri and similar urban contexts. By engaging with ongoing academic research, students were encouraged to understand architecture not only as a design practice, but also as a research-based and critical inquiry.

The studio talks contributed to the development of students' analytical perspectives, supporting the studio's focus on **urban memory, socio-spatial analysis, and interdisciplinary thinking**, while **strengthening the connection between academic research and studio production**.

SITE ANALYSIS

HUNAT-SAHABIYE

As part of ARCH501 Studio 1, site analysis was conducted as a group study by Ceren Yıldız and Ömer Can Koca in **Hunat and Sahabiye**, the assigned working area of our group.

The analysis was based on **on-site observation, photographic documentation, and engagement with the neighbourhood, focusing on urban fabric, street patterns, building typologies, and everyday spatial practices.** Interviews with local residents and a meeting with the Sahabiye neighbourhood headman (muhtar) supported a socio-spatial reading of daily life, local dynamics, and urban change.

This process enabled the site to be understood as a combined **physical and social environment, forming a key input for the studio's analyses and projections.**



GROUP ANALYSIS

HUNAT-SAHABIYE

SOLID- VOID

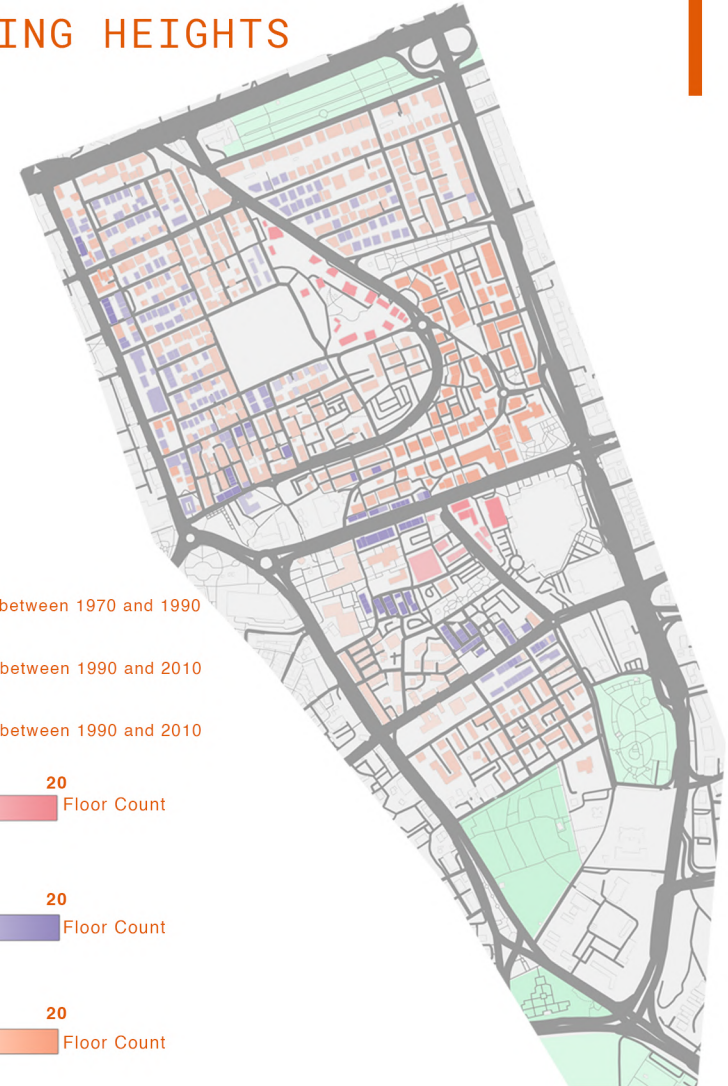
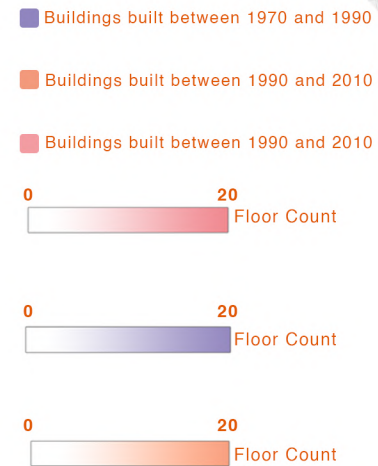


MAIN ARTERIES OF SAHABIYE



MAIN ARTERIES OF HUNAT

BUILDING HEIGHTS



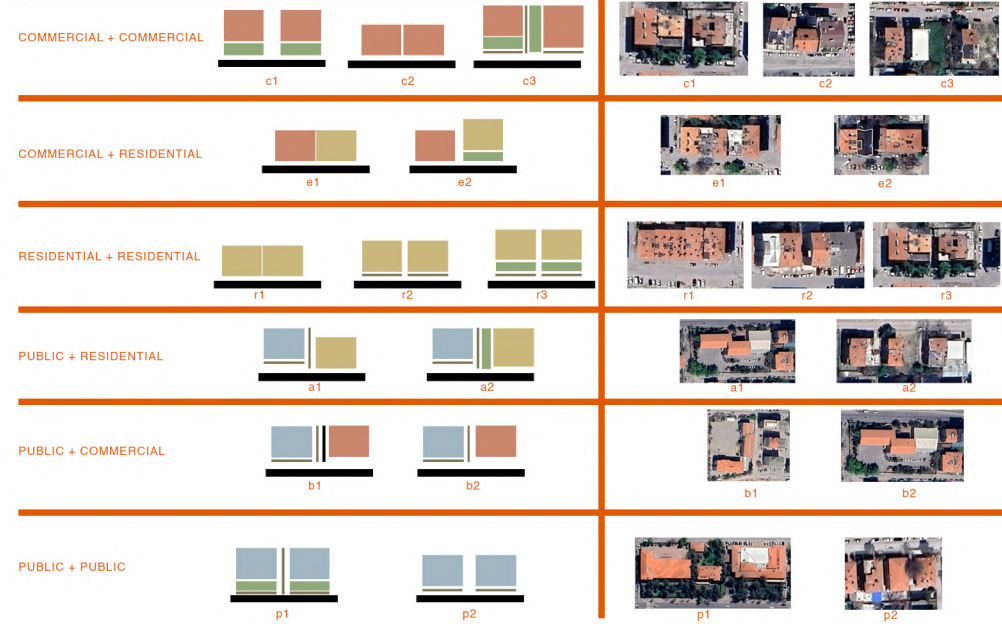
GROUP ANALYSIS

HUNAT-SAHABIYE

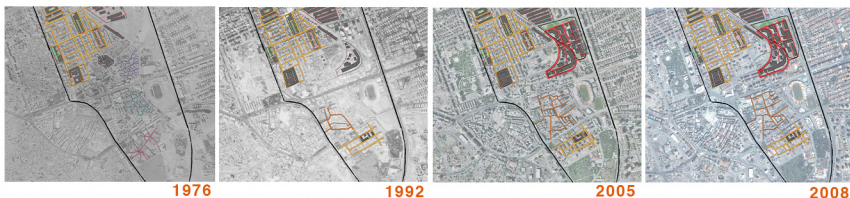
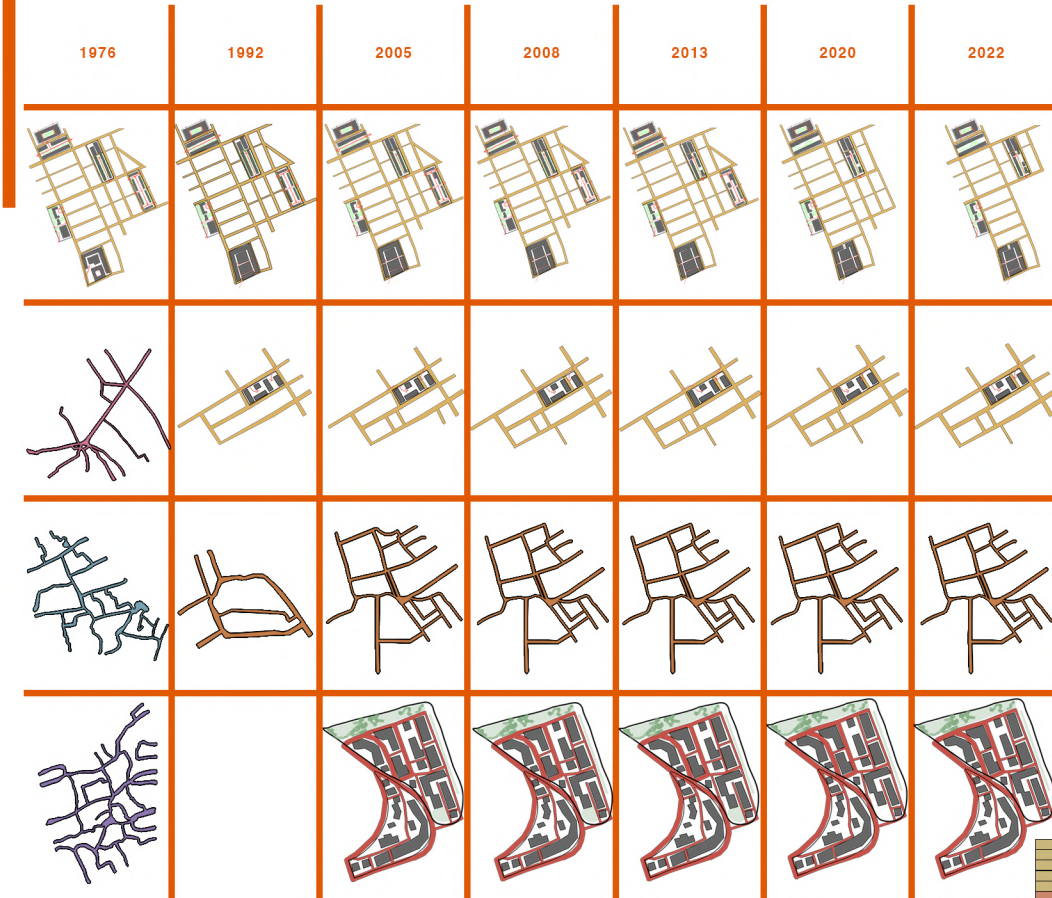
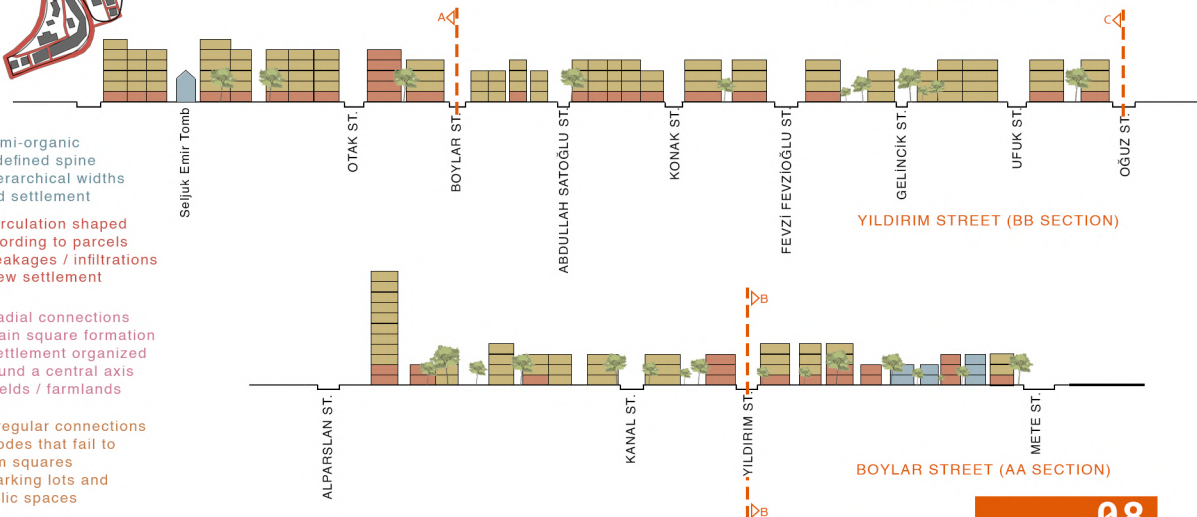


RELATION

SAMPLE



STREET SECTIONS



1976

1992

2005

2008



2013

2020

2022

- Semi-organic
- A defined spine
- Hierarchical widths
- Old settlement
- Circulation shaped according to parcels
- Leakages / infiltrations
- New settlement

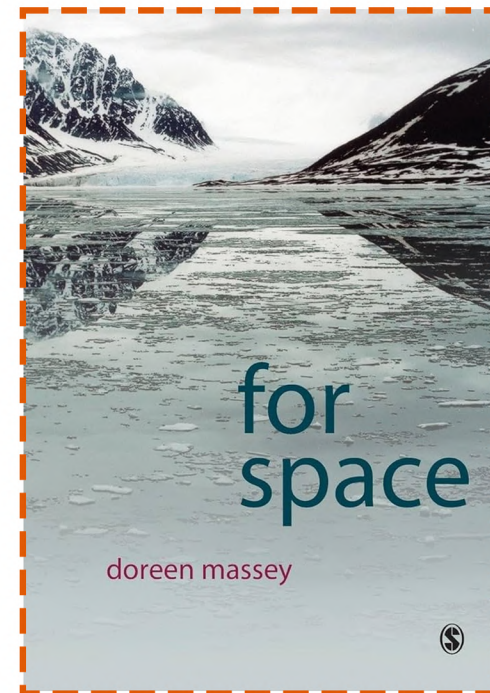
- Linear axes
- Gridal scheme
- New settlements

- Completely organic- Irregular connections
- Clustered / square- Nodes that fail to form squares
- forming nodes
- Curved paths
- Old settlement
- Parking lots and public spaces

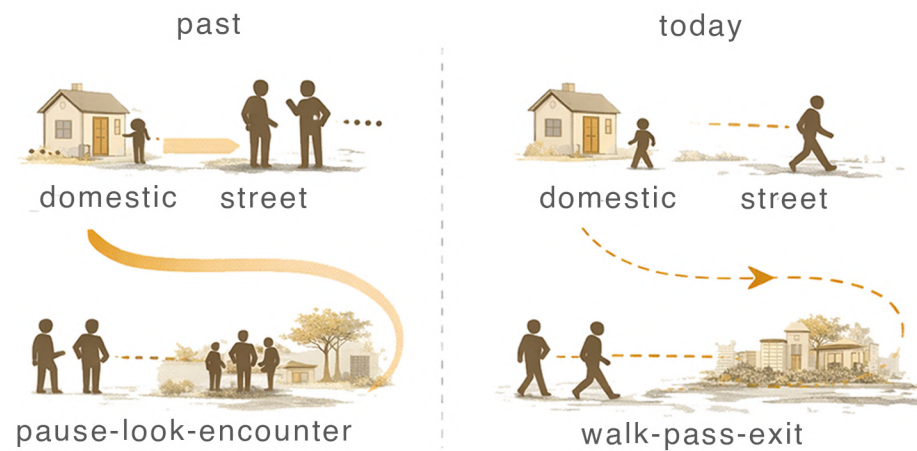
DOREEN MASSEY

openness / multiplicity / relational space

Doreen Massey's theory approaches space as open, relational, and shaped by multiple trajectories. Concepts such as openness and multiplicity supported a reading of Hunat and Sahabiye as dynamic urban environments, where different social and spatial layers coexist and continuously interact.



LAYERED TRANSITION



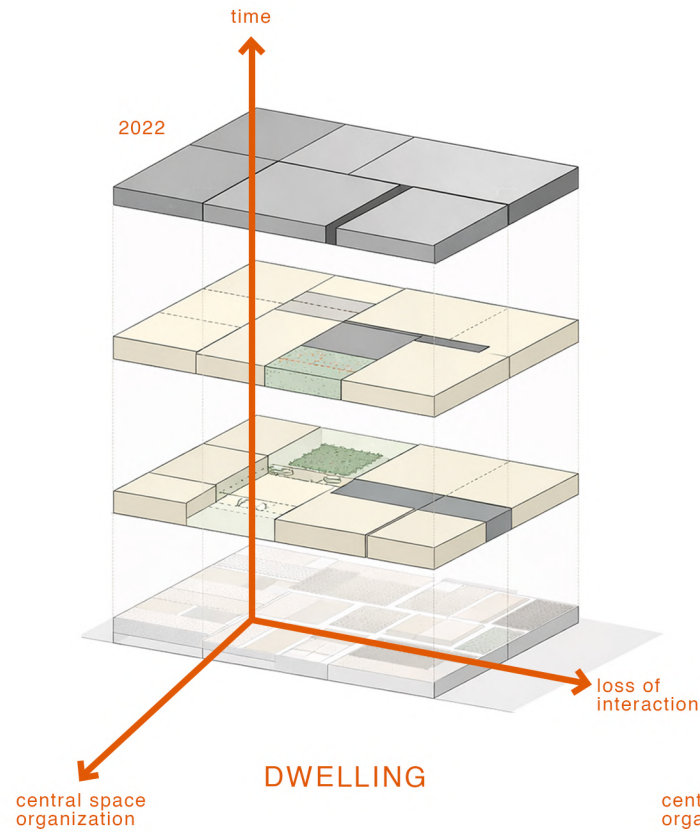
From a domestic street of pause and encounter to a transit-oriented street of passing through.



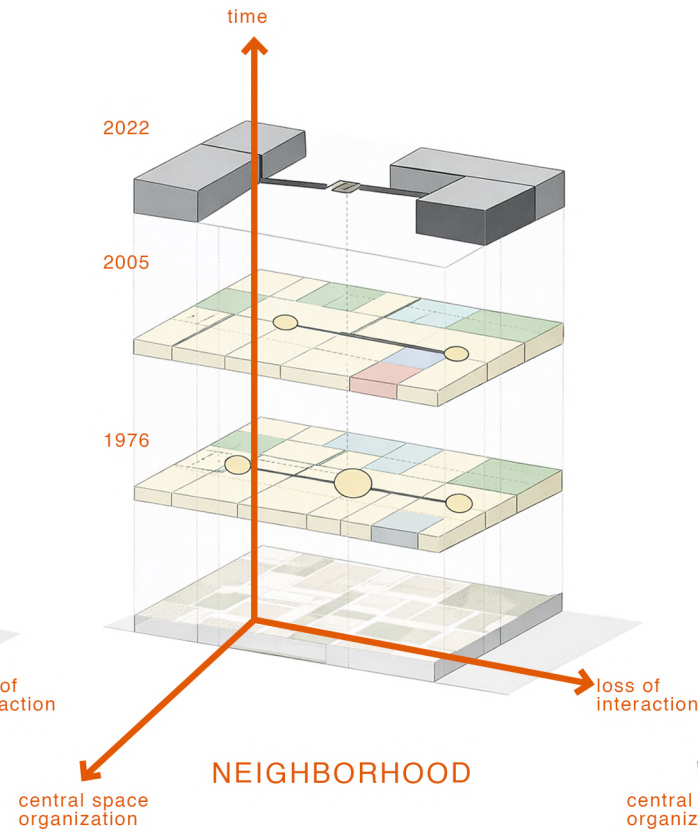
Transition between past and present urban conditions.

LAYERED TRANSITION

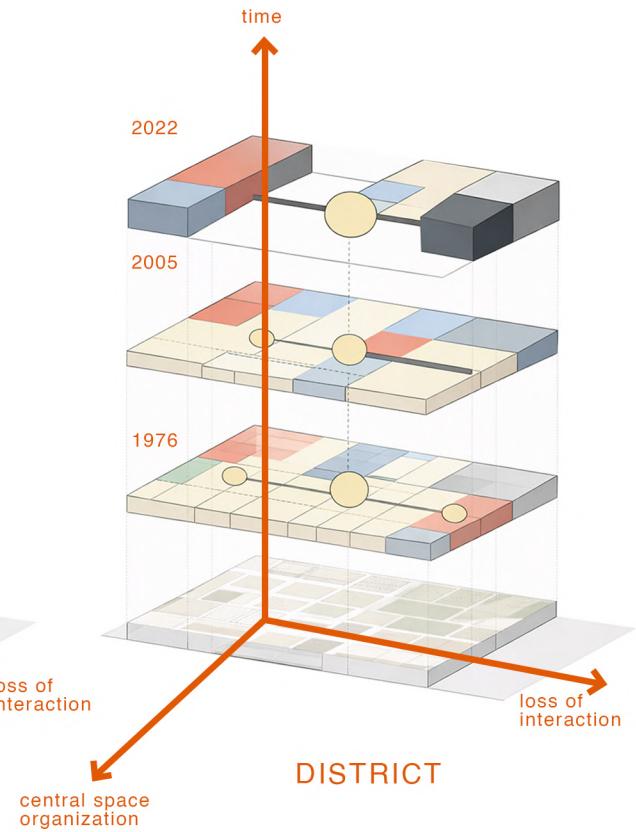
TRANSFORMATION ACROSS SCALES



Over time, physical space remains, but everyday social interaction at the dwelling scale gradually weakens.



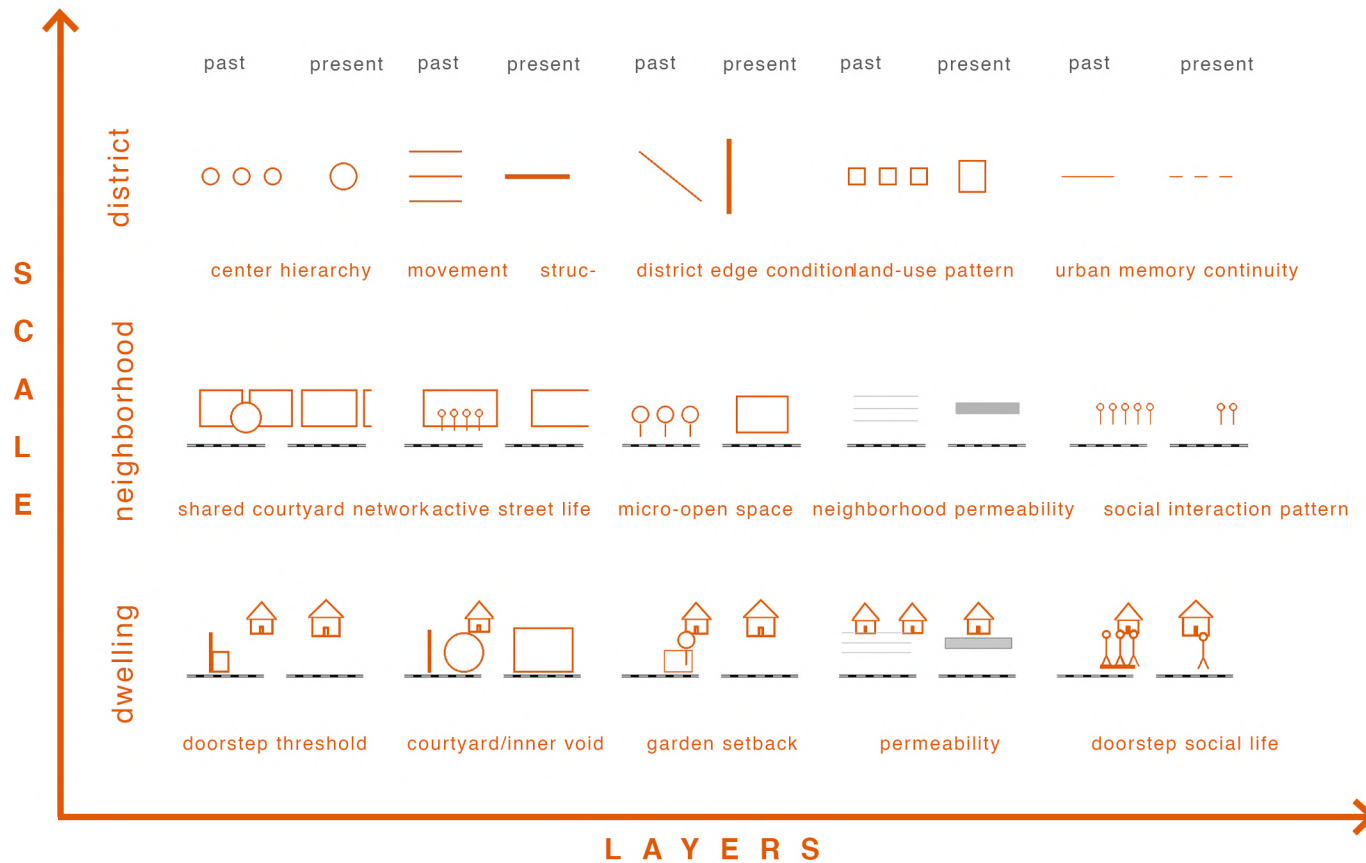
Layered relationships at the neighborhood scale fragment over time, causing shared centers and everyday encounters to weaken.



At the district scale, layers expand spatially but become centralized and rigid, reducing permeability and transition.

LAYERED TRANSITION

ABSTRACTING URBAN LAYERS ACROSS SCALES



CONCEPTUAL GLOSSARY

- a focus point of activity or encounter. The circle defines a space where people, movement, or attention naturally gather. In the past, these nodes functioned as social and spatial centers.
- built units and land-use structure. Varied sizes and groupings indicate mixed-use and layered activity, while repetitive blocks reflect standardization and reduced diversity.
- movement structure and spatial continuity. indicates slow, layered movement that allows interaction and transition. Its continuity reflects a connected urban fabric.
- weakened continuity or residual memory. Express intangible layers such as urban memory or fading social patterns. They show traces of former connections that no longer actively structure daily life.
- everyday circulation. Explicitly indicate streets and paths. They structure daily movement between dwelling, neighborhood, and district.
- visible social interaction. Indicate presence, encounter, and everyday use. Their reduction signals the shift from shared life to individual movement.
- starting point of everyday life. The dwelling is the origin of daily routines. Its relationship to the street defines whether life extends outward or remains enclosed.

LAYERED TRANSITION

QUESTION: How can an open and non-fixed spatial framework enable everyday encounters across fragmented urban layers?

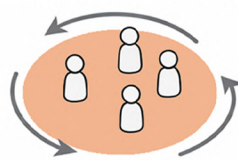
TYPOLOGIES

PAUSE

lack of spaces that allow for pausing within the daily flow



observe-reset

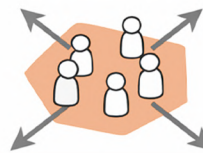


ENCOUNTER

Despite different users intersecting, no interaction



meet-inter-



THRESHOLD

The blurring of thresholds within urban continuity.



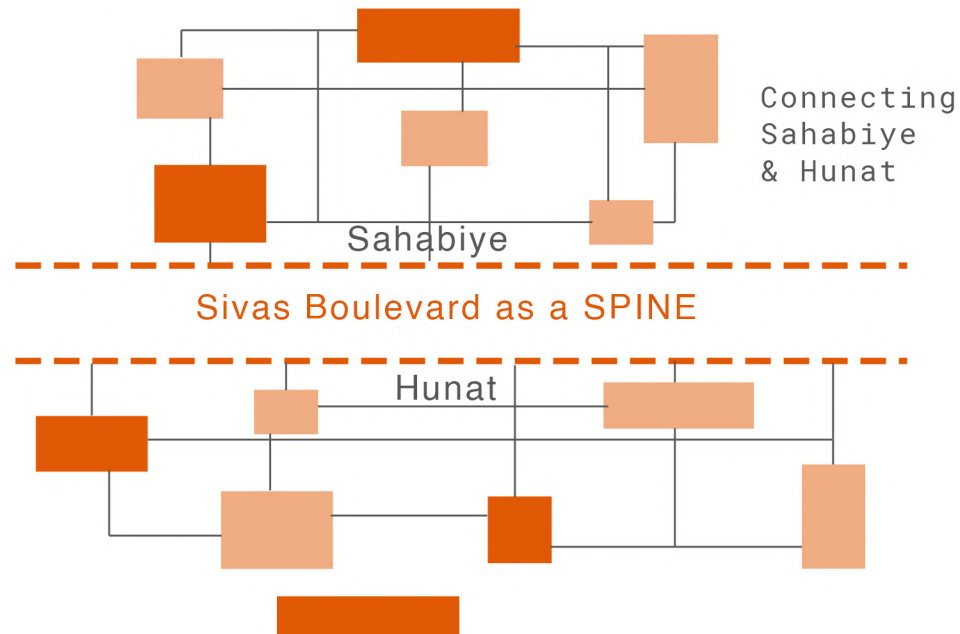
transition-slow
down-
notice



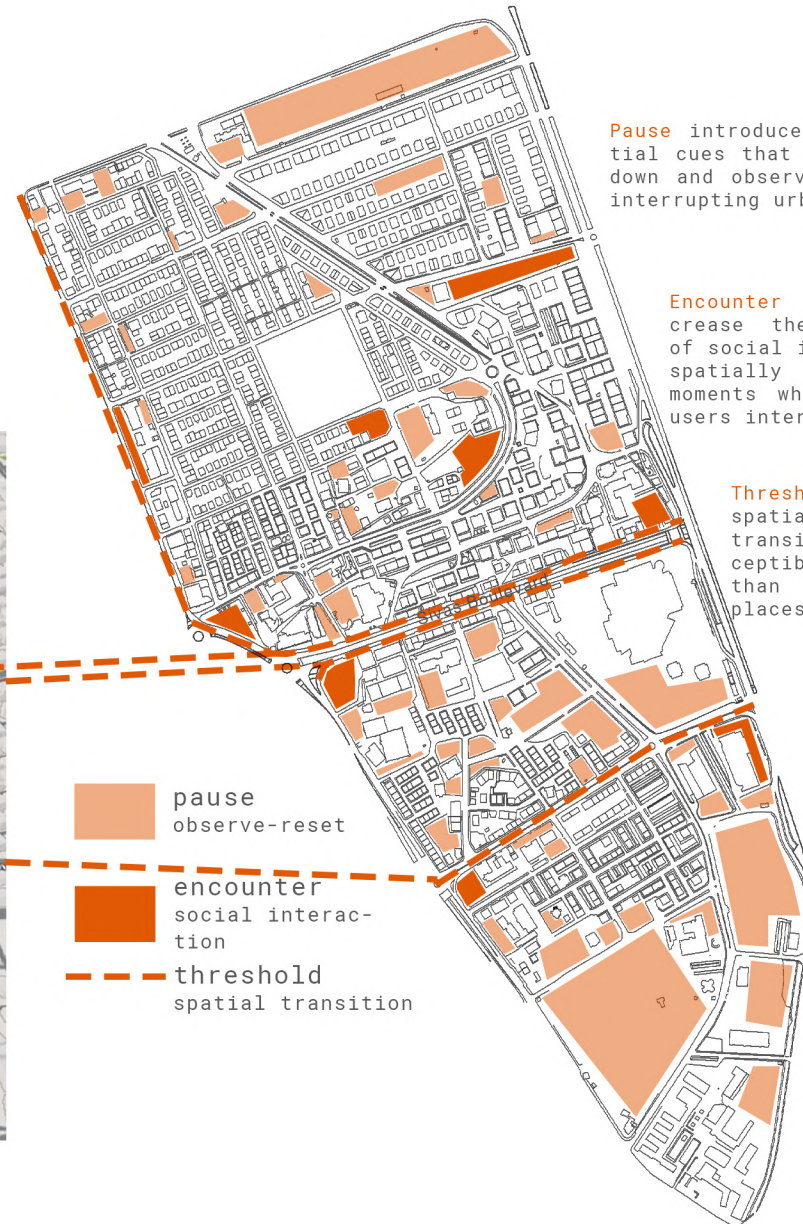
LAYERED TRANSITION

PARAMETER SETS

	Parameters	What Observed	Pause	Encounter	Threshold
	Movement Intensity	Pedestrian/vehicle density, flow type	Medium motion, slowing flow	High and versatile movement	Continuous transition, speed difference
	Everyday Use	Daily use, waiting habits	Waiting, sitting, watching	The intersection of different user	Short-term use
	Spatial Capacity	Physical space, width	Pocket areas, corners	Spacious and flexible areas	Narrow but defined transitions
	Neighborhood Relation	Hunat-Sahabiye Relation	Intra-neighborhood use	Shared/common areas	Interneighborhood threshold
	Visibility & Readability	Visibility, noticeability	Medium visibility	High visibility	Directional readability



LAYERED TRANSITION



Pause introduces subtle spatial cues that allow slowing down and observation without interrupting urban flow.

Encounter points increase the probability of social interaction by spatially highlighting moments where different users intersect.

Thresholds make spatial and social transitions perceptible rather than creating places to stay.

- pause
observe-reset
- encounter
social interaction
- threshold
spatial transition