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Edited by

Bulent Aras, Kenan Dagci

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The International Conference on Social Sciences (ICONSOS) is an New York (USA) based academic network organizing scientific conferences on social sciences. ICONSOS provides the ideal opportunity to bring experts in political science, international relations, education, sociology, statistics, humanities and liberal arts education, public policy, environmental sciences, economics, urban and cultural studies, researchers and practitioners together for exchanging scientific information in social sciences in general. The conferences provide excellent venues for the researchers to present their projects and receive quality feedback.

The ICONSOS International New York Conference on Social Sciences (ICONSOS NY2017) was organized by the Humanitarian Studies Foundation and ICONSOS on 17–19 November 2017 at the Avalon Hotel in New York City. The themes of the ICONSOS NY2017 were Immigration and Refugee Studies, Conflict Resolution and Mediation, Peace Studies, Security Studies, Gender Studies, Globalization and World Politics, Area Studies, European Studies, U.S. in World Politics, Asian Studies, Democratization, Nationalism and Ethnic Studies, Social Movements and Protests, and Populism and Democracy. The conference was well attended by the presenters, discussants and followers, and hosted rich debates on the issues covered in it.

The speakers from the 12 different countries presented their papers in the ICONSOS NY2017. The Conference provided an excellent opportunity for the exchange and transfer of information on new developments in social sciences. Selected presentations from the conference has been further improved by their writers and chosen to be published as chapters in this proceedings e-book. We hope that this e-book will be a valuable source of information for the researchers and the practitioners in the related field of social sciences.

December 26, 2017 Albany NY

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CHAPTER VIII

Identifying Environmental Affordances in Kypseli Square in Athens, Greece [*]

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Abstract

The urban space is characterized by inviting or discouraging qualities for the expression of an action. These qualities were described by James Gibson with the term "environmental affordances" in the homonymous theroy. This theory is used urban designers and environmental psychologists in order for them to understand and explain the way in which urban spaces function. Users interact with the form and meanings that a space provides and attempt different behaviour in specific moments that respond to their needs. However, those needs change through time and thus the form of the space should be transformed. Such a need has arisen for public spaces also in Greece and utilisation of the theory of environmental affordances looks well founded, in order to for public spaces to be evaluated if such is required. In the specific paper, the interest turns towards the area of Kypseli in Athens, an area especially densely populated with different urban and social issues to arise, in time. Based on the theory of environmental affordances, which is briefly presented at the beginning of this paper, understanding of its form and its function is attempted. Finally, a short assessment is conducted by taking into account the contemporary users' needs.

Keywords: Environmental affordances, classification, public square, Greece, Kypseli.

Introduction

Urban Space has its roots in ancient times (Rubenstein, 1992) and continues until today to consists a nodal element of modern city. From its emergence, it consisted a field of both political and economic activation with its zenith during the Medieval period, where it became acknowledgeable as a separate and important unit which, in addition, it consisted a space of negotiations and claim, demonstration of power and strength as well as religious expression (Classen, 2009), a fact that could be expressed as a privilege or a need from city people, versus that of agricultural people.

Nowadays, despite the fact that social and economic conditions as well as technological data are significantly differentiated, the importance of urban space is unique. This fact is obvious based

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on the huge volume of bibliography regarding the examination of human behaviour. Indeed, there is no understanding of spatial and urban parameters without the examination of human behaviour (Webb, 1990; Kyriakidis, 2016) and the behavioural studies contributing to the provision of necessary knowledge to space designers for the bidirectional relation between human, who consist the active member of an activity, and environmental space where the activity takes place.

This particular paper is included in the field of environmental psychology and focuses on the understanding of organization and function of urban squares, under the scope of Environmental Affordances Theory. More specifically, the object of this research is the understanding of elements which urge or discourage behaviours in neighbourhood squares in Athens of Greece. For the research of this specific issue, a square in Kypseli area was selected as a case study, which on one hand it consists a core of a historical neighbourhood of the 20th century which has to show intense contradictory images to its course, and on the other hand is a representative neighbourhood square of Athens, as far as typology, morphology and its function is concerned.

Despite the fact that there are supporters of the square as a satisfactory functional space, there are those who disagree and underline the need for upgrade, a fact that widely concerns the urban space of this specific neighbourhood. Through the utilization of the theory of environmental affordances, it is expected to be presented and discussed the key points of design of the specific space and also to undertake the extraction of conclusions regarding its quality.

Public squares: Destination, function, planning principles

The square plays an important role in the city life, a fact that makes it an important part of its urban space (Zucker, 1959; Communitas, 1960 in Wooley, 2003; Gospodini, 1988; Webb, 1990; Kyriakidis, 2016). Indeed, square and road consist of the space that could be characterized as an open public urban space, meaning that the space which is outdoor and public-owned, where it is freely and equally allowed to access and use it in order for the citizens' to serve their social needs.

The bulk of the literature approaches the square from the morphological point of view. Going back to the Sitte (1989), Moughtin (2003), Carmona, Heath, Oc and Tiesdell (2003), Corbett (2004) and Childs's (2004) work, it is obvious that the form of a square consists of a nodal point, with the "sense of enclosure" to consist common denominator for its spatial identification and definition. Moughtin (2003) adds the sense of centrality, paralleling the role of the square in public life with the outdoor in private life. However, the above reference in centrality does not focus on the morphology of the square exclusively but it mainly refers to the centrality of activities, the vitality of neighbouring land use which, usually, is of public character and particular social interest (Moughtin, 2003; Kyriakidis, 2016).

The above interpretation questions the unilateral morphological delimitation of a square and brings to the foreground individual aspects. In the research work of Childs (2004) regarding the architectural form of public spaces, the square is defined beyond its morphological dimension in terms of functionality and institution. According to Cohen (2001) and Childs (2004), the square, except from its enclosed form, must: (a) have enough size and shape, so that to allow people to communicate and (b) be available to public use, a role which must be protected so that not to be trespass.

The above conditions reflect the fact that squares were formatted in order to serve the needs (commercial, political, cultural and religious needs or/and for defensive, climatical, topographical reasons) of societies (Webb, 1990; Kyriakidis, 2016). In fact, despite the mention of today's decay of urban space (Sarigiannis, 1999; Loukaitou–Sideris and Banerjee, 1998), squares continue to be preserved in urban space for serving relevant functions (Whyte, 1980; Kelbaugh, 1997 in Carmona, et.al., 2003). This opinion is supported by Gehl and Gemzoe (2003) emphasizing that the basic idea of square shaping is their irreplaceable function as communication nodes, as mixing valves

and interaction of the citizens (Garvin, 1997). The same opinion is supported by Gospodini (1988) and Webb (1990), who express the square as a microcosm of urban life, offering to its users, the field of action, relaxation, recreation, entertainment, purchasing opportunities, exchange of opinions and ideas, political expression, religious rituals and observation of other people.

From the above, it is resulted that the functions of squares are almost identical through time. However, alternatives are presented for the method of categorization, depending on the approach of each researcher and the dimension on which he focuses on. Thus, one approach that focuses on natural dimension of a square can focus on morphological characteristics as well as the way by which the square articulates in urban fabric (shape, vicinity with roads/pedestrian roads, etc.). Accordingly, a research that focus on experiential dimension of the square can focus both in mental and social approaches and to understand the square based on the activities that take place or even based on their symbolic function as well as the collective or personal memory. Due to the bidirectional relationship that is detected between shape and function of urban space, the understanding of squares is best to be accomplished by using the combination of these two types of information (Kyriakidis, 2016). An example is Zucker's approach (seein Michael, 1968) who presents five (5) types of squares based on their morphological set-up and the observed kinaesthetic relationships.

The above issues define the spatial unity of reference of this specific paper, while in the next unit, emphasis is given in literature review regarding the theory of environmental affordances which is utilized for the research of the issue in question in this specific paper.

Theory of Environmental Affordances

As noted above, this research lies within the scientific area of environmental psychology that, from the 2nd half of the 20th century (Clayton and Saunders, 2012; Cassidy, 1997), examines the relationship of the environment and human behaviour (Scholz, 2011). Until today, hundreds of researches took place in the wider field of environmental psychology, emphasizing in the understanding of future users demands of spaces from architectures and urban designers (Canter and Craik, 1981) or in the study of human behaviourin relation to the environment. Depending on the theoretical approach that is used in each case, the researches in the field of environmental psychology usually fall in three theoretical currents (determinism, interactionism and transactionism) that propose the basic frame of organization of this scientific area (Moser and Uzzell, 2003). From these currents, the approach of transactionism gives important emphasis in interaction between elements of environment and humans since both parties are exclusively defined in the frame of their interaction, regarding one to the other (Moser and Uzzell, 2003).

From the representative transactionistic theories, are the ones of behavioural settings, place theory and environmental affordances (Moser and Uzzell, 2003; Mehta, 2013). The theory of behavioural settings focuses on the expression of specific behavioural patterns that relate to the people's place of stay, while the place theory focuses on the cause that led people in each area as well as their opinion of said area.

The theory of environmental affordances relates to each expressed behaviour in relation to the capabilities that the environment of action provides each time. Environmental affordances, according to the supporters of reductive approaches (see inTillas, Vosgerau, Seuchter and Zipoli Caiani, 2017), in contradiction to the values and meanings that fall in personal judgement, are objective since they are reversed in natural and objective properties of the environment and the person. On the other hand, for the supporters of non-reductive approaches, environmental affordances consist of relational properties since they arise from the interaction of person-environment under the logic of the system. Trying to delimit the meaning, as environmental affordances are considered as the opportunities that the environment or another element provides to its observer for the expression of some action (Warren, 1984; Greeno, 1994; Clarck and Uzzell, 2002). Environmental affordances

are not treated as elements which are characterized from "mandatory" or "invitational" qualities but as elements of the environment that make it capable of the development of some activity as well as the living of aesthetic experiences (Mehta, 2013). Same are Greeno's ideas (1994) who claim that one affordance relates the environmental characteristics to one activity-reaction of a person who has such ability. Ability, on the other hand, relates characteristics of a person to an interactive activity with some elements of the environment which is characterized from specific affordances. Simplifying the specific perception, it is noted that different affordances which characterize one environment or object, do not result to its use and the expression of specific behaviour, because the achievement is either to support or to restrict some activities (Gibson, 1979; Tillas, et.al., 2017) and not to activate them, exclusively. As noted by Tillas, et.al., (2017), referring to the research work of Turvey (1992), the environmental affordances consist "realistic possibilities" for the expression of some action. The above opinion is also supported by Gaver (1996), showing one example related to the accessibility of one space based on the height in which it lies. Even though, the altitude difference consists a parameter which guides a person negatively for the movement towards a space with this specific characteristic, nevertheless, does not conclude that a user will not move towards the specific place.

Table 1. Classification of affordances according to Fallah and Fallah (2015). Information was also added by Gaver (1991).

Category	Criterion used for classification	Human Action					
Potential affordances	Actor's involvement	Affordances that exist independent of the actor's perception of action					
Actualized affordances		Affordances that formed in connection with actors					
Positive affordances	Benefit for actors	Environmental opportunities					
Negative affordances		Environmental dangers					
Nested affordances	Spatiotemporal manifestation	Some spatial interference while maintaining identification					
Sequential affordances		Consecutive spaces and creating defined paths for the users					
Individual affordances	Perceiving acting agent	Affordances that are specific to individuals. User differences according to age, sex, disabilities					
Shared affordances		Affordances shared for a specific group, for example a group that have similar actions in a given time					
Perceptible affordances	Nature of the	Existing clear and present affordances					
False affordances	perceptual	Apparent affordances that do not have any real function					
Hidden affordances	information	Affordances that are not defined and there is no perceptual information available for an existing affordance					
Space-space affordances	Interacting architectural spaces	Designing adjacent spaces in which success of one space ensures the same for the other					
Space-actor affordances		Designing each space for a specific action by the users					
Physical/Functional	Nature of the	Physical behaviors that are related to human body					
affordances	corresponding						
Cognitive affordances	action/behavior	Design elements that lead to recognition of something					
Emotional affordances		Environmental qualities that are related to human emotions					
Social affordances		Characteristics of a space that provide social gathering					

Mehta (2003) also uses a relevant example mentioning the method in which environmental affordances can be altered. It is noted that the change in altitude level in which lies an object or a point of environment consist such a way. However, it is underlined that even though environmental affordances are not altered, their use and meaning is diffentiated according to the interpretation and meaning that is given by people based on their needs, on personal and cultural background of the latter (Lang, 1987 in Mehta, 2013). Norman (1988 in McGrenere and Ho, 2000) supports a relevant opinion, who relates environmental affordances with the living experience as well as cultural background of people. Thus, different categorizations arise, based

on different criteria, some of which were attempted to be concluded by Fallah and Fallah (2015) (Table 1).

The categorization of theoretical meanings contributes significantly to the best understanding and development of theoretical parameter in the case study. As it is understood, an affordance can belong to more than one category, based on the criteria that are used in each case. For this reason, in the analysis that follows for the Kypseli Square, the characterization that is given each time can be included in more than one category.

Case Study: Kypseli Square in Athens

Selection of Study Area

Aim of this research is the understanding of the elements that urge or discourage behaviours in Kypseli Square (Figure 1). The selection of this square was carried out with designing criteria as well as historical, social and economic criteria. The former refer to the chosen square which consists of a square of ellipse shape with neoclassical elements, like the organization based on a linear symmetrical axis (Figure 2). The circumferential transit of vehicles –something historically established (Figure 3) – is also a basic characteristic of its shape since it limits, to a degree, the transit of pedestrians who receive assistance for their movement from and towards the square with existing triangular–shape islets in three out of the four edges of the square.

The second criteria characterize both the neighbourhood of Kypseli as well as the square that consists of a reflection of the socio-economic reality. Kypseli, in contradiction to its physiognomy at the beginning of the 20th century, which consisted a space of gathering of wealthy middle urban class of Athens, nowadays consists of one of the most problematic neighbourhoods of Athens, with high densities population (Bakogiannis, Kyriakidis, Siti, Siolas and Vassi, 2015), that is mainly populated by petty peppers (high percentage of unemployment is observed), some old local families (bourgeois) as well as immigrants, locating class stratifications. The multi-nationality is one of the basic characteristics of Kypseli with 25% of its population to be immigrants of various nationalities. The big part of locals does not feel bad for the existence of immigrants and feel Kypseli as their neighbourhood.

Figure 1. The location of Kypseli Square in Athens, Greece. Source: Google Maps, Own elaboration



Figure 2. The line of symmetry in Kypseli Square which is designed taking into account the morphology of the neighbouring Fokionos Negri pedestrian street. Source: Google Maps, Own elaboration.



Figure 3. Kypseli Square through time (1925–1955–2014). Source: http://rise.gr/uncategorized /24-fotografies-apo-tin-palia-omorfi-patision/, http://gerontakos.blogspot.gr/2013/11/blog-post_4967.htmlandhttp://thesecretrealtruth.blogspot.gr/2014/09/4-9-photos.html.



Geographically, Kypseli Square is located almost in the centre of the area and consists the starting point of another outdoor public urban space, that of the Fokionos Negri pedestrian street. Taking into consideration those characteristics that were described briefly in this unit, the basic affordances of Kypseli Square are presented below.

Methodology

Understanding the elements that encourage or discourage behaviours in Kypseli Square is attempted to be implemented by recording the basic affordances of the square. Therefore, the research is qualitative and necessary information is collected by using qualitative methods such as observation and interviews which are two methodological tools that are used in such researches (Lynch, 1960; Whyte, 1980; Wilson and Anderson in LaGates, 2011; Kyriakidis, 2016). The reason why these two methodological tools were mainly used lies in the fact that: interviews helped in discovering an objective opinion (LeGates, 2011) that confirmed by the observation of everyday life and social behaviour (Jorgensen, 1989; Mehta, 2009; Ranjit, 2011). Thus, they consist of a key

strategy to measure social phenomena (Reiss, 1971) and is has also been used by the supporters of the urban sociology Chicago School (Abbott, 1997).

This research, which is based on theoretical framework, emerged from literature review regarding environmental affordances and the way people behave in public spaces, was implemented by using data derived from fieldwork conducted in summer 2017. Tabulation was used in order for the data to be presented in an easy way. Moreover, photos and rough illustrations were also used. Visual research was also used in order to understand various observations. Finally, it was crucial to know the history of the wider area and thus a history review was conducted with emphasis on the morphology of the square and of the urban fabric as well as the way urban spaces of Kypseli were used.

Regarding limitations, language barrier was the major limitations since it was difficult to communicate with foreigners who do not speak Greek or English.

Analysing the case study district

The analysis of the environmental affordances for Kypseli Square was conducted in 3 levels: (a) the level of integration of the square in the urban context, (b) the level of the square as an entity and (c) the sub-zones of the square that were resaulted from design and operational criteria.

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(a) Level of integration of the square in the surrounding urban context

Kypseli Square consists a historically established public open space, as depicted by an old picture from 1925 (Figure 3), characterized as a large open public space in the middle of low-height buildings of a low-density neighborhood. After the war, the streets surrounding the square expanded and as a result the surface of the square decreased while the height of the surrounding buildings increased. Even from this period, the square was designed using point symmetry and it was an important transportation node. Taking the above into consideration, it could be supported that the square at that time-period was converted into and functioning more as a big round-about (Figure 3). In its present form, the square has diversified in terms of design, as some other buildings have also been constructed. The existence of Fokionos Negri Pedestrian Street at the southwest of Kypseli Square consists the main element that interrupts the sense of enclosure, a quality referred to Cullen's work (1961). The static form of Kypseli Square is altered by the existence of Fokionos Negri Pedestrian Street and their dependency. Indeed, the landscape perceived by the observer from one space to another varies partially, like in the case of linear spaces, as Curran (1983 in Jakle, 1987) points out. Although there are other public open spaces in a close proximity with Kypseli Square, do not play such an important role due to their size and their role.

An important feature related to the surrounding area of the square is the land uses and the various activities that take place there. After recording the uses, it was found that the surrounding buildings housed a variety of activities on their ground floor. Typical is the presence of restaurants and cafeterias, banks, the post-office and retail activities. Concerning the stories of the building, the majority of them consists of housing estates. This is something Figure 4. Parked motorbikes and cars make for pedestrians hard to move. Source: Google Maps.



Figure 5. A small door for servants was located next to the main entrance of a housing block. There is one apartment block preserves the façade and the old entrance. Source: Google Maps.



quite important as it ensures the presence of people around the square, allowing visitors of the area to feel safe, as highlighted by Jacobs (1961).

Between the square and the surrounding buildings, there are roads on all four sides. This is something important as far as the access of visitors at the area is concerned, since it allows people to access the square directly either by car or by public transport. On the other hand, there is another side of the coin as the surrounding roads act as barriers to pedestrian flows because they discourage them to approach the square. Similar is the criticism that can be attributed to the issue of parking that is obvious on both sides of the aforementioned road segments (Figure

4). However, people usually visiting the square believe that the parked cars act as barriers for their movement, especially for elderly people and people with disabilities.

Finally, another quality that needs to be evaluated is the absence or not of historical references. Examining the facades of the buildings around the square, it was found that no many historic references are made about them, as most buildings were constructed during the second half of the 20th century and therefore no many old facades are conserved. Exception is the existence of a building which maintains its old facade in which two separate doors are located. One of them was used only by servants while the bigger one was used by the owners of the apartments (Bartatilas, 2015).

(b) Level of the square as an entity

Although historic references made by the surrounding buildings are limited, however the symmetric design of the square allows to people to consider some historical patterns. Contrary to its earlier form, the current form of the square is not designed with point symmetry but with a line of symmetry (Figure 2). This line is defined by the statue of Konstantinos Kanaris (the official name of this square is Konstantinos Kanaris' Square) that is located slightly eccentric to the geometric centre of the square and the circular fountain located in the eastern part of the square. Visitors at the square recognize these two points as focal ones.

Εικόνα 6 α-β. Public card-phones and telephone booths in Kypseli Square. Personal Archive.

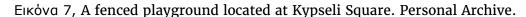




It seems that they function as landmarks, according to Kevin Lynch's theory (1960), since they are primarily perceived as meeting places and are known to all the interviewees. Apart from the symmetry, another historic reference is related to the existence of public card-phones (Figure

6a). Today, they are used on a limited basis due to the fact that the use of mobile phones is widespread. However, even now, they are integral parts of the square and they are recognizable by the visitors at the area. That is the reason why they have not been removed. On the other hand, telephone booths (Figure 6b) located at the southeastern part of the square are now ignored by the visitors as their use have changed over the time. Now are used as informal bulletin boards.

It is significant that in the design of the square, perceptible boundaries around the square were predicted. These boundaries are the flower beds as well as the trees rows. As a result, a free passageway was created on the outer side of the square and the sense of centricity was stressed.





Thus, the square can be recognized as an entity subdivided into two separate parts. To those parts a third one can be added. This one is the playground (Figure 7) defined by a high fence. However, it should be noted that the placement of the playground is not random. Its shape and its location is related to the existence of the Fokionos Negri pedestrianized street. Therefore, it seems that the playground and the pedestrian routes surrounding it consist an extension of Fokionos Negri Street within Kypseli Square (Figure 2).

The tree trunks around the fence of the playground probably aim to alleviate the severity of the fence as a boundary. On the other hand, the existence of the trees in other parts of the square aim at highlighting the boundary between the inner and the outer part of the square and strengthening the sense of enclosure at its inner part. However, their existence was rated as a positive parameter by the visitors as they allow them to stay at the square during sunny days.

Figure 8. Greeks prefer sitting on a coffee shops. Coffee shops and taverns use the square by locating tables on its periphery. Source: Personal Archive.



Figure 9. Women sitting in a bench under a tree in Kypseli Square. Source: Personal Archive.



Figure 10. Men sitting on the fences (wright) and playing board games (left) Source: https://www.greecetravel.com/matt-blog/2009-6-20.htm



(c) Level of the sub-zones of the square

The outer part of the square function more as a pavement than as an active part of the square. It was observed that most of the people did not want to visit the square but they were passing through. Some others were passing by in order to visit the inner part of the square. That is why this part of the square consists an open space with no special configurations. Exception is the existence of some planting pots and trees.

Regarding the surface occupied by this sub-zone, it should be noted that disparities are observed. Indeed, its surface at the eastern side of the square is almost twice than the one at the west side. Four kiosks are located at the edges of the square. The kiosks are focal points as attract people to the square.

At this sub-zone, privatized areas are existing. These areas are leased by the owners of cafeterias and restaurants in order to expand their business activity (Figure 8). Their goal is to attract more customers as Greeks prefer to visit this type of space than the public parts of a square. Indeed, customers of these cafeterias and restaurants are mostly Greeks. Both men and women visit these areas.

The benches (Figure 9) are located both at the outer part as well as at the inner part of the square. Most of them located under the trees. People prefer to sit in these benches during daytime. On those benches, most of the people observed were individuals who stayed for approximately 10–15 minutes. Sometimes, they speak each other and short conversations usually take place. Moreover, small groups of 2–3 people and some couples were observed. Along the corridors existing in various parts of the square, the benches function more as game–tables (Figure 10). People prefer to gather at these specific points and play specific games on a daily basis. Concerning their profile, most of them are immigrants, middle–aged men. Their preference is related to their mentality, their habits as well as to their income.

Table 2. Classification of affordances observed – Level (a)

Criterion used for	Category Affordances in Kypseli Square – Level of integration of the square in urban fabric						quare in the
classification		High and dense buildings around the square	Existance of neighbouring open spaces (Fokionos Negri pedestrian street)	Land use mix	Four streets around the square	Parking	No many historic references
Actor's	Potential	X	X	X	X	X	X
involvement	Actualized						
Benefit for	Posittive	X	X	X			
actors	Negative				X	X	X
Spatiotemporal	Nested			X	X		
manifestation	Sequential	X	X			X	X
Perceiving	Individual						X
acting agent	Shared	X	X	X	X	X	
Nature of the	Perceptible	X	X	X	X	X	
perceptual	False						
information	Hidden						X
Interacting	Space-	X	X	X			
architectural	space						
spaces	Space-				X	X	X
	actor						
Nature of the	Physical/	X			X	X	
corresponding	Functional						
action/behavior	Cognitive		X				X
	Emotional						
	Social		X	X			

Table 3. Classification of affordances observed – Levels (b) and (c)

Criterion used for	Category	Affordances in Kypseli Square – Level of the square (as an entity and subzones)						
classification		Square divided into 3 sub-zones	Symmetric Design	Trees	Benches setting	Fences	Privatized places by restaurants and cafeterias	Fenced playground
Actor's	Potential	X	X	X			X	X
involvement	Actualized				X	X		
Benefit for	Posittive	X	X	X	X	X		
actors	Negative						X	X
Spatiotemporal	Nested	X					X	X
manifestation	Sequential		X	X	X	X		
Perceiving	Individual	X	X		X			
acting agent	Shared			X		X	X	X
Nature of the	Perceptible	X		X			X	X
perceptual	False							
information	Hidden		X		X	X		
Interacting	Space-	X					X	
architectural	space							
spaces	Space-		X	X	X	X		X
	actor							
Nature of the	Physical/	X		X	X	X		X
corresponding	Functional							
action/behavior	Cognitive	X	X			X		
	Emotional							
	Social				X		X	X

When the benches are occupied, people perceive the affordance to sit by looking at the fountain or at the low fences defining the flower beds. People who choose these points as sitting places are mostly young men (Figure 10).

Finally, it should be noted that the inner part of the square usually functions as a playground. Many parents choose the square in order to visit it with their kids that can meet other children and socialize. Most of the children observed are boys that play football or ride a bike.

The observations presented above were attempted to be categorized according to the classification of environmental affordances pointed out at a previous unit. Each affordance can be assessed by using various criteria. Table 2 and 3 categorize the various affordances observed.

individuals was about 10-15 minutes. Sometimes, it was observed that individuals sitting in these points communicated each other for a little. The majority of the people sitting in a bench in Kypseli Square are in groups of people of the same sex. When the benches are occupied, people perceive the affordance to sit by looking at the fountain or at railings that define the flower beds (Figures 9 and 11).

Concerning land uses, there is an intense land use mix: banks, post office, retail, restaurants, coffee shops and housing.Land use mix consists of a positive affordance since it provides motivations to potential users of the square in order to stay there for a while. Simultaneously, due to the fact that the square is a lively one as many people use it, people feel safe (Jabobs, 1961).

Conclusions

Urban environment affects people's reaction and as a result urban designers seek to create good environments and successful public spaces. The degree in which people use such a space relates to how successful this space is. Thus, behavior studies focus on how people use urban spaces as well as to the parameters of the space that contribute to specific people's reactions. These parameters and characteristics could be named environmental affordances. In each environment there are specific affordances and when urban designers enter the scene and create new ones, they try to response to users' needs. In other words, designers' work is to add some other affordances to the existing ones; hence, the urban environment in which we live is not some preexisting setting but a mix of previous historical and natural references and new elements created in order to face contemporary people's needs.

Taking the above into account, this research paper focused on studying Kypseli Square, which is the central square of one of the oldest neighborhoods of Athens. It is located in a close proximity from the city center and it is the focal point of the neighborhood and one of the main transportation nodes of the wider area. Many people visit the square every day, most of which are immigrants or foreigners. Most Greeks prefer visit the taverns that are located on the periphery of the square. This could be considered as a reason for redesigning the square in order to create affordances that attract Greek residents. However, this need was not documented as the affordances available seem to function properly. Indeed, many positive affordances were available in Kypseli square, such as the tree rows, the benches and their location, the fences that define the flower beds and motion paths and the playground which is located in a cognitive continuity of the neighboring Fokionos Negri pedestrian street.

However, socio-spatial diversification was observed in the square. It is believed that this diversification is a result of:

- (a) Greek mentality and their ideas about relaxing in urban space. More specific, when people want to enjoy an urban space, they prefer to visit coffee shops or restaurants located in them.
- (b) Economic situation of foreigners living in Kypseli. In their majority, they have low income and they prefer to entertain their selves in a cheap way.

The bet that should be gained in Kypseli Square is how to eliminate this socio-spatial diversification. This could be made by enhancing some qualities of the square that are now weak. However, this cannot be answered at this stage. This topic should be examined further in order to understand the various socio-economic motivations that support or oppose to the form of the square.

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