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## GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND BUILDINGS: A TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE

**Derya Oktay** 



City is not a problem... It can be a solution!

Avoiding mistakes in urban planning and design at early stages could genuinely lead to sustainable cities and buildings. Scattered developments in the periphery of the city: A threat to urban ecology, self sufficiency of the city and the urban economy.



Istanbul, Turkey



Between Shanghai and Wuxi, China

#### Where are the green areas?



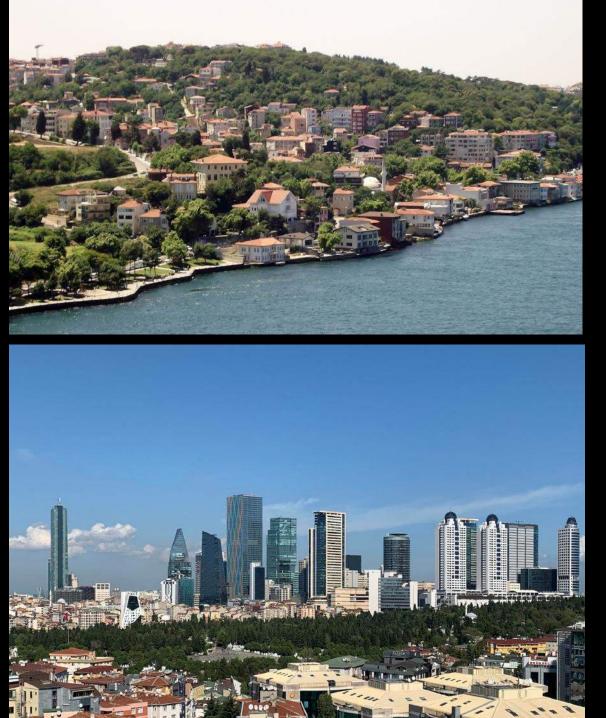
Ankara, Turkey

 Low-density, car-oriented, suburban style, in some cases randomly placed developments enclosing cities: socially isolating, segregating and alienating; no sense of place; no sense of belonging, no perceived borders...

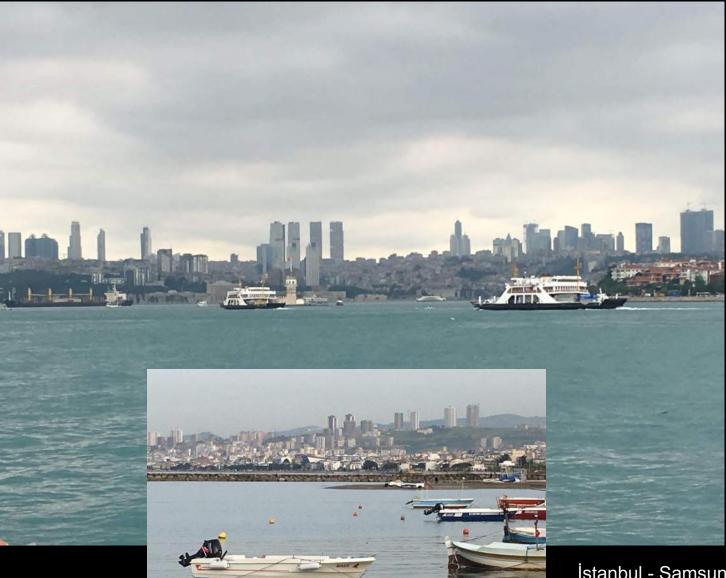


Most urban and suburban development during the past 50 years has been relatively generic, with little sense of place, history, or social-cultural distinctiveness. NO IDENTITY...





Istanbul



İstanbul - Samsun







Seoul

#### The result when the human factor is neglected in planning and design



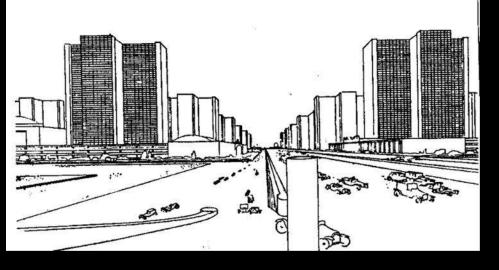
Fragmentation in the city centre Torn out original fabric with overscaled, inappropriate buildings. Lack of social use in the city centre.





#### Shouwbergplein, Rotterdam

Pershing Square, Los Angeles



The City for Three Million – for Paris (1922) Le Corbusier and Jeanneret, architects



Ataşehir, Istanbul.

# The need for learning from traditional models

These incremental changes imply a more critical state in cities of traditional societies where transformations in the urban level are still visible.

The traditional cities are excellent examples to learn from regarding various dimensions of sustainable urbanism. The traditional Turkish (Ottoman) city is one of these excellent models for green and sustainable developments.

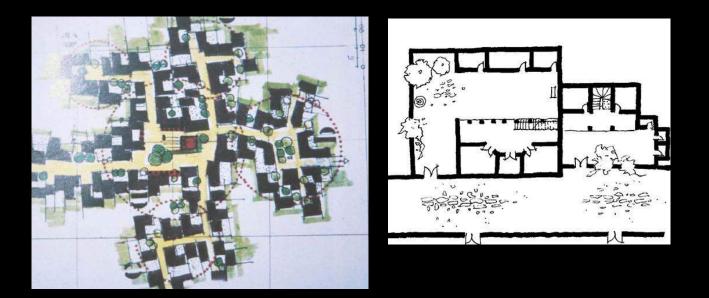
## **Traditional Turkish (Ottoman) city**

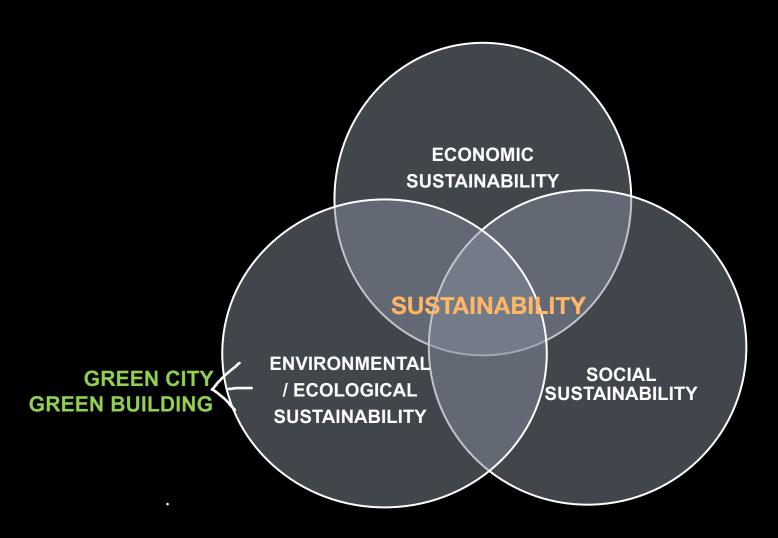
- Compact settlements and buildings which are sensitive to natural environment and people
- The city centre defined by the mosque, the hammam, the coffee house, and arasta...





- There was a step-by-step transition between public and private areas
- The district (mahalle), street and buildings were well integrated
- There was a direct relationship with nature
- There was a harmony with tradition and customs





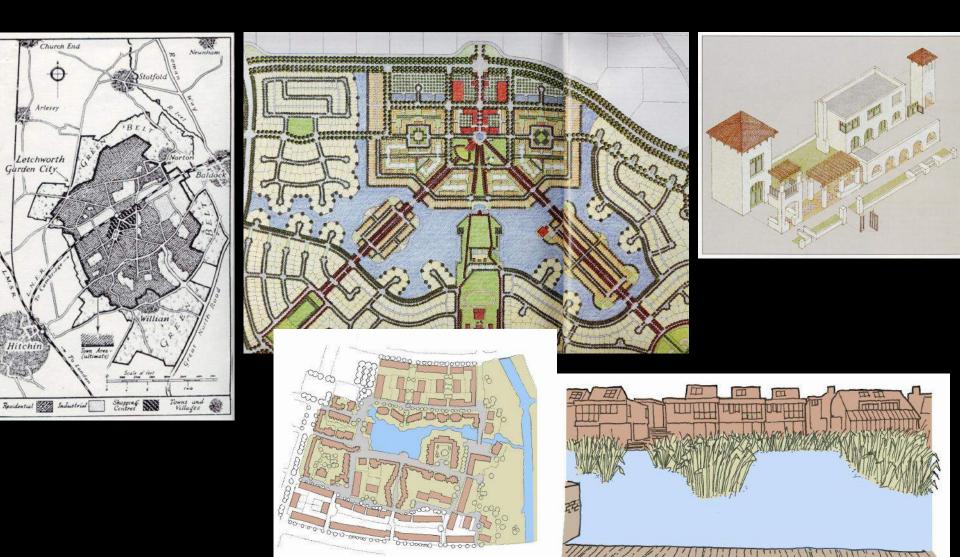
### The codes of sustainability

- Design with local characteristics (identity / character / sense of place)
- Climatic design / Renewable energy sources
- Human-centered design (Pedestrian priority / Equity / Justice)
- Self sufficiency

\*\*\* A transdisciplinary approach requires these codes to be respected in all scales from the single building to the city.

#### The first 'planned' green cities/settlements (Garden

City – Ebenezer Howard, Letchworth Garden City,1898; Laguna West - Peter Calthrope, 1993; Ecolonia - Lucien Kroll, 1994; ...)





Goteborg





Delft

#### The need for integration movement systems

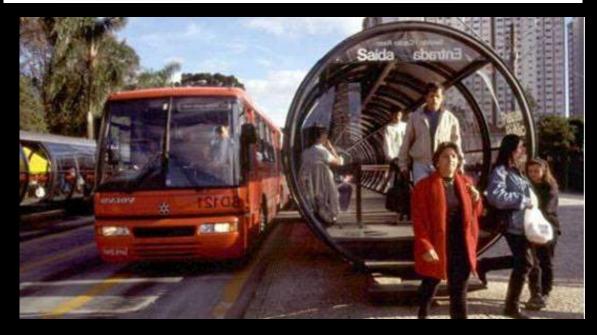




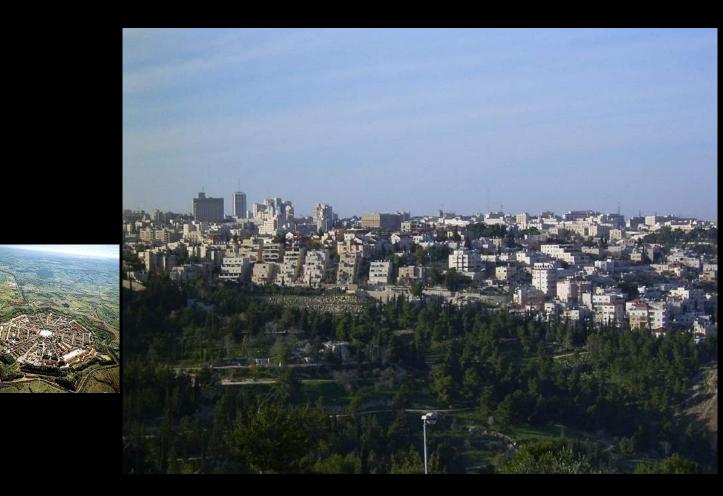


Boarding tubes with ticket machines inside

Bus lanes separated from cars



#### Green belts as definers of the cities and neighbourhoods



Palmanova

Jerusalem (2005)







Super Block, Barcelona





Goteborg

#### Mix-use and vitality in the city centre





#### Pedestrian friendly urban spaces



#### Sustainable regeneration



Transformation of the motorway to a boulevard with a series of green plazas, Boston







#### Sustainable regeneration





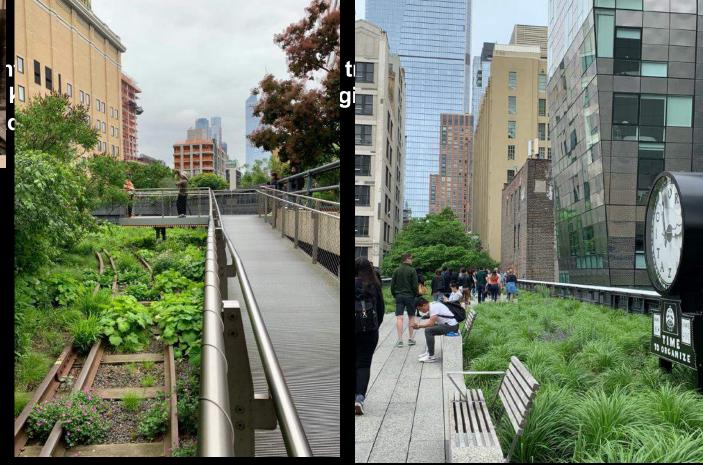
Cheonggyecheon River Urban Renewal Project, Seoul, S Korea



Boston Commons (underground car parking) - Boston

#### Sustainable regeneration: High Line, NY









## **Social sustainability**

- Social interaction / ties
- Participation
- Sense of place
- Continuity
- Safety
- Sense of community

© Derya Oktay

Barcelona

## **Economic sustanability**

#### Growth and innovation supporting creativity



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Cubic Houses, Rotterdam (Piet Blom)

#### Green environment vs Towers





Briant Park, NY





## A sustainable urban regeneration: Galataport





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# The Need for Genuine Green (Ecological and Sustainable) Architecture

### What is Green Architecture / Sustainable building?

Green buildings are designed to reduce the overall impact of the built environment on human health and the natural environment by efficiently using energy, water, and other resources, protecting occupant health and improving employee productivity, and reducing waste, pollution and environmental degredation.



'Green building' does not mean a building decorated with greenery all over! A building is green if there is an ecological sensitivity in its situation, sun-orientation, pasif solar design, choice of materials, etc.

#### Ecological Sensitivity integrated with creativity



#### Old and new residences in the UK



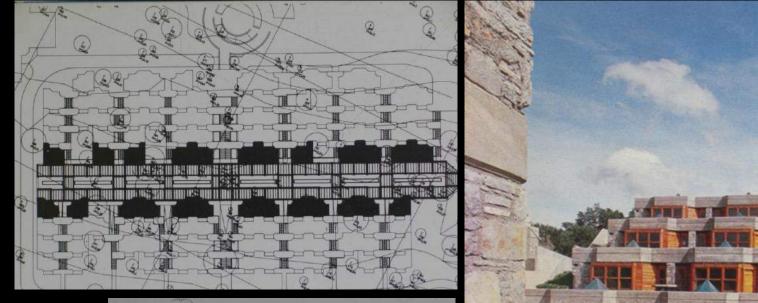


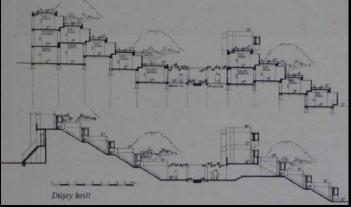


## Oba Holiday Village (Cengiz Bektaş)













#### **BedZED** Beddington Zero Energy Development

- The only full-scale attempt to create a zero-carbon neighbourhood in the UK: BedZED in London.
- The unique aim of BedZED: to use only energy from renewable sources generated on site.



#### Compact development / Brownfield site

#### Walkable environment Street space prioritizing pedestrains and cyclists





# **Energy saving ideas**

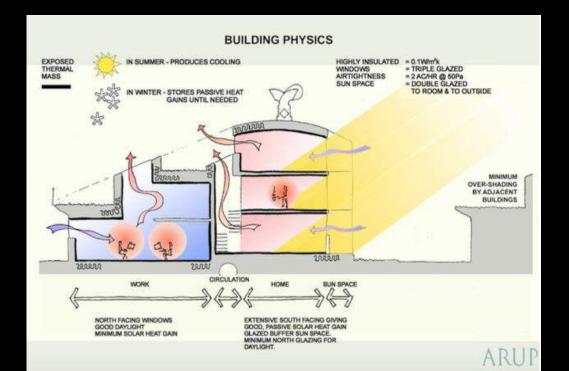
- 3-storey walk-up type townhouses
- South-facing blocks / cross-ventilation through the windows opening on different sides
- All units with their own outdoor space in the form of balconies and small gardens at grond, first or second floor level.





#### **Innovative features**

- Its own combined heat and power system burning wood chips
- A 'living machine' sewage system
- A pool of electric cars
- Photo-volcaic panels on the conservatories of every flat.



#### Special ventilation system





# Sustainable travel and transport

- Public transport with less than 10 minutes-walk / Incentives for bike use / Reduced car parking and road space
- City car Club to provide a car-sharing scheme which includes an electric vehicle.



## What do we need?

A radical shift towards a transdisciplinary strategy for sustainable urbanism integrating ecological sustainability and socio-economic sustainability at all scales, without foregetting that

> a city can never be considered 'green and sustainable' without green and sustainable buildings!



# Derya Oktay

<u>https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Derya-Oktay</u> LinkedIn: <u>https://www.linkedin.com/in/deryaoktay/</u> <u>deryaoktay@maltepe.edu.tr</u> <u>de.oktay@gmail.com</u>