Hierarchy of Territories in the Context of Safety Need in the Mass Housing Settlements: Sample of Kaşüstü/Trabzon

[1*] R.A. **Ceren Ünlü Öztürk**

[1] *Faculty of Architecture, Karadeniz Technical University, Trabzon, Turkey*
E-mail[1]: ceren.unlu@ktu.edu.tr

[2] Assoc. Prof. **Tülay Zorlu**

[2] *Faculty of Architecture, Karadeniz Technical University, Trabzon, Turkey*
*E-mail[2]: zorlutulay@ktu.edu.tr*

Abstract

Safety is one of the basic needs of people. In order to meet the need of safety, people create borders with behaviourally or physically. In the past, the cities are defended against the threats by border elements, which were mostly located around the cities. Nowadays, the rings of the borders have become narrower due to the complex structure of cities. In this context, different spatial implements and border elements are created in the mass housing settlements that give importance to safety. The provision of hierarchy of territories –including private, semi-private, semi-public and public- is important in the mass housing settlements in the terms of meeting the safety need. The aim of this study is to examine the existence of the hierarchy of territories in the sample of mass housing settlement that give importance to safety. For this purpose, firstly, spatial implements to meet safety need are discussed. Then, the implements for meeting safety need were analysed in the selected settlement of mass housing. This analysis based on two parameters. First is the existence of the hierarchy of territories and the other is the quality of the boundary elements that define this hierarchy. The data for the analysis were obtained from mass housing project and visual documents, which are collected by fieldwork. With the analysis made, it is concluded that the hierarchy of territories and border elements should be created in the housing areas with considering the whole urban settlements.

Keyword: Safety Need; Mass Housing Settlement; Hierarchy of Territory; Boundary Elements.

1. Introduction

The need is defined in the Turkish Language Association's dictionary as, the missing thing, and requirement. Necessity refers to a obligation also it is a condition for individuals to carry out their actions in society (Kahraman, 2014 ve Atasoy, 1973). Maslow listed his basic needs in the society from the most basic to the most complex (Figure 1). These are; physiological, safety, belongingness and love, esteem and self-actualization needs. (Korur, Sayın, Oğuzalp ve Korkmaz, 2006).

713
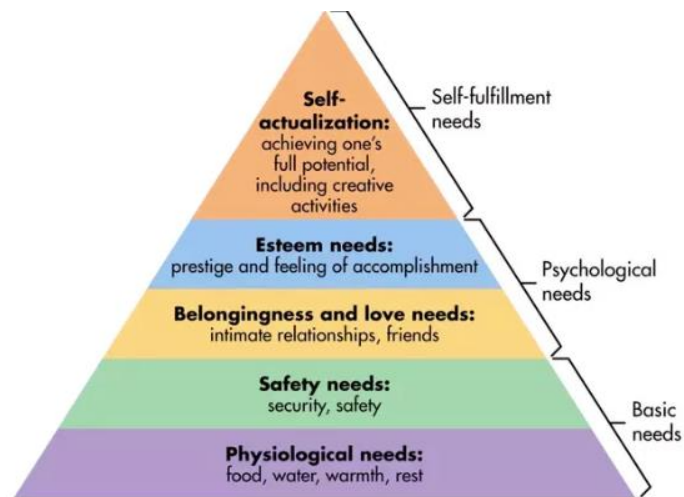
Figure 1. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs (URL 1)

One of the most important responses of the people to meet the security needs is the territorial behaviour. The territory is fed by the need for protection / protection, which is the basic instinct of human behaviour. Territorial behaviour is defined as the area where individuals or groups restrict the use with the sense of ownership, and which they protect with physical or social rules and symbols. People have created it to feel safe (Çakın, 1988 ve Lang, 1987).

Based on the definition of territory, it is possible to express the basic characteristics as property and belonging. While ownership provides legal ownership of the area, belongingness emotionally enables the individual or groups to own the space. In these two cases, the ownership and defence of the field is realized. Different actors and scales define Territory. For example, while a house creates a territory for the family that uses it, the territory of the country creates a territory for all citizens of the country. In both cases, the actor or the actors have a situation of securing space and providing security (Lang, 1987; Lovell, 1998 and Kahraman, 2014).

In the past, there were borders around the cities, and now there are borders in the cities. Especially the mass housing settlements, which are located in the cities and contain social facilities and borders, are create boundary. The closed mass housing sites are marketed with the security phenomenon, which promises to eliminate the security concerns resulting from the increasing number of cities and the increase in the heterogeneous structure. In this context, middle-upper and upper-income groups prefer closed mass housing sites with the idea that they can live in relatively safe houses by separating them from others (Cihan and Erdönmez, 2018).

Newman's works are important in the context of security needs for the mass housing settlements. Newman has established a relationship between crime rates and design in mass housing sites and stated

714

---

that security could be ensured through environmental design. According to Newman one of the most important ways of achieving this is to organize the spatial hierarchy, which is define clearly territory in the residential areas. This spatial hierarchy is described as private, semi-private, semi-public and public form, from private to public. Each stage refers to a certain territory. The territories defined in the residential areas are safe areas where individuals or groups defend and feel as if they belong (Lang, 1987; Altman and Chemers, 1989).

In the spatial hierarchy, the most important element that distinguishes the spaces is the property that defines the territory. In addition to the ownership of a place, another important element is accessibility. In this context, the characteristics of the boundaries created in the space affect the access of the space and show the ownership of rights.

Depending on the accessibility of the property and the boundary element, spaces in residential areas can be defined hierarchically (Özsoy and Kahveci, 2005, 2006). In its simplest terms, as an example of spatial hierarchy in a residential area (Figure 2), an apartment is a private place, the backyard of the apartment is a semiprivate space, limited to elements such as walls or fences that prevent others from accessing. The front yard of the apartment is a semi-public area with a permeable boundary and permits access by others. The street that connects the front yard of the apartment is a public place (Lang, 1987).
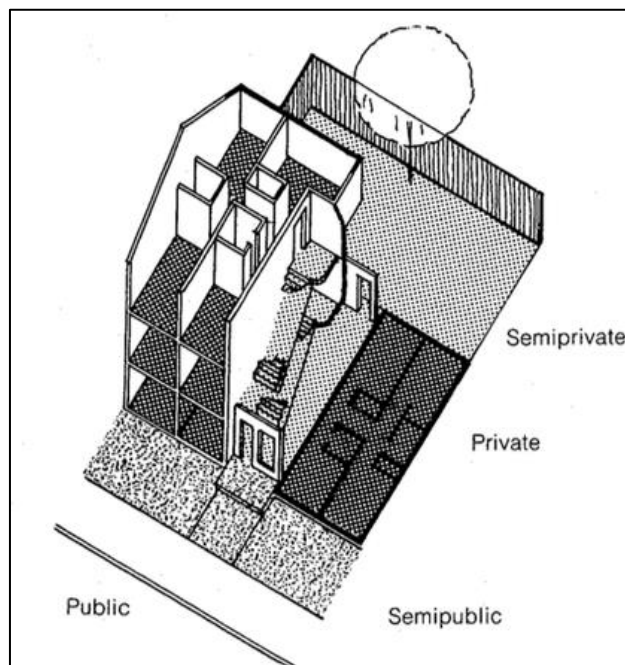
Figure 2. Spatial Hierarchy in the housing parcel (Newman, 1974)

Private Space

The private places are the places where the individual needs are met, the special needs are met, the areas, that are connected to the interior or inside the buildings are under the control of the user (Minister, 1987; Erdönmez and Akı, 2005). The private places correspond to the highly personalized places expressed by Hussein El-Sharkawy (1979) as central to the spheres of domination. The defense function is very high in private places and access to these areas is restricted by the user's request (Minister, 1987 and Lang, 1987).

Semi-Private Space

Places that are likely to be owned by users, which may include shared use of a home or other private property, refer to semi-private spaces. The backyard of a house is an example of a semi-private space. Although it belongs to the house, it can be seen and observed from the outside. However, property owners may restrict it when access is requested. (Minister, 1987 and Lang, 1987).

Semi-Public Space

Spatially perceived to be specialized for a particular group of users, areas that are less prone to being owned by users than semi-private areas and designed for specific residential groups. It is open to people who start out of the housing groups that are designed for them and there is no limitation on entry. Common areas designed within residential groups can be shown as examples (Lang, 1987; Cihan and Erdönmez, 2018).

Public Space

Public spaces can be expressed in the simplest sense as areas accessible to all. If the minimum social rules are complied with, everyone has the right to use public spaces. Foreigners encounter in these areas and find the opportunity to observe and recognize each other (Cihan and Erdönmez, 2018; Altman and Chemers, 1989; El-Sharkawy, 1979).

Kostoff (1999) defines the public sphere as a common ground that connects society with people in which they carry out functional activities. The most important function of these urban spaces is to express social life, including children playing, celebrations and collective actions. It extends from the streets to squares and parks (Cihan and Erdönmez, 2018; Gehl, 2001 and Madanipour, 1996). The need for security in public spaces is especially emphasized on the streets. Jacobs (1969) stated that the streets should always be active and should be controlled by the inhabitants and employees there. In this context, it is suggested to create crowded sidewalk life, to create interaction within the society, to surround the streets by buildings and to provide supervision on the streets facing the streets (Jacob, 1969).

716

Figure 3 shows the hierarchy in order of private, semi-private, semi-public and public, areas that should be in the residential areas As a result of connecting to public spaces without a gradual transition from private areas, it is stated that people have a feeling that they encounter an area that exceeds their control. It is argued that when people are connected to the public space from semiprivate and semi-public areas, which are referred to as transition regions, people do not feel that they have lost control (Newman, 1974; Lang, 1987 and Abughazzeh, 1999).
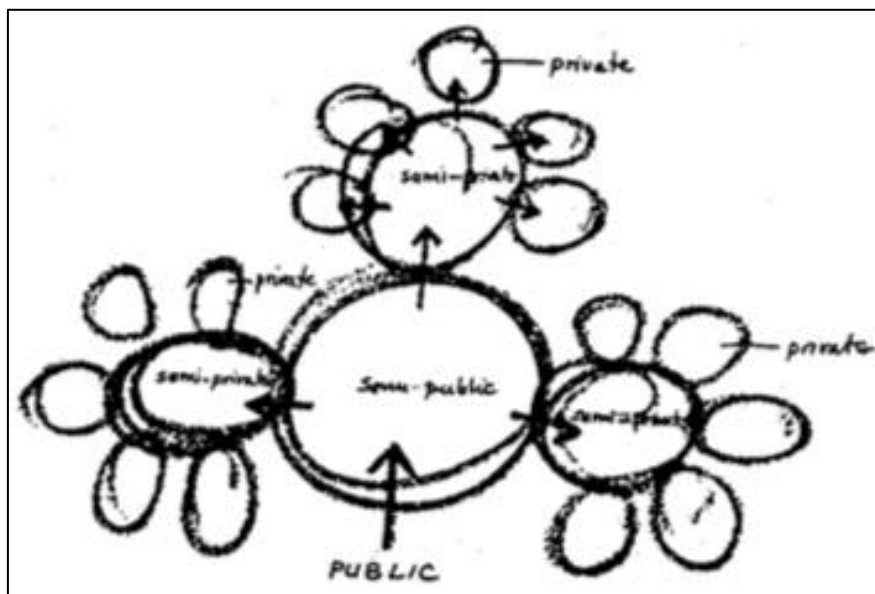
Figure 3. Spatial hierarchy in the residential area (Newman, 1974)

2. Study Area and Method

Trabzon is developing in the east towards Yomra and in the west towards Akçaabat. Kaşüstü neighbourhood, which is located on the periphery of the city, stands out with its housing, tourism and service investments. In this context, the spatial hierarchy is questioning in the Kaşüstü Neighbourhood. It is possible to divide the Kaşüstü into four zones in general (Figure 4). The first zone consists of villa type-sites with more commercial activities. The second zone is a region where housing projects take place in the vicinity of the hospital road especially after the opening of Kaşüstü Hospital. Apartments and the mass housing projects are located in the third zone also industrial area is included. The fourth zone has a rural character, which has not been transformed, into urban areas. The second zone is the most suitable for the purpose of the study. Because of that second zone (Figure 4) is selected as a study area.

717
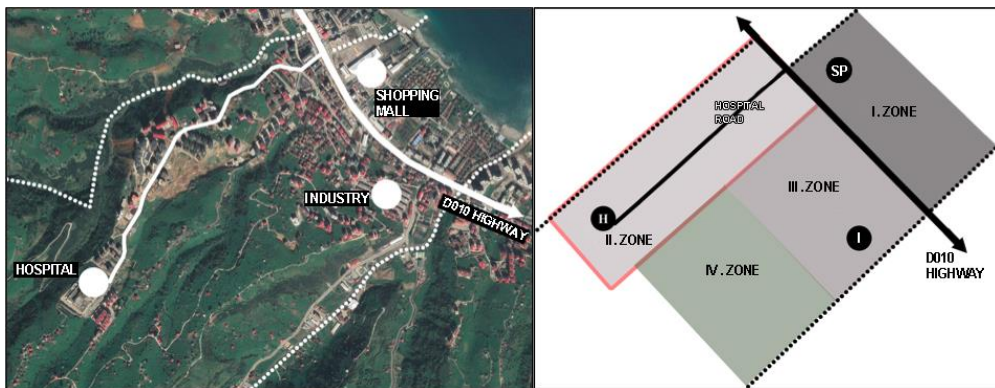
Figure 4. Kaşüstü and its zones

In the second region, it is seen that there is development around the Hospital Road, which is about 2 km long. At the intersection of the hospital road and the coastal road, there is commercial use as well as residential use and there is also apartment type building. Approximately 1 km to the right and left of the road to the south of the road from the area connected to the coastal road to the green areas are mainly located. Since 1 km of the hospital, housing projects have started to take place on both sides of the road (Figure 5). Within this 1 km area, the only public building in the second district is the mosque and the commercial space available to everyone. In this context, the question of spatial hierarchy is the route between these two public uses and the housing projects on both sides of the route (Seyri City Houses, Pearl Prime, Kaşüstü Aquamarine, Green Town).

The area where private ownership exists has been accepted as private place and the areas where common private ownership exist has been accepted as semi-private areas. Semi-public areas are defined as areas designed for specific housing groups, but accessible to everyone. Areas designed for everyone's use and where everyone has a right to use has been accepted as a public space. The mentioned assumptions were questioned both in the project plans and in the field study in Seyri City Houses, Inci Prime, Kaşüstü Aquamarine Houses and Green Town mass housing projects. As a result of these interrogations, the spaces were identified and the existence of the hierarchy was determined.

718

Figure 5. Second Zone of the Kaşüstü

3. Findings and Discussion

Existing of spatial hierarchy was questioned for each project separately. Seyri Şehir Houses and İnci Prime housing projects are completed. Aquamarine Houses and Green Town projects are still on going. The schematic representations of the projects completed in this context are based on the current situation, while the schematic representations of the on-going projects are based on the plans and visuals shared by the companies. For each project, spatial identification schemes have been created and all of them are combined and a spatial hierarchy diagram is obtained for the whole study area.
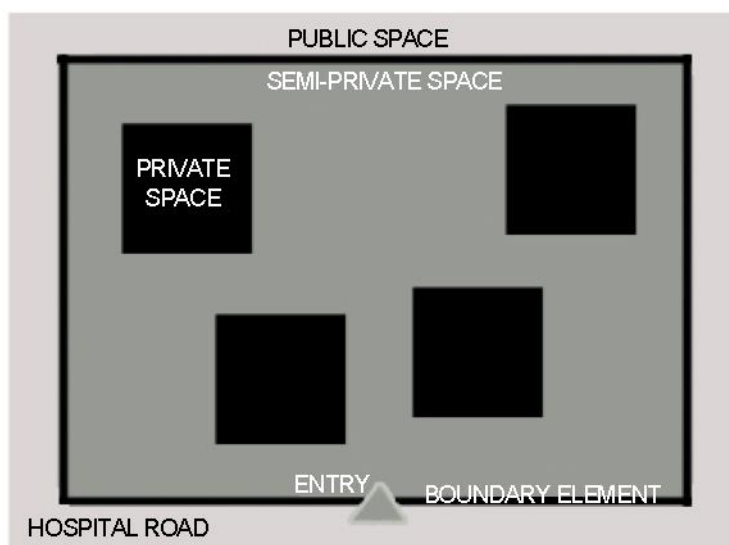
Seyri Şehir Houses

Apartments are the private places in the Seyri Şehir Houses. Common areas between the apartments are designed. However, access to these public areas outside the site is restricted to walls and doors are located at the entrances of the site (Figure 6).

719

Figure 6. Fieldwork images of Seyri Şehir Houses

These common areas are therefore defined as semi-private spaces. The walls of the site form a border to the streets. For this reason, public spaces are defined as the streets where everyone has a right to use and is accessible to them (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Seyri Şehir Houses Spatial Identification Scheme
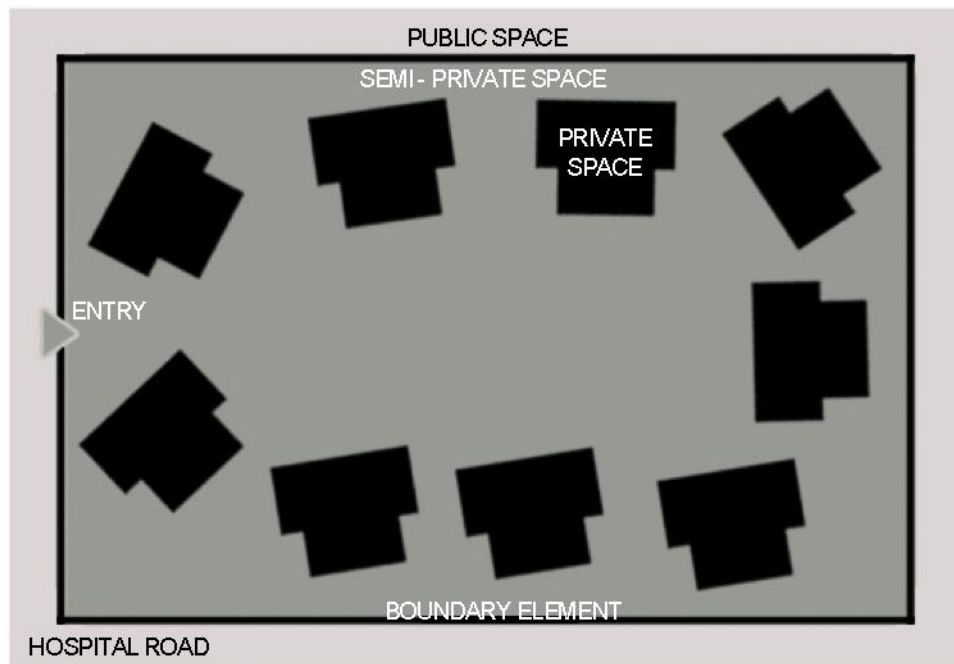
İnci Prime

In İnci Prime housing area, apartment buildings are defined as private areas. Similar to the City of the City site, the access to the common areas is considered to be a semi-private area because the access of an outsider is restricted to the high walls (Figure 8).

720

Figure 8. Fieldwork images of İnci Prime Houses

The streets bounded by the site walls are defined as public spaces (Figure 9).

Figure 9. İnci Prime Houses Spatial Identification Scheme

Kaşüstü Aquamerine Housing

Similar to the other two housing areas, the apartments were also considered as private areas in this project. As in the projects constructed in the project images, it is seen that there are walls as border elements (Figure 10). In this context, the common areas of the apartments were considered as semi-private areas. In addition, the elevation difference between the street and project area prevents access to the project from the Street and forms a separate boundary element. The streets are considered public spaces (Figure 10).

721

**Figure 10.** Fieldwork and project image (URL 2) of Aquamarine Houses and Spatial Identification Scheme

Green Town

The Green Town housing project is similar to the Aquamarine Houses, there are no access from project area to main road because of the differences of levels (Figure 11).


Figure 11. Fieldwork and project image of Green Town Project

722

Apartments are accepted as private spaces, common areas limited by walls and elevation differences are accepted as semi-private areas. And streets are considered as public spaces (Figure 12).
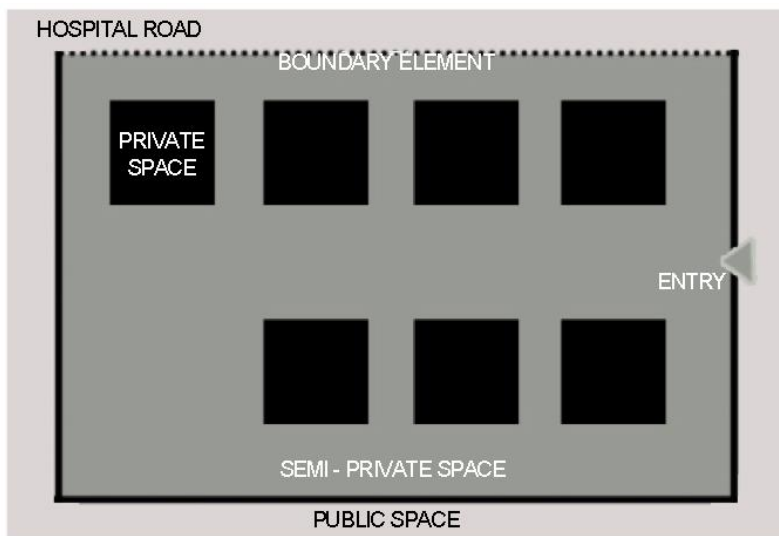

Figure 12. Green Town Spatial Identification Scheme

The spatial identification schemes obtained from each project were combined to obtain a spatial identification scheme of the study area (Figure 13).

723
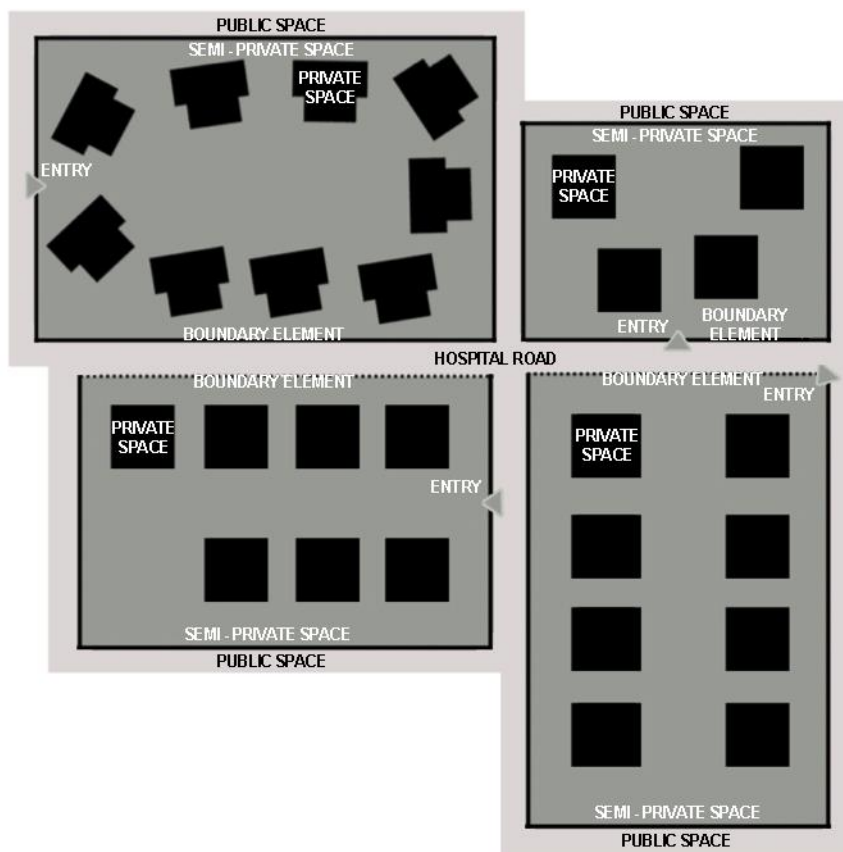
Figure 13. Study Area Spatial Identification Scheme

The spatial hierarchy diagram of the area formed by the spatial identification scheme (Figure 14) shows that there is a lack of semi-public space in the area. Direct connection to public spaces is realized from semi-private areas. The hospital road between the housing projects on the one hand and the high walls on the other hand are show a feature that cannot connect with both sides. For this reason, there are no streets such as constantly active and controlled by the inhabitants.
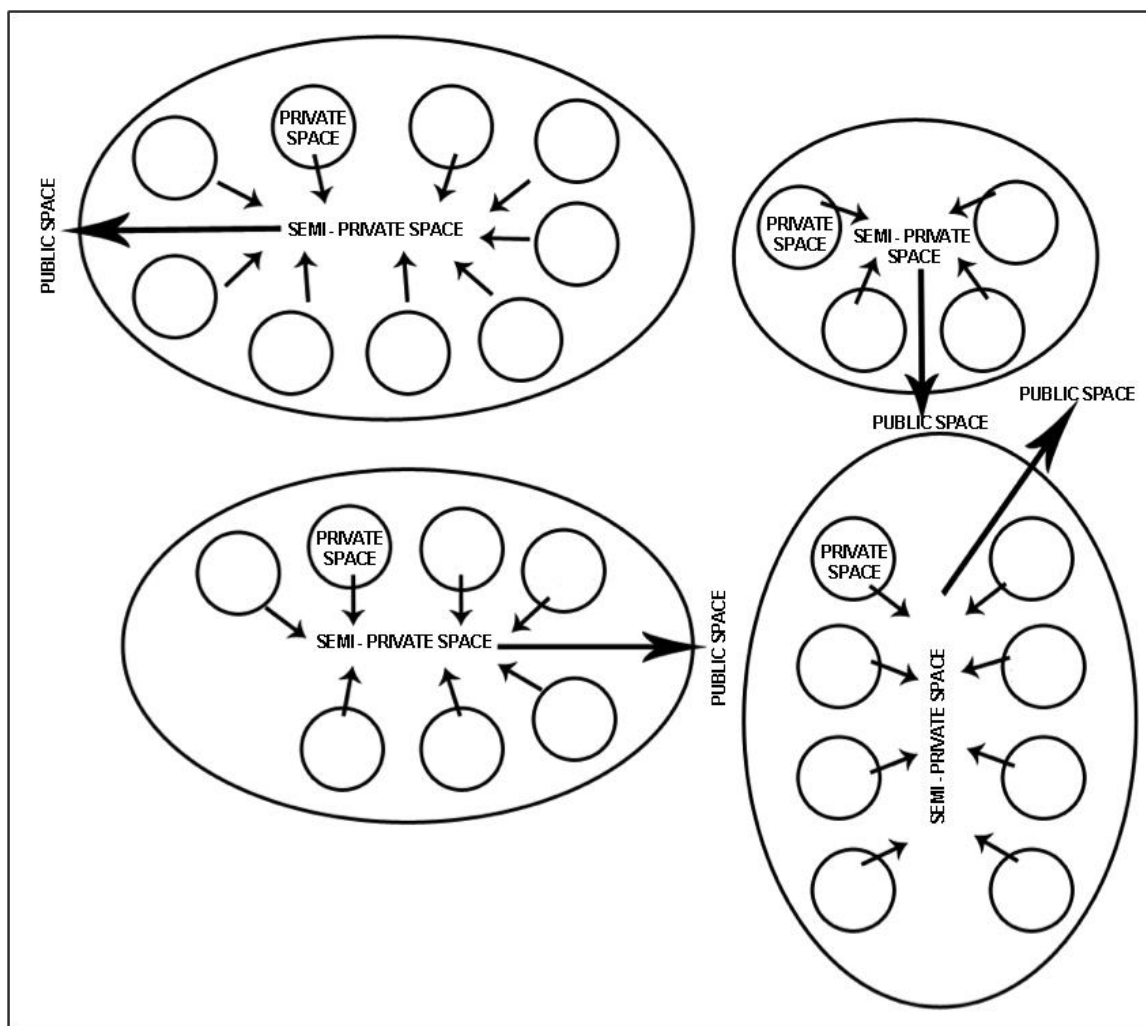
Figure 14. Spatial Hierarchy Scheme of Study Area

4. Conclusion

Security has been one of the most basic needs of people since the past and has been effective in shaping the place where people live. Individuals and communities have formed and defended their city with the city walls. Over time, cities have become more crowded, more heterogeneous and have a social structure and increased crime rates. This situation caused the alienation of the individuals living in the city and caused them to search for security needs. In response to this, the city has been designed to

724

market residential buildings with 24 security guards and cameras on the walls and away from the city centre.

Studies on the security of the residential areas have developed solutions for how the designs should be. The importance of the existence of a gradual spatial hierarchy in the form of private, semi-private, semi-public, and public, has taken place in the literature as a solution put forward by many studies. Working in the field of housing projects with security officers and cameras revealed that there is not a spatial hierarchy that is deemed necessary in order to meet the security needs. In particular, the lack of semi-public space causes individuals to experience spatial transition, which is private, semi-private and public. The street, where the high walls exceed the human scale as a border element, is far from the living street image that needs to be constantly active for security and must be controlled by the inhabitants. Apart from the social facilities in the residential housing, there is no public use outside the mosque. This shows that there is no place where individuals living in different housing projects can come together. The security of the area is a big question mark for a neighbourhood resident who does not have a spatial hierarchy and who tries to walk on a narrow sidewalk next to walls that do not socialize with individuals other than those living on their own site.

References

Abughazzeh, T.M. (1999) Housing Layput, Social Interaction and the Place of Contact in Abu-Nasir, Journal of Environment Psycology, 19, 41-47.

Altman, I. and Chemers, M. (1989), "Culture and Environment", Chapter 6 Territorial Behavior s.120-152, Cambridge University Press, USA.

Atasoy, A. (1973). Değişen İhtiyaçlar Kaşısında Konut Tasarlamasının Mevcut Konutların Değerlendirilmesi Yolu İle Değerlendirilmesi, İ.T.Ü. Mimarlık Fakültesi, İstanbul

Bakan, K. Ve Konuk, G. (1987). Türkiye'de Kentsel Dış Mekanların Düzenlenmesi, TÜBİTAK Yapı Araştırma Enstitüsü Yayınları, Ankara.

Cihan, M.M. ve Erdönmez Dinçer, M.E. (2018). Sınırlandırılmış Konut Alanları Üzerinden Konut-Kamusal Alan İlişkilerinin Yeniden İrdelenmesi, MEGARON, 13 (1), 102-116.

Çakın, Ş. (1988). Mimari Tasarım, İnsan, Toplum ve Çevre, Özel Matbaası, İstanbul.

Erdönmez, M.E. ve Akı, A. (2005) Açık Kamusal Kent Mekanlarının Toplum İlişkilerindeki Etkileri. MEGARON YTÜ Mim. Fak. E-Dergisi, 1(1), 67-87

Gehl, J., (2001), Life Between Buildings (5th Edition), Danish Architectural Press, Copenhagen.

Jacobs,J.,(1969),TheDeathandLifeofGreatAmericanCities,RandomHouse,NewYork

Kahraman, M.D. (2014), İnsan İhtiyaçları ve Mekansal Elverişlilik Kavramları Perspektifinde Yaşanılırlık Olgusu ve Mekansal Kalite, Planlama, 24 (2), 74-78.

Korur, S., Sayın S., Oğuzalp E.H. ve Korkmaz, Z. (2006), Konutlarda Kullanıcı Gereksinmelerine Bağlı Olarak Yapılan Cephe Müdahalelerinin Fiziksel Çevre Kalitesine Etkisi, S.Ü. Müh.-Mim. Fak. Derg,, c.21, s.3-4.

Kostoff, S., (1999), The City Assembled, Thames and Hudson, London. ⌞SEP⌟

Lang, J. (1987), Privacy, Territoriality, and Personal Space-Proxemic Theory, "Positive Architectural Theory", New York, 145-156.

Lovell, N. (1998). Locality abd Belonging, Routledge Publishing, London.

Madanipour, A., (1996), Design of Urban Space, Wiley, New York. ⌞SEP⌟

Newman, O. (1979), Community of Interest, New York: Anchor

Newman. O. (1974), Design guidelines for creating defensible space. Washington DC: US Government Printing Office

Özsoy, A., Kahveci, Ö. E. (2005). The Urban Patchwork and Dynamics of Life, ENHR International Housing Conference, The Margin of Europe, Reykjavik, Iceland.

Özsoy, A., Kahveci, Ö.E. (2006). [Non]borders of Urban Residential Environment, Residential Environments and People, ENHR International Conference, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

URL1: https://www.simplypsychology.org/maslow.html

URL2: https://aksgrupinsaat.com/properties/aks-kasustu-aquamarine/