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AN EVALUATION OF STREET CHARACTER AS A FACTOR FOR LIVELINESS. CASE
STUDY: BAGDAT CADDESI

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Abstract: Historically, cities evolved around their streets that offer mobility, commerce, and social interaction, while being vital components of public spaces. This research aims to examine street characteristics as factors of liveliness to identify the street as a public space. The primary factors investigated in this research are physical features, visual identity, functions, and activities.

Following the literature review on urban public spaces and street characteristics in means of public spaces, the research continues with a case study, examining Bagdat Avenue, a well-known avenue in Istanbul. The case study is developed in two steps: First, the entire avenue is examined to ascertain the liveliest sections using mapping and on-site observation methods. Secondly, the liveliest sections of Bagdat Avenue are extensively studied, emphasizing the street characteristics.

The findings confirmed that these characteristics are mainly fundamental for street liveliness and indicated that when they are designed and implemented practically, they have the ability to define streets as public spaces. Comparing the liveliest sections revealed that these sections have a variety of businesses, unique independent stores, segments with a distinct personality and atmosphere, and buildings with an appropriate degree of permeability and articulated facades.

According to the research, it can be said that the street's characteristics help in creating an attractive place and a lively atmosphere for people to behave in a way that strengthens the publicity.

This research may help develop a framework for rethinking design and planning for revitalizing urban life and explaining the human aspect of public space design.

Key Words: Istanbul, Liveliness, Public Space, Street.