

MASTER PLANNING PURSUIT ON ESTABLISHING AN URBAN WIDE PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

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Abstract

This study examines designating and implementing an urban wide public space network that constituted of randomly dispersed and not interrelated public spaces and potential greenways across the city center of Muğla. Although Muğla is one of the major coastal cities in Turkey with its worldwide tourism districts, the center falls behind these in terms of quality of social life, physical layout, economic investments, and tourism revenues.

In 2001, the local government commissioned the Department of Landscape Architecture of Ege University to prepare a comprehensive master plan towards achieving a corporate public space network as well as development strategies to ameliorate somewhat the above failures.

Master planning effort with a new urban wide vision basically aims at establishing a well-grounded and complete public space network in order to foresee and manipulate the changes in physical layout and social life. It would hereby give special emphasis on pedestrian-oriented public realms to achieve vibrant community life and more humane urban ambience.

The process of master planning clearly illustrated a blueprint for addressing each of existing or potential public spaces and greenways as integrated components of the network. In this context, streets were regarded as public space connectors to be annexed to boulevards or other major greenways. The process of a relatively bottom-up approach involved short, medium and long term pursuits that the local government could achieve for implementing phases of the master plan and its output 'network' respectively.

As a guide to any small or medium-sized and traditional urban settlements within Turkey, a model proposal was derived from the study of master planning process to address formulation, implementation and management of the network.

In conclusion, the master planning approach is strongly required in the current planning agenda, given the rapid rates of industrialization and urbanization in Turkey. This approach should essentially be integrated into regional and city planning processes at legal and administrative basis, towards managing coherent physical development and social life across urban communities.

Keywords: Public space network; Public open spaces; Urban greenways; Master planning

