Conclusion

The success of a public space is determined by three historical, functional, and natural factors. Based on the investigation of these factors in the sample spaces chosen from cities in France and Italy, it seems that the historical factor plays an important role in the success of a public space. Over time, cities have evolved as the creator of memories and bearer of historical value. They have served people and have been able to represent a stable image of themselves. The historical background of a public space is more important than its age. Perhaps the success of a public space such as the yard of Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, which history does not complete a half century, is due to the historical background of the area where it is located.

The success of public spaces is not solely determined by historical factors; it is also necessary to pay attention to the functional elements of the spaces. Piazza del Campidoglio, one of the spaces in Rome, is not at present a successful space. Though it is historically very valuable, due to some functional elements of the space such as difficult access – despite its unique physical design – it is not a dynamic, lively urban space. According to this, the importance of the functional factor, if not more than historical one, is not less than that. Simultaneously, it seems that the historical and functional factors are more significant than the natural ones.

Though the effective presence of natural elements enhances the success of public spaces, their absence is not a determinative factor. It is seen in the cases of some successful public and urban spaces which lack natural elements such as green spaces, fountains, a landscape of the city or surrounding mountains, and any other sign like these. A sample is La Place Bellecour in Lyon. It is noteworthy that natural factors are influential in rendering public spaces more relaxing and, more importantly, over time they leave a memorable landscape in citizens' minds.

In this way, the exploration of European samples reveals that among the effective factors in the success of public spaces, the historical and functional factors are more significant than the natural ones. In addition, it is not possible to compare the effectiveness of the two historical and functional factors in the success of public spaces. Sometimes, the historical entity of a space over rides the weakness of its functional features and, sometimes, a space with no historical origin succeeds owing to its functional factors.

The explanation of pictures.

Endnote

*This article describes the discovery-based learning based on research activities in Europe trip in 2015.

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Fig.12. The opposing field of Centre Georges Pompidou; an urban yard active throughout the day and night. Source: Archive of Nazar Research Center, 2015.

Fig.13. The designing and construction of a new Pavilion in the ancient and memorable port of Marseille, in the vicinity of the Mediterranean Sea. Mardani, Seyyedeh Fatemeh, 2016.

Modern-Historical Space: Vieux Port Pavilion, Marseille

Pavilion designed by a famous architect, Jean Nouvel, is built adjacent to the Mediterranean Sea in the part of the city where the sea water flows into the city; a place well-known as Old Port (Vieux-Port de Marseille). The vastness of the urban space creates a lot of potential for the citizens; they watch the sea and the movement of boats and ships sell sea foods such as types of fish, shrimp, shells, …, and the musicians perform live music. This space creates a place for for friendlyreunion , a location for recording and the attendance of famous actors, and any other public events like these. The old port of Marseille is a historical, memorable place, but the recent activities of the city's municipality such as renovating the flooring, constructing a modern pavilion, giving priority to the presence of pedestrians, and forbidding construction in the vicinity of the sea has led to the emergence of a modern space. This urban area is crowded in different hours of the day and night, and various groups of people attend there. Spatial extension, an open perspective of the sea and the city, the possibility of sitting on the floor and the area of sidewalk, and suitable and designed lighting which safeguards security at night and, simultaneously, does not create light pollution are elements of the success of this public space. Therefore, the popularity of Old Port of Marseille is determined by the three historical, functional, and natural factors (Fig. 13).

The result of studying ten public spaces of Italyand France along with their success factor issummarized in the table below:

Table 1. The factors which contribute to the success of the each selected 10 squares. Source: author.

The Name Of the Public Space / The Factors Contributing to the Success of a Public Space	Historical	Functional	Natural
The yard of the Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris	1	1	1
Piazza del Duomo, Milan	1	1	0
Piazza del Duomo, Florence	1	1	0
Trevi's Square, Rome	1	1	1
St. Mark's square, Venice	1	1	1
Piazza del Campo, Siena	1	1	1
Piazza Navona, Rome	1	1	1
La Place Bellecour, Lyon	1	1	0
The Yard of Centre Georges Pompidou	1	1	0
Pavilion of the ancient port of Marseille	1	1	1

pedestrian-only square in Europe and the third biggest square in France. Four passages of the city (Two pedestrian ways and two roadways) end in this square. There are important shopping streets with luxurious department stores in the passageways. Among the factors leading to the success of this square are its location in the central part of the city, easy accessibility, and closeness to the business centers and historical buildings. The equestrian statue of Louis XIV in the middle of the square is reminiscent of historical events in the history of France, leading to memorability and tangibility of the space. The square's vastness and its quadrangular geometry, the functional diversity of the surrounding area, proper arrangement of furniture, planting a green space, controlling the traffic, and preserving the tranquility and security of the passersby are features of this public space, causing its success. The vastness and homogeneity of La Place Bellecour facilitate activities such as holding periodical exhibitions and ice skating in winters. The success of this square is actualized through historical and functional factors (Fig. 11).

Modern-Cultural Space: Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris

This place is located in the vicinity of one of the two essential axes of the city: the eastern-western axis. The axis includes the important urban elements of Paris such as Place de la Bastille, Louvre Museum, Place de la Concorde, Arc of Victory, and Champs-Elysées and ends in La Défense. The location of Centre Georges Pompidou in the historical, central part of the city and its vicinity to the ancient district of Les Halles, which is under renovation, on the one hand lead to its distinction and visibility and, on the other hand, facilitates its accessibility. The yard of this complex is not restricted by any structure; it is part of the city and is available day and night. In addition to these functional factors, the common memory of people about the historical background of Centre Georges Pompidou affects the success of this space. Vastness, integrity, and the absence of disturbing physical elements such as fixed furniture are the factors which render this space successful. People can attend this urban

Fig.10. Piazza Navona, Rome; the presence of artists and peddlers, one of the factors of the liveliness and dynamism of the square.
Source: Archive of Nazar Research Center, 2015.

Fig.11. La Place Bellecour; the biggest pedestrian-only square in Europe and the third biggest square in France, in the center of Lyon.
Source: Archive of Nazar Research Center, 2015.

field at every hour of day or night, use the sloped floor for sitting, and, because of the vastness of the space, have a clear view of the environment. Though there are some trees around this vast urban yard, the establishment and success of this public space are not determined by natural factors; they are the results of historical and functional factors (Fig. 12).

Pubblico (town hall) will be in the center of the view of the people who lay on the ground of the square.In addition, , the apparent similarity of the buildings which surround the square, in the cases of color, material, facade, and so on adds to the integrity and homogeneity of the space, rendering its understanding easy for the visitors. The success of Piazza del Campo is mainly bound up with the historical and functional factors (Fig. 9).

Historical-Commercial Space: Piazza Navona, Rome

The most historical square in Rome, Navona is built in the site of an old Roman stadium. The square which initially was a place for horse and chariot racing, over times it has changed into the central market of the city and, nowadays, is one of the most successful public spaces of Rome. Among its monumental elements are the splendid and historical buildings around the square such as church of Sant'Agnese in Agone, physical elements like Obelisk, famous, historical fountains designed by ?artists like Bernini, and the furniture of the square. The active business centers around the square including cafés, restaurants, and the shopping centers selling the necessary goods of the visitors add to the attraction and liveliness of the square. Unlike the fame and the functional criterion of the square, few passages lead to it. On the other side, unusual proportions and elongation of the square have increased its dynamism and activity which, for their part, lead to the longer presence of the visitors in the square. The high number of visitors including citizens and tourists, vendors and artists peddling there, as well as the people who attend restaurants and cafés and cases like these represent the popularity of this public space. This is due to to the historical, functional, and natural factors (Fig. 10).

Historical-Entertaining Space: La Place Bellecour,Lyon

La Place Bellecour in the center of Lyon occupies an area between the Saône and the Rhône rivers, along the one of main eastern-western arteries in the city. Standing at a short and equal distance from the both rivers, this square is the biggest

Fig.7. St. Mark's square of Venice; consisted of the combination of two rectangles, with the subsidiary one extended along the axis of the view of the sea.
Source: http://3.bp.blogspot.com.

Fig.8. The location and direct connection of St. Mark's square in Venice with Adriatic Sea.
Source: https://www.askideas.com.

Fig. 9. The liveliness of Piazza del Campo; the main and central square of the historical city of Siena.
Source: Archive of Nazar Research Center, 2015.

church of the city in the historical center of Florence. The vastness of the surrounding area of the complex, which includes the cathedral, Giotto's bell tower and Baptistery of St. John, is one of its strengths. The octagonal building of Baptistery of St. John stands with some distance from the frontage of Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral, while Giotto's bell tower is completely attached to it. All the passes leading to this urban space are sidewalks and cars cannot get close. A circular sidewalk allows citizens and tourists to freely move in this public space, having no anxiety about the insecurity of space and confronting cars. Among the reasons of the success of this complex are its closeness to historical sites and buildings such as Santa Maria del Fiore Museum, San Lorenzo church, Piazza della Repubblica, and Santa Maria Novella square. The hugeness of the cathedral and the bell tower, and the distinction they create in Florence's sky line, create a brilliant landscape from this complex in visitors' minds, rendering it memorable. Because there is no natural element in this square, the success of this complex is associated with its historical and functional factors (Fig. 6).

Historical-Ritual Space: St. Mark's Square, Venice
St. Mark's square is the main square of the historical city, Venice. Saint Mark's Basilica with its Byzantine architecture is the main building in this square, located along its main path. Three other sides of this quadrangular square consist of ancient three level buildings that now are turned to cafés, restaurants, and the shops which sell handmade and local products. St. Mark's square was built in the 9th century and, later on, a small square perpendicular to it was added in the 11th century. The bell tower of Saint Mark's Basilica lies on the intersection of the two squares and, together, they constitute an L-shaped square. The small quadrangle along its main side faces sea (water as a natural factor) and is at the same level with it. During the rainy days, the water from sea flows into the square. The vastness and homogeneity of the square space render public gathering and activity possible. As a result, the cafés, restaurants, benches, chairs, and even a stage that is dedicated

Fig. 6. The pleasant landscape of water and the historical background of the buildings and streets around Trevi's square in Rome. Source:http://2.bp.blogspot.com.

to music and hosts live music at special hours, are located inside the square. Though the historical Venice does not embody the ancient lively life with its smells and colors, Saint Mark's square has preserved its liveliness and, as the main square of the city, attracts many people, particularly tourists.. The success of Saint Mark's square is tied up with the natural, functional, and historical factors (Fig. 7&8).

Historical-Ritual Space: Piazza del Campo, Siena
The main, central square of Siena has already been a Roman Forum. Later, it changed to an open market and, now, is an active urban arena and the most distinguished public space of the city. During its history, Piazza del Campo has been used as a place for reunion, ceremonies, rituals and competitions such as horse racing; Siena's citizens have the entire of this background in their minds . This pedestrian-only square has a different geometry and plan. Its plan embodies an oyster, lower than the surrounding passages with eleven of them leading to it. The ground flooring of the square consists of bricks with a radius equating 9 of them (symbolizing the reigning of 9 kings from 1287 to 1355). The direction of the bricks is towards the center (governing palace) (www.comune.siena. it). The slope resulted from the natural topography of the square turns it to an amphitheater which serves the interests of people. Accordingly, Torre del Mangia (Mangia tower) and Palazzo

Fig. 3. The historical del Duomo church and Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II; the distinguished buildings of Piazza del Duomo in Milan. Source:http://anclmilano.it.

Historical-Ritual Space: Trevi's Square, Rome
Trevi's square is located in the historical center of Rome, in the vicinity of ancient buildings and close to the Via del Corso Street. The square is known for its biggest fountain of the city which is constructed in the very site of an ancient Roman aqueduct dating back to Baroque period. This public space, known as fountain of love, roots in Italian legends and it is engraved in the minds of people during history. Though the appearance of Trevi's Square owes to the presence of the natural factor of water (with functional approach), another historical factor influences the success of this urban space also. It is a space that has preserved its maximum urban function in compatibility with the conditions of time and, in accordance to the public interaction with the space, has familiarized itself with people, turning to an urban monument in their mind. It seems that the role of the natural factor in this space has not been from aesthetic aspect, but a functional one; though over time, by the expansion of the city and the development of its water supply system the aesthetic factor and its visual attraction has gained more importance. The ease of access to this space and its location in the city exposes it to public traffic which, in its turn, renders it livelier. Accordingly, the popularity of Trevi's Square is determined by the three natural, functional, and historical factors (Fig. 4&5).

Historical-Religious Space: Piazza del Duomo, Florence
Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore is the main

Fig. 4. The vicinity of precious historical buildings such as Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore and the vast urban spaces around them; the liveliness of Piazza del Duomo in Florence.
Source: https://viaggideimesupi.files.wordpress.com.

Fig. 5. The development of Trevi's square owing to its biggest fountain in Rome, replacing an ancient aqueduct. Source:https://static.independent.co.uk.

and hills; superficial and underground waters such as rivers, aqueducts, and springs; green spaces such as jungles and grasslands– does not make natural factors available for urban public spaces, the application of artificial factors such as fountains and planting in a place can work to increase its spatial attraction and render it successful.

Investigating sample Cases
After the recognition of the factors influential in the success of a public space, some cases of these spaces from European cities will be investigated.

Historical-Religious Space: opposing Field of the Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris
This space is located on Ile de la Cité, an isle by the Seine in Latin neighborhood, which is the old part of the city and its central constituting core. The oldest church in the city dates back to the 12th century AD and is a subject of interest for both citizens and tourists. Citizens go there for worship and ritual ceremonies, and tourists visit there to observe its historical entity and receive the spirituality which flows in this religious, sacred space. The placement of this space by the Seine has increased its charming attraction. The major event in this space is the social interaction of the citizens and tourists who visit Paris and its oldest church. The church is located in a vast, homogenous square, with no physical elements in the middle of it. The sites for commercial activities around the square are skillfully designed and are active. The easy availability of the space, at the historical center of the city, through public transportation or walking, enhances the success of this space. The front yard of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris is one of the most important public spaces of the city; a lively and dynamic space where lights are not switched off until the latest hours of the night, and people come and go (Fig. 1).

Historical-Religious Space: Piazza del Duomo, Milan
This space is located in an old neighborhood of Milan; it is in front of Duomo Cathedral, in the vicinity of Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II and the main square of the city. The space is accessible

through the subway and the streets that end in the square. Easy access to the square which lies on the historical axis leading to Sforza Castle in the exact geographical center of the city, is one of the reasons of the success of Piazza del Duomo. In addition, the presence of the oldest church in the most ancient business center of the city as well as the shopping centers around the square make a variety of religious, commercial, and leisure activities possible. The extension and homogeneity of the square,the absence of disturbing factors such as extra furniture and unnecessary green spaces provide a ground for gathering and spontaneous group works by attendees. The statue in the middle of Piazza del Duomo, Emanuele II and the soldiers under his command, points to the historical Battle of San Martino. Since there is no natural element in this square, its success is because of its historical and functional factors (Fig. 2&3).
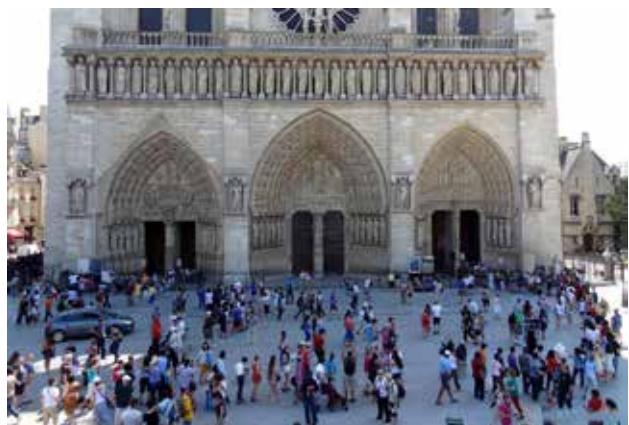

Fig. 1. The vastness of the opposing field of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris; a suitable space for developing social interactions.Source:https://farm8.staticflickr.com.

Fig. 2. The vastness and integrity of the historical Piazza del Duomo in Milan; the possibility of spontaneous public activities. Source: https://i.ytimg.com.

in high level; the number of couples and groups are considerable there. These cases reveal the selectivity of the space. According to the existing statistics, such spaces have been successful in attracting lonely people (Rashidpour, 2015).

Moreover, one of the conditions which affect public attraction and the success of public space, is the design of public space, with a look on public needs and priorities, and creating a milieu to fulfill their needs. According to Montgomery, it is very difficult to distinguish the reasons for the success of a place, achieve such a success, and understand whether other similar places in other areas can repeat such a success (ibid). Yet, Montgomery considers a space as successful when it is livelier and more active.

According to researchers' findings, apparently there are various factors in which contribute to the success of public space. Their variety is due to the variety of researchers' perspectives and their specialty. Considering this fact, this research categorizes the factors involved in the success of a public space – regardless of the designing factors – into three groups of historical, natural, and functional.

Historical Factor

A city is shaped by its citizens' public memory – common mental image. Elderly people have direct experiences about the spaces of their cities. Over time, the people have witnessed the urban changes. The youths too, despite their fewer memories, receive the mental effects of dependence on urban spaces with more sensitivity. The passage of time has equipped cities with historical values, rendering them memorable for human beings. This is to the extent that the strongest factor in deciding the location of a successful public space is to consider the existence of public memory about that place (Mansouri, 2009). This factor affects the continuity of life and the success of public spaces too. History creates memory and, in this way, dominates minds so deeply that, regardless of its functional factors, it can strengthen the functions of space. The City Theater building and its frontage are engraved in the minds of citizens and even the tourists who are familiar with it, throughout the time. Same is about

the new generation who, somehow unconsciously and due to the behavioral paradigm of the previous generation, are able to connect themselves with space of the building.

Functional Factors

Functional factor includes geographical location, accessibility, neighbors, physical elements of the space, geometry and compatibility, security, the attendance of people and etc. The influence of each of these factors on the success of public spaces is different, and each of them is susceptible to oppose the other one. This research, highlighting the result of the influence of these factors, investigates the success or failure of spaces Among the factors that increase the popularity of a space and, thus, guarantee its success the location of a public space on the way of daily public commuting, its closeness to the urban public transportation, and the multiple functions of the surrounding area of a public space in a way which cover the primary needs of people. Shall be added to them the simultaneous accessibility of the space of the unit to different groups of people, convenience of the space for feeble people (children, adults, and disabled people), the possibility to develop influential social interactions, pleasant view, preserving spatial proportions, using material corresponding to the spirit of the space, implying a sense of security during the different hours of day and night, and etc. A successful public space may not have a historical background, but due to its functional factors it will be able to have the necessary and sufficient effects on the citizens.

Natural Factor

The natural capacity of a city plays an important role in its development. . Sometimes a river works as the primary core of a city and serves as its developing factor. Similarly, , natural factors influence various parts of the city such as public spaces. Sometimes the presence of a lake leads to the emergence of a public space. If the emergence of a public space is due to the influence of natural factors of urban development, it is probable that the factors will lead to the success of the space. If the urban tissue – natural topography such as mountains

Introduction

Human beings are social creatures. The history of urban life verifies the fact that the liveliest moments of human life is shaped in public spaces. Human beings needa suitable ground to develop their social interactions; public spaces work to fulfill the human need of expanded social interactions.

Understanding the different aspects of cities and setting places where human beings can freely attend, satisfy their primary needs, and develop interactions are important concerns. It is quite possible that a designed public space in a city is not favored by the public and is not successful in its case. The success of a public space is determined by several factors; it is not necessarily related to the factors involved in the creation of the space.

The significance of this research is its recognition of the factors which, despite the passage of time, continue their influence on the success and efficiency of an established or evolving public space.

To reduce the number of variables influencing the success of public space, we have deleted the type of addressee. In so doing the purpose of the research is a tourist who, after visiting a historical monument, enters to its opposing open- air section and, on the other hand, a citizen who participates in the daily activities such as attending the religious ceremonies of church, visiting friends, and resting and, therefore, has the chance and the time to be present in one of the open -air spaces of his city.

Hypothesis

The location of the public spaces of cities depends on the historical memory of the public. In addition to the efficiency, vicinity to a historical monument (religious or governmental) in the center of cities is important in the emergence of the most of dynamic public spaces. Natural factors have had a decisive role in choosing the location and developing the plan of that historical monument.

Public Space and Its Features

Space has no meaning in itself. It gains meaning and value when it is inhabited by human beings and serves as a place for their activities. City is citizens' common space and the realm of life. Therefore, a city requires designed spaces to cover the public activities of the people. Public space is defined in opposition to private space. This means that it belongs to no one: publicity in front of specificity (Lavasani, 2013). The public space users necessarily do not have the same identity. This is despite the fact that in a public space, commonality confronts individuality and society is shaped in such a place. After this stage, public space users are transformed into a group (Mansouri, 2009).

The most important features of public spaces are: a) their accessibility to various groups of people during the day, b) their position in the main routs of the cities, c) the diversity of activities around them

and the development of social relation through that. Still, the strongest factor in choosing the place of a successful public space is the presence of public memory about it. Other influential factors affecting the success of these spaces are physical potentials such as their position in junctions and squares, ecological potential, good reputation (ibid).

The lack of efficient and dynamic public spaces in today's cities highlights the necessity of planning and constructing such spaces. , To actualize such an aim, it is necessary to study the factors involved in constitution, development, and success of public spaces. In the following discussion, through the investigation of various spatial features, the factors which influence the success of public spaces will be brought to the fore.

Factors Contributing to the Success of Public Spaces

Public spaces are shaped by various factors and continue to affect human life. The spaces have long been visited and favored by different groups of people (e.g. citizens and tourists) and, gradually, have left deep effects in the public memory, though in some cases they fail to leave such an effect. A successful public space is a place which attracts a wide range of people. In such a place, social interactions are actualized and meetings are held

Grading Success Factors of the Public Spaces in Urban Scale

Case Studies From France and Italy*

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Abstract

Public space is a vital part of an urban area which is daily attended by various groups of people and has a variety of functions. Citizens do not face professional, racial, or time-associated limits for attending these spaces. The success of public spaces is not determined by their construction, and it is probable that the external appearance of a successful urban public space will not be particularly different from that of an unpopular one.

This is a field study research and, using direct experiences, it will investigate sample cases of successful spaces from France and Italy. How can the rate of success in public spaces be assessed? What factors and to what extent they influence the success of public spaces. In the European context, the success of public spaces depends on different factors such as the geographical position, historical background, the formation and emergence process, sociocultural elements and some other artificial ones. The investigation of the samples of public spaces in this research helps in classifying the influential factors which contribute to the success of public space in three categories of historical, natural, and functional ones.

The designing and construction of new public spaces and the renovation of the passive urban spaces and rendering them dynamic requires the assessment of the factors associated with urban space in each space. Therefore, recognition of the factors which affect the success of an urban space is very significant and can guarantee its popularity and liveliness. The investigation of the function of each of these factors in select cities in France and Italy reveals the historical and functional factors as the most important ones, while the natural factor are of the lowest importance.