

## The evaluation of the national garden concept in environmental design projects with scenarios

### Millet bahçesi kavramının senaryolar ile çevre tasarım projelerinde değerlendirilmesi

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#### Abstract

While trying to understand the era they live in, people of the 21st century have also been trying to keep up with the rapid change. Essentially, while trying to adapt to the changes of the era, people are also tested with their success in improving their skills in this subject. While it is now accepted that sustainable life can be achieved with the ability to empathize with the world, which is the whole ecosystem that humans are a part of, the inevitable negativities of the human environment formed by the ego are confronted. Cities are essential physical environments that transmit this effect to rural and natural areas where these negativities are experienced the most. Creation of new green spaces, plans, designs and applications are carried out to increase the services of human, biotic environment and abiotic components to the integrated urban ecosystem.

This study examined the concept of the national garden and its applications. Also, its functions and meaning were evaluated with the needs, expectations and spirit of the time. In this context, scenarios were created by a group of students representing generation z in the environmental design project course held with eight 4th grade students of the Landscape Architecture Department. In line with the concept of the nation's garden, scenarios have been developed to serve semantic, syntactic and pragmatic design processes for a determined area. These scenarios are associated with a holistic urban ecosystem.

#### Özet

İnsanlar 21. yüzyılda içinde buldukları çağı anlamaya çalışırken, aynı zamanda da hızlı değişime ayak uydurmaya çalışmıştır. Aslında insan çağın değişimlerine adapte olmaya çalışırken bu konudaki becerisini geliştirme başarısı ile de sınanmaktadır. İnsanın doğanın bir parçası olduğu ve ekosistemler bütünü olan yerkürede empati yapabilme becerisi ile sürdürülebilir yaşama erişilebileceği artık kabul görürken diğer yandan ego ile oluşan insan çevresinin önüne geçilemez olumsuzluklarıyla yüz yüze kalınıyor. Kentler bu olumsuzlukların en fazla yaşandığı, kırsal ve doğal kalmış alanlara da bu etkiyi ileten önemli fiziksel çevrelerdir. Yeni yeşil alanlar yaratılması; insan, biyotik çevre ve abiyotik bileşenlerin bütüncül kent ekosistemine olan hizmetlerinin artırılması konusunda planlama, tasarım ve uygulama çalışmaları gerçekleştirilmektedir.

Bu çalışmada millet bahçesi kavramı ve uygulamaları incelenmiş, üstlendiği işlevler ve anlam zamanın ihtiyaçları, beklentileri ve ruhu ile değerlendirilmiştir. Bu kapsamda Peyzaj Mimarlığı bölümü 4. Sınıf öğrencilerinden 8 kişi ile gerçekleştirilen Çevre Tasarım Proje dersinde bugünün, yani bu zamanın z kuşağını temsil eden gençlerden oluşan bir grup öğrenci tarafından senaryolar oluşturulmuştur. Millet bahçesi kavramı doğrultusunda, belirlenen bir alan için semantik, sentaktik ve pragmatik tasarım süreçlerine hizmet edecek senaryolar geliştirilmiştir. Bu senaryolar bütüncül kent ekosistemi ile ilişkilendirilmiştir.

## INTRODUCTION

Cities are created to come together and socialize with individuals from different social and cultural backgrounds and emerge as a requirement of the need to live together (Erdönmez and Akı 2005, Güven 2016). In addition to being areas where anthropogenic activities are concentrated, these spaces are ecosystems that contain natural structures and systems and interact with cultural

facilities (Yaman and Doygun 2014). From this point of view, the character of the urban ecosystem is characterized by abiotic (geology, geomorphology, hydrology, soil, topography and climate), biotic (biodiversity, vegetation, wildlife) and human (cultural) (transport, traditional culture and features, sense of place, residential areas) components, agricultural areas, historical and archaeological sites, and other human

formation elements and their interrelationships (Cadenasso and Pickett 2008, Grimm et al. 2008). The continuation of this relationship in a healthy and balanced way for cities and citizens will be possible with the planning and implementation decisions to be made with the perception of the ecosystem (Yaman and Doygun 2014). However, in our country, the urban ecosystem is deteriorating due to irregular, rapid and unplanned urbanization decisions made without an ecological basis. The open green areas of the cities are decreasing, the lives of the citizens are becoming monotonous, and their physical and mental conditions are adversely affected. To prevent this situation, it is essential to ensure the architectural structures, open-green areas, which form the general character of cities, and their integrity and unity with each other in planning and implementation decisions. In this regard, especially open-green space arrangements and improving urban structures and life come to the fore in balancing the deteriorated relations of people with nature (Gül and Küçük 2001).

Urban open-green spaces are planned to create quality urban environments, protect natural riches, meet people's physical, spiritual and recreational needs, and create a buffer zone for housing-trade-industry-culture and tourism areas (Öztürk 2004). These areas are significant in shaping the city's structure and being a balancing element that integrates it with other usage areas, and it shows the different characteristics of each city. These differences are the geographical location, physical structure, ecological structure of the cities, age, gender, culture and occupational groups of the people living in the cities. Since establishing urban open-green areas in the city, various classifications have been in line with the user group's usage status, purpose, and targets (Demir 2004, Özyavuz 2016). One of them is public (public), semi-private and private open-green spaces (Gül and Küçük 2001). In this classification;

- **Public open-green spaces:** These are the areas where the whole society benefits as a public space or where all recreation needs are met. Sites such as city parks, neighbourhood parks, woodlands, cemeteries, urban forests, zoos, botanical gardens, road refugees and

boulevards, sports fields, fair and exhibition areas can be given as examples of public open-green areas.

- **Semi-Private open-green areas:** These are the areas that most of the society cannot benefit from, only used by employees in institutions and organizations, their families and specific segments. Sites such as military areas, public institutions and organizations, factories, and school gardens can be given as examples.

- **Private open-green areas:** These are areas that their private owners only use. These areas are examples of mass housing or privately-owned housing.

When the classification made is examined, it is seen that the urban open-green areas located within the city's borders or in its immediate vicinity differ according to different user groups and usage areas. With this differentiation, urban open-green spaces serve the society in terms of the social environment (Nas 2019). Urban open green spaces, which have served people and communities for centuries, reflect the cultures of the urban and public life of their period they are in, with the symbolic and emblematic values they carry. Especially in this respect, there are urban open green areas with unique qualities (Yıldırım and Gül 2020). The first of these is the national gardens. Public gardens are public open green spaces. They are the symbolic green spaces of the city and the country, which not only connect the community with nature, and meet the recreational needs of the society, but also protect the natural, cultural and historical values, reflect the socio-cultural life, and are also used as an emergency meeting area in case of need (Sağlık and Kelkit 2020).

National gardens emerged to serve multiple uses and users in line with the period's social, political, and economic conditions and needs (Biol and Aydın 2019). The best information about societies' change and development processes is gathered from the culture that connects the past and the future. Parks and gardens reflect this feature and act as a bridge in this regard. It is necessary to protect these gardens to ensure sustainability and to transfer the gardens formed with historical and cultural accumulation and have their values to the present and future generations with national

consciousness. In this direction, "nation gardens" come to the fore (Sağlık et al. 2019). Studies on national gardens have been carried out both worldwide and in our country in the past and today. Sustainable approaches are considered to organize, protect and transmit landscapes with their values to future generations. Thus, they add value to their city, region and country (Özkan 2021). As an example of the studies carried out in the world within the scope of the national garden, America-Central Park, England-Hyde Park, Mexico-Chapultepec Park and Canada (Vancouver)- Stanley Park are given. In our country, Konya (Meram) Nation's Garden, Istanbul (Halkalı) Nation's Garden, Trabzon (Akçaabat) Nation's Garden and Batman Nation's Garden are given as examples. The concept of a park has been defined as a "garden with trees and flowers in a settlement centre for the public to wander and breathe" (TDK 2021). However, its development in the world and Turkey by showing different denominations from the past to the present is discussed from a semantic, syntactic and pragmatic point of view and briefly explained below.

### **Semantic, Syntactic and Pragmatic Perspectives in the World and Turkey**

Considering its development in the world, the Romans made the first garden arrangement in the Hellenistic era in the 2nd century BC. The creation of large parks coincides with the Renaissance and the seventeenth century. Generally used as hunting grounds, these areas are located in the forest. In the 18th century, English gardening fashion began to be applied in some parks (Conway 1996). In both the 17th and 18th centuries, many European capitals' gardens were reserved as royal recreational areas. However, with the pressure of the people, the parks were opened to them and the parks turned into royal and public parks. In the 19th century, the effect of the industrial revolution was seen in the use of gardens. The rapid growth of cities, the difficulty of accessing rural areas, and the increase in the workforce have revealed the need for people's resting areas. It has become mandatory to create regions for this need (Tsuruta 1954). After the industrial revolution in Europe, arranging private parking areas for the public came to the fore. In this sense, Joseph Paxton established Birkenhead

Park in 1843, Liverpool, the first genuinely modern park. Before that, planned cemetery areas were arranged as public gardens in 1835 in America. These examples inspired Olmsted to create city parks. On the other hand, the construction of parks designed for the public, which is not in America, started in the middle of the 19th century. Frederich Law Olmsted and Colvert Vaux organized "Central Park" for the first time in New York City, inspired by Birkenhead Park. At the beginning of the 20th century, with the effect of the "American Beautiful City Movement", green areas were created that provide aesthetic, economic construction and air circulation. Many cities such as Hyde Park in London, Villa Borghese in Rome, and Luxembourg Gardens in Paris have developed parallel with Central Park (Demirkaya 1999, Url-1 2021, Url-5 2021). Its semantic, pragmatic and syntactic development in Turkey (Gürkaş 2004, Haytural 2012, Yerli and Kaya 2015, Köksal 2016, Çelik 2018, Ercan 2018, Çınar and Yirmibeşoğlu 2019, Sağlık et al. 2019, Url-2 2021, Url-4 2021, Url-5 2021).

### **Turkish History Before and After Islam;**

**Semantic;** Strong feelings towards nature, sacredness attributed to the elements of nature, religious interaction and the product of faith (Garden of Eden).

**Pragmatic;** Sitting, eating, resting, walking around, playing games, growing herbal elements.

**Syntactic;** In its garden arrangement, besides the performances of Islamic gardens, it also shapes the Mediterranean, Chinese, Iranian, Indian and Byzantine gardens where Turkish societies exist. The gardens have a plan divided into four parts by two axes, and the arbour ends with a pavilion.

### **Seljuq Empire, Ottoman Period;**

**Semantic;** Public space, vineyard, garden, preserve, source of income for the public gardens belonging to the municipality, area where the state is the absolute authority, people's park

**Pragmatic;** Entertainment, social and cultural interaction, theatre plays, concerts, contributing to the municipality budget

**Syntactic;** The location and shaping of the vineyards and gardens were made in line with the environmental conditions. In the arrangement of plants, a natural appearance has been tried to be created by using informal order. Individual objects of nature, such as trees, plants, water elements and light and shadow plays formed in spaces. It was preferred to give the appearance of the gardens being created by themselves. They are depicted as calm areas. "An unprecedented understanding in line with Western urban reforms emerged and this understanding was widely applied throughout the empire. Especially in the countryside, the national gardens were usually located on the only main street of the city or near the government house-oriented public site."The gardens are designed to resemble paradise, with lots of water and fountains and dense fruit trees and flowers

#### **The Tulip Era, Tanzimat Era (1800s);**

**Semantic;** The perception of the park replaces the perception of the "garden" in the Ottoman period. With the regulations, the subject of the National Garden is included. Symbolising integrity, hometown and municipal gardens, the area used for political purposes, an area where the state is the absolute authority, areas inspired by public gardens in France, promenade areas.

**Pragmatic;** Changing the society, changing the lifestyle of the community, socializing, travelling, resting, doing charity and charity work, aid is included in the creation of charity, using it for political purposes, welcoming guests, contests, music concerts, theatre plays, balls, ballet shows, restaurants, open promenades.

**Syntactic;** Formation innovations in the Ottoman period were introduced. They are very modern and very ostentatious designed. Planned applications have been made.

#### **Republican Period and Modernization;**

**Semantic;** Recreation Area, park, "Although it is perceived as an Ottoman-era garden, in the Yenisehir Plan prepared by Lörcher in 1925 after establishing the Republic in Ankara, there is a "Nation's Garden" in the area where the Kocatepe mosque is located today." Municipal parks, Public conflict area

**Pragmatic;** Music concerts, theatre games, proms, ballet performances, restaurants, wander, to enjoy

**Syntactic;** A populist understanding and an understanding of form suitable for the new social order have been developed. Arrangements were made by taking the example of the West. A new formation was created by combining Western factors without losing Ottoman garden art's originality. Simplicity is preferred in the layout. Courtyards and gardens have come to the fore with formal and aesthetic concerns and moved away from naturalness. The park was used as open to all city residents.

#### **Nowadays;**

**Semantic;** Symbols of our urbanism tradition, a reflection of our 1000-year-old practice of urban planning, a bridge that connects nature, our cities and our people, attraction point

**Pragmatic;** Concert hall, museum, sports fields, bicycle paths, coffeehouses, parking, resting, breathing, controlled entrances and exits, being integrated with soil and greenery, botanical gardens, arboretums, cemeteries, zoos, orchards, vineyards, gardens, sculpture gardens, greenhouses, university campuses, historical houses, archaeological sites, natural-urban-cultural-historical-agricultural sites greenhouses, cafes, libraries, academic areas

**Syntactic;** Planning and design approaches that correctly evaluate ecological data and resources are preferred. It creates a green area that provides continuity in its interaction with the city. A system that is not based on structural regulation is followed. Lightweight

structures are preferred in gardens. Simple solutions that will give calmness with dense plant texture are preferred. Implementations that protect the existing green are carried out. It is preferred that they are easily accessible. There is a diversity in themes according to cultural and traditional differences, climate, plant species and geographical factors. A setup that minimizes water consumption and conserves water is preferred. Opportunities are created to create urban permeable surfaces. Accessible spaces are designed. Planning and designs that allow flexible uses that are both versatile and functional are preferred.

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

The literature on the concept and practices of the nation's garden, documents, plans and the functions of the gardens, the meaning that changes over time and the utilitarian and syntactic features that change in line with the needs, expectations and spirit of the time constitute the material of the study. At the same time, the designs produced by the undergraduate student of the KTU landscape architecture department within the scope of the Environmental Design Project 6 course are essential materials used in the study. The location of the study area is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Study area location (Url-6 2021, Url-7 2021)

The former Hüseyin Avni Aker Stadium venue, 19 Mayıs Indoor Sports Hall and Yavuz Selim Football Fields was chosen as the study area. This area has an area of approximately 60 acres. This area has great importance to the city of Trabzon, its citizens, local people, Trabzonspor football team and fans by demolishing and re-functioning as a national garden. The successes, joys and sorrows achieved in the matches played in this area during the period from its past to the destruction process have taken an important place in the memories of the people of Trabzon. Due to all these and the adrenaline, dynamism, discipline, competition, ambition, passion and enthusiasm inherent in sports, the field of work has a unique spirit. The city of Trabzon, where the study area is located, has a surface area of 4,664 square kilometres. The climate of the city is rainy and mild in all seasons. Precipitation is rain near the coastal areas and snow in the middle and high regions. The average temperature varies seasonally. This situation divides the city into zones where different plant species coexist in terms of vegetation. Mediterranean plant species are distributed in the parts where the altitude is 0-300 m, broad-leaved

skirt forests near the coast, broad-coniferous mixed forests dominated by broad-leaved plants above this part, and forests dominated by coniferous plants in the higher regions. In the higher parts there are Alpine meadows. The landforms are mountainous areas and hilly areas towards the main branches of the rivers form valleys and deltas in the rivers. It is located in an area rich in biodiversity (Url-8 2022).

In the project process, the study subject and area are determined first. Then, survey and analysis sheets are requested. Information on many issues such as the topography, slope, height, sunbathing conditions, climate characteristics, social, cultural, economic, architectural structures and functions, green texture and population characteristics of the study area are determined and analysed. As a result of the survey and analysis study, the site has a temperate and rainy climate in all seasons. This situation is located in a region with vegetation zones consisting of different plant species. However, the vegetation around the area remains weak. The amount of the green regions is very small. There are educational

institutions, residential areas, commercial areas, military institutions, administrative institutions, health institutions, religious institutions, shopping areas, food and beverage areas, bus and minibus stops, and parking areas in its immediate vicinity. It is generally an area surrounded by buildings. Transportation is done through two main streets and connection can be made on the side roads. It is easily accessible and located in a central location. The prevailing wind is from the northwest. Considering the area in terms of noise, there is a lot of noise in the parts where the vehicle roads and institutions are dense. In contrast, the noise decreases proportionally in the regions where the usage intensities decrease. In general, the altitude varies between 20.01 m and 39.40 m. Afterwards, it is requested to create synthesis sheets by bringing together the obtained data. With the data collected from these three stages, students make design decisions for the study area and subject. In this direction, they are starting to produce options for the design of the workspace. The project continues to be developed by choosing one of the options made. The developed project is supported by plant, detail and section-view-render-videos and its final version is created. To reflect the concept of the nation's garden in their projects, the students first carried out surveys and analysis studies from the upper scale to the lower scale, which would establish the past-present-future relationship for the study area. In these studies, detailed studies were carried out to reveal the field's abiotic, biotic, and human (cultural) elements. The students' scenarios revealed the kind of interaction between human - biotic and abiotic factors in the holistic urban ecosystem. In the example of Ahern's (1999) sustainable ecological landscape planning process, they created scenarios parallel with planning strategies that will create harmonious relations between these components and spatial uses. In this context, land-use decisions were produced in line with the plan for recycling and evaluating the opportunities, where the socio-cultural values of the area are also considered. While making the options, semantic, syntactic and pragmatic design processes were followed and the national garden-themed land-use decisions were revealed. As a result of the perception of environmental qualities, which is defined as the

environmental evaluation process in the semantic design process, in the process of making a decision and acting by making confident choices, individuals adopt an aesthetic attitude and impose a formal and symbolic aesthetic judgment on the environment they enjoy (Alpak et al. 2018). The syntactic design process is expressed with aesthetics. Traditional aesthetics evaluate the measurable physical features and visual structure of the designed or natural world as a whole. The concrete geometrical qualities of the forms that will form the environment are evaluated (Düzenli and Alpak 2020). The utilitarian (pragmatic) design process is the process of design being usable and functional. Continuing within the design process, the operation, use and production of the system, which is designed at the end, is the process of questioning the utilitarian features of the project and solving them. Creating a space in line with the individual needs and demands of the designer with activities suitable for that space reveals the utilitarian function (Alpak et al. 2018).

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Findings on Semantic Approaches, Goals, and Syntactic Approaches**

In the study, 8 students' semantic and syntactic approaches towards the concept of a national garden were put in line with their goals and strategies. These evaluation data were reviewed, and their findings are explained in Table 1 below. By following the semantic, syntactic and utilitarian design processes, the students visualized their scenarios on the plan for the goals they determined with the 'recovery purpose' and 'opportunistic' strategies.

Table 1. Semantic Approaches, Objectives and Syntactic Approaches

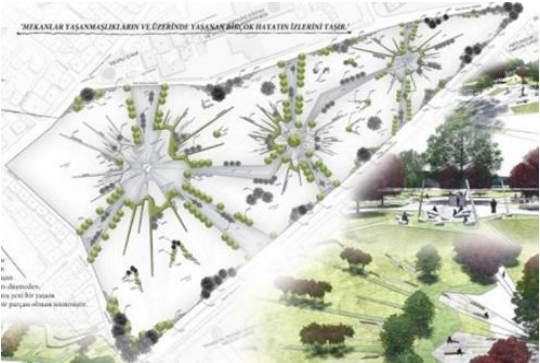






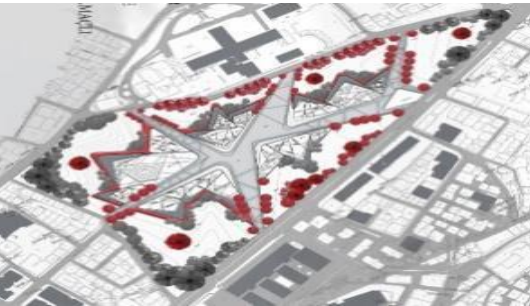
1 st Project	
<p><b>Syntactic</b></p> 	<p><b>Semantic:</b> Urban Context</p> <p><b>Goals:</b> Strengthening the bond between the past and the present in the urban fabric and reflecting this with artistic objects, Greening the exhausted city centres, Transforming the city centres of the future into the most visible character.</p>
2nd Project	
<p><b>Syntactic</b></p> 	<p><b>Semantic:</b> Minimal Life</p> <p><b>Goals:</b> Sustaining human life with the minor element, Being able to get closer to nature, Being able to remind the past with minimal features, Making it simple and functional</p>
3rd Project	
<p><b>Syntactic</b></p> 	<p><b>Semantic:</b> The Story of the Past</p> <p><b>Goals:</b> Discovering people's talents, be able to develop oneself and be informed by training, feeling comfortable, be able to introduce culture to art, keep it alive, and express it with art objects be suitable for health and social structure, Socializing,</p>
4th Project	
<p><b>Syntactic</b></p> 	<p><b>Semantic:</b> Sustainable living</p> <p><b>Goals:</b> Beneficial to society, bringing people together, Ensuring its continuity by protecting cultural, social and ecological values, be able to eliminate the anxiety of life with ecological solutions</p>

Table 1. Continued.

5th Project	
<b>Syntactic</b> 	<b>Semantic:</b> Green depth <b>Goals:</b> Creating a sense of depth in the city, Revitalizing the urban fabric with green, Creating livable spaces
6th Project	
<b>Syntactic</b> 	<b>Semantic:</b> Unity <b>Goals:</b> It is being able to adapt to the environment, To meet all its users, Being able to keep green city, culture, history, social life and the user together.
7th Project	
<b>Syntactic</b> 	<b>Semantic:</b> Eco Comfort <b>Goals:</b> It is being able to meet ecological demands, which can be used in all seasons without harming nature, and removing people from urban life with green areas.
8th Project	
<b>Syntactic</b> 	<b>Semantic:</b> Witness of time <b>Goals:</b> Reflecting history, Reflecting the spirit of the city and its inhabitants with artistic texture, Witnessing the past and the future



### **Findings of Students' Pragmatic Approaches**

When evaluated in this context, the Pragmatic Approaches identified in environmental design projects with the theme of Nation's Garden are as follows;

**Activities that will provide information about natural and cultural elements;** include bordering the area with green texture, trading, observing nature, reflecting on the local culture, getting away from the city, discovering birds and butterflies, exploring a biological pond, exploring plants, reflecting on the past, watching history, reliving memories, experiencing nature, reading books, studying, feeling green textures and creating museums.

**Activities to be experienced together with natural and cultural elements;** doing sports, participating in exhibitions, organizing a light show, shopping, resting, walking, picking fruit, organizing workshops, healing, planting, remembering, coming together, educating and being educated, watching, healing, eating, taking pictures, feeding animals, observing, waiting, listening to music, climbing, skiing, sitting, walking, doing yoga, painting, getting away from the city, riding a bike, playing games, participating in concerts, festivals and ceremonies, playing with water.

In the area, possible planning and design decisions have been made in terms of both tourism and recreation for the whole city. Activities that will contribute to more than one educational institution in the area have been considered. The definition of a national garden is not considered a garden concept that serves different activities isolated from the city but as an approach that can be integrated into the holistic urban ecosystem.

### **Findings of Students' Syntactic Approaches**

The findings reflecting the syntactic approaches of the students determined from the result products towards the concept of the nation garden are as follows:

- In all the projects that emerged, the students created large green areas consisting of natural species of the study area. Using soft grounds and permeable grounds more than firm grounds, an approach that will contribute

to the development of biological diversity in these green areas is adopted.

- A balanced and respectful approach to the existing topography has been designed.
- The morphological structure of the area and its historical values have been preserved.
- Forms, equipment, objects and symbols reflecting the spirit, energy, adrenaline and excitement of the area in harmony with the experiences of the site were preferred. For this purpose, elevated roads, covers, landmarks, monumental plants and objects were used in the projects.
- For different activities that will serve vital activities in the area, hard floors and fittings in various colours, textures, sizes and shapes that integrate with the green surface have been designed.
- In all projects, it has been observed that a water element has been introduced to the site. The water element has taken place both functionally and aesthetically in the design. Water has been successfully used in original compositions that support iconic and monumental structures.
- Planning and design decisions were made from the upper to the lower scale by evaluating the area's situation on a route that connects the particular areas of the city, such as Ortahisar, Hagia Sophia and Meydan.
- Formal approaches reflecting the past of the area serving sports activities were followed with a strategy aimed at recycling.
- To meet the "green space" needs of the city and its inhabitants, solutions dominated by green textures have been created

### **RESULTS**

In this article, the design process followed in the 2018-2019 academic year Fall and Spring semester student projects and the analysis of the products obtained as a result of this process were carried out. Students have

developed scenarios that reveal harmonious relations between abiotic, biotic and human (cultural) elements for a specific area for the concept of the nation garden. In these scenarios, the concept of the national garden is visualized with semantic, syntactic and pragmatic approaches. In the scenarios they developed, the students adopted the objectives with strategies for recycling, evaluating the opportunities and addressing the critical components of the holistic urban ecosystem for the past, present and future. In the projects, new possibilities were tried to be constructed in harmony with the approaches in which the social and cultural elements that shaped the area's past are preserved, inspired and reminded. At the same time, an effort has been made to bring more green and water to the area with a perspective that will create richness in terms of biodiversity in the area. It was observed that the students followed a planning process that overlapped with Ahern's sustainable ecological planning model (Ahern 1999). In the final products, scenarios have been produced to create cities with an identity that understands the past, overlaps with the new urban trends, lives in the present and extends to the future. Land use decisions have been made in ecological, socio-cultural and economic sustainability. For integrated solution proposals in which the existing socio-cultural values in the area are preserved, the missing ecological values are gained and activities that will bring economic vitality are tried to be created; creative, competitive, sustainable, contemporary and innovative products were introduced.

Planning and design of national gardens: the social, physical, economic and perceptual characteristics of the environment, which include actions that differentiate the perceptions, attitudes and behaviours of people living in spaces that protect, reflect, contribute to, create or reshape the urban identity, land characteristics, historical continuity and values that are in the foreground should be evaluated under a general and spatial approach (Özkan 2021). This planning and design process has been studied in light of the information obtained from the literature research and domestic and international applications for the concept of the nation garden. "Landscape" is "the area, as perceived by humans, whose characteristics are the result of the interaction and

activity of human and/or natural factors" (European Landscape Convention 2000). In line with this definition, the concept of the national garden and the landscape is reflected by this concept; with approaches that include traces of the past, unity, belonging, a city with memory, a city that keeps memories alive, and a city with identity. The importance of people's perception was emphasized and scenarios were exemplified in this direction. It is imperative to evaluate "the city's ecological characteristics, social characteristics and cultural characteristics (cultural continuity, strong sense of belonging/commitment/urbanity, vibrant and living city centre)" in the creation of sustainable cities (Altuntaş 2012). A sustainable city is defined as a city that better meets human needs in today's cities and whose urban systems are developed not to create any obstacles to meeting the needs of future generations (Tosun 2013). To create livable cities for today and the future and develop the nature-human and economy relationship most healthily, appropriate occupational groups should take an active role in sustainable urban development (Aklanoğlu 2009). Landscape architects, who receive landscape planning and design education, play an active role in the works of national garden arrangements. The students' must in their practices towards this concept, which is on the agenda during the period of primary education, 'points to a planning process that will contribute to sustainable urban development, respecting ecological, socio-cultural and economic sustainability.'

Memorial gardens; are spaces designed to keep the memory of the deceased alive, be it family, friends or even pets. These spaces serve not only for mourning but also for rekindling happy memories (Url-9 2021). These areas are also designed to preserve and re-evaluate the city and the cultural, economic and social values that have taken place for the citizens and to reintegrate them into today's life (Behbahani et al. 2013). In today's cities, examples of innovative and sustainable design approaches, in which residues are evaluated for different purposes, creative ideas are used, and strategies for recycling are used. Among them, 'High Line Park' is a project for Manhattan in the USA, where the elevated freight railway line is transformed into a park (Url-10 2021), while 'Low Line', another example for Manhattan,

is a project that aims to convert an underground tram line that has not been used for 70 years, into an underground garden. (Url-11 2021). Considering this parallel, students must integrate their memories into their scenarios during the project process, which is the subject of this study, as an achievement in which innovative, sustainable and economic approaches are experienced.

As a result of the study, it has been seen that the students attach great importance to the concept of the national garden and especially the socio-cultural elements that are in harmony with the biotic and abiotic factors in the syntactic, semantic and pragmatic evaluations that express this concept. It can be said that the central theme develops in this centre, which corresponds to the spirit of the area where the Nation's Garden projects are carried out. With this, if we are to establish human-environment relations to create sustainable landscapes that are compatible with the components of the integrated urban ecosystem, in this study conducted with new generation landscape architect candidates, the concept of "nation garden" is defined as "the garden of all beings that make up the landscape mosaic in which it is arranged".According to study results semantic approaches to the concept of the nation garden in the historical processes of our country such as pre-Islamic and post-Islamic Turkish history, Seljuk period, Ottoman period, Tulip period, Tanzimat period, Republican period, and modernization period are compared to the student projects evaluated within the scope of this article. With their expressions, students reflect on the progress of the nation garden in historical processes. On the other hand, the pragmatic approach is the same, but in addition to these, it has been enriched by adding technological developments and sustainability criteria. Finally, when the syntactic system is compared, although it shows parallelism with structural and plant design ideas and approaches, the aesthetic concern is more prominent in student projects.

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