

# The Social Stage

The Social Stage is comprised of separate entities that are meant to address the individuals needs and desires for self-expression amongst the people of Istanbul. These entities are broken into four main components, each endorsing its own personality where they may be occupied and celebrated amongst the different genres of the people of Taksim Square. As Taksim Square is currently the indirect social stage for direct forces of tension and aggression, it must develop into its own mature state. The purpose of this is the progression of released tension and aggression of the people.

## **Taksim's Forum**

The Forum is the polar opposite of what occurs on the current Taksim Square today. The current use of Taksim Square is occupied by wandering travelers, citizens of Istanbul, and more importantly, the frustrations of the people. The Forum is treated as an elevated public auditorium, which faces the current unoccupied cultural center. It mimics what the municipality had failed to create, but succeeds. The danger of protesting and riots occurring on the street will be suppressed to The Forum. Legible seating for the people to voice their revolts is now forced to become a passive revolt. This is the first pressure valve. This is where the people of Istanbul can deliberately express themselves, free from the dictations of the municipality. This is now the New Taksim Square.

## **Container of Thoughts**

Understanding the thoughts, emotions, and individualism of the social class of Istanbul has failed by municipality. The first entity, The Container of Thoughts, is the person's introduction to the new Taksim Gezi Park. Unfortunately, the observer does not become exposed to it as of yet. First, they endure the notion that self-expression is a process for this society. The surrounding program contains the observer between the museum, the lecture hall, and a viewpoint. There is no green space because the green space must be retrieved through progression. It must be retrieved because it is the people's green space. After the museum, the first garden is encountered, which then takes the observer to the gallery. Here, art made by the people, can be sold to the people. Whether art is collected or disregarded, the observer finally reaches the second pressure valve. This article of program is called the Art Room. The significance of this program is for people to artistically express themselves through the mediums of art. Time is spent here to incorporate the social class back into society.

## **Visual Reservoirs**

As the observer continues their route, they encounter another garden. The significance of this garden is that it is the threshold for the secondary entrance into Taksim Gezi Park. This secondary entrance welcomes observers from Cumhuriyet Avenue. The intent of The Visual Reservoir is to portray expression in a cinematic manner. The infrastructure behind cinema is to become the new home for the Istanbul Film Festival, where filmmakers and producers will constantly have the opportunity to illustrate their work. Referring to it as the reservoir derives from the depression in Taksim Gezi Park as it is sunk lower than the other entities. The east portion of the reservoir is occupied by the existing Sycamore Tree Garden, which is also depressed into the site, allowing it to be called "Escape". This is the only existing piece from the old Taksim Gezi Park. Adjacent to the Sycamore Tree Garden is Photography. This article of program contains a gallery for photographic displays, classrooms for learning photography, as well as a dark room for film development. Photography is the fundamental segment that in turn became the cinema. The west portion of The Visual Reservoir is where the observer is introduced to the third pressure valve. This is where the public ultimately find themselves with the opportunity to disengage from the intrusive avenue. The Walk-In Cinema frames the separation into a sanctuary that plays a film throughout each and every day. Minutes of a persons' day, or hours of a persons' day are welcome to be spent here. There is no fee for admission. This is once again, for the public.

## **The Chamber**

The amount of knowledge and teachings Istanbul offers is something invaluable but yet over-looked. The need for a specific haven to be given to the students of surrounding schools, especially The Istanbul Technical University has been dismissed by municipality. This entity contains another separate, more private entrance to the new park directly off of Mete Avenue. The observer then precedes through yet again several gardens to reach the final entity of Taksim Gezi Park. Serenity is the lack of the new Taksim Gezi Park thus far, and this is the opportunity for the public to own it. The first experience of program to the observer is The Shelving. Here, the display of books for public use along with the librarians who are the guardians of literature occurs here. Proceeding from The Shelving, the observer is introduced to another type of garden, The Herbaceous Garden. This is the buffer that will soon acquaint the observer with The Reading Hall. Privacy is kept as well as silence. Continuing on, they are met with the optional portion of The Studies. A series of study rooms for the students and the public to participate in a self-segregation from the entire park itself. This proves to be The Chamber where knowledge and the person are kept

far from any obstacle or disruption. Finally, the observer meets the fourth and final pressure valve. The Knowledge Laboratory is the pragmatic ability for the public to not only express but as well share unknown knowledge to be displayed amongst all inside the facility. Operable by the people, each person has the capability to share facts, ideas, and concepts, publically, to one another. There is no physical boundary for information to be shared from one end of the facility to the other end. Whether they are beneath the park, or above the park, the information will be displayed throughout, uninterrupted and untainted.

These four entities; Taksim's Forum, Container of Thoughts, Visual Reservoirs, and The Chamber, each contain it's own personality and characteristics. They are addressed with program and green space to not only suffice the sake of park and program, but to cohesively defragment the park and address the scale and its accessibility issues. Each entity contains a distinct pressure valve to prioritize in solving the lack of ability for self-expression for the people of Istanbul.

This is The Social Stage of Taksim Square.

### **The Four Viewpoints**

Amongst the park are four viewpoints. These viewpoints are programmatic gates for the observers to see the depths of Istanbul from an elevation distinct to the rest of the program on the park. The first Viewpoint located on Taksim's Forum addresses the Historical Peninsula, visually connecting the silhouettes and minarets to the New Modern Istanbul. The second Viewpoint located on the Container of Thoughts addresses the width of the Bosphorus Strait, where the observer experiences the conversation between Europe and Asia. The third Viewpoint located in the Visual Reservoirs addresses the district of Levent, having the observer connect the past of the Historical Peninsula to the future of the Business Commercial District. Finally, the fourth Viewpoint located in The Chamber addresses the profound end point of the Bosphorus Strait, known as The Black Sea.

### **The Seven Gardens**

Creating the green space of the New Taksim Gezi Park meant recreating the green space of Istanbul. These seven gardens are each distinctively different from one another. The first garden is the Tulip Garden; the second is the Winter Aconite Garden; the third is the Wind Flower Garden; the fourth is the not a garden, but is the remains of the old Taksim Gezi Park known as the Sycamore Tree Garden; the fifth is the Snowdrop Garden; the sixth is the Herbaceous Garden; and finally the seventh is the Lenten Rose Garden. These seven gardens are populated by seven of Turkey's native flowers. These seven gardens represent the seven hills that Istanbul was built on.