

AN APPROACH TO ROMA LIFE ON HOUSING UNITS AND NEIGHBOURHOOD
RELATIONS: SÜLEYMANPAŞA AND HAYRABOLU AS A CASE STUDY



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ABSTRACT

AN APPROACH TO ROMA LIFE ON HOUSING UNITS AND NEIGHBOURHOOD RELATIONS: SÜLEYMANPAŞA AND HAYRABOLU AS A CASE STUDY

Roma is an ethnic group who have adopted a nomadic culture of life in every corner of the world, facing problems in the land they are trying to survive. Social exclusion, unemployment, lack of education, deep poverty, housing problems are the most important known problems of Roma. Many national and international organizations are working to solve these problems. Even though Turkey is one of the countries where large number of Roma live, the exact number of Roma people living in Turkey is unknown.

For the thesis a literature study was made to get to know, understand and learn the lives of Roma. The biggest problem encountered at this point was the lack of written sources in Roma's own language, along with having very few resources. Afterwards, the places where the Roma people live intensively were determined and a field study was conducted to examine the Roma life. The field study was carried out in Süleymanpaşa and Hayrabolu counties of Tekirdağ province, where dense Roma settlements can be found. Questionnaires and interviews were conducted one on one with housing users in designated areas. At the same time, examinations and observations of the existing housings were made. The drafts of the examined housings were drawn and supported with photographs.

The result of the conducted surveys, interviews and housing investigations were used to determine design data and general concepts for Roma living conditions and households. It's observed that Roma have an irregular, mobile and flexible family life and structure, which affected their housing arrangements over time. Through the study, it's determined that the concept of flexible housing is the basic design element for Roma housing and urban life. In order to improve Roma settlements, a proposal for housing arrangements is made. The houses that can grow by additions will respond to their life styles, providing them the habitual order they are used to. The proposal presented in the thesis for housing and housing groups aims to improve the conditions of Roma settlements.

ÖZET

ROMANLARIN YAŞAMINDA KONUT BİRİMİ VE KOMŞULUK İLİŞKİLERİNE DAİR BİR YAKLAŞIM: SÜLEYMANPAŞA ve HAYRABOLU ÖRNEĞİ

Romanlar, dünyanın her köşesinde göçebe yaşam kültürünü benimseyen, yaşamlarını sürdürmeye çalıştıkları topraklarda sorunlarla yüz yüze olan etnik bir gruptur. Toplumsal dışlanma, işsizlik, eğitimsizlik, derin yoksulluk, konut sorunları bilinen en önemli sorunlarıdır. Sorunların çözümüne yönelik ulusal ve uluslararası bir çok kuruluş, çalışmalar yürütmektedir. Türkiye, romanların yoğun olarak yaşadığı ülkeler arasındadır. Ancak Türkiye’de yaşayan romanların sayısı tam olarak bilinmemektedir.

Romanları tanımak, anlamak ve yaşantılarını öğrenmek için; literatür çalışması yapılmıştır. Bu noktada karşılaşılan sorun; kendi dillerinde yazılı kaynaklarının olmaması ve kaynakların azlığı olmuştur. Sonrasında Romanların yoğun olarak yaşadıkları noktalar belirlenmiş ve alan çalışması yapılarak, roman yaşantısı irdelenmiştir. Alan çalışması, Tekirdağ ili Süleymanpaşa ilçesi ve Hayrabolu ilçesinde, Roman yerleşimlerinde yapılmıştır. Belirlenen alanlarda birebir konut kullanıcılarıyla anket ve görüşmeler yapılmıştır. Aynı zamanda mevcut konutların inceleme ve gözlemleri gerçekleştirilmiştir. Konutların taslakları çizilerek, fotoğraflarla desteklenmiştir.

Anket, görüşme ve konut incelemeleri sonucunda, tespitler yapılmıştır. Tüm bu tespitler doğrultusunda tasarım verileri ve genel kavramlar belirlenmiştir. Roman aile yapısı ve yaşantısının; değişken, hareketli ve esnek olduğu; zaman içinde bu yaşayışlarının konut yaşantılarını etkilediği gözlemlenmiştir. Esnek konut kavramının roman konut ve kent yaşamı için temel tasarım ögesi olduğu belirlenmiştir. Roman yerleşimlerinin iyileştirilmesi için konut yaşantılarına öneri getirilmiştir. Eklenerak, büyüeyebilen konutlar, yaşayışlarına cevap verecek ve alışık oldukları yaşayışın dışında kalmayacaklardır. Konut ve konut gruplarına getirilen öneri, roman yerleşimlerinin koşullarının iyileştirilmesi yönündedir.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	iii
ABSTRACT.....	iv
ÖZET	v
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF TABLES.....	xiv
LIST OF SYMBOLS/ABBREVIATIONS.....	xv
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. AIM.....	1
1.2. SCOPE	2
1.3. METHOD.....	2
2. INVESTIGATION ON ROMA COMMUNITIES.....	5
2.1. HISTORICAL PROCESS.....	8
2.1.1. European History of Roma.....	8
2.1.2. Ottoman History of Roma	10
2.1.3. The History of the Roma, the Republican Period and Today’s Turkey.....	11
2.2. PROBLEMS OF ROMA LIFE IN TURKEY.....	18
2.3. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS AIMED AT SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF ROMA.....	23
3. INVESTIGATION OF ROMA’S LIVING AREAS – FIELD STUDY.....	27
3.1. REVIEW OF USERS LIVING IN THE FIELD STUDY AREA	28
3.1.1. Evaluation of Survey Data	29
3.1.1.1. Educational Status.....	30
3.1.1.2. Access to Rights and Spatial Access	31
3.1.1.3. Status of Poverty and Employment	32
3.1.1.4. Status of Settlement	33
3.1.1.5. Status of Housing.....	37
3.1.2. Conversion of Survey Results to Basic Data.....	45
3.1.2.1. Basic Data on Educational Status	45
3.1.2.2. Basic Data on Access to Rights and Spatial Access.....	45

3.1.2.3. Basic Data on Poverty and Employment	46
3.1.2.4. Basic Data on Status of Settlement	46
3.1.2.5. Basic Data on Status of Housing	46
3.1.3. Determining the Qualifications and Design Requirements for the Roma	47
3.1.3.1. Qualifications and Design Requirements for Educational Status	47
3.1.3.2. Qualifications and Requirements for Access to Rights and Spatial Access	48
3.1.3.3. Qualifications and Design Requirements for Poverty and Employment	48
3.1.3.4. Qualifications and Design Requirements for Status of Settlement	49
3.1.3.5. Qualifications and Design Requirements for Status of Housing	49
3.2. EXAMINATION OF EXISTING ROMA SETTLEMENT AND STRUCTURES	52
3.2.1. Tekirdağ – Süleymanpaşa Roma Settlement Examination	52
3.2.1.1. Examination of the First Housing	57
3.2.1.2. Examination of the Second Housing	59
3.2.2. Tekirdağ - Hayrabolu Roma Settlement Examination	62
3.2.2.1. Examination of the First Housing	63
3.2.2.2. Examination of the Second Housing	67
3.2.2.3. Examination of the Third Housing	71
3.2.2.4. Examination of the Fourth Housing	74
3.2.2.5. Examination of the Fifth Housing	77
3.2.2.6. Examination of the Sixth Housing	79
3.2.2.7. Examination of the Seventh Housing	83
3.2.2.8. Examination of the Eighth Housing	86
3.2.2.9. Examination of the Nineth Housing	89
3.2.3. The Character and Pattern of Examined Rome Settlements	91
3.2.4. Data From the Study of Existing Roma Settlement and Structure	93
4. GENERAL CONCEPT FOR ROMA SETTLEMENTS AND SPACE DESIGN	95
4.1. DETERMINING THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF ROMA SPACE DESIGN ACCORDING TO THE GENERAL CONCEPT	95
4.2. BASIC PRINCIPLES APPLIED IN DESIGN	96
5. DESIGN PROPOSALS FOR ROMA SETTLEMENTS	102
5.1. PROPOSALS ON HOUSING AND HOUSING GROUPS	103

6. CONCLUSION 112

REFERENCES 114

APPENDIX A 122

APPENDIX B 127



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1. Path followed in method.....	4
Figure 2.1. Flag of Roma [13]	7
Figure 2.2. Migration ways of Roma [13]	8
Figure 2.3. Migration ways of Roma migration map of Sulukule district houses after urban transformation [30]	13
Figure 2.4. Stop, alternative project, housing proposal [30].....	14
Figure 2.5. New housing in the neighborhood [29].....	15
Figure 2.6. Samsun, TOKİ houses [32]	16
Figure 2.7. Tekirdağ, Karadeniz neighborhood, TOKİ Roma houses [33]	17
Figure 2.8. Aydoğdu neighborhood urban transformation master plan by Tekirdağ Metropolitan Municipality and İTÜ [34].....	17
Figure 2.9. Nomadic Roma tent living on the wall of Tekirdağ.....	21
Figure 3.1. Examination areas	27
Figure 3.2. Survey results on education, access to rights and spatial access, poverty and employment and settlement status	36
Figure 3.3. Regression distribution chart between the number of people living in housing and the total area of housing	38
Figure 3.4. Regression distribution chart between the number of people living in a dwelling and the number of rooms in a dwelling	39
Figure 3.5. Regression distribution chart between the number of people living in housing and the per capita housing area (m ²).....	40
Figure 3.6. Survey results related to Housing Status	44

Figure 3.7. Tekirdağ Roma settlement examination area (Kırklar Tekkesi Street).....	52
Figure 3.8. Tekirdağ Roma settlement examination area (Kırklar Tekkesi Street).....	53
Figure 3.9. Tekirdağ Roma settlement examination area, housing entrances	54
Figure 3.10. Tekirdağ Roma settlement examination area, entrance.....	55
Figure 3.11. Tekirdağ Roma settlement examination area first underpass.....	55
Figure 3.12. Tekirdağ Roma settlement examination area, transition area-corridor (Kırklar Tekkesi Street)	56
Figure 3.13. Tekirdağ Roma settlement examination area second underpass	56
Figure 3.14. Location of the first housing	57
Figure 3.15. The draft of the first housing, ground floor.....	58
Figure 3.16. The draft of the first housing, first floor.....	58
Figure 3.17. First housing, living and kitchen space on the ground floor	59
Figure 3.18. Location of the second housing.....	60
Figure 3.19. The draft of the second housing	60
Figure 3.20. Second housing, indoor spaces.....	61
Figure 3.21. Second housing, bathroom	62
Figure 3.22. Hayrabolu Roma settlement examination area.....	63
Figure 3.23. Location of the first housing	64
Figure 3.24. The draft of the first housing.....	65
Figure 3.25. First housing, garden and workshop area.....	66
Figure 3.26. Location of the second housing.....	67
Figure 3.27. The draft of the second housing	69

Figure 3.28. Second housing, main volume, living and sleeping spaces, kitchen and bathroom	70
Figure 3.29. Second housing, toilet located in the garden	70
Figure 3.30. Location of the third housing	71
Figure 3.31. The draft of the third housing	72
Figure 3.32. Third housing, entrance and garden, semi-open area (sundurma-porch)	73
Figure 3.33. Third housing, sleeping space and bathroom	73
Figure 3.34. Location of the fourth housing	74
Figure 3.35. The draft of the fourth housing	75
Figure 3.36. Fourth housing, entrance and garden	76
Figure 3.37. Fourth housing, entrance, bathroom and toilet	76
Figure 3.38. Location of the fifth housing	77
Figure 3.39. The darft of the fifth housing	78
Figure 3.40. Fifth housing, entrance and semi-open area	79
Figure 3.41. Location of the sixth housing	80
Figure 3.42. The draft of the sixth housing	81
Figure 3.43. Sixth housing, entrance	82
Figure 3.44. Sixth housing, living and sleeping spaces	82
Figure 3.45. Location of the seventh housing	83
Figure 3.46. The draft of the seventh housing	84
Figure 3.47. Seventh housing, entrance, garden and storage are	85
Figure 3.48. Seventh housing, toilet and entrance	85

Figure 3.49. Location of the eighth housing	86
Figure 3.50. The draft of the eighth housing	87
Figure 3.51. Eighth housing, entrance	88
Figure 3.52. Eighth housing, semi-open space, kitchen and toilet	88
Figure 3.53. Location of the ninth housing.....	89
Figure 3.54. The draft of the ninth housing	90
Figure 3.55. Ninth housing, entrance and kitchen area, pantry and bathroom	90
Figure 3.56. Süleymanpaşa Roma settlement, street view	92
Figure 3.57. Hayrabolu Roma settlement, a Roma house	92
Figure 3.58. Hayrabolu Roma settlement, street view.....	93
Figure 4.1. Flexibility components [67]	98
Figure 4.2. Chile – Alejandro Arevena social housing project [74].....	100
Figure 4.3. India – Social housing project [76]	101
Figure 5.1. Roma flexible housing function scheme	103
Figure 5.2. Adding 2,5x5 and 5x5 m modules around the main module, first step.....	104
Figure 5.3. Adding a 5x5 m module on top of the main volume after the first two additions, second step.....	105
Figure 5.4. Adding an additional 5x5 m module on the first floor, third step	106
Figure 5.5. Adding a 5x5 m module next to the main module, first step	107
Figure 5.6. Adding a 5x5 m on top of the main module, second step	108
Figure 5.7. Adding an additional 5x5 m module on the first floor, third step	109
Figure 5.8. Possibility of housing units coming together, ground floor plan	110

Figure 5.9. Possibility of housing units coming together, first floor plan 110

Figure 5.10. Outline of a neighborhood unit formed by adding housing units side by side
..... 111



LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1. The relationship between the number of people living in housing, space per capita in square meters (m ² /person), the number of rooms in housing and the total areas of housing.....	37
Table 3.2. The results of the Roma settlement field study	51



LIST OF SYMBOLS/ABBREVIATIONS

m	Meter
m ²	Square meter
TL	Turkish Lira
cent.	Century
CHP	Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi
DNA	Deoxyribo nucleic acid
EC	European Commission
ECRI	European Commission against and Racism and Intolerance
EDROM	Edirne Roman Kültürünü Araştırma, Geliştirme, Yardımlaşma ve Dayanışma Derneği
ERRC	European Roma Rights Center
EU	European Union
etc.	Etcetera
FRA	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
IRU	International Romani Union
İŞKUR	Türkiye İş Kurumu
İTÜ	İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe
ROMFO	Türkiye Roman Hakları Forumu
SİROMA	Romanların Yoğun Olarak Yaşadığı Yerlerde Sosyal İçermenin Desteklenmesi Operasyonu
TBMM	Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi
TOKİ	TC. Çevre ve Şehircilik Bakanlığı Toplu Konut İdaresi
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

1. INTRODUCTION

In the world, millions of people, people of different colors, sexes, beliefs, appearances and views live in societies and territories to which they belong to or they believe that they belong to. Societies' lives, beliefs, ideas, time and many other factors directly affect architectural features, which hold an important place in people's lives.

Roma, an ethnic group, are known for their differences in the world. The absence of a designated land which they belong to, along with their appearances and life styles differentiate them from the communities in which they live in. The differences in their lives are reflected in the places they live. Roma community is scattered all over the world; while some of them are settled, some of them are still pursuing a nomadic life style. The free and flexible spirit of the Roma community is reflected in their lives and spaces they live.

It's accepted that Roma spread around the world to explore, starting from India, at different times in the early stages of 6th century. Due to the lack of written sources, we get to know Roma through opinions. The Roma tried to find a place for themselves in the lands they migrated. However, the society with a designated settlement couldn't look beyond the different appearances and lives of Roma, hence they have been left out of the society. A large part of this community, which has been exposed to discrimination openly for centuries, has also been subjected to the legal exclusion policies of the states. It can be clearly seen that the problems of the Roma are multifaceted and are mainly based on settlement issues.

1.1. AIM

The different lives of Roma have different needs in urban and residential areas. The aim of this thesis is to determine the reflections of their differences on space by understanding the experiences of the ethnic Roma community. In accordance with this purpose, the first objective is to determine the urban and spatial needs of Roma in direct proportion with their lives and cultures, through the question of how their free, different and flexible lives are reflected differently from the spatial order in the societies where they live. The second objective is to determine the spatial situation of the Roma and to provide solutions to their

problems. The final objective is to approach the lives and differences of the Roma with respectful architectural solutions and to provide spatial suggestions for their relations with the urban facilities required by their neighborhood life.

As a conclusion, this thesis study for the Roma aims to provide a spatial perspective to the living problems and solutions of different groups, which are going through a transition period and contribute to the studies on this subject.

1.2. SCOPE

In this study, Roma community is acknowledged as an ethnic group. The reason for studying this ethnic group is the curiosity for their unknown lives, their daily life full of problems and struggles as an outcome of wrongly conducted policies. Roma are known to live in many countries around the world. Turkey is among the countries where Roma live densely. The study has been intentionally limited to a certain area, due to the Roma not being registered officially in Thrace and Anatolia regions. Therefore, in this thesis, Süleymanpaşa and Hayrabolu counties of Tekirdağ province in Thrace Region, which is an area where Roma life is intense, have been chosen as the study areas. Within the scope of the thesis and based on this context, a review of the Roma community life and its historical process, the situation of the Roma community in Turkey, studies and projects made on this topic around the world have been presented. Then, the study area is examined by a certain method and the thesis is concluded with the architectural design proposals.

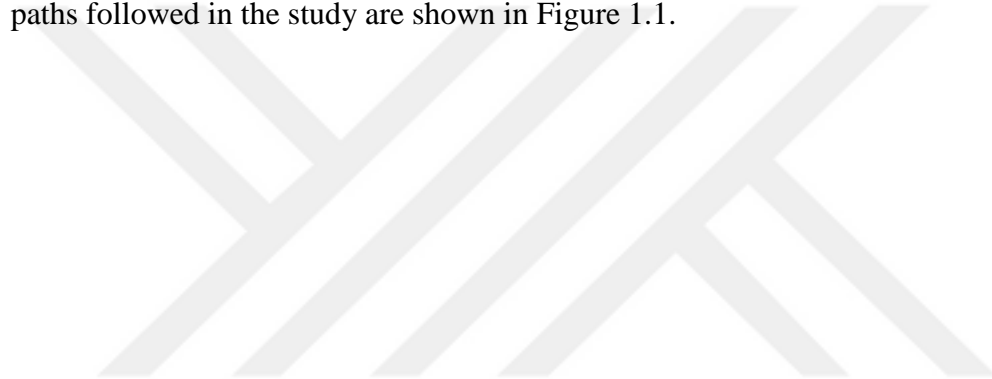
1.3. METHOD

For the study, to understand the Roma community and their lives, it's required to analyze the history of this community. The aim of the literature study is to obtain information about the Roma community. There is very little written text about the history of this nomadic society. For this reason, one-on-one interviews with Roma were made in order to understand the life of this community.

As it is known, Thrace is one of the regions where Roma live. The areas where Roma lived in Süleymanpaşa and Hayrabolu counties were determined for the field study. The field

study was done in two stages. In the first stage, interviews and surveys were conducted with the users. The characteristics of social and individual lives of Roma were determined. At the second stage, the use of the existing houses of the Roma were examined, and their positive and negative findings were made along with their reflections on the space. Following the field study, general design issues and basic design elements were determined for the spatial design concepts, which focused on presenting solutions to the problems of the residential and neighborhood lives of the Roma.

In the last stage of the study, design proposals are presented on the basis of a neighborhood unit and housing in order to provide solutions to the housing problems of the Roma. The paths followed in the study are shown in Figure 1.1.



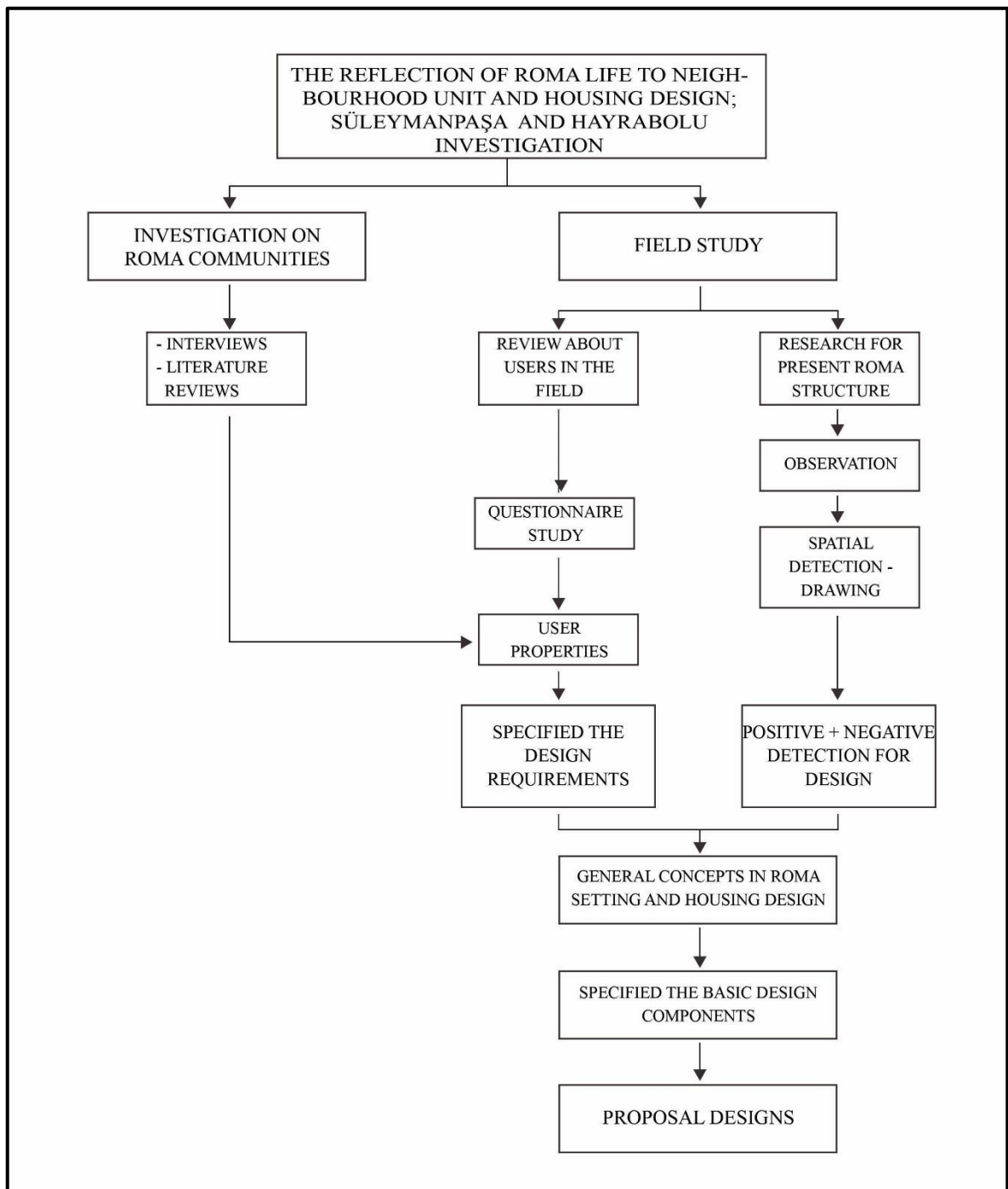


Figure 1.1. Path followed in method
(Prepared by Author)

2. INVESTIGATION ON ROMA COMMUNITIES

During the investigation on the lives of the Roma and their reflections on the neighborhood unit and the housing design, a preliminary investigation based on literature research and interviews about the Roma communities were made.

Today, Roma, an ethnic minority living in every corner of the world, managed to attract attention and arouse curiosity in every period they lived. This minority group, which comes from a nomadic culture, is known by different names in the regions where they live. "Gypsy" is one of the most well-known names given to them. However, this name reinforces the already existing negative effects on the community due to its negative meanings. The First World Roma Congress, which convened in London in 1971, decided to use the term "Roma" instead of "Gypsy" or other names [1]. After this point the common name for these minority groups became known as "Roma". Today, there are still groups who call themselves Gypsies within the group, but the common name Roma is used to avoid any negative perception throughout the study.

The Roma, whose origins are known to be from India, have adopted the nomadic lifestyle for many years. This nomadic group does not have a written reference in history. The sources regarding the historical background of the Roma is quite scarce. However, in accordance with the sources of the countries they migrated and the studies carried out by the researchers in different places at different periods, we can have information about the history and lives of the Roma [2-4].

Roma have attracted attention with their different appearances, darkness of their skin colors, their colorful clothing and use large jewelry, living in colorful caravans and tents. Roma values a large and crowded family structure. They make marriages amongst themselves and disapprove marriages done with people out of their community. It is interpreted that marriage within themselves is done to preserve the spirit of the Roma and to ensure the continuity of their closed group. They call "gaco" those who are not of Roma. Moving together and developing the concept of togetherness, Roma are also known for having experienced short-term conflicts within themselves at certain times of their colorful and cheerful lives. Sudden reactions without listening to each other's reactions caused the fights and noisy scenes. Over time, this group became curious and undesirable of societies,

becoming pushed towards the periphery of cities and get isolated from society. This triggered the migration movement and they went on migrating to new places [5, 6].

Roma have been mentioned with many different names in places they have been to, like poşa, brunette citizen, kipti, half nation, cano, mutrib. The name gypsy is the oldest known one. However, gypsy evokes negative expressions, such as brazen, creepy, cheeky, uneducated, nomadic, dirty, cunning, belligerent, abusive and thief. Another name, kipti, which can be translated as coptic, is used to describe that they come from Egypt [7]. It's known that kipti was known to be used as a category of religion in Roma's identity cards in Turkey during a certain period of time. The name "Roma", which was decided to be used after the First World Roma Congress instead of "gypsy", refers to the inhabitants of the community. They call themselves nomadic gypsies, which shows that the community has a hierarchy within itself [1, 6, 8].

The Romani language is the common language of the Roma. Romani language is from Indo-European language family, and is also used in different dialects in different regions. Although they have a common language, the use of Romani is low. Due to assimilations, they have spoken the languages of the communities in which they live. At the same time, they cannot use their own language to not be excluded from the society, or they use it secretly. Only few number of Roma benefits from the right of education in their own language, which is one of the fundamental rights of minorities. This unspoken language cannot be learned by young Roma due to these circumstances [9, 10].

Hindu people, who are the ancestors of Roma have adopted Islam and Christianity in time. It is seen that communities adopted the religion of countries they went to. Kakava or Hidrellez, known as a cultural bond of the Roma, is a religious celebration. The Kakava festivities are celebrated in the first week of May and are also known as the spring festival [7]. This tradition, which comes from past cultures, is of Egyptian and Asian origin. According to their traditions, they go to the river, wear new clothes, light a fire and jump over it.

The Roma have marginal, flexible and seasonal occupations, which are consistent with their nomadic lifestyles. Due to their nomadic lifestyles, Roma have been occupied with professions related with their cultures, some of which are scrap collecting, lathing, blacksmith, basketry, floristry, fortune telling, portorage, musician, peddler, bear playing,

tinsmith. They do not receive training for the occupations they engage in, they perform their occupations with what they have learned from the family. Musicianship is interpreted as an innate talent for them [11]. According to a rumor, they came from India to Iran at the request of the shah to make music and dance at the palace. During the Ottoman period, they took part in the palace entertainment. Nowadays, with the development of technology, these professions have disappeared. In order to cope with the poverty of the Roma and provide for their livelihood, today they are working in low-paid and difficult jobs that do not have continuity or social security. They do additional work amongst their jobs to provide for their families [9].

We can see that the Roma reflect their colorful, cheerful, flexible lives in every part of their lives. However, the problems they had have been following them throughout history. In order to bring together the Roma and talk about their problems, the common flag of the Roma were accepted at the First World Roma Congress in London in 1971 and 8 April was declared as World Roma Day. In the flag the colors blue represents the heaven and the sky, green represents the world and the earth. The wheel on the flag is the caravan wheel and expresses the nomadic life (Figure 2.1). The nomadic Roma were curious first, then excluded and became the second-class citizens of the society. This vicious cycle still continuous to this day [12].



Figure 2.1. Flag of Roma [13]

2.1. HISTORICAL PROCESS

The Roma set out from India in the 6th century and are now an ethnic group that lives in every corner of the world. In a research paper published in the magazine “Plos One” in 2012, it was determined that the Roma had a 'Y' chromosome and a mitochondrial DNA frequency which are found only in South Asian origin, and it was explained by experiments that they have originated from India. There is no definite document or written source as to why and when the Roma migrated. There're no documents on why and when exactly Roma started migrating, however it's assumed by researchers that Roma set out from India 1500 years ago due to hunger and war [14]. The migration movement was not collective and divided into three different branches, spread to the world at different times (Figure 2.2). In 14th century, the Roma, who took their first steps in Europe, immigrated to America in the 19th century. Today they live all around the world [15].

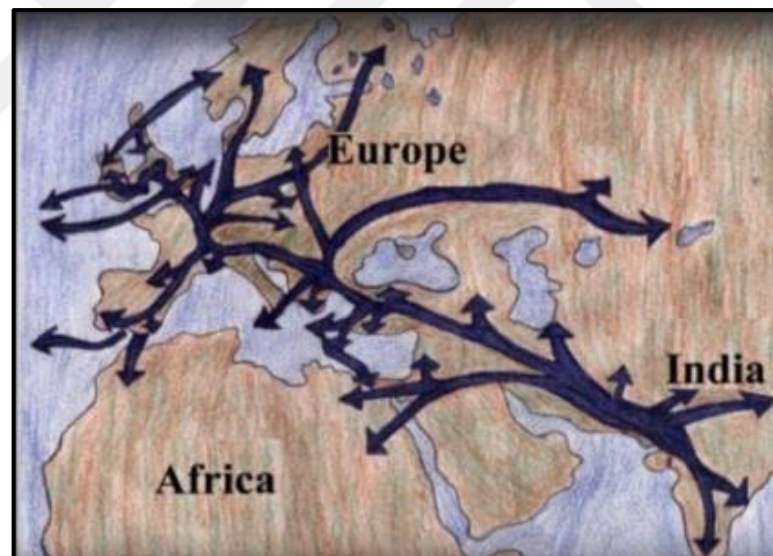


Figure 2.2. Migration ways of Roma [13]

2.1.1. European History of Roma

Roma community, which departed from India, has been the subject of curiosity by the community they migrated to, due to their colorful and unique attires and life styles. In their first contacts in Europe, they introduced themselves as rich, wealthy, and demanded shelter and food where they went. They gave the letters they took with them to the authorities in

the countries they went to. In the letters, it's written to authorities to treat the Roma well and meet their needs. Thus, they managed to find their place in city centers and their basic needs such as food were met. The difference in their appearance, behavior and life has attracted the attention of the societies they go to. Societies described these people as "the ones who can tell the future by palm-reading". However, the change in society's description became difference and more noticeable in time, and the comments of the society turned into phrases like "the people who can empty out your house while chatting with you on your doorstep" [5], which led to a loss of trust in the Roma community. Another reason for the mistrust was the letters they brought with them and that they were forged. As a result, this different Roma community was excluded, marginalized and pushed out of the city, and the policies towards the Roma have taken a turn for the negative [5].

An example on the policies and problems applied to Roma throughout history in Europe is the time when they were exiled and killed on the grounds that they carry and spread the plague in countries like Spain, Austria and Hungary [16]. They were also referred to as the spies of the Ottoman Empire in European countries. They were deported when the Roma committed crimes in the first years of their arrival in Europe and were involved in prostitution, theft, and fortune telling. Those who were deported took refuge in other European countries, but when they were not accepted there, they were returned back to Spain. In France, Roma were forbidden to travel freely, and in case they travel, they must have a certificate of free movement along with their identities. The passports of Roma who've committed crimes were taken from them in Germany. Hitler period in Germany was the most painful period of the Roma in European history. During the Hitler period, the Roma were subjected to genocide. Roma, who were declared racially worthless, were imprisoned in gas chambers, experimented on and massacred. England supported these acts with assimilationist policies and enacted laws. The settled Roma were kept under control. Romania is among the countries where the Roma live most, and slavery along with genocide are among the problems faced by Roma, here. Throughout the history of Europe, two main policies were enacted on the Roma; first one was sending them to the city periphery to be isolated from the society, the other was exclusion and getting assimilated by getting forced on a settled lifestyle.

The Roma was faced with many different policies and problems from the past to the present day, including positive and negative ones. Contrary to the announced facts, the Roma living in Europe today are still having problems. In 1992, Macedonia and Romania recognized that the Roma as a minority group. Turkey has yet to accept Roma as a minority group, but Turkey also signed the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe in 2001 [17]. While EU membership conditions require the improvement of minorities' conditions, it's practice goes in a different direction. In an decision with 11 clauses taken by the EC in 1993, it was pointed out that the living conditions of Roma communities, who make a cultural contribution to Europe, need to be improved in countries who became EU conditional members in May 2004 and would receive full membership in 2007 [16]. In Europe, it is observed that exclusionary policies, poverty problems, unemployment and education problems continue till this day. The European Commission within the framework of fundamental human rights has brought up the problems of the Roma and studies have been initiated to solve these problems. The search for providing solutions to these problems continues [18].

2.1.2. Ottoman History of Roma

The situation of the Roma during the Ottoman period was learned through the findings of the researchers who analyzed the Ottoman archives. During the Ottoman period, there were no serious humiliation and exclusion towards the Roma. In the Ottoman period, society was classified according to religious beliefs. People who were not Muslim were called non-Muslims. While some of the Roma were Muslims, others adopted the Christian religion. At that time, according to the policies applied in the Ottoman Empire, taxes called "cizre" were collected from non-Muslims. In case of Roma communities, cizre was collected from both Muslims and non-Muslims. However, the ratio of the cizre was different; 22 akçe were collected from Muslims, 26 akçe from non-Muslims [17].

It is supported by the sources that Roma found their place in the Ottoman period. During the Ottoman period, a large group of Roma lived in Thrace, called the "Çingene Sancağı – Liva-i Çingene" and some of them worked in the army and state services [7]. Being engaged in the blacksmith profession, it has enabled them to do important works in that period. Also, the Roma working in ship repair and construction of towers got them to

participate in important state works [19]. To be involved in military duty meant to being in an important position amongst the Roma.

During the Ottoman period, the life and property safety of the Roma was ensured. In the 1560s, provisions were made for the Roma who were sold as slaves in Europe, to not be sold as slaves in the Ottoman Empire. Some people committing crimes in the Roma community caused the deterioration of the name of this group, which led to people thinking of Roma whenever a crime occurred. Criminals were punished and sentenced to rowing. In the Ottoman period, Roma benefited from the help of the foundations in addition to the tolerant approaches of the state. The poor, rich, fond, and the kıptis were given bowl of soup and bread, and were provided with plenty of food from the imaret in Thessaloniki [17]. Evliya Çelebi himself intervened among the Roma and learned their language. Roma lived a more comfortable life in the Ottoman period compared to Europe, but edicts were issued in order to take the taxes of the state and control the Roma.

2.1.3. The History of the Roma, the Republican Period and Today's Turkey

Return of Roma from Europe to Anatolia occurred in the 20th century. After the War of Independence, the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923 with Greece, the Roma came to Turkey within the exchange. The Roma were settled in various regions based on the work they pursue, especially in the Aegean, Thrace and Black Sea regions. As it happened in Europe, assimilated policies towards the Roma and the pressure of getting this community on a settled lifestyle continued here, in Turkey. Especially during the Adnan Menderes period, in order to encourage the Roma to a settled lifestyle, they were given the right to obtain identity cards and house ownership by the state [16]. Today, the Roma in Turkey lives densely in provinces like Çanakkale, Edirne, Kırklareli, Tekirdağ, Düzce, İzmir, İstanbul and Samsun. Roma in Turkey are divided into different subgroups, called Rom, Dom and Lom and they live in different regions. While Rom groups live in İzmir, Aydın, Balıkesir, Bursa, İstanbul and Tekirdağ provinces, Dom groups are concentrated in Diyarbakır, Mardin, Urfa, Gaziantep, Hatay and Mersin provinces. Dom groups speak the Kurdish language [16]. Lom groups live in Sivas, Erzincan, Erzurum, Arhavi and Artvin provinces [7, 14, 16].

It is seen that in the settlement law number 2510, which takes place in the 1934 constitution, a policy states that the Roma should be deported from the country. In the following years, the CHP filed petitions to amend this law, but there were delays in its passing. At the same time the lack of Roma population registration in the state was brought to attention. Since there's no statement on ethnicity during population counts, the exact number of Roma population cannot be known. The result of the research carried out by the shadow report published in November 2017 shows that five million Roma live in Turkey. However, this figure is not certain and Roma continue their life densely in Turkey [20].

Even though there aren't any laws protecting the minority rights or their recognition towards the Roma in Turkey's state policy, Roma in Turkey are living better compared to other parts of the world. One of the indicators of this situation is the "Roma Workshop", which is also known as "Roma Initiative". The Roma Workshop was held in Istanbul in 2010 with the participation of state officials, Roma associations and the Roma community. The meeting brought the problems of the Roma to the agenda to propose solutions. The most important point of the meeting was the discourses made by authorities, like TOKİ would build housing for Roma and the state would give these houses to Roma citizens in installments of 100-120 TL per month without any down payment in a span of 20 years. With this discourse, it can be said that a new era has begun for the Roma. [21-23].

The urban regeneration projects held after 2000s in Turkey, aimed to eliminate areas of poverty and slums by turning them into modern and safer zones, while providing spaces for production and residential needs [24]. Urban regeneration is a multi-factored application that should not be considered from one aspect. Urban regeneration policies in Turkey were founded and implemented by TOKİ. TOKİ intervened in some areas based on the authority granted to them, unfortunately some of them led to misapplications. Regarding the urban regeneration projects on the Roma, the most important element of the project, human beings, were left out, which ended with the displacement of the Roma, forcing them to leave their rented houses to live in designated and isolated areas of the city. Furthermore, the areas vacated by the Roma became gentrified and transformed into residential areas for middle and upper class citizens. Since the urban regeneration took place without considering the initial residents and their lack of financial source to afford the new houses, the Roma wouldn't be able to return back to the space they used to live. Those who had to live in the houses TOKİ provided, stated that these houses were not

suitable for their lifestyles and they could not cover the expenses of these houses, so they wanted to return to their former lives. Also, they were unable to cover the housing payments of 100 -200 TL asked by TOKİ per month.

TOKİ's approach led to similar circumstances in different regions of Turkey. Sulukule was the heaviest and most known one of these destructions. Sulukule, which has undergone urban regeneration, was the second settlement area of the Roma in the world, which is located on the historical peninsula of İstanbul. It is known that the Roma living in this area came to here during the Ottoman period. The area became famous with its entertainment sector over time. The value of the area has increased with the growth of the city. In 2006, the urban regeneration project for the area started. The Roma people living in this area were removed from their homes, regardless of they own a house here or not, and their houses were destroyed (Figure 2.3). Those who live in Sulukule have been informed that they will have housing with long-term payments. However, the new project's housing prices in that area were so high that the Roma would not be able to make the payments for a house ownership here, which provided the state a cleaning of the current inhabitants of that area in a way. The inhabitants of the area were placed in the houses built by TOKİ on the city periphery. The Roma, who were promised house ownership through rent-like installments, could not meet the requirements of this payment system, which resulted in their trying to go back to the districts closer to the city center. [25- 29].

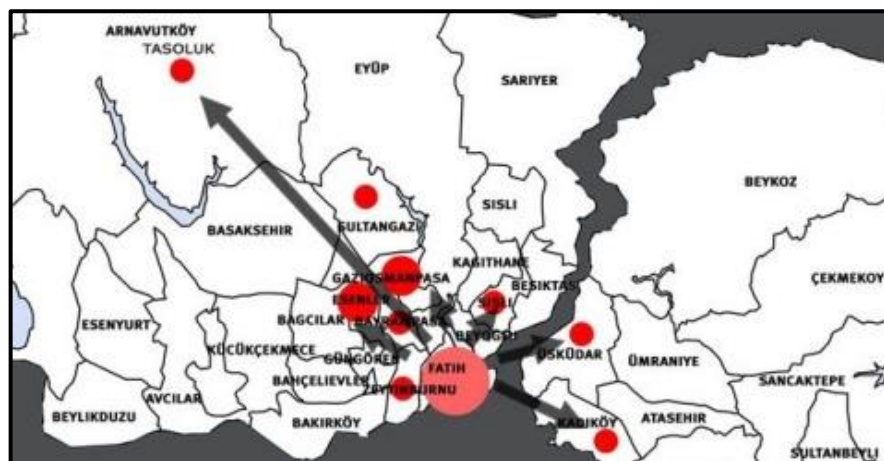


Figure 2.3. Migration ways of Roma migration map of Sulukule district houses after urban transformation [30]

In this process, a team of academics, architects, journalists and activists came together and fought along with the Roma in order to help them with their problems and prevent this destruction. They supported the Roma children to not be affected from the destruction, and kept the Roma together for more impact and started court processes. At the same time, they developed an alternative project for the area within the participation of the Roma. Through the analyses made by experts, potential aspects, sensitive topics, problems and opportunities were determined and a project based on several planning principles like livability, participation, usage value, populism, culture of life, historical and archaeological values was formed (Figure 2.4). Unfortunately, the result was not taken into consideration [31].

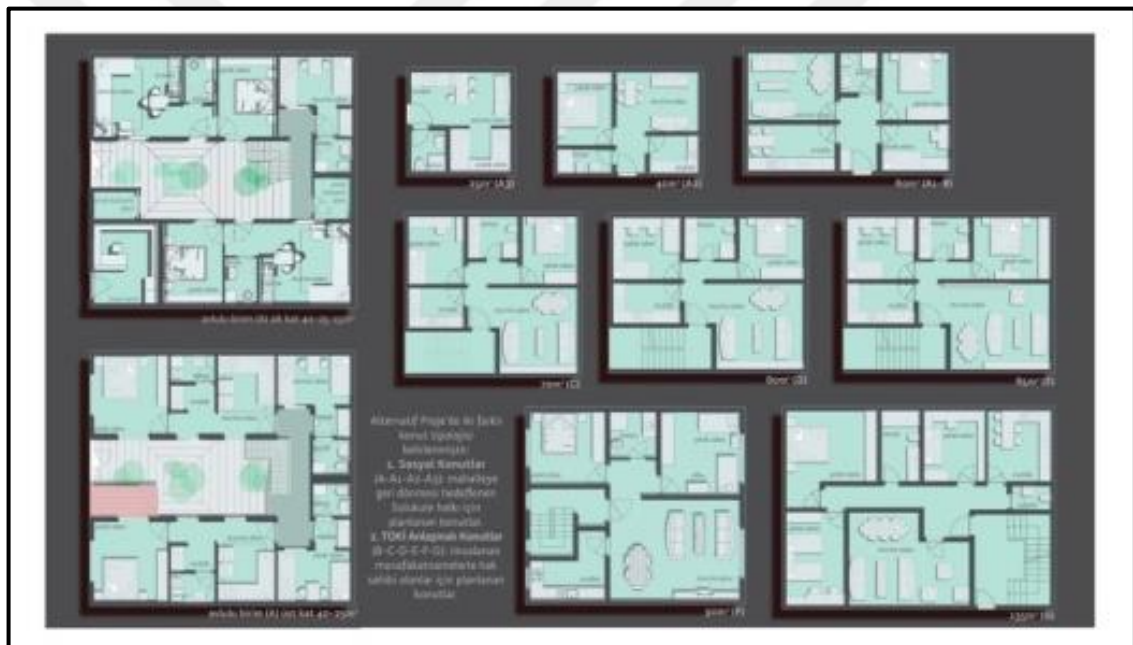


Figure 2.4. Stop, alternative project, housing proposal [30]

ERRC and its partners in Turkey filed a lawsuit against urban regeneration project in Sulukule, which's court papers were submitted to İstanbul Administrative Court in 31st of December 2007 by Sulukule residents. On 12th of June 2012, the court decided for the urban regeneration project to be canceled due to breach of agreement, but the verdict was not applied and the construction continued. [25, 28, 29].



Figure 2.5. New housing in the neighborhood [29]

Sulukule was demolished and replaced by a new settlement which focused on gentrification of the area (Figure 2.5). The Roma were subjected to forced migration. Today, part of the settlement remains unchanged, in which some of the Roma came back continue to live in this area [32].

The case of Samsun is similar to the other parts of Turkey dealing with this situation. The displaced Roma were placed into the TOKİ houses built by the state, which didn't have enough capacity to accommodate all the displaced Roma. The houses were not designed to accommodate the life for Roma and their living conditions. The users in the new TOKİ houses stated that they feel stuffed inside the houses and spend all their time outside, on the streets (Figure 2.6.). They also mentioned that they used to have separate spaced with privacy, which they lost after moving to TOKİ residences.



Figure 2.6. Samsun, TOKİ houses [32]

After the Roma Initiative, projects aiming to solve the housing problem among the Roma living in Tekirdağ were made. In addition to the existing Roma quarter, TOKİ established a housing project for the Roma in the Black Sea neighborhood of Tekirdağ, on the periphery of the city. Within the scope of the project, Roma left their neighborhoods and moved (Figure 2.7). However, the project was realized without considering the lives of the Roma and their cultural and ethnic structures. Residents of the new projects stated that the project was incomplete and they had problems regarding living conditions. They also stated that since the houses were far from the city center and business opportunities, they would have to spend a part of their daily earnings on transportation costs. Residents stated that they want to return back to their Roma neighborhoods for these reasons. In the following studies, it was observed that residents moving out of the TOKİ houses never returned [33].



Figure 2.7. Tekirdağ, Karadeniz neighborhood, TOKİ Roma houses [33]

Another project for Tekirdağ was the masterplan for urban regeneration carried out jointly by Tekirdağ Metropolitan Municipality and İTÜ (Figure 2.8). The planning of Aydoğdu neighborhood between 2016-2017 was prepared with the statement that this region was in the first degree earthquake zone and it needs to be transformed for safety reasons. The project was prepared by the joint work of many academicians, including Prof. Dr. Mehmet Ocakçı and Prof. Dr. Alper Ünlü. An example of the study is given below. (Figure 2.8) Since the project has not been applied, there is not enough information about the study [34].



Figure 2.8. Aydoğdu neighborhood urban transformation master plan by Tekirdağ Metropolitan Municipality and İTÜ [34]

2.2. PROBLEMS OF ROMA LIFE IN TURKEY

Roma have faced many problems throughout their history, which have been consecutive and cyclical. Most important of them are unemployment, poverty, exclusion and lack of education. Unemployment leads to poverty, poverty causes the problem of lack of education and inability to pursue a career, and all these result in social exclusion. When these problems are examined in depth, some of them can be listed in detail as follows; illiteracy, marrying young, dowry costs, unemployment, violence, prostitution, beggary, poverty, being prone to crime, having bad habits, exclusion, precarious and short-term jobs, housing in poor conditions, illegal housing, slum problem, unstructured housing, crowded housing, lack of political representation, unhealthy living conditions, lack of access to health services. The efforts used for solving these problems remain inconclusive. It is observed that the state support towards the Roma is insufficient and the state only looks for young Roma males when they reach the age of 20, and become eligible for mandatory military duty [35, 36].

The exclusion faced by the Roma has a multidimensional extent. Social exclusion means that individuals and groups cannot benefit from educational, health and cultural opportunities of their state due to reasons such as unemployment, poverty, lack of education, disability or old age. These circumstances lead individuals and groups not to be able to participate in the production and decision processes of social communities. It can also be defined as pushing the individual out of society, imprisoning the dominant traditional culture and keeping them away from innovations [37, 38].

For centuries, Roma had to confront with the prejudices of societies against them. This situation has remained unchanged since the time of their ancestors. When Roma first set foot in Europe, they attracted the attention of societies with their different lives. However, the situation did not last long and the difference in their lives led them to be excluded from the society in every aspect. When the high crime rate amongst the Roma and the prejudice of the society came together, the exclusion status of the Roma has become visible, which is known as the common problem of Roma in all societies. Because of the prejudices in the society, the Roma kept their identities hidden in their public lives, schools and work environment. The awareness of Roma exclusion first appears in the 1960s.

Problems starting with exclusion increased exponentially. The Roma, who were excluded from the society, were faced with the problem of work as the developing technology threatened their traditional professions. They work in precarious jobs which are mostly short-termed. Since seasonal occupations do not bring a fixed income, problem of poverty surfaced. The Roma is defined to have a deep poverty character, which is described as the inability to provide basic nutritional needs of daily life. [16, 36, 39].

The education problem is another important issue faced by the Roma. Human rights include the right to education. The Roma in Turkey cannot get education and training in their own language, while Roma living in Bulgaria are lucky enough to receive education in their own language. Under the influence of poverty, education is not a priority. The literacy rate among the Roma is quite low and the level of education is at primary level. Very few are receiving higher education, university or vocational training. There is no role model for Roma children in their environment and the lack of education in families makes it harder for them to guide their children. Vocational education for children is limited to what they see in the family informally [40].

Due to class differences in society, not every individual can have equal access to education. Roma communities are also the most affected ones by the class difference. Roma children abandon their education because of the exclusion policies they face in schools. In the example given by Hacer Foggo on education of Roma children, she states that usually Roma children are gathered in a separate class with the request of non-Roma parents and become isolated from their peers, which results in these children abandoning their educations. Physical inadequacy of schools also limits education, considering there is no post-school study or activity. Roma children need guidance from experienced teachers about their education. Within the Siroma project, there is a center for post-school studies and extracurricular activities for Roma children in the Aydoğdu neighborhood of Tekirdağ. This center is important for children's development and should be established in other Roma neighborhoods [41, 42].

Apart from all this, financial problems interrupt children's education; families cannot even support their children throughout their primary school education. Roma children, who cannot forgo with their education, start working to the family budget or participate in the division of labor at home. On the other hand, the education of Roma children living in seasonal migrations is interrupted during the year and the dates of the migrations remain

within the educational periods. Therefore, they cannot go to school for months and stay away from schools. Early marriage, which is also a serious problem, is still common among the Roma. In order to get married at an early age, Roma quit school. The average age of marriage is between 15 and 16. Children who are among the displaced houses in urban regeneration projects cannot continue their education due to address registration problems. Another reason is lack of individual space for studying in housing for children, which affects children's educational performance and causes them to quit schools [22].

The Roma live in unhealthy conditions, which causes them to face constant health problems. They are willing to accept low health standards. They meet their health needs through the green card system. Families can apply for a green card, which is given to them with the approval of the district governors. Green card provides the Roma free access to public hospitals [22].

Another important aspect of their housing problems is that their residences are in bad conditions spatially. Nomadic life is the most important and binding element of the Roma's culture. Today, there are still Roma groups living as nomads. Nomadic life is described as living a collective life as wanderers and making camps in different designated areas in certain regions (Figure 2.9). Migrations are made for seasonal work or to look for a new living space. They move in groups of four to five small families or more, acting like a large family. Horse carriages or caravans are used during migrations. They establish a new order in the selected region. They choose materials that are easy to carry for their living spaces [43].



Figure 2.9. Nomadic Roma tent living on the wall of Tekirdağ
(Photo by Author)

According to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdullah Köse, in tent life, there are two spatial orders, inside tent and front of tent. Inside the tent is used for sleep, shelter and it's categorized as private area, while the front of the tent is for daily life activities. The Roma use the front of the tent very actively as part of the collective life, where they spend their free time, cook and eat together. The inside of the tent is consisted of a single room, which is used for sleeping, shelter and other similar activities. The toilet is located at a distance from the tent location. It is consisted of a pit surrounded by hard nylon sheets. Bathing needs are done inside the tent by heating transported water. The tent floor is consisted of a concrete slab for insulation purposes. The main structure of the tent is built with wooden material and then covered with nylon, cloth or similar sheets of material. They provide their electricity needs by installing illegal electricity lines from their neighbors. Water is provided from nearby fountains. There are no proper transportation services, road or paths to these areas. Another important problem of tent life is that residents don't have specific addresses for their residencies [44, 45].

Based on the framework of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Duygu Gökçe's field study and the data she collected from the literature, Gökçe states that there are internal, external and other dynamics shaping the housing preferences of the Roma. While internal dynamics are consisted of factors like household life and its size, external dynamics include global,

economic, social and cultural developments. Other factors include the geographical locations and spatial characteristics of the inhabited settlement areas [46].

It is observed that the Roma live together and collectively. They generally live together in the same settlements, and groups include large families and their relatives. This factor explains the kinship ties in Roma settlements. Their settlement areas are called Roma neighborhoods. Researches show that Roma neighborhoods are composed of noisy, neglected, dirty, narrow, congested and unpaved streets, along with garbage and scraps piled in common areas, which lack play areas for children. These circumstances show that there's a lack of trust in the neighborhood and the Roma is considering moving out of there.

When the Roma' housing life and housing surveys were carried out, it was observed that their appearance and life were reflected in an eclectic style in the houses. Traces of eclectic design can be seen both in the interior and exterior design of the housings. Roma live in housings that reflect their personalities and lifestyles. The most important factor affecting the conditions of their housing is their financial situation. In almost every period, the Roma had been intertwined with poverty, which reflected in their living and housing preferences.

The settled Roma started living in the slums on the periphery of the cities. Over time with the growth of cities, these areas have become close to the city centers. The structures in the slums are in very poor condition and their infrastructure is insufficient. The housings are intertwined, almost as if a new housing is formed from another one. They're makeshift and cramped. Housings, which have masonry structures and are single-story, are built quite unplanned. Construction materials are consisted of collected scraps like nylon sheets or discarded materials like wood, doors or windows [43, 44].

One of the biggest problems of housing is that they're consisted of slums. The infrastructure problem is still not fully resolved. Toilets are located outside the housings, which creates unhealthy situations and serious odor issues [46].

As a part of the state's electoral policies, infrastructural services were brought to these places and zoning permits were granted for housings. Distorted and unplanned housings have caused narrow streets, stuffy spaces, stacked buildings and many other spatial problems. There are housings that do not receive light and are difficult to access. Initially

building enough space for smaller families started to become a problem as families grew, ending in existing spaced to become insufficient. The houses are made of wood and brick materials. In terms of use, rooms are considered as sleeping and living spaces alternately. The late arrival of the infrastructure caused the toilets to remain outside the housings.

The crowded Roma family structure is reflected in the housing life. As a legacy from the nomadic lifestyle, a room is arranged as a multifunctional space [44]. All functions of daily life are compressed into a single room. Houses are composed of a single space or multiple spaces that serve for different functions. Generally, houses are consisted of one or two rooms, which include the entrance, living and sleeping areas and sometimes even a kitchen area is included in the same space. The division of functions in living spaces are provided with thin walls working as separators, or with the difference height on the floor slab [46].

One of the common habits of tent life is the time spent outside the housing along with some activities. The garden, which can be the semi-open or open area of a housing, is very important in the Roma life. They perform many events such as cooking, eating, drinking, chatting and daily activities in the garden.

2.3. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS AIMED AT SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF ROMA

Many institutions, organizations, associations, unions and commissions are working towards bringing solution to Roma's problems. They open representative offices in countries and create directional maps within the scope of annual reports. EU, EC, UNDP, FRA, ERRC and IRU are actively working for Roma by planning various activities and preparing annual reports to solve Roma's problems in Europe and around the world. EDRÖM is the first association that includes Roma's name in Turkey, in 2004, which was established to bring the Roma living in Edirne together, help them to be heard and break down the prejudices about them. Roma associations continue to be established in Turkey, especially in regions where Roma live densely. ROMFO is a Roma platform created in 2012 by 60 Roma associations and 4 Roma federations coming together [47-52].

Özcan Purçu is the first person of Roma origin who served as the 25th and 26th CHP İzmir deputies in the Turkish Grand National Assembly. Purçu's candidacy was supported by

ROMFO and Özcan Purçu represented the Roma in the political field. During his duty, Purçu issued notices and filed petitions to bring attention to the problems of the Roma and to produce solutions. Even though Purçu succeeded in gathering attention to Roma problems, his efforts were not enough to provide solutions. However, Purçu's story has been a role model for the Roma, representing a life starting from tent camps to the parliament.

The Social Inclusion Support Operation – SİROMA project, which started in 2016 to be implemented in areas inhabited by the Roma densely in Turkey, is conducted to manage the social status and living conditions of the Roma community. SİROMA project, which was funded by the European Union, is part of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies. The Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of National Education and the Ministries of Environment and Urbanization are also involved in the project due to the necessity of a holistic approach towards it. The European Union provided a budget of 11,000 Euros to support the project. The aim of the project is to determine the social and living conditions of the Roma and compare the results of the collected data with Europe. For this reason, UNDP survey questions were used in the researches [22, 53].

In 2016, the project started to work with a committee, which included supervisors from European Roma Rights. The project was divided into two stages; first stage aimed collecting data from 2016 to 2018 and second stage aimed the application of targets set by based on the collected data from 2019 to 2021. The “First Stage Action Report” was presented at the end of the study, where main topics such as education, housing, employment, health, social work and social assistance were determined. However, not all of the topics discussed were included in the first stage report. Hacer Foggo, who is an activist, played an active role in the regeneration of Sulukule. She worked to keep the Roma problems up to date by going to the Roma neighborhoods and examining the situation in the field. According to Foggo, the SİROMA project is incomplete and inadequate [53].

SİROMA project is carried out in 12 pilot provinces and districts. The regions selected within the scope of the project are consisted of the provinces and districts where the Roma live such as Adana, Ankara, Balıkesir, Edirne, Eskişehir, Tekirdağ, Hatay, İstanbul, İzmir, Kırklareli, Manisa and Mersin [42, 53].

In research areas, social service coordination units have been established and sociologists work to support the Roma. At the same time, in order to reach the Roma easily, the mediators are working for the project. The individuals in charge of the project also participated in the training meetings.

The Roma who volunteered for their information to be used in the created system were registered to it and their problems were directed to the related service units. For the field study, Roma neighborhoods were visited, interviews were conducted and household problems were discussed. The questionnaires for surveys were conducted in Roma neighborhoods with both Roma and non-Roma individuals. It was observed that the non-Roma people living in the Roma neighborhood are the working class with low incomes. Questionnaires were applied based on UNDP research questions. The questions about the economic situation, housing conditions, employment, education, health, discrimination and participation were addressed to the Roma. The project have various objectives on different topics. Regarding education, they're providing equal opportunities and quality of education, which is aimed for Roma youth to continue their education. Regarding employment, they're increasing employment opportunities and providing adequate housing and a healthy, livable environment, infrastructure and transportation for Roma. Regarding health, they're ensuring that Roma is aware of the health facilities they can benefit from, along with social services and social assistance [22, 54].

It's seen that first stage activities focused on education, health and employment issues. For training, pilot schools were determined and instructors were trained on behalf of social inclusion. Centers were opened in Roma neighborhoods in order to bring children into social life and to increase their ties with the school. Activities for children were organized and their families were notified for participation. Courses were opened to fight with the low literacy rate. Meetings to inform the Roma for providing access to health services were held. The problem of employment was approached by providing vocational and entrepreneurship courses. Partnerships were established with İŞ-KUR and KOSGEB [53, 55].

The first stage ended on 9 November 2017. However, any data related to the project cannot be found on the project's website. There is a possibility that the project was stopped.

In parallel with the literature study carried out in the second chapter, to provide a deeper perspective on the lives of Roma, it was decided for Roma's living areas to be investigated. Third chapter is consisted of the field studies conducted to understand the lives of Roma.



3. INVESTIGATION OF ROMA'S LIVING AREAS – FIELD STUDY

After the literature study done to examine the lives of Roma, in order to get a better understanding of their lives, one-on-one interviews and surveys were conducted in the field, along with the examination of housing units and residences.

People change or transform the areas in which they live. Sometimes, their lives and the spaces they live change the influence of their communities. Despite the oppression of the communities they have lived in for centuries, Roma have been able to maintain their identities and live according to their own culture to the maximum extent.

Within the thesis, in which the lives, cultures and living spaces of the Roma were examined, one-on-one interviews were conducted with the Roma and their residences were examined in place, by visiting the areas and neighborhoods where the Roma live intensively.

For the field study, areas where the Roma live densely from Tekirdağ province were selected, and are listed as follows; Kırklar Tekkesi Street located in between the Aydoğdu and Zafer neighborhoods of Süleymanpaşa district, Kahya Street and Paşa Street located in Orta neighborhood of Hayrabolu district (Figure 3.1).

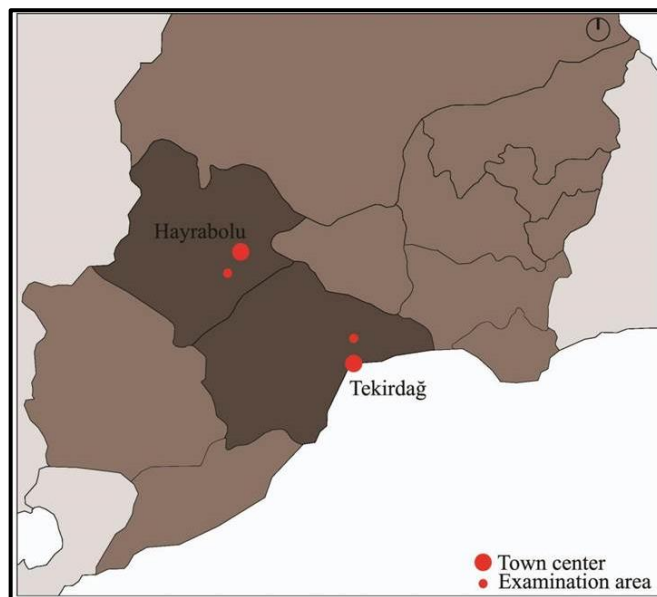


Figure 3.1. Examination areas

(Prepared by Author)

Tekirdağ province is located in the northwest of Marmara region. The province, which is on the coast of the Marmara Sea, is known for its proximity to İstanbul. According to the collected climate data, mediterranean climate is dominant in the coastal areas; summers are hot and dry, rainfall occurs in winter and spring seasons. Inlands, there is continental climate and the winter months are harsher than the coastal areas. The temperature varies between -13°C and $+37^{\circ}\text{C}$ during the year, while the prevailing wind is northeaster. Generally, soil in the province with large plains are suitable for agriculture. Agriculture-based economy is supported by tourism and industrial activities [56].

Tekirdağ, where many different ethnic groups live together, has an important place for the Roma. A large number of the Roma, who came to Turkey as part of the exchange after the Second World War in accordance with the Lausanne Treaty, had been placed in Tekirdağ. Over the years, they have adopted to their settled areas and have continued to spend their lives here. The central part of Süleymanpaşa and Hayrabolu districts are among the regions where Roma settlements are concentrated. The Roma who came here and settled through migration created a dense texture. The Roma settlement areas are located in both districts, close to the center. The Roma settlements, which were formed by the gathering of the slums, have an organic structure. It is difficult to live in these congested spaces, where houses are built interconnected with each other. Many wreckage zones are existent where Aydoğdu and Zafer neighborhoods intersect. It's observed that single story houses situated on small parcels in adjoining positions form the residential texture of the area [57]. Even though these areas are not categorized as neighborhoods, they are called Roma neighborhood. In order to examine the Roma's residences and neighborhoods, the areas where the Roma live densely were selected [58].

3.1. REVIEW OF USERS LIVING IN THE FIELD STUDY AREA

The first stage of the fieldwork is the investigation of Roma users in Süleymanpaşa and Hayrabolu districts, in Tekirdağ province. The first stage investigation aims to obtain information and opinions directly from the users living in the area.

Survey and interviews conducted with the users are shown in Appendix A.

The surveys and interviews within the scope of the thesis were conducted with users who are part of the Roma and living in the Roma neighborhoods Süleymanpaşa and Hayrabolu district of Tekirdağ province. Surveys were conducted with 20 Roma and their families living in the Roma settlement located on Kırklar Tekkesi Street between Aydoğdu and Zafer neighborhoods in Tekirdağ, and Kahya Street and Paşa Street in Orta neighborhood of Hayrabolu district.

The questionnaires were conducted to understand the lives of Roma and were grouped under five categories such as education, access to rights – spatial access, poverty – employment problem, settlement problem and housing problem. The questions were designed to provide general information about the lives of Roma, and to obtain impressions of the problems they experience daily while understanding and examining the urban and residential spaces they live.

The selected living areas of the Roma for the surveys were limited to designated areas. During the interviews, limited sections of the neighborhoods were accessible. Due to the recent security problem of Roma neighborhoods, access to certain parts of the neighborhoods could not be realized, which limited the number of Roma citizens interviewed.

During the surveys and interviews, a few problems were encountered regarding the communication with the Roma. The most noticeable one was the timid answers the Roma gave during the interviews. Some Roma stated they were worried whether the answers would cause any trouble for them due to their debts or criminal activities.

The interviews were conducted with housewives who have an active role in housing use, and inquired about the general Roma life, their problems and housing use. The age threshold of interviewed Roma individuals is from 28 to 82 years.

3.1.1. Evaluation of Survey Data

The surveys were conducted under five main topics; education, access to rights – spatial access, poverty – employment problem, settlement problem and housing problem.

3.1.1.1. Educational Status

One of the objectives of surveys and interviews conducted with the Roma community was to examine the educational status of the Roma and to see their approach towards education (Figure 3.2).

The number of children of the families, who participated in the surveys and interviews, varies from two to six children. It was determined that the majority of the children were continuing their compulsory education at the time of the surveys. The families wanted their children to further their studies and receive vocational education and training in the future. However, the number of Roma children completing compulsory education and getting higher education is quite low.

The result of the surveys and interviews related to the education topic are listed below;

- Educational status is low amongst the middle-aged Roma population.
- There are Roma who cannot read and write.
- The majority of Roma have never received any education or have dropped out of primary school.
- Education levels of children living in households are low.
- The number of Roma children who have abandoned their compulsory education is high.
- Family members want their children to continue their education.
- There are no educated individuals in the family to act as role models for children.
- At the same time, shortage of income leads Roma children to work at an early age and contribute to home economics.
- The desire for early marriage is one of the reasons for abandoning their education.
- Roma children who already have weak ties with school are quitting their schools due to the pressure of exclusion from their peers.
- Vocational training is almost non-existent.
- They do not have any hobbies or activities in their spare time.
- They spend their free time by making handicrafts and music.
- They don't take courses or training for recreational activities.

3.1.1.2. Access to Rights and Spatial Access

Another objective of surveys and interviews conducted with the Roma community was to determine whether Roma could benefit from health, transportation and urban services and whether they have difficulty to access these services. In addition, it was questioned whether the representation of Roma rights in the political scene was sufficient (Figure 3.2).

The result of the surveys and interviews related to the access to rights and spatial access topic are listed below;

- Roma neighborhoods are located in the center of the city.
- Given the location of the neighborhood where they live, being in the city center makes access to hospitals and health institutions quite easy.
- They benefit from health-related services with their green card.
- Due to financial deficiencies, they are willing to accept low standard of services.
- In places such as hospitals and health centers, they ignore the exclusion they suffer because they receive services.
- Their proximity to urban centers makes it easier for them to access urban services.
- They do not participate in cultural activities due to financial deficiencies and exclusion.
- They feel that they are not represented in the political scene.
- They stated that some of the employees in the associations established for their interests are working there for their own benefits that's why they don't accept outsiders.

When the opinions of the interview and survey participants about the representation of Roma in the political scene, the Roma associations and political party memberships were evaluated, the answers were gathered around the fact that there are certain members in these scenes who've been doing this type of representation for a long time and they prioritize their own peers in these duties. One of the interviewees stated that he ran for representing the party in local elections, but was cut off because of his attitude on revealing the problems of the Roma in his neighborhood.

3.1.1.3. Status of Poverty and Employment

Another objective of surveys and interviews conducted with the Roma community was to understand and examine the extent of poverty and employment problems the Roma experienced (Figure 3.2).

When the occupational distribution was examined, it was seen that most of their occupations are non-specialized and short-term ones.

It has been observed that the Roma do not have professions with fixed incomes. They describe themselves saying that they work in summer and sleep in winter, while consuming what they've earned during the summer time. It can be concluded that the participants of the surveys and interviews, who don't have fixed incomes, are in a continuous battle of survival throughout their lives.

It can be concluded that the main reason for one of Roma's biggest problems, unemployment, is the lack of professional training. Most of their professions comes from what they call "alaylı", which describes the professions they pursue based on the skills and experiences they inherited from their elders and previous generations. The lack of vocational training leads to the lack of a permanent profession and at the same time not having a fixed monthly income. The sources of income of the Roma who say that they have a fixed monthly income are either retirement pensions or disability pensions, which varies from 500 TL to 1500 TL. During the interviews, it was understood that the family members who were unable to work due to health problems applied to the state for help and unemployment benefit, but their applications were not accepted by the state. At the same time, they stated that some of their neighbors, who didn't have any health or economic problems benefitted from these helps. It was stated that these benefits are distributed unfairly, most of the Roma living in these neighborhoods cannot even pay their water, and electricity bills and they live below the poverty line.

The result of the surveys and interviews related to poverty and employment topic are listed below;

- The majority of the surveyed and interviewed participants were housewives.
- Among the participants, there are people who make living as musicians.

- They have not received any vocational training.
- They usually perform professions, which learned or inherited from their families.
- Their occupations are not continuous.
- They can earn daily or quarterly based their professions.
- They do not have fixed monthly incomes.
- Some of them earn a living by the pension they receive due to their spouses, by getting a disability pension or an unemployment benefit.
- Supports and aids are distributed unfairly.
- There are people who live below the poverty line.
- They make effort to acquire a profession by benefiting from short-term courses.

3.1.1.4. Status of Settlement

Another objective of surveys and interviews conducted with the Roma community was to get information about the problems, needs and life of the neighborhoods of the Roma communities (Figure 3.2).

When the question about how long they lived here was asked to the Roma, they mostly replied saying they were born here. The Roma stated that they migrated to the neighborhood they lived during their childhoods and stated that the reasons behind choosing their neighborhood is to keep the unity of Roma, social relations, living conditions and the majority of their relatives living here.

It was observed that the Roma spend most of their day on the street, in their neighborhoods. The interviews showed that 80 percent of the Roma stated that spending most of their time outside, while 20 percent stated that they could not leave the house due to old age and health issues. One of the interviewees stated this situation saying he's always outdoors and he can go as he pleases.

The question about Roma's relationship with non-Roma living in the neighborhood was mostly answered positively. Roma living densely in the Hayrabolu district, who gave positive answers towards the non-Roma, found out to be confident and don't garner any ideas of exclusion from their non-Roma neighbors. However, the Roma living in Aydoğdu neighborhood generally left the questions regarding the interaction with non-Roma

unanswered. When the general density of this region is considered, it is observed that there is a high rate of exclusion and oppression as it contains a lower numbers of Roma living in Aydoğdu neighborhood.

The result of the surveys and interviews related to settlement status topic are listed below;

- The reason behind the Roma living collectively is due to the fact that people from the same background getting together with their relatives ease the living conditions.
- The security problem in Roma neighborhoods has increased in recent years.
- Non-Roma people with low-incomes migrate to Roma neighborhoods.
- Drug use and high crime rates are among the most important security problems.
- They do not want their children to grow up in this negative environment.
- They think that they belong to their environment.
- They stated that they could not live elsewhere.
- They want to live with Roma people.
- The Roma expressed a sense of belonging in the areas they live together.
- Neighborhood life plays an important role in Roma life.
- They spend most of their daily lives on the street, outside their houses, in the neighborhood.
- Activities carried out outside the house including chatting and making music.
- Activities are carried out in the immediate vicinity of the houses or in front of the houses.
- The elders of Roma cannot be separated from their homes, so Roma neighborhoods require activity spaces at suitable distances from their homes for easy.
- They need new places to spend their time outside the housing.
- They want new spaces outside the housing to be open or semi-open.
- The park and the pool are the main activity areas they want in their neighborhoods.
- Roma neighborhoods have insufficient facilities.
- In areas, which are densely inhabited by the Roma, the feeling of exclusion is observed to be less.

- The Roma, living in the areas, which are densely inhabited by them, feel more comfortable and have higher self-confidence.



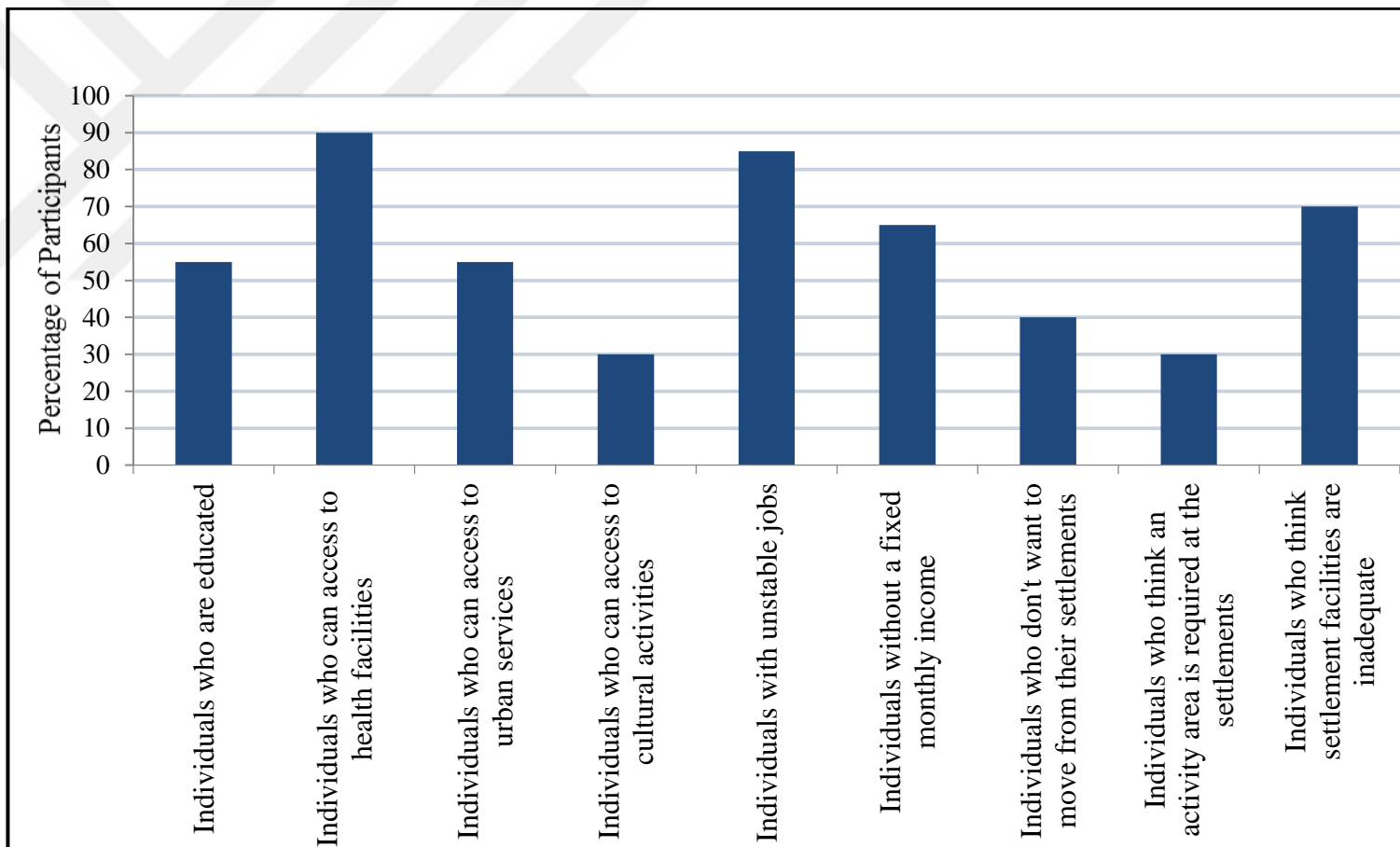


Figure 3.2. Survey results on education, access to rights and spatial access, poverty and employment and settlement status
(Prepared by Author)

3.1.1.5. Status of Housing

Another objective of surveys and interviews conducted with the Roma community was to obtain information about the problems, needs related to the housing lives of the Roma communities (Figure 3.6).

Roma houses we interviewed were all on registered land, some of them were acquired through buying and some of them were inherited. Another aspect that drew attention was that those in debt have transferred the ownership of their houses to their wives and avoided answering questions.

Table 3.1. The relationship between the number of people living in housing, space per capita in square meters (m²/person), the number of rooms in housing and the total areas of housing
(Prepared by Author)

Number of inhabitants	Space (m ²) per person	Number of rooms in the house	Total area of housing (m ²)
1	25	1	25
1	40	1	40
1	60	1	60
2	20	2	40
2	25	2	50
2	25	2	50
2	37	2	75
3	8	1	25
3	13	2	40
3	26	2	80
4	17	2	70
5	15	2	75
5	18	3	90
5	24	3	120
6	12	2	72
6	16	4	100
7	12	3	90
10	13	3	130
10	13	4	130

- The correlation value of the relationship between the number of people living in a housing and the total area of a housing is calculated with the following formula;

$$r = \frac{\sum(xy) - (\sum x)(\sum y)/n}{\sqrt{(\sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2/n)(\sum y^2 - (\sum y)^2/n)}} \quad (3.1)$$

The result of correlation value regarding the relationship between the number of people living in a housings and the total area of a housing is calculated as $r = 0.84$.

Based on the calculations and the result of the correlation value, it's observed that the relationship between the number of people living in a housing and the total area of a housing is found to be strong positive. As the number of people living in the housing increases, the total area of housing increases, too. The regression distribution graph of the correlation value relationship is shown in Figure 3.3.

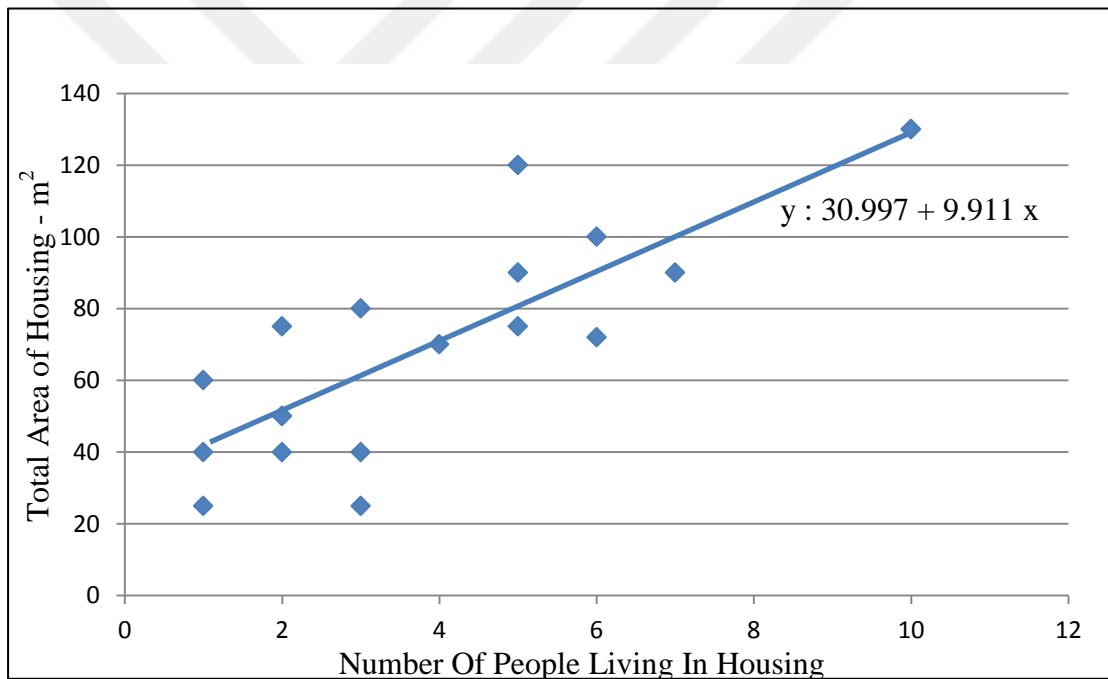


Figure 3.3. Regression distribution chart between the number of people living in housing and the total area of housing

(Prepared by Author)

- The result of correlation value regarding the relationship between the number of people living in a housing and the number of rooms in a housing is calculated as $r = 0.80$.

Based on the calculations and the result of the correlation value, the relationship between the number of people living in a housing and the number of rooms in a housing is found to be strong positive. As the number of people living in the house increases, so does the number of rooms in the house. The regression distribution graph of the correlation value relationship is shown in Figure 3.4.

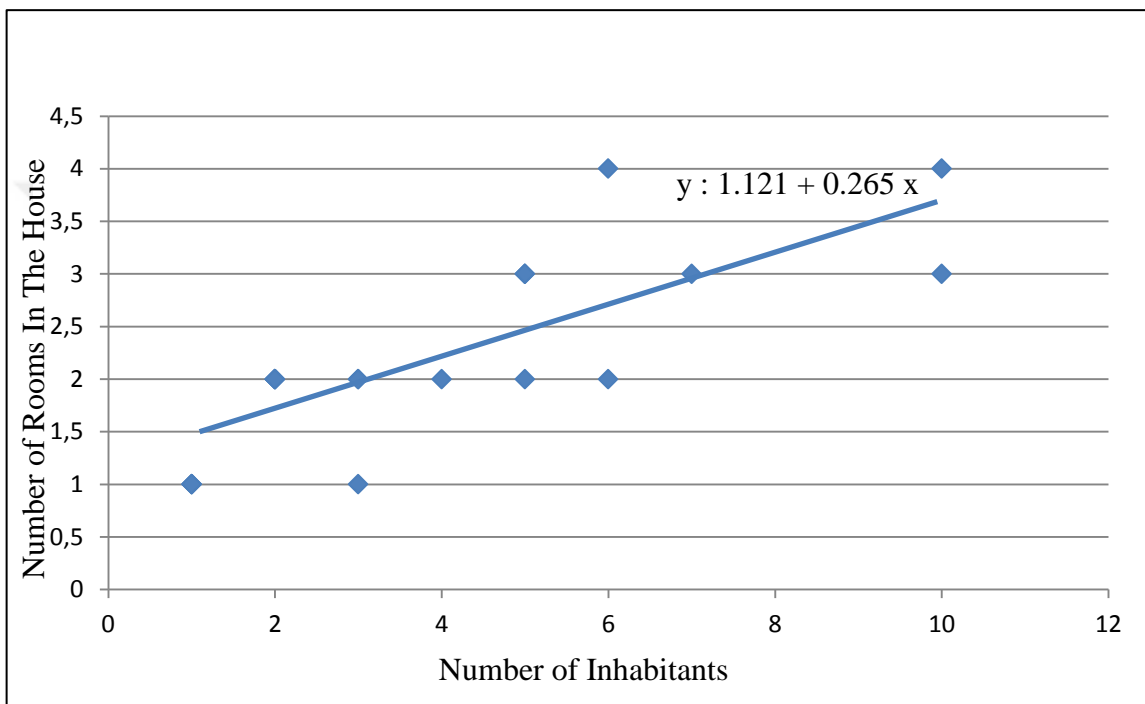


Figure 3.4. Regression distribution chart between the number of people living in a dwelling and the number of rooms in a dwelling

(Prepared by Author)

It was found that the number of rooms in the housings increases in proportion to the number of people living in the houses, but considering the data in Figure 3.3, it was revealed that the increase was insufficient in the per square meter of a housing per person, which explains the alternate use of spaces in housings.

- The result of correlation value regarding the relationship between the number of people living in a housing and housing area (square meter – m^2) per capita is calculated as $r = -0.6$.

Based on the calculations and the result of the correlation value, the relationship between the number of people living in a housing and housing area (square meter – m^2) per capita is found to be moderate negative. As the number of people living in the house increases, the housing area per capita (square meters – m^2) decreases. The regression distribution graph of the correlation value relationship is shown in Figure 3.5.

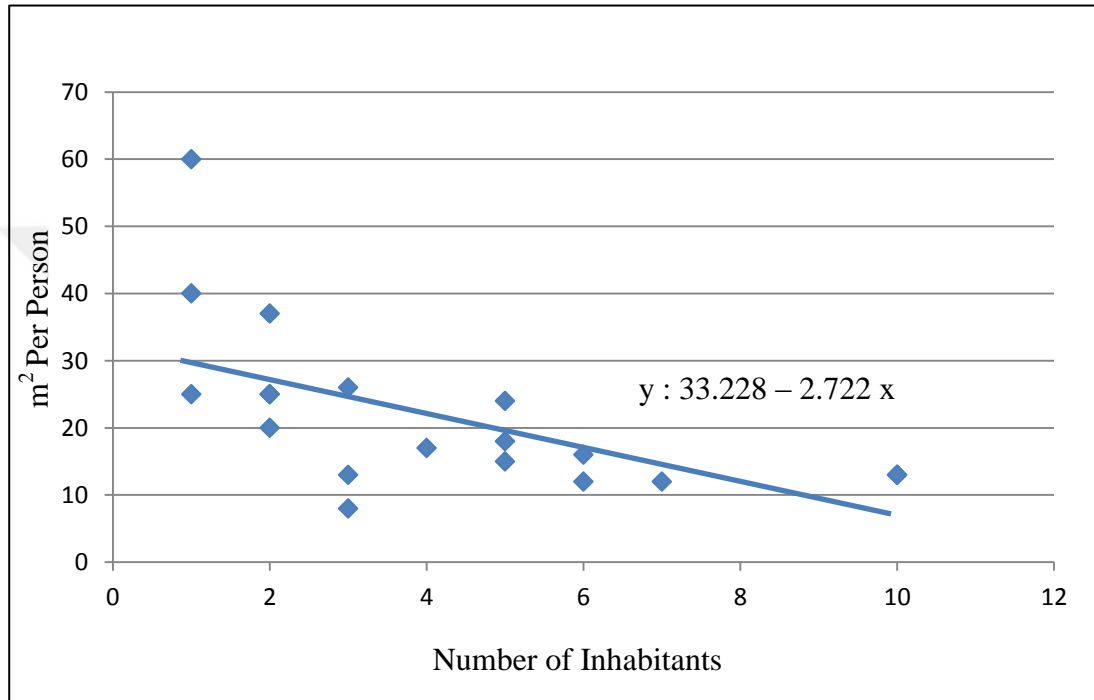


Figure 3.5. Regression distribution chart between the number of people living in housing and the per capita housing area (m^2)
(Prepared by Author)

When figures 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 are evaluated together, it is seen that as the number of people in the residence increases, the total area of the house and the room rate increase, too, but the housing area per capita decreases, which can be interpreted as insufficient housing size for large families.

When the Roma houses, where interviews were conducted, were examined, it was found that there was a positive relationship between the number of rooms in a housing and the number of people living in it. However, when the functions of the rooms are examined, the living and sleeping functions are observed to be taking place in the same places. The

spaces used for living during the day turn into sleeping spaces in the evening. This situation is considered as a compelling condition for the residents. Spaces that are transformed to serve different purposes during the day are considered as insufficient conditions for shelter.

The use of inadequate number of rooms varies during the day. The spaces are used alternately. There are intertwined spaces. For example, a room can be used as a living space during the day and can be transformed into a sleeping space at night. In the same way, living and cooking, eating, drinking spaces is intertwined.

The shortage of space in the houses has also been reflected in the lives of children. They do not have their own rooms to study, play or sleep. They share all their daily activities with their parents in common spaces. The fact that children at the school age have to study in the common space affects their success rates along with having a negative effect on their ties with school. At the same time, the upbringing of children in the development ages in crowded spaces creates problems for the future.

The Roma, interviewed for the study, stated their priorities in housing design towards having more rooms. Their housings, which are located in narrow and cramped areas, can only provide small living spaces. At the same time, they want the function of the spaces to be appropriate. The spaces they use in alternate functions, affect the daily life routines negatively.

They also stated that they want to live in one and two story houses, saying high-rise housings are not suitable for their lifestyles and they prefer houses where they can have relations with the open space. One of the interviewees stated that she'd prefer her house to be on the same level with the street.

The Roma stated that, the apartment life is not suitable for their lifestyles and requires a certain amount of monthly expenses, that's why they would not prefer it. Some of their comments stated that they don't have the budget for apartment expenses, they prefer a house where they can walk on and feel the soil with a garden instead of cramped up apartments like hencoops.

- Housings are small compared to the number of inhabitants based on area (m²) per capita.

- They live in areas under sufficient square meters that a person needs to live.
- The number of rooms in the houses is insufficient.
- There are visitors staying in the house during the year.
- The number of children in nuclear families is high and their housing capacity is insufficient.
- In certain cases, living with family elders is preferred.
- Crime, military service, pregnancy or financial circumstances are among the reasons of preferring to live together.
- Spaces and rooms are used alternately.
- Sleeping and living activity takes in the same place.
- Cooking, eating, drinking and living space are intertwined.
- Children do not have their own rooms for studying, which affects the success rate of Roma children who already have very little connection with school
- The priority needs of the housing design are more rooms, bathrooms and toilets inside the housings, kitchens and functional spaces.
- Toilets are located outside.
- Bathroom is consisted of an allocated space in one of the alternating living spaces, which leads to privacy and odor problems.
- Housings have insufficient number of bathrooms and toilets.
- They want to have their own courtyards or gardens.
- Those who do not have open spaces want to have open spaces for housing areas.
- Work related equipments are stored in a corner of the garden, the courtyard or in the street in front of the housing.
- Work related materials required for manufacturing are bought and used daily due to financial deficiencies.
- No investment can be made in terms of future business.
- Storage spaces are not preferred because they're thought to create security and space problems.
- Usually, they spend their time in front of their housings or their neighbors'.
- Their home and street lives are intertwined.
- They have the ability to build housing.

- Coming from a nomadic lifestyle has helped them in creating and developing solutions to their contemporary and permanent housing problems.
- Traditional construction methods are used in the construction of their housings.
- They want to live in their own low-rise housings.
- Living in multi-story apartments is not suitable for Roma.
- Lack of a garden and an open space in the apartment life contradicts with their lifestyles.
- The static apartment life is not suitable for their free and flexible life.
- They have insufficient financial earnings to live in apartments.
- Apartment life is an expensive choice for the Roma due to high living and maintenance costs.

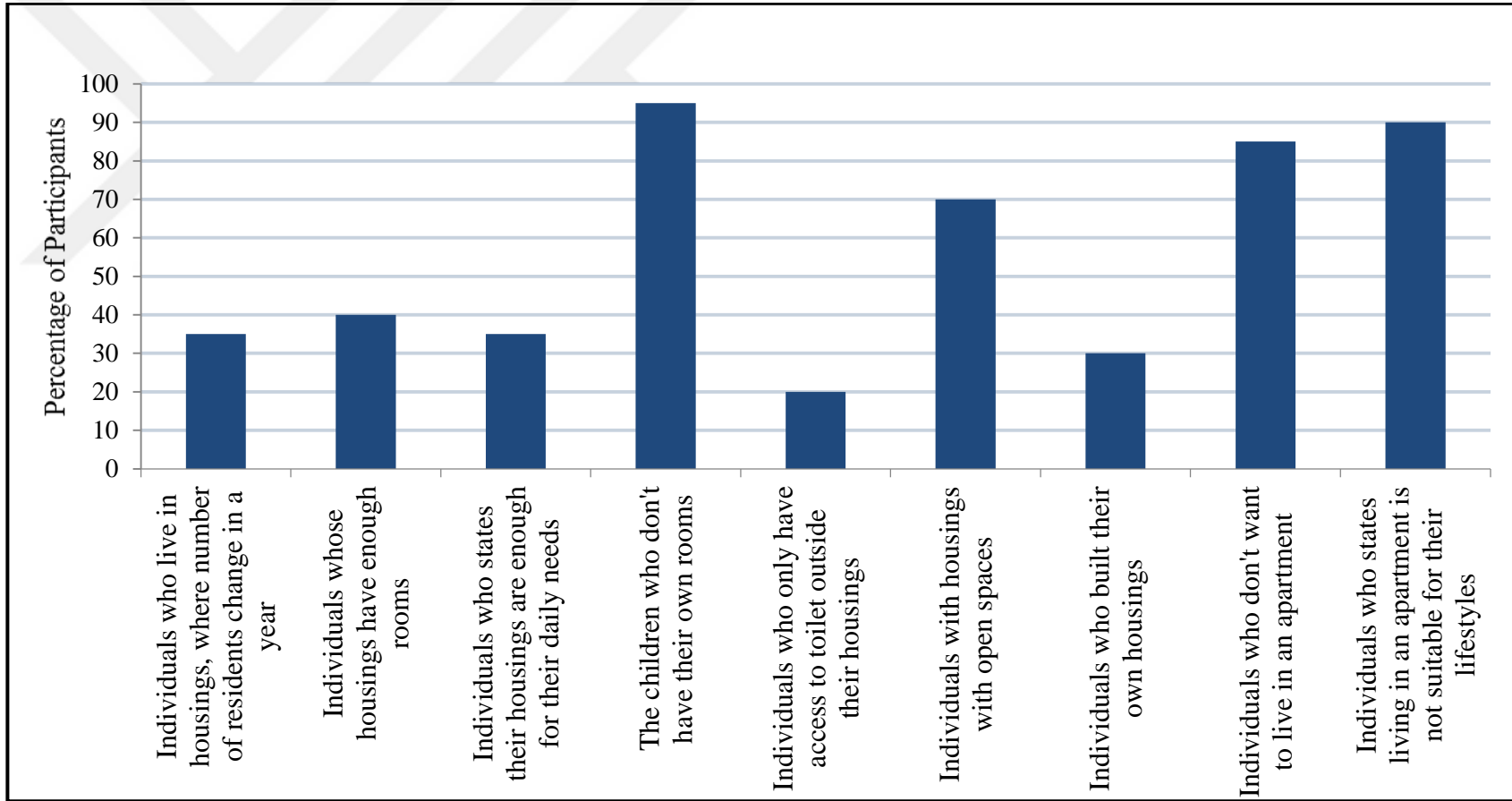


Figure 3.6. Survey results related to Housing Status

(Prepared by Author)

3.1.2. Conversion of Survey Results to Basic Data

In order to determine the characteristics of the results obtained from the survey, which would be reflected in the design of Roma housing and settlements, obtained results should be converted into basic data.

3.1.2.1. Basic Data on Educational Status

- Children, teenagers and young adults of the Roma community are not able to continue their education due to reasons such as early transition to working life to support family income, marriage at a young age and ethnic exclusion.
- Roma's leisure activities are limited to handcrafts and making music.

3.1.2.2. Basic Data on Access to Rights and Spatial Access

- Roma neighborhoods are generally located close to the city centers, which provides easy spatial access to urban services.
- Roma can benefit from health services with green card. Even though the green card benefit provides them with minimum services, they still accept it regardless of the exclusion they face when they receive these services.
- Financial inadequacy and exclusion, which are Roma's main problems, prevents them benefiting from cultural activities.
- They think that they are not properly represented in the political scene and there are groupings in the established Roma associations, which they believe don't serve for their purpose.

3.1.2.3. Basic Data on Poverty and Employment

- The education level of Roma is generally low and they do not have any vocational training.
- Lack of professional training creates an obstacle for them, preventing them to get continuous jobs with fixed monthly income and social security.
- While the Roma tries to survive the life below the poverty line, from time to time they benefit from unstable government subsidies.

3.1.2.4. Basic Data on Status of Settlement

- Security is an important issue in Roma neighborhoods and settlements. Factors such as crime and substance use affect the security of settlements.
- Roma have lived in communities from the past to present day, which affects their lives largely. Their preference for living together with their families and relatives in Roma neighborhoods and settlements greatly supports their sense of belonging to their living spaces.
- Roma spend most of their daily lives in their neighborhoods, outside their homes.
- In Roma neighborhoods and settlements, there isn't enough suitable spaces to spend their times outside.

3.1.2.5. Basic Data on Status of Housing

- Housings where Roma live are generally insufficient compared to the size of their households. While household size is four people on average, house sizes vary.
- Due to insufficient space and number of rooms, different functions are performed alternately in the same spaces of housings.

- The housing of Roma must have the necessary technical infrastructure to meet their needs.
- The daily lives of Roma are spent outside their homes, therefore open and semi-open spaces should be included as part of their housings.
- The time spent outside the housing is intertwined with the Roma neighborhood and settlement, so the open and semi-open areas should be considered together with the Roma residences and neighborhoods.
- They require storage areas to store materials related with their self-employed jobs.
- They think that the apartment life is not suitable for them and that it's expensive. They prefer to stay away from the apartment life not to be restricted.

3.1.3. Determining the Qualifications and Design Requirements for the Roma

3.1.3.1. Qualifications and Design Requirements for Educational Status

The basic data on educational status (see chapter 3.1.2.1) show that the general education level of Roma is low but they are a willing and hard working community.

Based on these qualifications, the following requirements may be set for design criteria,

- Social support and integration training is required to prevent ethnic exclusion, which is one of the main problems the Roma faces during their daily lives and on education.
- The Roma children and young individuals of the Roma community should be encouraged to continue their education.
- An appropriate environment in the housings should be provided for children and individuals who continue education and vocational training.
- The community requires courses and trainings on leisure activities and job-oriented hobbies.

3.1.3.2. Qualifications and Requirements for Access to Rights and Spatial Access

The basic data on requirements for access to rights and spatial access (see chapter 3.1.2.2) show that the Roma are willing to settle for their existing living conditions, but their fundamental rights for a decent living must be met. They are willing to compromise to better their living conditions and they prefer to act as a group.

Based on these qualifications, the following requirements may be set for design criteria,

- Roma should take advantage of their spatial proximity to the city center.
- They should benefit from urban, health and cultural services equally in the society.
- Access to political establishments and associations should be equal and easy.
- Social unity should be ensured to prevent exclusion.
- The relationship with the city center should be strengthened.

3.1.3.3. Qualifications and Design Requirements for Poverty and Employment

The basic data on requirements for poverty and employment (see chapter 3.1.2.3) show that the main reason for the Roma living below the poverty line is their lack of having permanent jobs with fixed monthly incomes. They mostly earn their living through professions they inherited from their families and elders, and they're highly skilled at their work.

Based on these qualifications, the following requirements may be set for design criteria,

- Roma should receive professional training and should be guided according to their abilities.
- Roma should prefer continuous jobs with monthly fixed incomes and social security to support themselves.
- Financial support provided by the state and institutions should be distributed evenly amongst the Roma.

3.1.3.4. Qualifications and Design Requirements for Status of Settlement

The basic data on requirements for status of settlement (see chapter 3.1.2.4) show that unity is important for the lives of Roma and that their free spirits shape their lives significantly.

Based on these qualifications, the following requirements may be set for design criteria,

- The security problem in Roma neighborhoods, which affects life in their settlements significantly, should be addressed.
- For the Roma, who prefers to live in groups, the idea of community and unity should be supported.
- Specific living spaces are required for Roma communities who spend a significant part of their daily life outside the housing.

3.1.3.5. Qualifications and Design Requirements for Status of Housing

The basic data on requirements for status of housing (see chapter 3.1.2.5) show that Roma's lifestyle is reflected in their living spaces and housings. The benefits of their free and flexible lifestyle can be observed clearly. They have developed their own temporary and variable solutions to their housing insufficiencies.

Based on these qualifications, the following requirements may be set for design criteria,

- The existing housing sizes are insufficient to accommodate Roma families. In these cases, flexibility approach can be implemented to provide humane living conditions.
- In case of similar functions, spaces are used alternately.
- The presence of open and semi-open spaces have an important place in housing design.
- Multi-story housing design should be avoided as it's not suitable for the Roma's lifestyle.
- Insertion of open kitchen area should be considered.

The collected data from the surveys and interviews are also presented in Table 3.2, which is also presented in Appendix B in detail.



Table 3.2. The results of the Roma settlement field study
(Prepared by Author)

Survey Titles	Results	Basic Data	Qualifications	Requirements	Reflection On Design
Status of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are reasons such as early marriages, ethnic exclusion and early transition to working life, which impede education. • Hobby and leisure activities are mainly focused on handicrafts and music making. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although their education level is low, they are willing and hard working. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and support is needed to solve problems such as social and family based exclusion and early marriage. • Appropriate conditions should be provided for children and young people who continue their education. • Training courses for the development of hobbies and employment are needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A social support center close to the settlement is required. • Separate rooms or study rooms are required to support education for children and young people. • Hobby and business-oriented training and course centers are required. 	
Access To Rights and Spatial Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roma-populated neighborhoods are generally close to city centers. • They benefit from health services and basic urban services at low levels due to financial insufficiency and exclusion. • Political representation is very low and associations are not equal to all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are not entitled to basic rights even though they have consented to the conditions in which they live. • Political representation is not adequate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the opportunities of their spatial proximity. • Urban, health and cultural services are needed. • Access to political and associations should be equal and easy. • Prevention of exclusion, the phenomenon of togetherness should be supported. • The relationship with the city center should be strengthened. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proximity to the city centre needs to be maintained and converted to advantage. • Health and cultural centers close to the settlement are required. • Close association work centers should be established. 	
Status of Poverty and Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roma do not generally have vocational training. • They work continuously, generate fixed income and have no guarantees. • They benefit from unequally distributed government subsidies while living on the poverty line. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are highly skilled in the professions that they learn by being mocked. • Since they have to live in difficult living conditions on the poverty line, they can easily adapt to changing conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They should receive vocational training for their abilities. • There is a need to acquire occupations where they can earn fixed income and have continuity. • Aids and supports should be provided equally and correctly according to needs. • Possible possibilities for their work must be located in the dwelling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses and training centers are required to obtain occupations with fixed income and assurance. • In order to determine the aid and support correctly, a central social assistance center is required to communicate with the neighborhood. • Works related to work, workshops etc. fields must be created. 	
Status of Settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In recent years, there has been a security problem in Roma neighborhoods and settlements. • Roma want to live in their neighborhoods with their families and relatives, and they feel that they belong to the areas where they live. • They spend most of their days in the immediate vicinity of their houses and outside their houses. • Other than housing, the facilities of neighborhoods and settlements are insufficient. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The phenomenon of association is important for novels. • Free spirits shape their lives. • Sociable and neighborly relations are strong. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The security problem affecting daily life should be avoided. • Coexistence problems should be solved and togetherness should be supported. • Communal living areas are required on a residential and neighbourhood basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and support center is required to ensure safety. • Areas that can be spent together should be created. • There should be open and semi-open areas near the houses. 	
Status of Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing size is not sufficient compared to households. • The spaces in the residence are used alternately. • The technical infrastructure and storage area of the houses is insufficient. • The use of open and semi-open spaces and the time spent in the neighborhood have an important place in daily life. • They do not prefer multi-storey housing and apartment life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their flexible and free lives are reflected in their housing and daily lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate housing sizes should be provided for living conditions, housing sizes should be subject to change at the point where insufficient. • The use of a transforming room should be considered for use with close functionality. • The presence of open and semi-open spaces is important. • Multi-storey buildings should be avoided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where housing sizes and room numbers are insufficient, flexible use should be brought to the agenda. • The use of rotating rooms can be considered for inadequate spaces. • Open and semi-open spaces should be designed with the house. • Dwellings should be designed with low floors and should be considered with respect to the large family structure. • The kitchen and storage should be added to the open space. 	

3.2. EXAMINATION OF EXISTING ROMA SETTLEMENT AND STRUCTURES

Along with the interviews and surveys conducted with the Roma, their current settlements and residences were observed based on physical conditions. Residences allowed the photographs of the housings to be taken during the interviews. The drafts of the dwellings are drawn and supported by taken photographs.

3.2.1. Tekirdağ – Süleymanpaşa Roma Settlement Examination

Investigation of the Roma settlements in Süleymanpaşa, central district of Tekirdağ, was carried out in the area on the street of Kırklar Tekkesi which is located at the intersection of Aydoğdu and Zafer neighborhoods. Interviews and investigations were conducted between 1 September – 13 November 2018. The examination area is shown in Figure 3.7 and Figure 3.8. Questionnaires and interviews were conducted but not all participants allowed their homes to be inspected.



Figure 3.7. Tekirdağ Roma settlement examination area (Kırklar Tekkesi Street)

(Prepared by Author)

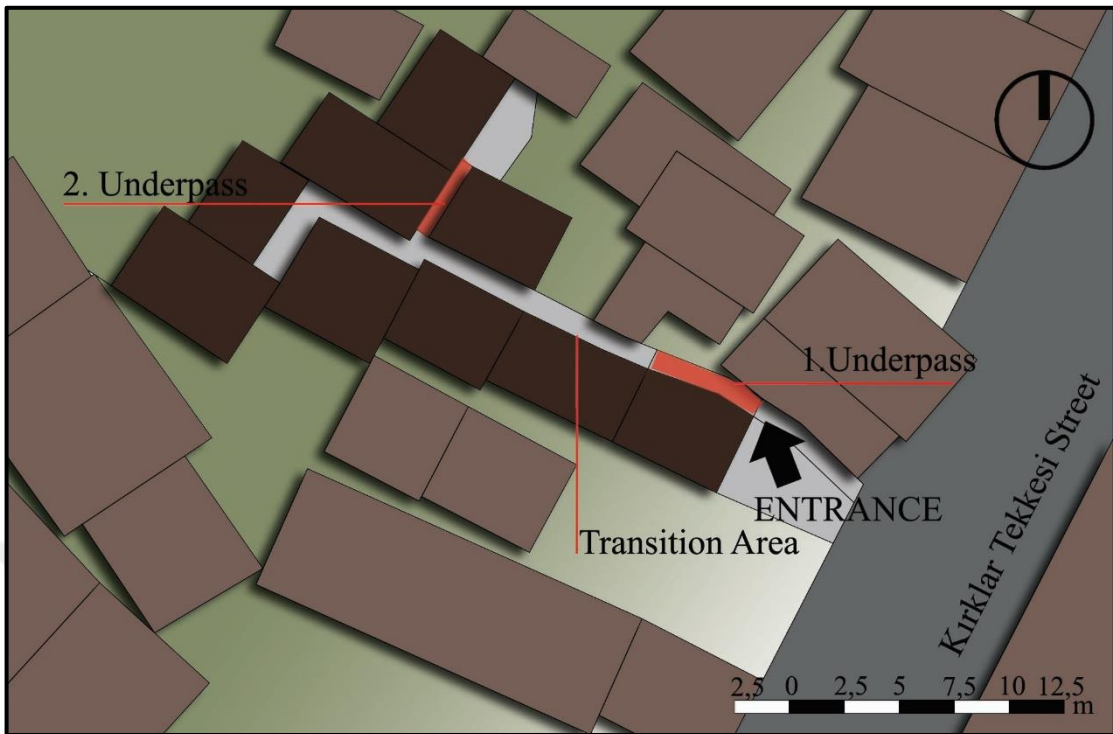


Figure 3.8. Tekirdağ Roma settlement examination area (Kırklar Tekkesi Street)

(Prepared by Author)

The settlement chosen as the study area is a small neighbourhood unit, consisted of 14 households which are attached to an axis system that functions like a narrow passage or a corridor. It is observed that the passage, which's width varies from 90 cm to 100 cm, is transformed into underpasses at certain points of the corridor, becoming covered by two-story housings for the purpose of expanding the upper floors. In the area, 9 residential blocks are stacked on top of each other and are intertwined. A total of 14 households live in this area. Access to the dwellings in the corridor is quite difficult. In addition, disproportionate and immeasurable staircases were constructed for access to the housing located on top of each other. There are no safety precautions on the stairs. The narrow passage of the corridor causes problems in providing light to the housings, ventilation and especially odor issues. During the winter months, residential users provide warmth with coal or wood stoves. While water and electricity are provided to the housings, sewage infrastructure is not available for all of them. At the same time, security is a serious problem. While the relatives from the same family used to live together in close dwellings

in the area, today the dwellings have been transferred to their children. In recent years, in addition to the existing families, unfamiliar dwellers are observed to be living in these areas. This situation caused a loss of confidence in the environment in previous years. The photographs taken from the area are shown below (Figure 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, 3.13).

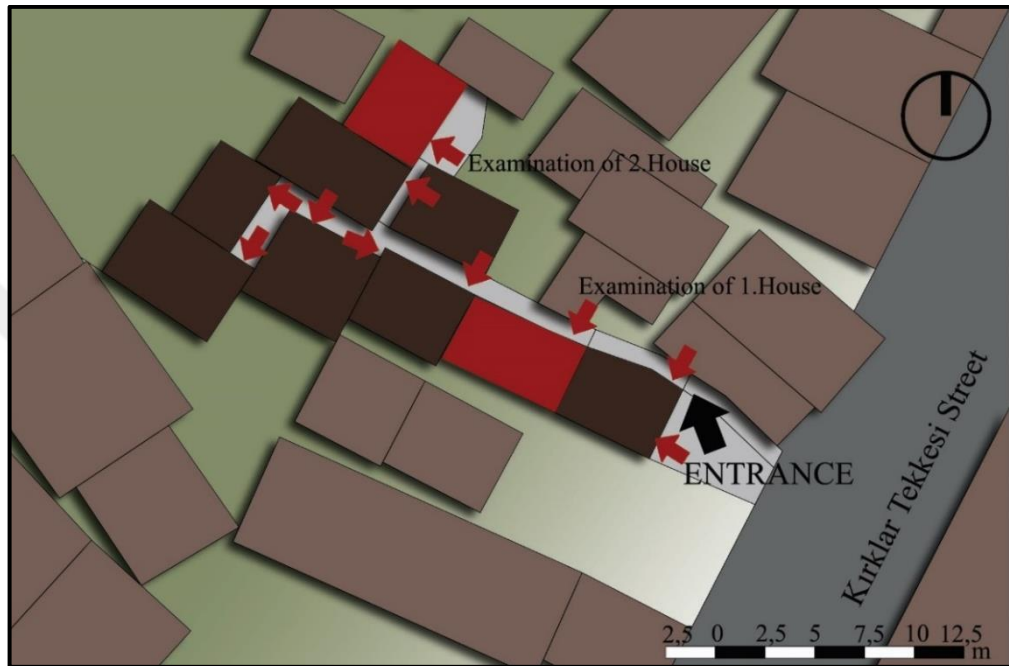


Figure 3.9. Tekirdağ Roma settlement examination area, housing entrances
(Kırklar Tekkesi Street)
(Prepared by Author)



Figure 3.10. Tekirdağ Roma settlement examination area, entrance
(Kırklar Tekkesi Street)
(Photo by Author)



Figure 3.11. Tekirdağ Roma settlement examination area first underpass
(Kırklar Tekkesi Street)
(Photo by Author)



Figure 3.12. Tekirdağ Roma settlement examination area, transition area-corridor (Kırklar Tekkesi Street)
(Photo by Author)



Figure 3.13. Tekirdağ Roma settlement examination area second underpass
(Kırklar Tekkesi Street)
(Photo by Author)

3.2.1.1. Examination of the First Housing

In the Roma settlement located in Kırklar Tekkesi street, in Süleymanpaşa district of Tekirdağ, the entrance of the first housing is observed to be located above the passage. The housing does not benefit from natural ventilation and natural light. While the household is consisted of four people, the residential area does not have enough space to accommodate all four. On the ground floor, living and kitchen area are located in the same volume. The upper floor has a single room which is used as a bedroom. The area on the ground floor serves for different functions according to the family needs during the day time. In the evening, the ground floor area becomes a place for children to sleep (Figure 3.14, 3.15, 3.16).



Figure 3.14. Location of the first housing

(Prepared by Author)

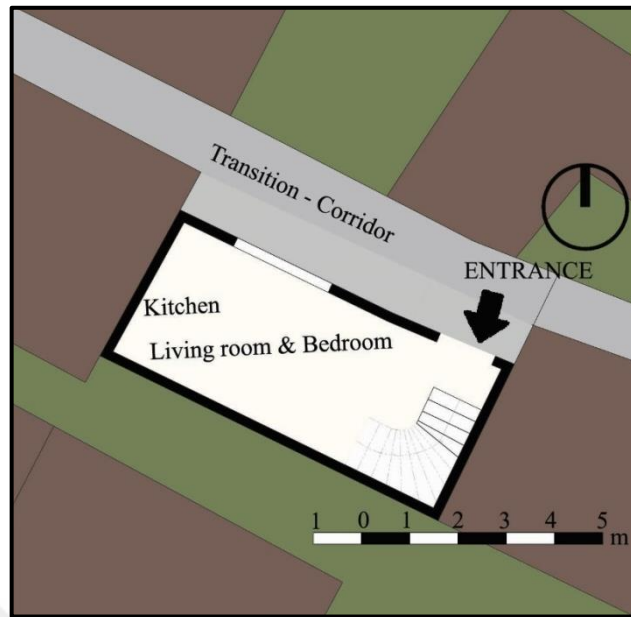


Figure 3.15. The draft of the first housing, ground floor
(Prepared by Author)

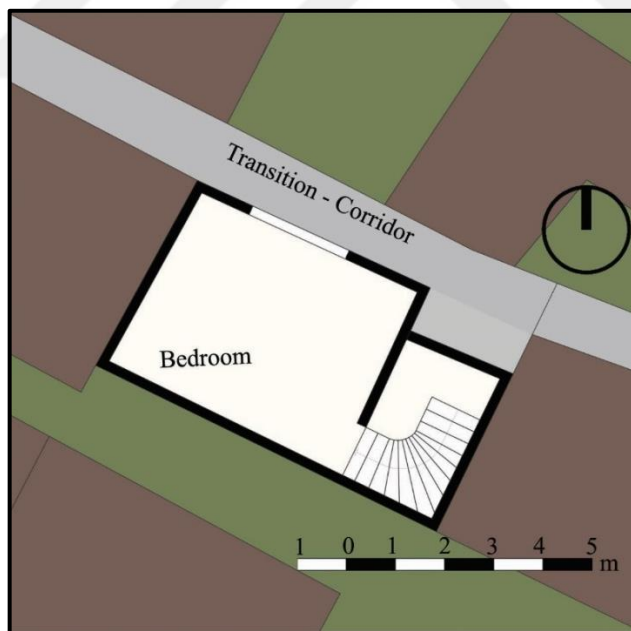


Figure 3.16. The draft of the first housing, first floor
(Prepared by Author)

The housing does not have a bathroom or a toilet. In case of need, residents use the housings of their relatives. The lack of a washbasin and a toilet in the housing affects the

residents' life negatively. The housing is a masonry structure. The stairway between the entrance floor and the first floor in the housing is not made in accordance with architectural codes; while the step width is more narrow than usual, step height is quite high compared to standards (Figure 3.17).



Figure 3.17. First housing, living and kitchen space on the ground floor
(Photo by Author)

3.2.1.2. Examination of the Second Housing

The second housing is occupied by a middle-aged married couple. Their relatives reside on the upper floor of the housing. The small garden in front of the housing is used by both families for entrance. The second housing in the study area is located in the most advantageous part of the passage. Since the front façade of the housing faces an open area, it is better in terms of ventilation and receiving natural light compared to other housings in the passage (Figure 3.18, 3.19).

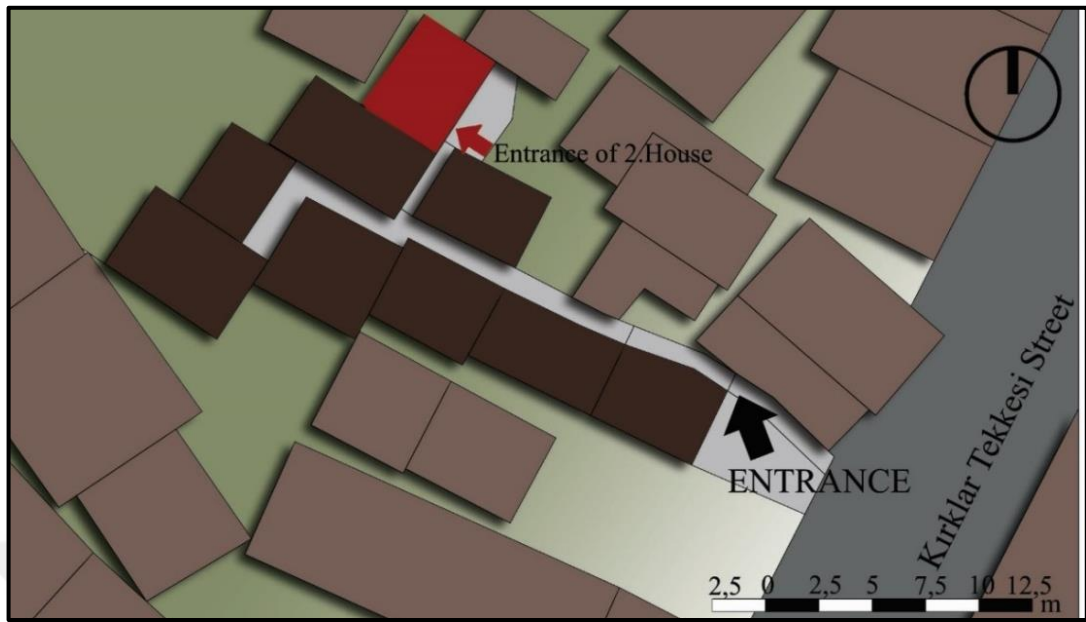


Figure 3.18. Location of the second housing
(Prepared by Author)

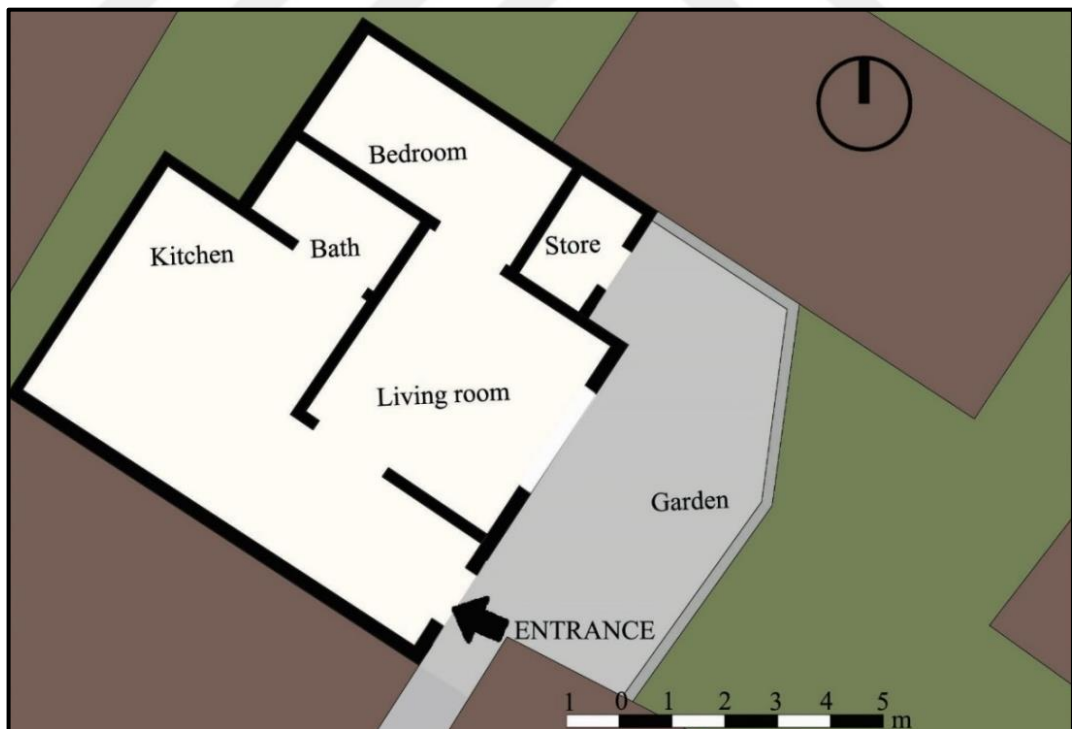


Figure 3.19. The draft of the second housing
(Prepared by Author)



Figure 3.20. Second housing, indoor spaces
(Photo by Author)

The spaces in the housing are used alternately. Since the bedroom in the housing is not suitable for a couple, the living room is used alternately as a bedroom. There is no toilet in the housing. The toilet in the garden of the housing, located under the staircase leading up to the upper floor neighbor, is shared with the neighbors. The bathroom in the housing is in very bad condition with no ventilation or sewage connection, causing the residents difficulty while using it (Figure 3.20, 3.21)



Figure 3.21. Second housing, bathroom
(Photo by Author)

3.2.2. Tekirdağ - Hayrabolu Roma Settlement Examination

The investigation of the Roma settlements in Hayrabolu district was carried out in the region which is located at the intersection of Orta Neighborhood, Kahya Street and Paşa Street. The interviews and surveys conducted between 1 September – 13 November 2018 are shown in Figure 3.22. Housing drafts were examined in the order of conducted surveys and interviews. Due to some residents not allowing their names to be mentioned in the surveys, the housings were numbered for confidentiality.



Figure 3.22. Hayrabolu Roma settlement examination area
(Orta Neighborhood, Kahya Street And Çiftçi Street)

(Prepared by Author)

3.2.2.1. Examination of the First Housing

In the first housing, where the interviews and investigations are conducted, five residents reside. Interviews and questionnaires were conducted with the father of the housing, who is the eldest of the family and he also provides for the family's daily expenses. The father specifically requested his name not to be used in the investigation. Due to the father of the housing having a certain amount of debt on himself, he transferred the rights of the housing to his wife. The couple lives with their daughter, their son in his 20s, who was serving his mandatory military duty at the time of the survey, and their daughter-in-law. The housing area, in which they live, is inherited from their ancestors. Due to a fire in the housing, which happened two years ago, most of the housing was damaged and it became uninhabitable. After a while, the housing was rebuilt with various help and support from their acquaintances.



Figure 3.23. Location of the first housing
(Prepared by Author)

The location of the first housing, in which interviews and surveys were conducted, in the Roma settlement is shown in the site plan above. (Figure 3.23) The housing is located in an adjoining order. It shares two facades with adjacent structures. The entrance, front façade, opens to Paşa Street and there is no connection with the green area located at the back facade.

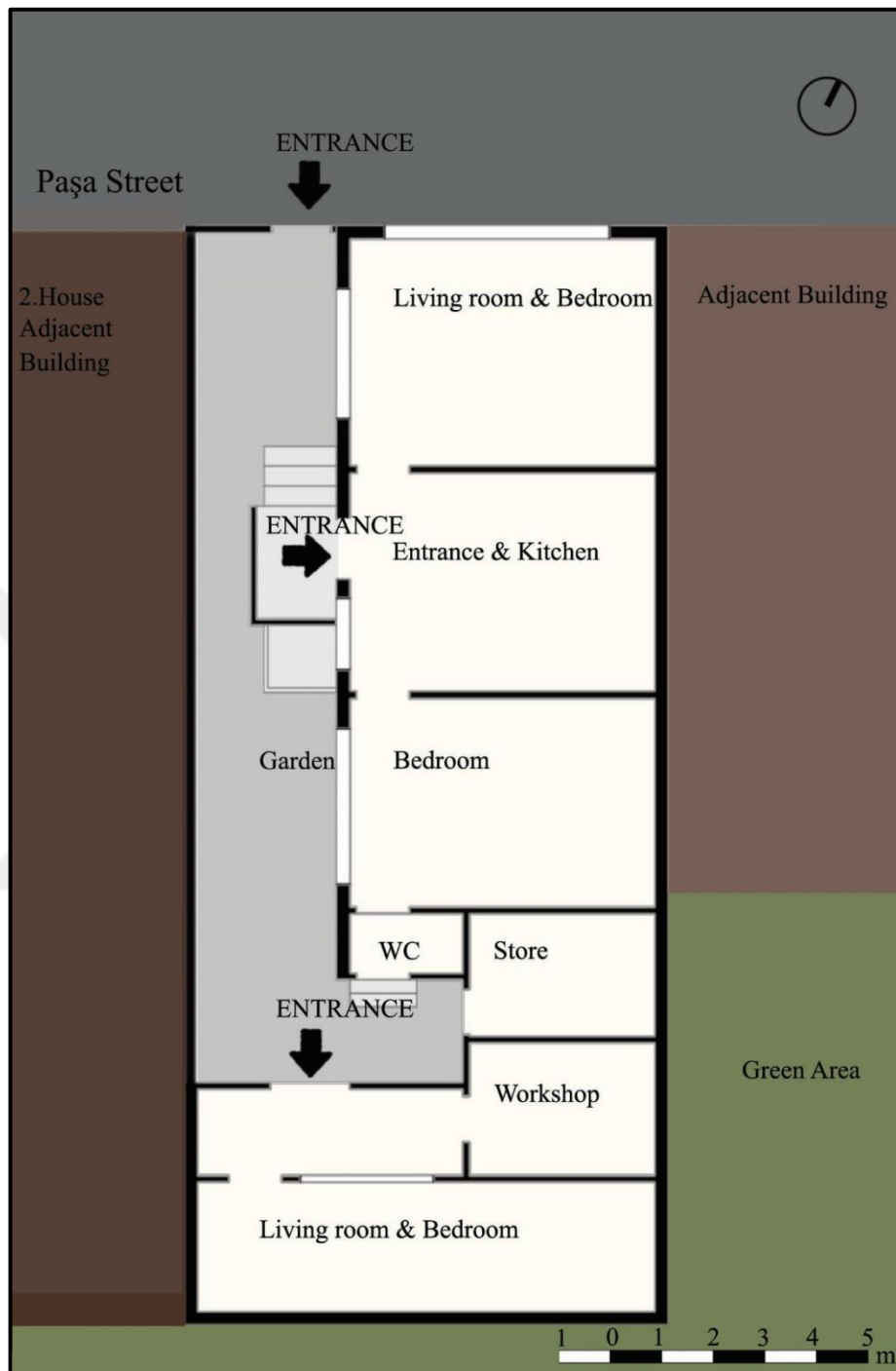


Figure 3.24. The draft of the first housing
(Prepared by Author)

The number of people living in the housing and the number of existing rooms are disproportionate which is making the rooms inadequate. Because of this inadequacy, the

existing rooms are used alternately. The spaces, which are used for living areas during the day, are turned into sleeping areas in the evening. The couches, which serve as a seating function, are transformed from sofa to bed through their built-in mechanism in the evening. In the case of number of people staying in the housing increases, a sleeping area is prepared with thick mattresses laid down on the floor. The son of the family and his wife live together in the rear building, which looks like an addition to the housing.

The space between the housing and its neighbor is used as an inner garden. Due to the retraction, the housing is provided with light. The workshop and storage area located at the back of the garden is used as a bakery.

The main volume is a single-story masonry structure. The storage area at the back of the garden is made of collected materials. The photographs of the surveyed housing are shown below. (Figure 3.24, 3.25)



Figure 3.25. First housing, garden and workshop area
(Photo by Author)

3.2.2.2. Examination of the Second Housing

Seven residents reside in the second housing in the study area. The elders of the family live here with their two married sons, their daughter-in-laws and their grandchildren. The interview was done with the eldest woman of the housing. The family inherited the residential area.



Figure 3.26. Location of the second housing
(Prepared by Author)

The location of the investigated second housing is shown in the site plan above. (Figure 3.26) The front façade of the housing, which is located in an adjacent order, faces the street while the side facades are adjacent to the neighboring buildings. The rear façade opens to the green area.

Two separate building volumes, the main front volume and the additional rear volume, are located in the same garden (Figure 3.27). Young married members of the family live in the main volume. Family members share the bathroom and kitchen, which are located at the entrance. The bathroom area is located inside the kitchen and is consisted of a single shower cabin (Figure 3.28). The two rooms in the main volume are used alternately for

different functions. The two rooms in the housing are used as living spaces during the day by two couples and their children, and are converted into sleeping areas in the evening. Children do not have their own rooms or spaces in the housing. In the additional structure inside the garden, the eldest members of the family live. There is also a small kitchen and pantry in the additional structure. The single room is also used alternately. The toilet in the garden is shared by all family members (Figure 3.29). Family members generally spend their time in the inner garden and on the street with their neighbors. The housing is a single-story masonry structure, built with left-over and collected materials.



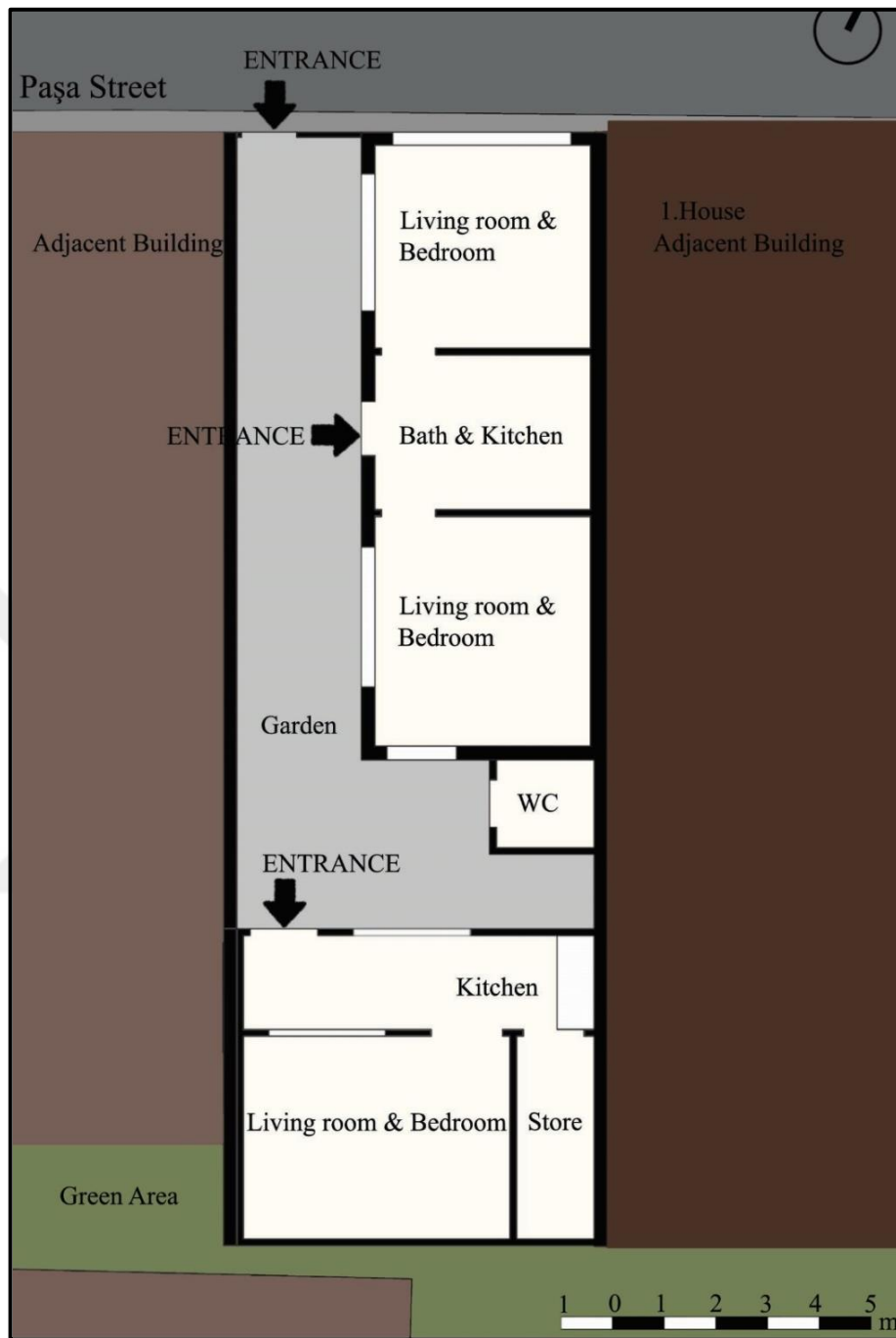


Figure 3.27. The draft of the second housing
(Prepared by Author)



Figure 3.28. Second housing, main volume, living and sleeping spaces, kitchen and bathroom

(Photo by Author)



Figure 3.29. Second housing, toilet located in the garden

(Photo by Author)

3.2.2.3. Examination of the Third Housing

For the investigation of the third housing, the housewife, who is the eldest of the family, was interviewed (Figure 3.30). The housing has ten residents. The eldest family member, the married children of the family, the daughter who got married but later got divorced and moved back home, and the children of the married couples share the same housing. The housing has been recently renovated. The construction of the housing was completed with the support of others within the minimum requirements. Access to the housing is through a narrow entrance. The housing has a closed structure and a large garden. The housing is built in a linear way; the rooms are located on the linear axis. All rooms open to a semi-open space, called “sundurma” (porch) among the public. The family and their relatives share a part of the housing. They also share the inner garden and toilets (Figure 3.31).



Figure 3.30. Location of the third housing
(Prepared by Author)

The number of rooms in the housing is insufficient compared to the number of people living in the housing. The rooms and residential spaces are used alternately. Functions are combined in some spaces. For example, the part consisted of the bathroom is located in the corner of a the bedroom. In the same way, food is cooked in one corner of the living room and the bedroom area. Like in other housings, the living rooms are transformed into sleeping places. Inadequate spaces create difficulty for users. They spend their daily lives in the garden, in the semi-open space or on the street. The single story masonry housing does not have any paint or floor covering. A coal-wood stove in one room provides heating in the housing. The toilet is located in the garden, outside the housing, which is shared with the family's relatives (Figure 3.32, 3.33).



Figure 3.31. The draft of the third housing
(Prepared by Author)



Figure 3.32. Third housing, entrance and garden, semi-open area (sundurma-porch)

(Photo by Author)



Figure 3.33. Third housing, sleeping space and bathroom

(Photo by Author)

3.2.2.4. Examination of the Fourth Housing

During the investigation of the fourth housing, the interview was conducted with the married couple living in the housing. There are three people living in the housing, a married couple and their middle-aged son. Fourth housing is in the worst condition amongst the housings examined for this study. The housing is completely made out of collected materials. Consisted of two separate buildings, the complex has a small garden. The roof of the dwelling is about to collapse and the family cannot afford to maintain due to financial difficulties. All three facades of the housing are closed. The housing has problems in getting fresh air and natural light (Figure 3.34).

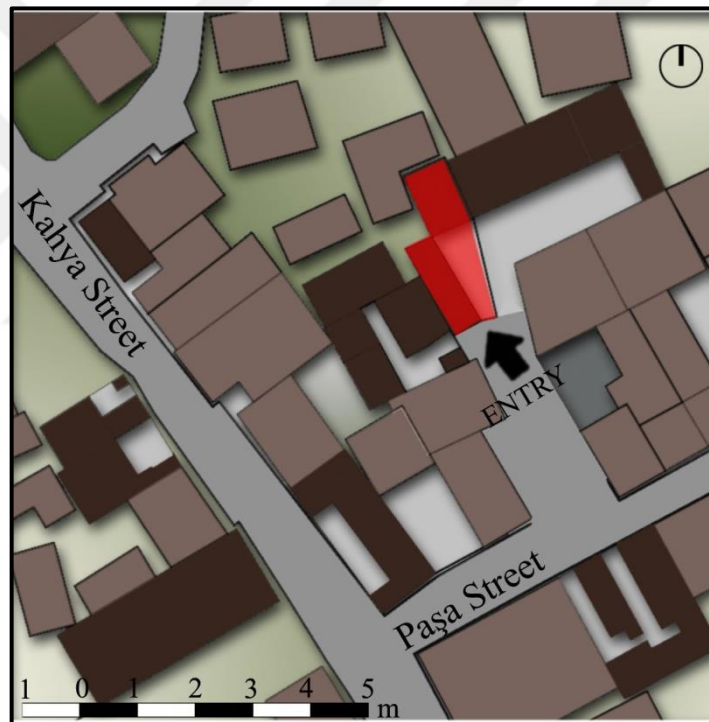


Figure 3.34. Location of the fourth housing
(Prepared by Author)

The main volume of the housing is consisted of one room. The room is used alternately as living and sleeping space. The kitchen area is located at the entrance. A space is spared for the bathroom and toilet at the entrance. Toilets and bathrooms with no doors lead to unhealthy conditions. Odor problem makes living conditions difficult in the housing. The

son of the housing is living in the other volume in the complex, which could not be examined due to permission reasons (Figure 3.35, 3.36, 3.37).

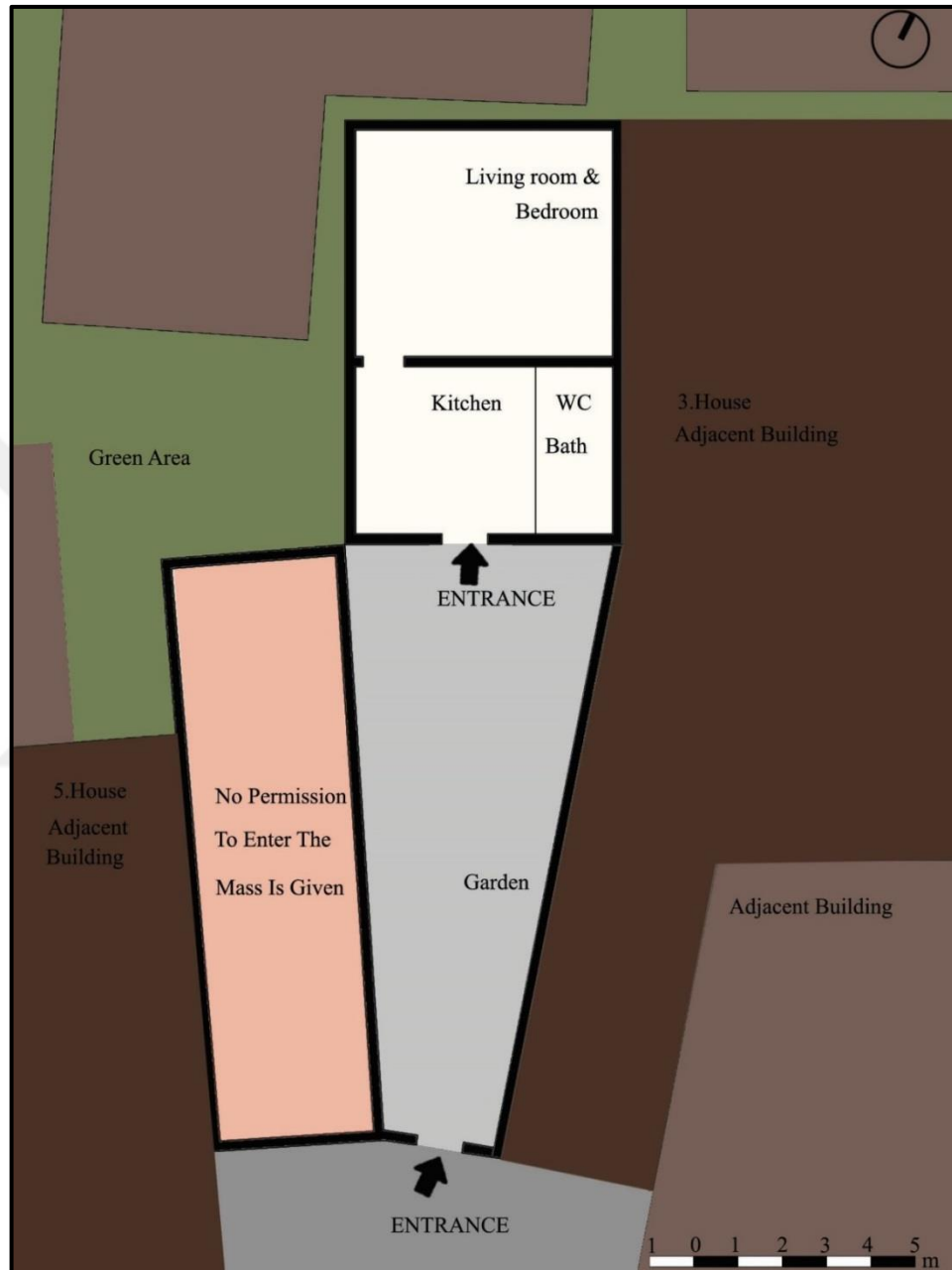


Figure 3.35. The draft of the fourth housing
(Prepared by Author)



Figure 3.36. Fourth housing, entrance and garden
(Photo by Author)



Figure 3.37. Fourth housing, entrance, bathroom and toilet
(Photo by Author)

3.2.2.5. Examination of the Fifth Housing

In the fifth housing where the interviews and investigations took place, ten residents reside. The elders of the family, their married son and his wife, along with their children live together in the housing. The housing is consisted of 3 separate volumes (Figure 3.38). These three different volumes are located in the same area and they open to the same garden. The volume in the entrance area was later added for the married son. Here, the married son, his wife and two children live together. Amongst the housings examined in the Roma settlement, this housing is one of the housings in good condition. However, it is understood that due to its location the housing gives a feeling of being trapped between the other housings. The housing has a serious problem of natural light and fresh air intake. The neighboring housing in the entrance area with two main and one additional floors creates a barrier for the fifth housing. Although there are two separate kitchens in the area, the kitchen in the common area is mainly used. Bathroom and toilet are located in the common areas. The housing is a single story masonry structure (Figure 3.39, 3.40).



Figure 3.38. Location of the fifth housing
(Prepared by Author)



Figure 3.39. The darft of the fifth housing
(Prepared by Author)



Figure 3.40. Fifth housing, entrance and semi-open area
(Photo by Author)

3.2.2.6. Examination of the Sixth Housing

The sixth housing is located at the intersection of Paşa Street and the Kahya Street. Two of its facades are open in terms of location and light is provided to the housing from these areas (Figure 3.41). The housing area accommodates six people. The woman of the housing has been in hospital for a while due to her illness. Married sons and wives of the household live together with their children. With a large population, the family uses rooms alternately. Daytime living spaces turn into sleeping spaces in the evening. The semi-open “porch” provides access to the rooms. All rooms open to the porch area. The semi-open area is surrounded by housing volumes, which create a U shape. The housing is a single story and masonry structure like the other housings around. All users share the common kitchen and toilet (Figure 3.42, 3.43, 3.44).



Figure 3.41. Location of the sixth housing
(Prepared by Author)

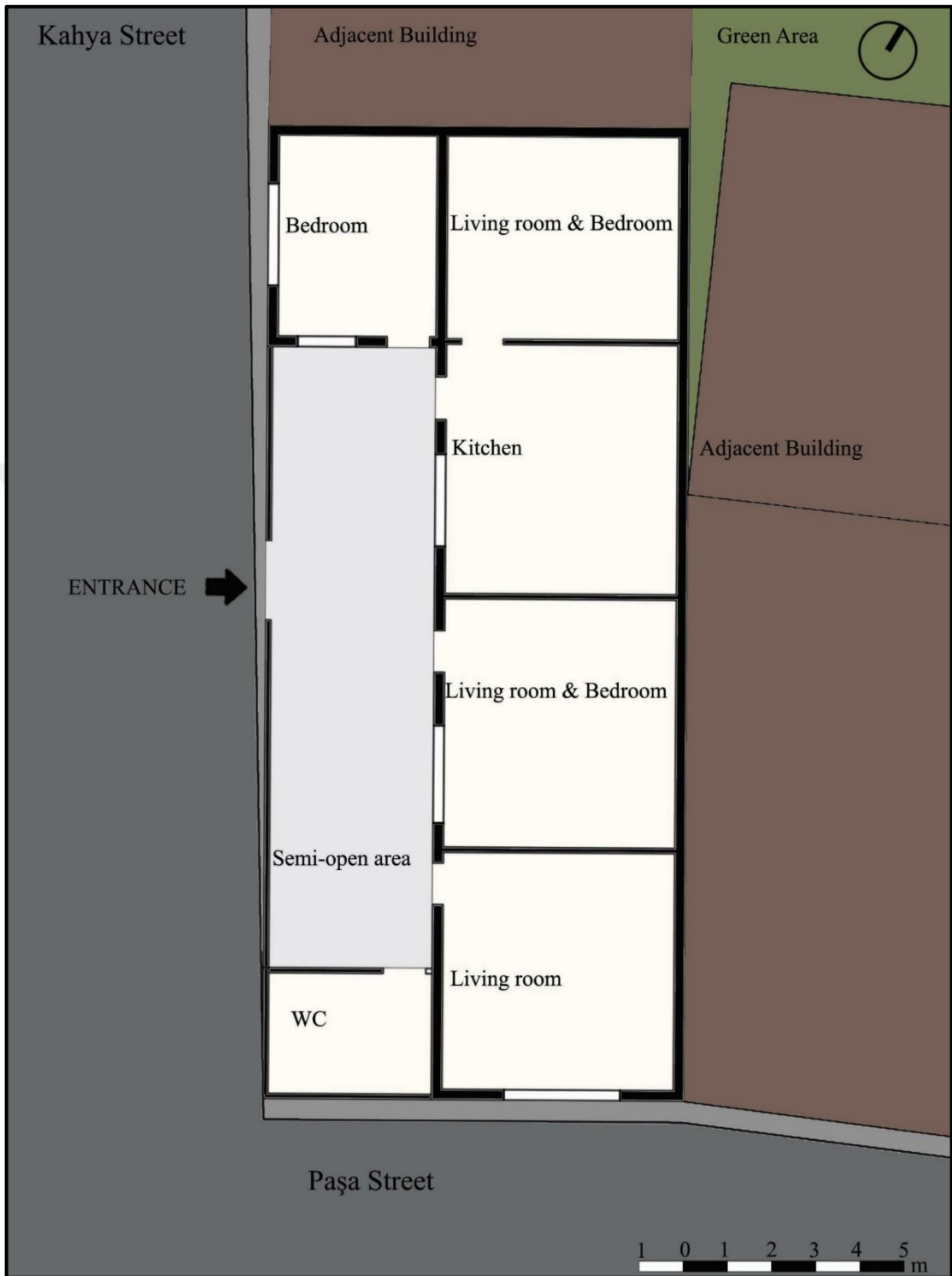


Figure 3.42. The draft of the sixth housing
(Prepared by Author)



Figure 3.43. Sixth housing, entrance
(Photo by Author)



Figure 3.44. Sixth housing, living and sleeping spaces
(Photo by Author)

3.2.2.7. Examination of the Seventh Housing

The investigated housing is located on Kahya Street (Figure 3.45). The housing is a single story structure, situated in a small garden and it is quite neglected. In the garden, there wood stacks and heaps of leftover materials. Five people reside in the housing. The eldest couple of the family lives in this housing with their married children and grandchildren. The living spaces are reached through different entrances from the garden, located on openings from different volumes of the housing. Family members share the toilet in the garden. The volume to the right of the housing is the bedroom for the young family member of the housing, which was subsequently added to the existing structure. Since the housing is closed from the sidewalls, there is a problem of providing natural light. The common living area becomes a sleeping space for the elders during the night (Figure 3.46, 3.47, 3.48).



Figure 3.45. Location of the seventh housing
(Prepared by Author)

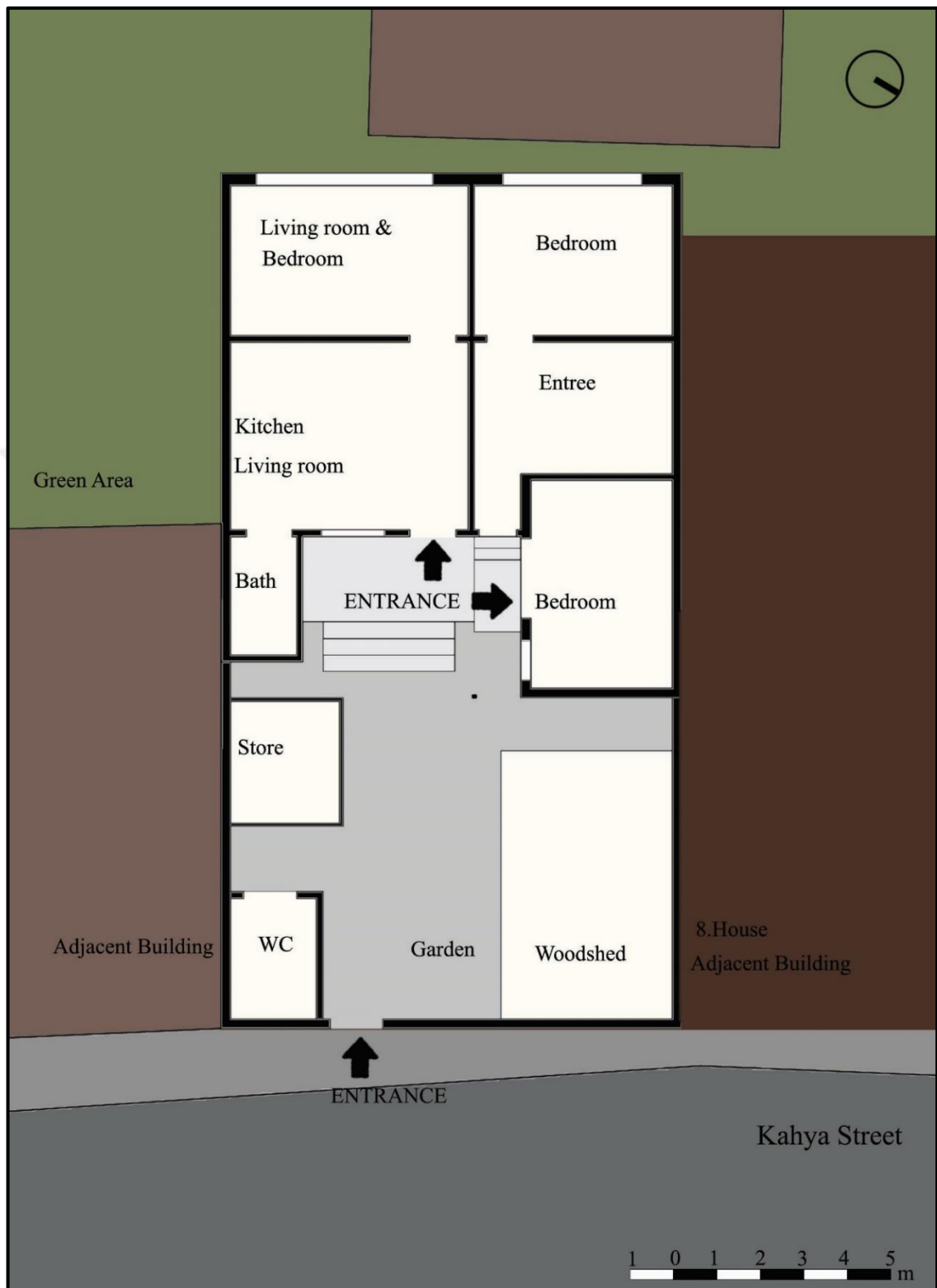


Figure 3.46. The draft of the seventh housing
(Prepared by Author)



Figure 3.47. Seventh housing, entrance, garden and storage are
(Photo by Author)



Figure 3.48. Seventh housing, toilet and entrance
(Photo by Author)

3.2.2.8. Examination of the Eighth Housing

Eighth housing is located on Kahya Street (Figure 3.49). The front and entrance facade of the housing opens onto the Kahya Street. In the single-story masonry building, six people reside; the grandparents, their son and daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren. The elder man of the housing have been at home for a long time due to his illness. Stating that they spend most of their daily time in the semi-open area, the family also have their meals here. The area has a section for the kitchen counter. The toilet is located in the semi-open area. The rooms in the housing lack daylight and they are used alternately, turning into a sleeping space at night. There are no separate rooms for children (Figure 3.50, 3.51, 3.52).



Figure 3.49. Location of the eighth housing
(Prepared by Author)

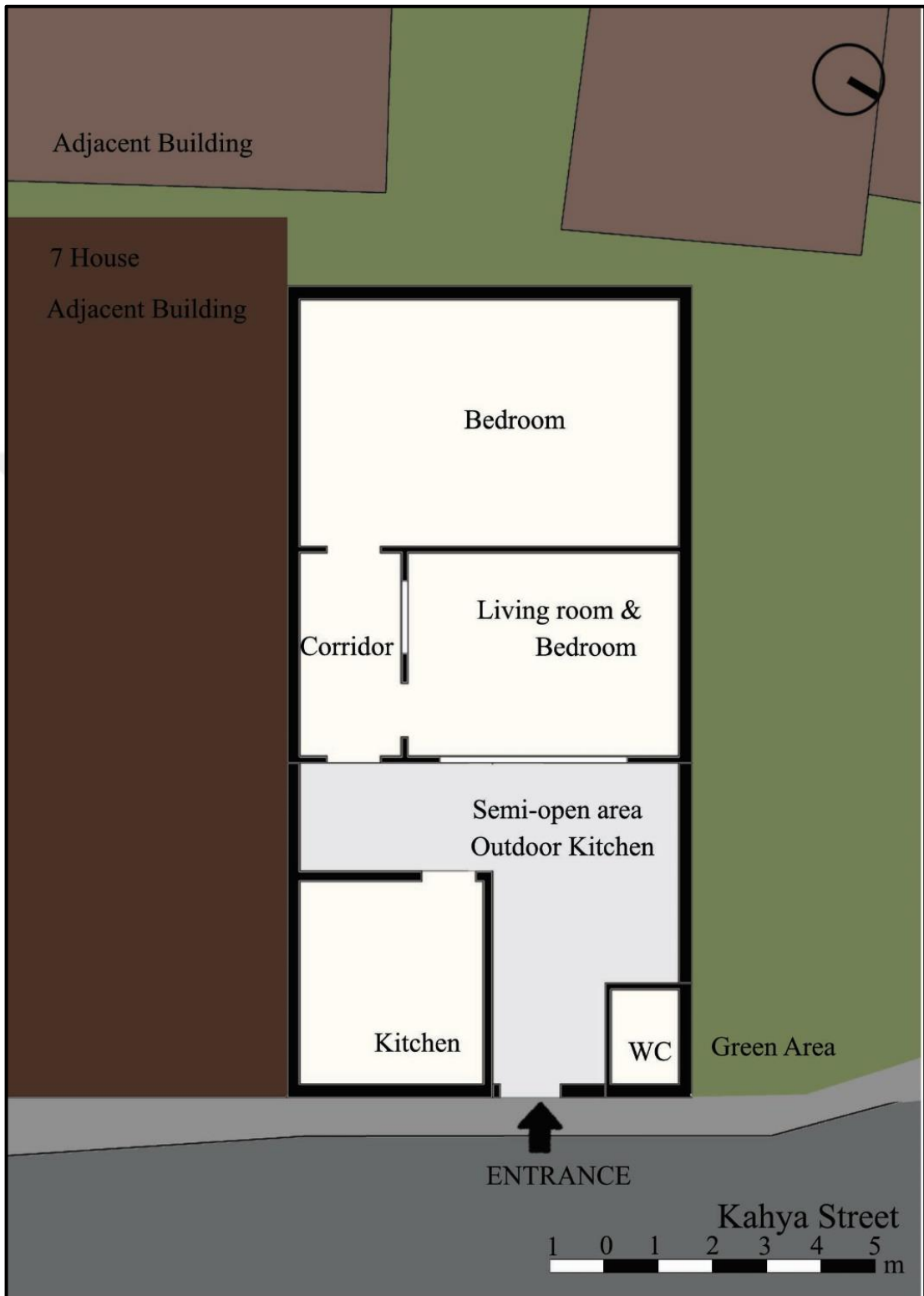


Figure 3.50. The draft of the eighth housing
(Prepared by Author)



Figure 3.51. Eighth housing, entrance
(Photo by Author)



Figure 3.52. Eighth housing, semi-open space, kitchen and toilet
(Photo by Author)

3.2.2.9. Examination of the Ninth Housing

A middle-aged married couple live in the ninth housing located in the Roma settlement area (Figure 3.53). The interviews were conducted with the woman of the housing. Located in an advantageous area, the housing is also in good condition and has good ventilation with natural light. The housing located at the intersection of two streets, has two open facades facing them. The housing is consisted of an entrance area and two rooms. The living areas are used alternately. There is a kitchen area in the entrance, which causes unhealthy conditions. Another room is used for storage and for bathroom, which has a shower cabin. There are no toilets in the housing. The family uses the toilets in their neighbors' garden for their needs (Figure 3.54, 3.55).

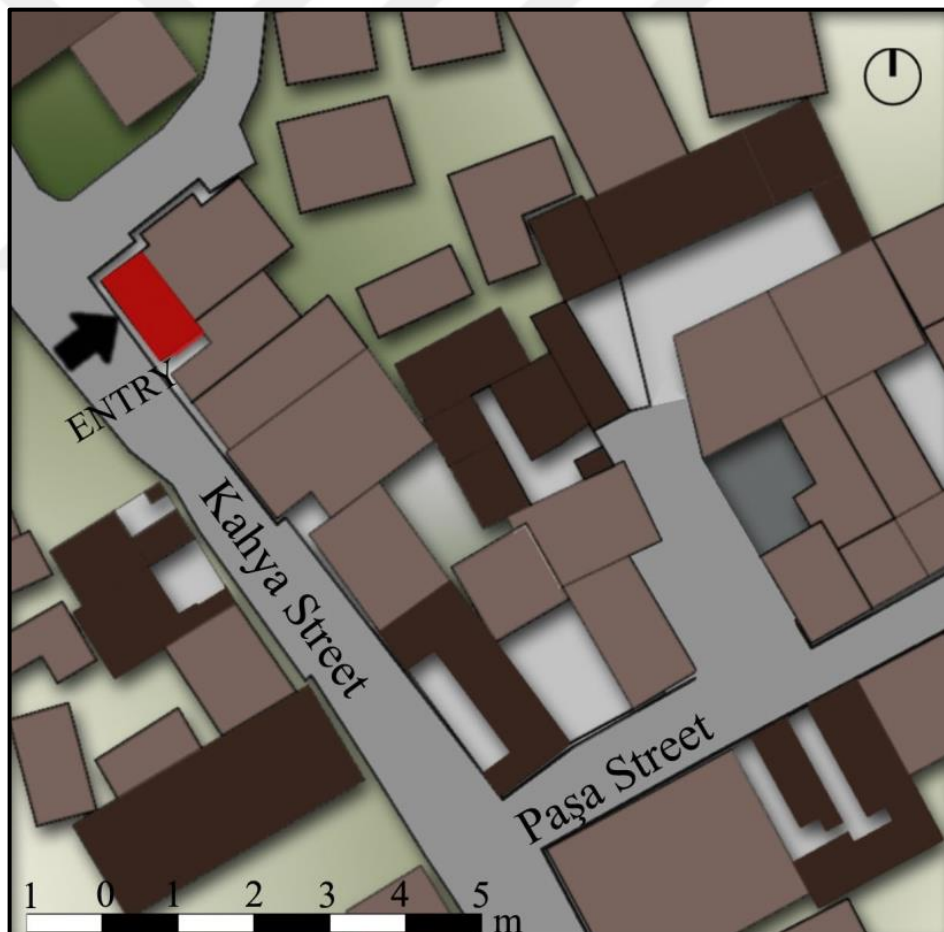


Figure 3.53. Location of the ninth housing
(Prepared by Author)

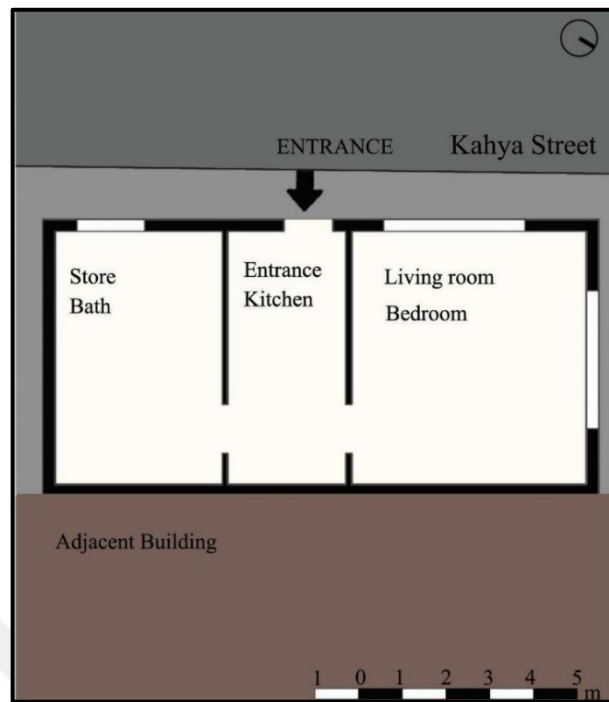


Figure 3.54. The draft of the ninth housing
(Prepared by Author)

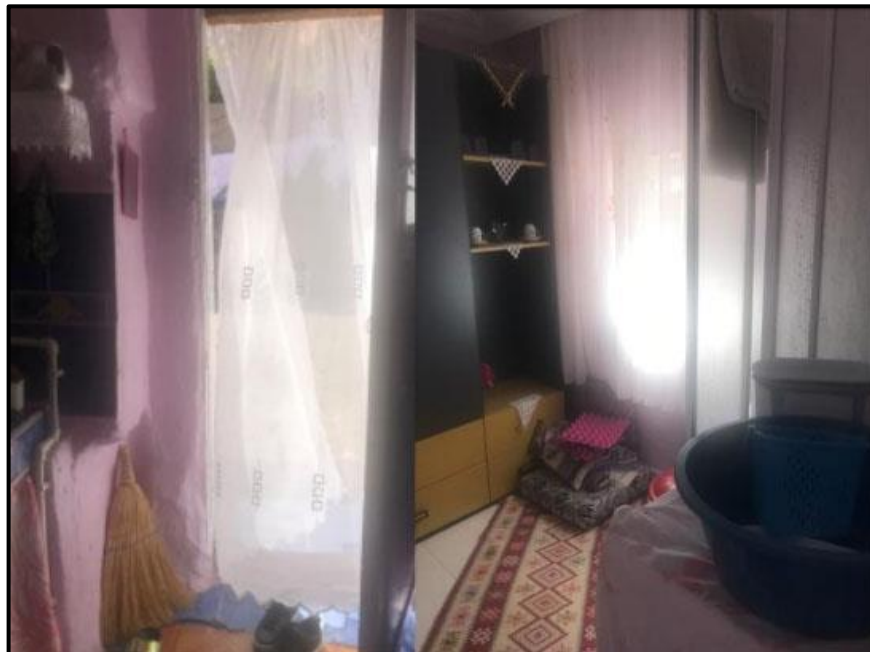


Figure 3.55. Ninth housing, entrance and kitchen area, pantry and bathroom
(Photo by Author)

3.2.3. The Character and Pattern of Examined Roma Settlements

In the examination of the Roma settlements where the Roma live intensively, investigations were conducted in Süleymanpaşa, Aydoğdu, Zafer and Hayrabolu districts of Tekirdağ. In line with the analysis and conducted interviews, Roma living in the region stated that they feel connected to their neighborhoods but they also face certain problems. It is concluded that the most important problem is security. They stated that it is not safe for people to go to the inner parts of the neighborhood due to security reasons and widespread substance abuse. Additionally, they are concerned about the future of their children in this area (Figure 3.56).

Another important element regarding the Roma settlement is its texture. Structures built and spread by organic additions are spread over a wide area. Unplanned growth in the area has led to narrow passages and dead ends, causing unhealthy housing conditions. The houses are intertwined in some places. The Roma settlement, which was established with the logic of slums, is faced with infrastructure problems. With time, some of the houses, which became legal with the new zoning codes, were provided with infrastructure services. Neighborhood and streets are in good condition. The houses reflect the Roma's lives and the colorful façades are the first striking details in the settlement. Another element is the materials of houses and structures. It is observed that the doors, windows and roofs were built with collected materials, which causes unhealthy conditions such as rainwater leakage and heat loss from time to time (Figure 3.57, 3.58).

In Roma settlements, the most needed space is gathering areas where people spend time together with their community and there is a lack of these gathering spaces. It is known that Roma spend most of their time outside their houses in their daily lives. They carry out their eating, chatting, work and other activities within the borders of the Roma settlement, outside their homes. However, they lack open, semi-open or indoor spaces specialized for activities. There is also no playground for children. Spaces for educational courses or associations are inadequate. In the examination of the Roma settlement of Hayrabolu district, it is found that there is a Roma association building in the district. “Hayrabolu Young Roma Association” continues its activities in this building. However, there are no places for educational purposes for man and woman within the settlement. Süleymanpaşa

Roma settlement, which is within the central district and Siroma project, has venues for educational courses, but they are not sufficient for all Roma to benefit.



Figure 3.56. Süleymanpaşa Roma settlement, street view
(Photo by Author)



Figure 3.57. Hayrabolu Roma settlement, a Roma house
(Photo by Author)



Figure 3.58. Hayrabolu Roma settlement, street view

(Photo by Author)

3.2.4. Data From the Study of Existing Roma Settlement and Structure

When the data obtained from the investigation of the existing Roma settlement and its structure as the second stage of the field study were evaluated, the following conclusions were reached.

Data on housing settlement planning;

- The distances between the houses are quite inadequate and unpractical in terms of providing transportation to the households.
- Residential houses in settlement areas should be provided with open spaces to support the neighborhood relationship.
- There are no accesses between the residences. Access spaces should be provided in these areas.
- In order to support the pedestrianization of open spaces in residential areas, entrance and exit spaces for vehicles should be organized.

Data on housing design;

- Each residence should have its own toilet and bath.
- Housing should be designed carefully in order to provide natural light and ventilation.
- Spaces to accommodate production or work related activities should be considered to be included in the design.
- The relationship between private and semi-private outdoor spaces should be well established.
- A design integrated with street life should be considered.
- Storage space should be considered in semi-open or open spaces.
- For households, housing suitable for growing families and their relative should be provided.

4. GENERAL CONCEPT FOR ROMA SETTLEMENTS AND SPACE DESIGN

The results of the field study conducted in two stages as a survey and an examination of the current structuring reveal that the main elements of common life, neighborhood and togetherness are prominent in the design of Roma settlements and spaces. Based on these elements, the general concept for Roma settlements and space design can be stated as “a housing design, which is open for common use, and can accommodate both single family and multi-family lives based on needs”.

4.1. DETERMINING THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF ROMA SPACE DESIGN ACCORDING TO THE GENERAL CONCEPT

In relation with the general concept mentioned above, when the data obtained in chapter 3.2.4 and the design requirements deduced from Table 3.2 are evaluated together, the spatial design elements that determine the general concept for Roma can be sorted as follows,

- Common kitchen area in the housing
- Additional space for more bedrooms in the housing
- Separate toilet and bathroom per family living in the same housing complex,
- Individual entry to the housing per family living in the same housing complex,
- Storage areas,
- Semi-open areas,
- Open common areas,
- Production areas, suitable for work related activities,
- Housing unit structure with no more than one or two floors.

4.2. BASIC PRINCIPLES APPLIED IN DESIGN

In Assoc. Prof. Dr. Duygu Gökçe's work on the Roma settlements, the residential design principles of the Roma are stated as functionality, sufficient size, ability to change and the concept of flexibility. Based on the qualities mentioned in chapter 4.1 as spatial design elements, which are used to determine the general concept, the need for a “flexible” understanding in terms of design arises. Therefore, the “concept of flexibility” was chosen as the basic principle in Roma space design [35, 46].

The first question, which should be asked about the subject covered in the study was “what is housing?”. There are many different definitions to housing; for example, housing is the physical space that meets the most basic needs of people such as eating and drinking [59]. Housing is not a simple object, but a phenomenon that contains diversity, complexity and contradictions, both with its internal and external formation [59]. At the same time, housing is an element that forms the texture of the city. There are definitions that distinguish housing from the concept of home. What makes a housing into a home is the fact that it’s personalized by its users’ interventions. “Home is a subjective and personal space and different people in the society have different insights and images on home.” [59]. Following the post-World War II devastation, the concept of social housing emerged because of housing needs in large numbers. Rapid housing production had been initiated to address the urgent need for housing. These houses, built by local and central governments, were presented to the users as single type, fast-produced and low quality dwellings. After the industrialization in the 1950s, the migration from villages to town centers increased, which led to a rise in slums. Article 49 of the 1961 dated constitution states that providing housing for its citizens is the state’s responsibility by the following sentence; “the state shall take measures to meet the needs of housing in accordance with the health conditions of poor and low-income families” [60]. Social housing projects are produced for undefined users and consist of single type housing, which shortens the life span of a housing and makes it less preferable. Users prefer housings, which are organized to suit their lifestyles. The need for a place may vary according to the activities of a housing’s users [61, 62].

Users want to personalize and change the places they live in, according to their expectations and needs. According to Walter Gropius’ discourse in 1954, architects should

not interpret structures as monuments, and structures should be flexible enough to serve as a basis for the flow of life and a background that adapts to the dynamic characteristics of modern life [63]. Places must be flexible and variable in order to respond to changing needs. Over time the organization of the spaces may change, the use of the spaces may change. Meaning of the word, flexibility, is the ability to getting back to an initial shape after removing an external force which creates elongation, shortening, warping, etc. under its the influence [59]. At the same time, flexibility is the state of meeting the changing needs of a user [64].

When we look at the history of flexible structures, we first see traditional portable settlements. The tent is the first example of flexible structures that can be dismantled and rebuilt if needed in another area. It is seen that the tent use was continued after the transition from tent life to sedentary life. For example, the state of a space serving to different functions in tent life had continued in the traditional Turkish houses. Again, in traditional Turkish houses, it's been observed that as the family grows, housing needs could not be met and growing in the structure occurred. This approach explains Roma's proximity to flexible structures, based on the lifestyle they experienced in the past. At the same time, the use of space for different functions comes from these past habits [65].

The concept of flexible planning gained importance especially in residential design in the 1920s [66]. Different definitions of flexibility for architectural design have been made throughout history. According to Edward T. Hall, flexibility is one of the main distinguishing features of the space and the user's desire to change or the number of users occupying a space is the determinant of the space [59]. Flexibility in architecture is the growing or shrinking of a building through adding and removing elements, without losing its wholeness [67].

Flexibility is a term consisted of layered components. Flexibility components can be listed as transformation, adaptation, movement, replacement and modularity (Figure 4.1). Many layers overlap, side-by-side, intertwining, forming the concept of flexibility [64, 68, 69].

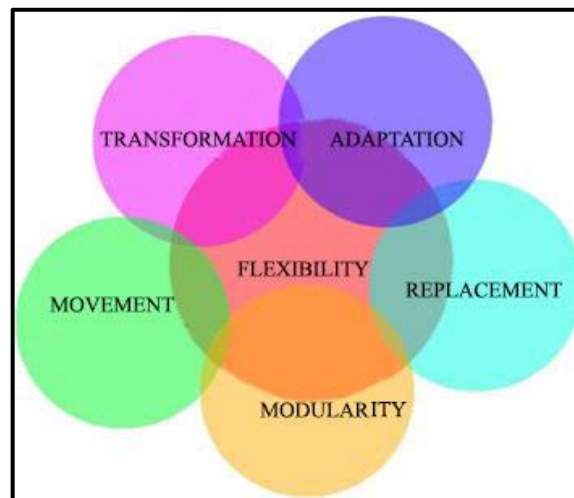


Figure 4.1. Flexibility components [67]

Since the concept of flexibility is considered from an architectural perspective, it is classified as design flexibility, construction flexibility and usage flexibility. Design flexibility is the flexible approach in the planning process. The most important point in design flexibility is that it takes place before use. Construction flexibility is giving flexibility to a structure, which became unable to meet required functions efficiently over time, without intervening with its structural integrity. Construction flexibility is also providing flexibility to a structure's space organization during the construction process or in need of function change. Usage flexibility is the type of flexibility the user needs from the beginning of using the related structure [67]. Growth flexibility, reuse flexibility, renewal flexibility, and repair flexibility are subheadings of usage flexibility. During the preliminary work, the most important and necessary point is the growth flexibility. Growth flexibility is creating additional spaces to designed areas according to needs. Core housing is a small residence that is provided by the state support to low-income families, living in less developed countries, and designed to be expanded by adding new spaces as the family grows in the future. The core housing includes minimum space, kitchen and bathroom volumes, and circulation. In case of need, the core housing can grow with addition of new spaces. Growth flexibility can lead to changes in form. Spatial additions can be made horizontally and vertically, based on direction and structure axis. There may also be growth relative to the form, including linear, spiral, and cumulative growth. An important element that determines space additions is mechanical volumes like kitchen and bathroom.

Mechanical volumes are difficult to displace, so growth and attachments are shaped according to their positions. Place flexibility is an important factor affecting the sustainability of a place, which has gained importance in recent years [67, 70, 71].

There are a few reasons that require housing flexibility for residential users. Flexible residential users have the opportunity to make changes in their homes. Demographic changes, changes in demands and changes in households lead to the need for flexible housing. The need for housing due to demographic change seems to be inadequate in standard designed houses. Factors such as increasing demand on housing for single living and housing suitable for home office use, living in multiple countries in short or long terms, globalization encourage the need for flexible housing. Users from different cultural backgrounds and with different lives prefer customizing their homes according to their lives. Over the years, it is expected that the size of the household will change, the family structure will go through different stages, and the spaces will respond in line with their needs. It is observed that the Roma life has cultural differences amongst themselves flexible housing design is suited best for their continuously changing households [72].

Throughout the history, many designs and applications based on the concept of flexibility have been made. The two projects reviewed in this part are selected due to their similarity to the Roma users in terms of their income status. The project, located in India, is selected as an example due to its users having similar origins and lives as the Roma. Another consequence of the rapid housing need has been the users' producing slum-type housing with their own means. Slum life is existent in many parts of the world. In order to improve slums' living conditions, projects were made and models were produced with the users, which envisioned flexible design. Architect Alejandro Aravena is best known for his model of social housing, which he produced with his team Elemental (Figure 4.2). The project Aravena made with his team and the local users to create a solution to the informal structuring of Chile's city centers has become a model project for spaces with similar circumstances. Users do not want to leave the areas where they live and they look for solutions to their growing families. The project, which aimed listening to users and looking for solutions to their problems, has adopted three main principles such as expansion, light and air circulation and sturdiness. According to the requirements and the principles set out, instead of large apartment buildings, low-rise dwellings suitable for the users' lifestyles

have been built. Half of a single house unit was built and the other half was left empty for the user to expand the house based on the needs of the user's growing family. Constructing only half of the dwellings enabled more users to provide housing in terms of cost. Completed halves of the houses include the parts like kitchen, bathroom and staircases, which are harder for users to construct by themselves or with their limited incomes. The unconstructed, empty areas provide the opportunity of expansion on the ground and first floors. At the same time, public spaces have been created in the complex where everyone can easily access [60, 73, 74, 75].



Figure 4.2. Chile – Alejandro Arevena social housing project [74]

In this project, the users were not separated from the life they were accustomed to and were supported by professionals on their housing lives. However, this brings out the question whether the new user of the house would alter the interventions of the previous user when the owner of the house changes and how can people deal with the chaotic facades which come out as a result of the interventions. Apart from these questions, the projects is still ongoing with four different housing types, while providing adequate housing for low-income families who live in inadequate spaces [60, 76].

The social housing project in India by Sheela Patel and Jockin Arputham has been co-produced with local users (Figure 4.3). The project has the ability to be applied anywhere. Local users were living in slum-type housing called “kaccha”, which were makeshift structures, averaging around 12 square meters, with no natural light and ventilation, no bathrooms, no toilets or kitchens. Toilets were in common use. The budget allocated for the solution to life in poor conditions was limited. The priority of the project was providing infrastructure to the houses, and making sure each house has its own kitchen and toilet. Users have been involved in the project during the design and construction process, and this was expected to be a factor that positively affects the cost during the construction. They also provided for the houses to be customized by their users. Within the scope of the project, three different types of housing structures were created. A simple structure was created on the ground floor, second and third floors were left to the users, allowing them to expand their houses in case of need [77].



Figure 4.3. India – Social housing project [76]

5. DESIGN PROPOSALS FOR ROMA SETTLEMENTS

Modules, which are created based on the minimum area (m²) per capita in residential living spaces and in line with flexibility design elements, are proposed in accordance with the data obtained in Chapter 3.2.4 and the fundamental elements of the Roma residential concept. Modules are designed as 5x5 and 2,5x5 or 6x6 and 3x6 meters in accordance with minimum requirements. Modules with simple steel structures can reach a maximum height of two stories. The main module is designated as 5x5 or 6x6 meters. The contents of the main module are designed as kitchen area, which also serves as an access/passage area. The main module can be converted into a semi-open or a closed space. Over time, based on the needs of the user, the modules can be expanded with the addition of new modules according to its plot use and neighboring houses. Crowded families can live in these expanded modules comfortably. The additional modules include bathrooms and living areas and the interior of the modules can be partitioned according to need. Bathrooms in the added modules should be installed using the same installation shaft. Modules should be added in case of future growth. Semi-open spaces and terrace-balcony areas can be created by pulling or pushing additional module volumes. Depending on the size of the parcel, a warehouse or production module can be positioned in open spaces according in case of need. Housing units formed by the addition of modules form neighborhood units by juxtaposition. Between every two to three housing units, a common module and an open space should be created. The common module and the open space are for daily activities. The common module can be used alternately between neighbors. This area can also be considered as a warehouse, a production area, training area or meeting area for associations. A certain space should be created between to provide easy access to housing and to create open spaces. Plot size and neighboring boundaries can limit the positions of modules. Therefore, module volumes may differ based on the plot conditions. The probability of modules forming side-by-side or overlapping is high. The generated function diagram is presented below (Figure 5.1).

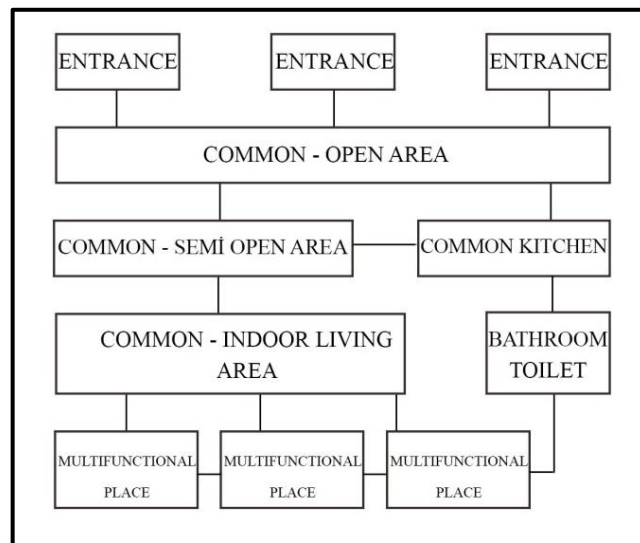


Figure 5.1. Roma flexible housing function scheme
(Prepared by Author)

5.1. PROPOSALS ON HOUSING AND HOUSING GROUPS

Housing proposal is created by adding 5x5 and 2,5x5 m modules to the main module, which create many possibilities through combination. The drafts of the two examples created by combining the modules are showed below (Figure 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10).

- First proposal drafts

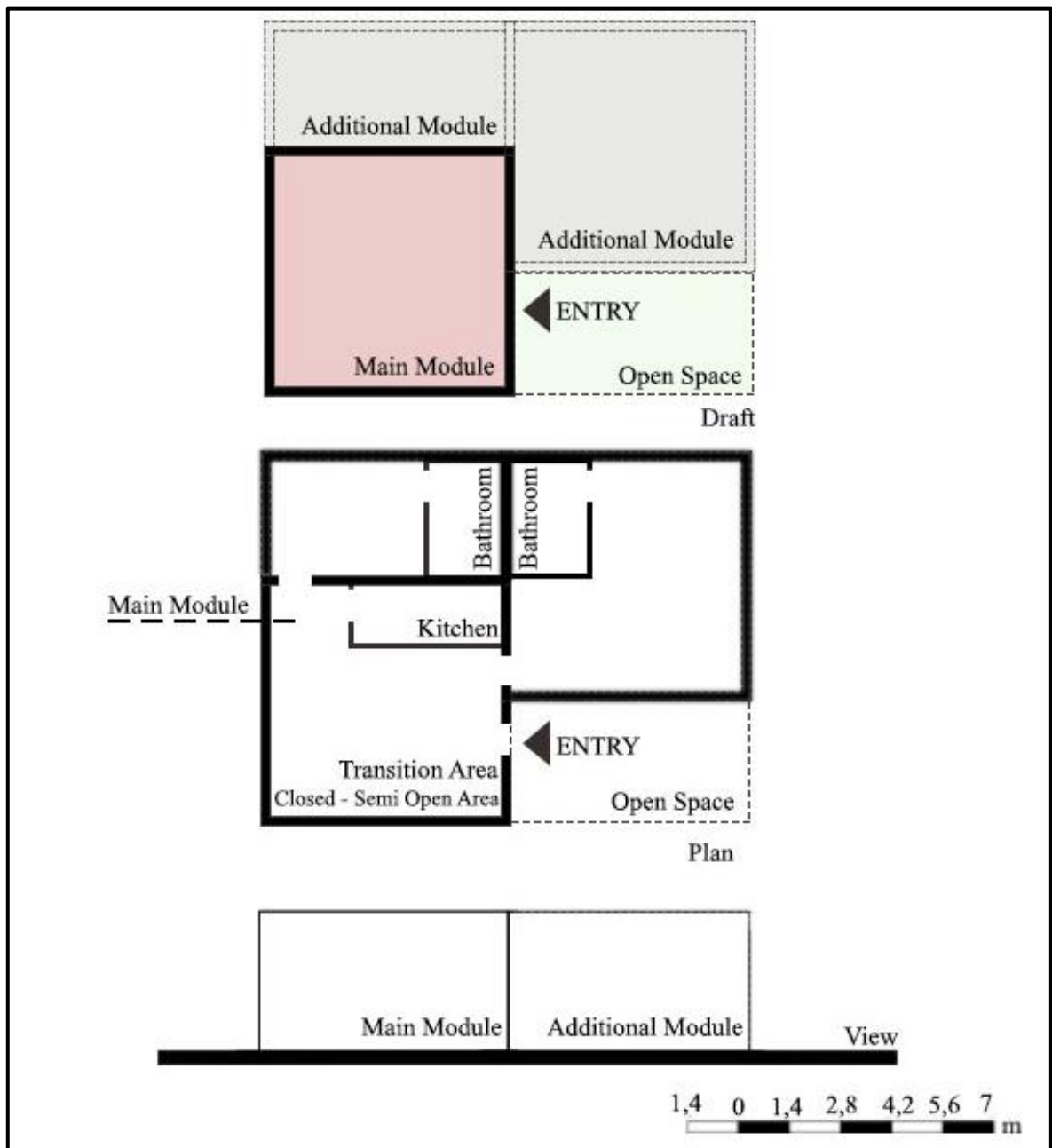


Figure 5.2. Adding 2,5x5 and 5x5 m modules around the main module, first step
(Prepared by Author)

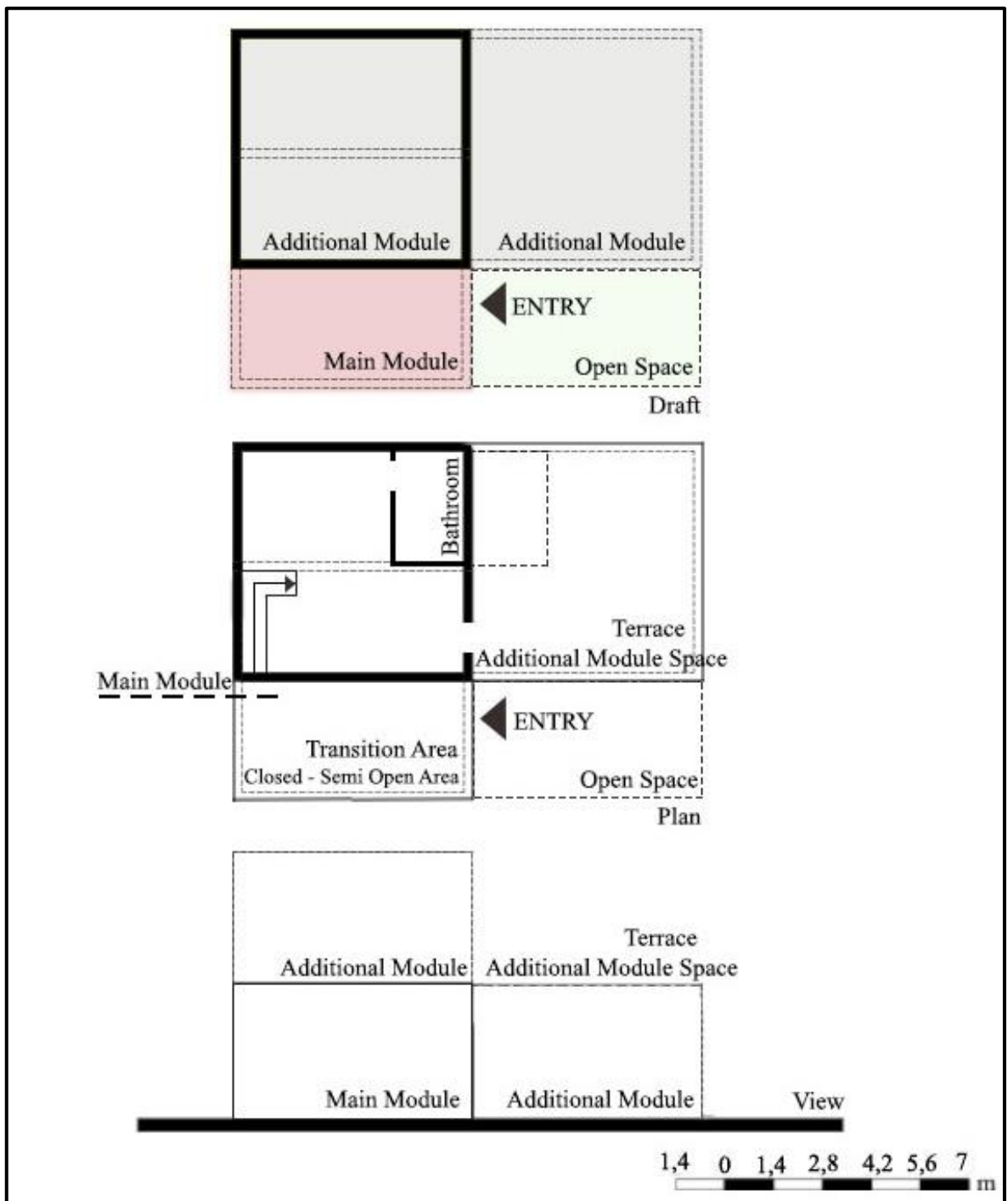


Figure 5.3. Adding a 5x5 m module on top of the main volume after the first two additions,
second step
(Prepared by Author)

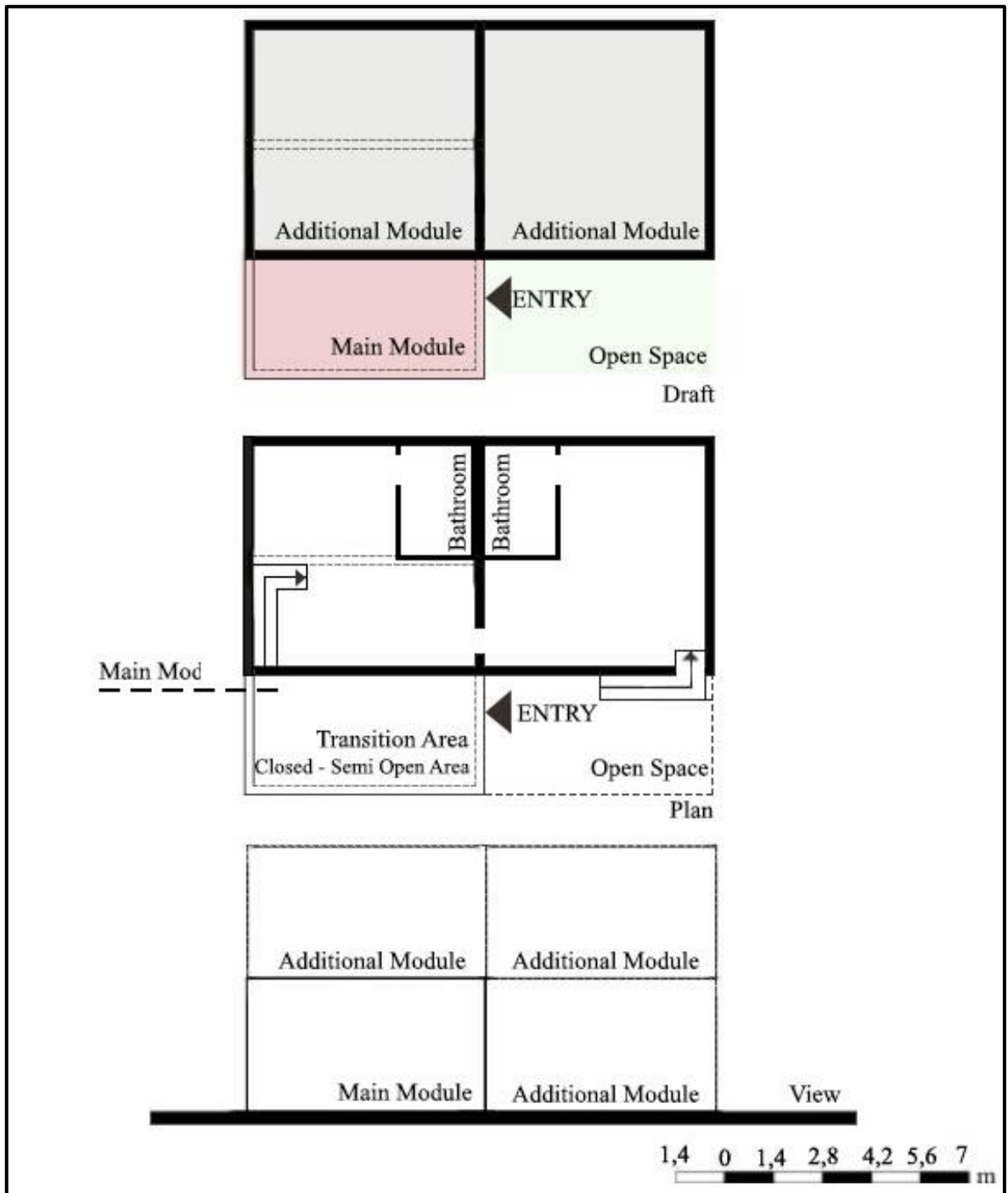


Figure 5.4. Adding an additional 5x5 m module on the first floor, third step
(Prepared by Author)

- Second proposal drafts

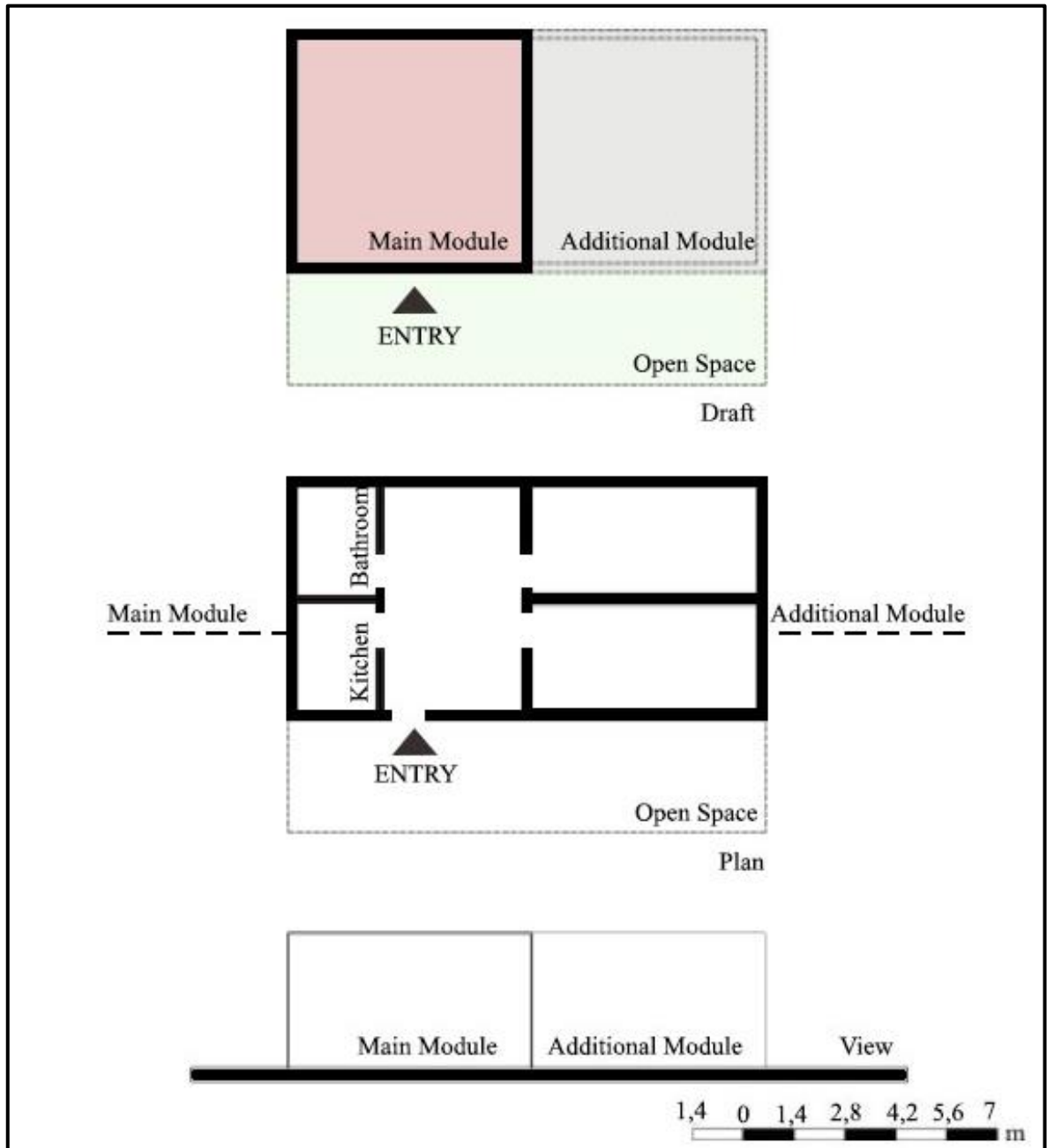


Figure 5.5. Adding a 5x5 m module next to the main module, first step

(Prepared by Author)

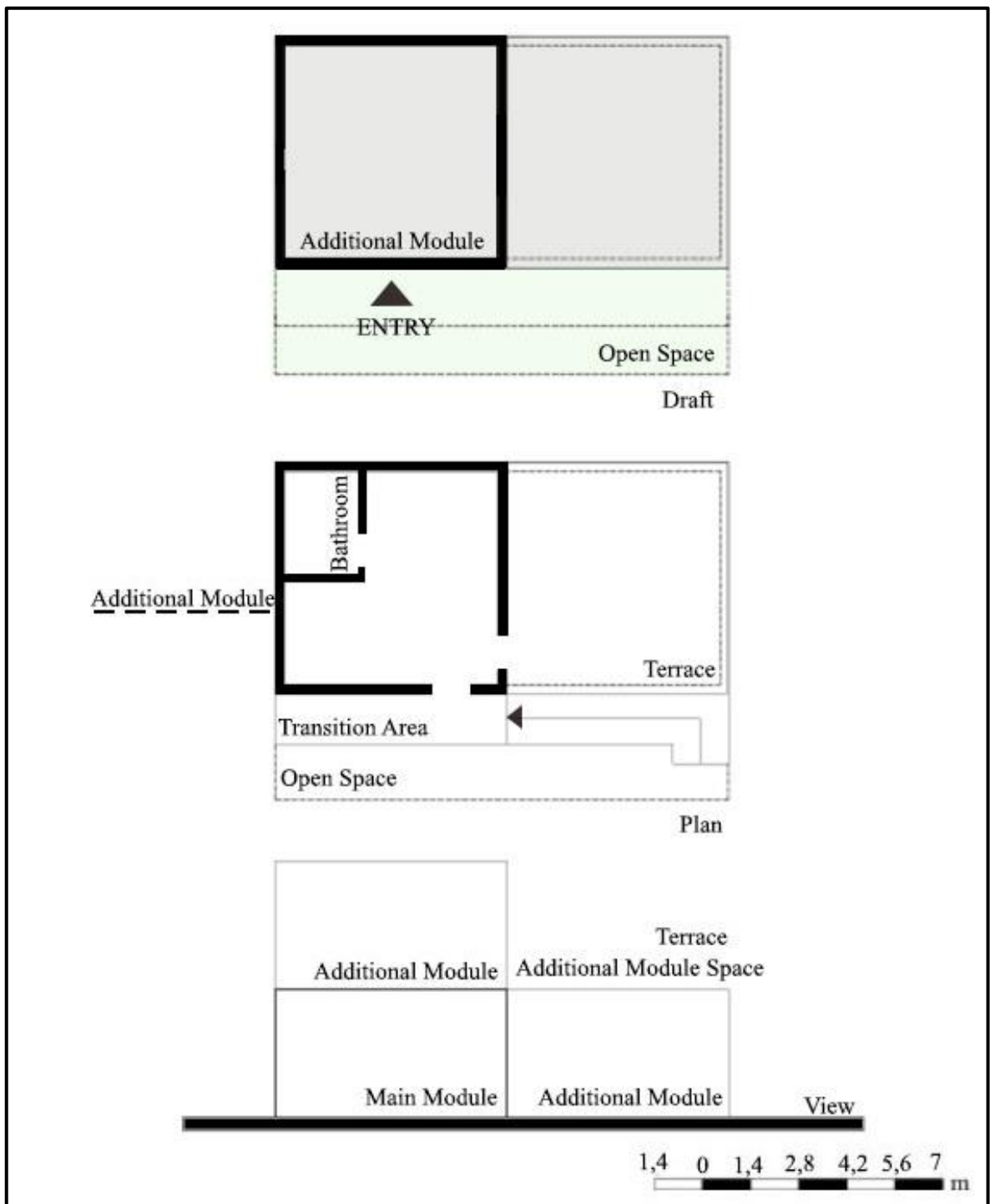


Figure 5.6. Adding a 5x5 m on top of the main module, second step
(Prepared by Author)

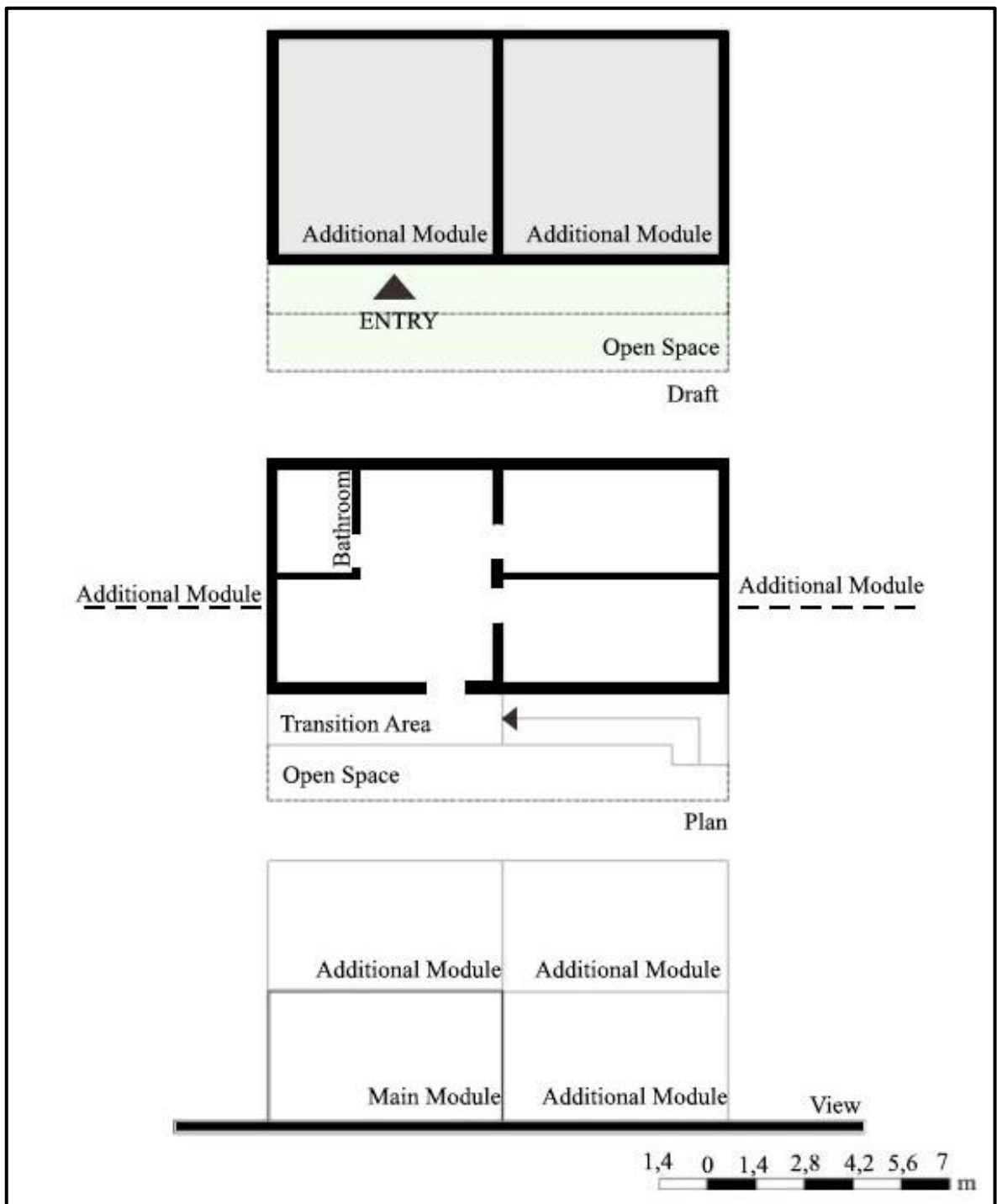


Figure 5.7. Adding an additional 5x5 m module on the first floor, third step
(Prepared by Author)

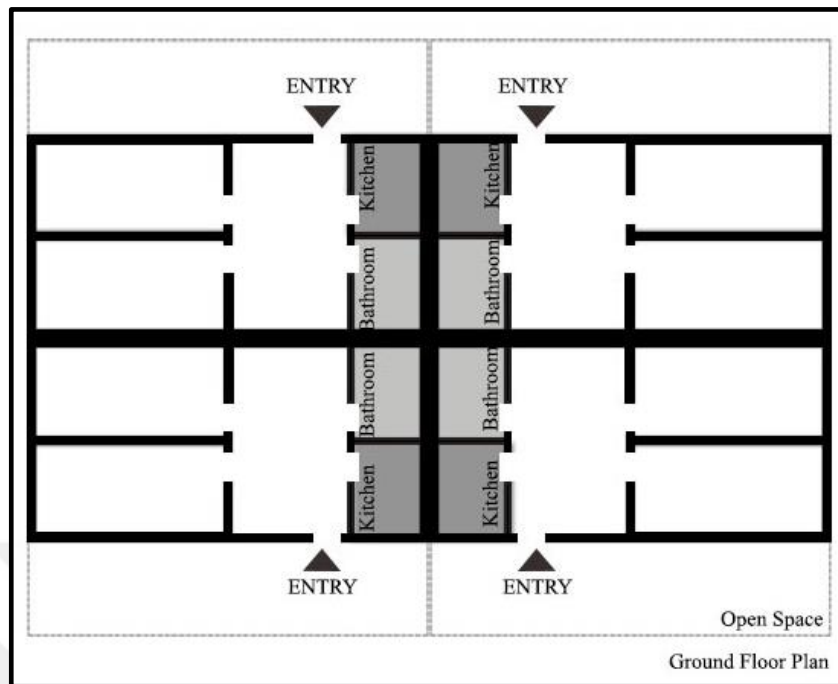


Figure 5.8. Possibility of housing units coming together, ground floor plan
(Prepared by Author)

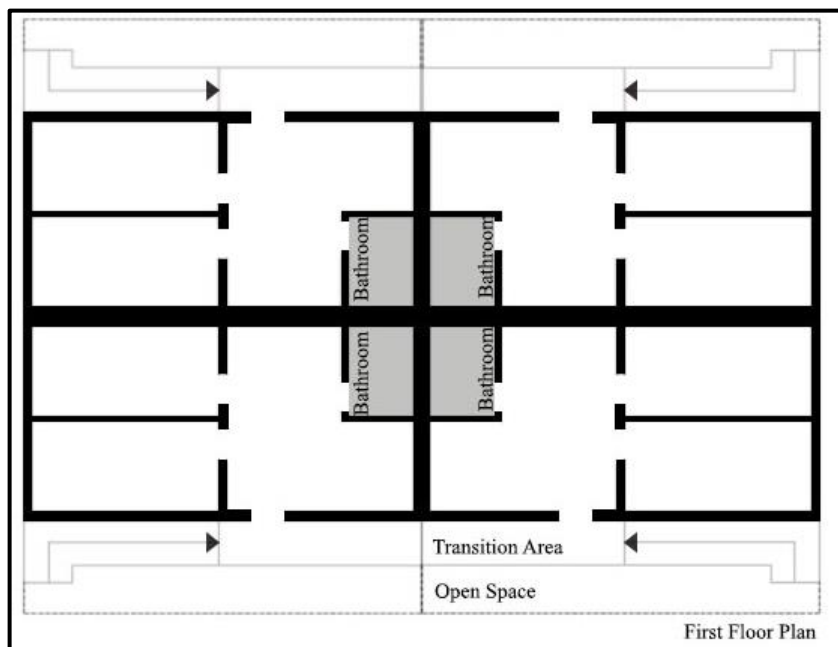


Figure 5.9. Possibility of housing units coming together, first floor plan
(Prepared by Author)



Figure 5.10. Outline of a neighborhood unit formed by adding housing units side by side
(Prepared by Author)

6. CONCLUSION

This study on the lives of the Roma aims to provide improvements and solutions to Roma's daily struggles in their settlements.

It is concluded that important factors, such as Roma's intention for their children to have proper educational training, lead Roma to seek for a settled life instead of the nomadic life they've been accustomed to.

The first stage of the field study was conducted to determine the qualifications and lifestyles of the Roma, where surveying method was applied to collect data on them. Through the interviews and surveys with the Roma, it was concluded that their problems should be examined in five main topics; education, access to rights – spatial access, poverty – employment problem, settlement problem and housing problem.

The second stage of the field study was conducted to investigate and examine the Roma's daily lives, their settlements and spatial structuring. As a result of the collected data from the second stage, the existing housing designs of Roma settlements and structuring lead to the conclusions below;

- Residences don't have separate toilets and bathrooms.
- Either there is no natural light or ventilation in the housing or the existing ones insufficient.
- Users don't have eligible space for work related productions.
- There are no storage areas associated with semi-open or open spaces.
- Housing structures are not suitable for growing families.

Based on the collected data, a general concept for Roma settlement and space design, which can be stated as “a housing design, which is open for common use, and can accommodate both single family and multi-family lives based on needs” has been proposed.

According to the designated design concept, the number of common kitchens, increased bedrooms or living spaces in the household, separate toilets and bathrooms for each household, separate entrances for each family, warehouses, semi-open space, production

space (space eligible for work related activities) and a residential structure no higher than one or two stories can be considered as essential design elements for the Roma residential design.

As a result of the whole study, the concept of “flexibility” was proposed in the design of Roma settlements and houses, concluding the basic principle approach as “flexible design”.

At the end of the study, new planning approaches, developed based on the concept and Roma residential design principles, which are suitable for Roma settlements, are proposed.

The plan diagrams, developed as a result of the study in accordance with the collected data, concept and designated design principles are shown in examples. Forms and layouts, which include houses or house groups with inner courtyards based on the soil type and climate can be proposed for Roma settlements. A certain typology for housing is not proposed in the drafts. Spatial improvement, which allows Roma to integrate with the communities they live with, may allow other users to benefit from different cultures when necessary.

It is seen that the application of spatial reflections on Roma housing and settlement design developed in the thesis can bring sustainability to the improvement of Roma life. Therefore, it can be suggested that this study system on the Roma can be used for other communities following the same steps. It's concluded that the study conducted within this thesis can contribute to other groups by providing a spatial perspective to the problems they encounter during the periods of integration to the society.

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APPENDIX A: SURVEY

NAME :
SURNAME :
GENDER : W / M
AGE :
PLACE OF BIRTH :
MARITAL STATUS : Bachelor / Married / Widow

I. Educational Status

1. What is your education level?..... None / Primary / High School / University
2. Are your children (if you have) educated?.....Yes / No
3. What kind of education do you want your children to receive?.....
4. Do you have any special interests?.....Music / Painting / Crafts / Other
5. Have you been trained in the area of your interests?.....Yes / No

II. Access to Rights and Spatial Access

1. Do you have easy access to health-related facilities (such as health centers, clinics, hospitals) and can you benefit from them easily?..... Yes / No
2. Do you have access to services in the urban areas (such as parks, markets, sports areas, libraries and can you benefit from them easily?.....Yes / No
3. Do you participate frequently in cultural activities (such as cinema, theater and concerts)?..... Yes / No
4. Do you think that you are represented sufficiently in the political area and by associations?..... Yes / No

III. Poverty and Employment

1. Do you have sufficient access to job opportunities and work related spaces?..... Yes / No
2. Do you have a permanent job? Yes / No
3. Do you have a monthly fixed income? Yes / No
4. Does your income cover your expenses?Yes / No
5. What is your profession?
6. Have you received vocational training?.....Yes / No

IV. Status of Settlement

1. How long have you lived in this neighborhood?I was born here / I moved here in (year) / Other
2. Why did you come to this neighborhood?.....
Job opportunity / Living conditions / Family members / Health issues / Social relations / Togetherness / Other
3. What connects you to your neighborhood?.....Facilities / Togetherness / Other
4. Would you like to move away from your neighborhood, and why? Yes / No
5. How much time do you spend in and out of your neighborhood for work, education and leisure related activities during the day?.....
6. What are your leisure activities (such as music, dance, chat, etc.) on your free time in your neighborhood?.....
7. Do you need a place for leisure activities?Yes / No

8. If you need a place for leisure activities, describe them in space and content (such as outdoor, indoor, open, semi-open spaces with wanted features).....

9. Do you have adequate facilities in your neighborhood?Yes / No

10. Do you meet and converse with people from your neighborhood on a regular basis or do you experience exclusion from your neighbors? Yes / No

V. Status of Housing

1. How many square meters is your house?

2. Is your house and its plot registered?Yes / No

3. How many people live in your house?

4. Does the number of residents in your house change during the year? If so, how often?.....Yes / No

5. Who do you live with in your house? With nuclear family / With family elders / With close relatives

6. Do you have regular guests you share your house with, apart from your family members? If so, how many people do you share your house with?.....Yes / No

7. Do you have enough rooms in your house?Yes / No

8. Does your house meet your needs?Yes / No

9. What are the functions of your rooms? (Such as alternate use of rooms, flexible use, living room, bedroom, kitchen etc.).....

10. If you have children, do they have their own rooms?Yes / No

11. If you have children, do you need separate rooms for them?
Yes / No
12. Do you have bathroom and toilet inside your house?.....Yes / No /
 Other (Shared bathroom and toilet)
13. If more than one, what are the number of your bathrooms, toilets and
 kitchens?.....
14. Is there any open spaces (such as balcony, terrace, garden, courtyard etc.) in your
 house? If yes, how many?.....Yes / No
15. For what purpose do you use open, semi-open spaces?.....
 (Daily activities, chatting, working, eating and drinking)
16. If you do not have any open spaces in your house, do you feel the need for it?
Yes / No
17. Do you have work equipment (such as trolley, wheelbarrow, etc.) and storage space for
 them?.....Yes / No
18. If you don't have any storage space, do you feel the need for
 it?.....Yes / No
19. Do you spend time in your neighborhood and in front of your house? If yes, for what
 purpose (such as chatting, working, eating and drinking) and for how
 long?.....Yes / No
20. Do you spend time with your neighbors? If yes, where and for how
 long?..... Yes /
 No
21. Do you feel the need for space to spend time with your neighbors? (In front of your
 door or outside your
 neighborhood).....Yes / No
22. What is your priority in housing
 design?.....
 (More rooms, spaces with different functions such as study, kitchen and bathroom)
23. Did you build your house?Yes /
 No
24. What is the construction material / method of your
 house?.....
 Adobe / Reinforced Concrete / Wood / Brick / Waste material / Other

25. Would you like to live in a single house and why?.....Yes / No

26. If you prefer to live in a single house, how many floors are more suitable for you to live in a dwelling and why?.....1 floor / 2 floors / 3 and more floors

27. Would you like to live in an apartment building, and why?.....Yes / No

28. Is apartment life suitable for you?Yes / No



APPENDIX B: THE RESULTS OF THE ROMA SETTLEMENT FIELD STUDY

Table B.1. The results of the Roma settlement field study
(Prepared by Author)

Survey Titles	Basic Data	Qualifications	Requirements	Reflection On Design
Status of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are reasons such as early marriages, ethnic exclusion and early transition to working life, which impede education. • Hobby and leisure activities are mainly focused on handicrafts and music making. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although their education level is low, they are willing and hard working. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and support is needed to solve problems such as social and family based exclusion and early marriage. • Appropriate conditions should be provided for children and young people who continue their education. • Training courses for the development of hobbies and employment are needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A social support center close to the settlement is required. • Separate rooms or study rooms are required to support education for children and young people. • Hobby and business-oriented training and course centers are required.
Access To Rights and Spatial Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roma-populated neighborhoods are generally close to city centers. • They benefit from health services and basic urban services at low levels due to financial insufficiency and exclusion. • Political representation is very low and associations are not equal to all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are not entitled to basic rights even though they have consented to the conditions in which they live. • Political representation is not adequate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the opportunities of their spatial proximity. • Urban, health and cultural services are needed. • Access to political and associations should be equal and easy. • Prevention of exclusion, the phenomenon of togetherness should be supported. • The relationship with the city center should be strengthened. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proximity to the city centre needs to be maintained and converted to advantage. • Health and cultural centers close to the settlement are required. • Close association work centers should be established.
Status of Poverty and Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roma do not generally have vocational training. • They work continuously, generate fixed income and have no guarantees. • They benefit from unequally distributed government subsidies while living on the poverty line. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are highly skilled in the professions that they learn by being mocked. • Since they have to live in difficult living conditions on the poverty line, they can easily adapt to changing conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They should receive vocational training for their abilities. • There is a need to acquire occupations where they can earn fixed income and have continuity. • Aids and supports should be provided equally and correctly according to needs. • Possible possibilities for their work must be located in the dwelling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses and training centers are required to obtain occupations with fixed income and assurance. • In order to determine the aid and support correctly, a central social assistance center is required to communicate with the neighborhood. • Works related to work, workshops etc. fields must be created.
Status of Settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In recent years, there has been a security problem in Roma neighborhoods and settlements. • Roma want to live in their neighborhoods with their families and relatives, and they feel that they belong to the areas where they live. • They spend most of their days in the immediate vicinity of their houses and outside their houses. • Other than housing, the facilities of neighborhoods and settlements are insufficient. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The phenomenon of association is important for novels. • Free spirits shape their lives. • Sociable and neighborly relations are strong. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The security problem affecting daily life should be avoided. • Coexistence problems should be solved and togetherness should be supported. • Communal living areas are required on a residential and neighbourhood basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and support center is required to ensure safety. • Areas that can be spent together should be created. • There should be open and semi-open areas near the houses.
Status of Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing size is not sufficient compared to households. • The spaces in the residence are used alternately. • The technical infrastructure and storage area of the houses is insufficient. • The use of open and semi-open spaces and the time spent in the neighborhood have an important place in daily life. • They do not prefer multi-storey housing and apartment life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their flexible and free lives are reflected in their housing and daily lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate housing sizes should be provided for living conditions, housing sizes should be subject to change at the point where insufficient. • The use of a transforming room should be considered for use with close functionality. • The presence of open and semi-open spaces is important. • Multi-storey buildings should be avoided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where housing sizes and room numbers are insufficient, flexible use should be brought to the agenda. • The use of rotating rooms can be considered for inadequate spaces. • Open and semi-open spaces should be designed with the house. • Dwellings should be designed with low floors and should be considered with respect to the large family structure. • The kitchen and storage should be added to the open space.