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ARTICLE

Design Process of a Memorial Square to Thank and Respect for Healthcare Workers after Covid-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

Open and green spaces are essential elements of cities. With the COVID epidemic, the importance of the need for open and green spaces in urban areas has become more understood. The aim of this study is to create a new and contemporary square in the working area where the current use and traffic create chaos, to add a new square to the open and green areas in Ankara (Turkey) and to create a connection between this area and the existing open and green areas. At the same time, health workers are honoured through a memorial area integrated into the square. The importance of the location chosen as the study area is that it is surrounded by many public health facilities and is a point of intersection of Ankara's existing open green space systems. Throughout the three-stage design process, brainstorming sessions were held, drawings and sketches were made, and urban analyses were carried out on transport, culture, art, education, health, open and green spaces. Solutions were proposed for both indoor and outdoor spaces, and the forms were transformed into functional design elements and reflected in the space. As a result, after the pandemic, a city square has been created where people can socialise again, with a monument, a square, water surfaces, an amphitheatre, viewing terraces, a market area, a bridge, sitting and walking areas that are appropriate to the capital.

Keywords: Design; Memorial; Monument; Square; Urban

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1. Introduction

Open and green spaces include openings outside of architectural structures within the urban fabric, mass and fragmented green spaces, and water surfaces. They form an important part of the urban fabric and are also a set of systems that provide the city with ecological, aesthetic, recreational and economic functions[1, 2]. Open green spaces are indispensable elements in terms of aesthetic, recreational, ecological, economic, environmental, health, psychological, social and cultural values that society needs[3, 4].

Open and green spaces, as part of the urban living environment, are an important public service to improve people's quality of life and the relationship between people and nature[5]. In urban planning and design, urban open and green spaces are a balancing element that complements other land uses and improves the quality of life in the city[6–9].

Open and green spaces increase social relationships and connectedness between people[10–12]. They provide opportunities for people to relax, interact with nature, experience seasonal changes and recreate[13–17]. Examples of such areas include squares, parks, sports fields, water surfaces, children's playgrounds, university campuses, zoos, botanical gardens, etc.

There are many studies that explain spatial design processes in urban areas. Sisman et al. (2008)[18] explained the landscape design process they proposed for the Tekirdağ Governorship Ceremonial and Park Area in their study. Atabeyoglu explained the design process of the university campus in Rize, similarly Yerli and Ozdede in Duzce, Karasah et al. in Artvin[19–21]. Metin and Kocan[22] and Allik[23] conducted a design study on an urban park example. Istrate et al.[24] designed and explained a special garden for multi-purpose events (baptismal, corporate, civil, wedding, etc.) on the lakeside in Iasi, Romania. In all these studies, spatial solutions were proposed and design studies were carried out for problematic areas.

After the virus, which started to spread in November 2019, affected the whole world, the World Health Organisation declared the situation as a pandemic[25]. As a result of the loss of lives due to the pandemic, some restrictions have been introduced in social life around the world that will affect society. In Turkey, curfews, distance education, restrictions on production and sales activities, and rules on masks, cleaning and distance rules have been introduced[26]. During this pandemic period, which affects the society socially, economically, culturally and psychologically, the importance of city parks, where mental renewal, socialization and physical activities take place, has become even more evident, especially when home quarantine practices began[27].

Due to their working conditions, healthcare workers were the most likely to become ill during the pandemic and to be negatively affected both physically and psychologically[28]. According to the Turkish Medical Association report, 512 active healthcare workers have died of COVID-19 disease in Turkey since the start of the pandemic[29].

The aim of this study is to create a new and contemporary square in the study area, where the current use and traffic create chaos, to add a new square to the open and green spaces in Ankara and to construct the connection of this area with the existing open and green spaces. For this purpose, the details of an urban space design are presented in this study to commemorate the health workers who fought against the epidemic and lost their lives during the pandemic period and to reflect the changes in society's habits in social life during this period. As part of the study, a city square was created where the public could socialise again after the pandemic, including places where new social behaviours such as mask-distance-cleaning could be observed. The study, a joint effort between architects and landscape architects, proposed solutions for both indoor and outdoor spaces.

The content of the study consists of the design process from the idea stage to the production stage of the urban space. The importance of the study is that it provides solutions to the chaos created by the current uses of the area. In the current situation, the market area, pedestrian and vehicular traffic are mixed and disorganised, open and green areas are disconnected. The proposed spatial solutions made the area more usable and ensure that the open and green areas are connected.

There are two reasons why Sıhhiye was chosen as the study area. The first is that there are many public health facilities around the study area. As a result, patients and health workers are encouraged to use the area, and the area is virtually dedicated to them. The other reason is that this area is a point where Ankara's existing open green space systems intersect. Thus, the connectivity of open and green space systems has been strengthened.

2. Materials and Methods

The study area is located at the meeting point of Ulus and Kızılay, two important centres of Ankara, the capital of the Republic of Turkey (**Figure 1**). This meeting point, where the differences between historical and modern lines in the urban fabric are easily distinguishable, has brought together Ankara, a self-sufficient Anatolian town, and a young, dynamic and modern Ankara, which suddenly felt the burden of being the capital of a republic on its shoulders. Located in the Sıhhiye district, where the Ulus-Kızılay line crosses from north to south and the Yenimahalle-Cebeci line from east to west, the study area is surrounded by numerous buildings and spaces that bear the traces of national culture and heritage. Sıhhiye is one of the words that came into Turkish from Arabic and is used for all health matters. Since the Sıhhiye neighbourhood is located at a point where the hospital complex, education and administrative health affairs are carried out, this is where the name comes from.

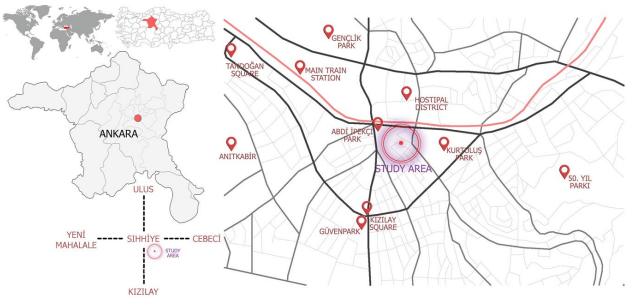

Figure 1. Map of the study area.

Sıhhiye is one of the most important spatial nodes in Ankara's first steps towards becoming a planned administrative capital. Although Sıhhiye has not assumed the role of the focal point or identity of the city centre, as an example of an intermediary space, it performs an unobtrusive but essential function that is often lacking in 21st century cities. To briefly introduce Sıhhiye as an intermediate space, in Hermann Jansen's competition-winning plan for Ankara [30] this building connects the old city centre of Ulus with the emerging new Kızılay. It is also an important transfer point. Sıhhiye is home to Ankara's oldest and most central railway station and has a large and diverse transport network. It is an area that is a source of the administrative city idea in the Löchler Plan, the first planning initiative [31]. In addition, Sıhhiye Bridge, located at the intersection of Atatürk Boulevard and Celal Bayar Boulevard, is the distribution point of public transport to two main axes in the city [32].

Sıhhiye is one of the most suitable places to create public open spaces and services in the city due to its location with natural accessibility and distance integrity. Accordingly, Sıhhiye has always been home to the oldest and best functioning hospital complexes, universities, government and cultural buildings. Some of these notable buildings include the Refik Saydam Institute of Hygiene (RSHM, closed), Ankara University Faculty of Languages, History and Geography, Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine and the Ministry, The former Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Health, Ankara Painting and Sculpture Museum, Ankara Courthouse, Ankara Ethnography Museum, State Opera and Ballet, CSO Concert Hall and Cermodern Art Gallery. Sıhhiye is also adjacent to three of Ankara's famous urban green spaces; Kurtuluş Park, Abdi İpekçi Park and Gençlik Park [33].

The project area described above is the main material of the study. In addition, many materials were used in the preparation of the study. Written documents, photographs, site plans, aerial photographs and satellite images of the study area are some of them. Similar studies obtained as a result of the literature review have contributed greatly to the preparation of the study. Old and new photographs and satellite images helped to observe the changes in the area. Site plans were processed using the AutoCAD 2023 programme, which allowed hand drawn sketches to be transferred to the computer environment. Sketch Up and Lumion were used to create 3D visualisations. Photoshop CS5 was used to combine and collage images.

The design process consisted of three stages. In the first stage, design issues and keywords related to COVID-19 were identified, health workers and the memorial site were discussed, and brainstorming was conducted. Various drawings and sketches were made, and the analysis of the immediate surroundings of the site was prepared in the form of diagrams. The second stage was to establish the relationship between the concept and the design. Starting from the caduceus symbol, which symbolises health, semantic, formal and functional aspects were tried to be integrated into the design (**Figure 2**). In the final stage, the ideas were combined; synthesis and design were carried out. The forms symbolised by the caduceus were transformed into functional design elements and reflected in the space.

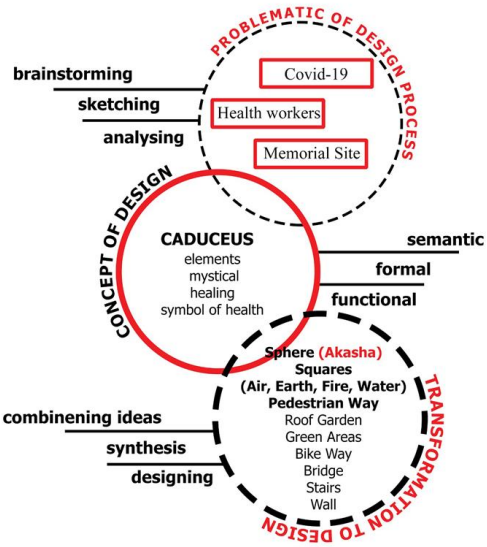

Figure 2. Method of design process.

3. Results

3.1. Transportation

The study area is located in a very accessible area. The ring road (D-200), high speed and suburban railway lines and 4 metro lines, which connect Konya-Samsun (**Figure 3**), pass in the vicinity of the study area. Thanks to the above-ground and underground transport lines, the study area is very easily accessible from many points in the city.

The closest metro stops to the study area are Sıhhiye (4 minutes' walk) on the M4 line. Sıhhiye station is located at the western boundary of Abdi İpekçi Park. The second closest metro station is College on the A1 line (7 minutes' walk). The College station is located at the south-western end of Independence Park. The nearest bus stop is the Children's Assembly stop of the 542 bus line, located in the north-east corner of the project area. The other nearest bus stop is Sıhhiye, located on the western border of Abdi İpekçi Park, where 61 different bus lines on the Ulus-Kızılay route pass (**Figure 3**).

3.2. Culture, Art and Education

Since the study area is located in an area where the old urban structure of Ankara and the new urban structure meet, cultural, artistic and educational structures are observed quite intensively due to its location. These include many museums, especially Anıtkabir, Ankara Castle, Ankara Railway Station, First and Second Parliament, Anatolian Civilizations Museum, Rahmi Koç Museum, Ulucanlar Prison Museum, Youth Park, Samanpazarı, Suluhan, Roman Bath and Ancient City, Ankara, Gazi and Hacettepe Universities and many high schools (**Figure 3**).

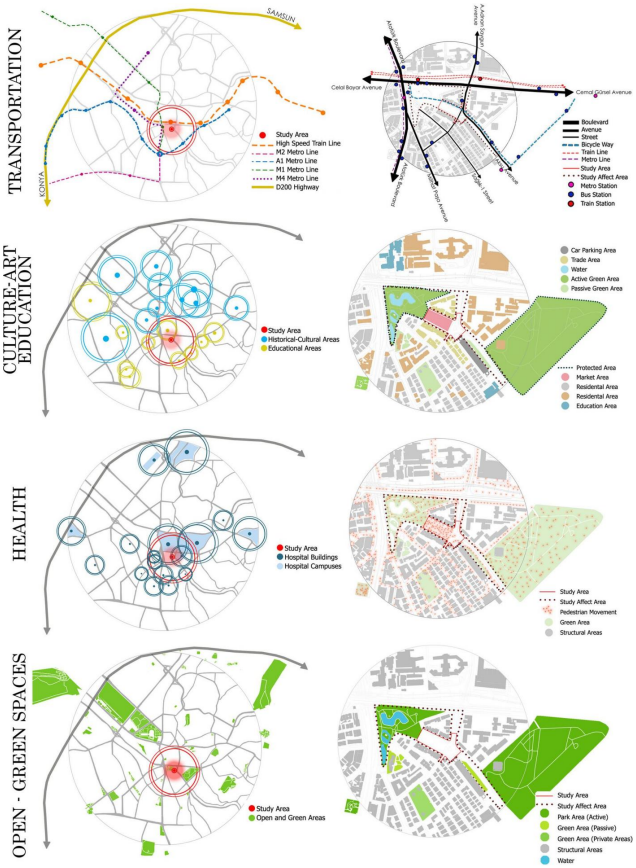

Figure 3. Upper scale analysis.

3.3. Health Network

The main theme of the study is inextricably linked to the concept of health. In this sense, the spatial relationship between the study area and the surrounding health structures and campuses has been examined. In the study, where respect for health workers is put on the agenda and a memorial is designed, the location of the memorial is almost at the centre of the health facilities and campuses (**Figure 3**). This spatial arrangement reveals the spatial significance of the study area.

There are many hospitals and health campuses around the study area. Ankara Provincial Health Directorate, İbni Sina Hospital, İhsan Doğramacı Children's Hospital, Hacettepe University Hospital, Ankara Training and Re-

search Hospital, Ankara University Faculty of Medicine, Ankara Hospital, Gazi University Faculty of Medicine, Başkent University Hospital are some of them (**Figure 3**).

3.4. Open Green Spaces

Open and green spaces, the breathing organs of cities and citizens, undoubtedly play an important role in the formation of urban identity, while providing ecological, aesthetic, recreational and economic benefits to the city. They are also the areas where citizens meet their social and cultural needs and communicate with each other and with nature. The study area and its immediate surroundings have a rich potential in terms of point and mass open green spaces (**Figure 3**). When the study area is evaluated in terms of open and green spaces, there are numerous positive values that it will add to the city.

The most important open green spaces in the immediate vicinity are Abdi İpekçi Park, Kurtuluş Park, Youth Park, Atatürk Cultural Centre Nation's Garden (Former Hippodrome), Anıtkabir Peace Park, Ankap Park, 50. Yıl Park, Ankara Evi Park, Güven Park, National Sovereignty Park, and Parliament Park (**Figure 3**).

3.5. Concept

Inspired by the elements and symbolic representations of the Kadusse,the symbols are abstracted from the Kadus. Caduceus is the double serpentine staff of Hermes. The symbol surrounds the caduceus in a spiral form, with two serpents (the basic forces of creation, male and female, earth and sky) emerging in zigzags, representing water and fire, and the staff above representing earth (or the spinal cord, if thought of as a human). It is a symbol represented by air, represented by wings (exaltation) and a round sphere in the upper part, which, according to different narratives, consists of brain, sun, dome, crown, enlightenment, spirit, divinity, life energy or akasha (world memory). In the project the Akasha represents healing, fire death, water life, earth birth, and air breath. The health workers, who lost their lives (fire) in the epidemic but also healed many people (akasha), helped the patients they healed to be reborn (earth) and to continue their lives (water) thanks to the breath they gave (air) (**Figure 4**).

The study area is located at the point where the existing settlement of Ankara (Ulus region) meets the newly developing settlement of Yenişehir to the south, namely Kızılay, as can be clearly seen in the 1924 and 1932 site plans. It is also worth noting that the study area was shown as a green corridor in the 1932 plan. This is because the İncesu stream runs through the middle of the area. The most basic element that adds value to the area is that the project area is part of the open green space system, which has undeniable contributions to the city. However, as the population grew rapidly and the city expanded beyond its planned boundaries, the infrastructure and transport services could no longer cope. Waste began to be dumped into streams, and after a while the streams became sewers. As a last resort, the streams, which cause both visual and odour pollution, are surrounded by concrete and covered (**Figure 4**). In this sense, the most important point that we consider valuable is to make the presence of this jewel in the field felt, even if it is symbolic. The zigzag line of the footpath in the project area makes a subtle reference to the polluted, neglected, forgotten and covered Incesu stream that continues to flow through the underground concrete culverts, almost representing its projection on the ground. This graphic expression also symbolises the caduceus, which is the symbol of medical science and the most fundamental value we have, health, and becomes a monument to the sphere, the akasha. **Figure 4** also shows the spatial relationship of the study area with two large parks in the immediate vicinity and the functional diagram showing the layout of uses in the study area.

The uses in the study area and their fictional relationship to the concept are as follows:

3.6. The Globe (Memorial/Monument) and Memorial Place

The globe (monument) and the memorial were considered together. The area that includes both functions has a square shape of 32x32 metres. The sphere in this area represents the akasha or healing in the caduceus, the symbol of medicine or health. The sphere (monument) is designed in two parts. The height of the smaller part is 8 metres, while the height of the larger part is 10.5 metres. The large part represents healing and health. Water surrounds the globe, because one of the 4 elements of the Caduceus is water, and at the same time water is the basis of life, existence and sustainability of life. The medicine, once prepared by pharmacists in a silver bowl, is represented by the water surfaces surrounding the Akasha in the project area. Concrete blocks of

different lengths and heights rise from the water outside the Akasha or the sphere that is its reflection in the field. These blocks symbolise the health workers who work day and night with great dedication in the fight against the epidemic. The fact that they are of different lengths and heights is due to the fact that health workers are different from each other, but they all strive for the same goal. In the course of the fight against the epidemic, every health worker was affected physically or mentally by the process, and unfortunately many workers lost their lives. The theme of the monument is that the concrete blocks represent the health workers who tried to reach Akasha, that is, health. All of them tried to reach health, but some could reach it and some could not. The blocks that reached it pierced the sphere. The names of the health workers who lost their lives are written on the ends of the blocks that pierced the sphere.

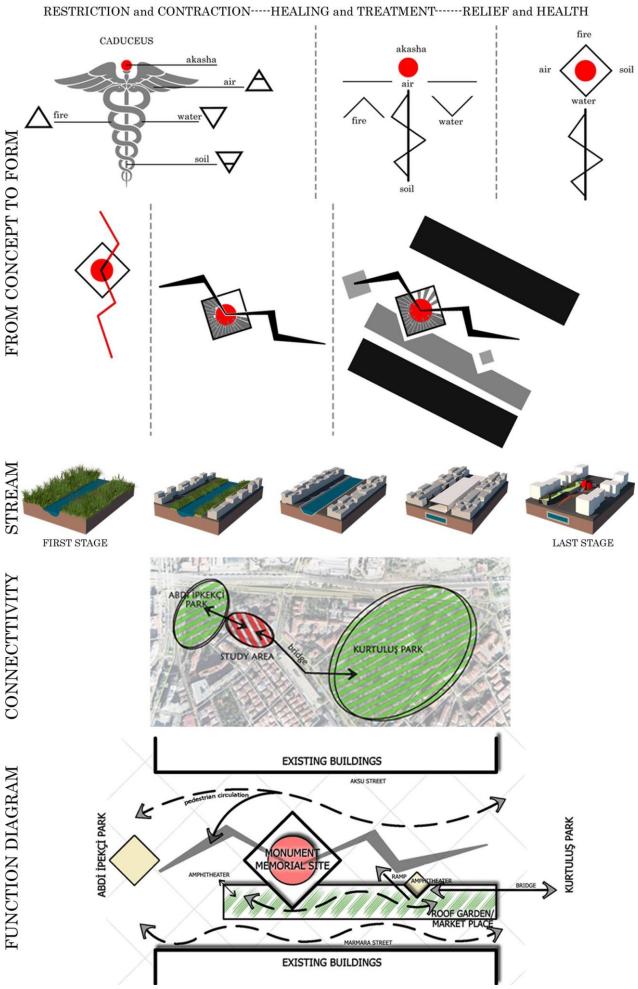

Figure 4. Concept and the function diagram.

The small part of the sphere is the area where the dead are represented. The large sphere is 45cm below the ground. There are no concrete blocks stuck in this area or trying to reach it. The small sphere has a simple function, with seating in a two-storey amphitheatre and documentaries on the epidemic and the plight of health workers shown on its wall. The general view of the square and the sphere is shown in **Figure 5**.

The user, walking along the walkway, experienced the feeling of being stuck on the narrow road and then felt relief and reassurance when he entered the sphere. He read the names of the health workers who lost their lives on the one hand, and watched the documentaries on the other (**Figure 5**). In this way, the Globe and its surroundings became a place of commemoration with respect and gratitude to the health workers. Thanks to the workers who lost their lives, many patients are still recovering today, and their memory is crowned by this globe. Its material is concrete. The area outside the small sphere is 45cm below the ground level of the square. The entrances and exits to this area are surrounded by water. On commemoration days, when the weather is fine, this place can also be used as a ceremonial area where wreaths are laid, speeches are made and people gather around the square. On days when the weather is not suitable for outdoor use, the inside of the sphere can also be used for this purpose.

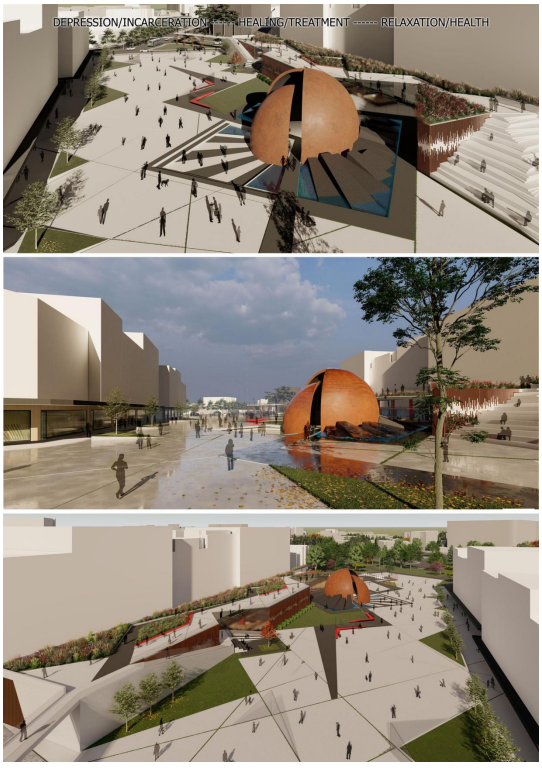

Figure 5. General views of the area.

3.7. Square

It is the centre of the working area and the area where all the functions come together. The bridge, glass terrace, amphitheatre and globe are all located in the square. As a design approach, not only the market area has a physical relationship with the square. The study considered and designed the market area and the square as a whole, but since the uses of these two functions are different, they are physically isolated from each other and not visually confined. The square has the potential to gather and invite users from Adnan Saygun, Süleyman Sırrı, Aksu Avenues and Marmara Street in the east and Abdi İpekçi Park in the west. With this in mind, it has been suggested that Süleyman Sırrı Street be reduced to a single lane and that traffic be restricted to one direction at the entrance to the square. This has increased the gathering and inviting character of the square.

Aksu Street, located in the north of the area, has also become part of the square. Residential and commercial structures such as cafes and shops on the street open directly onto the square and integrate with it. It is proposed that the services to be provided by the commercial buildings such as shops, cafes and residences on this street are solved by the service car park at the northwest corner of the square. The square gives the impression of a large paved area divided by joints. The lines forming the joints are not drawn at random, each line has an edge, a corner, a connecting point that it points to or reaches. The 853.98 level written on the existing plan at the east and west entrances of the square was taken as +/− 0.00 elevation within the framework of the study, and the elevations written on the project structures were calculated accordingly. **Figure 6** shows the sections where the sphere and its surroundings are visible.

The walkway, which stands out in the centre of the square with its multi-coloured coating and passes through the sphere, leads users to the sphere and the memorial dedicated to the health workers. There are glass screens on the walkway and seats on the sides of the glass screens facing the square. The screens evoke the distance and isolation in our lives during the epidemic. Those walking along the walkway and those sitting on the other side of the glass will feel the distance and isolation between them. The path, which sometimes narrows and sometimes widens, becomes narrower as it approaches the sphere. The aim here is to make the person walking along this road feel trapped and confined. This constriction will be felt more at the last point of entering the sphere, but a relaxation will be experienced by entering the sphere. In fact, although the sphere seems to be a closed space, after the feeling of contraction and compression, it will give the feeling of reaching a large space, because it is a volumetric space only as a shell and because of its fragmented character. The 1/1000 scale urban design plan and the 1/200 scale application plan shown in **Figure 7**.

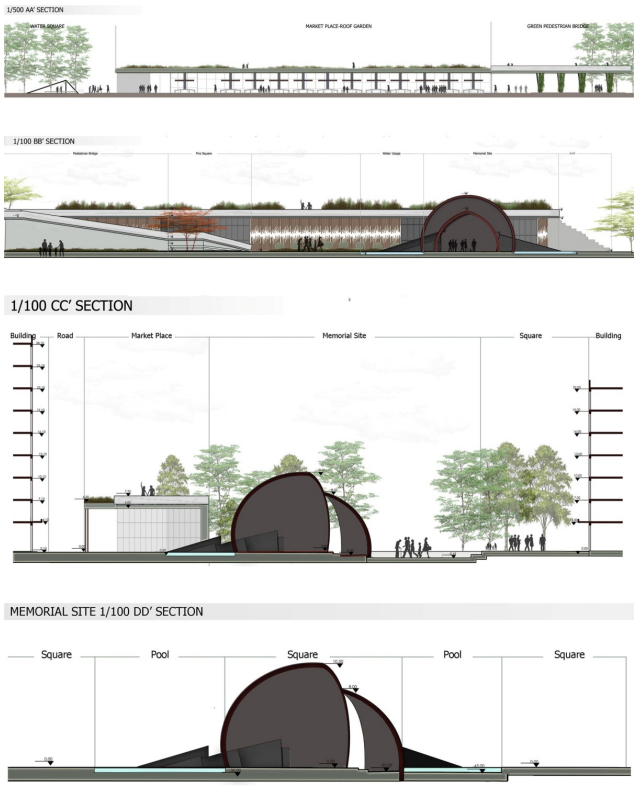

Figure 6. Sections from the area.

3.8. Marketplace

The market area is located on an area of 122 metres long and 15 metres wide along Marmara Street. Entry and exit to the market area can only be provided along Marmara Street. It includes sales units, police station and toilet structures. Its roof is designed as a green area. Clothing and food markets are considered in the same sections. On the wall separating the market area from the square, glass openings are designed in accordance with the shape of the walkway in the square. While the square and the memorial can be easily seen from the market area, the market area cannot be seen from the square, thanks to the glass material, smoked colour and reflective glass on the square side (**Figure 8**).

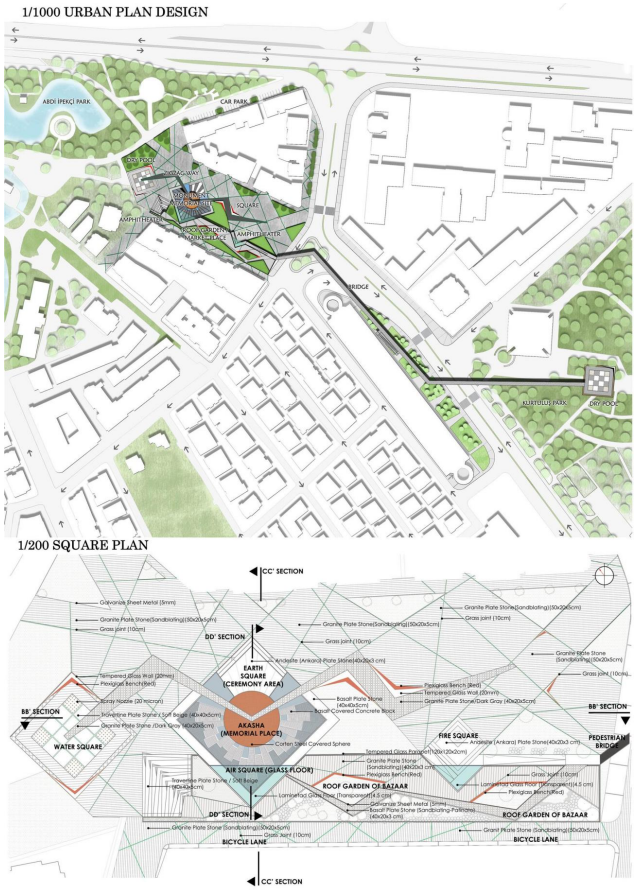

Figure 7. 1/1000 Urban design plan and 1/200 application plan.

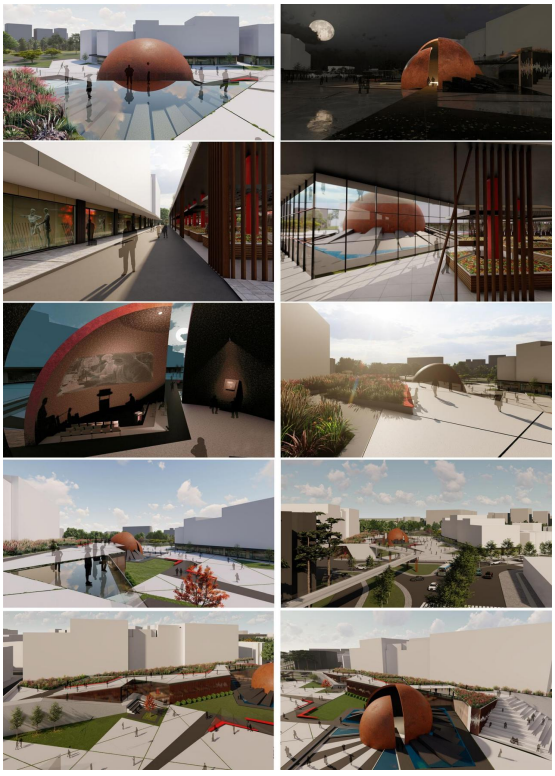

Figure 8. General views of the all functions.

3.9. Roof Garden-Glass Terrace

The roof of the market area is designed as a garden. The main purpose is to provide integration with the monument and its immediate surroundings on the plan level, while providing open and green space integrity as a landscape component in relation to the size of the site (**Figure 8**).

The plant species used in this integrity will also play an important role in reducing the carbon footprint effect. The roof garden is accessed via a bridge from the east and the amphitheatre is accessible from the square to the west. The rooftop garden features walking paths with broken lines, seating and green areas. The southern part of the walk linearly supports the broken road used in the square and refers to the İncesu stream. Another function of the roof garden is to have landscape areas with different angles to observe the square and the region. The most prominent part that provides this function is the Glass Terrace. As the glass terrace is located just behind the sphere, it has the function of observing the sphere, the blocks embedded in the sphere and the square in general. As its material is glass, it will provide light to the walkway that goes around the back of the sphere (**Figure 8**).

3.10. Amphitheatre

The amphitheatre is located on the west side of the roof of the market area, providing a physical link between the roof garden and the square. Contrary to the classical amphitheatre design, the steps are not circular, but are arranged in an angular sequence of almost 90 degrees. The amphitheatre, where the steps on the same level intersect at different angles, has two views. The steps in the northern direction follow the square and the steps in the western direction follow Abdi İpekçi Park. There are a total of 13 steps with a sitting height of 45 cm. At the end, where the steps meet, there is a classical staircase with a height of 15 cm. Under the amphitheatre there are administrative units belonging to the market area. Although the seating steps also provide circulation, 39 steps to the south of the theatre establish the relationship between the square and the roof garden (**Figure 8**).

3.11. Bridge

The bridge provides a continuous and uninterrupted connection between Kurtuluş Park and the study area. It pro-

vides uninterrupted access from Kurtuluş Park to the study area and from the study area to Abdi İpekçi Park. This ensures connectivity and continuity of open and green spaces. The bridge rises from Kurtuluş Park with an average slope of 8% and reaches a height of 6 metres. The bridge, which crosses the road from Aksu Street, continues parallel to the car park (**Figure 8**).

The bridge, which gives the feeling of walking in a natural environment among the trees on the upper level by preserving the existing tree structure, is important in its contribution to reducing the carbon footprint with its plant material as well as this natural structure it has. Finally, the bridge over Süleyman Sırrı Street reaches the green space on the roof of the market area from the east. From this point on, the bridge is part of the circulation line that connects to the roof garden, but it also descends to the square with an average 8% ramp. At the point where the ramp joins the square, there is an amphitheatre solution that can be used for small events.

The ramp has been designed with a suitable gradient for wheelchair users. The entire project area has been designed to allow the circulation of people with disabilities. The disabled person who climbs the bridge from Kurtuluş Park with a ramp will be able to walk around the roof garden, observe the monument and the square from the glass terrace, and then go down to the square via the ramp and use all the functions with ease (**Figure 8**).

The bridge is made of galvanised steel material and its width is 3 metres in all parts. The railings are made of glass. The bridge, which connects the two public spaces, also provides the opportunity to view Kurtuluş Park, the square and the general skyline of Ankara from a higher point than the human scale (**Figure 8**).

3.12. Planting Approach

One of the most important urban problems today is the failure to create a sustainable urban ecosystem. The protection of existing species is ensured by the planting approach, which is the main starting point for solving this important problem. In addition, by selecting species that contribute to the existing urban ecosystem, a contribution is made to the city both ecologically and aesthetically.

The selected species will increase the continuity and diversity of the seasonal changes, while ensuring ecological sustainability. While species such as Stipa sp, Pennisetum sp and Carex sp create a steppe character in the roof garden of the market square, Ginkgo biloba (Temple Tree), with its autumnal effect, attracts attention in the immediate vicinity, in keeping with the spirit of memorial and remembrance. As part of the Caduceus concept, striking plants with a fiery red autumn colour, such as Acer palmatum 'Osokasuki', have been used symbolically in the square. To create the green corridor that the bridge is intended to provide, natural ivy species such as Hedera helix, Clematis vitalba and Vitis vinifera were favoured in the vertical gardens created on the bridge piers. The pine trees in the immediate vicinity of the bridge have been preserved and the aim is to give people the feeling of walking through a natural forest intertwined with these plants.

4. Discussion and Conclusions

This study brought a new square to the city of Ankara and honoured health workers with a memorial area integrated into the square. In studies of urban design and design processes, although the final products vary according to the characteristics of the study area and expectations, there is a general effort to create liveable spaces. In their study, Yavuzcehce and Cezik[34] mentioned that public spaces should be evaluated taking into account the general interest of the urban population. Similarly, in this study, the use of a public space for public benefit is encouraged. According to Yerli[35], in metropolitan cities where dense construction is observed, the mass-space balance between horizontal spaces and vertical volumes is gradually deteriorating. This situation highlights the importance of open and green spaces in cities. This study has made a positive contribution to the mass-space balance in the city.

This study mentions that open and green space systems should be considered as a whole and their positive contribution to the city. The same findings were expressed in studies conducted by Yilmaz[36], Saglik and Keltik[37], Ak and Kesim[38] and Ozdemir[10] in different urban areas such as university campuses, squares, monuments and their surroundings and city parks. In a study they conducted in Uşak, Yerli et al[39] suggested connecting two different city parks with a bridge, similar to the one in this study. In this way, uninterrupted transport can be provided between open and green areas.

Similar to this study, the element of water is often used in memorial designs and memorial spaces. The memorial built to replace the collapsed Twin Towers consists of two extremely large voids in the former footprints of the towers, in each of which cascading waterfalls into a central pool. This area is considered to be the largest man-made waterfall in North America[40]. In another study in Sivas, Turkey, the use of water is included in the proposal for the design of a memorial park for the artists who died in a hotel fire. Because water has a revitalising and sustaining quality, it is the source of life. Water represents rebirth, eternity and continuity[20].

According to Wang[41] the planning and design of environmental landscape in residential areas should reflect psychological senses and ensure humane psychological care in every detail of design. In this study, the square, which is located in a residential area, fulfils its function. At the same time, it allows all users to feel the memory of the health workers.

With this work, a city square has been created where people can socialise again after the end of the pandemic. The square includes a memorial, a monument, a market area, a bridge connecting two parks, a roof garden, a glass terrace, an amphitheatre, promenades, a water feature and seating. As a result, the spirit and habits of the area from its previous functions have been preserved in the spaces designed. In addition, a contemporary design approach was used to create a town square to honour health workers who have gone through a difficult process.

The square created with this study has provided the connection between the two large city parks (Abdi İpekci Park and Kurtulus Park) that currently exist in its vicinity. For the studies to be carried out from now on, it is recommended to add new open and green areas to the city that will provide new ones to these three open and green areas that have been connected. In this way, the open and green spaces, which will increase as they are added to each other, will penetrate many points in the urban fabric and will be able to better fulfil the functions expected of them.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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