

CAMPUS AS AN INTEGRATED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:
LEARNING IN CAMPUS OPEN SPACES

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LEARNING IN CAMPUS OPEN SPACES**

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I hereby declare that all information in this document has been obtained and presented in accordance with academic rules and ethical conduct. I also declare that, as required by these rules and conduct, I have fully cited and referenced all material and results that are not original to this work.

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ABSTRACT

CAMPUS AS AN INTEGRATED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT: LEARNING IN CAMPUS OPEN SPACES

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Recent researches on campus learning environments present that there is a seeking for alternative learning spaces among students. Researches argue that more learning is taking place outside of class time than ever before. With an increased emphasis on collaboration and group projects, students are learning in small groups outside of the classrooms as they accomplish work related to their courses. Literature defines these experiences as '*informal learning*'. Therewithal, campus open spaces are one of the major areas where students prefer for their informal learning experiences.

This thesis aims to search the influence of campus open space design on students' learning experiences. Additionally, it argues that there is a strong relation between the learning and the space where learning action occurs. In doing this, it both covers a theoretical framework and a case study. Within the theoretical part, it discusses various learning theories with respect to the prominent principles for each theory. It reveals learning space design indicators which affects learning both in indoor and outdoor learning environments. In the case study, with the analysis of different sample areas from METU campus, the study both investigates the learning experiences actualized on campus open spaces and the triggering design indicators which enhance these experiences.

Keywords: Learning Theories, Learning Spaces, Campus Open Space Design

ÖZ

BÜTÜNLEŞİK BİR ÖĞRENME MEKANI OLARAK KAMPÜS: KAMPÜS AÇIK ALANLARINDA ÖĞRENME

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Kampus öğrenme mekanları hakkında yapılan son arařtırmalar, öğrenciler arasında alternatif öğrenme mekanları arayışı olduğunu ortaya koymaktadır. Arařtırmalar sınıf dışında meydana gelen öğrenme deneyimlerinin sınıf içerisinde gerçekleşenlerden daha fazla olduğunu öne sürmektedir. Grup çalışması ve işbirliği metotlarının önem kazanmasıyla, dersleriyle ilgili işleri tamamlamak için öğrenciler küçük gruplar halinde öğrenmeye yönelmektedir. Bu deneyimler, literatürde ‘enformel öğrenme’ olarak geçmektedir. Keza, kampus açık alanları, öğrencilerin enformel öğrenme için tercih ettiği mekanların başında gelmektedir.

Bu çalışma, kampus açık alanları tasarımının öğrencilerin öğrenme deneyimleri üzerindeki etkilerini arařtırmaktadır. Ek olarak, çalışma öğrenme ve öğrenmenin gerçekleştiği mekan arasında önemli bir bağ olduğunu savunmaktadır. Çalışma, hem teorik çerçeveyi hem de bir örnek kampusu kapsamaktadır. Teorik çerçevede, farklı öğrenme yaklaşımları ve öğrenmeyi açıklayan başat unsurlar incelenmektedir. Öte yandan, kapalı ve açık öğrenme mekanlarında öğrenmeyi etkileyen mekansal tasarım indikatörleri açığa çıkarılmaktadır. Örnek kampus çalışması, ODTÜ kampusunda seçilen örnek alanlarda yapılan analizlerle, kampus açık alanlarında meydana gelen öğrenme deneyimlerini ve bu deneyimleri tetikleyen tasarım kriterlerini ortaya çıkarmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Öğrenme Teorileri, Öğrenme Mekanları, Kampus Açık Alan Tasarımı

To my mother and father...
...for all their love and support...

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

JISC: Joint Information Systems Committee

METU: Middle East Technical University

NIBS: National Institute of Building Sciences

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