

## REPRESENTATIONS OF CHANGE IN TRADITIONAL ORTIGIA HOUSES

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This study aims to determine the functional quality of a dwelling type with an open space, notably the transitional spaces both outside, *i.e.* open space and inside the dwelling, *i.e.* the front room facing the open space. To reduce the scope of the investigation to a manageable size, the work was confined to the Island of Ortigia on the south coast of Siracusa in Sicily. Two different vernacular house types built in the late 1800s form the pattern of organisation in the Island of Ortigia and the main difference between the two comes with the open space. In this study the blocks with an open space named *casa corte* which are either single family houses or houses with multi-family dwelling-units consisting of one or more open spaces surrounded (partially or completely) by living areas are considered. The transitional spaces of the house type *casa corte* are the places of contact between family and outsiders, between the private domain of the house and the public domain of the street. They clearly show the distinction between the two realms, regulate the access of people and define how far an outsider can enter into the private domain. Therefore much attention has been given to the way in which these transitional spaces are organised, and people interact with each other and within them. On this basis, the visual aspect of privacy which is viewed here as a process rather than as a static condition is emphasised, as it deals with the privacy of the family from outsiders.

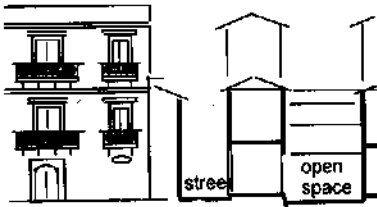


Figure 1. Elevation and section showing the vertical addition.

The 'type' of open space is believed to have a strong constraining effect on people's reactions on the use of the house type *casa corte*. The privacy that the open spaces may provide can be different depending on the control of access as well as the number of households sharing the open space and the ratio of the open space. Hence the appropriateness and significance of both private and shared use of the open spaces are examined, and the success of flat living with a shared open space is evaluated (Başkaya, 1996).

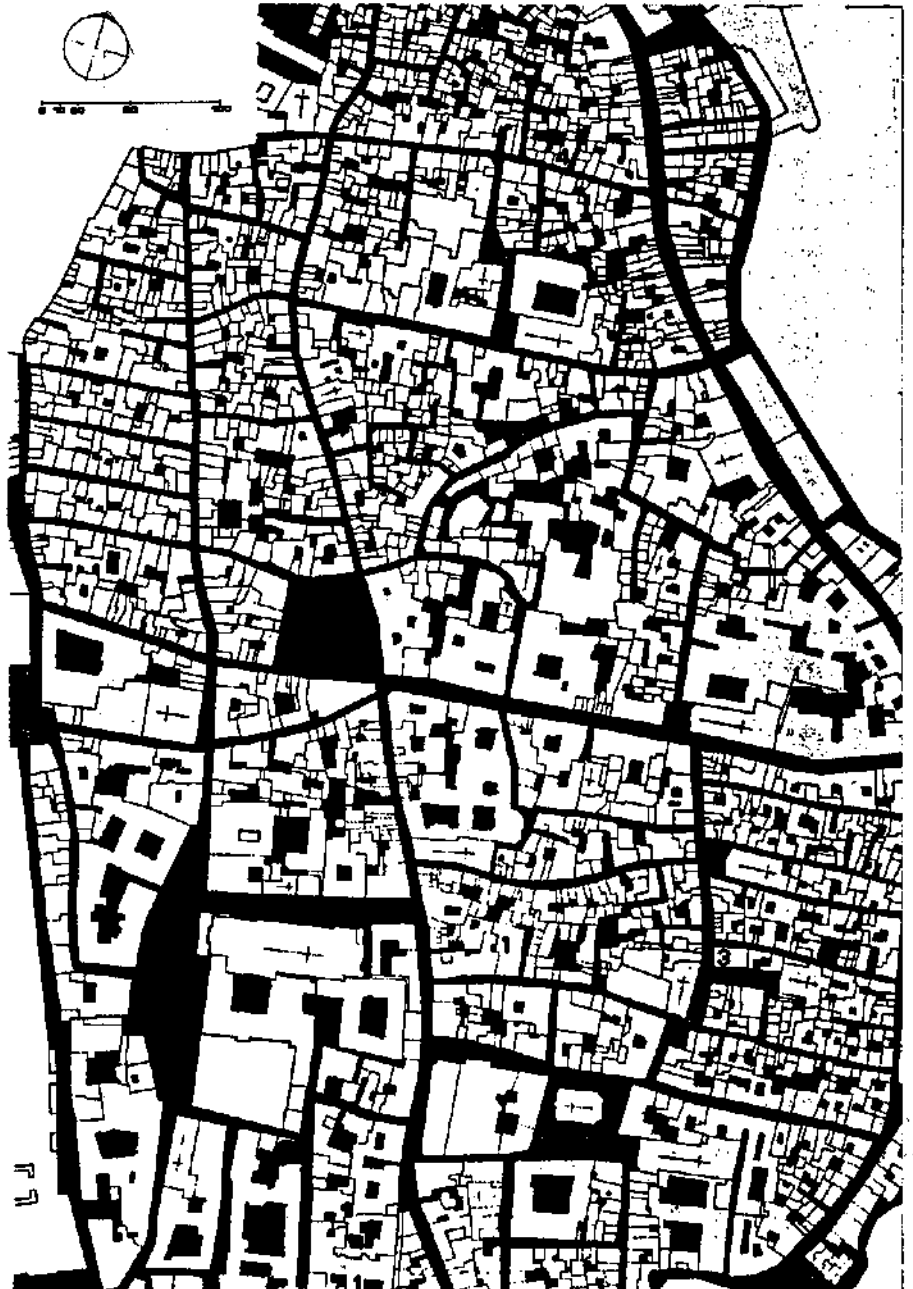


Figure 2. Ortigia, 1910 (Casamento et. al., 1982)

### ASSESSMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The town of Ortigia in Sicily was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC (Owens, 1992). In 1675, the Island of Ortigia was connected to the mainland (Syracuse) (Trigilia, 1981, 1985) and following an earthquake in 1693, new projects were proposed to reconstruct the town. After the unification of Italy in 1861, some people, especially the wealthy started to leave the Island of Ortigia to settle in the south of Syracuse (Trigilia, 1985). The house type *casa corte* drawn both from the single family Greek-Roman house *domus* and from the higher density Roman apartment building *insula* has remained little changed in spite of major changes in population density and overall building form (Başkaya, 1996). Population growth is an important influence affecting the development of the settlement pattern in all periods, since it is a walled city built on an island without much space for expansion. In the early 1900s, new growth on the Island has been accommodated vertically in the form of third and fourth floors, and through the vertical and horizontal subdivision of existing units over time (Figure 1). As the blocks expanded vertically, the relationship between the open space and the living units on the upper levels could not be created and existing relationships could not be maintained.

After the 1920's, what was previously a private property of the house type *casa corte*, i.e. the open space, has become a common area for the people living in a block (1). By the accumulating number of families sharing house blocks, the amount of space for each family, both in the dwelling and the open space has been reduced. By comparing the maps prepared by different authorities (Figures 2 and 3), we can understand that the size of the open spaces on the island has been reduced by more than 60% in order to build more living spaces.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study centred on a small number of examples and on a comparable group of people from five different quarters. The examples have been selected regarding their size and the presence of the open space. The monumental examples, which sometimes might resemble a palace, and the ones with no open space were not included. Interviews and questionnaires were conducted only if the resident had lived in the dwelling for at least 12 months.

For the analysis of both the spatial and social structure, data gathered by a questionnaire survey, interviews and observations were complemented by written documents e.g. drawings, maps, plans, theses, books and photographs. Furthermore, to supplement the data, sketches were drawn and pictures taken, to record the arrangement and the use of the house type *casa corte*. In order to establish proper characteristics of traditional houses, and to check the appropriateness and usefulness of these in terms of current users' requirements, some house units (49 households) in thirty five blocks were both physically and socially analysed, some blocks (11 blocks) only physically analysed in different periods between the years 1993 and 1994 (Table 1). The analysis of the physical structure was mostly carried out by the help of detailed drawings prepared by Pagnano and his team (Pagnano, 1987), and only the elevations of the examples were drawn on the site. Some notes were made about the orientation of certain rooms, together with their location in the block.

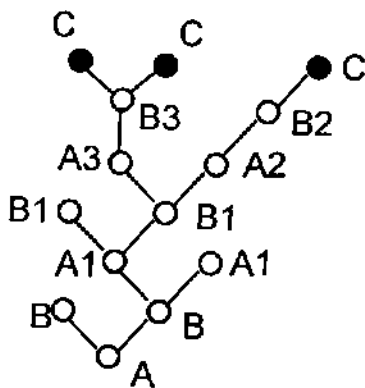
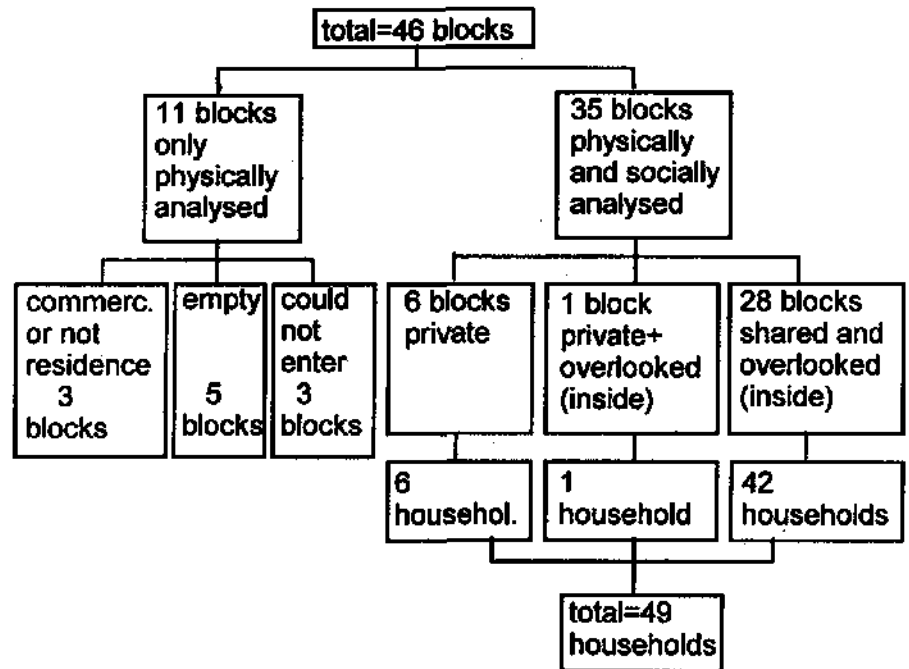
A questionnaire survey was carried out for an evaluation of current users' living in these traditional dwellings and satisfaction with the dwelling and its close surrounding. Households were asked questions (19 questions) about the use of

1. As acknowledged at the interview with Prof. L. Dufour, 1993.



Figure 3. Ortigia, 1987 (Pagnano, 1987).

Table 1. Blocks and house units examined in surveys.



- A public square
- A1 small public square
- A2 private open space
- A3 semi-private open sp
- B main street
- B1 small street
- B2 private staircase
- B3 shared staircase
- C private house
- inside
- outside

Figure 4. Settlement structure of the town in late 1800s.

2. As observed for instance in Area 1 of Figure 11.

their dwellings, particularly the open space and the kind of difficulties they have. These were fundamental for establishing appropriate dwelling and layout characteristics. The information collected by the questionnaire along with other data gathered about the house type *casa corte* and site were statistically analysed (Başkaya, 1996).

Although the research was intended to reveal aspects of the diachronic process of the typological development and explain how the form has developed over a long period of time, sufficient historical information could not be gathered to conduct this typological work properly. For this reason, inferences were drawn mainly from the analysis of the present documents.

FORM OF THE HOUSE TYPE *CASA CORTE* IN RELATION TO SETTLEMENT PATTERN

As described by Miconi (1988) the settlement plan of the Island is notable for the clear contrast revealed between two streams of urban development: planned (regular) urban form and organic (irregular) growth pattern. A summary of the urban structure of the town is also given by Trigilia (1981). First, it has the orthogonal system of a Greek-Roman city; second, it has an Islamic typology (2); third, it has medieval morphology planned with wide avenues and narrow streets (Trigilia, 1981). Guidoni, on the other hand, did a study on the correlation between the public, semi-public and private spaces. He states that even if the ideology was different, the Islamic town and Medieval town correlate with each other between the dates of the eleventh and twelfth centuries (Guidoni, 1982).

In considering the social life of the society, the original structure of the city is composed on the basis of a hierarchy of public and private realms. In general, the city characteristically comprises a tripartite topology of public, semi-private and private spaces, varying in the degree of accessibility and enclosure. The network of this tripartite system, spreads over the whole city. In fact, there is a communication root between the open space and the house as there is between a large square and a small square or a small square and the open space (Figure 4).

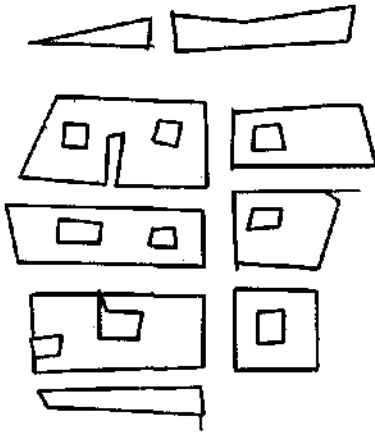


Figure 5. Typical settlement pattern.

Although the architecture and physical character of the buildings, especially the *façades*, have changed over time, the settlement structure on the island (e.g. open spaces, narrow streets, squares, etc.) has been preserved or just slightly changed, as mentioned by Liliane Dufour (1993) during all its periods (Figure 5). Today, *vicolo* i.e. the urban corridor used as a transitional area (Miconi, 1988), *cul-de-sac*, i.e. a short road closed at one end, *cortile*, i.e. public courtyard, and private courtyard still exist because they are involved in the structure of the society. They are still functional and fit the requirements of the town (Guidoni, 1982).

In Figure 6, a typology is given regarding the location of the open space in the house block for the first two floors, the ground floor and the first floor. In the figure, four different types of open space can be defined on the level above the ground floor. The placement of the open space is given in relation to the main entrance from the street.

The building blocks are determined by the planned urban form. Because of the dense urban structure, the size of the open space is small, sometimes close to a light-well. The blocks are, for the most part, two storeys with several rooms wrapped around a central open space as a dominant element of the form. The open space of this form provides a physical link between the spaces and allows

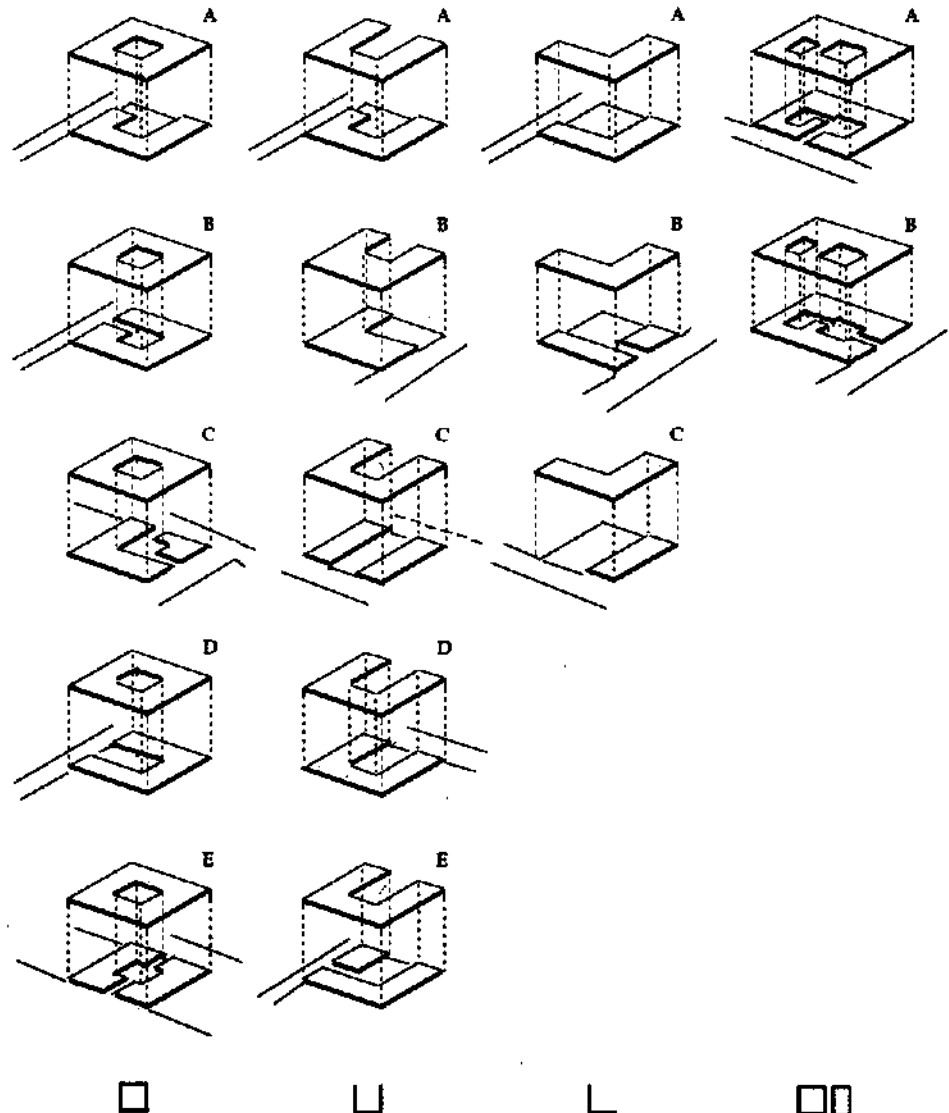


Figure 6. Typology of house types 'casa corte'

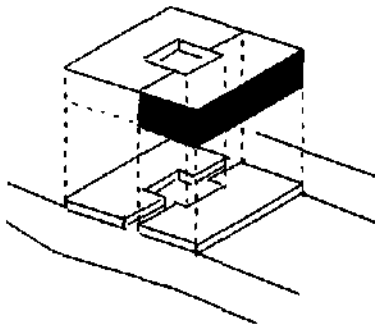


Figure 7. Determination of units by form.

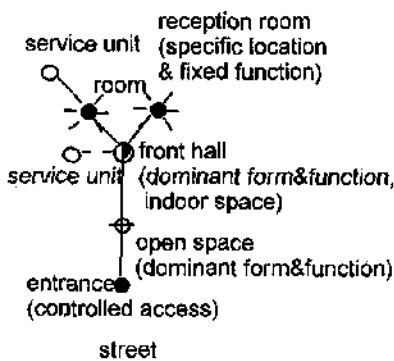


Figure 8. Use of the house type 'casa corte' in late 1800s.

for circulation between them. Everybody can meet there and they always have to go through it (Figure 7). According to the information given by the present inhabitants who have been living in these blocks for more than sixty years, the open spaces have been used as an extension of the living rooms especially in the summer. As an external transition point between the external public domain and the domestic private domain, it was a significant component in the design around which many activities were carried out (Figures 6-8).

Mostly because of the land use, the living units usually have two facades, one to the street and the other to the open space. In all these organisations, the location of each space might change depending on the placement of the block on the site, and the location and the size of the open space in the block. From the graphical analysis, it is evident that both the reception room and the front hall have fixed position within the house (Pagnano, 1987). The reception room always overlooks the street and the front hall looks over the open space. As a significant component in the design, the front hall is in direct connection with most of the surrounding rooms. These are the main organisers on the first floor and the floors above (Figures 6-8).

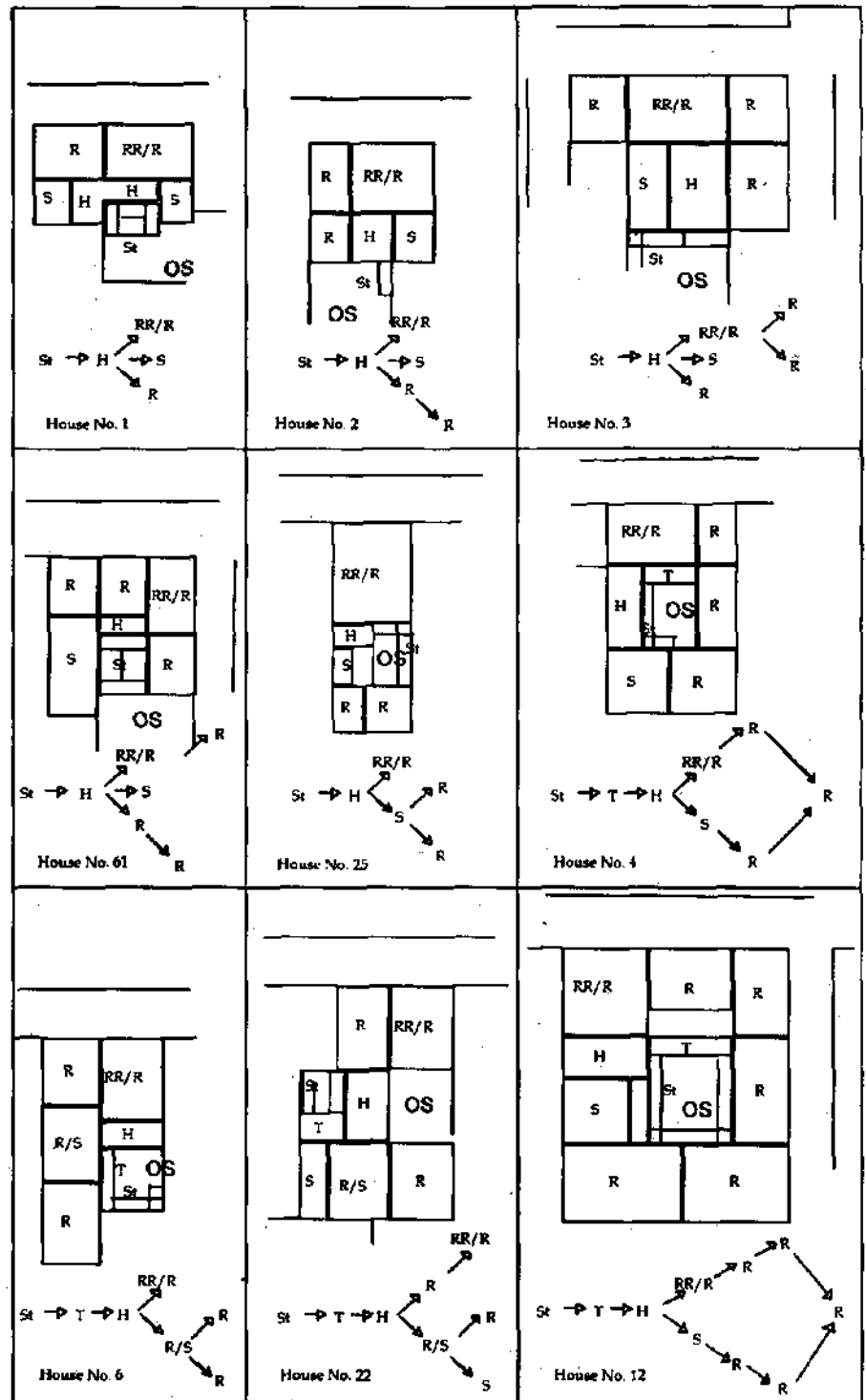
SPATIAL ORGANISATION OF THE HOUSE TYPE *CASA CORTE*

Regarding the function given to each floor, there is a clear demarcation between the ground floor and the upper floors. The open space is usually surrounded by service units on the ground floor, i.e. space for horse car, storage, servant room, etc., and the first floor and the floors above are for living, dining, sleeping, etc. The connection between the floors is maintained generally by stairs from the outside in order to give access through the open space. Almost all of the 46 blocks surveyed have external stairs to connect the floors through the open space. Although these stairs are mostly open for the first two floors, they might also be enclosed within a volume (Figure 9, House Number: 61). Some blocks may also have another access from the street leading to the flats upstairs, enclosed within a volume or so called 'subtractive interior stairs' (Ching, 1979). As mentioned by Liliane Dufour (1993, 1994), these enclosed stairs existed only in houses of the wealthy, to provide more resistance against earthquakes.

The plan types might differ in hierarchical order from a simple one to the more complex, but in all examples the bedrooms, especially the parents' bedroom, is the most private and the 'deepest' space in contrast to the reception room and kitchen, which are easily accessible from the open space or the front hall. Bedrooms and bathrooms are grouped and separated from the rest of the house by distance or by change in configuration of plan. Rooms can be arranged in various permutations around the hall and they usually do not reach the front and mostly border the back and/or one side of the open space (3). A possible explanation is that every space is in easy reach of every other space through the front hall, which serves both as a separator and connector depending on the positions of the doors.

Although the number and size of the rooms vary with the occupants' wealth, the usual types of mono-functional rooms have been consistent for a long time. Interior spaces have usually been allotted to a fixed specific activity, and there is consistently a clear demarcation in spaces that are functionally differentiated. Each activity area is a space allotted by the household for items associated with a culturally distinct activity, e.g. living rooms, bedrooms, reception rooms, cooking rooms, storage rooms and bathrooms. On the evidence of examples surviving from the beginning of this century, the inflexible use of the living spaces is

3. As acknowledged at the interview with Professors G. Pagnano and L. Dufour, 1993, 1994.



**Figure 9.** Relationship between open space and dwelling units.  
 RR/R: Reception Room and/or Room  
 R: Room  
 H: Entrance Hall  
 S: Service  
 R/S: Room and/or Service  
 T: Terrace  
 St: Stairs  
 OS: Open Space



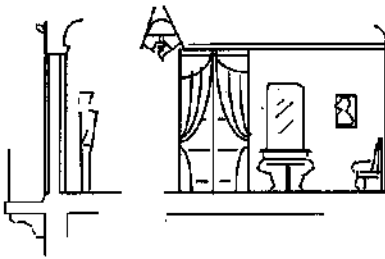


Figure 10. A typical mono-functional room.

reflected in the use of furniture. The reception room in particular, is invariably furnished with tables and chairs (Figure 10).

DIFFERENT ETHNIC GROUPS AND SOCIAL STATUS

In Ortigia, the population was differentiated basically by religious affiliation, social class and occupation, and each group occupied its own 'quarter' (Figures 11-12). Although primarily a Catholic town, the segregation of the various quarters as 'Jewish', 'Arabic', etc. can be recognised from the names of the districts or streets, even though none of these people live there any longer.

In the settlement pattern of Ortigia, the houses of the wealthy and the houses of the poor were separated but related to each other as they were placed on different axes e.g. on main streets, around institutional buildings or side roads. However, unlike Area 4 which used to be the place of the wealthy, Area 1 remained a place of the low-income groups in all periods, even today (Figures 11-12) (4).

Area 1 named Graziella is based on organic growth where Giuffre (1993) mentions the house type called *casa terrena* built after the earthquake of 1693. This is the house type with one storey and with a private open space. Later on, in the eighteenth century, new flats were built on top of this single storey house to accommodate other families. The area still keeps its settlement structure despite the changing architectural character of the buildings (Başkaya, 1996).

Lucia Trigilia (1981) discusses the social classification of this area. The wealthy people's house is referred as 'noble house' which is the house of merchants, bishops, engineers, architects, etc. The 'class of workman' which includes the craftsmen constitutes the second and the moderate group. Finally, according to her categorisation the workers are the poorest. The outward-looking type of block also helps us to understand the power of the building's first owner in the late 1800s and his social status. There are recognisable differences between the examples of wealthy blocks and others regarding the scale which becomes monumental and much more elaborated. The open space of the wealthy is highly decorative, and a fountain may be found to help cool the air through evaporation. Even the size and style of a balcony, which is placed on the street *façade* changes depending on the richness of the first owner in the late 1800s. When a block becomes monumental, because of its scale, uniform size, and the placement of elements on the elevation, there is not much difference between the vernacular multi-family house and vernacular public building, which appears like an official building rather than a residence (Figure 13).

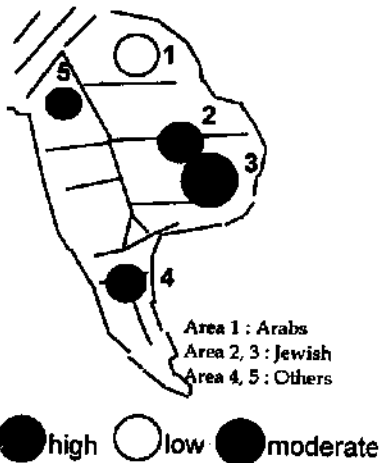


Figure 11. Economic Power and religious groups.

4. As acknowledged at the interview with Prof. L. Dufour, 1993.

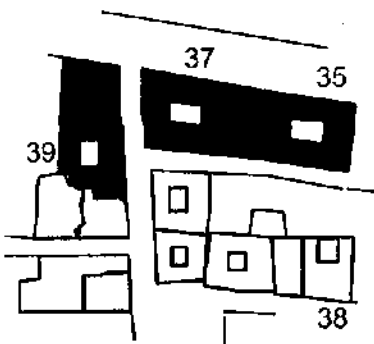


Figure 12. Economic power of Area 2.

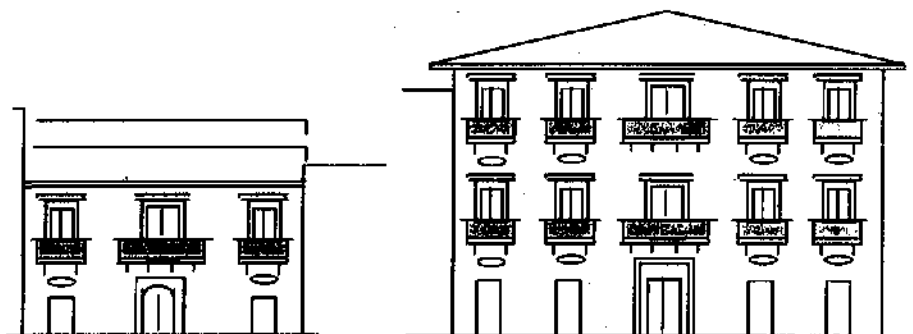


Figure 13. Elevations

5. As acknowledged at the interview with Prof. L. Dufour, 1993, 1994.

6. As acknowledged at the interview with Prof. G. Pagnano, 1993.

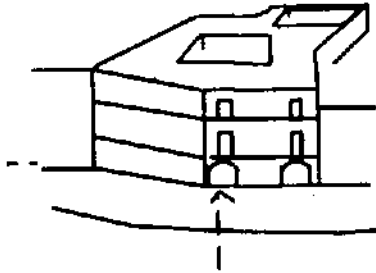


Figure 14. Double open space

Some of the monumental blocks of the wealthy, might have a double open space connected to each other with a transitional space (Figure 14). This second open space, usually smaller than the first one, is not only due to the need to get a certain amount of light and air into the large building blocks, but also due to the needs by some members of the extended family and servants (5).

Today it is possible to distinguish the different uses of the open space in the houses of the well-to-do, which used to be private as they have a huge blank gate leading to the open space. However, it is difficult to decide whether the open space of the middle class house was private or semi-private or semi-public in its origin (6). In fact, the open space of the wealthy house was the place to be shared by the families of relatives accommodated in the same block. The families had servants assigned to a variety of tasks, in the house or outside, concerned with gathering, storage, transport and preparation of food, cleaning and upkeep of the house, small manufacture of tools, utensils and implements, recording of various aspects of the house economy, and control of visitors. In such situations it was not typical for one house block to accommodate between seven and ten families (5, 6).

#### PRESENT SOCIAL NETWORKS

According to the research findings, the majority of households questioned (78%), were originally from the town in which the research was carried out (Table 2). Owning the house and being originally from the town seemed the basic reason for staying there (Başkaya, 1996).

PLACE OF ORIGIN	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLD	PERCENTAGE
From the Town	38	%78
From a Nearby Village	-	-
From Another Town	6	%12
From Another Country	5	%10
Total	49	%100

Table 2. Place of origin in Ortigia.

The people who have stayed less than 5 years were mostly tenants whose hometowns were towns and villages nearby or they had come from other countries (Greece or Algeria). Many of the respondents (90%) who have been in their current accommodation for 11 years or more, were mostly owners or inheritors. They were mostly over the age of 46 (91%), living alone or together with a husband or wife, or with his/her son or daughter. These were generally retired persons or housewives.

According to the survey results, the new size of the family is mostly 3 to 5, (55%) (Table 3). There were not many crowded families with 6 or more members (12%). These results suggest how dramatically the structure of the family has changed in the traditional areas of the town. To some extent these changes are strongly influenced by the nature of house types available. The changes in the house form and the internal organisation lead to changes in the way activities are carried out. Today it is quite difficult for some families to maintain a traditional family household in a small divided unit.

FAMILY SIZE	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLD	PERCENTAGE
Two or Less Persons	16	%33
3-5 Persons	27	%55
6-10 Persons	6	%12

Table 3. Family size in Ortigia.

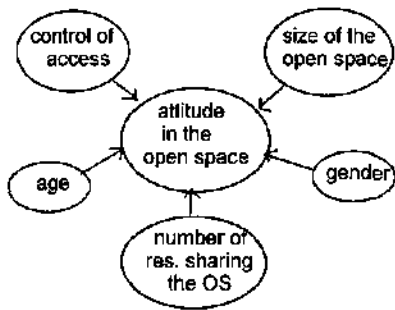


Figure 15. Factors influencing the functional quality of the open space.

By relying on personal observations as well as on interviews, it may be argued that not only the use of the vernacular buildings and the family structure, but also other habits, customs, functions and interests have been changing in the process of urban dynamics. For instance, relationships with neighbours are not what they used to be, and there seems to be less communication between households. Today an appointment needs to be made before visiting a neighbour whereas one used to go along and visit without any arrangement (Başkaya, 1996).

QUALITY OF THE OPEN SPACE IN THE LATE 1900s

According to the empirical work carried out in Ortigia, the reasons affecting the households' behaviour in the open space and influencing the functional quality of the space were strongly related to the control of access, as well as to the number of households sharing the open space and to the ratio of the open space (Figure 15). Depending on these factors, different definitions could be given to the open space, such as 'private', 'semi-private' or 'semi-public' in which there are two possible different experiences of privacy, i.e. private and shared. An attempt was made to test for the significance of the relationship between the use of the open space and the type of the open space, together with ratio D/H (distance to height). The survey results were also controlled by age factor (Başkaya, 1996).

CONTROL OF ACCESS

The island is, basically, planned with wide avenues and narrow streets. The houses lined on each side of these streets show many functions from the outside by their variety of window sizes and placement of entrance and windows neglecting privacy and protection. To conceal the interior of the house, timber shutters are used. Nonetheless, this outward looking type of housing and its multi-family use do prevent the drawing of a clear line between the public and the private spheres, and the distinction between these two domains is not always clear or consistent.

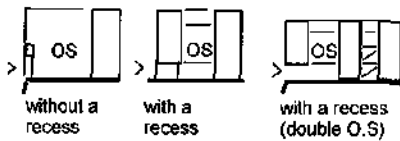


Figure 16. Sections.

The *casa corte* space type does not reflect the interaction between men and women, instead the plan form of the type reflects the zones of penetration of people, e.g. visitors, kin and servants, from the outside. The hierarchical sequence of levels from street to house, through the open space, conveys the hierarchical degree of closeness between people coming from outside and the family. There are strong norms of behaviour specifying how far one can approach the open space and the house. Close associates seem to enter the front hall, but only the most intimate kin can penetrate the house beyond the front hall which is the least private space in the house unit directly accessible from the open space, and the open space is the most public of all. This hierarchical order may differ according to the plan type of the house unit from simple to complex, and vary in the way it is expressed in the building, e.g. sometimes it might be the living space besides the front hall.

The blocks are entered in most cases directly from the public domain of the street or narrow side walk into the private domain. They can have more than one entrance, one leading to the open space and the other(s) to the upper storeys. The entrance leading to the open space is controlled most of the time by a short passage, a semi-private space, to ensure privacy of the interior. In most of the cases, because of this passage, it is difficult to see into the open space or into the private house unit located on the upper floors from the outside (Figures 16-17).

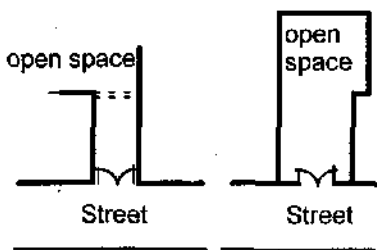


Figure 17. Design of the main entrance.

Figure 18. Ortigia survey of houses, house numbers 35-37 (photograph by author).

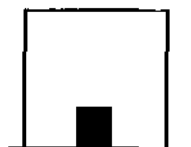


Figure 19. Ortigia survey of houses, house number 34 (photograph by author).



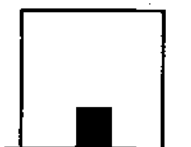
Figure 20. Ortigia survey of houses, house number 20 (photograph by author).





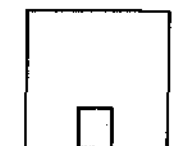
private  
open space  
controlled  
entrance gate

private



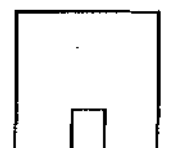
shared open  
space  
controlled  
entrance gate

semi-private



shared open  
space  
a light gate  
is used or  
entrance gate  
is not strictly  
controlled

semi-private



shared open  
space  
a door does  
not exist

semi-public

In many blocks examined, the relationship of the open space to the street has undergone a significant transformation. The definition of the physical barriers delimiting public from private is not explicit most of the time. Although it was very common in the late 1800s, today, very rarely the entrance might be completely blocked by a wooden gate, to obstruct vision from outside. Sometimes it is set apart from the street by a light gate, *i.e.* iron framed with glass, which permits the inside space to be read as a partial extension of the city. In such conditions the common area of the households sharing the block becomes 'semi-private', rather than 'semi-public'. In the semi-public case, no physical door exists and a passer-by on the street can view the entire open space and the flats on the ground level at a glance. That means, there is no strong demarcation between the domains, *i.e.* public and private. In that case the outdoor transitional space of the house is not visually and physically protected. Living units are kept on the upper levels so that the ground floor could be used for service purposes (Figure 21).

USE OF OPEN SPACES

As a part of the questionnaire survey, households were asked about their satisfaction in terms of the organisation and size of their private open space. First, it was found appropriate to present some data on what people thought about the use of their open spaces as places to live in. Then satisfaction with the size of the open space was looked at, to see whether the use of the open space was dependent on the type of the open space or should be taken together with size.

By looking at the results of the statistical analysis, it can be said that the 'type' of open space has a strong constraining effect on people's reactions on the use of house type in general. In the private use of the house type *casa corte*, there seems to be a match between the privacy requirements of the households and design. Whereas the shared open spaces were unsuitable for private family activities. It was found that, in the shared use of open spaces, living in close proximity to others and sharing the space with other families did appear to enhance the possibilities for unwanted interactions and flow of information, leading to a possible loss of privacy, experience of stress, and the development of social distancing between the inhabitants.

The inability to use these outdoor transitional spaces changed in direct proportion to the number of the occupants using them. According to the analysis it was understood that when the number of families sharing the space is small, results were considerably different. Demands for internal privacy was greater in cases of over-crowding. From personal observations and interviews, it was possible to recognise that in the internal transitional spaces of crowded blocks, sitting with neighbours was avoided and practice of staying outside was very limited. Visibility from outside was taken quite seriously by the respondents as they appeared to be concerned with minimising and limiting the flow of information about the private life of the family and the home. The present family structure was found uncomfortable in using the house types, as some of the households were not using the dwelling as it was designed. Regarding the results gathered by the analysis, the outdoor transitional space was preferred only for certain activities, but occasionally households were constrained to go back into a private domain. Obviously, the shared open spaces were very often 'lifeless' or only a place for temporary use (Başkaya, 1996).

Due to the dissatisfaction in the use of the open space, privacy seemed to oscillate most of the time between sharing and withdrawal. It was not easy for the households to organise and manipulate the original space in order to achieve the

Figure 21. Entrance typology.

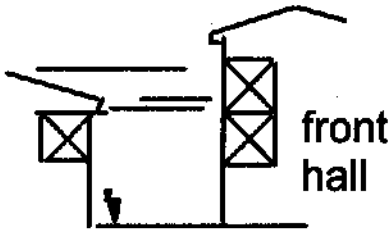


Figure 22. Front hall facing the open space.

privacy they require. People needed another space in-between realm, a transition indoor space which they could naturally pass onto often, as part of their everyday life within the house. Accordingly, the desired privacy could be partly achieved only by doing a 'trade-off' between privacy and territory, that means some extra privacy for some loss of territory. An important implication of this is the apparent transfer of some of the functions performed in the open space into the front room, overlooking the open space or another space next to it (Figure 22). Instead of using the exterior space, people have changed the space or retreated into another space to achieve the privacy desired. The replacement of functions performed in the open space was actually needed to secure the households' private life as a major factor influencing the satisfaction with the home.

In a social context, the effect of age on the answers given was not negligible. So far as the shared-overlooked use of the open space is concerned, young people who were around the ages of 25 to 45 had different views, and they provided stronger territorial definition than those who were at the age of 46 and over. Elderly people were more likely to perceive the open space and the balcony in terms of a place to sit and have a rest.

In general, both the open space and the balcony were considered as a least functional house component, as balconies are exposed to the outside public domain and open spaces are exposed to the households in the block. Therefore, in the use of housing components, a strong factor appeared to be privacy in relation to passers-by, neighbours or guests, and they could only be used either occasionally or rarely. Nonetheless, it was observed that some of the problems could be solved with roof tops which are usually provided externally but disassociated from the street scene (Başkaya, 1996).

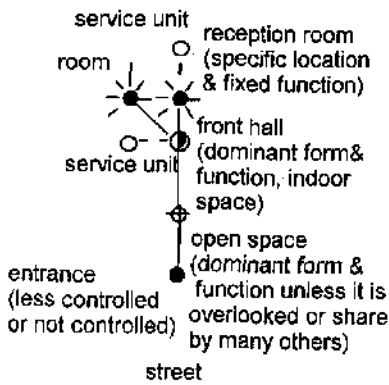
Finally the households were asked their views about the house in which they would wish to live. Most of the respondents wish to be close to the ground floor and wish to have an open space as well. Some of the households who wanted a flat close to the ground level were already living on the ground level and were happy with their present accommodation (Başkaya, 1996).

## CONCLUSION

Traditional architecture used as a model, proved a useful approach for investigating the relationship between design and behaviour. As the design-behaviour relationship was explored, certain theories and assumptions could be incorporated and reinterpreted. This led to the following conclusions.

Analysis of vernacular *casa corte* type house blocks in Ortigia has pointed to certain patterns of domestic space organisation prevalent in the late 1800s. The range of examples within this typology helps us to summarise that there is an urban structure which very heavily constrains what is possible. People have to repeat a very uniform space type, no matter what their particular intention might be. The urban context forced them to build in a particular way and to expand vertically. Accordingly, the human desire to have a specific type of space has been determined by the context.

During the past fifty years, different types of accessibility were practiced by changing the functional quality of the open space. Both the social organisation and pattern of living, and the quality of the open space have changed, replaced with another space. Through time, not only the open space, but also the space facing the open space has assumed another meaning. This indoor transitional space of the house



type, which is partly exposed to the outside, is a kind of family space created, maintained and modified by the continued existence of families. It is important not only because of the functions it fulfills, but also because of its location in the form. In fact, as a general transitional area, this front space remained without losing the ground to other spaces (Figure 23).

Obviously all these changes seem to be at the expense of the traditional values which the households still would like to preserve (Başkaya, 1996). Though most of the households expressed greater satisfaction with this new indoor space rather than with the open space itself, it was strongly proven that the privacy achieved was not the one expected. However, if traditional values had made some sense of association with the space itself, they could have felt more comfortable, territorial to some extent. In that case, they would not necessarily want to change the space. The households must know that this is a trade-off, that means some extra privacy against some loss of territory. Somehow they must have compromised in order not to lose what they already have.

To conclude, the results from this research highlighted the necessity of a better understanding of user characteristics and requirements, and indicated the importance of consideration of human behaviour and culture under some circumstances in a specific house type. It should be remembered that the achievement of an efficient residential environment can only be guaranteed through the satisfaction of the users. For that reason cultural identity and the fit between users and their environment must be a priority of good environmental design (Preiser-Vischer, 1991). There is no doubt that privacy plays an important role in this process and the aspect of privacy has significant implications on the manipulation of the environment. The role and the effect of privacy and its involvement in shaping the house types is a necessity towards the creation of a satisfactory environment. In today's urban environment, though it is difficult to satisfy privacy needs, it is not impossible. The main problem of the designer is 'how to achieve such a balance' (Başkaya, 1996).

Figure 23. Present (1994) use of the 'Casa Corte' house type.



Figure 24. Ortigia survey of houses, house number 14 (photograph by author).



Figure 25. Ortigia survey of houses, house number 40 (photograph by author).

## GELENEKSEL ORTIGIA EVLERİNDE DEĞİŞİM

## ÖZET

Alındı : 7. 7. 1998  
 Anahtar Sözcükler: Kent Yapısı, Konut Tipolojisi, Kültür, Biçim ve Mekan Tipleri, Kentsel Tasarım.

Bu çalışma, açık mekanlı konut tipine ait geçiş mekanlarının (dışarıda açık mekan (avlu), içeride ise açık mekana cephe veren giriş holü) fonksiyonel kalitesini irdelemeyi amaçlamaktadır. Çalışma alanı, Sicilya adası üzerindeki Sirakuza kentinin güneyinde yer alan Ortigia adası olarak sınırlanmıştır. Bu küçük adada, 1800'lerin sonunda inşa edilmiş iki tür konut vardır ve bu ikisi arasındaki ana farklılık, açık mekandan kaynaklanmaktadır. Bu çalışmada, etrafı kısmen veya tamamen çevrelenmiş, bir veya birden fazla açık mekana sahip olan ve *casa corte* olarak adlandırılan blok konut tipi ele alınmıştır. Bu tip, tek bir aile tarafından kullanıldığı gibi, birden fazla aile tarafından da paylaşılabilir.

Bir Yunan yerleşimi olan Ortigia adasında nüfusun artışı, yatayda değil, düşeyde gelişimi zorunlu kılmıştır. Bloklar, yatayda ve düşeyde bölünerek birden fazla ailenin kullanımına açılmıştır. Bu konut tipinin yükselerek veya bölünerek birden fazla aile tarafından kullanılması, gerek içeride ve gerekse dışarıda küçük yaşama birimlerin, yetersiz ve paylaşılan mekanların ortaya çıkışı gibi sorunlar yaratmıştır.

Gelecekteki konutların fonksiyonel kalitesini, kişisel ve paylaşılan (yarı kişisel ve yarı kamusal) açık mekanların kullanımındaki başarısını tesbit etmek amacıyla, Ortigia adasından seçilmiş beş ayrı bölge üzerinde yer alan, toplam 35 bloktan 49 kullanıcıya fiziksel ve sosyal anket, 11 konut bloğuna ise fiziksel anket uygulanmıştır. Sosyal ankette kullanıcılara konut kullanımını, özellikle de açık mekanın kullanımını içeren toplam 19 soru sorulmuştur. Çalışmadan elde edilen sonuçlara göre, açık mekanın sağladığı mahremiyet, bu mekana dışarıdan girişin kontrolü ile ilişkili olduğu kadar, mekan paylaşan kullanıcı sayısı ve mekanın büyüklüğü (genişlik/yükseklik) ile bağlantılı olarak da değişebilmektedir.

Ortigia'da, *casa corte* konut tipinin ve açık mekanın paylaşarak kullanımı, zamanla mahremiyet olgusunda değişimi gerektirmiş ve açık mekana ulaşım sağlayan giriş, hafif bölücü elemanlarla (cam ve demirin birlikteliği ile tasarlanmış kapılar) kontrol edilir hale gelmiştir. Bugün ahşap kapı ile açık mekanındaki görüntüyü saklayan blok örneği sayısı oldukça azdır. Girişin hafif bölücü elemanlarla kontrol edildiği durumlarda, açık mekan yarı-kişiseldir. Yarı-kamusal durumda ise, giriş kapısının varlığı söz konusu değildir. Bu durumda *casa corte* konut tipinin dış geçiş alanı (açık mekan, avlu) görsel ve fiziksel olarak korumasızdır.

Analizlerin sonucunda, bugün halen çok az olmakla beraber, örneğine rastladığımız kişisel açık mekanlarda kullanıma yönelik bir sorun olmadığı, fakat paylaşılan ve izlenen açık mekanların, kişisel aile aktivitelerinin sürdürülemeyeceği yerler olduğu açığa çıkmıştır. Araştırmada konut bloğunun, dolayısı ile de açık mekanın çok sayıda hanehalkı tarafından kalabalık kullanımı durumunda, arzu edilen mahremiyetin, dış geçiş alanlarında sağlanamadığı ve bu mekanların kullanımsız hale geldikleri ortaya konmuştur. Dışarıdan izlenirlik kullanıcılar tarafından oldukça ciddiye alınan bir sorun olarak görülmüş ve açık mekanın kullanımı belirli zamanlarda ve belirli aktiviteler için tercih edilmiştir. Diğer zamanlarda ise, bu mekan tamamen terk edilerek, onun yerine tercih edilen kişisel bir iç mekanda (açık mekana cephe veren giriş holü ya da onun yakınındaki bir iç mekan) aktiviteler gerçekleştirilmiştir. Kullanıcılar bu yeni iç geçiş alanını, dış geçiş alanına tercih ettiklerini belirtseter de, onların elde ettikleri mahremiyetin tam istenen olduğu söylenemez. Ancak bu bir 'kazanç-kayıp' dengelemesi, yani biraz mahremiyet, biraz mekan kaybıdır.



Bu çalışma, belirli bir konut tipinde insan davranışı ve kültürün önemini belirterek, kullanıcı karakterlerini ve ihtiyaçlarını daha iyi anlamamızın gerekliliğini vurgulamıştır. Sağlıklı bir konut çevresi, kullanıcının memnuniyeti ile garanti edilebilir. Bu memnuniyet ise, mahremiyetin ancak uygun çözümlerde sağlanması ile gerçekleşebilir. Bugünkü kentsel ortamda, kullanıcının mahremiyet isteğine cevap vermek zor olmakla beraber, imkansız değildir. Tasarımcının sorunu 'denge'nin nasıl elde edileceğidir.

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Figure 26. Ortigia survey of houses, house number 59 (photograph by author).

Figure 27. Ortigia survey of houses, house number 21 (photograph by author).

