

A graphic example of Istanbul mash-up expression.

Two architects, one from Turkey and one from Romania with a landscape architect from Turkey came together to point out their view on the Galata-Şişhane area.



It is a beginning of a brainstorming yet to continue and to be realized in the long-run process, hopefully !



We mashed up our thoughts, critics, expressions, words between us and Galata-Şişhane actors by experiencing around the area through collecting stories.

What is not changing in the area that it is changing constantly!

Istanbul is a city that forms on layers where we can witness this layering transformation physically and mentally. Through the idea of overlapping layers and stories, we came out with 3 different phases in our experimental project. Our aim was to create actions and collect reactions by narrating Istanbul.

GOOGLING MAPS

<http://maps.google.com/maps/user?uid=108540964682491421170&hl=en>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/urbantypoon/sets/72157624489308091/>

In the workshop, the main process was to experience through the eyes of the users. They had many things to share with us. Different identities and stories, various characteristics... There is an existing collective memory in the area that is open to change everyday life.



Stories of places which are indicating the faces of the neighborhood even sometimes revealing the unknown had caught our eyes. We traced routes, marked secrets, asked questions, listened inhabitants, experienced what they know about their neighborhood, collected memories and tried to tag them in virtual reality of the area by googling maps. In the links above, you can see photos through our routes and participate your own by adding your reality of collecting data from Galata-Şişhane. It can be an unconventional media to be shared within interactive users.

OVERLAPPING MAPS

In relation to googling maps, we asked to ourselves what if we make people draw their own maps. The main purpose is to follow the change of the area through the inhabitants' and users' eyes. The outcomes of this method can be either making them notice and become aware of how their neighborhoods are transforming or showing the 3rd eyes, to us, how this change is occurring through the time. Handing out existing maps to the users can be one method by letting them marking and highlighting their local behaviours in the urban space, and the other one can be, maybe through participatory workshops, letting them draw their individual maps. If this proposal can be applied within the transformation process, it can create a collective memory to be overlapped throughout the years of change.



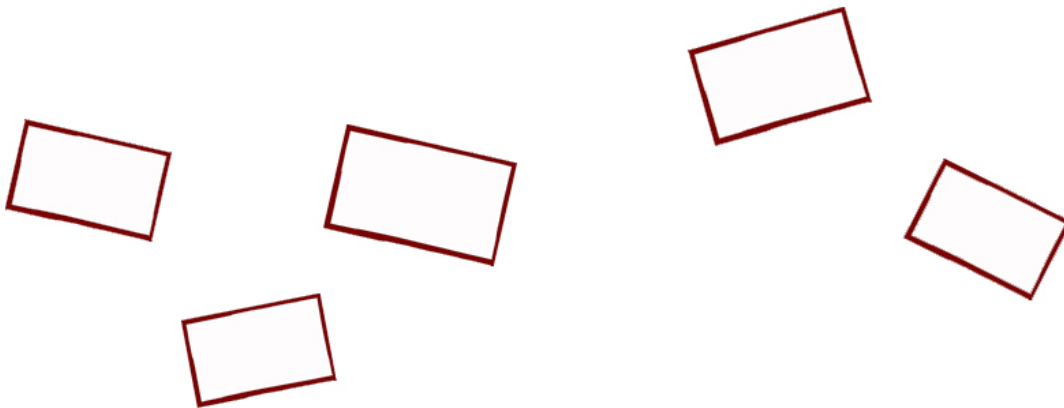
STICKING MYTHS

Experimenting how WOM can provoke subconsciousness through urban myths.

People tell stories!



People fake stories!



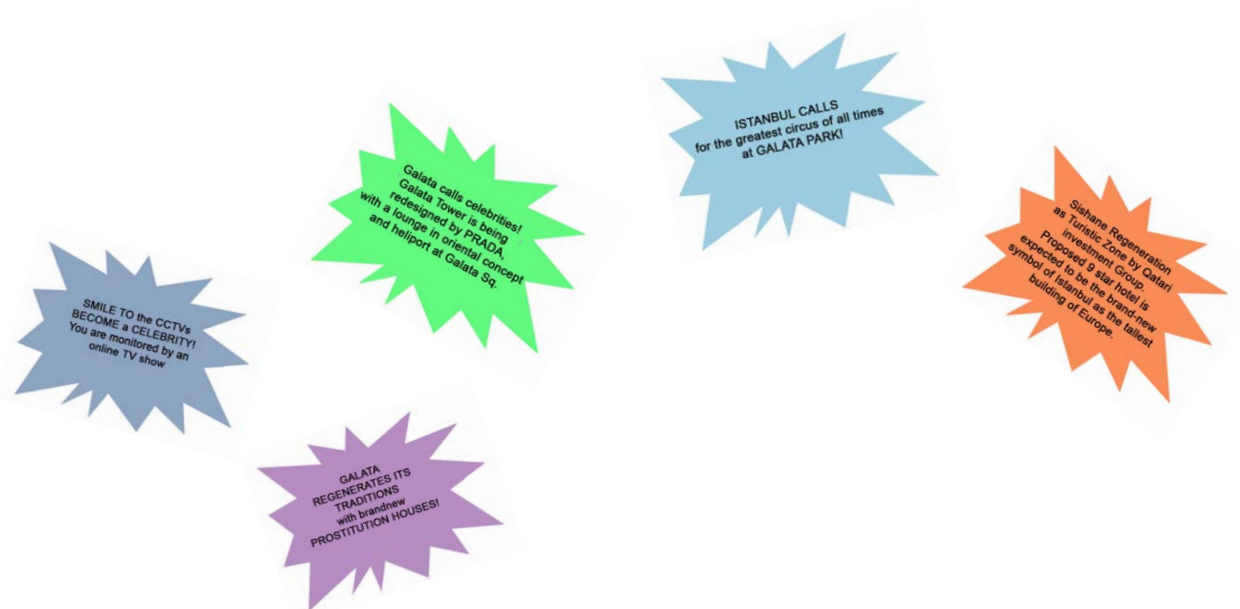
The
first
two

phases were about tracing and producing existing info to trigger awareness and participation. Now, faking stories which is one of the greatest tool of big brothers is the provocation of subconsciousness.

MYTHS AND THEIR IMPACT ON REALITY !

Quality of decisions / Degredation of facts / Reconstruction of history of Istanbul

The myths reproduced by official mechanisms for justification of imposed rehabilitation projects...



The current approaches in the projects on individual or collective uses of urban spaces reconstruct the culture as well as the built environment through identity politics considering the short term needs of the elites. Yet, Istanbul and its inhabitants change rapidly, the sovereignty of the fashion fact and identity politics penetrate into these approaches. The urban myths on the neighborhoods adressed as the most corrupted areas are not brought only by the media. Also the official mechanisms, designers, academics, companies, rich people take place in the degradation of the facts and its impact on urban decisions.

In 2005, The Council of Ministers of Turkey approved a law no. 5366 whereby the norms of conservation of historical properties have been redefined. Subsequently, the authorities declared 5 neighborhoods in Istanbul to be rehabilitated without collecting public opinions, and these areas have represent the spirit of Istanbul with their cultural diversities for ages. The projects collected many reactions by the inhabitants of these neighborhoods and NGOs considering the unfair facts behind the implementations of urban transformation processes. Some of them seek to claim their rights on the Court of EU. By contrast the municipalities still speaking highly about their success stories about the projects. The urban myths are still in charge! Then, the ironic uses of myths would be essential to set off the public reactions against decisions and restricted accessibilities by design.

Since myths touch off the normalization of the abnormal as well as the abnormalization of the normal, sticking them on the urban surfaces and collecting reactions through mouths and web 2.0 can become a contemporary urban tool to integrate users in the process in order to create user generated cities.



First starting with experimenting on urban surfaces mainly pointing out the crucial realities of the area by faking them, than continuing the process with blogging and creating an interactive platform of urban myths as an ironic urban intervention.

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