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Article

Rethinking the third place: Could the book cafe be the social interaction catalyst for today's people?

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ABSTRACT

Third places are gathering places where people spend time in their daily lives between home (first place) and work (second place) and have social interaction with people in the community. As a result of socioeconomic change and technological development over time, third places have changed spatially and socially. This study addresses the types of third places in the literature, focusing on the so-called book cafes, which exhibit both social and functional diversity. The study argues that these places can be called “hybrid third place” based on the concept of hybrid, which is a biological concept. The study is based on the literature review on third places and the observations made in book cafes, which are places where different functions such as café, library, and exhibition space coexist. According to the results of the study, nowadays, new types of third places as well as in-between spaces have emerged. The hybrid third place, designed according to changing needs and socialization practices, is one of them. Considering that today's people's only expectation from the third place is not to have active social interaction with other people, the hybrid third place provides the necessary space for an experience that resembles public space and meets this need. In this context, the characteristics of the hybrid third place as a catalyst for social interaction that brings together people with different social roles were identified. Functional diversity, physical and social accessibility, flexible space design, and historical value of the building are some of them.

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INTRODUCTION

Third places are informal gathering places such as cafes, restaurants, stores, shops, and post offices where people gather and have the opportunity to interact with other members of the society in which they live (Oldenburg, 1989). Third places are important for community life. This

is because socialization and the formation of a sense of community take place in these places where conversation, information exchange, and social interactions are encouraged at various levels in daily life (Habermas, 1989, Oldenburg, 1989, Putnam, 2000). Third places provide social connections with opportunities for social interaction, community building, and social support. These social

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spaces are places where people can go regularly and meet with friends, neighbors, colleagues, and even strangers they do not know (Mehta and Bosson, 2010). As living conditions have changed, so have people's expectations of the third place and the activities they engage in in these places over time. Although the need for socialization and social interaction has remained the same, the practices of daily life and the physical characteristics of the third place where these actions are performed have changed. With the Industrial Revolution, the separation of home and workplace, natural disasters and epidemics, the advent of the modern work order, and finally the development of communication technologies through the Internet, the elimination of the need for third places to be temporally-spatially bounded, the spatial characteristics of third places and their places in daily life have also changed. While the coronavirus epidemic we have recently experienced shows how important third places are in our social lives, remote work practices have increased in the process and have become even more common after the epidemic. This situation has increased the need for third places where people can both socialize and do the work they need to do. As a result, the relationship of third places to places such as home, workplace, private and public spaces have changed, and new types of third places have emerged. To shape the areas where today's people will spend time, it is necessary to create a conceptual infrastructure and rethink the literature on third places. This study aims to look at the types of third places mentioned in the literature from a holistic perspective and compare the characteristics of the existing types of third places with the characteristics of the newly emerged third places so that the "hybrid third place" is defined and its characteristics are determined based on the actions taken there. The study is based on a literature review of third places and focused observations in new-generation book cafes and survey data applied to cafe users. As a result of the analysis of the data obtained through the literature review, a definition of hybrid third place was made and the characteristics of these places were determined. Then, the "book café" chosen as a hybrid third place was read based on this definition. Observations focused on the relationship between user behavior and social roles and the physical characteristics of the space. As a result of the observations, the characteristics of the hybrid third place were determined. In the study, a questionnaire with open-ended questions was sent to 32 coffee shop users over the age of 18 years. To understand their social role in the café, participants were asked questions about the purpose of their café visit, the frequency of their visits, the spatial characteristics such as location and management that determine their choice of café, and the people with whom they go to the café. The characteristics of the hybrid third place were updated based on the data obtained. The scope of the study is limited to the book cafes in Üsküdar. In this

context, observations were made in Nevmekan Bağlarbaşı Book Café, which is operated by Üsküdar Municipality.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The concept of third place was first defined by Oldenburg (1989) as "public places that host regular, voluntary, informal, and joyful gatherings of individuals outside the home (first place) and workplace (second place)." This definition refers to a range of spaces with different characteristics. Outdoor markets, taverns, bookstores, community gardens, and gyms are some of them. The popularity of the concept has gradually increased from its inception to the present day, and the existing literature has been produced with contributions from researchers in different fields. There is a general belief that third places are important for individual lives and the sustainability of community life. In recent years, researchers from various academic disciplines have questioned whether Oldenburg's (1989) findings apply to typical "third places" such as cafés or bookstores.

On the other hand, some researchers have critically examined the concept to understand new third places, where they might be and what the characteristics of contemporary third places are, and to identify new types of third places. In this way, the literature on the third place has become of interest to a variety of disciplines. The concept of third place has been the subject of research by researchers in fields such as marketing, accommodation, health, leisure studies, architecture, and urban planning (Camp, 2015). Studies on third places have been divided into three categories based on their scope (Table 1). Researchers studied third places from different aspects (Table 2).

THIRD PLACE TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS

Oldenburg (1989) noted that various physical locations, particularly cafes, coffee shops, barbershops, and pubs, are meeting places that form the heart of the community, and defined these as third places. There are several characteristics that contribute to a place being a third place and to people gathering and come together in that place. Oldenburg (1989) identified these characteristics based on his personal observations. The characteristics of third places are listed below. (Crick, 2011, Oldenburg, 1989) (Table 3).

Few of these features noted by Oldenburg (1989), which indicate the conditions for the act of coming together that takes place in third places, are directly related to the physical features of space. For this reason, Oldenburg (1989) stated that it is the users that give the third place its main character. Crick (2011) defines the third place that Oldenburg (1989) refers to in his study as "traditional third places" He noted that chain coffee shops that capitalize on people's needs for

Table 1. Classification of studies on third places

Type of study	Scope of the studies
Those who explore new types of third place.	Studies that advocate the existence of new types of third places by arguing that emerging social spaces are third places but have different characteristics than the existing definition of third place (Crick [2011], Mikunda, [2007], Besson [2022], Memarovic et al. [2013])
Those who question the characteristics of the third place	Studies of third places that assume that the characteristics of third places have changed over time, defining new characteristics of places such as cafes and restaurants. Çakı and Kızıltepe (2017), Catherine (2016), Anlı and Yaman (2019), Rosenbaum et al. (2009), Oldenburg (2013), Kutlay (2019), Dibazar et al. (2020), Lukito and Xenia (2017), Broadway et al. (2018), Bookman (2014)
Those who research different places that can be a third place	Studies that examine various spaces that can be third places, such as libraries, museums and community gardens in terms of their characteristics Tieman (2008), Mair (2009), Dolley (2020), Houghton et al. (2013), Hawkins and Ryan (2013), Purnell and Breede (2018), Tate (2012) Pajouh (2014), Purnell (2015), Soukup (2006), Markoç (2019), Mcarthur and White (2016), Steinkuehler and Williams (2006), Ducheneut et al. (2004)

Table 2. Studies on third places

Place	Researcher	Scope of the study
Farmers markets	Tieman (2008)	It focuses on the characteristics of farmer's markets that make them the third place for farmers and customers.
Book cafes	Laing and Rolye (2013)	They investigated the effect of having a cafe integrated into the chain bookstore on the sociality of the place.
Sports Clubs	Mair (2009)	She examined curling clubs in rural areas as third places.
Community Gardens	Dolley (2020)	She studied community gardens as third places.
Libraries	Houghton et al. (2013)	They examined libraries as third places.
Festivals	Hawkins and Ryan (2013)	They have studied festivals as emerging third places.
Conferences	Purnell and Breede (2018)	They have studied the conferences as third places.
Museums	Tate (2012)	They examined the museums in the context of the characteristics of the third place.
Retirement homes	Campbell (2014,2015)	She examined the designs of third places in nursing homes.
Social Spaces	Pajouh (2014)	She stated that social spaces such as libraries, student dormitories, computer laboratories, and study rooms could be the third place.
Homes	Purnell (2015)	He stated that the houses can be third places according to the way they are used.
Virtual Third Places	Soukup (2006)	He examined virtual third places and computer-mediated social interaction in the third-place context.
	Markoç (2019)	She discussed Twitter in the context of the third place
	Mcarthur and White (2016)	They explored social interactions on Twitter in a third-place context.
	Steinkuehler and Williams (2006)	They examined online computer games as virtual third places.
	Ducheneut, et al. (2004)	They examined online computer games as virtual third places.
Cafes	Çakı and Kızıltepe (2017)	They examined cafes as third places.
	Catherine (2016)	She discussed cafe culture in the context of the third place.
	Anlı and Yaman (2019)	They examined chain coffee shops in the context of creating a third-place experience.
	Rosenbaum et al. (2009)	They examined activity-based cafes as third places.
	Oldenburg (2013)	He took the cafe as the third place.
	Kutlay (2019)	They researched different wave coffee shops as a third place.
	Dibazar, et al. (2020)	They investigated cafes in the context of third place characteristics.
	Lukito and Xenia (2017)	They examined the cafes on the university campus as third places.
	Broadway et al. (2018)	They investigated the relationship between technology and sociability in cafes in the context of the third place.
	Bookman (2014)	She discussed the relationship of sociability and third-place experience with chain coffee shop brands.

Table 3. Characteristics of third places

Characteristic	Definition
Neutral ground	It is a neutral place where everyone is accepted. No one plays the host role.
Leveler	There are no official criteria for participation. They are places where social inequalities disappear.
Conversation is the main activity	Conversation is the main activity.
Accessible	They are physically and socially accessible places.
Regulars	There are people who regularly visit these places. The regulars shape the social texture of the space.
Low profile	They are places with a simple and low-profile design.
Cheerful mood	Conversation and games create a fun environment. They are places with a cheerful mood.
Homes Away from Home	People experience a feeling of comfort and warmth. They feel cozy and comfortable just like at home.

third places are also “commercial third places.” Commercial third places modify space according to the needs of people today and their own commercial interests with different design arrangements. Commercial third places can satisfy people’s need for solitude and isolation while giving their customers the opportunity to connect with others.

Mikunda (2007) developed a concept of third place that is very different from the shabby and low-profile place described by Oldenburg (1989). Third places, which Mikunda (2007) refers to as “spectacular third places,” are dramatic and impressive places that encourage people to spend time there. Spectacular third places are not only places of interaction but also places where people go to see and perhaps be seen. Museums, concept stores, and trade shows are the spectacular third places where the new generation can engage in leisure activities that meet their needs. In the years when Oldenburg (1989) introduced the concept of the third place, communication technologies were not as advanced as they are today. Technological developments over the years, the widespread use of the Internet, and social networks have allowed people to come together virtually, and the concept of the virtual third place has emerged. Internet communication is a potential for social interaction between people around the world (Soukup, 2006). Media such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter allow people to be in constant communication with each other through the Internet in a virtual third place. This eliminates the need for the third place to be a physical place. Other types of

third places in the literature are cultural third places and thematic third places. The cultural third place is defined as the realm of cultural participation where the user (visitor, reader, student, and spectator), cultures, and knowledge are central to the processes of learning, production, and dissemination. Libraries, defined as places of socialization and encounter rather than reading and learning spaces, are cultural third places. These places provide utilities, workspaces, and even recreational activities-additional uses not directly related to knowledge, such as knitting, yoga, and cooking (Besson, 2022). Cultural third places include multiple spaces with different social and functional dimensions, such as interactive exhibition spaces, information cafes, and workshops. And finally, thematic third places provide entertainment and services specific to a particular community. The decoration and spatial features of these places are designed according to a specific theme (Memarovic et al., 2013). Thematic third places are places where people interested in a particular theme gather, such as bicycle cafes and cat cafes (Table 4).

HYBRIDITY AND HYBRID THIRD PLACE

Most socialization areas of daily life are described in the literature on third-place types (Table 4). However, book cafés, where various functions are combined with the cafeteria function, are different places from these, although they share several common characteristics with

Table 4. Types of third place

Researcher	Third place type	Spatial example
Oldenburg (1989)	Third Place (Traditional)	Tea houses, coffee shops, pubs
Crick (2011)	Commercial Third Place	Starbucks, Kahve dünyası (Chain coffee houses)
Mikunda (2007)	Spectacular Third Place	Museums, Concept stores, and fairs
Crick (2011)	Virtual Third Place	Social Media, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
Besson (2022)	Cultural Third Place	Third place libraries
Memarovic et al., (2013)	Thematic Third Place	Cat Cafe, Bike Cafe

existing third-place types. The prominent characteristics of book cafes are that they have a hybrid atmosphere that includes a variety of functions and social roles. This study argues that third places should be considered not only as physical spaces but also as social spaces. In this context, social spaces that are not only functional but also hybrid in terms of social roles, relationships, and levels of social interaction are defined as “hybrid third places.” The biological term hybrid refers to a new species resulting from the union of two different plant or animal species. The hybrid species has characteristics of both species but also differs from both species. In this study, defining the hybrid third place, the concept of hybridity used in biology is conceptualized. The different functions (library, exhibition hall, café) of the hybrid third place and the different levels of social interactions of the users of the space come together, as in biology, and a new space is created that is similar to them and at the same time unique in different aspects. The social atmosphere of the hybrid third place is the result of this spatial, functional, and behavioral diversity. Among the studies in the third place, the number of studies on the concept of hybridity is quite limited. Crick (2011) defined the concept of hybridity through physical space and referred to the combination of physical and virtual third place as hybrid third place. Crick (2011) stated that with the use of Internet technologies in traditional, commercial, or spectacular third places, overlaps with virtual third places occur, making these places hybrid third places. However, today, it is almost impossible to imagine a moment when virtual space is separated from physical space. Rosenbaum et al. (2009), on the other hand, stated that places, where customers have the opportunity to participate in various social activities in addition to food and beverage offerings, are hybrid third places because they include both cafeteria functions and activities. Rosenbaum et al.’s (2009) definition of a hybrid third place is based on functional diversity and the coexistence of different functions (Table 5).

ÜSKÜDAR’S BOOK CAFES AS A HYBRID THIRD PLACE: AN EXPERIMENTAL STUDY

The transformation of daily life in recent years has led to an increased need for third places with different opportunities. In Istanbul, where many college students live, there has been an increased demand for places where students can

both pursue their academic studies and socialize, as an alternative to the sterile library environment. Book cafes and coffee house chains in the city meet this need for those seeking a place to socialize and work away from the sterile library environment. New-generation book cafés, defined as versions of coffeehouses adapted to modern urban life that combine cafeteria, event, and exhibition spaces with library functions, are hybrid third places with their functional diversity and other characteristics. In this study, observations were made in the book café called NevMekan Bağlarbaşı in Üsküdar (Figure 1). Üsküdar, one of the oldest settlements in Istanbul, is a neighborhood where people from different socio-cultural backgrounds live together and which is visited by local and foreign tourists. The cultural and economic diversity of the neighborhood is also reflected in its third squares. In one and the same street there are traditional cafes, chain cafe shops, various local tea houses, second and third-wave coffee shops, and modern book cafes. Nevmekan Bağlarbaşı was opened by Üsküdar municipality in 2015 with the aim of creating a new, exceptional meeting place. The word “Nev,” which means “new” in Persian, was chosen to draw attention to this special feature of the space, which offers inclusive, social content and a different concept. In the following years, Nevmekan Sahil and Nevmekan Selimiye were put into operation with a similar concept in different parts of the district. These places where socialization through consumption takes place are different from other third places in the city.

The fact that they are run by local authorities, have larger spaces, offer different cultural events, have seating for different needs, and serve different social classes makes these book cafes a hybrid third place. Nevmekan Bağlarbaşı, the hybrid third place, obtains this characteristic through its functional diversity and its social atmosphere, where social interactions take place at different levels. The historical building, whose original function was a streetcar depot and an electricity factory, was transformed into a book café. The building is located in the same courtyard as the Bağlarbaşı Cultural Center (Figure 2). The building consists of the first floor, the second floor, and the basement, where the exhibition space is located. During the adaptive reuse process, the streetcar car, the electric motor, and the crane on the ceiling, which reminds us of the first function of the building, were preserved (Figure 3).

Table 5. Researchers’ definitions of hybrid third place and hybridity

Researcher	Hybrid third place and hybrid definition
Crick (2011)	The intersection of the physical third place and the virtual third place creates the hybrid third place.
Rosenbaum et al. (2009)	The hybrid cafe, which has become a place where various activities are organized as well as the cafeteria function, is called the third place.

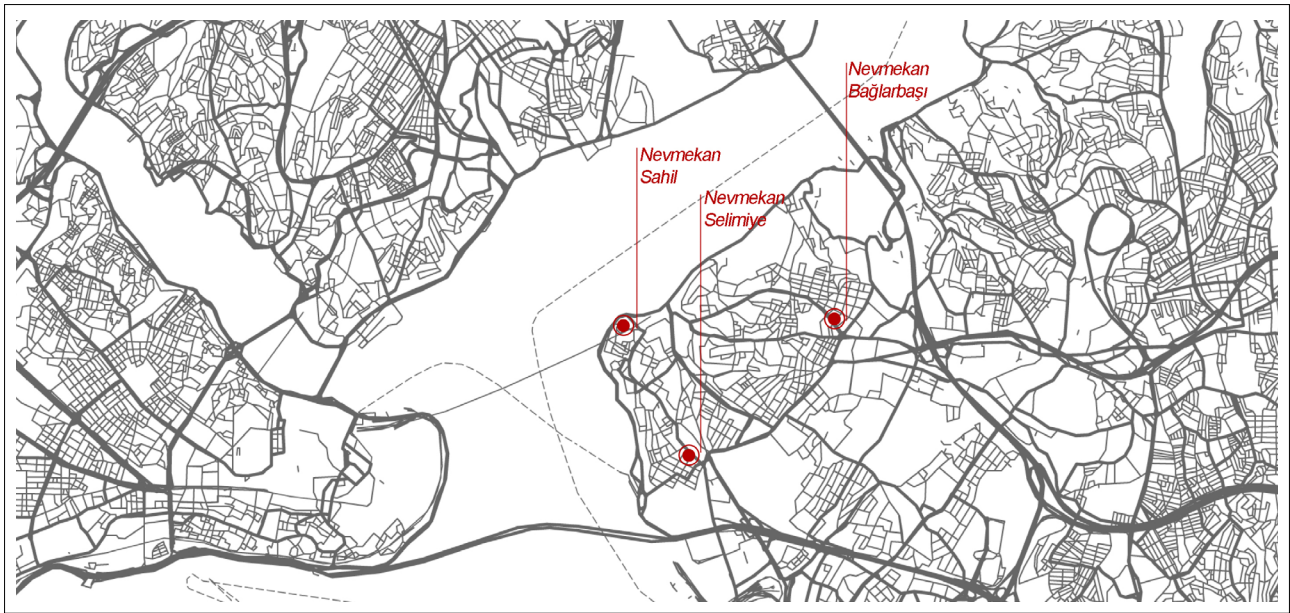


Figure 1. Locations of Nevmekean Book Cafes in Üsküdar (Adapted from snazzy maps).

The venue, which combines the functions of a cafeteria, an exhibition hall (art gallery), and a stage where special events are held, is a place with various seating options and many books, which are also used as decorative objects (Figure 3). Based on the observations made in the space, five different social roles were defined: the regulars, those who use the space as a productive area, the loners, the social guests, and the explorers. While the regulars refer to those who visit the

space regularly, those who use the space as a productivity area are freelancers who want to do their own work and students who are there to study. The loner's group was used for those who use the space alone, and the social guest's group for those who use the space to socialize with their acquaintances. Finally, the group of explorers refers to the group of users who are looking for something new, and who are there to see and be seen. The social atmosphere of the hybrid third place is formed by the gathering of people with



Figure 2. Nevmekean Bağlarbaşı close surroundings, the entrance to the café, and view from inside.

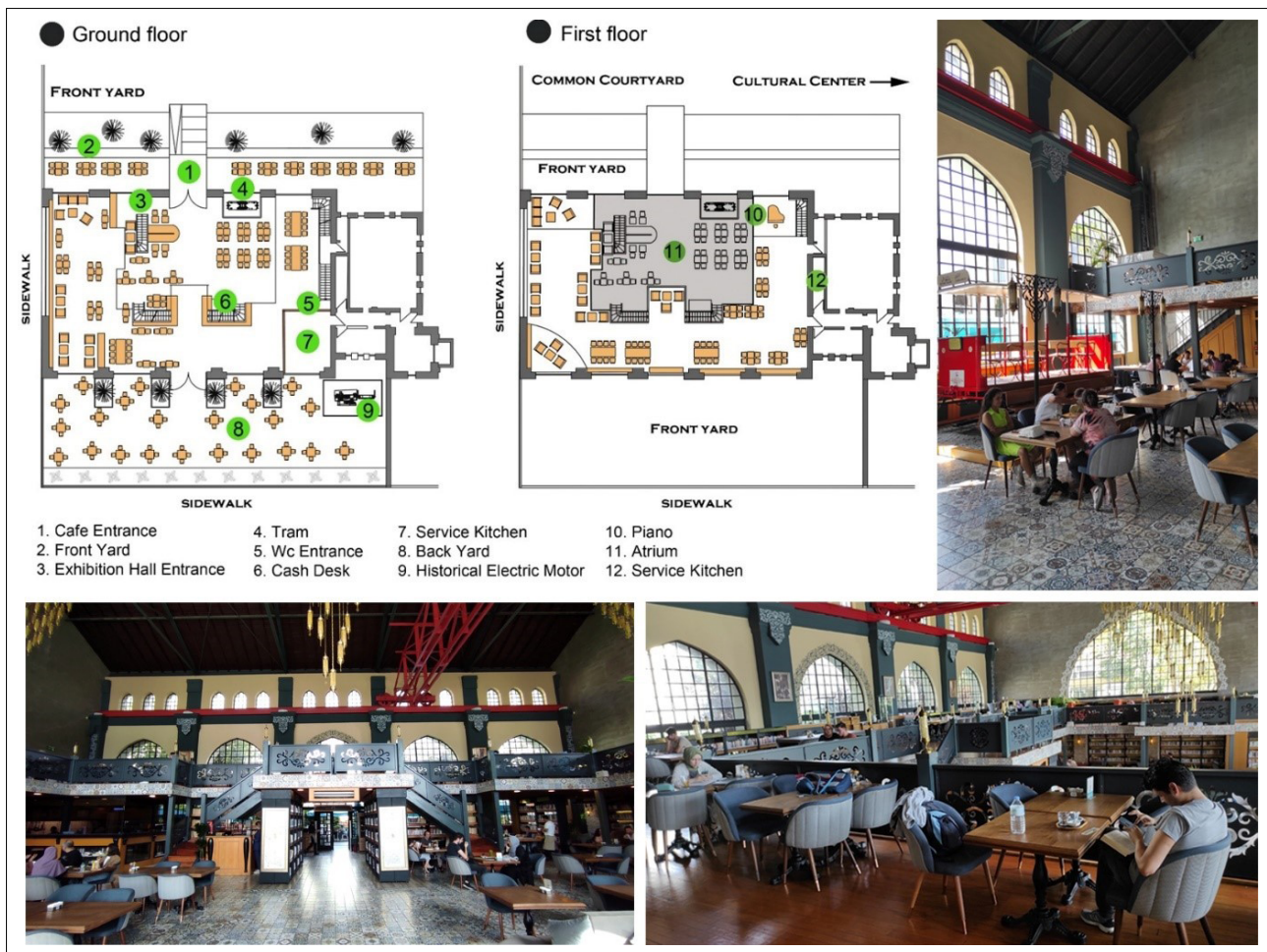


Figure 3. Nevmekan Bağlarbaşı Book Cafe Ground Floor and First Floor Plans and interior views.

these different social roles (Table 6). Nevmekan Bağlarbaşı, as a hybrid third place, provides the opportunity for people with different social roles and needs to come together, and the social atmosphere is created by its spatial features. While the flexible seating arrangement, reading materials,

electrical outlets, and internet access that allow the place to be used alone or in large groups allow the place to be used in different ways, the art gallery, organized events, and historical value of the building allow people who are looking for innovation to visit the place.

Table 6. The social roles of Nevmekan Bağlarbaşı users and their effects on the space’s sociality

Social role	Social interaction/effect on sociality of space
Regulars	The regulars help the newcomers socialize (Oldenburg, 1989). They act as “familiar strangers” and may actively participate in social interaction by chatting, or they may avoid social interaction by creating their own private space.
Those who use the space as a productivity area:	This group consists of freelancers or students who are isolated from their environment and do their work in the space with their “protective shields.” They can be individual or in groups. It is believed that this group, staying in one place for a long period, affects the sociality of the place. However, groups that produce together interact socially with each other.
Loners:	Loners may create their own private spaces and use the café as a productivity area, or they may be an expression of the group of users who maintain passive social interaction by observing the street or other café residents. They prefer to spend their time alone in the space.
Social Guests:	It refers to groups that meet to talk. They engage in active social interaction. They are usually people who know each other beforehand or who come to the place for a pre-planned meeting.
Explorers:	It refers to the group that is looking for something new and comes to the place to see and be seen. They can interact on different levels and be in the space alone or groups

Table 7. The effects of Nevmekan Bağlarbaşı’s characteristics on the sociality of the space

Characteristic	The effect on the sociality of the space
Governance	The operation of the building by the local government increases its inclusivity and accessibility. Individuals can use the space at will without paying a fee. In addition, the fact that the place is open for long periods increases its sociability.
Location	The building is located in a central place where people can participate in their daily routines.
Historical value	The fact that the site is located in a historical structure ensures that it represents a common value for the community and is visited more often.
Spatial diversity	The presence of an atrium, open, semi-open, and closed areas make it a social space that responds to different needs.
Flexible seating units	The presence of flexible seating that allows for different uses increases the sociality of the space.
Amenities	The presence of amenities such as exhibits, piano, books, electrical outlets, and wireless internet enhances the sociability of the space by creating opportunities for social interaction.
Activities	Organized events such as workshops, exhibitions and talks increase the sociability of the space by bringing more people together.

Serving users with different social roles, NevMekan Bağlarbaşı encourages social interaction with some of its features and functions as an inclusive social space (Table 7). The social atmosphere of the space is formed by the interaction of the users and the physical features of the space in harmony. This is because the presence of the user occupying a social role in the space is related to the physical features and capabilities of the space.

EVALUATION: DEFINITION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF HYBRID THIRD PLACES

This study discusses the third-place types in the literature. Following human behavior and social interactions in third places, a new type of third place is defined as a “hybrid third place.” Most of the assumptions made by Oldenburg (1989) in

defining the third place have lost their validity for the places used by contemporary people as third places. For example, with technologies making it easier to work when and where one wants, the distinction between workplace and home has disappeared. Today, the boundaries between home, school, work, and third place are blurred. As living conditions have changed, new social spheres such as co-living and co-working have emerged. In this context, Morisson (2019) notes that there are various intersections and the fourth place between home, workplace, and third place (Figure 4).

According to Morisson (2019), coliving, which consists of combining the first and second places, includes common living and working areas. Combining second place and third place creates co-working spaces. Comingling, which is a combination of first and third place, consists of shared living and social spaces. Fourth place is a combination of first, second, and third places. Morisson (2019) cites the

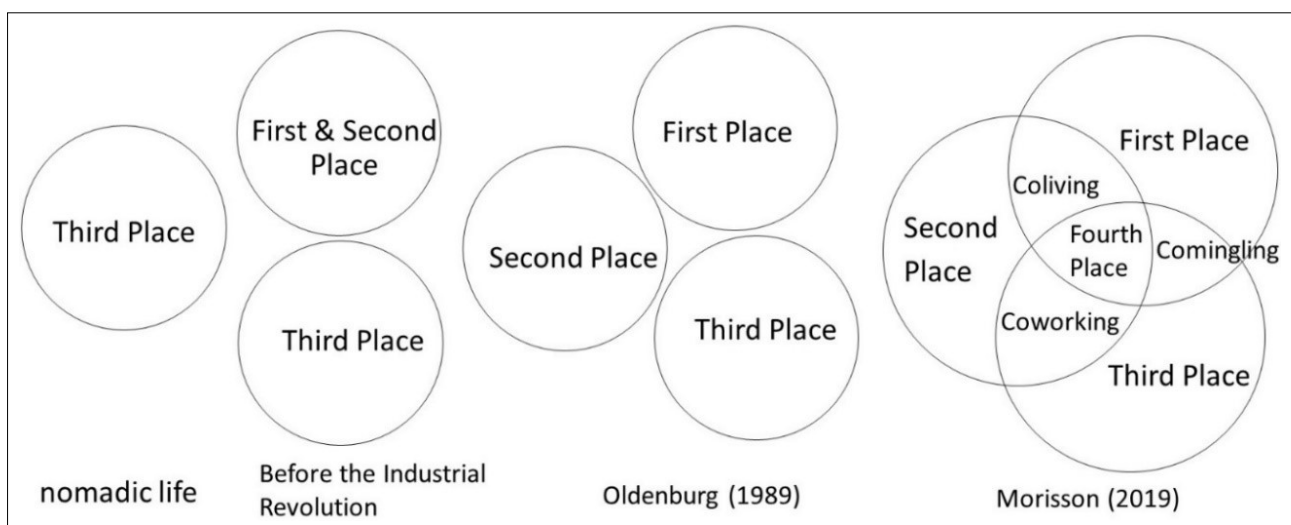


Figure 4. The third place in today’s urban life and its relationship with other places (created by the Author).

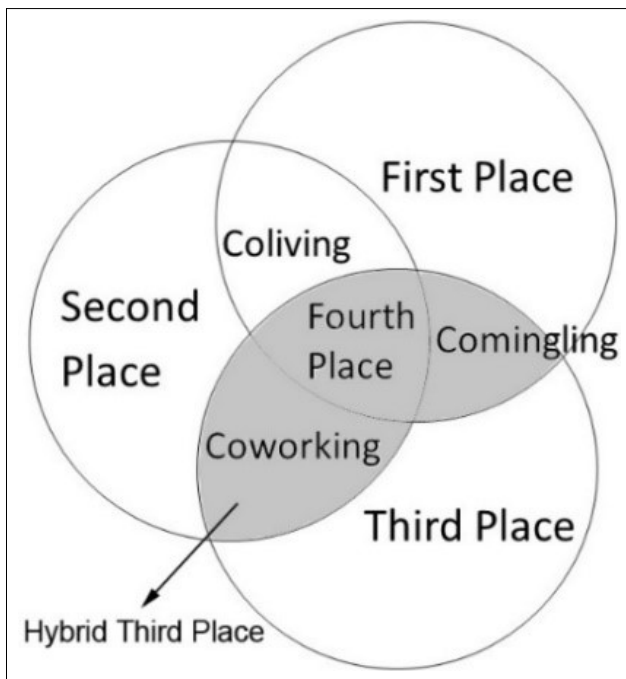


Figure 5. The relationship of the hybrid third place with other places.

“Station F” innovation center as an example of fourth place. The center consists of apartments, offices, restaurants, and social spaces. The hybrid third place identified in this study represents an intersection between the third place defined by Oldenburg (1989) and the places defined by Morisson (2019) (fourth place, co-working, commingling). The hybrid third place has characteristics of all of these places but also differs from them (Figure 5).

The transformation of social spaces is evident in the relationships between private spaces, public spaces, and all living environments with each other, as well as third places. The boundaries between third places and public spaces are not very clear. The simplest example of this is the existence of tables and chairs that extend to the sidewalks of cafes in cities (Memarovic et al., 2013) (Figure 6). The hybrid third place contains some degree of hybridity. This hybridity refers to human behavior, social interactions, activities, and blurring boundaries in third places. In this study, book cafes that combine activities such as eating and drinking (café) - reading (library) - working - leisure activities - cultural activities (exhibition - workshop) are discussed as a typical examples of a hybrid third place. Technology and the virtual third place are part of the hybrid third place, the modern third place that meets the needs of people today. Hybrid third places are more similar to public spaces than traditional third places because of their diversity, but their features such as ensuring privacy and offering various options in an enclosed space make them superior to public spaces. The hybrid third place in contemporary urban life is the socialization in space, the encounter with the stranger,

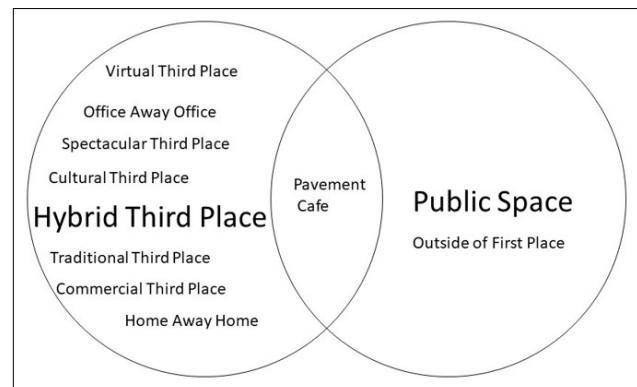


Figure 6. The relationship between the third place and the public space.

the socialization with the known, and the areas where social capital is created.

The characteristic features of the hybrid third place can be listed as follows;

- The hybrid third place is located at the interface between public and private spaces. It allows the creation of private spaces in the public space.
- The hybrid third place can be a home away from home, an office away from home, or a place where recreational activities take place. In addition to home comforts, they can be used for socializing as well as productivity.
- Conversation is not the main activity in a hybrid third place. Other activities are carried out in addition to the conversation. The hybrid third place consists of a mix of activities, with the physical characteristics of the space and its users determining which activity dominates.
- The hybrid third place includes various levels of social interaction and contact with the community. This conversation provides a social atmosphere in which the interactions seen in all other types of public spaces, private spaces, and third places, such as seeing, being seen, being alone, receiving social support, being in the position of a spectator, creating their own private space, can be observed together.
- Hybrid third places may not be as plain and unpretentious as traditional third places. They may have a certain appeal, interior design, or special amenities to attract the attention of different segments of society.
- Hybrid third places are places that are flexible, that make different users want to revisit them, that can be reconfigured as needed, that offer something new, that arouse curiosity, and that attracts attention.
- Hybrid third places are designed around the function of the café, where people socialize while consuming. The café, which is a place of consumption, acts as a catalyst that attracts new users and creates a social environment.

CONCLUSION

Social spaces, such as third places where the individuals who make up the community gather, play an important role in the construction of the community. To speak of a socially sustainable society, spaces are needed that support the formation of positive emotions such as a sense of belonging and security in the individual. In this context, third places that promote social interaction need to be defined and designed. This study examined the existing types of third places, defined a new type of third place, the “hybrid third place,” and analyzed the characteristics that make it a catalyst for social interaction. The “hybrid third place” is a multifunctional social place that responds to different needs, resembles a public space but is more controlled,

brings different people together, and includes differences in terms of both functionality and sociability (Table 8). The hybrid third place acquires these characteristics not only through the behavior of the people who use it but also through its physical features, which shape the social atmosphere of the place. In this context, it is important to develop spatial proposals that promote social interactions in the space. As a result of the observations in NevMekan Bağlarbaşı Book Café, it was found that this place, which is a hybrid third place, is located in a historical structure, is operated by the local government, and people can spend time without paying a fee or ordering anything, which increases the inclusivity and accessibility of the place.

Some of the characteristics of the hybrid third place that

Table 8. Third place types and descriptive characteristics

Third place type	Descriptive characteristics
Traditional Third Place (Oldenburg, 1989)	They are neutral, leveler, accessible, low profile, fun, homes away from home where conversation is the main activity. They are places where people interact socially with acquaintances or strangers.
Commercial Third Place (Crick, 2011)	In addition to connecting with others, it also gives people the opportunity to create their own private space and be alone.
Spectacular Third Place (Mikunda, 2007)	It is not social interaction oriented. It is a place where one goes to see and perhaps be seen. They are attractive, designed to get people to shop and spend as much time as possible.
Virtual Third Place (Crick, 2011)	It is independent of physical space and time. It is exclusionary because people can be selected to interact with. Unlike other third places, it provides the opportunity to remain anonymous.
Cultural Third Place (Besson, 2022)	They are areas where culture and knowledge are experienced, staged, and produced together. Workshops, interactive exhibitions, co-working spaces, and leisure activities that help create collaborations between users offer opportunities that are not directly related to knowledge.
Thematic Third Place (Memarovic et al., 2013)	They are third places that are differentiated by their designs that appeal to a particular community. They enable people with common interests to come together and socialize.
Hybrid Third Place (created by author, 2023)	It includes hybridity functionally and socially. It responds to different social and cultural needs such as seeing, being seen, co-producing, socializing, or being alone. They are inclusive and flexible spaces.

Table 9. Features of the hybrid third place that make it a catalyst for social interaction

Concept	Features of the hybrid third place that make it a catalyst for social interaction
Functional diversity	Functional diversity makes it possible to engage in different activities at the same time, such as eating, drinking, working, conversing, observing others, spending time alone, participating in activities, reading a book, and experiencing a historical site or exhibit. Functional diversity makes it easy to create a place where extensive and intense social interaction takes place.
Spatial diversity	The space divided into different sections and units creates a micro-public space for the user to experience. The combination of subsections with different levels of privacy and spaces with different decorations such as exhibitions, readings, or piano playing/listening around the café function increases social interaction by making the hybrid third place an interesting and lively space.
Social diversity	Functional and spatial diversity creates social diversity. This allows people with different views to come together in the community. The fact that the hybrid third place is an inclusive and neutral host and the historical and cultural value of the building increase social diversity and create opportunities for social interaction.

promote social interaction are that they are socially and physically accessible, are inclusive places, and provide opportunities for the coexistence of different social roles. These opportunities can be summarized as various seating options, availability of internet access and reading materials, and flexible spaces where group work and regular activities can be conducted (Table 9).

Third places must be designed to be inclusive and promote social interaction. This shows that it is necessary to implement a process of place design in collaboration with disciplines such as sociology and psychology to respond to social needs as well as the physical needs of users with architectural and urban planning disciplines such as functionality, accessibility, and spatial design. Consequently, hybrid third places are the socialization spaces of people today, and determining the physical design of these places and the social activities that should take place in these places requires an interdisciplinary study.

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