Perceiving Gated Communities
Göktürk mahalle, Istanbul

Graduation Studio Public Building
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Gated communities are closed off hyper real worlds, where all the problems seize to exist. *It is the dream of each beleaguered city dweller: an apparatus for keeping every urban problem out of sight.* (Michael Sorkin). Terms such as public space, privatization, urban community, security, identity and citizenship acquire new meanings within the context of gated communities. Belonging to a city doesn't make sense anymore, but belonging to a community—one marked by shared lifestyles, property ownership and a sense of belonging—does. Herein is the conflicted definition of gated community in the contemporary global city of Istanbul.
Göktürk vs. Istanbul
Historical overview of Istanbul in relation to gated communities
Map of Istanbul showing the location of Göktürk
Connection of Göktürk to the city
“What is gated in Göktürk?”
Research question
Göktürk mahalle,
Istanbul

- Agricultural fields
- Forest

[Map of Göktürk mahalle, Istanbul]
Göktürk mahalle, Istanbul
Public squares in Göktürk
“What do visual markers of border represent in Göktürk?”

Sub question
Abstraction of borders
Type 1. Retrace of borders
Type 1. Abstraction. Inner network
Visual accessibility

Physical borders
Street edge
Street edge posts
Wire fence
Trees
Street edge
Supporting wall
Balcony edge
Handrail
Exterior wall
Exterior wall 2
Window
Curtain

Inaccessible
0%
20%
40%
60%
80%

Accessible
100%

0 5 10 m
Visual accessibility

- Built environment
- Built environment + reflection
- Built environment + transparency
- Built environment + vegetation
Visual accessibility
Index of borders
Visual accessibility
Visual accessibility
Type 3
The walls become the shaping element of each compound, as it defines physically the place which is the “order <…> in accord with which elements are distributed in relationships of coexistence. It thus excludes the possibility of two things being in the same location. The law of the “proper” rules in the place: the elements taken into consideration are beside one another, each situated in its own “proper” and distinct location, a location it defines. A place is thus an instantaneous configuration of positions. It implies an indication of stability” (M. de Certeau).
Visual impact of border on built environment
Visual impact of border on built environment
In detail
Can such *leaked* architecture be formalized into a program?
Visual impact of border on built environment
Longitudinal section A
Visual impact of border on built environment
Longitudinal section B
Visual impact of border on built environment
Longitudinal section A
Visual impact of border on built environment
Longitudinal section B
Visual impact of border on built environment
Cross section