



AN INVESTIGATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ARCHITECTURE COMPETITIONS AND HOUSING PROJECTS IN TURKEY

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Abstract

The study aims to discuss the benefits of architectural competitions for architecture environment and urban users, and the use and results of these competitions in Turkey as a method of improving housing architecture. The discussion involves an overall review of architectural competitions and examination of competitions that focus on housing projects. The main motive behind examining housing project competitions is to identify the ideas developed by designers on housing. The study hopes to offer proposals that will transform competitions, which is a popular project acquisition method worldwide, so that they can offer a solution to the problems of housing architecture in Turkey.

1. INTRODUCTION

The primary architectural project acquisition methods in Turkey are the "Contract Method," the "Direct Employment Method," "Charity Works," and "Architecture competitions." One of the two most commonly employed methods is the Contract Method, which is frequently used to acquire projects for public buildings and other structures belonging to the public. The second method is the Direct Employment Method, and it is preferred by the private sector. While "Charity Work" is not an official method, the data obtained from the Professional Inspection unit of the Ankara Branch of the Chamber of Architects for the years between 2010 and 2013, reveals that it is emerging as a project acquisition method [1]. It was further observed that both the quality and the quantity of the projects that are obtained through the Charity Work method, are decreasing. Architecture competitions, which function in a different manner than these methods, and nourish the architectural environment in terms of thoughts, ideas and quality design, have not received the necessary attention in Turkey.

Architect Hasan Özyay, indicates that the competition phenomenon creates a privileged structure in the field of architecture through its principles of competition, production, comparison and reward, and that perhaps the most effective quality of this structure is the fact that it prepares a ground for criticism, testing, and even challenges that cover virtually all aspects of or profession [2].

Competition projects create a space where architects who are gaining professional experience, and who have been working as architects for some time can achieve professional satisfaction in contrast to methods of existing in the market conditions and exhibit the design standards that they consider right, while also allowing young and talented architects who are considered not to have adequate professional experience to introduce themselves and find a place in the market. Architecture competitions do not only benefit architects, but also property owner, users, city dwellers and the city through the projects that are acquired.

The text titled "Europe, Architecture and Tomorrow: Recommendations for the Built Environments of Europe," that was published by the Architect's Council of Europe states that competitions provide alternative solutions for the employer's building problem, they allow the public to catch the process in its early stages, while forcing architects to tackle the difficult problem of directly comparing their own creative forces with those of others in creating innovative solutions in line with the program; that the competitions have been constituting a method of acquiring architectural ideas for many years, and that these ideas encourage change and improvement, and that the benefits gained from these competitions have frequently provided young architects with the opportunity of establishing their own offices [3].

Compared to many other countries, Turkey was a latecomer in realizing the competition method as a method of project acquisition. Our country's tradition of competitions goes back only 83 years. Although this is due to the fact that the Republic of Turkey was established in a relatively recent date, and that it takes time to achieve a complete systematic structure in every area, the competition processes have yet to be properly established. The architecture competitions were first organized in the 1930s, and new competitions only added new problems on top of the problems of the first ones. Haydar Karabey evaluated the issues in obtaining competition projects in Turkey, and the steps required to solve them. He points out many issues such as acquiring all the buildings that concern the country or the city through competitions, juries and institutions initiating correct competition that respect professional ethics, juries being fair and just, reviewing the ratio of teacher-architect/professional-architect while establishing juries, juries determining and announcing their evaluation criteria in advance, allowing the competitors adequate time for design, determining annual competition calendars in advance, establishing competition categories that offer opportunities for young architects, opening regional competitions to allow regional architects to participate, making a payment for the minimum expenses of each suggestion that is evaluated, popularizing two-stage competitions for important projects, preventing the "design-build" method that allows lowering the costs of bad projects for submission to contract tenders, paying compensation to the winning team for projects that were awarded but not implemented in a certain period of time [4].

In summary, the method of acquiring architectural projects has to be determined as correctly as possible. Architecture competitions emerge as a successful method that support the development of the architectural environment, the cities, and the type of building that will be constructed, and that allows new ideas to be evaluated.

The purpose of this study is to determine whether competitions may improve the "housing architecture" field of research, which is another important subject in architecture, to identify the current status of competitions in Turkey concerning this subject, and the steps that are required to move forward.

2. MATERIAL and METHOD

The study is based on the assumption that architecture competitions may contribute to the improvement of housing architecture. The study starts by identifying the current status of housing architecture in the context of architecture competitions in Turkey, based on the numeric data that is obtained. Then, the housing architecture competitions that were held between 1930 and 2009 were identified and each project that was awarded a rank in the competition, and for which adequate data could be provided, were evaluated in terms of "competition characteristics and specifications", "primary decisions affecting the design", "architectural forming", "spatial interactions", "facade design", "construction technology", and "comparison with the architectural trends and characteristics of the period." The "competition characteristics and specifications" criteria includes information that serves to introduce the competition, such as the institution that holds the competition, the members of the jury, properties specified in the specifications, and the projects that are awarded ranks "Primary decisions affecting the design" specifies the decisions that are made by architects, and that cause the design to emerge and evolve through the architectural project report and the jury report that are obtained. The "Architectural shapes" criteria evaluates the project in terms of form, including the geometric structure and shape of the design, the design of relations between masses, and the shaping of common and uncommon architectural forms.

"Spatial interactions," examines the relations between the spaces that exist in housing architecture. "Facade design" evaluates the project's facade design relationship with function, interior pattern, and other surrounding buildings. The selection of load bearing system, and suggestions for other materials that are used (if specified) are evaluated under the "construction technology" criteria. Finally, we identify the similarities and differences of the project with the architectural trends and buildings in the historical period in which the competition is held in the "comparison with the architectural trends and characteristics of the period" section, based on the data that is identified in the other sections. The charts that are prepared based on these headings and the data that is obtained, allow determining the results of the study. Evaluations and results were established within this scope.

3.The Importance And Examination Of Housing Projects Among Architectural Project Competitions

The beginnings of architecture competitions in Turkey go back to the 1930s. Many economic, social, cultural and architectural changes happened simultaneously and with a quick pace in the newly founded Republic of Turkey during the 1930s. The architectural environment was also affected by this fast transformation. The idea that local architects will not be keep up with the quick changes that were expected by administrators, resulted in leaving the task of architecturally shaping the country to foreign architects. This period is dominated by the effects of foreign architects. Turkish architects reacted to this situation, and began holding competitions to challenge foreign architects. The journal *Arkitekt*, published by Zeki Sayar in the same period stated that competitions are necessary for the Turkish architects to prove and promote themselves, that the projects for the Ministry buildings in Ankara should be acquired through a competition, that both Turkish and foreign architects should be allowed to participate in the competition, and that this will benefit both parties [5].

A total of 26 projects participated in the "Ankara Exhibition House" competition that was held by the National Economy and Savings Association in 1933, and 10 of those belonged to foreign architects. A Turkish architect, Şevki Balmumcu, won the first prize. It was *Arkitera* again, that provided the Turkish architects with this opportunity in the competition against foreigners in Turkey, and the chance to prove themselves [6].

The first competition that was held with the contributions of Turkish architects was the competition Bursa Wholesale Market Building held by the Municipality of Bursa in 1930, and we determined that a total of 779 competitions were held until 2009. The following table shows the distribution of competitions based on the type of building.

Table 2.1. Distribution of Architecture competitions in Turkey between 1930 and 2009.

Distribution of Architecture competitions in Turkey between 1930 and 2009.									
Building Type/Year	1930-1939	1940-1949	1950-1959	1960-1969	1970-1979	1980-1989	1990-1999	2000-2009	Total
Public Building	9	9	22	28	32	28	18	6	152
Educational Building	3	8	11	34	17	10	3	8	94
Culture-Art Building	2	5	3	8	2	8	20	13	61
Commercial-Industrial	3	2	7	7	1	2	9	4	35
Transportation Building	1	1	1	1		5	6	1	16
Touristic Building	5	3	3	3	2	3			19
Housing Building	5	7	1		2	6	8	8	37
Cemetery	1	1	2			1		1	6
Monument	1	4	4	6	5	6	11		37
Urban Planning	1	3	7	6	3	13	14	40	87
Community Center	5	1							6
Sports Building		4	1	3	2	1		2	13
Religious Facility		1	1	2				1	5
Bank			4		1				5
Healthcare Building			4	29	14	4	16	1	68
Administrative Building			1	1			6	30	38
Military Zone/Building			1	3	1	1			6
Landscaping-Recreational			1	3		3	2		9
Dorm Building		1	1	4	1			1	8
Science and Research				4			1	1	6
Social Area				3			1	1	5
Embassy Building				10		1		1	12
Library				1					1
Customs Building					1				1
Idea Project			1			2	2	4	9
Retirement Home						1	1		2
Marketplace						1	2		3
Social Area						2			2
Student Graduation Project							5		5
Facade Design							1		1
Entrance Door							1		1
Philosophy of Architecture							1		1
Furniture Design	1						2		3
Load Bearing System							2	6	8
Mixed Project		3						6	9
Bridge/overpass								4	4
Parking Lot								1	1
Renovation Project								3	3
Total	37	53	76	156	84	98	132	143	779

It was observed that a total of 37 competitions were held between 1930 and 1940, and that 13.5% of these were housing competitions. 40% of the housing competitions were held in Ankara, 20% targeted the immigrants in Thrace, and 20% aimed to develop the idea of village residences. Most of the competitions were held by the Child Protection Agency. The fact that most of the competitions were held in Ankara is

due to the increase in the population of the city that became an migration destination after the declaration of the Republic.

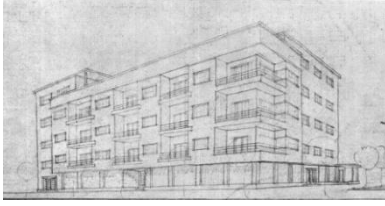
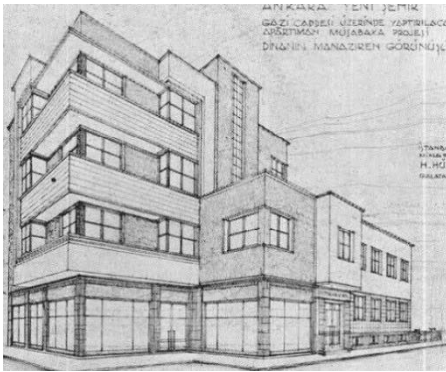


Figure 2.1. Perspective drawing of the first prize winner of the competition for a private apartment building in Ankara [7].



In the 1940s, the destruction in the countries that participated in World War II affected both the architectural environment, and the area of building materials. Although Turkey did not fight in the war, it was economically and ideologically affected, and the scarcity of building materials in the country affected the construction industry because the materials had to be imported and their prices increased. As a country that was struggling to find its own architectural identity in the 1930s, although Turkey entered a period of stagnation in terms of new buildings, new architectural trends that marked the period emerged. In addition to the effects of war, the ideas of local architects, local works, local lands and local materials were dominant in the 1940s. Sedat Hakki Eldem thought that the idea of being "local" has to be popularized, and includes like-minded architects to his statement that an architectural style does not necessarily have to resemble architectural styles in other countries, that they find that this is not the right approach, that architecture is not a product that can be imported, that each country has to have a unique architectural style, that implementing one style everywhere is problematic [9]. The struggle against the effects of war, and the renewal effort were important in terms of competitions in this period, and the quantity and quality of the competitions in this period (mostly public project competitions) exceeded those in the 1930s. While the effects of World War II were felt heavily in the 1940s, public institutions held more competitions than in the 1930s. The competitions that were held for educational buildings, village institutes and universities emerged as a result of the educated society, that was the goal of the future, and competitions for culture, art and touristic buildings that were held for various reasons may be interpreted as the discovery of the fact that a developing society can only be possible through quality buildings. 13% of a total of 53 competitions were housing project competitions. Adana, Ankara, Zonguldak and Istanbul were the provinces that held the highest number of housing competitions, and suggestions for different climates such as residences for primary school teachers were also sought. Competitions for low-cost homes that were organized by institutions that allowed everyone to own a home, and these competitions constitute 29% of the housing competitions. The reason for the increased number of housing competitions and low-cost home competitions may be the rapid increase of migration from rural areas to cities and to the Capital.



Figure 2.4. Ankara Provinces Cooperative Housing Projects architectural project competition, first prize winner, perspective and plan drawings [11].

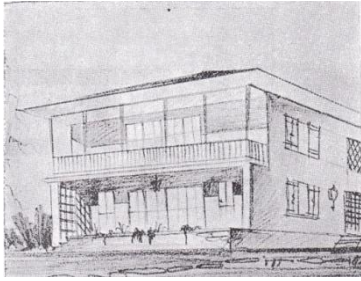


Figure 2.5. Ankara Provinces Cooperative Housing Projects architectural project competition, first prize winner, plan drawings [11].

The period between 1950 and 1960 is an important period for the Turkish architectural environment. The "Regulation Concerning Architecture and Urban Planning Competitions," issued by the Ministry of Public Works in 1952, the establishment of the Chamber of Architects in 1954, based on the Turkish Chamber of Engineers and Architects, and the resulting increase in the number of independent architecture offices, reanimated the architectural environment and caused the number of competitions to increase. However, the institutionalization of many areas through Regulations had the effect of increasing the number of public service buildings such as public administration, healthcare and educational buildings. The number of application project competitions for areas held by the private industry and the market, such as housing projects, began to decrease. A total of 76 competitions were held during the period. The establishment of the new government system after the declaration of the Republic, and the development process of the new country were still ongoing. Additionally, competitions were being held in Ankara and many other provinces for public institution buildings. Many new building types including healthcare buildings, bank buildings, administrative buildings of private institutions, military zone designs, and landscape arrangements emerge as dominant themes in the competitions of the period. The number of housing competitions decreased in the 1950s, because both the architectural project creation and the construction phases of the housing industry came under the purview of the private industry, and because the process for organizing a competition was prolonged. The ratio that was 13% in the 1930s, decreased down to 1.3%.

1960s was a period that was politically complicated in Turkey due to a military intervention in the government, and the 1961 Constitution, but that also offered professionals the opportunity to spread out to wider areas. The first to experience these criticisms was the Rational-International trend of the 1950s. A similar criticism to the criticisms of Modernism in Europe was offered for this period, and the boring qualities of this period, which was characterized by monotony, were specified, and a trend of irrationality began to rise [12]. This idea that dominated the period was evident in the competitions through a multiple-piece plan typology. Brutalism, which was popularized around the world after World War 2 also

affected competition projects. Despite the military intervention and new regulations of the period, a total of 156 competitions were organized. 71 of these competitions were held by the Ministry of Public Affairs. The Ministry of Public Affairs did not only issue new Regulations, but also organized competitions in many areas that fall under its responsibility, supported the competition environment, and increased diversity. In the 1960s, the weight was placed on public, educational and healthcare buildings. Apart from these buildings, embassy buildings appeared in the competitions scene as a new type of building. Embassy buildings are critical structures in terms of politics and ideology, and the fact that the Ministry of Public Affairs acquired the projects for embassy buildings through competitions may be interpreted as a sign that it trusted in Turkish Architecture and Turkish Architects, and that it saw the competitions as a successful method of acquiring architectural products. While this period saw 156 competitions, none of these were housing project competitions. The necessity to quickly acquire housing projects for the increasing population of big cities due to migration, the fact that property owners were private persons, that these private persons were not encouraged to organize competitions, and the deficits of our Regulations in these regards, prevented housing buildings from benefiting from the richness of competitions.

The 1970s is a period that was affected by the political events of the 1960s, and that resulted in a military coup in 1980. In this period, the state increased its presence in the area of competitions, as in many other areas. Although the number of competitions, which peaked in the 1960s, decreased, 49 of the 84 competitions that were held were organized by the Ministry of Public Affairs. In contrast, only 71 of the 156 competitions held in the 1960s were organized by the Ministry of Public Affairs. The government grew more effective in the competitions. But housing projects were still not part of the competitions. It is thought that the type project and housing cluster concepts that emerged in the 1970s, the private industry and the quick pace of housing development prevented housing competitions from being organized. The only single-residence competition project that was acquired was a land exploitation competition held by the Yapı Kredi Bank. The competition was organized by the Yapı Kredi Bank, and the competitionants were asked to suggest building types and usages that will provide revenues. The team that won the first prize suggested a residence and parking lot to exploit the area. In addition to this competition, the lack of housing projects in competitions in previous years may be interpreted as a sign of the transformation of the residence to an element of exploitation.



Figure 2.5. Yapı Kredi Employees Assistance and Retirement Fund Foundation Apartment Building architectural project competition, first prize winner [13].

The 1980s was turbulent in terms of the Turkish architectural environment. Following the declaration of modernism as "boring," products began to emerge in many different styles such as postmodernism, regionalism, historicalism, localism, contextualism, etc. Touristic facilities, business centers, and high-rise office buildings came to dominate the period. Furthermore, the standardization of housing typology became widespread. 98 competitions were held in this period. Although there was an increase in the construction of touristic facilities and office buildings, the weight of the private industry in these areas prevented these categories from being a part of the competitions. 38 of the competitions were organized by the Ministry of Public Affairs, 28 by other public institutions and the remaining 30 competitions were held by universities, professional chambers and other private institutions. Due to the influence of the

institutions that organized the competitions, and the private industry, most of the competitions were about public buildings and urban planning. The years between 1980 and 1990 saw an increase in the number of housing competitions. The ratio increased from 1% to 6%. The housing competitions mostly consisted of concept competitions. 3 of the housing competitions were held by institutions that undertook a social responsibility, and sought solutions to the problem of shanties, and to the difficulty of producing low-cost residences. The other three competitions aimed to provide predictions on future housing structures. All of the projects were acquired as a result of concept competitions.

The 2000s are a complicated period for the Turkish architectural environment. The European Union ascension process, the Kyoto protocols, the Chamber of Architects' own initiatives, and the authorization of the Housing Development Administration of Turkey (HDAT) for many projects caused changes in the architectural environment. We encounter various types of projects in this period. 143 competitions were identified between 2000 and 2009. The weight of competitions as a project acquisition method for public buildings before 2000 decreased. Projects for public, healthcare, sports and security buildings are now almost completely acquired through public tenders [14]. The increased activity of the private industry in the competitions, increased the number of competitions for administrative and commercial buildings, in addition to urban planning and landscape design. Housing competitions in the 2000s are similar to those in the 1990s. The ratio is similarly 6%. The influence of the private industry increased the importance placed on housing project competitions. Particularly, concept competitions were used to develop solutions to current housing problems. Housing competitions that were organized after the 1970s were all concept projects. It seems likely that housing projects will be the domain of the private industry and the public tender method for some time to come.

4. Results and Discussion

Evaluation of the competitions that were organized between 1930 and 2009, and that were discussed in section 3, in relation to the criteria specified in the Materials and Methods section reveals the following.

Table 4.1. Evaluation of housing architectural projects competitions.

EVALUATION OF HOUSING ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS BASED ON THE SPECIFIED CRITERIA.	
Criterion	Evaluation
Competition and Specifications Characteristics	Competition specifications generally ask the competitionant to interpret the family structure, and to provide solutions to the problems of housing architecture that arise from the family structure, environmental conditions, the demands of the property owner, and the expectation of revenues. The evolution of the architectural conditions in Turkey towards a revenue-based design process after the 1970s also influenced architecture competitions, and were included in competition specifications. As monotonization set in during the 1980s, the juries of housing architecture competitions developed a reaction, aiming to halt this propagation, and demanded design concepts that are environmentally suitable, sustainable and energy-efficient.
Primary decisions affecting design	It was determined that the primary decisions that affect design were shaped in the project reports by the items specified by the juries in the competition specifications, and the expectations of the period. For example, it was observed that the criticism for the concepts of rapid urbanization, housing cluster projects and type projects were reflected in the competition projects, and that accessible building designs began to take part in competition projects.
Architectural forming	No views that dominated in the architectural shape and form selections were identified. The data from competition reports were not adequate to identify the reasons for selecting a particular form. Based on the examination of the projects, it was observed that the architectural forms and masses that were preferred paralleled the architectural characteristics of the period. For example, the deck roof trend of the 1930s, the characteristics of "cubes architecture," as defined by Enis Körtan between 1960 and 1970 [12], the development of high-rise residences in the 1970s, were all reflected in the competition projects of the respective periods.
Spatial interactions	The entrance hall, anteroom, kitchen, office, parlor, living room, bedroom, study/drawing/hobby room, storeroom/pantry spaces were evaluated under the spatial interactions criteria. Our investigations revealed that no new interpretations that deviated from the characteristics of the period were made in terms of spatial design and the relations between spaces. However, it was observed that conventional spaces such as the anteroom or the patio were reinterpreted in concept projects for the residences of the future, that the open kitchen concept was not preferred in competition projects, despite its popularity in the housing projects of the time, and that the living room was frequently excluded from competition projects (it existed in 5 of 14 projects that were evaluated).
Facade Design	Facade designs were generally influenced by the architectural trends of the period. Additionally, projects that represent a reaction to the characteristics of the period generally exhibit a return to the past, and generally imitate traditional Turkish House facades or combine them with modern systems.
Construction technology	Up until the 1970s, the preferred load bearing systems were masonry and reinforced concrete. After 1970, the system of choice is reinforced concrete. Steel bearing system proposals were effective in the 2000s. One of the competitions was organized in Karabük (then the location of the largest state-owned steel mill in Turkey) and selected the design that proposed steel as a material. Another competition was held by a steel manufacturing company, and the prize winning desing proposed a steel load bearing system. In summary, the influences of masonry, that was periodically preferred for load bearing systems were replaced by reinforced concrete as high-rise buildings became popular.
Comparison with Contemporary Architectural Trends and Characteristics	A group of competition projects, and especially application project competitions have characteristics that are similar to the architectural characteristics of their respective periods They are influenced by the architectural trends and spatial arrangements of the era. Although it is an application project, the housing competition that was organized in 2009 in İstanbul Kayabaşı Region reflects the characteristics of the period, and has provided criticisms in matters such as fraying neighborhood relations, and the separation of private and public spaces. In concept competitions about the residences of the future, and that are not meant for application the projects generally criticized contemporary problems, disconnection of neighbors, the propagation of high-rise buildings, the reduction in green spaces, and indoor living suggestions that cause ruptures in family relations, and sought to combine traditional housing architecture elements with modern solutions. Spaces such as the yard, anteroom and patio were reinterpreted. Ecological designs were developed, since green areas and the nature was being damaged. Despite all the trials and suggestions, the effects of many periodical architectural features are felt especially in facade design, and even in project concepts for the future.

As we mentioned in the beginning of the study, architecture competitions can be considered the best method of architectural project acquisition that nurture the architectural environment, the user, and the urban population, provided that they are organized and held through proper methods. While this proper method is inadequate in comparison to many European countries, even in the use of open public buildings, it was disregarded in the process of obtaining projects for housing buildings, that are open to the individual, and that are monopolized by the private industry. 783 competitions were identified in Turkey between 1930 and 2009. Only 5.10% of these competitions were for housing projects. A total of 40 housing project competitions were organized. 20 of these projects were concept project competitions, that produced projects that await being accessed and used on the shelves of the institutions that organized them. This means that only 20 application project competitions were held, and it was not possible to determine how many of these competition projects were applied and achieved the desired result due to the inadequacy of the archives.

The studies indicate that the greatest reason for housing architecture not being able to benefit from this rich environment of ideas is that the housing production is a field controlled by the private industry, or the property owners, that the institutions that regulate the competitions have not issued adequate and comprehensive regulations that will regulate the private sector's and property owners' acquisition of projects through competitions, and that these institutions failed to incentivize competitions for the private sector. By the 1970s, the process of competitions could not keep up with the production speed of housing buildings that became a part of mass production, due to the increase in population. While HDAT, that dominates the field of housing production has the authority to organize competitions, it has only held one competition until 2009. The examination of the results of housing architecture project competitions that were mentioned in sections 3 and 4 reveals interesting results. When the reports of the projects that were awarded ranks in application project competitions are examined, a common theme emerges: aiming to solve the problems of the period, but not being able to get free of the contemporary architectural characteristics in the project drawings. In concept project competitions with no application developed criticisms based on periodical differences on matters such as neighborhood relations, the increase in the numbers of high-rise buildings, decreasing green spaces, intra-residence living suggestions and family ties. And almost all the projects that were awarded in concept competitions produced imitations of the traditional housing architecture, or created new designs by adapting the traditional housing architecture to our time based on these criticisms. Spaces such as the yard, anteroom and patio were reinterpreted. The interpretations of the traditional residence were made in parallel with the characteristics of the period. Even suggestions for the future could not overcome the architectural features of their respective periods. The study identified the limited experimentation space for the competitionants due to the limited number of housing architecture competitions, competitionants lacking courage due to the limited number of housing competitions and the desire to obtain the reward, the lack of encouragement in the competition specifications, and the effects of the problems that are experienced in architecture competitions in Turkey that were mentioned in section 1, as factors that cause this situation.

In conclusion, in order to popularize the competitions method, which will clearly influence the development of housing architecture, and to organize competitions that produce new suggestions the TMMOB Chamber of Architects that issues the regulations concerning competitions, and the Republic of Turkey Public Procurement Agency have to open up the way for the private industry to acquire housing projects through competitions, and issue regulations with incentivizing provisions, organize reliable and participatory competitions that leave no room for doubt, the institutions and juries that organize competitions in order to support housing architecture have to prepare proper specifications, the members of the jury that will evaluate the competition projects have to support projects that have qualities that will improve housing architecture, it has to be ensured that the results of the competitions are implemented, the concept projects that were designed to support housing architecture have to be taken down from their shelves and shared with the public and architects, the competitionants have to nurture the architectural environment with original ideas in the housing architecture project competitions that they participate in, avoid creating projects that imitate the present with the desire to obtain a reward, or based on the jury's expectations, and produce the right housing project suggestion and enrich the architectural world.

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