

A STUDY OF PLACE IDENTITY IN A HISTORICAL NEIGHBOURHOOD SUBJECT
OF URBAN TRANSFORMATION IN TIRANA

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO
THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING
OF
EPOKA UNIVERSITY

BY

ARTEA ZERA

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE
IN
ARCHITECTURE

JUNE, 2023

Approval sheet of the Thesis

This is to certify that we have read this thesis entitled “**A Study of Place Identity in A Historical Neighborhood Subject of Urban Transformation in Tirana**” and that in our opinion it is fully adequate, in scope and quality, as a thesis for the degree of Master of Science.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa
Head of Department
Date: June, 27, 2023

Examining Committee Members:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa (Architecture) _____

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Odeta Manahasa (Architecture) _____

Dr. Fabio Naselli (Architecture) _____

I hereby declare that all information in this document has been obtained and presented in accordance with academic rules and ethical conduct. I also declare that, as required by these rules and conduct, I have fully cited and referenced all material and results that are not original to this work.

Name Surname: Artea Zera

Signature: _____

ABSTRACT

A STUDY OF PLACE IDENTITY IN A HISTORICAL NEIGHBOURHOOD SUBJECT OF URBAN TRANSFORMATION IN TIRANA

Zera, Artea

M.Sc., Department of Architecture

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa

Tirana, the capital of Albania, has witnessed complex and interesting changes. Various ruling regimes have influenced its physical and socio-cultural landscape. During this turbulent process of urban transformation, the city is in danger of losing its historical fabric and its identity. In this context of urban change that threatens urban identity, this study investigates the place identity of residents of the pre-socialist, socialist and post-socialist urban layers, in a historical neighborhood in Tirana, in the neighborhood and city scale. It answers two questions: Is place identity different for the residents of each layer? Is place identity different in the neighborhood and the city?

The methodology used in this research includes visual documentation, sampling of 201 different-layer residents, surveying through a questionnaire that investigates place identity, mapping of physical elements of identification, data collection and analysis. In the end, this research reveals that there are differences in place identity of different-layer residents, as well as in neighborhood and city identity for each layer. Pre-socialist residents identify the most with the neighborhood and the city, while post-socialist residents the least. All residents identify more with the city than the neighborhood and they do so through identificatory relations more than physical elements of place.

All in all, these findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the dynamics between urban changes and conserving place identity in Tirana.

Keywords: *Sense of Place, Place Identity, Urban Identity, Urban Transformation*

ABSTRAKT

STUDIM I IDENTITETIT TE VENDIT NE NJE LAGJE HISTORIKE SUBJEKT TE TRANSFORMIMIT URBAN NE TIRANE

Zera, Artea

Master Shkencor, Departamenti i Arkitekturës

Udhëheqësi: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa

Tirana, kryeqyteti i Shqipërisë, ka përjetuar ndryshime komplekse dhe interesante. Regjime të ndryshme kanë ndikuar në peizazhin fizik dhe social-kulturor. Gjatë këtij procesi të trazuar të transformimit urban, qyteti rrezikon të humbasë strukturën historike dhe identitetin e tij. Në këtë kontekst ndryshimesh që kërcënojnë identitetin urban, ky studim hulumton identitetin e vendit të banorëve të ndërtesave para-socialiste, socialiste dhe pas-socialiste të një lagjeje historike në Tiranë, në shkallën e lagjes dhe qytetit. Ai u përgjigjet dy pyetjeve: A është identiteti i vendit i ndryshëm për banorët e secilës shtresë? A është identiteti i vendit i ndryshëm në lagje dhe në qytet?

Metodologjia e përdorur përfshin dokumentim pamor, marrjen e një kampioni prej 201 banorësh të shtresave të ndryshme, anketimin përmes një pyetësi që heton identitetin e vendit, hartëzimin e elementeve fizike të identifikimit, mbledhjen dhe analizën e të dhënave. Në fund, ky kërkim zbulon se ka dallime në identitetin e vendit të banorëve të shtresave të ndryshme, si dhe në identitetin e lagjes dhe qytetit për çdo shtresë. Banorët para-socialistë identifikohen më së shumti me lagjen dhe qytetin, ndërsa banorët pas-socialistë më së paku. Të gjithë banorët identifikohen më shumë me qytetin se me lagjen dhe këtë e bëjnë më shumë përmes marrëdhënieve identifikuese sesa elementeve fizike të vendit.

Në përgjithësi, këto gjetje kontribuojnë në një kuptim më të thellë të dinamikës mes ndryshimeve urbane dhe ruajtjes së identitetit të vendit në Tiranë.

Fjalët kyçe: *Ndjenja e Vendit, Identiteti i Vendit, Identiti Urban. Transformim Urban*

To my sister.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to the completion of this master thesis.

First, I am deeply thankful for the continuous support, guidance and invaluable expertise of my thesis advisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa, throughout the duration of this research. His thoughtful feedback and criticism have helped shape the direction and quality of this work, which has been an incredible learning experience.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to the members of my thesis committee, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Odeta Manahasa and Dr. Fabio Naselli for their time and valuable recommendations.

Lastly, I am indebted to my family and friends, whose unwavering encouragement has been a constant support throughout this journey. My heartfelt thanks.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	iv
ABSTRAKT	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vii
LIST OF TABLES	11
LIST OF FIGURES.....	15
CHAPTER 1.....	17
INTRODUCTION.....	17
1.1 Research Problem.....	18
1.2 Scope and Aim of Research	18
1.3 Methodology.....	19
1.4 Thesis Organization.....	19
CHAPTER 2.....	20
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	20
2.1 Place	20
2.2 Sense of Place.....	20
2.3 Place Attachment.....	21
2.4 Place Identity	22
2.4.1 Place Identity in the Home	22
2.4.2 Place Identity in the Neighborhood.....	23
2.4.3 Place Identity in the City or Urban Identity	24

2.5	Operationalization in Tirana Context	24
CHAPTER 3.....		26
HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF URBAN TRANSFORMATION IN TIRANA		26
3.1	Pre-socialist Development and the Neighborhood.....	26
3.2	Socialist Development and the Neighborhood.....	28
3.3	Post-Socialist Development and the Neighborhood	30
CHAPTER 4.....		33
MEASURING URBAN IDENTITY: CASE STUDY OF A HISTORICAL NEIGHBORHOOD SUBJECT OF URBAN TRANSFORMATION IN TIRANA .		33
4.1	Selected Neighborhood	33
4.2	Neighborhood Layers.....	36
4.2.1	Pre-Socialist Layer	38
4.2.2	Socialist Layer.....	39
4.2.3	Post-Socialist Layer	40
4.3	Survey and Results	41
4.3.1	Layer-based Results (Disaggregate Results).....	44
4.3.1.1	Pre-Socialist Layer Results	44
4.3.1.2	Socialist Layer Results	58
4.3.1.3	Post-Socialist Layer Results.....	71
4.3.2	Overall Results (Aggregate Results)	83
CHAPTER 5.....		97
DISCUSSION		97
5.1	Overall Discussion	97
5.2	Layer-based Discussion	98
5.3	Scale-based Discussion	99

5.4	Physical Elements	101
5.5	Identificatory Relations	101
5.6	Socio-demographic Variables of Identification	102
CHAPTER 6.....		107
CONCLUSION		107
6.1	Limitations	108
6.2	Recommendations and Further Readings	109

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Sample of research	51
Table 2. Pre-socialist layer: Demographic Variables	54
Table 3. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood.....	55
Table 4. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Physical Elements	55
Table 5. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Landmarks.	56
Table 6. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Streets.....	56
Table 7. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Public Spaces	56
Table 8. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Identificatory Relations	57
Table 9. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Memories	57
Table 10. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Experiences	58
Table 11. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Socialization.....	59
Table 12. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Self-Identity	59
Table 13. Pre-socialist layer identification with city	60
Table 14. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Physical Elements	60
Table 15. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Landmarks.....	61
Table 16. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Streets.....	61
Table 17. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Public Spaces	62
Table 18. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Other.....	62
Table 19. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Identificatory Relations.....	63
Table 20. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Memories	63
Table 21. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Experiences	64
Table 22. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Socialization.....	65
Table 23. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Self-Identity	65

Table 24. Socialist layer: Demographic Variables	67
Table 25. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood.....	68
Table 26. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Physical Elements	69
Table 27. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Landmarks.	69
Table 28. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Streets.....	70
Table 29. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Public Spaces	70
Table 30. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Identificatory Relations	70
Table 31. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Memories	71
Table 32. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Experiences	71
Table 33. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Socialization.....	72
Table 34. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Self-Identity	72
Table 35. Socialist layer identification with city	73
Table 36. Socialist layer identification with city: Physical Elements	73
Table 37. Socialist layer identification with city: Landmarks.....	74
Table 38. Socialist layer identification with city: Streets	74
Table 39. Socialist layer identification with city: Public Spaces	75
Table 40. Socialist layer identification with city: Other.....	75
Table 41. Socialist layer identification with city: Identificatory Relations.....	76
Table 42. Socialist layer identification with city: Memories	76
Table 43. Socialist layer identification with city: Experiences	77
Table 44. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Socialization.....	78
Table 45. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Self-Identity	78
Table 46. Post-socialist layer: Demographic Variables	80
Table 47. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood	81

Table 48. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Physical Elements .	81
Table 49. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Landmarks.....	82
Table 50. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Streets	82
Table 51. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Public Spaces.....	83
Table 52. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Identificatory Relations.....	83
Table 53. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Memories.....	84
Table 54. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Experiences	84
Table 55. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Socialization.....	85
Table 56. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Self-Identity.....	85
Table 57. Post-socialist layer identification with city	85
Table 58. Post-socialist layer identification with city: Physical Elements.....	86
Table 59. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Landmarks.....	86
Table 60. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Streets.....	87
Table 61. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Public Spaces	87
Table 62. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Other.....	88
Table 63. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Identificatory Relations.....	88
Table 64. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Memories	89
Table 65. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Experiences	89
Table 66. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Socialization.....	90
Table 67. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Self-Identity	90
Table 68. Overall identification with neighborhood	92
Table 69. Overall identification with neighborhood: Physical Elements.....	92
Table 70. Overall identification with neighborhood: Landmarks.	93
Table 71. Overall identification with neighborhood: Streets	93

Table 72. Overall identification with neighborhood: Public Spaces	94
Table 73. Overall identification with neighborhood: Identificatory Relations	94
Table 74. Overall identification with neighborhood: Memories	95
Table 75. Overall identification with neighborhood: Experiences.....	96
Table 76. Overall identification with neighborhood: Socialization.	97
Table 77. Overall identification with neighborhood: Self-Identity	97
Table 78. Overall identification with city.....	98
Table 79. Overall identification with city: Physical Elements	98
Table 80. Overall identification with city: Landmarks.	99
Table 81. Overall identification with city: Streets.....	100
Table 82. Overall identification with city: Public Spaces	101
Table 83. Overall identification with city: Other	101
Table 84. Overall identification with city: Identificatory Relations.....	102
Table 85. Overall identification with city: Memories	102
Table 86. Overall identification with city: Experiences	103
Table 87. Overall identification with city: Socialization.....	104
Table 88. Overall identification with city: Self-Identity	105
Table 89. Condensed table: Neighborhood and City Identity	113

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Tirana County, Albania.....	18
Figure 2. Ottoman reminiscent villa in Tirana, Toptani House.	27
Figure 3. Tirana in 1920s.	28
Figure 4. Brasini’s plan for the center.....	29
Figure 5. Bosio’s Piazza Littorio, (Sheshi Nene Tereza).....	30
Figure 6. Left: Vila of Lame Kareco, by Qemal Butka, right: Villa of Xhemal Aranitasi, by Italian architect Marini	30
Figure 7. Left: ‘Pallatet e Bardha’, right: ‘Pallatet e Aviacionit’	31
Figure 8. Left: ‘Pallatet Moskate’, right: ‘Pallatet e Xhenios’	31
Figure 9. Pre-socialist houses near Rruga e Dibres.....	31
Figure 10. Socialist apartment block schemes, 1949-1962.....	32
Figure 11. Residential complex composed of prototype housing units in Tirana.....	33
Figure 12. Socialist apartment block schemes, 1963-1970.....	33
Figure 13. Left: ‘9 Kateshet’ apartment block, right: apartment block near city center	34
Figure 14. Socialist apartment block schemes, 1971-1977.....	34
Figure 15. View of Socialist Tirana, 1980s (Retrieved from Tirana Album, 1990). ..	35
Figure 16. Colorful façade of a residential building, Tirana.	36
Figure 17. Illegal settlements on the western side of the city.	36
Figure 18. Post-socialist high-rise apartment blocks, left: Torre-Drin block, right: Halili residential complex, Tirana.	37
Figure 19. Left: TID Tower, right: Green Tower, Tirana, 2023	37
Figure 20. Stefano Boeri Architetti, Tirana 2030: General Local Plan.....	38

Figure 21. Aerial view of Tirana, 2022	39
Figure 22. Selected area for study over aerial map of Tirana.	40
Figure 23. Aerial map of the selected area for study.....	41
Figure 24. Urban transformation of the selected area	42
Figure 25. left: 1994 map, right: 1999 map, aerial image of site	43
Figure 26. left: 2001 map, right: 2007 map, aerial image of site	43
Figure 27. left: 2015 map, right: 2018 map, aerial image of site	43
Figure 28. Overlapping urban layers in the selected neighborhood.....	44
Figure 29. Buildings built during the pre-socialist, socialist and post-socialist period in the study neighborhood.	45
Figure 30. Left and middle: Photos from Location 7, Right: Photo from Location 6: socialist (blue) and post-socialist (black) buildings	46
Figure 31. Photos from Location 3, Pre-socialist (red), socialist (blue) and post-socialist (black) buildings.....	46
Figure 32. Left: Photos from Location 5, Right: Photo from Location 4: pre-socialist (red), socialist (blue) and post-socialist (black) buildings	46
Figure 33. Left: Photo from Location 1, Right: Photo from Location 2: pre-socialist (red), socialist (blue) and post-socialist (black) buildings	47
Figure 34. Map of buildings built during the pre-socialist period in the study neighborhood.....	47
Figure 35. Photos of pre-socialist buildings in the study neighborhood.	48
Figure 36. Map of buildings built during the socialist period in the study neighborhood.	48
Figure 37. Photos of socialist buildings in the study neighborhood.....	49
Figure 38. Map of buildings built during the post-socialist period in the study neighborhood.....	49
Figure 39. Photos of post-socialist buildings in the study neighborhood	49
Figure 40. Map of interviewees´ residences that belong to the pre-socialist urban layer in the study neighborhood.	53

Figure 41. Map of residents of the pre-socialist urban layer and their identification with physical elements of the neighborhood.	66
Figure 42. Map of residents of the pre-socialist urban layer and their identification with physical elements of the city	66
Figure 43. Map of interviewees’ residences that belong to the socialist urban layer in the study neighborhood.	67
Figure 44. Map of interviewees’ residences that belong to the socialist urban layer in the study neighborhood.	79
Figure 45. Map of residents of the socialist urban layer and their identification with physical elements of the city.	79
Figure 46. Map of interviewees’ residences that belong to the post-socialist urban layer in the study neighborhood.	80
Figure 47. Map of residents of the post-socialist urban layer and their identification with physical elements of the neighborhood	91
Figure 48. Map of residents of the post-socialist urban layer and their identification with physical elements of the city	91
Figure 49. Map of all residents and their identification with physical elements of the neighborhood.....	105
Figure 50. Map of all residents and their identification with physical elements of the city.....	106

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Albania has undergone complex and interesting changes over the last decades. Different ruling regimes have left a deep imprint over the physical and socio-cultural local environment. This is especially true for the capital, Tirana, as it has been the physical and symbolic center of each consequent governing body. Today, Tirana's urban fabric is a dense 'puzzle' of past and present interventions. Since the 1990's, the city has experienced a mostly unregulated development, where processes of change and growth have been (i) defined by informal and semi-formal investments and constructions (Felstehausen, 1999), (ii) the seizing and occupation of pre-socialist and socialist fabrics within the city, (iii) driven by a continuously growing population and (iv) aided by a weak government control over land, planning and building (Tosics, 2005).

Local administrations have tried to formalize urban development in Tirana, by demolishing informal settlements, enforcing planning regulations more strongly and guiding building in the form of partial urban plans, which has resulted in numerous high-rise buildings and landmarks being constructed around the city, disregarding much of its historical layer. In this process of tumultuous urban transformation, Tirana is experiencing a de-contextualization of its historical fabric and consequent loss of identity (Manahasa, 2020).

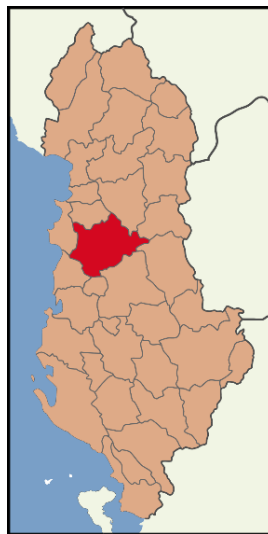


Figure 1. Tirana County, Albania (Courtesy of CC BY 3.0.).

1.1 Research Problem

In a context of urban transformation that threatens the urban identity of Tirana, do residents of historical areas in Tirana identify with their neighborhood and their city? How? Are processes of urban transformation hindering or enriching processes of identification? Do residents of different ages, education, places of residence and other variables identify differently with these places? Place identity, place attachment and other place-related phenomena are little-known and little-studied in Albania, even though Tirana presents an interesting case of urban living. Significant changes in the urban fabric and lifestyle have transformed people's way of living and their perception of the city. But how and to what degree these changes have affected people's bonding with the city remains unstudied empirically. Therefore, this study addresses neighborhood identity and city identity of residents of a specific historical and autochthonous neighborhood of Tirana, in order to understand the residents' bonds with the city and portions of the city as an important starting point for future strategies to help maintain and enrich everyday city experiences.

1.2 Scope and Aim of Research

This study investigates neighborhood identity and city identity of different-layer residents of a historical neighborhood in Tirana, that is undergoing a continuous urban transformation. It: (i) compares differences in place identity of different-layer residents (pre-socialist, socialist, post-socialist), (ii) compares differences in place identity in two scales (neighborhood and city) of these residents. The findings of this study are important in understanding the bonds that Tirana residents form with their neighborhood and city in their lived experiences. This knowledge might be used to plan and implement strategies that further enrich or at the very least maintain these relationships. Furthermore, the findings of this research might prove to be a contribution in place research, where studies that compare place identity in different scales are somewhat rare (Lewicka, 2010).

1.3 Methodology

The scope of this study is conducted in five phases, (i) sampling, (ii) surveying, (iii) mapping, (iv) data collection and (v) data analysis. The first sampling phase of the research consists of selecting 201 multi-layer (pre-socialist, socialist and post-socialist) residents of a historical neighborhood of Tirana to be surveyed through a questionnaire, 67 individuals belonging to each layer. The mixed-method questionnaire employed in this research during the surveying phase is specially prepared to investigate neighborhood and city identity, as well as collect data on the manner and reasons of identification for each scale. The third mapping phase consists of collecting the location of the residence of each subject, as well as all physical elements that each person has selected as an element of identification and assembling this geo-spatial information in QGIS-generated maps, in order to visualize a cognitive map of identification with the neighborhood and city of the residents. The fourth data collection phase consists of collecting information on if and how the surveyed individuals identify with the neighborhood and the city and the last data analysis phase consists of analyzing and evaluating the manner and variables of identification in residents of the selected historical neighborhood and creating clusters through each the abstract process of identification is better visualized and understood.

1.4 Thesis Organization

This thesis is divided in 6 chapters.

In Chapter 1, an introduction to the topic is presented, the context and research problem are established. The scope of the study, its aims and methodology are presented. Chapter 2, introduces a theoretical framework of important concepts related to place and place identity discussed in this study, based on studied literature. Chapter 3, discusses the historical overview of urban development of Tirana. In Chapter 4, the case study is established, where findings and results are presented. Chapter 5, discusses the findings of the research and establishes correlations with theoretical principles. In Chapter 6, conclusions and recommendations for further research are stated.

CHAPTER 2

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Place

“What is Place?” Although this question has been the fundamental basis for research in ‘place studies’, environmental psychologists, sociologists, phenomenologists, human geographers and numerous other researchers of related disciplines have not agreed upon a universal definition of place. Often defined as ‘meaningful locations’ (Lewicka, 2010), places are environmental settings and are crucial dimensions of our human lives and experiences (Seamon citing Relph, 2008). However, places are ‘constructs’ as much as they are settings; they bear plenty of cognitive, emotional, semantic features, attributed to them by individuals through unique psychological and socio-cultural processes. ‘Spaces’ become ‘places’ as they are embedded with value derived from lived experiences and interactions (Stedman, 2003).

2.2 Sense of Place

People bond with places. They form ‘ties’ with places that bear individual and/or collective meanings; meanings that are not inherent to specific physical settings, but rather are formed and maintained through symbolic and experiential interpretations of places. Although the mechanisms and processes through which such bonding occurs are continuous subjects of research, researchers believe that ‘sense of place is a natural condition of the human existence’ (Lewicka, 2010). Even as processes of urbanization, globalization and unification change both people and places, our fundamentals of people-place bonds remain strong. There are two main bonds that help develop ‘sense of place’; place attachment and place identity, and although related, these are separate constructs that affect sense of place in different ways (Stedman, 2003).

2.3 Place Attachment

Although place researchers have not provided a concise and universal definition of place attachment (Altman & Low, 1992), there is a general ‘consensus’ in research, where place attachment is, in large, defined as an affective, emotional bond between a person and a place, with which they maintain close relations (Casakin, Hernández, Ruiz, 2014). Place attachment is a complex and multi-layered phenomenon that encompasses an integration of emotions, cognitions, beliefs, values, behaviors and actions related to place. A comprehensive framework has been proposed by Scanell and Gifford (2009), that defines place attachment as a tri-dimensional organization; person-place-processes.

The first dimension, ‘person’ refers to the subject of attachment. Attachment can develop individually or in a group and sometimes even in whole communities and cultures. These levels of bonding are also not exclusively independent, but are often interrelated. The second dimension, the ‘place’ is the object of attachment. Places can vary in size and scope and attachment is uniquely attributed to different places. Relationships with places, although usually defined in positive terms in place attachment, can be complex, ambivalent or negative. The third dimensions, ‘processes’ is related to the mechanisms with which people form relationships with places and the nature of these relationships (Scanell and Gifford, 2009).

Researchers believe that there are four main processes that help create and maintain place attachment: (i) biological processes, that are related to evolutionary and physiological adaptations of people to certain places, with which they ‘connect’, (ii) environmental factors, that are related to certain physical attributes of places with which people bond, through meanings and symbols, (iii) psychological processes, are related to affect, cognition and behavior, through which individuals bond with places throughout their lives and (iv) socio-cultural processes that help establish place bonds, through beliefs, values, social norms, ideologies and many more (Altman & Low, 1992).

2.4 Place Identity

Another crucial place bond is place identity. It is a complex structure that is manifested through ideas, values, beliefs, interpretations, expectations related to place, as well as the way place is experienced and understood. Proshansky (1978) believes place identity to be an essential sub-structure within a person's self-identity and self-concept. He maintains that, although a delicate and constantly changing and evolving structure, there are three enduring dimensions of place identity.

First, the cognitive-descriptive dimensions, make up the 'content' of place identity and enable an individual to know about, think about, remember, believe in and expect to experience the surrounding physical setting. These dimensions encompass images and memories related to places, as well as information on why, where, and how to use the physical surrounding. However, often these cognitive-descriptive phenomena occur without full awareness, as much of a person's physical world is taken for granted and are not easily articulated.

Second, the affective-evaluative dimensions, are related to feelings, preferences and expectations about the physical surroundings and their tangible and non-tangible attributes, which can be experienced individually or, as it happens more often, collectively. This dimensional structure leads to 'strong' feelings of attachment and preferences to certain place features and developing of 'favorite' places and things.

Third, role-related requirements, are related to certain behaviors and actions with which an individual interacts with the physical setting, in accordance with certain roles and sub-identities that are attributed to the individual throughout day-to-day life experiences. These requirements encompass plenty of feelings, ideas, aspirations, and expectations related to the surrounding environment and are very unique for each individual. The overall place-identity structure of an individual is very complex, dynamic and although constantly changing, it endures.

2.4.1 Place Identity in the Home

People form bonds with places of various scales, ranging from micro-levels, like the 'home' or the 'neighborhood' to larger macro-levels, like the 'city', 'region', 'continent' or even 'world'. All people belong to and operate in many different spaces, groups, and times. Porteous (1976) believes that of all of these, the home is the core of a person's territoriality. Home symbolizes an extension of individual identity, in which a person finds refuge and security, comfort, happiness and routine activity. Home is more than a building unit, rather it is an entity around which a person's sense of spatial reality is organized. Porteous (1976) affirms that people have a 'domi-centric' sense of space, where spatial reality is divided into 'home' and 'non-home'. Lewicka (2010) affirms that in various studies, cognitive maps are more detailed around and near the home, and evaluative maps show that the most preferred place for people is the home, reinforcing the significance of the home as an anchor of space and territoriality.

2.4.2 Place Identity in the Neighborhood

Of all place scales, the neighborhood has attracted more academic attention, where most place studies are conducted on the neighborhood level (Lewicka, 2010). Despite this, there is not a clear definition of neighborhood in place theory and different researchers provide different understandings of it. Keller (1968) defines the neighborhood as 'a place with physical and symbolic boundaries', Warren (1981) describes it as 'an organization of a population living in a geographically proximate area'. Galster (2001) believes these and other prior definitions to be flawed and provides a more comprehensive definition. The neighborhood is a mass of spatially based attributes associated with clusters of residences and other land uses. This definition encompasses the multi-dimensional character of a neighborhood composed of environmental and infrastructural features, as well as demographic, socio-political and sentimental values. Depending on the attributes that are present within a neighborhood and how they are understood by individuals, people may have different definitions and perceptions of the neighborhood. Nevertheless, the neighborhood has been perceived as an 'optimal' level of abstraction for place researchers (Lewicka, 2010), that is neither too physically and/or symbolically small, nor too large.

2.4.3 Place Identity in the City or Urban Identity

Cities are complex ‘multi-places’ that contain many smaller environments, with which residents interact daily (Casakin, Hernández, Ruiz, 2014). The kaleidoscope of experiences that are part of ‘city life’, are part of the socialization process of every urban resident, leading each individual to form a uniquely ‘urban’ identity (Proshansky, 1978). Such urban experiences derive from the physical, as well as the economic, socio-cultural, symbolic attributes related to a city.

For quite a while in research, the ‘city experience’ has been largely considered a negative and uncomfortable one, with cities perceived as places that stress, alienate, and threaten residents and their well-being, safety, and comfort. Only recently have researchers moved away from this stereotype that simplifies the city reality. Further research is needed, however, to provide more empirical data on the lived experiences of urban dwellers.

2.5 Operationalization in the context of Tirana

The research context in this study consists of an old neighborhood of residences constructed during the pre-socialist, socialist and post-socialist political periods which, can be expressed in the form of urban layers. This area is subject to an on-going process of urban transformation that might threaten its historical identity. Thus, this study investigates the neighborhood and city identity of the residents of this area, to provide insight into the degree and manner of bonding with these places.

Neighborhood and city identity in this research are operationalized through two dimensions of identification; physical elements (i.e., landmark, house, street, public space) and identificatory relations (memories, experiences, socialization, self-identity). Residents first affirm whether they identify with the neighborhood and/or city by answering the question ‘Do you identify with your neighborhood/city?’ and then they specify through which of the above-mentioned dimensions. The questions of the questionnaire used in this research provide open and close ended information on dimensions of identification. Residents are asked the close-ended question ‘Through what form of identification do you identify with your neighborhood/city?’ in which they may select from within the sub-categories of physical elements and/or identificatory relations. However, they are also asked to provide open-ended data on

the specific sub-category (e.g., which landmark?).

In this way, the data collected in this study not only reflects the significance of the physical and/or relation dimension of place identity for residents of this historical neighborhood of Tirana, but also which specific sub-dimensions help them identify more with the neighborhood and the city.

The physical dimension of identification is further reflected upon in this study. Data on the physical elements of identification of the residents are assembled into GIS-generated maps that visualize the elements through which individuals bond with the neighborhood and the city.

The data in this study is operationalized and analyzed on a layer basis, to understand (i) how different-layer (pre-socialist, socialist, post-socialist) residents identify with the neighborhood/city and (ii) if there are differences in identifying with the neighborhood and city, as well as an overall basis to understand the overall variables and manner of identification for these residents. The survey-mapping approach used in this study provides a method of observing and measuring the complex variables of place identity in a clear and quantifiable way, that can be easily replicated and expanded.

CHAPTER 3

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN TIRANA

3.1 Pre-Socialist Development and the Neighborhood

Urban development in Tirana has undergone complex changes and still today, the city continues to change. Although traces of Tirana's existence as a settlement date back to the 1600s (Požani, 2010), the city resembled a large village until the late 19th century (Mëhilli, 2017). In 1614, Sulejman Pashë Bargjini built the 'center' of the city, to which were added the "Mosque of Et'hem Bey" in 1789 and the "Clock Tower" in 1839 (Manahasa E. & Manahasa O., 2021). When Tirana was made capital of Albania on February 11th 1920, it had a population of 17,000 people, an area of 3 km² and a rural fabric, with a central bazaar and a few social and religious monuments around it.

Locals in Tirana lived in Ottoman reminiscent houses, houses that could either have a köşk or a hearth (Bushati, 2015), constructed with stone or adobe, 1-2 stories high and with an inner well and garden.



Figure 2. Ottoman reminiscent villa in Tirana, Toptani House (Retrieved from Manahasa, E., 2017).

The first planned intervention in the city was commissioned by Esad Pashë Toptani in 1908 and strived to modernize the bazaar, expand major streets and revitalize shops (Nepravishta & Thomai, 2020). However, it was under the new Ahmet Zog government, that attempts were made to create a new formal identity for Tirana.



Figure 3. Tirana in 1920s. (Retrieved from AKS Revista).

The Zog government undertook a serious planning and building campaign with Austro-Hungarian and Italian backing to guide the formal development of Tirana. The very first draft survey of the city was developed by the Hungarian Geographic Institute in 1917, while the First Regulatory Plan of Tirana was developed by Austrian Wolfgang Köhler in 1923. The main aim of the plan was to link the existing medieval street network to a new, modern one and it led to the construction of the main streets of the city (Rruga e Durrësit, Rruga e Kavajës, Rruga e Dibrës, Rruga e Barrikadave) (Nepravishta & Thomai, 2020). A year later in 1924, the Second Regulatory Plan was drafted by Armando Brasini, who established a still existing, linear north-south orientation of the city, with Skanderbeg Square and its boulevard being in the north of this axis, and the Presidential Palace (today Mother Teresa Square) on the south. Brasini also developed the first proposals for the design of Skanderbeg Square and its accompanying administrative buildings, as the new formal center of Tirana.

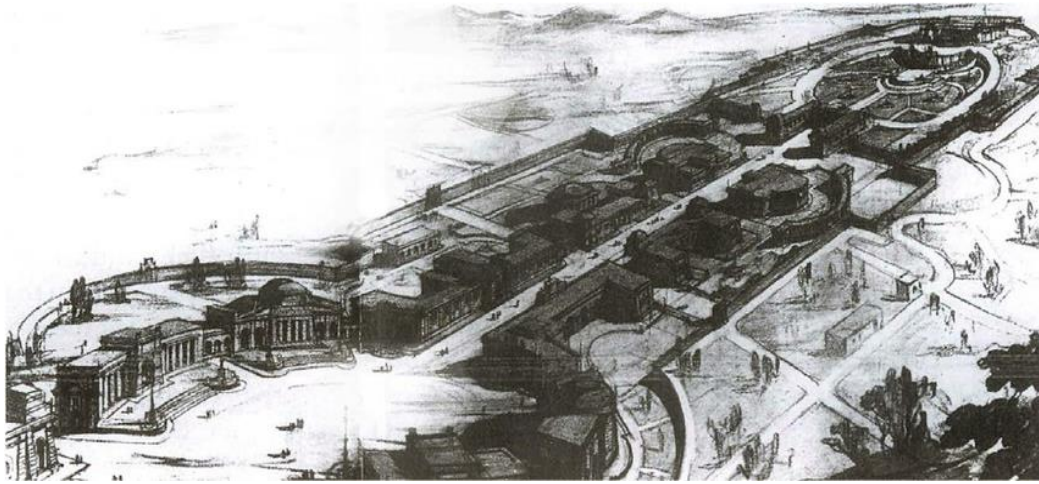


Figure 4. Brasini's plan for the center (*Retrieved from Pojani, D., (2010).*)

The Third Regulatory Plan of Tirana was drafted in 1928 by Wolfgang Köhler, Esheref Frashëri and Florestano Di Fausto. It maintained the north-south linear axis with few changes and proposed a quadratic street and parcel network, a complete reconstruction for the area of 'New Tirana' and a rehabilitation of Lana river. Di Fausto also developed several redesigns of Skanderbeg Square and particularly of the Ministries around it. The Fourth Regulatory Plan of Tirana was drafted in 1929 by Köhler and proposed further extensions in the city and also established the municipal boundaries of Tirana.

Throughout the rule of Prime Minister and later King Zog, Italian architects and designers were often commissioned to design important administrative and civic landmarks around the city, leading Tirana to have a sort of Italianesque 'romanità' or 'romanness'. This would be even more evident on April 7th 1939 when fascist Italians began their occupation of Albania, under the governing of Mussolini.

The new fascist government commissioned planners and architects to reconceptualize Tirana with a new form, that would evoke and celebrate the Fascist spirit. Gherardo Bosio and Vitorio Ballio were tasked with designing important civic as well as cultural buildings and landmarks, squares and boulevards in the city with a clear, functional and rational fascist style (Gkiosa, 2018). A Fifth Regulatory Plan was drafted in 1939-1942 by Bosio and Poggi (Aliaj et al. 2003; Qyqja 2009) and structured the city into residential, military, and industrial areas and also expanded the axis parallel on the northern edge of Tirana. Streets, boulevards, and squares were also enlarged. The Fascist Italian regime, although short-lived has left a mark on much of the formal fabric of Tirana.

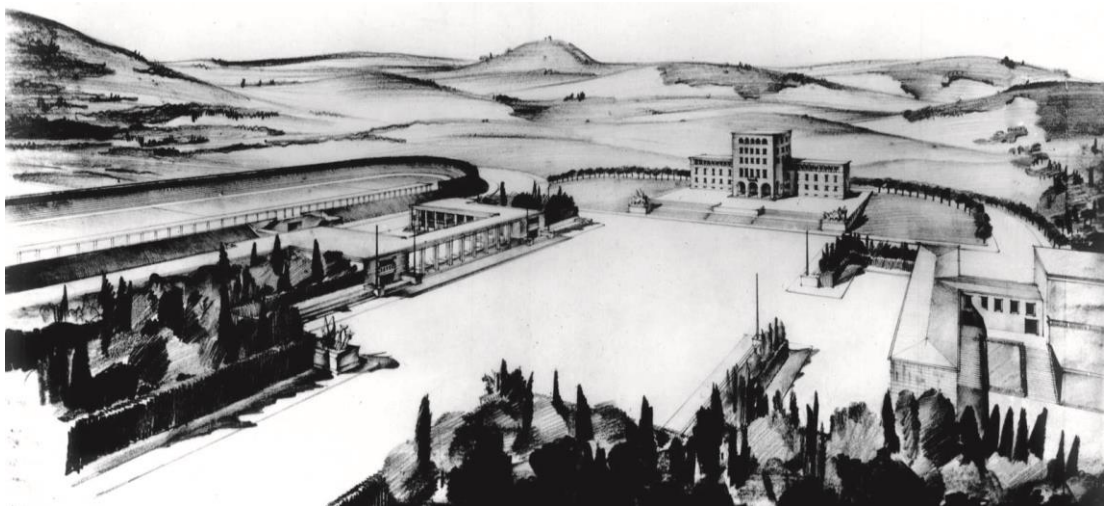


Figure 5. Bosio's Piazza Littorio, (Sheshi Nene Tereza), 1939 (Retrieved from Gkiosa, A. (2017).

Apart from major urban landmarks and infrastructure, residential villas were built in the city, by Albanian and Italian architects. These villas offered a variety of stylistic tendencies popular at the time, mostly the Italian *stile novecento* and modern rationalism (Manahasa, 2017). In the historic areas of Tirana, villas with more modern architecture were built amongst the traditional residences that were constructed by distinguished masters in earlier centuries.



Figure 6. Left: Vila of Lame Kareco, by Qemal Butka, right: Villa of Xhemal Aranitasi, by Italian architect Marini (Retrieved from Manahasa, (2017).

Residents of these villas made up the upper class of Tirana citizens (Manahasa, 2017), often reflected in the use of innovative techniques and materials. Apartment blocks were also provided to Italian officials during the Italian Occupation, mostly in four settlements in the city: 'Pallatet e Aviacionit' (Aviation blocks), 'Pallatet e Xhenios' (Military engineers' blocks), 'Pallatet Moskate' (Moskati blocks) and 'Pallatet e Bardha' (White blocks).

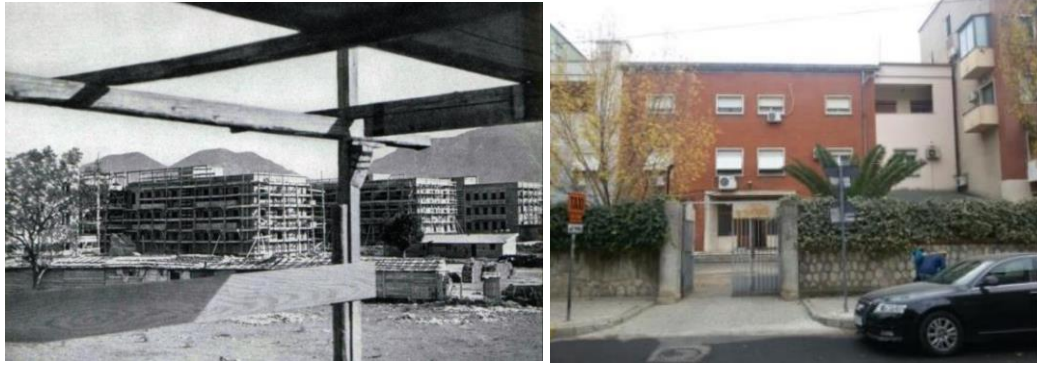


Figure 7. Left: 'Pallatet e Bardha', right: 'Pallatet e Aviacionit' (Retrieved from Manahasa, E. (2017).



Figure 8. Left: 'Pallatet Moskate', right: 'Pallatet e Xhenios' (Retrieved from Manahasa, E. (2017).

These modern villas and their spacious rooms and luxurious furnishings generated a more western character of dwellings, compared to the local oriental-looking houses of Tirana and introduced a 'European' way of living.



Figure 9. Pre-socialist houses near Rruga e Dibres (Retrieved from Citizens Channel).

3.2 Socialist Development and the Neighborhood

In 1944, after the end of the Italian Occupation, the Communist Party with Enver Hoxha as leader, began to rule Albania. The Party began a complete reformation of every realm of life and exerted an obsessive and highly centralized control over the built environment in Albania, particularly in Tirana (Rugg, 1994). The government attempted to hinder natural urban growth by forbidding any individual construction and regulating the construction of standard dwellings, as well as a few socio-cultural and civic landmarks. In 1957, the Party drafted a Sixth Regulatory Plan for Tirana (Pojani, 2010), that was very similar to the previous Italian one. In fact, the communist government lacked many of the resources, expertise and staff and relied on previously drafted plans and regulations left behind by the Italians and Austrians.

Still, through the motto build ‘better, faster, cheaper’ the Party attempted to densify the city and exercised strict control over housing, in the form of five-year programs (Manahasa, 2017), where standardized apartment schemes were constructed all over Tirana. This overall housing strategy can be divided into three periods: the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s (Aliaj et al, 2004).

In the 1950s, the typical residential neighborhood was composed of three-four floor apartment blocks, organized in ‘micro-districts’ and characterized by poor architectural quality (Aliaj, Lulo, & Myftiu, 2003) and often lacking basic living conditions.

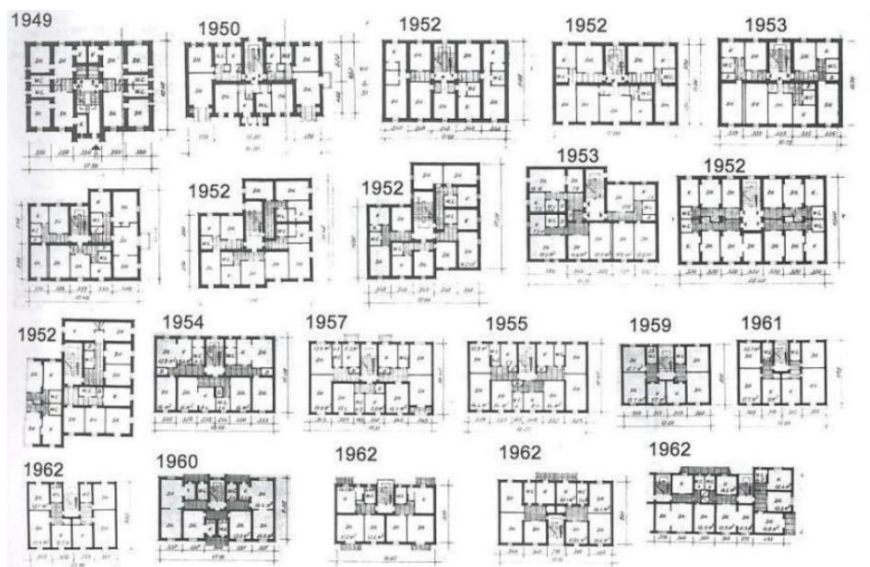


Figure 10. Socialist apartment block schemes, 1949-1962 (Retrieved from Manahasa, E. (2017).

In the 1960s, the government attempted to use its housing strategy to create an egalitarian and utilitarian society, leading to numerous apartment blocks around the city having a homogeneous, monotone, repetitive and standardized character (Mico, 2013).



Figure 11. Residential complex composed of prototype housing units in Tirana, June 1966. (Retrieved from Mehilli, E. (2017).

In the late 1960s much of the residential construction work was carried out through voluntary work, which enabled the Party to fulfil requirements of mass housing in the city.

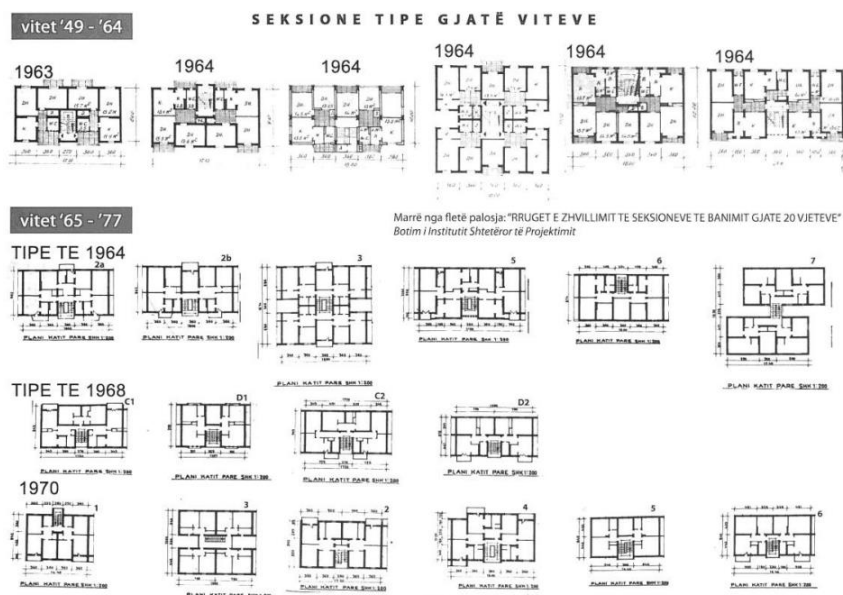


Figure 12. Socialist apartment block schemes, 1963-1970 (Retrieved from Manahasa, E. (2017).

In the 1970s, prefabricated housing technologies were imported from China, after a good relationship had been laid between the Chinese and Albanian Communist Parties (Thomai, 2015). Such technologies enabled the construction of time and cost effective housing and were realized in the form of satellite-towns around the city (Manahasa, 2017), although all housing located near the city center was treated more carefully (Dervishi, 2014) and designed by acclaimed architects.



Figure 13. Left: ‘9 Kateshet’ apartment block, right: apartment block near city center. (Retrieved from *Tirana Album*, 1990).

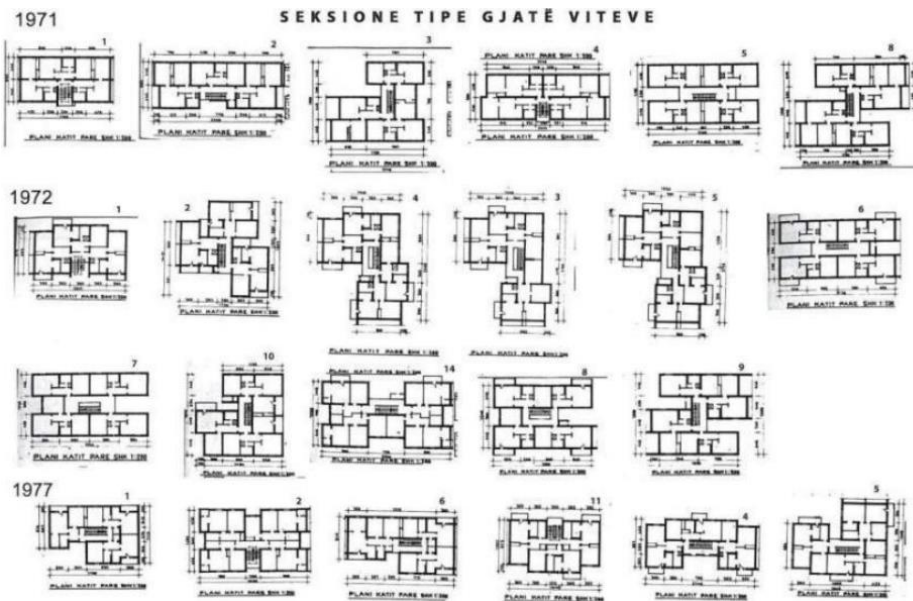


Figure 14. Socialist apartment block schemes, 1971-1977 (Retrieved from Manahasa, E. (2017).

Although important administrative and socio-cultural landmarks showcased more qualitative features (Mëhilli, 2017), the residential fabric of Tirana during the socialist regime was standardized and no ‘pure’ dwelling type existed (Dervishi, 2014). Most citizens lived in government approved and funded prefabricated blocks, except for Party officials and important personnel or local inhabitants who lived in pre-socialist detached houses.

In the later years of the communist era, Tirana was overcrowded, lacked an efficient public transport system and good housing heating and plumbing conditions, but it was still a relatively attractive city, with green parks, open spaces and low incidences of crime (Mëhilli, 2017). It also offered the best, among the few, opportunities for education, work, healthcare, and cultural ventures.



Figure 15. View of Socialist Tirana, 1980s (Retrieved from *Tirana Album*, 1990).

3.3 Post-Socialist Development and the Neighborhood

The destruction of the Enver Hoxha monument by the popular protest of 1991, in the center of Tirana's main boulevard marks the end of the communist regime. The collapse of the system was followed by a deep political, social and economic crisis that produced a surge of demographic and later architectural boom in the capital.

Although a Seventh Regulatory Plan was drafted in 1990, it was never implemented (Zanfi, 2007), and the new Edi Rama local governing of the year 2000, could not put a stop to the following unregulated, informal building wave. Instead, a large-scale urban operation was implemented that included the demolishing of illegal buildings along Lana, as well as painting the facades of main street buildings with bright, colorful designs, rendering them attractive and playful looking (Poiani, 2010), in what was known as the 'Rebirth of the City' program.



Figure 16. Colorful façade of a residential building, Tirana (*Retrieved from Michael Runkel*).

In the early 2000s the city expanded in all directions, where densification of the city center and suburbanization of peri-urban areas occurred simultaneously. This physical growth was brought about by a rapid demographic and economic growth (Pojani, 2010) and the demand for housing led to the building of many new apartment blocks (Shkreli and Gjoni 1997; Deda 2003), formal and informal alike. The first early investments were either detached private houses or apartment blocks, at first 5-6 story high, although the number of floors increased in the following years.



Figure 17. Illegal settlements on the western side of the city, 2003 (*Retrieved from Pojani, D. (2010)*).



Figure 18. Post-socialist high-rise apartment blocks, left: Torre-Drin block, right: Halili residential complex, Tirana.

In the years that followed, the existing city fabric of Tirana, the once homogenous, grim and monotone isles of pre-fabricated blocks were transformed and ‘deformed’, by residents through a number of changes in their bodies and functions – ‘additions, substitutions, closing of entrances, emergence of ground floor activities’ (Zanfi, 2007). The result was a uniquely Albanian urban experience that although lively and diverse, was problematic in many regards, mainly in substandard green and open spaces, insufficient pedestrian city-scapes, disorganized transportation networks and a continuing practice of informal building.

In 2004, French office ‘Architecture Studio’ developed a masterplan for Tirana, which included a proposed ‘high-rise skyline’ for the city and the same framework was implemented by Belgian studio 51N4E in the revitalization of Skanderbeg Square, leading to the construction of numerous high-rise around the city center, some of which are still to be constructed.

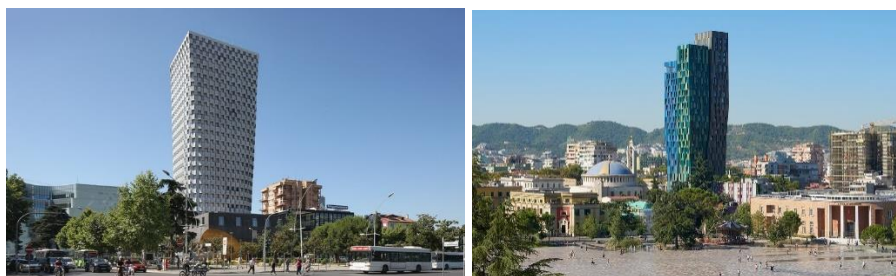


Figure 19. Left: TID Tower, right: Green Tower, Tirana, 2023 (*ArchDaily*).

In recent years, informal building practices have diminished considerably, as the city is better equipped to enforce the law to ensure regulated construction (Pojani, 2010). The design of important high-rise towers as well as the revitalization of civic landmarks of previous eras has been handed over to acclaimed international studios, in competitions organized since the 2010s.

The future of Tirana is laid out in the New Urban Plan 2030, developed by Italian Stefano Boeri and approved in 2017. It has established the official strategies that will guide future development of a new ‘environmentally sustainable’ Tirana. The TR2030 defines three strategic components of development; (i) the “Metropolitan Fresco”, the overall vision of the Plan, (ii) the “Atlas”, that establishes interventions that will trigger development and (iii) the “Guidelines Charter”, that encompasses the tools of implementation (Stefano Boeri). The Plan proposes several operational sections; an orbital forest system to preserve and enrich local biodiversity; ecological corridors along the rivers Lana, Tirana and Erzeni, a green system of mobility known as the “4th Ring” and a strategy of development of several small centers within the city to redistribute density and touristic, economic, socio-cultural potential.

Important interventions have already changed the layout of the city, mainly the 51N4E Skanderbeg Square project, the Grimshaw Architects Boulevard extension and the new surge of high-rise tower projects in the city center. These and other future planned projects strive to transform Tirana into a future modern, “polycentric and kaleidoscopic city” (Stefano Boeri).



Figure 20. Tirana 2030: General Local Plan (Retrieved from Stefano Boeri Architetti)

Today, the existing city fabric of Tirana is a rich palimpsest and remnants of Austro-Hungarian, Italian and Socialist urban and architectural enterprises are still important landmarks in the city. However, dwellings of different periods, mainly pre-socialist local adobes and Italian villas, as well as socialist blocks are in danger of being demolished and devaluated. A general disregard for the historical layer of the city, the emergence of tall towers and high-rise blocks, increased traffic and number of people has become the stereotype with which Tirana is identified (Fuga, 2014), usurping what might have been a local identity.

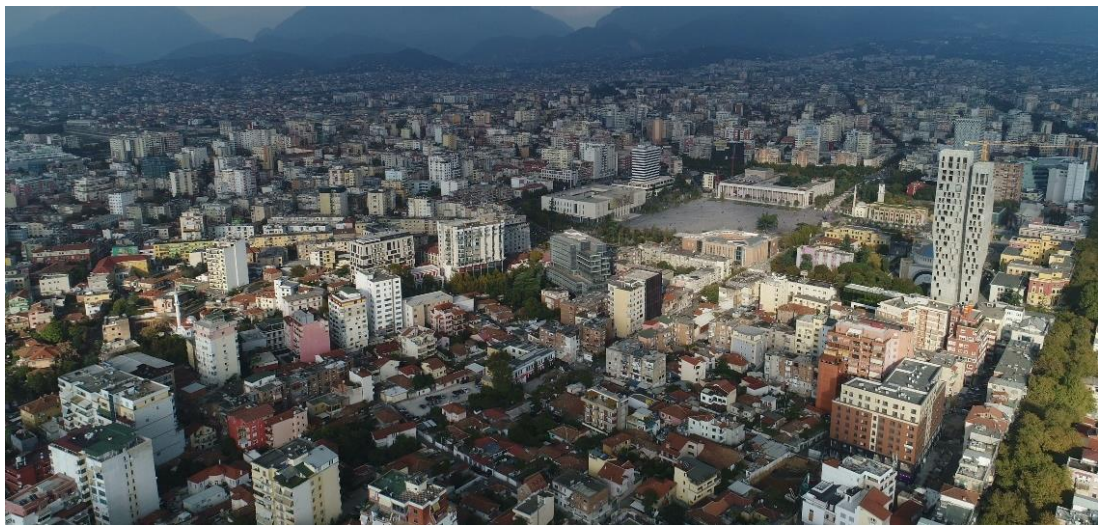


Figure 21. Aerial view of Tirana, 2022 (Stock footage).

CHAPTER 4

MEASURING URBAN IDENTITY: CASE STUDY OF A HISTORICAL NEIGHBORHOOD SUBJECT OF URBAN TRANSFORMATION IN TIRANA

4.1 Selected Neighborhood

The area selected for this study is located in between Municipal Units No. 2 and No. 8 and has an area of approximately 0.45 km². Its fabric is densely packed with buildings of different political eras; pre-socialist private houses and villas, socialist apartment blocks and post-socialist high blocks. It is also an active and continuously growing part of the city, with opportunities for commercial, educational, social, cultural ventures and is home to locals and new-comers.



Figure 22. Selected area for study over aerial map of Tirana.

This specific neighborhood was selected after considering several criteria that render it a suitable location to fulfil the scope of this research:

- (i) *Historical Significance:* The selected area is an autochthonous part of the city of Tirana and its fabric bears traces of a long history of historical, cultural, socio-demographic and urban changes.
- (ii) *Representative Sample:* Because the area is an old and historical neighborhood

in the city and because it is still in the process of urban transformation, there are people of all ages, backgrounds and socio-economic standings, who have lived there for different periods of time. This diverse sample provides important insight into how these residents relate and bond with the area and city.

- (iii) *Accessibility*: The selected neighborhood is located very near the city center, and its easy accessibility is crucial for fieldwork and data collection.
- (iv) *Familiarity*: Being a well-known and familiar neighborhood, in which important landmarks are located helps facilitate the research process and relating to the dynamics within this area.

The physical boundaries of the neighborhood consist of important and historical streets in the city, whose footprints are present in various historical maps of Tirana. The northern boundary of the area is ‘Rruga 4 Deshmoret’, the southern one is ‘Rruga Hoxha Tahsim’, the western one is ‘Rruga e Barrikadave’ and the eastern one is ‘Rruga Bardhyl’. There are important landmarks and public spaces within and in close proximity to the selected area, which make up a part of Tirana’s identity and which act as significant points of reference and orientation in the city. These include: ‘Pazari i Ri’, ‘Skenderbej’ Square, ‘Selvia’ Square, ‘Avni Rustemi’ Square, the National Historical Museum, the Palace of Culture, the Kadare Museum, Kafe Flora, Monument of Vojo Kushi, ‘Kokonozi’ Mosque, Et’hem Bej Mosque, the Clock Tower and many more.

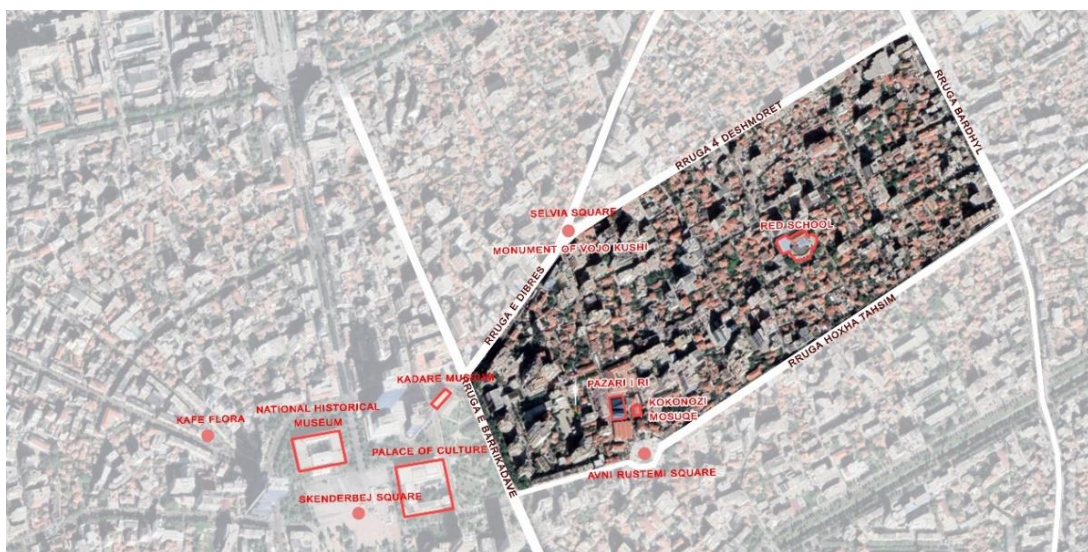


Figure 23. Aerial map of the selected area for study.

The footprint of the area exists in a series of maps and regulatory plans of the city of Tirana, affirming its identity as a neighborhood with plenty of historical and cultural value.

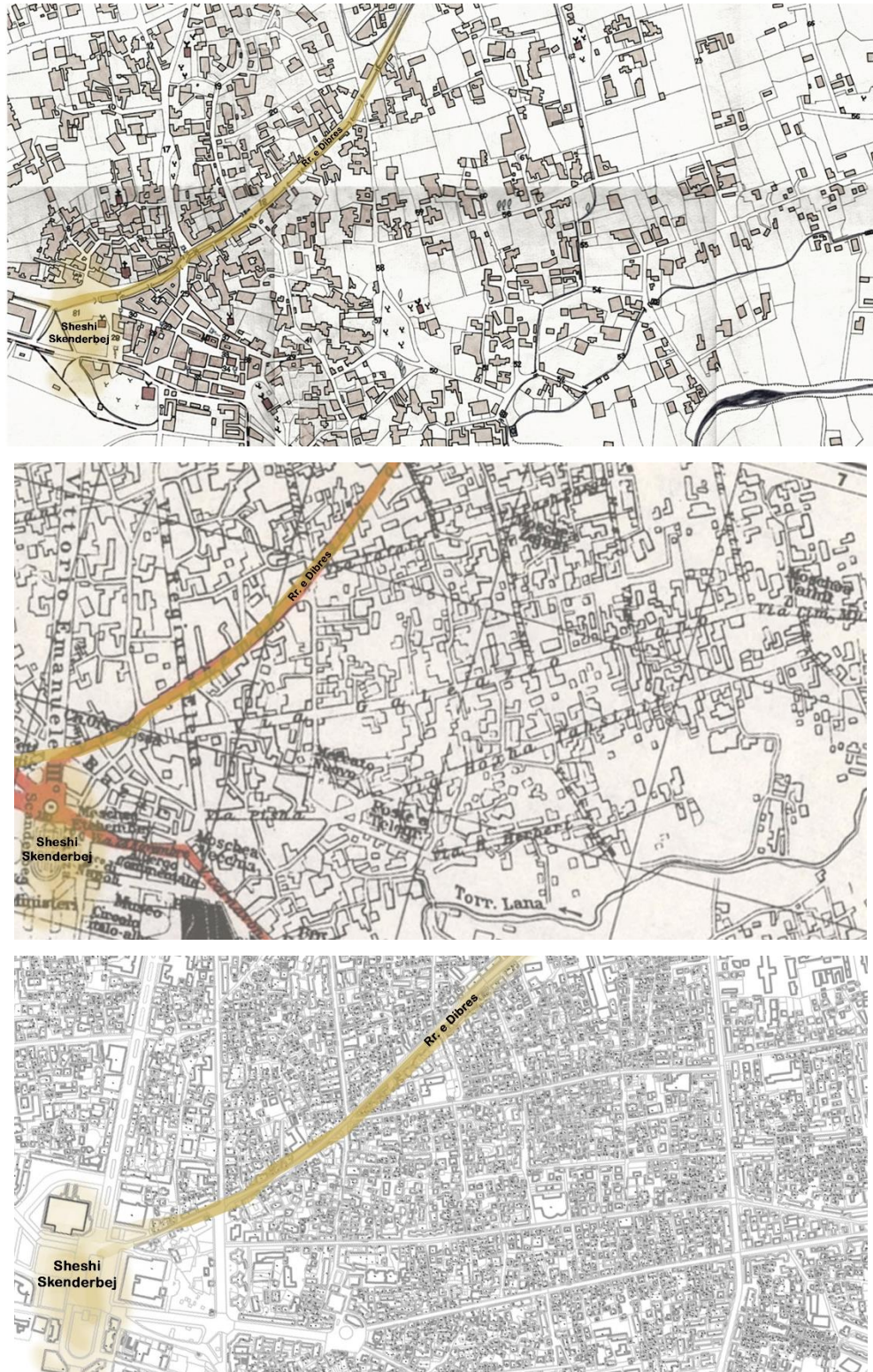


Figure 24. Urban transformation of the selected area: top: 1921 map, middle: 1943 map, bottom: 2023 map.

The next section is a series of maps showcasing a transition of urban transformation in the selected neighborhood, retrieved from ASIG Geoportal. The earliest map (Fig. 14) is 1 1994 map in which the urban fabric consists of pre-socialist and socialist buildings. Similar is the 1999 fabric. After 2001 (Fig. 15) post-socialist buildings begin to appear and grow in number and footprint. In 2018 (Fig. 16) the fabric of the area is a combination of pre-socialist villas, socialist brick blocks and post-socialist high apartment blocks.



Figure 25. left: 1994 map, right: 1999 map, aerial image of site (*Retrieved from ASIG*).



Figure 26. left: 2001 map, right: 2007 map, aerial image of site (*Retrieved from ASIG*).



Figure 27. left: 2015 map, right: 2018 map, aerial image of site (*Retrieved from ASIG*).



Figure 28. Overlapping urban layers in the selected neighborhood.

4.2 Neighborhood Layers

The fabric of this neighborhood is packed with buildings of many kinds and time-periods, which can be categorized in urban layers; pre-socialist private houses and villas, socialist apartment blocks and post-socialist high blocks. At the time of conducting this study, these three layers are conjoined and overlapping one another, creating a hybrid housing fabric, that is unique to this neighborhood. This complex housing pattern that points to a long history of urban and architectural changes is of special interest for the present study, in analyzing how citizens identify and bond with their neighborhood and city through their layer of residence. Furthermore, because the area is still undergoing urban changes, that might threaten its historical identity, this investigation is even more significant.



Figure 29. Buildings built during the pre-socialist (*red*), socialist (*blue*) and post-socialist (*black*) period in the study neighborhood.



Figure 30. Left: Photos from Location 7, Right: Photo from Location 6: socialist (*blue*) and post-socialist (*black*) buildings (© Artea Zera).



Figure 31. Photos from Location 3, Pre-socialist (*red*), socialist (*blue*) and post-socialist (*black*) buildings (© Artea Zera).



Figure 32. Left: Photo from Location 5, Right: Photo from Location 4: Pre-socialist (*red*), socialist (*blue*) and post-socialist (*black*) buildings (© Artea Zera).



Figure 33. Left: Photo from Location 1, Right: Photo from Location 2: Pre-socialist (*red*), socialist (*blue*) and post-socialist (*black*) buildings (© Artea Zera).

4.2.1 Pre-Socialist Layer

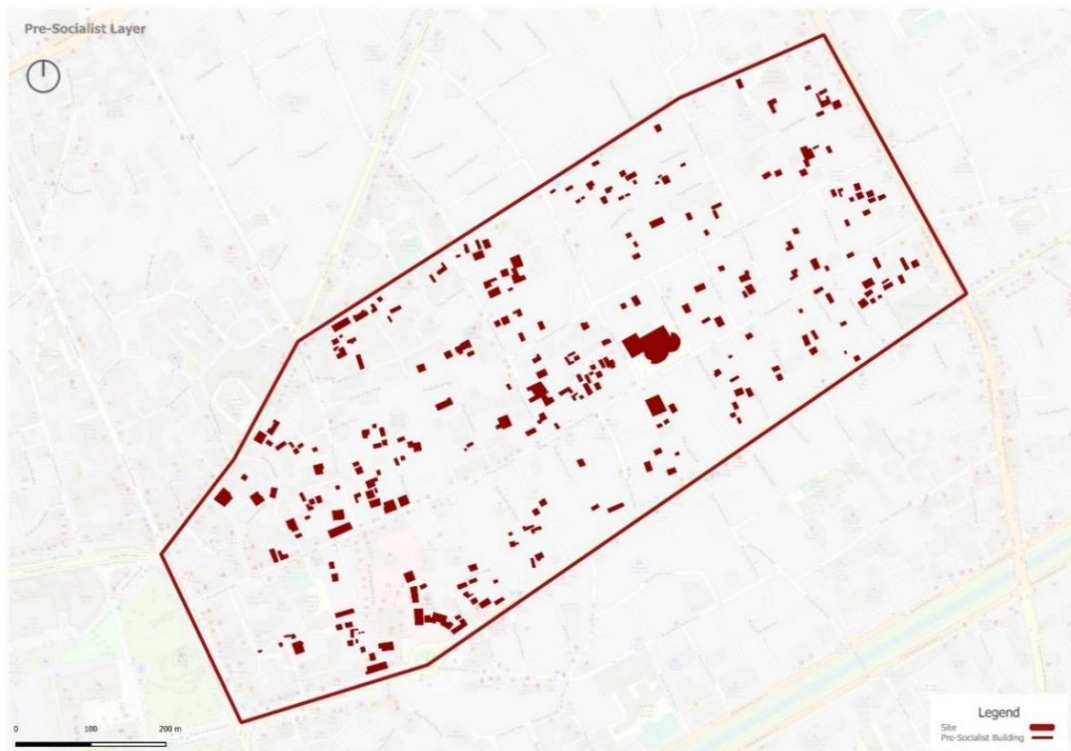


Figure 34. Map of buildings built during the pre-socialist period in the study neighborhood.

The pre-socialist layer of residences in this neighborhood consists of ‘hearth-houses’ (*banesa me shtepi zjarri*) (Meksi A. et al, 2016), the typical city house in Tirana, until the beginning of the 20th century. This kind of residence is usually one or two stories high and has an inner courtyard used as a garden, enclosed by high walls. Today, although some of the pre-socialist houses in this area are still used as residences, many are abandoned and in dire need of restoration, while some others are being demolished and replaced with high-rise buildings (Citizens Channel, 2021).



Figure 35. Photos of pre-socialist buildings in the study neighborhood (© Artea Zera).

4.2.2 Socialist Layer

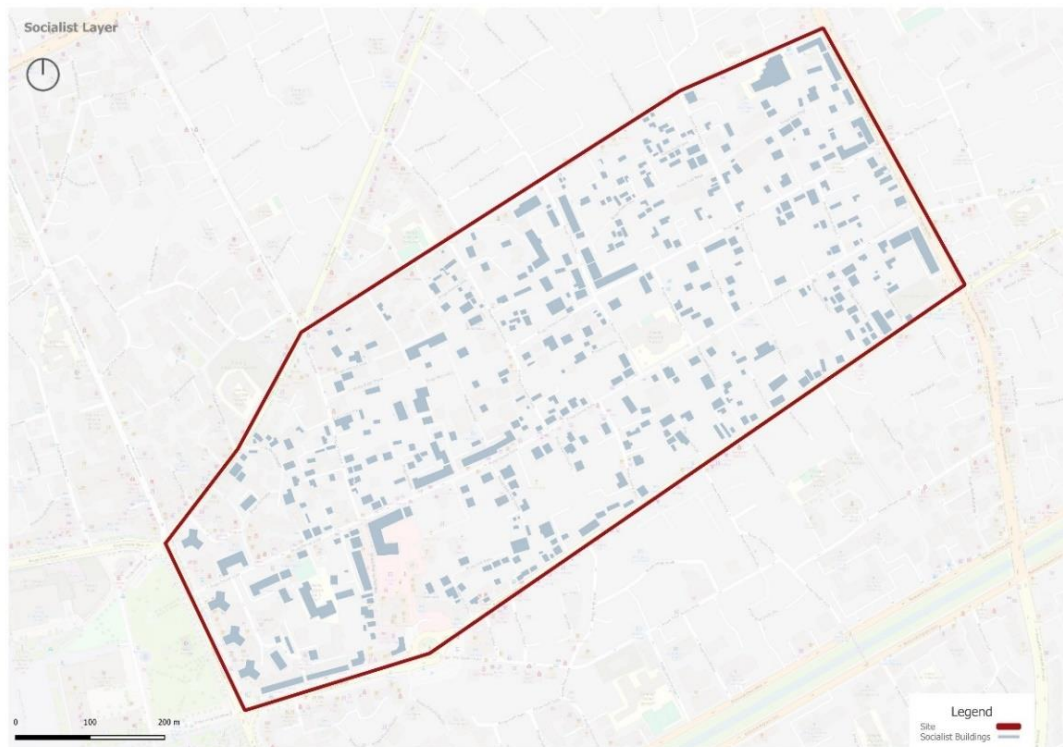


Figure 36. Map of buildings built during the socialist period in the study neighborhood.

The socialist layer of this neighborhood consists of three kinds of residences, (i) 3-4 floor brick buildings (ii) 5-6 floor pre-fabricated blocks and (iii) one or two stories private villas. Although, some of the blocks have been painted with bright colors and designs in recent years, many retain the original brick-colored, homogeneous appearance, typical of the socialist era. It is also common to see different kinds of post-socialist provisions and additions made to these blocks by the locals.



Figure 37. Photos of socialist buildings in the study neighborhood (© Artea Zera).

4.2.3 Post-Socialist Layer

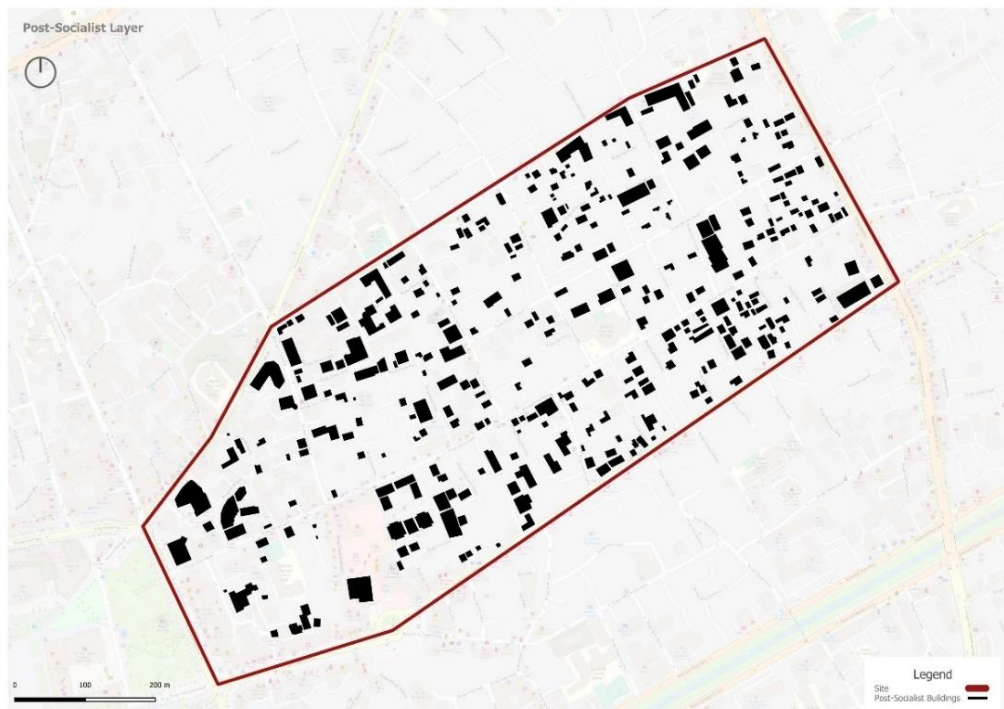


Figure 38. Map of buildings built during the post-socialist period in the study neighborhood.

The post-socialist layer of this neighborhood consists of different kinds of residences, mostly 1-3 floor private villas and high-rise apartment blocks of different designs, heights and compositions.

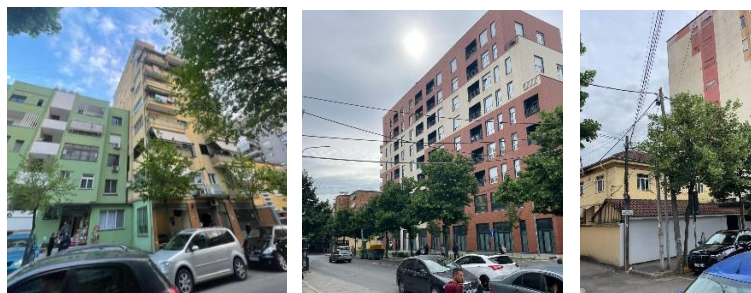


Figure 39. Photos of socialist buildings in the study neighborhood (© Artea Zera).

4.3 Survey and Results

Questionnaire

The main place-identity measuring instrument used in this study was a questionnaire, prepared specifically to cover the scope of this research. The questionnaire was composed of three parts. The first part contained questions that provided information on the personal and socio-demographic status of the subjects, including date of birth, profession, education level, the layer of their residence (pre-socialist, socialist or post-socialist), whether they were owners or renters, residence length and number of family members who lived in the residence. The second part of the questionnaire investigated place identity on the neighborhood scale. To measure neighborhood identification subjects were asked the question “Do you identify with your neighborhood?” and if yes, they were then asked to specify through what forms of identification. The specified dimensions included two major categories: (i) physical elements (i.e the house, the street, landmark, public space or others) and (ii) socio-cultural identificatory relations (i.e memories, experiences and atmosphere of the area, social network and relationships, self-identity and being born in the place and/or feeling local). The third part of the questionnaire investigated identification with the city of Tirana, where the respondents were asked “Do you identify with your city?” and if yes, they were presented with the before-mentioned dimensions of identification. Responses were then recorded for further analysis. The respondents were approached randomly and answered voluntarily and anonymously. The average time of conducting a questionnaire was 5-10 minutes.

Mapping

After collecting questionnaire answers, the next portion of surveying consisted of collecting geo-spatial data of identification of the residents with both the neighborhood and the city, in order to visualize the cognitive pattern of identification. To achieve this, all 201 subjects were asked to mark down their place of residence in an aerial map of the selected neighborhood. Some of the surveyed individuals were family members or people who lived in the same house, therefore their geographical location overlapped. If the residents identified with the neighborhood and/or city through a physical element, this element was marked down on the map as well.

Then the collected data were assembled into ‘mental maps’ using the QGIS 3.30 software. The mapping process consisted of creating point-geometry layers for pre-socialist, socialist and post-socialist residents of the survey. Then, separate layers were created that consisted of the landmarks, streets and public spaces that the residents selected as elements of identification, once for the neighborhood and then the city. These physical elements were marked down as point geometries and presented in the form of a heat map, where points with a higher frequency appear darker in the map and vice versa. After creating the two scale maps for each layer, two final overall maps were created, assembling all the layer data into a single ‘mental map’ that acts as a cartographic visualization of neighborhood and city identity.

Sample

The sample of this study consists of 201 residents of the selected historical neighborhood in Tirana, 67 for each (pre-socialist, socialist, post-socialist) urban layer.

Table 1. Sample of research.

Gender		Age		Ownership		Family Members		Residence Length		Education	
201 people		201 people		201 people		201 people		201 people		201 people	
Female	109	18-24 years	45	Owner	142	1	5	<2 years	18	University	106
Male	92	25-39 years	55	Renter	59	2	45	3-5 years	23	High-School	89
		40-60 years	43			3	53	6-10 years	22	Secondary School	6
		>60 years	58			4	54	11-30 years	74		
						5	33	31-50 years	22		
						6	8	51-70 years	27		
						7	2	>70 years	15		
						7	1				

Of all the surveyed individuals, 87 of them (43.3%) are male and 114 (56.7%) are female. In terms of age, 45 of them (22.4%) are between the ages of 18-24 years old, 57 of them (28.4%) are between the ages of 25-39 years old, 41 of them (20.4%) are between the ages of 40-60 years old and 58 of them (28.9%) are older than 60 years old. Of all subjects, 8 of them (4%) live with 1 person, 42 of them (20.9%) live with 2 people, 48 of them (23.9%) live with 3 people, 57 of them (28.4%) live with 4 people, 35 of them (17.4%) live with 5 people, 8 of them (4%) live with 6 people, 2 of them (1%) live with 7 people and 1 of them (0.5%) lives with 8 people. 21 of all subjects (10.4%) have lived in their residence for less than 2 years, 31 of them (15.4%) have lived there for 3-5 years, 16 of them (8%) have lived there for 6-10 years, 68 of them (33.8%) have lived there for 11-30 years, 22 of them (10.9%) have lived there for 31-50 years, 28 of the (13.9%) have lived there for 51-70 years and 15 of them (7.5%) have lived there for more than 70 years. Of the 201 individuals, 141 of them (70.1%) are owners of their residence, while 60 (29.9%) are renters. Of them, 7 (3.5%) have a secondary school education (*arsimi i mesem i ulet*), 84 of them (41.8%) have a high-school education (*arsimi i mesem i larte*) and 110 of them (54.7%) have a high/university education (*arsim i larte*).

This sample consisted of people of different professions as well, including 4 accountants, 3 administrators, 2 agronomists, 3 architects, 3 bakers, 1 barber, 2 baristas, 3 carpenters, 7 cashiers, 1 chemist, 1 cobbler, 3 cooks, 1 dentist, 2 doctors, 3 drivers, 5 economists, 6 engineers, 1 geologist, 3 hairdressers, 2 IT technicians, 2 janitors, 3 lawyers, 3 managers, 2 mechanics, 1 merchant, 1 musician, 1 nail artist, 2 nurses, 6 operators, 1 pharmacist, 1 plumber, 2 seamstresses, 1 receptionist, 1 sales agent, 6 shop owners, 38 students, 1 tattoo artist, 9 teachers, 3 technologists, 1 vet, 3 waiters, 2 workers, 40 retired people and 14 unemployed people.

4.3.1 Layer-Based Results (Disaggregate Results)

This section explores place identity of residents of the pre-socialist, socialist and post-socialist layers on the neighborhood and city scale. Results in this chapter are presented in three sections for each layer; (i) user profile, (ii) neighborhood and city identification and (iii) mapping of identification.

4.3.1.1 Pre-Socialist Layer Results

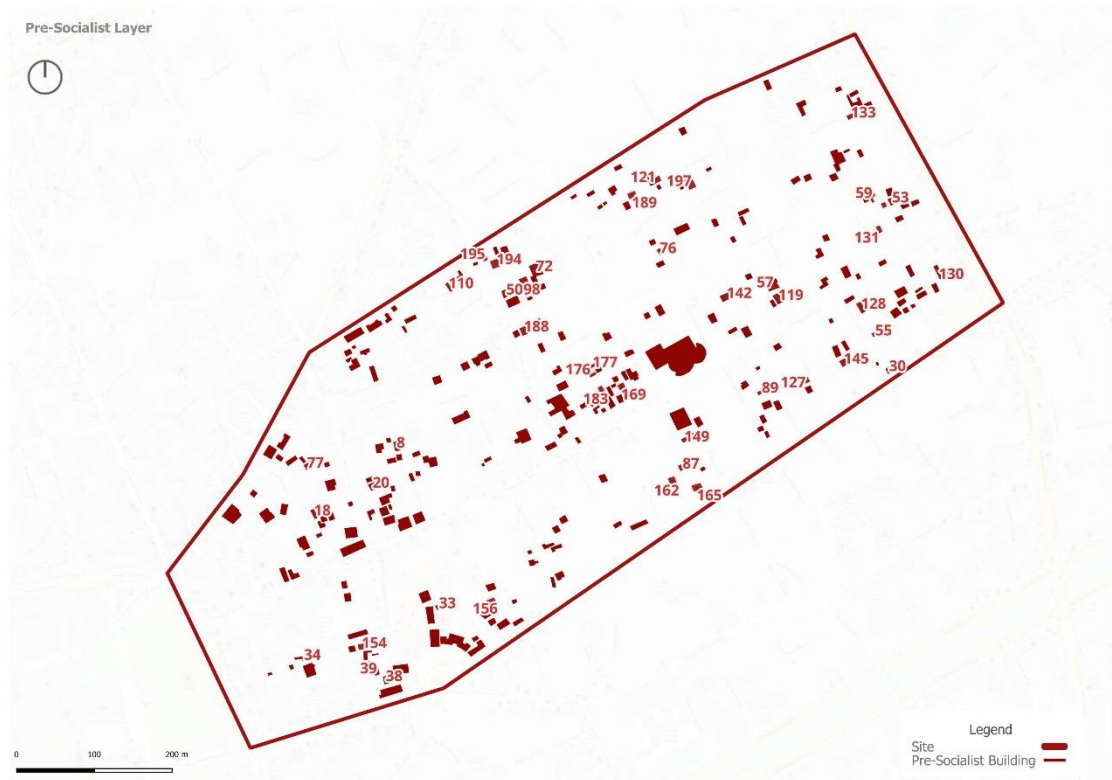


Figure 40. Map of interviewees' residences that belong to the pre-socialist urban layer in the study neighborhood.

(i) Pre-Socialist User Profile

A total of 67 people lived in a pre-socialist residence in the selected neighborhood.

Table 2. Pre-socialist layer: Demographic Variables.

Gender		Age		Ownership		Family Members		Residence Length		Education	
67 people		67 people		67 people		67 people		67 people		67 people	
Female	30	18-24 years	6	Owner	64	1	1	<2 years	1	University	21
Male	37	25-39 years	9	Renter	3	2	13	3-5 years	3	High-School	43
		40-60 years	15			3	18	6-10 years	1	Secondary School	3
		>60 years	37			4	20	11-30 years	11		
						5	8	31-50 years	13		
						6	6	51-70 years	25		
						7	1	>70 years	13		

Of the 67 surveyed individuals of the pre-socialist layer, 64 of them (95.5%) are owners of their residence, while 3 of them (4.5%) are renters. 37 of them (55.2%) are men, while 30 of them (44.8%) are women. 3 of them (4.5%) have a middle-school education, 43 of them (64.2%) have a high-school education and 21 of them (31.3%) have a higher (university) education. Of the individuals, 6 of them (9%) are between the ages of 18 to 24 years old, 9 of them (13.4%) are between the ages of 25 to 39 years old, 15 of them (22.4%) are between the ages of 40 to 60 years old and 37 of them (55.2%) are older than 60 years of age.

Of the individuals, 1 of them (1.5%) has 1 family member, 13 (19.4%) have 2 family members, 18 (26.9%) have 3 family members, 20 (29.9%) have 4 family members, 8 (11.9%) have 5 family members, 6 (9%) have 6 family members and 1 (1.5%) has 7 family members. Of the surveyed individuals, 1 (1.5%) has lived less than 2 years in their city, 3 (4.5%) have lived there for 3 to 5 years, 1 (1.5%) has lived there for 6-10 years, 11 (16.4%) have lived there 11 to 30 years, 14 (19.4%) have lived there 31 to 50 years, 24 (37.4%) have lived there 51 to 70 years and 13 (19.4%) have lived there more than 70 years.

(ii) Pre-Socialist Neighborhood and City Identification

Table 3. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Yes	63	94%
No	4	6%

Of the 67 surveyed individuals of the pre-socialist layer, 63 (94%) of them identify with the neighborhood while 4 (6%) of them do not identify with it.

Table 4. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Physical Elements.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Physical Elements		
Landmark	15	22.4%
House	53	79.1%
Street	25	37.3%
Public Space	5	7.5%

Of the 63 people who identify with the neighborhood, 15 (22.4%) identify with it through at least one landmark as a physical element of identification, 53 (79.1%) identify with it through their house, 25 (37.3%) identify with it through at least one street and 5 (7.5%) identify with it through at least one public space.

Identification with Neighborhood - Physical Elements

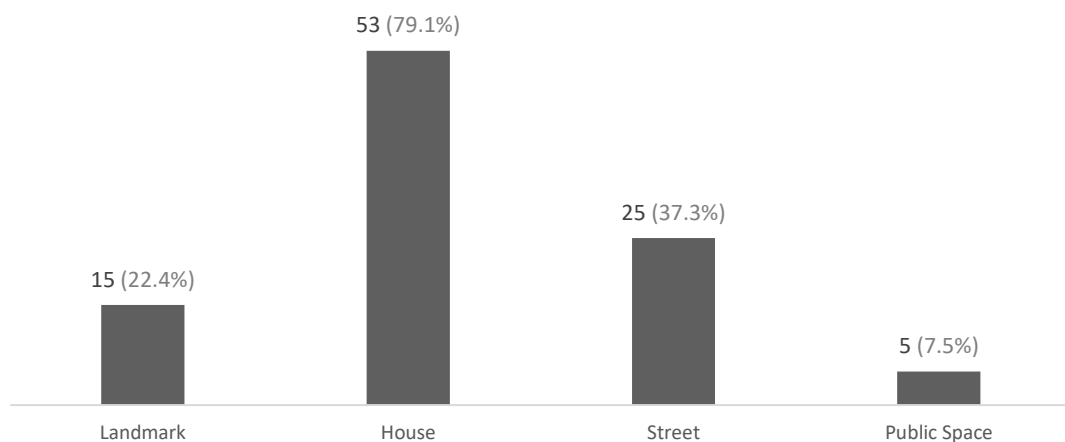


Table 5. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Landmarks.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
Landmarks	Number	(%) of 67
Pazari i Ri	15	22.4%

All (22.4%) of the 15 individuals who identify with their neighborhood through a landmark, chose 'Pazari i Ri' as a landmark of identification.

Table 6. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Streets.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
Streets	Number	(%) of 67
Rr. 'Qemal Stafa'	10	14.9%
Rr. 'e Dibres'	7	10.4%
Rr. 'Hoxha Tahsim'	3	4.5%
Rr. '4 Deshmoret'	1	1.5%
Rr. 'Bardhyl'	1	1.5%
Rr. e 'Barrikadave'	1	1.5%
Rr. 'Gjon Buzuku'	1	1.5%
Rr. 'e Kavajes'	1	1.5%
Rr. 'Luigj Gurakuqi'	1	1.5%
Rr. Qypriylinjte	1	1.5%

Of the 25 individuals who identify with their neighborhood through a street, 10 of them (14.9%) chose Rr. 'Qemal Stafa', 7 of them (10.4%) chose Rr. 'e Dibres', 3 of them (4.5%) chose Rr. 'Hoxha Tahsim', 1 of them (1.5%) chose Rr. 'Gjon Buzuku', 1 of them (1.5%) chose Rr. 'Qypriylinjte', 1 of them (1.5%) chose Rr. '4 Deshmoret', 1 of them (1.5%) chose Rr. 'Bardhyl', 1 of them (1.5%) chose Rr. 'e Barrikadave', 1 of them (1.5%) chose Rr. 'e Kavajes', 1 of them (1.5%) chose Rr. 'Luigj Gurakuqi'.

Table 7. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Public Spaces.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
Public Spaces	Number	(%) of 67
Sheshi 'Avni Rustemi'	2	3%
Sheshi 'Skenderbej'	1	1.5%
Sheshi 'Selvia'	2	3%

Of the 5 individuals who identify with their neighborhood through a public space, 2 of them (3%) chose Sheshi ‘Avni Rustemi’ as an element of identification, 2 of them (3%) chose ‘Sheshi Selvia’ and 1 (1.5%) chose ‘Sheshi Skenderbej’.

Table 8. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Identificatory Relations.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Memories	33	49.3%
Experiences	24	35.8%
Socialization	44	65.7%
Self-Identity	38	56.7%

Of the 63 people who identify with the neighborhood, 33 of them (49.3%) identify with through their memories, 24 of them (35.8%) through their experiences, 44 of them (65.7%) through socialization and 38 of them (56.7%) through self-identity.

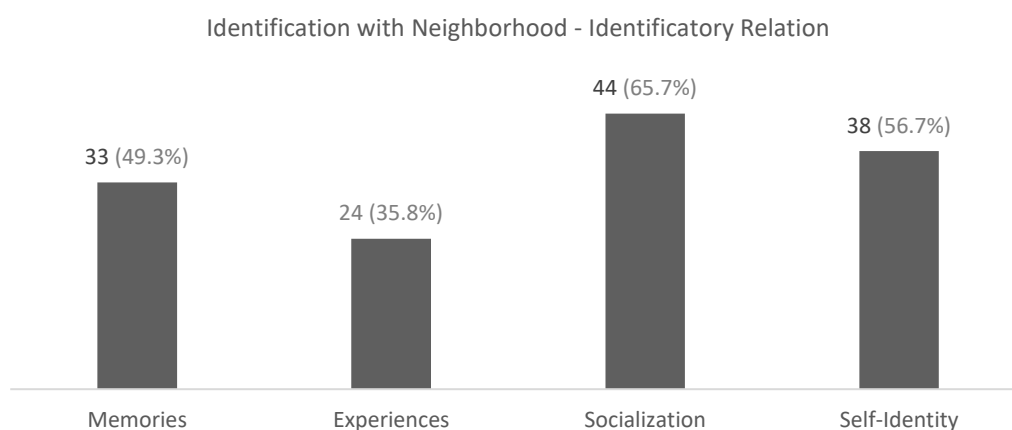


Table 9. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Memories.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Memories		
‘fun childhood’	2	3%
‘fun memories’	1	1.5%
‘good childhood’	5	7.5%
‘good memories’	10	14.9%
‘joyful memories’	12	17.9%
‘good life’	3	4.5%
‘eventful life’	3	4.5%

Of the 33 people who identify with the neighborhood through their memories, 12 of them (17.9%) stated having ‘joyful memories’ as an element of identification, 10 (14.9%) stated having ‘good memories’, 5 (7.5%) stated having a ‘good childhood’, 3 (4.5%) stated having a ‘good life’, 3 (4.5%) stated having an ‘eventful life, 2 (3%) stated having a ‘fun childhood, and 1 (1.5%) stated having ‘fun memories’.

Table 10. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Experiences.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Experiences		
‘accessible neighborhood’	1	1.5%
‘quiet neighborhood’	16	23.8%
‘safe neighborhood’	4	5.9%
‘comfortable area to live’	1	1.5%
‘amenities’	1	1.5%
‘area with authentic identity’	4	5.9%
‘greenery’	1	1.5%
‘I love this area’	1	1.5%

Of the 24 people who identify with the neighborhood through their experiences, 16 of them (23.8%) stated that living in a ‘quiet neighborhood’ was an element of identification, 4 (5.9%) stated living in a ‘safe neighborhood’, 4 (5.9%) stated living in an ‘area with authentic identity’, 1 (1.5%) stated living in an ‘accessible neighborhood’, 1 (1.5%) stated living in a ‘comfortable area’, 1 (1.5%) chose ‘amenities’ of the place, 1 (1.5%) chose ‘greenery’ in the area, 1 (1.5%) stated ‘they loved the area’.

Table 11. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Socialization.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Socialization		
'kind people'	15	22.4%
'calm people'	2	3%
'welcoming people'	1	1.5%
'good neighbors'	2	3%
'friendly neighbors'	2	3%
'my family live here'	2	3%
'my family live with me'	18	26.9%
'my friends live here'	1	1.5%
'my partner lives with me'	2	3%
'my relatives live with me'	1	1.5%

Of the 44 people who identify with the neighborhood through socialization, 18 of them (26.9%) stated that their 'family lived with them' as an element that led to their identification, 15 of them (22.4%) stated living near 'kind people', 2 (3%) stated living near 'calm people', 2 (3%) stated living near 'good people', 2 (3%) stated living near 'friendly neighbors', 2 (3%) stated that their 'family lived there', 2 (3%) stated that 'their partner lived with them', 1 (1.5%) stated living near 'welcoming people', 1 (1.5%) stated that their 'friends lived there', 1 (1.5%) stated that their 'relatives lived with them'.

Table 12. Pre-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Self-Identity.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Self-Identity		
'born here'	25	37.3%
'feeling a local'	9	13.4%
'feeling part of this area'	1	1.5%
'I belong'	1	1.6%
'lived here for a long time'	3	4.5%

Of the 38 people who identify with the neighborhood through their self-identity, 25 of them (37.3%) stated that being 'born here' was an element of identification. 9 (13.4%) stated 'feeling like a local', 3 (4.5%) stated 'lived there for a long time', 1 (1.5%) stated feeling 'part of the area' and 1 (1.5%) stated they 'belonged'.

Table 13. Pre-socialist layer identification with city.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Yes	63	94%
No	4	6%

Of the 67 surveyed individuals of the pre-socialist layer, 63 of them (94%) identify with the city while 4 of them (6%) do not identify with it.

Table 14. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Physical Elements.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Physical Elements		
Landmark	11	16.4%
House	11	16.4%
Street	31	46.3%
Public Space	33	49.3%
Other	3	4.5%

Of the 63 people who identify with the city, 11 of them (16.4%) identify with it through at least one landmark as a physical element of identification, 11 (16.4%) identify with it through their house, 31 of them (46.3%) identify with it through at least one street, 33 of them (49.3%) identify with it through at least one public space and 3 of them (4.5%) identify with it through another element of identification (neighborhood/area).

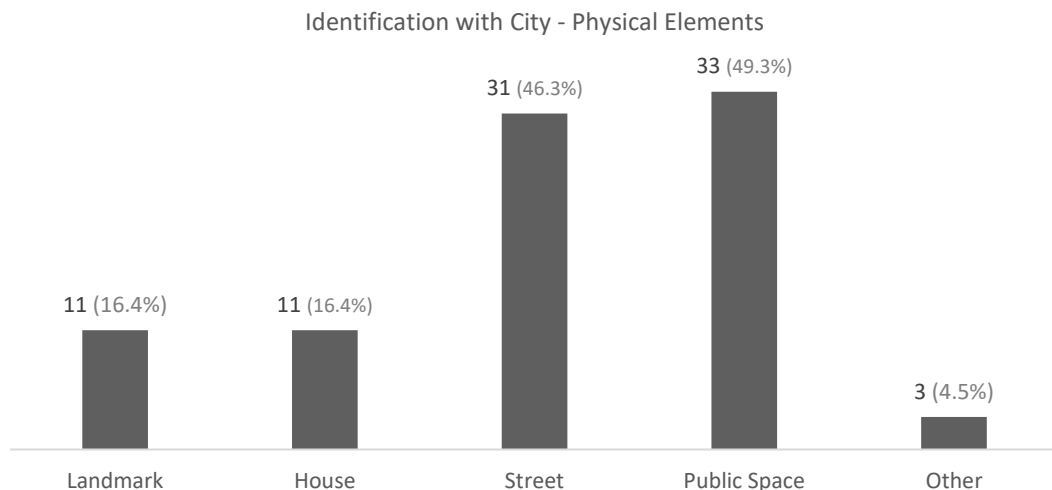


Table 15. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Landmarks.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Landmarks		
Pazari i Ri	3	4.5%
Kompleksi ‘Tajvani’	2	3%
Kalaja e Tiranes	1	1.5%
Kafe ‘Flora’	1	1.5%
Pallati i Kultures	1	1.5%
Piramida	1	1.5%
Stadiumi ‘Selman Stermasi’	1	1.5%
Xhamia Et’hem Bej	1	1.5%

Of the 11 individuals who identify with their city through a landmark, 3 of them (4.5%) chose ‘Pazari I Ri’ as a landmark of identification, 2 (3%) chose Tajvani, 1 (1.5%) chose Kafe Flora, 1 (1.5%) chose Kalaja e Tiranes, 1 (1.5%) chose Pallati I Kultures, 1 (1.5%) chose Piramida, 1 (1.5%) chose Stadiumi ‘Selman Stermasi’, 1 (1.5%) chose Xhamia Et’hem Bej.

Table 16. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Streets.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Streets		
Rr. ‘e Kavajes’	8	11.9%
Rr. ‘e Dibres’	6	9%
Rr. ‘e Duresit’	6	9%
Rr. ‘Qemal Stafa’	5	7.5%
Blvd. ‘Zogu I’	3	4.5%
Blvd. ‘Deshmoret e Kombit’	2	3%
Pedonalja e Tiranes	2	3%
Rr. ‘Myslym Shyri’	2	3%
Blvd. ‘Gjergj Fishta’	1	1.5%
Rr. ‘Ali Demi’	1	1.5%
Rr. ‘Asim Vokshi’	1	1.5%
Rr. ‘Hoxha Tahsim’	1	1.5%

Of the 31 individuals who identify with their city through a street, 8 of them (11.9%) chose Rr. ‘e Kavajes’, 6 of them (9%) chose Rr. ‘e Duresit’, 6 of them (9%) chose Rr. ‘e Dibres’, 5 of them (7.5%) chose Rr. ‘Qemal Stafa’, 3 of them (4.5%) chose Blvd.

‘Zogu I’, 2 of them (3%) chose Blvd. ‘Deshmoret e Kombit’, 2 of them (3%) chose ‘Pedonalja e Tiranes’, 2 of them (3%) chose Rr. ‘Myslym Shyri’, 1 of them (1.5%) chose Blvd. ‘Gjergj Fishta’, 1 of them (1.5%) chose Rr. ‘Ali Demi’, 1 of them (1.5%) chose Rr. ‘Asim Vokshi’, 1 of them (1.5%) chose Rr. ‘Hoxha Tahsim’.

Table 17. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Public Spaces.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Public Spaces		
Sheshi ‘Skenderbej’	20	29.9%
Sheshi ‘Selvia’	1	1.5%
Parku ‘Rinia’	14	20.9%
Liqeni Artificial i Tiranes	9	13.4%
Parku Kombetar I Dajtit	1	1.5%
Parku Zoologjik	1	1.5%
Sheshi Shtraus	1	1.5%

Of the 33 individuals who identify with their city through a public space, 20 of them (29.9%) chose Sheshi Skenderbej as an element of identification, 14 of them (20.9%) chose Parku Rinia, 9 of them (13.4%) chose Liqeni Artificial I Tiranes, 1 of them (1.5%) chose Dajti, 1 of them (1.5%) chose Parku Zoologjik, 1 of them (1.5%) chose Sheshi Shtraus and 1 (1.5%) chose Sheshi Selvia.

Table 18. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Other.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Other		
‘Stacioni i Trenit’	2	3%
‘Blloku’	1	1.5%

Of the 3 people who selected other, which in this study refers to a neighborhood or area in the city, 2 of them (3%) chose Stacioni I Trenit and 1 (1.5%) chose Blloku as an element of identification.

Table 19. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Identificatory Relations.

Identification with City	People	
Identificatory Relations	Number	(%) of 67
Memories	34	50.7%
Experiences	31	46.3%
Socialization	43	64.2%
Self-Identity	52	77.6%

Of the 63 people who identify with the city, 52 of them (77.6%) identify with through their self-identity, 43 of them (64.2%) through their socialization, 34 of them (50.7%) through their memories and 31 of them (46.3%) through their experiences there

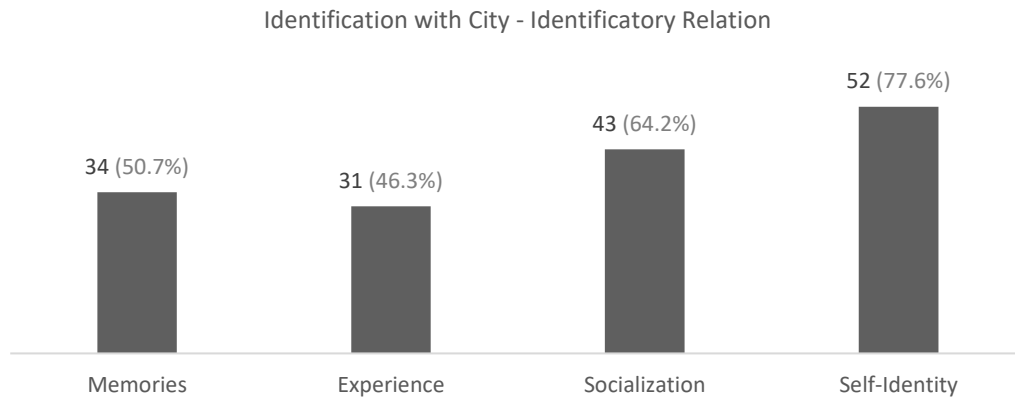


Table 20. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Memories.

Identification with City	People	
Memories	Number	(%) of 67
'good childhood memories'	2	3%
'fun memories'	1	1.5%
'good childhood'	5	7.5%
'good memories'	10	14.9%
'joyful memories'	12	17.9%
'good life'	3	4.5%
'eventful life'	3	4.5%

Of the 33 people who identify with the city through memories, 12 (17.9%) stated having 'joyful memories' as an element of identification, 10 (14.9%) stated having 'good memories', 5 (7.5%) stated having a 'good childhood', 3 (4.5%) stated having a 'good life', 3 (4.5%) stated having an 'eventful life, 2 (3%) stated having a 'fun childhood, and 1 (1.5 %) stated having 'fun memories'.

Table 21. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Experiences.

Identification with City Experiences	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
'many things to do and see'	1	1.5%
'opportunities for education and career'	2	3%
'active lifestyle'	5	7.5%
'urban lifestyle'	2	3%
'lively city'	5	7.5%
'city with history'	2	3%
'youthful city'	3	4.5%
'I like everything about Tirana'	5	7.5%
'I like the atmosphere'	2	3%
'parks'	2	3%
'weather'	1	1.5%

Of the 31 people who identify with the city through experiences, 5 (7.5%) stated an 'active lifestyle' led to their identification, 5 (7.5%) stating living in a 'lively city', 5 (7.5%) stated they 'like everything about Tirana', 3 (4.5 %) stated Tirana being a 'youthful city', 2 (3%) stated that 'opportunities for education and career' helped identify them with the city, 2 (3%) stated they liked their 'urban lifestyle', 2 (3%) stated Tirana being a 'city with history', 2 (3%) stated they 'liked the atmosphere of the city', 2 (3%) stated they liked 'the parks', 1 (1.5%) stated there are 'many things to do and see' in the city and 1 (1.5%) stated the 'weather' helped them identify with the city.

Table 22. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Socialization.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Socialization		
'activities and events'	4	5.9%
'kind people'	4	5.9%
'energetic people'	1	1.5%
'young people'	2	3%
'unique people'	1	1.5%
'hardworking people'	1	1.5%
'friendly people'	2	3%
'my family live here'	16	23.9%
'my family live with me'	7	10.5%
'my friends live here'	15	22.4%
'my partner lives here'	1	1.5%
'my relatives live with me'	1	1.5%

Of the 43 people who identify with the city through socialization, 16 (23.9%) stated that their 'family lived there' as an element that led to their identification, 15 (22.4%) stated that 'friends lived there', 7 (10.5%) stated their 'family lived with them', 4 (4.9%) stated that 'activities and events' in the city helped them identify, 4 (4.9%) stated Tirana having 'kind people', 2 (3%) stated Tirana having 'young people', 2 (3%) stated Tirana having 'friendly people', 1 (1.5%) stated Tirana having 'energetic people', 1 (1.5%) stated Tirana having 'unique people', 1 (1.5%) stated Tirana having 'hardworking people', 1 (1.5%) stated that their 'partner lived there' and 1 (1.5%) stated their 'relatives lived with them'.

Table 23. Pre-socialist layer identification with city: Self-Identity.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Self-Identity		
'born here'	34	50.7%
'feeling a local'	9	13.4%
'lived here all my life'	1	1.5%
'lived here for a long time'	7	10.4%

Of the 52 people who identify with the city through their self-identity, 34 (50.7%) stated that being 'born here' was an element of identification. 9 (13.4%) stated 'feeling like a local', 7 (10.4%) stated 'lived there for a long time', 1 (1.5%) stated 'lived there all my life'.

4.3.1.1 (iii) Pre-Socialist Layer Mapping Results

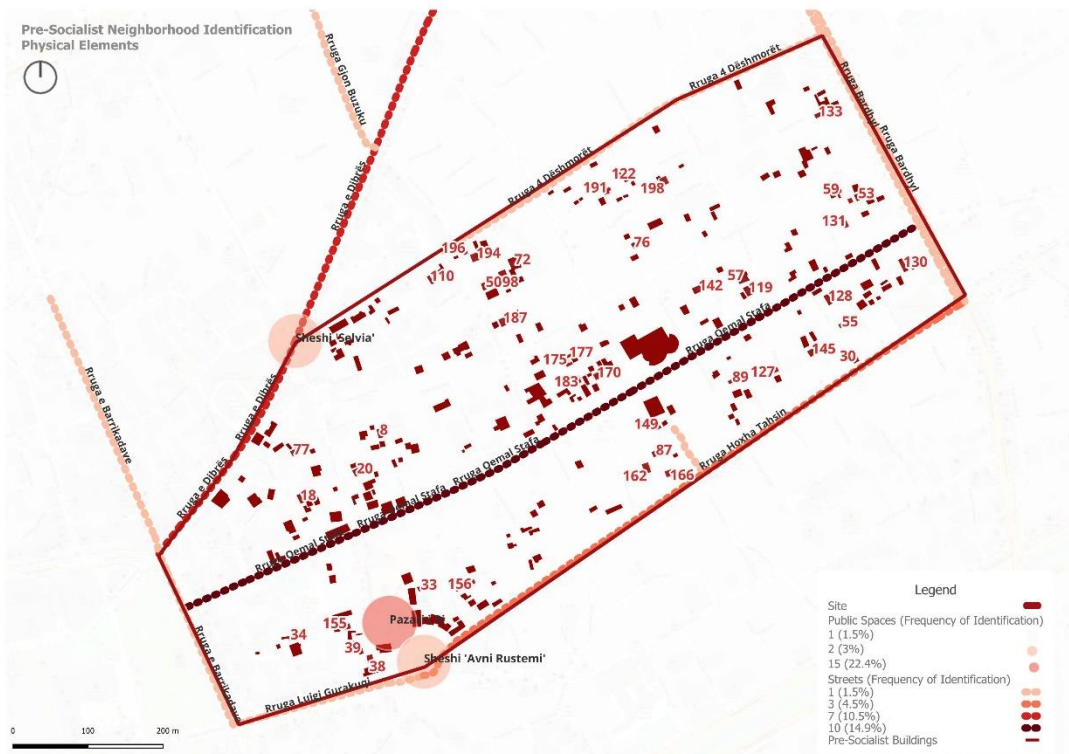


Figure 41. Map of residents of the pre-socialist urban layer and their identification with physical elements of the neighborhood.

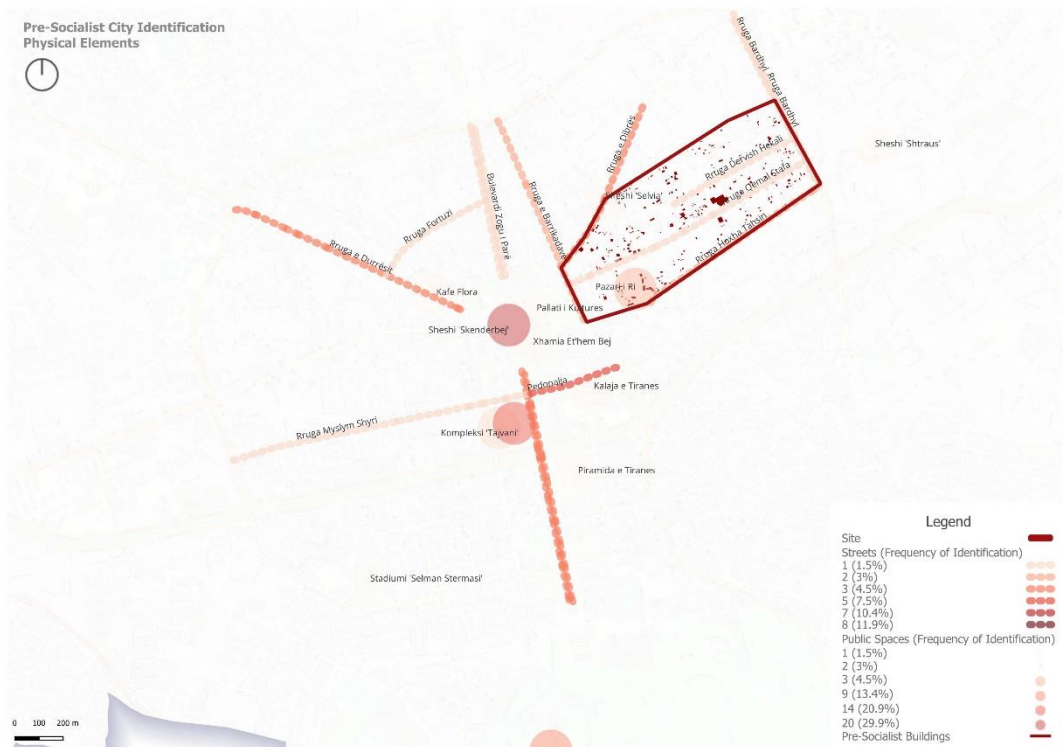


Figure 42. Map of residents of the pre-socialist urban layer and their identification with physical elements of the city.

4.3.1.2 Socialist Layer Results



Figure 43. Map of interviewees' residences that belong to the socialist urban layer in the study neighborhood.

(i) Socialist User Profile

A total of 67 people lived in a socialist residence in the selected neighborhood.

Table 24. Socialist layer: Demographic variables.

Gender		Age		Ownership		Family Members		Residence Length		Education	
67 people		67 people		67 people		67 people		67 people		67 people	
Female	42	18-24 years	20	Owner	40	1	1	<2 years	8	University	41
Male	25	25-39 years	21	Renter	27	2	14	3-5 years	8	High-School	24
		40-60 years	14			3	16	6-10 years	7	Secondary School	2
		>60 years	12			4	20	11-30 years	32		
						5	15	31-50 years	8		
						6	1	51-70 years	3		
								>70 years	1		

Of the 67 surveyed individuals of the socialist layer, 40 of them (59.7%) are owners of their residence, while 27 of them (40.3%) are renters. 25 of them (37.3%) are men, while 42 of them (62.7%) are women. 2 of them (3%) have a middle-school education, 24 of them (35.8%) have a high-school education and 41 of them (61.2%) have a higher (university) education. 20 of them (29.9%) are between the ages of 18 to 24 years old, 21 of them (31.3%) are between the ages of 25 to 39 years old, 14 of them (20.9%) are between the ages of 40 to 60 years old and 12 of them (17.9%) are older than 60 years of age.

Of the surveyed individuals, 1 of them (1.5%) has 1 family member, 14 of them (20.9%) have 2 family members, 16 of them (23.9%) have 3 family members, 20 of them (29.9%) have 4 family members, 15 of them (22.4%) have 5 family members, 1 of them (1.5%) has 6 family members. Of the surveyed individuals, 8 of them (11.9%) have lived less than 2 years in their neighborhood and of them, 8 of them (11.9%) have lived there for 3 to 5 years, 7 of them (10.4%) have lived there for 6 to 10 years, 32 of them (47.8%) have lived there 11 to 30 years, 8 of them (11.9%) have lived there 31 to 50 years, 3 of them (4.5%) have lived there 51 to 70 years and 1 of them (1.5%) has lived there more than 70 years.

(ii) Socialist Neighborhood and City Identification

Table 25. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Yes	57	85.1%
No	10	14.9%

Of the 67 surveyed individuals of the socialist layer, 57 (85.1%) of them identify with the neighborhood while 10 (14.9%) of them do not identify with it.

Table 26. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Physical Elements

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Physical Elements		
Landmark	19	28.4%
House	41	61.2%
Street	21	31.3%
Public Space	5	7.5%
Other	0	0

Of the 57 people who identify with the neighborhood, 19 of them (28.4%) identify with it through at least one landmark as a physical element of identification, 41 (61.2%) identify with it through their house, 21 of them (31.3%) identify with it through at least one street and 5 of them (7.5%) identify with it through at least one public space.

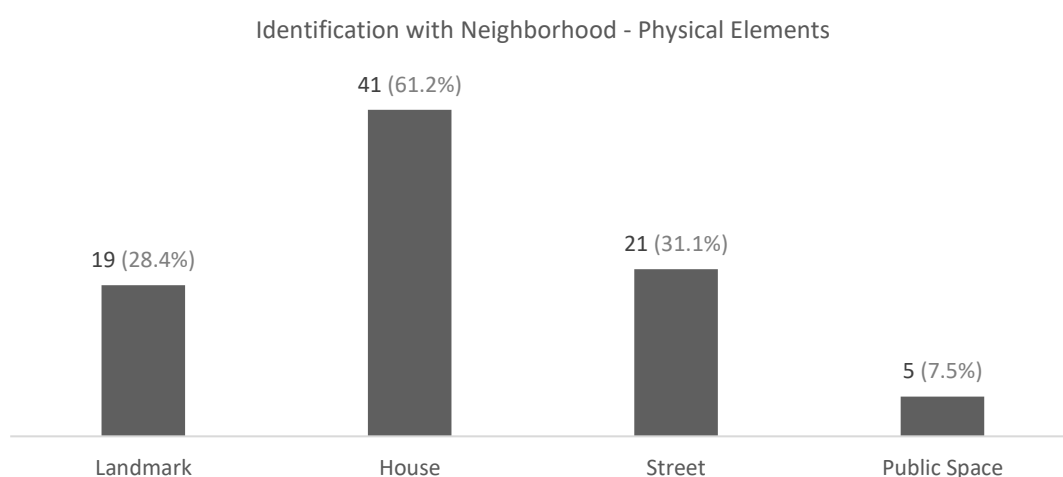


Table 27. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Landmarks.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Landmarks		
Pazari i Ri	15	22.4%
Observatori	1	1.5%
Shkolla e Kuqe	3	4.5%

Of the 19 individuals who identify with their neighborhood through a landmark, 15 (22.4%) chose 'Pazari I Ri' as a landmark of identification, 3 (4.5%) chose Shkolla e Kuqe and 1 (1.5%) chose Observatori.

Table 28. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Streets.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Streets		
Rr. 'Qemal Stafa'	5	7.5%
Rr. 'e Dibres'	5	7.5%
Rr. 'Hoxha Tahsim'	4	5.9%
Rr. '4 Deshmoret'	3	4.5%
Rr. e 'Barrikadave'	3	4.5%
Rr. 'Thanas Ziko'	2	3%
Rr. 'Riza Cerova'	1	1.5%
Rr. 'Shaban Jegeni'	1	1.5%

Of the 21 individuals who identify with their neighborhood through a street, 5 (7.5%) chose Rr. Qemal Stafa, 5 (7.5%) chose Rr. e Dibres, 4 (5.9%) chose Rr. Hoxha Tahsim, 3 (4.5%) chose Rr. 4 Deshmoret, 3 (4.5%) chose Rr. e Barrikadave, 2 (3%) chose Rr. Thanas Ziko, 1 (1.5%) chose Rr. Riza Cerova, 1 (1.5%) chose Rr. Shaban Jegeni.

Table 29. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Public Spaces.

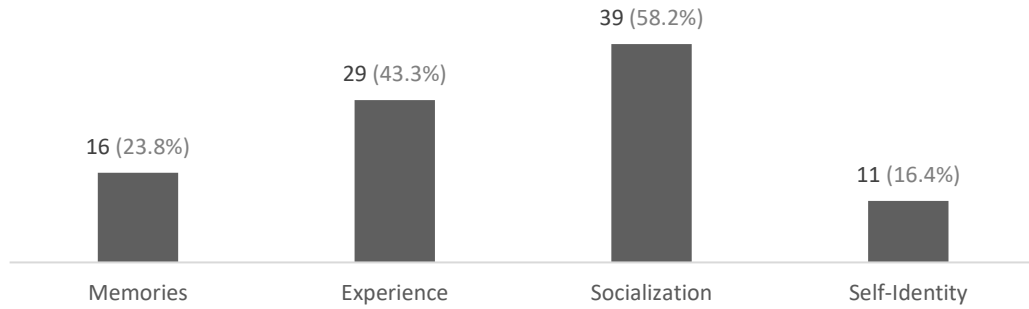
Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Public Spaces		
Parku 'Viktor Eftimiu'	1	1.5%
Sheshi 'Skenderbej'	3	4.5%
Sheshi 'Selvia'	1	1.5%

Of the 5 individuals who identify with their neighborhood through a public space, 3 (4.5%) chose Sheshi Skenderbej as an element of identification, 1 (1.5%) chose Sheshi Selvia and 1 (1.5%) chose Parku Viktor Eftimiu.

Table 30. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Identificatory Relations.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Identificatory Relations		
Memories	16	23.8%
Experiences	29	43.3%
Socialization	39	58.2%
Self-Identity	11	16.4%

Identification with Neighborhood - Identificatory Relation



Of the 57 people who identify with the neighborhood, 16 (23.8%) identify with through memories, 29 (43.3%) through experiences there, 39 of them (58.2%) through socialization and 11 of them (16.4%) through self-identity.

Table 31. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Memories.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Memories		
‘fun childhood’	2	3%
‘good childhood’	4	5.9%
‘good memories’	7	10.5%
‘joyful memories’	3	4.5%

Of the 16 people who identify with the neighborhood through memories, 7 (10.5%) stated having ‘good memories’ as an element of identification, 4 (5.9%) stated having a ‘good childhood’, 3 (4.5%) stated having ‘joyful memories’, 2 (3%) stated having a ‘fun childhood’.

Table 32. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Experiences.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Experiences		
‘accessible neighborhood’	8	11.9%
‘quiet neighborhood’	13	19.4%
‘safe neighborhood’	4	5.9%
‘comfortable area to live’	1	1.5%
‘architecture’	1	1.5%
‘area with authentic identity’	1	1.5%
‘I like the atmosphere’	4	5.9%
‘I like the ‘vibe’’	1	1.5%

Of the 29 people who identify with the neighborhood through experiences, 13 (19.4%) stated that living in a ‘quiet neighborhood’ was an element of identification, 8 (11.9%) stated living in an ‘accessible neighborhood’, 4 (5.9%) stated living in a ‘safe neighborhood’, 4 (5.9%) stated they ‘liked the atmosphere’ of the area, 1 (1.5%) stated living in a ‘comfortable area’, 1 (1.5%) stated they liked the ‘architecture’, 1 (1.5%) stated living in an ‘area with authentic identity’, 1 (1.5%) stated ‘they liked the ‘vibe’ there.

Table 33. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Socialization.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Socialization		
‘kind people’	9	13.4%
‘welcoming people’	3	4.5%
‘friendly neighbors’	2	3%
‘best friend lives with me’	3	4.5%
‘my family live here’	4	5.9%
‘my family live with me’	14	20.9%
‘my friends live here’	5	7.5%
‘my partner lives with me’	2	3%

Of the 39 people who identify with the neighborhood through socialization, 14 of them (20.9%) stated that their ‘family lived with them’ as an element that led to their identification, 9 of them (13.4%) stated living near ‘kind people’, 5 (7.5%) stated that their ‘friends lived there’, 4 (5.9%) stated that their ‘family lived there’, 3 (4.5%) stated living near ‘welcoming people’, 3 (4.5%) stated their ‘best friend lived with them’, 2 (3%) stated living near ‘friendly neighbors’, 2 (3%) stated that ‘their partner lived with them’.

Table 34. Socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Self-Identity.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Self-Identity		
‘born here’	6	9%
‘feeling a local’	1	1.5%
‘lived here for a long time’	4	5.9%

Of the 11 people who identify with the neighborhood through self-identity, 6 of them (9%) stated that being ‘born here’ was an element of identification. 1 (1.5%) stated ‘feeling like a local’, 4 (5.9%) stated ‘lived there for a long time’.

Table 35. Socialist layer identification with city.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Yes	61	91%
No	6	9%

Of the 67 surveyed individuals of the socialist layer, 61 of them (91%) identify with the city while 6 of them (9%) do not identify with it.

Table 36. Socialist layer identification with city: Physical Elements.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Physical Elements		
Landmark	16	23.9%
House	13	19.4%
Street	21	31.3%
Public Space	37	55.2%
Other	11	16.4%

Of the 61 people who identify with the city, 16 of them (23.9%) identify with it through at least one landmark as a physical element of identification, 13 (19.4%) identify with it through their house, 21 of them (31.3%) identify with it through at least one street, 37 of them (55.2%) identify with it through at least one public space and 11 of them (16.4%) identify with it through another element of identification (neighborhood/area).

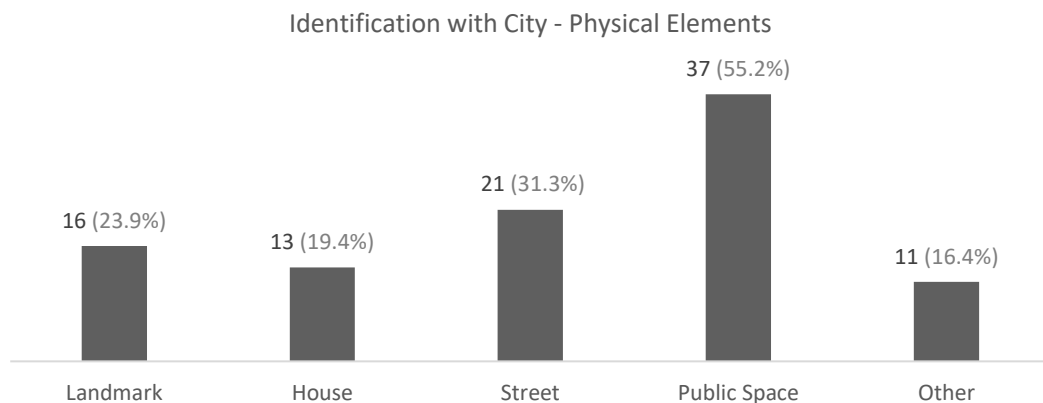


Table 37. Socialist layer identification with city: Landmarks.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Landmarks		
Pazari i Ri	8	11.9%
Kompleksi ‘Tajvani’	1	1.5%
Kalaja e Tiranës	2	3%
Kulla e Sahatit	1	1.5%
Hotel Plaza	1	1.5%
Shkolla e Kuqe	1	1.5%
Spitali ‘Nene Tereza’	2	3%
Stadiumi ‘Selman Stermasi’	1	1.5%
Vila Goldi	1	1.5%

Of the 16 individuals who identify with their city through a landmark, 8 (11.9%) chose ‘Pazari I Ri’ as a landmark of identification, 2 (3%) chose Kalaja e Tiranës, 2 (3%) chose Stadiumi ‘Selman Stermasi’, 1 (1.5%) chose Kulla e Sahatit, 1 (1.5%) chose Hotel Plaza, 1 (1.5%) chose Shkolla e Kuqe, 1 (1.5%) chose Spitali ‘Nene Tereza’, 1 (1.5%) chose Tajvani and 1 (1.5%) chose Vila Goldi.

Table 38. Socialist layer identification with city: Streets.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Streets		
Blvd. ‘Deshmoret e Kombit’	3	4.5%
Blvd. ‘Zogu I’	1	1.5%
Pedonalja e Tiranës	5	7.5%
Rr. ‘Bardhyl’	2	3%
Rr. ‘Dervish Hekali’	1	1.5%
Rr. e ‘Barrikadave’	2	3%
Rr. ‘e Dibres’	3	4.5%
Rr. ‘e Durrësit’	3	4.5%
Rr. ‘e Kavajes’	4	5.9%
Rr. ‘Hoxha Tahsim’	2	3%
Rr. ‘Myslym Shyri’	1	1.5%
Rr. ‘Qemal Stafa’	1	1.5%
Rr. ‘Fortuzi’	1	1.5%

Of the 21 individuals who identify with their city through a street, 5 (7.5%) chose 'Pedonalja e Tiranes', 4 (5.9%) chose Rr. 'e Kavajes', 3 (4.5%) chose Blvd. 'Deshmoret e Kombit', 3 (4.5%) chose Rr. 'e Dibres', 3 (4.5%) chose Rr. 'e Duresit', 2 (3%) chose Rr. 'Bardhyl', 2 (3%) chose Rr. 'e Barrikadave', 2 (3%) chose Rr. 'Hoxha Tahsim', 1 (1.5%) chose Blvd. 'Zogu I', 1 (1.5%) chose Rr. 'Dervish Hekali', 1 (1.5%) chose Rr. 'Myslym Shyri', 1 (1.5%) chose Rr. 'Qemal Stafa' and 1 (1.5%) chose Rr. 'Fortuzi'.

Table 39. Socialist layer identification with city: Public Spaces.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Public Spaces		
Sheshi 'Skenderbej'	22	32.8%
Parku 'Rinia'	1	1.5%
Liqeni Artificial i Tiranes	15	22.4%
Parku Kombetar i Dajtit	2	3%
Liqeni i Farkes	2	3%
Liqeni i Thate	1	1.5%
Parku 'Viktor Eftimiu'	1	1.5%

Of the 37 individuals who identify with their city through a public space, 22 of them (32.8%) chose Sheshi Skenderbej as an element of identification, 15 of them (22.4%) chose Liqeni Artificial I Tiranes, 2 of them (3%) chose Dajti, 2 of them (3%) chose Liqeni I Farkes, 1 of them (1.5%) chose Liqeni I Thate, 1 of them (1.5%) chose Parku Rinia and 1 chose (1.5%) Parku Viktor Eftimiu.

Table 40. Socialist layer identification with city: Other.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Other		
'Stacioni i Trenit'	1	1.5%
'Blloku'	7	10.5%
'21 Dhjetori'	1	1.5%
'Komuna e Parisit'	1	1.5%
'Zogu i Zi'	1	1.5%

Of the 11 people who selected other, which in this study refers to a neighborhood or area in the city, 7 of them (10.5%) chose Blloku, 1 (1.5%) chose 21 Dhjetori, 1 (1.5%) chose Komuna e Parisit, 1 chose (1.5%) Stacioni I Trenit and 1 (1.5%) chose Zogu I Zi as an element of identification.

Table 41. Socialist layer identification with city: Identificatory Relations.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Memories	22	32.8%
Experiences	31	46.3%
Socialization	43	64.2%
Self-Identity	31	46.3%
Other	0	0

Of the 61 people who identify with the city, 22 (32.8%) identify with through memories, 31 (46.3%) through their experiences there, 43 (64.2%) through their socialization and 31 (46.3%) through their self-identity.

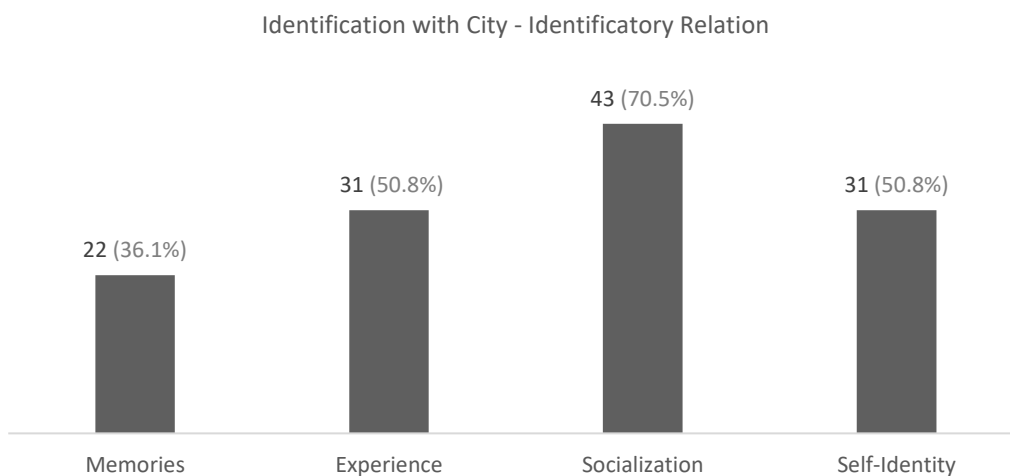


Table 42. Socialist layer identification with city: Memories.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Memories		
‘good childhood memories’	1	1.5%
‘fun memories’	2	3%
‘fun childhood’	3	4.5%
‘good memories’	15	22.4%
‘joyful memories’	1	1.5%

Of the 22 people who identify with the city through their memories, 15 (22.4%) have stated having ‘good memories’ as an element of identification, 3 (4.5%) stated having a ‘fun childhood’, 2 (3%) stated having ‘fun memories’, 1 (1.5%) stated having ‘good childhood memories’, 1 (1.5%) stated having ‘joyful memories’.

Table 43. Socialist layer identification with City: Experiences.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Experiences		
‘energetic city’	2	3%
‘lively city’	5	7.5%
‘youthful city’	1	1.5%
‘active lifestyle’	3	4.5%
‘urban lifestyle’	1	1.5%
‘comfortable area to live’	2	3%
‘amenities’	1	1.5%
‘many things to do and see’	1	1.5%
‘I like everything about Tirana’	2	3%
‘greenery and parks’	3	4.5%
‘weather and climate’	1	1.5%
‘I like the atmosphere’	7	10.5%
‘cafes’	2	3%

Of the 31 people who identify with the city through experiences, 7 (10.5%) stated they ‘like the atmosphere of Tirana’, 5 (7.5%) stated living in a ‘lively city’, 3 (4.5%) stated they liked the ‘active lifestyle’, 3 (4.5%) stated they liked the ‘greenery and parks’, 2 (3%) stated living in an ‘energetic city’, 2 (3%) stated they ‘lived a comfortable life’, 2 (3%) stated they ‘liked everything about Tirana’, 2 (3%) stated they liked ‘cafes’, 1 (1.5%) stated living in a ‘youthful city’, 1 (1.5%) stated they ‘liked the ‘city life’, 1 (1.5%) stated the city having ‘amenities’, 1 (1.5%) stated ‘many things to do and see’ in the city, 1 (1.5%) stated they ‘liked the weather and climate’.

Table 44. Socialist layer identification with City: Socialization.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Experiences		
‘activities and events’	1	1.5%
‘nice people’	2	3%
‘cool people’	1	1.5%
‘unique people’	1	1.5%
‘friendly people’	1	1.5%
‘my family live here’	15	22.4%
‘my family live with me’	11	16.4%
‘my friends live here’	20	29.9%
‘my partner lives with me’	2	3%

Of the 43 people who identify with the city through socialization, 20 of them (29.9%) stated that their ‘friends lived there’ as an element that led to their identification, 15 of them (22.4%) stated that their ‘family lived there’, 11 (16.4%) stated that ‘their family lived with them’, 2 (3%) stated Tirana having ‘nice people’, 2 (3%) stated that their ‘partner lived with them’, 1 (1.5%) stated Tirana having ‘activities and events’, 1 (1.5%) stated Tirana having ‘cool people’, 1 (1.5%) stated Tirana having ‘unique people’, 1 (1.5%) stated Tirana having ‘friendly people’.

Table 45. Socialist layer identification with City: Self-Identity.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Self-Identity		
‘born here’	16	23.9%
‘feeling a local’	4	5.9%
‘I belong’	1	1.5%
‘lived here all my life’	4	5.9%
‘lived here for a long time’	6	9%

Of the 31 people who identify with the city through their self-identity, 16 of them (23.9%) stated that being ‘born here’ was an element of identification. 4 (5.9%) stated ‘feeling like a local’, 6 (9%) stated ‘lived there for a long time’, 4 (5.9%) stated ‘lived there all my life’ and 1 (1.5%) stated they ‘belonged’.

4.3.1.3 Post-Socialist Layer Results



Figure 46. Map of interviewees' residences that belong to the post-socialist urban layer in the study neighborhood.

(i) Post-Socialist User Profile

Table 46. Post-socialist layer: Demographic variables.

Gender		Age		Ownership		Family Members		Residence Length		Education	
67 people		67 people		67 people		67 people		67 people		67 people	
Female	36	18-24 years	19	Owner	38	1	3	<2 years	9	University	43
Male	31	25-39 years	25	Renter	29	2	18	3-5 years	12	High-School	22
		40-60 years	15			3	19	6-10 years	14	Secondary School	2
		>60 years	8			4	15	11-30 years	31		
						5	9	31-50 years	1		
						6	1	51-70 years	0		
						7	1	>70 years	0		
						8	1				

Of the 67 individuals of the post-socialist layer, 38 of them (56.7%) are owners of their residence, while 29 of them (43.3%) are renters. 31 of them (46.3%) are men, while 36 of them (53.7%) are women.

Of the 67 people, 2 of them (3%) have a middle-school education, 22 of them (32.8%) have a high-school education and 43 of them (64.2%) have a higher (university) education. 19 of them (28.4%) are between the ages of 18 to 24 years old, 25 of them (37.3%) are between the ages of 25 to 39 years old, 15 of them (22.4%) are between the ages of 40 to 60 years old and 8 of them (11.9%) are older than 60 years of age. Of the surveyed individuals, 3 of them (4.5%) have 1 family member, 18 of them (26.9%) have 2 family members, 19 of them (28.4%) have 3 family members, 15 of them (22.4%) have 4 family members, 9 of them (12.4%) have 5 family members, 1 of them (1.5%) has 6 family members, 1 of them (1.5%) has 7 family members and 1 of them (1.5%) has 8 family members. Of the surveyed individuals, 9 of them (13.4%) have lived less than 2 years in their neighborhood, 12 of them (17.9%) have lived there for 3 to 5 years, 14 of them (20.9%) have lived there 6 to 10 years, 31 of them (46.3%) have lived there 11 to 30 years and 1 of them (1.5%) has lived there 31 to 50 years.

(ii) Post-Socialist Neighborhood and City Identification

Table 47. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Yes	37	55.2%
No	30	44.8%

Of the 67 surveyed individuals of the post-socialist layer, 37 (55.2%) of them identify with the neighborhood while 30 (44.8%) of them do not identify with it.

Table 48. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Physical Elements

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Physical Elements		
Landmark	3	4.5%
House	27	40.3%
Street	11	16.4%
Public Space	2	3%

Of the 37 people who identify with the neighborhood, 3 (4.5%) identify with it through at least one landmark as a physical element of identification, 27 (40.3%) identify with it through their house, 11 (16.4%) identify with it through at least one street and 2 (3%) identify with it through at least one public space.

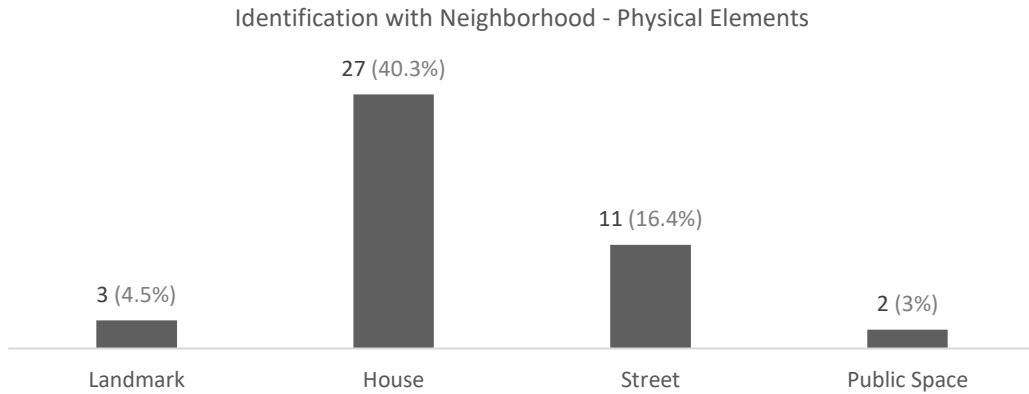


Table 49. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Landmarks.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Landmarks		
Pazari i Ri	3	4.5%

Of the 3 individuals who identify with their neighborhood through a landmark, all (4.5%) chose 'Pazari i Ri' as a landmark of identification.

Table 50. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Streets.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Streets		
Rr. 'Qemal Stafa'	4	5.9%
Rr. 'Hoxha Tahsim'	2	3%
Rr. '4 Deshmoret'	3	4.5%
Rr. 'Bardhyl'	2	3%
Rr. e 'Barrikadave'	1	1.5%
Rr. 'Ali Pashe Gucia'	1	1.5%

Of the 11 individuals who identify with their neighborhood through a street, 4 of them (5.9%) chose Rr. 'Qemal Stafa', 3 of them (4.5%) chose Rr. '4 Deshmoret', 2 of them (3%) chose Rr. 'Hoxha Tahsim', 2 of them (3%) chose Rr. 'Bardhyl', 1 of them (1.5%) chose Rr. 'e Barrikadave', 1 of them (1.5%) chose Rr. 'Ali Pashe Gucia'.

Table 51. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Public Spaces.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Public Spaces		
Parku ‘Viktor Eftimiu’	1	1.5%
Sheshi ‘Avni Rustemi’	1	1.5%

Of the 2 individuals who identify with their neighborhood through a public space, 1 (1.5%) chose Sheshi Avni Rustemi as an element of identification, 1 (1.5%) chose Parku Viktor Eftimiu.

Table 52. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Identificatory Relations.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Identificatory Relations		
Memories	10	14.9%
Experiences	14	20.9%
Socialization	21	31.3%
Self-Identity	6	9%

Of the 37 people who identify with the neighborhood, 10 (14.9%) identify with through memories, 14 (20.9%) through experiences there, 21 (31.3%) through socialization and 6 (9%) through self-identity.

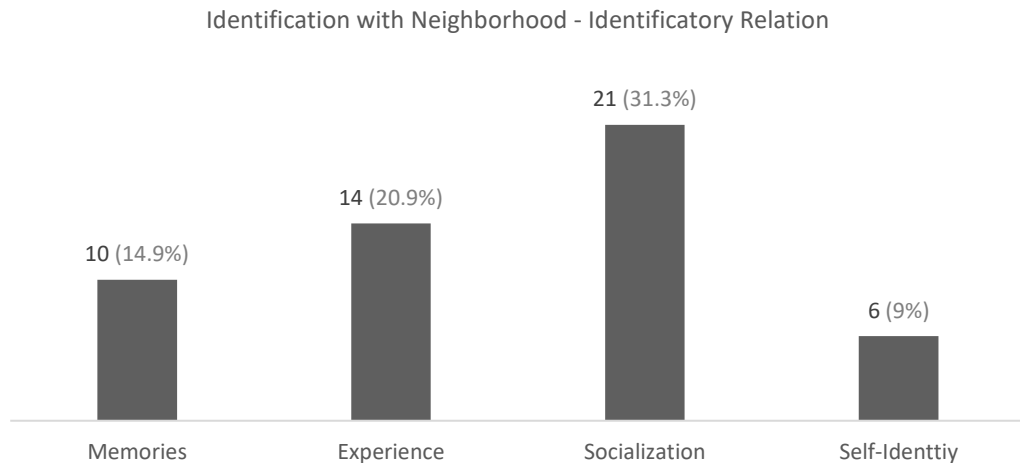


Table 53. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Memories.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Memories		
'fun childhood'	2	3%
'good childhood memories'	2	3%
'good memories'	4	5.9%
'joyful memories'	2	3%

Of the 10 people who identify with the neighborhood through their memories, 5 (5.9%) stated having 'good memories' as an element of identification, 2 (3%) stated having 'good childhood memories', 2 (3%) stated having a 'fun childhood', 2 (3%) stated having a 'joyful memories'.

Table 54. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Experiences.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Experiences		
'accessible neighborhood'	2	3%
'quiet neighborhood'	3	4.5%
'safe neighborhood'	1	1.5%
'comfortable area to live'	1	1.5%
'amenities'	2	3%
'area with authentic identity'	1	1.5%
'I like everything here'	1	1.5%
'liveliness'	1	1.5%

Of the 14 people who identify with the neighborhood through experiences, 3 (4.5%) stated living in a 'quiet neighborhood' as an element of identification, 2 (3%) stated living in an 'accessible neighborhood', 2 (3%) having 'amenities' there, 1 (1.5%) stated living in a 'safe neighborhood'. 1 (1.5%) stated living in a 'comfortable area', 1 (1.5%) stated living in an 'area with authentic identity', 1 (1.5%) stated they 'liked everything there', 1 (1.5%) stated 'liveliness' in the area helped them identify with it.

Table 55. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Socialization.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Socialization		
‘kind people’	2	3%
‘friendly people’	2	3%
‘my friends live here’	6	9%
‘my family live here’	5	5.9%
‘my family live with me’	10	14.9%
‘my relatives live with me’	1	1.5%

Of the 21 people who identify with the neighborhood through socialization, 10 (14.9%) stated that their ‘family lived with them’ as an element that led to their identification, 6 (9%) stated their ‘friends lived there’, 5 (5.9%) stated their ‘family lived there’, 2 (3%) stated living near ‘kind people’, 2 (3%) stated living near ‘friendly people’, 1 (1.5%) stated their ‘relatives lived with them’.

Table 56. Post-socialist layer identification with neighborhood: Self-Identity.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Self-Identity		
‘feeling a local’	1	1.5%
‘I am part of this area’	2	3%
‘I feel at home’	2	3%
‘lived here for a long time’	1	1.5%

Of the 6 people who identify with the neighborhood through their self-identity, 2 of them (3%) stated ‘feeling at home’ was an element of identification, 2 (3%) stated ‘they felt part of the area’, 1 (1.5%) stated ‘feeling a local’, 1 (1.5%) stated ‘living there for a long time’.

Table 57. Post-socialist layer identification with city.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Yes	45	67.2%
No	22	32.8%

Of the 67 surveyed individuals of the post-socialist layer, 45 (67.2%) identify with the city while 22 (32.8%) do not identify with it.

Table 58. Post-socialist layer identification with city: Physical Elements.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Physical Elements		
Landmark	8	11.9%
House	9	13.4%
Street	10	14.9%
Public Space	23	34.3%
Other	4	5.9%

Of the 45 people who identify with the city, 8 (11.9%) identify with it through at least one landmark as a physical element of identification, 9 (13.4%) identify with it through their house, 10 (14.9%) identify with it through at least one street, 23 (34.3%) identify with it through at least one public space and 4 (5.9%) identify with it through another element of identification (neighborhood/area).

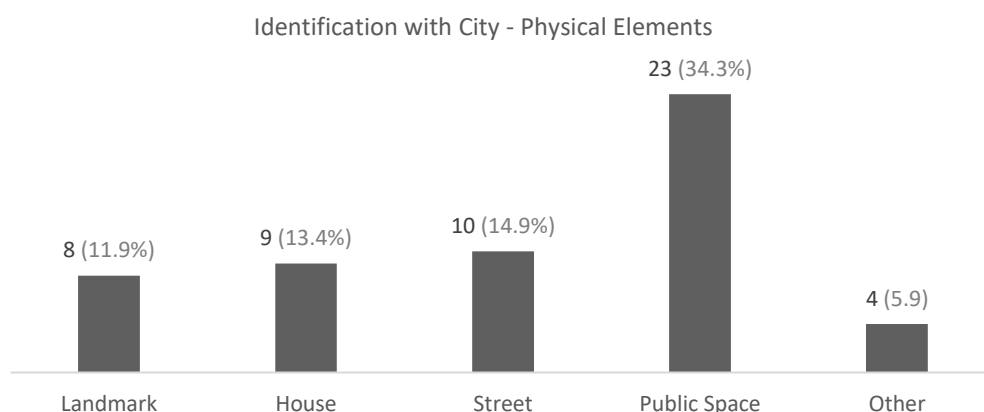


Table 59. Post-socialist layer identification with city: Landmarks.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Landmarks		
Kompleksi ‘Tajvani’	1	1.5%
Kalaja e Tiranes	4	5.9%
Kafe Flora	1	1.5%
Piramida	2	3%
Toptani Plaza	1	1.5%
Spitali ‘Nene Tereza’	1	1.5%

Of the 8 individuals who identify with their city through a landmark, 4 (5.9%) chose Kalaja e Tiranes as a landmark of identification, 2 (3%) chose Piramida, 1 (1.5%) chose Kompleksi Tajvani, 1 (1.5%) chose Kafe Flora, 1 (1.5%) chose Toptani Plaza and 1 (1.5%) chose Spitali ‘Nene Tereza’.

Table 60. Post-socialist layer identification with city: Streets.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%)
Streets		
Blvd. ‘Deshmoret e Kombit’	1	1.5%
Blvd. ‘Zogu I’	1	1.5%
Blvd. ‘Bajram Curri’	1	1.5%
Blvd. ‘Zhane D’Ark’	1	1.5%
Rr. e ‘Barrikadave’	1	1.5%
Rr. ‘e Dibres’	1	1.5%
Rr. ‘e Duresit’	2	3%
Rr. ‘e Kavajes’	3	4.5%
Rr. ‘Myslym Shyri’	1	1.5%
Rr. ‘Qemal Stafa’	1	1.5%

Of the 9 individuals who identify with their city through a street, 3 (4.5%) chose Rr. ‘e Kavajes’, 2 of them (3%) chose Rr. ‘e Duresit’, 1 (1.5 %) chose Blvd. ‘Deshmoret e Kombit’, 1 (1.5%) chose Blvd. ‘Zogu I’, 1 (1.5%) chose Blvd. ‘Bajram Curri’, 1 (1.5%) chose Blvd. ‘Zhane D’Ark’, 1 (1.5%) chose Rr. ‘e Barrikadave’, 1 (1.5%) chose Rr. ‘e Dibres’, 1 (1.5%) chose Rr. ‘Myslym Shyri’ and 1 (1.5%) chose Rr. ‘Qemal Stafa’.

Table 61. Post-socialist layer identification with city: Public Spaces.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Public Spaces		
Sheshi ‘Skenderbej’	11	16.4%
Liqeni Artificial i Tiranes	10	14.9%
Parku Kombetar i Dajtit	2	3%
Sheshi ‘Nene Tereza’	2	3%

Of the 23 individuals who identify with their city through a public space, 11 (16.4%) chose Sheshi Skenderbej as an element of identification, 10 (14.9%) chose Liqeni Artificial I Tiranes, 2 (3%) chose Parku Kombetar i Dajtit, 2 (3%) chose Sheshi Nene Tereza.

Table 62. Post-socialist layer identification with city: Other.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Other		
‘Blloku’	4	5.9%

Of the 4 people who selected other, which in this study refers to a neighborhood or area in the city, all of them (5.9%) chose Blloku as an element of identification.

Table 63. Post-socialist layer identification with city: Identificatory Relations.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Identificatory Relations		
Memories	13	19.4%
Experiences	27	40.3%
Socialization	31	46.3%
Self-Identity	20	29.9%

Of the 45 people who identify with the city, 13 (19.4%) identify with through self-identity, 27 (40.3%) through socialization, 31 (46.3%) through memories and 20 (29.9%) through experiences there.

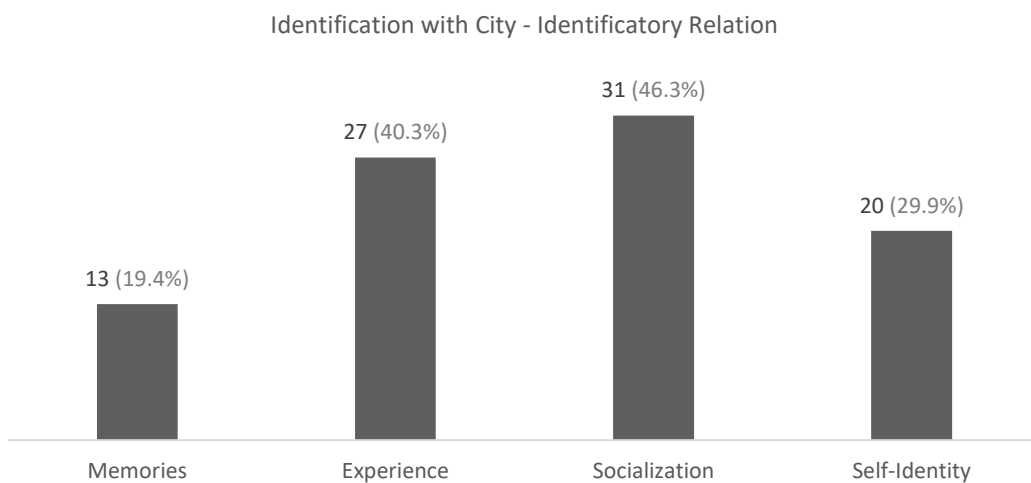


Table 64. Post-socialist layer identification with city: Memories.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Memories		
‘good childhood memories’	3	4.5%
‘fun memories’	1	1.5%
‘fun childhood’	1	1.5%
‘good memories’	6	9%
‘joyful childhood’	1	1.5%
‘important life events here’	1	1.5%

Of the 13 people who identify with the city through their memories, 6 (9%) stated having ‘good memories’ as an element of identification, 3 (4.5%) stated having ‘good childhood memories’, 1 (1.5%) stated having a ‘joyful childhood’, 1 (1.5%) stated having a ‘fun childhood’, 1 (1.5%) stated having ‘fun memories’, 1 (1.5%) stated that ‘important life events happened there’.

Table 65. Post-socialist layer identification with City: Experiences.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Experiences		
‘energetic city’	2	3%
‘lively city’	4	5.9%
‘youthful city’	5	7.5%
‘active lifestyle’	1	1.5%
‘urban lifestyle’	4	5.9%
‘I like the atmosphere’	3	4.5%
‘many things to do and see’	2	3%
‘bars and cafes’	1	1.5%
‘I like everything about Tirana’	1	1.5%
‘I enjoy life here’	1	1.5%

Of the 27 people who identify with the city through experiences, 5 (7.5%) stated they lived in a ‘youthful city’ as an element of identification, 4 (5.9%) stated they lived in a ‘lively city’, 4 (5.9%) stated they ‘liked the urban lifestyle’, 3 (4.5%) stated they ‘liked the atmosphere of the city’, 2 (3%) stated living in an ‘energetic city’, 2 (3%) stated there were ‘many things to do and see in the city’, 1 (1.5%) stated they liked the ‘active lifestyle’, 1 (1.5%) stated they liked the ‘bars and cafes’, 1 (1.5%) stated they ‘liked everything about the city’, 1 (1.5%) stated they ‘enjoyed their life there’.

Table 66. Post-socialist layer identification with City: Socialization.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Socialization		
‘activities and events’	6	9%
‘modern people’	1	1.5%
‘my family live here’	1	1.5%
‘my family live with me’	9	13.4%
‘my friends live here’	6	9%
‘my friend lives with me’	1	1.5%

Of the 31 people who identify with the city through socialization, 9 of them (13.4%) stated their ‘family lived with them’ as an element that led to their identification, 6 (9%) stated ‘activities and events’ led to their identification, 6 (9%) stated their ‘friends live there’, 1 (1.5%) stated there are ‘modern people’ in the city, 1 (1.5%) stated their ‘family live there’ and 1 (1.5%) stated their ‘friend lives with them’.

Table 67. Post-socialist layer identification with City: Self-Identity.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 67
Self-Identity		
‘born here’	9	13.4%
‘feeling a local’	2	3%
‘lived here all my life’	1	1.5%
‘lived here for a long time’	8	11.9%

Of the 20 people who identify with the city through their self-identity, 9 of them (13.4%) stated that being ‘born here’ was an element of identification. 8 (11.9%) stated ‘they had lived there for a long time’, 2 (3%) stated ‘feeling a local’, 1 (1.5%) stated ‘lived here all my life’.

4.3.2 Overall Results (Aggregate Results)

The following section is an analysis of the overall results of the surveying of the 201 residents of pre-socialist, socialist and post-socialist layers. This section is organized in two headings; (i) overall neighborhood and city identification and (ii) overall mapping.

(i) Overall Neighborhood and City Identification

Table 68. Overall identification with neighborhood.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Yes	157	78.1%
No	44	21.9%

Of the 201 surveyed individuals, 157 (78.1%) identify with the neighborhood while 44 (21.9%) do not.

Table 69. Overall identification with neighborhood: Physical Elements

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Physical Elements		
Landmark	37	18.4%
House	120	59.7%
Street	57	28.4%
Public Space	12	6%

Of the 178 people who identify with the neighborhood, 50 of them (18.8%) identify with it through at least one landmark as a physical element of identification, 132 (49.6%) identify with it through their house, 69 of them (25.9%) identify with it through at least one street, 14 of them (5.3%) identify with it through at least one public space and 1 of them (0.4%) identifies with through an ‘other’ element.

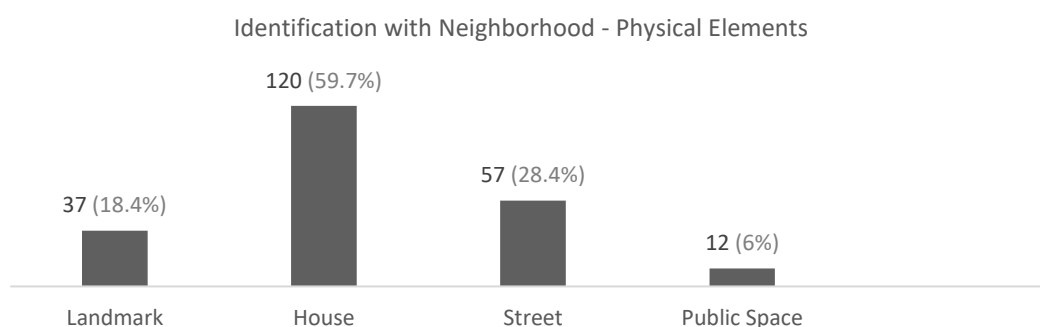


Table 70. Overall identification with neighborhood: Landmarks.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Landmarks		
Pazari i Ri	33	16.4%
Observatori	1	0.5%
Shkolla e Kuqe	3	1.5%

Of the 37 individuals who identify with their city through a landmark, 33 (16.4%) chose Pazari I Ri as a landmark of identification, 3 (1.5%) chose Shkolla e Kuqe, 1 (0.5%) chose Observatori.

Table 71. Overall identification with neighborhood: Streets.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Streets		
Rr. 'e Dibres'	12	6%
Rr. 'Bardhyl'	3	1.5%
Rr. 'Gjon Buzuku'	1	0.5%
Rr. 'Ali Pashe Gucia'	1	0.5%
Rr. 'Riza Cerova'	1	0.5%
Rr. 'Qyprylinjte'	1	0.5%
Rr. 'Qemal Stafa'	18	9%
Rr. 'Thanas Ziko'	2	1%
Rr. 'Shaban Jegeni'	1	0.5%
Rr. '4 Deshmoret'	7	3.5%
Rr. e 'Barrikadave'	5	2.5%
Rr. 'Hoxha Tahsim'	10	5%
Rr. 'e Kavajes'	1	0.5%
Rr. 'Luigj Gurakuqi'	1	0.5%

Of the 120 individuals who identify with their city through a street, 18 (9%) chose Rr. 'Qemal Stafa', 12 (6%) chose Rr. 'e Dibres', 10 (5%) chose Rr. 'Hoxha Tahsim', 7 (3.5%) chose Rruga '4 Deshmoret', 5 (2.5%) chose Rr. 'e Barrikadave', 3 (1.5%) chose Rr. 'Bardhyl', 2 (1%) chose Rr. 'Thanas Ziko', 1 (0.5%) chose Rr. 'Gjon Buzuku', 1 (0.5%) chose Rr. 'Ali Pashe Gucia', 1 (0.5%) chose Rr. 'Riza Cerova', 1 (0.5%) chose Rr. 'Qyprylinjte', 1 (0.5%) chose Rr. 'Shaban Jegeni', 1 (0.5%) chose Rr. 'e Kavajes' and 1 chose (0.5%) Rr. 'Luigj Gurakuqi'.

Table 72. Overall identification with neighborhood: Public Spaces.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Landmarks		
Sheshi ‘Skenderbej’	4	2%
Sheshi ‘Selvia’	3	1.5%
Sheshi ‘Avni Rustemi’	3	1.5%
Parku ‘Viktor Eftimiu’	2	1%

Of the 57 individuals who identify with their city through a public space, 4 (2%) chose Sheshi Skenderbej as an element of identification, 3 (1.5%) chose Sheshi Avni Rustemi, 3 (1.5%) chose Sheshi Selvia, 2 (1%) chose Parku Viktor Eftimiu.

Table 73. Overall identification with neighborhood: Identificatory Relations.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Identificatory Relations		
Memories	59	29.4%
Experiences	68	33.8%
Socialization	105	52.2%
Self-Identity	56	27.9%

Of the 157 people who identify with the neighborhood, 59 (29.4%) identify with through memories, 68 (33.8%) through experiences there, 105 (52.2%) through socialization and 56 (27.9%) through self-identity.

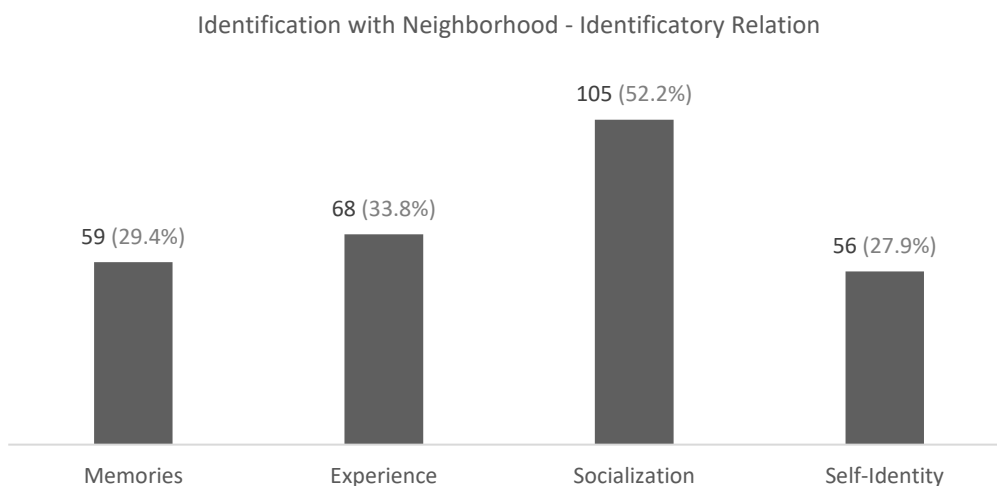


Table 74. Overall identification with neighborhood: Memories.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Memories		
‘fun childhood’	5	2.5%
‘fun memories’	1	0.5%
‘good childhood’	2	1%
‘good childhood memories’	9	4.5%
‘good memories’	22	11%
‘joyful memories’	17	8.5%
‘good life’	3	1.5%
‘eventful life’	3	1.5%

Of the 59 people who identify with the neighborhood through memories, 22 (11%) stated having ‘good memories’ as an element of identification, 17 (8.5%) stated having ‘joyful memories’, 9 (4.5%) stated having ‘good childhood memories’, 5 (2.5%) stated having a ‘fun childhood’, 3 (1.5%) stated having an ‘eventful life’, 3 (1.5%) stated having a ‘good life’, 2 (1%) stated having a ‘good childhood’ and 1 (0.5%) stated having ‘fun memories’.

Table 75. Overall identification with neighborhood: Experience.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Experiences		
‘accessible neighborhood’	12	6%
‘quiet neighborhood’	33	16.4%
‘safe neighborhood’	9	4.5%
‘comfortable area to live’	3	1.5%
‘amenities’	3	1.5%
‘area with authentic identity’	6	3%
‘architecture’	1	0.5%
‘greenery’	1	0.5%
‘I like everything here’	1	0.5%
‘I like the atmosphere’	4	2%
‘I like the ‘vibe’’	1	0.5%
‘I love this area’	1	0.5%
‘liveliness’	1	0.5%

Of the 68 people who identify with the neighborhood through their experiences, 33 of them (16.4%) stated living in a ‘quiet neighborhood’ as an element of identification,

12 (6%) stated living in an ‘accessible neighborhood’, 9 (4.5%) stated living in a ‘safe neighborhood’, 6 (3%) stated living in an ‘area with authentic identity’, 4 (2%) stated they liked ‘the atmosphere’, 3 (1.5%) stated living in a ‘comfortable area to live’, 3 (1.5%) stated their neighborhood had necessary ‘amenities’, 1 (0.5%) stated they liked the ‘architecture’, 1 (0.5%) stated they liked the ‘greenery’, 1 (0.5%) stated they ‘liked everything there’, 1 (0.5%) stated they ‘liked the ‘vibe’ of the area’, 1 (0.5%) stated they ‘loved the area’, 1 (0.5%) stated they liked the ‘liveliness’ of the area.

Table 76. Overall identification with neighborhood: Socialization.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Socialization		
‘kind people’	26	13%
‘calm people’	3	1.5%
‘good neighbors’	2	1%
‘friendly neighbors’	5	2.5%
‘welcoming people’	4	2%
‘friends live here’	11	5.5%
‘friend lives with me’	6	3%
‘my family live here’	11	5.5%
‘my family live with me’	40	20%
‘my partner lives with me’	4	2%
‘my relatives live here’	1	0.5%
‘my relatives live with me’	2	1%

Of the 105 people who identify with the neighborhood through socialization, 40 of them (20%) stated that their ‘family lived with them’ as an element that led to their identification, 26 of them (13%) stated living near ‘kind people’, 11 (5.5%) stated their ‘friends lived there’, 11 (5.5%) stated their ‘family lived there’, 6 (3%) stated their ‘friend lived with them’, 5 (2.5%) stated living near ‘friendly people’, 4 (2%) stated living near ‘welcoming people’, 4 (2%) stated their ‘partner lives with them’, 3 (1.5%) stated living near ‘calm people’, 2 (1%) stated living near ‘good neighbors’, 2 (1%) stated their ‘relatives lived with them’, 1 (0.5%) stated their ‘relatives lived there’.

Table 77. Overall identification with neighborhood: Self-Identity.

Identification with Neighborhood	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Self-Identity		
'born here'	31	15.4%
'feeling a local'	11	5.5%
'I belong'	3	1.5%
'I am part of this area'	2	1%
'I feel at home'	1	0.5%
'lived here for a long time'	8	4%

Of the 56 people who identify with the neighborhood through self-identity, 31 (15.4%) stated 'being born' there as an element of identification, 11 (5.5%) stated 'feeling a local', 8 (4%) stated 'living there for a long time', 3 (1.5%) stated they 'belong', 2 (1%) stated 'they felt part of the area' and 1 (0.5%) stated 'feeling at home'.

Table 78. Overall identification with city.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Yes	169	84.1%
No	32	15.9%

Of the 201 surveyed individuals, 169 of them (84.1%) identify with the city while 32 of them (15.9%) do not identify with it.

Table 79. Overall identification with city: Physical Elements.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Physical Elements		
Landmark	36	17.9%
House	31	15.4%
Street	61	30.4%
Public Space	93	46.3%
Other	18	9%

Of the 185 people who identify with the city, 36 of them (17.9%) identify with it through at least one landmark as a physical element of identification, 31 (15.4%) identify with it through their house, 61 of them (30.4%) identify with it through at least one street, 93 of them (46.3%) identify with it through at least one public space and 18 of them (9%) identify through another element of identification (neighborhood/area).

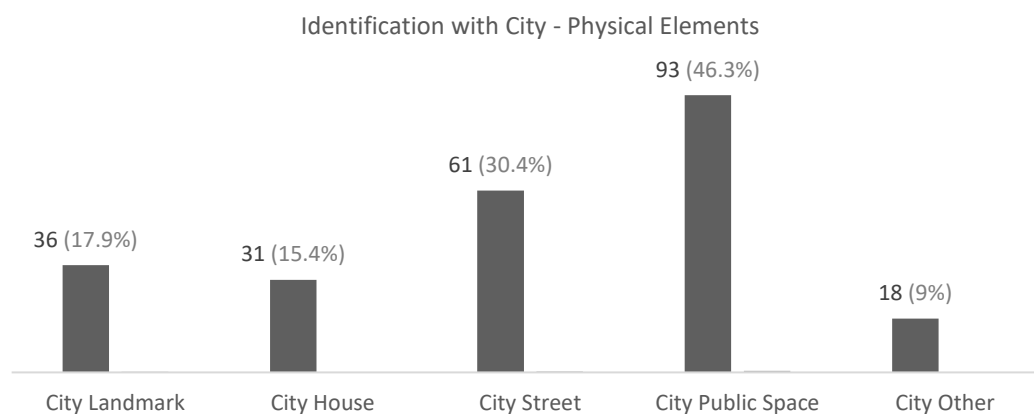


Table 80. Overall identification with city: Landmarks.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Landmarks		
Kompleksi ‘Tajvani’	5	2.5%
Kalaja e Tiranes	7	3.5%
Spitali ‘Nene Tereza’	2	1%
Kulla e Sahatit	1	0.5%
Toptani Plaza	1	0.5%
Pallati i Sportit	1	0.5%
Stadiumi ‘Selman Stermasi’	3	1.5%
Hotel Plaza	1	0.5%
Pallati i Kultures	1	0.5%
Shkolla e Kuqe	1	0.5%
Xhamia Et’hem Bej	1	0.5%
Vila Goldi	1	0.5%
Pazari i Ri	11	5.5%
Piramida	3	1.5%
Kafe Flora	2	1%

Of the 36 individuals who identify with their city through a landmark, 11 of them (5.5%) chose Pazari i Ri as a landmark of identification, 7 (3.5%) chose Kalaja e Tiranes, 5 (2.5%) chose Kompleksi Tajvani, 3 (1.5%) chose Piramida, 3 (1.5%) chose Stadiumi ‘Selman Stermasi’, 2 (1%) chose Spitali ‘Nene Tereza’, 2 (1%) chose Kafe ‘Flora’, 1 (0.5%) chose Kulla e Sahatit, 1 (0.5%) chose Toptani Plaza, 1 (0.5%) chose Pallati i Sportit, 1 (0.5%) chose Hotel Plaza, 1 (0.5%) chose Pallati i Kultures, 1 (0.5%) chose Shkolla e Kuqe, 1 (0.5%) chose Xhamia Et’hem Bej, 1 (0.5%) chose Vila Goldi.

Table 81. Overall identification with city: Streets.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Streets		
Rr. 'e Dibres'	10	5%
Rr. 'Bardhyl'	2	1%
Rr. 'Qemal Stafa'	6	3%
Rr. 'Dervish Hekali'	1	0.5%
Rr. e 'Barrikadave'	3	1.5%
Rr. 'Hoxha Tahsim'	3	1.5%
Rr. 'e Kavajes'	15	7.5%
Rr. 'Ali Demi'	1	0.5%
Rr. 'e Durrësit'	11	5.5%
Blvd. 'Zogu I'	5	2.5%
Blvd. 'Deshmoret e Kombit'	5	2.5%
Rr. 'Myslym Shyri'	4	2%
Blvd. 'Zhane D'Ark'	1	0.5%
Rr. 'Asim Vokshi'	1	0.5%
Blvd. 'Bajram Curri'	1	0.5%
Blvd. 'Gjergj Fishta'	1	0.5%
Pedonalja e Tiranës	7	3.5%
Rr. 'Fortuzi'	1	0.5%

Of the 61 individuals who identify with their city through a street, 15 of them (7.5%) chose Rr. 'e Kavajes', 11 of them (5.5%) chose Rr. 'e Durrësit', 10 (5%) chose Rr. 'e Dibres', 7 (3.5%) chose 'Pedonalja e Tiranës', 6 (3%) chose Rr. 'Qemal Stafa', 5 (2.5%) chose Blvd. 'Zogu I', 5 (2.5%) chose Blvd. 'Deshmoret e Kombit', 4 (2%) chose Rr. 'Myslym Shyri', 3 (1.5%) chose Rr. 'e Barrikadave', 3 (1.5%) chose Rr. 'Hoxha Tahsim', 2 (1%) chose Rr. 'Bardhyl', 1 (0.5%) chose Rr. 'Dervish Hekali', 1 (0.5%) chose Rr. 'Ali Demi', 1 (0.5%) chose Blvd. 'Zhane D'Ark', 1 (0.5%) chose Rr. 'Asim Vokshi', 1 (0.5%) chose Blvd. 'Bajram Curri', 1 (0.5%) chose Blvd. 'Gjergj Fishta', 1 (0.5%) chose Rr. 'Fortuzi'.

Table 82. Overall identification with city: Public Spaces.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Public Spaces		
Sheshi 'Skenderbej'	53	26.4%
Sheshi 'Shtraus'	1	0.5%
Sheshi 'Selvia'	1	0.5%
Sheshi 'Nene Tereza'	2	1%
Liqeni Artificial i Tiranes	34	16.9%
Liqeni i Thate	1	0.5%
Parku Kombetar i Dajtit	5	2.5%
Liqeni i Farkes	2	1%
Parku 'Viktor Eftimiu'	1	0.5%
Parku Zoologjik	1	0.5%
Parku 'Rinia'	15	7.5%

Of the 93 individuals who identify with their city through a public space, 53 of them (26.4%) chose Sheshi 'Skenderbej' as an element of identification, 34 of them (16.9%) chose Liqeni Artificial I Tiranes, 15 (7.5%) chose Parku 'Rinia', 5 (2.5%) chose Parku Kombetar i Dajtit, 2 (1%) chose Sheshi 'Nene Tereza', 2 (1%) chose Liqeni i Farkes, 1 (0.5%) chose Sheshi 'Shtraus', 1 (0.5%) chose Sheshi 'Selvia', 1 (0.5%) chose Liqeni i Thate, 1 (0.5%) chose Parku 'Viktor Eftimiu', 1 (0.5%) chose Parku Zoologjik.

Table 83. Overall identification with city: Other.

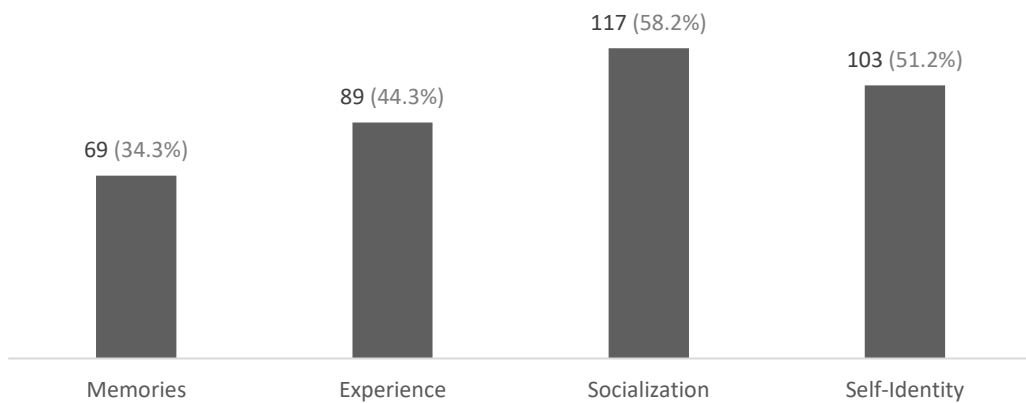
Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Other		
'Blloku'	11	5.5%
'Stacioni i Trenit'	3	1.5%
'Komuna e Parisit'	1	0.5%
'Zogu i Zi'	1	0.5%
'21 Dhjetori'	1	0.5%

Of the 18 people who selected other, which in this study refers to a neighborhood or area in the city, 11 of them (5.5%) chose 'Blloku' as an element of identification, 3 (1.5%) chose 'Stacioni i Trenit', 1 (0.5%) chose 'Komuna e Parisit', 1 (0.5%) chose 'Zogu i Zi', 1 (0.5%) chose '21 Dhjetori'.

Table 84. Overall identification with city: Identificatory Relations.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Identificatory Relations		
Memories	69	34.3%
Experiences	89	44.3%
Socialization	117	58.2%
Self-Identity	103	51.2%

Identification with City - Identificatory Relations



Of the 185 people who identify with the city, 69 of them (34.3%) identify with it through their memories, 89 (44.3%) through their experiences, 117 (58.2%) through socialization and 103 (51.2%) through self-identity.

Table 85. Overall identification with city: Memories.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Memories		
'good childhood memories'	12	6%
'good memories'	32	15.9%
'fun childhood'	3	1.5%
'fun memories'	5	2.5%
'joyful childhood'	5	2.5%
'joyful memories'	6	3%
'important life events here'	1	0.5%
'good life'	2	1%
'joyful life'	1	0.5%
'eventful life'	4	2%

Of the 69 people who identify with the city through their memories, 32 of them (15.9%) stated having ‘good memories’ as an element of identification, 12 (6%) stated having ‘good childhood memories’, 6 (3%) stated having ‘joyful memories’, 5 (2.5%) stated having ‘fun memories’, 5 (2.5%) stated having a ‘joyful childhood’, 4 (2%) stated having an ‘eventful life’, 3 (1.5%) stated having a ‘fun childhood’, 2 (1%) stated having a ‘good life’, 1 (0.5%) stated that ‘important life events happened there’ and 1 (0.5%) stated having a ‘joyful life’.

Table 86. Overall identification with City: Experiences.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Experiences		
‘energetic city’	4	2%
‘lively city’	14	7%
‘youthful city’	10	5%
‘cultural city’	1	0.5%
‘city with history’	2	1%
‘active lifestyle’	9	4.5%
‘urban lifestyle’	7	3.5%
‘I like the atmosphere’	13	6.5%
‘many things to do and see’	4	2%
‘amenities’	1	0.5%
‘opportunities for education and career’	2	1%
‘comfortable life here’	2	1%
‘bars and cafes’	3	1.5%
‘weather and climate’	2	1%
‘parks’	5	2.5%
‘I like everything about Tirana’	7	3.5%
‘I enjoy life here’	1	0.5%

Of the 89 people who identify with the city through their experiences, 14 of them (7%) stated that they lived in a ‘lively city’ as an element of identification, 13 (6.5%) stated they ‘liked the atmosphere of the city’, 10 (5%) stated living in a ‘youthful city’, 9 (4.5%) stated they ‘liked the active lifestyle’, 7 (3.5%) stated they ‘liked everything about the city’, 7 (3.5%) stated they liked the ‘urban lifestyle’, 5 (2.5%) stated they liked the ‘parks’, 4 (2%) stated living in an ‘energetic city’, 4 (2%) stated there were ‘many things to do and see in the city’, 3 (1.5%) stated they liked the ‘bars and cafes’, 2 (1%) stated living in a ‘city with history’, 2 (1%) stated there are ‘opportunities for education and career’, 2 (1%) stated they had a ‘comfortable life here’, 2 (1%) stated

they liked the ‘weather and climate’, 1 (0.5%) stated living in a ‘cultural city’, 1 (0.5%) stated there were ‘amenities’ in the city, 1 (0.5%) they ‘enjoyed their life there’.

Table 87. Overall identification with City: Socialization.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
Socialization		
‘activities and events’	12	6%
‘modern people’	1	0.5%
‘unique people’	2	1%
‘young people’	1	0.5%
‘energetic people’	1	0.5%
‘cool people’	2	1%
‘kind people’	4	2%
‘nice people’	2	1%
‘friendly people’	3	1.5%
‘my friends live here’	48	23.9%
‘my friend lives with me’	1	0.5%
‘my family live here’	40	20%
‘my family live with me’	26	13%
‘my partner lives here’	1	0.5%
‘my partner lives with me’	2	1%
‘my relatives live with me’	1	0.5%

Of the 117 people who identify with the city through socialization, 48 (23.9%) stated their ‘friends live there’ as an element that led to identification, 40 (20%) stated their ‘family live there’, 26 (13%) stated their ‘family lived with them’, 12 (6%) stated ‘activities and events’ led to their identification, 4 (2%) stated there are ‘kind people’ in the city, 3 (1.5%) stated there are ‘friendly people’ in the city, 2 (1%) stated there are ‘unique people’ there, 2 (1%) stated there are ‘cool people’ there, 2 (1%) stated there are ‘nice people’ there, 2 (1%) stated their ‘partner lives with them’, 1 (0.5%) stated there are ‘modern people’ in the city, 1 (0.5%) stated there are ‘young people’, 1 (0.5%) stated there are ‘energetic people’, 1 (0.5%) stated their ‘friend lived with them’, 1 (0.5%) stated their ‘partner lived there’ and 1 (0.5%) stated their ‘relatives lived with them’.

Table 88. Overall identification with City: Self-Identity.

Identification with City	People	
	Number	(%) of 201
'born here'	56	27.9%
'feeling a local'	16	8%
'I belong'	1	0.5%
'lived here all my life'	6	3%
'lived here for a long time'	20	10%

Of the 103 people who identify with the city through their self-identity, 56 of them (27.9%) stated that being 'born here' was an element of identification. 20 (10%) stated 'they had lived there for a long time', 16 (8%) stated 'feeling a local', 6 (3%) stated 'lived here all my life' and 1 (0.5%) stated they 'belonged'.

(ii) Overall Mapping Results

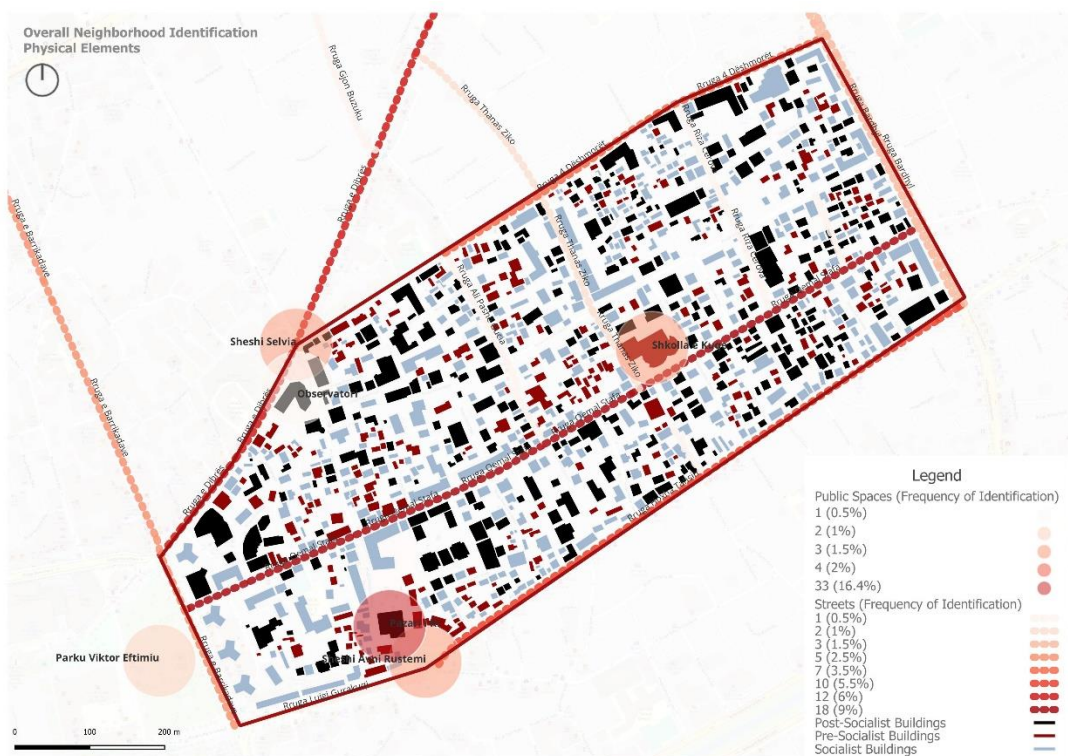


Figure 49. Map of all residents and their identification with physical elements of the neighborhood.

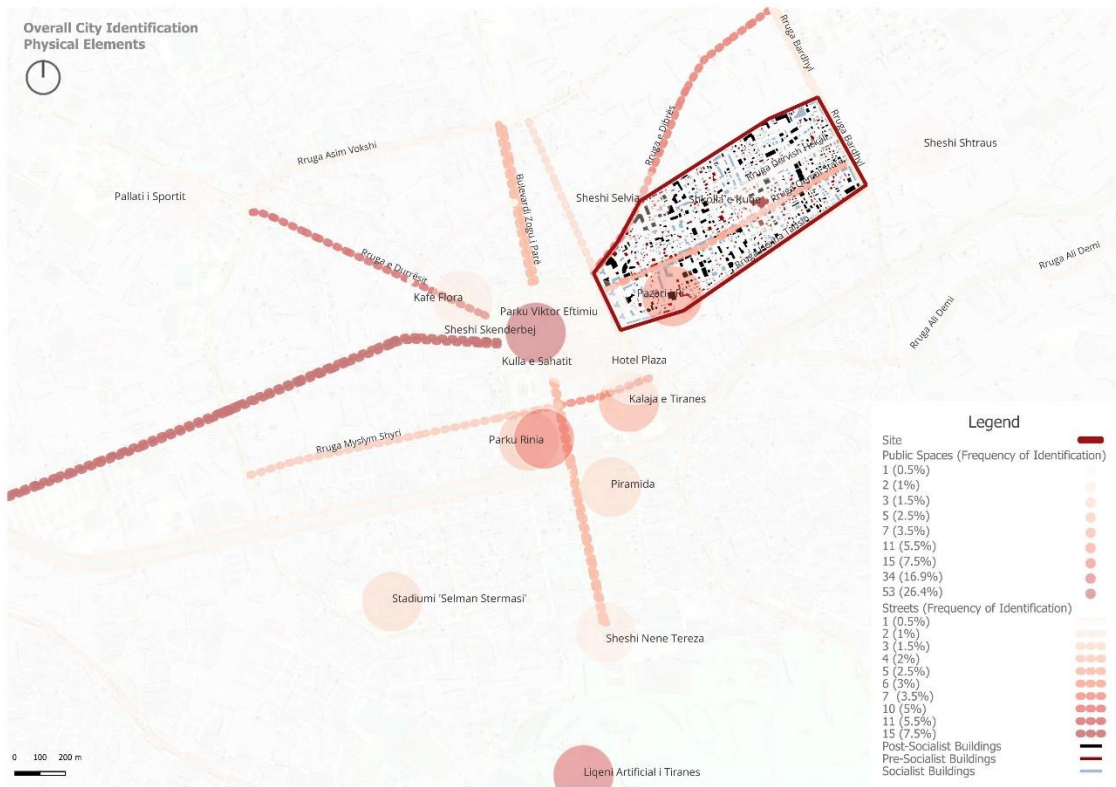


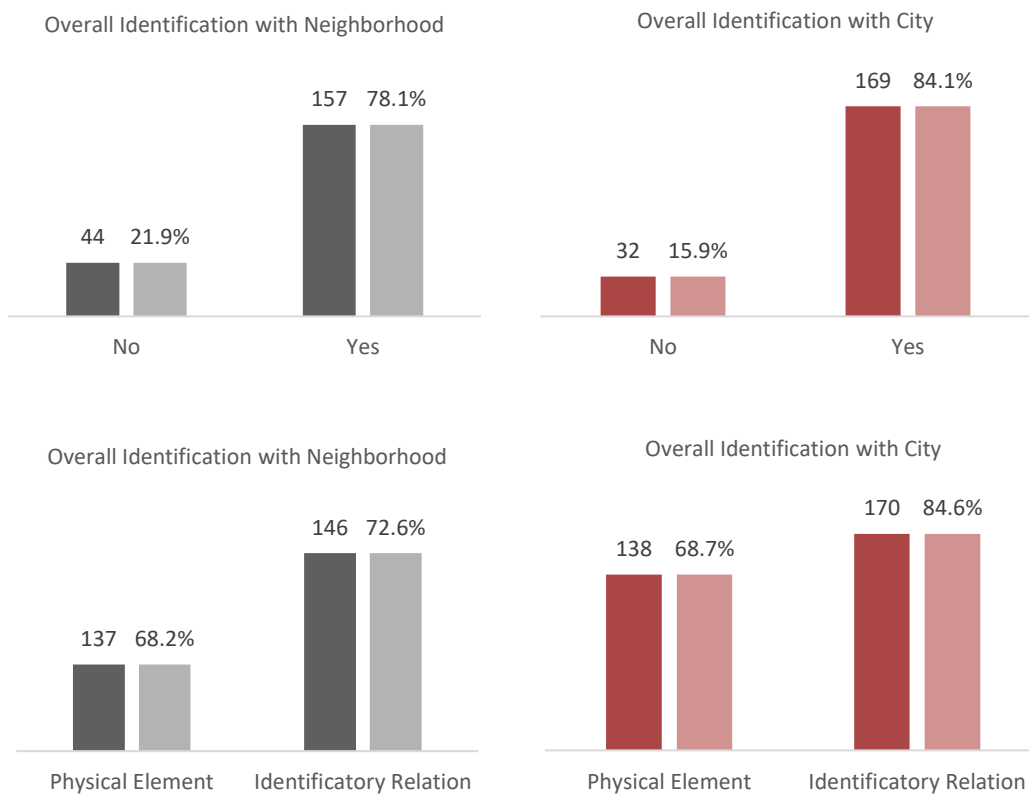
Figure 50. Map of all residents and their identification with physical elements of the city.

CHAPTER 5

DISCUSSION

In this chapter, results of the surveying phase of this study are presented in an (i) overall, (ii) layer-based and (iii) scale-based approach, in order to have a clearer understanding of the urban identity and its dimensions and variables for the three-layer residents of the selected neighborhood.

5.1 Overall Discussion

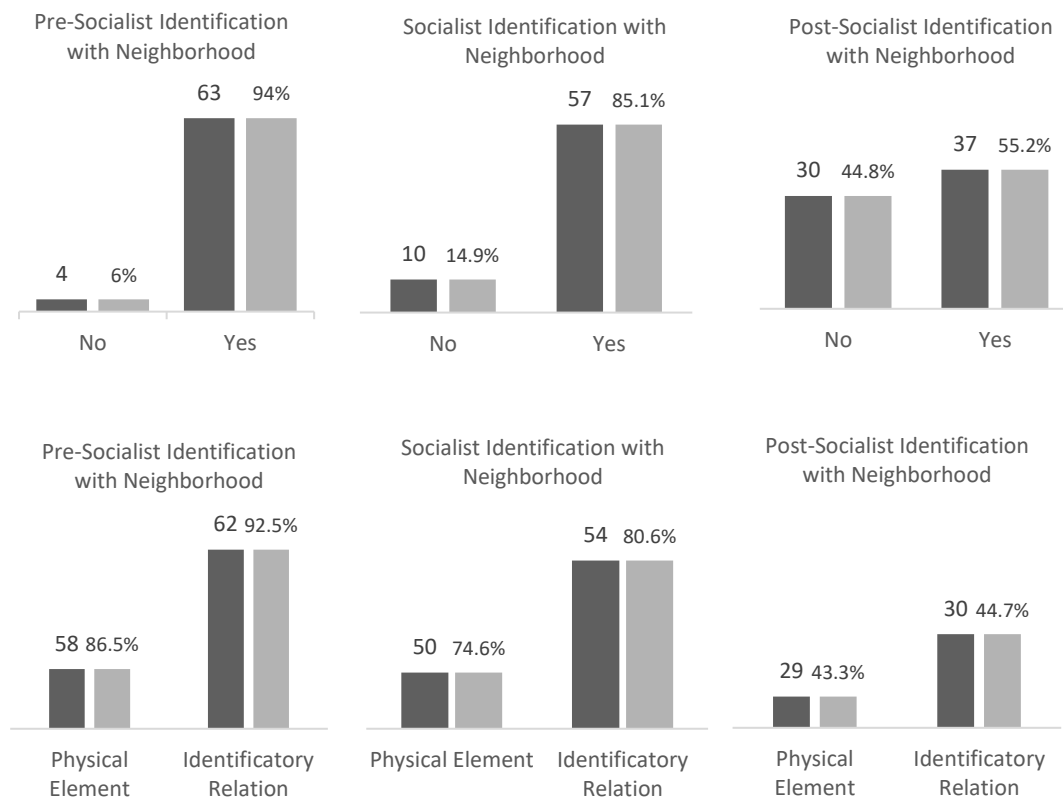


Results of the survey show that overall, residents identify more with the city (84.1%) than the neighborhood (78.1%). People identify more with the neighborhood through identificatory relations (72.6%) than physical elements (68.2%). They identify more with the city through identificatory relations (84.6%) than physical elements (68.7%) as well.

5.2 Layer-based Discussion

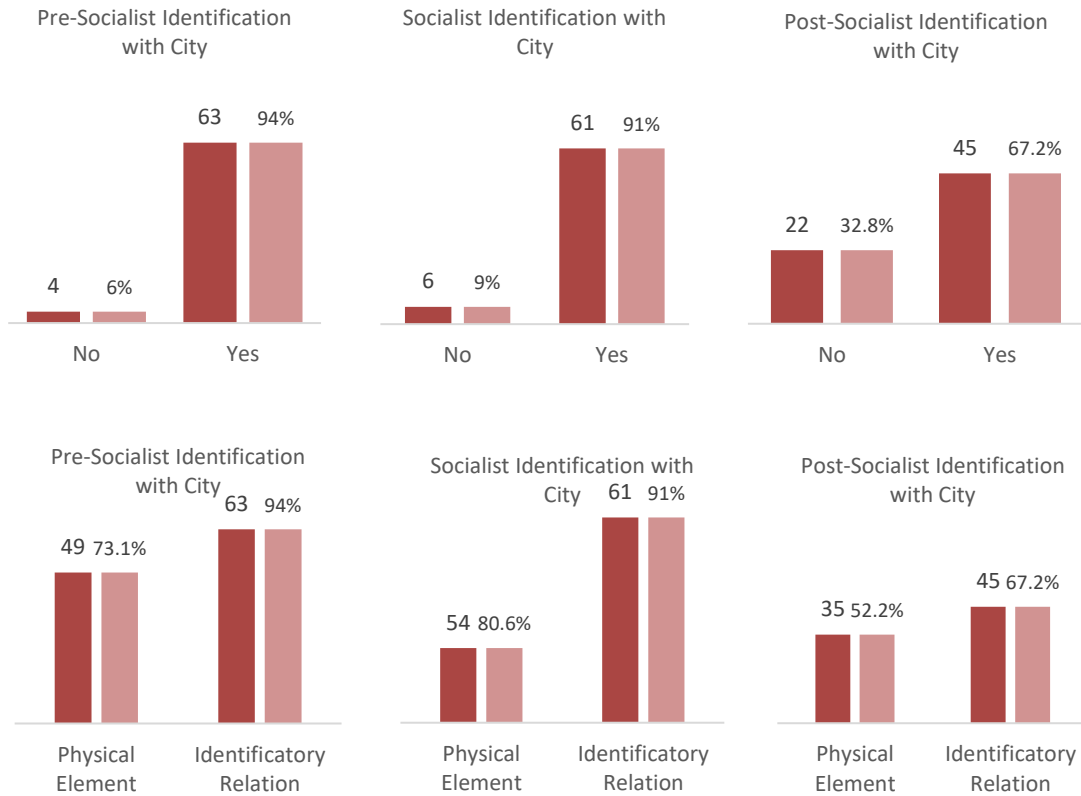
Results of the survey show that there are differences in identification between the residents of the pre-socialist, socialist, post-socialist layers, in the neighborhood and city scale.

Neighborhood Identity



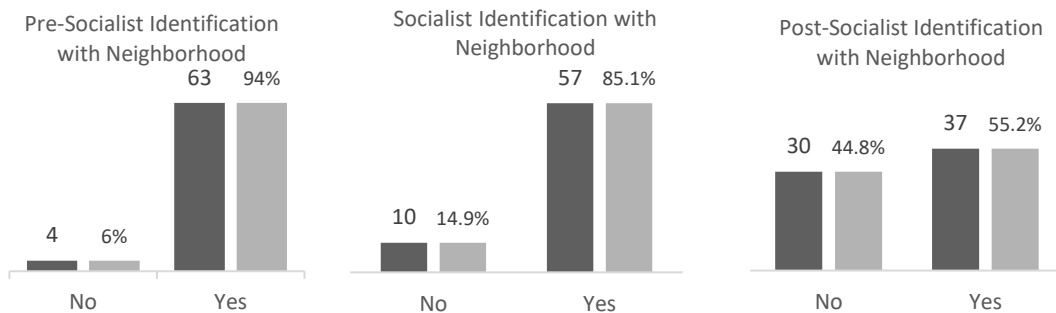
Residents of the pre-socialist layer identify more with the neighborhood (94%), socialist residents identify less with the neighborhood (85.1%) and post-socialist layer residents identify the least with the neighborhood (55.2%). Residents of the pre-socialist layer identify more with the neighborhood through identificatory relations (92.5%) than physical elements (86.5%). Socialist residents identify more with the neighborhood through identificatory relations (80.6%) than physical elements (74.6%). Post-socialist residents identify more with the neighborhood through identificatory relations (44.7%) than physical elements (43.3%).

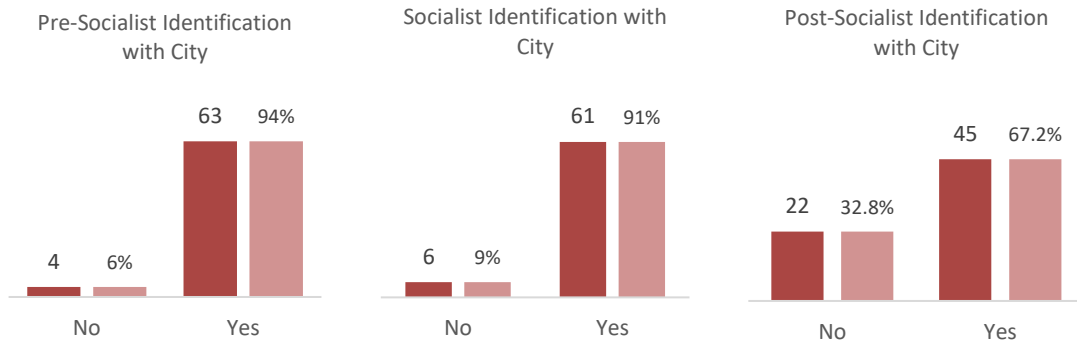
City Identity



Pre-socialist residents identify more with the city (94%), while socialist residents identify less (91%) and post-socialist residents identify the least with the city (67.2%). Residents of the pre-socialist layer identify more with the city through identificatory relations (94%) than physical elements (73.1%). Socialist residents also identify more with the city through identificatory relations (91%) than physical elements (80.6%) and post-socialist residents identify more with the city through identificatory relations (67.2%) than physical elements (52.2%) as well.

5.3 Scale-based Discussion





Results show differences in identification in the two scales. Pre-socialist residents identify equally with both the neighborhood and the city (both 94%), more socialist residents (5.9%) identify with the city than the neighborhood, and more post-socialist residents (12%) identify with the city than the neighborhood.



For neighborhood identity, physical elements and identificatory relations are greater within pre-socialist residents, while they are lowest within post-socialist residents. For city identity, physical elements are selected the most by socialist residents and the least by post-socialist residents, while identificatory relations are selected the most by pre-socialist residents and the least by post-socialist residents.

5.4 Physical Elements

For neighborhood identity where ‘landmarks’ act as elements of identification, residents of the socialist layer selected this dimension the most (33.3%), residents of the pre-socialist layer less (15.3%) and residents of the post-socialist layer selected this dimension the least (8.1%). For the ‘house’ as an element of identification, post-socialist residents selected this dimension the most (73%), socialist residents less (71.9%) and pre-socialist residents the least of them (54.1%). For ‘street’ as an element of identification, socialist residents selected this dimension the most (36.8%), post-socialist residents less (29.7%) and pre-socialist residents the least of them (25.5%). For ‘public space’ as an element of identification, it was selected the most by socialist residents (8.8%), less by post-socialist residents (5.4%) and the least by pre-socialist residents (5.1%). Overall, residents identify with the neighborhood the most through their house and the least through public spaces.

For city identity where ‘landmarks’ act as elements of identification, socialist residents selected this dimension the most (26.2%), post-socialist residents less (17.8%) and pre-socialist the least of them (17.5%). For the ‘house’ as an element of identification, socialist residents selected this dimension the most (21.3%), post-socialist residents less (20%) and pre-socialist the least of them (17.5%). For ‘street’ as an element of identification, pre-socialist residents selected this dimension the most (49.2%), then socialist residents (34.4%) and post-socialist residents the least of them (22.2%). For ‘public space’ as an element of identification, it was selected the most by socialist residents (60.7%), less by pre-socialist residents (52.4%) and the least by post-socialist residents (51.1%). For ‘other’ as an element of identification, which refers to a greater neighborhood/area within the city, socialist residents selected this dimension the most (18%), post-socialist residents a bit less (8.9%) and pre-socialist residents the least of them (4.8%). Overall, residents identify with the city the most through public spaces and the least through an ‘other’ element of identification.

5.5 Identificatory Relations

For neighborhood identity where ‘memories’ act as elements of identification, pre-socialist residents selected this dimension the most (52.4%), socialist residents a bit less (28.1%) and post-socialist residents the least of them (27%). For ‘experience’ as an element of identification, socialist residents selected this dimension the most (50.9%), pre-socialist residents a bit less (38.1%) and post-socialist residents the least of them (37.8%). For ‘socialization’ as an element of identification, pre-socialist residents selected this dimension the most (69.8%), socialist residents a bit less (68.4%) and post-socialist residents the least of them (56.8%). For ‘self-identity’ as an element of identification, it was selected the most by pre-socialist residents (8.8%), less by socialist residents (19.3%) and the least by post-socialist residents (16.2%). Overall, residents identify with the neighborhood the most through socialization and the least through self-identity.

For city identity, where ‘memories act as elements of identification, pre-socialist residents selected this dimension the most (54%), socialist residents less (36.1%) and post-socialist ones the least of them (28.9%). For ‘experience’ as an element of identification, post-socialist residents selected this dimension the most (60%), socialist residents less (50.8%) and pre-socialist ones the least of them (49%). For ‘socialization’ as an element of identification, socialist residents selected this dimension the most (70.5%), then post-socialist residents (68.9%) and pre-socialist residents the least of them (68%). For ‘self-identity’ as an element of identification, it was selected the most by pre-socialist residents (83%), less by socialist residents (50.8%) and the least by post-socialist residents (44.4%). Overall, residents identify with the city the most through socialization and the least through memories.

The following table (Table 89) is a condensed table, in which the top three most frequently selected dimensions and sub-dimensions of identification are presented for each layer, as well as overall and in the neighborhood and city scale.

Table 89. Condensed table: Neighborhood and City Identity.

Identification with Neighborhood					
		Pre-socialist Layer	Socialist Layer	Post-socialist Layer	Overall
Physical Elements	Landmark	Pazari i Ri (15)	Pazari i Ri (15) Shkolla e Kuqe (3) Observatori (1)	Pazari i Ri (3)	Pazari i Ri (33) Shkolla e Kuqe (3) Observatori (1)
	Street	Rr. Qemal Stafa (10) Rr. e Dibres (7) Rr. Hoxha Tahsim (3)	Rr. Qemal Stafa (5) Rr. e Dibres (5) Rr. Hoxha Tahsim (4)	Rr. Qemal Stafa (4) Rr. 4 Deshmoret (3)	Rr. Qemal Stafa (19) Rr. e Dibres (12) Rr. Hoxha Tahsim (10)
	Public Space	Sheshi Avni Rustemi (2) Sheshi Selvia (2) Sheshi Skenderbej (1)	Sheshi Skenderbej (3) Sheshi Selvia (1) Sheshi Viktor Eftimiu (1)	Sheshi Avni Rustemi (1) Sheshi Viktor Eftimiu (1)	Sheshi Skenderbej (4) Sheshi Avni Rustemi (3) Sheshi Selvia (3)
	Other	-	-	-	-
Identificatory Relations	Memories	'joyful memories' (12) 'good memories' (10) 'good childhood' (5)	'good memories' (7) 'good childhood' (4) 'joyful memories' (3)	'good memories' (4) 'joyful memories' (2)	'good memories' (22) 'joyful memories' (17) 'good childhood memories' (9)
	Experience	'quiet area' (16) 'safe area' (4) 'authentic area' (4)	'quiet area' (13) 'accessible area' (8) 'safe area' (4)	'quiet area' (3) 'accessible area' (2) 'amenities' (2)	'quiet area' (33) 'accessible area' (12) 'safe area' (9)
	Socialization	'family live with me' (18) 'kind people' (15)	'family live with me' (14) 'kind people' (9) 'friends live here' (5)	'family live with me' (10) 'friends live here' (6) 'family live here' (5)	'family live with me' (40) 'kind people' (26) 'friends live here' (11)
	Self-Identity	'born here' (25) 'feeling local' (9) 'lived here a long time' (9)	'born here' (6) 'lived here a long time' (4) 'feeling local' (1)	'part of the area' (2) 'feel at home' (2)	'born here' (31) 'feeling local' (11) 'lived here a long time' (8)
Identification with City					
		Pre-socialist Layer	Socialist Layer	Post-socialist Layer	Overall
Physical Elements	Landmark	Pazari i Ri (3) Kompleksi Tajvani (2)	Pazari i Ri (8) Kalaja e Tiranës (2)	Kalaja e Tiranës (4) Piramida (2)	Pazari i Ri (11) Kalaja e Tiranës (7)
	Street	Rr. e Kavajës (8) Rr. e Dibres (6) Rr. e Durresit (6)	Pedonalja (5) Rr. e Kavajës (4) Blvd. Deshmoret e Kombit (3)	Rr. e Kavajës (3) Rr. e Durresit (2)	Rr. e Kavajës (15) Rr. e Durresit (11) Rr. e Dibres (10)
	Public Space	Sheshi Skenderbej (20) Parku Rinia (14) Liqeni Artificial (9)	Sheshi Skenderbej (22) Liqeni Artificial (15) Dajti (2)	Sheshi Skenderbej (11) Liqeni Artificial (10)	Sheshi Skenderbej (53) Liqeni Artificial (34) Parku Rinia (15)
	Other	Stacioni Trenit (2) Blloku (1)	Blloku (7)	Blloku (4)	Blloku (11) Stacioni Trenit (3)
Identificatory Relations	Memories	'joyful memories' (12) 'good memories' (10) 'good childhood' (5)	'good memories' (15) 'fun childhood' (3) 'fun memories' (2)	'good memories' (6) 'good childhood' (3)	'good memories' (32) 'good childhood memories' (12) 'joyful memories' (6)
	Experience	'lively city' (5) 'active life' (5) 'I like everything' (5)	'atmosphere' (7) 'lively city' (5) 'active life' (3)	'youthful city' (5) 'lively city' (4) 'urban life' (4)	'lively city' (14) 'atmosphere' (13) 'youthful city' (10)
	Socialization	'family live here' (16) 'friends live here' (15) 'family live with me' (7)	'friends live here' (20) 'family live here' (15) 'family live with me' (11)	'family live with me' (9) 'friends live here' (6) 'activities' (6)	'friends live here' (48) 'family live here' (40) 'family live with me' (26)
	Self-Identity	'born here' (34) 'feeling local' (9) 'lived here a long time' (7)	'born here' (16) 'lived here a long time' (6)	'born here' (9) 'lived here a long time' (8) 'feeling local' (2)	'born here' (56) 'lived here a long time' (20) 'feeling local' (16)

5.6 Socio-demographic Variables of Identification

(i) *Gender*

For neighborhood identification, of the residents of the pre-socialist layer, men identify more (52.2%) than women (41.7%). Of the residents of the socialist layer, women identify more (53.7%) than men (31.3%). Of the residents of the post-socialist layer, women identify more (31.3%) than men (23.9%). Overall, women identify more with the neighborhood.

For city identification, of the residents of the pre-socialist layer, men identify more (53.7%) than women (40.3%). Of the residents of the socialist layer, women identify more (56.7%) than men (34.3%). Of the residents of the post-socialist layer, women identify more (38.8%) than men (28.4%).

Overall, women identify more with the neighborhood and city than men. All in all, men and women identify more with the city than the neighborhood.

(ii) *Ownership*

For neighborhood identification, of the residents of the pre-socialist layer, those who are owners of their residence identify the most (91%). Of the residents of the socialist layer, those who are owners of their residence identify the most (56.7%). Of the residents of the post-socialist layer, those who are owners of their residence identify more (40.3%). Overall, those who are owners identify more with the neighborhood than renters.

For city identification, of the residents of the pre-socialist layer, those who are owners of their residence identify the most (89.6%). Of the residents of the socialist layer, those who are owners of their residence identify the most (56.7%). Of the residents of the post-socialist layer, those who are owners of their residence identify more (44.8%). Overall, those who are owners identify more with the city than renters.

Residence ownership has appeared a positive predictor of place attachment and identity in a number of studies, including Brown et al. (2003), Mesch & Manor (1998) and others. The findings of this study do corroborate this claim, that owners of their residences, regardless of layer, identify more with the neighborhood and the city than renters.

(iii) *Age*

For neighborhood identification, of the residents of the pre-socialist layer, those older than 60 years old identify more (55.2%) and those of the ages of 18-24 years old the least (7.5%). Of the residents of the socialist layer, those of the ages of 25-39 years old identify more (25.4%) and those between the ages of 40-60 years old and older identify the least (17.9%). Of the residents of the post-socialist layer, those of the ages of 18-24 years old and 40-60 years old identify more (16.4%) and those older than 60 identify the least (7.5%). Overall, people over 60 years old identify more with the neighborhood.

For city identification, of the residents of the pre-socialist layer, those older than 60 years old identify more (49.3%) and those of the ages of 18-24 the least (9%). Of the residents of the socialist layer, those of the ages of 25-39 identify more (29.9%) and those older than 60 identify the least (16.4%). Of the residents of the post-socialist layer, those of the ages of 25-39 identify more (20.9%) and those older than 60 identify the least (7.5%). Overall, people over 60 years old identify more with the city.

(iv) *Education*

For neighborhood identification, of the residents of the pre-socialist layer, those with a high-school education identify more (64.2%) and those with a secondary school education the least (4.5%). Of the residents of the socialist layer, those with a university education identify more (50.7%) and those with a secondary school education the least (1.5%). Of the residents of the post-socialist layer, those with a university education identify more (32.8%) and those with a secondary school education the least (3%). Overall, those with a high-school education identify more with the neighborhood.

For city identification, of the residents of the pre-socialist layer, those with a high-school education identify more (61.2%) and those with a secondary school education the least (4.5%). Of the residents of the socialist layer, those with a university education identify more (53.7%) and those with a secondary school education the least (3%). Of the residents of the post-socialist layer, those with a university education identify more (41.8%) and those with a secondary school education the least (3%). Overall, those with a university education identify more with the city.

The variables of age and education appear to be inconsistently linked to attachment and identity, with studies showing sometimes positive and sometimes negative relationships between them. Hummon (1992) found that a 'deeper' type of bond, like place identity, shows a positive linear link to education and an inverted U-shape link with age. Findings of this study show that the link between education and neighborhood identity is an inverted U-shape, while the link between education and identification with city is a U-shape pattern. As for age, its link to identification with the neighborhood is a type of U-shape, while its link to identification with the city is an erratic link.

(v) *Number of family members*

For neighborhood identification, of the residents of the pre-socialist layer, those with 4 family members identify the most (26.9%). Of the residents of the socialist layer, those with 4 family members identify the most (26.9%). Of the residents of the post-socialist layer, those with 3 and 4 family members identify more (13.4%). Overall, those with 4 family members identify more with the neighborhood.

For city identification, of the residents of the pre-socialist layer, those with 3 and 4 family members identify the most (26.9%). Of the residents of the socialist layer, those with 4 family members identify the most (28.4%). Of the residents of the post-socialist layer, those with 2 and 3 family members identify more (16.4%). Overall, those with 4 family members identify more with the city.

Generally, social ties and links with the community, have a positive association to bonding with a place that fosters such connections, as found in the studies conducted by Bonaiuto et al., 1999; Brown et al., 2004; Kasarda & Janowitz, 1974; Lewicka, 2005; Mesch & Manor, 1998 and others. The presence of family members, partners, friends and associates make up the social network of an individual in the neighborhood and the city. Findings in this study show that there is a strong connection between number of family members and place identity and this link is has a linear shape and this is true for both neighborhood and city scale.

(vi) *Residence Length*

For neighborhood identification, of the residents of the pre-socialist layer, those who have lived there for 51-70 years identify the most (35.8%). Of the residents of the socialist layer, those who have lived there for 11-30 years identify the most (41.8%). Of the residents of the post-socialist layer, those who have lived there for 11-30 years

identify more (37.3%). Overall, those who have lived there for 11-30 years identify more with the neighborhood.

For city identification, of the residents of the pre-socialist layer, those who have lived there for 51-70 years identify the most (31.3%). Of the residents of the socialist layer, those who have lived there for 11-30 years identify the most (46.3%). Of the residents of the post-socialist layer, those who have lived there for 11-30 years identify more (40.3%). Overall, those who have lived there for 11-30 years identify more with the city.

Place researchers have established two opposing views in regards to the effect of residence length, the time one has spent in a place, in place identification (Lewicka, 2010). Stedman (2006) affirms that newcomers, people who have spend little time in a place, do not identify as much with the place, as they have not contributed in creating the place and do not share core values of the community that have developed over long periods of time. Bonaiuto et al., (1999), Brown, Perkins, and Brown (2003, 2004), Goudy (1982, 1990), Hay (1998), Lalli (1992) and other researchers verify this claim in their studies.

Kaltenborn and Williams (2002) however, believe that residence length is not equivalent to higher identification. Although empirical findings appear mixed (Lewika, 2010), the findings of this study seem to corroborate the first claim. In the selected neighborhood, residents who have spent more time, both in the neighborhood and the city, are more likely to identify with them and those who have spent little time there are less likely to do so. This is generally more true for the neighborhood than the city scale.

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION

The city of Tirana represents a complex and interesting physical and socio-cultural environment. Its fabric is dense, dynamic and bears traces of transformation over a long period of time and changing regimes. Overtime, Tirana has evolved a unique identity, a hybrid pattern of historical fabrics. Unfortunately, present interventions are threatening the historical identity of the city. In this context, it has been the core objective of this study to provide insight into the degree and way in which residents of a historical neighborhood in the city bond with their neighborhood and city. The studied area is the autochthonous neighborhood located between Municipal Units No. 2 and 8, a historical part of Tirana that has been subject to a process of urban transformation for many decades. 201 residents of this neighborhood, people living in buildings belonging to three different urban layers, pre-socialist, socialist, post-socialist, as well as of different ages, professions, educations and living situations were made part of this study. The main aim of this research was to (i) analyze differences in place identity of different-layer residents (pre-socialist, socialist, post-socialist), and (ii) compare differences in place identity in two scales (neighborhood and city) of these residents.

Results of this study showed that there were certain differences in the degree and way residents of different layers identified with the neighborhood and/or city. Residents of the pre-socialist layer identified more with the neighborhood, compared to socialist and post-socialist ones, who identified the least with it. They also identified more with the city, while residents of the socialist layer identified slightly less and residents of the post-socialist layer identified the least of them. For all three layers, residents identified more with the city than their neighborhood.

All residents tended to identify with the neighborhood and city through identificatory relations more than physical elements, although physical elements played a more important role in identification with the city than the neighborhood. Of the physical elements, all residents tended to choose their house as an element of identification with the neighborhood and public spaces as an element of identification

with the city. Of the identificatory relations, all residents tended to choose socialization as an element that led to their identification with the neighborhood and they also tended to choose socialization as an element of identifying with the city, with the exception of residents of the pre-socialist layer. They identified with the city more through self-identity.

Certain socio-demographic variables also played a part in identification with the two place scales. Age, education, ownership, number of family members, residence length affected the degree and manner of identification, where identification was higher among people of the ages of 25-39 years old, high-school educated and owners of their residence. Identification also increased with the increase of number of family members and time spent in the residence. These findings seem to corroborate several claims that researchers have established in place literature. They provide an important body of knowledge to better understand how citizens identify with the places they inhabit and might be used to employ strategies that can help maintain and strengthen this bond over time.

6.1 Limitations

Although this study contributes to the existing body of knowledge on place theory and related research, there are limitations that may have affected the collected data and results.

(i) Influence on Subject Responses

During the survey phase, subjects were given prompts and were guided towards selecting among the dimensions of identification (physical elements or identificatory relations). This was done to encourage the participants to divulge more of their thoughts and beliefs about place identity, but it may have limited their impulsive and unrehearsed expression. Thus, this research calls for future studies that might explore the collection of more open-ended and unguided responses.

(ii) Pre-socialist Sample Constraints

Because pre-socialist houses are fewer in the study neighborhood, compared to socialist and post-socialist homes and apartment blocks, many of the 67 subjects of this layer, were members of the same family and living in the same residence. In these instances, the responses of the subjects may have been influenced by the presence of

their family members and hearing the responses of one another.

Acknowledging these limitations opens the door for future studies to paint a more truthful image of place identity in the case of Tirana.

6.2 Recommendations and Further Readings

This study was conducted in 2023, surveying residents of a historical neighborhood in the city of Tirana, representing a quickly changing urban context. It has provided information on the degree and manner in which citizens of Tirana identify with the places they inhabit. A more comprehensive future study might include a greater sample and a wider geo-spatial network of locations, so that a truer picture of how citizens of Tirana identify with the city can be presented. Another interesting point to explore in the future might be to allow residents to draw and create their own ‘mental maps’ of identification, rather than mark down the exact location of physical elements they have selected as elements of identification. In that way, insight into the cognitive interpretation of the city and its elements by its residents might be clearer. A more extensive study might include ‘home’ as a place scale apart from neighborhood and city. Such studies that compare identity between scales are few in place literature and might prove to be beneficial to the further understanding of place and place-related phenomena.

REFERENCES

- [1] Aliaj, B., Lulo K., Myftiu G. Tirana, the Challenge of Urban Development. *Tirana: CoPlan & Seda*, 2003.
- [2] Aliaj, B., Lulo, K., Myftiu, G., Pone, S., Shqarri, E., & Kenuti, P. Tirana: The challenge of urban development: *Založba "Sloalba"*, 2004.
- [3] Baçe, A., Meksi, A., Riza, E., Karaiskaj, G. and Thomo, P. *Historia e Arkitekture shqiptare*, Tirana, 1980.
- [4] Bashkia Tirane. "Heritage and Architectural Evolution in Tirana." [Online]. Available <https://tirana.al/en/page/heritage-and-architectural-evolution-in-tirana>. [Accessed Jan. 1, 2023].
- [5] Bushati, V. Vera Bushati Personal Communication. In E. Manahasa (Ed.). 2015.
- [6] Brown, B. B., & Perkins, D. D. "Disruptions in place attachment" in *Place attachment* (Eds.), Altman, I., Low, S. M. New York & London: Plenum Press, 1992, pp. 279-304.
- [7] Brown, B. B., Perkins, D. D., & Brown, G. Place attachment in a revitalizing neighborhood: Individual and block levels of analysis. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 23, 2003, pp. 259-271.
- [8] Brown, B. B., Perkins, D. D., & Brown, G. Incivilities, place attachment and crime: Block and individual effects. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 24, 2004, pp. 359-371
- [9] Bonaiuto, M., Aiello, A., Perugini, M., Bonnes, M., & Ercolani, A. P. Multidimensional perception of residential environment quality and neighbourhood attachment in the urban environment. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 19, 1999, pp. 331-352.
- [10] Casakin, H., Hernández, B., Ruiz, C. Place Attachment and Place Identity In Israeli Cities: The Influence of City Size. *Cities*. Vol. 42, Part B, pp. 224-230, 2014. [Online]. Available: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2014.07.007>.
- [11] Citizens Channel. Raport Kërkimor. *Citizens Urban Stories*, 2021. [Online]. Available: [https://www.levizalbania.al/media/uploads/ Raport_Kerkimor_-_Citizens_Channel.pdf](https://www.levizalbania.al/media/uploads/Raport_Kerkimor_-_Citizens_Channel.pdf). [Accessed Jun. 10, 2023].

- [12] Deda, L. "The New Housing Market in Tirana." in *Housing Change in East and Central Europe. Integration or Fragmentation?*, S. Lowe & S. Tsenkova (Eds.) London: Ashgate, 2003, ch. 13.
- [13] Dervishi, Z. Zyhdi Dervishi personal communication. In E. Manahasa (Ed.), 2014.
- [14] Dharmo S., Thomai Gj., Besnik A. Tirana Qyteti I Munguar, 2016.
- [15] Felstehausen, H. Urban Growth and Land Use Changes In Tirana, Albania: With Cases Describing Urban Land Claims. Land Tenure Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1999. [Online]. Available: <http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1793/21921>
- [16] Galster, G. On the nature of neighborhood. *Urban Studies*, 38, 2001, pp. 2111-2124.
- [17] Gkiosa, A., 2017. [Online]. Available: https://issuu.com/agkiosa/docs/dissertation_amarilnto_gkiosa_k09163. [Accessed Jan. 2, 2023].
- [18] Goudy, W. J. Further consideration of indicators of community attachment. *Social Indicators Research*, 11, 1982, pp. 181-192.
- [19] Goudy, W. J. Community attachment in a rural region. *Rural Sociology*, 55, 1990, pp. 178-198.
- [20] Hay, R. Sense of place in developmental context. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 18, 1998, pp. 5-29.
- [21] Hummon, D. M. (1992). "Community attachment. Local sentiment and sense of place" in *Place attachment*, I. Altman, & S. M. Low (Eds.). New York and London: Plenum Press, 1992, pp. 253-277.
- [22] Kaltenborn, B. P., & Williams, D. R. The meaning of place: attachments to Femundsmarka National Park, Norway, among tourists and locals. *Norsk Geografisk Tidsskrift*, 56, 2002, pp. 189-198.
- [23] Kasarda, J. D., & Janowitz, M. Community attachment in mass society. *American Sociological Review*, 39, 1974, pp. 328-339.
- [24] Keller, S. The Urban Neighborhood. New York: Random House, 1968.
- [25] Kodra R., The Art From The Lascaux Caves To Cod (Center For Openness And Dialogue). Discovering And 'Discaverning' Edi Rama. Part I. *AKS Revista*, 1 November, 2018. [Online]. Available: <https://aksrevista>.

- wordpress.com/2018/10/31/___trashed/img-2-tirana-1920/. [Accessed May 20, 2023].
- [26] Lalli, M. Urban-related identity: Theory, measurement, and empirical findings. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 12, 1992, pp. 285-303.
- [27] Lewicka, M. Ways to make people active: Role of place attachment, cultural capital and neighborhood ties. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 4, 2005, pp. 381-395.
- [28] Lewicka, M. Place Attachment: How Far Have We Come In The Last 40 Years? *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, Vol. 31, Issue 3, pp. 207-230, 2010. Available: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2010.10.001>.
- [29] Low, S. M., Altman, I. "Place Attachment" in *Place Attachment*, Altman, I., Low, S.M. (eds). *Human Behavior and Environment*, vol 12. Springer, Boston, MA, 1992. Available:https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4684-8753-4_1.
- [30] **Manahasa, E. "Place Attachment As A Tool In Examining Place Identity:**
A Multilayered Evaluation Through Housing In Tirana". İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi, Turkey, 2017.
- [31] Manahasa, E., Durmishi Manahasa, O. Defining urban identity in a post-socialist turbulent context: The role of housing typologies and urban layers in Tirana. *Habitat International*, 2020. [Online]. Available:[102.10.1016/j.habitatint.2020.102202](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.habitatint.2020.102202).
- [32] Manahasa, E., Durmishi Manahasa, O. Measuring The Socialist Period Place Memory of Tirana's Main Boulevard: A Perception of Dwellers, 2021. [Online]. Available: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/359355475>
- [33] Mehilli, E. *From Stalin to Mao: Albania and The Socialist World*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London, 2017.
- [34] Mesch, G. S., & Manor, O. Social ties, environmental perception and local attachment. *Environment and Behavior*, 30, pp. 504-519, 1998.
- [35] Mico, D. "When "Words Fall on Deaf Ears". An Outline of Albania's Socialist Architecture." *Studies in History and Theory of Architecture*, no. 1, 2013, pp. 45-59. [Online]. Available: <https://sita.uauim.ro/article/1-mico-when-words-fall-onDOI:10.54508/SITA.1.06>

- [36] Ndrecka, O., Nepravishta, F. The Impact of Socialist Realism Ideology in the Albanian Architecture from 1945-1990. *Scientific Journal of Riga Technical University*, 9, 2014, pp. 27-32. [Online]. Available: 10.7250/aup.2014.004.
- [37] Nepravishta, F., Thomai, Gj. Austro-Hungarian Presence in Albania. Architecture, Planning, Infrastructure (1916-1935). *Volume 2 of Forum for Architecture and Urbanism*. La Scuola di Pitagora, 2020.
- [38] Proshansky, M. H. The City and Self-Identity. *Environment and Behavior*. Vol. 10, Issue 2, 1978. [Online]. Available: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0013916578102002>.
- [39] Pojani, D. Urbanization of Post-Communist Albania: Economic, Social, and Environmental Challenges. *Debatte: Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe*. Vol. 17. No. 1, pp. 85-97, 2009.
- [40] Pojani, D. Tirana. *Cities*, 27, pp. 483-495, 2010. [Online]. Available: 10.1016/j.cities.2010.02.002.
- [41] Porteous, J. D. Home: The Territorial Core. *Geographical Review*, 66 (4), 383, 1976. [Online]. Available: doi:10.2307/213649
- [42] Rugg, D. S. Communist Legacies in the Albanian Landscape. *The Geographical Review*. Vol. 84. No. 1. pp. 59-73, 1994.
- [43] Qyqja, H. Tirana, la Nuova Capitale da Brasini a Morpurgo. *Forum A+P*. Vol. 1, pp. 92-97, 2009.
- [44] Scannell, L., Gifford, R. Defining Place Attachment: A Tripartite Organizing Framework. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, Vol. 30, Issue 1, pp. 1-10, 2010. [Online]. Available: ISSN 0272-4944, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2009.09.006>.
- [45] Seamon, D., Sowers, J. Place and Placelessness, Edward Relph, 2008. [Online]. Available: 10.4135/9781446213742.n5.
- [46] Stedman, R. Is It Really Just a Social Construction? The Contribution of the Physical Environment to Sense of Place, *Society & Natural Resources*, 2003. [Online]. Available: 16:8, 671-685, DOI: 10.1080/08941920309189.
- [47] Stedman, R. C. Understanding place attachment among second home owners. *The American Behavioral Scientist*, 50, pp. 187-205, 2006.

- [48] Stefano Boeri Architetti. [Online]. Available: <https://www.stefano boeri architetti.net/project/tirana-2030/>. [Accessed Jan. 3, 2023].
- [49] Shkreli, A., and Gjoni D. Tirana: Ferri Urban i Fundshekullit XX. *Përprojekja*. No. 10. pp. 121-130, 1997.
- [50] Thomai, G. Histori Me Beton. In O. N. Channel (Ed.), *Dite e re*, 2015.
- [51] Warren, D. Helping Networks. SouthBend, IN: Notre Dame University Press, 1981.
- [52] Young, C., & Kaczmarek, S. The Socialist Past and Postsocialist Urban Identity in Central and Eastern Europe: The Case of Łódź, Poland. *European Urban and Regional Studies*, 15 (1), pp. 53–70, 2008. Available: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0969776407081275>.
- [53] Zanfi, F. Tirana. Four Materials with an Impermanent Title. *PLANUM*, 11, pp. 1-10, 2007. [Online]. Available: <http://www.planum.net/topics/main/m-tirana.html>.

APPENDIX

Questionnaire used during the surveying phase of this study:

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PLACE IDENTITY FOR CITIZEN [DWELLERS OF DIFFERENT LAYERS] OF A HISTORICAL NEIGHBOURHOOD SUBJECT OF URBAN TRANSFORMATION IN TIRANA

USER PROFILE LAYER Presocialist Socialist Postsocialist

Gender: Birth Year:

Owner Renter

Profession: Family Members No:

Education: Duration:

1. Do you identify yourself with the neighbourhood?

2. If yes through what (Form of Identification)?

Special/Unique Physical Element			Identificatory Relation		
	Which	Where		Which	Where
Landmark/ Building			Memories (Childhood, Objects)		
House			Experience (Atmosphere- Meaning)		
Street			Social (Friendship- Activities- Cultural)		
Public Space			Self-Identity (Born-place, Autochthonous)		
Other			Other		

Selected Zone Map



3. Do you identify yourself with the city?

2. If yes through what (Form of Identification)?

Special/Unique Physical Element			Identificatory Relation		
	Which	Where		Which	Where
Landmark/ Building			Memories (Childhood, Objects)		
House			Experience (Atmosphere- Meaning)		
Street			Social (Friendship- Activities- Cultural)		
Public Space			Self-Identity (Born-place, Autochthonous)		
Other			Other		

City Map

