

A STUDY OF PLACE ATTACHMENT AND PRIVACY IN A RESIDENTIAL  
COMPLEX IN TIRANA

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## Approval sheet of the Thesis

This is to certify that we have read this thesis entitled “**A Study of Place Attachment and Privacy in a Residential Complex 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.

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# ABSTRACT

## A STUDY OF PLACE ATTACHMENT AND PRIVACY IN A RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX IN TIRANA

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This study examines the intricate connection between place attachment and privacy in the setting of residential complexes. Understanding what influences people's connection to their living locations becomes increasingly important as urbanization continues to change our living settings. Living in multifamily housing is perceived as fundamentally dependent on privacy, affecting people's feelings of safety, independence, personal identity, and attachment there. However, little research has been done on how issues with privacy impact someone's perception of a place throughout a residential complex.

Therefore, the current study has examined the relationship between place attachment and privacy. To achieve this aim, the residential complex of “Mangalem 21” in Tirana is selected as a case study. Place attachment, defined as the emotional connection or relationship between one person and a certain location is measured on three levels of attachment: apartment, residential complex, and city. To measure privacy in different spatial qualities, the study has selected three types of apartments positioned in: the outer perimeter, the semi-closed courtyard, and the closed courtyard, by interviewing 201 residents, 67 per each of the typologies. Privacy, as a feeling of isolation from excessive social interaction, is measured only for the level of apartment attachment.

The results overall, in the three examined courtyard typologies, residents feel attached mostly to their apartment and city, and feel less attached to the whole residential

complex. For the privacy aspect, resulted that a considerable number of respondents were affected by the issue of privacy when asked if their negative answer related to attachment to the apartment was influenced by the lack of privacy. Finally, the study found that interviewers living in the closed courtyards apartments reported lower attachment due to privacy issues. In addition, the results were higher in semi-closed apartments and highest in outer perimeter apartments.

***Keywords:** place attachment, privacy, outer perimeter, closed courtyard, semi-closed courtyard, attachment to apartment, attachment to residential complex, attachment to city.*

# ABSTRAKT

## NJË STUDIM I LIDHJES ME VENDIN DHE PRIVATËSISË NË NJË KOMPLEKS REZIDENCIAL NË TIRANË

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Ky studim analizon marrëdhënien ndërmjet lidhjes me vendin dhe privatësisë në një kompleks rezidencial. Zhvillimi i vazhdueshëm urban dhe impakti i tij në mjediset e jetesës e bëjnë më thelbësore nevojën për të kuptuar se si ndikohen lidhjet e njerëzve me vendet e tyre të banimit. Jetesa në banesat multifamiljare perceptohet si e varur thelbësisht nga privatësia, gjë që ndikon në ndjesinë e sigurisë së njerëzve, pavarësisë, identitetit personal dhe lidhjes me atë vend. Megjithatë, pak kërkime janë bërë se si mungesa e privatësisë ndikon në perceptimin e vendit në një kompleks rezidencial.

Për këtë arsye, studimi aktual ka ekzaminuar marrëdhënien midis lidhjes me vendin dhe privatësisë, sesi njerëzit ndihen pjesë e vendit ku jetojnë dhe sa ndikim ka mungesa e privatësisë. Për të arritur këtë qëllim është përzgjedhur si rast studimi kompleksi rezidencial “Mangalem 21” në Tiranë. Gjithashtu, lidhja me vendin, e përcaktuar si lidhje emocionale ose marrëdhënia midis një personi dhe një lokacioni të caktuar, matet në tre nivele: apartament, kompleks rezidencial dhe qytet. Për të matur privatësinë në cilësi të ndryshme hapësinore, studimi ka përzgjedhur tre tipe apartamentesh të pozicionuara në: perimetrin e jashtëm, oborrit gjysmë të mbyllur dhe oborrit të mbyllur, duke intervistuar 201 banorë, 67 për secilën tipologji. Privatësia, si dhe ndjenja e izolimit nga ndërveprimi i tepruar social, matet vetëm për nivelin e lidhjes me apartamentin.

Rezultatet e përgjithshme, në tre tipologjitë e ekzaminuara të oborrit, tregojnë se banorët ndihen të lidhur kryesisht me apartamentin dhe qytetin e tyre dhe ndihen më pak të lidhur me kompleksin rezidencial në tërësi. Për aspektin e privatësisë, rezultoi se një numër i konsiderueshëm i të anketuarve ndikoheshin nga mungesa e privatësisë kur u pyetën nëse përgjigja e tyre negative në lidhjen me banesën ishte ndikuar nga privatësia. Në përfundim, studimi zbuloi se intervistuesit që jetonin në apartamentet me oborre të mbyllura raportuan lidhje më të ulët për shkak të problemeve të privatësisë. Për më tepër, rezultatet ishin të larta në apartamentet e pozicionuara në pjesën e oborreve gjysmë të mbyllura dhe më tepër të larta në apartamentet e ndodhura në perimetërin e jashtëm.

**Keywords:** *lidhja me vendin, privatësia, perimetri i jashtëm, oborr i mbyllur, oborr gjysmë i mbyllur, lidhja me apartamentin, lidhja me kompleksin rezidencial, lidhja me qytetin.*

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT .....	iii
ABSTRAKT .....	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	vii
LIST OF TABLES.....	xi
LIST OF FIGURES .....	xiii
CHAPTER 1 .....	1
INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.2 Research problem.....	2
1.3 Scope and Aim of the Research .....	3
1.4 Methodology .....	4
CHAPTER 2 .....	5
POST-SOCIALIST HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AROUND THE WORLD.....	5
2.1 Post-Socialist Housing in Tirana .....	6
2.2 Mass Housing and Residential Complexes.....	8
CHAPTER 3 .....	10
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK.....	10
3.1 Place attachment .....	10
3.1.1.1 Place attachment to home/apartment.....	12
3.1.1.2 Place attachment to neighborhood .....	13
3.1.1.3 Place attachment to city.....	13
3.2 Privacy as a Concept.....	14

3.2.1 Territoriality .....	15
3.2.2 Types of Territory .....	16
3.3 Privacy related to Place attachment .....	17
3.4 Operationalization of the Theory into the Research .....	18
CHAPTER 4 .....	19
CASE STUDY ON A POST-SOCIALIST HOUSING RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX: “MANGALEM 21” .....	19
4.1 Concept and Masterplan .....	19
4.2 Urban and Architectural Analysis.....	21
4.2.1 Housing Blocks (solids) .....	24
4.2.2 Open Spaces (voids-courtyards).....	27
4.3 Privacy issue illustrated through schematic drawings .....	34
CHAPTER 5 .....	38
QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESULTS CONDUCTED IN THE “MANGALEM 21” RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX .....	38
5.1 Questionnaire .....	38
5.2 Results of the Questionnaire .....	39
5.2.1 Results of Outer Perimeter Apartments .....	39
5.2.2 Results of Closed Courtyard Apartments.....	49
5.2.3 Results of Semi-Closed Courtyard Apartments .....	59
CHAPTER 6 .....	70
DISCUSSION.....	70
6.1 OVERALL ASSESSMENT .....	70
6.1.1 Overall User Profile .....	70
6.1.2 Attachment to Apartment .....	72

6.1.3 Attachment to Residential Complex .....	74
6.1.4 Attachment to City .....	75
6.2 COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT .....	80
6.2.1 Comparative Assessment of Attachment to Apartment .....	80
6.2.2 Comparative Assessment of Attachment to Residential Complex.....	82
6.2.3 Comparative Assessment of Attachment to City .....	83
CHAPTER 7 .....	85
CONCLUSION .....	85
REFERENCES .....	88
APPENDIX .....	95

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table 1.</b> MANGALEM 21- Outer perimeter respondents’ user profile .....	40
<b>Table 2.</b> MANGALEM 21- Direct quote for positive answers (Outer perimeter) .....	43
<b>Table 3.</b> MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers (Outer perimeter) ...	43
<b>Table 4.</b> MANGALEM 21- Direct quote reasons for negative answers.....	44
<b>Table 5.</b> MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for negative answers .....	44
<b>Table 6.</b> MANGALEM 21-Direct quote reasons for positive answers .....	46
<b>Table 7.</b> MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers .....	46
<b>Table 8.</b> MANGALEM 21- Direct quote reasons for positive answers.....	48
<b>Table 9.</b> MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers .....	48
<b>Table 10.</b> MANGALEM 21- Closed courtyard respondents’ user profile .....	49
<b>Table 11.</b> MANGALEM 21- Direct quote reasons for positive answers.....	52
<b>Table 12.</b> MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers .....	52
<b>Table 13.</b> MANGALEM 21- Closed courtyard direct quote for negative answers .....	53
<b>Table 14.</b> MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers .....	53
<b>Table 15.</b> MANGALEM 21- Direct quote reasons for positive answers.....	55
<b>Table 16.</b> MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers .....	56
<b>Table 17.</b> MANGALEM 21- Direct quote reasons for positive answers.....	58
<b>Table 18.</b> MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers .....	58
<b>Table 19.</b> MANGALEM 21- Semi-closed courtyard respondents’ user profile.....	60
<b>Table 20.</b> MANGALEM 21- Direct quote reasons for positive answers.....	62
<b>Table 21.</b> MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers .....	63

<b>Table 22.</b> MANGALEM 21- Semi-closed courtyard direct quote for negative answers .	64
<b>Table 23.</b> MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for negative answers .....	64
<b>Table 24.</b> MANGALEM 21- Semi-closed courtyard direct quote for positive answer .....	66
<b>Table 25.</b> MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers .....	66
<b>Table 26.</b> MANGALEM 21- Semi-closed courtyard direct quote for positive answers ..	68
<b>Table 27.</b> MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers .....	69
<b>Table 28.</b> MANGALEM 21- Overall User profile of respondents .....	71

## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>Figure 1.</b> Post Socialist residential complexes and the selected case study (Mangalem21)	9
<b>Figure 2.</b> Post Socialist residential complexes' location .....	9
<b>Figure 3.</b> “MANGALEM 21” in relation to Tirana context (OMA) .....	20
<b>Figure 4.</b> Coverage and Site Interventions (OMA) .....	21
<b>Figure 5.</b> Edge condition, ring road and parking, spine and boulevard section (OMA) ..	23
<b>Figure 6.</b> Residential facades, color inventory (OMA) .....	24
<b>Figure 7.</b> Residential facades, color inventory (OMA) .....	25
<b>Figure 8.</b> Housing Blocks' Openings (OMA).....	26
<b>Figure 9.</b> Residential plan layout overview (right) and under-construction blocks (left), (OMA) .....	27
<b>Figure 10.</b> a) Outdoor perimeter, b) Closed courtyard, c) Semi-closed courtyard (Author) .....	27
<b>Figure 11.</b> Photos taken from the outdoor perimeter of the residence complex (Author)	29
<b>Figure 12.</b> Photos taken from the semi-closed courtyard part of complex (Author) .....	31
<b>Figure 13.</b> Photos taken from the closed courtyard part of complex (Author).....	33
<b>Figure 14.</b> Privacy issue on “Building17” and “Building 18” illustrated through schematic drawing .....	34
<b>Figure 15.</b> Privacy issue on “Building 06”, “Building 04”, and “Building 02” illustrated through schematic drawing.....	35
<b>Figure 16.</b> Privacy issue on “Building 13”, “Building 10”, and “Building 07” illustrated through schematic drawing.....	36
<b>Figure 17.</b> Privacy issue on “Building 13”, “Building 14”, and “Building 15” illustrated through schematic drawing.....	37

<b>Figure 18.</b> MANGALEM 21- Profession (Outer Perimeter).....	41
<b>Figure 19.</b> MANGALEM 21- Attachment to Apartment (Outer Perimeter).....	42
<b>Figure 20.</b> MANGALEM 21- Positive reasons for question one related to apartment attachment and privacy (Outer Perimeter).....	43
<b>Figure 21.</b> MANGALEM 21- Negative reasons for question one related to apartment attachment and privacy (Outer Perimeter).....	44
<b>Figure 22.</b> MANGALEM 21- Attachment to Residential Complex (Outer Perimeter) ...	45
<b>Figure 23.</b> MANGALEM 21- Reasons for question two related to residential complex attachment (Outer Perimeter) .....	46
<b>Figure 24.</b> MANGALEM 21- Attachment to City (Outer Perimeter).....	47
<b>Figure 25.</b> MANGALEM 21- Reasons for question three related to city attachment (Outer Perimeter) .....	48
<b>Figure 26.</b> MANGALEM 21- Profession (Closed courtyard).....	50
<b>Figure 27.</b> MANGALEM 21- Attachment to Apartment (Closed Courtyard) .....	51
<b>Figure 28.</b> MANGALEM 21- Positive reasons for question one related to apartment attachment and privacy (Closed Courtyard).....	52
<b>Figure 29.</b> MANGALEM 21- Negative reasons for question one related to apartment attachment and privacy (Closed Courtyard).....	54
<b>Figure 30.</b> MANGALEM 21- Attachment to Residential Complex (Closed Courtyard)	55
<b>Figure 31.</b> MANGALEM 21- Reasons for question two related to residential complex attachment (Closed Courtyard).....	56
<b>Figure 32.</b> MANGALEM 21- Attachment to City (Closed Courtyard) .....	57
<b>Figure 33.</b> MANGALEM 21- Reasons for question three related to city attachment (Closed Courtyard).....	59
<b>Figure 34.</b> MANGALEM 21- Profession (Semi-Closed Courtyard).....	61
<b>Figure 35.</b> MANGALEM 21- Attachment to Apartment (Semi-Closed Courtyard).....	62

<b>Figure 36.</b> MANGALEM 21- Positive reasons for question one related to residential complex attachment (Semi-Closed Courtyard) .....	63
<b>Figure 37.</b> MANGALEM 21- Reasons for question one related to apartment attachment and privacy (Semi-Closed Courtyard).....	64
<b>Figure 38.</b> MANGALEM 21- Attachment to Residential Complex (Semi-Closed Courtyard).....	65
<b>Figure 39.</b> MANGALEM 21- Reasons for question two related to residential complex attachment (Semi-Closed Courtyard) .....	67
<b>Figure 40.</b> MANGALEM 21-Attachment to City (Semi-Closed Courtyard).....	68
<b>Figure 41.</b> MANGALEM 21- Reasons for question three related to city attachment (Semi-Closed Courtyard).....	69
<b>Figure 42.</b> MANGALEM 21- Overall professions.....	71
<b>Figure 43.</b> MANGALEM 21- Attachment to Apartment .....	72
<b>Figure 44.</b> MANGALEM 21- Apartment attachment reasons if a positive answer .....	73
<b>Figure 45.</b> MANGALEM 21- Apartment attachment reasons if a negative answer, privacy related .....	73
<b>Figure 46.</b> MANGALEM 21-Attachment to Residential Complex.....	74
<b>Figure 47.</b> MANGALEM 21- Residential Complex attachment reasons if a positive answer .....	75
<b>Figure 48.</b> MANGALEM 21- Attachment to City .....	76
<b>Figure 49.</b> MANGALEM 21- City attachment reasons if a positive answer .....	76
<b>Figure 50.</b> MANGALEM 21- Overall positive responses for Attachment to Apartment	77
<b>Figure 51.</b> MANGALEM 21- Overall positive responses for Attachment to Residential Complex .....	78
<b>Figure 52.</b> MANGALEM 21- Overall positive responses for Attachment to City.....	79
<b>Figure 53.</b> MANGALEM 21- Attachment to apartment comparative assessment.....	80



**Figure 54.** MANGALEM 21- Reasons if positive response, comparative assessment (Attachment to Apartment)..... 81

**Figure 55.** MANGALEM 21- Apartment attachment reasons if a negative answer, privacy related ..... 82

**Figure 56.** MANGALEM 21-Attachment to Residential Complex..... 82

**Figure 57.** MANGALEM 21- Reasons if positive response, comparative assessment (Attachment to Residential Complex) ..... 83

**Figure 58.** MANGALEM 21-Attachment to City ..... 84

**Figure 59.** MANGALEM 21- Reasons if positive response, comparative assessment (Attachment to City)..... 84

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

Places are delineated following the physical, spiritual, and behavioral aspects associated with them since they constitute a part of the environment in which peoples interact [1]. People's emotional connections to a place significantly impact how that place is sensed and experienced [2]. According to Brown et al. [3], place attachment is commonly interpreted as people's emotional bond with their dwellings. The interaction of affect and emotions, knowledge and ideas, actions and behaviors about a place is what is meant by it [4].

Attachment to a specific place has a wide range of purposes. At one level, could provide a person the feeling of constant stability and excitement because they offer dependable amenities, chances to unwind from formal responsibilities, possibilities for creativity, and a sense of control over some parts of their lives. On a different level, a person's place attachment may formally and outwardly bind them to their friends, spouses, kids, and relatives. It can serve as a symbolic link between individuals, serving as a reminder of past experiences such as childhood or previous years, parents, friends, etc. Furthermore, place attachments can bind individuals to a religion, country, or culture via the use of fictitious representations of locations, ideals, and beliefs. Both theoretical and practical applications may be drawn from the examination of place attachment. Theoretical applicability is found in attempting to comprehend how people and groups interact with one another and with their surroundings. It is crucial for integration between studies of place and studies of people. The "people-place attachment-place-behavior" connection is referred to as the "practical significance of place attachment study," and it is challenging to empirically analyze [5].

Different-sized contexts, like the home, neighborhood, and city, can create place attachments. Scale is an essential part of place attachment. The scale of the surroundings can have an impact on how emotionally connected people become, especially how they perceive

their sense of place, their sense of commitment, and their aspirations. The idea of home is often used to represent self-identity, belongingness, connection, privacy, and security [6]. Neighborhoods lack precisely defined borders and are areas that are both larger than the average house and smaller than the scale of a whole city [5]. On the other hand, the city is considered the “center of meaning” of the place [7].

Privacy is a further important aspect closely associated with place attachment because people who can control their social interactions in a particular setting are more likely to feel a connection to it. Referring to a residential complex, sharing the same area as others has ramifications for one's privacy, which is characterized as a personal experience including excessive levels of social exchange [8]. Regardless of the considerable space that a residential complex provides, living there, considering also the position of the apartment, makes it presumably harder to control social interactions. However, being capable of controlling these interactions is crucial because it makes privacy-related aspirations easier to achieve [9]. If people are prosperous in attaining these privacy goals, it is anticipated that they will connect more to the place, which mediates the correlation between privacy and place attachment.

## **1.2 Research problem**

Urban areas are increasingly populated by residential complexes, which provide a distinctive mix of private homes and communal places. Privacy takes on an essential position in people's everyday lives and their interactions with the outside world in these demanding environments. Place attachment an emotional connection that develops between people and the places they live, is a complex concept that includes cognitive, affective, and behavioral elements. Comprehending the impact of privacy concerns on place attachment in residential complexes is the primary research problem of this thesis. The capacity of inhabitants to manage information about themselves, manage who has access to their homes, and preserve a feeling of isolation from others is referred to as privacy. With its combination of personal and common places, the setting of residential complexes might provide difficulties for inhabitants' right to privacy, providing concerns about possible repercussions for their

connection to the place. The research problem focuses on the subsequent issues to comprehend how privacy impact residents' sense of place in these shared living settings of the “Mangalem 21” residential complex. The reasons for these research problems will be analyzed in this thesis.

- i. How does privacy influence attachment?
- ii. How do different levels of privacy affect attachment?
- iii. How about the influence of different scales of attachment respectively, attachment to the apartment, to the residential complex, and to the city?

### **1.3 Scope and Aim of the Research**

Since a residential complex includes individual and shared spaces and the interactions between people are more present, the case of “Mangalem 21” as one of the largest housing developments in Albania where around 6000 people inhabit, serves as an appropriate illustration to take into consideration the connection to a place, the privacy problems that appear there as well the impact that this privacy has on place attachment. In accordance with that, the concepts of place attachment and privacy are studied, followed by the main characteristics of the residential complex, aiming at residents’ perceptions and comparison among selected research categories. Subsequently, the privacy issue will be illustrated in a graphical way showing its impact on the respective floor levels of the buildings. Within this context, the aim of this thesis is to explore the potential association between place attachment and privacy, specifically if privacy might influence apartment attachment, and analyze the impact of it on how is influenced by the position of the apartment.

## **1.4 Methodology**

In this thesis, an incorporating method between both quantitative and qualitative research methods is used. To achieve this thesis's aim, the methods of visual documentation, sampling, survey, data collection, and analysis through clustering are used. The visual documentation method is used to document through photos of different aspects of the residential complex. Sampling is used to identify different apartment typologies according to privacy which are the outer perimeter, the closed courtyard, and the semi-closed courtyard. The survey is applied to the dwellers in order to identify if people there feel attached and if privacy plays any role in their place attachment. A structured questionnaire to investigate the residents of “Mangalem21” was prepared, and divided into three study areas for three levels of attachment: apartment, residential complex, and city. The data collection and analysis through clustering method was employed to the questionnaire results for a number of 201 residents that were asked.

More thoroughly, a pilot study is conducted at the beginning involving 10 residents from the complex to gather initial impressions. Their responses guide the formulation of interview questions for subsequent structured interviews. To visually represent the distribution and frequency of respondents' answers, mapping techniques are employed. Considering the correlation between place attachment and privacy, the study shows the precautions taken by residents to enhance their privacy. Observations are conducted over three days, at different times of the day (morning, lunch, and afternoon), to gain a comprehensive understanding of how residents establish private spaces. Furthermore, the photoshoot serves as a valuable tool to capture the authentic condition of various parts of the residential complex, providing visual evidence and enhancing the overall research findings.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **POST-SOCIALIST HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AROUND THE WORLD**

Buildings and communities saw significant alterations during the post-socialist era that weren't present under the capitalist economy. Social groups relocated to various parts of the city as a result of the post-socialist urban transformation, and new residential districts with new housing designs were established. Neighborhoods may be divided into two categories that stand out. There are informal slums first, where people construct their own homes. This kind of structure is more frequently found in suburban single-family dwellings and post-socialist prosperity. The homes of rich families were frequently independently constructed and meticulously protected at the start of the changeover. A sort of residential setting known as the "complete, gated community" arose in Western design around 2000 with the entry of huge real estate businesses, many of them backed by foreign cash. These neighborhoods may now be found in several cities around the area [10].

Additionally, various building techniques have been developed to enable the expansion of commercial activity. We saw the rise of minor types of commerce at the start of the change, including the enlargement of existing structures, little booths, kiosks, and marketplaces. The most recent trend, after the era of capitalism and the government's attempts to address the pervasive informality of the 1990s, has been a rise in the development of sizable retail malls, multipurpose facilities, and entertainment venues in the Western style. Buildings of this nature were nonexistent during socialism. Modern urban aesthetic standards were clearly broken by post-socialism. Hybridity influenced by post-socialist city styles resulted from the collapse of the state's monopoly on the creation of architecture in the city, disregard for restrictions on aesthetic expression, participation of private parties with their own preferences in the city-building process, and the region's openness to the world's cultures [11].

## 2.1 Post-Socialist Housing in Tirana

The socio-economic-political backdrop that Albania experienced had an impact on Tirana's post-socialist housing. New theories of urban development appear at this time, such as developing communities and establishing a fresh perspective of public space in the city center. Beginning in the early 1990s, Albanians began migrating to Tirana from the mountainous areas and settling there. A combination of political, social, and economic conditions of the transition era encouraged this unrestricted migration of the population from rural to urban regions, notably to the capital city [12]. There was essentially no employment in the nation due to the economic collapse of state-owned cooperatives, businesses, and farms. This forced a lot of individuals to relocate to metropolitan regions in search of employment.

The urban environment of post-socialist Tirana was significantly affected by the illegal occupation of public land for housing, mostly on the outer edges of the town, and for commercial use, primarily in the city center [13]. The housing complexes received a number of changes aimed at accomplishing the demands of the residents and enhancing their quality of life. Tirana's citizens who were living in apartment buildings at the time began to illegally add on to the public open spaces to make up for the lack of interior space, including bathrooms, storage areas, kitchens, and living spaces. The areas around the residential structures were wherever feasible partitioned into private courtyards taking up common space. The majority of the additions were made without proper authorization [14]. Many residents also started occupying the open spaces between houses and in common areas like parks, where they opened their own businesses like bars and restaurants, or small stores [15].

The new symbol of the post-socialist era is high-rise construction. The façade of a large number of flats were painted in vibrant colors as part of the "The Rebirth of City" project, which was conducted in the year 2000. The French "Architecture Studio" created the Tirana Master Plan through an international competition in 2004, laying the groundwork for the development of big structures that "would define the main boulevard skyline." For each tower, later contests that were considered "international" were established. Stefano

Boeri created the new urban plan for the city, which consists of 5 new centers and two new ring highways situated in between the old "Small Ring" and "Middle Ring."

Housing types that best describe this time period are:

- Detached houses
- High-rise dwellings (tower-type apartment blocks and residential complexes).
- Gated Communities

Property owners created the post-socialist detached house by adding a floor to already-existing homes or by constructing new villas on their properties. In the post-socialist era, this home type was developed to meet the requirements of growing families for additional space and additionally to maximize the profit on investment for essential properties. The detached post-socialist home sits in a courtyard, albeit it occasionally abuts a street or a property boundary. In the center of a green area, the first type was simpler to build. The construction of the residential complexes came at the cost of the athletic fields. They are positioned around the outside of the rectangular areas, surrounded by what appear to be outdoor social gathering places in between. However, the ground levels are typically made for coffee shops, which readily encroach on the public area. "Gated community" is a residential space or area that is completely or partially surrounded by physical or natural elements at its boundaries [16]. This type of residence usually has a main entrance, such as a physical gate, that is controlled by security staff 24 hours a day and is also protected by security cameras nowadays [17]. Gated communities can be divided into categories according to the type of community, the physical structure, and the security measures they take. These settlements have become home to the rich class and the upper middle class in the post-socialist period. Two building variations are seen: Mass Housing and Residential Housing.



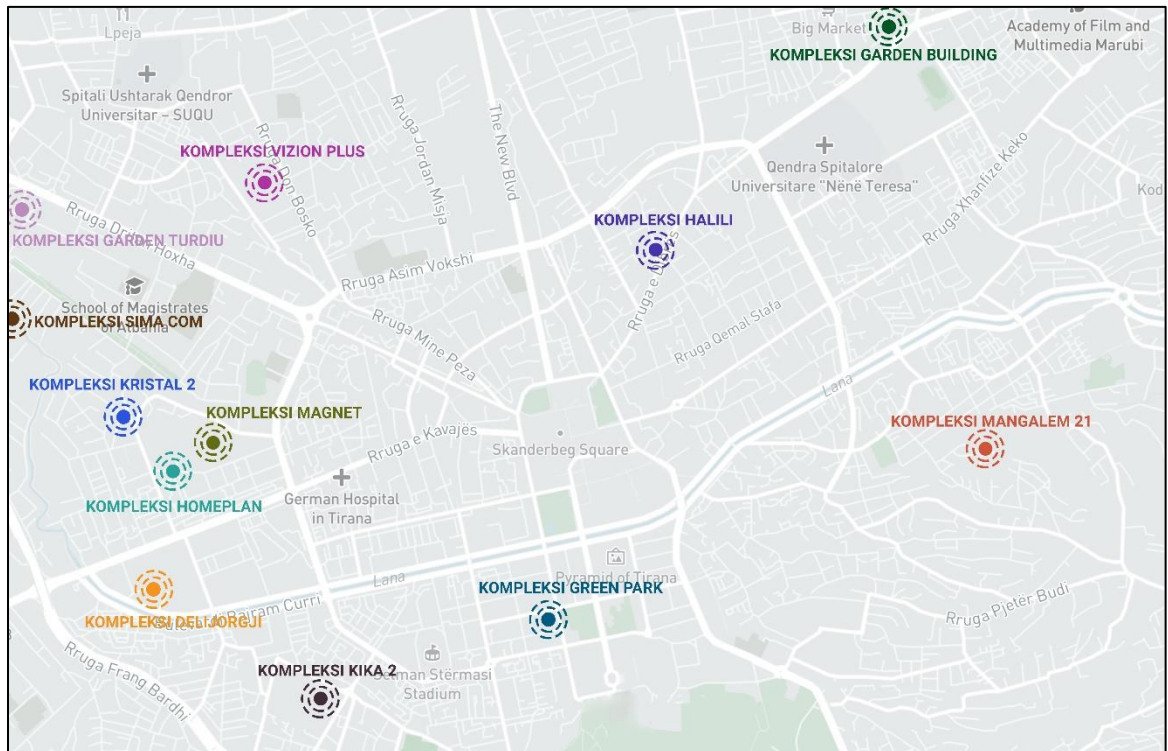
## **2.2 Mass Housing and Residential Complexes**

Mass housing is a multi-story apartment building that satisfies the need for creating high-quality dwellings suited for middle-class families. In order to address the severe lack of housing, particularly in major cities, it may be defined as dense and repeated housing options that have evolved as an addition to urban regeneration programs. Efficiency and speed were given top priority throughout the planning and building of mass housing, which led to repetitive architectural forms. They are divided into four blocks, most of which are "u" shaped and have gardens. The lower levels of these six-story residences are split between commercial activity and accommodations for people with disabilities. While most of the apartments on a typical floor are two-bedroom units, there are also studio, one-bedroom, and three-bedroom units. Apartment buildings' exteriors feature a cheerful spectrum décor [18].

Residential Complexes represents a family group that develops in a similar physical location, activity, and neighborhood internal spatial setting, randomly connects, and has an inherent feeling of interacting. Under the same conditions, interacts with other residents in the housing area and has a certain sense of sharing, resulting in an independent, interacting, and unifying interaction relationship. By encouraging such growth, the residential complexes were built at the expense of sportive fields and the disorganized setting of the land ownership issue. This typology offers a range of flats, from studios to five and one-bedroom units. The central portions of the flats are dark and lack natural light. Freer forms, including curvilinear or circular shapes, are what define the outside of the residential complex housing type. Additionally, higher-grade materials are employed in the façades.



*Figure 1.* Post Socialist residential complexes and the selected case study (Mangalem21)



*Figure 2.* Post Socialist residential complexes' location

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **3.1 Place attachment**

The word "place" concentrates on the physical environments to which individuals are emotionally and culturally linked, a dimension created by interactions between individuals and their surroundings, collective and personal activities, and meanings, whereas the word "attachment" indicates emotions. Among the terms that may be used to explain the nature of the interaction between people and place are place attachment, place identity, and sense of place [19]. The idea of a sense of place is used to investigate the relationship, attachment, and significance of place among individuals. A sense of place is typically understood to be an overall impression, which comprises people's emotions and experiences of a place as well as the broad sense in which concepts and qualities are assigned to it [20].

The phenomenon of place attachment is significant and frequently studied in the discipline of environmental psychology. Place attachment, which normally includes both physical and social components, is a term that refers to a particularly high personal bond to specific places or to various environments [21][5]. Personal interaction with the environment leads to the development of place attachment. The formation of attachment has been demonstrated to be influenced by factors like the local habitat, cultural practices, movement, duration of residency, and recreational possibilities [22]. There are several reasons or feelings that drive people to sense a connection to a location. Others may be emotionally connected to a location because of its physical qualities. Some people have strong social ties in their community or are deeply entrenched in their generation. Aspects of the economy, like employment, owning a house, etc., also have an impact. Place attachment is a difficult aspect to fully comprehend and acknowledge connections between physical and metaphysical [23]. The establishment of an emotional and cognitive relationship with a place

is necessary for the development of place attachment and a sense of belonging, which results in a sense of security and community [24]. Place attachment is an integrative idea that researchers from all fields should pursue.

'Individuals' commitments to their neighborhoods and neighbors" are the definition of attachment to place [25]. The authors contend that, attachment does not represent a single, unitary phenomena but rather consists of numerous distinct characteristics that may be used to establish four different types of attachment, three of which are "social attachment" types. The level of neighborhood contentment and the need for stable housing are indicators of a fourth dimension, called "affective attachment." Depending on their own needs, possibilities, and the features of the neighborhood or their house, people prefer to be connected to their neighborhood in varied contexts. The authors' concern is focused less on attachment as an emotional phenomenon and more on behavioral characteristics that are important to the concepts of community and social cohesiveness. In fact, their research provides intriguing findings on the complexity of the factors influencing the decision to choose between residential stability or mobility and the socialization networks within a particular community, as opposed to an analysis of the affective aspects of the relationship with place.

Attachment to place is seen as a fundamental human need. However, due to greater mobility, progressive spatial homogeneity, and a merely pragmatic interaction with locations, modern society is increasingly unable to meet this need [26]. According to popular belief, the most typical condition in the Western world is a stage that is halfway between total attachment and total disconnection, in which situations are seen as a mix of cognitive and emotional, as well as "points in a spatial system" and "strong visceral experiences" [7].

Place attachment, consists of "... expectancies of stability, emotions of positive affect, improved awareness of the locality, and activities that serve to sustain or enrich the location" [27]. Evaluations of the appropriateness of the existing environment and the comparative quality of other environments are necessary for attachment to place [28]. The resident feels that high-quality present surroundings support crucial objectives and activities [29]. According to this theory, place attachment is significantly influenced by neighborhood

physical amenities, individual and household traits, and social networks. Since in this thesis, we focus more on the scale of the neighborhood, a brief literature on different scales of place attachment is given.

### **3.1.1 Scales of Place Attachment**

Place attachment may be formed in a variety of environments, including the city, the neighborhood, and the dwelling itself. "Place" can empirically refer to any significant spatial unit, irrespective of its scale—from an individual's preferred chair to the entire world [7]. In the latest study, attachment to a neighborhood is by far the most prevalent topic regarding such study findings, subsequently followed by attachment to a place of residence or "home." A lesser number of studies have examined attachment to bigger locations, and even lesser have compared locations of various sizes [30]. Individuals have various meanings for particular locations depending on the territorial scale, and as an outcome, various reasons contribute to different types of place attachment [31].

#### **3.1.1.1 Place attachment to home/apartment**

The emotional attachment people form to their homes, including their apartments, is referred to as place attachment. It embraces the intimacy, coziness, and feeling of belonging those individuals connect with their dwellings. A variety of characteristics may help a person get emotionally attached to their place of living. These elements include the home's physical characteristics, such as the architecture, layout, and adaptability, which can arouse feelings of identification and commitment. The perceived utility and applicability of the living place, as well as individual experiences and remembrance, are psychological elements that can influence the cohesiveness of the connection. Connection to one's house rather than one's neighborhood or city was significantly more strongly influenced by social variables than by physical ones overall [32].

### **3.1.1.2 Place attachment to neighborhood**

Related to both place qualities and one's own personality, place attachment to a neighborhood varies. According to environmental psychology, place attachment—an emotional bond between people and their neighborhood—is what keeps the community in one location over time [33]. The number of years a person has lived there, the experiences they've had there, and the neighborhood where they've resided all contribute to place attachment. Place attachment to neighborhood gives a general description of the elements that, in inhabitant's opinions, bring comfort so that inhabitants may remain and establish themselves in the area where they lived for many years. Place attachment also is a form of comfort that extends beyond physical locations to include social connections with neighbors [34]. Attachment consists of connections to society, a feeling of place, and an acquaintance with one's surroundings [35]. A person's connection to a location increases with the length of time they have lived there [36]; [37]; [38] . People who are used to a place tend to feel secure, anchored, and part of the neighborhood [39].

The development of neighborhood attachment occurs as a result of regular contact among neighbors and displays a broad sense of contentment with residential neighborhoods [40]. According to studies, the neighborhood connection is greater than attachment to other geographic scales [41]. Around 70% of place attachment research concentrates on the neighborhood, 20% on the home, and just 10% on the city. There may be variations in the strength of social attachments formed with other bigger geographical scales, such as the city, given that the majority of instruments addressing attachment are focused on assessments relating to neighborhood attachment [30].

### **3.1.1.3 Place attachment to city**

Connections formed with the city are stronger than those formed with neighborhoods demonstrated in a small number of analyses that contrast neighborhoods with other regional scales [30] [42] [43]. The individuals may feel a greater representational contact with their

city than with their neighborhood [44], suggesting that representational features of the relationship with the place might impose an impact on the formation of emotional ties [45]. Consequently, the city could be seen as having a lot of meaningful significance compared to the neighborhood. The city is an interconnected network of tiny habitats, including homes and communities. The organizational hierarchy of cities enables them to serve as landmarks and points of reference for their inhabitants despite their complexities and scale. Cities could provide their citizens with more options and chances than communities, allowing them to better satisfy their everyday demands. So, compared to attachment to neighborhoods, the city's attachment had a greater impact on social well-being [46].

### **3.2 Privacy as a Concept**

Privacy is seen as a personal condition of the individual and a collaborative condition. It is not an autonomous state or definitive objective, even for those who prefer a life of seclusion and isolation. It primarily serves as a tool for reaching personal self-awareness objectives. As a result, it is only a small component of the unique, complicated, and ever-changing mechanism of social requirements. As unpleasant as not being permitted to obtain privacy whenever someone needs it, or being left alone when anyone needs company [47]. Some other researchers also saw privacy as a condition. They described privacy as "that outstanding compound of withdrawal, autonomy, solitude, contemplation, and concentration" [48]. A person enjoys privacy "to the level other individuals have restricted information availability related to him, restricted knowledge to the private aspects of his life, or restricted access to his personal mental processes or physical well-being" [49]. Having one's own space and being unaffected by other people's expectations is valuable [50].

Personal space is a distinct aspect of privacy that refers to a man's portable sphere of space which is shielded from outsiders, a right to selective self-disclosure, and a right to individual independence. The practical sense of privacy used by the court—as a zone untainted by external intrusion—was insufficient because it placed too much emphasis on visual invasion defense [51].

Privacy may take on a variety of forms, including solitude, reserve, intimacy, and anonymity. Solitude is perceived as a sort of privacy that occurs when a person is alone and concealed and thought it to be the greatest level of privacy that people may reach. On the other hand, anonymity is a form of privacy that exists when it is feasible to move about in public without being identified or the focus of attention. In the proposal for reserve privacy, emotional buffers toward invasion emerged [47]. Reserve was the most complicated and environment-independent sort of privacy [52]. Intimacy is a form of seclusion that is connected to someone's desire to foster deep interpersonal ties. Without the option for seclusion, intimacy just wouldn't have occurred. One's independent right to choose whether he shall be seen is violated when someone observes him without his choice [47].

### **3.2.1 Territoriality**

Territoriality, often known as authority over space, is a further aspect of privacy. The more controlling or imposing people chose their preferred areas and had the most secure territory. Privacy increased emotions of independence, while privacy combined with territoriality increased feelings of safety [53]. Territoriality plays a crucial role in the social structure of communities as a system of conduct. As a result, territoriality is essential to a community's defining and structuring of diverse role connections [4].

Referring to the relationship between territory and privacy, is stated that "privacy may constitute a basic form of human territoriality" and emphasized that privacy promotes individual freedom, which is essential to personality. In essence, privacy is a tool for realizing one's own potential; also, it gives one a feeling of authority by offering a setting for self-expression, introspection, and psychological safety [54]. Since territoriality is described as establishing and demonstrating control over a specific segment of space, it is possible to infer that the core determinant of territorial behavior is the need to retain or attain privacy.

Crowding also has an immediate relation to privacy and territoriality since it happens when "a person's interaction with other individuals is adequate to avoid them from pursuing



particular actions as well as consequently limits his freedom of choice". In conclusion, "Freedom of choice... becomes a key concept in understanding privacy, territoriality, and crowding" [4].

### **3.2.2 Types of Territory**

Three categories exist: Public territories like bus seats and city sidewalks are less significant and durable, whereas primary territories like bedrooms and houses are the most essential and permanent. Between these two areas are secondary territories, that are likewise frequently distinguished by common ownership among individuals in a community. Examples of these include bars and certain neighborhoods.

There is an order that separates territorial marking, owner marking intents, and owner responses to territorial breaches. There are many different shapes, sizes, and values for primary territorial markers. Since primary territories act as expansions of their owners' sense of belonging, markers for them often consist of significant, individually significant symbols that express their sense of design and aesthetic preferences. The markers are less varied and contain fewer significant things that indicate the owners' explicit claims to space since public areas are less important to the owners' sense of self [55].

In order to enable inhabitants to scan their territory and clearly define the borders between public and private areas, the adoption of "defensible space" concepts is promoted. These plans encourage the citizens' underlying feelings of community and territoriality and give them power over their areas. Landscaping, hedges, welcome mats, and the color of the home all function as markers or personalizing signaling territoriality in a domestic context [56].

### **3.3 Privacy related to Place attachment**

Privacy, in environmental psychology, is described as "an interpersonal boundary-control mechanism, which phases and controls connection with others." Privacy is divided into two categories: accomplished privacy and desired privacy. Desired privacy refers to the level of social interaction or privacy that a person wants, whereas actual privacy relates to the level of social interaction or privacy that a person is now experiencing. Greater privacy equals less social interaction, whereas less social exchange equals more privacy. Social exchange and privacy are at opposite extremes of the spectrum [9]. Therefore, a personal experience including too much social interaction might be described as privacy [8].

People have a level of privacy that is both wanted and realized. People can participate in a wide variety of privacy-regulating actions to get the appropriate amount of privacy. To avoid social contact, one might, for example, retire into their own room and shut the door, or one can visit a neighbor in his or her room to strike up a discussion. Such actions might not, however, be sufficient in the short term. In the context of this, it is distinguished between two outcomes that might occur when one deviates from the ideal level of privacy: too little or too much interaction. In other words, when one lacks little privacy, one feels detached or crowded [9]. Furthermore, it's likely that the inability to benefit from the services that privacy provides results from the lack of regulation of privacy [57].

Additionally, the way a person fits into their surroundings may have an impact on privacy. Person-environment congruence refers to how well people fit into their environment. The term "environment" can be used to describe both the physical environment, such as a dwelling or a city, as well as the social setting, such as the individuals who inhabit there [58].

There is limited study on the connection between privacy and place attachment, although some scholars have examined it. For instance, discovered data that implies those who rated greater ease in controlling privacy also expressed a stronger connection to the place. Meaning that, those who are efficient at managing their privacy are more likely to form place attachments. Contrarily, it is anticipated that persons with little privacy will be less able to form place attachments [59]. According to certain theories, privacy is essential

to well-being [60]. Additionally, studies have shown that place attachment may support well-being [29]. For instance, residents who scored better on well-being also reported higher levels of place attachment, according to some researches [59].

### **3.4 Operationalization of the Theory into the Research**

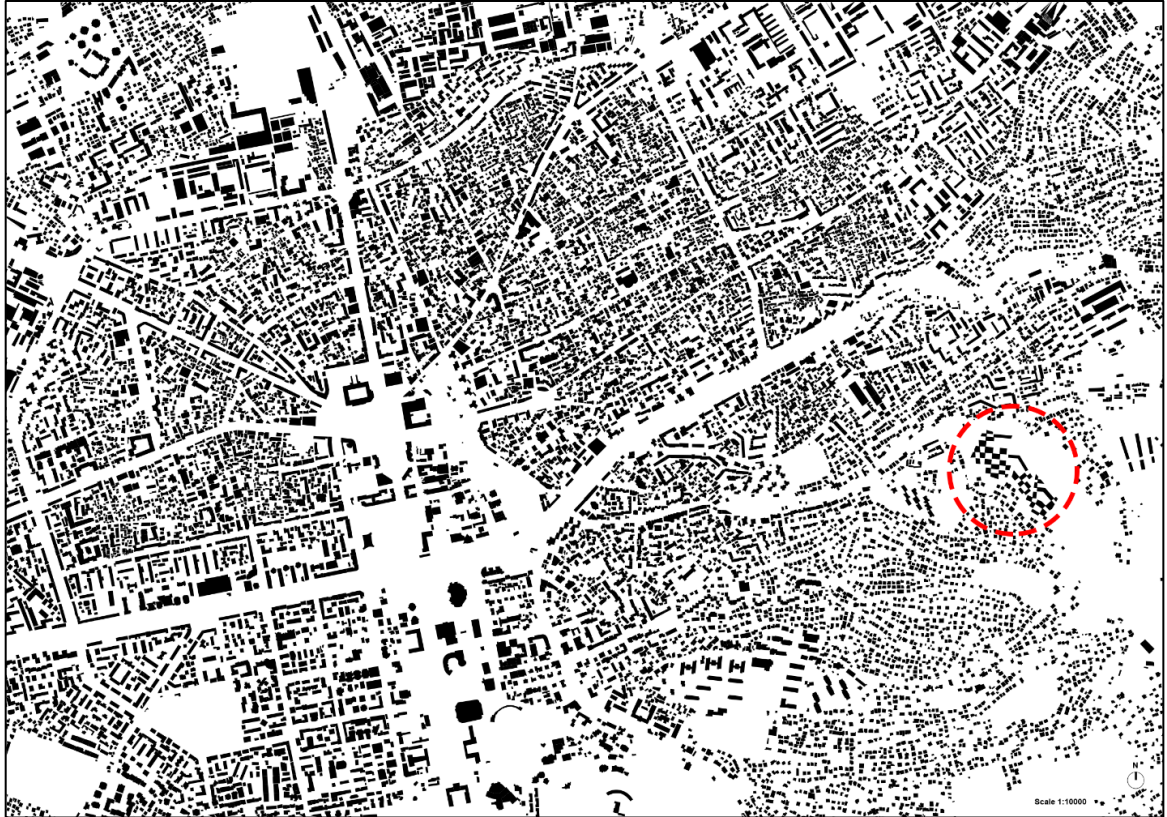
As highlighted in the theory section, place attachment, and privacy have been linked since preserving one's privacy aids in achieving one's own goals, which in turn aids in developing a sense of connection to a particular location. In line with that, this study investigates the connection between place attachment and privacy in a residential complex. This study primarily focuses on the outer perimeter, closed, and semi-closed courtyard categories to better understand how these diverse spatial arrangements affect people's sense of privacy and their consequent connection to the location. The research tries to operationalize the theory using surveys in order to translate theoretical concepts into quantifiable variables and meaningful data interpretations. The research study will evaluate inhabitants' privacy concerns, and their emotional and cognitive place attachments on three distinct attachment scales—apartment, residential complex, and city attachment—as well as the reasons influencing these experiences via a combination of quantitative surveys and qualitative literature reviews. By using this approach, the study intends to give a thorough understanding of how privacy and place attachment in the residential complex are influenced by the design and layout of courtyards, providing useful knowledge for future urban planning and architectural decisions.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **CASE STUDY ON A POST-SOCIALIST HOUSING RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX: “MANGALEM 21”**

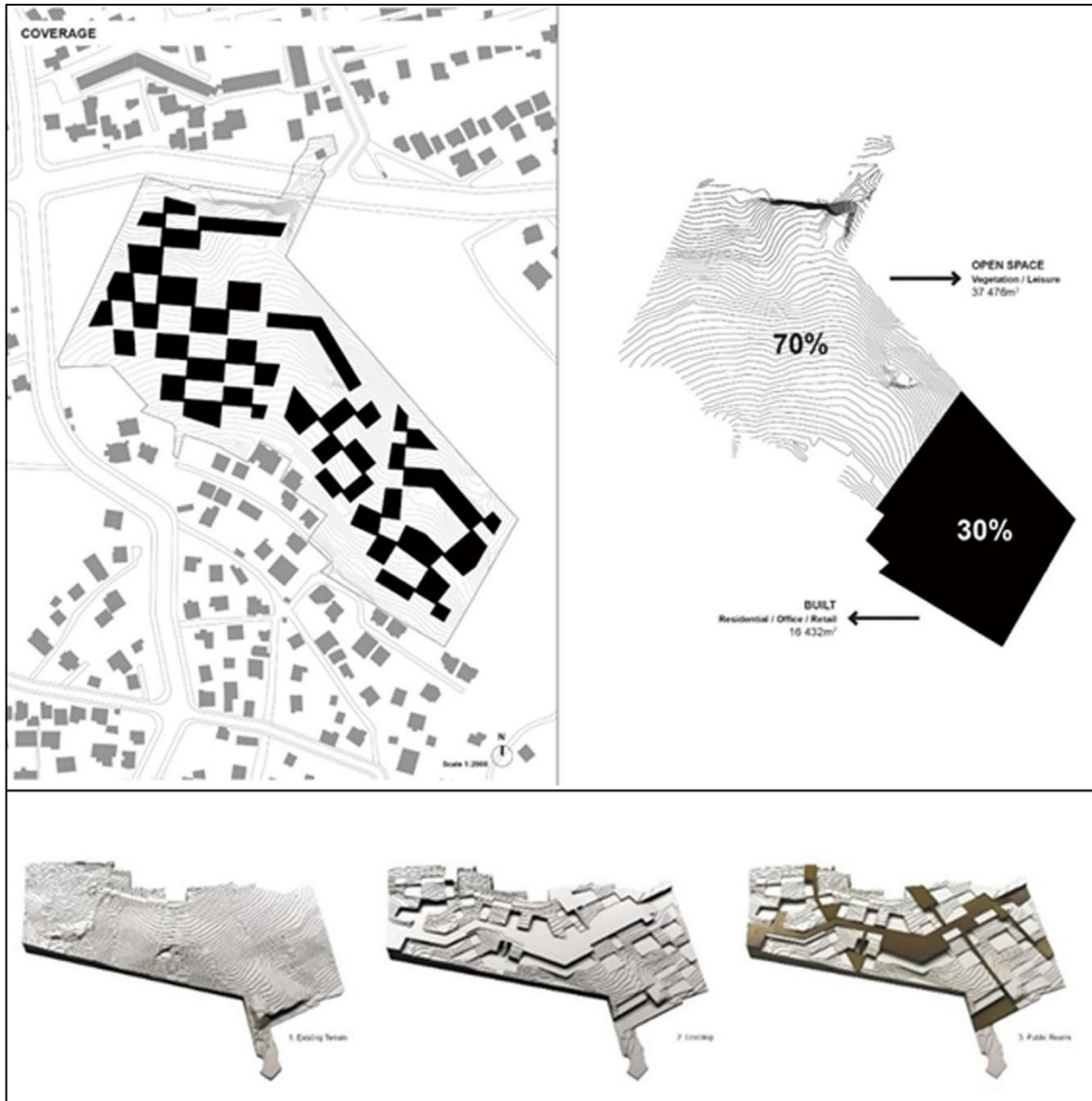
#### **4.1 Concept and Masterplan**

“Mangalem 21” is one of the largest housing developments in Albania, designed by “OMA” & Reinier de Graaf, one of the partners of the Metropolitan Architecture Studio (OMA), the studio founded by Rem Koolhaas. The project covers a plot of land in the eastern part of the city, with a very prominent slope: the difference between the lowest and the highest point is 27 meters. The site is bordered by informal buildings widespread around the 90s from the north to the south. For this site, a checkerboard motif structure was proposed, following the contour lines of the site in rows, highly ordered and structured by the heights of the site, which is a more formalized way of distributing the area's existing buildings. The group of new buildings takes attractiveness from the informal buildings of the area, turning into a more contemporary version of them.



*Figure 3.* “MANGALEM 21” in relation to Tirana context (OMA)

Although a considerable intensity of construction is achieved, there is only 30% (16 432 m<sup>2</sup>) of the site built for residential, office, and retail functions while the other 70% (36 476 m<sup>2</sup>) remains as an open space for vegetation and leisure which represents the smoking character of the site. The overall pattern is a lot of small buildings but actually exists of three, more or less continuous clusters which also means that the whole development can be built in phases. In the context of the morphology of Tirana as a whole, the complex masterplan blends well into the city, and looks like a typical development that makes use of the hill; there are courtyards but the buildings are different in height, they start at different heights so one building looks over the shoulders of the next one. The site is built on a slope, where it is prepared for the buildings. One of the things that is done in the design is the flattening of certain parts of the site with a difference of 3 meters in height where the buildings are, and where there are no buildings, the site is left as it is.

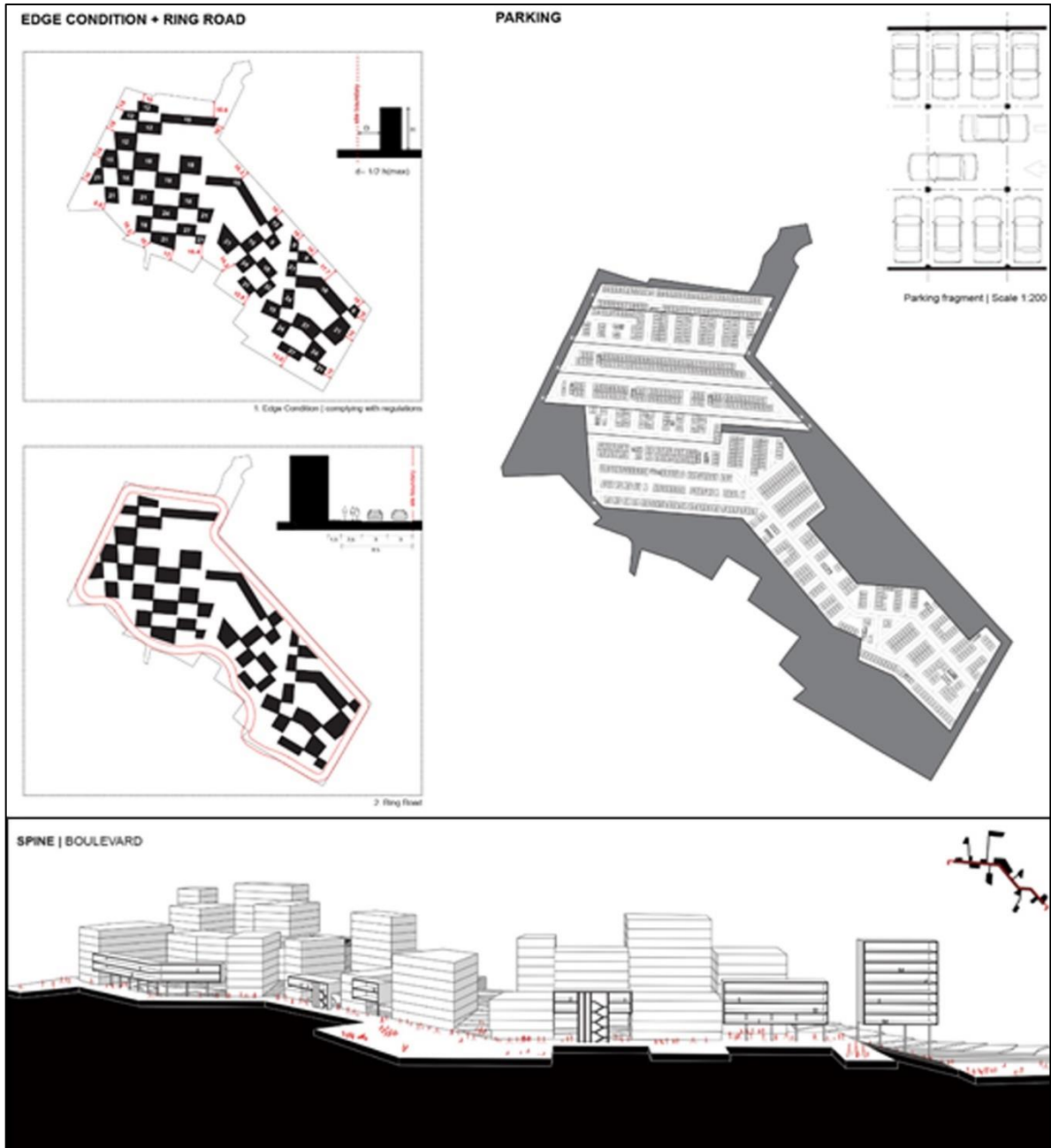


*Figure 4.* Coverage and Site Interventions (OMA)

## 4.2 Urban and Architectural Analysis

OMA suggests a grid of courtyards and buildings that resembles a checkerboard. Every building can see over the other because of the terrain's slope, which results in various perspectives of the surroundings. The development's main thoroughfare connects “Mangalem 21” with the upcoming green belt and the new ring road that the municipality is

planning, as well as gathering commercial activity. Regarding accessibility, the site is surrounded by a ring road that gives access to the whole periphery of the plan allowing also the emergency vehicles to pass along the buildings. Car parking is located in the underground part of the complex, following the contour lines of the site and the cars invisibly disappear underneath the project leaving the space above free for the movement of pedestrians. A 'green central spine' runs along the complex, which creates a strong connection to the city plan as a whole, to the New Ring, and to METROBOSCO (the green city park). This 'green central spine' is a large public space, which connects each component element into a whole. It connects the various courtyards of the buildings with each other, in a road stretching along the square. It creates multiple attractive uses and is a very lively urban access that makes this development truly a home to live. In the section of all along the spine across the whole plan, on the same contour line, all the hard spaces are connected and you can cross the entire plan by almost staying at the same level. When you cross the buildings through the passages it always remains double height.



*Figure 5.* Edge condition, ring road and parking, spine and boulevard section (OMA)



### 4.2.1 Housing Blocks (solids)

There are 33 buildings in total, of which 9 of them are under construction. Three types of structures appear: the "straddle apartment," which spans over two neighboring buildings, the "straddle core," which is a vertical circulation shared by two adjacent buildings, and the "kissing corner," which consists of two tangent building corners. The buildings, referring to the checkerboard pattern, are in a solid-void relationship where there is variability between them. If one part of the site is denser and the volumes are more similar to each other, the other part is a little more spread out and elongated.



*Figure 6.* Residential facades, color inventory (OMA)

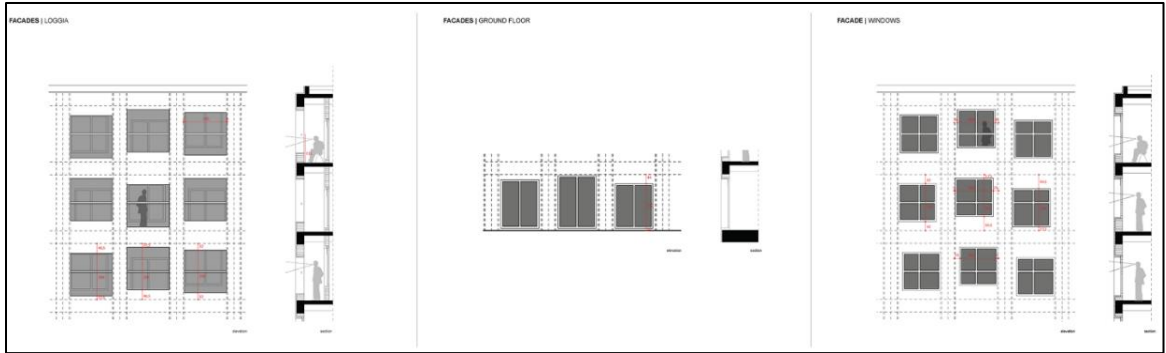
Regarding the blocks' facades, "Mangalem 21's" project deals with color in a proactive way. Each inner courtyard has a distinct color tone thus bringing an identity through the treatment of colors in a contemporary way and the special position of each of them in the group of buildings. Around the perimeter of the site, the buildings are in white

plaster, while each of the courtyards is in different colors. This adds a variety of experiences and experiences to the city as a whole.



*Figure 7.* Residential facades, color inventory (OMA)

For the openings, there are two sizes designed, one for the loggia and one essentially for the big windows. An extremely repetitive scheme except for the positioning of the windows in relation to the interior. Square windows in a square bay, to the left, to the right, to the top, to the bottom, of the edges. Every single window has four positions inland in a structural way. The division of the window is always in four, where the cross stays in the same place, but because the windows' move looks like it is in a different place creating the "dancing window" concept. The point of it was to make it seem more vernacular, even though the building is very rational and industrial.



**Figure 8.** Housing Blocks' Openings (OMA)

The ground floor of each building is in a way half sunken and half exposed to the outside, so one end of the building is below the ground, and the ground floor at the other end is fully exposed. A sanctioned principle is applied to use the ground floors, wherever the building directly borders the neighboring terrain to put functions either commercial and also apartments as much as possible in order that the people who live there can make use of the courtyard. A series of quite small buildings, sometimes cores are in the middle of the blocks, sometimes they are at the corners giving access to both blocks. Regarding the apartments, there are in multiple sizes but on average they are grouped around 120m<sup>2</sup>, 90 m<sup>2</sup>, and 60m<sup>2</sup> giving the idea of “living in a flat, but the flat is not a box, thinking outside the box”.



**Figure 9.** Residential plan layout overview (right) and under-construction blocks (left), (OMA)

#### 4.2.2 Open Spaces (voids-courtyards)

In the 24 internal courtyards that the project has, some have been conceived as community, while others have been conceived as private. Each courtyard has different qualities in terms of space, positioning, surroundings, lighting, use, colors, greenery, and privacy. This allows residents to have different perceptions and experiences when interacting with the courtyard.



**Figure 10.** a) Outdoor perimeter, b) Closed courtyard, c) Semi-closed courtyard (Author)

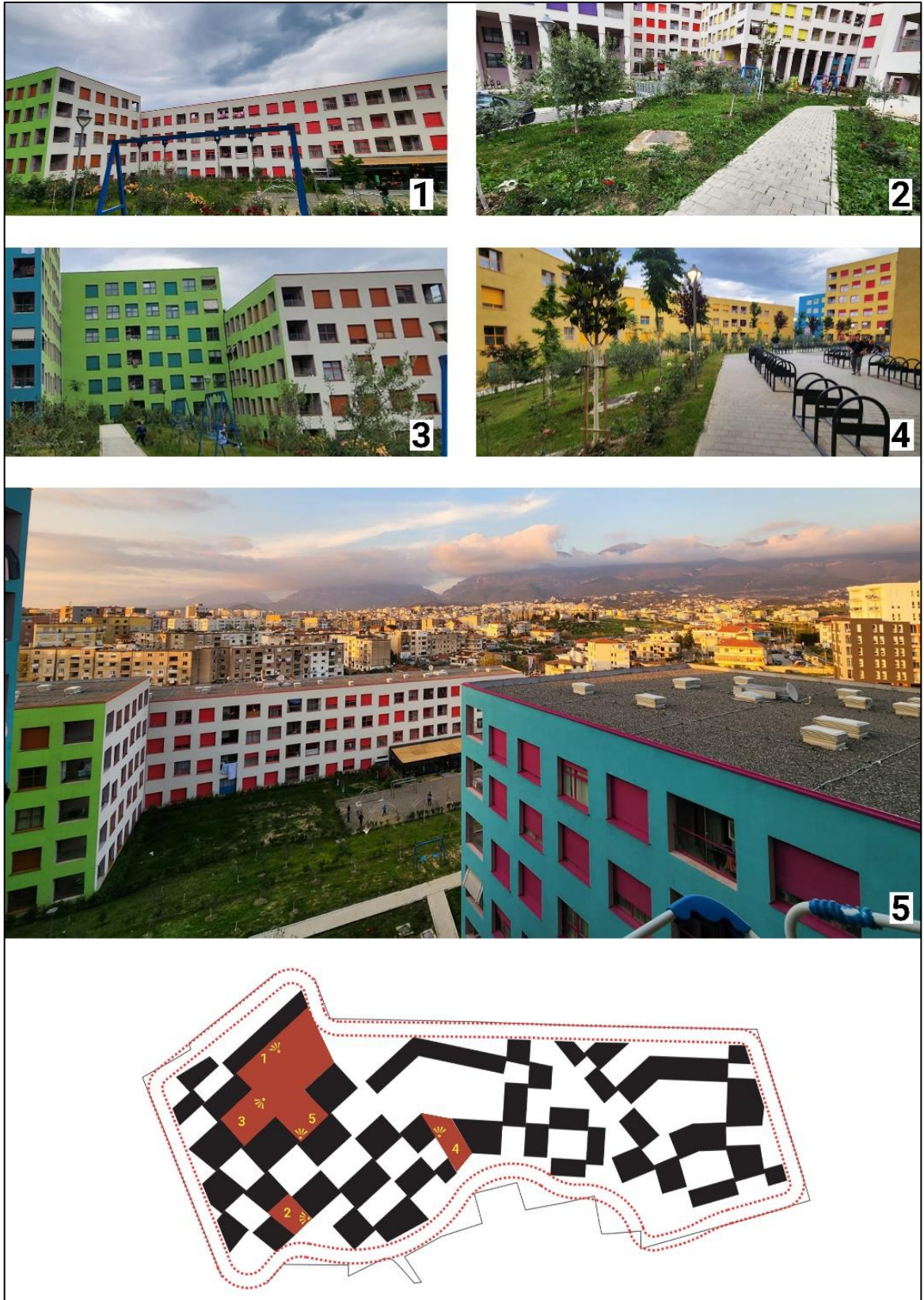
Regarding the outer perimeter part of the complex, walkways connect the buildings in the complex and give inhabitants access to the area's surroundings. The complex is conveniently positioned outside of the crowded town center. The lack of city disturbances makes it possible to live in a more peaceful environment. However, when inhabitants look out their windows, in the outer perimeter part of the building, they see the other side of the community. Although they might feel a little removed from the residence's own nearby green areas, they have the possibility to watch the dynamic architecture of the neighborhood.

Homeowners enjoy easy accessibility to a wide range of facilities that take care of their everyday necessities while being somewhat cut off from the nearby natural surroundings. A wide variety of facilities, involving stores, markets, and cafés, may be found in the nearby blocks. As a result, inhabitants receive quick availability of necessary commodities and services without having to go away. The area offers a lively and active environment that fits the everyday needs and wants of the inhabitants.



*Figure 11.* Photos taken from the outdoor perimeter of the residence complex (Author)

The semi-closed courtyard area is concealed inside the complex, giving inhabitants a sense of seclusion and communal areas. The courtyard's physical features are intended to encourage unwinding and interpersonal contact. Pathways that are kept up well lead locals through patches of lush vegetation. There are several sitting spaces in the courtyard, giving locals the ideal places to relax and socialize with neighbors. It is enclosed by apartment buildings on three sides, which has an impact on how people see the area from their windows or balconies. Their sight is focused on the interior of the apartment complex rather than wide-ranging views of the city or the neighboring areas. This approach promotes a strong feeling of community by giving residents a sense of belonging and connection to their neighbors. The inside perspective acts as an outline for exchanges and insights into other people's lives, developing connections among inhabitants. The semi-closed courtyard area of the buildings provides for the everyday demands of its occupants along with the community-based architecture. Numerous services are located in the nearby blocks, making sure that all necessary facilities are easily accessible. Residents have easy access to all the amenities they need for daily life. It also, features open places for relaxing, playgrounds for kids to play, and inviting seating areas for community gatherings. The building's orientation and location within the complex, however, require consideration because they might limit privacy and natural light in some areas. particular units receive less natural light, and occupants feel less private in particular areas, based on the distinct design.



*Figure 12.* Photos taken from the semi-closed courtyard part of complex (Author)



The closed courtyard area is distinguished by a feeling of closeness and solitude. This area of the residential complex is enclosed on each side by apartment buildings, creating a secluded atmosphere. Pathways wind across the neighborhood, taking people through little patches of vegetation. The courtyard's physical elements, including seating spots and open sections, give inhabitants places to unwind. Nevertheless, individuals may feel isolated due to the close proximity of the residences and the placement of openings and balconies. The small spaces among the structures and the absence of privacy, as a result, create issues with noise and lighting in specific dwellings. The windows' interior-facing orientation prevents a wide-ranging view of the surrounding landscape and hinders a sense of connection with it. As a result, this makes the space feel more isolated and individualistic for some people. The enclosed courtyard area of the buildings offers a variety of facilities that meet the everyday needs of inhabitants regardless of any possible downsides. Numerous amenities are located in the neighboring blocks, making it easy to find the necessities. With specific sections for play areas and seating places, the courtyard's open spaces offer chances for leisure and recreation. These facilities foster a feeling of a neighborhood by giving locals places to interact with one another and take part in shared experiences.



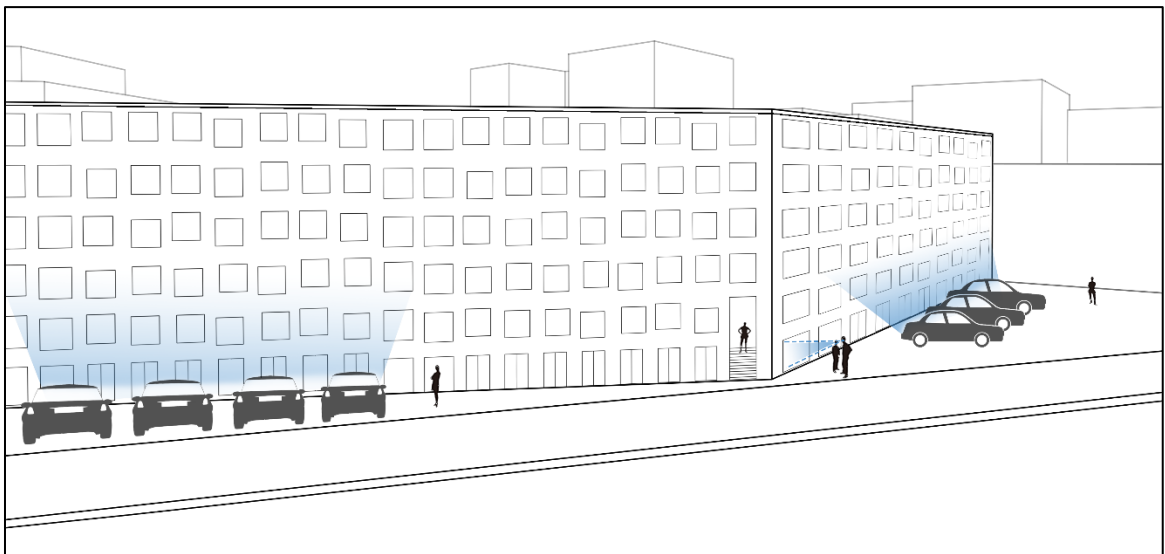
*Figure 13.* Photos taken from the closed courtyard part of complex (Author)

### 4.3 Privacy issue illustrated through schematic drawings

The privacy of people may be threatened by their close proximity to living spaces and shared social spaces. The residents frequently deal with problems including visual disruption, noise problems, and a lack of individual space management. For the purpose of creating well-being, developing a sense of security, and eventually improving the overall quality of life for inhabitants of apartment buildings, it is crucial to recognize the significance of privacy in crowded places.

#### i. Outer perimeter privacy analysis

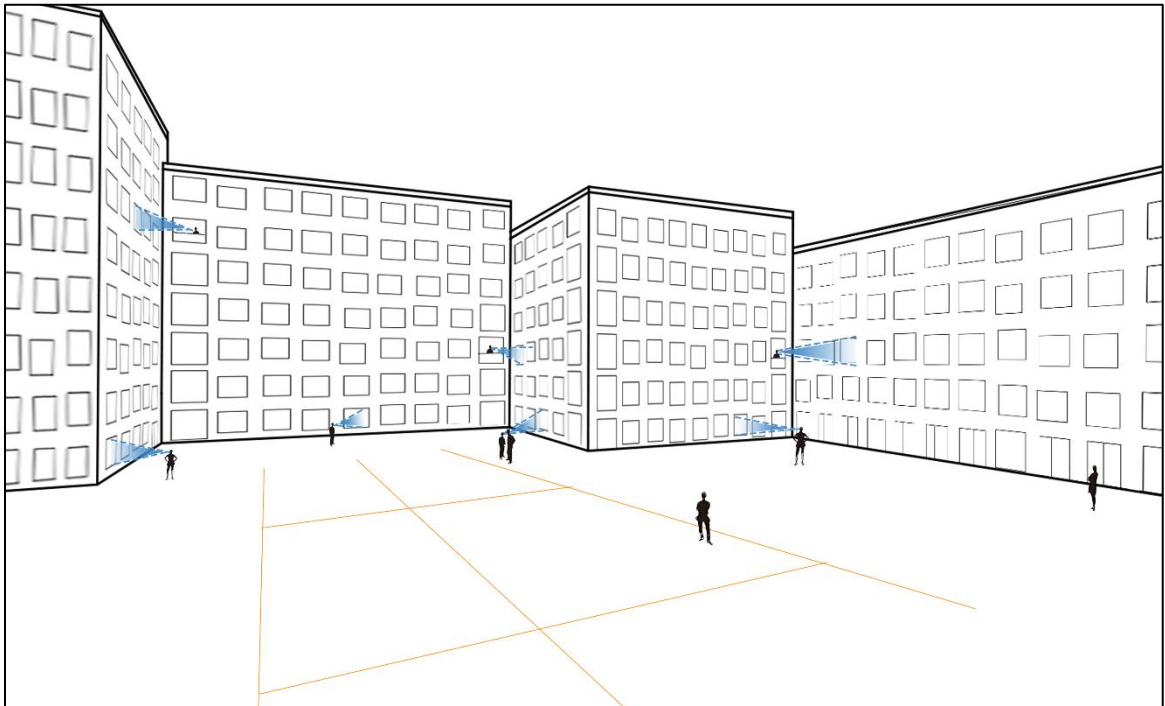
For the outer perimeter, the issue of privacy is illustrated in Figure 14, through a schematic drawing of the “Building 17”, and “Building 18”, showing that the main factor of this privacy lack is the noise caused by the outdoor car parking located near the buildings. For all the floors in general this factor violated the privacy of the residents living in there.



**Figure 14.** Privacy issue on “Building17” and “Building 18” illustrated through schematic drawing.

## ii. Semi-Closed courtyard privacy analysis

For the semi-closed courtyard part, the issue of privacy is illustrated in Figure 15, through a schematic drawing of the “Building 06”, “Building 04”, and “Building 02”, showing that the main factor of this privacy lack is the noise caused by the residents and the windows’ proximity of other buildings. For all the floors in general these factors violated the privacy of the residents living in there.

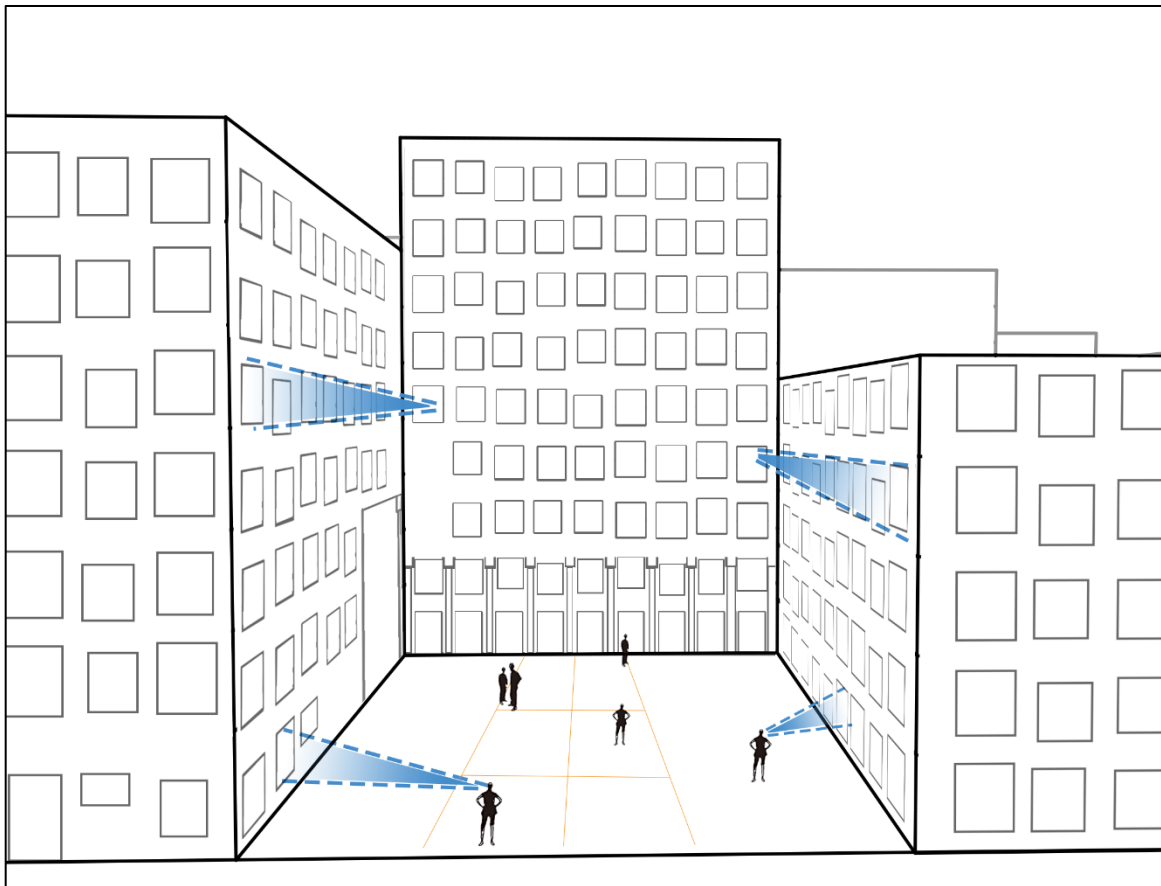


*Figure 15.* Privacy issue on “Building 06”, “Building 04”, and “Building 02” illustrated through schematic drawing.

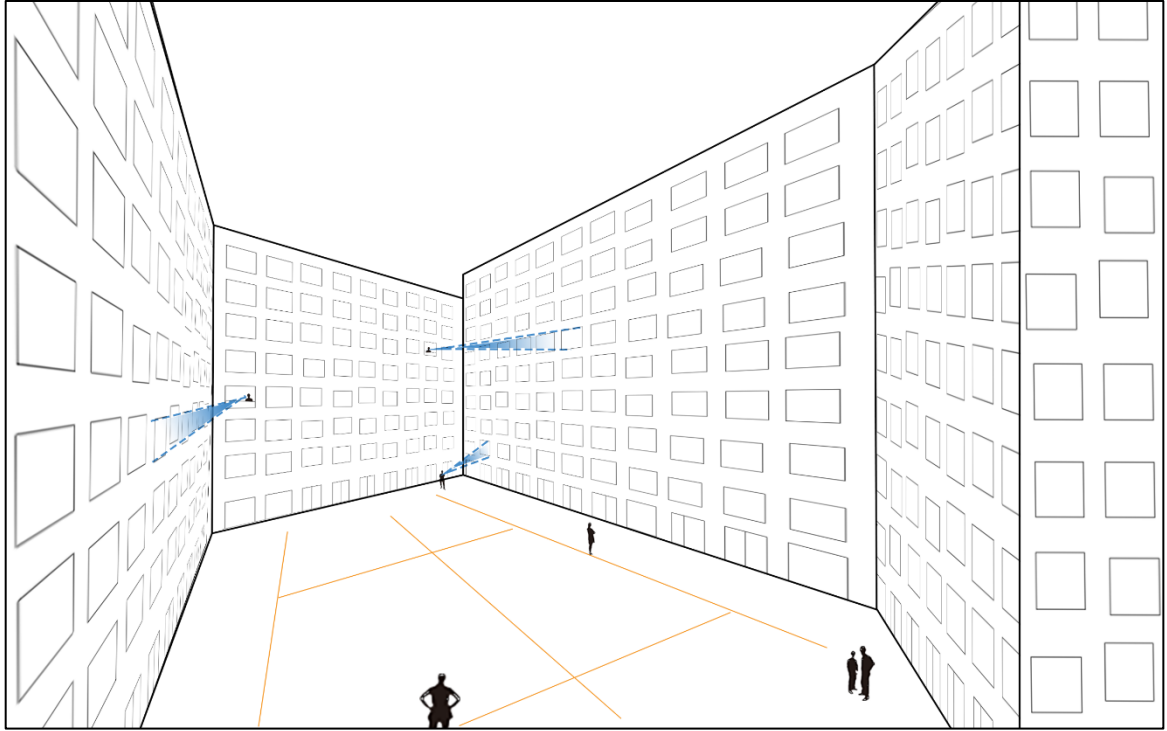
## iii. Closed courtyard privacy analysis

For the closed courtyard part, the issue of privacy is illustrated in Figure 16 and Figure 17, through a schematic drawing of the “Building 13”, “Building 10”, and “Building 07”, on the first figure and the “Building 13”, “Building 14”, and “Building 15” on the second figure, showing that the main factor of this privacy lack is the noise caused by the

residents and the windows' proximity of other buildings. For most of the floors in general, especially the ground floors, these factors violated the privacy of the residents living in there making them feel isolated and disturbed by the noises or the scrutinizing gazes of individuals around them.



**Figure 16.** Privacy issue on “Building 13”, “Building 10”, and “Building 07” illustrated through schematic drawing.



**Figure 17.** Privacy issue on “Building 13”, “Building 14”, and “Building 15” illustrated through schematic drawing.

Relating these characteristics to each of the courtyards’ categories, raises the question: “Do the residents feel a sense of connection or attachment, and does privacy, if any, affect this connection?” To reach a more specific and detailed answer, in this thesis, using a structured questionnaire, place attachment is measured in 3 levels: attachment to apartment, residential complex, and city; for the categories: outer perimeter, closed courtyard, and semi-closed courtyard, to better understand the perceptions residents of this complex have.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESULTS CONDUCTED IN THE “MANGALEM 21” RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX**

#### **5.1 Questionnaire**

To achieve the purpose of the study, a structured questionnaire was developed to measure attachment and privacy in the residential complex of “Mangalem 21”. Only the completed part of the complex was taken into consideration to develop the questionnaire since nine of the building blocks were under construction. The questionnaire had a total of 201 questions, divided into two sections: User Profile and Attachment.

The first section of the user profile included gender, ownership of the residents; owner or renter, education; high school or university, the birth year of the respondents, number of their family members, and their length of stay in this residential complex.

In the second section of the attachment, questions were conducted on three levels of attachment; in that of the apartment, residential complex, and city attachment. For each question, the residents had to give the reason for their answer if it was positive. Regarding the privacy issue, it was asked only at the level of attachment to the apartment, as well as to give the reason if the lack of privacy played a role in their non-attachment to the space where they live.

The results were analyzed according to three typologies of open spaces, i.e., courtyards; categorized into the outer perimeter, semi-closed courtyard, and closed courtyard of the residential complex. 67 people were asked for each category. For the outer perimeter part, ten buildings were taken into consideration: Building 1, Building 2, Building 4, Building 5, Building 8, Building 11, Building 17, Building 18, Building 19, and Building 22. For the semi-closed courtyard part three buildings were taken into consideration, respectively: Building 4, Building 14, and Building 22. Lastly, for the part of the closed

courtyard, eight buildings were taken into consideration, respectively: Building 1, Building 4, Building 5, Building 8, Building 10, Building 17, Building 18, Building 19, and Building 22.

## **5.2 Results of the Questionnaire**

Residential complexes are important elements of urban neighborhoods because they provide residents with a sense of security and belonging. In these complexes, attachment to place and privacy are crucial components of residents' experiences. While privacy refers to the influence residents have over their private spaces, place attachment describes residents' connections to the environment in which they live. With the use of the open-ended questionnaire that was conducted, this study sought to ascertain how inhabitants of a particular residential complex (Mangalem21), feel about place attachment and privacy in relation to the three different aspects (categories) of the complex:

- Outer Perimeter (67 people asked),
- Closed Courtyard (67 people asked),
- Semi-Closed Courtyard (67 people asked).

### **5.2.1 Results of Outer Perimeter Apartments**

In the questionnaire, interviewing the residents who lived in the complex, for this category out of 67 respondents, 29 were aged between (25-34) years, 25 were aged between (35-50) years, and 13 were aged (over 50) years. 35 were female and 32 were male, of whom most had higher education (70%). For the duration, the majority of the respondents have been living in the residential complex for '1-2 years' (35 respondents), followed by '2 and a half to 3 years' (30 respondents), and 'less than 1 year' (2 respondents). Regarding

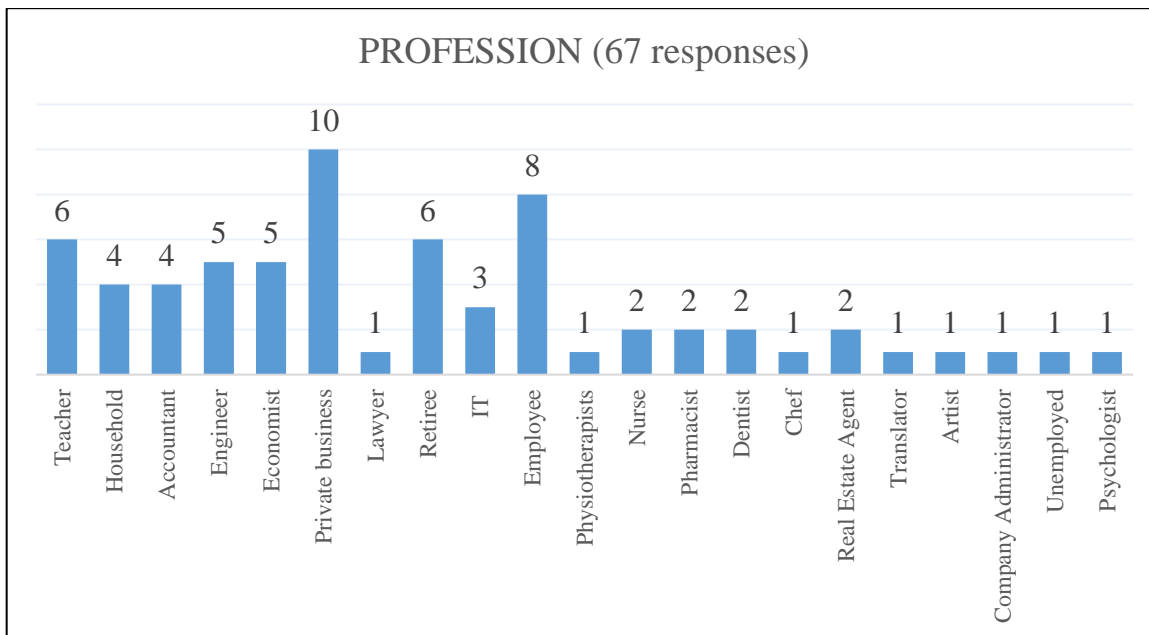


ownership, most of the residents lived in apartments owned by them (60 respondents), and only (7 respondents) lived in rented accommodation. Related to the number of family members, all the residents lived with their families, specifically, (24 respondents) are with four family members, (19 respondents) are with three family members, (10 respondents) are with two family members, (9 respondents) are with five family members, (3 respondents) live alone, (1 respondent) is with six family members and (1 respondent) is with seven family members.

**Table 1.** MANGALEM 21- Outer perimeter respondents' user profile

Gender		Age		Education		Ownership		Duration		Family Member No.	
67 respondents		67 respondents		67 respondents		67 respondents		67 respondents		67 respondents	
Female	35	18-24	-	University	47	Owner	60	< 1 year	2	1 member	3
		25-34	29					1-2 years	35	2 members	10
		35-50	25					> 2 - 3 years	30	3 members	19
Male	32	> 50	13	High school	20	Renter	7	> 3 years	-	4 members	24
										5 members	9
										> 5 members	2

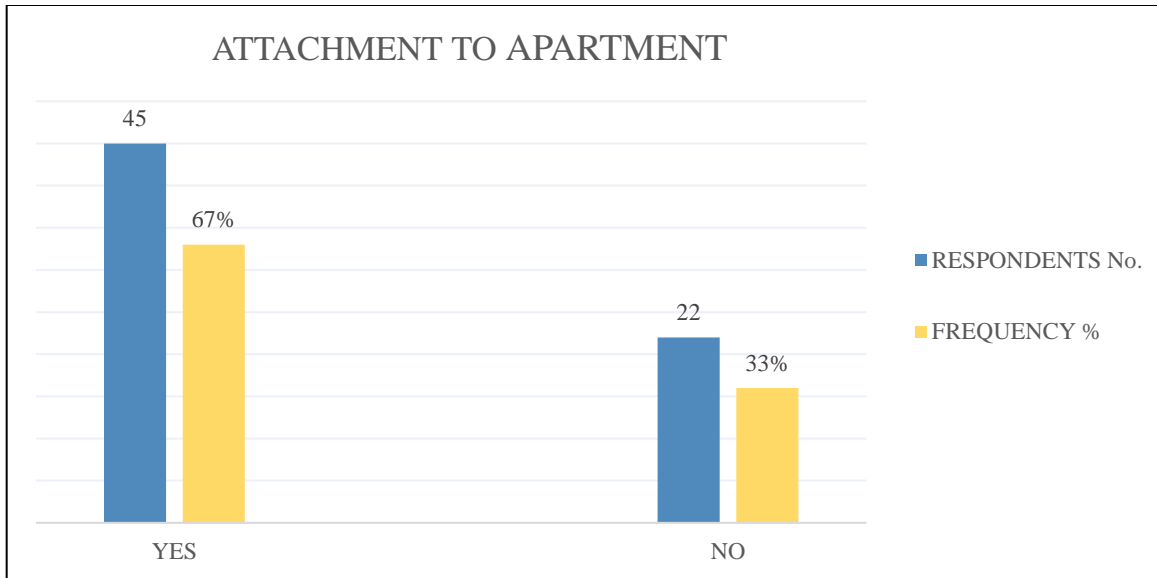
Regarding the profession, the most common ones reported by the respondents were business owner (10 respondents), followed by the employee (8 respondents), retiree and teacher (6 respondents each), engineer and economist (5 respondents each), household and accountant (4 respondents each), IT (3 respondents), nurse, pharmacist, dentist, and real estate agent (2 respondents each), lawyer, physiotherapist, chef, artist, translator, company administrator, psychologist, and unemployed (1 respondent each).



**Figure 18.** MANGALEM 21- Profession (Outer Perimeter)

**i. Responses for attachment to apartment (Outer Perimeter)**

A considerable number of the respondents gave a positive response when asked about their attachment to their apartment (45 respondents), or 67%. Showing that the residents of the apartment complex feel connected to their living space, which can have a positive impact on their overall well-being and satisfaction with their living environment. On the other hand, only (22 respondents), or 33%, gave a negative response showing that they do not feel connected to their apartments and are dissatisfied with their living environment.



**Figure 19.** MANGALEM 21- Attachment to Apartment (Outer Perimeter)

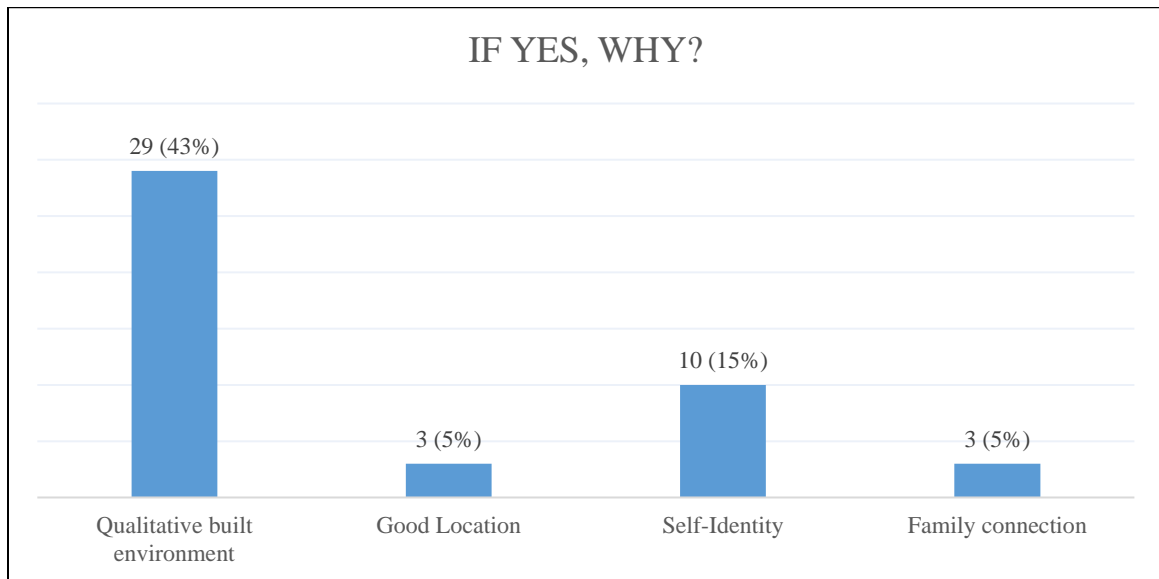
Asked for a subjective answer as to why they share these positive thoughts or if there are negative ones, does the issue of privacy plays any role in, the residents' reasons varied; for the positive answers they mostly replied that their apartment was a comfortable place to live in (24 respondents), several respondents expressed a sense of attachment to their apartment due to the feeling of belonging it provides (9 respondents), another reason was that residents consider their apartment a cozy place (5 respondents), some feel attached due to family connection (3 respondents), good positioning of the apartment was another attachment reason (3 respondents), and only (1 respondent) feels connected because of the architecture appealing of the apartment.

**Table 2.** MANGALEM 21- Direct quote for positive answers (Outer perimeter)

REASON FOR YES / DIRECT-QUOTE ANSWERS	RESPONDENTS No.
I feel comfortable living here, it has enough space	24
It's my space	5
It is my home; I have designed it according to my desire	4
The position of the apartment is good	3
It is a cozy place; I have everything I need here	5
The architecture of the apartment is very good	1
Because my family lives here with me	3

**Table 3.** MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers (Outer perimeter)

REASON FOR YES (CLUSTERED)	RESPONDENTS No.
Comfortable place	24
Good Position	3
Cozy place	5
Belongs to me	9
Architecture appeals to me	1
Family connection	3



**Figure 20.** MANGALEM 21- Positive reasons for question one related to apartment attachment and privacy (Outer Perimeter)

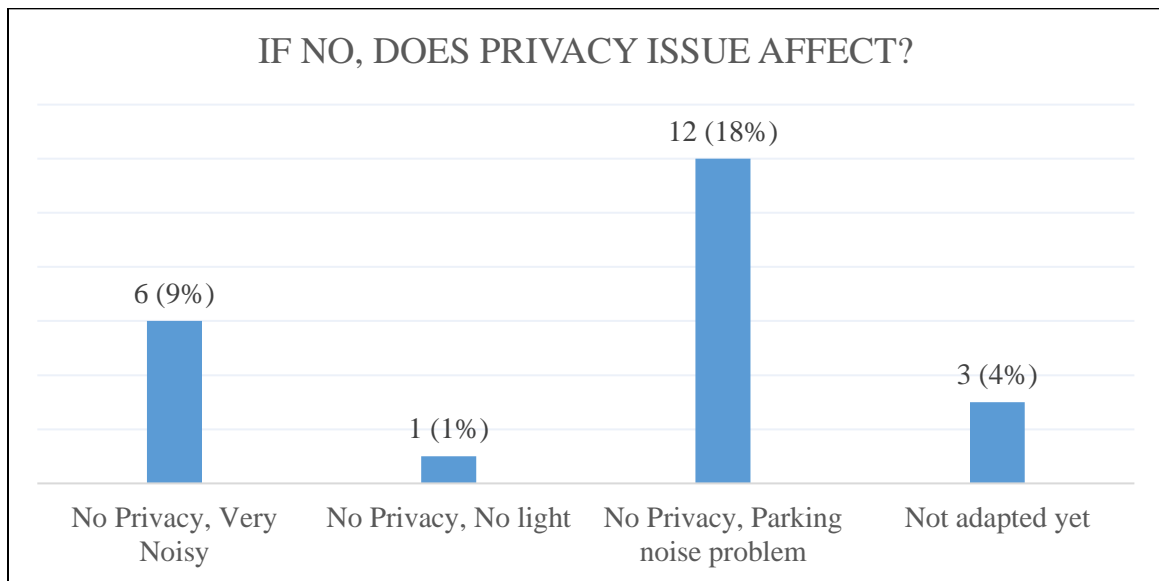
Despite this, for the negative answers, residents mostly were affected by the privacy issue combined with other factors such as parking noise problems (12 respondents), presence of noise (6 respondents), lack of light (1 respondent), and only (3 respondents) didn't feel attached because they weren't adapted yet with their apartment.

**Table 4.** MANGALEM 21- Direct quote reasons for negative answers

REASON FOR NO / DIRECT-QUOTE ANSWERS	RESPONDENTS No.
I lack privacy because of the outside parking noise problem	14
No privacy because of the noise coming from the other apartments	2
There is no privacy as the walls in between allow every noise to be heard	4
I lack privacy and there isn't enough natural light	1
I am not adapted yet to this place	3

**Table 5.** MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for negative answers

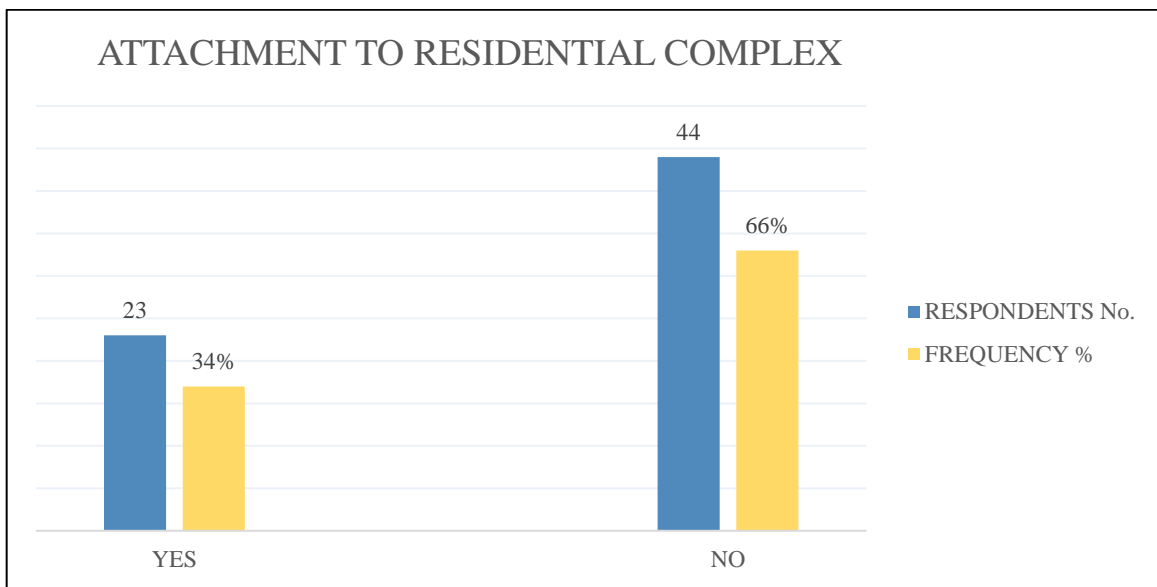
REASON FOR NO (CLUSTERED)	RESPONDENTS No.
No Privacy, Very Noisy	6
No Privacy, No light	1
No Privacy, Parking noise problem	12
Not adapted yet	3



**Figure 21.** MANGALEM 21- Negative reasons for question one related to apartment attachment and privacy (Outer Perimeter)

**ii. Responses for attachment to residential complex (outer perimeter)**

When asked about their attachment to the residential complex, most of the respondents gave a negative response (44 respondents), or 66%. Indicating that the residents don't feel connected to their residential complex. On the contrary, only (23 respondents), or 34%, responded positively showing that they feel connected and are satisfied with their complex.



**Figure 22.** MANGALEM 21- Attachment to Residential Complex (Outer Perimeter)

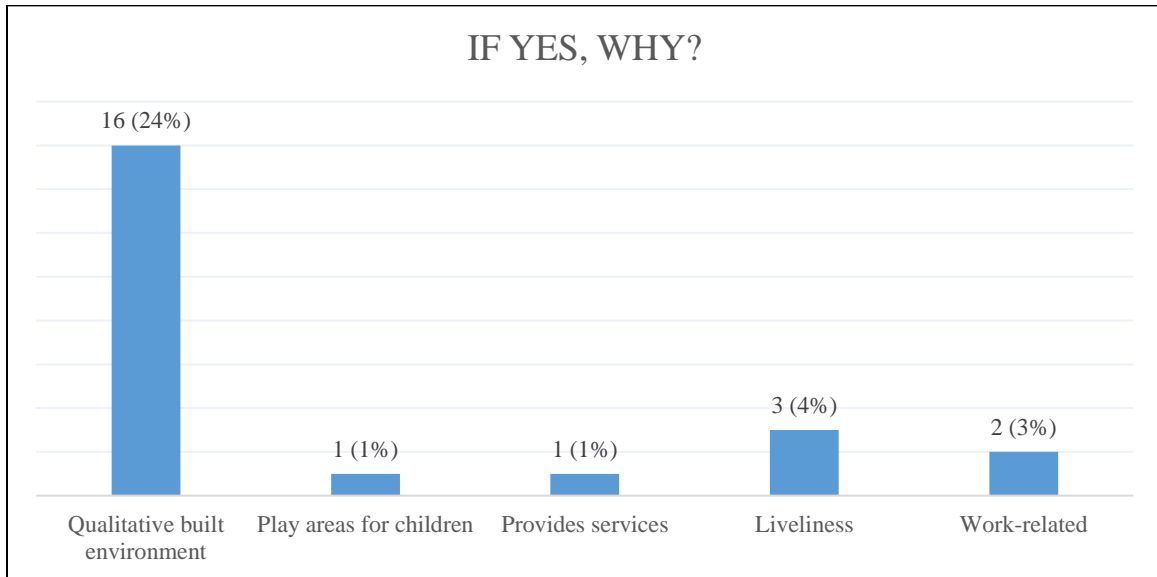
Requested to provide a personal response explaining the reasons behind their positive thoughts, their answers differed; because of the qualitative built environment, they feel connected (16 respondents), (3 respondents) give the feeling of attachment cause of the liveliness provided in this residence. Another reason was related to their work since they had built their private business there (2 respondents). Referring to the negative responses wasn't requested any further information for the reason of their answer.

**Table 6.** MANGALEM 21-Direct quote reasons for positive answers

REASON FOR YES / DIRECT-QUOTE ANSWERS	RESPONDENTS No.
There are a lot of spacious relaxation areas to stay	6
Offers services and open spaces that I use on a daily basis	6
There are enough playground areas for children	1
Because it provides common spaces	1
Relations with the residents are very good and positive	1
It's quiet here, away from the noise of the city	3
Because of the services that provide I feel connected	1
Liveliness dominates here	2
Because of the private business that I have here	2

**Table 7.** MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers

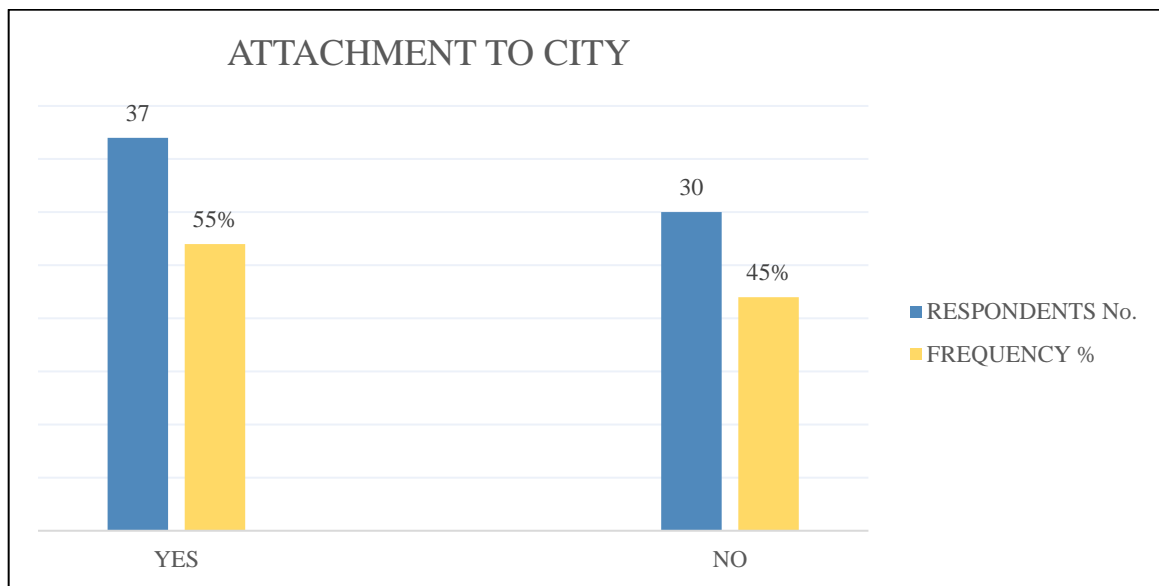
REASON FOR YES (CLUSTERED)	RESPONDENTS No.
Qualitative built environment	16
Play areas for children	1
Provides services	1
Liveliness	3
Work-related	2



**Figure 23.** MANGALEM 21- Reasons for question two related to residential complex attachment (Outer Perimeter)

### iii. Responses for attachment to city (outer perimeter)

The majority of the participants (37 respondents), or 55%, responded positively when asked about their attachment to the city, indicating a strong sense of connection with their urban environment. Conversely, the other part (30 respondents), or 45%, expressed negative sentiments, suggesting a lack of attachment to the city among some residents.



**Figure 24.** MANGALEM 21- Attachment to City (Outer Perimeter)

The respondents' replies varied widely when they were asked to provide individual responses detailing the reasons behind their positive sentiments; mostly were worked-related reasons (14 respondents), providing everything that is necessary was another point of view (10 respondents), were long-time residents (10 respondents), and due to liveliness (3 respondents).

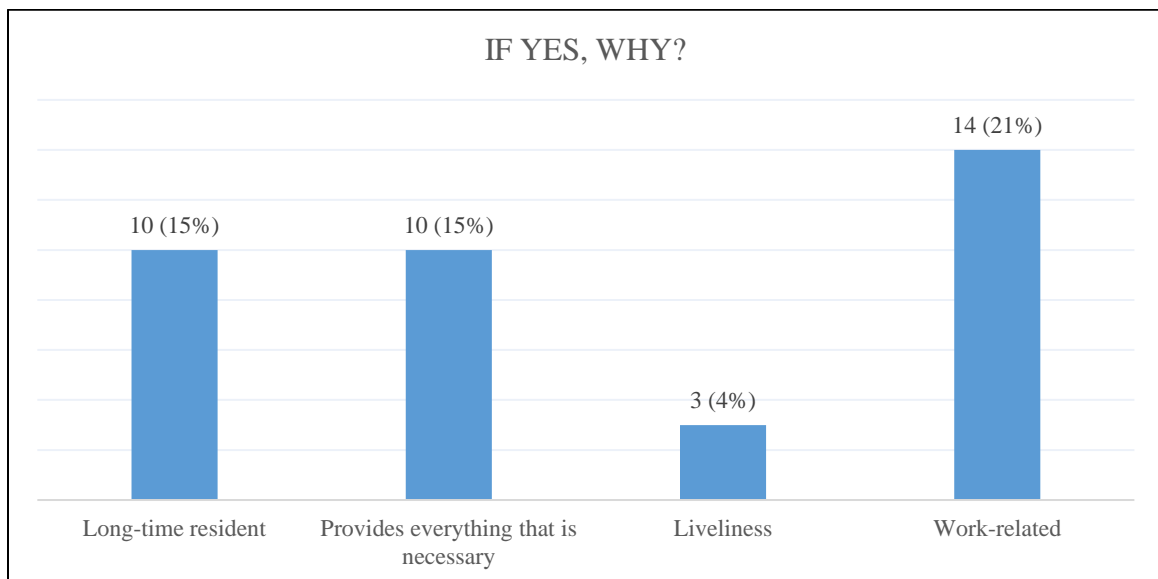


**Table 8.** MANGALEM 21- Direct quote reasons for positive answers

REASON FOR YES / DIRECT-QUOTE ANSWERS	RESPONDENTS No.
I have been living here for many years.	5
It provides everything that is needed for me	7
It is a city full of life	3
Because of the business, I have built here	1
Because of my work	13
It provides me with opportunities for a better life	2
I live here	1
It has a lot of services	1
I was born in this city	4

**Table 9.** MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers

REASON FOR YES (CLUSTERED)	RESPONDENTS No.
Long-time resident	10
Provides everything that is necessary	10
Liveliness	3
Work-related	14



**Figure 25.** MANGALEM 21- Reasons for question three related to city attachment (Outer Perimeter)

## 5.2.2 Results of Closed Courtyard Apartments

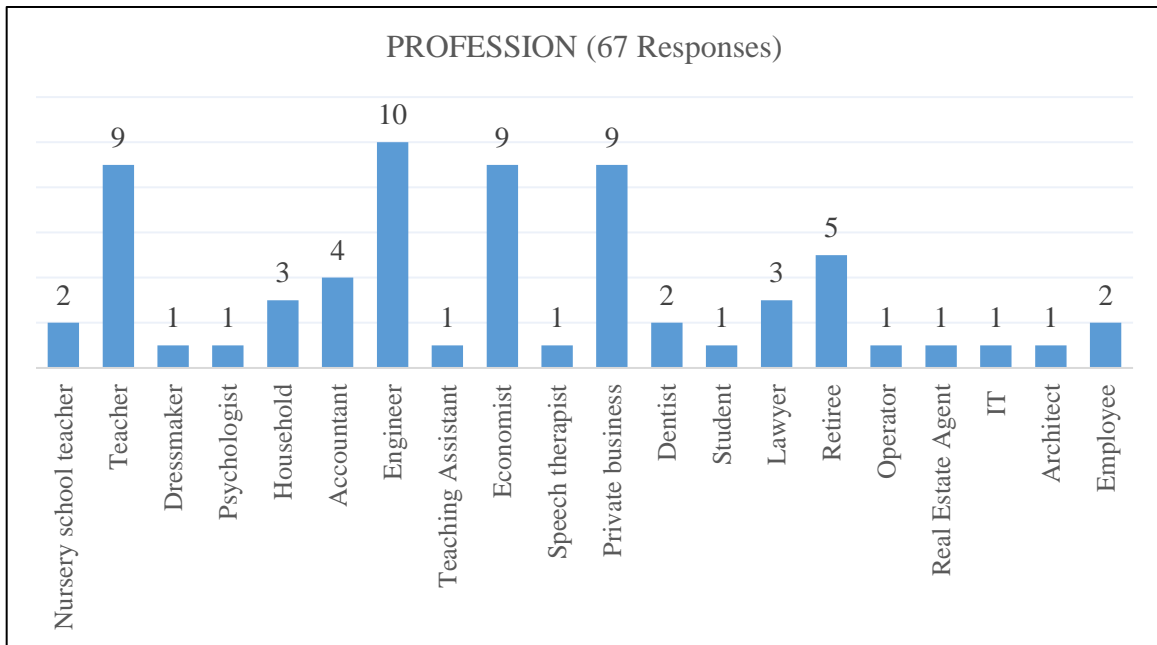
In the questionnaire, interviewing the residents who lived in the complex, for this category out of 67 respondents, 28 were aged between (25-34) years, 24 were aged between (35-50) years, and 15 were aged (over 50) years. 40 of them were female and 27 were male, of whom most of them had higher education (70%). Regarding the duration, a significant number of residents have been living in the residential complex for ‘1-2 years’ (36 respondents), followed by ‘2 and a half to 3 years’ (21 respondents), and ‘less than 1 year’ (8 respondents) and ‘more than 3 years’ (2 respondents). Furthermore, for ownership, the majority of residents (62 respondents) reported owning their apartments, while only a small number of individuals (5 respondents) lived in rented accommodation. Related to the number of family members, most of the residents (26 respondents) are with three family members, (20 respondents) are with four family members, (11 respondents) are with five family members, (9 respondents) are with two family members, (1 respondent) lives alone.

**Table 10.** MANGALEM 21- Closed courtyard respondents’ user profile

Gender		Age		Education		Ownership		Duration		Family Member No.	
67 respondents		67 respondents		67 respondents		67 respondents		67 respondents		67 respondents	
Female	40	18-24	-	University	47	Owner	62	< 1 year	8	1 member	1
		25-34	28					1-2 years	36	2 members	9
		35-50	24					> 2 - 3 years	21	3 members	26
Male	27	> 50	15	High school	20	Renter	5	> 3 years	2	4 members	20
										5 members	20
										> 5 members	-

The most common professions reported by the respondents were engineer (10 respondents), followed by economist, teacher, private business (9 respondents each), retiree

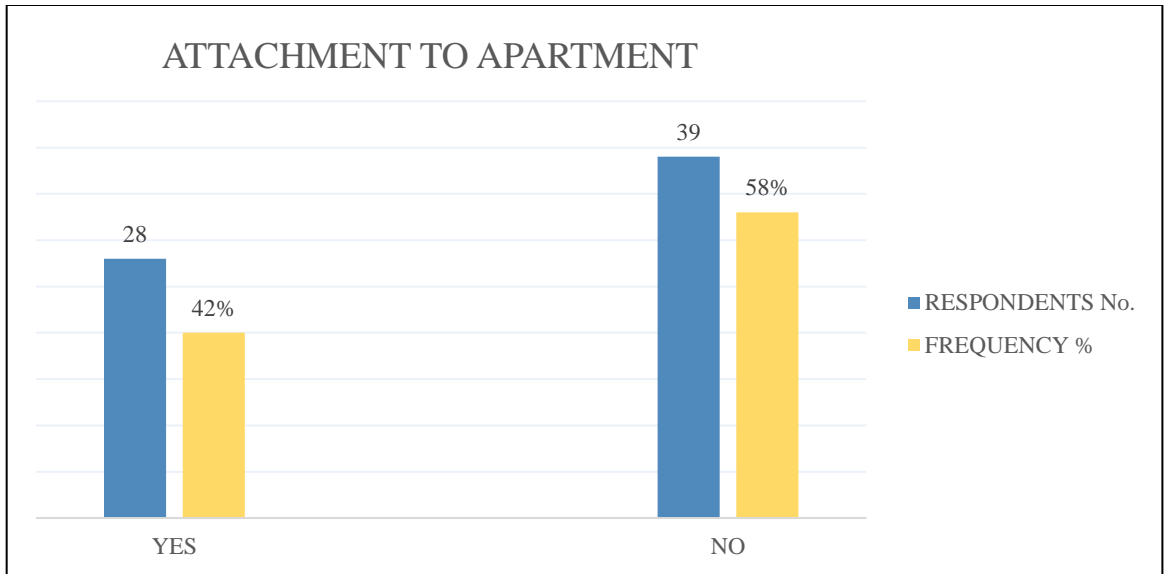
(5 respondents), accountant (4 respondents), household, and lawyer (3 respondents each), nursery school teacher, dentist, employee (2 respondents), dressmaker, psychologist, teaching assistant, speech therapist, student, operator, real estate agent, IT, and architect (1 respondent each).



**Figure 26.** MANGALEM 21- Profession (Closed courtyard)

**i. Responses for attachment to apartment (closed courtyard)**

When asked about their attachment to their apartment, the preponderance of the respondents gave a negative response (39 respondents), or 58%. Showing that the residents of the apartment complex do not feel connected to their living space, which can have a negative impression on their overall prosperity and contentment with their habitat. However, (28 respondents), or 42%, gave a positive response showing that they feel connected to their apartments and are fulfilled with their home area.



**Figure 27.** MANGALEM 21- Attachment to Apartment (Closed Courtyard)

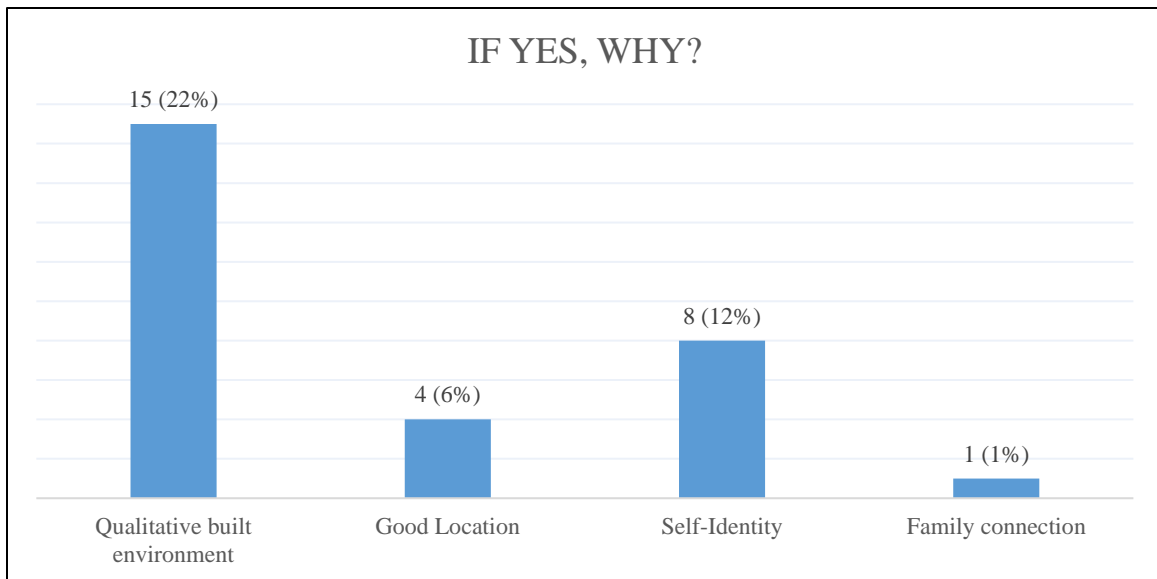
The residents were requested to provide a subjective response regarding their positive thoughts, and whether or not privacy concerns played a role in any negative sentiments. The reasons provided by the residents were diverse; for the positive answers they mostly replied with the qualitative built environment (15 respondents), various respondents expressed a sense of attachment to their apartment due to the feeling of self-identity (8 respondents), the apartment's favorable location was also a contributing factor to the residents' attachment (4 respondents), and some feel attached due to family connection (1 respondent).

**Table 11.** MANGALEM 21- Direct quote reasons for positive answers

<b>REASON FOR YES / DIRECT-QUOTE ANSWERS</b>	<b>RESPONDENTS No.</b>
Before I had a very small living space now I have upgraded to a more spacious living area	1
The position of the apartment is good because it provides a nice view from the outside	4
It belongs to me, I have designed the interior according to my desire	7
I feel comfortable living here	9
The coziness of this place makes me feel connected	3
My family makes me feel connected with the apartment	1
I like the way it has been built	1
It is a small pleasant space for me to live	2

**Table 12.** MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers

<b>REASON FOR YES (CLUSTERED)</b>	<b>RESPONDENTS No.</b>
Qualitative built environment	15
Good Location	4
Self-Identity	8
Family connection	1



**Figure 28.** MANGALEM 21- Positive reasons for question one related to apartment attachment and privacy (Closed Courtyard)

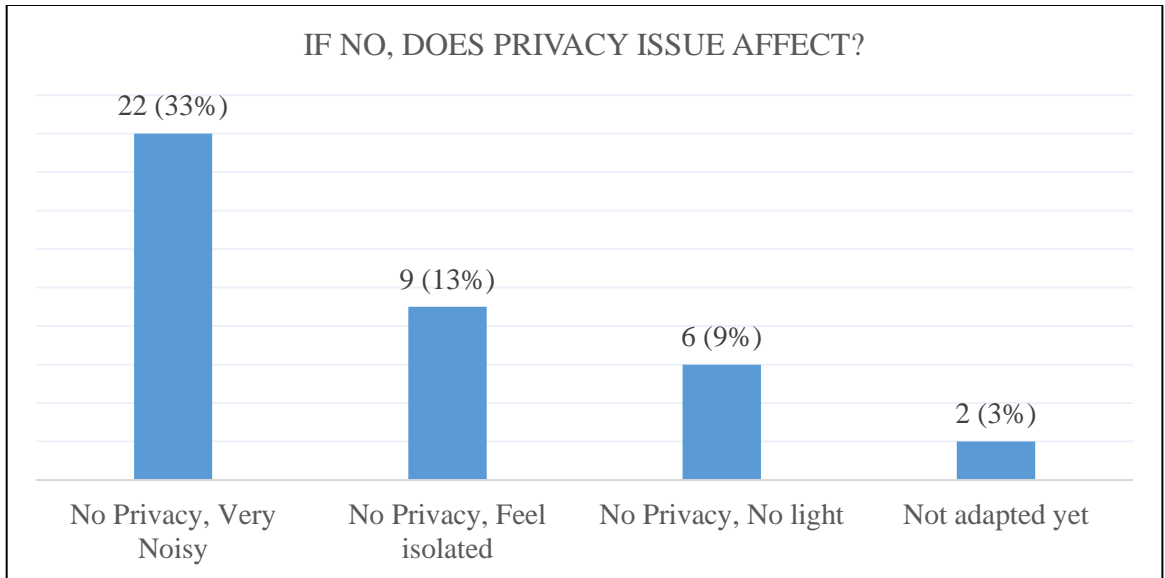
In opposition, for the negative answers, residents mostly were affected by the privacy issue combined with other factors such as the presence of noise (22 respondents), feeling isolated (9 respondents), lack of light (6 respondents), and only (2 respondents) reason for their lack of attachment was their inability to adjust to their apartment.

**Table 13.** MANGALEM 21- Closed courtyard direct quote for negative answers

<b>REASON FOR NO / DIRECT-QUOTE ANSWERS</b>	<b>RESPONDENTS No.</b>
I lack privacy as I am surrounded by other buildings around, and the walls in between allow every noise to be heard	5
There is no privacy and because of that I feel isolated between the people and the surrounding buildings	9
There is no privacy, there is no distance between buildings, lack of light	2
There is no privacy, very noisy, it's a shame that we spent all this money on this apartment	10
No privacy because of the noise coming from the windows of the other apartments	2
I lack privacy and there isn't enough natural light	4
There is no privacy is very noisy from the neighbors	5
There is no privacy and because of that I feel suffocated, isolated here	1
I am not adapted yet to this place	2

**Table 14.** MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers

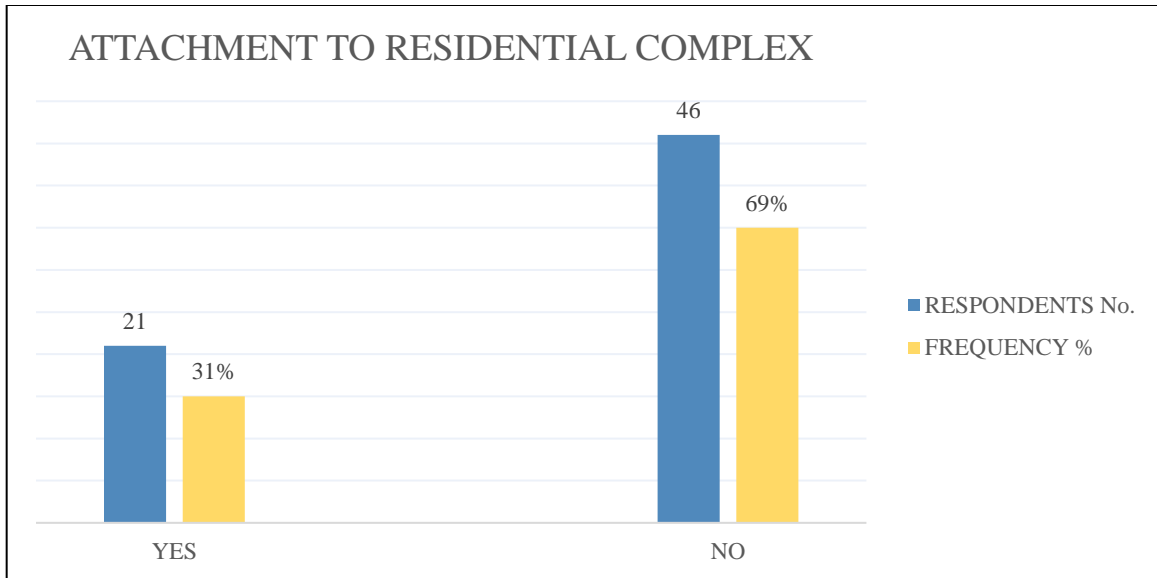
<b>REASON FOR NO (CLUSTERED)</b>	<b>RESPONDENTS No.</b>
No Privacy, Very Noisy	22
No Privacy, Feel isolated	9
No Privacy, No light	6
Not adapted yet	2



**Figure 29.** MANGALEM 21- Negative reasons for question one related to apartment attachment and privacy (Closed Courtyard)

**ii. Responses for attachment to residential complex (Closed Courtyard)**

Inquiring about the residents' attachment to the residential complex yielded mostly negative responses (46 respondents), or 69%, implying that the residents did not feel connected to the complex. In contrast, a smaller number (21 respondents), or 31%, responded positively, indicating that they were connected to and satisfied with the complex.



**Figure 30.** MANGALEM 21- Attachment to Residential Complex (Closed Courtyard)

When asked to provide reasons for their positive attachment to the residential complex, the responses varied among the residents. Some residents expressed that they feel connected to the complex because of the qualitative built environment it offers (7 respondents), while others highlighted the services that provides (4 respondents), and the community of young families (3 respondents). A few residents mentioned that they feel attached to the complex due to the social life (5 respondents), and because of playground areas for their children (2 respondents). In contrast, no further information was requested from the residents who responded negatively.

**Table 15.** MANGALEM 21- Direct quote reasons for positive answers

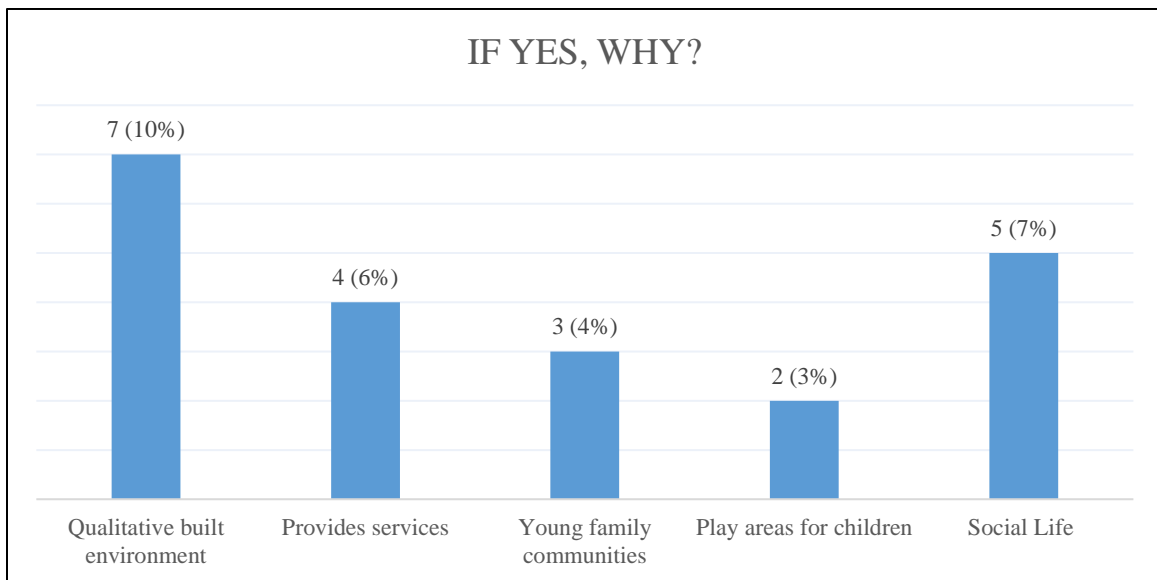
REASON FOR YES / DIRECT-QUOTE ANSWERS	RESPONDENTS No.
It is an area full of young family communities, the same age group	3
There are a lot of spacious relaxation areas to spend your free time	2
Since I have children, it offers some playground areas for them to have fun	2
There are lots of people to socialize with, as well as quiet relaxing spaces	2
Because of the services that provide I feel connected	4



Relations with the residents are very good and positive	1
It is clean and has no problems around	1
Because it provides common spaces that make me feel good	1
The calmness of this place makes me feel connected	1
I feel safe in this residence	1
There are a lot of public spaces to spend the time	1

**Table 16.** MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers

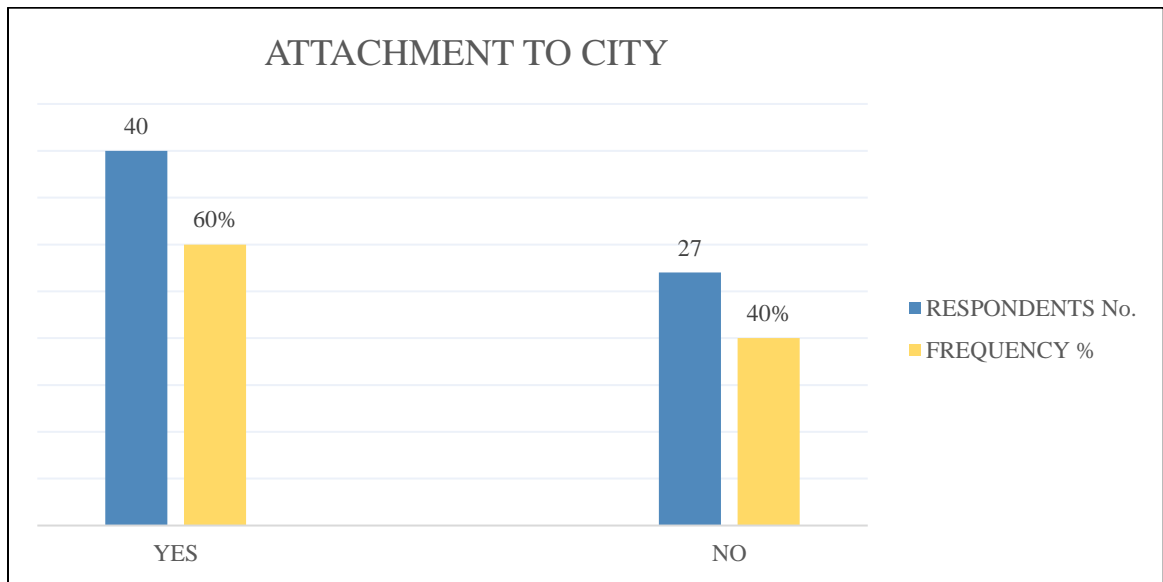
REASON FOR YES (CLUSTERED)	RESPONDENTS No.
Qualitative built environment	7
Provides services	4
Young family communities	3
Play areas for children	2
Social Life	5



**Figure 31.** MANGALEM 21- Reasons for question two related to residential complex attachment (Closed Courtyard)

### iii. Responses for attachment to city (Closed Courtyard)

When asked about their attachment to the city, most respondents (40 individuals), or 60%, answered positively indicating that they felt strongly connected to the urban environment. On the other hand, a minority (27 individuals), or 40%, responded negatively, implying that some residents lacked attachment to the city.



**Figure 32.** MANGALEM 21- Attachment to City (Closed Courtyard)

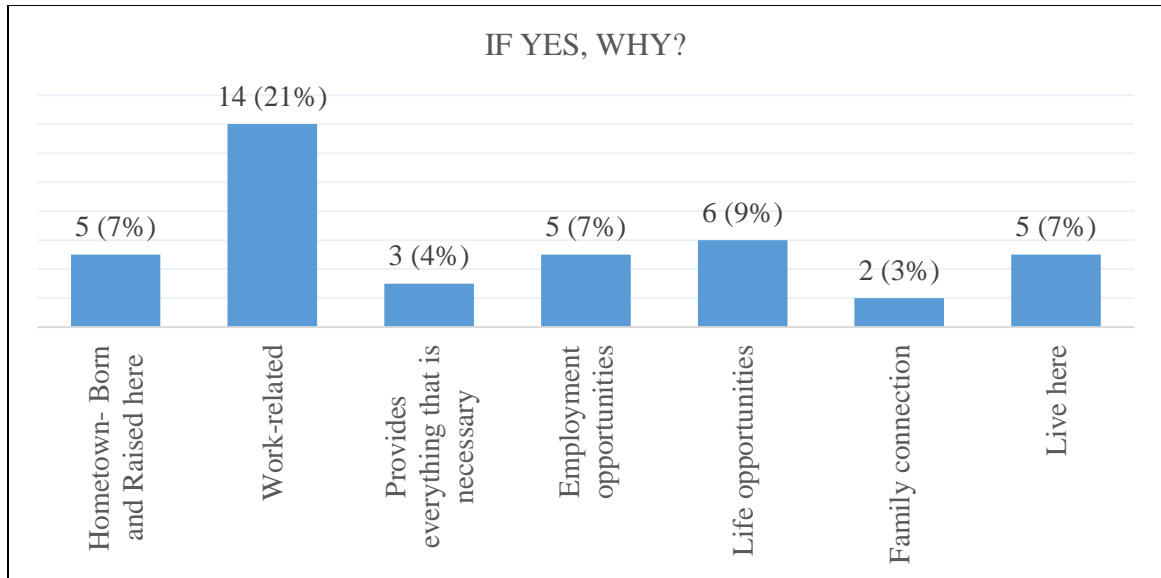
When asked to give personal reasons for their positive feelings towards the city, the respondents provided several responses. The most common reasons were related to work (14 respondents), and life opportunities (6 respondents). Other reasons included employment opportunities, being born and living in the city (5 respondents each). Some respondents felt attached to the city because it provided everything they needed (3 respondents), while others cited family connections (2 respondents).

**Table 17.** MANGALEM 21- Direct quote reasons for positive answers

<b>REASON FOR YES / DIRECT-QUOTE ANSWERS</b>	<b>RESPONDENTS No.</b>
I have my origin here, I was born and raised in this city	5
It provides everything that is needed to live a better life	3
The city offers many employment opportunities	5
Because of my work, I feel connected	11
I have my private business here	3
My home is here, my family lives here also	2
I have been living here for many years.	4
I live here	1
I love the city for the social life and services it offers	2
I like this city there are a lot of life opportunities	4

**Table 18.** MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers

<b>REASON FOR YES (CLUSTERED)</b>	<b>RESPONDENTS No.</b>
Hometown- Born and Raised here	5
Work-related	14
Provides everything that is necessary	3
Employment opportunities	5
Life opportunities	6
Family connection	2
Live here	5



**Figure 33.** MANGALEM 21- Reasons for question three related to city attachment (Closed Courtyard)

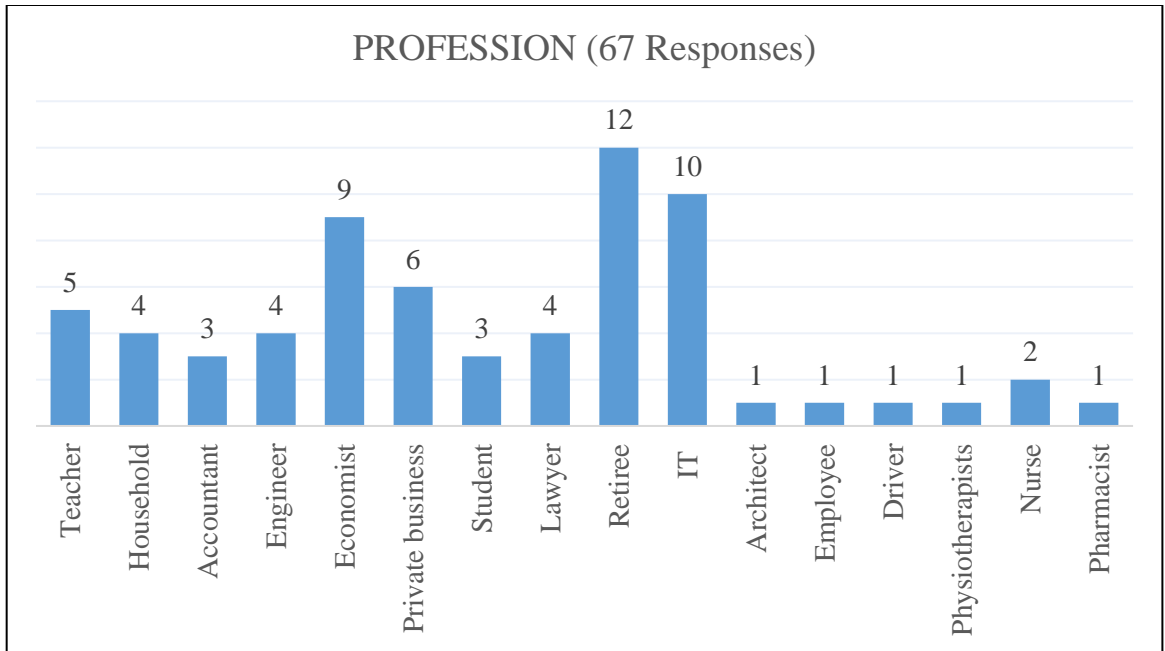
### 5.2.3 Results of Semi-Closed Courtyard Apartments

In the questionnaire, interviewing the residents who lived in the complex, for this category out of 67 respondents, 4 were aged between (18-24) years, 30 were aged between (25-34) years, 15 were aged between (35-50) years, and 18 were aged (over 50) years. 43 of them were female and 24 were male, of whom most of them had higher education (75%). A significant number of residents have been living in the residential complex for ‘1-2 years’ (28 respondents), followed by ‘2 and a half to 3 years’ (19 respondents), and ‘less than 1 year’ (18 respondents) and ‘more than 3 years’ (2 respondents). Furthermore, the majority of residents (52 respondents) reported owning their apartments, while only a small number of individuals (15 respondents) lived in rented accommodation. Most of the residents (18 respondents each) are with two, three, and four family members, (11 respondents) are with five family members, (2 respondents) live alone.

**Table 19.**MANGALEM 21- Semi-closed courtyard respondents’ user profile

Gender		Age		Education		Ownership		Duration		Family Member No.	
67 respondents		67 respondents		67 respondents		67 respondents		67 respondents		67 respondents	
Female	43	18-24	4	University	50	Owner	52	< 1 year	18	1 member	2
		25-34	30					1-2 years	28	2 members	18
		35-50	15					> 2 - 3 years	19	3 members	18
Male	24	> 50	18	High school	17	Renter	15	> 3 years	2	4 members	18
										5 members	11
										> 5 members	0

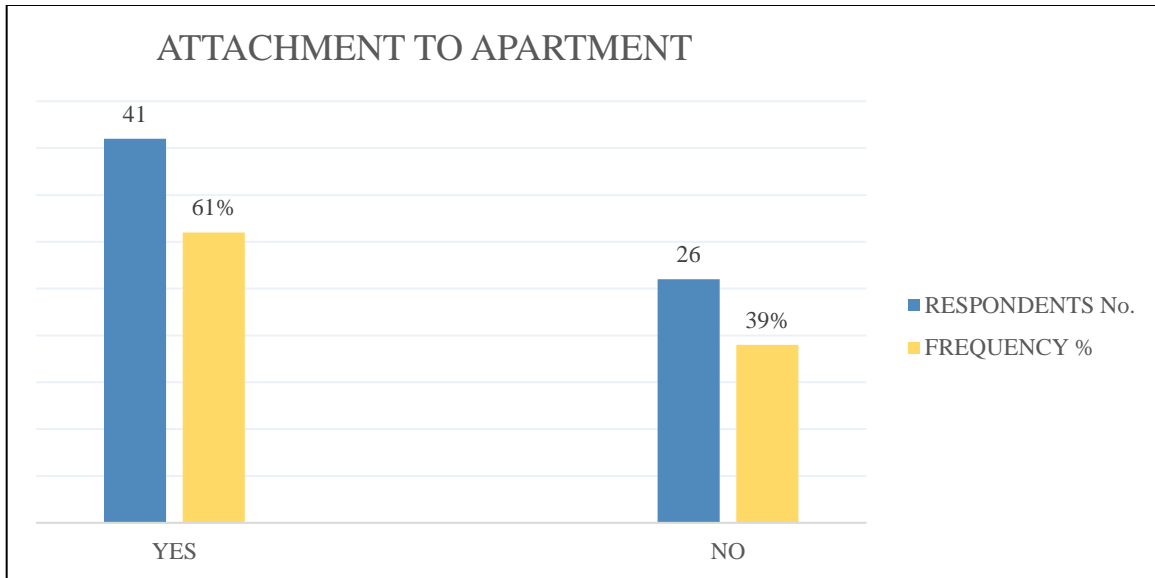
The most common professions reported by the respondents were retiree (12 respondents), IT (10 respondents), economist (9 respondents), private business (6 respondents), teacher (5 respondents), household, engineer, and lawyer (4 respondents each), accountant, and student (3 respondents each), nurse (2 respondents), architect, employee, driver, physiotherapist, and pharmacist (1 respondent each).



**Figure 34.** MANGALEM 21- Profession (Semi-Closed Courtyard)

**i. Responses for attachment to apartment (Semi-Closed Courtyard)**

When asked about their attachment to their apartment, most of the participants (41 respondents), or 61%, responded positively indicating a strong sense of connection with their living space. This bond can have a significant impact on their well-being and satisfaction with their living environment. However, a minority (26 respondents), or 39%, expressed negative sentiments, suggesting that they do not feel attached to their apartments and are dissatisfied with their living area.



**Figure 35.** MANGALEM 21- Attachment to Apartment (Semi-Closed Courtyard)

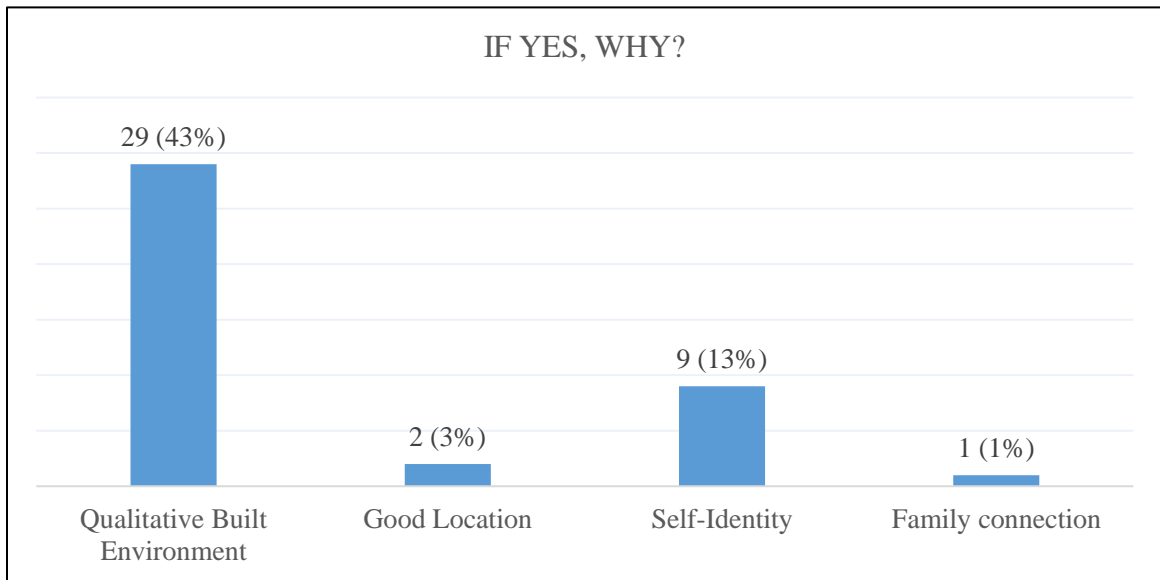
Residents were asked to provide their personal responses about their positive thoughts towards their apartment, as well as whether privacy concerns had any impact on their negative feelings. The reasons provided by the respondents varied. For those who responded positively, the majority of them mentioned the qualitative built environment as a reason (29 respondents), followed by a sense of self-identity (9 respondents). Additionally, some residents mentioned the favorable location of their apartment (2 respondents), as well as family connections (1 respondent).

**Table 20.** MANGALEM 21- Direct quote reasons for positive answers

REASON FOR YES / DIRECT-QUOTE ANSWERS	RESPONDENTS No.
I feel comfortable living here	22
It's a cozy place I feel good	4
Because of my family, making the place feel warm	1
It's a small pleasant space, I like it	1
I like the view and the positioning of my apartment	1
It is my home, I took care of the furnishing of the apartment myself	4
The position of the apartment is good providing a nice view	1
I feel safe, it's okay for me	2
It is mine	5

**Table 21.** MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers

<b>REASON FOR YES (CLUSTERED)</b>	<b>RESPONDENTS No.</b>
Qualitative Built Environment	29
Good Location	2
Self-Identity	9
Family connection	1



**Figure 36.** MANGALEM 21- Positive reasons for question one related to residential complex attachment (Semi-Closed Courtyard)

On the other hand, of those who responded negatively, most of them were affected by privacy concerns combined with other factors, such as noise (20 respondents). Some also mentioned a lack of light (3 respondents), while others stated that they were unable to adjust to their apartment (2 respondents) or felt isolated (1 respondent).

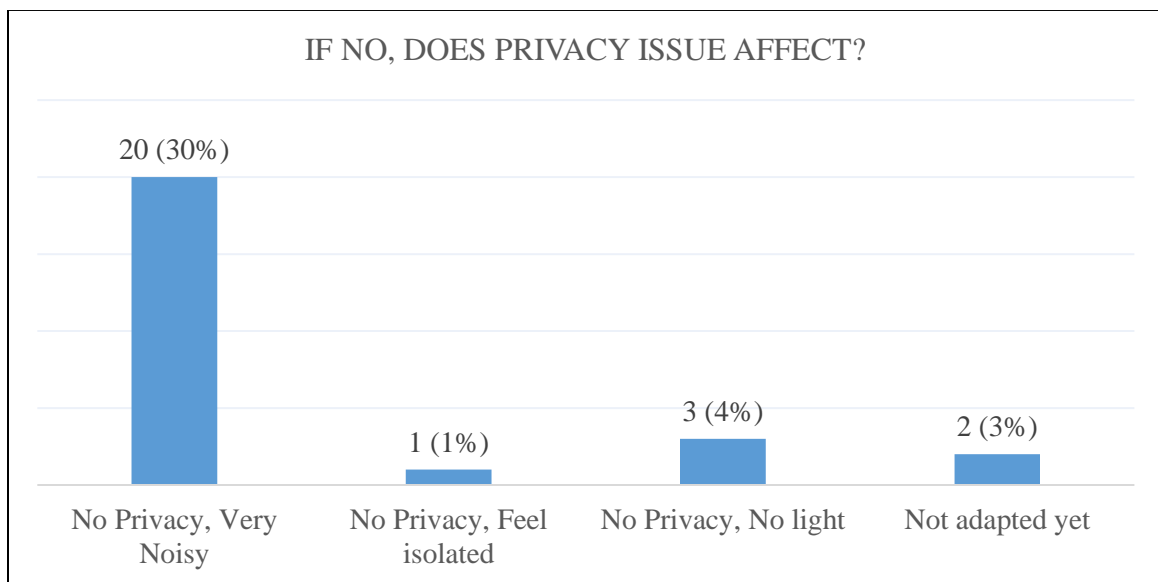


**Table 22.** MANGALEM 21- Semi-closed courtyard direct quote for negative answers

REASON FOR NO / DIRECT-QUOTE ANSWERS	RESPONDENTS No.
I lack privacy and there isn't enough natural light	3
I am not adapted yet to this place	2
There is no privacy is very noisy from the neighbors	4
There is no privacy and because of that I feel isolated between the surrounding buildings	1
No privacy because of the noise coming from the windows of the other apartments	4
There is no privacy as the walls in between allow every noise to be heard	12

**Table 23.** MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for negative answers

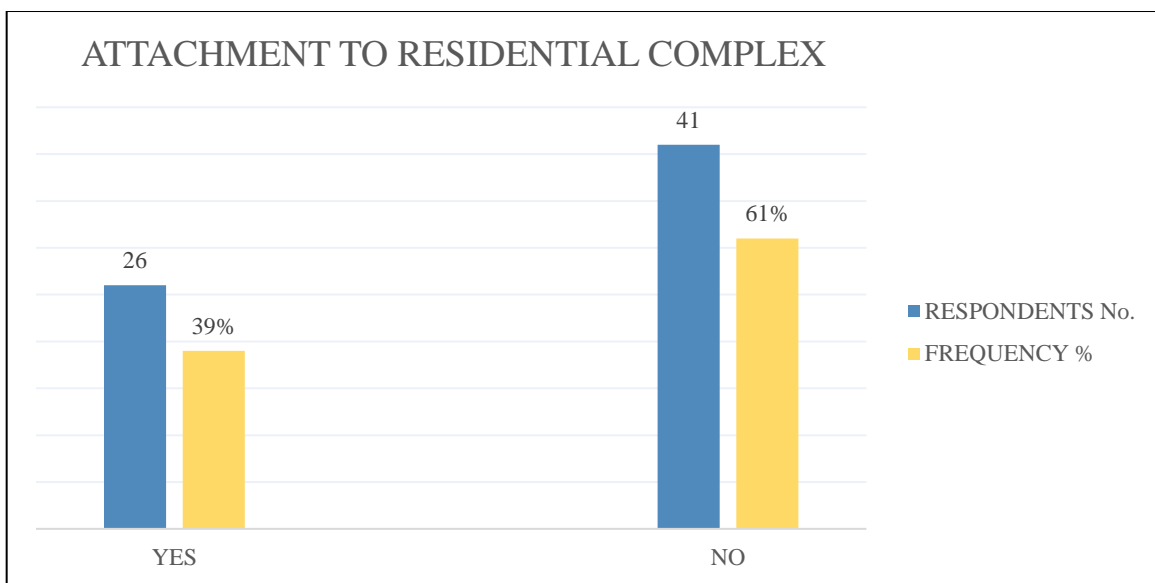
REASON FOR NO (CLUSTERED)	RESPONDENTS No.
No Privacy, Very Noisy	20
No Privacy, Feel isolated	1
No Privacy, No light	3
Not adapted yet	2



**Figure 37.** MANGALEM 21- Reasons for question one related to apartment attachment and privacy (Semi-Closed Courtyard)

**ii. Responses for attachment to residential complex (Semi-Closed Courtyard)**

When asked about their attachment to the residential complex, most (41 respondents), or 61%, gave negative responses, suggesting that they do not feel a sense of connection to the complex. Conversely, a smaller proportion (26 respondents), or 39%, responded positively, indicating that they feel connected to and content with the complex.



**Figure 38.** MANGALEM 21- Attachment to Residential Complex (Semi-Closed Courtyard)

Residents provided various reasons for their positive attachment to the residential complex when asked to do so. The responses were diverse, with some residents indicating that the complex's qualitative build environment makes them feel connected to it (10 respondents). Some residents mentioned that they feel attached to the complex due to the social life it offers (6 respondents), while others cited services and liveliness as the reason (3 respondents each). For some residents, reasons for their attachment included play areas

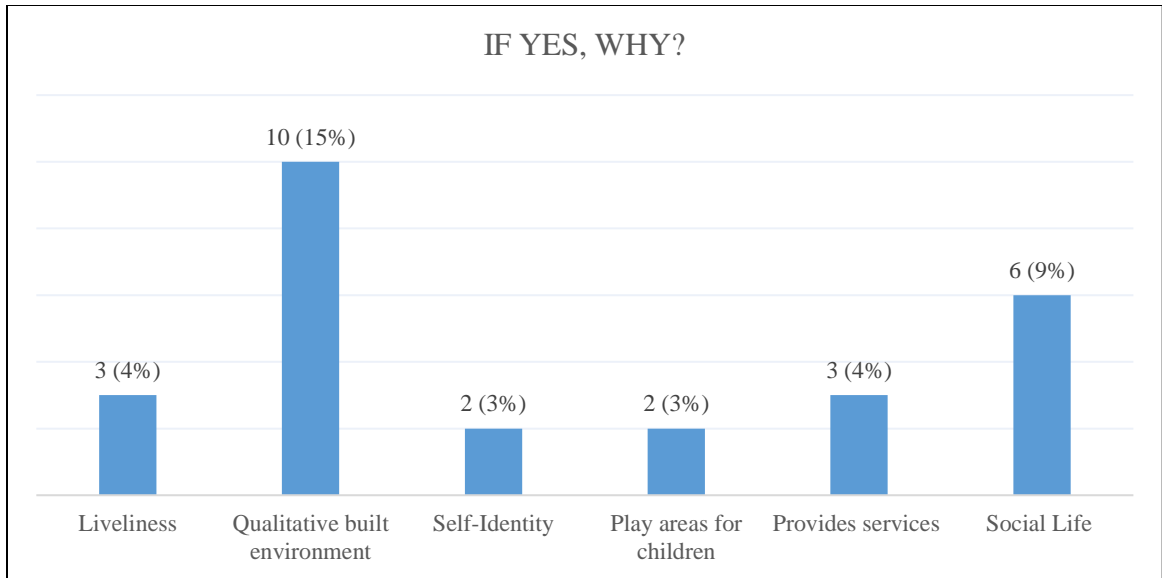
for their children and self-identity (2 respondents each). However, no additional information was sought from residents who gave negative responses.

**Table 24.**MANGALEM 21- Semi-closed courtyard direct quote for positive answer

<b>REASON FOR YES / DIRECT-QUOTE ANSWERS</b>	<b>RESPONDENTS No.</b>
Because it provides common spaces	4
Relations with the residents are very good and positive	1
It's a safe place	1
Very good architecture, I like it	2
Because of the spaces and services It provides	5
Because it offers some playground areas for my children	2
There are a lot of spacious relaxation areas to spend your free time	4
It is an area full of young family communities, you can meet and have a good talk with other residents	1
There are lots of people to socialize with, as well as quiet relaxing spaces	1
Because of the services, It provides	3
Liveliness dominates here	2

**Table 25.**MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers

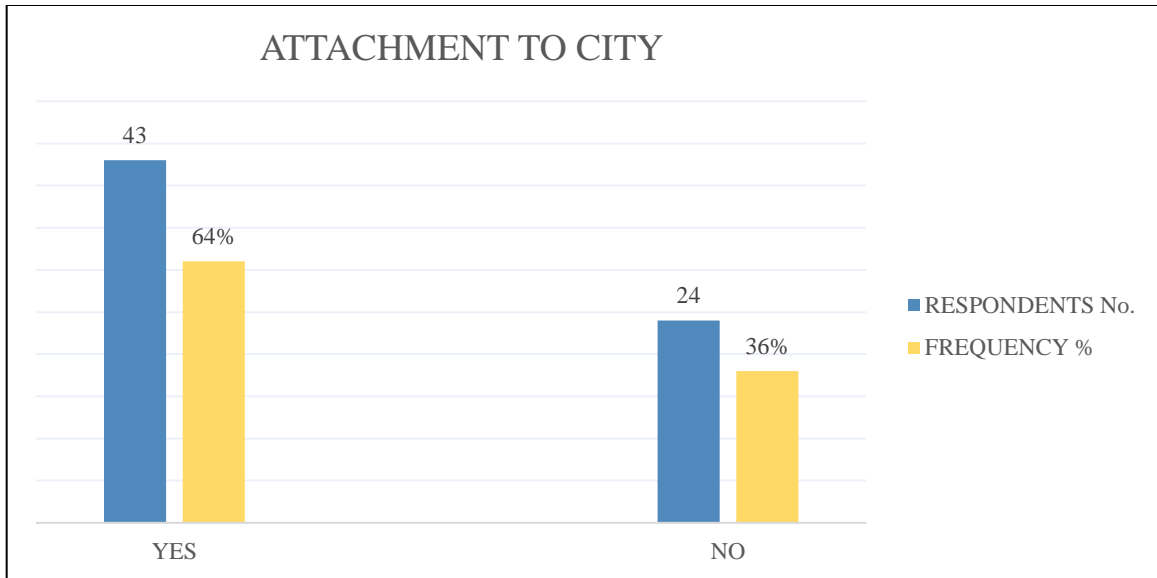
<b>REASON FOR YES (CLUSTERED)</b>	<b>RESPONDENTS No.</b>
Liveliness	3
Qualitative built environment	10
Self-Identity	2
Play areas for children	2
Provides services	3
Social Life	6



**Figure 39.** MANGALEM 21- Reasons for question two related to residential complex attachment (Semi-Closed Courtyard)

**iii. Responses for attachment to city (semi-closed courtyard)**

A vast majority of the participants (43 individuals), or 64%, gave a positive response when asked about their attachment to the city, suggesting a deep sense of connection with the urban environment. However, a small number (24 individuals), or 36%, responded negatively, indicating that there are some residents who do not feel attached to the city.



**Figure 40.** MANGALEM 21-Attachment to City (Semi-Closed Courtyard)

The participants provided a diverse range of answers when asked about the reasons for their positive sentiments towards the city. The majority of the reasons were work-related (16 respondents), followed by feeling attached to the city because they live here (11 respondents), having grown up in the city as their hometown (6 respondents), and graduating from the city (3 respondents). Some respondents also cited the city's liveliness and family connections as reasons for their attachment (2 respondents each), while others pointed to the availability of necessities and life and employment opportunities offered by the city (1 respondent each).

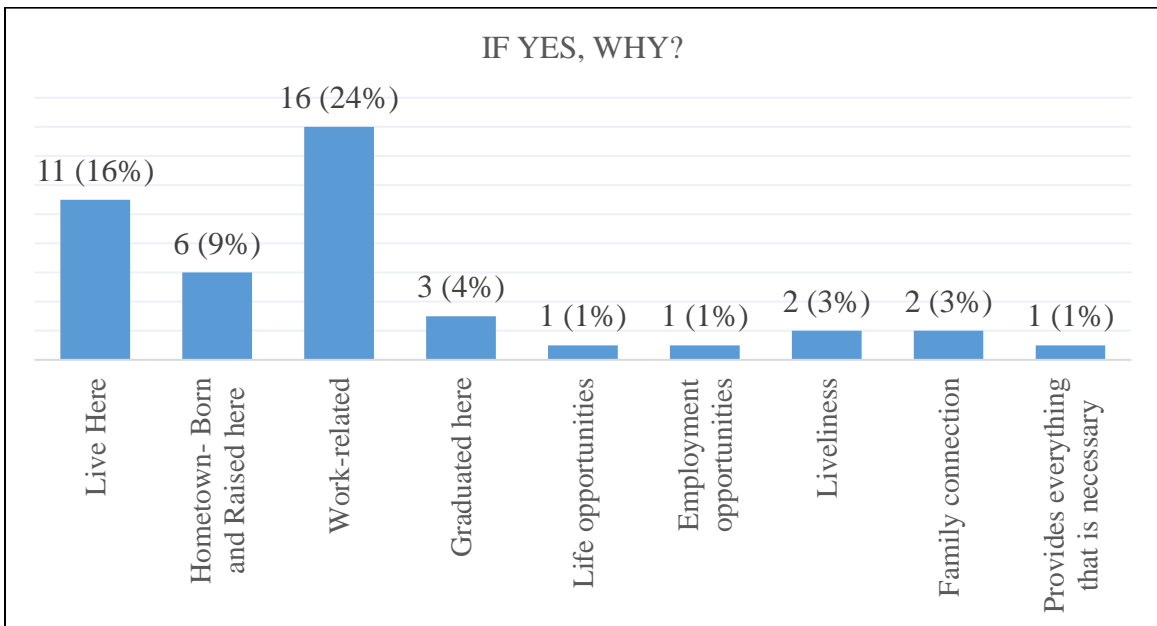
**Table 26.** MANGALEM 21- Semi-closed courtyard direct quote for positive answers

REASON FOR YES / DIRECT-QUOTE ANSWERS	RESPONDENTS No.
I live here	3
My origin is from here, I was born and raised in this city	6
The place where I work makes me feel connected with this city	16
I have been living here for many years.	8
I have done my studies and graduated here	3
Because it gives me everything that I need to live a better life	2

Because offers me employment opportunities	1
It is a city full of life	2
Because my family lives here also	2

**Table 27.** MANGALEM 21- Clustered reasons for positive answers

REASON FOR YES (CLUSTERED)	RESPONDENTS No.
Live Here	11
Hometown- Born and Raised here	6
Work-related	16
Graduated here	3
Life opportunities	1
Employment opportunities	1
Liveliness	2
Family connection	2
Provides everything that is necessary	1



**Figure 41.** MANGALEM 21- Reasons for question three related to city attachment (Semi-Closed Courtyard)

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **DISCUSSION**

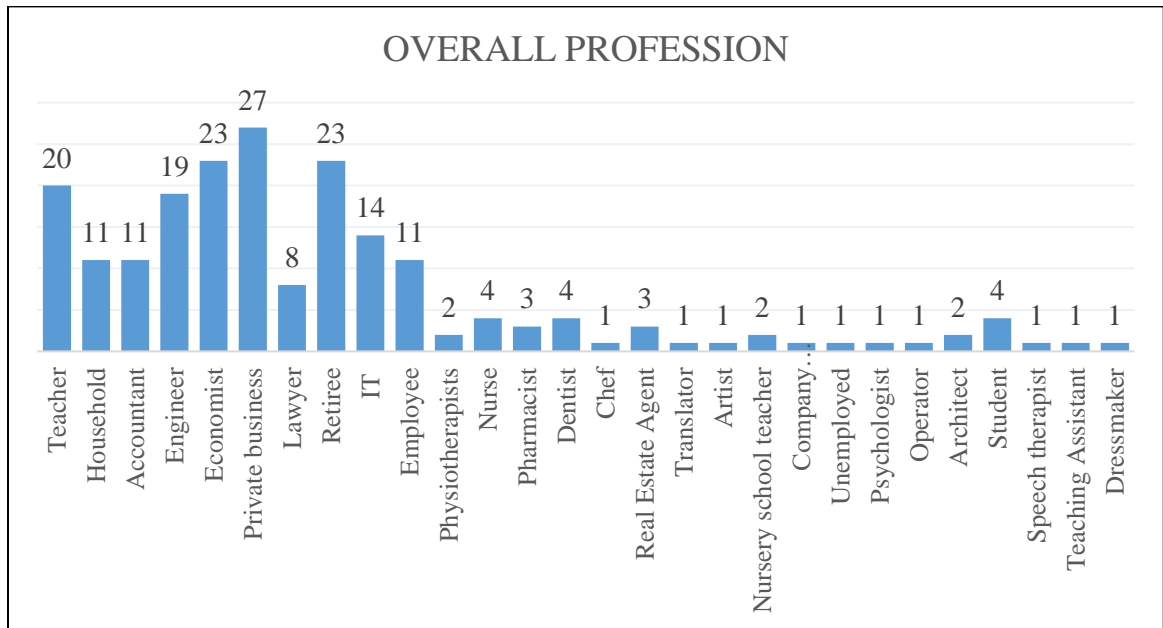
#### **6.1 OVERALL ASSESSMENT**

##### **6.1.1 Overall User Profile**

The overall age of the respondents was between (25-34) years, divided into females (118) and males (83), with a predominant part of them having higher education. For the duration, the majority of respondents have been living in the residential complex for '1-2 years' (99), also a considerable part has been living for '2 and a half to 3 years' (70). Regarding ownership, most of the residents lived in apartments owned by them (174), and only (27) residents lived in rented accommodations. The most common professions reported by the respondents were business owner (27), followed by economist and retiree (23 each), teacher (20), engineer (19), IT (14), household, accountant, and employee (11 each), lawyer (8), nurse, dentist, and student (4 each), real estate agent (3), architect, physiotherapists, and nursery school teacher (2 each), chef, translator, artist, company administrator, psychologist, unemployed, operator, dressmaker and teaching assistant (1 each). Related to the number of family members, a significant part of the residents lives with their families, specifically, (63) respondents are with three family members, (62) respondents are with four family members, (37) respondents are with two family members, (31) respondents are with five family members, (6) respondents live alone, (1) respondent is with six family members, and (1) respondent is with seven family members.

**Table 28.** MANGALEM 21- Overall User profile of respondents

Gender		Age		Education		Ownership		Duration		Family Member No.	
201 respondents		201 respondents		201 respondents		201 respondents		201 respondents		201 respondents	
Female	118	18-24	4	University	144	Owner	174	< 1 year	28	1 member	6
		25-34	87					1-2 years	99	2 members	37
		35-50	64					> 2 - 3 years	70	3 members	63
Male	83	> 50	46	High school	57	Renter	27	> 3 years	4	4 members	62
										5 members	31
										> 5 members	2

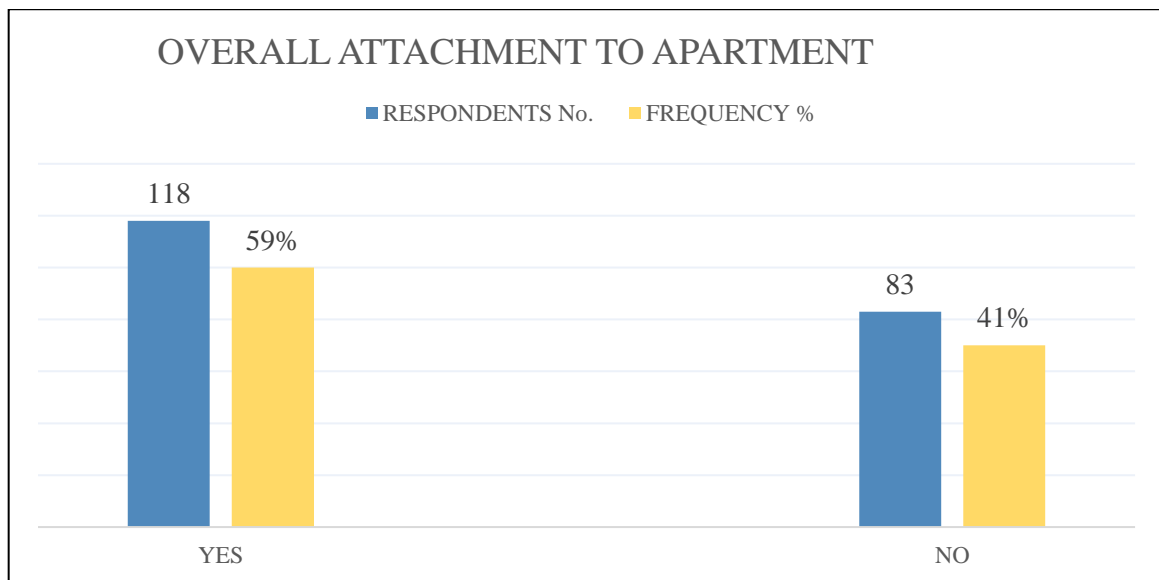


**Figure 42.** MANGALEM 21- Overall professions



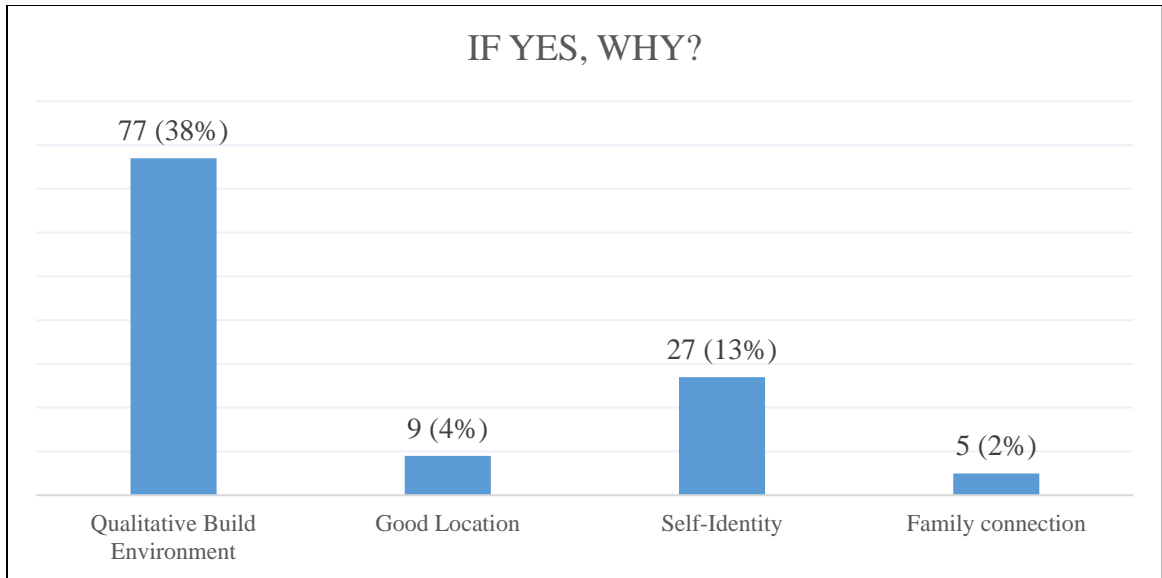
### 6.1.2 Attachment to Apartment

When asked about their attachment to their apartment, a majority of the respondents gave a positive response (118), or 59%. Showing that the residents feel connected to their living space. However, (83), or 41%, respondents gave a negative response showing that they don't feel connected to their apartments and are dissatisfied with their living space due to the issue of privacy.



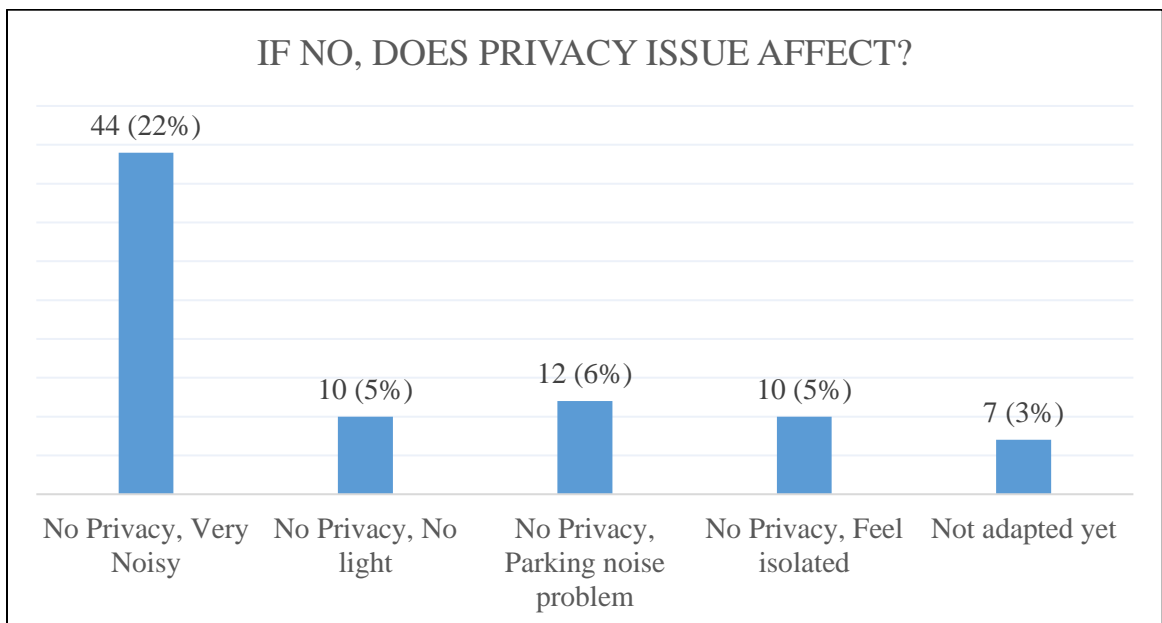
**Figure 43.** MANGALEM 21- Attachment to Apartment

Asked for a more detailed answer as to why they share these positive thoughts or if there are negative ones, does the issue of privacy plays any role, the residents' reasons differed; for the positive answers they mostly replied that their apartment has a qualitative build environment (77), other residents showed a sense of attachment cause of the feeling of self-identity it provides (27), the good location was another reason for their attachment (9), other reasons were because of family connections (5).



**Figure 44.** MANGALEM 21- Apartment attachment reasons if a positive answer

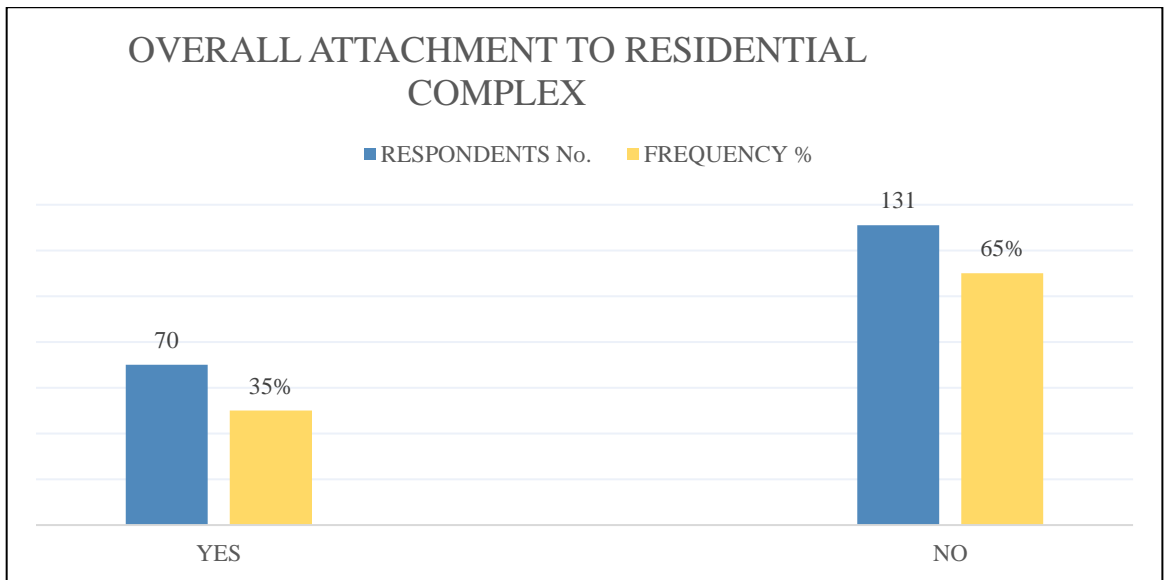
On the contrary, for the negative answers, residents mostly were affected by the lack of privacy combined with the factors of the presence of noise (44), parking noise problems (12), lack of light, and isolation feeling (10 each), and only (7) residents didn't feel attached because they weren't adapted yet with their apartment.



**Figure 45.** MANGALEM 21- Apartment attachment reasons if a negative answer, privacy related

### 6.1.3 Attachment to Residential Complex

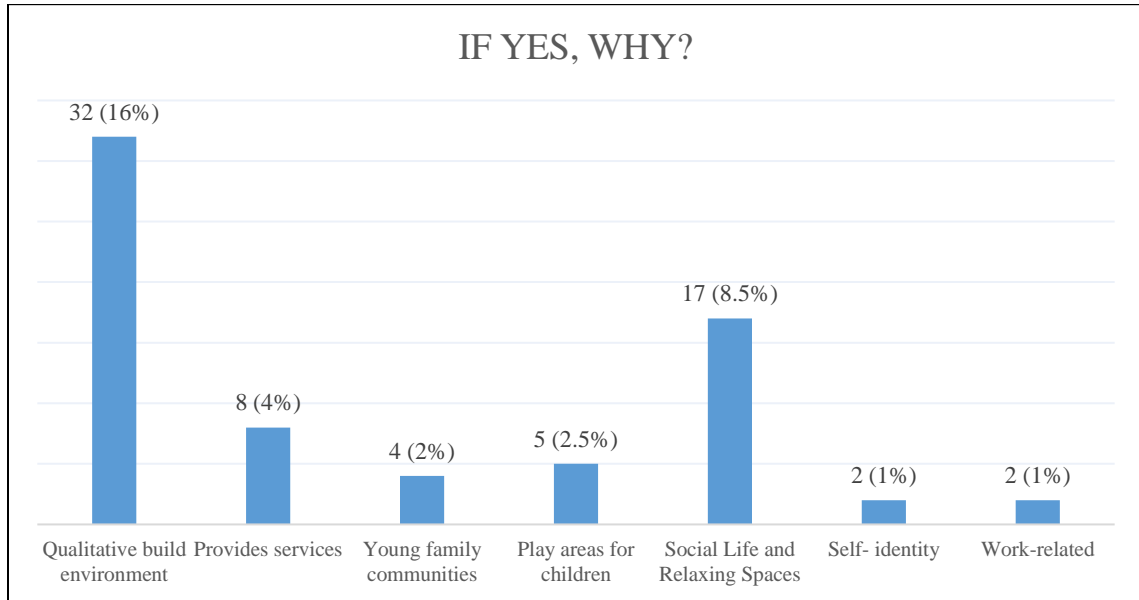
When asked about their attachment to their residential complex, a considerable number of the respondents gave a negative response (131), or 65%. Showing that the residents don't feel connected to their complex. However, (70), or 35%, respondents gave a positive response showing that they feel connected and are satisfied with their residential complex.



**Figure 46.** MANGALEM 21-Attachment to Residential Complex

Residents provided various reasons for their positive attachment to the residential complex when asked to do so. The responses differed, with some residents indicating that the qualitative build environment reason make them feel connected to it (32 respondents). Some residents mentioned that they feel attached to the complex due to the availability of social life and relaxing spaces (17 respondents), services (8 respondents), and playground areas for children (5 respondents). For some residents, reasons for their attachment included a community of young families (4 respondents). Additionally, some residents mentioned self-identity as a reason for their attachment and relation with their work (2 respondents

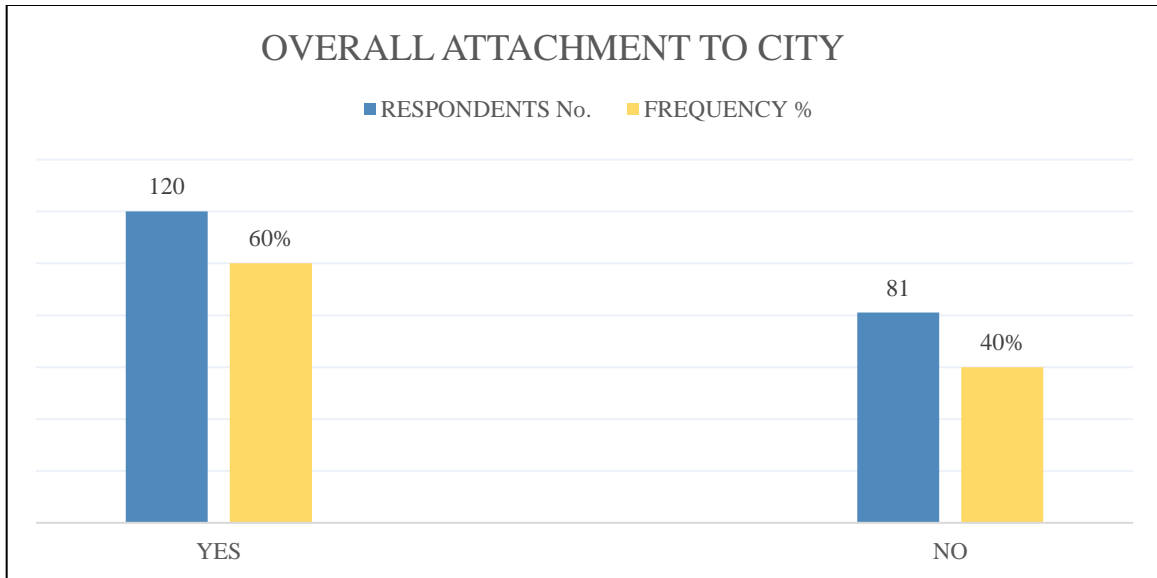
each). Nonetheless, residents who provided negative answers were not questioned for any added details.



**Figure 47.** MANGALEM 21- Residential Complex attachment reasons if a positive answer

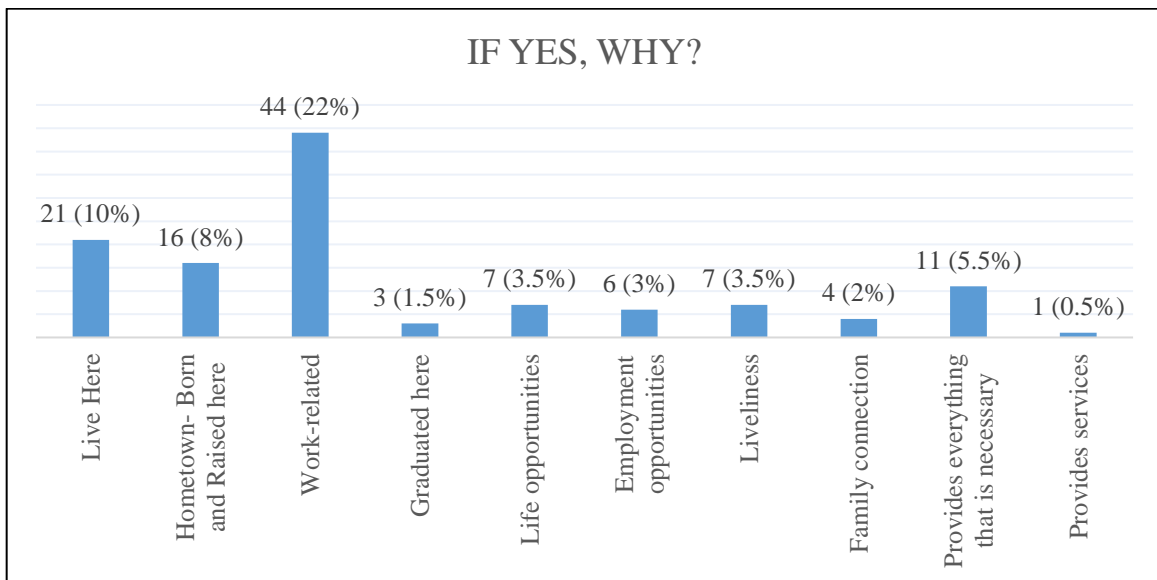
#### 6.1.4 Attachment to City

When asked about their attachment to the city, a significant part of respondents, (120), or 60%, gave positive responses, indicating that they feel connected to the city. Conversely, (81), or 40%, of the respondents gave negative responses, indicating that they don't feel connected to the city. These negative respondents weren't asked to provide any further details for their responses.

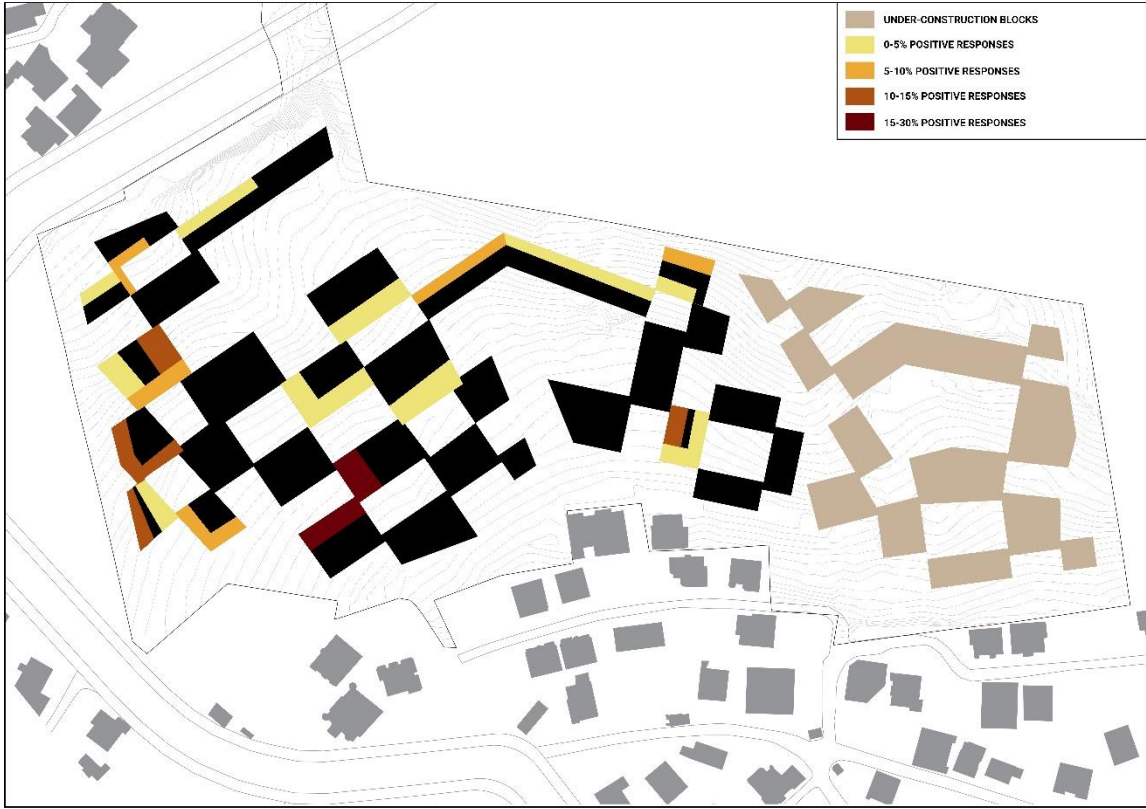


**Figure 48.** MANGALEM 21- Attachment to City

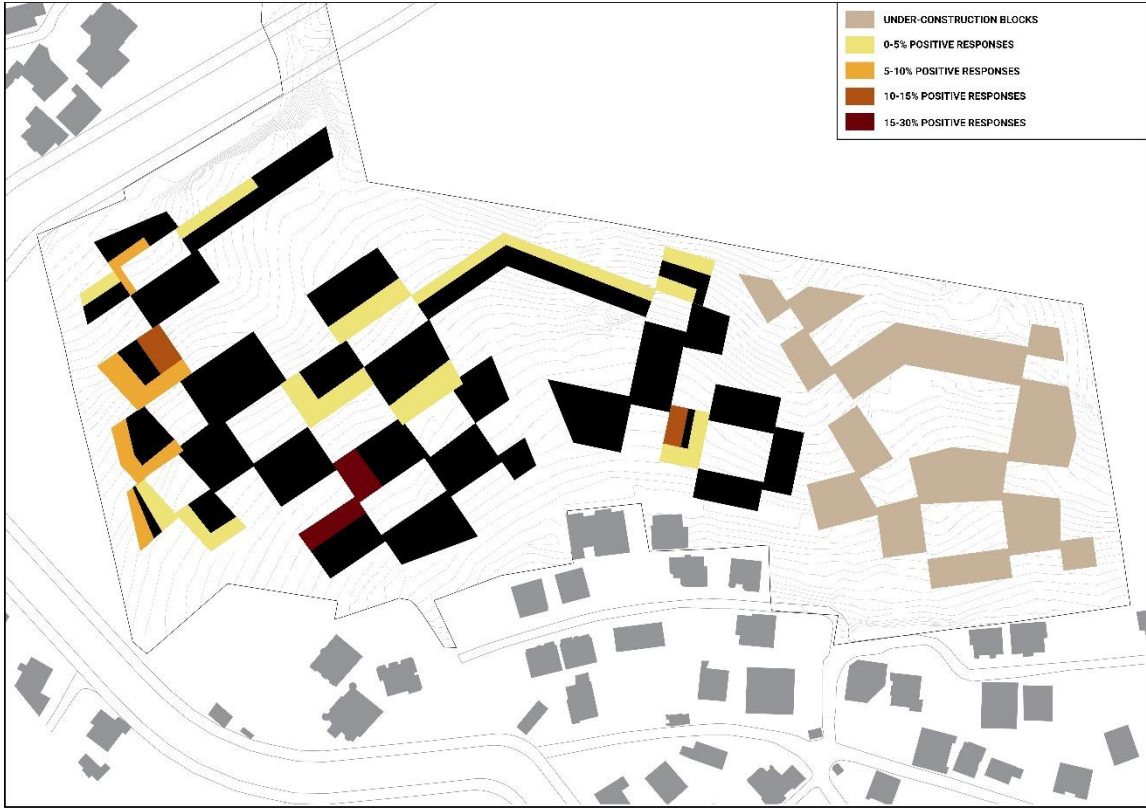
Among those who gave positive responses, residents provided various reasons for their attachment to the city. These reasons included work (44 respondents), living in the city for a long time (21 respondents), the city being their hometown (16 respondents), the city providing necessary amenities (11 respondents), life opportunities (7 respondents), liveliness (7 respondents), employment opportunities (6 respondents), family connections (4 respondents), graduating from a university in the city (3 respondents), and services provided by the city (1 respondent)



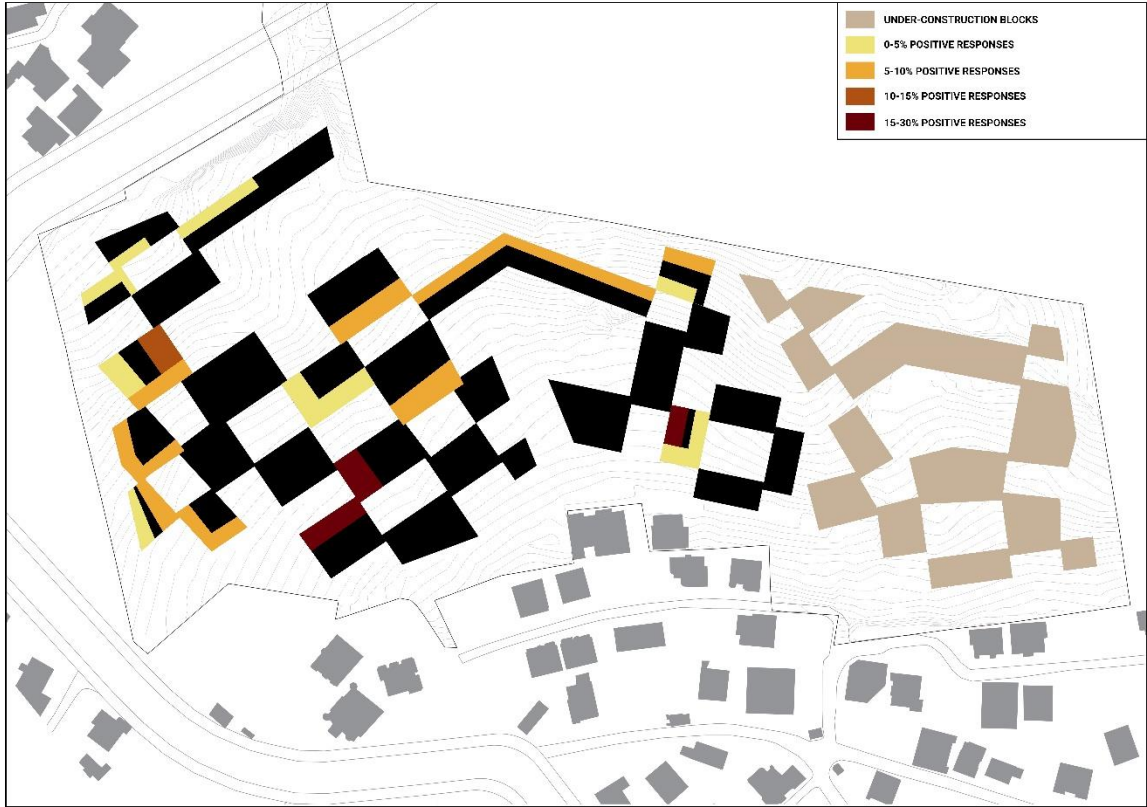
**Figure 49.** MANGALEM 21- City attachment reasons if a positive answer



*Figure 50.* MANGALEM 21- Overall positive responses for Attachment to Apartment



*Figure 51.* MANGALEM 21- Overall positive responses for Attachment to Residential Complex



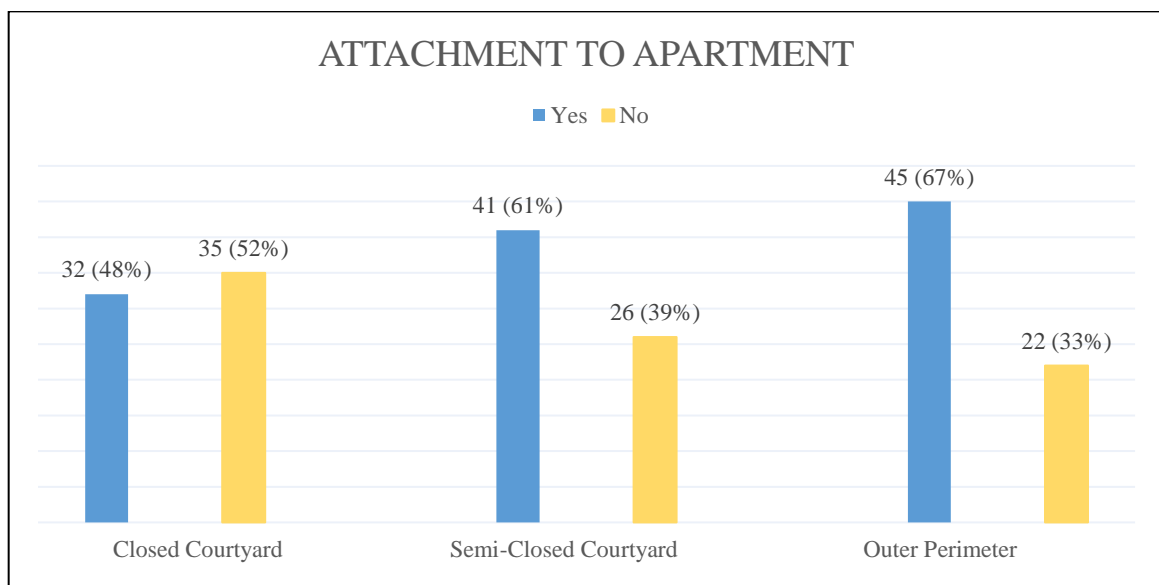
*Figure 52.* MANGALEM 21- Overall positive responses for Attachment to City



## 6.2 COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT

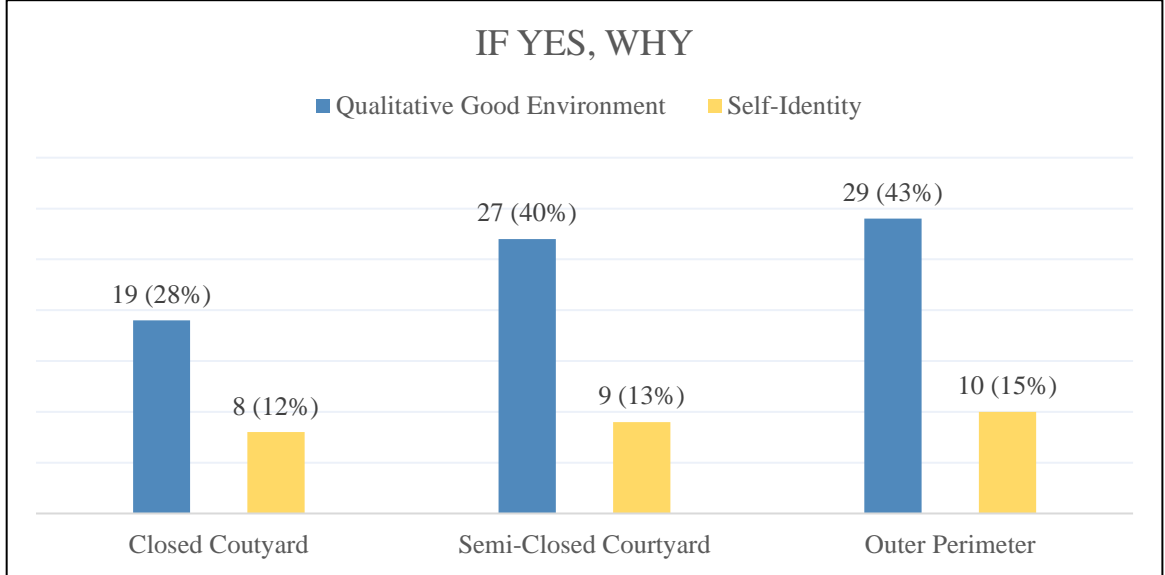
### 6.2.1 Comparative Assessment of Attachment to Apartment

Establishing a comparative analysis in terms of attachment to the apartment, the residents living in the outer perimeter and semi-closed courtyard part of the residence, answered positively, respectively 67% or 45 respondents and 61% or 41 respondents, while the part of the closed courtyard residents gave a negative reaction, respectively 52% or 35 respondents.



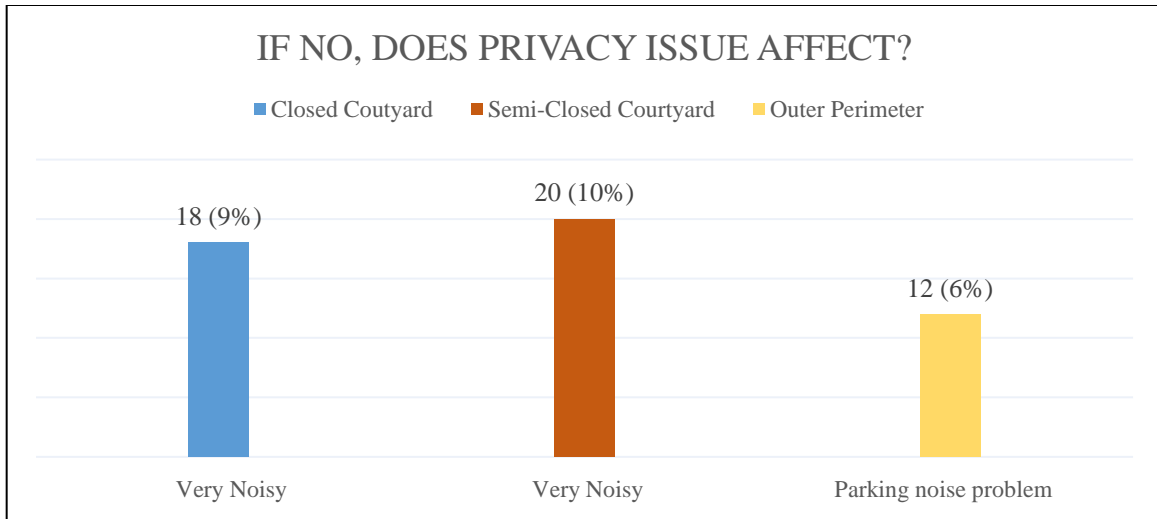
**Figure 53.** MANGALEM 21- Attachment to apartment comparative assessment

When asked about the reason for their positive responses, the residents for the three categories: outer perimeter, closed courtyard, and semi-closed courtyard, gave the same reason, qualitative good environment, as the most repetitive and important one, expressing the feeling of a comfortable place that makes them feel attached. Another redundant reason was self-identity, indicating the feeling of belonging to that place.



**Figure 54.** MANGALEM 21- Reasons if positive response, comparative assessment (Attachment to Apartment)

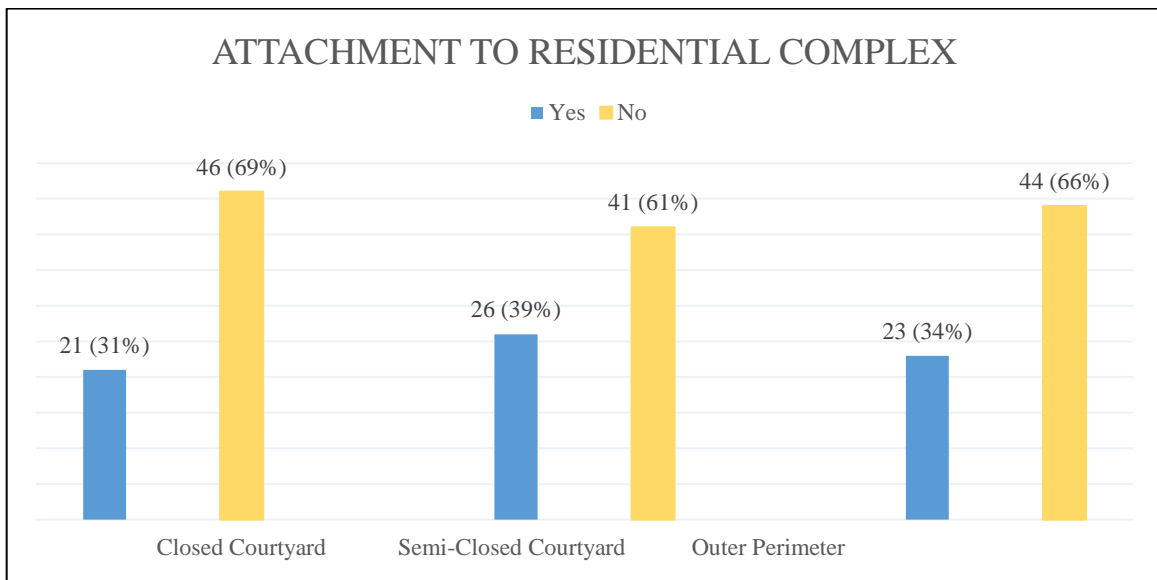
As a consequence of privacy issues, residents gave a negative answer, showing that they don't feel connected with their apartment. For the residents living in the outer perimeter of the building, the main reason they didn't feel attached to their apartment was the parking noise problem causing a lack of privacy, specifically 12 respondents or (6%). The outdoor parking of the cars induced the respondents to give this pessimistic answer related to the privacy issue. Regarding the residents living in the closed and semi-closed courtyard part of the building, the major influence for their negative answer was the noise around the apartment caused by their neighbors, the balconies close to each other or the people passing by, respectively 18 and 20 respondents or (9%) and (10%).



**Figure 55.** MANGALEM 21- Apartment attachment reasons if a negative answer, privacy related

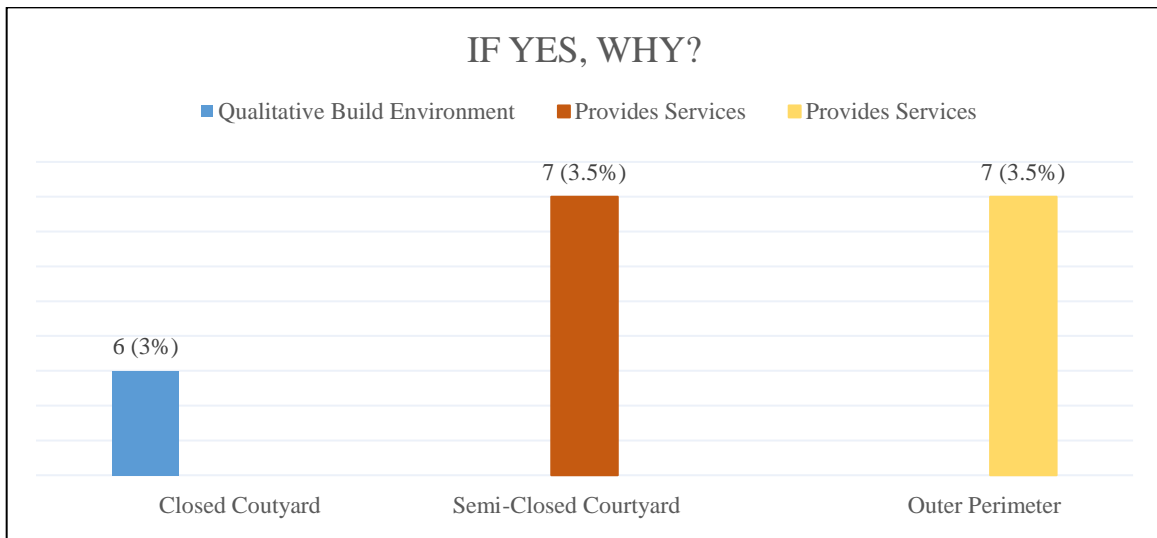
### 6.2.2 Comparative Assessment of Attachment to Residential Complex

In the context of attachment to the residential complex, inhabitants living in the three categories: outer perimeter, closed courtyard, and semi-closed courtyard, gave a negative response, respectively 66% or 44 respondents, 69% or 46 respondents, and 61% or 41 respondents.



**Figure 56.** MANGALEM 21-Attachment to Residential Complex

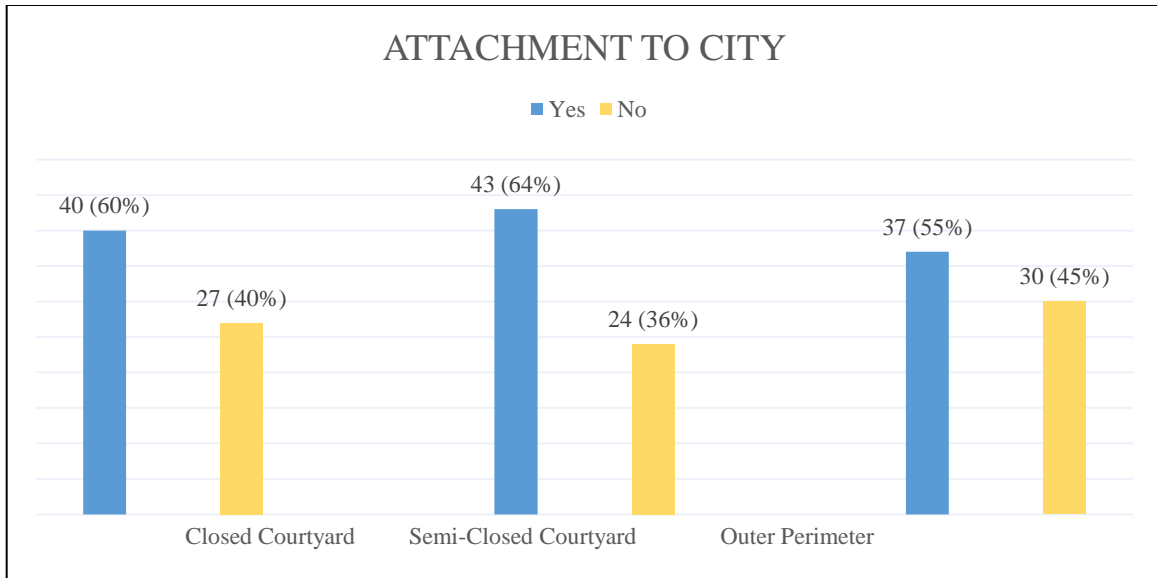
When asked about the reason for their positive responses, the residents living in the closed courtyard part of the building, gave the reason of a qualitative good environment (3%), as the most important one for their attachment. In contrast, the residents living in the semi-closed courtyard and outer perimeter of the building, gave the same answer of attachment, the fact that the residential complex offers and provides them with services (3.5% each).



**Figure 57.** MANGALEM 21- Reasons if positive response, comparative assessment (Attachment to Residential Complex)

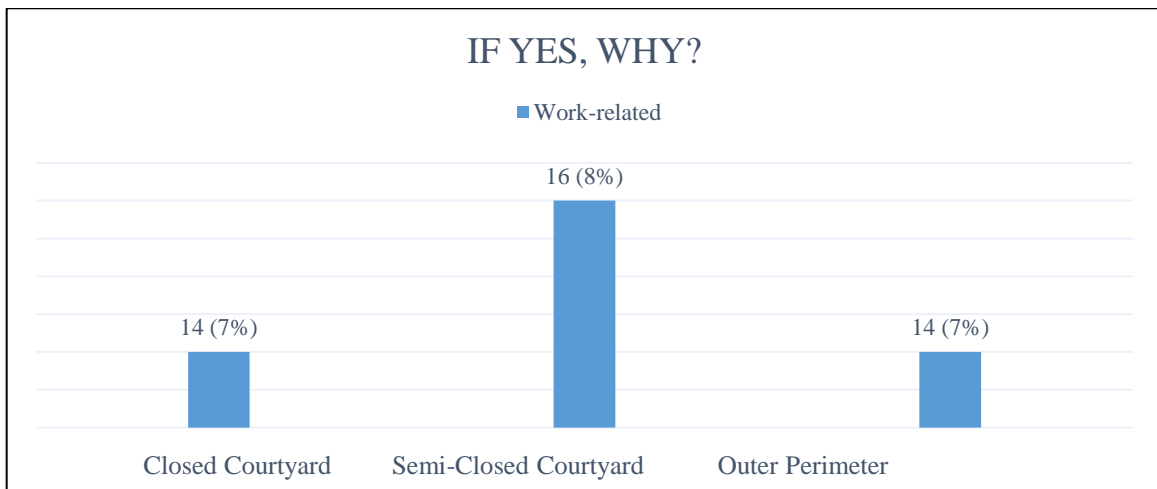
### 6.2.3 Comparative Assessment of Attachment to City

In terms of attachment to the city, the residents living in the outer perimeter, semi-closed courtyard, and closed courtyard part of the residence, answered positively, respectively 55% or 37 respondents, 64% or 43 respondents, and 60% or 40 respondents.



**Figure 58.** MANGALEM 21-Attachment to City

When questioned regarding the reason for their positive responses, the residents living in the three categories: the outer perimeter, the semi-closed courtyard, and the closed courtyard part felt attached because of their work. Some of them had their private business and others just work in this city to provide a good life for themselves.



**Figure 59.** MANGALEM 21- Reasons if positive response, comparative assessment (Attachment to City)

## CHAPTER 7

### CONCLUSION

The findings from the research, which examined the connection between place attachment and privacy in a residential complex, are presented in this chapter. Undoubtedly, there is a connection between these two concepts based on the literature reviews of some researchers concluding that efficient management of privacy leads to a strong connection to the place, also the way a person fits into their surroundings have an impact on it so when one lacks little privacy, one feels detached or crowded on that place [59] [9] [29].

To examine this relationship, since in residential complexes attachment to place and privacy are essential components of residents' experiences, the case study of the "Mangalem 21" complex in Tirana, was selected. To help this study, an open-ended questionnaire with a total of 201 interviews was conducted that sought to ascertain how inhabitants of Mangalem21, feel about place attachment and privacy in relation to three different categories of the complex: outer perimeter, closed courtyard, and semi-closed courtyard. For each of the categories 67 interviews were addressed. The residents were asked about their general user profile, for the attachment to place on three levels: apartment attachment, residential complex attachment, and city attachment, while the privacy issue was asked only for the apartment attachment level.

Regarding the user profile, the respondents were aged between 25-34, where the female gender predominated, and the education was mostly university. A large number of respondents were owners of the apartment with 3-4 members in the family for a period of stay about 1-3 years. The professions varied, but respondents with private business, pensioners, teachers, engineers, economists, etc. prevailed in the highest number.

In relation to the attachment to apartment, for the outer perimeter, a predominantly number of respondents gave a positive answer, a smaller number of respondents for the closed courtyard, and for the semi-closed courtyard, a significant majority answered positively. The qualitative build environment, the feeling of self-identity and the good

location dominated as the reasons for the positive answers of the respondents. As for the ones that answered negatively, the privacy issue affected their answer followed by other factors such as noise from their neighbors for the residents living in the closed and semi-closed courtyard and the parking noise problem for the residents living in the outer perimeter. Concerning the attachment to the residential complex, a massive number of respondents for the three typologies gave a negative answer. Regarding the attachment to the city, a majority of respondents for the three courtyard typologies answered positively. Most frequent reasons were work related, life opportunities that the city offers and because they live here in this city.

For the overall results in the three courtyard typologies were examined that, residents feel connected mostly with their apartment and city, and feel less connected with the whole residential complex. Also, for the privacy issue, resulted that a considerable number of respondents were affected by the issue of privacy when asked if their negative answer related to attachment to the apartment was influenced by the lack of it. Related to the positive reasons for the attachment to the apartment, the comfort and coziness the place offers, the sense of belonging and the position of it were more frequent. For the attachment to residential complex respondent didn't feel connected due to their short duration of stay, while for the few people who felt connected, it was because of the qualitative built environment. Lastly for the attachment to city the main positive reasons were related to their work, their origin, the services and opportunities this city offers for them.

In conclusion, this study provides our understanding of the relationship that exists between place attachment and privacy in residential buildings. It emphasizes the detrimental effects of privacy concerns on people's emotional ties to their homes and identifies particular privacy issues that have a big impact on place attachment.

This thesis has several limitations, since the thesis depended on a particular residential complex, it may be difficult to generalize the results to other situations or populations. The link between privacy and place attachment might be better understood if the sample were bigger and more representative. Considering the constrained reach of privacy since it is a complex idea that may be impacted by many other things other than

courtyard typologies. It's possible that not all pertinent aspects or factors that might affect these constructs were considered in the thesis.

For further studies, this topic may be built upon in a number of different ways with more research. A larger number of participants or other apartment complexes with various courtyard typologies might be included in the study. This can assist confirm and expand the findings and give a clearer picture of how privacy and place attachment relate in different situations. A long-term investigation to find out how privacy and place attachment change. Spotting the transformations in the relationships that residents have with the residential complex by paying attention to their experiences, actions, and perspectives at various points throughout their residence. Investigating the possibilities for design changes in residential complexes by creating design guidelines or suggestions for architects and urban planners based on prior research to provide privacy and develop a sense of attachment to a certain place.



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# APPENDIX

## Questionnaire

### PLACE ATTACHMENT AND PRIVACY AT A RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX IN TIRANA

#### USER PROFILE

Ap Outer Perimeter Closed  Courtyard

Semi-Closed Courtyard

Gender:

Birth Year

Owner

Renter

Family Member No.

Profession

Duration

Education

1. Are you attached with your Apartment?

Yes/No

a) If yes, why?

b) If no does the issue of privacy play any role in?

2. Are you attached yourself with the residential complex?

Yes/No

a) If yes, why?

3. Are you attached yourself with the city?

Yes/No

a) If yes, why?