Reflections of Memory Boom on the Architectural Researches in Turkey

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Abstract. Memory is a notion studied by many different disciplines with its various points of views. Researchers, who examine memory and its sub-categories, discuss this notion through interactions of people within their individual; societal; cultural; and urban contexts. It is possible to observe a considerable increase of researches on the phenomenon of memory in the last two decades. These research increase is labelled in the literature as ‘memory-boom’. The term “memory-boom” could be explained as the importance and attention given to the notion of memory in society and the academic world. An example of this ‘memory-boom’ can be seen in the increasing number of researches after the World War II and then The Holocaust. A similar rise was experienced after the 9/11 World Trade Centre attack. As a result of these incidents, which had a worldwide impact on masses, reasons behind memory-boom started to emerge in some researches. In this study, ‘memory-boom’ is discussed within the national context of Turkey. Notion of memory has been studied in many researches in Turkey, as in the literature of elsewhere. This study focuses on the rise of academic works in Turkey that examine relations between architectural buildings and memory within the field of architecture, as opposed to researches focusing solely on the concept of memory. The purposes of the study could be explained as twofold: 1) to understand reasons behind the increase of memory researches in Turkey and triggers or reasons that may be affecting these works, 2) to understand reasons of the memory-boom related to architecture and architectural buildings in Turkey. In this context, this study is constructed as a preliminary work, which has limited research universe that encompass academic dissertations in architecture and interior design disciplines, written between years of 2000-2020 in Turkey. Thesis, which are archived at the “Council of Higher Education National Thesis Center” database, are examined within the scope of this study, to be able to demonstrate the relations between architecture and memory-boom. The study has a qualitative, interpretive conceptual framework and it relies on critical readings of the existing literature as a method. It is aimed to understand notable similarities and/or differences between triggering reasons of memory-boom in Turkey and related architectural studies. The study intends to contribute to the literature by drawing attention to the notion of “memory-boom” in national literature and to expand its place in academic works and researches.

1. Introduction
Memory is a notion, which had been examined by many researchers in different fields, such as history, philosophy, anthropology, sociology, psychology, environmental psychology, urban design, architecture and etc. Memory has also been studied under many different scopes and perspectives as its metaphorical definitions. The notion has been explained in many different ways until today. Until the 19th century, memory was tried to be explained as a metaphor of ‘place’ and was tried to identify as a
'warehouse' because of its storage function. Similarly, Aristotle has stated that memory is consist of memory traces, which are gained by experience. It could be said that, each experience leaves an image in memory [1].

Memory researches was expanded through these perspectives. Researchers, who studied and expand these perspectives of the notion, has started to discuss memory, through interactions of people within their individual; societal; cultural; and urban contexts. In this content, the concepts of individual memory [2, 3], collective memory [4] and cultural memory [5] have emerged. It is possible to say that, after these concepts were emerged, memory had been studied in different directions by many disciplines.

2. Memory in different contexts

Memory could be explained in many different ways in the context of its functions. In spite of its different functions, the notion could be defining as a kind of storage, which associates with the past, present as well as future. Memory is also related with experiences and emotions that human has ever had. According to Boyer (2009), memory is a storage which keeps information about the past [6]. Based on the studies expanded in the literature [2,3,4,5], memory is classified as individual memory and collective memory through remembering action [6,7]. In other words, the past could be shaped the individual and social forms of remembering. In this context, it is possible to said that past and present experiences could shape forgetting as well as remembering. In collective memory, these are shaped by common social memories, experiences and perceptions of the group members [8].

According to Bergson, memory consist of some experiences, which become part of our consciousness [9]. After these arguments and Bergson's other works, Halbwachs examined the relation between memory and society, which called in literature as 'collective memory'. Concept of collective memory, due to the works of pioneer names in the field, like Maurice Halbwachs is well accepted. According to Halbwachs, collective memory is explained that neither as a given thing nor a mysterious group thought; it is defined as socially constructed concept [9].

However, memory notion has been studied in different perspectives and evaluated in many disciplines within its various interactions of people and places. Events, places and buildings, which are associated with memories, perceptions and experiences of groups, could be explained as representations of these. This thought could be suggested as an example to reasons or beginning ideas of the relations between memory and architecture. As memory began to be associated with people, places, and structures, other sub-categories such as cultural memory [5] and urban memory began to be created. As a result of these developments, the concept of memory started to be used in different fields by changing its meaning and definition. It is possible to say that these developments have made memory as a popular research topic. Beside these, there are some discussions about the meaning and usage of memory, and these factors could be seen unsettled areas of memory studies [10]. Berliner (2005), states that some researchers [11,12] were warning against the “terminological profusion” and the “semantic overload” of memory. Berliner (2005) also points out that, there is another important warning on growing rhetorical power of memory against its loss of precise meaning in proportion. Similarly, another researcher Winter (2000), has discussed that, the term memory, was begun to be used without its full or shared significance. He states that the term ‘memory’ is using as ‘the historical signature of our generation’ [10, 13].

This study focuses on the studies on the concept of memory rather than the meaning or use of the term memory. It is important to understand that memory notion has become a growing research subject with its wide range of function, relation and interaction power of people, history and experience. Memory is being studied under many different points of views as mentioned above. It is possible to said that the variety on the semantic, terminological, meaningful using of memory could be one of the reasons that why the notion is so much preferred as a research topic. In this context, this study is constructed as
a preliminary work to observe the increase of the researches on memory, which is explained as 'memory-boom'.

3. “Memory-Boom”
Memory-boom, which has ‘aptly labelled’ by Jay Winter [13, 14], is a term in which refers the significance and prominence of memory that has risen within both society and academic environment in the last few decades [15, 16]. According to Simine (2013), memory-boom has been tied to a thought of a conjecture that abundance of memory, which could be attributed to a very real anxiety of social amnesia and/ or forgetfulness. It could be observed in his research that in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, memory was studied by some pioneer researchers such as Freud, Proust and Benjamin within different perspectives from today’s works. Simine (2013) also states that memory studies have been sustained in various and developing forms over time. Winter, has explained the rise of memory works, changing and loss of its meaning and semantic of memory and the breaking points of the rise in his different works [13, 17, 18]. Winter (2006), explains that, before the late nineteenth century, memory was defined history, ethics and art. According to Winter (2006), the art of memory was developed in the Renaissance, and the development of memory is continued to today within the modern commentators. He also supports the idea that memory is being studied as widely varying styles and inflections in today. Memory boom was started in history, especially the researches in cultural history (Nora, 1989 and Assman, 1995), then it has continued to rise in other fields, such as anthropology with effects of postmodernist turn [10].

Winter (2006) mentions memory-boom as following:
For some the memory boom is nostalgic, a yearning for a vanished or rapidly vanishing world. For others it is a language of protest, seeking out solidarities based on common narratives and traditions to resist the pressures and seductions of globalization. For others still it is a means of moving away from politics, and of resacralizing the world, or of preserving the voice of victims of the multiple catastrophes of the last century (p.55) [17].

The explanations above could be understood to reasons of variety on memory perspectives. This idea could be seen as suggestions of memory boom in researches. It is possible to observe from the statements above that, different reasons, such as politics, tradition or protest, which are triggered by events or experiences could be leading to increased memory studies.

3.1. Suggestions on reasons of “memory-boom”
In fields, such as history and anthropology, memory has become a risen research topic due to the effect of some breaking points. These breaking points could be explained as incidents, wars, celebrations, attacks, developments, cultural or political turns and changes, and etc., which has effect on masses. These developments may be seen as the reasons that why people and researchers has more concerned about how nations organize their past, how they convey their experiences, traditions, values or thoughts to next generations. In this context, some great tragedies such as The Second World War, Holocaust, The Cold War, 9/11 could be given as examples of triggering breaking points of memory boom. Similarly, Blight (2009) is explained these concerns in his work (p.241) and he suggest his own list of reasons for memory boom, without any priority, in his perspective (p.243) as following:

- The Sheer Scale of Violence in the Twentieth Century
- The Holocaust
- Anniversary Consciousness
- The End of the Cold War
- The Explosion of New Histories
- Multiculturalism and Museum Controversies
• Heritage Tourism and the Commodification of Memory
• The Growing Distance between Professional
• History and Public Memory
• An Age of Diminished Expectations
• The Urge to Repair, or Rage for Restitution (pp.238-25), [20].

The reasons list, which mentioned above is Blight’s own suggestion list for memory boom. These reasons are being examined in this study. In this context, this study is trying to compare them to the reasons of memory boom in Turkey, through the thesis on architecture field. This comparison could be seen as a preliminary literature review for further studies.

4. Memory Studies in Turkey

There are many memory researches in Turkey, as in the literature of elsewhere. As mentioned above, this study focuses on the rise of academic works in Turkey that examine relations between architectural buildings and memory within the field of architecture, as opposed to researches focusing solely on the concept of memory. The purposes of the study could be explained as twofold: 1) to understand reasons behind the increase of memory researches in Turkey and triggers or reasons that may be affecting these works, 2) to understand reasons of the memory-boom related to architecture and architectural buildings in Turkey. In this context, thesis that are archived at the “Council of Higher Education National Thesis Center” database, are examined, which are written between years of 2000-2020 in architecture field.

Table 1. Data from “Council of Higher Education National Thesis Center” [24]

| Key Word | memory | memory | memory | memory |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Years    | 2000-2020 | 2000-2020 | 2000-2020 | 2000-2020 |
| Field    | All disciplines | Architecture | Architecture | Architecture |
| Grade    | All grades (MS, MA, PhD) | MS, PhD | MS | PhD |
| Results  | 5776 thesis | 108 thesis | 90 thesis | 18 thesis |

* 95 thesis in architecture, *81 thesis in MS, *14 thesis in PhD

It could be observed from Table 1 that there are 5776 thesis, which are related in the notion of memory without any limitation of priority, grade or field. These results include all memory studies, which are written between the years of 2000-2020, and registered at the database. However, when a search was made in the field of architecture with the same keyword and year ranges, the results in table 2 were obtained. It could be observed from the table that the field of architecture includes some disciplines, which are related to architecture, such as History of Art, Interior Design, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design.

Table 2. Thesis on memory in architecture

| Key Word | memory |
|----------|--------|
| Years    | 2000-2020 |

| Field    | All disciplines | All disciplines | Architecture* | Architecture** |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Grade    | MS              | PhD             | MS            | PhD           |
| Results  | 1770 thesis     | 1163 thesis     | 139 thesis    | 50 thesis     |

* Architecture includes History of Art, Interior Design, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, Archaeology, Philosophy

** Architecture includes: Interior Design (2), Anthropology (1), History of Architecture (2), Landscape Architecture (4), Urban Design (1), Museology (1)
In these data, it is observed that the number of master thesis are more than PhD thesis (Table 2.). This could be interpreted that, may the results of memory researches in architecture will be grow in the coming years. Before limiting the searches with years, first “memory” was searched in the database without specify the year range. It has been reached 5776 total amount of memory thesis between the years of 1977-2020. At this point, it is possible to said that, memory works, which are registered in the database, in Turkey is not based on more than four decades yet. Distribution of thesis by years can be seen in the table below (Table 3). This data could be underlined as 'memory boom', due to the increase of memory works in 2017-2019 (Table 3, Figure 1 and 2).

Table 3. Thesis on memory in architecture based on years

| Year | All | Architecture | PhD | MS |
|------|-----|--------------|-----|----|
| 2000 | 18  | 0            | 0   | 0  |
| 2001 | 18  | 2            | 0   | 2  |
| 2002 | 21  | 2            | 0   | 2  |
| 2003 | 24  | 0            | 0   | 0  |
| 2004 | 34  | 3            | 0   | 3  |
| 2005 | 34  | 0            | 0   | 0  |
| 2006 | 46  | 0            | 0   | 0  |
| 2007 | 49  | 2            | 0   | 2  |
| 2008 | 48  | 3            | 1   | 2  |
| 2009 | 64  | 1            | 1   | 0  |
| 2010 | 75  | 1            | 0   | 1  |
| 2011 | 66  | 2            | 0   | 2  |
| 2012 | 82  | 3            | 1   | 2  |
| 2013 | 89  | 4            | 2   | 2  |
| 2014 | 116 | 2            | 0   | 2  |
| 2015 | 106 | 7            | 1   | 6  |
| 2016 | 128 | 8            | 2   | 6  |
| 2017*| 149 | 12           | 0   | 12 |
| 2018*| 225 | 18           | 6   | 12 |
| 2019*| 42  | 37           | 1   | 36 |
| 2020 | 17  | 0            | 0   | 0  |

![Figure 1. The chart on increase/ year of thesis- numbers](image-url)
These tables are referred to number of memory studies by grades (MS, PhD) and years in architecture field. The thesis are observed that the relation between memory and architecture/architectural building was studied within very different and various perspectives in these researches. Some researchers discussed this notion through the place-experience relation, some was discussed to historical significance, cultural heritage/significance. Some of was pointed out collective memory and architecture relation. On the other hand, some of the researchers were studied memory notion with its function to examine the design/designer relation with memory to understand design process.

In some thesis, the relation of memory and architecture were studied with not only an architectural building, but also a field within urban context, such as a field, a compound, a historical site, neighbourhood, public places, inside and outside places and parks. Additionally, some of the studies were focused on some specific buildings, which they have historically significant, related to an incident or has cultural or/and collective values. The nineteen thesis are focused directly a specific building or structure, such architectural buildings as Ankara Train Station [21], Atatürk Cultural Center [22] and Galata Bridge [23].

It could be seen in the thesis that, Blight (2009)’s suggestion list has some similarities with the reasons or triggering factors of memory boom in Turkey. In Blight’s list, he mentioned these factors: violence, anniversary, new histories, multiculturalism, heritage tourism, history and public memory, repair, rage or restitution. The prominent reasons which triggers the rise of memory boom in architecture in Turkey could be listed as following:

- Incidents, which effect society (attacks, celebrations, disobediences, meetings…)
- Anniversaries (deaths, establishes, important dates…)
- Multiculturalism
- Heritage tourism
- History and public memory
- Adaptive re-using, restitution, conservation
- Conserving the past
- Cultural, historical transfer
- Political and ideological factors
- Sociological, psychological relations
- Usages, functionality
- Remembering, memorial, and fear of forgetting

![Figure 2. The chart on increase/ year of thesis-field and grades](image-url)
It is important to said that the list is prepared as a suggestion to compare the similarities and differences between the reasons, which triggers memory boom. The suggestion list has some similarities and also differences from other list. In similarities it could be explain that these concerns are for all humanity, to understand the past, organize the past, transfer culture, history and stories. However, geography, history of society and cultural diversity could be effect to seen as the reasons behind the differences.

5. Conclusion
In conclusion, there is a growing in memory works in Turkey, as could be seen in the tables above. In this study the reasons behind the memory boom in Turkey and triggers or reasons that may be affecting these works is discussed. In addition to that, this study tries to understand and explain the reasons of memory boom related to architecture. It could be seen in the previous chapter that memory is a rising research subject. Some reasons like in the two suggestion lists can effect memory boom. Today, as Winter [17] states, many researchers in different disciplines ‘drawn to memory adopt widely varying styles and inflections in their work’. It is possible to said that, this and the other triggers or reasons could be continued the risen of memory boom in future.

This study is constructed as a preliminary work for examine to memory boom in Turkey. The study intends to contribute to the literature by drawing attention to the notion of “memory-boom” in national literature and to expand its place in academic works and researches. It is also intended to be a useful data and suggestions about reasons of memory boom for further studies.

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