



A Research on Residential Preferences in the Context of Social Dominance Theory *

Sosyal Baskınlık Teorisi Bağlamında Konut Tercihlerinin Araştırılması

ABSTRACT

Social inequality and its effects on society have been the focus point of various studies. Social Dominance Theory, one of the theories that examines society in this context, aims to investigate the mechanisms that prepare the ground for the formation, legitimization and continuation of group – based hierarchies. In accordance with that, Social Dominance Orientation (SDO), conceptualized as the tendency of individuals to support inequality, is measured using the Social Dominance Orientation Scale developed within the framework of the theory. Although Social Dominance Orientation is predominantly evaluated in social science research, this study aims to expand its applicability to architecture and design, on the premise that architecture cannot be considered independently from the societal structures and social dynamics that shape it. Based on this interconnectedness, the study hypothesizes that individuals' attitude in supporting or maintaining social hierarchy would be reflected in both their current housing conditions and housing preferences. To test this hypothesis, a survey was conducted with 464 participants, and the collected data were analyzed with various statistical methods using SPSS program. Based on the data, how individuals' SDO affect the current and preferred housing space are evaluated. Overall, by revealing the connections between ideological orientations and residential preferences with an interdisciplinary approach, the study seeks to point out that architecture is tightly bounded with societal dynamics.

Keywords: Built Environment, Housing Conditions, Social Inequality, Residential Preferences, Social Dominance Orientation

ÖZET

Sosyal eşitsizlik ve toplum üzerindeki etkileri çok sayıda çalışmanın odak noktası olmuştur. Toplumu bu bağlamda inceleyen teorilerden biri olan Sosyal Baskınlık Teorisi, grup temelli hiyerarşilerin oluşumuna, meşrulaştırılmasına ve devamına zemin hazırlayan mekanizmaları araştırmayı amaçlamaktadır. Bu doğrultuda bireylerin eşitsizliği destekleme eğilimi olarak kavramsallaştırılan Sosyal Baskınlık Yönelimi (SDO), teori çerçevesinde geliştirilen Sosyal Baskınlık Yönelimi Ölçeği kullanılarak ölçülmektedir. Sosyal Baskınlık Yönelimi ağırlıklı olarak sosyal bilimler araştırmalarında değerlendirilmekle birlikte, bu çalışma mimarının onu şekillendiren toplumsal yapılar ve sosyal dinamiklerden bağımsız olarak ele alınamayacağı öncülünden yola çıkarak, teori ve ölçeğin mimarlık ve tasarım alanlarındaki uygulanabilirliğini test etmektedir. Sosyal dinamikler ve mimari arasındaki bu karşılıklı ilişkiyi merkeze alan çalışma, bireylerin sosyal hiyerarşiyi destekleme veya sürdürme yönündeki tutumlarının hem mevcut konut koşullarına hem de konut tercihlerine yansıtacağını varsaymaktadır. Bu hipotezi test etmek için 464 katılımcının dahil olduğu bir veri toplama çalışması yürütülmüş, elde edilen veriler SPSS programı aracılığıyla çeşitli istatistiksel yöntemlerle analiz edilmiştir. Elde edilen bulgular doğrultusunda bireylerin sosyal baskınlık yönelimlerinin mevcut ve tercih ettikleri konut mekanını nasıl etkilediği değerlendirilmiştir. İdeolojik yönelimler ve konut tercihleri arasındaki bağlantıları disiplinlerarası bir yaklaşımla ortaya koyan çalışma, mimarlığın toplumsal dinamiklerle olan güçlü bağımlı vurgulamayı amaçlamaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Yapılı Çevre, Konut Koşulları, Sosyal Eşitsizlik, Konut Tercihleri, Sosyal Baskınlık Yönelimi

INTRODUCTION

Stratification is a crucial sociological reality in understanding the societal dynamics (İnce, 2017), and it is a phenomenon that has existed from the past to the present in all kinds of human societies. Individuals are members of different social groups and are shaped according to the group they belong to. The group one is a member of can provide various benefits, but it can also put them in unfavorable positions. Therefore, this clustering of society in unequal groups separates and differentiates individuals from each other, and as new generations take on with these

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differentiations, this phenomenon settles into society and becomes a factor that shapes it. Sociology has named this formation as social stratification (Ozankaya, 1991), and it has been the focus point of many theories. The System Justification Theory (Jost & Banaji, 1994), Social Identity Theory (Tajfel & Turner, 1979), Self-Categorization Theory and Right-Wing Authoritarianism (Altemeyer, 1981) are the ones which stands out in the literature. Social Dominance Theory, which is the focus point of this study, is also one of the theories that address social inequality.

Social Dominance Theory, put forward by Sidanius and Pratto, investigates the reasons why human societies are shaped in the form of group-based hierarchies. The theory states that societies consist of a dominant group and other groups that accept dominance. While the dominant group in question obtains the desired goods of the society; undesirable ones and insufficient conditions will fall on the subordinate groups. Social Dominance Orientation (SDO), conceptualized in the framework of Social Dominance Theory, expresses the desire and tendency of individuals to maintain the unequal formation of the society (Sidanius et al., 1994; Pratto et al., 2000; Pratto et al., 2004; Pratto, Sidanius & Levin, 2010). Briefly, the orientation is conceptualized as the tendency of individuals to support hierarchy (Hasta & Karaçanta, 2017). To measure the orientation, Social Dominance Orientation Scale was put forward by Levin and Pratto. The validity and reliability analyses of the scale and its adaptation to Turkish were made by Karaçanta in 2002 (Karaçanta, 2002). The test-retest reliability of the scale was calculated as .86, the alpha value as .85, and the split-half reliability as .79 (Okumuşoğlu, 2017).

The foundational works on Social Dominance Theory are the studies by Jim Sidanius and Felicia Pratto. One of the most fundamental studies among these was conducted in 1991 with 5655 students, and in the study, the relationship between students' career choices and racist behaviors was addressed in the context of Social Dominance Orientation (SDO) (Sidanius et al., 1991). After that, a similar study in 1992 examined the explanation of racism with Social Dominance Theory (Sidanius, Pratto & Devereux, 1992). Later, in a study conducted in 1994, SDO was defined as the degree to which individuals prefer inequality between social groups, and it was concluded that men have higher SDO compared to women, that individuals with this orientation will prefer to undertake hierarchy-enhancing social roles, and that SDO is related to many social and political ideologies that support group-based inequalities (Pratto et al., 1994). Following these publications, numerous studies, particularly those conducted by Felicia Pratto, Jim Sidanius, and their colleagues, have been published; and they form the foundation of the theory.

Within literature, social dominance orientation has been examined in relation to variety of issues across different fields. The evaluated issues include attitudes towards individuals different from oneself (Sarıdağ & Eser, 2023a; Sarıdağ & Eser, 2023b; Eser et al., 2024; Maor, 2024); preferring unequal intergroup relations by supporting the continuation of hierarchy (Tesi, Santo & Aiello, 2023; Tesi, 2025); explaining the gender – based power relations, prejudice or sexism (Chan & Poon, 2025; Contu, Aiello & Pierro, 2023; Seitova, Nariman & Kovacs, 2023); the ideological meaning of consumption practices (Liu, Wakeman & Norton, 2024); fairness in perception of others (Qiang & Haruno, 2025); workplace backlash (Lee, 2023); organizational trust levels of nurses (Kaplan & Kutlu, 2025); attitudes towards hate speech (Kansok-Dusche et al., 2024; Castellanos et al., 2023); individuals support for violence (Schrader et al., 2025; Abou-Ismaïl et al., 2025) or supporting war (Wollast et al., 2024); attitudes toward disadvantaged groups during organizational decision – making (Chang & Chang, 2024); and even individuals approach to environmental issues (Süslü et al., 2025; Uçar, Malatyalı & Kaynak, 2025). As it can be seen above, the studies made in the context of the theory were predominantly conducted in the fields of sociology and psychology. This study was the first to examine how the theory and SDO in question would yield results in the context of architectural design.

The social goods that theory addresses as unevenly distributed in society are socially valuable resources such as money, power, prestige, and respectable professions. As the theory puts forward, those social goods are mostly obtained by dominant groups with high SDO (Sidanius et al., 1994; Sidanius et al., 2004). As a result of changing consumption habits, spaces have also become commodities; thus, living space has begun to be evaluated as a tool that aims to provide identity and status to its owner. That resulted in inequality in cities being visible in the context of housing (Vesselinov, Cazessus & Falk, 2007). This study suggests that addition to the socially valuable sources that the theory puts forward, the living space of individuals, their “home”, should also be considered as a valuable resource that is not distributed equally in society.

In this study, it is hypothesized that the SDO, which influences every part of social life and is related to people's attitudes towards social stratification, will also have an impact on the living space they choose for themselves and the environment they would prefer to live in. This study aims to reveal the connections between people's SDO to support social inequality, their current lifestyle and their spatial preferences. As a result, the study aims to investigate and point out if the sociological formation of society has a reflection in the architectural context.

METHODOLOGY



This study investigates current residential condition and residential preferences in relation to Social Dominance Orientation (SDO). The reason to investigate living space in that context is that almost every individual in society owns a living space. It is the place where people spend much of their time and it is the place where they do several kinds of activities. Therefore, this space can be described as a basic need.

The survey created for the study consists of four sections. The first section is the demographic part where information on the gender, age, occupation, income level, and education status of the participants are collected. In the second section, SDO of the individuals were measured with the Social Dominance Orientation Scale. In the third section, the participants answered questions about the house they currently live in; such as the size of it, its location, type, the owner, and their satisfaction with the place. In the fourth section, the aim was to investigate the participants' housing preferences. For this purpose, questions were asked about the size, location, and type of house they thought was ideal, and they were requested to choose adjectives which they would like their preferred house to be described with. In addition, individuals were asked to score some items related to the neighborhood they would prefer to live in.

In determining the study group, the principles of Social Dominance Theory were taken as a basis. The theory suggests that individuals with similar professions, institutions, or living environments tend to develop similar SDO. Since this study aims to examine differences across orientations, it was essential to include participants with diverse backgrounds. Therefore, instead of targeting a specific age group, region, or city, the survey was administered broadly within the borders of Türkiye, and the data were later categorized according to relevant parameters.

The survey was conducted using Google Forms and the results were analyzed using the SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) program. The analysis aimed to investigate whether SDO is related to the space people currently live in, and how this orientation affects people's preferences about the space they would prefer.

RESULTS

The framework of the study includes a four-part survey. The ethics permission was obtained from the Karabük University Social and Human Sciences Research Ethics Committee. Within the scope of the survey, 464 participants, 278 of whom were women (59.9%) and 186 of whom were men (40.1%), agreed to take part in the study.

The distribution of the social dominance orientations (SDO) of the participants was examined within the scope of the analyses. The SDO value for the participant with the lowest SDO was found to be 10, and the highest value was 45; the average is 23.59. Based on these data, SDO were divided into five groups as very low (22), low (117), average (226), high (82), and very high (17) SDO; and three groups as below average (139), average (226), and above average (99) SDO (Figure 1). In the analyses conducted, the appropriate one from this three- or five-grouping was taken as the basis, considering the legibility of the analysis.

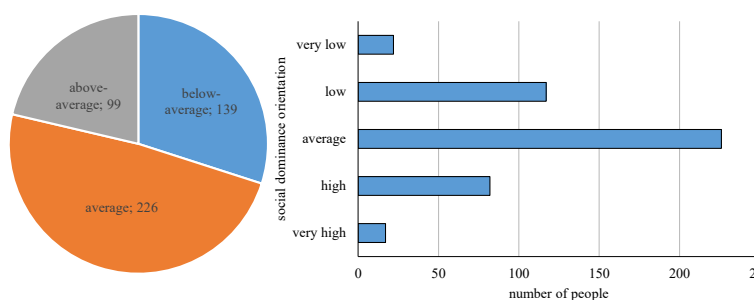


Figure 1: SDO – Based Grouping of Participants

First step of the analysis is investigating the relations between the demographic data (ages, income levels, educational status) and SDO by conducting One-Way Variance and correlation analysis. The relation between the participants' SDO and gender was examined with an independent samples T-test, and it is found that there was a significant relationship between gender and SDO ($t(462) = -2.301, p < 0.05$). The correlation analysis also confirmed this result; a significant positive relationship ($r(464) = .106, p < 0.05$) was found between the two variables. Therefore, it was concluded that women's SDO, i.e., their tendency to support inequality, were lower than men's. That means men are more likely to support inequality in society.

Place of Residence and SDO

The relations between participants' SDO and place of residence (metropolitan city, province, district/town/village) where they currently live and would prefer to live were examined with cross - tabulation tables obtained with Chi-square analysis. To make accurate comparison, the graphs belonging to the place of the current residence and the preferred place were placed side by side.

According to Figure 2, showing the data on individuals with below-average SDO, 44% of participants currently reside in provinces, but 39% prefer this place of residence as ideal. Conversely, the percentage of individuals who currently reside in a small town or a village is 29%, and this percentage is lower than those who consider those settings as ideal living environments (31%). These data suggest that individuals with below-average SDO prefer to choose less dense settings like small towns, even if the place where they currently reside doesn't align with this preference.

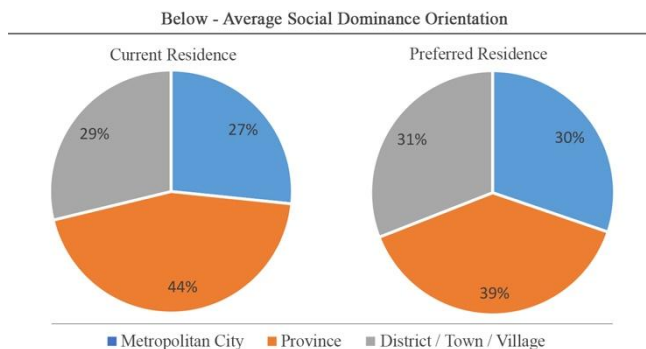


Figure 2: Below-Average SDO Group; Current vs. Preferred Place of Residence

As Figure 3, regarding individuals with average SDO shows, while 43% of people currently reside in provinces, 45% of them consider that place of residence as ideal. While the rate of people living in small towns or villages is 32%, it is seen that the rate of those who prefer to live in these places has decreased to 27%. When the data regarding metropolitan cities are examined, 25% lives in metropolitan cities and 28% consider metropolitan cities as the ideal place of residence. These percentages indicate that individuals with average SDO are more adaptable to both high- and low-density environments.

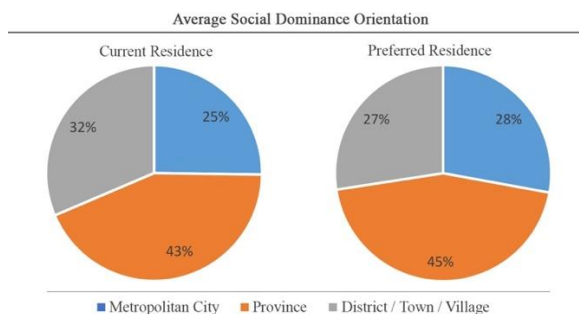


Figure 3: Average SDO Group; Current vs. Preferred Residential Location

In Figure 4, showing individuals with above-average SDO, there is an inclination towards residing in a metropolitan area. When compared to other graphs (Figure 2 and 3), it is seen that this graph has the lowest rate of residing in district/town/village and preferring these places as an ideal place of residence; and the highest rate of living and preferring a metropolitan city. Here, 46% of the participants lives in a city, and this percentage decreases to 41% in preference rate. Residing in a town or village is the least preferred in this group with 25%. The rate of living in a metropolitan city is 31%, and the rate of evaluating a metropolitan city as an ideal living area has increased to 34%. This percentage suggests that people with above-average SDO is inclined towards urban environments and metropolitan living.

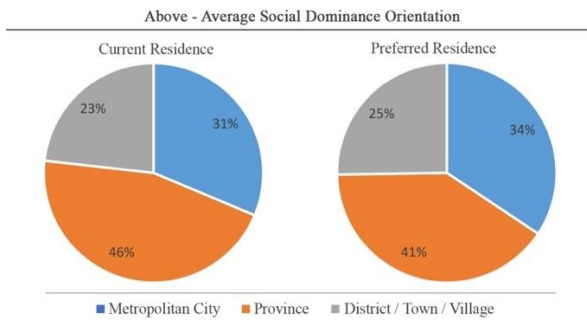


Figure 4: Above - Average SDO Group; Current vs. Preferred Residential Location

Housing Types and SDO

In this section, the relationships between individuals' SDO and the housing type (studio apartment, apartment unit, duplex apartment unit, single-story detached house with a garden, multi-story detached house with a garden) they currently reside and would prefer to reside are discussed with the help of graphs obtained from the results of Chi-square analyses.

When the relationship between SDO and housing type preferences is evaluated (Figure 5), it is striking that the preferred housing types in all SDO groups are single or multi-story detached houses in a garden. The preference rate in total for such houses is 75% for below-average SDO, 77% for average SDO, and 83% for above-average SDO. It is also noteworthy that as SDO increases, the preference rate for detached houses in a garden increase. The housing type with the lowest preference rate is the studio units. Only 1% of individuals with below-average and average SDO preferred such houses, while no one with above-average SDO preferred it. In addition, another noteworthy point when the three graphs are compared is that the rate of people who want to live in an apartment unit decreases as the SDO increases.

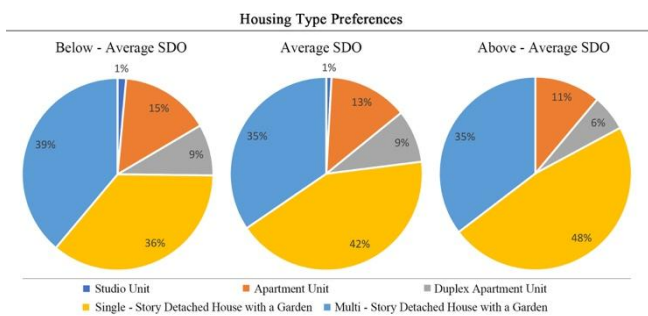


Figure 5: Housing Type Preferences by SDO Groups

Figure 6, showing the data on type of housing the participants currently live in, demonstrates that most of the participants live in apartment units. It is noteworthy that the rate of living in studio apartments decreases as SDO increases. According to the total rate of living in detached houses with a garden, 11% of individuals with below-average SDO, 18% of individuals with average SDO, and 16% of individuals with above-average SDO live in such houses.

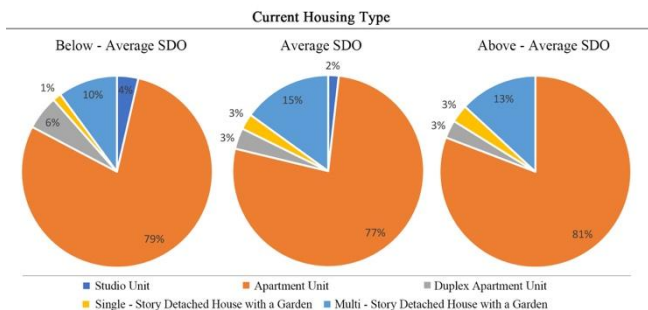


Figure 6: Current Housing Types by SDO Groups

Comparison of the two graph sets (Figure 4 and Figure 5) points out that there is a significant mismatch between current housing conditions and ideal housing preferences of participants. Additionally, regardless of SDO, there is a strong preference for houses with gardens over apartments.

Floor Area (m²) and SDO

In this section, the relations between SDO and the floor area of the house that participants currently live in and would prefer to live are examined. To make a comparison, the graphs belonging to individuals with below-average, average, and above-average SDO are placed side by side.

Figure 7 shows the floor area of the house that the participants currently reside in. In all three graphs, the largest slice is the 101- 150 m². It is noteworthy that the rate of people living in houses that are 51- 100 m² in size, which can be described as relatively small, decreases as the SDO increases. The rate of people living in houses that are 151- 200 m² and above 200 m², which can be described as large, increases in direct proportion to the SDO.

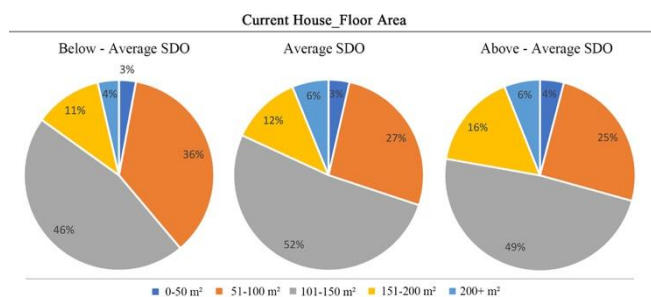


Figure 7: Floor Area by SDO Groups

When the graph showing the preferred floor area is examined (Figure 8), it is seen that no one with average or above average SDO considers a 0-50 m² house to be ideal. Overall, three graphs indicate that the most preferred housing sizes are 101-150 m² and 151-200 m². According to the preference graph (Figure 8), it is clear that houses of 101-150 m² and 151-200 m² are the most preferred ones, and when the house sizes that people currently live in (Figure 7) are examined, it is striking that the segment of people living in those houses increases parallel with the SDO.

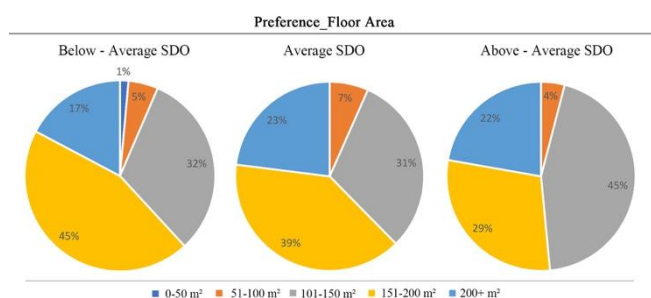


Figure 8: Floor Area Preferences by SDO Groups

SDO and Statements on Preferred Housing Environment

In this section, the correlations between SDO and the statements on preferred housing environment that were scored by the participants in the last section of the survey will be evaluated. Correlation analysis was conducted to determine the possible relations. According to the correlation analysis (Figure 9), there is a strong positive correlation ($r(461) = .150, p < 0.01$) between the SDO and people's desire to have a helper at home to assist with the housework. Therefore, it can be said that as individuals' SDO, in other words, their tendency to support social inequality increases, their desire to have an assistant at home will also increase. A moderate positive correlation ($r(463) = .116, p < 0.05$) was found between SDO and the importance given to having spaces like terraces and gardens where individuals can invite their family and friends. Similarly, a strong positive correlation was found between SDO and the desire to have a striking view that would impress the guests ($r(464) = .143, p < 0.01$). Therefore, considering these correlations, it can be concluded that as people's SDO increases, they start to give importance to features aimed at impressing someone who visits their home. In support of this, a moderate positive correlation ($r(464) = .100, p < 0.05$) was found between SDO and people's desire to live in a unique house that would impress their guests.

When the relationships between the demographic data of the participants and their SDO were examined (Figure 9), a negative correlation was observed between individuals age and the desire to live in a unique house designed specifically for oneself ($r(464) = -.101, p < 0.05$) and preferring special pieces that no one else owns ($r(464) = -.159, p < 0.01$). Therefore, it can be concluded that the importance people place on these qualities diminishes with age.

With respect to gender differences, it can be said that women are more likely than men to want an assistant to help with housework ($r(464) = -.176, p < 0.01$), and in addition, women are more likely to choose special items that no one else owns other than themselves ($r(464) = -.144, p < 0.01$).

Analysis by participants' education level and statements on ideal house shows that as the level of education increases, the tendency to care about the human profile of their neighborhood ($r(464) = .119, p < 0.05$) and the importance given to the prestigiousness of the neighborhood ($r(464) = .168, p < 0.01$) increases; and in addition, as the level of education increases, the importance given to the affordable rent also increases ($r(464) = .101, p < 0.05$).

Correlations between SDO and statements on preferred housing environment

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	SDO
1	1												
2	.225**	1											
3	.178**	.208**	1										
4	.192**	.302**	.295**	1									
5	.129**	.305**	.105*	.246**	1								
6	.358**	.242**	.257**	.437**	.244**	1							
7	.131**	.256**	.163**	.231**	.342**	.274**	1						
8	.163**	-.004	.097*	.040	.088	.192**	.134**	1					
9	.182**	.347**	.160**	.349**	.342**	.353**	.416**	.207**	1				
10	.084	.347**	.158**	.368**	.307**	.297**	.375**	.078	.627**	1			
11	.041	.328**	.100*	.370**	.283**	.234**	.374**	.098*	.465**	.661**	1		
12	.113*	.277**	.142**	.400**	.222**	.294**	.300**	.040	.430**	.563**	.664**	1	
SDO	.014	.081	-.076	-.058	.150**	.116*	.024	-.075	.143**	.100*	.071	.050	1

1. The profile of people living in my neighborhood is important to me.
2. I would like my neighborhood to be prestigious with high property value.
3. I prefer my home to be in a secured compound where strangers are not allowed to enter.
4. Exterior design of the building I live in is important for me.
5. I would like to have a helper at home to assist with housework.
6. I value having spaces such as a terrace or garden where I can invite my family and friends.
7. Even if I don't need it, I would like my home to be as large as possible.
8. It is important to me that the rent of my home is not expensive.
9. I would like my home to have a striking view that impresses people.
10. I would enjoy living in a home that is uniquely designed, one-of-a-kind, and impresses my guests.
11. When choosing furniture, I try to select exclusive pieces.
12. I like designs that make me feel special and privileged.

Correlations between statements on ideal house and demographical data

	age	sex	education level	income level	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
age	1															
sex	.158**	1														
education level	-.210**	-.040	1													
income level	.434**	.273**	.040	1												
1	-.060	-.015	.119*	-.007	1											
2	.023	.010	.168**	.061	.225**	1										
3	.012	-.004	-.049	.048	.178**	.208**	1									
4	-.042	-.036	-.024	-.010	.192**	.302**	.295**	1								
5	.078	-.176**	.158**	.129**	.129**	.305**	.105*	.246**	1							
6	-.044	-.032	.029	-.007	.358**	.242**	.257**	.437**	.244**	1						
7	.019	-.004	.052	.093*	.131**	.256**	.163**	.231**	.342**	.274**	1					
8	-.025	-.022	.101*	-.064	-.163**	-.004	.097*	.040	.088	.192**	.134**	1				
9	-.059	.039	.049	-.009	.182**	.347**	.160**	.349**	.342**	.353**	.416**	.207**	1			
10	-.101*	-.027	.048	.029	.084	.347**	.158**	.368**	.307**	.297**	.375**	.078	.627**	1		
11	-.159**	-.144**	.081	-.054	.041	.328**	.100*	.370**	.283**	.234**	.374**	.098*	.465**	.661**	1	
12	-.201**	-.071	.050	-.086	.113*	.277**	.142**	.400**	.222**	.294**	.300**	.040	.430**	.563**	.664**	1

Figure 9: Correlations

Regarding income level, strong positive correlations were found between the income of the person and desiring an assistant at home ($r(464) = .129, p < 0.01$) and the tendency to prefer their home to be large even if they do not need it ($r(464) = .093, p < 0.05$). Therefore, it can be concluded that as the income of the people increases, their tendency to want to have help at home and their tendency to prefer their home to be large even if they do not need it increases.

Descriptors of Ideal Housing Environment

In the last part of the survey conducted within the scope of the study, people were asked to choose adjectives that they would like their ideal home to be described with, and “modern, stylish, spacious, large, minimalistic, luxurious, elite, expensive and extraordinary” were presented as options. According to the obtained data (Figure 10), it is seen that participants with very low SDO chose the adjectives ‘modern, spacious, and minimalistic’, with very high SDO chose the adjectives ‘luxury, elite, minimalistic’; participants with low, average and high SDO preferred the adjectives ‘modern, spacious and minimalistic’.



	1. adjective	2. adjective	3. adjective
all the participants	modern	spacious	minimalistic
very low social dominance orientation	spacious	large	minimalistic
low social dominance orientation	modern	spacious	minimalistic
average social dominance orientation	modern	spacious	minimalistic
high social dominance orientation	modern	spacious	minimalistic
very high social dominance orientation	luxurious	elite	minimalistic

Figure 10: Ideal Home Descriptors

Ideal Housing Score and SDO

Data on housing preferences were collected from a diverse range of societal groups through the survey. By holistically evaluating this data, conclusions can be drawn regarding the general definition of an ideal house and its defining features. In line with this purpose, a scoring system that aims to determine the characteristics of an ideal house is developed. In this system, the features most frequently preferred by the participants are assigned high scores, and the ideal housing score of a house is calculated accordingly (Figure 11).

housing type	number of people	point
single - story detached house with a garden	193	5
multi - story detached house with a garden	167	4
apartment unit	62	3
duplex apartment unit	38	2
studio unit	4	1
housing size	number of people	point
151-200 m ²	180	5
101-150 m ²	158	4
200 m ² +	98	3
51-100 m ²	26	2
0-50 m ²	2	1
residential location	number of people	point
province	195	3
metropolitan city	139	2
district / town / village	130	1

Figure 11: Table for Calculating Ideal Housing Score

Considering the table (Figure 11), it can be said that the definition of an ideal house in society is a single-story house with a garden, 151-200 m² in floor area, and located in a province. With the scoring system created the score of such a house will be 13. The least preferred housing type is studio units in a district/town/village, 0-50 m² in size, and the point obtained is three. This scoring method was integrated into the SPSS program and correlations with SDO, age, gender, education level, income level, and the degree of satisfaction of individuals with the house they live in were examined (Figure 12). These analyses aimed to obtain data on which group lives in houses with high ideal housing scores.

	ideal housing score	social dominance orientation	age	sex	education level	income level	residential satisfaction
ideal housing score	1						
social dominance orientation	,101*	1					
age	,121**	-,041	1				
sex	,008	,080	,158**	1			
education level	-,050	,017	-,210**	-,040	1		
income level	,136**	,018	,434**	,273**	,040	1	
residential satisfaction	,122**	,039	,089	,092*	-,048	,071	1

Figure 12: Correlations Between Ideal Housing Score and Other Parameters

A strong positive correlation ($r(464) = .122, p < 0.01$) is detected between the ideal housing score and the level of satisfaction of individuals with the house they live in. Therefore, as the ideal housing score increases, the level of satisfaction level of individuals with their home also increases. This data supports the created scoring system by confirming the claim that living areas with high ideal home scores are highly preferred in society.

The fact that the ideal housing score is positively correlated with income status ($r(464) = .136, p < 0.05$) and age ($r(464) = .121, p < 0.01$) shows that the possibility of living in a house that considered ideal in society increases as the person's income and age increase.

The positive correlation ($r(464) = .101, p < 0.05$) between the ideal housing score and SDO confirms that individuals with high SDO do indeed live in houses that are considered ideal in society. As individuals' SDO increases, so does their likelihood of having a living space that is considered ideal in society, which can be described as a 'desired value.' This finding demonstrates that the orientation to support social inequality is also reflected in the context of housing.

DISCUSSION

Social inequality has been a phenomenon that is frequently emphasized in many contexts from the past to the present and addressed by many theories. One of those theories is the Social Dominance Theory, which aims to deepen our understanding of social hierarchy. Within the scope of the study, how the Social Dominance Theory, which is a sociology-based theory that investigates social stratification, will yield results in the fields of architecture and design was investigated. The findings revealed how social positions of people and inequality-supporting tendencies are reflected in living spaces.

The findings of the study reveal that individuals with high Social Dominance Orientation (SDO) predominantly prefer living in metropolitan cities and larger, more prestigious residences. They mostly prefer to live in metropolitan areas. These groups tend to choose eye-catching and impressive spaces as ideal housing environments, want employees to help with housework, and prefer to live in larger, luxurious, and elite housing. It has also been observed that individuals with high SDO tend to prefer housing that has features that would impress their visitors. These preferences are related to the desire to reflect and reinforce hierarchical superiority. In contrast, individuals with below-average SDO prefer to live in smaller settlements and prefer housing that can be described as modest.

According to the scoring system presented as the ideal housing score and the analyses conducted accordingly, a positive correlation was found between the ideal housing score and SDO. This result supports the hypothesis that individuals with high SDO live in houses that are the most preferred in society. Therefore, considering all the analysis holistically, it was confirmed that individuals' tendency to support inequality also has repercussions in the context of housing.

CONCLUSION

This study investigates that how the Social Dominance Theory, which is a sociology-based framework that aims to understand social stratification, can offer to architecture and design research. The findings revealed how social positions of people and inequality-supporting tendencies are reflected in living spaces.

The analysis confirms that housing preferences are strongly associated with individuals' social dominance orientation (SDO). While higher SDO correlates with the pursuit of prestigious, status-oriented, and exclusionary living environments; lower SDO is reflected in preferences for modest and egalitarian spaces. In this sense, in today's environment, gated communities emerge as the spatial embodiment of inequality, reinforcing hierarchical divisions within urban life. Considering the findings, it is possible to say that gated communities play a hierarchy-enhancing role in society, and appear as formations that disrupt the integrity of the city by fragmenting the urban fabric. This results in making social stratification even more apparent, and causing some parts of the cities to be used intensively and others to remain idle.

The findings of the research also reveal the important role of architects and designers on social hierarchy. Architecture and design practices need to adopt more equitable and sensitive approaches by considering the spatial reflections of social inequalities. Architects can undertake a role that supports social equality by adopting accessible, useful and at the same time aesthetic design approaches instead of emphasizing luxury and ostentation in their designs. By doing so, the profession of architecture can contribute to the creation of more inclusive and egalitarian living spaces by using their expertise. These outcomes highlight that architectural and design practices are not neutral but are implicated in the reproduction of social inequality.

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