



**AH 504 Spring Semester 2024-25**



This is the official document prepared for the graduate seminar course of AH 504.

Spring 2025 Semester

Date of the Meeting: 26.01.2025  
at Kubbealtı, Faculty of Architecture

Online Meeting Link:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MmM0MWQ2ZTgtMTlhNC00N2YyLTk1MWEtOTI5OTQxNTQ3MWUz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22b0a2e24d-d188-4a4c-a1e4-82162e060566%22%2c%220id%22%3a%22910ea6dd-02e4-42a4-974a-ab48b4c3a229%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MmM0MWQ2ZTgtMTlhNC00N2YyLTk1MWEtOTI5OTQxNTQ3MWUz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22b0a2e24d-d188-4a4c-a1e4-82162e060566%22%2c%220id%22%3a%22910ea6dd-02e4-42a4-974a-ab48b4c3a229%22%7d)

Meeting ID: 318 942 208 307 5

Passcode: 5St2t6C9

Course Instructor: Gizem Güner

13:30 – 14:00

**Between Site and Exhibition Space:  
Re-constructing Ruins, Framing  
Architectural Narratives**  
Selin Ercan

13:30 – 14:00

## **Between Site and Exhibition Space: Re-constructing Ruins, Framing Architectural Narratives**

Supervisor: **Selin Ercan  
Lale Özgenel**  
Jury Members: **Belgin Turan Özkaya  
Namık Güney Erkal**

This study examines how the architectural context uncovered in archaeological excavation sites is reproduced in representative spaces such as museums and visitor centers, and how this production process shapes cultural heritage narratives. The increasing number of archaeological excavations in Türkiye in recent years and the parallel development of museum practices have brought to the agenda the reconstruction of archaeological knowledge not only in scientific fields but also in public narratives. The research focuses on the question of how architectural context is represented in site and museum narratives, especially considering the immovable nature of architectural structures that must remain in place. The study establishes its conceptual infrastructure by defining the term “context” at three levels: The site context, that is, the archeological site itself, the structures within the site which constitute the architectural context, and the findings obtained from the site and architectural contexts, which is considered as the archeological context. The premise of the study in this respect, is that, interacting with archeological sites at three levels of understanding enables the examination of cultural heritage buildings, often only partially preserved or exposed, within their physical and representational environment, and hence a possible holistic understanding of such buildings. The discussion will be concretized by a comparative analysis of three sites; Aphrodisias, Troy, and Zeugma. At this stage, for the presentation, Aphrodisias is chosen as a preliminary case study. The contextual continuities and discontinuities or ruptures of architectural narratives of buildings are evaluated in reference to the site plan and museum exhibition.





**AH 604 Spring Semester 2024-25**



This is the official document prepared for the graduate seminar course of AH 604.

Spring 2025 Semester

Date of the Meeting: 26.01.2025  
at Kubbealti, Faculty of Architecture

Online Meeting Link:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MmM0MWQ2ZTgtMTlhNC00N2YyLTk1MWEtOTI5OTQxNTQ3MWUz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22b0a2e24d-d188-4a4c-a1e4-82162e060566%22%2c%220id%22%3a%22910ea6dd-02e4-42a4-974a-ab48b4c3a229%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MmM0MWQ2ZTgtMTlhNC00N2YyLTk1MWEtOTI5OTQxNTQ3MWUz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22b0a2e24d-d188-4a4c-a1e4-82162e060566%22%2c%220id%22%3a%22910ea6dd-02e4-42a4-974a-ab48b4c3a229%22%7d)

Meeting ID: 318 942 208 307 5

Passcode: 5St2t6C9

Course Instructor: Ekin Pınar

14:00 – 14:30

**Spatial Dynamics of Power: Analyzing the Roman Imperial**

Bestenur Öztürk

14:30 – 15:00

**A Scattered Collection:  
Archeological Museum of the  
Evangelical School of Smyrna**

Defne Tozkoparan

15:00 – 15:30

**The ‘Modern’ and the ‘Local’ in 1960s’  
Turkey: Architectural Discourse of  
Özer and Kuban in *Mimarlık ve Sanat***

Eda Soyal

15:30 – 16:00

**Young Utzon in the Middle East: The  
role of Middle Eastern architecture in  
the early work of Jørn Utzon**

Cem Yılgin

16:00 – 16:30

**Mapping Ottoman Architectural  
Historiography in the 21st Century:  
An Evolving Discourse**

Fatma Sarıkaya Işık

16:30 – 17:00

**The Work of the Dead: Cosmidion/Eyüp  
as an Extramural Burial Site from  
Byzantium to the Ottomans**

İkbal Sezen Polat



14:00 – 14:30

## **Spatial Dynamics of Power: Analyzing the Roman Imperial Palace**

Supervisor:

**Bestenur Öztürk**

Jury Members:

**Lale Özgenel**

**İdil Üçer Karababa**

**Pelin Yoncacı Arslan**

This research examines the Roman Imperial Palace as both a social and administrative institution, shaped by the cultural, political, and social dynamics of the period. These magnificent structures were not only ornate private residences, but also complex institutions carefully designed to house public functions and express imperial power, wealth, and status. Identifying private spaces within these residences is challenging, as imperial homes were multifunctional, blending living quarters and public functions. Although previous studies have examined Roman palace architecture from social and political perspectives, there is potential to revisit the Roman Imperial Domus, by focusing particularly on the complex relationship between spatial organization and social hierarchy. Thus, the relationship between power and social relationships can be addressed in new perspectives. In this respect, the study aims to examine how palace design adapted to changing ideologies and dynastic transitions from the first to the fourth centuries AD. As such, it constructs a narrative of continuity and/or rupture by employing a multidisciplinary approach. By using modern and ancient literature, the research combines analysis and comparison of urban contexts and palaces from various sites and attempts to discuss how palatial structures were used to represent imperial power, accommodate the imperial households, and maintain social hierarchies in spatial terms.

14:30 – 15:00

## **A Scattered Collection: Archeological Museum of the Evangelical School of Smyrna**

Supervisor: **Defne Tozkoparan**  
Jury Members: **Belgin Turan Özkaya**  
**Lale Özgenel**  
**Kalliopi Amygdalou**  
**Artemis Papatheodorou**

This study explores the Evangelical School of Smyrna's archaeological collection as a case study to reconsider dominant narratives of museology in the Ottoman Empire. While museum histories often emphasize imperial institutions or missionary school museums, this research highlights a parallel model, an archaeological collection developed within an evangelical educational setting in the Ottoman Empire. Through archival sources and institutional references, the collection reveals a dynamic trajectory: emerging in the 19th century, dispersed across various locations, and later referenced in the formation of the İzmir Archaeological Museum. Rather than a static institution, the collection of the Evangelical School evolved fluidly through changing political, cultural, and architectural contexts, functioning as a site of Greek intellectual and cultural agency within the Ottoman Empire. By tracing the collection's historical and spatial transformations, the research questions how architectural shifts impacted display and access, and what this reveals about non-imperial, community-driven approaches to museology. The project combines archival and architectural history methods to broaden the scope of Ottoman museology, offering insights into how an educational institution engaged in the collecting, displaying, and preserving antiquities in a way that challenges state-centered frameworks.

15:00 – 15:30

**The 'Modern' and the 'Local' in 1960s' Turkey:  
Architectural Discourse of Özer and Kuban in *Mimarlık ve Sanat***

Supervisor: **Eda Soyak**  
Jury Members: **T. Elvan Altan**  
**Belgin Turan Özkaya**  
**Ebru Özeke Tökmeci**

This study focuses on the short-lived but impactful journal *Mimarlık ve Sanat* (1960-1964), and especially analyzes the critical discourse of Bülent Özer and Doğan Kuban that framed the approach of the journal about the state of architecture in Turkey during the 1960s with reference to the discussions about modernism and regionalism. They emphasized, as a central argument, how appropriate it might be to reinterpret local architectural qualities—across various scales from city to building—according to modern needs. Regionalism was presented here as an alternative approach to resist the loss of the spatial semiosphere of Anatolian towns—from their topographic character to historical settlement patterns, from façade organization of traditional buildings to their plastic expressiveness. This version of regionalism thus positioned the material factors of locality—such as topography, climate, socio-economic context, etc—as data for modern design. The aim of this study is to understand via Özer and Kuban's arguments in *Mimarlık ve Sanat* the contemporary architectural discourse about the production of architecture by taking local conditions into account and also in a dialectical relationship with the international consciousness of the modern.

15:30 – 16:00

## **Young Utzon in the Middle East: The role of Middle Eastern architecture in the early work of Jørn Utzon (1918-2008)**

Supervisor: **Cem Yılgin**  
**Ali Uzay Peker**  
Jury Members: **Belgin Turan Özkaya**  
**Özlem Erdoğan Erkarıslan**

Middle Eastern art and architecture had a remarkable influence on Danish architect Jørn Utzon's architectural creation as mentioned by previous scholars. However, the influences of Middle Eastern building culture on Utzon's early career have not been carefully investigated. His early perception of Middle Eastern ideas and ideals was mainly constructed during his 1959 and 1960 trips to Iran while he was studying the historical monuments onsite. More importantly, both before and after his trips, Utzon diligently studied related publications. The role of Middle Eastern art and architecture in Utzon's work is investigated in four case studies of comparative analyses: the Sydney Opera House (1956-1968) and the Masjid-i Jamii of Isfahan, the Melli Bank (1959-1960) and the Masjid-i Shaikh Lutfullah, the Market in Elineberg (1960) and the Grand Bazaar of Isfahan, the Silkeborg Museum of Art (1963) and the Bazaar of Kashan. These analyses illuminate that during this important 7-year time period of young Utzon's career, the Middle East served as a fertile ground of ideas and ideals for Utzon to critically and creatively solve the problems he faced during design processes.

16:00 – 16:30

## **Mapping Ottoman Architectural Historiography in the 21st Century: An Evolving Discourse**

Supervisor: **Fatma Sarıkaya Işık**  
Jury Members: **Pelin Yoncacı Arslan**  
**Ali Uzun Peker**  
**Ahmet Erdem Tozoğlu**  
**Özer Ergenç**

This study presents a comprehensive analysis of Ottoman architectural historiography published since 2000, mapping the evolution of scholarly discourse using a mixed-methods approach. Drawing on an extensive corpus of academic literature sourced from Web of Science databases, we employed computational text analysis, network visualization, and critical discourse analysis to examine how historical narratives and theoretical frameworks have shaped the understanding of Ottoman architecture. Our keyword-based search methodology using the independent terms "Ottoman" and "architecture" captured disciplinary and linguistic variations across the scholarly landscape, ensuring comprehensive coverage of relevant literature. The findings first illuminate intellectual genealogies and citation patterns that have structured the field, identifying influential scholarly clusters and highlighting disciplinary intersections among architectural history, art history, archaeology, and cultural studies. Network analysis further reveals significant shifts in interpretive paradigms and regional research trends, including the diversification of the thematic focus, the persistent asymmetries and the continued engagement with a canon rooted in formalist and nationalist frameworks. By systematically analyzing contemporary scholarship, this study demonstrates how recent academic output has challenged established narratives and proposed new interpretive models that acknowledge the complex and multicultural dimensions of Ottoman architectural production and its legacy.

16:30 – 17:00

## **The Work of the Dead: Cosmidion/Eyüp as an Extramural Burial Site from Byzantium to the Ottomans**

Supervisor: İkbal Sezen Polat  
Jury Members: Pelin Yoncacı Arslan  
Lale Özgenel

The dead continue to shape urban landscapes long after their passing—nowhere more evidently than in Istanbul. This article explores the enduring role of the dead in shaping the sacred and spatial landscape of Constantinople/Istanbul through a *longue durée* study of the extramural site of Cosmidion/Eyüp. Drawing on Thomas Laqueur's theory of the work of the dead, it demonstrates how both saints and ordinary burials acted as agents of urban continuity and spatial transformation across religious and political transitions. Through an integrated analysis of legal texts, archaeological findings, and topographical evidence, the article situates Blachernae and its extension Cosmidion/Eyüp as a paradigmatic "deathscape"—a liminal zone structured by centuries of accumulated burials. The study revisits Justinian's sixth-century legislation designating Blachernae as one of the city's official cemeteries, traces the healing cult of Saints Cosmas and Damian and its transformation into the shrine of Ebu Eyüp el-Ensari, and surveys burial findings along the Theodosian walls. In doing so, the study reveals how the persistent presence of the dead—both celebrated and anonymous—configured Istanbul's extramural terrain as a sacred frontier. By foregrounding mortuary continuity as a driving force in urban development, this study offers a novel interpretation of Istanbul's spatial evolution across Byzantine and Ottoman periods.

