

MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

# **GRADUATE SEMINARS**

**AH504 – AH 604**  
**2022-2023 SPRING SEMESTER**

**June 22, 2023**  
**Kubbealtı + online**

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## AH 604 Seminar in Architectural History

Coordinator: Ekin Pinar

**10:30 - 11:00**

**Orçun Sena Saracoğlu** — Northern Frontier of the Byzantine Empire: The Lower Danube Region and Its “Frontier Aesthetics”

**Supervisor:** Pelin Yoncacı Arslan

**Jury:** Suna Güven, Luca Zavagno

The literature on the Balkans as a zone of political, economic, cultural, and architectural encounters is scarce in global surveys. The Lower Danube region in the late medieval era, in particular, is mostly neglected in the global architectural history discussions. As an effort to reorient the conventional geographical focus and overcome the chronological and geographical rifts in the Byzantine studies, this paper offers to reconsider the Lower Danube region as a cultural and architectural frontier of the Byzantine Empire in the late Middle Ages. The cultural fluidity, religious unity, and specific topographical features of the region are discussed to determine ecclesiastical architecture in the northern frontier through mimicking, adapting, and translating the Byzantine church that symbolized the highest form of beauty. Referring to the medieval aesthetic theories, the study examines the material and visual evidence from the 13th to the 15th centuries to question whether the ecclesiastical architecture in the Lower Danube could be regarded as the manifestation of Byzantine frontier aesthetics.

**11:00 - 11:30**

**Duygu Tekin** — Keçiören Orphanage: Under Impressions, After Precedents

**Supervisor:** Elvan Altan

**Jury:** Pelin Yoncacı Arslan, Neşe Gurallar

This study examines the Keçiören Orphanage campus in order to deepen the existing research on the Children’s Protection Society of Turkey (Türkiye Himaye-i Etfal Cemiyeti / after 1935, Türkiye Çocuk Esirgeme Kurumu) by means of a spatial approach that has the potential to shed light on the local and global interactions that seem essential in the formation of the society’s policies and practices.

Suggesting that the Keçiören Orphanage provided a dynamic field of experience for the Children’s Protection Society of Turkey that produced the prevalent child welfare policy and childhood conception of early republican Turkey, the paper focuses on the period between 1925-1950. In the study, Dr. Fuat (Umay) is considered a key figure while the campus is interpreted in terms of its location, program, organization, architectural production methods and qualities in light of the elucidative interactions among several agents. Thus, studying the built environment produced by the society, which has been considered mostly as an isolated entity in the existing literature, the paper aims to contribute to comprehending the Children’s Protection Society and the early republican childhood history of Turkey in a global context.

**11:30 - 12:00**

**Semiha Deniz Coşkun** — Tracing the Shifts: Museums and Architecture in Turkey

**Supervisor:** Ekin Pinar

**Jury:** Elvan Altan, Suna Güven

The spaces and displays of modern museums have dramatically changed from Louvre to Guggenheim Bilbao with respect to cultural, social, political, and economic influences. This study surveys the literature on museum architecture to trace the turning points at the intersection of museum studies and the history of modern architecture and identifies the changes in museum spaces, designs, and displays in the context of Turkey. The paper first extensively examines the literature on the history of museums in pursuit of understanding the shifts experienced in the cultural, economic, and political contexts and the impact of these shifts on museum spaces in Europe and the United States. The paper traces Pevsner’s “museum as monument” paradigm for the nineteenth-century museums and its shift into the conceptualization of museums as instruments in the twentieth century, as well as how the end of the twentieth century, in turn, witnessed the emergence of the “museum as icon” paradigm as the mixture of monument and instrument, defining a new and contemporary museum space. Then, reviewing the literature on

museums and architecture in Turkey and tracing the intersections with the shifts in the first part, the second part of the paper focuses on the context after the twenties and investigates the turning points in the context of modern Turkey by interpreting sources on museology, architectural history, and museum architecture.

**12:00 - 12:30**

**Robin Thomas** — Exploring Dissonance: Representing Empire in British India (1858-1947)

**Supervisor:** Ali Uzay Peker

**Jury:** Elvan Altan, Rabela Junejo

The study aims to investigate the overt dissonance over time that characterised Britain's imperial architecture in India (1858-1947) by exploring two contradicting imperial approaches towards representing this colonial relationship, observed most vividly in the case of colonial governmental buildings (permanent architecture) and imperial ephemeral spectacle buildings (temporary architecture). The paper examines this dissonance through analysing the origins and evolution of these two categories within British India through studying their grandest examples: (a) Seat of the colonial government: the Government House, Calcutta (1803) and the subsequent building of the new capital city of New Delhi (1912-1931) (b) Imperial spectacle architecture: Delhi Durbar pavilions (1877, 1903 and 1911). Through exploring the dissonance in these colonial approaches, the research aims to understand how architecture was used to simultaneously craft colonial authority and represent India to different audiences.

**12:30 - 13:00**

**Cem Dedekarginoğlu** — The Spatial Traces of Armed Conflict in Post-First World War Ankara

**Supervisor:** Elvan Altan

**Co-Supervisor:** Gizem Tongo

**Jury:** Namık Erkal

At the end of the First World War, after the Armistice of Mudros was signed on October 30, 1918 between the Allies and the Ottoman Empire, troops of the Allies were landed in numerous prominent cities of the

Empire. However, the presence of Allied servicemen did not always result in the taking over of a city or region, but instead was a show of force, resulting in a period of ambivalent “armed conflict”, as was the case in Ankara.

This study traces the spatial existence of the foreign troops and the Ottoman Army in Ankara between 1918 and 1919—a topic that is still relatively understudied both in Turkish history and in urban and architectural histories of modern Ankara. Drawing on archival and visual materials, as well as memoirs and the Ottoman press, this study seeks to evaluate these counterforces' uses of different urban elements, including buildings, public areas, sacred spaces, and transportation facilities through key events of the period. The aim is to understand the spatio-political narrative of the interrelationship between the urban and architectural modernization of the city from the late Ottoman period on and the process of turning Ankara into the political center of the new nation-state to be established in 1923. Analyzing the allocated and contested zones of the city during this in-between period, this study argues that the existence of multiple layers of authorities had a significant impact on the spatial characteristics of the city and its public life.

### **AH 504 Prothesis Seminar in Architectural History**

Coordinator: Ekin Pinar

**13:30 - 14:00**

**Osman Yozgat** — Building a Public Green Space in Ankara: Golf Club to Altınpark as a Social Space

**Supervisor:** Elvan Altan

**Jury:** Pelin Yoncacı Arslan, Cânâ Bilsel

This study will examine the formation of Ankara Golf Club in the late 1940s, and its transformation into Altınpark in the 1980s. This will be a comprehensive survey by utilizing visual and written documents, as well as oral history surveys of the socio spatial experiences of people in these changing forms of the public open and green space in different periods in order to analyze how social life and social space were shaped in Ankara in the 20th century. The aim is to discuss this transformation in the framework of the

urban development of Ankara and the public green space production in the city from the 1920s to the 1990s.

**14:00 - 14:30**

**Akça Yılmaz** — Concert Halls in Ankara during the Republican Period

**Supervisor:** Elvan Altan

**Jury:** Ekin Pinar, Nuray Bayraktar

This study examines the embodiment of music in buildings and in the city. The existing literature generally studies the acoustic qualities of concert halls; however, relations between music, music institutions and the people are realized in spaces of concert halls and this requires analyses of their architectural and social contexts. The focus of the study is on the concert halls of classical/symphonic music in Ankara; and in order to understand their public function, a chronological investigation is realized from the establishment of the Republic until the turn of the 21st century by listing and categorizing the buildings for musical performances and their architectural and urban characteristic in relation to the changing social and political contexts.

**14:30 - 15:00**

**Oumâima Jaidane** — Revisiting the TGM Circuits in Context: Late Ottoman Tunis and its First Railroad

**Supervisor:** Ekin Pinar

**Jury:** Elvan Altan, Gizem Tongo, Nora Lafi

The French colonization (1881-1956) of the heavily indebted Ottoman Regency of Tunis resulted in the divorce of grand infrastructural projects from notions of nineteenth century local administrative, institutional, or urban reform and their interpretation as mere bastions of economic occupation. This applies to the province's first railroad; the TGM (1872), which the French appropriated and of which they changed the trajectory in 1905. This study challenges this perspective by addressing the colonization event as an intermediary rather than bracketing point of the TGM's chronology. Re-evaluating the primary archival sources and crossing them with secondary scholarship, this study aims to

engage with these circuits and their stations as referents to the urban changes in late Ottoman Tunis in terms of governmental visibilities, reform, nationality, urban imprint and architectural style. In accordance with this approach, this reading argues that the TGM trajectories recorded consecutive and partially overlapping beylical and colonial administrations' configurations of the capital, in line with their respective agendas and ideological aspirations.