

**MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE**

GRADUATE SEMINARS ARCH504 - ARCH604

2023-2024 FALL SEMESTER

JANUARY 15, 2024 | 09.20 - 11.00 | @90A

Coordinators: İpek Gürsel Dino, Eser Delice

Meeting ID: 295 864 807 883

Passcode: tryxdj

(Microsoft Teams will be used.)

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**GRADUATE (Ph.D.)
SEMINAR
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09:20 – 10:00

Başak Tükenmez— The Matter in Dispute: A Volumetric Re-Exploration of Materiality across Territories and Bodies

Supervisor: Esin Kömez Dağlıoğlu

Jury: Funda Baş Bütüner, Osman Balaban

In this paper, I aim to discuss materiality as an active agent in space-making, entangled with the volumetric and multi-scalar relations between ecologies, territories and material, human, and more-than-human bodies. The paper is structured on two main axes. The first axis, following a brief literature review on materiality, critically addresses the extractivism and extractivist perspective. It problematizes the reduction of materiality into a simplistic, inert, two-dimensional concept intended solely for human utility. In the second axis, materiality is reviewed from the lens of the 'volumetric turn.' This emerging theoretical framework rejects the two-dimensional representations and extractivist vision of space. Instead, it acknowledges the importance of depth, volume, and material agency in multifaceted spatial relations. It highlights the volumetric and vertical power dynamics that aim to dominate and control these relations. The first segment of the volumetric turn discussion examines the vertical dimension of power exerted over material and human geographies. In the second section, the paper explores material, human, and more-than-human bodies that are fluid, interconnected, and entangled outside the established territorial power dynamics. In this framework, the paper tries to re-explore materiality and material agency across the cultural, ecological, and material bodies and territories that are political and situated.

Keywords: materiality, volumetric turn, material agency, power, extractivism

10:00 – 10:20

Buse Mert— Visibility Through Collective Memory
Element: The Case of Atatürk Boulevard in Ankara

Supervisor: Ela Alanyalı Aral

Jury: F. Candaş Bilsel, Tomris Elvan Altan Altuğ

The visibility of a city is crucial to how we perceive and interact with the urban environment. The visibility of the elements that reflect a city's historical identity enables citizens to connect with its past and understand its cultural identity. The rapid changes in the physical environment of Ankara have significantly impacted the city's visibility; it altered how citizens perceive and experience the urban environment, streetscape, and, ultimately, collective memory. Atatürk Boulevard is Ankara's urban spine and historical antecedent since the early Republican period; most importantly, it is an essential element and representative of the city's collective memory. The spatial and urban transformations on the Boulevard from this period to the present have changed its visibility and affected its interaction with the citizens, causing it to begin fading from Ankara's urban identity and collective memory. It is necessary to make a historical analysis of the visibility elements that constitute memory to understand the impact of socio-spatial changes on the Boulevard. Therefore, this thesis evaluates the tangible changes in the physical environment of Atatürk Boulevard from the early Republican period to the present via a comparative historical analysis of the visibility through the Boulevard. The proposed research will interpret the effect of periodic changes on Atatürk Boulevard and the ways of experiencing visibility.

Keywords: visibility of Atatürk Boulevard, socio-spatial meaning, visual experience, spatial and visual structure, collective memory

10:20 – 10:40

Berre Özkoç— Architecture for Narration: An Inquiry into Display Environments

Supervisor: Ayşen Savaş

Jury: Belgin Turan Özkaya, Aslıhan Günhan

Architecture is also a medium for communication. It can contribute to the construction of meaning by composing messages and statements. It has the power of representing the social, cultural, and historical agenda as well as allowing the transmission of a variety of narrations through spatial characteristics and tectonic aspects. In the study, the dynamics between architecture, representation and storytelling are investigated by focusing on display environments. In museums and temporal exhibitions, the narrative characteristics of architecture are meant to be represented. In addition, in these environments, there is a continuous dialogue between space and display objects, which is presented in spatial organization, order of space and textual representations. This dialogue composes the basis of storytelling in museums and exhibitions and the research investigates these mechanisms and aims to reveal the definitions, scopes, and categorizations of representation in display environments to explain the interconnectedness of architecture and communication.

Keywords: spatial narration, architecture and representation, display environments

10:40 – 11:00

Nergis Helvacıoğlu— Commodification of Public Sphere: Gentrification of Marinas in Bodrum Peninsula Under Neoliberal Spatial Incentives

Supervisor: Güven Arif Sargın

Jury: Funda Baş Bütüner, Ahmet Burak Büyükcivelek

Architecture and urbanism depend on social, political, and economic conditions due to a reliance on capital and societal benefit. In this context the built environment is frequently commodified under economics and politics -especially in neoliberal regimes- for financial gain, which results in spectacle and profit oriented. The incentives under neoliberal policies often lead to the privatization and commodification of public areas, overshadowing inclusive urban planning, local community welfare, and vernacular preservation, while claiming the right to utilize public areas by means of gentrification-related exclusion, and social segregation in spaces that inherently belong to all communities. As a domain that has been transformed under neoliberalism, to methodically examine the effects of the neoliberal policies on urban public spaces in Turkey, the thesis aims to study Bodrum, one of the most prominent touristic provinces which mutated under neoliberal incentives since 1980s. Specifically focusing on the privatization of marinas and the public sphere along the coastline, with the resulting gentrification, the study aims to reveal the commodification of the region's identity and urban fabric, its implications on socioeconomic well-being and urban livability by highlighting the complex interactions between neoliberalism and urban landscapes.

Keywords: privatization of public spaces, commodification of built environment, gentrification, neoliberalism, Bodrum's marinas, tourism