

MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

GRADUATE (Ph.D.) SEMINAR

Arch 604

2020-2021 SPRING SEMESTER
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ARCH 604 SEMINAR IN THESIS RESEARCH

July 5, 2021 Online: 13.30-17.00

Coordinator: Mualla Erkılıç

13.30-14.00
Çağrım Koçer

Supervisor: Esin Kömez
Jury: Güven Arif Sargın, Berin Gür

Islands in the City: A Study on the Concept of Archipelago in Architectural Form and Urban Space

How the city realizes itself with the production of space has been an essential question. Especially with the 21st century, the transformation of cities into complex structures of different scales has increased its importance. Architectural form and urban space find their place in the complex structure of the city, and they became focal points of this discussion. Since the 20th century, the relationship between architectural form, urban space, and the city has been understood with different analogies. One of the most important of these analogies is the concept of "Archipelago," which emerged in the 1970s. The idea emerged in the 1970s and made a significant contribution to the urbanism and architecture debate. Since then, it has continued to be a solid concept to understand the complex structure of the city. The studies of Oswald Mathias Ungers and Rem Koolhaas in different periods have shaped the concept of the archipelago. Especially their projects and spatial analyzes in the 1970s have caused this. The term gained its whole meaning with the project "Berlin: A Green Archipelago," which they produced in 1977. The term, which was firmly established in the discussion of urbanism and architecture, has been revived recently by Pier Vittorio Aureli and Stavros Stavrides. In brief, this study will trace the archipelago concept from past to present, examine the terms spatial potential, and re-evaluate today's complex city structure through architectural form and urban space.

Keywords: Architectural Form, Urban Space, Urbanization, City, Archipelago.

14.00-14.30
Caner Arikboga

Supervisor: Esin Kömez
Jury: Güven Arif Sargın, Namık Erkal

An Inquiry on Urban Infrastructures: As Political, Technical and Environmental Objects of The City

The role of infrastructures in the processes of urbanization and the life of the cities is a decisive one. Scholars from various fields such as anthropology, urban studies, economy, history, environmental studies and architecture have been critically analyzing the urban infrastructures in order to rethink and redesign through urban politics, aesthetics, finance, and technology. Starting with the 2000s, studies that focus on these fields took a turn towards the reestablishment of better ways for the construction of infrastructures. The new approaches have problematized the collapse of the modern infrastructural ideal as the primary initiator of the ongoing discussions. Today, urban infrastructures are at a crisis whis has been under the influence of technological advancements starting around the mid-19th century. Till the mid-20th century, the crisis of urban infrastructures has been the benefactor of the political power. Involvement of private sector creating inaccessibility for public use, immaterialization of infrastructural technologies challenging the everyday life with ubiquitous environment and dependence on finite resources and their exploit shortening the possibilities of sustainable living. The solutions provided for the problematized areas concerning the redistribution of energies, opening for social transparencies, nd rewirings of networks cannot go beyond making ad-hoc approaches and vague approximations. However, with an estimation that prioritizes the bond between architecture and urban studies, the solutions - and the problems should be relocated in the field of architecture. In that sense,

providing a new theoretical background concerning the relation between architecture and the city is a necessary approach. Therefore, the aim of this research is to revitalize the existing discussions of the city and to reroute them in a way which can shape the ongoing discussions of urban and the spaces of infrastructure.

Keywords: urban politics, technical object, Anthropocene, infrastructure studies, city.

14.30-15.00
Burcu Eryılmaz

Supervisor: Ayşen Savaş
Jury: Belgin Turan Özkaya, Erdem Ceylan

Sublime: A Reading of the Avant-Garde Aesthetics in Architectural Representation

Sublimity, which has been considered as one of the oldest theoretical concepts in the history of philosophy, refers to an aesthetic category characterized by its ability to transcend the limitations of established models and of shared judgments of taste. Denoting an "excess" in measure, the idea of the sublime is therefore affiliated with the avant-garde demands that question the validity of the imitative models in the production of art and architecture. For this reason, the aesthetic category of the sublime is defined in contradistinction to its other: that of the beautiful, in which the imitative models are employed to create aesthetically pleasing forms. Within this frame given, the research proposes that the abstract language of modern architecture could provide an alternative strain to understand the notion of sublime in aesthetic theory. Following Burke's and Kant's treatises on the dialectic of the sublime and the beautiful from the eighteenth century, and later Lyotard's discussion of the abstract sublime as an emancipating objective of the modern avant-garde art, the research starts with the assumption that the idea

of sublime in the modern architecture is marked by its power to challenge mimetic representations, and aims to revisit the historical interpretations of the concept to explore its potential role in the formations of avant-garde demands in architectural representation. In that sense, this study is an attempt not only to investigate the neglected concept of the sublime in terms of the visual and spatial aesthetics of modern architecture but also to unfold the relationship between the avant-garde aesthetics and architectural discourse through the ability of the concept of sublime to question the conventional limits of architectural representation.

Keywords: sublime, aesthetic theory, avant-garde aesthetics, abstraction, architectural representation

15.00-15.30

Sonat Özcivanoglu

Supervisor: İnci Basa
Jury: Ela Aral, Bilge Imamoglu

Revealed & Hidden: Discourse on Meaning in Architecture

This research neither assumes nor intends to attribute a precise meaning to the objects of architecture, but instead traces the emergence of meaning discourse in architecture. The concept of "meaning" refers to a theoretical issue since clarifying the meaning of "meaning" constitutes one of the first problems addressed by philosophers who aimed to produce a systematic approach. Although the conceptualization of architecture as a meaningful content becomes questionable in the contemporary agenda of architecture, acknowledgment of buildings as a means of conveying meaning can be located in various treatises, theories, and manifestos of architecture from Vitruvius to Venturi. Connection of meaning in architectural discourse constitutes a complex and fragmented unity, and problematization of the ambiguity of meaning can be located both in the historical and critical activities on architecture. Although "meaning" is a loaded term that had been addressed from various perspectives with a significant accumulation of literature on the ordering of theories and definitions of meaning, each categorization system probably either excludes particular views or

includes conceptions of meaning under hardly related categories. On these grounds, this paper unfolds the various conceptualizations of the term "meaning" and concepts and attitudes accompanying it -instead of providing a strict ordering scheme. For this purpose, it revisits the various conceptualizations of "meaning" from different epistemological positions. Following the elaboration of "meaning" as a subject that is investigated, defined, and described in analytical, linguistic, and aesthetic planes, this study traces the discourse on meaning in the discipline of architecture through manifestations on meaning in architecture.

Keywords: meaning, theories of meaning, crisis of meaning, literary theory, architecture-language link

15.30-16.00

Elif Nadide Gür Değer

Supervisor: Celal Abdi Güzer
Jury: Aktan Acar, Mualla Erkılıç

An Inquiry on Alternative Design Approaches for Educational Environments: Enhancing Learning Activity Through the Interaction Between the User and The Building

The understanding of educational space has reshaped after the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in demand for a shift in the learning process as a consequence of the significant and quick transformation of pedagogy seen in contemporary education. This transformation leads educators to revisit learning methods and research for new teaching methods using mixed-methods, which contain for both physical and online learning environments, for the post-COVID world of education. In this sense, the general aim of the study is to investigate the potentials of educational buildings as both online and physical learning environments. As advances in computational technology, electronics, and structural engineering, as well as the recent developments in communication and information technology, which makes advanced active, dynamic and intelligent architectural environments possible, environments could communicate with their users and actively participate in their lives. Therefore, with the ability to actively participating in the user's lives, the

educational environments could have the potential of being interactive learning environments, which can link educational building architecture and the teaching-learning activities. Hence, the proposed architectural space can call for the participation of the human and the building both for the learning activity. In this respect, mainly, the study aims to propose an educational building environment, which is constructed as a hybrid space that composes physical space and online space that an embedded interactive learning interface to the physical space. Through the guidance of this interface, learners actively participate learning process by handling an interactive learning experience. The research relates the teaching-learning activity with the physical space while integrating online and physical learning environments. In this way, it evaluates the online learning spaces and physical learning spaces while examining the continuous interaction between mind-body-environment in the concept of interactive learning, after reviewing the studies on pedagogy, curriculum, classrooms, and courses of education and after outlining the forms of learning activities and processes in traditional educational buildings, and discussing traditional settings of learning environments, and the conventional relationship between advisor and learner, as a component of environmental settings.

Keywords: Interactive learning, educational buildings, post-COVID world, interactive environments.

16.00-16.30

Ayça Nilüfer Çalikuşu

Supervisor: Mualla Erkılıç
Jury: Zeynep Uludağ, Valerio R.M. Lo Verso

An Inquiry into Architectural Education and Holistic Thinking of Sustainability: A Preliminary Analytic Mapping

Architectural education has witnessed some transformations in response to environmental, economic, and socio-political changes in the world. One of the most important developments in architecture schools is integrating sustainability issues in their curricula. The current literature on this

subject has clearly expressed the importance of sustainability in architectural education. Most studies on the literature review on sustainability in architectural education have explored the ways of integrating sustainability into architectural education. However, there are some gaps considering the broader meaning of sustainability and architectural education. Achieving a better understanding of sustainability actions in architecture requires a holistic and relational approach that integrates sustainability education. Adopting holistic and relational thinking of sustainability provides architectural pedagogy regarding all aspects in terms of environmental, social, and economic issues. In this context, the general aim of the study is to investigate the conceptual basis of an integrative approach to sustainability in architectural education. This research examines studies on pedagogy, curriculum, design studios, and courses of architectural education for the integration of sustainability. Then, the study critically analyzes the main approaches to integrating sustainability into architectural education and makes a preliminary analytic map that reveals common needs, challenges, and requirements. Consequently, the study proposes a mindset for holistic and relational thinking in the integration of sustainability into architectural education.

Keywords: sustainability, architectural education, integration, relational, holistic thinking.

16.30-17.00

Seren Ertan

Supervisor: Mualla Erkılıç

Jury: Nedim Karakayalı, Selahattin Önür

An inquiry on Architecture and Different Means of Distance: Spatial, Social, Personal and Perceptual Distance

As the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) continues to spread across countries, the pandemic has excessively impacted different aspects of public health and social life across countries. The current circumstances have altered social interactions, work practices, educational methods, and habitats. Due to the necessary percussions to preserve public health,

some mandatory alterations in utilizing space emerged. These alterations enabled the discussions of the concept of “social distance” to resurface as well. During the pandemic, many scholars explored various aspects of social distance. However, even though the current tendency to perceive social distance as physical proximity, it appears that there is a lack of concrete preference for the concept’s position in the discipline of architecture.

In order to navigate this concept’s position in the field, this study aims to offer a literature review from various fields, retract the related identifications and keywords from other disciplines. The review intends to trace the origins of social distance starting from the sociological perspective with the founders of the term Durkheim, Tarde, Simmel, Bogardus, follow the anthropological roots with Hall, and inquire further throughout cognitive science with the concepts: interpersonal space, peri-personal space, action space and egocentric space regarding the human perception of this concept. In the further stages the study aims to trace the notions that are retracted from the other disciplines in sociomateriality and proxemics studies to find correspondence in the field of architecture.

Keywords: Social distance, Physical Distance, Spatial Distance, Personal distance, Egocentric distance, Proxemics, Covid-19.