

MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

**GRADUATE (Ph.D.)
SEMINAR
Arch 604**

2021-2022 SPRING SEMESTER
July 05, 2022 Online: 13:00-16:30

**Coordinator and Host: Mualla Erkılıç
Assist: Feyza Topçuođlu**

ZOOM ID

Meeting ID: 957 1718 2937

Passcode: 485267

ARCH 604 SEMINAR IN THESIS RESEARCH

July 05, 2022 13:00-16:30

Coordinator: Mualla Erkılıç

13.00 – 13:30

Cevdet Ege Çakır

Supervisor: İnci Basa

Jury: İpek Gürsel Dino, Zeynep Uludağ

Networks of Circular Economy: Towards a New Economic Discourse on Architecture

Economic networks are not only written in the foundations of architectural theory but also are inherent in every stage of architectural development from its conception to materialization. Although this could be said for many other fields that are fundamentally intertwined with the architectural discipline, Economics stands out from the rest as it shares similar critical milestones throughout history. Now, in response to global climate emergency, depletion of resources and socio-economic issues arising with it, world economies are shifting towards the circular models which are actively pursued by governments, global agencies and NGO's. In return, this shift inevitably finds its ontological reflection in the field of architecture, not just in the design and construction phases but also in the way we perceive existing building block and their relation with the environment. The study focuses on this newly emerging paradigm, followed by a deep dive on the juncture between architectural discourse and evolution of economic thought through the analysis of akin rhetorics, diagrams, and analogies employed in both fields. Subsequently, the second part of the study centralize on Circular Economy and its guiding principles, how it transforms the ontological and epistemological frameworks of architectural discipline through the perspective constructed in the former section.

Keywords: Circular Economy, Economic Thought, Political Economy, Regenerative and Distributive Networks

13.30 – 14:00

Cemre Önertürk

Supervisor: Ayşen Savaş

Jury: Esin Kömez Dağlıoğlu, Pelin Yoncacı Arslan

Lost and Found

The notion of *objet trouvé*, originated by André Breton in 1930s, introduces a concept of lost and found which has not been elaborated within the discursive field of architecture. This study aims to explore the paradoxical co-existence of lost and found in architectural discourse as from the classical paradigm and proposes a threefold reading composed of image, ontology and style. Starting with proposing a method of representation to be followed both in theoretical and practical terms, it continues to search for the potentials of approaching building, its “platonic” components and customary practices within the boundaries of the concept of lost and found. The study suggests the reception of architecture on a spectrum and admits the potential use of *objet trouvé* for decoding and elaborating the history of architectural theory as well as positioning oneself in the contemporary research environment that has been facing with a “paradigm shift”.

Keywords: objet trouvé, found object, lost and found, architecture

14.00 – 14:30

Aylin Alicanoğlu

Supervisor: Esin Kömez Dağlıoğlu

Jury: Ayşen Savaş, Derin İnan

Representing Climate Emergency: On the Agency of Architectural Drawings, Models, And Installations

“Climate change is a cultural and political problem because it is devoid of a deeper visual discourse.” as Neyran Turan, the curator of the Turkish Pavilion at the 2021 Venice Biennale, states. Climate change demands a unique imagination and architectural representation in the current epoch. The Anthropocene epoch, defined as the increase in the influence of human beings on the planet's climate and ecosystems, has triggered climate emergencies. The visual discourse of climate emergency can be presented through the agency of architectural drawings, models, and installations. In this regard, this study explores climate emergencies in the age of the Anthropocene through architectural drawings, models, and installations. By taking the projects of Neyran Turan, Rania Ghosn, and El Hadi Jazairy as critical studies, this study aims to elaborate on the potential of architectural drawings, models, and installations in the context of climate emergency. These projects have differences in content and method but, in the meantime, mutual objectives such as manipulating the scale and being new architectural imaginaries. In that respect, this study is an effort to reveal the medium, methods, conditions, composition, practices, and content of the agency of architectural drawings, models, and installations toward the multi-scalar, multi-temporal, multi-dimensional, and multi-disciplinary nature of the environmental crises in the epoch of the Anthropocene.

Keywords: architectural drawings, models, and installations; climate emergency; agency; the Anthropocene epoch; new architectural imaginaries

14.30 - 15:00

Nazlı Ayşe Gümüş

Supervisor:Haluk Zelef

Jury: Zeynep Mennan, Berna Yaylalı

Transference Methods and Management of "The Creative" Knowledge: Intuitive and Cognitive Process in Architectural Design Practice in a Digitalized World

Data and knowledge are two phenomenon took place at the core of the contemporary world for any business, not excluding architecture.

Extensive amount of data to be “known” and processed is one of the biggest challenges to the contemporary world. The digital tools on the other hand provide the widely preferred methods of handling the extensive data while offering new opportunities of managing the knowledge from these data. Production processes in Architectural Practice is promptly incorporated to the world of extensive data and started to be dominated by the digital tools those are improving on a daily base.

This dissertation looks into the historical background of design methodology movement and makes a comparative analysis of this with the latest developments in data and knowledge management in field of architecture, mainly relating to the methods followed by parametric and generative design tools of 2010s.

The referred digital tools are questioned as for a possibility of replacing designer from the very beginning of the initial, cognitive process of design with a digital method. By exploring the idea of design thinking approach and its uses in management and transference of accumulated design knowledge in architectural practice.

Main objective for this study is to explore the tools of Design Methodology and Digital Technology from a perspective of availability of these in providing a collaborative act of design, without an author. Aiming this, it focuses on means of management over the extensive professional knowledge required for a good- or maybe optimum- design, by exploring ways to transfer “creative” part of this knowledge derived from the cognitive process, and enhancing it with required data to achieve a standardized method of design processes, that is performed by a designer in his/her cognition.

Keywords: Knowledge Management, Creativity, Design Rationale, Architectural Practice

15.00 - 15:30

Ataollah Tofigh Kouzehkanani

Supervisor: Cânâ Bilsel

Jury: İnci Basa, Ali Cengizkan

The Metamorphosis of the Sacred Architecture of Iran: The Materialization of Political Power in the Mosque Architecture

The connection between spatial engagement and religion has not received the appropriate attention until some very recent studies which focused on the production of sacred space. Nevertheless, there are contemporary polemics regarding the fact that sacred spaces/places are not used solely for religious affairs and devotion. This paper tries to shed further light on the political power that religious structures like mosques have and how they turn into ideological apparatus for establishing, consolidating, and legitimizing power. With reference to spatial and historical contexts, the primary goal of this survey is to find a gap where ideology, religion, and architecture intertwine with each other. For this aim, by benefiting from theoretical concepts and examining the concept of power and the spatiality of the religion, this research investigates the political power of these architectural structures in the urban realm of Iran. In this regard, the discussion is grounded on the case study of mosques in Iran, particularly in Isfahan during the Safavids, when mosques turned into a symbol and parcel of the authority to propagate Shi’ism. Furthermore, considering the political dependence of the state on religion, mosques should be studied in the polemical contexts where they were mingled with powerful politico/religious messages before the Islamic Revolution of 1979 and in the post-revolutionary era. This issue became controversial when scholars like Michel Foucault called Iranian Islamic Revolution a revolution rising from the mosques. Hence, such interlacing of power, authority, and religion in the urban space is quite provocative for understanding the intertwining of sacrality and politics in spatial formations.

Keywords: Mosque, Power, Architecture, Safavid Empire, Islamic Revolution

15.30 - 16:00

Ahmet Günel

Supervisor: Abdi Güzer

Jury: Cânâ Bilsel, Yiğit Acar

The Impact of Popular Culture on Architecture: Social Media as a Critical Medium

Popular culture began to gain dominance and prevalence gradually on everyday practice, and its instruments have been altered and established an increasing ease of access. Similar to many disciplinary fields, architecture is also transparent to such an impact and orientation of popular cultural mediums and values. In this respect, a significant gap and conflict occurs between different cultural mediums concerning privileges and values of architecture. This problem points out that current architectural practice and mass production of buildings are transparent to popular values of consumer society culture beyond its disciplinary values and also such a ground becomes a source for critical contradictions. In this context, the aim of this research is to investigate the place, discussion, priorities, and references of architecture in the popular culture medium in relation to urbanization, architecture, and art, and to establish an evaluation framework by focusing on social media among these changing instruments. In a similar way, the research inevitably will concentrate on significant differences between different cultural domains on which architectural criticism coexist. In order to achieve this, it is aimed to analyse, evaluate and understand how social media changed architecture by focusing on significant issues including consumption, production, distribution, exchange and elaboration of information, and criticism since the generator points of popular culture are consumer society and information age. It will be essential to understand continuities and discontinuities in between disciplinary culture of architecture and the way architecture consumed in popular culture. Hence, the relationships of popular culture, everyday culture, consumer culture, digital media with architecture are examined.

Keywords: popular culture, everyday culture, consumer society, social media, architectural criticism

16.00 - 16:30

Nihal Evirgen

Supervisor: Güven Arif Sargın

Jury: Tarık Şengül, Olgu Çalışkan

An Inquiry into the Class Characteristics and Labor Relations of Architects: Contextualization of Architectural Profession in Turkey Since 1980s

Despite ignored and declared obsolete for some academic circles, class issue, contradiction, and struggle have always been on scholarly agenda in understanding the underlying complexity of any given social structure. Architects were no exception; and yet, due to the current economic and political crisis, concurrent and internal to capitalism, they have now been forced to challenge much serious problems such as low wages, overwork, labor exploitation, insecurity, borrowing, downsizing, and unemployment. While known as upper-middle-class or elite in the past, as a result, architects are now even regarded "workers." Nevertheless, the potential discussions regarding the production relations of architecture and architects' labor processes might give ways of further definitions of how the architects should be addressed in terms of class formation. In this respect, this study aims at exploring possible relations between politics and the role of architects in social and cultural contexts via profession's class positions. In this regard, the political economy of any intellectual contribution architectural work for the sole purpose of capitalism and its effects on cities, the relationship between the state ideology and the social role of the architect-subject, as well as the changing class positions and labor processes of architects will constitute the main questions of this research. In order to hover around them, three fundamental issues in respect to the infrastructural capacities of current political economy and Marxist class perspective will be addressed: the working conditions of the architects, their social and political role, and the relationship between class characteristics and the relations of capitalist production. This report is an attempt to contextualize the said study by approaching the existing literature through the elements of critical theory.

Keywords: class struggle, architectural profession, architectural worker, political subject, capitalist urbanization