

MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

GRADUATE SEMINARS

AH504 – AH 604
2021-2022 SPRING SEMESTER

July 1, 2022

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AH 504
Prothesis Seminar in Architectural History
Coordinator: Ekin Pinar

10:00 - 10:30

Doğan Hazar — Tanzimat's Urban Interventions and The Formation of the New Administrative Center in Diyarbakir

Supervisor: Elvan Altan

Jury: Pelin Yoncacı Arslan, Neşe Gürallar

In the process that began with the reforms of the Tanzimat period, administrative policies to be centralized aimed at regulating the political, social and economic structure of the Ottoman Empire and thus brought new building types. The government buildings and accompanying administrative structures, which started to be built in the 19th century, are among the structures required by this new system. The transformation in the public space of the late Ottoman city of Diyarbakır will be the focus of the analysis in this research. While doing this, the changes that the Ottoman administrative system went through before and after the Tanzimat were taken into consideration. The aim is to evaluate the government buildings with novel functions and forms that emerged depending on the changes in the state and society structure and their relationship with the urban texture in Diyarbakır, one of the cities of Anatolia that have considerably been less studied in comparison to the capital İstanbul or Ottoman port cities.

10:30 - 11:00

Gül Deniz Korkusuz — 18th century Ottoman Architecture: Greek Gentry as intermediaries of cultural and architectural exchange

Supervisor: Ali Uzay Peker

Jury: Elvan Altan, Gizem Tongo

The world of early modernity (1650-1800) has been characterized as a period of increased social and

material connectivity across the Eurasian landmass. As a result of this, a new urban elite emerged throughout the continent's myriad cities that encouraged hybridity and cross-pollination between culture groups. Being a gateway between Europe and Asia, the Ottoman Empire is a particularly pertinent example of this phenomenon. It was experiencing the cultural shift that was taking place in every aspect of life. Particularly, as empire's port cities grew as hubs of commerce, they attracted many Europeans to settle there permanently, thus becoming important hotspots of cultural transmission between the East and the West.

Historians of architecture have been emphasizing the two-way cultural stream that was flowing throughout this period between the Empire and Europe. Yet, the dynamics of this diffusive process are yet to be established with full clarity, especially with regard to architecture. This thesis focuses on the 'Greek gentry' who were in constant interaction with the European others, in order to better understand the dynamics of cultural transmission on the level of every-day life. To do that, it will rely on written testimony by European settlers, including memoirs, official dossiers, and testaments or wills concerning inheritance of properties. The paper hopes to propose a fresh way to analyze not only the cultural reasons but also the critical actors who were influential in this process.

11:00 - 11:30

Alpay Aydın— "Aldo Rossi in Turkey:" Translations and Appropriations

Supervisor: Belgin Turan Özkaya

Jury: Haluk Zelef, Zafer Akay

Recently, a critical architectural history literature on postmodernism has been emerging. This literature is formed in line with historiographical perspectives such as transnational, cross-cultural and intertwined histories of different geographies. Despite these scholarly attempts, there is a gap in the existing historiographical knowledge on how Turkey interacted with postmodernism which is the catalyst for this thesis' investigation into a possible discursive

and architectural interactions between Turkey and other geographies. Accordingly, the paper aims to look at how the Italian architect Aldo Rossi's architectural and theoretical production, as a transnational phenomenon, has been appropriated and translated by local architects and city planners, architectural theorists, and historians in Turkey from the 1970s onwards from abovementioned perspectives. While the paper highlights the general discussions on postmodernism, neo-rationalism, classicism, eclecticism and the city in Turkey, it particularly focuses on a close reading of particular aspects and formulations of Rossi by local actors: issues such as reclaiming the city against rapid urbanization, use of architectural history as an analysis and design tool, the concepts of type, typology and archetype, the autonomy of architecture, melancholy, and collective memory alongside formal, spatial and symbolic characteristics of Rossi's architectural production.

AH 604

Seminar in Architectural History

Coordinator: Ekin Pinar

11:30 - 12:00

Diğdem Angın — The “Modern” and the “High-Rise”: Urban Transformation of Mersin in the Post-War Decades

Supervisor: Elvan Altan

Jury: Lale Özgenel, Bilge İmamoğlu, Ahmet Erdem Tozoğlu

Mersin, as an important port city of the Mediterranean, experienced profound transformations in the post-war period, due to political and social developments of the era in Turkey, and especially because of the economic shift after 1950. In a period that symbolizes modernization and progress, the reconstruction of the port triggered these transformations, whereby commerce and tourism were the key elements that stimulated the urban transformation. One of the major investments of the period was the construction of Mersin Hotel in 1971 by Mersin Chamber of Commerce and Industry as the first high-rise building of the city. The building symbolizes the intersection of commerce, tourism and modernization endeavors; thus, it forms the core of this study. The building was the embodiment of the emphasis on “the modern” and “the high-rise,” which represents the spirit of the era. The hotel, and its contemporary neighbors Yaşat Office Block, and Panorama Apartment Block, provide the context of the modernization process in Mersin. While presenting the changes in historic commercial center of the city during the post-war period, I aim to discuss the transformation of the built environment in relation to the contemporary economic context and the actors that were involved in its realization.