METU talks ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

FALL 2017

ODTÜ MİMARLIK TARİHİ KONUŞMALARI 2017 GÜZ

Bilge İmamoğlu TED University

Architectural History and Architectural Education: The

Profession and the Disciplinary Field

Faculties of architecture, as all institutions of higher educations do, have mainly a twofold societal role; the production of the disciplinary knowledge and the training of the professional. In this presentation I would like to propose a discussion on the function of the field of architectural history within the schools of architecture in the ways that the field may relate to both of those significant roles reciprocally. Architectural historians in each and any school of architecture contribute to both in numerous ways; they perform research or advise graduate study in architectural history, while they also teach survey courses on architectural history to undergraduate students. Undergraduate students in design studios also involve studies in the history of the field with or without the presence of a trained architectural historian; this involvement is usually referred to as "the case study". There exists almost no discussion on the necessity and importance of either, yet the efficiency of their coexistence and the possible ways to increase the communication and cooperation of the survey courses and the historical content in the design studies is subject to debate for long. In the discussion here, I would like to contribute to the debate by proposing an enhanced inclusion of the historicity of the concept of "profession" in multiple ways. The reflection of this approach on the studio studies will also entail a discussion on reinforcing "the case study" as an experience in which the students will be trained in a methodology where the designers are defined more as "researchers" of design ideas rather than as mere "creators" of them.

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