

# E d i t o r i a l

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**2012 - 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Kemal Ahmet Arû, architect and urban planner (1912-2005)**

The dossier subject of this issue of A|Z ITU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture is dedicated to "2012 - 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Kemal Ahmet Arû, architect and urban planner (1912-2005)". The dossier had been edited by Nuran ZEREN GÜLERSOY as the guest editor of this issue.

36<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of United Nations (UN) Science, Education and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) held in Paris between October 25 - November 10, 2011 decided to support 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Piri Reis World Map (1513) in 2013; 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Yusuf Nabi, poet and philosopher (1641-1712) in 2012; 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Buhurizade Mustafa Itri, musician (1640-1712) in 2012 and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Kemal Ahmet Arû, architect and urban planner (1912-2005) in 2012. At the end of the 36<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of UNESCO decided to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Professor Kemal Ahmet Arû in 2012 in international level and was emphasized that he was the pioneer of our country in City and Regional Planning as an architect and urban planner and also being "a reference for architects and urban planners of the whole world".

Kemal Ahmet Arû was born in 1912, graduated from Galatasaray High School in 1932, from the Department of Architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts (Mimar Sinan University) in 1937. He has appointed an assistant Chair of the Faculty of Architecture Urbanism High Engineering School (ITU) in 1940. He carried out the project studios with Professor Clemens Holzmeister between 1942-1946. At the same time he had been gave urbanism courses with Professor Gustav Oelsner until 1954. He acted as well as an Associate Professor at Yıldız Technical School (Yıldız Technical University), and has lectured on Macka Technical School. Became professor in 1950, the same year was elected president of the Chair of Urbanism. Professor Kemal Ahmet Arû served as Dean of the Faculty of Architecture in three different intervals during 1954-70. He has lectured as a guest lecturer at the departments of Urbanism Faculty of Architecture Stuttgart (1961-62), Vienna Technical University (1963), and Berlin Technical University (1967). He was the president of the Institute of Istanbul Technical University Faculty of Architecture, Urbanism between 1967-82.

I am very proud of being a student of Professor Kemal Ahmet Arû at 1980 when I was a master student at the Master of Architectural Design Program on Housing. Professor Kemal Ahmet Arû as an architect and urban planner lectured the "Settlements and Housing Policy" course, in this program at ITU Faculty of Architecture.

Professor Kemal Ahmet Arû who paid attention to urban design studies and applications of the field of education in Turkey, was awarded in 22 Urban Planning Competition between 1944-1970. Professor Kemal Ahmet Arû reflected effectiveness of urban design practices in the studies of the architecture. 1<sup>st</sup> Levent Housing Settlement which was designed with Rebii

Gorbon between 1947-57 and 4<sup>th</sup> Levent Housing Settlement which was realized in 1954, are outstanding examples of applications of the in this direction. Professor Kemal Ahmet Arû won 6 first prizes in architectural project competitions. He won the first prize of an international competition Taksim Vakıflar (Sheraton) Hotel in 1959. Winning project prepared in conjunction with Hande Suher, Tekin Aydın, Mehmet Ali Handan, Erol Altay and Yalçın Emiroğlu called AHE Group. The hotel was completed in 1975.

Professor Kemal Ahmet Arû wrote the books titled as "Study of the Turkish Baths" (1941), "Housing Problem in the Western Europe After the Second World War II" (1950), "Urban Planning Studies and Drawing Technique" (1955; with G. Özdeş), "Pedestrians and Vehicles: New Transport Schemes in City Areas" (1965), "Turkish City" (1998) and "Kemal Ahmet Arû 80 Years of a University Teacher "(2001).

The efforts of Professor Kemal Ahmet Arû as an important figure in shaping the history of the Faculty of Architecture in achieving today's advanced level, always will maintain his place in our memories.

### **Theory section**

The article which titled as "Revaluating ecology in contemporary landscape design" by Meltem Erdem is the first in the theory section. *"This paper aims to discuss the emergence of "representation" of ecology in landscape design and proposes four broad representation modes; approach, technique, analogy and metaphor by reviewing six high profile landscape design cases. With this respect, review of current discourses on design and ecology and examination of case studies are utilized to frame the research method of the study."*

The second article in theory section of this issue is titled as "An assessment on traditional timber structures in Süleymaniye and Zeyrek districts of Historical Peninsula" written by Nazire Papatya Seçkin. The article based on the works which were realized through direct observations, photographing and laboratory analysis methods on timber elements. The photographs present observations and examples showing the mechanical condition of these timber structures damaged over time, The study continued by a laboratory analysis which cover a total of 380 wood samples. Following the sampling, macroscopic and microscopic diagnoses were conducted to finalize the research. The reasons for deterioration of these structures were analyzed, photographs were taken to illustrate their present conditions and the woods used in these traditional timber structures were identified.

The article "(Epistemological) Formalism and its influence on architecture: A concise review" is written by Hakan Anay based on the concept of formalism and the influence on architecture. The author defines the aim of the article as *"The present study reviews some of the essential ideas of so-called "Epistemological" Formalism in their roots in German Formalism, and Russian Formalism, and searches for and follows the traces of these ideas in architecture, aiming to shed light onto formalism's influence, and the nature of that influence on architecture."*

"The right to inhabit the city: Yeni Sahra squatter settlement in Istanbul" is based on the research realized by Aytanga Dener. The article aims to discuss the concepts, "the right to the city" and "the right to inhabit" within the context of the *"neoliberal regimes and the consequential economic,*

*socio-cultural, ideological and spatial transformation occurred both in the world cities and Istanbul*". At the end of the article the author states that the incremental development of the squatter houses versus urban transformation projects is considered by thinking the integration of the inhabitants into the city life.

"Dialog on space: Spatial codes and language of space" is a conceptual text on the codes and language by Pelin Dursun. *"The aim of this paper is to create a debate with an emphasis on these essential questions which are discussed in the first lecture of an elective course, namely, Architectural Morphology at the undergraduate level, in Istanbul Technical University, Faculty of Architecture. By identifying personal and general expressions, it is attempted to decode the elements of the designers' way of thinking and to describe how it is possible to transform their mental processes, from abstract forms into concrete expressions. In the last part of the study, contribution of space syntax to form a language for thinking and talking about space is discussed."*

The article titled as "Analysing environmental satisfaction in gated housing settlements: A case study in Istanbul" is written by Banu Garip and Hasan Şener. *This paper mainly tries to examine the users' relationships with the housing environment and focuses on the issues of "satisfaction" and "residents' evaluation of their physical and social environments" in gated settlements.* The results show that the residents' "satisfaction" with their social and physical environment is at a considerably high level. This situation demonstrates the importance and significance of the studies in this field while there are many discussions related to the negative effects of these settlements.

"Durability of external thermal insulation composite systems in Istanbul, Turkey" by Ecem Edis and Nil Türkeri which presents the field inspection results conducted to assess the durability of extrude polystyrene (XPS) based ETICS, when exposed to degradation agents originating from atmosphere, occupancy, design, and construction in Istanbul.

"Daylight analysis and lighting energy management for schools in hot-temperate climates", Rana Kutlu, Alpin Yener, Banu Manav, Mehmet Şener Küçükdoğu, *The aim of the study is to suggest an optimum facade design and an energy efficient lighting system for elementary schools' classroom modules for different climate types. The study findings suggest an optimum orientation-dependant facade design for the two climate types.*

"High performance window selection model – HiPerWin" was written by İkbal Çetiner, Aslıhan Tavail, Hakan Yaman, Kevser Coşkun. *A model, namely "A High Performance Window Selection Model – HiPerWin", was developed as a research project for selecting energy and cost efficient residential windows in different climatic regions of Turkey. A dynamic tool, a relational database management system (RDBMS), was also developed to manage all energy and cost results associated with the building model. By means of the RDBMS the users are able to define their cases and select the most energy and cost efficient window system by using the energy and cost data stored in the database.*