

Dossier Editorial: Young Views on Urban Design

**Nuran Zeren Gülersoy
İpek Akpınar
Fatma Pelin Öztürk Ekdi**

In the 36th General Conference of UNESCO held in 2011 in Paris, it has been unanimously resolved to celebrate 100th Birth Year of Professor, Architect and Urban Planner, Kemal Ahmet Arû (1912-2005) founder of Urban Design and Urban and Regional Planning Discipline in Turkey, with the participation of UNESCO and to commemorate him worldwide.

The Dean, Prof. Dr. Orhan Hacıhasanoğlu and the Board of Faculty of Architecture, Istanbul Technical University, where Prof. Kemal Ahmet Arû served 42 years continuously, between 1940 and 1982, have decided to participate this commemoration and celebration making them to feel honored together with the ITU Faculty of Architecture, Urban and Regional Planning Department and ITU Urban and Environmental Planning and Research Center. Within the scope of this celebration aiming to honour Prof. Kemal Ahmet Arû and his works at the national and international level, various events such as the organization of an international symposium, holding a competition among the students of architecture and urban planning and the preparation of a website are planned.

Within the Celebration and the Commemoration Events of 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Prof. Kemal Ahmet Arû, ITU Graduate School of Science, Engineering and Technology, Urban Design MSc Program, organized a symposium entitled “Young Views on Urban Design”. The aim of the symposium has been to bring young researchers who have completed his/her dissertation in Urban Design MSc Program together, to present their studies, share their research outcomes, discuss, get feedback from their colleagues, and develop an effective network with other researchers in the field of urban design - main interest of Prof.

Kemal Ahmet Arû.

In this framework, this special issue of the A|ZITU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture consists of 9 selected papers that were presented at the “Young Views on Urban Design” Symposium. Papers, focusing on different layers of Istanbul, cover emerging topics of discussions on urban field not only in the academic arena but also in the everyday public life. Depicting contemporary urban issues of Istanbul in the 21st Century unveil not only the undergoing radical spatial and social change but also offer various methods of spatial analysis and readings those issues in the local scale. What makes these studies worth to indicate is that articles present a wide range of approaches and methods in studying urban problems, contradictions as well as dynamics and potentials of the built environment in analyzing different layers of the city.

The first paper entitled “A Pedestrianization Case in the Context of Public Interest” by Çaliskan and Ayataç considers the public interest in a pedestrianization project in Hobyar Neighborhood. The authors specially focus on Eminönü area located in Historical Peninsula of İstanbul, and consider the public interest notion as a participatory urban design tool.

The next two papers by Özer and Kubat and Kevseroğlu and Kubat; use space syntax model in understanding and analyzing the urban environment and in developing urban design strategies to urban problems. The paper entitled “Measuring Walkability in Istanbul Galata Region” Özer and Kubat discusses walkability as a dimension of urban attractiveness. The study measures the walkability in Istanbul Galata Region by evaluating safety, accessibility and land use pattern together. In the paper entitled “The Evaluation of the Integration of Industrial Heritage Areas to Urban Landscape: The Case Study of Kayseri Sümerbank Cotton Factory” by Kevseroğlu and Kubat, considers the integration of industrial heritage areas into urban landscape. The study focuses specially on Kayseri Sümerbank Cotton Factory which has a historical importance in Turkish industrialization movement of 1930s.

In the following paper entitled “Ur-

ban Sections”, Yardım and Hacıhasanoğlu, develop an intra-scale approach which considers architecture and urban design together and concentrates on urban sections in transportation infrastructures in Istanbul. The authors explore the relationship between ground and transportation infrastructure. The study analyzes the relationships of ground and underground by mapping different typologies by using sectional analysis.

In the next contribution “Fringe Belts in the Process of Urban Planning and Design: Comparative Analysis of Istanbul and Barcelona”, Hazar and Kubat evaluate various concepts with a scoring system to see the outcomes of several planning policies. The paper considers the concept of urban fringe belt as an entity in urban planning and design processes.

The article entitled “Cultural/Creative Industries in Istanbul: Beyoğlu Case” Öztürk Ekdi and Çıracı see the sectors as an urban redevelopment tool and analyze the spatial distribution of the sectors throughout the city. In order to develop more accurate strategies in triggering the sectors in the city, the authors dig out the location preferences of these sectors and conduct a site survey in Beyoğlu District which has a historical importance for creative sectors in the city.

The next paper entitled “Changes of

Urban Structure in the Cihangir Neighborhood: Some proposals for Re- Designing the Area” by Öztel Ağsakallı and Zeren Gülersoy aims to review the changes that took place from the past to the present times in the Cihangir Neighborhood. The authors aim to develop some urban design solutions and guidelines by considering the historical and contemporary layers and elements of the area.

In the following paper entitled “Physical Environment – Child Relations, Outdoor Play Spaces and Criteria of Child-Friendly Environment; Bakırköy & Beylikdüzü Samples”, Selçuk Kirazoğlu and Akpınar consider the child’s relationship with the city and elaborate urban areas and public open spaces designed for children, children’s playgrounds, in particular.

The last paper by Erdoğan and Ayataç discusses the urban identity in Ortaköy Square by using a photo-analysis method. The paper concentrates in city square as the place of interaction and as the place of urban identity where the urban characteristics are grasped.

On the 100th Anniversary of his birth, we commemorate our Dear Professor Kemal Ahmet Arû together with the entire Architecture, Urban Design and Urban Planning world once more with love, respect and longing.