THE MAKING OF AN URBAN DESIGNER: INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE EDUCATION AT ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (ITU)

İpek Akpınar | Nuran Zeren Gülersoy | Turgay Kerem Koramaz | Ahsen Özsoy | Ebru Erbaş Gürler

ITU

Any new understanding of the built environment and the ways of modifying urban design needs to incorporate the ability to communicate with different, yet interwoven, disciplines. The design studio is the most popular and widespread method for teaching and training students at every level how to work together on emerging complex urban issues, and how to accept a dialectic exchange, both with instructors and classmates. To what extent can a graduate program, and the design studio, in particular, allow an understanding of complex urban issues, and also nurture an ability to develop resilient projects and policies for emerging contemporary urban problems? What are the benefits of using exchanged or integrated methods of landscape architecture, architecture, and urban planning to improve resiliency? In response to these related questions, this study aims to reveal the challenging milieu of an urban design studio within the ITU Interdisciplinary Graduate Urban Design Programme. The methodology of this study is based on a literature review of "urban design education and studio culture." This paper also provides a critical discussion to allow a broader understanding of resiliency in urban design education, and it is hoped that it may serve as a guide for the reassessment of urban design teaching within the broader history of planning.

Keywords
resilient urban design, interdisciplinary, graduate design education

INTRODUCTION: SETTING THE CONTEXT

"In the recent decades rapid and uncontrolled urbanization, inadequate land-use planning and construction, insufficient infrastructure and services, and environmental degradation caused the increase of earthquake disaster risks (which stands at about 65% during the coming 30 years) in Istanbul.[1]"

The literature related to urban design theories and applications largely focuses on the making of places for people[2], and emphasizes the value and significance of "place." Since urban design operates in the "real" world, with its field of opportunity constrained and bounded by both economic (market) and political (regulatory) forces, the associated literature also asserts the importance of urban design as a process. Ambiguities in the definition of urban design also stress differing views of the discipline, such as "product," "process", and the "dilemma between product and process."[3]

Although the urban design is typically defined as the "common ground" between architecture and town planning, it is inherently collaborative and interdisciplinary as it requires an integrated approach that utilizes the skills and expertise of a wide range of professionals.[4] Discussions on urban design theories and applications have revealed that the main challenges for the teaching of this profession are calculating to what extent the curricula can be improved and made more interdisciplinary, and understanding how programs can be modified to reflect recent paradigm shifts regarding interventions on the built environment. The introduction of this paper is structured to respond to these two issues. In the increasingly globalized world, the "modern" urban experience, as depicted by Walter Benjamin and others at the beginning of 20th century, has intensified and gained numerous complex and ambiguous layers.

The fragmentation of everyday life, the speed of transportation and communication, and the changing conceptions of time have all deepened the transformation of human existence. In the meantime, however, some of the most crucial spatial and cultural public landmarks of the city have been destroyed for the capitalization of space. In the main cities, this is the political and spatial climate in which today's urban designers practice, and is most assuredly true for the case area under discussion in this paper: Istanbul.

Like all the other actors that take part in the space production processes of the major cities like Istanbul; the role of urban designers can only be conceptualized concerning the urban politics that dominate those processes.[5] Within neoliberal space production processes, the architect-planner/landscape architect becomes visible only for as long as his or her reputation enhances the profitability of the process. Nevertheless, it is hard to say that this visibility corresponds to a comprehensive architectural and planning/design agenda that includes the "right to the city" due to the intense pressure of capital upon urban space.[6,7] To sum up, the architect-planner / landscape architect plays certain roles and creates certain domains of influence within the mechanisms of urban space production. However, the capability of these functions to create powerful disciplinary positions depends on upon the development of critical yet constructive; uncompromising yet collaborative; creative yet participative practices that can arrive at the "productive differences" claimed by Tanyeli.[8]

All through the process of globalization and the ambiguities it has produced, the city of Istanbul has been faced with a series of complex and uncertain problems due to the emergence of neoliberal urban policies, the continuing issues of the residential neighborhoods of former internal migrants, and finally the new challenges thrown up by the arrival of a massive number of transnational migrants. Similar space production processes are underway in most metropolis around the world, and Istanbul is no exception. Today, it can be argued that the mainstream space production processes in Istanbul be shaped by neoliberal urban policies adopted by global capital working hand-in-hand with central and local governments.[9]

V.07 P.022 **İpek Akpınar | Nuran Zeren Gülersoy | Turgay Kerem Koramaz | Ahsen Özsoy | Ebru Erbaş Gürler**
THE MAKING OF AN URBAN DESIGNER: INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE EDUCATION AT ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (ITU)

The question then becomes; what kind of design education can challenge the creation and demands of this urban condition? The design studio is the most popular and widespread method of the teaching and training of students at every level to work together on emerging complex urban issues, to accept a dialectic exchange with instructors and classmates, and to acclimatize to the "real-world" environment with all of the noises, intrusions and nuisances of the modern city. To what extent can a graduate program, and the design studio, in particular, give students an understanding of complex urban issues, and improve urban design skills including the ability to develop resilient projects and policies for contemporary urban problems?

In response to the ambiguous context of globalization, this paper aims to reveal the challenges facing the urban design studio of the ITU Interdisciplinary Graduate Urban Design Programme. What makes this design studio extraordinary is not only the participation of three departments but also the multi-departmental student profile. By incorporating three professions (architects, planners, and landscape architects), the urban design studio is intended to give the students the ability to work in interdisciplinary groups with a high level of interaction and dialogue. The studio is also an attempt to encourage the students to consider different viewpoints, and to combine their undergraduate knowledge with disciplines outside their specialized fields.

In this paper, the research methodology is based on a literature review of urban design education and studio culture. Following a brief description of the program, the paper focuses on the studio's interdisciplinary design and teaching approach in response to complex urban issues, namely; evaluating ambiguous events concerning urban design theories; incorporating resilient practices and methods, and refining the design process. By focusing on the objectives of the studio, the paper also gives a description of the contextual design process and briefly depicts the abilities gained through a graduate-level education in urban design. Finally, its concluding remarks regarding the graduate education of an urban designer are made according to its bearing on improving resiliency.

INTERDISCIPLINARY DESIGN AND EDUCATION APPROACH IN URBAN DESIGN MASTER PROGRAMME

There is some confusion over the interdisciplinary nature of urban design. One of the reasons for this is that each of the traditional design professions regards the products of its domain as "urban design" if they are located within cities. Also, architects assume many urban problems can be treated as architecture, landscape architects as landscape architecture and city planners as city planning. They look at urban design through the norms of their professional products.[10]

The term first became widely known during a lecture entitled "urban design," which was given by Joseph Lluis Sert (the president of CIAM and Dean of the Harvard University Graduate School of Design) at the AIA conference in Washington, D.C. in 1953. At the time, Sert was advocating the cultural and political value of urban pedestrian life and the integration of city planning, architecture and landscape architecture.[11]

To understand interdisciplinary nature of urban design discipline, it still seems necessary to comprehend the climate created by the followers of CIAM, who believed that there was no "borderline" between architecture and city planning.[12] If "urban design is a joint work of architect, planner and landscape architect", as described at the Harvard Design Conference in 1956, how can these disciplines' knowledge be integrated into a holistic perspective to solve new urban agenda of cities, today? Moreover, what are the benefits of using exchanged or integrated methods of these three disciplines concerning resiliency? Having far more than merely a physical or quantitative existence, the contemporary city is a multiplicity of social, political, cultural and economic projections. Architects, planners, and landscape architects are only one social actor in the complex and multi-layered process of the production and reproduction of space. This process involves various mechanisms within which different interest groups and actors play different parts according to their identities, responsibilities, and agenda. As different

V.07 P.023 **İpek Akpınar | Nuran Zeren Gülersoy | Turgay Kerem Koramaz | Ahsen Özsoy | Ebru Erbaş Gürler**
THE MAKING OF AN URBAN DESIGNER: INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE EDUCATION AT ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (ITU)

space production patterns demand different urban design services in the global city, it is only fair to talk about a multiplicity of "roles" and positions as architects-planners / landscape architects instead of a single urban design practice.

More than ever, the spatial and political climate of the city in the 21st century requires the production of productively critical, pluralistic, inclusive urban design practices that advocate public welfare. In that sense, such practices are becoming more and more interdisciplinary as they incorporate a delicate balance between urban politics and economics, plurality and singularity, ethics and aesthetics, and urban and ecological. Therefore, it is crucial to inject this disciplinary awareness, sensibility, and versatility. In other words, urban design education should adopt itself to respond to contemporary urban conditions and should take the city as a design laboratory where real life situations are critically addressed to properly equip the young designer practicing within today's urban environment with;

— a critical mindset that can problematize and question given urban conditions;
— a sense of awareness that urban space is almost always politically and economically charged;
— an open mind towards alternative viewpoints and existences within the urban realm;
— the ability to work with different disciplines and professionals as a team player;
— the versatility to cope with and produce responsive solutions to rapidly changing urban demands and conditions;
— the capability to reconcile and negotiate conflicting urban agendas while preserving his/her disciplinary stance;
— the substantiality to form his/her unique disciplinary voice while listening and responding to others;
— a proactive disciplinary approach that conceptualizes the citizens/public as the new client to develop a disciplinary reflex to define and address urban problems even before being commissioned.

The question then becomes one of the formulating ways to educate such an urban design professional. When attempting to improve education quality, an investigation of urban design graduate programs further afield becomes necessary. Since this paper aims to discuss the case of an interdisciplinary urban design master program, the "Continuous Quality Improvement Process in Graduate Education (LESKIS)[13]" criteria will be used to highlight certain points for this investigation. Various master programs (especially those of American and British Universities) were evaluated, and their curricula were compared concerning the content and structure of their studio courses. The cases studied for this paper included such programs as Master of Architecture in UrbanDesign or Master of Science in urban design. The curricula of the selected urban design master programs mainly contained modules such as history and theory, seminar, studio, final dissertation (or design project report). The programs which were evaluated during this process are:

— Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, Department of Urban Planning and Design - Master of Architecture in Urban Design[14]
— The University of Westminster, School of Architecture and Built Environment - Master of Architecture in Urban Design[15]
— University College London, The Bartlett School of Architecture - Master in Urban Design[16]
— University of California, Berkeley, College of Environmental Design - Master in Urban Design[17]
— London South Bank University, Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences, Department of Urban, Environment and Leisure - Master of Architecture in Urban Planning Design[18]
— The University of Texas at Austin, School of Architecture - Master of Science in Urban Design[19]
— Massachusetts Institute of Technology - joint graduate program in Urban Design[20]

When selecting the cases of programs around the World, different types of programs are chosen in terms of their department and school, holding the program. Among these master programs, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) offers an interdisciplinary program in urban design by the execution of two departments "Architecture" and "Urban Studies and Planning."[21] Both in their studios and dissertations, students of this

İpek Akpınar | Nuran Zeren Gülersoy | Turgay Kerem Koramaz | Ahsen Özsoy | Ebru Erbaş Gürler
THE MAKING OF AN URBAN DESIGNER: INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE EDUCATION AT ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (ITU)

program are expected to combine creativity and designing skills to develop the quality of the environment usually associated with "architecture,"with the ability to regulate, managing the development and decision-making among multiple stakeholders that planners possess in the urban planning process. The urban design studio modules in all master program curricula, account for at least eight hours a week throughout each 14-week term (Harvard University[22] and University of California, Berkeley[23]. Studio modules may also contain lecture hours for studio credits, or separate seminar courses for separate credits integrated with those for the studio modules. In cases where such a significant amount of the course load and content is being delivered through studio modules, ateliers should be conducted on at least two days per week to allow the professional review of the students' design work.

In Harvard University and University College London, the urban design studio modules are conducted across two consecutive terms. In these cases, the first term studio is an introduction and preliminary discussion of urban design projects containing core issues and strategies in spatial consideration. The second term studio develops design ideas for detailed review, involving various international case studies.[24,25] For instance, in the 2012-2013 academic year, urban design students at Harvard University studied Mexico City and Milano, and students in University College London studied Marseille, Messina-Sicily, Beirut, Tunis, Algiers and Athens (Studio Option: Mediterranean). The Urban Design Master Program at the University of Westminster[26] also consists of two-term studio modules. The first term studio at this university uses a master planning approach aimed at improving urban design and development planning skills, however, the second term studio is dissimilarly organised with subject-specific studio modules such as conservation policy and practice; environmental policy, assessment and climate change; housing and regeneration; public participation and engaging communities; public realm: significance, design and experience.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE URBAN DESIGN MASTER PROGRAMME AT ITU

Urban design graduate programs in Turkey are provided within the auspices of Urban and Regional Planning Faculties. In general, the institutions of Architectural Faculties in Turkey offer "Urban Design" courses at both the undergraduate and graduate level, mostly in their urban and regional planning and landscape architecture departments. However, the architectural curricula may include related topics in "urban studies and issues".

In 1973, an administrative reorganization was carried out in the Istanbul Technical University Faculty of Architecture, and thirteen chairs were created within the Faculty. Among them, three chairs were responsible for urban design and planning education. There were, Planning Theories and Methods Chair, Zoning and Transportation Chair and Urban Design and Renewal Chair. During that time, four urban planning lectures (2 hours each) and four urban planning projects developed and took place in the curriculum of the architecture education.[27]

ITU has started two levels undergraduate and graduate education starting from 1969-1970 Academic Year. The first urbanism master program including urban design issues was established in the 1974-1975 Academic Year. This education had two years of graduate (MSc) level studies which followed a 5-year (later 4-year) undergraduate course and which replaced the former 10-semester, 5-year advanced undergraduate engineering (architecture) degree. According to the ITU 1978-1979 Faculty of Architecture Post-Graduate Catalogue, there were five professors members when this program was established. The catalog, published in 1979, also gave detailed information about the ITU Urbanism Graduate Program Curriculum[28] (see Table 1).

1ST SEMESTER	2ND SEMESTER	3RD SEMESTER
Statistical Analysis	Geography and Settlements	Concepts of Urban Design

ELECTRONIC CALCULATIONS	URBAN ENGINEERING	URBAN RENEWAL
Urban Sociology	Policies of Settlements and Housing	New Urban Policies
Urban Economy	Land Use Planning	Principles of Metropolitan, Regional and Country Planning
Theories on Planning	Equipment Planning	Landscaping
Planning Techniques	Transportation Planning	Diploma Preliminaries
Urban Evolution	Urbanization and Migration: Demographics and Settlement Dispersion	Studio III (Urban Design and Urban Renewal)
Planning Management and Legal Perspectives	Studio II	
(Land Use and Transportation)	4th Semester	
Studio I (Planning Theories and Techniques)	Secme Dersler	
Elective Courses	Diploma Preliminaries	
(Current Planning Problems)		
Elective Courses		Diploma Thesis

TABLE 1 ITU Urbanism Graduate Program Curriculum in 1979[28]

A new Higher Education Law (no 2547) came into force in 1981 in Turkey, and the academic organizations of the Faculties of Architecture were renewed, and two Departments were established: The Department of Architecture and Department of Urban and Regional Planning. At ITU, the first undergraduate students of the Urban and Regional Planning Department started in the 1983-1984 and graduated in the 1986-1987 Academic Year.[29]

The post-graduate education for the first graduate students of the Department began in the 1987-1988 academic year. To provide specialization in the urban planning profession, the Department offered four graduate programs: Urban Planning, Regional Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Planning Master's and Ph.D. programs were founded. These programs were managed by Department of Urban and Regional Planning Division within the ITU Graduate School of Science, Engineering, and Technology, and offered Master's and Ph.D. level degrees in Urban Design. The first Curriculum of the Urban Design Master Program is given in Table 2.[30]

	FALL TERM	CREDITS	SPRING TERM	CREDITS
Complulsory	Applied Statistics	2	Studio II	2
	Studio I	2	Urban Design Theory II	2
	Urban Design Theory	2		2
Electives	Urban Land-use Planning	2	Culture and Urban Form	**2**
	Visual Analysis Techniques	2	Central Business Districts and Planning of Urban Centres	2
	Use of Plants in the Design of Space	2		2
	Evaluation of Historic Environment	2	Urban Renewal Methodologies in Developing Countries	2
	Housing Design	2		2
	Use of Meteorological Data for Architectural Design and Urban Planning	2	Planning Problems in Different Urban Design Areas	
	Urban Pattern	2	Urban Conservation Case Studies	2
	Effects of Climate and Energy on Settlement Design	2	Urban Design by the Use of Computer Techniques	2
	Solar Radiation and Settlement Design	2	Appraisal of Climate Performance in Settlement Patterns	2

TABLE 2 ITU Urban Design Graduate Program Curriculum in 1989[30]

V.07 P.026   **İpek Akpınar | Nuran Zeren Gülersoy | Turgay Kerem Koramaz | Ahsen Özsoy | Ebru Erbaş Gürler**
THE MAKING OF AN URBAN DESIGNER: INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE EDUCATION AT ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (ITU)

The master's and Ph.D. programs governed by ITU Institute of Science and Technology were reorganized in the 2001-2002 Academic Year. Four master's programs and four Ph.D. Programs under the Urban and Regional Planning Division were also reconstructed. Three Ph.D. Programs combined into the one, and titled Urban and Regional Planning Ph.D.; Urban Design Ph.D. program was joined with the Urban and Regional Ph.D. Program. The Landscape Graduate Program Master's and Ph.D. were transferred to newly established Department of Landscape Architecture. Urban Design Master's Program was formed under the control of inter-disciplinary structure consisting of Urban Planning, Architecture and Landscape Department.[32]

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT URBAN DESIGN MASTER PROGRAM AT ITU

After this broad shift, the Interdisciplinary Urban Design MSc Program was conducted under the auspices of the ITU Graduate School of Science, Engineering and Technology in collaboration with three departments: Architecture, Urban and Regional Planning, and Landscape Architecture in the Faculty of Architecture. In 2011, Urban Design Master Program was revised according to the guidelines of the ITU Graduate School of Science, Engineering and Technology's "Continuous Quality Improvement Process in Graduate Education" program. To this end, the aims and the mission of the program were redefined, a program advisory board was formed, and the curriculum was revised.[33]

The vision of the Interdisciplinary Urban Design MSc Program is defined as: "to educate those students specializing in the field of urban design by focusing on improving urban spatial quality and physical form and to evaluate ambiguous events concerning urban design theories, resilient practices, methods and the design process itself."

The most recent Interdisciplinary Urban Design MSc Program requires a total of 36 credits (90 ECTS). The Program includes compulsory courses (8 credits), electives (28 credits) and a seminar presentation (Table 3)[34]. The program finishes with the submission of the thesis. The courses include research methodology (12.5% of the entire program); theory (12.5%); design thinking (25%); and several specialized fields of urban design study. The specialized areas of study offered by this Interdisciplinary Urban Design MSc Program are Environmental Quality of the Urban Fabric; Urban Design Standards; Urban Renewal, Urban Preservation; Urban Development; Design of New Residential Areas; Urban Image and Identity; Computer Aided Urban Design; and The Evaluation and Design of Public Areas. The curriculum of Urban Design Master Program at ITU is intended to cover the dimensions of urban design research fields such as morphological, perceptual, social, visual communicative, functional and temporal issues. There are currently 117 students in the program, 35 of whom have passed the courses and had only to submit their dissertations. There are 3.4 students per faculty member in the program.[35]

	FALL TERM	CREDITS	SPRING TERM	CREDITS
Compulsory	Urban Design Project I	6 (15)	Urban Design Project II	6 (15)
	Urban Design Theory	3 (7,5)	Contemporary Approaches to Urban Design	3 (7,5)
	Research Methods for Urban Design	3 (7,5)	Urban Morphology	3 (7,5)
	Seminar	—	Seminar	—
	Specialization Field Course	—	Specialization Field Course	—
Electives	Housing Design	3 (7,5)	Urban Renewal Methods	3 (7,5)
	Urban Pattern	3 (7,5)	Social Ecology and Built Environment	3 (7,5)
	Environmental Evaluation of Urban Open Spaces	3 (7,5)	The Role of Urban Design in Economic Development	3 (7,5)
	Land Development Process	3 (7,5)	Sustainable Urban Design	3 (7,5)
	Cities of Tomorrow	3 (7,5)	Interdisciplinary Design Research	3 (7,5)
	Urban Representation: (re) mapping of Istanbul	3 (7,5)	Special Topics in Urban Design	3 (7,5)
	Planning, Design and Management in Conservation Areas	3 (7,5)		
	Interdisciplinary Design Research	3 (7,5)		
	Special Topics in Urban Design	3 (7,5)		

TABLE 3 ITU, Interdisciplinary Urban Design Master Program in 2016, credits and (ECTS credits)[34]

STRUCTURE AND PROCESS OF THE INTERDISCIPLINARY URBAN DESIGN STUDIO

The Urban Design Studios aim at developing alternative proposals of an urban scenario, interactions between spatial organizations of buildings and the built environment, daily urban life, land use and transportation problems in new or existing urban areas which have different functions. Designing of contemporary settlement pattern towards future generation and presentation of ideas in two and three-dimensional urban design techniques and models. The complex issues confronting the cities in Turkey have obliged the studio to be based on a primarily urban context, rather than the selection of a study site. Various types of case study areas have been selected for studying these approaches within the Interdisciplinary Urban Design Studio. In the past five years, these were Tokat and Mardin, which are Anatolian cities with a strong cultural heritage potential, and those sub-districts of Istanbul, which have undergone change selected to investigate and promote discussions on the city's vulnerability and resiliency.

Urban design studios should be interdisciplinary rather than multidisciplinary as explained by Hirt and Luescher. "Multidisciplinary typically refers to knowledge-building, which occurs when problems are addressed through the lens of several disciplines operating in parallel to each other"[36]; and Julie Klein expressed same approach as "It is a means of solving problems and answering questions that cannot be satisfactorily addressed using single methods or approaches." Interdisciplinary takes a step further. It fosters learning between the disciplines and seeks their analytical and methodological integration."[37] The studio process is aimed at encouraging an interdisciplinary environment conducted according to urban design phases when analysing a given project site (Figure 1), discussing the urban context (Figure 2), understanding the urban design studio dynamics with their processes and phases (Figure 3, and 4); and finally submitting a detailed proposed program. During this process, there is a platform that allows an information flow between the students and the instructors. Also, both desk critiques and juries are held throughout the term, and there are scheduled seminars with contributions from academic and professional scholars and colleagues.

İpek Akpınar | Nuran Zeren Gülersoy | Turgay Kerem Koramaz | Ahsen Özsoy | Ebru Erbaş Gürler
THE MAKING OF AN URBAN DESIGNER: INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE EDUCATION AT ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (ITU)

FIGURE 1 Project from Kazim Karabekir Neighbourhood Urban Design, Sariyer, Istanbul, held in the urban design studio – Master Plan, held in the Urban Design Studio 2014

V.07 P.029 **İpek Akpınar | Nuran Zeren Gülersoy | Turgay Kerem Koramaz | Ahsen Özsoy | Ebru Erbaş Gürler**
THE MAKING OF AN URBAN DESIGNER: INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE EDUCATION AT ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (ITU)

FIGURE 2 Project from Kadikoy, Istanbul, held in the urban design studio – the poster represents the site of urban settings, 2015

FIGURE 3 Project for the Tuzla Water Treatment Facility and its surrounding, Istanbul, held in the urban design studio – Master Plan, held in the Urban Design Studio, 2015

FIGURE 4 Urban Transformation Project, Haskoy Istanbul, held in the Urban Design Studio 2015

What makes the ITU urban design studio extraordinary is not only the participation of three departments, but also the student profile, which consists of three professions: architects, planners, and landscape architects. The studio is therefore based on not only on integrated methods of the included disciplines but also on an interactive study environment among the students. This approach has benefits in developing their discussion and critical thinking skills concerning complex urban dynamics. This collaborative work enhances the students' theoretical knowledge via conversation and reveals some affirmative conflicts. In addition to the interaction within the student groups, there is also mutual information flows between the instructors and the students.

İpek Akpınar | Nuran Zeren Gülersoy | Turgay Kerem Koramaz | Ahsen Özsoy | Ebru Erbaş Gürler

THE MAKING OF AN URBAN DESIGNER: INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE EDUCATION AT ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (ITU)

CONCLUDING REMARKS

This paper focuses on the interdisciplinary design and education approach in the studio, and its ability to respond to complex urban issues by evaluating ambiguous events concerning urban design theories; incorporating resilient practices and methods, and refining the design process. Also, the historical background structure of the studio and recent changes to both the program and contextual urban design studio process were given.

In answer to the experiences and literature discussions of interdisciplinary urban design, the Interdisciplinary Urban Design Program, and Studio is intended to equip prospective urban designers with the joint professional skills indicated below:

— Understanding the relationships between the complex built environment and social, economic and cultural factors;
— Finding solutions to problems related to land-use, transportation system, building ordinance, etc.
— Defining other factors which create urban patterns and the interactions between them;
— Designing contemporary settlement patterns for future generations. Accounting for the multi-layered city dynamics of the 21st century and developing resilient design proposals for new challenges such as global warming, high-profit urban transformation projects, immigrants and ecological problems.

This paper may provide a critical discussion for a broader understanding of the resiliency in the urban design education in Turkey, and in general may serve as a guide for the relocation of urban design teaching within planning history.

Notes on contributor(s)

İpek Akpınar is an associate professor at ITU, and conducts architectural and urban design studios as well as lecturing master and Ph.D. courses on the relationship between architecture and the urban, political and cultural contexts. Currently, she is the member of Urban Design Master Program Committee.

Nuran Zeren Gülersoy is a Professor of the Urban and Regional Planning Department at ITU Faculty of Architecture as well as an architect and urban planner. Her major areas of interest are urban conservation, urban planning, urban design and history. Currently, she is the head of Urban Design Master Program Committee.

Turgay Kerem Koramaz is an associate professor at ITU and gives lectures on a systems approach, site analysis, research methodology, and information – communication technologies in urban planning and design. Currently, he is the member of Urban Design Master Program Committee.

Ahsen Özsoy is a professor of Department of Architecture at ITU and conducts architectural design studios as well as lecturing at undergraduate and graduate levels. Her major fields of interests are housing design and quality issues, earthquake and housing design, environment-behaviour theories, and modernism and housing.

Ebru Erbaş Gürler is an assistant professor of the Landscape Architecture Department at ITU, and conducts landscape and urban design studios as well as lecturing graduate and undergraduate courses on theory and critics in landscape architecture, interdisciplinary relations among design disciplines. Currently, she is the member of Urban Design Master Program Committee.

Endnotes

1   Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM) and Construction Directorate Geotechnical and Earthquake Investigation Department (IDMP). *Earthquake Master Plan for Istanbul.* (Istanbul: IMM Publishing, 2003).

2   Carmona et al., *Public Places Urban Spaces, the Dimensions of Urban Design.* (U.K.: Architectural Press, 2005).

3   Madanipour, Ali. *The design of urban space: An inquiry into a socio-spatial process.* (New York: John Wiley & Son Ltd, 1996).

4   Carmona; M., Heath, T., Oc, T., Tiesdell, S., *Public Places Urban Spaces, the Dimensions of Urban Design,* (U.K.: Architectural Press, 2005).

5   Deneç-Aysev, Evren. *Kentsel Mekan Üretim Süreçlerinde Mimarın Rolü: İstanbul Örneği.*(Unpublished doctoral dissertation), ITU Institute of Science and Technology, 2013.

6   Lefebvre, Henri. The right to the city. *Writings on Cities,* (Oxford:Blackwell 1996), 63-181.

7   Harvey, David. The right to the city. In (eds) LeGates and Stout. *The City Reader.* (NY, USA: Routledge: 2008). 270-278.

8   Tanyeli, Uğur. *Mimarligin Aktörleri: Türkiye 1900-2000.* (İstanbul: Garanti Galeri, 2007).

9   Kuyucu, Tuna. *Poverty, Property, and Power: Making Markets in Istanbul's Low-income Informal Settlements.* (Istanbul, 2009).

10 Lang, J., *Urban Design, A Typology of Procedures and Products.* (U.K.: Architectural Press, 2007).

11 Brown, L. J., Dixon, D., Gillham, O., *Urban Design for an Urban Century, Placemaking for People.* (UK: John Wiley & Sons, Inc, 2009).

12 Ibid.

13 Gülersoy Zeren, Nuran; Akpinar, Ipek; and Seckin, Y. Cağatay. *Urban Design Master's Program Report of Continuous Quality Improvement Process in Graduate Education.* (Unpublished Report) Istanbul Technical University, Institute of Science and Technology. (İstanbul, Turkey: ITU, 2015).

14 Url-1, *Website of Academic Schedule for Master of Architecture in Urban (Planning and) Design,* http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/#/academic-programs/urban-planning-design/urban-design/degree-programs/academic-schedule.html < 23 May 2015>

15 Url-2, *Website of Urban Design MA in University of Westminister,* http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/subjects/planning-housing-and-urban-design/postgraduate-courses/full-time/p09fpubd-ma-urban-design <23 May 2015>

16 Url-3, *Website of MArch Urban Design, University College London, The Bartlett School of Architecture,* http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/architecture/programmes/postgraduate/march-urban-design <23 May 2015>

17 Url-4, *Website of Master of Urban Design Program, University of California, Berkeley, College of Environmental Design,* http://ced.berkeley.edu/academics/urban-design/master-of-urban-design/ <23 May 2015>

18 Url-5, *Website of Master of Science in Urban Design Program, The University of Texas at Austin, School of Architecture,* http://soa.utexas.edu/urbandesign/program#msud, <23 May 2015>

19 Url-6, *Website of PgDip / PgCert / MA Urban Planning Design, London South Bank University, Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences, Department of Urban, Environment and Leisure,* http://prospectus.lsbu.ac.uk/courses/course.php?UCASCode=unknown&CourseID=9528, < 23 May 2015>

20 Url-7, *Website of The Joint Program in City Design and Development, Massachusetts Institute of Technology,* Institute of Science and Technology,

21 Ibid.

22 Url-1, *Website of Academic Schedule for Master of Architecture in Urban (Planning and) Design,* http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/#/academic-programs/urban-planning-design/urban-design/degree-programs/academic-schedule.html < 23 May 2015>

23 Url-4, *Website of Master of Urban Design Program, University of California, Berkeley, College of Environmental Design,* http://ced.berkeley.edu/academics/urban-design/master-of-urban-design/ <23 May 2015>

24 Url-1, *Website of Academic Schedule for Master of Architecture in Urban (Planning and) Design,* http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/#/academic-programs/urban-planning-design/urban-design/degree-programs/academic-schedule.html < 23 May 2015>

25 Url-3, *Website of MArch Urban Design, University College London, The Bartlett School of Architecture,* http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/architecture/programmes/postgraduate/march-urban-design <23 May 2015>

26 Url-2, *Website of Urban Design MA in University of Westminister,* http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/subjects/planning-housing-and-urban-design/postgraduate-courses/full-time/p09fpubd-ma-urban-design <23 May 2015>

27 Gulersoy-Zeren, Nuran. ITU Faculty of Architecture Department of Urban and Regional Planning, *Catalog 2008, İstanbul Technical University Faculty of Architecture Department of Urban and Regional Planning.* (Istanbul: ITU, 2008). 1, 2.

28 Hacıhasanoglu, Orhan. The Education of Urban Design in Turkey. In *the International Urban Planning and Design Symposium in Memory of Professor Kemal Ahmet Arû,* (Istanbul: Istanbul Technical University, Turkey: 2012).

29 Ibid.

30 Gülersoy Zeren, Nuran. ITU Faculty of Architecture Department of Urban and Regional Planning, *Catalog 2008, İstanbul Technical University Faculty of Architecture Department of Urban and Regional Planning.* (Istanbul: ITU, 2008). 1, 2.

17th IPHS Conference, Delft 2016 | **HISTORY ▪ URBANISM ▪ RESILIENCE** | VOLUME 07 Planning Theories, Pedagogies and Practices |

Planning Theories, Pedagogies and Practices | *Universities and Cities: Educational Institutions as Urban Form in Microcosm*

31   Ibid.

32   Hacıhasanoğlu, Orhan. The Education of Urban Design in Turkey. In *the International Urban Planning and Design Symposium in Memory of Professor Kemal Ahmet Arû*, (Istanbul: Istanbul Technical University, Turkey: 2012).

33   Gülersoy Zeren, Nuran; Akpinar, Ipek; and Seckin, Y. Cağatay. *Urban Design Master's Program Report of Continuous Quality Improvement Process in Graduate Education.* (Unpublished Report) Istanbul Technical University, Institute of Science and Technology. (İstanbul, Turkey: ITU, 2015).

34   Ibid.

35   Ibid.

36   Julie Thompson. *Interdisciplinary: History, Theory, and Practice.* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1990.

37   Hirt, Sonia, and Luescher, Andreas. Collaboration between architects and planners in an urban design studio: Potential for interdisciplinary learning. *Journal of Design Research,* 6. 4 (2007): 422-443.

Bibliography

Brown, L. J.; Dixon, D.; Gillham, O. *Urban Design for an Urban Century, Placemaking for People.* UK: John Wiley & Sons, Inc, 2009.

Carmona, M., Heath, T., Oc, T., Tiesdell, S. *Public Places Urban Spaces, the Dimensions of Urban Design.* UK: Architectural Press, 2005.

Gülersoy Zeren, Nuran. ITU Faculty of Architecture Department of Urban and Regional Planning. *Catalog 2008, İstanbul Technical University Faculty of Architecture Department of Urban and Regional Planning.* Istanbul: ITU, 200: 1, 2.

Gülersoy Zeren, Nuran; Akpinar, Ipek; and Seckin, Y. Cağatay. *Urban Design Master's Program Report of Continuous Quality Improvement Process in Graduate Education.* (Unpublished Report) Istanbul Technical University, Institute of Science and Technology. İstanbul, Turkey: ITU, 2015.

Hacıhasanoğlu, Orhan. The Education of Urban Design in Turkey. In *the International Urban Planning and Design Symposium in Memory of Professor Kemal Ahmet Arû.* Istanbul: Istanbul Technical University, Turkey: 2012.

Harvey, David. The right to the city. In (eds) LeGates and Stout. *The City Reader.* NY, USA: Routledge, 2008, 270-278.

Hirt, Sonia, and Luescher, Andreas. Collaboration between architects and planners in an urban design studio: Potential for interdisciplinary learning. *Journal of Design Research,* 2007, 6.4: 422-443.

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM) and Construction Directorate Geotechnical and Earthquake Investigation Department (IDMP). *Earthquake Master Plan for Istanbul.* Boğaziçi Un vers ty, Istanbul Technical Un vers ty, Middle East Techn cal Un vers ty, Yildiz Techn cal Un vers ty. Istanbul: IMM Publishing, 2003.

Klein, Julie Thompson. *Interdisciplinary: History, Theory, and Practice.* Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1990.

Kuyucu, Tuna. *Poverty, Property, and Power: Making Markets in Istanbul's Low-income Informal Settlements,* Istanbul, 2009.

Lang, J. *Urban Design, A Typology of Procedures and Products,* U.K.: Architectural Press, 2007.

Lefebvre, Henri. The right to the city. *Writings on Cities,* 1996, 63-181.

Madanipour, Ali. *The design of urban space: An inquiry into a socio-spatial process.* New York: John Wiley & Son Ltd, 1996.

Tanyeli, Ugur. *Mimarligin Aktörleri: Türkiye 1900-2000.* İstanbul: Garanti Galeri, 2007.

Url-1, *Website of Academic Schedule for Master of Architecture in Urban (Planning and) Design,* http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/#/academic-programs/urban-planning-design/urban-design/degree-programs/academic-schedule.html < 23 May 2015>

Url-2, *Website of Urban Design MA in University of Westminister,* http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/subjects/planning-housing-and-urban-design/postgraduate-courses/full-time/p09fpubd-ma-urban-design <23 May 2015>

Url-3, *Website of MArch Urban Design, University College London, The Bartlett School of Architecture,* http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/architecture/programmes/postgraduate/march-urban-design <23 May 2015>

Url-4, *Website of Master of Urban Design Program, University of California, Berkeley, College of Environmental Design,*   http://ced.berkeley.edu/academics/urban-design/master-of-urban-design/ <23 May 2015>

Url-5, *Website of Master of Science in Urban Design Program, The University of Texas at Austin, School of Architecture,* http://soa.utexas.edu/urbandesign/program#msud, <23 May 2015>

Url-6, *Website of PgDip/PgCert/MA Urban Planning Design, London South Bank University, Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences, Department of Urban, Environment and Leisure,* http://prospectus.lsbu.ac.uk/courses/course.php?UCASCode=unknown&CourseID=9528, < 23 May 2015>

Url-7, *Website of The Joint Program in City Design and Development, Massachusetts Institute of Technology,* http://dusp.mit.edu/cdd/program/academics <23 May 2015>