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3rd Istanbul Design Biennial
ARE WE HUMAN?
The Design of the Species
2 seconds, 2 days, 2 years, 200 years, 200,000 years

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INTRODUCTION

The social responsibility of architecture and design is a longstanding question. Issues such as testing the hegemony architecture exerts professionally; architecture looking at the other, at the one on the threshold, and advocating their rights do not have a place in the discourse of mainstream architecture; they are discussions that tiptoe around it. It could be said that it is a rare occasion in Turkey to see the inured practice of architecture ruptured through different means, to find architects and architecture students coming together to create new discourses. A practice of architecture that seeks common ground can only emerge from these acts of coming together and organizing. These movements, which in a way emerge from outside the system, are also the history of the methods and strategies of coming together. And at other times, these acts of coming together are attempts to further validate and entrench the system.

Even though the initial organizing efforts of architects seem as an intention of drawing vocational borders and a tool of increasing vocational power, alternative efforts at coming together correspond to the power of organizing in spatial practice.

Typical independent architecture organizations that start out with Türk Mimarlar Cemiyeti (Society of Turkish Architects) acquire the status of a vocational chamber with the enactment of law on TMMOB (The Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects) in the 1950s. Chamber branch offices have multiplied and organizing efforts in various provinces have continued in the 1980s. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, architecture’s field of knowledge begins to be deconstructed by informal groups founded by architects and architecture students, and individual initiatives. The declaration by the students of Istanbul Academy of Fine Arts in those years is noteworthy. The work undertaken by groups in gecekondu (informal housing) neighborhoods in the 1970s and 80s are instances that render the social struggle visible. In the 1990s, student groups getting acquainted with international mediums such as EASA (European Architecture Students Assembly) facilitates innovative endeavors in education. In the early 2000s, many groups experiment with on-site design and informal education. In recent years, architecture groups become more active in advocacy for urban rights and the establishment of diverse architectural practices.

This text, which is an endeavor for a chronology in the framework of society, architecture, design and education, is open to participation, addition and revision from other parties. The aim of this work is not to enumerate all developments and initiatives in its own framework. Its primary goal is not to recapture the events, or introduce and render visible initiatives that involve commonalities. The aim of this compilation can at best be a humble chronological account; consequences pertaining to certain reasons; continuities despite some interruptions; beginnings sometimes born from endings; and a little dialectic.
The school training personnel specialized in shipbuilding and nautical cartography is founded at the Haliç Naval Shipyard with the aim of providing engineering education in the Western tradition for the first time in the Ottoman State. The founder of the school is the Hungarian nobleman Baron de Tott. The school is significant in that it is a pioneer in technical education.

Sanayi-i Nefise Mektebi (School of Fine Arts), which is currently Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, is founded in 1882. The founding president of the school is Osman Hamdi Bey, appointed by Abdülhamid II. Established in line with the tradition of École Des Beaux-Art in Paris, painting, sculpture, architecture, engraving, and art courses are taught at the school.

Even though it operates under the army, Hendese-i Mülkiye Mektebi (School of Civil Engineering) offers civil engineering education. The school is established in line with the tradition of École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (National School of Bridges and Roads) in France. Later on, the school transitions from the French system to the German system. Architect Kemaleddin Bey is among the teachers of the school.

With the atmosphere of freedom introduced by the Second Constitutional Period, architects and engineers who come together through the initiative of architect Kemaleddin Bey decide to establish the Ottoman Society of Engineers and Architects. Convening at the railway station garden in Sirkeci on August 28, 1908 (Hijri date: August 15, 1324), the architects and engineers form a temporary board. It is possible to date the official founding of the society as September since it issued its first statute and registered its members in September. Many of the members of the association are graduates of the School of Civil Engineering. The founding objectives of the society are as follows:

- Protecting the rights of Ottoman engineers and architects,
- Working for the development of public works and architecture in the Ottoman Empire,
- Establishing a meeting center for Ottoman engineers and architects,
- Protecting engineers and architects in need,
- Conducting studies and scientific research on engineering and architecture,
- Strengthening friendship and alliance among Ottoman engineers and architects,
- Publicly promoting figures who serve to advance and improve engineering and architecture, and acclaimed contractors and workers who have stood out with their knowledge, expertise and honesty.

It is surmised that the activities of the society were suspended in 1912.

The Association of Architects and Engineers in Turkey, widely known by its French name, is mostly comprised of non-Turkish non-Muslim engineers and architects. Its statute states that architects and engineers residing in Turkey and complying with the conditions foreseen in the statute can become members of the association irrespective of religion or nationality, and that Ottoman, German, French, Austrian, Italian, Swiss, Egyptian and British colleagues have come together under this organization.

The social transformation in the Ottoman Empire and the 1908 constitution of the Second Constitutional Period lead to the right and freedom to form an association. These associations, which can be founded without any legal restrictions in the Second Constitutional Period, are recognized by Cemiyetler Kanunu (Law of Associations) on August 16, 1909, and subsequent to this law, provided constitutional guarantee with the article added to the new Ottoman constitution, Kanun-i Esasi (The Basic Law).
1914 İNAS SANAYİ-İ NEFİSE MEKTEBİ (WOMEN’S SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS)

İnas Sanayi-İ Nefise Mektebi (Women’s School of Fine Arts) is established in 1914 for female students. It becomes coed in 1920 and merges with the School of Fine Arts in 1926.

1919 MÜHENDİS BİRLİĞİ YURDU (ENGINEERS’ UNION SOCIETY)

Reputedly there was a society with this name in a building on Boğazkesen Avenue in Tophane.

1927 TÜRK MİMARLAR CEMİYETİ (SOCIETY OF TURKISH ARCHITECTS)

The society is one of the first examples of independent organizing around architecture in the Republican period. Following the foundation of the Republic, in some respect as a continuation of the organizing initiatives in the Ottoman period, two organizations are founded one after another, only twenty days apart: Society of Turkish Architects on February 18, 1927 in Ankara and Güzel Sanatlar Birliği Mimar Birliği Şubesı (Architecture Branch of the Fine Arts Union) on March 9, 1927 in Istanbul. In 1934, members of the Architecture Branch of the Fine Arts Union establish the Istanbul Branch of the Society of Turkish Architects, and with their statute officially adopted in 1939, they change their name to Türk Yüksek Mimarlar Birliği (Turkish Architects Union). According to this statute, Ankara becomes the headquarters and Istanbul the branch office. Following the establishment of TMMOB (The Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects) and the Chamber of Architects under the union in 1954, the Istanbul branch office is closed in 1965 and the Türk Mimarlar Derneği (Association of Turkish Architects) is founded. Since 1973, this organization has been continuing its activities in Ankara under the name Mimarlar Derneği 1927 (Architects’ Association 1927). Its range of activities includes organizing regular panel discussions, holding competitions for architecture students, participating in joint programs in architecture with other civil society organizations, and publications. The headquarters of the association is located in the Cinnah 19 apartment building in Ankara designed by Nejat Ersin. The apartment building is a structure that bears traces of the modern examples of the era and considered one of the touchstones in the history of architecture in Turkey.

1927 ARCHITECTURE BRANCH OF THE FINE ARTS UNION

Osmanlı Ressamlar Cemiyeti (Ottoman Painters Association), which is founded in 1909 largely by graduates of the School of Fine Arts, is reorganized on March 9, 1927 under the name Fine Arts Union to include fields of architecture, painting, sculpture and decorative arts; architects from Istanbul come together under the umbrella of the Architecture Branch of the Fine Arts Union.

1934 TÜRK YÜKSEK MİMARLAR BİRЛИĞİ (TURKISH ARCHITECTS UNION)

In 1934, the administration of the Society of Turkish Architects and representatives of architects from Istanbul and İzmir come together and decide to expand the society into a multi-branch organization spanning the entire country and to change its name to Türk Yüksek Mimarlar Birliği (Turkish Architects Union). It is under this name that the organization has participated in the first congress of UIA (International Union of Architects) held in Lausanne in 1948 and become one of the founding members of the union.

1954 TMMOB – TÜRK MÜHENDİS VE MİMAR ODALARI BİRLERİ KAÑUNU (LAW ON THE UNION OF CHAMBERS OF TURKISH ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS)

Founded per Law no. 6235 issued in 1954 on the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects, the Chamber of Architects holds its first general assembly on December 15, 1954 at the Istanbul Academy of Fine Arts. Initially the country is divided into three regions as the Ankara, Istanbul and İzmir branches. New representative offices are established in the 1960s; the organization has further expanded throughout the country with the practice of professional monitoring and even reached towns. As of the second half of the 1980s, a majority of these representative offices acquire the status of a branch office. While the Chamber of Architects has a constitutive quality as a vocational chamber in the 1950s, it is influenced by the communitarian, socially-driven dynamics of the 1960s and assumes a communitarian character in the 1970s. Despite a hiatus experienced in the 1980s, it assumes a significant role in the urban struggle for public good and social welfare. Today, it is one of the leaders of urban struggle. In addition to being a vocational chamber, the Chamber of Architects aims to expand the public outreach of the profession through the activities and competitions it organizes. Its rights and fields of activity have been curbed by the amendments to
AFTER THE 1966 VARTO EARTHQUAKE

Revolutionary student Sinan Cemgil (in the white shirt) of the generation of '68 visiting the region after the Varto earthquake.

Source: Taylan Cemgil Archive
the TMMOB Law introduced by the AKP government, though it remains the architecture organization with the highest number of members.

1954 VILLAGE INSTITUTES ARE CLOSED DOWN

Founded in the 1940s, Village Institutes aimed to transform the perception of teaching in villages from one of a mandatory duty to a service provided by volunteers. The institutes strived to devise solutions to various problems in the villages and increase their productivity through a populist approach that aimed to overcome the inequalities of opportunity between urban and rural life.

1958 METU DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

The internship program Middle East Technical University Department of Architecture organizes and runs for undergraduate students entails the construction of a small-scale building in a rural area during the summer months. This practice is directly linked to equipping the students with a communitarian approach and perspective. The trip to the Varto district of Muş after the earthquakes in 1966 that destroy all the settlements in the district is one of the important examples of these summer internships where the approach in question is evident.

1960 27 MAY COUP D’ÉTAT AND CONSTITUTION OF 1961

The National Union Committee established in the process of May 27 issues a decision to suspend 147 academicians from the university with a law it enacts on October 28, 1960. Emin Onat, who is the founder of Istanbul Technical University Faculty of Architecture and the first registered member of the Chamber of Architects, is also among these 147 academicians. A year and a half later, the Senate of Istanbul Technical University succeeds in reinstating its academicians, but Emin Onat has already passed away in July 1961.

On the other hand, the 1961 Constitution includes progressive measures on civil organizing such as the right to form an association without prolonged permission processes, the right to demonstration and organizing protests, and the right to form unions for civil servants and workers.

1963 HALKEVLERİ (PEOPLE’S HOUSES) AS AN INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC MASS ORGANIZATION ONCE AGAIN

Established in 1932 upon a decision taken at the 3rd Congress of CHP (Republican People’s Party), Halkevleri (People’s Houses) are closed down in 1951 by Demokrat Parti (Democrat Party). Allowed to be reopened in 1963 as an independent initiative with the status of an association, People’s Houses are once again closed down with the September 12, 1980 military coup. Since 1987, they have been continuing their activities with an approach that advocates for human rights, environmental rights and the right to education, health, shelter, transportation for all.

The 1960s are years when the youth of the country are preoccupied by the poverty of the people alongside national issues, with a focus on social integration. And university students are a part of the urban struggle and solidarity through the actions and activities they spearhead or join. Due to the fact that Village Institutes and People’s Houses, which could have also provided the opportunity to think about architectural problems of Anatolia, are short-lived, it could be said that until the second half of the 1950s architecture education is limited to Istanbul and it is oblivious to the East, the town, the village. Only after the mid-1950s does architecture education extend outside Istanbul to Ankara, and in the 1960s it begins to transform into a social responsibility and assume a communitarian character.

1968 UNIVERSITY OCCUPATIONS

A month after May 68, in June of 1968, university occupations begin in Turkey with students’ demand for reform in education. The boycotts and occupations that start at Istanbul University and Istanbul Technical University spread throughout the country. The students demand change not just in education but also in living conditions. Forums begin to be organized at universities, bringing student groups together and providing the opportunity for everyone to share their ideas freely. The boycott and occupation that lasts three weeks is ended when students, with the support of faculty, are assured that their demands will be taken into consideration.

1969 ZAB RIVER BRIDGE (REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH BRIDGE)

1969 is the year when the idea for the Boğaziçi Bridge, also known as the First Bridge, is solidified, even though the notion dates back to the 1950s. The campaign “A Bridge
UNIVERSITY OCCUPATIONS, 1968

University occupations in Turkey, initiated by students demanding education reform, start about a month after the May ‘68 protests in France. Early boycotts and sit-ins at Istanbul University and Istanbul Technical University soon spread to other cities. Forums that spontaneously assemble during this period allow student groups to come together in an environment where everyone is free to express their opinions. The boycotts last for three weeks, and the students, backed by faculty, are promised that their demands will be considered. These photographs, published on June 30, 1968, show State Academy of Fine Arts director Hüseyin Gezer meeting with student leaders (left), and a concurrent meeting (right) where faculty are reviewing student demands.

Source: Milliyet Daily Newspaper Archive

BOYCOTTS ARE CONTINUING, DECEMBER 10, 1968

Source: Milliyet Daily Newspaper Archive
News story dated July 10, 1969 about the youth setting out for the construction of Zab River Bridge (Revolutionary Youth Bridge).
Source: Milliyet Daily Newspaper Archive
over the Zab River not on the Bosphorus” highlighting the inequality between regions emerges from the simultaneity of the two bridge projects. Zab River Bridge project (Hakkari) is initiated through the joint efforts of the university students of the ‘68 generation. The construction of the bridge, which the public initially finds far-fetched, is realized through the joint efforts of university students who can work construction and the villagers.

1969 MİMARLIK SEMİNERİ (ARCHITECTURE SEMINAR)

Ankara Chamber of Architects member, architect Gürol Gürkan opens the Architecture Seminar in 1969 with a speech in line with the 1968 youth’s demands for social change. Emphasizing that architecture can no longer be a mediator in one-on-one relationships with individuals; that they should strive to work for people they don’t know, have never met, whom they don’t have personal relationships with, he states that approaches based on personal gratification will alienate the architect from society. In the same speech, Gürkan notes that the increasingly indurated discrepancy between what is taught as effective architecture at schools and the reality is the root of the problems and adds that the great fallacy is to seek the reason of these discrepancies in the education of the public rather than the architecture education.

1976 TMMOB CHAMBER OF INTERIOR ARCHITECTS

The Chamber of Interior Architects begins its activities as an association and acquires the status of a chamber in 1976. It is one of the predecessors of vocational organizations of interior architects worldwide with a chamber status. Defined as a point of equilibrium in the triangle of the profession, colleagues and the public, the Chamber of Interior Architects continues to work with aims and activities including advancing the profession; promoting professional rights and ethics; collaborating with other chambers of engineers and architects; contributing to interior architecture education; informing the public about interior architecture; organizing technical, cultural, social activities for its members.

1977 MAY 1st

On May 1st, 1977, which is celebrated with the participation of around 500,000 people coming to Istanbul from various cities of Turkey, gunshots are heard toward the end of the speech delivered at Taksim Square by the Chairman ofDİSK (Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey) Kemal Türkler; shots are fired at the crowd by “unknown forces”. Thirty four people die as a result of the gunshots and the ensuing stampede. Until 2010, when official permission is granted for celebrations at Taksim Square, the unsanctioned May 1st celebrations at the square take place with the participation of those who manage to get to the square. After three years, Taksim Square is again closed to May 1st celebrations on grounds of the pedestrianization project. Alternative places such as the new rally venue in Yenikapı appended to the city in a makeshift manner are designated as celebration sites, and mass struggle and commemoration at Taksim Square is prohibited.

Sociologist Şükrü Aslan divides the urban movements of the 1970s into two groups as class movements and social movements organized by individuals and groups from different segments of society. He asserts that social movements assume a political identity by uniting on specific issues. In 1977, a “People’s Committee” is founded in 1 Mayıs (May 1st) neighborhood of Istanbul. The committee functions as a self-organized democratic decision making body of the community for various spheres of life in the neighborhood in addition to the process of building a gecekondu district.

1978 GRAFİKERLER MESLEK KURULUŞU (GRAPHIC DESIGNERS VOCATIONAL ORGANIZATION)

Graphic Designers Vocational Organization (later, Graphic Designers Vocational Organization, GMK) is founded with objectives such as advancing, liberating, promoting the field of graphic design in Turkey; bringing designers together; protecting vocational rights. It brings together designers and professionals from various production industries through various events. It organizes an annual Graphic Design Exhibition with a selection of graphic products produced that year. It assists students’ professional training with GMK seminars and various workshops. It could be said that it also filled the gap left by the Graphic Artists Association which was founded in 1968 with similar aims but could not survive.

1980 SEPTEMBER 12 COUP D’ÉTAT AND CONSTITUTION OF 1982

The military intervention of the Turkish Armed Forces on September 12, 1980 and the subsequent measures lead to permanent backlashes as much in civilian life as in the political trajectory, the effects of which extend to this day. Various civil society organizations are closed down with the 1982 Constitution; the regimentations also affect education.
2 - MAY 1, 1977 TAKSIM SQUARE
Source: Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey (DİSK)
Archive
1981 FOUNDATION OF YÖK (COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION)

The coup d’état of September 12 holds unions and democratic civil society organizations also responsible for the state of affairs, and it includes universities in the mix. The element that creates the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) lies in this approach. With YÖK, the curricula of all universities in Turkey are made identical all the way down to course content. The Faculties of Architecture Education Program drafted by YÖK in 1982 specifies which course can be opened in which semester with detailed decisions extending to the number of hours for each course, and states that the program should be “implemented verbatim” every semester. While there is an intervention to education through YÖK on the one hand, with the liberal policies of the period universities are attempted to be banished from city centers on the other. It is no coincidence that the project for the relocation of Istanbul Technical University to a new campus in Ayazaga dates back to this period. The project also entails the intention of evacuating the Taşkışla building currently used as Istanbul Technical University Faculty of Architecture and transforming it into a hotel. The initiatives launched in order not to leave the Taşkışla campus in the 1980s and the reverberations of these initiatives contribute to the fact that Taşkışla still stands as the ITU Faculty of Architecture.

1987 TÜRK SERBEST MİMARLAR DERNEĞİ (ASSOCIATION OF TURKISH ARCHITECTS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE)

The Association of Turkish Architects in Private Practice (TSMD) is founded by architects who see that even though they are part of the TMMOB Chamber of Architects, they cannot be adequately active and influential in the chamber due to the inconstant and heterogeneous structure of chamber managements, with the aim of discussing problems of architecture and the profession and devising relevant solutions and maintaining a contemporary standard in their practice. About 60 architects in private practice who come together in late 1986 in Ankara decide to establish an association. More so than architects who are salary workers, the organization is comprised of self-employed architects in private practice. Membership requirements for TSMD include provisions such as currently practicing architecture under one’s own responsibility, having successful architectural works, studies, and research carried out under one’s own responsibility and attesting to one’s professional achievement. The association has representative offices and branches in different cities. In addition to printing various publications, it also organizes many events at the exhibition spaces in its venues. The exhibition space of the association in Ankara is one of the few architecture exhibition spaces of Turkey.

1988 ENDÜSTRİYEL TASARIMÇILAR MESLEK KURULUŞU (INDUSTRIAL DESIGNERS’ SOCIETY OF TURKEY, ETMK)

The Industrial Designers’ Society of Turkey (ETMK) is the first vocational organization in Turkey working in the field of industrial design. Founded in the mid-1980s by a group of industrial designers, EMTK currently has 480 members from Turkey and abroad. The Istanbul Branch of the association opened in 1998, the İzmir Branch in 2010, and the Ankara Branch in 2012. The main objectives of EMTK are publicizing the profession of industrial product design, defining and protecting rights and entitlements of designers, strengthening communication and solidarity among colleagues, and working with manufacturers and consumers to ensure that products with quality design are presented to the public.

1993 TÜRKİYE MİMARLIK ÖĞRENCİLERİ BULUŞMASI (ASSEMBLY OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS IN TURKEY, TMMOB) / ULUSAL MİMARLIK ÖĞRENCİLERİ BULUŞMASI (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS, UMÖB)

Assembly of Architecture Students in Turkey is launched in 1993 in Gökçeada by a group of architecture students who, after a European Architecture Students Assembly (EASA) held in Ürgüp, say “we can do this as well”. The assemblies taking place in different cities each time create the space for chance encounters, visits to faculties of architecture that would otherwise remain undiscovered, and all-nighters at these faculties students have been curious about.

1994 TMMOB PEYZAJ MİMARLARI ODASI (TMMOB CHAMBER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS)

The vocational organizing process of landscape architects, which began in 1966 under the name Landscape Architecture Association, continues since 1994 with a vocational chamber status. The Chamber of Landscape Architects is the only vocational organization of landscape architects in Turkey with a “public institute” status. The aims of the chamber include protecting the rights of its members; promoting solidarity and communication among members; advancing the profession in the framework of scientific principles, carrying out projects for the public good, monitoring freelance project and application offices; and collaborating
with other vocational chambers and various organizations with similar aims.

**2002 BETONART SUMMER SCHOOL**

Türkiye Çimento Müstahsilleri Birliği (Turkish Cement Manufacturers’ Association) has been organizing Betonart Summer School workshops under Betonart as a sustainable project for architectural culture since 2002. At Betonart Summer School workshops students and other actors find the opportunity to think and produce together. The objective of the workshops geared toward creating educational and collective environments has been articulated at the very first workshop with two points of departure: in terms of application, the workshops aim to explore and render visible the active use of concrete and cement, and they seek to contribute to architectural culture by merging theory and practice in education. Betonart Summer School constitutes a singular example in terms of its structure. It is one of the longest running initiatives in Turkey that is neither university nor student based, but brings them together through a third party with an independent and multi-partner structure.

**2006 DİFÜZYON (DIFFUSION)**

Difüzyon aims to bring different design disciplines together on a common ground and create a space for discussion. Organizing numerous diverse activities, workshops, discussion forums since 2006, the group aims to contribute to Istanbul architecture and design culture. The group’s activities include “Dörtyüzsaniye” (Fourhundredseconds), where projects invited from different design disciplines are shared in the form of short presentations; “Mimarlık Savaşılan” (Architecture Wars) which encourage architecture students to intensely generate ideas in a limited timeframe; “Kurusıkı” (Blank Shot) where an issue on the architecture agenda is scrutinized and discussed. Even though it is a Taşkısla centered group, Difüzyon also partners with other university initiatives.

**2006 MADE IN ŞİŞHANE**

Made in Şişhane is a project that aims to facilitate the emergence of a structure that will create the grounds for the promotion of creative ideas, the synergy of design-production, and the meeting of local needs with the rich and flexible production infrastructure of the Şişhane district. Launched through civil initiative, the project sets forth from the premise that by using the potentials and rendering visible the existent relations, the knockoff and contract manufacturing image of the district can be changed in a positive direction. It strives to present a sustainable and alternative future for the downtown small-scale production districts that face the threat of eradication in the near future due to the incursion of the merchandise from the Far East and become positioned solely as tourism centered spaces. It aims to show that the district has a structure that fosters creativity and support the quality development of the district.

**2006 İMECE-TOPLUMUN ŞEHİRCİLİK HAREKETİ (IMECE-COMMUNITY MOVEMENT FOR URBANISM)**

İMECE (meaning, collaborative labor) is an initiative launched in 2006 mobilizing people from various vocations under the slogan “the urbanist, that is you!” It is shaped on a collective ground where the community, professionals, academicians, students, the unemployed, in short everyone can freely share their opinions and decisions are discussed together and taken by consensus. With its completely non-hierarchical structure independent of all current political, vocational, civil organizations, it strives to expand the struggle against attacks and threats to living spaces and communalize the existent ones. Stating that it is not enough to be on the defense against the existent system, İMECE continues its efforts with the awareness that it has become vital for the present day to build a founding and inclusive alternative.

**2007 İMKAŅMEKAN (OPPORTUNITYSPACE)**

Founded in March 2007, İmkanmekan (Opportunityspace) aims to form a database for public space related design projects, organize application-oriented design workshops, and create a discussion platform. After 2008, the group expands its work to include design application workshops, publications, and events facilitating discussion on the idea of design in public space from different perspectives. İmkanmekan’s activities aim to contribute to public space design practice in the city and increase the quality of life in urban areas through small-scale interventions. It also works to realize its participants’ proposals with sponsorships from local actors or private institutions and organizations.

**2007 KAYITDİSİ (off the record)**

Kayıttdisi (off the record) is an informal collective founded by students and faculty of Yıldız Technical University Faculty of Architecture. It strives to disengage design from the formal structure of education to create awareness in people and bring them together on a joint platform. It produces and organizes interdisciplinary projects and activities that are open to the participation of everyone who can contribute
1 - BANNER ANNOUNCING THE DESIGN WEEK BY KAYITDİSİ
Source: Kayıtديثi Archive

2 - WHO ASKED YOU WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT TAKSİM2, 2012
The visual designed by Herkes İçin Mimarlık (Architecture for All) Association to publicize and open up to debate the Taksim Pedestrianization Project.
Source: Herkes İçin Mimarlık (Architecture for All) Archive
to the practice of design at various scales. The collective has worked actively between 2007 and 2011, organizing an annual design week where it has sought the opportunity for an informal education. Emerging as a breathing point in architecture, the structure of Kayıtdışı has changed after 2011, and it has realized creative street actions.

**2007-2009 ÖLÇEK 1/1 (SCALE 1/1)**

Coming together with the intention of bringing a different approach to the concept of scale that students are confined to throughout architecture education, Ölçek 1/1 (Scale 1/1) defines the experience process as not being afraid to enlarge the scale, struggling with detail, exploring what can be done beyond the boundaries of school, facing and resolving the problems, and in one sense, getting your hands dirty. An initiative founded through the volunteer efforts of a few undergraduate students from Istanbul Technical University Faculty of Architecture, Ölçek 1/1 has been spotted building lodgings for primary school teachers in a village in Kahramanmaraş in 2007 and a fishing port in a village of Giresun in 2008.

**2008 POLİTEKNİK MÜHENDİS MİMAR ŞEHİR PLANÇILARI DAYANIŞMA DERNEĞİ (POLYTECHNIC ENGINEERS ARCHITECTS URBAN PLANNERS SOLIDARITY ASSOCIATION)**

Polytechnic Engineers Architects Urban Planners Solidarity Association is an initiative that strives to be a part of the historical and social teachings and struggle of the working people for the liberation of humanity and nature, starting with the society it is a part of and is comprised of those who work, produce, create in various technical fields and use their knowledge, skills, and workforce to this end. It follows in the footsteps of the heritage of working for a society “governed by those who produce” and the tradition of the intellect and struggle to this end in an environment where the consequences of neoliberal policies are felt in the form of precarity in living spaces. It aims to be a platform of communication, discussion and intervention for the collective movement of engineers, architects, urban planners and other technical workers, and technical school students.

**2009 MEEKANAR**

Mekanar is a group that has been active since 2009 and defines itself as an interdisciplinary knowledge space for architecture. Having organized its initial meetings through open calls at the old Osmanlı Bank building which now houses SALT, Mekanar Space Investigations aims to understand space from within interdisciplinary knowledge by bringing together various disciplines ranging from architecture to social sciences, cinema to visual communication through the concept of space, and create a field of knowledge and language that will lend itself to novel and genuine discussions.

**2009 TETÖP – TÜRKİYE ENDÜSTRİVEL TASARIM ÖĞRENCİLERİ PLATFORMU (TURKEY INDUSTRIAL DESIGN STUDENTS PLATFORM)**

TETÖP is an independent student initiative without any organic ties to any person, institution or organization. It is a platform formed for industrial design students by industrial design students. The founding object of TETÖP is to create a platform for students at the university, where there is no rigid allegiance to any movement, where students do not approach one another with prejudices and thus create a common language and shift the power center, and work as a group that is sensitive to vocational issues and devises strategic solutions to these issues. TETÖP undertakes activities and organizes events in which design students come together.

**2010 BAYKUŞLAR TOPLANıYOR (OWLS GATHER)**

A group of architecture students from Dokuz Eylül University, İzmir University of Economics, İzmir Institute of Technology, and Yaşar University come together at the Chamber of Architects İzmir Branch Student Members Summer School Commission and launch a summer school project named Baykuşlar Toplanıyor (Owls Gather). The summer schools, which continue to date, aim to bring architecture students together so that they can share their experiences and carry architecture beyond books to points where it can be advanced by the human factor.

**2011 Bİ’SÜRÜ (A WHOLE BUNCH OF)**

B'i'sürü (A whole bunch of) is a student initiative that strives to question and present a whole bunch of alternatives with the awareness that in face of the architecture education, which it finds superficial and without alternatives, simply complaining is not enough. The group aims to realize solution geared alternatives through joint production processes that are not monotonous and which it believes will be enjoyable. The Yıldız Technical University Faculty of Architecture based group organizes design week activities and workshops.
2011 HERKES İÇİN MİMARLIK (ARCHITECTURE FOR ALL)

Herkes için Mimarlık (Architecture for All) Association brings together volunteer students and professionals from different backgrounds and aims to tackle social issues via architecture and related fields through participatory and transparent processes. It aims to open up a new space of experience within the confined field of architecture. Among the notable projects of the association, Atıf Köy Okulları Projesi (Idle Village Schools Project) entails rendering the village schools, which became idle after the transition to mobile teaching in Anatolia, functional again together with the local community. It realizes the application of such projects through volunteers most of whom are comprised of students. In addition to rural areas, Herkes için Mimarlık also works in the city. Its efforts on the urban scale include the annual Gezi Park Festivities, #occupygezi architecture, Beyoğlu Cinema, Mobile Urban Transformation Bureau.

2012 NO .12

No .12 is a creative ideas forum founded in December 2012 involving members who focus on architectural and artistic activities in their spare time from school. Comprised mostly of students from Uludağ University Department of Architecture, the initiative is student-based and centered in the Görükle Village of Bursa. The group has organized numerous events, seminars, working groups and meetings over time, and has become a fun interaction space in and outside the school.

2013 TAKŞİM GEZİ PARK RESISTANCE

2011 TAKŞİM PLATFORM

Taksim Platform is comprised of community associations, representatives of mass organizations, architects, and individuals of all ages from all segments of society who live in Taksim, experience Taksim, work in Taksim, pass through Taksim, or consider Taksim to be the city center. Taksim Platform has come together against the Gezi Park and Taksim Square Pedestrianization Project and spearheaded publicizing the issue to reach a broader base.

2012 TAKŞİM DAYANIŞMASI (TAKŞİM SOLIDARITY)

Taksim Dayanışması (Taksim Solidarity) was founded through the initiative of individuals who were against the Taksim Pedestrianization Project, which was being implemented in a fait accompli manner. It has set forth with a demand that Taksim should be restructured with a more holistic approach, taking into consideration its social, historical, cultural and ecological values, in line with universal theories and norms, through honest, transparent, participatory, and democratic methods. Not limiting itself to Taksim and adopting the aim of defending the right to the city, Taksim Solidarity is joined by many vocational chambers and unions, associations, platforms and volunteer initiatives over time.

The prime minister of the era, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan announces in a meeting at the Haliç Congress Center organized by AKP prior to the June 12, 2011 elections that they will reorganize Taksim Square. According to the project, the Topçu Kışlası (Artillerymen Barracks), which were built during the reign of Sultan Selim III and later destroyed, will be rebuilt in Gezi Park and all traffic will be moved underground. After the Gezi Park project is announced many activist groups state that this green area in the middle of the city cannot be destroyed; the old barracks cannot be revived, and that such a project is unacceptable. Thousands of signatures are collected and demonstrations are organized. Taksim Platform, comprised of academicians, experts, artists, launches a campaign with the slogan “Taksim belongs to all of us!” The opposition to the project gains strength over time with the support of Taksim Solidarity which also includes labor unions and vocational organizations. The annual Gezi Park Festivities launched by Architecture for All Association in March 2012 is a quest to introduce a spatial critique through creative tools, going beyond conventional protest methods. A total of 2,000 people participate in these festivities the association organizes between the months of March and October. While all this process is underway, the government barely speaks of the project or feeds a few visuals to the press. The demand of civil society is very clear: a transparent process for the project. Protests are held regularly with the Taksim Vigils organized by Taksim Solidarity. Taksim Gezi Park Koruma ve Güzelleştirme Derneği (Taksim Gezi Park Protection and Beautification Association) organizes the First Taksim Gezi Park Festival on April 14, 2013. Organized with the participation of many actors and musicians, the festival reaches large masses with the call “Stand Up for Taksim”. The message people want to give is quite evident: “We don’t want a top-down project; we want the park to remain as a green area.”

Despite all the efforts to engage in communication, with the news that trees are being cut in the park on May 27, 2013, Taksim Solidarity goes to the park with about 50 people and starts to keep watch. The protests continuing in a very peaceful manner grow with the participation of other people.
Around 5 a.m. in the morning of May 29, the police attack those in the park, remove the tents and construction is restarted. The very same day, during the opening ceremony of yet another controversial top-down project, the Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan says, “Do what you will. We have made our decision for that place. We’ll do it.”

Taksim Gezi Park Resistance has started with demonstrations that prevented the reconstruction of the Artillerymen Barracks without a zoning permit in the Gezi Park which is a public urban space. Due to the pertinacious attitude of the government which is not limited to the construction of the complex and the disproportionate police interventions, the demonstrations spread to cities outside Istanbul. In the first half of June 2013 many individuals and initiatives have camped in Gezi Park, and a common life and struggle space has been created by volunteers who formed units such as a library, infirmary, kitchen, etc. After this life in Gezi Park was ended, the emerging idea has spread and continued to flourish with forums organized in various parks of various cities. The disproportionate force employed by the government that has increased by the day has resulted in the deaths of protestors. The Gezi Park Resistance is an important turning point in terms of organizing and coming together.

2013 WHATABOUT

Whatabout is a student based design practice that works unremittingly and focusing on experimental production without pushing ideas to the background. It adopts the notion of “unmonitored/self-monitoring mechanisms without the need for an instructor”. The Whatabout team is trying out workshop formats with various workshops without a facilitator and trying to organize also in different cities.

2013 YERDEN YÜKSEK (“FEET OFF THE FLOOR” GAME)

Yerden Yükseks is an initiative that creates processes bringing together children, games and architecture. As a group trained with a background in design, it believes that the concept of playing cannot be replaced by other design recipes.

2013 PARADOX STUDIO

Paradox Studio is a small student group founded by Istanbul Technical University Faculty of Architecture students. Concerned about the quality of the education system they are a part of, the group aims to create an alternative solution and studio and work experience with the belief that it is necessary to go beyond existing techniques in the changing, evolving information age. They organize various activities such as panel discussions and workshops. The group initiates the workshop series titled “More” in 2015; it is aimed for “More” to continue as a studio without a facilitator—or as one in which everyone is the facilitator—creating its own pool of knowledge and curriculum, independent also from Paradox Studio.

2015 DÜZCE UMUT ATÖLYESİ (DÜZCE HOPE STUDIO) – BİRLİKTE MÜCADELE, BİRLİKTE TASARIM (STRUGGLE TOGETHER DESIGN TOGETHER)

Düzce Umut Atölyesi (Düzce Hope Studio) is a team who mobilized upon the demand of Düzce Disaster-affected Homeless People’s Housing Cooperative and the open call by Bir Umut Derneği – Dayanışmacı Atölye (One Hope Association – Solidarity Studio); it is comprised of volunteer citizens, academicians and students from different disciplines such as architecture, planning, civil engineering, communication, sociology, and law, and motivated by an open environment and working in a collective manner. It is a contemporary example of organized and participatory processes of housing production in Turkey.

2015 MİMAR MECLİSİ (ARCHITECTS ASSEMBLY)

Comprised of architects working in the public and private sectors and at universities and architecture students, Mimarlar Meclisi (Architects Assembly) defines itself as an organization that offers vocational services on a democratic-progressive-political axis, produces new ideas, and brings solution to issues pertaining to the profession of architecture. With the belief that under conditions where individual qualities, professional and personal egos take the front seat architecture will also be detached from the people, it employs the motto, “Architecture for the People, not for Economic Rent”. It aims to take its political approach beyond mere written and oral statements and put it into practice in applications. The rehabilitation process the Architects Assembly undertook on-site in the Küçük Armutlu Neighborhood (FSM) with the local community is an important example reflecting the objectives of the group.

2015 PLANKTON PROJECT

Plankton Project is an initiative that brings together designers who believe small-scale endeavors can have far reaching impact. One of Plankton Project’s notable projects is the bus stop they designed in the Ovacık district of Tunceli. The team has gotten in contact with the local authorities
1 - “WE HAVE HOPE IN OUR MORTAR”, DÜZCE UMUT ATÖLYESİ
(DÜZCE HOPE STUDIO)
Cooperative partners are also working together at the construction site, Beyköy, Düzce, 2016.
Source: Sınırlı Sorumlu Evsiz Depremzedeler Dayanışma ve Konut-Yapı Kooperatifi (Disaster-affected Homeless People’s Housing Cooperative)

2 - PLANKTON PROJECT IN OVACIK
A view of the volunteer project for a bus stop construction carried out by Plankton Project in collaboration with Ovacık Municipality.
Source: Plankton Project social media website
through its own initiative and met the design need through an on-site application. Plankton Project continues its work on various scales.

2015 TASARIM KÖYÜ İZMİR (DESIGN VILLAGE İZMİR)

The team who comes together to organize the İzmir leg of the National Architecture Students Assembly organizes their first activity in the Düzce Village of Seferihisar. Its main objective is to think, talk and produce at the intersection of what is taught at school and the local knowledge of villages whose numbers and population is gradually decreasing with the Metropolitan Municipality Law. During the stays in the village and at the workshops, it aims to put aside “urban opportunities and technologies” and experience the relations of production and social relations in the village in a context where time flows in a relatively more cyclical manner, and create an informal space for learning and sharing. The team is organizing its 2016 activities in another village of Seferihisar.

2015 BAŞKA BİR ATÖLYE (ANOTHER STUDIO)

Başka Bir Atölye (Another Studio) is a flexible initiative with broad participation including people from different schools and disciplines in its studios, spearheaded by architecture students and faculty from Kocaeli University Department of Architecture. It aims to investigate and discuss social contexts via place-space, and form various linkages with the space. It pursues this aim by moving architecture education beyond the campus. The playground area designed together with the village community in Saraylı Village of Gölcük, which was the epicenter of the 1999 earthquake, is among the projects of the group.

The role of the numerous urban, ecological, animal-rights, cycling organizations, solidarities, platforms, associations, cooperatives, forums, etc.,... which could not be covered by this work and could not be enumerated here thanks to their multitude is immense not only in the struggle, but also in the fact that such a chronology could be compiled.


**MİHRİBAN DUMAN**

Architect and research assistant Mihriban Duman received her BA and MA degrees in Architectural Design from the Architecture Department of Istanbul Technical University (ITU). Currently she is a PhD candidate at ITU Architectural Design Program. During her undergraduate years she joined the student initiative Ölçek 1/1 (Scale 1/1). She is also one of the founding members of the Architecture for All (Herkes İçin Mimarlık).

**YELTA KÖM**

Architect Yelda Köm studied architecture at Yıldız Technical University, where he co-founded “kayıtısı” collective with his friends. He completed his post-graduate degree at Staedelschule Architecture Class, Frankfurt. He is the co-founder and project-coordinator of Architecture For All (Herkes İçin Mimarlık, 2011). He practises and researches as a partner in KOTUstudio and lives in Berlin and in Istanbul.