

ESRA SERT

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Education

Postdoctoral Visiting Scholar | The New School, NYC | Laboratory for Urban Spatial + Landscape Research | 2025-2026

PhD | Middle East Technical University | Architecture | 2014-2020

Thesis Title: Urban Metabolism of İstanbul: Waterfronts as Metabolized Socio-Natures Between 1839 and 2019

MA | İstanbul Technical University | Landscape Architecture | 2010-2013

Thesis Title: Rain Water in the Energy Efficient Urban Landscape Design

BA | Yıldız Technical University | Architecture | 2003-2008

Fellowship

TUBİTAK 2219-Yurt Dışı Doktora Sonrası Araştırma Bursu 2024 Yılı (TUBITAK International Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program for Turkish Citizens)

İstanbul Studies Center (ISC) Doctoral Residency Fellowship | Kadir Has University 2019-2020

Language

English, advanced / Turkish, native

Papers

Sert, E. (2026) “İstanbul’da geleceğin mavi arkeolojisi: Deniz, kıyı ve gündelik yaşam”, **Kent Gündemi Araştırmaları**, Dosya: İstanbul’da Mavi Kamusalılık: Gündelik Hayatta Denizle Temaslar, sf: 19-24,, ISBN: 978-625-93733-3-1, Ocak 2026.

Sert, E. (2026) “From Water-Lots to Made Lands: NYC Waterfronts”, **The Urban Space Lab Notes**, February 23, 2026, <https://www.urbanspacelab.org/post/made-lands>

Sert, E. (2025) Mimarlık Eğitiminde Etik Üzerine Düşünmenin Zorluğu ve Potansiyelleri, **EGE Mimarlık**, 1 (125), s.44-52.

Sert, E. (2024) Urban Green Spaces of İstanbul: From ‘Beautifying’ Efforts to ‘Mega Projects’. **Planning Perspectives** 39(6), 1359–1380. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02665433.2024.2361372>

Sert, E. (2024) Metabolic Flows of Water in İstanbul in the Nineteenth Century: Tap Water, Waste, and Sanitation. **Journal of Urban History**, 50(1), 198-215.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/00961442211073461>

Sert, E. (2023) Betonun Kentteki Metabolik Yolculuğunun İzleri, **Betonart**, Beton, Mimarlık ve Tasarım Dergisi, Sayı 79, 62-68.

Sert, E. (2022) Modern Kıyının İnşası: 19. Yüzyıldan 21. Yüzyıla İstanbul'da Dört Kıyı Dolgu Projesi Üzerinden Toprağın ve Kentsel Dönüşüm Atığının Metabolik Akışı, **Praksis**, Sayı 60, 71-92, (2022/3) Krizler Çağında Coğrafya ve Mekan. ISSN / E-ISSN: 1302-8618.

Sert, E. (2022) Mimarlık Kolektifleri ve Dünyayı Bugünde Sevmek, **Arredamento Mimarlık**, Tema: Mimarlık Kolektifleri, Sayı 355, Kasım-Aralık 2022, 58-63.

Sert, E., Aykaç, G., and Zırh, B. C. (2021) Urban Politics and the Work and Labor Processes of Architecture: Survey Research with Young Architect-Workers in Turkey, **METU JFA**, Vol:38, No:1, pp.161-180. DOI: [10.4305/metu.jfa.2021.1.2](https://doi.org/10.4305/metu.jfa.2021.1.2)

Sert, E. (2021) Pandemi ve Mimarlıkta Dayanışmacı Pratikler (Solidarity Practices in Pandemic and Architecture) **DOSYA**, TMMOB Mimarlar Odası Ankara Şubesi, no: 47, pp. 58-63, ISSN: 1309-0704.

Sert, E. (2019) Kriz Ortamında Mimarlık: Mimarlıkta Emeğin Gündemi ve İyimser Olmayan Umut , **Mimarlık**, No:410, November-December 2019, pp. 49-51, ISSN: 1300-4212.

Aykaç, G. & **Sert, E. (2018)** Türkiye'de Mimarlığın Emek Süreçlerini Yeniden Tartışmak/ Rethinking the Labor Processes of Architecture in Turkey, **Moment Journal**, 2018, 5(2): 219-237, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17572/mj2018.2.219237>

Conference Papers + Abstracts

Sert, E. (2026) “Urban Metabolism of Istanbul as Multispecies Entanglement” April 08–10, 2026, Multispecies Lab Ideas Festival Conference, The New School, NYC.

<https://www.multispecieslab.net/festival>

Sert, E. (2024) Metabolic Shifts and Uneven Geographies: A Critical Examination of Late 19th-Century Istanbul's Urban Transformation. Nineteenth-Century Global Cities and Urban Worlds: An International Symposium Aix-Marseille University, Schuman campus, France, 6-8 June 2024.

Sert, E. & Aykaç, G. (2024) Labor Process as a Blind Spot in Architecture, RIXARCH, 12-13 April 2024, Riga, Latvia, pp. 53-57.

Sert, E. (2024) Urban Political Ecology of Death: Cemetery as a Critical Habitat for Stray Dogs in İstanbul. The Thirteenth Annual Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference February 23 – 24, 2024, Lexington, Kentucky, USA.

Sert, E. (2024) “Kırılgan Bir Dünyada Etik Karşılaşmalar”, Eleştirel Pedagoji Kongresi 29 Kasım- 1 Aralık 2024, Ankara (Full paper, 2025).

Sert, E. (2024) Konuşma- “İstanbul’un Kıyılarının Metabolizmasına Bakmak: Dolgu Alanlarının Kentsel Politik Ekolojisi”, Dünya Mimarlık Günü: Yıkım ve Yeniden İnşa, 9 Ekim 2024 SALT Galata, Atölye II-III. (Presentation)

Sert, E. (2023) Five Years of Experience in Ethics Class as a Critical Pedagogy, Situated Pedagogies, Stories of Situated Pedagogies in Architecture and... International Workshop Proceedings Book 3-4 October 2023 / İstanbul, Türkiye , 2024 e-ISBN 978-975-561-645-2 İTÜ Yayınevi. No: 2024.2/7, pp.44-46.

Sert, E. (2023) Türkiye’de Mimarlık Eğitiminde Güncel Etik Bağlam ve Öne Çıkan Deneyimler: MEF Üniversitesi Örneği, POEDAT, Poedat Abstracts Booklet, p.18, 7-9 Nisan, 2023, Postane İstanbul.

Sert, E. (2019) Mobility of Land in İstanbul: Production of Nature as Space in 2000’s. 6th International Congress Livable Environments & Architecture LIVENARCH VI-2019: Replacing Architecture, Proceedings Book Vol II, pp. 640-649.

Sert, E. (2019) Emergence of a New Urban Metabolism: Waterfronts of Istanbul between 1839 and 1923, CPUD'19 DAKAM (Eastern Mediterranean Academic Research Center), June 15-16, 2019 İstanbul, Turkey, Proceedings Book, pp.43-57.

Sert, E. (2019) Hafriyat Lojistiğinden Kıyılara: Dolgu Alanların Kentsel Politik Ekolojisi, Chapter in a book, Ed. Ciravoğlu, A. "Ters Köşe Ekoloji", Puna Yayın, pp. 72-84.

Sert, E. & Tunçay, H. E. (2013) Cities, Social Cohesion and the Environment: The Case of Taksim Square, İstanbul. POLITSCI'13 Political Science Conference, İstanbul, Turkey 31 October- 2 November, 2013, Conference Proceedings Book, pp. 136-147.

Sert, E. & Tunçay, H. E. (2013) Kentsel Altyapı Bağlamında Dönüşen Peyzaj. 5. Peyzaj Mimarlığı Kongresi, TMMOB, Çukurova University, 14-17 November 2013, Proceedings Book, pp.290-310.

Sert, E. (2018) Coastal Land Reclamation Area as Megaform in the Context of Urban Political Ecology. Urban Struggles in Mediterranean Cities: The Right to the City and the Common Space, International UnConference. Athens, School of Architecture, National Technical University of Athens, May 31th – June 3th, 2018 (Presentation).

Sert, E. (2015) Ekolojinin Politikasında Mimarlık, Ekolojinin Politikası: Yeni Sınırlar, Yeni Aktörler. Presentation Bilgi Üniversitesi 27-28 November, İstanbul (Presentation).

Sert, E. (2012) Kapitalizm Kısacında Doğayı Dönüştüren Mimarlık ve Peyzaj Mimarlığı Pratiklerinin Karşılaştırılması. 7. Karaburun Bilim Kongresi 6-9 September 2012 (Presentation).

Tokus, M. & **Sert, E.** & Akyol, M. & Demir, S., Esbah, H. (2011) Landscape Ecology and Aesthetics: Case of Halic, İstanbul Eclas Conference. 7-10 September, Sheffield, England (Presentation).

Scientific Projects / Scholarship

MEF AAP 027- **Interactive Mapping of İstanbul's Metabolism** /2024-25, Funded By MEF University, İstanbul, Türkiye.

Project Coordinator: Dr. Esra Sert.

<https://urbanmetabolismofistanbul.com/>

TUBİTAK 120K681 (2021) **Interdisciplinary Perspective and Solution Proposals for Service Providers to the Community in Local Governments on COVID-19** (TUBİTAK 1001) Project no:120K681- (Advisory Designer Partner on behalf of Acil Korona Mekanları)

TUBİTAK 109Y015, **Re-reading and Modelling The Urban Transformation in İğneada Conservation Area for Future Implications** | 01.09.2010-2013 (Scholarship)

İTÜ-BAP 33376, **Analysing Natural Areas in Urban Areas with Landscape Structure Indices**, İstanbul-Kent içindeki Doğal Alanların Peyzaj Strüktür İndeksleri İle Analizi, İstanbul | (Scholarship) 01.12.11-2013

Teaching Experience

2018 - present | MEF University, Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture, Bachelor Program, Instructor.

ARC 464 Urban Ecology, Elective Course, Spring 2017-18/ Fall 2018-19/ Fall 2019-20 /Spring 23-24 /Spring 24-25

Contemporary answers on urban ecology debate with an examination of various contextual positions and related theoretical/practical perspectives in architecture, urbanism, and landscape design. Search for the developing concept of nature throughout history and parallel answers in architecture and urbanism. Within the course, we try to increase awareness of the latest trends in urban ecology and critical thinking towards these trends.

FADA 121 Ethics in Design, Must Course, Fall 2018-19 / Fall 2019-20 / Fall 2020-21 / Fall 2021-22 / Fall 2022-23 / Fall- 2023-24 / Fall 24-25

This course aims to develop the ability of critical thinking as well as ethical awareness in terms of reasoning and judgment in the first-year students who will be future professionals, policy-makers, scientists, and managers. Ethics can be considered an advanced form of critical thinking. So, ethical issues in design help students understand architecture responsible for the earth, society, and other colleagues.

ARC 468 Rethinking Architectural Practice and City, Elective Course, Spring 2018-19 / Spring 2019-20 / Spring 2020-21

This course aims to problematize the relation between architectural practice and the city. Instead of seeing the relationship between architectural processes and the city, architects have been limited to focus only on architectural objects. The course tries to provide students a sensibility and perspective that they will need to recognize the architectural process and its possible connections related to the production of the city and daily life. Multidisciplinary approach and in-between situations in theory and practice of architecture will be discussed to enhance critical thinking to deal with the future challenges of the design world successfully.

ARC 486 Urban Metabolism of İstanbul, Elective Course, Spring 2020-21

This course addresses the current answers to the urban metabolism debate through different architectural practices and the urban agenda of İstanbul between the 19th and 21st centuries. While pursuing some spatial traces of how metabolic flows such as water and soil circulate unevenly in İstanbul in order to understand how natural and social elements actually construct and intertwine each other, a new perspective on the urbanization of İstanbul is tried to be developed. Thus, this course aims to speculate about future projections of İstanbul's urban metabolism to improve architectural thinking.

ARC 101-102 Architectural Studio (First Year Architectural Design Studio-Tutor) Fall 2021-22, Spring 2021-22, Fall 2022-23, Spring 2022-23.

ARC 201-202 Architectural Studio (Second Year Architectural Design Studio-Tutor) Spring 2020-21, Fall 2023-24, Spring 2023-24, Fall 24-25.

ARC 302- Architectural Studio (Third Year Architectural Design Studio-Tutor) Spring 2024-25.

ARCH 412 Special Topics in Design Spring 2020-21. (Bilgi University Faculty of Architecture)

2019 - present | MEF University, Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture, Alternative Architectural Practices Graduate Program (AAP), Instructor.

ARC 521 Alternative Design Practices, Must Course, Fall 2019-20/ Fall 2020-21
Alternative Architectural Practices Graduate Program (AAP)

This course aims to speculate about the concept of 'alternative design' through studying different practices. The prominent examples of design practices and texts will be featured to set up a theoretical framework for the 'alternative', which is also the title of our program. The cases will be studied through their historical contexts, emerging conditions, and (if they are built) their construction processes. The course will help to form necessary conceptual terminology on the subject.

Awards

İstanbul Senin Yeşil Alanlarda Sanat Yapıtları Yarışması (Artworks Design Competition in Green Spaces) | 2022 | İstanbul-Gülhane Parkı | Purchase Price

İTŞKV Tez Ödülleri 2020-İlhan Tekeli Şehircilik Kültürü Vakfı Tez Ödülleri/ Dikkate Değer Tezler/ Doktora Tezi (Noteworthy PhD thesis Award) - “Urban Metabolism of İstanbul: Waterfronts as Metabolized Socio-Natures Between 1839-2019”

Urban Regeneration Competition | 2016 | Adana Seyhan Sucuzade Neighbourhood | Honorable Mention

Urban Design Competition | 2011 | Afyonkarahisar Cumhuriyet Square | Purchase Price

Urban Design Competition | 2010 | İzmit Coastal Landscape Area | Honorable Mention

Social Projects

MEF FADA-Summer Internship Studio Projects: <https://fada.mef.edu.tr/Portfolio>

Büşra Ünver & Esra Sert (2024), MEF Tasarla Yap! MEF DBS Summer Internship Studio Project / Studio Tutor, “Paydos”, İstanbul.
<https://fada.mef.edu.tr/Portfolio/paydos->

Arda İnceoğlu & Esra Sert (2023) MEF Tasarla Yap! MEF DBS Summer Internship Studio Project / Studio Tutor, “LODA”, Samandağ, Hatay.
<https://fada.mef.edu.tr/Portfolio/loda>

Esra Sert, Zeynep Ataş, Yuvacan Atmaca, Zülfüye Yıldız (2022), MEF Tasarla Yap! MEF DBS Summer Internship Studio Project / Studio Tutor, “ParkurLo”, Mardin.
<https://fada.mef.edu.tr/Portfolio/parkurlo>

Co-Founder | Acil Korona Mekanları (Emergency Corona Spaces) Collective Multidisciplinary Network, Türkiye (*Collective multidisciplinary volunteer network established during the Covid-9 pandemic to meet the needs of the space, especially the health sector*)
<https://acilkoronamekanlari.wordpress.com>