

MEF University Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture
ARC 201 Architectural Design III M, W, F 13:30 – 17:50

Instructors: Arda Inceoglu, Şebnem Yücel, Gürol Çivi, Gamze İşcan, Sezer Bahtiyar
inceoglu.arda@mef.edu.tr, yucelse@mef.edu.tr, civiq@mef.edu.tr, qmziscan@gmail.com,
sezer@architecturalstrategies.com

Office Hours: T 10:30 – 12:00

READING SPACES



INTRODUCTION & AIMS:

This studio focuses on reading; reading as an individual and social activity. As we are going through an age where publishing becomes an individual daily activity, the act of reading seems to be going out of its traditional format. Reading, not only as an intellectual activity, but also as a daily activity is an inescapable part of our daily lives, not necessarily in the traditional sense of reading a book or a newspaper as a solitary activity; but as part of our daily and even social routines ranging from acts as instantaneous and unintentional as reading a billboard; reading ingredients of a products in a market, getting notifications on our cellphones to more deliberate and more social/public acts, like our interactions in the social media. Such acts transform reading into a more inevitable action, occupying more time and space in our lives. This studio aims to explore spatial potentials of this action, that is an arbitrary yet compulsory part of daily routines.

This semester, students are expected to create spaces for reading. Deciphering existing situations and habits and developing spatial proposals for reading, students will work on projects where individual and social activities will shape public and private aspects of the program. While the functions and activities shall be defined by the students, it is important to keep track of the main aspects of the program which will also serve for the basic aims of this semester.

- Students can/must speculate how alternative approaches to books will find their diverse spatial responses within the defined framework.
- Students must include 80% public use within the program they propose.
- All programs must be developed and enriched related to the site.

Design studio will be based on one main project, but a very condense research about the site, the program, and significant buildings will form the basis of this semester's project.

There will be two exercises, to be conducted in the first part of the semester.

GETTING READY FOR READING

'Getting ready for reading' is a game-like exercise, which explores various physical and spatial settings/conditions that include or relate with the action of reading. It aims to stimulate a research and a discussion on reading as a multifarious activity conducted in space. In this exercise reading, which is mostly a personal experience, will also be discussed with public concerns and social interaction potentials in mind. Students are asked to search for various reading forms, durations, tools, interfaces, spaces while asking these questions:

- What type of contents do people read?
- When/during what do people read?
- How and in which conditions do people read?
- Where do people read?
- Which medium(s) do people use to read?

The exercise is composed of two parts. In the first part students are expected to:

- Give/imagine ten answers to each of the above questions.
- Discuss the spatial potentials of the items/answers in these lists, keep asking "what else?" and try to investigate potentials of reading.

In the second part students are expected to:

Choose **four** combinations (each answering what, when, how, where and which questions) from their group of 10 to explore further.

Explore these **four** different combinations by showing:

- A perspective/collage of selected reading setting from the eyes of the reader
- A perspective/collage of selected reading setting from outside, also showing the reader.
- A plan drawing
- A section drawing

All of these above drawings should be placed within 15x15 cm squares. Four squares per reading condition should be placed side by side. In total students are expected to have 16 squares in 4 lines with 4 boxes in each line. Drawings must be done using AutoCAD.

BUILDING SEMINAR

Students are expected to make a detailed research on the buildings and present them to the group. The presentation must address questions such as the following:

- How is the building used?
- How is the building integrated to the context?
- What are components of the program and how are they organized?
- What is important/interesting in this building?

NEWSFLASH! A NEW READING SPACE

In this exercise each group will publish a newspaper in which we will find the press releases for the new reading spaces designed by each student as if it is finished and opening. By challenging you to imagine the main features (not the form) of your design in an early stage; it aims to help you develop the program, the atmosphere of your design further and also imagine the relations the project forms with a specific urban and cultural context.

Students should not forget that the main objective of this exercise is the project, the story is just a means to an end.

- Define the spatial/architectural sense of your project. (Atmosphere)
- Who will use this space? (User profiles)
- Describe the preliminary contents of the programme. (hybrid, diverse)
- What type of architectural materials will you use in your design?
- Will the space encourage publicity but also offer privacy?
- What type of temporal and permanent approaches will your design contain?
- Think about the correlations with inner and outer circulations of citizens?
- Describe your design in terms of 3d form? (scale, geometry, volumes, dimensions)
- Think about its relations with the street level and other buildings?

In this exercise *students are expected to write a news item or a press release (minimum 400 maximum 600 words) about their project as if it was **finished** (in a **reverse order**)*. The news item, as an announcement of the building's opening, should describe the spatial qualities and the program of the place as well as its relation to its environment. The news might also include a fictional anecdote that takes place inside your project, if it is helping us further understand your design ideas. The news will be composed of a text and all sorts of drawings, diagrams, photos, collages, etc.—again not showing us the form of the building, but rather illustrating qualities about the design. At the end, the submissions will be prepared in A3 format (29.7x42) in a tabloid (newspaper) format in which each student's news item will be presented in a single page.

The format for each page will be provided to you later, however the font style will be Nimrod, font height will be 10 pts with 1,5 spacing in-between the lines. In addition to the news items regarding your own design, each group is free to compose the front and back pages of the newspaper the way they see fit. They might include the data they have collected for the sites, conduct interviews with the teachers or architects about their reading habits and/or information about libraries, book stores around İstanbul and fictional stories that might give us a better idea on the need for re-thinking reading as an activity and new reading spaces. In other words, the content for the front and back pages will be defined by the students.

FINAL PROJECT SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Sketches, diagrams, videos, maps or any other kind of audio/visual material articulating the ideas and main aspects of the project.

<i>models</i>	<i>1/200 1/100</i>
<i>Site plan</i>	<i>1/500</i>
<i>Sections, Plans</i>	<i>1/100</i>
<i>Partial section - plan</i>	<i>1/50</i>
<i>Perspectives and collages</i>	
<i>Storyboard:</i>	<i>10 images</i>
<i>intangible properties, daily life of the area, atmosphere, approach to the building</i>	

ASSESSMENT

1.	First assignment	20 points
2.	Seminar	10 points
3.	Second assignment	20 points
4.	Project	50 points
5.	Failure to participate in the FADA Workshop	-10 points

Assessment of the project is 80% studio performance, 20% final submission.

Students MUST BE PRESENT in all reviews – third party submissions will not be accepted.

CALENDAR

	M	W	F
1st Week		FORUM - intro	
2nd Week	technical session: AutoCAD	Film reading 1	
3rd Week	First assignment due		
4th Week	Building seminar	Film reading 2	
5th Week	Newsflash due		
6th Week		Guest 1	
7th Week			
8th Week	technical session: stairs		
9th Week	First review	Guest 2	
10th Week		Film reading 3	
11th Week			
12th Week			
13th Week	Second review		
14th Week			

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Record and visualize various environmental properties.
2. Incorporate tangible and intangible data into an architectural design.
3. Develop an understanding of various needs of people and the ability to transform those into an architectural program.
4. Apply basic architectural and urban design principles in accordance with data such as climate, users, place, cultural context and social issues in order to create novel architectural solutions.
5. Understand the effect of materials on architectural design.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend **every** class, seminar, trip, workshop related to the course. As the instructors are obliged to attend **all** the classes, we expect the students to do the same. No student has a 'right' to miss any of the classes.

FADA has a unique workshop week where all faculty courses are suspended in order to create a special informal learning environment which benefits the students. It is compulsory to participate in **all** workshop week activities. Attendance will be taken and it will be counted towards the attendance in all your courses. In all courses, failure to fully participate in the workshop week will result in losing 10% of the total grade.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: All students are responsible for behaving personally and academically in a way that is expected from a university student. That behavior includes but is not limited to respecting views and ideas of peers; not being involved in a discriminating behavior concerning race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation; always using ones own ideas in their projects. Plagiarism is not allowed and is a serious academic offense.