

Play | ground

In this extremely connected, fast and pluralist age, architecture is creating a different sense of reality. This transforming condition turns architectural efforts into a kind of play, perhaps still in Constant's sense, but this time on a very solid ground. Architect while trying to visualize fastly coming futuristic conditions, and be part of the technological flow; is still part of the very slowly turning earth. Through this emerging reality condition fused into play are still the basic concepts on which we share universal engagements regardless of time, place and culture.

"MEMORY"

Tomb for a Journalist / Ankara 2001 (1.Co-author: Zeynep Mennan)

The challenge of designing a tomb in the Islamic religious system which does not allow iconic representation; is to stay in a symbolical repertoire without referring to the "body" since it is being replaced by a nominal existence. Discrete and almost scaleless, the tomb is differentiated in the uniformity of typological repetition.

"IDEOLOGY"

Mosque within the Turkish National Assembly Complex / Ankara 1989

"This Mosque, a low key structure which deliberately avoids the monumentalism of the National Assembly Complex, moves beyond conventional mosque architecture and points towards new direction in layout and design. Much of the mosque complex is hidden within the slope of the site, only parts of it rising above the surrounding landscape. This horizontal quality is reinforced by a fragmentary, abstract treatment of the conventional vocabulary. The minaret is represented by balconies and a cypress tree; the dome is replaced by a terraced pyramid which gives the impression of growing out the landscape. The mosque also incorporates completely new spatial arrangements, including a glass qibla wall and mihrab. It eschews dependence upon the architectural conventions of the past. The mosque defies religious space through the treatment of form, space and light and the relationships of landscape and building. For having the boldness and courage to experiment with a different architectural treatment for mosque, the building was awarded by 1995 Aga Khan Award for Architecture" (2. Jury announcement, 1995 Aga Khan Prize for Islamic Architecture - 6th cycle)

"DIVERSITY"

Urban Regeneration Project Golden Horn / Istanbul 2007

Along the Golden Horn in the Historical Peninsula of Istanbul, *Fener & Balat* are among the quarters of the city where different cultures and faiths co-existed, creating a diversity which could still be observed vividly. Çinici Architects was given the design responsibility of four urban blocks, suggesting nearly 27,000 m² of housing and commercial areas. Urban texture of the related blocks, organized along traditional streets, was created in late 19th century when Golden Horn was an industrial area. Initially, the chaotic property texture in the existing situation is simplified so that it became possible to transform the introverted plots that opens only to the street. An 'extroverted' urban frame embracing the panoramas of Golden Horn and Pera, is proposed with a quasi-parametric mindset in which the main variables are the plot sizes and number of storeys, while reintroducing central or peripheric staircase types accordingly, both of which were observed in the original urban fabric as well. The infinite diversity in the neglected urban texture of the area, treated in this way, come up with an almost infinite diversity in return.

"DELIMITATION"

Haileybury School / Astana 2011

Haileybury, one of the Britain's oldest and most prestigious independent boarding schools, has its Astana Campus situated on a 12 hectares site, with 20 000 m² closed area. There were three challenges while developing the design idea of this campus: the vast and flat layout of the city, the complexity of the programme and the climatic conditions. The challenge of complexity aroused its counterpart, simplicity, as the main design strategy. The four parts of the school programme (Pre-school, KS1, KS2, Senior School) each

having unique spatial requirements, are resolved into one comprehensive unity: the square. An understanding of a "generic section" that responds to the heavy mechanical and electrical requirement as well as programmatic complexities is developed responding to the climatic conditions. After all, surprisingly, the rebirth of the archetypal "Courtyard" witnessed – as an unintended reference to the original Haileybury in UK. In a vast city like Astana, which is in the process of development and pervaded by extreme flatness, this two storey, low-rise building, devoid of historic and iconic references, offered its own vastness and horizontality as a reverence.

"STRATEGY"

Urban Design Proposal for Izmir Bay and Alsancak Port area / İzmir 2001 (Co-author: NSMH)

The site of the design idea competition organized by Izmir Municipality is characterized by extreme fragmentation almost without an urban frame. The proposal conceives this indeterminate area as a space of "probabilities". Since, the "classical grid" becomes so restrictive as a tool in such a zone, several morphological strategies are introduced to create a planning framework which is flexible without compromising from an "urban grammar". The most crucial element of the strategy is the "Stripes"(Cetvel) (4. Cetvel: means 'Ruler' In Turkish)

. They are linear urban zones 120m in width, not limited in length, placed parallel to each other and extended to the boundaries of the zones they are in. They don't have any other function than forming the ground and being the mediator for the lining up of the buildings / voids / spacing, which are to be placed on them. The stripes are located perpendicular to the shore line maximizing the ventilation, extending into the sea creating the shore facilities. The urban textures on stripes are formed by the decisions due to the function and density determined by the zones they are in and by previously existing lines they correspond. Stripes can encounter preserved buildings, roads, residuals of incomplete infrastructural investments and the shore line. Rather than re-establishing the urban memory by recalling the past, this is a preference to enhance the remembrance by making the fragments of the urban memory visible. This is the grammar role of the strategy that chooses to emphasize the preserved buildings, roads & shoreline as disaccords in the new context, rather than melting them in the context once they were in.

"GENERATION"

Summer Housing Settlement / Bodrum 2008

Located in a beautiful landscape with a panoramic view of Aegean coast, the main challenge was to generate the design of housing units of varied sizes while providing each of them with a seascape and creating an overall man-made image of the settlement without radically damaging the terrain's natural silhouette. A form-generation process was initiated by suggesting 'linear zones' stretching along the contour lines of the topographic map. The positions of linear zones are determined by slicing the terrain with approximately 3.50 m vertical intervals. As a result, while forming the determining contours both a general plan layout and the horizontal lines of the silhouette are derived. The continuity of linear zones is provided by retaining walls forming spatial organization of units, articulated slopes, private courtyards and separating gardens. The linear development is interrupted only in two cases; by the 'tower houses' placed at the breaking points of the linear zones in their course and by the 'natural ruptures' where the slope is very steep or the orientation is unavailable to settle.