

AYBU | DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

2024-2025 FALL | VERTICAL STUDIO

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TERM PROJECT

Project Title:

Radical Symbiosis! Spaces of encounter for serial adaptabilities and interactions on Veliç İplik Factory in Gaziantep

Topic

*‘Design for the unification of the ones who are **out of sights and out of minds**’*

Architecture has the profound ability to serve as a catalyst for change, transcending time and bridging diverse cultures. In this studio, we will explore how architectural design can be used as **a radical tool to build symbiosis and revitalize lost memories within a community**. Our focus will be on how architecture can help to reform a dialogue of memory and culture, creating spaces that reflect and respond to the social and cultural complexities of the community.

The site, Veliç Yarn Factory in Gaziantep, serves as a living memory of the city's industrial past, now surrounded by a community that includes both Turkish locals and Syrian refugees. The challenge is to create a space that not only respects and revitalizes this heritage but also fosters a new sense of belonging and shared identity. This requires an approach that is sensitive to social fragilities, recognizing the vulnerabilities and strengths of the community and addressing them through thoughtful design.

As future architects, it is crucial to understand how your designs can influence and shape the social fabric of a place. The spaces you create should act as platforms for cultural exchange, learning, and collective production, promoting positive interactions and mutual understanding between different groups. **The concept of ‘radical symbiosis’ is an encouraging call for blending communities and reforming dialogues across time and cultures.**

The notion of **serial adaptability** is also key in your design process. You will be tasked with designing spaces that can evolve and adapt over time, accommodating changing needs while preserving the site's historical and cultural essence. Your designs should reflect a deep understanding of **how architecture can serve as a medium for social cohesion, cultural sustainability, and the revitalization of collective memory. The project seeks for in-situ dialogues through spaces of encounter!**

Architectural Program

Within the scope of the term project, students are expected to design **a space for shared Learning and collective production** to build up the interactions between Syrian refugees and host. You are expected **to design a community building** to fulfill the needs of socializing, learning, producing and rehabilitation.

The architectural program will be produced by the students according to their design approaches. Students are cordially encouraged to break the conventional ways of designing and avoid producing traditional cellular typologies; the main aim is to formulate alternative models by considering context-based (i.e., climate, topography, etc.) and user-specific solutions (i.e., accessibility).

Key Spaces to Include:

- § **Shared Learning Spaces** (Classrooms or studios for educational programs)
- § **Collective Production Areas** (Ateliers or studios where community members can engage in craftwork, art, or other productive activities/ Markets or display areas for showcasing and selling products made on-site)
- § **Social Interaction Zones**
- § **Rehabilitation and Support Spaces** (Counseling rooms or spaces for mental health support/ Quiet zones for reflection and personal well-being)
- § **Cultural and Recreational Facilities**
- § **Service Areas**
- § **Parking Area**
- § **Outdoor Areas** (it is expected to be designed in relation to the concepts of the students)
- § **3500 m2 in total (closed area) – min**

Design Considerations:

Adaptability: Consider how spaces can be easily reconfigured to meet changing community needs.

Inclusivity: Ensure that your design is accessible and welcoming to all members of the community.

Sustainability: Incorporate sustainable building practices and materials, respecting the environmental and cultural context.

Integration of Heritage: Thoughtfully integrate the remaining structures of the factory into your design, preserving the historical essence while serving contemporary needs.

Your final design should not only address the functional requirements of the program but also embody the conceptual themes of intertemporal and intercultural dialogue, adaptability, and the empowerment of a diverse community.

For 301

You are responsible for **creating macro-scale solutions** according to the concept and initial ideas regarding typology, and programmatic distributions/solutions.

Structural detail solutions according to your specific ideas are expected.

Min. 3500m2 (closed area) + 500m2 open and semi-open spaces

For 401

401 students are responsible for an additional 1500 m2 according to the concept and initial ideas which are expected to be formulated more innovatively and coherently in terms of typology and programmatic distributions/solutions. Moreover, you are expected to bring architectural configurations on urban levels, meaning the relationship between the building and site area.

Structural detail solutions according to your specific ideas are expected.

Min. 5000m2 (closed area) + 500m2 open and semi-open spaces

Site



The site for this studio project is the **Veliç Yarn Factory (Veliç İplik Fabrikası) in Gaziantep**, a location steeped in historical significance and surrounded by a community that includes a large number of Syrian refugees. The factory, once a vibrant center of industrial activity, now stands partially in ruins, with some remaining walls and structures that serve as a testament to its past. Students are expected to develop strategies according to land characteristics. Besides, site analysis of the area must be conducted by the students and implemented in the projects. The relationships with the site must be manifested through the site models.

This site presents a unique opportunity to engage with the concept of in-situ heritage. As you design, you are encouraged to find your own approach to the existing remnants of the factory. You may choose to rebuild portions of the old factory, integrate the existing walls into your design, or even reimagine the entire site within the context of your concept.

The Veliç Yarn Factory is located in a dense urban area where both the local Turkish population and Syrian refugees coexist. Your design should reflect an understanding of this complex social fabric, aiming to create a space that fosters positive interactions, supports cultural blending, and addresses the social fragilities present in the community.

OUTCOMES

- To be able to formulate design solutions and develop programmatic approaches by comprehending the relations between the space and socio-cultural aspects of architectural production in complex urban settings.

- To defend the right of society; to protect and to produce and implement original solutions with the consideration of sustainability (social, cultural, economic, and ecological) to protect nature and to defend the right of society
- Acquiring, evaluating, and applying the theoretical, contextual, technical, programmatic, and visual dimensions of the knowledge of architecture with a critical point of view.
- To be able to conduct inter-scaler spatial analysis and interrelate the findings with the design process.
- Generating creative architectural solutions to design problems by employing contemporary theories, methods, and contextual data.
- To develop functional plan solutions and to have the technical competence to apply the relationship between form-function-concept.
- To effectively use both traditional and digital communication methods and visualization tools.
- Research, understand, and apply universal design principles and provide unique solutions by following up-to-date projects.
- To be able to develop and implement complex design scenarios that reject the conventional.
- To develop maturity in teamwork, and individual responsibility for collective achievement.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Students will be evaluated based on the quality and process of the work, the completion of assignments, the class contribution, and attendance.

Assignment 1-2: 10% in total

Preliminary Jury: 30%

Final Jury: 50%

Attendance: 10%

READING LIST

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