COURSE CONTENT

The studio mainly focuses on the progress of a high level of **creativity** and **critical thinking** abilities in negotiation with physical, social, and programmatic components of the **urban context**. The studio extends the fundamental architectural design skills gained in the previous studios (i.e., dealing with the interwoven relations of design concepts, form, scale, spatial organization practices, programmatic solutions, structure, materiality, and tectonics) to **multiscalar** dimensions.

TERM PROJECT

Project Title: Revisiting Eudaimonia: Everyday Life Alternatives for Elderly Living on Urban Fringe

Topic

Architecture is in a constant state of transformation and adaptation, responding to the evolving dimensions of society—social, cultural, economic, demographic, and technological. These shifting paradigms inevitably leave their mark on spaces, which in turn evolve to reflect and accommodate these changes. One of the pressing challenges of our era is the rapid increase in the aging population, compelling architecture to adapt to the demographic shifts and address the unique needs of this growing segment.

In this context, Studio IVI invites students to develop innovative design strategies tailored to the specific requirements of the elderly population. These include providing accommodation, fostering social well-being, integrating medical and rehabilitation resources, devising spatial tactics to re-activate their presence in the community, and applying universal design principles to ensure accessibility and functional sustainability. The overarching aim is to investigate how architecture can serve as a tool for enhancing the quality of life, promoting autonomy and well-being, encouraging engagement with the broader community, and introducing new typologies suited to the needs of both the project theme and the urban environment.

This semester, Studio IVI revisits this critical issue with a fresh lens! Elderly living spaces will be explored in peripheral, non-urban settings, where unique opportunities and challenges arise. Peripheral contexts demand thoughtful integration of social, environmental, and architectural considerations, particularly for the elderly. The studio serves as a laboratory to examine the intricate relationships between context, people, and design concepts, with a focus on creating resilient and adaptive environments for aging populations. Emphasizing holistic approaches, the studio prioritizes fostering community, inclusivity, and sustainability while addressing the physical and social specificities of the chosen context.

Project

Within the scope of the term project, students are expected to design **a space for elderly living** to fulfill the needs of accommodation, socializing, 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 senior houses 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). Also, your designs must be accounting for the privacy.

Architectural Program

The project must cover at least:

- 15 accommodation units for male residents
- 15 accommodation units for female residents
- 20 accommodation units for married residents
- Accommodation units/offices for staff (for nurses, psychologists, physiotherapists, etc.)
- Administrative units
- Facilities for the social well-being of the residents (additional programmatic contributions are expected)
- Facilities for medical services/rehabilitation
- Service Areas
- Parking Area
- Outdoor Areas (it is expected to be designed in relation to the concepts of the students)

4000-4500 m2 in total (closed area)

For 301-302

You are responsible for **an additional 500-1000 m2** according to the concept and initial ideas which are expected to be formulated in a more innovative and coherent manner in terms of typology, and programmatic distributions/solutions.

Structural detail solutions according to your specific ideas are expected.

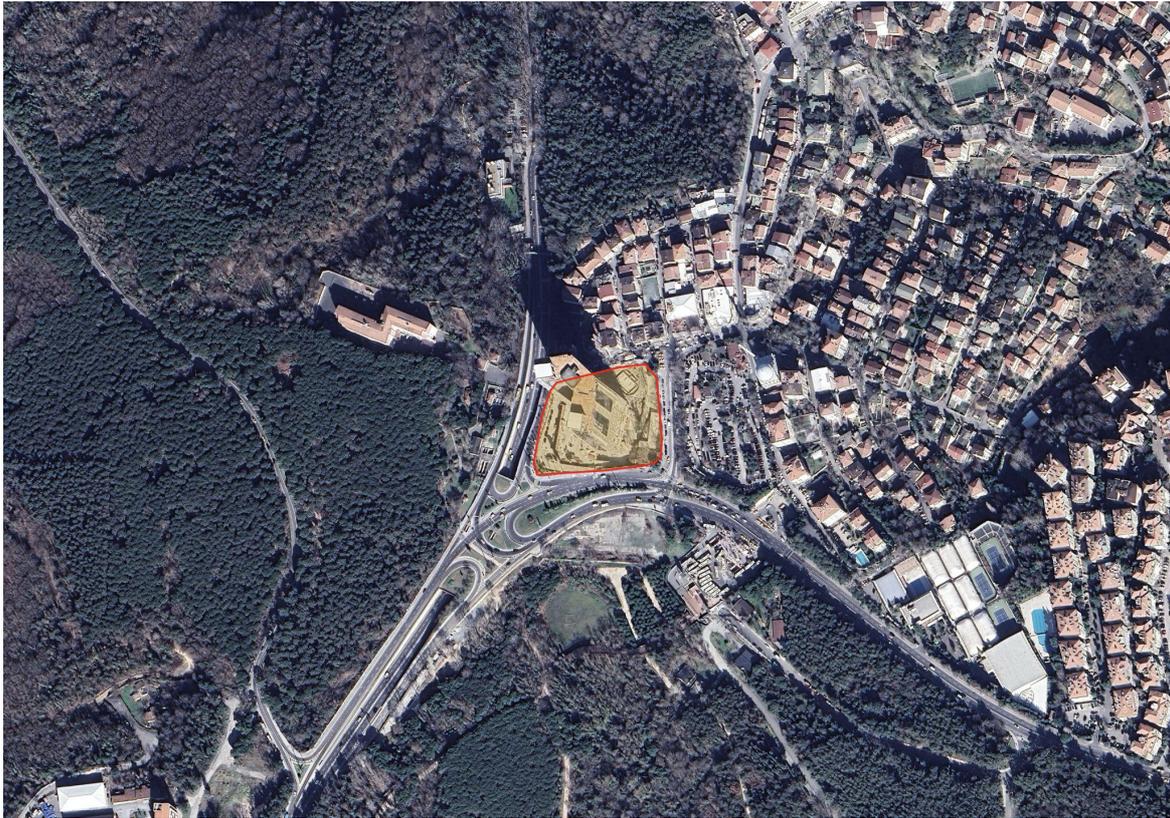You are also expected to overcome the challenges of hosting different groups…

Consider the notes below while designing:

Indoor and outdoor social facilities are of great importance in constructing the spatial dynamics of alternative nursing houses. One of the main problems brought about by aging is the dramatic decline in socialization practices. Therefore, to reinforce the social existence of the elderly, providing environments/programs that enable **their active participation in life**. In addition to common areas, personal places that provide **privacy** and meet the individual needs of the elderly should be included in the nursing home program. A balance must be established in the spatial organization of the design that allows **freedom of socialization and individualization**.

Physical and psychological factors are other important elements that should be considered multi-dimensionally in the design of spaces for the elderly. **A holistic approach** should be developed in which the **accessible design criteria** are implemented.

You are free to imagine! You are free to ask questions on all modes of relations and engagements turning into a spatial reflection!

Site

The project area is located within the boundaries of Sarıyer Municipality, in the Tarabya Hacıosman district. This site represents a peripheral context for elderly living, characterized by its unique socio-spatial dynamics. Total area covers approximately **11.000 m2**. A controversial structure on the site, slated for demolition, presents both a challenge and an opportunity for reimagining the area's potential. Students are expected to develop design scenarios that respond to this specific context, addressing the needs of elderly residents while considering the broader implications for this context after removal of the existing structure. Proposals should explore how the site's history, cultural significance, and physical attributes can inform innovative and sensitive design interventions.

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.

METHODS OF LEARNING

The main tools to consolidate the design process are:

Regular critiques, analysis synthesis, in-class exercises, readings, site visit

The design process is integrated with a series of lectures and workshops:

Workshop 1_ using AI technologies for urban collage // urban collage for comprehending the context.

Location: Istanbul Technical University – Taşkışla Campus

Workshop 2_ architectural presentation techniques with Beyza Köroğlu

Lectures_ presentations on concept and context by the lecturers

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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