

CITYSCAPE: READING, RESEARCHING, REIMAGINING ANKARA

Urban Research Center

COURSE SYLLABUS

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this learning track, the emphasis is on addressing a design challenge rooted in Ankara's historic Ulus district. This area, where layers of history, culture, and modernity converge, presents unique opportunities to create meaningful public and cultural spaces. The project is an “Urban Research Center” and will be situated in Ulus, a district surrounded by landmarks such as Hacı Bayram Mosque, Roman Bath remains, Ankara Castle, and historic Ankara houses. Understanding the properties of the location and the given requirements, experimenting with the spatial organization of the program are the main topics within this theme.

As the old city center, Ulus embodies Ankara's rich heritage while remaining vibrant and dynamic. Its layered identity makes it an ideal setting for a project that bridges the city's historical narratives with contemporary urban life. This project aspires to transform Ulus into more than a historical area by establishing it as a vibrant urban hub where culture, knowledge, and community intersect. The design concept embraces the idea of the center “seeping into the city,” and therefore, integration strategies with its built environment are expected from the students.

By aligning academic and creative pursuits with the lively dynamics of Ulus, the project will enable deeper engagement with the district's unique character. The Urban Research Center aims to be more than just a physical space; it will provide transformative experiences that ignite imagination and inspire connections. By creating environments that support research, cultural exchange, and community engagement, the center ensures that all visitors—students, locals, or tourists—leave enriched by their interaction with the space and its stories. The research center can also provide resources for students from nearby Ankara Social Sciences University and high schools. Activities such as exhibitions, public events, and workshops will further enrich the experience.

The case study analysis will support this assignment, as the student will experience researching and documenting (through writing, drawing, sketching, modeling, etc.) an existing example of the design problem as well as getting familiar with the relevant terms like structure, tectonics, transparency, etc. The site analysis assignment will help students to exercise on how to start a project by expanding on the context including the location, built environment, natural elements, topography, ecological or social conditions. The logbook assignment will help students to document a process and develop their ability to take notes, sketch, collect and organize data through the semester. The course will be supported by various readings, lectures, juries, and in class assignments related to the given topic.

KEY WORDS

Contextual Design, Public Interface, Place-Making, Urban Continuity, Social Cohesion

METHOD OF LEARNING

- ARCH 202-301-302-401 are applied courses in the form of a studio. The studio is the essential environment where students come together with the instructors to discuss and develop their term projects by class discourses, **panel or table critics, in class assignments and individual working hours** based on learning by doing understanding.
- The course might include **teamwork** assignment.
- First 6 weeks of the course all the design critics will be given on **only hand drawings and sketches!!**

COURSE OUTCOMES

1. The student is able to define a place with the help of tangible and intangible elements and concepts.
2. The student is able to formulate a guiding theme and is aware that this should structure the design activities and the required spaces for a residential project.
3. The student can integrate information from different scales in the design and offer a holistic approach to an ill-defined design problem.
4. The student can analyze and interpret a given program of requirements, the location, and the surrounding landscape. The student shows awareness of the value of this interpretation for the design and offers unique, flexible solutions that have future potential.
5. The student can document the design process in architectural signatures, sketches, and models.

<u>ASSESSMENT*</u>	
<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Weight (%)</u>
Warm Up Project	5
Assignment 01: Site Analysis	5
Assignment 02: Case Study	5
Logbook	5
Midterm Jury	15
Pre-Jury	15
Final-Jury	50

ATTENDANCE

* There is a total of 15 weeks (120 hours) of class for this course. 8 missing lectures (more than 4 week) will be counted as NA and will result in failing the course.

* Each lecture has 2 theory hours and 6 application hours. In total there are 30 hours of theory and 90 hours of application. If the student misses more than % 30 of the theory hours (9 hours) or more than % 20 of the application hours (18 hours) they will fail.

* Missing any of the juries (midterm – prejury – final) will result in failing.

TIME PLAN

Week Nr.	Date	Program
ASSIGNMENT 01 & ASSIGNMENT 02		
1	27/01/2025	Introduction
2	03/02/2025	Site Visit – Ulus Given: Warm Up Assignment Assignment 01 - Site Analysis
3	10/02/2025	Presentations of Site Analysis & Warm Up Assignment Given: Assignment 02 - Case Studies
4	17/02/2025	Presentations of Case Studies
MIDTERM ASSIGNMENT		
5	24/02/2025	Discussions of Early Design Decisions
6	03/03/2025	Discussions of Early Design Decisions & Spatial Organization
7	10/03/2025	Discussions of Spatial Organization, Plan – Section Drawings
8 – 9	<i>date tba</i>	Midterm Jury: Site Analysis & Conceptual Design & Floor Plans – Sections
FINAL ASSIGNMENT		
10	31/03/2025	Bayram Holiday
11	07/04/2025	Final Design: Spatial Organization, Plan – Section – Elevation Drawings
12	14/04/2025	Pre-Jury: Spatial Organization & Drawing Quality
13	21/04/2025	Discussions of Drawing Quality
14	28/04/2025	Discussions of Poster & 3D Model Quality
15	05/05/2025	Drawing Week
	<i>date tba</i>	Final Jury: Cityscape: Reading, Researching, Reimagining Ankara Submission of Logbooks

READING LIST

- Farrelly, L. (2007). *The Fundamentals of Architecture*. AVA Academia.
- Lefebvre, H. (1991). The production of space. In *The production of space*. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203132357-14>
- Lynch, K. (1960). *The image of the city*. MIT Press.
- Norberg-Schulz, C. (1996). *Genius loci: Towards a phenomenology of Architecture*. Rizzoli.
- Zumthor, P. (2006). *Peter Zumthor - atmospheres architectural environments - surrounding objects*. Birkhäuser.

**the pdf 's of the readings are available upon request*

