

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

Istanbul Gelisim University

Faculty of Engineering and Architecture

“ *We view architecture as a creative act that gives meaning to space. Our vision is to train globally competitive architects who integrate sustainability and technological innovations into their designs, alongside historical values. By blending universal values with local expertise, we are preparing ethical and visionary professionals who will shape the world of tomorrow.* ”

Assoc. Prof. Semih Göksel YILDIRIM

Head of the Department of

Architecture Department





Future of the Department

In the last two decades, the construction industry has been undergoing technological changes that are paving the way for a future where traditional and spatial concepts are valid for longer. Green architecture; In today's world where the climate crisis is being discussed, eco-friendly, ecofriendly, without harming nature, designing with nature rather than in spite of it. In today's world where technology is gaining momentum at a rapid pace, the discipline of architecture is also focusing on the importance of green infrastructure and energy efficiency, blurring the lines between private and public space, addressing and solving the needs of individuals with special needs at the beginning of designs, and many other issues are remarkable and exciting for the architectural environment. Thanks to innovative developments in the field of augmented (virtual) reality and the visual possibilities we have achieved with three-dimensional designs, new solutions have been brought to the design phase and architectural practices have changed the form. If we aim to unlock an environmentally friendly future that will last for generations to come, we must be open to all technological developments and create architectural products that respond to the trends and needs of the information age. While closely following the technology, it is an inevitable necessity to be equipped with professional teachings such as protecting the traces of the past in order to preserve the traces of the past in order to take place in the urban memory, while caring about the preservation of historical texture and historical places. The biggest future goal of the department is to train architects who acquire these skills and to see our students who can work in cities all over the world. As a profession that will never grow old, architecture will be open to living, developing and learning wherever there are people. Today and in the future...





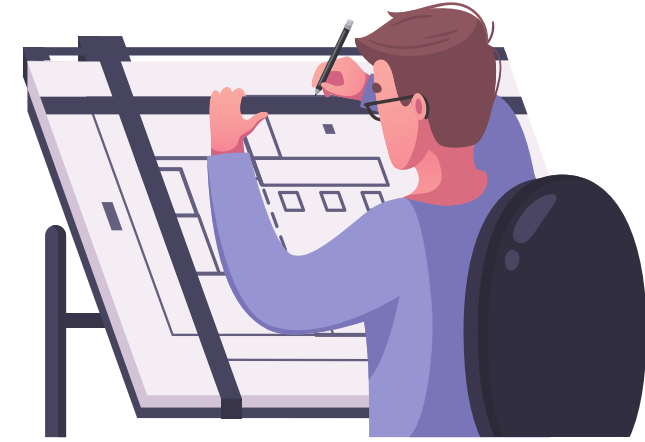
Aim of the Department


At the Department of Architecture under the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, such educational programs that comply with the requirements of the actual architectural environment are being applied. With an educational understanding that supports academic studies in the field of architecture, technological and architectural developments are closely monitored and integrated to the whole educational system at Istanbul Gelişim University, Department of Architecture. Serving with an educational understanding at national and international standards, our department aims to raise distinguished modern architectural designers and innovative architectural researchers.



Goals of the Department

At Istanbul Gelişim University, Department of Architecture, which provides education at international standards; technical trainings like design of all kinds of structures, fittings of spaces and construction process planning are being provided. Playing an active role in raising individuals that can understand the relationship between buildings and people, evaluate the environment and have an understanding of architectural heritage, Istanbul Gelişim University, Department of Architecture organizes congresses, seminars, symposiums, exhibitions and workshop activities in addition to its academic plan. Through these activities, several opportunities at national and international standards oriented to improve students both professionally, socially and culturally are being provided.





Program and Curriculum Information

In order to graduate from Istanbul Gelisim University, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Department of Architecture, it is necessary to complete a total course load of 126 credits and 240 ECTS.

The Department of Architecture consists of theoretical and practical courses. Theoretical courses generally cover topics such as architectural history, theory and building science. Applied courses aim to provide students with skills such as design studios, computer-aided design and architectural visualization.

In addition, they start to take departmental elective courses from the second year. Our department has a wide range of elective courses on topics related to architecture such as design and planning; building materials and technologies; aesthetics and art; sustainability; cultural and historical values; computer-aided design.

Our students do 30 internships at the end of the second year and 30 internships at the end of the third year, totaling 60 working days. One of the internships is done in the architectural office and the other in the construction site. In the fourth year, they complete the last step of becoming an architect with the Diploma Project course and enter the sector.

““

Among the educational principles of our department, it is important to train students to become leaders of multidisciplinary teams.

Assoc. Prof. Semih Göksel YILDIRIM

””



Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes of the department are as below:

The students is able to implement the knowledge gained during the course to their working areas.

They are able to assess and interpreter the environmental data for designing building by using advance skills and knowledge gained during the architectural education.

The students are able to have detail information regarding real life, experience and systems by focusing on the discipline of architecture.

They have the knowledge and concepts on the history of art, aesthetic, the skill of CAD use and cultural infrastructure.

They have sufficient awareness regarding environmental protection and occupational health and safety issues and also they consider risk management and responsibility issues.

They are able to have planning and management skills under a group responsibility.

The students are able to gain the life-time learning skill that is the crucial part of the discipline of architecture.

They are able to know how to deal with their learning needs in the educational life and after.

They consider the ethical issues strictly in case of collecting data, interpretation of the data, producing the projects and the phase of implementation in the field of architecture.

They are able to transfer or share their comments and/or critiques regarding the architectural projects and problems with certain methods such as written, oral or other presentation techniques. They are also able to inform individuals or institutions in the field of architecture.

Gain Experience in Laboratories and Workshops

On the 15th floor there are 5 design studios with a total area of 400 m², on the 12th floor there are 3 design studios with an area of 420 m², on the 3rd floor there is 1 drawing studio with an area of 160 m², on the 2nd floor there are 2 drawing studios with an area of 150 m² each, for a total of 13 design/drawing studios with an area of approximately 1280 m².

Design/drawing workshops are equipped with blackboards, drawing tables, chairs and projectors.

The design/drawing workshops have exhibition units for presentations.

The large gallery in front of the design/drawing workshops can be used as an exhibition space. In addition, computer laboratories on the 2nd floor are also used for teaching digital courses.





Fields of Architecture

Design and Planning:

Architecture involves creating and planning the design of a building.

This includes stages such as understanding client requirements, creating a budget and timeline, preparing draft drawings and plans.

Building Materials and Technologies:

Architects should be familiar with different building materials and technologies. These include materials such as concrete, steel, wood and glass. In addition, innovative building technologies are also an area that architects pay attention to.

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Architecture is an important discipline that improves people's quality of life, influences the environment and preserves cultural heritage.

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Sustainability:

Today, environmentally friendly and energy efficient buildings are becoming increasingly important. For this reason, architects tend to design green buildings taking into account the principles of sustainability.

Cultural and Historical Values:

In some projects, architects work to preserve or revitalize local cultural and historical heritage. Such projects present a special challenge

Aesthetics and Art:

Architecture involves aesthetic concerns as well as functionality. Architects use shape, color, texture and other visual elements to harmonize their buildings with their surroundings.



Academic Staff



Assoc. Prof. Semih Göksel Yıldırım

Head of the Department



Prof. Dr. Mehmet Harun Batırbaygil



Prof. Dr. Türkan Uzun



Assist. Prof. Aytek Alkaya



Assist. Prof. Hilay Atalay



Assist. Prof. İlknur Türkoğlu



Assist. Prof. Mehmet Sair Akkam



Assist. Prof. Meryem Müzeyyen Fındıkgil

In the Department of Architecture, students are given basic knowledge and skills in the field of architecture as well as design, planning, building technologies, environmental design and historical heritage.

The academic staff of the Department of Architecture consists of academics who are experienced and specialized in their fields. In addition, the department collaborates with professionals from the industry, such as architectural offices or construction firms, offering students real-world experiences.



Academic Staff



Assist. Prof. Erdal Yıldız



Res. Assist. Betül Gök



Assist. Prof. Murat Arapoğlu



Res. Assist. Hazal Türkmen Yazgaç



Assist. Prof. O. Paul Agboola



Res. Assist. Serpil AKAN

The Department of Architecture consists of theoretical and practical courses. Theoretical courses generally cover topics such as architectural history, theory and building science. Applied courses aim to provide students with skills such as design studios, computer-aided design and architectural visualization.

Future Designers are being trained at IGU Department of Architecture

Our students learn to design buildings using various tools such as hand drawing techniques, 2D and 3D design software and modeling. They are also trained in building materials and construction systems. Architecture graduates specialize in architectural design and planning.

The events organized in our department are as follows:

Workshops

Competitions

Student Club Activities

Seminars

Talks

Exhibitions





Featured Events

A visit to our department from the Architecture Department of the Private University of Fez.

Accompanied by the “International Exchange and Cooperation Office of Istanbul Gelisim University,” a delegation from Morocco visited our Department of Architecture on May 8, 2025. The group, consisting of 2 faculty members and 15 students from the Department of Architecture at the “Private University of Fez,” was provided with information about our department. Potential future collaborations were also discussed.





Featured Events

World Architecture Day 2025 Celebrated at Istanbul Gelisim University Department of Architecture

The Department of Architecture at Istanbul Gelisim University celebrated World Architecture Day 2025 with the theme “Design for Strength” on October 6th, 2025.

Held at the Main Architecture Studio on the 15th Floor of the Tower, the event brought together students, faculty members, and alumni to explore the many dimensions of strength in architecture.





Featured Events

City and Architecture Seminars:

City and Architecture Seminars 2: Disaster Risk Analysis for the Protection of Cultural Heritage: The Example of Çatalca Ferhat Paşa Mosque. Presented by Senior Engineer Handenur Özdemir, the seminar addressed resilience to disasters and explained how to measure the resilience of the Mimar Sinan Mosque Ferhatpaşa Mosque, a cultural heritage site, to disasters using GIS. The seminar was held in partnership with the Istanbul Studies Application and Research Center (ICUAM) and the Environmental Urban Planning and Geosciences Application and Research Center (CSYBUAM).





Featured Events

Field Trip to Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood within the Scope of Architectural Design II

On Monday, February 16, a field study was conducted in Kadıköy Yeldeğirmeni Neighborhood as part of the ARC202 – Architectural Design II course. The studio theme, *Urban Grafting*, approaches architecture as a contextual mode of intervention that integrates with the existing urban fabric, repairs it, and reactivates it. With this initial fieldwork, students began conducting historical, socio-cultural, and morphological analyses at the neighborhood scale. Based on these analyses, they will develop site-specific architectural proposals without adhering to a predefined typology.





Featured Events

Field trip to Sirkeci as part of Cultural Heritage Management courses.

Dr. Ilknur Türkoğlu, a faculty member in the Department of Architecture, organized a field trip to Sirkeci with her English-language graduate students as part of their Cultural Heritage Management course. During the trip, Türkoğlu provided information on Sirkeci's importance to Istanbul's history and its architectural heritage. The group visited Sirkeci Train Station, the Post Office Building, Vlora Han, the Orient Bank building, Han Hotel, and the Spice Bazaar. Finally, they visited Beta Han, examining it as a successful example of restoration and reuse.

The students who participated in the Sirkeci field trip will prepare posters on the preservation and evaluation of the region's architectural heritage, and an exhibition is planned for the end of the semester.





Featured Events

Technical field trip as part of the course

As part of the Istanbul elective course, a technical field trip was organized to Yıldız Palace under the guidance of Assist. Prof. Meryem Fındıkgil. The trip, which began at 11:00 on Saturday, March 28th, started at the Yıldız Hamidiye Mosque, the last imperial mosque built by the Ottomans, and concluded at the Yıldız Palace Library.





Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Department of Architecture have a wide range of job opportunities. Here are some common career options:

Architecture and Design Offices

Construction Companies

State Institutions and Municipalities

Private Consulting and Project Management

Education and Academic Career

Job opportunities for architecture graduates can be wide ranging in line with their skills, interests and experience. In addition, technological and cultural changes in the sector can also affect job opportunities and create new opportunities.



Who Should Choose?

It will be appropriate and right to choose the Department of Architecture for students

who are sensitive to the world,

who are prone to technological developments, art and aesthetic values,

who are interested in change and continuous learning.

“

The houses we live in, the buildings we work in, the open spaces we spend our free time in, and even the streets we move through, all affect our lives.

”



Free Double Major Opportunity

Double Major

The purpose of the double major program is to enable students who successfully complete their major programs to study in a second major program for FREE.

Students who have a GPA of 2.90 out of 4.00 in their major program and who are in the top 20% of their undergraduate/graduate program can start the second major diploma program free of charge.

In which departments do students of the Department of Architecture do DMP?

Faculty of Health Sciences

Vocational School of Health Services

Faculty of Engineering and Architecture

Faculty of Applied Sciences

Faculty of Economics, Administrative and Social Sciences

Faculty of Fine Arts

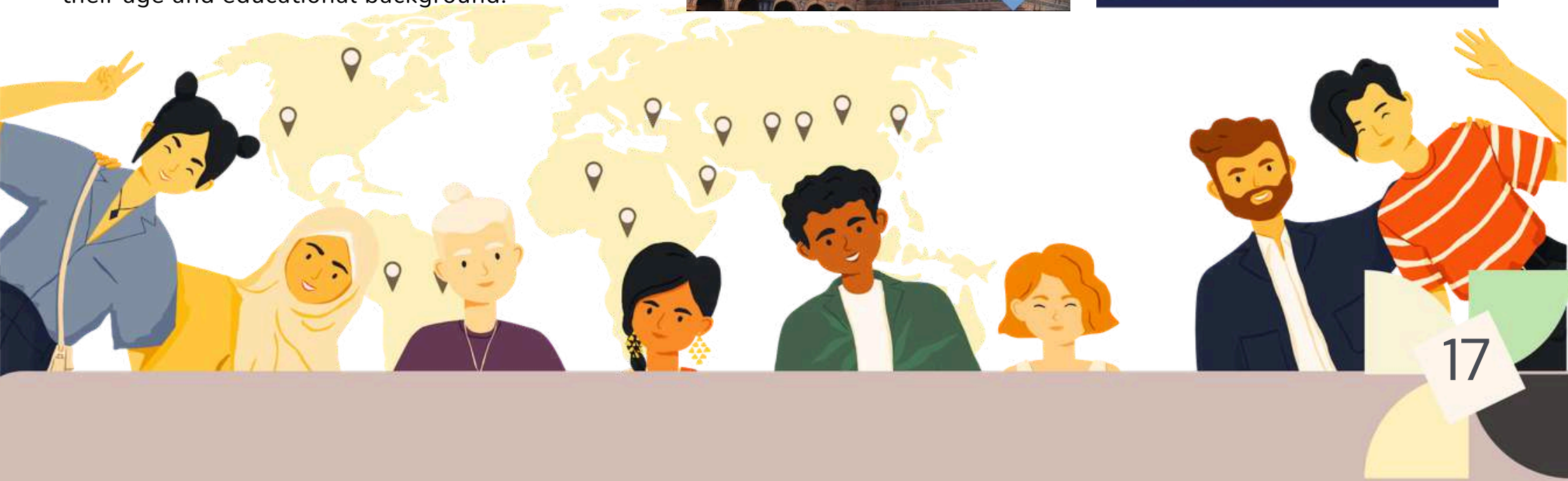
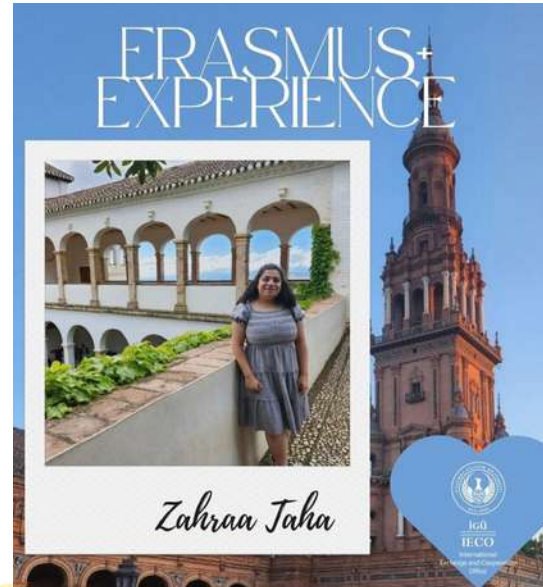
Istanbul Development Vocational School

School of Physical Education and Sports

Step by Step on the Road to Internationalization

What is Erasmus+?

Erasmus+ is a grant program of the European Union covering the fields of education, youth and sport, implemented between 2021-2027. The Erasmus+ Program aims to provide people with new skills, strengthen their personal development and increase their employment opportunities, regardless of their age and educational background.



TUBITAK 2209/A University Students Research Projects Support Program

TÜBİTAK 2209-A University Students Research Projects Support Program is a program that aims to provide financial support for research projects carried out by undergraduate and associate degree students. A project carried out within the scope of TÜBİTAK 2209-A projects, under the academic supervision of Assoc. Prof. Semih Göksel Yıldırım and the leadership of Ebrar Sugün, has been successfully completed.

PROJECT NAME: Comparative Analysis of Daylighting and Structural Performance on Vault Systems

PROJECT CONTENT: The study includes natural lighting and structural performance.

In addition to the consultancy of Assoc. Prof. Semih Göksel Yıldırım from the Department of Architecture, Assist. Prof. Ahmad Reshad Noori from the Department of Civil Engineering of our University also supported the study.





With Strong Steps to the Future: Our Graduates



İlayda ÖZDEMİR
Architect / Interior Architect

Hello, my name is İlayda Özdemir. I graduated from Istanbul Gelişim University as Interior Architecture and Environmental Design Major, Architecture Double Major. After gaining experience in both the application and the project part in different companies for 3 years, I established my own company.

When I won the department, I was very nervous because you are preparing to study a design department and instead of making an appointment and meeting with the Lecturer like other departments, you may have to express your ideas at that moment. The biggest advantage of being at IGU is that you can communicate with the instructors regardless of time and place. I want you to know that every Lecturer's door is open to you until the end.

IGU takes you out of this rote-based system completely. It encourages you to think and always improve. While doing this, I can easily say that he prepared himself for this sector. As an example, you are given projects in ever-growing square meters each semester. In these projects, we can work with different professors every semester. This actually allows you to more clearly understand the different customer groups within the industry. Rather than being the school I graduated from, IGU can be said to be my family, all my great 'good luck's. After I graduated, I gained a huge family that never gave up and whose support I always felt.



We aim to create architectural leaders with a global vision, creativity, and a strong sense of social responsibility, all with a focus on sustainability and technology.

Assoc. Prof. Semih Göksel
YILDIRIM
Head of the Department of
Architecture Department

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

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