

“Projects should exceed the certification level qualities”

I AM ONE OF THOSE ARCHITECTS WHO BELIEVE THAT “PROJECTS SHOULD EXCEED THE CERTIFICATION LEVEL QUALITIES”. THE ESSENCE OF THE MATTER IS THAT I DESIGNED A FANTASTIC PROJECT, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT GOT REALIZED, WHAT MATTERS IS THAT I MADE A PROJECT THAT WAS FUNCTIONAL, THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE. ONE OF THE HARD THINGS YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH WHEN DESIGNING NOWADAYS IS THAT CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS ARE BEING USED FOR MARKETING MORE THAN ANYTHING.

You believe in the design process rather than the end product. How has the design management and process changed? What caused this change?

Architecture has always been a process, we just didn't have as many steps before. So the people responsible for projects didn't have much to worry about. In the last 10 years these steps have grown to a much larger quantity, this made the process need much more than a well educated architect. A lot of different criteria become popular with people's new mentality since the 80s, like; technology, saving the world, recycling, sociology and social psychology. Naturally, the design process has also changed.

I've been doing my own job since 1997, at first i only needed 5 or 10 people groups, but now i have an office with 50 people in it, this isn't just because we do larger projects, it's also because there are now a lot more steps to the process. When a new step is needed, you need to have an expert doing it so that it's done well. Even though we are an architectural office we have a machine engineer, an electric engineer, a construction engineer, an industrial designer and an interior designer in our group. We have these people because every step needs to be done in togetherness.

Can you talk a little about your projects, design processes and your solutions to certain problems?

I am one of those architects who believe that “Projects should exceed the certification level qualities”. The essence of the matter is that i designed a fantastic project, it doesn't matter if it got realized, what matters is that i made a project that was functional, the way it's supposed to be. One of the hard things you have to deal with when designing nowadays is that certification systems are being used for marketing more than anything. I used to try to explain that this was how the process is supposed to be back in 1997, and now people have realized that this practice is integrated into the design process.

When nearing completion of a project, you should be giving the end user, area and country a project that will still be new in the next twenty years. This means that you are thinking about structural physics, mechanics and electrical engineering all at the same time as designing... This kind of design process only has two cons; you need more time to finish and the more steps you need the more people you need to pay. So we only assist investors who are ready to face this process, who seek out this process to overcome certain problems, we want to give them architectural solutions.



The first thing you need to learn is if the land is fit for what the investor wants. Then you need to compare the pros and cons of the land, in order to foresee the next 20-30 years of the building, and make a feasibility report. In Europe that's the first report they ask for when you go to an international firm, but we never talk about it in here, maybe you've never even seen it or heard of it; but it's a must in our projects. They call it the letter of intent in trades, but for us it's the first step that comes even before the project has been drawn out. This is where you state the goal and note of the project, you will be ready to solve the problems that you might come across 4-5 years after completion. This makes your project efficient from the start.

These criteria that'll be right for the design process projects, avoids the negativities you asked about; it also helps to fix everything before extra costs are needed and also sets an example system for other buildings.

Can we get some extra information on building performance modelling and simulations?

Building physics is a very large subject, it covers energy, lighting, climate and acoustics. If you take this room as an example; the air quality, sound isolation and the right lighting are much more important subjects than the color scheme. Using environment friendly, recyclable materials to fill these criteria is the way to do the job. Building simulation programs tell us what kind of materials to use, what budget limit to stay withing and how the building will perform. Architects, landscape architects; energy simulators; machine, electric and lighting engineers, they all need to have an understanding of the job and it's calculations for the project to be done properly. These teams tend to have leaders, whether it be a LEED assessor, the project

creator or an architect; these leaders need a vision of how the building modelling or simulation will look like, they'll need a limit to see how reachable their goals are.

When doing a job we make a simulation to choose how much to invest in certain renewable sources, and how well the renewal will be, this tells us how much the A, B, C or D investments will pay back both financially and environmentally. We do the simulations that we know how to, and get assistance from universities when we need to. I have something to underline here; i believe that the leader of this process should never aim to get more money, or focus on a certificate. We took over the management of the old Bomonti Beer Factory, as Oğuz Bayazit Architecture. Different brands will fulfill different functions in the project; showcasing spaces, museums, restaurants, recreational spaces, workshops for students... Our first job is to make sure we do the research needed for the promises we gave, second job is to make sure a historical building preserves its uniqueness and lastly we need to provide this project with all the values we have... Another project of ours is a very large industrial plant located in the Çatalca Free Zone. We are in charge of providing design solutions that will make sure the facility will produce the energy it uses.

Is it possible to renew any given structure to be sustainable, how should the economical, ecological balance stay in these cases? On the same matter, how should the process follow when renewing historical buildings to be sustainable?

This also has three subjects; first is the project management and simulations, second is all the solutions that'll lead us to our goals, the third is how it'll be managed.

Historical buildings have this potential. Any



new functions that you may add to this existing historical structure need to give more value to the building, not more profit. What does this mean? Automation systems have developed very much lately, the main guys of what we've been talking about are system engineers. If you explain clearly what the process aims to the system engineers, they'll put out an equally clear plan that'll lead you there. After that you might choose to follow many different paths to get where you want to be, automation systems have many ways to do right.

You create scenarios, simulations, you get the results and decide whether you like it or not. This phase is parallel to what the end-user wants, do our choices in building physics follow the rules of fire safety, are they loud to the locals, are they too expensive... I'm not saying never have these, but there are a lot of different conditions. These two need to be kept in balance, and we need more projects that do that. I believe that every building can be shaped to follow these rules. I'm not an expert but i know that recycling waste

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For example, you can't do anything without these processes when you're designing a genetics center, a hospital or a mechatronics factory; because the solutions there always come out of our work in the office. That's why investors with those kind of projects prefer us and that's also why we prefer them.

Sustainability and ecology became very trendy subjects lately, can we assume that public and workplace buildings are late to follow these trends?

The leading people should be the ones who know the job, not the people who hold the financial high ground. Where the people who know the job stand is the same place that country has developed in that industry. It's a very nice thing to see that the residence industry has a newly found passion for these; but it's not easy to say that a lot of projects being made follow these criteria. Public buildings will be the last to catch up to these trends; because if you give mathematical advantages of having an environment friendly building to a holding they won't easily say no. But because these are not short term benefits, and it's very rare to find political authorities that'll be willing to wait long term, public and workplace buildings will be late to these trends.

As an example, we did a project in Güneşli in 1998. It was an office and a factory building for a chemistry firm. When i visited last year, i saw that they were still working the same as they did the first year, and they didn't need anything new. We might not have made the perfect chemistry building, but we gave them a structure that was enough for them for the time between 1998 and 2014. We also made some facilities in Dalaman Airport in 1997, which are also functioning the same. I can only hope for our schools, public buildings and hospitals to follow up to these standards. We can fill up the subjects, but we need more solid work done for these trends to be realized.

What are your thoughts on the profit that can be made by rationalization of construction procedures compared to the profit that'll be made by avoiding later health issues at the beginning of design?

Our first order of business is to make sure that this question is asked at all times, and by the people who can make them come true, not by people that'll profit from these, people like architects, engineers, city planners and the people and schools that'll teach them their trade.



WE ARE A COUNTRY SURROUNDED BY WATER ON IT'S THREE SIDES, AFTER A WHILE OUR UNDERWATER WATER SUPPLIES WILL BE MUCH MORE VALUABLE THAN PETROL, I THINK WE SHOULD TRY TO DO SOME TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING SEA WATER USAGE...

papers have very different feasibilities, some papers cost more energy to recycle than what we gain from recycling them, so it's not very smart to recycle everything. Structures are the same. There'll be a building and i'll be able to give all these values to it, i'll be able to change it so that they can be used better; but there are some buildings where you just need to give up right at the prefeasibility phase. Of course i can't say that for historical buildings but if a building has no historical value, this is definitely the case. There's no point in adding up 20 more years of the same mistake again. The simulations i talked about are also very important here as well.

Especially in the last 30 years, there's been discussions on the value of water and the fact that it may become a reason for crysisa. Can you talk about your work in water efficiency?

I've been working on ways to recycle water since i started doing my job. Using less water and recycling water are very new subjects in Turkey... There are new technological avan-

ces that help us use less water especially in wet areas. When you tell an investor that an electric usage report states that the recycling will take 4 years they don't really care, but when we tell them about our water being recycled every 6 years they're really interested. That's why we work on water filtering systems and focus on scenarios that lessen our water usage.

But in industrial spaces, the energy used for converting rainwater doesn't always give us good reports. That's why the solutions always need best optimizing. As an example, converting rainwater in Gebze Industrial Area doesn't work because of the air pollution, but in the Aegean Area you always get positive results.

Another issue is the usage of underground waters, not just recycling or efficiency, the source is also very important. We are a country surrounded by water on it's three sides, after a while our underwater water supplies will be much more valuable than petrol, i think we should try to do some technological developments regarding sea water usage...

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