



The connection between architecture and the environment is important

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What level sustainability and ecological responsibility can be maintained within the scope of architecture? Do you believe that these concepts are correctly perceived and applied to projects undertaken in our country?

Sustainability and ecology are not new subjects; they have always been around and they will continue to be important matters as long as life goes on. In the past, people built structures out of necessity and this kind of approach was very sustainable. In our day, structures are built far beyond necessity. It seems that there is eighty years-worth of construction going on within a couple of years, and cosmetic formulas are being applied to these buildings in order to make them all appear green. While sustainability and ecology standards would be best if these constructions never started in the first place. The most ecological buildings are the ones that don't exist. If we're building a structure, it's sustainability is a mandatory concern, as long as it stays tall where it was built it'll be a part of history, a part of the land. On this note, a building should be evaluated on more than one approach. Any given structure is in a constant state of interaction with the people living at it's location, it's geographical situation, other buildings in the vicinity, basically with everything.

Being sustainable and environmentally friendly are not what makes a good building, but any good building encompasses these qualities in it's entirety. As a result, when creating a building there are many factors to consider, and since we have been conceiving and producing at a rapid pace, when talking about it we tend to wrap the discussion up in a shroud and refer to it in this enveloped state. It was a popular subject back when I was a student and I also did my post graduate studies on the subject. Back then when I was researching and reflecting, I realised that many things considered to be green had been manufactured within a context unrelated to architecture.

Naturally, buildings consuming less energy and being self-sufficient is important. This isn't something that can be measured with points, nor is it like collecting coupons from a newspaper and replacing the issues you missed with spares you already had. It's a field that has a significant relationship with the city, and for this reason it's important to know not to force things because there's a point missing, and we should reconsider whatever we have to do to give the building these expected qualities. I don't think that we should be so focused on getting a certification. We shouldn't have to reward

SUYABATMAZ&DEMİREL

HAKAN DEMİREL



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Süryani Ortodoks Kadim Klisesi

buildings with certificates, the expectations of sustainability should be obligatory. It is now possible to access materials that meet health and safety standards, and that are environmentally friendly in our country.

What are your thoughts on consumer acceptance and the general situation in Turkey regarding the usage of these?

I have a personality that makes me wait for things to become common before I can start making them a tool for me to use. So new materials and technologies are things I tend to follow a step back from everyone else. I've always believed this to be favourable. I also believe that the architect should be more interested in the city and the living society. I don't believe technological advances aimed to be used by individuals to be as important as advances aimed at public use, for this reason I think public spaces and people's relationship with their living spaces should be improved, after that individuals will raise demand for individual advances. Technological advances have a tendency to distract people from their real

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problems; because of this the most important chain circles should meet in least common denominators and should move towards better conditions. That is a much more important subject than just a few circles using healthier more environment friendly materials.

What building materials do you most prefer to work with?

I can mention a few. I like working with wood because I like the way it feels. Of course this doesn't mean that I use wood everywhere. Sometimes, for the sake of solidity, when we are building a movie theatre, for example, the foundations, walls, all can be made of wood. Actually, I also like stone and marble... there are incredible varieties of marble; whenever I go to the stone quarry to pick out marble I can't leave for hours, it's a miracle of nature. There are incredible designs in massive slabs. I like materials that haven't been processed too much, pure materials that get stronger with age. If we plasticise, sterilise, pressurise, and freeze everything, then perhaps we will have no hassles but we will also be rid of the possible taste that comes with the aged materials. Therefore the relationship between architecture and nature is important, instead of trying to make everything "perfect", we should try to make places that have spirit. Actually, materials adapt as they mesh with the integrity of the structure, whether it's stone, wood, concrete...

Can we talk about the projects you've worked on with Mar Yapi and the G-YOO project?



Ahmet Oran Atölyesi



HAKAN DEMİREL

We were first approached by Mar Yapı in 2008 with a project about an ecological building and told us that they wanted to make a building, which lead to us designing such spirited projects as Ekopark İstanbul, Güneşli Tower, G Plus and G Plus Sale Office, Divan Express Hotel, G-YOO and Tri-G Rotana. The Ekopark project, which was the first one we did, was a very important and critical project for us. The Ekopark project was suggested as an office building but because the land it was on was owned by two different owners it got planned as two projects instead of one. This was how The G-Plus project came about. During this time it was being considered to become a residence building, but because we couldn't be sure we made the building out of hotel room sized blocks, so that it could adapt to being a hotel, a residence or an office building. After construction began, after the first tower was completed in fact, Mar Yapi sat down with Divan Koc and decided to turn a section of the building into a hotel. Our initiative made this transition a much more easier one. When we were working on 3G, we were asked to design an office building but in the end we went to work on what was to become an office building, a residential building, and a hotel. Although predetermined to be an office building, 40% it became a hotel, and the remaining 60% became a residence operated in association with the hotel. This was not a coincidence on our part, our idea of sustainability is spotting the land the building is on and all it's future uses and making something that can be used in many different ways.

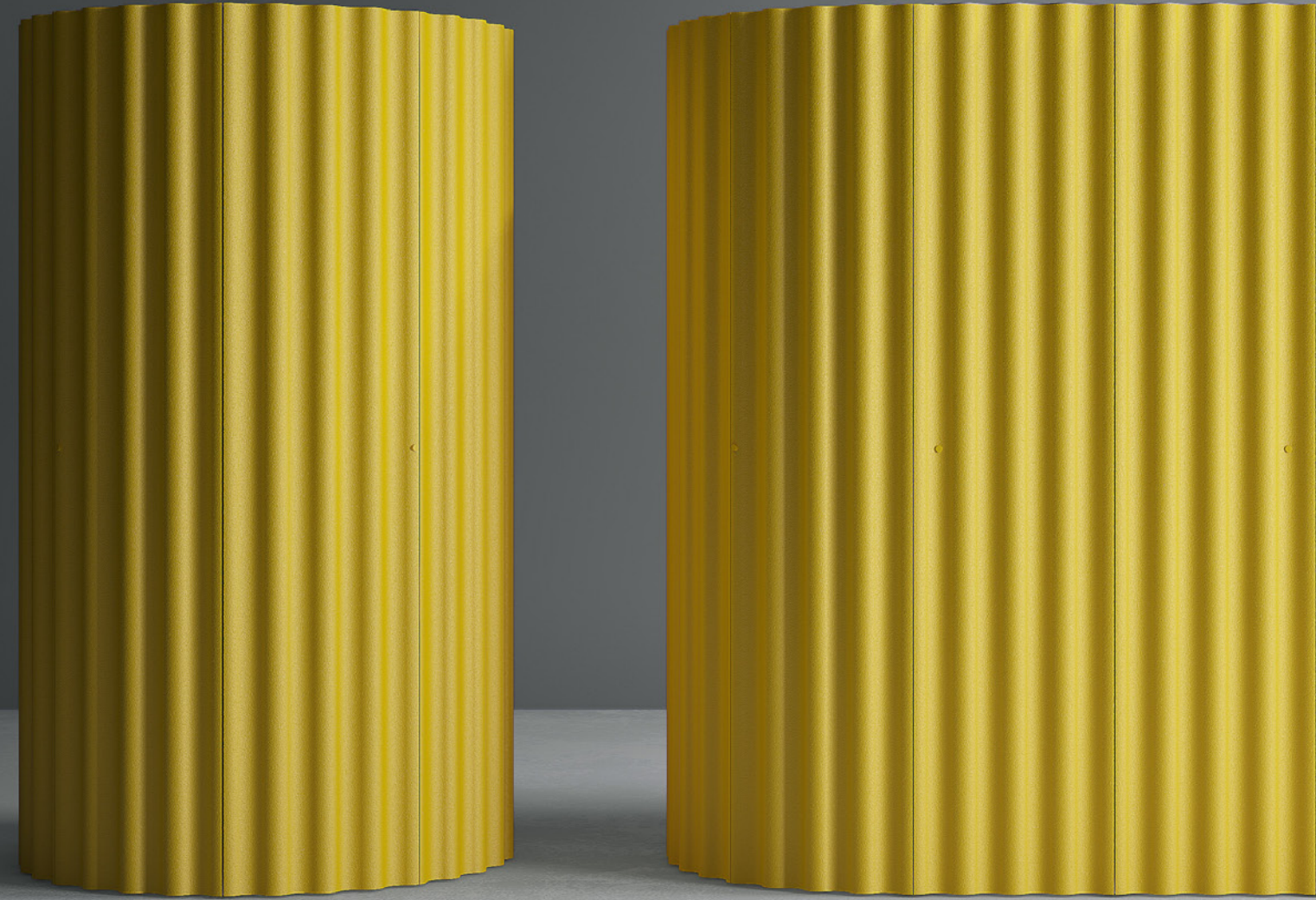
When we first started G-YOO it was 2012 and the project name was ALA. It became a finalist as a residence project on 2012s MIPIM AR Projects of Future. Around 2014 it became partnered with YOO for it's interior design. Philippe Starck made a comment about the project saying "I come across many projects worldwide but I rarely see a project this simple, but innovative at the same time." and this was a very good review for us.

If you were to create a structure for yourself, where would it be? What kind of design would it be? What materials would you use?

It's easy to say where it would be, but it's impossible to be sure of how it would look. Because to even start designing anything there are things you need to know and I never tried to design something that doesn't exist. I could say that I would chose the materials based on where it's placed. But I would want it to be quiet, both the place and the design. □

Wall

Design by Aykut Erol



Dolabın tanımı değiştirildi, yan yana gelebilen ünitelerle devamlılık sağlanarak, hem soyunma ve dosya dolabı hem de bölücü özellik sağlandı.

Definition of locker has changed, with units side by side it provides both continuity and seperation.

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