



LEVENT ÇIRPICI



“We prefer to use natural materials...”

WE PREFER TO USE NATURAL MATERIALS, AS AN EXAMPLE WE USE MARBLE INSTEAD OF CERAMIC. WHEN WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A HOSPITAL, WE CHOOSE MATERIALS WHICH AREN'T CARCINOGENIC. IN OUR OTHER PROJECTS WE STICK WITH RECYCLABLE ORGANIC MATERIALS, AND IF IT'S A FABRIC WE LIKE TO USE FELT. WE ARE ALSO OPEN TO USING NEW, DIFFERENT, SURPRISING, AESTHETICALLY PLEASING MATERIALS.

How sustainable and ecological should architecture be and how much of it is being applied in our country?

Atila Kuzu: In Turkey everything is done by pretending; like projects that pretend to have awards, buildings that pretend to be green, but aren't... Sustainability and recycling are very important issues to think about. I always think about how small our efforts stand in a place where petrol products are being used very often and everything is being connected to politics. For example, even if electric cars are being produced in our country, there will either never be a place to use them or it will be very expensive. It's hard to talk about sustainability and ecology in such a place, I'm not saying that it shouldn't exist, it definitely should but our efforts only last so long, to achieve anything after that somethings need to change in the country.

Levent Çirpici: Last year, around May 25, the German Municipality announced that they get 73% of their energy from sustainable energy sources. Their aim is to get it to a hundred percent by 2023. And for

many years we are saying things like why aren't we using that or that, if we use this we will have save from heating, if we use this glass we will have less sunlight... we would say these to our employers but because of the initial investment cost it would return to us and its still the same today. There is an incredible importance given to initial investment costs, first thing to care about is how soon will it start making money and giving its services, I'm very confused because these things are still top priority. In Turkey we always see our partnered engineers manipulating employers with microcalculations. I was in Skopje, Macedonia, in a hospital there recently and they started to get energy from the grounds natural heat. We've been trying that for years but we cant get the employers to agree to invest in us. It pains me to even talk about these. In a foreign news portal some entrepreneurs are discussing that renewable energy sources and investments in them are nothing but a delusion.

They're saying that these things themselves do harm to the environment and they will never last with their success. The danger of the winds travelling routes,



ATILLA KUZU

ZOOM TPU



Liv Hospital, Ulus



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and some other things about the sun, these things are known but in our country it's meaningless to talk about them. Just like the award ceremonies in here, the project awards are quite worthless.

A good job is done with a good employer and an intellectual team, not just by the architect's or the designer's constant supervision and focus, and after that the period where the people, who are going to be in that building need to accept and claim, begins. We are still not in a place where we can talk about underground heat sources or the sun without it being political, in this context it's very hopeless, but we also have a fairly young population, and we are quite adaptive of technology and innovation. A.K: There are actually no examples of modern architecture...

L.Ç: But it's nobody's fault, an architect such as Le Corbusier comes here and tries to build something in Taksim and we didn't let him because he's a watch designer, that's where we lost 50 years. To me Istanbul isn't a brand city, we don't have a most recent modern architecture example, except for Sancaklar Mosque by Emre Arolat and some

other examples here and there.

Today, we can produce more environment friendly construction materials with new technologies. What do you think about their market acceptance and their state in Turkey?

A.K: In the last 50 years there isn't much of new revolutionary materials in architecture. Even though composite covering have found themselves a place in the vocabulary we still mostly use concrete. Because of heat loss we don't use transparent facades, as a country we tend to overlook any technicalities and focus on just doing what we see. People don't move with better and more detailed plans, while everybody thinks about the financial outcomes, everything else goes unnoticed. What we don't have are people willing to pay expensive initial investment costs that will make much more money in the long run.

L.Ç: But we also need to be fair to employers, they are dependent on creating economic value. The most valuable thing in the world that can't be produced is land, and in a place like Istanbul where land is very

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scarce you need to be fast and frugal.

A.K: It's also about the way you look at it, you can't be pessimistic...

L.Ç: We have made issues like savings, technological materials, intellectual producing and many others very easily communicated issues but we still haven't slipped out of the ordinary to create icons. Zaha Hadid should've come here to build something so that we could see propulsive force.

One of the subjects for our new Issue is Hospitals and Health Buildings. Can we have some information about your approaches to hospitals and your previous projects?

A.K: We started our hospital projects in 2004 with the Acibadem Hospitals, Memorial and Florence Nightingale Hospitals are also our projects. Hospitals are very hard to make and they are very technical. It is very vulnerable to criticizing by the users of the building and overall everything you do will be evaluated... What hospitals should be have nothing to do with what we know them to be. They should be comfortable and they should feel safe. Within the last few years the healing effects that have a lot to do with our line of work, we decided to give a different approach to hospitals. Some employers want "Hospitals that look like hospitals" and we don't prefer that. With every technological advance we think about what we can improve next and that is how we came about in the industry.

L.Ç: The employer is very important at this point, we sometimes can't import our newly gained experiences with one hospital to the next, and when we do, it just feels like we are repeating themselves. When making a hospital it's really not that different from making a hotel, For example you need to get rid of the radon in the concrete, from the wallpapers to coverings or the ceiling there are a lot of hospital specific things that aren't being used; because they are pricy and quite incompetent.

On October of 2012 the Health Municipality of Construction and

Repair Department issued a circular that stated, every hospital that exceeds 200 beds need to have a LEED Certificate. What do you think about this?

L.Ç: Before LEED there was another certificate called JCI, just like i said, there aren't any hospitals that don't have JCI, i'm certain that LEED is in the same directions, so i don't really care. Think about it as job safety, we've had laws for years but are they being followed? No. It doesn't matter if it's LEED or not or if the law says that you have to do it, the important part is who is monitoring these actions. Hospitals have a lot of problems and investors have really hard times, and we don't find in ourselves the right to talk next to them. We started with cosmetic values and trained ourselves technically to come this far, but on the otherside, really interesting things are happening and we should be looking into them, we should be looking into how LEED works. You can't design and make hospitals like ours everywhere. It's hard to compile teams and materials...

A.K: It's actually a matter of research. In Finland we attended an event about health structures and we showed our work, they were very impressed and they wanted to know how effective the healing effect was on the patients. We couldn't give them an answer because we finish the building in a year and half, we don't have a research&development center and no comebacks. Maybe there is a healing effect that hasn't been proven yet. And if you don't have proof you feel like you're floating in space.

Do you think there are going to be evaluations about the healing effect of the hospitals in Turkey?

A.K: Of course there will be, a lot of things have started being put into numbered values. Turkey has interesting dynamics, somethings go bad while somethings get better. And that keeps us fresh and dynamic, it motivates us to our jobs. We also talked to our employers about getting some research done about this and they are very positive.

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THE FINANCIAL OUTCOMES,
EVERYTHING ELSE GOES
UNNOTICED.



Maslak Acibadem Hospital

WE ARE ALSO TRYING TO MAKE PRETTY BUILDINGS, SO WE USE THINGS IN LINE WITH THAT AS WELL, SO WE NEED TO KEEP A BALANCE.

L.Ç: But the processes aren't ready yet, we have to finish 40 thousand metersquares of hospital in 2 years for the investor to be happy. In the west the research and planning itself takes that much time, so we are in completely different places.

A.K: In Finland they decided to change every single medical structure, we went there to listen to that panel and their deadline is 2035 which is a very long period of time for us...

Can you talk about your recent medical projects?

A.K: We are mostly known for our interior design projects but in the last few years our architectural projects are getting recognized as well. We are currently doing a hospital project which will be finalized around next summer, and also another project that we

just started. Other than these another one in design phase is Avrasya, and a new school project we have about changing a factory to a school. We just finished Denizli Erpa Hospital. Our florence Nightingale got a LEED certificate. It has a good architectural approach, rain water and gray waste water management is good, we also didn't use any carcinogenic materials. We could've wasted a forest for flooring but we didn't, instead we used linolium.

Since we are talking about materials, what are some of your favorites?

A.K: Since we are mostly involved with hospitals we prefer to use natural materials, as an example we use marble instead of ceramic. When we are talking about a hospital, we choose materials such us linolium which aren't carcinogenic. In our other projects we stick with recyclable

organic materials, and if it's a fabric we like to use felt. We are also open to using new, different, surprising, aesthetically pleasing materials.

L.Ç: I want to answer in two parts, first is if i'm designing something that requires functional interior design such as hotels or hospitals, i use the best and most local materials for that. I value staying away from unnecessary production. And the second is in an architectural perspective my aim is to have some reinvention projects, just like the school we have. In Turkey we have been using innovative materials for the last 10-15 years; acrylic, manipulated steel and aluminium, these things don't have an end...

A.K: We are also trying to make pretty buildings, so we use things in line with that as well, so we need to keep a balance.□

Yüksek akustik değer elde etmek, yürüme konforu sağlamak, şık mekanlar yaratmak ve yeşil bina hedeflerini yakalamak için en uygun zemin kaplama çözümünü Tandus Halı'da bulun.



Halı, ofis, konaklama, eğitim gibi sektörler için vazgeçilmez bir zemin kaplama malzemesi olan halının konforu ile PVC'nin rahatlığı Tandus-Centiva'da buluşuyor. Uygulandığı her mekana şık, zengin, estetik bir görünüm kazandıran Tandus, kolay bakım ve temizleme avantajını birlikte sunuyor.

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