

RESILIENT HERITAGE
Designing for Climate, Culture and Community
Climate Adaptation Center for Historic Cities

The city of Tokat, founded during the Roman period on the site of Tokat Castle, first began to expand toward the southern foothills of the castle during the Danismendid period, and the city's historic urban and commercial center developed in this area. During the rise of the Anatolian Seljuk State and the Ottoman Empire, major trade routes in Anatolia passed through the city of Tokat. Tokat, which had been under the protection of many states throughout history, was conquered by Emir Danişment in 1074. Following the Danişmendids, the Anatolian Seljuks, the Ilkhanids, and the Ottomans established their rule in the region (Bütüner, 2015: 302). Tokat, which has been home to many civilizations, experienced its most intensive period of construction in the 13th century. Ruled by the Anatolian Seljuks and, following the Battle of Köseadağ, by Mongol governors, Tokat saw intense construction activity during this century. While structures from the 14th century belong to the Ilkhanids and the Taceddinoğulları, structures from the Ottoman period begin to appear starting in the 15th century (Elpe, 2015: 47).

* A field trip to the project site will take place on **October 3–4**.

Figuring out the Architectural Program

“The project investigates how contemporary architecture can contribute to the resilience of historic cities under the pressures of climate change. Students are expected to design a public institution that integrates climate adaptation, cultural heritage conservation, research, education, and community engagement. The proposal should establish a sensitive dialogue with the historic urban fabric while demonstrating innovative environmental design strategies and creating inclusive public spaces.”

The studio will explore the question: “How can a contemporary public building help historic cities adapt to climate change while preserving their cultural identity?”

The selection of a site adjacent to Gök Medrese (Figure 1), one of Tokat's significant historical monuments, provides a unique opportunity to explore the relationship between cultural heritage, contemporary architecture, and climate adaptation. Rather than treating the historic monument as an isolated object, the project considers Gök Medrese and its surrounding urban fabric as part of a living historic landscape shaped by cultural memory, topography, climate, public life, and changing patterns of use. The proposed Climate Adaptation Center for Historic Cities / Heritage Resilience Hub is therefore envisioned not simply as a new building, but as an interface between the historic city and its future. The project aims to investigate how contemporary architecture can respond to climate-related challenges while respecting the cultural significance, spatial character, and identity of the historic environment. Students are expected to develop design strategies that establish a meaningful dialogue with Gök Medrese without imitating its architectural language, and to explore how the new intervention can contribute to the environmental, social, and cultural resilience of Tokat's historic urban landscape.



Figure 1. Project Site (google-earth image)

Design Objectives:

- To understand the historic urban landscape surrounding Gök Medrese.
- To identify climate-related vulnerabilities and opportunities within the site.
- To develop a contemporary architectural response to the historic context without imitation.
- To integrate passive and active climate adaptation strategies into architectural design.
- To create meaningful relationships between building, landscape, and public space.
- To explore how architecture can contribute to the long-term resilience of historic cities.

While maintaining our focus on the core theme of "**Designing for Climate, Culture, and Community**," the studio will explore the design of a "**Climate Adaptation Center for Historic Cities**" (ARCH 301) and a "**Heritage Resilience Hub**" (ARCH 302–401).

ARCH 301- Climate Adaptation Center for Historic Cities

- Public Arrival and Orientation
- Climate and Heritage Exhibition
- Education and Community Learning
- Public Event Spaces
- Research and Knowledge Resources
- Social Spaces
- Administration
- Building Services
- Storage

- Circulation
- Restrooms
- Vertical Circulation
- **approx. 5000m²** in total

ARCH 302- 401

Heritage Resilience Hub

- Public Arrival and Orientation
- Climate & Heritage Exhibition
- Education and Capacity Building
- Research Laboratories
- Innovation and Living Lab
- Disaster Risk and Resilience Center
- Research Offices
- Conference and Public Events
- Archive and Knowledge Center
- Social Spaces
- Administration
- Building Services
- **approx. 8000m²-9000m²** in total

Methods of Learning

As a part of architectural design studio, critics (collective and individual), project progress, juries and self-elaboration are crucial methods of learning. To benefit from the vertical studio students are encouraged to get themselves associated to other semester processes and works. While site trips, academic reading and research, exercises in visual expressions, physical and digital conceptualization and means of technical drawing are the initial learning methods of this studio, students are encouraged to employ diverse methodologies, such as advanced computer-aided design tools, field studies, visits to key heritage sites, and collaborative cross-sectional discussions. Additional methodological suggestions and initiatives may be proposed and discussed throughout the semester.

Outcomes

The following outcomes are common to arch301, arch302 and arch401 students. By the end of the semester, the students will be able to:

- gain awareness of environmental, cultural, and economic sustainability requirements at local scales.
- synthesize analysis, research, and ideas of the buildings and (complex) urban settings.
- analyze context and formulate conceptual design approaches responsive to environmental imperative, particularly climate change.
- identify functional needs and uses, identify user profiles, and develop design strategies for sites neighboring buildings of heritage,
- expand their knowledge on social and cultural scenarios concerning the overall studio theme.
- effectively use the traditional and digital communication technologies and visual expression tools.
- develop maturity in teamwork, and individual responsibility to collective achievement.

- develop the ability to generate architectural solutions for self-defined scenarios within a given context and scale.

Criteria of evaluation

The following criteria are evaluated throughout the semester by considering projected outcomes with evaluation phases:

- Capability to deal with the facts of city and nature, and develop bases for their connections to their projects
- Research in proper way, transferring findings in project environment and reflect the outcomes in design
- Conceptual background and functional approach to design problem and context
- Ability to initiate project design and its cyclic progress from start to end considering critics, research, and actualization.
- Visuality techniques and presentation skills to state and defense ideas and designs
- Architectural drawing quality to show the project ideas and development
- Adhere to submission guidelines and effective oral/visual project presentation.
- Prepare the submission due to instructions and presentation of the project
- Attendance in the accordance with university regulations, and active participation in the sessions, activities, discussions, and critics during the classes

Evaluation Phases:

- Attendance: 10%
- Assignments: 10% (assignments and project process throughout the semester)
- Mid-term Jury: 30%
- Final Jury: 50%

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