

Meltem AL

Assistant Professor

Department of Interior Architecture and Environmental Design - Bilkent University

phone: (Turkey) +90 505 466 3594

e-mail: meltem.al@bilkent.edu.tr

Education

- 2024 Ph.D. in Architecture, McGill University, Peter Guo-hua Fu School of Architecture, Canada
- 2015 M.A. in Architecture and Urban Design, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), United States of America
- 2013 M.Arch. in Architectural Design, Middle East Technical University, Turkey
- 2010 B.Arch. in Architecture, Middle East Technical University, Turkey

Teaching and research experience

- 2025 (Spring) Instructor, “How Houses Build People?” (ADA 265), Bilkent University, Department of Architecture
- 2025 (Spring) Instructor, “History of Built Environment II” (ADA 264), Bilkent University, Department of Architecture
- 2024 (Fall) Instructor, “History of Built Environment I” (ADA 263), Bilkent University, Department of Architecture
- 2024 (Fall) Instructor, “Hatay’da Deprem Sonrası Nasıl Bir Gelecek?: Mimarlığın İyileştirici Gücü” (What Kind of Future Awaits Hatay After the Earthquake?: The Healing Power of Architecture) Design Studio (MIM 291), Başkent University, Department of Architecture
- 2024 (Spring) Instructor, “Urban Challenges” Design Studio (LAUD 402 & LAUD 302), Bilkent University, Department of Urban Design and Landscape Architecture
- 2020 (Fall) Teaching Assistant, Peter Guo-hua Fu School of Architecture, McGill University, “Western Architecture 1750 – 1850”
- 2020 (Winter) Teaching Assistant, Peter Guo-hua Fu School of Architecture, McGill University, “Global Architecture and Urbanism in the Modern Era”
- 2018 (Winter) Teaching Assistant, Peter Guo-hua Fu School of Architecture, McGill University, “Urban Design and Planning”
- 2014 (Fall) Reader, Geography Department, University of California Los Angeles, “Urban Design & Planning”
- 2012 - 2013 Teaching Assistant, City and Urban Planning Department, Middle East Technical University, “Design Studio III”
- 2011 - 2013 Research Assistant, Middle East Technical University

Awards and honors

- 2020 - 2021 McGill University Peter Fu Graduate Fellowship
- 2020 McGill University Peter Fu Graduate Fellowship
- 2019 McGill University, Graduate Mobility Award
- 2019 McGill University Peter Fu Graduate Fellowship
- 2018 McGill University, Graduate Research Enhancement and Travel Award
- 2018 International Journal of Urban and Regional Research Foundation Studentship Award
- 2018 McGill University Peter Fu Graduate Fellowship
- 2018 McGill University, Graduate Mobility Award
- 2017 McCord Museum, Fred and Betty Price Research Award

- 2016 McGill University, Graduate Research Enhancement and Travel Award
- 2015 - 2018 McGill Engineering International Tuition Award
- 2015 McGill University, Schulich Award
- 2015 - 2016 P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship for graduate education in Canada
- 2014 - 2015 P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship for graduate education in the US
- 2013 - 2015 FULBRIGHT Scholarship for graduate education in the US
- 2012 Grant Programme of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBİTAK)
- 2012 Critical Readings in Architecture-4, "Image/City/Meta," Architecture Students Essay Competition 4, 1st prize, Architects' Association 1927 (*Mimarlıkta Eleştirel Okumalar 4, "İmge/Kent/Meta," Mimarlık Öğrencileri Yazı Yarışması, Mimarlar Derneği 1927*)
- 2011 Critical Readings in Architecture 3, "Modernity and New Utopia," Architecture Students Essay Competition 3, 1st prize, Architects' Association 1927 (*Mimarlıkta Eleştirel Okumalar 3, "Modernite ve Yeni-Ütopya," Mimarlık Öğrencileri Yazı Yarışması, Mimarlar Derneği 1927*)
- 2005 Ranked 1st in the entrance of Department of Architecture, METU, Ankara, Turkey

Publications in peer-reviewed journals

- Al, M. and **I. Türeli**. "Walking in the Periphery: Activist Art and Urban Resistance to Neoliberalism in Istanbul." *Review of Middle East Studies* 52, no. 2 (November 2018): 310–33.
- Al, M. "Mekân Her Şeyden Önce Yok Etmeye Yarar" (Space, First of All, Serves to Destroy). *Praksis*, vol. 3, no. 42 (December 2016): 583–608.

Journal articles

- Book Review: Courtney Dorroll and Philip Dorroll: Spatial Politics in Istanbul: Turning Points in Contemporary Turkey, *International Journal of Islamic Architecture IJIA* (July, 2025)
- Al, M. "Bir Ehlileştirme Mekanizması Olarak Sosyal Konut: Rimelleri Akan Bir Ülkü" (Social Housing as an Apparatus of Discipline: A Devastated Ideal). *Arredamento Mimarlık*, June 2015, 101–6.
- Al, M. "Kentte Bellek Yıkımı ve Kimlik İnşası–Palimpsest: Ankara Atatürk Bulvarı Bağlamında Bir İnceleme" (Memory Destruction, Identity Construction in the City – Palimpsest: A Survey in the Context of Ankara Atatürk Boulevard). *İdealkent*, no. 4 (2011): 22–36.
- Al, M. Delilik: Zalim Olanın Meşruiyet, Cesur Olanın Direnme Mecrası" (Insanity: The Legitimacy Stage of The Evil, The Resistance Stage of The Brave). *Arredamento Mimarlık*, December 2011, 97–100.

Book chapters

- Al, M. Geyikli Bir Geceyi Ya Da Fiktif Bir Kenti Düşlemek Üzerine" (Dreaming About an Imaginary City). In *Mimarlıkta Eleştirel Okumalar 3-4*. Ankara: Mimarlar Derneği 1927, 2016.
- Al, M. "Faust'un 21. Yüzyıldaki Mücadelesi: Parçacıl Direnişle Çoğul Olanı Kucaklamak" (The Struggle of Faust in the 21st Century: Individual Resistance and Collective Emancipation). In *Mimarlıkta Eleştirel Okumalar 3-4*. Ankara: Mimarlar Derneği 1927, 2016.

Al, M.; Karataş, S.; Günhan, A. and Sancar, E. “Kent Odakları” (Urban Focuses). In *Ankara Kent Atlası*, edited by G. A. Sargin, Ankara: Mimarlar Odası Ankara Şubesi. 2012.

Al, M. and Karataş, S. “Kentsel Mekan ve Direniş: Sakarya Bölgesi Üzerine Bir Okuma” (Urban Space and Resistance: A Reading on Sakarya Street). In *Ankara Kent Atlası*, edited by G. A. Sargin, Ankara: Mimarlar Odası Ankara Şubesi. 2012.

Guest lectures

2021, “State, Ideology, Housing,” *Global Modernisms* (Undergraduate course), John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design, University of Toronto.

2020, “Urban Traumas and Housing,” *Global Architecture and Urbanism in the Modern Era* (Undergraduate course), Peter Guo-hua Fu School of Architecture, McGill University.

Public lectures and presentations

2023 “Urban Stages of Islamism: Unveiling the Interplay of Ideology and Capital in Public Spaces of Istanbul,” Lecture by Meltem Al, at Bilkent University – Department of Urban Design and Landscape Architecture

2022 “Spaces of Leisure in Istanbul: Landscaping the Ideology and Ideologizing the Landscape in a Conservative Housingscape,” Presentation by Meltem Al, at Montreal Ottoman Turkish Studies (MOTS)

2022 “Başakşehir: Stories, Spaces, and Bodies of Habitus Making in Istanbul, Presentation by Meltem Al, at DocTalks (Based in ETH Zurich, the University of Basel, McGill University and Harvard University)

2018 “Investigating Working-class Neighbourhoods of 19th Century Montreal,” Presentation by Meltem Al, at Institute for the Public Life of Art and Ideas, McGill University

Conference presentations

Al, M. (2018). “Resisting the Discourse of Obedience: An Urban Transformation Story in Ayazma, Istanbul”. The Politics of Tradition: 16th Biennial Conference of the International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments (IASTE), Coimbra.

Al, M. (2018). “The Transformation of Criticality in Architecture in the 21st Century’s Metropolis”. European Association of Urban Historians (EAUH) 2018 Conference: Urban renewal and resilience Cities in Comparative Perspective, Rome.

Al, M. (2018). “A Research on the Working-Class Neighbourhoods of the 19th Century Montreal”. European Association of Urban Historians (EAUH) 2018 Conference: Urban renewal and resilience Cities in Comparative Perspective, Rome.

Al, M. (2018). “Education as the Target and Tool of Revanchist Urbanism in Turkey”. 48th Annual Conference of the Urban Affairs Association (UAA), Toronto.

Al, M. (2016). “Fundamentalist Urban Growth Machine and Its Urban Images in Anatolian Tigers.” *Legitimizing Tradition: The 15th Conference of the International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments (IASTE)*, Kuwait City.

Al, M.; **Türel, I.** (2016). “Rewriting Geological Time: Kanal Istanbul, A Mega-Project in Istanbul”. *What does heritage change?: Association of Critical Heritage Studies Third Biennial Conference*, Montreal.

Al, M.; Binboğa, S. (2012). “The Metamorphosis of The Wall: A Mythical/Ideological Representation of Urban Space, The Case of Ankara.” *The Myth of Tradition: The 13th Conference of the International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments (IASTE)*, Portland.

Conference proceedings

Al, M. “Fundamentalist Urban Growth Machine and Its Urban Images in Anatolian Tigers.” *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review Working Paper Series*, no. 279 (2016): 19–41.

Al, Meltem, and S. Binboğa. “The Metamorphosis of The Wall: A Mythical/Ideological Representation of Urban Space, The Case of Ankara.” *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review Working Paper Series*, no. 247 (2012): 37–53.

Al, M. “Kentsel Mekanda Gözlenen Bellek Yıkımı ve Kimlik İnşası: Ankara Atatürk Bulvarı Üzerine Bir İnceleme.” In *Mekan ve Kültür*, 17–22. Istanbul: Tetragon, 2011.

Al, M. “The Issue of Praxis: Modsimmer Modelling and Simulation Research Center.” In *Theory for The Sake of The Theory 2*, 75–85. Istanbul: DAKAM, 2011.

Workshops and Exhibitions

2025 Society of Architectural Historians/Global Architectural History Teaching Collaborative Teacher-to-Teacher Workshop: Speculative Spaces: (Re)presenting Global Architectural History

2022 Society of Architectural Historians/Global Architectural History Teaching Collaborative Teacher-to-Teacher Workshop: Interrogating “Identities” in Global Built Environments

2016 “Safety Strategies: Space, Gender and the City” with Caroline Alexander and Cynthia Hammond, Montreal (As a contributor and attendee)

2016 “Creative Dissent: Arts of the Arab World Uprisings,” Photography exhibition by Christiane Gruber and Nama Khalil at McGill University-School of Architecture (As a member of exhibition installation group)

2013 Collective Talks 2: Violence Games: Conservatism & War), Participants: Güven Arif Sargın, Nurşen Bakır, Metin Yeğin, Bülent Batuman (As a member of organization committee)

2012 Collective Talks 1: Dystopian Games, Participants: Ali Artun, Bülent Batuman, Bülent Tanju, (As a member of organization committee)

2012 “Becoming Violence in Public Space or Becoming Public Space of Resistance,” Presentation by Meltem Al with Collective Architecture, Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation’s 4th Annual Amman Lab Summer Design Workshop

2011 “Parallel Cases-Smart Cities: Urban Stitch” Presentation by Meltem Al with Collective Architecture, University of Westminster & METU Design Workshop

2011 “Divriği Mosque Photography Exhibition”, Architects’ Association 1927 (Research Assistant)
2011 “Kemal Kurdaş, METU Moments, Memories Photograph Exhibition,” METU (Research Assistant)