

Damla Soyer, PhD

Research Agenda

AI-Augmented Design Systems

Investigating how generative AI and computational workflows can assist in structuring spatial performance — circulation, sustainability, ergonomics, and adaptive use — while preserving designer authorship and contextual sensitivity.

Object as Micro-Architecture / Situated Interior Systems

Examining how furniture, tools, mobile systems, and wearable structures function as localized interior conditions within larger environments, mediating relationships between body, activity, and space.

Digital Fabrication & Computational Design

Exploring additive manufacturing, parametric modeling, and generative design methods as strategies for developing adaptive interior components and material systems.

Spatial Narratives & Cultural Context

Studying how material systems, object arrangements, and spatial compositions construct experiential meaning, connecting cultural interpretation, perception, and embodied spatial experience.

Education

Doctor of Design in Design Studies Hongik University, Seoul — 2019

Dissertation: Cultural Experience of Design: Cultural Analysis of Products between Korea and Turkey

Master of Design in Design Management Hongik University, Seoul — 2012

Thesis: Culture Design: How Design Affects Cultural Change

BA in Interior Architecture and Environmental Design Başkent University, Ankara (100% Scholarship) — 2009

Graduation Project: Tandoğan Subway Station

Academic Appointments

Lecturer

Bilkent University, Ankara (2026–present)

Academic Researcher — BK21 Plus

Hongik University, Seoul (2016–2017)

Teaching Assistant to Prof. Ken Nah — IDAS

Hongik University, Seoul (2010–2011)

Professional Practice

Founder & Creative Director — Studio DtN, Seoul-Ankara (2026–present)

A multidisciplinary design practice working across spatial configurations, body objects, and visual systems.

Creative Director — Humax Optic Co., Seoul (2022–2026)

Commissioned to establish XULT as an experimental design laboratory integrating digital fabrication, material research, and spatial narrative.

- Developed system-based product language for a digitally fabricated wearable collection
- Designed a 25-piece generative and fabrication-driven object series
- Directed interdisciplinary collaboration between engineers, designers, and manufacturers
- Integrated additive manufacturing and computational workflows into product development
- Led brand systems, spatial storytelling, and campaign worldbuilding
- Bridged research, fabrication, and applied design practice

Creative Lead — Humax Optic Co. (2021–2022)

Led conceptual development and spatial-brand integration projects.

Freelance Design Consultant (2014–2021)

Independent design and research practice alongside doctoral research.

Publications

Journal Articles

- Soyer, D., Nah, K. (2018). “*Cultural Understanding of Rice Cooker Design in Turkey.*” *Industrial Design Studies* (Korea Society of Industrial Design), 12(2), 85–93.
- Soyer, D., Nah, K. (2018). “*Comparison Between the Cultural Understanding of Rice Cooker Design in Turkey and Korea.*” *Journal of the Korean Society of Design Culture*, 24(3), 231–245.

Conferences

- Soyer, D. (2018). “*Two Different but Similar Cultures: Korea and Turkey.*” Keynote Speech, 2018 Winter Invited International Design Conference of the Korean Society of Design Culture.
- Soyer, D., Nah, K. (2016). “*Dynamic and Ambiguous: An Experimental Approach to Fashion Design by Augmenting Body in Motion.*” Generative Art Conference (GA2016), Florence.
- Soyer, D. (2015). “*Synth Fashion: Generative Design Experiments for Digital Fashion Products.*” Generative Art Conference (GA2015), Venice.

Theses

- Soyer, D. (2019). *Cultural Experience of Design: A Study on the Cultural Analysis of Products between Korea and Turkey.* Doctor of Design in Design Studies, IDAS, Hongik University.
- Soyer, D. (2012). *Culture Design: How Design Affects Cultural Change.* Master of Design in Design Management, IDAS, Hongik University.

Selected Exhibitions

Invited Exhibitions (Academic Societies)

2018 — Seed. Invited work. 2018 KSDS International Spring Invitational Exhibition, Korean Society of Design Science. Catalogue p. 78.

2015 — 001. Invited work. 2015 KSDS International Fall Invitational Exhibition, Korean Society of Design Science. Catalogue p. 118.

Solo and Group Exhibitions

2026 — PROTOKOL 001: Seoul. Inaugural edition of PROTOKOL, a touring curatorial series curated by the artist; each edition responds to the city it inhabits. PROTOKOL 001: Seoul investigates the body as engineered, modified, and biological reality, in response to Seoul's specific cultural relationship to appearance. heuk_gisa, Seongdong-gu, Seoul, 9–13 June 2026. Curator, exhibiting artist, and editor of accompanying publication. Future editions planned: PROTOKOL 002 (Istanbul).

2019 — Lights of Sinchon. Photography. Korean Institute of Spatial Design, Seoul.

2016 — Echoes. Video Art, Solo Exhibition. D_Space, Seoul.

2016 — Lucid Indifference. Interactive Media and Digital Graphics, Solo Exhibition. D_Space, Seoul.

2016 — Seoul Breeze. GIF Art. World Art Design Festival, Seoul.

2015 — The Myth of Sisyphus. Video Art and Digital Graphics, Solo Exhibition. D_Space, Seoul.

2015 — Synth Fashion. Digital Fashion Design. GA2015, Venice.

2015 — Snap to Grid. Digital Graphics. Los Angeles Center for Digital Art (LACDA), Los Angeles.

Skills

Design Research · Computational Design Thinking · AI-Assisted Design Workflows · Digital Fabrication · Material Systems · Spatial Strategy

Languages

Turkish — Native

English — Full professional proficiency

Korean — Reading and writing; functional daily use