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Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts

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la Biennale di Venezia

14. Mostra
Internazionale
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Partecipazioni nazionali

Pavilion of Turkey 14th International Architecture Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia

PLACES OF MEMORY

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On the initiation of the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSV) and with the gracious contribution of 21 supporters, Turkey obtains a long-term venue in the Venice Biennale, one of world's leading contemporary art and architecture events. The allotment of 20 years (from 2014 to 2034) at Arsenale, one of the two main venues of the event, will allow the Pavilion of Turkey to take part for the first time this year in the International Architecture Exhibition, la Biennale di Venezia.

In its debut year in 2014, the **Pavilion of Turkey** at the **14th International Architecture Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia** that will run from **7 June** through to **23 November** will present the project **Places of Memory**, performed by the curator **Murat Tabanlıoğlu**, the project coordinator **Pelin Derviş** and a team of exhibitors. **Places of Memory** will be the first project to be presented in Turkey's recently secured venue for 20 years in Arsenale, one of the two main venues of the event.

The **Pavilion of Turkey** is coordinated by the **Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts**, co-sponsored by **Schüco Turkey** and **VitrA**, and realised with the contribution of the **Promotion Fund of the Turkish Prime Ministry**, under the auspices of **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** and **Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Republic of Turkey**.

The details of the **Pavilion of Turkey** at the 14th International Architecture Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia were revealed at a press meeting on **Monday, 10 March** at **Salon** located at İKSV headquarters. Curator **Murat Tabanlıoğlu**, project coordinator **Pelin Derviş** and the exhibitors **Ali Taptık**, **Alper Derinboğaz**, **Candaş Şişman**, **Metehan Özcan** and **Serkan Taycan** gave detailed information about the project.

İKSV Chairman **Bülent Eczacıbaşı**, Schüco Turkey Advertisement Manager **Zeynep İnsel Muratoğlu** and Executive Vice President, Eczacıbaşı Building Products Division **Atalay Gümrah** on behalf of VitrA also participated in the meeting and delivered speeches.

In his opening speech, İKSV Chairman **Bülent Eczacıbaşı** stated "İKSV has been implementing international projects since 2004 in order to introduce the world Turkey's cultural and artistic assets. Within this scope, we have been organizing the Turkish Pavilion at the International Art Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia since 2007. Up until

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today, Turkey did not have a long-term venue at la Biennale di Venezia. As a result of our efforts as İKSV and with the contributions of 21 supporters, Turkey will now have a long-term venue for the next 20 years. Consequently, we are glad to announce that Turkey will participate to the International Architecture Exhibition, along with the International Art Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia.”

Schüco Turkey Advertisement Manager **Zeynep İnsel Muratoğlu** said “The main theme of the 14th International Architecture Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia focuses on the ‘fundamentals of architecture.’ We are proud that our brand, which can be seen as part of these fundamentals of architecture with the systems it provides, is among the contributors of the biennale.”

Executive Vice President, Eczacıbaşı Building Products Division **Atalay Gümrah** delivered a speech on behalf of Vitra and said “We believe architecture and urban planning are crucial for a country like Turkey which has a rich historical background. Our brand Vitra is a solution partner for architectural practices in achieving good architectures. We support projects that focus on architecture and develop our own projects. In this respect, we are proud to be among the co-sponsors of the Pavilion of Turkey.”

Following the speeches, curator **Murat Tabanlıoğlu** explained the conceptual framework of the project **Places of Memory**, which attempts to explore the main theme of the biennial via perceptions and experiences. With an idea departing from three areas of Istanbul: Taksim-Salıpazarı, Bâb-ı Âli and Büyükdere Boulevard, places that acted as thresholds during different stages of the curator’s life, the project will focus on the concept of place itself, incorporated with the subjective vision of every exhibitor in the team.

İKSV has formed a Scientific Committee to provide with the necessary academic support and counselling in the project. The Scientific Committee members, Istanbul Technical University Architecture Department lecturer Prof. Dr. **Arzu Erdem**, Istanbul Şehir University Sociology Department lecturer and Director of the Center for Urban Studies Prof. Dr. **Murat Güvenç**, Aga Khan Award for Architecture former General Secretary and President of the World Architecture Community Prof. Dr. **Suha Özkan**, and Mardin Artuklu University Dean of Faculty of Architecture Prof. Dr. **Uğur Tanyeli** also attended the press meeting.

Places of Memory

Murat Tabanlıoğlu

Rather than conducting a historical account of modern epoch in Turkey, presenting an exhaustive catalogue, or trying to capture its unique local attributes, “Places of Memory” attempts to explore the main theme of the biennial via perceptions and experiences. The project idea departs from three areas of Istanbul: The first comprises Taksim, where I was born and grew up. Taksim is also an important square, with a constantly changing appearance because of partial and inconsistent interventions. The Atatürk Cultural Center, situated on the narrower end of the square, is a symbol of modern architecture in Turkey. My father, Hayati Tabanlıoğlu, was the architect. This first area spreads out across a wider zone, and continues downhill from the square to

the coast, passes along the warehouses designed by Sedad Hakkı Eldem, an important representative of 20th century architecture in Turkey, reaching Salıpazarı harbor. Like many other areas in Istanbul, this area, too, is undergoing transformation. The GalataPort project (a master plan proposal, 2001) developed by us (Tabanlıoğlu Architects) for the area and the Istanbul Museum of Modern Art, which we transformed from a warehouse into a museum (2004), were among projects that triggered change in this area. The second area is Bâb-ı Âli, where I spent my youth. Starting in Sirkeci, the area used to host the headquarters of important newspapers and printing houses in Turkey along two sides of the Cağaloğlu slope. I used to pass through this world every day since I studied in a high school in the same area. The final one is Büyükdere Boulevard and its environs. This area, once lined with fields and orchards, later with light industry buildings, today is in juxtaposition with the CBD, featuring high-rise buildings especially between Levent-Maslak axes that connect main transportation routes of the city. A detailed discussion of these places that acted as thresholds during different stages of my life—or in a sense, my memory—seeded the first layers of the conceptual framework. Our focus in the exhibition is not necessarily on these places, but rather on the concept of place itself, incorporated with the subjective vision of every exhibitor in the team. The works interact with each other via different approaches based on different scales and mediums. We chose not to write in advance the story that might emerge from this project. We will see the outcome together. This is a conscious decision that keeps us on edge, but one that also holds potentials.

Pavilion of Turkey Workshops

A series of panels will be held in the 14th International Architecture Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia with the participant countries. Turkey will participate to this panel with a large international student workshop. Murat Tabanlıoğlu is getting organised for the programme with graduate students who are enrolled to his studio in the 2014 spring semester at Istanbul Bilgi University Architectural Design Department. A group of students from Politecnico di Milano and students from various architecture schools in Turkey will participate to the workshop programme that includes an exhibition and discussion of student works in Venice during the biennial.

"Places of Memory" Book

A book is prepared to accompany the project based on interviews with **Murat Tabanlıoğlu, Pelin Derviş, Ali Taptık, Alper Derinboğaz, Candaş Şişman, Metehan Özcan** and **Serkan Taycan**, conducted by **Luca Molinari**, the curator of the Italian Pavilion at the 12th International Architecture Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia in 2010. Designed by **Aslı Altay. (Future Anecdotes Istanbul)** who has also designed the communication materials of the project, the book will be available at the opening of the biennial with two separate editions in Turkish and English and will subsequently be sold in bookstores.

The 14th International Architecture Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia

The 14th International Architecture Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia will feature country pavilions besides the main exhibition entitled "**Fundamentals**" curated by **Rem Koolhaas**. Rem Koolhaas suggested the participating countries to engage a single theme *Absorbing Modernity: 1914-2014* and therefore, focus on a common topic and develop their own approach from a unique standpoint.

For more information: www.iksv.org/en and placesofmemory.iksv.org

To follow the Pavilion of Turkey at the 14th International Architecture Exhibition on social media:

[facebook.com/istanbulkultursanatvakfi](https://www.facebook.com/istanbulkultursanatvakfi)

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For high-resolution images from the press meeting of the Pavilion of Turkey at the 14th International Architecture Exhibition: www.iksvphoto.com

The video from the press meeting of the Pavilion of Turkey at the 14th International Architecture Exhibition: <https://files.secureserver.net/0fkQQ4VxsKlxjV>

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Biographies

Murat Tabanlıoğlu

Murat Tabanlıoğlu studied architecture at Vienna Technical University. He founded Tabanlıoğlu Architects in cooperation with Dr. Hayati Tabanlıoğlu in Istanbul in 1990 and Melkan Gürsel Tabanlıoğlu joined the group in 1995. Besides his studio programme at Istanbul Bilgi University, he lectures at universities and various international platforms. As a jury member, in addition to his international contributions, such as at AIA and WAF, Mr. Tabanlıoğlu served on the Master Jury for the 2013 Cycle of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. He is a RIBA, Chartered Member and Int'l. Assoc. AIA. Searching for new efficiencies in terms of global and environmental needs and developments, Tabanlıoğlu works comprise wide range of building types from housing, offices, mix-used, public and cultural buildings and industrial projects to high-rises, such as Expo 2000 Hannover Turkish Pavilion, Kanyon, Sapphire, Levent Loft, Zorlu Center, Sipopo Congress Center, Konya Selçuklu Congress Center, Istanbul Modern, renovation project of Atatürk Cultural Center and Al-Fattan Crystal Towers in Dubai. Tabanlıoğlu has been awarded several international and national prizes, recent awards include International Architecture Award for Tripoli Congress Center in 2010 and for Astana Arena in 2011; RIBA International Award for Loft Gardens (2011) and for Bodrum International Airport (2013); Bodrum International Airport is WAF 2012 Transport Category Winner and Astana Media Center is Cityscape Global 2012 Community & Culture Category Winner. Yenikapı Transfer Point and Archaeo Park Area project has been the winner of Big Urban Projects at 2013 Mipim AR Future Project Awards. Selçuk Ecza Headquarters project has recently received 2013 WAF Future Office Project Award. The project of the office is short listed for New National Stadium Japan International Design Competition in November 2012. Murat Tabanlıoğlu, together with his Partner Melkan Gürsel Tabanlıoğlu, is selected as the Architect of the Year in 2010

by MEA- Middle East Architect Award and in 2013 “Architect of the Year” by Big Project ME.

Pelin Derviş

Pelin Derviş was born in Ankara in 1967. Derviş is an architect, who lives and works in Istanbul as an independent editor and curator. Derviş graduated from Istanbul Technical University and completed her master’s degree at the History of Architecture Program of the same institution. After working in her architectural practice on projects of various types and dimensions ranging from urban inventory projects to spatial and object design for 14 years, she focused on the cultural production aspect of architecture. While working as the director of Garanti Gallery, Istanbul (an institution based on urbanism, architecture and design) Derviş realized exhibitions, and other parallel events and publications (2005-2010). Some of the publications she contributed are: *Becoming Istanbul* (ed.); *Tracing Istanbul [from the air]*; *Mapping Istanbul* (ed.); *Istanbul para-doxa: Conversations on the City and Architecture* (ed.); *Made in Şişhane: On Istanbul, Small-scale Production, and Design* (ed.). Some of the institutions that she collaborated are SALT (together with Gökhan Karakuş she took part in founding and developing the Architecture and Design Archive Turkey, and co-curated *Performance of Modernity: Atatürk Kültür Merkezi, 1946-1977* exhibition); Vitra (coordinator of the exhibitions within the Vitra Contemporary Architecture Series); Istanbul Modern (coordinator of YAP Istanbul Modern: Young Architects Program, 2013 which is realized in partnership with The Museum of Modern Art, MoMA / MoMA PS1). The documentation of modern architectural production in Turkey, and the contemporary urban issues of Istanbul are her fields of interest.

Ali Taptık

Ali Taptık was born in 1983 in Istanbul where he continues to live and work. Taptık graduated from the Faculty of Architecture at Istanbul Technical University (ITU) and is an autodidact photographer. He continued his education on architecture at ITU with a master’s thesis on history of architecture with a focus on history of photography and representation of city. He is currently a PhD candidate at ITU. His second series *Kaza ve Kader (Accident and Fate)* is “about interconnected frames of the experience of accumulated urban realities, it is about the relationships, places, people, emotions and coincidences”. He is one of the founding members of Istanbul based Publisher’s Collective Bandrolsuz. His current areas of interest are the relationship between literature and visuality (cinematic adaptation of novels and short stories), publishing as artistic production, new methods for diffusion and distribution of creative production.

Alper Derinboğaz

Alper Derinboğaz was born in 1982 in Ankara, lives and works in Istanbul. He is an architect. Graduated from Istanbul Technical University (2005) and received the Fulbright Scholarship. He won the UCLA Graduate Award for his master’s studies in Architecture and Urbanism at the University of California, Los Angeles. He worked as a senior architect in Los Angeles and Istanbul, and won several prizes in national and international competitions. He has realized public space projects that incorporate new technologies. He formed the initial stage of Salon2 in 2009 as part of his architecture practice. The following years three of his first built works were included in the Arkiv Best Architecture Selection, and Derinboğaz received the Arkitera Young Architect Award in 2011. Currently he is teaching a design studio at Istanbul Bilgi University and a media architecture studio, and practices at Salon2 and at the technology development office We Dream as the founding partner of both.

Candaş Şişman

Candaş Şişman was born in 1985 in İzmir, lives and works in Istanbul. He studied fine arts at İzmir Anadolu High School for Fine Arts and graduated from the Animations Department of Eskişehir Anadolu University in 2009. He spent one year in college receiving multimedia design training in the Netherlands (2006-2007). With Deniz Kader, he founded "NOHlab", a project that generates collective projects in arts and design (2011). Candaş Şişman aims to manipulate our notion of time, space and motion by his work, using digital and mechanical technologies. The works of Şişman stand on a complex base, but the forms are simple, allowing the audience to engage in intellectual interaction with the artwork in which "process" is the structural element of utmost importance. He has received several awards since 2007, among which are the Honorary Mention from Prix ARS Electronica Computer Animation/Film/VFX and Best Prize in Sound Design from Roma Viedram Video Festival. He has participated in many new media festivals, such as Nemo Digital Arts and Film Festival, ARS Electronica and Today'sart Festival. Candaş Şişman recently realized "Yekpare" projection mapping with Nerdworking as part of Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture activities and "FLUX," an audiovisual installation at İlhan Koman Hulda Festival in Istanbul.

Metehan Özcan

Metehan Özcan was born in 1975 in Istanbul, lives and works in İzmir. He completed his architecture studies at School of Polytechnic Studies, St. Louis between 1993 and 1995. He graduated from Bilkent University Department of Interior Architecture and Environmental Design in 2000. Özcan completed his MFA thesis project at Visual Communication Design master programme of Istanbul Bilgi University (2012). He had solo shows at Gazi University Communication Faculty Gallery (2000), Operation Room at American Hospital Istanbul (2010), and Elipsis Gallery (2013). Among the group exhibitions he participated are Slag Gallery New York at 2009 and Galeri Nev Ankara at 2011. Özcan questions the existence and representation of modernist space. Most of his work mainly focuses on minor histories, identity and design culture.

Serkan Taycan

Serkan Taycan was born in 1978 in Gaziantep, lives and works in Istanbul. He studied engineering at Yıldız Technical University, Istanbul. In 2004, he completed a master-class on documentary photography at Nordens Fotoskola, Sweden. He continues his MA in Visual Arts at Sabancı University. His *Homeland* series was exhibited in Thessaloniki Photo Biennale, Vendome Photography Festival and Niort IPM. In 2010, he participated at the Artist-in-residence programme at Niort. In 2010, he was commissioned for the exhibition & book; "Ex:change, Istanbul-Marseille". He has been shortlisted for the Full Art Prize - 2012. He is a member of RecCollective. The main theme of his works is the ever-changing relationship between urban and rural spaces, and the people who are affected by these processes of transformation.