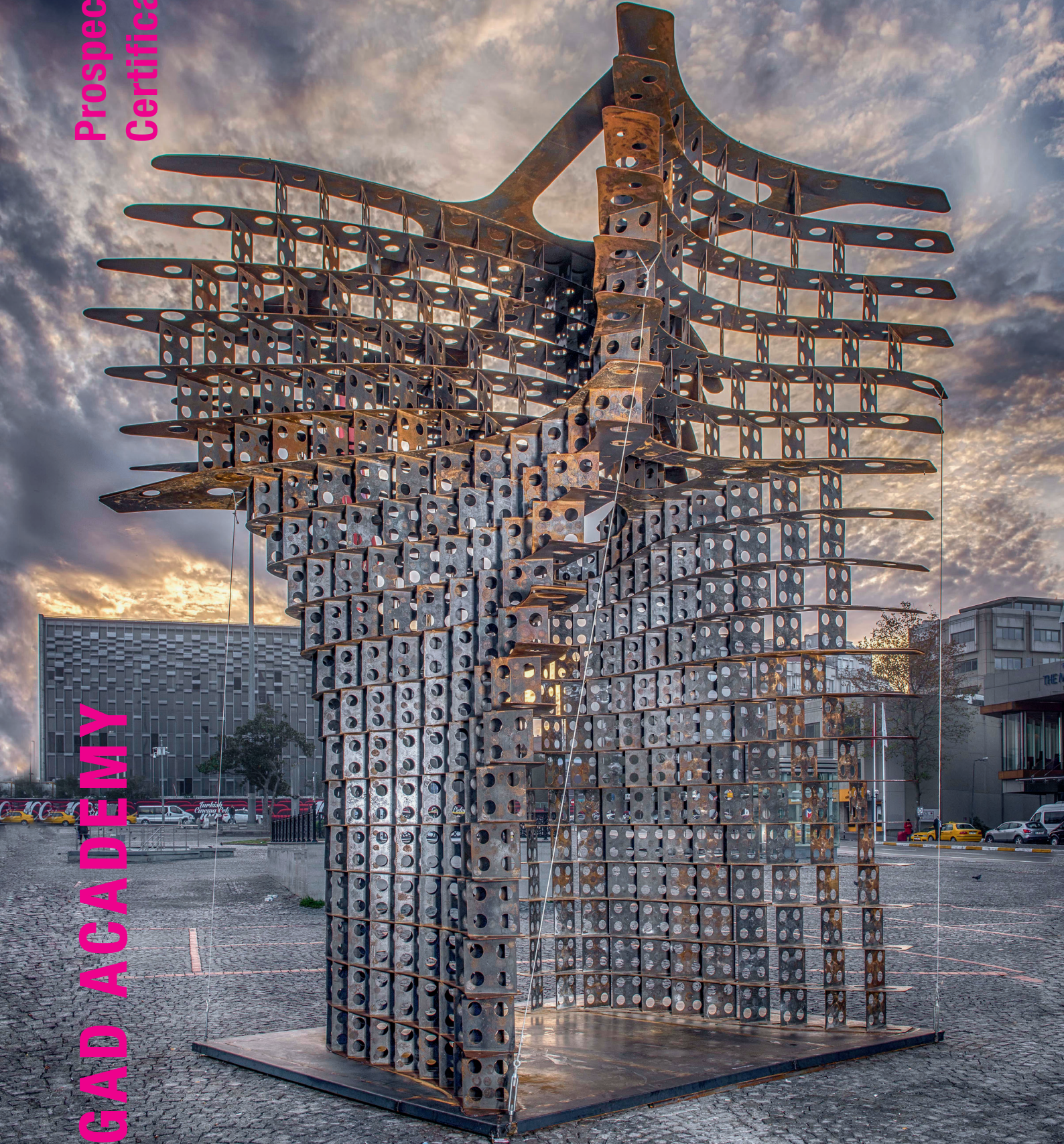


Prospectus 2025-2026 Certificate Program

GAD ACADEMY





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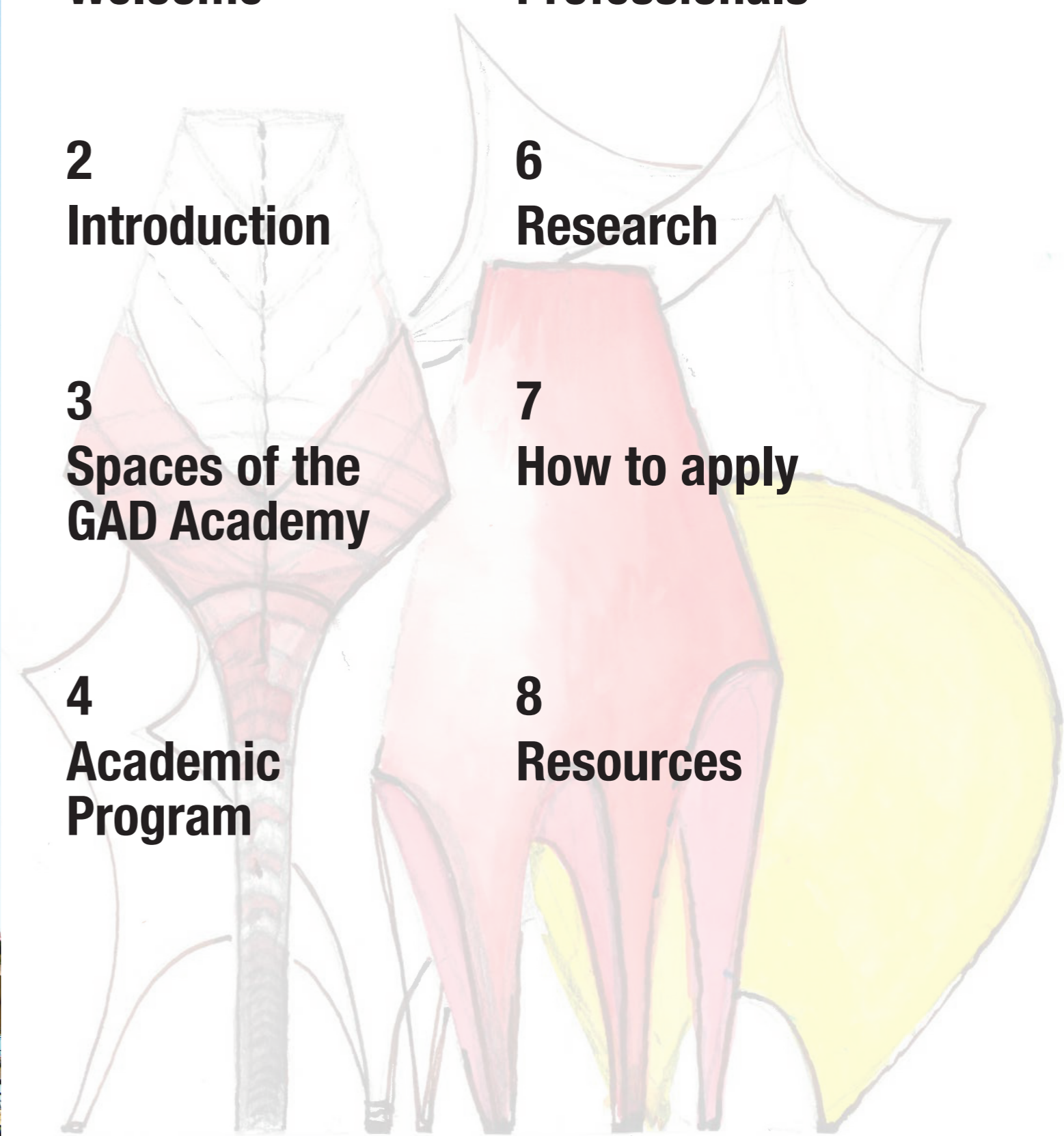
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Welcome

The GAD Foundation and the GAD Academy is a **worldwide community** that spans from Istanbul to New York to global. Fundamentally, the GAD Foundation and the GAD Academy evaluated a vast array of environments, spaces, and time zones as our experimenting ground by traveling and learning about the built environment in various ways, scrutinizing the complexity of cities, metropolitans, suburbia, rural towns, or virtual realms. The years 2019, 2020, and 2021 have presented global-scale challenges. In these challenges, we reviewed all the opportunities and adjusted all the circumstances regarding how we deliver our **distinctive architectural education**. The 2025-26 academic year will be unique in the history of the GAD. After a catastrophic pandemic period, a significant proportion of the teaching that would typically happen on-site and atelier-based will occur face-to-face.

Since all academic programs migrated online and face-to-face in previous terms, our academicians have been together across the worldwide design, architecture, art, and other related interdisciplinary community with enthusiastic learning and teaching abilities. The GAD Foundation and Academy continue to enhance resources, formats, methods of learning, and means of communication to deliver a GAD education that is **new, innovative, and arboresque**. The incredible changes to the world around us have not been limited to pandemics, catastrophes, and damages. Environmental disbalance, inefficient use of resources, and spatial inequality require action at every level including within educational institutions. What has been demonstrated during this tumultuous period is that at the GAD Foundation and Academy there exists a congenial spirit that will continue to bring its members together in adversity and ensure that each person feels supported, respected, learned, taught, and heard. We look forward to continuing this collective effort during the **2012-25** academic year as we navigate the unknown, uncertain and vast terrain that will provide a glimpse towards a better future for all the different worlds that we now inhabit.

Academy is an institution of secondary education, higher learning, research, or honorary membership. Academia is the worldwide group composed of professors and researchers at institutes of higher learning.

Introduction

The GAD Academy is one of the forerunners and independent academies of architecture in Turkey. The academy was founded in 2011 as an **interdisciplinary-centered collective** that is oriented to **multi-directionally** transform architectural education. The aim is to courage students and graduates to ponder without limits, involve in versatile interfaces, push them to take risks with confidence, and breed individual/collective research agendas that will shape the architectural and design disciplines' future. The GAD Academy is a school molded with the constant move, progressively redefining the essence of design and architecture both in practice and theory. Broader cultural discourses and discussions are at the center of the GAD Academy building a strong identity in Turkey and beyond. Internalizing and embracing such cultural discourses and discussions as a core material determine **holistic design visions** revolving around the main methodologies of the GAD Academy. In this sense, we believe pursuing design as research raises questions about how design is conceptualized, analyzed, and conducted. GAD Foundation and Academy think that each design should be unique to its circumstances, users, collaborators, and clients. Students and graduates complete an in-depth analysis of different contexts and requirements during their studies in the academy and create the necessary methodologies to present their ideas with a project. These methodologies will be innovative methods that mature with the historical process, feed today's theoretical knowledge, and re-synthesize practical and theoretical future technologies and digital tools. We believe in **the power of architecture**.





The GAD Academy curriculum is enhanced by the GAD Foundation, which focuses on **research, self-edification, opportunities, challenges,** and **actions** of today and the past through a series of lectures, ateliers, site visits, exhibitions, and book launches; and **the GAD Publishing** – the editorial group, a media, and publishing studio. 2025-2026 studio, which welcomes all graduates and students, as well as the general public, is called **“Live-Project”** enabling participants to reflect on their experiences together with the design teams and re-evaluate their prior training in the scope of traditional architectural education. A series of virtual and real studio visits to learn more about what happens behind the scenes in the making of architecture will be realized.

The GAD Academy is an annual full-time experimental non-credit program that aspires participants to transform insights they glean from professionals in the discipline, such as architects, academics, and artists, and turn them into a program of research, self-edification, and action. We want participants to undergo a process of self-construction, filling the gaps in their knowledge and realizing their archaeology.

Spaces of the GAD Academy

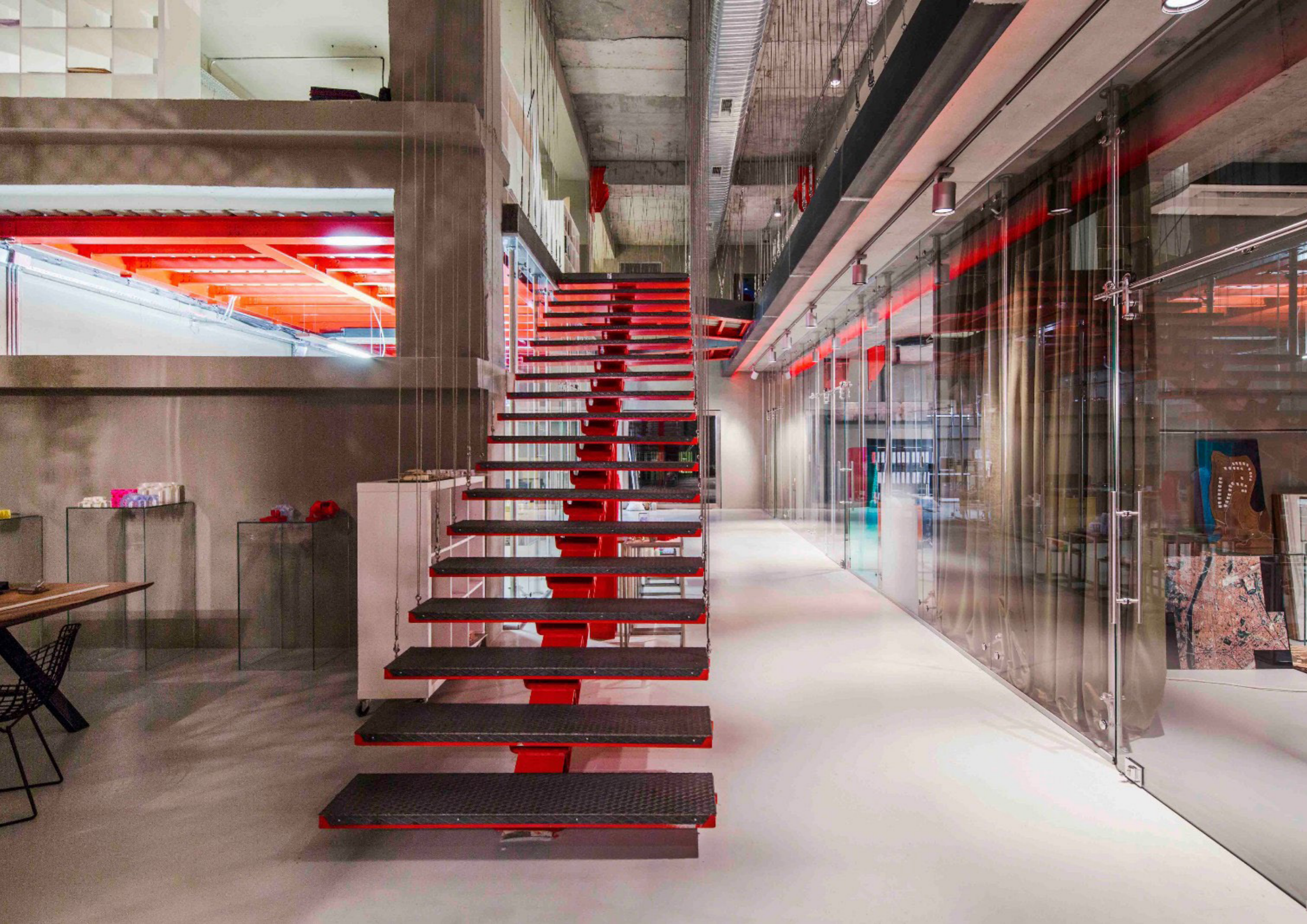
The GAD Academy is critically reliant on the collision of **productive** and **social space**. Areas having opening windows, spacious floors, open plans and more importantly the ones focusing on the human scale composes strong accessibility and the engagement of practitioners, students and instructors with various, critical objectives. The spatial configuration should create a relationship among floors rather than just piling them atop each other. It should consider the balance between interior and exterior, be sensitive to private and non-private areas, and reinterpret the dialogue between areas of continuous and occasional use. It should respond to the visible and unseen circumstances of the surrounding environment.

GAD PARK

The GAD PARK is accustomed to having a height floor enabling users to enjoy the volume provided by this height, also allowing users to solve the basic needs by adding mezzanine floors. The most attractive side of the GAD Park for us is the fact that we have transformed and are using as an office a space built for a totally different function a short time ago. In the entrance and in the open meeting area there is the long, thick, cherry tree tablet that came from Japan and left in its natural form. With its texture, and ripples, if we had drawn it to our students or our friends they would not know where to sit or eat, they would find it shapeless, obscure. Yet we have been trying it since we came everyone found themselves a place around the table. Architecture is something like this, one has to try and see. We have another multi-functional room where we hold big meetings, daily discussions, and teleconferences. The window at the office entrance facing the green courtyard has one of the best views in Istanbul according to us. Inside, there is controlled lighting. Dramatic size in windows was intentionally used. We opened 2x2 windows that one person can easily mount. The light coming from these windows comes together in the central area and gives exactly the light we are looking for. We need window openings in a few other places, we might open them too, after a while.

We are in a period of “No space, no time” and the location of offices, and academies do not have that much of importance. What feels good to us is building a relationship with people and then building a structure. When you can’t build a relationship, you can’t build a structure either. Thus, we want to make the GAD PARK a place where we can develop these **relations** and **conversations** with our students, practitioners, professionals, and teachers. We try to hold our courses at the GAD PARK as much as we can because there are so many resources we can show here. Meetings should be moved to the building site when the project goes into construction. In GAD PARK, we have pulled ourselves together both physically and mentally, what are we doing, what have we done, and what do we want to do, we think about these and look for answers.

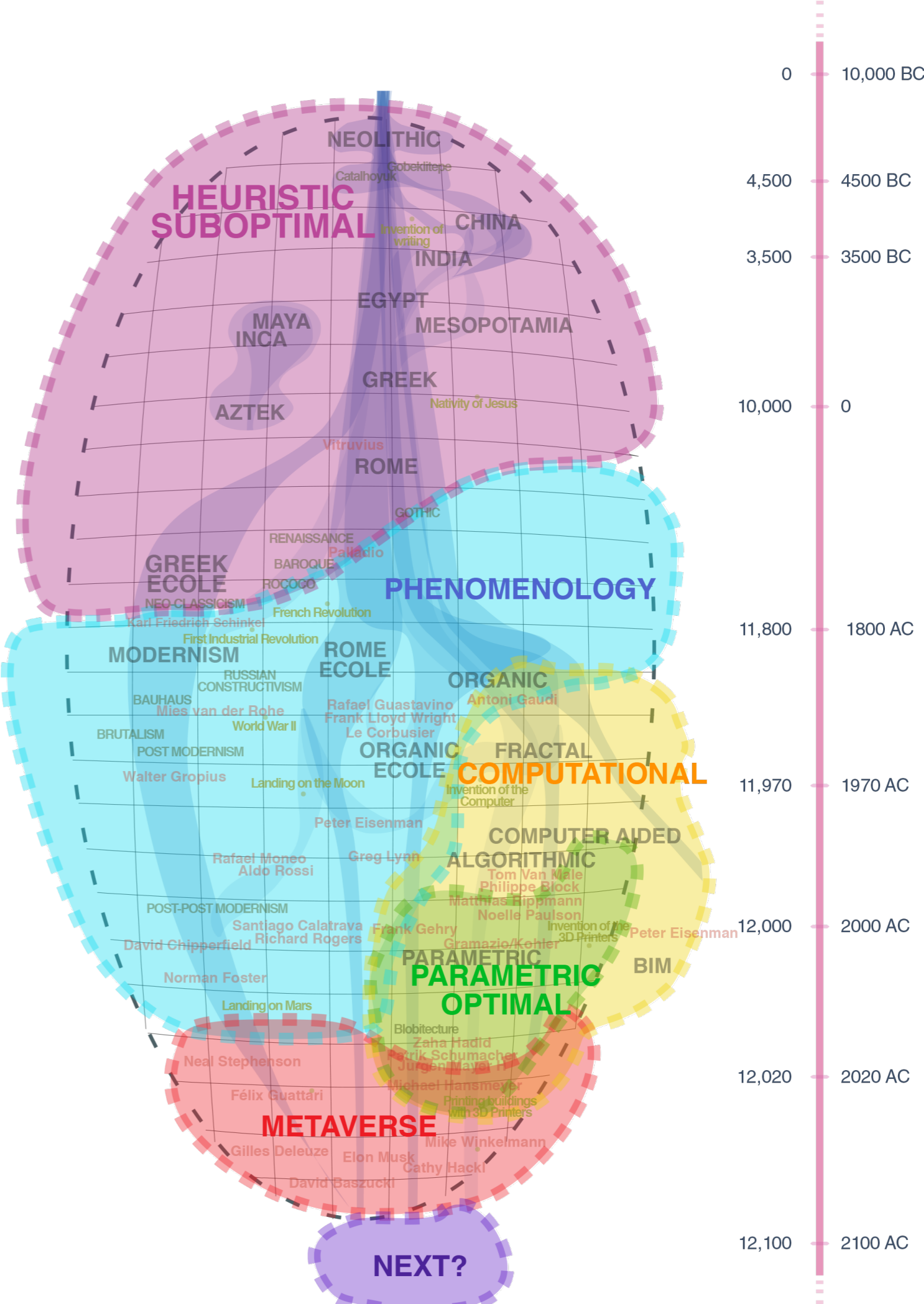




Academic Programmes

The GAD Academy is a certificate program for architectural education for newly graduated architecture students and young architects that is realized in the GAD PARK in Istanbul. After the successful and engaging 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th sessions, the academy will take place for the 5rd time in 2025-26. **“Live Project”** is the educational format of the GAD Academy. Live Project recognizes that passion for design has **no boundaries**, and we are focused on building a **multidisciplinary mindset** and **techniques** that can be applied to any design field. We aim to prepare the new generation of designers not only to expand their horizons and stay relevant but to thrive and drive progress and change. For the 2025-26 academic year, prospective students are able to apply for the GAD Academy Certificate Program Live Project Course in leading to master an exclusive design mindset through proven successful methods of accelerated learning.

The GAD Academy Certificate Program is an annual introduction to architecture, art, and design education. Students are encouraged to develop their conceptual ideas through experiments by immersing themselves in the world of **multidisciplinary advanced** and **computational design** with a wide range of mediums in an **interactive, studio-based environment**. Through being embraced with the academic offerings and intellectual environment at the GAD, from the first steps of the **re-search-based theoretical** program to the latter **experimental, practice-based** courses, the Academy students are given access to the tools, strategies, and methodologies to become a part of a diverse community within a global network. Drawing on a number of innovative educational practices, in tandem with the data-set and knowledge of numerous highly experienced practitioners, academicians, and visiting consultants, the certificate program offers a **holistic design ethos** and **interdisciplinary teaching skill-set** that can be applied in any design industry. Throughout the courses, students discover ideas and techniques such as observation, analysis, photographic surveys, inventory collection, materiality, interpretation, representation, site, scenario, and structures. The program empowers students to question how architecture is **digitally/virtually/physically** manifested in the world, to concretely scrutinize how we design living environments, and envisage a better future together.





Fundamental Studies

Fundamental Studies, part of both the “**Live Project**” and overall certificate program, is a suite of courses that are central to the study of architect-ing. Through lectures, participatory seminars, and workshops, students are designed to develop expertise in key areas:

Architectural History and Theory (AHT)

Cultural and Critical Thinking in Architecture (CCTA)

Cultural Futures in Architecture and Technology (CFAT)

Graphical Design in Architecture (GDIA)

Communication and Media Studies (CMS)

Digital Architecture and Virtualization (DAV)

Conceptual Language in Design & Architecture (CLAIDA)

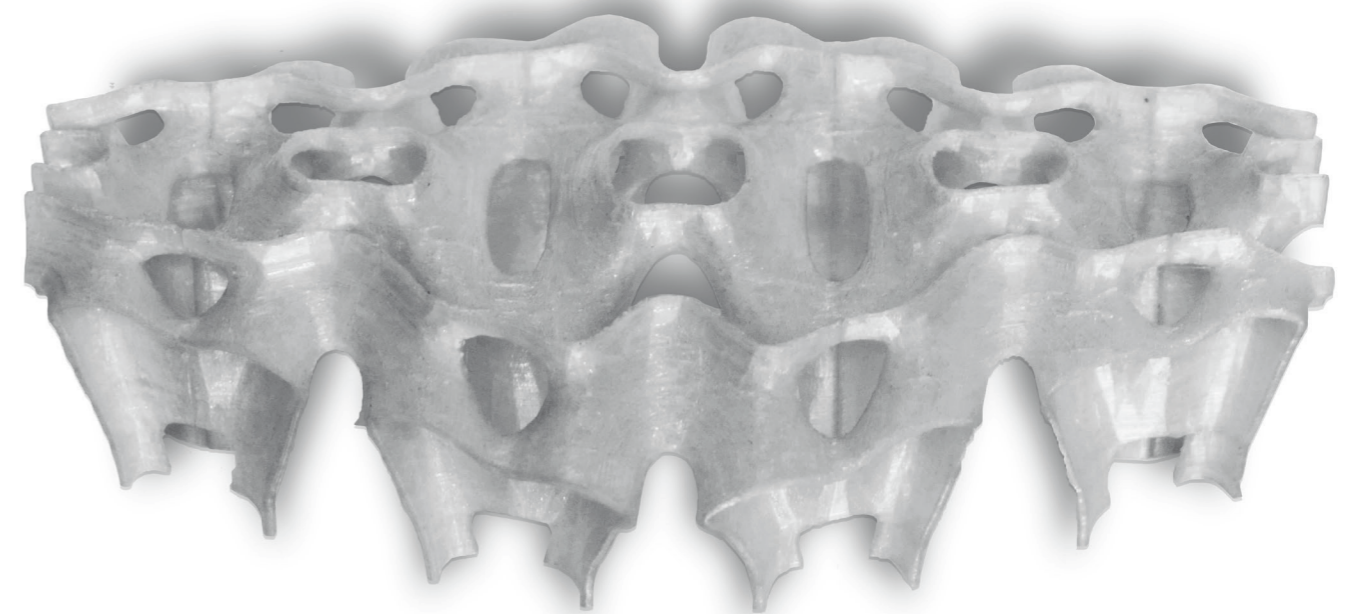
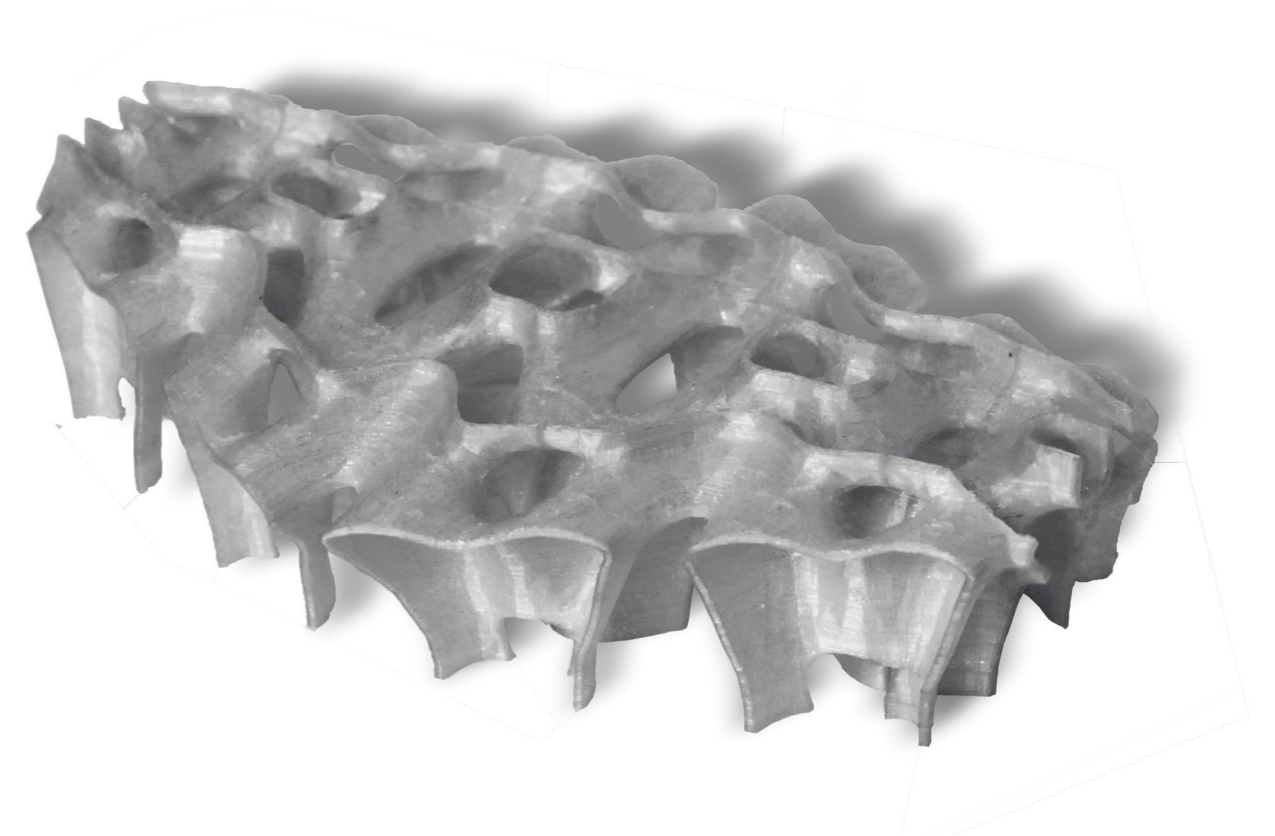
Architectural History and Theory (**AHT**) includes courses that develop historical and theoretical knowledge related to architectural discourses, concepts, and ways of thinking through research. Cultural and Critical Thinking in Architecture (**CCTA**) is a platform for engagment with the contemporary through critical and cultural analysis of the built environment, ecology, and architectural historiography. Cultural Futures in Architecture and Technology (**CFAT**) introduces a series of seminars investigating the role of architecture and technology in shaping our futures examining multi-scalar questions arising at the intersection of art, architecture, design, society, and territories across the globe. Graphical Design in Architecture (**GDIA**) explores the illustrative and graphical expression of architecture at the point of physical production, and the printing press demonstrating a vision for architectural education in which visualizing and illustrating are central to the act of design itself. Communication and Media Studies (**CMS**) introduces students to the media and professional realm used by architects such as film, photography, business development, and many more. Digital Architecture and Virtualization (**DAV**) examines mostly did not result in constructed buildings, but rather in design processes and tools, computer programs, interfaces, and digital environments such as computational design, parametricism, generative design, and architectural intelligence pointing out how architects and designers created the digital landscape. Conceptual Language in Design & Architecture (**CLAIDA**) offers complete and coherent terminological research that provides students at all stages of their architectural education with the capacity to materialize their ideas and ambitions through given-new concepts.



Softwares

Students enrolled in the certificate program and participating in the activities of the **“Live Project”** are expected to learn various software programs which have a very determinant role in the architectural and design realm.

In order to formulate a concrete theoretical frame to support their vision, students are thought different theories, concepts, and methodologies to understand the importance of architectural history, topology, design philosophies, and visual coding coupled with **Adobe Creative Cloud** programs. To concretize theory and analytical procedural research processes, 3D modeling through **AutoCAD**, and **Revit** are also thought to enable students to endorse procedural modeling, non-destructive reversible workflows, interoperable workflows, and optimization of design processes. Computational and generative design with **Grasshopper** and its Plugins such as **Pufferfish**, **Weaverbird**, **MeshEdit**, **Mesh+**, **Lunchbox**, **Milepede**, **Wasp**, **Quelea**, **Dendro**, **Human**, **Open Nest**, **Squid**, **Firefly**, and **Houdini**, polygonal modeling and sculpting with **Maya** and **Pixologic ZBrush**, Nurbs & SubD Modelling with **Rhinoceros** constitute other important data-driven morphing systems of the GAD Academy course program. To visualize and express novel experiences, virtualization with **V-Ray** and post-production with **Photoshop**, and creating **VR** experiences with **Unreal Engine** are intimately thought in interrogating the broader relationships of architecture by considering the futures of living, work, and culture through advanced methods in design, and computation. **Web3**, **NFT**, **metaverse**, **crypto technologies**, and their articulations with digital architecture are defined and scheduled for the development of new ideas and forms of practice at the intersection of architecture, art, technology, policy, and design within the curricula.



Professionals

Our team of educators is all working professionals using these skills in their everyday careers, and these are the skills they will be teaching you. Educators develop new forms of pedagogy, research, and practice to engage the crucial issues of our time across all scales of the built environment. With the redefined roles of architecture and design in a research-practice-based hybrid educational system of the GAD Academy, educators envision new forms of practice as research and new research practices leading groundbreaking investigations that tackle emerging challenges in the disciplines of the built environment and create opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. The data and skill-set they produced over time present necessary actions to pioneer new models of practice that engage with emerging political, technological, intellectual, and environmental issues.

Learn more about the professional historiography of our team of educators through

<https://www.gadfoundation.com/team/>



Gokhan Avcioglu
Founder Architect



Oguz Cankan
Architect



Gokhan Karakus
Designer, Curator and Writer



Ozan Ertug
Architect



Ferda Kolatan
Architect



Orhan Kuskü
Architect



Idil Ozturk
Architect,
Business Development



Ertac Vural
Civil Engineer



Eda Esen
Architect



Konuralp Senol
Architect



Damla Savran
Architect



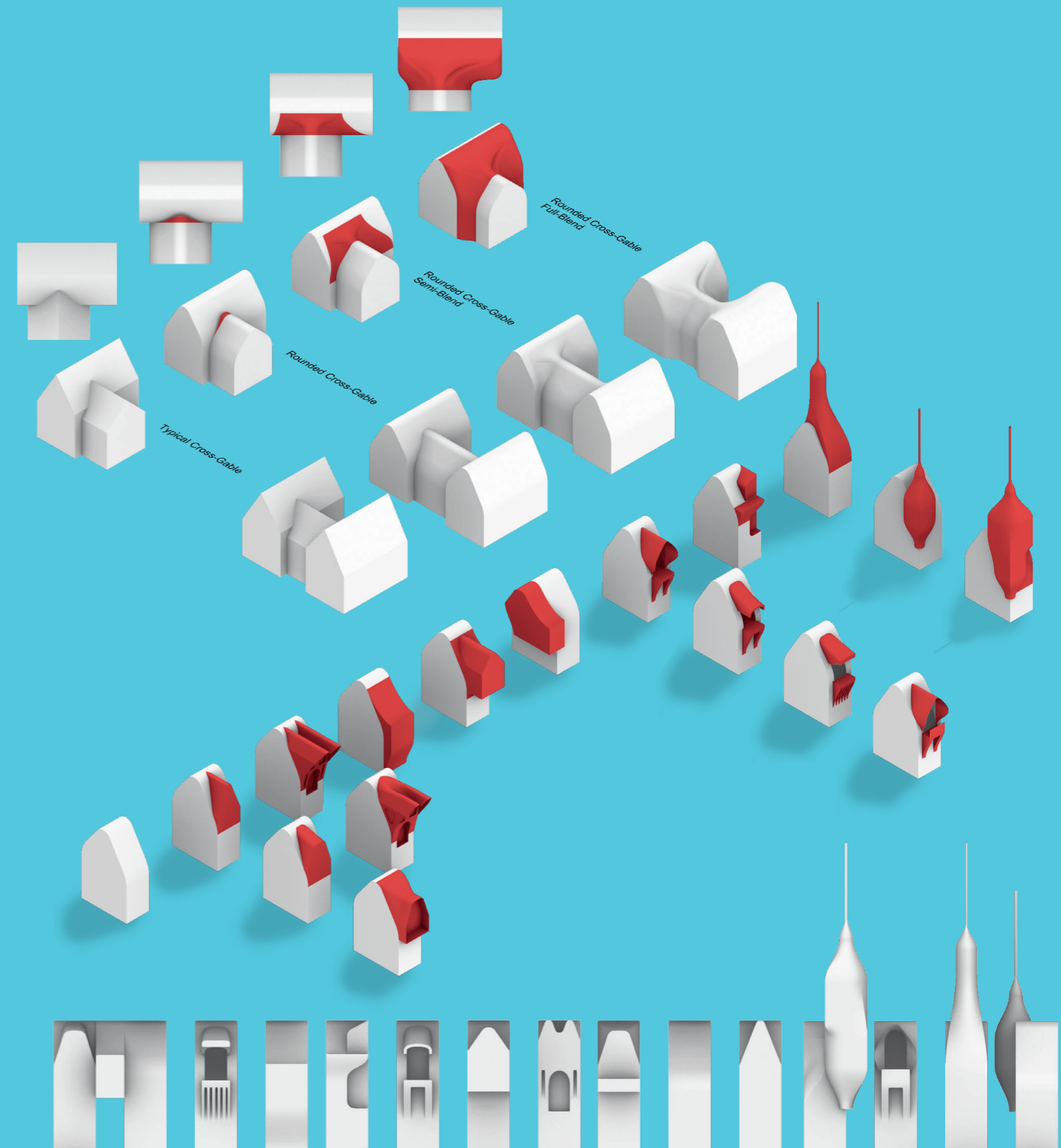
Gizem Geylan
Architect

Research

The GAD Academy is a space for the development of new ideas and forms of practice at the intersection of architecture, art, archeology, media, technology, history, culture, and design. Comprising an innovative research group enriched by **GADLab** and **GADLibrary**, the program aims to support visionary individuals, projects, and approaches in pursuit of novel forms of research. GAD Academy draws from the expertise of interdisciplinary educators and practitioners including architects, artists, strategists, engineers, and scientists. Research activities are supported by grants and partnerships that facilitate impactful relationships with leading organizations to generate influential research projects that align with the broader academic agendas of the GAD Foundation and Academy.

Research at the GAD derives from the Academy's perpetual engagement with **global** and **local architectural discourse**. The belief that architecture shapes/is shaped by complex human endeavors which are the manifestation of collective values, memories, and personal expression that significantly flourish in harmony with contemporary scientific, cultural, and social action presents a unique aspect GAD offers in Academy. These aspects embodied in innovative techniques and inputs such as **ML, AI**, and **Generative Design** are used to produce creative assets and outputs that shape the GAD's architectural design ideology. In this context, GAD Academy is dedicated to exploring and using **emerging technologies** and **new knowledge** in contributing to the enhancement of our living environments which drives the design and materialization of **future prototypes**.

Re-defining Vanished Craft-work Cultures into Digitally Fabricated Heterotopical Grounds

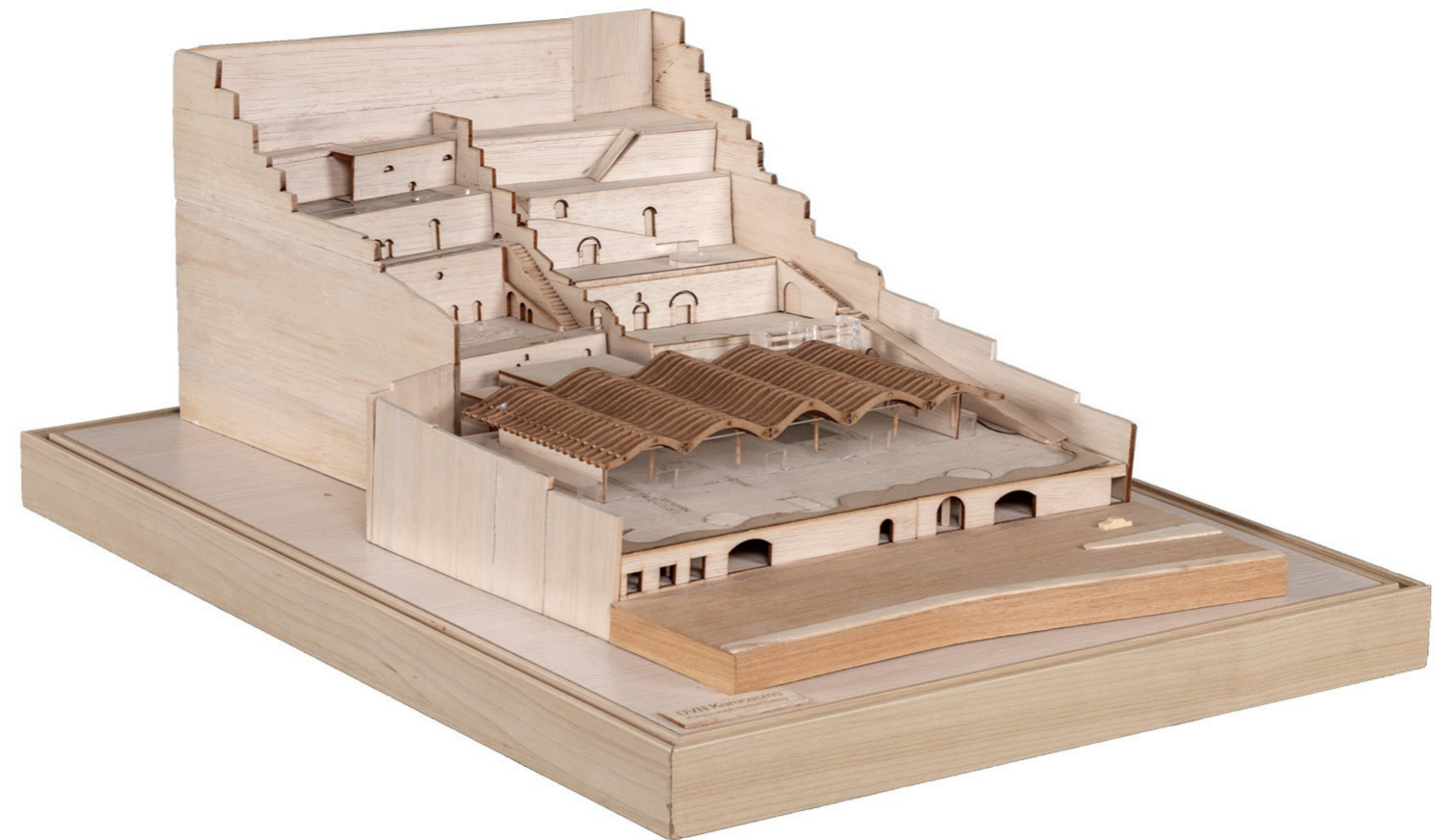


GADLibrary

GADLibrary holds almost **1850 significant** and specialized books in the field of **art, archeology, architectural theory** and **practice, design, history, media, technology,** and **social/cultural studies**. To promote the improvement of teaching and learning worldwide, the library is open to students and enthusiasts in providing information and access to resources. **Special collections, sketches, and rare works** on contemporary architecture, movements, and international-national exhibitions are also provided in the library archive. The library's digital collections include vast amounts of **e-books** as well as a gradually increasing number of online journals and databases in access to students, GAD Members, and external readers on loan. The library also purchases print editions of unique international and highly **referential journals** and holds a substantial number of important magazines with access to many more online resources.

GADLab

GADLabs is an innovative **research-practice-based** space specialized in **additive manufacturing** technologies involving **3D printing** techniques, **hands-on model making,** and **digital prototyping**. The aim of setting up a model-making facility that holds a manufacturing laboratory, and fabrication hub derives from the idea of assisting the teaching activities related to the various units and programs throughout the academy. The **GADLab** is equipped with several **3D printers, laser cutters, scanning equipment,** and **industrial robotic arms**.



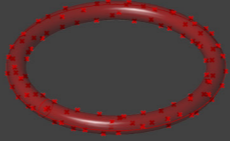


Works

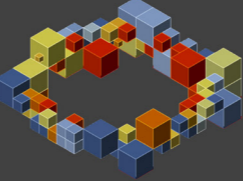
The studio works and professional practice examples are a **core** part of GAD Academy. The previous student works and practices were built upon the renowned system provided by **one-to-one student-instructor** conversations, collaborations, and guidance. Workshops, lectures, competitions, and juries complement varied types of interactions with unit colleagues. This section presents a matrix of the previous student works and competitions that emphasize the importance of both **practice** and **theory** in contemporary architecture. Varied examples, works, and projects are illustrated in serving participants to gain an insight into GAD’s complex design approaches, techniques, and agendas. A uniquely intensive and intimate educational environment is offered in producing such dedicated and innovative practices.

PARAMETRIC DESIGN

The parametric design was created using the programs of Rhino and Grasshopper. In this process, I learned how to generate the Grasshopper code. The creation of the code steps and the purposes of usage of the codes was done in the following sequence.



STEP 1
Populated Geometry
in Grasshopper

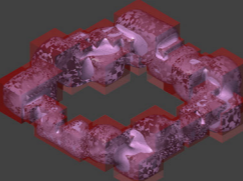


STEP 2
Octree Tool
in Grasshopper

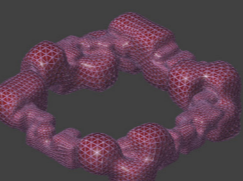
HIGH DENSITY

MEDIUM DENSITY

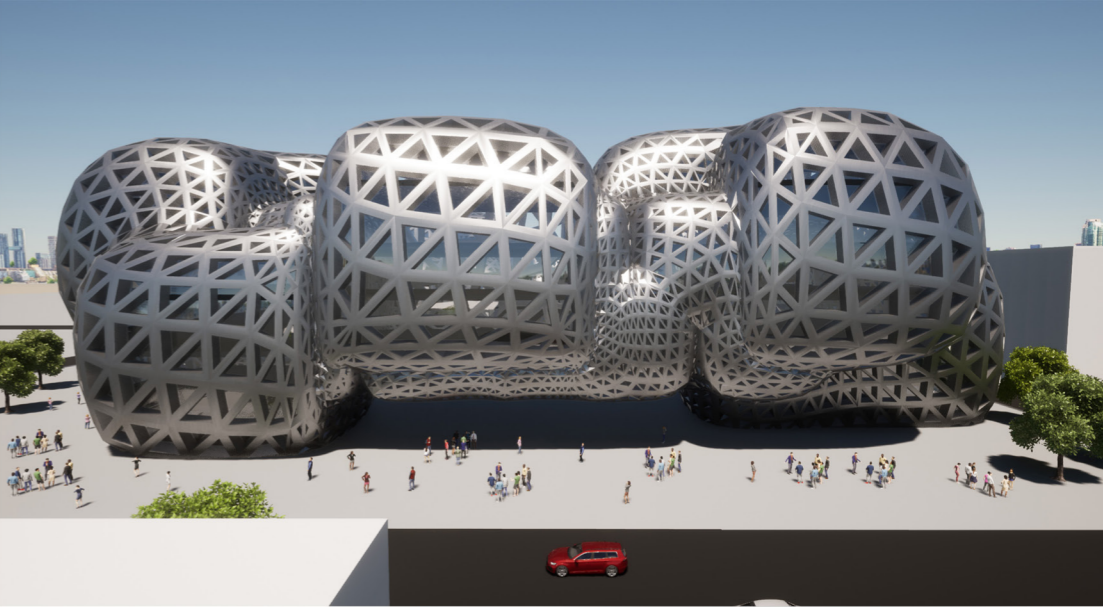
LOW DENSITY



STEP 3
Weaverbird Loop
Subdivision Tool
in Grasshopper



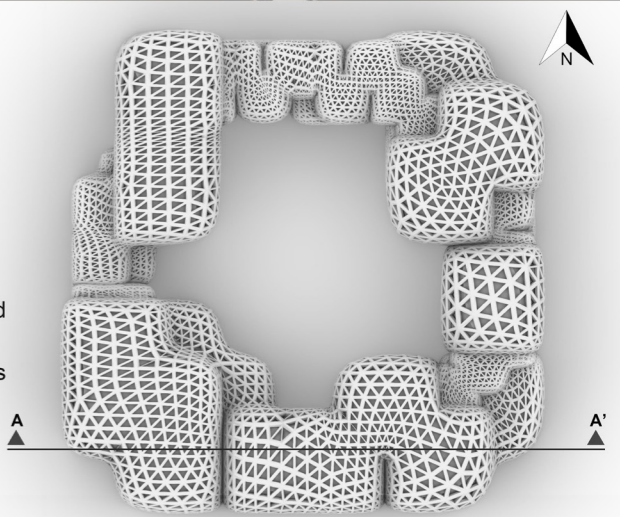
STEP 4
Weaverbird Picture
Frame Tool
in Grasshopper



When the parametric design was thought of as a museum, the idea of creating a square in the middle and a structural that surrounds and embraces it, thus the idea of creating a public space in the center has been an important factor in solid mass selection.

In the first step of the parametric design, I selected a torus as the solid object with these design ideas. Then, I created population points on the mass and used the octree tool to created for a new form with 3-dimensional hierarchical distribution from population points. The densities of the masses created were examined with the gradient tool. After looking at the densities, it was converted into a defined geometry. The geometry was transformed into a mesh. Then, weaverbird's loop subdivision tool was added, and the facade of the form was softened. The frames were created on the model, which was divided into subdivisions.

The paneling process was completed in the parametric design, it was divided into the floors. The ground floor covering a total area of 2,500 m².



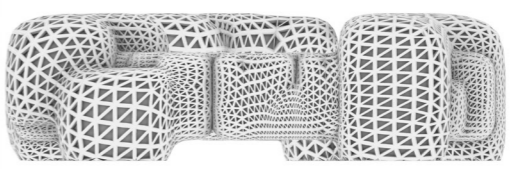
TOP VIEW



AA' SECTION



NORTH VIEW



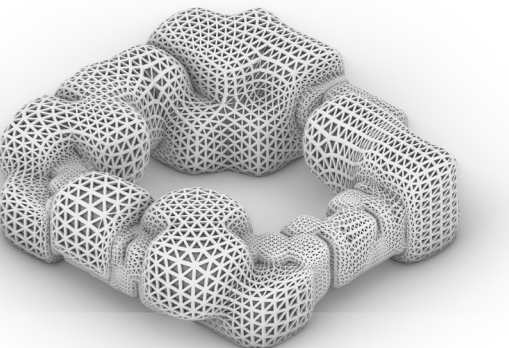
SOUTH VIEW



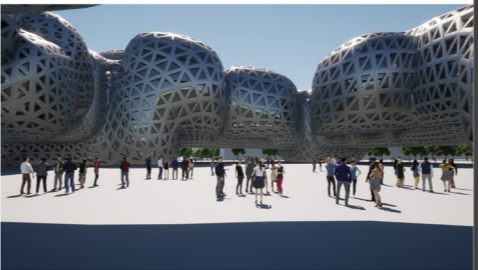
WEST VIEW



EAST VIEW

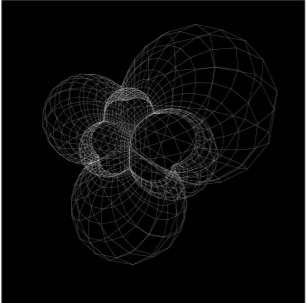
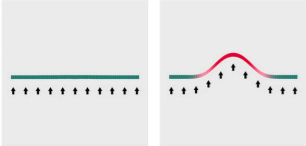


ISOMETRIC VIEW



BUB- BLE HOUSE

The dynamic forms of the Embryological House (1997-2000) comprise flowing and vector-based surfaces, sometimes referred to as "blob" architecture, made possible through animation software. Through the Embryological House Lynn rethinks the notion of the manufactured house, moving from the modernist idea of a form based on modules to a form based on potentially unlimited iterations derived from a basic form, or "primitive". In this study at GAO Academy, we aimed to observe Lynn's approach by remodeling the kangaroo live physics engine in the grasshopper program.



	form	0.01p	0.02p	0.03p
4 bubble				
8 bubble				
8 bubble Srf				
16 bubble				



SWARM URBANISM IN BESIKTAS SQUARE

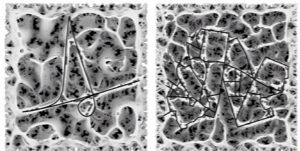
All the research and findings that have been attained throughout the project showed that the infrastructure in Besiktas square together with the location of the metro station and the artificial biological behavior of the Besiktas square should be rethought and revised in terms of urban design.



Form Finding Process

In the process of forming the Besiktas square design concept, the spots where the pedestrian flow is most intense were selected and the traces of the herd behavior were taken as reference. It is suggested to rethink urban design with biological formation.

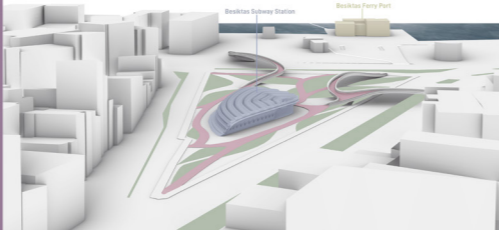
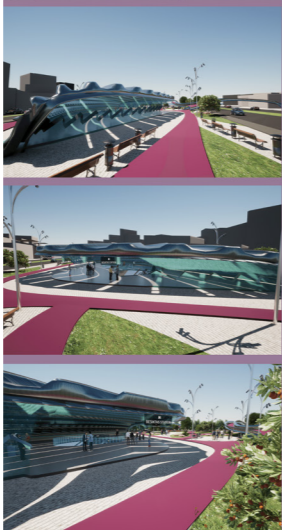
It is the transformation of the traces left by the artificial swarm behavior around the main road lines and street lines into 3D form.



From Main Road Lines From Street Lines



Site View



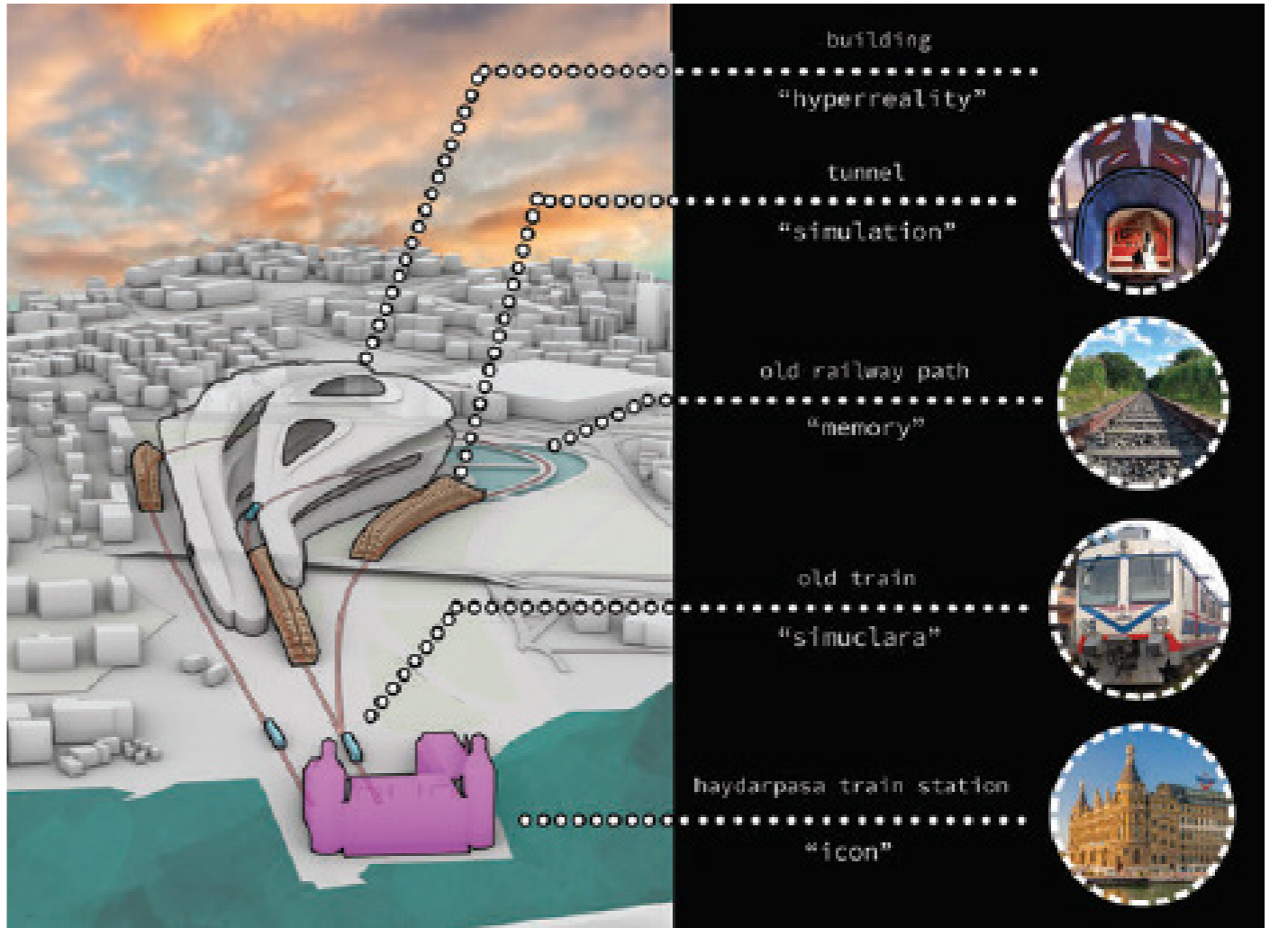
timber linear elements

Plaster interior walls

tinted glazings

brick exterior wall

water element (pond)
timber pathway



building

"hyperreality"

tunnel

"simulation"

old railway path

"memory"

old train

"sinuclara"

haydarpasa train station

"icon"



How to Apply

The GAD Academy encourages applications from individuals who have the confidence, curiosity, and ambition that is required to define a unique path through an academy that fosters a multitude of different pedagogical methods and agendas. Above all, we are keen to hear from independent, intelligent, and respectful people who can demonstrate initiative in entering into the public forms of presentation, collective discussion, and productive debate that permeate the GAD, the architectural community, and the world at large.

6-month full-time project and practice certificate program calls for graduates of architecture and related disciplines with curiosity about art, theory, and computational design (intermediate software knowledge is required) to further their knowledge, practice, and skills in architecture.time

Supporting Documents

- DIPLOMA, BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR A TEMPORARY GRADUATION DOCUMENT
- STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
- RESUME
- PORTFOLIO (FOR THE APPLICANTS WITH A DESIGN BACKGROUND. PORTFOLIOS WILL BE REVIEWED DURING INTERVIEWS)
- FOR APPLICATIONS, PLEASE SEND YOUR PORTFOLIO AND CV TO academy@gadfoundation.com
- IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE E-MAIL US AT academy@gadfoundation.com

Pricing

TUITION FEE **4250 \$ + VAT**

Dates

START : 15.09.2025

FINISH : 20.03.2026

Resources

Student Information

During their time at the academy, students of the program benefit from friendly administrative support and a welcoming, service that can provide advice regarding all areas of life within the unique and intimate learning environment of the GAD. Find out about the program, lifestyle advice, and more.

<https://www.gadfoundation.com/>

Fees and Financial Assistance

The GAD offers financial assistance for new and existing students who demonstrate exceptional promise and financial expertise. All applicants are eligible regardless of age, nationality, or background. Find out more about academic fees, and other sources of financial assistance.

<https://www.gadfoundation.com/gad-academy/>

CONTACT US FOR PAYMENT OPTIONS

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GAD Academy Prospectus 2025-26

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[M. academy@gadfoundation.com](mailto:M.academy@gadfoundation.com) or

by accessing the GAD Foundation

<https://www.gadfoundation.com/>

All photos courtesy GAD Archieve unless otherwise stated.

Front cover: The Serra Gate Installation



GAD ACADEMY

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