

# Living and Sustainability: An Environmental Critique of Design and Building Practices, Locally and Globally

## 1. Paper / Proposal Title:

Faces of Biophilia in Contemporary Turkish Architecture

## 2. Format:

Written paper / verbal presentation

## 3. Author(s) Name:

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## 4. University or Company Affiliation:

Izmir University of Economics - Architecture Department

## 5. Abstract (300 words):

The term "biophilia" means "love of life or living systems," implying a subconscious bond of human beings with the natural environment and natural systems. Biophilia can refer to both main types of life, flora and fauna. The present work focuses on the former in relation to built spaces.

Throughout history, many buildings demonstrate the long connection of architecture and flora in diverse ways. Today's green buildings revive that old relation through a strong emphasis on vegetation as a major building component, aiming at spaces where human live conformed and connected with natural elements in sustainable conditions.

The importance of plants in urban ecosystems is that they are the habitat of many life forms, providing shelter and food to them. In addition, vegetation has a positive effect on the air quality of cities. Green elements can also contribute to amending and enhancing the urban microclimate and improving building performance, the mitigation of urban heat island being such an example.

Turkish architecture has an old relation with biophilia for climatic and cultural reasons, with gardens and green atria being commonplace features. In addition to such spaces on the ground level, several present-day buildings host greenery in novel ways, expressing a growing desire for sustainability.

This paper reviews three types of greenery in recent buildings, on the ground level, on roofs and on facades, as contemporary cases of biophilia in the Turkish built environment, in order to appraise the interaction between local people and nature in the context of architecture.

This ongoing research includes theoretical references and a collection of characteristic green examples in Turkey. To understand how people respond to green concepts, a survey will investigate how Turkish public relate with biophilia in their built environment today. Results are expected on time for the conference.

#### **6 Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

- **Nergiz Amirova**, Master student at Izmir University of Economics - Architecture Department

Nergiz Amirova graduated from the Department of Interior Architecture and Environmental Design of Izmir University of Economics in 2015. During her studies she was involved with residential projects, public spaces and yacht design. Her education encompasses the conceptual planning, aesthetic and technical solutions applied to achieve the desired results for users of various space types.

Currently she is working for her Master degree at the Architecture Department of Izmir University of Economics, focusing on ecological and sustainable design in relation to social aspects. Now she is working on Biophilia on the belief that it is a step towards protecting nature and our built environment. Her future aim is to continue her studies at PhD level and create solutions for humanity in harmony with nature.

- **Thanos N. Stasinopoulos**, Dr. Architect Engineer NTUA AAGradDipl., Assistant Professor Izmir University of Economics - Architecture Department

A professional designer and built environment scholar of international calibre, Dr. Stasinopoulos studied Architecture at the National Technical University of Athens and soon after joined his school as Assistant Lecturer on Geometric Visualization,

which he taught for over two decades. His postgraduate studies in London at the Architectural Association Energy Course developed new insights into the links between architecture and nature that guided his further academic and professional track.

With green design as his major expertise, he has taught at seven different schools in four countries and has organized numerous international workshops. Most of his research work focuses on solar energy in architecture (including a PhD correlating building geometry and solar radiation) and has drawn the attention of academics and practitioners, leading to lecture invitations in various countries.

In parallel to academic work, he has been involved with many architectural projects as registered architect, including several examples of research by design. His creative activities have expanded to interior & furniture design, along with a considerable occupation with visual arts. A keen computer user since the dawn of PC era, he has mastered a wide range of software applications.