Moving Images - Static Spaces: Architectures, Art, Media, Film, Digital Art and Design

• Paper / Proposal Title:
The Cinematography of Rapid Transit Imagery: Looking at the city of Istanbul through the lens of Metrobus

• Author(s) Name:
Yiğit Çetin, V. Şafak Uysal

• University or Company Affiliation:
Istanbul Bilgi University, Faculty of Architecture

• Presentation Method. I would like to:
  i. present in person (with a written paper and a pre-recorded film if possible)

• Abstract (300 words):
Metrobus is a bus-based, high-capacity, mass rapid transit system with 44 stops, operating in both directions on Istanbul’s busiest highway, State Road D-100, as a 52 kms long line between Söğütlüçeşme and Beylikdüzü terminals. It has given birth to a series of changes at a metropolitan scale by the very fact of its length and continuity, cutting across the city from one end to the other and interacting with its neighbouring environs. Therefore, looking into the way in which Metrobus has transformed our relation to the city of Istanbul equals looking into the exhaustive changes that Istanbul metropolitan area has been going through ever since 2000s. It is with this contention that we contextualize Metrobus as an extensive urban agent (an event) that defies all efforts at a rigid definition and as an image-production technology (i.e. a mobile camera, aimed at itself and the city) with its own cinematography and visual regime. Accordingly, we will first look at the Metrobus “from the outside” and establish a framework for a formal analysis, focusing not only on the architectural components of Metrobus as a multiplicitous system (made up of a series of elements such as the overpasses, vertical circulation elements, platforms and designated road lanes), but
also on the architectural and physical environments surrounding the Metrobus corridor. Later on, we will look at Istanbul through the lens and “from the inside” of Metrobus so as to lay out the ways in which metrobus contributes to the transformation of the image of Istanbul. We will do this not only by drawing attention to the existence of a multiplicity of vistas witnessed during a Metrobus ride that by nature deterritorialize the possibility of a unitary Istanbul silhouette (usually associated with the historical peninsula), but also by pinpointing the ways in which the very same multiplicity is also reterritorialized by means of an entirely new silhouette generated by Metrobus itself, showing what is not to be shown and integrating what is difficult to unify.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

YİĞİT ÇETİN graduated from Yıldız Technical University’s Department of Architecture in 2014 and has begun his graduate studies at Istanbul Bilgi University’s Architectural History, Theory and Criticism Graduate Program in 2015. His interest in the nature and structure of contemporary urban spaces has been continuing via his studies on the relationship between Istanbul’s Metrobus system and the city. In addition, his research interests include the study of methods based on the analysis of space-time dynamics by means of various visualization techniques.

V. ŞAFAK UYSAL graduated from METU City and Regional Planning, and completed his master and doctorate studies at Bilkent University Dept. of Interior Architecture and Environmental Design. He has been an active member of the Turkish contemporary performing arts scene as a choreographer/director, performer and a project coordinator. He currently teaches courses on the subjects of interior design, interior surfaces, narrative spaces and the relationship between architecture and cinema as well as continuing his theoretical studies on body-space relationship, temporality in architecture, and architecture as a technology of framing forms of experience and knowledge.