This paper presents a case study about 3rd year architectural design studio work based on mixed use building design in an urban context. The aim of the study is to develop architecture students’ understanding of design by introducing them to the integration of research and practice upon a single platform where they discover the interconnection and interrelationship between different fields. As the teaching and learning environment, principles of integrated education system were adapted to the architectural design studio process in order to keep the students engaged in the multifaceted structure of a complex design problem, making use of various resources and experiences. Four project sites for the design problem were picked along Istiklal Street in Beyoğlu, Istanbul, Turkey; a district with a complex nature which includes contemporary as well as historical elements, a wide range of building functions, and an immersive social and cultural structure. The general frame of the building program was laid out to consist of functions derived from the existing environment. Accordingly, three main points of emphasis in the design process were introduced to the students through lectures and case studies: Infill design in an urban heritage area, prefabricated modular structures in construction, and sustainability in urban environment. Additional exercises such as a design vignette,
workshops on sketching or model making, and an opinion survey were also utilized in this experimental studio.

As the outcome of the study, the final proposal of infill design as the reflection of each student’s design approach was assessed in order to test the compatibility of the integrated education approach in an architectural design studio. Additionally, the development of the students’ awareness in an urban setting stimulated by the characteristics of their sites was observed throughout the design process.

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