ONLINE EDUCATION: TEACHING IN A TIME OF CHANGE

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Atelier on Air,
Materiality of Online Design Education; A Case Study

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• Abstract (300 words):
Actor-Network Theory which has emerged from science and technology studies offers a new understanding of social. According to ANT modern epistemological approach causes a priori knowledge which produces ready-to-wear lenses to shape the nature of knowledge. Rather, The theory suggests seeing science as an assemblage of technical, conceptional, and textual processes, one must look at their material nature to fully understand regarding their being human or non-human. The modern constitution has set the nature of knowledge as two separate fields. One is nature (for non-humans) and the other is culture (for humans). These different epistemological lenses also construct different ways of producing knowledge. Which results in a world full of dichotomies such as nature-culture, human-nonhuman, subject-object. In the modern world, to be able to understand the ontologically separated fields, each field needs a translator to translate the knowledge. Such as, to understand an architectural environment smoothlessly, one must find an architect. Thus, for ANT to be able to
overcome the dichotomies and nature of things, it is imperative to trace the materiality of an action.

Since focusing on material realities, ANT helps to understand the effects of the built environment, such as how it produces social, the assemblaged nature of architecture, materiality of architecture, how stakeholders and actors navigate and produce actions in architecture. Thus, ANT is useful to understand how social produces around a material reality without looking at predefined knowledge.

Since Covid-19 Processes and online education affected all areas, architecture is also one of the affected disciplines, due to the atelier-based environment and model making processes. Classical architectural knowledge is based upon the assumption that design is a process that starts with sketching, and then model making, planning, and finally visualizing. Since, architectural education becomes online education, students are also affected. Thus, this study aims to do ethnographic research with 18 architectural students who are being educated in Fatih Sultan Mehmet Waqf Univesity, Interior Design Department. Students are given renovation of the 18-century building and ask them to re-function the building for another building program. By etnographing these students, the study aims to

- How online education affected students’ relationship with architectural tools such as Caad programs, modeling and, sketching processes.
- What kind of materials they used, which material actors affected their concept of design and understanding of architectural heritage.

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