

International Summer School:

**Architectural Design
in Historical Context**



**PROGRAM
BOOKLET**

Cappadocia 2025

21-28 June

Mustafapaşa (Sinassos)



BILKENT UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHITECTURE

DIPARTIMENTO DI INGEGNERIA
CIVILE EDILE E AMBIENTALE



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



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KAM

KAPADOKYA ÜNİVERSİTESİ
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International Summer School:

**Architectural Design
in Historical Context**

Özge Selen Duran & Giorgio Gasco
with Rüya Uzun (BUDA)
Maria Argenti & Anna Bruna Menghini
with Serena Cecchetti, Alessandra
Marino, Filippo Montorsi, Leonardo Rizzi,
Emiliano Zandri (DICEA)

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The *Architectural Design in Historical Context - International Summer School* offers students a unique opportunity to develop their design skills and ideas in direct relation to the specific conditions of a historical context and its built heritage. Structured as an intensive one-week workshop, the program includes thematic lectures, guided visits to the case study site, on-site activities, and studio work dedicated to the development of design proposals.

The Summer School is conceived as a pedagogical experience in which students are encouraged to engage with the context not simply as a site to observe, but as a space to investigate and design within. Its international framework — bringing together students from different countries and academic backgrounds — creates a valuable environment for collaboration and exchange. Participants are invited to confront diverse perspectives and working methods, fostering growth not only on a personal level, but also within a shared learning process.

The first edition of the ADHC International Summer School takes place in Cappadocia (Mustafapaşa village, Ürgüp), where an Italian team from Sapienza University of Rome and a Turkish team from Bilkent University in Ankara will address the challenges posed by a region of immense cultural and historical significance.



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THE SITE



Cappadocia

Cappadocia is an ancient region located in east-central Anatolia. Its unique geography was shaped around 25 million years ago by the lava and ash flows from the Erciyes, Hasandağ, and Güllüdağ volcanoes, as well as the numerous calderas spread throughout the region.

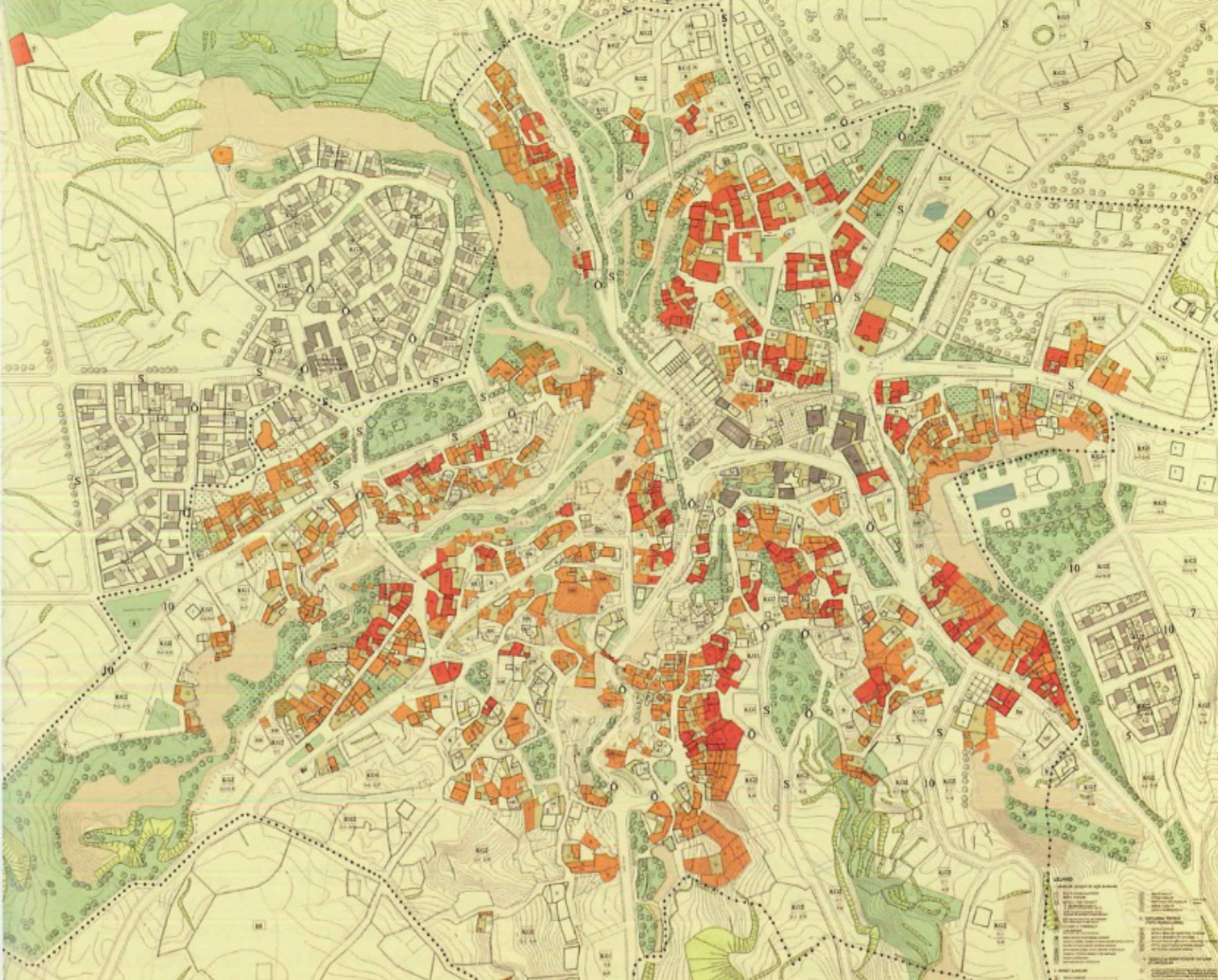
The landscape of Cappadocia is defined by vast expanses of soft volcanic rock, which erosion has sculpted into a striking array of towers, cones, valleys, and caves. Throughout the region, one finds rock-cut churches and extensive underground tunnel complexes, dating back to the Byzantine and Islamic periods, dispersed across the countryside.

Sinasos



Sinasos (now the village of Mustafapaşa) was a flourishing Greek town between the 18th and 19th centuries. Its inhabitants included both Greeks and Karamanlides — Turkish-speaking Orthodox Christians. Many of them were merchants who built their fortunes by trading goods between Istanbul and Russia. The surviving buildings still reflect this past wealth through their refined forms and high-quality materials.

Sinasos is situated in a territory marked by striking topographical contrasts, at the convergence of five valleys. Over time, this unique landscape shaped the spatial articulation of the town. The settlement developed by adapting to sudden changes in elevation and by exploiting the porosity of the rock to carve out and expand interior spaces. The result was a layered urban fabric made up of multi-level structures which, although now largely in ruins, still bear witness to the complexity of the town's original configuration.





1. Sultanadis Mansion (Cappadocia Vocational College)
2. Cami-i Kebir Mosque
3. Mehmet Şakir Paşa Madrasa
4. Topakoğlu Mansion
5. Gift Shops
6. Constantine & Helena Church
7. City Fountain
8. Municipality
9. Pingopulos Mansion



- Building
- Ruin
- Earth Covered Structure
- Open Terrain
- Park
- Paved Garden

Intervention Areas

Two intervention areas, both located on the western side of the historic city center, in the Kapalos district, have been selected for the design studio activities.

The first area (marked in yellow) lies at the foot of the rock where the defensive structures of the Seljuk era once stood (Şan Kale Hill). It features a square onto which several recent buildings converge, including the town hall and the fire station, as well as the Orthodox Church of Saints Constantine and Helen.

The linear arrangement of these elements — forming a sort of podium against the cliff — has led to the definition of this area as the “Stoa.”

The second area (marked in orange) is situated along the outer edge of the upper part of the Şan Kale hill, where ruined structures alternate with large stretches of abandoned land. Elevated above its surroundings, this area has been identified as the “Akropolis.”



Photo Gallery



Ref. to p. 10

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11



12



13



14



15



16



17



18





Kapalos district: the southern side of the Şan Kale hill





Kapalos district: the western side of the Şan Kale hill and the area of the Church



ACTIVITIES

Guest Lectures

A series of guest lectures offered by scholars specialized in Architectural History, Preservation and Design, provide a complete framework of knowledge about the preservation, the restoration, and the possible reuse of the architectural heritage of the town.

June 23, Monday

hrs 10:30-15:15

Oktay Sinanoğlu
Conference Hall
(Mustafapaşa Campus)

Mustafapaşa in the Historical Landscape of Cappadocia

The lecture focuses on the historical features that constitute the landscape of Cappadocia. In particular, the discussion aims to disclose how the intricate relationship between history and territory, architecture and topography, eventually shaped the very peculiar structure Mustafapaşa village.



How to cope with the unusual structure of Cappadocian architecture

The lecture provides evidences and examples from the architectural studies conducted by the author on the vernacular heritage of the region. Eventually it attempts to summarize the challenges that a conservation architect may encounter in this unique village of Cappadocia.



Some notes on the spatial development of Anatolian cities/towns

This lecture explores key spatial features of Anatolia's historical urban fabric, as seen in city centers that have survived into the present day. Common elements include castle ruins, public spaces such as markets, bazaars, inns, covered bazaars, madrasahs, and places of worship. Surrounding these cores are distinct neighborhoods, once sharply separated, with traditional houses arranged along organically developed street networks.



The discussion examines the spatial evolution of these cities across three main periods: the early phase (up to the 16th century), the classical phase (16th–18th centuries), and the westernization phase (from the 19th century onward).

Maria Argenti

RESTO-REstart Small Towns. Celleno Laboratory

The lecture addresses the issue of depopulation in small towns, a phenomenon increasingly widespread in Italy. Celleno Vecchia, a small town in central Italy known as the “Ghost Town”, represents an extreme case of abandonment, where nature is gradually reclaiming the urban fabric. In collaboration with the Municipal Administration, a project has been developed aimed at creating an integrated system of spaces dedicated to art, culture, and nature, through the restoration of the existing architectural heritage and small-scale reconstruction efforts. The goal is to revitalize the old village and attract responsible and inclusive tourism.



Anna Bruna Menghini

Knowledge and enhancement of the Italian landscape: the case of Tuscia

The lecture will address the interpretation of the architectural and cultural features of Italian landscapes with the aim of enhancing their value. The Tuscia region, an area north of Rome with a distinctive geographical, historical, and cultural identity, represents an emblematic case: it is a territory where the historical connections between natural and anthropic structures are still clearly visible. However, Tuscia is currently affected by growing phenomena of abandonment, for which architectural and urban design can offer innovative solutions.



Design Studio

The design studio is the fundamental core of the educational experience offered by the Summer School Program. Conducted as an intensive workshop, integrated by site inspections and other on-site activities, the design studio aims to explore and propose new scenarios that address the ongoing deterioration of the area. The goal is to protect the region's cultural identity and safeguard the integrity of its historical and vernacular structures, ensuring that the future of Cappadocia respects its past.

**June 24-28,
Mon-Sat**

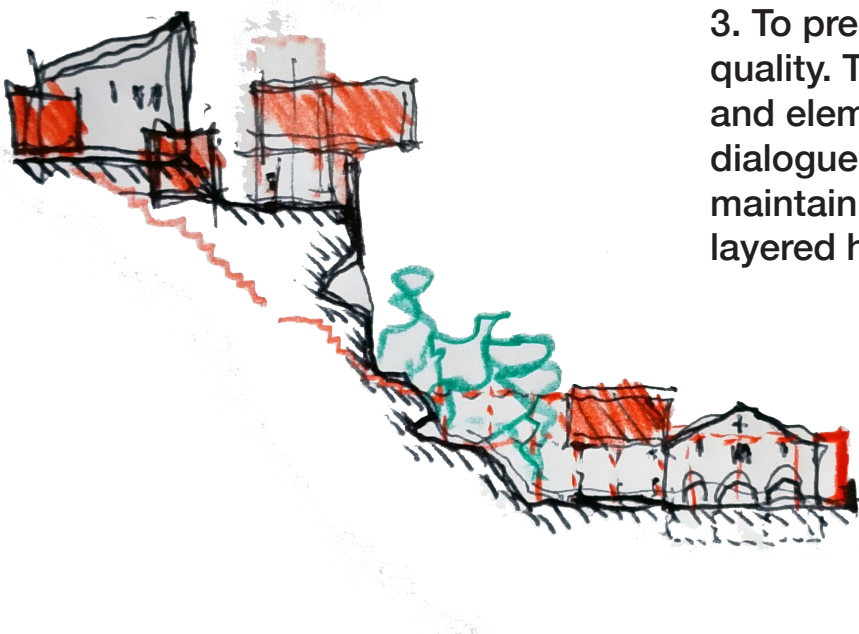
hrs 10:00-17:00

**Oktay Sinanoğlu
Conference Hall
(Mustafapaşa Campus)**

Concept

Far from any romantic temptation to restore Sinasos to a supposed original state, the design studio instead focuses on what Sinasos might become, starting from its current conditions. The aim is to re-compose the place — to envision a renewed sense of centrality capable of restoring the lost urban identity of this neglected corner of the village.

The “Stoa” and the “Akropolis” are conceived as two set pieces that together define a small urban system. This system seeks to reconnect a series of remarkable natural and architectural elements: the caves carved into the cliff, the remains of the fortress, the church, the small neighborhood atop the rock, and the few surviving Greek mansions.



Objectives

Stoa:

1. To define an appropriate public ground in front of the church, functioning both as a town square and as a stage for various spatial and social scenarios.

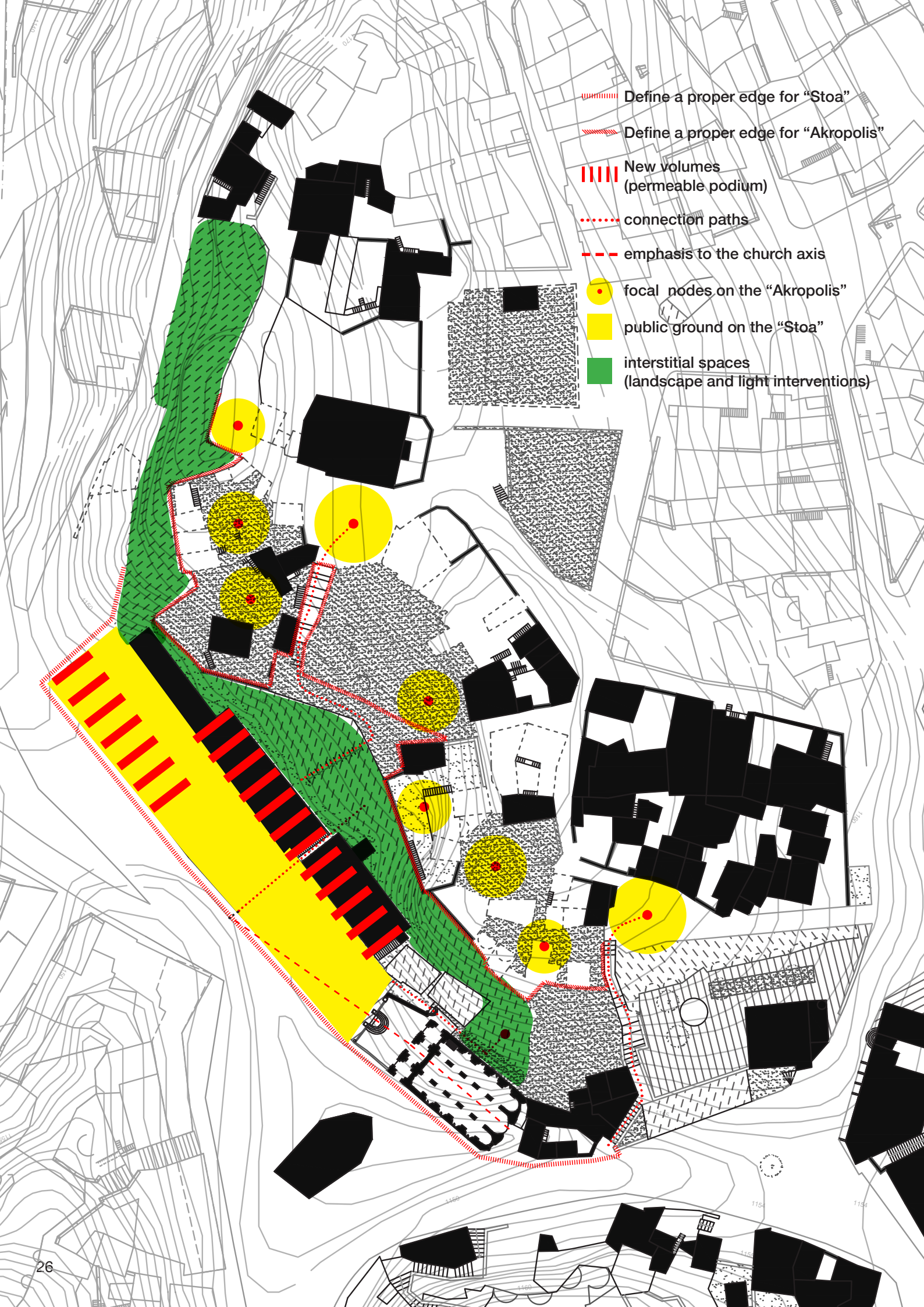
2. To replace the incoherent structures along the longitudinal edge of the cliff with a new urban system — one that is open to the square while also integrating the series of interstitial spaces available at the foot of the hill.

Akropolis:

1. To articulate a sequence of small, integrated volumes and structures along the outer edge of the cliff, giving the rock a distinct and recognizable profile — a sort of “crown”.

2. To integrate the many fragments and ruins with a series of new, small-scale, lightweight volumes. These box-like structures can accommodate various functions, from dispersed tourist lodging to cultural and social facilities for the local community.

3. To preserve the site’s narrative quality. The proposed new volumes and elements are intended to enter into dialogue with the existing structures, maintaining continuity with the place’s layered history.



- Define a proper edge for "Stoa"
- Define a proper edge for "Akropolis"
- New volumes
(permeable podium)
- connection paths
- emphasis to the church axis
- focal nodes on the "Akropolis"
- public ground on the "Stoa"
- interstitial spaces
(landscape and light interventions)

Final Presentation

The Summer School concludes with a final presentation of the work developed by the students throughout the week, under the guidance and support of the tutors. Rather than a formal public exhibition, the event is conceived as a seminar — a shared moment of reflection and discussion among participants, tutors, and, where possible, invited guests.

Students will have the opportunity to present their design proposals through a variety of media, including PowerPoint presentations, original drawings, sketches, physical models, and printed boards. This concluding session is not only a chance to showcase the outcomes of the design studio, but also to share personal reflections on the process, the challenges faced, and the collective experience of working in an international and context-sensitive environment.

The final presentation also serves a broader purpose: to open a dialogue with the local community — the ultimate recipients of the ideas generated during the workshop — and to make visible the potential of design as a tool for cultural engagement and territorial regeneration.

June 28, Saturday

hrs 16:00

Oktay Sinanoğlu
Conference Hall
(Mustafapaşa Campus)

TEACHING STAFF



Maria Argenti, architect, is full professor in Architectural and Urban Design at the Sapienza University in Rome, where she teaches in the Building Engineering-Architecture graduate course. Her research examines contemporary architecture, the relationship between heritage and design, the architectural regeneration of existing buildings; informal cities, and low-tech constructions; the various possible and current interpretations of dwelling. She is member of the LAPIS research group. Editor in chief of *Rassegna di Architettura e Urbanistica* since 2011, she is also the author of many essays and articles on contemporary architecture.



Anna Bruna Menghini, architect, is associate professor in Architectural and Urban Design at the Department of Civil, Building and Environmental Engineering, Sapienza University of Rome. She is a member of the PhD Course in Engineering-based Architecture and Urban Planning (Sapienza University) and of the PhD Course of National Interest in Peace Studies. Her theoretical and applied research includes the redevelopment of architectural, urban and landscape heritage and the reconversion of abandoned sites in Italy and the Mediterranean area. She is currently involved in several research projects on new forms of collaborative living from an intergenerational perspective.



Özge Selen Duran is a lecturer in Architecture at Bilkent University. She earned her Ph.D. from METU in 2022, focusing on managing sustainable, multidisciplinary building design processes. Her award-winning dissertation addressed the alignment of design and construction workflows through sustainability principles. She previously led her own firm (2003–2011) and served as General Coordinator at Öncüoğlu Architecture (2012–2019). A certified BREEAM International Assessor, she has published and presented widely on sustainable and integrated design, earning recognition such as a best paper award. At Bilkent, she teaches courses on design studio, construction, professional practice, and integrated design management.



Giorgio Gasco is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture at Bilkent University, Ankara. He earned his MSArch (2003) and his PhD (2007) at ETSAB, Politechnic University of Cataluña, Barcelona. His research focuses on architecture of Mid 20th Century in Europe and Turkey. His work has been published in different national and international journals, such as: Abitare, JA, Metu JFA, Belleten. Two of his papers are included in the Index Islamicus Yearbook (vol. 27, 2011/vol. 29, 2013), the international classified bibliography of publications in European languages on all aspects of Middle East and Islamic Studies, edited by C.H. Bleaney and S. Sinclair.

Expert

Adjunct staff in Architectural History



Önder Aydın, architect, is Prof. at the University of Gazi, Ankara, Turkey. He completed his doctoral thesis on the use of Classical Proportions in the late Ottoman Architecture at the University of Gazi in 2006, and his post-doctoral research on orders in the 19th century European architecture at the Institute of Art History, Innsbruck, in 2008. His areas of interest are ancient Anatolian architecture, Ottoman architecture, Early Republican architecture, and Classical architecture. Prof. Önder Aydın is currently teaching architectural history and basic design courses at Gazi University, Department of Architecture.

PROGRAM

Schedule

June 21, Saturday – Arrivals in Mustafapaşa

June 22, Sunday – Introductory seminar in the Oktay Sinanoğlu Conference Hall (Mustafapaşa Campus). Visit to the site (Şan Kale Hill) together with Dr. Aytülü Dırık (Cappadocia University), field work

June 23, Monday - Opening speeches and Guest Lectures in the Oktay Sinanoğlu Conference Hall

June 24, Tuesday – on field activities, indoor studio work (Mustafapaşa Campus)

June 25, Wednesday – indoor studio work (Mustafapaşa Campus)

June 26, Thursday – indoor studio work (Mustafapaşa Campus)

June 27, Friday – indoor studio work (Mustafapaşa Campus), get ready for final presentation

June 28, Saturday - final presentation/ exhibition, final remarks in the Oktay Sinanoğlu Conference Hall

June 29, Sunday – Farewells and Departures

**June 21-28,
Sat-Sun**

Mustafapaşa

Opening Session

**June 23,
Monday**

**Oktay Sinanoğlu
Conference Hall
(Mustafapaşa Campus)**

10:30 Opening speeches:

Dean of the Faculty of Architecture,
Design and Fine Arts: Prof. Dr. Ayşe
Çakır İlhan
Rector of Cappadocia University: Prof.
Dr. Hasan Ali Karasar

11:00 - 11:15 Introduction to the International Summer School and to the Lectures Session

Giorgio Gasco (Assistant Prof. Bilkent
University)

11:15 -12:45 Guest Lectures session I

11:15- 11:45 / Lecture by Şükran
Ünser (Assistant Prof., Director of the
Research Center for Cappadocian
Studies - KAM)

11:45 - 12:15 / Lecture by Aslı Özbay
(Conservation Architect)

12:15 - 12:45 / Lecture by Önder Aydın
(Professor, Gazi University)

12:45-14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 - 15.00 Guest Lectures Session 2

14:00- 14:30 /Lecture by Maria Argenti
(Professor, Roma Sapienza University)

14:30- 15:00 / Lecture by Anna Bruna
Menghini (Associate Prof., Roma
Sapienza University)

15:00 - 15.15 Final Remarks, Q&A

15:15 - 15:45 Break

15:45-17:00 Visit to the site and studio
work with students

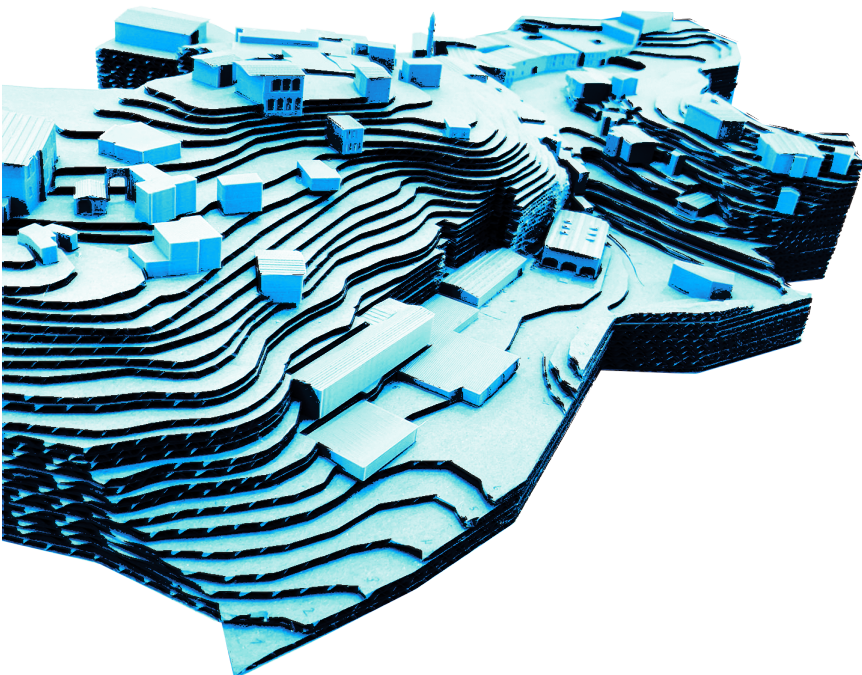
18.30 Dinner at Gorgoli Restaurant
(The dinner is generously sponsored
and organized by Cappadocia
University)

5h_{1/2}
Guest Lectures

4h
In Studio Seminars

23h
Design Studio
+ On-site activities

4h
Site Visits



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Colophon

Mustafapaşa

International Summer School

21-28 June 2025

Organizing Institutions:

Bilkent University Ankara, Faculty of Art,
Design and Architecture, Department of
Architecture (BUDA)

Sapienza University Rome, Faculty
of Civil and Industrial Engineering,
Department of Civil, Building and
Environmental Engineering (DICEA)

Local Partner Institutions:

Cappadocia University, Faculty of
Architecture Design and Fine Arts

Research Center for Cappadocian
Studies (KAM)

Concept and scientific direction:

Dr. Özge Selen Duran and Assistant
Prof. Giorgio Gasco (BUDA), Prof. Maria
Argenti and Prof. Anna Bruna Menghini
(DICEA)

Architectural history expertise:

Prof. Önder Aydın (Gazi University,
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Rüya Uzun
Anıl Uludağ

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Rüya Uzun (Edited cad file, pdfs, digital
and physical model)
Aslı Özbay (Cad file and photos)

3D and physical model:

Rüya Uzun with BUDA students

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Assistant Prof. Giorgio Gasco

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Anıl Uludağ Department Secretary

Sapienza University Rome, Faculty of Civil and Industrial Engineering, Department of Civil, Building and Environmental Engineering (DICEA)

Prof. Dr. Maria Argenti
Prof. Anna Bruna Menghini

Cappadocia University, Faculty of Architecture Design and Fine Arts, Department of City and Regional Planning

Prof. Dr. Hasan Ali Karasar Rector
Prof. Dr. Ayşe Çakır İlhan Dean
Assistant Prof. Zeki Kamil Ülkenli Chair

Research Center for Cappadocian Studies (KAM)

Assistant Prof. Sükran Ünser Director

Guest Lecturers

Prof. Önder Aydın (Gazi University)
Prof. Maria Argenti (Sapienza University)
Aslı Özbay (Architect and Conservation Specialist)
Prof. Anna Bruna Menghini (Sapienza University)
Assistant Prof. Sükran Ünser (KAM)

Introduction to the site:

Assistant Prof. Aytülü Dırık (Cappadocia University)

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Prof. Maria Argenti and Prof. Anna Bruna Menghini (DICEA)

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