

Inter Cultural Studies of Architecture (ICSA) in Istanbul 2011

Based on the general exchange agreement between Mukogawa Women's University (MWU) and Bahcesehir University (BU) signed on December 8, 2008, seven first-year master's degree students of architecture major will visit BU in Turkey on September 27 and stay until October 11, 2011. They will have practical training on conservation and restoration in the projects prepared by BU. Here is the report.

September 26-27

Leaving Kansai International Airport on the 27th, we arrived at Istanbul Ataturk International Airport via Dubai. We first paid our respect to Dr. Yalcin, president of Bahcesehir University and dean Ahmet, and had a tour of the campus led by Mr. Murat. And we were invited to a dinner sponsored by dean Ahmet at an old-established restaurant which serves Turkish cuisine.

September 28

We are trained on conservation and restoration was given at Yildiz Palace. In the morning, we visited bottega and observed conservation and restoration works on ornament of wooden furniture, decorative pieces of shell or tortoise-shell, clothes for curtains or for furniture, carpet and Kilim. In the afternoon, we observed bottega for wooden fixture and floor parquet and then we, in two groups, we worked on actual measurement or making sketches of the draft of the fixture (wooden balanced sash and wooden jalousie) originated from Dolmabahçe Palace.



Prof. Dr. Senay Yalcin, the president of Bahcesehir University, far left, with students from Mukogawa Women's University.



Textile atelier at Yildiz Palace



Measuring and making sketches of a window frame at Dolmabahçe Palace



Architectural atelier at Yildiz Palace Removing paint

September 29

In the morning, we first made sketches of the western gate of the palace, and then visited the museum building which is under conservation and restoration work (originally build as a residence of a son of sultan). In the afternoon, at the conservation and restoration bottega in the Palace, we were given by a repairing staff an explanation of methods applied for various purposes including creation and installation of lead-covered roof, recovery of the stone ornament, marbling (stucco) technique, conservation and restoration of gold or silver materials used in the articles.

September 30

We visited Büyükada Island situated to the south of Istanbul in a distance of one and a half hour by ferry to observe a large scale wooden structure and wooden houses. In the morning, we visited Greek Orphanage, which is said to be the largest of the wooden building in Turkey. The building was originally designed and constructed in 1888 as a hotel, and yet, it had been used as orphanage until 1960s because the use as a hotel was not granted. In the afternoon, we visited the city hall of Adalar upon request of head of mayor's secretary, where we took ceremonial pictures with deputy mayor and exchanged with the head of secretary. Then, we visited a wooden house which seemed to have been influenced by the idea of Japanese architecture and made sketches of it.



Students making sketches of the western gate of Dolmabahce Palace



Atelier of stucco at Dolmabahce Palace



Photograph in front of Greek Orphanage



Street of Buyukada

October 1

We visited Historic Areas of Istanbul. In the morning, we began with a visit to Hagia Sophia, the highest summit of Byzantine (architecture) and made sketches of it. And then we visited Topcapi Palace, once primary residence of Ottoman Sultans. In the afternoon, we visited Sultan Ahmed Camii, which is called Blue Mosque, and made sketches of it. In the evening, we paid a courtesy visit to Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Baçeşehir University Enver. He was quite appreciated with the student's greeting in Turkish and a donated hagoita (battledore) as an exhibit for the newly established Research Center of Japanese Culture Studies, Baçeşehir University.

October 2

We visited Edirne situated close to the borders with Greece and Bulgaria. Edirne is said to have originated in a town constructed by Emperor Hadrian. The town, which was called Adrianopolis or Adrianople, was once the capital of Ottoman Empire for a certain period. We visited Selimiye Camii designed by that great Ottoman architect Sinan, which Sinan himself values as his own magnum opus, as well as Eski Camii (Edirne's oldest Camii), Uç Serefeli Mosque whose four minarets are all different in form each other and Edirne Medical Museum Beyazit II which is characterized by its space for music therapy.



Inside view of Hagia Sophia



Students receiving an explanation on Topkapi Palace



Selimiye Mosque designed by architect Mimar Sinan in the late 16th century and considered by himself to be his masterpiece



Inside view of Eski Camii (Old Mosque)

October 3

We visited The Glass Furnace, a glass works at Sile, a town in the suburb of Istanbul. Following the observation of the bottega and the process of glass blowing in the morning, we worked on glass bead manufacture in the afternoon. Then, we moved to another room to create a glasswork applying a technique called fusion, where pieces of colored glass in whatever shapes are placed on a sheet of clear glass. The work will be completed later as pieces of objet d'art or plates of fused glass after being treated in the kiln at the glassworks. After that, in the showroom of the glassworks we appreciated pieces of Turkish traditional blown glass, such as vases, called Cesmibulbul.

October 4

We visited Bursa, the first capital of Ottoman Empire. To begin with we observed Cumalikizik, a traditional settlement with 700 years' history. This colony has come to attract attention in the recent ten years. We enjoyed walking and sketching maze of streets characterized by the lined-up houses with Cumba, a structure with the second and/or the third story jutting out over the street. Then we moved to downtown Bursa to visit Ulu Camii, a building contemporary with Eski Camii at Edirne, Koza Hanı, which has a popular café in the courtyard, and, Yeşil Türbe (green tomb) in which the body of Mehmed I rests. Then, we left Bursa for Iznik to stay at the guest house of Iznik foundation Tiles.



Visiting a glassblowing studio at the Glass Furnace



Students making glass sculptures using a technique called fuzyon



Cumalikizik: Jutted upper story was devised so as the muslimahs (Muslim women), who were not allowed to go out, could have better views of the street



Koza Han: A caravansary built in 1490 The name Koza (cocoon) Han derives from then flourishing cocoon trade. In

October 5

We visited a bottega (Iznik Foundation Tiles) in Iznik and wooden houses in Sölöz. In the morning we had a course at the bottega. For the renaissance of Iznik culture, the Iznik Foundation was established in 1993. Today, in its bottega, tiles are manufactured upon orders from all over the world, and educational programs are also performed. After observing the kiln and the laboratory, we learned the outlines of manufacturing process of ceramics before practicing the drawing on 12-cm-square tiles. In the afternoon, we visited a small town called Sölöz to observe and sketch a four-storied wooden building. The building is said to be at least 150 years old. The building is basically constituted of timber framework with stone structure in the lower part and the walls of brick layers in the upper part.

October 6

We had a course at a municipal department KUDEB, which engages in conservation and repair of wooden house, cami, bridge and rampart which do not belong to the palace. It has a basic stance to respect original parts or design as much as possible. After the briefing of KUDEB with DVD and slides, we were taken to the laboratory to observe and try renovation of wooden fixture. We experienced a shave using Turkish plane as well as the filling of worm holes on the door that date back about 200 years ago. We were also taken to a site of restoration by an architect in charge where a 19th century wooden house with a shop was being repaired. When renovated, it will be used as the library. Then we visited Süleymanyne Camii designed by Mimar Sinan to observe and sketch it.



Students experiencing Iznik tile painting



The town of Sölöz as seen from the height



Working at the bottega: Students as working on the repair of worm holes on the door from 200 years ago



Wooden structure being refurbished, the hall on the second floor

October 7

We visited Göreme National Park in Cappadocia. In the morning we observed famous camel rock, Paşabağ with three mushroom-shaped rocks as well as a bottega in a well-known pottery town Avanos. We had a lunch of *testi* (jug) kebab, a specialty of Cappadocia at a restaurant in the cave of rock. In the afternoon, we first visited an open-air museum to see Elmali Kilise (apple church) and Yılanlı Kilise (snake church) as well as Tokali Kilise, the largest of the rock-cut churches in Cappadocia located near the entrance to the museum. Then we observed suite rooms and standard rooms or the restaurants at a cave-residence-turned-hotel. We visited Çavuşin at the end of today's course to see large-scale cave residences and made sketches of them.

October 8

The second day in Cappadocia. In the morning we visited various places: Ürgüp, famous with mushroom rocks in a set of three; Mustafapaşa, a town once inhabited by the Greek and now a town of mixed styles of houses from Roman period, Ottoman Empire as well as modern times; Kaymaklı, the largest of the underground towns; and old towns of Göreme and Nevşehir built on the slopes. After lunch we continued to: Göreme panorama; a cave house still being inhabited; Uçhisar, the largest of the cave castles; and pigeon valley with nests of 500,000 pigeons. Then we returned to Istanbul by air.



Listening to an explanation of technique of pottery at a bottega in Avanos



Having lunch at a cave restaurant



View of the three mushroom-shaped rocks in Ürgüp



Observing Uçhisar at a short distance

October 9

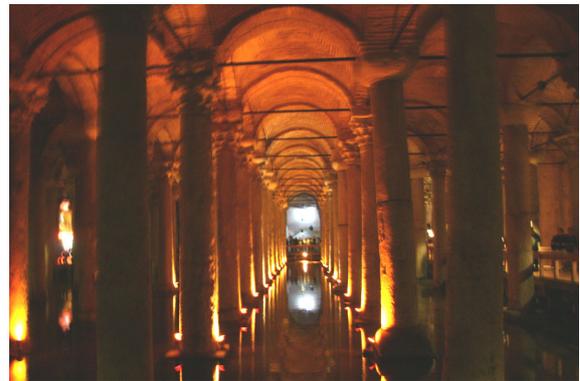
We visited an underground palace in Sultan Ahmet district in the old town of Eyüp in the Asia side of Istanbul. In the morning we moved to Eyüp on a ferry to visit and sketch the Eyüp Sultan Camii, an important sacred place for the Muslims. After lunch we visited the underground palace built in in the period of Roman Empire from 4th to 6th century as a reservoir. Then we returned to the hotel to prepare for the sketch exhibition for tomorrow as well as presentations scheduled for the day after tomorrow.

October 10

We set up the sketch exhibition scheduled for tomorrow. In meantime we visited Mimar Sinan University and attended a lecture on the life of Sinan. Also we visited the Institute of Japanese Culture studies and displayed a battledore which we donated this time.



Outside view of Eyüp Sultan Camii



The interior of underground palace



Listening to a lecture on the life of Bruno Taut



Visiting the Institute of Japanese Culture studies

October 11, 12

In the morning we visited grand bazaar. In the afternoon we held the sketch exhibition at Bahcesehir University. Soon after the exhibition, we left for home. The exhibition began with the greeting by associate dean Murat, followed by lecturer Tembata’s greeting in Turkish and introduction in English of MWU and its architectural department and outline of the present exhibition. Then students in turn gave presentation of their design works in English. At the end of the presentation a student and associate professor Ooi gave addresses of thanks in Turkish on behalf of the students and the teaching staff, which was accepted with applause. And the exhibition ended successfully.



The sketch exhibition at Bahcesehir University



After the sketch exhibition

Participants

Professors: Fumie Ooi and Hideaki Tembata

Students: Aiko Okamoto, Misato Ono, Misako Kuroe, Misato Sakurai, Maki Sato, Chisako Fujii, Chika Matsueda

Schedule

- September 26 Departure from Kansai International Airport for Istanbul
- September 27 Arrival at Ataturk International Airport, Istanbul
Visit to Bahcesehir University
- September 28 Practical training on conservation and restoration at Ateliers of Yildiz Palace in Istanbul
- September 29 Visit to conservation and restoration site at Dolmabahce Palace in Istanbul
- September 30 Visit to Buyukada (the largest island in Istanbul)
- October 1 Istanbul tour
- October 2 Edirne tour
- October 3 Practical training at Glass Furnace in Istanbul
- October 4 Bursa tour
- October 5 Practical training at Iznik Foundation Tiles in Iznik Visit to a wooden dwelling in Soloz
- October 6 Practical training on conservation and restoration at Conservation and Implementation Working Group (KUDEB) in Istanbul
- October 7 Cappadocia tour
- October 8 Cappadocia tour
- October 9 Istanbul tour
- October 10 Istanbul tour
Preparation of exhibition at Bahcesehir University
- October 11 Exhibition of sketches drawn by MWU’s students at Bahcesehir University
Departure from Ataturk International Airport for Japan
- October 12 Arrival at Kansai International Airport