



## **DANCING AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION – A COVERED STRUCTURE**

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The architectural students at the beginning generally think that architecture is limited to constructing a building. The contribution of this study is to introduce a specific approach focusing on breaking the boundaries in first year student's architectural perception. This study is based on the experience in Basic Design Studio at Anadolu University in 2009-2010 Spring Semesters and improved in different context.

Modern dance of man and woman is not so popular in Islamic culture because men and women are not supposed to have fun together in public. After Ottoman Empire, Turkish Republic was founded on secular grounds and Mustafa Kemal Atatürk managed to form Cultural Revolution and gave special importance to modern dance. Republic balls were converted into workshops of "Western dance". However, dance is actually the part of the part of daily life in society not as dance but as a part of beliefs in Konya as Sema from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Sema is a whirling dance with many detailed processions, basically very simple musical instruments playing Sufi Music, dancers' one hand is facing sky respect and pray to God the other hand is facing ground connecting spiritual world to Earth and life.

To become an architect requires technical sufficiency as well as intellectual knowledge and cultural sensitivity. As a teaching/learning experience in Selçuk University design of construction is based on Sema. Students are asked to learn about this ceremony physically, culturally and semantically. Then, students are expected to determine a figure belonging to that style. The next step was to create an abstraction of that dance figure and present it on a poster format. After getting this abstraction, tutors asked them to create a structure out of this abstraction and expected from them to cover the courtyard as an exhibition hall located in the middle of the architectural department building. There are important pedagogical implications concerning the optimal conditions required to promote design understandings in culture.

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