

Datça Summer School 2024

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL
FOR ARCHITECTURE AND
DESIGN RELATED DISCIPLINES

Lightweight Structures in Vernacular Agroscapes

2024 workshop provided a platform for research and design, informed and inspired by Datça's agroscapes and vernacular lightweight structures.



The workshop & Student Works 2024

Datça Summer School 2024 -organized as a 9-day workshop- focused on the investigation of the rich and diverse agricultural landscapes of Datça Peninsula and the use of multipurpose lightweight structures that enhances their spatial qualities, functionally and experientially. The research and design studies conducted in the previous years on the geography and vernacular settlements of Datça provides a base for the 2024 workshop. During this year's study, the participants made literature reviews, field studies, interviews with villagers and documentation on the characteristics of the agricultural landscapes in Datça, mapped their findings and worked on design ideas about lightweight structures. Their studies were supported by a number of face-to-face and online lectures by experts and scholars from Turkey and abroad. The phases and outcomes of the workshop are briefly explained in the following pages.

Phase 1: Reading Datça's Agroscares

The first phase of the workshop included research on the agricultural landscapes of Datça Peninsula by using literary sources, maps, visual material and making field trips and on-site documentation. The workshop participants were asked to pay attention to and collect information about the geographic distribution and seasonal characteristics of the agricultural lands in Datça, their visual, spatial and aesthetic qualities, the types of produce and their transformation through recent history and finally the rituals, habits, tools, vehicles & spaces developed by the locals for their agricultural activities.

Mapping

One of the major outcomes of this phase is a map collectively produced by the participants, which shows the distribution and characteristics of different agricultural sub-zones in Datça Peninsula. This map displays the research findings on this topic, including information such as the major divide between the eastern and western regions of the peninsula, which are devoted to irrigated and dry agriculture respectively, as a result of their geological and climatic features. It also shows the finer zonings within these regions, their positioning with respect to the settlements and the types of produce cultivated in different sub-regions.

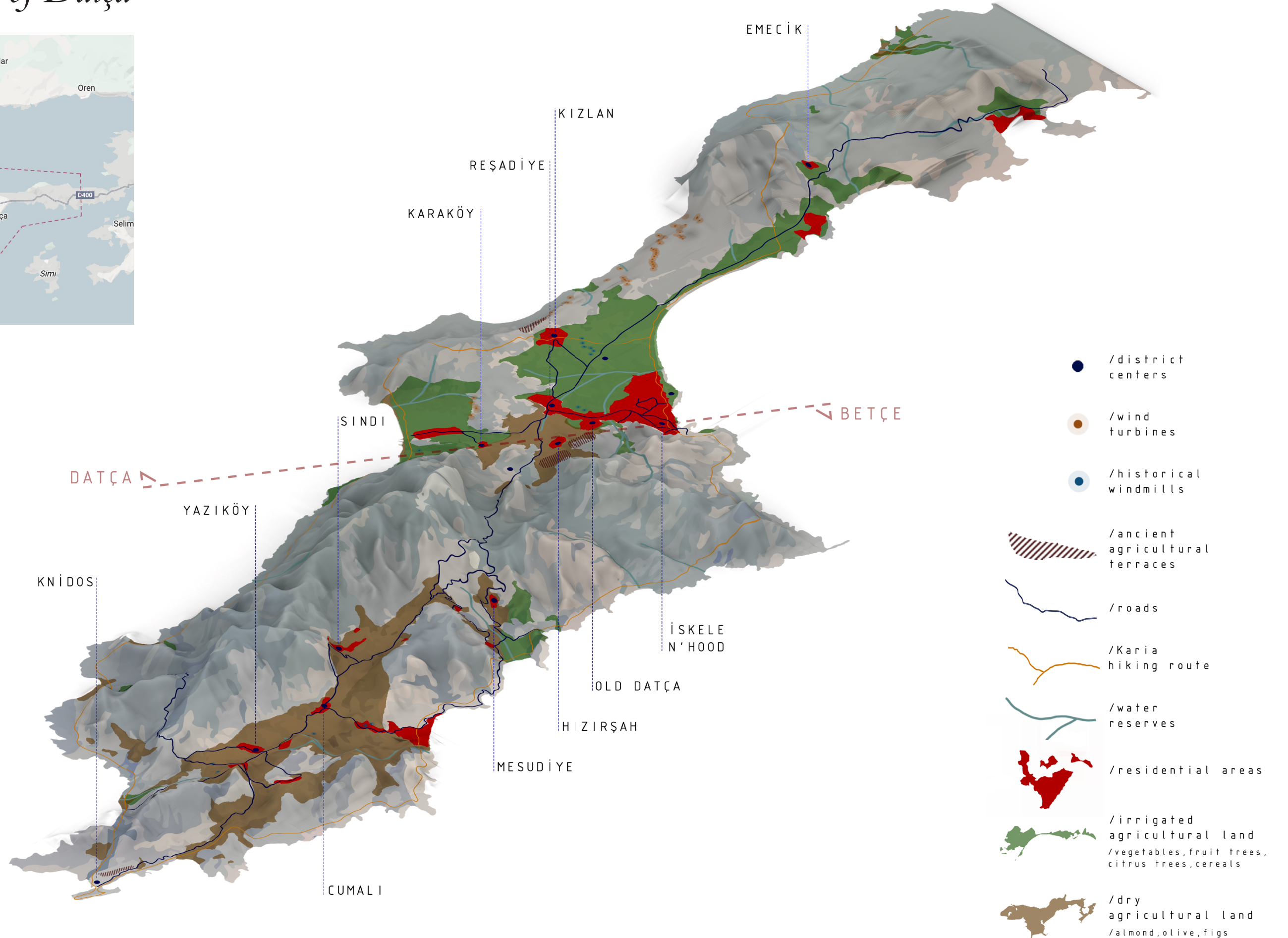
Visual Interpretations

As part of the first phase of the workshop, participants also produced creative visual interpretations of Datça's agricultural landscapes that they had the chance to experience firsthand through field trips and interaction with the villagers. One unique experience was the day on which the workshop team came together at the village square of Hızırşah at 5pm and travelled to the nearby fields on tractors to join the villagers for almond picking. The workshop participants had the chance to learn about all the procedures, difficulties and joy of almond picking and gather information for their visual interpretations and the following phases of their studies.



Visit to the almond groves near Hızırşah Village

Agroscapes of Datça





Transitions between Acorn-Tobacco-Almond - Drawing by Sinemkiraz Bilgin



Section of a grove of olives & figs - Drawing by Sinemkiraz Bilgin

Agroscares of Datça



Itinerary of the almond - Collage by Pelin Nihal Şatana & Elvin Tavşancıgil

Phase 2: Understanding Agricultural Structures

The second phase of the workshop focused on the use of agricultural structures in Datça Peninsula historically and their possible interpretations as a contemporary typology.

The Traditional Çardak

The study started with a research into the traditional agricultural typologies -specifically Çardak structures- and their tectonic characteristics. The workshop team found out that Çardak structures were widely used in Datça's agricultural lands until the 1980s when the main produce of the region was tobacco. Villagers used to build these lightweight temporary wooden structures in their fields and move into their "çardak"s for the summer, which would serve a variety of functions such as residence, storage and workplace. However, the team also found out that çardak structures became obsolete after the transition to almond cultivation as the main produce of the peninsula and not one çardak is left remaining. Only a single anonymous çardak photograph exists online in addition to the very limited information in a few written sources. Therefore the workshop team made extensive use of interviews with locals to learn more about "çardak"s.

Interpretations for Contemporary Use

After learning about çardak and contextualizing it within the larger tradition of lightweight agricultural structures of Anatolia the workshop participants developed design ideas for contemporary interpretations of this building typology. The aim was to find ways of reinterpreting çardak's genuine tectonics and sensitive approach to the landscape in ways that would also meet the contemporary needs of the agricultural workers in Datça. Within the very short period left for this last phase, creative ideas were developed by the workshop participants individually or in small groups, and presented in various visual formats.

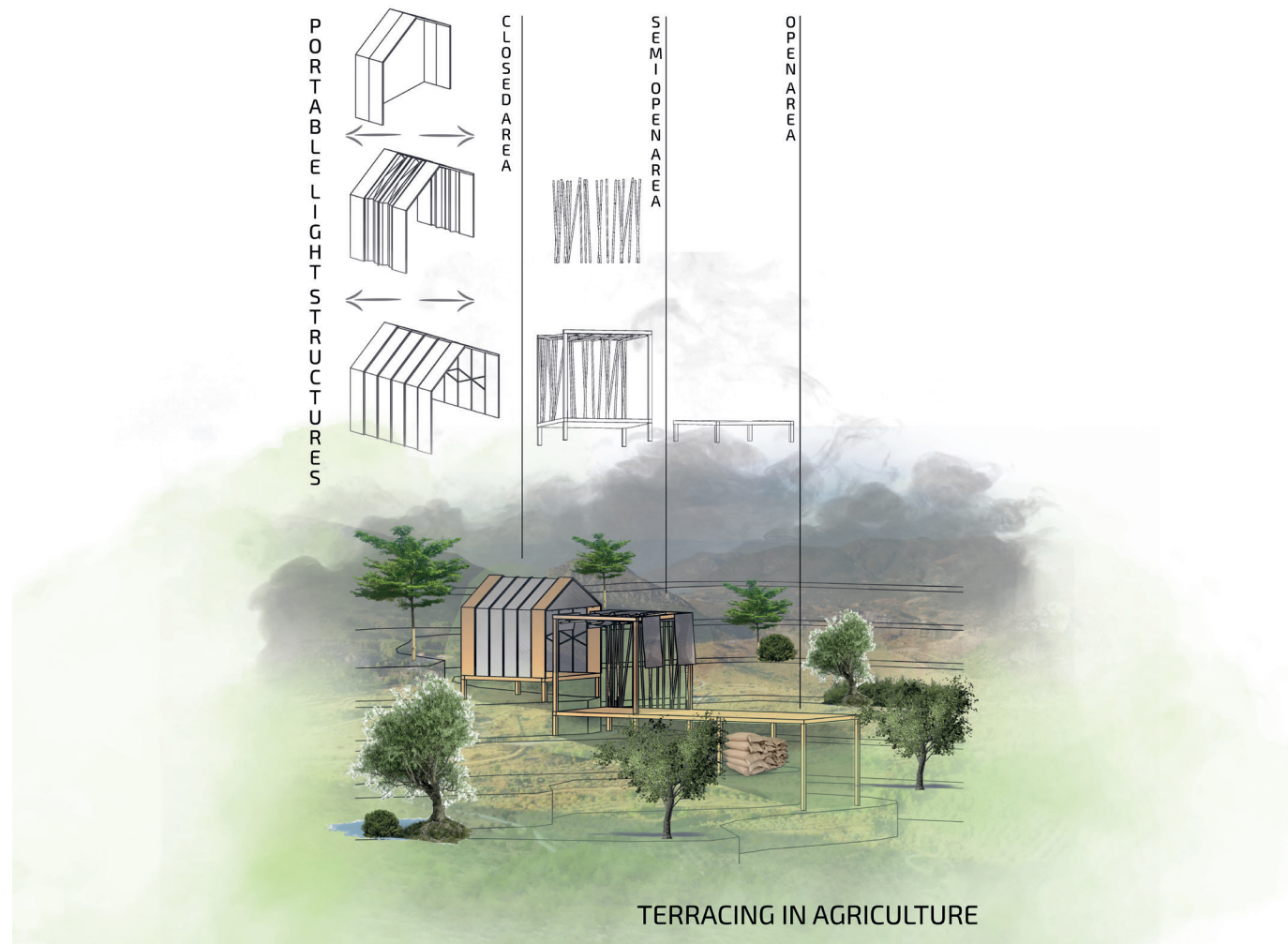


Workshop team listening from Yücel Kaya the use of old Çardak structures

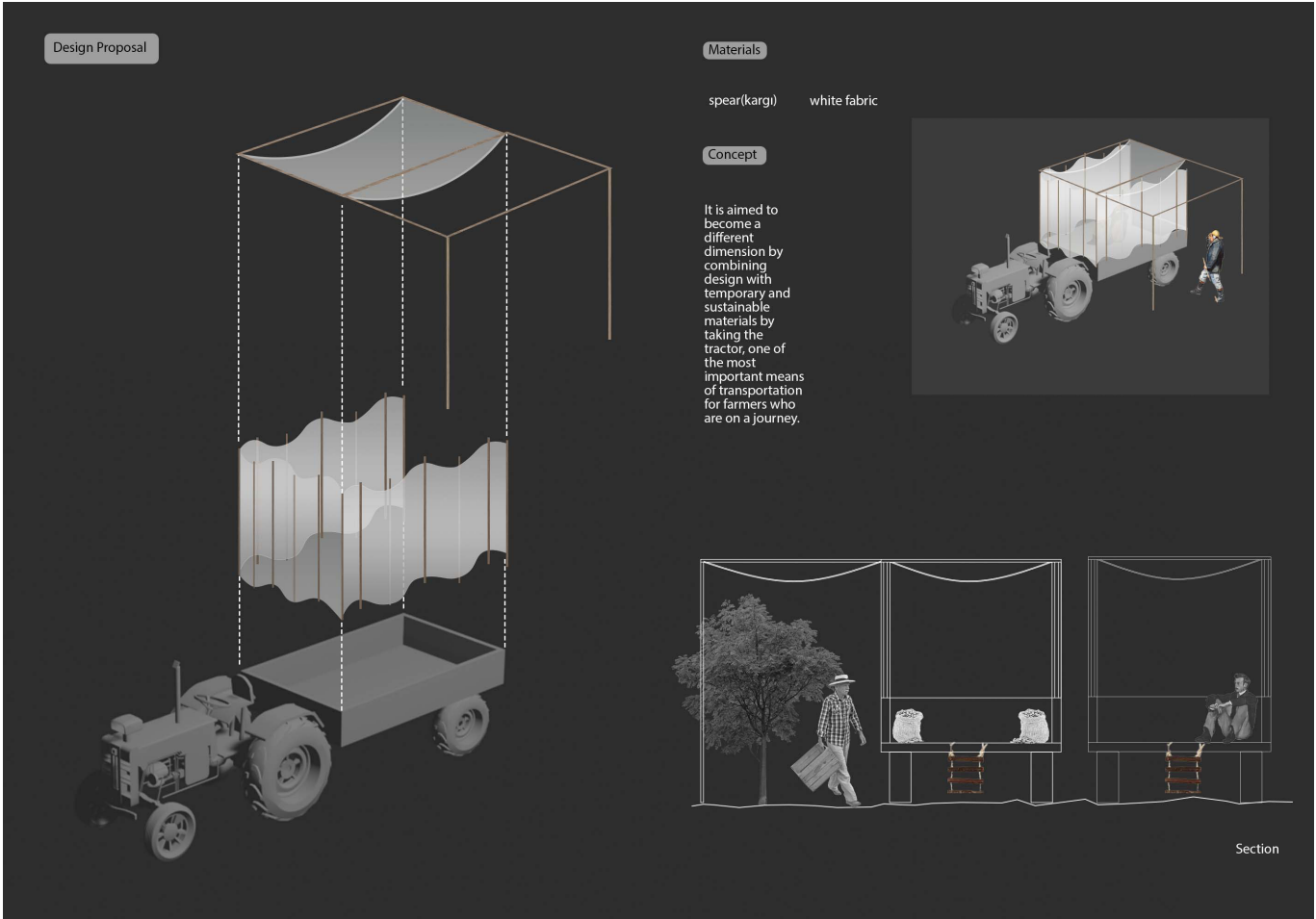


Çardak Structure

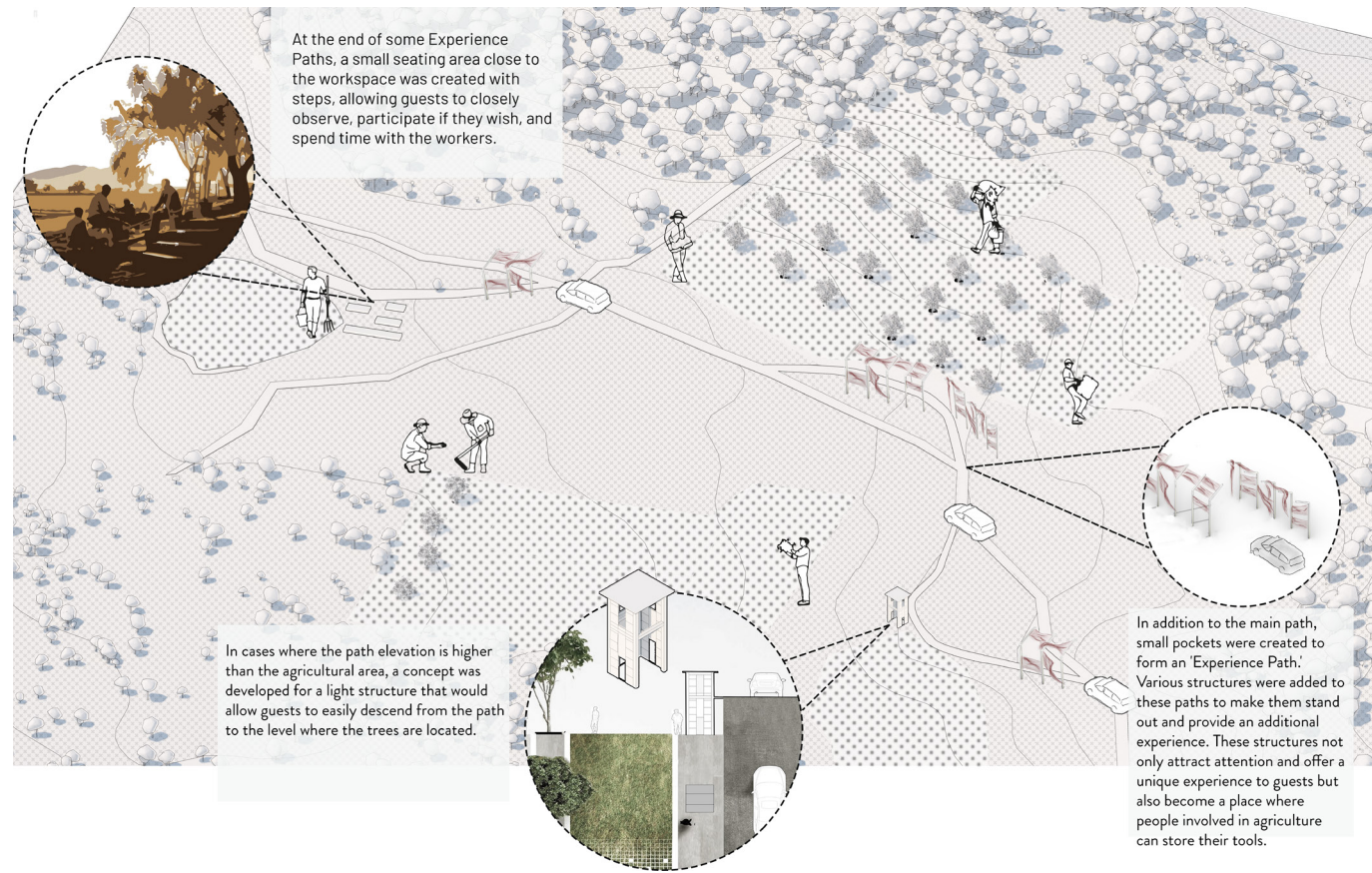
Source: <https://www.datca-haber.com/makale/yok-olup-giden-datca-kulturumuz-1580>



Design proposal by Derin Karaoğlu



Design proposal by Ceren Duruk



Design proposal by Ayşe Cansu Kınıs and Kemal Taha Görücü



Design proposal by Ceren Duruk

Lectures:

1- Datça Peninsula, Its Landscapes and Architecture by Can Kaya

The first lecture of the workshop introduced the geography and settlements of Datça Peninsula with a special emphasis on its agricultural landscapes and vernacular architecture.

2- The Oasis Effect

by Pablo Pérez-Ramos

Harvard professor Pérez-Ramos presented basic concepts, definitions and processes related to arid landscapes based on his research and teaching at GSD.

3- From Geology to Building-The Layered Forces of the Anthropocene by Anne-Catrin Schultz

This lecture displayed how the concept of layering can be instrumentalized to unveil human-nature relationship in architecture and landscape with reference to the variables of time, space and materials.

4- Lightweight Structures in Vernacular Agroscares

by Dilşad Aladağ

Aladağ presented an excerpt from her extensive research on the lightweight structures of nomadic Anatolian communities and discussed the concept of weaving as a theoretical instrument for understanding them.

5- Insight + Foresight:What did we forget or never learned? by Aslıhan Demirtaş & Razan Algarah

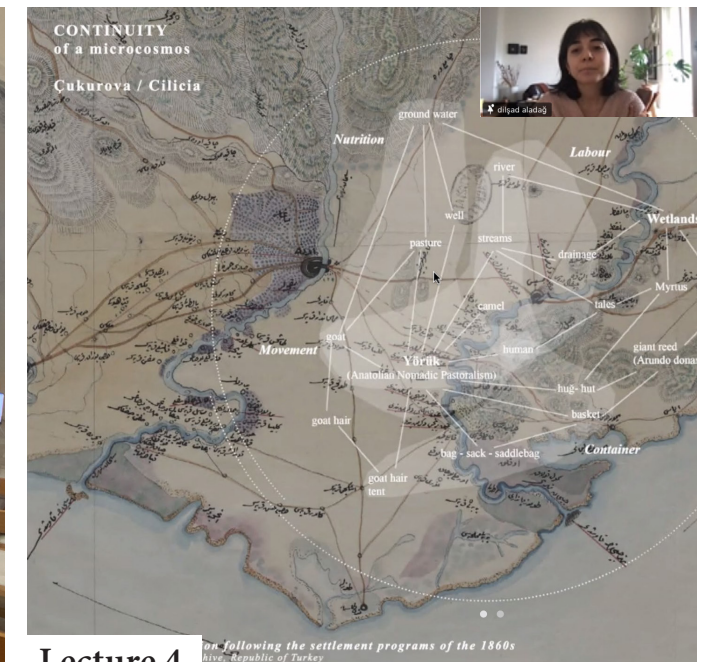
The final lecture of the workshop introduced the background research, framework and outcomes of a design studio conducted by Demirtaş and participated by Algarah at Bilgi University, which focused on the agricultural structures of Anatolia and design ideas informed by their tectonic traditions.

6- Designing Virtuality by Tatjana Crossley

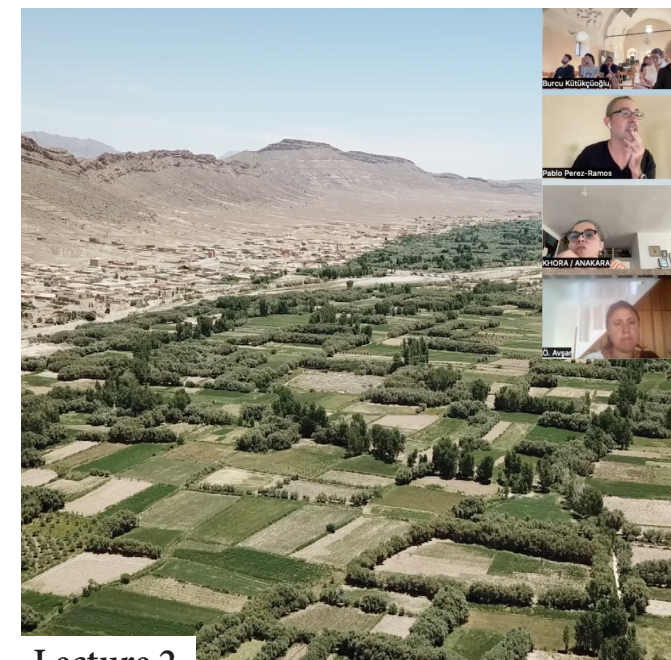
Scholar and architect Crossley discussed varying approaches to the relationship of design, crafts and technology and the concept of virtuality, through relevant examples from architectural history, her own work and her students.’



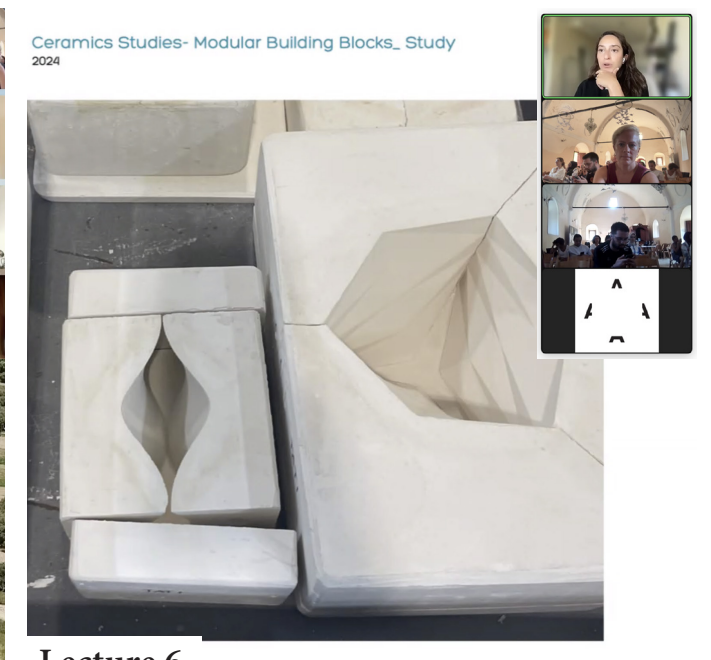
Lecture 3



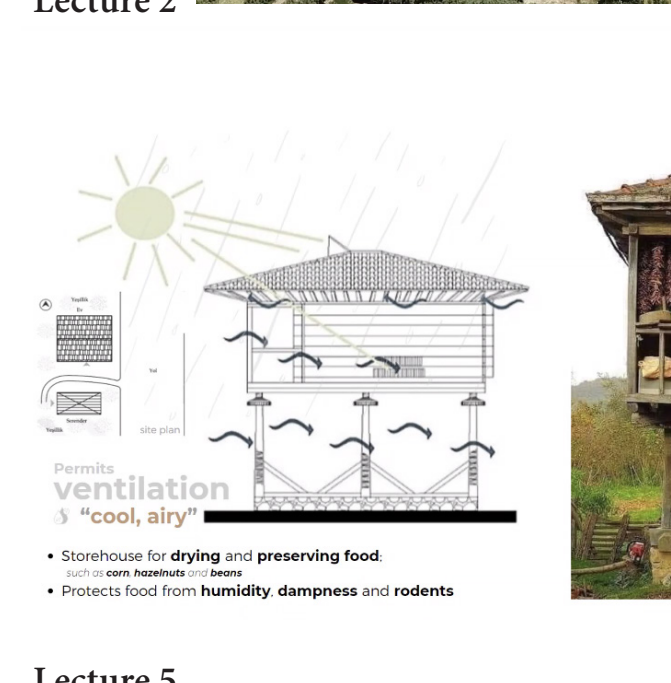
Lecture 4



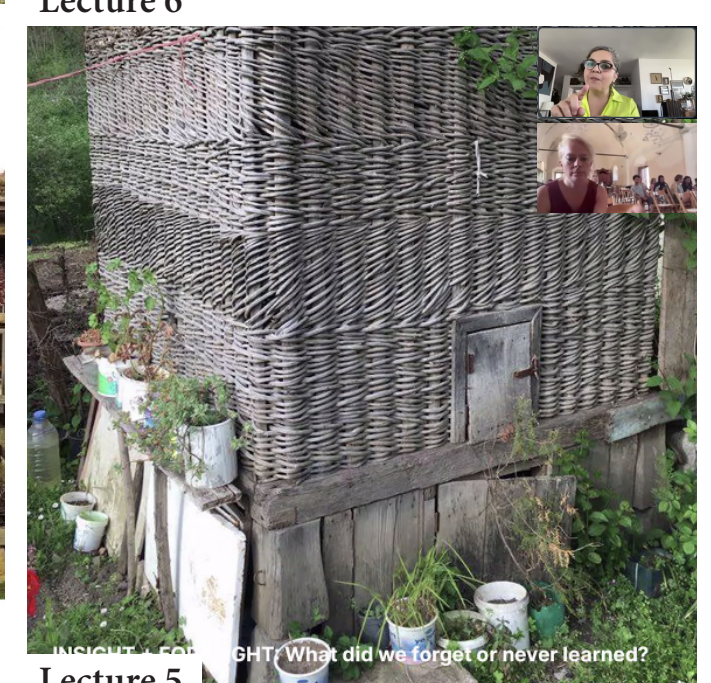
Lecture 2



Lecture 6



Lecture 5



Lecture 5

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