

REFLECTION

Position

My position as a future architect is designing for society, people and nature. To make a socially responsible design, I think that the atmosphere of a place and the users are important. Investigating by making use of human feelings, senses is essential. The focus in my research was therefore on atmosphere, spatial narrative and collective memory. My goal was to develop a socially responsible design proposal with my research project. The project location I had chosen was a historic neighborhood in Istanbul. It is one of those neighborhoods where the local architecture and social cohesion has not been disturbed. Balat has also been influenced by major national projects and gentrification projects. The residents had to fight a lot to protect their neighborhood from developers.

Research Methods

In my graduation project I applied different research methods. Due to corona conditions, a location visit was limited. I was able to visit the location twice and I focused on my feelings and experience in the area. I tried to experience as much as possible with my senses and made notes. I tried as much as possible to get in touch with the local residents and listened to their interests. I found out that the residents had an enormous need to be listened and it was a nice feeling for them that there was someone who listened to them. To define the atmosphere, spatial narrative and collective memory in Balat, I consulted supported literature. These were novels by Orhan Pamuk and the book *Thinking Architecture* by Peter Zumthor. This literature allowed me to better understand and empathize with the atmosphere and the experiences of the residents. During the design process this helped me to support the design choices based on the interests of the users.

Another research method I used was rereading Balat's visual material. I did general analyzes by means of maps to understand the built environment. Furthermore, I redrawn photos and eliminated the essential aspects. This allowed me to extract the characteristic elements from the local architecture. While designing, I made models of the location and environment, a digital 3D model, an 1,100 model and an 1.50 model. I also consulted and analyzed old drawings of my fascination with the Kulliye, with which I could understand how the Kulliye functions.

In addition, I consulted a lot of literature about gentrification, Turkish local architecture and information about Balat. Literature about gentrification and the case studies have provided an overview of how groups in society lead under these types of projects.

Conclusion

Finally, through writing, drawing, reading and feeling, I gained a lot of information that strengthened my design proposal and I became aware of the importance of social architecture. All this information I have translated into my design and made design choices based on this. With the aim to design a socially responsible and sustainable design.