



A SOCIAL PROJECT FOR THE FUTURE OF CITIES:

“CHILDREN AND ARCHITECTURE”

UCTEA CHAMBER OF ARCHITECTS OF TURKEY
ANKARA BRANCH Children and Architecture Centre





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Editing Tezcan Karakuş Candan

Technical Support Y. Yeşim Uysal

Work Group

A.CEMİLE OKYAY, ADNAN ZEYTİNCİ, AFET BARAN, ALİ HAKKAN, ARSEN KÖSTERİT, ARZU TEMİZSOY,
ASLI APAYDIN, ATALAY GÖKTAŞ, AYSUN ARI GÜMÜŞER, BAHRIYE ÖKTEM, BANU BARUTCU
AKPINAR, BERNA ÇAPRAZ, BİRGÜL SÜER, BURCU BİNBOĞA, BURÇİN TORUN, BÜLENT ALTAY,
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MEHMET ERDOĞAN, MEHMET SAYIM KARAYEĞEN, MERYEM KOÇ KAYA, MERVE DEVECİ,
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PEHLİVANOĞLU, ÖZGEÇAN CANARSLAN, ÖZLEM DENGİZ UĞUR, PELİN ÖZGÜMÜŞ, SEDA TEMİZER,
SEMA ÇORAKCI, SEMRA SANİTÜRK, SİNEM YILDIRIM, SİNEM UYAR, SONGÜL ÜZGÜN,
TEZCAN KARAKUŞ CANDAN, VEDAT AĞCA, YALÇIN AKÇINAR, Y. YEŞİM UYSAL

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Children and Architecture Project, which was initiated by UCTEA Chamber of Architects of Turkey – Ankara Branch in 2002, will be 10 years old soon. Projects, in which children could experience the concepts of “city”, “architecture”, “environment”, “history” and “cultural heritage”, at school and outside school, was formed with the efforts of hundreds of volunteers and the support of Ankara University Center For Research On Child Culture (CRCC), Ministry of National Education, Ankara Governance and Contemporary Drama Association. We are moving forward for building healthy cities **with children**, contributing to the formation of child-friendly cities **for children**, the future to be shaped **by children**. We would like to thank all of the collaborators of the project.

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Children and Architecture Works

At the UCTEA Chamber of Architects of Turkey – Ankara Branch, Children and Architecture Project was initiated systematically in 2002; with the aims of connecting architecture and society, intersecting children culture and architectural culture and revealing children's awareness towards built environment.

The Project is a product of collaboration of professional chamber, university, public institution and volunteers.

Chamber of Architects
Ankara Governance
Ministry of National Education
Ankara University CRCC
Contemporary Drama Association
Volunteers



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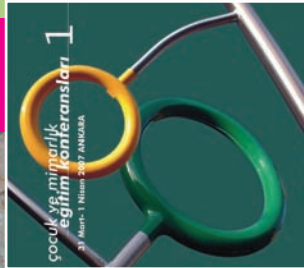
The Project is based on the key terms of:

- livable cities
- environmental awareness
- architecture
- democracy
- child participation in planning
- urban awareness
- design
- architecture and society,

by focusing on “**Built Environment Education Guide**”.

It is expected from children;

- To meet with architectural culture
- To feel built environment
- To be aware of the city, in which they live
- To participate in planning processes
- To be interested in architecture and city



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Children and Architecture is a sustainable project, supported by volunteers.

Children and Architecture Project is completely based on voluntariness principle.

Architects are volunteers, schools are volunteers, children are volunteers,

Institutions and experts are volunteers, universities are volunteers.

Such a position is the guarantee of sustainability of the project.

Architects are getting their pedagogic training by

**Ankara University
Center for Research on Child Culture
(CRCC)**

on how to communicate with children and
on which level they can plan projects and organize events
for children.

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The Project is a Unity of Social Meeting The Project is a Bridge...

Architects are meeting architects,
Architects are meeting children
Children are meeting their city,
Parents are meeting architectural and urban culture.

Each phase of Children and Architecture Project is turning into a bridge of sequence of meetings and process of knowledge dissolution. Architecture, children, school, home, room, street, district, city, parents, friends are all one of the rings of such a chain. Within the scope of project children and adults develop together. The Project is creating an opportunity of life long learning for architects. Before meeting with children, architects make preparations, develop projects, and take creative drama training.



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Children's education and development are supported by focusing on the notion of child friendly "space".

In the project, it is aimed to produce healthy and livable spaces for children according to the clues taken from children.

Children's education and development are supported by creating "space" awareness. In the project, children observe the environment, in which s/he lives.

By focusing on the space and environment that s/he surrounded, children can make observations about the color of the walls, various types of materials used, physical condition of their school garden and playground.

Children's perception is developed by playing games.

Within the scope of the project, playing method, which has a basic role in children's development, is applied. Adults and children experience a mutual learning process together.



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Events are diverse

Model making, painting walls, painting, sightseeing, map and chart usage, organizing events around a tale book, ceramic works, taking picture, writing scenario, preparing newspaper, writing diary, live city performance and performing creative drama are some of the prominent events.

Working method is collective

The way, children approach to a problem, building scenario, determining the steps and materials of the project after having an interpretation process of a democratic debate and encouraging children's effort in the application process of the projects not only give children the ability of doing, sharing, questioning, creating alternatives, but also defines children's expectations.



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Children and Architecture Operates on 3 Axes

1000 ARCHITECTS @ 1000 SCHOOLS

WORKSHOPS / MEETINGS / SUMMER SCHOOLS

CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES

1000 ARCHITECTS @ 1000 SCHOOLS

1000 Architects @ 1000 Schools project covers primary, secondary and nursery school periods and is applied with the permission of Ministry of National Education.

1000 Architects @ 1000 Schools Project

Application Steps:

1st Step: Contacting with volunteer architects / architectural students; parallel to this, contacting with institutions and getting necessary permissions.

2nd Step: Guiding volunteer architects and / architectural students when they are developing their project and choosing a school.

3rd Step: Sending files, which include detailed information of the project and applying to schools; informing teachers and directors of the schools that volunteers want to work with.



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4th Step: Providing seminars on child and teenage development, for volunteer architects and architectural students as a consequence of Chamber's dialog with the experts of Ankara University Center for Research on Child Culture (CRCC).

5th Step: Providing materials of the projects those are developed or applied by volunteer architects and architectural students at schools.

6th Step: Bringing together volunteer architects and students in school environment; applying projects, developed by volunteers.

7th Step: Preparing reports and visual materials of the projects, applied at schools and building an achieve.

WORKSHOPS / MEETINGS / SUMMER SCHOOLS:

These events are the projects supporting 1000 Architects @ 1000 Schools by following a way out of curriculum. Children and Architecture projects can also be planned as workshops, meetings and events, rather than following the curriculum of Ministry of National Education.

Such projects can be organized in various ways, as thematic events. These events can be thematic events or traditional events on specific days, such as 23rd April Children Festival, World Disarmament Day and Universal Children's Day.





Those projects that are prepared with children outside school support 1000 Architects @ 1000 Schools Project, barely have differences.

Such events were organized with

Street experienced children, Disabled children,
Orphan children, Children who were forced immigration,
Children who are suffering from anti-terror law,
pediatric patients.

The aim of meetings is to integrate children within the city

It is aimed to provide space and environment for children to socialize with other children, who have different language, live in different spaces and have different bodies from different income groups and different cultures.

The meetings are evaluated as a social integration projects, which collects children together around the themes “city” and “environment”.



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Themes are defined according to the place where the project applied and the position of the participants.

Meeting programs and its content are formed according to geographical conditions of the place where the project would be applied and this place's economical, social and historical characteristics with the help of experts.

Children and Architecture is a project, operates for children to live in healthy environments, to develop the quality of design and material of their environment.

In this frame, at the school and outside school works, questionnaires and forms, which are determining the physical condition of schools, are applied to students.

By evaluating these questionnaires and forms and the results of the projects applied, existing conditions are being determined and a working area regarding to child-friendly cities is formed.

In terms of city and design; basic points, coming forth in the project are:

Children don't want any dark corridors in their schools.

They don't want their school garden to be made of rein-forced concrete. Children want variety of timber toys in playing grounds. They want bike roads in cities.

They want to walk to their school, rather than using transportation.





Examples From Works

“School Meetings”

School meetings are organized at nursery, primary and secondary schools. The projects, prepared according to children's ages and hand skills are developed with participant children. End products of the project are exhibited at their schools. They can be organized as 1 day, 1 hour, 1 month or 1 year projects. By applying single projects at several schools at the same time, measurable documents can also be gained. Children's notion of scale, dimension, mathematics, science and social sciences are supported by experiencing space.

“City And Barrier Workshop”

This is a workshop based on the idea of collaborative production of mental and sight disabled children together with the children who didn't have any disabilities.

A moment of experiencing a new perception with millions of new stimulus...

A “new” language was a must.



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Street Children Meeting

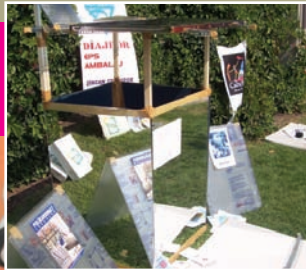
“Space- Spaceless Workshop”

This workshop was organized with the children of 8 – 15 ages, who had street experience on what they dreamed for Istanbul.

“ME AND MYSELF, ME AND MY CITY”

“Me and Myself, Me and My City” Workshop was organized for the children ages between 10 – 13 with the objectives of developing children’s awareness towards local governments, sharing how children’s future dreams’ about city and participation are forming, revealing children’s expectations for 2009 local government elections and turning such expectations into a realistic claim.

In such a process, children had formed their own cities and urban government models by interacting with each actors of the city.



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“MY PLAYING AGE, MY PLAYING TOY”

This workshop was organized with the children ages between 7 – 10 and 11 – 13, in order to design their own playing toys and a playpen, after making interviews with the users of playpen, local president and a research on the designing process, materials and toys of a playpen.

“PUTTING STONE ON STONE”

Putting Stone on Stone Workshop was organized among the children, who suffered from anti-terror law in Diyarbakır.

The workshop was a cultural interaction to reveal children's approach to their living environment and it was based on the idea of revealing children's creativeness when they have gained equal opportunities.

“SOUND OF THE CITY”

It is a summer school, in which children had prepared their own music instruments from waste materials and ended with “Sound of the City Concert”.

A national meeting was held with participation of institutions, which are working for children on the topics of architecture and city.



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In order to share international experiences,
“Archild World Congress” was organized and its
 outcomes were published.

A book, called **“Children and Architecture as a
 Social Model”**, which is covering 5 years of experience of
 Children and Architecture Project was published.

3 books for children on the themes of “city”, “environment”
 and “architecture” were selected and published with the
“I am Reading My City” Competition.

For developing children's awareness towards city and environment, we are producing **visual products.**

We have organized Cartoon Competitions, Short-Cut Movie Competitions and Theatre Scenario Competitions.

We are preparing programs for Ministry of National Education in order to include Children and Architecture Project to schools' curriculum.



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Between 2002 – 2011

IN THE CHILDREN AND ARCHITECTURE PROJECTS,
WITH THE SUPPORTS OF HUNDREDS OF ARCHITECTS,
ARCHITECTURAL STUDENTS, URBAN PLANNING
STUDENTS, CHILD DEVELOPMENT EXPERTS,
SCULPTORS AND DRAMA TEACHERS;

17.000 children had been reached; At 323 schools
(95 % was public schools), At 50 workshops outside schools,
With contribution of 320 volunteers. The children, who had
attended initial projects, are now university students.

Some of them are studying architecture, some of them are not; but all of them are experiencing and having an idea for architecture and urban life... Unfortunately the consequence effects of the project on parents, teachers, presidents and social actors cannot be evaluated. Such an effect can occur years after years.

CHILDREN AND ARCHITECTURE PROJECT
AS A FUTURE AND ENLIGHTENMENT PROJECT,
is moving forward to be an Architectural School
Children and Architecture Project is sharing all of its
experiences of the years between 2002 and 2011
with everyone.





With children, by children, for children...

Children and Architecture Working Group is being represented in the International Union of Architects and sharing its experiences in an international area.

Every child has a right to grow up in a better world,
far away from war and violence;
in peace, health and well-planned cities...

Contact:
info@mimarlaraoasiankara.org
+90312 4178665



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