



## **ÖZLEM YALIM**

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***Özlem Yalım has a weekly column at Gazete Pencere for the last 3 years, published on Sundays. Her 10+ years of writing practice on creative industries, continued as a design critic on leading newspapers like T24 Pazar and Cumhuriyet Pazar.***

***She has been writing regularly at magazines like Optimist, Sanatatak, Arkitera, Art Unlimited, Istanbul Art News, XX1, and many others published in Turkey, previously.***

***Yalım is an Industrial Designer ( BSC) who has a profession in strategic design and brand management, design thinking, creative brand positioning, creative marketing, design events, design and innovation consultancy, industrial design, furniture design, interior design, exhibition design besides product development and manufacturing.***

***One of significant projects was Istanbul Design Biennale, which she has been the ideator and designer of the event. She worked as the Director of Istanbul Design Biennale between 2009-2013. She was pointed on the "The Most Creative 50 Turks" list prepared by the Turkishtime magazine in both 2011 and 2012.***



## ***Conversation with ChatGPT\****

***ÖZLEM YALIM***

***A few questions on Architecture and Design***

***Q : What do you think about architecture in Turkey?***

**Turkey has a diverse architectural history, reflecting the influences of the various cultures and empires that have controlled the region throughout history.**

**Some important examples of Turkish architecture include Hagia Sophia and Blue Mosque in Istanbul, Selimiye Mosque in Edirne and Alanya Castle.**

**Ottoman architecture, characterized by domes, minarets and intricate tile work, is also an important aspect of Turkish architecture.**

In addition, modern architecture has also had a significant presence in Turkey, with many contemporary buildings and skyscrapers being built in major cities such as Istanbul and Ankara.

Overall, Turkish architecture is a crucible of different architectural styles, reflecting the country's rich history and cultural heritage.

***Q : Do you know any architects from Turkey?***

***Yes, there are many important Turkish architects throughout history and today. Some well-known Turkish architects are:***

***Sedad Hakkı Eldem (1901-1991) was an architect and city planner known for his contributions to the development of Turkish architecture. He designed many important structures from Ankara Central Train Station to the Ankara Opera House.***

***Behruz Çinici (born 1933) is a Turkish architect and educator known for his modernist designs and contributions to the development of Turkish architecture. He designed many important buildings, especially the Atatürk Cultural Center and Ataköy Marina.***

***Emre Arolat (born 1970) is a Turkish architect and the founder of EAA-Emre Arolat Architecture, one of the leading architectural firms in Turkey and the world. He is known for his modernist designs and use of natural materials. His projects have won numerous awards, including the Samanlı Village Mosque and the Aga Khan Architecture Award.***

***Melkan Gürsel and Murat Tabanlıoğlu (Melkan Gürsel Tabanlıoğlu) are the founding partners of Tabanlıoğlu Architects, one of the leading architectural firms in Turkey and the world. They built important structures from the Istanbul Finance Center to the Kanyon Shopping Center and the Vakko Fashion Center.***

***These are some examples of well-known Turkish architects, but there are also many other talented architects in Turkey who have made significant contributions to the country's architectural landscape.***

***Q : What are the most important problems of contemporary architecture today?***

***There are many problems and challenges facing contemporary architecture today. Some of the most important issues are:***

***Sustainability: One of the most pressing issues facing contemporary architecture is the need to design environmentally sustainable buildings. This includes reducing energy consumption, using sustainable materials and designing buildings that can adapt to changing environmental conditions.***

***Affordability: Another major issue facing contemporary architecture is the affordability of housing and buildings. Rising costs of building materials and labor, combined with the need to design energy efficient buildings, can make it difficult to create affordable housing and buildings.***

***Urbanization: As more and more people move to cities, the challenges of urbanization are becoming more and more important to architects. This includes designing buildings that are compatible with their urban environment and can meet the needs of a growing population.***

***Accessibility: Making buildings accessible to all people, including the disabled, is an important but often overlooked aspect of contemporary architecture.***

***Adaptability:*** As the world population continues to increase and urbanization continues, the need for buildings to be adaptable and changeable over time becomes increasingly important.

*These are just a few examples of the major problems facing contemporary architecture today, but there are many other problems and issues that architects are trying to solve.*

***Q : What are the values that make a design successful?***

There are several qualities that can make a design successful, including:

**Functionality:** A successful design must be functional and serve the purpose for which it was designed. This means that it should be easy to use and understand, and it should meet the needs of the people who will use it.

**Aesthetics:** A successful design should also be aesthetically pleasing and visually appealing. This includes elements such as color, form and texture that can be used to create a sense of harmony and balance in the design.

**Innovation:** A successful design must be innovative and push the boundaries of what is possible. This may include the use of new materials or technologies or the application of new design principles or techniques.

**Sustainability:** A successful design must also be environmentally sustainable and consider the long-term effects of the design on the environment and future generations.

**Usability:** A successful design should be user-friendly and easy to use, taking into account the needs and abilities of the people who will use it.

**Contextual Relevance:** A successful design must be relevant to its context and appropriate for the environment, culture, and society it is in.

**Cultural and Emotional Attractiveness:** A successful design must have a cultural and emotional appeal to the user. It should be able to evoke positive emotions and connect with the user on a deeper level.

**Durability:** A successful design must stand the test of time, both in terms of its physical durability and its relationship with the user.

**Accessibility:** A successful design should be accessible to everyone, including people with disabilities, and should be inclusive in its design.

These are some of the qualities that can make a design successful, but it's important to note that the success of a design is highly subjective and can be influenced by a number of different factors, including the target audience and the specific design context.

***Q : What do you think about the politicians seeing building production and construction activities as a value?***

Politicians may be interested in building construction projects for a variety of reasons. Some causes may include:

**Economic development:** Construction projects can create jobs and stimulate economic growth, which can be beneficial to a politician's local or national economy.

**Job creation:** Construction projects can create jobs and employment opportunities that can be beneficial for a politician's political career, as they can be seen as someone who can create jobs and improve the economy.

**Improvement of infrastructure:** Construction projects can improve infrastructure such as roads, bridges and public buildings,

**which can make the area more attractive to businesses and residents and have a positive impact on the quality of life of citizens.**

**Voting:** Construction projects can be popular with voters, and politicians may view construction projects as a way to gain public support and votes.

**Legacy:** Construction projects such as building monuments, historic buildings or tourist attractions can leave a lasting legacy for a politician and be a way to be remembered positively.

**Getting support from the construction industry:** Construction projects require the participation of construction companies, architects, engineers and other professionals, politicians may want to get support from these groups by promoting construction projects.

**It is important to note that not all construction projects are solely focused on political gain, and many construction projects can have both positive and negative consequences for the economy and society.**

**Q : What do you think about preserving the existing building stock rather than demolishing it?**

**As a language model, I have no personal opinions or feelings. However, the preservation of the building stock can be seen as an important aspect of promoting sustainable development as well as preserving cultural heritage and history.**

**Historic buildings and structures can be important cultural and architectural assets, and their preservation can play an important**

**role in promoting cultural tourism and developing the character of a community.**

**Maintaining the building stock can also provide environmental benefits as it allows existing buildings and structures to be reused rather than constructed, which can help conserve resources and reduce waste.**

**In addition, maintaining the building stock can provide social and economic benefits because it can help create jobs and generate economic activity, as well as provide affordable housing and other community amenities.**

**But preserving the building stock can also be a complex and challenging process, as it may involve balancing conflicting interests and priorities, such as preserving cultural heritage, promoting sustainability and meeting the needs of society.**

**In summary, preserving the building stock can be seen as an important aspect of preserving cultural heritage and promoting sustainable development, while also providing positive social, economic and environmental benefits.**

***Q : Is it a good thing to fill the sea for the purpose of creating public space?***

**Filling the sea to create public spaces is a controversial issue with both benefits and harms. Here are some potential benefits of filling the sea to create public spaces:**



**Creating new land for development:** Filling the sea can create new land that can be used for a variety of purposes, such as building residential, commercial or parks.

**Improving access to the beach:** By filling the sea, it may be possible to create new public spaces that provide access to the beach for people who would not otherwise have it.

**Reducing the risk of flooding:** Filling the sea can help reduce the risk of flooding in coastal areas by creating a barrier between land and sea.

However, there are several potential drawbacks to filling the sea to create public spaces. Some of these are those:

**Environmental impact:** Sea filling can have a significant impact on the local ecosystem, including loss of habitat for marine life, changes in water quality and destruction of natural coastal features.

**Cost:** Filling the sea is a complex and expensive process that requires extensive planning and engineering.

**Loss of natural beauty:** Filling of the sea can lead to the loss of natural coastal landscapes and landscapes, which can be a significant disadvantage for residents and visitors alike.

**Sustainability concerns:** Sea-filling can create areas that are not resistant to sea level rise and storm surge, putting newly created areas and the people who use them at risk.

Consequently, filling the sea to create public spaces is a complex issue that requires careful consideration of its benefits and drawbacks. It is important to balance the needs for new areas with

**environmental and sustainability concerns and long-term impacts on the area.**

**Q : In line with the importance of free expression for the development of creative industries, I would like to ask, is Turkey a place with freedom of expression?**

**Turkey has a history of restricting freedom of expression and press freedom. The government has been criticized for cracking down on journalists, media outlets and other forms of freedom of expression, especially in recent years.**

**The government is accused of using laws and regulations to restrict freedom of expression, including criminal defamation and the use of anti-terrorism laws. Additionally, the government has been accused of putting pressure on media outlets to limit their coverage of certain topics or to keep up with the government's line.**

**The government has also been criticized for restricting access to the internet and social media platforms, shutting down independent news outlets and arresting journalists for alleged terrorism or other crimes.**

**Turkey ranks 154th out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index in 2021, performing poorly in terms of freedom of expression and freedom of the press.**

**It is important to note that the situation is complex and constantly changing, and that some journalists, academics, activists and politicians have been arrested, charged or convicted for their political views and criticism of the government.**

***Q : Based on the necessity of a certain economic level for the development of creative industries, I ask, is Turkey a poor country?***

Turkey is considered a country with a mixed economy and is not considered a poor country. Turkey has a highly industrialized and diversified high-income mixed economy. Turkey has a large automotive industry and is also an important textile, white goods and foodstuffs producer. Türkiye has a strong agricultural sector and is an important exporter of agricultural products. Türkiye is also an important player in the tourism industry and has a growing service sector.

The Turkish economy has grown over the years and has become one of the 20 largest economies in the world. However, Turkey also faces some economic challenges such as high inflation and unemployment, a large current account deficit and high public debt. Additionally, over the past decade, Turkey has faced political instability, which in some cases has affected the economy.

It is important to note that classification of a country as rich or poor is a complex process and depends on a number of factors such as GDP per capita, standard of living and access to resources and services.

***Q : Will artificial intelligence kill the architecture profession?***

AI and automation have the potential to change the way architects work and design buildings, but AI is unlikely to replace architects

completely. While AI can assist architects with tasks such as building simulation, energy analysis, and code compliance, the design process is a complex and creative endeavor that requires human intuition, creativity, and problem-solving skills that AI currently cannot fully replicate.

Artificial intelligence can be used to assist architects in the design process by creating design options, analyzing data, and identifying patterns and trends that can help architects make more informed decisions. In addition, AI-powered tools can help architects optimize building performance, reduce errors and increase efficiency.

However, it is important to note that the use of artificial intelligence in architecture is still in its infancy and its impact on the profession is not yet fully understood. AI is likely to change the way architects work, but is not expected to replace them completely. Instead, it will increase their skills and help them create more efficient, sustainable and livable buildings.

***Q : And finally, do you think I can go for a walk on the beach tomorrow morning?***

**I'm sorry, but I'm a language model and have no ability to predict future events or whether you'll be able to take a walk by the seaside tomorrow.**

**I suggest you check the weather forecast and plan your hike accordingly. Also, please make sure you follow local guidelines and regulations regarding COVID-19 and social distancing.**

***(\*) Writer's note: This interview with the AI bot is the very first example published in Turkey, and its the leading one in its field. Sadly Turkey has experienced the devastating Anatolian Earthquake right after***