

RES 523 DESIGN APPROACHES IN CONSERVATION (3+0) 3
PhD Level (open to MSc students)

Monday - 09: 45 - 12: 30

PROF. DR. HÜLYA YÜCEER

Course Description:

This course examines contemporary design approaches within historic and culturally significant environments, focusing on the relationship between new architectural interventions and existing heritage contexts. It addresses the theoretical, ethical, and practical challenges of integrating contemporary design into historic buildings, sites, and urban fabrics.

Through critical readings, case study analyses, discussions, and research-based writing, students explore how architectural design can contribute to heritage conservation while respecting cultural significance, authenticity, and integrity. Particular emphasis is placed on developing analytical and academic writing skills through the preparation of a publishable research article.

Course Objectives:

The objectives of this course are to enable students to:

- Understand theoretical debates and ethical frameworks related to contemporary design in historic contexts
- Critically analyse design interventions within heritage settings
- Evaluate successful and controversial architectural additions to historic environments
- Develop research-based arguments grounded in conservation theory and practice
- Produce an academic article suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain key theories and ethical principles guiding design interventions in conservation contexts
2. Critically assess contemporary architectural projects within historic settings
3. Apply conservation charters and guidelines as analytical tools
4. Formulate a clear research question and structured academic argument
5. Produce an original, well-structured academic article based on critical research

Teaching and Learning Methods:

- Seminar-based lectures
- Guided discussions on key readings
- Case study analysis
- Writing workshops and feedback sessions
- Site visits and guest lectures

Assessment and Evaluation Method:

Each student is required to write an academic article on a topic related to the course theme: *Design Approaches in Architectural Conservation*.

Reading Assignments & Class Participation	20%
Midterm Exam (Research Proposal & Structured Draft)	30%
Final Exam (Academic Article Submission)	50%

Article Guidelines:

1. Topic Selection:

Students must choose one of the following topics (or propose their own topic, subject to approval):

- The ethics of contemporary design in historic contexts.
- Balancing innovation and tradition in architectural conservation.
- Case studies of successful or controversial new additions to historic buildings.
- The role of materials and technology in modern interventions.
- Legal and regulatory challenges in designing for historic settings.
- The new design in historic contexts.

2. Structure of the Article:

The article should follow a standard academic structure, as follows:

- Title: Clear and concise, reflecting the focus of the article.
- Abstract: A brief summary (150–200 words) of the article’s main arguments and findings.
- Introduction: Introduce the topic, research question, and significance of the study.
- Literature Review: Review relevant theories, case studies, and scholarly works related to the topic.
- Methodology: Explain the research approach (e.g., case study analysis, theoretical exploration, comparative study).
- Discussion: Present the main arguments, supported by evidence and examples.
- Conclusion: Summarize the findings and suggest implications for future research or practice.
- References: Include a properly formatted bibliography using a recognized citation style (e.g., APA, Chicago, MLA).

3. Length and Formatting:

- The article should be 3,000 - 4,000 words (excluding references).
- Use 12-point font, double-spaced, with margins.
- Include relevant visuals (e.g., diagrams, photographs, maps) where appropriate, with proper captions and credits.

4. Submission Requirements:

- Submit the article as a Word file by the final exam deadline.
- Include a cover page with the article title, student’s name, course code, and date of submission.

5. Assessment Criteria:

The article will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Depth of Research: Demonstrated understanding of the topic and engagement with relevant literature.
- Critical Analysis: Ability to critically evaluate theories, case studies, and design approaches.
- Originality: Unique insights or perspectives on the topic.
- Clarity and Structure: Logical flow, clear arguments, and adherence to academic writing standards.
- Use of Visuals: Effective use of visuals to support arguments (if applicable).
- Referencing: Proper citation of sources and adherence to academic integrity.

Calendar:

WEEK	DATE	DESCRIPTION
W 01	23.02.2025	Introduction to Design Approaches in Conservation Overview of course scope, expectations, and academic writing objectives
W 02	02.03.2025	Ethics and Values in Architectural Conservation Ethical dilemmas and value-based decision-making
W 03	09.03.2025	International Conservation Charters and Design Venice, Burra, Nara, Faro Charters as analytical frameworks
W 04	16.03.2025	Literature Review and Research Positioning Strategies for academic reading and critical literature synthesis
W 05	23.03.2025	Case Study Methodologies in Conservation Research Successful design integrations in historic contexts
W 06	30.03.2025	Controversial Interventions and Critical Writing Failure, conflict, and critique in conservation design
W 07	06.04.2025	MID TERM EXAM Submission of structured research proposal and article outline
W 08	13.04.2025	Feedback and Research Refinement Individual and collective feedback session
W 09	20.04.2025	Conservation Ethics in Architecture and Urbanism Theoretical perspectives on continuity and change
W 10	27.04.2025	Contemporary Design Approaches in Historic Contexts Materiality, technology, visibility, and interpretation
W 11	04.05.2025	Guest Lecture: Conservation Practice in Turkey Professional perspectives from practice
W 12	11.05.2025	Site Visit: Reading Design Interventions in İzmir Critical on-site evaluation of built examples
W 13	18.05.2025	Best Practice Guidelines and Institutional Frameworks National and international conservation guidance
W 14	25.05.2025	Article Draft Workshop Peer review and structural refinement
W 15	01.06.2025	Academic Writing Clinic Strengthening argumentation and coherence
W 16	08.06.2025	Final Article Refinement Guidance on structuring and finalizing
W 17	15.06.2025	Final Revision Strategies Preparing the article for submission
W 18	29.06.2025	FINAL EXAM Submission of Final Article and Research Presentation

Bibliography:

Books:

- Cantacuzino, S. (1989). *Re/Architecture: Old Buildings/New Uses*. Abbeville Press.
- Fitch, J. M. (1990). *Historic Preservation: Curatorial Management of the Built World*. University of Virginia Press.
- Jokilehto, J. (1999). *A History of Architectural Conservation*. Butterworth-Heinemann.
- Orbaşlı, A. (2008). *Architectural Conservation: Principles and Practice*. Blackwell Publishing.
- Pendlebury, J. (2009). *Conservation in the Age of Consensus*. Routledge.
- Semes, S. W. (2004). *The Future of the Past: A Conservation Ethic for Architecture, Urbanism, and Historic Preservation*. W. W. Norton & Company.
- Stubbs, J. H. (2009). *Time Honored: A Global View of Architectural Conservation*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Worthing, D., & Bond, S. (2008). *Managing Built Heritage: The Role of Cultural Significance*. Blackwell Publishing.

Articles:

- Matero, F. (1993) "The Conservation of Immovable Cultural Property: Ethical and Practical Dilemmas." *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation* 32 (Spring): 15-21.
- Semes, S. W. (2009). "The Architecture of Addition: Design Strategies for New Work in Historic Settings." *Journal of Architectural Conservation*, 15(2), 7-24.
- Semes, S. W. (2010). "New Architecture in Historic Settings: The Role of Context." *Traditional Building*, 23(4), 50-55.
- Semes, S. W. (2013). "The Role of Tradition in Contemporary Architecture." *Traditional Building*, 26(3), 40-45.
- Semes, S. W. (2015). "Continuity and Change: The Challenge of New Design in Historic Contexts." *Journal of Preservation Education & Research*, 8(1), 10-23.
- Demir, H. A., & Yüceer, H. (2025). New Buildings in Historic Settings: Revisiting Renzo Piano's Design Approach. *The Historic Environment: Policy & Practice*, 16(2), 289–317. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17567505.2025.2492418>

Important Notes:

- Deadlines: Strict adherence to deadlines is mandatory. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- Academic Integrity: All work must comply with academic writing ethics and rules. Plagiarism or any form of academic misconduct will result in disciplinary action.
- Feedback: Students will receive detailed feedback on their articles, including suggestions for improvement and potential avenues for publication.