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**WORLD OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING IS
CELEBRATING 100th BIRTHDAY OF OUR DEAR TEACHER
PROF.DR. KEMAL AHMET ARU...**

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AS ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, WE COMMEMORATE OUR DEAR TEACHER PROF. DR. KEMAL AHMET ARU TOGETHER WITH THE WHOLE WORLD OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY WITH RESPECT, LOVE AND LONGING.

IN 36TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO HELD BETWEEN OCTOBER 25 AND NOVEMBER 2011 IN PARIS, IT HAS BEEN UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO CELEBRATE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF OUR DEAR TEACHER, FOUNDER OF URBAN DESIGN AND SCIENCE OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING IN TURKEY, ARCHITECT AND URBAN PLANNER **PROFESSOR KEMAL AHMET ARU** WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF UNESCO AND TO COMMEMORATE HIM WORLDWIDE. IN THE RESOLUTION, IT HAS BEEN EMPHASISED THAT “PROF. KEMAL AHMET ARTU IS A REFERENCE FOR ALL ARCHITECTS AND URBAN PLANNERS OF THE WORLD”.

I WOULD LIKE TO COMMEMORATE OUR DEAR TEACHER BY TELLING ABOUT HIS LIFE WITH HIS OWN WORDS, WITH QUOTES FROM HIS LAST BOOK “**KEMAL AHMET ARU – 80 YEARS OF THE LIFE OF AN UNIVERSITY LECTURER**” HE HAD SIGNED AND PRESENTED TO ME AND WITH THE PHOTOS HE HAD GIVEN TO ME SHORTLY BEFORE WE HAVE LOST HIM SAYING “YOU MIGHT NEED THESE PHOTOS AND INFORMATION ONE DAY” (1).

OUR DEAR TEACHER STARTS HIS MEMOIR “**KEMAL AHMET ARU – 80 YEARS OF THE LIFE OF AN UNIVERSOTY LECTURER**” AS FOLLOWS ...

“I keep thinking how I should start telling the story of this long life... It is for sure that what I shall write shall have many chapters... I suppose, best will be to talk over these chapters in different timeframes... When I split the 80 years I could remember into packs of ten years, I have seen that these packs of ten years constitute important milestones of my life... And this is a pattern of behavior resulting from my general planning habit. My birth date is 1912. Date of my retirement from ITU is 1982; I was exactly 70 years old that year. I had left a career of 42 years at ITU behind”...

“Yes, I was born on July 10, 1912 in Usküdar, Rumi Mehmet Paşa District, Tıgıluoğlu Street, No.7, in an old mansion with a garden. My father Ahmet Halim Bey had received a military education and graduated from military college. My mother Raika Hanım was born in Usküdar Doğançılar and became bride of Halis Paşa mansion. “

IN HIS BOOK, THERE ARE ALSO HIS VERY IMPORTANT CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF THE PERIOD OF TURKISH WAR OF INDEPENDENCE AND FOUNDATION YEARS OF THE REPUBLIC, ABOUT WHICH HE HAS NEVER TOLD US MUCH... AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT OUR TEACHER IS AN IMPORTANT MONUMENT OF NOT ONLY THE HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING BUT ALSO OF THE HISTORY OF TURKISH REPUBLIC... OUR DEAR TEACHER REMEMBERS THOSE DAYS AS FOLLOWS:

“Regarding that period there are very foggy memories, not able to find a place to leave traces in my... Memories of my relatives who passed away... One day, they had gathered us all in a small room on the ground floor of the house: we have been told that the planes were bombarding Haydarpaşa. We somewhat heard distant gun reports... Turned out that there was World War I. And we were fighting on the side of the Germans. British planes had arrived Istanbul. Very foggy, vague memories... These memories should be from 1918... One morning, we have seen that there were plenty of foreign soldiers in front of the house. British, French and Italians had invaded Istanbul... And the Italians had allocated the house of Ahmet Halim Bey as their post as a punishment since he was a soldier and a crowd of soldiers had thronged in our garden... I never forget the order “Leave the house in one hour”. We packed and moved to the ground floor of my older uncle next door...”

“One morning, we have heard that they had taken my mother and brought to court martial. My dear mother at the age of 28... tells about those days as follows. “Before the invasion, your father and his friends would come together and talk. Those days women and men would sit separately. I wouldn’t join them. Ammunition would be brought home. I know times when I slept with bomb under my bed. Food for nationalist forces would be sent from our home now and again. The supporters of the allied forces have put your father on blacklist. With the first invasion they have pointed your father and said this guy is a member of committee of union. The Italians have occupied the house. Youth of today has found everything available and thinks it was easy to earn them. What sacrifices have been made ... What a union were they ...” I always think over, which period, which point of my life would I have reached, if my mother were someone of different temper...”

OUR DEAR TEACHER SUMMARIZES HIS EDUCATION LIFE, THE YEARS AT GALATASARAY AND AT THE ACADEMY WHICH HE CONSIDERS AS THE MOST COLORFUL AND LIVELY PERIOD OF HIS LIFE AS FOLLOWS...

“9 years at Galatasaray between 1923 and 1932... I can say that these years were the most colorful, liveliest, and full of memories and richest years of my 90 year life. Especially, travelling to Ankara at each 29th day of October together with Galatasaray scout troop and, on the day of parade, to march by Ataturk is among my most unforgettable memories. The story of how I have been accepted to the troop is also interesting. Since I was very skinny those days, the school doctor had twice not permitted me to become a scout, I was in sorrow. Finally, third time he had said “You have gained couple of pounds, now you can be a scout”... I had felt on top of the world. I had become a scout by filling my pockets with stones.

The works M.Memboury, the Design Geometry Teacher at the college, was giving us were exciting my interest... He always would give me good grades. It means that at that time I had become interested in this branch. I wouldn’t like the drawing designs Memboury was assigning each week,

and would do them over and over again; those I didn't like that much, some friends would get from me... One day M. Memboury had told me "After college, continue your education at the Department of Master Architecture in the Academy of Fine Arts, I believe that you would succeed." I have started to tend towards this profession for the first time after the advice M.Memboury had given me having seen my interest in design geometry...

In autumn 1932, after the admission exam to the Master Architecture Department of Academy of Fine Arts, we have started the only Architecture education in Turkey in that period of time. The memories of five years at the Academy are more than one can tell all..."

AND CONTINUES WITH HIS GRADUATION FROM THE ACADEMY...

"In 1937 I have graduated from Department of Architecture of the Academy with excellent grades. At the end of 1937, I was a 25 years old, tall, very skinny young man, who could be called neither handsome nor ugly, speaking French and German, successfully completed his college and higher education. One day my mother asked me "Your father says let's wed Kemal now. What would you think?" I remember having said "Would be better if we don't rush". I knew Günseli from distance and liked her. Ultimately we became acquainted and decided to get married. On July 14, 1938 our wedding took place in Hotel Tarabya. Right after that I have done my military service. I have been discharged in December 1939."

AND HE TELLS ABOUT HIS MEMORIES RELATED TO THE START OF HIS ACADEMIC LIFE AS FOLLOWS...

"In April 1940, I have started working as assistant at Master Engineering School, in the Faculty of Architecture re-founded by decedent Prof. Emin Onat. Prof. Emin Onat had recently arrived from ETH in Switzerland. At those times, French Prof. Debb was lecturing architecture; and they have assigned me, a graduate from Galatasaray, as an assistant to him. The same year, we have moved from the family home in Moda to Nişantaşı, Güzelbahçe Street, and Metanet Apartment House. My son Emre was born in June 1942 and my daughter Lale in November 1948 in this apartment. I used to have a small study there. In those years, we were taking part in many contests, winning many prizes. I have prepared also many development plan surveys in this study. We have celebrated my associate professorship in this apartment. During the years of my assistantship, for the status of assistantship and associate professorship there weren't definite formats set yet, after assistantship the title of assistant professor was coming. At that point I became the first in a contest I had taken part; when Principal of Master Engineering School Tevfik Taylan had heard that I had won the contest, he had advised Emin Onat about me; "The assistant we have hired is good, let's make him Assistant Professor..." I was going to become Assistant Professor with the recommendation of Principal Tevfik Taylan, but just then, Master Engineering School has been affiliated to the Ministry of National Education and new rules have been approved, and I have prepared for the first time a thesis study, and after having defended my thesis I have become Associate Professor.

First

Associate Professorship exam has been held in Gümüşsuyu, in Fikri Santur Lecture Hall facing the sea, as an exam in front of a jury consisting of the Teachers of Civil Engineering Faculty of that period. The subject of my thesis was "Hamams (Bathhouses) in Turkish Architecture". During the exam, the teachers have asked questions, I was quite nervous, when entering the exam, decedent principal Tevfik Taylan had approached me and noticed that I was nervous, he had said to me: "Son, let me give you an advice, don't get nervous, just think, they might have not researched the subject as much as you did. You give your statements without being nervous." In the

coming years I have always remembered these words of Tevfik Taylan.” YES, I REMEMBER TOO. MY PHD TEACHER KEMAL AHMET ARU AS WELL HAD TOLD ME WHEN I WAS ENTERING THE PHD EXAM “DO NOT GET NERVOUS AT ALL NURAN, REMEMBER, THERE ISN’T ANYBODY AMONG US WHO KNOWS YOUR PHD SUBJECT BETTER THAN YOU.” ...

HE CONTINUES TO TELL ABOUT HIS ACADEMIC LIFE AND HIS ASSIGNMENT AS ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR... *“In 1943, I have been assigned as associate professor to the Department of Second Building Studies. As the associate professor of the department I have started giving courses and practice programs together with Prof. Holzmeister. Prof. Holzmeister from Vienna had worked with Ataturk, prepared the plans of all Ministry Buildings in Ankara between 1928- 1932 and finally planned Çankaya mansion pursuant to the wishes of the great leader. I was very glad to work with this teacher...”*

In 1943’s I have started to work with Prof. Oelsner in the building of the former Engineering School in Gümüşsuyu. In 1942, Mukbil Gökdoğan had assisted Prof. Oelsner for one year. For about one year I have worked as an associate professor both in the Department of Holzmeister and of Prof. Oelsner. During those days, Emin Bey had invited also French interior architect Prof. Louis Sue; and since he was lecturing in French, they have assigned me to assist to him as well... Between 1942 and 1944, I have been working, without my main discipline being determined and also assisting Prof. Ziya Kocainan in his construction course for a period; those years have been a miscellaneous work. “

AND HE TELLS ABOUT THE EMERGENCE OF URBAN PLANNING DISCIPLINE WITHIN ARCHITECTURE PROFESSION AS FOLLOWS...

“Finally, in 1944, with the decision of Prof. Emin Onat, as an associate Professor of Chair of Urban Planning, I have started working with Prof. Oelsner. We have worked together until 1949 at the Faculty of Architecture, later until his decease in 1957, we came together on various occasions. I can say that getting to know him, working with him is a chance of my life... In 1949, we have moved from Gümüşsuyu to Taşkışla, on the ground floor, first room of the right corridor is the historical room where the urban planning courses have commenced in ITU (the room with large morrocan leather chair where he would take a rest at noon) .”

... AND SUMMARIZES HOW HE HEADED TOWARDS URBAN PLANNING PROFESSION AND HIS MEMORIES WITH PROF OELSNER AS FOLLOWS...

“Prof. Oelsner had lectured for about eight years at ITU, Faculty of Architecture and throughout this period I had worked as his assistant. Prof. Oelsner, as an architect graduated from Technical University of Berlin, was an urban planner with architecture origin who had taken office in Berlin and later in his home town Hamburg, at Hamburg Municipality and thereafter as Building Senator in the City Council. Actually at those times, there wasn’t a clearly separated branch like urban planning. Urban planning was recognized within the field of architecture... Prof. Oelsner, as Building Senator, had prepared the Urban Planning of the City of Hamburg for many years. During also the Hitler Period, he had stayed for a while with his family in Germany, had moved to USA in 1939’s with the suspect and concern that his family might have distant relation to Judaism and from there upon the invitation of the Ministry of Public Works, Head of Building and Development Works Muammer Çavuşoğlu, he had been assigned as Chief Development Counselor to the Department of Urban Planning, Technical Works of the Ministry. Mr. Emin Onat was a

good friend of Mr. Muammer and had invited Prof. Oelsner by this means. Prof. Oelsner, in 1943's, was coming bi-weekly to Istanbul for two days to give Urban Planning courses at Faculty of Architecture; when he was in Istanbul I was assisting his courses and practice programs as his associate professor. In the weeks, he was not in Istanbul, I would do urban planning practice with the students. It went on like this until 1949. It wouldn't be wrong if I say that during this period I have received urban planning education for eight years... Prof. Oelsner would review all the development plans delivered to him for approval on-site, prepare surveys and explain at each class of his the town and city plans he was busy with at that time to the students, go into the details of his opinions and proposal, his recommendations applicable pursuant to the conditions of Turkey. In seven-eight years, in light of this information I have learned Turkey's conditions from Prof. Oelsner. In this way, I have stepped into urban planning. Prof. Oelsner wanted me to do practice on urban planning as well. He had asked me to prepare the detailed plans of 1/2000 scale Development Plan he had prepared for Kayseri. In 1945, I have made many travels to Kayseri and by having consultations with the Municipality, I have completed Kayseri Development Plan in 1946. Kayseri Development Plan had been the first development plan I had made. Around that time, Provincial Bank was established and was having the development plans of the towns and cities in Turkey, prepared by tender by the architects that had obtained the authorization certificate issued by Ministry of Public Works. The professor, who believed that knowing the cities of Anatolia, to get to know the problems over there and to prepare solution proposals would have a great role in the discipline of an urban planning lecturer, had oriented me towards preparing development plans.... After 1945's, for the approval of the development plans I had prepared, it was necessary for me to go to Ankara two or three times a year. For the Plan issues, Provincial Bank, General Directorate of Urban Planning and Ministry of Public Works, Directorate of Building and Development Works was established, at the Ministry there was a department called Board of Urban Planning Technical Works. Between 1943 and 1948, Prof. Oelsner, as the expert of this department, was reviewing the projects and if necessary was visiting the sites... This is how I have headed for lecturing urban planning after architecture.

OUR DEAR TEACHER TELLS ABOUT HOW HE BECAME A PROFESSOR AND HIS ASSIGNMENT AS THE CHAIRMAN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF URBAN PLANNING AT ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN HIS MEMOIR AS FOLLOWS...

I have prepared my book "Housing Issue in Europe after the Second World War" in 1950's. In 1951, after having succeeded in German and French exams, taking the two books I had written and architectural and urban planning studies of mine to that date into consideration, I have been assigned to the vacant urban planning professor position at the Faculty of Architecture and to the office of Urban Planning Department Head."

HE ALSO EXPLAINS IN HIS BOOK THE IMPORTANT EVENTS WITHIN THE FACULTY BETWEEN THE YEARS 1950 AND 1960 AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN PLANNING DISCIPLINE WITHIN THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AS FOLLOWS:...

" During 1950-60, I can say that the lecturers of the Faculty of Architecture were watching us astonishingly, as if they were thinking what on earth did this urban planning come from... At those times, urban planning courses were being given to architecture students only. The programme of these courses was being put into practice after being approved by the board of professors of Faculty of Architecture... In 1952, I, Gündüz Öndeş who was an assistant at that time and Emin Canpolat have prepared for the International Izmir Development Plan contest and won the first place. Senate of ITU has rewarded us in 1954 with University Award. Winning the first place in an international contest has significantly improved the prestige of our department. Again during that period, Prof.

Henri Prost had resigned from Municipality of Istanbul. At that time, Municipality of Istanbul has formed a board called "Board of Development Counselors". In this board, I, Emin Onat and Mukbil Gökdoğan were present from our department. Once a week we have held the office of development counselor at the Municipality of Istanbul."

FROM HIS OPINIONS ON THE DEANSHIP TAKING PLACE AMONG HIS MEMOIRS WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE WAS NOT FOND OF MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS...

"In the elections of deanship in 1954, I have been elected to be the Dean of the Faculty. A completely administrative function. Furthermore meetings of Board of Faculty, Executive Board, Senate Construction Commission and many other administrative and academic meetings... For this office of two years I can say now that " I have lost quite a lot of time during those two years. Unfortunately I have been elected to this office two more times until 1982 (apart from the periods I have acted for the dean).

IMPORTANT EVENTS BETWEEN 1960-70, EXPERIENCES ABROAD AND HIS YEARS IN STUTTGART ARE SUMMARIZED IN THE BOOK OF OUR DEAR TEACHER AS FOLLOWS:..

"147's event in 1960's has affected me deeply... I have withdrawn myself and stayed at home for a while and have been thinking long and hard. Just then, an invitation letter for me from the Stuttgart Technical University has arrived. They were inviting me as visiting professor to the Department of Urban Planning, Faculty of Architecture. My visiting professorship at the Department of Urban Planning of Prof. Horst Linde has broadened my horizon remarkably... The letter of Dean regarding my re-assignment to the Department in October pursuant to a new law established in 1962 had arrived Stuttgart. Mid October of 1962 I have returned to the department in ITU. On October 28th, I have been re-elected to be the Dean of the Faculty."

THE COMMENTS HE HAS GIVEN IN HIS MEMOIRS ON HOW THE URBAN PLANNING WENT BEYOND THE SCIENCE OF ARCHITECTURE AND ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF URBAN PLANNING ARE AS FOLLOWS:...

"Between 1960-70, the discipline of urban planning gradually started to move beyond the science of architecture, in 1967 Institute of Urban Planning has been established. Some of our assistants, getting ahead in their academic career, has taken their doctorates and completed their thesis studies and became associate professors. Before the Institute of Urban Planning was established, between 1962-66, within the scope of the department we had prepared a series of Urban Planning Seminars continuing four-five years. These lectures comprising everything related to Urban Planning, were being given by the invited lecturers from various universities and by the authorized officials of the public institutions related to our field and were drawing great attention. In 1967, after the establishment of the Institute of Urban Planning, we have started to improve the Science of Urban Planning, ITU more intensely... Universities and in Ankara, the organizations related to Urban Planning had become member of this Institute. Each year, at the annual general meeting of the institute, the issues of Turkey regarding urban planning were being discussed, I remember, the number of participants once had reached 200. This Institute was fulfilling another task as well. It was bringing the universities, relevant public institutions and regional administration together and was enabling those to jointly discuss many issues. Department and Institute of Urban Planning had become an important body within ITU opening towards outside... In 1965, upon my return from USA, I have brought many documents and plans regarding the science of Urban Planning. Within the scope of the Institute, we have formed a work group and started doing researches on the educational models. "

WITH THIS STUDIES CARRIED OUT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF URBAN PLANNING UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR VERY MUCH BELOVED TEACHER KEMAL AHMET ARU, THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE URBAN PLANNING GRADUATE PROGRAM HAS BEEN LAID. IN 1969, ITU HAS COMMENCED TWO-STAGE EDUCATION AND IN 1974 POST-ARCHITECTURAL DEGREE PROGRAM OF URBAN PLANNING, AND WHICH I HAVE BEEN THE FIRST STUDENT OF, HAS BEEN COMMENCED UNDER MMLS (ENGINEERING-ARCHITECTURE POST-GRADUATE) PROGRAM. OUR DEAR TEACHER COMMENTS THE TRACES OF 1970's IN HIS LIFE, THE AFFECTS OF THE LOSS OF HIS DEAR WIFE AS FOLLOWS:...

“The period between 1970-77 turned out to have been still pink years of my life... It turned out that my dear wife hadn't had much time left... Mid 1977, she has been defeated by that inauspicious disease. Thereafter, our pink life became black as night... The years thereafter were dark grey ... Never became pink again...”

“Between 1980-1982, the university was going on as usual... I had to find again important works and had to not feel the loneliness... At the end of 1980, both my daughter and son were settled in USA. I thought of staying there for a long period and study the urban design education emerging in USA at the universities. There were approximately 2500 universities in USA. I have bought a large catalogue containing all Universities. Found and selected 153 universities out of this catalogue that were related to us. We have prepared an English letter on the official papers of ITU explaining the study we were planning to carry out. This was a questionnaire study. 153 letters have been posted. Within one month we have received 90 responses from universities. In my second journey I have classified these documents, prepared schedules. These studies were making me very happy”...

AND RETIREMENT PERIOD...

.. “And finally in 1982 I have retired from ITU... I had a clear confidence in all aspects, I was believing to have played a role in the establishment of this department (Department of Urban and Regional Planning) in ITU... My Faculty and University had deemed me suitable for the Tübitak Service Award and proposed to Tübitak. I have retired in great contentment. However, there was a part of me, that was used to work, not able to stop. In the years thereafter as well I always have worked...”

BETWEEN 1940-1982, 42 YEARS OF EFFECTIVE SERVICE PERIOD AT THE UNIVERSITY... RETIREMENT... THEN... 2 MORE DECADES PASSED EXTREMELY ACTIVE... PROJECTS... RESEARCHES... BOOKS... PUBLISHINGS... PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES... JOURNEYS... HISTORICAL RECORDS... DOCUMENTS... SLIDES... SLIDES... SLIDES... A UNIQUE ARCHIEVE... AND A TRUE MONUMENT OF HISTORY...

IN HIS BOOK, OUR DEAR PROFESSOR KEMAL AHMET ARU CONCLUDES HIS LIFE STORY WITH LOVE OF LIFE. HE SAYS ...

“I love life like everybody else. However, to be able to live it is not enough to only love it... One should know how to live as well. In order to know how to live, one should analyze the life, lay the pieces composing the life bare one by one... And now we have started to look into deepless depths...”

... MY DEAR PROFESSOR, YOU REALLY DID KNOW HOW TO LIVE, YOU HAVE HAD A HAPPY AND GOOD LIFE AND BEQUEATHED TO US A LIFE STYLE TO BE HOLD UP AS AN EXAMPLE ALONG WITH MANY THINGS STILL NEED TO BE LEARNED...

ENDLESS THANKS FOR EVERYTHING YOU GAVE TO US, MY DEAR TEACHER...
I AM PROUD AND FEEL HONOURED OF BEING YOUR STUDENT...

IN 2012, ON THE 100TH ANIVERSARY OF YOUR BIRTHDAY YOU ARE BEING
COMMEMORATED NOT ONLY BY YOUR FAMILY, RELATIVES AND YOUR STUDENTS
YOU HAVE LEFT SIGNIFICANT IMPRESSIONS UPON, NOT ONLY IN THE ACADEMIC
AND SCIENTIFIC ENVIRONMENTS AND AT OUR UNIVERSITIES, NOT ONLY IN TURKEY
BUT IN THE WHOLE WORLD OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING WITH
RESPECT, LOVE AND LONGING.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, MY DEAR TEACHER.

(1) Kemal Ahmet Aru (2001), Kemal Ahmet Aru Bir Üniversite Hocasının Yaşamının 80 Yılı,
Yapı Endüstri Merkezi Yayınları, İstanbul

