

# **Prof. Orhan GÖÇER**

## **(July 1982)**

### **PROF. KEMAL AHMET ARU and ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF URBANISM**

Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru is identical with ITU Faculty of Architecture, the Staff of Department of and The Space of Department itself. Prof Aru spent 42 years of his professional life in this place, and in this department; has built Urbanism Department of Urbanism, kept it alive.

Department of Urbanism has not only achieved development of Urbanism as a science, but has also known abroad as an "Ecole". Urbanism Department has a particular place in ITU and in the Faculty of Architecture. So it is a valuable opportunity to investigate the history of Urbanism Department in ITU.

Thus, we may remember Aru's 42 years professional life and evaluate these years with all facts.

### **From Graduate School of Engineering to the Technical University**

It is widely known ITU has a history of success for more than 200 years. But ITU gained the mainforce in Republican Era.

Shortly after the founding of the Republic, Graduate School of Engineering (Yüksek Mühendislik Mektebi) tied to the Ministry of Public Works by the Law no.1275 in 1928. With the law no. 2718 (in 1935) The Engineering College was attached to the Ministry of Public Works.

At the start of World War II (1939-1941) Graduate School of Engineering, was also at the disposal of the Ministry of Public Works, but it was connected to the Provincial Organization of the Ministry. Graduate School of Engineering was transferred to the Ministry of Education with the law no. 4121 in 1941. Years after 1941, Graduate School of Engineering was going towards a university. In those years additional sections were opened according to the needs of the country and many valuable faculty members were invited from inside and outside the country.

Graduate School of Engineering was being made "Technical University" with a law prepared by the Ministry of Education in 1944. 2 years later, it was made autonomous with the law numbered 4936 and the urbanism section was established.

The historical development of the Department of Urbanism in The Faculty of Architecture was as follows:

- Graduate School of Engineering had a single branch until 1929. In this date it is agreed to establish the construction branch. After 3 years education, the students would be separated according to their own programs in engineering and architecture.
- There were just 5 students and a foreign architect teacher in 1929.
- To avoid the disadvantages for the architecture students the common education was became 2 years and after 2 years the students who want to be educated in this department had the exam.

- After ten years of experience, all the architecture students had been in a different class and an autonomous education started to be implemented.
- The Faculty of Architecture was established after conversion of Graduate School of Engineering to Technical University in 1944.

### **Urbanism Section/ Chair of Urbanism**

Urban planning lecture was one of the courses given during the Graduate School of Engineering. It became a group of courses after the establishment of the Technical University and the Urbanism Section/Chair. Ord. Prof. Dr. Gustav Oelsner, who has valuable contribution to the establishment of the Urbanism Section, came to Turkey in 1939 with the invitation of Ministry of Public Works and he also worked as a construction consultant in the Ministry of Public Works together with working in the university. Ord. Prof. Dr. Gustav Ölsner has been appointed as Ordinaryus Professor after the establishment of the Technical University.

Kemal Ahmet Aru became an assistant in Graduate School of Engineering in 1940 and he worked with Ord. Prof. Dr. Gustav Oelsner, who had stayed in our country until after World War II, on establishing the Urbanism Section. Kemal Ahmet Aru became Associate Professor in 1942 and Professor in 1951 and finally he became the Head of the Department after Gustav Ölsner returned to Germany (1951).

The development of the Chair of Urbanism has started after the World War II. Shortly after the establishment of the Department in 1946 Gündüz Özdeş; in 1947 for a short time Celile Butka, in 1949 Kenan Akınay and in 1950 Emin Canpolat have started to work as young assistants. In this period, Prof. Aru was not only translating the lectures of Prof. Oelsner from German to Turkish, but also gave the Urbanism lectures as an important part of the Architectural Education. In addition to that he was also assisting the construction lectures, studios and workshops.

When Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru became the Head of the Chair of Urbanism in 1951, there was one assistant, Gündüz Özdeş and him in there. After 1951, all these names became the members of the Chair of Urbanism: Ahmet Keskin and Hande Çağlar (Suher) in 1952, Sadi Togay in 1953, Yılmaz Gürer and Behruz Çinici in 1954, Evner Ergun and Ayten Çetiner in 1959, Tekin Aydın in 1960, Erdoğan Elmas in 1962; Orhan Göçer in 1963, Birol Baransu, İsmet Kılınçaslan, Olgun Erşenkal in 1969; Cihangir Tutluoğlu and İbrahim Şanlı in 1971.

In 1973 Chair of Urbanism consisted of Prof. ARU as head, three professors, two associate professors, two doctors and four assistants. On the other hand after many studies The Chair of Urbanism which was teaching the architecture students, has established the Institute of Urbanism with the efforts of Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru for educating the staff in the Science of Urban Planning; giving the opportunity to the students who want to study urban planning; researching and studying about the different issues on urban planning. Since its establishment, Institute of Urbanism is the president of the organization and in

1981 with the Law no. 2547 it became a Research Center. Urbanism Research Center has a Board of Directors with seven people, a General Secretary, one translator, two secretaries, two administrative staff members and four permanent staff.

The establishment of the Secretary of the Chair, which is very common today, has occurred in the period of Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru as the Dean. Until then Secretary of the Chair took over the task which was being done by the assistants and associate professors and courses were replaced by more modern looking.

In 1973, with the Law No. 1750 Chair of Urbanism was divided into three divisions. Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru played a great role in maintaining the unity and solidarity of these three divisions.

Professor Kemal Ahmet Aru became the Head of the Chair re-established under the name of the Urban Design and Urban Renewal and working with Ayten Çetiner, İbrahim Şanlı, Yücel Ünal, Birol Baransu, Nuran Zeren, A. Cengiz Yıldızcı and Handan Dülger until 1982. During this period, Prof. Aru sustained the lectures and projects in the MML and MMLS education and on the other hand he also supported the training one professor, two associate professors, and three doctor assistants in his Chair.

In 1982, combined with the law numbered 2547 the Departments has established a unit with five professors, five associate professors, five doctors (Assistant Professor), three Assistant (Research Assistant) and the total staff of 18 academics who have served 42 years at Istanbul Technical University. Now all these academics are excited with the Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru's retirement.

Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru is not only a chairman, but also a good brother, a valuable scientist, hard-working and outstanding person and the leader of the group of urbanism. He will never be forgotten and he will always light the way for us.

Thanks to Mr. Aru for his valuable support as our professor, our leader, our brother and we wish you a long, successful and healthy life.

His student and assistant

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Orhan Göçer

