

To our Beloved Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru
With respect and love

Prof. Hande SUHER
Engineer Architect ITU

I am very sorry that I lost the founding members of ITU Faculty of Architecture Chair of Urbanism and I am feeling that I am alone.

When I was a student ITU Faculty of Architecture Chair of Urbanism for Architectural Education Program was only consisted of three people: Head of the Chair Prof. Gustav. Oelsner was consulting at Ankara and he used to come two days in a week to give lectures in Urbanism. Our teacher was Assistant Professor Kemal Ahmet Aru who was an assistant professor at the time, and our assistant was Gündüz Özdeş.

Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru was giving his lectures with a plain language and a decent program in addition to his display of foreign cities and their values by his rich collection of slides. Lecture Program that included samples of rural and urban areas in our country allowed us to follow his lectures with pleasure and respect.

Throughout my internship period at the end of summer semester in 1949 our teacher was abroad for his professorship thesis. Our brother Gündüz Özdeş was the responsible project manager for Gaziantep Development Plan at the time. I helped this study by sketching and drawing with Ahmet Keskin, who is my dear Chair friend that had come from abroad. Thereby, I took my first step into the Chair of Urbanism with Ahmet Keskin 63 years ago.

Beginning from my student years, I witnessed the balanced, tolerant, beneficial and result-oriented management of the Chair of Urbanism. If I am not wrong, the whole faculty was consisted of 20 people. They were, also, the founders of the Faculty.

After my graduation, they called me from our professor's office one day. Gündüz Özdeş was looking at me with smiling eyes, cheerfully and pleasantly. I couldn't understand what it meant, however, when our professor's classmate, **Municipality's Head of the Development Department Mr. Sedad Erkoğlu**, saw plan alternatives that were hanged on our professor's office, he immediately stated that he wanted me to work at Municipalities Development Department. Gündüz Özdeş was very pleased and honored to hear, not only, the offer; but also, upon the 500TL monthly salary and a jeep for site visits since he knew that my assistantship salary was only 130TL. Prof.Aru, started to look over his thumbs as he had always been doing when he was bothered with something. **I thanked, I wasn't thinking about the position considering the duties I was about to take at the Chair and other projects I had in mind. At the time, İstanbul Development Department was at the İstanbul side where Press Museum is at today at the tomb. Entrance door was open and right across the street marble stairs was leading you to the Development Department. However, I saw two giant spits on both sides of these beautiful stairs and I told myself "this is over".**

Upon Mr. Sedad's insisting behavior, I thanked respectfully, returned to Taşkışla. When I arrived to Taşkışla, I visited the Professor in his room. I thanked and told him that I didn't accept the offer. Gündüz Özdeş was shocked, couldn't believe it; the Professor turned; he wasn't playing with his fingers anymore and said "you see? I told you so."

In the last month of 1951, upon the leave-of-absence for the military duty of Assistant Emin Canpolat's at the time, two position openings were declared. After our success in Foreign Language and Science exams with dear Ahmet Keskin, before the end of the year we were appointed to the Chair of Urbanism.

While we were seniors at Taşkışla in 1950, we learnt that Mr. Orhan Safa and Kemal Ahmet Aru were appointed to Professorship. We greeted both Professors coming from the senate meeting at the entrance of 203-studio class. The Chair of Urbanism had the faculty that was consisted of one professor, one specialized assistant and two inexperienced assistant 61 years ago.

Today, I still can't stop my tears when I recall that moment today. In the management system that was created by our result-oriented Professor always made us happy. Four of us became a respectful and loving community like a family. Today, I recall this respectful and loving community of Prof. Kemâl Ahmet Arû, Prof. Gündüz Özdeş and Prof. Dr. Ahmet Keskin, who are the founders of the ITU Faculty of Architecture Chair of Urbanism, with tears and das in their loss.

We, who are used to experience our Teacher Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru's strength, see him as one who is always courageous upon negative conditions, knows how to enjoy work and teaches his surroundings this. He used to advice working on something else when there was complain on working on one thing constantly. It is him who taught us rational and realistic approach on topics and implementations, acknowledging and understanding the system that develops the topics in it and the necessity of the methodological experiments with an objective management. He was also the one who got all members of the Chair to accept teamwork as common Chair Board for a democratic and tolerant environment. He showed us a serious, hard-working, well-intentioned, humanitarian, good and peaceful life.

I got Assistant Professor title when my thesis was being accepted in 1956. After a while, the Faculty entrusted me for a year upon the request of Prof. Marc J. Saugey from Switzerland-Geneva. In 1957, a little before my return, my Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru asked me to send him a letter-of-attorney to establish a company with Prof. Mehmet Ali Handan, Tekin Aydın, Yalçın Emiroğlu and Altay Erol, who are my friends that I teamed up into competitions with. So, AHE Architecture and Urbanism Studio was established. We worked as if we were in the university and won many competitions at the Studio and we always carried on our work as a respectful and loving community. However, AHE broke apart upon our Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru's leave because of 147-incident in 1962.

Military management took over civil management in 1960. All of us were confidently pleasant. We, four academic members, have started to walk from Harbiye until Taksim for spontaneous meeting and march with all academics for respect. We celebrated this resolution with all lecturers and assistants in Istanbul.

We started working at the Chair with confidence and pleasure. But, one morning, 147 faculty members were announced to be forced to retirement on radios and newspapers. Unfortunately we learnt that Prof. Emin Onat, Prof. Kemâl Ahmet Arû, Prof. Orhan Safa, Assistant Prof. Muhittin B lu, Asst.Prof. Necibe Çakıroğlu's lecturer positions were terminated along with others at Istanbul University. We waited the end of the Senate's meeting with great sadness that day. Assistant of the Chair, today's Prof. Dr. Ayten Çetiner and I went to Taşkışla's gate and waited for the Dean. We talked through the situation with the Dean when he arrived. He also was sad, especially after seeing our sorrow. But unfortunately he stated that there was nothing else to do.

Our valuable teacher Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru was called from the Stuttgart Technical University at Germany after a short while. **We sent him and his family off from his house in Yeşilköy with great pleasure.**

The Chair was practically empty. The Professor **used to step into our office and ask, "Are you having tea?" while we were having tea** with Mr. Ahmet. We used to welcome him immediately and feast as much as we could. **Chair's joy and sincere atmosphere was all gone. We kept his room clean and tidy all the time.** Everything was in the order he left. In addition, the legislation was dismissed when he returned to Stuttgart from teaching at Berlin Technical University Faculty of Architecture, where he was also requested when he was there. It was such a joy and pleasure for all of us. Our Professor completed his duty in Germany and was back at his office **in Taşkışla after 1, 5 years.** I suppose he was surprised to see the order in his office. Even his pen and paints were in the places he left them at. We celebrated his return like a festival. We heard that some of the other faculties emptied the offices and placed other lecturers in them. Faculty of Architecture, on the other hand, welcomed its Professors into their own offices and the sincere environment.

I was appointed into professorship after my professorship thesis was accepted in 1965-66 and **the science and second foreign language exams' results were announced and was accepted in the opening for professor position at the Chair.**

We became three professors in the Chair of Urbanism. Upon our Professor's **suggestion**, three separate chairs were established after a comprehensive evaluation. However, our commitment, respect and gratitude were stable.

Our dear beloved Professor, who is the founder and the leader of Urbanism Discipline in our country, had always insisted that Faculty of Architecture should be located in the city at **Taşkışla, where architecture and urbanism issues can be integrated with analysis, instead of the University Campus at Ayazağa.** The Faculty Committee elected him, the manager of difficult days, as the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture.

Our dear beloved Professor served for public-benefit many times. He directed many doctorates and, most importantly, he constantly defended that the field of urbanism is critical and necessary for the occupation of architecture. He put so much effort to spread the content and context of urbanism field of architectural education in Istanbul and Germany. He always passed his knowledge and experience on to whenever and wherever necessary. As I had always witnessed, he never kept care, help and love away. Most importantly, he never meant any harm for anyone and tried to help. I have always seen him as a kind Professor.

It was the time for my retirement ceremony in 1996. The celebration was at the conference room as usual. Naturally, our Professor was a guest of honor. The conference room and the balcony were full and there were people standing all around. Our Professor made a speech. He **stated in his speech that "I abstain from two people; one is my wife Günseli, and the other is Hande because they both say whatever they think."** I stood up in shock saying **"not at all professor."** His speech received a big applause. I never forgot those words.

November 15 2011, the UN Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization under the auspices of UNESCO, İtmi and Other Nabi 300üncü death anniversary of composer, architect and urbanist, Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru'nun international level will be known for the anniversary of the birth 100üncü, he emphasized that the whole world is a reference to the architects and Urbanists. When we read this at home, we conveyed it to all relevant institutions by telephone

with pleasure. I'm sure this assumption is a very successful evaluation against our dear professor's personality, identity and against all the activities and I am proud of it.

As well as the Prof. Kemâl Ahmet Aru's works in ITU Faculty of Architecture and under the auspices of the UNESCO evaluation in this sense, I repeat once again my suggestion about the issue of the name given to an area at ITU Campus with best regards.

May our beloved Professor Kemal Ahmet Aru rest in peace.

I believe he is peacefully in heaven.

Prof. Hande Suher Engineer Architect ITU