

We Commemorate Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru Internationally on his 100th Birthday

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United Nations (UN) Science, Education and Culture Organization (UNESCO) decided to commemorate 300th death day of Poet and Philosopher Yusuf Nabi (1641-1712), composer Buhurizade Mustafa İtrî (1640-1712) and 100th birthday of Architect and Urban Planner Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru (1912-2005) worldwide in 2012 and promote one of their works of at the 36th General Conference that was held between October 25 - November 2011 in Paris. At the end of UNESCO's 36th General Conference, architect and urban planner Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru, who one of the founders of Urban and Regional Planning discipline in our country, was emphasized as “ a reference for all architects and urban planners of the world“ and it was unanimously resolved to celebrate his 100th birthday worldwide.

Kemal Ahmet Aru, who was born in 1912, was graduated from Galatasaray High School in 1932, Fine Arts Academy Department of Architecture (MSGSÜ) in 1937. He started his duty as an assistant at the Graduate School of Engineering (ITU) in 1940. He taught studio classes with Clemens Holzmeister between 1942-46. At the same time, he lectured with Prof. Gustav Oelsner. Besides his position as a lecturer at ITU, he, also, gave lectures at Yıldız Technical University and Macka Technical School. He became a professor in 1950, when he became the Head of the Chair of Urbanism. He intermittently served as the Dean of ITU Faculty of Architecture between 1954-70. He gave lectures as visiting professor at Stuttgart in 1961-62, at Berlin in 1963 and at Vienna Technical University Faculty of Architecture Chair of Urbanism in 1967. He was the Head of ITU Faculty of Architecture Institute of Urbanism between 1967-82.

I am proud of being a student in “Settlements and Housing Policy” class of ITU Faculty of Architecture Graduate School of Engineering Architecture Specialization of Architectural Design in Housing in 1980 by Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru, who is one of the founders of science of urbanism in Turkey along with Prof. Gustav Oelsner whom was being work together through those years by Prof. Aru.

Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru, who achieved to direct attention on urban design in education and in practice, won awards for 22 Development Plans he prepared between 1944-1970. Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru's success on urban design was reflected on his architectural works as well. 1. Levent Social Housing project between 1947-57 and 4. Levent in 1954 that he produced with Rebil Gorbun are two of the examples of this type of work. Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru won 6 architectural competition awards. The international competition for Taksim Vakıflar Hotel (Sheraton) in 1959 is the one he won the prize for the project he prepared with AHE Group members, Hande Suher, Tekin Aydın, Mehmet Ali Handan, Altay Erol and Yalçın Emiroğlu; the building was completed in 1975.

Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru has his signature on several publications; such as “Analysis of Turkish Hamams - Türk Hamamları Etüdü” (1941), “Housing Problems in post-war Europe after the Second World War - İkinci Dünya Harbi'nden Sonra Garp Avrupasında Mesken Problemi”

(1950), “Drawing Techniques in Development Planning Studies - İmar Planlama Çalışmaları Çizim Tekniği” (1955; with G. Özdeş), “Pedestrians and Vehicles, New Transportation Systems in Urban Fabric - Yayalar ve Taşıtlar, Şehir Dokusunda Yeni Ulaştırma Düzenleri” (1965), “The Turkish City - Türk Kenti” (1998) ve “Kemal Ahmet Aru-80 years of an University Lecturer - Kemal Ahmet Arû-bir Üniversite Hocasının Yaşamının 80 Yılı” (2001).

Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru’s efforts in the history of ITU Faculty of Architecture, through the process of conformation of the faculty and developing it as it is today will always remain in memories.