

ERASMUS 2022-2023 SUMMER SEMESTER

Şirince, İzmir | Türkiye

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I am Mihriban Demircan. I am a graduate of Yaşar University's Department of Interior Architecture and Environmental Design in 2023. Following my graduation, I participated in the volunteer-based international "BIP- Shaping Temporality- Summer School 2023" project, organized by our department of our university within the scope of the Erasmus+ Program.

During the project, 10 Turkish students, including myself, collaborated with 10 Greek students, 10 Spanish students, and academics from our respective universities in İzmir Şirince. The project focused on the re-functionalization of the "İsa Bey Bath," an important historical site in Şirince, İzmir, using the "Adaptive-reuse" approach. The works carried out were mostly developed as concept projects.

Being part of this project held great value for me in many aspects. Rather than just developing a concept project, I had the opportunity to observe the approaches of three different countries to this issue. While observing this, the discussion environment created by the collective work of three different countries allowed me to question my design capabilities and understand my strengths and weaknesses. Examining the project from different perspectives was particularly enjoyable, especially during the project development phase.

Moreover, I had the opportunity to communicate more in English during the camp and witnessed an improvement in my English communication skills even in this short period. I also met many interesting people and formed close friendships during this process. We shared beautiful moments through meals, organized events, conversation environments, games, and dance nights. The camp provided me with the chance to explore the design concepts, cultures, languages, and many other features of Greece and Spain. I believe that this process brought positive returns in terms of both education and sociality.

I felt excited to be involved in this project at every minute, from the beginning to the end, and considered myself fortunate to be given such an opportunity by our university. Now, looking back after several months have passed since the project, I see that despite speaking different languages, growing up in different cultures, and undergoing different education processes, the 30 students who met at a single point and spoke the language of "design" is perhaps one of the most valuable aspects of our department. This experience will remain a cherished memory for me, something I will never forget and always remember with a smile.

