

# Didem Ekici

## Curriculum Vitae

didem@illinois.edu

### Educational Background

University of Nottingham, Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education (PGCHE), 2009-2013

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Ph.D. in Architectural History and Theory, 2004-2008

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Master of Arts in Architectural History and Theory, 2001-2004

Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey, Master of Architecture, 1998-2000

Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey, Bachelor of Architecture, 1994-1998

### List of Academic Positions

Associate Professor. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Architecture, 2023 to present.

Associate Professor. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Unit for Criticism and Interpretative Theory, 2025 to present.

Visiting Professor, Wentworth Institute of Architecture, Boston, Spring 2023

Assistant, Professor, University of Nottingham, Architecture, United Kingdom, 2009-2022

Assistant Professor, University of Lincoln, School of Architecture, United Kingdom, 2008-2009

### Other Professional Employment

Project architect, MOB Furniture-Interiors- Inc., Ankara, Turkey, 2000-2001

### Honors, Recognitions, and Outstanding Achievements

Nottingham Reward Scheme Award, 2021

University of Nottingham Study Leave Grant, 2019

Wellcome Trust in Medical History and Humanities Grant (Host institute: Humboldt Uni.), 2014

DAAD Study Visit Grant for Senior Academics (Host institute: Akademie der Künste, Berlin), 2013

University of Lincoln research grant, Summer 2009

U. of Michigan Rackham Graduate School One-Term Dissertation Fellowship, 2008

U. of Michigan Rackham Graduate School Research Grant for dissertation research, 2007

The Wolfsonian-Florida International University Fellowship, 2007

DAAD Graduate Research Scholarship for dissertation research in Germany, 2006

U. of Michigan Rackham/Hewlett/International Institute International Travel Grant, 2006

U. of Michigan Institute for the Humanities Fellowship, Mary Fair Croushore Graduate Student Fellow, 2005-2006

U. of Michigan International Institute Graduate Seminar on Global Transformations, 2005-2006

U. of Michigan Global Ethnic Literatures Seminar Fellowship (declined), 2005

U. of Michigan Center for European Studies Fellowship for dissertation research, 2005

U. of Michigan Rackham Graduate School Discretionary Funds for disst. research 2004

U. of Michigan International Institute Predissertation Research Grant for research, 2003

## Invited Lectures and Invited Conference Presentations

“Fashioning Style: Gottfried Semper and Nineteenth-Century Textile Embellishments”  
The Richard Saivetz '69 Memorial Architectural Lecture at Brandeis University, March 2025

“Celebrating Water as an Urban Amenity: Activating the Aqueduct of Valens,” Istanbul Technical University, Türkiye, October 2024

Conversation on Stitching for the *Material Acts: Experimentation in Architecture and Design Exhibition* with Felecia Davis, Joar Nanjo, and Kate Chiu hosted by Craft Contemporary, Los Angeles, May 2024

Textile in Architecture from the Middle Ages to Modernism. Round table discussion with Basile Baudez, Patricia Blessing and Eloïse Brac de la Perrière hosted by the National Institute for Art History (INHA), Paris, March 2024

“The Emergence of the Air as a Design Criterion.” Pandemic Realities Lecture Series, Department of Architecture, Munich Technical University, Germany, January 2021

“Skin, Clothing, and Dwelling: Max von Pettenkofer, the Science of Hygiene, and Breathing Walls.” When Walls Became Membranes, Intersections Between Architecture & Biology Across the Long 20th Century, International Research Seminar, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, The Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy, May 2017

“The Physiology of the House: Modern Architecture and the Science of Hygiene.” New book Series, Architecture, Space and Society Centre, Birkbeck, University of London, February 2017

“Modern Architecture and Hygiene.” Germany History in the North Workshop, University of Sheffield, UK, May 2011

## Offices Held in Professional Societies

Director at the Society of Architectural Historians Governing Board, 2025-2028

European Architectural History Network United Kingdom Correspondent, 2011-2019

## Publications and Creative Works

### Doctoral Thesis Title

"'The Laboratory of a New Humanity': The Concept of Type, Life Reform, and Modern Architecture in Hellerau Garden City, 1900—1914," University of Michigan, 2008.

### Books Authored or Co-Authored

Ekici, Didem. *Surface, Textile, and German Material Culture: Bodies, Interiors, and Architecture, 1830-1914*. Bloomsbury, 2025.

### Books Edited or Co-Edited

Ekici, Didem, Patricia Blessing, and Basile Baudez eds. *Textile in Architecture: From the Middle Ages to Modernism*. Routledge, 2023.

Borsi, Katharina, Didem Ekici, Jonathan Hale, and Nick Haynes eds. *Housing and the City*. Routledge, 2022.

Schrank, Sarah, and Didem Ekici, eds. *Healing Spaces, Modern Architecture, and the Body*. Routledge, 2017.

### Chapters in Books

"Conversation: Felecia Davis, Didem Ekici, and Joar Nanjo on Stitching." Interview by Kate Yeh Chiu. In *Material Acts: Experimentation in Architecture in Design*, 176-181. Craft Contemporary, 2024.

Ekici, Didem. "Introduction." Co-authored with Basile Baudez and Patricia Blessing. In *Textile in Architecture: From the Middle Ages to Modernism*. Routledge, 2023.

Ekici, Didem. "The Concept of Type in Hellerau Garden City." In *Housing and the*

*City*, edited by Katharina Borsi, Didem Ekici, Jonathan Hale, and Nick Haynes. Routledge, 2022.

Ekici, Didem. "The Physiology of the House: Modern Architecture and the Science of Hygiene." In *Healing Spaces, Modern Architecture, and the Body*, edited by Sarah Schrank and Didem Ekici. Routledge, 2017.

Ekici, Didem. "Architectural Asceticism and Austerity." in *Architecture Postmortem: The Diastolic Architecture of Decline, Dystopia, and Death*, edited by Charles David Bertolini, Simone Brott, and Donald Kunze. Surrey: Ashgate, 2013.

Ekici, Didem. "Orientalism, Expressionism, Imperialism: Bruno Taut's Competition Design for the 'House of Friendship' in Istanbul." In *Germany and the Imagined East*, edited by Lee M. Roberts. Buckinghamshire: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2005.

## Articles in Journals

Ekici, Didem. "Airborne Infection and Breathing Walls." *gta papers* 5, theme issue, *Social Distance*. (2021): 132-37.

Ekici, Didem. "In Praise of Poverty: The Middle-Class Dwelling and Asceticism in Early Twentieth-century Germany." *Journal of Architecture*, 18 no. 3 (2013): 364-80. Selected for reprinting in a special issue celebrating the journal's 20th anniversary anthology, *Journal of Architecture* 23, no. 4 (2018): 563-79.

Ekici, Didem. "Skin, Clothing, and Dwelling: Max von Pettenkofer, the Science of Hygiene, and Breathing Walls." *Journal of Society of Architectural Historians* 75, no.3 (2016): 281-98

Ekici, Didem. "From Rikli's Light-and-air Hut to Tessenow's Patenthaus: *Körperkultur* and the Modern Dwelling in Germany, 1890-1914." *Journal of Architecture* 13, no. 4 (2008): 379-406.

Ekici, Didem. "The Surfaces of Memory in Berlin: Rebuilding the Schloß." *Journal of Architectural Education* 61, no. 2 (2007): 25-34.

Ekici, Didem. "Looking at Potsdamer Platz through Modern and Postmodern Narratives." *International Studies in Philosophy* 36, no.2 (2004): 1-14.

## Creative Works

Ekici, Didem. Garden Office designed and built, Nottingham, UK, 2020.

## Book Reviews

Review of *Orienting Istanbul: Cultural Capital of Europe?* ed. by D. Gokturk, L. Soysal, I. Tureli, in *Journal of Urban Design*, 21 no. 2 (2016): 282-84

## Refereed Conference Papers and Presentations

“The Concept of Type in Hellerau Garden City”, Housing and the City, 17th Annual International Conference of the Architectural Humanities Research Association, University of Nottingham, November 2020

“‘Dwelling as an additional layer of dress’: Jacob von Falke’s Concept of Artistic Dressing,” Building-Object-Design-Architecture: Exploring Interconnections conference, Birkbeck, University of London, June 2019

“‘In Praise of Poverty’: Heinrich Tessenow’s Architecture,” Economy Conference, Cardiff University, July 2011

“Modern Architecture and Asceticism,” The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, March 2011

“The Physiognomy of Modern Architecture in Germany, 1890-1914.” Conference paper for panel Clothing, Flesh, Bone: Visual Culture Above and Below the Skin, the College Art Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, February 2009

## Contributions to Teaching and Learning

### 1. Supervision of Graduate Students

#### **M.Arch. supervision, University of Nottingham**

Yimeng Liu, M.Arch., 2022, “Design Trends in Contemporary Protestant Church Architecture in Northern Europe,” no information on placement

Xinyue Hu, M.Arch., 2022, “Application of Color in Traditional Chinese Residential Architecture,” no information on placement

Yuqin Huang, M.Arch., 2021, “New Housing Trends Among the Young Middle Classes in Xingyi, Guizhou.” No information on placement

Zhewei Chen, M.Arch., 2021, “Urban Regeneration of the Docks in Port Cities in the Age of Globalization,” no information on placement

Ningning Cao, M.Arch., 2020, “The Construction of Narratives in Interactive Exhibits in Science Museums,” no information on placement

Yu Rui, M.Arch., 2020, “Analysis of Chinese Classical Garden Landscape Design,” no information on placement

Xueying Pan, M.Arch., 2020, “Towards an Introversive Space,” no information on placement

Qi Huang, M.Arch., 2019, “Narrative Landscape at the Memorial Park of National Patriotism Education in Qinghai Atomic City, China,” no information on placement

Ruizhe Qin, M.Arch., 2019, “Materiality in Museum Design: Red Brick Art Museum in Beijing,” no information on placement

### **MFA supervision, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

Xinran Yue, MFA Thesis committee, School of Art and Design, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### **PhD supervision, University of Nottingham**

Amandeep Kaur Sangha (Mann), Ph.D., 2013-2017, “William Lethaby, Symbolism and the Occult” now Project Administrator at the University of Nottingham

Nisa Gunduz, Ph.D., 2017-2021, “Sensory urban mapping: a case study of Istiklal Street, Istanbul with the method of 'sensewalking,’” now TUBITAK fellow and postdoctoral researcher at Galatasaray University

Jessica Kate Cretney, 2020-2022, Midlands4Cities Program, “The Concentration Camp, Spatial Experience and Architectural Modernism, 1933-1945,” ongoing PhD student

Majed Alghaemdi, Ph.D., 2019-2022, “The Role of Bodily Intentionality in Steven Holl's Kiasma Museum,” now Lecturer at King Saud University

### **Participation in Examining Committees, University of Nottingham**

Hatice Sule Ozer, 2019-2022, “The Language of House Museums,” PhD student

Maria Wulansari, 2021-2022, “Tectonics in Traditional Indonesian Structures,” PhD student

Sifan Guo, Ph.D. 2017-2021, “The Welcoming Experience in the Arrival Space in Museums,” now Lecturer at the Department of Architecture at the China University of Mining and Technology

Arif Rahman Wahid, 2020-2022, “Immaterial Interiority of Inscriptions as the Narrator of Space,” PhD student

### **Participation in Examining Committees, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

Aysenur Senel, 2025

Taisuke Loren Wakabayashi, 2025

## Service (Public, Professional/Disciplinary, and University)

### Summary of Service

#### 1. Public Engagement, Outreach, and/or Extension

Didem Ekici, “Architecture in the Age of Anthropocene” OLLI lecture, November 12, 2024.

#### 2. Service to Professional and/or Disciplinary Societies or Associations

2026 The Society of Architectural Historians Charles E. Peterson Fellowship Committee Member

2025 The Society of Architectural Historians Annual International Fellowship Committee member

2024 Society of Architectural Historians H. Allen Brooks Travelling Fellowship Committee member

### Conferences, Panels, and Workshops Organized and Chaired

Co-chair, “Architecture and Anthropocene Air.” European Architecture History Network, Athens, July 2024

Co-chair. “Architecture and Anthropocene Air” Workshop. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Politecnico di Milano, March 2024.

Co-chair, “Ritual Spaces. Textile in Architecture” Online Workshop, University of Nottingham and Princeton University, May 2022

Co-chair, “Public and Private Interiors. Textile in Architecture” Online Workshop, University of Nottingham and Princeton University, May 2022

Co-chair, “Materiality and Material Transformations. Textile in Architecture” Online Workshop, University of Nottingham and Princeton University, April 2022

Chair of the Society of Architectural Historians session “Textiles in Architecture.” College Art Association Annual Meeting, Virtual/ New York, February 2021

Conference co-chair, *Housing and the City*. 17th Annual International

Conference of the Architectural Humanities Research Association, University of Nottingham, November 2020

Co-chair “Healing Spaces, Modern Architecture, and the Body.” Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, Austin TX, April 2014

Chair, “The Monument Today.” Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture

Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, March 2007

### 3. University and/or Campus Service

Illinois School of Architecture Lecture Series Committee, Fall 2024-present

Illinois School of Architecture International Planning Committee, Fall 2023- present

Ekici, Didem. "Designing with Carbon Dioxide" poster, Illinois School of Architecture Potluck Exhibition, September 2024

"Gottfried Semper, Surface Dressing, and Textile Finishings," Erlanger Evening Lectures, Urbana, IL, October 2024

Illinois School of Architecture Potluck Lunch Roundtable discussion, September 2024.

### 4. Other Service

Department of Architecture and Built Environment, MArch Dissertation Coordinator, University of Nottingham

Department of Architecture and Built Environment Library Representative, University of Nottingham

Department of Architecture and Built Environment Health and Safety Representative, University of Nottingham

University of Nottingham Faculty of Engineering Ethics Committee Member