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In Loving Memory of Prof. Dr. Orhan Hacıhasanoğlu

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Prof. Dr. Orhan Hacıhasanoğlu, the founding dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Design at Özyeğin University.

Prof. Dr. Hacıhasanoğlu left an indelible mark on all of us—not only through his academic achievements, but also through his integrity, kindness, and wisdom. His contributions to architectural education have shaped the field in Turkey; his teaching, writings, and leadership have been a source of inspiration for countless students and academicians. He will be remembered above all for his fairness, humility, compassion, and solution-oriented approach. He held a special place in the hearts of all who worked with him.



After many years of dedicated academic and administrative service—including roles such as Department Chair and Dean at Istanbul Technical University (ITU) Faculty of Architecture—he became the founding dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Design at Özyeğin University in 2012. As the founding dean, he not only laid the physical foundations of our faculty but also shaped its academic vision, its culture of collaboration, and its values. The peaceful, productive, and collegial environment we enjoy today is a direct reflection of his efforts and vision.



To us, Prof. Dr. Hacıhasanoğlu was a mentor, a compass, and the moral center of our faculty. In the most challenging times, he offered wisdom and calm, and reminded us of the value of thoughtful leadership.

The students he taught, the colleagues he worked with, and the institutions he helped build all stand as enduring legacies of his life and work. Continuing on this path, with the values he instilled, is the most meaningful way to honor his memory.

We extend our deepest condolences to his beloved family, his students, and the entire academic community.

Dear Professor Orhan, your presence will live on in every corner of our faculty—in the spaces you helped to create, in the minds you inspired, and in the values you upheld. We remember you with gratitude, respect, and deep sorrow.

Prof. Dr. Aslıhan Ünlü on behalf of the Editorial



In Memoriam of Orhan Hoca

Prof. Dr. Hülya Turgut

We deeply mourn the loss of our esteemed colleague, Professor Orhan Hacıhasanoğlu, whose passing has left a profound void in our academic community. Since 1984, I had the privilege of working alongside him as a colleague and collaborator. We first shared an office at Istanbul Technical University, Faculty of Architecture, and later continued in neighbouring offices until 2010. Thereafter, during his tenure as the founding dean of our faculty, we had the opportunity to work together for an additional decade.

Professor Hacıhasanoğlu was a leading supporter of initiatives aimed at advancing architectural education.



He played a pivotal role in the establishment of OZU_UHL ‘*Urban and Housing Laboratory*’ and the KMI ‘*Urban and Architecture Master’s Program*’, both created to address the dynamics, transformations, and challenges brought by 21st-century architecture. Furthermore, the IAPS-CS Culture and Space Network, founded in 1997 with a group of our academic colleagues, evolved into a significant international platform—fostering exchange among young researchers, students, academics, and practitioners in architecture.

I am certain that Orhan Hoca took great joy in the influence these endeavour had on architectural education and on both present and future generations of architects. As his colleagues, we remain committed to continuing the work to which he devoted himself, ensuring that his personal and professional legacy will live on.

His friendship, guidance, and brotherly presence will never be forgotten...

Prof. Dr. Hülya Turgut



Dear Orhan Hoca

Dr. Murat Şahin

Since 2012, I had the opportunity to work with Professor Orhan for nearly 13 years, mainly in administrative matters. I still cannot come to terms with his passing. Just 5–6 days before he passed away, we met at a commission meeting. Afterwards, we had a heartfelt conversation, shared a meal, and said goodbye. Coincidentally, we were both going on vacation around the same time. We talked about our travel plans during that meal. Then we said, “See you soon,” and wished each other “a nice holiday.” How could I have known that it would be the last time I saw him?



As a Faculty that had just set out on its journey, despite having limited human resources due to being in its establishment phase, we organized national and international conferences and events, developed structured relationships with local and global networks, founded new departments, launched master's and PhD programs, offered courses, strengthened the academic staff, formed committees, made strategic decisions, implemented new practices, obtained six-year accreditation for the Architecture Department, and took the first steps in all aspects of education—from student transfers to international agreements. During such turbulent times, the university's support and the efforts of

the academic and administrative staff were invaluable, yet it must also be emphasized that the entire progress made was realized under the leadership of Professor Orhan.

I have had the opportunity to work with many colleagues and administrators both in Turkey and abroad. Among them, I can easily say that he held a truly special place—not only for his many virtues but especially for his rational attitude and disciplined diligence. In this sense, his professional, academic, and behavioral standards set a measure and scale by which almost everyone around him aligned themselves and tested their own depth. Alongside the human qualities embodied in the “fatherly” figure he naturally assumed through his supportive and understanding demeanor, he possessed even higher-level attributes: moderation, productive industriousness, a fully focused mind, the ability to take purposeful action, strategic thinking and planning, a rational and determined stance, the will to initiate, sustain, and complete tasks, unwavering steps without revisions, self-sufficiency, and a continuous capacity for learning. Professor Orhan was all this and more.



In every matter, he was both an assistant and a leader. At any meeting, he would always be the most prepared participant on the topic at hand—bringing charts, diagrams, and well-structured presentations that demonstrated his comprehensive grasp of the issue. His managerial approach, his speeches, his educational philosophy, his architectural outlook, and his personal demeanor all reflected a fundamental worldview and philosophy: a modernist simplicity enriched with intellectual depth. He spoke plainly, avoiding ornate words, and his understanding of architecture was equally pure and simple. In

his courses, he applied this simplicity with great precision and care. When a task was to be done, he devoted the exact time and effort it required. He approached every subject he undertook with utmost seriousness. This reflected not only his respect for his profession, his surroundings, and himself, but also an ethical stance and disciplined productivity that he managed to sustain consistently—not at particular moments, but throughout every aspect of his life.

I could never have imagined a Faculty without Professor Orhan. Even now, the environment feels deeply incomplete without him. I am certain that the traces he left behind will continue to illuminate the path for many. In this difficult period—when we, as people who love our profession, came together and felt our closeness so deeply—the grief of his sudden inaccessibility still lingers within me. Yet I believe that his name will live on not only in memories but also through the values he embodied and the contributions he made, which continue to manifest in people, places, and throughout the architectural community.

With longing and respect,
Murat Şahin



In Memory of Orhan Bey

Luca Orlandi

With these words, I wish to express my deepest condolences for a man and an academic I was fortunate to know before his tragic passing. I met Orhan Bey – as I always addressed him – exactly fifteen years ago, when I began teaching History of Architecture at the ITU Faculty of Architecture.

In those years, in his role as Dean of the Faculty, Orhan Bey always proved very willing to listen to my concerns and to support me through the difficulties I encountered as a foreign lecturer. From the very beginning, he showed great care in understanding which collaborations could be beneficial for the school, also thanks to the presence of a foreign professor – at the time, there were only two of us in the entire Faculty of Architecture – and together we



launched initiatives to host conferences and exhibitions, occasions where I had the chance to act as a "bridge" with important Italian institutions.

It was thanks to him, for example, that the collaboration with the Premio Piranesi Prix de Rome organization began in 2012 – a partnership still active in our school – because he immediately understood the importance of promoting international workshops and seminars capable of generating exchange and mutual benefits, especially for the Turkish students.

In the following years, when he left the school, we lost touch. It was therefore a great surprise to find him again at Özyeğin University, once more in the role of Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Design. I was there at the time to deliver a series of seminars, but right away Orhan Bey showed a keen interest in knowing if I would be available to join the Özyeğin "family". Motivated by his enthusiasm and finding myself in a period of significant personal and professional change, I accepted his invitation without hesitation.

From then on, I had the opportunity to collaborate with him again, even if only through seminars in his courses or by discussing international projects with Italian universities. Possessing great balance and understanding, and with a deep knowledge of university mechanisms, he always welcomed me with willingness and openness, supporting every proposal of mine with a constructive spirit.

Even after he left his position as dean, Orhan Bey always remained attentive and present: whenever I asked him for advice or help – often on bureaucratic or administrative matters – he never failed to offer his support, with the discretion and correctness that distinguished him.

His presence, his calmness, and his gentle way of interacting with colleagues and students will be profoundly missed in our Faculty.

With a feeling of sincere esteem and affection, I have written these words in his memory.

Luca Orlandi



With gratitude to Orhan Hocam

Nevşet Gül Çanakçıoğlu



This time, I am writing these lines knowing that they will be the last among the many messages I have written to you, dear Orhan Hocam.

Even though the thought of placing a final period at the end of this text brings tears I cannot hold back, I am still able to keep writing—thanks to the confidence you instilled in all of us with your calm, embracing, and encouraging presence.

For that reason, I hope this is not a farewell letter, but rather a note of gratitude for what I now realize I never thanked you for enough.

And so, with the hope that the frequency of these words may somehow reach you, I begin as I always have:

“Dear Professor Orhan,”

I know that the feeling of “if only” will never fade, for I never had the chance to take your studio course as an undergraduate student. Looking back today, I can see more clearly the opportunities that could have led me to different beginnings, and at times, I regret not taking them.



But life, it seems, finds its own way of connecting the dots. When I eventually returned to Taşkışla—the place where I could once again feel myself breathe, my “home”—to pursue my master’s degree, the feeling of “I’m so glad” that came with taking your class reminded me once more that I was in the right place, and that I could keep moving forward without fear.

At a time when I wasn’t sure of my direction, your invitation—made on a snowy February day, before I even defended my PhD proposal—came with a faith in me greater than my own.

That attentive, motivating, and courage-giving attitude of yours turned into an inner voice that constantly reminded me: I can walk this path.

After earning my doctorate, the first time you addressed me as “Hocam,” I felt a shiver of pride mixed with the weight of a new responsibility on my shoulders. From you, I learned to listen, to be patient, and to keep working tirelessly until the very end when the time is right.

On that morning in September when I began my academic career, the anxiety I felt, followed by an endless desire to learn, made me realize that this journey, though difficult, is one of constant discoveries that always leads forward.

Like everyone who has known you, I always felt the gentle warmth behind your diligence and the quiet grace within your academic rigor.

I hope that, in some way, I was able to make you feel how deeply I valued your heartfelt joy at your students’ and colleagues’ successes, and your unwavering encouragement toward the young researchers you guided.

And then, that day...



The morning we heard you were gone—being caught unprepared for such a sudden farewell—left a sense of absence that has only grown more palpable with time.

Your absence will remain a hollow space in my life, Hocam.

But I know that the sense of being able to breathe I always felt around you—and your ability to convey the most fitting words even in your deepest silence—will continue to be my inner voice.

Your diligence, creativity, and kindness will forever be my inspiration to keep going, no matter the hardship.

To have known you, to have learned from you, and to have worked with you will always be my honor, Hocam.

Thank you.

Rest in peace...

Nevşet Gül Çanakçıoğlu

In loving respect to Orhan Hocam

Beyza Şat



I met my dear Professor Orhan in 1996, when I was a second-year student in the Department of Landscape Architecture, during his “Architectural Knowledge” course. My interest in the subject suddenly grew — it became one of my favorite courses, and I thoroughly enjoyed completing the weekly assignments.



Later, I had the privilege of working with Professor Orhan at Özyeğin University. During his time as an administrator, he was always fair and impartial, and with his positive outlook, he managed to shed light even in the most challenging circumstances.



I joined the Faculty of Architecture and Design family in April 2013, shortly after its establishment. In 2014, we were fewer than ten people, taking on many responsibilities within the faculty with enthusiasm. Professor Orhan played a major role in creating this peaceful and supportive environment.

His communication with everyone—students and academics alike—was always constructive. His positive perspective lifted us even in times when our energy was running low.

First and foremost, he was a gentleman, an academic, a teacher, a mentor, a brother, a father... These are only a few of the words people use to describe him, and the list could go on.

May my dear Professor Orhan rest in light. I believe that the most meaningful way we can honor his memory is by carrying forward the positive values he exemplified for us all.

With love and respect,
Beyza Şat

After Prof. Dr. Orhan Hacıhasanoğlu

Alper Ünlü



We lost Orhan Hoca on Monday, July 21. The heartbreaking news came from Germany. I was in complete shock — I didn't know what to do. I couldn't believe that I would ever receive such news, that such a day would come. I thought there must have been a mistake, but unfortunately, the message on the phone was true. Later, together with his beloved family, we buried him with deep sorrow.

Writing these lines about Orhan is extremely difficult for me. I still feel as if he were among us. My professional companionship with Orhan began in 1981. Despite brief interruptions and pauses, it lasted for forty-four years. Throughout our friendship, our shared academic life, our discussions, and joint decisions, I always experienced a true “unity of mind and word” with him. The main reason for this must be that we lived through similar times and went through comparable educational experiences.



Beyond this shared mindset, I can say that Orhan Hoca's life was one devoted to architectural education. He was one of those rare people who made structural contributions to architectural education and dedicated himself wholeheartedly to this cause. His deanship at ITU Faculty of Architecture, later at Özyeğin University, and his presidency at MIAK (the architectural accreditation association) were all reflections of his character and

identity. In this sense, Orhan Hoca was a founding figure in architectural education, and at the same time, he possessed a remarkable ability to synthesize pedagogical processes in architecture. He was able to reconcile diverse thoughts and tendencies — in that regard, he was among the significant educators with a strong structuralist orientation. In his personality, I always saw not just an administrator, but above all, a seasoned and devoted educator.



I am still deeply saddened by losing him at a time that feels far too early for both Özyeğin University and for all of us. Orhan Hoca made invaluable contributions to our faculty, to architectural education in Turkey, and to Turkish architecture as a whole. I hope we will continue to recall his approaches often and carry his vision forward.

Farewell, dear Orhan — may your resting place be a beautiful one...

Alper Ünlü

From My Friend Orhan to Professor Orhan...



Semra Aydınlı

I first met Orhan Hacıhasanoğlu in 1980, in the office/staff room we shared in Taşkışla. Those were the years when the three of us — Orhan, Alper Ünlü, and I — were writing our doctoral theses. Our friendship in that room, where a fig tree grew out of the southern wall of Taşkışla, extended far beyond conversations within the department, co-teaching courses, and doctoral studies. It continued with a department tradition — weekend dinners by the Maçka pool.

At those gatherings, the hierarchy within the department dissolved, and the conversations flowed freely, full of laughter, in an atmosphere of equality. We grew and matured in those warm and lively moments, enriched by our professors' Taşkışla memories. We were like a big family, sharing both joy and sorrow. Over the years, as our areas of expertise, the courses we taught, and our perspectives diverged, so did our rooms. Yet we still shared countless



memories, thanks to the opportunities of being in the same department within Taşkışla. Sadly, that atmosphere no longer exists today, as our professors have either retired early or departed forever.

When I met Professor Orhan again two years ago at Özyeğin University, I saw that the Orhan I had known from our Taşkışla days — diligent, deeply responsible — had become a wise and enlightened person. The “Orhan” who had once been my peer had now become “Professor Orhan” — not only everyone’s teacher but also mine. He was someone I frequently turned to for advice. As the founding dean of the Faculty of Architecture at Özyeğin University, he displayed an unparalleled sense of responsibility; he preferred to do everything himself rather than seek help, yet he was always ready to help others selflessly. This, without a doubt, made him unique and earned him everyone’s love and respect. But over the years, I also saw how this relentless pace — this total dedication to teaching and academic administration — had worn him down. It saddened me deeply. I consider myself very fortunate to have shared meaningful moments with him both at the beginning and at the later stages of my academic life.

Everyone — young and old, myself included — is doing their best to sustain the environment you built at the Faculty, dear Professor Orhan. Rest in peace, knowing your legacy lives on...

Semra Aydın

A First and a Last in Academic Leadership – Prof. Dr. Orhan Hacıhasanoğlu

Alpay Er

My path first crossed with Prof. Dr. Orhan Hacıhasanoğlu in 1997, when I came from Ankara to join ITU as an Assistant Professor. As someone from Ankara and a graduate of METU, I knew no one in Taşkışla except my department chair, Prof. Dr. Nigan Bayazıt. Outside the department, my sole reference and source of information about anyone was the late Nigan Hoca.



During our long conversations in her office overlooking the Bosphorus, she would share detailed stories about almost every “Taşkışla resident.” When the topic turned to academics in Taşkışla who were also METU graduates, she mentioned three names: Nur Esin, Işıl, and Orhan Hacıhasanoğlu. I think there were only four or five “Middle Easterners” (METU alumni) in Taşkışla at the time. Orhan Hoca had worked with Nigan Hoca when she was Chair of the Department of Architecture, serving as her assistant chair. I remember her saying,



“Orhan is very hardworking, very...” — a quality she valued above all. And she was right. Orhan Hoca *was* extremely hardworking, and that’s how he has always remained in my memory. When we first met, he was in his mid-forties — polite, thoughtful, and straightforward in addition to being diligent.

Although we were in the same faculty, we worked in different departments, so our academic interactions were limited — until I became Chair of the Department of Industrial Design and he became Dean of the Faculty of Architecture. Both at ITU’s Faculty of Architecture in Taşkışla (2008–2012) and later, almost from its foundation, at Özyeğin University’s Faculty of Architecture and Design (2013–2020), I served as department chair under his deanship. For more than ten years, across two universities, we were part of the same administrative team.

Most of what I know about academic leadership, I learned from him. In a country where power intoxication is often the norm, he was one of the rare academic administrators who exercised leadership with care, fairness, transparency, and efficiency, while

protecting those under his charge. His honesty, humility, and tireless work ethic quietly inspired and mobilized everyone around him.

Though I never addressed him this way while he was alive, Orhan Hoca was always like an older brother to me — someone I respected deeply, trusted completely, loved sincerely, took pride in earning the trust of, and feared disappointing. He naturally drew to himself a kind of genuine and heartfelt respect that is increasingly rare in academia today. He was one of the finest academic leaders I have ever known in the fields of architecture and design — a product of the “old Türkiye,” where integrity and dedication defined professionalism. He never saw administrative authority as a source of power or dominance, but rather as a responsibility to serve the public and the institution. And because of that, at times, he grew very weary. As I said during the ceremony in Taşkışla, for me, Prof. Dr. Orhan Hacıhasanoğlu is both the founding Dean of Özyeğin University’s Faculty of Architecture and Design, and the *last* Dean of ITU’s Faculty of Architecture to hold the respect and support of *all* its stakeholders — students, faculty, and staff alike. A “last” in one institution, a “first” in another, but always an *example*.



You live on in our hearts and memories, dear Orhan Hoca.
May you rest in peace.

Alpay Er