Architecture and Planning Practice of the Last 50 Years with Memories

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The cover of the book "Architecture and Planning Practice of the Last 50 Years with Memories"

The book "Architecture and Planning Practice of the Last 50 Years with Memories" was written by Ahmet Alkan and published by YEM Publishing in 2019. The book is on architecture and planning practice in the genre of autobiographical fiction - as the name suggests. In addition to his academician identity, the author stands out with his designs and applications especially in Konya and Ankara for many years.

The cover of the book has a very minimalistic design. The sketch on the cover, which is presented as the "Father's house" layout plan, is barely perceptible. This sketch is placed on the cover gives the impression that the content of the book more prominently includes application projects. However, its focus is slightly different. The choice of color on the cover may have relation of being in Mevlana'a land.

The focus of this book is the effects and results of lessons learned from 50 years of professional experience. However, we see that this process is more than an academic past; the problems that have existed from the 1970s to the present, affected the understanding of architecture and design, and increased in different aspects are shared through experiences. In this context, the book mainly focuses on three main titles;

* *The effect of the period of laws and cooperatives on the design process*,
* *The effect of those who see the right to change and carry out the design process,*
* *Ignoring the labor and time of architects in the design process.*

1. The author explains the effects of the period of laws and cooperatives on the design process, especially the factors of negative effects on the city, the public, and the architect.

The author, who witnessed the rapid increase in migration and spread of slums, the deterioration of the infrastructure of the cities after the 1950s, explains how the prepared zoning plans succumbed to the emerging commercial understanding. In this sense, he evaluates Slum Law No. 775, which was enacted towards the 1970s, and this period as the most annoying years in terms of creating these types of projects (Alkan, 2019, p.38).

It is interesting that he regards this process as "periodic opportunities," although he predicts that the new type of construction called "large housing production" by the author, which spread especially fast, will result draw reactions from scientists (Alkan, 2019, p.60). The author himself later acknowledges how these periodic opportunities have turned into a tangle of problems over time, but he attributes this to the inability to implement and enforce the correct zoning laws.

Undoubtedly, he reveals the fact that the city and its inhabitants' breathing spaces disappear as a result of the increase in density with the zoning plan changes. He emphasizes that individual rights should be abandoned if the issue concerns the future of a whole city and its inhabitants. Otherwise, we will experience the negative consequences of

this as a society in the medium and long term and we will pay a price, he argues (Alkan, 2019, p.125-127).

2. The author frequently questions the damage done to this profession by those who see the right to change or carry out the design process.

Adopting Howard Roark's "destructing his own buildings against those who feel the right to change something they did not, and could not, create" as his own understanding, the author states that he tries to show his reaction by giving up designing. He states that he explains this in order to attract the attention of the members of the profession and to raise awareness (Alkan, 2019, p.225).

The author criticizes those who interfere in the architectural design even though they are not professionals in architecture by saying, "Let me express with this sentence how tired I am of architectural style discussions starting from Baltic architecture to contemporary interpretation of modern and traditional architecture and how everybody acts like they know architecture in-depth, enough. In short, everyone who requested project design from me was a planner and architect, except for me" (Alkan, 2019, p.170-172).

As can be seen, the psychological pressure of the architectural design process on an architect is quite high. Project production takes long periods. It is not a simple setup and has many parameters in it. Therefore, as the author says, these builders cause cities to lose their urban identity and completely disrupt the user-oriented design approach.

The author illustrates this change process to the reader through both "multi-story housing" and "University campus" projects. In this sense, he opens it up to discuss how these builders who overstep their own profession or those who feel the right to change the project cause problems to the city and its inhabitants.

Another challenging process for the designer discussed in the book is the process of explaining the project to the client, the employer. He states that, at this stage, the involvement of "priorities of interest" instead of questioning the pragmatic-syntactic relationship within the design of the client/employer, and therefore the effort to stand up to the unjust and unfair wishes of the client, can result in relations reaching the point of break (Alkan Ahmet, 2019, p.150) and the architect getting greatly disappointed. As a matter of fact, the "employer's interest" is fighting against the architectural concept of design, which is unfortunately always common in our country.

3. Ignoring the labor and time of architects in the design process also leads to burnout over time in those who practice this profession.

The author also describes this burnout as "waste." In the context of time, he evaluates this waste as a loss for both the city and its inhabitants and the loss of the architect. In this sense, the author demonstrates through example projects that the future of a city will be negatively affected,

resources will be wasted, and the city user will be stripped of the right to life. He reveals the losses of the architect in all this time period in a certain flow. Regardless, it is portrayed as a heavy blow that the efforts and time of the architects are stolen and their dreams are not valued (Alkan, 2019, p.99).

In all this negative process, the author describes the only weapon of the architect as "time" and emphasizes that time will justify the architect. However, even if time justifies the architect, the unplanned buildings both harm the city and the city user, and the financial dimension of this affects future generations as a problem.

Another characteristic of the book is that it conveys experiences to the reader as a short message through concepts; Love, Trust, Responsibility, Patience, Risk, Working Together (Team Spirit), Taking Lessons (Repetition of Mistakes), Change, Consultation, Sharing (Common Work Area, Collaboration), Regret, Professional Ethics, Business and Sustainability, Process Management. In addition, his supporting the chapters in the book with various discourses gives the reader preliminary information about the content.

Love:
"The love for the profession is the key to success and happiness." Starting a job you love, being a companion to someone you love can be a way of overcoming all kinds of negativity.

Trust:
Trying to implement a process based on trust in business life is only possible with a correct and sufficient method.

Contracts should be made with experts as if one works with the most malicious people in order to prevent financial and moral negative consequences.

In life, one should be careful and avoid compliments that were not deserved.

Responsibility:
It is not enough to just design and sign. The work must be checked. The responsibility belongs to the designer.

As a professional, you must have dreams for your country and city. There must be a desire to fulfill your duty with great desire.

Patience, Risk:
A goal should be set for the future. In order to achieve this goal, it is necessary to wait patiently and therefore take certain risks.

Life can sometimes offer surprises, positive or negative. Whatever happens, one should keep on going.

Working Together (Team Spirit, Harmony):
Not all jobs can make one happy, even if the pay is good.

The working environment is very important. This environment should be lightened and quiet.

Even if you are an employee, the environment should be established on the common principles of the person or people to be worked with. Spiritual harmony should be ensured with the person or people to be worked with.

It is important to work together, to create a team spirit. However, the involvement of more people than necessary in a job may lead to undesirable results.

Taking Lessons:

Personal relationships may not provide professional improvement, there is a need for a system with an institutional structure that will protect the ethical values of professional people.

Life can sometimes make you repeat the same mistakes, no matter how careful you are.

The desire to carry out different tasks at the same time will cause distraction; "If you are doing laundry, just do the laundry."

Change:

An information-based structure is developing in the world. This situation offers different opportunities to the profession and people. Success depends on how well you can keep up with this change.

There will always be change throughout our lives.

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Consultation:

People in search of a better future should definitely consult someone, get ideas, compile prominent suggestions, and live their lives. The evaluation should be made together with the family.

During the design process, it is important to always choose to solve the problems by discussing them with the addressees of the issue and preserving the communication.

Sharing (Common Work Area, Collaboration):

Sharing and cooperation are now a necessity in this age.

The best organizer of communication between people is sharing.

Common working areas should be established based on common points between people. With this common working environment, contradiction, separation, and idleness can also be prevented.

Everyone, from the state to non-governmental organizations, should cooperate. Otherwise, many processes can become blocked.

Regret:

Sometimes, some actions cannot be carried out due to being busy with work. Instead of regretting not being able to do them later, time should definitely be made now.

Professional Ethics, Business, and Sustainability:

Professional ethics is an integral part of business life and a sought-after characteristic.

Providing business and sustainability in business life is as important as design.

Process Management, Productivity:

Process management, which will reveal the architect-employer relationships in working life, should be well resolved. The backbone of the boundaries and responsibilities of this duo must be established solidly.

It is important to prioritize legislation, multiple laws, regulations, and provisions.

The project may fall victim to "bureaucracy," "local governmental fight," and "user pressure." In order to overcome this, process management should be well planned.

Hard work is a necessity in architecture, but not an adequate one. In order for the work to be efficient and effective at the same time, time management should be set up correctly.

TO CONCLUDE,

* The language of the book is fluent, understandable, and maintained around a certain historical axis.

* The book clearly reveals the values advocated by the author. In this sense, it discusses the difficulties, pleasant moments, changing and developing aspects of the profession of architecture, and the positive and negative effects of legal processes in planning and implementation.

* Looking at the entire book, it is seen that the author's period and his memories are documented for future generations, colleagues, and students, they draw a road map, and consequently record them.

* The author describes his first professional years after graduation as the period of "considering himself the best." However, 50 years of experience ends with the following words: A lifetime is not enough to be able to say "I have become an architect."

REFERENCE

Alkan, A. (2019). Anılarla Son 50 Yılın Mimarlık ve Planlama Pratiği, YEM Yayın, 1.Baskı, İstanbul.

Resume:

Altay Çolak currently works at Çukurova University, Department of Architecture, as an associate Prof. Dr. Çolak, teaches architectural design, Turkish House, Architectural Photography and various theoretical courses in architectural education. His main academic and professional interest areas are architectural education, design theory and methodology, basic design and photography architectural, nature and abstract).