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ARIT LECTURE



Daver, A. (1935, May 27). Yarınki harb nasıl başlayacak?
Cumhuriyet. Illustration by Ercümen.

Architectures of Anticipation: The Making of Wartime Space in Turkey, 1935-1945

by

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18 February 2026, 7:00 pm (Turkish time), Hybrid

This lecture introduces *Architectures of Anticipation*, a research project that examines how the expectation of war conditioned space, planning, and everyday life in Turkey during the late 1930s and early 1940s. Attention centers on shifting frontiers, tracing how defense was conceived across the territorial edges of the nation, the airspace of cities, and civilian bodies. Turkey's official neutrality during the Second World War produced a distinctive condition in which anticipation extended across both the prewar and wartime years, prompting continuous adjustments to environments, institutions, and legal frameworks in response to an approaching threat. Rather than following a chronological narrative, the project moves through cases, events, and practices, including defense lines, reconnaissance surveys, urban plans, blackout regulations, gas masks, public drills, newspapers, and caricatures. These materials show how anticipation operated across multiple spatial registers, often encountering existing urban fabrics, institutional limits, and everyday habits. The resulting juxtapositions produced uneven and provisional arrangements, as landscapes acquired defensive functions, cities were approached as potential targets, and civilian bodies became sites of training and preparedness. Across these settings, anticipation fostered new forms of expertise, coordination, and regulation through interactions among architects, planners, scientists, municipal authorities, journalists, military actors, and civilians. Affective registers of fear, humor, uncertainty, and adaptation emerged through ongoing negotiations between regulatory frameworks and daily practices. These histories resonate with contemporary cultures of preparedness, from anticipatory governance and disaster planning to climate and health emergencies, offering a spatial perspective on how societies confront future risks.

For Zoom Registration:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/DZz71qxjRluyaiJbwt-LyQ#/registration>