The Changing Role of the Architect from Craftsmanship to Artificial Intelligence Environment in Historical Context

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Zanaatkarlıktan Yapay Zekâ Ortamına Tarihsel Süreçte Mimarın Değişen Rolü

Öz

Mimarlar Modernite ile birlikte yapı ustaları, zanaatkarlar ve mühendislerden farklılaşmış bir kimlik, sosyal statü ve pozisyon edinmişlerdir. Bu çalışmanın gözlemi benzer bir radikal değişimin oluşmaya başladığına dair imlerin varlığıdır. İçinde bulunduğumuz enformasyonun, bilginin, teknolojik imkânların artışının çağında art arda gerçekleşen hızlı değişiklik ve devrimlerin etkisiyle mimar kimliğinin de yeniden ele alınması gerekliliği gündeme gelebilir. Günümüz mimarlarının sahip olması gereken bilgi ve becerilerin farklılaşması, yapay zekâ, meta verse, blok zinciri, makine öğrenmesi, dijital ikiz gibi sistemler ile mimarların tasarlama biçimleri ve temsil teknikleri dönüşüme uğramaktadır. Bu bağlamda, çalışma tarihsel süreçte mimarın değişen rolü üzerinden kimliğindeki değişiklikleri saptamaya çalışır. Tarihsel süreç içerisinde mimarın rolünün stabil olmayan, devamlı / devingen bir değişime tabi olduğu sonucuna ulaşır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Mimar, Mimarlık Mesleği, Mimarlık Mesleğinin Tarihi, Mimari Kimlik, Yapay Zekâ

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Abstract

Architects differentiated themselves from master builders, craftsmen, and engineers, acquiring a distinct identity, social status, and position with modernity. The observation of this study indicates the presence of signs that a similar radical change is beginning to emerge. The knowledge and skills that contemporary architects need to possess are diverging with the incorporation of systems such as artificial intelligence, metaverse, blockchain, machine learning, and digital twins into the process, thereby transforming the ways architects design and represent. In this context, the study attempts to identify changes in the architect's identity through the evolving role of the architect in the historical process. It concludes that the role of the architect throughout the historical process is not stable but subject to continuous and dynamic change.

Keywords: Architect, Architectural Profession, History of Architectural Profession, Architectural Identity, Artificial Intelligence

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1. Introduction

Architecture has played a significant role throughout human history in responding to the needs of societies, shaping living spaces, and reflecting aesthetic values. Throughout the historical process, architects have not only considered aesthetic concerns but also functionality, sustainability, and social requirements when constructing their buildings. For this reason, the social, political, and technological developments of the period changed the context of the period and also affected the professional discipline. Balamir (1996: 4-6), in his study examining the radical changes in the architect's identity, argues that the professional role of the professional architect has changed with different understandings in the process from the classical disciplinary structure to a structure with increased uncertainty. Torabi and Brahman (2013) argue that since the profession of architecture requires a dynamic mindset, it is a discipline shaped by many cultural, intellectual, and social factors. Therefore, the profession has a multi-factorial, multi-component structure that undergoes rapid change and adapts. In this case, it becomes essential to determine which roles determine the architect's identity. Understanding the intellectual structures that shaped the identity of architects throughout the historical process can only be achieved by understanding the context of the period. Such historical research will pave the way to infer the current situation. Understanding the architect's role today is also important in terms of future projections. Today, the role of architecture and the architect is changing faster than expected. Factors such as the rapid advancement of technology, globalization, homogeneous and heterogeneous environments, increase in information, and increasing environmental problems deeply affect the role and responsibilities of the architect. Every new development prepares the present for the future before the architectural environment of the future is created. Such changes and developments are happening faster than ever. Therefore, it is essential to discuss the role of the architect of the future.

Doxiadis (1963) emphasized that while the postmodern period had just begun, the role of the architect had changed, and his responsibilities had increased. According to him, the architect should have the responsibility to be both a producer and a social creator and to direct trends. Burr and Jones (2010), who examine the role of the architect in the construction process today, underline that the changes experienced to date have not paradoxically reflected the identity of the architect and also state that significant differentiations have been detected. According to their research, the architect has new areas of responsibility during the construction process, and the areas in which he needs to know have increased. In the future, it is anticipated that architects will be active in a broader spectrum, not only in the physical design of structures but also in understanding the social and cultural dynamics of societies, ensuring environmental sustainability, and integrating technological advancements (Özbay, 2023).

The identity and role derived from the professional practice of architecture are strongly intertwined with the economic, social, political, and cultural elements of the periods experienced. Changes and transformations in these elements lead to changes in the role of the architect (Sezgin, 2005). Based on all these discourses, the discussion of the future of architecture and what the identity and role of the architect will evolve into always remains current. In the world that is changing faster than ever in the first quarter of the 21st century, the transformation of the future of architecture seems inevitable. In this case, taking a position on the architect's identity is valuable.

This article examines how the identity of architects has evolved in the changing context from their historical role to speculative discussions about their future transformation. In this context, the study attempts to identify changes in the role and identity of architects throughout different historical periods. It explores the societal, economic, and sociological events and phenomena that have shaped each period and influenced changes in the identity of architects. The findings regarding the formation

of identity stemming from the roles acquired by architects in different periods are presented in a tabular format in the conclusion section.

2. Method

In this study, in order to define the changing role and identity of architects throughout the historical process, the factors leading to this change have been investigated. The role and identity of architects have been examined in seven different periods in the study: from Ancient to Medieval times, the Renaissance Period, the Industrial Revolution, Modernism, the Postmodern Era, the recent past to the present, and the future. A brief description of each period has been provided, highlighting the socio-cultural factors prominent during each period. Within these periods, the positioning of architectural practice and architects has been addressed. The information gathered from the examined periods is discussed in the conclusion section, and possible identities representing architects throughout the historical process are presented in a table.

3. Results

3.1. Origin and Traditional Role of the Architect from Ancient to Medieval Times

The profession of architecture dates back to the 3rd millennium BCE (Dostoğlu, 2003). In ancient times, architects were typically versatile individuals with a diverse range of skills. Those who constructed the pyramids and temples in Egypt were knowledgeable in mathematics, engineering, and astronomy. Similarly, Greek and Roman architects combined aesthetic and technical knowledge to build temples, theaters, and baths. Architects in antiquity often led a group of craftsmen or workers and actively participated in every stage of a project. However, during this period, architects were not regarded as having a professional identity in the modern sense; rather, they were considered as artists and master craftsmen. According to Greek philosopher Plato (c. 461–322 BCE), architects were not mere laborers but masters of labor; they were providers of knowledge rather than manual laborers. According to the Roman architect and writer Vitruvius (c. 80–15 BCE), an architect was a versatile individual knowledgeable in various fields (Vitruvius, 1960).

As the transition from ancient times to the Middle Ages occurred, the identity and role of the architect underwent significant changes. While architects were highly respected and protected in ancient times, this changed in the Middle Ages, where the notion of the "architect of the universe" prevailed. The Catholic Church shaped medieval Europe and all aspects of society. Due to the belief that "God is the creator of everything done in the name of God," there are no records of artists or architects from this period in Christian medieval times. The prevailing idea during that time was that the creator of the universe was God (Tümer et al., 2003). However, despite the authority of the Church, the architect held a position beyond that of a craftsman in the Middle Ages. As evident from the description provided by Alberti, one of the prominent architects of the period, in his Latin work "De Re Aedificatoria" written in 1452, the architect was a person who used his own intellect and power to create forms to be executed by the workers during construction (Leach, 2015). These words emphasized that the architect was a person who thought differently from a craftsman (Leach, 1995).

Figure 1. An engraving showing the German Architect Erwin von Steinbach and his family in the Middle Ages (URL-1)

In the Middle Ages, architects were expected not only to possess technical knowledge but also to show respect for religious beliefs and the authority of the Church. During this period, architects worked within the guild system, which served as the social professional organizations of the medieval era. Guilds, which brought together professionals in the field, were particularly significant environments for masons. Until the Enlightenment period, education processes were governed by these guild systems based on certain principles. Guilds, which held an important place among social professional organizations, introduced certain standards to the apprenticeship system. This system entailed a traditional arrangement based on a fundamental agreement between masters and apprentices. While the master transmitted their craft to the apprentice, the apprentice was typically obligated to work alongside their master for a certain period (Davis, 2006). In this guild system, apprentices were required to complete their knowledge of tradition in order to become a master craftsman, necessitating a seven-year period (Louw, 1995).

Thus, it can be inferred that from the Ancient to the Medieval period, the role of the architect and hence their identity was significantly influenced by religion, art, and science. A versatile professional identity was effective in gaining respectability during these periods. The role of the architect stood out in this regard.

3.2. Renaissance: The Architect in the Role of the Artist

The Renaissance period marks a significant turning point in the history of architecture, shaping the identity of architects to a considerable extent. The Renaissance was a period of rediscovery of the ancient Greek and Roman cultures and their influence on art and architecture. During this period, architects began to be increasingly recognized as artists and scholars (Germaner, 2008).

With the decline of the dominance of the Church, individuals began to develop social awareness. The Renaissance was a period of exploration of humanity. In the Middle Ages, humans were deemed of little value, but during the Renaissance, they began to understand their own worth. Consequently, during the Renaissance, the boundaries between art and science blurred, and architects were not only involved in the design and construction of structural projects but also in fields such as mathematics, geometry, and optics. Famous figures like Leonardo da Vinci worked not only in architecture but also in painting, sculpture, and science. During this period, freed from the oppression and authority of the Church, architects embraced human-centered design. Studies based on human anatomy and proportions highlighted the importance of human scale in architectural design. In the Renaissance, the identity of the architect took on a more distinctive character. Architects gained more autonomy and artistic freedom, and they began to see themselves as artists. During this period, they started to add their signatures to their works and to develop individual ownership and identity (Conti, 1997).

Figure 2. A depiction showing Vincenzo Scamozzi, one of the Renaissance architects (1548-1616) (URL-2)

It can be argued that with the Renaissance, the professional identity and societal prestige of architects increased. Architects redefined themselves by combining art, science, and technology, laying the foundations for modern architectural practice. During this period, numerous architects such as Alberti, Vignola, Serlio, Palladio, and Scamozzi contributed to the development of architectural literature and theory through their publications (Burckhardt, 1995). The architects of the time solidified and differentiated their professional identities through precise drawings, handbooks, and theoretical writings, thus specializing and distinguishing themselves (Larson, 1982).

It is possible to infer that during the Renaissance, the identity of the architect, holding the creative power of an era prioritizing art and philosophy, was woven with intellectual and artistic roles.

3.3. Industrial Revolution: Professionalization and Identity Formation

The First Industrial Revolution brought significant changes to the field of architecture, reshaping the identity of architects to a large extent. Alongside technological advancements in construction and building material production, the Industrial Revolution facilitated the design and production of more complex and intricate structures. This evolution led to a shift in the perception of architects from artisan architects to engineering-oriented professionals (Özgüner, 2007).

With the Industrial Revolution came intense rural-to-urban migration, defining new areas of responsibility for architects such as urban planning and city development. The industrial production capabilities of the era popularized the manufacturing and standardization of building materials. Skyscrapers, factories, public institutions, railway stations, bridges, exhibition halls, low-income housing, and state universities began to be constructed during this period. Simultaneously, the professionalization of the architectural profession accelerated. Architectural services began to establish direct connections with various segments of society during this period (Clark, 1996).

Architectural schools and educational programs proliferated during this period, allowing architects to receive more disciplined training and develop their professional skills. Significant changes also occurred in architectural education curriculum. In 1671, the establishment of the Royal Academy of Architecture by Louis XIV separated architectural education and professional practice (Balamir, 1985). In 1793, the Royal Academy of Architecture merged with the Academy of Painting and Sculpture to form the Ecole des Beaux Arts school. This establishment marked the transition to a state-controlled open education system for the first time (Balamir, 1995). In conclusion, the Industrial Revolution initiated the professionalization and institutionalization of the architect's identity.

3.4. Modernism: The Modern Architect

Modernism was predominantly an innovative approach that prevailed in the early 20th century. The social phenomena that constituted modernism were primarily industrial and democratic changes. With modernism, functionality came to the forefront in the understanding of space in architecture. The main reason for the prominence of these principles was the belief that the housing problem and economic difficulties that emerged from the 18th century onwards could be overcome with functional architecture. The emphasis on function in architectural designs and the role assumed by architects were reflected in various ways. Housing began to be seen as a machine for living in, with the architect being the person who commands this machine. While all kinds of ornamentation were rejected in design, simplicity and plainness began to take precedence.

With the recovery process after World War II, the social and societal responsibilities of architects also increased. Architects found themselves in a process of social and spatial reconstruction. Architects of the period produced proposals and projects that questioned the existing order and aimed for change by considering theory, art, humanities, and practical applications together. In this process, the architect took on roles such as savior, social doctor, and utopian, assuming a responsibility and authority that transcended their own limits (Güzer, 2009). Since Modernism, architects have acquired a distinct identity, social status, and position differentiating them from craftsmen and engineers. Creative architects, bureaucratic architects, proletarianized architects, companies, and the image of the stylish male architect smoking a pipe are the products of this period (Yüksekli, 2004).
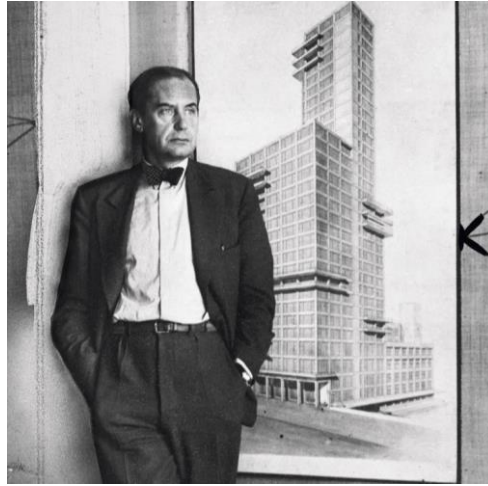
Figure 3. Modernist architect Walter Gropius in front of the Turbine Tower in Chicago (URL-3)

With Modernism, architects began to engage not only in building design but also in a wide range of activities such as urban planning, environmental landscaping, and social issues. The progressive and innovative ideals of Modernism enabled architects to utilize their design power to improve and transform society. Additionally, Modernism led to the adoption of an international architectural language beyond the architect's local identity. By embracing an international style, Modernism encouraged a universal design approach beyond local cultural and architectural elements. During this process, architects began to design more abstract and minimalist structures based on universal principles (Frampton, 2020).

Therefore, within the historical context, it is observed that the evolving identity of the Modernizing architect has taken on roles that are salvific, creative, and lifestyle-oriented. As a subject, the distinct aspect of the architect's identity comes to the forefront.

3.5. Postmodern Era: Diversifying Roles and Identities

After the 1950s, modernism began to encompass the entire world, shaping cities with once utopian architectural and urban images. This process reached a saturation point by the 1960s, and architects found themselves confronted with the "loss of the subject" thereafter (Karatani, 2021; Sim, 2006). In reaction to modernism's objectivity and uniformity, the postmodern architectural perspective began to dominate in the 1970s. Postmodern architecture was a pluralistic architectural approach that re-emphasized architectural elements from historical periods. It aimed to create a new process that was more subject-oriented and involved individuals making decisions based on their own identities, in contrast to the authoritarian, rigid, and harsh stance inherent in modernism (Roth, 2014). According to Roth (2014), postmodernism as a multi-layered period in the history of art and architecture has revealed and facilitated the power of the local, regional, and unique, preventing their homogenization (Eagleton, 2011; Roth, 2014).

Postmodernism is a rebellion in architecture against the singular value of modernism's concrete and glass, flat-lined glass and steel boxes. Architectural theorist Charles Jencks vehemently criticized modern architecture in his work "The Language of Post-Modern Architecture" (1977), condemning modern architecture with its concrete and glass, flat and ornamentation-free skyscrapers, and stating that modern architecture died with the demolition of the award-winning Pruitt-Igoe housing complex in 1972 (Jencks, 1977).

The pluralistic and diverse understanding of postmodernism has also reflected on the role and identity of architects. Postmodern architects have produced more diverse, flexible, and personal designs by drawing inspiration from different cultural and historical references. This has led architects to develop more original and diverse identities and has given rise to a new aesthetic understanding in architecture. Pluralistic architects have taken the place of individual/visionary architects in postmodernism. Postmodernism has embraced an understanding where different cultural and historical references come together instead of a single universal style. This has enabled architects to establish relationships with more diverse and multiple identities. At the same time, postmodern architects have questioned the monolithic and totalitarian approach of modernism and have proposed a human-focused, diverse, and layered architectural understanding. This has allowed architects to develop a critical perspective and produce more diverse and flexible designs (Çağlar, 2008).

Figure 4. Postmodernist architect Philip Johnson on the 1979 Time Magazine cover (URL-4)

It is possible to argue that along the path leading to the present day, behaviors have been introduced by the postmodern era that erode the perception of the architect's identity as autonomous,

totalitarian, and powerful. While exhibiting a resistance, the postmodernist architect, through their pluralistic approach, paves the way for a new type of formation of the architect's identity.

3.6. Architecture Practice from Recent Past to Present and the Reshaping Identity

In the post-postmodern era, the identity and role of architects have undergone continuous evolution. Throughout this process, various factors have shaped the architect's identity and design approaches. Influential factors in shaping the identity of architects in the post-postmodern era include the phenomenon of starchitects due to globalization, the concept of eco-architecture in response to sustainability, energy efficiency, and climate crises, as well as the emergence of AI designers and software programmer architects driven by advancing technology and artificial intelligence systems.

3.6.1. Starchitect

After the 1970s, globalization brought about a paradigm shift and rupture worldwide. With globalization, the Industrial Revolution ended, giving rise to a new type of economy and, parallel to this economy, a new social structure and ideological context emerged (Bell, 1973). Cities began to compete to attract capital, tourism, and transnational investments. At this point, the extravagant and extraordinary designs conceived by starchitects started to gain importance as an effective tool for cities to compete with each other. Starchitects were frequently utilized as a method to create images of creative allure. Popular architects and their star image became significant assets in the marketing of cities (Sklair, 2006). In fact, this phenomenon gradually transformed starchitects into media figures far beyond their architectural identities.

Figure 5. Depiction of architect Frank Gehry in the Simpsons cartoon (URL-5)

3.6.2. Eco Architect

"Eco architecture" refers to the design and construction of buildings that are environmentally friendly and energy-efficient, based on principles of environmental sustainability. The origins of this concept can be traced back to the mid-20th century with the increasing environmental concerns. Particularly in the 1970s, the rise of the environmental movement led to heightened awareness among people regarding environmental issues and the development of new approaches to address these problems. With technological advancements and increasing environmental regulations, the concept of eco architecture has gained importance and become a widespread practice, especially since the 2000s. Issues such as buildings generating their own energy, using fewer natural resources, and recycling resources have become part of the agenda of architects alongside the concept of eco architecture

(Özbay, 2023). Today's architects strive to create greener and more efficient buildings by embracing the principles of environmental sustainability.

In the current era, global-scale issues such as climate crisis, ecological degradation, and environmental problems, as well as social issues such as conflict, war, migration, disaster, housing and food shortages, population growth, and epidemics and pandemics have become increasingly prevalent. When all these factors are considered together, today's architect identity forms a profile of a businessperson who can manage different relationships, actors, and issues. Negative global and regional economic dynamics increasingly push architects towards becoming more business developers. Since the early 2000s, architectural service processes and practices requiring collaboration with other disciplines have increased. Therefore, in today's architectural environment, it is inevitable for architects to collaborate with various disciplines while considering environmental, economic, and social factors (Özgenel, 2023).

3.6.3. Artificial Intelligence Designer and Software Programmer Architect

In the latter half of the 20th century, with the accelerated processing power and increased memory capacity of computers, research in artificial intelligence gained momentum. Especially in the early 21st century, the use of artificial intelligence and software became widespread with the development of techniques such as big data analysis, machine learning, and deep learning. With the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019, like in every sector, there was a rapid transition to the digital world in architecture as well. With the decrease in physical contact from person to person in daily life, workspaces were moved to digital environments or digital environments began to be used more actively from this point onwards (Yüksel and Yıldız, 2022). In this process, as artificial intelligence rapidly developed from 2022 onwards, the ways in which architects design and construct also began to change (Joshi, 2019). Computer and software technologies have now become involved in gathering, analyzing, and implementing information. Thus, the design and decision-making processes have both accelerated, and architects have started to dedicate more time to creative and original work by delegating routine and automation-based tasks to artificial intelligence systems. These developments not only influenced the design processes of architects but also reshaped their professional identity.

Thanks to digital technologies, architects have started to take into account design suggestions from software during the decision-making process. While these suggestions are within the limits set by the architect, digital design tools now function as design assistants (Zheng, 2018). Therefore, digital technologies are transforming and partly replacing some of the roles of architects. Currently, the inclusion of a much larger amount of data and variables in the architectural design process, along with the changes in the needs determined in buildings due to technology, significantly affect the architectural design process, which is already quite detailed and complex. The convergence of many more parameters and the involvement of artificial intelligence in the process have enabled architects to take on a more collective role in this process when making design decisions.

3.7. Speculation on the Role of Architects in the Current Context

In the future, the role and identity of architects will continue to evolve in response to technological, environmental, and societal changes. Technological innovations such as artificial intelligence, 3D printers, augmented and virtual reality, and the metaverse are expected to continue transforming the design processes of architects. According to Özerk (2015), it is anticipated that the development of digital technologies, primarily indicating a social potential, will not create a major rupture and change in the nature of the architectural profession, which encompasses all values related to history, culture, economy, politics, society, and humanity. The development of digital technologies is expected to

positively impact the profession by facilitating architectural design and production. Moreover, it is predicted that architects will always have the final say in this process (Özerk, 2015).

Like today, the global climate crisis, ecological degradation, and environmental problems will continue to encourage architects to develop more sustainable and environmentally appropriate projects in the future. Designing buildings that comply with green building standards and minimizing environmental impacts are expected to become significant roles for architects in the future. Sensitivity to sustainable design as a harmonious integration of design, materials, and technology is increasing. It is possible to say that this sensitivity will increase even more in the future and may even become a kind of necessity in the near future (Güzelkokar and Gelişen, 2019).

Factors such as increasing migration, population growth, and urbanization, which are continuing today, may require architects to focus more on living spaces, public buildings, and urban renewal. The changing needs of society and cultures will shape architects' design approaches and solutions.

Furthermore, it can be said that the architectural environment currently requires highly participatory and interdisciplinary complex design processes. While the creative role of the architect is still needed, determining the main principles of design by involving employers and other experts may indicate a potential for a fundamental change in the architect's role within the process.

The transformation of architectural knowledge in line with current developments and the transformation in power-sharing in shaping space, that is, the transformation of the recipients of buildings (users, property owners, the public, etc.) apart from architects, will also transform the practice of the profession (Özerk, 2015). It is predicted that employer demands will increase in the future due to the complexity of needs and the rapid rise in costs, leading to a limitation of the architect's scope of action (Özbay, 2023).

Considering the participatory structure in architectural design processes and the new and rapidly changing nature of globalization, it is conceivable that architects may take on different positions such as process management and consultancy.

4. Conclusion

In the process from ancient times to the present day, the role and identity of the architect have undergone significant changes, and it is predicted that in the fast-changing environment of the future, the architect's identity will continue to change and be redefined constantly. Architectural identity has always been a continuously changing and evolving structure, and it will continue to evolve in line with new trends and needs in the future.

This study examines how the identity of the architect has changed and transformed from ancient times to the present day. The image of the architect, perceived depending on the societal, cultural, and economic conditions shaping each period, has constantly changed. Although the periods are presented in a linear narrative in the study, it is important to consider the existence of actors attempting to prove the possibility of "deviant" paths within each period, which can shape future studies. Table 1 summarizes possible identities representing the architect in each period. Accordingly, in ancient times, the architect, who was knowledgeable about everything and held a highly respected and protected position, served as a clergyman under the authority of the church in the Middle Ages. With the Renaissance, the architect's artistic and intellectual aspect came to the forefront by breaking the church's pressure and authority. With the Industrial Revolution, the architect's identity began to institutionalize. The modernist architect is a visionary and utopian architect who takes on social responsibilities. The postmodern architect is libertarian and pluralistic. Todays and future architects embrace ecological and sustainable principles, embodying a identity harmonized with societal, environmental, and technological factors.

Table 1. The Changing Identity of Architects According to Historical Processes

No	Historical periods	The role and identity of the architect
1	From Antiquity to the Middle Ages	The Architect of the Universe, The Wise Architect, The Religious Leader
2	The Renaissance Period	Intellectual Architect, Artistic Architect
3	The Industrial Revolution	Corporate Architect, Professional Architect, Engineer Architect
4	Modernism	Visionary Architect, Creative Architect, Bureaucrat Architect, Proletarianized Architect, Savior, Social Doctor, Utopist
5	The Postmodern Era	Pluralist Architect
6	Architectural Practice from the Recent Past to the Present	Starchitect, Eco Architect, Software Architect
7	Future Architectural Practice	Business Developer, Manager Architect, Consultant

Considering their historical roles, the architect's identity today is not constituted solely by religion, art, or science. It doesn't seem easy to say that the most visible feature of the architect is intellectuality. The architect, who has reached the disciplinary separation of duties and multidisciplinary work beyond the engineer-architect stages, is not in search of a way of life or in the role of a savior who will change societies. Moreover, in this environment that is even more plural than in the 1960s, it doesn't seem easy to say that pluralism is reflected in today's architect's identity. We are moving towards a period where the concept of starchitect is gradually fading, and being an eco-architect cannot be a single identity.

The architect is not independent of the processes of change and transformation in society. Social changes affect both the architect's position and their thoughts and evaluations. In today's changing landscape, architects not only have to sustain their livelihood but also shoulder increased responsibilities towards nature, the built environment, and society. Sustainable design, a design philosophy that seeks to minimize negative impacts on the natural environment while maximizing the quality of the built environment, will continue to be one of the most significant inputs in the architectural design process, both now and in the future. Additionally, digital technologies will continue to shape the design processes of architects. In this case, speculation on the future role of the architect becomes essential because predicting responsibilities in advance affects both architectural education and the architect's sectoral position strategies.

Considering the speculation that the architect role will evolve into a business developer, manager, or consultant,

- Architectural theory will be the most crucial field that draws the future projection. In this context, education and the sector need to follow. It is a reference source for defining and understanding the architect's role. The architect's role in technological development and the change of world sociology will continue to be followed as a current issue in theory.
- It may be necessary to develop a strategy in architectural education to prevent artificial intelligence from removing the responsibilities arising from the architect's skills. Architectural education should provide the architect with the requirements of professional discipline and skills and the behavior of being a decision-maker. They should gain the mechanisms that will enable them to become a business developer, manager, or consultant. Architects should be trained on possible climate scenarios, so it may be necessary to establish sufficient knowledge of ecology as a default characteristic of every architect. Additionally, it may be required to develop economics-related courses that can be integrated into the economic structure of the developed and transformed capitalist world.

- In the architecture sector, architectural firms may need to develop strategies to adapt to the slippery slopes created by the capitalist world. It is essential from a sectoral perspective to closely follow all the developments in the world, taking as an example the multi-disciplinary large architectural firms with mechanisms that can work like a non-architectural company. Considering the inclusion of artificial intelligence in the sector, it may be necessary for the architect to take the correct position without losing his role and responsibilities and for the employment of architects to continue unabated.

As a result, the historical development of the architectural profession is a resource when creating future projections, and it will be necessary for architects to develop their imaginations and design the future by evaluating the current situation. The architect's self-education by anticipating his role will affect the future of the professional discipline. Possible threats and potentials should be well understood, and the currentness of professional identity and role issues should be considered. The subject should be detailed in this context in future studies.

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