



Delft University of Technology

Mimarlık, 1963-1972

Expertise, Exchange, and Planning in Turkish Architecture

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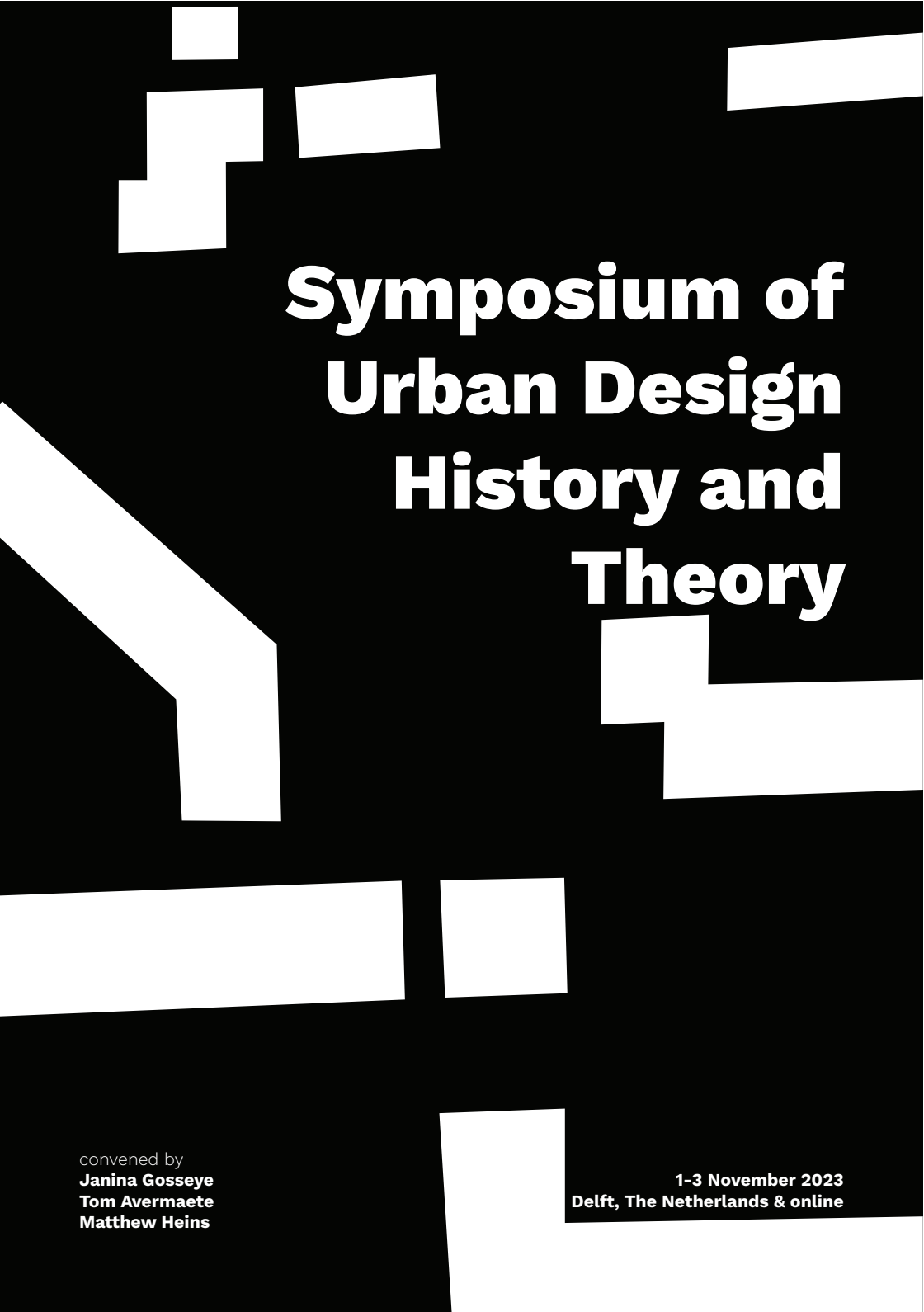
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The background is a solid black field. It is populated with several white geometric shapes: a small square at the top left, a large L-shaped block on the left side, a horizontal bar at the top right, a horizontal bar at the bottom left, a vertical bar at the bottom center, and a large L-shaped block on the right side. The text is centered in the upper half of the page.

Symposium of Urban Design History and Theory

convened by
Janina Gosseye
Tom Avermaete
Matthew Heins

1-3 November 2023
Delft, The Netherlands & online

In 1965, the Chamber of Architects of Turkey contacted the Union Internationale des Architectes (UIA), asking for technical assistance for the country's ongoing housing problem. Upon that request, a group of experts from UIA's French Section visited Turkey and discussed the situation of squatter housing called *gecekondu*. During the visit, they made an excursion to *gecekondu* settlements and met with academics, professionals, and state officials. The Chamber's in-house publication, *Mimarlık*, followed these events closely and compiled summaries of conference talks in an article. According to the article, *gecekondu* was unstoppable under this rapid urbanization, and in fact, these settlements should be considered evidence of goodwill and material investment. Instead of prevention, the necessary infrastructure, such as sewage lines, water, electricity, roads, and construction materials, should be provided for future inhabitants. However, the proposition was controversial because it promoted *gecekondu* as a self-solving problem. Also, it diminished the mediating role of the architects and planners, overlooking any expertise from universities and institutions.

This paper examines the interactions between UIA, the Chamber of Architects, and *Mimarlık* in providing an urban program for developing Turkey during Turkey's first and second Five-Year Development Plans (1961-1966; 1967-1972). Locating the Chamber's in-house publication *Mimarlık* at its center, the paper traces the knowledge exchange between UIA and the Chamber and how it was represented in *Mimarlık* by underlining developmental policies, professional knowledge, and technical development. The critical investigation of these entangled histories will attempt to understand how urban planning ideas were negotiated as a democratic precondition within the larger map of Cold War politics.

Burcu Köken is an architect and a Ph.D. candidate at TU Delft in the program "Architecture and Democracy," which runs jointly with Het Nieuwe Instituut in Rotterdam. Her research concerns a historical and critical analysis of the intricate relations between architecture, planning, and politics in the Cold War period in Turkey through the architectural journal *Mimarlık*.

This symposium is convened by Janina Gosseye, Tom Avermaete, and Matthew Heins. The full conference committee consists of:

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