

THE MONTHLY TRAILER

The December Dispatch



Editors: Bennu Turan

Elif Klah

Tan GZALICI

Writers:

Yeliz Mina ellik

Defne Kanat

Duru Berna Bilgin

Elif Klah

Elif Naz Nurtin

Selin Grler

Aye Umay alıkan

Ceylin Atalay

Hasan Alp Korkusuz

Iık Yavuz

Selen İnal

Selim Enneli

Yağmur Batur

With supports of Ms. Yavuz

UNDERSTANDING ATATÜRK'S VISION OF ANKARA IN THE 104TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS FIRST VISIT TO THE CAPITAL

December, the last month of the year, is mainly remembered for Christmas or Halloween, but this month actually has a much deeper meaning for us citizens of the Republic of Türkiye, especially for those who live in Ankara or the Central Anatolian region of Turkey. The reason for this is that our founding leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk arrived in Ankara on December 27th, 1919, as part of his journey to independence, which passed through all cities essential to the independence of Türkiye.

Of course, Atatürk visited and gave hope to many different cities in 1919, but for both Atatürk and Turkish people, Ankara is different. At that time, the main government was primarily situated in Istanbul. As most of you know, Istanbul is quite isolated from Anatolia and the eastern parts of our country. On top of that, Istanbul is located on the border with our European neighbors who were not really fond of us at the time. So, it was obvious that Istanbul was quite a risky choice for a capital city as it was vulnerable to any attacks from western countries. Atatürk was a visionary leader; he recognized that if a country's capital city fell, the rest of the nation would fall apart easily because of the citizens' hopelessness and despair.

So, he decided to change that. Türkiye needed a stronger, safer capital that was, at the same time, more connected with its citizens. Atatürk was already in search of a new capital and when he arrived in Ankara, he immediately saw the potential it had: Ankara was right in the middle of the country, functioning like a fortress surrounded by walls. For such an attack to succeed, the armies of our enemies would need to capture nearly half of our country, which meant that, until the loss of all our land, the heart of our independence would continue to beat at the center of the nation. Ankara was centrally located and this helped the communication and emergency operations to be easier and faster. So, it was the perfect choice as the capital city.

However, there was an issue: Ankara mostly consisted of low-population villages living apart from each other. The population was so low because of the nature of Ankara: the land was inconvenient for farming and the farmers in the region didn't know how to use the land properly, leading to an unfavorable situation. But for Atatürk, accepting the situation as it was and moving on wasn't an option, so the only solution was to work.

So, first, he brought qualified researchers from Istanbul to analyze the land. Then he started an economical project to make farming the main industry in the region. Today, "Atatürk Orman Çiftliği" acts as one of the most productive fields of the region and supplies a great deal of the dairy and crop demand of all Türkiye.

As the villages around began to merge with the city, people from all over the country started migrating to Ankara with hopes to live in a new, independent, and democratic nation. Today we still see the effects of this migration from the diverse population of the city.

Atatürk, then, decided that, in order to make Ankara the internationally recognized capital of the Republic of Türkiye, he needed to grant it both formal and social power. His first move was building the first parliament building in Ankara, Ulus. The construction of this building began in 1915 which was once built for one of the biggest political groups of its time, known as the Committee of Union and Progress. Because of the ongoing war, on April 23rd, 1920, the first council gathering for the opening of the first Great National Assembly of Türkiye was led by Atatürk. Later, on April 15th, 1923, the last meeting was held in this building, leaving it just as a memory of the founding parliament of modern Türkiye.

After our victory, Atatürk declared that his war had just begun, as his battle was never with guns and bombs. The true driving force behind Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's journey for independence was the silent war against obscurantism, ignorance, and dogmatism. He always knew that none of these changes mattered unless he raised a generation to protect these revolutions. So, he started a movement of modernization and westernization. He built many schools in villages where kids learned basic skills such as farming, economics, and hand crafts to strengthen the economy. After that, he opened many factories and research facilities that focused mainly on internationally powerful industries, like aviation and energy technologies. After creating the needed economic stability to make us a more culturally and internationally recognized society, he worked on making the city more aesthetic by building Ankara Palace (a huge hotel that hosted international events and welcomed important political guests such as presidents, leaders, and revolutionaries) and the State Opera House (which, to this day, hosts many performances).

The most important of all, Atatürk will always remain in our hearts because of his ideas. As he said, he will never die as long as we continue to honor his ideologies and his mission for our nation. As citizens of Türkiye, we will always be grateful for the day he came to Ankara and for making our city the foundation of the Republic of Türkiye.

Ali Berk KESKİN 10/C



10 NOVEMBER

The Commemoration Ceremony in Our School

The 10th of November 1938 is the day our great leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who established the Republic of Türkiye and was its first president, departed from among us. Every year on the 10th of November at 9:05 a.m., sirens are heard across the country to honor Atatürk, and everyone stops what they are doing to observe a moment of silence. Despite his passing, Atatürk's legacy will never die: the equality of women and men, modernization and sovereignty. His greatest legacy left to the country is always going to be the Turkish Republic.

In our school on every 10th of November at 9:05 a.m. students stand in silence in the yard and then watch the ceremony prepared by our teachers and some of the students. This year, the ceremony started with Ece Sangu and Melis Gök singing the song called "Nasıl Söylerim Öldüğünü Nasıl". Then, the drama club displayed a play. This year's aim was to ensure that people do not feel hopeless for life. During the play, whenever a woman, child, farmer, or anyone felt desperate about life, they thought of Atatürk, who had transformed a hopeless country ruled by monarchy into a republic governed by its people. With Atatürk's statements, their despair was gone and they began to put the pieces of the shattered mirror back together, one by one. The mirror, located at the back of the stage throughout the play symbolized the disposition of hopelessness and the construction of strong foundations for the future.



Interview with Duru Balta (12/C)

She took part in the drama part of the ceremony as one of the doctors. I asked about her feelings and thoughts about taking part in the play. She replied "I feel very proud to have contributed to this ceremony. Considering everything Atatürk did for us, being able to make even a small contribution to a commemoration ceremony for him made me feel grateful and proud. During the play, I kept thinking about him and thanked him silently many times. If I am able to be on the stage, it is also thanks to him. I also feel really proud of having the final word in the performance."

Ceylin ATALAY 12/C

CHRISTMAS

What is Christmas?

Christmas (also known as Noel) is a worldwide holiday celebrated by many; bringing families and friends together as they exchange gifts and have meals together. But do people really understand the meaning behind this day as well as they think they do? I'll be sharing some facts about Christmas while debunking some common misconceptions.

Christmas = New Year?

Contrary to common belief, Christmas and new year are two distinct celebrations. This belief that the two holidays are the same is most prevalent in our country. While Christmas is a religious holiday celebrated on December 25th, New Year is celebrated on the first day of the new year. Where did this misunderstanding come from? Well, one word is enough to summarize it; capitalism. Türkiye, being a country consisting of mostly Muslim people, doesn't celebrate Christmas, meanwhile countries that do celebrate it, often spend a lot of money to buy gifts and decorations, like Christmas trees. Companies saw the huge profit and decided to advertise those festive items as new years products. Santa, the Christmas tree, the tradition of giving each other gifts are all related to Christmas and not New Year.

Why is Christmas celebrated?

Christmas is a Christian holiday; it is believed that during the night of 24th of December the son of God, Jesus (also known as Hz. Isa), was born. That night, with the guidance of the angel Gabriel and the star of the shepherd, three kings came to the birth of Jesus to bring gifts. This is why giving each other gifts is a common practice during Christmas, and the star that is put on top of the Christmas tree represents the star of the shepherd that guided the kings to Jesus.

Green Santa?

Have you ever heard that Santa's original color was green? Santa changed color in the 1900s after a commercial for the soda brand, coca-cola. In the early commercial, Santa's original color green was changed to red to match the promoted drink. Since then, red has quickly become associated with Santa while the green version was lately forgotten.



Is Santa actually Turkish?

Santa is a character based on multiple figures from different backgrounds like "Father Christmas" and "Sinterklaas" but his more earlier predecessor was Saint Nicholas. Saint Nicholas was a 4th century Greek Christian bishop of Myra (now Demre) in the region of Lycia during the Roman Empire days which is now within Turkish borders. Before moving to IPhilistine, Saint Nicholas was known for often giving gifts to the ones in need, especially children.

Christmas or Halloween?

Christmas and Halloween are two different holidays with different origins and opposite vibes. The reason why the two get put up against each other so much is because of their close dates. While Halloween is celebrated on the 31st October, Christmas is celebrated on the 25th December. The sudden change in atmosphere in such a short time brought more attention to the two dates. While some prefer the dark and spooky allure of Halloween, many others prefer the more cozy and festive allure of Christmas.

Everyone has their likes and dislikes of course, so debating on which holiday is better is completely useless. But I doubt that anyone who's reading this expects me to say that we should love both holidays equally. In fact, later on I will share the results of a questionnaire I did with some of the Tevfik Fikret highschool students. But before that, I still have to talk about why people prefer one holiday over the other.



Halloween (a pagan celebration that originates from Ireland that celebrates the new year in the Celtic calendar)

There are many ways to celebrate Halloween: doing some simple trick or treat, watching horror movies, exploring corn fields, carving pumpkins and many more! I believe one of the reasons why it's liked so much is the variety of activities for different age groups. For example, trick or treat is often done by kids while staying up late to watch scary films is more of a grown up thing. It feels like you don't have to be at a certain age to have fun during this day. After all, everyone can put on a costume that they have spent hours crafting or one that was bought from the store but still worn with love. Even those who don't celebrate it can have fun watching all the various costumes hit the streets and hand candies to kids. However, Halloween still has its downsides. Some groups, that mainly consist of teens and young adults, play dirty tricks, like egging their house or firing up firecrackers, which makes parents often see the celebration as a danger rather than a fun night. The overconsumption of candy is also seen as a problem, causing small kids to have cavities, and stomach aches while also causing harm to the environment because of the plastic waste left behind by the candy wrappers.

Christmas (a religious holiday which celebrates the birth of Jesus)

Christmas is a living dream for many with the sounds of choirs walking around the snowy streets and children rushing home towards the Christmas tree to open their gifts. The holiday, combined with the atmosphere of the season and the excitement of receiving gifts makes it a magical experience for all. Plus, since it's a Christian holiday most schools around the world are on break during that time of the year. Christmas is also known for its food, especially with Thanksgiving, like candy canes, the gingerbread houses and cookies!

It also has its downsides as during that time of the year the consumption rates go higher with all the gifts and decorations being brought. Also, some people don't really enjoy having to meet all their family members, as they prefer a much calmer celebration with their parents. In short, Christmas isn't the best holiday for those who don't enjoy opening gifts in front of others and pretending to be happy when they receive something they don't like.



The best holiday?

After conducting a questionnaire among our school's students, I can now finally announce which holiday is more liked by the students of Tevfik Fikret!

Out of the 224 people who participated, 185 voted for Christmas and 39 for Halloween! Which makes Christmas the winner by a high rating of 82,58%!

Yeliz Mina Emili ÇELLİK 10/B

Why Is Christmas Celebrated at Different Times in Different Countries?

Records show that the celebration of the birth of Jesus in the Roman Empire dates back to 325 or 336 AD. The official recognition of Christmas began in the final years of the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Constantine, when Pope Liberius declared the night that connected December 24th to the 25th as the birthday of Jesus.

December 25

Catholics and Protestants celebrate Christmas on this date because December 25 in the Gregorian calendar is considered as the birthday of Jesus.

- In the Asia-Pacific region, countries such as Australia, New Zealand, and Japan are among the first to welcome Christmas due to their proximity to the International Date Line. As a result, celebrations begin earlier in the day compared to other parts of the world. For example, Australians may enjoy a Christmas breakfast or brunch on the beach, while in Japan, Christmas Eve is often marked by romantic celebrations and gift-exchanging.
- In Europe, celebrations often center around Christmas Eve. In countries like Germany, Austria, and Poland, families gather for a festive meal and attend Midnight Mass, a special religious service held at midnight to commemorate the birth of Jesus.
- In North America, families come together for a traditional Christmas meal, exchange gifts, and enjoy time spent with loved ones. In Latin American countries such as Mexico and Brazil, Christmas traditions are influenced by a mix of indigenous, European, and African traditions. These celebrations often feature live music, dancing, and nativity scenes.
- For those in the Southern Hemisphere, Christmas falls during the summer. In countries like South Africa and Argentina, where Christmas coincides with summer vacation, people often celebrate outdoors with barbecues, picnics and beach parties. Decorations may include palm trees, seashells and colorful tropical flowers that reflect the local environment.



January 7

Many Eastern Orthodox Churches follow the Julian calendar, which places December 25 on January 7.

- The festive period known as “Svyatki” in Russia lasts from January 7 to January 19. During this time, people celebrate with various rituals such as fortune-telling, chanting and traditional food.
- In Ethiopia, Christmas is celebrated on January 7th, known as “Ganna”. Many people take part in a special Advent fast for 43 days before Christmas, starting on 25th November, which is known as the 'Fast of the Prophets' (Tsome Nebiyat). During this period, only one vegan meal is traditionally eaten each day as meat, dairy, eggs and wine are avoided. For Ganna, people get dressed in white, and most wear a traditional garment called a “Netela”. They gather in beautifully decorated churches and participate in religious ceremonies.

January 6

Members of the Armenian Apostolic Church celebrate it on this day. Unlike other Christians, Armenians celebrate the birth of Jesus (Christmas) and his baptism (Epiphany) on the same day, January 6th. They hold special services in churches, prepare traditional meals at home and spend time with their family as well.

Duru Berna Bilgin 11/A



The Nobel Prizes

The Nobel Prize is a prestigious award given to people who provided humanity with the greatest benefit in the previous year, as stated in the will of the Swedish chemist, engineer, and industrialist Alfred Nobel on 27th November 1895, by The Nobel Foundation- a foundation established by Alfred Nobel himself consisting of a board as well as awarding institutions with their boards of trustees and auditors.



Alfred Nobel was also an inventor who had a fortune amassed from 355 inventions, the most famous of which was dynamite. In his will, Nobel specified that his fortune would be used to establish a series of prizes to be awarded to those "with the greatest contributions humanity" in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace. The prizes were first awarded by the Nobel Foundation in 1901.

Prizes in Economic Sciences

In 1968, Sweden's central bank, Sveriges Riksbank, celebrated its 300th anniversary by donating a large sum of money to the Nobel Foundation to establish a prize in honor of Alfred Nobel. The following year, the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel was awarded for the first time. This brought the total number of Nobel Prizes to six categories.

Selection

The Nobel Committee nominates 300 potential laureates and prepares a report based on expert suggestions in the relevant fields. This is submitted to the awarding institutions, along with a list of preliminary candidates. Each prize is awarded by a separate committee: the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awards the prizes in physics, chemistry, and economics; the Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute awards the prizes in physiology or medicine; the Swedish Academy awards the prizes in literature; and the Norwegian Nobel Committee awards the Peace Prizes. The institutions meet to elect the laureate(s) in each field by a majority vote. A maximum of three laureates and two different works may be chosen per prize. The winners are announced by the awarding institutions during the first two weeks of October.

Award Ceremonies and Prizes

Except for the Peace Prize, the Nobel Prizes are presented in Stockholm at the annual Prize Award Ceremony on December 10th, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death.

The Peace Prize is awarded at the annual Awards Ceremony held on December 10th in Oslo, Norway. The highlight of the Nobel Prize Ceremony in Stockholm is when each Nobel laureate steps forward to receive his or her award from the King of Sweden.

Each recipient, known as a laureate, receives a green gold medal plated with 24 carat gold, a diploma, and a cash prize. As of 2023, the Nobel Prize cash award is 11,000,000 SEK. Each diploma is uniquely designed for each laureate by the awarding institution. The diploma contains an image and text in Swedish stating the name of the laureate and, usually, a citation explaining why they received the award.

Daron Acemođlu, Winner of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Economics

Kamer Daron Acemođlu was born in Istanbul and became interested in politics and economics in his youth. After graduating from Galatasaray High School, he received his BA in economics from York University in 1989, his MA in econometrics and mathematical economics from the London School of Economics in 1990, and his PhD in economics in 1992. He was described as a child prodigy due to the age at which he received his doctorate (25). From 1992 to 1993, he taught at the London School of Economics. Since 1993, he has been continuing his academic career at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the USA. In 2000, he became a professor of economics, and in 2019, he became an institute professor, the highest title that can be given to a faculty member at a university.

Daron Acemođlu received many awards throughout his life. He was awarded the John Bates Clark medal in 2005, the Scientific Service and Encouragement Award in Social Sciences by the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA) in 2006, the Turkish Republic Presidential Culture and Arts Grand Award in Social Sciences in 2013, and the Koç University Rahmi M. Koç Science Medal in 2017.

In addition, his article titled "Consumer Confidence and Rational Expectations: Are Agents' Beliefs Consistent With the Theory?" was awarded the best article award in 1996, his book *Why Nations Fail: Origins of Power, Poverty and Prosperity*, which he wrote with Robinson and published in 2012, was on the New York Times best-seller list, and he was awarded the title of "Institute Professor" by MIT in 2019 and an Honorary Member by the British Academy in 2021.

On October 14, 2024, it was announced that he would receive the Nobel Prize in Economics, along with Simon Johnson and James Robinson, for their work on "the formation of institutions and their effects on welfare." Acemođlu is the first Turk to win the Nobel Prize in Economics and the third Turk to win the Nobel Prize after Orhan Pamuk and Aziz Sançar.

Selin GÜRLER 10/B

ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR



The Attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor was a surprise military strike by the Empire of Japan. It happened on 7th December, 1941, during World War II. At that time, the United States was a neutral country but this attack led the United States to join World War II. They joined the allied forces (United Kingdom, Soviet Union) and fought against the Axis (Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and Empire of Japan) for the rest of the war.

Why did the Empire of Japan attack Pearl Harbor?

Japan intended the attack as a preventive measure. They wanted to prevent the United States Pacific Fleet from interfering with their military actions in Southeast Asia against the overseas territories of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and the United States.

The Casualties and Losses of the Attack

This surprise attack resulted in a decisive victory for Japan, meaning the United States suffered many more casualties compared to Japan. The casualties of the United States were: 2,335 U.S. sailors, marines and soldiers; 68 civilians; 4 battleships; and 188 aircrafts. The Empire of Japan's casualties included 129 military personnel; 4 mid-gut submarines; and 29 aircrafts. It did not include damaged ships /aircrafts or wounded military personnel.

What Were the Consequences of the Attack on Pearl Harbor?

Every action has a consequence, and the most significant consequence of the Attack on Pearl Harbor was the United States' declaration of war against Japan. While this was expected, Japan believed the United States would join the war with a navy that was too damaged to interfere with them. But most of the battleships that were damaged had been repaired before entering the war.

The War in Pacific

After Pearl Harbor, the United States and the Empire of Japan were engaged in intense combat throughout the Pacific Theater. The U.S gradually won most of the battles and recaptured Japanese territory. The turning point came with the Battle of Coral in May 1942 and the Battle of Midway in June, 1942. Both of these battles halted the offensive momentum of Japan. So, the attack on Pearl Harbor remains as one of the most important actions of World War II.

Hasan Alp KORKUSUZ 10/B

2024 U.S. Elections: *Weakening Democracy, Shattering Freedom, Undermining Justice*

November 5th, 2024 marked the day the American public chose a fascist criminal with thirty-four felony convictions over a black woman to be the new president of the United States. Americans had to choose whether they would restore women's rights or possibly strip women of liberty in their bodily autonomy nationwide. America chose the latter when faced with these two choices and is now sailing their ship toward dangerous waters, which may yield costly consequences for the U.S.

During the lead-up to Election Day, it seemed virtually impossible that Donald J. Trump would succeed in taking office a second time after a horrendous track record that included interfering with 2020 election results; inciting an insurrection to overthrow the government; being the only president who received impeachment twice; alongside nominating two Supreme Court justices to SCOTUS to have *Roe v. Wade* overturned, thus enabling states to ban abortion without limitations. These criminal facets of the now president-elect didn't seem to deter him from holding the highest position of power but went on to bolster his chances in the 2024 presidential election, as he normalized being insatiably despicable during the course of his presidential campaign.

How the 45th President became also the 47th

Donald Trump's reelection campaign was fueled by disinformation, harsh character attacks, and legal ambiguities. He often spread falsehoods through his unique and distracting rhetoric that hid his true intentions. Trump skillfully used insults to mock opponents, strengthening his image as a stubborn populist. He turned threats against him into a story of resilience, rallying his supporters.



Additionally, his partnerships with wealthy figures like Elon Musk were key in boosting his support. Musk's controversial million-dollar sweepstakes in swing states, tied to pro-Trump petitions, raised ethical concerns and broke election laws - with critics calling it a "lottery" to buy influence. This tactic, despite legal challenges, highlighted Trump's tendency to use power and money to weaken democratic norms- solidifying his control over a movement driven by grievance, spectacle, and rejection of accountability.

Why Kamala Failed

With Donald Trump's sentencing date in November approaching, many saw his return to power as a serious threat to American democracy. However, his opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris, struggled to attack Trump's weaknesses because she was tied to the Biden administration's scandals. A major obstacle was her association with Biden's immigration policies. As the official in charge of the border, appointed by Biden, Harris became linked to the administration's failures to handle the southern border crisis. Images of overcrowded detention centers and chaotic border crossings hurt her credibility and turned off voters seeking accountability and solutions.

If the border were her sole weak suit, she could have shaken it off in one way or another, but it wasn't. Her apparent changes of stance on hydraulic fracturing or fracking, in key states like Pennsylvania, made her seem opportunistic instead of principled. Rather than explaining how technological advances reduced fracking's environmental risks, she vaguely stated that, "her principles hadn't changed," which didn't convince skeptical voters. Similarly, her initial opposition to some Biden-era actions, like the slow pandemic recovery, was softened during her campaign- making her appear as a part of the problem rather than a



Her campaign was further damaged when, on *The View*, she was asked how her presidency would differ from Biden's. Harris replied, "There is not a thing that comes to mind." This not only showed she couldn't separate herself from Biden's unpopular policies but also suggested she lacked a clear vision. Her reluctance to challenge Biden on economic issues, immigration, or inflation kept her campaign weighed down by his record, failing to convince voters she would bring change.



Now What?

With his scheduled return to power in January 2025, Trump is now better equipped to manipulate and undermine government systems. His four years in the Oval Office have made him more dangerous than during his first term, when his handling of the pandemic included the infamous suggestion that Americans inject themselves with disinfectant. Now pursuing an authoritarian agenda, Trump's presidency is becoming a campaign against his enemies and an attack on democratic foundations. This trend is evident in his cabinet choices, prioritizing loyalty over qualifications. Appointing Matt Gaetz as Attorney General, despite his history of sexual misconduct and ongoing investigations, shows Trump's intent to strip the Department of Justice of its independence. Similarly, naming Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a staunch anti-vaccine activist, as Secretary of Health and Human Services highlights Trump's disregard for established science and public health standards.

Kennedy's promotion of conspiracy theories about vaccines and fluoridation not only undermines his ability to lead but also threatens the future of public health policies. Along with other appointments that reject expertise, Trump's administration focuses more on personal loyalty and extreme ideology than the nation's well-being. With a loyalist team ready to change the rules, a second Trump term could weaken institutional protections and leave more America vulnerable to an unchecked executive branch.

Why European Countries, Including the US, Aren't Ready for What's to Come?

A second Trump presidency would create significant global instability, as my friend Arda, a Turkish student at San Diego State University, explains. Arda stressed that Eurasia could be affected by the chaos Trump might bring. He told me that Trump's clear disdain for NATO, an organization he once threatened to leave, raises fears globally simply because his deal-based diplomacy could weaken Western security, including Türkiye. Trump's demand for member nations to sharply increase military spending or face expulsion makes him highly divisive during a time of geopolitical uncertainty. Europe, still dealing with Russia's aggression in Ukraine and growing economic instability, faces the threat that Trump's demands could push NATO toward collapse. Trump's rhetoric treats alliances as financial deals rather than mutual defense bonds. If this trust breaks down, adversaries like Russia could gain strength, increasing Europe's vulnerability when unity is crucial for survival.



What about the Middle East?

The next four years could further tie US foreign policy to unwavering support for Israel, increasing America's role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the broader Middle East. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) has long been a strong lobby for pro-Israel policies, but Trump's dedication to AIPAC exceeded even Biden's administration. Trump supported the most extreme Israeli interests, causing more violence and instability in the region while seemingly ignoring the severe humanitarian effects of his policies.

Many of his cabinet members have shown hostility toward Palestinians: Rubio has called for the elimination of Hamas and dismissed diplomacy while Hegseth and Huckabee echoed statements that deny Palestinian self-governance. Huckabee, for example, denied Palestinian identity and referred to the West Bank as "Judea and Samaria," justifying land theft with biblical prophecy instead of international law. These views fit with Trump's broader agenda of boosting Israeli militarism and ignoring calls for restraint. This approach not only threatens Palestinians but also heightens regional tensions, potentially sparking nationalist movements in countries like Türkiye and increasing anti-American sentiment. A second Trump term would establish the U.S. as a biased player in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, abandon any semblance of neutrality, and create ongoing cycles of violence that extend beyond the Middle East, serving as a crucial wake-up call for the rest of the world, but that may just be too little, too late, especially for us.

The American public has made their choice, but now we must all brace ourselves for the inevitable chaos and destructive consequences of a second Trump presidency.

Elif Naz Nurtin 12/C

Project 2025 on Education

What makes the second Trump presidency different from the first one is the preparations made by the conservative groups in advance to shape the United States according to their views. At the center of these efforts is Project 2025, prepared in 2023 by the Heritage Foundation. The Heritage Foundation is a conservative think tank that has published eight other papers since 1981 as parts of a Mandate for Leadership series. Even though Donald Trump claimed during the campaign that he had no ties to the Project, it is known that at least 140 people who worked for Project 2025 team also worked for the first Trump administration.

Project 2025 is significantly different from the prior eight when it comes to its extreme content. It sets four main policy goals: restore the family as the centerpiece of American life; dismantle the administrative state; defend the nation's sovereignty and borders; and secure God-given individual rights to live freely. The policies recommended to achieve these goals are widely criticized because they include severely limiting abortion access nationwide, mass deportations, increasing the state's ability to spy on its citizens, target journalists and protestors, limiting voting access, censoring academic discussions especially about race and gender.

The impact Project 2025 will have on the education system is very important because of its potentially long term effects. Most importantly the Project promises to dismantle the Department of Education. Education will be left to individual states and the federal government will not even be able to collect statistics. It also eliminates financial help that has been given to high-poverty schools and districts since 1965. There are two potential outcomes of this policy. First, six percent of all teachers will lose their jobs in these districts, increasing already existing teacher shortages. Second, and as a direct result of the first, 2.8 million students will experience a declining quality of education.

In addition, there is the issue of censorship. Since 2023 there have been efforts by the Republican members of the Congress to increase censorship in schools and limit educator autonomy in content decision. These efforts failed so far and such problems were limited to the state level. Project 2025 promises to renew these efforts at the federal level. If successful, this policy is almost guaranteed to increase book bannings.

Project 2025 also plans to divert resources from public schools to private schools in the form of vouchers given to students in private schools to reduce the load of high tuition and fees.

Finally, organizations that facilitate cooperation between people in the education sector are likely to be weakened in order to reduce any opposing voices against these policies.

Overall, Project 2025 paints a grim picture for the future of the United States. If these policies are adopted, they are likely to face opposition from large portions of the population. However, the overlap of the personnel between Project 2025 and the Trump administration is a strong sign that the newly elected president is likely to push for them. Especially considering that the Republican Party has the control of the Congress, it is likely that the United States is heading toward a four year period of conflict on many different issues.

Bennu Turan 12/ C

VLAD III -DRACULA-

"I could see in the moonlight the moisture shining on the scarlet lips and on the red tongue as it lapped the white sharp teeth. Lower and lower went her head as the lips went below the range of my mouth and chin and seemed to fasten on my throat. Then she paused, and I could hear the churning sound of her tongue as it licked her teeth and lips, and I could feel the hot breath on my neck. Then the skin of my throat began to tingle as one's flesh does when the hand that is to tickle it approaches nearer, nearer. I could feel the soft, shivering touch of the lips on the super sensitive skin of my throat, and the hard dents of two sharp teeth, just touching and pausing there. I closed my eyes in languorous ecstasy and waited, waited with a beating heart. Just then the count appeared and shouted with his terrible voice: 'How dare you touch him? Step away!'"

The man who had the same nightmare every night was sweating in his bed. His gorge was rising. His heart was in his mouth. After a while, everything fell in line. However, a character whose presence in nightmares became increasingly clear captured his dreams for 7 years. This man who wrote down what he had in consciousness was Bram Stoker. The book told the story of Count Dracula who lived in a castle in Transylvania, had a noble appearance, spoke with a bad Hungarian accent, went hunting at night and drank the blood of his victims. The character of Count Dracula was identified with a real historical figure. One of the darkest names of the Middle Ages: Vlad III. Vlad Dracula, known in his homeland. Vlad the Impaler, known in our country.

Many things about this man are still a cloak of secrecy, including where he was buried. His grave is empty. Mentioning his name spreads fear to people. He was a monster. He did a lot of evil throughout his life. In fact, everything started with the father of this fiend. His father, Vlad II, was a member of a sect named "Order of the Dragon" in his youth. The purpose of this sect was to protect Eastern Europe and the Holy Roman Empire from the pressures of the Ottoman Empire which was at the peak of its political power at that time. Vlad II's achievements earned him the title of Dracul, meaning a cruel and brave knight. The connection between the events was the defeat of Vlad II against Ottomans in the war. After their victory, the Ottoman Empire had some demands from Vlad II. Thus, the two sons of Vlad II, Radu and Vlad who would later go down in history as Vlad the Impaler, were captured by Ottomans as hostages. But Sultan Murad II gave these two children great opportunities and provided them with the best teachers of the period. They were raised together with the future Conqueror of Constantinople. During that time, Vlad II lived in fear of being killed. Romanian nobles, supported by the Hungarians, killed Vlad's father and brother. Vlad II attempted to take over Wallachia with the support of Ottomans after the 2nd Kosovo war in 1448. However, he was soon defeated by the Wallachian Voivode Vladislav II, who was supported by Hungary, and went into exile to Moldova. During the years of exile under the control of the Hungarians, he took advantage of the confusion during the siege of Belgrade in 1456 and attacked Wallachia with the support of the Ottomans. After a successful attack, he killed Vladislav II and took over the government by declaring his loyalty to the Ottoman Empire. Thus, Vlad III was appointed as Wallachian Voivode. During these periods, Fatih Sultan Mehmet was on the throne. At first, everything was going well. But later, Vlad II had already got full of Turkish hatred inside of him. With the provocation of the Hungarians, he refused to pay taxes to the Ottoman Empire starting from 1459.



The peaceful environment in Wallachia and Moldavia soon gave way to an atmosphere of insanity. He started to use the name of his father “Dracul” which means the son of the Devil. Vlad III Dracula established the order in the region by terrorizing and became known as a murderous ruler. He found his own method of punishment: impalement. Thinking that they were spies, he impaled 41 German students who came to learn the language. On the other hand, he wasn't on good terms with the merchants of German origin because he impaled hundreds of merchants. He executed some of them in boiling cauldrons. Through Vlad's tortures, no one was committing crimes. More precisely, no one had the courage to do this. Because of the greased stakes, the victim didn't die immediately. He suffered for a long time before dying. At the same time, he often had tables set up and feasts amidst the pain of innocent people. There are rumors about him collecting the blood of the impaled people in barrels and turning it into wine. These rumors gave rise to the legend that he was a vampire. He had hostility especially toward women and Turks.

After learning what had happened, Fatih Sultan Mehmet sent two ambassadors to warn Vlad. Vlad executed them by hammering nails on their heads. Since Fatih Sultan Mehmet was on an expedition in Trabzon, he wanted to neutralize Vlad by first sending Hamza Bey, the Bey of Niğbolu. However, Hamza Bey and his soldiers were captured and impaled as a result of a raid. Later, grand vizier Mahmut Pasha was appointed but he wasn't successful either and lost most of his soldiers. According to his own words, Vlad killed approximately 23,884 Turks and Bulgarians and impaled 20,000 Ottoman prisoners of war. In the face of these developments, the Ottoman army went on an expedition against the Wallachian tribute under the command of Sultan Mehmed II in 1462. Despite very difficult conditions, the Ottoman army took the castle of Targovishte on June 4, 1462. Vlad poisoned the wells in the lands he abandoned, burned the crops, killed the animals, released those with leprosy and plague in prison and encouraged them to mingle with the Turks.

Elif Külah 11/C

The Best-Selling Album of All Times

THRILLER

Released in 1982, *Thriller* is the best-selling music album of all times, bringing Michael Jackson worldwide popularity. With a sale of 70 million copies all over the world, it has been listened to by more people on radio and television than the sales figure suggests. The album received high praise from nearly all music critics upon its release. For instance, John Rockwell, the famous music and dance critic, congratulated Michael on the album by calling it a masterpiece. He also stated that it helped bridge the gap between black and white music, contributing to the establishment of peace between two cultures. According to him, it challenged the ongoing racism that black people faced from white communities. The nine songs in *Thriller* are:

1. Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'
2. Baby Be Mine
3. The Girl is Mine
4. Thriller
5. Beat It
6. Billie Jean
7. Human Nature
8. P.Y.T. (Pretty Young Thing)
9. The Lady in my Life



The album *Thriller* also plays a part in the rise of pop music in the 1980s together with another masterpiece, Madonna's *True Blue*. These two albums hold the rise of pop music and are the inspiration for grand pop artists.

In the process of creating this album, Michael and his producer wrote and recorded more than 300 songs but only 9 of them made it to the album. The most interesting story in the selection of songs is about the song *Billie Jean*. It is rumored that, initially the producer did not want this song to be included in the album and claimed that *Billie Jean* wouldn't be as successful as the rest of the album. But in response, Michael threatened him with the consequences of not releasing the album and thus ensured that the song was included. In this way, the song that would later become one of the most popular and iconic songs of the album was saved from being forgotten.

The album is like a fusion of all the music genres: there is "Beat It" for rock, there is "Human Nature" for funk, and so much more. Another issue was about the video clips of the songs. They may not look very advanced compared to today's music videos. But back then, these video clips were so ahead of their time with clear scripts underpinning each one, the social issues that were addressed and most importantly the brilliant dance choreography, performed both by Michael himself and with his large crew.

The songs were not created out of nowhere, they were inspired by the personal and social problems Michael was exposed to throughout his life. For example, "Beat It" is a protest against street gangs. While thinking of potential song ideas, Michael thought of writing a song about an ongoing problem and chose the street gangs, which were by the time, causing a lot of troubles to the public. To take another example, "Thriller" is a horror-themed song inspired by the popular zombie genre. The song, however, connects the atmosphere of fear with love and the maintenance of a love relationship. Another example is the song "Billie Jean", which is about Michael's lover. She had a baby and believed Michael was the father. Michael initially refused that claim but as the song progresses, there is more and more evidence that Billy Jean was right. In the end, it becomes clear that Michael was the father. And the list goes on with different backstories for each song of the album.

I remember the first time I listened to the *Thriller* album. I was about 7 years old and the album was often played in our car on the way to and from school. My dad was a huge fan of this album, and he used to put it on every day and turn the volume up. These songs made my school days much more enjoyable and I looked forward to the next school day just to hear a *Thriller* song again. I can definitely say that the album changed me in a good way; it boosted my creativity and changed my taste in music. Sometimes I wish I could go back to those years and re-experience those moments. That's the impact *Thriller* has made on me. If you want to listen to good music, I definitely recommend this album and another one from Michael Jackson, "*Off The Wall*."

Selim ENNELI 10/B

ARCANE - SEASON TWO: *a review about the ending*

As a league of legends player and a big fan of the series I was really happy to hear that the second season of Arcane will finally be released, after waiting for 3 years. I had watched the show when it was first released and I was certainly not disappointed. I could talk about it nonstop for hours, but unfortunately, it's impossible to write down all my opinions. So, I am only going to be writing about the most crucial parts, episodes 4,5 and 6. So let's get started!

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JINX AND ISHA

Jinx and Isha met by chance, and Jinx decided to save the little girl from the chemical barons. Let's not forget that when they first met, Jinx was wandering without a purpose. Before they became friends, she was mentally lost and couldn't seem to find a reason to keep going. She was a symbol of freedom for many citizens and a beacon of hope for her people. She could have easily become the leader of Zaun, but instead, she chose to hide away. However, Jinx, in Season II, was quite different. Yes, she was still not interested in leading the Under City but she had found a new purpose; being an older sister to Isha, a role that Jinx needed but lost when VI had left her. She was willing to sacrifice her life when Warwick first attacked them. She was prepared to sacrifice her own life so that Isha would have time to escape, but their feelings were mutual since Isha was a key figure in the theme of sacrifice. She was as fearless as Jinx when it came to protecting her loved ones. She first jumped in between VI and Jinx's fight; then, in the final episode she took her adoptive sister's gun and started running towards Warwick (AKA; vander) knowing that she would die. I was really happy to see this version of Jinx, who was in a better head space and was almost mentally stable with Isha, but honestly I don't think Jinx will ever recover after losing her sister.

VANDER'S RETURN AS WARWICK & its effects to sisters' relationship

After Ambessa and her army imprisoned the rebellious citizens of Zaun, Singed unveiled his masterpiece; a savage creature triggered by blood, completely brutal, and immune to any emotion. This wolf-like monster, named Warwick, killed everyone in sight. But, when he was about to kill Jinx, he stared into her eyes for a moment and remembered a part of his previous life. A remaining piece of humanity in Warwick's mind came to the surface. He looked at Jinx and saw Powder (Jinx's true identity). This is the moment we realize Warwick is actually Vander, Jinx and VI's father. Jinx was determined to bring her father back, and she knew it was only possible with her sister's help. Her mortal enemy a.k.a her sister accepted Jinx's offer, even though she thought it might be a trap. I wasn't expecting her to accept the offer this easily and quickly. However, I understand why VI decided to accept the offer. VI couldn't handle the break up with Caitlyn, so she started pit fighting and became a drunk mess. She had hit rock bottom and she had nothing left, so what was there to lose? The worst thing that could happen was getting killed by her sister. Later, Jinx and VI found Vander and discovered his backstory from a different perspective, and I think it was really heart-warming, especially the scenes painted with watercolors. The memories of Vander with the sisters' mother were also really heartbreaking.

THE PROBLEM WITH THE SEASON II

We all agree that Arcane is one of the best animation series of all time, with its good script, amazing character developments, captivating animation style, and many other qualities. But there is one problem about the second season; there wasn't any time for us to breathe. It kind of felt like the producers were in a rush and the series wasn't planned to end in two seasons. I am a little bit upset because I feel like they wasted a lot of good stories. Almost every character in Arcane has his own morals and motivations and all of their stories deserve to be deeply explained. And that's like the curse of success because all the characters were absolutely beautifully written and now, we, as the viewers, are hungry for more.

Ayşe Umay ÇALIŞKAN 9/A

VICTORIA'S SECRET SHOW COMEBACK

The Victoria's Secret Fashion Show made a grand return after a six-year hiatus in October 2024. Held at the Brooklyn Navy Yard in New York City, the event aimed to rekindle the glamour and excitement that once made it a global phenomenon, while addressing past criticisms and adopting a more modern approach.

The show blended nostalgia with progress, treating fans to an iconic display of elaborate wings and dazzling costumes, paired with high-energy musical performances. Cher, an enduring symbol of reinvention, took the stage alongside rising star Tyla, setting the tone for a night that celebrated both legacy and new beginnings.

What set this year's event apart was the conscious effort to evolve. Victoria's Secret has faced scrutiny in recent years for its lack of inclusivity and outdated beauty ideals. Learning from its critics, the company assembled a diverse cast of models, blending familiar faces from veteran superstars like Tyra Banks, Adriana Lima, Barbara Palvin, and Taylor Hill with fresh talent representing different body types, backgrounds, and cultures.

The highly anticipated return of the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show in 2024 has not only lit up the runway but also set social media ablaze. After a six-year hiatus, the revamped event demonstrated its ability to captivate a global audience by bringing nostalgia, viral moments, and heated debates across platforms. Fans flooded Instagram and TikTok with throwback clips of iconic past shows, celebrating the return of beloved supermodels like Tyra Banks and Adriana Lima. The night's focus on empowerment, creativity, and inclusivity proved that the brand can honor its rich heritage while adapting to today's values.

As the lights dimmed and the final model left the runway, the return of the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show felt like more than just an event: it was a statement. By blending the best of its history with a forward-thinking approach, the show reignited excitement and hinted at a new era for the brand.

Yağmur Batur 11/D



An Experience Full of Different Stories: The 42nd Edition of Brive Book Fair

We had already felt that winter was approaching after the snowfall in Ankara and the drop of temperature. However, for some, the arrival of December marks the "official" arrival of winter, so it is not surprising that with the arrival of winter, bookworms' dream of reading books accompanied by a hot beverage and watching the snow resurface again.

Since winter is finally here and we are likely to have readers who have the same dreams, let's talk about the **Brive Book Fair**, which is an organization that our school attends every year. I had the chance to visit this year with our school and in this issue of *Monthly Trailer* I want to talk about my experience.

In terms of content, the Brive Book Fair offers a comprehensive selection of books including general literature, comics and young/ children's literature. It takes place in a vast area and it is an event for which you'll need to set aside plenty of time to examine every book that interests you in detail. In addition, many people come to the fair -especially on the weekends- to meet some of their favorite authors. The crowd creates a pleasant atmosphere, as you find yourself surrounded by books and fellow book lovers who share your passion.

As someone who loves book fairs and reading books, **Brive Book Fair** exceeded my expectations. The authors were very friendly and welcoming; we had the opportunity to interview several authors about their books and the writing process. We also bought the books that interested us by having them signed by the author. There were plenty of authors present eager to meet their readers.

We walked around the book fair in pairs and my friend and I interviewed two authors. I bought four books for myself, and as far as I know, she bought herself 3 books. Of course, you want to buy every book you see in that environment, but especially on Saturday, there were long queues in front of the authors but we didn't have enough time to wait. But the atmosphere of the fair was really enjoyable.

To sum up, I think it was a very joyful and different experience. It was nice to connect with the authors, and to learn more about the book writing process and the authors through interviews. Moreover, I bought books that I can read while drinking hot coffee and watching the snow!

Defne KANAT 10/C

NESIN MATHEMATICS VILLAGE

-A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON MATHEMATICS-

Nesin Mathematics Village is one of the most unique educational projects in Türkiye. Founded in 2007 by renowned mathematician Ali Nesin, this village demonstrates that mathematics education is not limited to formulas and theorems; it also focuses on improving creative thinking, problem solving ability and collaboration skills. The Mathematics Village has become a meeting point for both educators and students, offering an environment that makes learning mathematics enjoyable.

'Learning mathematics is like going on a journey; it is important to discover and search on this journey.'

Since its opening, Nesin Mathematics Village has continued to teach mathematics to students in a fun way by organizing various activities such as summer schools, workshops, and mathematics competitions. These activities contribute to the development of students' social and academic skills



I had the chance to attend Nesin Maths Village this year. At first, I didn't want to go because of my friend's opinions and feedback and also the word 'village' was very repellent to me. Going to the village was a very long journey; I traveled from the Mediterranean to the Aegean alone and had a thousand adventures trying to find the village. So the first thing I would like to say is that I gained individual freedom and confidence. In the village, you can stay either in a tent or in a ward. I stayed in the ward; I use the word ward because we called it a ward among ourselves. I stayed with 14 girls; we had one bathroom, one toilet, and 7 bunk beds. The very first thing that came to my mind was that I couldn't get used to it. By the way, I was the first one to come to the ward, and then gradually other people came. We got to know each other so quickly; each of us came from different cities of Türkiye. We all had different views, ideas, and upbringings- even one of my friends came from Erzurum. In the following days, we mingled with the girls.

After only a few days, it was as if we knew each other for a very long time. I learned what it is like to share a space with others. I learned to respect others' boundaries, to wait in line, to act together. So, what I want to say is: do not be afraid of being alone in the village, you will find people that you will get along with.

Course subjects were very interesting for me. Think of it like a group of math lovers gathering together. I went to the Mustafa Yađcı problem camp. It was very nice. I learned to look at mathematics with a different perspective and how to solve the question more quickly. I realized the importance of knowing something's definition. I was very nervous for our first gathering, in which we discussed what a quadrilateral is with Mustafa Yađcı for 80 minutes. He asked all of us for a definition and evaluated our answers. What we see at school is only a small part of math. Mathematics is a vast, infinite universe that always brings a new problem in front of you. Of course, my knowledge of mathematics has improved, but what I learned from the camp is to question everything.: "Why is it like this?", "Why do we accept it like this?"

Living in the village is a huge responsibility. We had to help the people working in the village, 22 people work in summer and winter for a salary, but the population of the village can reach or even exceed 300 people. All the work in the village is done jointly with the help of students and volunteers. I collected rubbish and cleaned the classrooms. The most unforgettable task for me may be washing dishes. I, who is generally too lazy to wash her own plate at home, washed the dishes of three hundred people I had never met. The team was composed of 8 people. My friend told me that my mum would cry if she saw me like this. I realized that at home, mothers never let their children, especially boys, do any work. Most men do not know how to do housework. The boys learned how to do chores thanks to the camp.

It was very difficult to leave the village. We became a family within a week. I hope my story will be a guide for a few people. The Mathematics Village is not only a training ground but also a place where friendships are made and experiences are shared. The time I spent there taught me not only mathematics but also life lessons. I am very happy to have had this experience that left a permanent mark on my life.

Iřık Yavuz 11/A



EDVARD MUNCH – SCREAM



Edvard Munch is an expressionist painter who was born on December 12, 1863. The most famous painting of this artist, who is generally known for his treatment of emotional subjects, is "Scream". In the beginning, he changed his generally depressed and pessimistic mood towards the last years of his life and had the joy of living. His painting, also known as "The Cry of Nature" and "Despair", is part of his series "Friezes of Life"- which he created between December 1893 and 1910. Munch covers themes such as life, love, fear, sadness, and melancholy in this painting.

The figure in the painting holds both sides of its head - which resembles a skull- with thin, long hands. We can say that the silent screams are coming from the figure's mouth and his eyes resemble fortune stones. The ambiguity in both the main figure and the background is based on a vague sense of danger. Rotating line kicks and hard passes arouse a feeling of anxiety. Munch then explains what he was inspired by when drawing this painting: "I was walking with two friends on the road, and the sun was setting, suddenly the sky turned blood red. I felt exhausted, I paused and leaned on the railing, there were flames in the form of blood over the dark blue fjord and the city, my friends kept walking and I stood trembling with fear, I felt the endless scream going through nature inside me."

The most productive time in Edvard Munch's artistic life was the 17-year period between 1892 and 1909. During this process, he experienced a very complicated, psychologically bad process, but he also revealed the most productive period of his art by living like this. Edvard has never been married in his whole life. He sometimes had feelings that could be considered obsessive, and there were also cases when he went after a woman as if he were chasing her. Munch passed away on January 23, 1944 in Oslo, Norway, at the age of 80.

So if you want to commemorate him, December 12 is just the day for that.

Doğa Özmen 11/ B

CREATIVITY SHIFTS BY PERSON

Every job is hard and every job pays off, but architecture is one of the jobs where the work requires putting an aesthetic and useful liaison between space and creativity that gives back to the community. If the architect's creation isn't ordinary, it's bound to get recognized, so we are here to talk about three of many revolutionary designers of buildings, as they stand out in this field to everyone but most particularly to me.

Starting off with a Spanish legend for the Spanish architectural culture, Antoni Gaudi whose work glorifies the cities around the country. Gaudi reflects nature in architecture and this is easy to understand if you look at his world renowned building, *Sagrada Familia*. The way this was made makes it look like it's almost alive and melting, that look of liveliness and movement attracts many people to go see it in real life. In this project and his many others, Gaudi always showed the world that he has the talent to blend Gothic architecture, which is Spain's most prominent style of design, with natural forms that feel alive.



Next up is Renzo Piano, who is a skilled architect that has the ability to harmonize technology and sustainability while also keeping everything in the frame of cultural heritage and modernity. He has many projects in Europe but overall there are two projects of his that inspire me the most - which are found in Paris and in London. Both of these projects are highly revolutionary and very unique. The one in London is *The Shard*, for which he designed offices and apartments. Its triangular shape isn't easy to find anywhere else and is very rare. It has a shell that is modern but still classic and we can clearly see that he made revolution and tradition work together. The other one is the *Centre Pompidou*, which is in one of the most beautiful and culturally rich cities: Paris. Its design makes it look as if it's the skeleton of a building because of the inside-out look it has, meaning the infrastructure of the building isn't hidden under concrete but used as the building's shell as well. As an unusual and innovative approach to a building itself, it has become a creative space where exhibitions take place.



Lastly, I'd like to name an important figure in this job, who is a valuable gem to modern Turkish architecture: Emre Arolat, whose contemporary works push him to the front. All of his works shine in their categories, but we are here to talk about the one in which he has evidently succeeded in combining his vision of architecture and the recognizable Mosque image, a commonly seen and respected one. With a modern input, Arolat made a mosque using raw concrete to build the building itself and to valorize the space around it. He, worth recognition and awe, created a space of humility and reflection while strengthening traditional values, implicating innovative practices and honoring religious practices.



Although it's known that everybody has different views and visions, the point I am trying to make is that the recognition of different architecture is born by the difference of how the creator drives the mind. And what they have in common is they almost always have a hard time reaching for the brakes. Each architect has their own type of approach, as the architect of your own life, what's yours?

Tan Gözalcı 12/ A

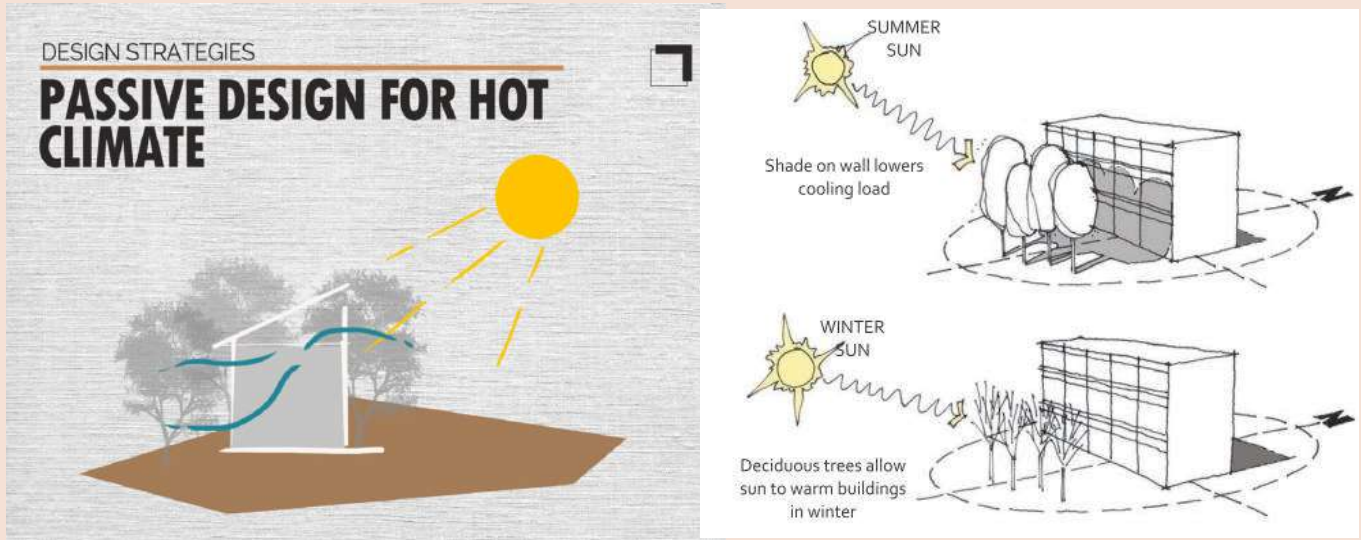
TOWARDS GREENER CITIES

Everyday, the population grows more than the day before and parallel to that increase, a need for everything grows bigger, one in particular is what we will talk about today - a place to stay. In a world where there is more pollution and waste accumulating than ever, people cause even more by always destroying and building new places to stay to meet our needs. More conception of energy is foreseen but uncared for, which has been this way since forever; although it was never alright to take away from the earth's life to add more to ours. Here's an idea- as this need won't go away and as it's our duty to protect the planet; people can start to use environment and climate friendly techniques to build and in return we live happily. Does that sound good? Of course it does. So, here's some of the developments we've seen up until this year in the green architecture field.



A building needs walls and walls are usually made of bricks, concrete, wood, and metal and the use of these components usually create pollution. Nowadays, as environmentalists have spent more time to such issues, more revolutionary ideas for producing building blocks have started. Carbon-negative blocks have arisen- they are made of matters like recycled plastic or hempcrete, the latter of which particularly has an ability to absorb CO2 and lower its existence in the atmosphere and that is favourable. Another example is bio-bricks - they are grown by using a bacteria that produces urease, which is a biological substance that brings loose sand together to give it a form. But one example stands out the most; a French company called FabBRICK, led by Clarissa, whose idea named the company. Clarissa, a French environmentalist, thought of using thrown away t-shirts and clothes that could be mixed with a substance to create a brick made of old clothes, which is also a great insulator and indestructible by fire.

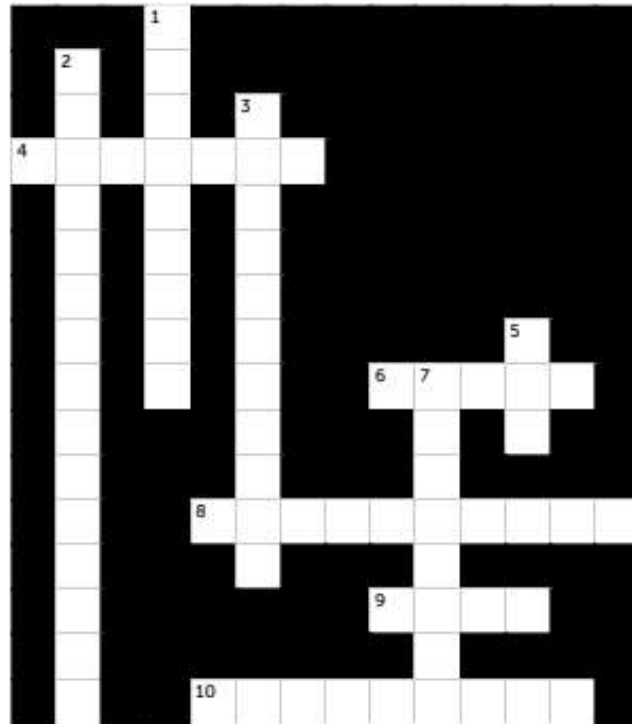
To build is hard work, so, consequently, it takes a lot of energy to complete a building and to mobilise the building to be used. To minimise the hard work, architects have found out many ways to add to their building styles, including passive design strategies such as daylighting, natural ventilation, and building orientation- which means choosing a logical place to build something to make it consume less energy such as areas of sun. This year photovoltaic glasses are more frequently seen in architecture, as they generate solar power whilst also being transparent just like normal glass which makes them a perfect element to use in the objective of making architecture, and so living, greener.



As change is inevitable, rather than discarding the old and never touching it again, it might be better to use it again. To simply recycle and reuse the predecessor, this idea was implicated to the field of architecture and construction - a new practice called circular construction which tells us how and when a building's life ends was used in the field. These buildings' remains can be used again to build a new form, so that the matter isn't thrown away or forgotten about but reformed into another shape. The goal is to use materials efficiently and keep them usable as long as possible while being mindful of the environment. But this goal requires a deeper knowledge and a more careful way of demolition.

These elements show how architecture and building techniques are never going to stop evolving; this shows that although there are still many challenges architects have to face such as costs and adaptation, more ideas will surface and help us build greener cities.

Tan Gözalcı 12/ A



Horizontal

- 4 A figure shaped like a person with a carrot nose, coal eyes and a scarf.
- 6 A plant with glossy green leaves and red berries, symbolizing Christmas cheer.
- 8 A decorative figure, often resembling a soldier, associated with holiday traditions and the title of a beloved ballet by Tchaikovsky known for its enchanting holiday story and iconic music.
- 9 A hollow, cup-shaped object that makes a ringing sound when struck often used as a decoration or to signal during the holidays.
- 10 A festive evergreen centerpiece, often decorated with lights and tinsel, used to celebrate the holiday season.

Vertical

- 1 A delicate ice crystal that falls from the sky, unique in its design.
- 2 A spiced cookie that shaped like a person for Christmas.
- 3 A jolly figure in red who delivers gifts to children on Christmas Eve.
- 5 A small magical helper in making toys at the North Pole.
- 7 A decorative object, often hung on a tree, used to add festive charm and beauty.