

I. IDENTIFICATION DATA

Thesis title:	EXPO Center near the Istanbul Airport, Istanbul, Turkey
Author's name:	Idil Boydak
Type of thesis :	master
Faculty/Institute:	Faculty of Architecture (FA)
Department:	Department of Architectural Modelling
Thesis reviewer:	Prof. dr. ir. Henri Achten
Reviewer's department:	Department of Architectural Modelling

II. EVALUATION OF INDIVIDUAL CRITERIA

Assignment	challenging
<i>How demanding was the assigned project?</i>	
The diploma assignment was challenging because of the sheer size of the program including the master plan layout of the 35 hectares' area and its connection to Istanbul airport. Although the size of the program is in the order of an urban design project, for the whole design the sensitivity and approach of the architect is required.	

Fulfilment of assignment	fulfilled
<i>How well does the thesis fulfil the assigned task? Have the primary goals been achieved? Which assigned tasks have been incompletely covered, and which parts of the thesis are overextended? Justify your answer.</i>	
The design fulfills all requirements of the assignment.	

Activity and independence when creating final thesis	A - excellent.
<i>Assess whether the student had a positive approach, whether the time limits were met, whether the conception was regularly consulted and whether the student was well prepared for the consultations. Assess the student's ability to work independently.</i>	
Idil Boydak worked regularly and intensively on the project. Feedback from consultation was always incorporated in the next meetings. Idil is able to work independently.	

Technical level	B - very good.
<i>Is the thesis technically sound? How well did the student employ expertise in his/her field of study? Does the student explain clearly what he/she has done?</i>	
In my view, it is important to realize, that an expo complex at the end of the day is a very utilitarian object. Despite welcoming many thousands of visitors it is not on same cultural level as for example a concert hall or a museum. The expo halls should be recognizable and offer wide flexibility inside. The space between the buildings must be easily navigable and offer pleasant surroundings in the conditions of Istanbul. Idil Boydak understands this tension very well. She has chosen a technically sound structural system for the halls which is also applied to the central stage building. The master plan layout fits very well in the terrain and logically subdivides into recognizable sections for the visitors. Access from public transport is well conceived.	

Formal level and language level, scope of thesis	Choose an item.
<i>Are formalisms and notations used properly? Is the thesis organized in a logical way? Is the thesis sufficiently extensive? Is the thesis well-presented? Is the language clear and understandable? Is the English satisfactory?</i>	
The thesis text is clear and presents both the research and explanation of the project.	

Selection of sources, citation correctness

Choose an item.

Does the thesis make adequate reference to earlier work on the topic? Was the selection of sources adequate? Is the student's original work clearly distinguished from earlier work in the field? Do the bibliographic citations meet the standards?

Idil Boydak makes sufficient use of carefully selected relevant precedents to inform her design. As is usual in these days, bibliographic resources are almost all exclusively from the internet.

Additional commentary and evaluation (optional)

Comment on the overall quality of the thesis, its novelty and its impact on the field, its strengths and weaknesses, the utility of the solution that is presented, the theoretical/formal level, the student's skillfulness, etc.

Special recommendation should be given to the master plan concept of the expo terrain. The distribution of all functions in the area is very harmonious and provides a clear and pleasant experience for visitors of the expo. At the same time, it supports all logistics and technical aspects of running such a huge facility. The hotel is placed near the attractive coastline and a modest harbor site has been included as well. Future expansion of the expo is also taken into account.

III. OVERALL EVALUATION, QUESTIONS FOR THE PRESENTATION AND DEFENSE OF THE THESIS, SUGGESTED GRADE

Summarize your opinion on the thesis and explain your final grading.

Idil Boydak has designed a very convincing masterplan for an expo area that has the ambition to compete on international level with other expo areas. The design balances well between design quality on the one hand and predominantly utilitarian character of expo areas on the other hand.

The grade that I award for the thesis is **B - very good**.

Date: **28.5.2025**

Signature:

