

Course Title	Code	Semester	Hour (T+P)	Credit	ECTS
DIPLOMA PROJECT	ARCH 402	8	4 + 4	6	12
Prerequisites	ARCH 401				
Language of Instruction	English				
Course Type (Required / elective)	Required				
Course Coordinator	Assist. Prof. Dr. Zeynep İNAN OCAK				
Instructor / email	Assist. Prof. Dr. Zeynep İNAN OCAK (zeynepinann@gmail.com) Prof. Dr. İkbāl ÇETİNER (ikbal.cetiner@marmara.edu.tr)				
Research Assistants	Research Assist. Rumeysa Temel				

Goals	<p>ARCH 402 Diploma Project / MIM 402 Diploma Projesi, as the 8th semester's course in the Curriculum of the Marmara University, Faculty of Architecture and Design, School of Architecture, is the last design studio and the graduation project. The course prepares architecture students for the profession of architecture. In the diploma project course, the students are expected to go through a design process by adding the knowledge, experience, equipment and skills gained in all architectural education. While doing this, they are expected to make an architectural interpretation by evaluating the different scales and contexts of the city and architecture from an interdisciplinary perspective.</p> <p>The Diploma Project is the last stage of the students' education and is a process in which the regular critical-discussion environments that are customary in the studio are diluted. It is aimed to develop skills of making architectural decisions with interim critiques (such as workshops, juries, seminars and sketch exams) organized within a certain calendar.</p> <p>2026-2027 Fall Semester ARCH 402 Diploma Project Conceptual Framework:</p> <p>In this context, the course calls for a holistic approach that begins at the urban scale, incorporating diverse dynamics into the thinking process, and extends to the architectural scale, where spatial design decisions are deepened and reflected down to the level of architectural detail. Within the project, it is essential to demonstrate how the coexistence and transition between the macro and micro scales are established, and how analytical studies are translated into architectural design decisions and spatial configurations. Within this framework, the way in which the student defines the context of architectural design constitutes a fundamental starting point.</p>
Learning Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to carry out an architectural design-project process individually and together with intermittent jury meetings, with all its complex dimensions and scales. • To be able to define the problems and potentials of an urban fabric with different dimensions such as history, culture, topography. • To be able to define the relationship and contextual framework of architectural design with "place." • To provide a comprehensive integration of design knowledge between different scales, social and environmental impacts. And turning it into an architectural project, • Ability to interpret the architectural program using creative and complex relationships, • Ability to use various expression methods in all processes of architectural design (to express an idea, to represent it in 2D or 3D, etc.)
Course Content	<p style="text-align: center;">CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK, CONTEXT AND PROGRAM <u>INCUBATION CENTER / SOCIAL IMPACT AREAS (IMPACT HUB)</u></p> <p>Co-working spaces have a mixed-use, flexible and shared spatial program and organization that are open to all citizens, provide public spaces for the city and its users, enable collective production, working and gathering, bring together different entrepreneurs/offices, and create opportunities for the development of new ideas and projects.</p> <p>The main program components can be considered as shared offices, indoor and outdoor public activity and gathering space(s), meeting areas, administrative units, customizable workspaces, units that can vary according to a public-function-based setup, and rentable temporary accommodation units.</p> <p>The aim is to design not merely an office building, but rather a building/building group (such as a library, conference hall, etc.) that fundamentally provides opportunities for multi-working, idea development and meetings, while also incorporating public functions.</p>

Program / Content:

It is expected that the configuration of the program components generates responses to urban spatial dynamics and establishes spatial relationships among them.

The fundamental spatial elements related to the architectural program are summarized below for both subjects/areas as guidance. Students are expected to develop their architectural design accordingly, define its relationship with the "place," and elaborate their project by establishing its contextual framework.

A) Entrance and Public Areas

~1,850 m²

- Entrance / foyer / reception / waiting / meeting: 900 m²
- Exhibition / presentation: 450 m²
- Multi-purpose event space (indoor): 500 m²

B) Incubation Core

~3.650 m²

- Coworking (shared working spaces): 1,450 m²
- Team / project rooms: 650 m²
- Rentable offices (20 units, small / medium / large sizes): 750 m²
- Meeting rooms (in various sizes): 450 m²
- Socializing / relaxation areas (lounge / coffee points): 350 m²

C) Laboratory / Workshop

~1,050 m²

- Digital lab: 250 m²
- Maker / prototyping (light production): 400 m²
- Research / project labs: 250 m²
- Technical service spaces and storage: 150 m²

D) Education and Knowledge

~1,050 m²

- Seminar / training rooms: 500 m²
- Library / reading / digital information center: 550 m²

E) Shared Spaces

~1,200 m²

- Food & beverage area (100 persons): 500 m²
- Auditorium (200 persons): 700 m²

F) Administration and Service Areas

~1,000 m²

- Administration / offices / support units: 450 m²
- Storage / archive / maintenance-repair: 300 m²
- Wet areas: 250 m²

G) Technical Areas and Enclosed Parking

~3,000 m²

GRAND TOTAL

~12.800 m²

*Circulation areas will be added to these m² values (approx. 30%).

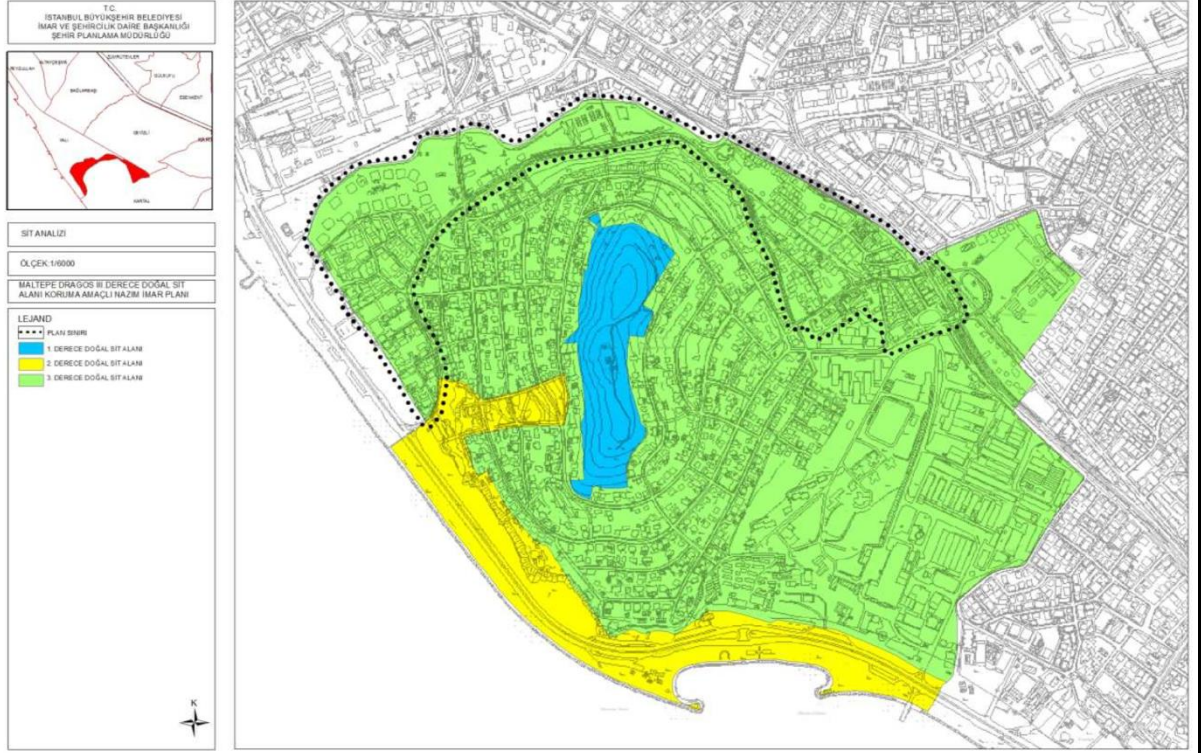
** The specified areas are considered functional requirements of the project. Students are expected to include a table listing the required area values for each component, along with the area values proposed in their own design. Students should be prepared to justify any deviations of ±15% from the specified values.

General Principles:

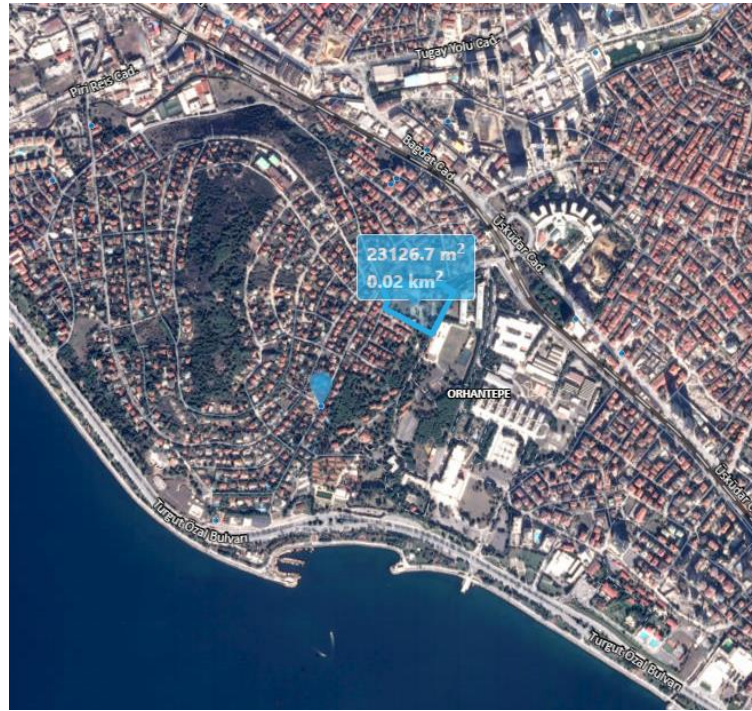
- Attention should be given to the balance between open and enclosed spaces within the selected site; the ways in which open spaces are to be used should be defined and their relationship with the architectural design should be explained.
- The project area should be evaluated by considering the natural conservation site, topography data, campus fabric, and existing industrial traces.
- Contemporary principles and approaches closely related to architecture, such as accessibility, ecology, public space, sustainability, energy efficiency, low carbon footprint and participation, should be taken into consideration with the project's decisions.
- For both sub-themes and the urban area, theoretical and spatial inquiries addressing questions such as the following are considered important:
 - “How does this structure serve as an intermediary between the university and its surroundings?”
 - “How does collective working take place?”
 - Can the incubator center be part of the faculty student's daily campus experience?
 - “What impact might public spaces have on social practices (of its surrounding area)?”
 - How can a technological and innovative architectural approach be reconciled with sustainability and low-carbon goals?
 - How can a technology-focused structure exist without disrupting the landscape character of the natural site?

Site / Study Area

Boundaries of Natural Conservation Site Areas and Their Degrees



Urban-Scale View



View at the Site Plan Scale



Assessment Criteria	
MIDTERM GRADE (Semester/in-the semester-evaluation): <u>The total score obtained with the contribution of the following components at the specified rates is the MIDTERM EXAM:</u> Q&A + Jury 1 + Jury 2 + Midterm Submission Interim Meeting: Participation is optional.	%40
FINAL EXAM GRADE (Midterm/End-of-Semester Grade): <u>The total score obtained through the contribution of the components listed below constitutes the FINAL EXAM (Midterm/End-of-Semester) grade:</u> Jury 3 + Sketch + Jury 4 + Final Exam Submission (To be considered successful in the Diploma Project, it is mandatory to receive at least 50 (fifty) points from the Final Exam.)	%60
FINAL GRADE= MIDTERM EXAM GRADE (Semester/in-year evaluation) 40%+ FINAL EXAM GRADE (Semester/final-exam-grade): 60%= FINAL (SUCCESS) GRADE 100%	%100

WORK SCHEDULE			
WEEKS	DATE	TOPICS	PLACE
		Beginning of the Academic Term	
WEEK 1	01.10.2026	Announcement of the 2026–2027 Diploma Project Topic	
WEEK 2	08.10.2026	Meeting 1: Site Visit + Q&A Session	7204 Thu: 10:30
WEEK 3	15.10.2026		
WEEK 4	22.10.2026	Meeting 2: Jury 1	
WEEK 5	29.10.2026		
WEEK 6	05.11.2026		
WEEK 7	12.11.2026	Meeting 3: Jury 2	7204
WEEK 8	19.11.2026	MIDTERM: SUBMISSION	
WEEK 9	26.11.2026		
WEEK 10	03.12.2026	Meeting 4: Jury 3	
WEEK 11	10.12.2026		
WEEK 12	17.12.2026	Sketch Exam	7204
WEEK 13	24.12.2026		
WEEK 14	31.12.2026	Meeting 5: Jury 4	Will be announced.
WEEK 16	12.01.2027 – 25.01.2027 Final Exam Week FINAL SUBMISSION		Will be announced.

RECOMMENDED REFERENCES

Sources

- İstanbul Büyükşehir Belediyesi Şehir Planlama Müdürlüğü. (2020). İstanbul İli, Maltepe İlçesi, Dragos 3. Derece Doğal Sit Alanı 1/5000 ve 1/1000 Ölçekli Plan Açıklama Raporu [PDF]. https://sehirplanlama.ibb.istanbul/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Plan-aciklama-raporu-dragos_5000_1000_rpr_17_d.pdf
- Kuru, Z., & Yazıcıoğlu Halu, Z. (2020). Sayfiye Yerleşimlerinin Tarihsel Süreç İçerisindeki Değişimine Yönelik Bir Araştırma: Dragos, Orhantepe Mahallesi Örneği. Akdeniz İnsani Bilimler Dergisi, 10, 339-361. <https://izlik.org/JA62TM85RH>
- Allen, T., & Henn, G. (2007). The organization and architecture of innovation. Routledge.
- Montgomery, J. (2007). Creative industry business incubators and managed workspaces: A review of best practice. Planning Practice & Research, 22(4), 601–617. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02697450701770126>
- Kojo, I., & Nenonen, S. (2017). Evolution of co-working places: drivers and possibilities. Intelligent Buildings International, 9(3), 164–175. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17508975.2014.987640>
- Saka, İrem. *Sürdürülebilirlik açısından İstanbul'da bir ofis binasının LEED sertifikalandırma sistemi kapsamında değerlendirilmesi / Sustainability evaluation of an office building in Istanbul in the scope of LEED certification system*. Yüksek Lisans Tezi, İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi, Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü, 2011.
- Demir, Hale. *Türkiye'deki teknoparklarda kullanıcı tercihleri ve değerlendirme ölçütlerinin belirlenmesi / Determination of user preferences and evaluation criteria in Turkey technoparks*. Yüksek Lisans Tezi, Dicle Üniversitesi, Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü, 2013.

Online Resources

- <https://www.marundragoskulturelmiras.com/genel-harita>
- <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/universite/ogretim-eleman-el-kitabi/arastirma/acibadem-universitesi-kulucka-merkezi>
- <https://www.okan.edu.tr/sayfa/7741/intech-cub-kulucka-merkezi/>
- <https://www.teknoparkistanbul.com.tr/kulucka-merkezi>
- <https://www.teknoparkistanbul.com.tr/>
- <https://www.isikun.edu.tr/kulucka>
- <https://ytustartuphouse.com.tr>
- <https://itucekirdek.com/kulucka-merkezi/>
- <https://www.cubeincubation.com>
- <https://www.atasehir.bel.tr/aklinizda-bulunsun/inovata-girisimcilik-ve-kulucka-merkezi>
- <http://girisim.bogazici.edu.tr>
- <http://girisim.bogazici.edu.tr>
- https://linktr.ee/bilgisosyalkuluckamerkezi?utm_source=ig&utm_medium=social&utm_content=link_in_bio&fbclid=PAZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQMMjU2MjgxMDQwNTU4AAGnwN7R3gV_suxDhZAI-b3Q4BUD9KlIfkHLoEECQw0jcVoPVeZwh2xc6QGVAFs_aem_zsatzHUKVEG2r9ApMsMieg
- <https://kolektifhouse.co>
- <https://istanbul.impacthub.net/calisma-alanlari/>
- <https://bilisimvadisi.com.tr>
- <https://www.regus.com/en>
- <https://mitto.marmara.edu.tr/>
- <https://www.mxincubation.com/>
- <https://odtuteknokent.com.tr/tr/programlar/girisimcilik.php>
- <https://odtuteknokent.com.tr/tr/>
- <https://cozone.co/>
- <https://www.yildizteknopark.com.tr/>
- <https://www.yildizteknopark.com.tr/yildizli-markalarimiz/ytu-startup-house.html>
- <https://www.ariteknokent.com.tr/tr>
- <https://itucekirdek.com/kulucka-merkezi/>
- <https://itumagnet.com/en/homepage/>
- <https://bogaziciteknopark.com/>
- <https://bogaziciteknopark.com/etiler-girisim-ofisi>
- <https://marmarateknokent.com.tr/>
- <https://marmarateknokent.com.tr/kulucka-merkez>

ECTS / WORKING HOUR TABLE			
Activities	Number of Weeks	Hours per Week	Total Workload (Hours)
Course Duration: 14 × Total Weekly Course Hours (including exams)	14	8	112
Preparation Studies	14	10	140
Assignments, Juries, Seminars	12	3	36
Midterm Exam	2	12	24
Final Exam	2	24	48
Total Workload			360
Total Workload / 30			360 / 30
Course ECTS Credit			12

Procedure and Submission Guidelines for All Juries

Jury 1, Jury 2, Jury 3 and Jury 4

- Attendance at all juries is mandatory.
- Unless otherwise announced, the jury session starts at 10:00. Submission / digital upload time is between 9:15–9:45 on the day of the jury. All documents/panels must also be compiled in A3 format into a single file and submitted as one “.pdf” file, in addition to being submitted in hard copy. Presentations will be conducted using digital materials. Students with an official excuse/report must submit their work within two days following the end of the report period. Therefore, students with an official excuse/report must contact the research assistants immediately upon receiving their report. This condition does not apply to midterm and final submissions; in those cases, the university-wide regulations shall apply.
- All students are required to present their projects orally and respond to the jury’s questions.
- **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Midterm and Final Submission

- Unless otherwise announced, the jury session starts at 10:00. Submission / digital upload time is between 9:15–9:45 on the day of the jury. All documents/panels must also be compiled in A3 format into a single file and uploaded as one “.pdf” file, and submitted in hard copy.
- All original-size documents/panels must be suitable for pin-up/display, in A1 format and in vertical orientation. All documents/panels must comply with the provided templates. (Templates: https://1drv.ms/u/s!Alqna9IDdqlK44eM_zugLf_7asBA?e=uXDD1e)
- Students with an official excuse/report must submit their work within two days following the end of the report period. Therefore, students with an official excuse/report must contact the research assistants immediately upon receiving their report. This condition does not apply to midterm and final submissions; in such cases, university-wide regulations shall apply.
- All students are required to present their projects orally and respond to the jury’s questions.
- **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

CLARIFICATIONS

Meeting 1: Site Visit + Q&A

Following the announcement of the diploma studio process and schedule on the website, all questions must be submitted IN WRITING via E-MAIL to the jury by Sunday, 4 October 2026, 23:00.

On the day of the meeting, the jury will respond to these questions after reviewing them in advance. Natural discussions and additional questions during the meeting will also be possible.

All questions must be submitted in writing to the e-mail address below. Any correspondence / questions / messages sent to personal e-mail addresses or other accounts will be considered invalid.

marun.diploma@gmail.com

Meeting 2: Jury 1

- Contextual/urban readings and diagrams (studies examining the existing condition; immediate surroundings; the historical, social, economic and cultural character of the area; microclimate; urban transportation networks; public spaces; urban and natural landscape elements; as well as the problems and potentials of the site). These may be prepared at 1/5000, 1/2000, and 1/1000 scales.
- Concept presentation of the detailed program and the communication of the design approach through diagrams. Preliminary proposal ideas at 1/2000 and 1/1000 scales (program development, sample investigations, context–design relationships, presentation of proposals, etc.).
- Physical model (including the site together with its immediate surroundings, adjacent buildings, roads, and topography), at 1/1000 and/or 1/500 scale; models at multiple scales are recommended.
- Additional studies (3D model, research studies, etc.).

It is expected that the analyses be of high quality—that is, researched, interpreted, and individualized by the student—and that they demonstrate sufficient depth to include initial explorations and conceptual inquiries related to the architectural design.

Meeting 3: Jury 2

ANALYSES: UNDERSTANDING THE PROJECT AND THE SITE

Contextual / urban analyses and diagrams (studies examining the existing condition; immediate surroundings; the social and cultural character of the area; microclimate; urban transportation networks; public spaces; urban and natural landscape elements; as well as the problems and potentials of the site) at 1/5000, 1/2000, and 1/1000 scales.

Concept presentation of the detailed program and the design approach.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ANALYSES AND THE CONCEPTUAL PROPOSAL

- Studies and drawings explaining the relationship between analysis and concept; works demonstrating how site research evolves into a design idea.
- Explanation / justified presentation of the program (functions, dimensions, capacities, etc.).
- 1/5000 and 1/2000 analyses addressing environmental relationships and site access/approach decisions—namely the site plan and immediate surroundings decisions.

CONCEPT / PRELIMINARY PROJECT

- 1/2000 and 1/1000 site plans and silhouettes including urban-scale decisions (should incorporate public spaces, accessibility for pedestrians/vehicles, transportation, density, and the proposed relationships between the urban context and the project site in terms of publicness).
- 1/1000 and 1/500 urban silhouettes and land sections (should demonstrate urban, landscape, and architectural design decisions as well as spatial proposals).
- 1/1000 silhouettes (including the surrounding context).
- 1/500 site plan (should include architectural and landscape decisions regarding the immediate surroundings and site access decisions).
- 1/500 sections and elevations/silhouettes (with all surrounding buildings/urban fabric/connections fully indicated).
- 1/200 ground floor plan.
- 3D images (drawings, perspectives, and 3D digital model visuals explaining the concept—SketchUp, etc.).

MODEL

- 1/1000 or 1/500 model (Physical model including the surrounding context and proposals).

MIDTERM SUBMISSION

The requirements of Jury 2 should be further developed and submitted. Each student must submit a 4-minute video recording presenting their project.

Meeting 4: Jury 3

ANALYSES – RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CONTEXT AND DESIGN

- 1/5000 and 1/2000 panels explaining the relationship between analysis and concept.
- Finalized program (functions, dimensions, capacities, etc.).

ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT

- 1/1000 site plan decisions (including the following):
 - Ground floor plan,
 - Access to the building/building groups (pedestrian, vehicular, service connections, accessibility for disabled users, etc.),
 - Urban landscape design decisions,
 - Connections between building groups,
 - Connections to landmarks in the immediate surroundings.
- 1/1000 silhouettes and sections passing through the project site (at least two).
- 1/500 ground floor plan (clearly explaining the immediate surroundings and all connections).
- 1/500 two sections (clearly explaining the immediate surroundings and all connections).
- 1/500 elevations/silhouettes (with all surrounding buildings/urban fabric/connections fully indicated).
- 1/200 ground floor plan and floor plans (A table listing the required area values for each component of the architectural program/content should be placed next to the floor plans).
- 1/200 sections (as many as necessary, with all surrounding buildings/urban fabric/connections fully indicated).
- 1/200 elevations (with all surrounding buildings/urban fabric/connections fully indicated).
- 3D images (drawings, perspectives, and 3D digital model visuals explaining the concept—SketchUp, etc.).

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM DECISIONS

- Design proposals for spaces requiring different structural system solutions, material assumptions, detail studies, sketches, etc.

MODEL

- 1/500 model (Physical model including the surrounding context and proposals).

Meeting 5: Jury 4

ANALYSES – RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CONTEXT AND DESIGN

- 1/5000 and 1/2000 panels explaining the relationship between analysis and concept.
- Studies explaining the architectural program (functions, dimensions, capacities, etc.).

ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT CONCEPT

A poster including drawings that explain the analyses related to the project site and the main idea of the architectural design developed accordingly, together with a 300-word text.

ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT

- 1/1000 site plan decisions (including the following):
 - Ground floor plan,
 - Access to the building/building groups (pedestrian, vehicular, service connections, accessibility for disabled users, etc.),
 - Urban landscape design decisions,
 - Connections between building groups,
 - Connections to landmarks in the immediate surroundings.
- 1/1000 silhouettes and sections passing through the project site (at least two).
- 1/500 model (including the entire immediate surroundings and the proposed project).
- 1/500 ground floor plan (clearly explaining the immediate surroundings and all connections).
- 1/500 two sections (clearly explaining the immediate surroundings and all connections).
- 1/500 elevations/silhouettes (with all surrounding buildings/urban fabric/connections fully indicated).

From the most expressive part of the project:

- 1/200 ground floor plan and floor plans (A table listing the required area values for each component of the architectural program/content should be placed next to the floor plans).
- 1/200 sections (as many as necessary, with all surrounding buildings/urban fabric/connections fully indicated).
- 1/200 elevations (with all surrounding buildings/urban fabric/connections fully indicated).
- 3D images (drawings, perspectives, and 3D digital model visuals explaining the concept—SketchUp, etc.).

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM DECISIONS

- Design proposals for spaces requiring different structural system solutions, material assumptions, detail studies, sketches, etc.
- 1/50 system detail – partial plan, section (from foundation to roof), and elevation taken from the part that best explains the architectural design decisions.

MODEL

- 1/500 model (Physical model including the surrounding context and the proposal).

ARCHIVE AND PRESENTATION PANEL

- A single A0 vertical panel explaining the entire project.

FINAL SUBMISSION

The requirements of Jury 4 should be further developed and submitted. Each student must submit a 4-minute video recording presenting their project.

SKETCH EXAM

The sketch exam will last the entire day, and the topic will be announced on the day of the examination. Submission must be made at the end of the day in the studio, with all sheets and working documents numbered, signed by the student, bound together, and submitted against signature. Before submission, photographs of the works must be taken by the student while still in the studio, saved, and uploaded to the designated online folders on the same evening.