

ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY  
Department of Interior Architecture | Spring 2026

# museum complex\*

@Silivri Yoğurthaneleri



This project explores **exhibition systems and museum design** through the adaptive reuse of **historic yoğurthane buildings in Silivri, Istanbul**. Students develop modular and flexible exhibition units, which are later integrated into a museum complex proposal.

The design process focuses on interior spatial interventions, conservation principles, accessibility as a primary design tool. The project aims to reinterpret Silivri's industrial heritage through contemporary exhibition and interior design strategies.



Interior Architecture Design Studio III+IV | 24565, 24567

Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Orkan Zeynel Güzelci**

Res.Assist. **Efe Uçar**

# Museum Complex

@Eski Silivri Yoğurthaneleri

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## Project Description

### P1. Preliminary Project : Exhibition Systems and Display Unit Design

In the first phase, which constitutes the preliminary project, students are expected to design and spatialize an **exhibition unit system**. This phase focuses on developing a conceptual design that goes beyond abstract ideas and translates into an applicable and constructible detail. Students are required to investigate the structural and constructional logic of the proposed exhibition unit and develop preliminary design proposals accordingly. Within this phase, the exhibition unit design may be completed at a 1:1 scale through material selection and detailing.

The designed system is expected to be adaptable and flexible, allowing for growth or reduction in scale and variation in height, width, and depth in response to different exhibition scenarios. Students are also required to produce 2D and 3D representations that clearly express the spatial, material, and structural characteristics of the exhibition unit. In order to understand the relationship between exhibition systems, space, and display anatomy, students are expected to research selected precedent exhibition units and display systems, and present and discuss their findings within the studio environment.

### P2. Main Project : Museum Complex

In the main project phase, students are expected to develop a **museum complex** based on a clearly defined museum concept. The exhibition units designed during the preliminary project will be integrated into the proposed museum and tested across different spatial conditions and levels of flexibility, including permanent and temporary exhibition scenarios. Building selection and usage scenarios, whether single or multiple buildings, must be directly related to the overall project narrative.

All design proposals should be developed through interior spatial interventions in accordance with universal conservation principles. No new architectural additions are allowed. The hierarchy, scale, and spatial distribution of the museum program are left to the students' design decisions. Considering the existing buildings' thick structural envelopes, lighting design constitutes a key component of the project. Artificial lighting should be the primary design tool and be supported by controlled use of natural light. All design proposals are expected to follow universal design principles, taking into account accessibility and movement constraints of elderly users, children, and individuals with limited mobility.

## Evaluation Criteria

<b>1st Jury (Preliminary Project Submission)</b>	%20
<b>2nd Jury</b>	%20
<b>3rd Jury</b>	%20
<b>Final Submission</b>	%40

## Weekly Program

Week	Date	Content-Submissions
W1	February 9	Preliminary Project: Exhibition Systems and Display Unit Design
	February 12	Preliminary Project: Exhibition Systems and Display Unit Design
W2	February 16	<b>SITE VISIT: SILIVRI</b>
	February 19	Preliminary Project: Exhibition Systems and Display Unit Design
W3	February 23	Preliminary Project: Exhibition Systems and Display Unit Design
	February 26	Preliminary Project: Exhibition Systems and Display Unit Design
W4	March 2	Preliminary Project: Exhibition Systems and Display Unit Design
	March 5	<b>1st JURY &amp; SUBMISSION: Preliminary Project</b>
W5	March 9	Main Project : Museum Complex
	March 12	Main Project : Museum Complex
W6	March 16	<b>MIDTERM BREAK</b>
	March 19	
W7	March 23	Main Project : Museum Complex
	March 26	Main Project : Museum Complex
W8	March 30	Main Project : Museum Complex
	April 2	Main Project : Museum Complex
W9	April 6	<b>2nd JURY &amp; SUBMISSION: Main Project</b>
	April 9	Main Project : Museum Complex
W10	April 13	Main Project : Museum Complex
	April 16	Main Project : Museum Complex
W11	April 20	Main Project : Museum Complex
	April 23	<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b>
W12	April 27	Main Project : Museum Complex
	April 30	Main Project : Museum Complex
W13	May 4	<b>3rd JURY &amp; SUBMISSION: Main Project</b>
	May 7	Main Project : Museum Complex
W14	May 11	Main Project : Museum Complex

	May 14	Main Project : Museum Complex
W15	May 18	Main Project : Museum Complex
	May 21	Main Project : Museum Complex

## Program of Requirements

1. **Exhibition Systems(Preliminary Project)**  
Physical and digital exhibition systems,  
Modular and adaptable exhibition units
2. **Entrance and Orientation Spaces**  
Main entrance,  
Reception and information area,  
Orientation and introductory display surfaces
3. **Permanent Exhibition Areas**  
Permanent exhibition spaces,  
Physical and digital display areas,  
Exhibition surfaces and integrated display units
4. **Temporary Exhibition Areas**  
Flexible exhibition spaces  
Adaptable layouts using modular exhibition units
5. **Social Spaces**  
Cafe  
Seating and gathering areas connected to interior circulation
6. **Shop**  
Museum shop related to the exhibition concept  
Transition space near exit or circulation zones
7. **Service Spaces**  
Wet areas and accessible restrooms  
Storage and technical support spaces
8. **Open and Semi-Open Areas (Concept-Based)**  
Interior courtyards or controlled open spaces,  
Areas for pause and social interaction
9. **Public Display Elements**  
Installations and sculptural elements  
Exhibition surfaces in public or semi-public areas

## Project Site Description

The project site consists of the historic *yoğurthane* (yogurt factory) buildings located in the center of Silivri, Istanbul Province. These structures were originally constructed to support the traditional and regionally renowned Silivri yogurt production, which became well known throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries. First *yoğurthane* buildings were integral to local food production, serving as spaces for seasonal yogurt manufacturing and storage. Historical records suggest that specialized *yoğurthane* facilities emerged in Silivri by the early 1900s, coinciding with the town's reputation for high-quality yogurt.

The remaining *yoğurthane* buildings, characterized by thick masonry walls and simple industrial spatial organization, represent industrial heritage and are among the few surviving examples of this typology in the region. Some of these structures have since been repurposed for cultural uses such as exhibition and community spaces, while others stand as preserved heritage assets awaiting adaptive reuse. The site is embedded within the urban fabric of Silivri's central district, a town with agricultural and gastronomic history, and offers a significant context for exploring interventions that bridge cultural heritage, exhibition programs, and contemporary design narratives.



Photo Source: Yasemin Çoraklı, 2026.