

The Design and Architecture World Gathered for “Inspiration X İstanbul”

“Inspiration X İstanbul,” an event bringing together the design, decoration, and architecture sectors with industry stakeholders, took place at Skyland HOM Decoration Center. Under the theme “Now and Future,” the two-day event presented attendees with the latest industry trends, diverse architectural perspectives, panels, workshops, and keynote talks. Highlighting both the present and future of the sector, “Inspiration X İstanbul” stood out as the most comprehensive design event ever organized in Turkey.

Day One Highlights

On the first day, the panel “Now & Future,” moderated by Yekta Kopan, featured Architect Gökhan Avcıoğlu and Tepta Strategic Brand Director Özlem Yalım and attracted significant attention. Architect Gökhan Avcıoğlu described artificial intelligence as an opportunity for mediocrity, stating, “It is an ideal opportunity for humans to show themselves. This will open the way for human creative development.” Özlem Yalım highlighted that Turkey predominantly uses white lighting and suggested that adopting yellow lighting, as in Europe, would be both visually and ecologically beneficial.

The second panel of the day, “Minimalism vs. Maximalism,” moderated by Senior Architect Emre Kuzlu, featured Interior Designers Atilla Kuzu and Esat Fişek. The speakers discussed the evolution and impact of minimalist and maximalist trends in working and living spaces from past to present.

Internationally acclaimed Architect Špela Videčnik shared her architectural approaches and insights during the “Diversity Through Limitations” panel. Her projects span public, sports, cultural, and religious buildings as well as single and multi-residential developments, exploring spatial relationships across different scales and contexts.

The final panel of the first day, “Biophilic Design and Biomimicry,” moderated by Artist and Designer Fırat Neziroğlu, featured Interior Designer Renda Helin Çizer and Architect Samprie Chatziachmet. The discussion emphasized the increasing use of natural materials in living spaces and explored the positive environmental impact of recycling these materials.

Day Two Focus: Artificial Intelligence

The second and final day of “Inspiration X İstanbul” was dominated by discussions on artificial intelligence. Moderated by Next Akademi Founder Levent Erden, the “Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality” panel included Architect Can Tamirci and Hipicon Founder Mertcan Özen, examining AI’s multifaceted applications in architecture. A virtual traditional Turkish house design created by AI garnered great interest from attendees.

During the “Digitalism Concept and Design” panel, Digital Artist and Art Historian Hakan Yılmaz shared insights on the digital dimension of art. Interior Designers Derya Toros and Erhan Sağır discussed the current state of digitalization in design. Future trends in architecture were explored in a panel featuring Interior Designer Esra Kazmirci and Architect Burak Pekoğlu, while Italian Architect Simone Micheli shared his international project experiences.

Workshops and Exhibitions

“Inspiration X İstanbul” also offered attendees hands-on experiences through workshops and exhibition areas. A workshop on Ebru Art, a traditional Turkish art form, was conducted under the moderation of Contemporary Ebru and Installation Artist Ebru Uygun and attracted significant participation.

Turkey’s first innovative material library, Materialog, showcasing new and popular materials used in architecture and design, was opened for visitors. The Materialog Library at Skyland HOM continues to exhibit innovative products from both domestic and international sources. The 2024 Trends Area, designed by Sinem Özlük, Semi Mahdum, Sultan Budak, Gonca Çetinkaya, and Melike Gençmen Ekşi, was open to visitors. Digital-assisted design workshops were coordinated by FGA Architecture, while painting workshops organized by Studio Masterpiece and Fırat Neziroğlu’s Patterns in Nature workshops saw strong attendance.