

Chapter 9

INSPIRATION FROM NATURE IN ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN EDUCATION

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INTRODUCTION

The most important task of the designer is to produce the best solution for the problem he/she has determined. Until today, nature and the creatures it contains have been the most important model in creating new and original designs. The solutions to the problems resolved in nature have always been a good guiding and source of inspiration for designers. (Senosiain, 2003; Gympel, 1996). To create new designs by being inspired by the excellent designs existing in nature has been expressed as “inspiration of nature -mimesis” (Sörbom, 2002). Platon (1995) also addressed all kinds of design and art as an inspiration and a reflection and used the concept of ”mimesis”. According to Aristotle, people learn nature and other people by inspiration (Aristoteles, 2007; Öymen Gür, 2007; Wolf, 2007; Ziss, 1984).

Inspiration from nature has always existed in design. The human being has observed the nature while living in harmony with it and used what they have learned from nature in different areas of daily life by insprating to facilitate their life. Designers are still investigating the solutions in nature. Zari (2007) argued that designers should be inspired by nature from both formal and functional aspects. According to Benyus (2007), it is necessary to receive the advice of nature in each stage from concept to evaluation in designs. Reed (2004) stated that the perfect system of nature should be the source of inspiration in designs.

The designers, who long for nature, try to understand it better and commune with it once again, make an endeavor to repair their relationship with nature and to create “environments in harmony with nature” through different professions and disciplines. Nature is the starting point of the studies carried out in many dif-

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concept and ensure the aesthetic fiction. In addition, nature inspiration approach helped design students in terms of aesthetics, functionality and creativity and has made design education more comprehensible. Ultimately, nature inspiration approach makes significant contributions to the development of students' design processes and also plays an important role in raising environmental designer with environmental consciousness who are more sensitive to nature.

The level of inspiration established with design can be improved in line with the interest of students and other courses taken for this subject. Thus, the designer-student can achieve appropriate spatial designs in the desired tendency by the selection of the rules in accordance with the expected result, with an approach that regards nature as a master.

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