

# ISTANBUL

## places of gathering. on vaults

**workshop** — on computational design techniques // Rhinoceros/Grasshopper

This workshop is organized by Istanbul Technical University, Graduate School of Science Engineering and Technology, Architectural Design Computing Graduate Program and by DME of Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Germany.

**theme** — For springterm's "computational design"-workshop we want to look at Istanbul as one of today's most important and vibrant places of intercultural cohabitation. A part of our fascination with the city comes with Istanbul's role as a major crosscultural hub of arrival and gathering in between Europe and Asia. Historically as well as today the city shows fascinating socio-cultural, temporal and local dynamics. Having been a melting pot of cultures over the centuries, the citizens of Istanbul vividly negotiate the role and rules of their society until today. It is this specific tension between religions, societal role models and the urban body of the city that has led its inhabitants to form and build some of the most significant places of togetherness and gathering - whether these are driven by religion (such as Aya Sofya), economics (like bazars such as Kapalı Çarşı), culture (such as AKM), sports (such as Fenerbahçe Sükrü Saracoglu Stadi) or politics (like the City Hall in Şehzadebaşı).

Traditionally many of these architectural and societal icons were made from vault-structures and cupolas - sometimes housing different religions under one roof. And in history these aggregated vaults had significant structural and climatic advantages - while the grandeur of these structures resulted in very specific architectural affects. Interestingly western Modernism widely replaced the ambition to construct intricate and appealing vaulted spaces with the efficiency of flat slab structures. We think that this is a loss.

Therefore we want to use vault aggregations to formulate new spaces of gathering within the city of Istanbul.

**date** — 14.-19. April 2014

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