

DESIGN SUMMER SCHOOL · KARTAL GAMEBOARD

THE GREAT GAME ISTANBUL

kartal*

WORKSHOP BOOKLET

Seven stakeholder perspectives · Negotiation · Design agency



24-25 Aug ONLINE

29 Aug-8 Sep ON SITE · KARTAL

Politecnico di Torino, AURA, MSGSU, UBT, summer workshop 2026

THE GREAT GAME ISTANBUL

apply here!



online:
24 aug.-25 aug.

on-site:

29 aug.-8 sep.

application deadline:
15 july, 2026

Alp ARDA
Michele BONINO
Valeria FEDERIGHI
Edoardo BRUNO

Yılmaz DEGER
Sinan IZGI
Seda ALTAN

Güldehan ATAY
Kumru CILGIN
Dilvin H. A. USMAN

Lendi OSMANI
Shqiprim AHMETI
Binak BEQAJ

workshop language:
ENGLISH

Politecnico di Torino

AURA Istanbul

Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University

UBT College Kosovo

kartal*
district

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why this workshop?

An international summer school as a role-playing game, bringing together 21 graduate students from Politecnico di Torino - DAD, UBT Kosovo, AURA Istanbul and Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University to negotiate the future of Kartal, Istanbul. Over 10 days of fieldwork, studio production, and international guests, The Great Game methodology comes to Istanbul for the first time.

Credits: Politecnico di Torino students receive 3 CFU upon successful completion. All participants receive a joint certificate from Politecnico di Torino, AURA Istanbul, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, and UBT College Kosovo.

Accommodation is supported by Kartal Municipality for students from Italy and Kosovo and non-Istanbul participants. Travel is the responsibility of each student, selected students from the Politecnico di Torino, additionally receive a contribution of €300 travel reimbursement.



Politecnico
di Torino



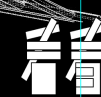
DAD
Dipartimento
di Architettura
e Design



AURA
ISTANBUL



MİMAR SİNAN
GÜZEL SANATLAR
ÜNİVERSİTESİ



An international graduate workshop applying *The Great Game* to a live urban case in Kartal, Istanbul.

WHEN	24–25 Aug 2026 · Online seminars 29 Aug–8 Sep 2026 · On-site workshop
WHERE	Kartal, Istanbul · Hangar · AURA · MSFAU
WHO	21 graduate students · Partner faculty · International guests
PARTNERS	Politecnico di Torino — DAD · AURA Istanbul · Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University · UBT College Kosovo · Kartal Municipality
LANGUAGE	English
CONTACT	thegreatgame-istanbul.com thegreatgame.istanbul@gmail.com

This booklet collects framework, partners, teaching team, selected students, stakeholder perspectives, and the day-by-day programme.

From framework to closing day — sections of this booklet.

—	WORKSHOP POSTER	02
	Visual identity by kankan看看 — for partner circulation.	
—	PRELIMINARY	03
	Dates, venues, partners, language, and contact at a glance.	
01	ABOUT & FRAMEWORK	06
	Why the workshop exists, and how The Great Game works as pedagogy.	
02	SITE & PARTNERS	07
	Kartal as gameboard, and the institutions hosting the edition.	
03	TEACHING TEAM & GUESTS	08
	Faculty by partner institution, plus guest speakers and design collective.	
04	SELECTED STUDENTS	09
	21 places awarded from 145 applications across three equal tracks.	
05	PERSPECTIVES & CONTRACTS	10–11
	Seven stakeholder briefs and the overlapping gameboard map.	
06	PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE	12
	Full calendar from online seminars to the closing exhibition.	
07	DAY-BY-DAY SCHEDULE	13–15
	Detailed slots, venues, lectures, and collective checks.	

Quick reference while reading the programme — what matters across the ten days on site.

TIMELINE

24–25 Aug Online seminars + guest lectures

29 Aug Arrival in Istanbul

30 Aug–8 Sep On-site studio, lectures, checks

8 Sep Final exhibition & closing

VENUES

Hangar Istanbul Main studio base · Kartal

AURA Istanbul Kick-off & hybrid sessions

MSFAU Lectures · final revision

Field Kartal district gameboard

IN THE SCHEDULE PAGES



Yellow markers — collective checks, public lectures, and closing moments.



Standard slots — studio hours, transfers, meals, and working sessions.

21

STUDENTS

7

PERSPECTIVES

10

DAYS ON SITE

EN

LANGUAGE

Status. Working booklet for partner circulation. A small number of timings remain to be confirmed and will be updated as logistics are finalised.



MIMAR SINAN
GÜZEL SANATLAR
ÜNİVERSİTESİ



International visibility, strategic foresight, professional development.

A joint initiative of **Politecnico di Torino** (Italy), **AURA Istanbul**, **Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University**, and **UBT College Kosovo**. Graduate students in architecture, urban design and planning apply *The Great Game* to a live urban case study in **Kartal, Istanbul**, with the support of **Kartal Municipality**.

The workshop tests a proven international methodology on active urban transformation — producing scenarios grounded in regulation, economy, and governance, with direct relevance for the city and its institutions.

01 · THE GREAT GAME

Hands-on training in negotiation, strategy, and design agency on a live urban gameboard.

02 · INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

Intensive collaboration across Torino, Istanbul, and Kosovo partner institutions.

03 · PROFESSIONAL EXPOSURE

Direct contact with practitioners, stakeholders, and institutions shaping Kartal.

Can that competence be taught? The Great Game says yes: participants define strategies, align actors, and learn how concepts become implementable through institutional and economic dynamics.

Design is collective and political, yet studios often teach the architect as lone author. In practice, ideas must be negotiated with politicians, experts, investors, and communities — adapted and legitimised by those who shape space.

Tested over **five years** on gameboards in **Detroit, Stazzema, Kiruna**, and **Belgrade**; a **finalist for the EAAE Pedagogy Awards 2024**.

**5
years**

Tested
pedagogy

**4
cities**

Detroit ·
Stazzema ·
Kiruna ·
Belgrade

**EAAE
2024**

Pedagogy
Awards Finalist

The workshop centres on **Kartal** — a district in active transformation, with regulatory conditions well suited to the game. Students respond to real spatial, regulatory, and stakeholder challenges at the intersection of architectural vision and metropolitan politics.

Here the city is the **gameboard**: a bounded field of competing interests and incomplete information. The stakes must be real — constraints that hold, actors with institutional weight, conditions that resist easy answers.

10

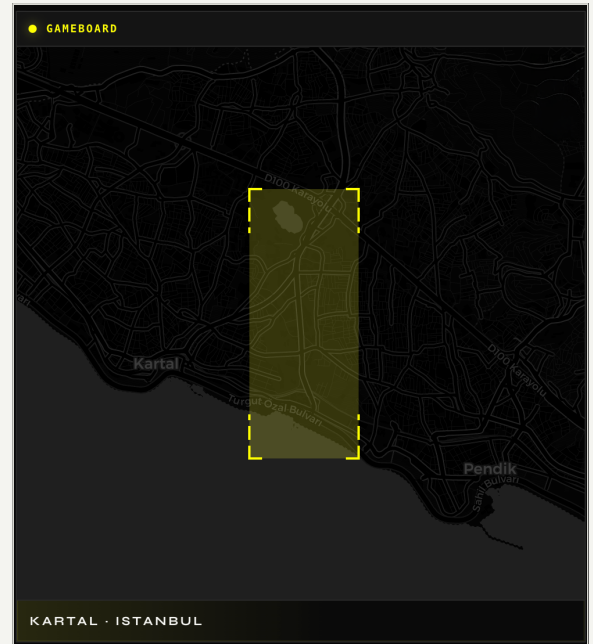
DAYS ON SITE

21

GRADUATE STUDENTS

9

FACULTY MEMBERS



INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

ITALY · POLITO

Politecnico di Torino – DAD

Department of Architecture and Design — education, research, and knowledge transfer across architecture, urban design, and cultural production.

TURKEY · AURA

AURA Istanbul

Academy of Architecture and Urban Research — independent non-profit institution addressing contemporary urban challenges, with particular focus on Istanbul.

TURKEY · MSFAU

Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University

Faculty of Architecture — among Turkey's oldest institutions (from 1882), engaging Istanbul's transformation through architecture, urban design, and planning.

KOSOVO · UBT

UBT College Kosovo

Higher education in architecture, urban planning, and design — applied research, sustainability, and international collaboration.

HOST · KARTAL

Kartal Municipality

Under Mayor Gökhan Yüksel, Kartal Municipality hosts the Summer School on site and supports institutional dialogue around urban transformation.

Partner tutors and guest speakers — short bios for the Kartal teaching team.

ITALY

POLITECNICO DI TORINO – DAD

04

**Alp ARDA**

Main coordinator · PhD Candidate · Polito · Tsinghua
Architect and PhD candidate (DAD / Tsinghua dual degree); research on Istanbul's spatial decision infrastructure.

**Michele Bonino**

Full Professor · Director of DAD
Head of DAD; China Room senior fellow; Shougang Visitor Centre (Beijing 2022); Venice Biennale invitations.

**Valeria Federighi**

Adjunct Professor · Architect
Co-founder of Wworks; China Room & Ardeth; author on informal settlements and AI urbanism.

**Edoardo Bruno**

Researcher · Architect
China Room researcher; Italy–China projects; Venice & Shenzhen Biennales; recent monographs on strategy.

TURKEY

AURA ISTANBUL · MSFAU

06

**Yilmaz Değer**

Founding Member · AURA
Architect; LOTUS / DEĞER practice;
lecturer at Yıldız and Mimar Sinan.

**Sinan İzgi**

Founding Member · AURA
Architect; Aga Khan–awarded student work; ecology and sustainable design studios at MSFAU.

**Seda Altan**

Director · AURA
Urban planner; leads AURA programmes and partnerships around Istanbul's built environment.

**Güldehan Atay**

Professor · MSFAU
Housing, participatory design, resilience, and post-disaster recovery; Genoa visiting researcher.

**Kumru Çilgin**

Assistant Professor · MSFAU
Urban policy and participatory planning; postdoc at DIST, Politecnico di Torino.

**Dilvin H. A. Usman**

Lecturer · MSFAU
High-rise housing typologies and urban fabric; typo-morphological research on Istanbul.

KOSOVO

UBT COLLEGE KOSOVO

03

**Lendi Osmani**

Architect · Guest Lecturer
Polito-trained; prize-winning post-conflict educational architecture; mentors at UBT.

**Shqiprim Ahmeti**

Head of Institute
Urban Studies & Spatial Planning; Prishtina historiography and human-scale design.

**Binak Beqaj**

Dean · Architecture & Spatial Planning
Urban planning, public space, and housing; social housing and master-plan juries.

GUESTS

GUEST SPEAKERS

06

**Özlem Altınkaya Genel**

University of Groningen · 24 Aug
Harvard GSD PhD; regional urbanization and Marmara transformation. Online lecture.

**Murat Güvenç**

İlhan Tekeli Foundation · 24 Aug
METU; Istanbul Studies Center, Kadir Has. Urban data, demography, and cartography.

**Emre Arolat**

EAA · Hon. FAIA · 1 Sep
Founding partner, EAA. Aga Khan Award 2010. Public lecture — *Scent Of The Trace*.

**Liu Jian**

Tenured Professor · Tsinghua · 4 Sep
Registered City Planner of China; Fulbright Harvard. Urban regeneration and comparative planning.

**Lai Yuan**

Associate Professor · Tsinghua · 4 Sep
PhD Urban Informatics (NYU); formerly MIT. Smart settlements and AI-informed planning.

**Kankan Collective**

Interscalar Mapping · 2 Sep
Design collective; workshop poster and Interscalar Mapping session.

From **145 applications** across three open calls, the jury awarded **21 places** — seven winners from each partner track — on portfolio, CV, and statement of purpose.

145

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

21

PLACES AWARDED

7 + 7 + 7

EQUAL PARTNER TRACKS

TORINO

POLITECNICO DI TORINO — DAD

Architecture, urban design & planning · Italy track

01 Vera Sofia Palazzi

02 Harsh Satam

03 Micaela M. Ferraris

04 Teodor Angelov

05 Viktoria Hristova

06 Andrea Kedhi

07 Beril Avcioglu

07 OF 21 · POLITO DAD

KOSOVO

UBT COLLEGE — PRISHTINA

Architecture & spatial planning · Kosovo track

01 Erdonis Duraku

02 Gramoz Gashi

03 Era Desku

04 Lendiana Fetaj

05 Milot Qerimi

06 Eli Binxhija

07 Poema Doli

07 OF 21 · UBT COLLEGE

ISTANBUL

TURKEY TRACK · PARTNER SCHOOLS

AURA · MSFAU and affiliated programmes

01 Belinay Hira Güney

02 Beyza Çetin

03 Simay Habiboğlu

04 Elif Sude Karakaya

05 Esin Otman

06 Defne Adiloğlu

07 Beray Dağtekin

07 OF 21 · ISTANBUL

THE AWARD

Competitive open call evaluated on academic portfolio, CV, and statement of purpose. Places are distributed equally so no single institution dominates the studio.

MIXED TEAMS

On site, students work across institutional lines on the Kartal gameboard — holding stakeholder perspectives, negotiating constraints, and sharing outcomes.

LANGUAGE & STAY

Workshop language is English. Accommodation support for international and non-Istanbul participants is provided by Kartal Municipality.

The gameboard is not a blank slate. Seven stakeholder contracts — drawn from real Kartal conditions — assign each team a bounded territory and a brief.

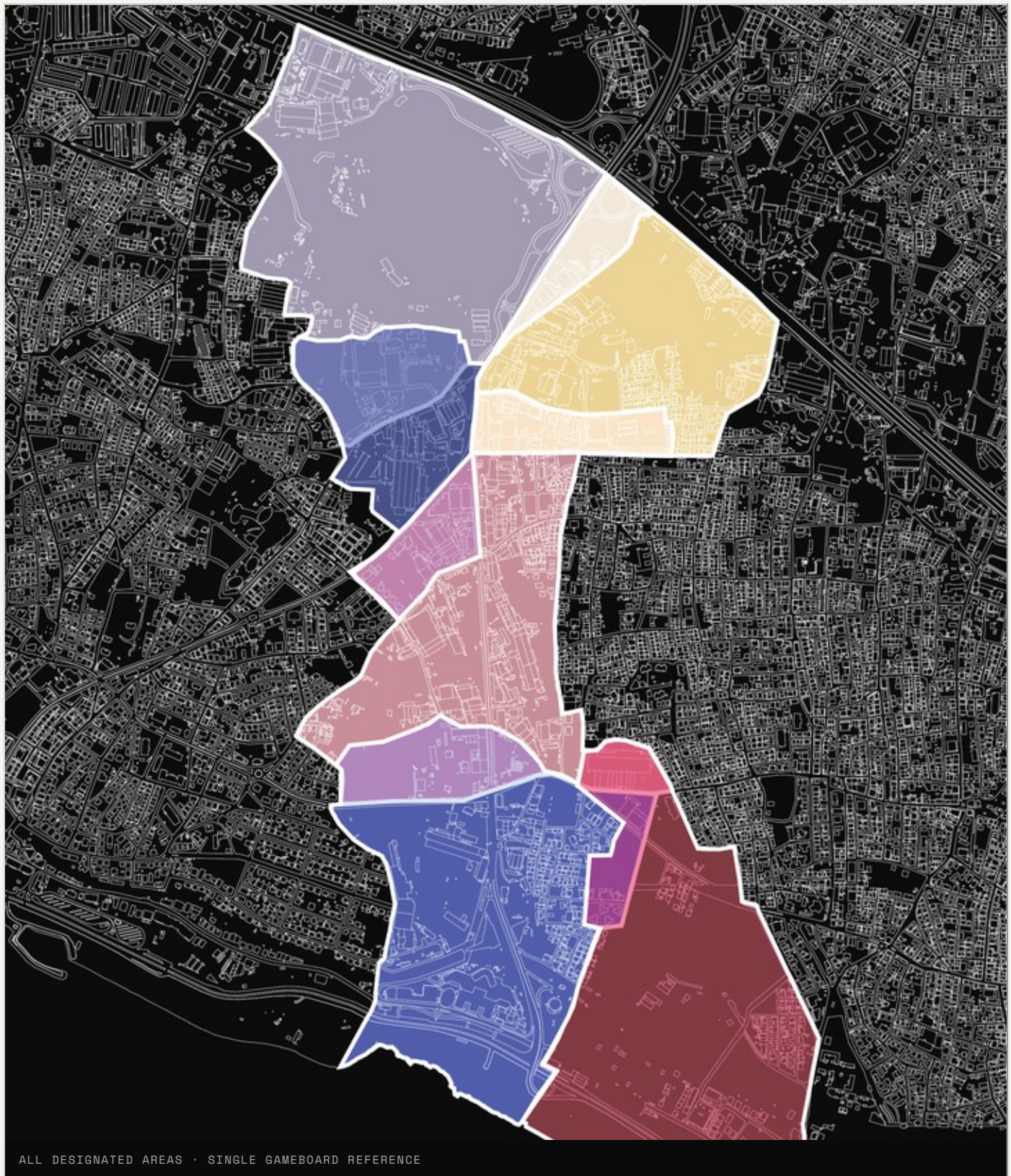
Students do not play the client. They design on behalf of a stakeholder with documented interests and blind spots. Overlaps force negotiation; reviews act as **temporary contracts**.

01	Ministry of Environment NORTHERN THRESHOLD · QUARRY & GREEN CORRIDOR · D-100 Ecological green belt and artificial lake at the district entry — public access, restoration, and a symbolic arrival for Kartal's transformation.
02	Residents' Association COALITION OF RESIDENTS & LOCAL CULTURAL WORKERS Culture with the neighbourhood — workshops, shared grounds, and everyday gathering; spatial form that resists displacement.
03	Big Tech Tycoon TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION · MUNICIPALITY PARTNERSHIP Green Campus & Technopark as north–south gateway — research and digital industry woven into green infrastructure; permeable, not a sealed enclave.
04	Private Developer TOURISM & COMMERCE · CENTRAL BOULEVARD 24/7 commercial heart stitching north–south flow — retail and hospitality within height caps; profitability with walkable street life.
05	Municipality of Kartal CIVIC ANCHOR · MUNICIPAL SEAT & PUBLIC SERVICES Relocate the municipal seat as a hub for urban and local services — accessible, legible form toward the traditional centre.
06	Cultural Foundation CULTURE, EDUCATION & SPORT · SPORTS COMPLEX ANCHOR Extend the sports complex into educational and cultural facilities — sport as a generator of public life and civic profile.
07	Infrastructure Commission NORTH–SOUTH CORRIDOR · E-5 TO COASTAL LINE Teleferic spine, boulevard from highway to shore, green network, parking nodes, and coastal wind corridors across the board.

Colour fields mark each perspective's designated area on the Kartal East Centre gameboard. Shared edges are where negotiation becomes design.

“Documents and contracts hold equal weight to material objects.”

– HÉLÈNE FRICHOT



MINISTRY RESIDENTS BIG TECH DEVELOPER MUNICIPALITY CULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE

Online seminars and guest lectures precede a ten-day on-site programme. Yellow markers indicate collective checks and public moments.

DATE	DAY	WHERE	KEY MOMENT
24 AUG MONDAY	Seminar 1 + guest lectures	Online · 11:30	LECTURE Özlem Altinkaya Genel · Murat Güvenç
25 AUG TUESDAY	Seminar 2 – Critical perspectives & Kartal	Online · 11:30	Kosovo team + Municipality site presentation
29 AUG SATURDAY	Arrival	Istanbul	Delegations arrive · hotel check-in · welcome
30 AUG SUNDAY	Kartal visit & orientation	Kartal · Hangar	Field survey · first team roundtables (<i>national holiday</i>)
31 AUG MONDAY	Kick-off at AURA	AURA Istanbul	PUBLIC Great Game Experience — Federighi & Bruno
1 SEP TUESDAY	Historical Peninsula & Mimar Sinan	Peninsula · MSFAU	LECTURE Scent Of The Trace — Emre Arolat
2 SEP WEDNESDAY	Site visits & studio	Kartal · Hangar	CHECK 1 Kankan Collective · Mekânda Adalet · Roundtable 1
3 SEP THURSDAY	Hangar working session	Hangar Istanbul	Studio · Municipality Planning Commission wild card
4 SEP FRIDAY	Online lecture & studio	Online · Hangar	CHECK Tsinghua lecture · Roundtable 2
5 SEP SATURDAY	Hybrid lecture & wild card	AURA Istanbul	CHECK 2 Pedagogy X Practice — Michele Bonino
6 SEP SUNDAY	Half-day studio	Hangar Istanbul	Collective working morning
7 SEP MONDAY	Final revision	Mimar Sinan	FINAL CHECK Presentations with all actors
8 SEP TUESDAY	Final exhibition & closing	Hangar Istanbul	CLOSING Exhibition · ceremony with Mayor Gökhan Yüksel

 COLLECTIVE CHECK / PUBLIC MOMENT  PREPARATORY ONLINE SEMINAR

TIMINGS ARE INDICATIVE AND MAY BE REFINED AS LOGISTICS ARE CONFIRMED.

PRE-WORKSHOP & OPENING DAYS

Online seminars (moderated by Alp Arda & Seda Altan), guest lectures, then arrival and first field day.

S1 · GREAT GAME + LECTURES

24 AUG · MON · ONLINE

- 11:30 The Great Game + Istanbul — structure, rules, macro briefing
- 12:30 Özlem Altinkaya Genel — Reading Istanbul at the Regional Scale
- 13:30 Murat Güvenç — Reading Istanbul Through Data

S2 · CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES & KARTAL

25 AUG · TUE · 11:30 · ONLINE

- 30' Critical perspectives — UBT College Kosovo team
- 40' Kartal site story — Municipality presentation
- 20' Reflections / Q&A

ON-SITE · 29 AUG – 8 SEP 2026 · ISTANBUL

SAT

29 AUG

ARRIVAL

Delegations arrive; hotel check-in and welcome.

AIRPORT · HOTEL

TBC

Flights from Torino & Kosovo

Hotel check-in · welcome with students

SUN

30 AUG

KARTAL VISIT & ORIENTATION

Field survey and first team roundtables · national holiday.

KARTAL · HANGAR

08:00

Hotel meeting

Transfer to Hangar & field sites

08:00–13:00

Field survey & gameboard orientation

13:00–17:00

Lunch · second site survey

Upper perimeter

17:00–19:00

First team roundtables

Hangar · initial design

19:00 →

Dinner & late studio

Kick-off at AURA, Historical Peninsula, and the first collective check with Kankan.

MON 31 AUG	KICK-OFF AT AURA Public Great Game Experience presentation by Valeria Federighi and Edoardo Bruno.	AURA · ISTANBUL
09:00–10:00	AURA breakfast	
10:00–10:45	Welcome remarks Introduction to AURA Istanbul	
11:00–13:30	Great Game Experience Public presentation — Valeria Federighi & Edoardo Bruno	
14:30–18:30	Working hours	
19:00 →	Dinner & late studio Hangar Istanbul	

TUE 1 SEP	HISTORICAL PENINSULA & MIMAR SINAN City walk through the Historical Peninsula; evening public lecture — Scent Of The Trace.	PENINSULA · MSFAU
09:00–12:00	Historical Peninsula walk From Karaköy through the Peninsula	
12:00–13:00	Lunch	
13:00–17:00	Working session AURA / Mimar Sinan · IRHM (subject to confirmation)	
18:00–20:00	Scent Of The Trace — Emre Arolat Istanbul Painting and Sculpture Museum · Mimar Sinan University	

WED 2 SEP	INDEPENDENT SITE VISITS & STUDIO FIRST COLLECTIVE CHECK Kankan Collective, Mekânda Adalet, and Roundtable 1.	KARTAL · HANGAR
08:00	Independent site visits begin Upper, central, and waterfront teams	
10:00–11:00	Kankan Collective — Interscalar Mapping	
11:30–13:00	Site visits / collective work	
13:00–14:00	Lunch at Hangar	
14:00	Mekânda Adalet Hangar Istanbul	
After session	Hangar working hours	
17:30	Roundtable 1 15-minute presentation from each student group	

Studio intensives, Tsinghua lecture, collective checks, final revision, and closing.

THU 3 SEP	HANGAR WORKING SESSION Studio day with a Municipality Planning Commission wild card.	HANGAR · ISTANBUL
08:00	Morning studio	
12:00–13:00	Lunch at Hangar	
Afternoon	Municipality wild card Planning Commission — timing TBC	
FRI 4 SEP	ONLINE LECTURE & ROUNDTABLE 2 Confirmed Tsinghua guest session with Liu Jian and Lai Yuan.	ONLINE · HANGAR
Until 10:00	Morning collective work	
10:30–12:30	Liu Jian & Lai Yuan — Tsinghua Comparative planning · urban informatics & AI	
13:00–17:00	Working session	
17:00	Roundtable 2 15-minute presentations · teaching team feedback	
SAT 5 SEP	HYBRID LECTURE & WILD CARD SECOND COLLECTIVE CHECK Full day at AURA with Michele Bonino.	AURA · ISTANBUL
08:00–18:00	Working session at AURA	
18:00–20:00	Pedagogy X Practice — Michele Bonino Hybrid lecture · wild-card moment	
SUN 6 SEP	HALF-DAY STUDIO Collective working morning at Hangar.	HANGAR · ISTANBUL
08:00–13:00	Half-day working session	
MON 7 SEP	FINAL REVISION FINAL COLLECTIVE CHECK Presentations with all actors.	MIMAR SINAN
09:00	Mimar Sinan working hours Meeting with professors	
16:00	Final revision with all actors 15-minute presentation from each group	
TUE 8 SEP	FINAL EXHIBITION & CLOSING Public exhibition and closing ceremony with Mayor Gökhan Yüksel.	HANGAR · ISTANBUL
08:00–12:00	Final working session	
12:00–14:00	Printing & installation	
14:00–17:30	Final presentations & public exhibition	
17:30–19:00	Closing ceremony Mayor Gökhan Yüksel · all participants	
19:00	Collective closing dinner Venue TBC	

WORKSHOP BOOKLET

KARTAL IS THE GAMEBOARD.

An international graduate workshop on negotiation, strategy, and design agency — hosted with Kartal Municipality and partner institutions from Torino, Istanbul, and Kosovo.

24-25 Aug 2026

ONLINE SEMINARS

29 Aug-8 Sep 2026

ON-SITE IN ISTANBUL

Hangar · AURA · MSFAU

STUDIO VENUES

English

WORKING LANGUAGE

**thegreatgame-istanbul.com**

Programme updates, downloads, and partner materials.

ORGANISED BY

Politecnico di Torino — DAD · AURA Istanbul · Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University · UBT College Kosovo

VISUAL IDENTITY

kankan看看 — workshop poster & graphic design

HOST

Kartal Municipality · Mayor Gökhan Yüksel

COORDINATION

Alp Arda · Main coordinator

