



**AESOP PRIZE  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
*Local responses to global changes: new approaches to planning education*

## **Winner of Excellence in Teaching Prize 2012**

In the year of the Silver Jubilee of AESOP and of the 10th Anniversary of the Excellence in Teaching Prize, European higher education in general and planning education specifically face severe challenges from global changes, reflected in national and local economic, political and institutional changes. These challenges can be considered as a threat or as an opportunity to rethink approaches to planning education. The 2012 Prize was looking for planning courses which are distinguished by their responses to global changes through their pedagogy and approach to planning.

The jury received a significant number of applications showing a widespread interest in teaching and learning across the European space. The overall quality of the applications was very high and it has been very difficult for the jury to choose among them.

The course which has won the prize aims to give students the design tools to create sustainable urban patterns at a variety of spatial levels from living unit itself and the spatial organisation of multiple living units, through neighbourhoods to urban macro-forms. In respect of this year's theme "Local Responses to Global Changes", the winning course expanded students' knowledge about the issues of climate change and embraced the problem of finding solutions through the design and management of the local built environment.

The jury particularly commends several aspects of the course:

Firstly, its multi-scalar approach, which teaches about complexity in spatial planning and urban design and introduces students to institutional issues;

Secondly, its sensitivity to the transmission of global issues to the local scale, as well as from the local scale to the global;

Thirdly, the way it integrates the learning process with practical experience, using participatory methods and techniques;

And fourthly, the capacity of the course to raise awareness and change the mental models of the students through the use of role-playing as part of the learning process.

**On behalf of the jury, I am very happy to award the Prize to the Department of City and Regional Planning of the Middle East Technical University, Ankara. I would like to congratulate Anlı Ataöv and his colleagues who are the 2012 winners for the course 'Planning Studio'. This award recognises the important contribution the course makes through its critical and constructive approach to planning teaching as an instrument for achieving local responses to the global issues in such difficult times.**