The theme of the studio is utopia, which is a projection of an ideal, which is considered as the idea that should be contained within every architecture project. Since the main focus of the studio is the public realm and public building, a strong position of the public domain is required in the beginning of the design approach. And my position connects to the site I choose.

The site I choose is located at the border of the state farm, where the farmland connects to the heart of the city. The block adjacent to this border area is a commercial area, with the biggest food market and shopping mall of the city. The design approach started from the research of the specific site condition here. Firstly, the interface, which is mainly the highway here, between the farmland the city is like an invisible wall that stops any interaction between both sides in pedestrian level. Secondly, the nature of the adjacent block is commercial area, with dynamic flows of people; shopping mall is dominant in this area, even the food market will be replace by another shopping mall in the near future. Considering these two important character of this area, my idea is to lift up the highway and create a more adaptable structure underneath, which is more smaller scale, comparing to the normal lifted highway underneath space, and more dynamic commercial pattern, which is different from shopping malls while has a relation to the nature of the adjacent area. Therefore, I took the typology of the traditional Turkish bazaar as an example, which is a dynamic commercial space with both large and small spaces well connected to each other; and there are possibilities for the interaction between people and all kinds of formal and informal activities. Thus, my primitive idea of my project appeared, a highway bazaar with public performance spaces.
In order to create a strong expression of architecture, I started to choose the form to composite this bazaar, which is a hybrid style, with a composition of different large and small elements, the traditional brick arches, the dominant TOKi housing complexes in the city, and the industrial elements, which is also very dominant in the city. At the P2, I had already had a very strong image of my project, and I directly turn the image into the form of my project. However, the image of a strong architecture expression is merely a formalistic approach, the nature beyond these forms and the nature of the bazaar was still very unclear. Since I fell in love with my image of my project, for the long time between P2 and P3, I was struggling to stuck programs and organization into the form I had, in order to keep the image. And this was not a regular design approach that I can handle, thus I was going through a hard time in months. And in the P3, I still fail to organize everything clearly. Thus, after the P3, I changed my way of design thinking according to all the problems and critiques I had, and reorganized everything, such as rethinking the nature of the bazaar and the performance space inside, reorganizing the circulation, redefining the form I choose. After the change, the organization of my project is better, while the image is different. After such a long time of struggling for the balance between form and organization, I think that the initial image of a project should work as a provocation, not directly a form. Form should be going along with the organization of the project, and the initial image is what completes this form, which is also the personal expression.

The relation of the research and the design should be going at the same time in unity, while in my project they are not getting well on each other. My design approach is always fragmented. I am always doing research in different aspect of my project independently, such as the study of the way to use the this open structure of the bazaar,
the formal and informal performance types, the different types of theatres, the form of the bazaar, the form of the theatre… And all these research should be contributed to my design project but for a long time they are just fragmented because I didn’t really organize them. And gradually, I started to organize them really into the project, which support the project and make the project more convincing.

The quality of public space on the ground floor, the open structure of the bazaar and the nature of the performance space within the bazaar is what I am after in this project, which should be the priority in the design of the space. Thus, there will be sacrifice for those many aspects that I want to have in this project. There is always a balance between what is more crucial and what is less. And in the beginning I want too many things and they just don’t come into one, even conflicting. When a take a step to consider what I really want to emphasize in this project, I begin to select information, which also helps to organize the whole project.