

The Evolution of Architectural Form
Betül Uçkan^{1,2}, Pelin Dursun Çebi³, Fatma Ahsen Özsoy²

¹Istanbul Technical University, Graduate School, Architectural Design Program

²FMV Işık University, Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture, Department of Architecture

³Istanbul Technical University, Faculty of Architecture, Department of Architecture

uclanb@itu.edu.tr, dursunpe@itu.edu.tr, ahsen.ozsoy@isikun.edu.tr

ABSTRACT

The concept of *form* in architectural design has been a highly debated and important topic since prehistoric times. In its simplest meaning, *form* can be expressed as the shape of the structure, the volume in which one lives. The aim of this study is to analyze the changes and evolution of *form* throughout history in order to discover new meanings and potentials it can acquire. In this study, *form* is researched in conjunction with *form design* and *form-making techniques*. It is believed that *form* informs *form design and making*, and these practices, in turn, shape the *form* through a dual relationship that can be explained by the *Sapir-Whorf hypothesis*.

The study is structured into two main parts. The first stage consists of comprehensive literature research and mapping to analyze the evolution of *form*. The second stage proposes a new term that explains the evolution of *form*. The stages can be summarized as follows:

In the first stage, which can be seen as an evolutionary narrative, the events that transform *form* and the practices of *design and making* are discussed chronologically using a designed mapping. Through this stage, it is understood that *form* is no longer a final product represented in drawings or made statically in a physical model, but rather a subject discussed on a spatiotemporal level that includes process and dynamism. The concepts and approaches analyzed in the mapping demonstrate *form's* new dynamic, autonomous, generative, and interactive nature. In the second stage, a new term, '*vital form*', is introduced to express *form's* new characteristics. While *form* represents the static or stationary, *vital form* represents the dynamic and ever-evolving one. While *form* represents what is symbolically designed or created from the top-down by the designer, *vital form* represents what is created from the bottom-up through the influence of agents involved in its design or making, expressing autonomy.

This study, which examines the historical transformation of *form* and defines it as an evolving, changing, and transformative process through the introduction of the newly coined term *vital form*, holds the potential to highlight the emerging possibilities that *form* can possess and foster critical thinking within architectural design. By analyzing the dynamic nature of *form* and its continual evolution, this study aims to shed light on the inherent potentials of *form* and inspire further exploration and development in the field of architectural design.

Keywords: Form, Form Design And Making, Vital Form, Evolution of Form.