EVENTS seminars

roundtable discussions exhibitions for the 50th anniversary of METU Graduate Program in Conservation of Cultural Heritage

Urban design and social innovation The culprit of caring neoliberal urban policy?

21.01.2016 | 12:30 @Faculty of Architecture Kubbealtı

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Since the start of the proclaimed socio-economic crisis and the many faces it has adopted since its onset, social innovation has been put forward as a lead strategy to (re) produce social cohesion in Western societies.

As the concept spread geographically and across sectors of private and collective action and knowledge, it took on many different meanings. These meanings substantially differ in their connections to social change and social transformation.

Over the last decade design research and practice has taken on board a social innovation turn (see e.g. Manzini's work). How have these various meanings influenced urban design initiatives? Should socially innovative urban design be situated under the umbrella of caring neoliberalism? Or does it hold potential for transformative impact on urban life and

society?

These are the questions this presentation will address.

