Deniz Balık
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Skene *as a Fictional Border*

This paper dwells on skene, a temporary structure used by actors in Ancient Greek and Roman amphitheatres, and skenographia, highly skilled and realistic perspective paintings used as a background depending on whether the play is a drama, comedy or satyr. Skene and skenographia were first elaborated by the Roman architect Vitruvius in De Architectura Libri Decem and Aristotle in Poetics through different point of views, yet these concepts still remain unclear. The aim of this paper is to rethink skene as a fictional border and a tool of representation in order to sketch out its narrative terrain. Deriving from Vitruvius' and Aristotle's ideas, it can be noted that skene becomes the border of the ordinary world of audience and the magical - fictional world of actors. This paper argues that skene develops into an experimental ground to discover new narrative possibilities at the intersection of physical and perceptual spaces, attained by blurring the borders of reality and illusion. The theoretical discourse initiated by Vitruvius, Aristotle, and others suggests that skene emerges as an instrument of rethinking representation, reinterpreting architectural space, and reproducing imaginary space. In this paper, the simultaneously superimposed spaces produced through skene as a fictional and ambiguous border are discussed as spaces that are literal and symbolic, actual and fabricated, revealed and veiled, occurred as a live performance and presented as an image.

Deniz Balık works as a Research Assistant at DokuzEylül University Department of Architecture. She has presented her work at various international conferences, published articles in edited books and journals, including *Architectural Research Quarterly, METU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture, The Journal of Architecture, A/Z ITU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture*, and *The Journal of Modern Craft* (March, 2017). In 2015, she published her first book, *Deciphering Ornament: Discourses and Thresholds in Architectural History* (Vienna: PhoibosVerlag). Her work focuses on the criticism, theory and history of architecture, as well as cross-disciplinary studies of culture, society, media, art, urban space, and architecture.

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