

## Selen Akalin

Name and Address of Practice:

Position/title: Part 2 Student/ M-arch

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### Election Statement

Architecture must act with care, urgency, and accountability. As the climate crisis, displacement, and deepening inequalities shape our cities, the role of architecture is not just to design, but to listen, repair, and reimagine.

Yet the profession continues to operate under exploitative structures. Unpaid internships, chronic overwork, and toxic hierarchies are still seen as rites of passage, particularly for young and marginalised architects. These are not isolated issues, but systemic failures that devalue labour, undermine wellbeing, and stifle innovation. The culture of endurance must be replaced with one of care, equity, and collective responsibility.

This is a call for practices that centre spatial justice, ecological responsibility, and social solidarity. Architecture cannot remain siloed from the communities it affects. It must move beyond image-making and embrace open, interdisciplinary, and inclusive methods, from co-design to repair, from storytelling to advocacy.

Alternative pedagogies and grassroots spatial interventions must be supported, not treated as exceptions but recognised as vital forms of practice. Architectural education should be a space where critical dialogue is encouraged; where diverse identities, knowledges, and lived experiences shape the curriculum and the profession.

This is about dismantling the myth of the solitary architect-genius. The future of architecture lies in collaboration, transparency, and radical imagination. In valuing invisible labour. In making space for those historically excluded. In resisting extraction—of land, of time, of care.