



**Form and metaphor**

The Centre is built with 400 concrete blocks of border walls between Turkiye and Syria. The 'military' walls now are 'humanitarian' partitions for sharing; not for separating. The concrete blocks also make the Centre as a earthquake proof and bombproof building built with an extremely low budget (less than 400 USD per square metre).



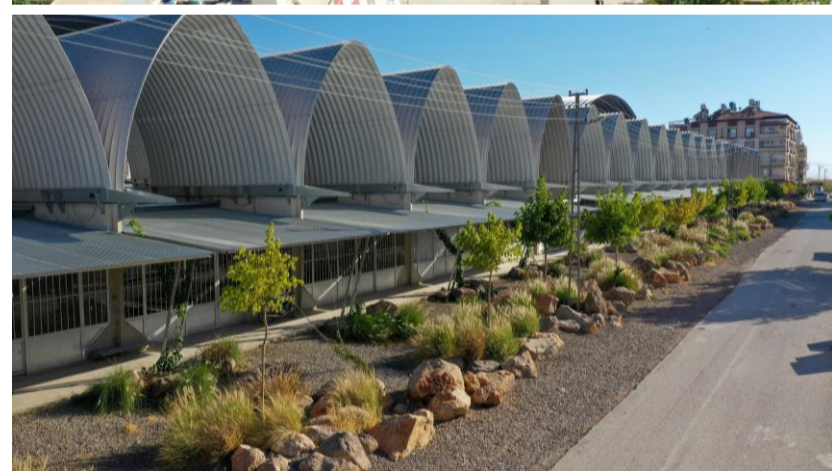
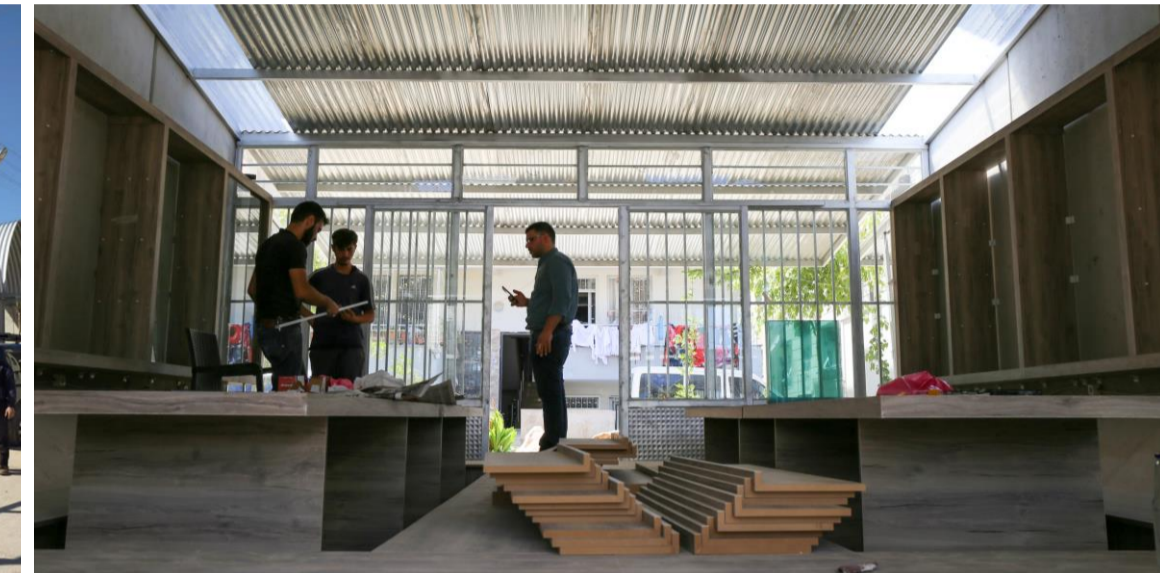
As featured with metal shell structure exactly facing Mecca, the physical form of the Centre evokes different interpretations, some historically, culturally and religiously charged, reminiscing the 'Islamic vaults' in the Great Umayyad Mosque in Aleppo, or further back to the hyperbolic shape of ancient vault in Hattusa of around 1200 BC, and some more recent functional and typological associations with bazaars and technical complexes.

The Centre is built with concrete blocks of border walls and metal shell roofs. Both are featured with pre-fabrication and site assembly process to ensure the beauty and practicality of built forms. The deliberate yet non-literal resemblance with historical or contemporary forms (be it arches, vaults or shells) opens up multiple possibilities of associations for all those encountering the building. Everyone can find and adapt spaces in their own ways, to pray, learn, work, exchange, care and play.



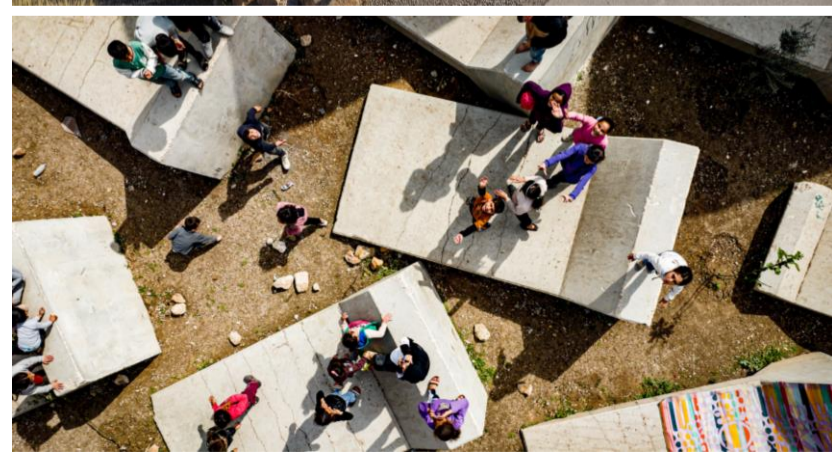
**Participatory design and collaborative construction with disadvantaged people**

Cho's team conducted a community survey over 3 years to identify and engage with the disadvantaged groups most suitable for participating in the Centre's programming, design and construction process. Most participating groups were women and children, selected without discriminating whether they were from the Syrian or Turkish communities. The whole development initiatives set the foundation for building trust, creating a larger and yet more integrated and inclusive community. The Center's managers, users and beneficiaries all participated in the centre establishment, thereby creating a social bond that promotes self-sufficiency, self-reliance and self-esteem.



**A bazaar, a mosque, a home, a workshop, a political gesture and a technical complex all at the same time**

The Centre is embodied with 52 standard units, 6 communal places in the middle and two linear parks facing the north and south. This create distinctive pluralistic characters that make the architecture of the Centre, from the Turkish-English-Arabic lessons, shops, a mini-football field, multi-purpose assembly halls, transitional shelters, children's playgrounds, free children cinema, library, governmental offices and facilities, toilets, shower rooms, ablution rooms and masjids, vegetable gardens, women's weaving workshops, laundry centre, art gallery, PEP bottles recycling, solar energy, bio-waste recycling, proves that the addition of parts remains greater than a whole.



**Encourage 'ethical professionalism' by favouring cooperation and practice in hand with 'ethical trade'**

The management team of the Centre has established a social enterprise, an association and a women's cooperative at Turkiye, as well as an association and a social enterprise in Taiwan. In total, five entities have been created for fostering the ethical international trade for peacebuilding processes at Reyhanli. Trading these products not only provides sustainable revenue for the two social enterprises, but also allows the women's cooperative to financially support the working groups ongoingly. The products are also sold to an NGO established in Taiwan, which uses them as attractive gifts in return for donations, as its strategy to secure ongoing donation. The donation was then directly transferred to the NGO in Turkiye, as a sustainable source of funding for creating more meaningful programs and services at the Centre.

