Banu Uçak

Long CV

Banu Uçak is an Istanbul-based architect, writer, creative director and consultant. She writes and speaks about architecture and cities, and works across design management, content development, curation and creative direction. The relationship between architecture and everyday life, the transformation and memory of cities, and the ways in which the built environment enriches our lives are recurring themes in her work.

Born in Istanbul, Uçak completed her undergraduate degree in Architecture at Yıldız Technical University and her master's degree in Architectural Design at Istanbul Technical University. She joined Yapı-Endüstri Merkezi (YEM) in 2001, where she worked for fourteen years on the content development and organisation of conferences, competitions, publications and events. Her final role at YEM was Strategic Marketing and Business Development Coordinator. She subsequently held senior management positions as Deputy General Manager at Seranit Group and General Coordinator at Ferko İnşaat.

Drawing on this experience, she began working as an independent consultant, advising investors, brands and institutions on concept development, architect selection, design management and brand partnerships. Since October 2018, she has led strategic marketing and business development at Ağustos Teknoloji.

Since 2022, she has served as Creative Director of the furniture and design brand FÖRNİ. Bringing together Salkım Orman Ürünleri's expertise in wood and the work of independent designers, she is responsible for developing the brand's identity, the design direction of its collections and its designer collaborations. The brand's first collection, Kökler (Roots), was developed around Istranca oak. In 2026, FÖRNİ made its international debut at Salone del Mobile in Milan.

Her first book, Yalın Şeyler (Simple Things), was published by YEM Yayın in December 2025. Focusing on twenty years of work by Ömer Selçuk Baz and Okan Bal at Yalın Mimarlık, the book offers a personal reading informed by visits to the buildings and research into their design and construction. It connects the practice's work with fundamental questions of architecture. The publication has also been accompanied by talks and exhibitions in Çanakkale and Manisa.

Exploring different ways of thinking and talking about architecture, Uçak co-curated the 2024 conference "Mimarlık Ne İşe Yarar?" (What Is Architecture For?) with Ertuğ Uçar, organised by İstanbul Serbest Mimarlar Derneği (İstanbul SMD). At İstanbulin Sohbetler, a conversation series she initiated with Sibel Keyvan and Ertuğ Uçar, she explores Istanbul through its literature, art, architecture, geography and everyday life, in dialogue with guests from different fields. In 2017, she contributed to and presented İzdüşüm, an architecture documentary produced for TRT Belgesel. In 2022, she created and presented Ustalara Saygı, a seven-part series focusing on the professional and personal stories of prominent figures in Turkish architecture.

Uçak has been a member of the World Architecture Festival (WAF) jury since 2016 and chaired

category juries in 2017, 2022, 2023 and 2024. At the 2026 festival, taking place in Fort Lauderdale on 18–20 November, she will serve on the Future Projects – Education jury and chair the jury for the Best Use of Stone Prize, supported by Turkish Stones.

She served on the WAN Awards jury in 2023 and 2024. Her other jury appointments include the fourth Baumit Design Competition, “MÜŞTEREKMEKAN” (2024–2025), the Arkitera Travel Scholarship (2023), The Keep’s “Nakarat” kilim design competition (2021) and the Arkitera Young Architect Award (2019). She has also been a nominator for the Aga Khan Award for Architecture for many years.

She maintains her involvement in architectural education through studio teaching and jury appointments. She has led architectural design studios at Özyeğin University and continues to serve on design and graduation juries at various universities. An honorary member of İstanbul SMD, Uçak continues to create, bring communities together, write and engage in discussion around the subjects that inspire her, particularly architecture, design, cities and literature.