

## Press release

### TURKEY MEETS SWEDEN ON "CONTEMPORARY HAMAM"

Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center will host a workshop titled 'Contemporary Hamam' from 24 September – 3 October. The purpose of the workshop is to bring together invited Swedish and Turkish architects and artists to discuss the proposal of a 'Contemporary Hamam'. During this mutual brainstorming, the group also will consider new building technologies, which could be applied to recreate the experience of space and light found in old Ottoman baths.

The group will discuss:

- How can a contemporary hamam be created?
- What relaxation, social needs and requirements do urban inhabitants crave for today?
- Why provide a public bath, when most domestic dwellings are equipped with modern bathrooms?

The workshop will start with a three-day introduction, which includes lectures on topics such as the history of the hamam, tradition, bathing cultures around the world, light and sound and geometrics. The group will then divide in two: 'the mural group' will work with artistic expressions on tiles at Iznik Foundation in Iznik and 'the spatial group' will stay in Istanbul to produce sketches and models of spatial visions. On the last two days all the participants will gather in Istanbul for a presentation, analysis and concluding discussion.

The intellectual process is important, but it is the actual presentation of the group's visions that are essential. The results from both parts of the workshops will be exhibited at the Cultural house in Stockholm, January 2004 and at the Garanti Gallery (GG) space in Istanbul later that year.

Contemporary Hamam has been initiated and directed by Maria Ängquist Klyvare and Ulla Kastrup, both based in Stockholm. The workshop is supported by the Swedish Institute and Consulate General of Sweden.

Lectures open to the public at Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center :

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| 24 September, 13:00 | <u>Ahmet Igdirligil</u> , Architect<br><i>Turkish Bath Culture from Ancient to Modern Times</i>                                       |
| 25 September, 13:00 | <u>Ayla Odekan</u> , Professor of Art History<br><i>Lecture on Geometrics</i>   |
| 25 September, 15:30 | <u>Vasif Kortun</u> , Director Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center<br><i>When the Good get Nasty, Turkish Style Contemporary</i> |
| 26 September, 10:00 | <u>Gökhan Karakus</u> , Architect<br><i>Modern Architecture, Water and the Body: A local and Global Perspective</i>                   |
| 26 September, 15:30 | <u>Vesa Honkonen</u> , Architect<br><i>Silence in Darkness, Sounds at Light, Souls in Movement, Bodies standing still</i>             |