

Name: Elif Mentés Gray
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Portfolio:

I am an architecture-trained designer transitioning into interior design and 3D visualisation. Recently, I trained in 3ds Max and Corona Renderer, delivering an end-to-end residential portfolio project. I bring strong space planning, joinery-aware thinking and clear visual communication to design-led teams.

Experience:

March 2025 - Present 3ds Max & Corona Renderer Training, UK
Interior Visualisation & Portfolio Development

- Completed structured training in 3ds Max and Corona Renderer; produced an end-to-end residential visualisation project (modelling, materials, lighting and final renders) to build a professional portfolio.

May 2021 - Present Art B Architects, Istanbul, Turkey
Freelance Architectural Consultancy

- Led concept design and technical development for a residential scheme (21 houses + social facility), translating design intent into coordinated drawing packages and key details.
- Supported the planning approval process through client liaison and coordination with the local authority/municipality.

March 2024 - February 2025 Gather-in (Startup Platform), Remote
Community Manager

- Managed member engagement and community communications, supporting live sessions/events and ongoing content planning to improve participation and retention.
- Coordinated members/hosts/partners to ensure smooth delivery of community activities and timely responses.

March 2019 - March 2021 Professional Development, Aberystwyth, Wales / Istanbul, Turkey
Independent Study

- Self-study (HTML/CSS/JavaScript, Ruby) to strengthen structured problem-solving and digital workflows.

December 2017 - September 2018 Yenikoy Architecture, Istanbul, Turkey Architect

- Applied my architectural design experience to the extensive renovation of a luxury hotel, and converting a decrepit shipyard property into a mall
- Worked in a highly collaborative manner, dividing up large, complex projects between colleagues based on their experience

October 2015 - June 2017 Ahmet Alatas Workshop, Istanbul, Turkey Architect

- Designed restaurant spaces in 8 locations, for one of Turkey's top restaurant chains.
- Completed 2 residential project designs in collaboration with colleagues
- Took part in a national design competition, for a mega-complex involving a cinema, hotel, shopping mall, and logistics base, and were one of 6 teams selected to contribute to the final project.

May 2014 - July 2015 B&B Architecture, Istanbul, Turkey Architect

- Functioned as the main point of contact with the municipality for coordinating the planning and building permit processes

May 2012 - July 2013 Inanlar Holding, Istanbul/Turkey Architect

- Prepared production drawings for use on a large residential project, including more than 50 houses, and coordinated structural, electrical, and mechanical teams across different projects and sites.

Education:

March 2025- August 2025

FCA Academy, 3ds Max Online Course, Aberystwyth, UK

January 2019 - March 2019

LeWagon Bootcamp, Lisbon, Portugal

September 2013 - June 2017

Istanbul Kultur University, Istanbul, Turkey
Master's Degree, Urban Planning & Architecture

2014 (Term: Fall)

ENSAG - (École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Grenoble), Grenoble, France
Erasmus Program, Urban Planning & Architecture

September 2007 - June 2011

Istanbul Kultur University, Istanbul, Turkey
Bachelor Degree, Architecture

Projects:

Handforth, Cheshire | Residential Re-Design (Portfolio Project)

Existing floor plans reinterpreted to improve layout, storage and day-to-day flow; developed full interior concept including finishes, lighting approach and bespoke joinery proposals, supported by 3D visuals and renders.

Istanbul, Turkey | Residential Development + Social Facility (21 houses)

Led architectural design and coordination from concept to planning stage; developed construction details and supported planning approval process with the local authority.

Istanbul, Turkey | Luxury Renovation + Mixed-Use Conversion

Contributed to architectural design development for a major renovation and adaptive reuse project; produced detailed drawings and coordinated across multiple packages in a collaborative team.

Turkey | Multi-Site Restaurant Rollouts (8 locations)

Designed consistent brand-aligned interiors across multiple sites; delivered layouts and coordination drawings to support rollout delivery.

Istanbul, Turkey | Large-Scale Residential (50+ houses)

Prepared production drawings and coordinated structural, electrical and mechanical teams across sites to support delivery.

Skills:

Languages:

Turkish (Native)
English (Advanced)
French (Intermediate)

Design Software & Tools:

Proficient:

AutoCAD, SketchUp, Adobe Photoshop, 3ds Max, Corona Renderer, Microsoft Office

Working knowledge:

Cinema 4D, Revit, V-Ray