

ZORLU CENTER LANDSCAPE



In the last 9 years of my 23-year career, I spent managing Zorlu Group's landscape projects and created outstanding works, in conjunction with contractors. It was a great experience for me to be the bridge between the investor and the designer, the consultant and the contractor. I'm so proud to have been a part of the most prestigious project in Istanbul and Turkey. I believe that all partners who worked on our projects feel the same as.

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDIT:

Cemal EMDEN



It was also a privilege to celebrate the 20th anniversary of my career with the award for Europe's Largest Green Roof (by IGRA), which the Zorlu Center won.

As investor...

Zorlu Property Group create a new locus of attraction at the juncture of Europe and Asia, in the very heart of İstanbul. Zorlu Center was built as Turkey's first "mixed use" project with functions; Performing Arts Center, Shopping Mall, Hotel (Raffles İstanbul), Residences and Offices. The project has 72,000 m² green space and carefully-handled landscapes. Almost 60% of Zorlu Center's landscapes were created on the building. In this sense, roof gardens of the project are particularly interesting. 60,000 m² of green space including some firm ground were designed as roof gardens. This was an important criterion in the use of landscape areas and selection of plants.

Considering the details and solutions applied, a roof garden would not sufficiently describe the landscapes of Zorlu Center.

Because of the areas designed as roof gardens at the ground floor, the base and the building envelope are located on steel and concrete sections, the project and detailed drawings vary. The most important element that should be kept away from the field was water. There are two important basic measures taken about this subject. One of them was to carry the excess water away from the area within the system and in a controlled manner with a continuous drainage system, regardless of the space being firm ground or green space. This helped collection of the drained excess water using the rain water system and use for irrigation of green space.

Planting depths, selected plant types, soil mixtures etc. vary based on the space and therefore not all roof gardens can be classified as similar. On landscape areas which have varying inclines, extensive and intensive spaces were designed.

Zorlu Center's roof gardens should be evaluated in two parts. The first one is non-green spaces which includes the decorative pools, resting areas, walking trails. The second one includes the green space surrounding the usage areas and taking the green texture into the building.

The most striking feature of the floor gardens is the envelope which includes a 45,000 m² of green space starting from the ground floor up to 33 meters and fully covering the base. 33-meter elevation difference is overpassed with an inclined and stair-supported envelope system and a rich arrangement of various plant groups ranging from grass to trees is employed. These spaces also include swimming pools, sun terraces and public areas.

On the other hand, plants ranging from 30 cm to 90 cm in size are used for a rich texture and depth of type. Plants which are maximum 500/600 cm-tall, suitable for the micro-climate, resistant to wind and with shallow roots were selected. Additional measures like special tensioning systems for roots and stems were taken for a better habitat

Square floor was another important part of the project in terms of landscape. The building carrier was designed as steel and large containers were created for trees while designing the steel structures of this 11,000 m² area. Planting container with dimensions of 200x180x120 and volumes up to approximately 4,5 m³ created a rich habitat for the trees. Considering that a one meter thick layer of soil is formed in a million years in the nature, we can see how valuable these containers are.

Terrace Residence gardens show a different character in terms of plant implementation. A 20 cm-deep space on the main concrete hosts the infrastructure required for the green space system (drainage, irrigation system, lighting, etc.) and some containers for plants where a specific mixture of soil is used. Residence owners were provided with free spaces for their gardens. Little hills at the borders of such spaces increased the depth of planting and allowed planting of bushes. Therefore, aesthetically beautiful, evergreen plants were used for residence owners to enjoy. Evergreen plants planted in smart pots on the other floors of plinth section contributed to the facade for a greener look.

Most restricted space of the project in terms of plants is the 8,000 m² roof space of the Performing Arts Center which is fully constructed on steel. This roof space overpasses almost 80 meters and the load on the roof is obviously very critical. At this section, a special extensive roof mixture was used at a depth of 10 cm after the landscape infrastructure layers. Types of sedum were selected as surface plants.

The space in Shopping Mall floors which are under the plaza floor includes a highly dense planting in addition to the basic precautions including isolation and drainage. The lighting required for these floors is provided by specially-manufactured photosynthesis fixtures.

Various types of soil mixture were used at green spaces to minimize the load beared by the carrier system and mineral-rich and light materials were added to the mixture.

Roof gardens and all green spaces have automatic irrigation systems. Distilled water provided from rain and gray water tanks is routed to the irrigation system to provide a certain amount of the required water.

As designer...

I would like to share the notes on the Zorlu Center landscape from the creator of this special Project.

DS LANDSCAPE

The aim of the project is to design Zorlu center, as an alternative urban space for Istanbul. The main feature of the plantation language is to treat the landscape as a succession of Bosphorus grove and yet to perceive it as an integral part of Istanbul. Extroversion was adopted rather than introversion. The green shell which surrounds the structure in third dimension associates with the hill of Istanbul that was once used as the recreation areas of the city. This new built up niche, is adopted as an urban square that will turn out to a new social experience and yet, it is erected as a new kind of nature that will erase the existing idea of shopping mall.



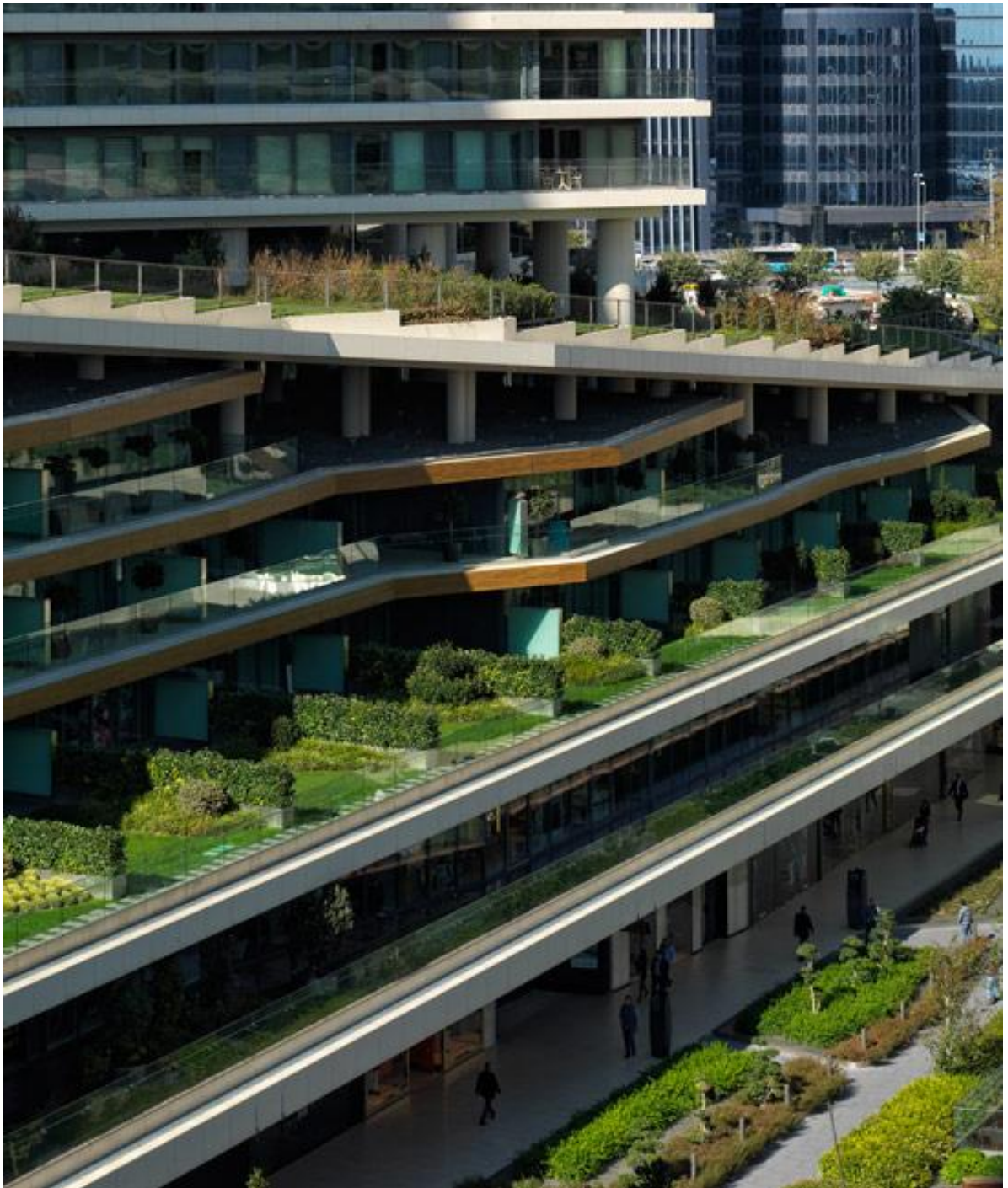
Even though, each component of the project aims carefully to be a part of the nature, seven main fields come forward as a result. The planting design which contributes both to the landscape of Istanbul and surrounding highways, provides a herbal filter to the drawbacks of those roads.

1. The recreation area functions as a close up garden of the residential area. Places like swimming pool and children' club that are located in this area aim to support the natural environment without deviating the succession of the garden settled in an artificial topography.
2. The square, which functions as a public and a semi-public space, a meeting place for the city, provides a demonstration area in which water plays a major part.
3. The courtyard that allows alternating functions is the extension of the main square.



4. The facades of the building are treated as the parts of the nature that open into the private gardens of the buildings and the hotel. While these areas are fully designed as a part of nature, the environment that is created allows both water conservation and a new microclimate.
5. The main holistic characteristics of the project are the courtyard and the residential terraces. The plantation islands that reflect the light are located on the thin water surfaces. These islands which are the main elements of the courtyard might be considered as the most remarkable approach of the project. The residential gardens, on the other hand, with their panoramic position that controls the overall landscape, have a microcosm quality.
6. The valley park might be taken into consideration as a garden collection that is fully themed of Istanbul and as the most valuable and important acquisition of Istanbul.







Source: <http://www.landezine.com/index.php/2015/06/zorlu-center-by-ds-landscape/>)

The Park Area is one of the most attractive areas of the Zorlu Center landscape. The design of this public space was carried out by WATG and the Playground in this area was designed by CARVE.

Let's look at the parking area and playground via the designers' own words,

PARK AREA – WATG, UK

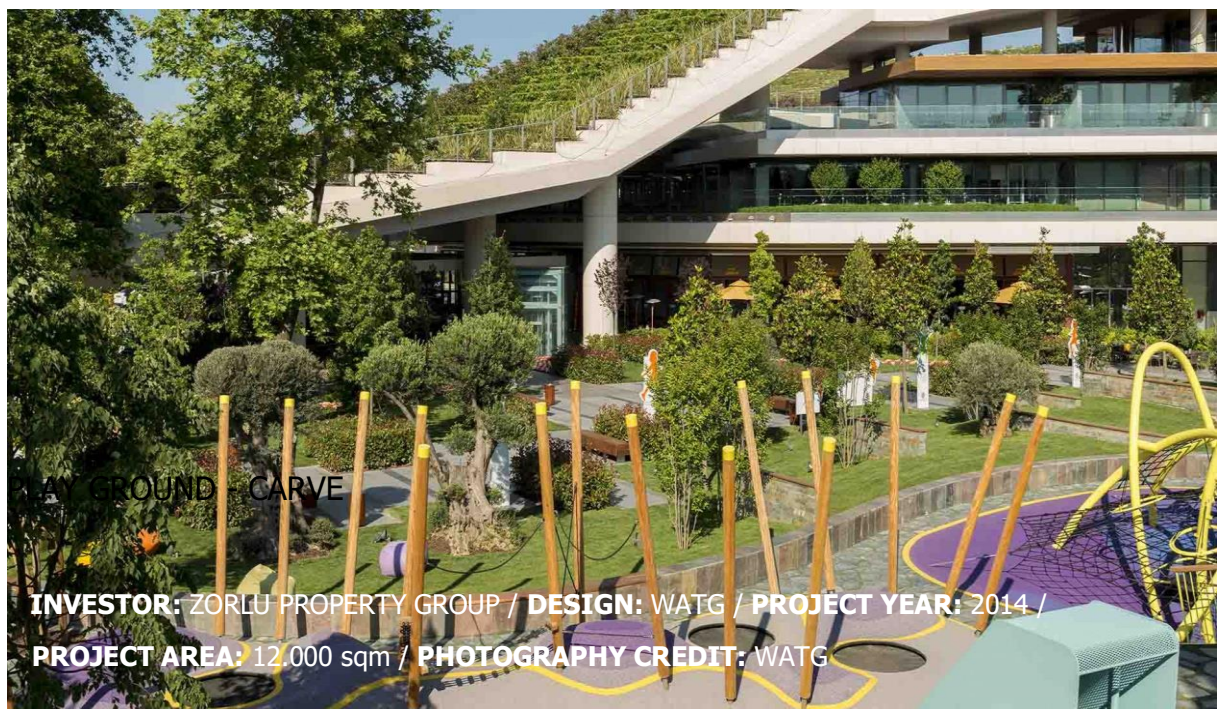
A totally different expression of landscape architecture that would ultimately affect the user and how they feel about the city.



An environment that encourages a sense of exploration, play and discovery in both large open spaces and more intimate ones. A project that increases the ecological value of the existing site.



A totally different expression of landscape architecture with a focus on how it makes the user feel. A piece of urban space saved for the people and used by the people. Something that is not just functional, but inspires an emotional response and lifts the spirit. It's a happy and wondrous place that brings families and children together in a revolutionary way.



INVESTOR: ZORLU PROPERTY GROUP / **DESIGN:** WATG / **PROJECT YEAR:** 2014 /
PROJECT AREA: 12.000 sqm / **PHOTOGRAPHY CREDIT:** WATG

Source: <https://www.watg.com/project/zorlu-istanbul-turkey/>

PLAYGROUND – CARVE, HOLLAND



The starting point for Carve's design was that we wanted children to be able to completely dive into their own world of imagination: stimulated by other worldly shapes, colours and an unprecedented play experience. It should be a playground visible from a far, yet a world in its own right.



This resulted in a playground that is truly one of a kind: everything, from concept to layout, from play equipment to landscaping, was designed specifically for the Zorlu playground. With this, Zorlu Center offers a unique chance to create a backdrop for unforgettable play experiences.

The playground consists of various zones and changes its look: from low, bright and colourful at the entrance zone it gradually transforms into a more adventurous, high and natural looking play environment. Within this gradient, the playground is divided into different 'worlds', who all have their very own character.

While the parents are sitting on the neighbouring terrace or the elongated bench that embraces the playground, children can safely explore the whole playground on their own.

The Zorlu stands out in the way it was planned: in a very short time span, the project was designed, engineered and built. Thanks to all parties involved, the Zorlu Playground surpasses all expectations; it is more colourful, dense and challenging than one could have imagined. But most importantly, it succeeds in merging two important design themes.



First of all it is a playground in which children completely can dive into into an imaginative world, while secondly, seen from the outside and despite its colours and unusual shapes, it merges beautifully with the surrounding landscape.

INVESTOR: ZORLU PROPERTY GROUP

DESIGN: CARVE

PROJECT YEAR: 2014

PROJECT AREA: 1.600 sqm

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDIT: WATG - CARVE



Source: <http://www.landezine.com/index.php/2014/08/playground-at-zorlu-centre-by-carve/>