**Before proofreading/correction:**

January 25th, 2012

To the Graduate Selection Committee:

I am writing this letter to express my interest in Architecture graduate program at the University of Hartford for the fall of 2012. I feel my challenging experiences in architectural field combined with my outstanding academic background make me excellent candidate for your program.

I have been aspiring to be part of your department for a long time since I am aware that it provides the best education and environment for me to develop my skills, and prepares me for a rewarding professional career. Further, a professional degree program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board has played a decisive role for me to decide about the institution I would like to attend.

Today, we live in an era of economic, environmental and technological complexity that presents architects with new challenges, responsibilities and possibilities. The necessity to find new solutions to the issues architects face requires transcendence traditional models based on conventional disciplinary limits, and more education. This is the main reason why I pursue a degree in Architecture in your university.

Over the past thirteen years I have been involved with architecture as a student, designer and volunteer. After graduation, I worked as an official architect for two of the most influential departments of the Turkish Government, the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Justice. I successfully acted as project coordinator and design architect for various prison projects in Turkey on what were innovative, complex and difficult architectural projects. Furthermore, I participated in several activities regarding design principles, European Union standards and construction techniques for justice facilities in different European countries such as: Italy, France, The Netherlands, Spain, Germany, and Austria. I also managed to widen my knowledge by taking part in several events as a lecturer.

Especially, during six years I worked on the Modernization of the Judgment System and the Prison Reform Project, I gained significant domestic and foreign experience in the design of incarceration facilities. As regards the Prison Reform Project, it was expected to result in several innovations on Turkish prison architecture in line with United Nations norms and good practice in the European Union. Furthermore, a new model prison was intended to be developed as a basis for disseminating across the country.

I believe that every project must be driven by ideas specific to its circumstances. My process begins with research. I searched for latent opportunities that led to fresh solutions at that time. I examined the interior spaces of prisoners with respect to wishes and needs of its users and managers, and developed criteria for modern interior spaces in the light of these observations accordingly. In order to ensure that my knowledge and experiences I gained were shared by others; I prepared my masters’ thesis and PhD dissertation on this subject. These studies have been considered as a source publications as there is no academic research on this topic available.

Although these studies enabled the solutions of existing problems through modern methods and made new innovative proposals for the current system in Turkey, the requirements and regulations for incarceration facilities make many typical green features inappropriate. Furthermore, continual building operation with resource-intense services, such as laundry and cooking, and technology-dependent security services with increased energy consumption added an additional layer of complexity.

In a time of economic constraints and ecological pressures, it would be challenging to develop design criteria for sustainable incarceration facility practices in order to grow the movement and replicate in correctional setting around the world. If ever I am chosen as a graduate student, I would like to investigate the concept of human environment, space utilization/efficiency, operations enhancements, etc. and the complexities of sustainability in justice facilities.

I am grateful for having this chance to apply as a student in your university. With these personal and academic qualities and skills that I have acquired, I hope I will fulfill your requirements and increase the chance of getting involved in your program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully yours,

**After proofreading/correction:**

January 25th, 2012

To the Graduate Selection Committee:

I am writing this letter to let you know of my dream to enter the graduate program in architecture at the University of Hartford in the fall of 2012.

My desire to be part of your department was awakened a long time ago, ever since I became aware that it would provide me with a top-notch education and the ideal environment for developing my skills and preparing me for a rewarding professional career. In addition, the fact that your degree program is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board was instrumental in my decision to apply to your institution. I believe that my valuable experience in the field of architecture along with my outstanding academic background would make me an excellent candidate for your program.

Today we live in a climate of economic, environmental, and technological complexity that presents architects with new challenges, responsibilities, and opportunities. In order to find innovative solutions to the issues the architects of today are facing, they must transcend traditional models based on conventional disciplinary limits. A good first step is to pursue the very best of education, which is the main reason why I would like to pursue an architectural degree at your university.

Over the past thirteen years, I have been involved in architecture as a student, designer, and volunteer. After graduating [from where, when?], I worked as an official architect for two of the most influential departments of the Turkish Government: the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Justice. I successfully acted as project coordinator and design architect for various prison projects in Turkey with complex architectural challenges that required innovative solutions. Furthermore, I participated in several activities involving design principles, European Union standards, and construction techniques for justice facilities in various European countries, such as Italy, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Germany, and Austria. I also sought to broaden my knowledge by participating in several events as a lecturer.

It was especially during the six years I worked on the projects “Modernization of the Judgment System” and “Prison Reform” that I gained significant domestic and foreign experience in designing incarceration facilities. As regards the “Prison Reform” project, it was expected to lead to several innovations in Turkish prison architecture in accordance with United Nations norms and good practice standards in the European Union. Moreover, a plan to develop a new model prison was heralded as the wave of the future for new prisons across the country.

I believe that every project must be driven by ideas specific to its circumstances. My approach invariably begins with research. In the above example, I searched for latent opportunities allowing for solutions that were novel at the time. I examined the interior spaces of the prison, taking into consideration the desires and needs of the inmates and managers, and developed criteria for designing modern interior spaces in light of my observations. In order to ensure that the knowledge and experiences I had gained were available to others, I wrote my Master’s thesis and PhD dissertation on this subject. These studies have been considered as source publications, as there is no other extant academic research on this topic.

Although these studies resulted in solutions for existing problems by using modern methods, making for original proposals to benefit the current system in Turkey, the requirements and regulations for incarceration facilities preclude the adoption of many standard green features. Not only this, but constant building operation combined with resource-intensive services – such as laundry and cooking – and technology-dependent security services with increased energy consumption add an additional layer of complexity.

At a time of economic constraints and ecological pressures, it would be a daunting undertaking to develop design criteria for sustainable incarceration facilities convincing enough to lead to worldwide replication. Should I be chosen as a graduate student, I would like to investigate the concepts of human environment, space utilization/efficiency, operations enhancements, etc. as they relate to the complexities of sustainability in incarceration facilities.

I am grateful for this chance to apply as a student to your university. With these personal and academic qualities and skills that I have acquired, I hope that my background satisfies your requirements, affording me the chance to enter your program.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully yours,