

an event on the basis of past experience; exactly the path pursued by many academic endeavours. On the contrary, it needs to be argued that university subjects have much to learn from the teaching of architecture, especially from the one to one studio teaching as a guided co-operative effort between tutor and student and the open review sessions which normally count among the critics both staff and architects in practice.

Much of the time taken up in tutorial sessions consists of tutor and student speaking to each other but at the same time sketching, giving visual definition to words which could convey a number of alternatives. Verbal thinking is mixed with non-verbal thinking. The same thing happens in an office as a design is explored by two architects or an architect with an engineer or, indeed, when a project is discussed by a group. The depth of meaning in a sketch should never be underestimated; Jørn Utzon's plan and section of his holiday house overlooking the Mediterranean not only gives a general configuration but also shows the answer that deals with the bright light reflected from the sea. In a few lines its position on site, its volume and its control of the view are made clear. Nor should we forget the many purposes of that visual shorthand – the sketch. As a Norwegian educator put it:

The sketch is communication  
– between 'me' and 'I'  
– between me and you  
– between student and teacher  
– between architect and client  
(Cold, 1995, p.60)

## Does it matter?

163

The question as to whether we benefit from an understanding of the design process, from a possible theory, has a number of answers. None may be wholly definitive.

Viewed from a historical angle, the answer may well be that great architecture was created in the past without an awareness of the process which gave it birth. It is highly likely that Sinan, the most celebrated Ottoman architect, when designing the extensive complex of the Selimiye Mosque in Edirne of 1569–75, for instance, was aware of his Byzantine predecessors without analysing that awareness or drawing any general

Right  
**Sinan, Selimiye Camii,**  
Edirne, Turkey 1569–75

