

FREE EXPRESSION

“ARCHITECTURE IN SCHOOLS” PROGRAM

In continuation to a pilot/educational program ran by a group of volunteer architects in collaboration with the H.A.E.F.-Athens College Elementary School, held as a parallel event to the 11th Panhellenic Architectural Congress held in Athens in March 2011, as well as a broad discussion followed on the externalization of architecture and the need for creating a productive interrelation between Architecture & Society and Architecture & Children, the BoD of SADAS-PEA, decided in 2012, to incorporate the “Architecture in Schools” Program in its framework of actions, initiating a relevant Working Body amongst its members, in an attempt to formally establish such a program in Greece under its auspices.

The objective of such a program is the introduction within the general educational system (within the curriculum or as an extracurricular activity), to kids aged 5-18, subjects relating to perception of the built environment, observation and awareness of the scale (human, buildings, neighborhoods, cities), knowledge of the history of architecture and the value of architectural heritage, familiarization with materials and construction capabilities, building techniques, concepts of architectural form, technology and interactive relationship with the environment both natural and manmade.

The program is based on the creation of volunteer groups consisting of at least one SADAS-PEA member (as a coordinator), school teachers, architects (e.g. from the parents’ council) and students of architecture (if applicable). Each team organizes the program accordingly for a specific class. This includes discussions in the classroom, presentations and lectures, workshops, visits to neighborhoods and exhibitions, presentations of buildings and cities. Through these the children are given the stimulation and information required to better comprehend the environment in which they live and to acquire a sense of understanding of architecture and urban design. The children are encouraged to develop their creativity and critical thinking through discussions and workshop activities. SADAS-PEA introduced/spread the idea to the 6 Architecture Schools in Greece and the 35 peripheral Architectural Sections & Associations hoping that in the near future all will take interest in organizing such programs. Our aim is to further support the programs by coordinating the participating teams and organizations, recording their works, discussing the results and creating a knowledge database that will help future teams and out of reach schools. From within the above aforementioned framework we present 3 different implemented programs/projects, which vary in approach, duration of activity, age group of audience.


AWARD CATEGORY

Institution Award

COUNTRY/CITY

Greece

NAME OF ENTRANT

 SADAS-PEA
Association of University
Graduate Architects
Panhellenic Union of Architects

TEAM MEMBERS

A Damianos Abakoumkin, architect and Omiros Kosmidis, art teacher (coordinators), & architects Irina Abakoumkin, Eleni Alexandrou, Christina Loukopoulou, Marili Matinopoulou, Eleni Pavlou.

B architects Natali Douroudaki, Kyriaki Kastrinaki and Irini Vlazaki & Fotis Pontikakis, manager of the Centre for Environmental Education Vamou.

C Professors: Agapi Proimou, Petros Babasikas. Arch. students: Tina Marinaki & Sofia Sofianou, Nicole Mathioudaki & Dimitra Anninou, Dimitris Lampris & Konstantina Schina, Nikitas Zachariou & Petros Papadopoulos, Zacharenia Vidaki & Anthi Rozi. & teachers: George Fytas & Thanos Loukopoulos

AGE GROUP OF AUDIENCE

A: 10 - 12 years old
B: 9 - 12 years old
C: 15 - 17 years old

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING CHILDREN

A: 15
B: 275
C: 50

DURATION OF ACTIVITY

A: school year 2012-2013 (30 sessions)
B: school year 2013-2014 (2 sessions)
C: academic year 2013-2014 (8 sessions)

OUTCOMES&EVALUATION

The so far implemented programs have been met with enthusiasm by the involved parties, moreover the children. The bidirectional benefit drawn by such projects was evident, reassuring us that our attempt to create communication channels between Architecture and children is of utmost importance. The fresh, energetic, open (non-stereotypical) mind of children modulates our thoughts as we modulate theirs. SADAS-PEA's goal is to project, promote and publicize the attempt to establish an “Architecture in Schools” Program under its auspices, and try to increase the number of participants.

A
SADAS-PEA Working Body: “Architecture in Schools” Program
H.A.E.F. Athens College – Elementary School

Architecture as an extra curricular activity

The program was implemented in a group of 15 children in their 5th & 6th year of elementary school, who took part voluntarily in a 30 session, throughout the whole school year, Architecture as an extra curricular activity. The program, consisted of presentations and lectures by team members as well as visiting architects, workshops and a final presentation and exhibition of the children’s creations. The slideshows covered various subjects such as traditional and contemporary architecture, housing, architecture and the environment, landscape architecture, architectural lighting, as well as specific examples of greek contemporary architecture and the ideas and thoughts behind the building process. The workshop assignments involved drawing floorplans and elevations to represent the children’s bedrooms, the design of an imaginary building, and the construction of a scale model.



B
SADAS-PEA Chania Member Section
1st Elementary School in Kounoupidiana
13th Elementary School in Amperia
2nd Elementary School in Souda

Lectures on Architecture

The SADAS-PEA Chania Member Section, in an initiative to promote architecture in their city, organized a series of informative lectures on architecture to elementary schools in the vast area of Chania. The aim was to inform children on the basic concepts of “architecture” and “architect”, as somebody who responds to biological and emotional human needs. The selected approach consisted mainly of two sessions including a lecture (slideshow presentation) or an architectural exhibition visit and a workshop, during which the students were encouraged to create simple structures with clay.



C
University of Patras – Architecture Department
Architecture Theory 5

Experimental Lyceum Univ. of Patras
Arsakio Lyceum of Patras

Architectural Explorations

The workshop was organized within the academic curriculum, bringing together 10 students of architecture and 50 pupils, working on 5 different groups / subjects concerning the city. The themes (environment - interpreted as free and personal time, insecurity, transport, public space and social problems) occurred / emerged by the responses of the pupils to a questionnaire prepared by the students on urban issues. Each team worked with its own distinct methods approaching the subject with different means of analysis and expression.

