



GOLDEN CUBES AWARDS

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AWARD CATEGORY:
Institution Award

NAME OF THE PROJECT:

One world, Our world, Children and Architecture

TEAM MEMBERS:

DAPHNE PSIMARA
Dipl. Eng. Architect
AMI Montessori Asst. Training
Member of the Freinet Community in Greece

AGE GROUP OF AUDIENCE:

4 - 12 years old

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING CHILDREN:

2 groups of 6 children

DURATION OF ACTIVITY:

2 hrs per week:
Sept 2017 - June 2018, Sept 2018 - June 2019, Sept 2019 -

COUNTRY / CITY:

GREECE / ATHENS

NAME OF THE ENTRANT:

"Children's Architectural Workshop"
Architectural after school activity
Daphne Psimara, Architect

FREE EXPRESION:

"Children's Architectural Workshop" is a place where children, through their projects embark on a deep creative process in synthesis and analysis. They understand and discover through architecture the world around them processing elements such as shapes, light / shadow, colors, volume, relief, scale and structure.

Children of different ages (4-12) on a continuously, weekly, basis interact and work together on topics and projects derived from the natural and manmade environment. These topics can either be planned ahead or suggested by the children. Children may work individually or in a group in the workshop and/or outdoors following their own rhythm.

With non-intrusive guidance as advocated by pedagogues Montessori and Freinet, the children are at the center of the process with their own thoughts and ideas.

Children move freely around the space to find the materials and tools they will need to use and organize them. They are introduced to the architectural techniques of modeling, constructing, drawing and further, to techniques from the arts and crafts such as painting, pottery and engraving. At the same time they are introduced to concepts from science which they research, decode and apply.
In the creative process the majority of materials are being recycled emphasizing the importance of a sustainable world.

The freedom of expression and action together with the sense of equality keep the children's interest, enthusiasm and concentration throughout, creating a lively and enjoyable atmosphere.

All this process leads to the development of critical thinking, abilities of analysis and composition, valuable concepts they will use in their everyday lives in the world.

OUTCOMES & EVALUATION:

After discussions with the participating children and their parents, we have seen that being part of this recurrent process of synthesis through Architecture allows children to feel and become an integral part of the world around them and consequently, to act independently and creatively within it.

As parents have said "It's an invaluable gift, it takes on other dimensions and you can see the connection. Whatever they get their hands on, they can transform into something else. Inside them they have the conviction that they are able to make and create anything and they know they can find all that is needed to do it, around them".

IMAGES:

