



GOLDEN CUBES AWARDS

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AWARD CATEGORY:

Institution

NAME OF THE PROJECT:

Sustainability, Architecture and the City

TEAM MEMBERS:

Year 6 teachers of BISAD
Sas Clarke
Samantha Squire
Sarah Cass
Rachel Rawsthorn
Jason Keenan

AGE GROUP OF AUDIENCE:

Year 6: 10-11 years old

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING CHILDREN:

120

DURATION OF ACTIVITY:

2months: February to April 2019

COUNTRY / CITY:

UAE, Abu Dhabi

NAME OF THE ENTRANT:

Apostolos Kyriazis

FREE EXPRESION:

Children are - by practice - the most demanding users and thus the best reviewers of public space. In this light, the Department of Architecture and Design of Abu Dhabi University (ADU) and the British International School Abu Dhabi (BISAD) organized a workshop that involved all Year 6 students at a highly creative and educational process about Sustainable Architecture and Urbanism, in order to enhance their natural and endogenous sense of Architecture and their spatial cognitive abilities. It is the first time that such a workshop took place in a city that is rapidly changing and where stararchitecture dwarves the urbanism of today, of informality, of the temporal, of context. The 120 international students delivered in a highly imaginative and creative yet palpable way their ideas of a sustainable neighborhood, inside an Abu Dhabi Superblock. Following an opening lecture and a 2-week workshop, they proudly exhibited their work at ADU's main lobby, in front of their parents, teachers and the community.

Apart from basic research on sustainability features and passive strategies that students conducted with their teachers, they were introduced to the rich architectural/cultural history of the region and its response to the extreme climatic conditions by a wise use of resources. Emphasis on human scale, inclusive public spaces and places of experience was given. Students got introduced to scale and 3Dimensionality. Some of them were able to use related software on tablets. Sketching, painting and hands-on 3D modeling made the workshop a highly anticipated fun time. The deliverables (site plans, models, sustainable feature details and narrative) were easily managed by the students. The discussions generated clearly displayed awareness on climatic response, social inclusion, public spaces accessibility and adaptation to locality. While approved by all related authorities, this initiative did not involve other disciplines. But its success allowed us to rerun the project this new year.

OUTCOMES & EVALUATION:

A post-workshop evaluation made by teachers of both ADU and BISAD reported a successful completion, in terms of both the exhibits' quality and the debate generated. Neighborhood scale design and public space diversity, as well as technical application of sustainability elements were at full display. Also, students were able to connect those issues to the ones of social coherence, diversity and respect to the local conditions - climatic and cultural, an issue of paramount significance for the GCC region. The Workshop's second year has just started with all amendments asked by the students themselves, such as the presence of ADU Architecture students.

IMAGES:



The opening Lecture at ADU



The Workshop at BISAD classes



The results' Exhibition at ADU

