

Abstract
arquitectives -
building critical views

Autor
Cristina Llorente,
Pablo Amor
Architekten
Palma de Mallorca

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Cristina Llorente & Pablo Amor

ARQUITECTIVES - BUILDING CRITICAL VIEWS

After being named Spanish Delegates of the UIA WP Architecture & Children, hold by the International Union of Architects, Pablo Amor and Cristina Llorente, directors of Arquitectives, started the educational program EMaC (Educación en Medio ambiente Construido), with the aim of introducing the Built Environment Education in classrooms. This program, taught in four Primary and Secondary schools of Mallorca, has been developed in monthly sessions, with the participation of more than 2.000 students.

The main purposes of the program are based on:

- **Promote active citizenship** that values and respects the environment, through the sense of community.
- **Promote environmental education** and understand the importance of the knowledge of our natural and built environment.
- **Learn to look** and acquire a critical view of everything around us.
- **Transmit patterns** and values needed to generate a sustainable environment, adapted to the needs of all citizens.
- **Encourage children to explore** how buildings and cities are designed and built, using their body, mind and imagination and linking different forms of knowledge based on observation, research, reflection, creativity and design.
- **Introduce students in architectural culture** to help them understand the place they live in.
- **Develop visualization resources**, reasoning and critical thinking to help them recognize the quality spaces and allow them to actively intervene in the development of the built environment.

One of the main shortcomings of today's Spanish educational system is the lack of connection between different topics and their application into real contexts, easily recognizable by students. Poor relationship between explained in classrooms concepts and the immediate environment of children and youth, produce as a result enclosed teaching models, which often do not generate interest between students.

In that sense, Architecture at School is understood as a cross-cutting issue, which links the curriculum subjects to the built environment through topics related with them. By theoretical and practical sessions, it introduces concepts that reinforce knowledge of mathematics, physics, history, natural and social sciences, citizenship, arts, etc., and put them in touch with the everyday environment of the students.

Nowadays, Arquitectives has seven offices in Spain, which work for the implementation of the educational program in schools of their respective cities.

At the International Symposium "ARCHITECTURE BUILDS KNOWLEDGE" 2015, we would like to share the experience we have lived since we were born, with emphasis on teaching methods and the results. In addition, we would be interested in discussing how the education system should change in some countries like Spain, still based on outdated methods and some graded according to the society.