

Abstract
Participatory architectural
education

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PARTICIPATORY ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

1. Illustrated introduction

Main points of departure:

In general – how environmental consciousness and active participation in democratic processes in relation to built environment can meet and find their right forms.

The discussion and creative impulses are needed, concerning the types of most relevant educative activities that are most socially viable and effective.

In particular - the case will be presented of the project "Young Leaders of the City of the Future" - led by the GAP Polska Foundation, within the framework of the Citizens for Democracy programme of the Batory Foundation and the Polish Foundation for Children and Youth.

According to this project, the practice of both architectural education, and citizen participation is included in the activities of Youth Town Councils of two towns – one in Poland and one in Norway, supported by the Green Centre – Climate Alliance.

The participants are aspiring for a sustainable lifestyle – to fulfil global goals and achieve better life quality within their communities. The expected outcome is to build a vision for sustainable urban development, as well as organize campaigns aimed at putting ideas into practice.

The project gives both the Youth Town Council and the "adult" Council a chance to use their potential, achieve meaningful goals, practice democracy in its deeper sense and cooperate locally and internationally. Part of the work is joint work of Polish-Norwegian groups, with architects as tutors. Team work and project-based educational methods are promoted. The activities are grounded in the analysis of current planning policies and other relevant resources, as well as chosen school curriculum elements and architecture education tools.

Young people are motivated, empowered to use their education in a holistic way to create their future consciously and with care for all citizens. They learn new skills, work on real-life projects and participate in debates with Town Council members, as well as other stakeholders on themes related to city development, architecture but also resource management and governance priorities. The results contribute to strategic documents, further practical projects as well as social change.

2. Comments, individual contributions - short exchange of experiences, projects

3. Small groups work out the ideas for educational projects they decide are most viable

4. Short presentations of ideas, summary