

Activities:

Ph.D. Seminar :

Contemporary housing: processes, methods and systems (Barcelona, March-June 2008)



This seminar aimed at exploring the relationships between contemporary living and housing forms. Dwelling was addressed at different levels, simultaneously: existential, domestic, anthropologic, social, architectural, technological, economic and urban. At each level there are specific driving forces which influence contemporary housing forms. Through lectures and debates, individual and collaborative works, these forces were identified and discussed. Teaching was carried out following a blended model, in the classroom and in the web.

Access to the discussion forum initiated in this seminar

www.salle.url.edu/arc/oikodomos/forum/

Oikodomos is a research project financed by the Lifelong Learning programme (2007-2009) carried out by higher education institutions and research centres from Belgium, France, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The goal of the project is to create a virtual campus to promote the study of dwelling at a European scale. The aim of OIKODOMOS, a Greek word for "the builder of a house", is to set an innovative learning structure in motion, incorporating on-line and on-site activities (blended learning).

This virtual campus is going to develop new methods to study housing in a multidisciplinary way, interweaving different courses and seminars, digital repositories and on-line learning environments, cases analysis and project workshops taking place at the participating institutions. Community representatives and local authorities in the participating countries are expected to participate in the project's activities.

OIKODOMOS Workshops:

exploring the European dimension of contemporary housing

A series of three workshops will be organised in 2008 and 2009 as part of the learning activities of the Oikodomos virtual campus project.

The goal of these workshops is to identify and discuss the determinants of the forms of housing in Europe. These determining factors are located at different levels, from sociological, architectural, urban, technological and economical. Seminars and lectures delivered on-site and on-line, will address critical issues that could influence the way architects conceive our way of living and plan housing. Design studios will be dedicated to analysing and proposing innovative housing solutions. These learning activities are designed to engage students, professionals, and citizens in a collective reflection about European contemporary forms of dwelling.

Workshop One: "lifelong dwelling: one side of sustainability"

The first workshop will run from September 29th to October 3rd 2008 in Ghent at the Hogeschool voor Wetenschap & Kunst, School of Architecture, Campus Sint-Lucas, Ghent, Belgium. Sint Lucas is situated in the city center of Ghent. The aim of lifelong dwelling is to design a built environment adapted to young and old, to the inhabitants in their youth and later on in their old age. The aim is to develop the architectural and urban conditions that support inhabitants throughout the different stages of their life. Lifelong architecture is supportive, not restrictive.

The first workshop will focus on developing housing (in new or existing structures, communal and individual housing) that is sustainable at different levels and degrees: Lifelong living as structural element for new housing for young people (affordable and accessible for all); redefinition and redesign of existing houses and housing blocks for young people, elderly and people requiring help.

These items will be developed in design studios that contribute to the conceptual

thinking regarding housing in Europe. The theme of the workshop will be introduced through lectures, visits of interesting sites, small design experiments, graphical analysis of examples and through theoretical papers. The workshop can stand on its own but can also form a steppingstone towards a more comprehensive design project. A variety of topics which will be touched upon: housing modelling cities versus cities modelling housing; liquid lives and flexible housing; the spatial impact of an aging society; technological aspects of housing rehabilitation; ecological aspects of the reuse of existing structures; the development of new spatial organisations for new social structures; strategies for improving the quality of social housing; ...

More information on the Ghent Workshop:
http://www.salle.url.edu/arc/oikodomos/web/downloads/Oikodomos_workshop_1.pdf

Workshop dates:

October 2008: Ghent

March 2009: Grenoble

October 2009: Bratislava

The workshops form a chain of interlocking learning experiences that focuses on housing in Europe, and probes into the development of housing concepts. Each workshop focuses on one stage of the design process and is organised as think tank delving into the future of housing in Europe. The workshop forms a focal point for the on-going research into housing at the participating institutions.

➤ More about the project

Following HOUSING@21.EU, the project aims at developing a virtual campus to study dwelling at a European scale. This virtual campus will integrate on-line and off-line learning activities encompassing:

- innovative pedagogic methods, which interweave on-line resources with traditional classroom activities to study housing from a multidisciplinary perspective: seminars and studio projects, digital repositories and cases of study, along with joint design workshops, carried out physically and virtually, in a collaborative manner
- multi-national and multi-professional activities planned in conjunction with community representatives and local authorities, to study the problems of dwelling and to propose solutions to it
- Bologna compatible courses (ECTS credited) aimed to support the creation of future European Master's programs, which combine physical and virtual mobility of teachers and students.

The expected outcomes of the project are:

- an innovative pedagogic methodology integrating on-line activities with the curricula at each partner institution, implemented, tested and validated;
- critical analysis of e-learning methods and tools applied in architectural education (virtual design studios, repositories of cases of study); educational open resources stemming from the learning activities conforming to standards;
- innovative housing proposals embracing architectural, urban and environmental scale, developed collaboratively by the participating institutions in conjunction with social and professional organizations; evaluation reports of the methods and tools employed and the results obtained; reports of good and bad practices and recommendations for other partners to join the virtual campus.

The impact envisaged for the project:

- an increasing awareness of the European dimension of dwelling, not only among academics but also among local authorities, practitioners and operators in the economic sectors;
- promoting citizen participation in housing design and environmental analysis;
- establishing models of good practice for the application of virtual campuses in architectural education, as a result of integrating content, pedagogic methods and ICT in a meaningful, efficient and innovative manner
- strengthening the links among participating institutions, leading to the creation of shared curricula
- disseminating the virtual campus methodology and products among higher education institutions, professional bodies and social organizations, in order to promote the consolidation and future growth of the virtual campus;
- influencing future policies on education, after demonstrating the validity of the implemented learning model.

Please visit our website: www.oikodomos.org

HOUSING@21.EU

was carried out by five Architecture Schools from Belgium, Germany, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom, working under the auspices of the Erasmus Intensive Programme, during the period 2003-2006. The purpose of the programme was to study the emergent forms of housing and living in 21st century Europe. The pedagogic goals were twofold: one had to do with architectural content - proposing adequate forms of dwelling for contemporary European societies; the second with pedagogy - integrating teaching methods and information technologies.

Project website: www.housing21eu.net

For more information about this project:

http://www.isoc.siu.no/isocii.nsf/FR_projectlist/29467



Above :
A French student is interviewed by a national radio in Bratislava during the exhibition of student works.

Below:
New technologies as a tool for group work – videoconferencing between students in Grenoble and Bratislava



➤ Pilot studio:



Grenoble / Bratislava Pilot Studio :

A cross-disciplinary and multicultural experiment in design

A pilot Studio was organised as a „virtual“ distant collaborative groupwork by the universities of Grenoble and Bratislava. The workshop ran from February to April 2008 and was followed by a project workshop organised *in situ* in Bratislava in May 2008. Two groups of French and Slovak students worked together on 3 selected sites confronted to issues related to housing in urban development strategies in Bratislava metropolitan region and in cross-border development urban zone between Slovakia, Austria and Hungary.

The studio has been integrated in existing learning curricula in Grenoble (1st year Masters) and Bratislava (final year, Bachelor).

Contacts have been initiated with a number of **professional bodies**, such the association Catalan Architects Association, *Conseil Français des Urbanistes*, the Slovak Chamber of Architects, Swiss and Italian Associations of Architects and others.

Professionals will be integrated in a number of learning activities, particularly in terms of tutoring and assessing student work. This set up was tested during the Grenoble / Bratislava workshop and will continue in Ghent.

For more information, please contact:

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