

What and Why

The Saint-Luc Schools of architecture in Belgium are the continuity of the "Ecoles des Beaux-Arts" in the French tradition of teaching. For this reason, a condition for teaching in our School, in the studio or in construction or engineering is to practise with the architecture on building-sites or to have enough years of experience in it.

The contents are very classical with a lot of examples of a professional environment.

How

Most of the teachers who teach construction teach also in the studio. For this reason the different views on architecture (architectural concept and construction) are found in the same persons. It is really a good opportunity for the students to learn in the studio with architects who have the experience in construction and design and to have construction teachers who have full invested in the quality of construction to make a good project in the studio.

In the first year, the construction teacher places the students in a dynamic way of searching before giving them a normal way to make things. With a check-list of several points, the students follow their own way to find characteristics of materials or construction methods. The main important guide is to let the students ask themselves questions and come with them to the teacher to discuss different kinds of solutions.

In the last year, students have to work on a critical analysis of a project they designed before.

Who

The teachers of construction are most of the time architects. (4 architects and 1 civil engineer) most of them with actual practice of the profession. All of them has only a part-time of 0,2 units for teaching construction, and 0,5 units to teach in the studio.

When and to What Extent

A1 75 h/year
A2 90 h/year
A3 60 h/year
A4 60 h/year
A5 30 h/year

It seems that students put the accent on the studio with a lot of work at home. For this reason, the time they invest in the construction concept or method is not enough to come to a sufficient result with regard to the importance of the subject.

Some projects in the studio are oriented to be concerned with construction but most of the time, teachers have to discover that students have difficulties to enter the construction, details and structure. We often see that construction comes after and not during the composition.

We are engaged in the last five years, with five universities in Europe (Paris-la-Villette, Venezia, Karlsruhe, Eindhoven and Madrid) in a yearly workshop entitled "technology of architecture". It is an intensive workshop with 36 European students who work in team of 3 or 4, in two weeks on a simple project with a special emphasis on technology.

This workshop lets us think that we have to reinforce teaching construction, to find new ways to reduce the distance between the theory of construction and the design in the studio.

With my function of co-ordinator of sciences and techniques I have to think about new programs to reduce the space between theoretical teaching and the studio where we should see that architecture and construction make one.

Virtual Reforms

