

**Ideas and Reflections
on Architectural and Urban
Design Education in Europe**

This project has been carried out with the support of the European Community
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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

ideas and reflections on
**Architectural and Urban
Design Education
in Europe**

EAAE Transactions on architectural education no 28

editor Constantin Spiridonidis



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Transcription and speech adaptation: Lina Di-Ciocco Kirittopoulou

Cover design: Emmanouil Zaroukas

Layout design: Dimitris Apostolidis

Printed by: Art of Text S.A., Thessaloniki, Greece

ISBN 2-930301-23-4

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Ideas and Reflections on Architectural and Urban Design Education in Europe

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ENHSA project has as its main objective to create the conditions to support initiatives which would facilitate schools of architecture in Europe to develop a dialogue, ensuring better communication and collaboration among schools, in an effort to achieve the aims of the European policies regarding the integration and harmonization of architectural studies in Europe, so that the diplomas obtained would allow for easy mobility of the professionals. As a result, a number of events have been organized in the framework of this project, one of which is the Meeting of Heads of Schools that has been running consecutively for 8 years and, which for the last 4 years, has been funded by the Socrates program. In addition, parallel to the Meeting of Heads of Schools, the ENHSA Thematic Network developed sub-networks specially oriented towards teachers. As the Heads' Meeting embraces the decision-making body of the schools of architecture, the intention was to develop activity designed specifically for teachers, which was, in fact, the primary objective of the EAAE through its initiatives, conferences, etc. Therefore, the sub-networks incorporated meetings with a focus on education, that is, the teaching practices and pedagogies that teachers develop in their schools.

Two years ago, in the framework of the sub-networks of Architectural and Urban Design schools of architecture in Europe were invited to submit a maximum of two cases per school, describing how they teach. The outcome of this cooperation was a collection of papers printed in two volumes entitled "Monitoring Architectural Design Education in European Schools of Architecture" and "Monitoring Urban Design Education in European Schools of Architecture". These two volumes in generated material for the workshop *Ideas and Reflections on Architectural and Urban Design Education in Europe: a follow up* forum which took place at Hania Crete from 1 to 3 September 2005.

It was considered valuable that this material lay the foundation for this event and it was the organizers' aim that the meeting will not involve a regurgitation of the material itself, but that the material be matter to build on and provide sufficient food for thought for participants to reflect on the present situation in terms of architectural and urban design education in the European context. For practical purposes, the two subject areas, architectural design and urban design have been combined in the agenda, but this did not hinder us from dealing with each of the areas separately, when necessary, and that was not an obstacle to our covering the material as thoroughly as possible.

As far as the *content* of this workshop is concerned, it was not organised with the perspective of inviting people to present cases, as is normally done in workshops. We felt we already had volumes of valuable material on hand for us to work with. As a result, we invited a panel of people who would not be directly connected to the material under discussion, that is, they would not be the author contributors, in an effort to ensure objectivity, variety and, most importantly, to intervene and expand on the ideas already presented by the authors. An exception was made, however, with **David Willey**, in Plymouth School of Architecture as an invitation was extended to him, although mainly as a way of honoring him for being the recent recipient of the EAAE Prize in writing on topics concerning architectural education. The rest of the colleagues are among the eminent teachers of architecture, whom I would like to present at this point.

Professor **Loughlin Kealy**, the Head of the School of Architecture at the University College Dublin, has always been present and active in all events organised by the Network and is a highly respectable colleague.

Professor **Josep Muntanola** of the School of Architecture, Barcelona, is a prominent architect-theoretician in the field of architecture, semiotics and architectural education as well.

Professor **Per Olaf Fjeld** of the Oslo School of Architecture is one of the "minds" of the Nordic countries, a thinker and a teacher. He is actually the President of the EAAE.

Emeritus Professor **Jean François Mabardi** of the Louvain – La Neuve School of Architecture, is a senior member of the EAAE, working and writing for many years on architectural education. Many of us had the opportunity to collaborate with him and to experience his way of thinking.

Professor **Marvin Malecha** is a distinguished colleague from the USA, Dean in College of Design, North Carolina State University, who was recently awarded with the title of "Best Teacher" in his country so his contribution is most inspiring.

Professor **Cesare Macchi Cassia** from the Second Faculty of Architecture of Polytechnic of Milano Bovisa, is considered to be one of the most eminent urban designers of Italy. He is very well-known internationally as he has been on juries for many international competitions on urban design. He works and teaches in the respective field.

I wish to thank all invited guests and all the participants for having accepted this invitation and for making the time in their busy schedule to participate in this workshop.