

A model of co-operation for the city of Nowy Sącz in projects and student compilations

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ABSTRACT: The model of co-operation for student studies for the city of Nowy Sącz involved the dissemination of knowledge between academia, local government and business. Co-operation involved the Faculty of Architecture and the Town Hall of Nowy Sącz, in the summer semester of 2017. Designs of single-family housing, at a water location indicated by the city, were created by students as a second-year student project. Students participated in meetings with representatives of the Town Hall, as well as the companies Aluprof and Norlys. Student works presented a new perspective on the development of the area. They taught students about, and how to use, the companies' products. The Architecture Department organised an exhibition at *Galeria Gil* and *Galeria Kotłownia* in May 2017 during which the best student architectural and urban creations were presented. An exhibition was also organised in Nowy Sącz at the Conference on *Intelligent Model of Co-operation between the College and the Local Government - Business* in October 2017.

INTRODUCTION

Cities and communities are the basic social and economic units of Poland. Hence, they are important to the development of regions and the country. Meetings between representatives of town halls and students, as well as exhibitions of student compilations related to urban themes, are engagements for sharing practices and ideation.

The purpose of projects carried out in co-operation with local government, and the companies, Aluprof and Norlys, is not only for students to acquire knowledge, practical skills and communications ability, but also to develop the academic staff. The members of interdisciplinary teams include science workers, local government officials and representatives of the business world, who represent authority. As well, there are experts and persons skilled in the arts.

The choice of authorities adds prestige to student meetings and their projects. The project task, the theme of which was *Float House*, aims, by the production of quality student compilations, to encourage discussion of the problems of cities. Issues include the quality of life for residents in the urban environment [1] and architectural design for sustainable development and its relation to the natural environment [2]. These issues are poorly recognised by the general public as goals of architectural design.

The student project compilations produced with the participation of city and municipal local governments and business provide the opportunity to develop new forms of co-operation that integrates learning environments with local governments and business. As a result, students and academic staff have the opportunity to become acquainted with the latest achievements of research and the products of such companies as Wiśniowski Sp. z o.o. [3], Aluprof Sp. z o.o. [4] and Norlys [5]. Companies and local government are then able to select the best students and offer them appropriate training and future work. This is a formula to support innovation and the commercialisation of research and, hence the promotion of good practices in innovation.

The research method included a discussion of the importance of co-operation between the University, local government, and business in relation to urban space and the harmonious shaping of city structure. Literature and field studies were carried out. An analysis of the location and its neighbourhood was undertaken based on local interviews and data in city archives including archival design and photographic materials.

FLOAT HOUSE IN NOWY SĄCZ - PROGRAMME, OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

In the fourth semester of the academic year 2016-2017, the subject of the Urban and Architectural Design course (lecturer Krystyna Paprzyca PhD Eng arch.; Julian Franta MSc Eng arch.) was the *Float House* in Nowy Sącz located

on a flooded area. The partners of the programme were: the city of Nowy Sącz; architect Paweł Kurzeja of the Design Office Arts Studio Projekt; and the companies Norlys and Aluprof [4][5].

The programme included 26 students in two different age groups. The students familiarised themselves with the location indicated by the city of Nowy Sącz (see Figure 1). They were to design a single-family float house using aluminium elements, glazed curtain walls made by Aluprof and external lighting from Norlys.



Figure 1: Students' arrival to the designated area in Nowy Sącz (Photographs by the author).

The aim of the project was to make the place attractive for living. The students' task was to focus on the following goals [6]:

- Software and functional creation.
- Composition creation.
- Aesthetic creation.
- Learning about the latest achievements and the products of Aluprof and Norlys.
- Analysis of archival design and photographic materials, implementation of site inspections and interviews with the residents.
- Gaining a solid knowledge both in the field of design methods and information from design theory and practice.

The aim was to produce optimal living conditions for the location, with a good, interesting architectural solution for the *Float House*.

The project was to demonstrate cognisance of the following issues:

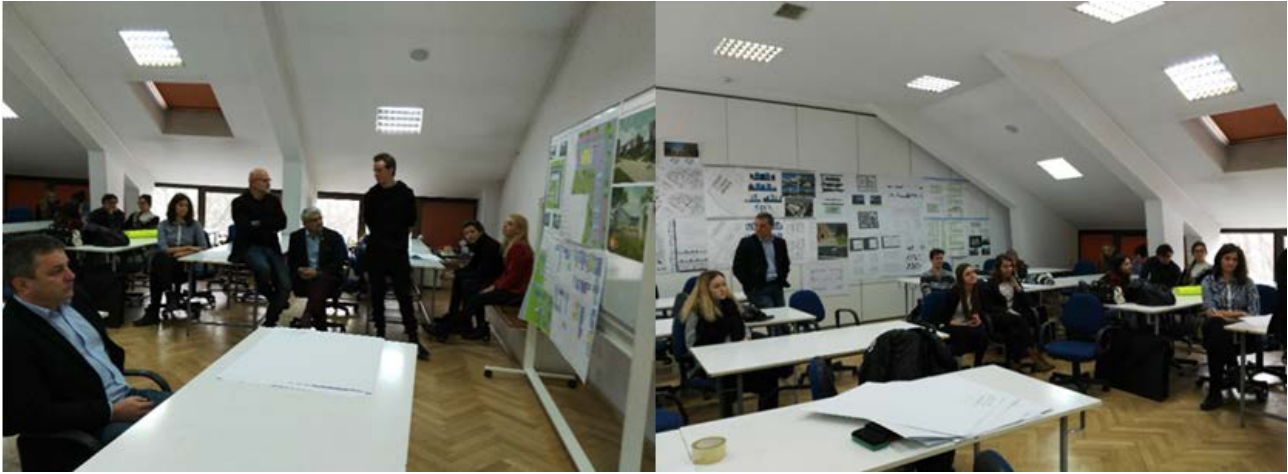
- Place is the space in which a man lives [7][8]. The places also exist thanks to man. This dependence of place and man is a condition for diverse relationships and experiences. However, the essential feature of both is mutual coexistence. The aim is to extract the values and properties of the place, and then to skilfully integrate architecture into the place.
- Man as a recipient of space and meeting basic needs and aspirations. Human needs, such as desires and aspirations have a decisive influence on human activity. Dependence can be on age, gender, education, profession, income, habits, views, personality or expectations.
- The technical solutions were focused on the use of Aluprof products, with particular emphasis on glazed curtain walls and Norlys exterior lamps. The construction solutions should take into account the maximum energy efficiency of the building and heat gain from unconventional sources.

The objectives of the project task:

- To learn basic skills in the field of urban composition and produce clear spatial decisions. The newly designed building should connect with local conditions taking account of the terrain, development of the area and the nature of surrounding buildings.
- Be guided by cultural values, potential technological solutions and economic factors.
- Assess the stimulation of urban areas through the amount and type of investment.
- Presentation and defence of the work, discussion and presentation workshop.

ACADEMIC, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BUSINESS CO-OPERATION

Co-operation has been established with the Town Hall of Nowy Sącz, Design Office Arts Studio Projekt - arch. Paweł Kurzeja, and business: Aluprof and Norlys companies [4][5].



a)

b)

Figure 2: Meetings of the representatives of the city of Nowy Sącz: director of the Architecture Department, architect Mirosław Trzupka and architect Paweł Kurzeja of the Arts Studio Project, with students (Photographs by the author).

The unity of architecture and urban planning always has been the guiding principle in the teaching at the Department of Environmental Development of the Urban Planning Institute [9][10]. One of the important features that characterises the teaching is the direct contact between academic teachers, the representatives of the local government and business and the students (see Figure 2). This encourages a variety of student design solutions, from traditional to unconventional and *on-the-edge*.

Lecturers give the students freedom to choose the creative direction and take responsibility for their decisions. The priority is to treat urban planning and architecture as inseparable, presenting student ideas and creations at various scales and from various aspects, as well as taking account of the spirit and context of the place.

Such activities shape the students' personality and contribute to their creative development. Hence, students acquire solid knowledge in design theory, methods and practice. Knowledge and skills are not only acquired didactically, but also by training in private design offices.

An important task for students is to create new forms of single-family housing by capturing the student's creative imagination. Creating a proper building style, proposing flexible and functional solutions for the individual floor plans, as well as searching for compositional and aesthetic solutions, are important elements of the design exercise. As part of the project there are joint meetings between the students and the local government community, as well as representatives of design offices and businesses. These usually take place during the first review, when students have developed a specific concept (see Figure 3).

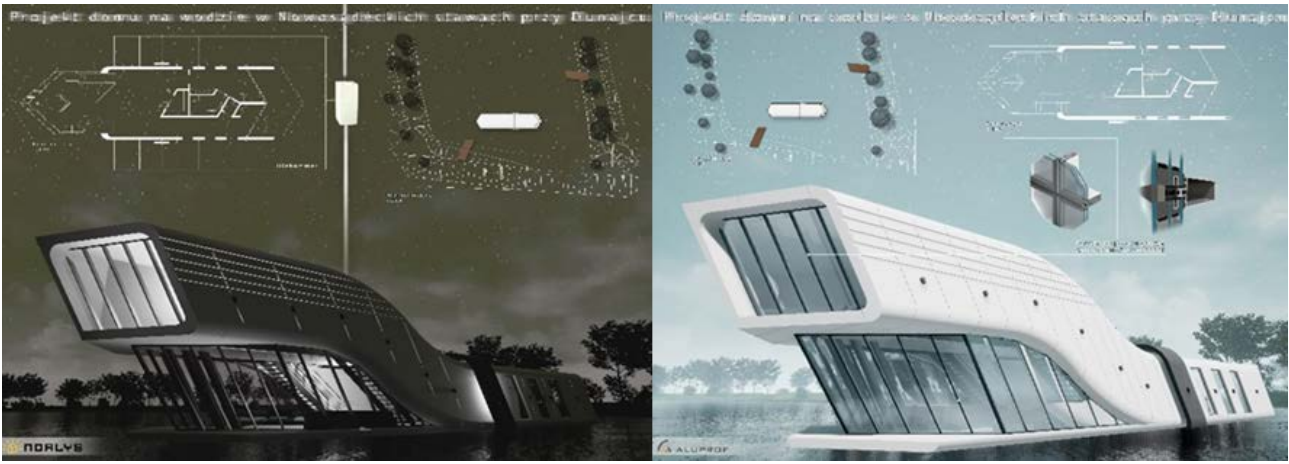


a)

b)

Figure 3: Meetings of students with Aluprof and Norlys representatives (Photographs by the author).

Such mutual activities open the students to new knowledge, new tasks and presentation skills. These activities related to partner projects enable local governments to analyse problems related to particular locations and encourage creativity among the students (see Figure 4).



a)

b)

Figure 4: Student Jakub Fularski's *Float House* (year 2, semester 4, academic year 2016-17).

Presentation of the projects to representatives of local authorities, Aluprof and Norlys provide an excellent vehicle to develop presentation skills and to defend the decisions taken; all necessary in the later profession of architect (see Figure 5 and Figure 6).



a)

b)

Figure 5: Final presentation of project compilations to the representatives of the city of Nowy Sącz, Aluprof and Norlys (Photographs by the author).



a)

b)

Figure 6: The final presentation of project compilations for the representatives of the city of Nowy Sącz, Aluprof and Norlys (Photographs by the author).

EXHIBITION OF STUDENTS' COMPILATIONS

An excellent opportunity to present the best compilations and comparisons are periodic exhibitions organised in the building corridor of the Faculty of Architecture. The exhibition of partner projects made at the Faculty of Architecture of the Cracow University of Technology (Galeria Gil, Galeria Kotłownia, Kraków, ul. Warszawska) were organised in May 2017. The exhibition of student compilations related to the city of Nowy Sącz accompanied the conference in Nowy Sącz on the Intelligent Model of Co-operation between University - Local Government - Business, October 2017 (Figure 7).



a)

b)

Figure 7: Exhibition of student compilations in Nowy Sącz, October 2017 part of the Conference on the Intelligent Model of Co-operation between University - Local Government - Business.

CONCLUSIONS

The task of higher education is to prepare young people for work. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to combine the teaching with the practical side of the profession, which develops the skills required for the integration of knowledge and practical experience. It is highly beneficial for students to have the theoretical knowledge acquired during the education process supported by the skills and practical knowledge of local government units and the business sector.

When recruiting graduates, Polish companies most often complain about the lack of experience, poor communication skills or lack of teamwork skills. The education system generally lacks this practical component in preparing students for their profession.

Students emphasise the value of learning by implementation of the project specified by the Nowy Sącz City Office. Also valued are contacts with the representatives of design offices, Aluprof and Norlys. The didactic aim was to unite the teaching of urban and architectural design of single-family housing complexes with the practical side of the architect's profession.

Students' studies of design proposals at locations indicated by cities were presented during the exhibitions at the Architecture Department of Cracow University of Technology and at exhibitions organised in partner cities. The upshot is to produce a collection of creative young people of value to many communities.

The students' studies are presented on the City Office's Web site, which is an inexpensive way of displaying student ideas of visionary architectural-urban projects.

Students' projects are an excellent basis for discussion related to future development of the city and can point to the best solutions.

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