

Erasmus+ IMPROPAL 2015-1-SE01-KA203-012315
Pedagogic Case-Studies in Project Work
developed by the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca IMPROPAL team

PEDAGOGIC CASE-STUDIES IN PROJECT WORK

ACADEMIC CONTEXT

Within the framework of IMPROPAL, the Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning of the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca have developed a subproject on Project Work. In the framework of several teaching activities different methods of fostering student active learning have been developed and tested.

Within the FAU curriculum there are three main groups of teaching activities, or disciplines, involving quite different forms of assignment and assessment: (1) project work; (2) seminars (practical assignments) accompanying the theoretical disciplines (courses); (3) theoretical disciplines (courses).

Case studies in PW have been carried out for the following disciplines:

Elements of Environment Studies (1st year), during 2015-18;

Evolution of the city (2nd year), during 2015-17;

Urban Ecology (5th year) during 2015-18;

Urban Residential (2nd year), during 2017-18;

Specialized Planning – Urban Design (3rd, 4th and 5th years) during 2015-2018;

Synthesis of Design 1 and 2 (4th year) during 2017-2018;

Practice (4th year) during 2017-2018.

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| EXAMPLES OF PROJECT WORK METHODS AND TECHNIQUES IMPLEMENTED AT FAU-TUCN | | | | |
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| | Teaching activity | Student group: study level, group size, teaching time | Description of applied PW methods | Critical overview |
| Short Term Project Work – ST-PW | <p>URBAN RESIDENTIAL compulsory course with seminar in 2015-16; 2016-17</p> <p>Cristina Purcar Octav Silviu Olănescu</p> | <p>2nd year course: c100 students 2h weekly</p> <p>seminar: c12 students 2h every 2nd week</p> | <p>During each seminar there was one specific problem that had to be solved under the form of a short idealistic project that was done during the 2 hours provided for this activity;</p> <p>Each small project was noted and have been taking into consideration for the final mark;</p> <p>The small project was intended to familiarize the student with the scale and rigorous meant for being applied and the more complex levels of planning projects that will have to be done in the following academic years.</p> | <p>There was mixed feedback provided by the students: some were unable to appreciate the use of this type of exercise and some assimilate the knowledge and skill obtained during this type of project and use it according to its intent</p> |

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| <p>Medium Term Project Work – MT-PW</p> | <p>SPECIALIZED PLANNING - URBAN DESIGN, 3rd YEAR OF STUDY compulsory project work in 2015-16; 2016-17; 2017-18</p> <p>Octav Silviu Olănescu</p> | <p>3rd year</p> <p>project work: c12 students 3h every week</p> | <p>This is the first urban design project made by the students at our faculty following some courses and practical work done in preparation for this type of complex project.</p> <p>The project is made by teams of 3 students coached by a tutor. As for the following urban design projects, this project precedes the architectural object one being made at the higher scale and mimicking the process of planning of different scale made in real life situations after graduation.</p> | <p>The complex nature of this project and the fact that it implies different skills and knowledge provided by other disciplines make it a useful tool which familiarize the student with the future role of the graduate inside a complex team that make up the planning team for a given project.</p> |
| <p>Medium Term Project Work – MT-PW</p> | <p>SPECIALIZED PLANNING - URBAN DESIGN, 4th YEAR OF STUDY compulsory project work in 2015-16; 2016-17; 2017-18</p> <p>Octav Silviu Olănescu</p> | <p>4th year</p> <p>project work: c12 students 2h every week</p> | <p>This project is similar to the 3rd year one, being different at the increased complexity and the fact that it has to be done in condensed way (3-4 weeks) preceding the longer project dealing with the architecture of a building resulted after the Urban Design phase – a common real life practice.</p> | <p>The fact that this project is made at a very fast pace crates difficulties for the students, being a very complex one; but on the other hand it mimics more closely the pace that can be found in different architectural offices that operate on the free market.</p> |
| <p>Medium Term Project Work – MT-PW</p> | <p>SPECIALIZED PLANNING - URBAN DESIGN, 5th YEAR OF STUDY compulsory project work in 2015-16; 2016-17; 2017-18</p> <p>Mihaela Ioana Agachi Octav Silviu Olănescu</p> | <p>5th year</p> <p>project work: c12 students 2h every week</p> | <p>The most complex urban design project of the 3 years that apply this kind of projects. The team is made up by 4 students who have to work as a design team. The complexity consists in the fact that one of the main objective of this project is to provide quality main public space – city center, quality green space.</p> | <p>This project also precedes the architectural one and the critical aspects being the same as for the 4th year project – a very fast pace of the project.</p> |

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| <p>Medium Term Project Work – MT-PW</p> | <p>PRACTICE compulsory project work in 2017-18</p> <p>Octav Silviu Olănescu</p> | <p>4th year project work: team work 3 weeks</p> | <p>Each academic year each study year has to do practice time with the complexity specific for each year.</p> <p>For the 4th year of study there are different real life projects that are initiated by our university in order to increase the environment comfort of its campuses or workplaces, which involve student projects and work.</p> <p>So students team up and under supervision of a tutor do these projects and learn how to apply the knowledge and skills in real life applied projects.</p> | <p>The beneficial value of this type of projects is obvious being related to real life practice, difficulties being overcome by learning by doing.</p> |
| <p>Long Term Project Work – LT-PW</p> | <p>SYNTHESIS OF DESIGN 1 and 2 compulsory project work in 2015-16; 2016-17; 2017-18</p> <p>Mihaela Ioana Agachi Octav Silviu Olănescu</p> | <p>4th year project work: c12 students 10h every week</p> | <p>The core project of the 4th year – the architecture project – following the urban design one as a continuous process mimicking the real life practice of architectural firms. It is a complex project done during the semester involving different connected specialties like installations, structures, topography, urban-design, landscape architecture.</p> | |
| <p>Long Term Project Work – LT-PW</p> | <p>DIPLOMA PROJECT compulsory project work in 2015-16; 2016-17; 2017-18</p> | <p>6th year project work: individual work 3/4 of the academic year</p> | <p>The final project of the architecture student at our school – the project theme is self-implied with the aid of a tutor, and shows the knowledge and skills obtained at our faculty by providing a complex project that</p> | |

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| | Mihaela Ioana Agachi Octav Silviu Olănescu | | deals with a lot of interconnected disciplines, as real life projects often do. | |
| Informal Project Work – IPW | ELEMENTS OF ENVIRONMENT STUDIES EVOLUTION OF THE CITY compulsory courses in 2015-17 Mihaela Ioana Agachi | 1 st year compulsory courses: c100 students 2h weekly | For these two courses there was the option of making a small project that could influence the final mark, dealing with theoretical aspects presented at the courses, and aims at the will of involvement of each student. The small projects relate to analyzing different small fragments of the city by the students in order to see for themselves and learn the skills of a keen observer of the city, as a good future architect should be. | |
| Informal Project Work – IPW | URBAN ECOLOGY compulsory course in 2016 Octav Silviu Olănescu | 5th year compulsory course: c100 students 2h weekly | For these course the final mark consisted of doing a small project during the 1,5 h evaluation time using all the information and principles presented at the theoretical course. | This type of project work was very well received by the students, some named it “the best type of exam for a theoretical course”. Of course in order to have this type of project work as a final exam you have to have a more technical course, and is best suited for this type of courses. |

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