Design with the senses and for the senses: an alternative teaching model for design studio

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Abstract
In the 1990s, Juhani Pallasmaa wrote a compact, yet, eye-opening book expressing his growing concern about the architectural profession’s waning ability to reference all the senses of the body in the design process. Bit by bit, the perceptive chasm between the architect and after it is almost fully developed. Evaluation throughout the duration of the studio is not only transparent but focuses on the student’s ability to palpably grasp and express ideas beyond graphics. As this is a studio-in-progress it remains to be seen the developments, effect and impact this approach will have on the graduating class and their final product.

Keywords
Design studio; senses; installation; model-making

Full Text:
PDF

References

Scopus (May 2017), Archnet-IJAR advances three places and in the latest journal ranking and metrics of Scimago (SJR) positioning, Urban Studies (Q2) 60 out of 134 from 40 years. Archnet-IJAR has moved up 5 places and to a place of worship within a residential compound currently under construction on the outskirts of Cairo. The graduating class of ten students is in the final and fourth year of a program that emphasized the engineering and project management aspects of architecture at the expense of theory and history of art and architecture. The university has no humanities or liberal arts program as yet, and students have minimal contact to arts within the university system. Contact hours in design studios are limited and design is mostly computer-aided. The need to re-emphasize the physical, tactile, polemic and holistic aspects of the architectural design process is urgent, especially that this was the first graduating class of architecture in this young, privately owned university.

The design brief lent itself easily to the purpose of reinstating the body and the senses both as design tool and design purpose because of the dual iconic intimate nature of the place of worship in particular. Spirituality, although a transcendental out-of-body experience is linked to a place of worship within a residential compound currently under construction on the outskirts of Cairo. The graduating class of ten students is in the final and fourth year of a program that emphasized the engineering and project management aspects of architecture at the expense of theory and history of art and architecture. The university has no humanities or liberal arts program as yet, and students have minimal contact to arts within the university system. Contact hours in design studios are limited and design is mostly computer-aided. The need to re-emphasize the physical, tactile, polemic and holistic aspects of the architectural design process is urgent, especially that this was the first graduating class of architecture in this young, privately owned university.

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This phenomenon is addressed in a design studio run by the two authors of this paper. The purpose of the design studio, which is held in the Department of Architectural Engineering, of the Faculty of Engineering of the British University in Egypt, is to design a community centre linked to a place of worship within a residential compound currently under construction on the outskirts of Cairo. The graduating class of ten students is in the final and fourth year of a program that emphasized the engineering and project management aspects of architecture at the expense of theory and history of art and architecture. The university has no humanities or liberal arts program as yet, and students have minimal contact to arts within the university system. Contact hours in design studios are limited and design is mostly computer-aided. The need to re-emphasize the physical, tactile, polemic and holistic aspects of the architectural design process is urgent, especially that this was the first graduating class of architecture in this young, privately owned university.

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Join Now to learn my HPA Design Formula to improve your architectural design concept formulations. This formula will help bring your mindset, skillset, and project design results to new heights. Plus, get the Design Insight Digest, FREE. Click here to join now. Blog. What do you do when your architectural design tool won't allow you to test your design for the senses? How do you know that you are creating the best design for your future building occupants? What architecture techniques will you use? Well, we all know that there is a multitude of modeling software out there to keep you refining your design — to present it not only to yourself, but to reviewers and clients. And with this software, you can come close to modeling architecture for the different parts of the senses.

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