Promising practice

University: Vilnius College of Technologies and Design

Academic discipline: Civil Engineering

Course: History of Architecture

Course description:

The History of Architecture course is designed to introduce students to key concepts relating to architectural history, construction principles and architectural heritage. The content of this subject is focused on the analysis of architectural evolution, emphasising the influence of past achievements on contemporary architecture. Through examination and comparison of architectural periods and styles, their manifestations in objects of various purposes and architectural historical heritage are analysed in real conditions.

Learning outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will have knowledge of the evolution of architecture history, will be able to find their way in the plethora of architectural buildings, will be able to tell apart historical periods and to recognize their specific architectural elements. They will have developed spacial vision and will be able to think analytically, apply the gained knowledge in practice, to analyse architectural objects and their forms, elements and details, and will be able to critically assess phenomena related to architectural historic heritage and changes in architecture.

How students' learning is assessed

Individual cumulative index: theoretical knowledge, practical works, examination

How students learn about dimensions of RRI through this course

Anticipation
Students know and understand that what is happening currently in architecture will have an impact in the future, will shape it. That is also one of the key essences of architecture history – one period influences another. They analyse contemporary objects, search for original elements in past objects, understanding that what today's architects are creating not only might be etched in the history of architecture, but also could determine the quality of life for future residents, contribute to environmental and air pollution reduction.

Also, the website of the project "modernizmas.lt", the project-website of the Architecture and Urbanism Research Centre and student analytical works, carried out in real environment with real contemporary objects all contribute to attribution of current projects that survived, to gathering information about them, their elements and details, because if it will be done now, it will not be permanently lost. Therefore, in the Lithuanian architecture history and heritage archive, information will be saved about objects that no longer exist or that will disappear in the future. That will be very important in the future for the history science, for history of architecture, for initiating new projects etc.

Reflexivity
Students know and understand that what they do in research also has an aspect of subjectivity, that they partially influence the performed analysis of the architectural object. Students can partially independently choose criteria for object's analysis/evaluation, they assess/compare object's chosen elements or details, because it is impossible to thoroughly analyse an object in one task. Regarding this, students focus on analysis of individual elements or details, stylistic attribution criteria.

Inclusion
Students analyse material on architectural objects published on websites and various data. They get involved in activities by non-governmental organisations independently, according to their needs and abilities. Non-governmental organisations are not directly integrated into College's work.

Responsiveness
Student reports are prepared in accordance to realities and changes in the field. For example, as the discussion on ecology, nature preservation, pollution reduction and other issues is becoming louder and increasingly widespread a report was prepared on 'Green' architecture.

Tasks for the students are formed from the fields, periods or locations, which have been under-analysed or those which are prioritised. For example, if there is a lack of information on modernist architecture in various Lithuanian towns, students analyse objects specifically from this period, also paying attention to engineering structures.

RRI keys integrated in the course:

Public engagement/ societal engagement; Open access; Gender and diversity; Ethics; Sustainability; Social justice

RRI process requirements integrated in the course:

Anticipation; Reflexivity; Inclusion; Responsiveness

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