

# SCOLA TELCZ – Example of Interdisciplinary Workshop

Jitka Burdová, Olga Búčiová

Department of Art Education, Faculty of Education, Masaryk University, Brno

## **Abstract**

**The paper focus on the contribution of education to interdisciplinary cooperation in architecture. It presents one of the examples of interdisciplinary and international cooperation prepared for university students, the SCOLA TELCZ project. The project aims to connect students with different architecture-related expertise and give them space to discuss and exchange experience in a specific assignment. A workshop, held twice a year, involves the National Heritage Institute in Telcz, Donau University Krems, Czech Technical University in Prague and Masaryk University in Brno. The workshop is attended by experts and students in the fields of architecture, garden architecture, art history, art education and art mediation and sociology. Students works on their own projects of a building or location in Telcz. Furthermore selected lectures and excursions are organised during their stay in Telcz.**

## **Keywords**

**Workshop, interdisciplinary cooperation, architecture, art history, art education, university students, national heritage.**

Scola Telcz is an international interdisciplinary workshop for university students which was organized three times since 2016 in the Czech town Telcz. The project aims to lead students from various disciplines to interdisciplinary collaboration in architecture, restoration of monuments and urban planning and to give them the opportunity to test their knowledge in practice. Collaborating institutions are the Danube University Krems, Czech Technical University in Prague, Masaryk University in Brno and the National Heritage Institute in Telcz.

Architecture is a complex discipline involving many fields - technology, ecology, sociology, planning, design, construction, communication, management, economy, projects, urbanism and many other themes. But it is also something that surrounds us during the most of our lives and affect us. Architecture (meaning buildings) cannot be viewed from a static point of view - it is not unchangeable; it is constantly changing with the influence of time, historical events, climatic conditions, the functions that it performs, and the people that pass through it. All these aspects had to be considered when creating an interdisciplinary project. As a result, there have been three workshops, each focusing on a different area and a specific solution.

The project is conceived as a week-long workshop in the town of Telcz. This town is listed on the UNESCO list for its unique Renaissance architecture. Students of architecture, construction, garden architecture, art history, art mediation and sociology were participating. Students were divided into interdisciplinary groups at the beginning of the workshop and worked on a given task throughout the week. The first day was an introduction to the history and current status of the object or solved area, followed by specialized lectures and excursions related to the topic. The workshop ended with the public presentation of done projects. Throughout the week, students were able to take advantage of the opportunity to consult with lecturers and experts from participating institutions. Buildings or areas that were the subjects of workshops were selected in cooperation with the National Heritage Institute and representatives from the town Telcz, so that the proposals which were made during the workshops will be possible to

use as a basis for renewal in the future.

The assignment of the first workshop was to create ideological study of an architectural solution for the use of two neighboring houses at Zacharias z Hradce Square, where the art school and library were currently located. Houses were inappropriate for their actual functions, while they were protected by the law, so students had to work with the original plans and recommendations from the National Heritage Institute staff. All projects were publicly presented, an exhibition was organized, and a brochure was published.

Theme of the second workshop was the revitalization of the Old Town's rural environment in Telcz. The aim was not at specific architectural proposal but, above all, an assessment of the current situation and suggestions for possible improvements and solutions for town problematic areas. An important part of the project was sociological research among residents.

The content of the third SCOLA TELCZ was different. The aim was to create a site-specific performance or installation focused in the building of the former Jewish synagogue. The workshop was connected with a vernissage, which featured installations connected with the history of the building, original plans, Jewish symbols and projects involving residents of Telcz in the current and future form and use of the building.

What was very pleasant, the by-product of the organized projects has been to increase the interest of the local population in the architecture of the city they live in. Because in today's global age when it is a normal part of life, travel and frequent relocation, instead of losing its meaning. "Social obligations are shifting from social structures linked to a place (community, city, nation, or neighborhood) to structures (corporations, jobs, a circle of friends)" (Černík, 2009, p. 60). There was interaction between students and residents in debates and surveys - local people were given the opportunity to comment on the places they perceive as problematic and to express their wishes that the students tried to reflect on their projects.

The school was particularly beneficial for students to learn from colleagues from other dis-

ciplines and to see the issue from several angles of view, to cooperate and to find compromises. They were able to use their knowledge in practice to solve a particular project.

Students of the Department of Art Education of the Faculty of Education of the Masaryk University have been involved in the project since its beginnings. Integrating teaching about Architecture into curriculum of art education at elementary schools<sup>1</sup> is important for many different reasons. The mediation of architecture develops primarily orientation in space, planning skills, feeling for the material, knowledge of history, relation to history and art, involvement and responsibility to the environment (Nadansky, 2013, p. 41-46). There are several possibilities for creating educational programs and materials for architecture - it is possible to work with the object in general in its complexity as a dwelling. To look for parallels in the animal and plant kingdom, to examine the construction in terms of relation to the environment in which it is located. Another option is to deal with construction as a work of art, focus on style and form, architectural design, material and construction site. Another level is the view of architecture as a specific witness of the historical events and connected fates of its inhabitants. These topics can be branched out and studied through methods that are adapted to the age and focus of the target group. For future architectural mediators, it is therefore very beneficial to get acquainted with the work of architects and to learn in practice the principles of building design and renovation as well as the procedures of monument care.

---

<sup>1</sup>The Architecture in Education Initiative, which aims to integrate architecture into teaching at nursery, primary and secondary schools, has been operating in the Czech Republic since 2014.

## References

- Nadansky, M. (2013). Zprostředkování architektury dětem a mladým lidem (intermediating architecture to children and young people). *Era21: Krajiny her, 03*, 41–46.
- Černík, R. (2009). Site specific performance jako exprese vztahu k prostoru a času. In M. Komzáková, J. Slavík, & V. Blažek (Eds.), *Umění ve službě výchově, prevenci, expresivní terapii: výzkumný záměr Učitelská profese v měnících se požadavcích na vzdělávání* (pp. 60–68). Praha: Univerzita Karlova v Praze, Pedagogická fakulta. ISBN 978-80-7290-415-0.







