Education, Design and Practice – Understanding skills in a Complex World

• Paper / Proposal Title:


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• Abstract (300 words):

Community buildings such as public libraries, community centres and social clubs are important activity-centres that serve as the heart of local communities given their designed purpose intends to facilitate social interactions and social engagement—such facilities thus are of significant value to the people they serve and the municipality in which they are situated.

This research concurrently develops symbiotic models of mutual benefit between Curtin and City of Stirling through creative exploration in the design studio and Experiential Learning through Design Studio and Design Methods units in Architecture, and Project Development and Appraisal in Construction Management at Curtin University, and in partnership with the City of Stirling (the municipality). The City of Stirling sought design concepts for the development of a medium-scale user-centred community building
located on Balcatta Road at the existing men’s shed site for the duration of semester 1, 2018.

Firstly, an active-collaborative-learning Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) and Research, Experience, Application & Learning (REAL) model created on elements of professional industry settings ’mind set learner’—a practice-firmed attitude through competitive commission through Multiphase Works Package (MWP), and Expression of Interest (EoI), simulated public tendering, and standard practice for authentic and active learning studio environment and scholarship. The model incorporates a real-world municipal partner, purpose, project, client, weekly reviews and active mentorship offering critical industry positioning and oversight for the student (tertiary institution) in achieving specified learning outcomes that have been jointly developed with Curtin staff for students to explore through design.

REAL is an essential component of this learning and teaching delivery model which incorporates industry standards, terminologies, procedural governance and processes. Secondly, a robust, inclusive and transparent community and stakeholder engagement model was developed through participation in panel reviews and provision of detailed client briefings, service expectations, community driven needs, standards, policies and governance frameworks by the City of Stirling, the culmination of input from both entities leading to a student developed website for the purpose of open community voting on the 22 student design proposals, and a feasibility and options analysis plan for the municipality, achieved by linking and aligning assessment and learning activities between the disciplines of Architecture and Construction Management.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

[Emil E Jonescu]

Dr Emil E Jonescu is a registered architect with experience in a broad range of design management, construction management and project management activities. Of particular note is his ability to network and concurrently engage and bridge industry professionals, government and academic settings as a methodology of ensuring best practice contemporary design and construction outcomes—facilitating the forming of a nexus between research-based design and industry-focused approaches to projects.

Emil has formed key steering committees delivering civic buildings, urban spaces and public infrastructure, and has developed considerable professional practice, government, and industry network linkages. His international understanding of historical, functional and political aspects associated with architecture, behaviour and urban contexts in which they exist, sees an emerging portfolio of research in the discipline of Architecture, Construction Management, Urban Design, and the Built Environment generally in the area of: Functional & political development, feasibility, architecture & diverse stakeholder engagements; surveillance theory; psychology of space; control architecture in urban contexts; omnipotent power & relationships in the built
environment; urban behavioural morphology; CPTED; ‘tactical architecture’ & spatial-behaviour control; social sustainability in urban spaces; effective and proactive behaviour deterrence; densification, inclusivity accessibility, and shaping community engagement.

[Khoa Do]

Khoa Do is an Associate Professor in Architecture and Construction Management at Curtin University. His research focuses on designing and developing interdisciplinary scholarship of learning and teaching (SOTL) models. Professor Do is a trained Australian Architect with two decades of combined experience in the university sector and architectural practice. Khoa is an award-winning educator, designer, speaker and author. Khoa is regularly invited to provide high-level advice and leadership in roles such as chairing, convening, assessing, reviewing, juror and board member on state, national and international university and professional panels. Notably in his is currently a fellow of the Curtin Academy and national grants and awards assessor. Khoa has consistently delivered keynotes, convened and moderated conferences.

Khoa’s contribution to higher education is led through fresh forms of thinking, creative synthesis of current and emerging discourse in industry engagement with external stakeholders in the advancement of work-integrated learning (WIL) simulation and multicultural design engagement approach. Khoa actively champions research in the areas of embedded learning in practice and to develop educational models that seek to capitalise on the work environment as a place of authentic learning through project-based-learning (PBL), inquiry-based-learning (IBL) and experiential-based-learning (EBL) that promote collaborative inquiry and discovery.

[Chris Leong]

Mr Chris Leong is a creative thought-leader whose IT and fabrication technologies-focused Teaching and Learning (T&L) blueprint guides his practice in Architecture. Trained in Australia, his combined nine years of experience in academic and industry settings provides him with sound practical knowledge and skills necessary to develop T&L methodologies, uniquely supported by evidence-base best-practice. His area of interest focuses on the nexus between cognition and tactility, design thinking process, digital mind-mapping and modelling of creative concepts.

He has engaged in cross-faculty projects whilst developing teaching and research in collaboration with cross-disciplinary teams designing and delivering highly successful units through both modes of face to face and online. As a skillful designer and digital fabricator, he is regularly invited to design, develop and craft creative projects for the School of Built Environment.

[Ahmed WA Hammad]
Dr Ahmed WA Hammad is currently a Lecturer at the Faculty of Built Environment, UNSW Sydney. He previously held academic positions at The University of New South Wales and Curtin University in Australia. Prior to his academic career, Ahmed worked as a road and construction engineer. His research focuses on the optimisation of construction planning processes. In particular, his interests lay in solving Operational Research problems in the fields of construction engineering, sustainable design, architecture and urban design, through the use of mathematical programming techniques.