ONLINE EDUCATION: TEACHING IN A TIME OF CHANGE

• Paper / Proposal Title:
The Future of Architectural Education after COVID-19: Lessons for Effective Online Learning Environments

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• Abstract (300 words):
Since the beginning of the Spring semester of 2020 and with the considerable widespread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), Egyptian Universities have been experiencing an unusual massive “migration” from traditional in-class teaching to online education.

Thus, it became urgent to shift to virtual online classes. This demand for Online Learning Environments (OLE) is considered as a response to the needs of the current worldwide situation and supports new visions for learning especially in architectural education. These environments are enriched with technology supported tools and digital techniques which encourage advanced and developed learning.

Now, the question is, could Online Learning Environments (OLE) support the practical study of architectural education and result in satisfactory products that give students the same experience as in traditional classes during this confusion shift?
The paper discusses the idea and components of Online Learning Environments (OLE) and explores the impact of Coronavirus on architectural schools' education which led to online teaching. Then, the paper examines the problems that are associated with online classes and analyzes the case that was held in the Department of Architectural Engineering - Pharos University in Alexandria. This leads to a SWOT analysis comparing between traditional and online classes and evaluating the whole experience. Finally, the paper concludes the effective lessons and principles that could be applied in such type of environments to deliver a successful online architectural education and to develop the skills of teachers and students.

The aim of the paper is highlighting that transition to online architectural learning environments could be a practical opportunity without the in-person contact that characterizes architectural education. This progress may lead to reshape teaching and learning methods and to promote high quality for online classes that influence tomorrow’s architectural education in a way that could make the whole profession strong and powerful.

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

Riham Nady Faragllah is an Associate Professor at the Department of Architectural Engineering in Pharos University in Alexandria (PUA). She has received her Ph.D degree from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Alexandria University (2013). Being the coordinator of execution design courses for several years, she had an extensive experience in teaching and continuously updates the methods of teaching and learning techniques of such courses. Also, she has an academic experience in teaching other courses such as architectural design, theories of architecture, environmental studies, technical systems in buildings, ... etc. She had published many papers that focus on problems related to her city (Alexandria-Egypt) concerning informal settlements, urbanism, low energy systems, and sustainability. She had participated in different architectural conferences internationally and locally. Her main research interests lie in the field of environmental studies and urban design She believes that architecture is the art of the public.