

EVALUATION: PhD THESIS

Student: Krýstina Stará

Project: Člověk a krajina : Rozvíjení vzájemného vztahu a možnosti primárního vzdělávání
Ústav Prostorového plánování, 15121

Advisor: Henry W. A. Hanson IV

The following review of the final revised work of Krýstina Stará summarizes the evaluation of the work.

Research Topic:

It is recognized that the definition of the research topic has been a long process influenced by both internal and external factors without which the topic would likely not have been reached. It is this evolutionary process that has culminated in this significant work.

The research topic challenges a conventional view of architectural research by straddling disciplinary borders and opening questions that are otherwise lost in the cracks between conventional disciplines such as education, sociology and education. The issue of environmental literacy is one of the keys to our collective sustainable future. With the forces of globalization and the digital universe we know less and less about more of our world than at any time in the past. This topic is currently in the breach, somewhere between the conventions of disciplinary domains. It seems appropriate that the academic and professional field of architecture to at least participate in understanding and shedding light on the subject of environmental literacy, in this case with focus on primary educational environments.

The research intentionally focuses on the Czech context where policy, institutional and cultural cohesion. From a practical perspective, this provides focus of the research such that the work is doable and the results may offer specific value.

Methodology:

The research utilizes a wide, yet appropriate set of tools in order to investigate landscape, urbanism and architecture at the primary educational levels. In brief, the methodology has developed into rich data and thoughtful analysis rendering comments on the both the criticality of understanding the relationship children have with their environment and valuable questions on what to do about it.

Included in the methodology is data collection through the participation of key actors in the question of environmental literacy in primary education as well as the field of architecture. The resulting data provides a complex framework for analysis and development of specific outcomes, discussion and recommendations. It is noted that the urban context within which all of this research has been conducted leaves suburban and rural environments unstudied. As these environments share institutional and policy with the studied urban contexts further research in these silent contexts may offer valuable insights, including contradictions to the findings of this research.

The author has appropriately referenced relevant work of other authorship and provided specific citations as appropriate to quotations. In order to retain confidentiality of the interviewees she has coded them appropriately and referenced these sources in the text.

Original Thought:

This substantial work has its roots in personal and professional motivation as articulated by the

author. Ms. Stará offers both insights and critical questions for the academics, teachers, community and policy makers to the ultimate benefit of future generations. Grounded in the research work she also provides unique insights into future initiatives; some of which she will likely pursue as a professional designer, not for profit member and community member. Ms. Stará has conducted significant research that can provide invaluable insights and recommendations for consideration by those in the professional, academic, educational and architectural community.

Although the work may challenge this as a research initiative in architecture, the results and discussion clearly offer valuable insights into how architecture can be a more relevant profession and how architects (and landscape architects, planners etc) can benefit from expanded engagement with those their work directly effects.

It has been a pleasure to work with Kristýna through the years it has taken for this research initiative to culminate with this final document. She has consistently been serious, creative and passionate about research that is relevant, offers value and therefore, it is without hesitation that I recommend Kristýna Stará for final defense of her PhD.

Henry W. A. Hanson IV
February 14, 2019
Prague