

From Comprehensive Environmental Design to Urban Design

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Abstract

Comprehensive Environmental Design (CED) studio at the Department of Architecture and Planning (DAP) at NED University of Engineering and Technology (NED UET) forms the top end of the urban module over a five year Bachelor of Architecture program. It comprises theory courses on; environment, development studies, housing and urban planning and design. CED studio is used as a vehicle to tackle issues at the urban design and policy levels that have been discussed and researched in the earlier years within the urban module. This is done through an area focused historical and contextual research where the fifth year architecture students are expected to identify and analyze urban design issues within the existing larger urban planning and policy framework and find viable solutions resulting in a comprehensive and sustainable urban design scheme.

The CED studio held during 2005 merged with the ongoing DAP-NED-Asia Link project for mutual support and gains and was run over a period of 16 weeks during the first term of the final year. The Asia Link project is a three year, urban design curriculum development, collaborative project between five universities around the world. It is funded by the European Union. The five partner universities are KU Leuven in Belgium, Technische Universiteit Eindhoven (TU/e) in Netherlands, Centre for Environment Planning Technology (CEPT) in India, University of Moratuwa in Sri Lanka and NED UET in Pakistan. The overall aim of the Asia-wide Programme, ASIA LINK is to support the academic in SA cities to better document and understand the growth and development potential of their cities. The project broadly supports the development and exchange of knowledge and experience between cities/ countries within South Asian region facing similar urbanization issues and problems.

Some of the practical implications of the studio are common studios, credit transfer between partner universities, academia exchange visits to partner universities and the findings of the research and analysis being converted into data that can be used for teaching urban design and planning in a regional context.