

Urban Project Competition in Resistencia (Argentina) and International Workshop in Jakarta (Indonesia). An Overlook of Achievements and Experience, from Lecturer and Students Involved

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ABSTRACT

The Urban and Regional Planning Institute Brian A. Thomson (IPUR-BAT) of Faculty of Architecture in Universidad Nacional del Nordeste (Argentina) have been involved in a Network Project between three Argentinian Universities and Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta (Indonesia). This year, the Institute have been invited to The International Workshop on Urban Planning and Community Development (IWUPCD), held in Jakarta in September 2017. Therefore, The IPUR-BAT organised the Ideas Competition on Urban Project in the Northern part of Greater Resistencia (Argentina) with students of the Subject Urban Development 2, aimed to have two awarded students able to attend to IWUPCD. The paper emphasizes the importance of applying different approaches to promote training among students. The university students can play important role as futures professionals by contributing to sustainable development and improved current urban images. Present-day, approaches such Urban Competition and Workshops can open new ways of network between academics, planners and official bodies and the opportunities that they creates to have a better understanding of current urban issues. This paper attempts to summarised experiences, performance and achievements of Urban Project Competition and IWUPCD in Jakarta (Indonesia) from lecturer and students perspective, in order to drawn some conclusions.

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1. Introduction

It is widely known that good design is valuable, bringing immediate and lasting benefits, whether improving people's lives, raising profile or generating income. A design competition can be a highly successful model as it can help select good design and bring the highest quality to a project. Therefore, design competitions is about how "...disruptive ideas needed to meet the world's most important urban challenges and how architects can meet a full rank of objectives.

Well-managed competitions have a reputation for giving the best range of design options to choose from at a fraction of the total

construction cost of a scheme.¹

Currently, the design competition seeks, innovative proposals on how to balance the financial and spatial challenges of development in heavily populated areas with the social and economic needs of existing and future communities. Project teams are asked to submit a proposed site plan and an associated building along with ideas for economic feasibility, architectural innovation, architectural programming, and project reliability. Thus, the competition could be develop two phases. In

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Source:
www.Delivering%20the%20new%20urban%20agenda%20through%20competitions

Phase I, an independent judging panel will anonymously select winning finalist entries to receive the “Architectural Innovation” award.²

Each of the finalists could receive different rank on awards in money and the winner team will see their project developed and built which will consist in the second phase.

There are some worldwide examples, The American Institute of Architecture Students, supports and sponsors design competitions to contribute to the education of all students. Competitions present unique opportunities to investigate and utilize building materials and design techniques from different perspectives or those that the student might not be familiar with already.

Participants compete among students from a broad range of programs and are evaluated by diverse juries of experts. Competitions can also assist instructors with developing a repertoire of design challenges to use in studio courses.

One the AIAS competition is in Urban design and is organizing in different American cities. Thus, one example is The domestiCITY Steering Committee organized a competition in partnership with Atlanta City Council. Therefore, they invite architects, urban planners, engineers, developers, students and other design professionals to submit innovative solutions in response to this call for proposals.

On other hands, workshops is another tool that can be organized by academic institutions and could be successful approach to promote students' participation in and consciousness about urban topics, and for making revitalization initiatives for inner-city or metropolitan areas.

The workshop is a technique used in different contexts that allows different people to exchange their points of view and opinions

concerning specific topics, in order to create new criteria, or to enhance knowledge. In architecture, and urban planning and design, workshops have been used widely as means to guarantee the involvement of citizens or students in academic terms in urban design or revitalization processes.

Among authors, they have discussed the importance of community participation in the process of improving the living environmental in cities, Morrish and Brown have defined a strategic method for making community planning projects succeed, and Landry describes a method, or toolkit, for making creative cities. Both methods include stages for organizing, evaluating and generating urban initiatives and they both emphasize the importance of promoting communication throughout the process. (DomestiCITY, 2017)

Dwelly shows how different organized small communities have made achievements in their neighborhoods through working with partnerships and non-profit organizations. In addition he has noted how private and official bodies can work together. However, it is consider it is important to define the role that universities as academic institutions should undertake in the process of making cities more sustainable. In that sense, we are totally agree with (Fukushirna, 2002) that academic workshops are representative examples that need to be taken into consideration.

International workshops have been held since 1997, and currently they form part of the academic activities organized for undergraduate and post-graduate students at the Urban Design Laboratory of Chiba University, Japan. International workshops have been conducted in Denmark, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan and Mexico, although they differ in content, objectives, and final results. (Fukushirna, 2002)

This paper, therefore, will describe the process undertaken by Urban Project

² Source: (www.domestiCITY%20-%20Design%20Competition%20%7C%20Competitions.archi)

Competition and International Workshop held last September in Jakarta (Indonesia) in Academic Terms in order to assess their contribution.

2. Material and Methods

2.1. Objective

- To explore best practices for urban design
- To appraise contribution of urban project design competition and international workshops to architecture students training as future professionals.
- To assess contribution of workshop on urban project design in training architecture students as future professionals
- To enhance knowledge and students skills in urban design competition and workshops
- To involved academic institutions and others students in this kind of approach and practices

2.2. Background

In the framework of the “Seventh International Seminar on Urban Policies, Land and Environmental Management for Local Development” and Network Project “Revitalization Policies and Metropolitan Areas: new challenges in planning process to cities in Argentina and Indonesia” which gather University of Rosario, University of Litoral and University of North East from Argentina and Universitas of Muhammadiyah, Jakarta (Indonesia).

As results, this year, the Urban and Regional Planning Institute, Brian Alejandro Thomson (IPUR-BAT) has been invited to International Workshop in Indonesia through the participation of lectures and students.

Therefore, the researchers and lecturers from Institute of Urban and Regional Planning Brian Alejandro Thomson (IPUR-BAT) organized, the first Ideas Competition on Urban Design in the Northern Area of Resistencia-Chaco. The event was launched

only for students of 5th year that were studying the Subject URBAN DEVELOPMENT II in current academic year with no age limit, free entry, and participants also must be enrolled in Architecture Faculty at UNNE. The assignment focused on design of "urban project for FACUNDO QUIROGA CAR CORRIDOR".

The rewards had different scale, the first best design project had the opportunity to attend the International Workshop in Urban Planning and Community Development (IWUPCD) held in Jakarta (Indonesia) in September 2017 (2 students maximum), the second reward gave the opportunity to attend two students to Bienal of Architecture held in Buenos Aires during October and third reward consist in money for prints out of draws designs.

2.3. Methodology

The Urban Project Design Competition

The Competition required promotional activities and preparation of key-document named "Guidelines of the Competition" containing: Introduction / objectives; competition rules, design aspects to be considered; presentation guidelines and elements of delivery; schedule of the competition and day of submission; awards ceremony; attached documentation like backgrounds and registration forms.

Promotion Activities:

The promotional activities were lunched on 8th and 9th of June at “Seventh International Seminar on Urban Policies, Land and Environmental Management for Local Development. Besides, the competition guideline’s presentation were also explained during class period of the Subject Urban Development II in order the increased the audience.

The key document was elaborated and published in the current web page of Urban Development 2 Subject and, were also used, to receive enquires and to socialized the answers during the competition period.

The Academic Jury was chosen for its knowledge on the topic and representativeness, such as Academic Authorities with expertise in the topic and sponsoring Institutions.

The work, were received by the Competition Advisor, as planned and were exposed for days that the Academic Jury were in session.

The activities of the competition were published in graphic and digital media.

The outcomes of the competition were introduced in public ceremony with Authorities of the University, managers and organizers, sponsors, advisers and participants, concluding the event with delivering the award to the winners.

Key Factors Considered for The Assessment by Academic Jury were according with the Competition guidelines and the objectives of the competition such as: Location / Surface; Urban Strategies; Plots and land uses depending on density allowed; Open Spaces; Institutional Facilities; Cultural and Recreational Activities; Sport and Recreational Activities; Parking Zone; Allocation of Activities; Planning Code and Regulation of Land Uses and Design Criteria. (Perez et.al, 2017)

The Workshop

The purpose of **The International Workshop on Urban Planning and Community Development (IWUPCD)** was to look at different local urban issues located in three Argentinian cities: Santa Fe, Rosario and Resistencia, challenging design cooperation between Indonesian and Argentinian students.

The IWUPCD, was meant to be performed in three days' work and, one day of Public Lecture of Invited Speakers. During the three days' work, six lecturers (Argentinian and Indonesian), addressed three big groups according with the three cities. The two students from UNNE were divided to work in different cities than Resistencia, in order to have a diverse range of opinions and challenge.

The Facilitators explained the assignments to be performed in 3 Argentinian's cities with a lecture followed by distribution of handout with the modality of the Workshop: First day they worked on Site Analysis and develop an Issue Statement and Conceptual Idea. Second day: focused on Project's progress presentation by facilitators: (site analysis, issue statement and conceptual ideas). Third day: outputs and Final Presentation Preparation (Printing and Setting things up). Appraisal of different proposals made by facilitators according with assignments. Closing Ceremony.

3. The Development

3.1. The Urban Design Competition

Though the competition was launch in 9th of June to be submitted on 24th of July after Argentinian winter vacations with about a month long to develop the projects. Nevertheless, as students the project's design was developed during two weeks of winter vacations because was impossible to leave other subject's assignments behind to focus on the competition, which was not compulsory to students. Therefore, the success relied on their personal goals and commitment to achieve good quality of urban design as was required by the competition's guidelines on time to be submitted.

The project awarded, seeks to revitalize the Northern area of Resistencia, focusing on the connectivity with the city downtown. It is also aims to rearrange activities and car lanes relieving traffic congestion. Therefore, the design includes a bicycle lane, so as to

implement environmental measures and also promotes safety measures for pedestrians and drivers. The traffic lanes focus to connect green areas of the city. Parks serve the purpose of “urban green lungs. The bike lanes together with car lanes also, link with parks within the city. Besides, all proposed lanes were design to linked principal lanes with the corridor and surrounded by vegetation, looking for protection during periods of high temperatures.

The design was developed according with Districts, Public Facilities and Land Use according with Planning Regulations. The area it’s low density, residential and prone to flood. The lagoons located in the intervention area were includes in the design to avoid problems of storm drainage, which is a frequent issue in Resistencia. Therefore, the proposal considered existing streets, avenues and lagoons and also public facilities such Primary School were design, generating open public spaces to avoid traffic within the area that could endanger people or the environment.

The design also considered, not to concentrate all activities in just one sector, and avoiding social segregation, propitiating the people’s moves at different times of the day.

Finally, the Jury considered the first best project as winner proposals because the Urban strategies accomplished with linkage the area with the city, through development of different car pathways scales, including in their design, less environmental impacts, including green belt, pedestrian and bike lanes and intersection nodes not only in the main corridor but also in intersection streets.

3.2. The Workshop

The IWUPCD was held in Jakarta (Indonesia), from 18th until 22nd of September 2017. The first day has begun with Public Lecture with four invited Speakers: Prof.

Kemas Ridwan Kurniawan, PhD (Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia); Prof. Mirta Soijet, PhD (Universidad Nacional de Litoral, Santa Fe – Argentina); Prof. Oscar Bragos, PhD (Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Santa Fe-Argentina); Lecturer Valeria Schneider, MATRP, (Universidad Nacional de Nordeste, Resistencia, Chaco-Argentina) The two winner students of urban competition from (UNNE-Argentina) have shown a video of their awarded urban design in Northern area of Resistencia (Argentina). After all the speakers The Opening Ceremony was closed with discussion.

The second day the participants (55 Indonesian students and 2 Argentinian students) were divided in three groups. The three Argentinian lecturers together with 3 lecturers from (Faculty of Engineering Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta UMJ - Jakarta Indonesia) divided to addressed three groups, first were working in Greater Resistencia (Argentina), second were working in Santa Fe and third were working in Rosario (Argentina). The two students from UNNE, were split to work in different cities than Resistencia, in order to have a diverse range of opinions.

The majority of the students, around 55, were from different Universities and cities of Indonesia, split in three groups with three or five students in each groups. Miss Aylen Quarin have joined one team working in Rosario city and Mr Lucio Miranda joined another one working in Santa Fe city.

3.3. The assignments

Greater Resistencia: three groups of around 5 students from different Universities of Indonesia will have to design a Car Corridor on Sabin Avenue considering different rank of land use intensities, treatment of green spaces and hierarchy of roads, Institutional Facilities proposed by Planning Code and Intersection

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with Facundo Quiroga Car Corridor and Flood Protection Embankment.



Figure 1, 2: Groups working on Greater Resistencia city
 Sources: Photos by authors

Rosario city: four groups of between 4 or 5 students from different Universities of Indonesia including Miss Quarin in one of them have worked in Regeneration Project of Northern Harbour and Waterfront of Rosario city.



Figure 3,4 : Groups working on Rosario City
 Sources: Photos by IWUPCD Committee

Santa Fe city: Three groups of 3 or 5 students from different Universities of Indonesia including Mr Lucio Miranda in one of them, have worked in Urban design of Natural Reserve prone to flood located next to Salado River.



Figure 5, 6: Groups working on Santa Fe city
 Source: Photos by author and by IWUPCD Committee

Day 2, each of three big teams went to Studio and worked in Site Analysis and they also had to develop an Issue Statement and Conceptual Idea. Each professor made a short presentation to his commission as an introduction to the city's issues to be tackled together with a description of the area, objectives to be achieved. This was very important so that the local students would understand totally unknown study area, related with notorious cultural and urban differences of each country.

Each teams, carried out analysis of the study area, identifying: connections, land use, regulations, key issues, flagship points and green areas of the study area. Then, must determined activities and uses to be proposed, finishing with a first scheme, which would be exposed to each commission with correction and feedback of facilitator in charge.



Figure 7,8: Mixed team working on their assignments
 Sources: Photos by IWUPCD Committee

Day 3: Project progress presentation by teams: (site analysis, issue statement and conceptual ideas). Meanwhile, facilitators gave another lecture to explain much better the assignment to students.

During this day, the activities focused on definition and location of: different traffic lanes, districts regulation considering densities, zoning codes and definition of public spaces. Furthermore, main objective in this stage was related with definition of the CONCEPT IDEA, which was unfamiliar concept for the Argentinian students. This basically referred a title that defines the key-idea of proposal under a set of justifications. At the end of this day, the project had to be practically solved conceptually, in order to continues to the final output and work on the presentation.



Figure 9,10: Photo left hand side: The students from UNNE, Resistencia and Lecturers from UNNE, UNL-Santa Fe and UNR-Rosario (Argentina) Photo right hand side Indonesian Facilitator and Mixed Group working on Santa Fe
 Source: Photos by IWUPCD Committee

Final day: Each groups had only half day to finish the project. Therefore, the final adjustments were made, almost everything related with final presentation. Each team exhibited their posters and explained their project to their facilitator commission. Final assessment was made in order to have the first best project in each three different cities. Finally, the students could look around and see other's commission work. The Closing ceremony finished with each lecturer's appraisal explanation support it his or her decision. Closing Ceremony by Person in Charge Lutfi Prayogi,S, Ars, M.Urb.Plan.



Figure 13,14: Awarding and Closing Ceremony of three best groups

Sources: Photos by IWUPCD Committee



Figure 11,12: Awarding and Closing Ceremony of three best groups

Sources: Photos by IWUPCD Committee

4. Discussion and Final Outcomes

In UNNE's Urban Project Competition the experience was applied in partnership with organizers, advisors and promoters through an intense exchange of opinions related to the topic.

It was important to get significant reward for the students, in order to encourage them to get involved in the competition. Then, the key issue that organizers have to deal all along the competition was to find sponsors willing to fund, because it was the first time this kind of event was lunched, only for students. From organiser's opinion, this was the right path not only for the quality of the winning project but also for the set of projects presented.

From the winner's team point of view, the experience was tough since the proposal had to be developed during two weeks of winter's vacation. These meant an hard work in long days of brainstorming ideas, together with the idea of leaving the initiative. It is also

important to highlight, the participation to the competition were always optional choice for the students in regular condition of the subject Urban Development II, that is why in this kind of experience nobody was forced to carry out the work, the responsibility was only concerning to each student's personal goal.

Regarding the International Workshop held in Jakarta, from student's point of view, the experience was an inspiring, leading to face challenges. These kind of linking activities, encourage them to apply all skills and knowledge to tackled urban design assignments in coordination and agreements with other students to develop the concept idea, carrying out the whole project, considering different languages, architecture approaches, design and sketch techniques to express project's ideas.

The other big challenge that Argentinian students faced was the language barrier to develop the concept idea and the project design; it was intensive experience in particular at the first day of work. It was so helpful to have facilitator's support and translators, available in software tools.

Another challenge must be remarked was the way of find the "concept idea", particularly in UNNE's training, the key issue is to find the "generating idea" which lead the project. For Indonesian students, the concept consists in a phrase that represents and defines the project, which in UNNE students opinion seemed a very interesting initiative to add to their work tools. However, seeing many other proposals, seemed that 'the concept idea', it was just simply theoretical phrase, or rather as a marketing strategy that is not reflected in the final proposal.

Regarding the methodology applied to the assignment, the UNNE's students explained the ways in which normally worked, and then find out what the concept was. Then, define with the team, what wanted to achieve, splited tasks and carry out the project. In the case of local students, their design methodology

consisted mainly of a general zoning, distributing the activities homogeneously on the site, which unlike UNNE's students training, they use to develop an integral morphological design that unifies and relates the different functions focus on intervention area, as well as linking them with their surrounding urban environment.

Argentinian case, it is common to tend more for the use of straight and orthogonal lines both in the layout of streets, and in the design of the paths or public spaces, that unlike the local students chose for more organic lines. This is perhaps, due to the difference in the urban composition of our cities, both Argentina and many Latin American countries are influenced by regular grid in the form of squared blocks typical of Latin colonies, which contrast with organic design of Jakarta with narrow streets, uneven blocks and in most cases lacking of sidewalks.

From this exchange of processes lead that both mixed intercultural groups, were delayed in the project outputs. This was mainly due the steps of the work methodologies had to be restructured, assuring that every step were develop on ideas's agreement and above all, expressing them correctly.

Finally, last day of the workshop when all the groups were finishing the performances, the mixed intercultural team still were adjusting the design. Nevertheless, the final design output was finished on time though the posters lack of expression and the work was not explained on its own. This was one of the weaknesses that was found in this exchange experience with local students, mostly they were from 3rd and 4th year of Architecture. However, in the majority of cases, local student's teams made their sheets by sketches, diagrams made with no particular techniques, having an excellent handling of drawing and painting, which allowed them in a short time to have very good finishes. Finally, with self-criticism, this is an skill that UNNE student's

training is lacking, the hand work, since during academic training, they are much familiar with different software tools, leaving aside the manual work, which encourages freethinking and creativity.

However, despite the setbacks, the exchange of ideas and work methods, from UNNE students's view, the challenge helped them to adapt to different ways, which it see it as essential in teamwork. At this point, this opportunity certainly contributed to enlarge their knowledge, complete their training and also improving their competitiveness. Therefore, according with as Alonso García, E; Casero Altube, CA, Nieto Sánchez, M. (2016) it is also remarkable that any type of teamwork provides great learning, as an international workshop, where other aspects come into play, which also to confer a great responsibility and commitment, enriching their training by providing many new tools to add in current way of designing and working. In addition, the experience can be seeing as open door to an international market and, start thinking about future training and jobs in other areas totally different from the known.

5. Conclusion

Approaches such as the design competition, contribute with innovative design proposals regarding how to balance the financial and spatial challenges of development in heavily populated areas considering social and economic needs of existing and future communities. On other hands, in architecture and urban planning, the workshops have been widely used to guarantee the involvement of citizens or students, in academic terms, in urban design or revitalization processes. It can be saying that both approaches seeks good quality of design, though the first one can also looks at economic feasibility, commonly at professional and international level competition and the second one, is good example for academic training and also to

assure participation of citizens and involvement of students such as different examples explained above.

Concerning to our experience, the outputs of the "First Urban Design Competition in Faculty of Architecture of Universidad Nacional del Nordeste " were much better than expected. The Awarding Ceremony was so touching for all the participants. It was perceived that from the moment they got to know and understood the importance of their participation, their interest increased.

From organizer's opinion, the outcome was very high quality of urban design and though, was so inspiring to other students to get involved in the future.

The process in the ideas competition, contributed relevant knowledge as background for future projects in the area. It is also show innovative and creative actions in front of a real problem, that matter for the urban development of the city.

Regarding the International Workshop held in Jakarta, from UNNE student's point of view, the experience was positive and inspiring experience, leading to face challenges. From academic point of view, the opportunity to work with students with different academic background led to exchange knowledge and face other ways to design and also live in cities. These kind of linking activities, challenged them to apply all skills and knowledge to tackle urban design's assignments in coordination with other students.

Furthermore, the way of seeing and designing the city was so dissimilar although, this has made the experience much more interesting and productive, enlarging student's perspectives and their current point of view.

In summary, regarding Ideas Competition in Resistencia (Argentina) and International Workshop in Jakarta (Indonesia), both approaches can be considered as unique

experiences, never implemented at least in the participating cities. The process ends in a very rich understanding, generating “know-how” and enlarging both side knowledge of students involved and that made them growth personal aspects and as future professionals as well.

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