



GOLDEN CUBES AWARDS

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AWARD CATEGORY:

Institution Award

NAME OF THE PROJECT:

“FANTASTIC ARCHITECTURES”

TEAM MEMBERS:

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AGE GROUP OF AUDIENCE:

From five to seventeen

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING CHILDREN:

To each workshop participated from 20 to 40 children. The complete amount of children was approximately 150 children.

DURATION OF ACTIVITY:

22/09/2018, 15/12/2018, 23/03/2019, 6/4/2019, 17-18/07/2019,

COUNTRY / CITY:

Italy / Florence

NAME OF THE ENTRANT:

Fondazione Architetti Firenze

FREE EXPRESION:

The Fantastic Architectures project was created and developed following participation in the international BIG-DRAW festival with the aim of letting children have a journey of awareness to understand better the places where they live. Specifically the project was focussed on the city of Florence through a series of creative workshops.

The four workshops were held in the Palazzina Reale, headquarters of the Architects Foundation of Florence, with the aim of allowing children to try to outline the urban future of Florence through their imagination and with the support of three alternative design techniques such as drawing, collage and the construction of models using recycled material. The four appointments were titled: The Drawn City, The Cropped City; and The Built City 1 and 2.

A special edition of the Drawn City was also held at the Mayer children hospital of Florence.

The Drawn City

To be able to better express the chosen educational address this first event was organized having as technical support tool a large panel (10 x 1.50 meters) representing the Tuscan landscape and some important buildings of Florentine architecture as well as the Arno river. On this panel, the children ventured by designing the buildings and neighborhoods that, from their point of view, would have given life to their fantastic city.

Depending on the age of the participants, some aid elements with varying degrees of complexity had been set up: younger children had been given A4 sheets with groups of houses or pre-printed buildings to be colored, while more autonomous children were given the opportunity to draw a new architecture within a predetermined context, finally to the more creative ones to freely design it and then insert it in the general context represented by the panel.

The Cropped City

In the second laboratory, the chosen technique for creating the new fantastic architectures was collage, having, as a source of inspiration, a series of preset models referring to important buildings of Florentine architecture and the Arno river. On the day of the event a large cardboard panel (10 x 1.50 meters) was mounted on the wall which represented the hilly background of the city and some historic buildings inside.

During the event all the necessary materials were provided to the participants : colored papers, magazine pages, fabrics, woolen threads, scissors, glue and anything else deemed useful for making collages; each child, after having created his own work, had the opportunity to place it on the panel that represented the fantastic town of Florence.

The Built City phase 1

In the third laboratory, given the complexity of the proposed theme, the Coordination Group had prepared a large quantity of cardboard boxes as the base material. Also in this case, some supporting elements were created for the event, as key reference points: the dome, a bridge, the green areas and the sports areas etc.

Each participant was therefore able to give free rein to their creativity by sharing the design intent to build houses, shops, palaces, sports centers and public buildings, composing with the material made available the architectures based on the chosen functions and the shape they considered most appropriate. . At the end of the event, all the fantastic architectures were cataloged and archived to be used during the final event which was to be held the following week.

The Built City phase 2

To allow the construction of the built city, through the fourth participatory planning didactic laboratory, a large panel (6 x 3 meters) of cardboard was created by the Coordination Group on which they had been identified as territorial elements: the path of the river Arno and some monumental buildings of historical value made up of the previously prepared box-shaped modules.

At the beginning of the event all the children were welcomed with an invitation to sit along the perimeter of the urban carpet and, to make them participate in the construction of the city, they were asked some questions about their favorite games and how they lived usually lived the spaces of the town. Based on these stimuli and divided into small groups, children interacted with each other, referring to the territory to be completed. Before starting to insert the buildings, they then prepared the environmental and infrastructural elements that they considered appropriate such as the roads or bikepaths, parks, trees, parking lots, sports fields, squares and gardens; only later they placed, according to reasoned criteria and in harmony with the nature of the places, all the buildings created in the previous appointment.

OUTCOMES & EVALUATION:

At the end of each event, to certify and memorize the work developed during the educational workshop, each participant received a certificate of attendance, some bookmarks with the logos of the event and the bar code that would allow him later to be able to see both the images. that the videos made during all the activities.

The didactic methodology that emerged was recovered by the organizers in the form of a technical and operational manual, composed of the identified procedures, the project drawings and images of all the events, in order to allow the realization of further and new ones in planned terms laboratories.

The workshop was later on organized on request at the Mayer's Children Hospital of Florence for two consecutive days.

Outcomes

The project was the first of this type in Florence and has got a great feedback from the children and the families. Many children have taken part to more appointments and had the possibility to test different techniques, but also to deal with different ways of designing the environment.

The organizers had also the goal to open the Architects Foundation building to the town and this series of workshop was successful in this.

Evaluation

The experience was very useful and intense also for the organizing group and gave the architects the opportunity to deal directly with the future citizens of Florence with their needs and suggestions on how to design a "children shaped" town.

IMAGES:

