A PILOT STUDY ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT COURSES – Developing a Questionnaire To Assess Student’s Perspective and Awareness.

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For the
Management in Construction Researchers Association
MICRA 2004
The 20th century has seen enormous changes in the ecology and the environment.
DEFORESTATION

AIR POLLUTION

Now guys, you can breathe!
Brundtland report....

“Sustainable Development is to be adopted by the academic community as well as for policy discourses”

Sustainability has different connotations to people, depending on the individual circumstances and perceptions.

**THEREFORE....**

Higher Educational Institutions, especially the Public Universities have an obligation to train professionals who would successfully contribute to an environmentally sustainable future.
**Objectives:**

- To look at the methodology to integrate sustainability issues into the existing curriculum of Building Professional program.

- To enhance the student’s awareness, perceptions of environmental sustainability and other relevant issues.

- To groom a well rounded building professional graduates.
Building Professional such as the architects, building surveyor, planner, quantity surveyor, etc have a crucial role in managing their activities to prevent problems.

Taking considerations all issues of environment and how to respond to it.
Unfortunately

This has remain untapped both within the construction industries as well as in the education sector, with students rarely being introduced to environmental sustainability during their higher education experience.

The common dilemma for educators now is....

whether the Malaysian universities are actually preparing the next generation of building professionals with the required skills to deal with the new demand

and ......

how best they can manage to balance the interconnections between ecological considerations and the man-made development.
Early in the final decade of 20th century, the largest group of world leaders ever assemble defined what might be education's greatest challenge and responsibility........

To help citizens of the world to prepare the future for a sustainable development

This model guides us to operate under the context of sustainable action in which any project that focuses its efforts in a sustainable term, means it strives to link economic, social and environmental parts of the community to strengthen its overall fabric.
All resources.....Human, Natural and Economic .... are interrelated and therefore must be addressed in concert with one another.

Likewise

Building Profession education program by nature is interdisciplinary. When “interdisciplinary” studies exist they are frequently among different disciplines within a larger field.

Therefore

Those challenges cannot be met by peering through the lens of any single discipline.

How then can the educationist in higher education address these concerns?
In the Faculty of Built Environment, University of Malaya, Malaysia.... One of the fascinations of the field of building profession is its interdisciplinary scope, ranging as it does through so many aspects of built environment studies.......  

- domestic and commercial structural design  
- construction materials engineering and application  
- Urban planning  
- Financial considerations  
- historical rebuilding and preservation  
- landscaping  
- social and environmental issues  
- building profession education and research  
- all sorts of creative links with arts, communications and entertainment.
In an environmental sustainability context, building professional’s potential contribution is a unified theory of human settlement to relate all scales.

People who work on human settlements should have a common core design education, before specializing in various disciplines accordingly to their individual scale of intervention.
“Architectural education should start with liberal education and with people learning not specifically architecture as a trade, but understanding the economic, political social and cultural context in which they exist”

Max Bond

Therefore........

To accomplish this, the main focus of a building profession education program should be not only to provide students the ability to solve task-oriented and highly specific problems.....

but also.....

To have the ability to make connections between the many facets of architecture that covers a wide range of topics and disciplines.
Educators will have to encourage their students to be more concerned with ‘mundane considerations’ such as:

- How much does it cost?
- How will it affect its users?
- Will it stand up?
- How does it relate to its surroundings?
- What impact does it have to our environment?

These questions cannot be ignored but to focus on creating a curriculum, which is well designed package of integral components each of which serve in the capacity of others.
Educators should take a leadership role, breaking a new ground to prepare society for a change in a world of expanding economy, a changing global environment and new technology.
By embracing environmental sustainability as a vital topic within the classroom, students need to internalize the important aspect of:-

- Expanding awareness knowing that their profession is responsible for some environmental problems and they must be able to create a more healthy and equitable world for living
- Encouraging creative problem solving through hands on experiments
- Understanding the building ecosystems through which natural and manufactured resources continually flow
- Ability to design sustainable buildings by stimulating the students to have responsibility, skills and a knowledge base to seek and find sustainable design solutions
- Increasing critical thinking skills and deep problem solving by using real world examples to better understand class subject matter
Finally.....

There is tremendous pressure as well as responsibility on the higher institutions to train building professionals who are committed to sustainable development. This, in turn, will give a better quality of life for the people by reversing the trend of ecological disaster.
Students field work and hands on projects
THANK YOU

MAHALO

BYE!