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Design with the Context

A Green School in Salzburg

Joana Margarida Calado Correia

Extended Abstract

Project Report to obtain the Master's Degree in

Architecture

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Design with the Context

A Green School in Salzburg

by Joana Correia

Abstract: The report is the theoretical support and the complement to the project Model.Space.School developed during the second semester of the school year 2012/13 at the *Technische Universität Graz* (TU Graz) in Austria, under the Erasmus program. It is submitted to the *Instituto Superior Técnico* in Lisbon for the award of the Master's Degree in Architecture.

The report elaborates on the process of research pursued and on the decision-making steps viewed as required to design a school in Salzburg in an environment-adapted manner from the beginning to the end of the design process.

European directives on energy efficiency and on energy performance of buildings were used to introduce key thoughts on the subject of sustainability.

Keywords: Context, Learning Pedagogies, Sustainability, Green School

Objectives

The goal of the Master studio was to design a school in Salzburg; it was also implicit/required that one had to consider the spatial design according to new learning pedagogies.

The project and the need to reflect about it in a report was the opportunity to deepen the knowledge on learning pedagogies as alternative to the regular school curriculum and how those pedagogies can be translated into a school design.

Designing a school became even more relevant because a school is the place the leaders for the future¹ start to be raised.

A personal goal was added to the Master studio goal. That was to design a school which could benefit from the understanding of an environment adapted solution.

¹ Leaders for the future is an expression used by The Centre for Green Schools to describe the children of today who are in fact those with the power to change the future.

01 Introduction

Design with the Context, a Green School in Salzburg is both the pre- and post-reflection on “why I am doing it” (Zumthor 1999, p. 35) in favour of an intelligent design.

The report is divided into three main chapters which refer to different subjects addressed. The main chapters are:

- 02 Salzburg | Framework
- 03 Project | Framework
- 04 Project | Process and Proposal

The first part of the project work which includes chapters 02 and 03 was developed individually and in group. It included the analysis of the geographical and historical context of Salzburg as a whole and specifically of Nonntal, the area of intervention. Learning pedagogies and their link to the design of the space were also debated intensively within the group. Legislation and programmatic constraints were obvious boundaries, although following the principles of sustainability were the determining drivers.

The second part of the report which includes chapter 04 elaborates on all concepts that contributed for the final design of the Green School. Those were developed simultaneously and relate to layout aspects, volume, learning pedagogy, space, construction and energy.

02 Salzburg | Framework

It is a deep dive into all aspects concerning the location, climate, history and legal requirements specific to Salzburg and that had an impact on project decisions.

The plot is located in the Unipark in Nonntal, which is in the buffer zone of the historical centre of Salzburg, classified by UNESCO as a world heritage site (ICOMOS 1996). The Unipark was laid out for schools and sport facilities neighbouring housing estates.

With regards to climate Salzburg cannot be precisely categorized due to a mix of influences from different climates (Jones, P. Et al. 2009). The definition in German is *Übergangsklima* which translates into English as transitional climate. It was inevitable that the relationship between urban centre and nature, geographical location and climate (Dahl, T. ed. 2010), locals and students, children and learning environment had to be considered. Considering all these aspects the appropriate solution was a low rise, linear and compact building with a pitched roof that related to the shape of the surrounding houses and matched the climate of Salzburg.

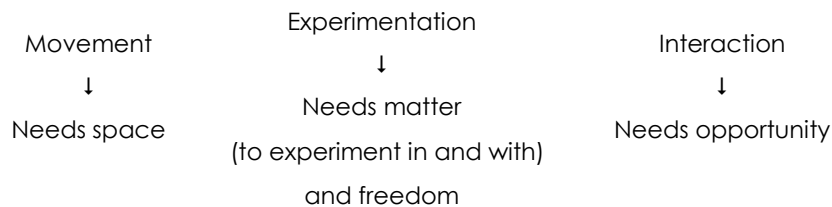
03 Project | Framework

The work produced includes key elements relating to the behaviour of children aged 6 to 10, to learning pedagogies and to precise examples of primary school design (case studies).

The overall concept chosen to serve as guide was that of learning through movement, experimentation and interaction (Sliwka, A. 2013). The intention was to improve the intellectual capacities of a child between the ages of 6 and 10 by developing his/her intrinsic abilities; as it was studied by Piaget (Cook, J. and Cook, G. 2005), Maria Montessori and others nowadays and in the past (Sliwka, A. 2013).

The design had to incorporate the creation of the physical environment most adequate to the learning pedagogies described in chapter 3.4 of the report, and also in line with the Austrian curriculum for regular schools.

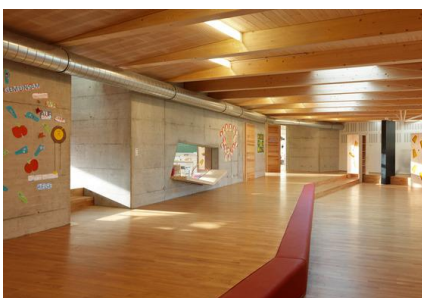
The ultimate interpretation was:



In both case studies selected, the Primary School in Bad Blumau and Sandal Magna Community Primary School, a buffer zone is placed in between different areas (or even in the centre) with different purposes. The buffer zone in itself serves one or more purposes (e.g. recreation) apart from being a distribution path (Building for Children 2013), a 'street'. In Sandal Magna Community Primary School there are actual outdoor streets in between the different buildings (Dezeen. 2011). The idea of a street inside a school then became very appealing and ended up being reinterpreted.

In the school in Nonntal, the 'street' became the central space (outdoors and indoors) of the design and its spine.

Primary School in Bad Blumau



'Buffer Zone'

Sandal Magna Community Primary School



'Sreet'

04 Project | Process and Proposal

The respect for sustainable principles was key, even though legislation and programmatic constraints deeply influenced it too. The European directives on energy efficiency (Directive 2012/27/EU) and on energy performance in buildings (Directive 2010/31/UE) created the basis for all further thinking on sustainability and made the subject of sustainability a real responsibility.

The following considerations were very relevant:

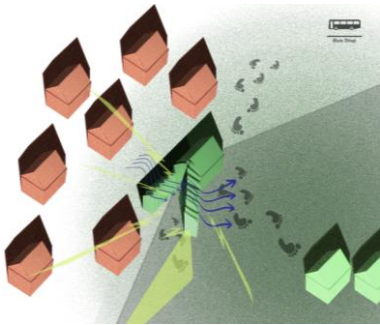
- 1) It is now impossible to dodge the need to build sustainably because it is mandatory to offset climate change and its effects. A study by IPCC (United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) released in September 2013 shows scientific evidence that man is responsible for climate change, namely because of GHG_s emissions.
- 2) An architect needs to perform his/her job in accordance with the European directives on energy performance of buildings which require a significant improvement in energy efficiency. In 2010 buildings represented 40% of the total energy consumption in the European Union (European Commission 2010) and between 2004 and 2009 they represented 50% of the total carbon dioxide emission in the whole world (Jones, W. et al. 2009).
- 3) I fully agree with Kenneth Frampton's statement (Lee ed. 2011, p.108) that there is no manifest reason why a sustainable design should not be appealing.

05 Conclusion

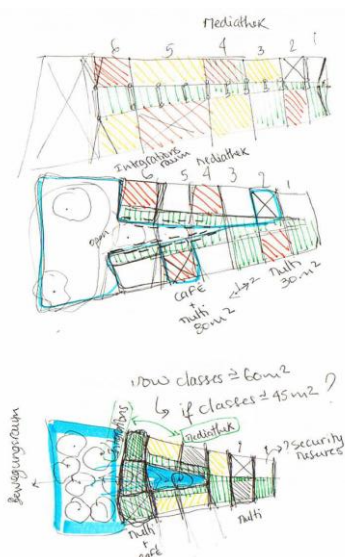
The project and the report led me to the following conclusions:

- 1) It is crucial to first of all understand the context of the location in which the building is to be built in order to balance all important factors instead of compromising; in the present context it was all about understanding Salzburg and Nonntal.
- 2) The learning pedagogies to be followed in a school shall serve as guide to the design of the space. In the Nonntal school, the buffer zone (the 'street') became the central space of the design and its spine. It can alternate being an outdoors or an indoors space given the sliding roof introduced. This outdoors/indoors space proved to be the ultimate space because it guaranteed a safe and controlled environment inside the school walls that at the same time benefits the children in terms of intellectual development and satisfaction since the physical and visual links to the exterior continue to exist.
- 3) Major focus needs to be given to the real truth of designing with sustainability rather than to the addition of technical apparatus post design, e.g. solar panels.

Strategy



'Street' Concept Reinterpreted



4) The school in Salzburg improves the learning environment and give children the opportunity to hear, see, feel, think, learn, move and experiment better (Center for Green Schools 2013) by enjoying from a nature related design by making use of:

- long views to the exterior (Heschong Mahone Group 2003)→ positioning and orientation of the building
- natural lighting (Directive 2010/31/UE and Kuller, R. and Lindsten, C. 1992)→ positioning and orientation of the building, local solar exposure conditions, sliding roof panels
- passive heating (Directive 2010/31/UE)→ positioning and orientation of the building, local solar exposure conditions
- passive cooling (Directive 2010/31/UE)→ natural ventilation, positioning and orientation of the building, sliding roof panels
- thermal comfort (Directive 2010/31/UE)→ insulation, thermal inertia of materials, personal control
- acoustic comfort (Directive 2010/31/UE)→ functional organization, insulation
- passive solar systems and solar protection (Directive 2010/31/UE) → slats on the windows, shade

Additionally, even though sustainable principles limit the design of a building it is still possible to accomplish a good design without the prejudice of its aesthetics.

The topic of the source of energy to power the building was thought of but not addressed in the project and the report. Major focus was given to the real truth of designing with sustainability rather than to the addition of technical apparatus post design, e.g. solar panels. In any case, with the construction of a hydroelectric power plant in Salzburg, whose project was attested by the Heritage Impact Assessment and then approved by UNESCO (UNESCO World Heritage Centre 2013), the city will produce electricity from a non-pollutant source. This project will be a response to the Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency. The electricity produced from this non-pollutant renewable source will be used to power the school in Nonntal. The main needs would be for lighting and heating as well as to move the sliding panels of the roof above the buffer zone.

The colour green is associated with nature therefore green is the one term that is easily associated with the true quality of the present design. The 'Green School in Salzburg' is more than a check list of requirements that compose the action plan of a Green School whose definition already exists.

The end result was:

Context + School + Sustainability → the Green School in Salzburg

The objectives were met but there is still room for further deeper development of the project, namely constructively and technically.

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Projectar com o Contexto
uma Escola Verde em Salzburgo

Joana Margarida Calado Correia

Resumo Alargado

Relatório de Projecto para obtenção do grau de Mestre em

Arquitectura

Júri

Presidente: Dr. Helena Silva Barranha Gomes

Orientador: Dr. Vítor Manuel de Matos Carvalho Araújo

Vogal: Dr. Ana Paula Filipe Tomé

Outubro 2013

Projectar com o Contexto

Uma Escola Verde em Salzburgo

por Joana Correia

Resumo: O relatório submetido para obtenção do grau de Mestre em Arquitectura pelo Instituto Superior Técnico, é o complemento teórico ao projecto desenvolvido na disciplina de Projecto de Arquitectura (*Master studio*) *Model.Space.School* (Modelo.Espaço.Escola), na *Technische Universität Graz* (TU Graz), na Áustria, durante o segundo semestre do ano escolar de 2012/13, ao abrigo do programa Erasmus.

O relatório documenta a investigação e desenvolvimento do projecto de uma escola em Salzburgo que decorreu da aplicação de princípios sustentáveis para a sua produção. O tema da sustentabilidade é introduzido pelas directivas europeias relativas à eficiência energética e ao desempenho energético de edifícios.

Palavras-chave: Contexto, Pedagogias de Ensino, Sustentabilidade, Escola Verde

Objectivos

O objectivo da disciplina de Projecto de Arquitectura era o de projectar uma escola em Salzburgo; estava implícito definir o espaço de acordo com a interpretação feita a partir do estudo de novas pedagogias de ensino.

O projecto em si mesmo e a circunstância da elaboração do relatório permitiram uma reflexão aprofundada sobre as questões relativas às pedagogias de ensino alternativas ao ensino regular e à sua aplicação arquitectónica.

Projectar uma escola tornou-se ainda mais relevante porque este é o espaço onde se preparam os *leaders for the future*¹.

Para além deste objectivo base, foi também definido pessoalmente o objectivo de projectar a escola tendo em conta exigências ambientais e de sustentabilidade, de forma a que a solução final pudesse beneficiar o contexto e do contexto no qual se insere.

¹ *Leaders for the future* é uma expressão usada pelo *Centre for Green Schools* para definirem as crianças de hoje como aqueles capazes de alterar o futuro.

01 Introdução

Projectar com o Contexto, uma Escola Verde em Salzburgo é conjuntamente a pré e pós reflexão sobre “o que faço e como o faço” (Zumthor 2005, p. 35) em prol de uma solução inteligente.

O relatório está dividido em três capítulos principais que são:

- 02 Salzburgo | Contextualização
- 03 Projecto | Contextualização
- 04 Projecto | Processo e Proposta

Numa primeira fase que inclui os capítulos 02 e 03 são analisadas, individualmente e em grupo, questões de contextualização histórica e geográfica de Salzburgo e especificamente da zona de intervenção (Nonntal), questões relacionadas com as actuais pedagogias de ensino praticadas e possíveis estratégias espaciais para a sua aplicação. A preocupação pelo respeito de princípios de sustentabilidade foi determinante no processo de desenvolvimento de projecto, embora constrangimentos legais e programáticos também tenham sido muito determinantes.

Numa segunda fase que inclui o capítulo 04, são documentados os conceitos volumétrico, pedagógico, espacial, construtivo, energético e de implantação que fazem parte do desenvolvimento mais concreto do edifício que resulta na Escola Verde.

02 Salzburgo | Enquadramento

Este capítulo engloba os aspectos específicos de Salzburgo que teriam impacto no desenvolvimento do projecto. Estes dizem respeito ao clima, contextualização geográfica, histórica e legal.

A zona de intervenção situa-se em Salzburgo, no Unipark em Nonntal, cuja área está abrangida pela 'buffer zone'. A cidade é classificada pela UNESCO como património da humanidade (ICOMOS 1996). O Unipark é um complexo académico constituído por escolas e instalações desportivas situado na proximidade de edifícios habitacionais.

O clima de Salzburgo não tem uma definição clara uma vez que na realidade resulta da influência de climas diferentes. Em alemão, a definição mais correcta para o seu tipo de clima seria *Übergangsklima* que em português significa 'clima de transição'.

Foi obrigatório considerar as relações entre zona urbana e natureza, localização geográfica e clima (Dahl, T. ed. 2010), residentes e estudantes, crianças e espaço de aprendizagem. A resposta foi um edifício baixo, linear e compacto com uma cobertura em duas águas cuja forma se adequa aos edifícios da envolvente e também ao clima de Salzburgo.

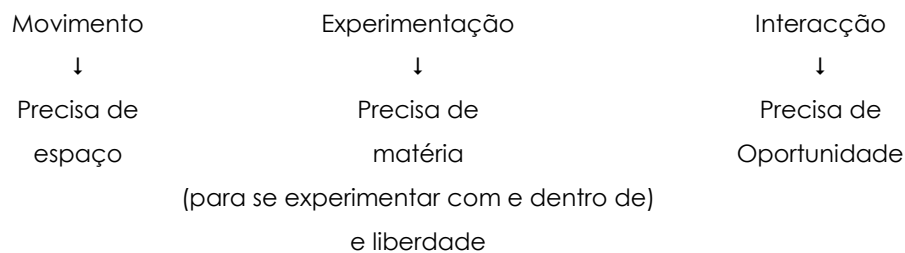
03 Projecto | Enquadramento

O trabalho produzido inclui informação referente ao comportamento das crianças entre os 6 e os 10 anos de idade, a pedagogias de ensino e a exemplos concretos de escolas primárias já construídas (casos de estudo).

O conceito a adoptar no projecto seria o de aprender pelo movimento, experimentação e interacção (Sliwka, A. 2013). Este princípio aposta no desenvolvimento das capacidades intelectuais de uma criança entre os 6 e os 10 anos através do desenvolvimento das capacidades que lhe são intrínsecas, tal como foi estudado por Piaget (Cook, J. and Cook, G. 2005), Maria Montessori e outros, hoje e no passado (Sliwka, A. 2013).

O projecto resultou da criação de um espaço adequado às pedagogias de ensino descritas no capítulo 3.4 do relatório, em linha com o plano curricular Austríaco do ensino primário regular.

A interpretação final foi:

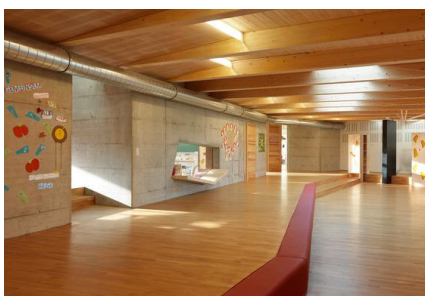


Em ambos os casos de estudo abordados, a Escola Primária Bad Blumau e a *Sandal Magna Community Primary School*, há uma *buffer zone* a dividir diferentes espaços com diferente funções.

A '*buffer zone*' em si mesma é uma área que serve um ou vários objectivos (ex. recreio), incluindo o de distribuição (Building for Children 2013), 'rua'. Em *Sandal Magna Community Primary School* existem 'ruas' entre diferentes edifícios (Dezeen 2011). A ideia de uma 'rua' dentro de uma escola tornou-se bastante apelativa e acabou por ser reinterpretada em Nonntal.

Na escola em Nonntal, a 'rua' tornou-se no espaço central do projecto (exterior e interior) e na sua espinha dorsal.

Escola Primária Bad Blumau



'Buffer Zone'

Sandal Magna Community Primary School



Rua

04 Projecto | Processo e Proposta

O respeito por princípios sustentáveis foi fundamental para o desenvolvimento do projecto, ainda que a legislação e constrangimentos programáticos tenham sido determinantes. As Directivas Europeias relativa à eficiência energética (Directiva 2012/27/UE) e relativa ao desempenho energético de edifícios (Directiva 2010/31/EU) estiveram na base de toda a reflexão sobre sustentabilidade e tornaram o tema uma responsabilidade a assumir no desenvolvimento de projecto.

As razões para tal foram:

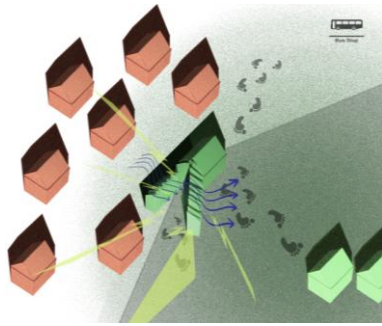
- 1) é impossível negar que é obrigatório construir de forma sustentável com vista a minimizar as alterações climáticas e os seus efeitos. Um estudo da IPCC (*United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*) publicado em Setembro de 2013 prova que o Homem é responsável pelas alterações climáticas, nomeadamente devido à emissão de gases com efeito de estufa.
- 2) o arquitecto precisa de exercer o seu trabalho de acordo com as Directivas Europeias sobre eficiência energética que obrigam a uma melhoria significativa na eficiência energética de edifícios. Em 2010, os edifícios foram responsáveis por 40% do consumo total de energia na União Europeia (European Commission 2010) e entre 2004 e 2009, por 50% do total de dióxido de carbono emitido em todo o mundo (Jones, W. et al. 2009).
- 3) concordo com Kenneth Frampton (Lee ed. 2011 p.108) quando este afirma que não há razão para que uma proposta sustentável não possa ser interessante.

05 Conclusão

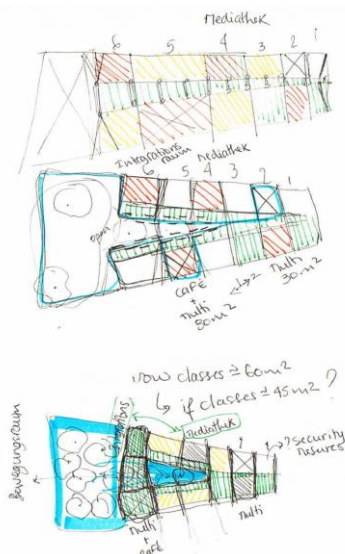
A elaboração do projecto e do relatório levaram-me a concluir que:

- 1) É crucial compreender o contexto no qual o edifício se insere para que os factores que estão na base do seu desenvolvimento não sejam comprometidos; no contexto presente tratou-se de compreender profundamente Salzburgo e Nonntal.
- 2) Pedagogias de ensino devem ser tidas em conta aquando do desenvolvimento de um espaço escolar. Na escola em Nonntal, a *buffer zone* (a 'rua') tornou-se no espaço central do edifício e na sua espinha dorsal. A *buffer zone* pode ser alternadamente interior e exterior devido aos painéis móveis da cobertura. Este espaço exterior/interior provou ser o espaço de eleição porque não só é um ambiente seguro e controlado dentro das paredes da escola como também beneficia as crianças a nível intelectual e emocional uma vez que se mantêm as ligações físicas e visuais com o exterior.

Estratégia



Reinterpretação do conceito de 'rua'



- 3) Não se deixa a sustentabilidade para tratamento à posteriori com aplicação de dispositivos tecnológicos (ex. painéis solares) pelo contrário, pensou-se numa solução sustentável no início, a qual se desenvolveu em todo o trabalho.
- 4) A escola em Salzburgo é um edifício que melhora o espaço de aprendizagem para que as crianças ouçam, vejam, sintam, pensem, se mexam e experimentem mais e melhor (Center for Green Schools 2013), por usufruírem de:
- longas vistas para o exterior (Heschong Mahone Group 2003)→ posicionamento e orientação do edifício
 - luz natural (Directive 2010/31/UE and Kuller, R. and Lindsten, C. 1992)→ posicionamento e orientação do edifício, exposição solar, painéis deslizantes da cobertura
 - aquecimento passivo (Directive 2010/31/UE)→ posicionamento e orientação do edifício, exposição solar
 - arrefecimento passivo (Directive 2010/31/UE)→ ventilação natural, posicionamento e orientação do edifício, painéis deslizantes da cobertura
 - conforto térmico (Directive 2010/31/UE)→ isolamento, inércia térmica, controlo manual
 - conforto acústico (Directive 2010/31/UE)→ organização funcional, isolamento
 - sistemas solares passivos de protecção (Directive 2010/31/UE)→ dispositivos de sombreamento verticais nas janelas, sombra proporcionada pelas árvores

Preocupações com a sustentabilidade limitam o desenho do edifício, ainda assim, é possível conseguir um bom projecto, sem que a estética seja comprometida.

O tema relativo à fonte de energia para abastecer a escola foi pensado, mas não abordado nem no projecto nem no relatório.

A construção de uma central hidroeléctrica em Salzburgo, cujo projecto foi certificado pela *Heritage Impact Assessment* e posteriormente aprovado pela UNESCO (UNESCO World Heritage Centre 2013), irá permitir que a cidade produza electricidade a partir de uma fonte renovável não poluente que naturalmente será usada para abastecer a escola em Nonntal cujos gastos energéticos incluem a iluminação, o aquecimento e o movimento dos painéis da cobertura que se encontram por cima da 'buffer zone'. A construção da central hidroeléctrica é a resposta à Directiva 2012/27/UE relativa à eficiência energética.

A cor verde está associada à natureza. Por isso, verde é o termo que melhor reflete a verdadeira natureza deste trabalho. A 'Escola Verde em Salzburgo' é mais do que a lista de requisitos que compõe o plano de acção de uma Escola Verde, cuja definição já existe.

O resultado final foi:

Contexto + Escola + Sustentabilidade → a Escola Verde em Salzburgo

Os objectivos foram atingidos mas será necessário desenvolver alguns temas de projecto, nomeadamente no que toca a parte construtiva e técnica.

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