School Hub
Vocational training facility, Ruteng, Indonesia

Main author
Andi Subagis, architect, SASO, Jakarta, Indonesia

Summary and appraisal of the project by the jury
Can a school be more than a school? Taking on this question as a point of departure, the project for a teaching and learning facility in Ruteng on the island of Flores, Indonesia offers an alternative to the town’s existing temporary school barracks as well as the state’s current educational curriculum, proposing instead a school as hub for multiple activities – as community gathering space, as visitor center, as testing ground for local construction materials, as vocational training facility, and so forth. Based on an analysis of what the authors call “the town’s potentialities”, the proposal unfolds as an exploration of potential future opportunities translated in an architectural ensemble of discreet buildings that can evolve in time and as need may require.

The jury commended the young architect’s ethical posture and their courage to engage with existing challenges. Problems are perceived as opportunities to not only create a school but a center strongly connected to the community at large. The proposed structures explore local materials and assembly techniques, developed by both students and teachers to create a campus as hub able to contribute to the town’s economics long-term livelihood – a project with a clear thesis and a strong conviction that architecture can play a role in community building. The most promising feature of the project, according to the jury, is the promising idea to empower local craftsmen, through education and vocational training programs with a focus on sustainable construction and the promotion of local materials.

Statements on the sustainability of the project by the author
School as community hub and tourism spot
In relation to the traffic of people commuting to and from Ruteng on daily basis, the city needs a new community hub. Its purpose is to not only become a venue of local attractions and events, but also sustaining local values and traditions. Also in the belief that the amount of spending and duration of stay will increase to help boost the city’s income, which will then impact on the increase of quality of living.

New building technology for community
The school currently produces batako/bricks of poor quality. However, the people in the city buy because they are cheaper than the imported bricks. Unfortunately, it is rarely known and utilized due to the lack of quality standards benchmarks for the whole Ruteng. Flores bamboo is one of the best in the world. Unfortunately, it is rarely known and utilized due to the lack of quality standards benchmarks for the whole Ruteng. The school will generate well-educated young people for better future city developments.

Self Sufficient System
A non-profit institution manages the very limited funds of the school. The lack of funds affects the quality of the building and the education provided by and for the children. We believe the school needs to be self-sufficient and the additional income could come from the events held at the school. Following the increase of living standards generated by tourism, the city will also be influenced by increased demands. New building technology and public services from the vocational skills are able to supply the said demands. And in addition, the school will generate well-educated young people for better future city developments.

Further authors
Danna Rasyad Priyatna, architect, and Theodorus Aryano Doetama, architect, SASO, both Jakarta, Indonesia

Project data
Project group: Architecture, building and civil engineering
Client: Yayasan Bruder CSA
Project background: Private investment
Planned start: January 2018

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