

Learning from the Bauhaus: imagining new Schools of Architecture

Ana Souto
Nottingham Trent University

Inspired by the study of the Bauhaus, The Architectural Association and the Glasgow School of Art, seventeen students in their final year of Architecture at Nottingham Trent University, designed their final projects with sustainability as a core foundation. This Atelier – “The New Bauhaus? Re-thinking Architecture: Sustainability is sexy” – was divided into two groups to develop the research behind their design projects. The first group revolved around ideas of building sustainably; the second one, which I led, embraced sustainability as building and supporting resilient communities, highlighting approaches that promoted sense of community and belonging, creativity, communities and connectivity.

This work was further explored thanks to a summer Student-Staff collaboration funded project, whereby a final year student of Architecture reviewed module guides, the submissions to the degree show (comparing 2021 and 2022), our current learning spaces, as well as gathered feedback from current students. Their findings and recommendations include highlighting the importance of well-being in design studio and tech modules, in line with the UN SDGs; in particular 3: Good health and well-being, and 11: Resilient cities and communities; physical changes to the learning spaces and across the University. These changes, influenced by the concept of a New Bauhaus, will be implemented next Academic year, when we will create a new “well-being” award for final year students.

Our aim is to promote a better standard of well-being and sustainability which encompasses the ideals behind the New Bauhaus, which will help our students imagine the new Bauhaus, as well as contribute to the update of existing ones, both as buildings and learning environments.

