



## FREE EXPRESSION

### Working group „Die Archinauten“:

- Architectural mediation of primary school age
- Weekly working group, unsalaried leading by two architects, is part of leisure time offerings of the school nursery
- Project is supported by the Office for daycare, school and nursery in the town council Saalfeld

### Request/ Focal points:

- Children learn early to understand the complex world of architecture and space art through play and creative
- Children explore independently core issues of architectures by experiments and funny projects, e.g.:
  - How are spaces? > Stack houses
  - From 2D to 3D > Leporello PaperCity
- More examples of issues and projects see IMAGES**
- Application and content networking with other subjects such as Art, Crafts, German, Mathematics and Expertise
- Sustainability through regular and repeated addressing the issues of space art
- Promotion of unbiased approach, of unconventional perspective and of foresight as a fundamental basis set for the promotion of building culture
- Free experimentation and unconventional are welcome!

### Methodology:

- Our experience has shown that primary school children are overwhelmed with too abstract knowledge, therefore:
- Switching between Quick Craft experiments, digressions and several hours of projects increase motivation
  - Lightening and child-friendly introduction to the topics by fantasy stories, games, interactive stories and easy understandable pictograms or image examples
  - Children work out the tasks themselves gradually through drawing and model, Interplay between scale/ spatial tasks
  - Use of materials that are easy to procure, cheap or even free of charge (e.g. paperboard, clay, natural materials)
  - Jointly developed poster overviews or mind maps help not to lose the red thread even with longer projects
  - Parallels to the real built world are helpful to reflect on their own actions such as the showing of matching exceptional examples of contemporary architecture
  - Important for the leaders: Formulate tasks concise; Avoiding clutter by thematic material preselection; Permanent „Tool Boxes“; Practical assistance
  - Children learn skills, alone or to work in a team; to present their own work in front of others, thus strengthening the social competence and self-confidence
  - We leaders also learn, particularly the world (again) to see with the eyes of the children.
- Of childhood fantasy arise partly amazing results!**

## AWARD CATEGORY

School

## COUNTRY/CITY

Germany/ Saalfeld

## NAME OF ENTRANT

Primary School "Marco Polo"  
Working group "Die Archinauten"

## TEAM MEMBERS

### Concept and direktion:

Claudia Beckmann - architect  
Katja Huhle - architect

### Assistant of the working group:

Christian Faber - engineer

"Die Archinauten" take place during  
the school nursery of the  
Primary School "Marco Polo".

## AGE GROUP OF AUDIENCE

Primary school pupils 6 - 10 years

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING CHILDREN

12 - 15 children each half- year

## DURATION OF ACTIVITY

Ongoing project: 1.5 h per week  
Since the school year 2012/ 2013

## OUTCOMES&EVALUATION

The resonance among pupils, parents and teachers is very good.

For intensive working is recommended a limitation on maximal 5 children per tutor.

We are particularly pleased when the kids show ourselves photos of buildings that inspire them or visited them even.

Tasks could be quietly taken even shorter.  
Children love variety and fast visible results!

Example 1 from the spatial projects of the Archinauten (02/2013):

## Desired homes for Fantasia

What is part of the whole process task-design-approval-construction?

1. Joint creation of the country Fantasia (geographic features >> Map)
2. Residents of Fantasia come with their (home) wishes to the Archinauten
3. Finding suitable house building sites and vote on this in the Grand Council
4. Develop home-ideas, learning to understand the (construction) task
5. Implementation of the designs drawn in the model
6. Catchment of residents (exhibition)

Two Examples of tasks (wishes), which get the children randomly:

### Dream Man Fidibus

I am the Dream Man Fidibus.  
I think the dreams of all the inhabitants of Fantasia. And I am responsible for ensuring that each has good dreams. My dream factory has unfortunately become too small. Please help me to build a new dream factory.

### Roots Troll Bullerich

I am the Roots Troll Bullerich.  
I guard with my troll brothers and sisters the forests of Fantasia. But no one else is allowed to discover us. Please help me to build a new house for me, which is well camouflaged.

And the final results of these two Examples - house models:



### "Die Archinauten":

New Dream factory: Julius+Leon (class 3)  
Hidden woodhouse: Benno+Julius (class 2)



Even some more examples of house models as part of the exhibition:



Mathematician Abakus



Switchman Lukas



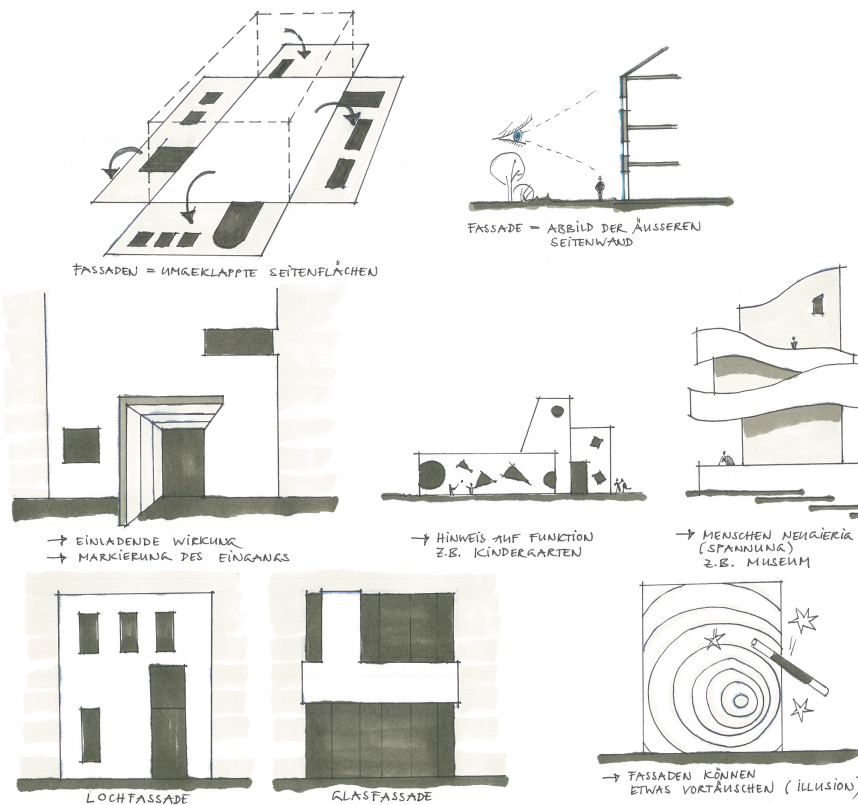
Aquarius Nautilus

## IMAGES

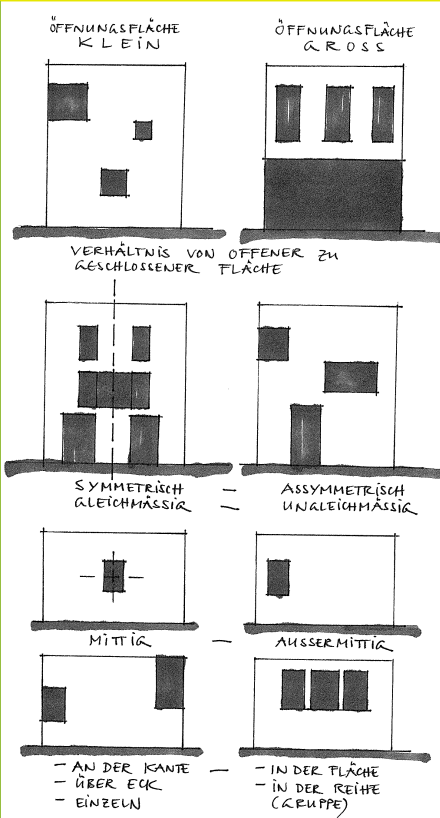
Example 2 from the scale projects of the Archinauten (01/2014):

## A house can have many faces!

How to draw, for example, an architect Facades?

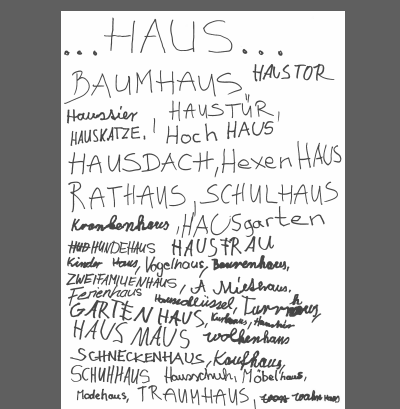


Some pictograms of the architects to get started

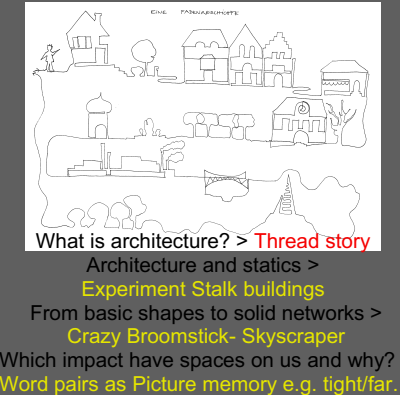


First exercise for facade design - basis for all is a white A5 sheet:

1. Arrange different shapes of openings
2. Day becomes night by a magic trick
3. Complement with the visible construction, materials, decorative elements, color



What topics are dealt an architect? >  
Word games (Compound words with house)



## Want more?



Get to know the monuments of the past and present >  
Puzzles of famous buildings, Series "House of the Month"  
Learning to see/ discover details/ learn to read plans >  
Recognize detail photos of the school building and mapping them in plan  
Man as a measure of architecture >  
Understand fairs and proportions the example of "corridors and stairs", "classroom", "furniture"