OECD Programme on Educational Building

Designing Tomorrow’s School

An international seminar

Galway, Ireland, 1 to 4 September 2002

Organised by the OECD Programme on Educational Building (PEB), the Ministry of Education and Science, Ireland and the National University of Ireland (NUI), Galway

Introduction

Education is being seen increasingly in many OECD countries as crucial for the development of economic growth and social being, a role largely corroborated by several recent OECD studies. Education is considered as one of the most important social and political priorities, to which much effort is dedicated in financial terms. As the size of the educational sector grows both within OECD countries and elsewhere, governments are mobilising resources to build educational facilities that respond to new demands.

Within that context, architects and educators in many countries have set out to design the ‘school of the future’ and policy makers are trying to make the best choices in terms of school planning and management. All are facing major challenges as trends that set the environment in which schools will operate in the future are in constant evolution. If educational facilities do not simply reflect those changes, their design is undoubtedly strongly influenced by them. Equally, the quality of the delivery of education and training in today’s knowledge society depends to some extent on the appropriate design of educational buildings. Facilities must be of good quality, be flexible, and meet the needs of their users.

The need to identify and analyse trends in school design, with a view to producing policy recommendations about the shape, size and general configuration of the school of the future, is therefore of concern to all OECD Member countries. On some aspects countries have known similar developments and face similar challenges. Of primary importance is the impact of new information and communication technologies on the design of facilities. Educational buildings must also respond to the challenges of sustainable development, another major priority set by OECD Member countries in the field of education. In recent years Ireland, the seminar host, has shown pilot developments in designing sustainable educational buildings as well as in integrating information and communication technologies to those facilities.

The discussion about school building construction and the criteria on which it should be based does not only lead to the identification and the definition of innovative approaches at the level of
design. Indeed, the design stage is closely linked with other aspects of the provision of educational facilities, and most particularly with financing issues. In that context, OECD Member countries have developed different approaches involving combinations of central and local funding, increasingly with a private sector element.

**Purpose**

The purpose of the seminar is to look at some recent attempts to conceive the school of tomorrow and to give an idea of what has been concretely achieved and what developments can be expected in the near future. The event will concentrate on existing examples of innovative institutions in various countries and will attempt to define some of the basic concepts that will affect the future of school buildings. Participants will have the opportunity to study current and potential future international developments, to exchange experience and to draw conclusions for their own work. They will have the opportunity to meet their counterparts from other OECD countries and to learn about different approaches to designing educational buildings for the future. Keynote speakers will analyse the broad trends and identify the issues which need to be addressed, and case studies from a number of OECD countries will be presented. There will be site visits to educational facilities in and around Galway. The seminar will take into account the points of view of planners, architects, teachers and students.

An exhibition presenting educational institutions featured in the PEB compendium of exemplary educational facilities, *Designs for Learning*, published in 2001, will take place in conjunction with the seminar.

**Issues for discussion**

The main questions which the seminar will address are the following:

- What are the major current trends in school design that can be identified at the international level? How do situations vary from one country to another and why?

- What are the major developments that will affect the design of school buildings in the future? How will school building design concretely respond to those challenges?

- To what extent do information and communication technologies impact on the design of educational facilities? How does school building design reflect the priorities of sustainable development?

- What recommendations can be formulated regarding the configuration of the school of the future? What actions can or should be taken on the national/international level?

- How do certain basic questions of financing relate to the design of educational facilities? What developments can be expected?
Participants

Participation is open to those in OECD countries who have a professional interest in the themes of the seminar, and may include elected representatives, officials of national, regional or local administrations, headteachers, facility managers, planners, architects and researchers.

The number of participants is limited to 100. Each Member country is invited to send a maximum of four participants.

Priority will be given to representatives of countries participating in the OECD Programme on Educational Building (PEB), that is, Australia, Austria, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom, and of PEB Associate-Member organisations (AEDP, Albania; Het Gemeenschapsonderwijs, Belgium; Chile; Service général de garantie des infrastructures scolaires subventionnées, Belgium; Ministerium der Deutschsprachigen Gemeinschaft, Belgium; Province of Quebec, Canada; Chile; , CISEM (Research Institute of the Province of Milan and Italian Provinces Union), Italy; Province of Rovigo, Italy; Regione Emilia-Romagna, Italy; Regione Toscana, Italy; and the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan), provided registrations are received by 1 July 2002.

Working languages

The working languages for the seminar are English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided during plenary sessions and visits on 2 and 3 September.

Documentation

Background documents and practical information about the seminar will be sent to registered participants approximately one month before the seminar. Other documents will be available at the seminar itself.

Participants who wish to contribute a paper to the seminar are requested to contact the PEB Secretariat as soon as possible, indicating which issues their paper will address and why it will be of interest to an international audience. Abstracts of presentations will be required by Friday, 14 June 2002, and those selected for presentation must be available in their final form by Friday, 28 June 2002. This is to allow time for them to be translated and reproduced.

Registration

The attached registration form is to be completed and returned to the PEB Secretariat as soon as possible, and in any event before Monday, 1 July 2002. Confirmation of registration and invoices will be sent out during the month of August.

Post-seminar visit

After the seminar, participants will have the opportunity to take part in a trip to the Aran Islands. This excursion includes a visit to the pre-historic Celtic site of Dún Aenghus, a visit to a school and lunch with Irish music.
Seminar fees

The cost of the seminar is:

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<tr>
<th>For representatives of OECD countries participating in PEB, and of Associate Member organisations:</th>
<th>For participants from countries or organisations which are not Members or Associate Members of PEB:</th>
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<td>€ 275</td>
<td>€ 375</td>
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Please note that these prices do not include accommodation. They do include all seminar documentation, interpretation service, lunches, dinners, site visits and the post-seminar visit. The prices do not include personal expenses (for example telephone and bar bills).

Accommodation

Participants at the seminar will be accommodated for the nights of Sunday, 1 September, Monday, 2 September and Wednesday, 3 September at the Radisson SAS Hotel, Lough Atalia Road, Galway, Ireland, telephone +353 91 538300; fax +353 91 538506, or at the Jurys Inn, Quay Street, Galway, Ireland, telephone + 353 91 566444; fax +353 91 568415. Those wishing to stay on Saturday, August 31 will be offered preferential rates.

The cost for accommodation is (per night, breakfast included, single or double occupancy):

| Radisson SAS Hotel**** | Standard or superior room: € 117 |
| Jurys Inn*** | Standard room: € 103 |

Please note that payment for accommodation is to be made to the hotel and that meals are not included for an accompanying person, except breakfast.

To reserve accommodation for before, during and/or after the seminar, please contact the Radisson SAS Hotel or the Jurys Inn directly and specify that you will be attending the seminar.

The hotels accepts credit cards (American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard, Visa) and have currency exchange facilities. The hotels’ Web sites can be accessed at the following addresses: www.radisson.com/galwayie; www.jurysdoyle.com

Accompanying persons

Accompanying persons will be welcome to join participants for dinners, for the school visits and for the excursion on Wednesday, provided space is available. A charge will be made for meals and transportation. Participants are requested to notify the organisers if they plan to be accompanied on any of these occasions so that appropriate provision can be made.

Payment

Payment of seminar fees is due by 2 August 2002 and may be made by:
• bank transfer to the OECD Programme on Educational Building, account number 30004.00892.0010070747 21 at the Banque nationale de Paris - Paribas, Agence Kléber, 51 avenue Kléber, 75016 Paris, bearing the reference “PEB GALWAY 2002”.

• cheque made payable to “OECD Programme on Educational Building (GALWAY 2002)”.

We regret that credit cards cannot be accepted in settlement of seminar fees. Please note that payments are to be made in Euro.

Extended stays

Staying over one Saturday night may significantly reduce the cost of air travel, and participants are advised to check with their travel agents. The Radisson SAS Hotel and the Jurys Inn welcome participants during the day immediately before the seminar at a discount price subject to rooms being available.

Getting to Galway

The cost of travel to and from the seminar venue is borne by participants, who are responsible for making their own travel arrangements.

Dublin’s international airport is served by regularly scheduled flights from most OECD countries. There are regular connecting flights between Dublin and Galway. Information about welcome arrangements and transport between the airport and the seminar venue will be sent to participants after registration.

Important: please note that flights between Dublin and Galway are in great demand and that it is advisable to make your reservation as soon as possible.

REMEMBER:

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS: 14 JUNE 2002

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: 1 AUGUST 2002

DEADLINE FOR COMPLETED PAPERS: 28 JUNE 2002

DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT: 20 AUGUST 2002