

POP Movement at the Design Strategy for Climate Change Symposium

The School of Design at the Hunan National University (HNU), in cooperation with the Oslo School of Architecture and Design (AHO), and Cape Peninsula University of Technology, held the first Design Strategy for Climate Change Symposium in Changsha (Hunan, China) from May 9-10, 2017.



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Youth Mentor, Perna Shah, was one of the guest speakers at the event where she introduced the POP Movement to the distinguished audience. She talked about the need for a cultural change starting with the younger generation and how that will play a critical role in achieving the paradigm shift which the planet demands today. This is also the essence of what the POP Movement seeks to achieve.

What brings the organizing partners together is a profound belief that the single most urgent issue for designers to work on today is the ways to address climate change on a local and global scale. This requires a new kind of dialogue between the so called, “developed Global North” and the “developing Global South. It also requires education that moves its current focus from designing for societies in affluence that believe that they can afford increased ‘standard of living’ that is primarily based on consumption to a more realistic one that focuses on the ‘quality of life’. The project, therefore, attempts to jointly develop three course modules for students that can be scaled up and spread within and beyond the participating partners.

President of World Design Organization (WDO) Prof. Mugendi K. M’Rithaa, Director of AHO Institute of Design Prof. Håkan Edeholt, UNESCO Climate Change Teaching Chair in China Liu Yun, as well as experts and representatives from leading higher educational institutions and enterprises, such as Tsinghua University, Tongji University, LENOVO Group, and Hanergy Thin Film Power Group Limited, attended the symposium. They discussed sustainable design and innovative topics on tackling climate change.



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Roundtable with Hunan Provincial Climate Center and Changsha Sponge City Alliance (CSEC)



Picture credits: CSEC

Owing to the global climate change scenario, the Chinese government is committed to the development of climate resilient cities for the sustained and healthy development of its people. In February 2017, the National Development and Reform Commission along with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction issued a notice on building climate-adaptive cities. The current development is at an exploratory stage; the aforementioned roundtable on “Building a city resilient to climate change”, was meant to have greater clarity on what a climate-adaptive city should look like.



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On May 14, 2017, Youth Mentor, Perna Shah, participated in this enriching discussion where participants shared their diverse experiences, apart from highlighting certain key issues like need for wetland management strategy in Changsha city and greater involvement of the public through the citizens’ forum. Along with the important policy decisions and robust communication channels required to facilitate this shift, Perna pointed out the need to have long-term climate change education strategy that provides students with the resources and enables them to integrate sustainable design, economics, policy, business, technology - whatever it may be - into their respective line of work. This would help bridge the currently evident gap between awareness and action by having future leaders who are well-equipped to deal with the changing reality of climate change.

Interaction with children at the Green Umbrella Project



Picture credits: Mentor Association

Youth Mentor, Perna Shah participated in the flagship event of its partner, the Mentor Association, called the Green Umbrella Project. The event was a mix of a highly interactive session on inculcating good habits, various team building exercises, and a garbage collection exercise in the area around the Yuyan Lake in Changsha. The Green Umbrella Project has various such events on a bi-weekly basis where primary school children are sensitized, and subsequently involved in projects aimed at providing solutions to one of the many environmental problems in the city. In the coming months, the Mentor Association along with the POP Movement plan to scale up the project to include a more rigorous course on environmental science and promote collective action by setting up model eco-schools embodying the philosophy of the POP Movement.

Presentation at P8 Sustainable Innovation Community

The P8 Sustainable Innovation Community in [Broad Town](#), Changsha is home to a diverse and unique set of people – designers, writers, musicians, engineers, craftsmen, dancers, artists, conservationists, teachers, entrepreneurs, nomads – basically anyone who abides by the spirit of creating sustainable living spaces. In one of its latest projects called the “Sky-city Challenge”, P8 is experimenting on how a vertical community (a 57-storey pre-fabricated skyscraper) could be incorporated with new technologies, materials, programs, aesthetics and spatial organization so as to best support the people and environment and their harmonious coexistence. Youth Mentor, Perna Shah, introduced the POP Movement to the community and will now work together to establish a POP model school in the P8 campus.



Picture credits: P8