

M^aAmparo Martínez Reflection

Introduction

The Leon van Gelder School is a public school for secondary education, HAVO and VWO, where the students are supervised throughout their studies. About 600 students who study Lower vocational Education, higher general secondary education or pre-university education. The building was designed by the architect Thomas Rau, and it was constructed in 2004 and completed the beginning of 2005, with energy efficient and sustainability as a goal, but it is not. Besides, the comfort inside the building, regarding to the ventilation and temperature inter alia, is not good, and the people that work there complain about it. Along with Hendrika and Ype we figure out where to find this and where the problem was. There is also a demand to cover the vide and do an interior design for the coffer room.

For this project I started to research about the main question and subquestions and making a report with all the solutions and information that I found, the literature research. Also I collaborate with the empirical questions about the project and I did a study for cover the vide with glass floor. Also, as I'm a international student, when I showed the project proposal to my home university, they told me that there are some points that I have to follow and be covered for recognise my mark, for this reason I did some extra work.

Our graduation period was from February 2014 until the end of June, but we had a problem with that because we did not reach all the goals of the thesis, we had to improve it to have our graduation so we had a delay on it till the end of August. During we were working in our graduation in the semester we have worked on the location, in a small room at the school, but these last month I was back to Spain, so I kept in contact with Hendrika for work in a good way and get the graduation.

The structure of the report reaches and leads to find a solution. But not all the information was possible to put in the main report. The literature research is the first point for start the project, where you will get a general knowledge of all the questions. The research covers a lot of issues and is a large report, for this reason we put it in the attachments of the main report, because it helps and have all the information for solve the questions of the main report, but it could be confuse for answer with precision the research questions if we put the whole literature research in the main report. It covers all the topics inside the questions, so I summarize it in the questions mentioning where you can find all the information.

Core

For the report, we have prepared a main question after the presentation of the Project plan has been changed to a better version (thanks to our reader Mr. Ovbiagbonhia). This question is as follows: what are the factors responsible for the high energy consumption and discomfort of Leon van Gelder College?. Before we can answer this key question, we have established sub-questions (with the help of Mr. Ribberink). Including some literature and some empirical research. At the beginning of our project, we all three went to the library and we have read many books to see what we can use for our research and we have listed important information. In addition, for continue the research and literature, I found many books online, as well as a lot of websites, which were described in the main

literature research. I checked all and compiled in a list so that they could be used for the literature research.

Before the first coaching we were all of us working in the literature research and doing a useless working, so after that we decided to split the questions and the work. I already started with collecting all the information in a main literature report, so I decided to continue with the research and Hendrika and Ype with the empirical questions. So at first Hendrika started to work at the design of the staff room and Ype with the comfort calculations. I wanted to do the literature research because I found really interesting the main question and also I wanted to know more about sustainable construction and buildings. Besides, the heating system used at the school is also really interesting for me, because even though I already know a little about this kind of systems, this is the first time that I study a building that has it. So I wanted to know exactly how it works and how implement it in a building for work in a proper way.

I also did surveys for the staff at the school for help us at the research and at the empirical part for let us know in this way how the people that work there feels regarding to the temperature and to the comfort, and also in this way we can know in which classrooms there are more problems and tried to collect all the information for know better where the problems are.

In other hand, at the middle of the research, I was tired of working all the time in the literature research, and I decided to put it on lay away for short time. There was when I started to work in the problems of the façade, with the damages of the building and others issues, but at the second coaching I rejected to continue with that because we needed to focus our work in the research questions, and it was not a part of it.

Regarding to the original project of the building, we didn't have a lot of information about how the building was built, we only got some details and plans from Team 4 Architects, but we needed more information about the project, more details, the structure plans, the description of the entire construction project and materials. We asked a couple of times to the architects at Team4 and also to the O2G2, but they did not have more information that already gave us. Therefore, after I asked to the original architects (RAU architects) without reply, I went to their office to speak with them, but was unsuccessful. So we went to the archive at the municipality in Groningen, but there was not the information that we were looking for.

Besides that, I had to do more work from my home university from be done with the requirements for the final thesis there. I was realized of that really late, so I did not keep in mind during all the process of the project, so as soon as I knew, I let know to Hendrika and Ype and also to Mr. Ribberink to find a solution about that. Thereafter was when I started to work at the empirical question of the vide, where I did a new solution of the space with the construction and technical details and also all the calculations of the structure for 2 possibilities and profiles.

In other hand, at the presentation of the project in June, the reader asked me about I am sure that the building is not an energy efficient building, and I could not say yes, because we did not calculate it. For this reason I decided to make a estimate calculation for know in general if the building is energy efficient or not.

I felt really comfortable with my group also because all the things wrote in Dutch Hendrika always translate in English too me, so I know all the things, all the parts and all the questions in our project.

Conclusion

But in our presentation of the project I felt really bad because I worked a lot for have a good mark on our graduation and was a huge deception for me because I already had my ticket to come back to Spain, and I felt overwhelmed for could not finish my thesis before come back because I wanted to apply for a master and I could not I did not have my diploma. But finally I spoke with my home university and with my teacher and it was not a big problem.

In addition we worked as a good group with the information that each one found, and helping with problems, but the last months, after our presentation of the project, I come back to Spain and all of us were in vacations, so we have not been as close as we were before. Each one were working in their part, but we did not tell to much about that to the group. I am working every day since I come back home, so I work in our graduation as much as I could during these months and also I did not have too much to do for the modification of our thesis.

But the problem was that few days before to deliver was not nice to discover that not all of us worked at the same level in our graduation, so I was so stress, because I cannot do anything more and is not nice that having a long time to do it only works on the end of the deadline. This is not smart and is worst not say anything and not let us know, because I did not know what to do. But finally Hendrika and me work hard last days for have a great mark.