

## FANTASY SCHOOLS FACILITATOR'S ACTIVITY NOTES

### SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY

Students work in groups to design their fantasy school, then consider how they would bring the project to life.

### OBJECTIVES

- Students engage their imagination and interest in the sector
- Students understand the range of factors to consider in a construction project
- Students appreciate the impact of construction projects on local communities and the environment.

### AGE GROUP

14–19

### GROUP SIZE

Up to 40 students

### LENGTH

60–65 minutes

### PREPARATION

Access to YouTube on your laptop or via the school.

### RESOURCES

- Flip chart or A2/A3 paper
- Felt-tip pens
- Timing device
- PowerPoint slides/instructions on whiteboard
- Projector and screen
- Laptop/PC
- Internet access.

### SKILLS

- Group work
- Planning
- Design.

### CONSTRUCTION SECTOR LINKS

- General
- Architecture
- Design
- Sustainability.

## FANTASY SCHOOLS SUGGESTED TIMINGS

5–10 MINS

### OPTIONAL INTRODUCTION: GREEN SCHOOL, BALI

- Tell the students you're going to show them a video of a building being constructed and they will need to guess what the building is. Ask them to shout out (or raise their hand if you prefer) when they think they know what it is
- Show the following timelapse video, depicting the construction of the Green School, Bali:

<https://youtu.be/SuK5E8ixalE> Length 1m 48s

- Once they've guessed (or you've told them what the building is) let the video run to the end
- Confirm that it is a school, called the 'Green School' in Bali, Indonesia
- Then say you have another short video that will show the school in use:

<https://youtu.be/eaUVA8EtdNU> Length 55s

- Ask the class to guess what the school is made of
- Confirm that it is made from bamboo
- Ask the class to venture any guesses as to why bamboo was used
- Confirm the answers:

**Strength:** Bamboo is strong, with the compressive force of concrete and the strength-to-weight ratio of steel

**Renewability:** With very little attention, a bamboo shoot can become a structural column within three years, and that building could stand strong for a lifetime

**Sustainability:** With its three-year growth cycle and carbon sequestration it is a uniquely efficient and responsible resource

**Long life:** new treatment methods have given it a longer lifespan.

### Optional:

Point out some of the other environmental features of the school:

**Solar energy:** has a solar photovoltaics (PV) energy system, which contributes 21 kWh to Green School's renewable energy portfolio

**Compost Station:** uses composting as one of its solid waste management strategies

**Water Filtration System:** uses a Reverse Osmosis (RO) water filtration system to meet its drinking water consumption needs and ensure the purity and safety of the drinking water for the community.

**FANTASY SCHOOLS**  
**SUGGESTED TIMINGS (CONT.)****STUDENTS DESIGN THEIR FANTASY SCHOOL: PART I****5 MINS****INTRODUCE/SET UP THE ACTIVITY**

- Divide the students into teams of 4–6 so that each team is working together around a table. Hand each team several sheets of paper and pens
- Explain to students that each team is going to design a new secondary school and then they will all vote on the one they like best. They can draw the exterior and/or a floor plan – whatever they feel gets their design across best
- Tell them to let their imaginations run wild – they can include any wacky design, materials or special features they like
- Explain that each team should pick someone to feedback to the class
- They have 5 minutes for the task.

**5 MINS****GROUP WORK**

- Circulate among the teams to make sure they understand the activity and are staying on track
- Give a 5, 2 and 1 minute warnings.

**15 MINS****FEEDBACK**

- Give each team 2 minutes to show and talk through their designs. (Depending on the layout of the classroom they could either stand at the front of the room or present from where they are.)
- Get the class to vote, by a show of hands, for their favourite design. (They're not allowed to vote for their own.)
- Discuss the winning design and why people liked it
- Discuss whether this design would work in reality and why/why not
- Use this, or another design of your choice for the next part of the exercise. Explain how the design would need to be adapted to make it feasible.

**FANTASY SCHOOLS**  
**SUGGESTED TIMINGS (CONT.)****STUDENTS DESIGN THEIR FANTASY SCHOOL: PART 2****10 MINS****DREAMS TO REALITY**

- Ask the class to work in teams again and give each one a theme to consider for this design:
  - Logistics:** what site will they choose a site for the new school? Ask them to consider how they will get access and minimize disruption and other factors they may need to consider
  - Users:** who are they and what do they users need from the school?
  - Community:** how will the building benefit the wider community? How will they minimize any negative effects? How will they engage with the community about the new project?
  - Sustainability:** sustainability of the building – what environmentally friendly features will they build in?
- Encourage each team to take notes/sketch so they can feedback to the wider group.

**10 MINS****DURING THE ACTIVITY**

- Circulate among the teams to make sure they understand the activity and provide prompts where necessary
- Give a 2-minute warning.

**10 MINS****FEEDBACK AND CLOSE**

Ask each team to feedback – allow two minutes each. Give any comments/feedback as you go along.

**Optional**

Get permission (in advance from teacher and students) and take photos of the drawings and post to Instagram tagging @meconstruction or send to CIOB for posting on the CIOB Instagram channel.

**NB:** If the young people are under 16 you cannot take photos of them without parental permission.

**References:**

<http://ibuku.com/about/why-bamboo/> accessed 2 February 2017  
<https://www.greenschool.org/environment/>