

“Together We Build For the Children” Program: A New Strategy in Conducting Service Learning  
in the First Year in Architecture Department of Petra Christian University

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Abstract

Conducting Service Learning program in the architecture subjects in the first year is not easy. It is because the main aims of the curriculum in the first year are to give our students insights and to teach them about the architecture itself as a whole.

On the other side, it is a challenge for architecture department to implement a service learning method, so the students can also give contribution to the community. Since Service Learning has been stated by our university as a prerequisite for every student, our department needs to make a new strategy to manage our curriculum and to integrate it with Service Learning.

In the past 2 years, our campus has set “Rumah Belajar Masyarakat” or House for Community Learning. Through it, we state ourselves as a learning source and a learning house for the community around us. The Learning House has been a place for the whole departments in our university to contribute to others.

This year was the first time we joined Community Learning House. We developed an integrative program that consisted of 5 training subjects in a week. The strategy of doing service learning is

not intentionally merged with the studio project, but we reward our students who join this program by giving credit points. Those points are the requirement for joining the graduation ceremony in our university. The program itself involves lecturers, students, Campus Community Service Department, Campus Library, and Bina Insani Kindergarten in Siwalankerto. The program reaches teachers, parents, children, and the children's learning place. During the program, our students have involved industries that support us. They not only contribute as sponsors, but also involve in sharing the knowledge to the community. This program not only served the community, but also became a constructive and useful project to support research, build students' soft skills, and develop the affective side of every student involved.

*Keywords: Service Learning, First Year, Community, Children, Community Learning House.*

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