

# **Strategic Research on Teaching Reform in Environmental Art Design Major under the Background of Information Age -- a Case Study of Baoshan University**

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**Keyword:** Information age, Environmental Art Design Major, Teaching reform, Strategic research.

**Abstract:** As a dominant major established six years ago, the Environmental Art Design Major of Baoshan University has continuously deepened its teaching reform, improved the quality of personnel training, and cultivated a large number of applied talents for the contribution to the industrial development. However, under the background of information technology in the new era, the Environmental Art Design Major has so much to do according to the requirements of talent training in teaching concept, teaching method, teaching approach, informatization, school-enterprise cooperation; otherwise it will further restrict the Major construction. Based on the analysis of the development advantages and existing problems of the Environmental Art Design Major in Baoshan University, the paper puts forward the teaching reform strategy under the background of information age.

## **1. Introduction**

Environmental art design is a newly developed discipline, which is produced with the development of economy, culture and society as well as the urgent need of our own living environment. It organizes, transforms and utilizes various natural and artificial environments to make them more in line with the needs of human behavior and psychology; moreover, it has a higher aesthetic value. As a dominant major established six years ago, the Environmental Art Design Major of Baoshan University has set a higher bar for the comprehensive caliber in its practice ability and innovative ability in the context of the information age. It is worthwhile to deepen the teaching reform and strengthen the application of students' informatization approach.

## **2. The Meaning and Requirements of Environmental Art Design Teaching under the Background of Information Age**

### **2.1 The meaning of environmental art design teaching**

Environmental art design refers to the creative process that the designer makes a comprehensive consideration, formulates a solution, and expresses it in the form of drawings, models, documents before the construction of an environmental site. According to people's needs at three levels of material function, mental environment function and aesthetic function, the designer applies various artistic and technical means to make a comprehensive plan for the problems existing or to be likely to occur in the construction plan, construction process and using process. The talent cultivation of environmental art design needs to integrate multi-disciplinary resources such as design aesthetics, architecture, urban planning, environmental ecology, and computer science. With the progress of the times and the application of information technology in teaching, higher standards and requirements have been put forward for environmental design teaching.

### **2.2 Cultivation of innovative ability is the key to the cultivation of environmental art design talents**

Environmental Art Design is a top creative and professional major. In the context of the information age, people's aesthetic level and appreciation ability are also changing. At the same time,

the industry has changed the demand for talents, requiring professionals to adapt to the development of the times and create works that meet people's aesthetic requirements. As for the teaching of environmental art, students are required to have more practicality, to understand the aesthetic trend of nowadays society, and to have strong thinking and cognitive ability. The application of information technology can provide information and methods for the improvement of innovation ability as well as change the traditional design methods.

### **2.3 The improvement of all-round ability is directly related to the quality of talent training**

In order to meet the needs of building environment in the information age, the teaching of environmental art design involves a wide range of knowledge. In view of the requirement of cultivating students' all-round ability in the teaching of environmental art design, it is far from enough for students to learn the contents of textbooks. Constructing enough basic professional theory, applying computer science and technology, cultivating aesthetic judgment and professional art literacy, such a "trinity" talent training system is directly related to the quality of talent training. Specifically, it is the basis for mastering the basic knowledge, various materials and their performance; skilled application of computer PS, CAD and other design software; to cultivate aesthetic judgment and professional art literacy.

## **3. The Prominent Issues in the Teaching of Environmental Art Design**

### **3.1 Single form of classroom teaching**

Interest is the driving force behind learning and the driving force for people to accomplish something. At present, there is less interaction between teachers and students in the teaching of environmental art design. Teachers explain the answers to the questions and students memorize them, which limits students' innovative thinking ability as they can't exercise their thinking ability. And this traditional teaching mode will gradually make students lose interest. Without the motivation of learning, their grasp of knowledge and classroom efficiency will be greatly reduced. Furthermore, without a solid foundation of basic knowledge, it is difficult to create and make break-through in practice.

### **3.2 Teachers lack professionalism**

At the moment, Environmental Art Design Major is an emerging discipline. With the rapid development of the society, the requirements for this Major are constantly improving. If teachers fail to adapt to the development of the times, or fail to instruct students with the latest knowledge, or fail to give the students' correct answer to what they think, then, as a result, it will hinder the students' development. Therefore, teachers' professional quality plays a decisive role in the teaching of environmental art design.

### **3.3 Fewer practical opportunities for students**

In terms of all professional and technical education teaching, most of which are for better employment for students. And as far as the current situation of environmental art design teaching is concerned, if we stay in the explanation of textbook knowledge, then we are unable to provide more opportunities for students to practice, which will lead to students' incomplete understanding of basic theory and they will inevitably have no idea of what to do at work. Lack of practical training limits students' imagination space, and students cannot effectively apply the book knowledge to the actual work.

### **3.4 School-enterprise cooperation is not deep enough**

Amid the positive influence of national policies, colleges and universities continue to strengthen cooperation with enterprises, such as jointly build practical teaching bases and talent training bases. Enterprises participate in the design of talent training programs; provide a platform for students to practice; offer jobs for students. Meanwhile, schools give full play to the advantages of talent team,

solve technical problems for enterprises, and carry out joint research in an effort to achieve a win-win situation. However, due to the lack of in-depth cooperation mechanism between schools and enterprises, it is quite hard to meet the expected requirements in regards to the cultivation of professional students' practical ability.

### **3.5 The improvement of students' thinking ability and the inadequate cultivation of their creative ability**

Environmental art design is a highly creative major. It is an art that requires professional's broad imagination and active thinking ability. The current teaching of environmental art design remains at the theoretical level, limiting the creativity of students, which does not give students more space for thinking and imagination. Without creativity, art will lose many colors. Therefore, thinking ability is essential for the teaching of environmental art design. Such neglect will lead to students' understanding of professional knowledge within the scope given by others, and without any breakthrough or surpass.

## **4. Teaching Reform Strategies in the Information Age**

Innovation is the essence of higher education and the lifeline of existence and development. It is the duty of universities to continuously promote innovative thinking, method of technological innovation and mode innovation, deepen teaching reform, and highlight innovative consciousness and practical ability so as to cultivate more innovative talents and high-caliber employee. Focusing on the requirements of student-centered, output-oriented and continuous improvement, the main strategy to promote the teaching reform of Environmental Art Design Major is to establish the quality improvement cycle mechanism of "finding problems - timely feedback - agile response - effective improvement".

### **4.1 Improve classroom teaching methods and promote deep integration of information technology and education**

In the context of information age, traditional teaching concepts need to be reformed. Efforts should be made to upgrade the level of Major construction, promote the renewal of curriculum content; Efforts should be focused on students' all-round development, respect students' principle role, and realize the transformation from "teaching-centered" to "learning-centered", so that the results of teaching reform can benefit all of the students. Classroom teaching design can be reformed in practice. For example: show students some extracurricular videos or pictures that match the current situation, and allow them to evaluate and appreciate. In class, some classroom contents can be assigned to the students in groups to see their insights. With a variety of insights, students' thinking can be enriched. What's more, teachers in class interact more with students to enhance their interest in learning. At the same time, students taking an active role in classroom teaching will enhance the teaching efficiency and better memorize what has learnt in class. In this way, the learning effect can be multiplied with half the effort.

### **4.2 Improve teachers' professionalism**

Teacher is the person who teaches students knowledge, tells students the way to live and answers students' questions. The evaluation of teachers is extremely respectful. Teachers play a leading role in class during the teaching process. Their professionalism has a great impact on students when guiding students in class. In terms of teachers, only by actively changing teaching concepts can provide students with the latest knowledge, track down the cutting edge of professional development, and keep up with the development trend of the industry. Meanwhile, as far as the students are concerned, they also need to actively change their way of thinking, follow the pace of the times, and lay a solid foundation for future career development. Teachers should strive to become highly qualified, professional and innovative teachers with profound educational ethnics, solid professional foundation. At the same time, teachers are bold to innovate teaching, good at comprehensive

education with lifelong learning and development ability.

#### **4.3 Strengthen the training of students' practical ability**

Practice is the criterion for testing ability, and it also enables students to find their own shortcomings. Correct the mistakes if you have committed, and avoid them if you have not. Environmental Art Design Major itself is a very practical discipline. If we are to design a certain place, if we study the architectural style too singular or does not understand the architectural style of the city, then such a design will appear to be out of place. This requires teachers to give students more practical opportunities, let students know more about the history, culture and architectural style of different places, give them more practical homework, allow them to design and create, so that they can demonstrate what basic knowledge they've learnt. It is obvious that such practice has far-reaching significance for students' professional development.

#### **4.4 Deepen school-enterprise cooperation**

In school-enterprise cooperation, enterprises only focus on solving the current "shortage of employment", while schools only focus on solving the situation of "difficulty in finding jobs". Therefore, it is of great importance of deepening school-enterprise cooperation and building a long-term mechanism. Student internship in enterprises can explore the establishment of a sound assessment system. Strictly assess students' internships in the enterprise, and divide them into weekly assessments and monthly assessments in order to let students know their own problems. This can improve students' subjective consciousness and form a benign learning consciousness. Enterprises also provide more platform opportunities for students to display their talents. The school then sets standards according to the internship results to see if the students are qualified. In this way, the student's learning motivation will be greatly enhanced. And those students cultivated by schools and enterprises will also be high-caliber talents, which will have a certain influence on future student learning.

#### **4.5 Strengthening students' thinking ability**

The term environmental art design, first of all, has the concept of design. An excellent professional designer must think about what others did not think about, and did what others did not do, turning the virtual imagination into reality, which requires great creativity. The concept of design also makes people feel that flexible thinking is essential. It is necessary to strengthen the cultivation of students' creative thinking ability in the teaching of environmental art design. Teachers can explain more real cases for the students, or invite industry experts and folk artists to give lectures or class exchanges, so that students can widen their scope of knowledge, know the qualities for success and adjust the attitude when encountering setbacks. These experiences are very valuable, especially for the students who are going to be employed. Students also need to have more time in class to think about problems, making them ponder and create according to what they've learnt in class. By doing so, the students will gradually form unique thinking ability and provide favorable conditions for subsequent creation.

#### **4.6 Improving students' comprehensive quality**

In the context of the information age, environmental art design has set a higher bar for the comprehensive quality of employees. Therefore, in the teaching of environmental art design, students need to be given more opportunities. Students must not divide subjects into important and unimportant ones. In fact, all the courses are very important, including computer, art, ideological and political courses. Cultivate students in a systematic way and make them understand the meaning of each subject. Thus, students will develop good study habits and improve their comprehensive ability so as to comply with the development of the times.

## **5. The Positive Significance of the Teaching Reform in Environmental Art Design Major under the Background of Information Age**

### **5.1 Enhancing employability and employment quality**

Teaching reform is conducive to improving students' employment not adapting to the society, as well as promoting efficient school-enterprise cooperation. As long as students are well-adapted to jobs, they will be able to achieve seamless integration with enterprises and become qualified talents needed by the society.

### **5.2 Improving the quality of talents training and serving the development demand of industry**

In the context of the information age, teaching must also make real-time changes to meet the needs of society. In the teaching of environmental art design, verify the results of reform through time after improving the students' comprehensive quality. If such reform is effective for students, schools and enterprises, reform is inevitable. At the same time, such reform is making positive contributions to the cause of education and finding ways to adapt to the development of students.

### **5.3 Enhancing students' innovative ability and broaden their development space**

Under the background of information age, the teaching reform of environmental art design is to better conform to the times. Reform teaching methods and focus on cultivating students' creative ability as well as thinking ability, so that students have more possibilities for development and more opportunities to perform.

## **6. Summary**

Based on the above-mentioned, this paper, under the background of information age, analyses the requirements, problems, reform strategies and positive significance of environmental art design teaching and puts forward the teaching reform strategies of environmental art design, so as to improve students' comprehensive qualities such as creativity, thinking ability, hands-on ability and self-quality. It is of reference to train qualified talents with sufficient theory, quick learning, strong development and innovative ability.

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