

Manifesto: Biosphere School (School as a Living Environment)

At the **center** of education, behind the curricula and the demands made upon performance, stand **children and young people**. They embody the growth, mobility, openness, changeability, imagination – in short, the ‘innovation’ that our economy-dominated society so desperately needs. Educational facilities should express these vital and progressive qualities – in the exterior, the surrounding grounds, the appearance of the buildings, the interior and in the furnishings. Administration, curricula, instructional methods and codes of conduct should increasingly orient themselves towards the preservation and advancement of these fundamental characteristics of children and young people.

Educational facilities are not monuments to Architecture,
but are instead *lively expressions of change and the constant search for adequate pedagogical forms.*

Educational Facilities are not rational, uniform constructs,
but are instead *differentiated structural spaces which appeal to all the senses and are linked with a unique place and history.*

Schools are not correctional facilities,
but instead *serve the growth and development of the abilities latent in children and young people.*

School are not ‘youth-ghettos’ in which the most restless and difficult segment of the population is to be kept busy and quiet during the day,
but are instead *receptacles which communicate with social, economic and cultural life.*

Schools are not educational factories,
but instead *offer social and ecological living and learning spaces to students, teachers and custodians.*

Schools are not sterile information and media centers in which facts and preconceptions are to be projected upon life in the future,
but instead *serve as places of activity and experience, promoting hands-on relationships with plants, animals and fellow human beings.*

Schools are not places for the consummation of a curriculum and manner of upbringing ordered by the state,
but are instead *diverse and decentralized organisms designed by the persons directly affected by them. To this end, they require more administrative autonomy (small funds appropriation) as well as more readily adaptable designs.*