

REGISTRATION #: 201703

Explore: Big Idea

My exploration will consist on researching the Reggio Emilia Approach in Reggio Emilia, Italy. The Reggio Emilia Approach is an educational philosophy that focuses in the early child development; it was developed post WWII. Italy redefined its education system into one that inspires countries everywhere.

With leading from Loris Malaguzzi, the community came together to rejuvenate and revolutionize their educational programs for young children. The educational philosophy is a pedagogy that is relationship-based. One of the relationships is with the environment and referred to as the "third teacher" (adults and children being the other two).

Schools are built with the architectural elements that are conducive to relationship building and with a detailed attention to aesthetics. To visit would allow a deeper understanding of its community and its context.

In my short time working here, I have learned that working for the public sector can be very frustrating because we are very limited to what we can do. Many times our design is turned down because of budget or simply because the district wants to listen to whatever the contractor or engineer thinks is best. So we look down and turn around and stay quiet. Why? Because it is a job, it is paying our bills. I guess, we can't complain. But we do know they don't really know what is best. This is why the discipline of Architecture exists; we design for the people. Our engineers are there to help us put a building together, and the contractor is there to help us stay in budget, but we are the brain behind to make improvement and to make a difference on how we design the environment.

I understand we have to consider the "budget". However, we are forgetting the big picture that is designing for children. We are the ones responsible to investigate and to understand what is best for our client. And in reality, our clients should be the children and their educators. We can't continue designing depressing schools that block children's creativity. It is our responsibility to educate and convey our reasoning behind. We need to speak for the children because nobody will listen to them; the sad true is that not many people care. They want to design a structural box envelop that is and feels like a jail. Perhaps we might not be able to make changes, but we can little by little plant and water the seed to our clients; by educating them and bringing them the samples of a successful approach that

has many educators from all over the world dreaming their culture someday adopts.

And my question is, why should we continue building schools the way they have always been? We are not evolving here.

I propose to go to Reggio Emilia, Italy on a study tour that is offered to international travelers. I will create a power point presentation of the architectural elements that makes Reggio Emilia known as the best model of education for young children in the world.

Reggio Emilia, Italy

Sonia Moran



Education in
Reggio Emilia,
Italy



The Reggio Approach: Relationship-Based Education

Each teacher is supported by a staff of educators and works in collaboration with families.

Each child is supported by the entire community.





The environment as
the third teacher
(adults and peers the
other two)

Mirror Triangles
encourages different
perspectives.

the Municipality of Reggio Emilia, Italy, published by Reggio Children, 1998

Aesthetically
pleasing
environment to
ignite inspiration





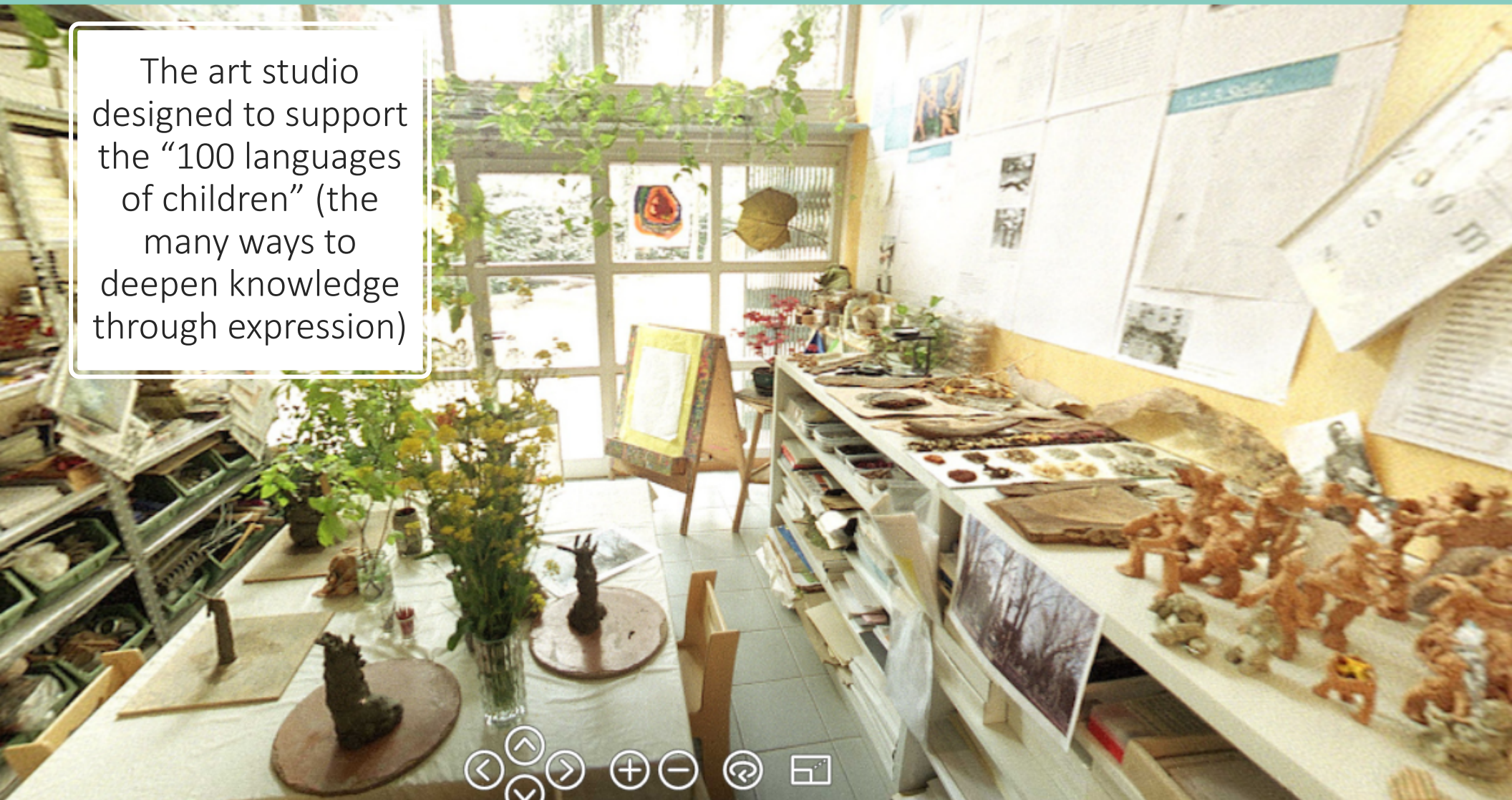
Environment encourages collaborations throughout the school.

Two classrooms connected with windows

Environment
supports
engagement with
surrounding
community
through the use of
open windows



The art studio designed to support the “100 languages of children” (the many ways to deepen knowledge through expression)





Natural elements
throughout

Exploring *Natural Light*

The background image shows a child in a dark jacket and red hood working on a sculpture in a room with large projections of nature scenes and various white architectural models and sculptures. A circular overlay on the left contains the text.

The Plan

The opportunity to travel to Reggio Emilia would allow me to share what makes the schools of Reggio Emilia, Italy world renowned. The North American Reggio Alliance offers study tours. I will create a presentation to share with the firm which will enable us all to see the community behind this inspiring education system.