

P R O J E C T R E P O R T

*June-September 2011*

RENOVATION OF "GRADINITA RASARIT" KINDERGARTEN



BUCURESTI NOI, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

Asociatia de Ajutor AMURTEL Romania

Asociatia de Ajutor AMURTEL has been running a Neohumanist Kindergarten in the Bucuresti Noi neighborhood for the past twenty years. The original building was poorly constructed, similar to most buildings in this impoverished neighborhood. Three years ago, the kindergarten underwent a renovation in order to be able to pass health inspections necessary for becoming a fully authorized kindergarten, and recognized by the Ministry of Education. At that point, the kitchen was redone and the dormitory was transformed into a dining room and smaller dormitory. A medical office was also added, as per requirements, the courtyard retiled, and the exterior redone.



However, last year, the roof started to leak severely, causing the ceiling to become swollen with water. It began raining inside during every rainfall, and subsequently the wet areas became moldy. A health inspection threatened the kindergarten with closure if this situation was not resolved.

One of the parents of the kindergarten, was very inspired to help us and prepared the necessary architectural plans and technical studies. It was not a surprise to discover that the original construction was not properly designed or executed. Therefore, replacing the roof required a much more complex intervention than simply changing the roofing materials itself. It including replacing some of the supporting walls which were not structurally sound, adding more reinforcements and strengthening the existing foundation, which in some places was practically non-existent.

AMURTEL choose to work with the same construction company that had realized the construction the previous year in its other kindergarten, being very satisfied with their professionalism and quality of work.



l'asilo demolito



ristrutturazione dell'interno



montaggio del nuovo tetto

Within only three days, already the construction team had demolished the existing roof and ceilings.

Unfortunately, due to language barriers, there was a misunderstanding regarding the price quote – which only included the manual labor, not the materials. This meant that the total cost would be substantially more than our original expectations, and available funds already raised.

However, many sponsors came to our aid, including Amici Nel Mondo, AMURT UK, AMURTEL USA, AMURT Italia, Ananda Marga Salorno, Neohumanist Foundation Norway, WWD-F, Ananda Marga River School Australia, Susan Clare Cornish, Raymond Deshaies, Uma Ingrid Sollai, Marcin Huza, Mari Micelli, Divyamurti Pacific Pheromones, Rukmini Renate Zitzer, Anirvan Oeyvind Fjereide, Abhashrii Alia Khalil, Yatindra Joost Boekhoven, Pashupati Steven Landau, Lisa Dwyer, Erik Azzopardi, Christine Visconti and Chandragupta Tsan-Yao Wu. The final cost of the project including in-kind donations was 27,300 euros. Our architect was very involved and motivated to help us to complete the project successfully. She donated all of her time voluntarily and also secured several donations of construction materials - including the roofing materials from the Finnish company "Rukki", the tiling from "Romstal" and adhesive materials from "Tassullo". The total value of these in kind donations was 4211 euros.

There were some delays in signing contracts to receive donated materials, which slowed down the progress of the renovation. In addition, the work was also more complex than anticipated, with the result that the re-opening of the school was delayed until the middle of September. The entire AMURTEL team spent a week of very intensive cleaning, but at last the project opened on September 19th.



In the end, about ¾ of the building was reconstructed. The portion of the building containing the two classrooms was not renovated, due to lack of time and funds, but also because AMURTEL hopes to obtain financing in the future to add another floor over the existing space in order to provide space for more activities and increase the financial viability of the project.



The successful completion of the renovation coincided with the 20th anniversary of the kindergarten. Five thousand leaflets were distributed in the neighborhood, inviting parents and children to attend an open day / anniversary program. The program was well attended both by new parents as well as those many “graduates” and their families who were enchanted with the new “facelift”. It was lovely to hear from so many grateful parents about the positive results they see in their older children,



which they consider to be due to the strong foundation they received in the kindergarten.

The event resulted in three more enrollments, and now there are a total of 17 children enrolled in the kindergarten, including five disadvantaged children that come through the Department of Social Services. The Social Services Department signed a partnership with AMURTEL this autumn agreeing to a small financing to cover the food costs of these children. At last the kindergarten will reach a financial equilibrium this school year after several years of struggle and low enrollments. Enrollments are expected to increase in the springtime, when most parents choose a kindergarten, thanks to the improved appearance of the kindergarten and increased publicity.

The AMURTEL Team extends a deep and heartfelt thanks to all of the sponsors that helped us to materialize this project and save the kindergarten from closure!