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COVER STORY: Sustainable Architecture and Design Program

Sustainable Architecture and Design Program at Taitung's Kung-Tung Technical Senior High School (KTTSHS), was first initiated in 2013, as an extracurricular program named, Playing with Architecture. The program, developed and taught by The Alliance Cultural Foundation's (ACF) volunteer, Norman Yang, retired Director of M. Moser Associates Ltd. (Taiwan Branch), and lead architect of Taipei 101, was incorporated into the school's twelfth grade curriculum as a required academic course, after two intriguing semesters of running as an afterschool program, offering students three credits per term.

Sustainable Architecture and Design Program aims to foster homegrown talent who will carry the skills to design sustainable architectures, while integrating the local environment, climate, and indigenous culture into its designs. The course involves lectures, as well as experiential learning to inspire its students. Having the program incorporated into KTTSHS' required curriculum is a remarkable step for ACF's involvement. The school not only accepts the program, and recognizes it as one that will be beneficial to the futures of its students; it has also committed a teacher to attend the course through the entire year to ensure its continual success.

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Cidal Hunters' School

In recent years, more and more indigenous communities have established so-called “hunters’ schools”, which have become important destinations for tourists wanting to understand traditional knowledge and lifestyles. Hunting was an important activity, providing essential animal protein. Game animals included birds, wild boar, Formosan sambar, Formosan Reeves’ muntjac, and flying squirrel, among others. Hunting was carried out with bow and arrow, hunting rifles, traps and snares. Today, hunting traditions have fallen by the wayside due to disinterest among indigenous youth and concerns about hunting among the general public. However, indigenous communities working to preserve and revive their traditional culture consider hunting a very important part of that culture, which included a respect for ecological balance... [Read more](#)



Taitung Ruin Academy

The Taitung Sugar Factory, located in Taitung City, was built in 1913 during the Japanese occupation era (1895-1945). It was the property of the Taitung Sugar Company which merged with the Meiji Sugar Co. in 1943. In 1946, it came under the jurisdiction of the Taiwan Sugar Corporation and continued to operate as sugar became a highly important export following World War II. In 1966, the factory was closed due to changes in the economic environment and competition from other countries and it became the largest unused industrial site in southeastern Taiwan. However, as mentioned in previous articles, in recent years part of this complex has been transformed into exhibition spaces, artist workshop spaces and cafes. In July of 2014, another section of the complex, entitled the Taitung Ruin Academy--The Organic Machine, opened to the public. This is a permanent exhibition that integrates original sugar processing equipment, such as evaporator and crystallization tanks, with organic materials such as living plants, wood, stone and dirt to create a bio-urban space... [Read more](#)