

Outdoor Spaces in Eco-ecole Schools

Wow! The landscaping at St Mary's PS at George's Hall, reported in the last NENA issue 2, certainly looked like the Building the Education Revolution funding spent on new buildings had a wonderful unexpected benefit to the whole school environment. Just loved the map - it's inspiring to see such places being created for children to live and learn in.

As we're living in a global world, I'd like to share some photos of school models from a different part of the world that I was in recently that also inspired me about children's future, for different reasons. I hope you see something to inspire you too in my photos.



1

These schools are in dry environments like much of Australia, and especially this one, which the teacher said was in a desert. How wonderful that these children counted the big birds (vultures) that soared on the thermals above the school in the afternoons as part of their school environment!



2

Can you see the gardens and composting areas in this three-storey school?

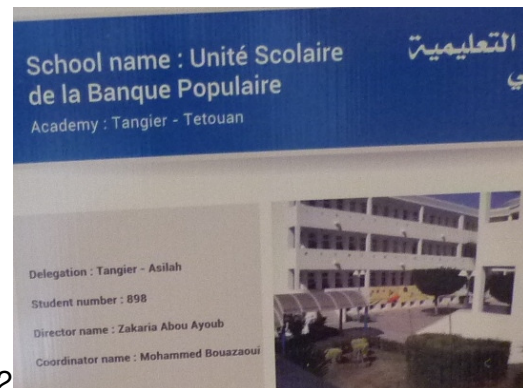
Each school produced its model using only recycled materials (see below). For example, the vultures had beaks made of biro nibs, which their teacher very proudly showed me.



Where are these schools? Morocco, in northern Africa. This is what these schools look like from the outside.



1



2

Thirteen models were at the 'Eco-ecoles' exhibition at the 7th World Environmental Educators Congress in Marrakesh that I went to in June. The Eco-ecole program (translation Eco-schools) was new to me, as it is not in Australia. It is a global program, partnering with UNEP and UNESCO, but run independently by the Foundation for Environmental Education and covering over 50 countries (see <http://www.eco-schools.org/>). Sometimes I need to be reminded that there is great work being done all over the world.

(cc) Photos 2013 Jeanie Clark, Warracknabeal
Nb Other photos of this exhibition will be put on the web asap.