Reggio Emilia:
A state of mind: Reflections on Study tour to Italy
Summer, 2007

C. Jaruszewicz, Ph.D., College of Charleston
To understand the Reggio Emilia Approach, one needs to understand the importance of context

- North Central Italy
- @ 170,000 population
- Increasingly diverse
- Roman origins
- Socialist government
- Strong Catholic tradition

C. Jaruszewicz, Ph.D., College of Charleston

The Roman Road
Agri-business Region

- Cheese
- Wine
- Livestock
- Balsamic vinegar
Values

- Time
- Ambiance
- Relationships
- Quality of life
- Family
- Community

Mid-afternoon in central piazza, Reggio Emilia

C. Jaruszewicz, Ph.D., College of Charleston
People don’t hurry

….except for trains

M. Jaruszewicz, Ph.D., College of Charleston
Italy has, of course, a rich architectural heritage

The Parthenon

C. Jaruszewicz, Ph.D., College of Charleston
Reggio is a beautiful city, full of narrow, twisting streets, open piazzas, courtyards, and cathedrals.
Italian children are surrounded by beauty of all kinds

Municipal theatre in Reggio

Street painting with flowers in Monterrosa

Monterrosa

C. Jaruszewicz, Ph.D., College of Charleston
Markets are everywhere and any walk is a sensory delight!
Italians believe that children deserve the same respect as adults – providing them a beautiful, ‘amiable environment is a community responsibility.

The Diana School in Reggio Emilia

Architect renderings for new Diana School

C. Jaruszewicz, Ph.D., College of Charleston
A teacher’s work involves ongoing research about how children think and how to represent their thinking to others.

Pedagogista conference area and archives at the Loris Malagucci Institute

Outside the Remida Center

C. Jaruszewicz, Ph.D., College of Charleston
Teachers are encouraged to think about how children respond to their environment

The Remida center is a place where donated materials are stored and displayed in creative ways. Teachers are free to take anything they want and provided workshops to promote creative use of items. The whole city celebrates “Remida Day” annually.
Our students were provided a workshop exploring found materials and light by the Remida Center staff.
Children’s questions are valued and incorporated into long-term projects

“La Gabbianella” (the seagull)

C. Jaruszewicz, Ph.D., College of Charleston
Visual documentation of children’s work is a community commitment.

Children’s study of wheels turned into tiles displayed in train station tunnel.

Documentation panels
Experiencing Reggio taught me that if we work at seeing the world with a child’s eye, our world can be a friendlier, more intimate place, we can be more connected, and our world can be a place we live with, not just in…. 

The lion from “A Portrait of a Lion” project @ Piazza del Pompano

“The Poppies” from 100 Languages of Children traveling exhibit