



CAN

COMMUNITY
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NETWORK

NEWSLETTER

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When the communities are strong, the houses are strong!

#5
DECEMBER
2015

Hello all,
It's again the turning of a new year. We hope everyone has had a productive and eventful year, and that the year to come brings even more.

This 5th CAN newsletter is a bamboo themed issue, bringing a number of inspiring stories on bamboo from Korea and Indonesia. Most significantly CAN's presence at the international bamboo conference held in Korea this year, in which the CAN team went on a mini road show, presenting about participatory design at a number of venues. Also this fall, CAN and ACHR facilitated a parallel session on community-led design solutions at the Asian Pacific Urban Forum in October in Jakarta.

On the other side of the world in New York, out of over 400 candidates, CAN was a finalist at the Buckminster Fuller Award ceremony. The Buckminster Fuller Challenge award gives a sizeable amount of money to supporting activities which bring a social and ecologically sustainable innovative solution to the world's problems. The winner was a kelp farming initiative in the US for fisherman with increasing insecure livelihoods, and a runner up with CAN was the Manila Housing Authority in India, working with Slum Dwellers International, SDI on people driven solutions to slum upgrading in India.

Cover photo: group picture of the participants on ceremony of the completion of the Central Asian Museum Leh. Members of different communities (Christian, Buddhists, Shia and Sunni Muslims, scholars, sponsors etc, join together to celebrate this important cultural moment for Leh and Ladakh.



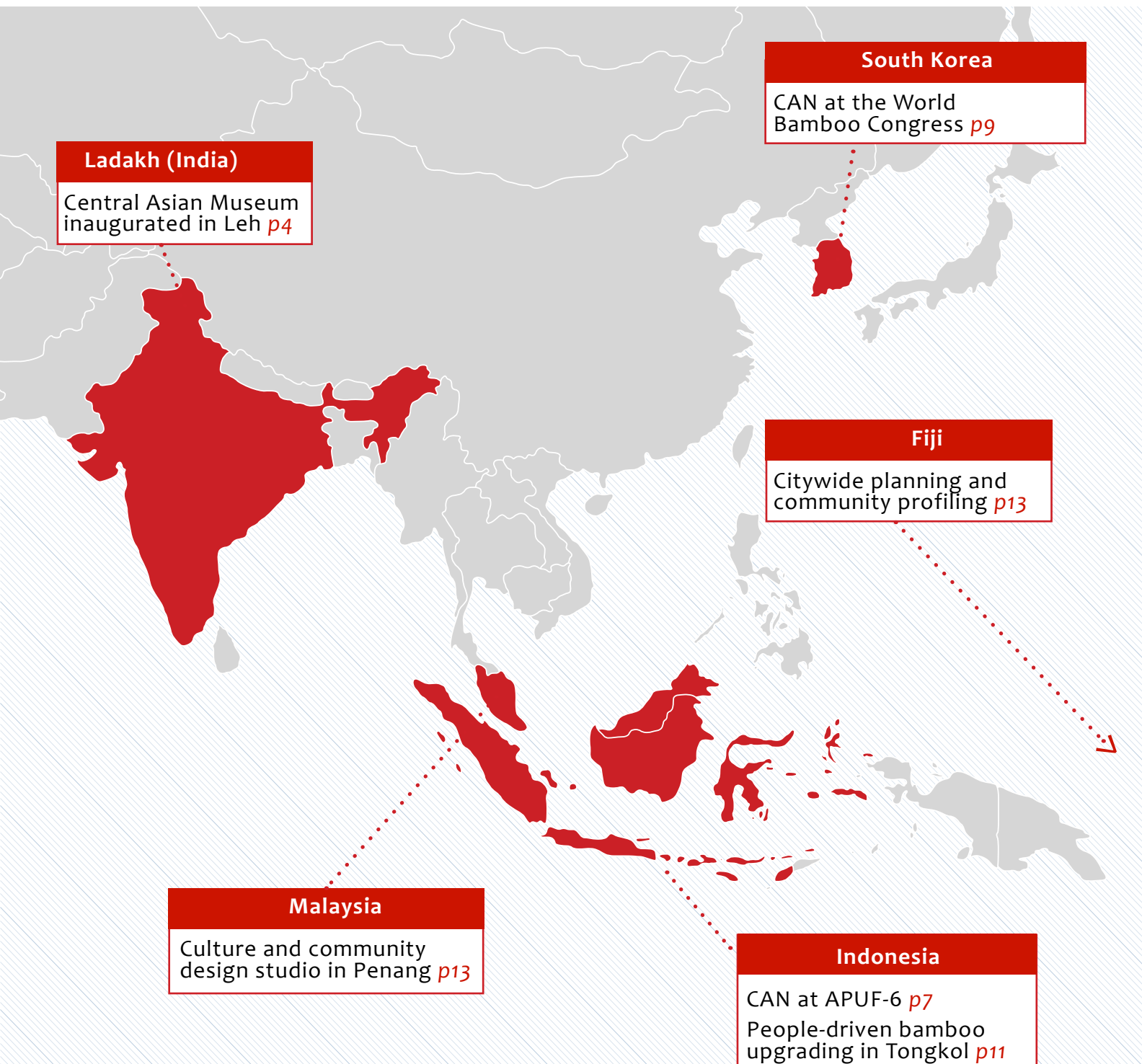
For contributions, comments, or queries,
write to communityarchitects.news@gmail.com

For more information about the network, visit the
website: communityarchitectsnetwork.info

Thanks to all those who contributed their stories,
pictures and experiences for this issue!

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WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND ASIA:





Tibet/Ladakh

Central Asian Museum inaugurated in Leh

After 8 seasons of hard work, we are happy to say our biggest project is finally completed, the **Central Asian Museum** in Leh.

For centuries, Ladakh was at the crossroads of Central Asian caravan trade; however, in the mid-20th century when the cross-border trade stopped, Ladakh fell into relative geographic and cultural isolation. Ladakh's culture has been shaped by the transmission of goods and ideas from Tibet, Turkestan, Kashmir and India. The Leh's Central Asian Museum commemorates this important aspect of Ladakh's history.

The museum is built in the Tsas Soma garden, formerly the site of Leh's caravansarai, which is also said to be the site of the town's first mosque established by Muslim traders in the 17th century.

After **Tibet Heritage Fund** (THF) restored the Masjid Sharif in 2007 together with the **Anjuman Moin-ul Islam** society, THF and **Leh Old Town Initiative** (LOTI) were asked to design and build the museum in the Tsas Soma Garden. Together with local artisans, international volunteers

Ladakh's culture has been shaped by the transmission of goods and ideas from Tibet, Turkestan, Kashmir and India. The Museum commemorates this important aspect of Ladakh's history





and students André Alexander designed the concept for the main building, putting a contemporary twist on a traditional Himalayan fortress tower.

The square ground plan and diamond-design ceilings acknowledge ancient Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim places of worship. Each floor has its own different interior architectural style, is open in the center - which brings natural light through the four floors - and is encircled by a passage leading to a stairway to the next floor.

The ground floor ceiling and timber elements are crafted in the ancient royal Ladakhi style, inspired by the Tsemo palace tower in Leh. The second level is shaped in the early style of Kashmir, with Bactrian-influenced fluted columns, based on those found in one of the older Masjids in Srinagar. Level 3 is designed in classical Tibetan style, with timber elements and carvings copied from homes of the Lhasa aristocracy. The top floor interior is decorated in the style of Baltistan, with long elegant pillar capitals and flower-pattern carvings. On the far side of the garden will be the Ladakhi Kitchen museum, providing the 'Changsa' atmosphere and experience of a traditional Ladakhi kitchen.

The construction materials are traditional Ladakhi materials of stone, timber and mud. The walls of the museum



► Bottom: the Ladakhi scholar Konchok Panday talking of the importance of

the Central Asian Museum for Ladakh and for the Ladakh communities.

are built in solid stone masonry with mud mortar. The style of the masonry, individually faced stones embedded in layers of splinter stones, is the same style used in Lhasa, and also in the remains of monuments of the Gandhara civilization. The stones are local granite, quarried at Shey village, the old capital of Ladakh. The mortar is local mud mortar, a mix of soil, water and markalak-clay. In Tibetan architecture, the embedding, or ‘braiding’, of large stones with small ones gives walls a certain flexibility to resist tremors.

All the details are carved on-site. The tall and narrow windows are placed asymmetrically on the facades, designed to help give a contemporary, modern outlook. The main door is inspired by the gates of mansions in the old town of Leh. The floors are paved with a slate stone traditionally used for monastic courtyards. The ceilings are decked traditional Ladakhi style with willow twigs. On the typical Himalayan flat roof, slate was laid on top of the traditional mud layers for waterproofing.

Historic elements donated by local community members have been integrated throughout the buildings. These include three lintels, carved with Buddhist and Islamic floral patterns, as well as two dozen historic windows, most of them in the Kashmiri tracery style.

Visitors exit the museum main building by an iron bridge into the Tsas Soma gardens, an oasis in the centre of Leh, with ancient willow trees and a water channel. The buildings composing the museum complex all adjoin this garden.

There are three gates to access the museum. Over the entrance gate of the museum it is the Trans-Himalayan Research Library, and next to it is the Sharif Masjid and the Kashmir bakery building, (now the museum extension building).

This building was re-designed to be used as office and activities space for the museum complex, including a Ladakhi Kitchen museum created to experience the traditional kitchen atmosphere and tastes of tea and food.

Tibet Heritage Fund hopes the museum will be an important contribution to the cultural life of the region, and to the experience of local and international visitors, by promoting understanding, tolerance and diversity.

We also organized exhibitions and workshops to raise awareness on the preservation of Leh old town with residents and the government, including one workshop “how to run a museum”. Besides the Central Asian Museum, Leh THF/LOTI continues to repair residential houses in Leh old town together with residents, owners and artisans, recently completed two projects in the countryside (wall paintings conservation) and started the restoration of the traditional doctor house in Nubra. These are our activities this year in Ladakh. Thank-you.

| Yutaka Hirako (pingzifeng@hotmail.com)

▷ Top : The architectural details of the pillars, brackets, floor and ceiling is all in traditional Ladakhi style.
Middle : Our beloved Rigzin (LOTI and THF team cook) in

the Ladaki kitchen museum making fresh Ladakhi tea and snacks to offer to the visitors.
Bottom : Skylights brings light in throughout the building.



Indonesia

CAN at the Asian Pacific Urban Forum: Towards a people-centred urban future

The 6th **Asian Pacific Urban Forum**, APUF-6 was held this year in October in Jakarta, Indonesia. Somsook Boonyabancha was a panelist for the Plenary Session **“Towards a People-Centered Urban Future”** and the Indonesian ACHR network led a parallel session on Community-led upgrading. Alongside the event was an exhibition in which CAN shared and displayed material on on-the-ground experiences and achievements. APUF-6 was held back-to-back with ACHR’s annual regional meeting such that attendants for the meeting could participate in the APUF session. 60 people attended from 9 different countries including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Nepal, Cambodia, Phillipines and Thailand, to bring each other up to date on the progress of community-driven processes across Asia, and elect the second phase of SELAVIP grant winners. The local organisations **RUJAK**, **Arkompus**, **Ciliwung Merdeka** and **Urban Poor Consortium** hosted the international guests.



The meeting included a field trip to two river-side communities. The first, **Bukit Duri** sits across the river from Kampung Pulo, a community recently evicted for a river revitalization project and relocated into subsidized high rise rental units. Heavy construction machinery served as a back drop for our session which concentrated on eviction and government-led solutions, leaving most people shocked with how the government is handling revitalisation projects across Jakarta. Ciliwung Merdeka shared about their alternative “flood-friendly” design for Kampung Pulo,

and their recent filing of a court case over land title. The second community visit was to Tongkol community



ACHR brought an ‘international’ perspective and examples on people-led processes and inclusive city-wide upgrading to convince governments that people are not the problem, but the solution

who are actively self-revitalising their area. The community shared about their important position in the old city centre.

The ACHR meeting opened with each country sharing about their progress that year, followed by selecting the second phase of SELAVIP recipients. SELAVIP 2015-2016 will provide revolving funds for large housing projects in 8 cities, and 20 - 30 small community-driven infrastructure projects.

Jakarta's evictions were the point of departure for community leaders representing 8 cities across Indonesia in their preparation for the ACHR session at the conference. At the same time in another room, Somsook shared recent progress on the Poverty Line study, which UNDP is interested to incorporate into their 'multi-dimensional' poverty index, and Johanna Brugman, a 2013 DPU-ACHR junior professional currently working on her PHD in Australia, and Nutta Rattanachaichan from ACHR shared their current research project "Community-driven finance in five countries: Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines".

For the parallel session at APUF, ACHR showcased participatory processes and community-led design by immediately throwing three questions to the floor, 'the importance of people-led processes in planning', 'what alternatives exist to eviction', and 'why an inclusive city-wide upgrading is important'. Representatives from different countries used examples of their work on the ground in people-driven development to give an 'international' perspective on people-driven solutions, to try to convince governments that people are not the problem, but part of the solution.

Ruby, representing **Homeless People's Federation** from the Philippines, shared that the importance of savings groups is not only to save money, but for confidence and capacity building. Lumanti, from **Lumanti** in Nepal, strengthened the point by sharing that following the earthquake in Nepal earlier this year in which many towns had been terribly



damaged, the already existing women savings groups - now experienced in managing money and decision making - had the capacity to single-handedly manage the large scale international response coming in.

A government officer from the planning department in Indonesia stood up and declared that he supports the new participatory planning and budgeting processes in Solo because it's the best way to realize people's real needs.

In response to the second question, what alternatives exist to eviction, Mbak Eni, from JRMK, the **Network of Poor Communities** in Indonesia stated that evictions destroy everything important that we have invested over the years, including our rights for living, for that reason eviction is not a solution, but a disaster.

Lajana Mananda, the director of Lumanti stated forcefully "If we want to eliminate poverty, and achieve any of the SDG goals we must stop forced evictions". This statement was later submitted as the key recommendation ACHR's parallel session for the APUF-6 'Call to Action'

Representatives from Cambodia and Thailand shared about their success of building alternative solutions with the people, and the success of in-situ housing solutions.

Somsook declared: "We can not wait for government to make a decision on your head, the people themselves have to initiate city-wide surveying, and the mapping to understand the variety of problems different people face. Only then you can think about different solutions to eviction including upgrading, land-sharing, in-situ re-blocking, and resettlement. Resettlement as well is always an option if the process itself can be participative, but the solution must be built from the communities themselves."

In response to why an inclusive city-wide upgrading process is important, Kabir from **BRAC University** in Bangladesh responded: "Whatever problem forms the base of a network which brings people together (savings groups, networks, land issues, riverbanks, evictions), power changes when these fragments come together. When savings groups come together they become more flexible with the financing and reach a maximum scale of change. Inclusivity is a way to scale-up the people-driven process, and secure sustainability of these disparate processes."

Tomas Beling from UN Habitat closed by saying "UN always works with the central government so we know very little compared to you. Use your immense knowledge to influence legislation. Everyone in this room must push on their governments, local governments, city and national to implement these goals!" | **Ariel Shepherd**



South Korea

CAN at the World Bamboo Congress



CAN participated at the **World Bamboo Congress** in Damyang, South Korea for the first time on the 18-20th of September. It was the 10th Congress, titled Bamboo for A Greener Future and co-hosted by **World Bamboo Organization** (WBO) and **INBAR**, this time with support from local government of Damyang, four hours drive from the capital city of Seoul. The venue was the city's cultural center adjacent to a bamboo park and a fair ground, where one-month length bamboo Fair was held in parallel.

The three days WBC-10 brought together bamboo enthusiasts from around the world, comprising of many professionals and organizations including governmental institutions and academics. Among the professionals were architects, product designers, engineers, botanists, researchers, and business owners. Presentations were rather high-brows, addressed for an advanced audience. The Congress didn't showcase any Korean bamboo practitioners, which can be seen as a window of opportunity for Boram and Mijung representing CAN Korea.

Together with the Hilti Foundation and UN-Habitat, CAN co-hosted a special themed session on social housing, to an

audience of around 400 people. Cris Rollo from UN-Habitat Philippines opened with slides on housing realities, including the pressing demands of urban housing in Asia. Andrea showcased a range of bamboo projects made by CAN members across Asia followed by Corinna Salzer who

presented on Base Builds' work in the Philippines. Following the three presentations, Cris chaired a sharing session presenting work by Sonia Cadornigara, community builders Vorn from

Phnom Penh, Mirin from Yogyakarta, architect Vaibhav, engineer Luis Lopez, and Jean-Luc Kouyoumji of WBO. Within the CAN team were Nylen, Senja, Ate Ofelia, Rexan, and Vaibhav.

On the following day, CAN and Base Builds organised workshops to discuss what messages should be given to the WBC Committee to make the international platform more inclusive in the future. The key messages below were decided together by CAN, Base Builds and UN-Habitat, and later read out at the Congress' concluding remarks were :

- To promote further inclusion of grassroots work with bamboo via specific themes;
- To contribute to a common platform to break "the glass walls" which tend to separate professions, organizations, sectors, or countries;
- To Improve relationship and communication between respective organizations;
- Housing for all to become a permanent theme in the World Bamboo Congress, cross-cutting and expands on Architecture and Community Economics."

We closed with a recognition that the bamboo sector informs the housing situation in Asia, and we aspire to keep bamboo available and affordable for the urban poor.

Together with the Hilti Foundation and UN-Habitat, CAN co-hosted a special themed session on social housing



CAN Korea took CAN's participation in the 10th World Bamboo Congress (WBC) as an opportunity for introducing CAN's activities, spirits and experiences to Korean professionals in the field of architecture, appropriate technology and development. A bit like a road show, the CAN team made an appearance at a number of seminars and discussion groups.

On the first day the CAN team visited Jango, a senior Korean community builder applying local building methods, using soil, dried rice straw, and other materials, which are almost getting forgotten in Korea. Cambodian and Indonesian community builders and architects shared their experiences with people's building, and with Jango decided to have a community builders' workshop in the coming year. The following day, Andrea Fitrianto from ASF-Indonesia gave a small lecture on CAN's activities at the architecture department in Hanyang University, Seoul. For the first time, CAN's activities were introduced to the Korean students studying architecture, accompanied with CAN Korea's presentation on the vinyl house community, and CAN Korea's activities in Seoul.

CAN Korea took the opportunity for introducing CAN's activities, spirits and experiences to Korean professionals in the field of architecture and development

CAN was invited to another lecture at the Centre for Socioeconomics at the Seoul Innovation Park. "Let people be the solution: Appropriate housing with communities" was hosted and organised by Toad Housing, CAN Korea, the Social Housing Association and the Seoul Appropriate Technology Association to showcase stories of community driven housing projects and community builders' activities in Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines, followed by an open dialogue. The event was said to have been received very well.

The fair trade coffee company "Beautiful Coffee" also grabbed the opportunity to organise a seminar titled "Participatory housing reconstruction, how can we do it?". The seminar was in response to the recent increased importance of participatory approaches to disaster recovery, but many do not have practical experiences and knowledge. CAN presented on the community driven reconstruction process of UPLINK after the Aceh tsunami, Arkom Jogja after the Meraapi Volcano Eruption, and TAMPEI in Tacloban following the Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda).

| Andrea Fitrianto (andrea.fitrianto@gmail.com) and Boram Kim (boram.kim.hur@gmail.com)



Indonesia

People-driven bamboo upgrading in Tongkol, Jakarta



In July 2015, 700 families across 5 communities along the Ciliwung riverside in North Jakarta were impacted by a river revitalization project that cleared 5m from both sides of the river. 300 houses were totally destroyed, and the others lost their frontage. Despite the riverside in ruins, the spirit of working together as a team has not lessened. In November, facilitated by the **Urban Poor Consortium (UPC)**, Tongkol community and their neighbour Krapu were accepted for a **SELAVIP** community upgrading grant. The grant will give a revolving fund for riveredge upgrading, including the production of 5 new prototype houses, to show to the government riverside houses can meet conventional standards and regulations.

Local community architects Kamil Muhammad and Brahm Puji assisted the community in designing a conventional house of 2 floors, using reinforced concrete columns and gypsum bricks, fitting within the setback to not break any rules. The house construction is a part of a larger narrative of community upgrading, and building a relationship with the river and nearby heritage buildings.

Tongkol and Krapu community are producing 5 new prototype houses, to show to the government riverside houses can meet conventional standards and regulations

ASF Indonesia (ASF-ID) facilitated exploring the use of bamboo for the roof trusses and canopies, not only is it easy to get and lightweight, but it has great strength properties. The light bamboo roof truss structure



also allows a third floor where everyone thought only 2 floors was possible.

ASF facilitated a bamboo workshop titled 'people driven upgrading and bamboo construction'. The workshop was interesting because although the community were familiar with bamboo as a material, the construction process was new to them. People from neighbouring community Krapu also attended the construction workshop. People looked



curiously at the 1:40 scaled model of the bamboo roof extension we had prepared: bamboo used in this way was very new for the people, and some people didn't believe that the design could be built.

But the model proved to be a good communication tool during the workshop and helped everyone to learn the structural logic and physical aspects of the bamboo truss system. We also used technical drawings to explain the bamboo structure and joints, but not everyone could read the drawing, a more effective learning method was direct practice with explanations.

The bamboo columns had been chemically preserved with Borax-Boric Acid solution one week prior in order to extend their lifespan and were lined up against the historic fort wall behind the houses. We divided the participants into two groups, a bamboo cutting group and a joints preparation group, each group accompanied by a ASF-ID community architect. After the bamboo was prepared we assembled it with a steel bolt joint.

One part of the truss was assembled together on the ground as an example, and the participants finished the full length themselves, applying the new construction methods very quickly. However there was a surprise obstacle during the process, when we raised one truss to the third floor to be connected with the reinforcement, the truss did not match. The distance between the columns apparently had changed during the construction, showing that even a small difference between the drawing and working construction is very meaningful. The truss could not be taken down because some of its parts were already connected to the reinforcements. As the day was getting dark, the group decided to leave the truss on the third floor and we would revisit it the next day.

On the second day of workshop, everyone learned from their previous mistakes. Kamil remeasured the distance between the built columns, and we realised we had to change the width of the bamboo truss to fit the built columns. This decision was made given the time and remaining bamboo resources. Every bamboo in the truss was reset, new holes were drilled, and the bamboo columns reassembled. It was a little risky since holes in bamboo can decrease its strength, but the type of bamboo people had chosen for the bottom part of the truss was Gombong (*Gigantochloa pseudoarundinacea*), a strong bamboo.

It was almost unbelievable that the previous days work had to be redone. But that event could not decrease the spirit of the people. It triggered everyone involved to work faster and more precisely.

A lot of surprising things happened that you can't find in an ordinary construction project, so flexibility is a must. The good decisions were made when there was good communication and knowledge transfer between the people and facilitators, the people got new knowledge from the facilitator and vice versa. As the work progressed, that uniqueness of working in community is apparent; things are dynamic and always surprising...

Indeed, it was just a two-day workshop, but there was incredible spirit in the people to redesign and rebuild their own environment using an unfamiliar bamboo preservation process and modern bamboo construction.

The final result is unexpected. It is indeed quite different from drawing but in a good way. The community modified the original design, showing they fully understand the language of bamboo construction. The process depends on the unique situation and environment (that can be known just by them as local people, not by outsiders). We can say one purpose of participatory methods, knowledge transfer, has occurred in Tongkol. We all can hope that new knowledge and spirit can be transferred to other communities in a form of good virus. Nelson Mandela once said, "It seems impossible until it's done". | **Usie, ASF-ID**





Malaysia

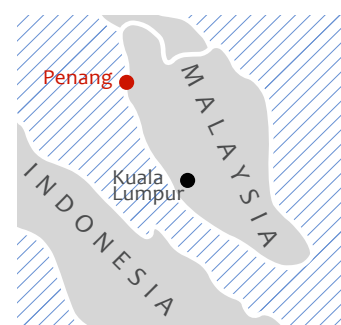
Where do we go from here? Culture and Community Design Studio in Penang

UNESCO's decision to put Penang jointly with Malacca on its World Heritage List seven years ago was a moment of victory for heritage brokers who had been pushing to attain that status for years. Over the time however, this so called prestigious designation damaged local heritage, as well as dividing them into 'core' zones and 'buffer' zones of World Heritage sites. The authorities would claim that heritage conservation has been under control and as per the UNESCO's guidelines, but the real picture on ground tells a completely different story. This year to understand the complex nature of perceived boundaries and the value of the historic environment for sustainable development, Nikhil Joshi's **Culture and Community Design Studio** embarked on a journey to George Town in Penang.

The task assigned to them was not an easy one, in the 14-week studio the students had to come up with individual design proposals for a dilapidated historic house on the only green open space left for the entire community of George Town. Limited further by its location in the buffer zone of a World Heritage Site, with the lowest heritage designation by the local authorities, and the staggering current value of the land that would determine its future use.

Since Penang received UNESCO listing in 2008 the historic environment has increasingly been treated as a commodity; with venues striving for maximum profit, the area becomes accessible only to privileged classes. In this environment the concept of 'heritage' emphasizes 'monuments' and material goods rather than the local people, and practices of conservation remain limited to mere 'preservation' rather than looking

For students to understand what people value about places, and to search for real catalysts of positive change, public engagement was included at the beginning of the design process. Through the studio the students were taught the role of



community is not only to protect existing values of a place, but to enhance and add to them according to their current needs and aspirations. The designs proposed by students illustrated how innovative development strategies of the historic environment can play a key role in contributing towards sustainable community growth. The development strategies focused on the following factors:

- A flourishing local economy to provide jobs for the locals;
- A safe and healthy local environment where people have a choice of well-designated public and green space;
- Buildings that can meet different user needs over time;
- A diverse, vibrant and creative local culture, encouraging pride in the community and cohesion within it;
- A 'sense of place.'

Through the studio students explored a more alternative role of the architect, one who manages change in historic environments, seeking to retain its values while also bringing positive change to all society. | **Nikhil Joshi**

'Conservation' must be seen as the management of change, and public engagement should be of fundamental importance in the process of understanding the values and places for the present and future generations

to embrace 'enhancement'. The students of Nikhil's Culture and Community Design Studio were encouraged to interpret 'heritage conservation' as that of managing processes of change, and see public engagement as a critical component to understanding the value of place for present and future generations.



Fiji

Citywide planning and community profiling in Fiji: learning by doing



We, the **People's Community Network (PCN)** are a community based organisation for people living in informal settlements in Fiji. Our motto is to empower settlement communities to 'stand up and walk, stand up and talk' and so take responsibility for their own development and participate in building a better Fiji. Through training in social analysis, human rights, and budgeting skills PCN aims to empower people in informal settlements.

With the ACCA program we conducted city-wide planning and proposed a range of big and small projects across the city. However we realised early on that having accurate data on households and settlements was critical for three important reasons:

- To support communities in planning and managing their own projects, so is an empowerment tool
- In conducting PCN's workshops, housing and needs assessment, and program design
- To push government ministries and overseas donors design towards inclusive policies and projects - particularly on housing, poverty, incomes, education.

We were lucky to have experienced researchers early on to build our projects into a strong socio-economic sur-

vey program. Survey teams made up of trained community facilitators and community members collected over 4,000 completed questionnaires, at the same time improving the accuracy of collection methods. Through our academic and government networks the methodological validity has improved, and is now comparable to national indicators, making it more locally and culturally appropriate. For example, questions on basic services and household items and expenditure are now directly comparable to census and national survey data, so that such settlement-level data can be benchmarked with national indicators. This will help us, with the government, set substantial and achievable targets for improvements in levels of service and socio-economic conditions in settlements.

Our motto is to empower settlement communities to 'stand up and walk, stand up and talk' and take responsibility in building a better Fiji

△ Top : Participatory city-wide mapping and upgrading plan in Lautoka from the ACCA program.

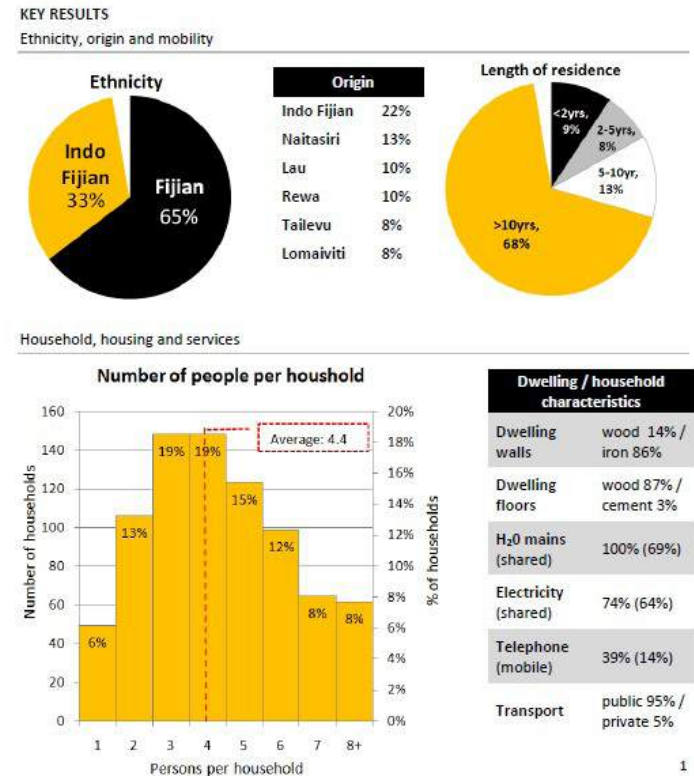
Along the way we learnt by doing, overcoming familiar problems such as secure data storage, data entry and incorrectly filled-in questionnaires, causing problems for data validation and analysis. Questions around privacy and intellectual property rights concerns also emerged in discussions with a development partner regarding funding for a nation-wide survey.

PCN is an implementation partner for the UN Habitat Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) in Fiji, and are responsible for delivering the first phase, the Settlement Situation Analysis (SSA). The PSUP aims to build awareness on urban issues and capacity building amongst key actors in urban upgrading, and to build political and budgetary commitment for settlement upgrading. Participatory settlement profiling is considered a critical step for awareness raising as it informs PSUP on the scale, range and priority of issues needed to be addressed while producing material to set real targets for upgrading in the political decision-making and budgeting process between multiple stakeholders. Profiling can build awareness of the scale and types of issues for the strategy to address, get accurate information to help coordination with multiple partners on the right priorities, and set real targets for upgrading in the political decision-making and budgeting process.

Right now the PSUP is still being signed off by the government, but PCN is taking the lead in getting ready with the settlement profiling stage to be sure each of the (minimum) 100 settlements in the capital are included. Figures on the number of households in informal settlements can vary from 44,000 to 100,000. One of our jobs will be to get accurate population data. The PSUP targets three of the biggest Fijian cities Suva, Nadi and Lautoka, but one day we hope to include all settlements in Fiji in our surveys and profiling.

While we might not be able to do a project in every settlement in the short term, we do want to include a place for everyone in the PSUP Strategy for the medium and long term. We have data analysis support from a research and planning associate from the University of Sydney for the detailed and often tricky statistical and data management aspects of quantitative surveys. Now we can use the data for at least 12 settlements covering 4,200 residents. Comparative data can help realize different priorities across different settlements, and help design and prioritise city-wide upgrading strategies and planning to target real needs. We are now looking at options to further improve the survey, such as including mobile phone usage to cut the data entry phase, decrease time and costs, improve accuracy and give us geo-spatial data to link in with our community mapping. This will help us gather data more quickly, and in real time.

| Ian Hay (ianhay2000@gmail.com)



△ Top : The data entry team. Dedicated volunteers are important every step of the way.

Bottom: An example of a community profile – understanding the implications of the data and using it to inform decisions is a critical step.

Media

You may want to have a look at the **Buckminster Fuller Institute's** video featuring also CAN, which was one of the 6 finalists this year! You can do so [here](#).



Architecture in Development recently published an interesting review on the **Masoro Village Project** by **GA|Collaborative**, a collaborative design with **Dushyigikirane**, a women's association founded and operated by women who survived the Rwandan genocide. The project gave the villagers of Masoro not only a completely new skillset, they even started their own cooperative that supports new construction plans for their community.



The **Urban Africa Risk Knowledge** (Urban ARK) **website** has been launched to provide information and community resources for a three-year programme, funded by the UK Department for International Development and the Economic and Social Research Council, looking at urbanisation and disaster risk reduction in African cities.

The website profiles the project's key work programmes and provides city case studies, as well as blogs and publications. In future it will provide information on stakeholder meetings and workshops.

Events

Toad Housing of **CAN Korea** plans to organise an **international workshop of community builders** in the summer of 2016. We will build a small house using local materials such as soil, rice straws and bamboo with community, including vinyl house community builders in Seoul. It will be funded partially by the Seoul Government's Participatory Budget Programme, and we are looking for additional funds to increase the impact of this event. CAN Korea is making a call out for any ideas, suggestions and inspirations for this workshop from CAN friends. If interested, write to this address: cankorea.info@gmail.com

Opportunities

Another cycle of the **World Habitat Awards** is running this year – the award is for good practices in housing that respond to needs and that help secure decent housing. There is a focus on innovative, sustainable and transferable projects. The objective of the awards is to identify good practices, and then to promote it internationally so that others can learn from these projects and hopefully adapt and replicate certain aspects. The prize for the award is £10.000 (about \$15.000), a trophy which is given at a UNHabitat meeting, and a knowledge exchange workshop on the winning project will be organised and fully funded. The international recognition from the award sometimes also helps in securing further funding from other

donors for example.

It would be really great to see some projects from CAN/ACHR! If you have some interesting projects to suggest, please send **Mariangela** an email (mv.mveronesi@gmail.com) and she will forward you some extra information and explain how to apply. Deadline is in April 2016.

The **12th Symposium of the International Urban Planning and Environment Association** (IUPEA), Lisboa, Portugal invites all those interested to submit abstracts for research papers in the subject areas of the symposium "Cities For Us: Engaging communities and citizens for sustainable development". The deadline is January 11th.

The **Smart Shelter Research Institute**, based in Vietnam, invites all students, professors, experts and professionals of relevant universities and institutions to join research assignments on a range of issues under three main banners: Architecture and Building Science, Earthquake Engineering and Mechanical/Industrial Engineering and Product Design. You can find more information [here](#).



*"What is the city
but the people?"*

William Shakespeare