

### MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

We live in a complex time with global warming, declining biodiversity, restoration of borders, rising inequalities of richness, persistence of armed conflicts, and in the same time a worldwide acceleration in global growth, new technologies and means of communication. In this context ASF-Int continues to cooperate for fair sustainable initiatives at local and global levels, according to ASF-Int Hasselt Chart.

This Newsletter N°15 of December 2018 present some activities and projects that ASF-Int network members have been developing last months.

- ASF-Int GA 2018 hosted by ASF France in Marseille with the thematic « Welcoming cities »
- Casas Melhoradas, Affordable Housing in Maputo, Mozambique, ASF Denmark.
- Design Build Challenge: Practice, Teaching, -Architecture-Art-Society, ASF Portugal.
- Médical Unit HUNICHIR Beni République Démocratique du Congo, ASF Belgique.
- Maternal care health center Kunturo Rwanda, Modular home Anishnabe native community in Québec, ASF Québec.
- Resilience by Design program Bungamati Nepal, ASF Népal with ASF UK.



From the 19th to the 22nd of April 2018, Architectes Sans Frontières France hosted in Marseille the 11th General Assembly of the international network of Architecture Sans Frontières. Organized under the title "Welcoming Cities / City", this event brought together more than 30 participants from 16 countries to exchange and debate about projects and initiatives related to the issue of hospitality.

Various locations throughout Marseille were offered during four days to the participants. This diversity of places made it possible to better adapt to the format of the meetings while allowing to link our local partners to the event. It allowed as well the participants to discover the city better. Thus workshops, meetings, exhibitions, conferences, visits, meals and aperitifs took place on the territory of Marseille during these four days.

The first day was the Challenging Practice seminar at the Marseille School of Architecture. Hosted by ASF UK with the support of ASF France, this day allowed the participants to share the



the fundamentals of the training program developed by the Challenging Practice members. Activities, exercises, methodologies and case studies applied as part of the Challenging Practice Training. The cofacilitation and the exchange moment at the end of the day made it possible to re-tie the links between the CP partners and to open the training to new countries.

This day ended with a lecture in the school's large amphitheater. Eleonore Labattut and Simon Deprez - ETC (Curious Territorial Studies) presented some of their work focused on urban analyzes and studies on territories in crisis. This conference was an opportunity to address issues such as post-disaster reconstruction, the rehabilitation of informal settlements or the welcoming of exiles. This first day ended with an aperitif in the patio of ENSA-M.

The General Assembly of ASF-International took place on Friday, April 20th at the premises of the Order of Architects. Under the glass roof of the hall, the participants were welcomed by a "spherical" exhibition of projects developed by several organizations. During this day were discussed the statement of accounts, the report of the board of directors, the action plan for the next two years and were elected new members of the Administrative Board.

ASF-France has proposed to host the third day of a conference and "dialogues" at the prestigious Mucem (Museum of Civilizations of Europe and the Mediterranean) designed by the architect Rudy Ricciotti. Turned towards the Mediterranean sea, echoing the policies of " closing the borders " that Europe knows in recent years, it was thus the appropriate place to approach the question of the welcoming city. Eleven speakers presented and discussed their respective actions throughout the day.

In order to conclude this International Assembly a visit of the city center of Marseille was proposed to the participants the last day. The aim was to discover the wealth of the city related to the various migrations that built it. This collective visit was thus a reflection of the whole event. A rich meeting experience, generating exchanges and discoveries on the positions and operations of each organization. It was a wonderful opportunity for ASF-France to meet all members of the ASF-International network. Thank you all for your presence and the richness of the exchanges.





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The first months of 2018 were very active for ASF Québec. The annual assembly which took place on June 13th, was an opportunity to present the two main projects at the moment, which are the design of a health center specialized in maternal care in Rwanda and the donation of a modular home to the Anishnabe native community in Quebec.

Kunturo, is a remote village in the east of Rwanda. By the end of 2018, a medical center will be built by the PRECI team (the engineer's Student of ETS Montréal). The project is being done with the support from local partners (IDA Rwanda, Active Social Architecture, the School of Architecture of the University of Rwanda). A context study was carried out during the first months of 2018, to prepare a mission on site during the month of June. This mission, surveyed the population and gathered all the necessary information to prepare the design of a building fully adapted to the needs of the community, the environment and local construction methods. Since, the ASF Quebec project team has worked tirelessly. Once the final plans are completed, the PRECI, will go to Kunturo to supervise the construction between September and December.

A new home will be offered to the Lac-Simon Anishnabe Native community, located near Val-d'Or in Quebec. This project has been launched at the initiative of students from 'Le Chantier' school at Laval. Supported by their teachers, they wanted their workshop construction project, normally destroyed at the end of the year, to have a more ecological and socially useful end of life. They proposed to give it to a community in need. ASF Québec joined the initiative by designing a real single-family home. The two partners were then put in contact with the Lac-Simon Anishnabe Nation Council, which will receive the building in two modules and assign it to a native family. The project was enthusiastically received by the Council in a context where nearly a hundred homes are missing to meet housing needs.

ASF Quebec latest activities are summarized in our annual activity report, available here in French.: architectes-urgence.ca/publications/







## ASF-NEPAL. RESILIENCE BY DESIGN: BUNGAMATI

ASF-UK's Resilience by Design program and ASF Nepal are supporting the ongoing post-earthquake reconstruction process in Bungamati, a badly damaged historic town in the Kathmandu Valley with a wealth of traditional architecture, public spaces, heritage and cultural legacies. We are currently developing a pilot project with the community of Chohel Nani, which aims to build back vital community spaces.

The project involves reconstruction of the public rest house or "Pati" which serves as a shelter for travelers and a meeting space for social and/or religious gatherings in the neighborhood. Once completed, this project will also offer new community spaces used to promote and protect Bungamati's tangible and intangible heritage as well as encourage others.

Testimonial

Name: Nil Devi

Age: 47

Address: Chohel Nani, Bungamati, Kathmandu

Nil Devi, chairperson of the Women's committee of Chohel Nani says "A pati is one of the most important social spaces in a Newari community. It is a vital space to hold meetings, communal and religious activities. This might be a small project for others but it is important to me and to my community."

"I am proud that I am working as a Chairperson and leading the women's committee. I am connecting people in my neighborhood."



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Casas Melhoradas is an applied research project on housing for low income groups in the informal settlements of Maputo, Mozambique with a three-fold focus: 1) developing alternative construction methods to improve the quality and decrease the cost of housing; 2) developing housing typologies that utilize space and infrastructure more economically to initiate a more sustainable urban development; 3) engaging in construction of affordable rental housing through public and private partnerships to scale up the impact of the project.

The project is carried out by Architects without Borders – Denmark, the Institute of Architecture, Urbanism & Landscape, at KADK - The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation, and the Mozambican NGO Estamos.

The project's latest housing prototype was completed in 2018 and consists of a low-rise high-density row-housing typology with six dwellings on a plot where there would otherwise reside a single family. Accordingly, the project demonstrates how space and infrastructure can be utilized more economically and thereby counter urban sprawl and the growing infrastructure deficit. All the dwellings have small private outdoor areas with kitchens, as cooking is largely an outdoor activity in the informal settlements of Maputo due to the use of charcoal. On the ground floor, the kitchens are placed on the verandas next to the street, adding a semi-private transition zone between the public and private. All kitchens are equipped with gas stoves to reduce air pollution and deforestation caused by the use of charcoal. The project has small common courtyards with shared bathrooms and laundry facilities. The project has a green roof where an additional floor can be added, which ensures the project a robustness in case further urban densification should be relevant in the area. Furthermore, the evaporation from the roof improves the indoor climate in the dwellings. The project was built using locally produced compressed earth blocks. Thereby, the energy consumption in the construction process was reduced while adding the same red colour tone of the local soil to the project.











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Design Build Challenge: Practice, Teaching - Architecture - Art, Society - June 12th, 2018

On June 12th, a lecture was held at Casa da Arquitectura in Matosinhos entitled "Practice, Teaching - Architecture - Art, Society" organized by Arquitectos Sem Fronteiras Portugal (Architects Without Borders Portugal).

Miguel Amado, from Instituto Superior Técnico - Group of Studies on Spatial Planning and Urban Planning, Francisco Adão da Fonseca, from Atelier SKREI and Lígia Nunes from the ASFP participated in this meeting. The conversation that followed the presentations was moderated by Ana Fernandes, MDT-CEAU-FAUP.

The event was intended to raise awareness of the scope of intervention in the field of architecture of each of the stakeholders and to promote an exchange ideas regarding the way of understanding Architecture, the way Art, Technology and the knowledge that inform theory and practice, in particular in the way knowledge is transmitted.

This meeting follows on the Workshop that will start next October in Gambia, called DESIGN BUILT CHALLENGE IN GAMBIA, in which the three organizations are partners. This opportunity was taken to present what is being planned for this project and to start the volunteer registration period, and at this moment, information about this Workshop is available to all interested parties through: https://designbuildchallengegambia. wordpress.com/

info@asfp.pt







# ASF-BÉLGICA. NEW STEPS TOWARDS UNICHIR BENI

ASF-Be and its partners continue work on a medical unit in Beni, RDC.

Beni is one of the fastest growing cities in RD Congo, and is expected to be in the top five cities in RDC in the near future. The last 20 years the population exploded from 75.000 to more than 350.000. But qualitative and specialized medical care is entirely absent. To meet this needs, humanitarian surgeon Reginald Moreels initiated the UNICHIR project. UNICHIR is an innovative combination of a commercial farmacy and highly specialized medical unit, fusing profit and non-profit. ASF-Be works with a team of local architects, contractors, medical experts, business consultants and students on the project.

In august, ASF-Be will organise a series of workshops in Beni with local partner architects, the future staff of the unit and other stakeholders. The collected input from these meetings will provide the last pieces of information to finalize the design. The Belgian-Congolese team also started all the necessary administrative and juridical procedures to construct and operate the facility.

Funding will come from corporate and institutional investors, as well as crowdfunding. We expect the crowdfunding platform to be online later this summer. Check out our website for more news and updates on the project (www.asf-be.be)





