Challenging Practice - Essentials for Social Production of Habitat’ celebrates its 10 year anniversary this year and we would like to congratulate all of those who have worked to make this initiative such an important contribution to ASF’s work across the world.

This initiative was the first common project established between ASF members and was made up of a partnership between ASF Italy, ASF UK, ASFFrance and made possible through an EU Leonardo Project grant. The initial goal was to establish a set of training resources in the field of international cooperation and built environment practice. The group worked through the period between July 2010 and July 2012, holding working sessions in Barcelona, London, Paris, Milano and Oxford among other on-line working areas.

Alongside this initial team a group of invited experts and practitioners from across the world contributed to the evaluation of the final set of document package. This work was further improved and developed under regular workshops organized by different ASF organizations that had worked together creating the project, in which ASF UK played an important role in driving this.

Challenging Practice has been a powerful example on how ASF International can foster and support a multinational cooperation between members and for this reason was given a special place in 2020 General Assembly. Unfortunately, due various circumstance the efforts in this area have been delayed until to the next presential GA in 2021.

Until then, the ASF International board is looking forward to working with all members of ASF to re-connect and gather more than a decade of experience, lessons and insights from teaching Challenging Practice in over 20 different global contexts.

Best wishes for 2021! Peace, good health and joyous New Year!

Thank you for joining General Assembly 2020 online on the 3rd of October! ASF Int keeps working to expand the network and continue to growth. During past 2 months the Board was focused on external communication and preparation to enter the New Year with new solutions and plans discussed on the GA. This issue presents the reports on Challenging Practice and ASF Award 2021 programs as well as joining in the work of the ASF-Int members, including the Sou Singgani Community Centre designed by ASF Indonesia, Therapeutical green courtyard in Wasraw by OW SARP ASF Poland and Collaborative Territories, project of ASF Portugal.

Sharing the news, spreading the knowledge, community updates and simply staying in touch are one of the most important features of the Newsletters. It is very helpful especially in this difficult times of isolation and bans on travels. We would like to encourage all Members who are interested in taking part in the next issue to contact with us. The next edition is going to be published on the 1st of March 2021. Candidates are kindly asked to report their contribution and send articles by the end of January to justyna@asfint.org.
ASF AWARD 2021

The ASF Award is a bi-annual award that has been founded with the purpose of sharing and celebrating the socially driven design process across the world that responds to the social, environmental and economic challenges facing the built environment. The award has been a successful multi-year platform to inspire, share and promote design projects that capture and exemplify the values of the Hasselt Charter for a global audience. Each year 100’s of applicants respond to the call and their work is showcased throughout ASF’s online presence.

The goal of the ASF Award has been to promote that potential among the design professionals and the general public, which hopes to encourage a more diverse exchange of ideas and challenge the profession to better position their practice for the benefit of the most vulnerable sectors of the world’s population in relation to the current and emerging challenges of the 21st century.

This year the award is focusing on the balance between process and product in the built environment regarding the Hasselt Charter Principles with attention to the aspects of social equity in design. The Award is not limited to just buildings and includes a broad range of spatial interventions. The type of projects can range from a user scale to a larger urban context varying from any built environment projects, architectural projects, urban planning and design interventions, environmental and landscape architecture, industrial design, educational, cultural, economic interventions, projects with relevance of social participation process etc.

Please see the newly updated ASF International website to see previous awards: and stay tuned for updates on the opening for entries!

Architects in Charge : Rakha Shonigya Putri, Robbani Amal Romis
Category : Disaster Reconstruction
Year : 2019
Cause : Earthquake, Tsunami and Liquefaction Disaster in Central Sulawesi 28 September 2018
Typology : Post-disaster reconstruction, Building construction
Medium : Bamboo construction
Local Partner : Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia
Donor : Kemitraan Partnership

The project is located in Rogo Village, Dolo Selatan District, Sigi Regency, Central Sulawesi. On 28 September 2018, Rogo village was severely damaged by an earthquake and 6 meters of soil liquefaction (collapsed soil) which split the village in two. After discussion among villagers, it was agreed to move part of the village to a safer area, by referring to ancestral stories, and observing the soil structure, approximately 500 meters from the initial location.

This new area did not yet have basic infrastructure, such as clean water, drainage and social infrastructures. Therefore, the residents and the ASF-ID team then decided to build a community hall as the first step in building a new residential area. This area is intended as a starting point, a gathering spot in the event of a disaster, as well as a stimulus for further development steps.

Bamboo was chosen as material because of its lightweight property, ability to reduce earthquake vibrations, as well as to provide opportunity to absorb local labour force. In the construction process, ASF-ID invited two bamboo artisans from Yogyakarta to exchange knowledge with local craftsmen so that local residents will have sustained knowledge of the material.

The name „Sou Singgani“ refers to the local language of the Kaili tribe which means common house. In the future, the building is expected to be used as a safe space for all residents and can accommodate any activity, whether religious, social or cultural.
The Empowering Children Foundation was created in 1991 and since then has been working to be sure that all children have a safe childhood and are treated with respect for their dignity, as full-fledged human beings. The main focus is to protect children from abuse and help those who have experienced violence to help them know their rights, believe in themselves, and enjoy their lives.

Projects concern renovation of the existing entrance, adjusting it for disabled, remodeling existing patio for a multifunctional space and remodeling old, existing garage building for therapeutic purposes of Empowering Children Foundation at Przybyszewskiego street in Warsaw.

The existing courtyard is going to change into playground and relaxing zone, with a tree house. Playground will be equipped in all sort of items, including educational, musical and therapeutic ones, as well as benches, small arena and the open air cinmea, which can host the community events during summers. The pavilion will change into therapeutic space, where children suffering sexual abuse and home violence will find help and therapeutic treatment.

The designing process was preceded by workshops with kids and Foundation community, to gain deeper understanding what their needs and dreams are. Meeting was an amazing experience of exchanging the knowledge and skills, explaining to kids how architect’s profession looks like and opening our minds for nothing limited young people’s imagination. Caring for sustainable development and the future of the planet, as one of the main points we assumed using mostly ecological, recycled materials. The project includes creating green areas and planting decorative plants, as well as using recycled bricks and terrace decks made from recycled plastic.

COLLABORATIVE TERRITORIES, ASF PORTUGAL

Its undergoing the 4th edition of Collaborative Territories, a post graduated and “innovative proposal within the national framework of higher education training, reaffirming the role of Instituto Universitario de Lisboa, Arquitectos Sem Fronteiras - Portugal and the Lisbon City Council in approaching issues emerging from the contemporary architectural and urban condition, anticipating changes in paradigms about the way in which the professional practice of architecture will be equated in the world traversed by profound economic, social, cultural and technological transformations”.

During the analysis and intervention of several neighbourhoods signalled as priority by the Municipal Chamber of Lisbon, this laboratory was run mainly in Marvila, a challenging territory due to the coincidence of very different situations. The focus was on residential areas with particular attention to the shortcomings that need to be addressed to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants and to darn the territory currently shredded in disconnected areas despite being close.

Architects Without Borders Portugal, was in charge of the first module Contexts of Urbanization and Morphology and the third Habitability, among the six that compose the study plan of the course, shared by teachers from partner entities.

This edition was especially challenging given the health contingencies resulting from the pandemic, and the participation of technicians from the Municipal Chamber of Lisbon, since working with the local population is essential to achieve conclusive results in order to be able to substantiate any intervention initiatives on site.