

TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

## Young Professionals Program

www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org



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# AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2011 e-newsletter

This year TAO is marking two milestones --- its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the start of its first self-help housing initiative. After a decade of technical assistance to urban poor communities, TAO is now embarking on an urban poor housing and livelihood development project for the Masagana community of Navotas. Many thanks to those who joined us at the Development Forum, for all the good wishes we've been receiving, and continued support to our activities.

Starting August and extending to 2012, we have lined up special activities to celebrate TAO's ten years of service. A YP Grand Reunion on December 3 is part of this celebration and we are calling on the different batches of YP workshop participants and YP trainees (since 2005) to confirm their attendance in our YP facebook page. We hope to see you all at the reunion.

On a different note, the application for sponsored slots in the 2011 YP Workshop is now closed. We will be evaluating the submitted forms, scheduling interviews, and will soon inform applicants of the results. Applications are still open for those who will pay the workshop registration fee to participate.

## TAO 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration kicks off with Publications Launch and Forum

AT THE START OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM, TAO-Pilipinas ventured into development work armed only with idealism, passion, and commitment to help the poor. A decade later, these qualities still burn but it has been tempered with experience and strengthened with the knowledge of the relevance of its existence in the

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## Sites chosen for community immersion during YP Workshop

FOUR SITES HAVE BEEN SELECTED AS immersion areas for the 2011 YP Workshop on Social Housing. The workshop organizers have coordinated with the people's organizations in charge in the areas to ensure that YP participants can safely conduct their immersion activities. Two of the sites are located in Navotas City and are part

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# 10

2011: A DECADE OF TAO

*"Never be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."*

- **Eliezer Weisel**, Jewish-American writer, professor, Holocaust survivor, and Nobel Laureate (1986 Peace Prize)

## TAO 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary...

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field of development work and the support of its partners.

**“Sampung TAO(n)a po kami: Tuloy ang Serbisyo at Saya.” Pagninilay sa nakaraan, Pagtugon sa kasalukuyan, Paghahanda sa hinaharap, Tungo sa sustenableng pabahay.**

Its 10th Anniversary celebration last August 24 included a Thanksgiving mass, launching of publications, forum, and the signing of the deed of sale for the Angat resettlement project. His Eminence Most Reverend Broderick S. Pabillo, D.D. Auxiliary Bishop of Manila officiated the Thanksgiving mass and Arch. Ning Encarnacion-Tan, TAO Board of Trustee welcomed the guests and partners. Five publications were launched: *Gabay sa Pagsasanay sa Community-based Solid Waste Management; Integrating Disaster Risk Management in Site Planning and House Design in Resettlement Projects Manuscript; Polyeto ng Alternatibong Materyales at Teknolohiya Blg. 1-6; TAO Shelter Issue No. 10 Anniversary Issue; and Beyond Shelter: Architecture and Human Dignity* where Arch. Arlene Christy Lusterio was a contributor on the chapter on *Sustainable Communities: Avoiding Disaster in the Informal City*. The forum “Aiming for Sustainable Human Settlements Development in the Time of Climate Change” had as guest speakers TAO Board of Trustees President Laura T. David, Ph.D. who presented *Understanding Climate Change and its Impact on Human Settlements Development* and TAO Advisory Board member and mentor Fr. Jorge Anzorena who presented *Africa*, highlighting people’s initiatives towards sustainable housing and infrastructure development in several communities. This was followed by a lively discussion in the open forum.

The theme, reflecting the optimism and commitment to service of the organization for the poor culminated with the signing of the deed of sale for the Masagana Resettlement Project in Angat, Bulacan, a bold step for TAO-Pilipinas and its partner people’s organization MASAGANA, towards the realization of the vision of sustainable human settlements development.

The event was held at Torre Venezia Hotel in Timog and attended by around 70 people—representatives from partner NGOs (37), the private sector, academe, and professional groups (14) and TAO Board of Trustees, Advisory Board, and staff. (Faith Varona)

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Photos, from top: Bishop Broderick Pabillo officiates the Thanksgiving Mass; guests in filipiniana outfits grace the event; Fr. Jorge Anzorena delivers a lecture; the event is capped by the signing of the deed of sale for a resettlement project



## TAO starts engagement with Christian Aid

TAO-PILIPINAS IS NOW WORKING WITH CHRISTIAN AID-supported communities for its Post-Ketsana Rehabilitation Program. Under the project title “Initiating Self-Help Retrofitting and Small Infrastructures Development with Technical Capability-Building towards the Development of Community Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Plan”, TAO will be undertaking the design development of a livelihood-evacuation center in San Mateo, a footbridge in Rodriguez, and a model house-on-stilt in Taytay. Trainings on community planning and development, community-based DRM for sites and buildings, and house retrofitting will also be conducted for the project. TAO has started collaborating with Community Organizer’s Multiversity (COM) in Taytay, Social Pastoral Institute (SPI) in Rodriguez and Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP) in San Mateo for the facilitation of participatory planning and design workshops with community members.

On August 3, the planning workshop for the design of a livelihood-evacuation center in Banaba, San Mateo was held at the building project site. Representatives from BuklodTao and

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*Above: a scheme for the layout of the livelihood-evacuation center drawn by BuklodTao members is presented to the other groups;  
Below: workshop participants from Damayan are oriented on planning and design standards before drawing design schemes*



*Mr. Julio Galvez Tan turns over the original land title to Dr. Laura David*

## TAO signs deed for Masagana Resettlement Project

MASAGANA OF NAVOTAS NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION FINALLY ACQUIRED THE LAND for the Resettlement Project in Angat, Bulacan during the TAO-Pilipinas 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on August 24, 2011 at Torre Venezia Suites, Quezon City. The signing of deed of sale was done between the land owner Mr. Julio Galvez Tan and TAO Board of Trustees - Dr. Laura David (President) and Ms. Avic Ilagan (Secretary). Through a loan from ACCA (Asian Coalition for Community Action), the association paid one million pesos for the 1.396 hectare land in Bulacan for 80 families that would relocate from Tanza, Navotas.

80 residential lots, with community facilities such as chapel, health center, playground, multi-purpose hall, day care center, market and MRF. TAO-Pilipinas would also set up a livelihood and training center within the area.

A scaled model of a typical duplex housing unit planned for the site was also shown during the TAO anniversary celebration. With a grant from SELAVIP (Latin American and Asian low Income Housing Service), the community also gears up towards house construction before the year ends. The families plan to transfer to the resettlement site by April 2012. (Verna Sarraga)

## Sites chosen for community immersion...

(From page 1)

of the ACCA Navotas Network. The other two are located in Talayan, Quezon City and in Rodriguez, Rizal and are both assisted by Community Organizers Multiversity (COM). The YP workshop participants shall undergo a 3-day stay-in immersion in these areas primarily to facilitate community consultations that focus on disaster risk reduction.

The YP participants shall be grouped into teams to work with six community associations. Results of initial community profiling of these community associations are as follows.



### Masagana of Navotas Neighborhood Association

The community of Masagana is located in a 12-hectare, privately owned site within Barangay Tanza in Navotas City. Composed of 68 families, they are a group of informal settlers who were evicted from nearby areas in the metro in 2005. Formerly a partially reclaimed fishpond, the site is now under water due to the rains brought by typhoons and a breach in one of the fishpond dikes. The site has been submerged in brackish waters (about a meter deep) since 2008. It is also exposed to other hazards such as typhoons and land subsidence. With the assistance of TAO-Pilipinas, a loan from ACCA, and a grant from SELAVIP, the community has acquired land in Angat, Bulacan where they will relocate and implement a self-help housing project.



### Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangangalakal ng R. Domingo

Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangangalakal ng R. Domingo is an urban poor organization composed of 20 families, mostly fisher folks, living informally in Barangay Tangos, Navotas City. Most of the families live in houses that are made of light materials and lack toilet facilities. The area, located near a river, is prone to flooding so houses are constructed on stilts. Narrow and congested pathways in the community make the area also prone to fires.

### Samahang Pantalan Uno

Samahang Pantalan Uno is a community organization established in 1987. They are composed of 30 informal settler-families occupying a government-owned land in Barangay Tangos, Navotas City. Water and electricity is available in the area but the community often experiences flooding especially since they are situated along a river.



### Kasiglahan Village Phase 1-D Homeowners Association

Kasiglahan Village (KV) is a resettlement site located in Barangay San Jose, Rodriguez, Rizal. The residents of KV are mostly relocatee-families who were evicted due to government projects such as the Pasig River rehabilitation project. The KV Phase 1-D Homeowners Association was established in 2003 and is composed of about 3000 families. During TS Ondoy in 2009, the whole community was submerged in floodwaters. Apart from flooding, the area also faces typhoon hazards and earthquake hazards since it is located near a fault.



### Kakanyahang Angking Mamamayan Ipagtanggol, Inc. (KAMI); and Pinag-isang Damdamin ng Maralita ng Calamba (Pinadama-Ca)

KAMI and Pinadama-Ca are community associations situated near Dario River in Barangay Talayan, Quezon City. They are composed of about 650 informal settler-families occupying public open spaces that are at high-risk of flooding. Apart from the flooding hazards, the communities also face garbage problems and are prone to fire hazards. The community associations have been organized since the 1980s. Water and electricity are available in the area and existing community facilities include a chapel, day care center, and fire station.

## 8 Reasons to attend the YP Workshop

The 2011 Young Professionals Workshop on Social Housing  
October 19-25, 2011

Theme: "Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in  
Community Planning and Development"

✓ The **BIGGEST** Reason:

You have seen disasters happen; you have seen how much the poor suffered. As a young design professional, you want to help but you don't know how. This is your entry point.

✓ A **MOST COMPELLING** Reason:

The YP workshop will give you an excellent orientation on social housing along with training activities to better appreciate the issues affecting the urban poor. You will experience working directly and living with the poor, a personal challenge to answer the question, "What is my role in society as a future professional in my country?"

✓ A **HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT** Reason:

The YP workshop will expertly tackle climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction with invited resource persons from the academe, government, and non-government organizations. You will hear actors in the field talk about experiences not just theories. You will gain knowledge beyond the four walls of the classroom, not from books but from the real world that surrounds you.

✓ An **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** Reason:

The YP Workshop is an opportunity for experiential learning. You will experience first-hand participatory community planning because you will be grouped into teams to work in four urban poor communities. You will learn the theory, hear the stories and transfer the knowledge to the people in the community you will work with. You will learn by doing.

✓ THE Reason to **BE THERE**:

The YP Workshop will give you a chance for meaningful networking and exchange of ideas. You gain timely knowledge, you meet new friends with common interests, you meet expert professionals in the field, and at the end of the workshop, you have done a very good deed by sharing your time, knowledge and skills (if not your heart) with the poor.

✓ A **VERY PRACTICAL** Reason:

If you attend the workshop as a sponsored participant, you'd be required to do volunteer work at TAO-Pilipinas which can fulfill your college OJT requirement.

✓ The **BEST** Reason:

The workshop will open your eyes to your potential role as a young design professional in addressing the shelter needs of poor communities. Reflections from past workshop attendees have consistently shown how the workshop has provided them with invaluable lessons to consider as they start out a professional career.

✓ The **RADICAL** Reason:

You know what you want. You want to be a relevant and responsive professional but you need more knowledge and skills to be prepared. This workshop will teach you the basic principles, the guide in working with poor communities especially in times of disaster.

Application forms may be downloaded at  
[www.ypps.tao-pilipinas.org](http://www.ypps.tao-pilipinas.org)

## TAO starts engagement...

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Banaba barangay officials were able to come up with four schemes for the building design. On August 4, members of the Damayan sa Floodway Homeowners Association also participated in a planning workshop for the design a model housing unit in the floodway area. On August 13, it was the turn of members of Suburban 1B Homeowners Association in Rodriguez to come up with design schemes for a planned footbridge in their area.

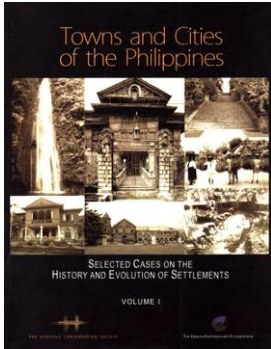


The communities were able to come up with the design schemes through focus group discussion and by answering guide questions. Prior to the groups' drawing activity, TAO-Pilipinas provided a brief orientation on some planning and design standards that they should consider. The outputs from the participatory planning and design workshops conducted will be consolidated by TAO-Pilipinas and translated into architectural design drawings that will be presented to the communities for validation. (Ge Matabang)

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## YP Reading List

Books and other materials featured in this section are available at the TAO Resource Center & Library. Library use is by appointment and guidelines may be viewed at <http://www.tao-pilipinas.org/resources/library>. You may call Angel Sales at 441-0998 / 436-7301 or email [lib@tao-pilipinas.org](mailto:lib@tao-pilipinas.org) to schedule your visit.



Title: **Towns and Cities of the Philippines: Selected Cases on the History and Evolution of Settlements Volume I**

Editor: **Aloma Monte de los Reyes**

Publisher: **The Urban Partnerships Foundation & Heritage Conservation Society (2010)**

*Towns and Cities of the Philippines* is a compilation tracing the birth, growth and decline of towns and cities in the Philippines. Eight case studies were presented: Silay City in Negros Occidental, Butuan City, Bucay in Abra, Loon in Bohol, San Juan in Batangas, Pila in Laguna, Zamboanga City and Sulipan in Pampanga. The cities and towns presented were significant cities in the past which declined or lost their prominence in the present. The book traces the birth of the towns and cities, and the reasons for their rise and fall. Names of towns and cities are traced by understanding the translation of local language and then identity of the place. Highlighted is the strong influence by the Spaniards that run throughout the archipelago and the role of the Catholic Church as an instrument for subjugation by converting "pagans" to Christianity. The colonizers

especially the Spaniards who came first, dictated the grid iron planning of the towns following the Laws of the Indies identical to the plan of Spanish cities. Geological conditions and natural resources determined the location of the towns along with the vested interests of those who rule. Periodic typhoons and pirate attacks influenced the change in location of some towns. Prominent families and colonial houses stand as prominent witnesses of the glorious past, the power divide and the deeply-rooted colonial mentality and acceptance of colonization.

The book presents the history of key towns and cities with the hope that understanding the origin of their development and the value of the past, would help in the conservation/preservation of what little that remains of this glorious past, as a guide to its rehabilitation and/or future development. It is a good reference to understand the political birth of specific cities and towns. The book however, failed to put the town's or city's development in the context of the country's situation from the time of colonization to the present. There was a sketchy reference to the past before colonization as if these towns and cities did not exist before the Spaniards. What defines a city other than it was declared by the colonizer was not clearly presented.

The book is an attempt to link history with the formal city planning. Inclusion of clear maps could have helped significantly in the understanding of the cases. To better understand the historical references made in this book, the reader must have a general background on Philippine history and geography. It is also an indicator of how limited is the body of knowledge available to better understand the evolution of our cities and towns, so that balanced presentation of information and analysis is possible. (*Arlene Lusterio*)



Title: **Design By-For-With People: Community Architects in Asia**

Authors: **Asian Coalition for Housing Rights**

Publisher: **ACHR (2009)**

*Design By-For-With People* is a special issue of the ACHR newsletter, which takes a detailed look at the work of architects supporting community-driven projects around Asia. The book refers to them as community architects, who have chosen the more challenging work in contrast to the traditional mainstream career. This issue is doubly special as mentioned by the author, since the stories have been written by the community architects themselves, making it a rich compilation of ideas, learnings, accomplishments and dreams.

Apart from revealing the many and diverse efforts of community architects, the book also gives emphasis to the immeasurable rewards of making the people the central actors in a community project. Such processes cultivate community identity and ownership. Participatory management and conservation promote awareness of the environment, precious local wisdoms and cultural heritage. Integrating physical design with the people's way of life and culture helps improve relationships and resolve conflict. Overall, a community-driven change process ensures project continuity and sustainability.

Underneath the book's message is an invitation, an appeal for transformation. It calls for mainstream architects as well as other design professionals to look closely into this uncommon perspective. There are several barefoot architects scattered round the world, but still relatively few compared to the number of communities needing technical assistance. The world needs more community architects, because they choose to "look at design solutions through the eyes of the community".

(*Rosalyn Veneracion*)

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2011: A DECADE OF TAO

## THINGS You Need to Know About Being a COMMUNITY ARCHITECT

To mark TAO-Pilipinas' 10 years of community work, we started a series on "10 things you need to know about being a community architect". This time around, Education and Training program head **Geraldine Matabang** contributes for the series.

- 1 At the start of dealing with a community, you will most likely be addressed as "Engineer". Don't be too keen to correct. Rather, see it as an opportunity for letting others know and appreciate your profession. It will sound meaningfully sweeter when they start calling you "Architect".
- 2 Recognizing people's knowledge of their own situation is key to working effectively with communities. Be open to learn from them and immerse yourself in their concerns to become a sincere advocate of their aspirations for better life.
- 3 Be flexible and learn to adapt. Your presentation venues are community multipurpose halls instead of air-conditioned boardrooms. Never just depend on your lcd and powerpoint presentations. Power supply can be unreliable in marginalized areas so always prepare backup hardcopies.
- 4 Try to speak their language. Avoid jargon and exert the necessary effort to translate technical terms in the vernacular.
- 5 In explaining architectural design, show rather than tell. Translate "20-square meters" in tangible terms. Your steel tape meter will always come in handy.
- 6 Your creative tools are not limited to pen and paper. When concepts need to be explained, your hidden talents in the performance arts may need to be tapped to get everything across to the people.
- 7 The work schedule is hardly that of an eight-to-five desk job. Be ready to spend weekends in the community because that's when people are available to be consulted. Keeping a balanced lifestyle will take some effort.
- 8 Keep with you a healthy dose of humour. Community work will introduce you to some quirky variations of technical terms (safety tank means septic tank) and surprising toilet situations.
- 9 Listen well and observe before you speak. Consensus building is vital to community decision making so the ability to synthesize varied (if not opposing) ideas and opinions will be most useful.
- 10 Ultimately, it is the community that designs and not you. Being a community architect can be humbling because the job entails making yourself seem invisible by empowering people to be the architects of their own places.

## Announcements



### A special video-animation presented on TAO's 10<sup>th</sup> year

In celebration of TAO's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, multi-awarded indie filmmaker and TAO Board of Trustee member Ellen Ramos created a video animation highlighting the organization's milestones. Entitled "TAO: A Decade of Service", the 6-minute video traces back the projects and important engagements that TAO-Pilipinas has undertaken from 2001 until 2011. It was first presented during the Development Forum organized by TAO on August 24, 2011 at Torre Venezia Suites. It has been uploaded in the YP facebook page and can be viewed at <http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=196072567125134#!/photo.php?v=196072567125134>.

### Call for sponsorships: YP Grand Reunion

TAO-Pilipinas is seeking sponsors for the YP Grand Reunion. Still part of the year-long celebration of its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, TAO-Pilipinas is set to organize the YP Grand Reunion on December 3, 2011 and convene all of its previous participants in the Young Professionals Orientation and Training Program which started 2005. The event will reunite about eighty (80) young design professionals who have joined the YP-OTP projects consisting of four cycles of the YP Workshop on Social Housing and the annual YP Internships. Architect Rosario Encarnacion-Tan, a member of TAO's Board of Trustees and leading designer of bamboo structures will deliver a special lecture during the reunion. Information about the venue and program details will follow. For those who are willing to support this event through sponsorship, please contact Rosalyn Veneracion at 441-0998 or 436-7301.