



Arch. Cesar Aris (far left) guides the workers in laying down the MCR tiles for the warehouse in Brgy. Canawayon, Homonhon Island.

Photo by: Ma. Lorena Hernandez

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TAO presents its work in university lecture circuit

FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS, THE TAO TECHNICAL team has been invited by universities to give lectures on various topics. Though the topics are different, the common discussion point among the lectures is the technical assistance projects done by TAO-Pilipinas in recent years.

The first invite came from the student organization UP Task Force Arki from the University of the Philippines to talk on October 7, 2015 as part of their week-long 30th anniversary celebration. With the theme, "AHON: Talk on Resilient Communities and Participatory Design," Architect Angelus Sales gave a lecture about the participatory process that TAO-Pilipinas applies in conducting planning and design workshops for their shelter projects. Attendees

Pls. turn to page 2.

Notes from the field: TAO starts MCR production for Homonhon housing project

SOON AFTER THE TAO-PILIPINAS HOUSING project in Manicani Island was substantially completed last August, construction work for the Homonhon Island housing project was commenced with the production of micro-concrete roofing tiles.

Micro concrete roofing (MCR) tiles are an alternative building material for galvanized iron sheets and other types of roofing material. MCR is relatively cheaper to produce and lighter compared to the commercially available roof tiles. Each tile is

Pls. turn to page 3.

“The battle for a better built environment is neither a tantrum nor a romantic crusade. We are very aware that the battle for a better built environment is a collective effort that will require everybody's force and knowledge.”

- **Alejandro Aravena**, Chilean architect and curator of the 15th International Architecture Exhibition

TAO presents... (From page 1)

of the lecture were mostly third year architecture students of UP College of Architecture in Diliman, Quezon City. At the open forum, students asked about the difficulties and unexpected situations that may arise in the practice of the participatory design process.

On October 9, it was Architect Arlene Lusterio's turn to talk about TAO-Pilipinas' shelter assistance in Panay and Guiuan, Eastern Samar. The presentation was entitled - "Post-Haiyan Response: Interventions in Panay and Eastern Samar." The presentation highlighted participatory approach in planning and design with primary consideration to sustainability and disaster-resilient construction, emphasizing "building back better" by reducing exposure -moving from danger zones to safe or low-risk zones. The presentation is part of the 11th APRU (Association of Pacific Rim Universities) Research Symposium on Multi-hazards

around the Pacific Rim. It was held at Microtel in UP Technohub.

The next lecture invite came from the United Architects of the Philippines Student Auxiliary (UAPSA) Mapua chapter. TAO-Pilipinas was invited to give a lecture and mount an exhibit of TAO's recent works for their event entitled "World Habitat Day 2015: Public Spaces for All". Architect Verna Sarraga presented a lecture about disaster-resilient design and construction principles and focused on shelter projects done by TAO-Pilipinas in supertyphoon Haiyan-affected areas. The lecture was held on October 26, 2015 at the South Building of Mapua Institute of Technology in Intramuros, Manila. Mapua architecture students asked questions pertaining to the experiences of the technical team while working with coastal communities in Manicani Island in Guiuan, Eastern Samar.

A couple of days later, on October 28, Architect Angelus Sales introduced TAO-Pilipinas and its work to a group of archaeologists, faculty and students of UP Archaeological Studies Program (UP ASP), and supporters of archaeology. Every Wednesday, UP ASP holds the weekly "Binalot Talks", a lunch forum that covers various topics from archaeology, art, mathematics to politics. Arch. Sales' brief lecture was held at Albert Hall in UP Diliman and showcased the history of TAO-Pilipinas and the projects done by the organization in the last five years. Most of the audience, who were not technical professionals, were curious of how TAO projects were implemented and asked about the challenges and issues faced by the TAO technical team.

On November 13 at the GT Toyota Center in UP Diliman, Architect Verna Sarraga gave a lecture about architecture in rehabilitation for a forum organized by ArkitekTURO and the Architectural Students' Association of the Philippines UP Chapter (UP-ASAPHIL).

The event was entitled "A Spatial Education on Disasters" and focused on the role of architecture in disaster risk reduction. Arch. Sarraga reprised her presentation about TAO-Pilipinas' shelter projects in the rehabilitation of supertyphoon Haiyan-affected areas. She also gave emphasis on the participatory process advocated by TAO in coming up with the architectural designs of shelter units. Architecture students from different schools inquired about new technologies that can be utilized in building disaster-resilient communities.

The lecture series that took place, though not organized by TAO-Pilipinas, is still part of the goal of TAO-Pilipinas to promote social awareness among technical professionals. TAO-Pilipinas advocates bringing responsive technical assistance to poor communities by encouraging young architects and students, through these lectures, to gain a deeper understanding of the plight of poor communities. (AMPS)

Where was TAO?

10.7.2015
UP Task Force Arki 30th Anniversary Lecture
AHON: Talk on Resilient Communities and Participatory Design



10.26.2015
UAPSA Mapua Chapter
World Habitat Day 2015: Public Spaces for All



10.28.2015
UP Archaeological Studies Program
Binalot Talks (Photo courtesy of Jane Carlos)



11.13.2015
ArkitekTURO and UP-ASAPHIL
A Spatial Education on Disasters



Notes from the field... (From page 1)

50cm long, 25cm wide, 8-10mm thick, and weighs around 3.3-3.5kgs. Ideally, its ribs, where a 0.5m nylon string is used to tie each MCR tile to the purlins, should have a maximum spacing of 40cm but since it can be adjusted, it can change according to the spacing on the purlins.

TAO-Pilipinas, as an implementing partner of Philippine Misereor Partnerships Inc. (PMPI) for Project Pagbangon in the super typhoon Haiyan-struck municipality of Guiuan, Eastern Samar, was tasked to design and construct disaster-resilient shelter units for the beneficiaries of both Manicani and Homonhon Islands. This served as an opportunity to introduce MCR in the province. Unfortunately, due to project timeframe constraints, MCR was not used in the recently turned-over shelters in Manicani Island.

The MCR production area is situated at TAO-Pilipinas' office in Guiuan. Training on MCR production was conducted by Architect Cesar Aris of Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP) during the second week of August. Although Arch. Aris did train more, the production started with only three workers who produced an average of 80 to 100 tiles per day with a single vibrating machine. Each 6.5 meters by 4 meters shelter unit that will be constructed in Homonhon Island requires an estimated 450 pieces of MCR tiles.

There are 8 barangays in the island and each has 10 shelter beneficiaries, totalling to 36,000 pieces of MCR tiles that need to be produced. Perceptibly, using a single



Left photo: MCR tiles stacked upright for air curing. **Top right photo:** The workers trained to make MCR tiles came from Manicani Island. **Bottom right photo:** The warehouse in Brgy. Canawayon where construction materials for the Homonhon housing project will be stored is still being constructed.



vibrating table will not suffice to produce enough tiles within the project timeframe. House construction is scheduled to commence this January 2016. To augment production output, two more vibrating tables along with six more workers who underwent MCR training were added nine weeks after the start of production. On September 16, 2015, Engineer Bernard Orias started to work as the MCR production supervisor, also trained by Arch. Aris, to oversee the production. With 3 vibrating tables and 9 workers, the average daily production of MCR tiles increased to 250-300 pieces per day. Workers start the production at 7:00 in the morning and end at 4:00 in the afternoon since most travel using their boats from

Manicani Island. They are paid according to the number of tiles they have produced collectively, all of which should be made not at the expense of quality. At times, production is slowed down by sudden brownouts which are not uncommon in their area.

Because MCR tiles are usually produced on-site, its cost differs depending on the price of sand, cement, labor, and cost of electricity in the area. In this case, a single roof tile costs 21 pesos only.

On December 1, the first batch of MCR tiles was delivered to Homonhon Island, while Arch. Aris taught the contractors and beneficiaries how to assemble the roof

tiles. Fifty-six crates, each containing 20 pieces of MCR tiles, were received by Barangay Canawayon where the first warehouse for building materials is currently under construction. Arch. Aris conducted a short introduction and lecture about micro concrete roofing. The warehouse itself will use 480 pieces of the MCRs delivered. The production of ridge tiles for the warehouse has begun after finishing the tile mould. (The dimension of the mould depends on the actual measurement of the roof pitch.) The estimated quantity of MCR tiles already produced is close to 6,000 pieces. Currently, there are plans of setting up a new production center within Homonhon Island. (MLPH)

Estate Management Workshops

TAO drafts training modules on building maintenance and repair



Participants were taught how to read building plans and did some exercise identifying the different building components in a technical plan during the training-of-trainers (ToT) as part of the Estate Management Workshop.

TAO-PILIPINAS CONTRIBUTED to the development of training modules on "Estate Management for High Density Housing". The capacity-building program targets community associations that availed of Social Housing Finance Corporation's (SHFC) High Density Housing (HDH) Program for Informal Settler Families (ISF). As beneficiaries of the government in-city relocation and housing program, they shall soon be the residents of multi-storey buildings currently in various stages of planning and construction in SHFC project sites in Metro Manila.

The training on estate management aims to provide capacity-building support towards the sustainable post-

occupation management of residential buildings by community associations. With JJCICI as Lead Consultant, several resource organizations were tapped to develop seven training modules that cover the different functionalities of estate management. These include community development, building maintenance and repair, care and use of shared facilities, access to basic services, environmental protection, safety and security, and financial management. TAO-Pilipinas was tasked to develop the training module on building maintenance and repair; FDUP on community development; NATCCO on care and use of shared facilities

and on safety, security and environment; and PUP on financial management.

After finalizing the syllabus and content of the training program, two rounds of training-of-trainers (ToT) were set. Participants of the ToT were the representatives of community associations in 23 on-going or completed HDH projects. They in turn would replicate the process to provide training on estate management for their ISF communities. The first round of ToT activities were carried out on November 21-23 and 28-29, 2015 at the NATCCO Seminar Room in Project 4, Quezon City.

TAO-Pilipinas conducted the training sessions about building maintenance and repair on the second day of the ToT. The module comprised of three parts. The first session introduced the participants to basic understanding of building plans, including the architectural, structural, plumbing, and electrical sets of plans. The participants also went through exercises on reading technical drawings.

The second session focused on common maintenance and repair issues in multi-storey residential buildings. TAO-Pilipinas presented the common problems that may be encountered in a building's structural components, external finishes, plumbing system and electrical system, and building grounds. Special areas of concern

in maintenance, such as water seepage and fire safety, were also discussed. Causes of these building defects were presented, as well as the possible solutions to avoid or rectify problem areas. Participants were also provided with a sample checklist of routine inspection and maintenance activities that ensure regular upkeep and avoidance of unplanned and costly building repairs.

The third session details the obligations of individual unit owners for maintenance of their units and the building as a whole. Preventive maintenance tips were given to make sure residents have safe and harmonious living conditions in a high-density housing project. An additional presentation highlighting interior design tips for small spaces was also provided. A video showing multi-functional use of space and furnishing in a tiny apartment was shared and presented, giving the participants ideas on how to maximise the small living spaces in their housing units.

About forty representatives from 8 community associations were able to complete the 5-day training during the first round of ToTs. The second batch of community representatives went through the same training on December 2-14 and 11-2, 2015. (GRM)

NETWORK ACTIVITIES

Financial Enablers project launch

A CONSORTIUM COMPOSED OF UK-BASED humanitarian aid agencies Christian Aid, Tearfund and Oxfam recently launched the Financial Enablers Project on October 26, 2015 at the Discovery Suites in Ortigas Center. The project seeks to support humanitarian capacity development programmes to be implemented by local organizations that will constitute themselves as a consortia to collaborate on their proposed initiatives.

TAO-Pilipinas was among the local organizations that attended the project launch. Oxfam, as lead agency for Financial Enablers, presented the project's background, objectives and implementation model. Oxfam's Humanitarian Capacity Development Coordinator Christina Schmalenbach acknowledged the imbalance in the humanitarian sector, wherein international actors largely determine the design and management of humanitarian response. Financial

Enablers encourages local actors to come together, identify among themselves the local capacity needs and gaps in the delivery of humanitarian aid, and develop initiatives to address these gaps.

Representatives from DSWD and PDRRN gave their reactions to Ms. Schmalenbach's presentation. An open forum following the reactors' feedback also allowed the attendees to ask questions about the project. Oxfam clarified concerns regarding project timeframe, what types of capacity development activities Financial Enablers shall fund, how the organizations should set-up a consortia, and the conditions for approval of proposals.

At the end of the program, Christian Aid Country Manager Lot Felizco urged the local organizations to take advantage of the platform that Financial Enablers Project offers and the opportunity for collaboration and self-determination of humanitarian capacity development agenda. (GRM)

PMPI NCR Urban Cluster holds medical mission

THE PHILIPPINE MISERIOR Partnership Inc. (PMPI), together with its NCR Urban Quick Response Team headed by the Integrative Medicine for Alternative Healthcare System, Inc. (INAM), held a medical mission on November 9, 2015 at Northville 9, Barangay Iba O'este in Calumpit, Bulacan. Northville 9 is a designated relocation site for informal settler families. The community experienced severe flooding due to typhoon Lando (Koppu) that struck Luzon last October.

The successful medical mission serviced more than six hundred thirty (630) families with modern medical treatments, medical consultations, pharmaceutical assistance and alternative treatments such as acupuncture.

The PMPI NCR Urban Quick Response Team is composed of Community Organizers Multiversity (COM), TAO-Pilipinas, Urban Poor Associates (UPA), and John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues



Arch. Anna Estela Rosario Ulep and Engr. Ma.Lorena Hernandez as representatives of TAO-Pilipinas helped with the medical mission by manning the makeshift pharmacy area.

(JJCICSI). These partners worked together to assist evacuated families affected by the flooding. In line with this, TAO-Pilipinas distributed

reusable tarpaulins donated by Starbucks Philippines for typhoon-affected families. (AERU)

INTERNSHIP POSTSCRIPT: THOUGHTS FROM ERICKA LLABORE

Ericka Gabrielle Llabore is a 5th year architecture student from Technological Institute of the Philippines Quezon City (TIP-QC). She worked as a TAO intern from June to October 2015 as part of her OJT subject. During her internship, she completed 3d scaled models together with her fellow intern, Nilo Rusiana, Jr. She also wrote articles for our YP E-Newsletter and translated technical documents from English to Filipino.

OUR JOURNEY AS AN architecture student will not always be those of sleepless nights, unending plates and meeting deadlines for submittals required by our professors in our major and minor subjects. We also need to embrace the reality that one day we will be working in a company that can help us enhance the talents we have. Preferably a company with dignity, has good reputation, and cares for people and the environment. To gain that kind of experience and knowledge as students, we have our on-the-job training that is a required subject in our curriculum at TIP. It is for the benefit of the students to showcase what they learned in school and to see the reality in the field of architecture outside the campus.

Last semester, while most of my friends went to different architectural firms, I decided to take up my on-the-job training in a non-profit NGO recommended by my good friend and where she had her on-the-job training as well. TAO-Pilipinas Inc. is not a conventional architectural firm

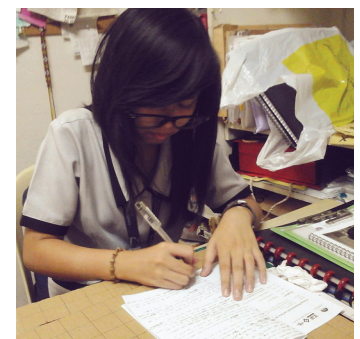
but they accept architecture students as interns. It was not a big company that I expected but the drive of the people behind the organization certainly makes a big difference.

Days turned into weeks and weeks into months and the ambiance inside our office since day one remained the same, the treatment of the interns by the staff is like that of family. They don't make us feel that we don't belong in the company; my co-intern and classmate, Nilo Rusiana Jr., will agree with me that our office became our home for 5 months from June up to October. The modest treatment that we received from them helped me realize that even if you are a professional, you must be humble; your feet must be planted on the same ground as the next person because it creates an effect that radiates to people that surround you. The staffs were very friendly and courteous to us and that inspired us to accomplish things and give them the same respect that they have given to us as interns.

In our office we were assigned to do scaled models of shelter unit designs and sometimes I did some writings for our newsletter. These tasks were all time bounded. We had to meet the deadlines for one scaled model, finish the next task, and so on. With the limited time that we had per day, we must finish many tasks in order for us to come up with a satisfactory output while taking into account project deadlines. In four years of studying architecture, time is indeed essential in all the things that we do. Our internship at TAO-Pilipinas made me appreciate how proper time management can help us finish not only the assigned tasks in our office but also the things we need to do in school.

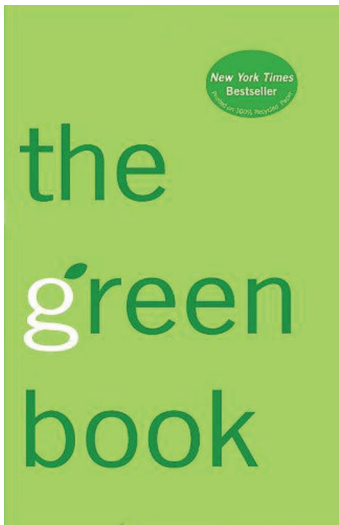
Architecture for me before was just a plain program that taught you about designing and planning structures, but my internship at TAO-Pilipinas made me realize how architecture can change the lives of the people living in a particular environment. As the TAO architects considered the participation of residents in

the design process, they made sure that the people were well-oriented about the proper sizes of rooms, doors and windows, and other architectural elements. People were also provided with the opportunity to give inputs to the architectural design such as particular paint colors for their houses. They reached out to the poor and worked with them to help them improve their lives and living conditions. I am proud to say that once in my life I became a part of this organization.



Ericka writes the draft of her articles on top of making 3d scaled models.

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 www.tao-pilipinas.org/resources/library. You may call Angel Sales at 441-0998 / 436-7301 or email lib@tao-pilipinas.org to schedule your visit.



The Green Book offers tips on how you can contribute to saving our planet Earth. Tips like not asking for ATM receipts, buying laptops instead of desktops, and recycling are just some of the advices found in the

Title: The Green Book

Authors: Elizabeth Rogers and Thomas M. Kostigen

Publisher: Three Rivers Press (2007)

book. The book is filled with statistics and reasons why you should follow the given tips. It is divided into sections that cover the different activities done by a person in his lifetime such as how we use our homes, the way we travel, and how we do our work; even our entertainment and sports choices are discussed in this book.

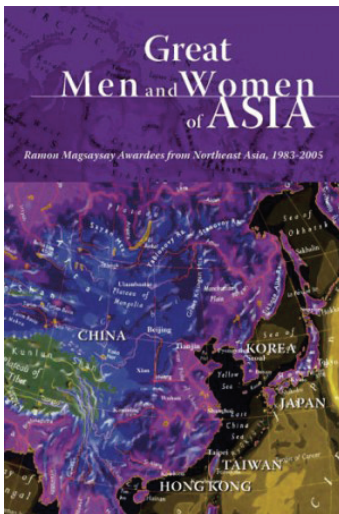
A downside of the book is that it is very text-heavy. There are no illustrations or graphics at all to make the book more visually pleasing and enjoyable to read. The book is printed on 100% recycled paper so it is not far-fetched to think that makers of the book decided not to use

any graphics to save printing ink. Devoid of graphics and with the simple layout, there is so much information crammed into the book.

The tone of the book, however, is not imposing. The tips given do not feel like it should be something that you "must" do but rather it should be something that you "can" do. A statistic is provided to show the implications of each tip. But the advices given are really targeted for the American consumers though some are still applicable to the rest of the world. The best part of the book is that the authors were able to ask celebrities such as Ellen DeGeneres,

Tyra Banks, Robert Redford, Justin Timberlake, and Owen Wilson to share their experience on going green and the little things they do to help the environment. Snippets from these celebrities are included after each section of the book.

Overall, the book is good enough source of information for people who do not want to do drastic measures to save the environment. As the preface of the book mentioned, it is for readers who want to be environment-friendly without giving up being selfish consumers. (AMPS)



The publication *Great Men and Women of Asia* chronicles the life stories of Ramon Magsaysay Award laureates from 1958 to 2006. Because there have been numerous awardees, their stories are told in a series of books based

Title: Great Men and Women of Asia Volume 5

Editor: Angelina Goloy

Publisher: Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation and Anvil (2006)

on a geographical approach. The fifth volume in the series features the stories of twenty-nine Magsaysay Award laureates coming from the region Northeast Asia which includes China, Taiwan, Japan and Korea.

Compiled in this volume are truly inspiring stories that tell of the spirit of service of these modern-day heroes and heroines. The stories of their struggles and triumphs are wonderfully told in short vignettes. Each vignette is accompanied by a sketch portrait of the awardees and a postscript of the laureates' response

during their acceptance of the award. The stories are also grouped according to six fields, namely: government service; public service; community leadership; journalism, literature and creative communication arts; peace and international understanding; and emergent leadership.

Personally, the stories that I am drawn to and found most stirring are those of awardees John Vincent Daly and Paul Jeong-Gu Jei from Korea, Eduardo Jorge Anzorena from Japan, and Ho Ming-teh from Taiwan. Theirs are accounts of lives

dedicated to the uplifting of human dignity and towards community action and improvement. How Anzonrena's architecture and Ho's engineering backgrounds contributed to helping build better communities are especially motivating for young design professionals.

In all the vignettes, one cannot help but be moved by the laureates' humility and courage amidst adversity and their passion and determination to be of genuine service to peoples of Asia. The foundation that confers the Magsaysay Awards is rightly intentioned in coming up with this publication so that the youth may be inspired by their exemplary lives. (GRM)

International Symposium on Seismic Retrofit of Unreinforced Masonry Churches of the Philippines

National Commission for Culture and the Arts
National Museum, Philippines
Bakas Pilipinas
ICOMOS Philippines
University of Santo Tomas - Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics
INVITES YOU TO AN

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

**SEISMIC RETROFIT
OF UNREINFORCED
MASONRY HERITAGE
CHURCHES IN THE
PHILIPPINES**



Photo by: Raymond Rodolfo

DATE: JANUARY 13 – 14, 2016

LOCATION: NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES

National Museum Auditorium
National Art Gallery, National Museum of the Philippines
P. Burgos Drive, Ermita, Manila (please use Taft Gate)
* Parking available

REGISTER: ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 7, 2016

Registration Fee:
Professionals: Php 2,500
Students: Php 1,500
(Inclusive of lunch and snacks)

HOW TO REGISTER: seismic.symposium2016@gmail.com

Deposit Registration Fee to:
Account Name: ICOMOS Philippines
BPI Current Account 003271030028
BPI E. Rodriguez- Araneta Branch

FOR INQUIRIES, CONTACT:

Sheila de la Paz
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To view the Symposium Program and List of Speakers, go to
www.bakaspilipinas.wordpress.com

BAKAS PILIPINAS, TOGETHER WITH the following organization: National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), National Museum, ICOMOS Philippines (International Council on Monuments and Sites), and University of Santo Tomas - Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics, has organized the International Symposium on Seismic Retrofit of Unreinforced Masonry Churches of the Philippines. The symposium will be held on January 13-14, 2016 in the National Museum Auditorium at the National Art Gallery in Manila.

All technical professionals and students are invited to attend the symposium. Registration fees are Php2,500 for professionals and Php 1,500 for students. The registration fee is inclusive of lunch and snacks. Scholarships are available to senior structural engineering or architectural students. The scholarship will pay for the registration fee of Php1,500. To download the scholarship form, please go to www.bakaspilipinas.wordpress.com.

The symposium will have international and local speakers and is divided into five sessions with the first three sessions occurring on the first day. Most of the international speakers are structural

engineers specializing in historic preservation. To see the detailed program and list of speakers, please go to the previously mentioned website.

Bakas Pilipinas is a New York-based non-profit organization that is dedicated to the preservation of historic architecture and sites in the Philippines. It is composed of diverse group of individuals in varied profession who are interested in maintaining the architectural, landscape, and cultural heritage of the Philippines. To know more about the organization, visit www.bakaspilipinas.org.