

TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

Young Professionals Program

www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org



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JUNE-JULY 2011 e-newsletter

We are now accepting applications for the YP Workshop on Social Housing scheduled on October 19-25, 2011. A briefing forum with academic reps was held to launch the project and we would like to thank the deans, professors, and student org leaders who accepted our invitation. Posters about the YP Workshop have been disseminated and application forms may be requested from some college dean's offices or downloaded from the TAO website www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org. An earlier submission deadline (August 31, 2011) was set for those who wish to avail of sponsored slots. We will also start posting online updates about the YP Workshop program details starting August. Questions about the workshop may be emailed to yp.taopilipinas@gmail.com.

TAO holds roundtable discussion with academe

THE YP WORKSHOP FOR THIS YEAR was officially launched with a roundtable discussion with the academe. Heads and representatives of architecture, engineering and planning colleges in Metro Manila were invited to a roundtable discussion on July 22, 2011 at Max's Restaurant in Quezon City Circle.

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NTU grad students revisit Navotas

THE TEAM OF GRADUATE STUDENTS from National Taiwan University's Graduate Institute of Building and Planning who first visited Tangos and Tanza communities in Navotas last February returned to the country on June 5-8, 2011. Their trip back was still part of their graduate studies at NTU and aimed to present the group's recommendations on community de-

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2011: A DECADE OF TAO

"It is a useless life that is not consecrated to a great ideal. It is like a stone wasted on the field without becoming a part of any edifice."

- from **Jose Rizal's** second novel, *El Filibusterismo*

TAO holds roundtable discussion...

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The event was attended by Dean Ted Inocencio of PUP-CAFA; Dean Victor Macam of UE(Caloocan)-CE; Dr. Phares Parayno of Miriam College-DE; EnP. Carmeli Chaves of UP-SURP; Engr. Ariel Morales of UE(Manila)-CE; Arch. Antonio De Vera of FEU-IARFA; and Engr. Aquilino Rolusta of CCP-CE. Representatives of student organizations were also present --- Mharren Castro of UP-Task Force Arki; Gerome Hipolito of UP-GE Club; Aldo Mayoralgo UP-Asaphil; and Melanie Ramis of UE ACES-PICE.



TAO's Education and Training Program team gave presentations to brief the guests on the program and application requirements for the 2011 YP Workshop on Social Housing. Arch. Geraldine Matabang presented an overview of TAO's organizational profile and selected projects while Engr. Rosalyn Veneracion discussed the YP Workshop objectives, theme, and program. Argean Guiaya presented the socio-economic profiles of community areas where participants to the YP Workshop will immerse in. These included communities in Tanza and Tangos in Navotas City, Talayan in Quezon City, and Kasiglahan Village I in Rodriguez, Rizal.



An open forum followed the presentations. Guests sought some clarifications on the workshop program and articulated their concerns such as the sponsorship consideration and the safety and security of workshop participants especially during immersion activities. The threats of eviction and possibility of relocation of the community immersion areas, many of which are informal settlements, were also discussed. Community leader-organizers of Community Organizers Multiversity (COM), Ms. Luz Domingo of Talayan and Ms. Vangie Serrano of KV1, were also on hand to provide some information on their area's peace and order situation, coordination with the barangay authorities, and the readiness of host families with whom the workshop participants will stay with during the immersion period.



From top: ET program director presents TAO's organizational profile in a forum held at Max's Restaurant in QC Circle; open forum discussion after the presentations; guests and organizers of the forum

At the end of the discussion, video presentations of previous YP workshops were shown and application forms and posters were distributed. TAO Executive Director Arlene Lusterio gave the closing remarks to conclude the event. (Ge Matabang)

NTU grad students...

(From page 1)

velopment for Samahan ng Maliit na Mangangalakal ng R. Domingo in Barangay Tangos.

The NTU students presented their proposals to Tangos community leaders on June 6. They discussed design ideas which the community can implement, including the development of community space, solid waste management, home-based livelihood, and disaster risk management. On June 7, the team also went with Masagana Tanza community members to the proposed resettlement site in Angat, Bulacan. They witnessed the community members clear the area of overgrowth to make way for engineers to survey the site. The students' community fieldwork activities were facilitated by TAO-Pilipinas, in line with its partnership with the NTU Graduate Institute of Building and Planning. (*Ge Matabang*)

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NTU students Hsin-yi Hsueh, Pei-Hsuan and Kray Lin, Yin-wei Huang and Ching Shan Wu presenting their recommendations at Tangos (top); and with Masagana community leaders in Angat (bottom)

PHILSSA organizes Philippine Urbanization Forum

TAO-PILIPINAS, INC. WAS ABLE TO ATTEND THE 1ST PHILIPPINE URBANIZATION FORUM ORGANIZED BY THE PARTNERSHIP OF Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA) through its representatives Arlene Christy Lusterio, Angelus Maria Sales, and Verna Lucia Sarraga. The event was a two-day program held on May 25 and 26, 2011 at the new GT Toyota Asian Cultural Center in UP Diliman.

The forum's theme was entitled "Emerging Partnership Models and Innovations for Secure and Sustainable Settlements". As part of the forum, booths were also set up to showcase the various exhibits and products made by selected PHILSSA members and partner communities. Vice-President Jejomar Binay gave the keynote address, highlighting the public-private partnership model as a major housing strategy. Partnership models among civil society organizations, national government agencies and local government were presented.

Speakers on the first day included Mr. Froilan Kampitan of NHA, Arch. Sarah Redoblado of ALTERPLAN, and Sec. Corazon "Dinky" Solomon of DSWD. Community organization representatives from Davao City and the Bicol region also shared their local housing initiatives. Presentations on the second day of the forum focused on housing innovations. Arch. Che Prudente talked about constructed wetlands as a form of wastewater treatment; Mr. Lionel Manansala of Hybrid Social Solutions discussed solar home systems for communities that do not have access to electricity; and Engr. Eliezer Vicente Bañares presented alternative building materials such as modified masonry blocks, concrete interlocking blocks, pre-cast concrete, and cast in-place concrete. Atty. Michael Vincent Gaddi of SALIGAN also gave a presentation on current legislative agenda concerning the urban poor sector, while Ms. Rosemarie Herrera of HealthDev Institute discussed participatory governance in health service delivery. (*Angel Sales*)

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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 to schedule your visit.



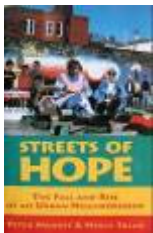
Title: **Breaking Ground: Adventures** in life and architecture

Authors: **Daniel Libeskind with Sarah Crichton**

Publisher: **John Murray Publishers (2005)**

The subtitle is exactly what this book is about; adventures in the life and architecture of Daniel Libeskind. The center story of *Breaking Ground* talks about the reconstruction of the World Trade Center after the 9/11 attacks in 2001. Libeskind won the competition for the Master Plan and gained global attention with it. This book, published in 2004, recounts the person and his life behind one of the most debated projects in the United States.

Libeskind grew up in Poland, moved to Tel Aviv when he was 11, to New York when he was 13 and lived in Berlin. With Holocaust and communism surviving parents, Libeskind's turbulent and interesting history gives this book a lot more to talk about than just architecture. Along with the advice of his mother and the support of his wife, Libeskind's past and life experiences are what drives his architectural decisions. He is more concerned on how a building feels, rather than how it looks like. Light and the absence of light is a recurring theme, as well as the historical value of a building and its setting. Libeskind



Title: **Streets of Hope: The Fall and Rise of an Urban Neighbourhood**

Authors: **Peter Medoff and Holly Sklar**

Publisher: **South End Press (1999)**

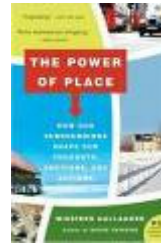
The book *Streets of Hope* conveys the story of the resident-led Dudley Street Neighbourhood Initiative (DSNI) and how effective the community organizing was. DSNI worked with the community and was very successful in convincing the people that they are part of the community regardless of their economic status and that they have rights to say or do what would help their locale and children. DSNI's effectiveness is exemplified in people's collective actions over issues such as trash dumping or having a college in their area.

This is an inspiring book for someone who is engaged in community organizing because the authors were able to show the effectiveness of organizing, planning with the community, and establishing partnerships with public and private sectors. I was amazed at the passion DSNI had in dealing with locales and how the organization managed to get many people involved in the planning process in community development. Key to the success of DSNI lay in the whole organization addressing all the issues concerning their community no matter how small or difficult these were. And because of this, the neighbourhood became a very determined, powerful and economically viable community. (*Argean Guiaya*)

adapts his style to the project. Architecture is not an individual art-form, he says.

Since this is an autobiography, there is of course some bias, especially when he talks about his rivals in the competition for the World Trade Center Site, which might be off-putting. His persistency to integrate symbolism (eg. raise the tallest tower up to 1,776 feet to commemorate the Declaration of Independence) could be considered corny, but his symbolism and thought out vision is what made Libeskind's proposal the public's favorite.

Breaking Ground is easily readable, witty and a historically fascinating book which gives a close personal look behind an architect's mind. (*Koen Van Gotha*)



Title: **The Power of Place: How our surroundings shape our thoughts, emotions, and actions**

Author: **Winifred Gallagher**

Publisher: **Harper Perennial (2007)**

The *Power of Place* is a book that explores environmental influence on an individual's behavior. The author delves into research on environmental psychology and even clinical studies in animals to explain why particular surroundings prompt us to behave in a certain way.

This book is very interesting especially to space planners and designers, as it tackles diverse subjects regarding environmental stimuli (e.g. how exposure to natural light, temperature, sound, and electromagnetic fields affect behavior) that may be useful in helping create spaces that promote better health or temperaments. Gallagher even discusses the role of the environment in addiction, the practice of feng shui or geomancy, and emotional stresses caused by environmental overstimulation. Particularly intriguing is the topic on the womb as a microcosm of the outside world and how fetuses respond to the inner workings of the mother's womb.

She ultimately brings the discussion "from the nest to the global village," with the implications of mega-cities on people's behavior as well as for other species on earth. Most of the examples that she cites in the book are centered on American settings (rather expectedly), so it was quite a surprise that she mentioned studies (by anthropologist Kerry Feldman) on Philippine slum settlements in writing about ghetto communities and crime incidence.

Although she constantly refers to scientific studies, Gallagher manages to keep the text understandable for the general reader. All in all, this is a highly informative and entertaining book that will make one ponder on the subtle details around us that can affect how we think, feel and act. (*Ge Matabang*)

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THINGS You Need to Know About Being a COMMUNITY ARCHITECT

2011: A DECADE OF TAO

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, Research and Publications program head **Faith Varona** contributes for the series.

- 1 You are not the solution to the community's problem but you can assist the people to come up with options or alternatives towards its eventual solution.
- 2 People in the community know what they want, do not assume that you know what is good for them.
- 3 Be humble. Being a (technical) professional does not necessarily mean you are better than the people or have better ideas.
- 4 The fastest way to explain a (technical) idea is through drawings or pictures.
- 5 Consult the children; they also have a lot to contribute on their community's development.
- 6 Earn the people's trust through the sincerity of your actions and intention to help them.
- 7 Open your mind. Listen. Do not force your ideas on the people.
- 8 Active people participation makes community project planning and implementation a whole lot easier – and fun.
- 9 Enjoy your work. A positive attitude will also elicit a positive response from the people.
- 10 Community work for technical professionals is hard work but it gives a different sense of fulfillment that cannot be obtained through any monetary compensation.

New Publications from TAO

Pamphlets on Alternative Building Materials

TAO-Pilipinas' Research and Publications program has come up with new publications on alternative building materials. *Alternatibong Materyales Pangkonstruksiyon: Polyeto ng Kaalaman* is a 6-part pamphlet series written in Tagalog. It features 6 different kinds of alternative building materials that can be used for socialized housing – Micro Concrete Roof Tiles, Compressed Earth Blocks, Interlocking Compressed Earth Blocks, Concrete Interlocking Blocks, Wood Wool Cement-bonded Boards, and Coconut Fiber-cement Boards. The pamphlet serves as a primer for the 6 materials and thus contains some basic information on materials production and sourcing. The publication was completed as part of the ACCA project and is intended to help communities engaged in self-help housing. (*Angel Sales*)



TAO Shelter Magazine Issue no. 9

The 9th issue of TAO Shelter Magazine will come out in August 2011. This latest issue focuses on "Living with Earthquakes" and features the following articles:

- The Big One in Metro Manila: *Earthquake scenarios and how Metro Manila braces itself*
- Safe Philippine Hospitals: *Indicators of hospital safety during disasters*
- Risk Sensitive Urban Redevelopment Planning of Barangay Rizal, Makati
- Earthquakes. What Else is New? *A call for earthquake awareness and preparedness*
- Earthshaking Trivia: *The latest information on earthquakes across the globe*
- Snippets: *An account of how a family survived the 1990 Luzon earthquake*