

TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

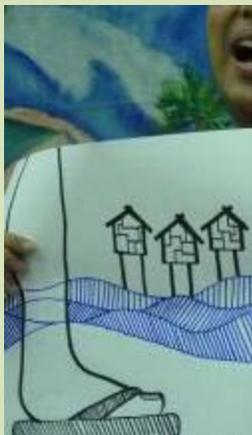
## Young Professionals Program

www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org



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5<sup>th</sup> YP Workshop 2011 \* Technical training for COs \* Community Architects' Network \* UP-TFA and SAPSPA's Pabahay \* YP Reading List \* 10 Things You Need to Know About Being a Community Architect \* Events & Announcements



# OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2011 e-newsletter

Fifteen new YPs were added to the roster of YP Fellows as we concluded the fifth cycle of the Young Professionals Orientation and Training Program last October. Six years since we started the program in 2005, we're now holding a reunion event for all past and present YPs. Gathering more than half of those in the roster list (we now have about 80 YPs) is proving to be a challenge as most of the *older* YPs are currently working abroad. We wish they could all join us but for now it'll just be the YPs that still remain here in 'pinas --- in a special time to look back (at a young person's search for social relevance) and reconnect. See you at the YP Reunion!

*(The YP Reunion is a by-invitation-only event. Please RSVP by November 25.)*

## 5<sup>th</sup> YP Workshop held in QC

TAO-PILIPINAS COMPLETED THE FIFTH CYCLE OF the Young Professionals Workshop on Social Housing on October 19-25, 2011. The 7-day program of activities was developed under the theme, "Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Community Planning and Development". Lecture sessions which formed the first two days of the workshop were held at the FPA Function Room, BAI Compound, Quezon City. Succeeding workshop sessions

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## TAO conducts technical training for COs

THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING (ET) program of TAO-Pilipinas developed an orientation/training program on *Technical Design and Planning* for the community organizers of COM (Community Organizers Multiversity). COM, a network partner of TAO-Pilipinas, is an NGO involved in organizing urban poor communities around critical issues such as housing and security of tenure. They are

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# 10

2011: A DECADE OF TAO

*"...when aspiring architects are confronted with the real world, when they test their mettle against social injustice, and especially when they are given the opportunity to work directly with communities in need, they draw upon honesty, life experience, and fear, which unleash fresh insights and lead to highly creative solutions."*

- **Marie J. Aquilino**, professor of architectural history at the École Spéciale d'Architecture in Paris and editor of the book *Beyond Shelter*

## 5<sup>th</sup> YP Workshop...

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were conducted at the BSWM Training Room, Elliptical Road, Quezon City.

The YP Workshop is a capability-building activity regularly conducted by TAO-Pilipinas as a venue for young design professionals to learn about social housing issues through direct interaction with poor communities. The workshop activities consisted of lecture sessions on social housing and disaster risk reduction, stay-in immersion in urban poor communities for three days, facilitation of community DRR assessment and action planning workshops, presentation of immersion and DRR workshop outputs, reflection and evaluation sessions.

Fifteen (15) senior students of architecture, engineering and planning completed the workshop along with eight (8) community representatives. Participants included YPs from UP College of Architecture, PUP-CAFA, UE Manila and UE Caloocan College of Engineering, Miriam College Department of Environment, and TIP College of Engineering. Participants from the community represented the workshop immersion areas, namely Masagana Area in Tanza, Navotas; Pantalan Uno and R. Domingo in Tangos, Navotas; and Kasiglahan Village 1 Phase 1D in Rodriguez, Rizal.

Several resource persons gave lectures to orient the participants on social housing and community development planning during the first day of the workshop. Dr. Laura David gave the keynote lecture titled “Sustainable Settlement Development in the time of Climate Change” while Director Zacarias Abanes of HUDCC presented a national situationer on “Social Housing in the Philippines”. Lecturers from TAO-Pilipinas presented various topics related to social housing.

Lecture sessions during the second day of the workshop focused on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and presentations were given by resource persons from government, the academe, and non-government organizations. Ms. Mayfourth Luneta of Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP) presented the fundamental concepts in “Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Management” while Mr. Ramon Padilla of DRRNet Philippines gave an overview of “RA 10121” or the DRRM Act. Professor Ernesto Serote lectured about “DRR through Urban Planning and Management”.

Dr. Baby Jane Punongbayan of PHIVOLCS gave a lecture on “Geological Hazards” while Mr. Carlomagno Ancheta of PAGASA presented “Hydro-Meteorological Hazards”. A lecture on “Structural and Non-Structural Measures for Flood Mitigation” was given by Prof. Peter Paul Castro of UP College of Engineering. Mr. Noli Abinales of Buklod TAO provided a PO perspective by talking about DRR initiatives in their flood-prone community in San Mateo.

After the lecture sessions the participants were grouped into three YP teams and went to their designated community immersion areas. The three YP teams



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*Photos at left, from top: the workshop participants and facilitators; the resource persons and lecturers: Laura David, Zacarias Abanes, Faith Varona, Arlene Lusterio, Rosalyn Veneracion, Angelus Sales, Mayfourth Luneta, Ramon Padilla, Ernesto Serote, Baby Jane Punongbayan, Peter Paul Castro, Carlomagno Ancheta Jr., Noli Abinales, and Geraldine Matabang.*

## 5<sup>th</sup> YP Workshop...

(From page 2)



simultaneously conducted participatory assessment of disaster risks in the community which culminated in the formulation of community plans on DRR. Following a three-day stay in the communities, the YPs returned to the training venue at BSWM to present the results of the community DRR assessment they facilitated.

The three YP teams were able to share the outputs of their immersion activities and were critiqued by a panel of reactors composed of TAO Executive Director Arlene Lusterio, PUP-CAFA Dean Ted Inocencio, and COM Executive Director Luz Malibiran. The panel provided additional inputs about DRR and conveyed their recommendations to the community assessment and action plans presented by the YP teams.



The concluding activity of the workshop was a reflection session which gave the participants an opportunity to consider the most significant lessons imparted by their workshop experience. Many communicated their newfound appreciation for community work and found the hands-on methods and direct interaction with people as most fulfilling. These impressions were also reflected in a collection of mural paintings that the YP teams, along with community representatives, completed at the end of the workshop.



With the formal workshop activities finished, the participants then enjoyed a fellowship and videoke-night at BSWM. Evaluation forms, certificates and workshop tokens were distributed at the last day of the workshop. (*Ge Matabang*)

*Project funding support for the 2011 Young Professionals Workshop on Social Housing was provided by Misereor, Asian Coalition for Community Action (ACCA), and Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA).*

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## Community Architect's Network (CAN) Meeting held in Penang, Malaysia

ABOUT SEVENTEEN COMMUNITY ARCHITECTS FROM HALF THE GLOBE met in Penang last September 14-16 in the historic Georgetown to discuss the future of the growing network of architects working with poor communities around the world.

The meeting was held within the World Heritage Site of Georgetown, in Chew Jetty, the biggest jetty along the southeast coast of Georgetown and the venue of the Heritage workshop con-

ducted after the CAN meeting.

Participants from Thailand (5), Indonesia (2), Nepal (1), Cambodia (2), Vietnam (2), Australia (1), Pakistan (1) and the Philippines (3) came together to discuss the future of the CAN. A brief reflection on individual work and plans kicked-off the meeting to set the informal and flexible tone. The main agenda

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## TAO conducts technical training...

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assisting more than 50 communities (living along danger zones in Metro Manila) in developing “people’s plans” as a strategic response to threats of demolition and eviction of informal settlements. These informal communities face eviction due to government projects targeting the removal of families to clear easements and waterways.

The technical training, conducted by TAO-Pilipinas on September 29 to 30, 2011 at the COM office, aimed to familiarize COM’s community organizers (COs) with technical design and planning requirements and processes so they could better facilitate participatory planning to develop technically-feasible people’s plans. Participants who completed the two-day training were Jose Morales, Rosalina Taghoy, Evangeline Serrano, Ray-An Ong, Kelvin Fugaban, Brayon Carlo Teodosio, Shaira Mae Mortos, Ramon Espeña, and Kreeger Bonagua.

Based on a previously conducted training needs assessment among the COs, the training program included the following session topics: Community Planning and Development; Understanding Technical Plans; Subdivision Planning and BP220; Medium Rise Building Design; Land Research, Titling and Valuation; Site Assessment for Housing; Disaster-Resilient Design for Low-cost Housing; and Alternative Building Materials and Technologies for Housing. The COs also participated in simulated planning workshops that focused on subdivision planning and MRB housing. (*Ge Matabang*)



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## Community Architect’s...

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included: (1) the setup of the network, its e-group and facebook account; (2) the system of coordination and regional coordinators; (3) thematic focus of the network; (4) e-newsletter as a means of communication and updating of country happenings/events; and (5) proposal and proposed funding support for regional and country activities.



Chawanad (Nad) Luansang and Supawut (Tee), ACHR CAN coordinators, facilitated the two-day meeting. The historical background on the Young Professionals Program (YPP) and its development into the Community Architects Network (CAN) was given by Maurice Leonhardt, the Training and Advisory Program Coordinator of ACHR. Regional cluster workshops and thematic discussions were also made focusing on various thematic issues, country level initiatives and implementing mechanisms. A sharing of each organization’s activities, strengths and needs were also discussed as inputs to the planning. Plans for two years for different thematic activities were formulated by workshop groups. Thematic issues included education (that is, how to influence the academic curriculum and how to enhance the capacity of new countries or countries with few community architects or no NGOs), heritage conservation, alternative materials and disaster risk reduction. Implementing mechanisms identified included regional exchanges/ networking, documentation, information dissemination and new country initiatives. Malaysia, Vietnam and Fiji were classified under the new country initiatives while

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## UP-TFA to design SAPSPA Batch 14 houses

ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS FROM THE ORGANIZATION UP-TFA (University of the Philippines Task Force Arki) have started to do volunteer work for the people's organization SAPSPA (Samahan para sa Angkop na Pabahay ng San Pablo Apostol, Inc.). The students are tasked to help complete the architectural and engineering design drawings for 7 houses that qualified in the SAPSPA Appropriate Housing Program (also known as Pabahay).

The SAPSPA housing program was started in 1988 to improve the housing condition of poor families in the Parish of San Pablo Apostol, Magsaysay Village, Tondo through loans for new house construction or renovation. Since then, about 121 houses have been constructed in Tondo through the Pabahay loans. The houses to be constructed/renovated this year are now the 14<sup>th</sup> batch of Pabahay houses. As with previous batches, TAO-Pilipinas is coordinating the completion of design drawings that will be submitted to local government for building permits. UP-TFA has also been the partner of SAPSPA since Pabahay began, volunteering their architectural design skills and immersing in the community.

Led by its current chairperson Mharren Castro, the group of UP-TFA students conducted their first site visit to SAPSPA in Tondo on November 21, 2011. They assessed the existing houses of the seven project beneficiaries and took measurements to produce as-built plans. They also interviewed the household leaders to ask about their house design preferences.

Castro affirms, *“Working on the 14th batch of SAPSPA houses is a great opportunity for us to relive the very history of TFA's mission. We are immensely delighted to continue the socially relevant legacy of our founders and alumni, who have also worked for parallel purpose before. We expect to learn deeper sense of the discipline from the community interaction and ultimately render the most efficient service we can as students. We know that the process is not always a smooth road ahead; but we are always ready to trudge this experience with a hopeful spirit, open to the guidance from TAO-Pilipinas, who definitely knows and does it best.”*

The group targets to submit the completed drawings by the end of January 2012. *(Ge Matabang)*

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Current batch of UP-TFA students with the beneficiaries of SAPSPA's housing program



(left) One of the houses to be renovated; (right) UP-TFA students taking actual measurements of the houses

## New YP interns start work at TAO

THIS NOVEMBER, THREE RECENT YP WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS have begun to render volunteer work at TAO as part of their commitment as sponsored workshop participants. Senior architecture students Alver Remolar, Mharren Castro, and Nancy Kempeneers were accepted as interns and will be working on completion of the scaled model of the site



development for the Masagana Resettlement Project in Angat, Bulacan. The resettlement project, intended for the relocation of informal settlers from Tanza, Navotas, includes 80 duplex-type houses and a number of community facilities. *(Ge Matabang)*

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## Community Architect's...

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the Philippines were among the oldies in the network.

Participants from the Philippines were Arlene Christy Lusterio of TAO-Pilipinas, Vhal Libutaque of TAMPEI, and May Domingo Price of PACSI. May Domingo will serve as the regional coordinator for Asia and the Pacific (Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Fiji). The regional coordinator for Southeast Asia (Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar) is Anh, and for South Asia (Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, India) is Lumanti Joshi of Lumanti, Nepal. Concern was also raised for countries without representatives and suggestions were made to reach out to community architects groups in those countries (India, Bangladesh, Laos, Myanmar).

Participants had a tour of the heritage zone including the Chew Jetty and rental shop houses surrounding Buddhist temples showing strong visages of Chinese as well as Indian influences. Lunches were an exposure to a mix of authentic Malaysian, Indian and Chinese cuisines. The meeting culminated with a feast of a ten (or maybe eleven) course dinner. *(Arlene Lusterio)*

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## Local Events

### Rescue boat fabrication project launched

THE CALABARZON RDRRMC (REGIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND Management Council) launched the Regional Collaborative Efforts on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management project themed as "Sariling Kaligtasan... Pangalagaan... Paghandaan...". The event was held on September 15, 2011 at the Club Balai Isabel Resort in Barangay Banga, Talisay, Batangas.

The project highlight is the prototype fabrication of the Fiberglass Rescue Boat and Bamboo Raft. The prototype design was presented by DOST IV-A Regional Director Alexander R. Madrigal and RDRRMC Chairman Vicente F Tomazar. A series of test rides and rescue drills using the prototypes were performed by the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) to demonstrate its buoyancy, stability, maneuverability and loading capacity.

The project intends to sustain disaster management by using fiberglass as the alternative material of rubber in producing rescue boats. The rescue boats were developed by the project's technical working group that included MARINA, DOST-FPRDI, DOST IV-A, RDRRMC IV-A and together with Buklod Tao, Inc. (San Mateo, Rizal) and Bayog Boatmakers Association (Los Banos, Laguna). The prototype is said to be 68 to 80 percent lower in cost than those available in the market.

Aside from the rescue boats, Early Warning Systems such as the ASTI-Developed Automatic Rain Gauge and ICT-based Disaster Communication were also presented. These aim to make the weather bulletins and updates accessible to the public and were developed in support of the newly enacted Republic Act 10121 otherwise known as the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010. *(Verna Sarraga)*

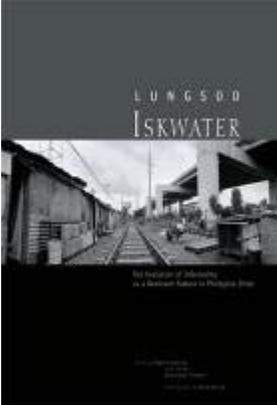
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*Fabricated prototypes of the bamboo raft (top) and fiberglass rescue boat (bottom)*

## 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.



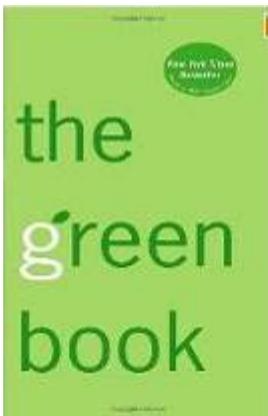
Title: **Lungsod Iskwater: The Evolution of Informality as a Dominant Pattern in Philippine Cities**  
Authors: **Paulo Alcazaren, Luis Ferrer, Benvenuto Icamina,**  
with photographs by **Neal Oshima**  
Publisher: **Anvil Publishing (2011)**

According to the authors, *Lungsod Iskwater* is an analytical exercise that focuses on the most sustainable urban form in history: the informal settlement. How did it originate decades of years ago? What methodologies were applied during the pre-Spanish colonial era up to the present government administration? How is effectiveness assessed in terms of the improvement of settlement areas which were built to answer the growing housing problems in the country, particularly in the Metropolis?

Presenting photographs and information that vividly depict the realities faced by our urban informal settlers, this book attempts to provide an in-depth analysis of the relationship between built form and open space of selected informal settlements in Metropolitan Manila. Shelter plays a big role on how individuals live and adapt to their environment in order to survive and sustain the needs of their families. Empowerment of informal communities should also be considered to let them realize that they are key in changing and improving their living conditions. To achieve this, support from local governments and non-government organizations are crucial.

“The process of change will undoubtedly be difficult. But it is time to abandon obsolete perspectives that permit oceans of poverty around islands of affluence and substitute for them cities that find their greatness in people living as human beings is entitled to do.” This statement from sociologist Mary Racelis may in some way inspire our government to take action in uplifting the lives of the marginalized and less fortunate inhabitants of Metropolitan Manila by helping them live in more humane and decent human settlement areas. *(Michelle Abon)*

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Title: **The Green Book**  
Authors: **Elizabeth Rogers and Thomas M. Kostigen**  
Publisher: **Three Rivers Press (2007)**

The book is an informative guide on how one can live ‘green’ without giving up too much of our consumer ways. It gives various tips on how one can reduce their impact on the environment. The book is divided into 12 chapters representing 12 different tip categories ranging from what you can do in your home, office, and school to everyday activities such as communication, travel, entertainment and sports. The book also gives facts and statistics that would really make you think of your daily habits and how those habits affect our environment. Aside from the tips given by the authors, short anecdotes from celebrities and the ‘green’ things they do were also incorporated in each chapter of the book.

The book’s aim is commendable and worthy of praise but it is written mostly for the American consumer. Some of the tips are not really applicable to other nations. The book also seem to espouse the maximum use of technology such as suggesting the use of hi-tech cellular phones to send e-mails than regular computers and using the Internet and online books than frequenting public libraries to do research. Obviously, these kinds of tips are given with the assumption that people have easy access to hi-tech cellular phones and hi-speed internet which in some countries are not readily available. Overall, the book is a good read and can give viewers an insight of the possibilities that can happen if little changes were made to their daily lives to lessen the impact they make on the environment. *(Angel Sales)*

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# 10

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". HSE program staff **Verna Lucia Sarraga** shares her insights and contributes to the series.

- 1 Costs are a big deal for the community; your creativity can be an extender to their resources.
- 2 When they ask questions, give them honest answers. Be truthful and don't give them false hope.
- 3 Form follows function. People prioritize their needs over their wants. We should guide them in a direct, straight forward response to their issues.
- 4 Appreciate their language and the community will appreciate your speech. Speak with the language they can understand (it may be Filipino, drawing or sign language).
- 5 Learn to love people enough not give them a handout. There is a difference between helping out and handing out.
- 6 Be patient to wait for good results. The success of a community project does not happen overnight. Remember that farmers need to sow seeds and toil the ground before they can reap a harvest.
- 7 Community work is not about starting well but finishing well.
- 8 If you won't care for the people, who will?
- 9 The success of a community does not depend on you but on the people themselves.
- 10 Be appropriate. Being a technical professional does not mean you are above them; learn how to fit in the community.

## Announcements

### 2011 Christmas Gift-giving

We will be repeating the Christmas gift-giving activity TAO conducted last year for children in our assisted communities. Those who wish to donate gift items for children 12 years and below may drop off their donations at the TAO-Pilipinas office (27A Matiyaga St., Bgy. Central, Diliman, Quezon City). Preferred gifts are educational toys and books. Please send them to TAO by December 8, 2011.

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### TAO Shelter Magazine Special Anniversary Issue

The 10<sup>th</sup> issue of TAO Shelter Magazine was released last September to mark TAO-Pilipinas' 10 years of existence. The magazine highlights TAO's accomplishments as well as the challenges and issues the organization dealt with in the last decade. Feature articles were written by the TAO staff and volunteers.

- 10 Years of Making Sense as Technical Professionals in Philippine Society
- (More Than) 10 TAO Milestones
- 10 Women in Technical Community Development Work
- 10 Events that Affected Social Housing in the Last Decade
- 10 Notable Technical Service NGOs in Asia
- 10 Good Practices in Solid Waste Management
- Alternative Building Materials and Technologies for Social Housing

This special anniversary issue is distributed for free. Copies may be obtained at the TAO office (27A Matiyaga St., Bgy. Central, Quezon City).

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