

e-newsletter

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2014



School children from Decalachao Elementary School in Coron, Palawan attend the morning flag ceremony and continue to hold classes in classroom buildings severely damaged by typhoon Yolanda. (Photo by Verna Sarraga)



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TAO and FDUP Conduct Shelter Planning Workshop for NaSaMa

ON DECEMBER 9, 2013, THE FOUNDATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE URBAN POOR (FDUP) together with TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. conducted a planning workshop for Barangay 177, Caloocan City particularly for the communities under Nagkakaisang Samahan ng mga Maralita sa Barangay 177 (NaSaMa). The workshop was intended to 1) introduce the Community Architect's Network (CAN) and the City Wide Development Approach (CDA) to the communities under NaSaMa; and 2) come up with an action plan for the community wide upgrading of Barangay 177.

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Mapua ARIDBE Hosts First YP Lecture for 2014

MAPUA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY THROUGH ITS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, INDUSTRIAL Design, and the Built Environment (MIT-ARIDBE) hosted the first Young Professionals (YP) Lecture for 2014 held on January 8. The architecture student organization UAPSA-MIT helped organize the activity.

The theme for the YP Lecture was Historic Preservation for Disaster Risk Reduction. With the recent Bohol earthquake that damaged and destroyed some of our Spanish colonial period churches, TAO's YP program deemed it appropriate to discuss disaster risk reduction and management with focus on heritage conservation.

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YP Reading List:
Loft's Practical Ideas for Small Spaces
Cocoro Book's Small House Tokyo

"It's time for us to go to the people rather than ask the people, especially the poor, to come to us."

“ It is not the strongest of species that survive, not the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change. ”

- Charles Darwin (1809-1882),
scientist and author of
Origin of the Species

TAO and FDUP... (From page 1)

Introducing CAN and the activities that have been done by CAN for the city-wide development approach was Paolo Genzola of FDUP. He recalled the CAN Workshop which was held last May 2013 and cited some recommendations that came up during the workshop. He also mentioned the different groups that comprise CAN's core group and the specific roles that each group plays. Joseph Sta. Maria of Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) gave the introduction and discussed the concepts behind CDA. He enumerated cities such as Valenzuela, Marikina, Malabon, and Muntinlupa in which CDA has been introduced by the CAN core group.

After the introduction of CAN and CDA, results of the shelter planning workshop done by Barangay 177 on 2012 were presented by Roselia Tormiento of the Local Housing Office. She also gave an update of the activities done by NaSaMa wherein she is also one of the officers.

Prior to formulating a shelter action plan, the workshop participants had a mapping exercise wherein each homeowners association (HOA) identified the location of their community and proposed upgrading or relocation site. They also provided basic information including demographic profiles of their HOA membership. They also enumerated the different hazards experienced by their community and the resources that they could access to help them cope with disasters. Some examples of hazards that came up in the discussion were fire, flood, and threat of demolition.

The HOAs under NaSaMa were then clustered into three (Zabarte, Maligaya, and Camarin) based on geographical location. A focus group discussion that assessed the shelter needs of each cluster was then conducted. Topics such as security of land tenure, housing, and challenges met with regards to their housing needs were discussed by each group and presented in plenary. Security of tenure was the primary shelter need identified as most of them are still in the negotiation phase with their respective landowners.

After the shelter needs assessment, a second round of focus group discussion was held to formulate a shelter action plan for NaSaMa. Common shelter problems and issues that came up were garbage in the creek, community savings, fire hazards, and difficulties in completing processes to acquire security of land tenure. The Maligaya cluster worked on the action plan addressing problems concerning the creek since it is their community that is most affected by the creek. Camarin made an action plan for community savings while Zabarte did



top photo: Barangay 177 Captain Donna Jarito (center) briefly listens in during the presentations on the city wide development approach.

bottom photo: Workshop participants from NaSaMa identify their respective community locations in the barangay map.

one on fire hazards and another on documents processing as part of their requirements to secure land tenure. After each groups presented their action plan, TAO and FDUP commented on these and gave recommendations on their various course of action.

Overall, the objectives and expected outputs of the workshop were met but it is yet to be seen whether the community has since followed thru with their action plans. The latest update coming from FDUP is that Barangay 177 has been approved by SHFC for LCMP or localized community mortgage program. (Angel Sales)

Mapua ARIDBE... (From page 1)

The activity was primarily aimed to introduce concepts and terms used in disaster risk reduction and management and instill the value of historic preservation to architecture students.

The lecture was attended by sophomore to senior undergraduate students of MIT-ARIDBE. Architect Faith Varona of TAO-Pilipinas introduced DRR concepts to the students. Arch. Varona explained terminologies used in DRR and discussed the meaning of exposure and vulnerability. An introduction to the National Cultural Heritage Law was given by Architect Angel Sales, also from TAO-Pilipinas. Arch. Sales discussed provisions of the law that pertain to heritage conservation. She also gave different examples of historical landmarks, shrines, and monuments to differentiate them from one another.

The final lecturer was Architect Roz Li of Bakas Pilipinas. She briefly discussed terms and concepts used in heritage conservation and then proceeded to expound on the topic of disaster relief for historic structures. She also shared her experiences in doing conservation work in New York and encouraged the students to go into the field of heritage conservation here in the Philippines since our old historic structures are in dire need of protection and conservation.

TAO friends and volunteers give out Christmas gifts to children in four communities

DURING THE LAST HOLIDAY SEASON, TAO-PILIPINAS ONCE AGAIN ORGANIZED a Christmas gift-giving activity for children in its assisted communities. Gift donations were solicited from partners, volunteers and friends of TAO-Pilipinas to fulfil the wish list of children in the communities. A total of 337 gift packages for children were distributed on December 21 and 22, 2013. These included 64 for Masagana community in Angat, Bulacan; 50 for Damayan community in Taytay, Rizal; 40 for R.Domingo community in Tangos, Navotas City; and 183 for SAMASAIPIPulo community in Tanza, Navotas City.

The ADB Staff Community Fund sponsored the gifts packs for children in Pulo and the UST B.S. Architecture classes of Architect Rizalino Mercado also pitched in and assembled an additional 150 sets of school supplies for the kids. A rummage sale was also held at the TAO office and proceeds were used to augment the Christmas gift-giving fund. Volunteers Razel Robinez, Ali Lucilo and Voltaire Tila were on hand to assist in the gift wrapping and distribution of gifts.

After receiving the presents, the children expressed their gratitude in a video message. (The video is now posted in the YP facebook page at this link: <https://facebook.com/photo.php?v=648090705256649&l=2727530531678170797>.) The kids from Masagana also crafted thank-you notes for their individual gift sponsors.



Arch. Roz Li of Bakas Pilipinas explaining the types of intervention used in heritage conservation.

An open forum followed the presentations with students fielding written questions. Most of the inquiries delved on the conservation that should be done for damaged historic structures and on building disaster resilient structures. Just before noon the activity concluded with the completion of feedback forms and presentation of tokens and certificates of appreciation from Mapua and TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. (Angel Sales)



left photo: Volunteers Voltaire Tila and Rowel Lucilo help distribute the gifts with TAO's Verna Sarraga.

right photo: TAO staff along with ADB staff ride a boat to distribute gifts to Pulo children

Donors for this year's gift-giving activity included Melody Sonsona, Cris Mabato, Cristina Belen, Alver Remolar, Voltaire Tila, Rosalyn Veneracion, Anna Villanueva, Nap Vicmudo, Lorie Arceo, Joan Santiago, Ana Rita Supan, Karen Varona, Jay Arididon, Genevieve Matabang, Arlene Lusterio, Faith Varona, Geraldine Matabang, Verna Sarraga, Michelle Abon, Rosanna Contreras, and Joannie Tonggol. (GRM)

TAO assists SHFC in HDH project in Bacoor

TAO-PILIPINAS CONTINUED EXTENDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO Social Housing and Finance Corporation's High Density Housing (HDH) Program and Community Mortgage Program (CMP). Last December 12 at the Governor's Office in Emilus Building in Bacoor, Cavite, TAO joined SHFC in facilitating a planning workshop for informal settler-families (ISFs) from Bacoor City, Las Piñas City and Parañaque City.

The workshop aimed to consult the representatives of Dampapinagsama Housing Cooperative who are availing of the HDH program under the Php50B ISF housing fund. The housing project is a collaboration between SHFC and Bacoor City LGU. The proposed 11-hectare site in Bacoor will allocate medium-rise buildings for ISFs from Las Piñas and Parañaque along with residents from Bacoor who enrolled to the CMP program.

During the day-long workshop, TAO-Pilipinas gave inputs on site planning concepts and standards. The proposed master plan for the housing development was reviewed and SHFC explained its technical and legal findings to the project beneficiaries. TAO likewise gave its recommendations with regards to the density of the proposed development and the carrying capacity of the site. Afterwards, focus



Arch. Ge Matabang of TAO-Pilipinas explains site planning standards in reviewing the proposed master plan.

group discussions were facilitated to identify the key issues and planning priorities as inputs to revising the proposed development plan. At the end of the workshop, SHFC and TAO summarized the decision points that the beneficiaries would have to consider in firming up their housing plans. (GRM)

UST Architecture Network Hosts YP Lecture for Its Members

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS ARCHITECTURE NETWORK (UST Archinet) hosted a seminar dubbed as "Presage: Designing with Resiliency" for its architecture student members on January 20, 2014 at the AVR of Beato Angelico Building in UST. The seminar served as a primer for 1st to 4th year architecture students as they prepare to enter student design competitions within the semester. UST Archinet invited TAO-Pilipinas architects as resource persons for the seminar.

Two lectures were presented to orient the students on incorporating disaster risk management in shelter and community facilities design. The first lecture, entitled "Disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) in human settlements", was given by Geraldine Matabang who introduced the basic concepts in disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) and its implications to human settlements development. Her presentation focused on considerations in planning safe settlements and designing disaster-resilient housing.

The second lecture, entitled "Disaster-resilient local design innovations for small community infrastructures", was presented by Verna Sarraga and featured the application of disaster-



Arch. Verna Sarraga of TAO-Pilipinas talks about small community infrastructure projects to UST architecture students.

resilient design in self-help housing and small community infrastructure projects. Learnings from technical assistance provided by TAO-Pilipinas in Isla Pulo community in Tanza, Navotas City and in Masagana community in Angat, Bulacan were presented as case studies. A short open forum followed the presentations. (GRM)

TAO Joins PHILSSA's Angat Calamianes Project

TAO-PILIPINAS JOINED THE PARTNERSHIP FOR PHILIPPINE SUPPORT Service Agencies (PHILSSA) team in four municipalities in the Calamian Group of Islands in Northern Palawan for its "Angat Calamianes" project. The PHILSSA project is part of Christian Aid's Typhoon Haiyan Humanitarian Assistance and targets emergency shelter assistance for 1,200 beneficiaries across the Busuanga, Coron, Culion, and Linapacan islands that were affected by Yolanda. PHILSSA's local project partner is Palawan Advocates for Good Governance and Empowerment (PAGE). Shelter repair kits consisting of construction materials (galvanized iron roofing sheets, ridge rolls, marine plywood, ordinary plywood, and nails) worth PhP5,000 will be distributed to each qualified beneficiary-family.

TAO's project engagement involved transferring knowledge about disaster-resilient housing design to all the Angat Calamianes project beneficiaries. The objective was to provide the beneficiary-families with an overview of disaster-resilient house design features that they may apply in the repair and improvement of their damaged houses. From January 21 to 26, the team conducted orientation sessions in various barangays as the beneficiaries completed their order forms for construction materials. (The construction materials are scheduled to be distributed on site by February.) A total of 16 sessions were conducted with TAO's Geraldine Matabang and Verna Sarraga split into teams to simultaneously give presentations on safe settlements and disaster-resilient design of houses. The sessions were organized with the help of barangay officials.



left photo: Project team members who facilitated orientation sessions in four municipalities of Busuanga, Coron, Culion, and Linapacan (from left, Rhea Aguilar, Ge Matabang, Teoderico de Guia, Dick Balderrama, Jose Morales, Ping Fampulme, Luis Catain, and Ferdinand Escoton).

right photo: Project beneficiaries listen to a lecture on disaster-resilient design.

PHILSSA's emergency shelter assistance prioritized families with totally damaged houses and those who have not received any form of shelter assistance from government, private groups, and other humanitarian organizations. Many of the project beneficiaries were Tagbanuas, the indigenous peoples of Palawan. The team also inspected some of the damaged houses as part of the validation process for shortlisted beneficiaries. Damage to roof structures (e.g. rolled up and blown off roofing sheets) was most prevalent due to the strong wind force brought by the supertyphoon.

At the end of the 6-day fieldwork, the team stayed overnight at Calauit Island, an animal sanctuary that gives shelter to herds of giraffes, zebras, and the Calamian deer. After touring the Calauit Safari Park, the team also visited the picturesque Cayangan Lake in Coron Island. (GRM)

Network Activities

Yolanda Conversations at Ateneo

LAST JANUARY 28, A FORUM ON YOLANDA reconstruction was organized by the Manila Observatory, Ateneo de Manila University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Aksyon Klima, and Christian Aid. Dubbed as NOT Business as Usual: Science, Community and Practitioners' Conversations on Yolanda's Risks and Reconstruction Directions in the Light of Climate Change, the forum sought to open a dialogue between scientists and other stakeholders involved in the rehabilitation and recovery work in the aftermath of

Typhoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan). The activity was held at the Faber Hall of Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City and was attended by representatives from local government, academic and research institutions, and non-government and civil society organizations.

The first part of the forum focused on the science behind the massive destruction wrought by the super typhoon. Presentations were given by local scientists affiliated with The Manila Observatory and

UP Marine Science Institute, among them Dr. Rosa Perez who presented "The 5th IPCC Assessment Report: Its Relevance for the Philippines"; Dr. Gemma Narisma who presented "Understanding Yolanda: The Climate Science and Integrated Risk Perspective"; and Janneli Soria who presented "Understanding Yolanda: The Marine and Coastal Geology Perspective." Dr. Emma Porio offered an anthropological perspective with her presentation on "Social Capital and Its Role in Reconstruction and Recovery".

The second part of the forum delved on LGU insights on the tragedy and ensuing recovery work. Tacloban City Mayor Alfred Romualdez gave his personal account of Yolanda's landfall and consequent storm surge in the highly urbanized city as well as the local government response to the disaster. The Municipal Planning Officer of Batad, Iloilo also recounted the experience of a 5th class coastal municipality during the typhoon and their relief and recovery efforts.

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Yolanda... (from page 5)

The third part of the program highlighted planning approaches to reconstruction. Arch. Paulo Alcazaren revisited the pre-war master plans of major cities in the Philippines and shown on hindsight the soundness of the plans that were not implemented. Allocation of waterway easements and greenbelts were features of the plans that should now be considered in the rehabilitation of devastated areas. Mr. Danilo Antonio, undersecretary in the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Rehabilitation and Recovery (PARR), presented his framework for reconstruction which included the establishment of new townships in safer sites and sourcing private sector funds to jumpstart rehabilitation work in Yolanda-affected communities.

At the final part of the program, recovery insight and ideas were also solicited from the audience. Fielded were varied suggestions that stressed transparency and accountability, ensuring participatory processes, and a focus on environmental sustainability in reconstruction work. (GRM)



Resource persons from the Manila Observatory answers questions from the audience.

PMPI NCC Meeting in Roxas City

TAO-PILIPINAS AS PART OF THE PHILIPPINE MISEREOR Partnership Incorporated (PMPI) network attended the National Coordinating Council (NCC) Meeting which was held on January 28 to February 1, 2014 at Grand Gazebo Hotel, Roxas City, Capiz. The NCC Meeting is a bi-annual meeting of the PMPI network that serves to update its members of the planned activities that were done in the past six months. It is also a venue where the 15 clusters of PMPI convene, discuss, and raise their concerns about the four priority advocacies of PMPI which are sustainable agriculture (SusAg), anti-mining campaigns (AMC), peace, and climate change-disaster risk reduction (CC-DRR).

Out of the 15 clusters, 14 clusters were able to attend the NCC meeting. Members of the four task forces (SusAg, AMC, Peace, and CC-DRR), five co-covenantors (for Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines-National Secretariat for Social Action (CBCP-Nassa) and Misereor), and bishop covenantors from NCR-Urban and Cabustam represented by Bishop Broderick Pabillo and Archbishop Antonio Ledesma respectively were also in attendance. Misereor representatives, Monsiñor Pirmin August Spiegel, Elisabeth Biale, and Elmar Noe, were also present for the NCC meeting.

For this particular NCC meeting, reports about the response given for typhoon Yolanda-affected areas in Eastern Samar and Panay were presented as well as reports on the Zamboanga stand-off and Bohol earthquake. Attendees also participated in a learning session on development paradigm. The highlight of the activity was the visit to Yolanda affected communities in Pan-Ay, Baybay, and Roxas City in Capiz. Participants of the meeting were able to witness the damage brought by typhoon Yolanda and how the affected communities are coping and doing their best to survive given the scarcity of resources.

A business meeting was also part of the five-day program. Minutes from the past NCC meeting was read out and reports from each cluster and from the secretariat were presented as well. Issues regarding climate change, sustainable development, CARPER (CARP Extension with Reforms) and Misereor's campaign on food sovereignty were also tackled. Another highlight of the NCC meeting was the Sandugo free concert held on the second night. Artists such as Bayang Barrios, Cookie Chua, and Lolita Carbon were among the performers.

At the end of the NCC meeting, the following were agreed upon: 1) establishment of quick relief fund; 2) approval of e-market concept note; 3) the PMPI one year plan; 4) approval of peace constituency building; and 5) further discussion on the proposal for each cluster to have a quick disaster response team. The five-day program ended with all participants celebrating an evening mass led by Bishop Pabillo and Monsiñor Spiegel. (Angel Sales)



left photo: The second floor of a house made of concrete hollow blocks in Pan-Ay, Capiz was completely destroyed by typhoon Yolanda.

right photo: Walls of these house in Baybay, Capiz were reconstructed from old roof of another house bought for 1,500 Php. The old walls made of bamboo are still lying on the ground.

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.

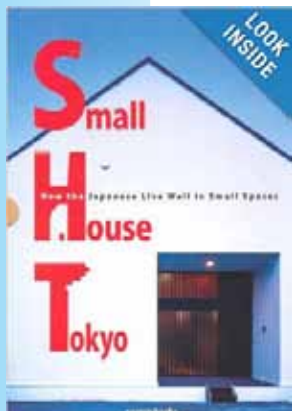


Title: **Practical Ideas for Small Spaces**
Editor: **Cristina Paredes Benitez**
Publisher: **Loft Publications (2008)**

This book is a practical guide for those living in houses with small spaces. The book is divided into four sections namely organization of spaces, furniture and storage, décor, and small outdoor spaces. Each section is discussed thoroughly with photos provided for better understanding of the concepts. The book is easy to understand and does not require prior knowledge of interior design for readers to grasp the concepts being discussed.

The best part about the book is the 10 summarized tips given at the end of each section. The summarized tips together with the do's and don'ts tips already give sufficient advice even without reading through the entire book. Not text heavy, it is more of a coffee table book with planning and decorating tips supplemented by numerous photos.

The book is very useful for people who would like to do their own decorating and gives great advice on maximizing every square inch of a limited living space. The only downside to this book is that it barely mentions the cost of the space saver tips mentioned in the book. Nevertheless, the book can serve as an inspiration and jumpstart people's mind to think creatively in planning their small dwelling areas. *(Angel Sales)*



Title: **Small House Tokyo: How the Japanese Live Well in Small Spaces**
Editor: **Cocoro Books**
Publisher: **DH Publishing (Kindle Edition 2008)**

This book is essentially a photo tour of micro-homes (or kyosho jutaku) in Tokyo with a short introductory essay by Brett Bull about the evolution of this type of urban architecture in Japan. Artfully photographed houses illustrate how Tokyo architects creatively utilize space and build distinctive structures in small, narrow and irregularly or oddly shaped sites.

The micro-homes have a thoroughly modern aesthetic but each is obviously uniquely designed and caters to a distinct Japanese urban culture. Each home featured also has an accompanying diagram or simplified floor plan that show how the limited space was manipulated to create living spaces. Curiously though, all featured homes are photographed as if newly-constructed and not yet lived --- empty cupboards, unadorned tables and shelves, and furniture limited to a few pieces of chairs.

The book can serve as an inspirational montage of micro-home designs for those looking for ideas on how to make small spaces livable. Caution should be taken though in adapting these design ideas since some look doubtful in terms of being building-code compliant or if the designs would meet minimum living space standards especially for families with multiple children. *(GRM)*