

Presentation of the
**World Habitat
Awards**

**World Habitat Day
1998**



**Dubai,
United Arab Emirates**



Presentation of the
World Habitat Awards



World Habitat Day 1998

Monday 5th October
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

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The presentation of the
World Habitat Awards

took place in the
World Trade Centre, Dubai, United Arab Emirates



The Awards ceremony took place in the World Trade Centre of the city of Dubai, in the presence of General Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and His Excellency Mr Qassim Sultan, Director-General of the Dubai Municipality.



Introduction

The twentieth century has been the century of urbanisation and city life. The twenty first century will see this continue. By the year 2020 two thirds of all people on the earth will be living in urban areas. The quality of urban life is already deteriorating, with poverty, crime, drug use, poor or slum housing and unemployment becoming increasingly prevalent. It is not possible to regain a lost rural paradise. The challenge is to create cities that are fit for people to live in.

We face a future in which the past is no guide. The traditional values, systems, mechanisms and institutions that we know are disappearing as we change from an industrial society to an information society. The means of production are increasingly based on intellectual activities rather than human labour. They are also far more flexible than the former mass-production systems and can be located and moved around the world quickly and easily. It is no wonder that the former city structures are beginning to break down.

The threats to peace and stability today derive primarily from the turmoil within nations - due to population pressures, the unchecked growth of cities and social degradation. Periods of uncertainty in human history are well known and are frequently marked by intolerance and violence, but they can also be times of opportunity. One such opportunity today is presented by the financial and intellectual resources currently devoted to military expenditure worldwide. Only one quarter of the world's annual military expenditure of \$1,000,000,000 would be needed to meet all the world's immediate needs and provide a basis for a healthy and sustainable future for the planet and its inhabitants. Nearly one quarter of the world's total research community is involved in military research and development. This only goes to show that whilst we may have information and knowledge in abundance, we have yet to acquire wisdom.

World Habitat Day is celebrated on the first Monday in October every year throughout the world. It provides an opportunity to draw attention to the importance of shelter in people's lives. The global celebration in 1998 took place in the beautiful city of Dubai and focused on the theme of Safer Cities. Urban violence cannot be eradicated simply through more laws and police to enforce them, for its roots lie in homelessness and deprivation, in unemployment, illiteracy and injustice. Solutions to housing problems are therefore a crucial part of the solution to urban violence.

Over the last thirteen years the World Habitat Awards have identified many successful housing solutions around the world and these are now being replicated, both nationally and internationally and are helping to ensure a safer and more sustainable and enjoyable way of life. Co-operation and participation are the key elements of these solutions, together with a trust placed in the value and capacity of people, no matter how poor.



Mr Kofi Annan
Secretary-General
United Nations

A World Habitat Day Message

Mr Kofi Annan

Governments and local authorities around the world are facing an increasingly daunting challenge: how to make their cities safe from crime and violence. With urban violence around the world estimated to have nearly doubled in the last 20 years, it is appropriate that Habitat Day in 1998 should focus on the theme of "Safer Cities".

Cities are not inherently violent, and many have dealt successfully with the scourge of crime and violence. But cities do seem to be breeding grounds for a wide range of lawless acts. The reasons vary, but key factors include unemployment; the proliferation and easy availability of guns; deteriorating urban environments; deprivation of basic services; a lack of social cohesion among uprooted rural-to-urban migrants; inequities between rich and poor; shortcomings in police and justice systems; a breakdown of traditional value systems; and, in a more general sense, the anonymity and individualism common to places where large numbers of people coexist in a small space.

Prevention strategies addressing the root causes of urban crime hold considerable promise. These tend to involve partnerships among governments, city authorities, civil society organisations and residents themselves. Cities that are safe for all people will, in turn, make the whole world a safer place, for fear of crime and violence imprisons people in their homes and makes the realisation of all other human rights more difficult to achieve. Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility. I urge all Member States, local governments and citizens of cities around the world to mark Habitat Day this year by taking action to make their cities and communities safer and better places to live.



Dr Klaus Töpfer
Under Secretary-General,
Acting Executive Director,
United Nations Centre
for Human Settlements
(Habitat)

Safer Cities

Dr Klaus Töpfer

The theme for this year's World Habitat Day - "Safer Cities" - is a reflection of the growing concern about escalating urban violence, crime and insecurity among citizens around the globe. Worldwide, urban violence is estimated to have grown by between 3 and 5 per cent a year over the last two decades. This is true not only in regions that are highly urbanised such as Europe and North America, but also in Africa, which is both the least urbanised continent and the one with the highest urban population growth rates.

Urban violence is not a spontaneous phenomenon, but above all, the product of a society characterised by inequality and social exclusion. Measures that protect urban communities from deprivation, unemployment, homelessness, illiteracy, injustice and social disintegration will ultimately also protect them from crime and violence.

However, although rapid urbanisation and poverty are linked to the scale and extent of urban violence and crime, other factors such as the political and economic climate, as well as social factors also play a role. Erosion of moral values and the collapse of social structures and institutions, such as the family or the neighbourhood, puts communities more at risk of urban violence and crime.

The consequences of urban violence are manifold. It not only imposes loss, injury and emotional trauma on individuals, but breeds insecurity which leads to distrust, intolerance, isolation and, in some cases, violent reactions. The growth of urban vigilante groups and the meting out of "mob justice" in many cities are the result of people's lack of trust in the justice systems which force them to take the law into their own hands.

Rising crime is also bringing about major changes in the landscapes and patterns of daily living in urban areas. For instance, in some cities, violence and insecurity are curtailing peoples' movements and use of public transport. Paralysed by fear, people - particularly women - choose not to use the streets, parks and other public spaces altogether. This kind of self-imposed social isolation among large sections of the urban population affects not only their mobility, but also their productivity as more and more people choose to stay at home rather than risk their lives on the streets.

Human misery aside, crime also financially cripples Governments, particularly in developing countries which typically spend approximately 10 per cent of their national budgets on crime control.

It was in recognition of these facts that the world's Governments adopted the Habitat Agenda in June 1996 which acknowledges that "prevention of crime and promotion of sustainable communities are essential to the attainment of safe and secure cities". Prevention policies at the city level should include forging partnerships between municipal authorities, community organisations, the police and judicial systems and making social development an integral part of crime prevention programmes. The Habitat Agenda underscores the importance of social development as a crime prevention measure by urging Governments to find "ways to help communities deal with underlying factors that undermine community safety and result in crime by addressing such critical problems as poverty, inequality, family stress, unemployment, absence of educational and vocational opportunities, and lack of health care, including mental health services".

It is my sincere hope that people everywhere will mark World Habitat Day this year - Monday, 5 October - by looking at ways in which to make their cities safer so they can be freely enjoyed by all - young, old, women, men, girls and boys. As stated in the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements — endorsed by Heads of State or Government and official delegations attending the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) - "Our cities must be places where human beings lead fulfilling lives in dignity, safety, happiness and hope".



Mr Peter Elderfield
Director
Building and Social
Housing Foundation

The World Habitat Awards

Mr Peter Elderfield

It is indeed an honour and a pleasure for the World Habitat Awards to be presented here in the beautiful city of Dubai by His Excellency Mr Qassim Sultan, the Director-General of the city. In addition to the silver trophy being presented here today, each project receives £10,000 to promote and encourage the replication of the project.

The Building and Social Housing Foundation is a non-governmental organisation based in the United Kingdom but working world-wide to improve the housing conditions of poor people. Many years ago now, back in 1985, we established the World Habitat Awards. At the time there were many people talking about housing problems. There was a whole industry of people talking, writing and analysing housing problems. They saw only the difficulties, the seeming hopelessness and impossibility of solving these problems. But we knew from our work around the world, that there were individuals, there were local communities and there were local and national governments who had developed innovative and successful housing solutions. Yet all too often people in neighbouring cities and regions did not know of them. We therefore established the World Habitat Award competition on an annual basis. Its first aim is to help identify these practical and innovative housing solutions, but secondly, and equally importantly, it seeks to encourage the replication of these winning projects through a variety of means, including intensive study visits to the projects.

This year we have two excellent innovative and successful housing solutions, one from Australia and the other from Bangladesh.

The Wintringham Port Melbourne Hostel in Melbourne, Australia, provides a permanent home to 36 frail older people who were formerly living on the streets or in temporary housing and who are particularly vulnerable to life in homeless persons' shelters. The hostel is of high quality design and consists

of six cottages set within landscaped gardens. Each of the cottages houses between 5 and 7 residents and a house-carer prepares the daily meals and gives support and assistance to the residents. Innovative approaches to design and management have been used, enabling lower than average construction and running costs to be achieved whilst providing a high quality of life for the residents, who can live the last few years of their life in dignity. The approach is already being replicated in other Australian cities and has been instrumental in helping to change national policy in relation to the housing of older persons who are homeless.

The Grameen Bank Housing Programme was established in Bangladesh in 1984 as part of the Grameen Bank's innovative and pioneering work on micro-credit. To date it has enabled over 450,000 poor rural families to provide themselves with a permanent and cyclone-proof home which can also withstand normal levels of flooding. The programme provides affordable housing loans of between \$300 and \$600 without formal collateral which are repayable over ten years. Repayments amount to little more than a family would have to spend every year in repairing their temporary shelters. The bank has achieved a 98 per cent recovery rate for these loans and is continuing the programme with 7,000 new loans being issued every month, enabling families to have a permanent base from which to gain a strong foothold in the struggle against poverty and natural disaster.

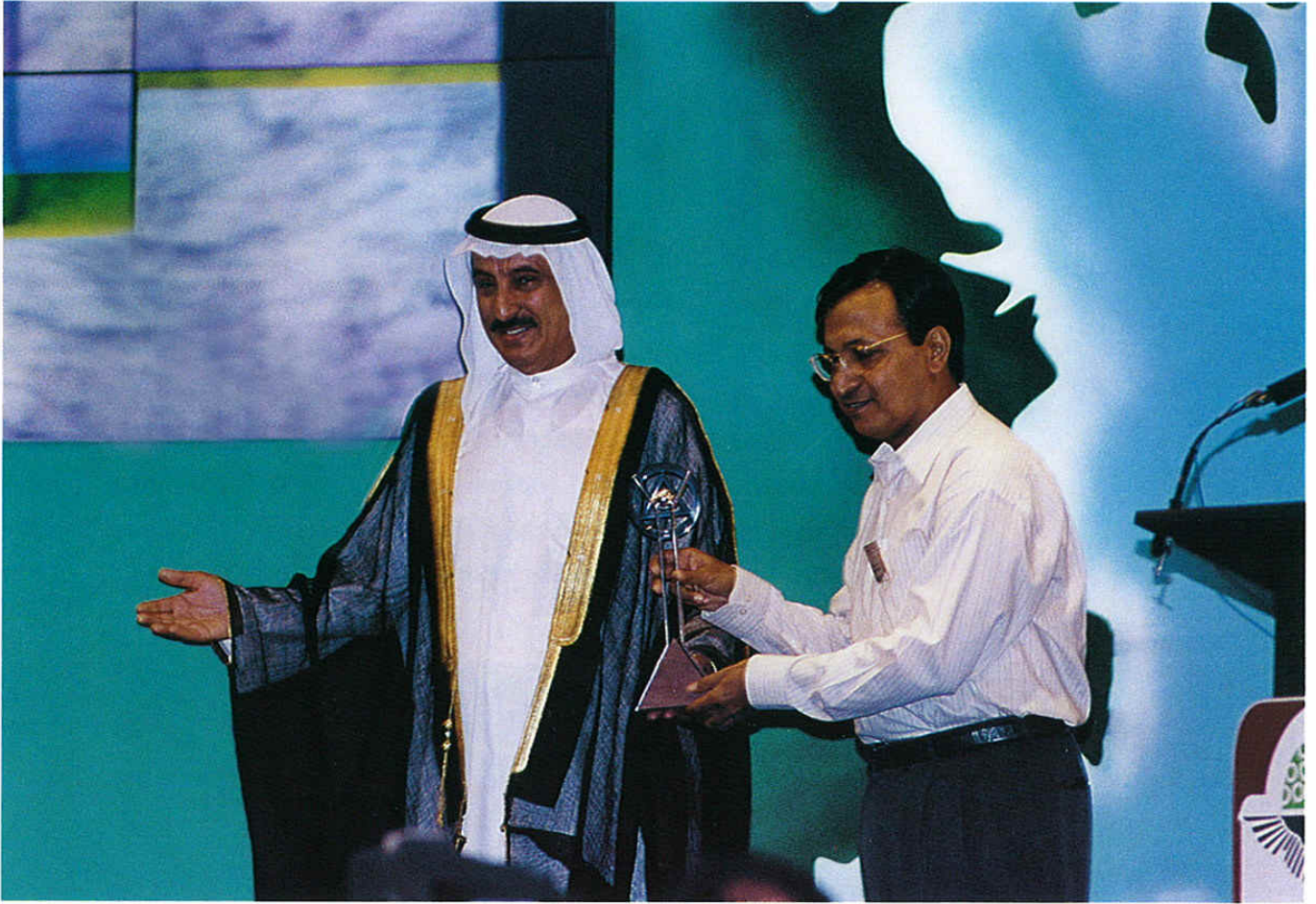
The replication of these two programmes will help to ensure that the examples they offer bring decent housing to many people around the world.

Presentation of the World Habitat Awards

His Excellency, Mr Qassim Sultan, Director-General of the Dubai Municipality presented the World Habitat Awards on the occasion of the global celebration of World Habitat Day in Dubai. These annual Awards were initiated in 1985 as part of the Building and Social Housing Foundation's contribution to the United Nations International Year for Shelter for the Homeless in order to identify innovative and successful human settlements projects, which could be easily replicated elsewhere in the world.



From left to right
Mr Allen Kong, Director, Allen Kong Architects
Mr Bryan Lipmann, Chief Executive, Wintringham
Mrs Diane Diacon, Deputy Director, Building and Social Housing Foundation
His Excellency Mr Qassim Sultan, Director-General, Dubai Municipality
Mr Dipal Barua, General Manager, Grameen Bank



**His Excellency, Mr Qassim Sultan,
Director General of Dubai Municipality**

presented the World Habitat Award trophy to

Mr Dipal Chandra Barua

who received the trophy on behalf of

**The Grameen Bank Housing Programme,
Bangladesh**



**His Excellency, Mr Qassim Sultan,
Director General of Dubai Municipality**

presented the World Habitat Award trophy to

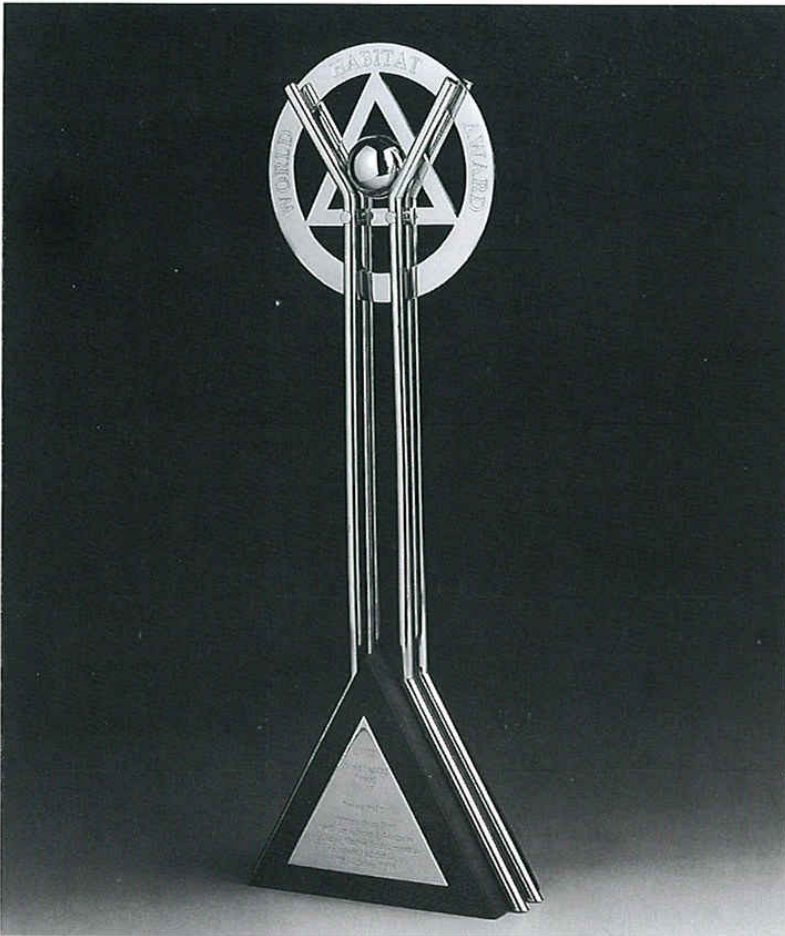
Mr Allen Kong and Mr Bryan Lipmann

who received the trophy on behalf of

**Wintringham Port Melbourne Hostel,
Melbourne, Australia**

World Habitat Award Trophies

The solid sterling silver trophies presented to the World Habitat Award winners in Dubai were individually crafted by Thomas Fattorini Ltd, silversmiths since 1827 based in Birmingham in the United Kingdom. The trophy is predominantly crafted in solid silver and contains the symbol of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.



**World Habitat
Award Trophy**

hand crafted by

**Thomas Fattorini Ltd
Regent Street
Birmingham
B1 3HQ
United Kingdom**

Wintringham Port Melbourne Hostel, Melbourne, Australia

The Wintringham Port Melbourne Hostel in Melbourne, Australia provides a permanent home to 36 frail older people who were formerly living on the streets or in temporary housing and who are particularly vulnerable to life in homeless persons' shelters. The hostel is of high-quality design and consists of six cottages set within landscaped gardens. Each of the cottages houses between five and seven residents, each with their own en-suite room. A part-time house-carer prepares the daily meals and gives support and assistance. Innovative approaches to design and management have been used, enabling lower than average construction and running costs to be achieved, whilst providing a high quality of life for the residents.



Melbourne is the second largest city in Australia and is located on the south-eastern coast. With a population of 3,200,000, it is the youngest city of its size in the world. Port Melbourne is a bayside suburb that has remained relatively immune from the process of gentrification that has occurred in most other inner urban Melbourne suburbs. Like all large cities, Melbourne has a significant population of homeless people. These have been traditionally housed in a variety of rooming houses, cheap hotels or night shelters, that are increasingly becoming places of violence and intimidation.

Wintringham was formed in 1989 by Mr Bryan Lipmann as an independent non-profit organisation, which believes that all older people have rights and dignity and should have the opportunity to maintain the lifestyles of their choice. It seeks to redress the lack of access to decent permanent accommodation for elderly homeless people, who are particularly vulnerable to life in homeless persons' shelters. It emphasises that people who are both elderly and homeless should be treated as other elderly people in the state, rather than be categorised and treated as homeless. The Port Melbourne Hostel is the third hostel to be developed in the Melbourne area by Wintringham and its design and management has evolved from experience of the previous two hostels.



The Wintringham Port Melbourne hostel was opened in July 1996 and is home to 36 frail older people who were formerly living on the streets or in temporary housing. Eight-five per cent of the residents are male. The site for the project was disused railway land that had been reclaimed for housing and is an area familiar to the homeless people of Melbourne. The hostel is of high quality design, using highly attractive timber construction. It consists of six cottages set within handsome landscaped gardens plus administrative and staff accommodation. Apart from the private staff areas, the entire complex is on a single level with interest created by raised and sunken garden beds. A small community hall has also been provided, which contains a pool table, a fridge, and double opening doors which lead out onto a garden barbecue area.

Each of the cottages houses five, six or seven residents. Each resident has their own fully furnished bungalow style room with a personal shower and toilet. Each cottage has its own lounge and dining area, together with a fully equipped domestic style kitchen and bathroom/laundry facilities. A part-time house carer is responsible for purchasing and preparing meals for the residents in that cottage. This allows individual likes and dislikes to be catered for that in a way that would be impossible with a central dining room and kitchen. The house carer also provides support and assistance as needed, to the residents in the cottage. All rooms lead onto a veranda that gives each resident additional private space.

The Port Melbourne hostel consists of six cottages set in an attractive garden setting. Each of the cottages houses five, six or seven residents. The entire complex is on a single level with interest created by raised and sunken garden beds. A small community hall has also been provided, which contains a pool table, a fridge and a garden barbecue area.

The cluster-style accommodation is favoured because of the small-scale, homelike and non-institutional image that is created. The building design enables residents to live independently and to socialise, if they wish, with other residents. Space within the project is divided into space for private use (such as the bedroom), space for personal, social contact such as the veranda, neighbourhood meeting places, such as the kitchen and lounge of the cottage and community meeting places such as the community room. This allows for a clear demarcation of space and adds to the sense of security and independence of the resident. The exterior space is divided into courtyards linked along a central circulation path with each courtyard having a distinctive landscaping theme. The shapes and layouts of the buildings and gardens are based on Feng Shui principles and provide a supportive and nurturing



environment for the staff and residents, control the views from and to the site and provide variety in the scale of the spaces. All parts of the hostel are accessible by wheelchair. Passive solar design was used and windows are oriented north for solar gain wherever possible. Wide verandas, cross ventilation, ceiling fans and landscaping all provide cooling in the summer.

The total project cost was A\$2,325,522 (US\$1,860,418) or A\$66,444 (US\$53,155) per bedspace. This is at the low end of the cost spectrum for this type of housing, that can often be as high as A\$100,000 (US\$80,000) per bedspace. The land cost a further A\$780,000 (US\$624,000) and was paid for by the state government. The national government met 98 per cent of the total construction cost.

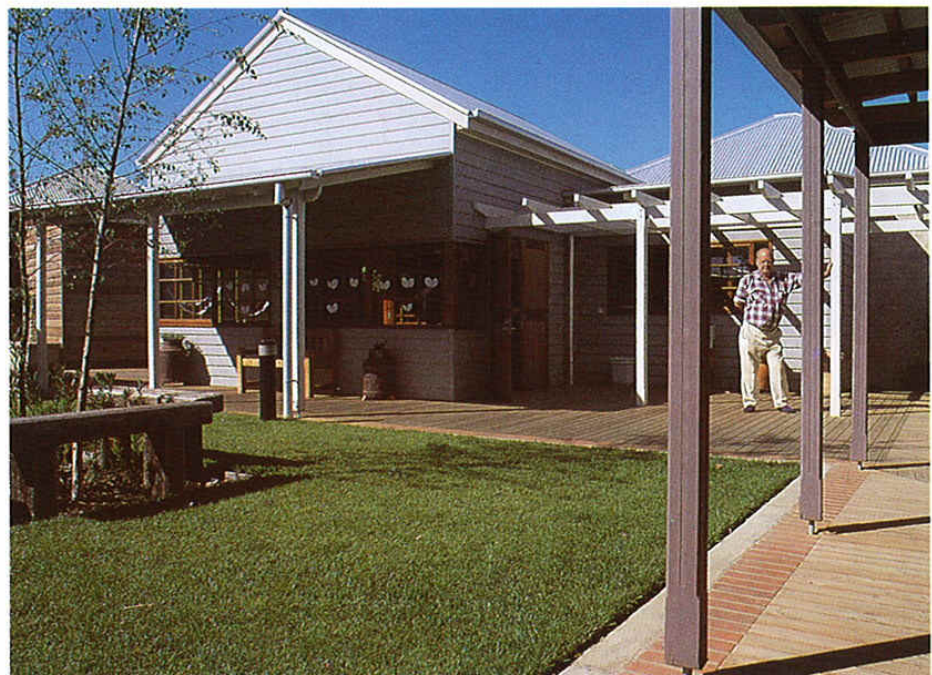
The costs of running the hostel are funded by the state as for other hostels of that size. The rent charged is 75 per cent of the state pension received by the residents, which is 10 per cent lower than that typically charged in other hostels. The services provided at the hostel include all meals and refreshments, cleaning and maintenance services and laundry services. In addition staff assistance is provided with the tasks of daily living, including

Each resident has their own fully furnished bungalow style room, with a personal shower and toilet. Each cottage has its own lounge and dining area, together with a fully equipped domestic style kitchen and bathroom/laundry facilities. A house carer is responsible for purchasing and preparing the meals for the residents in the cottage. This allows individual likes and dislikes to be catered for that would be impossible with a central dining room and kitchen.

personal care and medications and a 24 hour emergency service is available. Visiting medical practitioners and other health care professionals, emotional support and advocacy and leisure activities are also provided. One of the cottages successfully accommodates residents with dementia, but should residents require full-time nursing care they need to move on to specialist nursing accommodation.

The use of standard domestic construction techniques rather than commercial construction helped to reduce costs. Without forsaking quality, design was carried out to minimise costs wherever possible. Using the verandas as circulation space meant that less internal area was required in each cottage. Many design elements perform multiple roles, garden seating/retaining walls have an immediate structural purpose and balustrades and retaining walls provide non-obvious continuous handrail to assist passage. Timber was chosen for its simplicity and economy of construction as well as its adaptability to accommodate change in the future. Radiata pine from sustainable plantations is the primary structural material used and where exposed it is treated with organic solvents. Pine flooring provides an inexpensive, durable, easily cleaned and attractive flooring in the cottages and allows easy access to the sub-floor services.

Innovative approaches to design and construction have been used enabling construction and running costs to be lower than average for such accommodation. There has been significant national and international interest in this housing solution which brings dignity to the lives of older people who are homeless in an affordable and sustainable manner.





The exterior space is divided into courtyards linked along a central circulation path with each courtyard having a distinctive landscaping theme. The shapes and layouts of the buildings and gardens are based on Feng Shui principles and provide a supportive and nurturing environment for residents.

The Port Melbourne hostel has already received commendations and accolades for both its design and management. It has triggered much interest, both at home and overseas, for its pioneering approach to housing older people and has received visits from many professionals as well as government representatives concerned with the care of older people, both in Australia and overseas.

The Grameen Bank Housing Programme, Bangladesh

The Grameen Bank Housing Programme was established in Bangladesh in 1984 and to date has enabled over 450,000 poor rural families to provide themselves with a permanent and cyclone-proof home. The programme provides affordable housing loans of between \$300 and \$625, without formal collateral and repayable over ten years. Repayments amount to little more than a family would have to spend every year in repairing their temporary shelters. The title to the home is vested with the woman, who thereby obtains financial security and improved status within the family and society. The bank has achieved a 98 per cent recovery rate for these loans and is continuing the programme with 7,000 new loans being issued every month.



Bangladesh is one of the world's poorest, most densely populated and least developed nations. With a population in excess of 125 million it is the eighth most populous country in the world; with an average per capita income of \$250 it is also one of the poorest. Situated in a low-lying delta where four major river systems come together, the country is blessed with highly fertile soil, but also suffers regular and severe problems of flooding. Despite their many problems the Bangladeshi people retain considerable optimism and pride in their nation.

Grameen Bank grew out of an action research project initiated by Professor Muhammed Yunus in 1976, who recognised that it is poor people's lack of access to capital rather than their capacity to repay that perpetuates their poverty. The action research project started in Chittagong University, provided credit facilities for a small number of poor rural families and enabled them to set up small income-generating businesses. These tiny loans of a few dollars, issued without formal collateral, enabled the poorest of the poor to get out of their downward spiral of poverty and exploitation by money lenders. Building



The houses vary in appearance throughout the country but have the same basic structural components. There are four reinforced concrete pillars on brick foundations at the corners of the house and six intermediary bamboo or concrete posts, with bamboo tie beams, wooden rafters and purlins supporting corrugated iron roofing sheets. This provides stability in times of flood and high winds as well as protection from the heavy rain during the monsoon season. A sanitary latrine is required to be provided with every house.



Loans are available from the Grameen Bank to purchase homestead land if a family has no land on which to build its house. Families can build the houses themselves with the help of friends and neighbours, although local skilled carpenters carry out the roof construction for many families. The title to the house is vested with the women, which ensures that she obtains improved status within the family and society. The loans are repaid weekly when the manager from the local branch office comes to their village.

on the success of this and subsequent projects, the Grameen Bank was formally incorporated in 1983 and is today the largest rural credit institution in Bangladesh with 2,400,000 borrowers, 95 per cent of whom are women. It provides services in 38,659 villages (more than half of all villages in Bangladesh). The average loan size is \$167.

The Grameen Bank operates as a specialised bank for the poor, charging interest on its loans and is not reliant on donor funding. It specialises in the provision of financial services, including credit, savings and insurance to the poorest of the rural poor (the word grameen means village). It obtains funds from the Central Bank of Bangladesh and lends them on to its borrowers at a higher rate of interest. It is able to operate profitably due to its high loan recovery rate of 98 per cent and makes a small annual profit.

In 1984 the Bank started to lend money for housing loans and to date 450,000 houses have been built using these loans. An average of 7,000 - 8,000 new loans are made every month. The housing loans are available only to existing Grameen Bank borrowers who have a 100 per cent repayment record and have completely repaid their first two loans for income generation activities,



The bank views housing loans as investment rather than consumption, since a secure and well-constructed house aids the health and well-being of the family and helps them break the vicious circle of poverty. The house can be used for storage for their small businesses and time and money are saved in not having to continually repair the jute-stick shelters.

but after a natural disaster Grameen Bank has a special housing programme in which the above criteria are relaxed. The housing loans are usually repaid over a 10 year period with a simple interest rate of 8 per cent.

Poor families typically live in small shelters of jute stick, straw, grass thatch, bamboo and dried mud. Each year a family has to spend about \$30 to repair the house after the monsoons. For an equal amount of money a family can repay a housing loan for a strong, well-constructed house with a floor area of 20m². The Bank views housing loans as investment rather than consumption, since a secure and well-constructed house aids the health and well-being of the family and helps them break the vicious circle of poverty. The house can be used for storage for their small businesses and time and money are saved in not having to continually repair the jute-stick shelters. The Grameen Bank has developed two standard house designs. The smaller one costs \$300 and a larger version costs \$625. In many cases the family add their own savings to the loan and are spending up to \$800 - \$1,000 on their home and its furnishings.

The houses vary in appearance throughout the country but have the same basic structural components. There are four reinforced concrete pillars on brick foundations at the corners of the house and six intermediary bamboo or concrete posts, with bamboo tie beams, wooden rafters and purlins supporting corrugated iron roofing sheets. This provides stability in the flood and strong monsoon wind and protection from the heavy rain during the monsoon season. In cases of severe flooding the house can be dismantled and the components stored and reassembled later. A sanitary latrine must be provided with each house. Families can build the houses themselves, with the help of friends and neighbours. Local skilled carpenters carry out the roof construction for many families. Many houses now have an electrical connection which powers an electric light, a fan and occasionally a TV or radio. All houses have raised sleeping areas so that the family do not have to sleep on the floor and in each house there is a table with school books for the children to work on when they come in from school. Cooking is done outside and cooking pots and utensils are stored in the house. Loans are also available to purchase homestead land if a family has no land on which to build its house.

Many houses now have an electrical connection which powers an electric light, a fan and occasionally a TV or radio. All houses have raised sleeping area and in each house there is a table with school books for the children to work on when they come in from school.



The title to the house is vested with the borrower and in 95 per cent of cases this is the woman. By having title to the house the woman obtains financial security and an improved status within the family and society. The borrowers repay their loans on a weekly basis at the Centre meeting when the manager of the local branch office of the Grameen Bank comes to their village. The collateral system of peer support means that families help each other out with payments if necessary to ensure that all repayments are made on time. There is a 98 per cent loan recovery rate, compared to a 25 - 30 per cent for other banks.

The Grameen Bank is dedicated to meeting the needs of the poorest of the poor. It employs 12,600 people, most of whom are based in the branch offices in the rural areas. All the staff have a sense of pride and mission in their work and an identity with the borrowers. Branch staff treat the borrowers with obvious respect and liking and are held in high regard. The organisation prides itself on being free of corruption and is innovative and progressive. It is constantly seeking to develop new opportunities for income generation and services for its borrowers and has established sixteen new enterprises to provide these services on a commercial basis (including electricity supply using solar energy, a mobile phone network for the villages and a marketing organisation for the high quality hand-woven fabrics, which are manufactured in the villages).

The Grameen Bank micro-credit model is already being replicated throughout the world. Another organisation known as the Grameen Trust, is in charge of the international programme, which seeks to promote micro-credit for the poorest of the poor throughout the world, in both developed and developing countries. To date, micro-credit programmes based on the Grameen Bank experience have been established in 56 other countries.

1998 Habitat Scroll of Honour Awards

The Habitat Scroll of Honour Awards were initiated by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements in 1989 to honour and encourage individuals and organisations making outstanding contributions to the cause of shelter for the poor and the improvement of human settlement conditions around the world. The 1998 Habitat Scrolls of Honour were awarded to **Programa de Mobilização de Comunidades, Brazil**

- A successful partnership initiative between the State Government of Minas Gerais, local communities and social volunteers to improve housing and the living environment in peri-urban and rural settlements among low-income families.

Fu-Nan River Comprehensive Revitalisation Project. Chengdu, China

- For the comprehensive revitalisation project of the Chengdu Municipal Government which has improved an area of 4 square kilometres and provided effective flood protection at the same time as providing 24 hectares of greenery to create ecological balance in the city.

Mayor Mu Suixin, Mayor of Shenyang, China

- For coordinating and implementing the UNCHS (Habitat)-supported Sustainable Shenyang Project, which has introduced innovative cross-sectoral and participatory forms of urban environmental planning and management.

Forum Européen pour la Sécurité Urbaine (European Forum for Urban Security)

- For its work in the field of urban security both in Europe and internationally and in particular for its efforts at looking at the role of cities in reducing urban insecurity through local preventative action.



- **Professor Akin L. Mabogunje, Nigeria**
For his major contributions to urban development in Africa and worldwide. His intellectual and practical contribution to development policies is well-respected globally and he has published extensively, especially in the field of urban and regional development.

- **Vladimir A. Kudryavtsev, Russia**
For his professional, public, scientific and educational contributions to human settlements development and management as Vice-Chairman of the Russian Guild of Realtors and President of the "Housing Initiative Corporation".

- **Association des Habitants D'el Mourouj 2, Tunisia**
For its achievements in the field of urban environmental protection in Tunisia, and its work with the Urban Management Programme. Also for its efforts in implementing the Habitat Agenda at national and regional levels.

1998 Dubai International Award for Best Practices in Improving the Living Environment

The Dubai International Award for Best Practices in Improving the Living Environment was first given at the Habitat II meeting in Istanbul in 1996 and will be awarded every alternate year. It was formally established by H. H. Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, in response to the Dubai Declaration resulting from the Dubai International Conference on Best Practices in Improving the Living Environment in 1985. The purpose of the Award is to encourage, recognise and enhance awareness of outstanding and sustainable achievements in improving the quality of life in urban and rural settlements.

□ **Housing Programme for the Peripheral Areas of Xalapa, Vera Cruz, Mexico**

By producing their own professional standard development plan, a low income community on the outskirts of Xalapa, Vera Cruz, Mexico, has initiated a housing project, a women's credit scheme, a nutrition and education project and has succeeded in obtaining the official incorporation of their community as part of the municipality.

□ **Community Infrastructure (Upgrading) Programme (CIP), Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania**

The Dar-es-Salaam City Council realised it could not meet the demand for infrastructure by itself. Through the Community Infrastructure Upgrading Programme (CIP), communities such as Tabata are contributing their ideas, energy and money for roads, water and sanitation projects.

- **Comprehensive Improvement of the Urban Environment, Zhuhai, China**

Once a poor fishing village, Zhuhai, China, has become a model city for comprehensive environment management amidst rapid urban growth, leading to the replication of its experience in many other Chinese cities.

- **Household Solid Waste Management: The Zabbaleen Garbage Collectors, Cairo, Egypt**

In Cairo, Egypt, the Zabbaleen are not only selling products made from garbage they have collected and recycled, but they have also been successful in persuading the Government to legally recognise their community.

- **Programme for Improving the Urban Environment, Malaga, Spain**

Through the rehabilitation of its historic city centre, the recovery of its urban beach and the implementation of a modern waste-water treatment plant, the City of Malaga, Spain, represents an excellent example of how cities can put into practice the recommendations of the 1992 Earth Summit and the commitments made by partners at the "City Summit" the Habitat II conference.

- **Interface's Journey to Sustainability, USA**

Since 1994, Interface, Inc. Kennesaw, Georgia, United States of America, has applied its philosophy of "Doing well by doing good" to all aspects of its carpet manufacturing business, significantly reducing its environment impact, saving \$50 million, quadrupling its stock price and reducing the environmental impact of the operations of its domestic and international suppliers.

- **The Kipepeo (Butterfly) Project, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, Kenya**

An island of unique biodiversity threatened by pressing demands for more agricultural land, Kenya's Arabuko Sokoke Forest has been saved by the Kipepeo Project. The success of the project lies in linking conservation with development through the sustainable harvesting and export of butterfly pupae.

□ **Surat's Experience in Urban Governance and Public Management, India**

In 1995, the Municipality of Surat, India, engaged in a comprehensive participatory planning process, producing an integrated programme of 47 projects addressing issues of transportation, water supply, sanitation and environmental management. Within 18 months, Surat was judged the second cleanest city in India.

□ **Naga City Participatory Planning Initiatives, Philippines**

Popular participation in local planning has been crucial to the ongoing rehabilitation of the Naga River, the upgrading of the City Hospital and the improvement of solid waste management in Naga City, Philippines.

□ **Urban Sub-centres for Citizen Life in Low-Income Areas, Medellin, Colombia**

Rapid population growth, economic stagnation and the rise of drug trafficking have fragmented the low income communities of Medellin, Colombia. Through the urban sub centres, residents are working in partnership with Government, local authorities and the private sector to reclaim their communities.

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Building and Social Housing Foundation

The Building and Social Housing Foundation is a research institute based in Coalville, Leicestershire. It is an independent and non-political organisation which has been endowed with funds by a building organisation formed by a group of homeless and penniless ex-servicemen just after World War II. The Foundation carries out research into all aspects of housing and is concerned with identifying housing solutions rather than problems. Of particular interest is the need to identify a sustainable and viable way of life for the future in both the developed and developing world.



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