



PRESENTATION OF THE
WORLD HABITAT AWARDS 2013/14
WORLD URBAN FORUM 7

MEDELLÍN, COLOMBIA



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The 2013/14 World Habitat Awards for innovative and sustainable housing solutions were presented at the closing ceremony of the World Urban Forum 7 in Medellín, Colombia, on Friday, 11 April 2014.

The World Urban Forum (WUF) is organised biennially by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), bringing together a wide range of urban development actors in order to share knowledge and experiences on making our cities smarter and more inclusive.

The Seventh session of the World Urban Forum was hosted by the Government of Colombia and the City of Medellín, in collaboration with UN-Habitat.

The theme of the World Urban Forum 7 was 'Transforming Cities Today for Equitable Societies Tomorrow', highlighting the role of urban policy in redistributing resources and calling for equity to be embedded in urban development strategies. Discussions from this year's event will also underpin the development of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III in 2016.

*'Transforming
Cities Today
for Equitable
Societies
Tomorrow'*

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Bogotá, Colombia, showing a dense urban landscape with numerous high-rise apartment buildings and a large, steep, green mountain in the background. A semi-transparent green rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

*‘We need
inclusive
development
to eradicate
extreme
poverty’*



➤ MESSAGE TO THE WORLD URBAN FORUM

MR BAN KI-MOON, SECRETARY-GENERAL, UNITED NATIONS

I am pleased to send greetings to the Seventh session of the World Urban Forum, and I thank the Government of Colombia and the City of Medellín for hosting.

Our world is increasingly urban. This presents great opportunities for sustainable development - equitable social progress, inclusive economic growth and sound environmental stewardship. But the challenges remain profound. Among them is rising urban inequality.

All over the world cities and towns are divided along social, cultural and economic lines. People are denied the opportunities for a better life that the urban environment can and should offer. We need inclusive development to eradicate extreme poverty.

This is emerging as a central theme of the Post-2015 development agenda. It should be your focus this week and as you work towards Habitat III in 2016. We need a new urban agenda that leaves no-one behind. I count on your expertise and commitment. Let us plan and manage our towns and cities so they provide the foundation for global, durable and sustainable development.



➤ EQUITABLE SOCIETIES

DR JOAN CLOS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UN-HABITAT

We gather this week in the Colombian city of Medellín for the Seventh session of the World Urban Forum.


This year's theme, Urban Equity in Development – Cities for Life, represents the urgent call for equity for all as we work towards improving our cities.

Inequity has become a universal concern. Differentials in access to opportunities, income, consumption, information and technology are the norm, not the exception. For the majority of people, income disparities

are greater today than they were a generation ago.

Unequal cities have difficulties in optimising the urban advantage, and translating it into tangible benefits in social, economic and political aspects for all.

Therefore, we must integrate urban equity in its different dimensions into the development agenda. This also includes looking at equality as a key human right principle. Both are needed to ensure sustainable development.



‘Medellín provides us with a living example of a city in transition; a city that has faced the challenges that lie before it and, in addressing them, has created opportunities to re-shape its future for the better’

This World Urban Forum is the beginning of the journey towards the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III. Your contribution to the discussions over the coming days will play an important role in laying the groundwork for the decisions to be taken in 2016 on what our urban future will look like.

growth, socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

Medellín provides us with a living example of a city in transition; a city that has faced the challenges that lie before it and, in addressing them, has created opportunities to re-shape its future for the better.

To do this we need a new Global Urban Agenda. This agenda requires robust urban planning that focuses on public space and takes into account the needs of all citizens. This way cities can become places of economic

➤ THE WORLD HABITAT AWARDS

MR GEOFF PAYNE, TRUSTEE, BUILDING AND SOCIAL HOUSING FOUNDATION

The annual World Habitat Awards competition was established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) to identify innovative, sustainable and scalable housing solutions worldwide. BSHF also works to ensure that the approaches developed in the winning projects are widely shared, by organising peer exchange activities as well as publishing and disseminating a range of information.

The two winning projects this year both work, in very different ways, with local communities to provide long-term, sustainable housing solutions.

The **Hebron Old City Rehabilitation Programme** was established to revitalise the Old City of Hebron. The programme focuses on several areas including the careful renovation of housing and other buildings, upgrading of infrastructure and improvement of public spaces, coupled with efforts to stimulate local economic development and the provision of legal assistance.

The **100,000 Homes Campaign** has worked to permanently house 100,000 of the most vulnerable homeless individuals by July 2014. Through advocating the 'Street to Home' methodology, and developing a range of innovative tools, the Campaign aims to bring about fundamental changes to the way chronic homelessness is tackled in the USA. The Campaign recruits participating communities to commit to closely monitored goals.

These two programmes have contributed to the safe housing of many thousands of individuals and families, along with the provision of wider support services. It is hoped that the World Habitat Awards will provide a new platform for them to share their knowledge and experiences.





Dr Joan Clos, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-Habitat, presented a World Habitat Award trophy to each of the two winners.

The World Habitat Awards trophies are crafted in solid silver and contain the symbol of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. The trophies were designed by Zoe Youngman and Kate Thorley and crafted by Andrew Macgowan.



Mr Emad Hamdan receives the World Habitat Award trophy on behalf of the Hebron Old City Rehabilitation Programme from Dr. Joan Clos, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-Habitat.



Ms Rosanne Haggerty receives the World Habitat Award trophy on behalf of the 100,000 Homes Campaign from Dr. Joan Clos, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-Habitat.



➤ HEBRON OLD CITY REHABILITATION PROGRAMME, PALESTINE

The Project

The Hebron Old City Rehabilitation Programme was initiated by the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee (HRC).

HRC was established as a semi-governmental organisation in 1996 by a presidential declaration from former Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. It aims to support the re-population of the deteriorated Old City of Hebron, preserve cultural heritage, support local economic development and provide affordable housing.

The HRC offices are located within the Old City, in an area which is currently under Israeli military control. The main components of the project include the securing of decent housing, infrastructure and services, the stimulation of economic activity, and the provision of legal assistance to protect the residents' rights.

The programme has ensured the continuous use and maintenance of historic buildings and urban spaces that had previously been abandoned. Over 1,000 housing units have been renovated and are now inhabited by approximately 6,000 people.

History

Hebron is one of the oldest cities in the world, having been continuously inhabited for over 5,000 years. Its historic centre is characterised by the density of its architectural fabric, narrow, winding streets and stone masonry structures of significant heritage value. Following the Israeli occupation of the Old City in 1967, the area was progressively abandoned and over time the physical condition of the city's old buildings had badly deteriorated. Curfews, closures, difficulties with Israeli settlers and tight restrictions on the movement of residents, together with increasing economic problems, caused most residents to leave the area, leaving only those who were socially marginalised and unable to afford to live elsewhere. By 1995, approximately 9,500 Palestinian residents had left, with less than 400 remaining. The economic life of the Old City was also severely affected, with the closure of 77 per cent of its shops and commercial activities.

The Hebron Old City Rehabilitation Programme involves the restoration and reuse of historic buildings in Hebron's Old City for housing purposes, combined with improvements to public spaces, urban infrastructure and services, social and legal assistance and measures to stimulate job creation and develop the local economy.



The programme focuses on the following key areas:

Housing

Through a sensitive rehabilitation and restoration process using traditional techniques and materials, over 1,000 housing units have been renovated and are now inhabited by approximately 6,000 people (78 per cent of whom are tenants and 22 per cent of whom are owner occupiers). Large residential properties originally built to accommodate extended families of 20 or more people have been converted into smaller apartments to adapt to current cultural and household requirements. Local residents are employed and locally produced materials are used wherever possible.

Infrastructure and services

Social assistance, education and health care is provided to low-income families free of charge and a community centre, children's playgrounds and public gardens have been established. Infrastructure upgrading has included a new sewerage network, water and electricity supply, improvement of paved areas, sidewalks and stairs, planting of trees, handrail installation and street lighting. Public spaces, formerly used as dumping grounds, have been reclaimed.

Social development

The programme has increasingly focused on social development and enhanced the role of residents in the revitalisation process through the implementation of several awareness programs and activities.

Economic development

The programme has increasingly focused its work on reviving local economic activity and creating jobs in and around the Old City in an effort to reduce poverty and unemployment. Shops have been restored and various activities have been organised to encourage tourism.

A vocational training school was established in 2009 in partnership with the Spanish government.

Human rights

With funding from the Norwegian government, HRC has established a comprehensive programme aiming at the protection of Old City residents from human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests, physical abuse, damage to property, expropriation of houses and land, closing of streets and business to Palestinians and preventing the rehabilitation of buildings in the Old City. By providing legal assistance, HRC hopes to create an environment of accountability that will contribute towards the safety of the community and prevent future depopulation.

➤ HEBRON OLD CITY REHABILITATION PROGRAMME, PALESTINE

Covering costs

Funding for the programme has been obtained from a range of sources, including the Palestinian National Authority, other government sources and international multi- and bi-lateral donors including many European governments. Since the beginning of the programme in 1996, more than US\$32 million has been received from over 20 donors in 16 countries to cover the costs of the programme. The average cost per unit for housing rehabilitation is US\$26,000.

Ongoing operating costs of the programme are met through a combination of grants from national and international donors, other revenues and in-kind donations, totalling approximately US\$2.7 million per year. Funding to the amount of US\$600,000 was provided by Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) for the establishment of a vocational training school in 2009.

Impact

More than 6,000 people are now living in the Old City, ensuring the continuous use and maintenance of historical buildings and urban spaces that had previously been abandoned. The more than tenfold increase in the number of people living within the rehabilitation programme area has been the most important indicator of the success of the programme. In addition, rehabilitation of infrastructure, services and public spaces has significantly improved the living conditions in the Old City.

The legal unit of HRC has assisted shop owners and families in getting back properties that had been closed down or expropriated through a ruling in the Israeli Supreme Court. Rulings such as this have protected the rights of the Palestinians.

Over 160 shop owners have reopened their shops and 207 permanent jobs have been created to date.



Social sustainability

A range of social development initiatives have been established to facilitate greater community cooperation, including setting up a community centre, outreach activities, school trips to the Old City and special activities for young people. An overall achievement of the programme has been the reintegration of the Old City into the social fabric of Hebron as previously decayed areas separating the two parts of the city have been restored, fostering movement between them.

The improvements to basic infrastructure and services, particularly in terms of the availability of safe drinking water and sanitation, in the area have a positive effect on residents' health.

The legal assistance provided by HRC helps to protect residents against human rights violations and seeks to create an environment of greater accountability by the military forces and settler groups within the Old City.

HRC works to address the urgent housing needs of the most marginalised in Hebron, seeking to reduce existing social inequalities. The rehabilitation programme has a

number of initiatives that target specific groups including, for example, vocational training activities for women, activities with disabled persons and income-generating activities for refugees.

Residents are involved in the planning stages of the programme and in wider decisions affecting the community. Awareness-raising activities and the work of the human rights unit encourage residents to take a more active role in society.

For further details about the Hebron Old City Rehabilitation Programme, please see the contact details on page 26 or visit the World Habitat Awards website at **www.worldhabitatawards.org**.

➤ 100,000 HOMES CAMPAIGN, USA

The Project

Community Solutions' (CS) **100,000 Homes Campaign** aims to build a national grassroots movement and help over 200 communities find and permanently house 100,000 of the most long-term and vulnerable people experiencing homelessness in the USA by 2014.

The Campaign achieves its aims by advocating and transferring the proven 'Street to Home' method pioneered in New York to communities elsewhere. A network of over 100 organisations is committed to this work at the local or national level in addition to implementation teams in over 200 participating communities. The Campaign started in July 2010 and was scheduled to end in July 2014. In June 2014, ahead of schedule, the Campaign achieved its goal with 100,000 homeless persons now permanently housed by 190 enrolled communities.

The objective is to change the way that communities respond to homelessness and to shift efforts away from emergency responses to long-term solutions. As a result of the Campaign, long-term and medically vulnerable homeless people have been permanently housed and hospital costs have been vastly reduced, as has return to jail. As well as increasing levels of income and employment, significant changes are also taking place at policy level.

Homelessness in the USA

Around 650,000 people are homeless in the USA on any given night, and from 1.5 to 2 million over the course of the year. For most, homelessness is short-term, but for roughly 100,000 people it becomes chronic. They have complex needs that prolong homelessness and make them dependent on costly government services that fail to deliver lasting or cost effective results. The 17 per cent chronically homeless consume over half of the resources dedicated to homelessness. Long-term homelessness seriously affects health; the average lifespan of a chronically homeless person is 25 years less than that of the average American. Previously, communities often provided housing on a first-come first-serve basis, rather than targeting those most in need.



Developing the tools and building a popular movement

The Campaign employs an innovative process of movement building and quality improvement methods to create two significant changes at the community level: a registry of all homeless persons and a plan to move 2.5 per cent of the chronic and vulnerable homeless population into permanent housing each month. In this context, a community is a multi-faceted term defined locally, encompassing a definition of space, but also of participating organisations and resources.

To do this CS recruits prioritised communities into the movement; the number of communities continues to grow. A team is built from as many local sectors as possible. Free training is provided in Registry Week Boot Camps comprising a two-day orientation to the tools of the Campaign and the variety of resources available. Following this the community organises a Registry Week in which hundreds of volunteers canvas the streets between 04.00am and 06.00am for three consecutive mornings to survey each person sleeping outside using the Vulnerability Index, a tool created by Community Solutions. This creates a by-name and by-photograph registry of all homeless persons, ranked by risk of premature mortality. This information enables data-driven negotiations about housing and support systems.

The needs of individual homeless people are matched with housing options, necessary health and employment support, as well as Critical Time Intervention support to enable them to maintain their independence in their own home. Enrolled communities across the USA have found innovative ways to line up housing and services, and of discovering resources they had so far not tapped into. The Campaign has a national network of like-minded communities and mentors to find new ways to secure units, funding and support. Each community receives a monthly progress report that compares their progress against standard benchmarks.

The Campaign has a full-time director of strategic partnerships based in Washington D.C. who connects the grassroots work with high level officials and organisations. This person works closely with several central government departments and over two dozen strategic partners with whom CS synchronises efforts to move vulnerable homeless persons into permanent housing.

The work of the Campaign has influenced many policy changes across different jurisdictions, helping to streamline and improve the process of housing the homeless in a more permanent way.

➤ 100,000 HOMES CAMPAIGN, USA

Covering costs

The cost of the Campaign is US\$1.5 million per year, funded mostly by foundations and corporations. From 2013, CS received more significant funding from the federal government and from a national veterans' advocacy project, but much of the Campaign's costs will still be funded from philanthropic contributions. No capital investment was required to launch or operate the Campaign.

There currently is no cost to the participating communities. Following the conclusion of the Campaign, CS plans to continue many of the consultancy services to communities for a fee. Sixty per cent of income in 2015 is projected to come from fees for turning real estate into housing for homeless persons with donations and government grants contributing 20 per cent each. In addition impact evaluations show significant savings, especially from reduced hospitalisations. These benefits are being demonstrated to policy makers with a view to securing longer term system change and realignment of funding to pay for housing.

Impact and innovation

Over 95,000 long-term and medically vulnerable homeless people have been permanently housed as of June 2014. The Campaign advocates strategies that have a proven retention rate of 85 per cent; one survey showed an actual retention of 90 per cent after one year in housing. Levels of income and employment increased. Some of the innovative tools are effective, such as the Rapid Results Housing Placement Boot Camp which has already helped registered communities to double their placement rate. Some communities reduced the time it takes to move veterans into housing by 75 per cent, while other communities improved their targeting of chronically homeless veterans. Such boot camps were rolled out to 40 communities focusing on non-veterans in 2013. Rapid results teams also report changes in mind-set, behaviours and processes that carry the effect beyond their lifespan. These include unprecedented levels of collaboration between and across agencies and not-for-profit organisations, the development of 'one stop shops' for housing solutions and greater delegation to front-line staff.



Scaling up and transfer

The Campaign is a scaling-up process in itself, taking a proven approach developed in New York, to the USA as a whole and beyond. The Campaign team attempts to accept as many invitations as possible to visit external organisations in the USA and abroad to discuss and advocate the Campaign's methodology.

The Campaign now works on a regular basis with over 200 local coalitions across the USA. The Campaign is continuing to spread in influence across the United States, and overseas transfer is imminent with plans to export the model to Ireland, Australia and Canada.

For further details about the 100,000 Homes Campaign, please see the contact details on page 26 or visit the World Habitat Awards website at **www.worldhabitatawards.org**

➤ 2013 HABITAT SCROLL OF HONOUR AWARDS

The Habitat Scroll of Honour Award was launched by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in 1989. The aim of this prestigious human settlements award is to acknowledge individuals and institutions which have made outstanding contributions in various fields such as shelter provision, highlighting the plight of the homeless, leadership in post-conflict reconstruction, and developing and improving human settlements and the quality of urban life.

Presented by Dr Joan Clos, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-Habitat; Mr Luis Felipe Henao, Minister of Housing, City and Territory of Colombia; Mr Sergio Fajardo, Governor of Antioquia; and Mr Anibal Gaviria, Mayor of Medellín, the 2013 Habitat Scrolls of Honour were awarded to:



➤ **UPP Social Programme
(Municipality of Rio de
Janeiro), Brazil**

For advancing the promotion of urban, social and economic development in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro

➤ **People's Government of
Shouguang City, China**

For improvements in infrastructure, transport and traffic systems

➤ **Ministry of Urban
Development, Housing
and Construction,
Ethiopia**

For its groundbreaking Cobblestone - Youth Job Creation Initiative

➤ **Suwon City, Republic of
Korea**

For its citizen-initiated governance and participatory urban planning and budgeting

➤ **Community Led
Infrastructure Funding Facility
(CLIFF), United Kingdom**

For enabling organisations of the urban poor to access greater resources

➤ An additional Scroll of Honour was announced at WUF7 for **Diane Diacon, Former Director of BSHF** for her outstanding efforts and commitment to promoting housing policy and practice. Diane's award will be presented to her at a later date.

➤ WORLD HABITAT AWARD 2013/14 FINALISTS



Community Management of Urban Infrastructure

Argentina

Fundación Pro Vivienda Social is working in 18 marginalised neighbourhoods in Greater Buenos Aires to promote social inclusion by empowering communities, improving housing conditions and connecting people to basic services.

The project promotes social inclusion and community-led development through a participatory model that relies on the active collaboration of residents, companies, banks and governments. Community trusts and innovative finance mechanisms are used to manage resources and deliver the project, using housing as a mobilising agent through which the community gets together to combine savings and resources. A pro-poor business model has been established and over 4,500 families have been connected to the natural gas network.



The Struggle for Housing in Central Areas

Brazil

This community-led project aims to provide decent, affordable housing for low-income families living in inadequate, overcrowded conditions in the city centre of Santos, addressing the issues of gentrification and displacement and working towards ensuring the right to adequate housing and the right to the city for all.

The Association of Tenements in Central Areas has become a national example of a grassroots group working together to regenerate the neighbourhood. The project is directly benefiting 800 residents and has succeeded in influencing public policy. Many other similar groups in Brazil have learned from the experience through direct exchanges and training.



Cooperative Programme for the Development of Urban Neighbourhoods

Cameroon

Since 2006, Actions Solidaires de Soutien aux Organisations et d'Appui aux Libertés (ASSOAL) has been working with the National Network of the Inhabitants of Cameroon to develop new ways of improving access to affordable housing in Cameroon and influence national policy. Pilot interventions including participatory budgeting and the setting up of housing cooperatives have been carried out to demonstrate the validity of these approaches.

The programme addresses issues of access to property ownership, rental housing and neighbourhood improvement through inclusive and democratic processes. ASSOAL runs a range of dissemination and knowledge-sharing activities, working to create a culture of citizen participation and empower the urban poor to positively shape their living environment.



CCOC Beaver Barracks Redevelopment

Canada

The Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation (CCOC) aims to facilitate the development of mixed income communities that are appropriately designed and managed and built on a scale that ensures integration within the neighbourhood.

Built to a high environmental standard on a brownfield site, the Beaver Barracks project works with tenants to promote a sustainable lifestyle and includes geothermal heating and cooling, a green roof, tenant-run gardens and a high performance building envelope, including triple glazed windows. The development comprises 254 apartments in five buildings, offering a blend of market, below-market and deeply subsidised rents for people on a range of incomes.

➤ WORLD HABITAT AWARD 2013/14 FINALISTS



Milton Park Community Canada

Milton Park is one of the oldest neighbourhoods in Montreal, located on prime land in the city centre. In the 1970s, the area was targeted for regeneration which would have led to gentrification and made it unaffordable for original residents. In response, the community mobilised to find a long-term solution and avoid evictions, resulting in the creation of the Milton Park Community.

The buildings and land were bought and organised into a condominium structure governed by a Declaration of Co-Ownership involving 25 members made up of cooperatives and non-profit housing corporations. This ensured permanent affordability for residents and created the largest renovated cooperative housing structure in North America.



Renewable Energy for Farmers China

Since 2007, the NGO Initiative Développement has been working in the Guizhou and Yunnan provinces of China retrofitting rural farms with biodigesters connected to a new toilet and animal pen which enables households to have access to biogas, a clean and renewable energy source.

Through the Gold Standard certification scheme, the project has guaranteed funding until 2020 from carbon credit sales to ensure the maintenance and long term use of the biodigesters and continued training provision to households. Working in partnership with government agencies, the project is significantly scaling up the approach, with the aim of reaching 1.7 million households by 2020.



30 Years of Planning Continuity in Freiburg Germany

Continuity of an integrated planning approach over the last 30 years has led to the development of Freiburg as a leading exemplar of sustainable living in a compact car-lite city. Two urban extensions – Vauban and Rieselfeld – provide homes for 17,500 people and have been developed using low carbon technologies, self-build and with excellent mass transit systems.

A key success factor in Freiburg's approach has been its focus on citizen participation and active democracy. The city has established the Freiburg Charter with a set of 12 principles for sustainable urban planning and development. The Freiburg model has spread to cities in neighbouring countries, as well as further afield.



Alliances for Building Capacities and Options for the Urban Poor India

The Odisha Alliance works in 225 informal settlements, benefiting the bottom 30 per cent of the economic pyramid of city dwellers. Its work focuses on the community-led development of model houses that are affordable and adapted to local needs, as a basis for negotiating with government actors. These houses act as 'precedents', demonstrating that slum dwellers can be the agents of their own development, whilst providing affordable housing solutions that can be scaled up.

The Alliance also works as the agency for city scale urban poor surveys and planning and community-led GPS mapping, with 70 per cent of the work carried out by slum residents.

➤ SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

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➤ WORLD HABITAT AWARDS

AN INVITATION TO ENTER

The World Habitat Awards were established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation as part of its contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

This annual international competition recognises innovative, sustainable and scalable solutions to key housing challenges in the global South as well as the North.

Every year an award of £10,000 is presented to each of the two winners at the World Urban Forum (even years) and UN-Habitat Governing Council (odd years).

HOUSING SOLUTIONS

The guiding principles of the World Habitat Awards are innovation, sustainability and transfer, and practices are sought that approach housing from a broad perspective, acknowledging the many factors that have an impact on the way that people live.

The competition is open to any individual, organisation or government agency that has an innovative and sustainable housing solution in any country of the world. More than one entry can be made by the same individual or organisation.

ENTRY PROCEDURE

Initial submissions to the Awards need only comprise a concise description of the key aspects of the initiative, accompanied by images, and may be submitted in English, Spanish or French.

Please note that entries should relate to housing projects and processes that are either completed or in progress. Those that are at design stage or in the very early stages of development cannot be considered.

For further information and an online application form please visit www.worldhabitatawards.org

The Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) is an independent research organisation that promotes sustainable development and innovation in housing through collaborative research and knowledge transfer.

Established in 1976, BSHF works both in the UK and internationally to identify innovative housing solutions and to foster the exchange of information and good practice.

BSHF is committed to promoting housing policy and practice that is people-centred and environmentally responsible. All research carried out has practical relevance and addresses a range of current housing issues worldwide.

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