



WORLD HABITAT AWARDS 2015-16

BSHF is delighted to announce the winners of the 2015-16 World Habitat Awards:

- **Caño Martín Peña Community Land Trust, Puerto Rico**
- **Self-Help Housing in the North of England, United Kingdom**

Award presentation held at Habitat III, Quito, Ecuador
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WINNER



"It's our land"



San Juan Bay Estuary

Caño Martín Peña Community Land Trust, Puerto Rico

The Martín Peña Channel was once a waterway that ran through the middle of the Puerto Rican capital San Juan. It is silted and polluted and prone to flooding. The engineering answer to the problems is to dredge and canalise the channel. But should this happen, the likelihood is the land, once free from flooding and pollution, would soar in value. Speculators would move in and the very community that the engineering was meant to help, would be displaced.

The answer was to create a Community Land Trust (CLT) pooling ownership of the land in a not for profit trust with rules that regulate sales and prevent speculation. The CLT has provided a common purpose for the community. Everybody has a say and everybody takes part. It is arguably the most democratic place on earth. It has managed to achieve that rare dyad; improved housing and affordability.

The CLT generates income by renting its properties, by developing vacant lots and by implementing projects. It provides a new model for improving informal settlements in cities without them then becoming unaffordable for the original residents.

"The empowerment of these communities is outstanding. They have turned the threat of displacement into something very special – a strong and flourishing neighbourhood in which everybody is engaged."

David Ireland, BSHF Director

"This community has brought together concerns and offered solutions to challenges of land and housing ownership while protecting residents from risk of displacements. This resonates with UN-Habitat's mandate on access to land and tenure security."

Dr. Joan Clos, UN Under-Secretary-General, Executive Director UN-Habitat

"The project recognises housing is a human right rather than a commodity. Women are community leaders, and the project ensures them title to properties."

Leilani Farha the UN Special Rapporteur on right to adequate housing

<http://cano3punto7.org>



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WINNER



Canopy volunteers preparing a property to be let



One of Giroscope's completed homes

Self-Help Housing in the North of England, United Kingdom

Canopy and Giroscope are two separate charities working in cities in the North of England and are pioneers in a movement of UK housing called 'Self-Help Housing'. They are the first UK based winners of the World Habitat Awards for over a decade.

They saw the problems of homelessness in their cities and also saw thousands of empty homes. They decided to do something about both by training homeless and vulnerable people to renovate abandoned properties and bring them back into use. The completed houses provide low cost homes for local people who are homeless or in housing need.

Giroscope's model is to buy abandoned houses, whereas Canopy has operated largely by leasing surplus properties. The difference in approach is largely driven by the local housing markets. The areas are characterised by streets of small nineteenth century terraced houses. They are amongst the most deprived areas in the whole of the UK.

As independent organisations they set their own lettings policies. Rents are set to ensure affordability and houses are insulated and made as energy efficient as possible to keep energy costs down.

"Disadvantaged and isolated people get the chance to learn new skills and develop confidence on their way to being properly housed and employed. These two charities have also inspired over 100 organisations in the UK to follow their Self-Help Housing model."
David Ireland, BSHF Director

"Excellent partnerships which are aimed at fostering capacity building and empowering beneficiaries - in this case the homeless and unemployed - with skills to create their own housing solutions." Dr. Joan Clos, UN Under-Secretary-General, Executive Director, UN-Habitat

"I hope in the future government action and policies at all levels will support projects such as Canopy and Giroscope as an aspect of obligations with respect to the right to housing." Leilani Farha UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing

www.giroscope.org.uk
www.canopyhousingproject.org



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Installing solar home lighting systems



Tekpa and Kinley: Olep farmers

Comprehensive Community Development for Poverty Alleviation Bhutan

Originally a nomadic hunter gatherer community living in remote rural areas of Bhutan, the Olep were encouraged by the government in the 1970s to settle in villages. With no experience of settled living and their earlier means of living off the forest no longer available, the community fell into extreme poverty. This project, run by the Tarayana Foundation, has developed skills and encouraged a self-help ethos that has successfully helped the community recover and prosper.

www.tarayanafoundation.org



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Painting houses



Santa Marta: 34 connected buildings

Back to Rio Brazil

This huge scale public arts project has radically transformed the image of one of the most notorious favelas in Rio de Janeiro. It mobilised a community to paint the façades of their houses creating massive works of art. The effect has been to redefine their surroundings and helped to turn a no-go area into a dynamic community.

www.favelapainting.com



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New housing



Large scale community involvement in the provision of sanitation

TECHO - Development of Habitat Chile

TECHO's 'Development of Habitat' projects represent their core work of upgrading precarious settlements in Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Colombia. Design workshops composed of local families, community leaders and young volunteers from different disciplines identify the needs of the community, devise practical solutions and plan improvements.

www.techo.org



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Accessible bathroom giving more independence



Using new basin facilities

Improvement without Barriers Colombia

This project helps with simple adaptations and improvements to bathrooms for disabled people living in low income neighbourhoods in Medellín. The effects are remarkable giving independence to disabled people and freeing their carers from constant responsibility.

www.isvimed.gov.co



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A house from Nashira's first stage of development



Bicycle shower

Nashira, a Song of Love, a Women-led Project Colombia

Nashira Un Canto de Amor (a song of love) is an eco-village in rural Colombia built for and by women who have suffered domestic violence and/or displacement as a result of Colombia's fifty year civil war. The project is a model of how different ways of living together can make a community more resilient, both ecologically and socially.

www.nashira-ecoaldea.org



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Community Development Strategy meeting in Mzuzu



Cooperative Housing in Angelo Goveya

Empowering the Poor: Building the Capacity of Urban and Rural Communities Malawi

Following the Slum Dwellers International approach and challenging Malawi's 'hand out culture', this project is very much community-driven. It focuses on poor communities across the country, particularly in urban areas, and takes a comprehensive approach to development by empowering communities to organise, improve their living conditions and infrastructure, and increase their incomes by setting up viable enterprises.

www.ccodemw.org



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FINALIST



LILAC



Shared central space with sustainable urban drainage pond

LILAC (Low Impact Living Affordable Community) United Kingdom

LILAC is a self-planned and managed community in Leeds, England. It embraces the concept of living sustainably and communally. Members of LILAC have their own individual houses but share financial responsibility, the land, the development and day to day management. This supports greater resilience and provides permanently affordable housing.

www.lilac.coop



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FINALIST



Scottish Housing Minister Margaret Burgess, MSP, visits Projects in Dornoch



Glenachulish, a village near Fort William

Rent to Buy Scheme United Kingdom

The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust 'Rent to Buy Scheme' helps people on low income living in the remote Highlands of Scotland to find an affordable home. At the heart of the scheme is a financial mechanism which enables low income families to save up to buy a home whilst they are renting it.

www.hscht.co.uk





WORLD HABITAT AWARDS

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, the World Habitat Awards recognise innovative, sustainable and scalable solutions to housing challenges facing communities around the world.

Winning projects receive:

- International recognition for their innovative practices
- The opportunity for transfer of their award-winning project through a BSHF-funded peer-exchange
- A cash prize of £10,000
- A trophy presented at a UN-Habitat global event

For further details and an online entry form visit www.worldhabitatawards.org

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 @bshf_wha



BUILDING AND SOCIAL HOUSING FOUNDATION (BSHF)

BSHF is an independent, not-for-profit organisation working around the world. We encourage better housing for people with few housing choices by...

- Identifying and promoting great practice in housing
- Bringing people together to transfer solutions and ideas
- Facilitating programmes leading to positive change

BSHF funds and co-ordinates the World Habitat Awards, in partnership with UN-Habitat.

Find out more about our work at www.bshf.org

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