



WORLD HABITAT AWARDS 2016-17

BSHF is delighted to announce the winners
of the 2016-17 World Habitat Awards:

A Roof, A Skill, A Market

Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Benin and Ghana

More than Housing

Switzerland

Award presentation held at UN-Habitat
Governing Council, Nairobi, Kenya in May 2017

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World Habitat Awards 2016-17 **WINNER**

A Roof, A Skill, A Market

Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Benin, and Ghana



Across five African countries in the Western Sahel hundreds of local people are learning and using an ancient Egyptian building technique. They have built over 2,000 homes that are more affordable, comfortable and have far less impact on the environment.

The building technique used is a vaulted roof which uses sun-dried mud bricks and earth mortar without the need for beams or joists. The project started in Burkina Faso but has spread to other parts of Western Africa including Mali, Senegal, Benin and Ghana.

‘A Roof, A Skill, A Market’ is run by the Nubian Vault Association (NVA). The NVA do not build the housing themselves instead they have created job and training opportunities for local people regardless of age, experience or education.

To date, 440 builders and 400 apprentices have been recruited and trained. As well as having the opportunity to exchange and increase their collective knowledge.

The houses are made to be as affordable and energy efficient as possible. The huge thermal mass of the buildings ensures homes are kept cool in a very hot climate. The mud walls have no embodied energy and there is no timber so no need to fell trees in an already heavily deforested region.

The programme has reduced the impact of climate change and inspired school buildings, community centres, mosques and maternity centres to use this ancient building technique.

www.lavoutenubienne.org/en



This child's bedroom is cooler and more comfortable compared to houses which have metal roofs

"The right to adequate housing is so fragile right now and under such threat, it's incredibly heartening to know that 'A Roof, A Skill, A Market' is fighting to ensure a dignified life through adequate housing. It strikes me that this project has a macro perspective that fits with the human rights vision."

Leilani Farha, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Judge of the awards



David Ireland meeting residents and learning about this project

"The Sahel is a region under extreme pressure from climate change, conflict and grinding poverty. Nubian vaults provide a far better way for people to live in this fragile region for little cost and virtually no environmental impact."

David Ireland, Director of BSHF, funders and co-ordinators of the World Habitat Awards

World Habitat Awards 2016-17 **WINNER**

More than Housing

Switzerland



Birds eye view of the summer party organised by residents for residents

‘More than Housing’ is one of the largest and most ambitious cooperative housing programmes in Europe resulting from collaboration between 50 different cooperatives.

As of 2016 there were 1,200 residents and 150 employees living and working in the buildings. It is made up of 13 buildings with nearly 400 housing units, 35 retail units and large shared community spaces and facilities for the community to use (kindergarten, day care centres, etc.)

Each of the 13 buildings is home to approximately 100 people; they govern their own funds and collectively create bids for money from the entire cooperative. This approach enables them to choose and decide how their money is spent. Additionally across the community a number of committee meetings happen allowing residents to get involved and help make decisions on future developments.

The ground floor has lots of public space available for the community to use including shops, restaurants, musical centres and classrooms/meeting spaces. ‘More than Housing’ provides homes for households of all types including older people, single person households and traditional nuclear families.

All of the buildings have been designed to use as little energy as possible and encourage sustainable lifestyles including low car use and low heating demands. This helps residents work towards the 2000 Watt society model that the City of Zurich has adopted.

www.mehralswohnen.ch



Residents have their say on how money is spent and how things are run

“It’s inspiring to see that cooperative housing can be this good. Wide airy stairwells are meeting places where neighbours talk; shops are let on the basis of what the community wants not who can afford the rent. This project is successful in being a home to a community not a stockpile of individual dwellings.”

David Ireland, Director of BSHF, funders and co-ordinators of the World Habitat Awards



Dialogue is central to everything at More than Housing

“Housing affordability is becoming one of the most important problems worldwide, both in the developed and the developing world. ‘More than Housing’, located in the city of Zurich, is innovative in its pursuit of affordable and sustainable housing. The project is led by the people living there and addresses the challenges of urbanization including climate change, mobility and energy consumption.”

Dr Joan Clos, UN-Habitat Executive Director, Judge of the awards

World Habitat Awards 2016-17 FINALIST

Passiv Solar Verandas Afghanistan



Training a carpenter on construction of a veranda



Building a metal kit veranda in Behsud

Since March 2014, over 1,500 Passiv Solar Verandas have been built onto the houses of people living in the remote Central Highlands of Afghanistan creating additional living spaces and providing warm air, which circulates round the house. More than 100 trained local craftsmen were involved in building the verandas, creating a livelihood for them and their families.

www.geres.eu

World Habitat Awards 2016-17 FINALIST

Intercultural Neighbourhood Argentina



Children from the community



Community members constructing housing

Focusing on developing housing and intercultural communal living between the indigenous Mapuche community and impoverished creole communities. To date, this project has built 56 houses on land that returned to the Mapuche community by the government. Communities have elaborated the site development plan, the community cohabitation rules and have carried the construction of housing and other facilities (including a workshop and community room, a green house and vegetable garden) and the provision of water and energy.

www.vecinossintecho.blogspot.com.ar

World Habitat Awards 2016-17 **FINALIST**

Resilient Social Housing Chile



Stilt houses constructed by the sea



Houses developed to withstand coastal natural disasters

Over 11,000 buildings on the Chilean coast were destroyed by an earthquake and tsunami in 2010. The challenge of reconstructing people's houses and livelihoods in situ involved the design of social housing adapted to local needs and resilient to extreme natural events. A total of 180 'stilt houses' were built with input from the communities in five villages where people make their living from the sea.

World Habitat Awards 2016-17 **FINALIST**

Urban Shelter Project Jordan



A Syrian family with members of the Norwegian Refugee Council



A resident in a refurbished property

The project works with Jordanian owners to refurbish uninhabitable properties to create homes. These are leased to Syrian refugees, rent-free for 18 months. Funds are used to subsidy the refurbishments, which has a positive impact on the local economy by increasing the availability of housing and providing jobs, which helps to reduce conflicts between refugees and local people. To date, over 5,000 housing units have been improved, providing housing for over 18,000 refugees and creating over 20,000 short term employment opportunities.

www.nrc.no

World Habitat Awards 2016-17 **FINALIST**

Promoting Eco-sanitation in informal settlements Kenya



Construction of a bio-center



Community planning meeting

This eco-sanitation project enables marginalised communities in urban informal settlements to access basic services through the community-led provision of bio-centres, which provide toilets and bathrooms and an additional floor for housing, offices, business spaces, etc. The community development process enables people to gain skills and a strong sense of ownership and to deliver an eco-sanitation facility that fits local needs. To date, over 70 bio-sanitation facilities have been put in place across Kenya.

www.umande.org

World Habitat Awards 2016-17 **FINALIST**

Reconstruction of Habitat Mexico



Self-build housing adapting traditional construction techniques



Using local materials for construction

This project has helped low-income communities in areas vulnerable to natural disasters to build resilient housing that revives traditional construction techniques and combines them with modern approaches. Programmes for disaster risk reduction and self-build housing have a long history in Mexico, but don't combine an increase in community resilience, capacity building, sustainable management of natural resources, use of local materials in construction and community development.

www.cooperacioncomunitaria.org

World Habitat Awards 2016-17 **FINALIST**

50,000 Houses for War Victims Sri Lanka



Wall construction in progress in Mullaitivu



Mother and daughter outside their new permanent home in Jaffna

This project has provided humanitarian and financial support to help communities displaced as a result of the Sri Lankan civil war to rebuild their homes. The target is to fund and build 50,000 houses, for an estimated total of 225,000 people. The majority of the houses, 44,000 are self-build, 4,000 will be built by plantation workers, while only 1,000 are to be built by contractors.

www.ksadps.com

World Habitat Awards 2016-17 **FINALIST**

Granby Four Streets Community Land Trust United Kingdom



Painted doors and windows on Cairns Street



Local residents enjoying the street market

Granby 4 Streets developed out of a community group that campaigned against the demolition of houses and relocation of the community. It has successfully halted the demolition and provided a focus for the community using a creative approach. Its long term goal is to renovate all of the houses in the Granby triangle providing homes for 250 families who are either members of the original Granby community wanting to return home, or local families in housing need.

www.granby4streetsclt.co.uk

World Habitat Awards 2016-17 **FINALIST**

Stonewall Housing United Kingdom



Pride march in London



Residents and volunteers on a day trip in London

Stonewall Housing provides support to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in housing need and is a voice for a community that is marginalised and frequently discriminated against in different housing settings. They deliver advice and support, housing services and projects supporting specific people, e.g. older LGBT people, young people, etc. Most of the work is delivered in London but other programmes, partnerships and training are delivered across England.

www.stonewallhousing.org

World Habitat Awards 2016-17 **FINALIST**

Iberville Offsites: affordable homes resisting gentrification United States of America



A house before renovation



After renovation and refurbishment ready for new residents

Hurricane Katrina, which devastated the historic US city of New Orleans in 2005, left many people homeless, whole communities displaced and homes abandoned. The project is providing affordable homes for local people by renovating abandoned historic homes in neighbourhoods which are vulnerable to gentrification. A rental subsidy and an affordability restriction that runs with the land for 35 years together guarantee affordable homes for low-income New Orleanians who would otherwise be pushed out of their own neighbourhood.

www.redmellon.com

Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF)



Every year BSHF funds and coordinates the World Habitat Awards in partnership with UN-Habitat. The awards showcase local solutions to global problems.

BSHF aims to influence people around the world who can help deliver 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.

Through the work of BSHF international expertise has been connected with 'on the ground' experts all over the world. They share the organisation's aim of changing lives through safe and secure homes for all.

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



Rural Housing and Environment Programme, Gram Vikas - India (World Habitat Awards winner 2003)

Innovative housing project?

Enter the World Habitat Awards



Entries for the next round of our World Habitat Awards are now welcomed.

The awards are an opportunity for world beating projects working to solve a housing problem to gain international recognition for their achievements.

We are looking for housing projects and approaches which:

- demonstrate practical, innovative and sustainable solutions to current housing issues faced by countries all around the world
- can be transferred or adapted for use as appropriate
- are already being implemented or are completed, i.e. not at design stage or very early stages of development
- view the term habitat from a broad perspective and bring other benefits as well, such as energy or water saving, income generation, social inclusion, community and individual empowerment, health benefits, capacity building or education.

Two winners will be selected and presented with their trophy at a global UN-Habitat event. They will receive £10,000 and the opportunity to transfer their innovative housing solution internationally including through a Peer Exchange funded by BSHF.

Find out more and apply online at: www.worldhabitatawards.org



Liter of Light, Philippines (World Habitat Awards winner 2014)