



YP Team 3 members refer to the map in their interview with community leaders.
Photo by: Geraldine Matabang

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TAO holds YP Workshop in Cagayan de Oro City

FROM MARCH 15 TO 21, THE 2016 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (YP) Workshop on Social Housing was held in Cagayan de Oro City (CdO). This is already the sixth time that TAO-Pilipinas has conducted the training for young professionals and senior students of architecture, engineering and planning. TAO last carried out the YP workshop in 2011. The workshop theme for this year was "Mainstreaming Participatory Design Process in Community Planning and Development."

Fifty-six (56) participants joined the YP workshop in CdO. They comprised of engineering students from Xavier University (XU), architecture students from Mindanao University of Science and Technology (MUST), community representatives from Impala Neighborhood Association and Tierra Villa Verde Homeowners

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UST Archinet Seminar

LAST APRIL 30, THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS Architecture Network (UST Archinet) organized a short seminar featuring lectures by Architect Geraldine Matabang of TAO-Pilipinas and Architect Sergio Palleroni of the Center for Public Interest Design at Portland State University. The seminar was held at the Civil Law Auditorium of the UST Main Building and was attended by students and faculty of the College of Architecture.

The seminar was conducted prior to the presentation of initial outputs of the project collaboration between the UST College of

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“Engineering students are good in numbers, in designing but you also have to consider people and that is another skill that you have to develop as well. And you can only learn that if you go to the community and immerse yourself in the community and be part of the community. Design would not be enough. You have to understand the situation.”

- from the keynote lecture of **Mr. Roel Ravanera**, Executive Director of the Xavier Science Foundation, during the 2016 YP Workshop

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Association, community mobilizers from the local government of CdO, and management and technical staff of Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC). The training on social housing for YPs was divided into two parts; part 1 was the lecture and orientation sessions while part 2 was the community immersion activities.

Lecture sessions

Two days were allotted for the lecture sessions that were held at the Manresa Training Center in Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City. The training began with a keynote lecture from Mr. Roel Ravanera, Executive Director of Xavier Science Foundation. In his lecture entitled "The Challenges to Sustainable Human Settlements Development and the Role of Young Professionals", Mr. Ravanera talked about pressing issues in sustainable development and social housing and the ways to address these issues. He introduced the Xavier Ecoville project of Xavier University as an example of a housing solution to resettle Sendong-affected families and build a sustainable community.

The next presentations were grouped into four sessions that had specific learning objectives. The sessions were categorized

into: (1) social housing overview; (2) participatory community planning and design; (3) building sustainable and disaster-resilient communities; and (4) facilitating the community consultation workshop. Several resource persons gave lectures about various topics, these included:

- The National Housing Situationer presented by Atty. Junefe Payot
- Cagayan De Oro Housing Situationer presented by Mr. Ermin Pimentel
- Batas Pambansa 220: Planning and Design Standards for Social Housing presented by Arch. Angelus P. Sales
- Cost Considerations in Socialized Housing Developments presented by Arch. Angelus P. Sales
- Methods and Tools for Participatory Planning and Design presented by Arch/EnP. Geraldine R. Matabang
- Planning with Urban Poor Communities: Technical Assistance Case Studies presented by Arch/EnP. Faith Y. Varona
- Sustainable and Disaster-resilient Concepts in Settlements Planning and Design presented by Arch/EnP. Arlene D. Lusterio
- Technical Professionals in Post-Disaster Rehabilitation



YP Team 2 in Impala Neighborhood Association as they answer the community profiling session in the community consultation workshop

Work presented by Arch. Verna P. Sarraga

- Communicating Technical Knowledge to Communities presented by Ms. Ananeza Aban
- Guide to Facilitating a Participatory Community Consultation Process presented by Arch/EnP. Geraldine R. Matabang

Group activities and field visit

Small group activities and team building exercises were incorporated into the first part of the training to establish rapport amongst the workshop participants. They were also grouped into YP teams and went through many of the exercises already as a team, including fulfilling host group duties throughout the program.

On the third day of the workshop, the participants went to visit an actual resettlement site. Prior to the visit, Mr. Robert Flores gave a backgrounder about the Xavier Ecoville housing project. He discussed how it was started by Xavier University and the progress already accomplished by the project. He also shared some of the difficulties in community development they have encountered and how they are dealing with such challenges.

After the presentation, the participants proceeded to explore the Xavier Ecoville

project site in Lumbia. They took stops at community facilities, including a livelihood center, and listened to officers of the homeowners' association share their experiences in living in Xavier Ecoville. Following the exposure visit, a focus group discussion was conducted to process what the participants observed in the Xavier Ecoville community.

Community immersion

Part 2 of the training began with the fielding of YP teams in the two immersion sites. YP teams 1 and 2 were assigned to Impala Neighborhood in Camaman-an while YP teams 3 and 4 were assigned to Tierra Villa Verde community in Mid-Balulang. On the fourth day of the workshop the teams conducted a transect walk and interviewed community leaders about the land and housing situation in the sites. They stayed overnight with host families in Impala and in an unoccupied house in Tierra Villa Verde.

Their main community immersion activity was conducted on the fifth day of the workshop. Each team facilitated a community consultation program with select community members. The objective of the activity was to initiate a participatory community consultation process and have the community members themselves propose action



Some of the YP participants during their field visit to Xavier Ecoville housing project in Brgy. Lumbia, Cagayan de Oro City.

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2016 YP Workshop on Social Housing March 15-21, 2016 Cagayan de Oro City



YP Team 3 perfectly displayed an evacuation center in one of their group activities



Transect walk activities done in Impala Neighborhood Association (left) and Tierra Villa Verde Homeowners Association (right)



YPs group discussion in preparation for their expectations presentation



The YP participants during their field visit at Xavier Ecoville



Lalaine Langeras of Impala Neighborhood Association (left) and Van Jason Cagata of Tierra Villa Verde Homeowners Association (right) present their community action plans during the community consultation workshop facilitated by the YPs



YP Team 1 mural painting session



YP Teams 1 and 2 during their joint presentation with a video presentation of Impala accompanied by a song "Kaleidoscope World" by F. Magalona



YP Team 3 made use of role playing to show the current situation of Tierra Villa Verde



Marc Pelesco of Tierra Villa Verde presented their vision of an ideal community



Mr. James Mabulay of SHFC presented the mural painting done by YP Team 3



Individual reflections of all the YP workshop participants

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plans to address community shelter needs. The teams facilitated five sessions during the day-long consultations: (1) inputs on sustainable and disaster-resilient communities; (2) establishing the profile of the community; (3) assessment of community shelter needs; (4) assessment of community resources and capacities; and (5) visioning and community action planning.

At the end of the community consultations, four action plans were generated in each community. In Impala, the community action plans focused on addressing the drainage problem by constructing a riprap, coordinating a meeting with the landowner and conducting an orientation about the Community Mortgage Program (CMP) to initiate solutions to land insecurity, and mobilizing additional community savings. In Tierra Villa Verde, the community made action plans to address organizational strengthening, to access water supply with the

local water district, to develop a community drainage system, and to address the lack of land security.

The YP teams continued to stay another night in the community to prepare for the presentation of the outputs of their community immersion. The sixth day of the workshop was spent by the teams completing their reports and presentation materials.

Plenary presentations

On the seventh and last day of the workshop, each of the YP teams presented their community immersion outputs before a panel of reactors. The panelists included Engr. Dexter Lo, head of the Xavier University Engineering Resource Center; Ms. Janet Lumayag, SHFC CdO Regional Officer; Ms. Cynthia Rosales, area coordinator of PCUP CdO Office; and Michael Cagulada, Executive Director of GROUP Foundation, a CMP mobilizer.

The panelists critiqued each

team's presentation, shared their insights on the community's land and housing situation, gave recommendations about appropriate technical assistance that can be extended to the communities, and filled some of the gaps in the community action plans that were presented.

After the plenary presentations, each YP team also processed their shared community immersion experience through a mural painting activity. The finished paintings were presented and explained by each team.

Workshop evaluation

The training of the YPs concluded with the workshop assessment activities. These included sharing their individual reflections through a drawing. Each participant made a drawing that represented their "story of change" after undergoing the training. Another assessment activity conducted was the checking of expectations that were set at the start of the workshop. Lastly, each participant was asked

to fill out an evaluation form and answer questions on what learning they attained from the training.

Ways forward

The program ended with a discussion on ways forward, wherein all the stakeholders in attendance discussed the next steps to be done after the workshop. SHFC, XU, MUST each shared their institutional plans and commitment towards addressing shelter security and community development needs in Cagayan de Oro. The community associations likewise gave their assurance that they will work on implementing the community action plans that were presented in the workshop. The institutions also discussed some of the mechanisms for linkage with the communities and the appropriate arrangements to extend technical support to them.

Certificates of completion were awarded to all participants who completed the 7-day training. (AMPS, GRM)

MOU Signing between SHFC and Xavier University



Present in the MOU signing were (from left to right) Atty. Maria Rosalie Richa Taguian, Ana Oliveros, Fr. Robert "Bobby" Yap, and Ramon Fernandez

A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WAS signed between Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) and Xavier University (XU) last March 18, 2016. Present in the signing were Ms. Ana Oliveros, President of SHFC; Atty. Maria Rosalie Richa Taguian, SHFC Vice President for Legal and VisMin Group;

Fr. Robert Yap, President of Xavier University; and Ramon Fernandez of CdO LGU.

The MOU reinforces the commitment of Xavier University to provide assistance to informal settler communities identified by SHFC and the LGU of CdO. XU has committed its various units such as the Engineering Resource Center, Governance Leadership Institute, School of Business and Management to provide support to informal settler communities.

The MOU has also put into writing the continued commitment of SHFC to expand the reach of its affordable and community-driven social housing program in CdO. It also commits to providing financial and logistical support to capacitate XU in rendering support to informal settler communities of CdO. (AMPS)

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of Architecture, University of Tokyo Department of Architecture, and Kamal Freda. The architecture studio class collaboration aims to design a community kitchen for St. Martha Estate, a resettlement site in Bocaue, Bulacan. Architect Palleroni serves as a guest studio master of the class.

The first guest speaker, Architect Geraldine Matabang from TAO-Pilipinas, presented a lecture on "Building Disaster-resilient Communities". She opened the discourse with an introduction about sustainable and disaster resilient communities. Subsequent to the descriptive slides about the topic was the presentation of TAO-Pilipinas' post-Haiyan shelter project in Manican Island, Guiuan, Eastern Samar. The project showed how architects worked with the community in coming up with a permanent shelter design

through participatory methods and tools. Arch. Matabang also talked about the issues, challenges and lessons in project implementation.

An open forum followed Arch. Matabang's presentation. Discussion centered on the lack of focus on the topic of informality and social housing in architecture students' academic work, and on high-density housing as a new typology in social housing design. UST students also inquired about the internship program of TAO-Pilipinas.

The second guest speaker, Professor Sergio Palleroni from Portland State University, presented a lecture on "Expanding Architecture: Engaging Social Change and Communities in an Expanded Practice". He talked about several projects of the BaSiC Initiative, a service learning program he established wherein university design



Arch. Geraldine Matabang as she gives her talk during the UST Archinet seminar. Photo taken by: Jolo Francisco

students can work on projects for communities in need in different countries. He emphasized the vital role of communication between the community and designers. In their projects, architecture students cooperate to apply their design skills in service of poor communities. Among the projects he featured in his slides were the award-winning Druk White Lotus School in India, a solar-powered kitchen for a school in a Mexican squatter community, the renovation of a day care center in a squatter

community in Los Piletones, the use of recycled materials, and other environmental and social designs for which Arch. Palleroni has been known for.

Professor Palleroni showed the students how architects take on an expanded role in a socially-engaged practice, including that of a civic environmentalist and as curators of public discussion. He encouraged the students to engage in "praxis" to become reflective practitioners. (JMM)

TAO invites lecturers for staff development sessions



TAO staff poses with Arch. Roz Li after her lecture about heritage conservation

LAST FEBRUARY, THE TAO-Pilipinas staff attended a series of lectures aimed to update their knowledge and enhance their competencies in human settlement issues. Experts were invited to give lectures on five topics, namely (1) Climate Change Adaptation;

(2) Disaster Risk Reduction; (3) Heritage Conservation; (4) Child Protection and Gender in Development; and (4) National Housing Situation of the Philippines.

Two lectures were presented on February 8. The first lecture was entitled "Climate Change

in the Philippines: What to expect in the next decade?" and presented by Dr. Laura T. David of UP Marine Science Institute, who is also the President of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. The lecture centered on climate change indications and implications. Dr. David stressed that climate change is inevitable but can still be slowed down. She highlighted that the archipelagic characteristic of the country greatly affects the impact of climate change; she also showed its effects on different clusters in the country illustrating Cluster II, Ilocos Region, and Cluster VIII, Eastern Samar and CARAGA Region, as the most vulnerable

areas. She also underscored the effects of climate change on the most vulnerable sectors of society including very young children, the elderly and chronically ill.

Dr. David shared some mitigating measures to slow the effects of climate change. On planning implications, she stressed the need to allocate more open spaces as places for breathing and the maintenance of coral reefs as protection from storm surges. The implication of sea level rise to coastal communities was discussed, emphasizing the value of watershed protection, easements, and reforestation. The lecture ended with a video

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presentation about proper mangrove planting.

The second lecture focused on “Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Philippines: Needs, Responses, Gaps and the Policy Environment” and given by Mr. Benedict Balderrama, National Coordinator of Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies Inc. (PHILSSA). Mr. Balderrama talked about DRR and climate change adaptation as integral to urbanization concerns. He also shared PHILSSA’s advocacy work on establishing safe and secure settlements and emphasized DRR considerations in identifying and developing resettlement sites.

Mr. Balderrama also oriented the staff on important provisions of DRR-focused policies, including RA 10121 (DRRM Act), the Climate Change Act, and the Sendai Framework of Action. He identified the DRR-related needs of communities that TAO can help address, such as the dissemination of technical information at the barangay and community levels, design and provision of emergency shelters, estate management of resettlement sites, and building resilience in small islands.

Two more lectures were given on February 11. The third lecture was about “Heritage Conservation: Prospects for the Philippines” and was presented by Architect Roz Zacarias Li of Bakás Pilipinas. Arch. Li discussed heritage as part of a people’s shared values and that historic preservation activities not only keep records but strengthen cultural values, encourage civic pride, bridge differences, enhance community participation, and

most especially, celebrate national identity. She explained the different types of intervention and the steps in the historic preservation process. She also defined the qualifications for a building or site to merit historic preservation. In her lecture, Arch. Li shared her experiences in preserving landmark buildings in New York, USA and the local preservation projects that Bakás Pilipinas is undertaking.

Architect Li identified the needs and gaps in the practice of historic preservation in the Philippines. She stressed the need for public awareness and appreciation for built heritage, research and documentation of heritage sites, maintenance of heritage structures, and training and funding needs. At the end of her presentation, Arch. Li shared some avenues of opportunities starting with strengthening public awareness through historic tours, storytelling and photography exercises, community heritage festivals, heritage curriculum in schools, heritage mapping for communities, and the creative re-use and preservation of historic structures and sites.

The fourth lecture was entitled “Child Protection and Gender in Development” and was presented by Ms. Pilgrim Bliss Gayo of Terre des Homme-Germany. Ms. Gayo began her lecture by orienting TAO staff on the child protection principles of accountability and participation. She discussed the concept of duty bearers (who are accountable to protect and fulfill child rights) and right holders (who must actively demand for their right to life, survival and development).



TAO staff poses with Ms. Ana Oliveros after her lecture about the government’s response to the growing housing need

Ms. Gayo expounded on the topic of children and women in development by differentiating equality and equity, emphasizing the need to strengthen the concept of equity in development activities. She also stressed the incorporation of women and children’s needs and their participation in shelter assistance and community infrastructure design. Ms. Gayo ended her presentation with a discussion on specific child protection policies that organizations should have to clearly define how it fulfills its accountability to children involved or affected in the implementation of projects.

The fifth and last session was conducted on February 15. Ms. Ana Maria R. Oliveros, President of Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC), gave the lecture on “The Government’s Response to the Growing Housing Need”. Ms. Oliveros presented the country’s housing need for 2011-2017, showing that NCR remains the region with the largest housing deficit. She introduced the different key shelter agencies tasked to provide affordable housing solutions and the housing programs that each agency

implements. She focused on the SHFC-implemented Community Mortgage Program (CMP) that targets the low-income formal and informal sectors.

Ms. Oliveros also oriented the staff on SHFC’s High Density Housing (HDH) Program which provides housing loans to organized communities living in identified danger zones in highly urban areas. She emphasized that CMP and HDH should not just produce structures but lead to building communities; thus, community development and capacity-building are important components of SHFC’s financing programs. Ms. Oliveros ended her presentation by sharing the policy recommendations drafted during the last National Housing Summit to bridge gaps in affordable housing.

After the lecture sessions, the TAO staff summarized the key points from each of the lectures as inputs to their long-term organizational planning. (AERU)

Students of Lund University conduct field study in Manila

FOR THE PAST EIGHT YEARS, TAO-Pilipinas has been coordinating the field study of the Urban Shelter Course: Architecture for Extreme Environments of Housing Development and Management-Lund University, Sweden in the Philippines. This activity aimed to enhance the students' awareness of housing issues in the context of climate change and disaster in developing countries like the Philippines.

This year, 23 foreign students from 10 countries (Ireland, Netherlands, Ecuador, Norway, France, Poland, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, China) spent three weeks in Metro Manila. They visited various housing projects by government housing agencies in Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manggahan Floodway in Pasig City, National Government Center-East side in Quezon City; private developments in Bonifacio Global City, high-rise condominiums in Quezon City; and NGO and civil society housing project in Malibay, Pasay and Baseco, Manila City.

They also attended lectures given by the National Housing Authority, the local government of Quezon City, the professors at the University of the Philippines College of Architecture in

Diliman, private developers' Ayala Land, DMCI and PHINMA, and individual housing practitioners. They also visited TAO-Pilipinas office for inputs about its projects and to interview the technical staff on professional practice and experiences with social housing.

Aside from the visits, the students, mostly architecture students with a few urban planning master students, conducted interviews in the different housing projects. The information will be used in the housing proposal that they will be producing as the final output of the field study in May 2016. The students will do the project proposal in groups, the output will include a plan of the neighbourhood and a medium-rise housing design by each member of the group.

This year, they were given two sites to choose from: an old warehouse site in Baesa, Quezon City owned by a private developer and a (rolling) raw land in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City owned by the National Housing Authority.

The culminating activity in the Philippines is a preliminary presentation of the students' housing proposal to NHA technical staff and select



Top photo: Lund University students interview TAO technical staff, Arch. Verna Sarraga, as part of their research for their housing proposal.

Bottom photo: Lund University students led by Johnny Astrand and Laura Liuke visited SHEC Phase 2 Housing Project, Pasay City. Fr. Dexter Prudenciano (standing 2nd from the right) and SHACC leaders and members warmly welcomed the guests. Photo source: Faith Varona

housing practitioners invited specially to give comments on their preliminary design. The presentation was held at the

national headquarters of the National Housing Authority in Elliptical Road, Quezon City. (MFYV)

CDP Frontline Forum

THE CENTER FOR DISASTER Preparedness (CDP), in partnership with the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) presented the results of their action research project entitled "Frontline: Turning Community Views into Action". The forum happened on February 24, 2016 at the Brentwood Suites in Quezon City. It was attended by representatives of the various civil society organizations (CSOs) that participated in the

project and guests from NGOs, including TAO-Pilipinas, national/local government and academic organizations.

The day-long forum outlined the findings of the action research conducted through surveys and focus group discussions by the six participating CSOs in six identified risk zones throughout the country. The findings included the local risk profiles of San Mateo, Rizal as presented by Buklod Tao Inc.; Calauan,

Laguna by Caritas Manila, Inc.; Tabogon, Cebu by A2D Project Research Group; Carles, Iloilo by UP Visayas Foundation, Inc.; Guiuan, Mercedes and Salcedo in Eastern Samar by Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits (ECOWEB), Inc.; and Cotabato City, Maguindanao by Tri-People Organization against Disasters (TRIPOD). The action research was implemented by CDP as the national coordinator.

Each of the CSOs discussed the perceived threats, consequences, barriers and proposed actions of the various communities involved in the

study. The vital information gathered through participatory dialogue and discussion is aimed at driving action towards resilience building. An open forum followed the discussion and ended with a summary of the project recommendations that included establishing documentation and information dissemination mechanisms; intensifying advocacy strategies; and strengthening partnerships at all levels. (AERU)

PMPI holds 5th GA



A torch parade with placards of the thematic advocacies of the PMPI network was held as part of the 5th General Assembly.

THE PHILIPPINE MISEREOR Partnership Inc. (PMPI) held its 5th General Assembly on Feb 29 to March 3, 2016 at the Big 8 Corporate Hotel, in Tagum City, Davao del Norte. With the theme “*Sustaining Partnership towards a Renewed Development Paradigm Anchored on Faith, Culture and Integrity of Creation*”, the assembly was participated by 15 regional clusters coming from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. A total of 210 member

organizations joined the event.

Day 1 kicked-off with a Mass celebrated by eight (8) Bishops who as convenors led their different clusters, and twenty-three (23) priests. The unveiling of exhibits showcasing the various cluster initiatives on the last three years’ thematic concerns followed. The GA was opened by a keynote speech from Fr. Joel Tabora of Ateneo de Naga and reflections from representatives of the people’s organization, the

NGO and the Church, and solidarity messages from Misereor and other partners supporting the network.

The afternoon started with the Fair of Ideas, where pressing issues identified by the network is presented through sharing, discussions and recommendations with the aim to enrich each partner’s knowledge and experience.

A torch parade with placards showing the thematic advocacies of the PMPI network was led by the Bishops. The parade winded down to the Freedom Park of Tagum where a cultural concert dubbed Musika Unlaran highlighted the evening featuring local artists from Mindanao.

Day 2 was the Business Meeting. Proposed resolutions on various thematic concerns were presented and selection of the top four priority thematic concerns for the next three years was decided by voting per cluster. The General Assembly confirmed its four priority thematic concerns namely, Peace and Human Rights; Climate Change Adaptation

and Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management; Sustainable Agriculture and Fisher folk Development; and Anti-Mining Campaign.

The night ended with the cultural presentations of each cluster and the continuous music of Kaliwat Performing Artists Collective.

Day 3 started with regional caucuses where a Co-convenor is elected to represent each of the three island groups. The GA elected the new Co-convenors from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The new Co-convenors are Arlene Christy Lusterio, executive director of TAO-Pilipinas for Luzon; Fr. Juderick Paul Calumpiano, Director of SAC Borongan for Visayas; and Sister Susan Bolano of Oblates of Notre Dame and Executive Director of Hessed Foundation for Mindanao. The GA ended with the turn-over ceremony, turning over the responsibility of the old to the new Co-convenors and cluster point persons. (ACDL)

Japanese architects featured in symposium in SMX

THREE WORLD-RENOUNDED Japanese architects were this year’s speakers for the 8th National Architecture Symposium held on April 23, 2016 at the SMX Convention Center. The symposium with the theme, “*Evolving Paradigms: Re-envisioning Conventionalism*”, was hosted by the University of Santo Tomas Architecture Network, more known as UST Archinet. Since 2009, Archinet has already invited a total of 12 internationally celebrated architects to speak in the annual symposium. This year, the event showed how Japanese architects incorporate their traditional materials and ideas to create modern-style structures.

The first speaker, Takaharu Tezuka, is a multi-awarded architect whose most widely known work is the Fuji Kindergarten. During the symposium, he presented some of his most remarkable designs in residential dwellings and institutional and commercial structures alike, including the Fuji

Kindergarten and the roof house among others. He and his wife, also an architect, share the firm Tezuka Architects. Each project he presented stressed an environment which is inclusive, dynamic, open, and minimalistic. Consideration for the needs of inhabitants of structures they designed was likewise notable.

The afternoon session was opened by a presentation from Fumihiko Maki, a recipient of the 1993 Pritzker Prize, and who has been practicing architecture for almost 60 years. Mr. Maki presented his iconic architectural designs including his most recent work, the World Trade Center Tower 4. His was the first to be completed from the all five towers in the Center that were designed by different architects. He also owns the architecture and planning firm Maki and Associates.

Finally, Kengo Kuma who was the last to present is the architect behind outstanding structures like the Bamboo House in China and Sake No Hana in UK, among others.



Japanese architects (from left to right) Kengo Kuma, Takaharu Tezuka, and Fumihiko Maki during the open forum session of the symposium. Photo source: UST Archinet

He leads the architectural firm Kengo Kuma and Associates which has a branch offices in Tokyo and Paris. Kuma’s modern designs are mostly made of timber and every notable structure displays his ingenuity. He also presented his design for the Museum of Indigenous Knowledge to be constructed in the Philippines.

The open forum started after the presentation of all three speakers. Unfortunately, the allotted time was only able to accommodate a handful of questions. Most of the questions were geared towards Mr.

Tezuka, who offered free books after his replies. The first two questions were asked through twitter, a social networking site, and read by the host. One student asked about how these three world-renowned architects improve their design language, to which Mr. Fumihiko wistfully advised that the question can only be answered after reflecting on oneself. Overall, the architecture symposium, attended by over 1,000 individuals, was deemed a success. (MLPH)



Robin T. Waban, Jr. is currently a Formator and a Program Officer of the Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana-Social Involvement Office (KKP-SIO) of Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan. As a Program Officer, he is one of the facilitators for the university's Collaborative Service Learning Program (CSLP), bridging students to the different communities that with their expertise in the different disciplines, they may be of help in community development. Robin also became a part of the Jesuit Volunteers Philippines Foundation, Inc. and was assigned as a Guidance Officer and Grade 7 English Teacher at Divine Child Academy of Lawaan, Eastern Samar.

Higit sa BAHAY, may BUHAY na nakataya

LAST MARCH, I PARTICIPATED IN TAO'S YP Workshop on Social Housing in Cagayan de Oro City. I offer my take-away and realizations from the said workshop, summarized in three points:

- 1.) *Community Engagement.* I realized that many of those who participated in the workshop were architects and engineers and can be able to easily internalize technical concepts in socialized housing. I am neither an engineer nor an architect but I think what I was able to contribute in the workshop and really engage with people in the community. This workshop, for me, is a stepping stone towards the acknowledgement of my capabilities in interacting better with communities. It is important to appropriately impart technical knowledge to those in the informal settler communities and to really make them participate in the planning process. It is also important that communities are able to draw out the solutions to their own concerns.
- 2.) *Not just houses, but COMMUNITIES.* The concern in socialized housing is not just the issue of providing shelter to families in need but that of how to become more helpful in improving the day-to-day lives of people in the community. This is the idea that one should think of when discussing about socialized housing and relocation of communities. After people in the community are provided houses, not everything is done yet. In the context of Cagayan de Oro City, I think this is one of the situations that the local government is trying to solve with the different relocation sites in the city, that they are able to get access to basic services such as education, health, and livelihood, aside from providing shelter. That is why my reflection is entitled "Higit pa sa BAHAY, may BUHAY na nakataya". That more than just providing and improving houses, we are facilitating the betterment of the lives of people in the resettlement areas, that they will have dignified lives.
- 3.) *We are workers, not Master Builders.* This is from the prayer of Archbishop Oscar Romero, a martyr. The workshop reminds us that we are not the ones giving solutions to the needs of the community; we are only facilitators so that people in the communities can be more dependent on themselves. At the end of the day, we yearn that the energy and sweat that we contribute goes towards the fulfillment of the communities' aspirations for shelter security.

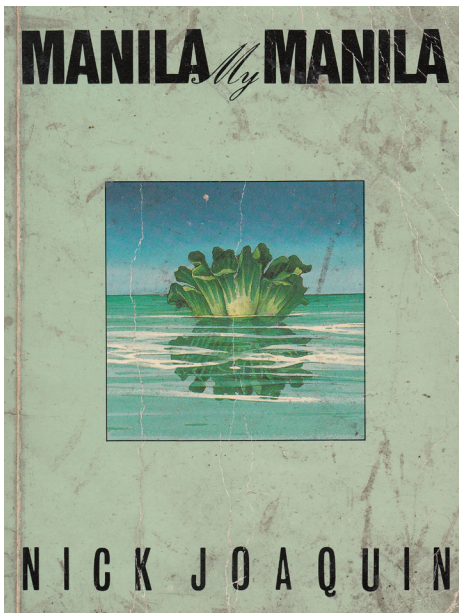


Top photo: Robin Waban, Jr. leads an icebreaker in Impala Neighborhood Association during their community consultation workshop.

Middle photo: The author as he facilitates the problem tree analysis in the community consultation workshop of Impala Neighborhood Association

Bottom photo: Robin once again leads the icebreaker during the plenary session in the last day of the YP workshop

Books and other materials featured in this section are available at the TAO Resource Center & Library. Library use is by appointment and guidelines may be viewed at www.tao-pilipinas.org/resources/library. You may call Angel Sales at 441-0998 / 436-7301 or email lib@tao-pilipinas.org to schedule your visit.



Manila, My Manila is about the colorful history of Manila told in details not usually taught in school. The book proves just how deserving Manila has been with its title as the capital of the Philippines. Historian and National Artist for Literature Nick Joaquin, writes an engaging and intriguing history of the capital. The book holds secrets about

Title: **Manila, My Manila: A History for the Young**
 Author: **Nick Joaquin**
 Publisher: **Vera-Reyes, Inc. (1990)**

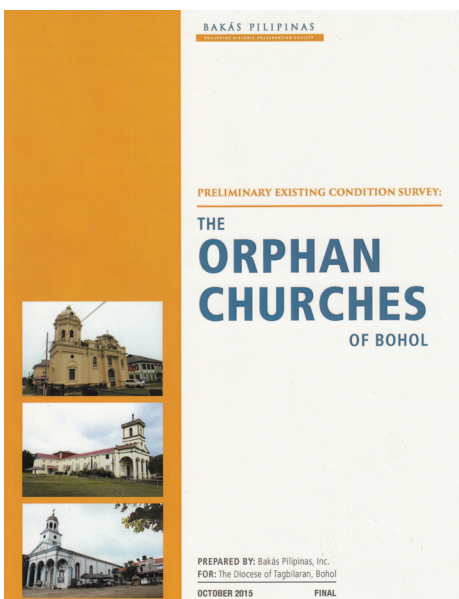
the historic city and divulges stories not known to many.

The book explains the history of Manila through its structures, including the plans for the city that did and did not materialize, its grandest buildings and structures that survived the years. The author compares Manila to the city of Troy where the history of the city is so deeply buried that one has to dig up each layer for answers, only to come up with more questions; and to a Chameleon where traces of the influences from different races that stayed in Manila and trends from different eras are noticeable in the structures of the city.

The book provides concise knowledge about remarkable structures in the city which is a revelation since there are very few paintings and photos of the "old Manila". To this date, only the San Sebastian Church and Ayala Bridge, both made of steel, managed to survive the World War II bombings

but are slowly deteriorating, losing its value to the young generation. Nick Joaquin linked the slight indifference of Filipinos to Manila's history and culture to the inability of the city to establish its own personality, untainted by external influences. The book identifies and describes some plans for the development of Manila which were halted because of various reasons.

One good thing about history books is that regardless when one reads it, it is always relevant. Reading this book is timely because Manila is slowly losing its place as the capital of the Philippines. The younger generation is losing interest in historic Manila while its residents take the city's value for granted. A witness to numerous historic events, Manila is in peril of becoming insignificant to future generations due to unsustainable developments in the city. (MLPH)



After the destructive 2013 earthquake that damaged many heritage churches in Bohol, the National Museum (NM) and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) handled restoration of older Spanish Colonial churches, but excluding those that were built in the

Title: **Preliminary Existing Condition Survey: the Orphan Churches of Bohol**
 Author: **Bakas Pilipinas**
 Publisher: **Bakas Pilipinas (2015)**

American Colonial and Post Colonial era. These churches were thus identified as the "Orphan Churches of Bohol", and included the Nuestra Señora Del Rosario Church in Antequera, La Purisima Concepcion Church in Catigbian and San Antonio de Padua Church in Sikatuna.

Taking up the cudgels to initiate the restoration of these churches is Bakas Pilipinas, a not-for-profit, non-government organization based in New York, USA, dedicated to the preservation of historic architecture and sites in the Philippines. Bakas Pilipinas conducted a preliminary existing conditions survey at the request of the Diocese of Tagbilaran, under whose jurisdiction the churches belong. This book documents the results of the survey.

Although a preliminary survey, this document already presents a thorough investigation of the existing conditions of the damaged churches. It gives general

recommendations on the next steps to take towards retrofitting and preservation, such as comprehensive data collection and structural analyses for seismic evaluation.

The book serves as an informative guide in the preservation and retrofit process for historical buildings. Useful and instructive is the detailed outline of primary considerations to be studied prior to recommending methodologies for any preservation or retrofit activity. It also specifically illustrated the different treatments and strategies in preserving historical structures. In addition, it's outlined layout and graphical presentation makes it very readable and easy to follow. From this book, people interested in historic preservation can appreciate the methodical process required to properly preserve our heritage structures. (AERU)