

APRIL-MAY 2010

ypp e-newsletter

TAO-Pilipinas Young Professionals Program



IN the photo above, households in a social housing project in Pasay City create pocket gardens within open spaces in the community. Such urban gardening initiatives, along with composting of biodegradable household wastes, are part of the youth-led CBSWM (community-based solid waste management) project of TAO-Pilipinas. *Photo taken by Ali Lucilo; tarpaulin design by Verna Sarraga.*

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quote this month

"The certified professional makes a fool of himself, and often does a great deal of harm to other people, by assuming that he knows more than the uneducated by virtue of his schooling. All that second- and third-hand knowledge and intellectual exercising does for him, however, is to reduce his ability to listen and learn about situations significantly different from his own social and economic experience --- with consequences that can be tragic when he has the power to impose his solutions on those who are not strong enough to resist."

- **John F.C. Turner** in "The Reeducation of a Professional" in *Freedom to Build: Dweller Control of the Housing Process* (1972)

Amidst the first nationwide automated elections Filipinos managed to pull off this summer, TAO welcomed fresh, new faces as its interns. We also bid our fondest farewells to colleagues about to tread on new career paths and one of us has said her goodbyes to single-blessedness. (Congratulations, Osang and Veejay!)

In this issue we take a peek at the interns' activities and their reading fare at the office. Plus, some updates on our network activities and on solid waste management efforts in urban poor communities.

Visit the HSE webpage for more TAO news at <http://hse.tao-pilipinas.org/>

"It's time for us to go to the people rather than ask the people, especially the poor, to come to us."

Youth Groups Attend Urban Gardening Seminar at TAO

THREE MONTHS AFTER TAO-PILIPINAS CONDUCTED its initial Community-Based Solid Waste Management (CBSWM) Workshop on December 5-6, 2009, TAO staff members and the training facilitators of the workshop conducted surprise visits last March 2010 to each community to verify if the youths who participated in the workshop have started waste segregation, composting and urban gardening in their respective communities.



Participants of the seminar on urban gardening at the TAO office

The monitoring activity revealed that households in the selected communities have already been practicing a certain degree of waste segregation. They are also in different stages in the implementation of composting and urban gardening. To reinforce what they have learned, TAO organized a follow-up workshop/seminar on April 30, 2010 which focused on Sustainable Agriculture and Urban Gardening at the TAO-Pilipinas office in Diliman, Quezon City.

The seminar was attended by 32 youths from the 5 communities of Bagong Silangan, Parola, Pasay, Tanza-Masagana Area and Tangos Navotas. Workshop facilitators were Ms. Jessa Marie B. Albacea (Agri-Extension Officer -Luzon) and Ms. Marie Joy Q. Demaluan (Area Coordinator-Luzon) from the Center for Agrarian Reform & Rural Development (CARRD), an NGO centered on innovation in rural development, social entrepreneurship, policy research and advocacy. This time, select older community members were also invited to learn with the youths, share their own gardening experiences, and to lend their support and guidance to the youths when they return to their communities.



Jessa Albacea and Joy Demaluan of CARRD demonstrate the mixing process for the application of a liquid fertilizer.

An overview of Sustainable Agriculture was given, and more detailed advice on urban gardening was taught, such as the types of soil available, its nutrient content, raw materials for composting and various characteristics of select vegetables like eggplant, sitao, okra, tomatoes and pechay. An actual demonstration on mixing a liquid fertilizer (that can act as a compost enhancer) was taught to the participants so they can easily replicate the practice in their homes. Lively discussions ensued and a lot of knowledge was shared.

In the following weeks, the youths from one community will visit other communities to learn from each others' SWM experiences and assist in their planting efforts.

Starbucks' Youth Action Grants (through Give2Asia Foundation) is the principal donor behind this project that has allowed TAO to conduct these workshops and purchase garden soil which was distributed to the participants at the end of the seminar. Equally generous donations of seeds were provided by Allied Botanical Corporation, Bureau of Plant Industries, and Ramgo International Corporation. (Carol Gaw)

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**SCHEDULE OF
LAUNCH OF COMMUNITY
URBAN GARDENING BY
YOUTH GROUPS:**

May 12: Tangos, Navotas by KAPANALIG Youth
May 13: Malibay, Pasay City by Rogate Youth
May 15: Tanza, Navotas by MASAGANA Youth Movement
May 16: Bagong Silangan, Quezon City by Bagong Silangan Youth Federation
May 22: Parola, Manila by PACOMNA Youth



2010 YP Summer Interns: (from top, L-R) Verna Sarraga, Ali Lucilo, Ynoh Bengson, Sheng Robines, JM Lumbang, John Sayson, Deanna Haduca, Pat Labitoria, and Leux Lunas

Summer Interns work on various TAO projects

A TOTAL OF NINE YPs MAKE UP THIS YEAR'S BATCH of summer interns at TAO-Pilipinas. They are working on several projects under its various programs. Six of them were previous participants in the 2009 YP Orientation Workshop on Social Housing and have had initial interaction with some TAO-assisted communities. Their 2-month internship will allow them to work more intensively with these communities. Three of the summer interns are incoming senior students of Miriam College and are working at TAO to complete their on-the-job training (OJT) requirements.

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Philippine Grantees Share Results of Action-Research Projects

PROVENTION CONSORTIUM RESEARCH AND ACTION GRANTEEES FROM THE PHILIPPINES GATHERED in one forum to share the results of their research with one another and to each of their project stakeholders as well. A total of 35 participants attended the forum, entitled "Sharing Amongst Provention Consortium Research and Action Grantees in the Philippines". The event was held last April 13, 2010 at the Broadway/ Lexington 2nd Floor, Astoria Plaza Hotel, Pasig City. The Bangkok-based Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) provided the funding grant to hold the forum.



Guests and participants of the forum on disaster risk reduction researches.

Six studies were presented by the grantees. These were: Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) into Local Development Planning by Charlie Razo, a researcher in the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM); Disaster Prone Areas in Tacloban City by Imelda Abenio, Head of Extension Services of the Eastern Visayas State University (EVSU) in Tacloban City; Participatory Methodology for Assessing and Managing Risk, by Jake Rom D. Cadag, Geographer, PhD candidate in the Université Paul Valéry - Montpellier III, France; Children and Youth Mobilization to

Offset Vulnerabilities for Empowerment (MOVE) by Jesusa Grace J. Molina, Programme Officer of the Center for Disaster Preparedness; Client Needs Assessment for Post Disaster Settlement Planning in Albay, Philippines, by Amillah Rodil, MA Graduate in Urban and Regional Planning of the School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP) University of the Philippines-Diliman; and Integrating Disaster Risk Management in Site Planning and House Design by Geraldine Matabang and Rosalyn-Frances Marcelo of TAO-Pilipinas.

Madame Corazon Alma de Leon, Vice Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of ADPC and former secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), delivered the welcome address. She remembered how she started her work in disaster risk management, and her work in chairing the Mt. Pinatubo Commission. She said the grantees should be able to deliver their researches to the marketplace, and emphasized that researchers are both truth-seekers and truth-tellers.

Ms. Mayfourth Luneta of the Center for Disaster Preparedness presented the agenda for the forum. She said that the purpose of the forum was to share the results of the research to a wider community. Specifically, she said that the forum aimed to disseminate the good practices and lessons acquired from the action research projects; gather feedback and suggestions from stakeholders; and provide an avenue where stakeholders can discuss possible opportunities for partnerships to pursue DRR goals.

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Summer Interns... (From page 3)

Verna Sarraga is a BS Architecture graduate from Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) and a participant of the YP workshop held on October 2009. Her internship at TAO started in March 2010 and she was first assigned as an illustrator for the development of popular materials on housing design and construction. She prepared illustrations as well as a Tagalog translation of BP 220 (minimum design standards for socialized housing) and graphics for a community construction manual. Verna also facilitated community planning workshops in MASAGANA, Tanza, Navotas City. She is currently working on housing design schemes for MASAGANA community's potential relocation site.

Ali Lucilo is also an architecture graduate from PLM and he likewise participated in the YP Workshop on Water and Sanitation last October 2009. Ali's YP team assisted a community in Bicol Area, Barangay Tanza, Navotas City to apply for a legal water connection. They were able to complete this community micro-project by March 2010. For his summer internship, Ali is currently working on the schematic architectural designs for an Ecology and Demonstration Farm (Eco-Farm) of the CBCP Rogationist Fathers.

Ynoh Bengson is also a recent graduate of BS Architecture from PLM and a participant in the YP Workshop last October 2009 where his team was assigned to facilitate a community workshop in Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City. At the TAO office, he was initially tasked to prepare materials cost estimates for a low-cost housing project. Ynoh now assists in the Eco-Farm Project where he prepares layouts for the project presentations, and shall later on make a scaled contour model of the project site.

Sheng Robines is another BS Architecture graduate from PLM and also participated in the YP Workshop last October 2009. For her internship, she worked with Ynoh in preparing materials cost estimates for single-detached and duplex type houses. They are now working together in completing the revised design schemes and scaled contour model of the Eco-Farm Project. Sheng also assists the TAO Research and Publications program in the conduct of a research project entitled "San Juan City Pride of Place".

JM Lumbang is another BS Architecture graduate from PLM and was assigned in MASAGANA community during the 2009 YP Workshop. For the summer internship, he teamed up with Verna to facilitate a community planning workshop in MASAGANA and oriented the community on BP 220 housing design standards. He is now tasked with a research project reviewing a number of existing Medium Rise Building (MRB) public housing projects in Metro Manila. Apart from this research activity, JM also assists Verna in doing the housing design schemes for MASAGANA community.

John Sayson is a senior BS Civil Engineering student at the University of the Philippines-Diliman and was also a participant in the 2009 YP Workshop. He is part of the YP team assisting a community in Quezon City to implement a water and sanitation micro-project. For the summer internship, John is assigned with a research task to integrate engineering principles validating the architectural design recommendations for disaster-resilient shelter design and construction.

Deanna Haduca is a senior student of BS Environmental Planning and Management, Major in Urban Planning and Green Architecture of Miriam College. She is taking up the summer internship at TAO-Pilipinas as part of her OJT requirement. Veron is tasked to undertake a research study on the development of settlements along the Manggahan Floodway project.

Pat Labitoria and *Leux Lunas* are both senior students of Miriam College, under the BS Environmental Planning and Management, Major in Urban Planning and Green Architecture. Their internship at TAO is part of their OJT requirement at Miriam College. They were assigned to make an assessment of the relief support provided by TAO in partner communities in Navotas City affected by Tropical Storm Ketsana last year. Pat and Leigh's brief internship lasted until April 30, 2010.

The interns are set to present their internship outputs in a culminating activity by the end of May 2010.

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(top) JM and Verna give an orientation on BP 220 for a community planning workshop in Navotas; (bottom) Ynoh and Ali visit the location of the Eco-Farm project.

Philippine Grantees... (From page 3)

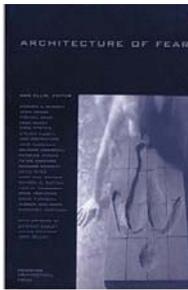
Each presentation was followed by a brief open forum. Community stakeholders, mentors, and guests got the chance to question, comment, as well as share their own experiences. Two of the grantees, Jake Rom Cadag and Jesusa Grace Molina, also presented video presentations of their projects. Representatives from the Buklod ng Kabataan, a children's organization who was a stakeholder in Ms. Molina's MOVE project, also presented a medley of songs as intermission.

The forum was capped by Lorna Victoria, Advisor of the Center for Disaster Preparedness. She stressed that the studies presented were very relevant research topics, and further emphasized the need to share and add on to the research. (Roselyn Marcelo, Amillah Rodil)

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YP Reading List

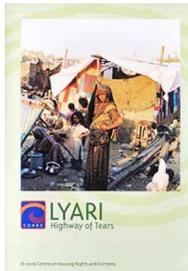
Every issue, the YP e-newsletter features a selection of TAO Resource Center & Library materials as reviewed by TAO staff and volunteers. The TAO Resource Center & Library is now open for students and researchers' use. Library use is by appointment and guidelines may be viewed at <http://www.tao-pilipinas.org/resources/library>. You may call Angel Sales at 441-0998 / 436-7301 or email lib@tao-pilipinas.org to schedule your visit.



Title: **Architecture of Fear**
Editor: **Nan Ellin**
Publisher: **Princeton Architectural Press (1997)**

The book shows how communities are designed based on fear. The essays by various authors discuss the possibilities for reducing crime and improving community safety through design. The first three chapters present the underlying theories of the relationship between crime and urban design and the last chapter considers the technological innovations employed to guarantee a safe and sound community.

Because every neighbourhood has different problems and therefore requires a unique design solution, this book does not offer a defined set of guidelines. Instead, it attempts to outline the principles which architects and planners should consider in the design process in order to lessen the sense of fear and insecurity. Although it may not be possible to create a residential utopia, it should be possible to reduce the opportunities for crime and increase people's sense of security. However, this book also cautions designers that some attempted solutions have made matters worse and caused further insecurity in communities. The authors propose that architects and planners must aim for prevention rather than containment. *(JM Lumbang)*



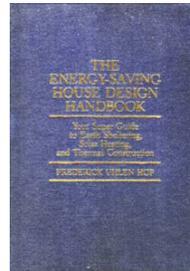
Title: **Lyari: Highway of Tears (DVD)**
Production and Direction: **Fionn Skiotis**
Author and Publisher: **Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (2006)**

The plan to construct an expressway along the banks of Lyari river was first proposed in 1986, and was deemed by the government as the solution to the overcrowding and traffic congestion problems of Karachi, Pakistan. This project shall evict more than 200,000 people from their homes and communities, where they have lived for over 50 years. Protests led to the project being cancelled many times. However, despite much opposition, the government decided to implement the project in 2001.

Lyari: Highway of Tears is a documentary film that demonstrates the sentiments of the people affected by the Lyari Expressway Project. It started with a man in tears, watching his house being demolished. It was followed by interviews of the communities that were affected, those that stayed and have relocated, as well as those that will soon be affected by the demolitions. It also showed other stakeholders' perception of the project such as those of the proponents and civil society organizations. The film ended with the same desperate old man, as if trying to convince the authorities to stop.

The situation of the urban poor in the Philippines is similar to theirs in a number of ways. The condition of the resettled families became worse since there were no basic amenities and most importantly, no source of income. In addition, the communities were not involved in the project. Although community consultations are gradually being practiced in our time, the agenda of the meetings still are merely to inform them about the project, but not necessarily ask them to provide inputs in the project's planning and implementation.

Sadly, it is as if the country is torn between economic growth and the lives of the affected families. How can we say if a country has economically grown? Will the number and width of concrete roads measure it? What about the homeless, are they also included in the parameters? What about harmony between the people and the government, does it also count? As every reader/viewer is entitled to his or her own judgment, I believe that infrastructure projects are built to help the country improve the lives of its citizens. Thus, proponents are expected to look beyond the physical structures, and make certain that the people will genuinely benefit from the project. *(Roselyn Marcelo)*

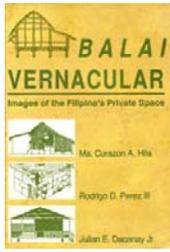


Title: **The Energy-Saving House Design Handbook**
Author: **Frederick Uhlen Hop**
Publisher: **Prentice Hall (1989)**

This handbook calls for a rethinking in the way we build. And for change to be widely accepted there needs to be convincing reasons why traditional practices should be replaced. The first part of the book seeks to set out those reasons by discussing the basic principles of indoor climate control and energy-saving systems.

Another aspect of building production that the handbook discusses is that of *integrated design*, the productive discussion between architects and engineers at the start of a project. It suggests a creative partnership between the professions to produce buildings which achieve optimum conditions for their inhabitants and at the same time make minimum demands for mechanical system solutions. The succeeding chapters of the book explain the methods and processes of maximizing the utilization of solar energy.

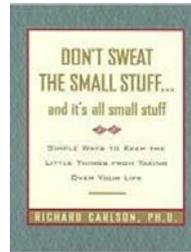
The book offers construction techniques that architects and students can appreciate. It also underscores the need to build the awareness of the construction industry in sustainable designs. *(JM Lumbang)*



Title: **BALAI VERNACULAR: Images of the Filipino's Private Space**
 Authors: **Ma. Corazon A. Hila, Rodrigo D. Perez III and Julian E. Dacanay Jr.**
 Publisher: **Sentrong Pangkultura ng Pilipinas (1992)**

Content: Balai Vernacular documents the architectural forms, materials and construction of humble dwellings found in the Philippines. The book is divided into three chapters – the Ethnic Balai, the Bahay Kubo (Nipa Hut), and the Squatters Shanties. It is based on the information gathered by students of architecture in a student competition held by the Cultural Center of the Philippines and United Architects of the Philippines in 1987.

Review: I found this book quite amazing and can compare it to a bible that can enlighten a first-time reader. Reading this book provided me with deeper understanding for vernacular designs which I very well appreciate as an architecture student. Balai Vernacular shows how simple indigenous structures (like the ethnic balai and nipa hut) are highly sustainable and efficiently designed. It also shows how the architectural designs of these houses reflect the residents' lifestyles, behaviours, and the social and political organization to which they belong. I highly recommend it as a reference book for architects and students. More significantly, the book gives an insight into our past through vernacular houses and the lessons on architectural design we can learn from what has been done by indigenous groups. (Ynoh Bengson)



Title: **Don't Sweat The Small Stuff... and its all small stuff**
 Author: **Richard Carlson, Ph.D.**
 Publisher: **Hyperion (1997)**

Richard Carlson (1961-2006) was a psychotherapist, American author and a motivational speaker. *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff* is a self-help guide for readers who are stressed, anxious or tired of their daily lives. The author presents 100 simple ways to keep the little things from taking over your life (as stated in its subtitle). Each chapter explains each thought through his personal experiences. It gives the readers the option to pick one out of 100 suggestions that they can apply to make their day stress-free. The objective of the book is to reduce stress by presenting a different perspective on how we usually see things. It suggests that people should cease the moment and enjoy the "magic of everyday life".

It is a typical self-help book that inspires you a lot but doesn't really present practical ways on how to do things because the ideas given are a bit general. It lacks facts and figures to back up the author's ideas. Reading this book may alleviate stress but it's not really a book that you would like to read for a very long time. I recommend reading it while in cafes that have a nice, quiet, jazz/easy-listening beat that will relax the readers. Although I commend the author for providing readers with new and optimistic perspective on everyday stressful situations (such as traffic, waiting in line, and picking up litter), it is for me, an idealistic book that makes you wonder "Why am I not doing this?". It's a book that will inspire you to evaluate your lifestyle. (Leux Lunas)

Announcements

New research projects of RP Program

TAO's Research and Publications program will be undertaking two new projects starting March 2010: *Assessing the Spatial Data Infrastructure Needs of NGOs* and *San Juan City Pride of Place*.

The research project on "*Assessing the SDI Needs of NGOs: Non-profit groups as stakeholders in spatial data*" is conducted through a small project grant from the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association. "*Searching for Genius Loci: San Juan City Pride of Place*" is also made possible through a grant given by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and will be done in partnership with the History, Theory and Criticism (HTC) Laboratory of the UP College of Architecture.

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Asian Coalition for Community Action (ACCA) schedule of activities

Attention to ACCA Navotas Network:

May 27: Meeting with DPWH on flood control dike planned in Tangos

June 4-6: City assessment and planning (venue in Banawe)

June 12-13: Leadership training (venue in Tangos)

June 26-27: Negotiation training (venue in Tangos)

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Job Opening for Research Assistant

TAO-Pilipinas is looking for a research assistant to fill a full-time, short-term post under its Research and Publications program. Applicant qualifications include: graduate of communication courses (BA Communication Research, Journalism, Development Communication) or applied sciences (BA Geography, Environmental Science, Environmental Planning and Management); ability to write articles in English, both technical and blog-style; good oral communications skills (English and Filipino); skilled in developing a blog using Google-based applications (Blogger, Google Maps, Google Docs) and knowledgeable with MS Office applications; basic knowledge of geographic information system (GIS) and its applications is an advantage but not a pre-requisite; capable of conducting and analyzing qualitative survey results in MS Excel or SPSS; and competent and can work under minimum supervision.

Interested and qualified applicants may submit an Application Letter and CV (in PDF) together with samples of work to sdi4phiing@gmail.com or for more information about the post, call TAO-Pilipinas at (632) 441-0998.

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