LOW-COST HOUSING PROJECTS IN 6TH OF OCTOBER CITY – EGYPT – INTERNAL FLEXIBILITY

Introduction:
The project of Low-Cost Housing Prototypes in Egypt (1987) is one of the governmental trials to solve the Egyptian housing problem to reach a greater number of lower – income families. The concept offered internal flexibility of the housing unit, permitting the participation of the user in the design decisions of his own house that matches his needs and affordability.

The partially completed housing prototypes comprised seven types of five story apartment walk-ups, providing a variety of flat areas, namely: 45, 60, 75 and 90 square meters. Each flat was conceived as a minimal shelter, comprising: a finished bathroom, structure elements, all sanitary connections and electrical installations. Internal partitions as well as walls and floor finishing were left, to be gradually completed by the user according to his needs and affordability.

Key Elements:

- **Time:**
  - The start was in 1987.
  - Stage 1: 1987 Initial phase with supports, bath room, and outer skin.
  - Stage 2: 1987-1989 second phase with bath room, final finishing of internal wall and floors, kitchen, 1 bedroom, and 1 living room.
  - Stage 3: 1989-1997 third phase with bath room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, and 1 living room.
  - Stage 4: 1997-2010 fourth phase with bath room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, and 1 living room.
  - Stage 5: 2010... fifth phase with bath room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, and 1 living room.

- **Family size:**
  - 1997-2010: Big family consists of 5 persons.
  - 2010.... Family consists of 4 persons.

- **Household income:**
  - 2001-2010: 1500LE/month.

- **Actual income:**
  - It is not a fixed income, it comes from overtime work and family assistant and it is not supported by documents.

- **Number of rooms:**
  - 1987-1989: 2 rooms (1 bedroom + 1 living room), bath room, and kitchen.
  - 2001-2010: 1500LE/month.

- **Inflection point:**
  - It is concentrated around the political decision. According to the civil Law No.148, 2001, that outlining the boundaries of income category, the Egyptian low-income person is one ho gets 1500 LE/month.

References: