The ROAD From MANILA

Tondo Foreshore Squatters

The 1976 International Competition

World Urban Forum III

University of Santo Tomas / Massachusetts Institute of Technology – January 2006

An activity of SIGUS - Special Interest Group in Urban Settlement, MIT
Squatters “discovered” in Lima!
What to do???
More Squatters in Tondo-Foreshore!

In spite of its squalor, the people of the Tondo want to live there or near there—for jobs, education, and a better future for themselves and their children.
What to Do? Architectural Record/UN International Competition

1974-1976

Dagat-Dagatan—the site of the competition—will become a new-town-in-town instead of a remote, underserviced, resettlement area.
The first-prize-winning design by Ian Athfield of New Zealand proposes for each barangay a new kind of work place—a periphery of linear buildings designed for a combination of cottage, light, and non-polluting industries with community gardens on top. Athfield’s house designs demonstrate, in the opinion of the Jury, “his sensitivity to the culture and lifestyle of the community and its passageways of pre-automobile-age cities and towns—alive with workshops, small stores, markets and food stands.” Athfield’s vision is for a place where individuals could be trained in alternative energy and innovative building technologies. 

Honorable Mention: (Steven Holl!)
1st UN Conference Human Settlements
Vancouver, Canada

- Formal international recognition of informal sector with its dynamic energy
- Formal acceptance of new housing paradigm
- Initiated founding of UN-Habitat
  - Only UN agency dedicated to housing
  - Only 1 of 2 UN agencies in a developing country
    (Nairobi, Kenya)
Increased acceptance of new housing paradigms worldwide

- Site and services projects
- Upgrading *in sitio*
- Legalization of titles
- Starter, core houses
- Focus on community and people

New Role of Government as facilitator
UN World Urban Forum
Vancouver, Canada
30 years Celebration of Housing

June 19-23, 2006

- Panel discussion on 30 years of housing experience
- Exhibition?
- Video?
Reflections after 30 years....

- Two weeks of rapid impressions
- Graduate student teams from architecture and planning from MIT and University of Santo Tomas
- Visited Kapitbahayan, Dagat-Dagatan, Tondo Foreshore

Two activities:

- Interviewed families and documented housing changes.
- Interviewed key persons involved in the projects in 1976
Preparing for Last Stop

The Review Teams

TEAM 1

TEAM 2

TEAM 3

TEAM 4
Impressions from the Families

- Kapitbahayan – Complete unit
- Tondo Foreshore – Upgrading *in situ*
- Dagat-Dagatan – New site and services

In each neighborhood:

- “Clear successes”
- “Still evolving”
• Families willingly accept normally intolerable situations to maintain community. Community is a key element in any successful project.

• Anticipating flexibility is necessary in all cases, even complete finished housing.

• Continuous upgrading is suggested to maintain and sustain communities.
Issues and Dilemmas

• Is a project-based model still relevant in the face of increasingly rapid growth? Which is the proper mix of project types (complete, upgrade, site and services) in housing developments?

• What is the most effective role of the professional architect and planner in housing? Was the international competition helpful?

• Are issues still the same after 30 years, with the same strategies to remedy?

• How to balance the desire for land against the demands of increased population and land scarcity?