



Monthly e-Newsletter

Housing Design Competition Winner Visits Model Home

Alex Koller, partner in the architectural team, Lumley & Koller, winner of the 2013 Cambodia Sustainable Housing International Design Competition was anxious to view the fruition of their dream; the actual finished home in the village of Trapiang Anhchang outside Phnom Penh. He recently had his first opportunity to travel back to Cambodia to see the model house and the beneficiary family that has chosen their design.

Alex was warmly greeted by the owner of his winning design home called The Courtyard House, by Sor Vann and her family, the owner of his winning design home called The Courtyard House. He understandably took time to

examine the full-scale realization of his firm's design elements very closely. Koller readily recognized alterations to his original plan that had been made during construction in the name of materials cost or practicality. Overall he was pleased with the final product, and spoke at length with Sok Chandarith, Habitat Cambodia's Construction Team Leader, regarding minor design changes that could be made going forward in future builds that would lead to cost savings without sacrificing design or structural elements.

To date, two of the other nine competition finalist homes (Open Embrace, and Wet-Dry) have been built in Trapiang Anhchang.

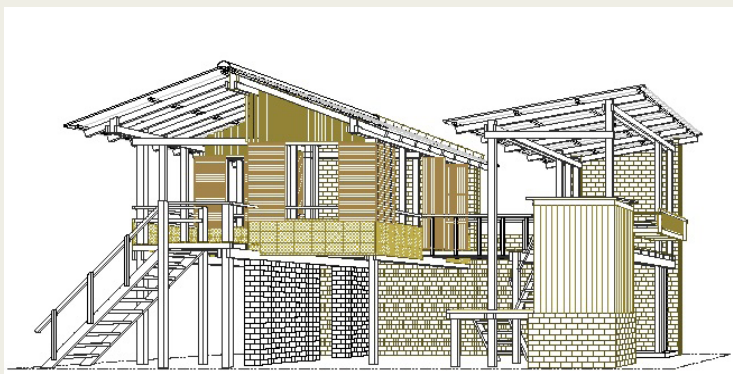
The multiple factors of working with new designs and different materials as well as the need to adapt the prototype designs to the actual building site meant that our usual approach of using Global Village volunteer team labor to assist with the house construction was not appropriate, as our Skilled Laborers needed to grow accustomed to the techniques required in constructing this new design. Additionally, some of the materials originally specified were found to be not entirely compatible with Cambodia's monsoon climate. At the present time, increasing land and materials costs have also meant that additional funding or partnerships will be needed to see the other seven homes from the competition built.



Alex Koller and Sor Vann

The competition was sponsored by the UK-based NGO, Building Trust International (BTI) in partnership with Habitat for Humanity Cambodia, Karuna Cambodia, and the Cambodian Society of Architects (CSA), with the 10 best designs earning the potential of being built to mark Habitat Cambodia's 10 year anniversary. There was a tremendous response, with 600 teams from countries as far away and diverse as Iran to Nigeria submitting their design of a sustainable low-cost house for Cambodia's poorest.

The design criteria included addressing typical SE Asia environmental factors such as the yearly flooding, which affects most of Cambodia, the use of sustainable materials, adherence to local living standards and construction practices, as well as a budget cap of \$2000. The land for the building project was purchased by Habitat Cambodia under our Chapadem Chivet Thmey (New Start New Life), or CCT program, and the construction done by our Skilled Workers. The family selection process took place in cooperation with our HIV/AIDS & OVC program partner Maryknoll.



Courtyard House Design

United Nations World Water Day - March 22, 2014

Enhancing Rural Productivity Through Access to Clean Water

Most of us simply turn on the tap for clean water, but for rural Cambodians, gathering water is more painstaking than we know. Imagine walking 30 minutes to get clean water and carrying a bucket full of water on your shoulders for another 30 minutes to get it back to your family. This lost time and painful effort is a common experience in Cambodian villages.

In celebration of World Water Day on March 22, Habitat for Humanity Cambodia is highlighting the Cambodia Millennium Development Goal, which aims to increase the percentage of rural people who can access safe drinking water to 50%, and increase the percentage of rural people with improved sanitation to 30%, by 2015. Access to rural water in Cambodia is the second lowest in Asia, with about eleven million people living without access to an appropriate water supply. The majority of rural and poor households draw water from unprotected wells, ponds, streams and swamps, or by collecting rainwater - all sources that are dangerously open to contamination.

Access to clean water is a human right that allows Cambodian households to be more productive. Without clean water, rural Cambodians will continue to be burdened by water-borne or water-related diseases, escalating their spending of their meager income on medical expenses, which leads them further into poverty and overall lower rural economic productivity. Habitat for Humanity's mission is to improve the welfare of poor families by providing them with sustainable, decent, and affordable housing solutions - including access to water.



Buckets in line waiting to fetch water from a well in Angkor Chum, Siem Reap



Youth hygiene training activities

In villages like Kauk Chan, we are expanding our program investments in life-saving water solutions to improve families' earning potential.

Before Habitat for Humanity began its work in Kauk Chan, the community was desperate for a water source that was accessible and could provide the villagers enough water throughout the year. Habitat for Humanity Cambodia introduced the concept of a communal well, and asked the community to appoint ten people to write a proposal for building one.

In May 2009, soon after applying, they were provided with an open well. The six-meter-deep well provides safe water for people throughout the village in the rainy season, when wells can become contaminated, and in the dry season, when other wells dry up. Many people come every day to collect their water, carrying it home on bicycles and ox-carts. They use their new water for drinking, bathing, washing, cooking and growing vegetables.

HFH Cambodia encourages community participation and guides local leadership to influence behavior in the community towards proper water, sanitation and hygiene practice. While helping the community to build affordable, upgradable, durable and safe water and sanitation facilities, the Habitat Cambodia programs includes access consideration for children, the disabled, and the elderly, and works in cooperation with community members, private corporations, NGOs, and government partners.

Join Habitat Cambodia in serving more families with clean water to enhance their productivity and improve their living conditions.



Access to a reliable, clean water supply can make all the difference for a community

Construction Workshop



HFHC staff discuss low cost home design options

HFH Cambodia Construction Supervisors led a quarterly construction workshop, focusing on developing low-cost housing design options, identifying obstacles faced during the construction process, and maximizing volunteer effectiveness during construction. Participants from HFHC projects and Volunteer Program teams explored cost estimates and strategies for maximizing results, with a particular emphasis on working out how to provide low-cost and affordable housing options for people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, as well as orphans and vulnerable children.

Siem Reap Team Conducts Village Needs Assessment

Last month our Siem Reap Project Team conducted an in-depth assessment to learn more about the housing and sanitation needs of families living in the village of Veal Thmey.

Some background: Though Siem Reap Province's ancient Angkor temples attract almost a million tourists a year, the province remains the second-poorest in the country. Tourism supports only ten percent of the province's one million residents, and the rest are subsistence farmers trying to grow rice in very sandy soil and surviving on fish from Tonle Sap Lake. Veal Thmey village was established in 2010 when authorities relocated 650 families from the city center to a location six kilometers downriver. At the time, the government provided each family with a small plot of land, a communal pump-well and an electricity connection. Veal Thmey has approximately 2600

families living in informal and insecure settlements on public land, canals, and riversides. Families earn their living through small and medium enterprises, as government employees, and as workers in the hospitality industry. Many poor families work in construction, as farmers, or as motorbike drivers, and some have illegally migrated to Thailand to find work.

Habitat Cambodia's response: In March we will launch a pilot Housing Resolution project to provide microfinance loans to twenty families for construction of new houses or the repair of existing homes. In addition, we will conduct technical construction training programs for residents to learn proper building techniques. The project also aims to provide much-needed water and sanitation interventions.

Our assessment project found that because of Habitat Cambodia's established presence in the Siem Reap area, a large majority of the families in Veal Thmey are eager to participate in the project and apply for microloans to secure better housing, and to work with us to improve their access to clean water and sanitation. There is also a broad acknowledgement of a tremendous need for hygiene education classes.

Communications Training

Staff from our Siem Reap, Battambang and Phnom Penh offices participated in a three-day training course to help them tell the Habitat story in both written and photographic form. Staff learned how to write creatively, and how to make connections between people, places and themes in order to carry Habitat's message. Attendees had the chance to put their writing skills into practice, breaking up into teams to interview Global Village volunteers who were working in Smile Village, and the home partners they were working with. You can read one product of these practical exercises in the Volunteer Focus section on page 9 - a story written by Chhay Veasna from Siem Reap, and Chhim Samon and Phuong Roda from Phnom Penh. The training was moderated by Hiew Peng Wong, an Editor and Writer from Habitat's Asia Pacific Regional Office, and Teresa Weaver, Editorial Director of HFHI.



HFH Staff interview a Smile Village home partner



Siem Reap staff members meeting with residents of Veal Thmey

Viva Volunteers



Habitat
for Humanity®
Cambodia



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Become part of a Global Village
volunteer team

For more information visit:
www.habitat.org/gv/

Global Village Update

30 January - 07 February: As mentioned in last month's article on our Housing Finance Program, a team of 10 Global Village volunteers from Northern Ireland traveled to Siem Reap to assist Kuon Earm's family in renovating their home. On the last day of construction a traditional home re-dedication ceremony was held, followed by an afternoon celebration, where the team learned some Khmer dance steps and shared some local foods with Kuon Earm's family and our skilled workers.

12 - 19 February: An enthusiastic team of eleven volunteers - all students from Japan's Nagoya University of Foreign Study (NUFS) - spent a week working alongside home partners, building at the Smile Village project in Phnom Penh.

15 - 21 February: Another Global Village volunteer team visited from Japan, this one working all week in Battambang thanks to support from H.I.S. Travel Group.



Viva Volunteers



Global Village Update

26 February - 13 March: Kansai University of Osaka, Japan sent us Team MusterPeace, comprised of 20 team members who spent two weeks building two homes in Smile Village. On the dedication day, the GV team celebrated with the homeowners by singing songs, dancing and enjoying a farewell lunch.

28 February - 15 March: In Takeo Province, an open GV team completed two brick homes, celebrating with the new homeowners at the end of the week. The team also took time to reconnect with the families who are living in homes that they built on a previous trip in 2007, and to see some local sights in Takeo and Phnom Penh, as well as traveling to Sihanoukville. The team was led by one of Habitat's long-time supporters, Jack Kingsley from the USA, on Jack's 14th trip leading teams to Asia to build Habitat homes.

01 - 13 March: Habitat veteran Neale Kemp led a 17 member multi-national GV team of people from Australia, Canada and the USA, as they built two homes in Smile Village. The team presented a group photo to each of the families, shared their feelings about their experiences, and enjoyed a farewell party in the new homes.

10 - 14 March: In Battambang Province, a 22-member GV team from Pace Academy in the USA completed one home and had time to finish construction on the foundations of several others. Before they went home, they also had the chance to do a little sightseeing. As a reminder of their experience, the team took home their HFHC banner to proudly display on campus.



Volunteer's Voice



Project Update



Social Land Concession Demarcation Activities Continue

As part of our ongoing effort to provide even more people with a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity Cambodia's land demarcation project is working with the provincial government of Battambang to provide land titles for families who live on land for which they do not have title, and to mark out alternative land for them to own.

The project began in 2008 with initial funding from The World Bank, and advocates on behalf of people who have been living long-term on land they do not legally own in the project area near Battambang market. Our staff meets regularly with government officials to advocate earmarking alternative areas for villagers to resettle legally. One of the obstacles to obtaining demarcations for large numbers of families is that wealthy owners of nearby lands may not be willing to co-operate.

There are currently 334 families living in the area. To date, Habitat for Humanity Cambodia has been able to serve 140 families, many of whom have already been able to construct their new homes. Others have received titles to new land and plan to build in the near future. The total area of the land is approximately 15 acres, with 645 plots of land measuring 4.5m x 16m each.

With additional funding from Habitat for Humanity Australia, we will be able to reach our target of assisting 50 more families over the next two years.

Upcoming Events

21 - 28 March
Global Village Teams from
China in Siem Reap

21 - 29 March
Global Village Teams from
China in Siem Reap

21- 30 March
Global Village Team from
Netherlands in Phnom Penh

24 - 28 March
Global Village Team from
Korea in Phnom Penh

28 March - 06 April
Global Village Teams from
Netherlands in Phnom Penh

28 March - 06 April
Global Village Teams from
USA in Siem Reap

04 - 13 March
Global Village Teams from
USA in Siem Reap

20- 26 April
Global Village Teams from
Australia in Battambang

23 - 29 April
Global Village Teams from
Korea in Phnom Penh

03 May
Habitat Youth Build 2014
1,000 Youth Volunteers
in Phnom Penh



Special Feature

Habitat Youth Build 2014



Participants from 2013 HYB at Smile Village

Habitat for Humanity Youth BUILD 2014 is a movement to raise awareness of the terrible poverty housing situation in the Asia-Pacific region and grow support for the vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. It calls for concerned young people to take action together to build homes and communities, on a Habitat build site and online through their social

networks.

Habitat for Humanity Cambodia has launched its Habitat Youth BUILD 2014 campaign, joining ten countries in Asia-Pacific galvanizing youth to fight poverty housing. Now in its third year, the initiative expects to attract more than 15,000 young builders and 100,000 online supporters across the region.

Awareness and fundraising activities will take place in Cambodia and across Asia-Pacific over the next three months, building to a mass-participation one-day build in multiple countries on 3 May. The campaign kicks off with a T-shirt design competition, with an iPad Air up for grabs as the top prize. Chosen by popular online vote, the selected design will be worn by thousands of volunteers on the day of the build.

Youth in 11 countries – Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, South Korea and Thailand – will campaign on- and offline to garner support for the movement and raise vital funds to tackle poverty housing in the region.

“Youth across Asia see poverty housing all around them and want to address the obvious growing inequality. By using their social networks to raise awareness and funds, or by physically building homes, young people are taking action to make a difference to the lives of low-income families in the region. Each year Habitat Youth BUILD gathers increasing momentum,” said Rick Hathaway, Habitat for Humanity vice president for Asia-Pacific.

Habitat Youth BUILD 2014 builds on last year’s success that involved more than 100,000 volunteers in seven countries across 42 sites. The campaign supported more than 700 low-income families.

To find out more about Habitat Youth BUILD, visit habitatyouthbuild.org, and be sure to join the Habitat Youth BUILD 2014 community on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/habitatyouthbuild.

Smile Village Gets a New Face

We are pleased to reveal the new logo for our Smile Village (Phum Kdey Nhor Nhem) project. The design incorporates the use of color in stylized rays of the sun, representing the collaborative effort between three organizations: Pour un Sourire d’Enfant (PSE), a French NGO based in Phnom Penh; Solutions to End Poverty (STEP), a Singaporean NGO; and Habitat for Humanity Cambodia.

The logo also features the nationally iconic multi-purpose sugar-palm tree. The sugar-palm plays a very important role in providing a source of income for many Khmer people, as well as providing materials with a multitude of uses in the home. It is emblematic of the holistic approach of the project, which aims to nurture resilient and empowered community

amongst families in Smile Village while providing them with improved living conditions in temporary rental housing. Like the symbolic Sugar Palm tree, the Smile Village project can be seen as a renewable resource for supporting families.

Beyond providing simple, decent, and affordable housing, the project seeks to relieve the constant threat of eviction and so to empower families to access a range of advantages - including stable education opportunities, vocational training, and healthcare services. In addition, the project will enable families to save money as they practice sustainable revenue-generating activities, steadily increasing their financial stability so that in time they are able to build or buy adequate housing for themselves.



Special Feature

Volunteer Focus: The Grinyers

This story is one of several written during our recent communications training in Phnom Penh (see story on page 3). It was written by Chhay Veasna from Siem Reap, and Chhim Samon and Phuong Roda from Phnom Penh, applying the lessons they learned from that session.

“It is my second time with Habitat for Humanity Cambodia, after my three months with the International Volunteer Program to support the Mekong Big Build Project in December 3-8, 2013.” Now it is his second time, and a different experience as a Global Village Volunteer for Tyler Grinyer, a 31-year-old-urban planner from Toronto, Canada. Tyler returned to Cambodia for the second time to build with Habitat for Humanity, and this time he brought along his wife, Kristin, who is a physical therapist.

“It is always a rewarding and fascinating experience,” he said. “Last time my wife only joined the last day with the Mekong Big Build Project. Now she wants to get her hands dirty.”

Volunteering with Habitat for Humanity Cambodia allows Tyler to use his professional skills to help people in need of decent shelter.

“The result is very rewarding,” he said. His favorite part of volunteering with Habitat is working closely with the local community and getting to know the partner families.

“It is very communal,” he said. “Everybody helps each other.”

Kristin said she especially likes the interaction with the partner families, who help build their own homes. “Sometimes, the mother and father of the homeowner family came to ask how we are and bring us cool water and local fruit,” Kristin said.

Both Tyler and Kristin have developed a special affection for the people of Cambodia.

“Cambodia is a country with smiley and happy people,” said Kristin, “Nothing can compare to this country. Volunteering here with Habitat is an incredible life experience that everyone should do at least once.”



New Arrivals



This month we welcome Khet Sokha, as our new Construction Intern. Sokha is currently pursuing a BS in Civil Engineering at Preah Kosso-mak Polytechnic Institute, in addition to studying English Literature at Cambodia International Cooperation Institute. Prior to joining us he completed internships at the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's Laboratory of Building and Public Works, as well as BITUS PLC, an architectural design and construction company located in Phnom Penh.

khet_sokha@habitatcambodia.org



We would also like to introduce Seng Dara, Construction Intern for our Chapadem Chivet Thmey (New Start New Life) Program, who joined us in December. Dara holds a degree from the Rural Engineering Institute, and has worked in a variety of construction roles for local construction companies.

seng_dara@habitatcambodia.org

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Create your very own fund raising page
www.give2habitat.org/cambodia

What is Give2Habitat?

Give2Habitat is an online fund-raising platform, making it quicker and easier for you to raise awareness and funds for the vital work of Habitat for Humanity building homes, communities and hope for families in need of a safe, decent, affordable place to live.

Why use Give2Habitat?

Give2Habitat allows you to leverage the support of your own online social networks, and add your voice to the global Habitat for Humanity community.

When you start fund-raising with Give2Habitat, you'll have your own personal fund-raising page where your friends can donate and support Habitat for Humanity in a specific community, city or country.

You can tell your own story of what you are doing to help Habitat's work, post comments, updates and images, as well as track progress as you raise much-needed funds.

Then linking to your existing Facebook, Twitter and other social media accounts, it's easy to share your fund-raising story, and rally support from friends and family all over the world.

With Give2Habitat, you're part of the community!

Wonderful people from all over the globe use Give2Habitat, all united by the Habitat vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to call home. Give2Habitat allows you to work alongside others around the world who are dedicated to ridding the world of the scourge of inadequate poverty housing.

It's a sustainable way to give!
Fund-raising online eliminates

many of the expenses that come with traditional offline fund-raising, like promotional materials and event costs. Plus, it significantly lowers administrative costs for Habitat for Humanity. So, more of your money goes directly to help families in need.

3 Ways To Become Involved

• Start a Support Page

Help us raise essential funds; start a fund-raising page and rally your friends for support.

• Find a Project and Volunteer

Find an upcoming project and take on a rewarding challenge to help us change lives in Cambodia

• Donate Now!

Help break the cycle of poverty & build long-term financial stability for our home partners.

Or Kunh!



Habitat
for Humanity®
Cambodia

Habitat for Humanity Cambodia says thank you to our corporate and international partners and our affiliate title donors. Together, we will continue improving lives and building communities in Cambodia.

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