POD CONSTRUCTION 2010

PROBLEM ADDRESSED

The Building Plot looks at tackling the issue of waste within industry and addresses methods for achieving more sustainable construction practices. In addition the project aims to address the shortage of skills within the construction industry around utilising reclaimed materials by proposing new sustainable construction skills, training workshops and courses.

The Building Plot 2010 addressed methods for constructing a structure and enclosure built entirely from reclaimed/waste materials using largely volunteer-unskilled labour guided by building professionals. The workshops also served as a method for assessing how learning outcomes from this workshop could be scaled up in the future into replicable and accredited courses.

GOAL ACHIEVED

The two workshops brought together four building professionals and thirteen volunteers who through a dynamic collaboration designed and constructed an exciting and innovative structure made entirely from reclaimed materials. New and traditional methods of building were brought together and shared across the group. Volunteers were able to gain a vast array of knowledge and experience from glass cutting and lime mortar to timber framing and car-tyre tile roofing. Volunteers included an unemployed individual on probation who worked as an integral member of the team gaining a great deal of useful experiences.

METHODOLOGY OF WORK

Over two four day workshops involving approximately eighteen volunteers per workshop materials were sourced, prepared, designs were developed and the construction took place on-site. The design was developed largely through collaboration with all team members and was facilitated by Jan Korbes: Refunc, Rufus Maurice, Brett Jackson: Chyam and Boris Duijneveld: MUD projects. Hands-on testing and experimentation took the place of conventional sketching and drawing. ‘Sketching in wood’ was the favoured method of design development.

FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

It is hoped that the learning outcomes from this workshop will be captured and ordered into a training course which could lead to an accredited module for participants engaging in similar workshops in the future. The lessons learned from the project thus far can inform a replicable template for workshops involving the use of reclaimed materials which can be applied in new locations involving a variety of differing groups. ASF-UK hopes to target existing organisations involved in reuse and building to develop a project which will actively reduce waste, achieve skills training and lead to new jobs involving innovative design.