

FRAGILE SEAMS EXHIBITION AND TALK SERIES

PROBLEM ADDRESSED

ASF-UK were invited by the RIBA Trust to design an installation for Florence Hall. The brief was to construct an installation that captured the themes of poverty and create a space which would engage architects and audiences, raising their awareness, and encourage involvement in tackling the lack of adequate housing affecting over a sixth of the world's population. The installation was designed to create an impact, act as a point of engagement with a physical and sensory experience conceptually and create a narrative of the issues around poverty and exclusion, raising questions without trying to deliver the answers



*3-way-rithim
by UK designer David Jones

GOAL ACHIEVED

ASF-UK curated the exhibition 'Fragile Seams: Life on the Edge' as part of the RIBA's International Dialogues: Architecture and Climate Change 2007 Spring programme. The exhibition was the setting for the ASF-UK talk series which focused: On Cities (Professor Jo Beall), On Sustainability (Mr. David Satterthwaite) and On the Role of the Architect in Development (Professor Nabeel Hamdi). The installation utilised a versatile structure* to create an intricate framework of interconnecting poles. The structure symbolised the complex web of people's lives and the chaotic environments in which people find themselves when living in the marginalised areas of the urbanising world. The presence of people was echoed through sound pods experienced by the visitor moving through the space. Here academics and architects told their personal accounts of working with vulnerable people in communities around the world. Their stories expressed key aspects of working in development and how we, as individuals and a collective society, can engage respectfully and appropriately in this arena.

Date: March 2007
Location: RIBA, London
ASF Team: M. Kinnear, J. Burnell, P. Newton, D. Jones, C. Laurijsson, S. Feys & K. Langmead
Partners: The RIBA Trust, IDee & The Eden Project, Leave a space (between words)
Donors: Arts Council, Pinnacle Point, FCB Studio, Squire & Partners
Project type: Exhibition & Event

METHODOLOGY OF WORK



ASF-UK collaborated with two artists from Leave a space (between words) and David Jones, an installation expert and artist, to design and build the installation. The final product tried to capture the chaos of the informal by using a very simple connecting device designed by David Jones. A series of statements and phrases were captured on the posts, including: IF YOU WANT TO GO FAST, GO ALONE. IF YOU WANT TO GO FAR, GO TOGETHER and 1/3 OF PEOPLE LIVING IN CITIES, LIVE IN SLUMS. In addition key principles and quotes were captured on a series of 10 postcards, which were available for people to comment on and post on the installation. There were three sound pods which had a variety of international architect/development practitioners speaking about their work and how they became involved in the sector. Three panel discussions were held within the structure and framed many of the issues raised by the variety of media in the installation; positive and engaging case studies highlighted the working methodologies of the people and organisations currently working in this field.

FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

The installation and talk series contributed towards the knowledge and understanding of the complex issues that the development sector face. The event facilitated networking capabilities, allowing the participants to discover how they can work together and what they need to do to get involved in the development sector. More people started to explore a variety of creative ways in developing a career that faces the challenges of poverty and exclusion.