

THAILAND WORKSHOP 2007

PROBLEM ADDRESSED



There are an estimated one billion people living in unsuitable conditions around the world. An operational definition of a slum, is an area that combines, to various extents, the following characteristics; inadequate access to safe water, inadequate access to sanitation and other infrastructure, poor structural quality of housing, overcrowding, insecure residential status, and low socio-economic status of its residents. There are a large amount of people living in informal settlements in Bangkok. The city boundary is continually expanding due to the increasing number of cars on the road, forcing the vulnerable to live further away from their livelihoods. The workshop aimed to explore sustainable and inclusive grassroots action, to enable communities in the design and reformation of their environments.



GOAL ACHIEVED

The workshop involved twenty international and seven Thai participants who worked together for two weeks. The course was lead by Patama Roonrakwit, a course lecturer in the faculty of Architecture, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok and a founding member of CASE. The participants learned varying methods of mapping and how to communicate effectively using their architectural skills. They developed their findings into an exhibit held in one of the residences in the Minburi Market on the last night of the workshop.



Date:

Location:

ASF Team:

Partners:

Donors:

Project type:

January 2007

Bangkok, Thailand

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Community Architects for Shelter & Environment (CASE)

Course Fees, time donated by ASF team

International workshop

METHODOLOGY OF WORK

Design studios were sited in the Minburi Old Market Community and in the Lard-Bau-Kao areas of Bangkok's informal suburban settlements. Students chose which area they would like to focus on, working individually or in groups, mapping the communities extensively. They created a proposal taking into account the information gathered over the two weeks, by researching the two sites through drawing, mapping, modeling, photographing and talking to as many people as possible within the two areas. Through the sharing of findings and ideas students questioned their role in development work and learnt the importance of respecting a place, and the value of listening. It was hoped that the proposals would contribute to the realisation of an idea - or act as a catalyst for long term interventions.



FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

This workshop was the second of a series of three workshops that ASF-UK ran together with CASE, the first being the Summer School at the Eden Project in 2005, the third being the next international workshop in Japan. The theme of informal settlements was the thread which began with building an informal settlement at Eden, investigating actual informal settlements in Bangkok, and then exploring the State's response to informal living in Japan.

