

EDEN SUMMER SCHOOL 2008

Date: September 2008
Location: The Eden Project, Cornwall, UK
ASF Team: C. Parrack, M. Kinnear, P. Newton, T. Loewenson & N. Daniels
Partners: Eden Project
Donors: Course fees & time donated by ASF-UK team
Project type: UK workshop

PROBLEM ADDRESSED



Waste collection, re-use, recycling and building with waste are themes that dominate in the discourse on national and international development. To achieve sustainable development, buildings need to generate less waste during construction, use and demolition. Waste management offers opportunities for community decision making, social enterprises and small scale businesses. This may take place in partnership with state and private sector organisations, and aims to reduce the impact of waste on the environment. Waste management needs participation, partnerships and collective decision making. All this is key to good governance, ensuring equity and efficiency in the design, production and management of all urban programmes, including waste.



GOAL ACHIEVED

A small exhibition of prototypes was left to weather on site and be a part of the ongoing materials testing process, and further investigations which continue to take place on the Building Plot site to develop some of the more successful examples into the final building project. These included: a loose fit deck constructed from pallets, a hanging rack for tools from broken crockery, building blocks made from bottles and broken crockery, a lightweight wall made up of plastic mushroom crates, and a fence structure made up of scrap wood.

METHODOLOGY OF WORK

To explore the re-use, recycling and reduction of waste in the design and production of buildings the programme for the workshop included lectures by Mansoor Ali (Practical Action), David Sanderson (CENDEP, Oxford Brookes University), Chris Hines (Surfers Against Sewerage, now independent consultant), Howard Jones (the Eden Project), Maurice Mitchell (London Metropolitan University), Thandi Loewenson (Bartlett Student) and Melissa Kinnear (ASF-UK) who all captured the urgency of the problem and inspired participants to rethink their viewpoints on the current building process and introduced them to the world of the development sector.

With guidance from Charles Parrack (Oxford Brookes University), Peter Newton (Architect and Urban Planner), Tabitha Pope, Natalie Daniels and Melissa Kinnear (ASF-UK), the lessons from the classroom were then transferred to the making of building components and building parts for the Building Plot at the Eden Project. Materials from the Waste Recycling Centre were collected and participants grappled with the complexity of using materials which are generally designed for a specific one-off use.



FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

This workshop was the catalyst for ASF-UK to put together a small design team to work out the strategic approach for the Building Plot. We discussed possible partners, a funding approach, how to layout the site, and the next steps for ASF-UK to move this project from workshops to an actual building.

