

7TH ECO-BUILD WORKSHOP

Heritage Foundation is pleased to announce the successful completion of the 7th Eco-Build Workshop held in Moak Sharif. The workshop was held with support for volunteers by Institute of Architects, Pakistan while construction was sponsored by Spiritual Chords, South Africa, while one Literacy Centre in Moak Sharif is sponsored by Ar. Murad Jamil. Spiritual Chords is a South African Muslim Community funded charity spearheaded by Ms. Safeeyah Moosa, undertaking construction and social development initiatives with Heritage Foundation in 5 villages in Lower Sindh. 11 architectural students from the Visual Studies Department, Karachi University; The Centre of Excellency, Jamshoro; and Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro participated in the workshop.

Students arrived on the 22nd of December and were allocated lodgings in the village square at Eco-Village Moak Sharif. Activities began early on the 23rd of December, with a visit around the village to familiarize them to the various construction methods being implemented by Heritage Foundation. This was followed by a presentation in the training centre to understand the need for DRR compliant structures, the advantages of using Eco-Sustainable materials and improved Vernacular Methodologies.

Theory sessions were followed by a Group Session activity for Village Interaction. This session involved the children on Eco-Village Moak Sharif and nearby village Kakoo Wassan. Children arrived from various corners of Eco-village Moak Sharif to the sound of a Dhol-wala, and after much dancing; the children were queued into HF Training centre where papers, crayons and colour-pencils were handed out. The levels of illiteracy came into focus as participants realized that most of the children aged between 3 to 13 years did not know how to hold pencils. Student volunteers helped the children to hold pencils and make drawings/patterns/motifs. A second session was held when children from nearby village Kakoo Wassan arrived on a tractor-trolley. Children from Kakoo Wassan also enjoyed a short dancing session to the drums being played, followed by a drawing and coloring session. Once the sessions were completed, sweets were handed out and children from the two villages interacted, sung songs and recited poems.



Workshop Supported by Spiritual Chords, South Africa, and Institute of Architects of Pakistan



Drawing Activity with village children



Drawing Activity with village children

Day 3 began with student volunteers loading onto a bullock cart and travelling to neighboring village Kakoo Wassan to practice the method to carry out construction of walls of a Health Satellite with layered mud. The Health Satellite will be used to conduct Heritage Foundation's Health and Hygiene programme in association with KaravanPakistan Mobile Unit. A local tribe known as 'Oads' who practice the art of making walls with layered mud, gave the students a demonstration of the method to make balls and place them on top of a previously applied layer, keeping the plumb line in mind. Students worked till evening, and were successful in raising the wall height by 1'-6".

After arriving at Kakoo Wassan on bullock carts, Day 4 was dedicated to the fabrication of mud bricks to be used in the construction of the Health Satellite. Students began with the idea that brick making would be an easy task and would be able to fabricate over 500 bricks. Unfortunately after many attempts and failures, students were able to fabricate over 150 mud bricks of useable grade. Students held a volleyball match to raise community interaction.



Participants carrying out layered mud construction



Participants Fabricate Mud bricks for Health Satellite



Discussion with Yasmeen Lari, Shahab Ghani and Murad Jamil

Students spent Day 5 at the Bamboo Workshop at Moak Sharif where they were taught the various methods to cut, bolt and tie bamboo members used in HF's sustainable construction. Demonstrations were carried out by Heritage Foundation's Skilled Artisans. Students were assigned groups, with each group being given the task to fabricate a set of windows and a door. Activities were put on hold as Heritage Foundation Chair and C.E.; Yasmeen Lari arrived with ex-Chairman IAP, Shahab Ghani and Chairman of the Board of Architectural Education, Murad Jamil. The student gathered at HF Training Centre, where the visiting dignitaries held talks with the students, particularly highlighting the need for sustainability and Eco-Build practices. Students were also applauded for the work they had undertaken over the course of the workshop.

Day 6 was scheduled to understand the various materials used in mixes, mortars and plasters along with their application, treatments and curing. Student spent the better half of the day experimenting with the materials. They prepared mixtures for mortars and plasters with various ratios on sample walls. Once dried, the samples were discussed based on their success and failures. The exercise helped understand the various advantages and weaknesses of the materials used, as well as their adhesive properties. Day 6 culminated with a volley ball match between Student volunteers, HF personnel and artisans, and Community members.



Bamboo Fabrication at Moak Sharif Bamboo Workshop



Women give students demo on Traditional Motif Mud Tracery



Experimenting with different materials and ratios for plaster

Day 7 began with a showing of a short movie at the HF training centre. The movie was based on a street theatre held at Moak Sharif in October, 2012. Children gathered from the village to watch themselves and their friends on the big screen.

A closing session was held with the participants, where evaluation forms for the workshop were filled, along with a questions and answers session. Participants raised various points of information they had gathered during the workshop. A series of problems and methods to overcome the difficulties of living in the rural areas were discussed. Students were asked about the various methods of Eco-Building they had understood along with their opinion on DRR-compliant sustainable construction.

Students expressed that they had made friends in the short span of the workshop, with not only colleagues from other architectural universities, but also with the HF artisans and personnel and most importantly with the community members, adults and children alike. It is through workshops like these do individuals from different spectrums of life may interact and share experiences and gain knowledge of not just Eco-Building but of the way of life of fellow countrymen. It brings about an understanding of the disadvantages faced in rural living as well as develops a stake in communities that are marginalized.



Participants of the 7th Eco-Build Workshop

PARTICIPANTS

Muhammad Ansir - KU
Mir Raza Ali - KU
Basit Rasool - KU
Zaeem Mansuri - KU
Sardar Hussain - KU
Syed M. Danish - KU
Saad-ul-Haqqi - KU
Atteeq-Ur Rehman - MUET
Raheem Khattak - CED
Zahoor Khan Yousafzai - CED
Nasir Ali - CED