

AsiaGSD / TDI Conference 2005

# TSUNAMI+

CONFERENCE ON POST-DISASTER PLANNING AND RECONSTRUCTION

## Introduction

Welcome to the 2005 AsiaGSD / TDI Conference, **TSUNAMI+ : post-disaster planning and reconstruction**. In response to the tsunami that hit the South Asian coast in December 2004, the TSUNAMI+ conference aims at reexamining the mechanisms of post-disaster planning, design, and implementation.

After the tsunami, there was a huge influx of both local and international NGOs to offer assistance to the affected communities. Now that the emergency phase has passed, how can designers operate amidst the complexity of organizations, local partners and government sectors to prove the value of design? Is an ad-hoc, sporadic organization the most efficient way in relief situations? How does one balance between the generic and the specific? Or should there be a framework and more systematic approach?

If so, can “foreign” or “imported” systems be made adaptable to the culture, values, and customs of the local context? Are western ideologies even applicable? On the environmental front, how can a design incorporate sustainable technologies and high efficiency while embracing the ingrained, indigenous mechanisms? The conference geographically focuses on the tsunami affected countries; yet, its implications of the discourse of post-disaster design and planning extends far beyond this region. In light of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the Pakistan earthquake, the topic of disaster relief is one of profound and prolonged influence.

Designers cannot just focus on a single shelter or house design. They must engage themselves in the bigger picture that involves multiple parties across many platforms, to negotiate between foreign ideologies and specific local interests. A successful design should address the larger socio-economic and political condition such that the delivery process of the design contains the social function to jumpstart recoveries at multiple levels.

The conference brings together design practitioners, NGOs, government official, and academicians for the opportunity to share experiences, to redefine the role of designers, and to speculate improvements in future relief implementation. Spanning across cultures, theories, and practices, the conference aims to be catalytic in continuing dialogues and intellectual exchange among all the involved interest groups and in sustaining awareness in global humanitarian endeavors.

We sincerely hope that you will enjoy this symposium and acquire renewed understanding of recovery and reconstruction in the post-disaster context.

Eric Ho, MArch I '06  
Rick Lam, MArch I '06  
Co-Presidents, AsiaGSD

## AsiaGSD

<http://studentgroups.gsd.harvard.edu/asiagsd/>

Founded in 1994, AsiaGSD is a student organization at Harvard Graduate School of Design for students interested in design issues in the Asia Pacific region. Its mission is to promote awareness of architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning and design, and related disciplines in visual arts within a broad regional framework. Based in the United States, with members representing countries worldwide, AsiaGSD is committed to fostering dialogues on professional and scholarly concerns between students, academics, and professionals around the world.

AsiaGSD has held numerous academic conferences in the past, and invited speakers from all over the world including Rem Koolhaas, Toyo Ito, Shigeru Ban, Saskia Sassen, Sanford Kwinter and many more.

List of past conference and activities:

1996 INTERFACING WITH ASIA

1997 ASIAN URBANIZATION: Transformation and Continuity

1998 ASIAN IDENTITIES: Beyond the Generic

1999 THIRD SPACE: Asian Manifestations

2000 MODERNISM IN ASIA: Visions of Tomorrow

2001 POP CULTURE: AsiaGSD Lecture Series

2002 SHANGHAI: Making a Global City

2003 TOKYO MICRO.URBANISM: Theory and Practice of Emerging Architects in Japan

2004 CULTURE OF DENSITY: Sustaining Growth in Asia

## TDI

<http://projects.gsd.harvard.edu/tsunami/>

TDI is a student initiative at Harvard Graduate School of Design that was set up in response to the rebuilding efforts in the South Asian coast after the tsunami in December 2004. We are not only interested in exploring shelter and housing resettlement, but also in the socio-economic mechanisms that can potentially be utilized as catalysts in the overall recovery of the affected regions. Our efforts were initiated to address the consequences of this tsunami, but the implications extend beyond a specific locale.

In March, TDI won the Tsunami Challenge Competition hosted by MIT SIGUS group, and presented our ideas at USAID at Washington DC. We further developed our Tsunami Safe(r) house with MIT SENSEable city lab. The project is executed by Prajnopaya foundation and Sri Bodhiraja Foundation. The first prototype of the Tsunami Safe(r) house is completed in September 2005 in Balapitiya in Sri Lanka. TDI also received a research grant from Harvard University's Center for the Environment for a two weeks research trip in Sri Lanka from August 26 – September 8. The research trip includes documentation of temporary and permanent reconstruction projects by different NGOs, documentation of local methods of constructions, and also interview with the tsunami victims. We are currently taking an independent study with Professor Michelle Addington to continue our projects in the school. The work of TDI has been published by Boston Globe, the most circulated newspaper in the Boston region; Harvard Gazette, the weekly university newspaper; and Harvard Magazine with an audience across the globe.

## Acknowledgements

Dyfed Aubrey, GOAL  
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Sean Buffington, Harvard Provost Office  
Richard Byess, USAID  
Amelia Careghini, Harvard Office of the President  
Wallace Chang, CUHK  
Shang-wen Chiu, Harvard GSD  
Bill Collins, Habitat for Humanity  
Upali Daranagama, USAID  
Domenico Del Re, Buro Happold  
Chula de Silva, Sri Lanka Institute of Engineers  
Pastor Arian de Visser, Colombo  
Rudy Elizolindo, International Service Partners, Sri Lanka  
Rexie Fernando, HBV  
Reinhard Goethert, MIT  
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Perry Mansfield, World Vision  
Mark Mulligan, Harvard GSD  
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Cynthia Palormo, Foundation for Goodness  
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Carol Ratti, MIT SENSEable City Lab  
Nicholas Retsinas, Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies  
Colleen Richards-Powell, Harvard Office of the President  
Francisca Rojas, AIA  
Jay Rosengard, Harvard KSG  
Peter Rowe, Harvard GSD  
Shuyin Obita, Prajnopaya Foundation  
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Hashim Sarkis, Harvard GSD  
Thomas Schmidt, AIA  
Ashley Schafer, Harvard GSD

Bill Seaver, Prajnopaya Foundation  
Pastor Jothini Seenithamby, Kalmunai  
Mary Shia, Harvard GSD  
Jayanth Silva, Genesis Design Team  
Madumali Silva, Genesis Design Team  
Laura Snowdon, Harvard GSD  
Ezra Vogel, Harvard University  
Sarah Whiting, Harvard GSD  
Warren Wright, World Vision

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GSD Student Forum  
Harvard Design School  
Harvard Office of the President  
Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies  
Harvard South Asia Initiative  
GSD Alumnae Sara Hurand  
GSD Alumni Calvin Tsao

## Special Thanks To

PRESIDENT LAWRENCE SUMMERS  
DEAN ALAN ALTSHULER  
PROFESSOR MICHELLE ADDINGTON

schedule

2:00PM INTRODUCTORY SESSION

CHAIR OF SESSION

**Toshiko Mori**

Professor in Practice and Chair  
Department of Architecture  
Harvard University Graduate School of Design

OPENING REMARKS

**Dean Alan Altshuler**

Ruth and Frank Stanton Professor in Urban Policy and Planning  
Department of Urban Planning and Design  
Harvard University Graduate School of Design

INTRODUCTION OF CONFERENCE

ASIAGSD/TDI

Panel **1** **Situating in Context**

FRIDAY NOV 18 2.30PM-6.00PM

2:45PM

**Janice Olshesky**

Managing Partner, Olshesky Design Group, RA, AIA

**AIA POST DISASTER BUILDING PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT  
SRI LANKA TSUNAMI**

Ms Olshesky traveled to Sri Lanka in early May as part of the AIA's Tsunami Disaster Relief effort along with other professionals. This report grew out of that effort. It covers an overview of the disaster, Tsunami formation, Tsunami devastation, Structures that withstood the force, recommendations for the rebuilding effort and the some examples of the rebuilding effort.

3:30PM

**Indu S. Weerasoori**

Director (Development Planning),  
Urban Development Authority, Sri Lanka

**POST TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION AND RECOVERY  
PLANNING IN HAMBANTOTA DISTRICT, SRI LANKA  
CASE STUDY - HAMBANTOTA TOWN**

Mrs Weerasoori will give an overview of Hambantota district and discuss about the criteria for land identification and introduced planning guidelines, considering the local context. Sustainable reconstruction and planning would discuss in later stage. She will cover: Criteria for Land Identification and Planning Guidelines, Integrate Development Plans for Tsunami Affected areas in Hambantota Town and Achievements within 10 months.

4:15PM

INTERMISSION

schedule

4:30PM

**John Skelly**

Project Manager, Construction, GOAL, Sri Lanka

**FACTORS AFFECTING IMPLEMENTATION OF POST TSUNAMI  
RECONSTRUCTION**

The object of the presentation is to provide the conference with an insight into the process of implementing reconstruction projects as experienced through working with members of tsunami affected communities, from the provision of transitional shelter through to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of permanent housing. The discussion examine how the direction of these projects and the design and construction of the end product are affected by factors such as beneficiaries own social and cultural beliefs, varying levels of beneficiary input, different implementation methods, government regulation and timescales.

5:15PM

PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator:

**Mona Serageldin**

Adjunct Professor of Urban Planning  
Harvard Graduate School of Design  
Associate Director  
Center for Urban Development Studies, Harvard University

Panelists:

**Stanley Tambiah**

Esther and Sidney Rabb Research Professor of Anthropology  
Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Harvard University

**Helaine Daniels**

Director, Master in Public Policy Program  
Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

## Panel 2 Design & Implementation

SATURDAY NOV 19 9.00AM-1.00PM

9.00AM

### Cameron Sinclair

Co-Founder and Executive Director, Architecture of Humanity

#### COMMUNITY BASED DESIGN IN POST-DISASTER RECONSTRUCTION

Cameron Sinclair will discuss the recent initiatives led by Architecture for Humanity and the lessons learned over the past year in responding to the tsunami and other recent disasters.

9.45AM

### H. Koon Wee

7+1

Partner, sciSKEW Collaborative

### Jon Kher Kaw

7+1

Researcher and Planner, Urban Redevelopment Authority, Singapore

#### INFORMAL NETWORKS & SELF-ORGANIZATION: pre-design responses to the 2004 Tsunami

There is an obsession with the homogenizing effects of globalization. Many are concerned that the new global culture will mean the disappearance of local uniqueness. The 2004 Tsunami gave the world an opportunity to overcome the barriers of nation states and multiculturalism, even if the moment was media-hyped and short-lived. 7+1 was the product of such a moment. With collaborating clients in Banda Aceh and Chennai, institutional affiliates in Singapore and San Jose, consultants from all across the United States, and with members in New York, Singapore and Shanghai, 7+1 sought to bring about assistance and change through self-organized and informal networks. Architecture in the post-multicultural era must facilitate dialogs between cities. Architecture is charged with a task of translating between two or more paradigms, including geographies, cultures, rituals, languages, programs, institutions and political entities. Translation thrives on overlaps, feedback and errors, and can promote spin-offs and growth.

10.30AM

INTERMISSION

10.45AM

### Singh Intrachooto

Deputy Dean for International Affairs  
Faculty of Architecture, Kasetsart University, Thailand

#### REBUILDING LIFE AFTER TSUNAMI: THAILAND'S RECONSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE

The presentation highlights reconstruction efforts carried out by public and private organizations in various coastal locations in Thailand's southern provinces. The presentation will particularly focus on the involvement of engineering and architecture academics in devising solutions and the effects that emerged as a result of the physical and political interventions.

11.30AM

### Charles Setchell

AICP, Shelter, Settlements, and Hazard Mitigation Advisor  
Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), USAID

#### MORE THAN FOUR WALLS AND A ROOF: MASS-VOLUME SHELTER PROVISION AS PART OF POST-DISASTER RESPONSES

Shelter provision is essential to the social, social-psychological, cultural, political, economic, and environmental revitalization of disaster-affected settlements. Introducing an imported design "solution" to address shelter needs in post-disaster settings is almost always inappropriate, and undermines efforts to support locally-generated interventions that can be provided on a mass-volume basis.

12.15PM

PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator:

### Robert Collins

Visiting Scholar and Lecturer  
Department of Urban Planning and Design  
Harvard Graduate School of Design

Assistant Professor & Chair of the Department of Urban Studies and Public Policy, Assistant Dean of Social Sciences, Dillard University, New Orleans

Panelists:

### Robert Cowherd

Lecturer and Visiting Critic in Architecture  
and Landscape Architecture  
Rhode Island School of Design

### Raheel Alam

Assistant Project Manager  
International Service Partners

1.00PM

LUNCH BREAK

# Panel 3 Technology/Future Projection

SATURDAY NOV 19 2.00PM-6.00PM

2:00PM

## Sandra D'Urzo

Shelter & Settlement Coordinator for Sri Lanka, Oxfam-GB

**BEYOND SURVIVAL: FROM EMERGENCY TO LONG-TERM RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS IN SRI LANKA**

2:45PM

## Sheila Kennedy

Principal, Kennedy & Violich Architecture, AIA  
Design Critic in Architecture, Harvard Graduate School of Design

**DISHWASHERS, STOPLIGHTS & CELL PHONES:  
Re-locating the role of innovation in leapfrog technology**

The performance characteristics of first response infrastructure - water, heating, cooling, electrical power and illumination imply spatial models and modes of building construction that are distinctly different from the dominant, conventional model of the building-integrated centralized services. Changing conditions in both the "first" and "third" worlds suggest that first response infrastructure will not be created by planners and civil engineers alone, as was the case with the historical development of mainstream electrical infrastructure. The scale and urgency of need presents a set of unique opportunities and challenges to the discipline of architecture.

Using the Portable Light Project as a case study, [www.caup.umich.edu/portablelight/](http://www.caup.umich.edu/portablelight/), the presentation will demonstrate how the technology for an effective first response infrastructure already exists in large market, affordable applications. The creative act is the re-location of innovation: in part the ability to see beyond the conventional industry landscape--to hack, mod and create novel bridging resources-- in part the reversal of the geography of innovation where the needs of the "third" world can be seen to provide knowledge that is becoming increasingly critical in the "first" world, in part the development of innovation that can support an economically sustainable business case for large scale global investments.

3:30PM

INTERMISSION

3:45PM

## Rick Hill

Director of the Office of Emergency and Transition Programs  
CHF International

**POST-DISASTER RECONSTRUCTION: THE COLLISION OF JUSTICE, RISK REDUCTION, AND REALPOLITIK**

The presentation will: frame the critical tensions between assistance to lower income populations affected by disaster, opportunities for larger economic actors, and the need to reduce vulnerability; examine the forces that drive formal and informal policy change; suggest roles and skill-sets for planners seeking to intervene effectively; examine and compare 2005 responses to disasters in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Mississippi; and suggest some models that address the tensions.

4:30PM

PANEL DISCUSSION

5:30-7PM

RECEPTION at PORTICO ROOMS

Moderator:

## Michelle Addington

Associate Professor of Architecture  
Harvard Graduate School of Design

Panelists:

## Niall Kirkwood

Professor and Chair, Department of Landscape Architecture  
Harvard Graduate School of Design

## Peter Rogers

Gordon McKay Professor of Environmental Engineering  
Professor of City and Regional Planning  
Harvard University

guest speakers

## SANDRA D'URZO

**SHELTER & SETTLEMENT COORDINATOR FOR SRI LANKA, OXFAM-GB**

Sandra D'Urzo is an architect whose work aims to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable people. She graduated in Architecture in Rome in '98 with a final project on post-war reconstruction in Mostar/Bosnia before collaborating with the international office Mecanoo in the Netherlands to develop sustainable architecture & planning projects and ecologically sound building technologies. While undertaking a long journey throughout Africa and South America she became increasingly interested in habitat programmes in developing countries. In 2001 she coordinated reconstruction projects for the NGO Architecture & Development in Salvador, East Timor, Philippines, Afghanistan and Palestine. Combining both academic research and field work she achieved a Master in Barcelona in 2002 focused on the social commitment of architects and emergency planning. Since then various universities have welcomed her lectures (MIT/Boston, Rome, Barcelona) and her design work has been rewarded by international prizes (project in Kaboul awarded by Architecture+ award, and Senegal/Mali projects nominated by Aga Khan award for Architecture 04). She is a founding member of Architect Sans Frontières International network and has recently written and edited the architectural magazine AREA titled "South 82"; focused on borderless projects.

Currently she is working with Oxfam GB as national co-ordinator for post-tsunami shelter & housing reconstruction in Sri Lanka. She regularly teaches at La Villette Faculty of Architecture in Paris

## RICK HILL

**DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PROGRAMS, CHF INTERNATIONAL**

Mr. Hill is the Director of the Office of Strategic Programs at CHF International. From 1990 – 2000 he served as the Deputy Director and then Director of Intertect Relief and Reconstruction Corporation. He has designed and directed programs and analysis in 31 countries. Highlights of Mr. Hill's contributions include design of re-integration strategies for the Kurds in northern Iraq, design of food delivery and economic support programs for the famine during the Somali civil war, and direction of team of experts in assessing winter shelter for those displaced from the Abkhazian conflict and devising strategies for the Government of Georgia to be integrated with economic support for the fledgling government (1993). From 1993 to 1995 he played important roles in helping to address the needs of besieged populations in Bosnia, implementing programs for winter energy supply, housing, winterization of temporary housing, water supply, local economic support, and addressing a range of difficult relief logistics issues. Since then, he has designed programs to address the needs of displaced in Moldova and Chechnya with activities which build local economic and organizational capacities, assisted the World Bank in on shelter issues after the 1999 earthquakes in Turkey, headed the design of a comprehensive mitigation strategy for USAID/OFDA after hurricane Mitch, designed responses to the 2001 El Salvador earthquake, response to needs caused by the 2004 Tsunami, and recently began a program to assist with housing recovery for lower-income populations affected by hurricane Katrina in Mississippi. Mr. Hill has extensive experience in programs to reintegrate disaster-affected populations in conjunction with economic and infrastructure reconstruction during and after disaster, often coordinating these programs with sensitive social and legal issues. Particularly sensitive to these issues on repatriation and reconstruction, he managed a six-year study on this subject conducted by the Center for the Study of Societies in Crisis (now the Cuny Center), and later a study of the impact of USAID's Relief Programs for USAID/CDIE. In addition to the programs mentioned above, he has designed and directed shelter specific programs in Sudan, Uzbekistan, Croatia, Afghanistan, Colombia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Sri Lanka, Serbia, Kosovo, and Albania. He is the author, with Fred Cuny, of Famine, Conflict, and Response (Kumarian Press), of Economic Impact of Shelter Post-Disaster (CHF International), and numerous monographs, articles, and reports on reconstruction and post-disaster issues.

## SINGH INTRACHOOTO

**DEPUTY DEAN FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, KASETSART UNIVERSITY, BANGKOK, THAILAND**

Singh Intrachooto is the deputy dean for International Affairs at the Faculty of Architecture at Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand, where he is working to identify patterns of technological innovation in environmentally responsible architecture. His investigations also include material developments from agricultural waste as well as waste management in buildings' operation and maintenance. Of particular interest is his focus in collaborating between academia and industry, which is necessary in order to leverage technology, education and production approaches to stimulate innovation within the building construction industry. He co-created a graduate program in Building Innovation and Technology at Kasetsart University and is also Visiting Professor at the School of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Washington. Dr. Intrachooto gives lectures in Japan and Hong Kong and consults on several projects while maintaining his architectural practice in Thailand with residential works, commercial facilities and urban redevelopments. He is also involved in rebuilding efforts in the Tsunami affected areas in Thailand's southern region. He holds Doctor of Philosophy degree in Design Technology from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

## JON KHER KAW

**7+1  
RESEARCHER & PLANNER, URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, SINGAPORE**

7+1 is a consulting think tank formed as a response to the 2004 tsunami. The group seeks non-profit and community based platforms for practice in the midst of other dominant forms of architectural practices. To date, clients include Orphans International, the Transparency & Accountability Network (Tr-Ac-Net), the Chennai Rural Education and Employment Development Agency (REEDA), and the Kanchipuram Villages of Kovalam and Muttukadu. 7+1 was founded by Huimin Chan, Christopher Chew, Jon Kher Kaw, Eunice Seng, Melvyn Wong, and founding firms sciSKEW Collaborative and Studio A+i.

Jon Kher Kaw is a researcher and planner at the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Singapore. His work is directly involved with the planning of Singapore. His philosophy in design is rooted in a multidisciplinary approach to architecture, particularly the roles played by technology and science. Previously, at Alsop Architects, Jon received an honorable citation for a new paradigm of high density housing for the Duxton Plains Housing Competition. He is a graduate of Columbia University and recipient of the Lucille Smyser Lowenfish Memorial Prize.

## SHEILA KENNEDY

**PRINCIPAL, KENNEDY & VIOLICH ARCHITECTURE, AIA  
DESIGN CRITIC IN ARCHITECTURE, HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN**

Sheila Kennedy is a Principal of Kennedy & Violich Architecture, Ltd. (KVA) an interdisciplinary design practice that explores new relationships between architecture, technology and emerging public needs. Recent projects at KVA include the New York City East River Ferry Project, the Graduate Center for Integrated Technology at RISD, Clemson University's Center for Architecture & Research, the Architecture Research Facility at Clemson University and the new headquarters for Harvard's Department of Film and Video. The work of KVA has been recognized by National Design Excellence Awards from the American Institute of Architecture, Progressive Architecture Awards and the Public Work Award of the National Endowment for the Arts and Industrial Design Excellence Awards. In 2000, Kennedy established MATx, a pioneering materials research unit which engages applied creative production across the fields of electronics, architecture and material design. MATx works collaboratively with business leaders, industrial manufacturers, engineers and public agencies to invent design concepts, products and building systems that advance the implementation of sustainable digital technologies.

Kennedy is the author of six patents for the integration of digital technologies into architecture, building materials and textiles. Kennedy's work is featured in Business Week's 2003 report on new American Innovators in Technology and her work has been recognized by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Academy of Sciences. Kennedy has served as an advisor to the United States Department of Energy, the National Academy of Sciences' Government-Industry Partnerships, and the Vision 2020 National Technology Roadmap. A monograph of Kennedy's writings and projects entitled Material Misuse is published by the Architectural Association of London. Kennedy's work has appeared in Material Ultra Material (Harvard University, 2002), Innovation in American Architecture, (Thames & Hudson, 2003), Extreme Textiles, (Princeton, 2005), and many journals of architecture, design culture, anthropology and optoelectronics, as well as the Discovery Channel, ABC World News Tonight, Wired, The Wall Street Journal, Business Week and The New York Times.

## JANICE OLSHESKY

**MANAGING PARTNER, OLSHESKY DESIGN GROUP**

Janice Olschesky, RA, AIA is the managing partner of Olschesky Design Group, LLC and has experience on a range of project types. She began her architectural career working on large scale, national and international projects, at SOM in Chicago and London and at Kevin Roche & John Dinkeloo. She then worked on hospitals and universities at HDR, Inc.

In 2001, Ms Olschesky founded her own practice with a focus on sustainable projects. The firm's current work includes recreational, institutional, commercial and residential projects. Ms. Olschesky has taught design studios at Virginia Tech and has been a guest critic and lecturer there since 1994. Ms Olschesky is Chair of the AIA 2005 Building Performance Symposium at the AIA National component in Washington, D.C. and has been nominated Chair of the AIA 2006 Building Performance Symposium on Disaster Assessment. She is also actively involved in her community and is the Planning & Zoning representative to the Mount Vernon Community Citizen's Association. When her neighborhood was flooded by Hurricane Isabel in September 2003, she participated in disaster relief as a neighborhood liaison to Fairfax County, elected officials, Red Cross and FEMA. She most recently formed part of a team of professionals in the AIA's Tsunami Disaster Relief effort in Sri Lanka in May 2005. Ms Olschesky holds a Master of Architecture degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and a B.A. in Urban Studies from the University of Connecticut.

## CHARLES SETCHELL

**AICP, SHELTER, SETTLEMENTS, AND HAZARD MITIGATION ADVISOR  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA), USAID**

Mr. Setchell has 27 years of experience in managing the process of physical, social, and economic change, both in the US and abroad. This professional experience is grounded in undergraduate and graduate degrees in urban and environmental planning from the University of California, Davis, and University of California, Berkeley, respectively, as well as doctoral studies in urban planning at MIT. Examples of past work include: design of a new city in Indonesia as a private consultant; assessment of Bangkok's slum housing market for the Government of Thailand while serving as a Fulbright Scholar and MacArthur Fellow; preparation of numerous housing and environmental management plans as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines; and implementation and evaluation of disaster response and mitigation programs for FEMA. Since his arrival at OFDA in 1998, Mr. Setchell has helped design and implement relief and hazard mitigation projects in numerous countries, and seeks to promote disaster reduction through the integration of relief and development activities. He makes presentations at training courses, meetings, and conferences on a regular basis, and has published on a wide variety of topics.

## CAMERON SINCLAIR

**CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ARCHITECTURE FOR HUMANITY**

Cameron Sinclair is the co-founder and executive director of Architecture for Humanity, a 501c3 charitable organization that seeks architecture solutions to humanitarian crises and brings design services to communities in need. For the last six years his team has initiated and implemented a number of programs including housing ideas for returning refugees in Kosovo; mobile health clinics to combat HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa; mine clearance programs and playground building in the Balkans; disaster recovery assistance and reconstruction in Grenada, India, Iran and Sri Lanka and most recently responding to Hurricane Katrina in the gulf states.

The organization is currently building a sports and HIV/AIDS outreach facility for youth in Somkhele in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, tackling issues of homelessness and poverty in inner-city America and developing "Rethinking Tent City," a project to create and encourage social and economic change in long-term refugee camps and large settlements through sustainable design interventions. Sinclair, with Kate Stohr, is writing a book on humanitarian design called Design Like You Give A Damn: Architectural Responses to Humanitarian Crises.

As a guest on BBC World Service, CNN International and National Public Radio he has spoken on topics ranging from sustainable development, how policy effects design to the global AIDS pandemic.

His organization, Architecture for Humanity is the recipient of the 2005 INDEX Award for Community and the 2005 Lewis Mumford Award for Peace. In 2004 Fortune Magazine named him as one of the Aspen Seven, seven people changing the world for the better. Most recently he was awarded the 2006 TED prize which allows him to make 'one wish to change the world'. That wish will be made on Feb. 23rd at the TED Conference in Monterey, California.

Cameron is also the co-founder and somewhat active member of the Uncoordinated Soccer League.

## JOHN SKELLY

**PROJECT MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION, GOAL, SRI LANKA**

John Skelly spent 9 months in Sri Lanka, following the Tsunami of December 26th 2004 working with GOAL, an Irish based INGO. The initial focus of the work was the implementation of a transitional shelter program in the Hambantota district, followed by a program of housing rehabilitation and new housing construction in the affected area. The objective of the permanent housing program has been to reconstruct on the beneficiaries original lots, rather than on the government resettlement sites.

Mr. Skelly has worked in Ireland and Germany on a variety of construction projects including residential and commercial developments, renovations and stadium developments. Mr. Skelly studied Construction Management at Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Ireland, and holds a B.Sc. in Construction Management from the University of Glamorgan, South Wales.

## H. KOON WEE

**7+1  
PARTNER, sciSKEW COLLABORATIVE**

7+1 is a consulting think tank formed as a response to the 2004 tsunami. The group seeks non-profit and community based platforms for practice in the midst of other dominant forms of architectural practices. To date, clients include Orphans International, the Transparency & Accountability Network (Tr-Ac-Net), the Chennai Rural Education and Employment Development Agency (REEDA), and the Kanchipuram Villages of Kovalam and Muttukadu. 7+1 was founded by Huimin Chan, Christopher Chew, Jon Kher Kaw, Eunice Seng, Melvyn Wong, and founding firms sciSKEW Collaborative and Studio A+I.

H. Koon Wee is a partner of sciSKEW Collaborative, based in Singapore, Shanghai and New York. Commissions range from architectural installations, exhibition design, residential and commercial developments to planning and real estate consulting. Koon taught undergraduate design studios at Pratt Institute and Yale University, and served as a design critic at numerous schools. He was the recipient of three AIA NYC & NYS design awards, the Chicago Athenaeum Award, the Prix Du Public Prize, and the Wood Design Award with Bone/Levine Architects.

## **INDU S. WEERASOORI**

**DIRECTOR (DEVELOPMENT PLANNING) URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, SRI LANKA**

At present Mrs Weerasoori is working as a Director (Development Planning) at the Urban Development Authority of Sri Lanka. Urban Development Authority is the prime planning agency which was established in 1978 to promote integrated urban development activities in areas declared under UDA Law. She has been working in this Authority for nearly 22 years. Professionally she is a Chartered Town Planner. Apart from the UDA work she is working as a visiting lecturer and an external examiner for the Department of Town & Country Planning at University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

Mrs Weerasoori has a basic degree in Development Studies and specialized Population and Human Resources at the University of Sri Jayawardanapura, Sri Lanka in 1979. After successfully completing the basic degree she completed Post Graduate Diploma in Urban Development at the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. After joining the UDA in 1983 as a Planning Officer, she completed her further studies at the Development Planning Unit of Bartlett School for Architecture and Planning, University College, London in 1989. From the Development Planning Unit she was awarded a Post Graduate Diploma in "Urban Planning Practice for Developing Countries" and M.Sc. in Urban Development Planning in 1990 and 1991 respectively.

After obtaining the Post Graduate Diploma and M.Sc. she came to Sri Lanka and worked for Urban Development Authority. During this period, she has worked as a Deputy Director (Southern Province)/Head Provincial Infrastructure Unit till 1997. In 1997 Mrs Weerasoori was selected as a Planning Consultant for Southern Development Authority in Sri Lanka which was established specially for Development of Southern Province in Sri Lanka. In 1998, she was awarded a special Post Graduate Diploma in Urban Revitalization and Heritage Management from the Institute for Housing and Development Studies (IHS) The Netherlands. In 1999 she came to UDA and worked as a Director, Southern Province and Director Development Planning respectively. Main task of the Director (Development Planning) is to prepare Integrated Development Plans for Declared Areas under the UDA Law. Under the Tsunami Reconstruction and Development Programme, I have been appointed as In Charge of Hambantota District.

## MICHELLE ADDINGTON

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE  
HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN

Michelle Addington is Associate Professor of Architecture. She teaches courses and seminars in energy/environmental systems and building technology, as well as in new materials.

Current courses include: Environmental Technologies in Buildings, New Materials and Technologies, Energy, Technology and Building, and Proseminar in Building Technology: Light Science. Previous courses have included: Perspectives on Technology in Architecture, Energy and Environment Implications for Buildings: Daylight, Introduction to Building Technologies.

Addington is both an architect and an engineer whose teaching and research explore the re-conceptualization of the human thermal environment. Originally educated as a nuclear and mechanical engineer, she began her career with NASA, where she was a structural analyst designing components for satellites and rockets, and she later worked in the chemical industry for many years as a thermal process designer, power plant engineer, and, eventually, a manufacturing manager.

In the late 1980s, she temporarily set aside her engineering career and began studying architecture. After earning a professional degree in architecture, she joined a small Philadelphia firm as a project architect. She also was an adjunct professor of architecture at two different schools in Philadelphia, initially teaching design courses, but later asked to teach courses in building technology and building mechanical systems. While teaching these courses in technology, she became increasingly concerned with not only the representation of the thermal environment in architecture, but with its fundamental conceptualization. In 1993, she resumed the role of student yet one more time to investigate the potential for architecture afforded by new scientific theories in heat transfer and fluid mechanics coupled with emerging technologies. Her resulting dissertation, "Boundary Layer Control of Heat Transfer in Buildings," put forth the proposition that tiny and discrete thermal interruptions could significantly affect the resulting heat transfer from any entity, including the human body.

Addington researches discrete phenomena and smart materials, and has begun to develop a theory regarding the strategic intersections between the relevant physical scales of energy phenomena and the possible interventions from the limited domains of building construction.

## ROBERT COLLINS

VISITING SCHOLAR AND LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN  
HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR & CHAIR OF DEPARTMENT OF URBAN STUDIES AND PUBLIC POLICY,  
ASSISTANT DEAN OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, DILLARD UNIVERSITY, NEW ORLEANS

Robert Collins is Visiting Scholar and Lecturer in the Department of Urban Planning and Design at the GSD. In addition, he is Assistant Professor of Urban Studies at Dillard University in New Orleans, where he also serves as Chair of the Department of Urban Studies and Public Policy and Assistant Dean of Social Sciences. His research interests include urban redevelopment, disaster mitigation planning, community development, and economic development. His most recent publication is the Introductory Chapter in the book: Human Capital Investment for Central City Revitalization (Co-Author).

Collins also serves as a real estate development consultant to both private corporations and public organizations in the areas of location analysis, risk analysis, disaster mitigation, and market analysis. Prior to his academic career, he was a congressional staff member and served as Field Assistant to former U.S. Senator Bennett Johnston. He holds a Ph.D. in Urban Studies from the University of New Orleans.

## MONA SERAGELDIN

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN  
HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, THE CENTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Mona Anis Serageldin is Adjunct Professor of Urban Planning at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design where she has been a member of the faculty since 1985. She was Associate Director of the Center for Urban Development Studies until it concluded its activities in June 2005. She teaches a course on Strategic Planning and Local Development.

She is vice president of the Institute for International Urban Development in Cambridge. She has over 30 years of professional and academic experience in the United States and abroad, and has worked on projects sponsored by USAID, UNDP UN-Habitat, the World Bank, the Inter American Development Bank and various foundations in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Dr. Serageldin specializes in local development, strategic planning, social inclusion, policy and program assessment and municipal finance of urban development. She has worked on: decentralization; participatory processes in urban planning and management; land regularization and infrastructure services; migration patterns and the impacts of remittances; microcredit in housing and infrastructure; community based development; and revitalization of the historic urban fabric.

Her approach to urban planning and management emphasizes participation, strategy performance and capacity building. She leads the Institute's involvement in specialized networks including UN-Habitat Best Practices and Local Leadership Program, UN Habitat Human Settlement research network (HS-Net), UN-ECOSOC, the Microcredit Summit, and the Cultural Heritage and Development Networks and its participation in the coalition for sustainable urbanization.

panelists

## RAHEEL ALAM

ASSISTANT PROJECT MANAGER, INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PARTNERS

Mr. Alam served as Assistant Project Manager at Restoration Village, a housing reconstruction project near Tangalle, Sri Lanka initiated by International Service Partners. During his six months in Sri Lanka, Mr. Alam served in varying capacities depending on the needs of the project, but focused primarily on design and implementation. Having designed and drafted all plans and detail drawings on-site, he has in-depth knowledge of the design, building procedures, materials usage and construction methods. As construction got under way, Mr. Alam focused on quality control and inspections- ensuring that material usage was in line with the established parameters and construction was done according to plans and established standards.

Besides his tenure at Restoration Village, Mr. Alam was also a part of an initial emergency response team in Sri Lanka from International Service Partners to provide medical care in the days immediately after the South Asia Tsunami. In previous years he has traveled to Beirut, Lebanon and Northern Iraq- where he helped teach a conversational English class for Kurdish university students. He attended Baylor University in Waco, Texas and earned a degree in International Studies with a minor in Middle East Studies.

## ROBERT COWHERD

LECTURER AND VISITING CRITIC IN ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

Robert Cowherd is a Lecturer and Visiting Critic in the departments of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and the History of Art and Architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design. He teaches urban design, architecture, and landscape urbanism studios and history/theory lectures and seminars at RISD, MIT and Wentworth. He is a volunteer with the Sumatra-based Rebuild Aceh Forum ([www.fba.or.id](http://www.fba.or.id)) with whom he initiated the Village Mapping and Village Planning campaigns now assisting over 200 villages.

He is an architect, urban designer and planner with an international practice ranging from architectural projects in the Boston area, urban design and planning collaborations with larger firms on American cities, and 15 years of community-based architecture and planning work in Asia. Building on an early career as an engineer and builder, he earned a BArch from The Cooper Union, a degree in Urban Design, and a PhD in the history and theory of architecture and urbanism from MIT.

His ongoing research on the socio-cultural dynamics of design and the built environment was supported by a Fulbright Grant and has been published widely. His most recent publication is "Does Planning Culture Matter? Dutch and American Models in Indonesian Urban Transformations" in *Comparative Planning Cultures*, Bish Sanyal, ed. (New York: Routledge, 2005). He lived and worked in Java and Bali for five years where he directed the restoration of the palace of the King of Java and hosted the Aga Khan Award for Architecture ceremony.

## HELAIINE DANIELS

**DIRECTOR, MASTER IN PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM  
KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, HARVARD UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Helaine Daniels is Director of the Master in Public Policy Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government (KSG), where she manages all student issues for a degree program of more than 450 ethnically and culturally diverse students. Her work began at the Kennedy School in 2001 as Director of International Student Programs, after spending five years in West Africa. Daniels recently served as coordinator of the Kennedy School's response to the tsunami disaster. As a result, 13 KSG students spent the summer of 2005 in Sri Lanka and Indonesia to work with reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts. Daniels joined the students in Sri Lanka.

While in Africa, Daniels served as technical advisor in competency and skills development for the U.S. Department of State, Agency for International Development in Mali; senior business analyst at Mobil Oil Africa/ Middle East in Côte d'Ivoire; and visiting scholar / managing director at the Center for the Promotion of Industrial Society and Private Enterprise in Nigeria. She has researched and published in the areas of self-help and empowerment, organization development, institutional planning, and language learning among children from disempowered communities.

Having earned her doctorate from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Daniels is a professional educator and trainer who has organized coalitions and work groups to accomplish projects in fifteen countries on behalf of the United Nations, the World Bank and numerous other international organizations. She has designed and administered professional training modules in twenty cognitive areas, including team building, conflict resolution, cross-cultural effectiveness and employee motivation.

## NIALL KIRKWOOD

**PROFESSOR AND CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN**

Niall G. Kirkwood is Professor of Landscape Architecture and Technology at the Harvard Graduate School of Design where he has taught since 1992. In July 2003, he assumed the Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture, the oldest such program in North America founded in 1901 by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and Arthur Shurcliff. In 2005 he became Director of the Master in Landscape Architecture Degree Programs (MLA). From 1999 to 2003, he was the coordinator of the "Design and Environment" track of the Master in Design Studies Program (MDesS), the mid-career degree program at the Harvard Design School.

Kirkwood's teaching, research and publishing broadly concerns technology and its relationship to design in the built environment. He currently carries out academic research into landscape detail technologies, the durability of built landscapes and the reuse of former industrial or disturbed land. Areas of specific focus include urban brownfields, municipal landfills, the regeneration of Superfund sites, decommissioned military bases and closed nuclear research facilities. He is the founder and current director of the Center for Environment and Technology (CTE), a research, advisory, and executive education initiative at Harvard Design School. The Center focuses on site analysis, remediation and sustainable reclamation issues in North America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Prior to joining the Harvard faculty Kirkwood worked fifteen years in private practice in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and London, England as a registered landscape architect and architect carrying out urban land reclamation, landscape architectural design, urban architecture and development projects in Europe, the Middle East, and the U.S.A.

The general scope of Kirkwood's teaching, research, and publishing all emphasize a broader understanding of current and emerging technologies and techniques from landscape, civil and environmental engineering, and how this understanding can best result in more creative and progressive design work in landscape architecture.

## PETER ROGERS

**GORDON MCKAY PROFESSOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING,  
PROFESSOR OF CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING, HARVARD UNIVERSITY**

Prof. Rogers is Gordon McKay Professor of Environmental Engineering and Professor of City Planning in the Division of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Harvard University. He is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Global Water Partnership, recipient of Guggenheim and Twentieth Century Fellowships.

His research interests include: the consequences of population on natural resources development conflict resolution in international river basins, improved methods for managing natural resources and the environment, with emphasis on the use of analytic optimizing methods to incorporate both the natural phenomena and the engineering controls, the impacts of global change on water resources, and the development of indices of environmental quality and sustainable development. Interaction of land use planning and central management. He has carried out extensive field and model studies on population, water and energy resources, and environmental problems in Costa Rica, Pakistan, India, China, the Philippines, Bangladesh and, to a lesser extent, in 25 other countries. His most recent work has focused on the relationship between Chinese electric power developments and their impact on global warming.

Recent Books include: America's Water: Federal Roles and Responsibilities, A Twentieth Century Fund Book, MIT Press, 1993; Water in the Arab World: Perspectives and Prognoses, Harvard University Press, 1994; Measuring Environmental Quality in Asia, Harvard University Press, 1997.

He received his B. Engineering (1958) from the University of Liverpool, his M.S. Engineering (1961) from Northwestern University and his Ph.D. Engineering (1966) from Harvard University.

## STANLEY TAMBIAH

**ESTHER AND SIDNEY RABB RESEARCH PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY**

Stanley J. Tambiah is the Esther and Sidney Rabb Research Professor of Anthropology at Harvard University. He received his Ph.D. from Cornell University (1954). Having served as a UNESCO technical assistance expert in Thailand from 1960 to 1963, he joined the faculty at the University of Cambridge, where he taught for ten years, and was a Fellow of King's College. He went to the University of Chicago in 1973 as a tenured professor, and joined Harvard University in 1976.

### Publications:

Tambiah began his field work in Sri Lanka (1956-59), the island of his birth, and since 1960 has concentrated on Thailand, about which country he has written three monographs. Since 1983, he has revived his interest in Sri Lanka, whose disastrous ethnic conflict has engaged him. He is the author of the following books: *Buddhism and the Spirit Cults in Northeast Thailand* (1970), *World Conqueror and World Renouncer, A Study of Religion and Polity in Thailand against a Historical Background* (1976), *The Buddhist Saints of the Forest and the Cult of Amulets, A Study in Charisma, Hagiography, Sectarianism and Millennial Buddhism* (1984), *Culture, Thought and Social Action* (1985), *Sri Lanka: Ethnic Fratricide and the Dismantling of Democracy* (1986), and *Magic, Science, Religion and the Scope of Rationality* (1990). He and Jack Goody are coauthors of *Bridewealth and Dowry* (1973). *Buddhism Betrayed? Religion, Politics and Violence in Sri Lanka* appeared in the spring of 1992 and *Leveling Crowds: Ethnonationalist Conflicts and Collective Violence in South Asia* was published in 1996. His latest book: *Edmund Leach: An Anthropological Life* was published in March 2002.

### Professional Associations, Honours and Prizes:

Tambiah served as the president of the Association for Asian Studies (1989-90), is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1984), a member of the National Academy of Science (1994), and a member of the National Research Council's Committee for International Conflict Resolution (1995). He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by the University of Chicago in 1991, and the Huxley Memorial Medal by the Royal Anthropological Institute (1997). He received the Balzan Prize in 1997, and the Fukuoka International Academic Prize in 1998. He was recently elected Corresponding Foreign Fellow of the British Academy (2000), and Honorary Member of the Alpha Iota of Massachusetts, the Phi Beta Kappa Chapter of Harvard College (2002).

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