PROJECT:
SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS


* CREATION OF LIVING QUARTERS AND INFRA - STRUCTURE WITH SPECIAL CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO THE VARIOUS NATIVE DEMANDS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS.
* USAGE, WHERE POSSIBLE, OF AVAILABLE BUILDING MATERIALS AND LABOR.
* SIMPLE BUILDING SYSTEMS WHICH MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE CLIMATE AND NEED NO UPKEEP, OR RELATIVELY MINIMAL MAINTENANCE WHICH CAN BE CARRIED OUT BY PROPERLY INSTRUCTED WORK TEAMS FROM THE NATIVE POPULATION.
* TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE FOR THE PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS.
* CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE NECESSARY SPECIALISTS FROM THE COUNTRY, AND
* TRAINING FOR WORK TEAMS CLEANED FROM THE POPULATION (USAGE OF AVAILABLE LABOR).

AN IMPORTANT GOAL OF THE PROJECT IS NOT TO BRING UNFAMILIAR BUILDING STRUCTURES INTO THE COUNTRIES OF THE SACEP, WITH WHICH THE EVENTUAL OCCUPANTS WOULD NOT FEEL COMFORTABLE: THE REJECTION COULD RESULT IN SLUMS. THE INFRA - STRUCTURE (AND THE URBAN SYSTEM) MUST, AS A RESULT OF RESPONSIBLE PLANNING, BE INTEGRATED INTO THE EXISTING COMMUNAL AND AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURES, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS GIVEN TO THE CREATION OF, OR IMPROVEMENT OF, HYGIENIC AND SANITARY AREAS.

NEW HOUSING OR EXTENSION OF HOUSING IS SO PLANNED TO CREATE NOT ONLY LIVING QUARTERS BUT ALSO WORK AREAS WITH THEIR RESULTING EARNING AND LIVING POSSIBILITIES, AS WELL AS TO SUPPORT EXISTING PROGRAMS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF BANGLADESH, INDIA, THE MALEDIVES, PAKISTAN, SRI LANKA, NEPAL, IRAN, BHUTAN AND AFGHANISTAN FOR TRAINING AND EDUCATION OF THE POPULATION. NECESSARY PROVISIONS FOR ENERGY, WATER AND PLUMBING CAN ONLY BE CONSIDERED AS A WHOLE WITH THE OVERALL PLANNING OF THE PROJECT.

SURFACE STRUCTURE AND BUILDING FORMS WILL BE ADAPTED TO THE LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT IN THE PLANNING STAGES; THE TECHNICAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDINGS MUST MEET CLIMATIC DEMANDS.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE AUTHOR POINTS TO HIS OWN EXPERIENCES IN THE AREA OF PUBLIC HOUSING.

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SITUATION:
MOUNTAINOUS COUNTRY IN THE WESTERN CHAIN OF THE HIMALAYA WITHOUT AN APPROACH TO THE SEA - ITS LOCATION IN THE NORTHERN SPHERE OF THE DESERT BELT DETERMINES ITS EXTREMELY DRY CLIMATE WITH TEMPERATURE FLUCTUATIONS FROM -21 DEGREES CENTIGRADE IN JANUARY TO +44 DEGREES IN JUNE.
MOST OF THE POPULATION LIVE AS NOMADS - ONLY 17% OF THE 17 MILLION PEOPLE LIVE IN CITY DWELLINGS. ABOUT 80% ARE ILLITERATE - ONLY 12% OF THE COUNTRY IS CULTIVATED ALTHOUGH 80% OF THE WAGE EARNERS MAKE THEIR LIVING FROM IT. THE MAIN CULTIVATED AREAS ARE THE RIVER OASES IN THE NORTH AND THE BASINS OF KABUL AND JALALABAD - INSUFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS.

REQUIREMENTS:
HOUSING FOR THE RURAL POPULATION WITH CONSIDERATION TO THE FARM STRUCTURE.
STRIP DEVELOPMENTS WITH A SQUARE WILL FORM THE STRUCTURE. DWELLING HOUSES AND BARNs WILL GIVE THE FUTURE INHABITANTS THE ESSENTIAL PLACES TO LIVE AND WORK. THE "LIFEHAUS" HOUSE, ALONE OR COMBINED, WILL BE SO POSITIONED TO GIVE MAXIMAL SHELTER FROM THE SOUTH-WEST MONSOON.

THE PROVIDED SYSTEM ALLOWS A STEPWISE BUILDING OF VILLAGES. THE CLIMATICAL DIRECTION OF THE BUILDINGS MUST BE KEPT, WHERE POSSIBLE. THE NECESSARY TECHNICAL BUILDINGS MUST BE PLANNED FOR LARGER AREAS. COMMUNITY HOUSES INCLUDING SCHOOL AND ADMINISTRATION OFFER EDUCATION AND INFORMATION FOR THE INHABITANTS, ALSO FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

CONSTRUCTION - LIFEHAUS HOUSE

SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION:
A SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS AND TIE BEAMS MADE OF LASTING CORROSION-PROTECTED STEEL ELEMENTS IN COMPOUND CONSTRUCTION. DIMENSIONS MUST SATISFY LOCAL DEMANDS.

SURROUNDING 1.6. EXTERIOR WALLS:
DOUBLE LEAF WALL CONSTRUCTION WITH PROTRUDING METAL ELEMENTS TO ENSURE OPTIMUM REAR VENTILATION, SEPARATION OF WALL LEAVES TO PREVENT HEAT AND COLD BRIDGES. (THIS CONSTRUCTION SEPARATION ALSO PROVIDES STRESS STRAIN EQUILIBRIUM).

WALL FILLING AND INTERIOR WALLS:
LOCAL CONVENTIONAL BUILDING MATERIALS IN BLOCK FORMS, FOR EXAMPLE RICE-HUSK-ASH-CEMENT BLOCKS

ROOF CONSTRUCTION:
STEEL CONSTRUCTION ELEMENTS FOR CONVENTIONAL REGIONAL ROOF FORMS.

LIGHTNING PROTECTION:
The entire construction is grounded and safe against lightning.

OTHER MEASURES:
BECAUSE OF ITS INTERNATIONALLY PATENTED CONSTRUCTION, THE LIFEHAUS HOUSE IS EARTHQUAKE AND CATASTROPHE PROOF.
THE PRE-FABRICATED PARTS CAN BE SCREWED TOGETHER BY TRAINED WORKERS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF SPECIALISTS.
BANGLADESH

SITUATION

DENSELY POPULATED COUNTRY WITHIN THE TROPIC ZONE - SETTLEMENTS ALONG RIVERS EMBANKMENTS - MONSOONS FROM THE SOUTH WEST WITH HEAVY RAINFALL - THE RURAL POPULATION LIVES IN 65,000 VILLAGES - ONLY ABOUT 2,000 OF THESE CAN BE REACHED BY ROADS - ONLY ABOUT 200 HAVE ELECTRICITY - VILLAGES FOLLOW IN ROWS OR ARE SCATTERED ALONG RIVER BEDS - RIVER SETTLEMENTS (FLOOD PROTECTION) - PREDOMINANTLY BAMBOO MATERIALS - FEW HAVE PLUMBING. - 75 % OF THE POPULATION LIVE FROM AGRICULTURE (ABOUT 6 MILLION FARMS - 80 % PLANT RICE) - IN CHITTAGONG, IRON AND STEEL WORKS AS WELL AS CEMENT FACTORIES. TEMPERATURE FLUCTUATIONS FROM -1 DEGREE CENTIGRADE TO +49 DEGREES IN MAY.

REQUIREMENTS:
SETTLEMENTS FOR THE RURAL POPULATION; CREATION OF LIVING QUARTERS WHILE MAKING ALLOWANCE FOR THE FARM STRUCTURE AND ITS ECONOMY.
DUE TO THE SMALL AREAS ALONG THE RIVERS ROW-VILLAGES OR VILLAGES SURROUNDING A SQUARE WILL BE BUILT. THE DWELLING HOUSES AND BARS WILL GIVE THE FUTURE INHABITANTS THE ESSENTIAL PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK. THE "LIFEHAUS" HOUSE, ALONE OR COMBINED, WILL BE SO POSITIONED TO GIVE MAXIMAL SHELTER FROM THE SOUTH-WEST MONSOON.

THE PROVIDED SYSTEM ALLOWS A STEPWISE BUILDING OF ROW-VILLAGES AND PASTURE-VILLAGES ALONG THE RIVERS. THE CLIMATICAL DIRECTION OF THE BUILDINGS MUST BE KEPT, WHERE POSSIBLE. THE NECESSARY TECHNICAL BUILDINGS WILL BE PLANNED FOR LARGER AREAS. COMMUNITY HOUSES INCLUDING SCHOOLS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFER EDUCATION AND INFORMATION FOR THE INHABITANTS, ALSO FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

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LIGHTNING PROTECTION: THE ENTIRE CONSTRUCTION IS GROUNDED AND SAFE AGAINST LIGHTNING.

OTHER MEASURES: BECAUSE OF ITS INTERNATIONALLY PATENTED CONSTRUCTION, THE LIFEHAUS HOUSE IS EARTHQUAKE AND CATASTROPHE PROOF. THE PRE-FABRICATED PARTS CAN BE SCREWED TOGETHER BY TRAINED WORKERS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF SPECIALISTS.
BHUTAN

SITUATION:
SPACIOUS NORTH TO SOUTH LYING VALLEYS WITH TERRACES ON THE FOOTHILLS OF THE HIMALAYA SHAPE THE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CORE OF THE COUNTRY - MONSOONS FROM THE SOUTHWEST WITH HEAVY PRECIPITATION BETWEEN JUNE AND OCTOBER - 90% OF THE POPULATION LIVE FROM AGRICULTURE - WHERE IRRIGABLE, CULTIVATION POSSIBLE THE ENTIRE YEAR UP TO 2,000 METERS ALTITUDES - EXTENSIVE FOREST AREAS HARDLY USED - FARM HOUSES ARE BUILT FROM OAK HELD TOGETHER ONLY WITH A CLAY MORTAR.

REQUIREMENTS:
HOUSING FOR THE RURAL POPULATION WITH DEFEQUENCE TO GEOGRAPHIC REQUIREMENTS AND THE AGRICULTURAL SETUP.
DUE TO THE SMALL AREAS ALONG THE TERRACES IN THE VALLEYS, VILLAGES WITH A SQUARE WILL BE BUILT. THE DWELLING HOUSES AND BARNS WILL GIVE THE FUTURE INHABITANTS ESSENTIAL PLACES FOR WORK AND LIVE. THE "LIFEHAUS" HOUSE, ALONE OR COMBINED, WILL BE SO POSITIONED TO GIVE MAXIMAL SHELTER FROM THE SOUTH-WEST MONSOON.

THE PROVIDED SYSTEM ALLOWS A STEPWISE BUILDING OF ROW-VILLAGES AND PASTURE VILLAGES ALONG THE TERRACES. THE CLIMATICAL DIRECTION OF THE BUILDINGS MUST BE KEPT, WHERE POSSIBLE. THE NECESSARY TECHNICAL BUILDINGS MUST BE PLANNED FOR LARGER AREAS. COMMUNITY HOUSES INCLUDING SCHOOL AND ADMINISTRATION OFFER EDUCATION AND INFORMATION FOR THE INHABITANTS, ALSO FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

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OTHER MEASURES:
BECAUSE OF ITS INTERNATIONALLY PATENTED CONSTRUCTION, THE LIFEHAUS HOUSE IS EARTHQUAKE AND CATASTROPHE PROOF.
THE PRE-FABRICATED PARTS CAN BE SCREWED TOGETHER BY TRAINED WORKERS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF SPECIALISTS.
INDIA

SITUATION:
TEMPERATURES RANGE FROM -1 DEGREE CENTIGRADE TO +48 DEGREES, MONSOON CLIMATE.
INDIA IS THE STATE WITH THE SECOND HIGHEST POPULATION IN THE WORLD - MILLIONS OF PEOPLE LIVE ON THE EDGE OF EXISTENCE - 80 % OF THE POPULATION ARE FARMERS (ABOUT 750 MILLION) - ABOUT 567,000 VILLAGES - 1/3 OF THESE HAVE LESS THAN 200 INHABITANTS - 70 % ILLITERATE.

REQUIREMENTS:
HOUSING FOR THE RURAL POPULATION AND FOR THE INHABITANTS OF THE CITY SLUMS.
THE DWELLING HOUSES AND BARNs WILL BE BUILT SURROUNDING THE SQUARES AND WILL GIVE TO THE FUTURE INHABITANTS THE ESSENTIAL PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK WHERE SANITARY AND HYGIENIC CORRECTIONS ARE POSSIBLE. THE "LIFEHAUS" HOUSE, ALONE OR COMBINED, WILL BE SO POSITIONED TO GIVE MAXIMAL SHELTER FROM THE SOUTH-WEST MONSOON.

THE PROVIDED SYSTEM ALLOWS A STEPWISE BUILDING IN THE INTENDED REGIONS. THE CLIMATICAL DIRECTION OF THE BUILDINGS MUST BE KEPT, WHERE POSSIBLE. THE NECESSARY TECHNICAL BUILDINGS MUST BE PLANNED FOR LARGER AREAS. COMMUNITY HOUSES INCLUDING SCHOOL AND ADMINISTRATION OFFER EDUCATION AND INFORMATION FOR THE INHABITANTS.

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IRAN

SITUATION:
CENTRAL AREA IS THE HIGHLAND OF IRAN - SURROUNDED BY HIGH MOUNTAINS WHICH STRETCH DOWN INTO LOWLAND - THE HIGHLANDS ARE WITHIN THE SUB-TROPIC DRY BELT - IN SUMMER TOTALLY DRY, IN WINTER OFTEN TORRENTIAL DOWNPOURS - MINIMUM TEMPERATURES -30 DEGREES CENTIGRADE, MAXIMUMS TO + 50 DEGREES - THE DESERT LUT IS CONSIDERED AMONG THE HOTTEST AREAS OF THE WORLD - 60 % OF THE RAINFALL EVAPORATES IMMEDIATELY - TERRAIN AND CLIMATE DO NOT PERMIT PROPER AGRICULTURAL CULTIVATION OF THE GROUND - 40 % OF THE WAGE EARNERS ARE IN AGRICULTURE; 33 % ARE IN INDUSTRY. ONLY 11 % OF THE COUNTRY'S LAND IS USED FOR FARMING - THE PRINCIPAL CULTIVATED AREA IS THE LOWLAND OF THE CASPIAN SEA. CENTRAL DESERT BASINS ARE SURROUNDED BY OASES WITH IRRIGATION FIELDS.

REQUIREMENTS:
SETTLEMENTS FOR THE RURAL POPULATION AS WELL AS AROUND CITY AREAS TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION FARM STRUCTURES OR THE INDUSTRIAL LOCATIONS.
RINGSTRUCTURED VILLAGES WILL BE BUILT WITH PLACES FOR LIVING AND CULTURE. THE DWELLING HOUSES AND BARNs WILL GIVE THE FUTURE INHABITANTS THE ESSENTIAL PLACE FOR LIVE AND WORK. THE "LIFEHAUS" HOUSE, ALONE OR COMBINED, WILL BE SO POSITIONED TO GIVE MAXIMAL SHELTER FROM THE SOUTH-WEST MONSOON.

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OTHER MEASURES:
BECAUSE OF ITS INTERNATIONALLY PATENTED CONSTRUCTION, THE LIFEHAUS HOUSE IS EARTHQUAKE AND CATASTROPHE PROOF. THE PRE-FABRICATED PARTS CAN BE SCREWED TOGETHER BY TRAINED WORKERS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF SPECIALISTS.
THE MALEDIVES

SITUATION:
APPROXIMATELY 2,000 ISLANDS - ONLY 219 OF THESE ARE POPULATED - EACH ISLAND IS NARROW AND SELDOM MORE THAN 2 KILOMETERS LONG - CIRCULAR GROUPINGS WITH SWAMPY LAGOONS - TROPICAL CLIMATE WITH AN AVERAGE OF 30 DEGREES CENTIGRADE - SPARSELY VEGETATED - FISHING IS THE BASIC EXISTENCE FOR 80% OF THE POPULATION - TOURISM IS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF INCOME (HOTEL ISLANDS).

REQUIREMENTS:
HOUSING FOR THE POPULATION AND HOTELS.
DUE TO THE SMALL AREAS ALONG THE COAST, ROW-VILLAGES WITH A SQUARE WILL BE BUILT. THE DWELLING HOUSES AND BARNs WILL GIVE TO THE FUTURE INHABITANTS THE ESSENTIAL PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK. THE "LIFEHAUS" HOUSE, ALONE OR COMBINED, WILL BE SO POSITIONED TO GIVE MAXIMAL CLIMATIC SHELTER.

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NEPAL

SITUATION:

REQUIREMENTS:
TERRACE SETTLEMENTS FOR THE RURAL POPULATION MIXED WITH COMMUNAL AND FARM BUILDINGS.
DUE TO THE SMALL AREAS ALONG THE TERRACES IN THE VALLEYS, VILLAGES WITH A SQUARE WILL BE BUILT. THE DWELLING HOUSES AND BARNs WILL GIVE THE FUTURE INHABITANTS ESSENTIAL PLACES FOR WORK AND LIVE. THE "LIFEHAUS" HOUSE, ALONE OR COMBINED, WILL BE SO POSITIONED TO GIVE MAXIMAL SHELTER FROM THE SOUTH-WEST MONSOON.

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PAKISTAN

SITUATION:
MAIN POPULATED AREAS ARE INDUSTRIAL ZONES AND PANJAB - TEMPERATURES RANGE FROM -2 TO +47 DEGREES CENTIGRADE - MONSOON CLIMATE. 66 % OF THE POPULATION RESIDE IN PANJAB - STRICT SOCIAL STRUCTURES IN THE VILLAGES (70 % LIVE IN RURAL AREAS) - NO PERMANENT WATER SUPPLY.

REQUIREMENTS:
LIVING AND WORK QUARTERS FOR THE RURAL POPULATION: SLUM-CLEARANCE.
RINGSTRUCTURED VILLAGES WILL BE BUILT WITH PLACES FOR LIVING AND CULTURE. THE DWELLING HOUSES AND BARNs WILL GIVE THE FUTURE INHABITANTS THE ESSENTIAL PLACE FOR LIVE AND WORK. THE "LIEFHAUS" HOUSE, ALONE OR COMBINED, WILL BE SO POSTIONED TO GIVE MAXIMAL SHELTER FROM THE SOUTH-WEST MONSOON.

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OTHER MEASURES:
BECAUSE OF ITS INTERNATIONALLY PATENTED CONSTRUCTION, THE LIEFHAUS HOUSE IS EARTHQUAKE AND CATASTROPHE PROOF. THE PRE-FABRICATED PARTS CAN BE SCREWED TOGETHER BY TRAINED WORKERS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF SPECIALISTS.
SITUATION:
ISLAND WITH CENTRAL MOUNTAIN RANGE AND VALLEYS AND COASTAL AREAS - TROPICS WITH MONSOONS - MINIMAL TEMPERATURE FLUCTUATIONS (+15 TO +36 DEGREES CENTIGRADE) - LARGE PLANTATIONS - APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS OF THE ARABLE LAND IS IN HUMID REGIONS - MORE THAN 50 % OF THE WAGE EARNERS ARE IN AGRICULTURE - MAIN FARM PRODUCTS ARE TEA AND RICE - EXCELLENT ROAD CONNECTIONS.

REQUIREMENTS:
CHIEFLY FOR THE RURAL POPULATION.
VILLAGES WITH A SQUARE WILL FORM THE SETTLEMENTS FOR THE FARMING PEOPLE. THE DWELLING HOUSES AND BARNs WILL GIVE THE FUTURE INHABITANTS THE ESSENTIAL PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK. THE "LIFEHAUS" HOUSE, ALONE OR COMBINED, WILL BE SO POSITIONED TO GIVE MAXIMAL SHELTER FROM THE SOUTH-WEST MONSOON.

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