



## CIB NEWS ARTICLE

International Council for Research and Innovation  
in Building and Construction

Providing a global network for international exchange and cooperation in research and innovation in building and construction, in support of an improved building process and of improved performance of the built environment.

June 2006

### CIB Encouraged Journals

Special Issue  
Open House Volume 31(1), March 2006

## "Managing Urban Disasters"



Guest edited by Christine Wamsler,

Housing Development & Management (HDM), Lund University, Sweden

### Introduction

When naturally triggered hazards – such as flooding, earthquakes, hurricanes or landslides – strike in (semi-) urban areas, the effects can be more disastrous than in other environments. In many cities, disasters conspire with rapid and unplanned urbanisation, creating dangerous situations, which render populations highly vulnerable, in particular the approximately one billion poor who live in precarious and dangerous living conditions worldwide. With the increasing occurrence of disasters and the growing human and economic losses due to the destruction of the built environment, the integration of an appropriate disaster risk reduction strategy in the fields of housing and settlement planning is both urgently required and highly relevant. The Asian tsunami at the end of last year and hurricane Katrina in New Orleans are recent cases in point that underpin this statement. Despite documents, such as the UN

Habitat agenda, which call for a range of measures to reduce risk, there is little evidence of such measures or approaches emerging.

### Focus

The focus of the special issue on "Managing Urban Disasters" is concerned primarily with identifying and describing existing projects, experiences and best practices from Africa, Asia and Latin America, which are already working with new integrated approaches to risk reduction. These link different stakeholders and levels, and do not focus only on the technical, but also on the social, economic and political aspects. The articles discuss questions regarding those factors that determine the vulnerability or resilience of cities, and describe concrete projects in the field of housing and urban development planning, which can reduce the disaster risk for low-income settlements. "Managing Urban Disasters" was conceived with the intention of



providing a balanced selection of topics, hazards, and countries. Specific topics relate to appropriate housing design, construction materials and techniques, land use and urban development planning, policies, legislation, governance, as well as related advocacy campaigns, institutional strategies, methods and tools. Based on the understanding that emergency relief, reconstruction, mitigation and development aid may be viewed as complementary to each other, rather than conflictual, the articles cover all the mentioned fields.

### **Contents**

This special issue contains some 20 articles under the headers of Editorial, Overview, Post disaster, Pre-disaster and Reports. For detailed information please see the journals website at [www.openhouse-int.com](http://www.openhouse-int.com)

### **Forward Publishing Plan**

Please see [www.openhouse-int.com/publishing.html](http://www.openhouse-int.com/publishing.html) for the journal's 2006 - 2007 forward publishing plan.

This includes special issues on:

- Open Building in Education
- Design Studio Teaching Practices
- Culture, Space & Time
- Architecture in the Digital Age
- Methodologies in Housing Research

### **Special Subscription Rate for CIB Members**

CIB members are given a 44% discount i.e on 125 GBP p.a this comes right down to 70.00 GBP, which includes postage world wide (4 copies a year with 90 - 100 pages, well referenced and with ISI Thompson Scientific Citation Index pending).

### **Contact Information**

Editor: Nicholas Wilkinson (RIBA. AA. DIPL.)  
E-mail: [nicholaz.wilkinson@emu.edu.tr](mailto:nicholaz.wilkinson@emu.edu.tr)  
Telephone: +90 0392 6302244

Subscription manager: Carol Nicholson  
E-mail: [carol.nicholson@thenbs.com](mailto:carol.nicholson@thenbs.com)  
Telephone: +90 0392 6302244

Addresses:  
Open House International, P.O. Box 74, Gateshead,  
Tyne & Wear, NE9 5UZ, Great Britain.