

# HOUSING IN SUDAN THAT PRESERVES SUSTAINABLE CULTURE

A Sudanese scholar supports the transfer of technology to solve the construction crisis in his country



**Dr. Akram Ahmed Elkhalifa Elhassan**

works in the Department of Administration and Economy of Construction, in the Faculty of Architecture, University of Khartoum, Sudan.

The Sudanese colleague has studied in Germany the issues of population growth and high rates of urbanization, which as he explains are those that *"exert greater pressure on the provision of adequate and affordable housing and add more challenges to urban problems"*.

He agrees with those who see that in developing countries, such as Sudan, *"the informal sector dominates the provision of housing for the middle and lower income classes."* It is in them that *"building materials represent one of the main issues to consider"* declares.

He further highlights the important role played in developing countries by *"small businesses and self-employed workers in the construction, maintenance and repair of homes"*; something that architects of international fame ignore at the time of judging the labor factor in their works. In Sudan, he argues, the lack of capacity to resolve the deficit in housing *"can be attributed to the lack of: infrastructure, financing, production facilities, skilled labor and education and training programs."*

Encouraging the search for alternative materials and affordable construction technologies for middle and low income, Dr. Elkhalifa Elhassan is committed to *"the transfer of knowledge and technology to the construction sector for housing as alternative solutions for urban housing problems in a sustainable way"*.



For this, he highlights the importance of the literature that analyzes *"the role of technology transfer in sustainable construction, the factors that affect its success and the difficulties faced by its application"*.

In a document of his authorship, the colleague provides three case studies presenting innovative building technologies for housing in Sudan.

The three studies are based on interviews to the suppliers of the innovative technologies under investigation.



He explains that one of his *"three case studies shows the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the process of transfer of construction technologies and their application. Two projects developed by the NGO Practical Action<sup>1</sup> that works in Sudan are taken as examples."* They *"demonstrate the role of technology transfer in the provision of sustainable housing construction, which responds to the immediate needs of the majority of the population of the country suffering from famines, wars, conflicts and natural disasters."*

*Adapted by The Editor*

<sup>1</sup> NGO founded by Prof. H. Frederick Schumacher, and continued by his family, from the United Kingdom. Schumacher coined the concepts of 'intermediate technology' and 'sustainability', in his book 'Small is Beautiful', whose Spanish version (*Lo Pequeño es Hermoso*) belongs to the architect Oscar Margenet Nadal, co-founder of ARC • PEACE International.

Photos show a 'dome' house in adobe, and the Corinthia hotel in Khartoum.

## SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE CONTEMPORARY ART TO THE WORLD



**Sibila Foong**, is an artist of international trajectory; she was born in Las Toscas town, Canelones, Uruguay.



Here, on two of her works we can appreciate the expressive power of her talent and positive constructive vision.

**Many thanks Sibila!**

*The Editor*

### Prose to the attempt..

It is not enough to want

- searching for
- asking
- shouting

It is necessary....  
-to be

For demonstrating,  
To act  
for achieving  
And to live conscient,  
-for teaching.

S. Foong, March 2019