



ARC•PEACE

International Architects Designers Planners for Social Responsibility

Newsletter No 72

June 2022

While many work to help some of the billions living in slums, a destructive insane character annihilates Ukrainian cities and kills thousands of innocent human beings. Editorial Page 2



Introducing
"SOMEWHERE TO LIVE:
Rising to the global urban land
and housing challenge"
A book recently published by the
British colleague **Geoffrey Payne**
Page 3



Two voices from the 'New World'



Dr. Arch. **Fernando N. Murillo** shares a 15' video sponsored by UN Human Settlements Programme on **"Conferences, Cities, Urban Planning, Shantytowns, Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods, Refugee Camps, Emigration and Immigration"** Page 4

Prof. Arch. **Jaime Alzérreca Pérez** refers to **"Territorialisation of Imaginaries and Collective Memory / Cultural Corridor in the Municipality of Cochabamba"** a triad of social contribution of Civil Society, Undergraduate and Research. Page 5



4 de JUNIO
IEB QUART
VALENCIA
Antoine Bret
Michael Wickham

Cuidado de la Creación

AulaXXI
ESPACIO ABIERTO
Una perspectiva desde la ciencia y la fe

Info: aula21abc@gmail.com
A partir 10:00 h. [@aula21abc](https://www.instagram.com/aula21abc) [@aula_xxi](https://www.facebook.com/aula_xxi)



"Creation Care"
French Prof. **Antoine Bret** and British Prof. **Michael Wickham** (above) lead a Seminar in Spain on Earth Sustainability from a scientific-biblical approach (Report: in nest issue)

More information inside; read, comment and share with others!

Below: with her unique art admired colleague **Margot Alonso** describes **Sant Pau** (Holy Peace) by architect **Lluís Domènech i Montaner**. Named **Modernist Enclosure** was declared **World Heritage Site** by UNESCO. It is a new reference urban space in the city of Barcelona where history and innovation coexist. It functions as an important health center. Page 7
<https://meet.barcelona.cat/en/discover-barcelona/districts/horta-quinardo/sant-pau-modernista-site>



ONE AGAINST ALL? ALL AGAINST THAT ONE!

In any place in the world where our associates operate, there are many in need of help to live with dignity. It is one of the objectives of ARC•PEACE since its foundation: to help those who suffer social injustice caused by ambitious and criminal authoritarians. Let's review some facets of what has been done in 35 years:

In Sweden we design and build community housing to house people in need as a family.

In Peru, both in the jungle and in the mountains we help female heads of household to procure land and materials to build a decent house.

In Thailand we create human rights-based care centers for children exposed to labour and sexual exploitation.

In India we assist people living on the streets exposed to disease, crime and hunger with a high prevalence of women.

In Argentina we educate inmates in high security prisons to start living with dignity in society when they regain their freedom.

In Mexico we educate professionals in sustainable construction techniques so that they build decent housing with the beneficiaries.

In favor of Venezuela and Ukraine, with other NGOs we collect, send and share medicines to thousands of patients without medical attention.

In New Zealand we work together with natives to improve their habitat by applying their traditional approach of respect for the environment.

In Japan we continue with the task of raising awareness about the use of renewable energy sources to replace dangerous nuclear power plants.

In the US we support those discriminated against by ethnicity, country of origin or social condition, so that they receive the same rights as other citizens.

In DR Congo we reach families immersed in tribal habits and help women and minors to free themselves from all kinds of exploitation.

In United Kingdom we carry out awareness campaigns in favor of disarmament and the elimination of uses that increase global warming and harm the urban and rural population.

In Sudan, Malaysia and Colombia we work emphasizing the use of non-polluting renewable resources such as adobe in the first and bamboo in the other two mentioned.

In Nepal we associate with designers and builders of seismic resistant housing.

In Spain, we collaborate with municipalities to apply tactical urban planning, supporting the participation of children and older adults in design.

In Kenya we collaborate with the education and shelter of children living in an exemplary Home directed by officially recognized volunteers.

In Bolivia, and Kingdom of Bahrain, and in most of the quoted countries we are committed to both academical teaching and research in architecture, urban planning, political sociology, among other sciences.

These tasks are not easy and nobody has become a millionaire with them.

In opposition to all these efforts, from time-to-time individuals arise who, believing themselves to be gods or enlightened, fable and steal from the public treasury. They are supported by wealthy accomplices; and end up eliminating the basic rights of entire peoples. That is the case of the sick



Russian dictator **Vladimir V. Putin** (left photo, as if saying goodbye).

He shamelessly sullies the peaceful inhabitants of the largest nation on the planet, imprisoning, torturing and disappearing those who publicly reject his criminal behaviour.

People of that ilk must be publicly denounced and exposed before international organizations to eradicate them from absolute power.

With so many people helping those most in need, it is ominous to have to coexist with cruel individuals and their acolytes comfortably living in the West, who constantly repeat the version that "everything is a play put on by Western interests."

[The Editor](#)

Below: photos seen around the world of the reality of the massacre in Ukraine.



Thanks to a recent epistolary exchange with the renowned British colleague **Geoffrey Payne** (GP, right), with the readers in mind, **The Editor** of the **Newsletter** (NL), selected salient aspects of it to be transmitted in the form of a hypothetical dialogue.

NL: After going through so many global difficulties it is a pleasure to resume contact with you, Geoff.

GP: Yes, I really enjoyed reading in NL No71 of the great things being done by ARC•PEACE to promote a peaceful environment in which people can resolve conflicts and live in harmony. The reports on Ukraine are excellent and I was moved by the report on malaria and the sad death of little Caroline, in Kisii, Kenya.

NL: Thanks Geoff; it's a real challenge to put the right stuff in one quarterly issue with so many sad news vs. just a few good ones going on worldwide!

GP: I particularly enjoyed the list of definitions of architecture you shared; and would like to offer an additional one: 'Architecture is the creation and maintenance of buildings and places where people want to be'.

NL: Indeed that's what every School of Architecture should teach to future architects anywhere in the world!

GP: I agree; that's why you may like to know about my new book, recently published, on which I share lessons from research and consultancy assignments in all regions of the world over the last five decades.

NL: I knew of your book "Making Common Ground: Public-private partnerships in land for housing" published at the end of 1999. Please, tell us something about this new one.

GP: I never stopped working on the increasing demand for urban land and housing. In 'Somewhere to Live: Rising to the global urban land and housing challenge' I address these issues in a context of inequality and the climate crisis and offer a range of innovative yet practical options.

NL: It is like the call to the battlefield.

GP: In fact with this book I show how to turn a crisis into an opportunity.



The aim is not just for meeting the need for land and housing, but for providing a better quality of life to a larger number of people.

NL: In fact, finding somewhere decent and affordable to live is proving increasingly difficult in urban areas.

GP: This is due to forms of economic management that have held sway for four decades. Wealth and power are concentrated in the hands of a small elite, excluding the vast majority from meeting their basic needs. They force countless vulnerable, yet enterprising groups to migrate in search of a better life. Also ignore the rich cultural traditions and practices that provide a sense of belonging and identity that is a key feature of all places we love to visit or live in.

NL: All of which feeds back into the domino effect of climate change.

GP: It is a real fact; the planet can no longer sustain unlimited economic growth. The entire humanity is facing an existential crisis; furthermore, land and housing have become an expression of this crisis.

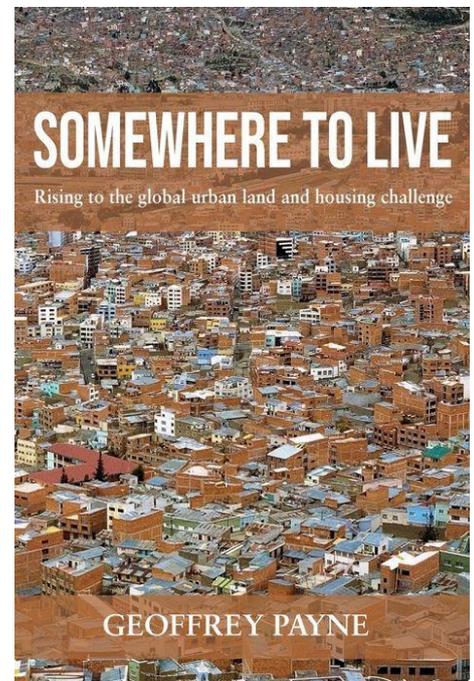
However, the Covid pandemic has provided a wake-up call to encourage us to change the way we treat both the planet and each other.

NL: I like that positive approach. Hopefully many colleagues will change assuming that social responsibility is putting our professions at the service of people and the environment, not the other way around.

GP: Indeed; fortunately there are many examples of innovative ways to successfully achieve that change.

NL: Tell us some of them, please.

GP: My book is printed by Practical Action Publishing; a charity founded by radical economist and philosopher E.F. 'Fritz' Schumacher. He believed in solutions suited to context, equipping people with the skills and knowledge to change their situation; economic systems that work for all, and living within the planet's means.



NL: What a small world of ours!

GP: In many ways so it is. What has surprised you?

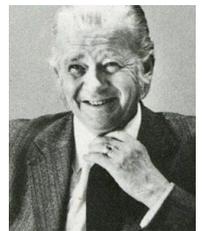
NL: Let me share that I used to live in England during the 1970s. There I became a member of the RIBA and studied Urban Design. I visited the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) founded by Prof Ernst F. Schumacher (right).

He once invited me for lunch at his home, where he offered me the privilege to make the Spanish version of his best seller 'Small is Beautiful' (1973). 'Lo Pequeño es Hermoso' was published in 1977 by H. Blume Publisher. After Prof Schumacher's unexpected death his family continued his approach to sustainable development by changing ITDG into Practical Action (2005). They focus on pragmatic, holistic and systemic approaches to tackling poverty guided by the motto 'big change starts small'. All this makes your book more attractive to me!

GP: I see; it is a great coincidence thanks to which others can also be attracted by what I share in my book.

NL: Thank you so much Geoff for your kind disposition; we wish you the best in all you do for a better life on earth.

The link to Geoffrey Payne's book:
<https://practicalactionpublishing.com/book/2601/somewhere-to-live>



[The Editor](#)

A COMPASS FOR CITIES

Dr. Arq. **Fernando N. Murillo** has the unusual *Curriculum Vitae* made accessible in the link at the bottom¹.

The colleague, under the auspices of the *UN Human Settlements Program*, offers a 15' video: "*Urban Planning, Cities, Conferences, Unprotected Neighbourhoods, Refugee Camps, Slums, Emigration and Immigration*".

Thinking of the readers *The Editor* shares a video that deals with participatory urban planning from the perspective of this prolific Argentine colleague who called 'Compass' the participation of citizens in urban planning and architecture.

It is useless to attempt here to summarize any of the expositions of this experienced academic educator and social-scientific researcher. His fluid dissertations need hours of conceptual and theoretical-practical analysis.

There are not a few of us who long to live on a sustainable planet; which is why some of us are involved in social responsibility issues in any of the countries where we live and work as members of ARC•PEACE Int.

In this context, we have in the architect and urban planner **Fernando N. Murillo** a reference worth taking into account.

To bring the reader closer to such important issues, *The Editor* has preferred to share a selection of the immense production of the architect Murillo, which involved his presence in countries as distant as Mexico, Sudan, Haiti, Zambia, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Canada, Gaza Strip, Bolivia, China, the Netherlands, Colombia, Turkey, Uruguay, Switzerland, Brazil, Belgium, among others.

All of them are included in his CV, and are accessible in various ways: "*The Compass of urban intervention—housing: Guidance Manual for Urban Interventions with a Human Rights Approach*"; "*Urban-Housing Planning and the right to the city*"; "*Course on Formulation and Evaluation of Investment Projects for Architecture and Engineering Professionals*"; "*Urban Agenda. Conceptual, methodological and operational contributions for professional performance (co-author)*"; "*Human dignity: urban responsibility? To what extent do urban planning codes help build the right to the city.*"; "*How to foster livelihood in slums and settlements*", training course at the *V World Urban Forum*; "*Global Cities: Local Projects?*"; "*The contribution of popular participation to the design of policies to promote the right to housing*"; "*The role of Interdesign*";



"Refugee City: Between global human rights and community selfregulations"; "Private-Public Partnership, Compact City & Social Housing: Paradigm of Sustainable Development in the South?"; "Sustainable development through Habitat, Employment and Health local Policies"; "Urban Development, Environmental Problems and Bioclimatic Design Guidelines"; "The Right to the City and the Right to Land and Housing"; "Urban porosity and neighbourhood openness as indicators of popular habitat".

[The Editor](#)

References

1. Curriculum Vitae of Fernando N. Murillo: <https://uba.academia.edu/FernandoMurillo/CurriculumVitae>
2. A compass for cities: <https://unhabitat.org/a-compass-for-cities-fernando-murillo>
3. The right to community architecture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDZMrSgF2p4>



"I honour with gratitude the land in which I live, traditionally inhabited by those who belong to *the Peoples of the Muscogee Nation*.

Atlanta, the '*Black Mecca of the South*', was also the epicentre of the famous *Civil Rights Movement (CRM)* that resonated around the world, while India supported *Gandhiji's Freedom Movement*. But, most young black mothers would tell us a different story.

A POWER THAT IGNORES THE NATION THAT FOUNDS IT

My American Indian community and other immigrants of colour are indebted to their African American peers who fought in the CRM; they succeeded by repealing the racist and exclusivist law.

As it happens, Civil Rights legislation of 1964 allowed a wave of highly educated Asians, especially Indians, to immigrate to the US.

They came to be respected as '*Model Minority*' or '*Honourable Whites*', to the point of contributing to their becoming the most successful community. However, these names are used as a weapon to obscure the fight for equality for African Americans.



With it, other communities of colour also benefit; yet others use it to punish them with oppressive and false narratives. This produced more discrimination in all aspects, including housing.

For all this, I pay my sincere respect to the brave members who fought and continue to fight for my existence here and for equal justice for all."

By Shyama Sivadas, from Atlanta, Ga., USA, adapted by The Editor.

Designing From The Collective Memory

Prof. Arq. **Jaime Alzérreca Pérez** is another colleague from the Southern Hemisphere worthy of recognition. He gladly agreed to share again with the readers of the Newsletter.



ARC•PEACE International invited Jaime to the Mediterranean island of Mallorca in September 2015; and he came from his native Cochabamba in Bolivia (partial view above). He participated in the Convocation held in the Balearic capital, chosen that year by the prestigious London weekly The Sunday Times *"the best city in the world to live in"*.¹

The Editor is pleased to share an introduction to the distinguished colleague's dissertation on a topic in which he has specialized in the chair and in research: "Territorialization of Imaginaries and Collective Memory / Cultural Corridor in the Municipality of Cochabamba".

Those who wish can access what Alzérreca Pérez writes in OPINIÓN (a digital newspaper with national circulation in Bolivia) .2 From 'his pen of him' we transcribe between quotation marks:

"Cultural corridors are called spaces with a strong symbolic charge, which reflect various appropriation processes marked by memory and latent imaginaries for generations"; and he defines them as spaces that can "be revalued based on cultural practices that guarantee free and democratic expressions. " (Photo below)³



Next, he talks about *"the tendency to thematize"* urban spaces, which highlights *"a city planned by investors and not by inhabitants, making recreational consumption a trend";* and that this increases the *"differences in various dimensions, where the one with the most resources has the greatest possibility of enjoying what is programmed."*

He points out that this generates another unfair effect: *"the need to serve a social majority (so) that they enjoy their context without making costly investments"*.



From the point of view of mobility, he also corroborates that both in the environmental and social spheres, the promotion of automotive transport creates marked problems (photo above).

Whoever enters his colourful writing will be able to find out about a city ***"with sites of great patrimonial, natural and historical value."***

And he gives the example of the *"Rocha River that crosses seven municipalities flanked by imposing background scenery such as the Tunari mountain range."*

He encourages urban designers to *"bet on multimodal cultural corridors that prioritize pedestrians and cyclists; (to generate) biological corridors with high positive environmental impacts (aiming at changing) transport habits for a subsequent cultural transformation of new citizens."*

He defines the ***"new citizens"*** as those inhabitants who estimate and carry out ***"healthy living actions in decongested and decontaminated cities."***



As a result of this intervention, he hopes that citizens in their daily tours for whatever reasons *"receive cultural messages that revalue regional identity based on rescuing collective memory and imaginaries."*

Such messages must be *"supported by public policies that prioritize an equitable city in its recreational and experiential offer, beyond an exclusive city that, from aspects that make Cochabamba, theme recreation and benefits only profit,"* he affirms.

By way of conclusion, Professor Alzérreca Pérez maintains that with *"the consolidation of cultural corridors, the region's tourist offer would be increased with the consequent benefits that this activity entails, making the city live and enjoyed by both internal and external actors."*

Adapted from several collaborations sent by Arch. Alzérreca Pérez. The Editor

References

1. Videos <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QC-yFdpQ01Y>;

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_lp0Opoo3A

2. <https://www.opinion.com.bo/opinion/jaime-alzerrreca-perez/corredores-culturales-contexto-regional/20210410205455815202.html>

3. Portales Palace, Cochabamba.

Superior picture taken from OPINIÓN

INDIA: Empowering Women to Own Homes

ARC.PEACE India Foundation sends us information about its Rehabilitation Project of Marginal Neighbourhoods, and Housing Tenure by Female Heads of Household.

The President of Arc.Peace India, and Emeritus Member of ARC•PEACE Int., Prof. **Bijayanand Misra**, sent to this Editor a preview of the draft title a few days ago. Because it is a truly historical and highly topical fact, this Editor decided to publish it instead of an article already announced but not yet received (see on Page 1).

This is a year-long investigation into the implementation of the 2017 State Law, which began last March in the city of **Cuttack, Odisha** State (see map). The Foundation carries it out as a contribution to ARC•PEACE Int.'s mission with the help of the Centurion State University of Technology and Administration (CUTM).

The Indian partners (photo above) took on this task in the context of the various attempts to protect and improve the livelihoods of slum dwellers, which are taking place worldwide. For them it is one more step towards the construction of sustainable cities in the 21st century.

The work is done in consultation with other NGOs and municipal authorities; and includes well-structured surveys at the household level, with group meetings.

The appalling and even inhumane conditions suffered by marginal urban dwellers are the result of discrimination, social injustice and negligence on the part of municipal authorities; and they are a constant challenge for social activists. However, in the last two decades some governments have sought solutions to each case, from consensual political-social approaches.

Generally, it has been found that marginal neighbourhoods' dwellers, if they are granted stable possession of decent housing, are significantly motivated to invest and improve it. ARC.PEACE India's action program is based on this premise. The types of tenure are: freehold lease, and partial domain lease.



The tenure system - a long time debate question - is an important part of the land reform that the Indian government is working upon. The Odisha State government took the initiative in granting stable tenure to urban slum dwellers. **The Law assures land and home rights to eligible inhabitants.** According to the Census of India (2011), urban slum households constituted 23.09% of the total. The case of the ancient city of Cuttack stands at 27.35%, being the fastest growing in that state. The Cuttack Township Corporation (CMC) decided to relocate 858 shacks as part of its first shantytown rehabilitation project.

The project aims at building small apartments for the relocation of the families on land provided by the district administration, at a total cost of just over 2 million Euros, financed by the Integrative Housing Program and Slum Development (IHSDP).

The government acts in the public-private partnership (PPP) mode thanks to which a total of 383 families in marginal neighbourhoods were identified to be relocated in reasonable-sized houses, at a cost equivalent to 1,920 Euros each.

The beneficiaries will bear 10% of the cost and the remaining 90% will be shared by the national and state governments. The land currently occupied by the families in the slums is acquired by the government, which compensates each family accordingly.

The **Balisahi** relocation site is ready to receive families, although basic services are not yet in place (right photo) being this, unfortunately, a reality repeated elsewhere.



The relocation took place before the provision of these basic services.

Families in slums receive the Certificate of Right to Land (LRC) which, according to the new Law, ensures stable tenure before moving to the relocation site.

This way, they are helped to feel safe and willing to invest in improving the house quality according to their needs, and to contribute to access to basic services such as water and sanitation.

Due to the failures of the system, the delegates of the families and NGOs put pressure on the authorities to comply with their part in a timely manner.

These are actions that play an important role towards the amicable solution of the problem.

Progress in rehabilitating slum dwellers, and improving vital areas of family life such as child health, education and nutrition, will be reported in a forthcoming report.

In summary, the project aims to identify the gaps that still exist in the process of official application of the Tenure Law; and in addition, it supports the empowerment of women to strengthen and accelerate it.



Investigation author: Mrs. **Payal Naik**, payalnayak@gmail.com.

Translated and adapted by The Editor



THE LANGUAGE OF ARCHITECTURE EXPRESSED BY THE HAND OF A GENEROUS ARTIST

Lluís Domènech i Montaner (photo) a notable Spanish architect (Barcelona 30/12/1849 – 27/12/1923) is well known for designing in the Catalan Modernist Style.



For many years he and the great **Antoni Gaudí** shared a fruitful professional friendship.

His buildings boast a certain grandeur provided by the harmonious way in which mosaics, ceramics and polychrome glass are combined in profusion.

Margot Alonso (extreme right photo) spent part of her time at **Santa Pau** (above main pic) where she showed her exquisite handling of drawing and painting. Like great writers, a pen, a pencil and a notebook, are enough for **Margot** to express herself with precision agility, and real charm. Only a few can use watercolors, temperas and brushes like she does. Photos on the right reveals her stickiness for details.



“First I made cartoons, second I was a painter, and third I studied to be an architect; and now I would live drawing all day in the open air!” This confession is the presentation of our virtuous friend when introducing herself on Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/margotalonsarias/?hl=es>

Video at Santa Pau:

<https://www.facebook.com/100000328952546/videos/782603616460602/>

Thanks, Margot, for sharing your art!

Research and edition by The Editor

15/07/1987 - ARC PEACE XXXV ANNIVERSARY – 15/07/2022

Upon completing its first 35 years of life, our entity has not completed the XXI General Assembly that began in November 2021.

Members are invited to participate on 07/15/2022 in the virtual meeting to be held as from
1:30 pm UTC / GMT + 1 hour

Associates up to date will have voice and vote. More information:
arcpeaceinternational@gmail.com
WhatsApp int+34 638 556 953

SIXTY ONE HAPPY CHILDREN WITH ARC•PEACE

ARC•PEACE International sent a €100 donation to the LIGHT TO LIFE orphanage in Kisii, Kenya. Their Directors called the Secretary via WhatsApp to thank him. They also attached the invoice for the purchase of shillings. With the amount received they were able to cover the consumption of coal, firewood and gas for a whole month (photo #1).

With other donations received at the Orphanage, the girl Cynthia covers High School expenses (photo #2). Her donors wanted to remain anonymous.

Thanks to all of them!



The active colleague **Shyama Sivasdas** informs us that, in addition to the film of the same title, there is an entity worthy of being promoted for its objectives with the logo shown above.

This is the organization created in 2009 in India, to support young people determined to fight for a world in peace from their situation of extreme poverty like those in the above photos.



The motto of an unknown author that is cited on its website reads:

"Note to self: every time you were convinced that you couldn't continue, you did."

Up to now, organizers have already recruited nearly 250 scholarship holders from more than 50 countries, which are trained in a modern campus located in Trivandrum, Kerala, India.

Shama suggests that this program, nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize, is recommended for "Latin American and African poor youth who are resourceful and willing to bring about a necessary change in the problems they face in their society."

From this NL we advise you to get information directly, by going to:

[Home – kanthari](http://Home - kanthari) El Editor

The Editor of this Newsletter No 72 **Oscar Margenet Nadal**, Architect RIBA, Secretary of **ARC•PEACE International**, thanks the valuable cooperation of the following: British Architect & Urban Planner **Geoffrey Payne**; Argentinian Dr. Architect **Fernando N. Murillo**; Bolivian Architect Prof. **Jaime Alzérreca Pérez**; French Dr. In Physics **Antoine Bret**; British Geographer Prof. **Michael Wickham**; Indian Emeritus Member **Prof. Bijay Misra**; Spanish Architect-Artist **Margot Alonso**; Indian-American Architect **Shyama Sivasdas**; Argentinian-German Business woman **Ivana Fischer-Margenet** and anonymous donors in favor of **Light to Life International**, Orphanage in Kisii, Kenya & its Directors **John y Gladys Ikaki**. If you wish to collaborate, please send us articles, projects, comments, ideas and suggestions. ARC•PEACE Facebook pages are in English, Spanish and Arabic. Translators are needed. All volunteers are eligible for membership..

Next Newsletter will be No 73, due in September 2022.

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