

# Sustainable Solution for the Reconstruction of Low Income Housing in Post-Disaster Zones

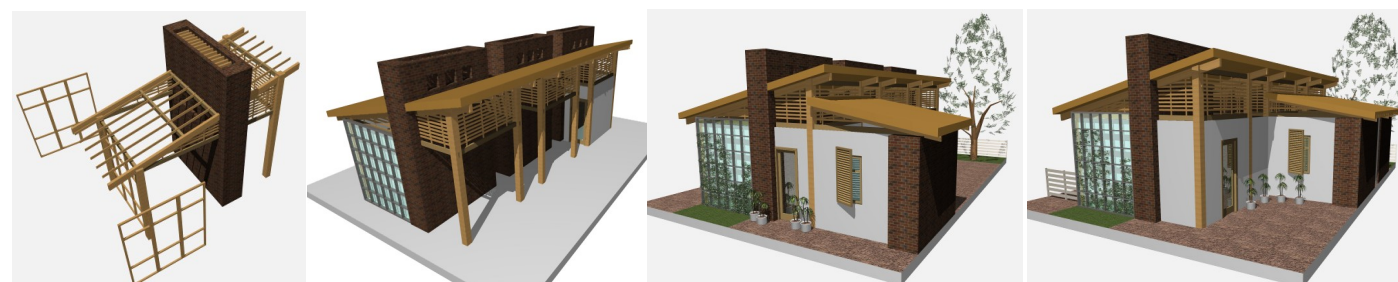
Author: Cristina Blanco-Lion. 2010



The Final Proposal

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The Final Proposal

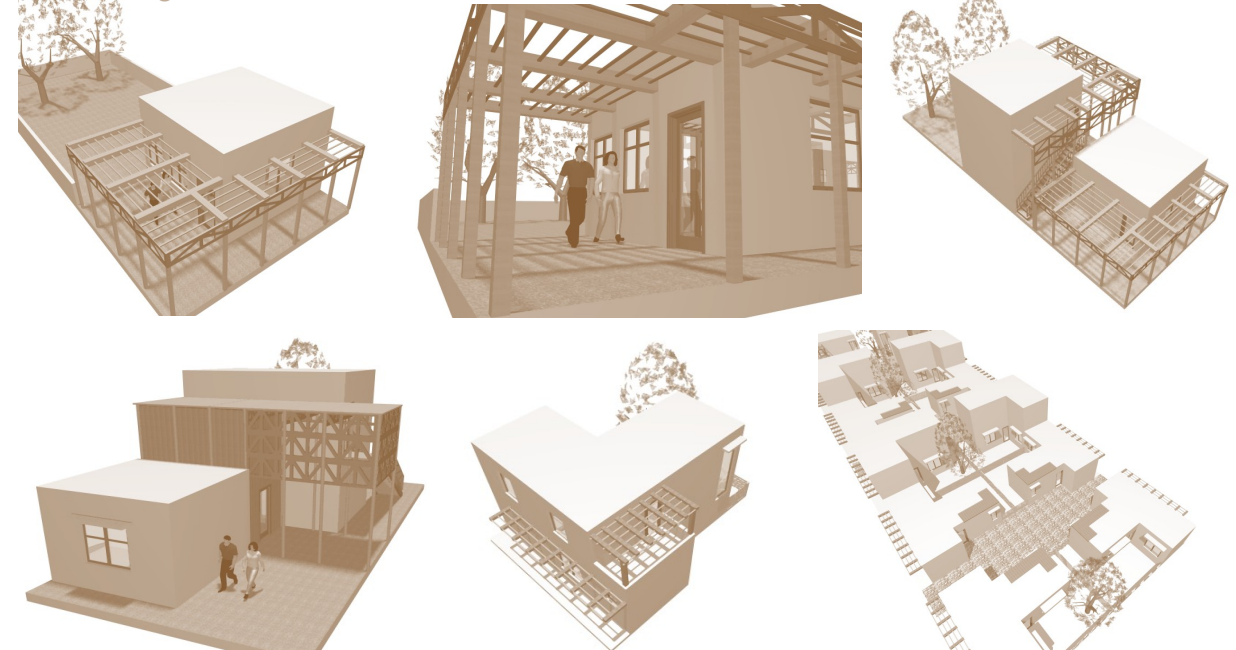


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**Abstract.** This paper approaches the reconstruction of low income housing in a post-disaster zone from the perspective of sustainability. It builds a holistic definition of sustainability for low income housing, based on five key interests: social, cultural, environmental, economic and aesthetics. An Assessment Grid is developed, based on the theory of those five interests and real world experiences, which can be used as a framework for judging the sustainability of an architectural response to low income housing reconstruction, and as a tool to challenge the architect during the design process. The Assessment Grid is applied to develop a sustainable design proposal for the reconstruction of low income dwellings in Pisco, Peru – the site of a devastating earthquake in 2007.

The proposal is developed in a real-life scenario, based on data supplied by an NGO working on post-disaster reconstruction in the area, in collaboration with local inhabitants. The Grid is used at each stage of design to highlight the weaknesses and push the design forward. The final design is a demonstration that an architectural solution is possible for sustainable low income housing reconstruction in post-disaster zones. It is also a testament to the usefulness of the Assessment Grid process. The process reveals the importance of future proofing, community participation, flexibility and progressive design.

The Design Process



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