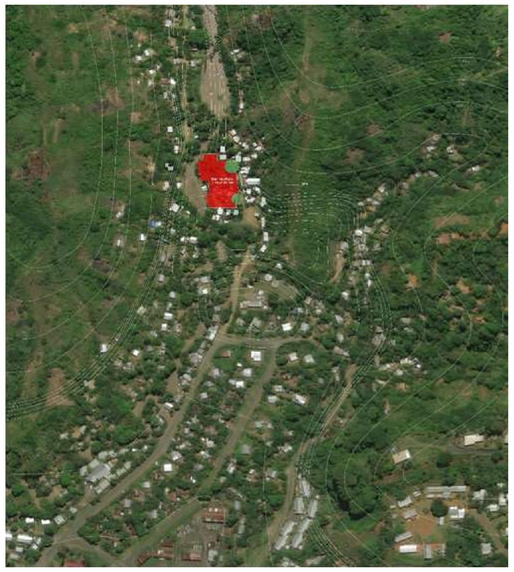
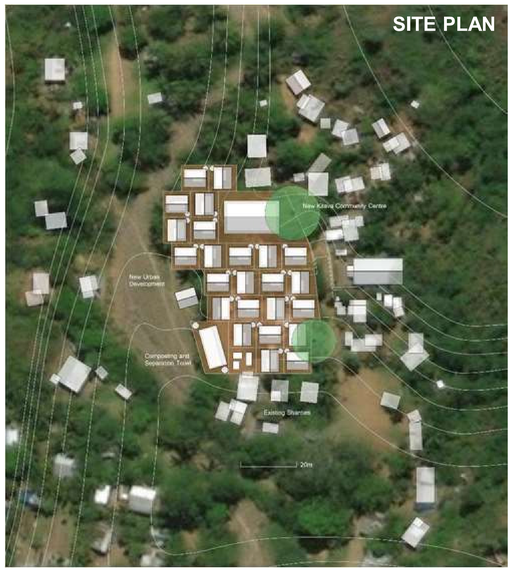
RUBBISH KITAVA – NEW KITAVA
ALOTAU, MILNE BAY PROVINCE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PROJECT: CIVIL SOCIETY

STATUS: IN PROCESS

SDGs CONSIDERED:
1.3 - 6.1 - 6.2 - 9.6 - 9.7 - 11.1 - 11.3 - 16.7 - 17.6





PROJECT OVERVIEW

The slum New Kitava, formerly 'Rubbish' Kitava is located on the outskirts of Alotau, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea. 250–300 mi-grants from the south pacific Trobriand Islands live here in self-built shanties, made out of rubbish and bush materials. The community struggles with unemployment and poverty, insufficient hygiene and crime. Due to migra-tion, gangs of young men, so called rascals, threaten people in Alotau. Lately there have been an increasing number of armed hold-ups and assaults.

In 2018, one of these gangs was chased by 'special' Papua New Guinea police forces, but the rascals escaped through the New Kitava settlement into the surrounding forest. Frus-trated policemen started to bully the settlers and the situation escalated. In a severe act of 'police terrorism', 18 houses were burned down. A woman was shot and one child died in the flames.

The Catholic Diocese of Alotau started an initiative to help the victims with first aid, food, tents and blankets. In discussion with the community, the urgent needs and wishes of the settlers have been captured. The new urban development project – New Kitava – is the result of this Participatory Action Research.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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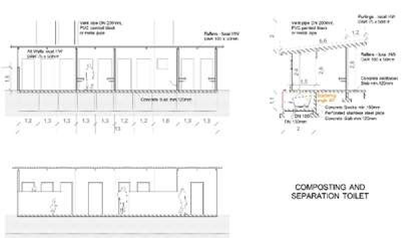
Small archetype houses in local building tech-nique (on high posts) are correlating with each other to create an interesting residential envi-ronment. Within a grid of similar lots, always the same house is always placed turned to his neighbors and form an interesting outdoor space/pattern. There is a hierarchy of streets, alleys and public spaces and facilities. Two bigger interventions, a community shower and ecological composting toilet (including a com-posting yard, to end open defecation and pro-vide access to sanitation and hygiene) and a community research centre complement the grid and complete the urban development both functionally and aesthetically.

Each house should have its own rainwater supply to ensure safe and affordable drinking water for the settlers. Existing rainforest trees (which survived the fire) are integrated into the urban design.



FUNDERS : LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF ALOTA, MILNE BAY PROVINCE, PNG / CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALOTAU-SIDEIA, MILNE BAY PROVINCE, PNG

PARTNERS : CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALOTAU-SIDEIA, MILNE BAY PROVINCE, PNG / SOUTH PACIFIC ARCHITECTURE, RAINER KAŠIK, PAPUA NEW GUINEA - AUSTRIA

PROJECT TEAM: Bishop Rolando Santos (CM), Fr. Joel Y. Bernardo (CM), Architect Rainer Kašik (SPA)

LOCAL PROJECT CHALLENGE 2020 is a partnership between the Center for Sustainable Urban Development, The Earth Institute, Columbia University, and the Faculty of Architecture, Federal University, Rio de Janeiro.