

Agile Architecture PROCEEDINGS

Conference of CIB W104:
Open Building Implementation
Delft University of Technology
The Netherlands 3 - 4 October 2001

Edited by Ype Cuperus

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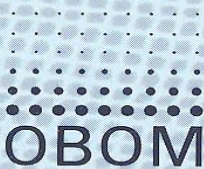
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Open Bouwen Ontwikkelings Model

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Low-income housing and cultural identity

A teaching experience of Open Building in Mexico City

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Low-income housing and cultural identity

A teaching experience of Open Building in Mexico City

Jorge Andrade and Andrea Martin

ABSTRACT

The demographic growth in Mexico City and the insufficient land resources in the city's outskirts, give us the urgent necessity to increase the density of the actual housing areas. In order to do that we first have to understand how the families living in these areas manage to do so spontaneously. So for this particular teaching course we selected a housing complex of single houses for 150 families that have been living there for more than ten years. This case study has very unique and interesting characteristics such as:
The topography; the land has up to a 25% of slope.
The family composition; there are many extended families living in there.
The housing prototype; it is a progressive dwelling.

The course had the following objectives:

1. To observe and document the way in which low income families increase the density in their dwellings.
2. To systematize the transformation and modifications undergone by those dwellings.
3. And to apply the Open Building concepts in order to generate low income housing projects in a progressive and flexible way.

At the end the students produced projects capable of housing different families with different necessities, backgrounds and income; capable to adequate to this particular lot, with an oblique variable slope; as well as to the family's transformation within time according to their incomes.