


# OPEN BUILDING



Proceedings  
Conference of CIBW104:  
Balancing Resources and Quality in Housing  
Mexico City 3-4 October 2002

Edited by  
Andrea Martín  
Jorge Andrade

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# PREFACE

On 3 and 4 October 2002, the Metropolitan Autonomous University hosted the annual international conference of the CIB W104 “Open Building Implementation”.

## Background on Open Building

Open Building is the term used to indicate a number of related ideas about the making of environment. *These ideas include the following:*

- a) The idea of distinct Levels of intervention in the built environment, such as those represented by ‘support’ (base building) and ‘infill’ (fit-out), or by urban design and architecture.
- b) The idea that users or inhabitants may make design decisions, as well as professionals.
- c) The idea that, more generally, designing is a process with multiple participants including many kinds of professionals.
- d) The idea that the interface between technical systems allows the replacement of one system with another performing the same function. (As with different fit-out systems applied in the same base building).
- e) The idea that built environment is in constant transformation and change must be recognized and understood to enable professionals to be effective.
- f) The idea that built environment is the product of an ongoing, never ending design process in which environment transforms part by part.

Those who subscribe to the Open Building approach seek to formulate theories about the built environment seen in this dynamic way, and to develop methods of design and building construction that are compatible with it. (source: [www.habraken.com/john](http://www.habraken.com/john)).

Conference Theme:

Balancing Resources and Quality in Housing

Scope and Purpose of this Conference:

At the moment there is a deep concern for the growing gap between the use of resources and the quality of housing. This conference offered an opportunity to discuss these important issues and to explore the benefits of and impediments to Open Building Implementation in new housing production and in housing improvement and renovation programs in developing countries.

The paper presentations were grouped in three parts:

Part 1 Theoretical and methodological approaches

Part 2 Housing policies and programs

Part 3 Case studies

Jorge Andrade  
Andrea Martín

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# BALANCING **30 YEARS AFTER** **RESOURCES AND QUALITY** **IN LOW INCOME HOUSING**

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## ABSTRACT

This essay describes the two predominant as well as two emergent housing production forms for the low income population in Mexico City. The development of these emergent forms began in the last century around the 70's. After a synthetic comparative analysis -of the resources employed versus the quality achieved- in each of these housing production options the authors think about the actual housing policies, proposing some ideas to achieve a more balanced relationship between the input of resources and the output in quality in the low income housing production in Mexico.

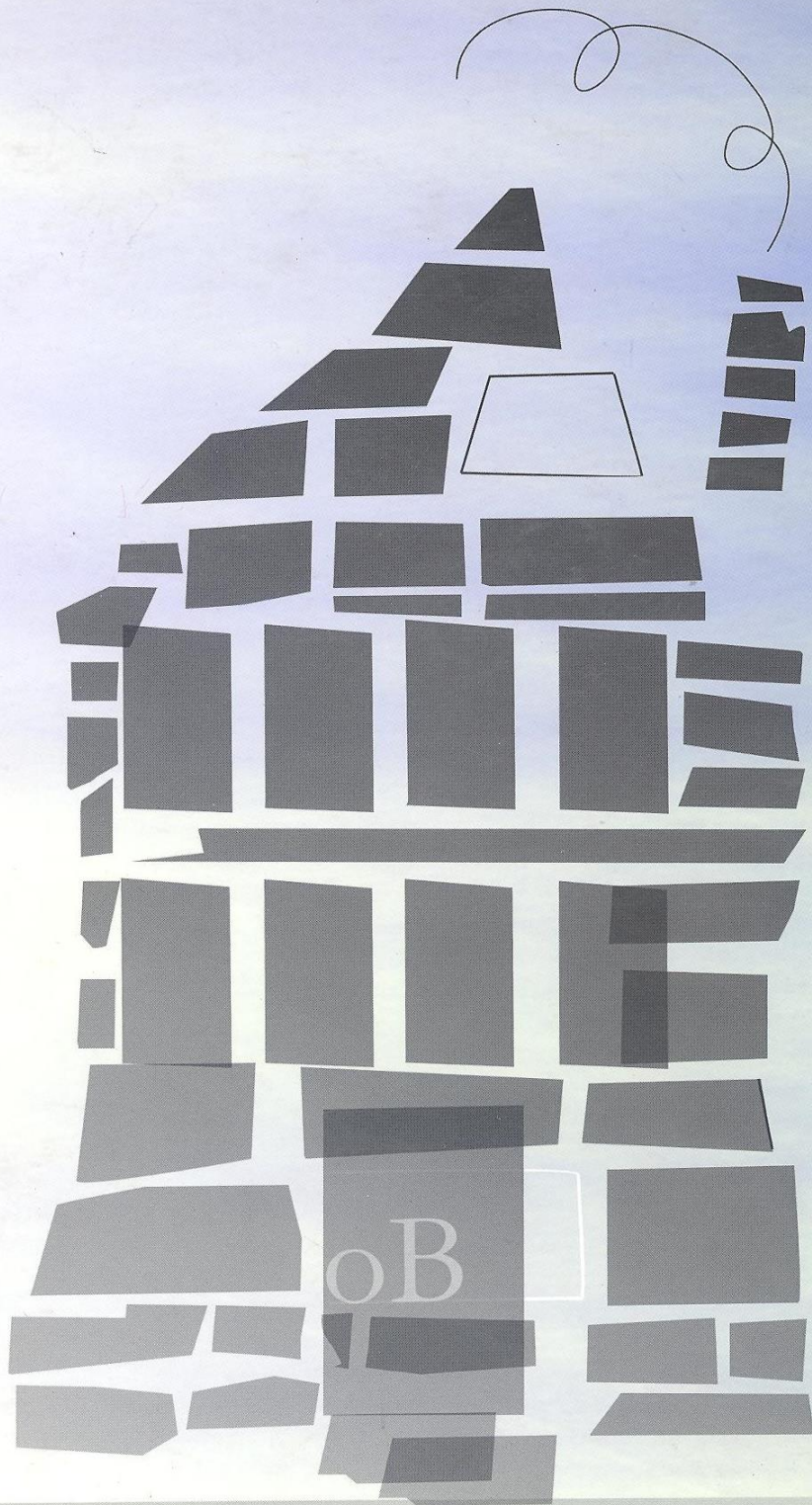
Key Words: Low income housing, public policies, user participation, resources and quality in low income housing.

## RESUMEN

En este ensayo se describen las dos formas dominantes de producción de la vivienda en México así como dos de las formas emergentes de producción más consolidadas. Estas formas emergentes surgieron en los últimos 30 años. Haciendo un análisis comparativo muy sintético de los recursos empleados y de la calidad lograda por cada una de estas formas de producción, los autores hacen algunas reflexiones sobre las políticas de vivienda para lograr resultados más justos en la distribución de los recursos de financiamiento y mejores resultados en la producción de vivienda para la población de bajos ingresos en México.

Palabras Clave: Políticas de vivienda; participación del usuario; recursos y calidad en la vivienda social.





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