The Aqaba Low-Income Housing Competition:

Eleven entries in the competition were received, of which one was disqualified. This entry did not meet the requirements of the competition brief, although it had considerable value specially since it was prepared by school students.

The jury consisted of:

Mr. Ismail Bazian
Mr. Bilal Hammad
Mr. Arif Hasan
Mr. Jafar Tukan

The jury reviewed the projects on the 14th and 15th of April, 2004. In the first round five projects were identified for detailed consideration. The projects were evaluated according to a given and agreed upon criteria. However, special emphasis was given to the suitability of the design to the social and cultural norms of its intended inhabitants, response to the site location and topography in particular and to the physical environment of Jordan in general, and applicability of the design, or major concepts of the design, to other site locations, or possibly other building types in Jordan.

The jury has noted that different projects have different strengths. Some are strong in architectural terms, others in understanding of social and cultural realities and some in the application of technology suitable to arid climatic conditions. The jury feels that within these projects there is a wealth of design and technical innovations that can be synthesized for future use. The jury also feels that the organizers should carry out this exercise and make it available for use. However, none of the entries have dealt innovatively and in depth with the issue of water reuse and conservation.

Jury decisions:

1. The jury has awarded the 1st prize to entry No. AHC 09. The strong points of the project is that it seeks a new image for low-income housing through the introduction of innovative approach in its facades through integrating structural elements into the architectural image. The jury appreciates the socially conscious approach to the clustering of the complex. However, the project is weak in the understanding of incremental growth in the low-income housing units.

2. The second prize goes to No. AHC 07. The project shows a good understanding of social and cultural issues that determine the incremental growth of low-income houses. In addition, the project has also developed inexpensive means of heat protection. The jury felt that the project has failed to introduce an improved image to the prevalent low-income housing type.

3. The third prize goes to No. AHC 03. The project has demonstrated a commendable awareness of environmental related issues and their technological solutions. However, it is weak in addressing planning and architectonic issues.

Date: 15 April, 2004.

Ismail Bazian Bilal Hammad Arif Hasan Jafar Tukan

15.04.2004

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