



**architecture  
sans frontières**

UNITED KINGDOM

**Annual Review 2013-2014**

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The ASF-UK team :

**Management team-**

Ms Melissa Kinnear, General Manager; Ms Sarah Ernst, Communications Manager; Ms Naomi Shinkins, Programme Coordinator; Ms Beatrice de Carli, Programme Coordinator.

**Board-**

Dr Matthew Barac, Co Chair; Mr Charles Parrack – Co Chair/Treasurer; Ms Tamara Horbacka; Mr Neal Barnes; Ms Rubbina Karruna; Ms Alison Hart; Ms Alicia Pivaro; Mr Oliver Wainwright; Ms Natalie Daniels

**Advisors-**

Prof. Nabeel Hamdi; Ms Greta Jensen; Mr Peter Newton; Mr Stuart Parker; Dr David Sanderson; Mr Perry Seymour.

**Expert Affiliates-**

Dr Alexandre Apsan Frediani; Dr Anshu Sharma; Dr Matthew French

**Associates-**

Ms Isis Paola Nunez; Ms Sophie Morley; Mr Benjamin Powell; Mr Anthony Powis; Ms Imogen Humphris; Ms Bryony Preston

Architecture Sans Frontières-UK  
The Old Music Hall  
106-108 Cowley Road  
Oxford, OX4 1JE  
info@asf-uk.org  
[www.asf-uk.org](http://www.asf-uk.org)

Architecture Sans Frontières-UK is a UK registered charity, charity number **1123786**

Document design: ASF-UK

Photography: All photographs are from ASF-UK workshops and events from our photo library

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○ Any other Business (AMIB)

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by Community Hall

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Change by Design, Ecuador- ASF-UK workshop modelling

# Message from our Chair

Last year I wrote about the context ASF-UK operates in, with challenges such as lack of housing, the impact of climate change and the many risks that vulnerable communities are exposed to, at the local and global level.

These challenges remain, and there isn't a one size fits all answer. However we are now seeing more governments, NGOs and the private sector, in the UK and abroad, seeking answers which involve advice on engaging communities and designing cities in a different, more sustainable and participatory way. Given the growing relevance of ASF-UK's work in these areas we have developed a strategic and streamlined offer across our portfolio of projects which also reflects our vision to grow in stature and ambition as a charity.

ASF-UK now enters the next year, and what I believe is the next phase of our work, with three defined strands of activities: Live Projects, Training & Building Capacity, Advocacy.

This Annual Review demonstrates innovative work and collaboration against all three of these areas, which is resulting in improved capacities of local developers, partners and communities. A few key highlights include:

The Change by Design (CbD) workshop in Ecuador, which saw the application of the CbD Methodology to two settlements in Quito. ASF-UK mentored three interns to stay on in Quito and develop the plans from the workshop further with the local community. This represents a new way of working, to develop long term engagement with local partners and communities, which we hope to make an integral part of all our work.

Achieving RIBA CPD accreditation for our Challenging Practices course. This is a fantastic achievement for ASF-UK and demonstrates how we are supporting capacity building through high quality training, both in the classroom and on the ground.

There are many other projects that have been undertaken this year of equal quality which are set out in this Annual Review, and I'm confident we will build on this work to make 2014/15 another successful year for ASF-UK.



Rubbina Karrass, Chair



# 1

# Our Philosophy



# ASF-UK's Objectives

## **1. Training and Capacity Building**

Ensure an understanding of the core principles behind community participation, appropriate design and sustainability becomes an integral part of the education and practice of built environment practitioners by working with universities and bodies such as RIBA and the ARB to influence the way architecture is taught; and developing accessible, online training programmes complemented by practical, hands-on workshops, and marketing these courses to ensure take-up.

## **2. Live Projects**

Ensure emergency and development programmes lead to appropriate built environment solutions by forging relationships with the governments, NGOs and voluntary organisations running the projects and encouraging and facilitating the involvement of architects with a people-centred and participatory approach.

## **3. Advocacy**

Influence policy decisions about resource allocation, participation and recognition of all citizens within political, economic and social systems and institutions to ensure a more just urban environment for all.

## **ASF-UK's Philosophy**

Our philosophy as an organisation has evolved as we have defined the gap within architectural education and practice, and recognised that good intentions alone do not result in good practice!

- We believe strongly that local communities and local built environment professionals should be determining their own development, and any external players should be building capacity and helping to facilitate the change needed.
- The problems we are tackling are so complex that it needs a very clear methodology of engagement to begin to unravel constraints and opportunities for action
- We are redefining the boundaries of our work as the typical approach to developing a building project is not appropriate in the contexts of vulnerability in which we often find ourselves.
- We prefer to develop replicable and adaptable methodologies rather than solutions to problems.
- We think that working only in teams of built environment practitioners is problematic and we need to include all sorts of additional people and disciplines in the way we work and engage.
- We work everywhere! The levels of vulnerability, marginalisation and disparity between the rich and poor is on the rise and we cannot ignore what we learn from all the contexts and how this information might be relevant to places closer to home.



# 2 Sponsors and Partners





Community & Family

+8

+8  
+16

+20

Community  
Private Contacts

Community  
Private Contacts

High Street  
Safe House  
F&PS  
+  
C.A. (M)

Allotment

Challenging Practice - Stage 2 seminar exercise

me

In 2013 and 2014 ASF-UK has had funding and support from a number of organisations:

### **ASF Funders**

- Vodafone World of Difference
- Walter Guinness Trust

### **ASF Supporters**

- Scarcity and Creativity in the Built Environment (SCIBE), University of Westminster
- The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, University College London

### **ASF Partners**

- Universidad Politecnica Salesiana (UPS)
- El Institute de Altos Estudios Nacionales (IAEN)
- Confederación Nacional de Barrios de Ecuador (CONBADE)
- Comite de Desarrollo de Los Pinos
- Gobierno Barrial de Atacucho- ASF France
- ASF Spain
- ASF Italy
- ASF Sweden
- Global Mamas
- Ghana Street Library
- Tangentfield

## **Thank you**

ASF-UK would like to thank all our funders, supporters and partners for all their help in 2013 and 2014.

## **Sponsorship**

ASF-UK welcomes sponsorship and donations to increase the impact of our work. If you would like to donate please do so on our Virgin Money page [www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/asf-uk](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/asf-uk).

For more information on individual membership and sponsorship opportunities for companies please contact Melissa Kinnear at [mkinnear@asf-uk.org](mailto:mkinnear@asf-uk.org).

# ¿QUE QUISIERA USTED QUE HAYA EN LOS PINOS?



VACAS



FLORES



CESPED



CERDOS



PASTOS



PARQUE INFANTIL



CULTIVO



HUERTOS



CANCHALAS



ARBRES FRUTALES



PRESENCIA DE RINQUE



VENDER PRODUCCION

INDIVIDUAL

# 3

# Programmes







## **Change by Design | Articulating new spatial imaginations**

Change by Design aims to advance participatory design as a way to strengthen marginalised communities and engage citizens in a process of deepening democracy. Unlike conventional participatory methods, it frames participation as a means to challenge the structural conditions that perpetuate urban poverty and exclusion from urban planning, design, and governance.



## **Resilience by Design | Inhabiting fragile territories**

Resilience by Design explores socio-ecological development in both rural and urban contexts and is structured around supporting the development of resilient communities. This methodology is being developed for a project we are doing in Cartagena, Colombia with local partners Fundación por la Educación Multidimensional (FEM).



## **Challenging Practice | Essentials for the Social Production of Habitat**

Challenging Practice is an independent learning programme that encourages architects to engage in the production of habitat for the world's most vulnerable groups. It is specifically targeted at built environment professionals with an interest in the challenges that are impacting on the human development of billions of people across the world.

# 3.1- Training and Capacity Building

## **Change by Design: Quito, Ecuador - [www.asf-uk.org/change-by-design](http://www.asf-uk.org/change-by-design)**

For the 4th instalment of the Change-by-Design workshops, ASF-UK teamed up with a coalition of Ecuadorian architects, community organisations, activists and academics to develop design ideas for the “Buen Vivir” neighbourhood, to inform and help shape the Urban Revolution Agenda or ‘Revolución Urbana’ in major Ecuadorian cities during 2013.

The Buen Vivir concept, meaning ‘Good Living’ (or *sumak kawsay* in Kichwa) is an indigenous philosophy that advocates for social organisation, collective wellbeing, and new ways of engaging with people and the environment. Building on participatory design tools developed in previous workshops in Brazil & Kenya, we will used the Buen Vivir concept to design an upgrading plan for the community of Los Pinos and a series of project proposals for the Community of Atucucho.

The workshop engaged Ecuadorian students and professionals alongside international participants, and hosted a city-wide symposium and several visits to other organised informal settlements.



Change by Design, Ecuador- ASF-UK field workshop

## **Change by Design: Quito, Ecuador – Internships**

ASF-UK, with the support of the Salesian Politechnic University of Quito and the local NGO Somos Ecuador, offered 5 internship opportunities as part of the Change by Design workshop in Ecuador 2013. The overall objective of the internships was to further develop the outputs and findings generated during the 2-weeks workshop and to give the opportunity to participants to put into practice the skills acquired. Interns worked in two teams for a period of 4 to 6 months in the informal settlements of Atucucho and Los Pinos, engaging in participatory design and planning activities, including:

- Continued engagement with community members to advance on the proposals identified by the community;

- Interviews with policy makers, to assess the entry points and type of project that can be submitted to government authorities;

- Interviews with NGOs and other civil society organisations to assess the role they can play in the implementation of future strategies.

Interns were supported and guided by staff from the Salesian Politechnic University of Quito and the local NGO Somos Ecuador, and held regular meetings via Skype with the Change by Design team for direction and feedback on their work on the ground.

In the case of Los Pinos, interns discussed and developed different plan arrangements with the residents and authorities, including allotments, plot subdivisions and management strategies. The information obtained from these exercises was used to support the development of the “Plan de Manejo”, a key requirement for the ongoing negotiations for the regularisation and upgrading of Los Pinos.

In the case of Atucucho, interns worked closely with the Neighbourhood Government to produce a development plan for the Atucucho Forest and subsequently, promote the plan as a pilot project for the National Eco Barrios initiative. The proposal was presented to the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Territory and Housing. The interns also worked with ASF-UK associates to develop a funding application for the Big Lottery Fund, submitted in March 2014.

Currently, two of the interns are working with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development of Ecuador.

**Challenging Practice: Essentials for the social production of habitat-**  
[www.challengingpractice.wordpress.com](http://www.challengingpractice.wordpress.com)



During the year the ASF-UK team continued to develop the Challenging Practice training course, establish guidelines and learning outcomes for all four stages of the course and consolidated a website to enable more people to navigate through the different stages.

ASF-UK gained RIBA CPD accreditation for the whole course. You can find it on their website under the Core Curriculum Subject: Where people live: Communities, Urban and Rural Design and the Planning Process (<http://www.ribacpd.com/architecture-sans-frontieres-uk-asf-uk/27874/overview/>). As all four stages of the course are included in the accreditation, you can gain RIBA CPD learning hours by attending one of our upcoming workshops this summer 2014 which will also go towards Stage 3 certification.

## 1 | Introduction

Approximately 600 people registered for the first stage of the Challenging Practice online course during the course of the year. The Challenging Practice team continue to innovate ways of increasing take up and completion of this stage of the course to ensure that more people progress to Stage 2 and on to overall completion of the whole course.

## 2 | Learning in Action

ASF-UK ran two two-day seminars which have been developed as part of the course to enable participants to deepen their understanding of the topics covered by Stage 1 through scenario-building activities and role-play exercises based on real case studies, where the challenges of intervening are met with the layered realities of different social, cultural, political and economic contexts.

## 3 | Reflecting in Action

ASF-UK launched an opportunity for Challenging Practice course participants to participate in the ASF-UK international workshop in Ecuador as one route to achieving certification for Stage 3 of the course. This was a successful way to offer learners a live immersion into urban reality, and enable them to put into practice the concepts, methodologies, skills and techniques acquired in the previous phases of Challenging Practice.

## 4 | Reflecting on Action

ASF-UK is working towards launching Stage 4 of the Challenging Practice course in the summer of 2014.



## WOMAD 2013

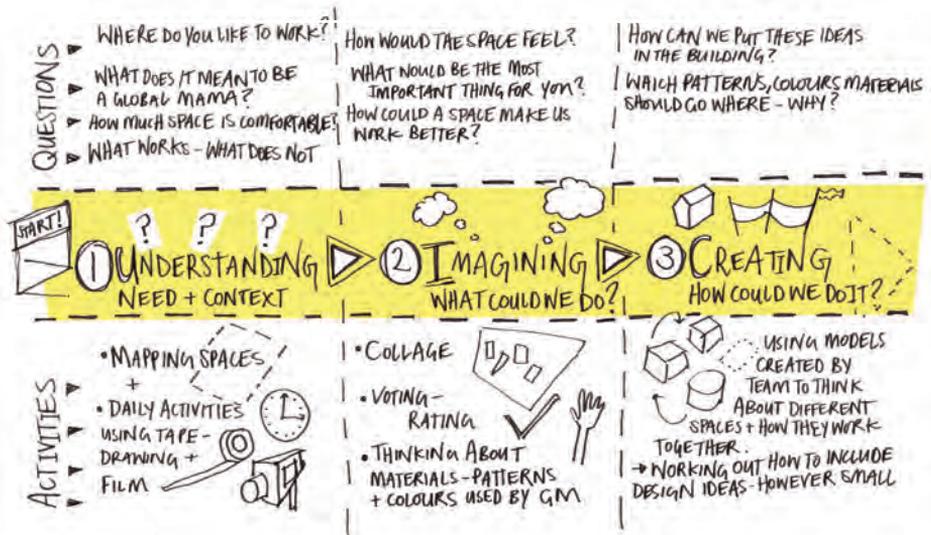
In the summer of 2013 ASF-UK participated in RAW 04 a design and build initiative organised by Tangentfield at the World Music and Dance Festival. Two ASF associates led a team of students and professionals to design and build a space for holding creative workshops such as screen printing during the festival. The materials available for the build were predominantly site based (coppiced hazel and earth) or reused.

Through a collaborative design and build process we explored how communities adapt and adopt spaces using the materials available to them. We applied participatory techniques and role play to introduce issues such as informality, resilience and sustainability from an engaging perspective. The aim was not to produce a final architectural 'product' but an exploratory structure in flux which was added to further by artisans and the public through engaging in the public workshops.



# 3.2- Live Projects

## Working with Global Mamas



Methodology of engagement

ASF-UK partnered with Global Mamas a Ghanaian textiles cooperative to develop a proposal for a new centre of production. During the summer of 2013 local and international architecture students facilitated by ASF-UK used participatory design techniques to work with seamstresses and batik makers to create a plan that reflected the needs and aspirations of the staff. This research was combined with a detailed analysis of sustainable construction and renewable energy in Ghana that reflected GM's commitment to reduce the effect of the textiles industry on the environment and be self sufficient in their power needs.

Going forward Global Mamas are seeking funding for the construction of phase 01, they have already raised most of what they need for the land. They would like to continue to partner with ASF-UK to guide them through this process and develop the plans and strategy for the centre. The construction phase would be in partnership with sustain adinkra a local business that specialises in sustainable construction and is committed to up-skill and train local artisans and laborers - while also building and developing local techniques.

## Ghana Street Library



Street Library visual

ASF-UK has worked with Street Library Ghana since Jan 2013 to help realise the goal to create street library kiosks in the Eastern region. This has included working with local and international architecture students in partnership with street library Ghana and the community of Anoff to design and construct a kiosk that will also act as a community information point. The kiosk has been sponsored by local businesses and the community of Anoff. The kiosk is due to open in April 2014 and a second is planned for the community of Darmang where the ASF-UK international workshop was held in 2011. The Street Library Project has also just received funding to create an oral history library of locally sourced traditional and modern African stories to disseminate through the street library network which adds an interesting dynamic to this project.

# 3.3- Advocacy

## Change by Design: New Spatial Imaginations for Los Pinos- www.asf-uk.org/documents

The Change by Design team co-authored and published a new book which was published in both Spanish and English and is globally accessible through the website.



The report includes the findings of a two-week participatory design workshop organised by Architecture Sans Frontières UK (ASF-UK) in the mountains of Oaxaca and Ixtoc, Ecuador from August 10 to 24, 2013. The workshop explored creative design options for the future regeneration and upgrading of the neighbourhood of Los Pinos. Based on the exploration of residential spatial structures and imaginaries, the workshop investigated ways in which present and prospective residents of Los Pinos can be meaningfully involved in an integrated design development process as active agents of change, rather than beneficiaries of top-down policies and external aid.

Powered within ASF-UK's participatory design and planning methodology, Change by Design, the workshop carried out a series of exercises to facilitate the participatory production of scenarios, spatial models and proposals, with the aim to contribute to the evaluation of an open-ended, neighbourhood-wide development strategy. Such exercises of participatory design aimed at contributing to the on-going debates about the development of spatial production in the Oaxaca region. As such, they have been designed as a means to support the operationalisation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and to exemplify the goals expressed at the Centro Social por la Vivienda.

COVER BY DESIGN

## CHANGE BY DESIGN New spatial imaginations for Los Pinos

WORKSHOP REPORT (2013)

Alexandre Aplan Fricans, Beatrice De Carli, Ios Nuez Ferrera, Naomi Shirkins  
Architecture Sans Frontières UK

<p><b>Promote inclusive social processes</b></p> <p>Adaptability of process and product Participation in environmental improvement and protection of natural resources</p>	<p><b>Design inclusive space to be built</b></p> <p>Equality of spatial opportunities Respectful to cultural diversity through a recognition of dwelling typologies Accelerate neighbourhood design Accommodating a plurality of urban rural agendas</p>	<p><b>Economic security</b></p> <p>Integrated development Security of provision of services Immediate and long term attractiveness Creating economic opportunities from communal spaces Increasing local income opportunities</p>	<p><b>Dignified access to public services</b></p> <p>Quality of space and services Equality of access to the city to pursue livelihoods and wellbeing</p>
<p><b>Build relationships with external actors</b></p> <p>Reinforcing existing networks Reinforcing existing knowledge networks Increasing inter-neighbourhood relations</p>	<p><b>Direction to permanence</b></p> <p>Security of tenure Stability over space and time</p>	<p><b>Live according to our possibilities</b></p> <p>Strengthening community resilience Using existing resources to full potential</p>	<p><b>Balance between rural and urban</b></p> <p>Provide an appropriate urban-rural balance Provide an appropriate urban-rural balance Living in an urban/rural area</p>
<p><b>Strengthen the community organisation</b></p> <p>Strengthening community structure</p>	<p><b>Respond to generational changes</b></p> <p>Intergenerational fairness Provide the ability to explore and assist in changing needs Ability to maintain desired proximity to family and social networks Intergenerational solidarity</p>	<p><b>Basic qualities for decent housing</b></p> <p>Allow for the ability to be an independent household Provide quality and comfort for dignified living Appropriate responsiveness to site conditions (topography, flooding) Ability to maintain desired proximity to family and social networks</p>	<p><b>Responsible management of natural resources</b></p> <p>Sustainable infrastructure and neighbourhood layout Equality of access to community resources Enabling a healthy living environment</p>

### Integrated Principles



# 4

# Thank You





Charlie Palmer in Rome 2013

## **Thank you!**

ASF-UK has received a number of donations through general donations made to ASF-UK and fundraising events.

We would like to thank Charles Palmer for his great effort cycling from London to Rome, around 2200km, over 24 days! What a fantastic experience!

We would also like to thank the Vodafone World of Difference grant for sponsoring three of our volunteers, Ms Melissa Kinnear, Ms Sarah Ernst and Ms Imogen Thea. This allowed them to dedicate four months of part time work to ASF-UK.

Finally, we would like to thank all ASF-UK volunteers for their time, energy and commitment to ASF-UK over the last year. The organisation remains a key player in the ongoing training and capacity building of built environment professionals and we believe that this is due largely to the great team that we currently have and the wide range of projects and focus areas that allow many different people to participate and engage with the programme and organisation at multiple levels.

### **Raising money for ASF-UK**

If you would like to raise money for ASF-UK please contact Naomi at [n.shinkins@asf-uk.org](mailto:n.shinkins@asf-uk.org). Fundraising can be done through our Virgin money page at [www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/asf-uk](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/asf-uk).

### **Donate to ASF-UK**

If you would like to donate to ASF-UK this can be done through our Virgin Money page at [www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/asf-uk](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/asf-uk).

...NOS  
 ...VIVIENDA  
 ...URIA | MANEJO | CONSTRUCCIÓN | \$



LOS PINOS  
 ESCRITURA | MANEJO

LO HAGO  
 YO  
 HACIENDO  
 NUESTROS  
 EST...



# 5

# Financial Affairs



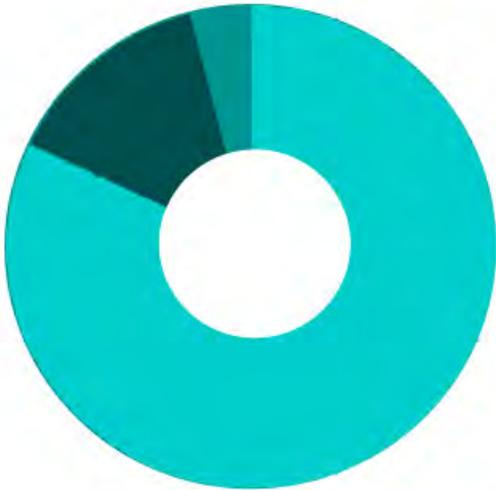
## Summary of Accounts

The accounts summarise information relating to the Statement of Financial Activities, providing a snapshot of ASF-UK finances over the year Mar 2013-Feb 2014. Full accounts are available on the Charity Commission website, [www.charity-commission.gov.uk/](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/).

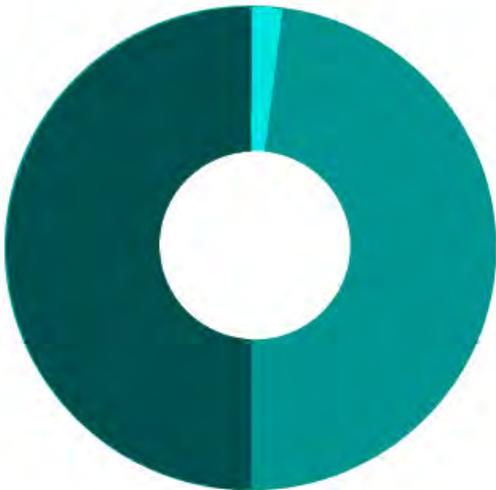
	Unrestricted	Restricted	2014 Total	2013 Total
<b>Incoming resources</b>				
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>				
Donations	1,614	-	1,614	5,736
Investment income	26	-	26	21
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities:</b>				
Grants received	-	5,000	5,000	8,250
Fee income	29,846	-	29,846	12,285
<b>Other incoming resources</b>				
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>31,486</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>36,486</b>	<b>26,292</b>
<b>Charitable expenditure:</b>				
Project Expenditure	18,494	5,000	23,494	13,788
Administrative expenditure	13,923	8,250	22,173	14,837
Governance Cost	1,117	-	1,117	895
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>33,534</b>	<b>13,250</b>	<b>46,784</b>	<b>29,520</b>
<b>Net outgoing resources before transfers</b>	<b>( 2,048)</b>	<b>( 8,250)</b>	<b>( 10,298)</b>	<b>( 3,228)</b>
<b>Gross transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>( 2,048)</b>	<b>( 8,250)</b>	<b>( 10,298)</b>	<b>( 3,228)</b>
<b>Funds at the start of the year</b>	<b>9,241</b>	<b>8,250</b>	<b>17,491</b>	<b>20,719</b>
<b>Funds at the end of the year</b>	<b>7,193</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,193</b>	<b>17,491</b>

### Income Breakdown

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- Donations
- Grants
- Workshop fees



- Administration
- Governance
- Project Costs

### Expenditure Breakdown

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Change by Design, Ecuador- ASF-UK field workshop

Architecture Sans Frontières-UK  
The Old Music Hall  
106-108 Cowley Road  
Oxford, OX4 1JE  
info@asf-uk.org  
<http://www.asf-uk.org/>



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UNITED KINGDOM

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