

# From the studio

58

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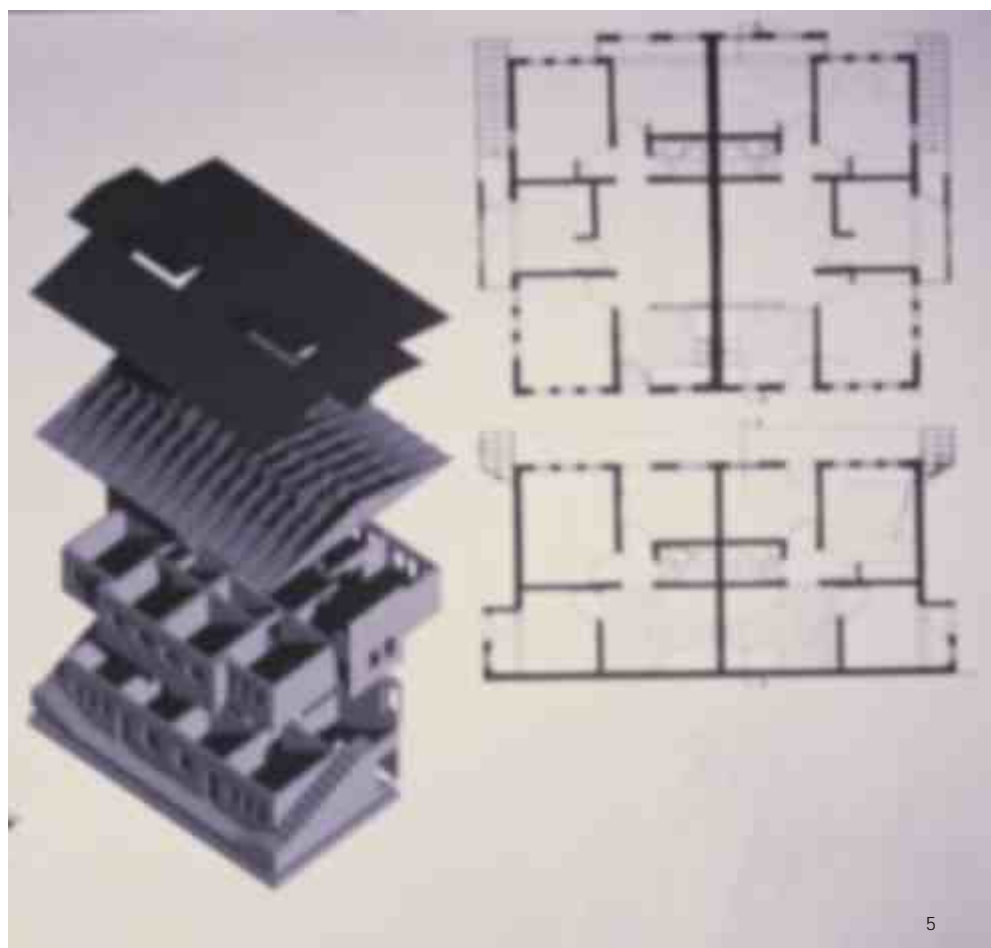


## Newer beginnings...

Featured here is an MIT International Design Workshop Project for a new village design in Turkey.

Article compiled by Cathy Greer with Professor Jan Wampler





1. A view of the building as seen in its final form.
- 2&5. Typical variations of the house.
3. Cross-section of the model of the housing unit on top of a hill.
4. The proposed rehabilitation scheme in plan.
6. 3-D model of the micro-village proposed for Turkey.

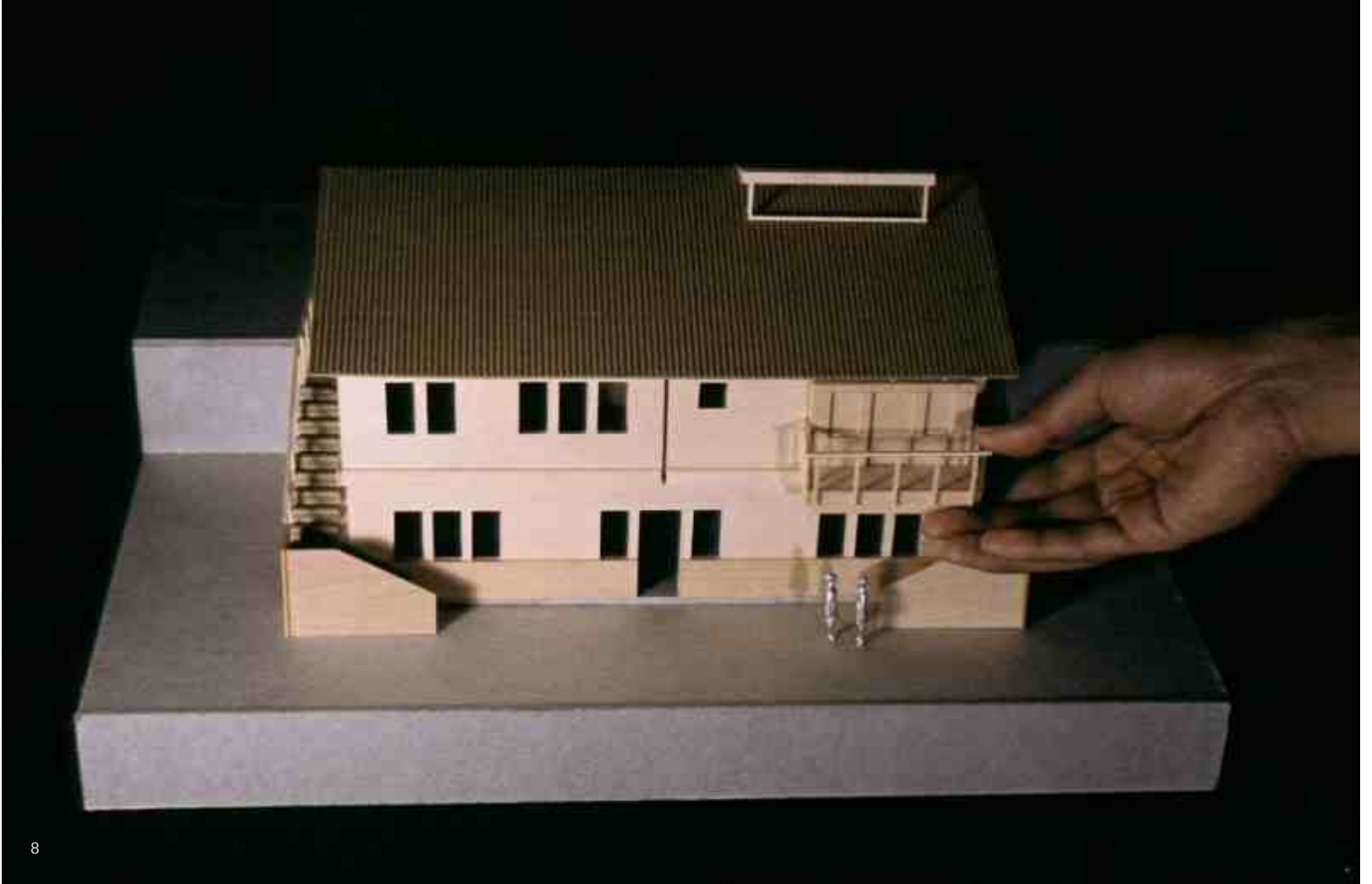
The dream of a safe new Turkish community, hatched in the wake of the August 17, 1999, with the earthquake that killed at least 15,000 people and destroyed dozens of towns and villages, is becoming a reality for 50 displaced families.

Thanks to the skill and tenacity of Massachusetts Institute of Technology Professor of Architecture Jan Wampler and two MIT graduates living in Turkey, ground was broken in 2003 for an innovative housing project near the city of Adapazari. The 'micro-village' will provide houses for the 50 families, whose homes were destroyed by the quake that measured 7.4 on the Richter scale. They have been living in tents and prefabricated housing for almost four years. As envisioned by Wampler, the micro-village, called "Berikoy", is "a new type of community concerned with renewable resources, suitable land, locally-produced materials, and most importantly, the values and dreams of the people who will live there". Wampler and MIT alumnae, Rukiye Devres Unver and Barbara Brady, with students from Wampler's international workshop course at MIT, toured the area after the quake, surveying the damage and talking with the victims. As a result of those discussions, they compiled a list of residents' desires for their rebuilt community, which they then used for designing the village.

The village design includes community centres, a library, a computer centre, and landscaping. Their design replaces the concrete apartment complexes that buckled during the quake with one- and two-story homes with gardens. The houses are being constructed on a hill with foundations in underground rock. The previous buildings were built on loose topsoil that crumbled beneath them during the quake. The new frameworks are made of galvanized steel, while walls and roofs are made from local materials.

'Sustainability' is the key to the micro-village's success. It is constructed of sustainable materials such as locally-made stucco. In addition, the village provides attractive, permanent living space designed to meet the needs of its Turkish homeowners. It also furnishes jobs and skills training for some residents so they can sustain their families in the village outside the urban centre.

"The issue", says Wampler, "is never just housing, but jobs. By providing jobs to build the housing, people may gain skills to be used outside the village". Berikoy's community centres could serve as the locus for micro-industries such as marketing handmade goods or constructing roof trusses for future villages nearby. The village's common buildings will be equipped with





9



10

- 7. 3-D model of the entire village.
- 8. Single unit module of the innovation housing project proposed for rehabilitation in Turkey.
- 9. Cross section of the residential unit on a hill.
- 10. Full fledged construction work in progress as a part of the rehabilitation programme.

digital communication lines suitable for the Internet, so that the Web can serve as an educational resource for the residents. "The urban area has been seen as the Mecca, the place to go to learn. But cities around the world can't support the people moving in," says Wampler, who wants to improve village life so people can earn money without migrating to cities. The village is run as a cooperative, with collective ownership of the community centre and individually owned housing units. Families are required to participate in training courses to learn about cooperative principles, organization functions and member obligations. Potential owner-members must have demonstrated the ability or future capability to pay a mortgage on their unit. The residents, who have average family incomes of less than \$400 a month, pay less than \$100 a month on a mortgage for Berikoy's quake-resistant two and three bedroom units measuring 700 to 900 square feet. Each family must also pay for materials and donate 500 hours of labour, which can be fulfilled by doing carpentry and construction work, cooking or childcare, or providing other services for workers. Although the labour has to be contributed by the individuals aged 18 or older, the entire family often give a hand in the process. Turkish organizations have asked Wampler to design several similar projects both in the earthquake-hit area of Turkey and in the eastern portion of the country. He envisions a consortium of villages connected electronically. "In the past, people leaving the rural areas have had to choose urban housing, as in Turkey, or suburbanization, as in the United States. I see this as a new model", says the architect. Eight residential units have been constructed so far, as well as foundations laid for four more buildings, roadwork, and other infrastructure. Wampler is currently on the second stage of the design, which includes 12 more housing units, three buildings including a community centre, and a 'Mayden' village square. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2006. The project is supported by Habitat for Humanity and the Turkish foundation CEKUL, as well as by many other donations from Turkey. ■

*Robert J. Sales, "Dream village rising in wake of quake". MIT TechTalk, July 22, 2003.*

*Denise Brehm, "New concept of village emerges in MIT-designed housing in Turkey". MIT TechTalk, July 14, 2000.*