

INTEGRATING HABITATS

Celebrating 20 years of the prestigious World Habitat Awards—an appreciation that encourages continued innovation in the scope of sustainable development.

The World Habitat Awards were initiated in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) as part of its contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Two awards of £10,000 each is given annually to projects that provide practical and innovative solutions for low-cost, environmentally sustainable housing for homeless people, restoration of existing housing, technical innovation in building construction and materials. This year the award was presented at the global celebration of World Habitat Day in Naples, Italy on 2nd October and in Kazan, Russia on 4th October to the Johannesburg Housing Company, South Africa and the Building and Construction Improvement Programme of the Aga Khan Planning and Building Service, Pakistan.

As a follow-up to the World Habitat Awards, international study visits are carried out each year in May and July to the two winning projects. This year bursaries were awarded by BSHF to 53 participants representing 29 countries from around the world for the visit to 2005 award winning projects: the Solar Housing Renovation Project in Gårdsten, Sweden and the Energy Efficient Straw-bale Housing Project, China. The purpose of the visits is to provide an in-depth understanding of the practical techniques, training methods, project management and social approaches used in each award-winning project and facilitate the transfer of knowledge and experience by providing an opportunity for the exchange of ideas and experiences.
