

# Rebuilding Alliance



**Our Mission:**  
To Rebuild War-Torn  
Communities  
and Make Them Safe



**Our Vision:**  
A just and  
enduring peace  
in Israel and Palestine,  
founded upon  
equal value, security  
and opportunity for all.



**Our Values:**  
We serve peacemakers  
from all sides and walks  
of life who take brave  
steps for justice and  
understanding.

# Rebuilding Alliance Board of Directors

1. Carin Pacifico, Chair -- V.P. Citibank,  
Clerk of Palo Alto Quaker Peace & Social Action Committee
2. Souzan Jaber, Secretary -- retail expert, born in Ramallah
3. Forest Preston, Treasurer -- electrical eng., senior proj. mgr.  
treasurer of Palo Alto Quaker Meeting, member finance  
committee Ben Lomon Quaker Center
4. Joseph Azam esq., in-house counsel at Oracle Corporation  
focused on global anti-corruption
5. Cindy Corrie, teacher, mother of the late Rachel Corrie,  
President, Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice
6. Alan Kaufman esq., United Auto Workers lawyer, retired
7. Rev. Khader Khalilia, Assistant Pastor, St. Andrew's Lutheran  
church, San Mateo CA, originally from Beit Jala
8. Sarah Williams esq., Rotary Peace Scholar,  
Ph.D. in conflict resolution, Barrister in entertainment law
9. Amela Zanacic, aerospace engineer now at the Fletcher  
School of Law and Diplomacy

# Rebuilding Alliance

## Staff

- Donna Baranski-Walker, Founder & Executive Director  
Recently awarded “Medal of Gratitude” by Polish Solidarity Movement  
B.S. Electrical Engineering - Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
M.S. Agricultural Engineering - University of Hawaii
- Monica Quinn, Clerical Associate
- Rudy San Miguel, Global Giving Coordinator
- Neelima Nair, Finance and Accounts Coordinator
- Guler Ozgenc, Coordinator

## Advisers: ‘Homes with Dignity’ social venture

- Sameh Abboushi, architect -- and author
- Ghassan Abdullah, engineer, co-founder of PALISAD, FFIPP
- Dana Atallah-Gagan, formerly with World Bank-MENA
- Chutta Ratnathicam, former VP of Emery Transportation, is **1st Investor!**

# Rebuilding Alliance

- Founded in 2003
- Programs & Partnerships:
  - East Jerusalem: ‘Abir’s Garden Playgrounds’ in Partnership with Combatants for Peace
  - Gaza: ‘Rachel Corrie Rebuilding Campaign in Gaza’, in partnership with Gaza Community Mental Health Programme
  - West Bank: ‘Al Haq Kindergarten’ in Al Aqaba in partnership with the Al Aqaba Rural Women’s Association.

## Abir's Garden: a Safe Place to Grow





Abir Aramin:  
1997-2007

## To make them safe:

- Nearly 4 years of RA legal work to use the U.S. Leahy Laws to advance Palestinian human rights, esp. rights of children.
- Goal: Require all Israeli soldiers to stay far away from Palestinian schools, playgrounds.
- Approach: Use Leahy Law to stop U.S. aid and training of West Bank unit of Israeli Border Police until perpetrators are brought to justice.
- This key case sets precedent.

### Results

Nov. 2010: Break-through at the UN Human Rights Council with Norway presenting RA's message in review of the US Human Rights Report

Aug. 2, 2011: Message from Sen. Leahy's senior staff saying that now, post verdict by the Israeli High Court, the case is being raised at the highest levels of the U.S. State Dept.

In Gaza,  
rebuilding +  
NGO  
certification  
strategy  
to  
open the  
blockade







- In 2003, in the West Bank village of Al Aqaba, Rebuilding Alliance (RA) began building a kindergarten that now serves 130 students from all the neighboring areas!
  - The Japanese, Belgians, and Norwegians paid for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor! 17 other embassies , UN Agencies, and NGOs helped too!
- Recently, the RA added the Ibn Rush'd Library, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor with a Sewing Room for the Rural Women's Cooperative! RA also helped complete housing for visiting teachers.
- From Jul 21-28, 2011, RA held a remarkable Architectural Design Charrette in Al Aqaba called "Rebuilding a Future in Palestine!"



In 2003, RA received a small grant to build a school that would not be demolished.

We thought Al Aqaba village would be our safest project because:

- Not near borders
- No settlements nearby
- In 2002, Al Aqaba won their case before Israeli High Court; the Israeli Army complied and moved their training camp out of the village!
- Villagers were now ready to move home -- so RA provided a grant to help them build a kindergarten.



In 2003, the whole village came under demolition orders



### Demolition Orders on 39 buildings:

- all the homes but two,
  - our kindergarten,
  - the medical clinic, and
- even the beautiful Sallahudin al Ayyubi Mosque built with a double minaret in the shape of a peace sign.



In 2003, the American Embassy pro-actively helped stop the bulldozers with 2 homes demolished.



The Rebuilding Alliance helped Al Aqaba hire a lawyer who petitioned the Israeli High Court.



In 2008, as the court date drew near, the children of the village began to make “Pinwheels for Peace,” writing and drawing what peace means.



## IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO SAVE A VILLAGE

RA moved our office into a tent in front of the Palo Alto, CA City Hall.

Within a few days, we were invited to Washington DC to learn how to walk the halls of Congress as hundreds of Americans called in to ask their elected officials to save the kindergarten of Al Aqaba.



- Sep. 08, RA then brought the mayor of Al Aqaba, and the director of kindergarten to visit Congress
- Senator Levin's staffers said they would help – and told us our cause is strengthened when 1000 constituents say they care.
- In Feb. 09 we delivered 6000 signed post-cards
- In Aug. 09 Senator Levin sent a public letter to the State Department asking them to assist in saving Al Aqaba – and they have.
- The U.S. State Department visits Al Aqaba regularly.



April 7, 2011: Israeli Army Demolition Bulldozers destroy Peace Road and two small homes with animal stables









How  
will the children

reach their Kindergarten



NOW?

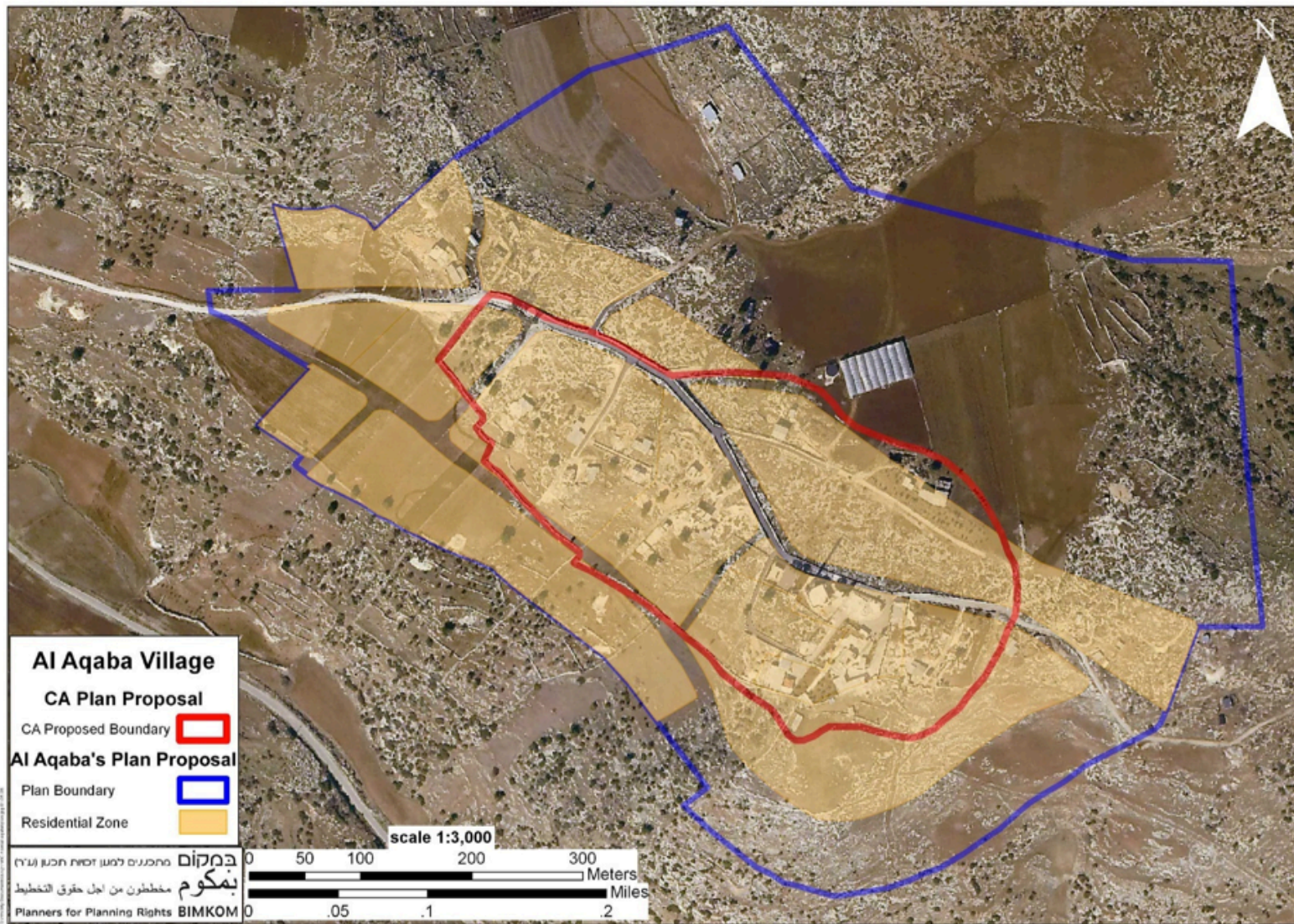
- Al Aqaba's minivan bus makes 4 round-trips each day to pick-up then drop-off 130 kindergarteners plus 70 school children.

# May 14-17, 2011

## RA petitions then visits Congress

- to press the Israeli Gov. to repave and re-open the Peace Road by urging members of Congress to call Israeli Embassy and U.S. State Dept.
- While RA is in DC, Haj Sami starts repaving Peace Road!
- Aug. 3 2011: RA team meets with Israeli Civil Admin. A letter from Congresswoman Jackie Speier is on desk of the very man who issues demolition orders to Al Aqaba!





The Village Owns Clear Title to All its Land  
**Israeli Army's Plan** vs. the Village Plan



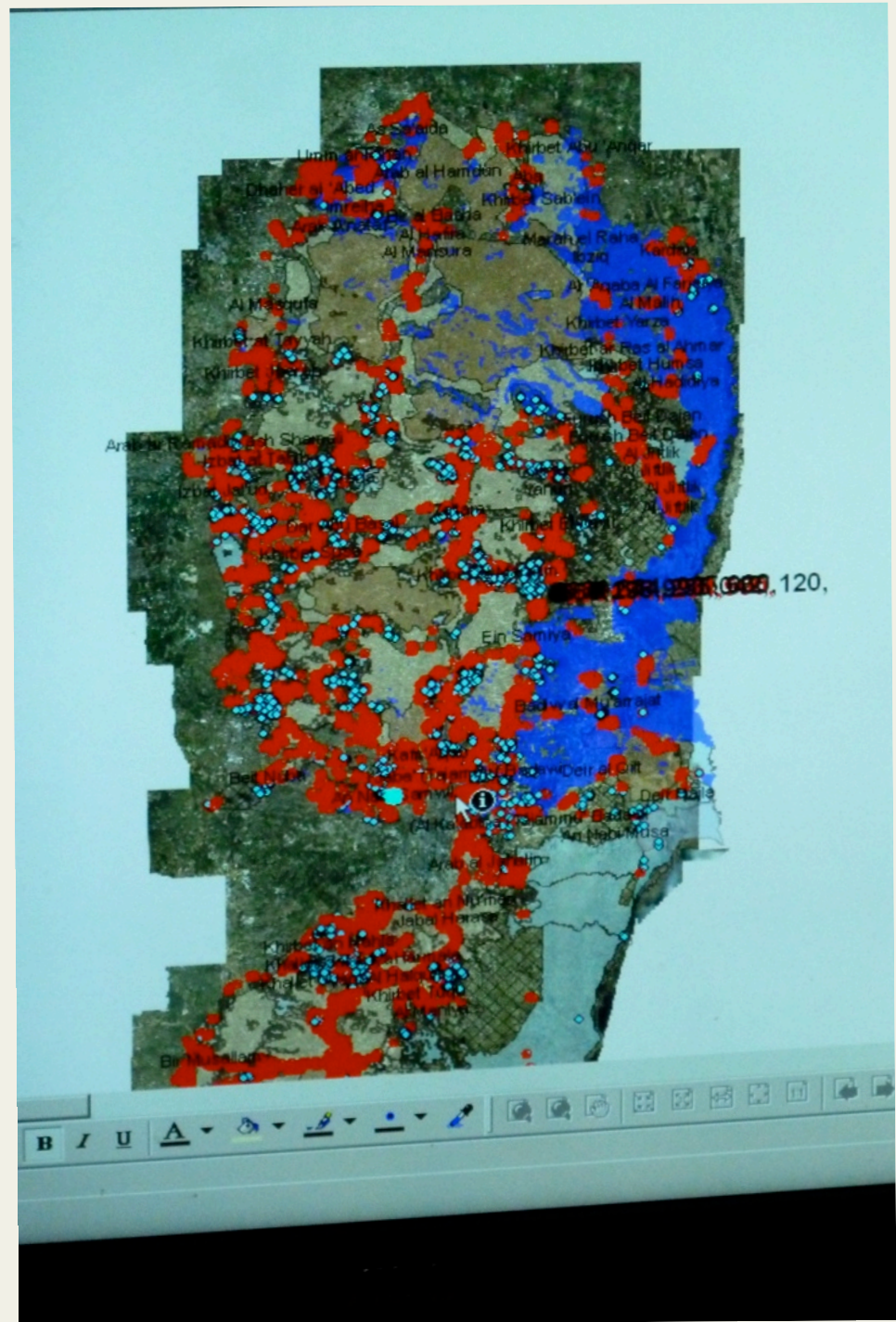
In an effort to save as many homes from demolition as possible, lawyers for the village will soon submit a 3rd, smallest, urban plan.



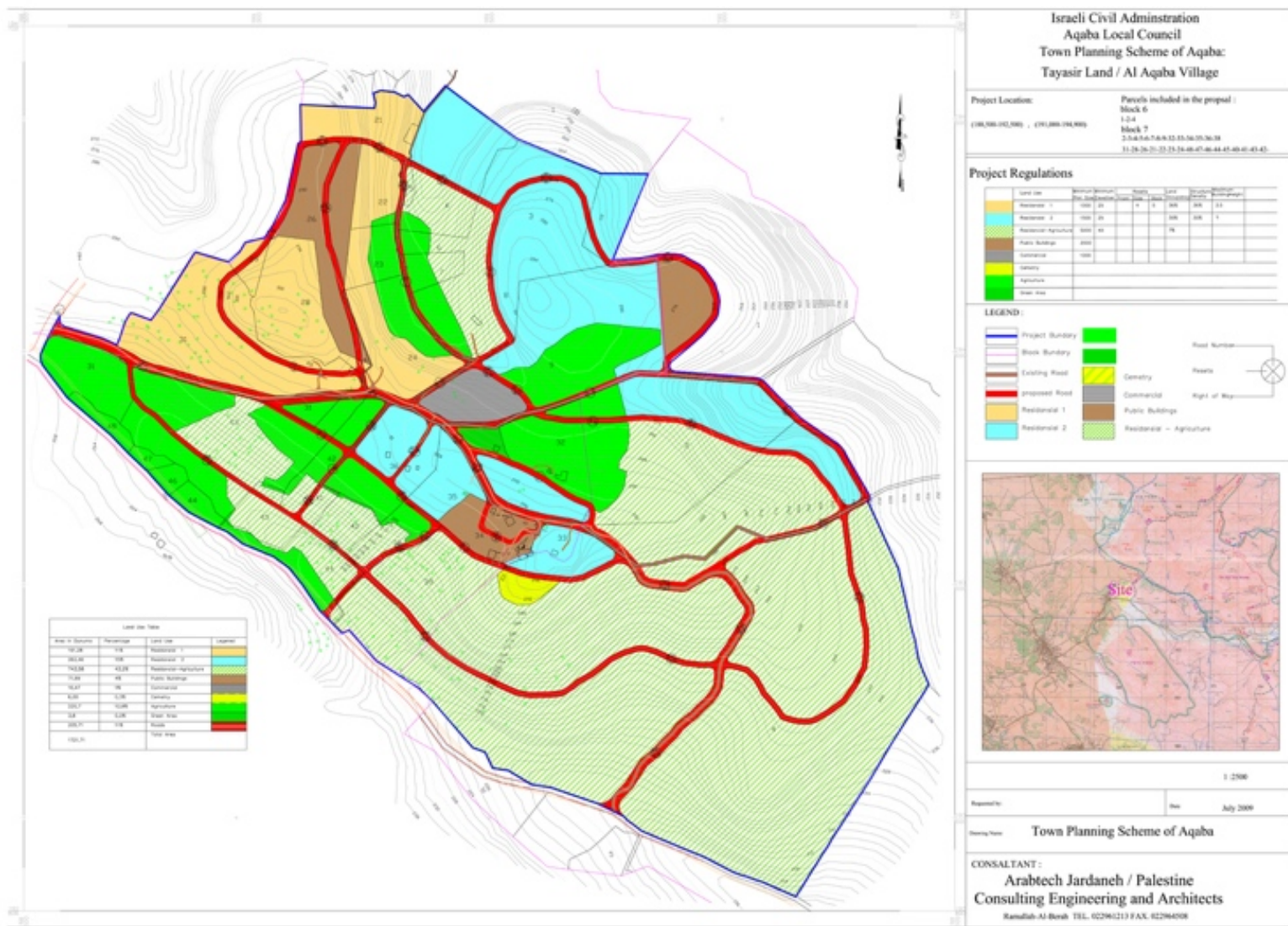
The Israeli Civil Administration made it clear:  
despite clear title there is NO right to build,  
NO Insurance against demolition



Al Aqaba is but one example:  
The Israeli Army has issued over  
12,500 demolition orders to  
Palestinian structures in Area C.  
Israeli human rights group  
BIMKOM: Planners for Planning  
Rights received all the data from  
the Israeli Army by court order







Dream Big with Al Aqaba

# Homes with Dignity:

## 20 homes for Al Aqaba

1. Outstanding Architectural Design
  - affordable, meeting the needs of the families
  - Design Charrette with Village July 21-29, 2011
2. Mortgage-Financing
  - \$100/mo repayment of \$15,450 loan to the Village's new co-op fund, "Al Aqaba Cooperative Assembly for Housing Displaced" (ACAHD) with bundled payments to Rebuilding Alliance.
  - ACAHD insured against nonpayment
3. Investors take full risk of likely demolition.



July 21, 2011  
pre- Charrette  
1st meeting of  
Architects &  
Engineers

Big Challenge:  
a \$20K cap



## Award-winning architect Hani Hassan





PROJECT: MR. WILLIAM SHAKER VILLA  
LOCATION: EL-DHAKKI, PALESTINE  
PERIOD: JUNE 2007



PROJECT: HOUSE OF ISMA  
LOCATION: RAMALLAH, PALESTINE  
PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2004



PROJECT: DESERT HOUSE PROJECT  
JERICHO - PALESTINE  
INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE AWARD 2010



PROJECT: CASH JARAWIYAH  
LOCATION: BURJA, PALESTINE  
PERIOD: DECEMBER 2004



PROJECT: DR. ISMAIL MUBALAK VILLA  
LOCATION: RAMALLAH, PALESTINE  
PERIOD: DECEMBER 2008

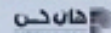


PROJECT: MR. ISHAY HADI VILLA  
LOCATION: EL-SHAY, PALESTINE  
PERIOD: JUNE 2004



### RAMALLAH MEDICAL SECTOR MASTER PLAN

المستشفى القومي تلمي الطبي



Preparation: Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction "ECDR"

إمكاني التكديف المعماري للتشبيك والاعمار "بناجر"



PROJECT: PRESIDENTIAL GUEST HOUSE  
LOCATION: BURJA, PALESTINE  
PERIOD: JUNE 2004



PROJECT: PRESIDENTIAL GUEST HOUSE





**هاني حسن**  
معماريون ومهندسون استشاريون  
HANI HASSAN ARCHITECTS

**DESERT HOUSE PROJECT  
JERICHO - PALESTINE**

**INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE AWARD 2010**





July 22, 2011

Al Aqaba's  
Mayor  
Haj Sami  
Sadeq  
and team

Saturday, July 23, 2011

Al Aqaba's  
Architectural Design Charrette  
begins by meeting with the  
three families,  
then meeting with  
Village Council







Architect Hani Hassan describing possibilities



The next day,  
Charrette Leader  
Steve Coyle begins  
work with Haj Sami  
to draw layers of a  
detailed urban plan  
like no other.  
Given Israel's  
demolition orders,  
each decision to  
construct a new set  
of homes in Al Aqaba  
will be contingent  
upon the changing  
winds of Occupation  
and Diplomacy.



Tuesday  
July 26, 2011  
Presentation of  
First Draft  
Designs  
to the  
Families!



A big problem:  
the families need 3  
bedrooms and have  
fallen in love with  
designs that are  
far too expensive.





How will we solve this problem?  
How can we build a big enough home when the most they can afford is 97 sq m?





Thursday,  
July 28 2011

Final  
Presentation





We  
have nearly found  
a way:  
119 sq.m.  
expandable  
to include a  
future  
2nd storey!







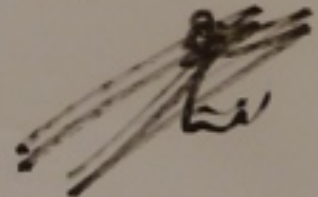
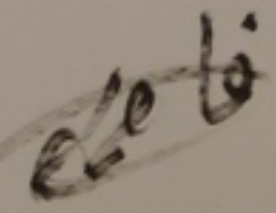
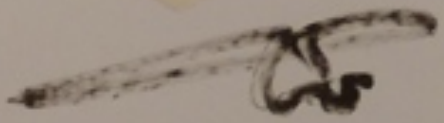
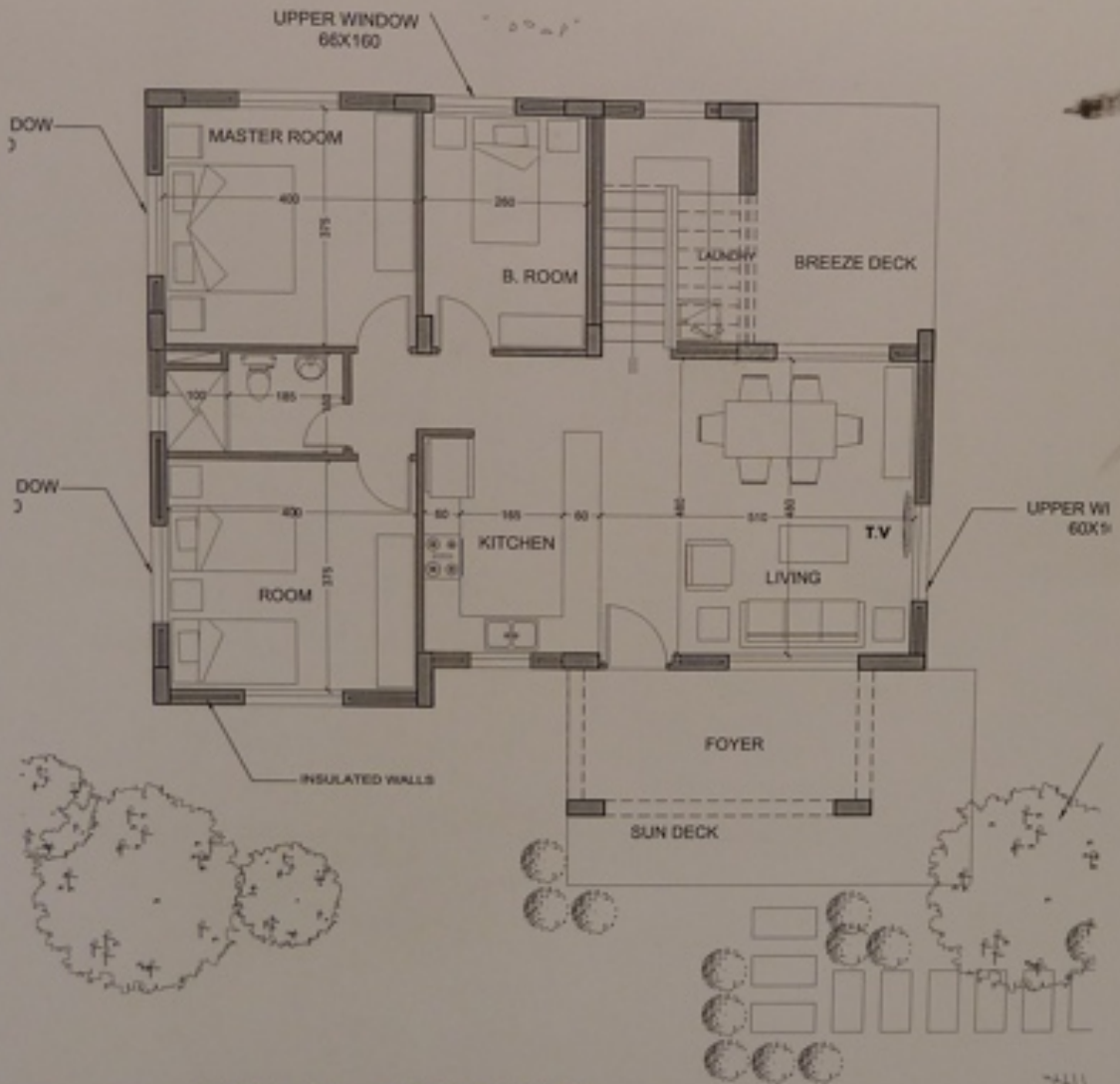






EVER GREEN TREES

1. ALL FINISHES TO BE COMPLETED.  
2. ANY ENCLOSURES ARE TO BE BRANDED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ARCHITECT AND REGULARS BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF ANY WORK.  
3. ALL FINISH FLOOR AREAS ARE 1.0M<sup>2</sup> HIGHER THAN BATH ROOMS FINISH LEVEL.  
KEY PLAN



**AREA : 119 M2  
PROTOTYPE A  
STAGE 3**

# Finance Model for 119 sq.m.

• RA: raise donations for down payments (gift)	\$5000
• RA: raise investment to provide mortgage loans for new homes (and also for nearly-finished homes < \$10,000)	\$15,000
• ACAHD has collected 3000JD/family to provide	\$5,150
• Proposal: Land Guard Program Match	\$5,150
• ACAHD to dig foundations	\$700
• Families to assist in finishing	<u>\$2000</u>
Total:	\$33,000

# Dream Big

- Village growth in Layers of development
  - Build Internet cafe, Farmer's Market, Community Oven, Dairy products - ice cream factory!
  - Receive Vatican Land: Secondary School, Rehabilitation Hospital /birthing center, soccer field
  - Next: model green building methods!
  - Create center for alternative energy: wind-power, sun-power, biofuels

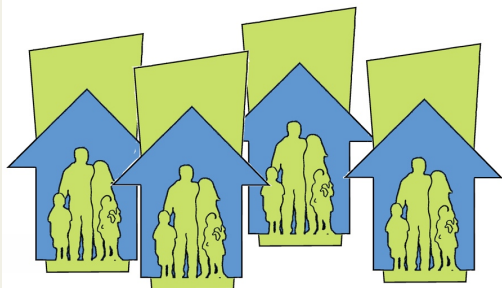
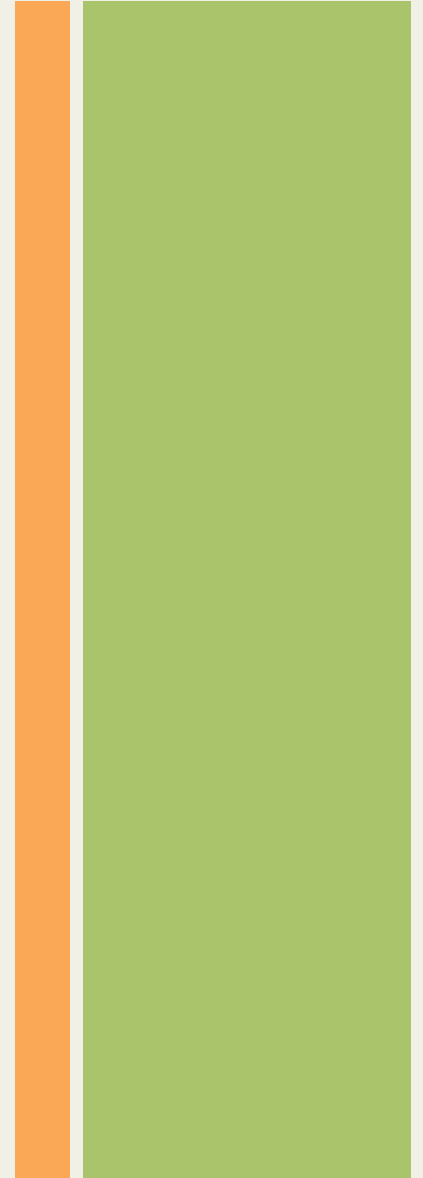
# With the Prime Minister's Help, Al Aqaba will become a Model for Palestinian villages in Jordan Valley

- Colorful, affordable homes that grow in love and value through the years;
- Town plans for development and growth even in Area C;
- Worldwide civic engagement to keep these village standing;
- An exciting, positive way to become a focal point for sustainable community!

- **DREAM BIG:**

“In order to do something big — to think globally and act globally — one starts with something small and one starts where it counts.”

– Professor Nabeel Hamdi, Small Change



We ask your help