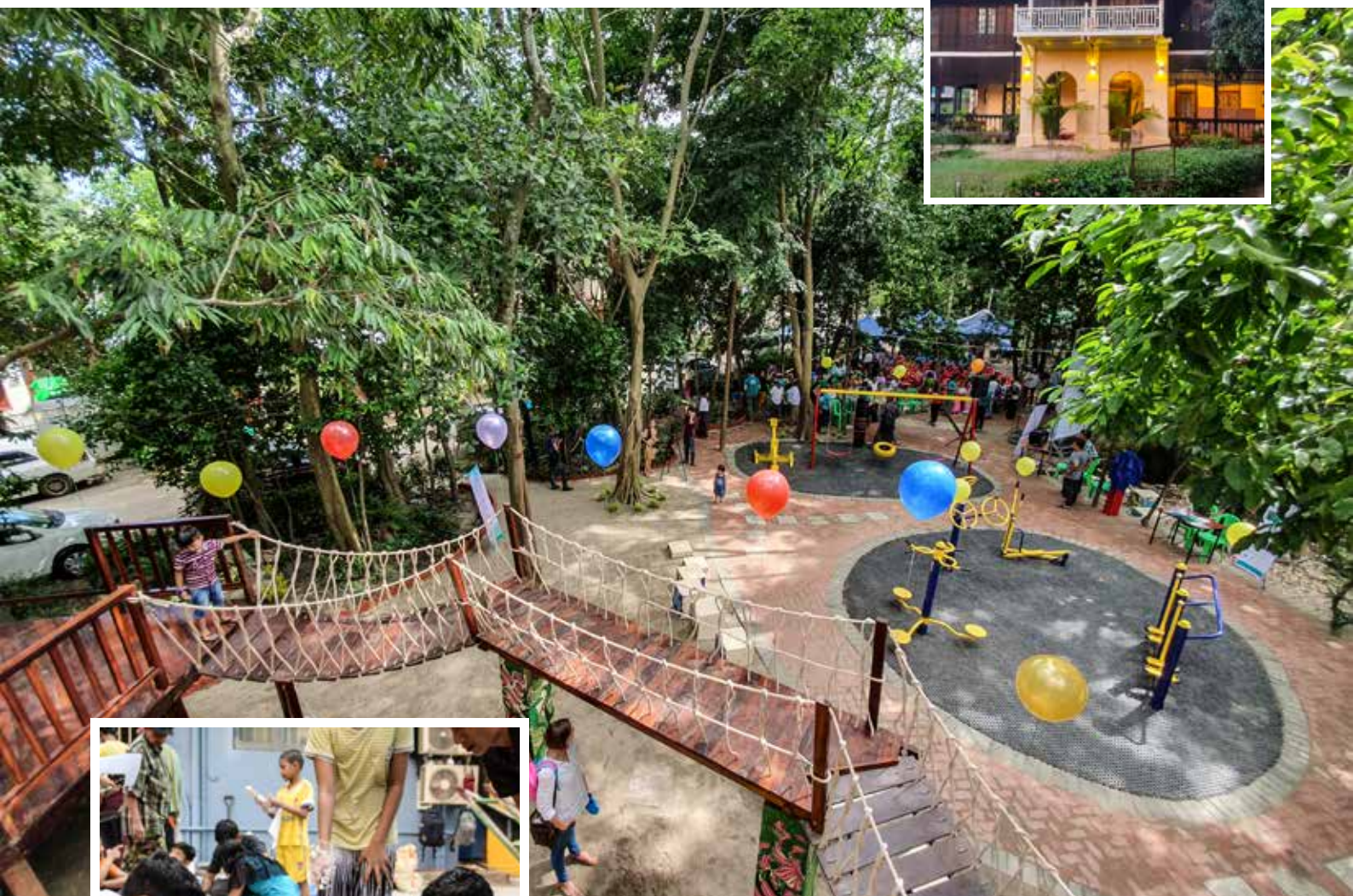




ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2020-2021
(OCTOBER TO SEPTEMBER)

ABOUT DOH EAIN

Doh Eain ("Our Home") is a multi-disciplinary restoration and placemaking social enterprise founded in Yangon in 2017. Doh Eain is registered as a company in Singapore (Holding) and in Myanmar (Limited). We rely on and apply a diversified set of financing methods, working with investors, clients and partners on revenue and non-revenue generating projects.

VISION: Collectively, we can make cities more vibrant, inclusive and sustainable places to live, work and enjoy.

MISSION: Doh Eain preserves heritage, improves public spaces and organises activities that connect people with places, employing a user-centered, participatory approach. In doing this we aim to inspire and enable people to participate in re-shaping their city while retaining cultural heritage.

MYANMAR:

📍 No.112, 41 Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

SINGAPORE:

📍 100 Tras Street, 100 AM #16-01 079027 Singapore.

✉ contact@doheain.com 🌐 www.doheain.com 🏠 heritagehomes.doheain.com

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MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

We thought last year was tough in Myanmar, and then February 2021 happened.

EMILIE RÖELL
Founder & Director

For several weeks we thought Doh Eain's journey was over. With several of our friends and acquaintances losing their lives or their freedom, it was hard to see beyond the day. In March we decided to pause and go into a company-wide hibernation. Everyone was sent on leave till the end of April and only a small group of six stayed on to manage the essentials, and to think.

It is hard to summarise what happened from that moment onwards, but it has been quite extraordinary.

While COVID-19 hit us hard in 2020, it deeply strengthened a sense of shared values and resolve within Doh Eain, and equipped us with crisis response skills and tools that now proved even more important. The fact we had staff locked out of the country because of COVID, now provided safety and headspace for strategic thinking and communications. Project partners showed tremendous understanding and provided flexibility and support for pivots. And our diverse and committed team, Board and Advisory Board helped us look at our strengths afresh, ensuring we found new ways to remain relevant.

Even though the situation in Myanmar continues to be rather grim, I am happy to say that today Doh Eain is in a strong position to remain in service to Yangon. Our heritage properties and restoration work are now much more targeted at the local Myanmar market, ultimately the most important target audience for heritage preservation to be deeply meaningful. Public space activities are difficult at the moment, but interesting new opportunities are on the horizon that will see our 18 Doh Eain public spaces being used for community based mental resilience and wellbeing initiatives. Our research, community engagement and outreach work has grown tremendously, enabling us to help provide immediate relief to the many Yangon neighbourhoods and communities that are so dear to us.





“

EVEN THOUGH PROSPECTS IN MYANMAR CONTINUE TO BE VERY GRIM, I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT TODAY DOH EAIN IS IN A STRONG POSITION TO REMAIN IN SERVICE TO YANGON.

We are now also actively pushing our work beyond borders, having started market research and first activities in Georgia, the Philippines, India and Thailand.

I am incredibly proud of the Doh Eain team, for having shown such courage, resilience and dedication this past year. And I am very grateful to our Board, Advisory Board, project partners, donors, clients and vendors for the support you have all given us this past year. So many of you have gone out of your ways to help us see and realise new ways forward.

We hope you enjoy this report. And we hope that you shall join us in our next steps, both in and outside Myanmar!

Yours sincerely

Emilie

KEY MOMENTS FY 2020-2021



MYANMAR'S CURRENCY FALLS TO AN ALL-TIME LOW

at 2200 MMK to the dollar
(compared to 1330 on February 1)

Management prepares to travel to **Georgia** to explore opportunities, while also undertaking market research in **Thailand, India** and **the Philippines** for new activities.

Doh Eain Myanmar's risk framework is updated and the team prepares to start FY 2021/22 with a new hybrid model combining the best of remote work with having a safe and stable office space.



Doh Eain has secured a number of new partnerships, allowing us to continue our work reducing the risk of further interruptions or lay-offs.

A third, much more deadly COVID-19 Wave (the delta variant) hits Myanmar.

Tens of thousands of people struggle to find oxygen and many lives were lost.

Rapidly deteriorating cash crisis affects everyone.

To try get just a small quantity of cash, one has to line up early and for many hours at any of the local banks.

Doh Eain restarts with a 3 month horizon to continue (now pivoted) projects.

Farewell to 3 dear colleagues

THINGYAN HOLIDAY

is cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic.

APR

MAY

JUN

JUL

AUG

SEP

2021

DESIGN

Publication of the Cultural Heritage Finance Alliance seminal study **"Impact and Identity, Investing in Heritage for Sustainable Development"**.

This report features Doh Eain's restoration model along with 5 other world renowned approaches

**RESEARCH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

With more formal donor support, the **Yangon Neighbourhood Network** starts supporting **thousands of families with weekly food baskets**

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Cities for People module developed for the **Young City Shapers** program with the support of the Danish Embassy.

The module will help Myanmar students engage with Jahn Gehl's seminal work and apply it to their praxis.

**RESEARCH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Focus on support to the trishaw driving community.

Trishaw drivers were vital actors in the 3rd COVID-19 wave, volunteering their services for free to help distribute medicine to sick patients.

DESIGN

Restart of our 23rd restoration project on Bo Aung Kyaw street.

Having pivoted our property marketing towards the local Myanmar market, the design is approached differently with a view to **flexibility and affordability**

**RESEARCH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Our **100th member vetted and enrolled in Yangon Neighbourhood Network**

Each member expands our reach by an average of 4,500 new people.

RESEARCH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

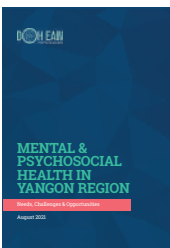
The Yangon Neighbourhood Network initiative wins the **Social Innovation Grand Challenge from the Asia Preparedness Partnership**.

This funding will enable us to further build up systems and ICT of the network with a view to replicability and scalability.

RESEARCH

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) project completed.

Over 20 members from the YNN received training in basic counselling from Counseling Corner and start rolling out activities for their communities. (Activities ranged from spending time in nature to online wellbeing session with members of the deafcommunity).



OUR WORK & IMPACT TO DATE

Doh Eain takes a unique approach to urban regeneration and development.

USER CENTERED & PARTICIPATORY

As a **user centered, participatory practice**, building owners and city residents are always central in our projects. Rather than just beneficiaries, they are our partners and we work together closely to maximise our understanding of needs and opportunities, as well as to empower and build long-term agency.

INCLUSIVENESS

In these co-design processes, as well as for the spaces we ultimately look to create, **inclusivity** is a key consideration. We proactively work towards ensuring that girls and women, people with disabilities, or the elderly, for example, can equally participate in and enjoy our processes and spaces.

ASSET BASED

Central in our design philosophy is a focus on identifying and unlocking the value and potential of already existing historical, cultural, social and natural assets in neighbourhoods. This focus on existing **assets** helps build ownership, pride and positivity in communities, rather than the disempowering approach of focusing on problems.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE

We are deeply aware of the environmental challenges our world is facing, from which developing countries like Myanmar stand to suffer a great deal. As such, **environmental sustainability** underlies all of our design thinking. We use sustainable materials and re-use, and where possible our projects contribute to biodiversity and health in the city.

FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE

Finally, we believe that **financial sustainability** of projects is essential to achieve long-term impact and scale, and want our projects to contribute to the **livelihoods** of people wherever possible, e.g. through the increase of the value of their asset or new income opportunities.

Applying these five principles, Doh Eain:

- undertakes in-depth **urban research** and applies a wide range of online and offline techniques to engage and collaborate with communities (p. 12-15 of this report)
- works on the improvement and creation of **public space** and other projects that positively affect (our experience of) public spaces in the city (p. 16-17)
- works on the **restoration** and **management** of privately owned heritage properties (p. 20-21)
- undertakes **outreach and capacity building** activities to build the next generation of city shapers (22-23)



Doh Eain works on different scales.

1. We work with individual heritage **apartment** or **building** owners on restoration and preservation.
2. Working hand in hand with local residents we also take a very proactive approach to upgrading of **common and public spaces**. An example is our alleyway project: turning downtown trash alleys into alley gardens featuring plants, playgrounds, exercise space, art and other elements wanted by the street.
3. Finally we work with **neighbourhood** level organisations on initiatives that strengthen wellbeing and resilience in communities.

**FROM RESIDENTIAL
UNITS AND
BUILDINGS, TO
STREETS AND
BLOCKS, TO
NEIGHBOURHOODS**



SELECTIONS OF DOH EAIN PROJECTS

APARTMENT

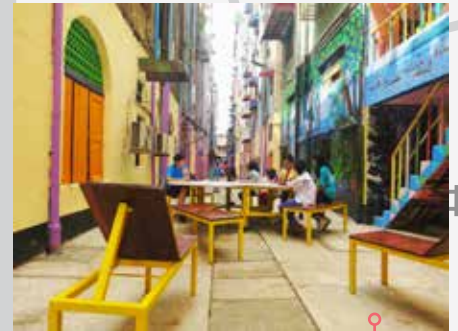
- 6101 145, BOGALAYZAY ST
- 6104 190, 29TH ST
- 6105 106, 42ND ST
- 6106 46, 25TH ST
- 7101.1 167, 47TH ST
- 7101.2 167, 47TH ST
- 7101.3 167, 47TH ST
- 7103 110, 41ST ST
- 8101 74, 44TH ST
- 8102 137, 40TH ST
- 8103 144(3A), BOGALAYZAY ST
- 8104 144, BOGALAYZAY ST
- 8105 115, TOP FLOOR, 43RD ST
- 8106 82A, BOAUNGKYAW ST
- 8107 82B, BOAUNGKYAW ST
- 8108.1 46A, PHOE SEIN ST
- 8108.2 46A, PHOE SEIN ST
- 9101 436, MARCHANT RD
- 9102 196/198, 30TH ST
- 9105 102, 42ND ST
- 9106 112, 1ST FLOOR, 41ST ST
- 9107 192, BO AUNG KYAW ST
- 20102 143, BOGALAY ZAY ST
- 21101 46, PHOE SEIN RD
- 21103 BOAUNGKYAW APRTMENT

ALLEY GARDEN

- 7302 39TH-SEIKKANHA ST. MB
- 7303 31ST-32ND ST. MB
- 8301 29TH-SHWEBONTHAR UB
- 8302 31ST-BOSONPAT ST. MB
- 8303 41ST-42ND ST. MB
- 8304 35TH-BAR ST. UB
- 8305 27TH-285H ST. MB
- 8306 BOSSONPAT-30TH ST. UB
- 9301 101ST-THEIN PHYU UB
- 9302 31ST-BOSONPAT LB
- 9303 31ST-32ND ST. LB
- 20301 - 29TH-30TH ST. UB

OTHER PUBLIC SPACES

- 8401 YANKIN
- 8405 BOGALAY ZAY ST UPGRADE
- 9402 HLAING THAR YAR



20301
8301 8306 8305
6104 9102
8302 7103

25th St
26th St
Kone Zay Tan St
27th St
28th St

SHWEBONTHAR ST

29th St
30th St
Bo Son Pat St
31st St
32nd St

6106

9302 9303



RESEARCH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

THE CHALLENGE WE SEEK TO ADDRESS: There is limited data available about the tangible and intangible fabric of Yangon and the other urban centres of Myanmar, including land and building use, demography and behaviour (how people live in and interact with the city), or economics and the environment. There are also very few opportunities for citizens to get involved in shaping their neighbourhoods and city.

OUR APPROACH: Our research work seeks to fill the gap by using diverse research methodologies including surveys, interviews, observations, mapping and ethnographic research to understand the city better. Our community engagement work applies our tailored “Doh Eain Guide to Design” toolkit to build the enthusiastic involvement and ownership of communities in our own heritage and public realm activities as well as those of our clients and partners.

MAIN INITIATIVES:

1. **The Yangon Neighbourhood Network (YNN):** a network of now 100+ neighbourhood based local organisations engaging with their communities on a variety of topics and issues. Through and with the YNN we undertake research, data collection, community engagement and relief activities.
2. **Digital Networks** including for Young Professionals & Volunteers, Street Artists, Street Vendors, Cyclists as well as specific neighbourhoods, helping us engage with, better understand and mobilise specific groups for specific projects.
3. **I Do Nation** as a crowdfunding brand and mechanism for flexible and immediate funding to respond to urgent needs.
4. The **Doh Eain Guide to Design:** a homegrown resource that sets out a range of tools and techniques to engage and co-create with communities.



DOH EAIN'S RESEARCH WORK

Doh Eain's approach to research is unique. Our socio-spatial and design based approach means we recognise people do not exist independently of their physical and digital contexts. Through our extensive community networks we are able to reach all types of households and people in every part of the city. And our team is trained in a broad variety of HCD tools and techniques that helps them stand in the shoes of those they are researching and designing for.

During COVID we have effectively transitioned many of our community engagement and research activities to remote platforms including sms, phone, Facebook groups and messenger, Viber and Sigal groups, alongside Zoom and GoogleMeet.

In 2020 we remotely surveyed 2,276 street vendors, and worked on multiple online co-design processes with a variety of people including those with typically low access to technology, such as elderly, people with disabilities and low income communities.

In 2021 we invested heavily in digital safety and security to ensure our research and engagement practices were aligned with best practice and enabling us to confidently grow this service offering.

Some of the themes Doh Eain has undertaken research are; children's play and preferences for play opportunities, safety for girls, street vending, mental health and neighbourhood dynamics of trust & collaboration during crisis.



IMPACT ACHIEVED:

7,944

people involved in participatory design research and workshops since 2017.

4,030

people part of Doh Eain's digital network.

102

community groups in YNN reaching an estimate of 459,000 people.

591,225\$

distributed to vulnerable communities in Yangon, as cash or in-kind donations via the YNN.

10

Neighborhood-based MHPSS activities delivered by YNN members.

YANGON NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

The Yangon Neighbourhood Network (YNN), now has more than 100 diverse grass-roots organizations throughout Yangon. From urban farming groups to elderly residents committees to organizations dedicated to helping people with disabilities to youth focused groups our aim is to create a Network that has a community group for everyone. YNN is a mechanism to help build resilience, respond effectively during crises and enhance the quality of neighbourhood-life in Yangon.

THE HISTORY OF THE YNN



Photo: Myanmar Times

When the first wave of COVID occurred in Myanmar we observed so many of the community groups we worked with in Yangon for our public space respond to the crisis. Communities began creating pop-up handwash stations from cheap and local materials, prepared meals for people who needed to quarantine and created dedicated social media groups to share information. One neighbourhood even created a moving market so people could safely shop from their doorstep. Despite limited resources communities responded quickly and innovated. We wanted to find a way to support and foster this innovation and culture of fast effective responses by community groups for their communities.

So in March 2020 Doh Eain established the Network. Initially the focus was to share PPE resources among our community networks, as the waves of COVID continued and the crisis intensified in 2021 the YNN has continued to grow in membership and activities.



Photo: Bawa Pann Daing

THE FUTURE OF THE YNN

Over the last one and a half years, our place-based nature and bottom up, user-centered and co-creative design approach have proven powerful in the ideation and launch of humanitarian & development activities. Deeply embedded in the neighbourhoods we work in, we are able to navigate physical places, social networks and nurture locally existing community leadership and initiative. Our place-based approaches provide community members and stakeholders with a clear framework for identifying and responding to local needs, while our user-centered and co-creative approach ensures meaningful engagement, tailored solutions and decentralised decision-making.

In September 2021 the YNN won the Social Innovation Grand Challenge from the Asia Preparedness Partnership. This funding will enable us to further build up systems and ICT of the network with a view to replicability and scalability.



EXAMPLES OF YNN ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

15

members trained in basic counselling skills.

240

people reached with community-based MHPSS activities.

30,000

vulnerable households supported with food and cash relief

668,944

estimated meals provided

10

mini projects including the distribution of 250 bamboo toothbrushes, 1000 positivity book-marks, 1 wheelchair, 7.5 kgs of clothes, 2 laptops, 2 printers and 14 pieces of furniture

PUBLIC SPACE DESIGN

THE CHALLENGE: There is a significant lack of public space in Yangon. Yangon inhabitants only have 0.37 square meters of public space per person. In comparison Jakarta has 6 square meters, Bangkok has 8.5 square meters and Paris 30 square meters. In addition, the quality of Yangon's public spaces is poor, with limited options for recreation and activity and poor maintenance.

OUR APPROACH: We believe that public spaces are vital for people and cities. They stimulate local economies, support healthy behaviours and create a sense of identity and social cohesion. Therefore we undertake participatory design and construction of public spaces, with a focus on inclusive design (particularly for youth, girls and women), environmental sustainability and financial management.

MAIN INITIATIVES:

1. **The Great Places Network & Fund:** over the last 4 years Doh Eain has built 19 public spaces including 12 alleyways under the Alley Garden Project, which we have brought together under the Great Places Network & Fund. The Network & Fund entail a community led governance mechanism for all 19 places with representatives from each location, and pooled funds and joint initiatives to ensure maintenance and vibrancy.
2. **Girl Led Placemaking:** Doh Eain is specialized in inclusive placemaking, particularly the inclusion and participation of girls. We have built 2 public spaces entirely designed and led by girls, bringing significant attention to challenges around safety in the city for girls and women.
3. **Street Furniture:** over the years we have gradually tested and learned what materials and designs are most suitable for Yangon's public spaces, and most loved by Yangon's communities. This work has developed into a suite of solutions for improving public (and private) spaces that can be utilised in multiple ways to provide recreation, relaxation, safety and fun.



IMPACT ACHIEVED:

443,554\$

Invested in the design, transformation & maintenance of public spaces

18

Total number of public spaces & committees

68,750

people living within 500 meters of these spaces.

18

residents committees formed and supported to help shape and maintain their public spaces.

25%

of committee members under the age of 35 and 30% of the committee members are women - a 14% increase since 2017.



Doh Eain's public space activities have been severely disrupted by COVID-19 and this year's political events. We are currently predominantly focused on maintaining our existing Doh Eain public spaces and are looking for new partnerships that can help support this.

FEATURED PROJECT:

Climate Resilience for Water Security in Thaketa

With a Dutch consortium of technical specialists Doh Eain has been part of a diverse team bringing Climate Resilience and Water Security to Thaketa since 2019, using an innovative community led approach to integrate technical solutions.

2020 was a challenging year for the project with the Global Pandemic causing restrictions in our engagement methods, however 2021 took the challenge to new levels due to the political situation, with Thaketa becoming a hot spot for conflict. The team, already adept at adapting, re-thinking and shifting, were many times forced to think flexibly about delivering solutions and creating impact for the network. Our community members became 'Rainwater Champions' providing us with valuable on the ground data and insights, and our collaboration with Minecraft / UN-Habitat developed into an extremely successful digital placemaking education tool, focusing specifically on water issues around climate change.



The challenges of the past two years have encouraged our team at Doh Eain to push the boundaries of our knowledge and methodology past our comfort zones and into the exciting unknown. As the circumstances left us bereft of in-person alternatives, the team explored new and meaningful ways to engage with our community and stakeholders without diluting the impact and the experience. We developed a robust toolset of online and telecommunication engagement tools that provided a solid foundation for us to remain connected throughout the project, but the volatile times still called for us to constantly adapt and innovate.

Of all the different tools we tried and tested, that of gamification in particular caught our attention and imagination. Games are a well of untapped potential that allowed participants to engage with our content more immersively, enabling us to adapt to our socially-distanced environment in a way that added value instead of merely being reactionary.

Ultimately, we decided to incorporate the multiplayer sandbox game Minecraft as a key tool for one of our main interventions - an online water education and participatory urban design program for youths called Yangon Raincraft. Developing the program with support from the UN Block by Block foundation was a novel experience for both of us.

The results exceeded our expectations by allowing us to forge deeper connections with young people and inspiring them in a way like never before. Seeing the impact as participants envisioned a sustainable future for their community and built their own climate resilient city within Minecraft, especially in the midst of a global pandemic and a brutal coup, has unequivocally made this one of the most remarkable and rewarding experiences of this incredible two-year journey. But above all, the significance of Yangon Raincraft lay in the fact that its success was a true testament to the resilience of the youth in Myanmar, and their unwavering passion to create a better future even in the face of such extenuating circumstances.



SWAN YEE TUN LWIN

Local Implementation
Manager

Despite the many challenges of the past couple of years, the Thaketa project team has been able to develop and test plans to become more resilient together with the respective community stakeholders. Even though meeting in person regularly was difficult, the community participated actively in the online activities such as design workshops, and the COVID-proofed offline activities such as the Rainwater Harvesting Pilots.

The community itself took responsibility for gathering data in their neighbourhood, which the project team then applied to deliver tailored solutions for various interventions, such as identifying households vulnerable to climate change.. Community participants became true champions and community leaders. Since Doh Eain's community engagement work emphasises participation and local ownership, we applaud and congratulate the Thaketa Ward 5 community.



MOH MOH NAY WIN

Community Engagement
Officer

RESTORATION & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



THURANE WIN
Property Management Officer



GULAM HLA TIN
Operations Manager

THE CHALLENGE: Yangon has over 6000 heritage properties in urgent need of protection. Few policies or measures are in place.

OUR APPROACH: Like in many cities, some level of interest exists in the preservation of Yangon’s large public buildings, while smaller privately owned heritage is overlooked. However, the vast majority of heritage in Yangon is privately owned by families. They generally lack awareness of the (potential) value of their asset, and lack access to finance and technical expertise to do something with their asset.

MAIN INITIATIVES:

1. **Heritage Homes:** partnering with heritage homeowners on investing in and unlocking the value of their heritage assets. This unique model maintains the original ownership of these buildings while restoring them to preserve and enhance the asset for the benefit of the owners and the wider community.
2. **Client projects** which range from financial advisory, identifying projects for sale, or restoration design & restoration supervision.

IMPACT ACHIEVED:

766,624\$

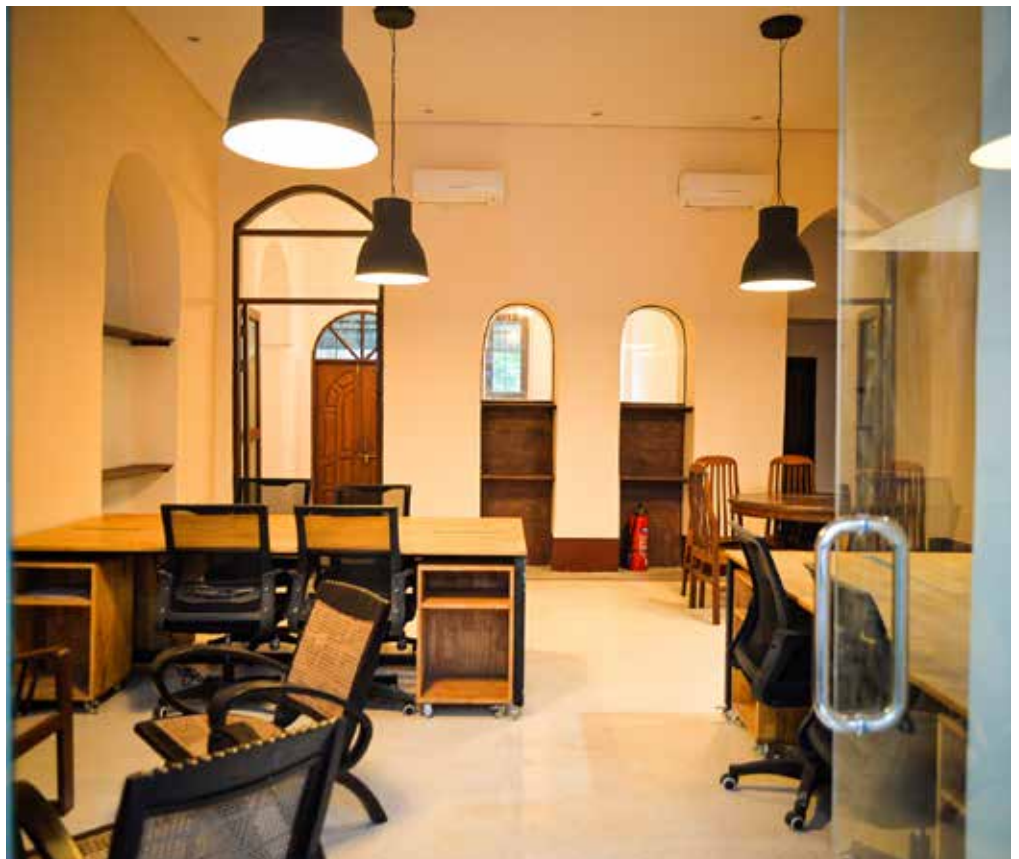
Total invested in
heritage restoration

27

properties restored

345,707\$

Generated for
homeowners



One of the biggest achievements of 2021 for me was completing 42nd street property in the highest standard amidst the chaos and unforeseeable circumstances of the time. The implementation stage of the project was hit by multiple covid waves and political instability and there were times where I thought that it is almost impossible to complete it within 2021. However, by virtue of Doh Eain's resilience and adaptability in finding ways to pivot the business across the difficult times, we managed to restart the project in May. I was both excited and anxious as there were many challenges, such as raising prices of construction materials and getting materials to site. But, thanks to our capable contractor and the project team, the project was finally completed. I am super proud and overjoyed at managing to push the project across the line as it exhibits the strong will of Doh Eain to deliver on its goals.



TUN YE WAI
Senior Architect

Upon seeing his heritage apartment completely renovated, the owner of 192 BAK remarked that it is beautiful and was very nicely done. "I am very happy and thankful that Doh Eain decided to proceed with renovation, amidst all the hardships caused by the political situations and the Covid." As a father of three young daughters, U Hla Min Oo finds these months financially challenging, and the rent share he's been receiving from Doh Eain is very helpful for his family. He hopes that his apartment will soon get a tenant who would find comfort and home in it.



U HLA MIN OO
Home Owner



PUBLIC OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Covid-19 and this year's political events have severely disrupted our public events and campaigns. We still continue to undertake as much public outreach as possible through our digital media channels.

From February 2021, Doh Eain has temporarily paused engaging local government and public officials in capacity building initiatives.

THE CHALLENGE: Public awareness of issues related to sustainable urban development is low, and the technical expertise required to address this challenge is limited.

OUR APPROACH: We aim to strengthen the public's engagement with place through outreach that uses experiences, entertainment and learning so that there is more interest and participation in sustainable urban development. We also work with students and professionals to build skills in heritage conservation, public space design and urban planning. At Doh Eain we believe that engaging more people in the shaping of their spaces will lead to real empowerment, informed debates and ultimately, to better cities.

MAIN INITIATIVES:

1. **Young City Shapers:** a program for students and young professionals providing theory, practical training, opportunities to gain hands-on experience, networking and small grants so that participants become equipped to tackle smaller or bigger issues in their neighbourhood.
2. **We the City Talks:** a monthly publicly accessible (now online) talk series on topics related to the liveability, sustainability and inclusiveness of Yangon's urban environment and ways forward.
3. **(Commissioned) Campaigns and Events:** organising campaigns and events for our clients and partners or on our own initiative.

WE THE CITY: MAKING YANGON

MENTAL & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT IN YANGON

BUILDING SKILLS AND FOSTERING COMMUNITY- BASED INTERVENTIONS

.....

Date - 2 December 2021

Time - 2:30 ~ 4:00 PM

Language - English

Platform:  zoom



EMILIE RÖELL
FOUNDER & DIRECTOR
DOH EAIN



MA SU
COUNSELLOR
COUNSELLING CORNER



ANNA LIVIA CULLINAN
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION
DOH EAIN

Organised by



FEATURED PROJECT:

- The Burmese language edition of Cities for People, the seminal book by famous Danish Architect Jan Gehl, was published in December 2020. The book was well received by the Myanmar audience and joined the handful of urban-related books published in Burmese language. The book was distributed to government ministers, municipal officials, members of parliaments, urban planners and designers and architecture departments of universities in Yangon and Mandalay.
- To introduce the Cities of People concepts and the humanistic urban planning principles to the local audience, a panel discussion with local experts and a virtual public lecture by Jan Gehl were also organized in October and December.
- To make the Cities for People concepts more accessible to young people, a series of training modules were developed, with the support of the Denmark Embassy in Myanmar. These modules will be incorporated in the Young City Shapers program.
- In January 2021, as part of We the City Talks, panel discussion on ambient air pollution was organized. The panelists included a government official, a public health expert, an urban planner and young activists, making the event particularly lively, engaging and informative.

IMPACT ACHIEVED:**217,912**

reached through public outreach activities since 2017

92,542

an additional people reached in FY 2020-2021



Cities for People
လူတို့အတွက်နေချင်စဖွယ်မြို့ပြများ
 ဒိန်းမတ်ဗိသုကာပညာရှင် Jan Gehl ၏
 အွန်လိုင်းဟောပြောပို့ချမှုနှင့် စာအုပ်မိတ်ဆက်ပွဲ

**Public Lecture with Jan Gehl
 and Book Launch**

Date : 15 December 2020, Tuesday
 Time : 2.30 - 4.00 PM

zoom 

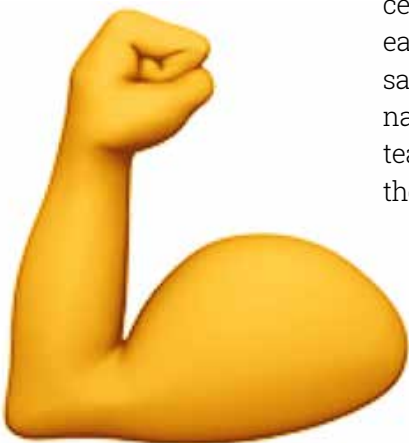
A YEAR OF RESILIENCE & INNOVATION - MANAGING A CREATIVE TEAM THROUGH CRISIS

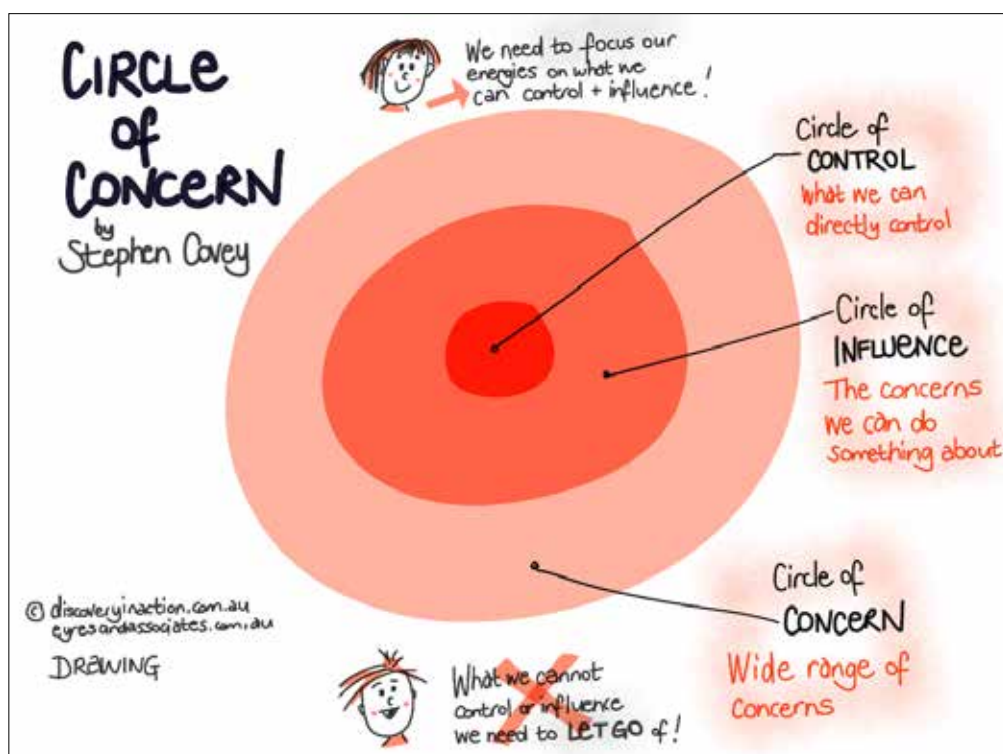
Faced with COVID-19, in April 2020 Doh Eain chose to prioritize - in this order - **1) the health, safety and well being of Doh Eain staff, 2) contributing as much as we could to the communities and residents of Yangon, and 3) the continuity of our work and organisation.** And while it was a challenge, the prioritizing of staff safety and company purpose unleashed a lot of dedication and energy which subsequently helped us achieve business continuity too.

In the early months of COVID we undertook elaborate scenario planning and decided on our response measures in each of these scenarios covering safety, operational and financial dimensions, also setting indicators that would guide our decisions to escalate or de-escalate. We put in place a Health & Safety Committee that monitored indicators, our compliance with the response measures, and advised senior management. And we established new internal and external communications.

This work of course allowed us to **respond and mitigate**, but also improved **our overall preparedness for risks.** And while - unsurprisingly - the coup felt equally if not more overwhelming than COVID at first - the above did help us bounce into action quickly. Daily roll calls were introduced so we could support staff safety, and weekly guided conversations and counseling sessions were started with the support of Advisory Board members. We immediately set to work to update our scenarios, building a more elaborate Risk Framework. A new Risk Committee was established, now not only with representatives from the Health & Safety Committee but also with staff responsible for monitoring political risk. And again we communicated and communicated.

An important framework that guided our thinking was that of **Stephen Covey** and the **Circles of Concern, Influence and Control.** While we were overwhelmed with concerns, we tried to focus on what we could influence and control. Realising that, in the early stages of the coup one of the few things we could influence was simply staff safety in relation to our projects and their wellbeing - we soon decided that a hibernation period was the best way forward. And this was a good decision, as it gave our team rest and helped create more headspace to focus on the bigger implications of the coup for our work.





STEPHEN COVEY'S CIRCLE OF CONCERN

The small group that stayed on to re-strategize, again relied on Covey's framework and tried to think through what aspects of our work we still had influence or control over, and how with our work we could positively influence communities in Yangon. Staying true to **human centred design (HCD)**, we organised ourselves in 3 small teams that over a period of 6 weeks worked through **3 design sprints** to ideate new priority areas and approaches.

A pivot away from government engagement, a focus on community or neighbourhood led disaster response, and a shift towards more locally relevant restoration design and property marketing emerged as ways forward. We are grateful that our many supporters and partners subsequently helped make it possible to quickly shift gears towards these new directions.



Resilience is the 'capacity to recover quickly from difficulties' or 'spring back into shape'. Over the last 11 months the shape of things has certainly changed, and it has become hard for all of us to know what capacity we have, or strength we need, because the picture has continuously changed. While we reflect now that we have indeed managed, somehow, to be incredibly resilient in many ways it certainly did not always feel like that. And, unfortunately, for the people of Myanmar, this is a live, constant situation, which is far from over.

Reflecting on the first days and weeks of the coup brings back many thoughts of fear, uncertainty, confusion and frustration. Initially there was energy and passion, and hope, but the rollercoaster of events and emotions were hard to manage, and impossible to predict. My own anxiety was certainly for the safety of our staff, and the longevity of the organisation, which I could see provided not only the hope of financial security for them but also the camaraderie, social network support and the positive feeling of being proactive in the face of adversity, and the value in their ability to support the network of communities that we work with was extremely important.

Our initial reactions were swift and practical – risk assessments on current projects and business streams, extra check-ins with staff, enabling moments for discussion and reflection, guidance where possible, communication with clients and partners, etc. While we developed new processes and directions for work and operations we also tried to navigate the emotions and mental health of all the team. Thankfully we were able to utilise specialist help from our Advisory Board, providing independent support and the platform for each of us to talk openly, or just listen to others and find strength in our community.

Working together to brainstorm ideas, options, creative ways to respond and develop the organisation in such a time was an important part of that process. For all of us, those moments of energy and resourcefulness were balanced with shock and tiredness and I am extremely proud of how we pulled together to manage the ebbs and flows in each of us, and move forwards together.



BEVERLEY SALMON
Deputy Director

"Coup" was a nightmare word for our citizens 30 years ago. Unfortunately, we faced this situation again on 1st February 2021, during the global pandemic. We feel fear, hopelessness and uncertainty for our future starting from that day.

During this situation, I started figuring out what I can do for my family, my team and my community. One thought that popped up in my mind is "Resilience". So, I tried to focus on taking care of our physical and mental health and worked together with the Management Team and Health and Safety Committee, to reduce risk and stress for our team. These are the blessings of this tough time. I am so appreciative of them for all their kind support. We can fight against many hardships and difficulties together, and I believe that Doh Eain can support not only our team but also our community to get through these challenges.



HNIN WAI
Human Resource Manager

TRENDS & PROSPECTS

The concept of the 15 minute city has grown tremendously in popularity, particularly after Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo made it the centrepiece of her re-election campaign last year.

The 15 minute stipulates that all of our basic needs should be met within a 15-minute walk or cycle from our home.

The idea was originally conceived by cities expert, and Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne University professor, Carlos Moreno.

THE COMBINED IMPACT OF THE COVID AND POLITICAL CRISES ON MYANMAR

- **2.2 million** jobs lost (ILO)
- Additional **23.4%** of population living in poverty (total 48.2% or 25+ million people) (UNDO)
- Economy contracts with **18%** (World Bank)
- Only **15%** of population fully vaccinated

In the earlier stages of the COVID-19 it was often declared that the pandemic marked the death of the city. It looks like opinion has since shifted, and most experts now believe cities will remain central to our economies and ways of life. However, the way we inhabit cities has fundamentally changed, and the liveability of our immediate **neighbourhoods** has become much more important. The availability of public space for recreation and outdoor sports, opportunities for walking and cycling, and local food shops and dining, are now all key considerations in people's choice of neighbourhood.

Not only has our living become more **local**, also many of the most effective COVID-19 interventions everywhere in the world this year have been community based, revitalising interest in **community-led approaches**. During the pandemic, community leaders, due to their local networks and trust, have played a critical role for the people, and in reaching where health systems could not. This strengthened appreciation of community led approaches to solving issues is likely to lead to more funding and opportunities for (hyper)localised interventions. At the same time, finding ways to **replicate** or **scale** such community led approaches remains a crucial challenge to achieve impact at scale, and we are likely to see more and more interest in digital tools and networks that can facilitate this.

Tourism is among the industries that have been hit hardest by the COVID-19 crisis. Some mitigating trends have emerged such as local tourism, and "Work from Anywhere" or longer working holidays. But the overall slowdown has made many people rethink what they want or expect from travel. The new world of travel is likely to be **slower** than before with people having **higher expectations of both service and local impact**. Be it ecological or health-wise, we are more conscious than ever of the fragility of our environment and our responsibility to look after it. COP26 has reinforced this sense of urgency around **climate change** and our sense of responsibility to reduce our carbon footprint.

None of these trends may be on the minds of the people and urban professionals in Myanmar, as the country remains engrossed in its own **triple crisis** of the **military coup**, **COVID 19** and a **cripled economy**. This is unlikely to change anytime soon. Even though the SAC government has failed to gain legitimacy, it is unlikely to relinquish power. With only 15% of the population fully vaccinated, another COVID wave may well hit the country. And amidst all this 3.4 million jobs have been lost (International Labour Organisation), Myanmar's GDP is expected to shrink with a total of 18% in 2021 (World Bank), while the % of people living in poverty is doubling compared to 2019 levels (UNDP).

Nonetheless, also in Myanmar, and exactly also because of current circumstances, neighbourhoods and community led approaches will be ever more important. This is why we are so focused on building and strengthening the **Yangon Neigh-**

Neighbourhood Network, which is a unique approach to supporting very local disaster response and development actors, connecting them to larger donors and funding opportunities. Not only shall we continue to deepen this network in Yangon and work with them to bring as much relief to Yangon's communities as possible; with support from the Asia Preparedness Partnership we shall now also invest in the **digital tools** that support the Yangon Neighbourhood Network, with a view to making this an approach that can be replicated in other cities and contexts.

Our **restoration** activities in Yangon have now pivoted towards **better affordability**, with latest designs and restoration interventions being more simple and to make our restored properties more accessible for a wide segment of Yangon society. We believe that both local tenants, expats and future tourists, will have **renewed** interest in staying in our heritage properties, having a more local and personal experience while positively impacting livelihoods and sustainability.

At the same time, we have embarked on the ambitious journey to take this model and approach to new markets. All around the world, there are heritage rich communities in which property owners struggle to do something with these unique assets. This is while so many people love to live or stay in historical homes. Therefore we are launching **Heritage Homes** as a separate company under Doh Eain Holding, envisioned as a global membership program for heritage homeowners and unique heritage booking platform for tenants and tourists. We are already building our membership in Georgia, the Philippines, Thailand and India, and plan to launch the platform in April 2022! To reflect this change in Doh Eain's reach, we have refreshed our logo and given it a more global scope.



OUR GOALS FOR FY 2021-2022 IN & BEYOND MYANMAR

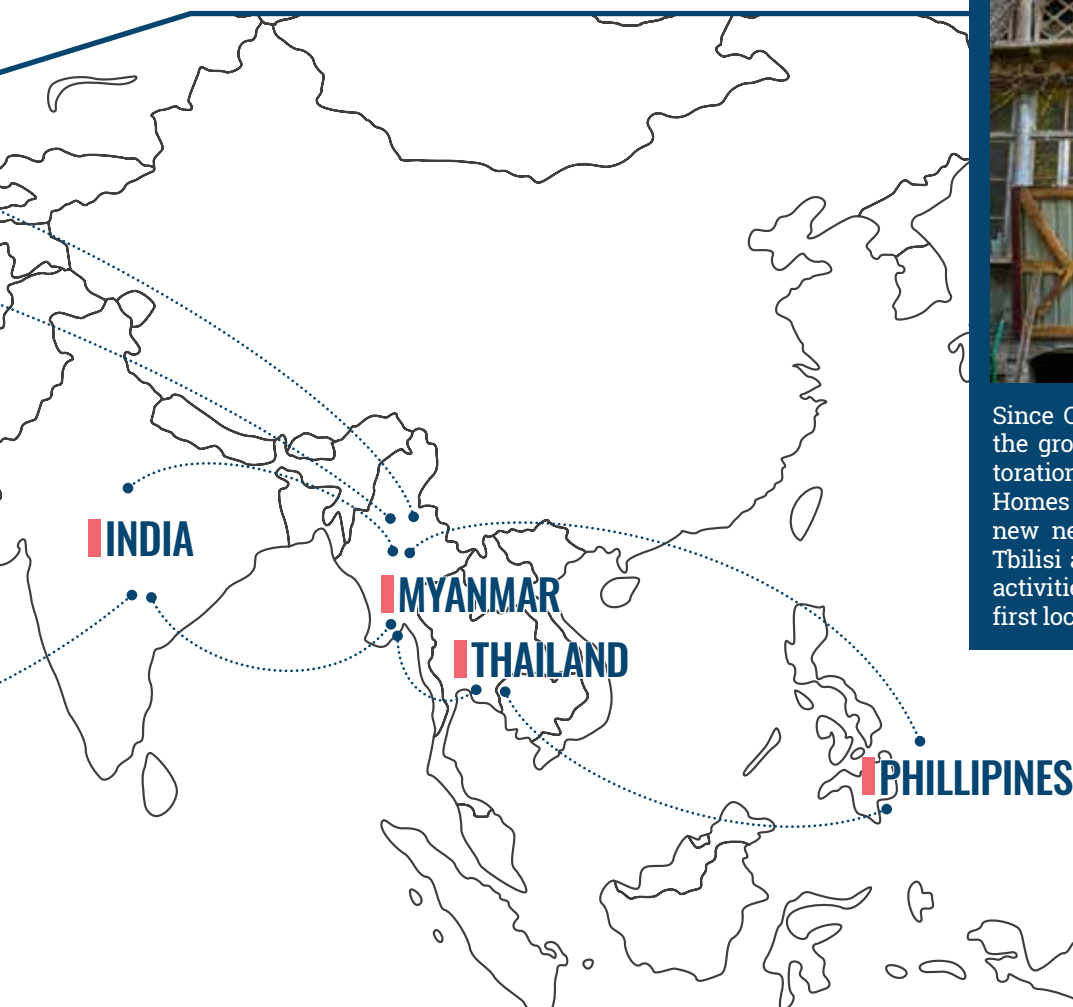
IN MYANMAR

- Supporting and maintaining **strong relations with our neighbourhood counterparts** through the Yangon Neighbourhood Network and (collaborating on) relief work
- Setting up a strong and scalable **community based governance mechanism for our public spaces**
- Continue the development of our standardised **street furniture line** (to consolidate our design work for potential future roll out)
- Further develop and market our **online and offline community engagement, research and education services**, focusing on standardisation and replicability beyond Myanmar
- Deepening our relations with our partner heritage homeowners and other heritage homeowners in the city, building a **stronger and more long-term community of heritage homeowners**
- **Adapting our marketing strategy**, focusing on showing our design, maintenance and property management capabilities, to position ourselves more strongly for client design jobs and for the (local) tenant market



BEYOND MYANMAR:

- To launch **heritage homeowner communities** in Georgia, the Philippines, Thailand and India.
- To launch a new fully integrated heritage homeowner **membership** and **heritage booking platform** under the name Heritage Homes, with first listings in Myanmar, Georgia, the Philippines, Thailand and India.
- **Ascertain local partners in advocacy** for the protection of heritage and promotion of liveable cities.
- **Pilot projects** demonstrating the opportunities for homeowners in the adaptation of heritage buildings over demolition
- Identify ways to initiate first **complementary public realm activities** in these markets.



EXPANDING OUR IMPACT



Since October 2021 Doh Eain has been on the ground in Georgia, exploring new restoration opportunities under our Heritage Homes model. We are rapidly building a new network of heritage homeowners in Tbilisi and beyond and are looking to start activities early 2022. We have also hired our first local staff!

OUR TEAM



EMILIE RÖELL



BEVERLEY SALMON



ANNA LIVIA CULLINAN



FRANCISCA TEIXEIRA



DENNIS HAPATINGA



KHIN THU THU



OUR TEAM

1. AUNG THU HTET
2. AUNG KO KO OO
3. YE ZAW KHANT
4. THUREIN AUNG
5. KAUNG HTET AUNG
6. KYAW KYAW NAING
7. KHIN KYI HTET
8. LAE YAMIN MAUNG
9. LIN THIRI KHIN
10. MOH MOH NAY WYNN
11. NANG KHAM PHOO LAY
12. NYO MEE OO
13. PYAE PHYO ZAW
14. PHYU WAI THIN
15. JEROME STERCKX
16. CHO CHO SHWE
17. HNIN WAI WAI KHINE
18. HNIN EAINdra LWIN
19. JOSEPH KA PI
20. THURANE WIN
21. SAN TINT
22. U SAN TINT
23. SWAN YEE TUN LWIN
24. SU MYAT HM00
25. HLA TIN GULAM
26. TUN YE WAI
27. SOE LWIN
28. SOH PYAY
29. HELEEN VEENHOF
30. DR. SU SU

GEORGIA TEAM



NATO TSINTSABADZE



OUR BOARD



HARRY JAN DEN BIGGELAAR



HEIN SWINKELS



EMILIE RÖELL

OUR BOARD OF ADVISORS



DONOVAN RYPKEMA



MARTYN SAWYER



GEOFF RICH, RIBA AABC



GRAHAM MARSHALL



JIA-PING LEE



KYROS SHIRAZI



DR. ESTER VAN
STEEKELenburg



MELANI OLIVER



YE MYAT MIN

THANK YOU

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