

HOUSING NOW RECOGNIZED BY THE 2026 WORLD HABITAT AWARD FOR THE LOW-COST BAMBOO HOUSING PROJECT IN MYANMAR

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[The project *Housing Now* for Low-cost bamboo housing implemented in Myanmar won the 2026 Bronze World Habitat Award.](#)

[The webpage of the World Habitat Award presents the main characteristics of the project](#) realized by the [social enterprise Housing Now](#) which has adopted an approach for a low-carbon, affordable and resilient bamboo housing responding to the urgent needs of people displaced in Myanmar and of potential interest for other countries.

“The project builds homes, schools and health facilities using bamboo, a material that is widely available, renewable and familiar to local communities. By combining traditional knowledge with new treatment methods and prefabricated components, Housing Now creates structures that are strong, low-carbon and quick to assemble. These buildings are designed to withstand earthquakes and harsh conditions, while remaining affordable and easy to repair.

Local people are at the heart of the approach. Displaced communities help design and build their own homes, gaining skills that can be shared and reused. Construction teams can be deployed where access allows, while illustrated manuals enable communities in hard-to-reach or insecure areas to build independently. This focus on knowledge transfer reduces reliance on external aid and strengthens long-term resilience.

Housing Now works in some of Myanmar’s most challenging contexts, including conflict-affected regions and informal urban settlements. Its housing is provided free of charge to vulnerable families, with particular attention to women-led households and people with disabilities. At the same time, local artisans and builders benefit from training and employment opportunities.

By blending bio-material innovation, community leadership and environmental responsibility, Housing Now shows how emergency and transitional housing can be delivered differently at scale and without external aid. Its adaptable bamboo model has the potential to be used wherever bamboo is part of the local building culture, offering a hopeful path towards safer, more resilient communities.”

The document underlines the environmental and social impact of the project: “Housing Now uses low-impact, regenerative bamboo, a fast-growing, renewable resource with low embodied energy, as its core material. Bamboo is locally sourced, reducing transport emissions, and treated with non-toxic methods that extend its lifespan. This approach supports climate resilience, circular resource use, and a significantly reduced environmental footprint in all project stages. By



sourcing local materials and training over 100 displaced individuals and artisans in bamboo construction, the project helps households boost their income over the long-term. The project also promotes inclusivity and community resilience, and offers displaced carpenters paid construction roles, helping their empowerment and integration into new communities. The open-source bamboo manual produced and distributed by the project enables self-building, reducing dependency and promoting community resilience”.

The website of Housing Now underlines the very low cost of the houses built by the enterprise, using innovative and sustainable techniques. The article [Blue Temple – a design for affordable bamboo housing](#), for example explains the choice made by Housing Now to use the small-diameter bamboo. “There are more than 350 species of bamboo in Myanmar with only seven commonly used in construction because of their load-bearing capacities. These sought-after species such as *Dendrocalamus Giganteus* Munro or *Dendrocalamus Asper* grow well only in specific areas in Myanmar and are in high demand; therefore, the cost per pole is relatively high. The availability and supply for these species are inconsistent. Finding a way to use the other abundant and cheaper species of bamboo on the local market would radically lower the cost of procurement and construction. Smaller-diameter bamboo has a high bending capacity that allows for more complex designs. The bundling together of several thin ‘non - structural’ bamboo poles can create a building component that is more resilient to damage compared to a structure made from single large-diameter bamboo poles. The structure’s integrity can therefore be strengthened by this bundling method when compared to the reliance on a single pole. This is a somewhat untapped bamboo resource that we can all continue to develop.”

[Raphaël Ascoli is the architect who founded in 2017 Blue Temple](#), the architectural design studio based in Myanmar and focusing on building with local materials and communities. In 2021, he also co-founded the Housing Now social enterprise, with the project of creating affordable, sustainable and earthquake-resistant homes, through prefabricated and modular structural frames using small-diameter bamboo. Operating through his firm [Blue Temple](#) in collaboration with bamboo expert Kyaw Zin Latt, Ascoli designed this modular, community-driven solution to assist internally displaced families in Myanmar. The Housing Now Project has already built 36 homes, schools and public facilities and a further 30 homes are under construction using small-diameter bamboo in a collaborative effort with the local community. The website informs that the organisation is now building a 550 sqm bamboo prefabrication centre to scale production to 200 units annually.

The Housing Now project in Myanmar has received international recognition from a wide variety of magazines specializing in sustainable architecture. In particular, Dezeen, DesignBoom, Inhabitat, Archdaily, and Archello have published articles presenting the main structural characteristics of the construction methods adopted by Housing Now and Blue Temple, the protagonists of the project. The project has also been awarded prizes by prestigious international competitions such as the [MIT SOLVE Award “Climate: Ecosystems & Housing” category, in 2022](#). Solve is an initiative of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that advances lasting solutions to address the world’s most pressing problems. In 2023 [Raphaël Ascoli was also recognized as one of the "Young Climate Innovators Shaping the Future" by the UNICEF Office of Innovation for his work with Housing Now on bamboo construction.](#)



To know more

[Housing Now for low-cost bamboo housing Project](#)

[Housing Now Project brochure in World Habitat Award 2026](#)

[Housing Now website](#)

[Housing Now in Facebook.com](#)

[Housing Now in Blue Temple.com](#)

[Housing Now article in Habitat.com](#)

[Design for low-cost bamboo housing in Betterbamboobuildings.com](#)

[Housing Now and Blue temple in archdaily.com](#)

[Modular Bamboo Housing in designboom.com](#)

[Article in Dezeen.com](#)

[Housing Now in amusementlogic.com](#)

[Housing Now in archello.com](#)

[Housing Now in solve.mit.edu](#)

[Housing Now in unicef.org](#)

[Housing Now in parametric-architecture.com](#)

[World Habitat 2026 Award Winners in world-habitat.org](#)

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