



Sanjay Nagar Miraj: Community Centre



This flyer has been prepared to record the process which Shelter Associates and the Sanjay Nagar Miraj slum dwellers undertook to generate a proposal for a central social space that suited the requirements and aspirations of the community.

November 2012

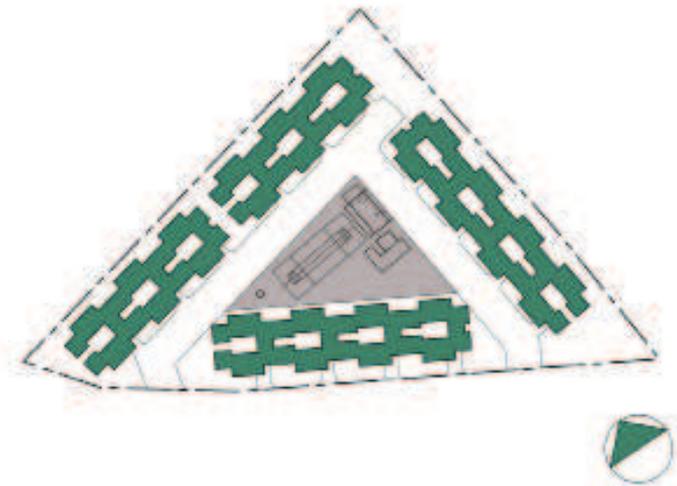
Social Infrastructure

As part of the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Program (IHSDP) in Sangli and Miraj, Sanjay Nagar is being redeveloped to a higher capacity to accommodate the slum dwellers who previously resided on the land (311 families) and the families from a nearby slum which is scheduled for demolition by the Sangli, Miraj, & Kupwad Municipal Corporation (SMKMC) who are also the implementing agency of the IHSDP.

14 residential buildings designed by Shelter Associates are being built at Sanjay Nagar and will accommodate a total of 434 families.

In addition to funding 50% of the housing component the Government of India has also provided a 100% subsidy for physical infrastructure (water, drainage, roads, public lighting) and a 100% subsidy for social infrastructure, defined as a community centre.

The open space enclosed by the 14 buildings of Sanjay Nagar Miraj.



Inclusive Planning

The community centre has been proposed on the open space which is enclosed by the 14 new buildings that provide the accommodation for the rehabilitated families.

As Shelter Associates believe that inclusive planning is a prerequisite for tangible, long lasting change which results in the elevation of the urban poor, an extensive consultation exercise was initiated with the slum community.

The relationship that Shelter Associates already has with the community was used to ensure that there would be a dialogue on the subject of the community centre, just as there was in 2009, at the start of the IHSDP, when the design of the residential units was being worked out.

“Developing relationships with slum communities is an essential component of slum rehabilitation.”

The young women of the community during their first meeting



Community Participation

To ensure that each member of the community got the chance to put forward their ideas about the community centre, separate meetings were conducted with different groups within the community (the women, the young men, the young women, and the children).

The First Meeting

Prior to the first meetings Shelter Associates prepared a list of questions and sheets of graphics which illustrated different activities to ensure that the discussion was thorough.

Once these initial meetings were complete a report was prepared by Shelter Associates which detailed the findings of the meetings and concluded with a list of requirements, or a brief, for the community centre.

The Second Meeting

With the brief loosely established a site plan for the open space and plans for the community centre building were prepared and taken back to the community for a second session. The second session was attended by the elected representative of Sanjay Nagar as well as the community itself.

During this second session the sketch plans which had been drawn up were shown to the community. Comments were offered and discussed at length until a consensus was reached and alterations to the design confirmed.

The Activity Day

An activity day was carried out which focussed on the games that the children said that they would like to play on the open space. There was also warli painting exercise as warli painting was proposed as the external decoration of the community centre.

The women and children during their first meeting



A model of the initial design is shown to the community



Changes are discussed during the second set of meetings



“Over multiple sessions, designs for the community centre were prepared by Shelter Associates on behalf of the community.”

Key requirements of the social space

The community require the social space to provide:

- A space for large events
- A space for medical examinations
- A class room/computer room/library
- A space for self help group activities
- A space for dancing
- A space for notifications
- A space for outdoor games
- A swing, slide and sandbox
- A temple

The Third and Fourth Meeting

When the revisions had been made to the design, and the drawings updated, a 1:200 scale model was made and presented to the community during a third session. During this third session comments were again offered by the community and discussed. The drawings were again updated and another model, this time at a larger scale (1:50), was made and again presented during a fourth and final session.

The SMKMC Meeting

After this final session, the design and the inclusive participation methodology was presented to the SMKMC, who subsequently accepted the proposal.

A detailed model of the revised design is shown to the community



The children with their 'warli paintings' during the activity day



The community centre presented to the SMKMC



“A Community Centre which met the needs of the community was then proposed to the implementing agency of the IHSDP, the local government.”

