the invisible houses

re-thinking and designing low-cost housing in developing countries

Gonzalo Lizarralde

ROUTLEDGE

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Rethinking and Designing Low-Cost Housing in Developing Countries

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THE INVISIBLE HOUSES

There is an increased interest among architects, urban specialists and design professionals to contribute to solve "the housing problem" in developing countries. *The Invisible Houses* takes us on a journey through the slums and informal settlements of South Africa, India, Colombia, Honduras, El Salvador, Cuba, Haiti and many other countries of the Global South, revealing the challenges of, and opportunities for, improving the fate of millions of poor families. Stressing the limitations of current approaches to housing development, Gonzalo Lizarralde examines the short-, mid- and long-term consequences of housing intervention. The book covers—among others—the issues of planning, design, infrastructure and project management. It explains the different variables that need to be addressed and the causes of common failures and mistakes, while outlining successful strategies based on embracing a sustained engagement with the complexity of processes that are generally invisible.

Gonzalo Lizarralde is a professor at the School of Architecture, Université de Montréal. He has more than 15 years' experience in the field of housing and project management in developing countries. He has authored more than 50 articles on the subjects of housing, post-disaster reconstruction and project management. He is a founding member of i-Rec, an international network for improving post-disaster reconstruction.

A Sebastián, mi príncipe, e Ili, mi princesa

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THE AUTHOR

A specialist in planning, management and evaluation of international architecture projects, Gonzalo Lizarralde is a professor at the School of Architecture at the Université de Montréal. He has fifteen years of experience in consulting for architecture and construction projects and has published numerous articles in the fields of low-cost housing and project management. Dr Lizarralde has taught at the University of Cape Town (South Africa), McGill University, Université de Montréal, Universidad del Valle and Universidad Javeriana (Colombia), and has given lectures in universities in Europe, the United States and Latin America. He has a post-doctorate from the Department of Construction Economics and Management at the University of Cape Town. Dr Lizarralde has been awarded research grants and/or scholarships from the South African NRF, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la société et la culture (FQRSC), the Canadian government and other funding agencies. Dr Lizarralde is director of the IF Research Group (grif) at the Université de Montréal, which studies the processes related to the planning and development of construction projects. He is also the leader of the Disaster Resilience and Sustainable Reconstruction Research Alliance, a scientific research program funded by the Quebec research funds (FQRSC). He is a founding member of i-Rec, an international network for improving post-disaster reconstruction. He is also the co-author of the book *Rebuilding After Disasters: From Emergency to Sustainability* (Routledge, 2009).

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