

# A Roof Overhead-Building A Secure Future For Africa

*modernghana.com*. July 10, 2013. Innovation and collaboration are needed to provide more, cheap, sustainable housing and stop the crippling backlog in Africa from getting worse

Runaway housing prices and unsophisticated mortgage systems are hampering efforts across Africa to house its people: a situation that experts say is preventing many countries from reaping the social and economic benefits that housing security provides. Going beyond a roof overhead, housing creates employment during the development phases, and improves quality of life, social standing, health, financial position, security, social cohesion and access to education.

The ABSA housing index, shows that in South Africa the average price of small houses have risen from R660 953 in the first quarter of 2011 to R777 343 in the fourth quarter of 2012. In the affordable segment, the price rose from R292 790 in 2009 to R345 388 in 2012. In both cases, there has been a 17% increase. In Kenya, prices increased by roughly 76% between 2008 and 2012.

*Read more:* <http://www.modernghana.com/roof-overheadbuilding-a-secure-future>

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## Habitat - Slums In The Sky

- ✘ Habitat works to improve high-rise living conditions in Europe and Central Asia to improve high-rise living conditions in Europe and Central Asia.

*See more:* [http://www.habitat.org/slums\\_in\\_the\\_sky](http://www.habitat.org/slums_in_the_sky)

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# Matias Echanove & Rahul Srivastava - Mumbai's Homegrown Cities Project: Upgrade The Slums, Don't Destroy Them!

*blogp2pfoundation.net*. July 5, 2013.

*Bhandup is a hill-side neighborhood. In the distance we can see the presence of high-rise buildings. Some of them are up-market others are cheaply built "slum rehabilitation schemes."*

Like John F.C. Turner, the British born architect who in the 1970s and 1980s influenced some of the World Bank's most progressive urban programs, we believe that decision-making and initiatives on housing related issues is better left at the local level. This is especially true in contexts such as Mumbai, where government-led schemes and incentives to the private sectors have blatantly failed to provide both quantity and quality when it comes to affordable housing.

Unfortunately, none of Turner's ideas have any currency left in the context of Mumbai's booming (sur)real estate market. Public land is seen as too valuable to be left to the poor. Slums are no longer upgraded and discussions on the "right to housing" seem anachronistic. Entire neighbourhoods are wiped off the map and replaced by monofunctional housing blocks that represent the degree zero of architectural, urban and social thinking. What is happening is precisely the kind of man-made disasters that Turner was denouncing in the 1960s and 1970s! All over again.

For the past 6 to 7 years, URBZ has been working in parts of Mumbai hugely disservice and misrepresented by the "slum" label affixed to them. It doesn't help them get urgent support and planning. Quite on the contrary, it puts them on the map as raw material for redevelopment, and at the end of the queue for municipal services. The "slum" label also perpetuates a hugely negative image that is often far from what residents and visitor can experience.

<http://blog.p2pfoundation.net/upgrade-the-slums-dont-destroy-them>

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# **Research Report: ‘Jumping The Queue’, Waiting Lists And Other Myths: Perceptions And Practice Around Housing Demand And Allocation In South Africa**

*seri-sa.org*. July 3, 2013. SERI and the Community Law Centre (CLC), based at the University of the Western Cape, have published a new research report entitled ‘*Jumping the Queue*’, Waiting Lists and other Myths: Perceptions and Practice around Housing Demand and Allocation in South Africa. The report analyses perceptions and practice around housing demand and allocation in South Africa, looking at the policies and processes operating at national, provincial and local level. It attempts to unpack some of the complexity and provide recommendations to government departments at all levels.

It argues that the housing waiting list is a myth and should be eradicated from public discourse on housing in favour of a more nuanced way of characterising the rational, appropriate and humane responses to the broad range of housing needs in South Africa, which are not currently catered for by the market.

*Read more:* <http://www.seri-sa.org/jumping-the-queue-waiting-lists>

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# **TEDtalks: Charles Leadbeater: Education Innovation In The Slums**

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## **Paul Jenkins - Understanding Urbanisation, Urbanism And Urbanity in African Cities**

Human settlement in cities of the South need different approaches to those initially developed in rapid urbanisation in the North from the mid 19th to mid 20th centuries, however our concepts of the good 'urban' are deeply influenced by this historically and geographically distinct experience. In addition our professional approaches embed these concepts (generally with a high degree of disciplinary exclusivity in understanding), albeit with at least half a century of more recent 'development discourse' overlay and adjustment. Whether such concepts, disciplinary approaches and/or professional praxis are relevant would appear to be significantly challenged by the widespread and increasing 'non-conforming reality' of cities of the South.

This is perhaps no more clear than in emerging urban areas of Sub-Saharan Africa, the last global macro-region to enter the rapid urbanisation process. In this context, weak states and high levels of urban poverty (and therefore limited private sector engagement) lead to the vast majority of such fast expanding urban areas being developed, not according to pre-defined developmentalist approaches which are overwhelmed by the reality, but by (mostly poor) urban residents, according to their socio-cultural agency, albeit constrained by political economic structures. This has led to a prevalent negative view of such emerging urbanism,

labelling this as ruralisation, or defective/pathological forms of urbanity.