Sustainable living for all







Architecture for Humanity

open architecture network.org

Architecture for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that seeks architectural solutions to humanitarian crises in an effort to bring design services to communities in need.

"Hot Studio didn't just learn about our work, they lived and breathed it and became a part of our team. Their design process helped us focus our mission and the work they did truly reflects the difference collaborative design can make in people's lives."

Kate Stohr Managing Director/Co-founder Architecture for Humanity As the winner of a 2006 Technology Entertainment and Design (TED) prize, Cameron Sinclair of Architecture for Humanity wished to create a community that actively embraces open source design to generate innovative and sustainable living standards for all. Hot Studio and Sun Microsystems were asked to make that wish come true.

Collaborating across continents

A Web-based application of this scale requires deep analysis and definition, and the design and technology to back it up. Participating designers had to have the capability to post their projects, review other projects, contribute to shared resources, and access project management tools.

In practical terms, we were making it as easy as possible for an architect in Chicago to team up with an engineer in Bangkok so they could design a house for a family living on the coast of Thailand. This Web-based system had to launch in less than a year.

Open to the possibilities

The new site—the Open Architecture Network—connects design professionals across the globe. It was unveiled at the 2007 TED conference (well within deadline). Within just a few weeks of its debut more than 2000 designers joined OAN, uploading more than 200 projects. With Sun Microsystems' help, we fulfilled Cameron Sinclair's TED wish.