



COMMUNITY BUILD

SEPTEMBER 2011

ABSTRACT

In September 2011, I was involved in a community build for the University of Cape Town. This report was compiled for the Construction Economics and Management (CEM) department and describes activities performed to show the experience and skills gained during the community build

Course Code

CON1007X

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

In September 2011, I was involved in a community build for the University of Cape Town. This report was compiled for the Construction Economics and Management (CEM) department and describes activities performed to show the experience and skills gained during the community build

The CEM department specific instructions were as follows:

1. 40 hours (1 week) of voluntary work with Nial Mellon Township Initiative.
2. Provide information with regards to activities performed the build.
4. Describe benefits of the build.
5. The report should be submitted by October 2011.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Subject and Motivation for Report

In September 2011, I was involved in a community build for the University of Cape Town. This report was compiled for the Construction Economics and Management (CEM) department and describes activities performed to show the experience and skills gained during the community build

1.2. Objectives of Report

The objectives of this report are therefore to:

- Provide a log of detailed activities carried out during the training.
- Provide information to show how some skills and experience were gained throughout the training.

1.3. Plan of Development

The report begins with an introduction as to why it was necessary and to what purpose it serves. It then focuses on various tasks carried out daily. And to end with, skills and experience gained during the course of the training period are discussed.

2. TASKS CARRIED OUT

2.1. Day 1

“Basically what we were asked to do today was to clean up around the site a little bit like separating bricks, cleaning inside some houses and putting away wastes. After that we moved bricks to a closer location on the site where it would have been easier for the workers to access. Then we levelled the ground where it needed to be to make access and moving around on the site better. After our lunch break we helped in mixing mortar and laying bricks for the walls of the houses until we left the site.” (<http://blogs.uct.ac.za/blog/studybuildhelp>)

2.2. Day 2

“We did painting, cleaning the streets and a lot of plumbing. We also helped to fix any faults that were noticed in the plumbing in different houses. I did mostly plumbing. I helped removing plastic fittings and replacing them with copper fittings. I had to dig the pipe out of the ground, stop the water supply, cut the plastic fitting and replace it by copper ones. I also did some plumbing in bathrooms and toilets. I had to find out where the fault was and fix it. I learnt how use different tools and equipments in plumbing that I have never used before.” (<http://blogs.uct.ac.za/blog/studybuildhelp>)

2.3. Day 3

“Our job was to simply clear in and around the houses all broken masonry bits, cement mortar piles/droppings, and other papers and plastic rubbish.” (<http://blogs.uct.ac.za/blog/studybuildhelp>)

2.4. Day 4

“Today we picked up a lot of rubble and dirt was made during the construction of walls in some of the houses. We cleaned the outside of the houses by putting different piles of planks cut off from wall plates, pieces of the damp proof membrane used in the wall and the roof. Half and full concrete blocks were also put into piles. We then moved on to sweep of sand, cement and mortar on the inside of the houses.” (<http://blogs.uct.ac.za/blog/studybuildhelp>)

2.5. Day 5

General cleaning went on as the previous days and completing some of the houses went on for 3 hours before we headed back to camp where he had a lunch before heading back home.

3. BENEFITS OF TRAINING

3.1. Skills Gained

3.1.1. Physical labour

The community build was physically very demanding as we had to carry wheelbarrows, spades and many other types of equipment throughout the day. We also did a lot of heavy weight lifting like bricks, packet of cement, barrels filled with san from one place to another.

3.1.2. Plumbing

During the community build, I had the opportunity to spend more than half of a day with an experienced plumber. He showed me the way around plumbing and I learnt a lot from that. I had never done any plumbing in my life before and it is definitely a new skill that I have now. It was not easy at first but as you do more and more you get used to it and at some point as was doing a pretty good job. It was very gratifying doing something new and come out doing a good job.

3.2. Knowledge and Experience Gained

3.2.1. Bricklaying and mixing mortar

Having done a little bit of brick laying, we found that it is very important to use the right materials and tools for that process. It is the primordial to get it right or else the structure of the whole house will be in problematic. We also learnt about the quantity of materials to mix to create mortar and the techniques used to mix it.

3.2.2. Coordination

Working as a team is very important in construction. Many activities are interdependent and having the proper coordination will help a lot in making the work faster. So planning the work and coordinating activities is essential to ensure that other activities can go on smoothly without delays.

4. EMPLOYER LETTER



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CONFIRMATION OF ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

PRACTICAL TRAINING: CON1007X
MELLON HOUSING INITIATIVE, WISANDS, ATLANTIS
COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECT, 5 – 9 SEPTEMBER 2011

This document hereby serves to confirm that **Yudish Bhav Sumputh (SMPYUD001)** satisfactorily attended and participated in the above week-long community building project organised by the Department as part fulfilment of the practical training requirements for the BSc (Construction Studies) degree.

The student has been credited in the group blog submission, a DP requirement for the community build project, and successfully submitted the end-of-project questionnaire.

The student did not raise funds for the Mellon Housing Initiative.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Le Jeune'.

Signed by:

Karen Le Jeune/
Mark Massyn
Convenors of CEM Community Building Project

"Our MISSION is to be an outstanding teaching and research university educating for life and addressing the challenges facing our society."

5. GALLERY



