

TIBET HERITAGE FUND
2009 ANNUAL REPORT
建築文化遺產基金會 2009 年度報告
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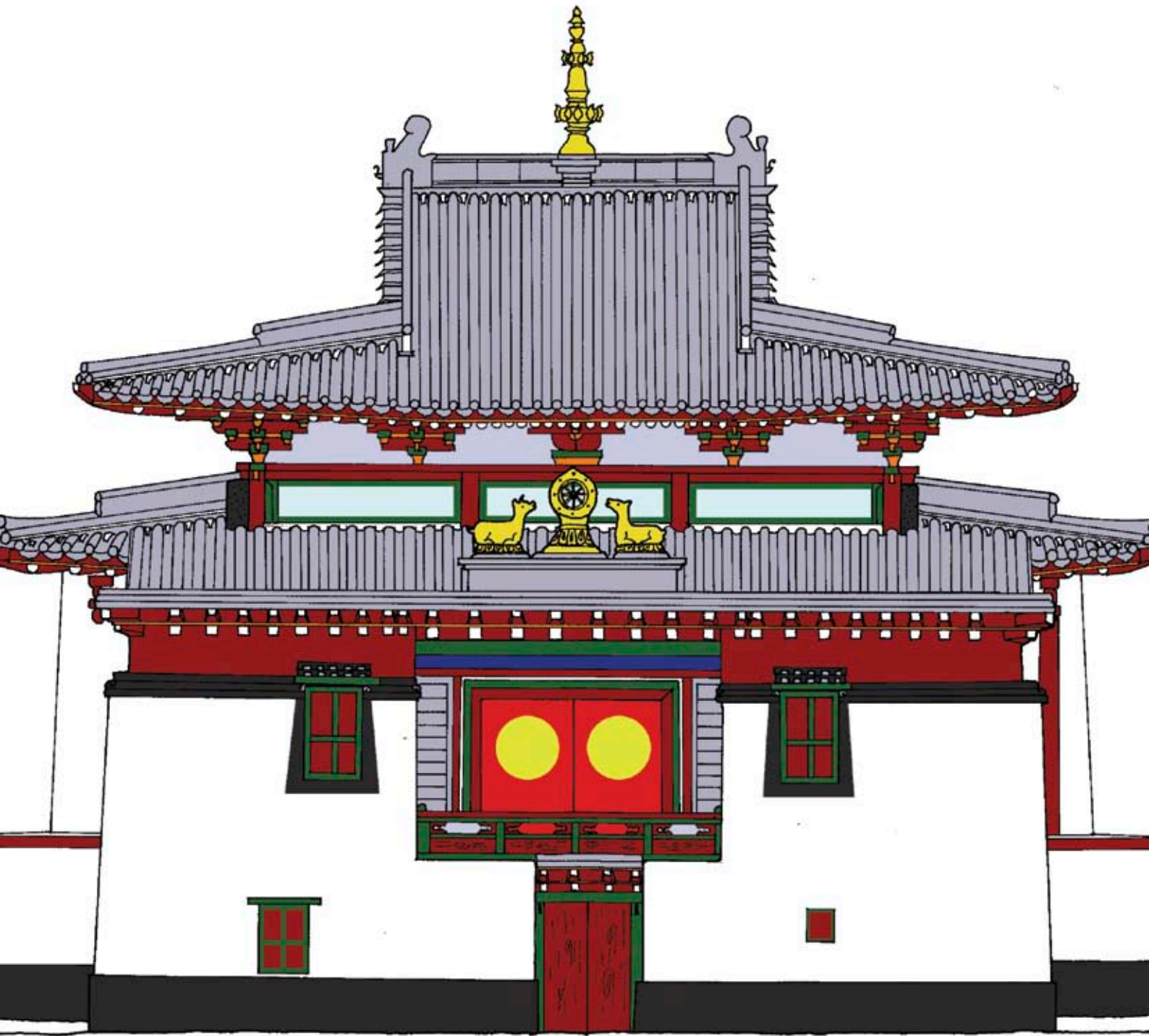


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Introduction



Tibet Heritage Fund in 2009

In 2009, THF completed the restoration of the 14th century Serkhang monastery and celebrated for three days with the villagers. In our Jyekundo old town conservation project, we completed the first restored historic residential house. In Ladakh, we completed the first two floors of the Central Asian Museum.

We also received the 2009 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award of Excellence for the restoration of Sangiin Dalai monastery in Mongolia.

About Tibet Heritage Fund

TIBET HERITAGE FUND (THF) is an international non-profit organization engaged in the field of international cooperation. We work for sustainable development of communities, often but not exclusively within the Tibetan cultural realm.

Projects such as rehabilitation of traditional settlements and restoration of historic monuments are designed to primarily benefit the local residents. Communities, local governments and institutions are important counterparts. THF runs a large vocational training program to build up local capacity, create economic opportunities and to keep traditional building skills and crafts alive. In historic settlements and cities we carry out social surveys and develop rehabilitation proposals. We also research and document traditional Tibetan building technology.

The Tibetan Cultural Realm

Since over a thousand years, Tibetan culture has spread over the entire Himalayan regions, and had a profound effect on Chinese emperors and Mongolian conquerors. In the past, artisans, spiritual masters, pilgrims and traders would travel widely across the Himalayan plateau and adjacent regions. Borders had little meaning for them. The events of the 20th century has led to new borders being drawn, and ancient borders, that for centuries have marked little more than local taxation base, have become impregnable walls separating communities. This is depriving Himalayan culture of its traditional dynamics.

As a result of the advent of modernity, many historic monuments, sites and settlements have disappeared, and traditional skills are in decline. Yet these historic monuments and settlements, and the skills that created them, hold an enormous potential to the future welfare of the people on the plateau. It seems a tragic waste to let all this slip away, so that once-unique Himalayan towns and settlements end up looking like towns anywhere else in Asia. However, it is always dangerous to romanticize, and the inhabitants of the Tibetan cultural realm have legitimate aspirations to reach the same level of comfort and economic progress as people elsewhere. THF assists local communities to find an individual balance that suits them, between tradition and modernity, village life and globalization.

THF's projects are therefore aimed at generating employment and other opportunities for people to improve their livelihoods.

Currently we are trying to work across borders in countries that are part of the Tibetan cultural realm, working with masons from Lhasa, carpenters from Amdo and painters from Ladakh.

The aims and goals portrayed here, and the communities that we work with, need continued support. Thanks to all our supporters and donors.



Map of THF Project Sites

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THF is not responsible for depictions of international borders



1. CHINA PROGRAMME

1.1 Qinghai Programme

1.1.1 Nangra Serkhang

Location: Jentsa County, Huangnan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province.
Duration 2006- 2009
Costs in 2009: € 55,309.95

Serkhang monastery was founded in the 14th century and greatly expanded in the 18th century. It consists of five temple buildings in various architectural styles with different functions, and attached living quarters for monks. On invitation of the local community and local government, THF restored the 5 major buildings, Sangye Lhakhang (14th century), Yul-Lhakhang (date unknown), Dukhang Sarba (18th century), Jampa Lhakhang (18th century) and Serchi Labrang (19th century), and carried out repairs of the whole complex in 2006-2009, bringing the activities to a close with a big celebration this year. Historic wall- and timber paintings have been conserved. The infrastructure was also upgraded for convenience of community activities and occupants. For water access, a water tank was built in the open courtyard, which is filled via a pipe connection. The entire courtyard and building access ways were fitted with a new drainage system for surface water and also paved with flat natural stone, an area of 1600 square meters.



Top: Serkhang monastery. Below: carpenters from Lhasa and Amdo replacing dougong bracket.



ཨ་མདོའི་ཡས་གཞི།
སྤང་ར་གསེར་ཁང་།

The 14th century **Sangye Lhakhang** is the earliest structure in the complex, and the earliest timber structure in Qinghai province. It preserves most of its original timber elements and historic murals. This over 660 years old building was the most damaged structure prior to our intervention.

Work started on the roof over the central chapel. The historic roof tiles were removed by their structural and decorative order, washed and prepared for reuse. Account was taken of damaged and missing tiles, those were order-made in a traditional blue brick factory in Qinghai. Timber parts were numbered, and checked for damages (replacing only necessary parts). We decided to make small structural improvements to support the heavy weight on the eaves. Part of the roof was jacked up and the horizontal timber elements replaced. Meanwhile, relieved from roof weight, every column was checked for damage. After all the necessary work had been completed, the team started reassembling the roof structure, placed back all the timber elements and finally laid back the roof tiles with traditional lime-mortar, including the decorative ridge pieces.

Once the roof was repaired, we moved to work on the flat-roofed front portion. This was opened, and ceiling boards and rafters were removed and cleaned. Meanwhile carpenters adjusted the distorted structure to its proper position and replaced damaged beams and other wooden parts. Then the roof was closed. As last part, we worked on the interior. According to the need of the community, we designed two small altar rooms in the front portion, creating



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The entire roof structure was carefully dismantled.



spaces with wooden partition walls, based on an existing original shrine room. The stairway was upgraded with stone steps and the addition of a traditional grid-pattern wooden railing. The entrance area on the ground floor was paved with square blue bricks and lime mortar binding. On the upper floor, the original wooden board floor was repaired, including the circumambulation corridor. Missing wooden door panels were replaced in the chapel hall. The building façade, mostly made with brick masonry, was also repaired; cracks and water infiltrated parts were partly rebuilt, at the same time drain gutters were improved to prevent future damage by water infiltration.

For completion, we painted wooden partitions and wall areas where no historic paintings were traceable. The *dougong* brackets were painted with *za*, the traditional iron oxide red color, which helps to protect the wood from UV exposure and insect bites, widely used in Tibet. All wall surfaces were whitewashed, as they were originally. A new light system was installed, with spot lighting and non-UV lamps so as not to affect the the mural paintings.

Below: Sangye Lhakhang, during and after project.
Right: Jampa Lhakhang, roof repair and completion.



Jampa Lhakhang (Maitreya Buddha temple) was built by lama Jigme Wangpo in the 18th century, dedicated to his mother to thank her for his upbringing. It is a timber framed structure with gabled roofs on two levels, designed to display a 6.5 meter high clay image of Maitreya, the Buddha of the future. Most of the timber elements and roof tiles were original. However, the paintings were all new, dating to the 1980s local renovation.

The restoration took place in 2009. Survey and assessment concluded that the structure was quite stable, so it was not necessary to dismantle the main structure. The roofing was repaired by replacing missing or damaged tiles and timber elements, and the exterior painting was partly retouched.

We set up scaffolding around the temple and the artisan team simultaneously started to remove the roofing tiles, and changed damaged timber parts of ceiling boards and rafters. Meanwhile, roof tiles were washed and ordered in different parts. Missing tiles and ornamental parts were replaced, in the original setting with traditional lime-mortar. After the completion of roof repair, the timber elements' traditional decorations were repainted.



Dukhang Sarba, the “new assembly hall”, was also built by Jigme Wangpo in the 18th century. It is the main hall for the monks to congregate and perform ceremonies and prayers. The building structure is traditional Tibetan, timber-supported flat roof, Tibetan-style pillars and brackets support beams and rafters. The outer walls were built from brick masonry, and the traditional *penbe* parapet was also imitated in brick work. Paintings were repainted by local villagers in the 1980s.

Dukhang Sarba was restored in 2009, the timber structure was in relatively good condition, and the major intervention consisted of re-roofing the skylight canopy and repairing the parapet. The side walls of the canopy were tiled with flower motif bricks, as they were originally. The skylight window was changed from a 1980s metal frame back to wooden frame with grid patters, blending better with the whole building.

The outside paintings, particularly in the porch area, were in poor condition and dated to the 1980s. These were repainted. The building was then whitewashed, and the parapet frieze was painted red with *za*, iron oxide color.



Above: windows for the skylight of Dukhang Sarba.
Below: the completed Dukhang Sarba.



Manikhang, meaning “prayer wheel house”, where people turn the Mani-wheel (a large cylinder with layers of Buddhist scriptures inside, it is believed that turning the wheel is as good as reading the holy text, a common religious practice in Tibetan Buddhism.

Manikhang is attached to the Dukhang Sarba assembly hall, and most probably built in the same time during the 18th century. It is a timber framed structure with gabled roof, and the wooden elements are decorated in typical Amdo style with rich carvings and historic paintings.

The Manikhang was restored in 2009. The main timber elements were in reasonably good condition, so the intervention mainly consisted of re-roofing and replacement of damaged rafters and missing wooden elements. The unpainted timber parts were treated with linseed oil for protection.

Below: re-roofing the Mani Lhakhang.



Below: the completed Mani Lhakhang





Yul-Lhakhang is the shrine of the local protector deity (*yul-lha* in Tibetan). According to the local tradition, at some time in the past building parts from a ruined temple nearby were taken to build this shrine. So the building consisted of miscellaneous parts, and its condition was poor in general. It is used as prayer hall for local villagers where religious activities are regularly held. Improvement of Yul-Lhakhang was a priority for the villagers and the structural work was completed previously.

In 2009, THF designed and built a room-wide altar with five niches between pillars spans to place new statues donated by the local community.

The timber elements were painted, especially the inside hall, we took the same motives, which we could trace from the original pillars and beams. Front façade and altars were newly painted. A new lighting system was designed, using non-UV spots.

After the restoration, five Buddhist statues were placed in the altar structure, and 6 wall-sized tangka paintings were fixed on the side walls of the room, all contributed by the local community.

During the 4 years of project duration, many artisans participated in the structural intervention. For the mural conservation, THF organized qualified restorers to train local Tibetans. In every stage of the restoration work, the community was deeply involved and contributed to its progress. The participants could learn skills in construction, as well as earn income through the work. Additionally, the local people could realize the importance of their historic monument and improve their sensibility to cultural heritage conservation in their daily use of the site.

THF would like to thank all the participants that helped us to successfully complete the project, as well as the great support of Nangra village community and the local government and all the sponsors for their support to realize this project.

This project was funded by Royal Netherlands Embassy of Beijing.

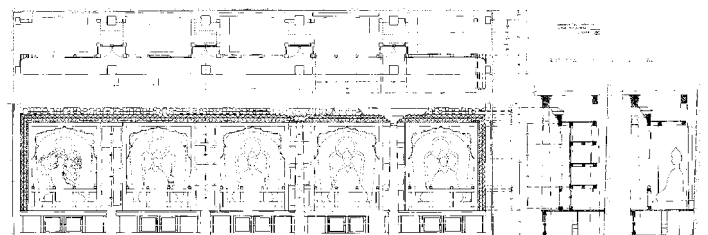


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The completed Yul-Lhakhang altar.



Design for the altar (Y. Hirako).





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*Top: panoramic view of Serkhang monastery.
Center left and right: celebrating the end of project
for three days with the villagers and monks.*

*Below: the Serkhang team: THF artisans and the
villagers who supported the project.*



1.1.2 Traditional House Upgrading

Locations: Jentsa and Trika Counties, Hainan and Huangnan Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures, Qinghai. Duration 2009
Costs: € 7,529.42

The most vulnerable part of traditional homes in Qinghai are the mud walls and the mud roofs. Rammed earth is the most common material used for the outer walls. Rammed earth walls locally known as *kyang* are built with local soil, and construction skills are locally available. Thick soil walls make good isolation, keeping the indoor temperature comfortable for living, cool in summer and warm in winter. The purely natural material is easy to maintain and to recycle; it is very friendly to the natural environment.

However, with the appearance of new construction material, people have started to replace the *kyang* wall into brick and concrete blocks, often with encouragement from local governments. This is not only changes the traditional building characteristics and appearance, but it is also a pity to abandon nature-friendly materials.

The *kyang* wall's weak point is at the top, where it is exposed to erosion by rain and wind. THF proposed to upgrade the *kyang* wall by adding a stone- or brick parapet on the top.

THF and the residents cooperated to carry out this project, THF mainly provided the materials and skilled masons, and residents contributed assistant labors and soil, dry grass etc free materials from their field.

THF implemented upgrading of *kyang* walls in three different villages (two in Guide and one in Jentsa), aiming to preserve traditional housing with sustainability. The perimeter of courtyard houses are approximately between 35 to 60 meters, the construction period was about 10 days per courtyard house. The Costs for each houses were about 2200 to 5000 RMB/ house, depends on the size of house. In total, 12 houses were upgraded in three villages as a model case.

Location A: Ragen village, Guide County
Ragen village is an early Tibetan settlement in the Guide basin, about 3 km away from the center of Guide county town. There are about 40 house holders currently, inhabited by Tibetan, Han-Chinese and Hui-Muslims. THF's offer of upgrading was taken up by 7 old courtyard houses with over 100 years history.

Location B: Xiapai village, Guide County
A famous *Yul-lha* temple (local soil deity) is located in this village. THF upgraded 2

courtyard houses, including the oldest house in the village.

Location C: Nangra village, Jentsa County
Nangra is the center of an ancient Tibetan tribe known as "Nangra Chong Gye", the allied settlement of about 700 house holds, which was ruled by a Tibetan local ruler until 60 years ago. Despite the political developments, the community structure and village layout with vernacular buildings are still intact. Three courtyard houses participated in housing upgrading as model cases.

In this case, the walls were additionally fitted with wooden eaves to create a small overhang structure to protect the vertical walls better from rain. Each courtyard house took about two weeks to complete, carpentry work was necessary for the timber structure, so the THF contribution was about 3500 RMB 5000 RMB/ house for this upgrading project.

Results: three homes have been upgraded, and a village-wide workshop was held involving local artisans.

This project was funded by MISEREOR.



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Right: masons levelling the wall and plastering the inside.

Below: the rammed earth walls are protected by Tibetan-style wooden overhangs, topped with tiles or slate stones.





Top left and right: before and after, traditional village home in Trika. As a result of the upgrading, the mud walls and roof are permanently protected.

1.1.3 Public Stupa Garden

Location: Trika Counties, Hainan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province.
Duration 2009
Costs: € 825.74

The "Trika World Peace Stupa", built by THF 2007-8, became an important monument of the Ragen community. Villagers perform daily circumambulation practice and often people gather here for talking or relaxation. To improve the surrounding environment, THF and village community paved the circumambulation path and built a garden around. THF contributed materials and technical skills while the community contributed labor. The circumambulation path was paved with big slate stones matching the stone-built Stupa, and fitted with a drainage system. Low garden walls can be used by the people to take a seat and rest during their circumambulation walk.

This project was funded by MISEREOR.



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Top: detail, completed stupa garden.
 Below: the 15.5m high stone stupa built by THF and the village in 2008.



Left: detail of the paving and the garden boundary wall that doubles as place to sit.



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Gyatsongtsang House

The Gyatsongsang house had many intricate and elaborate details, but over the years the timber frame shifted and the building became distorted. Our challenge lay in correcting these structural faults while keeping the authenticity of one the most important historic buildings of Yushu, and improving the living conditions of the owners so as to popularize the idea of rehabilitation. In the end we had to carefully dismantle the wooden structure of the top floor, after carefully numbering all the elements. We could then also repair damages in the mud brick walls, and reinforced the foundations with stone.

Mani-Dunkhor is a shrine hall with a large prayer-wheel inside, people turn it clockwise on their circumambulation prayer. On the north side are stacks of Mani-stones. The circumambulation path around the complex is about 120 meter long. Mani-Dunkhor is the community center of Jyekundo's Old Town, where residents old and young come for their daily circumambulations.

First, the ground surface was levelled, and then a layer of concrete poured as foundation. Tibetan masons laid stone paving on top. Drainage and steps to the shrine were also added. Many local community members voluntarily contributed physical work.

Below: carpenters preparing new tracery windows.

A craftsman is shown working on a large, rectangular wooden lattice frame, likely a Jangjuk (a traditional Korean window or screen). The frame is made of light-colored wood and features a complex geometric pattern of interlocking squares and rectangles. The craftsman is holding the frame at an angle, possibly inspecting it or preparing it for installation. The background shows a workshop environment with other wooden structures and tools.



The ground floor rooms, originally unpaved, were paved with natural stone, and rooms were enlarged by removing partition walls. Extra windows were added for light and ventilation improvement. The ceilings were also improved, instead of rough twigs and brushwood, we used boards or twigs of roughly the same shape and size. Many of the original grid-design windows had been lost over the years, we re-created them and glazed them.

Regarding room use, the owners wanted to separate the three floors – the ground floor could so become a tea house, the upper floor their residential area, and on the roof a shrine room.

In November 2009, the restoration work was completed and house owner moved back into the restored house.

This project was funded by MISEREOR.

Below: three stages of Gyatsongsang House in May, September and November 2009.



Katsun Lhakhang

Katsun Lhakhang is an important historic religious building that has survived the period of post-1958 in the Jiekundo Old Town, the center of Yushu. It also serves as religious and social gathering place for the residents of the old town. The temple specially has been used for the local practice of Nyungne, which is "no speaking practice" carried out several times per year. The name of temple itself may come from this practice of "ka" (mouth) and "tsun" (close up) in Tibetan.

The restoration work of the Katsun Lhakhang contains two parts; restoration of building structure and mural conservation in the main hall. In 2009, THF started to prepare the construction materials, especially the Penma twigs were one of main material need to be prepared and dried for coming construction season. Also we prepared Yamba slate stone for parapet making. The slate stone was quarried and prepared by a mason into shape ready to be use.

Romanian restorer visited the site and made a primary study of historic painting in prayer hall. The previous condition was photographed and damages analyzed and she made a work plan.

This project was funded by Trace Foundation and MISEREOR.



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Top: Katsun Lhakhang, oldest temple in Jyekundo.

Below: Jyekundo team 2009.



1.2 Sichuan Programme

1.2.1 Langtang Dolma Lhakhang

Location: Langtang, Serphu county, Kardze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan.

Duration 2009 - on-going

Costs in 2009: € 2,826.76

The Langthang Dolma Lhakhang is one of the 12 temples built by emperor Srongtsan Gampo in the 7th century to pin down the demoness seen as underlying Tibet; these temples are strategically placed across the Tibetan empire and their locations seem to define the extent of the empire at that time. The Langtang Dolma Lhakhang was built on the right hand of the demoness. The present standing building was reconstructed during the 17th century at the spot where a 7th century Dolma image was found after a mudslide destroyed the original temple nearby. The temple was not destroyed after 1958 but converted into various non-religious usages. A simple restoration work was carried out in the 1980s locally.

In September 2009, THF visited the site and assessed the building condition, to start preparing the necessary restoration materials. Timber for structural elements and *pema* bushes for the *penbey* frieze were collected locally by villagers and nomads. All materials were stored in the monastery, for use in the 2010 season.

This project was funded by Trace Foundation.

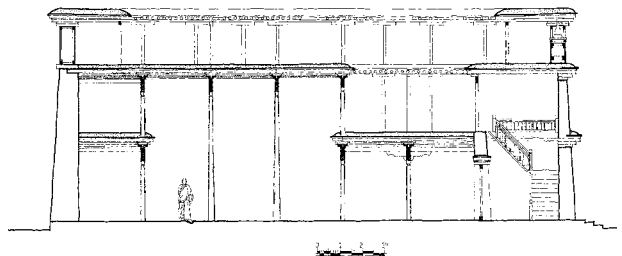
Right column, from top: east elevation of Dolma Lhakhang.

Section drawing (Liang Yaqin).

THF team surveying the site.

*Looking for the *penbey* frieze material (*potentilla fruticosa*) with monk Dorje Dondrup.*

Below: collecting slate stone for the parapet.



2 LHASA RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

2.1 Lhasa Clinic Project

Location: Lhasa Prefecture, Penbo, Nalenda.

Costs in 2009: € 10,018.46

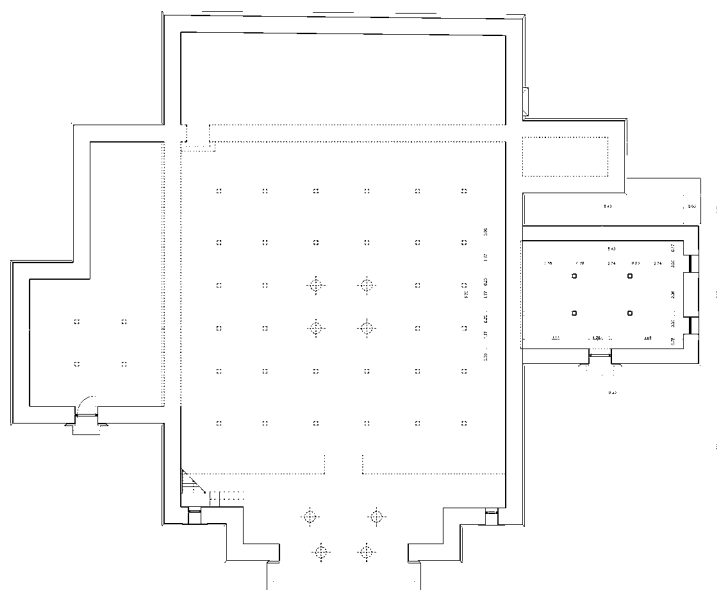
THF built a clinic for traditional Tibetan medicine and basic health care at Nalenda monastery, in the Penbo valley north of Lhasa.

Previously, there was no health care facility in the area. Nalenda monastery, founded in 1435 by Rongton Chenpo Mawai Sengge, serves as social as well as religious centre for the area, and the monastery has a trained monk doctor. The villagers living nearby asked for help to build a clinic. According to the monastery's wishes, the clinic was built attached to one of the main prayer halls, which itself was rebuilt in the early 90s after destruction during the Cultural Revolution.

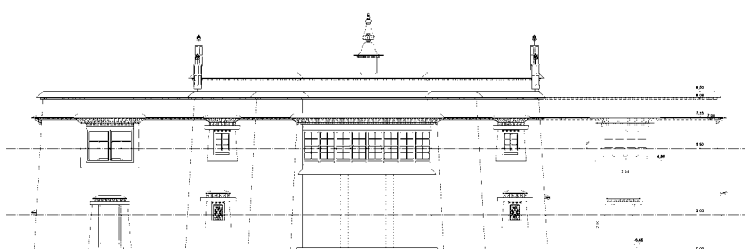
This project was funded by the German Embassy in Beijing.



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GROUND FLOOR (project)
(section at 2 m.)



Top: Nalenda's small assembly hall, rebuilt in the early 1990s after destruction during the Cultural Revolution.

Second from top: traditional construction of the clinic.

Third from top: the completed clinic building attached to the assembly hall.

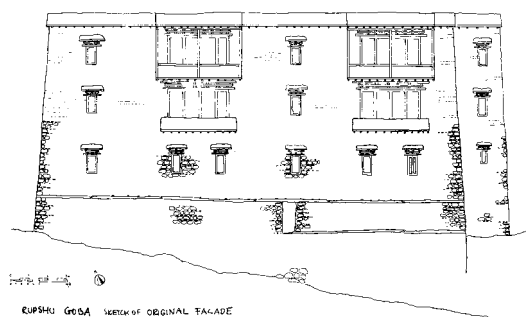
Left: ground plan of the assembly hall, showing the clinic building on the right side.

Below: elevation drawing of the assembly hall with clinic building annex.

The clinic project was planned and implemented by Nyima Tashi, architectural drawings by volunteer Nie Yun from Beijing.



Above: Leh old town October 2009.
Right: proposed elevation drawing for reconstruction of Rupsho Goba (A. Wozniak).



3. Ladakh Programme

3.1 Leh Old Town

Location: Leh, Ladakh, India.
Duration 2003 - on-going.
Costs in 2009: € 106,281.00
(includes Central Asian Museum)

The historic town of Leh was for centuries the seat of the kings of Ladakh. In recent years the old city has fallen under decay as some of the old town residents have abandoned their homes because of lacking infrastructure. Due in part to the efforts of THF and its local branch LOTI (Leh Old Town Initiative), there is growing local interest in preserving the historic town. In 2009 THF/LOTI rehabilitated two ancient buildings in the Old Town, built new drainage, and continued work on the Central Asian Museum and Research Library.

Rupsho Goba House

Costs: € 2,276.91

The Rupsho Goba House is the former residence of a Ladakhi princess of the 19th century who married an off-spring from the Lhagyari family of Tibet.

During the second half of the 20th century, it fell into disrepair as the family's fortunes declined. We started the project in 2008 with securing the existing ground floor. In 2009 we concluded the reconstruction work: walls were repaired, new doors & windows were fitted and the ceiling was rebuilt. The former ruined ground floor, with an entrance portion, a kitchen, store rooms for the owner and potential tenants has been made ready for use.

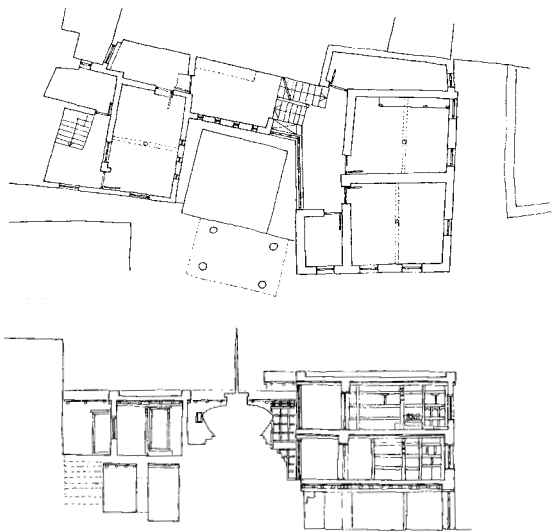
Funded by Liechtenstein Development Service.



Roqia Bano House

Costs: € 9,594.28

The Roqia Bano House is a historic building located on the main access road leading through the historic old town to the former royal palace. The Roqia Bano or Hor Yarkandi family (with roots in today's Xinjiang province in China), has already worked with THF/LOTI on rehabilitation of another house in 2006. They approached us again this year and agreed to provide 50% co-financing. The south front (the prestige facade of Ladakhi houses) and the east front had some cracks and damages. The west and north portions of the building had already collapsed. We found that these areas had been built on the base of the ancient stupa that stands adjacent to the house. We separated the stupa from the building and preserved some historic mouldings. The building was completed at the end of the season. Funded by Finland Embassy, New Delhi, co-financing by owner.



Top: Plan and section drawing showing stupa (T. Jaekle). Below from left: inner stairwell, last touches on the new corner window, completed elevation.



Lala's Gallery

€ 1,856.79 expenses, redeemed by € 1,856.68 income from selling coffee and conducting the Heritage Walk in the historic old town.

Expenses for running the Heritage House (Lala's Gallery), hosting five different exhibitions by local and international artists and several workshops.

Handles and Hinges (Leh)

€ 456.07

Expenses for hand-made metal handles and hinges for the Tsatsapuri Temple, museum library and Roqia Bano house.

Funded by private donations.



Top left: Lala's Gallery. Right: detail of base of stupa with historic mouldings, now separated from the house walls. Below: water-proofing the roof.





Left: the open foul-smelling cesspool at Manikhang. Top: we hired an excavator to remove tons of semi-liquid waste.



Leh Water and drainage

— Canal ★ Water Tap
 - - - Covered Canal — New Covered Canal

Detail, map of Leh showing the new covered drain built by us in 2009 (THF/D. Eichert).

Manikhang Drainage, Leh

Costs: € 7,601.70

The open drainage system in the Old Town of Leh is a big problem for residents. Especially since the drains end nowhere. In the Manikhang area, a foul-smelling mud-lake had accumulated above a dysfunctional soak-pit. After many discussions with residents of the area and the government, the Minister of Tourism decided to co-finance THF's proposal for clean-up. The old soak pit was cleaned and filled up with stones; a new drain was built and covered with metal frames and grills. Altogether the new drainage channel has a length of around 230 feet and connects the sewage system of the Old Town with the Main Bazaar. Around twenty houses and shops directly benefit from the new drainage system, which keeps the whole Manikhang area much more clean and hygienic.

Funded by Jammu & Kashmir Ministry of Tourism and Embassy of Finland, New Delhi.



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Top: how to build a drain in 3 steps: dig down the concrete road, make a concrete channel and cover it (removable).

Leh Clean-up and Waste Bins

Costs: € 1,793.67

The Old Town of Leh lacks many amenities such as garbage collection and proper drainage. A handful of open drains serve both purposes and are frequently blocked.

THF/LOTI started this model project in the Old Town of Leh to keep the drainage and road clean of garbage. Waste food bins were constructed in different spots, which were already filled with garbage. Residents were mobilized and dirty corners cleaned up (see picture on right).

Funded by Finland Embassy, New Delhi.



Rescue of 10th century Buddha image

Ancient rock carvings constitute an important evidence of the early Buddhist artistic heritage of Ladakh. These carvings can be found on large rock boulders along pathways, such as those of Mulbek and Shey or on slim stone steles.

A rock carving that depicts Maitreya Buddha has been found by THF. The image depicts the deity in two-armed standing form with a female donor praying to his left side and an inscription on a boulder that measures roughly 2.50m in height, 1.60 in width and 60cm deep, its weight calculated to be around 3 tons. On the back is a rough carving of a stupa. A THF team recorded the image for its old town survey in 2003, standing half-buried in the yard of the Tak family and facing south. Conservator Patrick Jürgens analyzed the stone in 2008 and found it to be damaged and threatened by salts rising up into the stone from the soil.

The yard belonged to a dilapidated house no longer in use, and had become quite dirty. Patrick Jürgens stabilized the carvings and recommended that the image be raised. The Tak family and the local community of the area preferred to move the statue.

In early 2009, the local residents proposed that the statue be moved to the nearby Manikhang area (where already three *stupa*-s and five stone Buddha images stand), to the front side of the former Sankar Labrang (today Lala's Café, a Heritage House for Leh operated by THF), so that people could see it, circumambulate it, light lamps in front and it would be still facing in the same direction as previously. Historically, the image stood at the edge of Leh, facing the fields that surrounded the town and having the former city walls and stupa gates to its backside. THF agreed to organize the moving.

In May 2009 THF mobilized its workforce of 35 Ladakhi, Nepali, Bihari and Doda (Jammu & Kashmir) artisans and staff. The image was dug out, and wrapped in polyfoam sheets for protection. It was then lowered onto layers of rafters that were then used to slowly roll the statue out, in a technology copied from the ancient Egyptian builders of the pyramids. It took the whole day to cover the 60 meters to Lala's cafe, when the exhausted workforce covered it and retired for the night. The next day we decided to let a local recovery van lift the statue up to its final place, with a stone stand already prepared. Patrick restored the face according to a photo from 1907. A little stone table was built in front for offerings and butter lamps.

From top: discovery of half-buried image; lowering the image on poles; moving it out of the yard; Patrick restores the half-broken face; the new resting place of the 1000-year old Maitreya.



3.2 Central Asian Museum Leh and Research Library



Duration: 2008 - on-going

Costs Museum: € 35,818.62

Costs Library: € 12,136.93

Saleem Beg from the Ministry of Tourism (Jammu & Kashmir State) requested THF to design and build the first proper museum in Leh.

The idea was to inform about the Central Asian trade, of which Ladakh long has been an important crossroads, and which has had a long and lasting influence on the development of Ladakh's unique culture.

Designed by André Alexander with input from the team and Berlin University of Technology students, the building is inspired by Leh's Tsemo tower, as well as famous Tibetan towers such as Milarepa's Sekar Gutok.

In 2009, we completed the ground floor and first floor, representing Ladakhi and Kashmiri interior architectural styles, respectively. The outer walls have been built in Lhasa-style masonry, with granite stone and mud mortar. Every part, from stone to pillar to metal door handles has been prepared by hand on site by the artisan team.

Work also started on an attached library.

Funded by Ministry of Tourism and Culture Jammu & Kashmir. The Embassy of Finland funded the attached Research Library and a solar power system for the entire complex.

Clockwise from top: building the ground floor walls; nearly-completed ground floor (foto Mag Hui); detail of the Lhasa-style masonry and head mason Lal Singh; master Jamyang and mason Tsering Blu laying the beams for the roof of level 2; two floors completed when it started snowing; the Ladakh work team 2009.



3.3 Sumda Chenmo

Costs: € 640.44

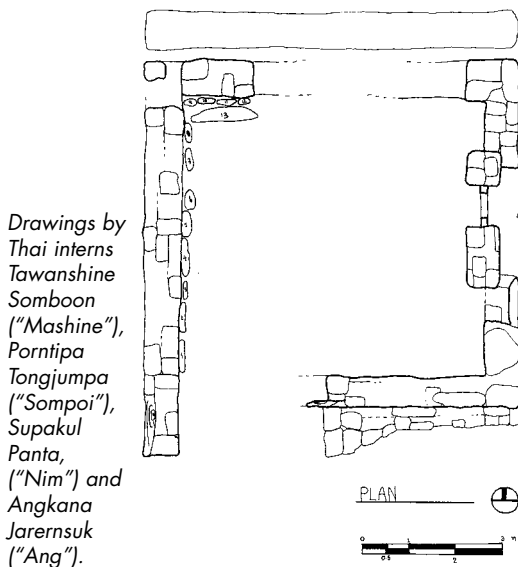
The famous ruined temple with free-standing wooden Buddha images in Sumda Chenmo is located in the Markha valley west of Leh, at an altitude of 3.900m. It is only reachable by a steep five-hour footwalk. The temple and the wooden sculptures have been dated to the 13th century; and oral tradition has it that the temple was already ruined around 200 years ago. In the 1950s there was an attempt to reconstruct the temple building, but on the first day the head mason had an accident. This was locally considered very inauspicious, the project was stopped. In 2008 the Drukchen Rinpoche visited Sumda Chenmo and requested the villagers to restore the temple.

Volunteers of the Markha Valley Youth Association for Conservation and Development and the villagers collected materials to build a new chapel. They invited THF to help excavate the Buddha images. 13 Buddha images were found and documented before the villagers requested to halt the work. Carpenter and restorer Katrin Krause treated the badly preserved wood and built new display stands. The wooden sculptures are now in a temporary shelter. THF and the villagers have now requested Drukchen Rinpoche to perform a puja so that more excavation can take place, villagers suspect another room underneath the ruins.

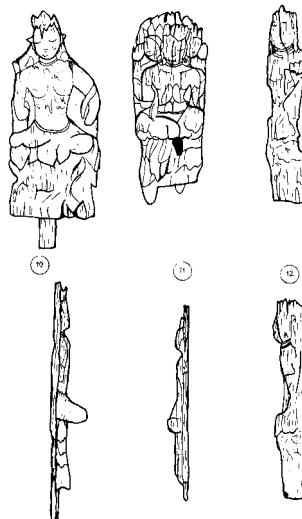


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Counter-clockwise from below left: ground plan of temple ruin, the 13 Buddhas we excavated are marked; details of three of the wooden images; the preserved images are arranged on new stands in a temporary shelter on site; carpenter-restorer Katrin cleans and treats the images, which have become partly rotten after being in soil for over 100 years; detail of buried Buddhas; documenting the site.



Drawings by
Thai interns
Tawanshine
Somboon
("Mashine"),
Pornnipa
Tongjampa
("Sompoi"),
Supakul
Panta,
("Nim") and
Angkana
Jarernsuk
("Ang").



4 WALL-PAINTING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

4.1 Ladakh Wall-Painting Conservation

ཐེངས་ལྔ་ལྟུང་སྐྱོད་བཤུགས་

Alchi Tsatsapuri

Duration: 2007-ongoing

Costs: € 28,390.93

The Tsatsapuri temple complex rests on a rocky outcrop in the uppermost settlement of Alchi village. It consists of three shrine buildings and a ruined residential building grouped around a central courtyard. The three buildings are a two-storey teaching and meditation building, a single-storey stupa-hall with lantern, and a three-floor assembly hall. Painting styles, inscriptions, carbon dating and architectural designs suggest that the buildings on the west and north date to the late 13th century, with the eastern building attached as late as the 15th century. The art is comparable to some of the temples in the famous Alchi Choskor, like the Lhakhang Soma.

In 2009, the multi-year conservation project continued with consolidation, cleaning and retouching of the wall-paintings in the west building; in the stupa-hall cleaning, treating and filling of the wall paintings and the plaster, flooring with wooden elements, and restoration of the facade. The ruined former monks' residence was rebuilt. Painting conservation work was done by German restorer Patrick Jürgens, Anna Kronewirth, and students from the Universities of Applied Sciences of Erfurt and Potsdam, and INP Paris. Training of Ladakhi restorers Yangchen Dolma, Sonam Dolma and Tsering Chorol continued.



From top: restored Stupa-hall; site plan; ruined monk's residence; rebuilt monk's residence. Left: conserved and restored paintings in the teaching hall; trainee Dolma touches up damaged Buddha images. Below: the Tsatsapuri team 2009.



Leh Tsemo Lamokhang

On request of the monk community, restorer Charlotte Bellizzi and volunteer Rei Takahashi performed emergency conservation of damaged 16th century murals in the Tsemo protector chapel.

Left: stabilized painting of the temple's founder, king Tashi Namgyal.



4.2 Qinghai Wall-Painting Conservation

ཐེངས་ཤིག་གི་སྐབས་སུ།

Nangra Serkhang, Serchi Labrang

(Costs are included in Serkhang project)
Serchi Labrang was built in the 19th century as residence for the Serchi (gSer khri) Lama incarnation lineage. It is a typical Amdo-style timber frame building with rich decorative carvings, and historic decorative paintings. For more than 50 years, the owner, the current Serchi Lama, has not lived in this building, and it fell into decay.

Inside Serchi Labrang, we found historic paintings in the altar room. Delicate paintings were drawn on 38 panel boards and on the main structural wooden elements of pillars and beams. These had been painted over and plastered over during the Cultural Revolution under the policy of prohibition of religious images, some had also been intentionally damaged with cuts and scratches, and some were covered by dirt and soot.

THF worked with Anca Nicolaescu, expert for painting conservation from Romania, assisted by two German students, to restore these paintings. Several trials with dry and wet cleaning methods were made; the best result found was a wet cleaning method using ethyl alcohol. Two Tibetan trainees also worked on the cleaning process.

23 panels were retouched by the expert team, and 15 by the trainees under supervision. All 38 panels of paintings were successfully restored and the Tibetan trainees learned the entire process of restoring paintings on wood. The final result of the restored altar room brought back the original room designs.

This project was supported by Royal Netherlands Embassy of Beijing and MISEREOR.



Top: Romanian restorer Anca Nicolaescu removing stains on the historic paintings with an iron.

Centre: the completed lama's residence room at Serchi Labrang.

Below: the mural restoration team, Serkhang 2009.
Below left: Anca and Tibetan trainee Shadruckto cleaning the wooden panels.



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5. OTHER ACTIVITIES

5.1 UNESCO Award

THF's Sangiin Dalai Monastery Restoration Project in South Gobi Aimag, Republic of Mongolia has been honoured with the Award of Excellence in the 2009 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The project was managed by Pimpim de Azevedo, with support from China Programme Manager Yutaka Hirako.

UNESCO's recommendation runs as follows:

"The heroic restoration of the 18th-century Buddhist monastery has revived an important Mongolian cultural center in the south Gobi desert and rekindled a tradition of vernacular craftsmanship. Converted in the 1930s into an army camp and later abandoned, the monastery complex has been brought back to life by local people who, through this project, have reacquired long-lost skills in architecture and the manufacture of traditional construction materials.[...]"

Mentoring by Chinese master builders employed on the project has renewed historic cultural linkages, while the guidance of international experts has helped ensure that a rigorous methodology for documentation and conservation was followed."



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5.2 Historic building survey

THF documented and surveyed a number of historic Tibetan buildings, including the Yuan dynasty foundation of Tagyama in Qinghai, Denkor Chökhör monastery in Sichuan, and historic residential buildings in the Jyekundo area.

In late 2009, a team set out to look for the lost Tibetan settlement of Tsalchi, at the border between Xinjiang, Qinghai and Central Tibet.

5.3 Publications

THF's work was featured in several magazines: Indian Architect & Builder (Mumbai, May 2009), Epilogue (Jammu, August 2008), and Orientations (HK, Nov-Dec 2009).

"Poverty Reduction That Works", a UN Publication on successful poverty-reducing projects chosen from UN-Habitat's database of Best Practice projects, includes an article by THF on our the Lhasa urban rehabilitation project. UNDP Sri Lanka also funded a video documentary about THF's work for the UNDP website.

Virginia and Wellington Lee funded on-going work on an illustrated Tibetan architecture dictionary by Pimpim de Azevedo.

དཔུང་ཞིག



Pimpim and project partners at celebration in Mongolia.



5.4 Bhutan Research

THF's André Alexander visited Bhutan for a research project involving Songtsan Gampo's 7th century border-taming temples, two of which are in Bhutan. He also held talks with the Bhutan Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites, to develop a programme to conserve historic vernacular buildings. The research is carried out in cooperation with Bhutan's National Library, and is funded by the Gerda-Henkel Foundation.

Below: with Dr. Yönten, Prof. Per Sørensen and monks at the famous Jampey Lhakhang in Bumtang.



5.5 University Projects

As part of a longer cooperation with THF, Prof. Peter Herrle, founder of the Habitat Unit, Berlin University of Technology, came with 12 students and fellow Professor Peter Berten to look at urban conservation issues and Leh's traffic situation. They gave a presentation to the local government on 8 Sept. 2009 (photo below).



THF also cooperated with the Kamal Raheja Vidhyanidhi Institute of Architecture and Environmental Studies in Mumbai. A group of 20 students led by Prof. Anirudh Paul came to Leh to document the historic Muslim quarter of the town. A cooperation with the Chinese University of Hong Kong was launched to study Tibetan village temples.



5.6 3D Scanning

THF also cooperated with the National Institute of Research and Development for Optoelectronics, Romania. Scientists Roxana Radvan and Dragos Ene made 3D-scans of Tsatsapuri, Leh Red Maitreya temple and the best-preserved (but endangered) of the Buddhist caves at Sasspol in Ladakh.



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5.7 Presentations

THF's André Alexander gave presentations for the Malaysian-German Society (Georgetown, Penang, 20.2.) on "Heritage of Tibet-Preservation of Buddhist monasteries and revival of traditional architecture" and at the Symposium 'Heritage Preservation in the Himalaya' (Vienna, 19.6.) about "The Lhasa Jokhang - An Indian Vihara in Tibet". The three THF directors Alexander, Pimpim de Azevedo and Yutaka Hirako gave presentations at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (19.11.) on "Architectural Preservation in the Tibetan Realm", and at the Asia Society Hong Kong Center on 24.11. on "The Spirit Travels: Tibetan Architecture in Lhasa, Amdo, Mongolia and Ladakh".

Left: the three THF directors being announced by friend and supporter Virginia Yee in Hong Kong.

7. WHO ARE THF

THF་མཚམས་སྤྱོར་མཛེན་བསྟན།

TIBET HERITAGE FUND (THF) is an international non-profit organization founded 1996 in Lhasa and Berlin. THF's aims are to support preservation of cultural heritage and environment; improvement of living conditions for disadvantaged communities, particularly in the sectors employment, education and health; and sustainable and community-based development of communities in fragile and endangered environments.

THF is a registered non-profit organization in Germany, India and Mongolia, and recognized as non-profit cooperation partner in China.

THF is directed by André Alexander (also the Ladakh program manager) and Pimpim de Azevedo, and Yutaka Hirako is the Chief Financial Officer and China Program Manager; Sylvester Kaben is the treasurer, Lundup Dorje the Beijing office manager, Lobsang Ngudup the Qinghai local program manager; and Tseyang is heads the accounting and logistics department. In Ladakh, the team includes worksite manager Stanzin Dolker and staff Sonam Gyatso.

Contact THF

info@tibetheritagefund.org

In Ladakh, visit us between April and October at Lakruk House, Stalam, Leh, below the old royal palace, or at Lala's Café. In China, visit us on Lantau Island in Hong Kong. During work season we are mostly around Amdo and Kham.

THF aims and principles

- Assisting poor and disadvantaged communities in both urban and rural settings in their needs for economic development, cultural preservation, health and education
- Conservation with and for local communities (ICOMOS Living Cities Principles).
- Conservation of buildings and of building technology.
- For residential buildings: priority on livability, owner/occupants participate in planning process, protection of tenants.
- For monuments (incl. monasteries): authenticity desired, building history respected, owners participate in planning process.
- Maximum retaining of historic elements (UNESCO Venice Charter).
- Accommodation of local demand for pragmatic usability of sites.
- Compromise and Negotiation are routine.

THF is non-political and committed to promote understanding and co-operation between different cultures and nations to benefit world cultural heritage.

THF projects are based on a participatory approach, centered around preservation of indigenous heritage and traditions. Our water and sanitation program is aimed at improving people's living conditions.

THF trains local people in technical skills, such as traditional building skills, architectural design and survey work, mural conservation and general restoration skills.



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Ladakh team by Angkana.



Yutaka by André.



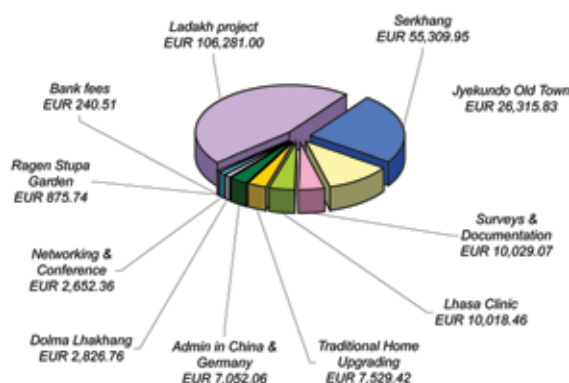
8. FINANCIAL REPORT

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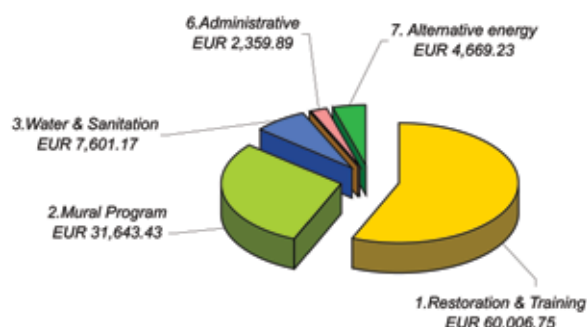
THF Incoming Funds 2009: EURO 268,524.86

Carry-over from 2008	€ 25,655.60
MISEREOR	€ 57,000.00
J&K Ministry of Tourism	€ 35,222.74
Dutch Embassy Beijing	€ 33,794.71
Finland Embassy Delhi	€ 32,403.35
German Embassy Delhi	€ 26,687.25
ACCA (ACHR Bangkok)	€ 13,329.11
Trace Foundation	€ 10,855.94
German Embassy Beijing	€ 10,013.25
Virginia & Wellington Yee	€ 6,740.80
Shelley & Donald Rubin Fnd.	€ 3,463.49
Carol Rattray & Jane Huang	€ 3,440.92
Local co-financing	€ 3,267.49
Liechtenstein Development Service	€ 2,275.74
UNDP Sri Lanka	€ 1,867.80
Private donations	€ 455.93
Membership fees & Gallery	€ 2,013.68
Bank interest	€36.87
Total	€ 268,524.68

Expenses by Projects



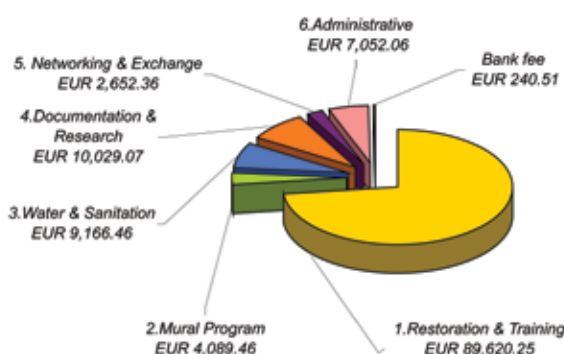
Ladakh Project



THF Outgoing Funds 2009: EURO 229,131.16

Central Asian Museum + Research Library Leh + Solar Energy Project	€ 47,955.55
Leh Old Town Project	€ 29,934.52
Alchi Tsatsapuri	€ 28,390.93
Serkhang Monastery	€ 55,309.95
Jyekundo Old Town	€ 26,315.83
Surveys & Documentation	€ 10,029.07
Lhasa Clinic	€ 12,747.02
Traditional Home Upgrading	€ 7,529.42
Administrative China/Berlin	€ 7,052.42
Dolma Lhakhang	€ 2,826.76
Conference & networking	€ 2,652.36
Ragen Stupa Garden	€ 875.74
Bank fees	€ 240.51
Total	€ 229,131.16
carry-over 2010	€ 39,393.51

China Project



A very big thanks from all participants and local partners and beneficiaries to everyone who has supported our work. Contact THF to find out how to support our current projects.



The famous free-standing wooden Maitreya from around the early 13th century at Sumda-Chen. Drawing by Mashine, Sompoi, Nim and Angkana.

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