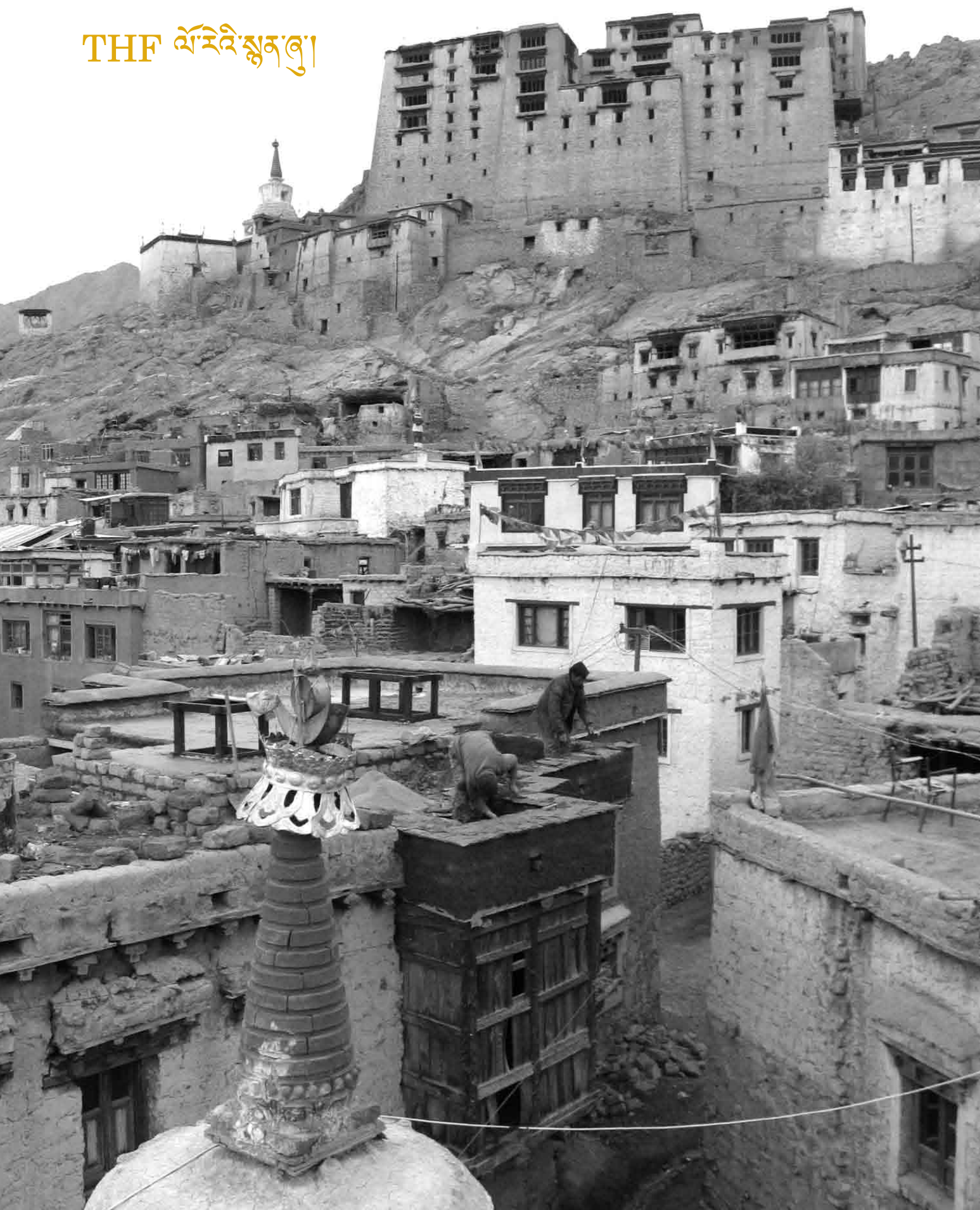


# THF 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

建築文化遺產基金會 2005 年度報告

THF ལོ་ངོ་ལྔ་པའི་སྒྲུབ་ཁྲིམས་



# THF 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

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# Introduction

*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 capacities, create economic opportunities and to keep traditional building skills and crafts alive. THF is interested in historic settlements and cities, where we carry out social surveys and develop rehabilitation proposals. We also research and document traditional Tibetan building technology.*

## **The Tibetan Cultural Realm**

*Tibetan cultural influence has historically spread over the entire Himalayan regions, has reached the ears of Chinese emperors and Mongolian conquerors, and has even spread across Siberia. In the past, religious teachers, artisans, pilgrims and traders would travel across the Himalayan plateau and adjacent regions. Borders did have 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 taxation base, have become impregnable walls separating communities. This deprives the Himalayan culture centuries' old dynamics. THF is devoted to interregional exchange of experience, in ways that can benefit improvement of basic human needs as well as heritage preservation.*

*As a result of the advent of modernity, many historic monuments, sites and settlements have disappeared, and traditional skills declined. 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 this slip away, with the effect that once-unique Himalayan towns and settlements start to look like towns anywhere else in Asia. However, it is always dangerous to romanticize, and the inhabitants of the Tibetan cultural realm, whether they are ethnic Tibetans, Chinese, Indians or Mongolians, have legitimate aspirations to reach the same level of comfort and economic progress as people elsewhere.*



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

*Currently we are working in three countries, and some of our artisans come from as far away from each other as the Chinese rooftile makers from Tianjin and mud plaster experts from Bihar. It has been a challenge to coordinate projects 3000 kilometers apart.*

*For us and our partners, it has been worth it. You the reader can judge for yourself. On the following pages are the details of our activities in 2005.*

*Thanks to all our supporters and donors.*

*The aims portrayed here, and the communities that we work with need continued support.*

# Map of THF Project Sites



*Note: Map © Google Maps, only for orientation.  
THF is not responsible for depictions of international borders.*



# 1. CHINA PROGRAMME

THF has worked in China since 1996 for community-based development, cultural heritage preservation and sustainable urban rehabilitation.

## 1.1 Qinghai Programme

Qinghai, like Yunnan, is one of China's truly multi-cultural provinces. Part of the historic silk route milieu, different ethnic and sectarian groups, like Han Chinese, Mongolians, Hui and Sala Muslims, and Buddhist Tibetans have lived here together for centuries. Qinghai is also one of China's least developed regions, with significant income gaps between rural and urban populations. THF works with disadvantaged rural communities living in some of the least developed counties in China.

Tibetan culture has made an impact in the region since at least the 8th century. Most ethnic Tibetan areas of Qinghai belong to the Tibetan cultural region of Amdo, which played a significant role during the revival of Buddhism in central Tibet in the 10th century.

The multi-cultural influences can be found in the physical heritage of the region, with many monuments built in a blend of Chinese, Tibetan and Central Asian architectural traditions.

### 1.1.2 Ragya Monastery

རུ་རྒྱུ་དགའ་ལྗན་བཀྲ་ཤིས་འབྲུང་  
གནས་ལག་སྐྱབ་དར་རྒྱས་གླིང་།

Location: Maqian county, Golok Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province.  
Duration: 2002- on-going  
Budget in 2005: US\$39,694.42



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Ragya monastery was founded in 1769 by Arig Geshe (ཨ་རིག་དགེ་འཕེལ་), who had studied at the Tantric college of Sera monastery in Lhasa.

Later the monastery became the seat of the Shingsa (ཤིང་ས་) Rinpoche lineage, the re-incarnation of Tsongkapa's mother. Ragya became one of the biggest Gelugpa school monasteries in Qinghai.

## 1.1.2.1 Ragya Tantric College

ར་རྒྱུ་དགོན་པ་

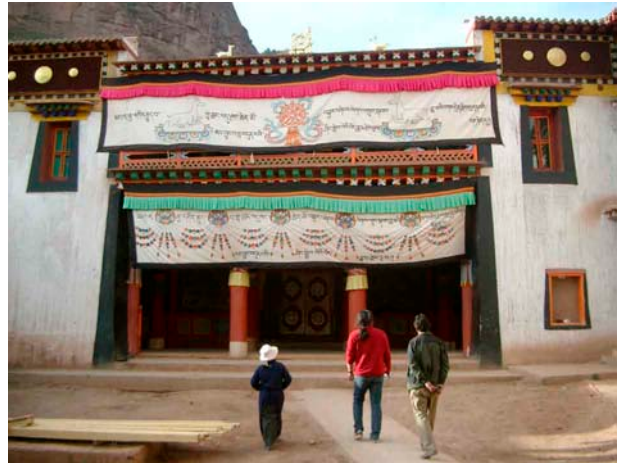
In Ragya monastery, only two historic buildings survived from the period of the Culture Revolution.

THF was invited to look at those historic buildings in 2002. Together with master artisans from Lhasa we made a detailed site survey.

The Tantric College had just been closed because the building was deemed unstable, and the students had moved temporarily to a different building.

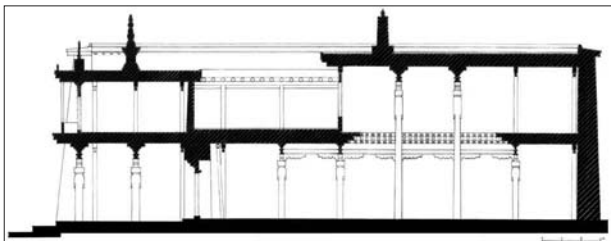
THF's team completed a structural restoration of the Tantric college building by 2004.

Traditionally, Tibetan-style roofs in Qinghai have either simple soil covers, or are fitted with roof tiles. THF made a sample of the *arga* waterproof roofing. *Arga* is a very common waterproofing material in central Tibet. We found suitable *arga* soil (sediments and limestone) in the Ragya area. However no one knew the methods of this traditional roofing technique. THF invited two *Arga* roofing experts from Lhasa and Ganzi, and over 20 monks were trained in making and maintenance of *arga* roofing.

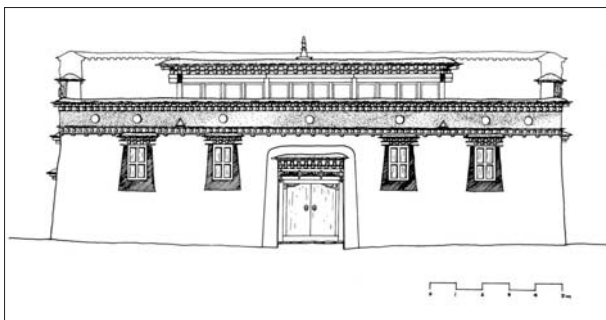


*Top: Ragya's Tantric College (Gyupa Dratsang) was restored by a THF team in 2004, in 2005 the team water-proofed the roofs.*

*Below: two experts from Lhasa and Ganzi trained a group of Ragya monks in the arga technique (THF).*



*Ragya Tantric college, north-south section (THF).*



*Ragya Jokhang hall, south elevation (Y. Hirako /THF).*





## 1.1.2.2 Ragya Jokhang Hall



*Right: restoration of interior timber frame and roof of surviving part of Jokhang hall (THF).*



Work on the former assembly hall of Ragya, the Jokhang, began in late 2004.

The Jokhang is the oldest building in the monastery, but it was closed because it had partly collapsed. There was major rot in the roof timbers due to earlier unchecked roof leaks, and the internal timber frame structure was off-balance. The rear part of the building with the original *sanctum* had collapsed decades ago.



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In 2005, THF worked to restore the surviving part of the building, by replacing damaged timber elements and restoring the original timber frame balance. The parapet was also restored, decorated with *pembey* (ཐུན་བུ་) frieze and covered slate stone. In cooperation with the monastery, THF planned for the re-construction of the missing half of the building to restore it to its original size. The local team then built a stone foundation to avoid future water infiltration, and a stone wall between the building and the mountain slope.

The local team of over 50 participants consisted of people from different regions of Qinghai, TAR and Sichuan. The site was managed by Mr. Lobsang and Ms Tseyang from Lhasa.

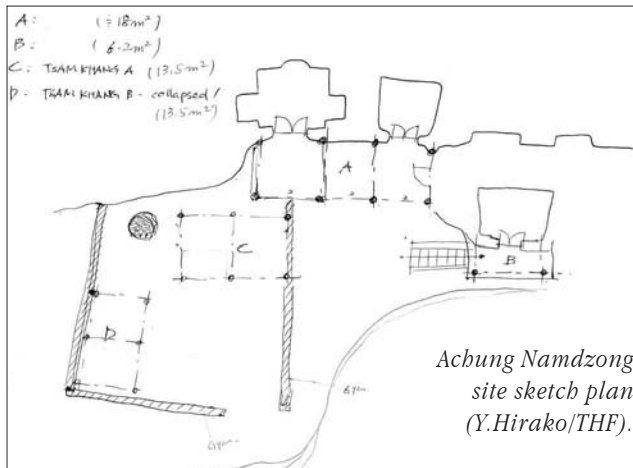
This project was supported by MISEREOR, Trace Foundation, Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation and Shalu Deutschland e.V.



*Left from top: carpenter workshop with Choechook from Lhasa; remaining part of Jokhang hall; new wall for the circumambulation passage; local project team 2005.*

## 1.1.3 Achung Namdzong

ཡན་ཏུ་གནས་པའི་རྒྱུ་



Location: Kambura village Jianzha county  
Huangnan TAP Qinghai province.  
Duration: 2005-continuing  
Budget in 2005: US\$13,592.00

Achung Namdzong is a cave temple located in the Kambura national park, characterized by uniquely-shaped mountains of red earth.

The site is located near the peak of Namdzong mountain, a 45 minute walk from the bottom.

According to a widely-believed tradition, Achung Namdzong is one of the oldest sites in the history of Tibetan Buddhism in Amdo area. In the 9th century, when Buddhism in central Tibet was suppressed by king Langdarma (r. ca. 836-843), three Buddhist monks escaped through Xinjiang and finally arrived at Namdzong. They lived and practised Buddhism in the three caves at Namdzong, until they heard the news of king Langdarma's assassination by Lhalung Pelgyi Dorje. The latter also escaped to Amdo and met the three monks here. However, as someone who had perpetrated a murder he was not allowed to enter the caves and stayed in a cave in a nearby mountain. The religious students of the three monks subsequently played an important role for the revival of Buddhism in central Tibet.

Therefore Namdzong became one of most important historic sites for Tibetan Buddhism, and received pilgrimage visits and support regardless of sectarian affiliation.

THF visited the site in 2004. Decades of neglect had caused serious deterioration to the wooden access galleries of the caves, which were also used as monks' residences and to protect the interior wallpaintings from the elements.

We found historic wall-paintings and some historic stucco-moulding in two of the three caves, but covered entirely in soot because people sheltering in the caves during the 1960s and 1970s regularly lit fires inside.

The local village community of eight villages historically supporting the site requested THF to help to restore the wooden galleries and the wall-paintings. In 2005 THF surveyed and documented the site, and prepared an intervention plan.

We also bought wood for use in 2006, so there would be time for seasoning. Over 170 villagers helped to carry the wood up the mountain (see pictures below).



Team members 2005

Yutaka Hirako (survey and planning)

Choekyi (project management)

Tuojie (local counterpart)

Tanja Rathien (documentation)

The project was jointly managed by Ms Choekyi from Lhasa and Mr. Tuojie, caretaker of Namdzong.

This project was supported by Trace Foundation and Misereor.





## 1.1.4 Lab Pendhu Stupa

ལའ་པཎ་ཏུ་སྐུ་

Location: Lasitong valley, Chengduo county in Yushu TAP, Qinghai province.

Duration: 2005-continuing

Budget in 2005: US\$7,094.71

Lab monastery, founded in 1419 by a disciple of Tsongkapa, is the earliest Gelukpa school monastery in the Yushu region (part of the Tibetan cultural region of Kham). According to local tradition, the nearby Pendhu Stupa (*stupa* being a Buddhist monument built to house relics and to ward off evil influences) was built earlier than monastery itself. No written records are available.

THF visited Lab Pendhu Stupa for the first time in 2002, as part of a tour of important Yushu sites organized by a local community. The upper half of the structure had collapsed in previous decades. In 2004, Chinese architect Liang Yaqin made a detailed survey for THF, which we used to make an intervention plan. We proposed to retain the historic stone structure, and restore it using the same rubble stone and mud mortar masonry technique. This was agreed to by the local communities and counterparts.

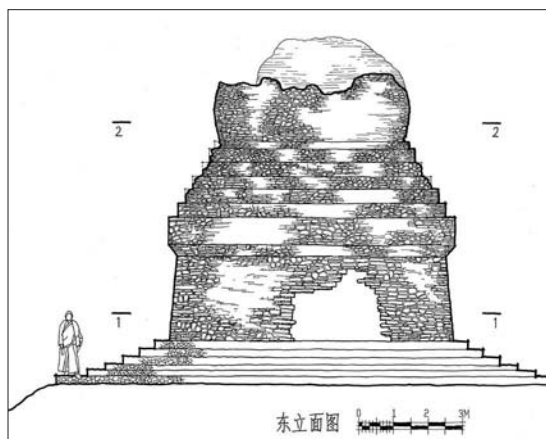
In 2005, THF started actual construction work. The project team consisted of three traditional construction experts from Lhasa and 7 local masons with 25 local assistants. Highly skillful work was required to build up the collapsed part while integrating the surviving historic structure. The structural work was completed in September, and the monastery and local community will prepare offerings to fill the stupa over the winter

The site was jointly managed by Ms Tseyang from Lhasa and Tsenzin Nyima from Yushu.

This project was supported by Misereor.



*Left: completed structural reconstruction. Right: stupa team with Tenzin Nyima and Lundup Dorje (THF).*



*Top: Pendhu Stupa condition 2004 (Liang Y./THF). Below: condition 2004; reconstruction in progress August-September 2005 (THF).*



## 1.2 Sichuan Program

གཡང་རྩུང་གླིང་

Sichuan is China's most populated province. Its western part contains the eastern edge of the Tibetan plateau, home to a substantial part of the Tibetan cultural region of Kham. In 2001, on the invitation of Geta Rinpoche, member of the Sichuan People's Political Consultative Committee, and the late mayor of Ganzi, Tenzin Choedrak, THF began to work in Sichuan province.

### 1.2.1 Yungdrungling Restoration Project

Location: Qukar Gongnong village, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous County, Sichuan Province.

Duration: 2002-2005

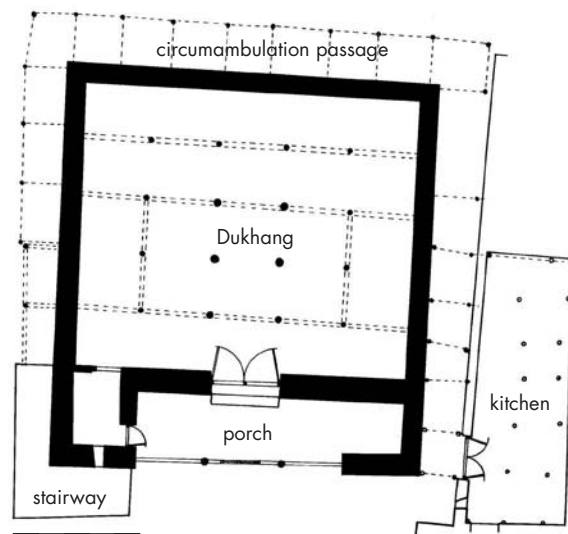
Budget in 2005: US\$12,227.34

Yundrungling is reputedly the oldest monastery in Ganzi County. It is the only Bön site in the long valley between Ganzi town and the Dege Dro-la. Its history is not documented, the local reincarnation lineage with a lama called Gongpur Wuja.

Until 1966 Yundrungling was a true monastery, with seven to eight monks. It was then used as garinary, so that the main building with its old wall-paintings and wooden details was preserved. Since recent times, the building is also used as class-room, where the village children learn how to read and write Tibetan.

After heavy rains in July 2002, the central part of the roof collapsed, destroying parts of the upper floor's inner north wall with its wall paintings.

The caretaker monk asked THF for assistance, and the Ganzi county Religion Affairs Office and Ganzi People's Government gave permission.



Top: ground plan (Y. Hirako/THF); below: roof reconstruction with historic timber frame details.



By 2004, THF completed the structural restoration, and restorer Christine Jürgens conserved the surviving historic wall-paintings.

In 2005, work consisted of interior finishing and waterproofing the roof with *arga*. 12 local trainees learned the basic technique of *arga* roofing from two Lhasa experts, in order to maintain the roof. The wooden floor and other wooden details such as railings and doors were restored. Painters from Derge, specialized in Bön designs, were invited to paint the new exterior details. THF also built a traditional composting-type toilet for the temple. The project was completed in October.

The project was jointly managed by Ms Chokyi from THF and monk Tsewang from Yungdrungling.

It was supported by Misereor, Albert-Kunstadter-Family Foundation and Trace Foundation.

Left: project participants 2005 at Yungdrungling.



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## 1.3 Beijing Hutong

## 北京胡同四合院



Beijing is one of the world's oldest functioning centrally-planned cities. The historic inner city, dating back to the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368) is organized in a grid pattern. The horizontal lanes are known as "*hutong*". The housing, restricted to be single-storey only until the end of the Qing empire, is organized around courtyards. The buildings themselves are built from the "blue" bricks and rooftiles characteristic for northern China.

Most courtyard houses (*si-be-yuan* in Chinese) were transformed into public housing in the 1950s, and today they are overcrowded and dilapidated, and lacking in infrastructure.

As a result of Beijing's rapid urban re-development on a massive scale, many of these ancient structures have been demolished in recent years. But an intense discussion about the future of old Beijing has been raging in China's capital for quite some time. The government has belatedly placed several areas under protection, since continued reckless demolition would be detrimental to the preservation of China's cultural heritage. Yet rehabilitation concepts (beyond turning them all into bars and restaurants) are lacking.

Since 2002, in co-operation with Tsinghua University School of Architecture and local city management departments, THF has studied several Hutong neighbourhoods in great detail, looking at both architecture and social conditions. THF was reminded of conditions not only in Lhasa in the 1990s, but also of similar housing conditions in East Berlin, Moscow and St. Petersburg that some of us had experienced first-hand. According to our surveys, the

majority of residents actually praise the life-quality of Hutongs in terms of social relations with their neighbours living within the same lane, security, greenness, quietness and, of course, the convenient location in the centre of Beijing.

There is also great beauty to the Hutong lanes, specially the view of huge areas of tiled roofs and trees. The debate over the future of old Beijing interested THF. Would it be possible to apply the participatory rehabilitation approach that we had developed in Lhasa to the Beijing Hutong?

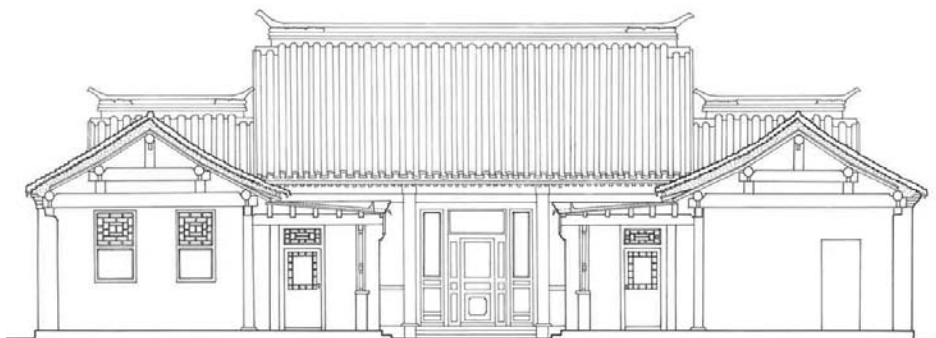
Together with students from Tsinghua University, we spent two years carrying out a detailed study of three areas in Beijing, complete with architectural documentation and social surveys ("Beijing Hutong Conservation Study", published in 2004).

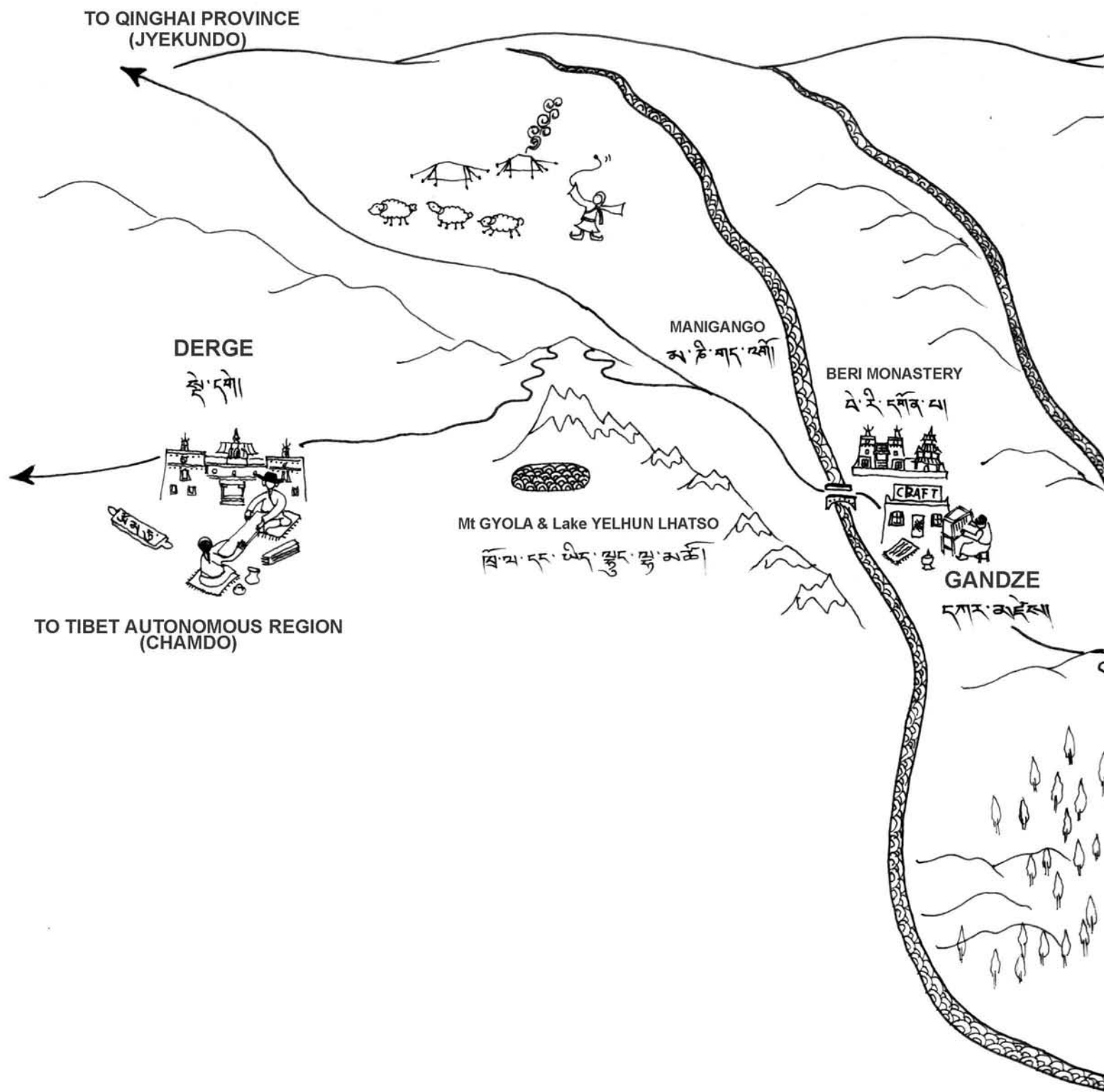
We also developed pilot projects for rehabilitation of multi-family public housing, and have begun to negotiate with residents and the local government departments for a project start in 2006.



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*Top: panoramic view of the old town with the bell tower (THF), below: section drawing of Qiangulouyuan No.6 (Y. Hirako/THF).*





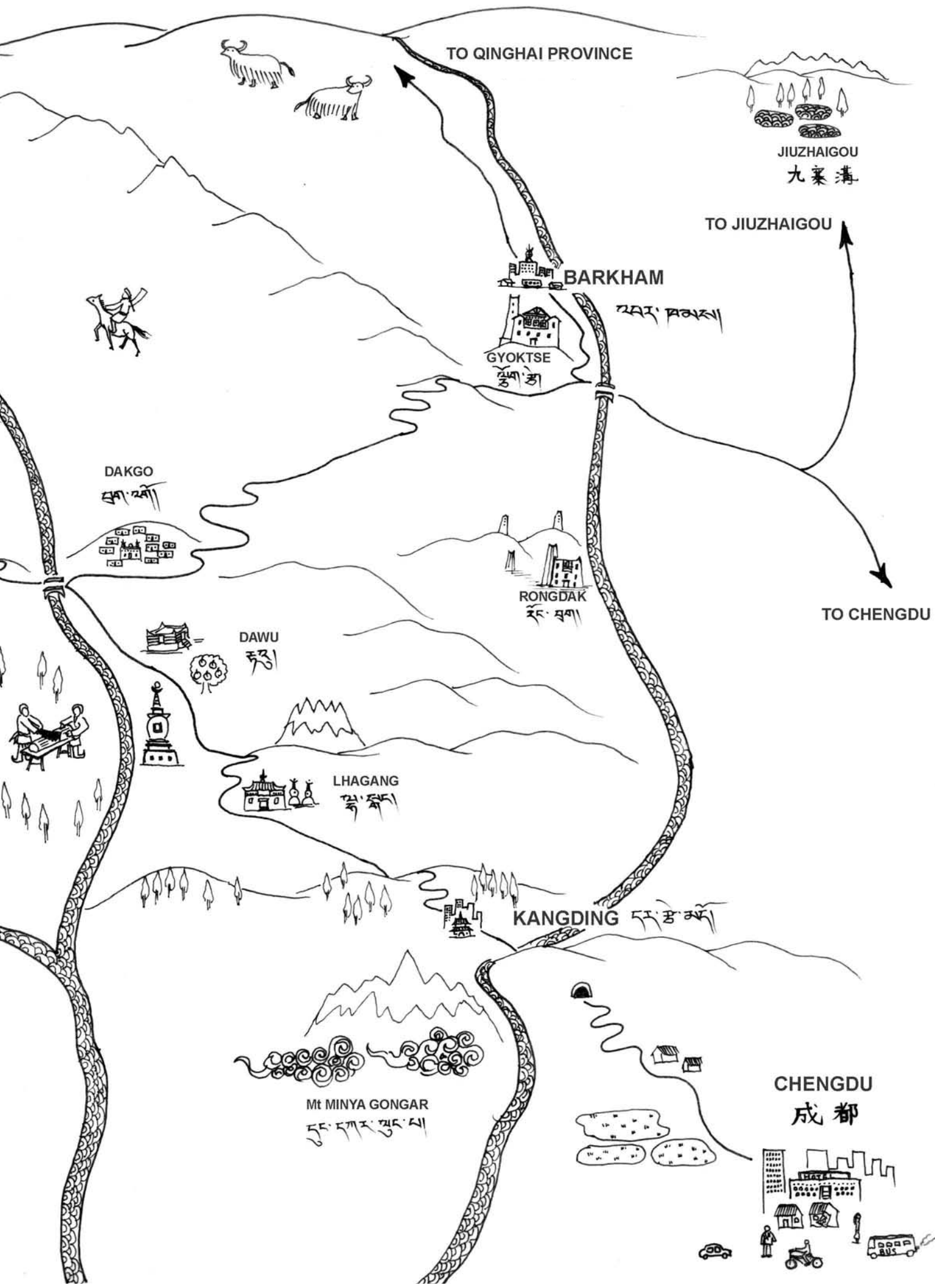
*The Tibetan cultural region of Kham has some of Asia's wildest and most breath-taking landscapes.*

*The land of four rivers (the Yangtse, Mekong, Salween and Brahmaputra rivers originate in Tibet) and six mountain ranges, as it is also traditionally known, is characterized by narrow gorges and lush green valleys.*

*In the imagination of many, the Kham region is also associated with proud fighters on horseback and beautiful women with elaborate traditional dresses.*

*This is a map of the Kham region of western Sichuan by Yutaka Hirako. © THF 2005.*





TO QINGHAI PROVINCE

JIUZHAIGOU  
九寨沟

TO JIUZHAIGOU

BARKHAM

འཕེ་པམ་མེ

GYOKTSE  
ཡེག་ཅེ

DAKGO

ཏཱ་གོ

RONGDAK

རོང་ག་

DAWU

དཱ་ལུ

LHAGANG

ལྷ་གང

KANGDING

དང་ཅེ་མོ

TO CHENGDU

CHENGDU

成都

Mt MINYA GONGAR

དུང་དཀར་ལྷ་ས

## 2 INDIA PROGRAMME

### Leh Old Town Conservation Project

Budget 2005: \$60,383.97

Duration: 2003- on-going

Ladakh is an autonomous region within India's State of Jammu & Kashmir. Located on the western edge of the Himalayan plateau with an average altitude of above 3000m, Ladakh is a very barren region, with a dry climate and cold winters. For over half of every year, the motorable road to the rest of India is blocked by snow. Leh was an important caravan crossroads for inner Asian trade until the late 1950s.

Ladakh originally was an independent Tibetan kingdom, founded on the western edge of the Himalayan high plateau in the 9th century by descendents of the last king of the central Tibetan empire. Ladakhi cultural identity is partly based on Tibetan language and religion.

Leh, the historic royal Ladakhi capital, lies at an altitude of 3500m above sea level. Modern Leh has a permanent population of 35,000 inhabitants. 2000 people live in the old town. There is a large floating population during the short summer season (June to October), when temporary migrant workers and tourists treble the population size. 15,000 tourists wanting regular showers and flush toilets and producing mountains of garbage (water bottles, food wrappings, toilet paper etc.) are putting a severe strain on Ladakh's fragile economy. Fortunately, there are several important local efforts to promote ecological development

and tourism, thanks to such local NGOs as LEDEC and Women's Alliance. To protect the mainly rural Ladakhis from economic competition that they are not prepared for, the state constitution makes it impossible for outsiders to acquire land, and even opening businesses or working requires permits and often a Ladakhi partner. Thus the Ladakhis can benefit very directly from tourism.

Old Leh is dominated by the former royal palace, a nine-story stone structure erected around 1600 in the Tibetan style made famous by the slightly later Potala Palace in Lhasa. There are also a number of important Buddhist temples and monasteries from the 15th and 16th centuries. The buildings of historic Leh reflect the ancient cultural ties to Tibet.

The old town, consisting of two hundred stone, mud and timber houses, is located on the slope below the palace, still accessed through a number of ancient stupa gateways. After the changes in Lhasa, Leh is perhaps the most significant ensemble of historic Tibetan urban architecture and townscape.

#### THF Study of Leh

In 2003-2004, a THF team carried out a survey of social conditions and historic building structures. The average monthly household income according to the survey for over 50% of all households is between 2000 and 6000 Indian Rupees, i.e. between 37 and 111 Euro. According to HUDCO, the Indian government's Housing and Urban Development Corporation, this qualifies as Low Income Group (LIG). The lower end of the scale is below the

*Panoramic view of Leh with royal palace (T.Jäkke).*





official UN poverty line.

There are only five public water taps in the central area. As a result, residents of central Leh get less than 10% of the drinking water amount recommended by the Indian government (100 lpd) by tap.

Over 60% of all buildings in the old town are inhabited by the owners, either exclusively (37%) or with some rooms rented out (26%). 10% of all buildings are vacant, often in very dilapidated condition. Only a quarter of buildings in the old town are in good or very good condition, while over 50% of all buildings are in poor to bad condition. A lot of very dilapidated houses are still inhabited.

Drainage is a problem, there are only a handful of open channels that are frequently blocked (or frozen). Heavy rainfalls or a neighbor's washing day can trigger the flooding of one's basement. In stark contrast to booming modern Leh, the old town is in a visible decline. The former centre of the country has, in effect, become a slum.

THF identified 6 areas of major problems

- 1 Poor quality of living conditions
- 2 Decline of old town, government inactivity
- 3 People without land are trapped in poverty
- Loss of cultural identity due to migration and rapid economic changes
- 5 Loss of traditional skills that are no longer useful in modern economy
- 6 Sectarian tensions

### THF's intervention strategy

The social data we obtained during our survey strongly suggested intervention to improve people's livelihood and living conditions. This was matched



*Children in the old town (Larencuo).*

by a generally expressed desire by many community members to reverse the decline of the old town.

THF opted for an integrated approach, developed by the two THF founders, André Alexander and Pimpim de Azevedo, for the Lhasa Old City Conservation Program (Lhasa 1996-2000).

The LEH OLD TOWN CONSERVATION PROJECT was set up in cooperation with the local government, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, and with local community groups.

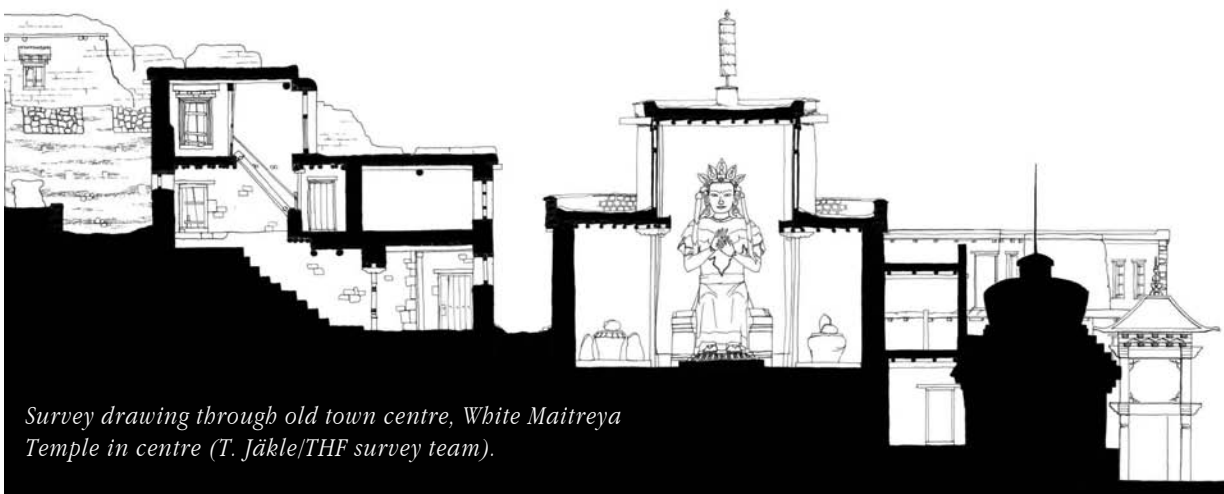
THF currently works on a planning framework for Leh.

In the meantime, we have set up an action plan consisting of four components:

1. Improve infrastructure and services to reverse the decline with popular support, starting with a rehabilitation model area.



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*Survey drawing through old town centre, White Maitreya Temple in centre (T. Jäkle/THF survey team).*

2. Provide local ownership of project through co-financing for housing upgrading, balancing conservation with satisfaction of local needs (upgrading instead of restoring)
3. Restore important public monuments such as Buddhist temples, Muslim places of worship and historic fortifications.
4. Engage local artisans and workers on a preferred basis to generate local employment, and organize a training program in the required skills.

Regarding the 2nd, THF/LOTI are offering 50% co-financing for adequate rehabilitation of homes, on the condition that mainly indigenous labour and indigenous skills are used. We also offer free planning advice, for improvements such as bath rooms with drains, increasing natural lighting, improving the composting pits of the traditional latrines and increasing the efficiency of traditional clay mixes for interior finished and water-proofing of roofs.

For sustainability, a local organization was built up and registered, the LEH OLD TOWN INITIATIVE

(LOTI). This consists of local experts and community representatives, to whom the project can be handed over in the future.

### The Rehabilitation Model Lane

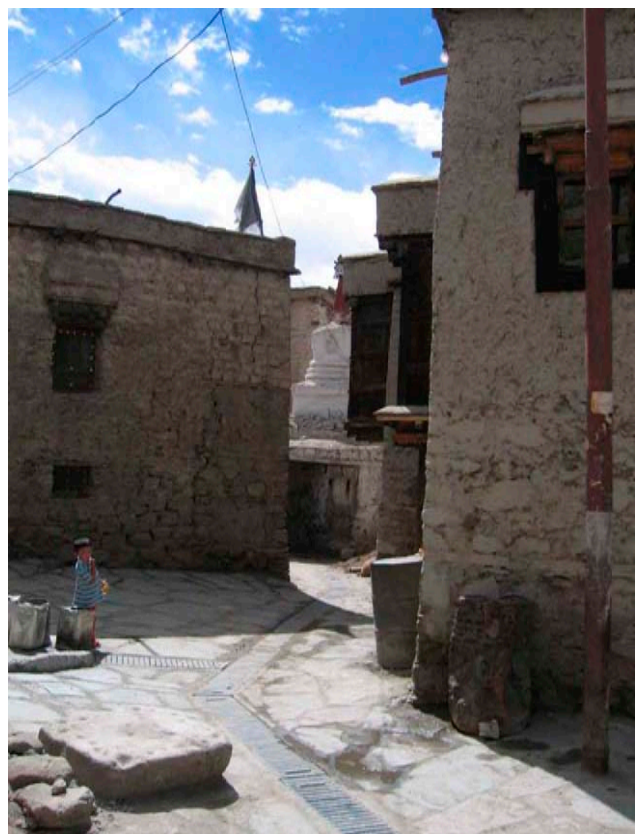
The Stagopilog area serves as one of the main access routes into the old town, leading through an old stupa gate past some of Leh's most beautiful (if dilapidated) historic homes. The lane had no paving and no drainage. The lane lies at the bottom of the slope. A drainage channel from the neighbourhoods situated higher up abruptly ends at the upper end of the alley. Toilets in the old town are all of the composting type, so only grey water (from cooking and washing) is dumped into the streets.

The Stagopilog community is very active and well-organized, partly thanks to their elected community leader, Mr. Namgyal.

The community members and THF's André Alexander and John Niewoehner designed a drainage channel covered with removable metal grilles and paving with sturdy slate stone. The government assisted the project by building a soakpit at the end of the new drain.



*Stagopilog Conservation Model lane with Sofi house and gateway stupa, April 2005.*



*September 2005, the alley has been paved and fitted with drainage (THF).*





*Left: skill training enabled residents to participate in construction activities. Right: Mason Jamyang Tarchin in Sofi House (THF).*



Long-term aim: contributing to defusing tensions between different communities by community-organizing and motivating them to work together to improve their living conditions

The THF Leh Model Conservation Area project has since received a UNESCO award.

## 2005 Project Results

1. Improvement of water and sanitation (US\$15.748,-).
2. Promotion of adequate and sustainable building technologies.
3. Training activities and workshops (\$3.824,-).
4. Documentation of historic building structures in cooperation with Indian architecture student interns from CEPT Ahmedabad ( US\$ 7.000,-).
5. Strengthening of cultural identity.
6. Revival of traditional skills and local wisdom through exchange with other Himalayan communities (exchange expenses for Tibet visitors US\$ 2.248,-).
7. First-ever training of Ladakhi wall-painting restorers (US\$ 8.000,-).
8. Rehabilitation of homes of low-income communities
  - Sofi house (US\$ 5.266,-)
  - Cholday house (US\$ 969,-)
  - Hanupa house (US\$ 3.608,-)
  - Norchung house (US\$ 126,-)
  - Red Maitreya Lhakhang (US\$1.280,-)
  - Chenrezi Lhakhang drainage (US\$ 757,-)
  - Lonpo house (US\$ 1.840,-).
9. Setting up LOTI as local capacity(US\$ 9.794,-).
10. Rehabilitation of the Leh Guru Lhakhang as community centre for private religious practice and community gatherings (US\$ 3.970,-).

### THF team

André Alexander (project manager)  
Larencuo (community survey)  
John Niewoehner (water and sanitation)  
Tobias Jaekle (architect consultant)

### L.O.T.I. local team

Diskit Dolker (community survey and planner)  
Konchok Rafstan (local project manager)  
Stanzin Angmo (accountant)  
Jamyang Tarchin, Sonam Dorje, Tsering Dorje, Tsering Puntsok (local building skill experts)

Financial Support was provided by Heinrich-Böll-Foundation (Germany), Trace Foundation (USA), Stavros-Niarchos Foundation, Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (Thailand) and Albert-Kunstadter Family-Foundation (USA).

*THF team 2005.*



## 3 MONGOLIA PROGRAMME

THF has been researching traditional Mongolian architecture and current conditions in Mongolia since 2002. In 2005 we published a bi-lingual manual on the topic (see 4.2). Budget in 2005: US\$4,018.37

### 3.1 Sangiin Dalai Monastery Restoration

Location: Nomgun village, South-Gobi aimak, Mongolian Republic.

Budget 2005: US\$47,774.17

Duration: 2004- on-going

Nomgon sum was an important town on one of the main trading routes between China and Mongolia. Sangiin Dalai monastery was founded in 1772. The monastery had over 500 monks at one time. The six extant buildings correspond to a variety of architectural styles: Chinese, Tibetan and hybrid. During the period of the great repression in the 1930s, the army occupied Sangiin Dalai, destroying religious images and some buildings. The local community has initiated the project to regain a center for religious activities and practice, and have been supported by their local member of parliament. The German donor agency Misereor and the Mongolian NGO Consensus support the project, and THF does planning and implementation.

In 2004, during the first year of the restoration and training project, THF made architectural and social surveys, and prepared a detailed implementation plan. Based on community work, we assembled 11 local trainees. Sources of local materials for the

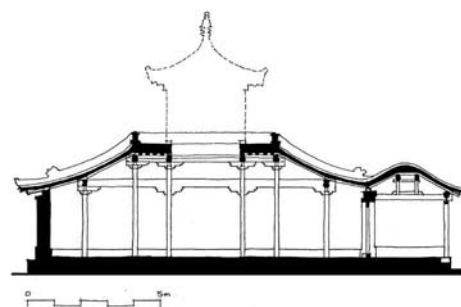


restoration were identified and the quality tested. THF organized the invitation of Chinese tile-making experts to establish production of bricks and tiles on site. This would in the future be run by local people. In 2005 the kiln was completed. The Chinese expert taught how to find the different soils and clays to make the different kinds of products, how to mix it and how to get the best results from each. After the first bricks, tiles and decorative roof tiles were made, the kiln was fired for the first time. Bricks and tiles were successfully baked during eight days and seven nights.

In total 94 dragon and phoenix tiles, 56 handmade flower tiles, 76 flower tiles cast by mould, 15332 roof tiles of different kinds and 11500 bricks were made.



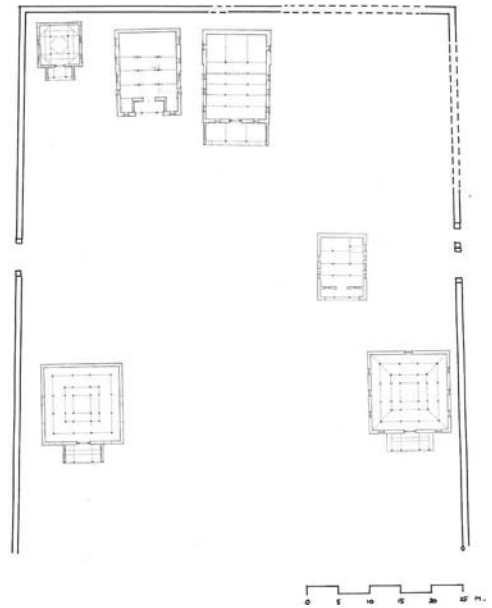
Top: view of monastery.  
Top right: the kiln is built.  
Right: survey of bldg. 6.  
Left: reconstructing the roof of bldg. 3  
(all: THF).







*Clock-wise from left: Mongolian trainee manufacturing decorative roof-tile; site plan with 6 surviving buildings; Mongolian team; Mongolian team with camel (THF).*



In 2004, wood was purchased for carpentry work and left to season. In the first phase of the carpentry-training program in 2005, rafters for two buildings were prepared. More wood was bought, especially for beams and boards for the floors and ceilings.

The carpentry work at the Tapsang building has been completed: a new roof structure was made and the wooden floor was restored. In the porch, the old Tibetan-style pillars were repaired, straightened and used again.

In Duinkhoriin dugan, the damaged timber elements (eg. rafters and boards) were replaced. Pillars and beams were straightened, and in some cases replaced. Timber elements with stylized dragons and flowers for the porch were carved on site. 100 rafters were planed, and the Gyapi (canopy-style) missing roof-structure was reconstructed. An artist from the county seat, Dalanzagad, documented the old paintings in Sangiin Dalai.

28 local people participated in finishing the kiln and collecting necessary local materials.

17 people participated in the manufacturing of bricks and tiles and decorative dragons, 10 have picked up basic skills for running the brick manufacture in the future. Seven local people participated in the carpentry project, three were successfully trained.

The project is implemented in cooperation with the Ulaanbaatar-based local NGO Consensus, and their president Mr. Oyunbaatar.

THF team:

the project is jointly managed by Pimpim de Azevedo, THF; Nyima Tsering, THF; Mrs. Byampasuren Pemba Tsering, Nomgun-sum; Danilo Thiedemann, THF.

Volunteers: Andreas Catanese (architect) Richard Dollamore.



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Chinese roof tile experts: Xing Hanrong, Yang Shunli. Xing Hanli, Meng Liping

Mongolian team

Carpenters: Jargal, Zandelger, Bayaraa, Ulanbataar, Nergui, Genden, Erden Bayan and Shine Khuu. Masons: Otgonulzii, Ms Enkjargal and Ms Munkhtsetseg.

Thanks to Mr. Bayar Saikhan (present governor) for support.

This project was supported by Misereor.



## 4. RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

### 4.1 Documentation of traditional architecture

Location: China, India, Mongolia

Budget: US\$12,111.75

Tibet has produced one of the world's most unique and easily-recognizable forms of architecture. In order to contribute to a better understanding and appreciation of traditional architecture across the region, THF has launched a project to document traditional Tibetan architecture in all areas belonging to the Tibetan cultural realm.

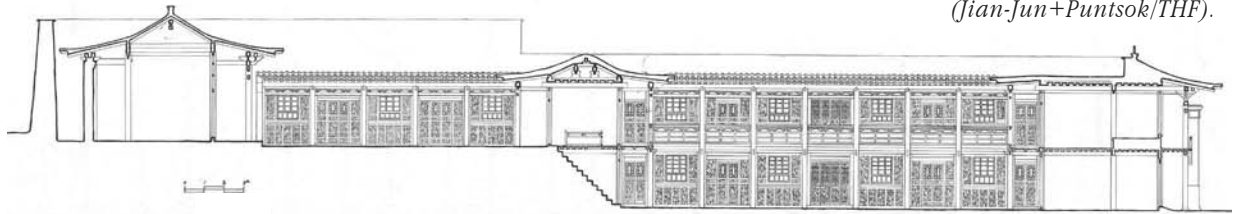
The documentation includes photography, survey

*Left: survey team Jian-Jun, friend, Puntsok and Yutaka.*



and measured drawings (usually hand-drawn). THF's survey archive contains data of hundreds of Himalayan vernacular and monastic buildings. In 2005, our team of locally-trained draftsmen documented buildings in Sichuan and Qinghai.

*Ngangla palace, north-south section  
(Jian-Jun+Puntsok/THF).*



### 4.2 THF Publication: Manual of Traditional Mongolian Architecture

Budget: US\$4,018.37

The origins of the architectural tradition of the mainly nomadic Mongolians begin with the felt tent known locally as *ger*. The Central Asian and Chinese artistic and architectural influences in Mongolia are also very old, probably dating back to the 1st century AD. In the 13th century, the Mongolians conquered China. Ruling as the Yuan dynasty, they became further exposed to Chinese architecture, building skills and decorative traditions. In 1267, Khubilai Khan began to construct a new capital called Dadu, on the location of present-day Beijing. During the same period, the Mongolian rulers also began to embrace Tibetan Buddhism. In 1260 Khubilai Khan invited the head lama of the Sakya sect, Pagspa, to the capital. He received the title of 'Imperial Preceptor'. Indian Buddhist art, architecture and iconography were an important source of inspiration.

Since the 16th century Tibetan Buddhism gained widespread acceptance among the Mongolian

population, leading to the founding of many monasteries. In the early 20th century, nearly 800 monasteries existed on the territory of the present-day Mongolian Republic. Only few still exist today. Crumbling away like deserted steppe ruins are also the traditional building skills. THF

has prepared a manual on traditional Mongolian architecture, designed so that it can be used for practical vocational training purposes. It is our hope that it will lead future generations of Mongolians to rediscover their tangible heritage.

This project was supported by the Royal Dutch Embassy in Beijing.

Another research and publication project, *The Temples of Lhasa*, was supported by the Isdell Foundation, and will appear in early 2006.





## 5. NETWORKING

### 5.1 THF participates in UN Habitat Day event in Bangkok

The United Nations have designated the first Monday in October as International World Habitat Day.

For observation of the day in 2005, the responsible UN agency (UN-Habitat) set the theme “The Millennium Development Goals and the City”.

As a recognition of our work for the upgrading of housing in India and China, THF was invited to attend an official celebration in Bangkok. The Community Organization Development Institute (CODI) under the government of Thailand Ministry of Social Affairs organized a special 3-day event in Bangkok.

UN-HABITAT's Executive Director, Anna Tibaijuka, and both the Thai Prime Minister and Minister of Social Affairs delivered keynote speeches.



*THF Leh project coordinator Larencuo receives token of gift from Thailand's Minister for Social Affairs.*

### 5.2 Lectures

THF experts gave lectures about the Beijing Hutong for the Beijing International Society; and about the conservation of Buddhist monasteries at the HK University Museum.



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### 5.3 THF staff visit Germany and Portugal

In early 2005 THF realized a long-cherished dream. A team of our key local project managers visited Europe. Lundup and Nyima went to Berlin (Germany), and then to Oporto (Portugal). They visited historic town districts and monuments, and met with local experts.

*Visiting the Brandenburg gate on a cold and snowy day...*



*...and on a warm and sunny day enjoying the hilltop pilgrimage destination of the baroque church Bom Jesus do Monte (4 km out of Braga).*



## 6. WHO ARE THF

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 non-political and committed to promote understanding and co-operation between different cultures and nations. THF works with a team of international and local experts, and cooperates with local communities, government departments and institutions. THF projects are based on a participatory approach, centered around preservation of indigenous heritage and traditions. Projects such as rehabilitation of traditional settlements and restoration of historic monuments are designed to primarily benefit the local residents. THF runs a large vocational training program to keep traditional building skills and crafts alive. THF also studies and documents traditional Tibetan building technology.

THF is directed by André Alexander and Pimpim de Azevedo, and Yutaka Hirako is the Chief Financial Officer and China Program Manager; Sylvester Kaben is the treasurer, Nyima Tsering, Lundup Dorje and Lobsang Ngudup are Qinghai program managers; and Tseyang is head of the accounting and logistics department.

### Contact THF

[info@tibetheritagefund.org](mailto:info@tibetheritagefund.org)

In Ladakh, visit us between April and October at Lakruk House, Stalam, Leh just below the old Royal Palace and the Red Maitreya Temple. In Mongolia, visit us at Sangiin Dalai monastery, Nomgon Sum, South Gobi Aimak. In Beijing we used to live in an old courtyard house with a pomegranate tree, close to the Hohai lakes and the Drum Tower, but these days we tend to spend most time in the western regions.

### THF aims and principles

Principles of THF intervention

- Conservation for local communities (ICOMOS living cities principle)
- Conservation of buildings and of building technology
- For residential buildings: priority on livability, owner/occupants participate in planning process
- For monuments (incl. monasteries): authenticity desired, building history respected, owners participate in planning process.
- Maximum retaining of historic elements (UNESCO Venice charter), mud plaster and soil roof layers often replaced
- Accommodation of local demand for pragmatic usability of sites
- COMPROMISES and NEGOTIATIONS 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. Our mural conservation program currently involved the first-ever training of Ladakhi restorers, and technical analysis of Tibetan mural technology in cooperation with academic institutions.





## 7. FINANCES

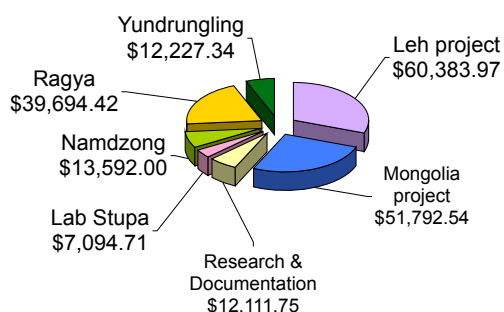
### THF incoming funds 2005: US\$195,975.45

carry over from 2004	\$737.65
MISEREOR	\$105,308.72
Trace Foundation	\$37,909.42
Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation	\$15,000.00
Albert-Kunstadter Family Found.	\$3,988.00
Heinrich-Boell-Foundation	\$14,416.80
ACHR	\$10,534.88
Royal Dutch Embassy	\$3,885.29
private donations	\$2,322.52
Leh Residents co-financing	\$1,394.93
Others	\$477.24
<b>Total incoming 2005</b>	<b>\$195,975.45</b>

(note: parts of these funds come from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation BMZ)

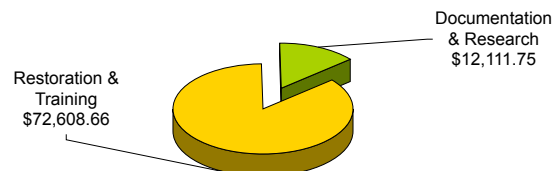
### How the money was spent:

#### Expenses by projects

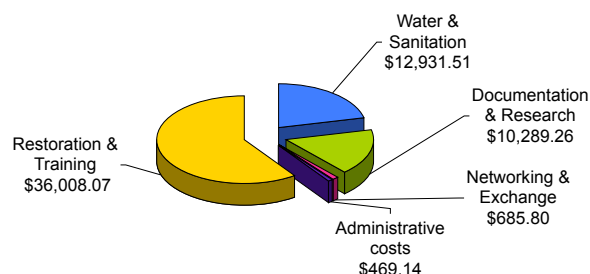


### Expenses by country and by project type:

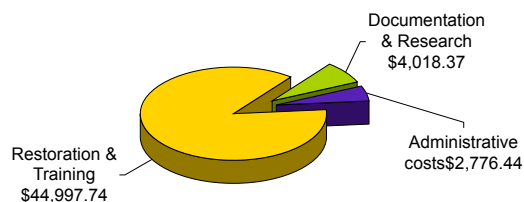
#### China Programme



#### Ladakh Programme



#### Mongolia Programme



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### THF Account Germany (in Euro):

#### Incoming 2005

carry over from 2004	€ 2,317.97
Shalu Deutschland e.V.	€ 2,000.-
Isdell Foundation	€ 9,348.53
Dr. A. Newill	€ 800.00
Membership fees / various	€ 160.50
<b>Total incoming 2005</b>	<b>€14,627.-</b>

#### Outgoing 2005

China program	€ 2,401.-
Ladakh program	€ 3,887.50
Publications & Awareness programs	€ 5,017.67
Exchange visits to Europe	€ 2,000.-
Bank and registration fees	€ 75.10
<b>Total outgoing 2005</b>	<b>€13,381.27</b>
Carry-over to 2006	€ 1,245.73

*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.*



#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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IBAN: DE03 1009 0000 7104 1920 03, BERLINER VOLKSBANK, BERLIN

[WWW.TIBETHERITAGEFUND.ORG](http://WWW.TIBETHERITAGEFUND.ORG)