

# TIBET HERITAGE FUND 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

建築文化遺產基金會 2019 年度報告

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# Introduction



## Tibet Heritage Fund in 2019

In 2019, Tibet Heritage Fund continued with the Leh Old Town Conservation Project and other projects in Ladakh, and worked on three houses and two stupas. We completed the restoration of Gotal Rigzin house and set up the Artisans Artists and Architects House (AAAH) aka Himalayan Bauhaus. In the AAAH we launched the furniture, weaving and carpets projects. We also continue with our activities to have Leh old town declared as heritage zone. We conserved the wall paintings of the east stupa gate in Leh old town and repair the Stagophilok gate stupa. In the countryside we completed the restoration of Phyang Guru Lakhang and the reconstruction of the western part of Tiri Cho palace in Tiri.

Due to the rise of interest in preservation of the architectural heritage, we received numerous requests for traditional buildings conservation, for some we made an intervention plan.

"The Lhasa House – Typology of and Endangered Species" by the late André Alexander was published in March by Serindia and the book was launched in New York. We also organised an exhibition about Lhasa old city in Frankfurt. To further share our experience in heritage preservation, we attended various seminars, conferences and interviews in Ladakh and other countries.

## 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.

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

ཡས་གཞི་གནས་སའི་ས་ཁ།



THF is not responsible for depictions of international borders





# 1. Conservation Program

ལ་དྭགས་སྐྱེའི་བྱོང་རྩིང་སྤྱང་སྤྱོད།

## 1.1 Urban Ladakh

On August 2019 Ladakh was declared a Union Territory and its administration started to operate on 31st October. In the following months several meetings, events and discussions were held to find the direction and needs for the newly declared Union Territory. THF/LOTI was invited to be part of some of these discussions and meetings, particularly in the field of Cultural Heritage conservation.

### 1.1.1 Artisans Artists and Architects House, AAA House – a ‘Himalayan Bauhaus’

Location: Leh, Ladakh, India.

Duration 2019 – on-going.

Costs in 2019: € 10,539.73

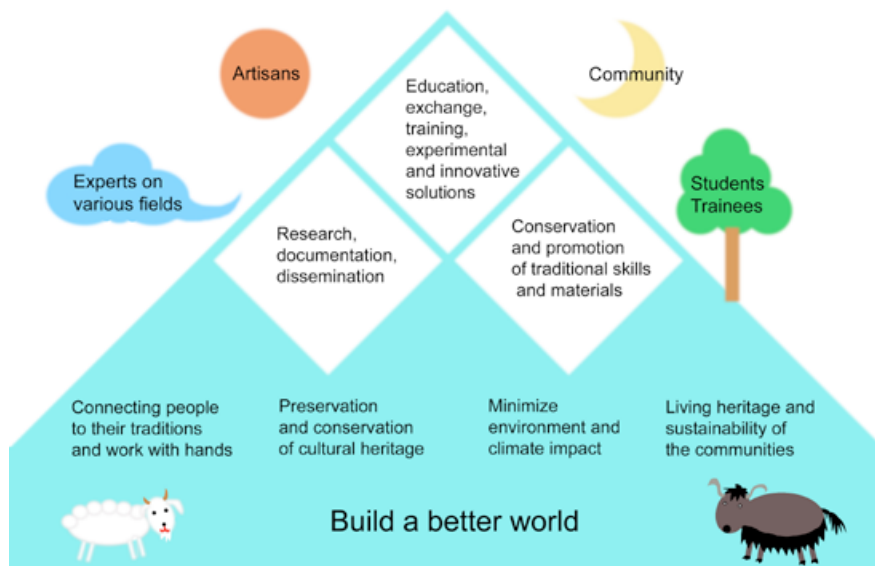
The Artisans Artists and Architects House (AAA House) in Leh old town aims to preserve, sustain and develop Ladakhi, Tibetan and Himalayan traditional crafts and building techniques. Consequently, it aims to create jobs, sustain traditional skills, and establish an initiative for the preservation of the local fragile environment and living cultural heritage.

The centre will be a place where people meet and learn from each other, develop ideas and put these ideas into practice. It is a ‘Himalayan Bauhaus’.



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Artisans, Artists, Architects House - Himalayan Bauhaus



Top: A street view toward the old town with the magnificent Leh palace.

Above: AAA House - Himalayan Bauhaus is located at Gotal Rigzin house.

Left: The concept of AAA House - Himalayan Bauhaus, a vision of community and sustainable development.

## Construction work

In 2018, most of the main construction work for Gotal Rigzin house (where the AAA House is located) was completed. In April 2019, we started to work on the interior and roof finishing.

We plastered the roof with a special layer of soil to make it strong and waterproof. We paved the inner and outer courtyard with slate stones, repaired the stone wall of the courtyard facing the street and built an entrance gate.

To improve sanitation, we tried urine-diverting system of separating liquid and solid in one of

the dry toilets. We also installed water pipes in the kitchen and in both traditional dry toilets, for hand washing and showers. The bathroom walls were tiled and an electric water heater for shower facility was installed.

We built water tank storage on the rooftop, made of glassed panel and sawdust mud brick. The mud bricks were made from wooden shavings and mud for lightweight structures, to insulate the water tanks on the roof and to integrate them into the old town landscape. This was designed for use in the winter season when it reaches sub-zero temperatures.



Building the boundary wall for AAA House courtyard.



Leveling the ground in preparation for slate stone paving.



Paving the courtyard of Gotal Rigzin house where the AAA House is located.



Polishing the mud floor with river stone.



Fixing the entrance gate.







Construction of the water tank insulation wall with saw dust bricks.



Fixing the glass panel for the insulated water tank storage.



Tile work in the bathroom.



The bathroom with custom made furniture.



The team of architect, mason and carpenter!



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Repairing the original clay stove 'Thab' with special clay.



Fixing the railing at the access hall.



Gotal Rigzin house, the AAA House at heart of old town.



## Setting up of the AAAH

After the main construction work was completed, we continued with the finishing works preparing AAAH space for the future opening. In some of the second-floor rooms, we paved the floor with an insulation mat and covered it with floor

carpet with the edges stitched manually. For the bathrooms and kitchen, we designed the furniture and our team of artisans manufactured them. The furniture will serve as show cases of the AAAH products.



Top: To start using AAAH, we made some furniture for the toilets and kitchen. Also we paved the floor of two rooms with insulation mat and covered it with a floor mat. The edges of this floor mat was stitched by hand. Below left, Sonam Gyatso and Stanzin Dolkar stitching the edge of the mat.



## Furniture Design

Most of the furniture is designed to preserve the traditional techniques and materials and to create products that suit the new lifestyle. In this way we hope that the traditional craftsmanship can be sustained and promoted.

One of the most successful products in 2019 was the dry toilet set designed by Yutaka Hirako. It consists of a wooden box to keep the soil, ashes

or wooden shavings that are used in the toilets to dry the liquid and a separate wooden box that serves as the seat.

The first toilet sets were installed in Hemis Monastery, in the private room and retreat of Gyalwang Drukpa Rinpoche, the head of Drukpa sect. We have received many orders for the toilet set from the local community as well.







The modern looking but traditional dry toilet consists of a box for the soil and a seat. The first sets were installed at Hemis Monastery.



Some of the furniture produced at Artisans Artists and Architects House.  
Top: we made a chair-ladder which can be used as chair and ladder in the household.  
Middle: a deck chair that we think will be popular in the summer specially for hotels and guest house gardens.  
Below left: this piece of furniture was placed in the bathroom at Kushu house and serves as a showcase.

## The “Tsukden” carpet pilot project

The aim of this project was to improve the quality of the “Tsukden” carpets also known as nomad carpets. Throughout the project weavers will be helped to create high quality products to be marketed locally and internationally. With high quality products, both, the local communities that live from selling yak and sheep wool and the Tibetan and Ladakhi communities of weavers and spinners will have better opportunities to keep their livelihood and to earn a better income.

In order to manufacture the product, it was necessary to set up a workshop to experiment with different wool, thickness, amount of knots, etc; to produce a sample for the pilot production and marketing research.

At first, we met with different weavers who produced “Tsukden” carpets and other types of

carpets in Choglamsar. Later with the help of Mr Damdul, we put together a group of five weavers and spinners and worked together for over one month to develop the quality of the Tsukden. We experimented with different warps (spin by hand or bought from the market), different thickness of yarn (weft) and different thickness of the metal tool essential in the making of the Tsukden.

Three ladies washed, card and spined the wool and two weaved the different samples.

As a result, a very good quality Tsukden of six feet (180 cm) by three feet (90 cm) and eight small chair mats (40 cm x 40 cm) were produced.

In this workshop we worked together with Mr Damdul and Ms Urgen from the Tibetan community in Choglamsar and the project was supported by Bob Ankerson.

Group photo of weavers and spinners with THF's Yutaka and Pimpim with the products made in the pilot project, a Tsukden (nomad rug) and chair mats.







Photos showing the spinning, discussion and making of the Tsukden carpets and the results produced by this pilot project. We used good quality sheep and yak wool from the nomadic Changthang region of Eastern Ladakh. All the products were processed in traditional ways by the Tibetan community.





## Backstrap Weaving

One of the aims of AAAH is to create a space for the artisans where they can work during the long cold months of winter when usually the activities stop due to the low temperature. By having this space, the artisans can continue to work and sustain their lives.

From November onwards, the AAAH was used as a space for weaving “nambu” (the traditional woollen fabric used to make traditional dresses), and woollen shawls.

Furthermore, it was used to run small workshops on setting up a simple loom which is similar to

the strap looms but using stones or other heavy materials to hold the wooden parts of the loom. This style of loom resembles the loom to weave the Tsukden carpets. This technique it is also used for weaving the nomad tents as well as bags and blankets. Because of the roughness of the materials to make the tents and bags, usually the spin and weaving is done by men.

Master artisan Tashi Mutup taught how to set up the loom and how to weave. With the material weaved, Master Tashi made a bag following the traditional techniques.



Master Tashi Motup weaving and sewing the nomad's bag.



Pimpim learning the backstrap weaving from Mrs. Lhamo a lady in Tiri village.

## The woodworking machine

The price of material, labour and transportation in Ladakh keep increasing every year. After long consideration, we decided to buy an electric woodworking machine to help in reducing the costs of the restoration projects. It also makes the AAAH furniture affordable for the general public and helps recycling old wood.

Below left, the day we went to buy the saw machine.

Right, the day the saw machine arrived at the Artisans Artists and Architects House.





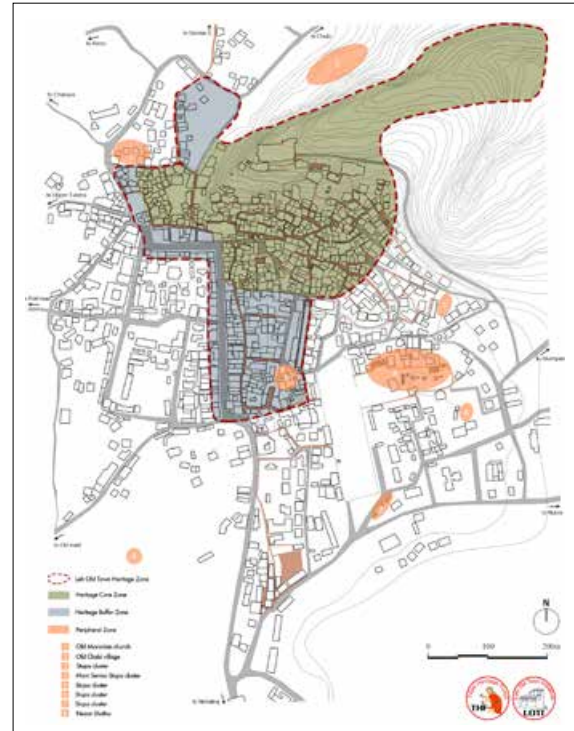
## 1.1.2 Proposal to declare the “Leh Old Town Heritage Zone”

Location: Leh, Ladakh, India.

Duration 2018 – on-going.

Costs in 2019: Included under the Documentation and Survey

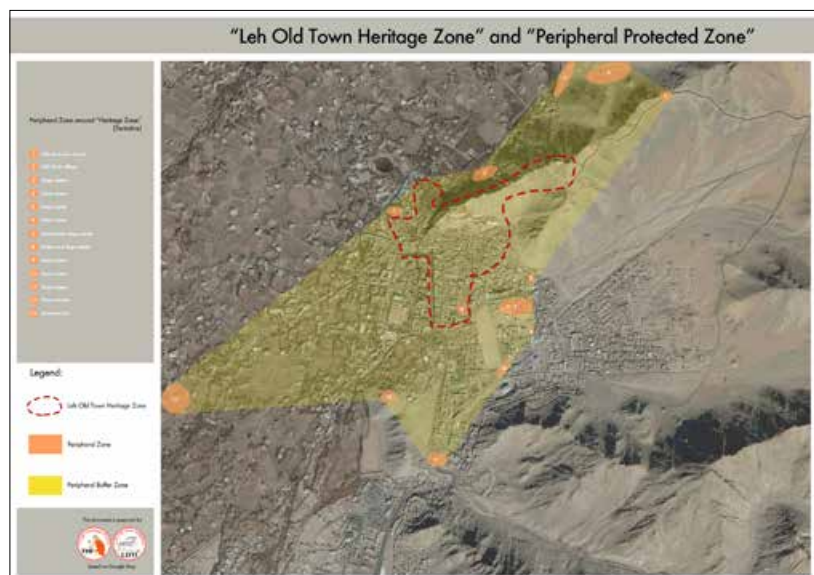
In 2019 we continued our efforts to declare Leh old town a Heritage Zone. In August, Ladakh became a Union Territory (UT) and the new administration started a fresh regional management. THF/LOTI was invited to present their work and conservation approach regarding the cultural heritage in Ladakh. In the presence of the Lieutenant Governor and the new leaders, we introduced our vision for the Leh Old Town Conservation Project and emphasized the important benefits in declaring “Leh Old Town Heritage Zone”. We proposed a draft of the “Declaration of Leh Old Town Heritage Zone and guidelines for applicable rules and regulations” to the UT Administration and the LAHDC. We are hoping that the Heritage Zone will be established by the new leadership.



Right top: The proposed area for Leh Old Town Heritage Zone which consist of the core zone and buffer zone.

Right: The idea of a peripheral zone to protect the historic monuments clustered around the old town. It will also maintain the historic landscape and apply certain building height restrictions in the area.

Right down: A meeting held at Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) regarding the Cultural Heritage Policy in Ladakh in 2018, which was hosted by CEC Dorjey Mutup.



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Condolences: Due to his prolong health issue, LAHDC, CEC Dorjey Mutup who appreciated the endeavour of all the NGOs working in Leh for preservation of Ladakh's cultural heritage and assured all possible support from Council for the future work on preservation, resigned from his position at the end of October 2018 and he passed away on 1st September 2019. This was very unfortunate for the local community and a big loss of an important leadership among the local policy. THF/LOTI would like to express our condolences and prayers for his soul to rest in peace.



### 1.1.3. Leh Old Town Conservation

Location: Leh, Ladakh, India.

Duration 2003 – on-going.

Costs in 2019: € 25,559.12

The Leh Old Town is one of the last remaining well-preserved towns in the Himalaya region and a rare example of a well-preserved Himalayan urban settlement. The historic town consists of around 150 buildings, including several Buddhist temples and mosques. Like many historic towns and settlements, it is very vulnerable and often threatened by development, decay and social changes.

Due in part to the efforts of THF and its local branch LOTI (Leh Old Town Initiative), there is a growing local interest in preserving the historic town.

#### Bailay house

Bailay Apa Masjid House (Bailay house) dated three generations back when the grandfather of the current owner, Abdul Masjid, bought the house. The family is related to the famous Ghulam Rassul Galwan, a notable caravan leader who staged and led numerous European expeditions to Central Asia and Tibet in the early 20th century and wrote a memoir, "Servant of Sahibs", with an introduction by Sir Francis Younghusband.

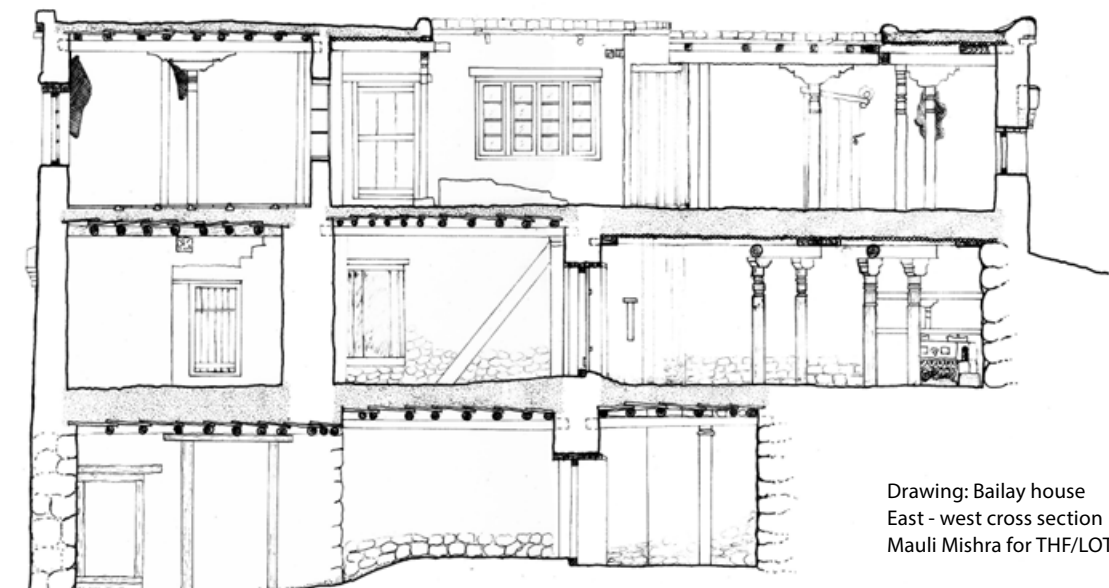
The Bailay house is located on Stalam street, with the main facade facing west, in the direction of Leh Palace. The house has three stories, with a large traditional kitchen and open courtyard. It has two entrances, one at the ground level to the animal shed and the other on the top floor to the living quarters.

In 2013, the youngest grandson of the owner approached THF/LOTI for help with restoration.

The restoration of Bailay house started in 2019, with the signing of a contract with the house owner and the preparation of the building materials. During the restoration survey, we observed that the extent of the damages was greater than we expected. Some of the walls, which were weaker and hollowed inside had to be rebuilt. Furthermore, the neighbor on the south side told us about a big crack and water leakage in her shared wall with Bailay house. We addressed this issue by opening the wall and repairing it. On the North side of the house we had to build a new wall as the neighbor objected to sharing the old wall. The new wall reduced the size of the room and changed the restoration plan. The timber structure was also repaired and the damaged wood replaced. The wood that was in good condition was washed and placed back.

To bring more natural light into the middle floor, we built a skylight in the courtyard above the kitchen and opened a window in a room on the middle floor. In 2019, most of the structural restoration was completed. In 2020, the work will continue with the plastering of the walls, finalize the works on the roof, parapets, and the construction of the toilet area. The electricity wiring, plumbing and furnishing works will be done for the project completion.

This project was supported by How Man Wong (CERS), Virginia and Wellington Yee.



Drawing: Bailay house  
East - west cross section  
Mauli Mishra for THF/LOTI





Bailay house west facade, before, during and after restoration work.

Right: We removed the ceiling of the traditional kitchen - Changsa and repaired the four side walls.

Right middle: Re-assembled the structural timber frames and pillars were erected in the original position. Setting the rafters above the beams and walls.

Right down: Placing the willow twigs - Taloo between the rafters. Taloo is the ceiling material commonly used in Ladakh.

Below: Interior view of the room after completion of structural work.







New triangle window was designed to fit with the staircase.



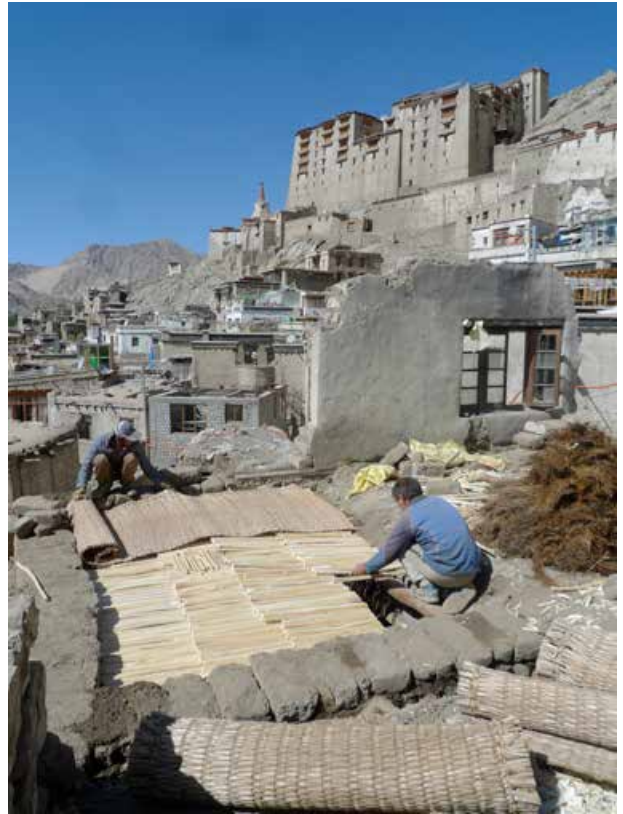
Re-assembling the wooden structure frame in the traditional kitchen.



Laying rafters and preparing for roofing work.



Covering the floor with soil above the Yakzes grass.



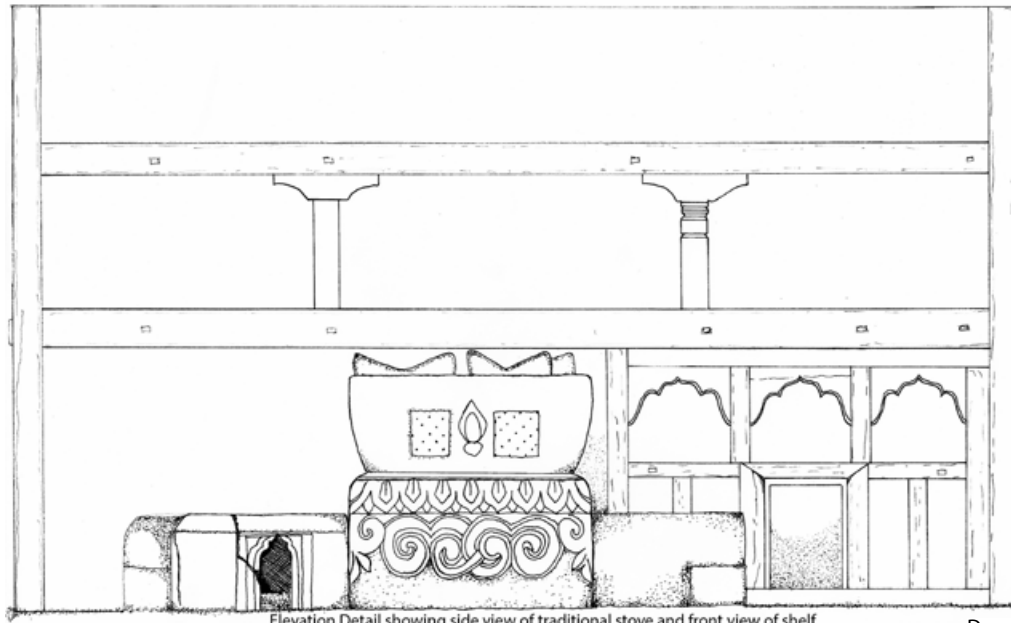
Mason covering the ceiling with Taloo willow twigs. Later, straw mat, which is soil falling stopper, will be placed on it.



Ladies cutting Taloo willow twigs to prepare for roofing. The staircase opening was covered with a gallery. Main structural works of Bailay house was completed in 2019.







Elevation Detail showing side view of traditional stove and front view of shelf

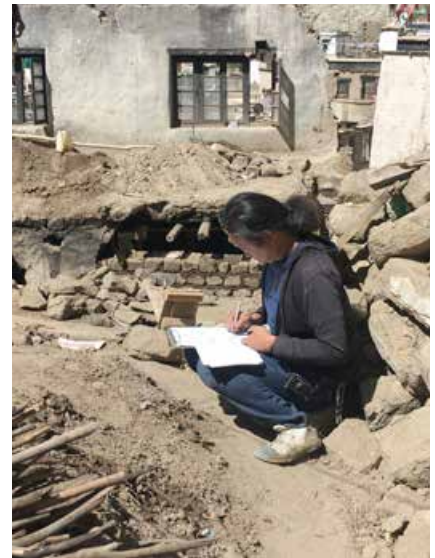
Drawing: Bailay house  
Clay stove and shelf  
Mauli Mishra for THF/LOTI



Pimpim lifts up the ceiling structure with help of the jacks.



Mr Hari Krishna is the master of wall plastering.



Yutaka always has his drawing book on his hands and writes his ideas and inspirations.



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Pimpim with Ms Diskit Tsomo, a friendly neighbor who frequently visits our work site.



Ms Tsering Dolma, a motivated worker of the team.



Mr Bajie (front) and Mr Puran (back) are from Nepal, they have worked many years in Ladakh.

## Stagophilok Stupa gate

Stagophilok Kagan Chorten is one of the old Leh's four gate stupas, the access to the old town from the south-east side. Stagophilok means literally "outside the horse gate" and originally marked the town boundary. But as the town expanded, the stupa became surrounded by houses. The stupa gate led to the great Mani-wall in the south and to Stalam street, the main access to the Leh royal palace in the north. Today it is still a popular gateway to the old town for both locals and visitors.

In September, when we learned that some people were working on the Stagophilok stupa, we went there and saw few seasonal workers plastering the stupa with cement, destroying the elaborated patterns and even the original shape of the stupa. The repairs were undertaken by the Skyangos-Goksum Community. We contacted them and discussed other ways to repair the stupa. Since the cement was still fresh it could be easily removed, and the original stupas' shape would still be possible to save. Explaining all the disadvantages of using cement which would lead to the loss of stupas' historical value, the community leaders

agreed to stop the use of cement and invited us to continue the repairing of the stupa.

The cement layers were removed and the original shape of the stupa came out. Sadly, the elaborate patterns and the Sanskrit prayers had been removed before applying the cement and were lost. Fortunately, THF had earlier photographs of the stupa and we could trace the original patterns and colour information. The damaged pieces on the floor revealed also the original colours of these patterns, and we could recover similar motives. After the cement was removed, the damaged surface was covered with a soil/clay mixture and slate stones were placed into the areas prone to water infiltrations. The copper decoration of the sun and moon on the top of the stupa was also repaired and repainted with gold colour. The missing decorative motives were recreated with a soil/clay mortar based on the original photos of the stupa. Finally, the stupa was painted white and the decorative patterns recovered the original colours.

This project was supported by the Skyangos-Goksum Community in Leh old town.



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In the left, view of Stagophilok Kagan Chorten (stupa) when we saw the workers plastering it with cement. Right, view of the stupa after repair by THF/LOTI.





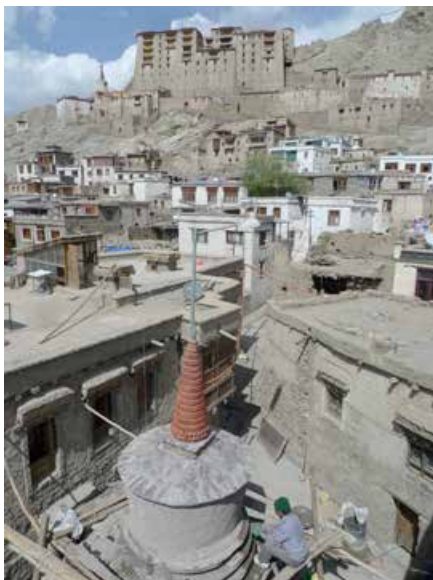
View of the work at Stagophilok Kagan Chorten (stupa) top level. The most vulnerable areas prone to water infiltration were sealed with slate stones. The thirteen rings were consolidated and painted.



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The carpenter repaired the top decoration before putting it back on top of the thirteen rings.

Below, after removing the cement we consolidated and repaired the stupa steps by applying a clay mixture. It was a long and delicate process. We would like to thank wall painter conservator Ms Yanchen Dolma and Mason Tsering Dorjey for their patience and dedication.







Photos showing the local artist recreating the decorative pattern and Sanskrit that was destroyed earlier. View of Stagophilok Kagan Chorten after repair and Yutaka burning incense after the stupa was completed. It was a very happy moment because we could save this historic monument.

## Thagan House

Thagang House is located at Slatam, the main footpath to the Leh Palace. We collaborated with the current tenant Mr. Lou'gon on the restoration of the house. The project started in 2012 and every year since then, Mr. Lou'gon has allocated some funds to the restoration and improvement of the house.

In 2019, Mr. Lou'gon sought our help to improve the plumbing and water sanitation.

This project was supported by Mr. Lou'gon.



Thagan house, the summer house of Mr. Lou'gon in Leh.



Small alley next to Thagan house was paved with slate stone.



Making platform for shower capsule installation.

## 1.1.4. Documentation and survey & restoration plan

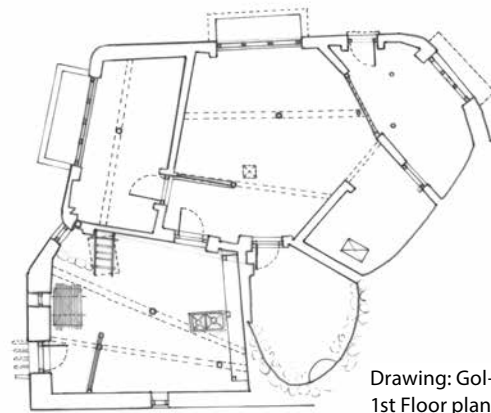
Location: Leh, Ladakh, India.  
Duration 2005 – on-going.  
Costs in 2019: € 2,815.02

### Architectural documentation

In 2019, THF continued with the documentation and survey of historic buildings and monuments in Ladakh. Our team of surveyors were from India, Thailand and Sweden. In the Leh Old Town, two historic houses were surveyed; the Spurka house and Karpoto house. In the countryside we surveyed and documented the Tiri Cho Palace and Gol-pa house the Heritage Museum in Garkone in the Aryan valley.



Yutaka checking the drawings from Thai students (left).  
Mauli Mishra working at the studio (right).  
Gol-pa house in Aryan valley, Garkone village (left down).



Drawing: Gol-pa house  
1st Floor plan  
M. Mishra & K. Berntzon  
for THF/LOTI



### Restoration plans

#### Saboo Shel-Zimskhang house

Shel-Zimskhang house was built in the early 20th century in the village of Saboo by one of the earlier Ladakh Christians, Mr. Tsedan Phuntsog. The house was built in a traditional style, yet with a touch of modern space concept in the middle of the fields and apple orchard. Mrs Marta, the house owner invited THF for help to repair the house since few years. In 2019, THF drew up the restoration plan for the family who intend to invite THF/LOTI team to implement the project in 2020.



Wooden plate with engraved letters "Smile Jesus Loves You!", which is found in the house (left).

Mrs Martha and Yutaka at the front of Shel-Zimskhang house (right).





## Leh Chenrenzig Lhakhang

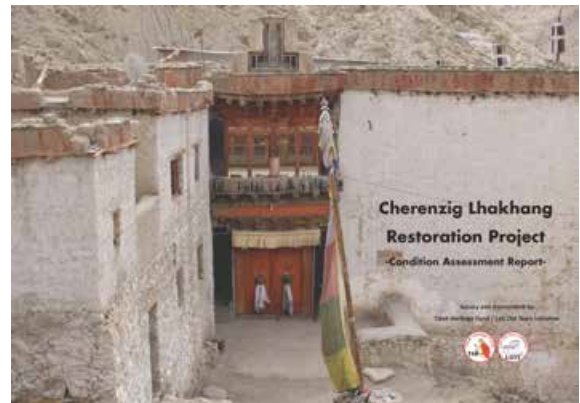
According to some sources, the temple was built in the 17th century after the Leh Palace was built and Leh became the capital of Ladakh. The patron of the temple was the royal family, the Namgyal kings.

The temple is very large in size and it is built out of stones, wood and mud. It was entrusted to Hemis Monastery and today Hemis's monks are looking after the temple. Its roof has some badly damaged areas, especially above the protector room, and

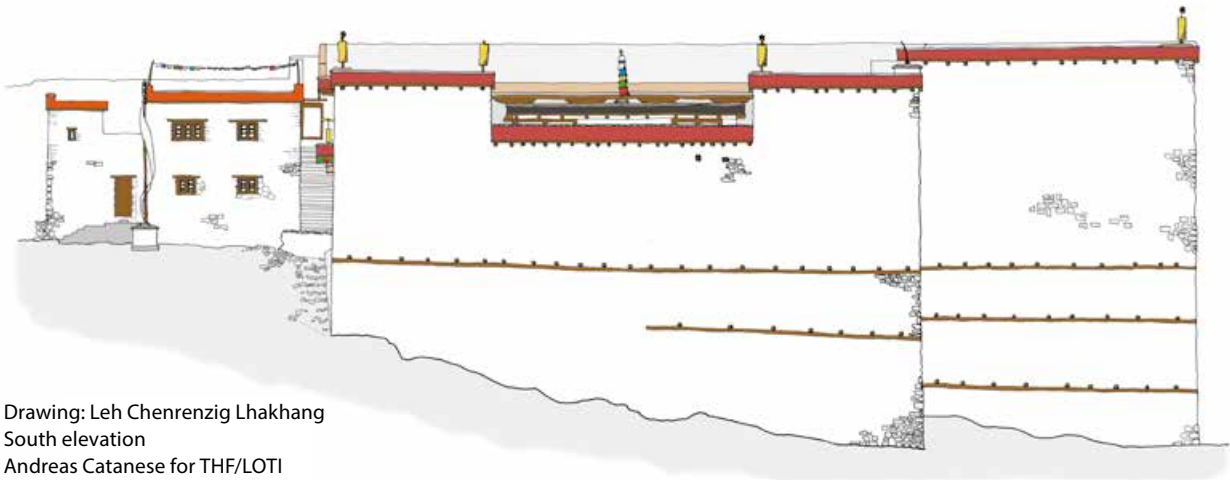
water infiltrations are damaging the masonry of the north wall and its wall painting. The timber structure and parapets are also affected.

Some of the patrons of the temple wanted to restore the Chenrenzig temple and approached THF/LOTI for help to draft a plan and calculate the estimate cost.

Since THF/LOTI has expertise in restoration, the patrons invited us to implement the restoration project later.



Wall paintings from the Cherenzig Lhakhang (Left & Center), and the condition assessment report (right).



Drawing: Leh Chenrenzig Lhakhang  
South elevation  
Andreas Catanese for THF/LOTI  
Colored by Yutaka Hirako

## Ani Yangskit house

Ani Yangskit was one of our co-workers. A few years back, she retired. In 2019, she wanted to upgrade her house as she hoped that her son would get married. She invited THF/LOTI to help with the upgrade plan and supervision of the team.

We helped her with the plan and supervision, and some members of our team worked with her family to upgrade the house.

Ani Yangskit preparing homemade momo dumplings in her renovated house.



## Shakti Thukchupa house

Shakti, also known as 'Serchi' (the golden throne), is an important valley with rich history located 50 km to the southeast of Leh. It is famous as a trade point where regional caravans, as well as from Tibet and elsewhere, would arrive with goods. Thukchupa's family is an important family in this valley and their house is a prominent building with a beautiful shrine and Tibetan-style decorated room. Mr Sonam Gyatso, the current house owner invited THF/LOTI to make a restoration plan and discuss ideas for its use conversion .



Shakti Tukchupa house restoration plan concept by THF/LOTI.

## Stok Palace Hotel's Yoga centre and New palace kitchen

We have been asked for advice to plan some of the projects in Stock village by the King of Ladakh, Mr. Jigmet Wanchuk Namgyal. He requested THF to design a Yoga centre and the palace kitchen in Stok where he is operating his Stok palace hotel. THF drafted several plans and now is under processing for the final plan.



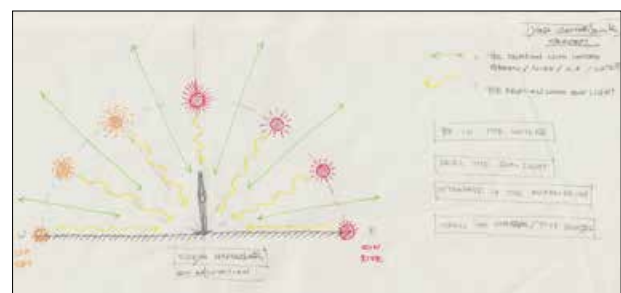
Gyalpo Jigmet Wangchuk Namgyal and Pimpim in the meeting over a nice cup of coffee (right up).

A concept note for the Yoga center (right).

Yutaka working on planning of the palace kitchen (left).



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Drawing: Stok palace kitchen  
South elevation  
Yutaka Hirako for THF/LOTI





## 1.2 Rural Ladakh

### 1.2.1 Tiri Cho Palace

Location: Tiri village, Rong, Ladakh, India.

Duration 2019

Costs in 2019: € 7,999.80

By the end of our working season in 2018, THF was approached by Mr. Rinchen Namgail, the head of the Tiri Cho Clan, who invited us to visit his ancestral home in Tiri. Together with Mr. Rinchen, we visited the site. After leaving the main road, we took a newly opened winding unpaved road up the hills for 9 km to Tiri village. The village is located at 4300 meters of altitude, with no electricity, phone or internet connection. According to the villagers, even in high summer the weather can change and get cold. Yet, Tiri is a popular destination for pilgrims, known as a spiritual powerful place 'Terma-ri' (the treasure mountain) where a stupa it is believed to have self appeared.

The house has two floors. On the ground floor, there is the old kitchen that was also used as the living space, and the stable for animals. The upper floor, which was added later, was fitted with rooms and chapel. The condition of the house was poor, the entire upper floor had no roof and even no walls in some areas. Only the rooms on the ground floor were used by the villagers to keep the hay and cattle. Mr. Rinchen wanted to restore the house to its former glory and planning to convert part of the house into a museum with an attached guest house.

Because of THF/LOTI (Leh Old Town Initiative) reputation in Ladakh, he invited us to implement the first phase of the project, to rebuild the western side of the house. Because of the importance of the Chieftain of Tiri Clan as a direct branch of the Gya Clan who rule central Ladakh in the early history of Ladakh before 10th century, we decided to accept the invitation and launched the project.

It was not an easy project due to the remote location and the difficulties with communication and transportation. We assembled a team of mason and assistant labours to carry out on site construction work. Meanwhile, the carpenters prepared necessary wooden parts in Leh, i.e. windows, doors and balcony according to the drawings, and later fitted them on site. In the first phase, we worked on the western side of the palace, where only the ground floor remained. We consolidated



the ground floor and replaced the weakened and broken ceiling structure. Later, we built the rooms above, consisting of bedroom, Rapsel-balcony room, dining-kitchen and bathroom. We attached two rooms for the dry compost toilet which are accessible from inside and outside. We installed the water pipe and connected it to the water tank, a drainpipe line was also connected to a septic tank and drain to the field.

The first phase of the project was successfully completed. Many people visited the restored building after their pilgrimage to the famous holy stupa in the local temple. Its balcony has become a photo spot for the visitors and villagers.

This project was sponsored by Mr. Rinchen Namgail, the head of Tiri Cho Clan.



If I could share with you the smell of these wild roses (Sia in Ladakhi)... on the way to Tiri.





Above: View of Tiri Cho Palace before reconstruction. Below left: THF/LOTI team and Mr. Rinchen Namgail discussing the reconstruction work.

Below centre: our working room and accommodation in Tiri village; Yutaka was using two tables to make his drawing table.

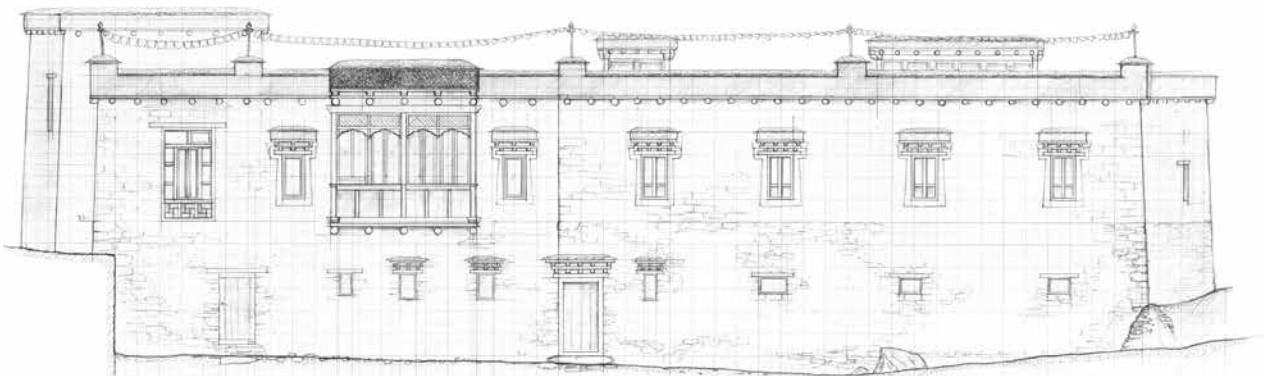
Below right, the mother horse with her new born baby called Metok (flower).



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Drawing: Tiri Cho Palace  
South elevation - Restoration plan  
Yutaka Hirako for THF/LOTI







Our team for Tiri Cho Palace project starting the construction work.



Removed the ceiling structure and preparing to repair the stone wall.



Setting the window frames at the first floor.



Mason is fixing the newly designed window.



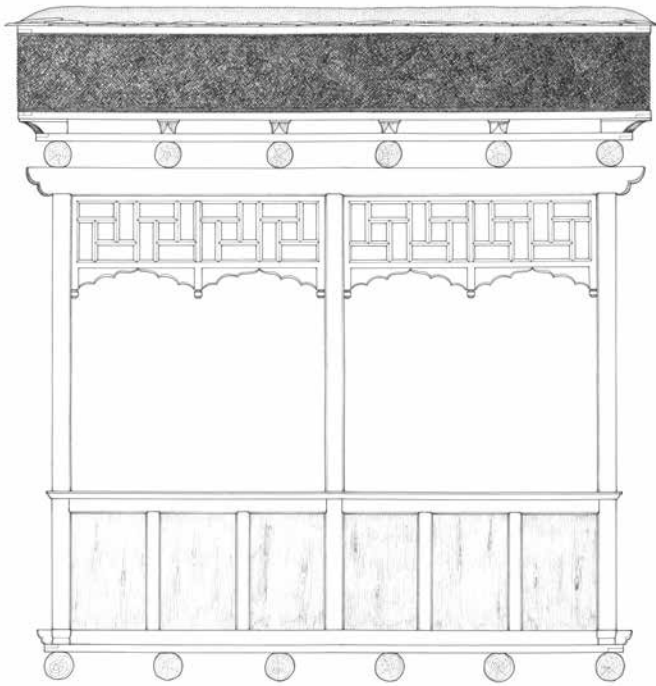
Carpenter is making the latticed door panel, which was designed to integrate with the original window shutter (Seeing on the backside).



Window frames were fixed in the building, carpenters are preparing more parts for the Rabsel balcony.







Drawing: Tiri Cho Palace  
Rapsel balcony  
Yutaka Hirako for THF/LOTI



Pre-assembling the Rapsel balcony frame in Leh, the carpenter Rupesh and Dadul made it according to Yutaka's design.



The beautiful scenery of Tiri village from the Rapsel balcony.



Fitting the Rapsel balcony to the building.



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Tiri Cho Palace with recreated Rapsel balcony and windows.





Making a sky-light for the dining room. Very busy rooftop with the working team and villagers.



Finalizing work in progress at the rooftop. The building exterior was painted with Markalak whitewash and oxidized iron red.



Various construction works have been taking place;

Top left: Labourer carrying adobe to the construction site.  
Top center: Carpenters making the frieze with willow twig bundles, Pensak parapet.  
Top right: Applying the mud plaster, this is the second layer for leveling the wall surface.

Middle left: Making the Nagtse frame around the windows.  
Middle center: Carpenter is fixing the window shutter in the sky-light.  
Middle right: Yutaka is chiselling the wall in preparation for the plumbing work.

Left: The plumbing and carpentry work are progressing in parallel.





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Various photos of the completed building from different angles;  
 Top left: The main facade of the building with the Rapsel balcony.  
 Above: The building view from back side, there are two dry-toilets at the high-rise part.  
 Top right: Access path to the dry-toilet. The dining hall has three long windows.  
 Right: The rooftop view with two sky-lights.



The wooden stair to access the dry-toilet from the washing room.

Dining hall with slate stone paving. A large sky-light brings enough natural light.

Rapsel balcony with the elaborate lattice window and decorations.





Tiri Cho Palace after completion of the first phase project. THF/LOTI would like to continue the project when the owner family is ready for the coming phase.



Team from the Tiri Cho Palace renovation project;

Above left: Meimei the member of Tiri Cho family, who has been looking after the house.

Above center: Mr. Rinchen Namgail the chieftain of Tiri Cho clan and Mrs. Tashi Spalzes together with Pimpim.

Above right: Yutaka at his own designed Rapsel balcony.

Left: THF/LOTI team, a group photo after completion of the project.





## 1.2.2 Phyang Guru Lhakhang

Location: Phyang, Ladakh, India.

Duration 2016 – 2019.

Costs in 2019: € 1,646.43

Guru Lhakhang located at old Phyang village 20km distance from Leh is a one-storey building, built with stone, adobe bricks and timber. The shape of the temple is a regular square (6 m by 6 m) with a small entrance door located on the south side and no windows, but a small lantern. The most significant value of this temple is the 14th century original wall paintings. The four inside of the walls are painted with Buddhist motifs and images, covering an area of approx. 45m<sup>2</sup>.

THF's project conservation of Phyang Guru Lhakhang of the wall paintings and building in 2016-2018 brought positive outcome for the local community. In 2019, THF continued with the project. We paved the floor inside the shrine with wood, improved the sky-light, repaired the parapet on the roof, stabilised the wall of the circumambulation path and paved the path with slate stones.

This project was sponsored by Ralv and Beatrice Fust.

Top right: Phyang Guru Lhakhang project site, THF/LOTI had conserved the 14th century wall painting in previous years. In 2019, we paved the footpath around the temple.

Right: Mr. Norboo Tsering Gasha is the current care taker of the temple as well as a skilled carpenter. He contributed by making the traditional wooden flooring Shingshen, without use of a single nail.

Below left: Paving the circumambulation path with slate stone.

Below center: Mason paving the stair with slate stone.

Below right: Pimpim is investigating the quality of the work.



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## 2. Wall-painting Conservation Program

### 2.1 East Stupa gate – Shar Kagan Chorten

Location: Leh, Ladakh, India.

Duration 2018 – 2019.

Costs in 2019: Include under the Leh Old Town Conservation Project

Shar Kagan Chorten is in the northeast and is the biggest of the four stupa gateways, the former entrances to Leh old town. This is one of the access gates to the Leh Palace. The stupa is believed by the community to protect the palace and the town from evil. It is an important monument, not just as spiritual symbol but also as a marker of the original town border. In 2018, we repaired the stupa, and in 2019 we conserved the historic wall paintings located on the ceiling of the stupa passage. The wall paintings were of Buddhist deities. A team consisting of two Czech conservators and Yangchen Dolma our Ladakhi conservator worked to stabilize and clean the wall paintings.

This project was supported by Wolf Kahlen and Ralv and Beatrice Fust.



Above: East Stupa gate is an entrance gateway to the old town. It is believed that people who go through the stupa gate will receive a blessing.

Far left: Ms Klara, art conservator from Czech, is discussing with Yutaka about the different mixture of clay mortar.

Left: Conservators working on consolidation of fragile paintings at the gateway.

## 3. Conferences, Talks and Media

Costs in 2019: € 9,675.22

### 15th IATS Seminar 2019 – Paris

In July, Pimpim de Azevedo attended the 15 International Association of Tibetan Studies in Paris and presented "Artisans, Artists and Architects House – Preserving traditional crafts in Tibetan and Himalaya regions". In Paris she met many old friends and made many new one.



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## Talks in Hong Kong

On May 7, David Cheung organised a private talk in Hong Kong and invited Pimpim de Azevedo to introduce Tibet Heritage Fund work and conservation approaches. Pimpim gave a talk on "Architecture and heritage conservation in Tibet and Himalaya- Retrospective and vision for the future". We would like to thank David Cheung for organising the event.

## UNESCO awards ceremony in Penang

In October, THF's Yutaka Hirako and Pimpim de Azevedo attended the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage 20/20 Forum + 2019 Awards Ceremony in Penang, Malaysia. It was the 20th Anniversary Celebration of UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. Yutaka Hirako received a Certificate of Appreciation for his contribution to the UNESCO Publication "Asia Conserved Vol.4". Also our previous award-winning project "Serkhang Monastery" was published in the series of the publication Asia Conserved Vol.3.



Top: Opening speech of the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage 20/20 Forum at George Town, Penang. Above: Yutaka Hirako received a certificate of Appreciation from UNESCO.

## Talk events at Kushu house

In 2019, we continued with the "Early memories of Leh old town", a series of talks organised by THF/LOTI at the Kushu Heritage house. These events aim at sharing knowledge, history and experiences by senior Ladakhis to the students of various schools in Ladakh and the public in general. The local radio and television station staff attended these talks which were later broadcasted on their programme.



The students from the government girl's school are listening attentively to the stories and taking notes.



Mr. Rinchen Namgail share his talk "Stories and legends about Gya kingdom and Tiri Cho clan".



Mrs Sonam Dolma is the former president of the NGO Woman's Alliance of Ladakh.





## Meetings, Talks, TV and Radio

In 2019, THF/LOTI gave many talks and presentations to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh (LAHDC Leh) and to the new founded Union Territory Administration, to NGOs meetings, Tibeto-Ladakhi study scholars, etc., presenting Leh old town heritage and its conservation, proposing the Leh old town as Heritage Zone and writing the guidelines for its protection.

On July 4, Yutaka Hirako was invited to give a spontaneous lecture to architecture students from different universities of Bangalore at the Ladakh Kitchen Museum in the Central Asian Museum, Leh.

On July 27, THF/LOTI organised a meeting and invited experts working in the field of cultural heritage conservation. We assembled the "Ladakh Heritage Forum" to strengthen our communication and collaboration.

On August 30, THF/LOTI gave a presentation about "Leh Old Town Heritage Zone" at the 19th Conference of the International Association for Ladakh Studies as a part of a special program.

On October 29, Yutaka Hirako and Sonam Gyatso share their thoughts on Ladakh heritage and its conservation at the Ladakh Literature Festival held at the Central Asia Museum, Leh.

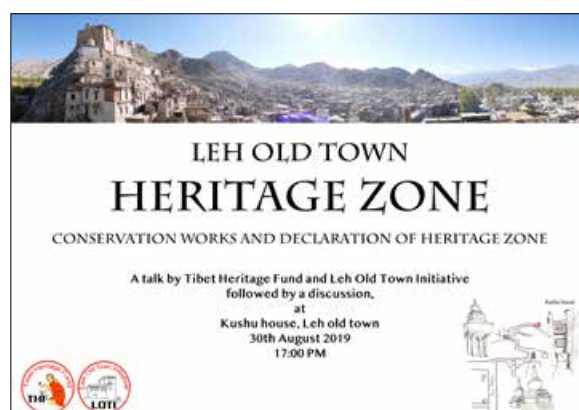
DD Kashi TV interviewed Yutaka Hirako about THF/LOTI's efforts towards the Leh Old Town conservation project, it was broadcast on the local TV program.

Yutaka Hirako gave an interview for a promotional video on dry toilet by LEDeG (Ladakh Ecological Development and Environmental Group). Yutaka introduced our newly designed dry toilet, which is functional, improves the hygienic and looks good too. This promotional video is now available on the YouTube channel, 'Do you Flush and forget? Relevance of Traditional (Ladakhi) Dry Compost Toilet'.

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=lyg2wgNkRJ8&feature=share



A meeting at Kushu house, the experts are discussing about various issues on cultural heritage conservation. We agreed to create "Ladakh Heritage Forum" as a platform.



The presentation given at the 19th IALS conference by THF/LOTI.



Right third row: Yutaka Hirako sharing his work experience with the architecture students from CEPT.

Right: Yutaka Hirako and Sonam Gyatso from THF/LOTI attending the Ladakh Literature Festival as a panelist for the cultural heritage conservation session.

## 4. Publications and Exhibitions

Costs in 2019: Include under the Conferences, talks and Media

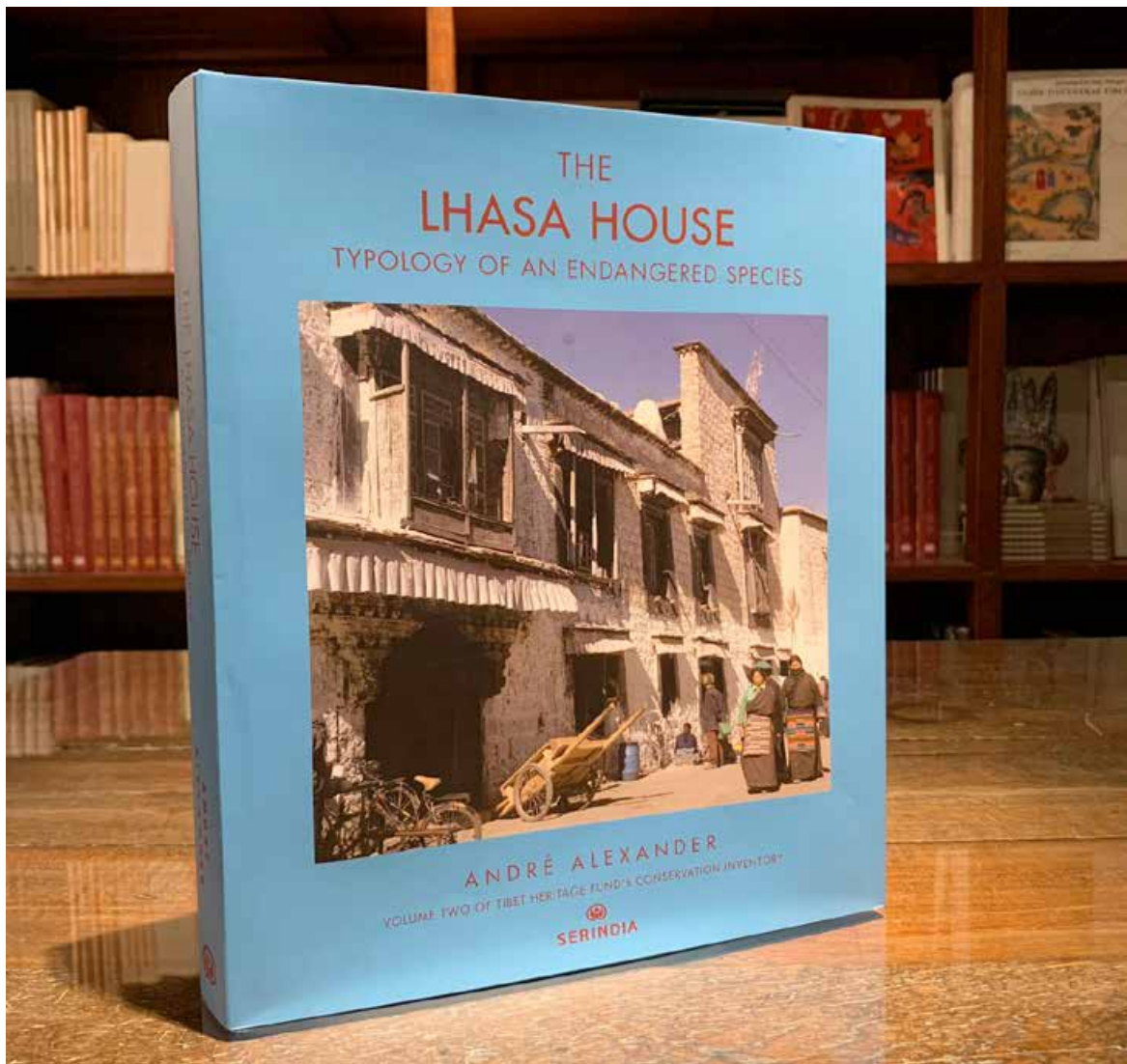
### 4.1 The Lhasa House – Typology of an Endangered Species

The Lhasa House – Typology of an Endangered Species, André Alexander, Volume Two of Tibet Heritage Fund's Conservation Inventory, was published in March 2019 by Serindia Publications, Chicago.

The Lhasa House is a comprehensive survey of the architecture of the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, based on the Tibet Heritage Fund's official five-year conservation project in Tibet, during which THF had extensive access to the buildings studied. The companion volume of The Temples of Lhasa (Serindia 2005), this book is concerned with the traditional vernacular architecture, in the form of the historic Lhasa town house, as it was built and lived in from the mid-17th to the mid-20th centuries. According to the

earliest proper survey of the city, Lhasa in 1948 consisted of around 700 traditional Tibetan town houses, a small city by any standards. In 1993, little more than 300 of these remained. By January 2010, this had dwindled to less than 100. The book aims to define the Lhasa house as a distinct variety of traditional Tibetan architecture, by providing a technical analysis, discussion of the cultural framework and the development of a typology. The core of the book presents architectural surveys of 127 historic residential buildings, compiled during the demolition and rebuilding of the old city in the 1990s.

Tibet Heritage Fund is most grateful to Trace Foundation for supporting the preparation of this book for posthumous publication, to MISEREOR, and to Virginia and Wellington Yee for their continuous support and for making this publication possible.

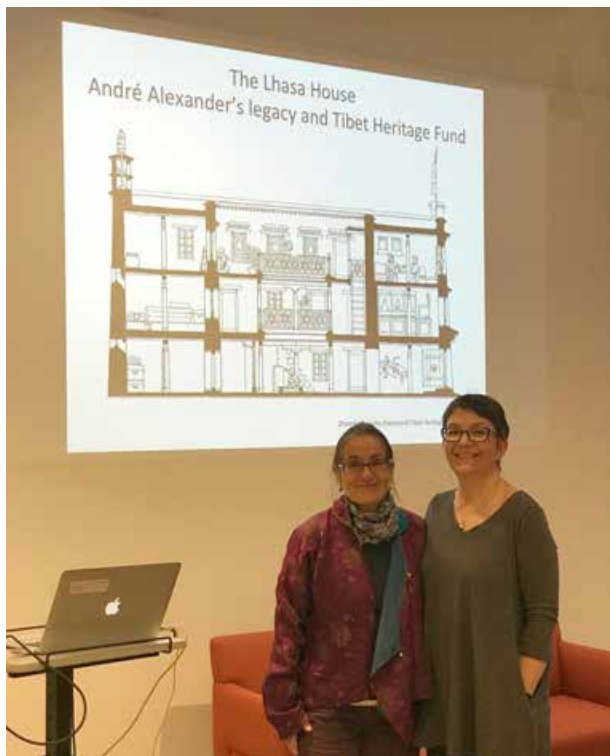




## 4.2 Book launch and fundraising in New York

On March 6, 2019, the Lhasa House – Typology of an Endangered Species by André Alexander was launched with Tibet Heritage Fund's Pimpim de Azevedo and Yutaka Hirako at Here Now/Latse, New York.

The book launch celebrated the lifelong, vital work of late André Alexander and the Tibet Heritage Fund in the preservation, conservation, and documentation of traditional architecture in Tibet. We are most thankful to Here Now and Latse for organising and supporting this event.



Paola Vanzo, Executive Director of Here Now space, hosted the event at the Here | Now space in NYC.

On March 8, THF's Pimpim de Azevedo and Yutaka Hirako gave a talk "Architecture and Heritage conservation in Tibet and Himalaya" at the Tibet House in New York.

On March 13, Geraldine Kunstadter organised a private event to celebrate the publication at her residence in New York with the presence of Pimpim de Azevedo and Yutaka Hirako. We would like to thank Geraldine Kunstadter for her kindness in organizing the event and inviting hers and our friends.

We would like to thank Virginia and Wellington Yee for supporting the logistics of the trip to New York for the book launch. We would also like to thank the many old friends and new friends that welcome us in New York and made this visit very special.



Geraldine Kunstadter kindly hosted a wonderful event at her home.

## 4.3 Exhibition at Tibethaus in Frankfurt

Tibet Heritage Fund and the Tibethaus in Frankfurt, Germany co-organised the exhibition "Lhasa old city".

The exhibition featured photographs, diagrams and maps of the City of Lhasa, many of them unpublished. It also introduced the City's architecture as well as construction materials and techniques.

The exhibition honoured André Alexander's life (1965-2012), his achievements and his dedication to his work with Tibet Heritage Fund. The exhibition featured some of his amazing and rarely shown drawings. It also introduced his recently published book "The Lhasa House" (Please refer to details in 3.1.1). The opening of the exhibition was on March 22. Pimpim de Azevedo and Yutaka Hirako introduced the exhibition and launched the book.

The exhibition was closed on November 21.

Top right: Elke Hassel, the director of Tibethaus, gave an introduction to the exhibition "Lhasa old city".

Right second row: Presentation at the opening event.

Right third row: Visitors could see various materials from the work of THF in Lhasa.

Bottom right: Mr. Phuntsok Tsering, the Tibetan representative of Tibethaus Frankfurt, invited THF for a welcome lunch.

Below: The original drawing of "Homage to André" by Pimpim was exhibited at the event.



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## 5. Other Activities

### Lala's café

In 2019, Lala's café continue to operate in the old town. We presented new menu with new cakes and beverages. The local handicrafts corner was created to promote goods from the Ladakhi artisans.



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Lala's café is one of the first café gallery in Ladakh, it is a cosy and popular place in the town.

Far right: The workshop of the master metal craftsman is located at Lala's café ground floor. He also sells his products.

Right: Handicraft's corner at Lala's café.

### Cats

In August our beloved cat Rewa Tsering disappeared and never return. In October, meanwhile we were attending the UNESCO awards ceremony in Penang, a mother cat had five kittens in Kushu house. It was the best award we could win. After two months the mother cat took the kittens to her home. We are happy that Kushu heritage house is a good nursery.



Five kittens at Kushu house (left) and the missing Rewa Tsering (right).

### THF news

We would like to say thanks to three dear friends that are no more with us for their generosity, kind heart, encouragement and inspiration. Lobsang Nudrup, our Tibetan colleague who passed away in November, he had worked with THF since 1998, being Pimpim's right hand researcher and also managed numbers of restoration projects in the field; Corinne Daryes, who volunteered with THF and helped us with editing reports and Thubten Lhamo la for all her support and love.

Tibet Heritage Fund would like to thank you all for your support, kindness and generosity, without your support these projects would not be possible.

Right: Lobsang Nudrup, our Tibetan colleague (left side) in Ragya monastery project in 2005.

Below: Thubten Lhamo la (left side) at her house in Lhasa.



## 6. WHO ARE THF

THF་མཚམས་སྒྱུར་མཛེན་བསྐྱུས།

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 was founded by André Alexander and the present director Pimpim de Azevedo, and Yutaka Hirako is the project architect and program director; Sylvester Kaben is the treasurer. In Ladakh, the team includes worksite manager Stanzin Dolkar and staff Sonam Gyatso.

### Contact THF

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

In Ladakh, visit us between April and October at Lakruk House, Stalam, Leh, below the old royal palace. In Beijing we stay close to Nanlouguxian, and during working season we are in Amdo.

### 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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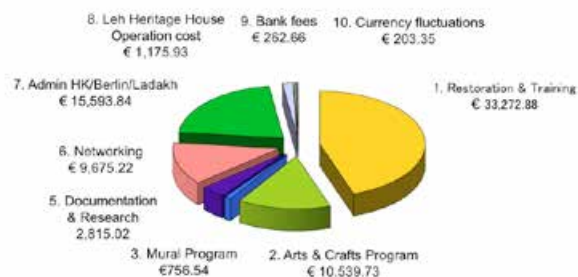


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**THF Incoming Funds 2019:  
EURO 145,678.58**

Carry-over from 2018	<b>€ 40,860.79</b>
Virginia & Wellington Yee	<b>€ 26,166.28</b>
Andrea Soros Colombel	<b>€ 22,093.73</b>
CERS	<b>€ 17,898.88</b>
NYC fundraising events	<b>€ 13,696.05</b>
Shenpen Sem Swiss	<b>€ 8,577.37</b>
Co-financing, Ladakh	<b>€ 11,805.92</b>
Internship fee	<b>€ 1,093.90</b>
Membership fees, book sale & Lala's Gallery	<b>€ 3,442.77</b>
Bank interests	<b>€ 43.59</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 145,678.58</b>

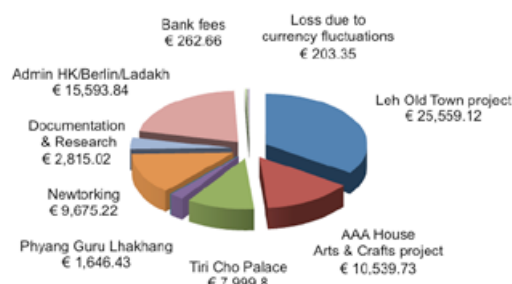
## Expenses by Categories



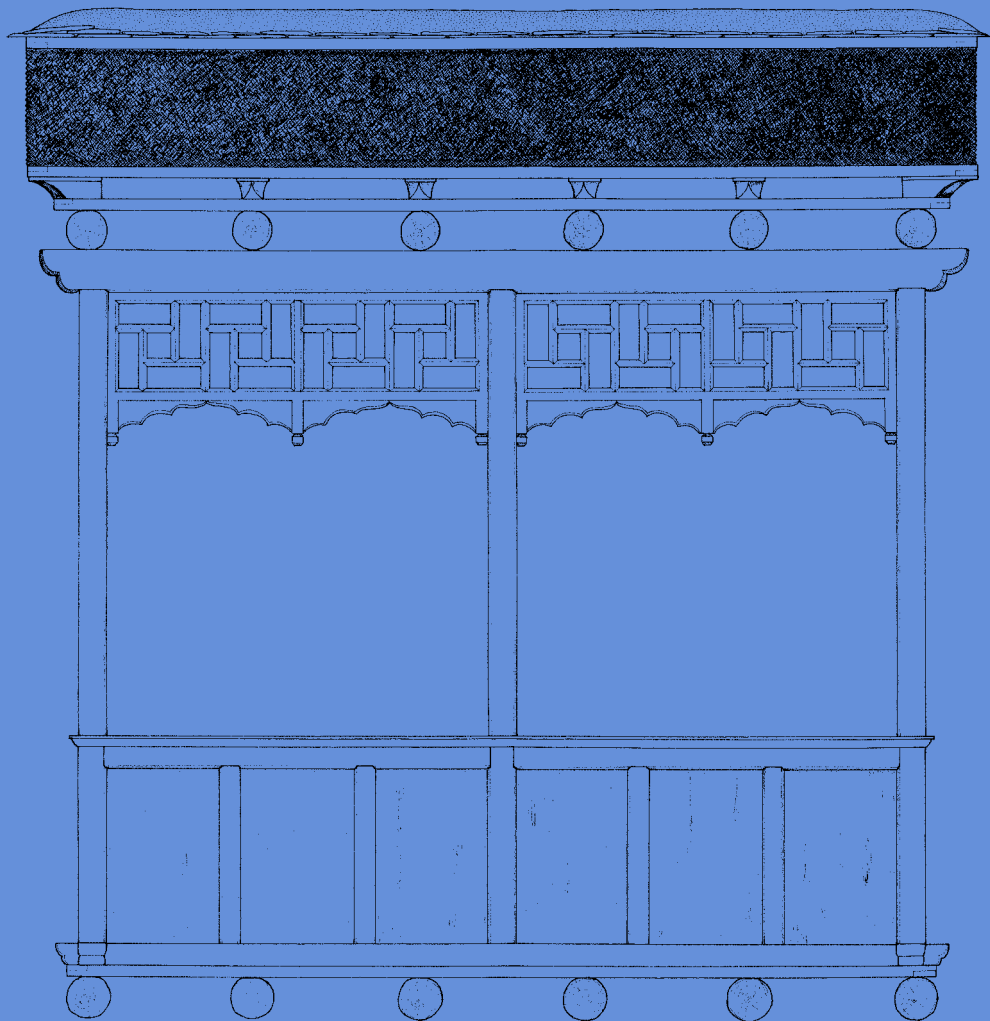
**THF Outgoing Funds 2019:  
EURO 74,295.17**

Leh Old Town project	<b>€ 25,559.12</b>
Arts & Crafts project	<b>€ 10,539.73</b>
Tiri Cho Palace	<b>€ 7,999.80</b>
Phyang Guru Lhakhang	<b>€ 1,646.43</b>
Conference & networking	<b>€ 9,675.22</b>
Documentation & Research	<b>€ 2,815.02</b>
Administrative HK/Berlin/Ladakh	<b>€ 15,593.84</b>
Bank fees	<b>€ 262.66</b>
Losses due to currency fluctuations:	<b>€ 203.35</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 74,295.17</b>
carry-over 2020	<b>€ 71,383.41</b>

## Expenses by Projects



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.



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