

# Development Workshop

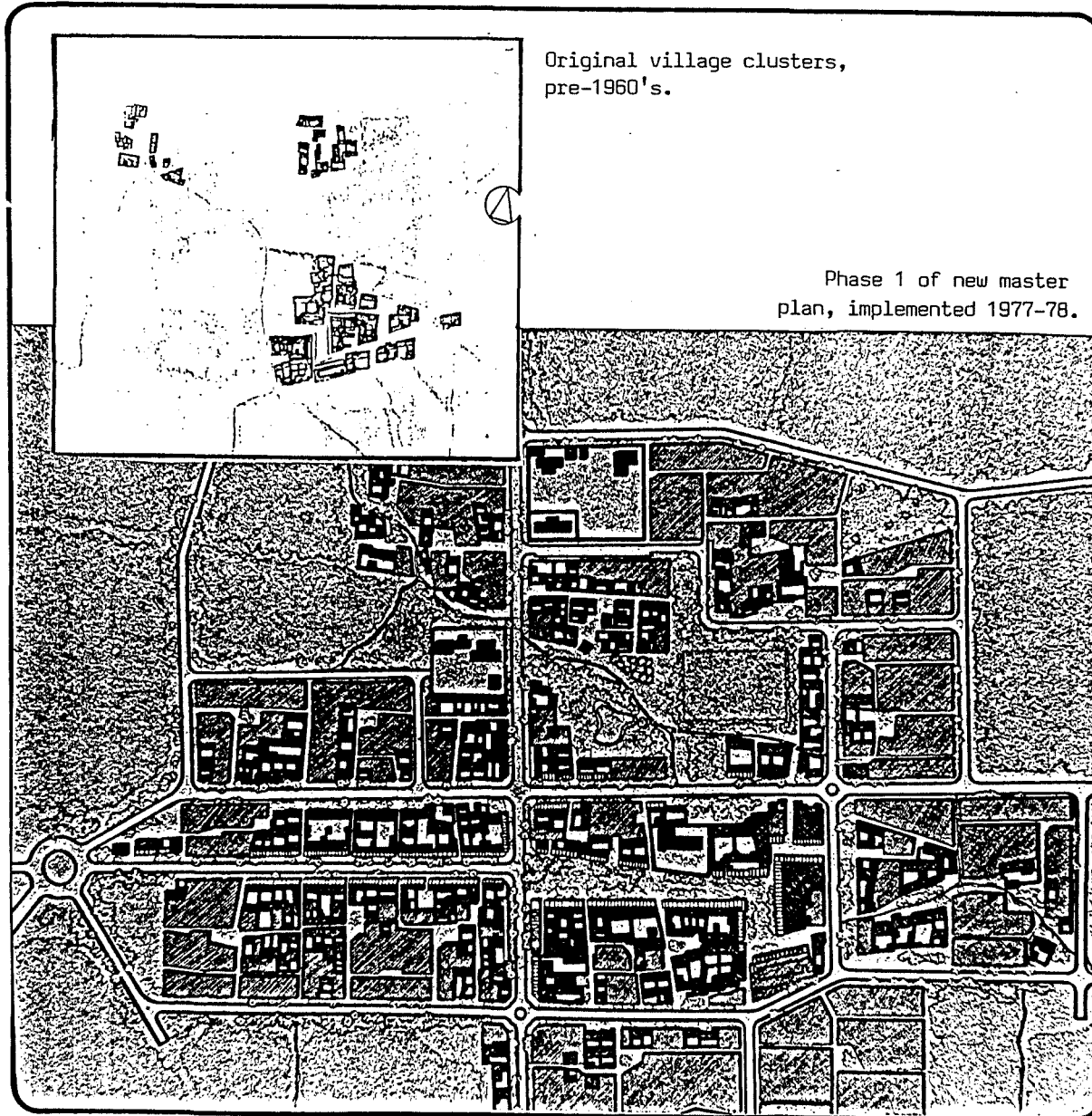
Box 133  
238 Davenport Road  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada M5R 1J6

project

MASTER PLAN FOR ALASHTAR TOWN:  
Design and Implementation

client

CEDS/SIDP/Prime Minister's Office, Iran.



The rapid expansion of Alashtar as Selseleh regional centre demanded a town plan which sensitively met new needs and the conservation of the existing urban fabric.

Development Workshop developed the town plan with the objective of making Alashtar a good regional service centre without encouraging permanent migration from the surrounding villages. The plan respected the existing layout and building groups and original village clusters. It encouraged the development of cohesive neighbourhoods, but at the same time the plan allowed for the provision of major services which cannot be supplied in the villages: hospitals, secondary and technical schools, administration.

The development and implementation of the plan was done with direct contact amongst the community, so that in some cases alterations were made on the ground to accommodate the wishes of landowners and occupants.

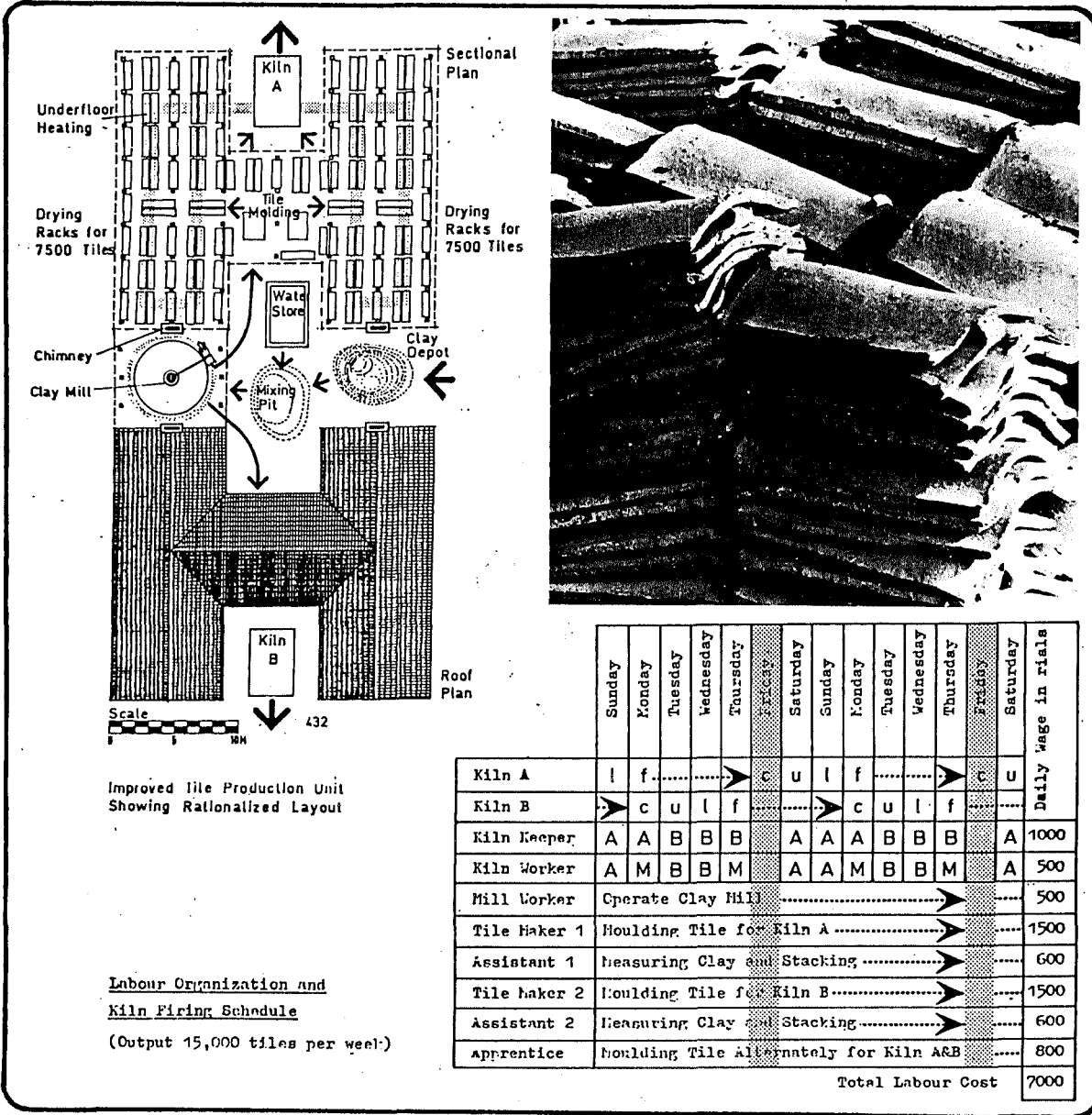
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project

Research and Development of Tile Industry  
Caspian Province , Iran

client

Institute for Rural and Peasant Studies



Development Workshop prepared a study for revitalising the roof tile industry in the Caspian Region, Iran. The industry was organised in small rural production units. The traditional industry produced high quality roofing materials employing local labour, materials and fuel.

Due to seasonal production problems and importation of modern roofing materials such as corrugated metal the industry was declining in some areas.

Proposals were made for economic and management reorganisation at regional level and on the level of individual production units. Soils were tested for their firing potential. Technical proposals were presented on increasing energy efficiency of kilns and for each aspect of the production process.

A model production unit was developed, upgrading the local technology and manufacturing process. Tiles are pre-dried before firing by waste heat from the kilns, allowing manufacture to continue through the rainy season. The rationalised management system ensures a continuous production at lower cost but maintains the essential employment generating aspects of the industry.

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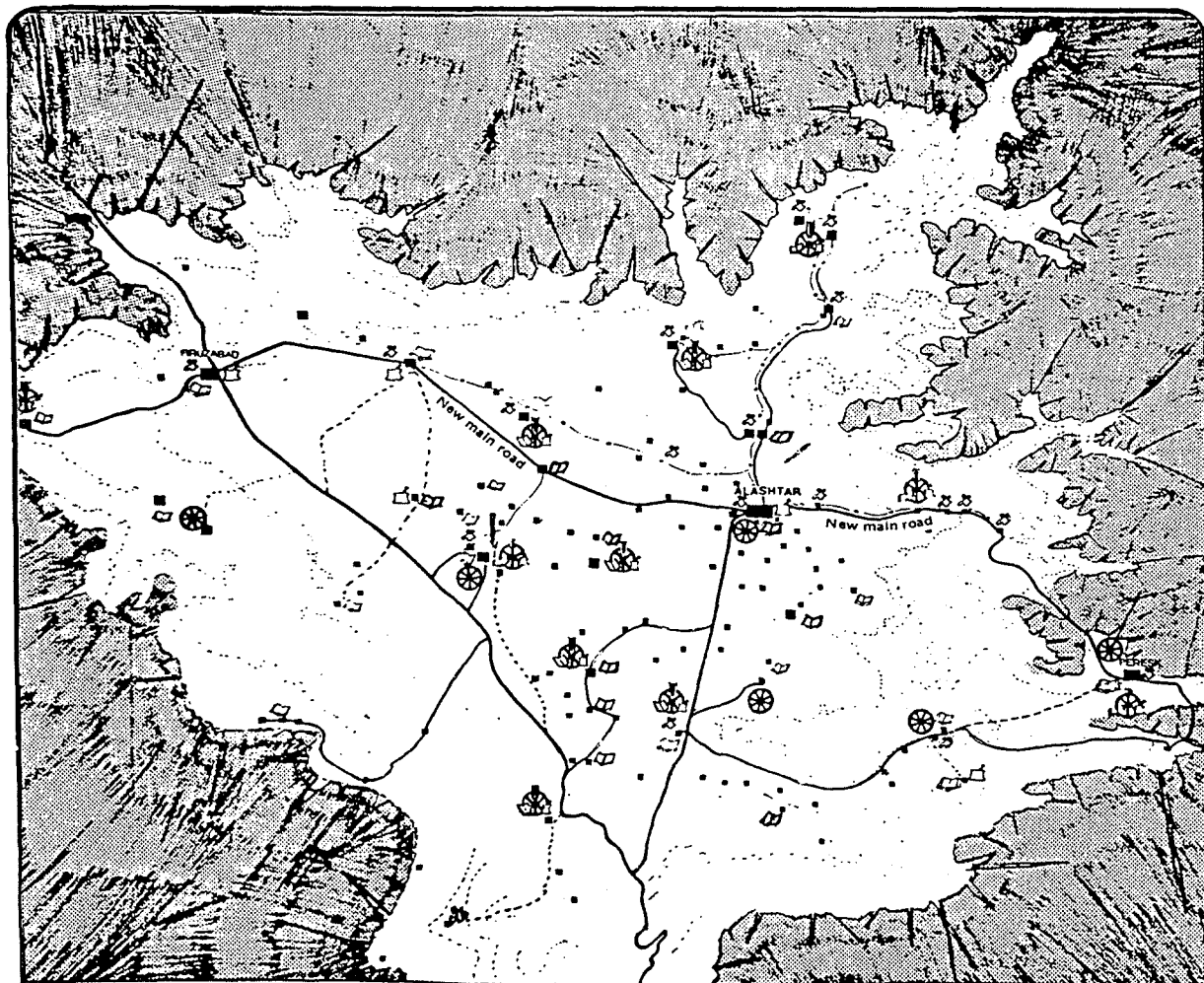
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project

INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT  
Luristan, Iran.

client

S.I.D.P.



⊗ Productive Industries

⌒ Agricultural Extension Service

⊗ Water Supply Project

⊠ Health Service/clinic

⊠ Education

SELSELEH REGION: PROJECT DISTRIBUTION

From 1975 to 1977, Development Workshop were the architects and planners for the Selseleh Integrated Development Project. This was part of an experimental project to investigate and apply alternative rural development policies. It called for the improvement of living conditions in the Selseleh region through the active participation of the community and by the use of local resources. Decisions were made in the field through ongoing research and discussion with the indigenous population.

Development focussed on 4 activities:-

- AGRICULTURE
- HEALTH
- EDUCATION
- and - SERVICES.

The programmes concentrated on training to meet these needs. "Front-line workers" became responsible for village health, education and agricultural assistance. Building teams were trained. The provision of community services included roads, water supply, rural clinics, public baths, schools, as well as the creation of employment opportunities through small scale industry development related to local needs: building materials; weaving; woodworking; etc.

All activities were based on community participation.

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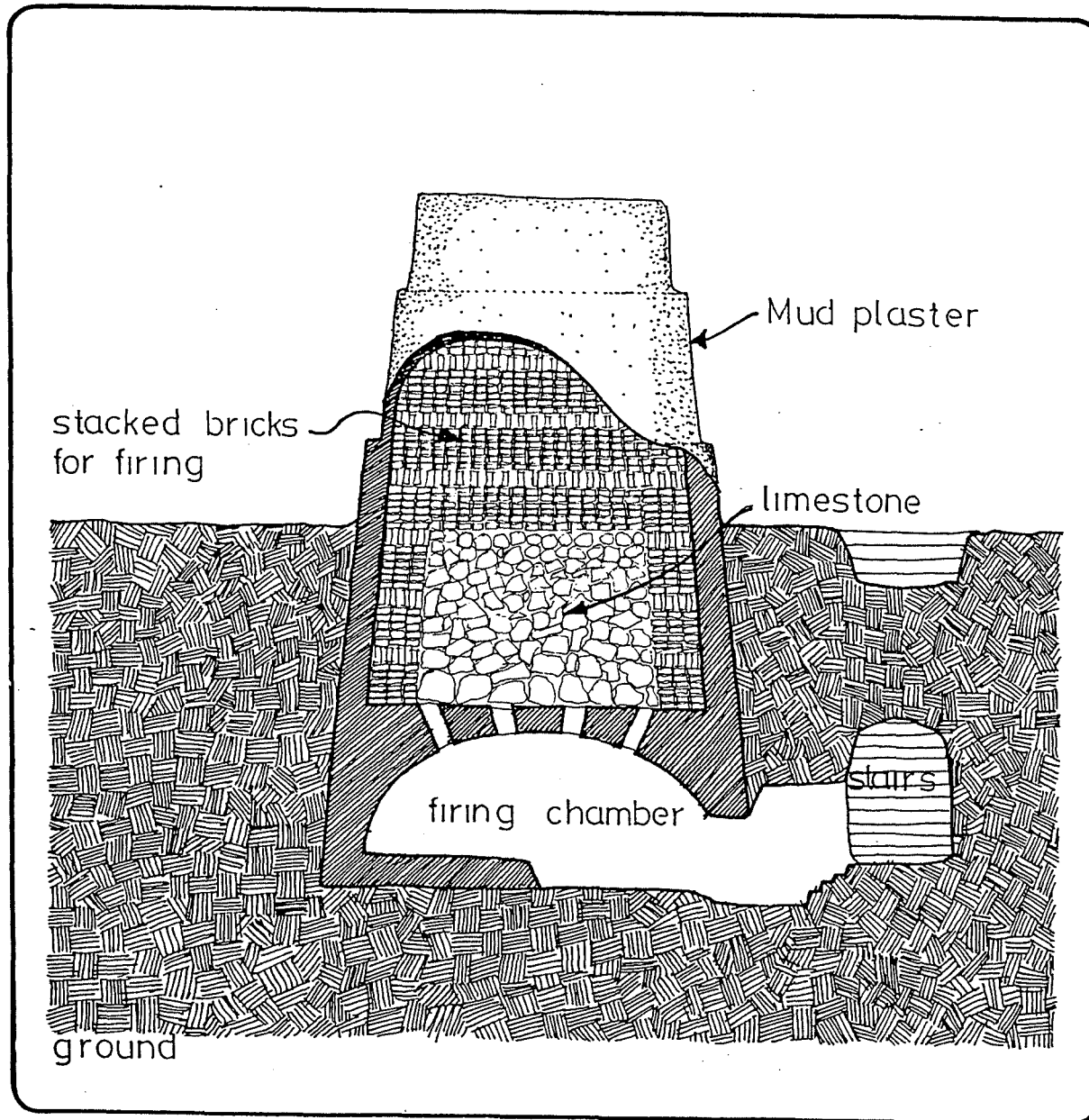
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project

KILN DEVELOPMENT: SMALL-SCALE BUILDING INDUSTRIES, Luristan, Iran.

client

S.I.D.P., Iran.



Combination kilns were set up by Development Workshop in the Luristan area to meet the building material needs of an integrated development programme.

Each kiln produced fired bricks and lime. The lime was then used for mortars and foundation material.

The kilns were small enough to be operated by village teams. They thus provided valuable opportunities for decentralised employment to complement seasonal agricultural demand for labour.

The kilns were fired on black oil.

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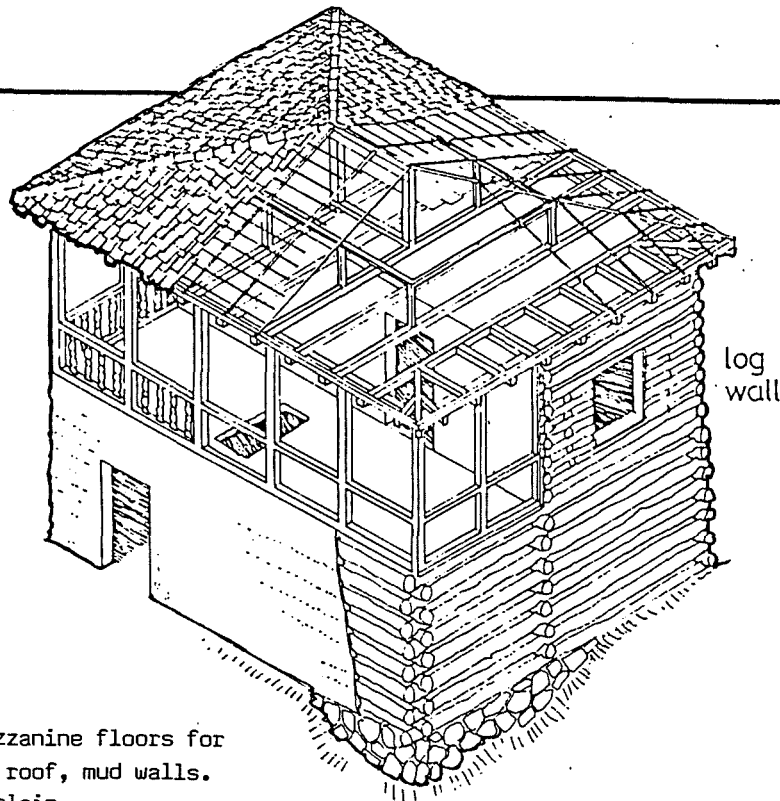
project

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS  
BUILDING INDUSTRY & RESOURCES: CASPIAN

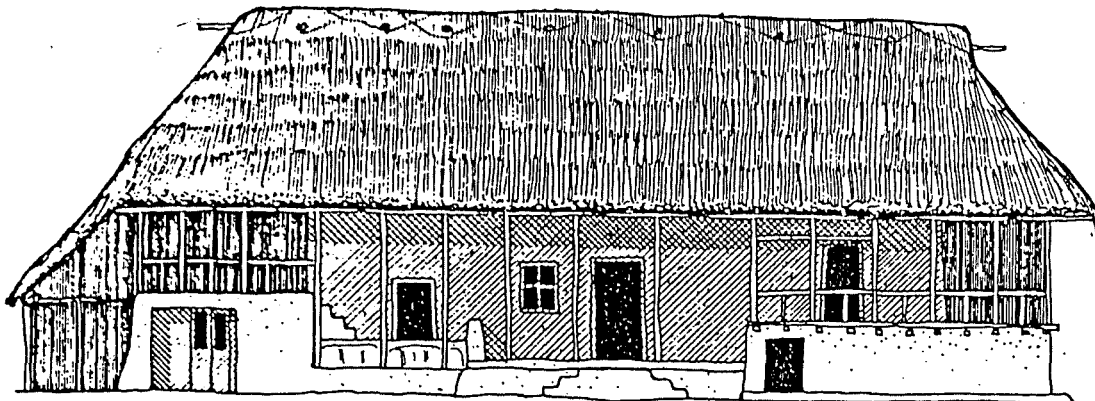
client

I.R.P.S., Iran.

Mountain settlement housing:  
shingle roof, log walls.  
Kodir.



2 household dwelling with mezzanine floors for  
summer dwelling: rice thatch roof, mud walls.  
Dogoor, Rasht area, coastal plain.



← household 2 → | ← household 1 →

Development Workshop carried out a year long programme from early 1978 to analyse and develop the indigenous building industry and available resources in the Caspian region of Northern Iran. This study led to the development of programmes for improving productivity and quality and overcoming problems.

The study catalogued all existing house forms and settlement patterns throughout the Caspian region. It related the built environment to local social, economic and environmental conditions and requirements. The proposals paid particular attention to the role that the local building industry plays in providing employment and stimulating the local economy. It recognised that building is as important a part of rural development as agriculture or animal husbandry.

Report on programme: 2 vols.;

Total 457 pp.

Heavily illustrated by diagrams, plans, and photos. Limited edition.

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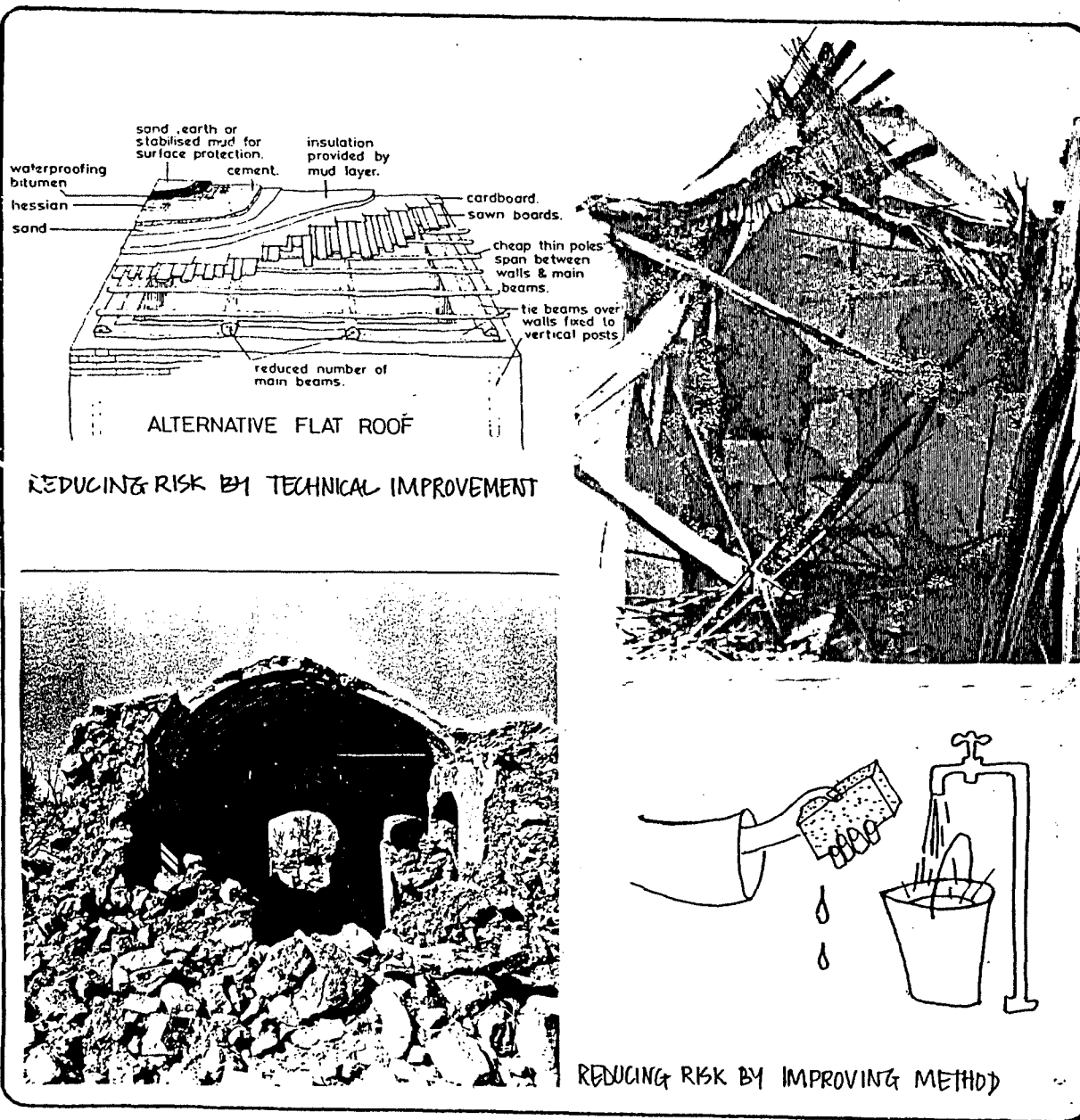
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project

IRAN: Mobilising indigenous resources  
for post earthquake reconstruction.

client

Centre for Endogenous Development Studies  
Tehran, Iran.



Following the Earthquakes at Bandar Abbas and Zarand in 1977, Development Workshop carried out detailed surveys of the damaged and intact buildings in each area in order to assess where the weaknesses lay. Following these surveys DW prepared a programme for mobilising the local population so that they would be able to build in ways that would reduce the risk of building damage, whilst still using their locally available materials.

The programme was based on training; to improve the way in which building was already being done, often by explaining simple rules of good building practice; and by introducing certain innovations in building construction which would improve the strength of the building. The aim was to ensure that the users would have realistic access to all the materials required. Layout and location of openings was also covered.

Training programmes were done in Luristan and Yazd.

Follow up training was done in Luristan at the request of the builders who participated in the first training session.