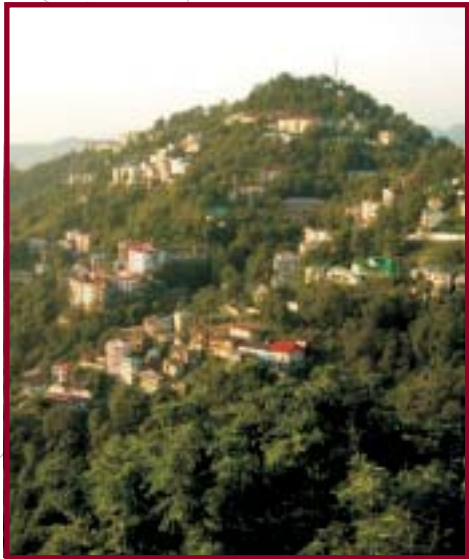


The Indian Thread

eMi² Newsletter, July 2004

“At the end, we could say to them, ‘this is not only our design but your design and ideas as well’. We basically designed together.”



The city of Shimla, the former summer capital of India during British rule and now the capital of state Himachal Pradesh (“the abode of idols”), carries great importance in Indian society. Government officers and high officials live here and many Hindus

flock to Shimla to worship and pay tribute to their gods. It is in this key location where NICO was founded.

In 1997, the Lord began moving in D---'s heart, to minister to his own people in Himachal Pradesh. The following year, by a step of faith, he and his wife R--- moved their home to Shimla and started the ministries of NICO. To date NICO has trained more than 50 pastors and leaders to pioneer work in villages that have never heard the name of Jesus Christ. Currently they are financially and spiritually supporting 30 indigenous leaders, who have planted 14 active fellowships in North India. They are also taking care of five children from destitute families in their orphanage. With increasing growth, the ministry sees the need for a permanent base. In 2003 the Lord provided finances to purchase a piece of property in



Shimla. In June 2004, an eMi² team was invited to design a 4-storey building for the ministry with a children's home, office, staff quarters and a training / conference center in their new property.

As architects, we often think that we have the best solution for our clients.



Yu Hsien and Ivy with R--- and D---, brainstorming the ministry base design

However, things do not always function the way we envision, especially in a different culture. It has always been a humbling experience to listen and learn from our clients how we could change the design to suit the ministries' practical needs. This time, D--- and R--- spent hours with us and gave us valuable input right at the beginning of the design process. We basically designed together. At the end, we could say to them, 'this is not only our design but your design and ideas as well'. This is exactly the way we try to serve. Our task is not just to make buildings look nice but to come up with design solutions which meet the actual needs of the ministry. Modest, user-friendly and economical is the key.

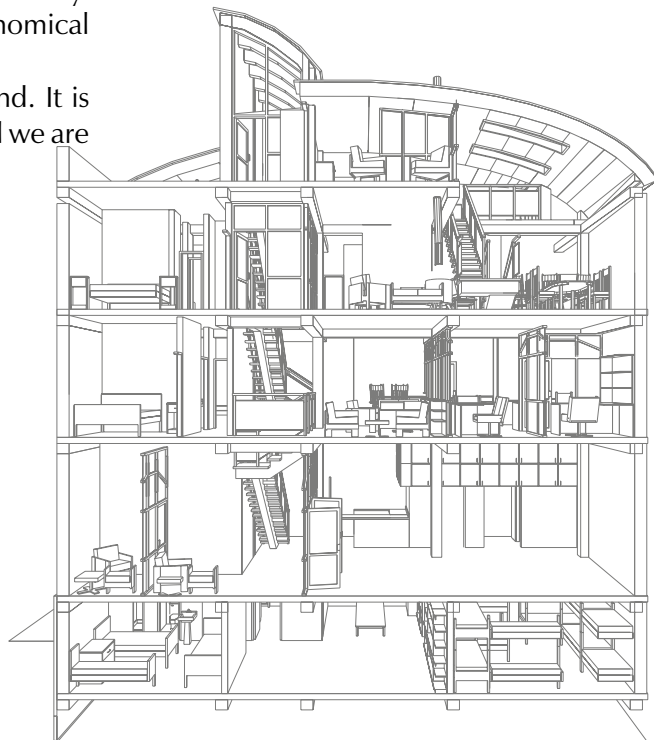
One image remains in my mind. It is one o'clock in the morning and we are

sitting on the floor with D--- and R---, staring at our yellow tracing paper - we're stretching our brains, trying to come up with a brilliant way to fit so many things into a small 18 by 14 meter site. We really wondered how all this would come together. But Praise God! By the end we had a design solution that incorporated all the elements, and we knew for sure who the real Architect was.

Ivy Ng
Staff Architect, eMi²



Children from the orphanage



Cross-section of the finished building

When not sleeping in or playing the keyboard, **Yu Hsien Chia** can be found conducting extensive research into the difference between Indian paranthas (a local flat bread) and those in his native Singapore. When not demolishing towers of pancakes, he enjoys creating architecture for the Kingdom of God. Yu Hsien's whereabouts can be known by his random outbursts of praise songs.

summer interns

This Civil Engineer comes to us from the prairies of Saskatchewan, Canada. **Brett McAllister's** most memorable experiences so far have been standing in line to see the Golden Temple and exploring the foothills of the Himalayas. He welcomes the opportunity to serve different organizations in India through the gifts God has given him.

Jonathan Zee is an architectural intern from Princeton, New Jersey. He absolutely loves Indian cuisine, especially chapattis and momos (Tibetan dumplings). He is particularly keen on effectively communicating with the animals that surround him. Jonathan is perhaps most awed by the beautiful land that God has created and you will find him taking hundreds of pictures anywhere he goes.



Alex Pence is a structural engineering intern from Illinois. He considers himself blessed to be in India using his education to help meet others' spiritual and physical needs. During his time at Oaklands he has been trying his hand at playing the guitar, shooting monkeys with a slingshot, and growing facial hair. He has provided many moments of comic relief to the team. To us eMi folk he is known affectionately as "Big Man." To the local orphan boys who love to climb all over him, he is the "Army Soldier."

Although the smallest amongst us, **Sze-Lyn Lim** makes up for it with her exuberant personality and strong spirit. Her zest for life rubs off on all those she comes in contact with. She is originally from Malaysia, but has also lived in Singapore and California, and now studies architecture in Texas. Being in India with eMi is fueling Sze-Lyn's desire to serve God through her globetrotting, as well as giving her the chance to perfect her chai recipe.

Rose Hakim has been amazed that God brought her from her home in Southern California to serve in India using her engineering education. With her quiet strength and her timely comments she provides stability to this crazy group of interns. In an effort not to miss out on any of the fun happening at Oaklands or opportunities to learn, she is making friends in the community, attends prayer meetings, and reads (secretly!) by the light of the bathroom till the wee hours of the morning.

Donations to eMi² can be sent to:

Engineering Ministries International, 130 East Kiowa, Suite 200 Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Checks are payable to "Engineering Ministries International".

To request an Electronic Funds Transfer sign-up packet, email donations@emiusa.org