Examining Contemporary Housing for the Urban Poor: The case of Pumwani Housing.

Dr. Laban U. Shihembetsa  
School of the Built Environment, University of Nairobi

ABSTRACT
This paper examines the contemporary residential environment created by the state to re-house the low income people of old Pumwani (popularly known as Majengo) settlement. The paper is intended to interrogate the housing delivery process by the state agency, National Housing Corporation (NHC), and find out whether there is a mismatch between the residential environment created by the state and the residents' housing needs. The findings in this paper are based on a study contacted to illicit responses from the residents about what they liked and disliked in their newly created residential environment and what their priorities and expectations are. This research was carried out by applying a number of research tools which were complementary to each other that included literature review, formal interviews, discussions and observations which comprised taking photographs of both indoor and outdoor activities.

KEY WORDS: low-income/ urban poor/ housing process/residential environment/Nairobi