

# The New Practitioner Class will energize the HomeBase for the \*Global University Consortium on Incremental Housing ([web.mit.edu/incrementalhousing](http://web.mit.edu/incrementalhousing))



4.232J – 11.444J (4.233U) The New Practitioner  
**Incremental Housing, Third World Urban Explosion, and the UN World Urban Forum Rio**  
Spring 2010 Units 3-0-6  
Reinhard Goethert [rgoethert@mit.edu](mailto:rgoethert@mit.edu)  
Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 - 12:30 p.m. Room 1-246  
Multi-disciplinary - Undergraduate+Graduate Class size limited

Recent respected studies predicate a doubling of population with a tripling of urban growth in Third World cities by 2030. There is a tremendous need for housing, with concurrent demands on land with severe consequences on urban expansion. Costs of building 'instant' housing is prohibitive, and upgrading after-the-fact slum areas doom us to expensive 'catchup' efforts, and compromises urban planning and servicing. Informal building and expansion – the pay-as-you-go process – is the de facto pattern of growth in the low-income sectors of rapidly growing cities in the Third World. Capitalizing and expanding on the informal process suggests ways for cities to guide their growth in partnership with informal and formal homeowners.

The class will explore incremental housing and target the UN World Urban Forum in Rio as the guiding vision. A main activity is support for the \*Global University Consortium for Incremental Housing in its Rio programs. A field trip to the Rio Forum during Spring Break is planned for a limited number of students (funding constraints).  
(See: <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=584>)

Underlying issues:

- How do the informal approach of incremental housing expansion succeed in building successful neighborhoods and good citizens? What triggers, what catalysts drive the incremental step-by-step growth?
- How can the incremental process be directed and made a more effective force in supporting appropriate city growth? What role is appropriate for the government without stifling individual initiative? How could the other stakeholders – private sector, NGOs, etc. – participate in supportive programs?
- How can the initial interventions with *starter cores houses* be designed to meet affordability, safety, and larger speed and scale demands.
- And fundamentally does the incremental housing model offer a viable proactive way to effectively cope with the expected rapid urban growth?

*\*The GLOBAL UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM FOR INCREMENTAL HOUSING is a platform for effective voice to participate in and influence development policy as it prepares leaders for global challenges. It considers education as the key to meeting the future challenges, by bringing in creativity and building leadership. The UN World Urban Forum in Rio is the catalyst event for the Consortium, with SIGUS as the 'Homebase'.*

*(See [web.mit.edu/incrementalhousing](http://web.mit.edu/incrementalhousing) and 'Incremental Housing' in Facebook Groups for more information.)*