

THE POTTERS HAVEN; Design Approach

The Potter's Haven seeks to create nodes of activity that foster interaction between the elderly and the youth by making use of the existing Reach One Touch One Ministries (ROTOM) site for the development of the main node, the Community Hub. The eastern boundary of the site will be opened up to provide access to children from the neighbouring primary school. Existing paths around and within the site will be modified to draw people of all age groups into a combination of outdoor and indoor communal spaces which are mutually supportive. These are:

- Permaculture demonstration garden to showcase contemporary intensive farming methods and to equip the youth with useful skills. Food Crops grown will form part of the diet of the residents of the potter haven with excess sold to generate income.
- Community market - a multipurpose space providing opportunities for the elderly to sell crafts and farm produce. It is also a place to hold community gatherings.
- A hospice offering shelter to older persons who have no family to care for them, or are too weak to care for themselves.

Elderly persons who are still able to look after themselves live in established homes taking care of grandchildren will stay within the proposed self-care housing forming enclaves spread within a 1km radius from the hub. The enclaves are designed to grow from one homestead cluster (4 houses) into a village (4 clusters).

Construction of the proposed prototype will be done by the community using locally available materials; bamboo, earth and clay pots. The use of clay pots provides an opportunity to create multipurpose walls that provide shelter from elements, act as storage spaces, enable filtration of harvested rain water and can be used as vertical gardens to maximise space. This exploration provides a market for the local pottery industry and creates an innovative construction technique that may be embraced by the community.