The Contribution of Ian Davis to Disaster Risk Management 1972-2021

(Second Edition)

January 2022

Experience Learning Series 78

THE CONTRIBUTION OF IAN DAVIS TO DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT 1972-2021

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Cover Photograph by Ian Davis, aged 39, marking a map to show the extent of the 1976 Guatemala earthquake.

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS

AIDMI	All India Disaster Mitigation Institute
CADRI	Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative
CBDRM	Community Based Disaster Risk Management
CENDEP	Centre for Development and Emergency Practice
CRED	Center for Research in the Epidemiology of Disasters
DFID	Department for International Development
DMC	Disaster Management Centre
DMTP	Disaster Management Training Programme
DPU	Development Planning Unit
DRC	Disaster Research Centre
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
IDNDR	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IPPC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
OCDS	Oxford Centre for Disaster Studies
ODA	Overseas Development Administration
RMIT	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
SEEDS	Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society
UCL	University College London
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UWDMC	University of Wisconsin-Disaster Management Center
WCDR	World Conference on Disaster Reduction

1. OUR IAN DAVIS

*by Mihir R. Bhatt**

As a pioneer in the field of disaster risk reduction, Dr. Ian Davis has changed the way we look at disasters. He has devised several models to explain how disasters are precipitated through the interaction of hazard and vulnerability. These models and theories form the basis of the modern discipline of disaster risk reduction. In fact, his seminal book called *'Shelter after Disaster'* published in 1978, is since considered an indispensable part of the literature of disaster studies. As an architect and humanitarian, Ian's thoughtful stewardship of this field has guided a generation of DRR scholars and practitioners both from the global north and south.

I first met Ian at a world conference in Yokohama, Japan, in 1995. George Day had kindly introduced us with the help of a letter. It was the International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction and I was invited to be on a panel with him. Given his seniority and immense contributions to the field of DRR, I was a little awestruck to be on the same panel as him. However, Ian was kind and gracious enough to make me feel completely at ease with a warm smile and encouraging words. I was convinced that my focus on community action was timely and most needed. This first encounter with Ian during the IDNDR years was very special and cemented a good bond between us. I couldn't wait for another opportunity to work with him again as I was aware of Ian's Handbook on Emergencies and Field Operations.

Both of us were invited to join a three-member international commission to review and reflect (in a public meeting) on the Kobe earthquake recovery. A week in Kobe, meeting the highest office of the prefecture to the 'still-in-camp' victim families with Ian was a tutorial on what to do, when, and how?

I got the opportunity to put the tutorial to use soon enough in 1996, when Ian invited me to come and work with him to evaluate the Latur earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation process. As this was my first evaluation with him, I was naturally quite excited and anxious. The most striking part of this evaluation process was the humility with which Ian approached those who's work was being evaluated. He would always respect the community's perspective and would patiently listen to all the opinions from his colleagues. It was only after carefully considering the views of all stakeholders across all levels that Ian gave his judgment about how well the reconstruction and rehabilitation process was progressing. We both enjoyed enlisting recommendations that built on the findings but reached out to what was about to come.

Ian and I had a chance to revisit Latur after almost two decades, thanks to Tearfund, and were glad to see what worked and what did not.

We were able to see how recovery in the long-term takes turns and twists in a way that is so often missed in project evaluations. Seated on the remains of walls of heavy stone, looking at the village, we wondered why each recovery is not re-visited to have a long-term view on overall effectiveness.

After our stint together in Latur, Ian subsequently invited me to join the work that he was doing with the United Nations. This was being managed with support from Dr. Vinod Sharma, who was leading the disaster centre at Indian Institute of Public Administration in Delhi. This was a great learning exercise for me which I thoroughly enjoyed. We were also joined by other stalwarts of the field that included John Twigg, Roger Bellers and David Sanderson. Yasemin Aysan was present in each discussion. This work with the UN that Ian led was under the auspices of the *Oxford Centre for Disaster Studies* (OCDS). It helped lay down a systematic and conceptual framework to disaster risk reduction for all of us. Since then we would often be together on some panel or another at global level and each time he had a new approach and new thinking concerning the direction of DRR.

When in 2002 I met Dr. Henry Quarantelli in his office, one of the first things he suggested was that I go meet Dr. Ian Davis and share my ideas and work on local actions!

In 2017, Ian was gracious enough to accept my invitation and came down to Ahmedabad to visit the team of our All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI). At AIDMI. He interacted with all the team members and encouraged everyone to do better in their respective fields of work. He showed immense interest in AIDMI's work and has been an editorial advisor of Southasiadisasters.net, AIDMI's monthly publication since year 2005. His involvement with AIDMI has helped us to improve the outreach and impact of our risk reduction initiatives.

Ian Davis with Mihir R. Bhatt.

Ian has not only enriched the field of disaster risk reduction with his ideas and knowledge, but has also touched the lives of disaster scholars and practitioners. This is why he is considered to be a role model in the risk reduction community. As a devoted humanitarian worker, Ian has shown a tremendous capacity for love and empathy to champion the cause of the marginalized communities who are 'at-risk'.

Ian's work has been recognised by receiving the Sasakawa Award. This is tremendous. But not enough. In any other sector of knowledge, he would have received far more recognition.

It was his ideas about risk, vulnerability and capacity that helped to refine the inchoate field of disaster risk reduction from a peripheral area of inquiry into a fully formed academic discipline. He mentored an entire generation of humanitarian workers striving to bridge the gap between risk and resilience by listening to the at-risk and vulnerable. His ideas, knowledge and the networks he cultivated render great public service.

I feel profoundly grateful to have been given the opportunity to be mentored by him. Thank you for everything Ian. A lot to do. A lot.

As John Twigg said in his email to me. "It's a wide-ranging view of Ian's work and influence, and it captures his approach and beliefs well – as well as his humility and generosity. Ian writes about standing on the shoulders of giants, but many of us are standing on his shoulders too." I agree with John Twigg.

AIDMI decided to devote an entire issue to Ian Davis for a variety of reasons that may become obvious from the following contributions. We asked Ian to suggest who should contribute in order to cover varied aspects of his career path and to introduce his friends. Their contributions follow in the sequence that Ian has outlined.

* Director, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), Urban Planner, India

2. IAN DAVIS: WHAT MAKES HIM DIFFERENT AS AN ARCHITECT?

by Mihir R. Bhatt

- Ian Davis, originally an architect is a preeminent scholar in the field of Disaster Management.
- He is affiliated with various well-known universities such as Oxford Brookes University, Kyoto University, Lund University and the RMIT in Melbourne. In 2021 he was appointed as Adjunct Professor & Advisor to Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Kerala, India.
- As an architect, he spent two decades in Oxford in the field of research and teaching architects and urban designers.
- Subsequently, working internationally to either reduce disaster risk or manage the disaster recovery/ reconstruction process over almost fifty years.
- He has written, co-written, or been editor of over 20 books and is currently working with a group to define ways to reduce the root causes of disasters.
- Ian's work has often related to shelter and settlement with a particular concern for low- income safe housing.
- The basic concern of every architect is to innovate by developing new forms and using new technologies but he took the concept to a new level of planning for disasters.
- He also coined the concept of *"Form follows failure"*. Most historians have described the sequence of architectural or planning developments as if they were solely a response to cultural, social, technological or economic, or more frequently aesthetic developments and constraints, without "learning from failure" which he focused on.
- He also fortified pre-disaster planning very extensively throughout the world.
- He encouraged architects to channel their energies away from designing buildings that society may not actually need to the vital concerns of pre and post disaster housing.
- The emphasis of his research is that it is possible to rebuild in a permanent manner as opposed to creating temporary houses in large urban areas by the occupants using their normal vernacular style but with technical advice on safety measures.

3. INTRODUCING THE CONTRIBUTORS

*by Ian Davis**

1950's

When I was fourteen I arrived in Hampton Grammar School where I met **Peter Lovesey** who became one of the leading crime writers in the UK with a worldwide following. Thus began a greatly valued lifelong friendship. *(see page 22)*

1960's

Judy and I met the first contributor, our son **Simon Davis** when he was born in 1969 in Stanmore in North West London and thank him and our two daughters Mandy and Caroline, for being such a wonderfully supportive family. I also thank Simon for his illustrated contribution *(see page 24)* and apologize for that ridiculous prize-winning hat! *(see page 28)* (and echo the apology for another fancy hat, a Mexican Sombrero) *(see page 50*).

Alas, Judy died in 2003 and I married Gill in 2008, so I have been blessed with the loving encouragement of two remarkable wives who have quite literally enabled my career to take place. Architecture must exist within our genes since Simon followed in my footsteps into architecture and my wife Gill and I are blessed with a virtual office of family members working in architecture/building professions: Tim- architect, Emily- landscape architect, Luke- architectural historian, Ellen- architectural student and Aaron and Jeremy running building firms in Plymouth and Oxford.

1970's

In 1974, near the outset of my career in disaster planning, an American architect **Fred Krimgold** arrived unexpected at my Oxford house to present me with a copy of the first PhD that looked at Disaster Shelters, it contained his analysis of shelter provision following the Gediz earthquake in Turkey in 1970. From then onwards our career paths have been interwoven through the warmest of friendships and active collaboration. *(see page 40)*

In the early days of my PhD research that began in 1972 I became aware of the *Disaster Research Centre* (DRC) that was led by James Lewis in Bradford University. A young geographer **Ken Westgate** was undertaking a Masters Degree in the Centre and we met in the mid 1970's. We became close friends and I have to thank Ken, who went on to become the Director of the *Disaster Management Centre* in Cranfield University, since several decades later in 1998 he encouraged me to apply for a position as their first Professor of Disaster Management and Development Planning. *(see page 42)*

In 1975 I met another American architect- **Paul Thompson** with experience of housing to resist earthquake impact following his extensive work in Latin America. We worked together on the '*UN Shelter after Disaster Guidelines'* that were published in 1982 and in developing the Second Edition in 2015. We also collaborated in an ambitious Disaster Management Training Programme (DMTP) that was supported by UNDP and managed by Don Schramm and Paul by the *University of Wisconsin-Disaster Management Center* (UWDMC) in Madison. *(see page 45)*

My first encounter with a senior police officer with an interest in Emergency Management came about in 1979 when I met **Tony Moore**. In the late 1990's we became colleagues in Cranfield University collaborating in various training courses including an international programme of training of government officials in Anti-Terrorism and Disaster Management following 9/11 in the Philippines, Kenya and Malaysia. *(see page 47)*

In 1979 a young Turkish architect **Yasemin Aysan** came to Oxford to undertake a PhD under the supervision of my colleague Paul Oliver. We shared an office and Yasemin and I jointly developed the work of Disaster Studies within Oxford Polytechnic (teaching/ research/ field study/joint writing/organising conferences/ running short courses). I thank Yasemin for all her support through a wide variety of relationships spread over 14 years: initially as her self-appointed tutor, then boss, chauffeur, colleague, co-director, co-writer and eventually, following a role reversal when Yasemin became *my* boss…! *(see page 48)*

1980's

My PhD supervisor, Otto Koenigsberger and my colleague Paul Oliver encouraged me to make contact with **John Norton** in about 1980. John and his colleagues had founded a body called *Development Workshop*. One aspect of their work was in training local builders to construct dwellings that would resist cyclonic wind forces. Their experience coincided with our interest in Building for Safety. *(see page 53)*

Through my friendship with John F.C.Turner *(see page 21)* I met a young planner in 1981 – **Andrew Maskrey.** He describes how I became his 'self- appointed manager' in subsequent years *(see page 56).* Andrew was present in the first international conference on the Implementation of Disaster Mitigation, held in Jamaica in 1984. The Conference host was **Franklin MacDonald**, Director of the *Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Relief Coordination*, of the Government of Jamaica. *(see page 58).* Thus began a long and productive 'meeting of minds' that continues to the present. I met a Colombian lawyer at this memorable conference - **Gustavo Wilches-Chaux,** the beginning of a great friendship. We visited each other's homes in Popayán, devastated in an earthquake in 1983, and in Oxford where Gustavo and his family visited and shared in the leadership of our International Training Courses. *(see page 60)*

A decade later in 1993 Gustavo invited Andrew Maskrey and **Allan Lavell** and myself to the tenth anniversary of the Popayán earthquake. Subsequently we met regularly at conferences/ workshops etc. and from 2010 we were both members of the *International Panel on Climate Change* (IPPC) project that explored how the overlapping climate change and disaster risk reduction communities could effectively synchronize our work, practice and vocabulary. *(see page 78)*

1986 was a memorable year for meeting new colleagues who were to shape my future career. Visiting the US to provide some lectures in that year I met **David Alexander** in Amhurst having admired his perceptive writing following the Irpinia earthquake in South Italy in 1980. Later we both occupied Chairs in Cranfield University. In subsequent years we collaborated in writing including joint authorship of *'Recovery from Disaster'* in 2016. *(see page 63)*

In 1986 I met three geographers who were attending an academic conference in Reading University: Piers Blaikie, Ben Wisner and **Terry Cannon**. Those discussions in an unloved university gallery led to lifelong friendships and a jointly authored book that emerged after a protracted eight year pregnancy: *'At Risk: Natural hazards, people's vulnerability and disasters' (see page 108).* In 2021, Terry, Ben Wisner, David Alexander and Ian Burton with other colleagues are collaborating in an ambitious study of some of the unfinished business from our book, as we seek together to address the entrenched Root Causes of Disasters. *(see page 65)*

It was also in 1986 that I met a young psychologist **Nick Isbister**. We collaborated in a number of training courses including a demanding and unproductive attempt to train a group of Syrian Air Traffic controllers who could not speak a word of English! *(see course photograph page 49).* And there was another frustrating experience as we jointly led an 'away-day reflection' for disinterested and unmotivated senior executives of a leading UK Development Agency. Nick's reflections relate to a book I wrote and illustrated in 2020: *'Experiencing Oxford'* *(see pages 68 and 69)*

During the 1980's we developed a diverse range of courses for mid-career personnel working in Disaster Management. Gradually these courses moved away from Oxford to be held in-country and a series of these workshops were held in Nicaragua, Mozambique, India, Bangladesh etc. with a Christian NGO called Tearfund and their national partner organisations. My enthusiastic colleague in leading these courses was **Mike Wall**, leader of Tearfund's Relief Unit. *(see page 70)*

1990's

Our disaster work left *Oxford Polytechnic* in the early 1990's to become the *Oxford Centre for Disaster Studies* (OCDS). One of our staff was a newly qualified architect, **David Sanderson**. He assisted in research,

consultancies and in the leadership of Disaster Risk Management Courses in Zimbabwe, Peru, India, etc. *(see page 72)*

In our 1995 OCDS disaster management training course we met **Omar-Dario Cardona,** a civil engineer from Colombia. Many years later I was delighted to nominate Omar, Allan Lavell and John Norton for Sasakawa Awards following their outstanding contributions and all achieved well deserved success. *(see page 88)*

My first meeting with **Zenaida Delica-Willison** was when I attended a course in Belgium as a guest speaker in 1993. From then we met in many places, attending the same conferences. In 1995 a review group including Zen, **Mihir Bhatt** and myself was established to review the NGO contribution to recovery following the 1994 Kobe Earthquake. Later, I had the honour of assessing Zen's dissertation when she was studying in Oxford Brookes University. *(see page 74)*

A year after the 1996 Kobe assessment I went to Maharashtra in India to co-lead with Mihir an evaluation of disaster recovery and reconstruction of a small town called Malkondji. Fifteen years later in 2011 we were both able to return to see what had transpired in the long-term recovery process. Since then we have collaborated in field evaluations and in joint writing assignments with AIDMI. *(see page 9)*

I met **Vinod Menon** following the Kilari earthquake and thus began another long-term friendship and close collaboration. Vinod hosted my wife and I when we visited Delhi in 2017 to meet with friends and revisited the wonderful sights in the region. *(see page 80)*

I worked closely with **John Twigg** in the OCDS and in the *International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction* (IDNDR) in the 1990's. We co-chaired a working group on Social Aspects of Disaster Risk Reduction of the UK National IDNDR Committee. *(see page 76)*

Mo Hamza's career and mine seem to echo each other in an uncanny manner since he was a colleague in Oxford Brookes University in 1994, and later in Cranfield, Copenhagen and Lund Universities. *(see page 86)*

Our links with India were strengthened at that time through meeting **Vinod Sharma,** in 1993 and working with him in field-based research concerning Disaster Risk Reduction, Institutional Development and in Training Courses. *(see page 82)*

David Peppiatt attended a lecture I gave in Oxford Brookes University in 1994 and we found we had in common a link through Tearfund, where David worked. Later David moved to Geneva where he led the *ProVention Consortium* that initiated a vital community based approach to disaster risk reduction. *(see page 84)*

In 1998 I became a Professor in the Disaster Preparedness Centre in *Cranfield University*. While there I supervised PhD research students including outstanding dissertations by a teacher from Iran –**Yasamin Izadkhah**; *(see page 98)* a geologist from Ghana – **Titus Kuuyuor** *(see page 100)* and **Paul Venton** who studied community risk reduction in India. *(see page 104)*

2000's

I had the annual pleasure of teaching in the *Centre for Environment and Development Practice* (CENDEP) in Oxford Brookes University under the direction of **Charles Parrack**. *(see page 110)*

Having valued his writing for several decades it was a pleasure to eventually meet **Ian Burton** in 2004. We enjoyed working together on the IPPC project in Panama, Vietnam, Australia and Geneva. *(see page 107)*

In 2006 I was invited by **Rajib Shaw** to be a Visiting Professor in Kyoto University. This involved visiting and painting wonderful temples and gardens as well as teaching research students. We also undertook field studies of risks facing Japanese towns and a tour of Vietnam concerned with community-based risk reduction. *(see page 96)*

My work on shelter provision and post disaster recovery has continued throughout my career. In 2008 I met an Irish architect – **Maggie Stephenson**, also working in these fields and a few years later we undertook joint work in Pakistan and Haiti as they recovered from massive earthquake devastation. We also worked together in international consultancies on shelter and settlements. *(see page 111)*

* Visiting Professor, Kyoto University, Japan; Lund University, Sweden and Oxford Brookes University, United Kingdom and Honorary Visiting Professor; Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Europe. In 2021 he was appointed as 'Adjunct Professor & Advisor to Amrita School of Sustainable Development and UNESCO Chair on Experiential Learning for Sustainable Innovation and Development, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Kerala, India'.

4. STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

by Ian Davis

First, sincere thanks to AIDMI for generously organizing this issue and to friends who have written such kind things about me. This is a humbling experience I certainly don't deserve. But I recall Groucho Marx's words on receiving an award: *"I don't deserve this, but then I suffer from arthritis and I don't deserve that either!"* He is also quoted with words that fit the present chaotic state of politics in the UK: *"Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies."*

I had better not digress down that route, so back to my topic. In 1159, John of Salisbury wrote a book called his *'Metalogicon'*, it contained a remarkable sentence that was repeated centuries later by Isaac Newton: *'If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.'*

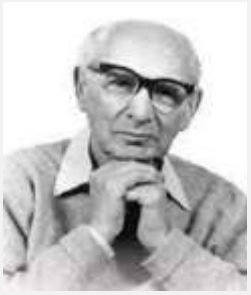
So, encouraged by this special issue it seems appropriate to think of a few 'giants' in relation to the work in which I have been engaged at various points in my career. I have selected five persons for this section, set out in the following 'boxes'. Each contains a quote from each that have proved to be significant 'words of wisdom' in my own experience. I am deeply grateful for the friendships and rich insights of these pioneers which has been generously shared with me and so many others as a precious gift. Their memory, writings and wise sayings live on to inform and inspire me and so many others. In the case of my fifth giant -John F.C.Turner he and his wife live in Hastings UK and John remains actively involved in international housing issues. I should say that there are many other giants who are very much 'alive and kicking'! They include the authors of the contributions to this issue and good friends and colleagues in AIDMI. I am immensely grateful for their contributions to my work.

Ian painting in New England USA with his wife Gill looking on and giving good advice.

All of us sit on the shoulders of giants, even if we are unaware of their powerful influence on our knowledge, attitudes or career paths. The modern cult, forever seeking new concepts, original ideas or innovative projects so often proves to be a myth. I realise after almost 50 years of work that most of my 'new' ideas are simply a re-hash of what has been written about many years back. So the messages from remembering these five dear friends who became giants in my life is that we are not alone, we are connected and we are certainly not islands. We, and the formulation of our ideas are deeply dependent on others just as they are dependent on us. Probably the

best metaphors are a lattice of inter-connected wire netting, or a relay race where batons are handed over in sequence to the next runner.

This reality has important implications: the need for mutual respect; the vital requirement for face to face education rather than being stuck in front of an impersonal computer screen; the value of teamwork and the need for a heavy dose of humility- to acknowledge our indebtedness to past writing, past knowledge, past insights and to our past giants.



First Giant - Otto Koenigsberger:
dependency or self-reliance?

"remember that relief is the enemy of recovery, so minimise relief to maximise recovery"

1978

- **Architect, Planner and world authority of low-income housing – (1908-1999)**

Otto, my long-suffering PhD supervisor for 12 years, always advised me when writing UN guidelines to be totally decisive. He suggested the use of words like 'must' rather 'may' and 'should' rather than 'could'. He claimed that over-cautious bureaucrats and politicians must never be given easy escape routes from making vital decisions.

Second Giant - Paul Oliver:
house or home?

"A town is made of buildings, but a community is made of people, a house is a structure but a home is much more. The distinctions are not trival, nor are they sentimental or romantic: they are fundamental to the understanding of the difference between the provision of shelter which serves to protect and the creation of domestic environments that express the deep structures of society"

1978

- **Anthropologist. World authority on popular music and vernacular architecture (1927-2017)**

Paul, a close friend, inspiration and colleague for forty years had a great love and respect for poor, vulnerable people wherever he met them. He listened to their words, their music, studied their art and architecture to learn from them and shared this knowledge freely in wonderful recordings, drawings, books and lectures.

Third Giant - Henry Quarantelli:
recognise local capacities

"When you arrive in Managua to study the earthquake you will become aware that there will have been a massive over-estimate of damage and dislocation, and an equally massive under-estimate of local resources to cope with the situation."

1973

- **Sociologist, Pioneer of Disaster Research-(1925-2017)**

I first met Henry in March 1973 en-route for Managua, following the earthquake of December 1972. I was embarking on PhD research into shelter following disasters. Despite the fact that I was a total ignoramus in the subject of disaster management, with endless patience and generosity he shared with me his knowledge, insights, files and library. It was an object lesson in mentoring I will never forget.

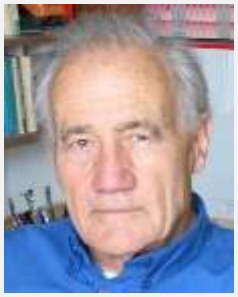
Fourth Giant - Fred Cuny:
horizontal or vertical management?

"to improve the performance of intervenors the best approach is to reduce the vertical linkages that exist, and the volume of material, decisions etc. that move vertically; and increase the horizontal linkages. In effect to transfer the bulk of decision-making to the field and increase reliance upon services and materials that are already on-site and locally available"

1978

- **Urban planner, leading expert in Disaster Shelter and Settlements – (1944-1995)**

In the late 1970's Fred worked with a team I led in developing UN Shelter Guidelines. He loved to be active in field operations and had an instinctive understanding of what worked in development practice. His passion to communicate safe building techniques to local builders was infectious and highly effective. He was tragically murdered in Chechnya in 1995.

Fifth Giant - John F.C.Turner:
user control of the housing process

"When dwellers control the major decisions and are free to make their own contributions in the design, construction, or management of their housing, both the process and the environment produced stimulate individual and social well-being. When people have no control over nor responsibility for key decisions in the housing process, on the other hand, dwelling environments may instead become a barrier to personal fulfilment and a burden on the economy."

1988

- **Architect, Urban Planner, world authority on user-control of housing (1927 -)**

From the time when I read John's seminal book 'Freedom to Build' (1972) I realised that here was the way forward for the future of Shelter and Settlements in relation to disaster risk and recovery. Here were all the foundation blocks needed for the owner-build housing reconstruction programmes initiated after the Guatemala earthquake of 1976. I joined a crowded audience to listen to him describe his approach in the HABITAT conference in Vancouver in 1976 and four years later we shared in a memorable lecture tour of Italy following the Irpinia earthquake of 1980 (the above photograph is of us both sharing a platform for a joint presentation to survivors of the disaster).

5. PETER LOVESEY, 1951

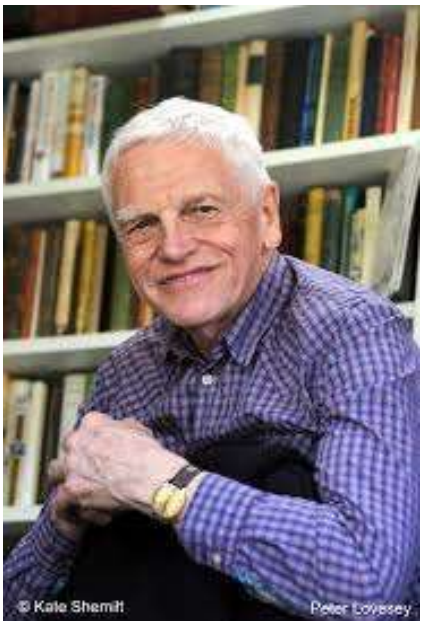
by Peter Lovesey

The following text formed the introduction by Peter Lovesey to the virtual book launch of Ian Davis's: '*Experiencing Oxford*' on Saturday June 27th 2020. A filmed recording of the launch event is available on ianrobertdavis.com

My name is Peter Lovesey and it is my pleasure to introduce the author of *Experiencing Oxford.* Ian tells me I am his oldest friend and we met at school 70 years ago, so I reckon that is probably true. I was a 'stick-in- the- mud' type of character then and I still am. I have been writing crime novels for more than fifty years. But when I met Ian it was a totally extraordinary experience. What I was like as a teenager I don't like to think but he was a boy with a mop of unruly hair and a way of involving everyone else in his enthusiasms. He decided to take me under his wing and made it his mission to widen my cultural horizons.

So with Ian I went to visit my first Promenade Concert, he took me to the open air sculpture exhibition in Holland Park, we went to the top of Leith Hill to watch the dawn rise, we went to the National Gallery, the Tate Gallery, the list goes on. We walked to Brighton at one stage, fifty miles from Kingston and that wasn't such a pleasurable experience and in the school holidays we even joined the circus.

Now it was obvious that this young man wasn't ever going to be bored. He started out as an architect in London and Detroit and was one of the team who designed the Barbican Arts Centre. He moved to Oxford in 1971 and joined the staff of what would become Oxford Brookes University. His PhD research had been about *Shelter following Disaster* and he became an international authority on Disaster Management. He is



an accomplished artist, the author of more than twenty books, traveller, lecturer and professor.

Anybody who knows Ian will understand what I mean when I say that he has a way of involving you in his life through questioning. He questions incessantly, he drives me mad with his questions. I sometimes think that he would have made a very good detective except that he would never have been able to arrest anybody because he is far too soft hearted.

All Ian's talents are represented in this beautiful book '*Experiencing Oxford*'- an entirely new take on Oxford, the city he knows best. He invites us to experience it through body, mind and spirit and as soon as you open it you will appreciate the scope of his vision, the book is a joy. But he is the man I am here to speak about. He is the author, illustrator and photographer, my friend and mentor - Ian Davis.

* British writer of historical and contemporary detective novels and short stories, UK

6. SIMON DAVIS, 1969

*by Simon Davis**

2010, Ian giving Simon some much needed advice on site in London's Southbank.

Davis family in 1972, the year Ian, aged 35, began his research concerning Disaster Shelters.

It is a pleasure to be asked to reflect on growing up with Ian Davis. I will give some background on the foundations and making of Ian, and his positive influence on our family and myself. My reflections may be read alongside the following photographs that I showed at the webinar about my father.

Summer of 1937 Ian, three months old with his parents and sister Margaret.

1937, Ian is born

Ian was born in Barrow- in- Furness, a shipbuilding town in the north of England. His father was a mechanical engineer and his mother a music teacher. They were both children of Christian missionaries – his Dad had grown up in Spain and his mother in the Nilgiri Hills in South India. So Ian had strong international roots and a solid grounding in faith, values and decency. This firmly set his ethical compass which with his Christian faith has been a guiding light for his whole life. Ian has an older sister Margaret, and younger brother Michael, and all three still remain very close.

1958, Ian, aged 21 – a young architect recently qualified.

1960, Ian with friends from Georgia Tech spending a camping weekend deep in the Georgia Woods near Atlanta USA.

1958 - Ian becomes youngest Architect

Ian graduated from the Northern Polytechnic in London in 1958 when only 21 years old, becoming possibly England's youngest Architect. Soon after qualifying Ian worked in the office of Ernő Goldfinger before moving to the USA in 1960 to study for a Master's degree in Atlanta in Georgia Tech.

1960, Ian and Judy are married in Montreal.

In 1960 Ian and Judy wed in Montreal when Ian was 23 and Judy 22. They had met when members of the same church in North London. After a grand honeymoon tour of the USA and Canada (involving a very close call with a grizzly bear which nearly shortened this story considerably) they went to live in Detroit where Ian worked in the Office of Minoru Yamasaki, the architect of the Twin Towers in New York City. He worked part-time for a Detroit radio station presenting their Sunday afternoon 'Classical Hour' where he was very nearly sacked after interrupting his programme to deliver a news flash announcing Ernest Hemmingway's death '*without due reverence* '.

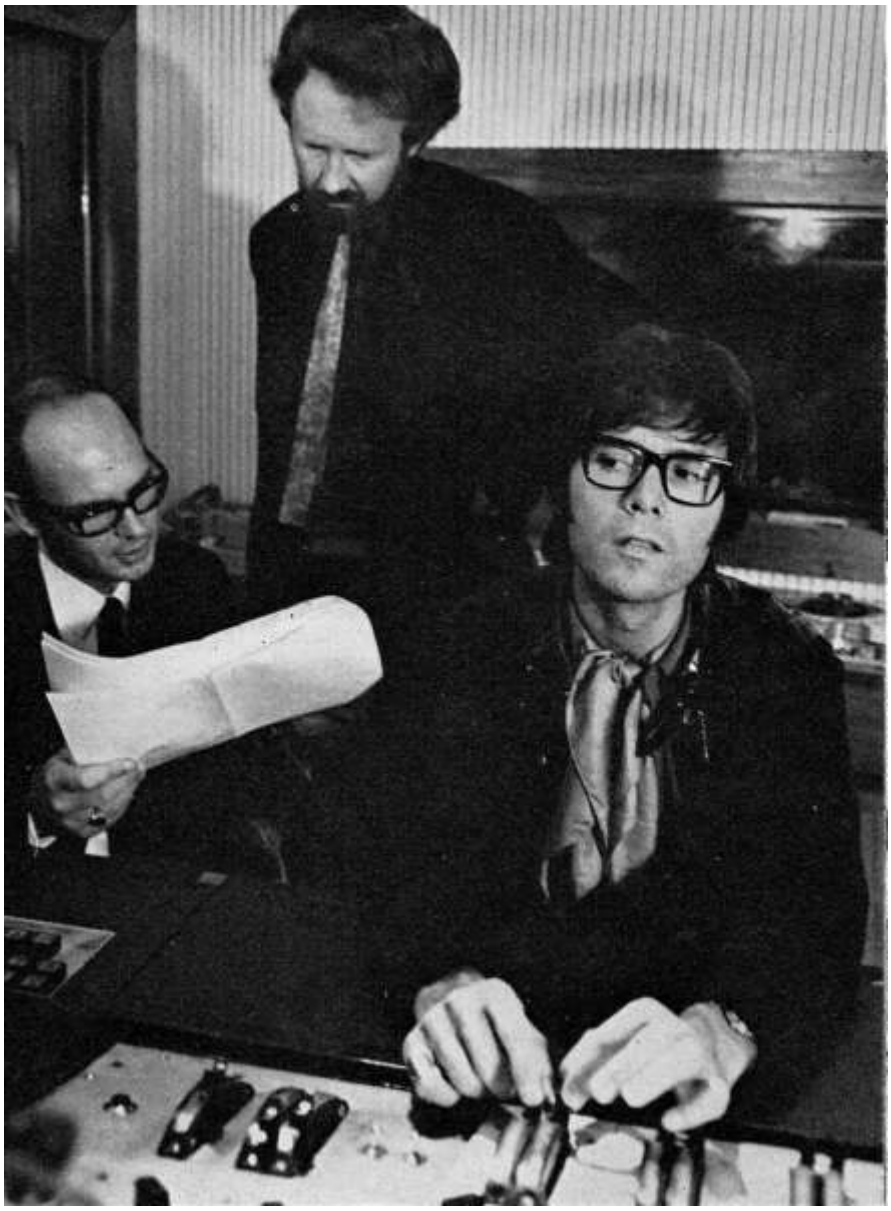
In 1962 Judy and Ian returned to England from the States on the Queen Elizabeth where Ian won the fancy hat competition…

1962-1971 Retuning to London and starting their family

Ian and Judy returned to London in time for Mandy's birth in 1962. After this period Ian worked in London with Chamberlin Powell and Bon designing the Barbican Arts Centre.

I962, birth of Mandy, just before Ian grew his beard!

In 1968 Ian began working part-time for a newly formed Christian Relief Agency, called Tearfund. Ian assisted their publicity with graphic design of posters and display panels. He also wrote and produced a series of Film Strips with sound commentaries.



Recording a film strip for Tearfund in 1969 called *'Down To Earth'* with Cliff Richard.

Caroline and I were born later in the 1960's in London. This picture was taken in in the mid 1970's when we had moved to Oxford.

1979, Outside our home in North Oxford. Left to right: Mandy, Caroline, Simon, Judy and Ian.

Ian in 1973 in the ruins of Managua following a devastating earthquake. This was Ian's first experience of a major disaster. He was 36 years old. *(see page 37)*

On a field mission for Tearfund in 1974 to assess needs in the flooded town of Trinidad, Bolivia.

Ian in Guatemala, 1976.

Ian in 1983.

1970-1980's - Oxford and Overseas

By the early 1970's Ian had taken a position teaching in the Architecture School of the Oxford Polytechnic (now Brookes University). During this period he became increasingly interested in disaster mitigation and post disaster shelter, a study which led to Ian's PhD in the subject. This became a 12 year marathon (who even knew this was possible…?) finished in 1985 as a mighty tome filling an entire bookshelf. During this period Ian also found time to write *'Shelter after Disaster'* published in 1978.

As a child, our Dad's job always seemed very exciting, with lots of travel, often heading off to countries very soon after we had heard about natural disasters on the BBC. Dad would always return with exciting stories, gifts, and drawings. While working incredibly hard it was clear that his dedication and commitment came from a sense of compassion, empathy, and a desire to help people in distress.

Meanwhile at home in Oxford our Dad's generosity of spirit was apparent with Ian, Judy and friends setting up a charity to help people without homes as well as housing students. Ian worked closely with Tearfund and was a founder trustee of the fair-trade organisation-Tradecraft.


1996, Judy and Ian at the Sasakawa Award Presentation.

1980-1990's - Oxford Polytechnic / Brookes University

While at Brookes, Ian's work, as well as the efforts of colleagues, led to the establishment of the *Center for Development and Emergency Practice* (CENDEP) bringing together architecture with disaster relief and recovery as a discipline to be taught and researched During Ian's time at Oxford Brookes University he was also becoming increasingly involved in Leadership of Disaster Management and Training of Trainer Courses. We realised his work had global significance when in 1996 he was awarded the UN Sasakawa Award for his work in disaster mitigation. Throughout this period Ian's humanitarian core values of kindness, humility and respect of all people were his guide.

A typical workshop party on our house – this time in 1992. Yasemin Aysan is on the left with her son Murat and the second from the left, top row is my mum, Judy.

As a teenager in Oxford I remember fantastic garden parties at our house with international students from all over the world who had attended his workshops. These were exuberant, noisy affairs, often with plenty of national dress and singing, where we experienced a real taste of the international community beyond Oxford. At the time of Mum and Dad's silver wedding celebration one of the workshop participants from the Philippines serenaded them from our garden in his powerful tenor voice, which included '*God save the Queen*' as our curious North Oxford neighbours opened their bedroom windows to see what on earth was going on! During this period news of natural disasters often brought visits to our street from BBC radio/ TV broadcasts vans, to seek out Dad's reflections on the latest event. Supporting Ian throughout all this was our lovely Mum, Judy who we sadly lost in 2003.

2018, Ian and family reviewing a project in London's Mayfair where I was the Project Architect.

Ian's influence on me as an Architect

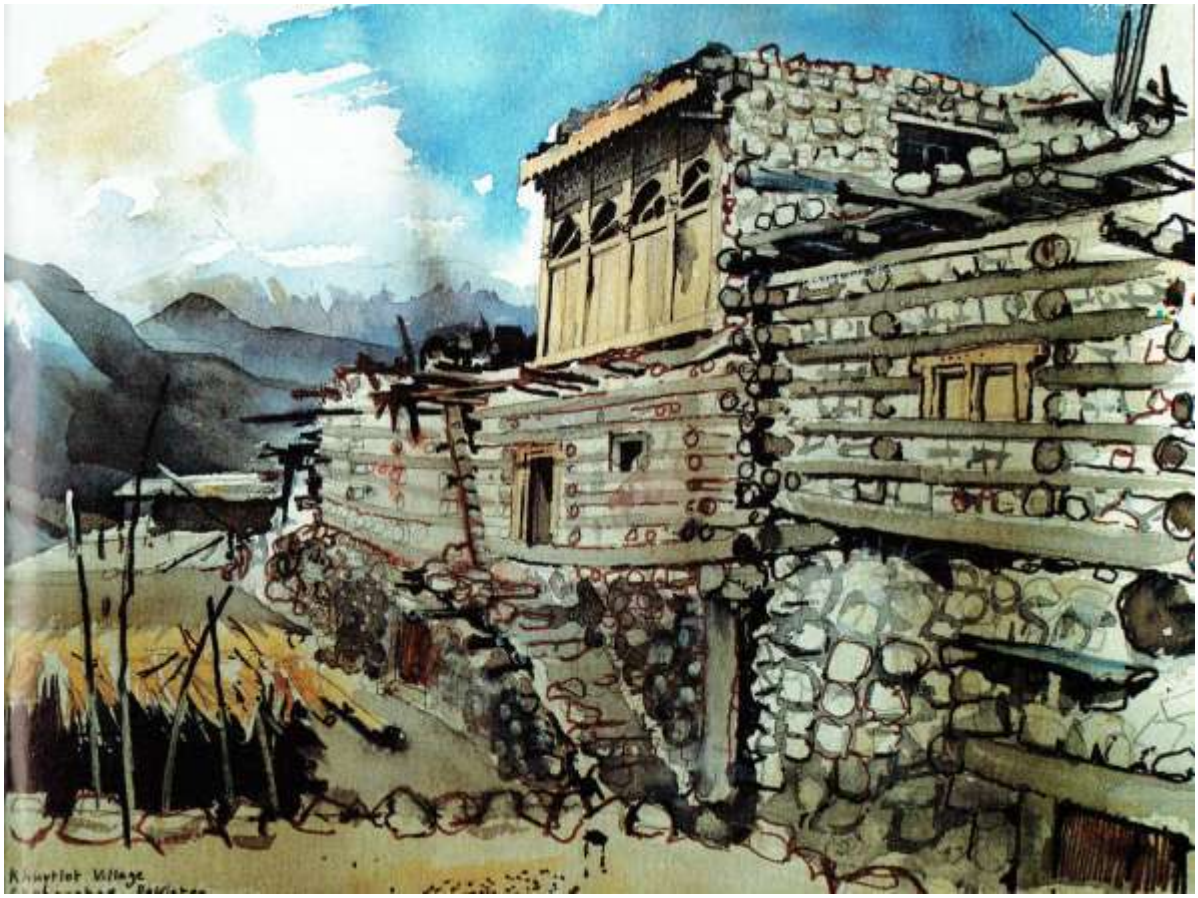
After considering engineering I eventually chose to study Architecture, which was enthusiastically supported by my Dad. Ian's convictions taught me that Architecture should always consider ethics and public benefit, focusing on civic and community impact. With Ian's belief in the importance of vernacular building and adaptation, I have always been aware that architecture should not be the pure singular vision revered at University but must have public engagement and benefits. As with Dad's work in disaster mitigation, the process must be carefully considered, not just the product.

2020, Publication of '*Experiencing Oxford*'.

Ian's lifelong love of painting

In 2020 Ian's great love of painting and of Oxford came together in the completion and publishing of *'Experiencing Oxford'*. This book captures his lifelong love of painting. The book also weaves in our Mum's work with children with learning disabilities which considered a sensory approach to experiencing environments. Throughout his life Ian has used drawing as a way of seeing and understanding things clearly and getting alongside people where language could be a barrier.

1997, Ian painting in Zhaoqing, China, surrounded by curious observers.



1980, Ian's photograph and water-colour sketch of Khurtlot Village in the Karakoram, Pakistan.

Ian led an expedition team studying Housing and Hazards to the Karakoram Area of North Pakistan in 1980. He used sketches to gather research information about the house from his observation as well as from residents who stood behind him while he was painting and shared useful information about the house construction. *(see page 37)*

Ian and the extended family

2014, Gill and Ian wearing the ceremonial robe of a Ghanaian's Chief given to Ian at the wedding of Titus Kuuyuor.

2017, Attending the wedding of Ian's grandson.

2017, Ian's 80th Birthday gathering with his eight grandchildren.

Ian has eight grandchildren ranging from 12 to 34 years old. He has been an incredibly active and involved part of their lives, sharing his infectious enthusiasm for life. Ian has hosted recent family trips to Venice, Chicago and New York leaving his family inspired, if somewhat exhausted and racing to keep up (Ian has been known to lose a few grandchildren along the way, but thankfully all are usually reunited - eventually…!)

It has been such a joy for us to welcome Gill into our family and we were delighted when they married in 2008. They share a love of painting, music and travel. We have all loved Gill's three sons and their families joining with ours.

So now in his mid 80's our Dad, Grandpa and Great-Grandpa is a Professor and world expert in his field, yet throughout all of his journey and achievements he has retained his overwhelming kindness, compassion, warmth, goodness, and great sense of joy.

* Architect, Associate Partner - Rogers, Stirk, Harbour and Partners (RSHP), Richmond, UK

7. FRED KRIMGOLD, 1974

*by Fred Krimgold**

Fred and Barbara rowing off into their future life on their wedding day.

The book that was based on Fred Krimgold's PhD. Dissertation, the first in the world on the subject of Disaster Shelters, based on research conducted after the Gediz Earthquake in Western Turkey in 1970. Presented to Ian at their first meeting.

I first met Ian at his home in Oxford in 1974. He was then teaching Architecture at Oxford Poly and a doctoral student with Otto Koenigsberger at the Development Planning Unit (DPU) in University College London (UCL). As architects, we were both intensely interested in the problems of post-disaster shelter and disaster response in the aftermath of "natural" disasters in developing countries. Ian had recently returned from field experience following the 1972 Managua earthquake in Nicaragua and I had recently completed a thesis in Sweden based on the experience of the 1970 Gediz earthquake in Turkey. We were both intrigued by the technical aspects of building failure in earthquakes and the complex social, cultural, political and economic dimensions of disaster vulnerability.

In 1975 Ian was approached by the newly created Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) in Geneva. He was asked to form a team to design a Disaster Shelter that could be deployed universally. It took some time to persuade UNDRO that this concept was not feasible, rather guidelines were needed to advise international agencies and governments on effective post-disaster shelter strategies and processes. Ian was asked to form a team and that is how Fred Cuny, (Mr Disaster) and I became involved. In Geneva we met with Jean-Paul Levy and Ludo van Essche and embarked on the first UN Study of post-disaster shelter that remains in print in a Second Edition (2015) published

by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) https://healthindisasters.com/.../english/111-shelter-after-disaster-2nd-edition-ifrc.html

In 1976 Ian, Fred Cuny and I participated in the UN Human Settlements Conference in Vancouver to support the role of disaster mitigation in the agenda of the new UN HABITAT organization. Later in the 70s, Ian and I served together on a committee of the National Research Council (US) organized by Henry Quarantelli and Russell Dynes on disaster management with support from the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

In collaboration with Franklin McDonald, Fred Cuny, Ian and I helped to organize an international conference on "*Disaster Mitigation Program Implementation"* in Ocho Rios, Jamaica in 1984. Also in the 1980's Ian and I were able to contribute to a collaborative exchange relationship between Oxford Polytechnic and Virginia Tech that flourished for over a decade.

Ian's initiative to create and international training program in Oxford has had a profound influence on the development of disaster studies. Many of these students have gone on to be leading figures in their own countries and internationally.

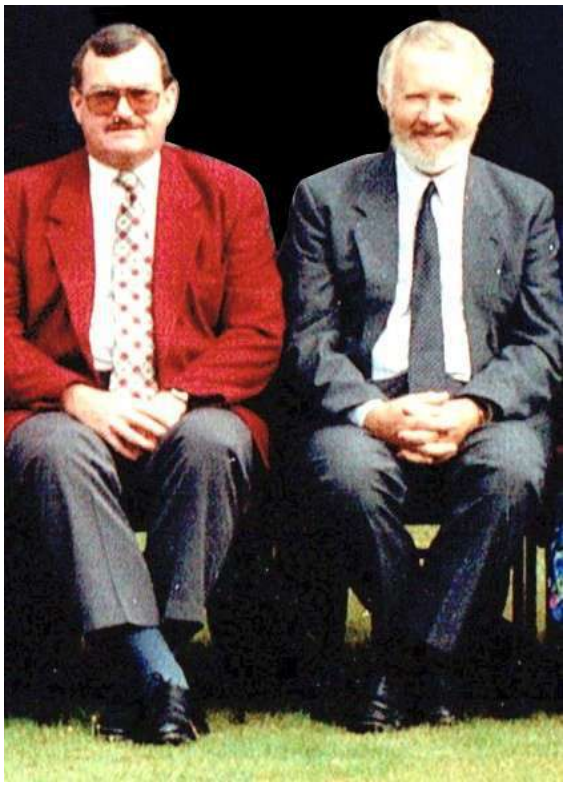
Ian has been remarkable in the span of his disciplinary and geographic interests. He has radically expanded the scope of the discipline architecture to include global indigenous building and the social context of building and building safety. He has been an effective evangelist for the poor and disadvantaged in disaster prone areas of the world and has carried his message to institutions and conferences throughout the world. Most of all, I appreciate Ian for his humanity and kindness, his recognition of the integrity and self-respect of people who have otherwise be referred to as victims or beneficiaries.

You have been a wonderful friend and colleague for such a long time. You have lived your faith.

* Former Director, Virginia Tech Disaster Risk Reduction Program; President Health and Safety Associates, McLean, Virginia, USA

8. KEN WESTGATE, 1975

by Ken Westgate



We were rolling across the Anatolian Plateau in a minibus borrowed from the Middle Eastern Technical University in Ankara in the tense political arena that always seems to be Turkey; we were hurtling eastward to earthquake-affected mountainous areas from where local populations had been extracted and presented with brand new boxes for homes, placed neatly and regularly on the open fields in plain view. Policy dictated that affected populations, no friends of government, should be seen and not hidden in the mountains. Meanwhile the boxes were gradually being converted to the traditional requirements of these rugged people, including space for animals.

This tour was an eye-opener, a massive step in my understanding of the reasons why the focus in DRM must always be on people. They are the variable, the simple truth behind why different disasters affect populations differentially, adjusted to various economic, political, social and cultural factors. Ian Davis was leading this tour which provided an object lesson for ideas and concepts that had been alive in my mind for some time.

I had spent my formative years in DRM gradually realising that to sit and contemplate *"Acts of God"* as the total story was simply not good enough. Major famines, hurricanes and cyclones, earthquakes and other violent features of the natural world were killing people in their millions

but there seemed to be no strong desire to do anything other than comfort the victims and throw aid at them for their relief. We were slowly realising that there was nothing "natural" about so-called natural disasters. In fact, the disasters happened because of that variable – people.

Enter Ian Davis whose enthusiasm, perception and sheer strength of character helped us all to codify the context of disaster and to create, along with colleagues, the tenet which we have used to describe the real causes of disaster which do not principally lurk in the natural world but in that of humankind. It is many years since I have used the term "natural disaster" because it is a deceptive misnomer which leads to faulty analysis and assessment and a denial of the true nature of the beast. My professional life moved in parallel with Ian's for many years as he strove to push back the barriers and become the public face for many of us seeking to name and describe the realities of addressing disaster.

From a disciplinary perspective of planning and form, Ian's architectural background provided the perfect platform for an entry into a world dominated by government aid and international and non-governmental organisations vying with each other to provide with maximum publicity what was felt people needed. Housing and shelter were always key components of the relief "package", particularly where disasters involved earthquakes and other natural hazards that targeted settlements, or where drought and conflict required people to migrate and re-locate. Ian's concerns with the plight of settlements after disaster and the dilemmas of people kindly provided with temporary housing that rapidly became permanent, quickly pushed his name front and centre and he carried the hopes of many of us in promoting change that could be

Oxford Polytechnic students on their field visit to Turkey in 1983 on a ferry crossing the Bosporus in Istanbul. Ken Westgate, with flowing hair and open necked shirt is in the centre of the back row.

institutionalised in the international community's approach to providing more efficacious solutions to complex problems. Ian's receipt of the highest international award for those working in the field of DRM, the Sasakawa Award, only cemented his profile and provided the leadership that was necessary to win hearts and minds.

Ian sought to push back the boundaries. Whatever I have contributed to the field during my modest career can only have happened because of Ian's leadership and passion. The gathering, with colleagues, of our knowledge and understanding into *"At Risk…"*, gave DRM its holy text and provided the basis on which we could all start to speak the same language where before disparity had ruled. Ian and I finally broke our parallel universe and came together when Ian became Professor in Development and Disaster Management at the Disaster Management Centre at Cranfield University. I was Director of the Centre at the time and we became colleagues in the recognition that the true direction for DRM was to be found in development decisions, leading to the focus today on resilience.

Ian's contributions to the field are legendary. He and I share much common ground and I am thankful to him for so effectively promoting the creative space wherein many of us have plied our trade. I note with satisfaction the pronouncement by Mami Mizutori, the UN Assistant Secretary General and Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, written in July 2020, that "*One can reasonably argue that there is no such thing as a natural disaster"*. What goes around comes around. Her statement owes much to the contributions of Ian Davis, a true colleague and friend.

* Former Director, Disaster Management Centre, Cranfield University (CDMC), Independent Consultant in Disaster Risk Management, North Coogee, Western Australia

9. PAUL THOMPSON, 1975

*by Paul Thompson**

In 1975, Ian Davis gave a lecture at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Ian had recently written a monograph on his experience and observations of the reconstruction after the 1972 earthquake in Managua, Nicaragua. This major earthquake occurred when international agencies' response to natural disasters was still in the early stages of figuring out what to do and how to do it. The broad array of shelter 'solutions' produced by the agencies, provided a rich opportunity to examine the benefits and consequences of the well-intended, but not always successful, efforts. Many lessons were learned and documented in Ian's first book on the subject.

I was able to attend the lecture, meeting not only Ian for the first time, but also Fred Cuny. I had the good fortune to collaborate with both of them over the next several decades. (Tragically, Fred lost his life in Chechnya in 1995.) Both Ian and Fred recognized that many misguided, costly and time-consuming mistakes made in the provision of emergency shelter and housing reconstruction after one disaster were repeated in the next. They saw that one strategy to address this pattern was to train local builders, the staff of host and donor governments, NGOs and UN humanitarian agencies in the complex issues of emergency shelter and housing reconstruction.

In 1982, Don Schramm of the University of Wisconsin, Fred and I established the Disaster Management Center at the University with the goal of developing a comprehensive training agenda and set of materials accessible to the enormous audience of people that prepare for, mitigate and respond to disasters. We emphasized getting materials to this audience in their home communities in the disaster-prone countries.

This effort ran parallel to and complementary to Ian's research, teaching and establishment of the Disaster Management Centre at Oxford Polytechnic. We continued to collaborate over the years, always learning from each other, building on the experience of the rapidly growing number of architects, engineers, builders and community developers who were committed to 'build back better' and to 'do no harm' in the process.

Ian was a frequent contributor to workshops that the University of Wisconsin Disaster Management Center staged for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees as well as the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the UN Development Programme. His lectures and insights were key to reinforcing the overall workshop messages of understanding the underlying causes of risk, the conditions that lead to

disaster and the requirement of placing disaster survivors' needs and capacity to respond above the 'needs' of the assisting agencies.

Ian was the lead author and editor to the 1982 *Shelter After Disaster* UNDRO publication as well as the 2015 OCHA and IFRC updated version for which I was a minor contributor. (*see page 48)* In both cases, I was amazed at Ian's ability to distill the multitude of complex issues into manageable and coherent concepts, with a clear problem definition and articulated recommendations of best practices.

I am very grateful and lucky to have been one of the beneficiaries of Ian's comprehensive knowledge and wisdom in knowing how to communicate it.

*Architect/ Planner Consultant on International Disaster Risk and Recovery Management, Madison, Wisconsin, USA

10. TONY MOORE, 1979

*by Tony Moore**

Ian and I go back a long, long way. I was first introduced to him when I was on the staff at the Police Staff College, Bramshill from 1977 to 1979. George Ritchie, who was then the Director of the Disaster Preparedness Centre at Cranfield University, brought Ian with him when he came to assist with a disaster simulation exercise that George had been involved in designing called Exercise Atlantis, which I was running for the Overseas Command Course. I next met him when he was at Oxford Brookes University, when, having joined the staff at Cranfield University, in what was now referred to as the Disaster Management Centre, I accompanied the then Director, Ken Westgate, on a visit to see him.

Ian then became Professor of Disaster Management at Cranfield University in 1998 and I had the good fortune to spend approximately 8 years, working alongside him as a colleague on a number of different projects as well as training programmes for and in different countries. We shared a deep commitment to the regular, realistic training of senior management in all organisations in all the varied aspects of Disaster Management, and it is disturbing to find that competence in this essential area is as neglected today as it was then. My particular area of expertise was human-made disasters and leadership and decision-making in the response phase. But I learned much from Ian in terms of risk analysis, prevention, preparation and long-term recovery.

Three things stand out for me about Ian. The first was his innovative ideas. He was extremely optimistic; it was almost as if everything was possible. The second thing was the ease with which he was able to put the various phases of a disaster into diagrammatic models. They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and it was certainly true with Ian's diagrams. The third thing that stood out was his relationship with his students. They were extremely important to him; nothing was too much trouble. In addition, on the annual International Disaster Management Course, which was initially of six weeks duration, but came down to five weeks, he would run competitions, the prizes for which would be funded by him, personally, or come from his vast collection of books and memorabilia.

* President Emeritus, Institute of Civil Protection and Emergency Management, Police Officer, Turkey

11. YASEMIN AYSAN, 1979

*by Yasemin Aysan**

A number of major disasters happened in the 1970's, such as the Gediz and Lice earthquakes in Turkey, a mud slide in Peru, a Hurricane in Honduras, and a cyclone in Andra Pradesh in India. This was a period when Ian Davis started working on his PhD on post disaster shelter, which in his own words was "an epic assignment that took all of 12 years to complete in University College London in 1985". He did not take a purely academic approach to his PhD and maximised his practical understanding of what happens after disasters by visiting various disaster sites. At the same time, he shared his accumulated knowledge from his research and visits with the NGOs and officials working in these places. His interest in sharing knowledge, disseminating experiences and learning from the locals still continues through his commitment to training and writing.

There were many by-products of his PhD research that were to make the information more practical and accessible to a wider audience. He compiled the original case studies for the UNDRO *'Shelter after Disaster: Guidelines for Assisting Groups'* (1982), that have been drawn on for the OCHA and IFRC supported 2nd edition (2015) with many new

Oxford Polytechnic Workshop Course Outing to Blenheim Palace.

Oxford Polytechnic Workshop course field study visit to Greenwich, beside the Cutty Sark.

reflections from the decades in between. However, many of these case studies first appeared in print in Ian Davis' first book *'Shelter after Disaster'* (1978).

While all these other publications made major contributions to the area, I believe his 1978 publication has been the most influential in changing attitudes towards post-disaster shelter. I consulted a number of colleagues in writing this piece, and they unanimously shared the same view. For example, until his book was accessible and also translated into Spanish there were hardy any practical examples on alternative approaches to post disaster shelter in disaster-prone regions. It shed a new light on the subject, it opened eyes to a developmental approach focussing on what affected people are able to do to help themselves and how they could be supported through training in safer construction and locally appropriate materials. This was in a climate where universally applicable emergency shelters and approaches were developed in certain industrialised countries, such as tents, pre-fabrication, or polyurethane units and contractor based reconstruction. Decades later alternative approaches disseminated by Ian grew into widely accepted trends in post-disaster shelter and reconstruction such as 'owner-driven' or 'building back better'.

Reducing disaster risks was another passion of Ian's, again when the dominant approach of the time was emergency management. Mainly through the Disaster Management Centre's (DMC, *Oxford Polytechnic*) training programmes many government officials from developing countries, NGOs and humanitarian workers were introduced to the concept of vulnerability and risk in a practical manner for the first time.

The importance of the DMC was twofold. To introduce these mostly disaster management officials to a more developmental approach; and to provide non-academic, practical training to make knowledge accessible to the government officials from disaster prone countries and humanitarian workers.

At the time there were only 3 non-academic, short courses available globally: Cranfield, UK and a military college that focussed more on disaster management, Intertect USA, a private institute managed by Fred Cuny, another eminent disaster guru at the time, and the DMC. Ian has always been a pioneer and a visionary as in the case of recognising the need for the DMC. Again, he quickly observed that a single attendance at a DMC course would not change decades of entrenched mind sets. He managed to convince the UK government, a faith-based NGO, Tearfund and others to take training to the disaster prone countries. He continued to support those who attended the DMC course in their own countries, with their governments, organisations and individually such as in the Philippines, Colombia, Caribbean and Pacific islands, LAC and Asia. These visits contributed not only to knowledge dissemination but also to institutional development of DM and DRM organisations. Of course there is now a huge proliferation of such trainings locally and globally and institutional development is a major subject in its own right.

A second book, that was again unanimously regarded as the most influential by all those I consulted, was *'At Risk: Natural Hazards, People's Vulnerability and Disasters'*. Ian was a co-author with Wisner, Blaikie and Cannon. Ian's key contribution through this book was the *'Disaster Crunch and Release Model'* that expressed graphically the dynamics and root causes of vulnerability to disasters, and ways to reduce them. The model was then also applied to the case studies. This model would be

Final dinner of project team researching Urban Risk in Mexico City following the 1985 earthquake. From left to right: Hugo, from UNAM University, Andrew, Cambridge University, Yasemin in the centre next to Susana and Ian resplendent in his Mexican Mariachi Hat! 1989.

Yasemin in Hefei, China – field visit to flood affected village as part of an Oxford Polytechnic Disaster Management Workshop for Chinese Provincial Government, 1990.

disseminated in different training manuals and would later be known as the PAR model (Pressure and Release) that had acceptance worldwide *(see page 66)*.

Where do I fit in all this? I was rather accidentally lucky to find myself in the midst of such an incredibly pioneering and exciting period. I met Ian in 1979 when I received a one year scholarship to *Oxford Polytechnic* from the British Council towards my PhD on social and cultural aspects of vernacular architecture. I volunteered back in Turkey to a number of post disaster situations and also designed shelters in our course work at the architectural school. Vernacular architecture of the people resonated well with Ian's ideas on post disaster shelter and interested me. At the same time he was interested to know about the post-earthquake shelter and reconstruction in Turkey. I went to Oxford to start a PhD and teach back at my University. Through Ian's support I gained a totally new career. When we had a military government in 1980 he gave me a part time job so I could stay on. For the next 14 years we worked very closely. He involved me in everything he did, teaching at the DMC and the faculty, several research projects, trainings in the field to name a few. I met many eminent people on the subject through him and they remained colleagues. I was a novice, but he trusted me to represent the Centre at many international meetings, research projects and in the field such as the North Yemen Earthquake and Pakistan floods. The experiences of working with Ian were extremely useful later in pursuing my international career.

His enthusiasm was and still is contagious. In writing this piece I once again realised how many lives, like mine, he touched and continues to do so. Like myself he inspired many to have careers in this area. Many continue to inspire others, extending his legacy and contribution worldwide, like a ripple in water. This worldwide contribution to disaster prevention and reduction was crowned when he received the Sasakawa Award in 1996.

Apart from his most influential publications and professional achievements we all also agreed on Ian's courage to initiate a new,

humane attitude and his inimitable sense of humour. He cares for people, feels for them which is a necessary quality needed to work with communities. His Christian commitment strengthens these qualities that he combined with his professionalism in his manual on *'Christian Perspectives on Disaster Management'*, a wonderful document that highlights many biblical examples that can be replicated by other faiths as useful in working with communities.

Any writing on Ian is incomplete without mentioning his artistic side. His love of the English countryside, Oxford town and architecture painted in his watercolours were generously shared with his colleagues and friends. I am proud to be both and lucky to have received many cards over the years until the bug of online celebrations invaded the world!

* Formerly Senior Advisor UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Reduction; Undersecretary-General for Disaster Response and Recovery, IFRC; Architect, Turkey.

Epilogue: I consulted a number of eminent colleagues in writing this piece who have known Ian and worked with him on many occasions. They are the three wonderful Colombians, namely Juan Pablo Sarmiento, Gustavo Wilches-Chaux, and Omar-Dario Cardona, and Joe Chung from Fiji who made major contributions to the subject and continue to do so. They have been part of some of what I described above and not surprisingly our views overlapped.

12. JOHN NORTON, 1980

*by John Norton^*

Addressing issues faced by poor and fragile communities (1980)

During a brief period in the UK, between Iran (1975-79) and then Angola (1981-83), I ran the Architectural Association (AA) 3rd World Studies Unit in London, and I almost certainly met Ian in 1980, not long after his first book "*Shelter after Disaster*" (1978) came out. Our meeting would have been above all through our mutual friend, Paul Oliver, who had assessed my thesis at the AA, (written with Allan Cain, one of the co-founders of Development Workshop (DW)), on "*The problems and potentials of the indigenous built environment in a developing country" (Oman 1973).*

Our interest in the lessons that can be learnt from the important role that indigenous knowledge plays in how communities have planned and built has remained a core guiding element in DW's actions. Allan and I founded DW with the late Farokh Afshar in 1974. The primary aim of our non-profit organisation is to address issues faced by poor and often fragile communities in less developed parts of the world. We also work to change national policies through example and legislation to improve the conditions and safety of communities, as well as access to the resources they need to achieve these, for example through affordable credit.

Sharing a view of community based and driven DRR

Within this guiding framework, developing local capacity and skills to promote disaster risk reduction became central to our work. I was already familiar with Ian's publications since the late 1970's, when DW had already been working on rural development in Iran, which included training builders in earthquake resistant construction.

Ian's first book had come as a stimulating and comforting reflection and guide on the work we had been doing in Iran and continue to do elsewhere. As well as earthquake risk reduction, since 1989 we have worked to reduce the impact of floods and cyclones through preventive strengthening of homes and public buildings in SE Asia (World Habitat Award, 2008). Similarly, in the Sahel region of Africa, DW has helped to reduce the impact of the slow onset disaster that desertification represents, through training thousands of local builders to build houses without cutting down trees for roofing that traditionally used increasingly scarce timber (World Habitat Award, 1998).

Developing local capacity, techniques and awareness of the potential and need for preventive action that can reduce risk and applying strategies to address the underlying factors that contribute to risk and vulnerability have been central to our work. This echoes Ian's work to relate the problems of disasters to the wider context of the social development of vulnerable communities so admirably expressed in his first book. Thus, I think that Ian and I share a view of community based and driven DRR (and Recovery work) that "Communities and families come first", and I would add, invariably know better what they need in the midst of the disaster than many others.

In his book, "*Shelter after Disaster*", Ian opens the third section, "Filling the gap", with a quote from a now quite fascinating editorial from *The Architect*, March 1976, which speculates that the post-disaster role of RIBA (the Royal Institute of British Architects) should be "having to hand a supply of instant housing and the wherewithal for transporting it to the afflicted site". Ian has done a huge amount to change that view.

Contributing to the Building for Safety initiative, (1990)

I was invited by Ian at the Oxford Centre for Disaster Studies, and by his colleagues at Cambridge Architectural Research, to contribute to the ODA (Overseas Development Administration) Building for Safety Initiative they were working on and which was subsequently published by ITDG (Intermediate Technology Development Group). DW contributed case study material on disaster risk reduction in Vietnam, particularly related to the role of very diverse methods of communication and awareness raising in at risk communities, and about the need to take preventive action.

As someone living and working outside the UK, Ian's invitation provided an interesting insight into DRR practitioners in the UK, an opportunity to hear about a larger community of peoples' experience related to disaster work regarding response and risk reduction.

For me, crucially, this single example reflects Ian's great capacity to network and link different players in the DRR environment. I admire Ian for his generosity, willingness and ability to do this. Putting people together is a great skill.

Crossing paths (2005)

Since then happily my path has crossed with Ian's quite often. An important chance meeting was at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR), in Kobe, (Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005), where DW was exhibiting work in Vietnam on Typhoon damage prevention and where Ian was presenting his work. That evening Ian suggested to me that he could nominate DW's work on promoting cyclone resistant construction in Vietnam since 1989 for a UNISDR Sasakawa Award. As a result, DW was awarded the 2009 Sasakawa Certificate of Distinction at the UNISDR 2009. A typical example of Ian's unselfish support.

In 2017 our mutual friend, Paul Oliver, died. Once again, it was Ian who stepped up and helped organise the memorial ceremony at the Architectural Association about Paul's influence on us as young architects aiming to work with poor. I was asked to say something about our long relationship with Paul. I was honoured. Another thank you.

Ian dedicates his work *"Shelter after Disaster"*

"To those…
within vulnerable homes, awaiting the next disaster
"To those …
who survived the last disaster only to live within sub-standard shelters
"And to those…
who are attempting to rectify both situations"

I believe that Ian's vision in 1978 was and remains both admirable and topical.

In *Southasiadisasters.net* (issue No. 189, October 2020) Ian titles his contribution "Standing on the shoulders of giants", citing Otto Koenigsberger, Paul Oliver, Henry Quarantelli and Fred Cuny *(see pages 19-21)*. I have been privileged to know three of these and to count one as a personal friend. But I am also privileged to have met and worked with fifth giant, Ian.

* Co-Founder and President, Development Workshop France (DWF), Tréjouls, France

13. ANDREW MASKREY, 1981

*by Andrew Maskrey**

I first met Ian Davis in March 1981. At the time, I was working with John F.C Turner on the Special Programme on Housing and Development at the Development Planning Unit (DPU), London. John had just returned from a trip to Italy with Ian, invited as I remember to advise on housing reconstruction following the 1980 Irpinia-Basilicata earthquake, an apparently memorable journey from which anecdotes were still surfacing years later.

One day John Turner asked me if I fancied a trip to Oxford, where he was going to meet with Ian. I cannot recall anything memorable about that day, but at the end of our meeting, Ian slipped a small book into my hand. It was *"Shelter after Disaster"* which had been published by Oxford Polytechnic Press in 1978. *(see page 49)* I had no idea at the time how that particular instant would play such a role in shaping my future.

Before joining forces with John Turner, I had been working in Peru on informal housing and urbanisation. And after wrapping up the Special Programme at the DPU I packed my bags and returned to Peru. The book must have slipped itself surreptitiously into my luggage because one day in Lima I found Hilary, my girlfriend at the time, deeply engrossed in reading. What on earth had made her pick up *"Shelter after Disaster"* I can't recall. But it must have made a deep impression on her because I remember being told that I should read it.

Enter Brian Brady, a then notorious geophysicist from the U.S. Bureau of Mines, whose claim to fame was earthquake prediction. Brady had decided to test his theories in Lima, which he claimed would be utterly destroyed by a series of 9.2+ magnitude earthquakes on July 6, August 18 and September 24, 1981. Unsurprisingly, the earth did not tremble to Brady's order, but the resulting scare and fallout led the Government of Japan to donate funds to undertake the first comprehensive analysis of seismic vulnerability in the Lima Metropolitan area and to formulate a plan to protect the city.

The housing sector component of the study was given to the National Institute of Urban Development (INADUR) where, at the time, I was working as an urban planner. In August 1982, the Director, Armando Campos, called me into his office to inform me that I had been assigned to the project. My protests that I knew nothing about seismology or disasters were counterproductive and only seemed to strengthen his resolve. Back at the house, I remember rummaging through drawers and boxes to find Ian's book. As I read it from cover to cover, it resonated with me, and disparate pieces of thought started to form a coherent shape

and make sense. There was nothing natural about vulnerability to earthquakes, wrote Ian.

I am still proud of my own contribution to the exotically named Plan Alfa Centauro, which, inspired by Ian's book, focused less on earthquake engineering and seismographs than on how formerly safe buildings in Lima's historic centre were becoming more vulnerable over time, due to overcrowding and lack of maintenance. These first insights into the social construction of risk flowed into my next venture, the Centre for Disaster Prevention and Studies (PREDES), a Peruvian NGO created in 1983 and still active to this day, and would flower and mature in the work of the Network for the Social Study on Disaster Prevention in Latin America (LA RED), the United Nations Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR) and the numerous other collaborative ventures in which I have been involved over the years

After our first chance encounter in Oxford, I didn't see Ian again until I was invited to the grandly titled International Conference on Disaster Mitigation Program Implementation. Convened in November 1984 in Ocho Rios this conference brought together an all-star cast including Ian himself, Fred Cuny, Fred Krimgold, Franklin McDonald and many others. *(see pages 41 and 58)* While at first didn't understand why I had been invited, I later learned that, behind the scenes, Ian and Cuny had persuaded the organisers to organise a workshop on community-based approaches and had recommended me to lead it.

Ian must have seen some potential in my work. In 1989 and, after self-appointing himself as my manager, he twisted the arms of the luddites at OXFAM to publish my book on Community Based Disaster Mitigation and invited me to Oxford Polytechnic to contribute to the courses he ran with Yasemin Aysan. As my own work evolved, I was conscious that Ian was always present somehow, looking out for me and covering my back.

Above and beyond his hugely influential contributions to the subject, Ian is a person who radiates an aura of warmth and empathy, spiced with a wickedly ironic sense of humour. Over the years we shared many adventures together, such as the time we were trapped together with Gustavo Wilches-Chaux and Allan Lavell behind the curtains in a theatre at Popayan, Colombia in 1993 *(see pages 62 and 78)*. We discovered a shared and regularly indulged passion for musing on the absurdities of international bureaucracies. As a self-effacing and modest man, Ian does not take credit for the enormous influence he had on shaping how my generation approached disaster risk management. I only hope that those of us who have followed in his footsteps can live up to his ideal.

* Formerly Coordinator of the Network for Social Studies in Disaster Prevention in Latin America (LA RED) and of the United Nations Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR). Currently Coordinator of the Risk Nexus Initiative (RNI). Urban planner, Spain.

14. FRANKLIN MACDONALD, 1983

by Franklin MacDonald

For the last five decades Professor Ian Davis has been a source of inspiration, new knowledge and information, a thought leader, opinion maker as well as a critical and objective thinker in matters related to Disaster Risk and Recovery Management. He has been an effective communicator and author producing peer reviewed research, technical reports and evaluation, and popular articles in addition to interviews and contributions to the media.

Throughout history Caribbean societies have been challenged to provide safe and affordable shelter in spite of their exposure to multiple hazards. By the late 1970s, many in the region were looking for solutions, experimenting with design and construction and scanning the literature for relevant experiences. Networking and informal contacts brought scholars into contact with responders to recent events such as the earthquakes in Nicaragua (1972) and Guatemala (1976) as well as humanitarian crises further afield.

At this juncture, efforts to improve relief and recovery arrangements led to contact among multilateral and bilateral agencies grappling with disaster response and recovery challenges and the establishment of informal networks, largely involving the regional researcher and humanitarian agencies, including health. As a result, initiatives related to improved impact reduction and recovery management were started. Capacity related to urban design, housing and shelter construction was developed and significantly facilitated by access to and participation in these emerging networks. During the process of formalization. influential members of the Global and Regional networks, including Ian Davis, Claude De Ville, Fred Cuny, Stephen Bender became active collaborators with their Caribbean colleagues. Participation covered research, workshops and training, as well as project and programme development. Access to Ian Davis' thinking and publications, including his seminal work on "*Shelter after disasters*" were also critical in the development of Caribbean human resources as many Caribbean participants were able to attend Professor Davis' Oxford based workshops. Ian was an effective and influential trainer who encouraged participants to maintain contact and learn from his wide experience.

In 1984, Ian was one of the main organisers and presenters in an International conference on "Disaster Mitigation Program Implementation" held in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. *(see pages 41 and 57)* This conference, in today's jargon would be termed "a super spreader event" as it promulgated case and experience-based lessons and emerging trends

linking mitigation, prevention, risk reduction with the more traditional concepts of emergency relief and preparedness. Over the next few decades Ian has maintained contact with emerging disaster specialists in the region and his technical and networking skills continued to contribute to the development of the Caribbean specialist. He is a participant at the regular conferences organised by the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

Ian has been at the cutting edge of developments in the sector. He has done pioneering research, critical analysis of traditional approaches, emphasize community and local participation and the need for sound forensic research. These principles have proven to be robust and resilient under different environmental and societal conditions.

There is no question that Ian's body of work has contributed significantly to our understanding of resilience and our chances of achieving resilience regionally and globally. He has had a lasting impact on the Caribbean Disaster Management sector.

* International Consultant, Visiting Scholar, York University Toronto, Geologist, Canada

15. GUSTAVO WILCHES-CHAUX, 1984

by Gustavo Wilches-Chaux

My encounter with Ian Davis came in the aftermath of the Popayán Earthquake (Popayán is my city and was destroyed by an earthquake on the 31st March, 1983). I was 29 years young and was the Regional Director of a Colombian Government Professional and Community Training Agency called SENA (Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje). We had no prior experience in what is now called Disaster Risk Management, nor in Post Disaster Reconstruction, but we did have good experience of working with rural and urban communities. So when we saw people trying to rebuild their destroyed houses with their own hands, we decided to support them with advice, training and building materials.

A cousin of mine sent to me a book, which title was wrongly translated into Spanish as "*Arquitectura de Emergencia*" (Architecture in emergencies), and it happened to be the classic "*Shelter after Disasters*" written by Ian. This book opened our minds to this complex field which was to become a central activity in my career.

About the same time an Americal Urban Planner called Fred Cuny arrived into Popayán. His firm INTERTECT had received support from USAID to provide disaster assistance to Colombia. Fred taught us about Seismic Resistant Building and his colleagues assisted us in the design of training materials that became the first community oriented handbooks on the topic of Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery in Colombia.

From left to right, Ian Davis (aged 49), Gustavo Wilches-Chaux and Mario Echeverry Trujillo (Director of SENA in Tolima, the region of Armero) discussing a community flood evacuation plan with community leaders in 1986.

Ian in a visit to the underground Salt Cathedral in Zipaquirá, a Colombian Municipio near Bogotá in 2005.

In 1984 an important international conference took place in Jamaica concerning ways to reduce disaster risks *(see page 58)* Fred suggested to Franklin MacDonald, one of the organizers, to invite me to talk about SENA's self-help building project. Ian was also present as one of the organizers and that was our first contact. Of course I told him about how important his book was for us when we read it, especially due to the timing when it came to our hands just as we were planning reconstruction activities.

We then invited Ian to come to Popayán to get to know our project and give us advice. We organized several conferences in both Popayán and Bogotá where Ian was the main speaker. During his time in Popayán, Ian stayed in my home in the country, and all my family and friends became fond of him.

After that, the Bristish Council Office in Colombia opened nominations for the so called *"James Rook Award"* (James Rook was a British hero in a famous battle of the Independence of our country from Spain in 1819), so I applied and won the award.

As an award winner I was able to choose in which part of Britain I would like to study, and on what topic. I asked to go to the Bristol Polytechnic to study Audiovisuals Production in a course directed by Richard Thorn, and to the Oxford Polytechnic to study Disaster Management in Ian Davis Workshops.

So in September 1985 I traveled with my family (my wife, three little children and my teenager sister) to Bristol first, and then to Great Milton, in the Cotswolds, were we lived in a cabin while I went to the Oxford Poly every day. Ian very kindly appointed me as Workshop Co-Director and there I met and learned from many very interesting and

lovely people from different parts of the world, including Yasemin Aysan, Ian's Turkish colleague *(see page 48).*

More than a teacher or a boss, Ian was a sort of '*honorary grandfather*' for my children, and we traveled with him to very special places like Stonhenge and the wonderful Dorset Coast

In subsequent years after Ian came to Colombia a couple of times. He became an *influencer* and inspiring not only as an author but as a special person for many people. His influence remains very important in Colombia within the Disaster Risk Management community. His light is still -and will continue- illuminating our paths.

In one of those visits to Popayán a funny episode happened that both our good friends - Andrew Maskrey and Allan Lavell wrote about in their contributions for this publication. (they have also both been highly influential in my life), *(see pages 57 and 78)* When trying to bring down a screen for slide projection in SENA's auditorium, I pressed the wrong switch and closed the stage curtain, an action that I still don´t fully understand and I was unable to reverse the closed curtain. So we all ended our talks perched on the border of the stage with our legs hanging and the closed curtain behind… to a very interested and very amused audience…!

I'll finish this memory note with another lovely episode:

Ian needed to take his flight back to the UK from the Cali airport, three hours distant from Popayán, so I asked Pedro Gallo, a young and kind SENA driver, to pick Ian at 4:00 am in my house, and take him to the airport. However, Pedro could not speak a word of English…

Once back, I asked Pedro how things had gone, and he answered me: *"This man is a very very human person. Very warm".*

Gustavo and Ian at the 10th Anniversary of the Popayán Earthquake.

So I asked him:

- *"Did you speak at all?*
- *Of course we did,*
- *In what language?*
- *In English" said Pedro*
- *"And how was that?*
- *In the middle of the way we stopped at Pescador (a rural village), and I asked him: Coffee? And he answered - 'very happy, Coffee!'"*

That was nice...! I love that episode, as we all love Ian.

* Senior Advisor on disaster risk and recovery management, Environmentalist, Colombia

16. DAVID ALEXANDER, 1986

*by David Alexander**

In 1978, Ian Davis published a small, well-illustrated book titled *'Shelter after Disaster'* (Davis 1978). Although it was a modestly sized volume issued by a small institutional press, it soon became a widely sought-after item among the community of disaster scholars. It has remained so ever since. With illustrations and argument, Professor Davis systematically dispersed the aura of myth, misassumption and ineffectiveness that clung to the field of post-disaster shelter. Ian Davis is a person of considerable wisdom with an aptitude for listening. As a result, he was able to see the problem of shelter from the point of view of those who needed it, rather than merely from the viewpoint of those who provided it. By judicious use of examples drawn from all over the world, his book showed how the two perspectives so often failed to coincide.

Ian Davis at Persepolis, UNESCO World Heritage Site, Islamic Republic of Iran, 2008.

My first encounter with the science and social science of disasters was in 1980, when neither branch was well developed. However, I was struck by the sudden realisation that disasters could be managed systematically, and that much of what happened in a disaster was predictable and could therefore be planned for. I was also aware that disasters are very easily misunderstood. Misconceptions tend to take root, nurtured by popular culture and persistent bad practice.

As an architect and humanitarian, Ian Davis has always been at the forefront of the fight to explode the myths associated with disasters and improve preparedness, response and recovery. He has a sharp eye for both the good and the bad of what goes on in the field. Since he is an architect by training, and by years of professional practice, his work is often profusely illustrated. It can be as visually exciting as it is intellectually stimulating.

From Ian, I learnt that disasters give us a peek into the inner workings of society. They reveal the good and the bad of human relationships and endeavours. Ian can be swift to condemn: impractical shelters with inadequate design lives, installed in the wrong place, unwelcoming to their intended users, inappropriate to the local climate, lacking resistance to hazards, and culturally unacceptable. But he is also swift to give praise to sensitive, workable solutions to the shelter problem that improve the lives of their occupants and survive the test of time.

One of Ian Davis's other concerns is a classic one for architects, namely the relationship between form and failure in the context of disaster (which destroys the latter and thus engenders changes in the former). His 1983 paper on the topic is a classic and a tour de force of reasoning about the world's haphazard attitude to building safety (Davis 1983).

Over the period 2010-2015 Ian Davis and I wrote a book titled *'Recovery from Disaster'* (Davis and Alexander 2015). We managed to put together 20 principles, 21 models and 38 case histories, as well as a survey of the opinions on priorities in recovery given by 51 of the best experts in the field. Ian created and ran the survey. All the experts from this field participated in this survey, which is a testimony to Ian's stature as the doyen of this field. Many of us look up to Ian as a role model, and this is in response both to his profound humanity and his extraordinary ability to think creatively and laterally. He and I filled our book with our best ideas, which involved not only much writing, but also a great deal of deliberation about power relationships, social issues, culture and disasters, and many more contextual matters.

At the same time as the recovery book was published, Ian brought out a second edition of his book on *'Shelter after Disaster'* (Davis et al. 2015), which was widely, and justly, celebrated. It further cemented his intellectual leadership. It is a testimony to Ian's stewardship of this field that post-disaster shelter become so mainstreamed that it is now considered an indispensable part of disaster and recovery studies.

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* Professor, Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction, University College London, UK

17. TERRY CANNON, 1986

*by Terry Cannon**

Ian Davis in Oxford (2018) with a group of disaster researchers. From left to right Ilan Kelman, Emilie Wilkinson, Ian Burton, Terry Cannon, David Alexander, Lisa Schipper, Arabella Fraser. In 2021 we are working on how to popularize the notion of Disaster Risk *Creation*, to oppose the mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction organizations where they avoid looking at root causes and the systems of power that make disasters happen and increase people's vulnerability.

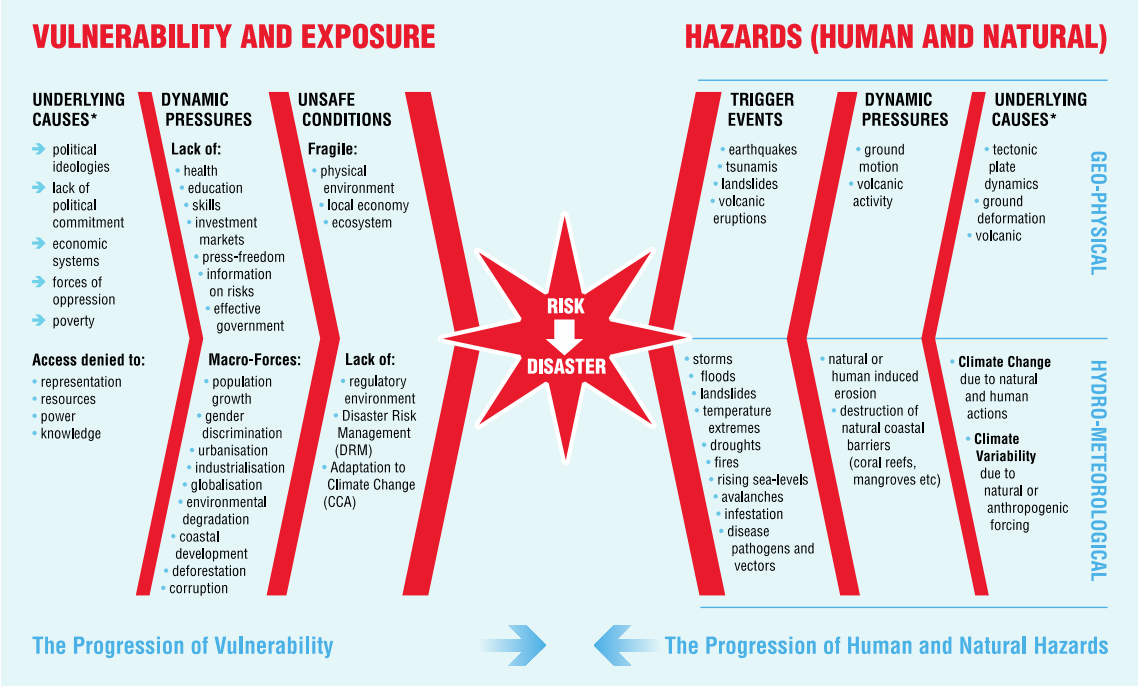
How should we understand what causes a disaster? These reflections concern the Pressure and Release (PAR) model and its great impact.

In 1976 I paid my first visit to a "Third World" country, a young and naïve researcher, trying to understand India's rural livelihood systems and the causes of poverty and vulnerability. There were severe floods in much of the north, and I came to understand that in much of the Ganges plain villages were on slightly higher ground where some people could avoid the flood waters. *Some people*… in the village centres were the houses of richer people while around them the slope fell away to the edges where poorer and 'untouchable' people had to live with the flood. I wrote my first paper (crude and ill-informed) on disaster prevention and preparedness largely 'inspired' by this experience. It was another ten years before I met Ian, when Ian joined Ben Wisner, Piers Blaikie and myself to plan the book "*At Risk…*".

We had each in our different ways come to realise that explaining disasters required understanding how within society risk is allocated to different groups of people through political and economic processes. What became known as the 'vulnerability paradigm' of disaster analysis (where the emphasis is on how society creates risk, and the hazard does not have to produce a disaster) was emerging. In various parts of the

world academics and activists were arguing that disasters are not natural but 'socially constructed'. Much of this related to what was then known as the "Third World" and showed that whether or not someone suffered when a hazard struck could also be interpreted as 'failed development'. Vulnerability to hazards seemed to be little different from vulnerabilities to life in general, with hunger, poor health and education, inadequate water and sanitation and so on. All of these were already well understood in terms of systems of power at local, national and global scales. Explaining disasters was about extending this analysis to the differential and unequal impacts of the hazards.

Ian's special contribution to this was the Pressure and Release (PAR) framework (which also came to be called the Crunch Model). This gave a simple visual clue to how people's vulnerability can be explained in terms of a web of causation that uncovers the reasons why people are harmed (or NOT harmed) when a hazard strikes. Moving backwards from the disaster event itself, it directs the analysis to peel back the different layers of processes and factors that show how (and WHY) a disaster happens. It led back to root causes that are deeply embedded in power structures that allocate assets, income and well-being unequally between different groups of people. Depending what you got through these political and economic allocation processes decided who would suffer little harm from the hazard while others (sometimes numbering millions) experience devastation.



The framework is not perfect – it is still really work in progress. It has had a few (rather ineffective) criticisms (though few of these show that it is fundamentally wrong). Many more seek to improve, modify or extend it for specific needs (for example gender inequality, health, disability, cultural destruction and climate change – Ian has been doing

this himself). PAR has been used thousands of ways by hundreds of organizations. It is easy to demonstrate its impact with a Google search, including looking at Images to see many variations on the diagram. It is not always properly understood, but at least it has directed many organizations and researchers to the need to understand the political and economic causes of disasters.

Most disaster-related organizations or researchers now find it impossible to avoid analysing vulnerability as the main way to understand why disasters happen. But sometimes that also leads to a stopping point, because most organizations (and some researchers) find it difficult to bite the hand that feeds them. A genuine root cause analysis will identify governments, banks, corporations, funders and other powerful organizations as part of the problem rather than part of the solution. As one colleague said at a conference "*Most actors are not out to change society. So vulnerability [as a concept] is a challenge for them! They may accept it up to a point, but it is difficult for them to put into action…*". In recent years, Ian has been part of a small group of disaster researchers which is looking at Disaster Risk Creation (rather than DRR), to strengthen the emphasis on political and economic causes of disasters and stand up to the organizations that are avoiding looking at root causes and their own role within the systems of power (notably some which have reverted to talking about 'natural' disasters!).

The PAR approach has had enormous impact in terms of getting people to think about what causes a disaster, and this is a truly extraordinary legacy from Ian. Its value is in its visual clarity and simplicity, surely a result of how Ian works visually through his background in architecture (and his wonderful paintings and drawings). There are lectures and slide shows using it. Thousands of NGOs and their staff have been influenced. The framework has also entered school education, at least in Britain. It is part of the A Level geography syllabus and appears on many support websites (often with no credit to either Ian or *At Risk*… which is normally the source). It is also still having an impact on academic research, and very recently a paper on global public health said: "*The PAR model is arguably the best known and most accepted model for conceptualizing risk in the context of disaster and emergency and offers a comprehensive and compelling framework for understanding the role of (social) vulnerability in risk*."[1]

That the PAR framework still has such impact and value so long after it became widely available (in the 1994 first edition of *At Risk…)* is a great tribute to Ian, and a wonderful boost for a much improved basis for explaining why disasters happen.

* Institute of Development Studies at University of Sussex, Lewes, UK

[1] Charlotte Christiane Hammer, Julii Brainard, Alexandria Innes and Paul R. Hunter 2019 "(Re⁻) conceptualising vulnerability as a part of risk in global health emergency response: updating the pressure and release model for global health emergencies" *Emerg Themes Epidemiol* 16:2 doi.org/10.1186/s12982-019-0084-3

18. NICK ISBISTER, 1986

*by Nick Isbister**

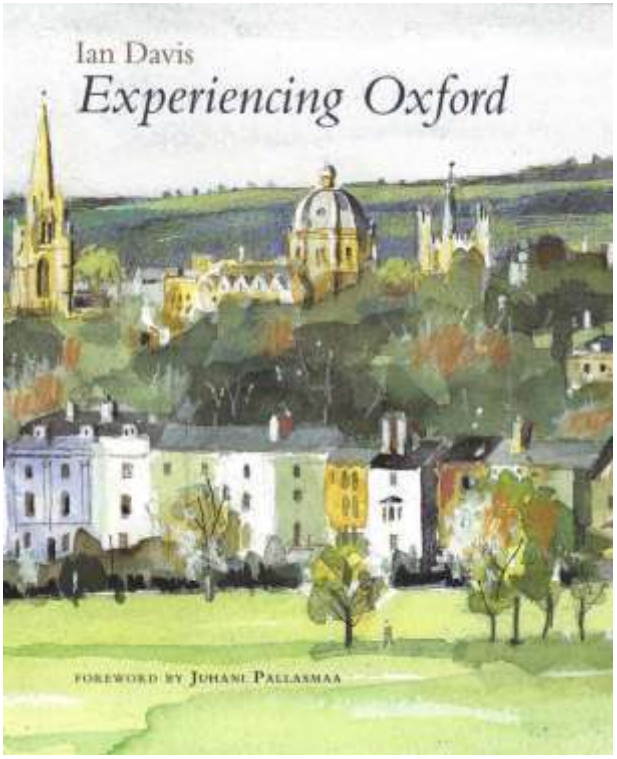
Ceaseless curiosity. Indefatigable inquiry. Deep, deep compassion. 83 now, just a tad slower, just a bit harder of hearing than he used to be, but still with those penetrating eyes. 36 years, that's how long I've known him. Architect, lecturer, professor, pioneer, 'game-changer', Christian, husband, father, friend - roles he wears easily, facets of his remarkable polymath capabilities.

We met up recently to celebrate the publication of his latest book, *Experiencing Oxford*. The book is a tour de force, an astonishing record of the City, an incredible insight not only into the City itself but into the mind and interests and capabilities of Ian himself.

Observer, witness, draftsman, illustrator, historian, chronicler, photographer, art historian, painter, commentator, urban-theorist, writer, bricolage-maker, magpie, a 'gatherer, a snapper up of unconsidered trifles'. And, we might add 'husband', for the book is also testimony to the enduring impact of his beloved first wife, Judy – mother to his children and pioneering teacher of children with 'Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties' (PMLD). It is to Judy that Ian attributes the insight that pervades the book, that 'experiencing' is a multi-faceted, multi-sensorial way of approaching life.

Architects and town-planners long to be great practitioners of what they call 'place-making'. Great place-making creates spaces, townscapes, landscapes that welcome people, delight them, give them experiences they remember, want to remember, want to repeat, send them on their way enhanced and enriched, foster human flourishing. Ian knows this. Ian knows that to understand something thoroughly you have to merge with it and let it merge with you. Ian 'gets' Oxford. And he knows Oxford has that magic, or rather parts of Oxford have it in spades. This is how he describes Radcliffe Square, in the heart of Oxford University:

> *'There are very few urban environments in the world where sublime quality is universally recognised - complex urban dramas where everything fits and actors perform to perfection. Accolades of total magnificence, splendour and harmony derive from the presence and interaction of a host of qualities: physical, environmental, social and aesthetic. These relate to buildings, urban spaces, building materials and details, ground surfaces, trees and planting and exuberant skylines. Such places delight the senses and they often contain symbolic references to offer meaning to their users. They contain vistas, balances, discords and surprises.' (p.103)*



Oxford is a city that, at its best, has these glorious harmonies, discords, vistas and surprises. *Experiencing Oxford* is, like the City itself full of a similar plethora of glorious harmonies, discords, vistas and surprises. The book is testimony to the man too. Interlaced with the Oxford story Ian tells here, there is a profound personal story, Ian's story. Bishop Ian Ramsey, formerly Professor of the Philosophy of Religion in Oxford University, and founder in 1985 of Oxford University's Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion (IRC) used to say that all communication involves important elements of what he called 'human disclosure'. 'Experiencing Oxford' is all the richer for Ian's 'self-disclosures' throughout the text. Ramsey also said that if you want to know someone then look at their enthusiasms, for their enthusiasms (note the etymology -'en-theos' - 'God-filled') show so much about what matters to them. Ian's enthusiasms infuse this book. Ian's enthusiasms enrich this book. Ian's enthusiasms draw us into a deeper understanding of what life is, could be, and perhaps should be. As he says in the book:

> *'Probably, we know instinctively that 'man does not live by bread alone', since few seem satisfied with a purely physical world confined to what we see, hear, smell, taste or touch. But the spiritual sense, and its role in society remains elusive, difficult to define yet immensely powerful. Expressions such as 'wellbeing', 'belonging', 'transcendence' or 'wholeness', may best describe the deep sense of harmony that we aspire to from the places we inhabit.' (p. 246)*

Another Oxford man Christopher Wren, who's memorial in St Paul's Cathedral bears the motif in Latin *" Lector, si monumentum requiris circumspice"* ("Reader, if you seek a monument, look about you") Reader, if you seek a monument to Ian. Immerse yourself in this book, dive in, steep yourself in its beautiful, rich pages, let its deep sensuality seduce you, let its idiosyncrasies amuse you, let's sheer humanity make you into a better human being.'

* Director of 'Listening Partnership', Psychologist and Executive Coach

19. MIKE WALL, 1988

*by Mike Wall**

I worked with Ian Davis, principally when I led the Relief Unit at Tearfund, from 1988-1997 on Disaster Management Training including publishing as joint editors the manual titled *'Christian Perspectives on Disaster Management' (see page 52).*

From my own professional experience in Disaster Risk and Recovery Management, or from the education I personally received or led, I believe that future education and training needs of staff entering this field, or securing continual professional development, needs to take note of Ian's timely advice to avoid the 'talking teacher'. The trainer needs to be an embodiment of the message they are communicating and so the most powerful tool in training is the person of the trainer - not his or her words. The breadth and length of Ian's exposure to disaster situations was and is a powerful aid to increasing the impact of his training. He has always embodied the message he was communicating.

Too often we focus on getting our teaching material right whereas what we need to focus on more is keeping our experience up to date and continuing to practice empathy. It is not enough simply to visit the scene of a disaster. We need to be more than physically present, we also need to be emotionally and even spiritually present. This first-hand exposure to such situations not only authenticates our training but it also deepens the impact of what we say.

On another point, I believe that a missed opportunity in disaster management training is the spiritual dimension. I recall visiting Nicaragua with Ian after a devastating hurricane had hit the West but not the East coast of the country. The Christians in the East told us that they had prayed and so that is why the hurricane did not reach them. On another occasion I visited the Philippines after the eruption of Mount Pinatubo and was told by a person in the local market that the volcano's devastation was a judgement from God because of the sex-workers serving the nearby US military base.

Whatever our opinion about these explanations we need to acknowledge that they were truly held by these local people who articulated them. In our *'Christian Perspectives on Disaster Management'* manual we sought to throw light on these deeply held beliefs and to understand how they impacted disaster management. I would like to say that this work on understanding the spiritual beliefs in a disaster context has moved on since we published that manual in the early 1990's but I am

not sure it has moved on much further. This could be a challenge for any future researcher to take up.

Finally, after leaving the field of disaster management and moving into leadership training I would suggest that all future training in disaster management should include as a requirement an element of leadership training. When Ian and I led the Disaster Management workshop there were always what Ian termed 'Management Capsules' included in the teaching programme. These were short tips on key aspects of leadership such as time management and conflict resolution. I believe that there continues to be a need for more general management education and leadership training in any programme of disaster management training.

I hope these reflections are of assistance to those who are training the next generation of disaster management practitioners.

* Formerly, CEO All Nations Christian College; Tearfund's Relief Unit, UK

20. DAVID SANDERSON, 1990

*by David Sanderson**

It was my pleasure, and privilege, to work for Ian Davis for four years, as a Project Manager at Ian's organization the *Oxford Centre for Disaster Studies*. In that time, Ian gave both myself and other colleagues the space to learn, and to make plenty of mistakes, while always guiding and supporting us. Ian's clever knack of framing statements as questions to which some years later it dawned on me he already knew the answers' provided an atmosphere that was supportive, generous and always constructive.

I learnt a million things from Ian (and continue to do so through his new writings), and so it is hard to remember them all. On one occasion, Ian took time to describe to me the cycle of disaster and the crunch models, which still stand today as simple and instructive ways of explaining disasters. On an early assessment visit to Peru, I called Ian up in the UK, worried and anxious about how to move forward. He calmly described to me some of the principles of what we were aiming for and all was okay.

It was while at OCDS that I worked with Ian on an urban risk reduction project in India, partnering with AIDMI, SEEDS and Professor V.K. Sharma from NCDM *(see page 82)*. On our first visit Ian calmly led the workshop, asking the questions that helped us unlock each step as we went. The eventual project led to a number of activities with each of the partners, and paved the way to numerous subsequent activities.

Ian has been behind many organisations and ideas that have become mainstream in the humanitarian landscape. One of these is the NGO Tearfund which Ian was closely involved in forming. While working for Ian, in 1995 we both travelled to Zimbabwe to lead a two-week workshop for Tearfund's partners. Ian, armed with flipchart paper, a Polaroid camera (to photograph participants) and packets of marker pens was quite the sight!

Ian was of course seminal in forming understandings of what makes for good shelter after disaster. As an architect Ian wrote the first PhD thesis to specifically address shelter and settlements in disasters, which became the popular book *'Shelter after Disaster'*. At Oxford Brookes University, the *Centre for Development and Emergency Practice* (CENDEP) began a course with this name, forming the first ever Post-Graduate Certificate in this subject. As CENDEP's director at that time, it was my privilege that Ian associated himself with this course, and also accepted a visiting professorship.

My own journey in humanitarian work was kicked off by Ian. As an architecture student in 1989, I applied to study at *Oxford Polytechnic* (as it was then called) in part because of Ian's reputation and work, and, while

knowing next to nothing about what that kind of work involved, wanted to get involved. To those ends, while at *Oxford Poly*, I worked hard to 'get noticed' by Ian – knowing for instance that Ian might be walking along a corridor in the architecture school on more than one occasion I orchestrated to 'just happen' to be walking towards him, and would instigate some kind of conversation, however inane it no doubt was!

I am therefore very grateful to Ian. First and foremost to his towering contributions made in his chosen subjects - development, disasters, resilience, climate change, shelter, to name a few. It is also the way he has done it, with grace, humility and always with a supportive approach to those around him. Thank you Ian!

* Professor and Inaugural Judith Neilson Chair in Architecture,
University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Ian in Zimbabwe at the falls.

21. ZENAIDA DELICA-WILLISON, 1993

*by Zenaida Delica-Willison**

How did you first encounter Ian Davis?

It was at the School of Public Health UC Louvain, Brussels, where I first met Dr. Ian. He was one of the resource persons in a course sponsored by the *Center for Research in the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED)* in 1993. I remember he was talking about the importance of good shelters and settlements in disaster reconstruction in relation specific to the public's health. I was impressed with his grasp of the subject illustrated by his vast experience in the field. Ever since he has been my favourite source of wisdom. We have been meeting from time to time in different parts of the world. We worked together as consultants in Japan after the Kobe earthquake and I continue learning from him. When I studied in Oxford in 1996-97, I chose him to be my supervisor on my thesis on *"Community-Based Disaster Risk Management"*.

Which of his books has been most useful and why?

All his books and articles, either edited or authored/co-authored are all enlightening.

His *"Shelter After Disaster"* is a comprehensive publication, which covered all aspects of pre, during, and post-disaster work, but with a particular focus on disaster management planning. Moreover, the problem analysis was viewed from the survivors' perspective. *"At-risk Natural Hazards, People's vulnerability"* is my favourite resource for training and workshops. I liberally use the "progression to vulnerability" and "progression to safety" concept, which is a very practical tool of analysis and planning *(see page 66)*. The *Christian Perspective on Disaster Management* is a reader-friendly manual, which I always recommend for Christians engaged in DRR work as a guide *(see pages 52 and 70)*.

What are his main contributions to Disaster Studies?

The ideas he has shared on disasters and development – covering a huge range of interests. Though he wrote and reflected more on shelter. with emphasis on planning and urban design, he also expounded on environmental and development aspects of disasters. His contribution to disaster education is quite remarkable too. *"Experiencing Oxford"* is a masterpiece – a relaxing table book of reference on the city of Oxford *(see page 117)*.

Which aspects of Ian's work need to be expanded in the future?

A continuing update on what he has started on housing, shelter and settlement before during and after disaster needs to be undertaken periodically as the population grow exponentially in cities and as resources diminish. The progression to vulnerability and safety is also an interesting field to be studied per community.

Further Reflections

I call him Ian, not because I don't respect his credentials and distinguish career as a writer, researcher, professor, and disaster risk reduction expert. He certainly has influenced me in many ways: approaches in teaching the subject matter, training multicultural participants; and developing presentation skills for a small and big audience. He is my excellent mentor, a reliable friend, and a source of wisdom and expertise. His humility in treating me as equal, as if I am as knowledgeable, though am just a neophyte is quite unbelievable. But he treats others the same. These qualities draw not only me but many other professionals to him as they admire him for all the things he has accomplished.

Coming from Oxford, Ian is surrounded by a forest of good building designs and constructions, which made him a world-class architect. But his concerns for low-income safe housing in developing countries and understanding of community-based disaster risk reduction and management is indeed admirable. I am proud to be associated with him. But most of all, he reminds me to attribute to God all the goodness we receive, as He's the true source of wisdom and understanding. Would love to work with him again, it's a real treat.

* Advisor, Centre for Disaster Preparedness, Philippines; Board member, Global Network of CSOs for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), Independent Consultant- Disasters and Development, Philippines

22. JOHN TWIGG, 1993

*by John Twigg**

Ian Davis recognises that Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) has essentially a moral purpose even though it's often discussed and approached in more functional terms. That moral purpose concerns relief from suffering and with that goes, I believe, a fundamental humility. Unlike many experts, Ian doesn't assume he has the answers: he is always asking questions and seeking people's opinions. He has been a persistent voice for community perspectives and for local agency and ownership by disaster affected communities. I remember him pushing this point very hard on the UK National Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) in the 1990's, which otherwise was pretty much dominated by science and engineering perspectives.

I have heard Ian give voice to this in other national and international forums. He was an enthusiastic supporter of Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) and Vulnerability / Capacity Assessment (VCA) approaches before these became widely fashionable in disaster management. With others, he was influential in helping to promote that approach amongst disaster institutions around the world.

Ian has a distinctly individual voice: unlike most conventional detached academic work, his voice often includes the personal and anecdotal. For me that makes it much more readable and powerful. He has always been suitably critical of institutional and professional complacency and hostile towards closed-shop regimes of so called 'experts'.

I think a really important part of Ian's disaster work, and it's perhaps invisible to many, has been in teaching and training. He has run training courses in many countries over the years and that has helped to professionalise disaster management in a number of settings. The pioneering Shelter and Settlements Programme that he, Yasemin Aysan and Paul Oliver set up in the late 1970's in Oxford Polytechnic (now Oxford Brookes University) stimulated an enormous number of students to follow careers in DRR and development and many of them have become quite influential in their field.

Ian has always been a great supporter and encourager of younger people wanting to work in DRR as well as new entrants to this field generally – not just by giving them ideas and insights, but also by trying to find opportunities to get them involved in projects and discussions. He

certainly encouraged me when I was dipping my toes in the water and wondering what to do. This inter-generational influence is a really important and enduring legacy and a major part of his contribution to DRR over so many years. Thus, we are all indebted to Ian in one way or another.

* Researcher, consultant, lecturer in disaster risk reduction and sustainable development, London, UK

23. ALLAN LAVELL, 1993

*by Allan Lavell**

I met Ian for the first time in 1993 in Popayán, Colombia, at a conference 10 years after and in memorium of the 1983 earthquake that tumbled that city. I had gone from Cali nearby, where I was attending the second meeting of the newly formed Network for the Social Study of Disaster Prevention in Latin America-LA RED- to attend the meeting. The person that invited both of us was Gustavo Wilches-Chaux, born and bred in Popayán, who led the reconstruction of popular housing post-earthquake in the city as well as being one of the country's foremost experts in disasters and environment. Gustavo was an avid fan of Ian *(see page 60)* and had been very influenced by his thought and practice having met him post-earthquake and having spent time in Oxford studying and debating with him.

The same meeting in Popayán was attended by Andrew Maskrey, founder of LA RED, who was also very knowledgeable of Ian´s work and a close friend and associate of Gustavo. *(see page 56)* No better introduction could I have to Ian and his work, at that time epitomized for me as for many, in his book on *Shelter after Disaster*. The meeting in Popayán turned out to be both a wonderful journey in knowledge and humanity and hilarious in its execution when Maskrey and I giving a joint one to one talk were suddenly trapped behind the stage curtain which Gustavo had inadvertently closed pressing the wrong switch and leaving the audience, us and Ian bewildered! No better way to know Ian personally than that.

Over the years I met and re met Ian on many occasions in different parts-Geneva, Middlesex University, Kobe, Cape Town, Manizales, Salzburg, London, Gold Coast, Hanoi and other places. Cape Town was memorable for me as for the first time as a recent post 60'er I had free access to a national park—the Cape Park- and journeyed with Ian and Ben Wisner as over 60ers!!

In addition to his unquestioned and unique erudition, knowledge, command of the theme, teaching and research skills it was and is his humility, generosity, simplicity, supportiveness, amongst other characteristics, that always moved me and made occasions with him so fulfilling. Reading his publications was always invigorating but listening to him in the person and conversing was a more rich, rewarding, and live experience.

I will never be able to thank him enough for his acceptance to promote my candidacy for the 2015 Sasakawa UN award that turned out to be successful—the fact that each person he had promoted in the past

had won the award speaks so highly of the appreciation and recognition that peers held for him. It is so wonderful that Ian still contributes to thinking about and writing on disaster and risk topics but also dedicates himself to his love for art, architecture, and music.

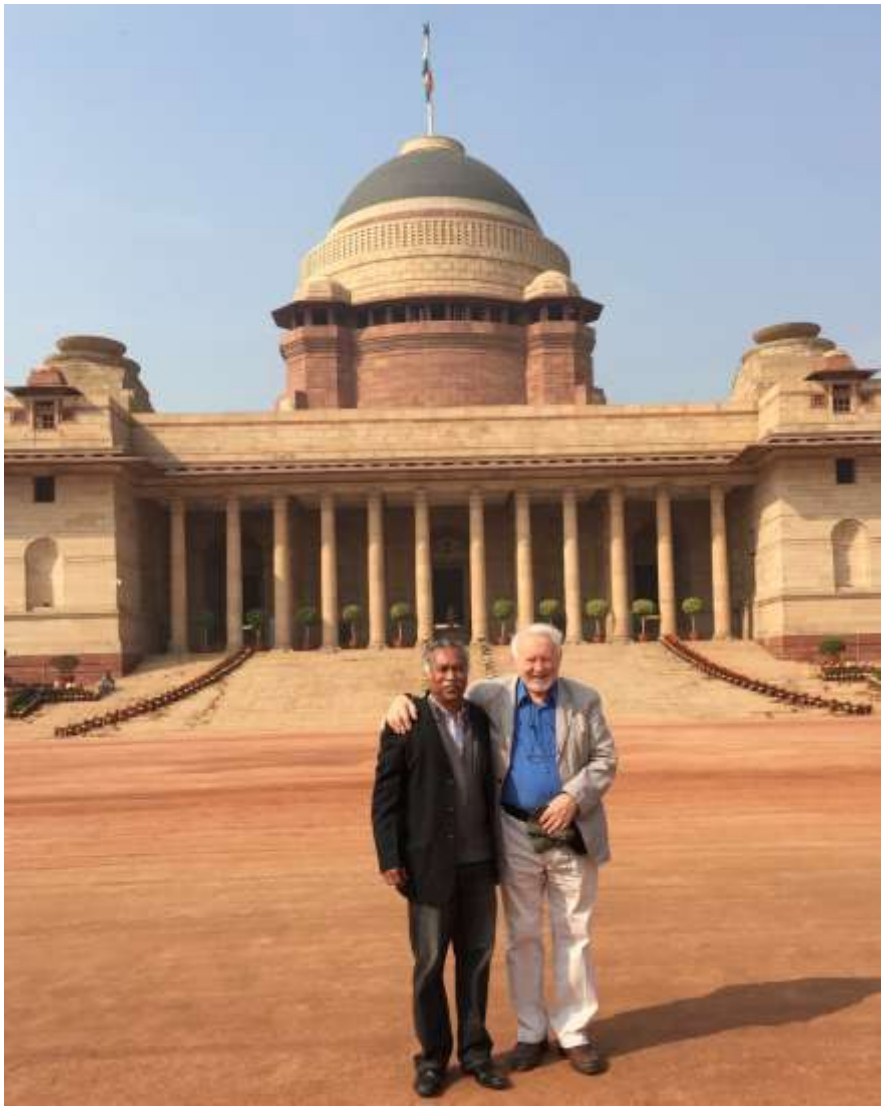
I came to disaster risk studies late in life following a dedication to urban and regional studies from my Ph D. onwards in 1971 until the early 1990s. When reading first on the disaster topic I had become enamored with the thought and direction given by Wisner, Hewitt, Maskrey, Wilches-Chaux, Oliver-Smith, Burton and Ian. One of the greatest gifts of my academic and every-day life was to meet and become friends with all of them.

May Ian continue for years to be and think and exude that sense of humanity that he has shown over all the years that I, we, have known him.

* Researcher in Disaster Risk Management, The Latin American Social Science Faculty (FLACSO), Geographer, Costa Rica

24. VINOD CHANDRA MENON, 1993

*by Vinod Chandra Menon**



In 2017, Vinod Menon and Ian Davis outside the Rashtrapati Bhavan (The Presidential Palace) formerly The Viceroy's House – Edwin Lutyen's architectural masterpiece, completed in 1929.

Out of 7.8 billion people on this planet, we are destined to meet several people who become your extended family. Prof. Ian Davis is one such person whom I met after I became actively involved in the field of disaster management after the Marathwada earthquake of September 1993. I attended some of the meetings when the Government of Maharashtra invited earthquake engineering experts like Frederick Krimgold (see page 40) and Marjorie Greene for the Maharashtra Earthquake Emergency Reconstruction Program (MEERP) along with disaster management experts like Prof Ian Davis. With Mihir Bhatt and a Tearfund Evaluation Team, Ian visited the earthquake affected village of Killari in Latur in 1996 and studied the damage caused by the earthquake and the vernacular architecture in the construction of mud houses with heavy stone roofs.

I read Ian's books while I was studying the relatively new field of disaster management and was fortunate to be his student in the Disaster

Management Course at Sudbury House, the Royal Military College of Sciences, Cranfield University from 25th July to 24th August 2000. When it concerns the loss of lives and disruption of livelihoods, I learnt to be brutally frank and speak with the courage of conviction without worrying about political correctness. I learnt from Ian to be predictable in one's behaviour and I have been like that ever since that one month I spent internalising the experience. Among my several friends, if one person has influenced me to leave the comfortable and financially secure world of the UN and join the Government of India to work as a Founder Member of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), that is Prof. Ian Davis.

COVID 19 during 2020 taught the world that we need to be disruptive to save lives and livelihoods. Disruptive thinking is to promote affirmative action, be inclusive, leave no one behind and do no harm. We need non-negotiable affirmative action. Humanity is facing one of the toughest times when, by March 5TH 2021 more than 116.3 million people have been infected with COVID 19 in 218 countries and more than 2.58 million people have died. Anticipatory governance would have reduced loss of lives & disruption of livelihoods. We need people like Prof. Ian Davis to speak up and expose the lack of decisive governance which has resulted in an epidemic outbreak becoming a runaway pandemic and a global humanitarian crisis.

Ian's books which influence my thinking include *"At Risk: Natural hazards, people's vulnerability and disasters"* co-authored by Piers Blaikie, Terry Cannon and Ben Wisner and *"Recovery from Disaster"* authored by Ian Davis and David Alexander. The Pressure and Release Model as well as the Formal Access Framework show how systems thinking influences Ian's thoughts, words and actions. (see page 66)

Whenever I think of my mentor, friend, philosopher and guide, I remember the beautiful poem "Success" by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

"What is Success?
To laugh often and much;
To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;
To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the
betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty;
To find the best in others;
To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a
garden patch or a redeemed social condition;
To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived;
This is to have succeeded"

I wish Prof. Ian Davis, his beloved wife Gill and his loved ones a very happy, healthy, safe and prosperous life ahead of them. I am looking forward to welcoming Ian and Gill again in India soon when the travel restriction due to the COVID 19 disease spread ease.

* Founder Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA),
Government of India, Delhi, India

25. VINOD SHARMA, 1994

*by Vinod K. Sharma**

In 1993, the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) organized the first Workshop on Disaster Preparedness supported by the UNDP and Govt. of India. The IIPA then established the National Centre for Disaster Management (NCDM) in 1995 with the assistance of Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India.

As I was instrumental in setting up of NCDM, I needed some guidance from some experienced person of this area. I met Dr. Ian Davis in Yokohama in 1994 very briefly and listened to his presentation. I was highly impressed with his knowledge and interest in the subject. I got an opportunity to meet him again in Oxford in 1995, when he was heading the '*Oxford Centre of Disaster Studies*' (OCDS). He hosted me at Oxford and I had a very long interaction with him and his colleagues. He spoke at length about the concept of a National Level Centre and its importance to the nation in the years to come. He gave a blue print for this centre and offered me his unconditional support in my mission to set up a national level institution in Disaster Management. I learned the following five points from Ian, which are as follows-

1. Disaster Management cannot be learned from books:

His first lesson to me was that Disaster Management cannot be learnt through books. It can only be learnt if you visit the disaster site immediately after it happened and interact with various stakeholders, victims, local grass root level officers to the top decision makers. I followed his suggestion and got involved in documenting each and every big disaster after 1995 and involved Dr. Manu Gupta and Dr. Anshu Sharma (SEEDS India) in documentation of each important disaster event and lessons learned from these disasters. The Chamoli earthquake 1999, Orissa super cyclone 1999, Gujarat earthquake 2001 were the beginning of my learning about various aspects of Disaster Management.

2. Capacity building of various stake holders is the key for DRR in a nation:

Disaster Management is relevant for all and so every stakeholder should understand the various dimensions of Disaster Management. 'Community participation at each level is important' was the mantra that Ian taught me and this mantra became the key to my success in Sikkim. Now we are making Disaster Management Plans for the 'Gram-Panchayats' so that the lowermost link of governance is involved in DRR.

3. Research and Training should go hand in hand in Disaster Risk Reduction:

He always advocated that Disaster training contents should be prepared after training needs analysis and research. In our joint project with OCDS, we did action research, studied two cities (Delhi and Ahmedabad) and used the research in making training modules. That was basic work on Urban Risk Reduction done by OCDS, NCDM, SEEDS India and AIDMI, which is still referred to in urban risk research.

4. Disaster Education is a very important aspect of Disaster Preparedness:

Disaster education at various levels is required for long term disaster risk reduction, this is becoming a national policy. In Sikkim, the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced on 18 September 2018 that from the upcoming session, disaster education will be provided from the primary level to higher education. The state is preparing the syllabus and taking assistance from UNICEF and few NGOs like SEEDS India in fulfilling this commitment at state level.

5. Mainstreaming DRR in development:

Unless and until all concerned departments are involved in disaster preparedness, effective DRR is not possible. In developing countries, all development activities should incorporate DRR in their projects to have 'resilient infrastructure.'

I am indebted to Dr. Ian Davis for the love, affection, guidance and encouragement that he generously showered on me whenever I needed it. Whenever, I got discouraged, he gave me examples of many other people and countries and asked me to continue my mission in India. Today, I can see that my little efforts in this area could make significant changes in the Indian Disaster Management system. I could do significant work in disaster preparedness, mitigation, linking disasters to development, reconstruction, rehabilitation and recovery in the state of Sikkim. The authorities of Sikkim have a vision to make Sikkim as a model state in DRR.

Thanks Ian for everything!

* Executive Vice Chairman at Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority,
Indian Institute of Public Administration, Sikkim, India

26. DAVID PEPPIATT, 1994

*by David Peppiatt**

David Peppiatt in Capetown 2005 with Ian Davis lurking in the background.

Here are some reflections on Ian Davis from a former student. I want to add my words to what many have already said to you, Ian, about how much you mean to so many of us as a leader and mentor of students around the world. You have had an enormous influence and impact on many student's lives and subsequent careers without you even realising it was happening.

You have been a visiting Professor to numerous universities and centres of research and learning around the world and I simply want to say, on behalf of students across many countries and regions, a sincere thank you for the inspiration that you have given us as you have exposed and uncovered the world of natural hazards, disasters, risk reduction and community resilience. You have an incredible ability to inspire and motivate students of all ages, backgrounds and stages in their career pathways.

For me, that happened 25 years ago, when I went to Oxford Brookes University to undertake a Masters Degree at the Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP), the centre and course which you helped found during your time at Oxford Polytechnic in the School of Architecture. I was privileged to attend your course on natural hazards and disaster mitigation & preparedness. This was a pivotal moment in my career and led me to joining the Red Cross as a Disaster Preparedness Advisor. I have remained in the RC Movement ever since and so often reminded of your vision to reduce risk and vulnerability BEFORE disasters strike. I was very privileged to work closely with Yasemin Aysan and Mohammed Mukhier at IFRC as we tried to put into action many of the theories and ideas that you had shown us in our studies in Oxford.

I have carried around my copy of '*At Risk…*' on many a field trip and am very pleased to have been a part of some exciting DRR programmes in Vietnam, Bangladesh, Nepal, Kenya, Uganda, Syria, Turkmenistan to name just a few where we were able to shift the culture of ex-post response to ex-ante risk reduction and prevention. That '*culture of prevention*' is something you have championed for your whole academic life and through all the many workshops, consultancies and field visits. We have tried to instil that culture into our work in the Red Cross and we owe a great debt of gratitude to you.

My final point concerns the dignity of people as it shines through the way you relate to people. I was so struck by your challenge not to look at people who live at risk of disaster or crisis as vulnerable but rather as people with capacities and extraordinary resilience. So thank you, Ian, for all you have taught me and so many others. Thank you for your compassion, your sense of humanity and for making us realise the difference we can all make in the lives of people through education and learning, but most of all through rich human relationships and friendship. You have been a great mentor to me and to countless others and we are indeed privileged to have been students of Ian Davis.

* Director of Humanitarian Assistance, British Red Cross Society, UK

David Peppiatt, in the foreground, organised a ProVention Workshop on Community Based Disaster Reduction in Capetown in 2005. The group photograph includes several contributors to this tribute: Omar-Dario Cardona, Terry Cannon, Paul Venton and Ian Davis.

27. MO HAMZA, 1994

*by Mo Hamza**

I don't think I frequently get asked to undertake a task in which words would be inadequate to fulfil, especially when words are my trade and craft. Trying to think how long I have known Ian Davis, or what his influence has been on the field we all serve, as well as me personally, is both a pleasurable and a daunting task. Occasionally on the first opening lecture of any of my courses and when I am faced with a response from one or more student that they don't know who Ian is or have not come across his publications, I tend to supress verbalising the thought that they might have chosen the wrong course and possibly shouldn't be there. This isn't praise or a recommendation letter for Ian. It's stating a fact that he has been, and will always be, a landmark that can't be missed or avoided.

Interestingly, I might have unintentionally followed in Ian's footsteps in career morphosis as well as institutions. An architect and a planner by training who found his way to international development first and then into disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, Ian and I shared teaching and research posts at Oxford Brookes University, where I studied, Cranfield University's Disaster Management Centre and later at Lund University where I am now. It has been a very long journey where we either worked together or kept in close contact. Being Oxford natives, we always compared notes on successes and frustrations in what we deal with usually at the Trout Inn and on rare occasions involving the likes of Ben Wisner and Terry Cannon. Those intellectual marathon lunches are one of few things I have missed since moving to Sweden.

Ian's influence goes beyond the tangible in terms of what he worked on or published. I saw and personally experienced his influence in his unrelenting and restless questioning that never showed any signs of slowing down. '*At Risk…*' is the publication that everyone remembers or quotes. I would struggle to list the ones that I would prioritise. Needless to say, most of them are on my shelves or electronically stored. The turning point was following the IDNDR with its over focus on hazards and technological or structural ways of dealing with disasters. Ian was at the forefront in directing thinking towards social vulnerability, a field of study that has since taken off on its own. His influence on me was mostly in constantly challenging myths and misconceptions about vulnerability and disasters and the way his thinking changed the way we thought about shelter in disasters.

One of my most memorable experiences of working with Ian wasn't in any field setting. It was when we both worked on setting up the 'Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative' (CADRI) in UNDP and while designing their first flagship courses. This wasn't a walk in the park by any means with such highly politically and ideologically charged set up. Those who worked in the UN system can read between the lines! It was then that I got a taste of how much Ian was still ahead of his time, pushing boundaries and going head to head with conservative and conventional thinking. One would think that anyone who has been in this field as long as Ian would become jaded or disillusioned. Something we are all prone to sometimes. Quite the opposite in his case. And still no sign of slowing down.

* Professor of Risk Management and Societal Safety, Lund University, Architect and Urban Planner, Sweden

28. OMAR-DARIO CARDONA, 1995

*by Omar-Dario Cardona**

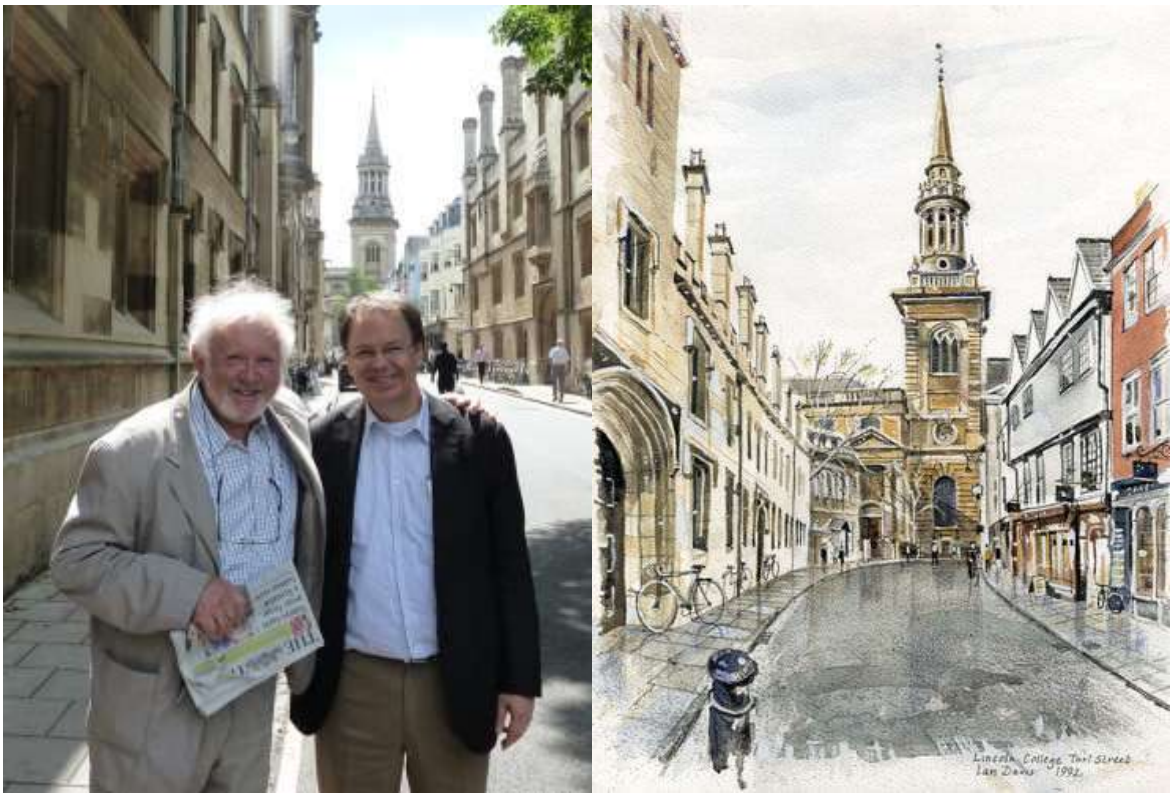
How did you meet Ian Davis?

Ian's book "*Shelter after Disaster*" (1978) became known in its Spanish translation as "*Arquitectura de Emergencia*"; published by the publisher Gustavo Gili, of Barcelona in 1980. *(see page 60)* At that time, I was a professor in the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture at the National University of Colombia in Manizales. My first contact with the work of Ian Davis was extremely useful, because Disaster Shelter was an uncommon topic in the training of architects and because there was an initial concern of the professionals in Colombia, on account of the earthquake that affected Manizales in 1979. Ian's ideas about recovery after a disaster marked a milestone at that time both professionally and personally.

Some years later I had the opportunity to meet Ian Davis in person at a workshop held at the headquarters of the Colombian Red Cross in Bogotá; after the disaster caused by the eruption of *Nevado del Ruiz* volcano in 1985. We both developed our presentations and Ian was especially kind, praising my conceptual approach. However, I pointed out that it was a minor variation of his own framework on vulnerability, risk and disaster. This approach was essential in creating the National System of Disaster Prevention and Attention of Colombia in 1988 and its future updates.

In the early 1990s, I had the opportunity to visit the Disaster Management Center (DMC) at Oxford Brookes University (former Oxford Polytechnic) several times. I was a witness of the excellent teaching ability of Ian Davis regarding the performance not only of theoretical but also

Omar-Dario Cardona, (third from the right) a participant in a Disaster Management Workshop in 1987. The group were in Greenwich, standing on the Greenwich Meridian representing where they live East of the line, in countries that bestride the line or living on the western side of the Meridian line.



Ian Davis and Omar-Dario Cardona in Turl St. Oxford as illustrated in his book: 'Experiencing Oxford'.

practical courses; which were highly valued by professors, government officials, and participants from NGOs from many developing countries.

At that time, I became aware of the analytical approach of the *Disaster Crunch and Release Model* to emphasize vulnerability, its dynamics, and ways to reduce it. *(see page 66)* This model would be disseminated in different training manuals. It would later be recognized as the PAR model (*Pressure and Release*) that received notable acceptance worldwide by the social sciences. It would be applied in distinct case studies in the book "*At-Risk…"* that Ian Davis wrote with other recognised colleagues and friends in 1994. La RED (the network of social studies on disaster prevention in Latin America) published a Spanish translation as "*Vulnerabilidad…*" in 1996.

I had several opportunities to meet with Ian Davis during the next two decades. I recall a workshop in Geneva, carried out jointly for the Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, where Ian made particular emphasis on the need and way to evaluate capacities, not just vulnerabilities. His contributions and fascinating conversations about aspects of the practice enabled me to promote approaches, such as the holistic assessment of risk from a comprehensive, multisectoral, inter-institutional, and interdisciplinary perspective. This process was based on the technical rigour of engineering but at the same time, it was based on the social, economic, environmental, and governance fundamentals of communities, cities, or countries. This is a direct derivation of Ian Davis' contribution.

All these contributions by Ian Davis reflect the conceptual development of risk, vulnerability, resilience, and adaptation. They are not only vital contributions for research and academia but also to public policy and institutional development (e.g. the National System for Disaster Risk Management of Colombia and from many other countries) and for the work at the local level with communities and NGOs.

What makes his ideas valuable?

The value of the contributions of Ian Davis is related to the improvement of conceptual and epistemological frameworks; useful for the *understanding of the problem* and the development of the topic at the academic and research level. However, it is also related to the capacity building of stakeholders and practitioners; who work with communities or institutions that need effective analytical approaches for decision-making on approaches to risk management and adaptation to climate change.

How are your ideas useful in your work?

I currently remain an associate professor at the Institute of Environmental Studies (IDEA) of the National University of Colombia. The evolution of the conceptual framework and the pedagogy of Ian Davis have been useful for me and my graduate students at the level of specialization and within Master's Courses. And since my connection to the university is partial, for the remainder of the time I work as a consultant on issues of risk management and adaptation to climate. The ideas of Ian Davis have permanently accompanied my work as a consultant at the national and international levels.

Which are the top three pieces of his many publications and have found lasting place on your book shelf?

"Arquitectura de Emergencia" (Shelter after Disaster) has been an inspiring book of innovation for architects and engineers since it was published in 1972. New editions or works of other specialists emerged later and have been based on this significant work of Ian Davis.

Omar-Dario Cardona and Ian Robert Davis in New College Lane, Oxford.

The two Sasakawa Award Laureates walk towards the New College Cloister where Harry Potter comes face to face with Malfoy in the famous oak tree from the movie *The Goblet of Fire*.

For many years, as an example of what should be a manual on disaster management, I have used a manual he jointly authored with Mike Wall in 1992 by Interchurch Relief and Development Alliance (IRDA). It was a compendium of Ian Davis's ideas of the 1980s. This manual: *"Christian Perspectives on Disaster Management"*, is still valid when it comes to the activities carried out by people engaged in community work, humanitarian aid, and recovery after a disaster. (see page 52 and 70)

Ian with the new Doctors Mario Salgado-Galvez and Mabel Marulanda.

Finally, *"At Risk: Natural hazards, people's vulnerability and disaster"*, in its two editions from 1994 and 2004, and its Spanish version from 1996: *"Vulnerabilidad: El entorno social, político y económico de los desastres"*, are required readings for those working in disaster risk management from the perspective of the social sciences.

Any other personal reflection?

The contribution of Ian Davis to capacity building, architecture, social sciences, humanitarian aid, post-disaster recovery, risk management, and adaptation is monumental. Currently, with this continuous contribution and the evolution of his ideas, it can no longer be said that he is undertaking this work alone. His students, collaborators, colleagues and friends are a vital part of his legacy and contribution worldwide.

Personally, I have known of his work ever since I studied his book: *Arquitectura de Emergencia* on my own initiative. Later it was my fortune and honour to share workshops with him, communicating ideas and concepts that were just beginning to be relevant internationally. Lastly, I value having been his guest at Oxford where he enabled me to share ideas based on his own, that contributed to the development of disaster risk management in Colombia and other countries. These privileges enabled me to disseminate his ideas and propose new paradigms that can inspire many people.

I had the honour to be nominated by Ian Davis for the United Nations Sasakawa Award, which was awarded to me in 2004. This nomination was made on his ability to have received the award in 1996. Therefore. I have the satisfaction of having this honour in common with Ian. However, more than the Sasakawa Award, we have been united by a great friendship, hard work, and good humour. I also have in my possession, not only those satisfactions but also several of the wonderful watercolors that he has given me over the years. These are incredible works of art by a great man and an extraordinary architect.

* Institute of Environment Studies of the National University of Colombia (Manizales) and CEO of INGENIAR: Risk Intelligence Ltd., Civil Engineer, Colombia

29. ANSHU SHARMA, 1996

*by Anshu Sharma**

From right to left- Anshu Sharma, David Sanderson, Manu Gupta and Mihir Bhatt in Delhi working on an Urban Risk Study of Delhi in 1996 jointly organised by the National Centre for Disaster Management (India) and SEEDS.

I first read about one Professor Ian Davis of Oxford Polytechnic (later to become Oxford Brookes University), who was driving the one and only Disaster Management Course of its kind in the world. As a young processional in the field of urban planning and environment, with a growing interest in urban crises, I was of course keen to know about his work and the course. In just a few days, Prof. Vinod Sharma, then Founder Chairperson of the National Centre of Disaster Management, *(see page 82)* and my former teacher from the School of Planning and Architecture, casually mentioned that Prof. Davis was interested in doing some research on urban risk in India and was about to visit Delhi. He suggested that my colleague and friend Manu and I should try to get involved, as this could be a big opening for SEEDS, (Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society) the NGO we were just trying to set up. Manu and I seized the opportunity and declared that we will be going to the airport to receive Prof. Davis.

There was no internet in those times, and the only image of Prof. Davis we had seen was a hazy one in a publication. He walked out of the airport and spotted the placard we were holding, with his name on it. He was more smiley and friendly than we could have imagined. With him was a much younger but equally smiley and friendly man, who introduced himself as David Sanderson, *(see page 72)* working with Prof. Davis at the Oxford Centre for Disaster Studies (OCDS) We took Prof. Davis and Mr. Sanderson to their guest house in a rickety taxi.

This was the beginning of what turned out to be two extremely valuable lifelong friendships that provided, and continue to provide, immense learning and joy. I can't imagine how I would have progressed, or SEEDS for that matter, had we not met Ian and David.

On that same visit, where plans were made to carry out a DFID (then ODA) funded Technology Development and Research (TDR) project on Urban Risk Reduction in Delhi and Ahmedabad, we also met Mr.

Mihir Bhatt of Disaster Mitigation Institute (DMI). Another stalwart who I admired then, as I do now, and from whom too we learnt much, as we continue to do at present.

With immense pleasure I look back today and am flooded with so many memories of good times and formal and informal learning from Ian, under whom I once had the opportunity to collaborate in a project in Tokyo in 2012 for the Asian Disaster Development Bank Institute (ADBI). Ian was editing a study *'Disaster Risk Management in Asia and the Pacific"* and I was asked to write one of the chapters.

Ian has been one of them most valuable and revered Gurus in my life. Here are seven of the top things that I have learnt from Ian:

1. Humility

In those early years I was once in Oxford, and wrote to Ian that I would like to come meet him. I was expecting an appointment. Instead Ian turned up in his car, drove me to the Trout, a beautiful riverside pub on the outskirts of the city, and treated me to an amazing evening of food, drinks and conversations. Later we went to his house in North Oxford where I was completely humbled with his generosity, and almost embarrassed with the attention I found myself getting. Ian would casually get up after a meeting and clear everyone's cups from the table while taking his own to the basin to wash. He would hunch himself and smile just to make someone comfortable while talking to someone way junior to him. My takeaway was to strive for greater humility as one grew senior, and to be kind and respectful to everyone.

2. Clarity of thought

Ian could think up conceptual models from thin air. An urban legend says that he thought of the now famous Crunch Model *(see page 66)* on a flight and scribbled it on a tissue paper. I don't know if this is technically true, but it certainly does reflect how Ian can have clear visions of fundamental concepts behind a complex issue that would normally tie a planner up in knots working out the nuts and bolts. My takeaway was to always take two steps back, and try to see the larger picture before jumping in to resolve a problem.

3. Decisiveness

I once witnessed Ian chairing the final session of an international conference where a declaration was being finalised. As always, there were noises from different corners of the room, and many of the concerns being raised were too general and comments too sweeping to make instant changes to the document. While being polite, Ian made it a point to corner each speaker, one by one, to either suggest a clear alternative to a specific text, or to shut up. My takeaway was that humility and politeness do not mean being agreeable to flux. Some matters need to be

closed at specific times, and with an iron fist, though it may be in a soft glove.

4. Generosity

Ian's beautiful colour paintings are legendary. One can see them displayed with pride in the homes and offices of many of his friends. He would donate them to a respected non-profit for printing on greeting cards and other products, and for use in fundraising.

Ian happened to be a visiting professor at Kyoto University at the time I was defending by PhD thesis. He didn't have to, but he came to see me present my work. Not being part of the examining panel, he couldn't ask me questions or give his comments in the session, though I could see him there and knew that he would have some comments to share that I would have loved to hear from him. I had made a mental note to ask him later. As soon as I stepped out of the examination hall, Ian came up from behind and first congratulated me and then gave me a couple of pages of notes that he had made on my research, and what he thought I can do further to add value. My takeaway was that: a) a PhD is just the beginning of research, and b) one should reach out and be of help, whether it is asked for or not.

5. Love for life and friends

Ian has always been forthcoming with advice on how Manu and I can do more to make SEEDS more useful to society. He has pushed us to collaborate more closely with institutions like DMI, and to apply for international awards that he has always generously offered to propose our names for. We have been lazy to act on his advice, but that doesn't stop him from liking us, reaching out, and extending a helping hand. His annual letters that he writes around new year have made me feel like a much central part of his family than I perhaps am. I know everyone in his family, and have known some of his personal ups and downs, and have felt that I have accompanied him in those. My takeaway: love life and love your family and friends, they will give you more fulfilment than your work no matter how passionate you are about work.

6. When and how to say no

Someone once approached Ian to ask for a meeting for a discussion. I happened to be sitting in the room. Ian politely declined. I was stunned. How could this generous man always in pursuit of knowledge say *'no'* to discussing something with someone. I couldn't help asking Ian. And he said that he knew this person well and knew that he had nothing new to say. He was just trying to network. Ian said that he'd have loved to discuss if there was something to discuss. My takeaway was to learn to prioritise, and not to waste the precious limited resources of time and energy when you know nothing worthwhile is going to come out of an effort.

7. Quotes

Here is one of Ian's many quotes that I remember and use in my own limited teaching work:

> *" 'He participates, she participates, they participate, everybody participates… but I decide' Alas, this is how participatory processes are often put to use in current planning. You need to hand the decision making to the people, for genuine participation to be true."*

And here is a memorable exercise that Ian learned from a creative facilitator in one of the courses he was leading in the Philippines. The example was partly responsible for sparking my interest in behavioural science and psychology:

> *"In a classroom discussion about commitment, ask for three volunteers without disclosing the task. Some hands will go up instantly, some reluctantly, and some will not go up at all, with the persons not even making eye contact for fear of being spotted. Later ask the volunteers why they volunteered, and then ask the others why they didn't? Some people always volunteer, some never volunteer, and some volunteer only if they know what lies in store. These three categories can open up a positive discussion about attitudes to a challenge indicating that each individual is different depending on their nature, their personal experiences in life and their openness to taking risks."*

So thank you Ian, for being who you are, and for being a source of so much learning and support to SEEDS and to me personally. You are a Guru without being a teacher!

* Co-Founder of SEEDS, Independent Consultant on Disaster Management Strategies, Urban Planner, India

30. RAJIB SHAW, 1998

*by Rajib Shaw**

Like many others, my familiarity with Ian Davis was through his landmark book *"At Risk…"*. At the time, when the concept of disaster risk reduction was evolving, this book was the Bible, Quran, Gita for all of us!! I first met Ian in a conference in Geneva, followed by another conference in Delhi. After a couple of meetings and several hours of interactions, Ian invited me to assess a PhD thesis in Cranfield University. I had my first visit to Oxford during that time, and the most touching part was staying in Ian's house and having the rare opportunity of a full dinner by a British Cook *(Ian himself cooked a full dinner for me….)*!!! He also guided me in Oxford areas, and we had several hours on the street, restaurant and bar over 2 days, and we talked about different issues of UK, Japan and India, and the conversation continued.

As a follow-up, I invited Ian as a visiting professor in Kyoto University for six months. That was possibly the most intensive discussion I had with him on academic aspects. I have asked all my graduate students to have individual sittings with Ian, and he had patiently listened to my 15 plus graduate students (from Japan as well as different overseas countries, mostly Asia) over a period of 3 to 4 weeks, and provided his deep insights, advice and suggestions on different aspects of disaster risk reduction research. We had an opportunity to make a joint field visit to Hue, Central Vietnam related to a project on community based climate change adaptation. Ian's deep insights and suggestions were very fruitful not only for us, but were also highly appreciated by our Vietnamese counterparts.

During his six months stay in Japan, he gave a series of lectures to our students, and delivered several public lectures in the university as

Ian in Hue, central Vietnam.

well as to other agencies like JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), Kobe university, IRP (International Recovery Platform), etc. I was amazed with the vast variation as well as depth of his views on the subject, which, of course, was a reflection of his deep experiences over several decades. Among all these, let me elaborate on his favorite topic of **disaster recovery**, which he described with *five concepts, five problems, six models and three conclusions.* To put a slide on this at the beginning of the presentation made it much easier for the non-native English speakers to follow his presentation and also enjoy it fully. The key five concepts were: 1) learning from experiences, 2) building resilience, 3) organizing recovery, 4) developing recovery strategies, and 5) Building back Better. The six models he used were: 1) resilience graph, 2) the chain of safety, 3) resilient structures, 4) effective recovery organizations, 5) effective disaster cycle, and 6) building a safety culture. We now use "build back better" as the key pillar of the Sendai Framework. We also talk about cascading disaster and safety chain. We also discuss resilient infrastructure, and promote the ongoing effort of coalition of disaster resilient infrastructures. However, Ian's lecture series was back in 2006-2007, when possibly many of these terms and concepts were not conceptualized and popularized.

In a nutshell, Ian is the source and inspiration to many of us. Many of the key concepts of disaster risk reduction which we are working on, were developed, conceptualized and proposed by Ian several years and decades ago. I convey my deepest respect to this great visionary.

* Professor, Kyoto University, Japan. Currently is the Chair of the UN ISDR (UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction) Science Technology Advisory Group (STAG).

31. YASAMIN O. IZADKHAH, 1999

*by Dr. Yasamin Izadkhah**

Dr. Ian Davis with
Dr. Yasamin Izadkhah.

How can knowing someone in your life change your career and life? Where am I to begin to honour someone who touched every aspect of my life? It has been so difficult to compose my thoughts and write a few words about Prof. Ian Davis. He is so great that words fail to describe him in a single page as supervisor, father figure, friend, colleague or advisor… Prof. Davis is indeed a pioneer in disaster research, well known to those professionals who have worked and researched in the area of disaster management for so long.

How did I get to know him? I was awarded a British Council scholarship in 2000 to attend a short course in the Refugee Studies Programme (RSP) in Oxford University. A colleague of mine in Iran advised me to find Ian while I was in Oxford, athough I did not have any contact number of him. At that time, the information on websites was not as useful as today. I have to say that I found him by a miracle. One of my Christian friends asked me to join her in the church Sunday service. Out of curiosity, I accepted and as I was telling her that I was looking for someone named Prof. Ian Davis, a man in the next row looked back at me and said…*'Do you want his telephone number?'* He was Mike Dobson, one of Ian's close friends. And that was it!

Well I got the chance to meet Ian in his home few days after my call when he returned from the World Conference on Earthquake Engineering in Auckland. From my first visit, I found him to be a very kind person who listened to me with care and interest. In less than a year, I was privileged to join the *Royal Military College of Science in Cranfield University* as a doctorate candidate with Ian's recommendation, since he was a Professor in this institution. Evidently, he had agreed to be my supervisor after he read my proposal. What an honour!

Over the three years of working closely with Ian, I gained more than a basic understanding of academic issues including disaster preparedness and education. Morover, I learned from him, the values of life such as kindness, trust and honesty. Following his advice, I was able to undertake a post-doc. research project on the South-Asian Tsunami in 2006. These research projects we worked on together are among the most valuable papers I have published to date. Many opportunities arose because of his help, such as presenting my research in conferences around the world. The way he was concerned about my family while I was a long way from home, how he assisted me when I had an operation during my study in UK and even how he helped me to sort out my personal problems, is still memorable.

In the meantime, I will definitely accept Ian's excuse for managing to leave the first three draft chapters of my PhD thesis in a plane on his trip to Barcelona… Although he should forgive me for chasing him in Vancouver buses when attending the World Conference (2004), begging him to read the final chapter of my thesis. How I wish I could go back to those days!

The memories I have with Ian are too many to count. In January 2020 I will have known Prof. Ian and his family for 20 years and I keep visiting him annually since I left the UK in 2006. In September 2008, I decided to cancel my trip to Germany and attend Ian's wedding with lovely Gill. I could not miss that event. His 80th Birthday in 2017 in Oxford was another memorable time I had to be with him and family. I also had the pleasure to host Ian in Tehran twice in 2004 and 2008. We travelled to many Iranian historical cities including Shiraz, Yazd and Isfahan together *(see page 63)*. He enjoyed it very much. Well…he is an architect after all. He is also a visual artist and I have many of his drawings on my office wall.

I have confidence that every piece of Ian's remarkable work and his valuable contribution in the past 60 years will leave a footprint for present and future generations. He is a phenomenon indeed. The value of his mentorship is immeasurable. He can be called as *'Father of Disaster Management'*, and a humanitarian worker. He is kind, humble, generous, sociable, and simple and truly the embodiment of guidance and trust. I have now worked for 15 years in the disaster management and education sector in Iran and still go back to those fundamental theories, models and lessons I learned from Ian. I am sure his contribution and devotion to the disaster management sector will continue. To conclude, I would like to present my sense of appreciation for and endebtedness to Prof. Ian Davis who I will admire for the rest of my life. He will definitely stay as a true inspiration for me and many other disaster risk professionals forever.

* Associate Professor, Risk Management Research Center, and Director of Public and International Relations, International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES), Tehran, Iran

32. TITUS KUUYUOR, 1999

*by Titus Kuuyuor**

I first met Prof. Ian Davis in 1999 when I enrolled into the then Royal Military College of Science, Cranfield University, (now the Defense Academy of the United Kingdom, Cranfield University) to pursue a short course on disaster management. Ian's advice persuaded me to take up a PhD programme that I began two years later under his supervision into *'The Seismic protection of schools and hospitals in Accra, Ghana'*. Ian's insights and guidance on undertaking research - subsequently led me into a career within the United Nations in the humanitarian field. The focus of my work has been to contribute to the growing knowledge on disaster risk reduction and the development of national disaster resilience.

The notion of addressing the root causes of disasters through the use of the *'Crunch Model'* which Ian invented, has been widely used for many years and it still accurately depicts how disasters occur. *(see page 66)* He also taught me that vital recovery resources are easily made available as soon as a disaster strikes but they progressively decline over time as governments and donors loose interest and move on to new demands. Another of the lessons from working with Ian is that in the absence of disasters, it is hard for a country to secure funding for disaster preparedness, and mitigation. When Ian took me through the cost benefit analyses during disasters, I noted that it was not possible to put a price on life. Therefore, greater advocacy is needed to mainstream risk reduction in order to shift the paradigm from responding to disasters to investing in preparedness and mitigation. Risk-informed planning was discussed at length in most of Ian's classes in Brookes and Cranfield Universities for over two decades, and today it has reached development organizations such as government and partners and has at last created a new path to mainstream disaster risk reduction into development programming.

Ian was not only interested in academic research and mentoring his students, but he also took an interest in their social life. So, in 2014 I was privileged to invite Ian to Ghana to be my special guest of honor at the colorful traditional ceremony, where I married my wife Irene. His fatherly advice during the ceremony has impacted positively in my social life and career development. Painting is one of his hobbies, so he surprised me with a wedding gift of a beautiful painting of my office at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, Cranfield University.

Ian has been instrumental throughout my fifteen-year career by serving as an example and mentor. In my career progression to become a Senior Resilience Advisor in UNDP, Ethiopia, Ian played a pivoted role in securing all the positions that I have held within the UN in several countries through the references he wrote on my behalf.

Ian proposing the health of Titus and Irene, at their wedding in Accra, Ghana, 2014.

He has indeed shaped the lives of many young professionals including me in becoming an authority in disaster risk management, and for that I will forever be grateful to him. I end this piece by thanking Ian for being a devoted humanitarian worker who has actively mentored a generation of risk reduction professionals and touched us all with his kindness, wisdom and love.

* Senior Resilience Advisor, Inclusive Growth & Sustainable Development Unit, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

33. ANIL KUMAR SINHA, 1999

*by Anil Kumar Sinha**

Ian and Gill Davis enjoying the hospitality of the Sinha family in Delhi in 2017.

It is indeed such a pleasure and privilege to be writing a few words about Ian who has been a friend, mentor and guide for more than twenty years. But at the same time the task is equally difficult and practically impossible to capture different shades and colours in the personality of a multi-talented, multi-faceted person with many different interests and creative pursuits in life. To say the least, Ian has an amazing versatile personality with marvelous traits and at the same time he is always extremely friendly and helpful. He has indeed been a huge inspiration to me and many others in India as well as across the world.

A man of many talents, Ian has painted extensively, is into graphic arts, has interests in sculpture, design, architecture, photography. Basically, he is drawn to all things creative and many times I have wondered and in fact I am intrigued how his mind works on so many levels and all together at the same time.

I have thoroughly enjoyed his company and looked forward to it whenever it has been possible. I got to spend most time with him in Kobe, Japan when the International Recovery Platform (IRP) was in its nascent formative stages. Talking of recovery post disasters, I found Ian to be highly scientific in his approach and incisive with his insights into the

complexities of recovery process, uncovering layers upon layers of long-winded time-consuming multi-stake holder, multi-player unfolding of recovery stories around the world. As I was still trying to understand the elaborate, intricate and complex process of recovery as it unfolds disaster after disaster across the world, I was most fascinated among many others by the concept of dilemmas in recovery management as explained beautifully and in simple terms by Ian. Some interesting dilemmas related to planning vs plans; process vs product; time vs quality; house vs home; professional knowledge vs local wisdom and knowledge and the like.

I still have vivid memories of numerous discussion sessions going endlessly we would have together in the IRP office and many a times spilling over to my lovely little home in Kobe over tea and dinner sessions. Most of us including several of my Japanese colleagues were always enthusiastic and looking forward to lively and animated sessions with Ian whose eyes will sparkle often on his ever-smiling face tirelessly explaining the mysteries of resilience and resilient recovery.

An icon to innumerable professionals in the field of disaster risk reduction, urban planning and architecture, he is an institution in himself with so many learnings associated with him.

It will indeed be interesting to explore and understand the lives of such persons, their beliefs and their philosophies.

Being an architect by training and profession, Ian specializes in shelter and reconstruction but I have been amazed to see his insights into the whole area of disaster risk reduction. For number of years hazards and disasters have been his main focus of professional interest.

While in Kobe as the Programme Advisor of International Recovery Platform, set up as a follow up to the 2nd World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in January 2005, I happened to meet Ian on several occasions, and developed close friendship with mutual respect and regard for each other.

About two years back we were so very pleased and honoured to receive both Gill and Ian in our little sweet home in Gurugram when they were kind enough to accept our invitation for a meal together and spend some time with a few close family friends and a couple of our family members.

* Formerly Vice Chairperson, Bihar State Disaster Management Authority, Patna, Bihar.
Senior Advisor and Mentor in Disaster Risk and Recovery Management, Delhi, India

34. PAUL VENTON, 2000

*by Paul Venton**

I reached out to Professor Ian Davis by email, and despite being a total stranger, he invited me to meet him. How typically kind and generous. A short time later, in 2000, I arrived at Cranfield University, and we sat down for lunch. What happened next is the strongest example of how I have always felt blessed to know Ian. Before we began eating, he looked at me and said, "Shall I pray?" I was a little surprised, but I also immediately felt more at ease in his presence. I quickly realised that he must have known this was a safe bet, as I had told him that I had recently begun working for Tearfund – a Christian relief and development charity. I, however, did not yet know of Ian's long and important relationship with Tearfund, and hence my surprise.

I had contacted Ian in an effort to find *someone* who may be able to guide me in my career. I had just returned from my first overseas assignment as a humanitarian aid worker and had been invited to lead a new humanitarian project. However, for reasons unknown to me, I had it in my mind that it would be much more beneficial to seek to mitigate disaster and loss in the first place, rather than respond. And so, before accepting any more humanitarian work, I felt I needed to find someone who could offer guidance. But who? A consultant with varied experiences

perhaps, or someone at a university. I turned to Google. I found Ian through a link to the *Oxford Centre for Disaster Studies* (OCDS) and reached out to him. That is why I was stunned when I not only learnt of his enormous contribution to this field of risk reduction work, how rare he was amongst relief and development professionals, how he had helped forge much of Tearfund's early work, but most significantly of all, how he began our meeting with a prayer. From that moment I felt not so much like I had found just the right person, but that Ian was put in my path and meant to help guide me. He not only did that, but through his continued warmth and hospitality, became a dear friend and important person in my life.

There followed some wonderful Tearfund years through the mid 2000s where many enduring friendships were forged. I managed to carve out a role as a disaster mitigation and preparedness advisor, and Ian was a constant support and guide. I recall one conversation when I felt like I had made some earth-shattering break-through. *"Ian"*, I said, *"this is a development concern!"* Without rolling his eyes he responded, "*Paul, we've been saying that for 30 years!"* Ian always refers to those that have inspired him and always gives credit where credit is due. For me though, I always felt that Ian is the grandfather of the subject. Or at least I certainly did once he had told me how long he had been referring to reducing risk through improved development policy and practice! Ian worked with Sarah La Trobe (from Tearfund's advocacy team) and myself (from Tearfund's disaster management team) quite regularly, on projects like a Review of International Donor Progress Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction, with a follow-up Mainstreaming Tool to help guide further progress. Ian was also frequently offering support and guidance to us in various corners of the world too. For example, in Japan at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005 when the Hyogo Framework for Action was agreed.

During this period, Ian asked how I felt about undertaking a PhD with his supervision. I felt that a PhD with such strong guidance could help me in my work by ensuring I was less likely to mess things up. I always wanted my research to directly inform my work, and vice versa, and so a perfect strategy emerged: a part-time PhD on the *Methods for Enhancing the Sustainability and Scale of Community-based Disaster Risk Management* undertaken as action-research whilst I continued working with Tearfund.

A core component of this research involved the development of a participatory risk assessment methodology (when there were not many around) with Tearfund partners and others based on experience in India and elsewhere. Ian patiently supervised my work, largely from his home in Oxford. A key influence Ian had on the research itself is illustrated by the fact that we explored how risk assessment could be undertaken using the Crunch Model he had developed as the framework for assessment. *(see page 66)* Through such an approach, it was hoped that risk assessment

would help local participants better recognise drivers of risk. Additionally, by linking the findings to action planning at community, local and national levels, the process would simultaneously be in a position capable of informing actions that could make a meaningful difference to people's lives. Ian has always told me that he is flabbergasted that the Crunch Model could be used as a framework by local communities.

Over the years, Ian has sometimes asked me how the PhD has helped. For me the main benefit is that through this time spent studying I got to spend time with Ian himself, and thus my whole life – professional and personal - benefitted. I feel that it has always been Ian that has most helped, not the qualification.

Working with Ian is more enriching than simply getting the job done. His kindness, generosity, compassion and encouraging words and deeds leave us all determined to maintain contact with him regardless of any work agenda. Over the years, Ian has become like family, not just to me but to my wife, Courtenay, and to my three children. Our lives have become more and more entwined. I felt so honoured to be invited to celebrate his 70th birthday (I think I was the additional invitee needed to make the guest count, 70, to match the celebration). We were so grateful that Ian took the time to paint the church that we were married in and present it as a wedding gift. We had a very joyful time when he and Gill stayed with us here in New England on a painting holiday, when we learned that Ian has a host of very funny stories! And we have spent wonderful time together when we are back home in England – often in a pub.

Ian, I have always been astounded by how you have included me amongst the group of impressive people you refer to as colleagues and friends. Thank you for your belief in me over the years. You are a huge encouragement and a wonderful man. A true blessing from God to all those around you. Thank you.

* International development consultant specialising in climate and disaster resilience, United States

35. IAN BURTON, 2004

*by Ian Burton**

Ian and I, (another Ian) are both now in our mid – 80's and we go back a very long way. It is difficult for me to specify where our paths first crossed. In fact, we knew of each other, and about each other, long before we ever met. Knowing of, and not meeting, maybe be explained, at least in part, by the fact that (according to my initial and limited understanding), we came from opposite ends of the hazards and disasters community. I came into the field from geography, (my mentor was Gilbert White at the University of Chicago, and I worked with Bob Kates and other students), and our group initially focused on hazards, beginning with riverine floods. We included small and frequent hydrological events (anything above bank full or flood stage, as well as the larger and less frequent events.

The other school – the disaster specialists - came from sociology and were, in my book, mostly associated with E. L. Quarantelli and R.R. Dynes at the University of Delaware. We did not speak of the hazards and disasters community in those days (1960's and 1970's), but rather thought of two distinct communities, ours = hazards, and theirs = disasters. We were I must admit, somewhat disparaging on the grounds that they only dealt with disasters, whereas we saw hazards as including a wide range of events, big and small, frequent and infrequent, which could be seen as part of the environment, which was coming to be seen largely as beneficial, and as something to be highly valued and protected.

When the name of Ian Davis first came to my attention I wrongly assumed that he was a regular sociologist – academic person focused on

disasters. It was only later, much later, that I came to understand that Ian came from quite a different background in architecture. As such he added a new and broader perspective to disaster research, education, and policy. Ian led and helped lay the ground work for what was later to become a closer integration of the two communities. His perspective was, to my knowledge, initially in post-disaster shelter following earthquakes, but his interests soon expanded into safe building construction and urban planning – including building and planning approaches, regulatory codes and standards the area of the codes and standards for buildings, such that buildings they were better able to withstand extreme events. This applied to both pre- (disaster prevention) and post- (disaster recovery) the disaster event. He quickly broadened out his work from shelter, housing, and urban settlements, to include data management, planning and maintenance, vulnerability and even criminal negligence.

Moving on from his architecture background in the UK, and his early research, Ian had several practical assignments with the UNDRO (Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator), Asian Development Bank and other public agencies, and a wide ranging educational experience, including the training of government officials in disaster mitigation in Oxford, Bangkok and elsewhere, before more recently serving as Managing Director of the Oxford Centre for Disaster Studies in the 1990's.

I finally woke up to the magnitude and importance of Ian's work when I read the book - *At Risk: Natural hazards, people's vulnerability and disasters* (Routledge 1994) which he co-wrote with Piers Blackie, Terry Cannon, and Ben Wisner. Knowing what strong and convinced experts all four of them are, it is amazing that they could sustain their collaboration to complete the book! I understand that it was some time in the making! What has caught my attention in the book especially is the identification of "root causes" in their Pressures and Release model. *(see page 66)* Perhaps this did not strike me immediately on first reading, but it clearly sank into my brain, and is what led me to my research into underlying causes of disaster, some of it going under the name of forensic disaster investigations (FORIN).

In more recent years our work has converged more strongly, and in recognition that there is no such thing as a "natural" disaster, and that disasters result, to a large extent, from human choice and behavior. We share in the promotion of the idea that we need to understand the processes of disaster risk creation as well as disaster risk reduction.

Another cause for our cooperation has been our common interest in climate change. We both came into the climate change arena from a hazards, risks, and disasters perspective, and have been instrumental in connecting climate change with extreme events and disasters, and advancing the understanding of adaptation to climate change. One important manifestation of this was the writing of a chapter in the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Special Report on

"Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation". I had the honor to serve as co-chair (with Pauline Dube) of a group of eight distinguished authors including Ian Davis.Together we prepared Chapter 7, "Managing the Risks: International Level and Integration across Scales", (Cambridge University Press 2012). Ian made an extremely valuable contribution to the writing of the chapter and the thinking and reflection that went into it.

Let me end on a more modest and challenging note. I think this reflects Ian's thinking as much as mine. I like to quote the aphorism that begins, "*when all is said and done",* and conclude it by adding, "*much more is said than done"*. And this goes for writing as well! So while Ian x 2 have between them, done a lot of writing there is no basis for relaxation or easing off, or self-congratulation. Much remains to be done on disaster risk reduction and creation, and on climate change adaptation. In fact, "*remains to be done"* is putting it the wrong way round. If anything can be claimed from Ian Davis' work (and I take some pride in including myself) it is that the magnitude and difficulty of the tasks is now seen to be greater than ever before. The great hope is that the world is now waking up to the task ahead. The younger generation; the private sector corporations, and financial interests; all levels of government and public service; in richer countries and in poorer; the more advantaged and the disadvantaged; and dare I say, humanity at large, are now realizing the size and the urgency of the tasks. The climate change adaptation community has adopted the disaster risk reduction mantra of "*build back better".* This is too simple and misleading. We need to build back differently. And sometimes we do not need to build at all if that means building in the wrong way, at the wrong time, and in the wrong place.

More research and understanding is still needed, more education, better management and decision-making and policy, but the greatest need of all is the need for sense of urgency and the will to act now. Ian Davis and I will not rest easily or at all until that happens.

I would add one more thought. The needed actions require a world – wide sense and acceptance of common responsibility. As Ian's international and wide – ranging work has shown, disasters are not simply one – off isolated events, but are connected by cascading consequences and underlying root cases. In a spiritual way, we are all in this together with disasters as much as with climate change.

Thank you Ian.

* Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto, Department of Geography and Planning and School of Environment. Geographer. Canada

36. CHARLES PARRACK, 2006

*by Charles Parrack**

Ian Davis has been a true inspiration to the students listening to his talks. The students at Oxford Brookes University studying Architecture and Development and Emergency Practice have been enchanted, challenged, and enlightened by the stories Ian tells. I use the word stories deliberately, which might sound odd in the contact of masters level academic study, but it is a testament to the oratorical and educational skill of Ian that he strings together tales of history, people, and disasters such that they become compelling narratives, as well as good evidence to bring to an analysis of a complex set of intersecting priorities for disaster response and recovery. Ian talks about moral and ethical issues of practice, challenges students to define a set of principles to apply to a complex disaster situation, and offers a strong position to balance against the logistical and institutional weight of the disaster response architecture.

We named our shelter course '*Shelter after Disaster*' after Ian's first book, and that book remains a key text because of its principled approach to humanitarian response.

* Course Leader: Shelter after Disaster, Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP), Oxford Brookes University, UK

37. MAGGIE STEPHENSON, 2008

*By Maggie Stephenson**

Background

For over 50 years, Ian has used his skills as a communicator and his conviction as an activist fighting fake news. He has channeled science and evidence into the hands of politicians and policy makers through his involvement with national and international bodies, ranging from UN shelter guidelines in the 1970s and 1980s, to a decade on the UK National Committee of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) from 1991–1999, and participating in the 2008-2011 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the management of risks of extreme events and disasters to advance climate change adaptation (IPPC SREX).

We are fortunate that Ian not only stands on the shoulders of giants of the 20th century literature on shelter, settlements and disasters, but worked closely with those giants personally as lifelong friends, mentors and collaborators, informed by and informing their work with his own.

How we live and how we live together, how we are shaped by and shape our environments and how we express our social structures and personal values through housing and settlements are themes throughout the pioneering work of Ian's friends-urban development planner Otto Koenigsberger, sociologist Henry Quarantelli, architect John Turner and cultural polymath Paul Oliver-along with how to educate built environment professionals to make a fairer, safer and more sustainable world [See Ian's reflections on the influence of his friends: 'Standing on the shoulders of giants']. *(see pages 18-21)*

Ian's great talent for friendship has helped develop important new syntheses, linking often separate fields together. Are we making those links today to ensure shelter after disaster continues to connect to anthropology and housing development policy or to link climate with settlements and livelihoods? Although our digital age presents us with unprecedented opportunities for communication and connections, many fields of study and many individuals seem to be increasingly specialised and isolated. It requires extra effort to communicate and build friendships, just as it does to engage with policy and politicians, but how far will we progress without these efforts?

Perhaps the greatest lessons we could learn from Ian apply to politicians, architects and students alike - to be curious, keep an open mind and embrace where it leads you but know and hold your principles and above all to empathise in order to learn the most valuable insights of all- why do people think and do what they do and how might we be of greater service.

In his writing, teaching and advocacy, Ian emphasises the importance of defining guiding principles to help us navigate the political and ethical choices we face and to govern our individual and collective conduct. He discusses the values which underpin our societies and our obligations to learn from the successes and failures of our histories. He questions the hubris of those determined to (re)invent the wheel or who fail to question themselves and question others.

He is always ready with a quote or an anecdote, as he draws upon and directs us to the wise words of others, whether recently overheard or long since written. His own words add to the canon of wisdom, including landmark texts which shifted the course of disaster thinking and practice. The update and reissue in 2015 of *Shelter after Disaster* (1982) introducing new generations to the original source to draw new interpretations. I will reflect on Ian's influence on the evolution of shelter and settlement over several decades.

Changes in Shelter 1978-2020

How has shelter evolved since Ian wrote *Shelter after Disaster* in 1978? So there is over 40 years to summarise and I can't miss this opportunity because what all of us are saying Ian is 'thanks'! We owe you an unpayable debt and hopefully our way of paying it is the work we do and not just what we say.

So what has changed since 1978? I guess the progress is that the world is catching up with you and catching up with the radical future and radical proposition that you imagined and proposed at that time. I want to describe three main ways shelter has changed:

1. *We have got a much larger number of shelter professionals or people involved in supporting shelter.*

2. *Owner-driven policies and cash assistance are replacing direct provision with enabling approaches. They embody the 'people-centred approach' you proposed.*

3. *Urban Disasters have changed the way we place an emphasis on context and a 'settlement approach.'*

First Change: We have got a much larger number of shelter professionals

During the last forty years shelter and emergency management have become professionalised, based in Governments, in NGO's and in

academic courses. A long time ago you discussed the term 'Barefoot Architects' as a parallel to 'Barefoot Doctors' and there are now definitely more barefoot architects today among shelter actors. But there are also corporate and multi-national shelter actors and shelter professionals driving and being driven by their organisational agendas as much as responding to shelter and housing needs.

Professionalising shelter has strengthened networks in exchange of information and experience very positively. But the flip-side has also resulted in full-time shelter people going from one disaster to the next and one country to the next. Sometimes this has created a bubble or mafia – displacing local expertise. Sometimes this process has almost inevitably meant that these people have got limited chances to know what was there before, thus missing out on your agenda item to localise and emphasise context. And then, most importantly, they miss out on the opportunity to learn what happens next- the long-term impacts of their actions.

Ian's message is also not obsessed with construction or technology, new or traditional. It is about <u>people</u> and social systems, of family, community, professions, assistance and government, about our roles and relationships. And of course it advocated very strong for people centred approaches to shelter assistance.

To a great extent, 'people centred' is now mainstream. formalised as 'owner driven' or 'household driven' policies and programmes, meaning households managing their own shelter and reconstruction, with financial or technical support

Second Change: Owner-driven policies and cash assistance are embodying the 'people-centred approach' you proposed and are largely replacing direct provision

Conor Gallagher, Maggie Stephenson, Gill and Ian Davis in Dublin in 2017.

Powerfully, you have played a central guiding role in professionalising the shelter, mentoring key leaders, like Graham Saunders and David Sanderson among others. Your role has also been vital as you have brought your thinking into the development of the Shelter Cluster, and in the reissue of the Second Edition of *Shelter after Disaster* in 2015. The reason that source remains just as relevant now as when it was first published may be because it is not prescriptive. Rather, it discusses less about *<u>what</u>* to do and more about *<u>why</u>* to do it? As you would say these guidelines are more of a nutrition guide than a cook-book. The guidance you offer is not a set of micro-managed, step by step directions, and that is an important

lesson for all those trying out tool-kits these days. And that Ian. is why I refer to you as the North Star!

As far as I can remember, I don't think *Shelter after Disaster* mentions the word 'innovation'. Here is another lesson for professional aspirations. Considering your book was written by an architect it is not obsessed with construction or technology- either new or traditional. Rather, it is more about people and social systems – about family, community, professions, assistance, government and social structures. And it is about roles and relationships which are the basis for advocating very strongly for a *'people centred approach'* to shelter assistance.

To a large extent 'people -centred' is now mainstream as some of the world has caught up – formalising owner-driven or household driven reconstruction polices and programmes with financial and technical support. There has been a sharp decline in direct provision by agencies- (governments as well as humanitarian organisations) in providing pre-fabricated shelters or direct construction, or relocation to new sites, all approaches you warned about.

This change is facilitated by the rapid expansion of cash support to affected households, relating to changes in banking systems, information services, internet and mobile phone technologies which you couldn't have foreseen back in 1978. And the shift has *not* been primarily driven by shelter voices but often by economists on the basis of efficiency and financial inclusion. But we as shelter people are *not* changing as fast as they, we are *not* catching up or re-imagining or discussing how to adapt our roles, skills and organisations to answer some fundamental questions. We are asked to take a radical step forward – but have we lost our radicalism in 2020?

Third Change: Urban Disasters have changed the way we place an emphasis on context and a 'settlement approach'

This big change is all about the major risks facing our expanding cities. The world's population is increasingly composed of urban people, who are affected by disasters. Maybe your writing said little about this urban issue, unless you look at wider literature. But the urban issue highlights the importance of context and the experience of urban shelter recovery shows that it is less about importing or imposing regulated solutions, or about shelter technologies and logistics, rather, responses to urban crisis are purely about context and process rather than product.

Cities highlight the importance of analysing context, which is now the preoccupation and the greatest use of time by shelter professionals as they seek to understand and profile local systems, exploring their weaknesses and potential. By 'urban systems' I don't mean only infrastructure but municipal governance, local markets and community dynamics. Urban response is likely to be very different from what you expected in the 1970's when you placed so much emphasis on context,

Today, I would argue that our emphasis is on data, maps and tools. And today there are new toys with 'big data' with a strong focus on the *quantitative.* We need to remember some of your take on context which is far more *qualitative* and people centred, to investigate what is important to people, what they value and what is the basis of their decision making? What are their stories and what are their aspirations for the future?

If you look at your wider writing you have always taken a settlement approach, always firmly rooted in a 'sense of place', linking livelihoods, societies and cultures as to how we live and how we make our homes individually and collectively. And I think for all those scared of cities, who talk about 'urban' as a problem of being far too complex take a look at Ian's recent book: '*Experiencing Oxford*', his love-letter to Oxford. This is a reminder that cities are something to enjoy, experience and celebrate and they are composed of our stories as much as our buildings.

Disaster Politics

Ian is just as likely to quote a question from a farmer as a question from a professor. And he has *many* questions and eventually they turn into the stories that he re-tells to students and to officials. In his books the questions are really the centre. If anything, he is more concerned to be able to answer the farmer's question than the professor's – since he may have more at-stake. The anecdote and the questions and understanding people and their motivation comes back to what we can bring to a qualitative approach to compliment big data and to argue for that and to personalise what is at risk of becoming just a collection of numbers.

A few years ago Ian and I were asked to work together with the European Commission to develop their Shelter and Settlement Policy. So, for days on end, we were locked in some windowless offices in Brussels with officers from the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO). They wanted to argue, discuss, check and understand a range of issues. Some were shelter people; others came from health backgrounds. But the process was not an out-sourced writing of a book it was a discussion and an exchange which was often messy, heated and funny. At the end the EU produced something that was far longer than they expected, but it was something that they fully 'owned' and to prove it, theirs was the only name on the document. The lengthy process that went into its creation led to enhanced awareness, not yet another book on a shelf.

This is an example of Ian, never being afraid of the political arena, speaking truth to power and going inside institutions to build relationships prepared to argue a position. But to do so constructively and optimistically.

Sustained engagement in policy making is often frustrating with no guarantee of results. Many technical experts and academics are reluctant

to invest their time due to the professional compromises involved or pressure to adopt political positions. But Ian has always been aware that the political is not optional or avoidable and not only the domain of elected officials or technocrats.

All of us, architects and planners, who design and construct housing and cities, or who work in disasters and development supporting shelter should be acutely conscious of the political choices we make and implications of our actions. Whether in the private or public sectors, academia or NGOs we should reflect on the power we wield, how we empower or disempower others and how we are accountable to society.

And Finally…

In October 2019, at the conclusion of a UK Shelter Forum, a number of Ian's friends expressed their thanks and good wishes following his decision to retire from teaching and writing about Shelter and Disaster issues. I sent this message to be read out to the gathering:

"Ian, I know you like a quote, so here's one from Bob Dylan concerning Johnny Cash…

> *'Johnny (Cash) was and is the North Star; you could guide your ship by him….*
> *I first met him in '62 or '63 and saw him a lot in those years.*
> *Not so much recently,*
> *but in some kind of way he was with me more than people I see every day.'*
>
> Bob Dylan 2003.

I'm no Bob Dylan, but you're definitely Johnny Cash or our North Star."

I don't just tell everyone to read your books, I try to imagine on an ongoing basis, what would Ian think or do? Ian would put ethics front and centre, puncture delusions with wit, proceed with warmth to encourage us and he would tell a very good story so we don't forget.

I never thought when I first read your books that I would have the chance to meet you, let alone work with you. But lucky me, I did, and learned 10 times more reasons to guide my ship by you.

* Practitioner Architect, Advisor to Governments on Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery, Dublin, Ireland

38. EXPERIENCING OXFORD

by Ian Davis

In the final paragraph of Yasemin Aysan's generous tribute *(see page 52)* she referred to my love of the city of Oxford where I have lived since 1971 as well as my watercolour paintings. During the past few years, as I reached my early 80's, I decided it was sensible to 'wind-down' my work in Disaster Risk Management since this was becoming increasingly difficult to keep up in reading the ever-expanding literature and extensive foreign travel was becoming less possible. This created a gap that I wanted to fill with unfinished business concerning both Oxford and watercolour painting!

In the 1990's, over a period of about five years I was asked by the editor of the Oxford University alumni journal – *'Oxford Today'* to write a series of articles about my favourite places in Oxford, as well as to create paintings of Oxford University Colleges. I received some encouraging feedback with requests that I should put the articles and paintings together in a book about Oxford. So, for the past four years I have enjoyed writing about something other than Disaster Risk. I decided to focus my writing and painting on the way we experience towns, streets, buildings and the natural landscape through our various senses: touch, sound, smell, vision, movement as well through association and symbolism. This was all focussed on Oxford – my home city and the place I had used as a tool in teaching students. I also used to take students who attended Disaster Management Courses in Oxford on short walking tours of Oxford as a welcome change from learning about floods and earthquakes.

Since some people prefer to *look* rather than *read*, I decided to create a highly visual book to include over 200 of my photographs and over a hundred paintings or drawings. Many of these were painted over the past three years specifically to illustrate matters raised in the book.

I have received some kind comments from some friends who read advance copies of the book. They included the following endorsement by Christina Hardyment, an Oxford based author, and book reviewer for one of Britain's leading newspapers: *'THE TIMES'*:

I went to visit the fine art printers, Gutenberg Press in Malta in February 2020 for a final check of the proofs, prior to printing the 320 page book. 'Experiencing Oxford' was published in March 2020.

"Experiencing Oxford is without doubt the most stimulating book about the city and its university that I have come across, a wonderful contribution to the plethora of Oxford guides. Davis has lived in Oxford for most of his life, used it as a tool to inspire generations of architecture students, painted and photographed it, and reflected deeply on its extraordinary sensory appeal. He knits ancient and modern into a multi-layered collage rich in historical, literary and visual reference that is guaranteed to shake up your thinking. It is a wonderful book, and the paintings are glorious."

Readers of this issue who would be interested in purchasing a copy of the book should go to the following website where there is a description of the book and instructions on how to obtain copies.

ianrobertdavis.com (on *page 68* Nick Isbister describes how Ian came to write *'Experiencing Oxford'*).

The Oxford Skyline seen from South Park which is just behind Oxford Brookes University where Ian Davis taught and researched Disaster Related subjects from 1972–2020. Ian painted this view which became the cover of this book in 2017.

39. INTERVIEW: EARLY DAYS OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 1972-2000

* *Bruno Haghebaert*

The following interview was recorded in March 2021 as part of the "*Early Days of DRR*" initiative to interview some pioneers associated with the development of Disaster Risk Reduction. The following text is based on the recorded interview, but occasionally minor additions have been added or certain answers re-phrased for greater clarity.

Bruno Haghebaert reading Ian Davis' '*Experiencing Oxford*'.

Getting Involved…

Thank you, Ian for joining the interview. You're probably one of the most explicit DRR pioneers, the DRR pioneer *par excellence*. How did you get engaged in disaster studies and DRR work?

I was working as an architect in London in the late 1960's and I did some part-time volunteering work with a newly formed Christian NGO called Tearfund which was started by a close friend Rev. George Hoffman - an Anglican clergyman. I used to help with their publicity in my spare time and in those initial months there were just three people working in the organisation, operating out of a small room in Bloomsbury, London. I used to create posters and display panels as well as making filmstrips that could be used in schools and churches to raise interest in Tearfund and its mission. *(see page 29).* So, I got to know a little about disasters and disaster response through this engagement. My first exposure to international disasters was through making a filmstrip in 1970 called, "*Just another disaster* ", which was all about the Bangladesh Cyclone Disaster, where a quarter of a million people died.

But much earlier I had been what we would now call a 'displaced person' during the Second World War when I was about five years old. We were evacuated from Barrow-in-Furness, a shipbuilding town in the north of England which was bombed heavily by the Germans. Our house had a gaping hole in the roof as a result of a land-mine exploding in our street. So my sister and I knew what it was like to be stranded in somebody else's house with anxious parents. That experience was quite formative for a small child.

PhD Research

However, my career working in the disaster risk and recovery field did not begin until I began teaching in Oxford Polytechnic's School of Architecture when I was 34 years old. In 1972 a colleague in charge of research wandered into my office and said, "*One day we will become a university and universities require academics with research degrees, so are you interested*?" We were the largest department in the Oxford Polytechnic and the largest school of architecture in the state system in Britain and at that time architectural education was changing from being a narrow professional course into a full-blown academic study.

My colleague explained that only one member of our staff had a PhD degree, so we lacked research experience and credibility. As a result, the department was actively encouraging and enabling staff to undertake research. I enquired about the choice of topic, to which he responded that the subject could be more or less anything, as long as it had a connection to architecture and as long as it was undertaken through a reputable university. He went on to explain that the Polytechnic would be generous- covering all costs- travel, fees, expenses etc. with time off to undertake the research. The offer seemed far too good to be true and I was perplexed why my colleagues had expressed minimal interest? He explained with a wry smile "*Well, they are rather too busy designing bathroom extensions!".* But for me this offer presented a 'once-in-a-lifetime' challenge as I pondered what to study. It struck me that perhaps I could conduct research into disaster shelter. This topic was uppermost in my mind since by coincidence a week before the offer I had been asked to help with a

second-year student project where students were asked to design, build and occupy emergency shelters. Yet, I was of little help to them since I was totally ignorant of the needs and constraints of shelter design. So perhaps this could prove to be a suitable research question?

My enquiries about a suitable venue for research led to Otto Koenigsberger, an eminent Professor who had created the Development Planning Unit (DPU) in University College, London, (UCL). He was a brilliant German urban planner and architect, who had been advisor on housing policy in India to Prime Minister Nehru and had recently returned to Britain when at the apex of his distinguished career. *(see page 19)* I asked him if I could undertake research under his supervision on '*Shelter following Disasters'* He gave me a long probing stare before outlining his conditions: "*I am prepared to supervise your work if you agree to certain approaches: you will go to the next major disaster, wherever it is, to observe what is taking place keeping your mouth shut, ears and eyes wide open and you must promise not to design anything".* I nervously accepted but was perplexed about the 'no-design rule', since asking an architect not to design is like asking a new-born baby to decline milk!

First Disaster Fieldwork…

A few weeks later, on December 22, 1972, the city of Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, was devastated in an earthquake. So, that was it …! With the support of Tearfund, who rather recklessly allowed me to represent them, I went to Nicaragua as a completely ignorant person and that took me into the complex world of disasters. *(see page 31)* In those days I was caught between two hard places: mercy and justice. One was Tearfund - a relief body, concerned with being merciful by offering relief, patching up wounds and giving help to *passive victims,* in contrast there was the Development Planning Unit at University College London where I was doing my PhD, which was all about working for justice through development to create self-reliant communities of *active survivors*. I was learning fast about development issues while at the same time having a foot in the relief camp, later this became a bigger issue when I joined the Board of Tearfund. Trying to balance relief with development, mercy with justice, became the environment which propelled me into disaster risk reduction.

Later you reflected your findings on the Managua experience in several publications, such as *"Shelter after Disaster"*? What emerged from this early research and how was this accepted by your colleague architects? You were probably one of the pioneers in your field to bring in risk reduction. How did that work?

My colleagues in the School of Architecture were interested yet perplexed and slightly jaundiced which was hardly surprising since in the middle of winter, I would go off to some tropical country, somewhere warm and come back a bit suntanned! Inevitably they wondered what was going on and although my routine teaching work was replaced, my

research and foreign travel probably resulted in extra pressure on colleagues. It wasn't until much later in 1978 when my colleague Paul Oliver became Associate Head of Department that we were able to embark on teaching this subject within architectural courses. Paul was a pioneer in anthropology of shelter, a brilliant man who was a world authority in both vernacular architecture and the history of the blues. *(see page 19)*

Considering Risk Reduction

The only issues about risk reduction following the Managua Earthquake that I can recall concerned a government edict in reconstruction to seek to reduce the population density in the overcrowded city centre and to widen the narrow streets so that in future disasters residents might be able to escape from their houses without buildings collapsing on them. These requirements possessed some logic, but they were fundamentally unrealistic. In years to come they resulted in multiple legal challenges that significantly delayed urban reconstruction.

My research focus expanded as I began to compare shelter needs and response following the 1972 Managua earthquake with the 1963 Skopje earthquake in Yugoslavia. I was beginning to think about risk reduction quite naturally. This focus partly came out of my training and practice. When you are an architect you are inevitably involved with fire risk, wind forces and structural stability, so mitigating risks is the nature of normal practice. There was never a question - *"Do I need to think about risk reduction?"*, it was just one of the normal factors to consider in architectural design.

Shelter after Disaster- Product or Process?

In the early 1970's I was very perplexed as to why well-intentioned and experienced people working for reputable relief agencies were designing and building disaster shelters and permanent houses for reconstruction which were culturally wildly inappropriate, very expensive and climatically impossible. These 'donor shelters' were being created by the Red Cross and by Oxfam of all agencies. Oxfam was clearly a development, rather than relief organisation, leading the way in much thinking about development, and yet here they were designing these rather ludicrous little hexagonal polyurethane shelters that they imagined could be utilized in disaster situations across the globe irrespective of logistics, cultures, climate, hazards, local economies and building traditions. Innovative advanced technology with a probable eye on publicity value were the 'names of the game'. So, it was not surprising that when I started writing critical reports, I ran into a brick wall of opposition from the disaster establishment: particularly from the Red Cross, Oxfam, the British Government Aid Authority and later from the United Nations.

One big step forward occurred in risk reduction in 1975, when out of the blue I got a letter from UNDRO (Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator): "*We understand you're doing work on shelter, and we want to develop shelter guidelines for the United Nations, and would you come to Geneva to discuss the matter?"*. So, I travelled to Geneva where I was invited to lead the project since UNDRO had secured the necessary funds from the Dutch Government. During that day of negotiations in Geneva it became clear that UNDRO wanted me to design the *'UNDRO Universal Disaster Shelter'* rather than explore local strategies to assist in the 'sheltering process'. I owe a debt of gratitude to a member of their staff, Ludo Van Essche, a South African architect, who argued with me against his colleagues for this study to be of shelter strategies, defining processes rather than designing tangible products.

Part of this strategic approach was to assist in safe rebuilding of dwellings, so we were able to incorporate risk reduction, (called disaster mitigation at that time) into the advice we were able to offer. I then assembled a small team of colleagues to work on this project including Fred Cuny, Fred Krimgold *(see page 40)* and Paul Thompson *(see page 45)*. The guidelines were published in 1982 and a second edition, that can be downloaded was published in 2015. https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Documents/Secretariat/201506/Shelter_After_Disaster_2nd_Edition.pdf

What were some major additional insights you gained in those early days? Which challenges did you face?

There were a number of important developments during the 1980's with some valuable lessons about risk reduction. One particularly important learning experience occurred in 1980 following an approach from the Royal Geographical Society of Great Britain (RGS). To celebrate their 150 years old centenary in 1980, they were sponsoring an international expedition to the Karakoram region of Northern Pakistan, a mountainous area, subject to earthquakes and landslides and floods etc. *(see page 37)*. The expedition was composed of about 90 scientists who were to conduct research in various teams: geomorphology, glaciology, seismology etc. I was asked to assemble a multi-disciplinary team comprising engineers, architects, planners, anthropologists to consider '*Housing and Hazards'*. I believe this was the first time that there had been detailed inter-disciplinary research into the safety of traditional vernacular building against hazard forces.

We managed to persuade some brilliant people to advise us, including Nick Ambraseys, a professor of Earthquake Engineering at Imperial College [London] since we wanted to test whether any of the dwellings that were built in the region responded naturally to earthquakes. Had they absorbed earthquake risk reduction measures into their construction traditions on account of the frequent earthquakes they experienced? The engineering results were inconclusive but the expedition certainly placed risk reduction into a wider context of 'felt-needs'. We would go to these villages and talk to the local people, many

community leaders could speak fluent English, having worked in the Indian Army, and they would often say to us: "*Why have you come here?"*. We would answer: "*We are here to look at earthquake risks, flood risks, landslide risks and rock- falls in relation to your dwellings"*, and their replies became rather predictable: "*Why don't you come and help us with something <u>really</u> important?"*.

Whose Risk?

There followed many exchanges where they explained that they did not regard these natural hazards as being significant problems. They explained how they dealt with such matters: *"For example, when there is heavy rain, we send one of our boys to sleep out of doors, under a tree and if he hears a rumble of the mountain, which means there might be a landslide, he rings bells and we run out of our buildings to a nearby hill, or when we're working down on the river, we tie ropes across the river. And if a flash flood breaks the rope a kilometer upstream, we can hear the bell ringing, we run like hell to get out of the way of the flood of water, you see we have ways of adapting to these risks".*

They then came to the point that they wanted external help to deal with severe everyday risks or problems such as: no fertilizer for their fields, no school for their girls with the consequence that it was hard for them find husbands who wanted educated wives, inadequate medical services, or no bridge to cross the river to get their fruit and vegetables to local markets. So, they asked us to help them us deal with <u>*their*</u> everyday problems, not to follow <u>*our*</u> limited perception of their needs. Sadly, we did not have the resources to respond to their requests.

So, one of your most important insights, and I also heard it from other people interviewed, was that you should not just focus on hazards as the main risk people are facing, but that there are wider developmental issues that people face that also need to be resolved to be effectively increasing the resilience to the problems they face. And this is probably still a particularly useful insight up to today. In the risk reduction work that is currently being done, there is still a tendency to distinguish developmental issues from risk reduction work. Do you think that what you've found out in the 70s and 80s, is still very relevant up to today?

Absolutely, I think that DRR has always to be seen within a wider context and it is a question of 'whose perception of risk?' There is a saying: "*One man's disaster is another's opportunity"*. We need to keep asking the people who are most at risk: "*What is your perception?"*, and to work within those parameters. I don't think you want a top-down view at all in development, it's working with people and understanding their perceptions and trying to grapple with what their needs are. Jumping ahead, in the late 1990s there was a strong focus on Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) that inevitably took a wider view of risks. This movement was strongly supported by the Red Cross and the ProVention Consortium, effectively led by David Peppiatt *(see page 84)* and yourself, Bruno.

The Crunch Diagram

In 1986 I was approached by three geographers to see if I'd write a book with them about risk reduction and vulnerability: Piers Blaikie, Ben Wisner, and Terry Cannon. *(see page 65).* And it took us a long time, about nine years to write the book: "*At Risk: Natural hazards, people's vulnerability to disasters".* We decided to co-author the text, which meant that every chapter was reviewed by the other authors. Well, that added about five years to the process because it meant that we had a continuous critique, nearly everything I wrote would come roaring back saying, "*change this or change that*". Very frustrating in some ways, but a fantastic learning curve and my own two cents worth of contribution to the book was a model called "*The Crunch Diagram*", which had hazards on one side and exposure and vulnerability on the other side. And caught in the middle, a crunch or risk of a disaster. *(see page 66)*

I had originally put this model into a book I wrote in 1978 called, "*Shelter after Disaster*", as a visualization of vulnerability, so it wasn't an original idea, rather I got it from Ben Wisner, Phil O'Keefe and Ken Westgate, *(see page 42)* since they had written an influential article in 1977 about *"Taking the Naturalness out of Disasters"* and I merely visualized their ideas. But this diagram, showing unsafe conditions being a progression from root causes right through to unsafe conditions, has had a huge influence, now in textbooks for A-level students and used all over the world. It has many limitations and I get letters from people saying: "*This model is very limited*", to which I would reply, "*Don't tell me, I developed it, remember it is just a human construct. So can you improve it?".*

The Crunch Model was useful in trying to show how you need to tackle root causes, maybe the lack of press freedom in the country or the lack of institutions that might lead ultimately to unsafe houses perched on a steep slope. That was the 'progression of vulnerability' and if you just deal with the problem of houses that are potential death traps without looking at <u>why</u> they are so dangerous and addressing the risk drivers, then vulnerable houses will keep re-appearing.

Hazards in Context

I got involved with the UNDRO again in disaster risk reduction in 1984 when they asked me to direct a project: "*Guidelines on Disaster Mitigation".* This was undertaken with the help of the architect / urban planner Ludo van Essche who had provided effective support in developing the UN Guidelines noted above. In undertaking the project, I contacted various people involved in risk reduction in Britain. One valuable source was the Flood Hazard Research Centre in Middlesex University. This was led by Edmund Penning-Rowsell, now the editor of *'Environmental Hazards'* and Dennis Parker. These geographers were extraordinarily helpful since they understood that, for example, a river flood hazard is just one of many elements in the management of river catchments – involving land-drainage, irrigation, water-supply, pollution control, sewage disposal etc. They didn't regard flood hazards as a

discrete concern extracted from this wider subject. Understanding this context was a big learning curve as I worked on this project.

We also contacted many eminent earthquake engineers and I became increasingly involved with the earthquake engineering community, partly through Robin Spence in Cambridge University, Nick Ambraseys, at Imperial College who was the external examiner of my PhD. and Michel Lechat – a leading epidemiologist based in the Catholic University in Louvain in Belgium. Gradually I came to realise the extent of a massive, yet largely unconnected risk reduction community, including the engineering profession, regulatory bodies in various sectors of government, health and fire risk officials etc.

Form Follows Failure

In 1984 I wrote an article called, "*Disasters as Agents of Change, or Form follows Failure*", which I suggested could be an accurate substitute slogan for "*Form Follows Function"* as a beloved manifesto of architectural theorists. I cited examples drawn from architectural and engineering history of disasters being the catalyst for radical change in urban form or architectural design. For example, the Great Fire of London of 1666 resulted in major changes in architecture in the City of London. Lisbon was rebuilt after the 1755 earthquake as the first urban plan designed to reduce risks of fire, earthquake and tsunami impact. *(see page 64)*

IDNDR

Later, you got engaged in the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). Can you describe your engagement with the UN in the 1990s and your participation at the Yokohama conference?

In 1991 there was much excitement when Frank Press, the Head of the US Academy of Sciences, proposed an International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). The Royal Society and the Royal Academy of Engineering formed the UK National Committee and I was invited to join. Thus began nine years of intensive meetings, publications and sub-groups. With the support of John Twigg *(see page 76),* I led a group concerned with "*Social Aspects of Disaster Risk Reduction"*.

And what was your experience in Yokohama? I was there too, and my memory was that there was still a strong technocratic and hazard focus, and little interest in aspects of social vulnerability and grassroots work at the community level. That only happened later within the UN system to start paying attention to this topic, no?

The Social Dynamics of Risk Reduction

Halfway through the Decade the first World Conference on Disaster Reduction took place in Yokohama [Japan] which I attended as part of the UK delegation. The conference was significant since for the first time in the decade there was a challenge to consider social and cultural aspects of

risk as well as the prevailing view that the issues were all about the physical sciences. I believe this mainly came from Andrew Maskrey. Some years earlier Andrew had written an influential book "*Disaster Mitigation: A Community Based Approach" (see page 57)*.

It was very expensive to go to Japan, and I remember having to buy drinks and meals for friends from NGOs because they were so pricey, the costs were phenomenal. There were hardly any NGO people present whereas in the next conference in Kobe [Japan] in 2005, there were large contingents. That was a big change representing considerable progress in widening the disaster risk reduction community.

The technocratic emphasis of risk reduction was a real problem. I think that we in Britain, had faced that quite firmly from the very beginning of the Decade and tried to strengthen the social aspects of risk. We never had the advantage of America where there were active social groups like the *Disaster Research Centre* (DRC) based in the University of Delaware. led by Henry Quarantelli *(see page 20)* and Russell Dynes. Then there were pioneering geographers like Ian Burton, *(see page 107)*, Robert Kates, Eugene Haas and Gilbert White. We never had that kind of tradition in Britain, but we did have certain other advantages. There were some gifted colleagues at work in medical fields like John Seaman and Frances De Souza's contribution in anthropology was also very important. David Alexander, a geographer, had written a remarkable study of the 1980 earthquake in Italy and his analysis became influential *(see page 63).* So gradually in the UK we were building up a team of like-minded people and that was significant progress.

I look back at the IDNDR as a remarkable process. It didn't achieve all that it had hoped for, but it certainly focused minds and gave the British Government a tremendous amount of impetus in their policies, particularly in what was called the Overseas Development Administration (ODA), which became the Department for International Development (DFID).

Collaboration

During that time, you also established close links with key DRR pioneers from the South, like Mihir Bhatt and Zenaida Delica-Willison?

I got to know Mihir Bhatt after the Kobe earthquake, where we were on the same delegation and I first met Zenaida Delica-Willison *(see page 74)* through teaching on a course in Brussels where there was an important European focal point "*The Centre for Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED)",* founded by Michel Lechat and later to be led by Debby Sapir. Those of us working in DRR were well connected, becoming good friends and learning much from each other. Generally, there was a very corporate spirit, with little competition between us for funding of courses or research or student fees. These were remarkable days. Later, by the late

1990's competition for resources was to become intense resulting in some barriers to effective collaboration.

Training for Risk Reduction

Ian, what are your thoughts with regard to the need for more training and higher education for disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change in relation to staff within national governments, disaster officers, the international agencies and some of the NGOs?

In all the different roles I've had in my work: architect, artist, researcher, writer, etc. the one job that I think is probably the most important is being educator or trainer. I have greatly enjoyed this role, finding it both challenging and rewarding. Many of us are advocates for education and training as routes to major progress. However, I feel that these subjects are very neglected by public officials and particularly by politicians. And training and education generally are starved of funding support, failing to secure the continuity that is required.

We started running 12-week courses in *Disaster Management* in Oxford in 1982. They were exhausting to lead since we were having to invent the best ways to train demanding senior officials coming from all over the world. The courses were well funded by the British Government and other governments, UN, Red Cross and other agencies. It was one of the only international courses in the world at that time and we made sure that each course had a very strong risk reduction element, also recovery. It was quite hard to know what to include in those courses, but we would take the participants to visit UK disaster or hazard sites where the risks were rather miniscule compared to what they been exposed to in their home countries such as China etc. I remember going to one site where there was flooding in the River Thames and the Chinese Professor said: "*How deep was the water at the height of the flooding?*" and he was told: "*1.5 metres*". Then he asked: "*And how long does this flood last?*". "*About three weeks*". After a pause he responded: *"In my country we would totally ignore that problem."* He then described the 10-fold increase they had to cope with in the floods he managed in China.

Some of our students must have thought that the UK was not an ideal location for such courses, but we certainly introduced them to concepts of risk reduction and that built up a whole international community of potential activists.

If you compare, say, a typical disaster manager working for an NGO or working in the government or a U.N. Agency, he or she might never get any training on the subject in his or her entire career, that is not unusual (the exception being staff within emergency services, who normally receive advanced on-going training). Compare this with an airline pilot who is trained initially and continually where they are required to go through continuing professional development (CPD) every six months or so. Through this on-going process they are brought up to

speed on what's happening, and they cannot remain as an active pilot without having these regular upgrades in their knowledge and working practices. Now that pattern is totally different from this disaster risk management field and yet lives depend on the capabilities of both airline pilots as well as disaster managers. The neglect of training requirements for *all* public officials working *at every level* in the disaster field remains a source of great concern.

Training as Investment

The other aspect of training relates directly to disaster risk reduction, if you would build a flood protection measure now in 2021 any project will reflect the technological limits of 2021. The project will not reflect the technology of 2025 because that doesn't yet exist. But if an official is trained well or undertakes a higher degree that person will benefit from that early investment in say 10, 15, 20 years ahead in their career. So, any significant training or education is investing deep into the future and that is what makes it unique. So therefore, you would think that this would get the kind of priority attention that it demands but unfortunately it doesn't. I am not quite sure why, but I think it could be that politicians like to cut ribbons on new projects. They like press coverage containing photographs and films of tangible projects. It is not easy to cut a ribbon of a training course or make a film of investment in PhD research in the university. So, it may be the lack of political visibility, that may be the reason for neglect.

Continuity of Training

I suppose when we set up a training programme in Disaster Management I assumed, wrongly, that it would be maintained over time with inevitable adaptations. Our Oxford Polytechnic-Oxford Brookes Course ran from 1982-96. It was quite hard to keep it up to date, but we managed to keep re-invigorating the content to meet the changing needs of participants being trained in a rapidly developing subject. But when I left as course leader, the course disappeared. It also disappeared in other places due to other leaders leaving. For example, we had a strong international training programme in place for Tearfund's partner organisations, and in my colleague Mike Wall we had an excellent leader *(see page 70)*. Mike ran the courses with me in Africa, Asia and Latin America. We both believed that we had established an ongoing training programme. But alas when Mike left Tearfund, the training also left. Sadly, these courses were often just one person deep, that of their leaders or instigators. They never became institutionalised despite the reality that the training needs continue and expand.

There was an excellent initiative in the 1980s called DMTP (*Disaster Management Training Programme)*, set up by the University of Wisconsin under the leadership of Don Schramm and Paul Thompson *(see page 45)*. The programme was an enlightened joint initiative by UNHCR and UNDP. Various UN and Governmental staff attended courses in

Wisconsin, Bangkok etc. An ambitious online programme was devised and the training guidelines were state of the art. But after a few years it all ended abruptly due to a change of priorities within the UN Agencies, or perhaps training had ceased to be a fashionable funding priority.

At present in 2021 there is a UN organisation, called *Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative* (CADRI). This is a global partnership designed to complement in-country expertise in and beyond the United Nations System. I hope it will survive and not suffer a similar fate to DMTP.

Training to develop Attitudes

Let me return to one key aspect of training. I recall a memorable disaster field visit in one of our courses in the 1980's. We took the group of about 12 participants to Tewkesbury, a flood prone part of Britain. The group included the Chief of Disaster Relief Planning in Nigeria. We sat down in this room with the chief engineer and he described the flood problem in Tewkesbury and he spoke about the fact that he had made some very big mistakes.

He then proceeded to describe how his staff inserted poles beside roads that were subject to flooding. The poles were to guide motorists along roads when there was shallow flooding. However, in recent severe floods the roads were inundated with floodwaters up to two metres in depth. Several cars drove into the flooded roads unaware of the depth of water and narrowly escaped being swept away by cascading flood currents. Our speaker then described how he rectified his mistake by marking the poles with numbers indicating the water depth. And he then proceeded to describe one mistake after another and the steps he took to make improvements.

The next day we were back in our classroom in Oxford. The topic concerned the attitudes needed in disaster managers, not just the required skills and knowledge. I asked the participants how best to teach constructive attitudes? There was a long silence. And then this Chief from Nigeria described how he had been thinking about this while in bed the previous night. He told our group that he had been perplexed at what transpired in our course field visit; '*We sat down with a complete stranger who told us about all his mistakes. Well, I am in charge of disaster planning in Nigeria, but I would never dream of telling anybody my mistakes. Why would I? Particularly not with strangers, I might tell my wife, but nobody else".* He then described how he pondered why this engineer had shared his failures with us? He reflected that he did this not to show off, but rather to share his mistakes and the lessons he had learned for our benefit. His final words were on the lines of: "*I began to realise that I need to be a lot more open and one thing I'm learning from you and this course, Ian, is that we don't have to be so protective about our knowledge and in future I will share my mistakes and lessons with my staff*".

I had no idea that this learning was happening as a result of the visit, but this man picked up something important for his own situation and it probably stayed with him for the rest of his professional life. That is why I'm so enthusiastic about training.

In-Country Training

And you also learned a lot yourself during those trainings from the colleagues in in developing countries. It was a two-way experience, I presume. In hindsight, bringing all these people from different countries all over the world to Oxford, was this the right approach? Or would you be more in favor of working in country in terms of training or supporting a regional training set up so that people would know that context better?

Yes, I was gaining from them all the time as they shared their experiences, particularly with in-country courses where they were familiar with local contexts. I agree, mid-career training is best held in-country, or within a given region with hands-on active training tasks, such as visiting sites, particularly post-disaster recovery zones and placing participants into decision making roles through disaster simulations.

We watched the change of venue happening towards in-country training during the 1990's as countries rapidly developed their own capacity. I remember an Indian Minister with responsibility for Disaster Management asking to meet me during a Delhi conference where I was giving a keynote address. I went into his office where he was sitting behind a huge desk. He said in a rather angry voice: "*I want to meet you because I want to ask you a single question. I want to know from you what skills are needed in Disaster Management which we do not have here in India?*". I pointed out that India had all the skills needed in abundance, to which he then asked; "*In that case why are you here?* I told him I was here because he had invited me! Gradually consultants and trainers from Europe, North America, Australia etc., including ourselves, were being replaced by highly skilled people from Asia, Latin America and Africa.

Horizontal Learning about Recovery and Creativity

One of the exciting rewards in running training courses, is when horizontal learning occurs. Suddenly a participant takes the initiative by electrifying a course. I remember we were running a course, early in 1983, and it was about disaster recovery, and somebody came from the Red Cross to speak. He put a slide on the screen of the overhead projector (these were our teaching tools in those days!) which declared that the aim of disaster recovery is to restore normality. As always people were writing down what was on the screen when there was a shout from the back of the room: "*I protest, I protest. would you please take that slide, put it in your briefcase and never show it to anybody ever again?*". The lecturer was a bit taken aback by this loud intervention and said: "*What's the problem?*".

The nurse from Jamaica responded: *"You've just said that the aim of disaster recovery is to restore normality, well I live in Kingston, Jamaica, where people live in cardboard boxes, that is their 'normality'. Do you really want to put them back in cardboard boxes after the disaster? Of course not. You've got to make some steps forward. You've got to secure improvements! Disaster recovery must never rebuild the vulnerable status quo."*

It was a fantastic moment since the whole course was ignited and that particular intervention kept on cropping up and being talked about while we're on buses, evening receptions and while we were going here and there.

I also remember another exciting exchange. We were running a 'training of trainers' course with many policemen attending. The topic for the day concerned the basic requirements for training emergency managers, and they were all listing various items that were then written on the flip charts. One item concerned the need for emergency staff to be familiar with 'standard operating procedures' (SOP's). I was chairing the session and I said at the end of the session: *"What is missing from your list?"*. Nobody could think of anything so eventually I said, well, I think there's one word you did not include and that is 'creativity'. A senior British Official then said: "*That's the very last thing I want from any policeman involved in a disaster, because I want them to follow SOP's. I don't want any deviation - they've got to get on with it "*. And everyone wrote that down. At that point an African participant said, "*I entirely disagree, in many of the places where I've worked, we don't have enough resources. There aren't enough people, insufficient vehicles, not enough of this or that and we're trying to manage a massive problem. Now, when you are in that situation you've got to make a lot out of a little. Now, making a lot of lot out of a little requires creative solutions by creative people. So, you always need creative people in an effective response team, so yes please add that to the list."*

That was such a valuable intervention, because we were then cast into choosing from two contrasting ideas: reliance on well-proven, standardised approaches vs devising creative, innovative ways to maximise limited resources. Sometimes you just sit back as a course leader watch matters going on around you and you realise there is genuine learning taking place.

Higher Education

I also want to mention the necessity of higher education in relation to risk reduction. I had the privilege of being the Professor in Cranfield University and in supervising doctoral research. This was initially a deeply frustrating business because of a pattern where military people signed up to undertake research but it failed to materialize as they went off to fight wars or were transferred to other operations and none of the officers I met seemed motivated to undertake research.

However, eventually I met in Oxford a brilliant school teacher from Iran - Yasamin Izadkhah *(see page 98).* She was interested in teaching earthquake awareness to children in Iranian schools. Over the following years she undertook excellent PhD, research into school education in Tehran against earthquakes.

And then there was another vital research project by Titus Kuuyuor, who is now a key UN official based in UNDP in Ethiopia with responsibility for Disaster Risk Reduction in Southern Africa. *(see page 100)*. His research concerned the earthquake resistance of hospitals in Accra in Ghana.

The third PhD research student was by Paul Venton, as he conducted innovative field research on community- based disaster reduction in India using the crunch diagram. *(see page 104)*. These three students were a joy to supervise and the experience helped to build their careers. I certainly learned as much from them as they were learning from me.

Apathy towards Training

The head of British based NGO, he once called me into his room and said: *"…you are a great enthusiast for training'*. I responded: *'Yes, I am'*. With a perplexed frown he queried: *'Why?'* I then tried to explain the basis for my enthusiasm: *"You can watch people in the first week of training and they are fiddling with their pens, looking at their watches and making frequent visits to the lavatory, making it obvious that they are not engaged. But often, after about two weeks, you can see their concentration rising as they become active and they're arguing, debating and suddenly you realise that the subject is captivating them and it's exciting to watch that change"*. He responded: *"Well I am glad you're so enthusiastic, but I'm certainly not"*. I said: *"Well, you're the Chief Executive, why are you not interested in training?".* He then asked me what I would expect from someone who had undergone training? I thought for a bit and suggested that they would return to their jobs with more confidence and might come back with increased commitment. He agreed with me about the extra confidence and began to list the typical demands of a recently trained member of staff: *"…they sit on the edge of <u>my</u> desk and start telling me <u>my</u> job, and what's more, they ask to go on further training courses, while some expect more responsibility, more money and some of them leave for other organisations, having been trained at our expense"*.

It was obvious that we had opposite views on the value of training and education. I recall saying that his description of what he regarded as the negative consequences of training sounded to me like the symptoms of a pretty healthy organisation, since these people were evidently growing in confidence and maturity. As we concluded the discussion, I had the impertinence to suggest that he had achieved his CEO position because so many people had invested in him and his career in past years, and all we were asking of him was to invest in his own staff in a similar

manner. I also pointed out that fundamentally the agency he led was about 'development', and not just in projects in Bangladesh or wherever - staff development right here within his own office and for his own staff.

In Conclusion…

I would love to have the opportunity to reinvigorate training and if in my last years there could be the opportunity of trying to set up some kind of a short, sharp task force of people who could actually act as a catalyst to re-energise the subject of Training for Disaster Risk Reduction. I'd be thrilled to play a part of such a process.

And have you done some online training already?

Not much, I would like to do it, and I don't know quite how that could be done. I would certainly like to help make that happen.

Thanks so much for your thoughts on the need for training and higher education. It's really an important subject and it is the best investment we can make in future generations to build up their DRR capacities.

And sorry about all the stories. They may be a bit boring.

No, the stories are the best. The anecdotes are often the ones that stick in the mind and have the most learning impact.

Thank you very much.

Publications on Disaster Risk Reduction (dating from before 2000) which have considerably influenced my work.

1. Burton, I., Kates, R., White, G., 1978, *The Environment as Hazard.* New York: Oxford University Press.
2. ADB, 1991, *Disaster Mitigation in Asia and the Pacific,* Manila: Asian Development Bank (ADB).
3. *Proceedings of the International Conference on Disaster Mitigation Program Implementation* Ocho Rios, Jamaica, November 12-16, 1984.
4. Maskrey, A. 1989, *Disaster Mitigation: A Community Based Approach*, Oxfam, Oxford.

<u>*Building for Safety Series*</u>*:*

1. Clayton, A. and Davis, I. 1994, *Building for Safety Compendium,* London: Intermediate Technology Publications.
2. Coburn, A., Hughes, R. Pomonis, A. and Spence, R. 1995 *Technical Principles of Building for Safety,* London: Intermediate Technology Publications.
3. Aysan, Y., Clayton, A., Cory, A. Davis, I. and Sanderson, D. 1995, *Developing Building for Safety Programmes,* London: Intermediate Technology Publications.

40. EPILOGUE - EMERGING ISSUES

by Mihir R. Bhatt

It has been a special privilege for AIDMI to organise and publish this tribute to Ian. Throughout this publication, thirty-four of his family, friends and colleagues, spread across almost seventy years of his life and career, highlight aspects of his personality and his varied contributions to Disaster Planning and Management. My intention in this Epilogue is to reflect on these contributions – extracting some threads and reproducing a few quotes that merit repetition.

For the above said purpose I will move beyond Ian and his work in these final pages of the tribute to define a series of emerging issues that are particularly important in the complex fields of shelter, reducing risks, and disaster recovery. To meet the demanding challenges facing our fragile world each of these issues needs to be recognised, nurtured and addressed. Together, I believe they form Ian's legacy.

I noted ten significant issues that keep recurring in the varied contributions. They concern the need for:

1.	**Secure and appropriate shelter before, during, and after disasters.**
2.	**Supporting the voiceless, vulnerable poor families needing safe dwellings for protection or recovering from disasters.**
3.	**Reflections of key issues in readily accessible books.**
4.	**Creative models that communicate vital policy issues and significant insights with force and clarity.**
5.	**Co-creating by asking questions, recounting anecdotes and stories of relevant experiences.**
6.	**Importance of two-way effective training and education at all levels.**
7.	**Trainers and teachers to embody the message they seek to communicate, that is building capacity by example.**
8.	**A recognition of the potential of young professionals, learning from them as future leaders.**
9.	**A determination to press ahead, addressing unfinished business, that is perseverance.**
10.	**Faith, in Ian's case are his strongly valued Christian convictions, and in others faith in our collective ability to create common good for all.**

1. ***Secure and appropriate shelter before, during, and after disasters.***

"From a disciplinary perspective of planning and form, Ian's architectural background provided the perfect platform for an entry into a world dominated by government aid and international and non-governmental organisations vying with each other to provide, with maximum publicity, what they felt people needed. Housing and shelter were always key components of the relief "package", particularly where disasters involved earthquakes and other natural hazards that targeted settlements, or where drought and conflict required people to migrate and re-locate.

Ian's concerns with the plight of settlements after disaster and the dilemmas of people kindly provided with temporary housing that rapidly became permanent, quickly pushed his name front and centre and he carried the hopes of many of us in promoting change that could be institutionalised in the international community's approach to providing more efficacious solutions to complex problems."

Ken Westgate

"I have always been aware that architecture should not be the pure singular vision revered at University but must have public engagement and benefits. "

Simon Davis

"Developing local capacity, techniques and awareness of the potential and need for preventive action that can reduce risk and applying strategies to address the underlying factors that contribute to risk and vulnerability have been central to our work. This echoes Ian's work to relate the problems of disasters to the wider context of the social development of vulnerable communities so admirably expressed in his first book. Thus, I think that Ian and I share a view of community based and driven DRR (and Recovery work) that "Communities and families come first", and I would add, invariably know better what they need in the midst of the disaster than many others."

John Norton

"From Ian, I learnt that disasters give us a peek into the inner workings of society. They reveal the good and the bad of human relationships and endeavours. Ian can be swift to condemn: impractical shelters with inadequate design lives, installed in the wrong place, unwelcoming to their intended users, inappropriate to the local climate, lacking resistance to hazards, and culturally unacceptable. But he is also swift to give praise to sensitive, workable solutions to the shelter problem that improve the lives of their occupants and survive the test of time."

David Alexander

2. ***Supporting the voiceless, vulnerable poor families needing safe dwellings for protection or recovering from disasters.***

"Ian has been an effective evangelist for the poor and disadvantaged in disaster prone areas of the world and has carried his message to institutions and conferences throughout the world. Most of all, I appreciate Ian for his humanity

and kindness, his recognition of the integrity and self-respect of people who have otherwise been referred to as victims or beneficiaries."

Fred Krimgold

"…the dignity of people shines through the way you relate to people. I was so struck by your challenge not to look at people who live at risk of disaster or crisis as vulnerable but rather as people with capacities and extraordinary resilience. So thank you, Ian, for all you have taught me and so many others. Thank you for your compassion, your sense of humanity and for making us realise the difference we can all make in the lives of people through education and learning, but most of all through rich human relationships and friendship."

David Peppiatt

"The first lesson Ian taught me was that Disaster Management cannot be learnt through books. It can only be learnt if you visit the disaster site immediately after it happened and interact with various stakeholders, victims, local grass root level officers to the top decision makers. I followed his suggestion and got involved in documenting each and every big disaster after 1995."

Vinod Sharma

3. Reflections of key issues in readily accessible books.

"I believe his 1978 publication 'Shelter after Disaster' has been the most influential in changing attitudes towards post-disaster shelter. I consulted a number of colleagues in writing this piece, and they unanimously shared the same view. For example, until his book was accessible and also translated into Spanish there were hardy any practical examples on alternative approaches to post disaster shelter in disaster-prone regions. It shed a new light on the subject, it opened eyes to a developmental approach focusing on what affected people are able to do to help themselves and how they could be supported through training in safer construction and locally appropriate materials.

This was in a climate where universally applicable emergency shelters and approaches were developed in certain industrialised countries, such as tents, pre-fabrication, or polyurethane units and contractor- based reconstruction. Decades later alternative approaches disseminated by Ian grew into widely accepted trends in post-disaster shelter and reconstruction such as 'owner-driven' or 'building back better'."

Yasemin Aysan

"Access to Ian Davis' thinking and publications, including his seminal work on "Shelter after Disaster" were also critical in the development of Caribbean human resources as many Caribbean participants were able to attend Professor Davis' Oxford based workshops. Ian was an effective and influential trainer who encouraged participants to maintain contact and learn from his wide experience."

Franklin MacDonald

"Ian's seminal book called 'Shelter after Disaster' published in 1978, is since considered an indispensable part of the literature of disaster studies. As an

architect and humanitarian, Ian's thoughtful stewardship of this field has guided a generation of DRR scholars and practitioners both from the global north and south."

Mihir Bhatt

"I read Ian's books while I was studying the relatively new field of disaster management and was fortunate to be his student in the Disaster Management Course at Sudbury House, the Royal Military College of Sciences, Cranfield University from 25th July to 24th August 2000. When it concerns the loss of lives and disruption of livelihoods, I learnt to be brutally frank and speak with the courage of conviction without worrying about the political correctness. I learnt from Ian to be predictable in one's behaviour and I have been like that ever since that one month I spent internalising the experience. Among my several friends, if one person has influenced me to leave the comfortable and financially secure world of the UN and join the Government of India to work as a Founder Member of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), that is Prof. Ian Davis."

Vinod Menon

"I don't just tell everyone to read your books, I try to imagine on an ongoing basis, what would Ian think or do? Ian would put ethics front and centre, puncture delusions with wit, proceed with warmth to encourage us and he would tell a very good story so we don't forget. I never thought when I first read your books that I would have the chance to meet you, let alone work with you. But lucky me, I did, and learned 10 times more."

Maggie Stephenson

"A cousin of mine sent to me a book, whose title was wrongly translated into Spanish as "Arquitectura de Emergencia" (Architecture in emergencies), and it happened to be the classic "Shelter after Disasters" written by Ian. This book opened our minds to this complex field which was to become a central activity in my career."

Gustavo Wilches-Chaux

4. Creative models that communicate vital policy issues and significant insights with force and clarity.

"What stands out for me about Ian is the ease with which he is able to put the various phases of a disaster into diagrammatic models. They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and it is certainly true with Ian's diagrams."

Tony Moore

"Ian could think up conceptual models from thin air. An urban legend says that he thought of the now famous Crunch Model on a flight and scribbled it on a tissue paper. I don't know if this is technically true, but it certainly does reflect how Ian can have clear visions of fundamental concepts behind a complex issue that would normally tie a planner up in knots working out the nuts and bolts. My takeaway was to always take two steps back, and try to see the larger picture before jumping in to resolve a problem."

Anshu Sharma

"As a pioneer in the field of disaster risk reduction, Dr. Ian Davis has changed the way we look at disasters. He has devised several models to explain how disasters are precipitated through the interaction of hazard and vulnerability. These models and theories form the basis of the modern discipline of disaster risk reduction. "

Mihir Bhatt

"At that time I knew the analytical approach of the Disaster Crunch and Release Model to emphasize vulnerability, its dynamics, and the way to reduce it. This model would be disseminated in different training manuals. It would later be recognized as the PAR model (Pressure and Release) that received notable acceptance worldwide by the social sciences. It would be applied in distinct case studies in the book "At-Risk" that Ian Davis wrote with other recognized colleagues and friends in 1994. La RED (the network of social studies on disaster prevention in Latin America) also published it in Spanish as "Vulnerabilidad" in 1996."

Omar-Dario Cardona

"A key influence Ian had on the research itself is illustrated by the fact that we explored how risk assessment could be undertaken using the Crunch Model he had developed as the framework for assessment. Through such an approach, it was hoped that risk assessment would help local participants better recognize drivers of risk. Additionally, by linking the findings to action planning at community, local and national levels, the process would simultaneously be in a position capable of informing actions that could make a meaningful difference to people's lives. Ian has always told me that he is flabbergasted that the Crunch Model could be used as a framework by local communities."

Paul Venton

"The notion of addressing the root causes of disasters through the use of the 'Crunch Model' which Ian invented, has been widely used for many years and it still accurately depicts how disasters occur. He also taught me that vital recovery resources are easily made available as soon as a disaster strikes but they progressively decline over time as governments and donors loose interest and move on to new demands."

Titus Kuuyuor

"I was still trying to understand the elaborate, intricate and complex process of recovery as it unfolds disaster after disaster across the world, I was most fascinated among many others by the concept of dilemmas in recovery management as explained beautifully and in simple terms by Ian. Some interesting dilemmas related to planning vs plans; process vs product; time vs quality; house vs home; professional knowledge vs local wisdom and knowledge and like."

Anil Sinha

"In a nutshell, Ian is the source and inspiration to many of us. Many of the key concepts of disaster risk reduction which we are working on, were

developed, conceptualized and proposed by Ian several years and decades ago. I convey my deepest respect to this great visionary."

Rajib Shaw

"The 'Pressure and Release' (PAR) approach has had enormous impact in terms of getting people to think about what causes a disaster, and this is a truly extraordinary legacy from Ian. Its value is in its visual clarity and simplicity, surely a result of how Ian works visually through his background in architecture (and his wonderful paintings and drawings). There are lectures and slide shows using it. Thousands of NGOs and their staff have been influenced. The framework has also entered school education, at least in Britain. It is part of the A Level geography syllabus and appears on many support websites (often with no credit to either Ian or 'At Risk…' which is normally the source). It is also still having an impact on academic research, and very recently a paper on global public health said: "The PAR model is arguably the best known and most accepted model for conceptualizing risk in the context of disaster and emergency and offers a comprehensive and compelling framework for understanding the role of (social) vulnerability in risk."[2].

Terry Cannon

5. *Co-creating by asking questions, recounting anecdotes and stories of relevant experiences.*

"Ian has a way of involving you in his life through questioning. He questions incessantly, he drives me mad with his questions."

Peter Lovesey

"Ian Davis has been a true inspiration to the students listening to his talks. The students at Oxford Brookes University studying Architecture and Development and Emergency Practice have been enchanted, challenged, and enlightened by the stories Ian tells. I use the word stories deliberately, which might sound odd in the contact of masters level academic study, but it is a testament to the oratorical and educational skill of Ian that he strings together tales of history, people, and disasters such that they become compelling narratives, as well as good evidence to bring to an analysis of a complex set of intersecting priorities for disaster response and recovery."

Charles Parrack

"Oxford is a city that, at its best, has glorious harmonies, discords, vistas and surprises. Ian's book, published in 2020 -'Experiencing Oxford' is, like the City itself full of a similar plethora of glorious harmonies, discords, vistas and surprises.

The book is testimony to the man too. Interlaced with the Oxford story Ian tells here, there is a profound personal story, Ian's story. 'Experiencing Oxford'

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[2] Charlotte Christiane Hammer, Julii Brainard, Alexandria Innes and Paul R. Hunter 2019 "(Re-) conceptualising vulnerability as a part of risk in global health emergency response: updating the pressure and release model for global health emergencies" *Emerging Themes in Epidemiology* 16:2 doi.org/10.1186/s12982-019-0084-3

is all the richer for Ian's 'self-disclosures' throughout the text. Ian's enthusiasms infuse this book. Ian's enthusiasms enrich this book. Ian's enthusiasms draw us into a deeper understanding of what life is, could be, and perhaps should be."

Nick Isbister

6. ***Importance of two-way effective training and education at all levels.***

"Fred Cuny and Ian Davis saw that one strategy to address this pattern was to train local builders, the staff of host and donor governments, NGOs and UN humanitarian agencies in the complex issues of emergency shelter and housing reconstruction."

Paul Thompson

"We shared a deep commitment to the regular, realistic training of senior management in all organisations in all the varied aspects of Disaster Management, and it is disturbing to find that competence in this essential area is as neglected today as it was then."

Tony Moore

"I think a really important part of Ian's disaster work, and it's perhaps invisible to many, has been in teaching and training. He has run training courses in many countries over the years and that has helped to professionalise disaster management in a number of settings. The pioneering Shelter and Settlements Programme that he, Yasemin Aysan and Paul Oliver set up in the late 1970's in Oxford Polytechnic (now Oxford Brookes University) stimulated an enormous number of students to follow careers in DRR and development and many of them have become quite influential in their field."

John Twigg

7. ***Trainers and teachers to embody the message they seek to communicate, that is building capacity by example.***

"From my own professional experience in Disaster Risk and Recovery Management, or from the education I personally received or led, I believe that future education and training needs of staff entering this field, or securing continual professional development, needs to take note of Ian's timely advice to avoid the 'talking teacher'. The trainer needs to be an embodiment of the message they are communicating and so the most powerful tool in training is the person of the trainer - not his or her words. The breadth and length of Ian's exposure to disaster situations was and is a powerful aid to increasing the impact of his training. He has always embodied the message he was communicating."

Mike Wall

"I have confidence that Ian's every valuable contribution in the past 60 years will leave a footprint for present and future generations. He is a phenomenon indeed. The value of his mentorship is immeasurable. He can be called as 'Father of Disaster Management', and a humanitarian worker. He is kind, humble, generous, sociable, and simple and truly the embodiment of guidance and trust. I have now worked for 15 years in the disaster management

and education sector in Iran and still go back to those fundamental theories, models and lessons I learned from Ian."

Yasemin Izadkhah

"In addition to his unquestioned and unique erudition, knowledge, command of the theme, teaching and research skills it was and is his humility, generosity, simplicity, supportiveness, amongst other characteristics, that always moved me and made occasions with him so fulfilling. Reading his publications was always invigorating but listening to him in the person and conversing was a more rich, rewarding, and live experience."

Allan Lavell

8. ***A recognition of the potential of young professionals, learning from them as future leaders.***

"In 1989 and, after self-appointing himself as my manager, he twisted the arms of the luddites at OXFAM to publish my book on 'Community Based Disaster Mitigation' and invited me to Oxford Polytechnic to contribute to the courses he ran with Yasemin Aysan. As my own work evolved, I was conscious that Ian was always present somehow, looking out for me and covering my back."

Andrew Maskrey

"It was my pleasure, and privilege, to work for Ian Davis for four years, as a Project Manager at Ian's organization the Oxford Centre for Disaster Studies. (OCDS) In that time, Ian gave both myself and other colleagues the space to learn, and to make plenty of mistakes, while always guiding and supporting us. Ian's clever knack of framing statements as questions to which some years later it dawned on me he already knew the answers, provided an atmosphere that was supportive, generous and always constructive."

David Sanderson

"Ian has always been a great supporter and encourager of younger people wanting to work in DRR as well as new entrants to this field generally – not just by giving them ideas and insights, but also by trying to find opportunities to get them involved in projects and discussions. He certainly encouraged me when I was dipping my toes in the water and wondering what to do. This inter-generational influence is a really important and enduring legacy and a major part of his contribution to DRR over so many years. Thus, we are all indebted to Ian in one way or another."

John Twigg

9. ***A determination to press ahead, addressing unfinished business, that is perseverance.***

"One of my most memorable experiences of working with Ian wasn't in any field setting. It was when we both worked on setting up CADRI in UNDP and while designing their first flagship courses. This wasn't a walk in the park by any means with such highly politically and ideologically charged set up. Those who worked in the UN system can read between the lines! It was then that I got a taste of how much Ian was still ahead of his time, pushing boundaries and going head to head with conservative and conventional thinking. One would think that

anyone who has been in this field as long as Ian would become jaded or disillusioned. Something we are all prone to sometimes. Quite the opposite in his case. And still no sign of slowing down."

Mo Hamza

"Let me end on a more modest and challenging note. I think this reflects Ian's thinking as much as mine. I like to quote the aphorism that begins, "when all is said and done", and conclude it by adding, "much more is said than done". And this goes for writing as well! So while Ian x 2 have between them, done a lot of writing there is no basis for relaxation or easing off, or self-congratulation. Much remains to be done on disaster risk reduction and creation, and on climate change adaptation. In fact, "remains to be done" is putting it the wrong way round. If anything can be claimed from Ian Davis' work (and I take some pride in including myself) it is that the magnitude and difficulty of the tasks is now seen to be greater than ever before. The great hope is that the world is now waking up to the task ahead. The younger generation; the private sector corporations, and financial interests; all levels of government and public service; in richer countries and in poorer; the more advantaged and the disadvantaged; and dare I say, humanity at large, are now realizing the size and the urgency of the tasks. The climate change adaptation community has adopted the disaster risk reduction mantra of "build back better". This is too simple and misleading. We need to build back differently. And sometimes we do not need to build at all if that means building in the wrong way, in the wrong time and the wrong place.

More research and understanding is still needed, more education, better management and decision-making and policy, but the greatest need of all is the need for sense of urgency and the will to act now. Ian Davis and I will not rest easily or at all until that happens. I would add one more thought. The needed actions require a world – wide sense and acceptance of common responsibility. As Ian's international and wide – ranging work has shown, disasters are not simply one – off isolated events, but are connected by cascading consequences and underlying root cases. In a spiritual way, we are all in this together with disasters as much as with climate change."

Ian Burton

10. *Faith, in Ian's case are his strongly valued Christian convictions, and in others faith in our collective ability to create common good for all.*

"Apart from his most influential publications and professional achievements we are all agreed on Ian's courage to initiate a new humane attitude and his inimitable sense of humour. He cares for people, feels for them which is a necessary quality needed to work with communities. His Christian commitment strengthens these qualities that he combined with his professionalism in his manual on 'Christian Perspectives on Disaster Management', a wonderful document that highlights many biblical examples that can be replicated by other faiths as useful in working with communities."

Yasemin Aysan

"I reached out to Professor Ian Davis by email, and despite being a total stranger, he invited me to meet him. How typically kind and generous. A short time later, in 2000, I arrived at Cranfield University, and we sat down for lunch. What happened next is the strongest example of how I have always felt blessed to know Ian. Before we began eating, he looked at me and said, "Shall I pray?" I was a little surprised, but I also immediately felt more at ease in his presence. I quickly realised that he must have known this was a safe bet, as I had told him that I had recently begun working for Tearfund – a Christian relief and development charity. I, however, did not yet know of Ian's long and important relationship with Tearfund, and hence my surprise."

Paul Venton

"Ian reminds me to attribute to God all the goodness we receive, as He's the true source of wisdom and understanding."

Zenaida Delica -Willison

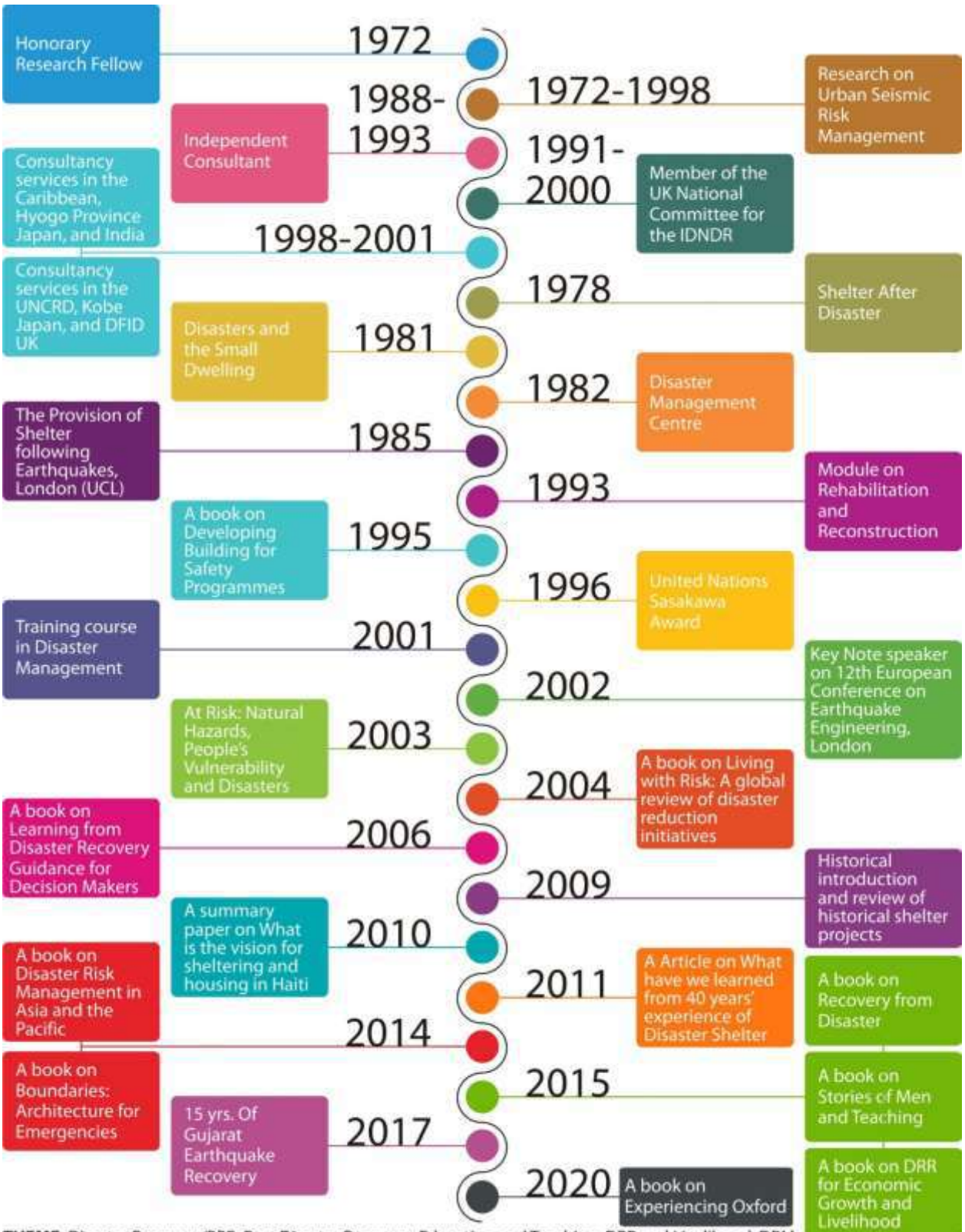
"You have lived your faith…"

Fred Krimgold

How can I thank God for this gift to know and work with Dr. Ian Davis? And each of the above ten points in the beginning of this write up are connected to the broader struggle for social equality and justice. These points are not for passive practice. These points are not for us to read and think about only in our headquarter offices or community classrooms. These ten points to me offer an ethical location to stand firmly in the uncertainty and chaos of humanitarian action and risk reduction efforts.

41. TIMELINE

by Ian Davis



THEME: Disaster Recovery/BBB, Post Disaster Recovery, Education and Teaching, DRR and Livelihood, DRM, DRR and Architecture, Disaster Shelter, DRR, Disaster Mitigation, Disaster Management, Safer Housing

42. CONSULTANCY/PUBLICATIONS

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Keynote Speaker and member of Organising Committee: *'Creation and Catastrophe'* Symposium at the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) (April 7th 2016).

Principal Lecturer: *Shelter and Settlements Course Copenhagen University* (May 2016).

Keynote Speaker: *Emerging Lessons concerning Recovery Management following the 2015 Nepal Earthquake,* Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) Kathmandu.

Shelter and Settlement Guidelines, 2015-2016 Principle Consultant to Urgence Rehabilitation Développement (URD Groupe, Paris) in ECHO Project for the European Union.

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Keynote Speaker: International Conference *Disaster Reconstruction*. (2014) Organised by the Disaster Management Center, Sichuan University and the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) Chengdu, P.R.China.

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Author Meetings in Panama City Nov 2009 Hanoi, Vietnam March 2010, Geneva October 2010 and Gold Coast, Australia May 2011 (March 2012).

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Leader and Co-Editor International Evaluation Team: Fifteen Year Longitudinal study of Reconstruction Progress in Malkondji Village, Maharashtra, India following the 1993 Latur Earthquake. Tearfund and AIDMI (2010).

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Contributing Author International Reconstruction Project for the GFDRR of the World Bank in writing: *'Safer Homes, Stronger Communities- A Handbook for Reconstructing after Natural Disasters'* TCG International (2008-10).

Visit and Report on Rural Housing Reconstruction Programme (RHPP) following the Pakistan Earthquake of October 8th 2005 on behalf of UN-HABITAT with Professor Babar Mumtaz (2008).

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Senior Consultant to the Australian Government (AUS AID) on the development of a National Strategy for Disaster Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change (2008).

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Technical Advisor to UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, nominated by DFID to the scientific working group established by the UK Chief Government Scientist, Sir David King to advise Prime Minister Tony Blair on ways that the UK Government, and the G8 Countries could promote an *Effective Global Disaster Warning Network*. This report was presented to the G8 World Leaders at their Gleneagles Meeting (2006).

Project Leader to the International Recovery Platform (IRP) and to the UNDP on a project to develop *Guidelines on Disaster Reconstruction* (2003-5).

Consultant for Cranfield University's Resilience Centre in the development of *Training materials in Disaster Risk Management* for the Capacity Development Disaster Risk Initiative (CADRI) of UNDP/ ISDR and UNOCHA (2004-6).

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Member of a four person World Bank Appraisal Mission advising on the Evaluation of the IDB's Disaster Project Portfolio, 1975-2005. In Paris in November (2006) he was moderator at the first international gathering convened by the World Bank to discuss ways to harmonise and share tools for the evaluation of Disaster Assistance by international Finance Institutions (IFI's) (2006).

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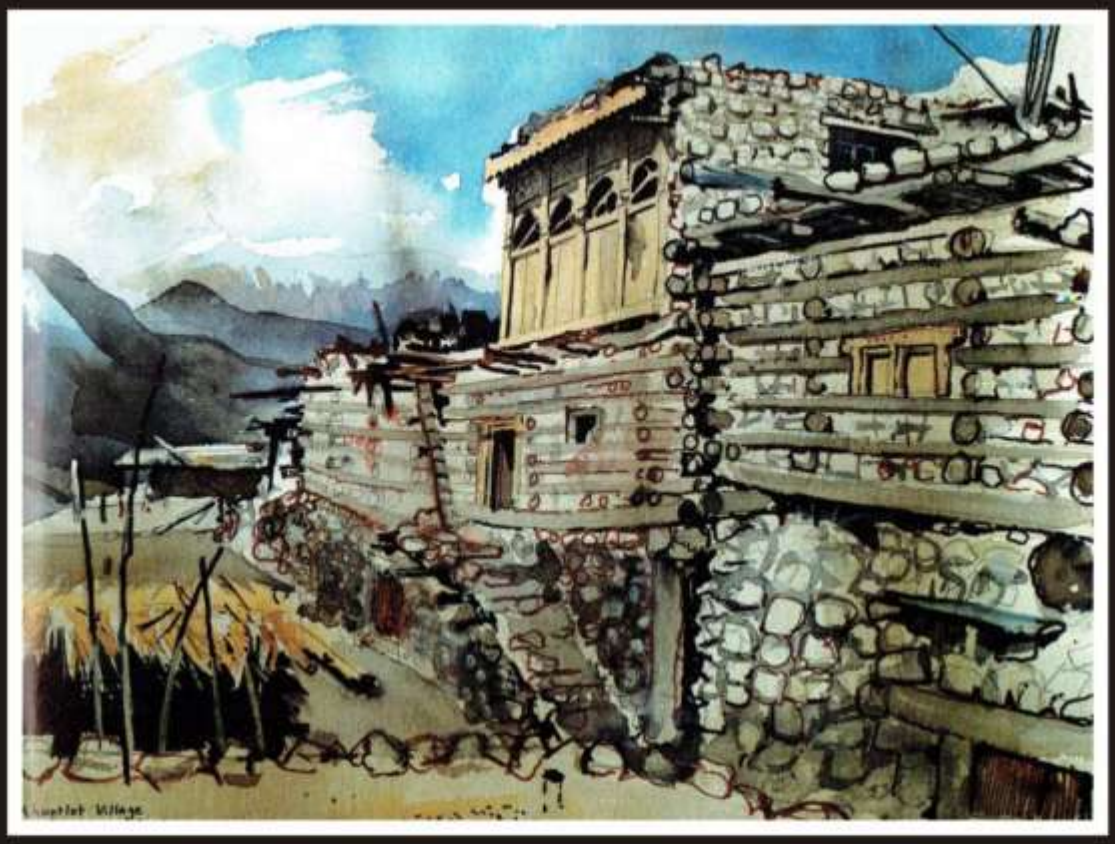

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