

A day with SeaNA Tagbilaran City, The Philippines

The Seaside Neighborhood Association SeaNA is a people's organisation made up of inhabitants in an informal settlement along the coastline of the city of Tagbilaran. The association has 80 members, and manages the well being and challenges of the whole community that consists of 500 people. The settlement was founded 50 years ago by a few remaining inhabitants and it has been growing ever since, but at the moment they don't accept any more members because they want to become legal. Most families get their livelihood either from fishing the waters nearby or selling foods in the nearby city center.

Like many other similar settlements, SeaNA members face the threat of relocation, away from the seaside that is not only their home but also their main source of income. The relocation is due to -according with the government- the fact that the settlement is in a danger zone, therefore it can be affected by a variety of weather related conditions or the rising tide. But in the other side, there are government plans to develop the area and build a boulevard.

#aDayWithSeaNA

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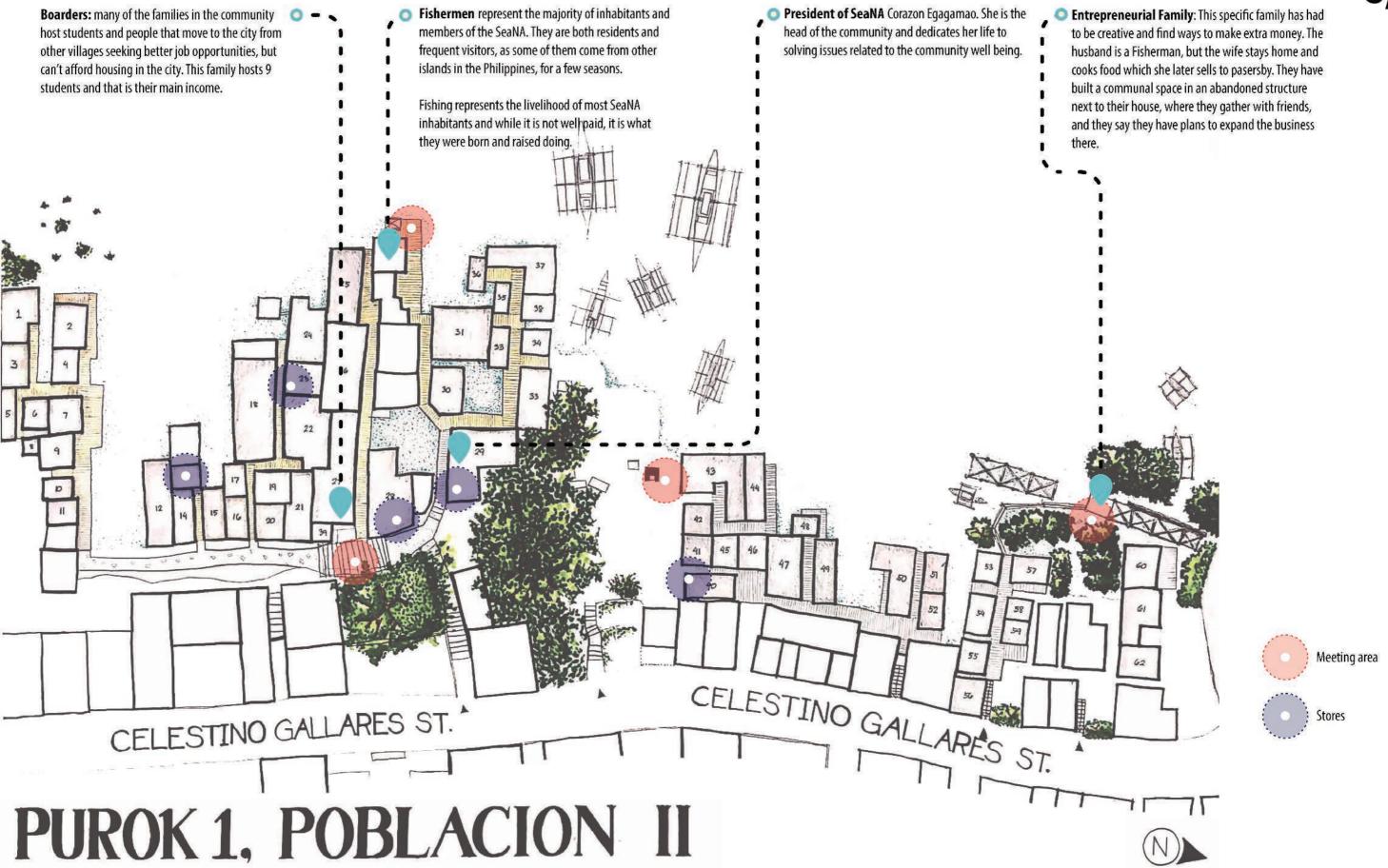
The collected snaps can be found on Youtube under the following name: ADAYWITHSEANA. instagram: @aaltoarts

We had become familiar with SeaNA during our excursion to the city with master level studio course Cities in Transition organized by Aalto University School of Arts in cooperation with Nitech and BISU. In order to raise awareness about the segregated community and make an effort to show what value they bring to the city, we spent a day following the daily life of the members of the community. The events of the day were documented and shared on Aalto University's official Snapchat account @aaltouniversity and the university's School of Arts' official Instagram @aaltoarts, where they reached hundreds - if not thousands - of people.

During our stay we mapped the physical environment as well as social environment (jobs, skills, number of inhabitants in a household as well as main source of income), that were later presented to the head of the City planning office, the City's official Tourism officer, the Dean of the Department of Architecture at local university BISU, a local architect known for his interest to develop the city in an inclusive manner, as well as some of the students. All this with an attempt to raise awareness of the importance of the settlers to the city life that are stigmatized because of their situation.

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