

THE FLEXIBLE SHELTER FROM TRANSITIONAL TO PERMANENT HOUSING

Elizabeth Wagemann/ PhD student/ ecw49@cam.ac.uk
Michael Ramage/ Supervisor

INTRODUCTION

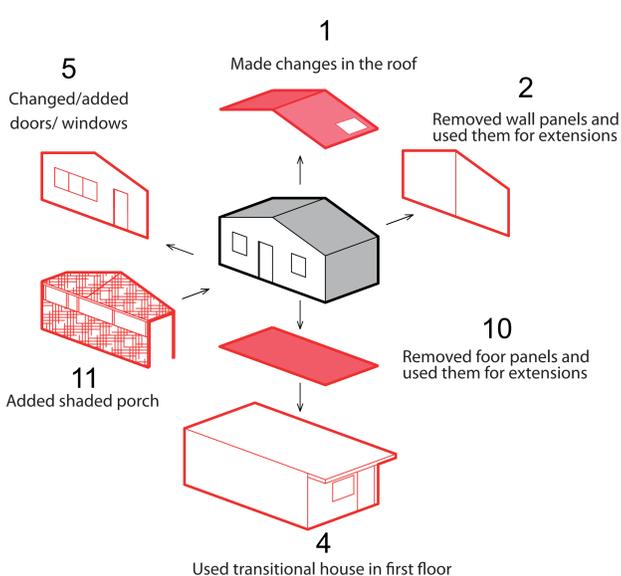
This research focuses on transitional accommodation **after natural disasters** and their need for flexibility to meet climate conditions and family's needs in the process of recovery. Long term solutions usually take place several years after **transitional shelters** are built. This gap is a critical aspect to the recovery process, and therefore, the research goal is to understand how

transitional housing may be designed to include future changes to become (or be part of) permanent housing. Changes made by users in real cases were investigated during a pilot study conducted in **Peru and Chile** in 2012, in order to identify similar patterns. The qualitative techniques used were field observation, interviews and surveys.

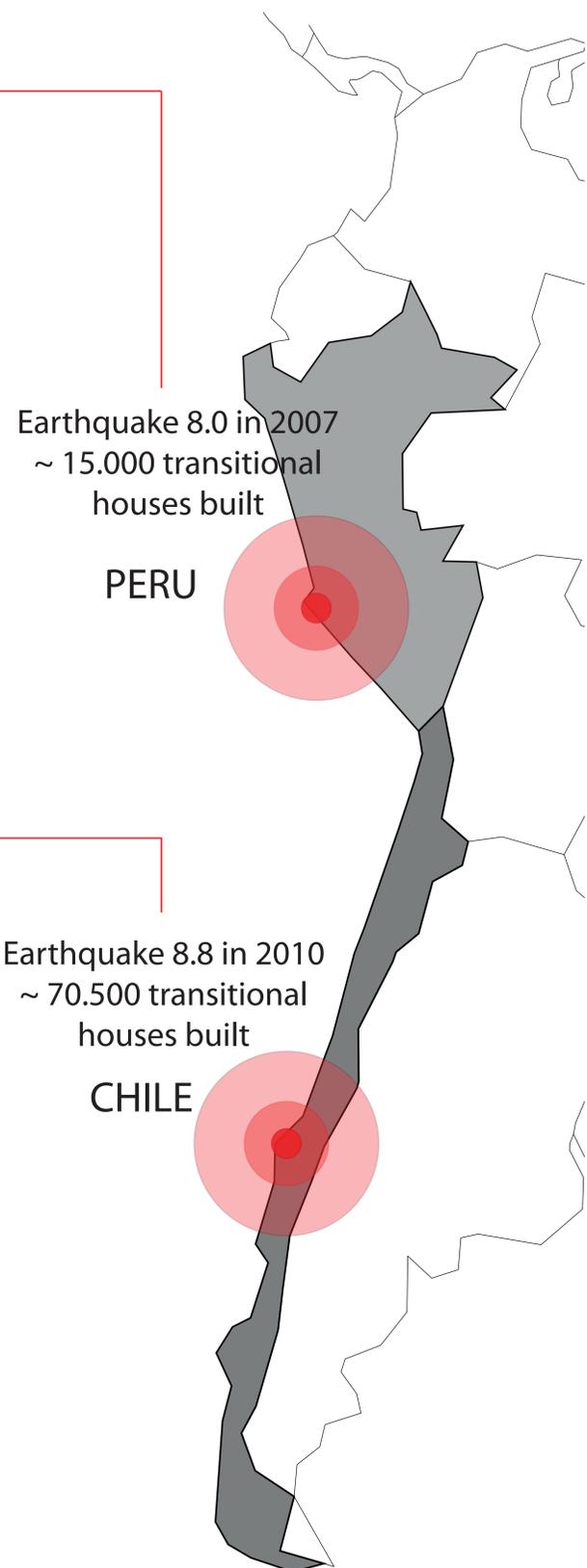
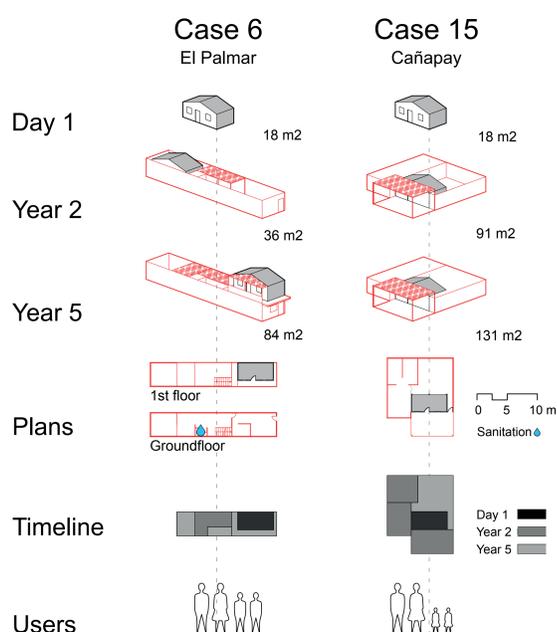
The fieldwork did not aim to be statistically representative, but illustrative. For that reason, **illustrative sampling** was used, and 27 cases from different settlements were analysed. The analysis of these cases will be the starting point for designing new strategies, focusing on the concepts of **flexibility and adaptation**.

CASE STUDIES

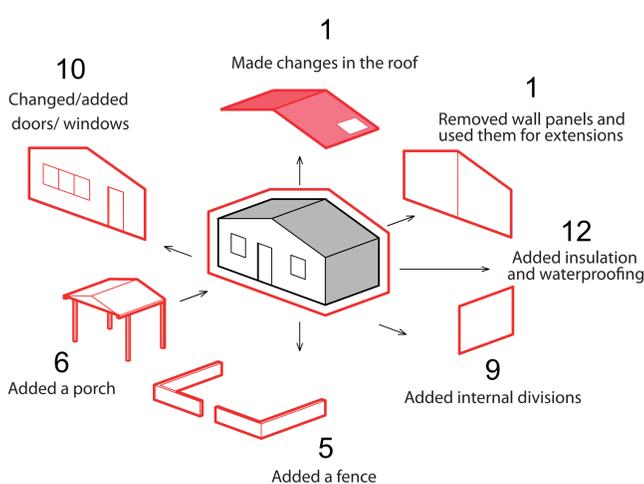
1 PERU/ SYNTHESIS



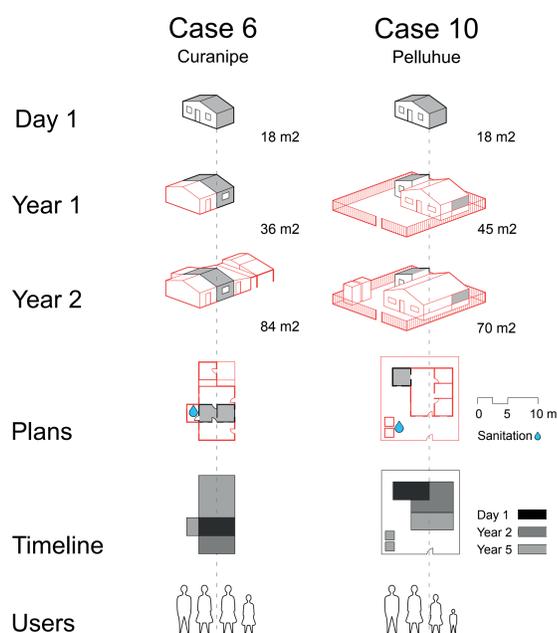
Examples non-displaced families



2 CHILE/ SYNTHESIS



Examples displaced families



MODIFICATION TRENDS

The analysis shows **common modifications** that families do to their transitional houses. Those changes were defined by the need of space and adaptation to the climatic conditions.

In Chile all cases studied included **insulation and waterproofing**, showing that the thermal comfort and protection from the rain was the main issue.

In Peru, the protection from the sun was the main concern, and most houses added a **shaded porch**. In both cases the **intermediate space** was identified as an important element between the public and the private spaces.

This research highlights the importance of climate and cultural aspects on giving a transitional solution after a disaster. Although the fact that

data presented here cannot be generalised due to the size of the sample, the study exemplifies some issues that should be solved by a transitional house. Similar studies can be conducted in other countries of **Latin America**, in rural and urban contexts, in order to determine if these conclusions are **replicable**.