

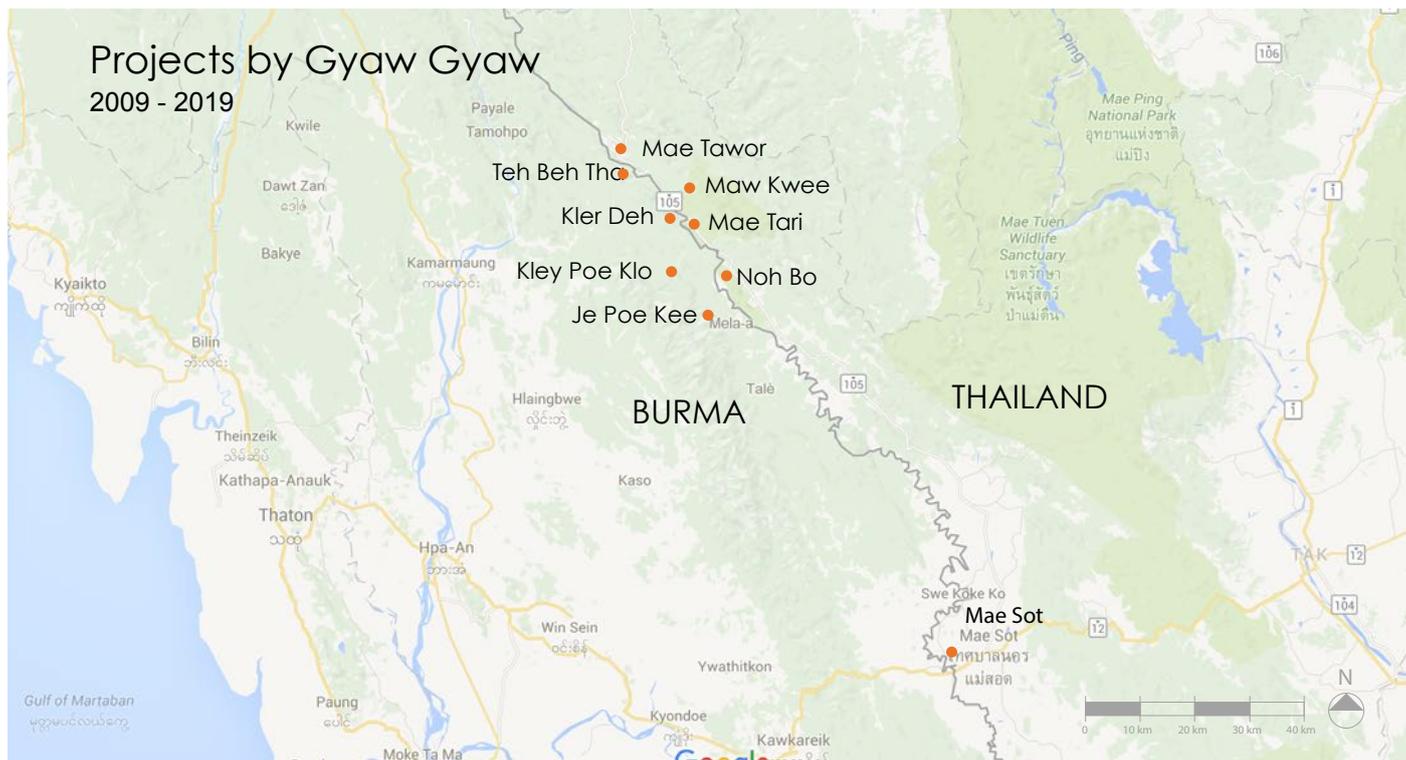
ကယီကယီ | Gyaw Gyaw

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Photo: Vincenzo Floramo

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### **Gyaw Gyaw extended team 2018:**

*From left: Daniel Evensen (architect), Jae-Young Lee (architect), Pah Da (trainee), Kee Kee Pah (economic responsibility on building site), See Da Pah (leader of building site), Phillipa (social responsibility), Paw Eh Wah (leader), Pah Me (details), Saw Dee (driver/organizer), Paw Rah Mo (leader assistant, teacher trainer, administrator on building site), Line Ramstad/Nee Ga Mwee (leader of the board, architect, project manager), Ste Pha (carpenter)*

Gyaw Gyaw consists of strong people with initiative, but Karen communities are built around hierarchies where leaders are giving orders. The Asian idea of “not losing face” is also a challenge when it comes to fruitful discussions, and it took years with many small steps and tactical moves to create a work sphere where it was ok to give honest feedbacks, to discuss and even disagree without anyone quitting. Luckily, we succeeded, and today this close and democratic collaboration is one of our greatest strength.

With a well-functioning team and architecture and craftsmanship based on a local understanding of culture, climate and materials, it gives us the opportunity to design and build projects that are sustainable in an economic, ecological and cultural/social manner, and that also functions in its context over time.

Since “everyone” in the jungle can build a house and the traditional buildings are well adjusted to life and climate and leave a small footprint, modern buildings itself are not necessarily needed. The act of building also rather strengthens the communities and is an important action for neighbours to stay collaborative partners. Before we decide to implement a project in a small village, we therefore carefully do our research, follow the school over time and make sure they want to collaborate and share knowledge, so we actually add something to the community. **Do no harm** is our strongest guiding principle.

So far it has resulted in 10 years and nearly 70 acknowledged projects implemented! We are still going strong and are looking forward to new projects in the years to come.

**THANK YOU to our long-term sponsors who make this possible!**

## Gyaw Gyaw Noh Bo team



Leader of buildingsite: See Dah Pah



Details: Pah Me



Driver/Organizer: Saw Dee



Manager: Paw Eh Wah



Social responsible: Phillipa



Director/leader of the board/architect:  
Line Ramstad/Nee Ga Mwee



Carpenter: Ste Pha



Economic responsible: Kee Kee Pah



Trainee: Pah Da

The Gyaw Gyaw team is a stable group with an internal strong bound.

**Pah Me, Phillipa, See Da Pah, Line, Paw Eh Wah** and **Saw Dee** were all part of the founding process back in 2008/2009 and have been working together ever since. **Ste Pha** has been with us since 2011 and **Kee Kee Pah** came into the team in 2016. **Pah Da** is now our new trainee.

Within the team there is a great variety of skills, interests and religious beliefs. We complement each other in work and organisational matters, but most important for our results and continuous development is the simple fact that we like and respect each other and enjoy working together on a daily base.

The last years, **Paw Eh Wah** has steadily taken over the position as our leader. She continues in the same path as Line started but also add her own style of leadership. Responsibilities are among others more clearly divided and both internal and external collaborations have been given clearer frames. She is today a popular and respected leader within the team and among different stakeholders along the border.

With **Daniel Evensen** and **Jae-Young Lee** well implemented as collaborative architects, design and technical solutions have also further developed and Gyaw Gyaw stands stronger than ever before.

## Gyaw Gyaw architects and project management



Architect/project leaders:  
Line Ramstad & Paw Eh Wah



Architect: Jae-Young Lee



Architect: Daniel Evensen

Photo: Vincenzo Floramo

Where the different tasks on the building site is based on personal skills and experience, design is to a bigger extent based on education. Like in Norway and other places in the world, a carpenter does not necessary become an architect just by building a lot of buildings. The more experience, the better a carpenter, but it is not the same as to be able to design a new building from scratch.

With an exception of international participants on two-week workshops and a successful cooperation with Albert Company Olmo with the Mae Tao Clinic project back in 2012-2014, Line has designed and been in charge of all projects implemented by Gyaw Gyaw.

**Line Ramstad** is the founder of Gyaw Gyaw. She is a Norwegian landscape architect with additional bachelor in anthropology and geography. She worked for more than five years as a landscape architect in Norway before coming to Noh Bo on a temporary architecture project in 2008. There she met the people who later became her cofounders and colleagues in Gyaw Gyaw.

As the years have gone by, Line has had a growing wish to get architectural inputs and share some of the responsibilities for design, but the team has not been too happy about it. Paw Eh Wah has slowly grown as leader of the group and project manager on site, but to find someone that is a good designer and at the same time has a thorough understanding for Karen culture, climate and do's and don'ts in the small communities along the border, is not too easy. Luckily, they exist!

**Jae-Young Lee** is a German and South Korean architect that came to the border as an architect student/trainee with Albert Company-Olmo in 2016. She completed her master thesis in 2017/18 on building-habits in Burma and since 2018 she has been living and working in Berlin, working for an office for wooden architecture. Jae is a talented designer and quickly showed a broad understanding for the culture and the unwritten rules along the border. The team had already met Jae in different settings and got along with her very well. When Line moved to Norway in 2017, Jae was the first to be asked to design. Luckily, she agreed, and she successfully designed Klay Poe Klo primary School and gave us all a great start on external collaborations.

**Daniel Evensen** is a Norwegian architect and has been annually in Noh Bo since 2006 to visit his friend who runs an orphanage there. Daniel also participated in our workshop in Noh Bo in 2013 and did his master thesis in our area in 2015. He started a small architecture company together with classmates before taking a position at Jensen and Skodvin in Oslo from August 2019. Daniel was also quickly accepted by the team and designed TTC kitchen that is presented in this report. His brilliant design and focus on solutions in a smaller scale has lifted our level of design a step higher.

The collaborations have been most successful both in process and architectural results, the team has grown and Paw Eh Wah has settled into her role as a curator between languages and culture.

## Gyaw Gyaw board of directors



Board member: Christine Riiser Wist



Leader: Line Ramstad



Board member: Linn Beathe Hæreid

The board for 2018 consists of Line Ramstad as the board leader and Christine Riiser Wist and Linn Beathe Hæreid as board members.

**Line Ramstad** holds the position as working board leader and is keeping her duties with the team in Noh Bo as well as being the leader of the board from Norway. After a period with an additional full-time position in Oslo, Line is having her full attention back on Gyaw Gyaw again from 1. October 2018. She will have her base in Årnes, Norway, but also spend months in Noh Bo during the winter months.

**Linn Beathe Hæreid** is from Årdal, Norway and has been a board member since 2016. She has a master's degree in civil economics and worked for years as an auditor for Deloitte before adjusting her path in a more humanitarian direction. She now lives in Bergen, Norway, and holds the position as Social responsibilities for Brann SK.

**Christine Riiser Wist** is from Årnes, Norway and has been a board member in Gyaw Gyaw since 2017. Christine has a broad background with a double degree as librarian and as landscape architect. Christine has worked as a librarian in the National Library of Norway and as library manager in Nes Kommune. She also has more than 10 years of experience as a landscape architect conducting a variety in tasks for a selection of smaller and bigger consultant companies within the building industry in Norway. Christine now holds the position as area planner in Nes Kommune.

### **The board of directors work and responsibilities:**

Through quarterly reports involving economics, updates on projects and issues of particular concern to long-term development of the association, the board is keeping control of the organization and is making sure it is run in line with Gyaw Gyaw's statutes, philosophy and funds available.

The last years, the board has also been present in our workshops in Noh Bo together with the collaborative architects and the Noh Bo team. Our sponsors have also been invited to this. The workshops have contributed to unify the different parts of the organization and simplified the collaboration for all involved parties.

The knowledge and friendship the board members have built through visits to Noh Bo, also makes them better equipped to support Paw Eh Wah and the team in Noh Bo if needed. With feedbacks and second opinions the board members also play an important role as discussion partners for Line and contribute to lift the quality and professionalism of Gyaw Gyaw.



Line Ramstad - founder, project- and board leader

## DEAR FRIENDS OF GYAW GYAW

Where the leader's commentary in an annual report normally should be about the team's achievements the last year, this will be more personal. 2018 is behind us and on a personal note, that is actually quite ok. 2019 has however started in the best possible manner. From 01.01.19 I am back fulltime working with Gyaw Gyaw, this time with my home in Årnes, Norway. Paw Eh Wah is in charge in Noh Bo and the cooperation with architects Jae-Young Lee and Daniel Evensen is well implemented.

I cannot express enough how grateful I am for this opportunity and the one and only to thank for this is our long-term sponsor HENT. Gyaw Gyaw would also not have been possible without Asplan Viak, Rotary, Baias and Agrafts contribution but when life was on its hardest, the leaders of HENT ([www.hent.no](http://www.hent.no)) understood the situation, saw the opportunities, gave Gyaw Gyaw the biggest support ever and offered me my life back as I know it and love it. Big words, but I truly mean them.

I now have three years to work with Gyaw Gyaw and at the same time fulfill my income requirements in Norway so my husband Nick and I can stay here together during the family reunion process we are in the middle of.

It is time to tell Gyaw Gyaw's history and get our philosophy out there! I will also fulfill my tasks in the team, assist my colleagues in Noh Bo, design some of the projects coming up and support and collaborate with Jae and Daniel for projects that they will be in charge of. I will live with Nick in Årnes but have the opportunity to travel in between and spend time on site with my dear colleagues in Noh Bo as often as I can. It feels GREAT!



Photo: Line Ramstad

Evening walk with Nick and our dog, Mr.Brown outside of our home in Noh Bo. Fields - Thai side/mountains Burmese side

Thinking back on 2018, the feeling of being constantly behind on my tasks and letting my team down was devastating. It was never enough time, and I was not present in my own life. Two fulltime positions were, not surprisingly, one too many, but if Nick and I were going to make a future in Norway, I unfortunately had no choice.

The rules and requirements required to live in Norway with a husband from a country outside of Schengen, is purely based on income. As a couple, you are also placed in a role where you are no longer equal, but the Norwegian is seen as the supporter. The non-Norwegian has limited rights and cannot contribute to fulfill the requirements. If I had lived and worked in Norway and met Nick online, it would have been no problem at all. I would have had a place to live and a job with a high enough income. I did not even have to know him! Since we met on a building site in Noh Bo, worked together, became friends, then a couple – all with local Karen income, it did not even matter that we are married. I did not fulfill the requirements of income. Savings does not count, ability to actually take care of yourself does not count, only what is on your paycheck now and in the future. Luckily Nick got accepted into NMBU and got a student's visa with his bachelors, otherwise he would only be allowed to visit until I could prove my ability to take care of him economically for the previous year, current year and the next.

After all these years in a warzone, meeting the bureaucracy in my home country, one of the most peaceful, happy and democratic countries in the world, was what broke me down. Bureaucracy has no face, it's no one, but it has all the power. It is rules to follow that do not make sense compared to the normal Norwegian society I grew up in, but they are there – always present. If not, your husband has to leave and live in another country until you fit into the framework.

It started with a headache that turned into migraines, then stomach pain that turned into ulcers, a ringing tone never left my ears and a constant dizzy feeling impacted my sight. Then came the uncontrolled crying and the hopeless feeling of waking up to yet another long day working two



Architectural discussions in Noh Bo.



Noh Bo team



Gaw La Heh School, designed in advanced and built with me in Norway.



My most important team - Nick

fulltime jobs. For Nick the situation was not any better. He was the best support I could ever ask for, but whatever he did, it did not count towards the reunion process for us.

I am used to long hours and hard work, but the stress around this situation was more than I could handle. It tore me down and after two years I ended up at my doctor's office with a sick leave and a clear message to fix my life. That's when I called HENT and asked for a meeting and that's when they gave me my life back as I know it and love it. To say I am grateful does not cover it!

Through the years, I have often, with the best intentions, been told to present Gyaw Gyaw in a way the sponsors easily can relate to, that puts us in a good light. Weaknesses should be tucked away so it's easy for everyone to trust us. I believe in honesty.

I have built Gyaw Gyaw step by step with my colleagues. I am the leader and, in many ways, the most important person in our organization. I am the bridge for both income and knowledge, I am the one to make the final decisions, the less pleasant conversations and unpopular choices. I am also the one who gets to see the development within the team and among our collaborators first-hand, I get to be both here and there and tell the story both ways. That is best done with honesty, both ways.

So the last years, I was our weakest link, I was the bottleneck and the one in trouble, but Gyaw Gyaw did well. We bloomed as an organization and made some of the nicest projects we have ever done! That makes me incredibly proud.

Now Nick and I can live in Norway, I can keep working with Gyaw Gyaw and life is back on track.

**What a team! If you ask me, that is a team worth fighting for!**



Photo: Maiken Johansen

Presentation and a great THANK YOU to HENT at their annual conference in Hell 2018



Photo: Saw Dee

Gyaw Gyaw team, architects and board.



Photo: Vincenzo Floramo

Paw Eh Wah - manager

## 2018-2019 YEAR OF WORK WITH GYAW GYAW

The first I want to thank the sponsor that are helping us to run Gyaw Gyaw every years. Thank you again for your kindness and care of our organization to go forward.

The pleasure of work with GYAW GYAW, it has been wonderful years for me and I enjoy a lot. I have improved my skills and understand the structure and drawings by Line, Jae and Daniel. They have a different gift as Line is good on placing the ground for landscapes, Jae is good on how to make sure the building strong and Daniel is good on making drawing. I have learned from all of their different skills and it makes me more comfortable to work with them. If I misunderstand, they understand my questions and explain to me again and again. I am really grateful for Line, Jae and Daniel for helping me and show me the way to understand the drawing structure.

On the ground, working with the team, I make sure the team are doing well and are safe for working. I am asking questions to the drawings before they start to work on each project. Every week I am explaining drawings and make discussion and suggestion for the weekly work with the team. When the team are having any problem on work I try to solve as quick as possible. In any problem I ask the team to give me the idea and make sure everyone of them to agree on that. We do not have any big problem to solve because we are small group and understanding each other by taking responsibility.

We have a good time of workshop with Board member in Norway, architectural of Line, Jae and Daniel and team member of Gyaw Gyaw. We have visited the project such as Kler Deh (Burma), Noh Bo village (Thai border), Klay Poe Klo (Burma), Gaw Lah He (Burma) and the future project in Kle Moe Kee village (Burma). We have a discussion of how to be working in different ways and

learning from each other's abilities. The workshop is helping us to know each other about who we are and what we are in position and about of our future plan.

The team are improving and learn more about different positions on the building site and are understanding more how to make detail on each part of the building. The team are learning from new drawing from Jae and Daniel and they like to learn new things from them. Everyone are taking good care and are taking responsibility for the work and the projects are going well on each side. When they need help or to do something they always talk together and are helping each other.

I hope the in future years we will try the best to improve our skill more on building and teaches to the next generation who will going to work with Gyaw Gyaw. The team member are getting old age, so to work in the future we need more people to learn the way of Gyaw Gyaw.

I really thankful for everyone who support us to have a work that is helpful for other people in need. I hope you all will bless be plentiful on your dream come true.



Ste Pha and Paw Eh Wah bending iron for foundation



Building site - Gaw La Heh school in Je Po Kee Village



Monday morning planning meeting.



Most materials are from site, but some few must be bought. Paw Eh Wah arranges this



Phillipa (red) and Pah Me (green) building adobe walls.



Happy students in their new classroom in Gaw La Heh school.  
Photo: Paw Eh Wah

**Paw Eh Wah** was born in 1988 as the youngest of 11 siblings in a village outside of Taungoo in central Burma. Her father was killed when she was only one year old and to be able to get education, she grew up with a friend of her mother. After primary school she worked a year as a teacher in one of the refugee camps on the border and came to Noh Bo to study at Academy School (high school) in 2007.

To support herself, she got a position at the orphanage in Noh Bo. This also gave her a place to live. There she met Saw Dee who later became her husband, and two children and three years of unwanted disruption later, she finally was allowed to complete her diploma in 2013. During these years she was in charge of economics in Gyaw Gyaw, and she slowly started to build confidence, trust and respect in the team and among collaborative partners.

In 2013 a teacher training college from New Zealand opened a branch in Noh Bo and after two years of education, child number three and two years of obligatory practice, she took over the full responsibility of Gyaw Gyaw on ground when Line moved to Norway in 2017.



Daniel Evensen - collaborative architect

## REPORT FROM DANIEL AFTER WORKING WITH GYAW GYAW FOR A YEAR

The last 10 ten years I have been visiting Thailand frequently. A lot of it has to do with my close friend Ole-Jørgen living there.

In 2017 Line Ramstad invited me as an architect and friend to join a Gyaw Gyaw workshop in the beginning of 2018, and to be a part of the building process of TTC kitchen in Noh Bo.

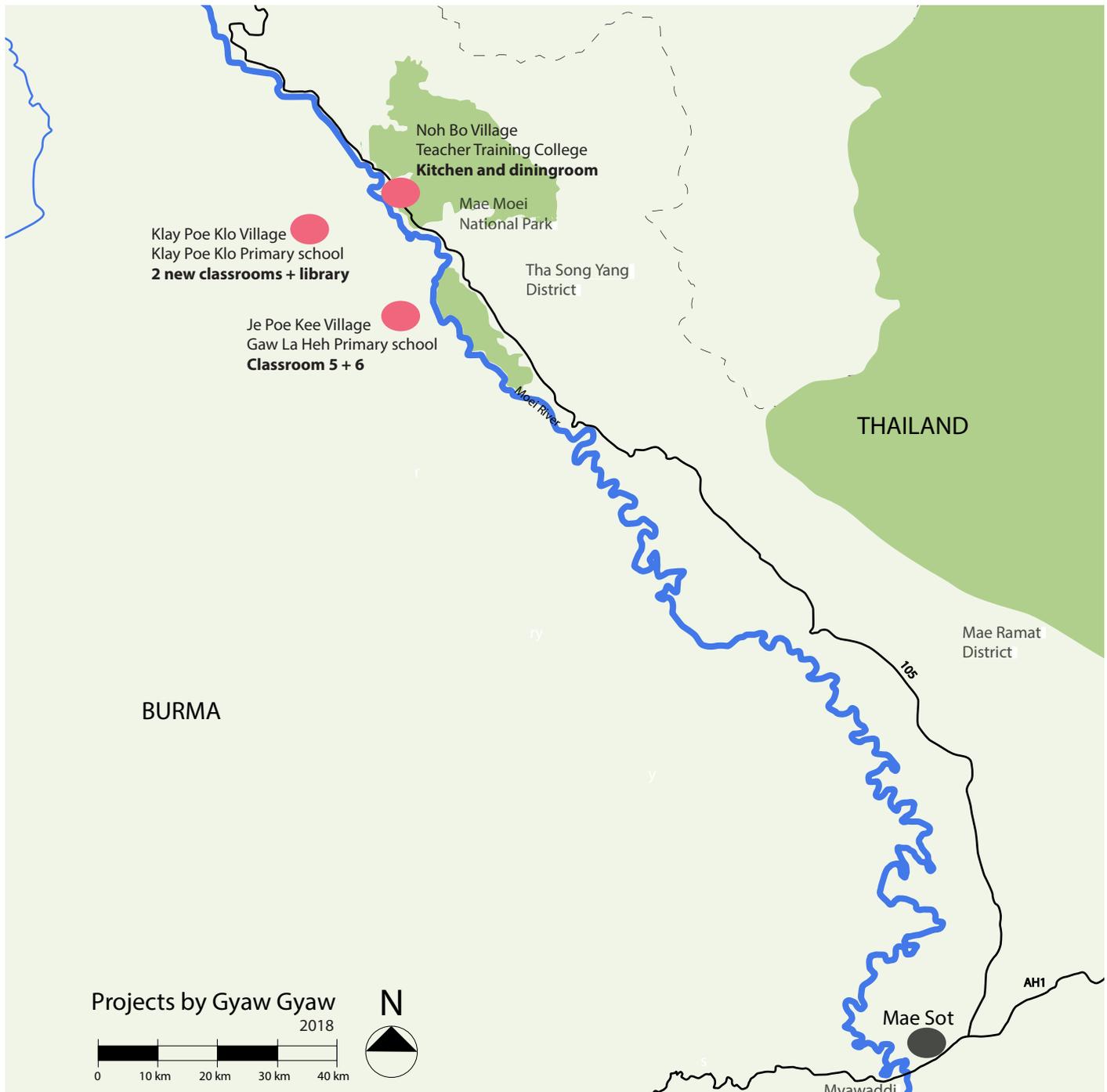
In the beginning of 2019, the building was finished. My main task was to contribute to the design. I have been working from Trondheim where I live, sending sketches/drawings by mail and getting feedback from Noh Bo, Oslo and Germany. In September 2018 I travelled to Thailand for a week to meet the team and to fix the last main decisions before the building could start in late September 2018. Even with long distances, we have found ways to communicate and I think when learning from the process, its possible to work together like this in a satisfying manner.

It has been a great experience to work on this project, and I think the meeting of perspectives and opinions cross borders and cultures has given good results. The Gyaw Gyaw team has practiced great patience, trust and understanding towards me. It has always felt like team work.

This fall we are planning to work together on new school buildings on the Burmese side of the boarder. With great memories from last process I look forward to do it again, and I think now with more experience we have every chance to do even better.

Thank you, Daniel Evensen

## PROJECTS AND NUMBERS



### Projects 2018:

- Klay Poe Klo Primary school - 2 classrooms and library
- Gaw La Heh Primary school - classroom 5+6
- Teacher Training College (TTC) in Noh Bo - Kitchen and dining room.

*All amounts are indicated in Norwegian Kroner. (NOK)*

*Average conversion rate for 2018 was 398 THB/ 100 NOK.*

*Actual project costs may vary due to currency exchange rate fluctuation.*



|                        |                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project budget:        | <b>100 688,- NOK</b>                                                                                                            |
| Project costs 2018:    | <b>42 899,- NOK</b> (Project costs 2017 = 61 564,- NOK) (Total costs = <b>104 463,- NOK</b> )                                   |
| Size:                  | <b>105 square meters (14 x 7,5 m)</b>                                                                                           |
| Design/implementation: | <b>Gyaw Gyaw by Jae-Young Lee/ Gyaw Gyaw + villagers</b>                                                                        |
| Materials:             | <b>Timberposts on concrete shoes, timber construction, bamboo walls and windows. Insulated tin roof on timber construction.</b> |
| Project period:        | <b>Design from Jan 2017. Construction period Nov 2017 - April 2018.</b>                                                         |

The new school building consists of two classrooms divided by a small library that also double as a noise reduction zone.

The building is adjusted to the landscape and neighboring houses and designed with focus on functionality, sustainable materials and natural light and airflow through each room. Construction wise, the project is built as a traditional Karen timber building but is strengthened with diagonals to increase stability and make a longer lasting construction. Timber posts are also placed on concrete shoes to avoid humidity and termites to wear down the timber and increase the lifespan

The walls are designed in a variety of bamboo, both as shaped into sheets and used in its natural rounded shape to match requirements of natural light and airflow through each room and at the same time protect the student for direct sunlight and rain.

Each classroom is a flexible room that can be used for one or more classes. Blackboards can be moved around, and the benches also works as tables for the smallest kids. The library is placed in the middle and the open construction functions as bookshelves along the walls. In front of the building is a long roof covered entrance area that creates a great hangout space for breaks. It can also be used during school hours when more space is needed. Besides of the roof, concrete shoes, nails and screws, all materials are locally sourced.

## Process and implementation



Photo: Line Ramstad

*Klay Poe Klo Primary school consisted of one classroom that was shared by four classes and three teachers.*

Klay Poe Klo school is situated in a remote Karen village, safely hidden in a narrow lush valley with a beautiful waterfall and a clear stream flowing through. The school has been running for years and is well organized with qualified teachers and a small, but steady, support for books and teachers' salaries. With 6 classes and 4 teachers sharing one room, the need for improved facilities was clearly present.

Klay Poe Klo school is the first project designed for Gyaw Gyaw by an external architect. We have known Jae-Young Lee since 2016, and the cooperation has slowly developed based on friendship and a mutual understanding of architecture as a process in a cultural, environmental and economical sustainable manner. Jae has also won the whole teams trust and respect and we were delighted when she agreed to lead the design of Klay Poe Klo school together with us.

It is also our first school built only in timber and bamboo. Adobe (clay) would normally be our preferred material for a school building, but the lack of sand in this village combined with the surplus of timber and bamboo, made this the preferred alternative. It is also a great opportunity to expand our knowledge and opportunities for sustainable alternatives, especially for the rainy season.



*Design discussions on site with Jae-Young Lee, Gyaw Gyaw team, teachers and villagers in Klay Poe Klo.*

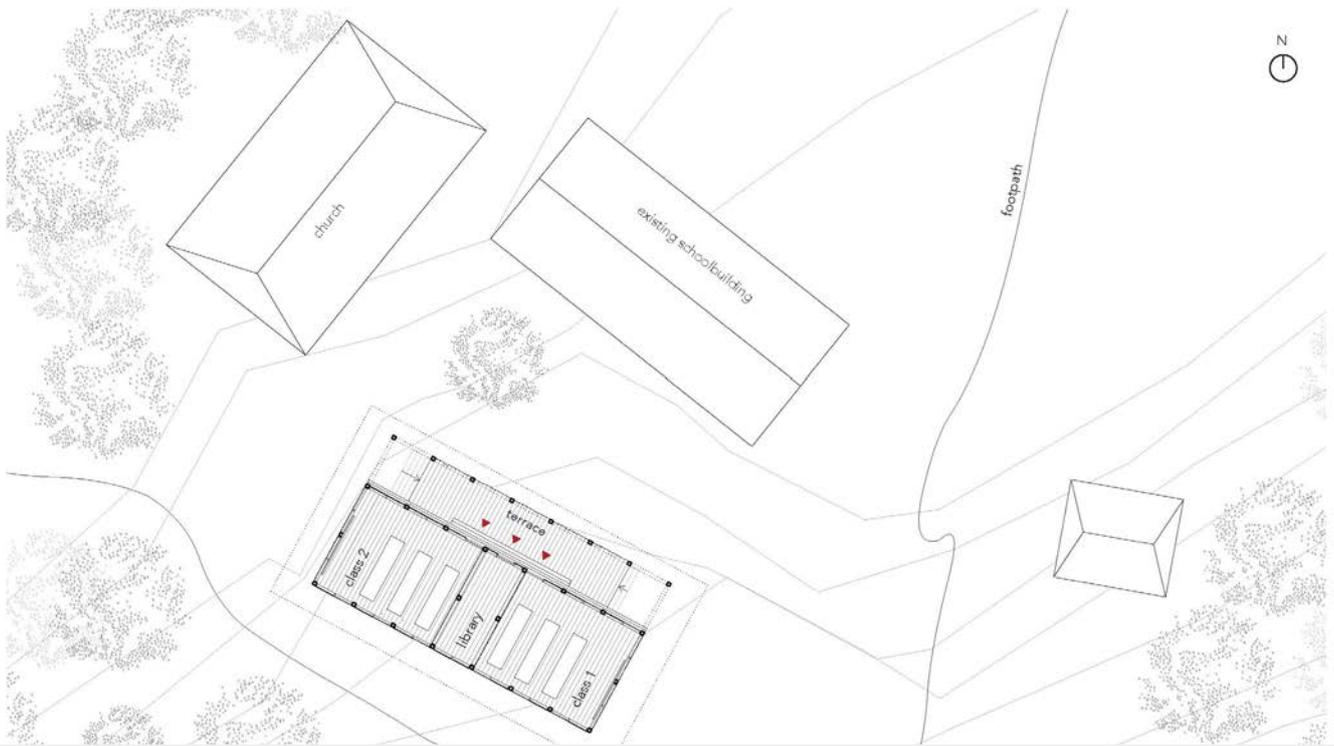


Photo: Vincenzo Floramo

The three teachers at Klay Poe Klo Primary School



Photo: Vincenzo Floramo



Plan: Klay Poe Klo Primary school plan for phase I. Design: Jae-Young Lee



Photo: Vincenzo Florano

We also made a toilet building for the school



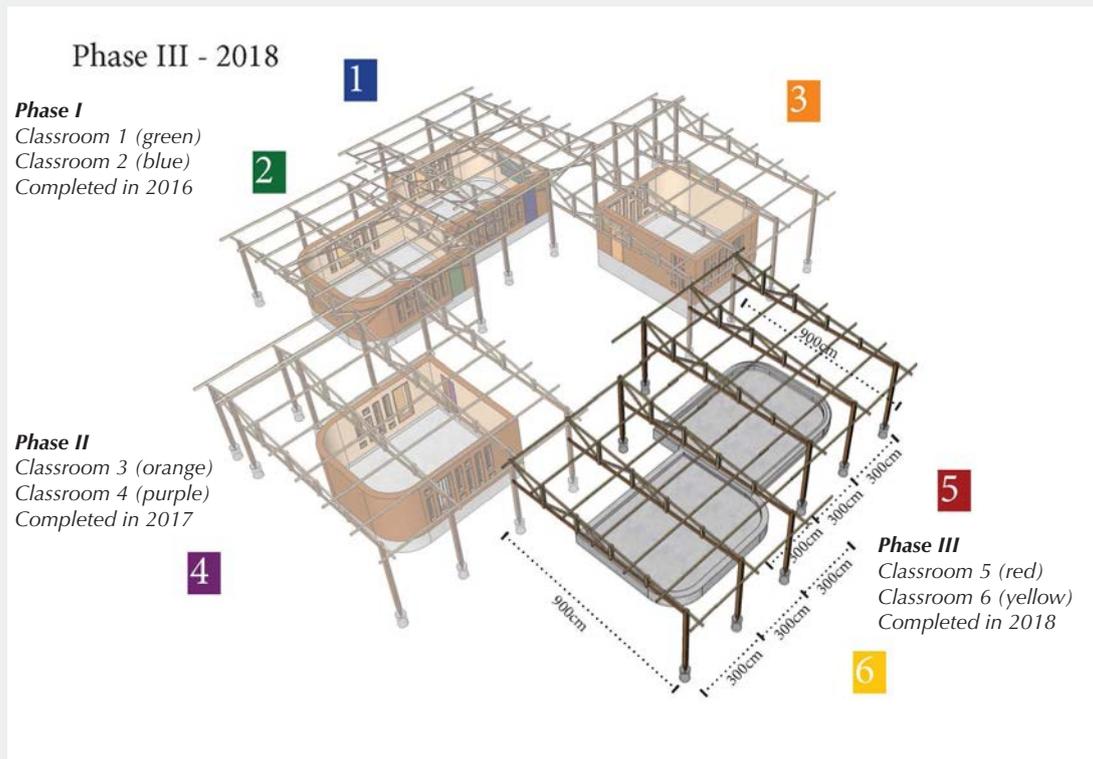
Photo: Vincenzo Floramo

Roof covered entry area to the classrooms



Photo: Vincenzo Floramo

Classroom in use



|                        |                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project budget:        | <b>105 617,- NOK</b>                                                                                                              |
| Project costs:         | <b>85 054,- NOK</b> (Total project costs 6 classrooms = 289 430,- NOK)                                                            |
| Size:                  | <b>70 square meters (2 x 35 m2 per classroom)</b> (Total project 210 m2)                                                          |
| Design/implementation: | <b>Gyaw Gyaw by Line Ramstad/ Gyaw Gyaw + villagers</b>                                                                           |
| Materials:             | <b>Concrete slab and adobe walls. Insulated tin roof on timber construction. Timber slats for windows. Colored plywood doors.</b> |
| Project period:        | <b>15 weeks: April to August 2018 including adobe production</b>                                                                  |

The school compound is designed with six freestanding classrooms under a connected roof structure. This was the final of three phases, and with the remaining two classrooms finished, the compound is completed and the shared space in the middle functions as planned.

The roof structure is based on a grid of double 6"2" posts on concrete shoes that are connected with parallel timber trusses in each classroom's full length. The roof, an insulated tin roof, is resting on the post and truss construction.

Under this, each classroom is a freestanding element made of adobe (dried earth bricks) from site on a concrete slab. Adobe is a strong and resistant material, but it needs to be protected towards water and termites. Concrete is so far our best option. Not even with bamboo reinforcement and sand from the local river would it be a sustainable material but it makes it possible to build with adobe in this area. As an alternative to an all concrete building, it is at least a step in a right direction.

Besides of the roof and cement, all materials are local and sourced by Gyaw Gyaw and the villagers in Je Po Kee.

## Process and implementation



Photo: Line Ramstad

Je Po Kee Village

Gaw La Heh School has played a major role in the rebuilding of Je Po Kee village. It was one of the first buildings to be re-established on site after it was abandoned, and the first to be rebuilt after the most recent attack by the Burmese military in 2009 where the village, once again and hopefully for the last time, burned down.

With only a few resources, the extraordinary headmaster and her good reputation has created a popular school where more than 200 students from a wider area are now receiving primary education. Half of them reside in dormitories and the rest are either living with family members in the village or are hosted by others.

The students are divided in 6 grades. Up until we started our project here, they all shared one classroom. It is a normal way to entertain a school with few resources over time, but it does not create the best spaces for learning. To change it and still keep the connection to the village, does however require cautious planning and local collaborations over time. Who will own the new building, who will maintenance it, are there land rights that get awoken with a new building, who are the right persons to make the final decisions etc.?



Photo: Line Ramstad

Villagers, students and Gyaw Gyaw collaborating to make and prepare materials for the new classrooms



Photo: Vincenzo Floramo

Design meeting on site: Line Ramstad/Gyaw Gyaw

After years of following the school and making sure our project would do no harm, the design process was started in 2015. With inputs and collaborations from the headmaster and village, Gyaw Gyaw by Line Ramstad designed a new school compound consisting of 6 freestanding classrooms under a connected roof with a semi closed space in the middle. The village is exposed to wind and the shape is therefor particularly adjusted to avoid turbulence around roof and corners. Each classroom is also shaped to the existing landscape, adjusted for natural light and airflow and built mainly by materials present on site.

We also divided the construction of 6 classrooms in 3 phases. Not only does it better engage the villagers over time, it also lets the school slowly getting used to their new facilities and to keep their standing locally. Construction wise, a connected post and beam structure made it easy to continue where the first phase had stopped. The roof also allowed us to build with adobe in the rainy season, and with freestanding classrooms under a common roof, the whole compound now looks and work as one entity.

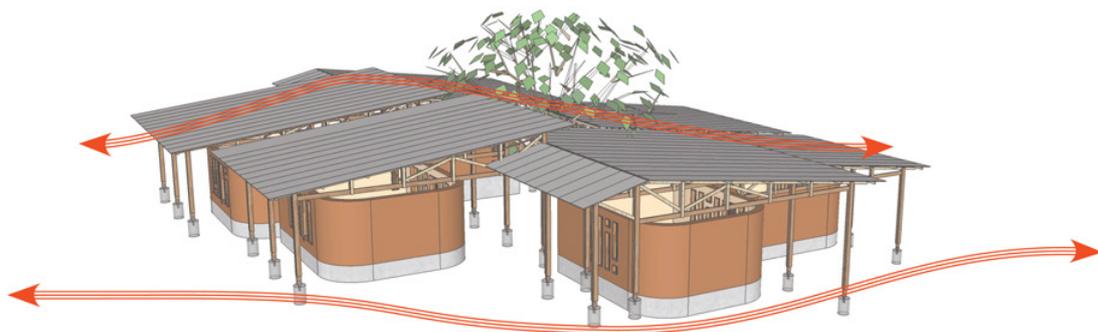




Photo: Vincenzo Florano

Classrooms seen from south



Photo: Vincenzo Florano

Classroom V+VI seen from south, from the semi-closed shared space in the middle



Photo: Vincenzo Floramo

Classrooms seen from northeast, from the semi-closed shared space in the middle



Photo: Vincenzo Floramo

Classroom interior. The walls are given a finishing layer with limestone for longevity and a lighter impression



Photo: Vincenzo Floramo

School compound seen from north



Photo: Vincenzo Floramo

Classroom interior. Windows towards north are larger to let more daylight in, but avoid direct sunlight



|                        |                                                                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project budget:        | <b>104 916,- NOK</b>                                                         |
| Project costs:         | <b>75 563,- NOK (total 88 286,- NOK)</b>                                     |
| Size:                  | <b>72 square meters including kitchen + dining room</b>                      |
| Design/implementation: | <b>Gyaw Gyaw by Daniel Evensen</b>                                           |
| Implementation:        | <b>Gyaw Gyaw + villagers</b>                                                 |
| Materials:             | <b>Concrete slab, timber construction, brick wall + bamboo/timber walls.</b> |
| Project period:        | <b>16 weeks: September to December 2018 (+ 4 weeks: January 2019)</b>        |

TTC kitchen and dining room is built for the students and teachers at Teacher Training College (TTC) in Noh Bo. It is also used by the church that owns the property for their weekend schools and for servings in connection to their services. With its newly gained popularity, the kitchen and dining room is also used as a community building when space for larger gatherings are needed.

All rooms are based in and around a central element built in bricks in the building's full length. On one side is a kitchen, food preparation and a washing area. On the other side is a dining room. The wall itself is angled and in each cubicle is a small room for storage. The brick wall is a free-standing element. It holds weight from the roof, but the main construction is secondhand timber posts on concrete shoes that is connected with timber beams in a traditional structure. It is also strengthened with diagonals. The outer walls are full height doors/windows and wall modules in a pattern of slanted timber slats and bamboo braided in beautiful patterns. The flexibility in the wall's openings can be used to adjust to the light and sun impact through each day and different seasons.

We have also made a water storage system for the kitchen and built benches and tables for the dining room.



*Graduation TTC students 2015.*

*Photo: Line Ramstad*

Teacher Training College (TTC) is a collaboration between a Teacher Education Program in a University in New Zealand University and a local teacher training school. It was first established in Mae Lah Camp, the largest refugee camp on the border, but moved to Noh Bo in 2013. Through their own Teacher Training College, they have educated numerous new teachers with an actual understanding of the children's needs and with tools like activities and games, they increase the student's ability to learn. TTC also trains their teachers in short and long-term planning and implementation of different subjects to different classes. A strong contrast to the regular memorization that is the norm in this area.

The TTC's success is mainly built on the hard work of dedicated and knowledgeable teachers Graeme and Kendal Cook who have built and are running the school. Former students also continue to work for the school after they finish and provide continuity. Paw Eh Wah is one of them. After fulfilling her training years, she is now working fulltime with Gyaw Gyaw, but all the knowledge she gained through her TTC years benefit us on a daily base.

The school is renting space from the local church in Noh Bo and has long needed a new kitchen and dining room. TTC will always have a good standing for us and since we have also not worked for the church for many years, it was an easy project to accept. It was also an appropriate project to get Daniel into the team.

We started the design process at last year's workshop with a joint inspection and brainstorming around size, function, shape and materials. Daniel then continued the process from Trondheim with feedbacks from Jae in Berlin, Line in Årnes and Paw Eh Wah and the team at Noh Bo. Paw Eh Wah maintained the relation with the school and the church.

As usual, most of the frames changed along the way, but Daniel handled the challenges well and the collaboration went smoothly.



Photo: Phillipa

Daniel, Paw Eh Wah and the team making final decisions on the design

Daniel was in charge of design and the architectural result and Paw Eh Wah tied it all together. With the last years' experiences, she has learned to give more direct feedbacks and was now leading the project with a steady hand. She was also a clear voice on behalf of the team and the school during the design process, and a strong leader for everyone during the construction period. Line had the overall responsibility and pulled the strings when necessary.

The architectural result was great, and everyone reached a step further in detailing and completion. The building is now used extensively by the school and the church and is also open for others who need a bigger place to gather.



Photo: Line Ramstad

Details TTC kitchen designed by Daniel Evensen and implemented and added on by Gyaw Gyaw team



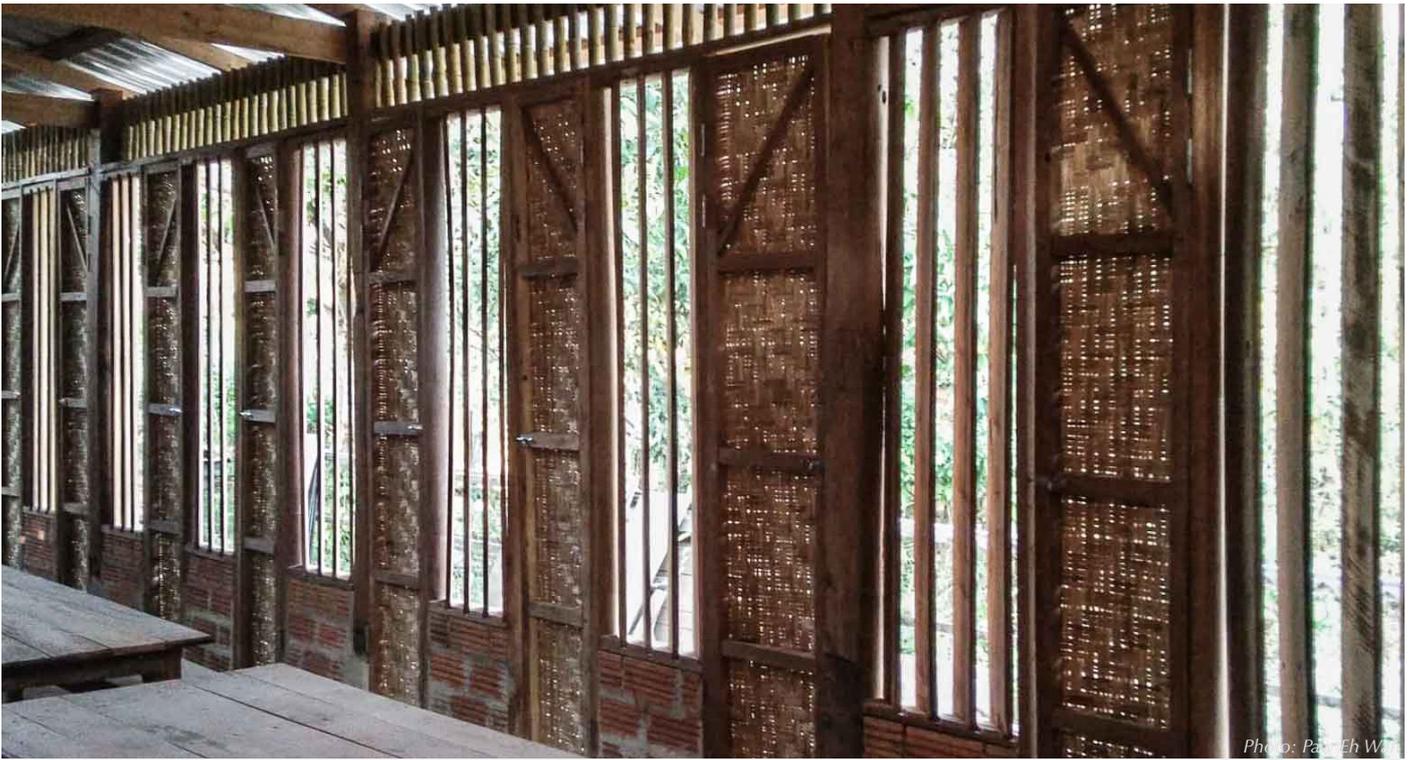


Photo: Paw Eh Wah

Doors/windows and wall modules in rhythmic pattern seen from the dining room

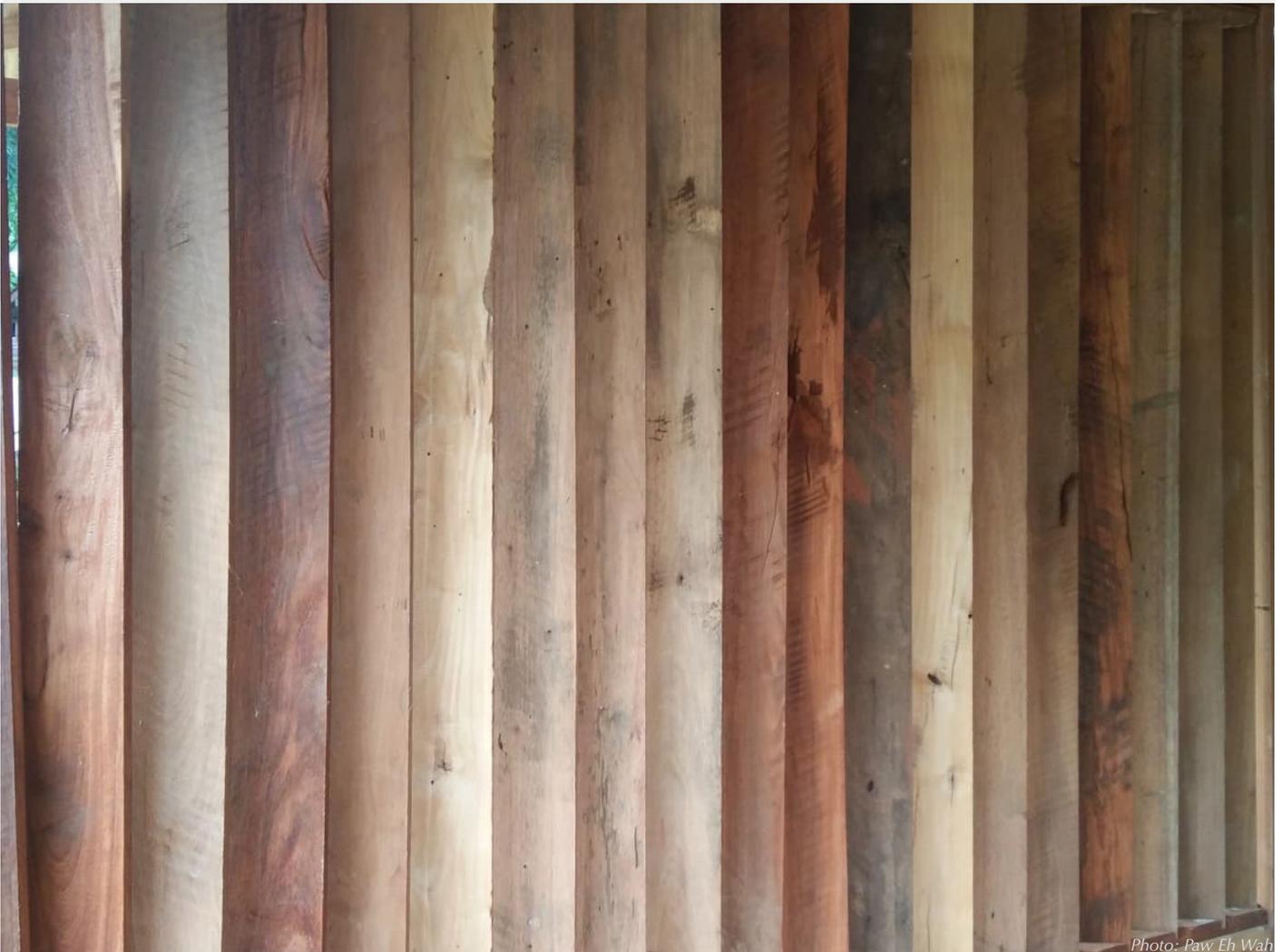


Photo: Paw Eh Wah

Detail: windows



Photo: The Ramstad

*Kitchen entrance. Brick wall, window in secondhanded timber tilted to avoid direct sunlight, but get air and light through. Door with braided bamboo cover*



Photo: Line Ramstad

Students in Gaw La Heh school

Working in an area like ours, there will always be additional requests for support from the local community. We do however keep this to a low level. We believe we have a bigger impact by keeping our focus on sustainable architecture and contribute to a long-term improvement for the local communities through projects.

For special occasions, like funerals, weddings, hospitalizations etc. where it is normal for everyone to support, we give our share. We also contribute to villages for community projects outside of our portfolio, but we do not donate money without making a clear and conscious decision around it, also taking any future repercussions into consideration.

When it comes to higher education, we see that by lifting students with skills and where higher education is within reach, we can actually make a difference. We have therefor started an education fund where all Gyaw Gyaw`s family members are included. It supports those who complete primary education and have grades and interest in continuing education. We also support others outside of our group when needed.

We are also supporting our friend Tasanee and her Safe Haven Orphanage. This support was started in 2009 and is based on private donors in Norway supporting the orphanage on a monthly base. It is outside of Gyaw Gyaw`s economics and the money goes in full to Tasanee who are using the funds for the best for the orphanage. There is no doubt the money is needed and well spent, but it is a project on side of what we do. It is also a project that has been left too little attention from Gyaw Gyaw`s administration and follow ups towards the sponsors are long desired. Our goal is within 2021 to transfer this project to private persons or an organization that is doing only this.

*Total amount spent on support in 2018 is 6 817,- NOK*

*Total amount spent on the education fund in 2018 is 0,- NOK*

*Total amount transferred to Safe Haven Orphanage in 2018 is 134 209,- NOK*

## RESULTS AND BUDGETS

\* All numbers in NOK

### INCOME

|                                   | Operating revenue |                |                | Budget         |                |                |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                   | 2018              | 2017           | 2016           | 2019           | 2018           | 2017           |
| Corporate Sponsorship             | 543 864           | 516 045        | 437 000        | 412 000        | 497 000        | 487 000        |
| Regular Monthly Private Donations | 21 400            | 18 666         | 34 126         | 21 400         | 21 600         | 19 200         |
| Lump Sum Private Donations        | 6 000             | 59 352         | 20 082         | 0              | 0              | 0              |
| <b>Sum operating revenue</b>      | <b>571 264</b>    | <b>595 763</b> | <b>524 319</b> | <b>433 400</b> | <b>518 600</b> | <b>506 200</b> |

### EXPENCES

|                                          | 2018           | 2017           | 2016           |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Projects (see project costs for details) | 203 516        | 299 325        | 256 749        |
| Running costs THB                        | 59 217         | 93 416         | 69 220         |
| Equipment/car/bike                       | 21 411         | 20 923         | 31 093         |
| Workshop                                 | 11 420         | 0              | 0              |
| Support                                  | 6 817          | 6 869          | 24 840         |
| <b>Operating expences Noh Bo</b>         | <b>98 866</b>  | <b>121 208</b> | <b>125 155</b> |
| Running costs                            | 12 818         | 41 267         | 7 552          |
| Equipment                                | 9 231          | 0              | 3 609          |
| Travel Workshop + Architects*            | 62 323         | 17 796         | 26 351         |
| <b>Operating expences Årnes</b>          | <b>84 371</b>  | <b>59 063</b>  | <b>37 512</b>  |
| <b>Sum operating expences</b>            | <b>386 753</b> | <b>479 596</b> | <b>419 416</b> |
| <b>Net result</b>                        | <b>184 511</b> | <b>116 167</b> | <b>104 903</b> |

\* For 2018, the numbers also include plane tickets to workshop held in January 2019. Together with architect collaborations, the sum is for 7 return-tickets Norway/Germany - Thailand + internal flights to get to Mae Sot.

### ASSETS

|                                                                     | 2018           | 2017           | 2016           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Estimated: Vehicles, computer, camera, tools, machinery, materials. |                |                |                |
| <b>Fixed assets</b>                                                 | <b>100 000</b> | <b>151 000</b> | <b>190 000</b> |
| Bank Deposit Norway                                                 | 763 925        | 515 306        | 501 483        |
| Bank deposit Thailand                                               | 21 694         | 53 959         | 49 610         |
| Cash                                                                | 37 134         | 10 280         | 5 603          |
| <b>Current assets</b>                                               | <b>822 753</b> | <b>579 545</b> | <b>556 696</b> |

## PROJECT COSTS

| Projects                                              | Cost           | Budget         |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Kler Poe Kloe Primary school - Classrooms + Library * | 42 899         | 100 688        |
| Gaw La Heh School - Classrooms 5+6                    | 85 054         | 105 617        |
| Kitchen TTC **                                        | 75 563         | 104 891        |
| <b>Sum project costs</b>                              | <b>203 516</b> | <b>311 196</b> |

\* Continued from 2017. Total project costs THB 429 211 / 107 934 NOK. Budget for total project costs.

\*\* To be continued in 2019. Total costs 351 162 THB/88 286 NOK. Budget for total project cost.

| Actions            | 2018           | 2017           | 2016           |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Salary             | 94 092         | 109 922        | 105 775        |
| Materials          | 79 698         | 156 623        | 104 905        |
| Food               | 18 503         | 20 840         | 35 111         |
| Transportation     | 11 223         | 11 940         | 10 971         |
| <b>Sum actions</b> | <b>203 516</b> | <b>299 325</b> | <b>256 762</b> |

## Comments to the result

In Gyaw Gyaw, we start planning our projects a few years in advance of designing and constructing them; with more stable and reliable sponsors than most, we still only have reassurance for one to two years each time. To make sure we can fulfill all our promises locally, we have carefully built up savings equivalent to one year running costs for administration and projects.

With the contracts of both HENT and Asplan Viak expiring in 2018, we took no chances but to save extra and the sum of operating expenses for 2018 was therefore lower than for 2017, leaving the net result to be higher than normally expected. This while the exchange rate of Norwegian kroner towards Thai Baht has kept decreasing.

International collaborations also give increased expenses outside of the local economy. The board does not get payed and the architects have the same salary as the team in Noh Bo, but they all get their plane tickets to workshops and visits to the project sites covered. Because the 2019 workshop was held in January, tickets were purchased in 2018. Thus, travel expenses for 2018 included costs for the 2018 and 2019 workshop.



*Photo: Vincenzo Florano*

*Gyaw Gyaw`s leaders. A picture can sometimes say more than 1000 words, and this one is quite close to describe the truth*

2018 was the year in Gyaw Gyaw`s history where a new era was implemented. It was the year where Paw Eh Wah seriously filled her position as our strong manager. She also took a big leap into an appreciated role as a respected leader among different stakeholders along the border. It was also the year where responsibilities were even better divided within the team and the level of detailing reached a new level. Much of which was thanks to the successful implementation of Jae-Young Lee and Daniel Evensen as collaborative architects in our team. With such a year behind us, our goal is for 2019 to continue in the same productive, positive and dynamic path as 2018 confirmed.

1. January 2019, Line Ramstad will also be back working fulltime with Gyaw Gyaw again. This time with her base from Årnes, but with the opportunity to stay in Noh Bo as often as required and wanted. She will keep fulfilling her tasks in the organization, assist the team in Noh Bo, design some of the projects coming up and support and collaborate with Jae and Daniel for the projects they will design. Finally, without having another fulltime position next to it. As previously mentioned, this would not have been possible without the incredible support from HENT and we would love to once more re-emphasis and express our gratitude towards them.

It is also time to tell Gyaw Gyaw`s history and get our philosophy out there! So, 2019 – bring it on!

We will start the year with a workshop in Noh Bo with the architects and our board together with the team. The goal is to build trust and respect within the extended group. By meeting each other face to face, going through previous and recent projects, working together and getting to know each other in an informal manner, we hope to create a common base for a sustainable development where everyone is working towards a mutual and realistic future within the frames present. One day we hope to have the leaders of our sponsor companies present as well.

After the workshop we will finish TTC Kitchen, designed by Daniel. It was mostly completed in 2018, but some detailing, interior and a last finishing touches are needed for it to be functional and easy to use over time.

We will also use a little time and money to improve our equipment storage. We do not have much, but what we have, we take good care of. Our old storage is however no longer strong and functional, and it needs improvements to last for many more years to come. It is placed behind the toilets on Paw Eh Wah, Saw Dee and Line's property.

In addition to this, we have a request for a roof to a school. We would normally not pay for a roof to a project we have not been included in from the start, but in this case the request came from Bo Han Son, the regional leader in the area Klay Poe Klo village is situated. It turns out he has taken the main idea behind Klay Poe Klo school, designed by Jae, and adjusted it for a new school building in a remote village even further into the mountains. What a compliment! Villagers have contributed with timber, bamboo and labor. They could also have completed the building with a leaf roof, but since leaves leave dust, are leaking and have to be replaced every 3-4 years, he asked us for a long-lasting alternative. We are looking forward to completing the building before the rainy season and so proud and grateful for him acknowledging and appreciating our design.

The first main project for 2019 will therefore not be started until April. Dormitories for Gaw La Heh primary school are designed by Line and are an extension of the classroom project we have been running with the school and Je Po Kee Village since 2016. It has been a pleasure to work with the school and the village. They have really added on to the classroom project with their contribution and are now using the buildings also for evening activities. The dormitories has been seen as a natural extension and finally, for the first time since our very first adobe project in 2009, these dormitories will be built in clay. As with the classrooms, we are starting out with one building and will slowly continue from there on.

After rainy season, Klay Poe Klo primary school phase II will also be implemented. With the success of phase I, and the compliments from the local leadership repeating it in a new village, we are really looking forward to starting the next phase of this project. As the first two classrooms and library, this next phase will also be designed by Jae. Since the project will be started first thing after the rainy season and it takes time for the roads to become assessible, preparations will be done in advance.

Again, THANK YOU to our sponsors who makes this all possible. HENT, Asplan Viak, Baias, Rotary and Agraff! We are forever grateful and could not have done any of it without you. We would also take the opportunity to welcome Vestre to the group, from 2019 they are also part of our sponsors.

We see that what we do matters! We enjoy it and we do no harm! And we are ready and eager to continue our work for many more years to come. Thank you for supporting us and reading our report.

On behalf of Gyaw Gyaw,  
Line Ramstad



Photo: Vincenzo Florano