Reinhard Goethert
THEY KEEP COMING!
3rd World Urban Migrants

Mon 10/29/07
7-9pm

1 million people “flood” into the cities of the developing countries every week. Who are they, and where do they find shelter? This massive rural to urban population shift started in the 1950s and resulted in appalling central-city slums and massive uncontrolled squatter settlements. Urban growth has largely become defined by this continuing struggle for shelter. The experience of migrants in the “Third World” and their impact on urban development will be explored using examples from Manila, Philippines; Lima, Peru; and other rapidly growing cities. The focus will be on the shelter options and choices that are made by migrants in their urban assimilation. To understand the seemingly irrational shelter choices at each stage, family “stories” will highlight this experience. Their choices will be compared to policies by international agencies and governments intended to mitigate the often-adverse shelter conditions. Cities of the so-called developed world also exhibit similar characteristics, and the experience of migrants to Boston surprisingly finds parallels in the Third World. Speculation on the impact of the urban explosion which anticipates the doubling of the urban population in the next 20-30 years suggests that the issue of sheltering migrants will become ever more critical.

Since migrating to Boston, Dr. Reinhard Goethert has been involved in international development at the community-level. He focuses on the interface between government, professionals and community. An architect by training, he coordinates the SIGUS Group in the Department of Architecture at MIT.


Directions
The MIT Visual Arts Program is located above the MIT Museum. Enter through the grey door on Front Street and take the elevator to the third floor. Exit to your left and go down the ramp. The Joan Jonas Performance Hall is located on the right.

By Public Transportation
Take the Red Line to Central Square. Walk four blocks along Massachusetts Avenue towards Boston and the Charles River, or take the #1 bus to the Front Street stop.

Thanks
This event is presented in conjunction with courses 4.381/4.366 Give Me Shelter: Conditions of Living in Unstable Times, taught by Professor Ute Meta Bauer and 4.370/4.371 Give Me Shelter: Body Wear, taught by Visiting Associate Prof. Regina Moeller.