

Amongst the more knowledgeable architects, engineers and builders interviewed, there was an awareness of North American assembly-line house construction techniques and recognition of the fact that, by comparison, the highly labour intensive Philippine methods were far less efficient. At the same time, there was considerable skepticism as to the applicability of these advanced techniques in this environment. They claimed that the radical differences between the economics of the Philippine and Canadian industries largely negated any cost savings achieved through a foreign technology and offered to cite instances where this had been tried and abandoned as a failure.

A prime example of this is illustrated in ANNEX 6. Photos 72 and 73 are of a house constructed of factory-built, pre-cast concrete panels and erected on site. This system was abandoned in favour of the universally popular hollow-block system demonstrated in Photos 61 to 69. Two reasons stated for this rejection of the pre-cast system were the cost of the crane for erection and the fact that home owners always improve on the basic "core house", (see Photo No. 71), and it is much easier to breach the walls of a hollow-block house when remodeling.

Any builder seeking to secure a place in the Philippine housing market on the strength of the superior technology they have to offer will first have to convince at least one major contractor that it offers sufficient cost savings to make it worth trying. Following that, the architects and engineers will need to be instructed in the new approach. Finally, the workforce will have to be educated to accept the new methods.

This may sound daunting but it is achievable as evidenced by the fact of the apparent initial success of the Korean SRC panel system being marketed as the "Cory House". (See ANNEX 3 plus photographs.)