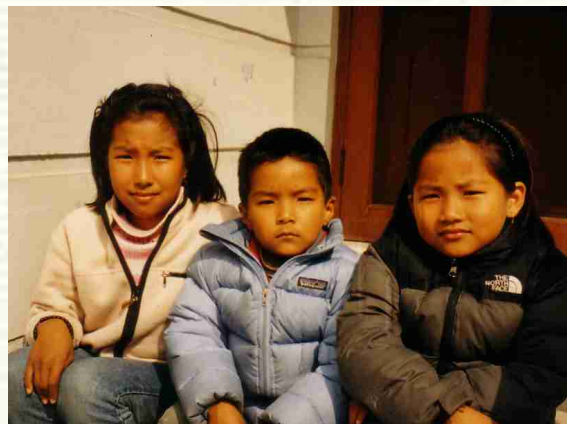




**WORKING IN THE SHADOW OF EVEREST**



**TO PRESERVE THE LAST TRADITIONAL SHERPA HOME**



**FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**



### **THE SHERPA HERITAGE HOUSE - A LIVING MUSEUM**

Pertemba Sherpa is giving his historic family home to be transformed into a living museum, conserving almost vanished Sherpa traditions for future generations of all nations. It will be called The Sherpa Heritage House.

Built by his ancestors, the House is even older than many local monasteries and, being untouched for generations, is now unique among the Everest villages, where Sherpa houses have been radically modernised. Once restored and converted for museum use the House will bear witness to a pattern of life that once intimately connected the Sherpa people, their livestock, their religion and the mountains.

With its ancient household wares, goods and religious artefacts it will showcase the ancient customs of family life and worship – while storing the oral history of the region, cultural artefacts and records. As it is unusually large, it will be able to accommodate educational activities, film festivals, exhibitions and live presentations. The House is being put into a Trust to be administered by Pertemba Sherpa and his family, along with village elders and others, for the benefit of Khumjung village and its visitors.

To finance the maintenance, running and development of the Museum, a restaurant cum guesthouse will be built adjoining the museum. This will ensure the Museum's future, and will reinforce social cohesion within the village of Khumjung. Any excess funding raised by the restaurant cum guesthouse will be spent on maintenance of the village itself, such as the roadway and walls.



### **PERTEMBA SHERPA**

Pertemba Sherpa has climbed to the summit of Mt Everest three times by two different routes – along the South West Face in 1975 with Doug Scott (the first Briton to summit Everest), and again in 1979; and by the South East Ridge in 1985 with Sir Chris Bonington. He has received multiple honours from the King of Nepal and the People's Republic of China. Pertemba was greatly honoured to be chosen as guide to HRH Prince Charles through the Annapurma region on the Prince's first trek in Nepal. He is now a Member of the Nepal Mountaineering Association, the Himalayan Trust (which runs 20 schools and various health facilities) and is a Director of a number of Japanese and French Foundations that provide funds for the education of children of deceased Sherpa mountaineers.

## THE SHERPA HERITAGE HOUSE

An important house even in its day, this is built in the traditional Sherpa manner of slate and stone, with richly carved doors, windows and furniture.

There are two wings, one to live in and one to worship in. These are laid out at right angles and connected by a wooden bridge, designed so that it can easily be broken down in case of fire. Both wings look over a central courtyard, an area of great significance in Sherpa social life.



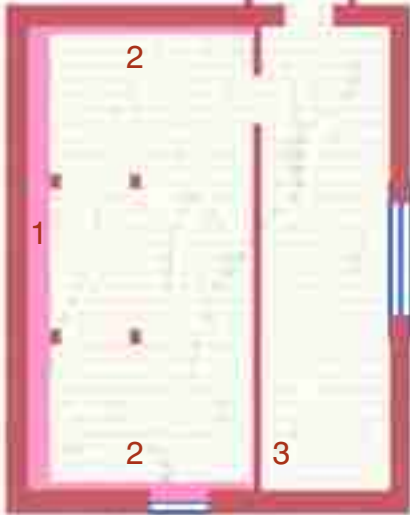
## THE RELIGIOUS WING

At ground level, this huge building stabled the ponies which carried goods through the mountain passes to and from Tibet; throughout history the Sherpas have been a trading people. Here also fodder was stored to see the ponies through the harsh winter months.

Above, where the warmth from the stabled animals could rise and keep them warm, the family sat and chanted at prayer - sometimes all day long. A crimson and gold Prayer Wall extends the length of the building, leading to a giant rotating Prayer Wheel; each time it is turned, a prayer is believed to ascend to heaven.

Through a latticework partition lies the main altar, surrounded by statues of the Buddha, goddesses, sages and disciples. Inside the altar are cubicles to store 108 holy books, and the walls around are hung with painted mandalas, Buddhist emblems of cosmic harmony.

Here the family prayed and conducted purification ceremonies, especially on anniversaries of family deaths and before weddings. Older family members in particular would spend many hours here.



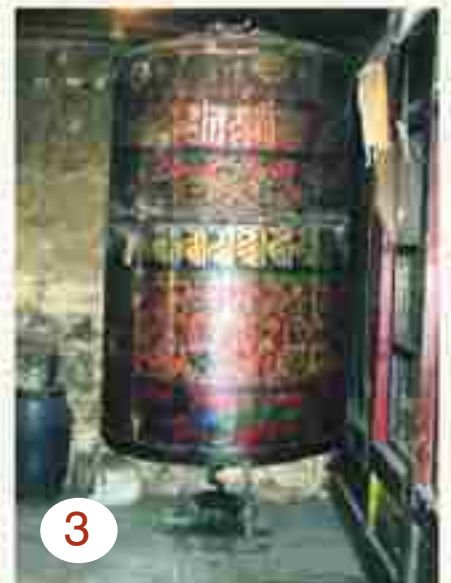
## RELIGIOUS WING



1. Shrine

2. Wall Painting

3. Prayer Wheel



## THE LIVING QUARTERS

In this the greater of the buildings, yaks were kept at ground level. Upstairs, their milk was churned into butter for tea, their hair knitted into clothing and their meat and cheese was preserved. Here scores of wooden drawers were used to store wheat.

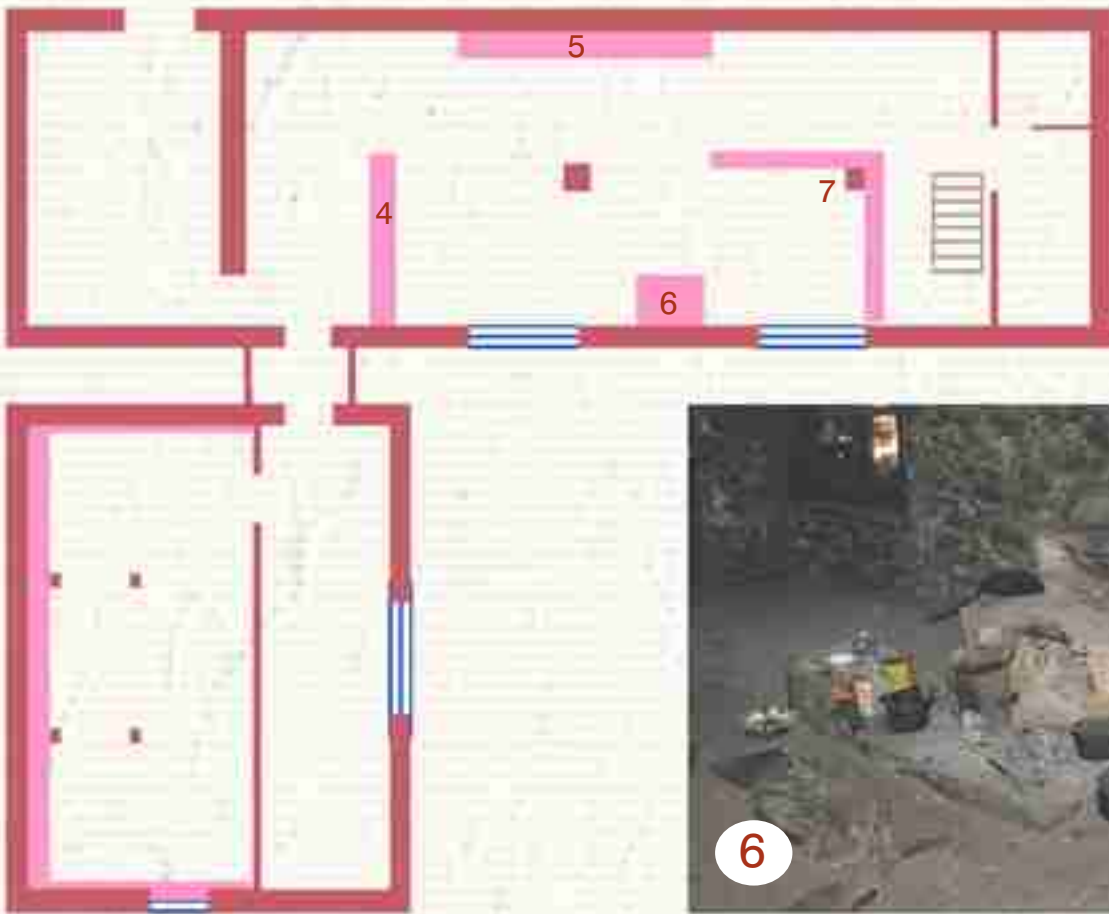
An absence of interior walls allowed the heat from the earthen hearth to spread all around and into the furthest corners, so family activities were conducted in full view of all members. It was here that Pertemba Sherpa was born.

A side room was once used for entertaining guests, with a carved doorway that could receive them directly off the street outside (still the main village thoroughfare).

Many of the old family utensils and artefacts are still on site and were often made by the family members, as were the good luck emblems painted below the rafters and on the wooden panelling.

Outside the courtyard, onto which all rooms in both wings provide access, is still cobbled in such a way as to give a firm foothold to man and beast.





LIVING QUARTERS



4. Cupboard    5. Open Shelf  
 6. Fireplace    4. Partition shelf



### **THE ENVIRONS**

At 3900 metres beneath awesome views of Mt Amadablam and Mt Everest stands the village of Khumjung. It has avoided much of the tourist influence seen elsewhere in the area in terms of the pubs, internet cafes and snooker halls. Almost all houses apart from the Sherpa Heritage house have been re-roofed with modern materials, but the villagers have chosen a uniform green colour which gives the village a picturesque effect. It was here that, for community as well as reasons of practical access, Sir Edmund Hillary chose to build his first hospital, and his first school.



### **CURRENT STATE OF REPAIR**

The house is dilapidated but not beyond repair; Pertemba Sherpa has started to stabilise the walls and roof beams already. As his neighbours re-roofed he availed himself of some traditional building materials. However some of the beams and rafters will soon start to cave in and floor and window timbers need replacing urgently.

The upper floors can be restored to showcase their original uses, although this will call for better lighting. The ground floor rooms, formerly used for livestock and storage, can display exhibitions of traditional Sherpa life.



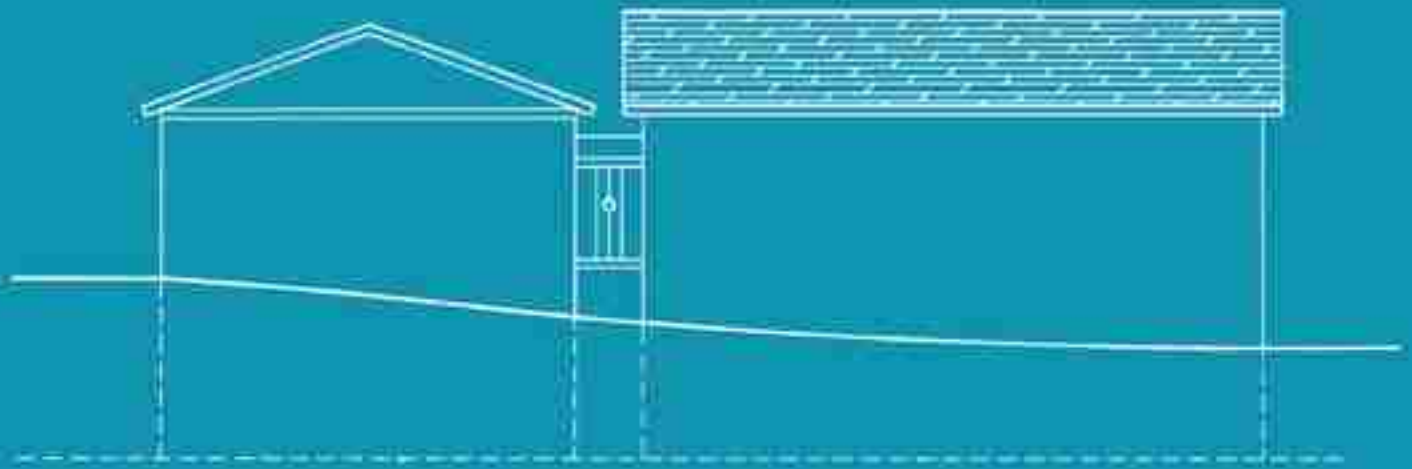
EXTERIOR VIEWS



CONNECTING BRIDGE



ENTRY LEVEL VIEW



Side (Road side) Elevation



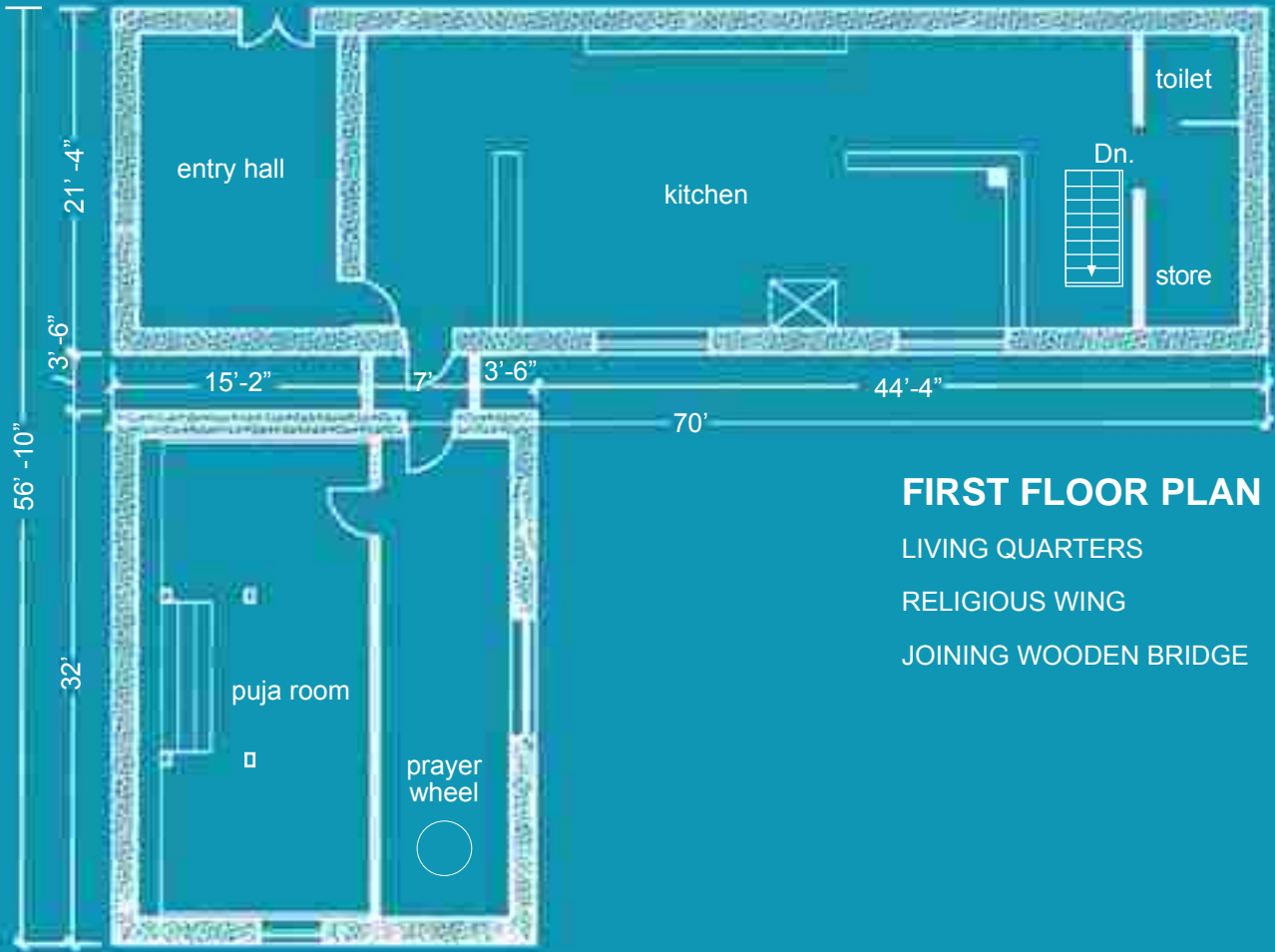
Side (Courtyard) Elevation



Courtyard Elevation

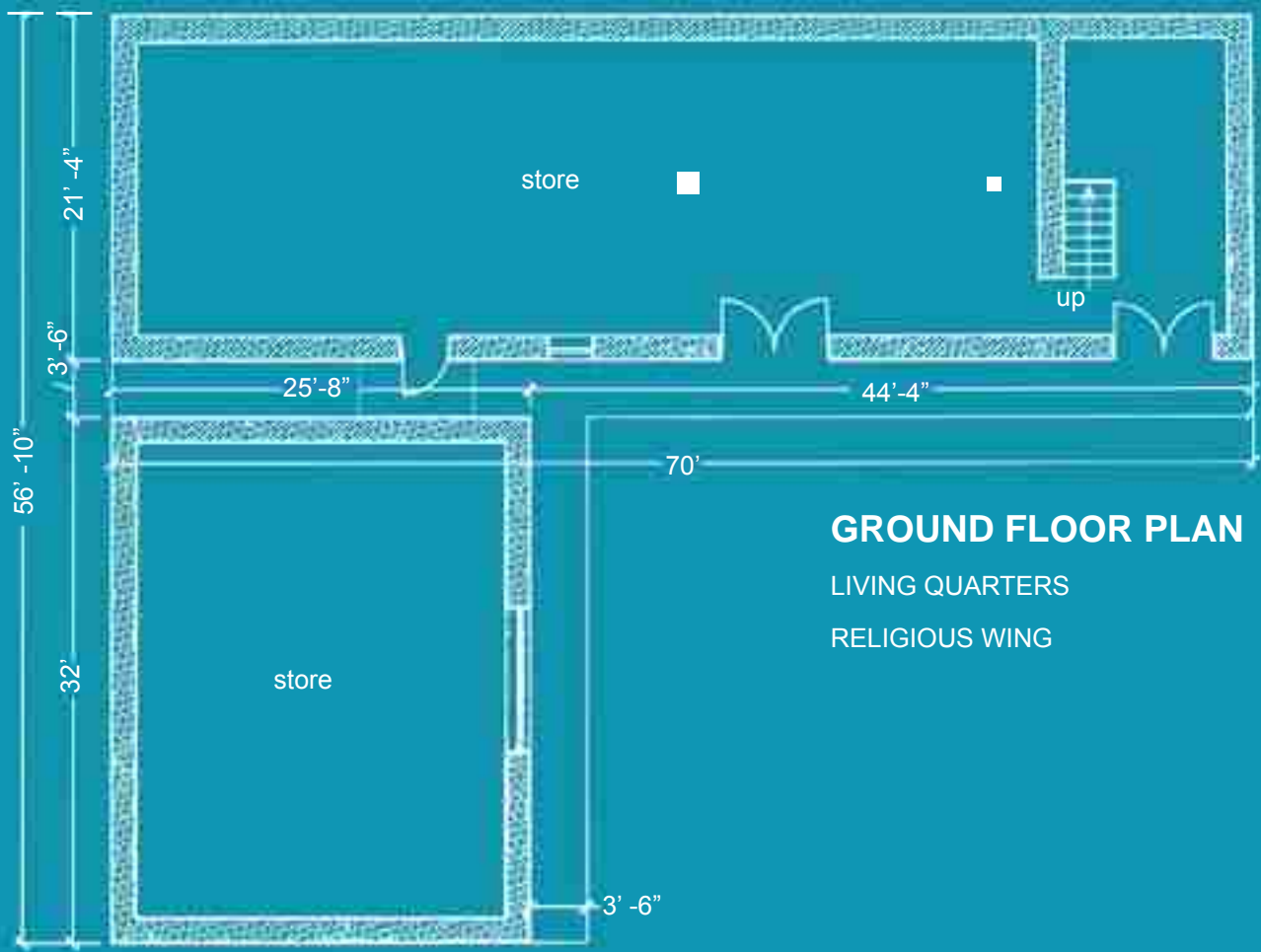


Entry (Road side) Elevation



**FIRST FLOOR PLAN**

- LIVING QUARTERS
- RELIGIOUS WING
- JOINING WOODEN BRIDGE



**GROUND FLOOR PLAN**

- LIVING QUARTERS
- RELIGIOUS WING

## SCHEDULE OF COSTS

<b>Exterior:</b>	
<b>Roof Slates</b>	<b>£2150</b>
<b>Timber Beams</b>	<b>£1080</b>
<b>Wooden Planks</b>	<b>£1720</b>
<b>Stone</b>	<b>£1430</b>
<b>Cement</b>	<b>£2150</b>
<b>Interior:</b>	
Floor planking	£430
3X4 Timber	£540
Double Plywood	£290
Transportation	£250
Single Plywood	£970
Paint, Primer	£110
<b>Labour:</b>	
Building Work	£4160
Transportation	£7410
Electrification, Fit-out and Acquisition of Exhibits	£10,020
<b>Guest House cum Restaurant:</b>	
Materials, labour and fit-out	£20,040
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£53,290</b>

Sherpa Heritage House Fundraising Committee: Patron: Sir Chris Bonington CBE.  
Director of Operations: Doug Scott CBE. Chairman: Mrs Maggie Burgess.  
Appeals: Miss C Charity.

Sherpa Heritage House Trust: Settlor and Chairman: Pertemba Sherpa,  
Trustee: Rabi Thapa Esq., Ang Rita Sherpa, Pasang Tendi Sherpa,  
Rinchen Karma Sherpa, Ang Phurba Sherpa, Kami Tshering Sherpa



*Pertemba Sherpa, Sir Chris Bonington CBE and Doug Scott CBE  
thank you for reading this booklet and for your interest in the Sherpa Heritage House.  
Namaste.*

If you would like to make a donation the community around Khumjung and its visitors will be forever grateful. Please fill in the form below and send to:

Mrs M Burgess, Community Action Nepal,  
9/100 Piccadilly, London W1K 3SB.

I would like to help create a sustainable Sherpa Heritage Home.

I enclose a cheque made out to CAN for £ .....

Name Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other .....

Forename: .....

Surname: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Telephone no: .....

Email address: .....

### GIFT AID DECLARATION

If you are a UK taxpayer, you could make your gifts worth almost 30 per cent more at no extra cost to yourself. For every £10 donated, we could claim an extra £2.82 from the Inland Revenue, making your gift worth even more to the community in Khumjung and to those who will enjoy the Sherpa Heritage House in future years. To do this we would invite you to kindly sign and date the statement below.

I want Community Action Nepal (CAN) to treat the enclosed donation of as a Gift Aid donation, and any further donations I make from the date below as Gift Aid donations, until I notify them otherwise.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....

Community Action Nepal (CAN) Registered Charity Number 1067772