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RESOURCE EXCHANGE INTERNATIONAL



View of a village in Morocco while visiting friends there

A Patience that Isn't Patient

by REI Country Leaders, Morocco

There is a particular kind of patience asked of you when you set out to build something physical, one that has very little to do with the building itself. Long before there is a building, there is soil testing and permitting and design revisions and contractor negotiations, a hundred small approvals that seem to have nothing to do with construction and yet determine whether it can happen at all. From the outside, it looks as though nothing is happening. From the inside, everything is happening at once, though none of it visible.

the quiet space before the visible part of the work starts . . .

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Students and faculty of the SIUT Design Department, November 28, 2025

Learning to Swim in Someone Else's Sea

by S.E. Vidrio, Field Staff, Uzbekistan

Are we part of the problem? Probably. But the harder question is this:
Which problems don't we even see?

Because humans are imperfect, we all make mistakes, which
contributes to the problems that are inherent in every culture. The
strange thing, though, is that we often don't notice the problems in our
own . . .

A Word from the President

"Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet." - Aristotle

REI staff are motivated to help others. They see problems in the countries where they live and want to solve them. But as this month's articles make clear, bringing help and solving problems in a country that is not one's own requires patience.



One staff couple is trying to start a business whose employees will be trained in business skills. The business requires outfitting a large space within a mall. Getting government approvals for this outfitting, and finding the right workers to do it, has proven so difficult, though, that the whole project is a year behind schedule.

Another staff works at a university, and along with improving his students' engineering skills, is eager to help them with more personal challenges, challenges that seem obvious to him. But he has realized that to truly understand the problems faced by those of another culture, and to discern which ones to try to provide help with, takes time.

Our staff are helping other learn, but they too are learning - patience. A challenging lesson, but one that does bear sweet fruit.



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