



Project location
Southeast Asia & Oceania, Indonesia

Applicant
SHAU

Gross area in m²
4353.0

Commissioned by
Indonesian Ministry of Public Works

Image © Ammodo Architecture / Andreas Perbowo Widityawan

Kampung Mrican Phase 1

Project description

Stretching 1.2 kilometres along the Gajah Wong River, the project exemplifies 'urban acupuncture': a network of small, strategic interventions designed collaboratively with local residents. Situated near major universities, the densely populated, low-rise neighbourhood has been revitalized to address safety, sanitation and flood resilience while introducing educational and playful public functions – a microlibrary, playground, flood-control post, waste management centre, and a bridge and sidewalk system that connects the community through accessible, multi-functional spaces.

Flooding once reached 2 metres in the area, shaping the first layer of intervention. The river and streets were cleared of unmanaged waste, while homes built along the water's edge were carefully negotiated to set back from the riverbank. Sheet piling prevents landslides, and a new 3-metre inspection street now conceals drainage and sewage systems beneath, connecting to a flood-control post. A community-led waste collection and training system supports cleaner, healthier living.

Advisory Committee

'Kampung Mrican Phase 1' receives the award for Social Architecture for its exemplary urban approach: a series of acupunctural interventions co-developed with the community of Kampung Mrican, using existing urban structures with sustainability and social values at its core. Working across scales – from micro-level renovations to macro-level infrastructure – SHAU has delivered socially engaged architecture grounded in residents' needs. Ecological values are integrated thoughtfully, from a women-led community farm and flood-resilient interventions to the use of local materials and a waste management centre. The river, once a boundary, is now the village's central spine, activated through new public spaces. At its heart stands the Microlibrary, an elevated landmark that serves as a gathering place and learning hub. Together with the renovated pendopo (Javanese pavilion), it forms a shaded, open-air square for community life. In rapidly developing Indonesia, SHAU's commitment to building upon existing communities is both exemplary and inspiring.

The prize money will fund SHAU's ongoing Microlibraries initiative through the creation of a new inclusive Microlibrary in Jakarta and the enhancement of the existing Microlibrary Pringwulung in Yogyakarta. The Jakarta library will be designed for the disabled community, featuring wheelchair access, tactile navigation for the visually impaired and semi-outdoor reading spaces shaded by existing trees. In Yogyakarta, solar panels will power an automated irrigation system linking the library to a community garden. Both projects continue SHAU's commitment to low-cost, environmentally responsive, participatory design.

ammodo architecture award 2025
IA-0000000483 social architecture



Kampung Mrican Phase 1
SHAU

Indonesia
2024

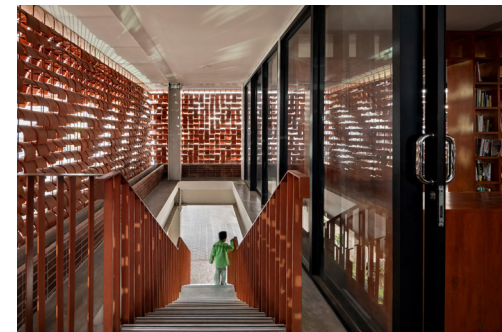
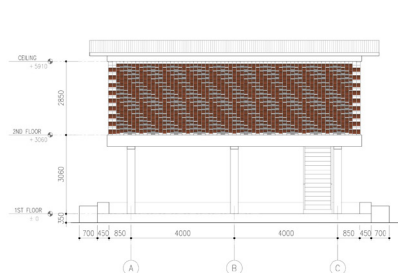
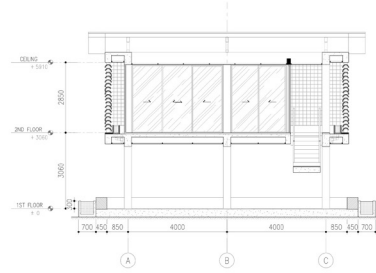


Image © Ammodo Architecture / Andreas Perbowo Widityawan

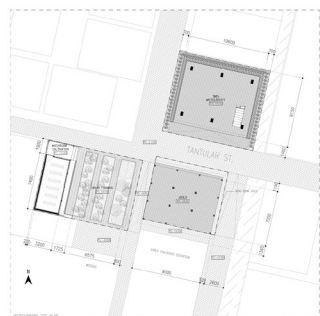
project



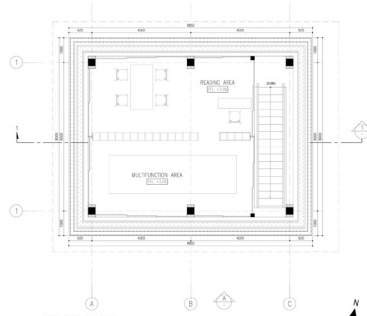
Microlibrary Pringwulung elevation



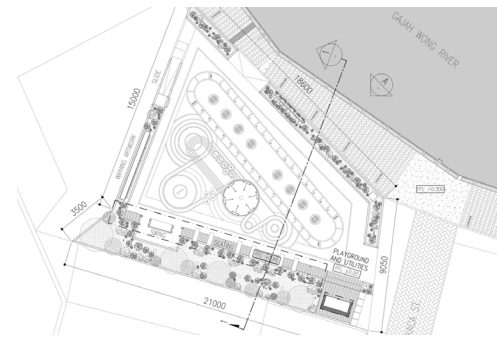
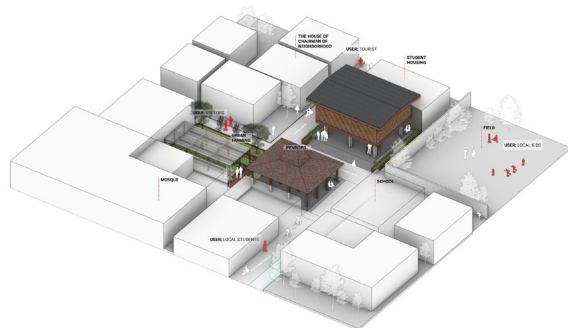
Microlibrary Pringwulung section



Site plan: microlibrary, community garden, pendopo



Microlibrary Pringwulung 2nd floor plan



© Ammodo Architecture / Andreas Perbowo Widitayawan





Project location
Europe, Austria

Gross area in m²
20000.0
Image © Kurt Kuball

Applicant
gaupenraub+/-

Commissioned by
Vinzenzgemeinschaft St. Stephan

VinziRast am Land

Project description

Located in Mayerling, Austria, VinziRast am Land transforms the former luxury Hotel Hanner – once a retreat for the wealthy – into an inclusive residential and working community for people on the margins of society. Surrounded by the Vienna Woods, just 30 minutes outside the capital, the site now houses 77 beds in a complex that also includes workshops, communal kitchens and generous outdoor spaces. The project aims not only to provide accommodation but also to foster dignity, collaboration and belonging.

The concept follows the principle of form follows resource, reimagining architecture as a process shaped by existing materials, social relationships and local participation. Rather than treating the building as an object, the architects conceived it as a living system – continually adapted by its users. Every aspect of design and organization, from the layout of shared spaces to the governance of daily life, is inclusive and transparent, ensuring that all residents, volunteers and guests participate equally in shaping their environment.

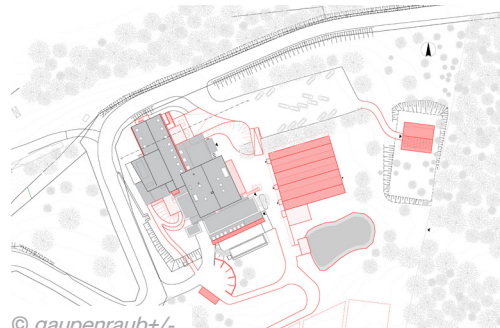
Advisory Committee

‘VinziRast am Land’ receives the award for Social Architecture for its innovative approach to housing vulnerable groups, including the homeless, while reusing existing buildings and rural structures. The project tackles the urgent issue of affordable housing in a humble yet profound way, revealing the essential work architects can do when there is no commercial incentive. With great sensitivity, *gaupenraub+/-* transforms a former luxury hotel into a living community – providing both housing and opportunities for reintegration and inclusion. This is architecture as social practice: modest in expression yet radical in impact. For over two decades, *gaupenraub+/-* has addressed Europe’s housing crisis through grounded, socially conscious projects such as VinziRast-mittendrin and VinziDorf Wien, alongside work on circular construction, permaculture and dementia care. By combining reuse, participation and local knowledge, their architecture demonstrates how design can address complex ecological and societal challenges – quietly but powerfully.

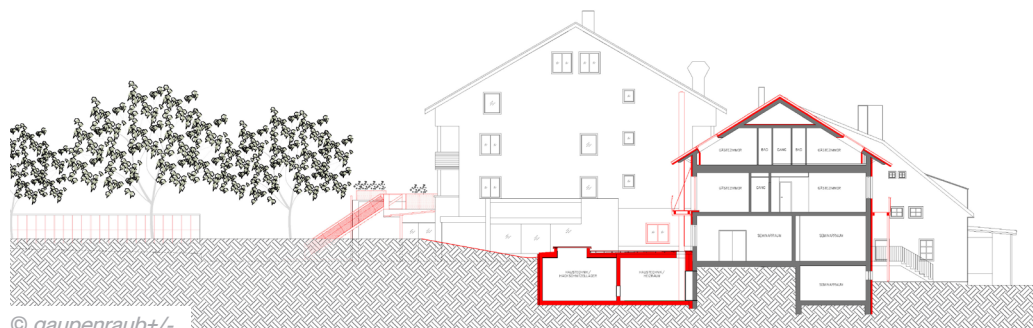
The prize money will fund four interconnected initiatives promoting inclusive and socially responsible design. These include the development of an inclusive hotel in collaboration with Integration Wien; participatory design for a village for homeless people in Klagenfurt with Caritas; the creation of a digital toolkit on building for marginalized groups; and the integration of landscape design at VinziRast am Land to strengthen its long-term social and ecological quality. Together, these projects extend the architects’ mission: to cultivate spaces where care, collaboration and sustainability coexist.



© Dietmar Tollerian



© gaupenraub+/-



© gaupenraub+/-



Project location
Asia, China

Applicant
LUO studio

Gross area in m²
154.7

Image © Jin weiqi

Zheshui Natural library

Project description

Zheshui Village lies in the Taihang Mountains of Shanxi Province, where architecture and landscape are inseparable. Many homes are built directly into the mountain, and the Zheshui Natural Library continues this tradition by anchoring itself into the rock face, blending with its natural surroundings.

The village faces major challenges due to its remoteness. Poor transportation makes access to construction materials difficult and expensive, while the mountainous terrain restricts mechanized building. Heavy equipment would require extensive earthwork and levelling, causing further ecological damage. The library project sought to counter these limitations by combining ecological sensitivity, cultural continuity and local craftsmanship.

The library is both structure and bookshelf. Its modular timber frame serves three purposes: column-grid support, seating and book storage. Thin timber members – 4-cm columns and 2.5-cm beams – are connected to create a lightweight but stable structure. Glass bricks fill the gaps between columns, serving as both enclosure and structural infill, filtering natural light while maintaining a sense of openness. The roof is composed of two intersecting layers of thin wooden panels – one horizontal, one vertical – providing strength and rhythm.

Advisory Committee

‘Zheshui Natural Library’ receives the award for Social Engagement for its deeply integrated approach to architecture, community and landscape, and for its direct commitment to giving children a place to read and learn. Rooted in the existing stone wall of a mountain village, the design honours local building traditions while addressing urgent social needs. The children’s library creates a meaningful public space that merges the ecological with the social, the inside with the outside. Through minimal yet beautiful use of local materials, the structure demonstrates restraint, ingenuity and environmental sensitivity. The stepped wall becomes furniture, the bookshelf becomes structure and every part of the building invites children in. Despite cultural and logistical challenges, the result is powerful in its simplicity – architecture at its most essential and purposeful.

The prize money will fund establishing a sustainable co-creation studio in Shangling Village, serving as a model for rural ecological development. The studio will combine community-led construction, environmental education and sustainable tourism, providing training for villagers and students in natural building techniques. It will function as a workshop, exhibition space and meeting hub for ongoing research on timber construction, adaptive reuse and cultural heritage preservation – expanding the impact of projects like Zheshui Natural Library and fostering long-term rural resilience through design and collaboration.

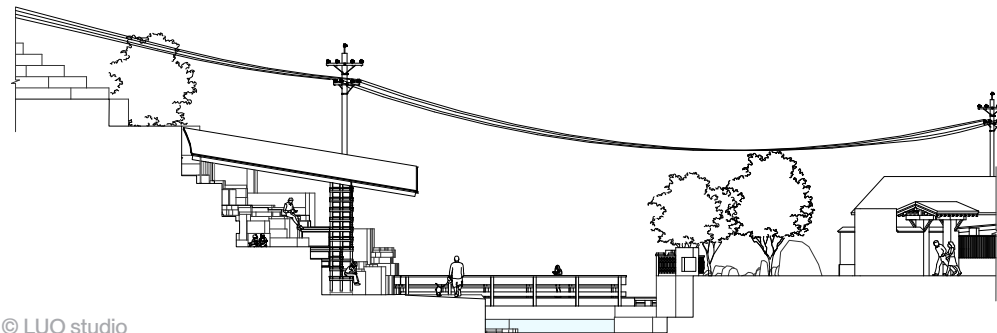
ammodo architecture award 2025
IA-0000000464 social engagement



Image © Jin weiqi

Zheshui Natural library
LUO studio

China
2022



project

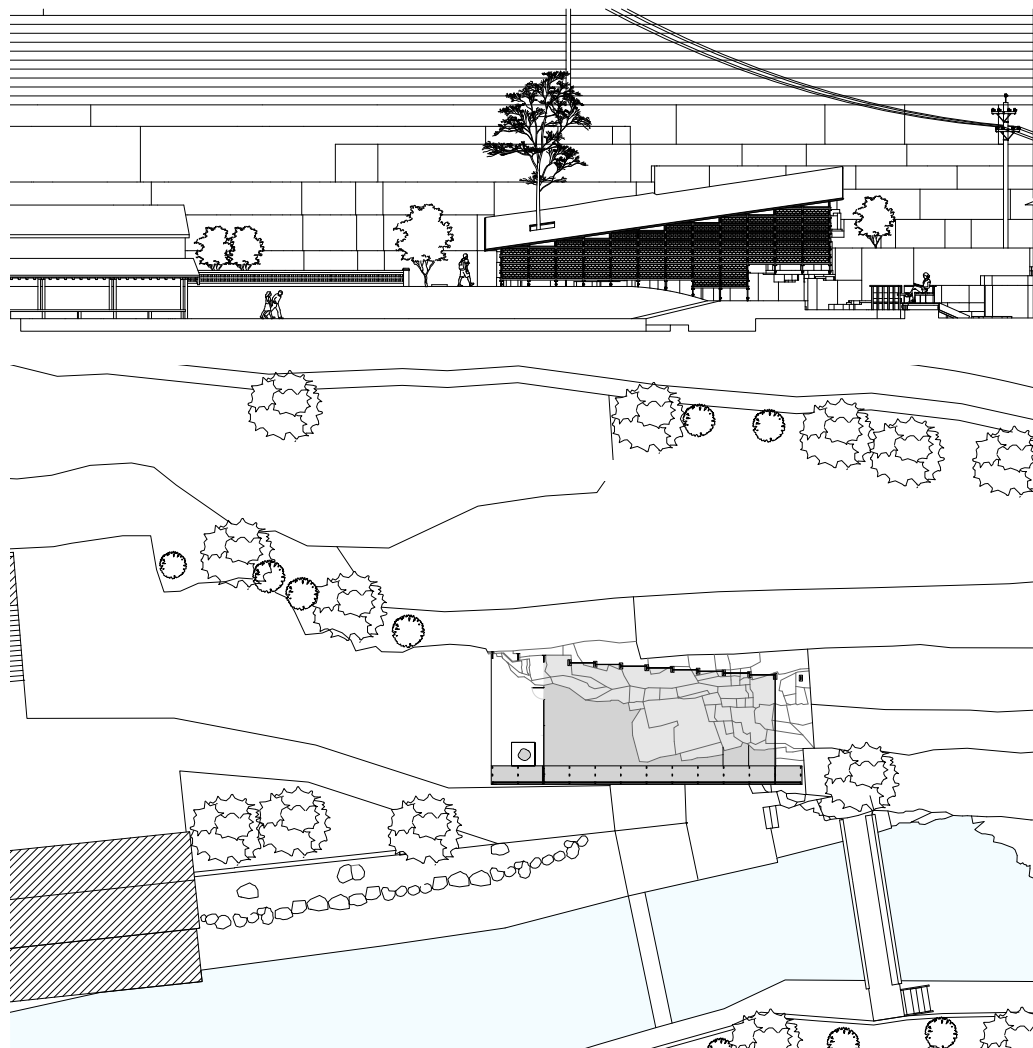
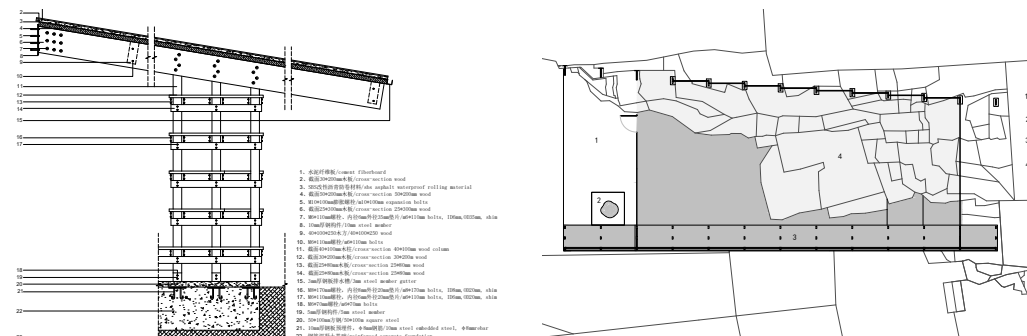


Image © LUO studio



© Jin wei qi



Project location
Africa, Ghana

Applicant
Limbo Accra

Gross area in m²
720.0

Image © Sylvernus Darku

Limbo Museum

Project description

The Limbo Museum radically challenges the conventions that have historically defined the museum as a Western, institutional model. Situated in an abandoned Brutalist complex in Labone, a lively neighbourhood in Accra, the project reclaims incompleteness as potential. It transforms a half-finished, neglected concrete shell into a vibrant public platform where art, performance, design and community converge.

Rather than replicating the climate-controlled, enclosed typology of the conventional museum, Limbo is open to the elements – porous, adaptive and in constant dialogue with its surroundings. It has no permanent collection, no façade and no hierarchy between artist, visitor or builder. The building itself becomes both exhibit and experiment, shifting the museum's focus from preservation to participation.

The context is crucial: more than 20 per cent of Ghana's built environment consists of unfinished or abandoned structures. Limbo positions this condition not as failure but as opportunity, showing how incomplete architecture can foster civic imagination and collective agency. By occupying an unfinished site, the museum activates a typology found throughout West African cities – turning concrete ruins into frameworks for cultural and social exchange.

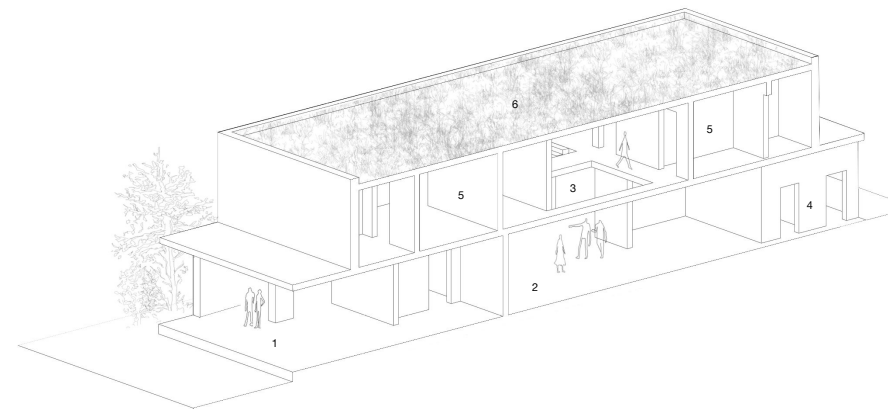
Advisory Committee

'Limbo Museum' receives the award for Social Engagement for its bold reimagining of what a museum can be – spatially and socially. It redefines architecture by inhabiting an abandoned, unfinished structure and reactivating it through art, culture and community. The absence of a façade becomes a powerful statement, inviting a continuous dialogue between art, environment and everyday life. The museum becomes a living platform for exchange, connecting local creativity with a wider African and global context.

The prize money will be used to support the Limbo Architecture Lab, a series of collaborative design-build workshops based in the unfinished John Kufuor Presidential Library on the campus of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana. The initiative aims to transform the abandoned structure into a civic hub for learning, experimentation and collective gathering. Through built prototypes, exhibitions and public forums, the project will demonstrate how incomplete buildings across Ghana and West Africa can be reactivated as spaces of cultural memory and civic potential. Activities will include community engagement, material research, skills training and the development of open-access manuals documenting adaptive reuse techniques. The work will expand Limbo's mission to reclaim architectural limbo as a site of imagination, resilience and shared future-making.



Image © Sylvernus Darku



- 1 Entrance / Reception
- 2 Main Exhibition / Event Space
- 3 Double-Height Void
- 4 Maintenance / Administrative Spaces
- 5 Exhibition Spaces / Screening Rooms
- 6 Biodiverse, Artist-Designed Roof Garden

© Lennart Wolff





Project location
South America, Ecuador

Applicant
La Cabina de la curiosidad

Gross area in m²
350.0
Image © Francesco Russo

Commissioned by
Community of Shalalà

Chaki Wasi, handicrafts center

Project description

Shalalà is a highland community perched on the edge of Quilotoa, an active volcanic crater with turquoise waters that has become one of Ecuador's most visited natural landmarks. The 132 farming families who live there depend on small-scale agriculture and tourism. As visitor numbers increased, unregulated development began to reshape the area, often disregarding community control or ecological care. In response, the people of Shalalà, together with the Quito-based collective La Cabina de la Curiosidad, envisioned Chaki Wasi – 'House of the Hand' in Quechua – as a way to reconcile tourism with tradition.

Rather than build a conventional tourist facility, the community wanted a space that would welcome visitors while honouring local culture and landscape. The result is both a handicrafts centre and a community house: a place that celebrates Indigenous crafts, language and ecology through architecture.

The design process began with open assemblies where residents defined their needs – a place to display crafts, teach weaving, host gatherings and share food. The architects listened and learned from traditional builders, developing a design that was functional, symbolic and deeply connected to place. The building's strength lies in its authenticity – a physical expression of the community's relationship with the land.

Advisory Committee

'Chaki Wasi, handicrafts center of the community of Shalalà' receives the award for Social Engagement for the way it brings dignity, cultural depth and environmental care to sustainable tourism in the Andes. Rooted in Quechua traditions, this community-led handicrafts centre in the village of Shalalà, Ecuador, uses architecture to restore balance between people, nature and economy. It shows how design can strengthen culture, sustain livelihoods and protect fragile ecosystems, offering a model for community-driven development grounded in ancestral knowledge.

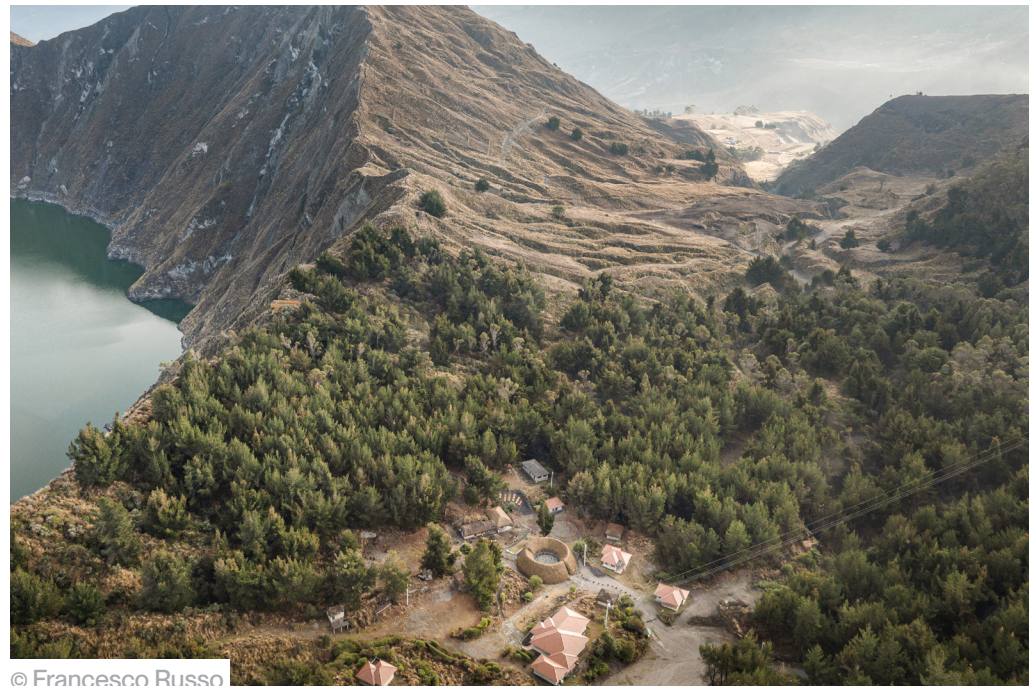
The prize money will fund the planned works, including a pier, food stalls, a ticket office and a nursery for native plants, alongside rainwater harvesting systems and efficient stoves. Training in waste management, environmental education and tourism will ensure that knowledge circulates and autonomy grows. All activities will remain collective, with women, men and youth building and managing the new facilities together.



© Francesco Russo



© Luca Piffaretti



© Francesco Russo



© Jag Studio



© Jag Studio



© Francesco Russo



Project location
Africa, Morocco

Gross area in m²
140.0

Image © Aziza Chaoui Projects

Applicant
Aziza Chaoui Projects

Commissioned by
Village of Talaat N'yacoub,
Moroccan Ministry of Interior

Prototype Anti-seismic House

Project description

The Anti-Seismic Prototype House is a community-led housing model that integrates seismic resilience with ecological design, cultural continuity and local empowerment. Developed after the devastating 2023 earthquake in Morocco's Haouz region, the project tests compressed earth bricks (CEBs) for their structural strength, affordability and environmental performance, while offering hands-on training and co-design workshops with residents.

The village of Talaat N'Yaaqoub was among the areas most affected by the 6.7 magnitude earthquake that struck the Haouz region, destroying thousands of traditional homes made of earth and stone. These houses, often built on steep slopes and without seismic reinforcement, left many families displaced. In this fragile context, rebuilding required a sensitive balance between safety, sustainability and respect for local identity.

The prototype reinterprets the traditional courtyard house of the Haouz region, characterized by its deep connection to the landscape and its social and climatic intelligence. The new design retains this typology while introducing seismic innovation through engineered CEBs.

The plan includes three courtyards – one for hosting and leisure, one for cooking and one for services such as laundry, small livestock and planting. This spatial organization reinforces privacy, social cohesion and microclimatic comfort, providing shade and ventilation throughout the day.

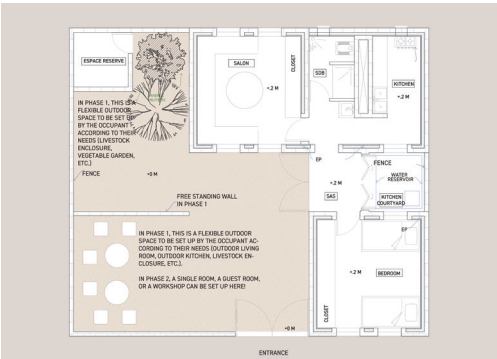
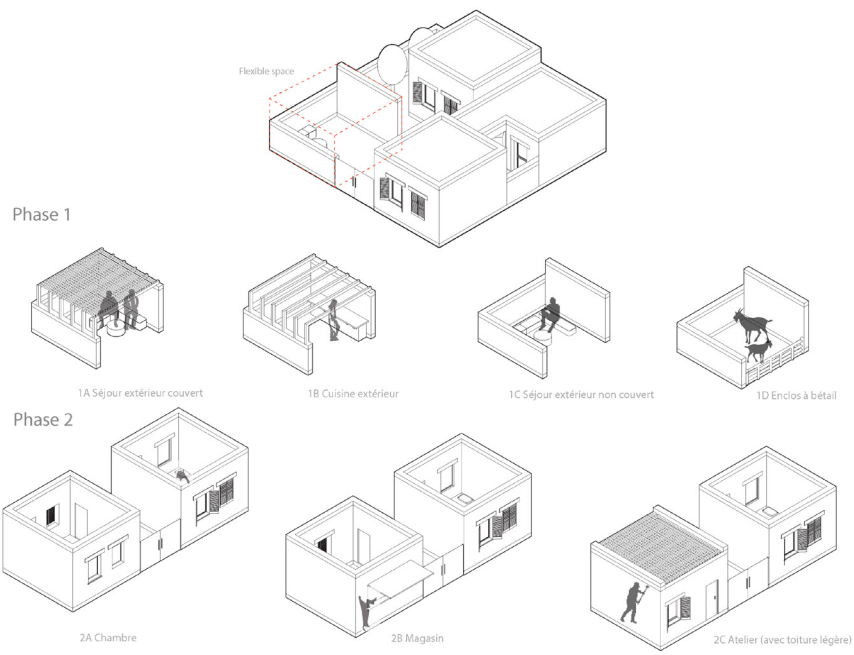
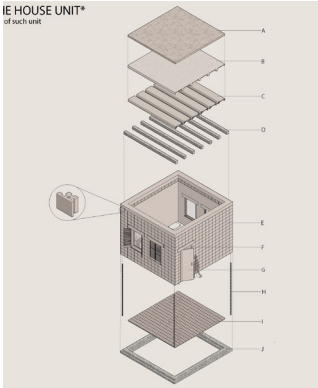
Advisory Committee

'Prototype Anti-Seismic House' receives the award for Social Engagement for its humble yet powerful architectural response to crisis, addressing the urgent housing challenges of a seismic region. Rather than imposing external models, the design embraces local materials, skills and culture. Its use of compressed earth bricks (CEBs), engineered for seismic resistance, demonstrates how innovation can grow from the ground up – combining resilience, sustainability and cultural continuity.

The prize money will fund community-driven post-disaster recovery and training programmes in the Haouz region. Building on the prototype, ACP will organize workshops for local youth and builders to expand skills in compressed earth construction, seismic resilience and ecological design. The initiative combines traditional materials with technical innovation to create dignified, low-carbon homes that can be built collectively and adapted across rural Morocco. The plan also includes developing open-source manuals and training modules to ensure the approach can be replicated by other communities. By merging cultural heritage, environmental responsibility and practical education, the project aims to strengthen resilience and autonomy – helping affected regions rebuild not just structures, but confidence and belonging.



Image © Aziza Chaoui Projects





Project location
Asia, Bangladesh

Applicant
Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha

Gross area in m²
285.0

Commissioned by
Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha

Image © Sheikh Shamim Somudro / Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha

Floating Schools

Project description

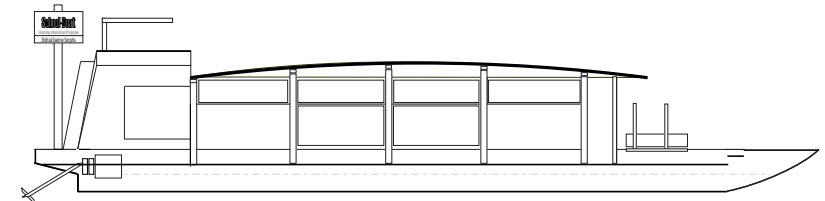
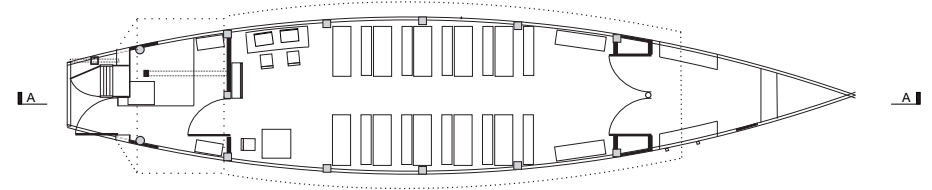
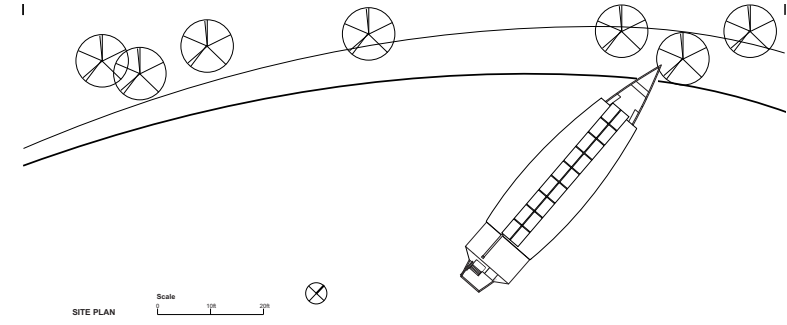
The Floating Schools initiative in Pabna District, Bangladesh, addresses the recurring challenge of education and healthcare access in flood-prone riverine regions. Developed by architect Mohammed Rezwan, the project combines architectural design, cultural continuity and climate adaptation through a fleet of five solar-powered floating structures, including two schools, a library, a training centre and a health clinic. These boats serve flood-prone communities along the Gumani River in the Faridpur and Bhangura subdistricts of Pabna. The initiative began as early as 2002, evolving over two decades into a mature system that became fully operational in 2021 along an 8-km stretch of the river.

The idea grew from a simple yet urgent problem: children could not reach school when floodwaters cut off their villages. Instead of building on land that was constantly submerged, Rezwan turned to the rivers themselves for solutions. Working closely with local communities, he transformed the boat – an everyday tool of survival – into a vehicle for education, empowerment and resilience. The boats are designed in-house and built by local boatbuilders, drawing on generations of traditional craftsmanship. Many members of the project team, including programme managers, boatyard supervisors and educators, come from the same communities the boats serve. Some former students have even returned as teachers, a living testament to the project's long-term social impact.

Advisory Committee

'Floating Schools for Community Resilience and Sustainable Development' receives the award for Social Engagement for its powerful use of architecture as a tool for adaptation. Rather than resisting water, it embraces it, offering a mobile response to the realities of climate change. Built with local materials and traditional knowledge, the floating structures bring learning, care and opportunity to remote communities – bringing the school to the people, instead of the people to the school. The design demonstrates cultural sensitivity, ecological intelligence and flexibility. Here, people move with the water, and architecture moves with them. With minimal means and maximum impact, the project combines beauty, empathy and function in a model that is both inventive and deeply rooted in everyday life.

The prize money will fund constructing a scalable, solar-powered floating community hub combining education, healthcare and climate resilience for flood-prone areas in Bangladesh. Conceived as more than a service boat, the hub will act as a living prototype that demonstrates how architecture can adapt to the realities of climate change while maintaining dignity and stability.





Project location
Asia, India

Gross area in m²
465.0

Image © Avneesh Tiwari

Applicant
atArchitecture

Commissioned by
Anant Foundation, Government of Meghalaya

Jackfruit Processing Unit

Project description

Located in the remote South Garo Hills of Meghalaya, one of India's most isolated and ecologically sensitive regions, the Jackfruit Processing Unit and Community Centre strengthens local livelihoods while celebrating community life. Funded by the government and developed for a farmers' cooperative, it addresses the needs of a dispersed agrarian population. By linking production, processing, training and gathering in one place, the building serves both an economic and social hub for a dispersed agrarian population.

At the heart of the project lies a belief in participatory development. Two farmer groups form the backbone of the cooperative model: a producer network of 200 collectives and a processing group of 50 members. Together they ensure shared ownership and collective responsibility. The architecture supports this process by providing an efficient space for production, storage and training, while also hosting community events and meetings. In collaboration with AFISI, a local development organization, the project integrates capacity building, market access and business training. By pairing infrastructure with education, it strengthens local agency – especially among women, who now play an active role as both producers and processors.

Advisory Committee

'Jackfruit Processing Unit and Community Centre' receives the award for Social Engagement for the dignity it brings to both place and people. It supports 50 farmers – 60 per cent of them women – and reaches over 4,000 through a cooperative model that transforms waste into opportunity. The goal is clear: to create income and resilience through collective intelligence. What appears simple at first is, in fact, remarkably powerful. Built with durable, easily transportable materials, the architecture is straightforward to maintain and deeply connected to its users. It brings farmers together, expands education and gives identity to a group often overlooked – those who usually receive only basic sheds. This community-driven project shows how architecture can quietly and meaningfully transform rural life.

The prize money will fund the realization of a new, women-led essential oil cooperative in Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya. Constructed with bamboo and timber, the decentralized extraction unit will process aromatic crops while preserving vernacular building knowledge. Extending the same cooperative principles, it will promote local enterprise through ecological, low-carbon design. Together, these projects embody a clear and hopeful idea: that architecture can strengthen rural economies through shared intelligence and collective care.

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IA-000000503 social engagement



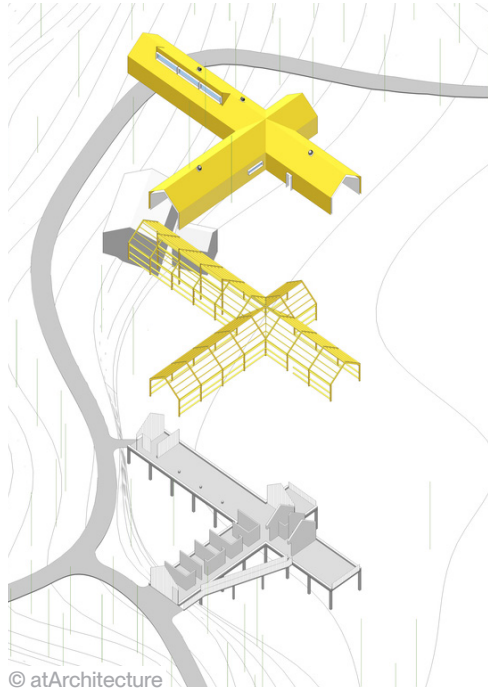
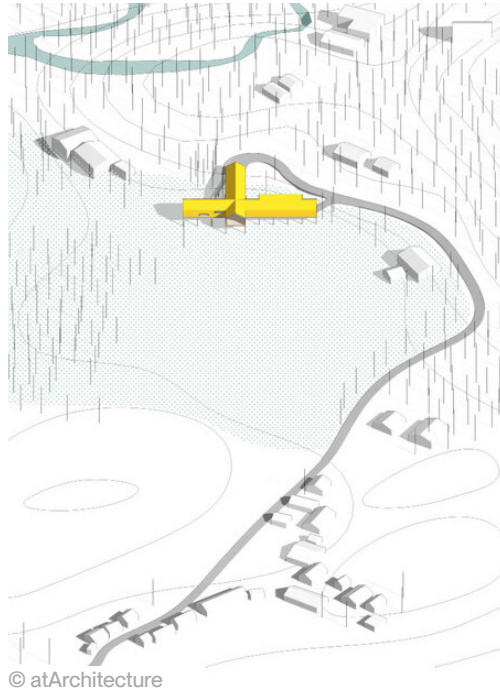
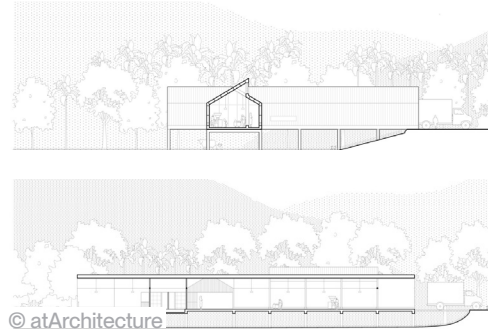
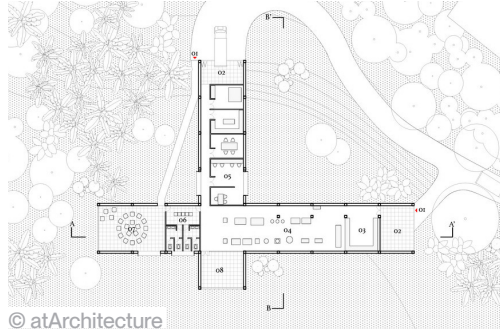
Image © Avneesh Tiwari

Jackfruit Processing Unit and Community Centre
atArchitecture

India
2024



project





Project location
Europe, Germany

Gross area in m²
2860.0
Image © Gil Shachar

Applicant
Floating e.V.

Commissioned by
Floating e.V.

Floating University

Project description

Floating University, located in Berlin, is an experimental campus and research project that serves as a platform for transdisciplinary learning, urban practice and ecological research. It explores new forms of collective learning and living by creating a shared space for exchange, reflection and collaboration among students, scientists, artists and local actors from around the world. Set within a rainwater retention basin near Berlin's former Tempelhof Airport, the project challenges conventional architectural thinking while drawing inspiration from its unique landscape. Once a polluted and inaccessible site, it has been transformed into a testing ground for new relationships between the built environment, water and the city. Defined by the team as a 'natureculture' learning site, Floating University blurs boundaries between nature, culture and infrastructure. It offers an open educational environment without barriers, enabling broad and inclusive participation. Learning unfolds not through formal instruction but through shared experience, experimentation and hands-on practice. The space functions as both a laboratory and a community, where teaching, research and collective making are inseparable from daily life.

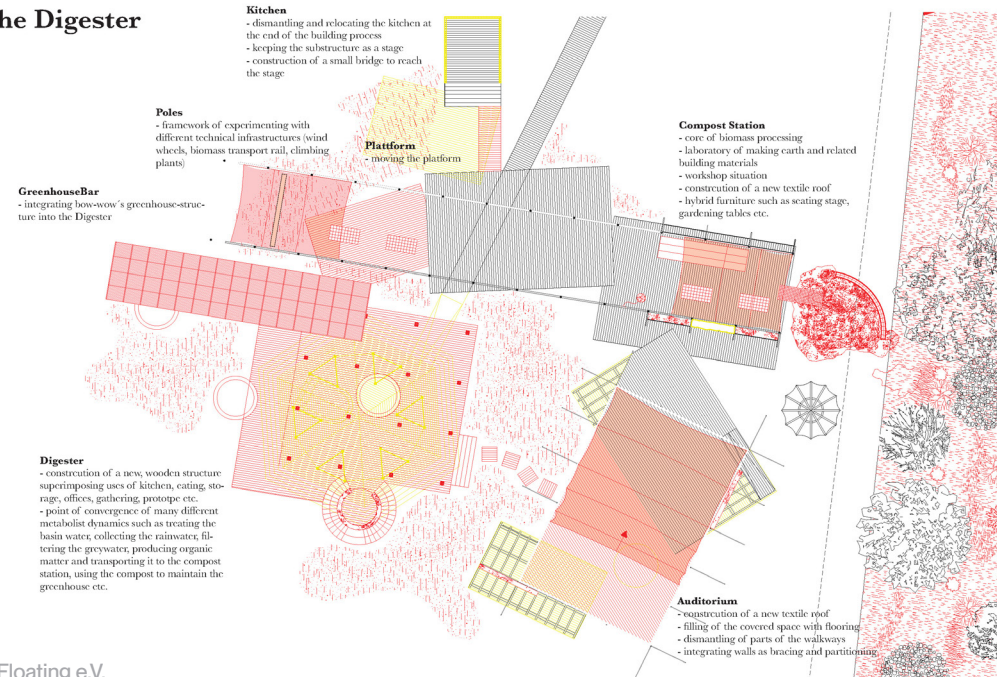
Advisory Committee

'Floating University' receives the award for Social Engagement for its deeply democratic and inclusive approach to learning, architecture and ecology. Situated in a polluted rainwater basin, the project transforms a neglected site into a vibrant public space where everyone, from residents to international students, can participate freely. The project reuses and repairs rather than replaces, offering a powerful model of ecological and social restoration. Its open structure enables shared authorship and co-learning between teachers, students and the public. By creating an architectural language rooted in care, the project shows how design can restore ecosystems while fostering radical forms of collective knowledge and community.

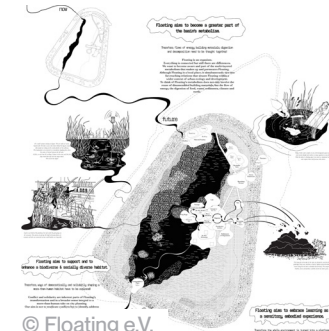
The prize money will fund the transformation of the Floating University into a resilient hybrid infrastructure and living laboratory that deepens its ecological and educational mission. The plan focuses on restoring the rainwater basin through multi-stage filtration systems, habitat creation and circular resource cycles for water and energy. These interventions will expand the project's capacity for collaborative research, workshops and community engagement, fostering shared knowledge on regenerative urban design. By co-developing adaptive, low-tech systems across disciplines, the team aims to make the site a model for inclusive, sustainable and experimental urban practice – an evolving space where design, ecology and collective learning continuously inform one another.



The Digester



© Floating e.V.





Project location
Asia, Japan

Applicant
onishimaki+hyakudayuki / o+h

Gross area in m²
22,295.30

Commissioned by
City of Yamagata (Yamagata-shi)

Image © Kohei Shikama / Commissioned by the Nippon Foundation DIVERSITY IN THE ARTS

Shelter Inclusive Place COPAL

Project description

The project was realized through a Private Finance Initiative model that encouraged collaboration across disciplines from the outset. Architects, city officials, builders, and community groups met regularly in 'Creation Meetings' to explore what inclusivity could mean in practice. Children, parents, educators and disability advocates all contributed ideas, shaping both the building and its use. Inclusivity was treated not as a technical requirement but as the project's very foundation.

Designed by o+h, the architecture office of Maki Onishi and Yuki Hyakuda, COPAL unfolds as one continuous landscape linking indoors and outdoors. Excavated soil was reused to form gentle slopes and embankments, allowing the building to merge with its surroundings. The roofline echoes the mountains, while deep eaves protect from sun and snow and frame open views. The result feels less like a structure than a terrain – an environment for exploration. Visitors enter through a half-sunken gymnasium framed by timber arches, where people of all ages play together. A broad ramp connects this hall to an indoor play area, providing wheelchair access to the top of slides while also serving as a hill for others to run or roll down. Nearby, quiet nooks offer space to rest, a soft-floored area welcomes infants and a café using local ingredients brings families together. Every corner invites use without exclusion: the slope is both access and play, the ramp both path and stage.

Advisory Committee

'Shelter Inclusive Place COPAL' receives the award for Social Engagement for its exemplary approach to inclusive public space. Located in snowy Yamagata, COPAL is an indoor-outdoor playground that welcomes all children – regardless of ability, nationality or background – into a continuous, barrier-free landscape of play. Its gently curving architecture, inspired by the surrounding mountains, creates a space where everyone can move, rest and explore with ease. The project is awarded for its universal accessibility, sensitivity to context and thoughtful design.

The prize money will fund the next chapter in COPAL's story: transforming its outdoor areas into new inclusive play landscapes. Through a year-long, intergenerational programme, children, students and craftspeople will design and build together using local materials and traditional techniques. These additions will extend COPAL's inclusive ethos beyond its walls, creating outdoor spaces for learning, play and shared stewardship.



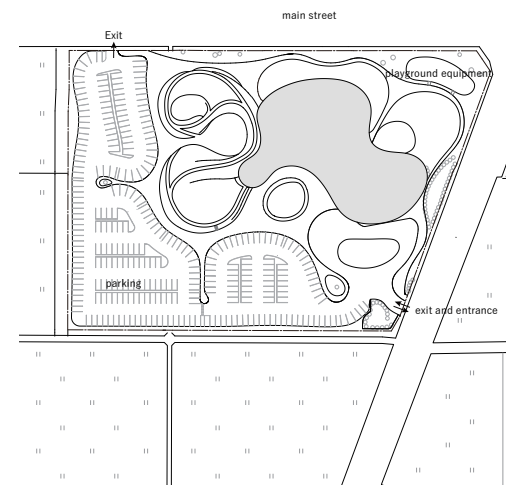
Image © Copal



© Kohei Shikama



© Kohei Shikama



© o+h



project



Project location
South America, Peru

Gross area in m²
91.0

Image © Eleazar Cuadros

Applicant
Asociación Semillas para el Desarrollo Sostenible
Commissioned by
Self-managed project

Territorio de los saberes - Mencoriari

Project description

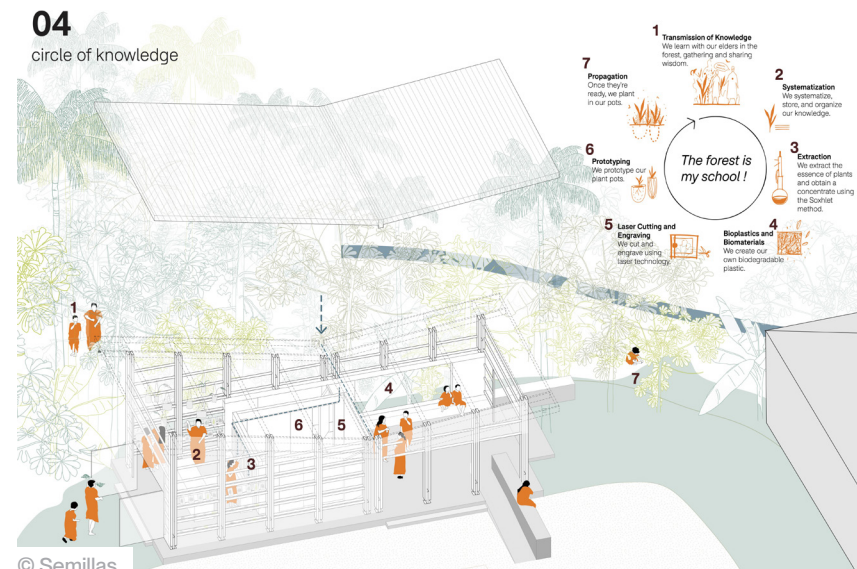
Territorio de los Saberes is both an architectural and pedagogical initiative that transforms education by situating it within the forest and nature. The project combines an open classroom and a medicinal plant laboratory with a teaching model that bridges Indigenous knowledge and the national curriculum. Through participatory design and construction, it has become a living experiment in how architecture can integrate culture, ecology and education.

The project is located in the Nomatsigenga Indigenous community of Mencoriari, in the central Amazon of Peru. Its direct beneficiaries include 88 secondary school students, seven teachers and more than 480 community members. Like many Indigenous communities in the region, Mencoriari has faced legacies of neglect, conflict and extractive activity. Schools in such contexts often fail to reflect cultural identity or local knowledge systems. Territorio de los Saberes addresses this imbalance by rooting education in place – reconnecting young people to ancestral practices, and validating their languages, rituals and ecological knowledge as essential parts of learning.

Advisory Committee

‘Territorio de los Saberes’ receives the award for Social Engagement because it redefines education as an open, participatory and place-based practice rooted in Indigenous knowledge and local ecologies. Located in the Peruvian Amazon, it brings the school to the people, opening learning spaces directly into the forest – both physically and culturally. Through a phased process of architecture, pedagogy and mobility, it builds a long-term platform for community-driven education and cultural resilience. The simple, adaptable architecture is made largely from local materials and designed to evolve over time. The award recognizes not only the building itself but also the ongoing process around it – a true ‘territory of knowledge’ growing into a forest of shared futures.

The prize money will fund two new pedagogical laboratories in Alto Chichireni and Chuquibambilla, rooted in ancestral knowledge and local resources. In Alto Chichireni, a plant-fibre laboratory will host knowledge workshops, an international construction workshop and the creation of an Itinerant Forest Museum to strengthen cultural identity across communities. In Chuquibambilla, a wood workshop will focus on classifying and sustainably using native timber species. Following the ‘Seed, Tree, Forest’ model, these projects will combine ecological sensitivity, community participation and intercultural pedagogy to build resilient educational spaces. Together, they aim to consolidate a network of Amazonian schools that teach with and for the forest – fostering cultural continuity, environmental awareness and collective learning.





Project region
North & Central America, United States

Applicant
Urban Rivers

Gross area in m²
2057
Image © Urban Rivers

The Wild Mile

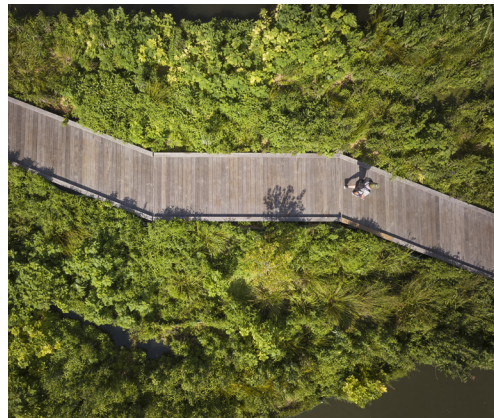
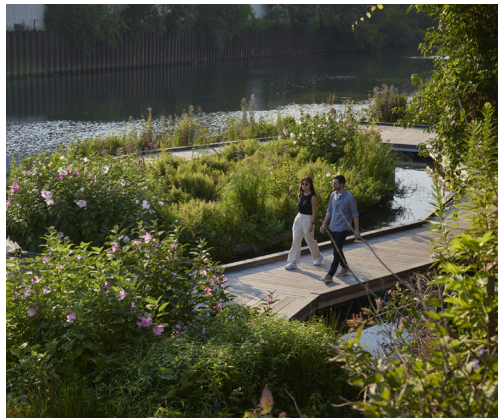
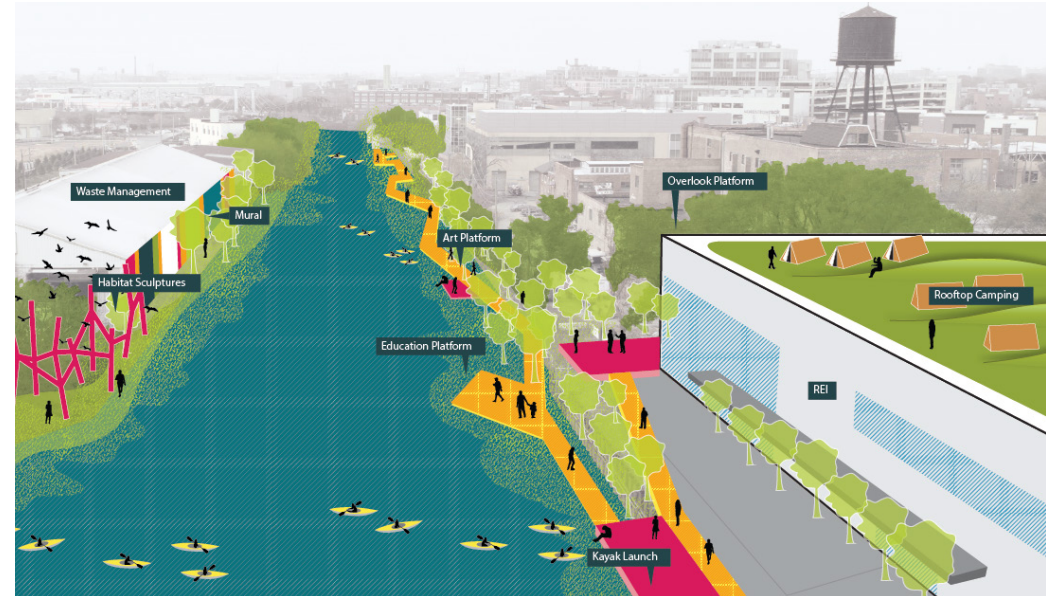
Project description

Since 2017, the nonprofit Urban Rivers has developed a modular system of floating wetlands and platforms that provide habitat for wildlife while opening new public access to the Chicago River. Supported by partnerships with community groups, educators and researchers, the Wild Mile integrates ecological restoration with recreation, education and civic identity. Chicago's North Branch Canal was historically a neglected, industrialized stretch of water, offering little ecological or social value. Surrounded by dense neighbourhoods with limited access to green space, the area embodied the environmental and social inequities created by redlining and industrial clustering. The Wild Mile responds to this context by converting a polluted canal into a shared public asset that fosters environmental repair and social cohesion. The design integrates modular floating wetlands that emulate natural ecosystems, supporting diverse habitats above and below water. Walkways, kayak launches and gathering platforms connect residents to the river, making ecological processes visible and interactive. The concept merges ecological function with urban design, offering a framework that is scalable, replicable and adaptive to climate change.

Advisory Committee

'The Wild Mile' receives the award for Social Engagement for transforming a once-polluted stretch of the Chicago River into a thriving floating eco-park that bridges ecology, culture and public life. This modular landscape restores native wetlands while creating spaces for education, kayaking and community gathering in the heart of the city. What makes the project exceptional is how it unites disciplines and communities around a shared commitment to environmental repair. It is both a symbol and a tool – cleaning a river with a troubled history while redefining how cities can coexist with nature. A bold and beautiful example of ecological urbanism in action.

The prize money will fund the design of new low-cost, adaptable wetland prototypes to enhance biodiversity, water quality and community engagement. The expanded Wild Mile will host native species, citizen-science programmes and educational workshops for schools, residents and visitors, turning the river into a living classroom. Data gathered with academic partners will inform international research, while design guidelines will help other cities adopt similar approaches. Through adaptive design and collaborative stewardship, the project shows how cities can reclaim waterways for biodiversity, resilience and inclusive public life. The Wild Mile plan aims to advance floating ecological infrastructure as a replicable model for socially and environmentally responsible urban waterfronts.





Project location
Southeast Asia & Oceania, Australia

Gross area in m²
1385.0
Image © Eve Wilson

Applicant
NMBW Architecture Studio

Commissioned by
Tripple

Sanders Place

Project description

Located on the edge of an industrial and residential zone in Melbourne, Australia, Sanders Place reimagines a two-storey brick factory as a co-working hub that encourages interaction, wellbeing and environmental responsibility. Through acts of both removal and addition, NMBW Architecture Studio turned an inward-looking, windowless structure into a light-filled, porous building that breathes and grows. The introduction of five courtyards cuts through the former factory's solidity, creating new spatial, atmospheric and circulatory logics. These openings invite sunlight, ventilation and plant life deep into the interior, while connecting the occupants with the street and surrounding laneways.

The decision to work with the existing building rather than demolish it forms the core of the project's ethos. The architects treated demolition as a design process in itself, using careful subtraction to reveal opportunities for reuse. While the concrete frame remained, the building envelope was completely transformed. It was wrapped in new layers of insulation and shading, dramatically improving its thermal performance. Internally, a double-height courtyard now serves as a living core – its garden shaded by a retractable greenhouse cloth, with trees growing through a void cut into the first-floor slab. Around this central space, a sequence of smaller courtyards creates varying microclimates, from quiet green refuges to a working kitchen garden, each fostering social interaction and sensory awareness.

Advisory Committee

'Sanders Place' receives the award for Social Engagement for transforming a closed industrial building into an open, welcoming co-working space that reconnects people with nature and community. The project skilfully reimagines an existing factory through acts of careful subtraction and reuse, introducing five courtyards – including a central garden where trees grow through the floor – that bring light, air and life into the building. With rooftop solar panels, heat recovery ventilation and extensive material reuse, Sanders Place exemplifies how sustainability and human wellbeing can be integrated with beauty and restraint. It demonstrates how architects can 'liberate themselves from chains' to create meaningful, ecological and socially engaging architecture, even in highly regulated urban contexts.

The prize money will fund a design-research initiative exploring how public architecture in Melbourne and Sydney can be revitalized through decolonizing design, adaptive reuse and multi-sensory engagement. Focusing on disused colonial-era buildings often located on significant Indigenous sites, NMBW will investigate how to transform these structures into inclusive, living public spaces.

ammodo architecture award 2025
IA-0000000642 social engagement



© NMBW



Image © Peter Bennetts



Sanders Place
NMBW Architecture Studio

Australia
2024



© NMBW



© NMBW



© Michael Pham



project



Project location
Asia, Bangladesh

Applicant
Paraa

Gross area in m²
332,0
Image © City Syntax

Machan_Korail Community Platform

Project description

Machan is part of the wider Korail: City of Culture initiative, which promotes art and participation as tools for community building. Developed by the Dhaka-based collective Paraa, the project grew from long-term collaboration with residents, youth groups and community leaders. The settlement, home to over 80,000 people, sits beside Dhaka's affluent neighbourhoods of Banani and Gulshan-Baridhara. Many residents work in waste recycling, street vending or domestic labour for the surrounding city. Korail's contribution to Dhaka's cultural life is rarely recognized, but Machan challenges that imbalance by placing creativity, learning and care at the centre of civic life.

The name – Machan, meaning 'platform' in Bangla – captures its essence: a structure that supports and connects. It stands at Ershad Maidan, one of Korail's few open spaces, long used for dumping waste. Paraa worked with local volunteers, students and collaborators including Floating University Berlin to transform the site into a shared stage for expression. Over 60 workshops and residencies shaped the design, bringing together residents and young designers through storytelling, model-making and hands-on construction.

Advisory Committee

'Machan_Korail Community Platform' receives the award for Social Engagement for its powerful simplicity and subtle use of architecture, intervening only where truly needed. Built collaboratively with residents of Korail, Machan transforms a former dumping ground into a vibrant cultural centre. The project shows how young, diverse teams can create spaces that are both socially meaningful and architecturally restrained. The result feels like 'playground architecture' – open, adaptable and deeply rooted in everyday life. With minimal means, it brings culture to the forefront of community building, challenging elitist assumptions about who produces culture and how. A beautiful and original contribution that gives voice, space and dignity to the people of Korail.

The prize money will fund Paraa's next participatory project in Dhaka: a co-designed built intervention developed with local residents, youth and artists. Through workshops, research and residencies, the project will explore how art, culture and architecture can empower informal settlements. Using local, ecological materials and community craftspeople, the intervention – temporary or permanent – will continue Machan's legacy as a space of collective creation.

ammodo architecture award 2025
IA-000000553 social engagement



Image © City Syntax



© Paraa

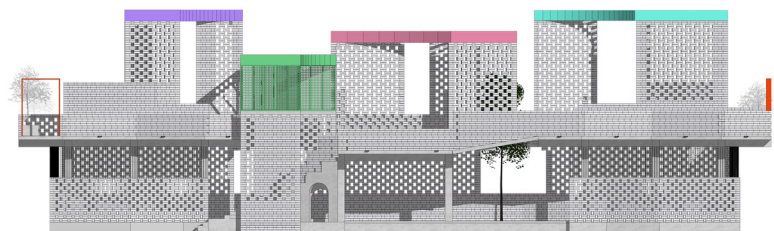
Machan_Korail Community Platform
Paraa

Bangladesh
2024

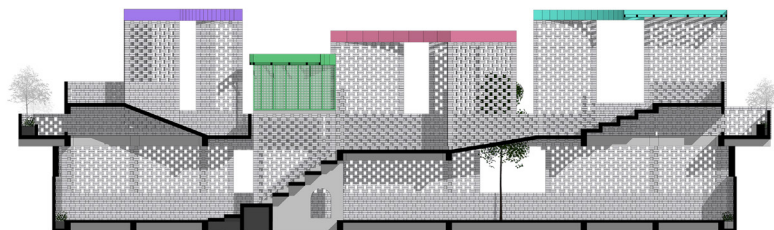


© Paraa

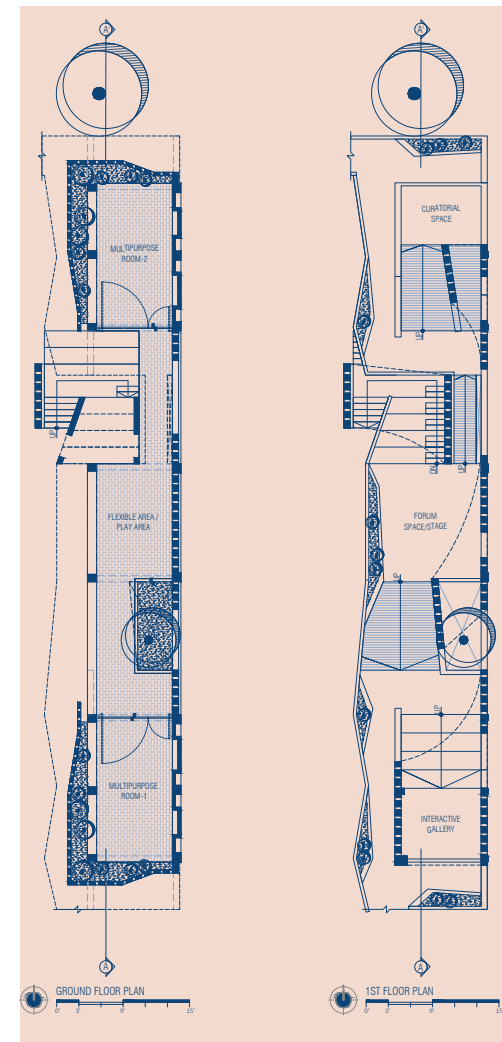
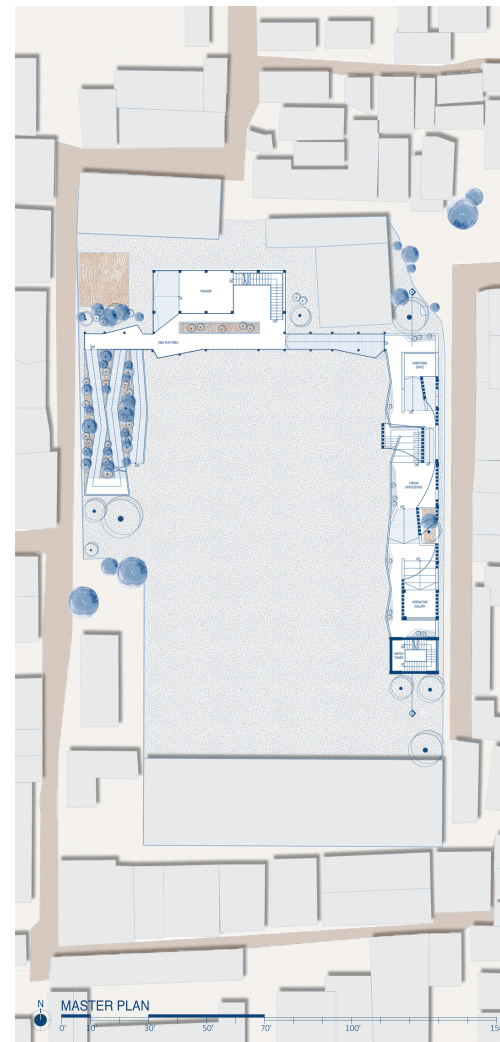
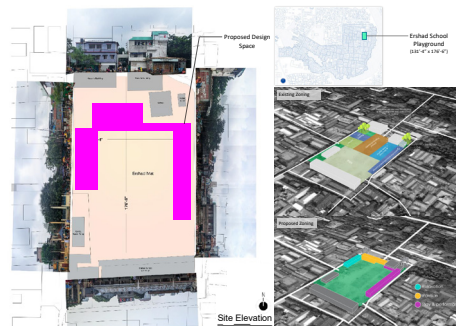
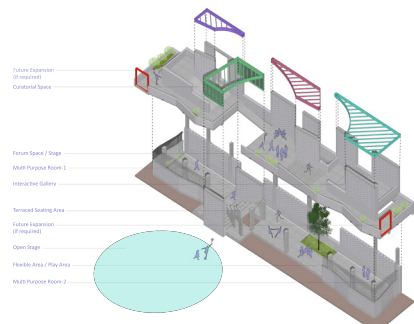
project



WEST ELEVATION
SCALE: NTS



SECTION AA'
SCALE: NTS





© Alfonso Silva Santistevan

Project location
South America, Peru

Site area in m²
40

Applicant
Espacio Común

Main Stage of MuyunaFest

Project description

Located in the amphibious neighbourhood of Belén, Iquitos, in the Peruvian Amazon, the Main Stage of MuyunaFest was conceived as the heart of Muyuna Fest – an international floating film festival that pays tribute to the world's rainforests and their Indigenous peoples. The festival encourages audiovisual creation within the jungle and builds networks of exchange grounded in local knowledge and environmental awareness. Belén, a neighbourhood long stigmatized by poverty and precarious living conditions, faces extreme water level fluctuations that turn streets into rivers for months at a time. Here, homes float on logs or rise on stilts, forming a dynamic landscape of adaptation, creativity and resilience.

The floating stage draws inspiration from this vernacular architecture. Its slender wooden columns and beams echo Belén's 'tall houses', translating everyday construction methods into an ephemeral structure that feels both familiar and celebratory. Locally sourced wood, shaped by hand using simple tools, forms the framework. Imperfections – visible knots, uneven cuts and subtle asymmetries – are not corrected but embraced, conveying honesty, vitality and collective authorship. Lateral coverings act as the stage's 'clothing', incorporating patterns co-created in workshops with neighbourhood children and inspired by Amazonian visual culture.

Advisory Committee

'Main Stage of MuyunaFest' receives the award for Local Scale for its inventive and poetic creation of a cultural and social floating hub during a community-led festival. Responding intelligently to the realities of flooding, the project transforms an everyday challenge into a spatial opportunity. Built from locally sourced materials and crafted with the participation of Belén's residents, the structure embodies the adaptive ingenuity of Amazonian architecture. Designed by Espacio Común for Muyuna Fest, a floating jungle film festival, the stage brings cinema and culture directly to river communities, where audiences watch films from their boats in a 'boat-inn' setting – a sustainable reimagining of the drive-in. Both the collective and the project merit international recognition for the inspiring impact of this temporary structure, which is intended to be adapted into a permanent public space after the next edition of the festival.

The prize money will fund the design and construction of the main stage for the third edition of Muyuna Fest, a floating film festival in the Amazon, taking place in May 2026. Conceived as a temporary structure, it will later be transformed into a permanent public space for play and gathering in Belén, Iquitos. Built with local carpenters and youth, it will provide training in sustainable construction while strengthening community capacity and cultural identity.

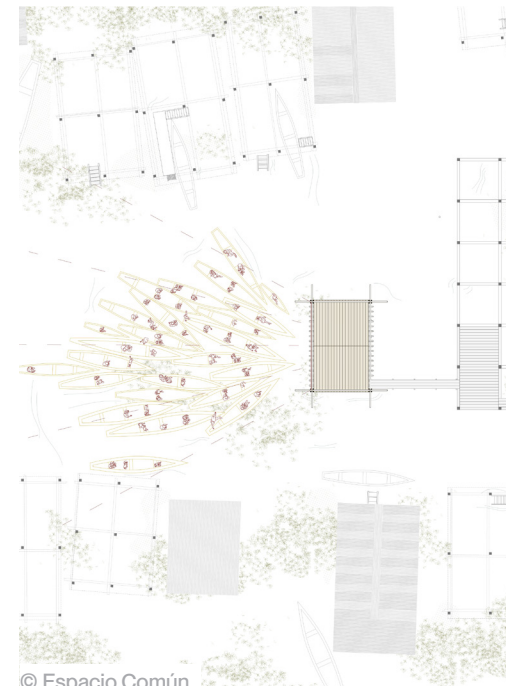


© Daniel Martínez-Quintanilla

Main Stage of MuyunaFest
Espacio Común



© Daniel Martínez-Quintanilla



© Espacio Común



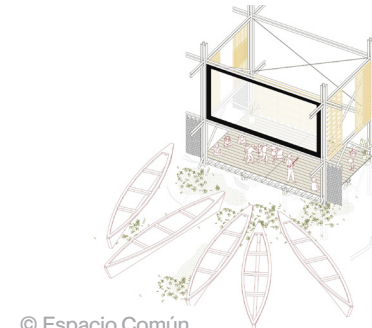
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© Daniel Cancán



© Espacio Común

ammodo architecture award 2025
IA-0000000489 local scale



Project location
Europe, Germany

Applicant
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

Gross area in m²
12.5
Image © DDF_dos_KIT

TerraTimber

Project description

Conceived as both a research project and a teaching platform, TerraTimber challenges the linear model of extract, build and discard by proposing a circular, regenerative alternative. Designed to adapt to diverse contexts, the prototype relies on minimal technology and uses locally sourced materials. Its methods can be transferred to low-resource settings, offering affordable, energy-efficient building systems that support local economies and skill development.

The design team follows a bottom-up approach, allowing the architecture to emerge from the available materials. Each reclaimed timber element is scanned so its size, curvature and imperfections inform the design. This material-driven process produces architecture that is contextually grounded and inherently unique. Automation is used not to erase irregularities but to work with them, preserving the individuality of each timber piece while enabling precision and scalability. The result is a construction language that celebrates both imperfection and exactness.

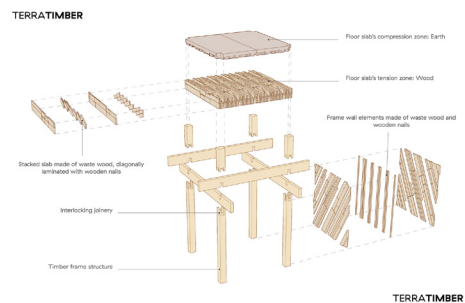
Advisory Committee

'TerraTimber' receives the award for Local Scale for its innovative use of natural materials and its thoughtful integration of technology with vernacular traditions. The project carefully scans and standardizes wood, making use of local resources while generating knowledge that can be shared and applied globally. In a context where natural materials are typically industrially processed, it offers a creative and precise method for repurposing wood waste. Through its combination of digital fabrication and craftsmanship, the project redefines material efficiency, demonstrating how advanced technology can strengthen rather than replace local practices, and how circular design can become both ecologically and architecturally expressive.

The prize money will fund the co-creation of a semi-permanent construction demonstrator at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi, Ghana. Co-designed and built by students and researchers from KNUST and KIT, the structure will combine bamboo, earth and low-tech digital fabrication tools. Developed during the 2025 RENABUMA Building Workshop, it will serve as a prototype for low-carbon, climate-responsive architecture and a platform for long-term research, education and local entrepreneurship. Through this collaboration, TerraTimber expands its impact beyond academia, offering a replicable model for sustainable construction in diverse social and climatic contexts.



Image © DDF_dos_KIT



TERRATIMBER



Project location
Asia, Iran

Applicant
Esfahk Mud Center

Site area in m²
425

Image © Esfahk Mud Center

Adobe Vault

Project description

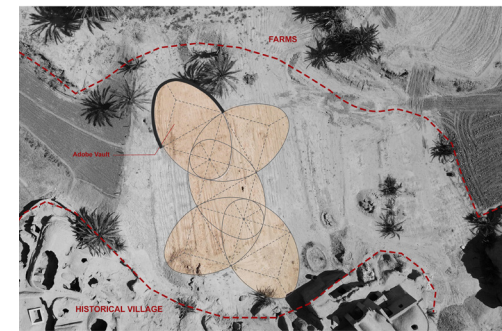
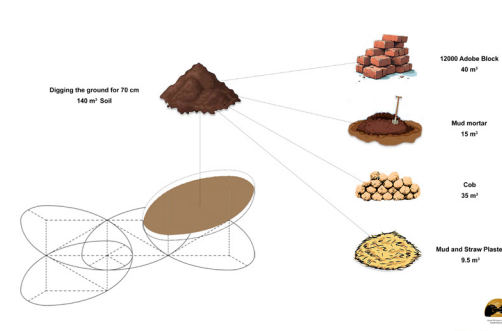
In the historical village of Esfahk, in Iran's South Khorasan province, Adobe Vault reimagines ancient earthen building traditions for the present. The project is part of a long-term initiative by the Esfahk Mud Center, founded in 2015 to study and revive local clay and adobe techniques. Built by volunteers from Iran and abroad, the vault will serve as a concert and gathering space, reviving Do-Tar music – a folk tradition once banned – and reuniting the community through shared rituals of sound and space. When completed, Adobe Vault will be the largest pure-earth structure of its kind in the world. Beyond its impressive scale, it demonstrates how historical knowledge can generate sustainable, locally embedded solutions to contemporary ecological and social challenges.

The project grew out of years of research and workshops organized by the Esfahk Mud Center, asking how a contemporary design can emerge from traditional knowledge. The construction process brings together local craftspeople skilled in adobe techniques and volunteers with architectural training. This exchange of practical and academic knowledge enriches both sides: villagers refine their inherited skills through scientific insight, while architects rediscover the tactile and communal nature of building with earth. Through this collaboration, the team pursued the aesthetic and structural precision characteristic of historical architecture. Every decision – from the vault's geometry to its detailing – arose from listening to the properties of raw earth itself.

Advisory Committee

'Adobe Vault' receives the award for Local Scale for the careful way it revives traditional building methods rooted in local knowledge of clay and mud construction, while creating a vibrant social and cultural gathering space.

The Esfahk Mud Center beautifully and inclusively combines research with hands-on building, aiming to preserve and share traditional craftsmanship. It conveys an important message: what works should be continued – traditional crafts can be maintained while addressing today's ecological, economic, and social challenges. The diverse group of volunteers involved in the construction—researchers and residents alike—is especially commended. The vault will serve as a space for music, helping to revive regional traditions within the fragile context of Iran. By bridging the landscape and the village, the project gains both cultural and spatial significance. The prize money will fund the completion of Adobe Vault and the creation of facilities for its future programme. Once finished, the plaza will host concerts, workshops and public gatherings – strengthening Esfahk's identity as a living village of art, craft and learning. Built from the earth and for the community, Adobe Vault turns ancestral knowledge into a vision for a sustainable future, proof that even the humblest material can hold extraordinary cultural and architectural power.



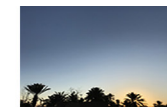
Fire Place
Gathering Around



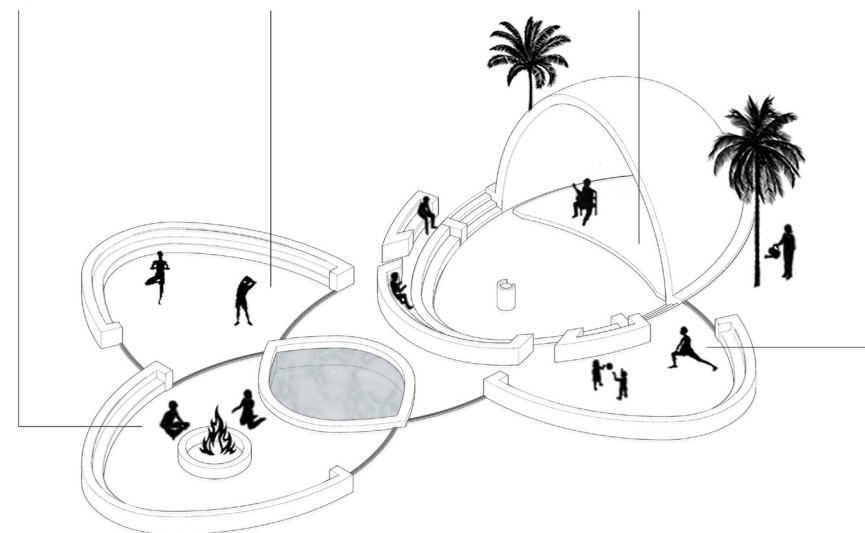
To the Sunset
Exercise Place



Main Stage
Performance Place



To the Sunrise
Exercise Place



ammodo architecture award 2025
IA-0000000515 local scale



Project location
Asia, India

Site area in m²
576

Image © Nipun Prabhakar

Applicant
Dhammada Collective

Commissioned by
SEEDS

Rural primary school, Mandi

Project description

In Kuklah village, in the Himalayan district of Mandi, the original primary school was destroyed by landslides in 2023, leaving children without a safe place to learn. Commissioned by SEEDS and designed by Dhammada Collective, the reconstruction became more than a replacement building. Conceived as a prototype for resilient rural education, it adapts to local conditions, honours community knowledge and offers a replicable model for similar fragile landscapes. The aim was to build minimally yet meaningfully – using what already existed and leaving room for the school to evolve as the community changes.

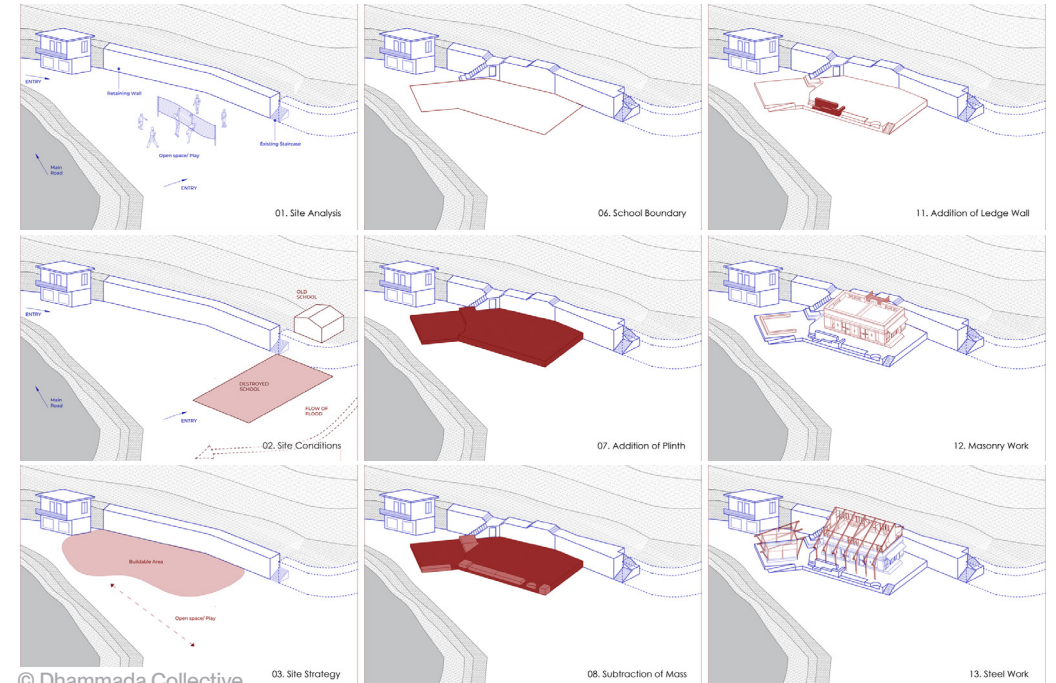
The process began with dialogue. Dhammada Collective spent weeks in the village conducting workshops with teachers and leaders and organized a drawing competition for the children to imagine their ideal school. Their sketches revealed clear desires: sunlight, safe outdoor play, open steps for gathering. These became the design's foundation. The architects learned that resilience was not only structural but social – a matter of creating spaces that felt open, welcoming and shared.

The resulting school contains four classrooms, two on each floor, connected by a pathway repurposed from an existing retaining wall to reduce cost and disturbance. A semi-open classroom, built due to budget limits, currently serves as a dining and multipurpose area but will later be enclosed as a fifth room. The flat ground in front doubles as a playground – used by students during school hours and by other children after class – so that the school also becomes a communal space.

Advisory Committee

'Rural Primary School, Mandi' receives the award for Local Scale for transforming post-disaster reconstruction into a thoughtful, community-led opportunity for resilient learning. Built after devastating landslides in Himachal Pradesh, the school was designed with its community – students, teachers and local masons – through workshops, drawings and even full-scale AR visualizations. The architecture is modest yet refined, using salvaged materials and traditional techniques such as shallow brick domes that have rekindled local pride. 'It's a place where you feel you belong and enjoy it.' With shared spaces that invite both play and learning, this prototype school now stands as a model for how architecture can restore, empower and evolve together with its community.

The prize money will fund the next phase: completing the school as a fully realized community hub. The plan includes a design-and-build workshop with local youth and carpenters to craft classroom furniture from salvaged wood, the enclosure of the semi-open classroom into a permanent teaching space and an on-site exhibition documenting the process. These steps will strengthen local ownership while enhancing the school's long-term adaptability.





Project location
North & Central America, Mexico

Applicant
Gladiola Camacho Estudio

Site area in m²
2.000

Image © Gladiola Camacho Díaz

Jardín Naturalista Colibrí

Project description

What began as a master's thesis on the loss of green spaces in Monterrey has grown into a living example of ecological restoration and public engagement. The Jardín Naturalista Colibrí at Canal Constitución reimagines a neglected canal median as a vibrant ecological and social space, replacing ornamental models with a naturalistic approach. Using native plants adapted to the region's harsh climate, the project regenerates soil, provides habitat and reconnects residents with the spontaneous beauty of northeastern Mexico's landscapes.

Located in Santa Catarina, one of Monterrey's most industrialized municipalities, the project responds to decades of urbanization that have degraded biodiversity and deprived residents of access to green spaces. Despite the area's high pollution and extreme heat, the garden demonstrates that even small-scale interventions can reverse environmental damage. Carefully selected plant species create ecological value while transforming neglected infrastructure into a place of pride and belonging.

Advisory Committee

'Jardín Naturalista Colibrí at Canal Constitución' receives the award for Local Scale for transforming a neglected median strip in Monterrey into the Constitución Canal Naturalist Garden, a community-led experiment in ecological restoration. Through careful research and collaboration, the team identified and reintroduced native plant species to regenerate soil, attract pollinators and restore urban biodiversity. More than a garden, it serves as an open-air laboratory – testing ecological landscaping and fostering a slower, more conscious way of inhabiting public space. 'It's so simple and so complex at the same time', with 'ravines and rivers playing a key role', making it an exemplary project that reconnects people with the living systems of their city.

The prize money will fund strengthening the garden as both an educational hub and a biodiversity refuge. Upcoming actions include improving infrastructure, signage and equipment to expand community programmes and ensure long-term maintenance. Residents, schools and volunteers benefit from an accessible, safe public space, while pollinators, birds and native plants thrive in a restored habitat. Workshops, educational materials and community events will foster environmental awareness and collective stewardship. By transforming a degraded canal into a living classroom, the project inspires other neighbourhoods to adopt similar models for ecological restoration and inclusive urban regeneration.



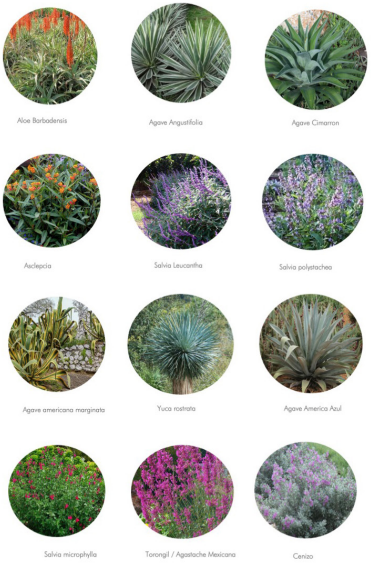
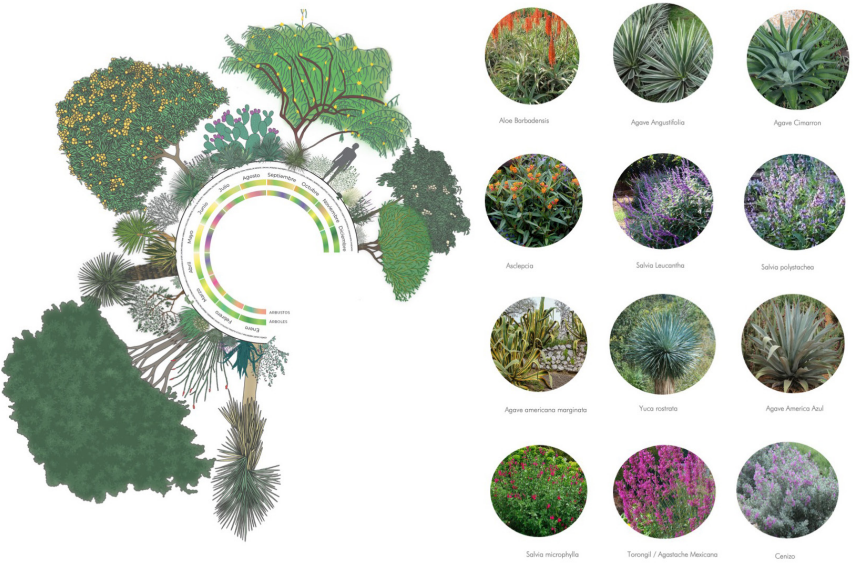
© Daniel Tamez



Image © Gladiola Camacho Díaz



© Daniel Tamez



© Daniel Tamez





Project location
South America, Brazil

Site area in m²
42

Image © 1to1 - Alain Briatte Mantchev

Applicant
Laboraterra Arquitetura | Alain Briatte
Mantchev Arquitetura
Commissioned by
Instituto Sócioambiental Vale do Ribeira

Jucão Seed House

Project description

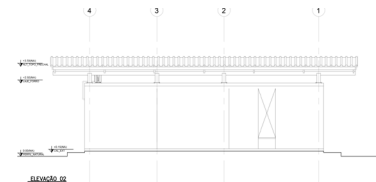
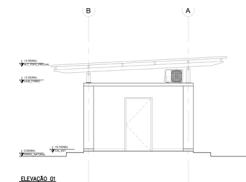
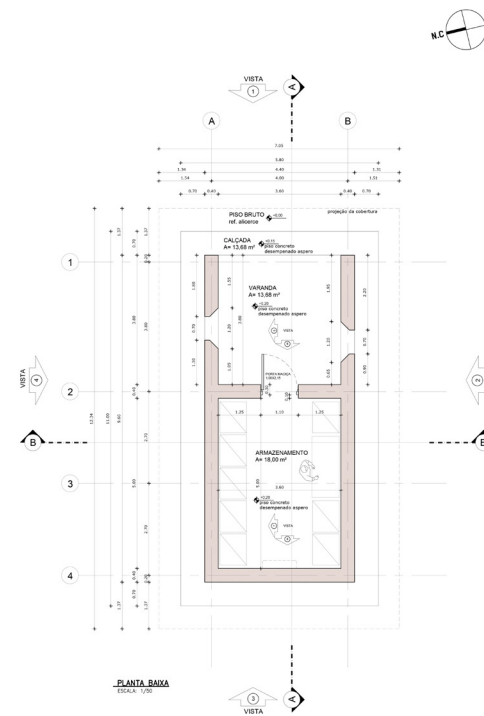
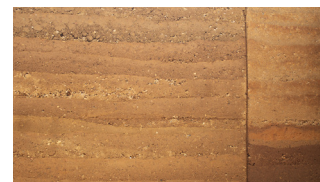
The Jucão Seed House emerged from the needs of the Ribeira Valley Seed Collectors Network, a cooperative dedicated to restoring Brazil's largest remaining tract of Atlantic Forest. The building provides controlled storage for up to four tonnes of native seeds, preserving them before use in large-scale reforestation efforts. Developed in close collaboration with the Seed Collectors Network, the design replaces an initial cement-based plan with rammed earth construction – aligning ecological performance, such as passive humidity and temperature control, with cultural continuity and local building traditions.

Located in Iporanga, in the Ribeira Valley, the project sits within one of Brazil's most biodiverse yet historically marginalized regions. Here, Indigenous and Quilombola communities have long faced systemic inequalities. For the seed collectors, restoring degraded land is not only an ecological mission but also an act of cultural resistance and renewal. When the Network requested a secure space for seed storage, the initial concrete design felt out of step with these values. The project became an opportunity to integrate ecological principles, revive traditional building techniques and root technical performance in cultural meaning.

Advisory Committee

'Jucão Seed House' receives the award for Local Scale for the innovative way it combines beautiful architecture with a strong ecological function: providing a safe and healthy space for storing seeds essential to the maintenance and regeneration of Brazil's forests. The makers are commended for reviving traditional rammed earth techniques, transforming the building itself into a statement – natural, regenerative and deeply symbolic. Economically, the project holds great value, generating an additional source of income for the local community. The design's simplicity and clarity are guided entirely by function and logistics: the careful reception, pre-sorting and preservation of seeds. Jucão Seed House exemplifies how a minimal yet elegant structure can address a global challenge.

The prize money will fund strengthening the Jucão Seed House as both a centre for Atlantic Forest seed storage and a cultural hub for education and exchange. Planned actions include upgrading the storage system with a double-door seal and monitoring equipment, expanding the reception area for school groups, and adding furniture and lighting to improve usability and visibility. The team will also organize training workshops in earth-building techniques, ensuring that local craftspeople can maintain and replicate the structure. As a multifunctional space, the Seed House now serves Quilombola seed gatherers, the Nhunguara community and visitors alike – becoming a regional reference point for ecological education, cultural tourism and community self-sufficiency.

[illegible]



Project location
Africa, South Africa

Site area in m²
1.500

Image © 1to1 - Agency of Engagement

Applicant
1to1 - Agency of Engagement

Commissioned by
Slovo Park Community Development Forum

The Slovo Hall Project

Project description

Located in Slovo Park, Johannesburg, The Slovo Hall Project is the result of more than 15 years of collaboration between the Slovo Park Community Development Forum (SPCDF) and 1to1 – Agency of Engagement. What began as a modest spatial justice initiative has evolved into a key social and political space for the settlement, which has long been engaged in a 25-year legal struggle for housing and infrastructure rights. The hall stands as both a symbol of that struggle and a practical tool for community self-organization.

The project repurposes an abandoned 1994 voting structure – an act of adaptive reuse that connects historical memory to new civic purpose. Over time, residents have transformed the hall into a multi-functional public space housing a meeting hall, crèche, clinic, civic square and safe play area. It also serves as a hub for youth programmes, after-school education, public health outreach and skills development. Each addition has emerged from within the community itself, through incremental construction guided by necessity and local expertise rather than external design imposition.

Advisory Committee

‘The Slovo Hall Project’ receives the award for Local Scale for its deeply community-driven approach to upgrading informal settlements. Rooted in long-term collaboration and sustained by the active participation of local residents, the project reclaims civic space from the bottom up. By transforming a disused structure that would typically fall under institutional responsibility, it restores the community’s right to gather, participate, and vote. Architecturally, the project is remarkably sensitive to climate and context, employing natural ventilation, shade and shadow to create a comfortable, adaptable and dignified public environment.

The prize money will fund the development of Slovo Hall, focusing on the construction of an ablution block and key infrastructure repairs to ensure safety and long-term functionality. Alongside these physical upgrades, 1to1 will implement a training and documentation programme to formalize and share the project’s lessons in reparative design, participatory architecture and spatial justice. The initiative will strengthen community storytelling and archiving, preserving the hall’s evolution as a civic, political and educational anchor. Ultimately, the aim is to sustain Slovo Hall as a space of dignity, organizing and learning – while making visible the power of architecture as a collective act of resistance and renewal.





Project location
Europe, Italy

Applicant
Robida Collective

Site area in m²

-

Image © Robida Collective

Village as House

Project description

The Village as House project redefines what restoration can mean in a rural context. Rather than a singular architectural intervention, it is a collective, long-term process of inhabiting, caring and coexisting. Robida Collective imagines the restoration of Topolò through the everyday act of dwelling – using spatial, cultural and artistic practices to reimagine the future of a fragile mountain village. Public cultural programmes, publishing experiments, renovation works and learning moments all contribute to the same goal: restoring the relationship between the place and its people. The project combines architecture, maintenance and care into a single, ongoing practice of living together.

Advisory Committee

‘Village as House’ receives the award for Local Scale for reimagining the restoration of the mountain village of Topolò – one of many depopulated and remote settlements across Europe – as a slow, communal practice of inhabiting rather than radical transformation. Rooted in the region itself, the collective employs small, continuous interventions: renovating homes, caring for public spaces and organizing cultural programmes that rebuild relationships between people and place. This ongoing process has sparked new life in a village that has recently begun to attract new residents. By addressing the urgent challenge of rural abandonment, the project offers a powerful model for revitalizing fragile communities through care, cultural engagement and shared stewardship. It demonstrates how architecture can work as a social and ecological practice, fostering resilience and belonging in landscapes often overlooked by contemporary development.

The prize money will fund renovating and transforming the chiosco structure in Topolò into a year-round, multifunctional community space. The upgrade will include roof repairs, transparent sliding panels, movable counters and improved facilities, making it suitable for workshops, cultural events and artist residencies throughout the seasons. The design will be developed through participatory processes with residents and collaborators, continuing Robida’s collective approach to restoration. By expanding the chiosco’s role as a social and cultural hub, the project will strengthen the community’s capacity for self-organization and reinforce the idea of the village itself as a shared house – a place where living, learning and making are deeply intertwined.



A photograph of a traditional white building with a red-tiled roof, nestled in a lush green valley with mountains in the background. The building features a balcony with a wooden railing and a small staircase leading up to it. The surrounding landscape is verdant, with dense foliage and a clear sky.

[illegible]



Project location
Africa, Morocco

Applicant
Terrachidia NGO

Site area in m²
10.000.000
Image © Terrachidia NGO

Terrachidia Oasis Campus

Project description

Located in the old village of M'Hamid El Ghizlane, at the edge of the Sahara, Terrachidia Oasis Campus is an ongoing initiative dedicated to safeguarding the cultural and architectural heritage of a fragile oasis landscape. The region faces growing threats from desertification, depopulation and socioeconomic change. Responding to this vulnerability, the project links architectural restoration, cultural continuity and community empowerment. Since 2012, Terrachidia NGO has hosted annual restoration workshops, each lasting one or two weeks, bringing together local craftsmen, women artisans, international participants and architecture heritage specialists. Each intervention focuses on restoring a symbolic public space, from communal courtyards to historical gateways, combining hands-on construction with knowledge exchange. The initiative has gradually expanded beyond building restoration to encompass broader aspects of intangible heritage, such as women's crafts, local materials and traditional techniques. These workshops strengthen intergenerational learning, ensuring that endangered skills remain embedded in the life of the oasis.

Advisory Committee

'Terrachidia Oasis Campus' receives the award for Local Scale for the way it combines an architectural preservation training programme with the local knowledge of traditional construction methods and materials in the M'Hamid Oasis in Morocco. Terrachidia NGO, a collective of architectural heritage experts and local collaborators, has developed a model that not only draws on local know-how but actively sustains and transmits it to future generations. Though initiated by external experts, the programme carefully balances outside influence with local agency, ensuring that preservation efforts remain rooted in community knowledge and participation. The way it facilitates training the local community in restoring architectural heritage, rather than relying on an imposed external approach, is particularly commendable.

The prize money will fund a series of workshops aimed at strengthening vernacular earthen architecture and safeguarding traditional crafts. Training for master builders will address structural vulnerabilities, while programmes for women will ensure the intergenerational transmission of palm weaving and natural dyeing techniques. Scholarships will support young professionals, particularly from North Africa, creating new opportunities for education and collaboration. Part of the funding will go towards outreach and dissemination, ensuring that the knowledge developed at M'Hamid continues to inspire and sustain communities far beyond the oasis.





Project location
Asia, Nepal

Applicant
Sustainable Mountain Architecture

Site area in m²
400

Image © Sustainable Mountain Architecture

Bankatta Community Initiative

Project description

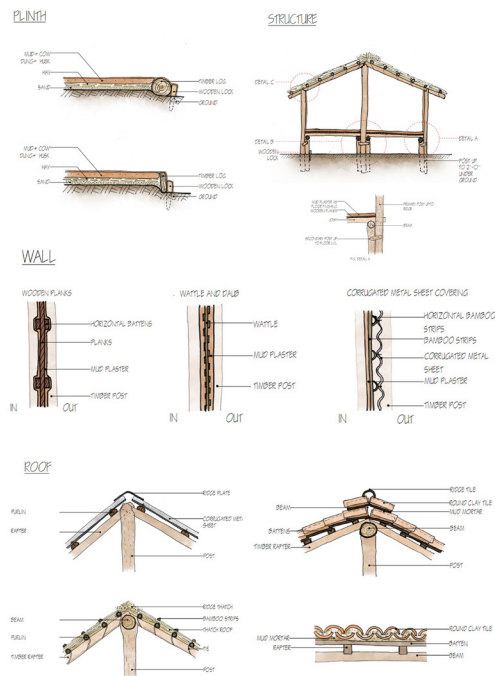
Madi Valley is accessible only by passing through Chitwan National Park. In fact, it is surrounded on three sides by the park—home to rhinos, elephants, tigers, leopards, hornbills, cranes, and more—while its southern border lies along India. The Madi Eco-Village of Bankatta is a regenerative, community-led model developed by the Bankatta Women's Committee, initiated by Connecting Spaces in collaboration with Sustainable Mountain Architecture (SMA) and a wide network of partners. Bankatta village is home to a unique Bot culture, with its own language, cuisine, and traditions—though only 9,000 Bot people remain in Nepal and India. The project includes a multipurpose community hall and two eco-cottages. At a time when many young men and some women had begun leaving for jobs in Indian cities and the Gulf, this initiative—led by the determined Bankatta Women's Committee, and supported by the valley's extraordinary wildlife and warm Bot hospitality—helped reverse that migration trend and the erosion of a unique culture. We were proud to contribute and to show that modest, blending-in architecture can play a meaningful role in driving that change.

Advisory Committee

'The Bankatta Community Initiative, Madi Valley' wins the AAA for Local Scale for its inclusive and self-organised approach to socially and ecologically based architecture with the Bot community in Nepal.

Sustainable Mountain Architecture believes in the power of combining traditional knowledge with contemporary thinking to create resilient and meaningful architecture. In this project SAM collaborated especially with the women of the Bot community, creating a community hall that facilitates public activities and eco-cottages. This has led to community building but also to a welcoming place for visitors. The architecture of good quality, developed in a co-creative process is combined with a strong social concept: the new (technical) capacities strengthened the community. This is a wonderful example of architecture that builds self-reliance. In addition, the project integrates both environmental conditions and local resources—resisting seasonal flooding and using locally available materials.

The prize money will be used to replicate the community hall in Rai Tole, a village in the eastern side of Madi Valley, home mainly to the Rai community, using the local bamboo system that was developed in Bankatta, marking an important step towards self-reliance.





Project location
Africa, Egypt

Applicant
AHS CxA

Site area in m²
350

Image © Ahmed Hossam Saafan

Magdy El Khouly Street Renovation

Project description

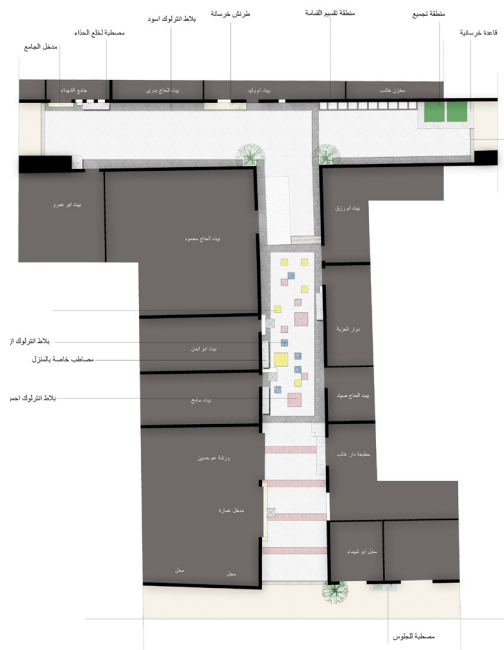
Located in Ezbet Khairallah, an informal settlement home to nearly one million residents, the project addresses urban and social challenges at their most local level. The area has long suffered from the absence of public amenities, unplanned construction and a lack of safe spaces for play or gathering. Building on the success of the Dawar El Ezba Cultural Center – an earlier initiative that introduced a cultural and educational hub to the neighbourhood in 2019 – this project deepens trust between the architects and residents, evolving into a broader process of participatory urban renewal.

The project applies principles of urban acupuncture, using targeted, low-cost design actions to catalyse broader social and spatial change. Rather than pursuing large-scale demolition or relocation, the project focuses on improving what already exists – enhancing liveability through colour, texture, shade and circulation.

Advisory Committee

'Magdy El Khouly Street Renovation' receives the award for Local Scale for restoring dignity and public life in one of Cairo's most underserved neighbourhoods. Through small-scale, strategic interventions, the project transforms a neglected urban corridor into an inclusive, vibrant environment – particularly for women and children – without displacement or demolition. Building on the long-term trust established through the Dawar El Ezba Cultural Center, the initiative empowers residents by responding directly to their needs and aspirations. It demonstrates how modest architectural gestures – painting façades, improving streetscapes and introducing shared spaces – can have profound social impact. As one jury member noted: 'It's about bringing back dignity and creating public space for people who no longer have it.'

The prize money will fund a participatory, eco-conscious public space intervention in Ezbet Khairallah, extending the legacy of the street renovation. The team will co-design a modular, temporary installation – potentially on an unused rooftop – serving as both a performance stage and an inclusive gathering space. Developed with local artists, craftsmen and residents, it will host a series of cultural and educational events over a month. Built from locally sourced and recycled materials, the structure will be fully demountable, enabling it to be relocated and reused across the neighbourhood. The project will act as both a social platform and a prototype for circular, community-based urban regeneration – continuing to transform the everyday spaces of Ezbet Khairallah into places of pride, creativity and collective resilience.





Project location
Asia, Pakistan

Applicant
WM Re-Lab

Site area in m²
30

Image © WM Creative Studio Relab

Play-Pause-Ponder

Project description

Located in Taiser Town, Karachi, Play–Pause–Ponder is an action-based research and design project initiated by WM Re-Lab in 2023. Developed through a participatory process with local residents, it responds to the absence of safe, playful spaces for children in marginalized communities. Originally part of an academic residency titled Critical Futures, the project redirected its exhibition budget to build a real, functional installation on the ground, turning an artistic inquiry into an act of civic engagement.

The team identified play as a critical need in informal settlements, where open spaces are scarce and public parks are often inaccessible or misused. Working closely with local representatives, craftsmen and students, they developed a modular, plug-and-play structure that could be built quickly and replicated elsewhere. A social worker specializing in women's studies ensured that gendered spatial concerns – privacy, safety, visibility – were addressed, while children participated through drawing and theatre workshops that informed the design's form and colour.

Advisory Committee

'Play–Pause–Ponder' receives the award for Local Scale for bringing moments of joy and play to flood-affected children in rural Pakistan through a spontaneous, community-driven intervention. Using sustainable materials and participatory design, it fosters belonging, ownership and healing in marginalized communities. Initially met with concerns about vandalism, the project instead inspired pride, care and deeper community engagement – proving how small acts of design can generate lasting social impact. Awarded for its sincerity, attention to detail and poetic use of simple materials, Play–Pause–Ponder stands as a hopeful act of resilience and creativity, transforming neglected public space into a place of healing, play and connection.

The prize money will fund the relocation and expansion of the modular playscape to informal schools, where it will integrate sensory, horticultural, sound and art therapies. Working with children, students and artisans, WM Re-Lab will use local regenerative materials to co-create inclusive and therapeutic play environments – spaces of learning, healing and joy.

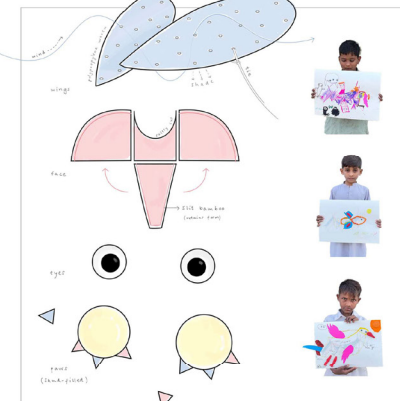


Activation of people and place



We engaged with the neighbourhood kids to investigate their idea of play. Through conversations, drawing and play activities together we were able to develop a holistic sense of their needs and aspirations. The activities challenged the conventional idea of play shaped within enclosed boundaries towards finding play within everyday objects and moments of mundanity. Leading with an iterative approach also allowed us to develop a site sensitive project while further strengthening the bond with the surrounding community.

"What animal is this?"



Upon an interest of collaboration from a Polish artist Iza Rutkowska, the project was further enriched with another layer. Iza leads the practice Zoonarchitecture Studio, developing zoonomorphic designs in public spaces. After a drawing exercise with the children from the neighbourhood, we settled on an anthropic form for the installation and collaborated with the community and local tailors to develop fabric parts of the animal—or in this case, an insect.

