



info@faresstudio.it
www.faresstudio.it
Via Latina 43_00179 Rome

I_2015

FARE
for an architecture of reality

CHANGE BY DESIGN

profile and selected projects

...We cultivate refinement without extravagance and knowledge without indulgence; wealth we employ more for use than for show, and place the real disgrace of poverty not in owning to the fact but in declining the struggle against it...

Thucydides (V c. BC): Pericles' Funeral Oration
from *The History of the Peloponnesian War* (Book 2.34-46)

why FAREstudio?

“**FARE**” is an Italian verb derived from the Latin word *facere*. It can be translated as to do, to make or to produce. The English meaning of FARE – the price to be paid for a service or, extensively, a trip – while unintentional, is inherently significant; “**studio**” derives from Latin *studium* [“study, eagerness”] and refers to a workroom but also to all those working together with a zeal for the production which occurs in a studio space, sharing a method and finalities.

In a world where everything from finance to media tends to be [presented as] immaterial, iconic, ephemeral and virtual **FAREstudio is focused on being practical, circumstantial, substantial, the antithesis of cosmetic, visual architecture**. When design appears to oscillate dangerously between the virtualization of products and the narcissism of protagonists, **FAREstudio pursues a realistic approach to architecture**, an objective made explicit in the denomination of the office.

The confrontation with reality sought by **FAREstudio** is not, however, the sign of an adhesion to a [presumed] neutrality of technique, be it economic, programmatic or constructive: the critical analysis of the premises of each project [context, objectives, and restrictions] constitutes the foundation of an approach in which the centrality of tectonic dimension, the relevance of typological and functional innovation, the implications of symbolic values are measured using the essential filter of social responsibility.

who we are

FAREstudio includes professionals who share a set of values and attitudes, an approach and a methodology:



FAREstudio key staff members include:

Riccardo Vannucci, 1958, architect, 30 year professional experience, architectural design and project management_ Ph.D at Sapienza University of Roma_experiences in Arabic Countries, Africa and Australia _Italian, English, French

Erika Trabucco, architect, 1977, architectural design_experiences in Burkina Faso, Central African Republic _Italian, French, English, Spanish

Joao Sobral, architect, 1979, architectural design_experiences in Burkina Faso, Spain, USA, Central African Republic, Mauritania _Portuguese, Italian, French, English, Spanish

Giovanna Vicentini, architect, 1964, project management, interior design, landscape _Italian, French, English

Eljor Kerciku, architect/engineer, 1986, architectural design, communication _Italian, French, English, Albanian

Flavio Giaccone, architect, 1986, architectural design, communication _Italian, English, German, Spanish

what

FAREstudio is **eclectic by choice and by circumstances** and operates between social and conventional jobs.

This is not related to a vague idea of social commitment, no matter how respectable, rather to the intention to investigate and define the limits of our social, cultural, economical role in a market that seems to be increasingly fragmented and demanding.

The work on buildings of different scales, including residential, commercial, institutional is supported by a constant attention to organization of production and quality control. Such experience in a truly professional environment endows the office with a pragmatic attitude, and with the ability to deal with a large number of aspects of the design and construction process.

Given that, being **outsider** is a condition we oppose to specialization as a supposed warranty of reliability.

Marco Polo describes a bridge, stone by stone.

“But which is the stone that supports the bridge?” Kublai Khan asks.

“The bridge is not supported by one stone or another,” Marco answers, “but by the line of the arch that they form.”

Kublai Khan remains silent, reflecting. Then he adds: “Why do you speak to me of the stones? It is the arch that matters to me.”

Polo answers: “Without stones there is no arch.”

Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities* [1972]
William Weaver's translation, © 1974 by Harcourt, Inc.

how

FAREstudio's approach is inspired by some basic assumptions:

- _the fragmentation of the design process is a relatively recent phenomenon that negatively affects the value of the products: to re-integrate competences is a way to counteract current fascination for visual and cosmetic
- _program scrutiny is often underestimated or simply removed from designers' scope: it should be regarded as a place for major contribution to the discussion that should always relate the architect to his/her 'clients'
- _ design should be embedded in the local cultural context (e.g. socially and economically) but refusing the rhetoric of sustainability or similar
- _architecture cannot be detached from construction: a simple fact that too often is neglected by current fascination with visual 'products', an attitude that is affecting role, meaning, relevance of architecture as social activity
- _the practice of an architecture of necessity, an architecture of reality that recognizes material qualities and peculiarities of physical world does not neglect or ignore the value of beauty, or the symbolic implications of every act of construction: beauty is the perfect outcome of appropriate design

When I am working on a problem I never think about beauty. I only think about how to solve the problem. But when I have finished, if the solution is not beautiful, I know it is wrong.

Buckminster Fuller, *Critical Path*, 1981

services

Areas of professional expertise

Architecture, urban planning, interior design.

The office is widely involved with social design, particularly in the field of international cooperation, for both development and emergency.

Provided services

concept, preliminary and final design [shelters, community buildings, WASH infrastructures, etc]

work coordination | monitoring and assessment | works implementing and construction supervision

project/contract/budget management | site survey | due diligence | feasibility studies | tender preparation and management

monitoring and assessment | critical appraisal of past experiences of projects/constructions

Definition and preparation of guidelines/tools/manuals for the field

Languages

English, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Albanian.



Nyeel Refugee Camp, South Sudan [source: FAREstudio_2013]

Emergency and development form the two extremes of the so-called international cooperation, an ambiguous area where, even though noteworthy exceptions, the role of professional contribution is still regarded as not relevant and/or superfluous; in spite of the amount of resources poured into programs of various nature, results seem to be controversial.

In fact cooperation is too often seen as a place where the effect of technical and economic constraints makes architectural quality impossible to achieve and, to a certain degree, wrong: FAREstudio strives to demonstrate that architectural quality [appropriateness, innovation, sustainability, replicability] differs cost from investment.



Mbera Refugee Camp, Mauritania [source: FAREstudio_2013]

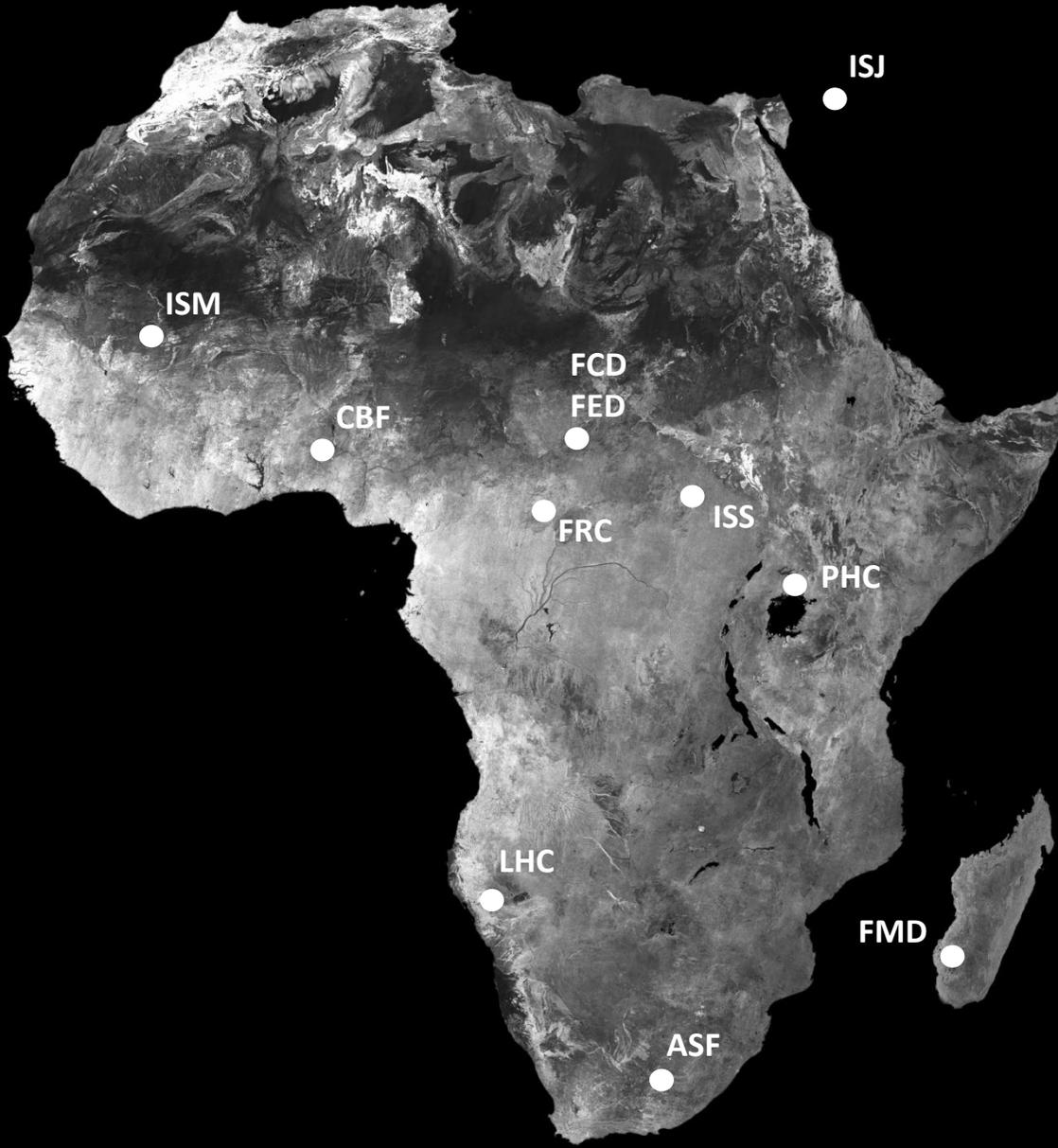
The experience has shown us that

1. **briefing, program and project agenda definition** should see the early involvement of the designer, taking into account aims, priorities, criteria of the specific circumstances; policy designation and technical actions are closely related
2. **prototypes** must be favoured as a device for experience spreading and dissemination of innovative solutions
3. **procurement** is a critical aspect: there is no good design that can adverse the effects of an improper procurement, particularly where the 'market' is taken as the sole environment
4. **work supervision** is the place for refinement and self-education and as such is crucial that the implementation of project is directly carried on by the designer
5. **documentation of results**, and monitoring in time, is the only way to assess real quality of a project

The poorer the context,
the more demanding the project.

Scarcity dictates quality.

selected projects



- 2011-2014 **FMD**_Pesticide Warehouse
Tulear_Madagascar
- 2012-2014 **ISM**_ 60 Classrooms
Mbera Camp_Mauritania
- 2013-2014 **FED**_Fond Europeen Développement
Chad
- 2013 **ISJ**_Shelter summarization
Al Zaatari Camp_Jordan
- 2012-2013 **FRC**_Training Centre
Sassara_Central African Republic
- 2011 **FCD**_FAO Regional Office Refurbishment and Extension
N'Djamena_Chad
- 2010 **LHC**_Patio and Pavilion_competition
Lisbon Architecture Triennale
- 2008 **PHC**_Pediatric Health Clinic_competition
not defined site_East Africa
- 2005-2007 **CBF**_Centre pour le Bien-être des Femmes
Ouagadougou_Burkina Faso
- 2006 **ASF**_AIDS Orphanage_competition_first prize
Johannesburg_South Africa



ISM 60 Classrooms_Mbera Camp_Mauritania - castles of sand -

Date	2012-2014
Project/Job name	Sixty sandbag classrooms in Mbera refugee camp
Location	Mbera refugee camp_Mauritania
Description	A technology transfer attempt that introduces labor intensive technologies in a semi-permanent intervention
Client/Promoter	INTERSOS for UNHCR
Final User	Refugee community
Type of Engagement	Direct appointment
Position/Role	Consultant-Designer in charge
Activities/Services	Concept design, design development, final design, construction quality control
Status	Built
Other relevant data	Cost 3,700 USD per each classroom

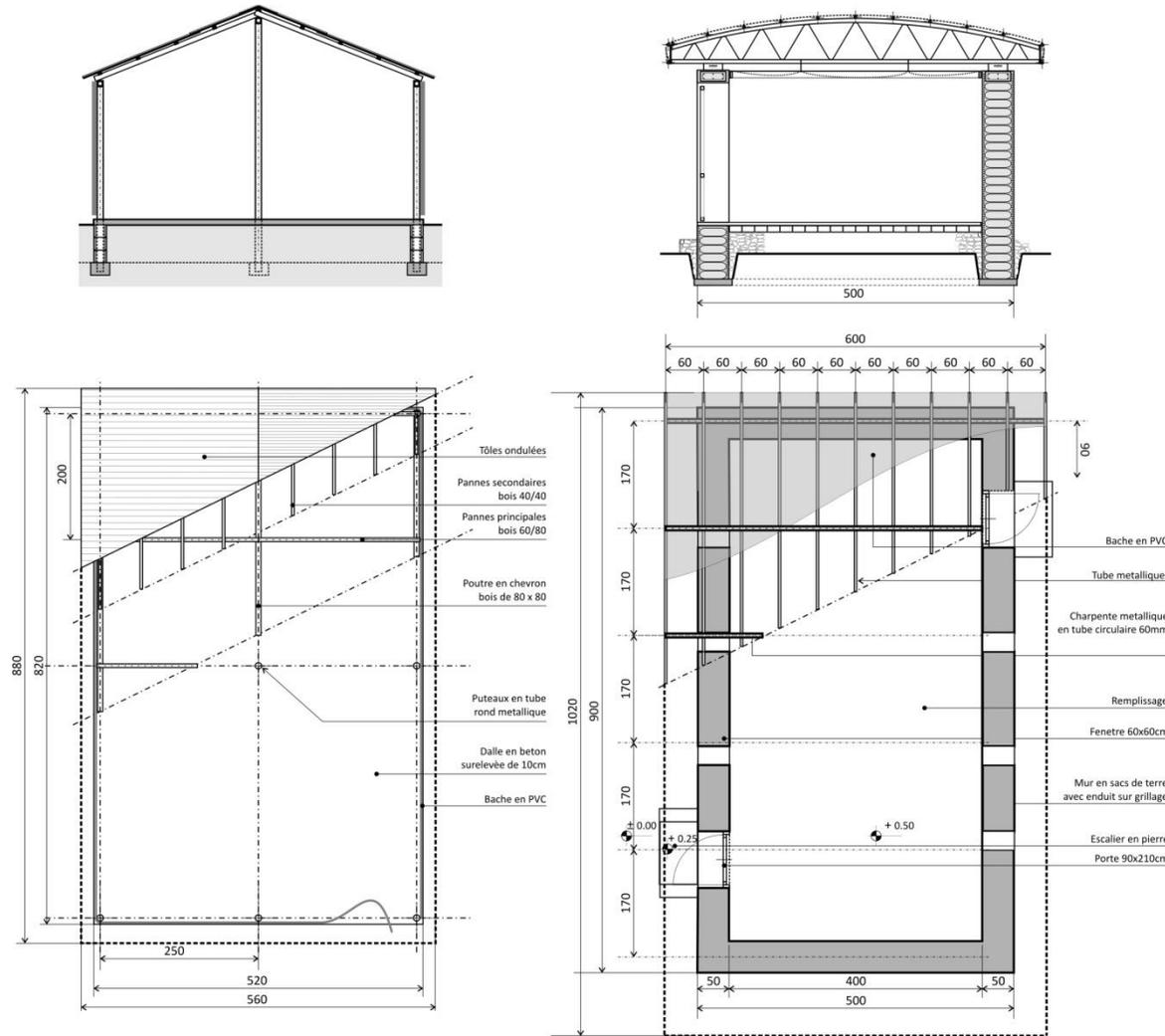
Mauritania.

The challenge in building 60 classrooms in Mbera Refugee Camp was to provide an alternative to transitional structures, usual in arid contexts, by combining materials and techniques.

The typical semi-permanent structure, conceived by the Mauritanian Ministry of Education and *de facto* accepted by UNICEF and UNHCR, that should have been built as a classroom wouldn't have been durable (the plastic wrapping is easily ripped by strong local winds), would have produced an unlivable building (the corrugated iron roof increases internal heat) and wouldn't have been compliant to a classroom's requirements (the central pole interferes with a suitable use of space). The poor quality of materials and setup would have exacerbated children's sense of precariousness.

FAREstudio proposed an **alternative** solution based on the improvement of **durability, internal wellbeing and space quality**: plastered sandbags walls surmounted by a roof formed by light metal trusses and covered with waterproof plastic tarpaulin.

This option reinstates **the formal dignity of an educational space** even in the harsh context of a refugee camp, but it also positively affects the mechanisms of building production in the camp introducing a **labor intensive**, locally available technology.



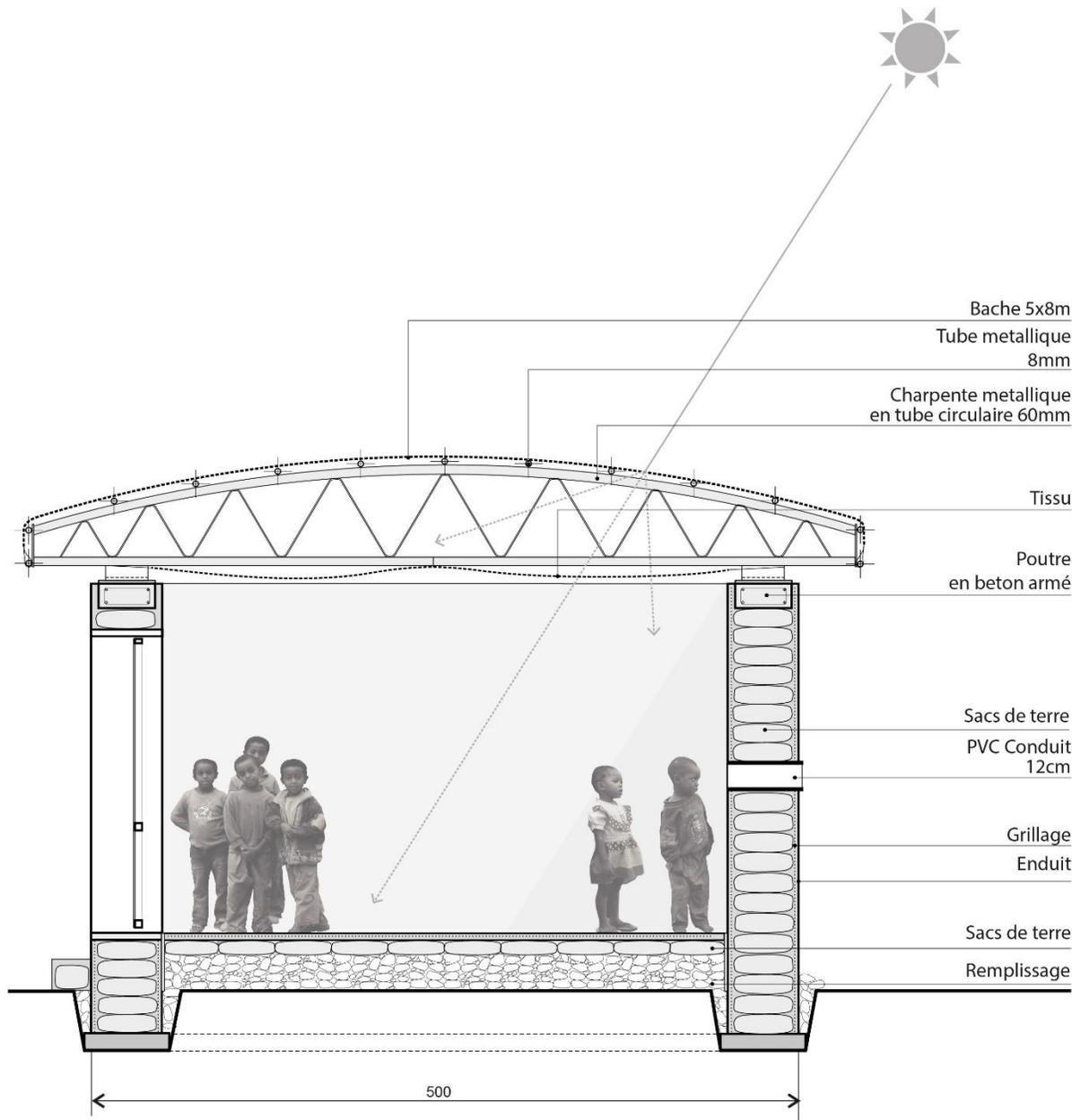
Left. Comparison between original design to be implemented and FAREstudio's alternative.

Bottom. Mbar used as transitional shelter. The model performs very badly in windy conditions.



The alternative is much more durable than the original design. The debate concerning the concept of 'transitional' as semi-permanent construction is still open.

The comfort of the new classrooms is largely based on the effect [thermal insulation] of the massive sandbag wall: empirical tests suggest that internal temperature is substantially lower in the sandbags classrooms than in other structures.



The classrooms are covered with a double layer roof, where the initial corrugated iron sheeting has been replaced by a tarpaulin [150g/sq m, the only available] installed on a series of metal trusses [production takes place in Bassikonou]. Ropes are made out of polyester. The sub-horizontal roof plays a crucial role in the overall scheme: it is aimed at minimizing the effects of wind and assuring natural ventilation and lighting of the internal room. The internal layer is formed by a traditional fabric. Flooring is detached by the walls and is constituted by a layer of *banco* [adobe bricks] on which a concrete flooring is poured. The building is finished by rough plaster that is left simply lime washed. Plaster's roughness is a solution to conceal cracks and to produce a slight self shading effect on the wall.

Internal view of a classroom



In terms of the social impact of the project, such a labor intensive solution fosters a 'cash for work' strategy, which gives refugees the opportunity to earn some money by working on the construction.

Both the host community and the refugee leaders, once experienced the thermal performance of the prototype, its solidity and its resistance against strong local winds in the occasion of a desert storm that hit the camp destroying the majority of other shelters, have been enquiring about the possibility to adapt the technique to other building types.

The building is perceived as related to the place, and this makes it acceptable to the local community.

New buildings for new spaces

FARE





CBF Centre pour le Bien-être des Femmes_Ouagadougou_Burkina Faso

- lift them up! -

Date	2005-2007
Project/Job name	Centre pour le Bien Etre des Femmes [CBF] Women's Health and Training Centre
Location	Ouagadougou_Burkina Faso
Description	The complex investigates the possibility to create a prototype for cooperation in development in Sub Saharan Countries
Client/Promoter	AIDOS [Associazione Italiana Donne per lo Sviluppo]
Final User	Local Community, Voix de Femmes NGO
Type of Engagement	Proposal [Pro Bono]
Position/Role	Direct appointment
Activities/Services	Concept design, design development, production information, construction quality control
Status	Built
Other relevant data	Built area 500sqm; Plot area 1,600sqm; Total cost 250,000€
Awards	Philippe Rotthier Architecture Award 2014, Special Jury Price; Shortlisted for Aga Khan Award [2010]; Barbara Cappochin International Biennial Architecture Prize [2009], 'Public Architecture' category, Honourable Mention; Gold Medal for Italian Architecture [2009], Special Mention; Winner of the World Architecture Festival 2008: Health Category Award

Burkina Faso.

As technical partner of an Italian NGO operating in Africa since 15 years, in 2005 FAREstudio designed and supervised all the project and construction phases of a community health centre where local women's rights are promoted and fostered in terms of sexual and reproductive wellbeing.

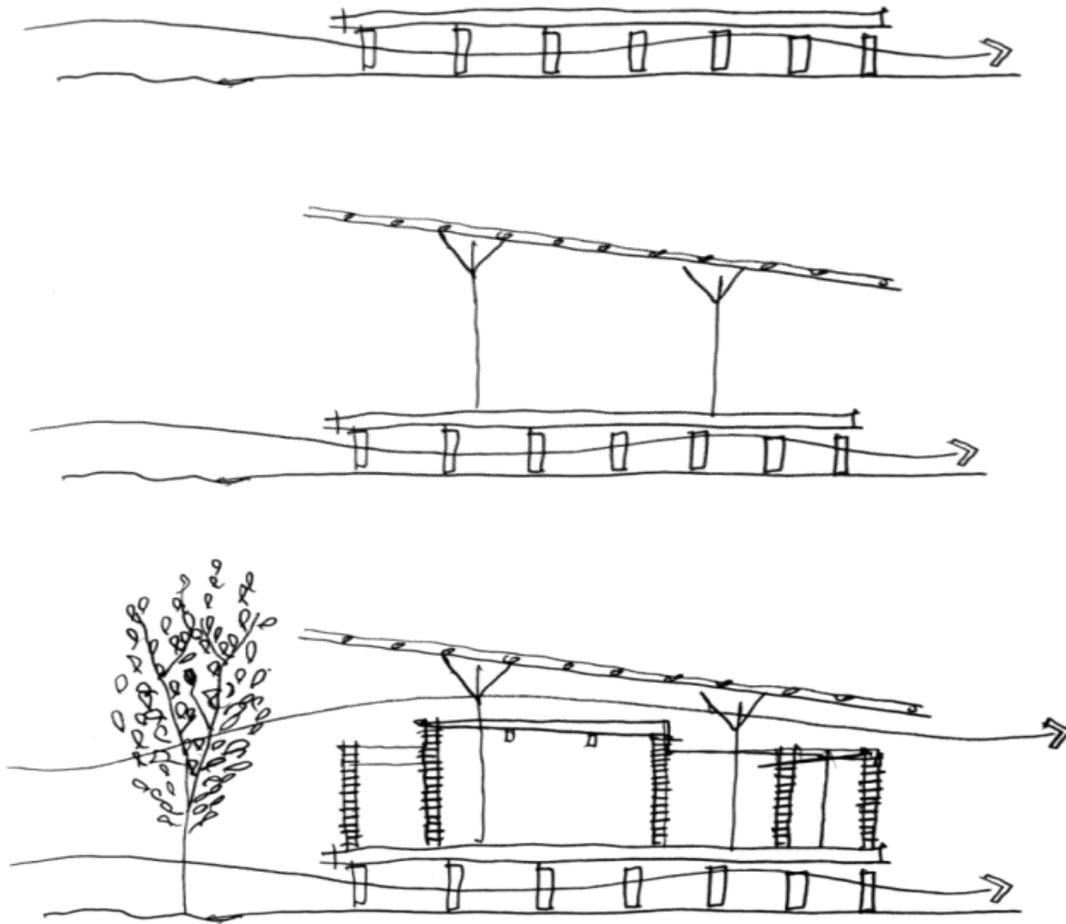
The CBF [Centre pour le Bien-être des Femmes] Women's Health Centre in Burkina Faso was created by AIDOS, an Italian NGO fighting for Women's Rights in Developing Countries. The AIDOS project is just one of the group's international programmes focused on contrasting the diffusion of Female Genital Mutilation/Excision [FGM].

The social/health-services program developed by AIDOS, together with its local partners, focuses on providing educational services, information and awareness about women's sexual and reproductive rights in Ouagadougou's Sector 27, a peripheral urban area settled by a once rural population. The architectural project is a direct response to a social programme that called for the realisation of a building complex capable of hosting a variety of activities in very harsh circumstances.

The project has been developed into two separate buildings from a very simple and adaptable scheme: **a flat raised platform, aimed at keeping ground level's dirt apart, is protected by a sort of huge umbrella that shields from direct sunshine without interfering with wind and ventilation.** In between, isolated from dust and mud and in the shade of the upper *velarium*, small separate volumes made of locally made compressed earth bricks are freely disposed on the platforms like colored boxes separated by ventilated open corridors.

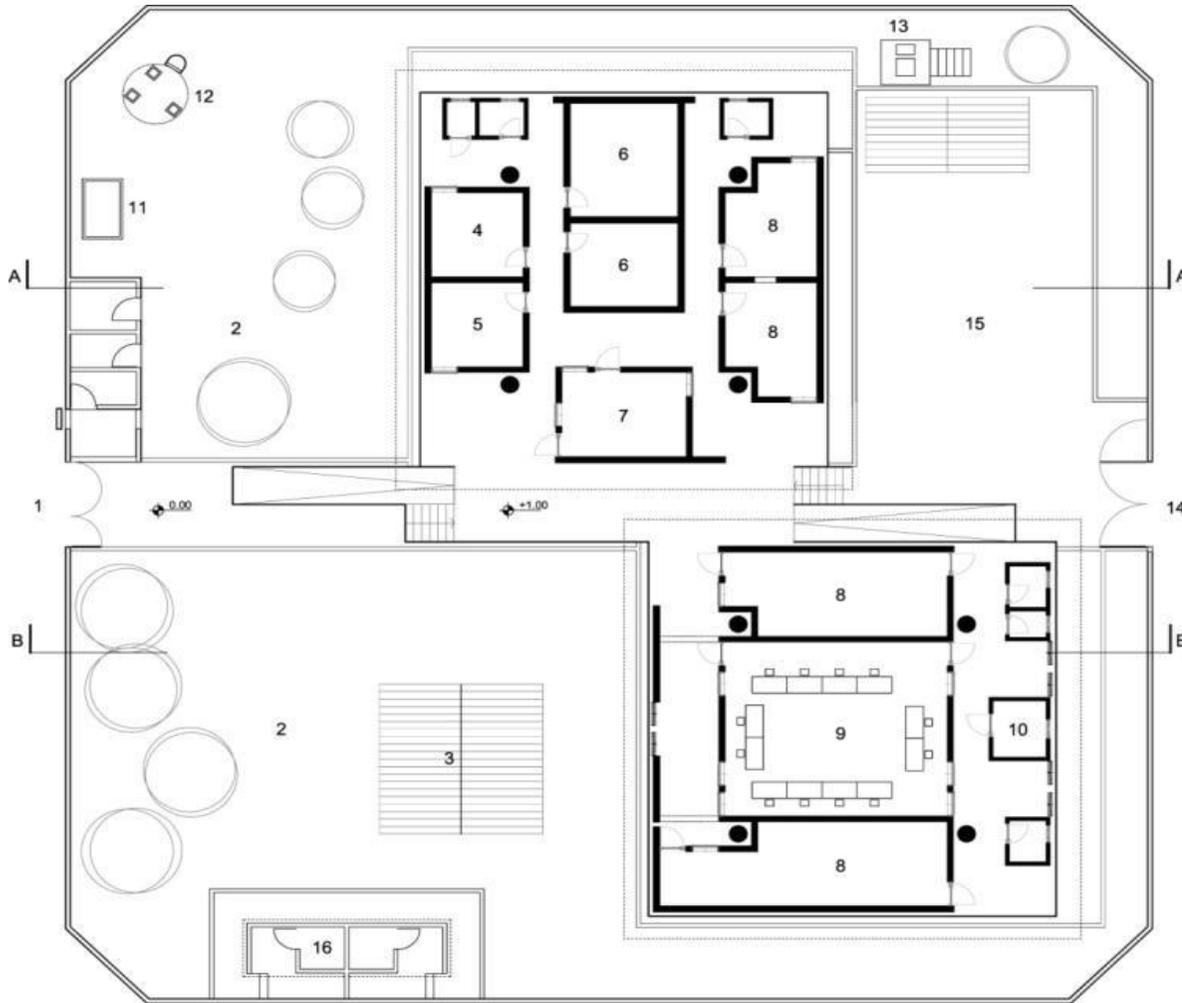
A building strongly influenced by climate, an object that embodies the incongruity to the context of its own scope by resisting any temptation of vernacular consistency: this simple design strategy provides the complex with an effective passive climatic control, flexible spaces with various degrees of privacy, a functional building efficiently corresponding to its purpose, a friendly, playful appearance which welcomes customers and patients, and green exterior areas conceived as a public space for small events open to the whole community.

Struggle against accepted conventions demands firm statement.



Temperature control, perhaps the most significant climatic issue, has strongly influenced the overall design. The adopted strategy, based on the observation of local habits, includes:

- building orientation, as a strategy to reduce the effects of hot wind and take advantage of mutual over shading
- upper shading, in order to protect heavy materials against direct exposure to sun and overheating
- extensive use of operable windows and gaps between elements, in order to enhance natural ventilation
- creation of transitional spaces, such as verandas or patios, aimed at providing various degrees of environmental wellbeing
- combination of heavy and light materials in order to dose thermal insulation and natural ventilation
- use of vegetation, in order to better regulate the overall micro climate



The design is based on the **separation** of the primary activities performed by the CBF into two distinct, though closely related, buildings: a Training Centre, dedicated to management and awareness-rising activities, and a Consultancy Centre, where medical visits, legal assistance and psychological counselling are provided to the community almost free of charge.

1. Main entrance
2. Court
3. Assembly bungalow
4. Psychologist
5. Lawyer
6. Outpatient's department
7. Nursery
8. Head office
9. Great Hall
10. Kitchen
11. Electricity generator
12. Water tower
13. Incinerator
14. Secondary entrance
15. Parking
16. Ventilation Improved Pits toilets



The CBF has been awarded the special Philippe Rotthier Award for Architecture 2014 and has been shortlisted among the finalists for the 2010 Aga Khan Award.

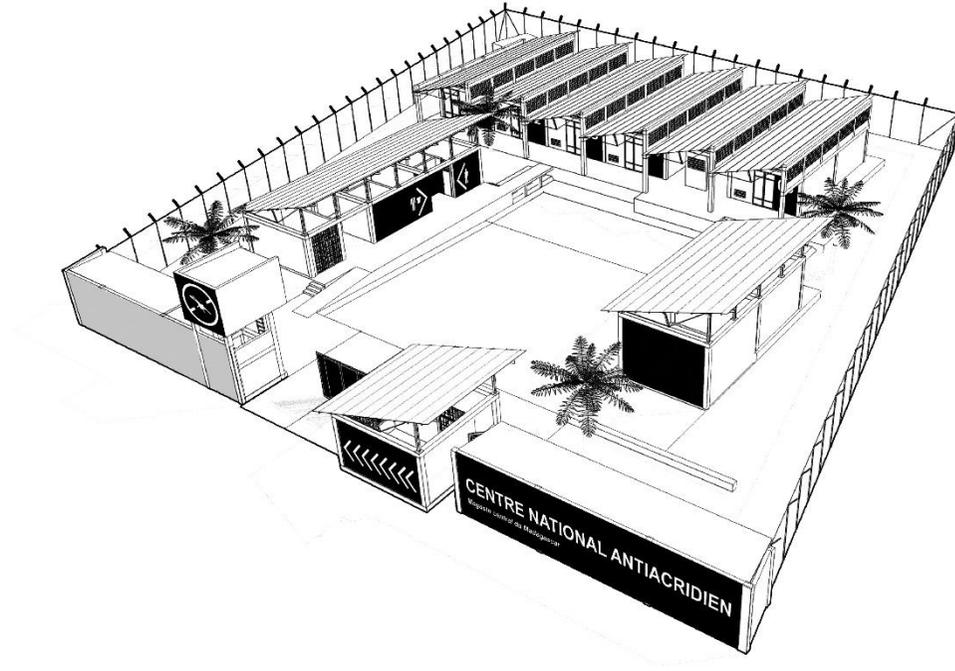


African women's health centre named winner of Health category at World Architecture Festival Awards 2008

CBF was voted for by a panel of some of the world's most distinguished architects and renowned industry experts.

It triumphed over fierce competition from a shortlist of 16 entries and was awarded the prize for encompassing all the basic qualities that make good architecture: political relevance, local culture and climate along with rich space making.

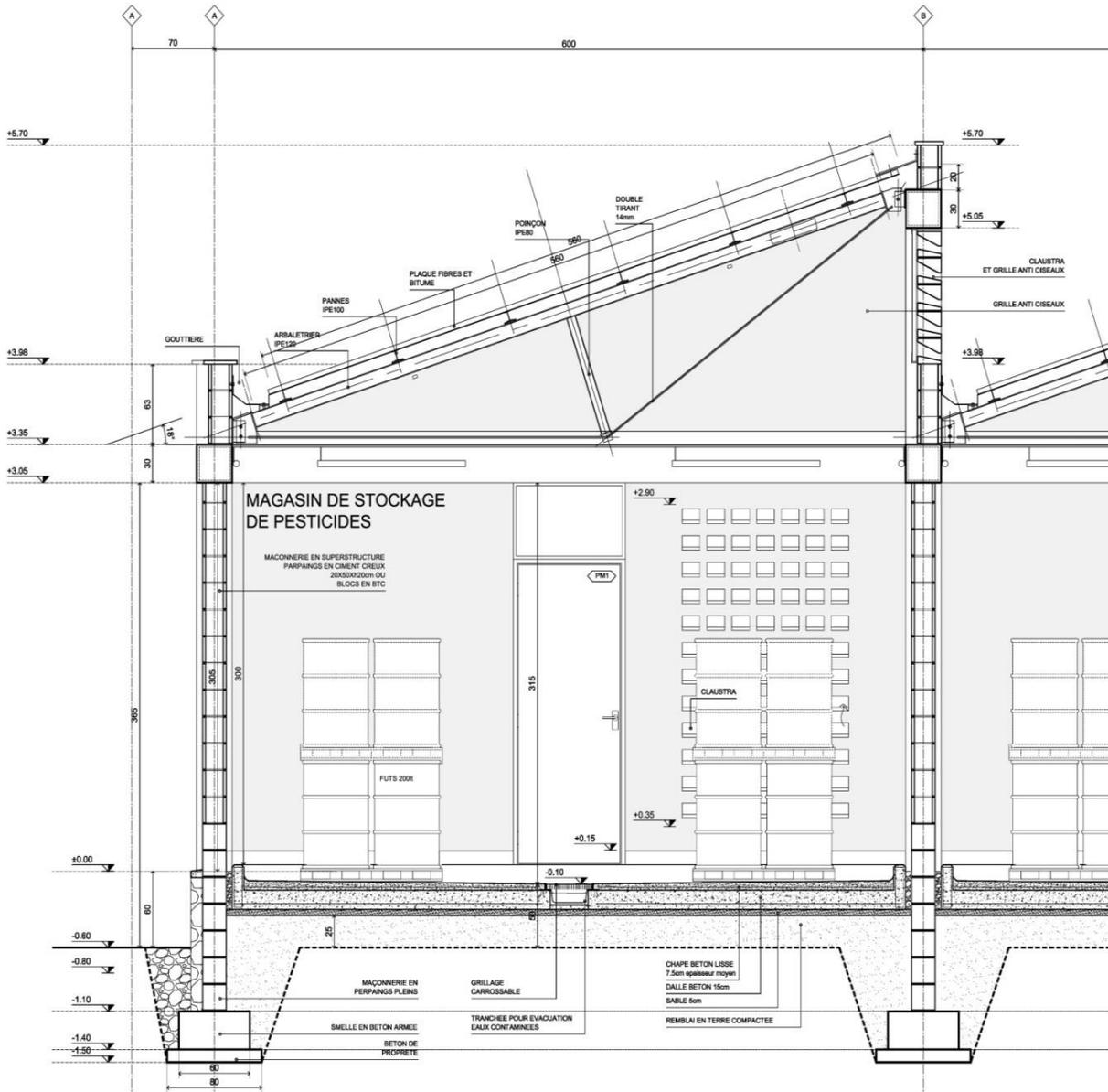
The judges said: "This project shows architecture as a health giver and shies away from traditional institutionalised solutions, integrating the building in local culture."



FMD Pesticide Warehouse_Tulear_Madagascar

- contain it -

Date	2011-2014
Project/Job name	Pesticides storage building and related facilities
Location	Tulear_Madagascar
Description	Complex formed by a Pesticide Warehouse [450sqm] and related ancillary buildings
Client/Promoter	FAO_Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Final User	CNA_Centre National Antiacridien de Madagascar
Type of Engagement	Direct appointment
Position/Role	Consultant-Designer in charge
Activities/Services	Concept design, design development, production information, tender documentation
Status	In progress



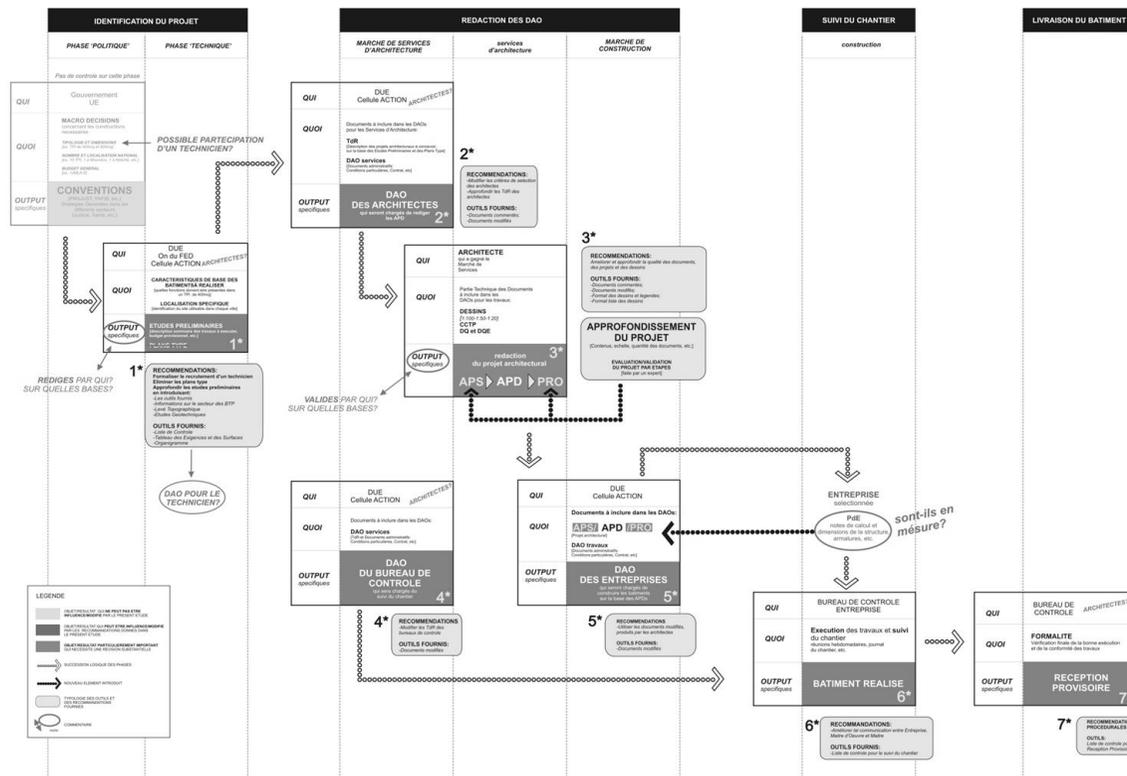
The project develops an **innovative typology for pesticide containers**, with specific attention to environmental issues related to such products. International guidelines cannot simply be imported and 'applied': a certain degree of adaptation to the context and its constraints is inescapable, and here the responsibility and competence of the expert play a crucial role, together with the contribution of local consultant.

Construction is based on the repetition of similar **components** for all diverse buildings, all of them **highly standardized** and, as such, further expandable in the future. The storage room as the whole complex is built on a raised platform so to avoid the consequences of flooding if any but also, and above all, to enforce the principle that the **pesticides should never be allowed to touch the soil**.



FED Enhancement of sustainability of EU funded projects in Chad_Chad - wasteland -

Date	2013-2014
Project/Job name	Enhancement of sustainability of EU funded projects in Chad [Consultancy]
Location	Various locations_Chad
Description	Consultancy aimed at including environmental and quality clauses within the tender procedures for constructions and infrastructures financed by the European Commission in Chad, Cellule Action FED-European Commission
Client/Promoter	Cellule ACTION/European Delegation in Chad
Final User	Cellule ACTION/European Delegation in Chad
Type of Engagement	Expression of Interest
Position/Role	Consultant
Activities/Services	Research
Status	Completed
Other relevant data	Assessment of buildings quality, data collection and analysis, provision of recommendations, check lists and tools

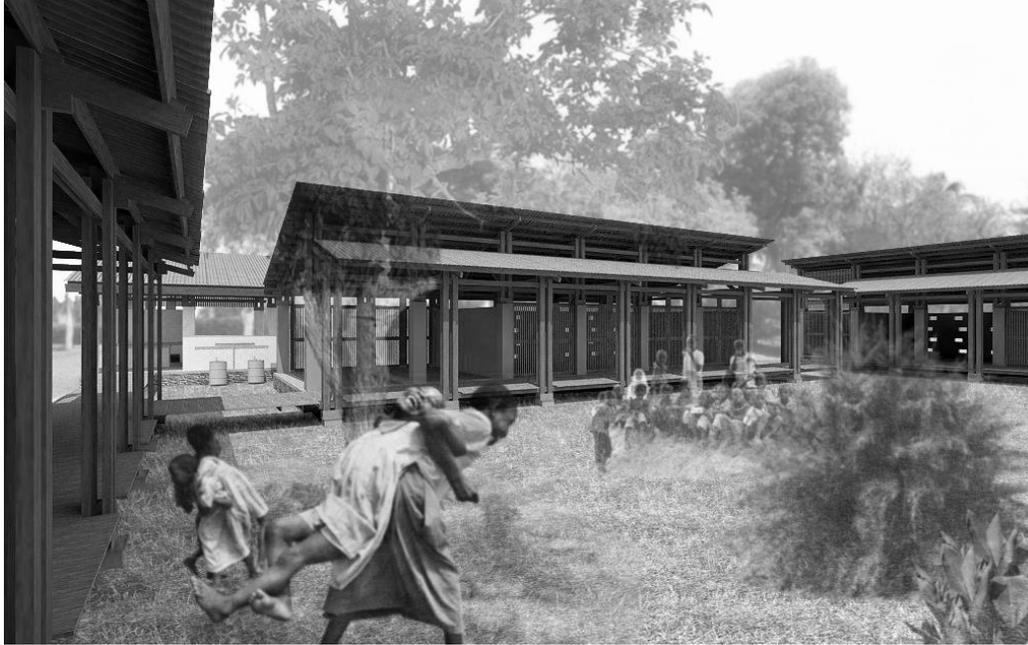


FED is the acronym for ‘Fonds européen de développement’, the main instrument for European Union aid for development cooperation.

The scope of work was to enhance the sustainability of projects realized in Chad under European Development Fund, EDF, FED in French.

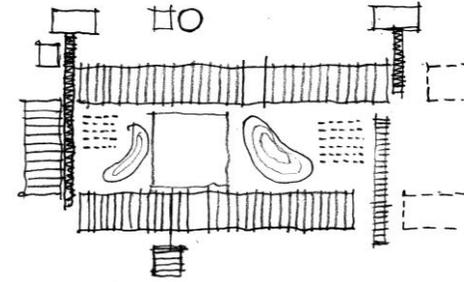
Departing from such an apparently technical aim, the study inevitably encompasses issues that are related to the identity and significance of cooperation itself.

Where the original scope of work would have implied above all the provision of recommendations/ prescriptions to be incorporated in the tender package for the general contractor, the discourse has been enlarged to include suggestions for the selection of the architect, for the content and nature of his/her service [the project], for his/her early involvement in the process, and for the continuity of such involvement through the whole realization, from work supervision to final reception.



FRC Training Centre_Sassara_Central African Republic - *the fight for building* -

Date	2011-2012
Project/Job name	Youths Training Centre
Location	Sassara_Central African Republic
Description	Students compound including various buildings [dormitories, administration, classrooms] connected by a continuous walkway, with a specific attention for sanitation and appropriate technology
Client/Promoter	FAO_Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Final User	JPN_Jeunesse Pionnière Nationale
Type of Engagement	Direct appointment
Position/Role	Consultant-Designer in charge
Activities/Services	Concept design, design development, production information, tender documentation, prototypes construction quality control
Status	Partially built [construction stopped for civil war outbreak]
Other relevant data	Budget 330,000 USD



Realization of the first module



A place that facilitates interaction.

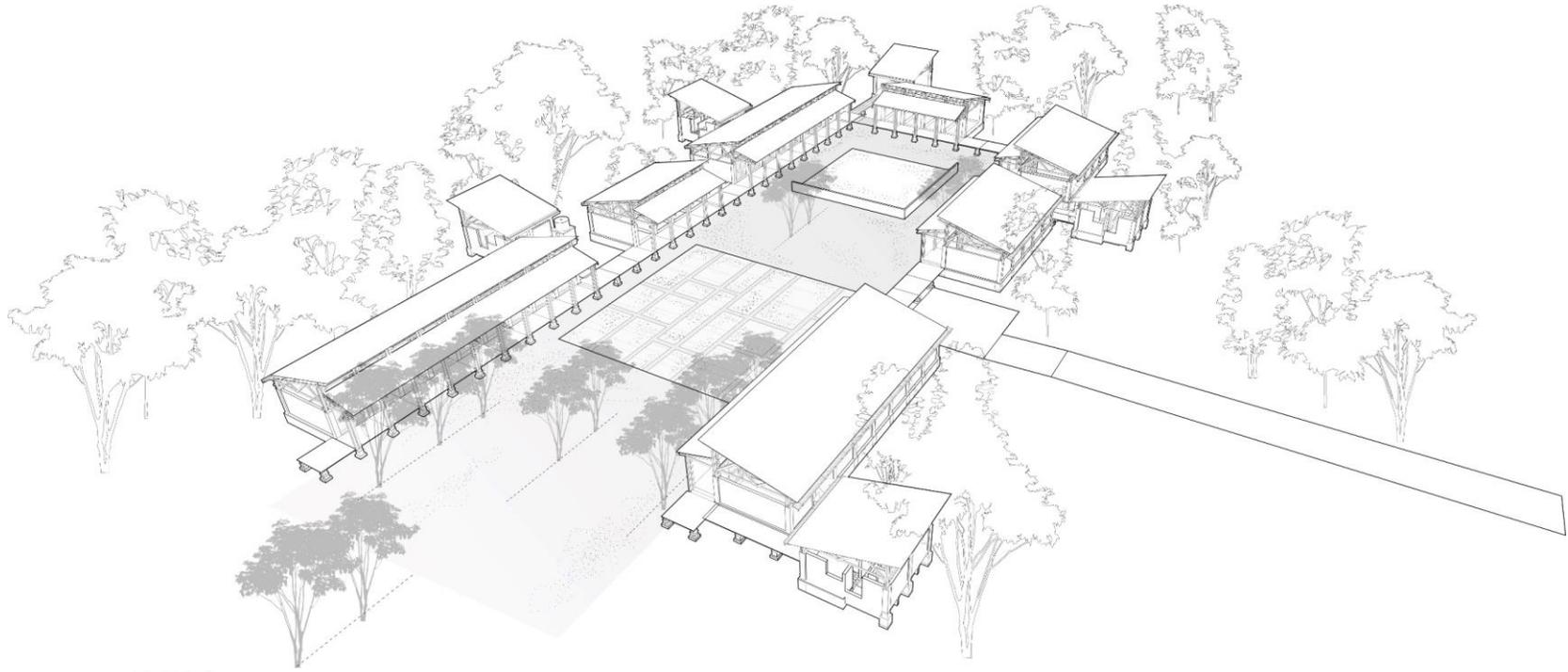
The program is addressed to young people with precedents in social hardship including formerly child soldiers.

The project puts a **strong emphasis on the idea and experience of institution as a matter of shared entity.**

A **mock up** has been proposed before work commencement; not a part of the real building but a collection of various components in order to test as many situations as possible that would have been used.

As far as **WASH** [water, sanitation and hygiene] a specific solution has been designed. Hand washing facilities and showers are supplied with water collected by rainwater harvesting during rainy season and to be filled manually during dry season.

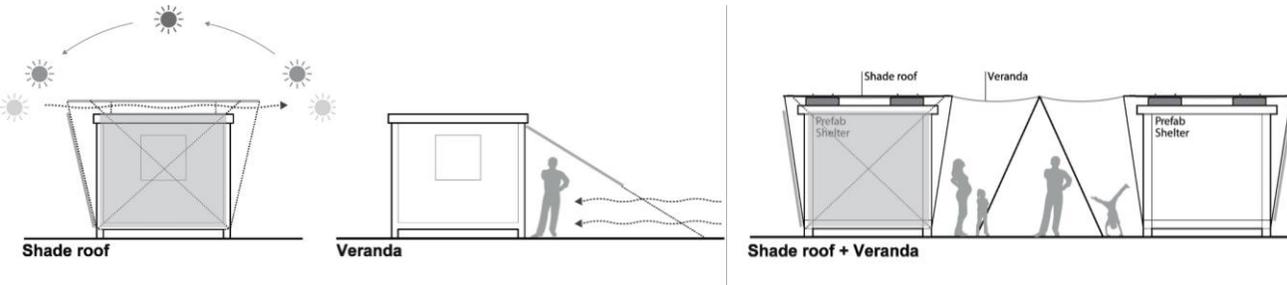
Urine-diversion dehydration toilets divert all liquids that can be used as fertilizer.





ISJ Shelter summerization_Al Zaatari Camp_Jordan - from tent to box and back -

Date	2013
Project/Job name	Refugee camp shelters summerization kit
Location	Zaatari refugee camp_Jordan
Description	A do-it-yourself upper canopy + veranda assembly kit to mitigate shelter internal temperature and offer an external protected space to refugee families.
Client/Promoter	INTERSOS for UNHCR
Final User	Refugee community
Type of Engagement	Direct appointment
Position/Role	Consultant-Designer in charge
Activities/Services	Concept design, design development, production information, prototypes construction quality control
Status	Project
Other relevant data	Prototype, waiting for funding opportunities, expected application: 25,000 shelters



Testing the prototype of the shared veranda

FAREstudio has been involved in Zaatari refugee camp (Jordan) for the **summerization program** of 25,000 prefabricated locally built shelters. The main aim was to provide an affordable system to **mitigate climate roughness** while facilitating the configuration of a **more human arrangement** of the shelters. FAREstudio proposed and tested a very simple solution that, taking into account local conditions, recognized scale and urgency of the intervention. Going beyond the initial request, the system, composed by an upper canopy and a veranda, is tailored not only on the mitigation of climatic issues but also on the privacy need of local culture. **Private and semi-public spaces can be configured responding to various social needs of refugees**, who can physically design their spaces with a limited technical assistance.

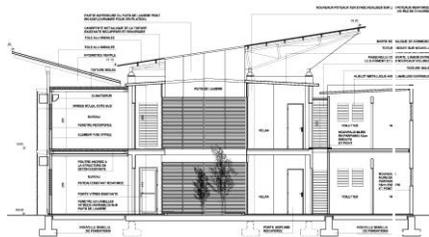
Other relevant projects



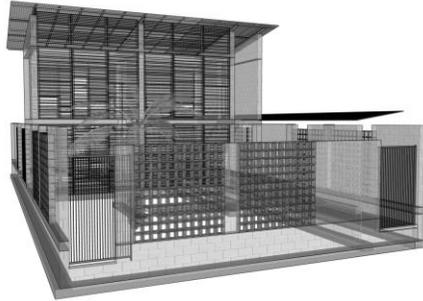
ISS

- Date** 2012-2013
- Project/Job name** Urban Expert Activities for INTERSOS
- Location** Unity State_South Sudan
- Description** INTERSOS compound in Nyeel Refugee camp and all construction and WASH related Activities/Services in Unity State and Nyeel refugee camps, Bentiu compound
- Client/Promoter** INTERSOS for UNHCR
- Final User** INTERSOS staff and/or refugee community
- Type of Engagement** Direct appointment
- Position/Role** Consultant-Designer in charge
- Activities/Services** Technical coordination, concept design, design development, final design, tender documentation, construction quality control
- Status** Built / Project
- Other relevant data** INTERSOS compound: built with no supervision; other technical activities: carried on until the end of our contract

FCD



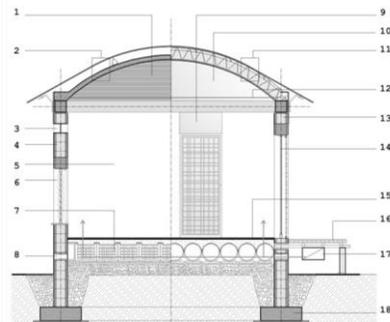
- Date** 2011
- Project/Job name** FAO Regional Offices Refurbishment and Extension
- Location** N'Djamena_Tchad
- Description** Installation of prefabricated temporary shelters on the site [A], construction of steel structure to shield the prefabricated shelters [B], existing building enlargement and refurbishment with the slightest possible intervention on the reinforced concrete structure [C]
- Client/Promoter** FAO_Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Final User** FAO_Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Type of Engagement** Direct appointment
- Position/Role** Consultant-Designer in charge
- Activities/Services** Preliminary Project
- Status** Project



LHC

Date	2010
Project/Job name	Single family dwelling
Location	Luanda_Angola
Description	A single family dwelling radically cheap to build for Luanda, with the possibility of allowing for evolutionary solutions, and possibly self-construction
Client/Promoter	Lisbon Architecture Triennale 2010
Final User	Local Community
Type of Engagement	Open design competition
Position/Role	Designer in charge
Activities/Services	Concept design
Status	Project

PHC



Date	2008
Project/Job name	Design for the Children-Pediatric Health Clinic
Location	East Africa
Description	From the request for a prototypical solution for health facility that is expanded in time to a set of guidelines that are intended for unskilled operators
Client/Promoter	Fight for the Children, Architecture for Humanity, American Institute of Architects
Final User	Local community
Type of Engagement	Open design competition
Position/Role	Designer in charge
Activities/Services	Concept design
Status	Project
Other relevant data	Shortlisted project



ESM

- Date** 2009
- Project/Job name** Exploratory Science Museum
- Location** Campinas_São Paulo_Brazil
- Description** A museum that accompanies the most recent trends in museology, based on the construction of experiments that make it possible to display the concepts being expounded, allowing visitors to actively participate in the experiments
- Client/Promoter** University of Campinas
- Final User** University of Campinas
- Type of Engagement** Architectural Competition
- Position** Designer in charge
- Activities/Services** Concept Design
- Status** Project
- Other relevant data**

ASF



- Date** 2006
- Project/Job name** AIDS Orphanage
- Location** Johannesburg_South Africa
- Description** Proposal to be adopted by local consultants as a reference, showing the re-interpretation of local technologies and typologies
- Client/Promoter** ASF London, Archaos
- Final User** Olifantsfontein Community
- Type of Engagement** Open design competition
- Position/Role** Designer in charge
- Activities/Services** Concept design, design development, production information
- Status** Project
- Other relevant data** First prize

**Via Latina 43
00179 Rome_ITALY
tel +39 06 9727 6340**

**info@faresstudio.it
www.faresstudio.it**