

The Pritzker Architecture Prize

2022 Laureate
Diébédo Francis Kéré
Burkina Faso and Germany

Image Book



Diébédo Francis Kéré

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Gando Primary School
2001

Gando,
Burkina Faso



Photo courtesy of Erik-Jan Ouwerkerk



Photo courtesy of Erik-Jan Ouwerkerk

Gando Primary School was the first outcome and beneficiary of Kéré Foundation e.V. (est. 1998) and marks the architect's inaugural built work. His ideology, to build a wellspring with and for a community to fulfill essential needs and redeem social inequities. His advocacy for a child's right to a comfortable classroom stems from his own experiences, sitting in crowded, stifling, facilities that were poorly ventilated and lit. Here, indigenous clay was fortified with cement to form bricks with high thermal mass, retaining cooler air inside while allowing heat to escape through a brick ceiling and wide, overhanging, elevated roof, resulting in ventilation without the mechanical intervention of air conditioning. Remnant building materials are always used to create classroom furniture. The success of this project increased the school's student body nearly six-fold, from 120 to 700 students, catalyzing Teachers' Housing (2004, Gando, Burkina Faso), an Extension (2008, Gando, Burkina Faso), and Library (2010, Gando, Burkina Faso).

Gando Primary School
2001

Gando,
Burkina Faso



Photo courtesy of Erik-Jan Ouwerkerk



Photo courtesy of Erik-Jan Ouwerkerk

**National Park
of Mali**
2010

Bamako, Mali



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré



Photo courtesy of Iwan Baan

The National Park of Mali, located between the National Museum of Mali and the Presidential Palace, reopened in 2010 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the country's independence. The 103-hectare park, situated within a 2,100-hectare protected forest reserve, reopened with the architect redeveloping eight existing facilities on site, including two entrance gates, a welcome center, restaurant, youth sports arena, public toilets and kiosks. Elements remain consistent throughout the various buildings, one of which is constructed atop a natural rock formation, and all of which blend into the local topography. Indigenous stone provides thermal mass and references locality, coupled with wide, detached, overhanging roofs, to facilitate passive cooling systems. Some buildings, equipped with air conditioning, feature sealable roof systems.

Opera Village
Phase I, 2010

Laongo,
Burkina Faso



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré



Rendering courtesy of Kéré Architecture

Conceived in collaboration between Kéré and the late Christoph Schlingensiefel, Opera Village is a utopian and evolving masterplan, honoring the “idea of something perpetually unfinished and continuously developing,” while initiating a prosperous relationship between opera and a small village. Currently unbuilt, the opera house is central, surrounded by a spiral of buildings already realized, including artist workshops, housing, a health center and school.

**Centre for
Health and
Social Welfare**
2014

Laongo,
Burkina Faso



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré

The Center for Health and Social Welfare is part of the system of buildings within Opera Village. Constructed of local clay and laterite stone, with eucalyptus wood and overhanging roofs, the structure's materials present elements of aesthetic consistency throughout the complex. The three interlocking units, providing services of gynecology and obstetrics, dentistry, and general medicine, are connected through shaded courtyards that are used as waiting areas. The fenestration offers a pattern of framed windows at varying heights to offer picturesque views of the landscape for everyone, from a standing doctor to a sitting visitor to a lying patient.

**Centre for
Health and
Social Welfare**
2014

Laongo,
Burkina Faso



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré

**Surgical Clinic
and Health
Centre**
2014

Léo,
Burkina Faso



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré

Ten modular units compose the Surgical Clinic and Health Centre, which provides surgical, maternity and in-patient services through the organization Operieren in Africa E.V. In addition to signature uses of indigenous materials, wide overlapping roofs and fenestration to accommodate varying vantage points, environmental sustainability is furthered through the collection of greywater. Treated with oxygen through solar energy, greywater is collected with rainwater to irrigate the landscape.

**Lycée Schorge
Secondary
School**
2016

Koudougou,
Burkina Faso



Photo courtesy of Iwan Baan



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré

Located in one of the more populated cities of Burkina Faso, Koudougou, Lycée Schorge Secondary School serves as a local landmark for its aesthetic qualities. Nine modular buildings are arranged radially, establishing a center ring of flexible community space for performance, celebration and gathering. Local laterite stone, yielding high thermal mass, was formed into bricks to build the modules. A detached and overhanging corrugated metal roof protects the exterior materials from the rain while shielding the building's inhabitants from natural elements. From within, vaulted ceilings of white perforated plaster distribute favorable lighting under direct sun while heat escapes through wind towers. From the periphery, vertical eucalyptus wood forms a border, offering shady intermediary spaces for students and teachers.

**Lycée Schorge
Secondary
School**
2016

Koudougou,
Burkina Faso



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré



Photo courtesy of Iwan Baan

Serpentine Pavilion
2017

London,
United Kingdom



Photo courtesy of Iwan Baan



Photo courtesy of Iwan Baan

A temporary structure located in Kensington Gardens, Kéré's Serpentine Pavilion takes its central shape from a tree and its disconnected, yet curved walls are formed by triangular indigo modules, identifying with a color representing strength in his culture and more personally, a blue boubou garment worn by the architect as a child. The detached roof resonates with those of his buildings in Africa, but inside the pavilion, rainwater funnels into the center of the structure before irrigating the landscape to highlight water scarcity that is experienced worldwide.

**Serpentine
Pavilion**
2017

London,
United Kingdom

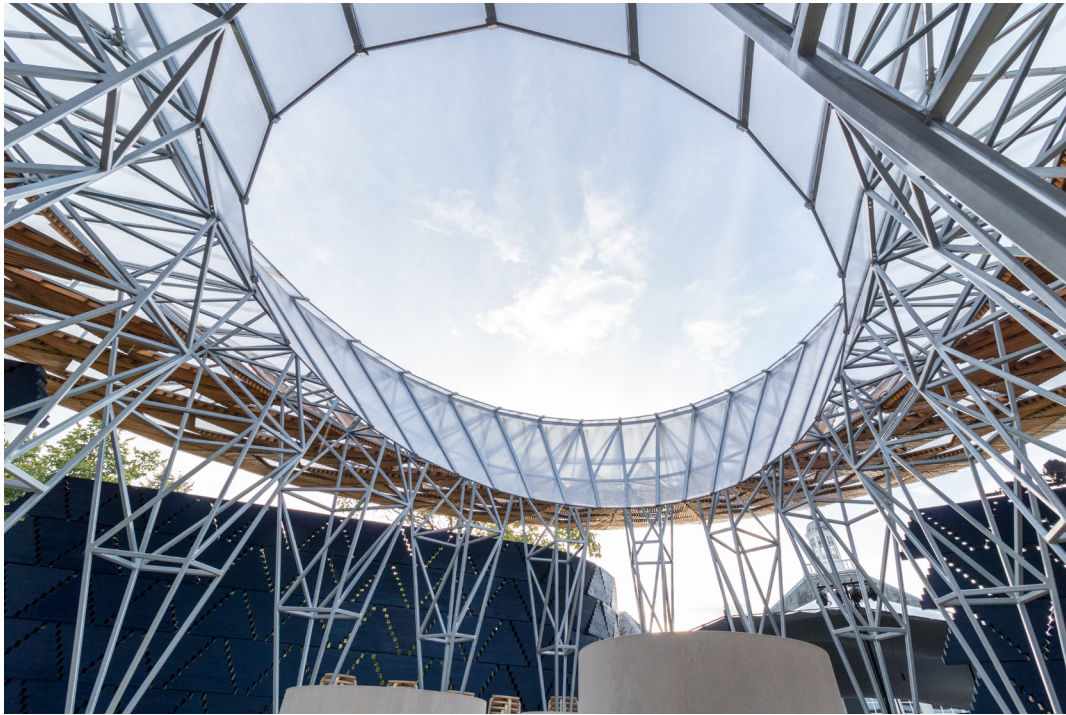


Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré

**Benga
Riverside
School
2018**

Tete,
Mozambique



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré

Benga Riverside School is located at the confluence of the Revúboé and Zambezi rivers. The campus contains a nursery and primary school, with a layout designed to shelter its young occupants physically and figuratively. Administrative offices are at the entrance, with classrooms situated further back, and walls are patterned with small recurring voids throughout, allowing light and transparency to evoke feelings of trust from its students. A secondary school will follow.

**Léo Doctors'
Housing**
2019

Léo,
Burkina Faso



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré

Léo Doctors' Housing accommodates medical residents and volunteers, supporting the vision of the Surgical Clinic and Health Centre, which fosters the exchange of knowledge between visiting specialists and its local physicians. Five modular residences are composed of compressed stabilized earth blocks and coated with plaster, shielding the interiors from the heat and the exteriors from weathering deterioration. The units, arranged in a curved orientation, share a landscaped courtyard and water lily pond, which supports its own ecosystem of insects and flora.

Sarbalé Ke
2019

California,
United States



Photo courtesy of Iwan Baan

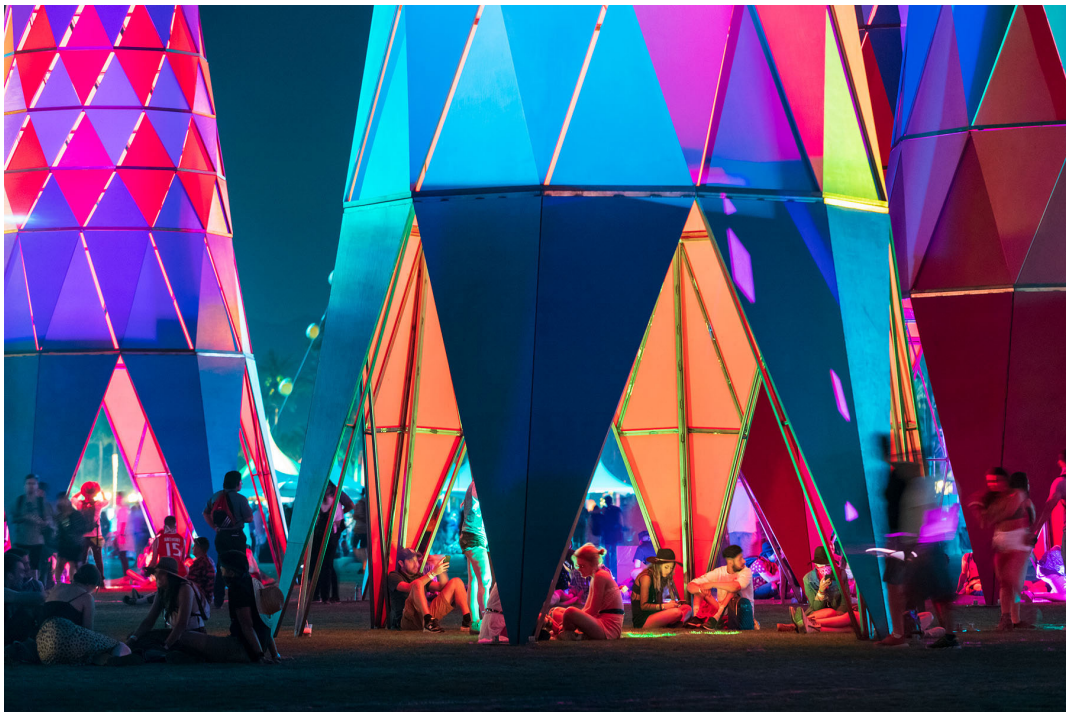


Photo courtesy of Iwan Baan

Sarbalé Ke, originally designed for Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, translates to “House of Celebration” in Kéré’s native Bissa language, and references the shape of the hollowing baobab tree, revered in his homeland for its medicinal properties. Constructed of steel and colorful wooden triangular panels, three large central baobab towers serve as a focal point and for larger assembly, while smaller towers allow for intimate gathering. The pink, orange and blue exteriors adopt the palette of the sunrises and sunsets cascading through the surrounding mountains, while filtered light creates interior shady respite by day and illumination by evening.

Xylem
2019

Montana,
United States



Photo courtesy of Iwan Baan



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré

Inspired by the tuguna, a sacred wood and straw community gathering space located in many small Burkenabè villages, Xylem at Tippet Rise Art Centre is constructed almost entirely of raw, local, sustainable pinewoods. Clusters of logs are seemingly suspended overhead, “grouped in circular bundles within a modular hexagonal structure in weathering steel, supported by seven steel columns.” Subtle rays of light to filter into the pavilion, while curvilinear seating at varying heights offers spaces to stand, lounge and lay, so users may experience sprawling views from different vantage points. Visitors may converse, meditate, or contemplate in the shelter, while immersed in the natural environment of this art center, located on a 12,000-acre cattle ranch within in the backdrop off the Beartooth Mountains.

Xylem
2019

Montana,
United States



Photo courtesy of Iwan Baan

**Burkina
Institute of
Technology**
Phase I, 2020

Koudougou,
Burkina Faso



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré

Burkina Institute of Technology is a result of the success of Lycée Schorge Secondary School, offering not only an extension of the campus, but post-secondary academic opportunities. “[It] is designed using a system of repeated modules, housing classrooms and auxiliary functions, arranged orthogonally to define a rectangular courtyard. The orthogonal arrangement of staggered modules allows the campus to expand incrementally according to its needs and air to flow through the central void, creating a space where the students can relax and interact.” The facility is composed of cooling clay walls that were cast in-situ to accelerate the building process. Overhanging eucalyptus, regarded as inefficient due to its minimal shading abilities yet depletion of nutrients from the soil, were repurposed to line the angled corrugated metal roofs, which protect the building during the country’s brief rainy season. Rainwater is collected underground to irrigate mango plantations on the premises.

**Burkina
Institute of
Technology**
Phase I, 2020

Koudougou,
Burkina Faso



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré

**Startup Lions
Campus**
2021

Turkana County,
Kenya



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré

Startup Lions Campus addresses the need for local, post-secondary education and vocational training. “The building takes inspiration from the towering mounds built by termite colonies in the region. The ventilation tower creates a stack effect to naturally cool the main working spaces by extracting warm air upwards, while fresh air is introduced through specially designed low-level openings.” It has become a recognizable landmark in the region, situated on a sloping landscape and surrounded by large shading trees. The school is constructed of local quarry stone to create comfortable gathering conditions indoors and outdoors and minimize the use of air-conditioning.

**Startup Lions
Campus**
2021

Turkana County,
Kenya



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré



Photo courtesy of Francis Kéré

**Burkina Faso
National
Assembly**
In Progress

Ouagadougou,
Burkina Faso



Rendering courtesy of Kéré Architecture

After the Burkinabè uprising in 2014 destroyed the former parliament building, the new Burkina Faso National Assembly, commissioned by former President, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, enables new views, physically and metaphorically. The focal point is a stepped and latticed pyramidal building, housing a 127-person assembly hall on the interior, while encouraging informal congregation of its citizens on the exterior. This building is one piece of a greater master plan, envisioned to include indigenous flora, exhibition spaces, courtyards, retail and a monument to those who lost their lives in protest of the old regime.

**Burkina Faso
National
Assembly**
In Progress

Ouagadougou,
Burkina Faso



Rendering courtesy of Kéré Architecture



Rendering courtesy of Kéré Architecture

**Benin National
Assembly**
In Progress

Porto-Novo,
Republic of
Benin



Rendering courtesy of Kéré Architecture



Rendering courtesy of Kéré Architecture

The Benin National Assembly (2019-Present, Port-Novo, Republic of Benin) is currently under construction and is inspired by the symbolic palaver tree, a powerful landmark and communal space for many African communities. A sunken assembly hall is below, while the “trunk” of the building is hollow, encouraging favorable ventilation and light. Situated in a public park, the design encourages citizens to be close to the building, convene, and be cooled by the vast shade offered by the offices above. A staircase spirals from the offices to the assembly hall through an internal courtyard.