

OASIS

In a both arid and tropical Senegalese climate, the Oasis School offers a harmony between education and nature through classrooms organised around green atriums. The project is defined from the natural environment present on the site. The central area of the project – generated by the crossing point of the pathways and the vegetation – determines the protected areas where the trees are based. All around those spaces, classrooms are organised to create open-air atriums.

The abundant natural resources of the site guarantees a self-sufficient use of raw-earth. An excavation area has been defined to produce all the bricks necessary for the construction of the school. Eventually, this small-scale quarry will turn into a central playground where the children will gather outside class hours.

The building process is divided into five different steps. The first phase – located in the entrance of the school – includes the construction of the multipurpose hall, the teacher's room and the first two classroom modules. All the following steps consist of building respectively two modules. Every step is distinguished by a roof covering and connecting the rooms together.

Modular classrooms are imagined to be placed all around the different patios and simplify the building process. In terms of structure, each module is made of two load-bearing walls on the smaller sides and columns and the larger sides. The exterior side is composed by a lighting wall, whereas the side facing the atrium is made up of wooden doors.

In terms of building materials, the school is imagined to be entirely built with earth from the site. After being collected, the earth is compressed into simple molds in order to have one basic shape of brick. The molds are easy to manufacture and the bricks simple to assemble into three different masonry types. The wood – chevron – used for the carpentry come from local area while metal sheets are inspired by vernacular architecture. Roofs not only cover modular classrooms but are also detached from them to offer sun and rain protection along the different pathways.

The atriums play an essential role in the project. First, their sizes differ according to the different children age groups. Secondly, they regulate the temperature going into the classrooms and collect rainwater with a gutter system.

Overall, the different open spaces offer different atmospheres to the schoolchildren. The central playgrounds propose a communal effervescence whilst the satellite spaces provide personal intimacies.

Approximate building budget : 96'395,76 [EUROS] =~ 63'236'915, 73 [FCFA]