

TEACH ON THE BEACH

AN EDUCATIONAL CENTER IN GHANA

10.000€ + CONSTRUCTION



a competition by



in support of



in partnership with



TEACH ON THE BEACH

AN EDUCATIONAL CENTER IN GHANA

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INTRODUCTION

Archstorming is launching a new competition in collaboration with the local NGO “Teach on the Beach” (TOB) to find designs for a new Educational Center to be built in Busua, a charming coastal town in Ghana. The Center will offer access to TOB’s educational programs and activities to all, particularly children, in a welcoming environment suitable for learning, socializing, and engaging with the community.

Ghana, located in West Africa, is a captivating and diverse country with a population of more than 31 million people. It is known for its rich cultural heritage and harmonious coexistence of over 100 ethnic groups. In recent years, Ghana has experienced significant economic growth, leading to a decrease in poverty rates and progress in areas such as healthcare, education, and human rights, making it **an inspiration for other countries in the region**. However, many children in Ghana are deprived of an education due to financial constraints, early marriage, or the need to work and support their families. This **educational gap perpetuates poverty** and limits opportunities, particularly in rural areas like Busua.

Busua, with a population of approximately 4,000 people, boasts beautiful beaches, a warm climate, and hospitable locals. However, it faces several social and humanitarian issues, including a **significant shortage of educational infrastructure**.

Establishing **the new Educational Center** will have a **profound positive impact** on the community by enhancing local children’s education, providing better job prospects for students, promoting social and civic involvement within the community, and generating job opportunities to stimulate the local economy. Additionally, the Educational Center is expected to serve as a **model of sustainable building** practices for the local community.



THE NGO: TEACH ON THE BEACH

TOB (Teach on Beach) is a non-profit organization that is dedicated and passionate about **improving the lives of students in Busua, Ghana**. They strongly believe that education is not only about acquiring knowledge, but also about promoting social and emotional development. For over a decade, **TOB has been devoted to providing education and cultural exchange opportunities that**

inspire and empower young people. This has made them one of the top ten volunteering destinations in Ghana, attracting volunteers from all over the world. Through these cultural exchange programs, TOB aims to promote cross-cultural understanding and appreciation while nurturing global citizenship among their students.

William Agbo, a former student of TOB who has directly experienced the organization's positive impact on the community, currently manages TOB. They offer an after-school program for 150 local children, which is supported by teachers and volunteers. The program has had an impressive impact on improving academic performance in subjects such as English, Math, Science,

and homework completion. Additionally, TOB provides the News Hour Program, in which students watch the nightly news with volunteers and discuss current events, receiving the necessary support to comprehend the world around them.

TOB currently uses a rented apartment as its facility, but **they made the decision to construct their own facilities** to reaffirm their long-term commitment to the community a year ago. After a year of planning, they acquired a plot and are **currently building a classroom** designed by one of their volunteers. **This competition will look for designs to complete the rest of the Educational Center.**



THE CHALLENGE

The goal of this competition is to **transform the classroom that is presently being built by TOB into a fully equipped educational center** that provides a pleasant and suitable environment for learning, socializing, and community involvement. The creation of the new educational center would enable TOB to broaden its reach by serving more children, offering a wider range of subjects and activities, providing education programs for adults, and promoting cross-cultural comprehension among pupils and volunteers.

1 - PLOT

Located on the outskirts of Busua, the plot is conveniently positioned within a short **walking distance of the beach** and **nearby private and public schools**, facilitating easy access for children to attend. It is also **close to the community park**, providing opportunities for outdoor activities.

The plot measures **67 meters in length and 36 meters in width** and it is surrounded by abundant vegetation. It is easily accessible via a **dirt road** on its western side. The site is noticeably **flat**, making it ideal for construction. Water supply is provided by a **well** in

the plot, while electricity is obtained from the **public electrical network** of the town. The plot has five palm trees; the new design plans can either preserve them or remove them and plant new ones.

The western edge of the plot is currently occupied by a **building under construction**, which will serve as a classroom, measuring 20 meters in length and 9 meters in width. The building's walls are made of rammed earth and compressed earth blocks. It has a thatched roof and wooden beams. **Although this building doesn't require additional design work, its integration with the overall program should be considered in the projects.**

Coordinates:
click to open map
4.811553,
-1.936671



Closer look to the classroom under construction

2 - PROGRAM

The new Educational Center will feature several facilities:

1. **Classroom for adults** that can accommodate up to 20 individuals. It should be half the size of the main classroom currently under construction, which measures 20 meters by 9 meters. This smaller, more intimate space will foster a comfortable and effective learning environment, providing adult learners with the opportunity to benefit from a more focused, personalized educational experience.

2. **Community Hub:** it will be the heart of the Educational Center, a gathering place for the community, bringing students and volunteers together for socializing, learning, and other activities that promote wellbeing and community building. It should be a versatile building that provides an extensive range of spaces, including:

- **a. Shared kitchen** designed to provide a space for individuals to cook and prepare meals. The community kitchen will be open to all the Center users, including volunteers, students, and members of the community. The kitchen will be designed to be functional and easy to

use, with ample counter space, storage areas, and cooking equipment. It will also provide opportunities for learning about nutrition, food preparation, and culinary skills.

- **b. Communal dining area** where students and volunteers can enjoy their meals together.
- **c. Living room** where they can socialize and relax after a long day of learning.
- **d. Leisure area** that provides a perfect setting for yoga and other group activities.
- **e. Office space** that can accommodate up to five people.
- **f. Bathroom** with two cubicles including a toilet and a sink.



Classroom under construction - interior



Classroom under construction - exterior



Available plot for the Educational Center

- Eight (8) volunteers' bedrooms** designed to provide a comfortable living space. Two of these bedrooms must be private, each featuring a double bed. The remaining six rooms must be designed to accommodate up to four individuals and will feature two bunk beds. The design should take into account the need for a designated storage area for personal belongings within each room. Each volunteer's room must be equipped with a full bathroom containing a toilet, a shower and a sink. The toilets will have a septic tank as sewage system.
- Summer hut and outdoor kitchen** both of which will be open but covered. This new space must be designed to provide children, volunteers, and the

community with an area to enjoy the outdoors while still being sheltered from the sun and rain. It will serve as a hub for outdoor activities such as cooking classes, community meals, and other group activities that foster community and connection.

- Garden space with an orchard.** This area will serve as a green space for students and volunteers to relax while also providing opportunities for learning and engagement with nature. The orchard will also provide opportunities for hands-on learning about gardening, plant life cycles, and the importance of sustainability. Students and volunteers will be able to participate in planting, cultivating, and harvesting the fruits and vegetables grown in

the garden. This will not only provide a valuable learning experience but also give individuals a sense of ownership and pride in their work.

The spaces identified in the program may be integrated into a **single building** or distributed across **multiple smaller buildings**. The NGO desires to have a view of the sea from the Center, which requires an elevated position (a height of around 6 meters), where they can engage in activities and enjoy the ocean view. This could be achieved through several options, such as including a **rooftop terrace** in one of the buildings, compacting the program into a **two-storey building**, or adding an **external structure**.



Rammed earth wall construction



Compressed earth blocks



Wood for roof structure

Contestants have the **freedom to determine the size of each space**, but must consider the restricted plot area and modest budget when making their choices. Additionally, the NGO has emphasized a desire for abundant green spaces and open areas within the plot.

3 - MATERIALS AND BUILDING TECHNIQUES

The competition requires designs that prioritize the use of **local and sustainable materials**, along with **easy-to-build construction techniques**. Available materials include rammed earth, compressed earth blocks,

concrete, stones, earthbags filled with cement and earth, wood, steel, thatched roofing, and metal sheets, among others. These versatile materials can be utilized throughout various aspects of a building's construction to promote eco-friendly practices.

The success of the project hinges on the involvement of volunteers in the construction process. While professional workers will lead the construction, the aim is to create a **participatory construction environment** that welcomes everyone and teaches them about the building techniques used. Therefore, it is important to use easy-to-build construction techniques that do not require very specialized labor or heavy equipment and can be easily

understood by both volunteers and the local workers, serving as a construction model for the community.

Participants are encouraged to bring **innovative construction systems and new ideas**, as long as they are easily understood and applied by the local team of builders and volunteers. **New materials** can also be proposed as long as they are easy to find and affordable for a little NGO.

Passive architecture strategies, such as providing good ventilation, sufficient daylight through windows, and any other idea that adds value to the buildings in terms of sustainability, will also be positively evaluated.



4 - MODULARITY

Acquiring sufficient funds for construction is a common challenge faced by NGOs. As a result, a modular design that enables **construction to take place in stages** can prove essential as it allows NGOs to begin construction without waiting until all the funds for the entire project are raised.

Therefore, it's crucial to ensure that the construction can be divided into several distinct phases. Additionally, it is recommended to include **flexible spaces** that can serve multiple functions until the intended spaces are completed.

One of the initial spaces to be built will be **a couple of rooms for volunteers**, providing accommodation for them during the construction of the rest of the complex.

5 - VOLUNTEER TRIP

TOB has organized numerous volunteer trips involving over 500 participants from around the world who have taken part in the After-School and News Hour programs. Following the competition, these volunteers will also be offered the opportunity to **participate in the construction of the new Educational Center, that is planned to start this August 2023.**

This incredible volunteer experience is **open to anyone**, and all the details can be found on the NGO's website and a specialized platform linked below:

www.teachonthebeach.org/volunteers/
www.volunteerworld.com/es/review/teach-on-the-beach

Moreover, Archstorming is **supporting the winning team in joining the construction of their own project by covering the volunteer trip fees for two weeks** (valued at 190€ per team member) additionally to the first prize.

Don't miss out on this amazing chance to make a difference and leave your mark on the world!



Arash Aliabadi
DAAZ Office

Arash Aliabadi is an Iranian architect with an impressive portfolio of projects and awards, including being shortlisted for the prestigious Aga Khan Award for Architecture and winning the Building of The Year Award 2023 by Archdaily. His firm works on diverse projects ranging from furniture design to architecture, landscape, and urban design.



Joelle Eyeson
Hive Earth

Joelle Eyeson, co-founder and managing director of Hive Earth Studio, is a prominent figure in the world of sustainable construction, with over a decade of experience in the field. As a passionate advocate for environmentally-friendly building practices, she co-founded Hive Earth Studio in 2018 to promote the use of rammed earth as a sustainable building material in Ghana and beyond.



Anna Schweiger + Jaap Willemsen
Archifair

Anna Schweiger and Jaap Willemsen, co-founders of Archifair, bring their expertise in sustainable architecture and social impact projects to the jury. Archifair focuses on ecological building projects in underdeveloped regions. They have successfully completed two outstanding mud projects in Ghana: the mudLIBRARY and mudCAFETERIA.

THE JURY

Our diverse jury board features professionals with expertise in sustainable architecture, earth construction, and social impact projects. Their collective knowledge and experience will guide the competition, inspiring participants to develop innovative and eco-conscious designs. We are privileged to have these esteemed experts evaluate entries, ensuring exceptional designs are chosen for their positive impact on communities and the environment.



Beatriz Inglés

Universidad Europea

Beatriz Inglés is an esteemed architect specializing in sustainable urbanism and construction. She serves as the Director of the online Master's program in Sustainable Architecture and Bioconstruction at Universidad Europea. As a founding member of WEA architects, Beatriz has built a strong international reputation through her award-winning sustainable design projects.



Alberto Figueroa

Alberto Figueroa Arquitectura

Alberto Figueroa leads an architecture studio specializing in cutting-edge, sustainable projects across Europe and West Africa. His portfolio includes impactful educational projects like the Abetenim school in Ghana, in collaboration with NKA Foundation, and work with NGOs such as Pen to Paper Ghana and TEAM4 Ghana.



William Agbo

Teach On The Beach

William Agbo, once a student at Teach On The Beach (TOB), now serves as the NGO's Director. He leads the transition to permanent, self-owned facilities, ensuring the continuity and growth of educational programs for local children. William's first-hand experience with TOB and his dedication to fostering community development will bring unique insights and understanding of the project's goals and needs.



Michaela Škopová

TOB Volunteer

Michaela Škopová is the talented designer behind the classroom under construction at TOB's new Educational Center. One day, while volunteering with TOB, she drew a sketch that caught William's attention, leading to her involvement in designing the classroom. Her experience in Busua makes Michaela an invaluable jury member, ensuring the competition outcomes align with the project's vision and real-world requirements.

THE WEBINAR

This **Archstorming Webinar Series** will be an informative and engaging online event that aims to provide participants with valuable insights into sustainable architecture, earth construction, and social impact projects. Throughout the series, several speakers that form part of the **jury board** will share their knowledge, experiences, and case studies, showcasing the potential of innovative architectural solutions and environmentally-conscious design. This webinar series will not only help participants deepen their understanding of the competition themes but also inspire them to create transformative designs for the future.

For all the information about the webinar, including final dates and times when they will take place, how to access, as well as the possibility of having more webinars added to the series, please visit our website at www.archstorming.com/info



WEBINAR 01

William Agbo
Teach On The Beach

 Wednesday, May 3rd; 6PM GMT+2

"Teach On The Beach: Vision, Mission, and the construction of a Sustainable Education Center"

William Agbo will share TOTB's work, mission, and goals, focusing on their education center needs and construction. He will discuss his experience with rammed earth construction and the challenges it presents while sharing his vision for the new educational center and introducing the NGO Teach On The Beach.

WEBINAR 02

Joelle Eyeson
Hive Earth

 Wednesday, May 10th; 6PM GMT+2

"Building with Earth"

Joelle Eyeson will provide an in-depth look at rammed earth construction, discussing the advantages of using earth as a building material and the future of earth construction in Africa. She will also share practical examples of successful earth-based projects, highlighting their potential for sustainable development and community empowerment.



WEBINAR 03

Anna Schweiger + Jaap Willemsen
Archifair

 *Wednesday, May 24th; 6PM GMT+2*

“Study Case: mudLIBRARY & mudCAFETERIA”

Anna and Jaap will present the mudLIBRARY and mudCAFETERIA projects, showcasing how sustainable construction methods and international collaboration can create impactful community spaces. Through this case study, they will delve into the process of building with rammed earth, the cost efficiency, and the power of community-driven development. The presentation will also highlight the role of intercultural exchange in shaping and enriching the project's outcomes.



WEBINAR 04

Alberto Figueroa
Alberto Figueroa Arquitectura

 *Wednesday, May 31st; 6PM GMT+2*

“Study Case: NKA Foundation - School in Ghana”

Alberto Figueroa will discuss the “School in Ghana” project, a result of the international “4th Earth Architecture Competition” by NKA Foundation. He will share insights into local materials and construction systems, project redesign, and sustainable building practices, with a focus on rammed earth and the cultural connection to Ghana's local Kente textile.

AWARDS

Prizes totaling 10.000€ + CONSTRUCTION, broken down as follows:

1st PRIZE

6.000 € + PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

+ volunteer trip fees for two weeks¹ + official book + exhibitions and articles + certificate

2nd PRIZE

2.000 €

+ official book + exhibitions and articles + certificate

3rd PRIZE

1.000 €

+ official book + exhibitions and articles + certificate

2 x SPECIAL HONORABLE MENTION

500 €

+ official book + exhibitions and articles + certificate

10 x HONORABLE MENTIONS

+ official book + exhibitions and articles + certificate

In addition, the winning projects and finalists will be published in magazines, blogs or architecture web pages, social networks or the Archstorming website. A digital certificate of participation will be given to all contestants.

¹ Archstorming will cover the TOB volunteer trip package listed here. Archstorming may adjust this if there is any major change made by TOB before the trip starts. This is valued in 190€ per person and doesn't include flights, visa, transport or other expenses.

CALENDAR

APRIL 11, 2023 Early registration begins

MAY 11, 2023 Early registration closes

MAY 12, 2023 Regular registration begins

JUNE 1, 2023 Regular registration closes

JUNE 2, 2023 Advanced registration begins

JUNE 22, 2023 Advanced registration closes

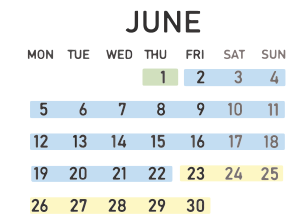
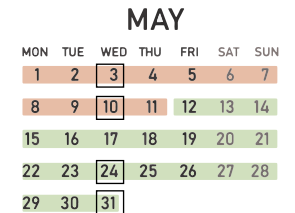
JUNE 23, 2023 Late registration begins





JULY 12, 2023 Submission deadline

JULY 13 - JULY 26, 2023 Jury decision

JULY 27, 2023 Winners announced

*No submissions will be accepted after the general deadline indicated above: 23:59:59 Los Angeles time (UCT / GMT-7) or PDT.



-  Early registration period
-  Regular registration period
-  Advanced registration period
-  Late registration period

Other relevant dates:

May 3 - Webinar 01. William Agbo

May 10 - Webinar 02. Joelle Eyeson

May 24 - Webinar 03. Anna Schweiger + Jaap Willemsen

May 30 - Webinar 04. Alberto Figueroa

August 1 - Construction of the new Educational Center starts. Volunteers are welcome to join anytime from then.

SUBMISSION MATERIALS

Participants must submit **two (2) A1 format boards (594x841 mm or 23.4x33.1 inches)** oriented either landscape or portrait with the registration number in the lower right corner.

The content of the boards is open, as long as the idea that the participants want to communicate is clearly expressed. However, it is important to detail the proposal with the materials and constructive systems thought. The boards must be delivered in JPEG or JPG format and the file name must be the registration number provided by the Archstorming Team (eg 432465423-1.jpg and 432465423-2.jpg for the two boards)

In addition, **one (1) description of the project** no longer than 400 words must be submitted. It must be submitted in PDF format and the file name must be the registration number provided by the Archstorming Team (eg 432465423.pdf)

All the materials must be submitted in the Submit section on the Archstorming's website.

<http://www.archstorming.com/submit.html>

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The jury will evaluate the projects based on the objectives stated in the pages 6, 7, 8 and 9 of this briefing. Specifically, it will be evaluated if the project meets the requirements in program, building techniques, materials and sustainability.

The jury is free to add other criteria that they consider important for the creation of the educational center.

A minimum of 50 proposals will be selected for the final round. Among these finalists, the jury will choose the winner, the second and third place, the 2 special honorable mentions, and the 10 honorable mentions.

FAQ

You can check the most common questions in the corresponding section on the Archstorming website:

<http://www.archstorming.com/faq.html>

Also, during the competition, all questions sent by email will be answered individually and uploaded to the section of the website mentioned above.

ELIGIBILITY

Any architecture student or professional architect can participate in Teach On The Beach: an Educational Center in Ghana, regardless of their nationality. Likewise, people from other disciplines can also participate, such as engineers, philosophers, sociologists, photographers, etc. It is not necessary to have an architect on the team, although it is recommended.

Teams may be formed by a maximum of four (4) members and a minimum of one (1).

All team members must be 18 years of age or older. The registration fee must be paid per team, regardless of the number of members (1-4 people). If a team or participant wants to participate with more than one proposal, it will be necessary to register twice (or as many times as proposals will be submitted), paying the full price corresponding to each registration.

Under no circumstances may jurors, the organization or persons directly related to the jury participate in this competition.

REGISTRATION

To register, fill the registration form in the correspondent page of our website.

<http://www.archstorming.com/register.html>

Once you complete it, you will be redirected to the payment page. Fill the details and complete the payment in order to finish your registration.

Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express credit or debit cards may be used. The Archstorming team will not have access to credit card details. Please provide the information on the card as it appears on it. Likewise, payments are accepted through Paypal.

Registration fees will depend on the registration date, and will evolve as follows:

EARLY REGISTRATION: 60€ + VAT

REGULAR REGISTRATION: 80€ + VAT

ADVANCED REGISTRATION: 100€ + VAT

LATE REGISTRATION: 120€ + VAT

VAT: 21%

Registration process must be completed on the official Archstorming website. In order for the registration to be successful, the team must pay the fee corresponding to the registration date. Once the registration and payment process have been completed, there will be no refunds.

Immediately after registration and payment, the Archstorming Team will send a confirmation email to the address entered in the payment form. It will include the work material (pictures, site plans, etc.), as well as the registration number. This number must be placed in a visible spot on the team's competition board, preferably

the lower right corner.

At the time of submission of the proposals, the registration number will be required to identify the team.

NOTES

All the projects that win a monetary prize will become property of Archstorming, and therefore give Archstorming all rights to the materials from that moment on. Archstorming reserves the rights to use any of the participating projects for exhibitions and publications, digital or paper catalogues and dossiers.

Archstorming will publish all materials given appropriate attributes to the authors.

Archstorming reserves the right to modify the proposals and text in order to better adapt them to any publication format, without changing the essence of the proposal itself.

The participant is responsible for using copyright-free images. Archstorming is not responsible for the use of protected images by the participants.

Archstorming reserves the right to make any changes in the rules of the competition (dates, requirements, etc.). It is the obligation of the participants to check on a regular basis the website of Archstorming to verify if the Terms and Conditions or the competition information have been modified.

TOB is in charge of the project construction. Archstorming is collaborating with the project but not responsible of

the construction. If for any reason they finally cannot build it, Archstorming will not be responsible of the fact.

The breach of the norms and terms defined in this briefing or in the Terms and Conditions of the website of Archstorming will result in the immediate disqualification of the team without any refund of the payments made.

Archstorming reserves the right to cancel this contest in case it does not reach a minimum number of participants, defined in the Terms and Conditions. In that case, Archstorming will return the full amount of registration fees to the participants enrolled at the time of cancellation.

<http://www.archstorming.com/terms.html>