

ORANGEFARM TOWNSHIP PROJECT



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In February 2004, 25 students of architecture are going to carry out two social projects in the township Orange Farm near Johannesburg, South Africa. The projects, which will be built 1:1 in South Africa by the students is part of a special course at the institute of housing and design at the Technical University of Vienna and will be supervised by Peter Fattinger, Sabine Gretner and Franziska Orso.

Township Orange Farm

Township Orange Farm is part of the administrative area of Johannesburg and is situated 30 km southwest of the city center. It is one of South Africa's poorest as well as one of its fastest growing settlements. The population is about 170.000. Poverty, high unemployment and illiteracy characterise the social situation. Since 1996 the city of Vienna and various sponsors have been supporting the construction and further extension of a school, Masibambane college, in township Orange Farm.

Project

Following a period of intense theoretical preparation and drawing up drafts in Vienna the students will spend one month in Johannesburg building the urgently needed public buildings for the township Orange Farm. They will do so by using simple, inexpensive, locally available building materials while applying innovative, experimental solutions.

Assignment No. 1: multipurpose „room“ for the Masibambane college

Masibambane college is more than just a school. After regular classes for children there are reading and writing classes for adults. Furthermore the school serves as a community center. The assignment is to add another place, which can serve all those purposes, is also suited to accommodate guests and can be used as playing area for the schoolkids as well.

Assignment No. 2: workshop for people with disabilities for Modimo o Moholo

The association Modimo o Moholo has been provided with a piece of land and a container near Masibambane college. This association engages itself in bringing people with disabilities together, who live in isolation and do not take part in social life. Amongst other things they make handcrafts together. The assignment is to build appropriate facilities suitable both as workplace and for social interaction.

The buildings are intended as prototypes, models to inspire creative solutions.

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Center of Architecture, Vienna (AzW)

Austrian state television (ORF) will be sending a report on the project and the "Vienna Center of Architecture" is planning an exhibition.





MULTIPURPOSE ROOM FOR THE MASIBAMBANE COLLEGE

Location

On the school premises of Masibambane college in Orange Farm, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Present state

Masibambane college is situated in Orange Farm near the train station, the municipal administration building and the police station. Besides a central administration building there are several classrooms enclosing two courtyards, an IT room, the science center and the Vienna center (large meeting room). One of the courtyards has a playground. At the entrance there is a fruitstand and a small booth for the doorman.



Requirements

As the school is growing constantly it needs spare rooms for classes as well as for adult education and community events. At the moment there is not enough infrastructure for the intense use of the open space.

The college is regularly visited by guests from all around the world, who, partly supporting the teaching staff, take part in school-life. At present these guests have to stay in hotels in Johannesburg or in teachers' homes.

There is only a minimum of sanitary facilities which are heavily used.

Project

The multipurpose „room“ will be used for extra-curricular open air classes and festive events. It will also include private areas which are suited to accommodate guests. Basic sanitary- and cooking facilities to serve all of these purposes need to be installed. It should be possible to use the structure from in- and outside as well as a playing possibility for the schoolkids.

Flexible furnishing is an essential part of the project.

Aspects of landscape architecture such as the utilisation of open spaces are also taken into consideration.

Construction

Locally available, inexpensive building material, such as corrugated iron sheet, wood or car tires will be used for construction. The objective is to develop and implement model solutions to technical and physical problems (humidity, heat, cold).



WORKSHOP FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FOR MODIMO O MOHOLO

Location

On the premises of Modimo o Moholo on the main road in Orange Farm, Johannesburg, South Africa

Present state

The association, which consists of approximately 40 people with disabilities, currently meets in the private home of Thandi Mjiyakho.

They work on different craft projects ranging from making baskets, sewing and knitting to crafting wooden caskets. Working in a group gives them a chance to chat, drink tea and escape from the isolation of their homes.

In May of 2003 the association was provided with a piece of land in Orange Farm and a container, which they use for storage.

These premises have to be built upon by November of 2004 by the association.

Requirements

As Thandi Mjiyakho's house is only about 25 m² in size, all the active members of the association cannot work at the same time. The house is used to store tools and materials. At an average about 12 members of the association are there.

There is no room for medical examinations, there are no cooking facility and only a minimum of sanitary facilities, which are subject to heavy use.

Project

The workshop will provide working space and will also be a meeting place for the members of the association. The workshop must include a storage area for material and tools, cooking facilities, sanitary facilities and an office, which can also be used for medical examination. Flexible furnishing and the creation of outdoor workspace are an essential part of the project. The size of the premises also calls for a landscaping project, which takes aspects such as the relationship to the nearby elementary school and residential area into consideration. Building without any barriers is a matter of course.

Construction

Locally available, inexpensive building material, such as corrugated iron sheet, wood or car tires will be used for construction. The objective is to develop and implement model solutions to technical and physical problems (humidity, heat, cold).

The existing container will be incorporated into the project.

Time schedule

Following a period of intense research the 25 students will start by drawing up drafts for the project in December of 2003. In January of 2004, detailed plans will be drawn up and last preparations made. The realisation of the project will take place in Johannesburg in February of 2003. Back in Vienna documentation will follow in March and possible exhibitions will be prepared.

Cost

The cost consists of the price of the building materials and the necessary tools, which will later be given to the school and to Modimo o Moholo as well as refunds for travel expenses (airfare, lodging, transportation) of the supervising team. Total cost is estimated at approximately **Euro 30.000,-**



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Local project assistance

Nina Ulrich | Manfred Banholzer (Austrian Trade Commission - SA)

Consultant structural engineering: Adolf Merl

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_Special zitation and name dropping in press-releases

Media

The daily newspapers „der Standard“ and „Kurier“ have already published articles about the project. The Austrian State television ORF will send a report on the project. Further articles in print medias will follow.

Projects which have been realised as part of courses at the Institute of Housing and Design / Vienna University of Technology

The Institute of Housing and Design focuses on the experimental implementation of architectural and furniture designs through models and prototypes.

The opportunity of testing their designs on the objects themselves and then making changes and adaptations is a great challenge for the students involved. The direct reference to the human body plays an important part in these architectural experiments. The students try to refrain from their habitual manner and use materials in a new context.

keks (2000): is a flexible, modular dismountable multifunctional sculpture, which was planned and built by 25 students supervised by peter fattinger.

die als einzelteile gefertigten sechs funktionseinheiten küche, bar, dj-unit, lounge, bühne und ofen fügen sich vor ort zu einer skulptur im öffentlichen raum zusammen. die funktionen werden durch ihre form von aussen ablesbar und lösen in ihrer benutzung die grenzen zwischen innen und aussen auf. um den kreislauf des experiments von entwurf, über den bau bis zur nutzung einer architektur zu schliessen, wurde [keks®] von den beteiligten studenten im winter 2000 drei wochen lang als glühweinstand am karlsplatz betrieben, mit djs bespielt und sogar von zwei studenten durchgängig bewohnt.

im sommer 2001 war [keks®] im rahmen der ausstellung „unsichtbare architekturen_systemerweiterung im mq_areal“ sechs wochen lang im hof und dann am vorplatz des museumsquartiers installiert. bei der internationalen musikmesse „popkomm“ in köln diente das [keks®] als messestand und mobile_home der österreichischen musikindustrie. im september 2001 wurde [keks®] dann als infostand für das „ars electronica festival“ am hauptplatz in linz installiert, bevor es dann im dezember 2001 wieder am karlsplatz in wien als weihnachtsstand diente. <http://www.move.to/keks>



tmp_homebase (2001): is another 1:1 project to improve the living situation for asylum-seekers, who have to wait for their visa in containers with very few space and no private sphere at the Vienna international airport for some weeks.

im rahmen einer lehrveranstaltung am institut für wohnbau / tu_wien entwickelten 25 architekturstudentInnen unter der initiative und leitung von peter fattinger ein konzept, das, durch den einbau intimer schlafkoben, einer wohn/koch/medien landschaft und eines 12 meter langen wohnmoduls mit verschiedenen nischen für individuelle nutzungen im gangbereich, die bestehenden container für ihre temporären nutzer funktioneller und vor allem wohlicher macht. auf rund 100 m2 gewährleisten die einbauten, die von den studenten in handarbeit selbst hergestellt wurden, den flüchtlinge ein wenig abwechslungs und privatsphäre während ihrer ungewissen wartezeit.



surface (graz 2003): is a temporary 1:1 intervention at the facade of palais thienfeld in graz where 40 students designed and built a vertically installation in which they lived right at the borderline between public and private for three weeks. Surface was part of the project „SELFWARE.politics of identity“ within the scope of „graz 2003 european cultural capital“

von den studierenden wurden bereits in wien verschiedene funktionsmodule zum kochen, schlafen, essen, arbeiten und entspannen sowie ein dj-pult, eine public-lounge ein werkstatt-bereich und sämtliche sanitäreinrichtungen vorgefertigt und dann in graz in ein gerüstsystem eingebaut.

die funktionsfassade wurde 3 wochen lang durchgehend von den beteiligten studierenden bewohnt, weiterentwickelt und mit verschiedenen veranstaltungen bespielt.

„surface“ wurde im rahmen einer lehrveranstaltung unter der leitung von peter fattinger und michael rieper realisiert und ist teil des kulturhauptstadt graz 2003 projekts „selfware_politics of identity“.





Project team

Peter Fattinger, Sabine Gretner, Franziska Orso and 25 students of Vienna University of Technology

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