

3rd Prize

1st Prize - 2nd Prize - 3rd Prize - Honourable Mentions -
Special Mentions - Finalist

ARAHINALY3005

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Women's House

The design process begins with an assessment of the terrain in which we are operating, and its potential for being with the right materials to reduce the impact of a hot climate, which high temperatures bring to women who have not had an interest in their own houses in urban and suburban areas and whose needs had been overlooked and not done. The space we have designed therefore aims to become an area free of any inequality and position, being easily available to women, but an existing space that helps to connect with the local reality, respecting their life in a setting of respect for the well-being of each and every one.

The concept is based on the idea of an extended closed and rigid mobile building behind a wall which is not green, but like the side of a woman's body. In fact, if the building opens to be a large assembly block, we can approach it as a wall around a central courtyard, which organizes the space in a central area characterized by natural elements like trees, vegetables and various uses of space. The conceptual design can be design a more open space, so that more could enter through the narrow openings along the side of the building, which takes on the role of a window, bringing people together inside, giving them the opportunity to speak with strength.

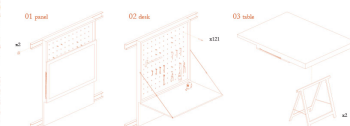


Building process



Furnishing device

We have designed a device assembled primarily for the laboratory, which serves as furniture in relation to the essential use intended for the elderly resident care. Inside the building, the structure is oriented to the wall because of the side of the building, which serves as the structure of the building, which is called "wall" while when closed they can be placed on a horizontal plane. The assembly of these devices is done by the rubber feet table so that they are mounted from the table to the wall, and the device is a table to be placed during activities inside the building.





DESIGN

In Senegal, the figure of the woman is historically linked to the activities of the home, even if today, despite the domestic aspect being the main domain in which the figure of the woman is included, at least 36% of women are in the labour market, without their participation being recognised as equal to that of men. The affirmation of women's role outside the home is at the basis of the cultural revolution that the whole world is facing, more or less easily, but as a first step towards solving the undeniable Gender Gap that still hasn't been totally eliminated by any country in the world. Our design process so begins with an awareness of the situation in which we are operating, and in particular by acting with the right sensibility to achieve the creation of a civic centre, which helps women today to leave their homes and take an interest in their own future in a place that welcomes them and makes them feel strong, independent and not alone. The space we have designed therefore aims to become an oasis free of any inequality and prejudice, being mainly available to women, but not excluding anyone who wants to interact with this small reality, respecting those who live it, setting the goal of creating a fair involvement of men and women. The concept is based on the idea of an externally closed and rigid reality, hiding behind it a world which is

find yourself in front of large access openings, which surprisingly frame an internal area characterised by curved surfaces that blend together, welcoming and inviting you to enter. We consciously decided not to design a main access point, so that users could enter through the various openings along the sides of the building, which takes on the role of a catalyst, bringing people together inside, giving them the opportunity to simply walk through. The interior opens up into a large space defined by round walls, contrasting with the building's rigid exterior. This central distributive area takes on the function of an internal square thanks to a large courtyard around which various activities will be carried out, mainly concerning dialogue and confrontation, but it can also simply be used as a rest and pause area. We have entered in a fluid place, which welcomes and envelops those who enter it, creating an intimate and protected atmosphere. The spaces which in plan are complementary to this important and unique access are therefore the rooms: there are four areas in which the different activities are developed, designed to be exploited for the most varied uses thanks to a highly versatile character. The theme of versatility is taken up and consolidated through the furnishings: we have designed a device intended primarily for the laboratories, which varies its function in relation to the occasional use dictated by the activity carried out. Inside the building, this element is attached to the wall because of two rails on which these furnishing structures slide, which can take on the function of benches/tables when applied "open", while when closed they can be applied as a blackboard/panel. The reversibility of these devices is shown by the utilize they take on when they are removed from the tracks to be used outdoors: this element becomes a table, designed in particular to be operated during activities carried out outside the building. In fact, our project also extends to the context in which our architectural artefact is collocated: we have thought of a simple space, but one that is functional and can be used at its best. The proposed interventions concern the planting of some

improving the quality of the outdoor space, thanks above all to the shaded areas that will be created. Another detail of the exterior concerns the basins placed at two of the corners of the building, in which rainwater is collected thanks to an efficient roof system, and from which the inhabitants can draw.

MATERIALS

The technological solution we adopted is very simple and effective, based on the combination of technical data such as the climatic conditions of the place and the need to design an ecological and sustainable structure, and the symbolic aspect we decided to reserve for the building. We therefore chose to make use of materials characteristic of the place, in particular the structure is made of sandbags covered with raw earth. This decision was dictated by two important factors: the economic aspect, in fact sandbags are a material that is easily available locally and very cheap, and another advantage of this construction technique concerns the thermal insulation properties of these walls: it is in fact an excellent solution for keeping the internal temperatures considerably lower. In addition, the roof is made of two layers, one of earth and one of bamboo, to ensure proper ventilation and water collection, and guarantee the necessary thermal insulation even on horizontal surfaces.

CONSTRUCTION

Our project is designed to be built with local materials in self-construction. This choice, as well as favouring a low environmental impact, allows easy maintenance and a very economical result thanks to the local population's knowledge of the area and their full cooperation during the construction process. Moreover, the main work consists of filling the sandbags, and since this is a very simple action, it

planned to be made from local materials, mainly rosewood, and our model allows it to be easily assembled, disassembled and reassembled. This device is in fact characterised by a system of joints which, combined with the lightness of the material, allows for the rapid passage of the different uses it can assume.

Interview to the team



Can you tell us more about your team?

We met at university and through transversal experiences in the field of architecture. Annachiara, Elena and Alberto attended "Architecture and cultures of the project" at Luav University of Venice, while Gloria attended the "Architecture, built environment, interiors" course at Politecnico di Milano. It was the first time we participated in a competition together, we have different visions and points of view, but we realized after this experience that our skills complement each other.

What was your feeling when you knew you were among the top projects of the competition?