



Jacmel is a region of south Haïti that was severely touched by the 12th of January 2010 earthquake. Many buildings were destroyed due to the intensity of the earthquake but also to the lack of knowledge towards construction and the poor local financial possibilities.

Over time, the constructions have become weaker, leading to this terrible loss of life. It appears essential to facilitate mutual exchange of know-how, rehabilit/reconnect (with) forgotten traditional techniques, (suggestion : facilitate the approach to) re-learn modern techniques, and think together of sustainable solutions

“Le Soleil” (the sun) is a precursor to a series of school buildings near Jacmel.

The fundamental principles were :

- to foster open discussions between all partners
- to support professional development and informal formations,
- allow a decent and secure access to the school
- promote sustainable development

The choice of a simple building with readily-available materials appears the best way to create a parasismic and anti-cyclonic building, using the construction method that is mostly used in Haiti : chained masonry.

RECONSTRUCTION OF PRE-SCHOOL “LE SOLEIL”, JACMEL, HAITI



A. ARCHEN avec P. DURAND, M. ISRAEL et N. DUNNEBACKE ARCHITECTS



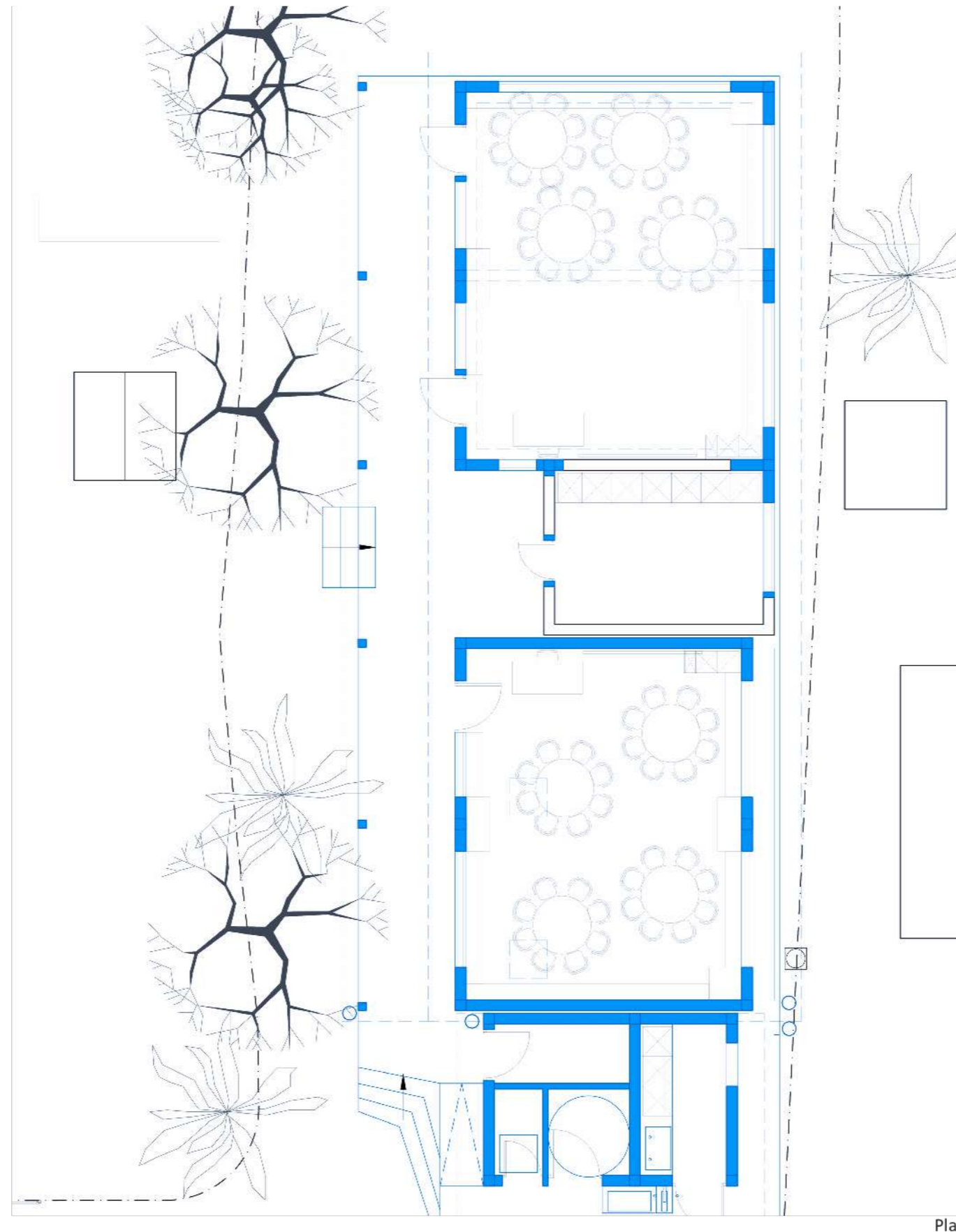
chained masonry



Ironwork



Play of lights



Plan

“Cooperate for fair and sustainable development initiatives in active collaboration with disadvantaged people or communities. This process shall follow principles of human solidarity, non-discrimination and will be aimed at promoting their self-sufficiency”
Hasselt Charter N°1;

Despite the difficulty to create a sustainable activity in this unstable geographical, climatic, economical and political context, the Service of Management to Pre-Schools Centers of Jacmel (SGCPI), a private Haitian association, directed by M. SAINT-GERMAIN, tries to offer/facilitate the access to education to young children, even if it's a remote area of Jacmel. For over 20 years, he has been managing 52 preschools (kindergardens) in Jacmel and the countryside.

Through 2011, and with the support of l'IRCOD, Architects Without Borders-France identified 10 kindergardens as highly dangerous for students and teachers. These schools, as well as the administrative center of SGCPI, had to be rebuilt. This study led to several projects out of which "Le Soleil" appeared/was chosen as a priority.

Le Soleil is located in a landlocked zone called "Carrefour Penguin", on one of the river sides that is not accessible by any bridge, totally deprived of any public infrastructures (such as water, electricity, sanitary installations, roadways...). He had to become totally self-sufficient.

Some community meetings allowed the local population to understand, integrate, and discuss the project (people such as dignitaries, political personalities and religious representents (Catholics, voodooos), student's parents, children, neighbors... were represented)

Workmen have been hired directly on the zone, which helps to avoid a blocking situation of the project, and, most importantly, to spread good construction practices in the zone.

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*“Endorse the integration of post-emergency relief interventions into long-term sustainable development strategies”
(Hasselt Charter N°9);*



natural ventilation



Rain waters collector



Cross section

This modest project had the ambition to impact the community regarding several different levels :

- essentially on the promotion of good construction practices in chained masonry and anti-cyclonic buildings
- promot self-sufficient building and awareness towards environmental issues

The natural isolation of the site, due to it's localization, was therefore an occasion to offer ecological and autonomous solutions for this school, and organize awareness workshops with neighbors and children :

. rain waters : a rain water collector, a storage tank for the dry season, filters to clean the water and drinking water filters have been planned

. natural ventilation : Because of the extreme level of heat of tropical countries, the ventilation system has to be considered from the start of the conception of the building. The roof is endowed with a raised roof on the ridge, that pushes out the warm air. Furthermore, the vegetation remains the best way to guaranty a maximum freshness during the day.

. individual sanitation : it's integrated with a septic water tank, and reversed in a sump.

. energy : solar panels are installed

. the kitchen is ensured with a improved coal stove (improved coal-bricks don't come from deforestation but from carbonization and compression of vegetal waste)

- and for the children, learning of elementary hygienic rules

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awarness meeting

DATA SHEET

Project name :

RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT OF PRE-SCHOOL CENTER "LE SOLEIL"

Location : **Carrefour Pingouin, Jacmel, HAITI**

Project lead : Niclas DUNNEBACKE,
Philippe DURAND,
Myriam ISRAEL,
Annelise ARCHEN

ASF International Member Organization :

Architectes Sans Frontières-France

Clients : **Service de Gestion des Centres
Précolaires de Jacmel**

Partners : **Institut Régional de Coopération
pour le Développement - Alsace**

Total Costs : **49 130€**

Main Sources of Funding : **IRCOD-Alsace**

Project Start Date : **17 december 2012**

Project End Date : **17 décembre 2013**

*"Promote the facilitation of trans-national dialogues
and long-term partnerships with and within the less
affluent countries"
(The Hasselt Charter N°7);*

Throughout the time, and with the expatriation of ASF volunteers in June 2012, a relation based on trust was built between all different partners. Regular meetings (on internet or in Haiti), have offered the opportunity for all the persons involved in this project, to discuss freely and find solutions, even over "taboo" issues (such as the one of the hard toilet)

A trust relationship between all partners has been build with the time and the expatriation of a ASF volunteers in June 2012. Regularly meeting in Haiti or by internet, and punctual missions of other engaged collaborators in Haiti permitted to discuss freely, and step by step, find solutions on certain taboos (like the hard toilet subject).

Even if "Le Soleil" is already done, two years later the partnership is following, and others projects continue.

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