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Kente House Building Workshop was a project conceived in response to the 2014 Mud House Design Competition organised by the NKA Foundation, a nonprofit social arts organisation based in the US. The success of the scheme has led to a subsequent opportunity to construct the prototype dwelling in July 2015 at the Abetenim Arts Village, a 6 acre site of NKA Foundation located 40km Southeast of Kumasi in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. The workshop will be run and lead by Hannah Wood, Katharina Manecke and Angeles Hevia. Hannah and Katharina are final year students on the 'Political Architecture: Critical Sustainability' programme at the Kunstakademiet Arkitektkskole, København, and Angeles a Spanish-Chilean architect specialising in environmental building technology who originally initiated the project during 2014.

The Kente House Building Workshop has a total budget of £12,000, which will enable the purchase of construction materials and payment of local labor costs. Currently the intended funding strategies are two: the first one is based on international funding, for which we remain waiting for results and the second one is based on fees from participants attending the workshop. The project will run in two stages: the first one from July 3rd until August 19th followed by a second starting on August 27th until October 9th.

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Kente House is a 120m² laterite rammed earth single-family prototype dwelling designed for Kente cloth weavers [traditional trade within the Ashanti region in Ghana]. It incorporates environmental features such as 40cm local laterite earth walls, Kente cloth shading devices, ventilated roofs and EW orientation to harness local winds and reduce overheating, among others. The premise of the project is to rethink earthen construction in the context of a quickly urbanising West Africa. Currently, 98% of the houses in the Abetenim region in Ashanti are made of earth but remain in disrepair due to poor construction and erosion. In the region many stereotypes continue to persist regarding earthen methods of construction, in part due to the loss of skills in tradesmanship during the past few decades. Kente House Building Workshop's main objective is to re-establish and promote the use of rammed earth in contemporary Ghanaian construction. We aim to demonstrate that rammed earth can not only provide quality, it can also produce an affordable and aesthetic architecture that makes use of available local materials and vernacular, traditional construction techniques which are fast being lost.



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KENTE HOUSE BUILDING WORKSHOP

ANGELES HEVIA, HANNAH WOOD, KATHARINA MANECKE

Our project follows the following issues listed in the Hasselt Charter:

aimed at promoting their self-sufficiency;

The Kente House Building Workshop collaborates with disadvantaged communities in Ashanti, Ghana, encouraging the use of local, existing resources rather than importing high-embodied-energy expensive materials. It aims to promote self-sufficiency by encouraging the construction of a low energy consumption design prototype, which incorporates a low-budget, bioclimatic architecture through thermally comfortable houses within the African continent along with providing employment, improving local labor skills, encouraging productive and fruitful work and contributing to local growth and development.

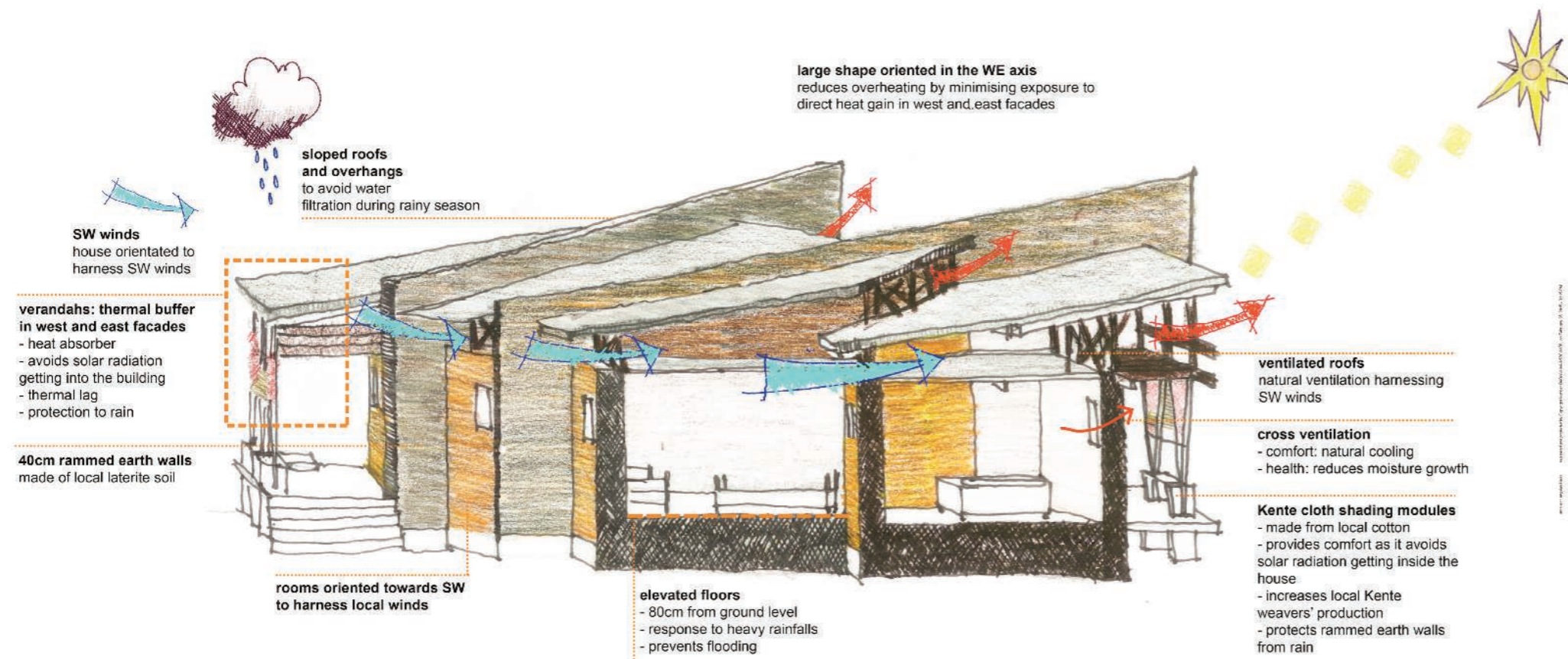
It intends to improve Ghanaians' lifestyle demonstrating an awareness of social responsibility while enhancing people's wellbeing with regards to housing. Our learn-by-doing project intends to promote human solidarity since it gathers participants from countries such as Egypt, Belgium, Serbia, Austria, Italy, England, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Spain and Chile to promote sustainable development within rural Africa.

Kente House Building Workshop is a global instance that promotes reciprocal feedback between architectural professionals from around the world and Ashanti locals to create a prototype, which responds to local architecture becoming a potential solution to be replicated within rural Africa.

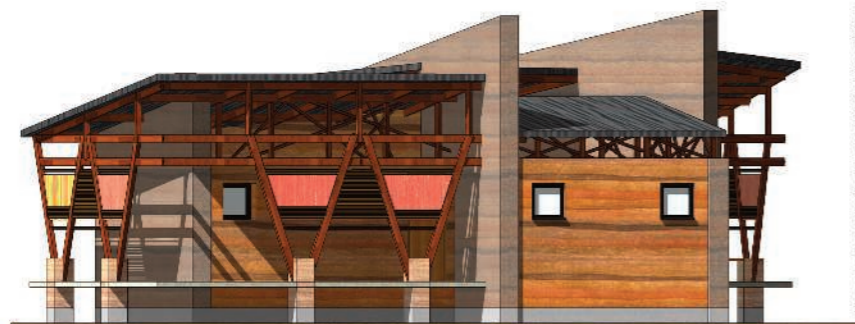
The aim of Kente House Building Workshop is to promote local labour and skills, providing a learning-by-doing, hands on experience of contemporary rammed earth construction for local apprentices and international architecture students alike.

to local values, to the cultural specificity and responsive to the natural environment;

Kente House is a collaborative project which works to innovate with rammed earth - one of Ghana's oldest building methods - while aiming to destigmatise its use in domestic construction.



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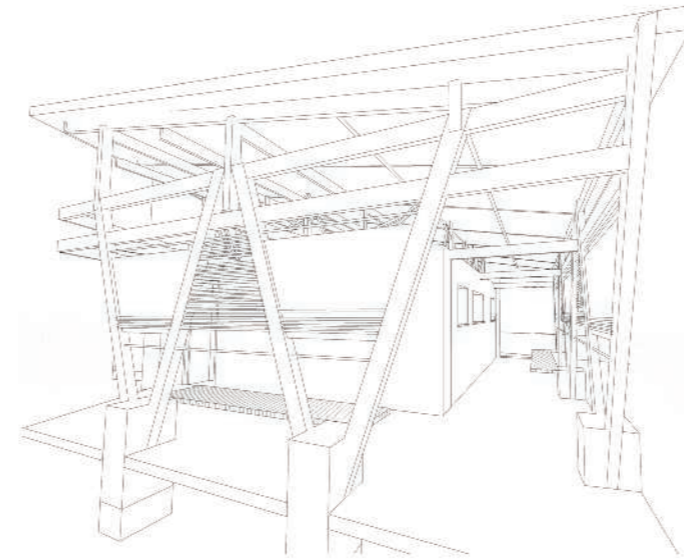
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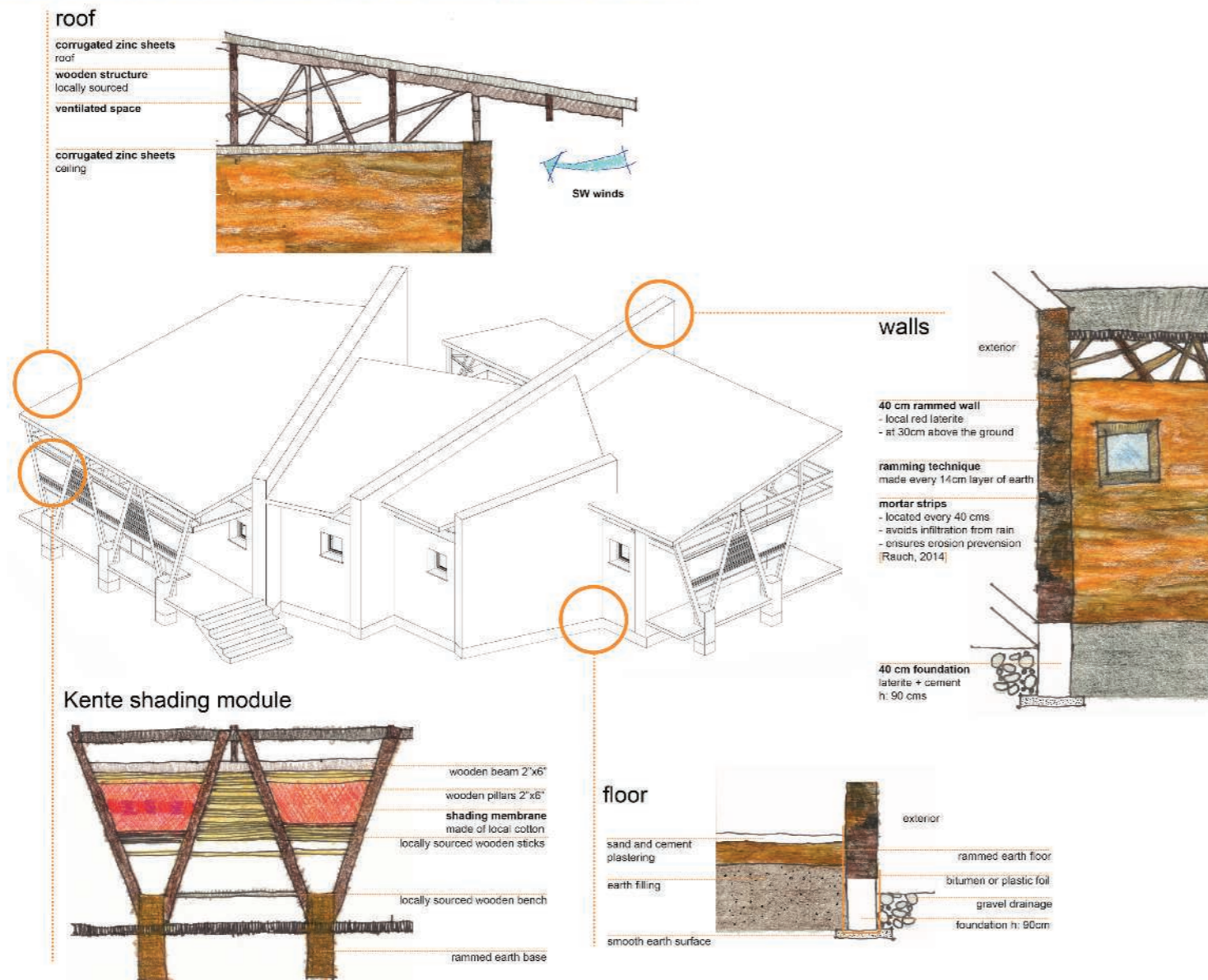
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It aims to demonstrate that building with earth can only provide quality and affordable, aesthetic architecture that makes use of available local materials and vernacular construction techniques which are fast being forgotten. The house also incorporates traditional heritage elements such as Kente cloth, known as 'nwentom' in Akan, which is a type of silk and cotton fabric made of interwoven cloth strips and is native to the Akan indigenous group of the Ashanti Kingdom. The house builds on this rich cultural legacy to promote a sense of pride in local making tradition by incorporating it as shading devices. The Kente House Workshop incorporates participants which understand technology seen from a global perspective, willing to introduce the best of it into a local community in rural Africa. We observe what happens globally to find the available technology, we take the best of what has been done the past few years and we use what we have around us, all of this allows us to create sustainable architecture.



adequate and dignified habitat for all as a

We believe architecture should be accessible by everyone regardless of economical condition. The construction of Kente House is a way of showcasing a low-budget prototype unit that can be replicated within Ghana and other West African countries as a means of promoting wellbeing during times of accelerated growth. It provides a solution for low-income families to become homeowners of affordable dwellings and reduce their reliance on imported, expensive materials. Kente House is designed to be a showcase of contemporary, aesthetic earth construction techniques as both functional and affordable in the development of West Africa also incorporating a cultural adequacy through its design. Its large, fragmented shape with rooms enclosed by protruding walls enables independent, unique compartments oriented in different directions, enhancing privacy and individualisation to each occupier of the house. This shape tackles one of the main problems in the traditional Ashanti compound house, which is the 'lack of privacy in the large urban home' [Abu Marmah] and that 'the accommodating households are certainly not always happy with sharing' [Anne Baeyens] enabling habitability. We believe in these ways Kente house is more suited for 21st century living.

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