



KAIRA LOORO | ARCHITETTURA PER LA PACE  
**CONCORSO DI  
ARCHITETTURA  
CASA DELLE DONNE**  
per promuovere l'uguaglianza di genere in **Africa**



Kaira Loro Architecture Competition 2021

# WOMEN'S HOUSE

to eliminate all forms of discrimination

to promote gender equality and female empowerment in Africa.

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# INTRODUCTION

Rural development, the breaking down of barriers, a reduction in inequality, and the creation of a sustainable and stable environment all depend on the hard work which every member of society invests, both directly and indirectly, in the collective. Gender equality is crucial to the construction of an equitable society in which everyone, on the basis of their background and resources, can make a fundamental

contribution to sustainable development.

The challenge of the competition is to design a women's house that aims to promote gender equality as a key factor in rural development. The structure must be a space dedicated to hosting activities which focus on education, raising awareness, and developing the village in the name of equality.

# THEME OF THE COMPETITION

The objective of the competition is the creation of a “Women’s House” within a symbolic and environmentally friendly structure that is inspired by local traditions. A space in which associations and members of society will be able to meet and discuss the topics of equality and human rights, guaranteeing involvement and emancipation of the female community in favour of the region’s social, economic, and political development.

Gender equality is, in fact, not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary condition for a prosperous world. Ensuring that everyone has equal access to education, medical care, and employment, as well as a presence in decision making processes, will promote a sustainable economy that benefits society and humanity as a whole.

Today, in Sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania, and western Asia, due to financial, political, and cultural issues, young women are often prevented from being able to attend primary and secondary school. In North Africa, women hold less than one fifth of all paid jobs in non-agricul-

tural sectors and in only 46 countries do women hold more than 30% of parliamentary seats.

Precisely because gender equality is crucial to the future of new generations, it is number five on the list of “Sustainable Development Goals” established by the United Nations for the purpose of eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence, safeguarding the rights of all genders, and providing social protection services, thus guaranteeing female participation at all levels of decision making.

Therefore, to promote this issue and safeguard women’s rights, the theme of the competition is a “Women’s House” which must integrate itself with the surrounding environmental and cultural context and promote the values of gender equality, reinterpreting them from the perspective of ecological and sustainable architecture that can be self-constructed with the local community.

A photograph showing two women standing on a dirt path next to a dry, rocky riverbed. The woman on the left is wearing a red skirt and a dark top, while the woman on the right is wearing a white top and a patterned skirt. They appear to be looking towards the dry water source. The background shows a hilly, arid landscape with sparse vegetation.

# IN MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES WOMEN REPRESENT MORE THAN 60% OF THE LA- BOR FORCE IN AGRICULTURE

However they don't have the same accessibility  
to education, economic resources, logistics  
and men's work equipment



# GENDER EQUALITY

The competition focuses on gender equality and emancipation of women, based on the fundamental laws of human rights, as well the declarations and conventions of international organisations including the United Nations and the African Union.

Below are several of these fundamental tools (made available to participants):

- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women;
- Gender Mainstreaming Strategy For Promoting Gender Equality;
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human & Peoples Rights and Woman's right in Africa;
- Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa;
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

According to these declarations and conventions, "gender" refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male or female and to the relationship between men and women and between boys and girls. These attributes, opportunities, and relationships are a social construct and are learned through processes of socialisation. Gender determines that which is expected, permitted, and valued in a man or woman in a given situation. In most societies, differences and inequalities between men and women exist in terms of assigned responsibility, type of employment, access to and control of resour-

ces, and decision-making opportunities. Other important criteria for socio-cultural analysis include class, race, poverty level, ethnic group, and age.

On the other hand, equality between men and women (gender equality) refers to having equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities. Equality does not mean that men and women are the same, but that the rights, responsibilities, and opportunities of each do not depend on the fact they have been born male or female. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs, and priorities of both men and women are taken into account while recognising the diversity of different groups. Gender equality is not, therefore, an exclusively female issue, but one that should fully interest and involve men as much as women. Equality is both a human rights issue and an indicator of sustainable development which focuses on people in observance of international human rights.

## Global Gender Gap

One of the fundamental parameters for evaluating inequality/equality between genders in specific contexts or sectors, is the "Gender Gap", an index based on the weighted average of the population. In 2020 the Global Gender Gap index stood at 68.6%. This means that, on average, the gap to be closed in order to obtain global gender equality is currently 31.4%. An index of 100% would indicate perfect equality between men and women.

In the past few years, out of 149 countries, 101 have improved their index and 48 have seen their index remain unchanged or decrease. Unfortunately, no country as of yet has achieved gender equality. Iceland has achieved the best result with an index of 82%.

The global “top ten” includes four countries in Northern Europe (Iceland, 1st; Norway, 2nd; Finland, 3rd; and Sweden, 4th), one Latin American country (Nicaragua, 5th), one East Asian country in the Pacific region (New Zealand, 6th), three other countries in Western Europe (Ireland, 7th; Spain, 8th; and Germany, 10th), and one country in Sub-Saharan Africa (Rwanda, 9th).

Until now Sub-Saharan Africa has closed 68% of its gender gap. This result represents significant progress as compared to the previous year, reducing the number of years required to close the gender gap, now estimated at 95. Among the 33 countries on the continent, 21 have improved their index and 12 have regressed as compared to the previous year. The most progress has been registered in Ethiopia, a country that reduced its gap by almost 5% in one year and has currently closed 70.5% of its overall gender gap. Only three countries have achieved educational equality: Botswana, Lesotho, and Namibia. Gender equality in terms of health and survival is relatively advanced in most countries, while life expectancy remains low for both men and women in many countries.

Women’s participation in the workforce is relatively high in most Sub-Saharan African countries. In Burundi, Guinea, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone there are at least as many women as men in the labour market, and in Senegal, the country with the lowest productivity, at least 36% of women are in the labour market.

In terms of political empowerment, aside from Rwanda (the only

country with a parliament made up of 50% women), 21 countries have between only 20% and 30% of parliamentary seats held by women. In Nigeria only 3.4% of the members of parliament are women. Similarly, women represent between only 8% and 18% of ministerial positions in 15 countries. Rwanda, South Africa, and Ethiopia are significant positive exceptions, with more than 48% of their parliamentary ministers being women.

Senegal, the country which is the focus of this competition, has an overall index of 68%, ranking it in the 99th position globally.

Equality in politics and decision-making opportunities has a very low index of 33%, however within the average for Sub-Saharan countries, while economic opportunities in general are at 55%.

Participants in the competition will be provided with data sheets regarding the gender gap in various sectors worldwide, the data sheet for Senegal, and reports by the relevant ministries.

Resources:

Un Women, Africa Union, Ministry of Women (Senegal), UN Global Compact, World Forum, International Women’s Day.



# **NO COUNTRY IN THE WORLD HAS STILL REACHED GENDER EQUALITY**

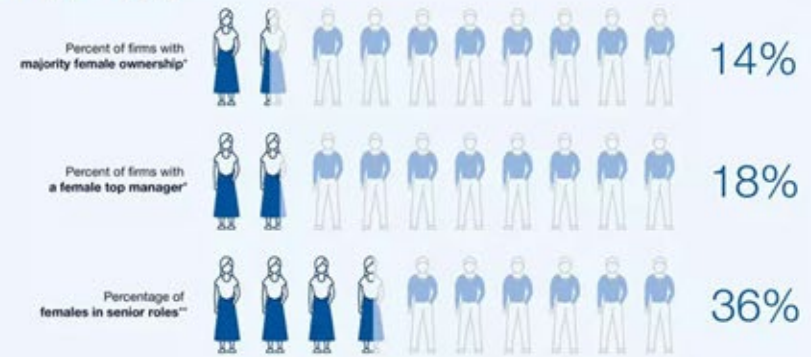
Out of 149 countries, 101 have improved their score in recent years and 48 have seen their percentage unchanged or reduced.



### Education gap

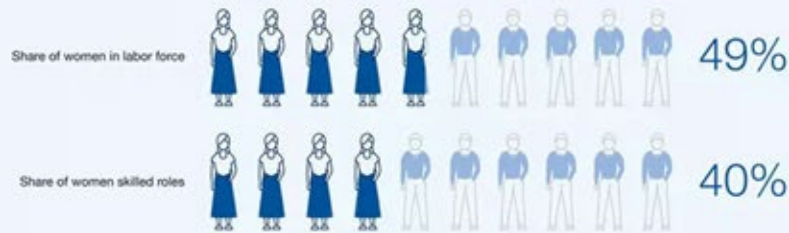


### Workplace gap

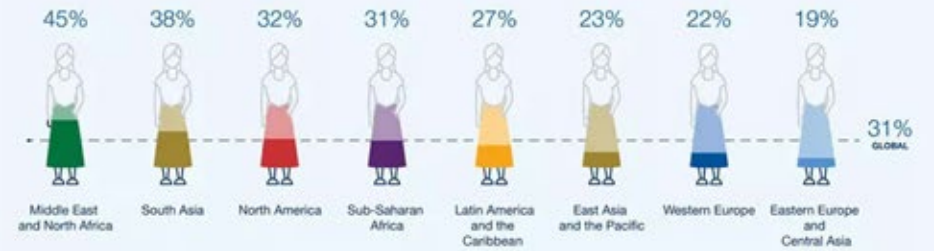


\*Based on the number of companies using the EY Global Access to Capital 2019. \*\*Based on data from the global, listed, public companies database through the world economic forum, government and other organizations. \*\* If organizations use other data, and therefore not from their website, note, note and organization, corresponding to EY Global Access to Capital 2019.

### Workplace gap



### Share of women who suffered intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence



### Women's Political Empowerment



### Sub-Saharan Africa, Top 10



# Senegal

rank **99**  
out of 153 countries

score **0.684**  
0.00 = parity  
1.00 = parity



Senegal score  
average score

## Global Gender Gap Index

Economic participation and opportunity  
Educational attainment  
Health and survival  
Political empowerment

	2006 score	2020 score
Economic participation and opportunity	n/a	99 0.552
Educational attainment	n/a	128 0.888
Health and survival	n/a	66 0.976
Political empowerment	n/a	32 0.320

## COUNTRY SCORE CARD

	rank	score	avg	female	male	f/m	distance to parity
<b>Economic participation and opportunity</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>0.552</b>	<b>0.582</b>				
Labour force participation rate, %	125	0.607	0.661	36.5	60.1	0.61	
Wage equality for similar work, 1-7 (best)	29	0.723	0.613	-	-	5.06	
Estimated earned income, int'l \$ 1,000	126	0.433	0.499	2.1	4.6	0.46	
Legislators, senior officials and managers, %	112	0.301	0.356	23.2	76.8	0.30	
Professional and technical workers, %	127	0.405	0.756	33.2	66.9	0.50	
<b>Educational attainment</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>0.888</b>	<b>0.954</b>				
Literacy rate, %	145	0.614	0.899	39.8	64.8	0.61	
Enrolment in primary education, %	1	1.000	0.757	79.6	71.3	1.12	
Enrolment in secondary education, %	1	1.000	0.954	39.4	35.9	1.10	
Enrolment in tertiary education, %	131	0.676	0.931	10.3	15.2	0.68	
<b>Health and survival</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>0.976</b>	<b>0.958</b>				
Sex ratio at birth, %	1	0.944	0.925	-	-	0.97	
Healthy life expectancy, years	80	1.049	1.034	60.1	57.3	1.05	
<b>Political empowerment</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0.320</b>	<b>0.239</b>				
Women in parliament, %	13	0.719	0.298	41.8	58.2	0.72	
Women in ministerial positions, %	71	0.297	0.255	22.9	77.1	0.30	
Years with female/male head of state (last 50)	46	0.053	0.190	2.5	47.5	0.05	





Working conditions of female traders in the project area



About 70% of women in the project area he spends 80% of his time on domestic activities

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## National and Regional Context

The location of the project is southern Senegal, a country in north-west Africa on the Atlantic coast, bordering Mauritania, Mali, Gambia, and Guinea. The country has a population of 16 million people, concentrated primarily around the capital, Dakar. The southern region, south of Gambia, is known as Casamance due to the presence of the Casamance River, and is subdivided into three administrative regions: Ziguinchor, Sedhiou, and Kolda, with a total of 1.5 million inhabitants. The central region, where the project is to be developed, is Sedhiou. This region, created in 2008, is one of the least developed in the country, with an average rate of urbanisation equal to 10% and a poverty rate of 92%. This region is prevalently agricultural and the villages have, on average, 1500 inhabitants. The capital of Sedhiou has a population of approximately 200,000 people.

## Local Context: the Tanaff Valley

The Tanaff Valley is an area in the Sedhiou region which is part of the Goudomp department. It is named for the village of Tanaff, which is most representative financially and demographically and has a population of approximately 9,000. The valley is basically a 480 km<sup>2</sup> river basin around which 5 towns are situated: Baghere, Tanaff, Dioudoubou, Simbandi Brassou, and Niagha, for a total of approximately 80,000 people of various ethnicities: Mandinga, Pulaar, Wolof, Mandjak, Diola, and Balante. The most common religion is Islam, with a small popula-

tion of Christians and approximately 1% animists.

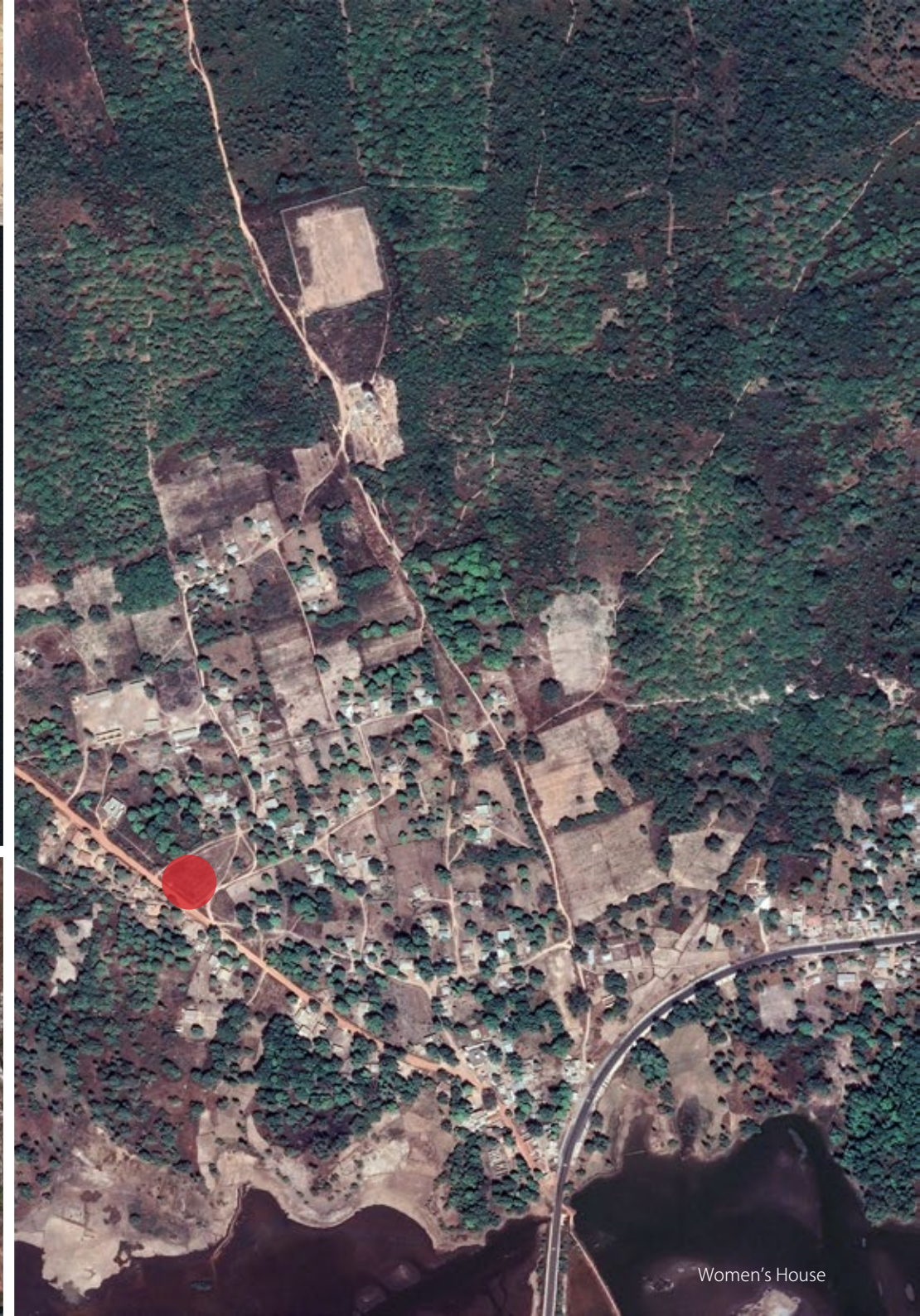
The valley is characterised by a rural environment with a quality of life that is among the lowest in the region due to the absence of and inaccessibility to primary public services. The national road, N6, which runs from Ziguinchor to Kolda, crosses through the valley, providing a glimmer of development to the villages along the road, which benefit in terms of transportation and commerce. The capital of the region, Sedhiou, is far from the area because it is located on the other side of the Casamance river and therefore the services that it offers, like hospitals, institutes, and public offices, are hard to reach, making travel to Kolda or Ziguinchor (70 and 150 km away respectively) preferable. The valley is subject to desertification and salinisation due to climate change. The rare phenomenon of saltwater intrusion has caused the loss of over 10,000 hectares of arable land and the contamination of aquifers which are the source of approximately 60% of infections and illnesses.



Africa / Senegal



Baghere



Women's House

## Baghere

The “Women’s House” will be built in the municipality of Baghere, bordered in the north by the Balmadou forest, in the south by Guinea Bissau, in the east by the town of Niangha, and in the south/north west by the municipalities of Simbandi and Dioudoubou. The village of Baghere has a spiritual-religious orientation due to the presence of the tomb of the famous marabout Younouss AÏDARA, who made a lasting contribution to the promotion of peace and prosperity in the region. From a geomorphological perspective, the terrain is predominantly clay-sand. There are a series of ferruginous tropical plateaus, formed by small lateritic rocky outcrops and small argillaceous valleys along tributaries of the Casamance river, with a slight slope and which lend themselves to rice farming.

The low temperature varies from 16°C in December to 23°C in June, with high temperatures varying from 31°C in August to 43°C in May and a humidity of up to 90%. Winds are periodic with hot dry air blowing from east to west from November to March, and with trade winds blowing from west to east from March to May. The monsoon is present from June to October.

The municipality has an average annual rainfall of 1,095.7 mm spread between June and October. The dry season ranges from seven to ten months and alternates with the rainy season.

The municipality occupies a total area of 134 km<sup>2</sup> with, currently, approximately 22,000 inhabitants distributed among its 23 villages. The village of Baghere is home to almost 2,200 people, of which 53% are women and 58% are minors. Women’s associations which organise village development activities and agro-commercial activities are present in the project area. Nevertheless, there is no female presence in

the highest ranks of politics and administration.

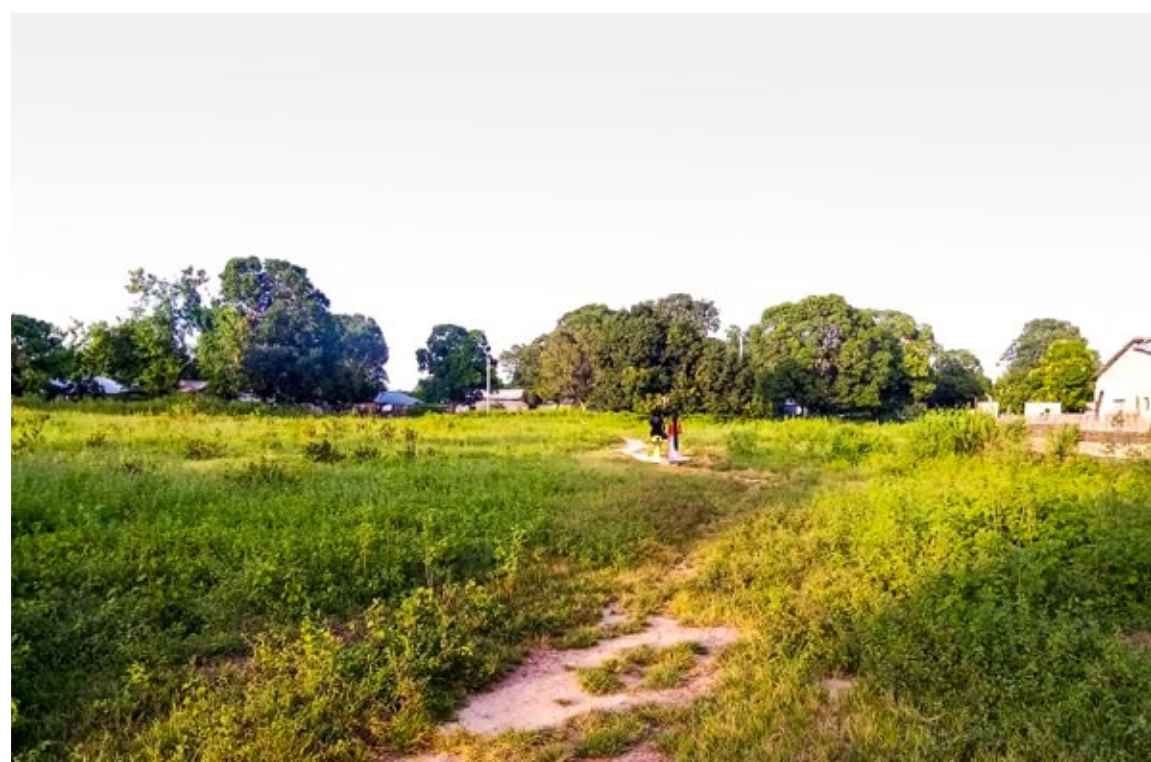
## The Ideal Lot

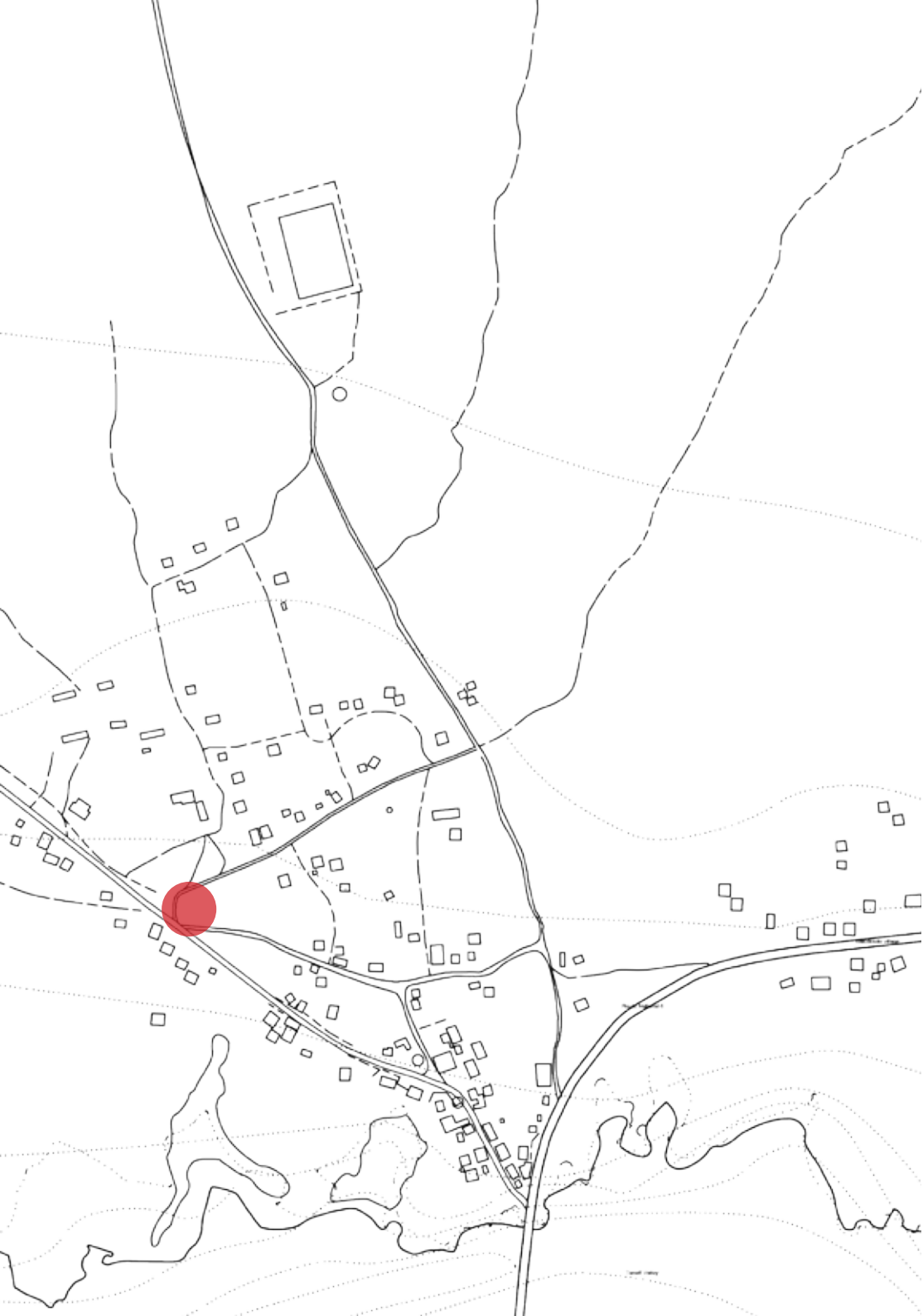
The Women’s House will be constructed in the village of Baghere, along one of the village’s primary axes in order to encourage its use. The ideal lot has been identified on the main road leading from Baghere to the small port of Sandinieri, from where it is possible to reach the capital of Sedhiou across the Casamance River.

The ideal lot is positioned at the edge of road and has a flat terrain, with sandy-lateritic soil and with acacia and mango trees measuring a maximum of 15 metres tall. Within a radius of 600 metres there are the Baghere municipal offices, the French school, the Arabic school, the mosque, and the on-call medical service.

The area measures approximately 2500 square metres and the architectural project can be positioned anywhere within it and facing any direction, as long as it adheres to the characteristics indicated in the following chapter.

The ideal site which has been identified is not obligatory. In fact, participants are also free to position their projects in different lots within the village and along the primary axes.







## State of Development of the Benefiting Community

The quality of life in the Sedhiou region is among the lowest in the country. This is due to lack of development, distance from the primary urban centres, lack of resources and infrastructure, and persistent climatic phenomenons which strike rural communities in particular, where living conditions are closely tied to agro-pastoral activities.

The situation is even more deficient in the project area because it is a periphery of the capital, where approximately 90% of the popula-

tion lives in poverty and 98% of families dispose of their wastewater in the road, in nature, or in open-air landfills. The sanitary conditions are among the worst in the country and there is almost zero access to filtered water: 86% of people live in homes without a source of potable water; 70% of the population lives in homes without access to electricity.





# THE PROJECT

The objective of the “Women’s House” is to host meetings, seminars, labs, and any other activity that could be useful in reducing forms of discrimination, strengthening and promoting gender equality, creating awareness and knowledge, and stimulating involvement by all parts of society. The project will be self-constructed with the benefiting community and will therefore need to meet certain construction criteria, such as:

- be easily built with sustainable technologies that can be adapted for self-construction and which do not require the use of heavy vehicles or complex machinery;
- make use of natural and/or recycled materials available in the area so as to limit the environmental and economic impact caused by transport of materials and to generate revenue within the local context;
- be integrated with the socio-cultural context of the area by reinterpreting and respecting its traditions.

The structure will need to accommodate the following activities, which will correspond to certain areas that have been designed to be independent from or connected to one another, depending on the concept of the designer.

1. **Management and Organisation.** The structure will need to have an administrative space in order to allow for the management and organisation of activities.

2. **Dialogue.** One of the project’s objectives is to encourage communication between institutions and associations in the area. Therefore, there will need to be a space in which to hold meetings that can accommodate a maximum of 10-15 people.

3. **Collective Activities.** The fundamental objective of the project is to promote gender equality and human rights through the organisation of awareness raising activities, seminars, labs, and exhibitions. These activities will need to have a flexible space at their disposal, one that meets their individual needs and makes it possible for them to potentially be conducted simultaneously.

The structure will need to respect the following characteristics:

- maximum closed area of 200 square meters, where the aforementioned activities will be conducted;
- only a ground floor;
- architectural spaces must be flexible and adaptable;
- cost of construction materials must not exceed €18,000;
- favour the use of natural materials which are available in the surrounding area and the use of recycled and scrap materials;
- promote sustainable and environmentally friendly construction technologies;
- be easily self-constructed;
- adopt solutions which favour the reuse of natural resources.

The competition details can be downloaded in various languages from the website's "download" section, as can detailed documents on gender equality.

Participants will be sent (after registration) additional materials necessary for the project's development:

- data sheets, prices, images, and characteristics of the primary materials;
- maps of the village of Baghere and the valley;
- overview of the Tanaff Valley;
- images of the village of Baghere, Tanaff, and the valley;
- CAD and photographs of the construction site;
- Layouts of the designs.

## THE CONSTRUCTION

The winning architectural project will be built in the village of Baghere, in Senegal. The choice of materials and technologies must be consistent with the principles of sustainability and self-construction, in that the project will be built by volunteers as part of a humanitarian initiative alongside associations and the benefiting communities. This approach will be crucial to encouraging appropriation of the project and for associating it with educational activities on environmentally friendly and sustainable construction technologies that are capable of preserving the environment, responding to climate change, and improving quality of life.

Creating a project that uses local materials which are accessible to all, both from a financial and logistical standpoint, is important to ensuring that the technology can be acquired and reproduced by the community in order to encourage the development of the villages.



# AWARDS

## 1st PRIZE

€ 5,000

**Internship at Kengo Kuma & Associates**

**Construction** in Senegal

Ministerial adoption as a model project

Sharing with Un Women and Africa Union

Exhibitions and articles

Publication on the official book

Certificate

## 2nd PRIZE

€ 1,000

**Internship at Miralles Tabgliabue EMBT**

Sharing with partners

Exhibitions and articles

Publication on the official book

Certificate

## 3rd PRIZE

€ 500

**Internship at SBGA**

Sharing with partners

Exhibitions and articles

Publication on the official book

Certificate

## 2 HONORABLE MENTIONS

Sharing with partners

Exhibitions and articles

Publication on the official book

Certificate

## 5 SPECIAL MENTIONS

Sharing with partners

Exhibitions and articles

Publication on the official book

Certificate

## 20 FINALISTS

### 20 TOP 50

Sharing with partners

Exhibitions and articles

Publication on the official book

Certificate

All awarded projects will receive a digital certificate and will be published in the official book of the “Kaira Loro 2021 - Women’s House” competition, presented and discussed at national and international institutions and authorities (Ministries, Un Women, Africa Union); transmitted to magazines and architecture portals; exhibited in events, fairs and seminars. The methods of disbursement of the prizes are defined in the conditions.

# JURY



**Kengo Kuma**

Director of Kengo Kuma & Associates  
Tokyo & Paris, Japan & France

Founder and Director of Kengo Kuma & Associates. Today he's recognized as one of the masters of sustainable architecture, Kengo Kuma is also one of the most important representatives of Japan on the contemporary architectural scene. He has received numerous awards and honors including the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture.



**Benedetta Tagliabue**

Director of Miralles Tagliabue EMBT  
Barcelona & Shanghai, Spain & China

Director of Miralles Tagliabue EMBT, founded in 1994 in collaboration with Enric Miralles. Among his most important projects are the Parliament of Edinburgh, the Santa Caterina market in Barcelona and the Spanish Pavilion at Expo 2010 in Shanghai. It was awarded the prestigious RIBA International "Best International Building of 2011" award.



**Salimata Diop Dieng**

Minister of Women, Family, Gender and  
Child Protection  
Dakar, Senegal

Madame DIOP DIENG is Minister of Women, Family and Gender of the Republic of Senegal and President of the National Movement of Republican Women. It is the focal point of African Women and Solidarity (FAS), it has carried out the defense of women victims of violence in case of armed conflict.



**Lehou Victoria Maloka**

Director at WGDD  
African Union Commission  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Director of the WGDD at the Commission of the African Union. Lawyer with over 20 years of international work experience.

She joined AUC in 2015, after an illustrious career in various fields, particularly in the fields of human rights, gender equality, electoral democracy, constitutional practice, conflict resolution and peacebuilding.



**Urko Sanchez**

Director at Urko Sanchez Architects  
Nairobi & Madrid, Kenya & Spain

Director of Urko Sanchez Architect, an architectural firm based in Kenya and Spain renowned for excellence in design. He is interested in social improvement, often contributing to projects aimed at disadvantaged communities. The studio is working primarily in East Africa, but has undertaken projects across the region and beyond.



**Oulimata Sarr**

Director at UN Women WC Africa  
Dakar, Senegal

UN Women Director for West and Central Africa, covering 24 countries. Oulimata Sarr supports governments in adopting international standards to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women in collaboration with organizations and civil society partners. UN Women works to make the ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls.



**Agostino Ghirardelli**

Studio Blengini Ghirardelli Architects  
Milan, Italy

He is founder and director of the SBGA studio. He deals with planning, environmental sustainability and inclusion. He collaborates with public institutions and superintendencies, and participates as a speaker at international meetings and university courses (MIPIM 2019, University of Vienna, Trieste and ULI, Europe Young Leaders Summer School in Milan).



**Azzurra Muzzonigro**

Sex and the City  
Waiting Posthuman Studio  
Milan, Italy

He holds a Master in Building and Urban Design in Development from Bartlett UCL and a PhD in Urban Studies from Roma Tre University. He is currently curating a public program and research titled Sex & the City, a gender perspective on urban space. In 2015 he founded Waiting Posthuman Studio.



# REGISTRATIONS

It is possible to participate in the competition individually or in teams with a maximum of 5 members. The fee varies depending on the team's registration period, as indicated below.

Early registration - €60/team

Normal registration - €90/team

Late registration - €120/team

The registration procedure is described below:

1. go to the "registration" area on the competition's website;
2. fill out the requested fields, completing the team's registration and paying the registration fee with credit card, debit card, or PayPal;
3. when the registration procedure is complete, the team leader will receive a confirmation e-mail with the team's ID (to be used for participation in the competition), the downloads, and the link at which to upload the final design by the established deadline.

Attention: If the registration confirmation e-mail does not arrive within 2 days after completing registration then check in your spam folder and make sure that the e-mail address [info@kairalooro.com](mailto:info@kairalooro.com) is not marked as spam.

We recommend completing the registration procedure and sending designs well in advance of the deadlines.

**[ GO TO REGISTRATION FORM ]**

# CALENDAR

## Early registration

Opening of early registrations | January 16, 2021

Closing of early registrations | February 28, 2021 (h 11.59 pm GMT)

## Normal registration

Opening of normal registrations | 01 March 2021

Closing of normal registrations | March 28, 2021 (h 11.59 pm GMT)

## Late registration

Opening of late registrations | March 29, 2021

Closing of late registrations | April 30, 2021 (h 11.59 pm GMT)

FAQ response deadline | May 8, 2021

Submission deadline | May 30, 2021

Evaluation of the jury | June 13-20, 2021

Publication of results | June 27, 2021

Note:

The distinction between "early", "normal" or "late" registration does not involve any influence on the delivery date of the documents, which is uniquely fixed by the delivery date of the documents.

The registration fees constitute a donation for the construction of the winning project.

# SUBMISSION MATERIALS

Following registration, participants will be sent several templates.

- **n. 1 A1** (841 x 594mm) technical sheet in PDF format, 300dpi, maximum size 15 mb, in English, horizontal orientation.

The sheet must illustrate the following:

- a. design idea;
- b. graphic plans (floor plans, sections, views, diagrams), in scale and sufficient to describe the project;
- c. 3D views (renderings, sketches, or photographs of models);
- d. Building process.

File name: A1\_TeamID

(ex. if the group's "TeamID" is 123456, the name of the file must be: A1\_123456).

- **n. 1 report** (text only), A4, in English, pdf format.

No images may be included within the report.

The report must briefly describe the following:

- a. Design idea (maximum 4,000 characters, not including spaces)
- b. Use of materials (maximum 1,000 characters, not including spaces)
- c. Mounting/construction process (maximum 1,000 characters, not including spaces)

- d. Estimate of the cost of materials (maximum 500 characters, not including spaces).

File name: A4\_TeamID

(ex. if the group's "TeamID" is 123456, the name of the file must be: A4\_123456).

- **n. 1 cover**, JPG format, minimum size 1920x1080 pixel, 300dpi, horizontal orientation, maximum size 15 mb.

The cover is the image that most represents the project (rendering, sketch, etc.) and will become the icon of the exhibit and/or publication.

File name: Cover\_TeamID

(ex. if the group's "TeamID" is 123456, the name of the file must be: Cover\_123456).

Templates of the cover, of table A1, and of the report will be sent to participants following registration. The text in the designs must be concise and written exclusively in English. The designs cannot contain names or references to the designers. It is mandatory that the "team ID" appear in the file name, as described in the template. All designs must be sent in the specified formats. Files sent in formats other than those specified will be excluded from the competition.

# OBJECTIVES OF THE COMPETITION

The objective of the competition is to select a structure that is capable of representing the theme of gender equality, through a sustainable and environmentally-friendly language, integrated in the context, and which can be of help in the development of the local community. The construction of the winning project will be self-financed by the registration fees of the competition and will be carried out by the Balouo Salo Non Profit Organisation, which will conduct further studies to verify its technological and financial feasibility, together with its compatibility with the cultures and traditions of the area.

The organisation reserves the right to make changes to the design and to involve the winners in the analyses and/or phases of construction, regardless giving credit to the winners for the design of the structure. The winning project will be adopted by the Ministry of Women in Senegal as a model for its eventual reproduction in the country and will, furthermore, be shared with UN Women Africa and WGDD Africa Union to promote gender equality and the emancipation of women in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The winning projects are understood to be donated freely and adop-

ted by the Balouo Salo Organisation, which will be able to share them with and donate them to other organisations, partner institutions, and ministries working for development in Africa and for the promotion of gender equality.

The competition is entirely not for profit and all proceeds (obtained from the participation fee) are donated to construction of the Women's House and to the organisation of seminars on "Gender Equality" and "Human Rights" in order to help raise awareness among communities and associations in the area.

The objectives of the competition are also:

- to raise awareness in the international community regarding the role of architecture in development, gender equality, and human rights;
- to give international visibility and opportunities for professional growth to the winners through the distribution of prizes.

# EVALUATION CRITERIA

Projects will be evaluated by a jury which will take into consideration the following parameters:

## 1) **Quality of the Architectural Design**

Architectural quality of the design proposal and conformity with the theme and with the activities to be conducted within the structure.

## 2) **Construction Process and Materials**

Study and innovation of the construction technology compatible with that of the materials for the realisation of an exemplary, sustainable, and environmentally-friendly structure that can be self-constructed.

## 3) **Flexibility and Integration With the Context**

The structure's ability to adapt to the various activities foreseen by the project, to reinterpret the cultures and traditions of the area, and to integrate with the environmental context in which it will be inserted.

Before being presented to the jury, the submitted projects will be pre-selected by the scientific committee on the basis of the evaluation criteria, correspondence with the prerequisites of the competition, technological and financial feasibility, clarity of presentation, compatibility with the theme, and architectural quality of the design, also in accordance with the aforementioned evaluation criteria.

Special mentions will be awarded to those projects that are not in the top three, are part of the pre-selected projects, and receive the highest number of mentions from the jury. The honourable mentions are chosen by the organisation, the president of the jury, and, by various components of the jury. The special mentions and honourable mentions are not cumulable and cannot replace the top three.

# KAIRA LOORO

Kaira Looro is a non profit initiative organised by Balouo Salo. The name is made up of words in the Mandinka language, a very common ethnic group in Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, and Mali. The meaning of the words is “build peace” or “architecture for peace”, which does not relate merely to “creating architecture”, but also to a state of mind and an approach aimed at building a solidarity-based environment in which peace reigns. A sentiment that materialises through architecture. The initiative was established with the objective of raising awareness in the international scientific community regarding the topics of emergency and humanitarian aid, while at the same time raising funds for the development of humanitarian projects.

The objective of the competition is also to discover and launch young talented architects into the international landscape, giving them visibility through the competition’s communications channels and an opportunity for professional growth through prizes, publications, and internships in prominent firms.

As an initiative that is connected to the topics of development and humanitarian aid, the competition promotes an environmentally friendly and sustainable approach. This incentivises research into

simple technologies that are capable of providing a tangible answer to climate change, making use of local materials and principles of self-construction.

The first edition of Kaira Looro was organised in 2016 with a workshop, which subsequently became a competition which is held to this day. Kaira Looro enjoys the support of high calibre international architectural firms and prominent institutions which share the values and themes of the competition and participate in the selection and realisation of the projects.

Kengo Kuma has been president of the jury since 2017 and in 2020 was named an honorary spokesman for Balouo Salo.

In the past years, the following took part in the jury:

Blengini Ghirardelli, Architecture Sans Frontières International, Mpheti Morojele Architects, CNAPPC, University of Cape Town, Kwame Nkrumah University, Un-Habitat Nairobi, Urko Sanchez Architects, University of Tokyo, ASF Italia, Mass Design, Pilar Diaz Rodriguez, Kaan Architects, Stefano Boeri Architetti, Mohn+Bouman, X Arkitekten, Arcò, Juri Troy, Studio Libeskind.





Winner of Kaira Loro 2018 - Project by Giacomo Spanio,  
Sergiu Cernea, Paolo Reali, Nicola Puppini from Italy



Winner of Kaira Loro 2017 - Project by Natalia Serafin,  
Paulina Gorecka, Anita Wisniewska from Poland.

# BALOUO SALO

Balouo Salo is a charitable organisation established with the objective of finding a solution to humanitarian and environmental emergencies through the development and donation of projects capable of improving the quality of life of needy communities in developing countries. The words “Balouo Salo” are in the Mandinka language, the primary ethnic group in the area in which the organisation operates, and were chosen by a local village chief. Their meaning is “a bridge for life”, because through its activities, Balouo Salo creates bridges of solidarity which generate life and prosperity.

Some of the most recent projects developed in southern Senegal are:

- the construction of solar wells equipped with a water purification and sterilisation system in order to reduce infant mortality (Sambacounda and Sanoufily);

- the design of a dam for the recovery of 10,000 hectares of rice paddies that are necessary for the nutritional and financial livelihood of 80,000 people (Tanaff Valley);

- the construction of a 1200 square metre multi-purpose cultural centre to promote training activities and preserve local cultural resources as a factor in sustainable development (Tanaff);

All of the projects are realised and self-constructed with the direct involvement of the community in order to encourage appropriation and self sufficiency. The projects are financed entirely through private donations and fundraising initiatives like “Kaira Loro”.

For more information about Balouo Salo, please visit its website at [www.balouosalo.com](http://www.balouosalo.com)









# FAQ

For the entire duration of the competition, up until the deadline for the submission of materials, as specified in the calendar, participants may ask for clarifications by sending an e-mail to [info@kairalooro.com](mailto:info@kairalooro.com), within the time frame established by the official calendar.

The organisation will answer contestants' questions and publish them in the "FAQ" section of the competition's website. The answers will be published in English. Questions similar to those already present in the FAQ will not receive an answer.

# CAUSES OF EXCLUSION

- a. Materials that include text in a language other than English.
- b. Materials that include names or references to the designers. The team ID is to be used as the team's indicative reference.
- c. File names that do not adhere to the format specified in the announcement. (see "materials")
- d. Incomplete materials or materials that do not adhere to the specifications provided in the announcement. (see "materials")
- e. Materials received within time frames or via methods other than those specified in the announcement. (see "calendar")
- f. The team does not include at least one member between the ages of 18 and 35 at the time of registration.
- i. Any participant disseminates material related to his or her team's

submission prior to the selection of the winners.

# RULES

1. Participants must respect the deadlines and methods indicated in this announcement, as well as all of the instructions regarding the materials to be submitted.
2. Participants can be students, graduates, and freelance professionals; it is not necessary to be an expert in architectural disciplines or to be on a professional registry.
3. Participants can organise themselves into teams or individually.
4. If participating as a team, with a maximum of 5 members, at least one of the members must be between the ages of 18 and 35 (at the time of registration). For the winning projects, the organisation will request documentation that verifies the prerequisites, under penalty that the prize be annulled.
5. In the case of individual participation, the contestant must be between the ages of 18 and 35 (at the time of registration).
6. There are no restrictions for members of any team regarding provenance from different countries, cities, or universities.
7. Paying the registration fee allows for the submission of just one project.
8. It is possible to submit more than one project by paying more than one registration fee, determined in accordance with the registration deadlines on the calendar. In this case we recommend changing the project leader.
9. The sum of each cash award includes transaction fees and taxes and

does not vary according to the number of team members. It will be paid to the team's representative and is intended as a reimbursement for the costs of participation in the competition.

10. The internship prizes are intended for all team members, regularly enrolled in the competition. The duration, conditions and period of the internships depends on the availability of the host studio. The award must take place within one year of the end of the competition and the dates are set by the host studio. Travel expenses are the responsibility of the winners. The award cannot be transferred to a person who was not a member of the project team.

The 1st Internship Award at Kengo Kuma & Associates will take place in Tokyo, Japan.

The 2nd internship award at Miralles Tagliabue Embt will be evaluated by the study on the basis of the skills and portfolio of the team members.

11. The decisions of the jury and of the scientific committee are incontestable.

12. Participants are prohibited from disseminating material related to their submissions prior to the publication of the winners.

13. Participants are aware of the humanitarian goals of the initiative and that their registration fee will go entirely to the Balouo Salo Association in the form of a donation.

14. In the event of non-compliance with the established rules, the participant and his or her team will be automatically disqualified from the competition without the possibility of having their registration fee returned.

15. The authorship of each project will be attributed in equal measure to each of the team members.

16. Under no circumstances will the registration fee be reimbursed.

17. It is not possible to modify the composition of the team after having completed registration.

18. By participating, all contestants agree to the rules, terms, and conditions of the competition.

## NOTES & CONDITIONS

a. The winning project is a donation to the Balouo Salo International Organisation, which therefore acquires a perpetual and exclusive license, with international, permanent, unlimited, and irrevocable validity, to use, execute, adapt, modify, publish through any media outlet, exhibit, reproduce, and distribute the project (even for marketing and publicity purposes), perform editorial revisions, create new works based on this one, as well as grant sub-licenses of the project or portions of it to third parties, in any way, form, or technology without limitations on time or location.

b. The subsequent realisation of the winning project will be entrusted to volunteers from the Organisation or to third parties deemed fit, notifying the winners accordingly.

c. The winning designers are expected to cooperate with the Organisation in the event that further documentation is required for exhibits and/or publications.

d. In the event of construction, the Organisation reserves the right to make changes to the project in order to improve its feasibility and affordability. In no way does the eventual construction of the win-

ning project represent an obligation on the part of the Organisation towards the winning team or towards third parties.

e. The Organisation reserves the right to use all submitted projects for exhibits or publications.

f. The submitted projects must be new and original and be the intellectual product of the participants themselves. Participants are prohibited from submitting projects that do not correspond with these characteristics, therefore relieving the Balouo Salo Organisation of any responsibility in the event that the submitted materials are not the intellectual product of the individual or of the team and that he, she, or they do not, therefore, have unlimited rights to the project, including that of submitting it to the competition according to the established rules.

g. All necessary and available material for the competition can be found at [www.kairalooro.com](http://www.kairalooro.com), regardless of whether or not one has registered in the competition.

h. The competition's organisation reserves the right to change dates or other details exclusively for the purpose of ensuring a better execution of the competition, providing advance notice and communication through all of the communication channels it has access to.

i. The Balouo Salo Organisation is not responsible for any malfunctions, technical difficulties, or failure to receive materials. In an effort to avoid overburdening the system, participants are invited to complete the registration process and to upload their projects comfortably in advance of the deadline and to notify the organisers of any potential technical issues.

j. The processing of participants' personal information, performed both manually and via computer, is only within the scope of participa-

tion in the competition, in compliance with applicable laws including Legislative Decree 196/03 and ss.mm. on the part of the Balouo Salo Organisation, which will process the information as sole Data Controller. Providing personal information is optional, but a refusal to do so will result in the impossibility of participating in the competition.

k. This competition is in no way a prize-based contest pursuant to art. 6 of D.P.R. 430/2001.

l. Participants are responsible for the truthfulness and accuracy of the personal information they have provided, and the organiser assumes no responsibility for inaccurate or false information. Regardless, the organiser, with respect for privacy laws, reserves the right to verify the data provided, requesting a copy of the personal identification card used at the time of registration.

m. The Balouo Salo Organisation is not responsible in the event that a participant or participants provide inaccurate or false personal information.

n. If the number of projects submitted exceeds 500, a pre-selection may take place.

o. By enrolling in the competition, participants accept the terms and rules of participation.

# JURY

**KENGO  
KUMA**  
& Associates  
tokyo

EMBT

Urko — Ar —  
Sánchez chitects

African  
Union   
Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD)

 UN  
WOMEN Africa

   
REPUBLIQUE DU SENEGAL  
Un Peuple - Un But - Un Fois  
Ministère de la Femme, de la Famille,  
du Genre et de la protection des Enfants

**SEX  
AND THE  
CITY**

**stoga** | **BLENGINI  
GHIRARDELLI**

# ASSOCIATION PARTNERS



**ELASA**  
European Landscape Architecture Student Association



**ASELE**  
**INSTITUTE**



**CAA**  
Commonwealth Association of Architects

# MEDIA PARTNERS

**CASABELLA**



**Diariodesign**





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