

AIDS ORPHANAGE COMPETITION



Date:
Location:
ASF Team:
Partners:
Donors:
Project type:

2006
South Africa
P. Newton
Hearts of Hope
Squire & Partners
Exhibition & Event

PROBLEM ADDRESSED

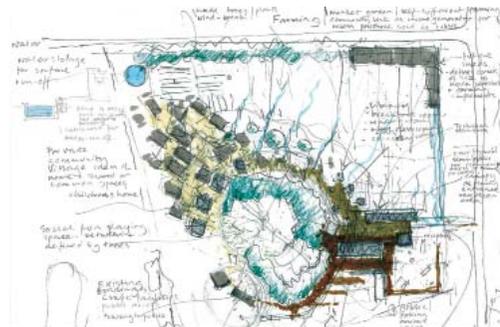
The HIV/AIDS crisis in South Africa has left 12 million orphans aged 0 to 17 (2005). The purpose of the competition was threefold: to generate ideas or a design primer to inform and inspire architects working in this field; to raise awareness about the problem of HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa and in general; to raise money towards the building of an orphanage in Cape Town.

This project was one of ASF-UK's first projects and was a theoretical exercise to challenge students to consider how to improve the provision of facilities for AIDS orphans with an emphasis on innovative design ideas in terms of materiality and spatial and formal relationships.



GOAL ACHIEVED

102 people registered their interest in the competition and 13 people finally entered. The entries ranged from pragmatic to playful solutions at different stages of refinement. Themes of ownership, thresholds and identity were explored through formal and organic solutions in the landscape at different scales.



METHODOLOGY OF WORK

The notional brief for the project was: To design a facility to provide sleeping, eating and after school care for 50 orphans aged between 4 and 17 situated within one of the townships surrounding the city of Cape Town. Both indoor and outdoor areas were required and buildings had to be between one and three stories in height. The construction methodology had to include easily available locally sourced materials preferably from recycled or renewable resources, be built by local small scale contractors and be easy to maintain. The construction cost requirement was £180 per square metre, or in local currency about R2000 per square metre. The buildings had to be designed using minimum energy to heat, cool and illuminate, therefore orientation was a very important consideration.

The facility had to include the following essential spaces/areas:

- sleeping area for the children and staff/supervisors,
- workspaces for school projects, study and homework,
- spaces for recreation and socialising,
- eating spaces,
- kitchen and storage spaces,
- administrative area and office,
- workshop and storage for maintenance.

