Ofelen Lakay
[orphans at home]
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A Thesis Project Located in Kenscoff, HAITI
by David Gibbs__Stannard Studio_2013
#content>
this *entire* work is dedicated to the Lord, Who first *loved* us so that we may in turn love and comfort others through His strength.

"... then I looked again at all the acts of oppression which were being done under the sun, and behold I saw the *tears* of the oppressed and that they had no one to *comfort* them; and on the side of their oppressors was power, but they had no one to comfort them..."

Ecclesiastes 4:1
#acknowledgments
thank you Lord for this opportunity to bless the orphans of Haiti. May this work bless them for generations. Thank you Childhope for your heart to provide homes and nurturing for these children. Thank you Peter for entrusting me with this project. Thank you Sandy for your helpful insight and inspiring teaching. Thank you Journeyman Int. for your commitment to seeing this project through to completion. Thank you Abe Lynn for your encouragement and willingness to advise. To my supportive family, studiomates, roommates, and friends, your love, advise, prayers, and support made this work possible.
"Is this not the fast which I choose, To loosen the bonds of wickedness, To undo the bands of the yoke. And to let the oppressed go free And break every yoke? "Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry And bring the homeless poor into the house; When you see the naked, to cover him; And not to hide yourself from your own flesh? "Then your light will break out like the dawn, And your recovery will speedily spring forth; And your righteousness will go before you; The glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. "Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; You will cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.' If you remove the yoke from your midst. The pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness. And if you give yourself to the hungry And satisfy the desire of the afflicted, Then your light will rise in darkness And your gloom will become like midday. "And the Lord will continually guide you, And satisfy your desire in scorched places, And give strength to your bones: And you will be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail. "Those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; You will raise up the age-old foundations; And you will be called the repairer of the breach, The restorer of the streets in which to dwell."

Isaiah 58:6-12
#preface
After four years of theoretical studio projects that do not amount to much more than something interesting and thought provoking to put into portfolios, I was ready to finally use architecture in the way I had always intended to use it for: as a medium to help people.

This project opportunity is beyond exciting for me and is both a blessing and a huge responsibility. But after visiting Haiti, and seeing the kids, the poverty, the suffering, the hunger, the enormous need became even more apparent. My heart goes out to these people, to these children, to these orphans and I hope this project becomes a means through which multiple generations of Haitian children may be blessed. I know the Lord will complete the good work that He has started.

I cannot believe all the people and connections that have been springing up to both help me with this project and encourage me that this project is exactly what I am meant to be doing right now. That starts with the privilege of getting Sandy Stannard as my studio professor. Her experience in these type of projects and her knowledge in sustainable design will enable this project to reach a level that could not have been achieved in another studio.

Then to have icing put on the cake, my favorite architecture engineering professor actually moved to Port-au-Prince! I about fell over laughing at the “coincidence”. The Lord is just proving to me once again that this is the project He
wants me to be doing and that even a professional career similar to what Abe is doing is a very possible future scenario for myself. These types of thoughts were just dreams of what I wanted to do with architecture and now I am part of a real project, doing it right now.

I want this project to be the absolute best project for these kids in Haiti. I want it to answer their needs and their caretaker needs above all else. And connected with this is the fact that there is a demand to be sustainable, a demand to use local materials, and a demand to be passive because the means to do otherwise are simply non-existent. This is an exciting thought, a great challenge. The systems and design that this project becomes have to work well because there is no back up plan other than having very uncomfortable buildings to live in.

I feel challenged, but excited. I am just stoked that this whole year of work will not just be for something like this book you are reading right now, but this whole year of effort will go towards something that is beneficial for others. Something that can have a real positive effect on others. And above all, a project that can glorify my God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He alone deserves the praise.

[" as you have done it to the least of these . . . you have done it unto Me "]

Matt. 25:40
At 16:53 on Tuesday, January 12th, 2010, Haiti’s orphan population shifted from 380,000 to 750,000. That shift is staggering, and with three years time brings the moving on of headlines and the emergency relief help. Yet the needs are still vastly present.

50% of Haiti’s 9.5 million population is school-age. 15% of Haitian children are orphaned or abandoned [“practically orphaned”]. These figures give an impression of the magnitude of the challenge confronting Haitian culture. Orphaned children above all are both practically and emotionally in desperate need of a home. They deserve a place of stability and a
place they can look to as the space they call home. This creation of the intimate place of home is heavily dependant on its ability to encourage human interaction and intertwine itself into the people’s culture, values, and needs.

In the mountains twenty kilometers southeast of Port-au-Prince, Haiti’s capital, in a small village named Kenscoff, there are three acres of land waiting to become this place of home to fifty of these orphans. The idea for this project stems from the goals of an existing orphanage run by Child Hope International. Child Hope International is a charitable, Christian organization dedicated to rescuing suffering and abandoned children in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Through child sponsorships and donations, they are able to provide a loving and nurturing home for boys and girls. This project is a direct product of their understanding of the vital importance of creating this stable home for the orphans.

Child Hope clearly sees this project as an opportunity to give the children under the age of twelve a family based environment by providing individual family dwellings as opposed to the existing dorm living quarters. They have proposed a program consisting of 6-8 single-family dwellings that could each house 6-8 kids and a set of “parents”; a community center with a connected culinary kitchen; additional staff dorm-housing; along with full-use of the fertile soil on the site for gardens. The aim is to create a “family” based environment community that would function as a small village. The goal is to give these children their deserved opportunity to grow up in a stable place that they can call home.

Connected to the idea of creating stability for these children is the opportunity that the built environment they can call home could also be an example of stability. This stability could be found by providing this space of consistency for the children, a place they can depend on as an emotional and physical haven. This stability could also be
reaffirmed through a sustainable design that they can interact with and depend on: whether that be learning about and partaking in the cycle of their gardens, or in the collection of the rainwater, or in the thermal and structural security of their homes. It is hoped that the design will be a tangible picture of the intent to give these orphans an environment rich in culture, stability, family values, and human interaction that distinguishes itself as a place worthy to be called home.

thesis: [The most intimate use of architecture is wrapped up in the creation of the space we call home. The importance of such a creation is never more pertinent than to the orphan child whose sense of security, place, and origin is already shaken. Above all, an orphan deserves a place where he/she can experience an environment rich in culture, stability, family values, and human interaction that distinguishes itself as a place worthy to be called home.]

home: [a place where one lives; an environment affording security and happiness; a valued place considered a refuge or place of origin. - "the meaning of home" - by Joie De Vivre]
extreme poverty #orphansinhaiti
Child Hope International is the organization behind this project. They have a heart to see their orphanage grow, both in numbers and in its ability to nurture and provide the children they do have with a home and to give an orphaned child hope. Here is a brief statement they have provided about where their organization came from and where they are now:

"Young and abused orphaned boys, who once held broken bottles to the necks of Bill and Susette, are now studying, worshipping and serving God. Girls whose hearts were abused, neglected and broken are now playing, learning the Word of God and nurturing others. Child Hope is in the process of developing programs that will help these children grow into mature believers, equipped to not only give back to their local community but also use their knowledge, vocational skills and faith in Christ to positively affect the nation of Haiti.

Today, Child Hope International supports a home for boys and a home for girls. Through child sponsorships, financial donations and hands-on mission team support, Child Hope International is able to provide the following for the children of Haiti:

- Orphanage
- Education
- Bible Study and Discipleship
- Medical Care
- Feeding the Hungry
- Vocational Training & Transition Program
- Summer Camp

Child Hope International is a charitable Christian organization dedicated to rescuing suffering and abandoned children in Port Au Prince, Haiti. Through child sponsorships and donations, we are able to provide a loving and nurturing home for boys and girls.

Their main goal is to give an orphaned child hope. This project in Kenscoff is an opportunity to expand this goal. They see this as a chance to give orphaned children a real place they can call home and have a hope for a future.
#gandoprimarieschool

location: Gando Village, Burkina Faso

designer: Diebedo Francis Kere

date: 1998-2001

area: 5,662 sq. ft./526 sq. m.

cost: 29,830 USD

#adobebrick #localcraftsman #rebartrusses #localmaterials
#timayui_and_la_paz_preschools

location __Santa Marta, Columbia

designer __Giancarlo Mazzanti Architects

date __2011

area __15,600 sq. ft./1,449 sq. m. repeatable programs

cost __40 USD / sq. ft. or 624,00 USD per program

#thirdteacher #interaction #courtyards #daisychain #santa_marta #columbia
#sistema_arde

location: San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

designer: Hierve-Diseneria

date: 1996-1998

area: N/A as this is a system design/precedent

cost: 17 USD per sq. ft./178 USD per sq. m.

#cmu #mexico #blockaccessories #blockplanters #blockstairs #texturedfacade
#safehavenlibrary

**location** Ban Tha Song Yang, Thailand

**designer** TYIN Tegnestue Architects

**date** January 2009

**area** aprox. 600 sq. ft./56 sq. m.

**cost** 4,800 USD
__Ban Tha Song Yang, Thailand__

**designer**__TYIN Tegnestue Architects__

**date**__January 2009__

**area**__aprox. 600 sq. ft./56 sq. m.__

**cost**__4,800 USD__

#recycledmaterials #reading #naturalventilation #interactive intimate
#soe_ker_tie_house
#thebutterflyhouses

location__Noh Bo, Thailand

designer__TYIN Tegnestue Architects

date__Nov. 2008-Feb. 2009

area__aprox. 150 sq. ft./14 sq. m. each house

cost__11,500 USD for 6 houses

The rainwater can easily be collected

The beds layout offers both privacy and social interaction

Coming home from school, a feeling not to take for granted

A simple opening in the facade is great for talking or playing shop

Old tyres are used for the foundation

A swing of bamboo and ropes, for one or many...
#projecthaiti

location: Port-au-Prince, Haiti

designer: HOK and USGBC

date: Not yet built

area:

cost: 1,000,000 USD

#seismic system #biomimicry #net positive #netzerowaste & water
Materials are of course a challenge in Haiti, but especially with a site up in the mountains. The road up to the site is nearly all paved, but it is a long trek from PAP and it really adds to the cost. Given the strong desire for this project to be built of local materials with local craftsperson adobe bricks were a solution.

Dwellearth's equipment has made this a far more viable option. Their equipment to make interlocking earth blocks has been donated for this project. This is an opportunity both to use the very site as a source for material but also to create local jobs and craftsman skills.
This is FILL text Sandy because I wanted to see what the page looked like with full text down the side. I know I want to get some more facts and history about kenscoff to put here and on the very next spread.

This is FILL text Sandy because I wanted to see what the page looked like with full text down the side. I know I want to get some more facts and history about kenscoff to put here and on the very next spread.

#kenscoff  #trees  #tropical  #pinetrees
Ex et doluptur as ditat.
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There is no actual weather data station specifically for Kenscoff. What is provided are claimed to be close estimates. These data tables are thus based on most reasonable and acceptable information. However, the psychometric chart is based off of Port-au-Prince Haiti, not off of estimated values.

As a result the psychometric chart is providing a model based on much higher temperatures. Kenscoff is 1500 meters higher in elevation than PAP and its weather is much more represented by the other tables. In fact many of the residents feel they have a heating condition parts of the year, this is apparent in the presence of fireplaces.
Overall, Kenscoff is a very mild temperature, tropical place. The clouds roll in and pour down rain for an hour or two and then disappear. The soil is extremely fertile as a result and nearly all farming is done successfully without the need for irrigation.
The outline of the site is defined by the saturation in the left hand site image. It is a three acre parcel whose land has been mostly all farmed for generations. The land shows signs of being once the vacation home of a fairly wealthy individual. The craftsman and details in the existing house along with the tennis court assumes this role.

The site’s slope as a whole rises 16.5 percent. However, because the land has been farmed for so long the elevations or rather the slop of the site fluctuates quite frequently from this 16.5% draft. There are in fact three to four areas quite close to level.

There is one existing, house along with a few sheds on the site. The house’s finishes do need to be gutted but thankfully (hopefully) without having the need to be completely demolished. Given that the construction of the house seems to have been done with care (money) it is desired to try and save it and the odds may look good at this point.
The above panorama is a 360 view of the whole site with the center of the image facing South yet slightly skewed to the West. This shows the agriculture focus of the land surrounded by trees.

This lower panorama was taken from the NE corner of the site, with the center of the image being due West.
The below panorama was taken while standing on the driveway right in front of the house. The center of this image being due SE.
This panorama really shows off the height of the surrounding trees and the vast vegetation growth that happens nearly everywhere. The road directly connect to the site are fairly new road pavers. It looks as though the entire road to Kenscoff might be paved with such tile pavers soon.
This panorama is taken right to the East of the driveway. Notice the existing house tucked away to the left of the pine trees. The center of this image is facing due South.

On the left is the gate to the property. The center of this image is facing due South. Notice the tall double-stacked retaining walls and far taller pine trees.
#design>
#design process
This is a project for Bishop Peak Elementary School. They have requested a means for the kids to wash their hands and produce in the classroom garden.

#subvellum
#inprogress

#chain #rust #copperpipes #welding #sandblasting
The goal is to create a multi-level washing "station" where kids of different heights can come up to comfortable wash their hands/produce. The end result should be heavy chain spiraling up to form a tree that then becomes the support system for the dispensing of the water.

#waterfountain #washingstation
#program

The given program consists of:

- 4-6 Homes [1500sf each]
- Community Center [10,000sf]
- Staff House [existing renovation project]
- Caretakers House [600sf]
- Gardens [total site conversion]
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