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Architekten über Grenzen e.V.
c/o Fraunhofer Informationszentrum
Raum und Bau IRB
Nobelstraße 12
D-70569 Stuttgart

Tel. 0049 - 711 - 970 25 00
Fax 0049 - 711 - 970 29 00

<http://www.architekten-ueber-grenzen.de>
info@architekten-ueber-grenzen.de

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Keyword: Sanitation Building ISAU, Kinshasa

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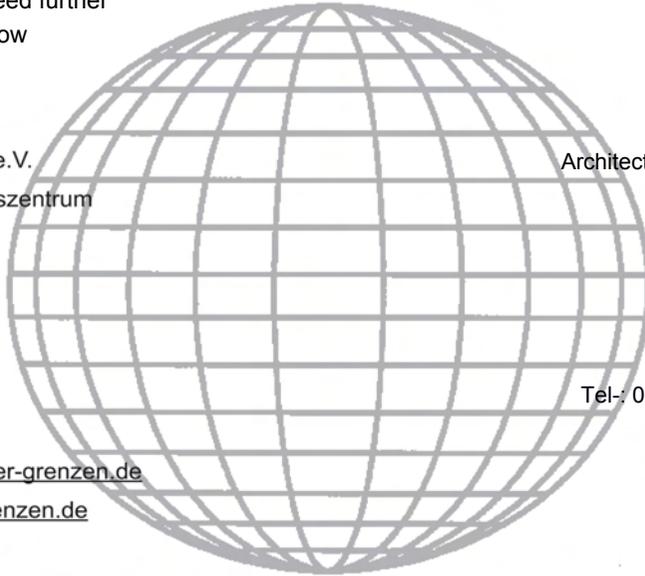
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Our International Network :

ASF - International: www.asfint.org



Architectes sans Frontières RD Congo
Immeuble Luzadi
Commune de la Gombe
BP 1276 Kinshasa 1

Tel.: 081 42 30 940 / 09999 21 858
arbeckines@yahoo.fr

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Collaboration Project **Sanitary Building**
ISAU Kinshasa
DR-Congo



architectes
sans frontières
RD-Congo +

Signaltower OTRACO (ca. 1950)



Port Administration (1956) Van Ackere



Palace of Justice (1953-1957) A. Germy, Ch. Simon



Cent. Train St. (1948) - Ar. Dupagne



Examples of the **Modernisme Tropical** in Kinshasa: Forescom (1946) R. Fostier u.a.



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Starting point

The Democratic Republic of Congo and in particular the capital, Kinshasa, have a very rich and very interesting heritage of buildings with influences from the period of the Classical Modernism and the Bauhaus architecture. In a short period from the end of World War 2 up to the end of the colonial rule (1946 - 1960) there was a sharp rise in construction activity in all areas: administrative buildings, embassies, hotels, apartment buildings, schools, office buildings, sports facilities, traffic construction, settlements a.s.o.

The architectural education in the DR Congo began in 1958 at the Academie des Beaux Arts (ABA) with the establishment of a training branch Architecture Designer. In 1962 its own Institute of Architecture (ISA) was established, which offered a 5-year architectural education.

In 1971, the architects were put together with the engineers (INTP), to be finally relocated and educated since 2010 in their own building, the "Institut Supérieur de l'Architecture et de l'Urbanisme" (ISAU).

ABA - Academie des Beaux Art (1953) C. Van der Meeren a.o.



ISAU - Institut de l'Architecture et de l'Urbanisme (about 1970)



ISAU workspaces/classrooms



Connecting Structure (under construction)



workspace (above), classroom (below)



library entrance (above)



sanitary bloc (under construction, above/below)



Project Development

Early in 2015 ASF-Congo and AÜG began with a first collaboration project and organized together a workshop at the ISAU under the topic *Manual Well Drilling - Establishment of a Well Driller School in Kikwit*. The opportunity enabled contacts with the heads of ABA and the ISAU as well as guided tours around the grounds and through the buildings to take place. The ISAU is the only school for architectural and urban planning formation in the DR-Congo. Only 4 of the 9 neighboring countries offer a similar education possibility for architecture. Today the buildings of ISAU are virtually in their original i.e. in a very bad state of preservation. This applies to workspaces, classrooms, technical equipment and (unavailable) teaching materials. A previously begun extension building could not be completed due to lack of funds. For a growing number of students (3,000) no sanitary facilities are available (!). From this need arose the joint project idea of ASF Congo and AÜG to take a first step and to try to complete at least the yet also unfinished sanitary block.

Project Implementation

Since neither the ISAU is able to finance the completion and renovation of their buildings itself nor the Congolese State can make any financial contribution, ASF Congo and AÜG Germany decided to start a joint collaboration project. ASF-Congo has already drawn up a planning with cost determination for the completion of the sanitary building and will take over the construction supervision as well as the project management, while AÜG takes care of the procurement of subsidies. The costs of completing the sanitary building will amount to € 16,000, of which the ISAU will take over 30% as their own contribution (mostly as students workforce).

This pilot project is meant as a first small step towards improving the educational situation at the ISAU. As the unemployment rate in the DR Congo is up to 90% qualified vocational training and skilled workers are lacking nearly everywhere. Both are essential for the country's development and for fighting against poverty and causes of flight into other regions.

Thomas Schinkel / AÜG