

MBOLLET-BA PROJECT

Design and construction of an early years education centre at the Mbollet-ba Lower Basic School, Niumi Province, North Bank, The Gambia.

Project information & Application Form

studentsforogs.tumblr.com



In collaboration with...

Artidstudio







COLLABORATION

The Mbollet-ba project is a collaboration between Our Global School (OGS), Students for OGS and Orkidstudio. The three parties will work together closely, allowing for a rich exchange of knowledge, ideas and experience.

OUR GLOBAL SCHOOL (OGS)

Our Global School has worked at Mbollet-ba for over six years to improve training and facilities. OGS is now helping the school move to a new model which allows for more creative learning. OGS Trustee Stephen Haggard will draw on years of experience in Mbollet-ba to provide essential site information, as well as sharing professional knowledge of education practice.



STUDENTS FOR OGS

Students for OGS will be responsible for the design and construction of Mbollet-ba Early Years School. Led by Nikki McFarland and Ellie Howard, the team will develop an architectural brief in the UK informed by research, case studies and a five day design workshop before spending three months in Mbollet-ba building the school alongside local skilled labourers.



ORKIDSTUDIO

Orkidstudio will act in a consultative role to aid the development of the Mbollet-ba Project from concept through to practical completion, providing direct support to Students for OGS.





STUDENTS FOR OGS (SFOGS)

Through the recent 'Who Cares?' lecture series, organised by Nikki & Ellie and held at the CASS School of Art, Architecture and Design, a network of students and alumni has formed who are devoted to furthering their education and testing their knowledge and skills in order to benefit communities through socially engaged and active work. The network was approached by OGS with the opportunity of taking on an exciting project in Mbollet-ba and since then have been developing an overall strategy for the project alongside OGS and Orkidstudio.

We are looking for highly motivated students and recent graduates who have an interest in education and international development to join our emerging team, Students For OGS. For SFOGS, the Mbollet-ba project presents an exciting learning opportunity. While some students will have carried out similar projects, for others this will be a first step. We consider the combination of prior understanding and new energy as an attribute to the team.

Nikki & Ellie's role as project managers will be as facilitators, ensuring effective communication between all parties as the main point of contact, as well as managing logistics. While this is an important duty, we see ourselves as a group of peers where each person's voice is equal and decisions are made collectively.

We feel extremely privileged to be collaborating with Orkidstudio, and are positive that working alongside them will not only benefit us as a team and as individuals, but also guarantee a well-considered project of significant social impact, high build standards and economic efficiency for Our Global School and Mbollet-ba.



ORKIDSTUDIO

Orkidstudio will act in a consultative role to support the development of the Mbollet-ba Project from concept through to practical completion. Founded in 2008, Orkidstudio is a humanitarian design organisation whose focus is to benefit children and communities worldwide through innovative architecture and construction.

Orkidstudio's projects focus on the process of design and construction rather than just the final product. We believe this process can be a powerful tool for affecting social change and empowering people through the sharing of skills and knowledge on site.

Alongside their buildings, they are engaged in a diverse range of small and medium sized enterprises, working with individuals and communities to develop sustained resources and enter new markets. We create scalable models to enable self-sufficient access to key infrastructure and shelter.





THE PROJECT

Our Global School have been working with the community of Mbollet-ba for six years, developing the quality of education throughout the school. After many simple projects fixing the basics, OGS and the school are ready for a project to transform the nursery classes to a child-centred model of “learning through play”. This will put creative activities, imaginative play and informal learning into the early years curriculum. With momentum and project experience already assured, this is an exciting point in the journey of this village towards world-class education.

The project supports these developments by replacing the existing nursery buildings (damaged in a storm 2015) with a new early years facility in which the school, backed by OGS, will pilot the new educational model. There is full support from Gambia's Education Ministry, which will use the facility as a training centre to transform nursery teaching across The Gambia. We intend to provide a space in which pre-school children can learn to play, imagine and be creative. Our basic brief is to design and construct three nursery classrooms for day time use, as well as additional spaces for imaginative play. The nature of these spaces may be unconventional, using the attributes of the site, for example the shade of the mango trees in the corner of the school grounds. It is essential that a sense of ownership is felt by the whole community and this will be a vital consideration when deciding upon materials and construction methods as well as the space itself.





VOLUNTEER

Becoming part of the Students For OGS team will not only give you the opportunity to benefit local communities in The Gambia but will also enable you to be part of a dynamic design and build process. This project considers the impact of good design on education, and will challenge team members to deliver a world class facility in a remote and deprived community.

As a volunteer you will be an integral part of the project. Once on board, you will have a chance to get stuck in with the design development all the way to the first day on site, where the fun really begins. As a member of SFOGS you will gain a rare insight into every aspect of the design and build process within an international development context and we encourage all volunteers to share their ideas and interests and help create a finished building that goes far beyond just bricks and mortar.

Key themes will focus on:

1. Material selection and production for the design of an educational facility with scarce resources
2. A design, method of construction and final output that enables school children to feel a sense of ownership over their learning space
3. Spatial planning to facilitate the day to day running of a school environment, and enable creative and imaginative learning

Team members will have the chance to be engaged in a range of activities including, but not limited to:

- Construction
- Site management
- Materials testing
- Materials production e.g. bricks, tiles etc
- Consultation with local teachers and community members
- Direct and active engagement with a number of stakeholders and beneficiaries
- Research into education practice both in London and Mbollet-ba

This project is aimed at students and recent graduates from any UK higher education course. Our ideal team member would be highly motivated and have an interest in design for education, international development and hands on design and construction.



INFORMATION

Dates Construction will take place between 10th October and 19th December 2016 inclusive. There will be a pre-departure workshop in London, which is likely to be from 2nd - 6th July inclusive.

Eligibility We welcome anyone over the age of 18 years from any background, nationality or career.

Fundraising Each volunteer is required to raise a minimum of £2,000*. £500 of this goes directly to the project, and the remainder covers the cost of your flights to and from The Gambia, as well as insurance, accommodation and three meals per day for the duration of our stay. This will all be organised through OGS in order to provide the best deal possible. Managable, staggered fundraising goals will be set and you will receive support from Ellie and Nikki to help you reach your target. Further breakdown of costs is available on request.

Deposit All successful applicants are required to pay a non-refundable deposit of £250, payable by 6th June 2016.

Accommodation During the project all volunteers will be provided with accommodation close to the construction site. Volunteers will stay in pairs and will have a private bedroom, living area and outdoor washing area.

Food & Drink Breakfast and two cooked meals per day will be included in the cost of the trip. It is recommended that volunteers bring a further £30 per week of personal spending money to cover extra costs and non project-related transport, activities and weekend trips.

Insurance Insurance will be included in the trip cost and arranged centrally for the entire group.

Visa Volunteers will be required to obtain their own visas - entry requirements can be checked at The Gambian Embassy website. UK nationals do not require any visa under current arrangements.

Safety We will take every reasonable measure to ensure your safety at all times. The Gambia's recent history has been stable, and there is no heightened threat to foreign nationals visiting the country. On site we will operate a number of Health & Safety standards which you will be briefed on before you travel. There will be a first aider on hand at all times.

Extra Costs Please be aware that there are a number of additional personal costs including sitewear and vaccinations, as well as additional spending money as mentioned above. By choosing to take part in the Mbollet-ba Project, you are making a financial commitment to cover these costs.

* This cost is an accurate estimate based on current prices, however it is subject to change. Fundraising targets will be adjusted in line with final costs. In the event of project cancellation the full amount, including deposit, will be refunded.

APPLY

Personal Information

Surname:		First Name:	
D.O.B:		Nationality:	
Address:		Gender:	
		Email:	
		Primary Tel:	
Postcode:		Other Tel:	

Education

Please give details of any qualifications or degrees you have been awarded or are currently working towards:

Course Title	University/ School	Dates	Grade

Please give details of any other academic experience that may be relevant to your application:

Relevant Experience

Do you have any past experience relating to charity or aid work?

If yes, please give details of the organisation(s) or project(s) you were involved with and the role(s) that you played:

Do you have any past experience working in construction?

If yes, please provide details of jobs undertaken, the type of project(s) and how you feel this experience may benefit the Mbollet-ba project:

Do you have any past experience working with children?

If yes, please give details:

Skills

Do you have any experience or ability in the following? (please mark 'x')

Carpentry	☐	Electrics	☐	Welding	☐	Engineering	☐
Masonry	☐	Plumbing	☐	Metalwork	☐	Tiling	☐

If applicable, please describe your experience in the above marked skills:

Please describe any other skills or abilities that you feel may contribute to the project:

Health

Which of the following best describes your current level of fitness? (please mark 'x')

Excellent☐

Good☐

Average☐

Poor☐

Do you suffer from any of the following medical conditions? (please mark 'x')

Diabetes☐

Heart conditions☐

High blood pressure☐

Allergies/ Anaphylaxis☐

Asthma☐

Lung conditions☐

Epilepsy☐

Do you have any other medical conditions that may interfere with performing physical labour?
If yes, please give details:

Have you undergone any major surgery or medical treatment in the last five years?
If yes, please give details:

Do you have any special dietary requirements?
If yes, please give details:

Do you have any valid first aid qualifications? (please mark 'x')

Yes☐

No☐

Motivations

Why did you choose to volunteer for SFOGS?

What do you hope to gain from the volunteer experience?

What is it that particularly interests you in the Mbollet-ba Project?

Other

Do you hold a full driving license? (please mark 'x')

Yes, UK

☐

Yes, International

☐

Yes, both

☐

No

☐

Do you have any criminal convictions, spent or unspent? (please mark 'x')

Yes

☐

No

☐

By virtue of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exemptions) Order 1975 and the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions) (Scotland) Order 2003 (as amended), applicants have a legal obligation to reveal spent convictions. Orkidstudio may additionally request criminal records check from the Criminal Records Bureau and/or the Disclosure and Barring Service and/or Disclosure Scotland.

If yes, please provide details:

Certification

By signing this application form I confirm that all the information provided on this form is correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false or misleading information, or omission of pertinent information will result in the rejection of my application, or in ejection from the volunteer team and the project if discovered subsequent to my acceptance. I certify that I am available for the full period of the project. I also confirm that I have read in full all the given information on volunteering for the Mbollet-ba Project. In the event of my selection for the volunteer team I am content to fundraise or otherwise make payment of the full amount of £2,000 and I understand that these funds will cover the cost of my flights and accommodation. I am also content to pay a non-refundable deposit of £500 if my application is successful.

I understand that data contained within this application form will be held, used and processed for for the purposes of selection and in connection with the project. This will be done in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

OCS, SFOGS & Orkidstudio operate an equal opportunities policy and does not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, sex, gender reassignment, religion or belief, national or ethnic origin, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital or civil partnership status, family responsibilities, political affiliation or any other comparable factor.

Full Name:

Signature:

Date:

Portfolio

Please email a digital copy of your portfolio or any other work which you feel might contribute towards your application. We appreciate that not all applicants will have creative backgrounds, and therefore this is not a compulsory part of the application process. Applicants who do have creative or architectural backgrounds are highly recommended to submit a portfolio demonstrating their abilities and recent work. Please limit your portfolio to a maximum of 12 images, in JPEG or PDF format and no larger than 3MB each. Images may be presented with an accompanying description or title either as part of the image or in a separate Word document, provided each section of text is clearly numbered in accordance with each image file name. If you have any questions about the portfolio requirements, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Submit

Please email your completed application form, plus any attachments, to:

studentsforogs@gmail.com

Deadline for applications:

Monday 2nd May 2016

You may be invited to have an interview over Skype or on the phone. Please ensure you are available on the following date:

Sunday 7th May 2016



studentsforogs.tumblr.com
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