

SUSTAINABLE

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ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

The various environments in which SPG Architects' projects are located requires a commitment to understanding how to employ material and energy resources to their maximum end use and efficiency in order to limit the impact of our built work on the environment, and an understanding of local climates is required in order to properly orient and situate projects in what are often unique and beautiful locations.

SPG's projects use a range of alternative energy sources in lieu of carbon producing fossil fuels, including geo-thermal systems, solar energy, and hydropower. These alternative energy sources, used in combination with Low-E glass, the exploitation of daylight and natural ventilation, and the responsible use of building insulation greatly reduce the carbon footprint of our built work. Thoughtful use of material and equipment specifications, sensitivity to landforms and building exposures, the reclamation of rainwater, and the knowledgeable use of roofing systems all contribute to SPG's approach to sustainability.

Healthy interiors are also a priority, and SPG specifies natural materials and finishes to create hypoallergenic and low-VOC environments. The connection of interiors to the natural environment, whether landscape or sky, is of critical importance to our work, and broad expanses of well-considered and judiciously located windows and skylights create the connection to nature that people yearn. Additionally, interior and exterior spaces are woven together so that a sense of spatial expansiveness is achieved.

Together with the engaged interest of our clients and contractors, SPG is unwavering in our commitment to high standards of environmental consciousness and resilient design, for both individual buildings and our communities. The company maintains affiliations with a variety of socially and environmentally responsible organizations, and Eric Gartner maintains LEED accreditation, reflecting our commitment to energy-efficient and environmentally sensitive design.

FIRM PROFILE

SPG Architects is a full service award-winning architecture firm founded by Coty Sidnam and currently led by Eric Gartner. SPG provides a comprehensive range of design services and has worked with clients on a broad array of architecture and design projects. Our work includes projects of varying scales and character, with a range of regional, national, and international projects that include single- and multi-family residences, retail environments, corporate interiors, and institutional and hospitality buildings and spaces.

Corporate clients have included a wide range of fashion and design companies, as well as traditional and new media companies. Residences include numerous co-op and condominium apartments, urban townhouses, second homes, free-standing houses, and residential compounds throughout the United States and Latin America. Although the clients are diverse, they are united in their desire for architecture that is well conceived and well executed by a team of thoughtful and energetic design professionals.

Working in the modernist tradition, SPG employs a sense of “critical regionalism” to what originated as an International Style of forward looking architecture. This approach applies sustainable solutions and locally relevant construction technologies and materials to create unique client and site driven solutions.

SPG Architects’ modernist approach to design allows for the various functions of a space to be organized and expressed, while eliminating the cacophony of the untended environment. Architectural ideas are drawn from the project site and the client’s needs and desires. These then are expressed through manipulations of form and light. An interest in up-to-date building technologies, natural and man-made construction materials, and a constantly developing approach to sustainable design strategies further inform our designs. SPG’s work clearly presents a visual consistency based on human proportions, the exploration of light, and the judicious use of materials that provide singular tactile, visual, spatial and temporal experiences.

Eric A. Gartner, AIA, LEED AP

As SPG’s principal partner, Eric has been practicing architecture since obtaining his Master of Architecture degree from the University of Virginia, where he also received his undergraduate degree. He maintains an active relationship with UVA, having long served on the School of Architecture’s Foundation Board, and he regularly serves as a visiting design critic for student reviews at numerous schools of architecture. At SPG, Eric has broadened the firm’s range of project types and helped it expand its national and international presence. SPG Architects’ built work is now located not only across the US but also in Latin America and Africa, and it has been published worldwide. Eric’s ongoing commitment to both environmental and social responsibility has instigated and informed a series of projects that explore the benefits of sustainable design. Eric continues working as the design architect for the Kageno Worldwide community development project in Banda, Rwanda, and a new school in Kenya. For the firm’s private client base, Eric continues to explore the relationship between local environments & building traditions and modern technologies & architectural expression. Eric is a member of the American Institute of Architects, is registered with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, through which he is licensed in numerous states, and is a LEED Accredited Professional.



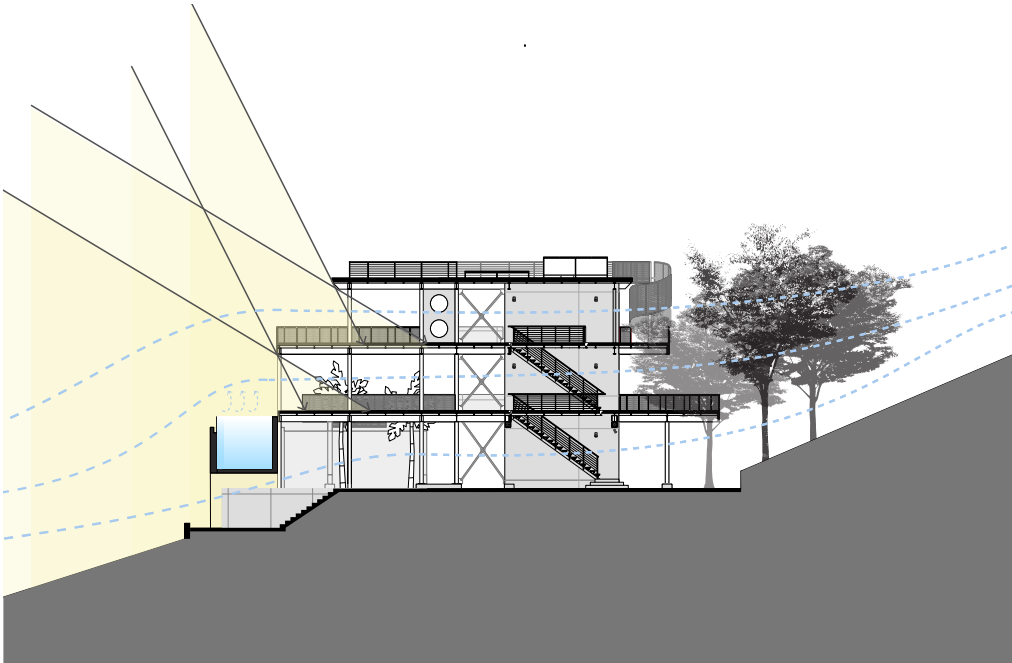
CASA TORCIDA

Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica

SPG Architects transformed an abandoned steel frame and concrete slab structure into a five-level, 18000 SF, indoor-outdoor residence on a rain-forested mountainside overlooking the Golfo Dulce. The house is environmentally sensitive, technologically advanced, and modernist by design. A flexible building perimeter provides a seamless flow from inside to out that completely blends the built environment with the natural setting and the spectacular views. The off-the-grid house is energy self-sufficient – appliances and lighting were chosen for low power consumption that is sourced by photovoltaic cells on the roof. Solar hot water panels provide domestic hot water. Maximized cross ventilation and ample overhangs have eliminated the need for air conditioning in this year-round tropical climate. As a result, this house is an indigenous yet distinctly modern piece of architecture.

Honors
2012 Society of American Registered Architects, NY Chapter: Honor Award, Sustainable Design

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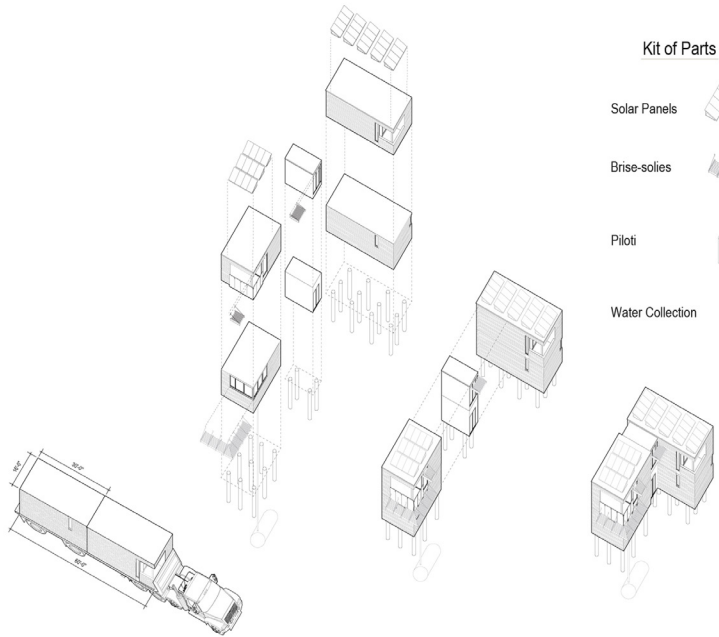
COASTAL MODULAR

This three-bedroom vacation home is a study in spatial efficiency, coming in under 1,750 SF of living area including 2,050 SF of modular construction and under 100 SF of site-built construction. The design can be adapted to any site of the owners choosing. The two-story factory-built modular house has a reversed living plan to maximize available terraces and views for the primary family kitchen, dining and living areas, while tucking two bedrooms and a primary suite into the lower level. Conceived specifically to touch lightly on the landscape both during and after construction, this home is ideal for flood-prone areas. The modular house is comprised of two living volumes that are joined by a prefabricated entrance staircase that provides an immediate visual and physical connection to the upper level. Each volume is composed of two stacked modular units raised on pilotis. This allows the landscape to move through and under the house, providing an environmentally sensitive and visually dramatic design solution.

Publications
August 2019 Inspirations Award Winners article printed and digital
2018 The Plan Journal: "Modular Housing Coastal Typological Prototype".

Honors
2019 Contract Magazine Inspirations Awards: Honorable Mention

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Kit of Parts

Solar Panels



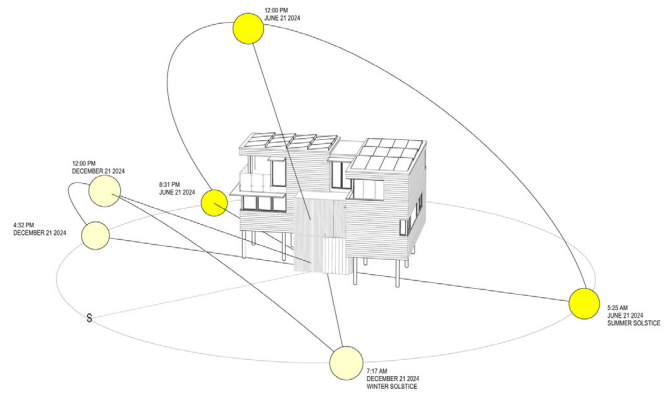
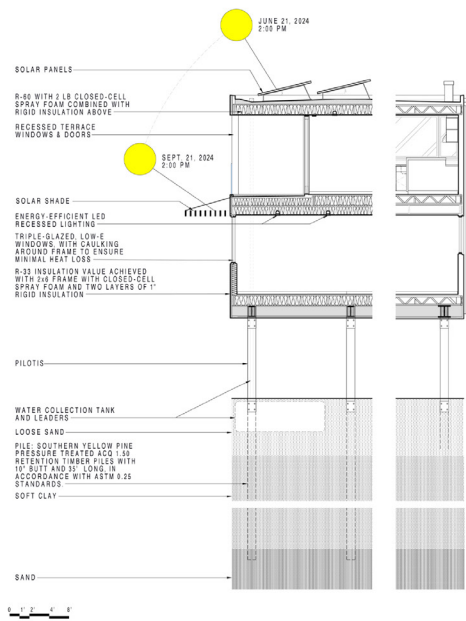
Brise-soleils



Pilot



Water Collection

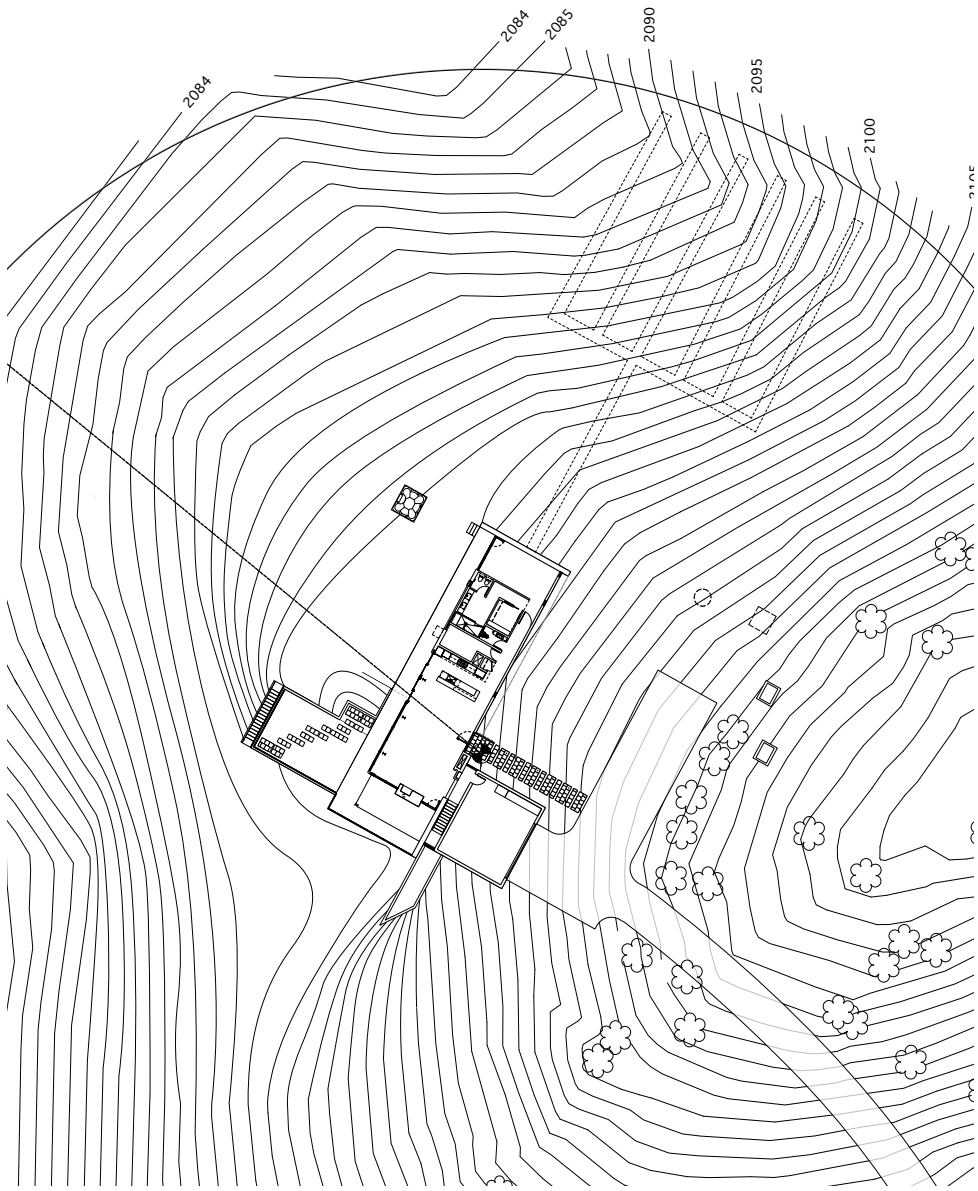




LEICESTER HOUSE

Asheville (Leicester), NC

This hilltop residence, located at the edge of a wooded knoll in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, has expansive southern and western views. Approaching through the woods, one arrives at a one-story facade of corten steel framed by wood. A hint of the views is provided through the glass door, but it is not until entry that the full impact of the hilltop views can be experienced. The south and west glass walls open to rolling farmland below and the mountains beyond. The entry level serves as the primary living area, with a guest wing carved into the hilltop below. The house is functional, energy efficient and visually inspiring. The 'greening' of the house complements its visual warmth, grounding the modern structure in its rural landscape.



Honors

- 2014 Matsumoto Awards: 2nd place award for best modern residential architecture in the state of NC
- 2013 Trends Magazine: Top 50 American Homes Award
- 2012 Matsumoto Prize Nominee
- 2012 Marvin Windows and Doors: International Challenge Award
- 2011 Society of American Registered Architects, NY Chapter: Honor Award, Housing
- 2010 Interior Design Magazine: Best of Year Merit Award, Vacation House
- 2009 Western North Carolina Green Building Council: Best in Regional Green Design

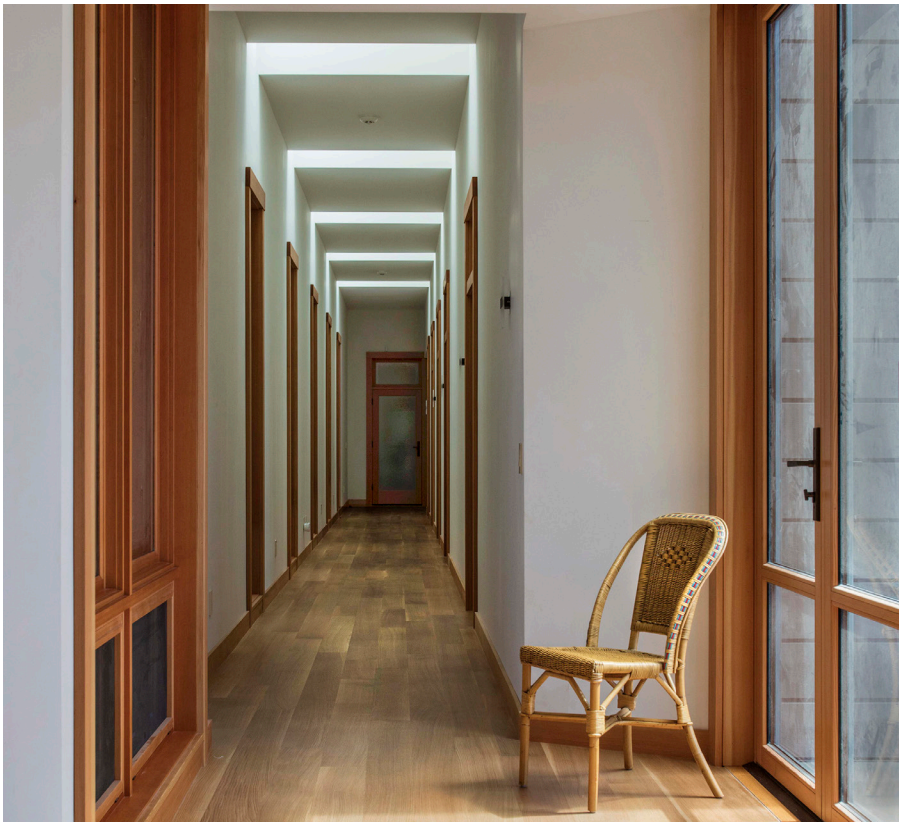


SAN JUAN ISLAND HOUSE

San Juan Island, WA

The 6000 SF of this residence is split amongst three building forms that are nestled into the hillside of San Juan Island in Washington state. Arranged to face the water with extraordinary views of Griffin Bay, the house is comprised of two forms: one has an open living/dining plan with a large open kitchen while the second contains the bedrooms and baths. Each room opens onto covered outdoor areas and/or large open decks that mediate between the house and the landscape, allowing for the casual indoor/outdoor living lifestyle that island life calls for and that the climate allows. A third building volume houses the studio, garage, and a guest or caretaker living area. The buildings' end faces reference the local vernacular, yet the long facades provide a strong connection between the forested landscape on the entry side, and the protected Native American Camas fields that lead to the waters' edge.

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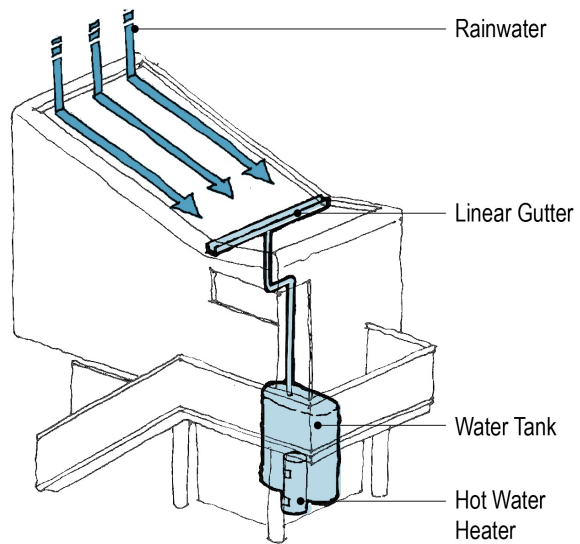




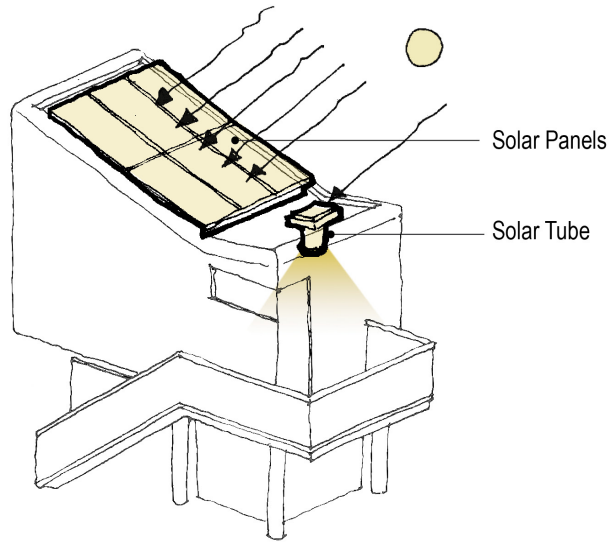
ELEVATED MICROHOME

The worldwide crises of housing availability and climate change have shaped the form and disposition of this micro-house, which is designed as an efficient and comfortable home. The prefabricated nature of this house's building systems allows for the cost-effective and timely assembly of this tiny living unit, which can be grouped into larger community-oriented housing clusters. The total interior square footage of each unit is limited to 25 square meters (269 SF), and it includes the small interior living area with a retractable bed, ample built-in storage, a kitchenette, and a comfortable bathroom, providing the essential comforts of life in a light-filled volumetric interior. The elevated living plane creates a non-conditioned exterior space, which limits the house's impact on the landscape and affords protection from coastal and waterway flooding while bringing a sense of privacy. This plane also introduces a protected but above-ground water-collection system, mechanical equipment, and a small, enclosed storage area behind breakaway walls. An optional fold-out balcony allows additional natural cross-ventilation, and the rooftop photovoltaic system provides much of the home's power.

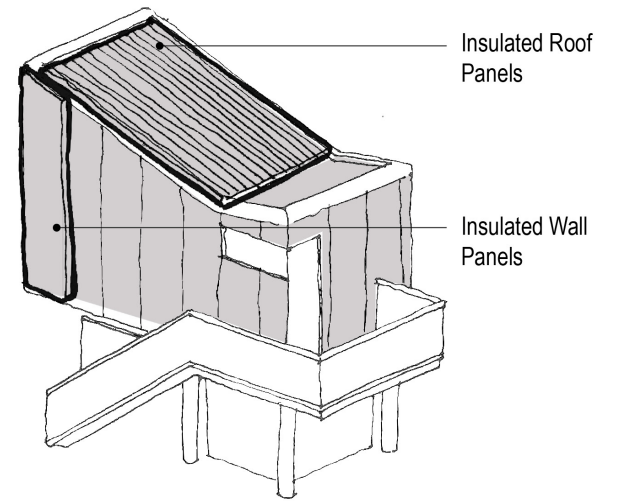
These environmental considerations, prefabricated building components, and efficient interior plan-making shape this home's form and appearance while providing affordable and comfortable small-living accommodations.



RAIN COLLECTION SYSTEM



SOLAR DESIGN ELEMENTS



INSULATED EXTERIOR PANELS



ECO-TOURIST CENTER

Banda, Rwanda

This complex of ecotourist buildings, adjacent to the Kageno Worldwide' Community Center, also designed by SPG, will consist of a number of bungalows, and ultimately an eco-lodge, where visitors to the village of Banda, the Kageno Community Center, and significantly, the nearby Nyungwe Forest can find well-conceived and well-appointed lodging, simultaneously bringing much needed income to the region. The bungalows will be built first, and shall consist of a variety of bedroom configurations with indoor and outdoor living areas, some with bathrooms and some with nearby bathing pavilions.

The lodge will consist of a small restaurant, a shop selling local wares, and quarters for trained nature guides that will assist visitors to more fully enjoy the ecological beauty of the nearby National Forest. All of these proposed buildings are sustainably conceived, with solar arrays on the roof, water collection systems and dry toilets that will allow for composting with no waste of water resources. Broad overhangs and natural ventilation taking advantage of the flow up air on the hillside location will add comfort to the shelters.

By bringing jobs and outside income to the Banda community, this project is not only environmentally sustainable but capable of making the entire community and region more economically sustainable as well.

Honors

2024 Architizer A+Awards : Unbuilt Hospitality: Finalist

2023 Rethinking the Future Awards : Second Award - Hospitality (Concept)

2020 The Plan Magazine Awards : Hospitality: Finalist

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KAGENO 2: A NEW PLACE OF HOPE

Located on property donated by members of the village of Banda, Rwanda, this modern collection of community buildings address the concerns of the villagers as conveyed to the relief organization, Kageno. Given the site, it was necessary for the architecture to both produce its own power and manage its own waste, but this project goes beyond architectural sustainability, incorporating social and cultural viability into its mission. A community center, library & office facility and kitchen anchor the site, with two branches reaching in a "V" with a health center & pharmacy serving 1000 people monthly, 4 classrooms serving 300 children, a visitor's center, and bungalows for visitors and permanent staff. Local materials such as brick, stucco, and corrugated metal roofs are the primary building components. The site planning and building forms are energized and modern, serving as a symbol of Kageno's message of a hopeful future.

