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A kindergarten in a rundown tin shack for 140 children was the second building project near Johannesburg. In the Teddybear Nursery School children from the ages of 0 to 6 are cared for, some of whom have been made orphans as a result of AIDS. With such young users inadequate thermal protection is a serious issue. This project, too, was designed and carried out in the framework of two diploma theses.

The architecture student Ursula Nikodem-Edlinger and design student Danijela Tolanov incorporated the experience from earlier projects and erected a building that is sustainable and socially acceptable at all levels. In baya a material was used that can be extracted locally, provides excellent qualities for creating a comfortable internal climate and is available to everyone for nothing: earth. This time we built what are known as rammed earth walls, in which earth is condensed in a formwork to create solid, stable walls. Together with roofs ventilated from below a thermal balance is achieved between day and night, and the extremes of temperature in both summer and winter can be reduced.

In this case, too, the surroundings of the centre were integrated in the construction process. In addition to numerous workers from the immediate neighbourhood the children's parents were also involved in implementing the design.

BAYA | 2006
Kindergarden in
Orangefarm, South Africa

Building
Kindergarden and
administration (145 m²)

Material
Rammed earth (group room)
and locally produced bricks
(administration)

Design
Ursula Nikodem-Edlinger
(diploma thesis) und Danijela
Tolanov (fittings, diploma
thesis)

Umsetzung
Students, University of Art
and Design Linz + the local
community

Diploma supervision
Prof. Roland Gnaiger (Dep.
of Architecture) + Prof. Axel
Thallemer (scionic, Dep. of
Industrial Design)

Site supervision
Gregor Radinger

Consultants
Ulrich Gerhaher, ZT Gmeiner
Haferl (engineering), Oskar
Pankratz (building physics)
Martin Rauch (earthworks)

Partner
SARCH, Education Africa

Photos (selection)

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B2: © Dietmar Tolerian



B3: © Dietmar Tolerian



S1: © a_kep Andreas Kepplinger



S2: © Josef Baier



S3: © Josef Baier



S4: © Construction team



S5: © Construction team



T1: © Construction team