

GAME

Abay chose to work in Ethiopia, the second-most populous country in Africa after Nigeria with a population of 105 million. It's also one of the least developed countries (LDCs) in the world, ranked 173rd among 189 countries on the United Nations' Human Development Index. Like other low-income countries in Africa, Ethiopia presently faces the enormous challenge of creating a more inclusive and efficient education system amid rapid population growth. Compared with other sub-Saharan African countries, Ethiopia has been successful in slowing population growth and now has a relatively low fertility rate by African standards, but its population will nevertheless swell to an estimated 191 million people by 2050.

Despite Ethiopia's booming economy, the country's education system remains underdeveloped and plagued by low participation rates and quality problems—a situation partially owed to Ethiopia having been deprived of economic development for decades. As the World Bank has noted, Ethiopia was “one of the most educationally disadvantaged countries in the world” for much of the 20th century, because of armed conflict, famines, and humanitarian crises.

Abay Ethiopia

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[gamə] in Amharic, defines the traditional haircut worn by girls in the rural areas.

Objective:

This project aims to establish an intelligently designed, and inexpensive preschool that can smartly be adapted all across Ethiopia starting with the Walmara district.

Description :

As a team, we believe in rooted designs that are inspired by 'old but gold' ways of building. Taking inspiration from the traditional *tukuls* which circle shapes are an invitation for gatherings, GAME project is designed with a similar but contemporary approach. It is embedded in the ethiopian culture that people live together in an open space, around a central fire. Preschools gather the youngest of us, and open them to others. In this design, children will meet, grow and blossom around two other natural elements; earth and water.

The space is smartly designed adapting a very inexpensive & sustainable approach. It uses locally available materials & technologies to effectively optimize resources & minimize negative impacts on the communities and on the ecosystem in general. People actually live a sustainable life in most rural areas. Their economical status force them to use local materials, recycle what they have/find, save water and grow food. As architects we believe such lifestyles should inspire. We think that, by focusing on simple and traditional solutions, we could develop a local and efficient architecture that would make people proud of their own culture.

The preschool is designed to be hyper flexible & multivalent in usage so as to accommodate various activities. The design also considerably entertains the possibility of future changes as it offers great ease for further spatial expansions. The design is seamlessly adaptable to different regions of Ethiopia as the vast variety of available materials, and vernacular construction techniques were put into consideration.