

About Article 25

Article 25 designs, manages and delivers building solutions in areas affected by poverty, disaster and need. As a specialised, technical NGO, Article 25 possesses the high level of skills and support required for working in complex and uncertain environments that commercial architectural practices often lack. Staffed by a team of skilled professionals with essential experience working in both the developing and developed world, Article 25 has the ability to deal with situations which involve high levels of risk, requiring an agile response to project management whilst providing a service expected from a professional design practice.

As a not-for-profit practice Article 25 provides a service of unprecedented value; something which is possible due to the support it receives from a host of committed trustees, dedicated donors and many skilled and enthusiastic volunteers. Article 25 has also developed excellent contacts with and has access to highly commendable and world renowned consultants, including structural and services engineers, architects, and specialist consultants. Through this Article 25 is able to take the best skills of the construction industry from the developed world and make those skills work to tackle the most difficult construction challenges. An ever growing portfolio of clients located around the world in a variety of different and challenging contexts makes Article 25 a unique organisation able to deliver high quality projects to budget, and on time.

Article 25 goes beyond that of other professionals in the industry, ensuring that a key part of any project is the integration of the local beneficiary community into both the planning and construction of a building. Improving livelihoods through skills development such as carpentry, masonry, leadership, as well as improved knowledge in healthcare, sanitation, financial management and the environment, for long-term sustainability is a core principle of Article 25's philosophy, as well as creating designs that adapt to local challenges such as climate, and the use of locally available building materials.

Through engaging the local beneficiaries in community participation workshops, communities are able to take ownership of their project; in doing so Article 25 not only leaves behind excellent buildings, but also a society that has the ability to build for itself and create a positive future for generations to come.



The Pakistani earthquake of 2005 killed 70,000 and left up to 3 million people homeless. Article 25 designed and directly facilitated the building of 80 prototype seismic-resistant houses in the areas devastated by the earthquake. The local community continues to build further homes after our departure, based on our designs.

Case Study – Bethel Secondary School, Burkina Faso

Project: Bethel Secondary School, Gourcy, Burkina Faso

Location: Gourcy, Zondoma province, Burkina Faso

Structural Engineer: Michael Hadi Associates

Services Engineer: Max Fordham

Status: Completed December 2013

Background: Burkina Faso scores exceptionally low on the United Nation's Education Index, ranking 181 out of 187 countries. Without an adequate level of education, Burkina Faso lacks the capacity to break out of the cycle of poverty, and poor school infrastructure is hampering development. In Bethel Secondary School, overcrowded classrooms and indoor temperatures reaching 40°C made learning conditions exceptionally poor. Many children, particularly girls, failed to attend classes, and every year 100 children were excluded from education due to an insufficient number of classrooms. Poor sanitation facilities deterred girls from going to school, and they therefore suffered disproportionately.

Description: Article 25 designed a school, which adapts to the local environment in Gourcy. A large raised roof provides cooling ventilation inside the classroom and shade on the external surfaces. Blackboards on the gables enable outside learning in the shade. Article 25's used locally sourced laterite stone from nearby quarries to keep cost low and support the local economy. To improve the sanitation facilities a large latrine block (20 latrines) with separate latrines for boys and girls was built on the campus. The buildings are orientated to benefit from the cooling effect of airflow passing through an adjacent avenue of mature evergreen trees to the East side and a recently established tree plantation to the West. The model school design is expected to be duplicated in communities across Burkina Faso.



Article 25 Selected Case Studies

Haiti - School Sanitation Improvements



Devastation in the immediate aftermath of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

Project: School upgrades in post-earthquake Haiti

Description: The earthquake in 2010 destroyed much of Haiti's already poor infrastructure. Article 25 has been involved in the reconstruction since 2010, and is currently building upgrades to provide clean water and improved sanitation facilities at two schools. Article 25 has designed and are now overseeing the construction of a new classroom in Hinche, and are repairing and strengthening the roof of the school in Malte Peralte.

Location: Hinche and Malte Peralte, Haiti

Structural Engineer: Buro Happold

Services Engineer: Max Fordham

Status: Construction expected to be finished by November 2014.

Uganda – Training Centre for Former Child Soldiers



At the height of the conflict, nearly two million people in Uganda were displaced.

Project: Vocational training centre for former child soldiers

Description: Article 25 was appointed by Chance for Childhood to assist in the delivery of a centre for the education and rehabilitation of former child soldiers aged between 9 and 13. The overall layout needed to be a secure environment for abductees, and conducive to rehabilitating and reintegrating them to normal life.

Location: Patongo, Uganda

Structural Engineer: Michael Hadi Associates

Architect: Henning Stummel Architects

Services Engineer: Max Fordham

Status: Construction finished November 2012.

Morocco – New Medical Centre



The centre will provide medical services to extensive regions in Eastern Morocco.

Project: Operation Smile Clinic, Oujda, Morocco

Description: A new clinic to provide health care to children suffering from facial deformities including cleft palette and cleft lip conditions. Serving the poor region of Oujda near the Algerian border, the clinic will provide pre and post-operative care as well as dental care to local school children and those in the wider region.

Location: Oujda, Morocco

Structural Engineer: Webb Yates

Services Engineer: Max Fordham

Quantity Surveyor: Gardner & Theobold

Landscape Architect: Martha Schwartz Partners

Funder: Sto

Status: Construction expected to begin in late 2014.