

Reading Response 05

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Ruhehe Primary School





The Ruhehe Primary School was constructed in 2018 for the M2 Foundation in Ruhehe, Musanze District, Rwanda. It was a product of the African Design Center, charged with the challenge of tackling the world's largest issues through architecture. Specifically, the Center wanted to take designers and turn them into socially inclusive leadership in order to design the future cities of Africa. The Primary school serves over 1,100 students from pre-primary to 6th grade. It is primarily constructed with locally-sourced volcanic rock, and gave the community an opportunity to be a part of the construction of the school. The project aims to prove that the design of a place can have a positive effect on the students and teachers, especially within a war torn country. And through an extensive immersion process, the fellows were able to create a community centered design concept by partnering with the local community. The effect created by this was a building and program that enhanced the learning and development of each individual child while also supporting the ideas of the "Mugaba Model" as a standard school design, in efforts to be an example for the rest of the country as they build schools. The campus of the primary school is laid out much like a necklace, in which the school and community buildings as pendants around the chain. The perimeter wall serves a dual purpose, being both a security measure to protect the students as well as a way to reduce the distractions of the students while in the school.