



Feilden Foundation Annual Newsletter 2020

Welcome to a somewhat delayed newsletter, and I hope you are coping with all the difficulties caused by the COVID pandemic. The Feilden Foundation work has been somewhat curtailed but we are happy to report that everyone we are working with is in good health and so far the countries in East Africa where we are active have escaped the worse impacts we have seen in the UK.

This newsletter gives you an update on our various activities and we are also pleased to announce since last year that we have appointed Mike Kironde, one of our earliest clients and headteacher of two schools in Kampala, to be our first trustee in Africa. We continue to work

with engineer Paul Kimera as our locally based field officer. We also say thank you and farewell to Freya Cobbin who was our UK based administrator and to John Cleverly who worked with us for several years in Uganda but has now returned to the UK.

We are happy to announce the relaunch of our website, and to update you on various ongoing projects. If you wish to contact us please do so by emailing myself peter.clegg@fcbstudios.com or Steph who has taken on the role of administrator stephanie.sandall@fcbstudios.com

Peter Clegg, Chair of Trustees



Mike Kironde



Paul Kimera

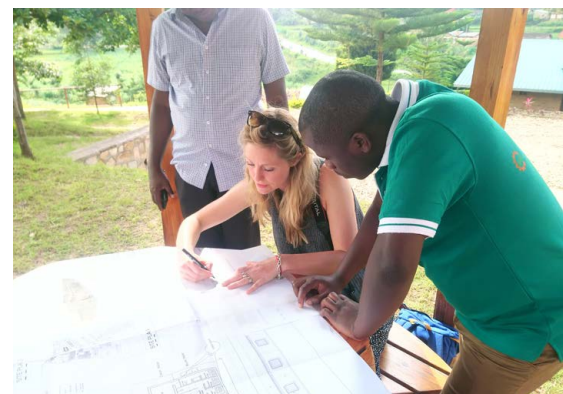
RUBENGERA SCHOOL

At the beginning of the year I travelled to Rwanda to help with the construction of the girls' dormitories for Rubengera Technical Secondary School. The project follows on from the construction of the kitchen as part of the next phase of the school's vision and masterplanning of the site. This first dormitory building to house girls at the school will be an important step towards the school's aspiration to provide accommodation for students on campus.

The building is designed to house a maximum of 24 students with showers and eco-san toilets and a room for an animatrice who looks after the girls.

One of the main ambitions for the project was to design a roof structure using eucalyptus as a locally sourced low carbon alternative to steel that could be prefabricated at the school. It is fast growing and is well adapted to growing at the high altitudes of Rwanda.

In collaboration with German Partners and guidance from engineers at Buro Happold we developed the design for the dormitories that incorporates an I-beam roof structure made from eucalyptus and plywood. The design also uses Strawtec, a locally produced sustainable product made of wheat and rice straw to create the internal partitions. The renewable material is 100% recyclable/



biodegradable and has a carbon negative footprint.

Construction of the dormitories started on site in autumn last year. The school employed a local contractor to carry out the groundworks and construction of the primary concrete structure and brick infill walls. It was the first time the school coordinated and managed a project on site autonomously which was challenging but provided opportunity for teachers to develop their skills and experience for future development at the school.

My visit was planned to coincide with that of Tim Bluthardt and a team of German Carpenters from Fingerhaus who were instrumental in the design development of the timber composite I-beam. It was an amazing effort with everyone at the school getting involved, even the sisters were helping with the sanding. With all the roof elements and eucalyptus columns prepared the

carpenters erected the roof structure quickly in between the incredibly heavy downpours. Paul Kimera, FF's technical field officer was also on site sharing his guidance and expertise on site infrastructure and civils.

There are lessons to be learnt from this pilot project that we hope to take forward and input into future dormitory buildings. With further development it will be possible to simplify the design and reduce the amount of timber used. Using the materials more efficiently will make the timber roof structure an even better alternative to steel both environmentally and economically. Through using Strawtec the project team has gained greater understanding of using local renewable products available and we hope to use these more extensively in future projects.

Heidi Day, January 2020



The Foundation along with a partner charity, 'All Our Children', is supporting a 3 year pilot programme involving a group of 11 schools from Nursery through to Primary and Secondary to establish a 'Community of Practice' in Kabale in southern Uganda.

This collaborative programme focuses on training and support for teachers:

- To develop Active Teaching and Learning
- To promoting new approaches to Behaviour Management
- To improving Health and Well-being, Hygiene and Sanitation, on the School Campuses

A detailed report on the project is available to view [here](#)

Here is an extract from the report from Angel, a teacher, in one of the most deprived districts of Kabale:



'I am a Nursery teacher and before the training I gave direct and formal instructions to the children. I would set the work, give examples, the children would listen and there was little participation – there was often boredom and lack of engagement. It was teacher centred. Now after the training where we visited other schools which were

child centred I am using group work approaches and local materials and play things with my 5 and 6 year olds. This participation allows the children to learn more. Today my lesson with the children has involved Singing, group work, making a class play to improve language and confidence, traditional dancing, and work on prepositions.'

James Wetz

Over the past few years a team at FCBStudios, together with Max Fordham and Giraffe engineering have designed the first of a series of buildings on land bought by generous donation for New Generation in Bujumbura, Burundi.

The November visit to Burundi by FCBStudios was to review the scheme with the leadership of New Generation who are championing the project and the children who will use the building in order that the scheme to be costed by the market and it was important that there was a strong sense of ownership from New Generation.

The approach to the design has been to work with materials which are locally available, in order to limit the expensive import of materials. There has always been a sense that the building needed

The Foundation has had the privilege to support and journey with New Generation (NG) for around 9 years now and have witnessed some of the inspiring work New Generation are doing to bring healing and transformation to Burundi – one of the poorest countries in the world.

Caring for the most vulnerable in the form of street children is only one part of the picture of what NG do. From the outset Dieudonné Nahimana, founder and CEO of NG, and former street child himself after losing his father, and 16 relatives in the unrest of 1993, has had a vision to develop young leaders with integrity, passion and entrepreneurship.

His vision seeks to inspire and empower leaders who will gain positions of influence to help lead their country, and overcome years of civil unrest and economic stagnation often attributed to inter-state conflict, corruption and poor governance.

to capture the spirit of a positive future for young people in Burundi that New Generation serves. The building needed to be flexible over time to serve the charity in many ways. Time has been spent to the quality of finish, with a few special crafted elements for the parts of the building which people touch as they use it, the handrail that they use as they upstairs, or the windows seats to use as they gather.

The scheme was discussed with a group of children whom New Generation are training and supporting who wanted the building to be able to welcome visitors and guests, who valued safety and security, who relished the thought of a garden, as a place of shade and beauty and place for positive growth and development.

Rachel Sayers, November 2019

Many of the leaders Dieudonné has helped raise up are now in positions of influence, and with their support he decided to step up and run in the 2020 presidential elections. Although his bid for leadership did not succeed the campaign provided a platform to raise the debate about a fair and just approach to national leadership and encourage leadership at all levels of civil society which help to break cycles of violence, social injustice and poverty and focus on the transformation of communities for rapid, sustainable and inclusive development.

The work of New Generation will continue under the leadership of Alain Kevin Ndikuriyo, the new National Coordinator of New Generation Burundi. Fundraising continues for the construction of the first phase two storey building at NG's Bujumbura HQ which the Feilden Foundation has continued to develop the designs for.

Nathan Ovens



visit our new website

feildenfoundation.org.uk



Last year I went to Uganda with Isabel Sandeman from FCBS Bath office to attend a conference on sustainable design in East Africa, organised by the Belgian NGO 'ENABEL'.

They had seen the 'Uganda Schools Design Guide' that we had produced eight years ago and asked us to produce a similar document as, in effect, a set of conference proceedings. This has turned into what we hope will be a very useful document that has been published by ENABEL as a hardback book and which is downloadable free from their website and ours. We are also developing it as an online teaching resource for use within Schools of Architecture in East Africa.

We have various copies for distribution and would be happy to send a copy to anyone who makes more than a £50 donation to the Feilden Foundation.

Peter Clegg

The first phase of construction work on site is nearing completion; over 10,000 Interlocking Stabilised Soil Blocks (ISSB) have been laid, the timber secondary structure has been erected and the lightweight metal roof has been installed.

Research continues into sustainable waste management and the design team are currently exploring using native Madagascan Tiger Worms to naturally digest human waste. The team are also investigating double skin roof options and methods for minimising internal solar gains.



THE MANIFESTO

Universal principles of climate responsive design arising from experience in East Africa

1. Engage in a participatory design process
 - » Involve project stakeholders in every stage of the design and construction process for low-carbon, long-lasting buildings that effectively fulfil the needs of users.
2. Support local labour and develop local skills
 - » Leverage the construction process to build local capacity and provide training and work opportunities for the local community.
3. Grow or salvage local materials
 - » Use local materials with low embodied carbon, which are preferably grown or recycled such as responsibly sourced timber from managed plantations.
4. Design with the climate not against it
 - » Utilise passive ventilation strategies, natural daylighting and energy from the sun, but protect from solar overheating and glare.
5. Nurture the local ecosystem
 - » Biodiverse natural landscapes promote health and wellbeing, provide climatic cooling and mitigation against the effects of extreme weather events.
6. Produce clean on-site energy
 - » On-site renewable energy generation can cover or supplement energy requirements and help to offset embodied carbon in the building fabric.
7. Utilise sustainable water sources
 - » Recycle grey water and harvest and store rainwater for reuse on site; and to help prevent flooding and erosion.
8. Provide water, sanitation and hygiene facilities
 - » Ensure healthy disposal and recycling of human waste, as well as adequate hand washing facilities and clean filtered water for human consumption.
9. Share knowledge and experience
 - » Designers, builders and building users should work together to combat climate change and learn from successes and failures.
10. Avoid the pitfalls of the industrialised world
 - » Developing countries can leapfrog the industrialised world through constructing passive buildings and investing into clean energy and smart LZC technologies.

The furniture, doors and windows are currently being made in Madagascar's capital city Antananarivo by local craftsmen and will be delivered to site following completion of the first phase. The Client, Bristol Zoological Society and design team are very pleased with the progress and quality of the build and very much looking forward to proceeding with the next phase of works early next year.

Michael Lewis



As always we extend our gratitude to you - our friends and entire support network, for your continued interest in FF activities - your support is hugely appreciated.

FCBSTudios kindly support our administrative activities, but we rely on the abundant time and expertise given by our volunteers in addition to donations made generously by our long-standing supporters to carry out the breadth of work we do in East Africa. 100% of donations received go towards building projects or supporting education for African children. We're sure you agree the impact for local communities and children is worthy. If you would like to make a donation, please visit our website, or contact us at:

info@feildenfoundation.org.uk

All cheques payable to The Feilden Foundation. Please send to Bath Brewery, Toll Bridge Road, Bath, BA1 7DE.

www.feildenfoundation.org.uk

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