

Participate!

PROJECT: DESIGN-AND-BUILD EARTH ARchiTecture RESIDENCY

WEB SITE: <http://www.focusonthearts.org>, <http://afropoets.tripod.com/eta> E-mail: africoae@gmail.com



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

ARchiTecture Residency: DESIGN-BUILD-AND-LIVE IN PROJECT

Target Group: International

Discipline: All the arts (visual, performing, literary and new genres), Architecture, and Engineering

Duration: 3 to 24 months according to project scope and nature of funding.

Organizing Institution: FOTA Foundation, a registered NGO in Ghana (FOTA is an acronym for "focus on the arts")

DESCRIPTION

This is a project-based residency opportunity for creative persons in earth architecture, earth art/ land art/ earthworks, engineering, and others who can design-and-build dwellings or non-dwellings out of earth and other materials from the environment.

Working individually or in teams, the participant in the ARchiTecture (art+architecture) Residency Project will live in the village next to our 800-acre Artist Village in development at Maabang in the Ashanti Region of Ghana until the participant completes the project on the 800 acreage and can move in. Project is open to traditional and modern construction methods, and experimental approaches that are known to work. Submissions in methods such as adobe, cob, compressed earth, rammed earth, ceramic house, poured/cast earth, papercrete, earthbag, straw-bale, stackwall, earth-shelter, earthship, and other best practices may therefore be in order. Integration of rainwater harvesting, solar and wind energy generation system are indispensable but not obligatory. The lot size and shape are open; you could build it on 120x120 ft plot, an acre, or more. The only criteria that should be met are: (1) Using earth/ other materials from the environment in part or in whole; (2) Creating a durable non-dwelling or a dwelling of at least three-bed rooms ready to move in; and (3) production budget of between €1,000 to €5,000 Euros. Priority may be given to those who have funding or can secure part-funding to complete their conceived project.

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For Architecture, in the framework of Fathy (2000), the contemporary participant specialist will be assigned a local master builder and two assistants, or as relative to the proposed process and structure. In sum, we will collaborate with the international participant to procure her/him the per diem and accommodation, and assistance from local specialists and interns in constructing the structures in anticipation that cross-cultural interchange and growth in knowledge and skills will be commonplace. International participants will be responsible for sourcing own return air ticket, insurance, and other personal costs. One of our supporting area institutions is the School of Fine Art, College of Arts and Social Sciences, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) at Kumasi; so, academic presentations and relevant others are possible.

Individuals or teams wishing to participate in the project should submit formal application to the Artistic Committee; the application should include your work plan, CV/resume, and a sample of completed works or web site to: africoae@gmail.com. The work plan should include at least 3 sketches of the floor plan/ sections/ elevations, budget, and a description of the method/materials, participants, time estimates, etc required to complete your proposed project.

CONCEPTUAL BASIS

The art+architecture project takes in the theoretical frame of the book, *Architecture for the Poor: An Experiment in Rural Egypt* by a known Egyptian architect, Hassan Fathy. In it, he puts forward that an informed person can, in fact, self-build durable, aesthetic and highly functional buildings without using expensive materials. Along these lines, we are developing a model artist village on some 800 acres in Maabang in the Ahafo Ano North District of the Ashanti Region of Ghana for replication in other parts of Africa. For the locals, it will mean a resolution to the age-old problem for people of artistry- painters, sculptors, actors, dancers, musicians, designers, and others who require low-cost and expanse of space in which to live and work; and for persons in the arts from around the world, it will be a contact point for artist-in-residence for community-based arts projects, cross-cultural conferences and environmental retreats. Thus, we will next add studios, and a multipurpose complex for conferences and community-based arts mission to these residential cottages, as would be road construction to link parts of the village.

We are equally open to some alternative Housing Development Models that work. One example is the condominium program by which International NGOs with similar goals as ours, can design-and-build their structure at own costs and pay development due of €100 per room/per year, as the grounds are owned by FOTA Foundation. If the local artist/ architect group footed all cost, the group would need to pay development due of 50 GH¢ per room/per year, as the grounds belong to our Foundation. However, we are strict that the completed structure be used solely for the purpose proposed.

LOCATION

Maabang is a rural community in the Ahafo-Ano North District in the north-western part of Ashanti Region. The area is located between latitude 6° 47'N and 7 02'N and

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longitude 2° 26'W and 2° 04'W. The District Hospital at Tewa is the major health facility around the Maabang Traditional Area; there are four smaller health service stations. Like much of Ghana, few of the roads are tarred. The project acreage is along the main road, Tewa-Goaso Road. About 85% of the working population entails farmers in cassava, yam, maize, and plantain but chiefly in cocoa. There, in the town, is a cocoa research center. Timber is one of the many traditional commodities, as the region is mostly of tropical rainforest. Maabang is in the deciduous savannah transition zone. The mean monthly temperature ranges from 26°C (in August) to 30°C (in March). Relative humidity is generally high, ranging between 75-80 percent in the Rainy season and 70-72 percent in the dry season. The mean annual rainfall is between 125 cm and 180cm. Nationwide, there are two main seasons, the raining season and dry season. The raining season is from approximately April to October followed by the dry season, which starts in December with the Hamattan wind blowing from the Saharan Desert and ends in March each year.

ARRIVAL:

Board flight from a major international airport to Kokota International Airport (ACC), and then to Sunyani Airport; Maabang is 45 minutes drive from Sunyani.

DEADLINE: Ongoing but apply at least two months in advance

TO APPLY: Candidates should send the following materials to africoae@gmail.com /

- (1) Formal Proposal (includes budget and work plan)
- (3) Bio/resume;
- (3) Other relevant materials (includes work sample or web site)

For additional information go to: <http://afropoets.tripod.com/eta> and www.focusonthearts.org



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KEY WORDS:

Earth Architecture, Natural Building Methods, Land Art, Earth Art, Earthworks, international Artist Village, Artist in Residence program, Design with Nature, Earthworks artists, Art and Architecture, African Arts, African Architecture, arts mission, structural engineering, planned/ experimental Community, environmental retreats, campsites, sculpture gardens.

