

# KURANDZA

## A LEARNING CENTER IN MOZAMBIQUE

10.000€ + CONSTRUCTION



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a competition by



in partnership with





## INTRODUCTION

**Archstorming's new competition takes us to Mozambique**, a country marked by a great number of long-lasting challenges. Although there has been a substantive increase in the household income, over two-thirds of the population still live below the poverty line. In this low-income country, with an economy based on agriculture, forestry and fisheries, approximately 60 per cent of the

population still resides in rural areas. The HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rate is 11.5%, which places Mozambique among the countries with the highest rates in the world.

This Sub-Saharan Africa country is ranked **139th out of 159 countries on the UNDP's Gender Inequality Index**. Women are exposed to threats of diseases, discrimination and violence.

Around 94% of girls in Mozambique enroll in primary school, but despite this high number, **only 11% of girls continue to study in secondary schools**. As girls grow older, they are met by an increasing domestic workload and more responsibilities. **Many**

**girls have no choice but to stay at home to do chores or work to help their families.**

**Teen pregnancies prove to be a major reason for girls dropping out of school early.** 30 to 40 percent of girls are pregnant before they turn 18 years old. Taking care of a child, working and performing household chores can be overbearing and leave these girls no time for school.

**In this competition we are partnering up with Kurandza, an NGO determined to provide these girls a safe space where they can study and become the next generation of female leaders.**



Building process of Kurandza's current office

## THE NGO: KURANDZA

Kurandza means “to love” in Changana, the local language of the community they serve in Mozambique.

In the beginning, they started as a sewing cooperative with a group of 12 women that learned about financial literacy, health and entrepreneurship.

They have run many programs, including a food

aid campaign after the drought and hunger crisis in Mozambique in 2016. But over the years, they assessed the differences between short-term fixes and long-term impact, and they started recognizing that the earlier a girl receives support in her life, the more sustainable her growth, development, and community impact will likely be. **And so, they shifted their focus to education.**

Since then, they have witnessed the transformative power of education and focused their efforts on providing scholarships, resources, and psychosocial support to the now **250 girls in their program.**

Coming from marginalized, vulnerable backgrounds, for the first time in their lives, they can dream of a future for themselves - a bright one.

For that purpose, Kurandza built a small office made of mud and is using several huts from the village to hold literacy lessons, but they are growing really fast and **they need to build a new learning center** where all these girls and women can have a safe space to study and build a better future for themselves and their families. **The new center will include, classrooms, a childcare room, a kitchen, a meeting room, among other spaces.**



## MOZAMBIQUE: CHARACTERISTICS

Mozambique borders Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Eswatini. Its long, Indian Ocean coastline of 2,500 kilometers faces east to Madagascar. About 60% of its population of 28 million (2017) live and work in rural areas. It is endowed with ample arable land, water, energy, as well as mineral resources and newly discovered natural gas offshore; three deep seaports; and a

relatively large potential pool of labor.

Unfortunately, a few years after peace could be secured in Mozambique, disastrous floods destroyed much of the country's infrastructure during a time in which it was slowly rebuilding itself. Rural Mozambique is frequently affected by droughts. Famine is widespread and many locals suffer from illnesses that are directly related to it. For the average Mozambican, life expectancy is as low as 58 years.

**More precisely, the new learning center will**

**be built in Chivonguene, a town located in the district of Guijá, in the South of Mozambique.**

Guijá District is on the left bank of the Limpopo River, it has a population of 75,303 as of 2007. The district has a dry semi-arid climate, with an average annual temperature between 24-26°C. It is characterized by irregular low precipitation, whose annual average is between 400mm and 600mm. Due to its location the district is susceptible to natural disasters such as droughts and windstorms. As of 2005, 42% of the population of the district was younger than 15 years.



Canhueiro tree



Hut used by a teacher



24°30'33.2"S  
33°06'36.8"E

[click here to open location on Google Maps](#)

## THE SITE

The site is located in the town of Chivonguene. It has a rectangular shape of 35 x 60 meters. The main access to the plot comes from a road located at the Southern side of it.

The space is currently being used as a teacher's housing area. There are several houses in our plot as well as in the neighboring plots. Teachers are living in small huts made of mud no bigger than

5x3m. Their conditions in these huts are not really good and the authorities are planning to eventually move them into better buildings.

Specifically, **Kurandza's new plot already has six constructions.** Three of them are teachers' houses but only one is being used, the other two are abandoned. The three other buildings are a latrine and two small hairdressing salons. Considering that all of these buildings were built in very poor quality, **participants of the competition can decide to demolish them** and start the new learning center from zero. You can also choose to keep some of

them and integrate them with your proposal.

Besides the buildings, in this space it is also possible to notice the existence of **many fruit trees such as a mango, a cashew, a canhueiro and a sugar apple tree.** The biggest one is the *canhueiro* (also known as marula tree), located in the North-Eastern side of the plot. While you can decide to keep or remove the other trees, the beautiful canhueiro (which is more than 15 meters tall) should be kept.

The plot is completely flat, there is no slope to consider in the project.



## THE CHALLENGE

This competition is calling for proposals to design a new learning center for the NGO Kurandza.

Kurandza is focused on making sure that girls and women in their community are able to finish their studies and don't have to drop out of school early.

To accomplish that mission, they are building a new learning center whose main purpose will be to **hold literacy sessions**, where the girls will be taught

lessons on reading and writing in Portuguese. The second purpose of the center will be to **hold exam preparation sessions** for the girls in their program.

The learning center will have **classrooms** and will function as a tutoring center for the girls to come and improve their reading and writing skills from what they are learning in their regular classes at school. Literacy sessions will occur from Monday to Thursday, 8 am to 4 pm, and girls ages 6-19 will be involved in the classes.

Outside, the learning center will contain an **area for sports and outdoor activities**, a space for a

playground for the girls to play, which will encourage them to engage in physical activities.

The goal of this competition is to create a center where **girls can feel safe and comfortable, a place where they can learn, play, run and discover.**

Architecture should bring them a **dynamic place where they can interact with each other and the surrounding environment.** The projects will have to use **locally sourced materials, easy to build constructive systems and be self-sufficient in terms of energy.** They will have to be respectful with the local traditions and nature.



Site pictures

## THE PROGRAM

**The program of the new learning center will be similar to that of a regular school.** The goal of this competition is to create spaces that are flexible and can change their function if necessary. The spaces of the following program must appear in your project but their size can slightly vary according to your design. You can also add extra spaces if you think they will be beneficial to the development of the kids.

Room Type	Number	Dimension
Classrooms	1(+2)	80 m <sup>2</sup>
Kitchen	1	35 m <sup>2</sup>
Multipurpose room	1	40 m <sup>2</sup>
Childcare room	1	20 m <sup>2</sup>
Office	1	15 m <sup>2</sup>
Storage room	1	10 m <sup>2</sup>
Bathroom	1	12 m <sup>2</sup>
Covered backyard area	1	30 m <sup>2</sup>
Garden/ orchard	1	-

- **Classrooms:** A large classroom that can be divided into two/three if necessary. It should be large enough to fit over 20 students while social distancing. The room will have desks placed either in a circular format or a traditional classroom with the teacher's desk and chalkboard in front. They would like there to be an area that could serve as a small library (bookshelves and area to check out books).
- **Kitchen:** Space to cook and for the staff to have a meal- there will be a sink, prep space, a full size refrigerator, a place to store coal and fire wood, and an outdoor area to cook the meals.





There will be a small area (table/counter) where staff members can have their meals. The kitchen's purpose is for staff to eat their meals there and to also prepare meals for all the 200+ girls (they will eat outside on mats or in the multipurpose room).

- **Multipurpose room:** this room will have dual functionality, it will be an open space for workers, but it will also have a space for holding work meetings and external meetings, so it must have enough space for a table of 10 seats and at the same time an open space for work. For general and recreational meetings with

all children on rainy days. It also includes the organization's activities such as distribution of school supplies; For team meetings/ routine work.

- **Childcare room:** A place for young mothers to leave their babies when they need to go to class. There will be a childcare attendant with cribs, diapers, toys, and all necessary supplies. This room must contain baby items. Mattresses/ baby cribs, toys, wardrobe, baby loungers...
- **Office:** a staff office with desks, computers, printers, and other supplies will allow the Kurandza team to best serve the girls and

successfully carry out all their work.

- **Storage room:** to store materials and supplies (school supplies, food, cleaning materials, uniforms, didactic materials, etc). A room with concrete shelves or with the possibility of adding metal/wooden shelving units with plastic storage containers to keep the dust and insects out.
- **Bathroom:** The bathroom will be used by everyone, so it will be important that it is a nice size. It will have 2 adjacent private bathrooms for single use each. This will allow both females and male guests to use them. It will feature all



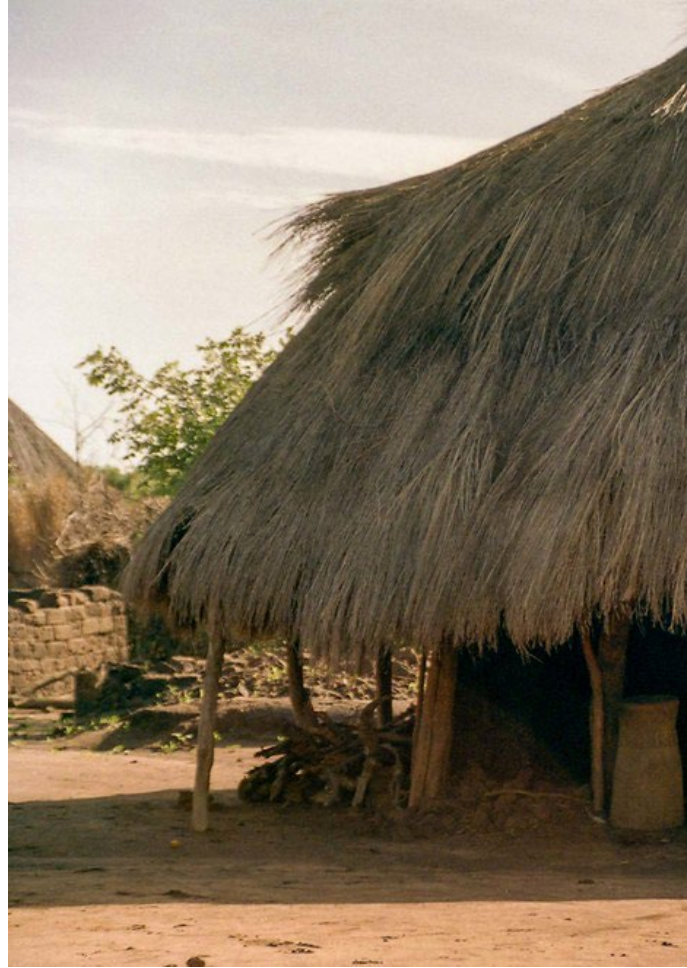
the components of a typical 4-piece bathroom including a sink, toilet, bathtub, and shower. It will have a tile floor for easy maintenance and cleaning, a door with a lock, and feminine hygiene product dispenser with supplies for the girls to use as needed.

- **Covered backyard area:** an area of the playground will be covered to shade the sun during the day, as well as serve as protection from rain during the rainy season. In this space girls will be able to play, do physical activities, eat or take lessons.
- **Garden/orchard:** an area where the girls and

staff can grow vegetables and other edible plants for use in their meals and also as an income generation activity.

Besides the mentioned program, the new learning center will have **outdoor spaces** for sports and activities. They also want a **small library** which could be in the classroom, storage room, or multipurpose room. They would also like an area in one of the existing rooms for **computers** (for staff and children). Additionally, they would like **cubbies** for all the girls to house their belongings, and an area for **Arts and Crafts**.

Kurandza plans to continue to grow the amount of girls served in the program, and therefore will plan to include an expansion proposal to accommodate for the future growth of the organization. That means that **your proposals should include a total of three classrooms, one to be built in a first phase and two to be built in a future expansion**. These classrooms would be in the future added to the primary classroom and would serve as additional spaces for tutoring areas for reading and writing, as well as meeting areas for clubs and mentorship groups the organization plans to facilitate and hold in the future.



## MATERIALS AND BUILDING TECHNIQUES

In this competition the winning project will be built. That means that the materials and construction techniques that you choose are crucial.

We are looking for realistic proposals that can be built easily by local constructors and use cheap and local materials that an NGO can afford.

The most easily found materials in the area are **clay (adobe), wood, stones, steel, concrete, and dried grass**. Foundations are normally done using concrete, stones or earthbags filled with cement and earth. Bricks can be made out of adobe (more economic) or concrete (more resistant). Wood and steel can be used for the structure, although steel is not that common. Lastly, we can find two types of roofing: thatched roofs or metal sheet roofs. Participants are free to use innovative construction systems and bring new ideas, but always keeping in mind that a local team of builders will have to easily understand and apply those systems. In the same

way, new materials can be proposed as long as they are reasonable and affordable for an NGO.

Sustainability will be a very important factor to consider in the projects. They want the entire center to be powered by **solar power**. Also, **systems that recollect rainwater** should be integrated in the designs. This area of Mozambique suffers from severe droughts, so being able to reuse rainwater would be very beneficial. The center will have a water tank of 10.000 to 15.000 liters. Any other aspect that adds value to the building in terms of sustainability will be positively evaluated.

## AWARDS

Prizes totaling 10.000€ + CONSTRUCTION, broken down as follows:

### 1st PRIZE

6.000 € + PROJECT CONSTRUCTION  
+ exhibitions and articles + certificate

### 2nd PRIZE

2.000 €  
+ exhibitions and articles + certificate

### 3rd PRIZE

1.000 €  
+ exhibitions and articles + certificate

### SPECIAL HONORABLE MENTION

500 €  
+ exhibitions and articles + certificate

### SPECIAL HONORABLE MENTION

500 €  
+ exhibitions and articles+ certificate

### +10 HONORABLE MENTIONS

+ exhibitions and articles + certificate

In addition, the winning projects and finalists will be published in magazines, blogs or architecture web pages, social networks or the Archstorming website. A digital certificate of participation will be given to all contestants.

## CALENDAR

JUNE 1, 2022	Early registration begins
JUNE 29, 2022	Early registration closes
JUNE 30, 2022	Regular registration begins
JULY 27, 2022	Regular registration closes
JULY 28, 2022	Advanced registration begins
AUGUST 24, 2022	Advanced registration closes
AUGUST 25, 2022	Late registration begins
<b>SEPTEMBER 14, 2022</b>	<b>Submission deadline</b>
SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 11, 2022	Jury decision
OCTOBER 11, 2022	Winners announced

\*No submissions will be accepted after the general deadline indicated above: 23:59:59 Los Angeles time (UCT / GMT-7) or PDT.

## ELEGIBILITY

Any architecture student or professional architect can participate in KURANDZA: A learning center in Mozambique, regardless of their nationality. Likewise, people from other disciplines can also participate, such as engineers, philosophers, sociologists, photographers, etc. It is not necessary to have an architect on the team, although it is recommended.

Teams may be formed by a maximum of four (4) members and a minimum of one (1).

All team members must be 18 years of age or older. The registration fee must be paid per team, regardless of the number of members (1-4 people). If a team or participant wants to participate with more than one proposal, it will be necessary to register twice (or as many times as proposals will be submitted), paying the full price corresponding to each registration.

Under no circumstances may jurors, the organization or persons directly related to the jury participate in this competition.

## SUBMISSION MATERIALS

Participants must submit **two (2) A1 format boards (594x841 mm or 23.4x33.1 inches)** oriented either landscape or portrait with the registration number in the lower right corner.

The content of the boards is open, as long as the idea that the participants want to communicate is clearly expressed. However, it is important to detail the proposal with the materials and constructive systems thought. The boards must be delivered in JPEG or JPG format and the file name must be the registration number provided by the Archstorming Team (eg 432465423-1.jpg and 432465423-2.jpg for the two boards)

In addition, **one (1) description of the project** no longer than 400 words must be submitted. It must be submitted in PDF format and the file name must be the registration number provided by the Archstorming Team (eg 432465423.pdf)

All the materials must be submitted in the Submit section on the Archstorming's website.

<http://www.archstorming.com/submit.html>

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

The jury will evaluate the projects based on the objectives stated in the pages 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of this briefing. Specifically, it will be evaluated if the project meets the requirements in program, building techniques, materials and sustainability.

The jury is free to add other criteria that they consider important for the creation of the learning center.

A minimum of 50 proposals will be selected for the final round. Among these finalists, the jury will choose the winner, the second and third place, the 2 special honorable mentions, and the 10 honorable mentions.

## FAQ

You can check the most common questions in the corresponding section on the Archstorming website:

<http://www.archstorming.com/faq.html>

Also, during the competition, all questions sent by email will be answered individually and uploaded to the section of the website mentioned above.

# REGISTRATION

To register, fill the registration form in the correspondent page of our website.

<http://www.archstorming.com/register.html>

Once you complete it, you will be redirected to the payment page. Fill the details and complete the payment in order to finish your registration.

Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express credit or debit cards may be used. The Archstorming team will not have access to credit card details. Please provide the information on the card as it appears on it.

Likewise, payments are accepted through Paypal.

Registration fees will depend on the registration date, and will evolve as follows:

EARLY REGISTRATION: 60€ + VAT

REGULAR REGISTRATION: 80€ + VAT

ADVANCED REGISTRATION: 100€ + VAT

LATE REGISTRATION: 120€ + VAT

VAT: 21%

Registration process must be completed on the official Archstorming website. In order for the registration to be successful, the team must pay the fee corresponding to the registration date. Once the registration and payment process have been completed, there will be no refunds.

Immediately after registration and payment, the Archstorming Team will send a confirmation email to the address entered in the payment form. It will include the work material (pictures, site plans, etc.), as well as the registration number. This number must be placed in a visible spot on the team's competition board, preferably the lower right corner.

At the time of submission of the proposals, the registration number will be required to identify the team.

## NOTES

All the projects that win a monetary prize will become property of Archstorming, and therefore give Archstorming all rights to the materials from that moment on. Archstorming reserves the rights to use any of the participating projects for exhibitions and publications, digital or paper catalogues and dossiers.

Archstorming will publish all materials given appropriate attributes to the authors.

Archstorming reserves the right to modify the proposals and text in order to better adapt them to any publication format, without changing the essence of the proposal itself.

The participant is responsible for using copyright-free images. Archstorming is not responsible for the use of protected images by the participants.

Archstorming reserves the right to make any changes in the rules of the competition (dates, requirements, etc.). It is the obligation of the participants to check on a regular basis the website of Archstorming to verify if the Terms and Conditions or the competition information have been modified.

Kurandza is in charge of the project construction. Archstorming is collaborating with the project but not responsible of the construction. If for any reason they finally cannot build it, Archstorming will not be responsible of the fact.

The breach of the norms and terms defined in this briefing or in the Terms and Conditions of the website of Archstorming will result in the immediate disqualification of the team without any refund of the payments made.

Archstorming reserves the right to cancel this contest in case it does not reach a minimum number of participants, defined in the Terms and Conditions. In that case, Archstorming will return the full amount of registration fees to the participants enrolled at the time of cancellation.

<http://www.archstorming.com/terms.html>