



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

Master of Science in Architecture Construction City

Abstract

The Bouaké Workshop Project:

Promotion program for the vacated sites of Boauké city center

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by

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The Global South countries have seen an increase in their socio-economic development and their urban areas due to its economic growth however, have also seen a lack of specialized professionals and informal business. This thesis contemplates the urge for change in the construction industries of the Global South countries in order to provide a solution to this issue.

To establish the groundwork for this issue, it is important to clarify the concepts of "*place-based*" and "*chameleon Architecture*", which defend that Architects must consider the flexibility, the adaptability to local conditions and the social impact of their designs. Based on this idea, the proposed thesis will establish links to shorten the distance of *production* to *informal industry*.

The West African country of Ivory Coast presents one of the lowest Human Development indexes of the world, mainly due to issues like illiteracy, which contributes to the high rates of unskilled labor. Simultaneously however, the country is considered an economic hub and presents a national development plan that directly supports the construction industry. Such a plan could encourage the implementation of "*A roof, a Skill, a Market*", for instance, which teaches construction skills while building houses, which would for example, benefit the sub-Saharan countries communities tremendously.

This thesis proposal takes place in the city of Bouaké, which was chosen for its economic growth, its size, but mainly for its degradation situation. In 1998, there was a fire in the central market, followed by a military-political crisis which resulted in the emptiness of the old markets' for more than 20 years, and has a direct influence on the current informal market trades on its surroundings. It will mainly focus on the vacant sites of Bouaké city center emerging by the Central Market.

The analysis and studies performed demonstrate that the current market project will generate empty spaces due to financial cuts. This creates the opportunity to explore the concept of self-construction as the main principle. Therefore, this research explores vernacular strategies, appropriate technologies, and bio-based materials life cycle to not only explore a "*place-based*" and "*chameleon Architecture*" solution, but also to create an ecologically compatible civilization. This creates the basis for the intervention.

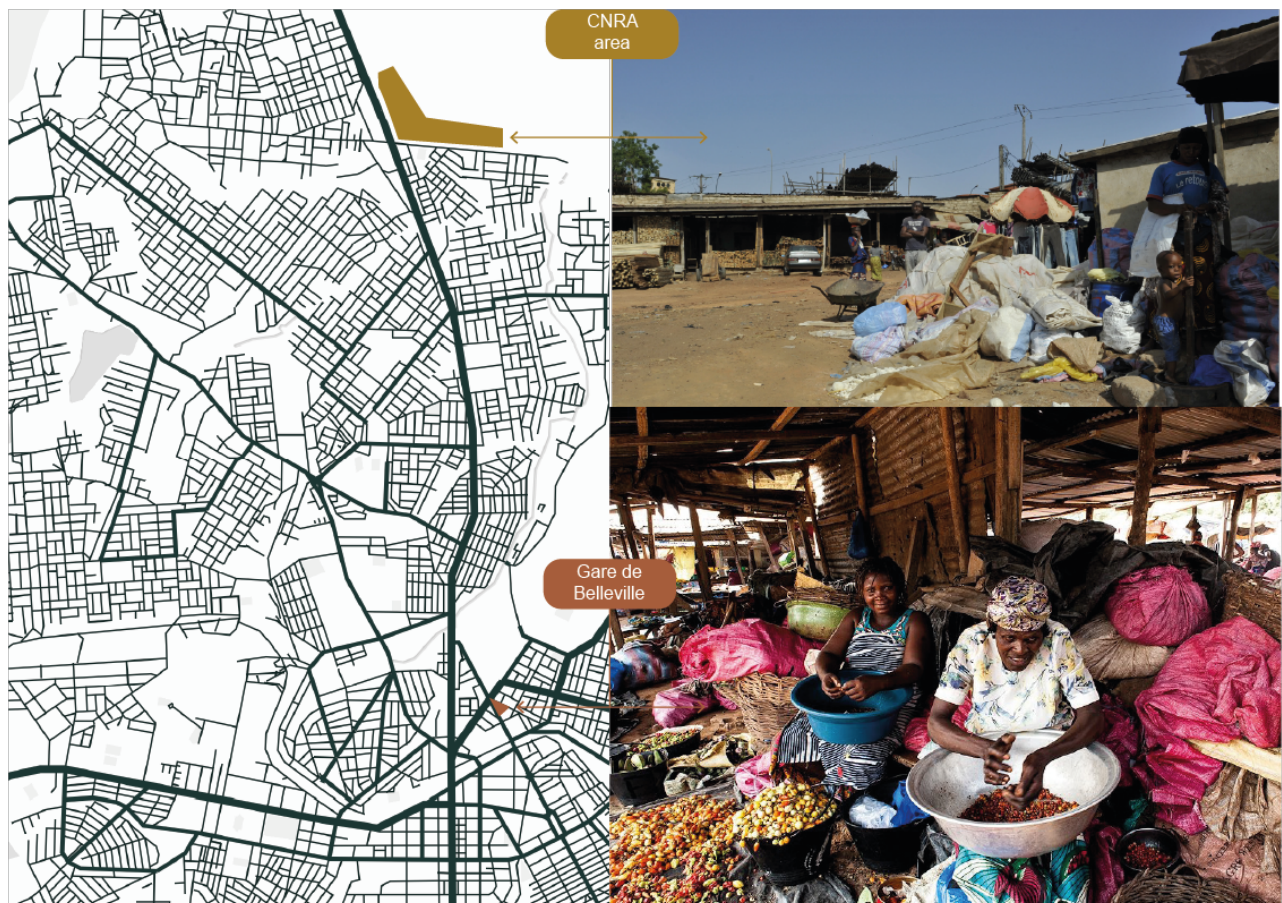


Figure 1: Map of the 2 places of intervention

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The project’s program includes a workshop that focuses on two neglected areas. By taking into consideration its adjacent context, the strategy is to achieve a fair social project that will not only have an impact on the selected sites, but will also positively affect its surroundings. It will be divided into two phases considering its feasibility, selected by its priority according to social reports. The first phase will address the CNRA area chosen for the urgency to relocate the activities outside the city center. The second will address the Gare de Belleville chosen by the necessity to place a piece of institutional equipment to enhance the center integration. Thus, the proposal creates a new CNRA market and a New institutional center of the Woman’s house in Gare de Belleville.



Figure 2: Representative renders: fist CNRA Market, School of the Woman's house center

The project receives the name *Workshop* because it is developed for a selected group of users to learn technical skills related to the construction field during the building realization. The workshop lessons will be carried out at the same time as its construction. The design is a bottom-up process and will give flexibility in the production, assembly, and final use of the building. In conclusion, the *Bouaké Workshop Project* proposes 5 buildings where, during its gradual construction, the participants' skills are increased, resulting in the specialization of several constructive techniques that will create more specialized professionals in the construction industry and will reduce the need for informal business.

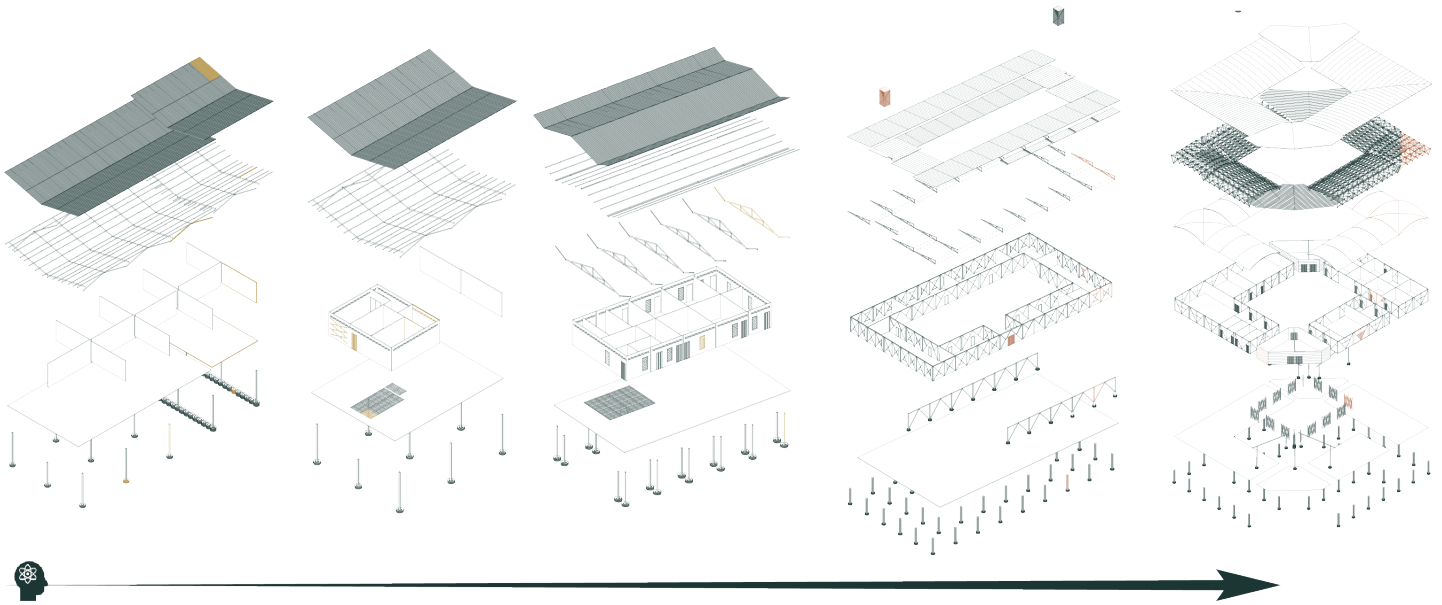


Figure 3: Evolution of constructions techniques as the phases goes by.

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