

Program Summary:

An institute for the performing arts that will become a vehicle for expanding Malian culture and music throughout the world.

Program Statement:

This institute for the performing arts will manifest and reflect the traditions of Malian griots, who are respected ambassadors, holy men, story tellers, musicians and oral historians. The griots form a bridge between Malians and their leaders and between Mali and other countries. The institute will be a real and tangible symbol of Griot culture, a facility to nurture and promote the Malian people, place and music throughout the world. This will be a place of making and celebrating.

The institute will be located approximately 4 miles from the center of the Kita, a town in remote sub-Saharan, equatorial Africa. The flat site is framed between beautiful rock outcroppings and the famous Niger-Dakar Railway. Diagrammatically, the performance space occupies the complex center; surrounded by four linear building forms that are arranged to create 3 major shaded courtyards: administration & living, performance, and education. The composition pattern references the region's textile and arts history—from colorful hand-woven blankets to the found-object work of El Anatsui.

The project marries traditional methods of construction with advanced technology; hand-molded masonry walls, strategically placed shade trees and simple corrugated metal roofs all combine with state-of-the-art recording and video equipment assimilate into a symbol for future Malian people. Passive techniques are critical because the site is not connected to any existing infrastructure; metal roofs are folded to collect rain-water for cisterns while also encouraging air flow in and through interior spaces below; for power, PV panels take advantage of the abundance of equatorial solar days.

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Building Area: (sf)
33,000 sf

Cost per Square Foot:
N/A

Construction Cost
N/A

Date of Completion:
Concept Drawings
Completed
December 2017



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PROJECT SITE LOCATION

Kita is a town and urban commune in western Mali approximately 100 miles west of Bamako, the country's capital. The city is located in the Sahel zone of the country with lands that range from arid to fertile. Kita is the capital of the Kita Cercle in the Kayes region and lies on the eastern slope of Mount Kita.

The project site is located in Boudofo a section about 4 miles north of the municipal center of Kita in a region surrounded by agriculture.

UP-175.04

DESIGN INSPIRATION (From L-R)

Drawing influence from West African built form and building practices, traditional Malian textiles and Modern West African art:

Hand-molded brick building process in Mali; Traditional Malian Khasa Blanket; Timbuktu street scene; El Anatsui modern artwork; LEVS architecten Primary School Tanouan Ibi; El Anatsui modern artwork; Keré Architecture Gando School Library.



UP-175.05

PROJECT SITE PLAN

“Drawing in the landscape as a participant in the performance”

Located approximately 4 miles from the center of Kita, the Institute sits between beautiful rock outcroppings and the famous Niger-Dakar Railway. The site design capitalizes on the landscape to be welcoming component to the students and music patrons alike.



On-site in Boudofo; Mount Kita in background



ROAD

NIGER-DAKAR RAILWAY

KITA KOUROU (MOUNT KITA)

UP-175.06

APPROACH

The welcoming Performance Venue frames Mount Kita beyond.

The Vision:

“A world with abundant opportunities for Malian musicians and widespread appreciation of Malian music.”

“a shining star on a hilltop, a destination, a home for expanding Malian culture and expression.”

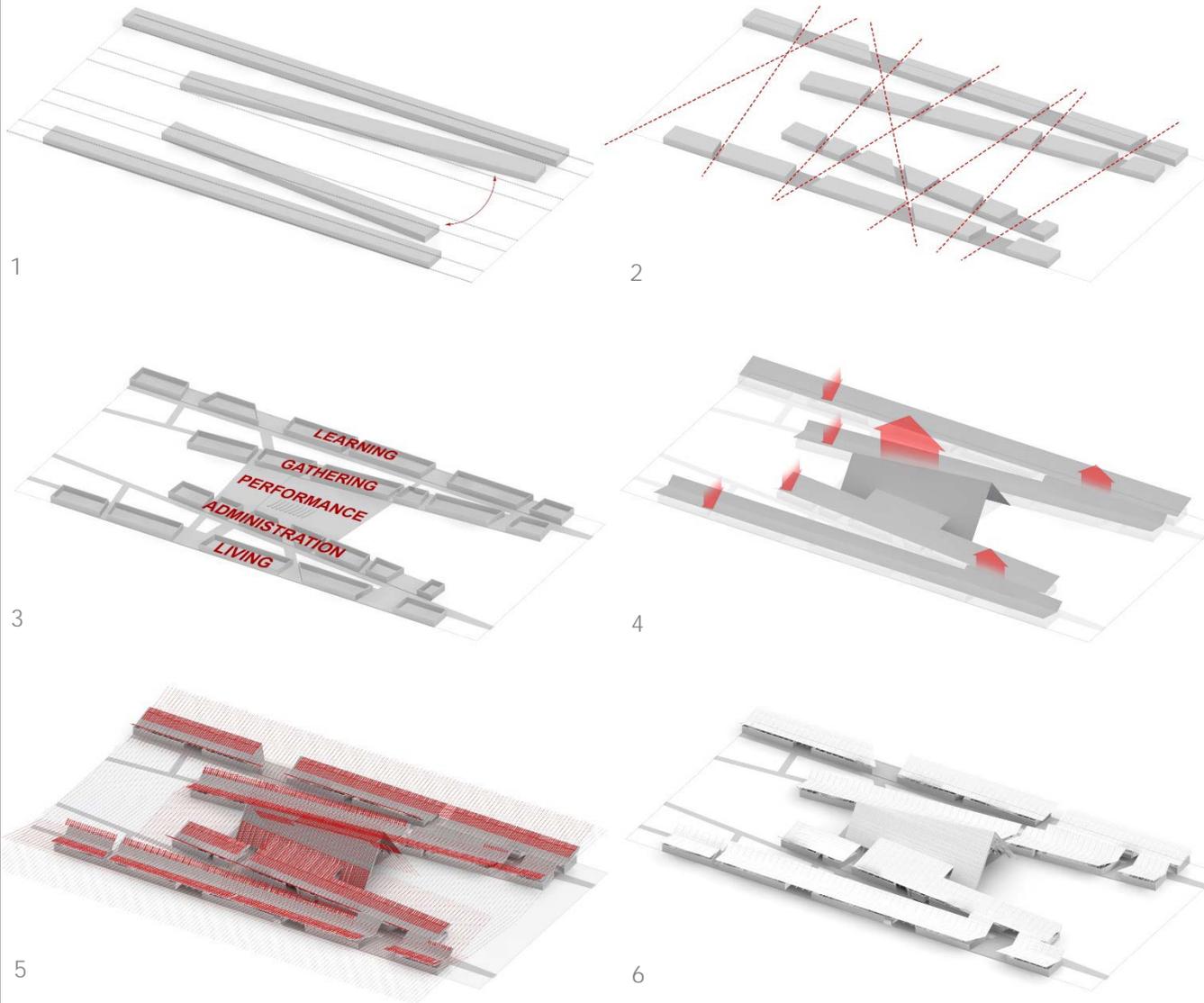


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MASSING STUDIES/ PARTI DIAGRAMS

The design starts with four elongated bars like the Malian textiles and arts. Then the masses are opened up to create an inviting central performance space.

Next the massing is cut and split like the streetscape of Kita. It becomes a more organic and natural layout that grows from the intersections. The humanity of the place begins to shine through, and becomes less about strict geometry and more fluid like music and desire lines.



1 CAMPUS PARTI

Opens towards road

2 TRANSVERSE PATHS

Dissects primary forms

3 PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

Centers around public performance space

4 ROOF PLANES

Folds to respond to environmental conditions—
water, light, air

5 EDGE PERFORATION

Textured Roof draws from traditional Malian textile inspiration

6 FINAL PROPOSAL

The composite result

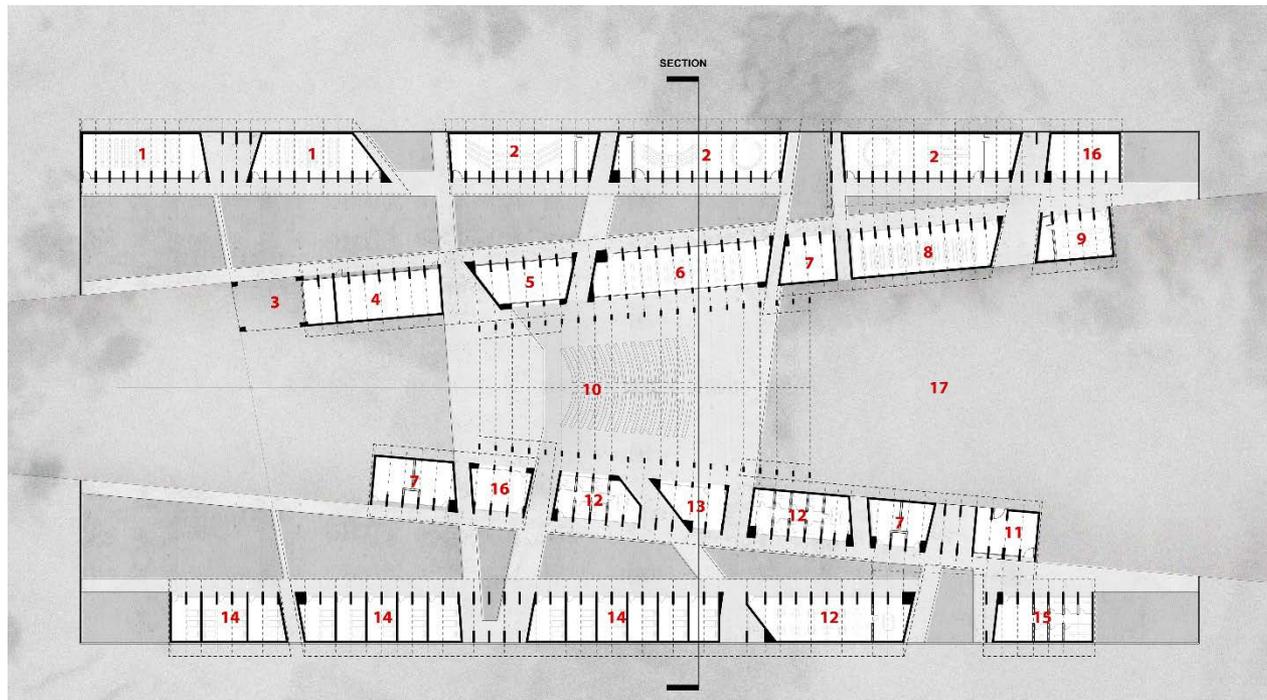
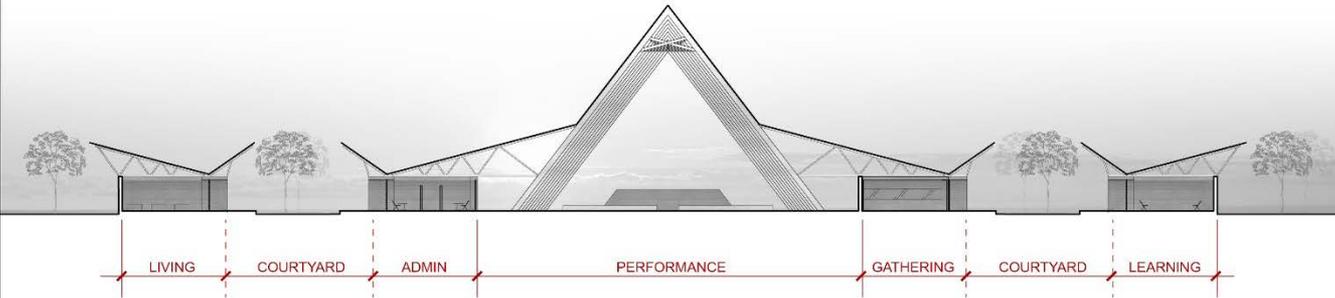
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PLAN + SITE SECTION

The challenge for any design is making the environment fit the "place." The challenge of place with this project was marrying traditional methods and more technologically advanced techniques. The building materials are traditionally Malian, mud brick and simple corrugated metal roofs combined in a modern way.

The site is laid out on a central axis with the performance space that balances the site. There are three major courtyards, administration/living, performance and education. These three courtyards are shaded to provide comfort.

The section adds to the sense of place. The singular defining element is the large periscoping central performance space that acts as a monumental beacon in the desert to attract visitors—*"monumentality deserves a special place and spirit."* This Institute is an inviting gem in the landscape.



- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 1 CLASSROOM | 6 LIBRARY | 11 RECEPTION | 16 STORAGE |
| 2 MUSICAL INSTRUMENT CLASSROOM | 7 RESTROOM | 12 OFFICES/CONFERENCE ROOMS | 17 AUTO COURT |
| 3 INSTRUMENT MAKING | 8 DINING HALL | 13 HEADMASTER'S OFFICE | |
| 4 DANCE STUDIO | 9 KITCHEN | 14 RESIDENCES | |
| 5 RECORDING STUDIO | 10 MAIN AUDITORIUM | 15 CLINIC | |

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GATHERING

Interior courtyards offer places to gather and play.

Overhangs provides shading during the warmest hours.

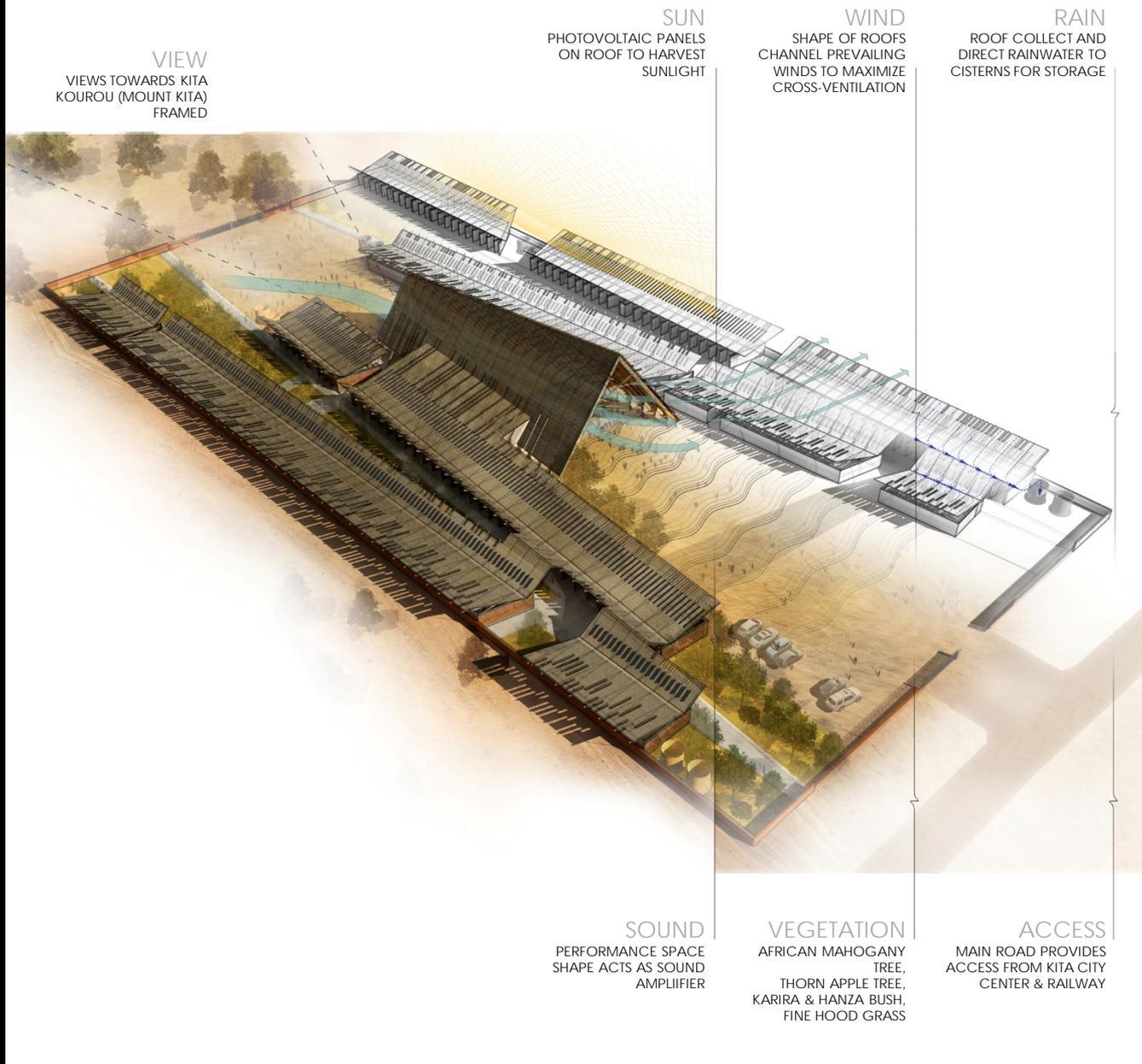


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DETAILED SITE PLAN

Photovoltaic panels generate energy to cover peak load.

Cisterns alleviate usage of well water during dry season.



UP-175.11

LEARNING

Open air music classrooms allow for practice sessions and instrument making.

Large fans exaggerate air flow in the open air spaces.

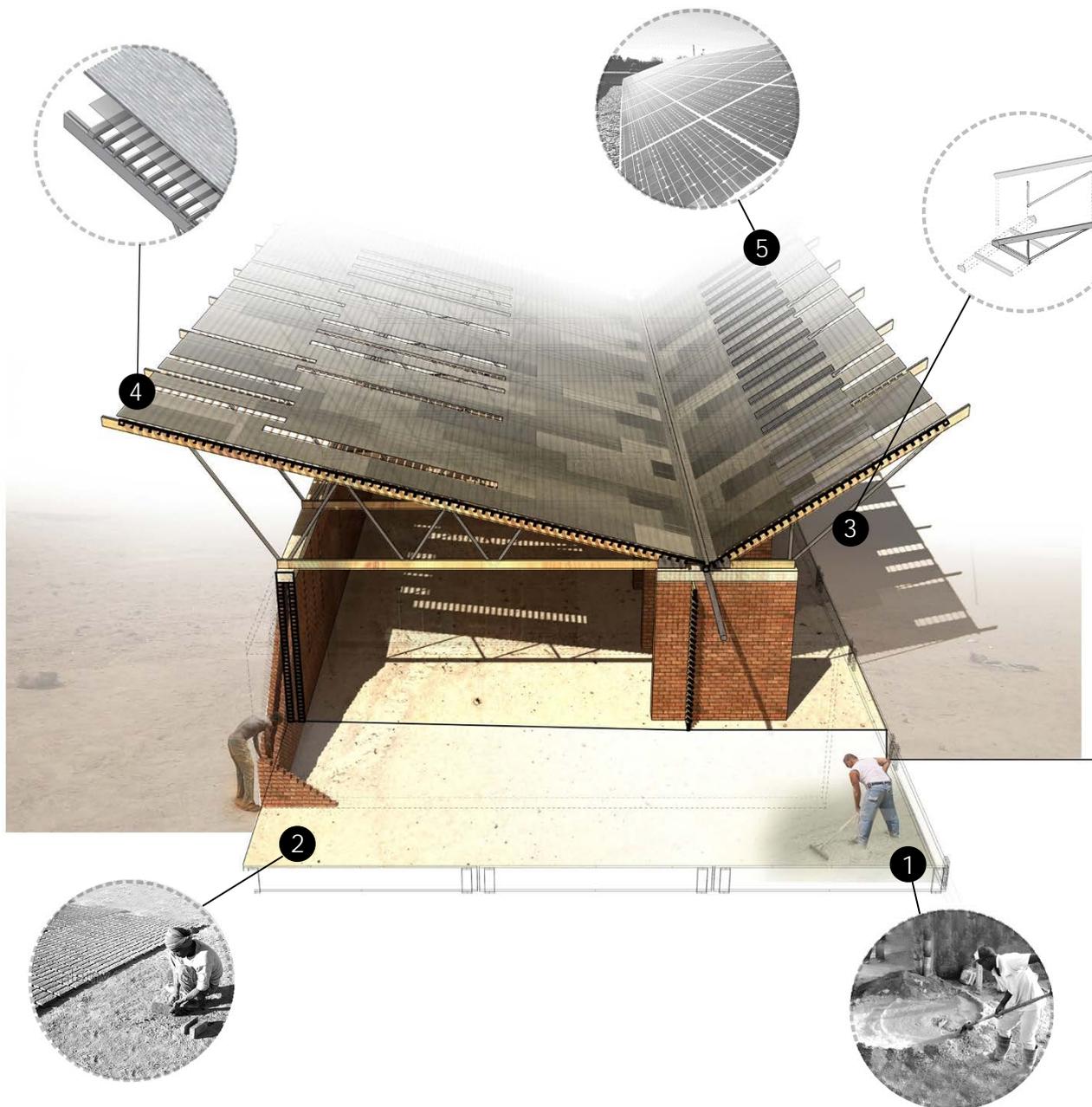


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DETAILED SECTION

Traditional techniques and materials paired with modern technology.

- 1 Poured-in-place concrete foundation
- 2 Brickwork with hand-molded brick formed on site
- 3 Pre-fabricated truss structure
- 4 Layered roof assembly with waterproofing membrane
- 5 PV array on roof



UP-175.13

PERFORMANCE

The beauty of design is possibility. The future of the Institute could be the opportunity for new programs, music festivals, expansion of the school and new larger recording studios to invite worldwide guests.

“Monumentality deserves a special place and spirit.”

In the foothills of Mount Kita, the new performance space creates a special place with meaning. The Institute has the potential to become the place to nurture the griot culture and a center for preservation of the Malian people by advancing economic opportunity and cultural exchange for the entire region.



Project Name:
The Cheick Hamala Diabaté Institute
for the Performing Arts

Project Location:
Kita, Mali

Owner/Client:
The Cheick Hamala Diabaté Foundation

Architect(s) of Record:
(names and addresses)
Gould Evans + Billes Architects
3308-A Magazine Street
New Orleans, LA 70115

Project Team:
Robert Riccardi, Martin Tovrea,
Brian Webber, Jason Butz, Gerald Billes

Landscape Architect:
N/A

Consultants:
N/A

General Contractor:
N/A

Photographer(s):
(please list which specific slides get credited to each
photographer(s) listed).

All drawings and illustrations Gould Evans.

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Credit Slide