



BUILDING TOMORROW®

the organization

Building Tomorrow (BT) is an international social-profit organization empowering young people to raise awareness about international educational inequalities and fund the construction of primary-level academies in sub-Saharan Africa.

Our model: BT chapters and supporters in the US raise funds to provide challenge grants to partner communities in Uganda that cover the cost of construction materials for a new academy. In Uganda, local leaders, friends and family of future BT students volunteer over 20,000 hours of labor to construct each academy.

In Summer 2010, BT broke ground on our tenth academy in Uganda, each providing learning space for 325 students in P1-P7 (US equivalent of 1st-7th grade).

the need

More than 38 million children in sub-Saharan Africa wake up each morning without a school to attend...29% of the entire youth population. Countries such as Uganda, have initiated Universal Primary Education programs, guaranteeing a free education to every child; yet lack the financial means to construct enough schools to meet the demand. In many cases, this results in students walking miles to get to a "school" in a neighboring community, scribbling their lessons in the dirt for lack of proper learning materials or even gathering under a tree to learn.

The World Bank states that learning inside of a well-built school raises the standard deviation of student achievement in sub-Saharan Africa by ten percentage points. And, that the single most important element of infrastructure that contributes to higher teacher attendance at school in sub-Saharan Africa is a well-built latrine.

where you come in

BT is appealing to architecture schools across the US to design the next generation of BT academies...more specifically, to develop an innovative design for a school in rural

Uganda; in areas with little or no existing access to educational infrastructure.

Over the past two years, architecture students at U.Va. and ND have joined forces with the student chapters on their respective campuses and started Building Tomorrow, too. Ultimately? We'd love for you to do the same.

case studies

University of Virginia

The BT Academy of Gita is the result of Building Tomorrow's first multidisciplinary collaboration on a college campus. Throughout the 2007-2008 school year, undergraduate architecture and engineering students in Architecture Studio reCOVER and the Engineering in Context Capstone Design Program crafted a design for a new ten-room school house, funded by the student chapter of BT at U.Va. and the School of Architecture. The Academy is the fifth opened by BT in Uganda with another five Academies slated to open in the next year.

"It is so awesome to see the Academy open and come to fruition," U.Va. alum ('10) and former Vice President of Fundraising at the university's BT chapter Liz Braden said. "To know that the University of Virginia community puts a roof over the heads of hundreds of students each day is nothing short of incredible."

Over the last four years, more than 2,000 students and community members have participated in BT-sponsored events, including Bike to Uganda, a 7,500-mile bike ride on the Lawn held each Spring. Through these and other events, more than \$50,000 has been raised in support of the BT Academy of Gita.

In March, the BT Academy of Gita was honored with the American Institute of Architects Education Honor Award and highlighted at the Spring 2010 meeting of the Association of Collegiate Architecture Schools.





University of Notre Dame

On May 25th, 2010 8 University students, 6 from the University of Notre Dame and 2 from DePauw University, and a BT Staff member joined forces with Kyeitabya community members to begin construction on its ninth academy: the Building Tomorrow Academy of Kyeitabya. Kyeitabya is supported by the University of Notre Dame School of Architecture through the generosity of Matthew and Joyce Walsh. The Academy, designed by University of Notre Dame Architecture students, will be BT's ninth in Uganda and construction is expected to take approximately 12 months. Once open, the BT Academy of Kyeitabya will join the nearly-completed BT Academy of Sentigi as the second location supported by the ND community.

Leaders in the Kyeitabya area have already demonstrated a fierce commitment to bringing a new, permanent school structure to their village. After BT passed up the location in 2008 on account of a poor access road and the high prices of land, a community mobilizing committee was established to remedy both situations. Eighteen months later, lay leaders effectively persuaded local authorities to grade the road, three acres of land were donated and over 20,000 hours of labor were pledged to support construction efforts.

Kyeitabya is located 45km north of Kampala in Kiboga District. Approximately 450 children in immediate proximity of the Academy are currently without access to a permanent classroom. The Academy will be BT's second to be built using a newly-adopted interlocking soil-stabilizing block (ISSB) produced on site, entirely from local materials.



location

BT currently works in the following districts in Uganda: Wakiso, Kiboga, Mukono and Mpigi. In the future, BT hopes to expand to other areas within Uganda and throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Locations of current BT academies:

Lutisi +0° 30' 10.50", +32° 17' 34.26"

Buwasa +0° 31' 24.54", +32° 14' 44.52"

Kiyamba +0° 44' 55.32", +31° 58' 30.42"

Gita +0° 30' 45.48", +32° 30' 7.80"

Jomba +0° 32' 8.52", +32° 18' 52.80"

Bubeezi +0° 12' 0.54", +32° 19' 16.20"

Kyeitabya +0° 36' 32.46", +32° 1' 18.60"

Nakaseeta +0° 23' 45.36", +32° 52' 39.73"

design requirements

Your challenge is to come up with a unique, sustainable, primary school design that utilizes local materials available in Uganda, can be easily adapted to varying landscapes, and can be constructed by unskilled laborers – all for less than \$60,000.

The school must fit 325 children. It must include seven classrooms, one office, a library, toilets, and a soccer field. The ideal school would also have a central gathering/performance space.

- Classrooms must accommodate up to 45 students and 1 teacher.
- Construction costs per classroom cannot exceed the budget defined above.
- All dimensioning should follow the metric system
- The design should be adaptable to varying landscapes/environments

materials & construction

In line with BT's cost-sharing model, the design requires the innovative use of locally available materials and simple construction techniques that can be easily learnt by unskilled members of the community. (View [costing & typically used materials](#).)

Furthermore, BT recently began using interlocking stabilized soil bricks (ISSBs) at each of our more recent academies (Bubeezi, Kyeitabya and Nakaseeta). ISSBs are made on-site from local materials (on-site or nearby in the community), require significantly less cement than clay bricks and never need to be fired.

faqs »

We have provided answers online to a number of questions posed to students and teachers/administrators in Uganda.

building terms

Should you, your students and/or your school be interested in pursuing this project, we have compiled a list of expectations for both parties involved (Building Tomorrow and your college/university).

budget

Your budget is not to exceed \$60,000 (total) for skilled labor & construction materials.

design timeline

Your design should be completed no later than the end of the 2010-2011 academic year.

design revisions

Due to our limited resources & staff, Building Tomorrow will accept no more than two design revisions. If, after the second design revision, your design does not fall within the budget or meet any of the pre-defined design requirements, BT will be unable to construct your academy, as designed.

funding for the academy

You are responsible for fundraising the necessary \$60,000 to construct your academy within two years. If a BT chapter exists on your campus, the funds they raise may be combined with yours (subject to their discretion).

location of the academy

The exact location of your school's academy will not be determined until your design is finalized and fundraising is completed. This is due to an important aspect of BT's model: we will not make promises to our partner communities that we can not keep.

construction updates & progress

Should you meet the above requirements and your academy is constructed, BT will provide you with regular photos and updates throughout the entire construction process.

continued involvement

While, as stated above, we do require your design to be complete prior to the commencement of construction, we recognize (and hope you will, too) that it may be necessary to make certain design modifications throughout the construction process.

understanding

While Building Tomorrow promises to do everything in our power to ensure your academy is built to your design, please know that building in a developing country has its challenges and it will be simply impossible for the final design to match your initial design 100%.

Date _____

School _____

Academic Supervisor 1

_____ signature

_____ name

Academic Supervisor 2/University Administrator

_____ signature

_____ name

Building Tomorrow Executive Director

_____ signature

_____ name



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