

THE SAN-DAL ATELIER

NAMIBIA

Heritage of the San-dal

Many generations ago the San (Bushmen) developed a sandal called the “n!ang n|osi”. The sandals were used for persistent hunting, long- distance running to hunt animals over hot sand, and were a necessary tool for our common ancestors’ survival. The current San-Dal project enhances the livelihood of the Jul’hoan San (Bushmen) while preserving their ancient traditions linking them with the rest of the world.

The Earthbag wall

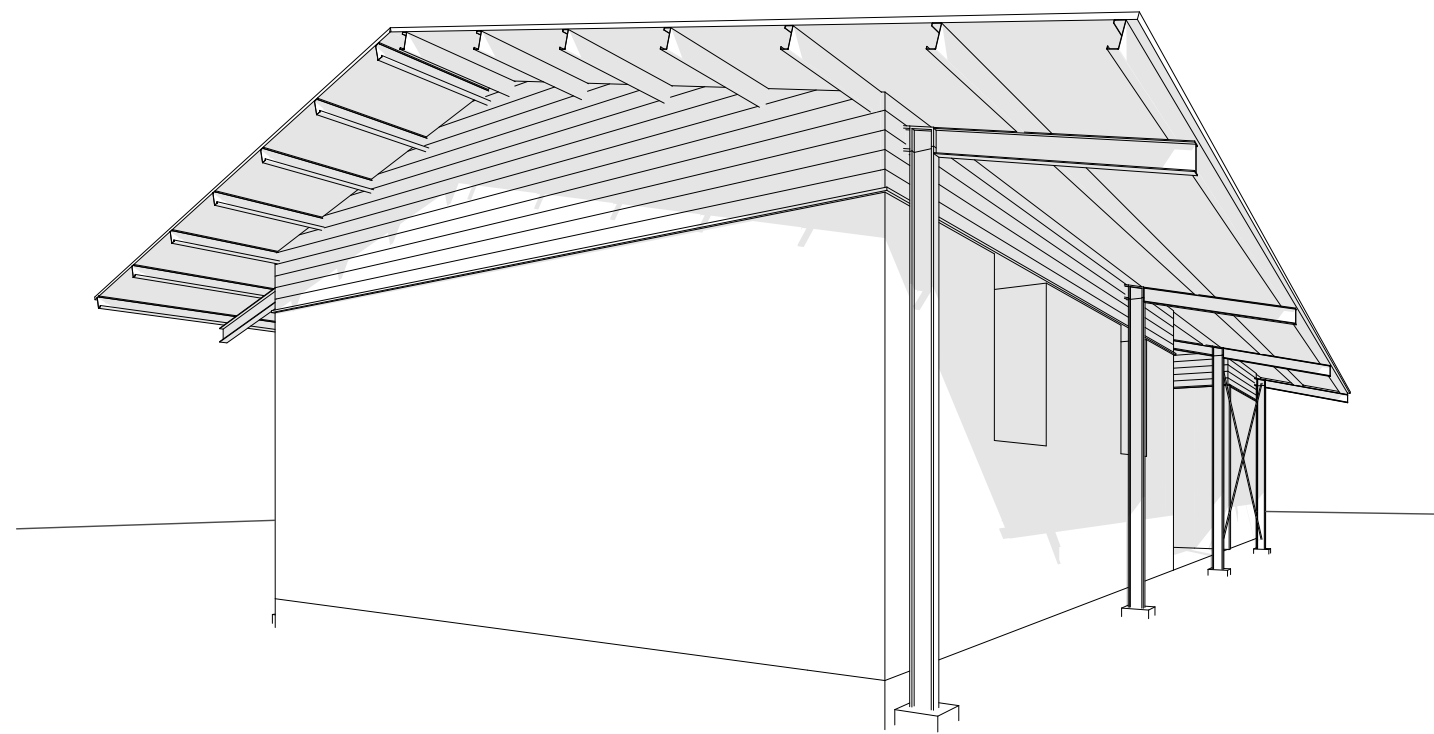
In connection with the availability of natural resources and in line with the traditions of the Jul’hoansi, the local villagers developed an idea for a future crafts building. The new atelier provides an inside workspace, a central open area with a fireplace, and a storage room to keep the materials, skins, and finished crafts out of the sunlight. This atelier needs to be durable to cope with natural forces such as bushfires and heavy storms. To blend in with nature, an atelier was developed with earth bag walls.

Ownership of the workspace lies with the community, this means the cobblers carry the project into the future, giving it meaning and exploring new approaches to sustainable design.

As such the new crafts building is meant to be more than a sandal making unit, in that it will also train people in various crafts. This enables the ancient knowledge and traditional approach to be transferred on to next generations, and skills to remain vivid.

Planned activities

1. Design a vernacular building, a collaboration between Nina Maritz (NAM), Bruno Spaas (BE) and the Jul’hoansi community of Nhoma.
2. Environment scan for suitable and preferably local building material by Nina Maritz’ team.
3. Employ local villagers for earth bag wall construction and preparation.

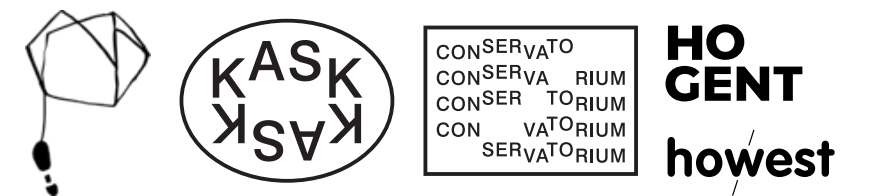


Keywords

Sustainable Architecture
Design Anthropology
Indigenous Footwear
Decentralised Production
Traditional Knowledge

Project by

Future Footwear Foundation (FFF), a research centre affiliated with KASK School of Arts & Conservatory Ghent.



Funding

The new atelier is already 50% funded with the generous support of Province East-Flanders and the Rotary Beveren in Belgium.



Timing

November 2020 – June 2021

Contact

Willems Catherine
+32 476366041
catherine.willems@hogent.be
Founder FFF

Blommaert Flora
+32487170699
flora.blommaert@hogent.be
Adjunct Manager FFF
www.futurefootwearfoundation.com

Timeline

