Between Walls
Community medical center and school, Tatiba Baraibura, Jharkhand, India

Main author
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Summary by the jury
The community center in Tatiba Baraibura is comprised of a residential school for 400 students, vocational training program and medical center for 14 villages in the West Singhbhum district. The project is financed by a mining company as part of its social responsibility program. Local rough laterite stone is used as the main building material of the four parallel walls that comprise the building’s load bearing structure. A light roof with substantial overhang made of industrialized steel ensures shading and natural ventilation. The low cost structure combines local materials and traditional craftsmanship with modern technology.

Appraisal by the jury
The jury was highly impressed by the elegance of the proposed structure – a building of unassuming poetic expression. Straightforward means are put to work to form a highly adaptable system of walls, openings, access routes, open courts and indoor as well as outdoor spaces. These elements are all assembled according to the rules of time-honored architectural principles – a building both traditional in the way it is made and modern in its appearance. Notwithstanding the design’s aesthetic quality, the project adheres to most criteria elucidated in the “target issues” for sustainable construction, merging economic, social, contextual, and environmental aspects into a simple yet sophisticated building.

Project data
Context Architecture, building and civil engineering
Client Stem Minerals LLP
Background Private commission
Planned start February 2014

Further authors
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Acknowledgement
Image 3: Mining landscape.

Image 4: Integrating into the terrain.

Image 5: Creating new connections between built forms and nature.

Image 6: Situated lightly amongst the existing trees.

Image 7: The linear volumes between the parallel walls.

Image 8: The light roofs float above the parallel walls.

Image 9: Conceived as an abstract expression of a wall in the garden.

Image 10: Choice of materials with emphasis on weathering gracefully.

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