Co-op Capacity Building
Community farming and market hub, Kigali, Rwanda

Main author
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Summary by the jury
The master plan focuses on the rapid urban growth in Kigali, Rwanda and responds to the needs of the predominantly young population. The project establishes participatory processes with local cooperatives and stakeholders. Working with, rather than against the topography, the scheme includes a collective hill-farming program, community buildings, and a market. Existing wetlands will be improved with aquatic macrophyte plants and intercepted with a network of pedestrian bridges and pathways. Using local materials as well as empowering the local labor force, the Kora Participatory Plan offers cost effective, re-applicable solutions that respect the Rwandan tradition, improved by a contemporary sense of public space aesthetics.

Appraisal by the jury
The jury was impressed by the idea of strengthening communities involved in food production through cooperative capacity building, combining social and economic programs in the very make-up of the community. The masterplan thus goes beyond the implementation of physical infrastructures, spaces, and buildings to include a range of measures to reinforce social interconnectedness – through communication and participation. The project is a small but nonetheless important step in nation building, in a country troubled by its past.

Project data
- **Context**: Landscape, urban design and infrastructure
- **Client**: Kora Community Agaseke Kiwaku Cooperative + Umuganda Community
- **Background**: Private commission
- **Planned start**: January 2015

Further author
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Image 4: The Agriculture Community Center’s relationship with adjacent hill farming and former wetlands.

Image 5: Community center: Describing physical connection to the landscape, illustrating main functions.

Image 6: Community center: Note the natural construction materials that address transferability.

Image 7: The Common yard space, for market or leisure activities, makes the Center a real “home”.

Image 8: The landscape in front the building ascends the hill in alignment with the topography.

Image 9: Participative SWOT analysis based on 86 interviews.