**Chicoco Radio**
Community building designed for urban flooding, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

**Main author**
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**Summary by the jury**
Chicoco Radio is a floating media platform that will be built with and for the residents of the waterfront slum communities of Port Harcourt in Nigeria. The structure is conceived as a linear public space connecting land and water. The design is part of the African Water Cities project, which investigates the challenges and opportunities at the intersection of rapid urbanization and climate change in African coastal cities. A participatory venture using locally produced materials, Chicoco Radio will be the community’s voice and will include recording studios, a computer center, meeting rooms, cinema, and an amphitheater.

**Appraisal by the jury**
The jury acknowledges the project’s objective to establish linkages both locally and across the region. Architecture merges here with new media to become a platform for modern communication and participation – a civic tool to strengthen local and regional identity. Located at the threshold between land and water, the structure furthermore encapsulates the effects of climate change on coastal communities in Africa. The use of indigenous materials such as bamboo to create a media center offers the opportunity to create an architecture that goes beyond tradition, while respecting the past.

**Project data**

<table>
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<th>Context</th>
<th>Architecture, building and civil engineering</th>
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<tr>
<td>Client</td>
<td>CMAP</td>
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<td>Background</td>
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<td>Planned start</td>
<td>May 2014</td>
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**Image 3:** Chicoco Radio is a versatile space that can be appropriated for different community functions.

**Image 4:** The waterside of the building is a floating stage and jetty responding to the daily tidal changes.

**Image 5:** The radio station is also a beacon and landmark for the community.

**Image 6:** Built of locally-available materials, the structure incorporates renewable energy systems.

**Image 7:** The floating platform is a waterfront cinema space.

**Image 8:** The concept and design development have been completed in close consultation with a community design team.

**Image 9:** African Water Cities: examining challenges and opportunities of rapid urbanization in the context of climate change.

**Image 10:** Makoko Floating School prototype: an innovative approach to address climate change and urbanization.

More at www.holcimawards.org/projects/chicoco-radio