

BUILDINGS

FIRST LOOK

SAWA and Squire & Partners design Cambodian technology centre

8 FEBRUARY, 2019 • BY FRAN WILLIAMS



Source: Squire and Partners / SAWA



COMMENT

The £20,000 collaborative project was built over four months, using local resources, labour and skills

Located in Krong Samraong, Cambodia, the Agriculture & Technology Centre was built by contractors, farmers and locals, assisted by volunteers from the UK. The development provides an education space to teach agricultural technologies, support children and adults, and facilitate opportunities for enterprise.

Designed by London-based collective SAWA with its longstanding humanitarian architecture collaborator Squire & Partners, the project is responsive to a tropical climate – with raised floors to reduce flood risk, screens diffusing sunlight and overhanging roof eaves suitable for rainy seasons.



The technology centre draws on crafts from the area's vernacular – utilising local resources, labour and skillsets. The main structure provides a multi-use hall with office and ancillary storage spaces and a full-width screened veranda. Sitting within a steel frame, the primary building materials consist of earth bricks handmade on site, rice husks, clay blocks and bamboo screens. Cassava and sand plaster have been used to render the walls – a material created in collaboration with a local organic farm.

A cast entrance ramp leads to a flexible screened veranda with built-in countertops used for workshops and pop-up shops. Two classrooms sit either side of a central hallway. Woven grass screens can be lowered to divide up the spaces, while bamboo fisherman baskets are repurposed as lampshades.

ADVERTISEMENT

Did you know

The Agriculture & Technology Centre was opened at the end of 2018. It is part of the first phase of a larger masterplan, which has delivered a series of buildings that will serve up to 200 students by 2020. The second phase aims to expand facilities and create a solar provision to support the development.



Project data

- Start on site** July 2018
- Completion** December 2018
- Gross internal floor area** 310m²
- Construction cost** £20,000
- Construction cost per m²** £64
- Architect** Squire & Partners in collaboration with SAWA architecture
- Client** Green Shoots Foundation (UK funding charity)
- Structural engineer** Buro Happold (Happold Foundation)
- Sustainability engineer** Buro Happold (Happold Foundation)
- Architectural delivery support** Building Trust International
- Contractor** Tat Sovattana Architecture Ltd (structure and roof)
- Natural building, permaculture and natural plastering consultant** OrganikH Farm
- Water contractor** Cambodian Health
- Sanitation specialist** Human Rights Alliance
- Local partner** Community Integrated Development Organisation Cambodia

TAGS BRICK TECHNOLOGY SQUIRE & PARTNERS AGRICULTURAL SAWA CAMBODIA

- It's something else (please specify) Send
- demolition
- How much did Patrik Schumacher earn last year?
- 'Missed opportunity' to save Brutalist car park as Parry is swapped for EPR
- Urban Splash team set to build huge modular housing scheme for new town
- UK architects rush to register in Ireland ahead of Brexit
- Malcolm Fraser returns with new practice
- David Adjaye says 'disrupting' the park is key to his Holocaust memorial thinking
- Heatherwick Studio and SPPARC win go-ahead for £1bn Olympia plans

- RELATED JOBS
- AYA Design-led collaborative seeks skilled Interior Designer/Architect £32,000 - £40,000 p.a.
 - Senior Airport Planner / Architect - Southeast Asia Negotiable
 - Revit Genius for Inspiring and Highly Collaborative, Design-driven, Award-winning Studio £45,000 - £55,000 p.a.
 - Team Administrator for Collaborative Architect Practice Up to £22000.00 per annum + Negotiable dependent on experience
 - Technical Mastermind for Inspiring and Highly Collaborative AR Awarding winning Studio £45,000 - £55,000 p.a.
 - Rail Project Architect for Prestigious, High-profile International Collaboration £34,000 - £45,000 p.a.