

PROPOSED MAKERERE SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS AND FILM

(connecting to the subconscious mind through immersion)

This project intends to immerse its users in their surroundings as a way of helping them unwind, pause, and enhance creativity by connecting to the subconscious mind through multi-sensory engagement, exploration, visual and physical interaction . This approach responds to the mental fatigue experienced by students due to a number of factors, including physical exhaustion, creative blocks, and the pressure to continually progress academically. The project mimics the current character of the site, which is engulfed by nature, buffering out the surrounding environment as one listens to the rustling leaves, feels the gentle breeze and soft ground textures, and experiences the grandeur of the trees, placing the user in a state of awe.

The proposed School of Performing Arts and Film is further rooted in the collective traditions of Ugandan performance, the project interprets the traditional way of living in a Ugandan homestead , entertainment, storytelling and fractal organization through contemporary architecture. Making one identify themselves in every single space they inhabit, as the building natively captures the past and future of performance in Uganda.

At its heart lies an open-air amphitheatre, the spatial and symbolic node from which learning, collaboration and discovery radiate. Like the traditional Ugandan homestead, life unfolds around a shared courtyard from which all living happens. in the design, the amphitheater is adjacent to the students lounge making them the heart of social life and interaction to the users

Immersion is achieved through engaging every sense. Intangible textures as Light filters across textured masonry, the use of unfinished raw traditional materials as traditional symbolism, changing with time and season. Breezes move through shaded courts through Perforated walls to the interiors of the structure. The scent of vegetation, the sound of rehearsal from the central amphitheater , the fractal layout of spaces that allows for exploration, the height of the structure that allows for engulfment the site making its experience subtle and part of the environment, the interplay of grand interior volumes to create a sense of awe and intimate scales to create a sense of warmth , the continuous visual interaction of the outdoors and interior activities, combine to create an environment that grounds the body and liberates the imagination as one fully interacted with their surroundings.

The building sits gently within its landscape, preserving mature trees and embracing its

environment, the fractal layout allows for passive cross ventilation, the use of the traditional brick reduces the carbon foot print and maintenance , ample daylighting use of translucent ceilings and roofs and openness of all interior spaces.

This design cultivates creativity Through culture, landscape, materiality and sensory engagement, the School of Performing Arts and Film becomes a place where architecture itself performs, inspiring every student to see, feel and create differently.