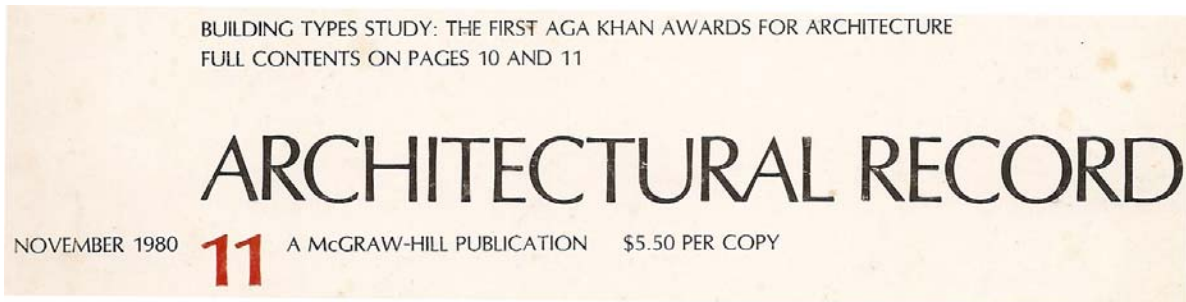


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# The 1980 winners in the first Aga Khan Award for Architecture

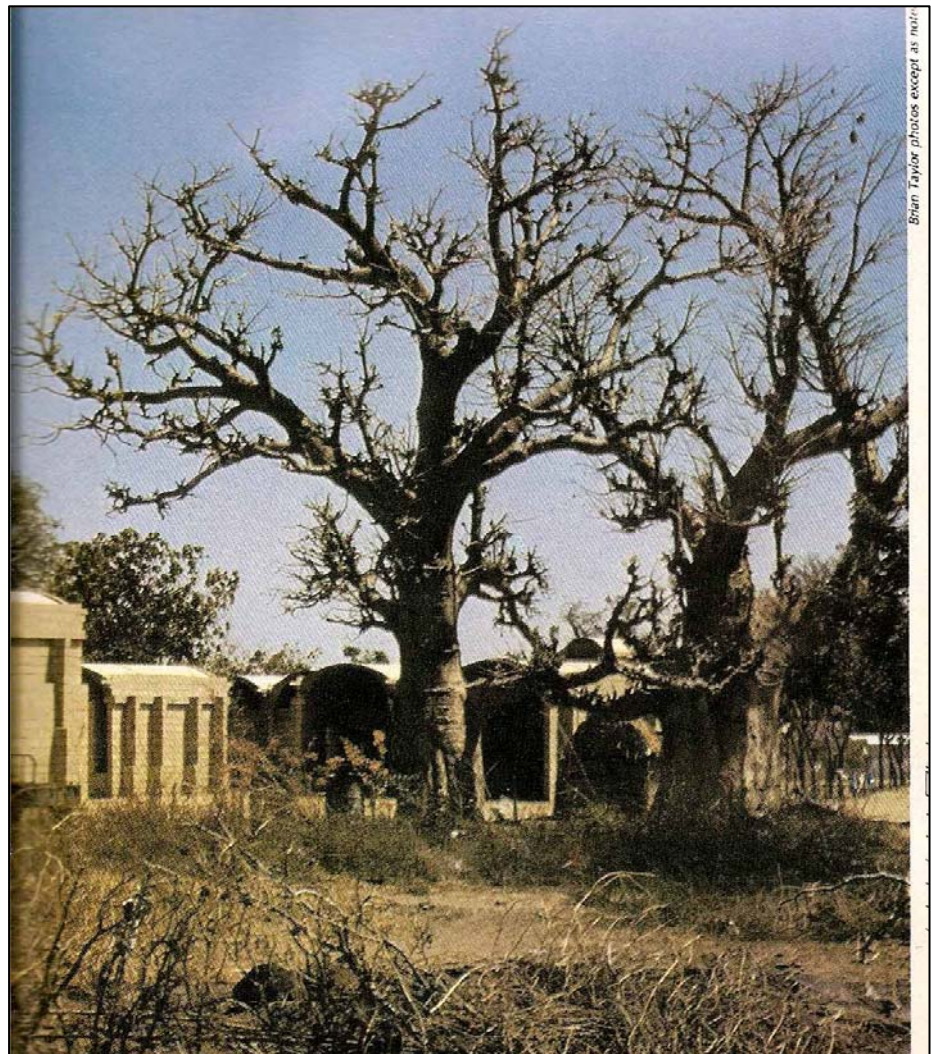
Among others for:

The Agricultural Training  
Centre in Nianing, Senegal,  
completed in 1977.

Architects:  
Kamal El Jack,  
Pierre Bussat,  
Oswald Dellicour,  
Sjoerd Nienhuys  
Christoporos Posma,  
Paul de Walick.

and

Master mason :  
D' Lallo



## Partial reproduction

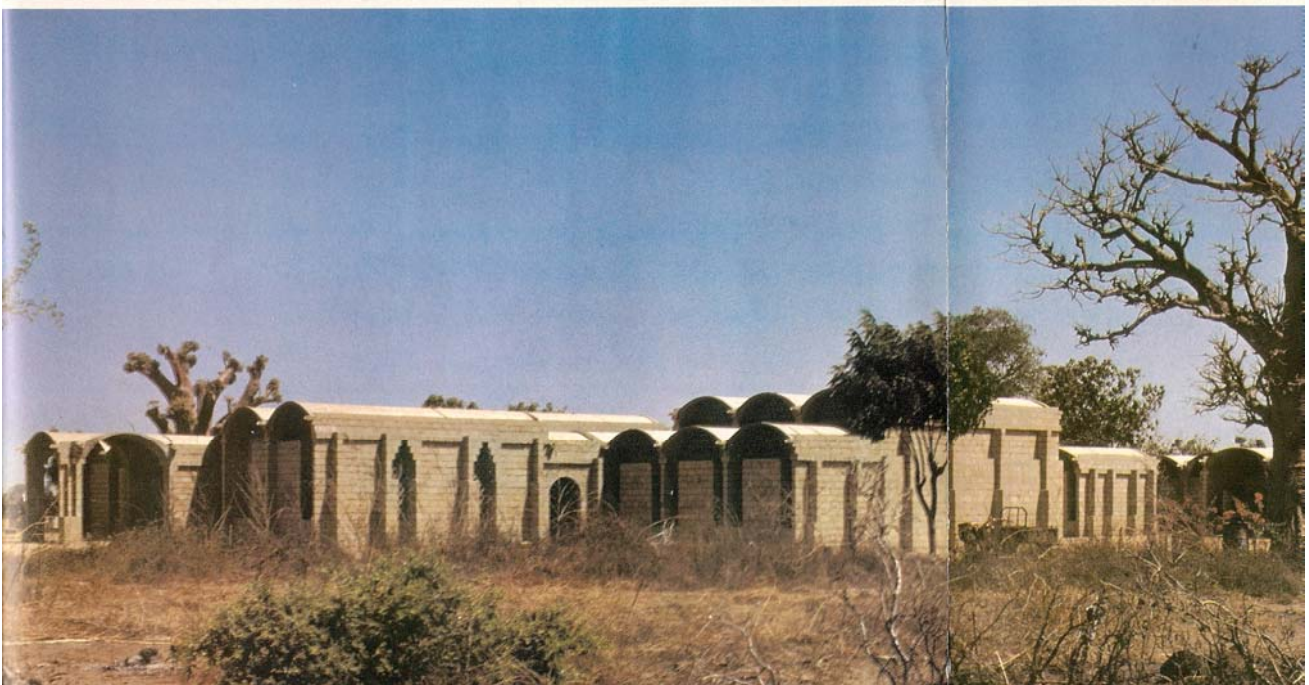


“Because we are so numerous, live in so many parts of the world, speak such different languages and are of such different racial and cultural origins, I am profoundly convinced that there is no such thing as one type of Muslim environment or one type of Muslim building. Each region of the Islamic world must create its own architectural solutions, but just as we are all enjoined to help the needy, the sick and the poor, so I think we must all assist in a challenging but fundamentally important task. We must demand from our respective national decision makers, our architects, our planners and our landscape architects an environment in which we can live, work and practice the precepts of our faith harmoniously and to the fullest.” —the Aga Khan

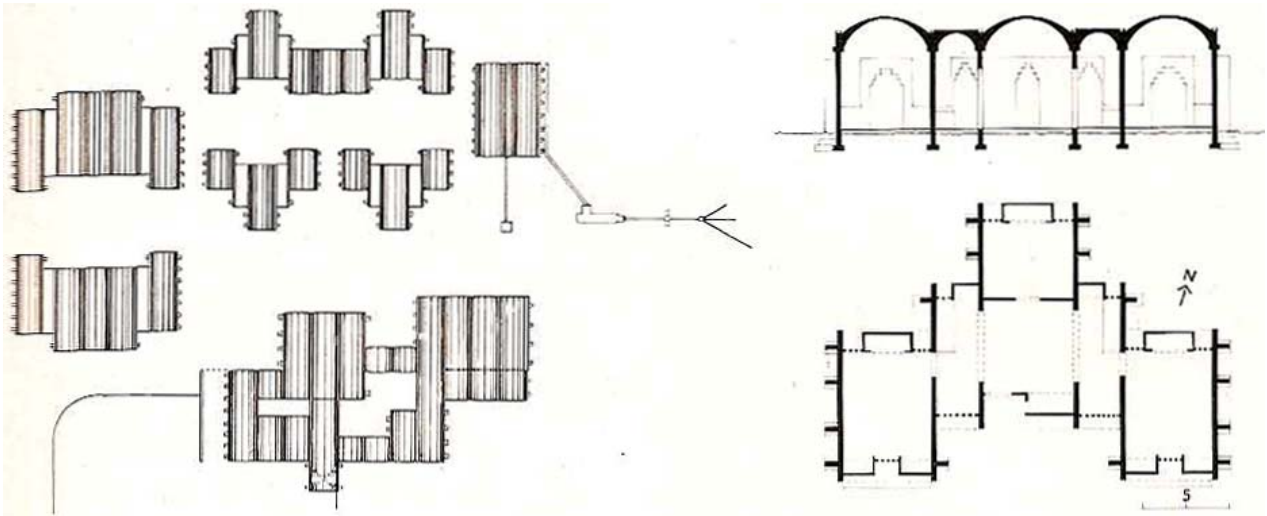
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The first Aga Khan Award for Architecture has been grandly conceived, generously funded and imaginatively and meticulously executed. There has never been anything like it in the world of architectural prizes and commendations. Since the Award was founded in March 1978, an entire architectural culture, over 1,400-years-old, has been intensively studied by late twentieth century minds engaged with the fundamental question: Does any of it make any sense for today, and if so, how? The search is of particular interest to Western architects who are or will be more and more engaged in extensive projects throughout the Islamic world. During the past three years, the Award sponsored seminars in France, Turkey, Indonesia, Morocco and Jordan to help set criteria for making judgments. Thirty countries were visited by the Award staff to help find the best projects completed between 1950 and 1977, and many were revisited by specially qualified technical teams sent to assess the leading contenders among the 250 projects nominated. Fifteen projects from twelve countries finally made it through the rigorous screening process to share half a million dollars in prizes. At the Award ceremony last October 23rd in the Gardens of Shalamar, Lahore, Pakistan, 55 persons including architects, clients, government agents, preservationists, carpenters and masons received individual commendation and 17 agencies, both public and private, were also honored. Additionally, Hassan Fathy, the 86-year-old Egyptian architect famous for championing indigenous building, received special commendation and \$100,000. Most winners were Muslims from Islamic countries. Leading U.S. and European architectural and planning firms which have been working in the Middle East for two decades were conspicuously absent from the winners' circle. This fact by itself may make the Award program seem to be an exclusively Islamic event. All the fundamental problems which the Award addresses, however, are shared by the rest of the world. The solutions honored are transitional, experimental and part of a search, and as such are similar to approaches being tried everywhere. Such efforts deserve commendation and prizes. We should all be encouraged by the architectural news from Lahore. —*Mildred F. Schmertz*

## Search for appropriate building systems



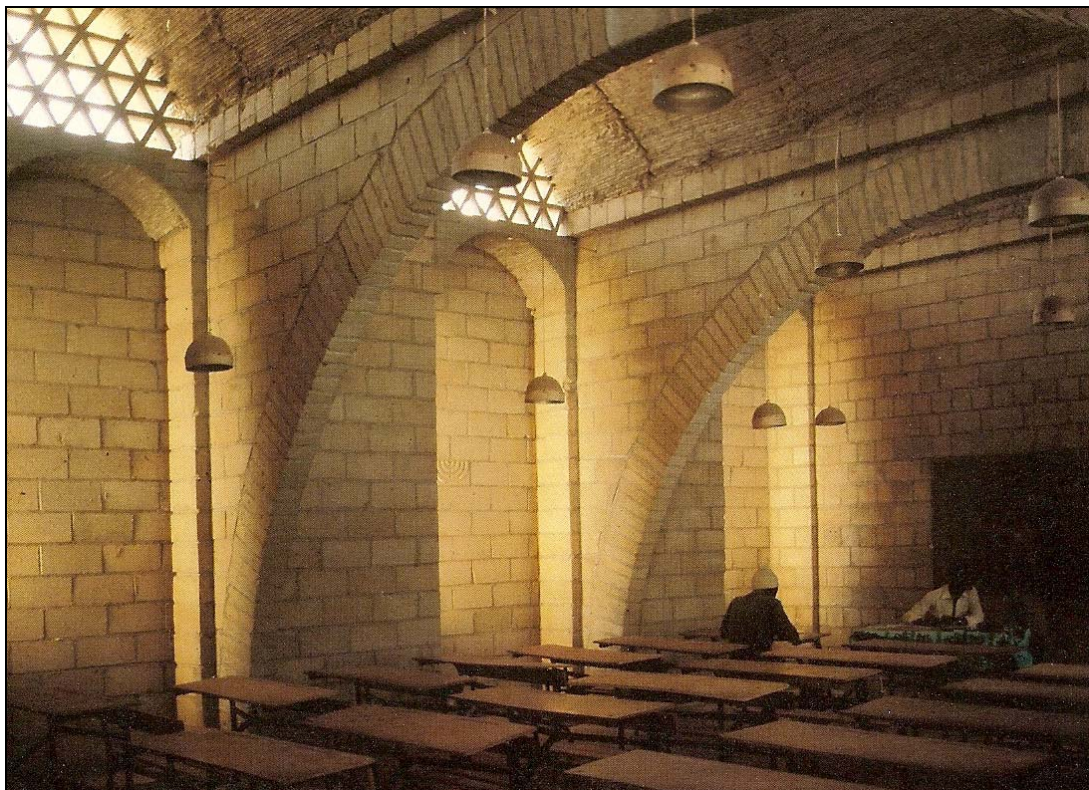
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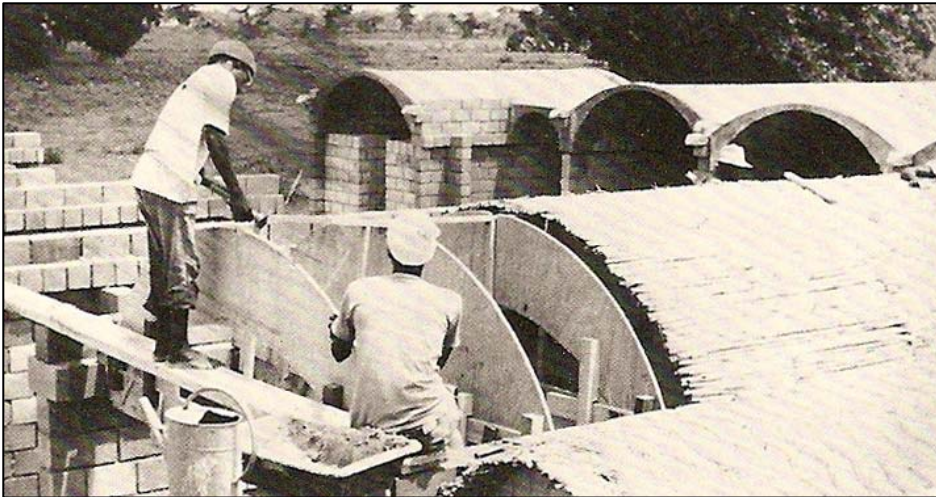
**The Agricultural Training Center** in Nianing, Senegal, completed in 1977, is a prototypical series of buildings based upon a relatively simple structural system of solid load bearing sand and cement block walls, parallel to one another and supporting short-span barrel vaults. The vaults, whose thickness at the crown is only a little over 1½ inches, were formed using three layers of cement mortar stabilized with wire mesh at the top of the vault. As the construction photo (left)

and the diagram (opposite page) indicate, rounded plywood struts were used to support the shuttering of millet matting. The walls are either pierced by large arches (photo above) or solid with buttresses to counteract the horizontal thrust of the vault. The jury commended the Ministry of Education as client; Frere Picard of CARITAS, the sponsor; UNESCO/BREDA and its architects—Kamal El Jack, Pierre Bussat, Oswald Dellicour, Sjoerd Nienhuys, Christo-

phorus Posma and Paul de Walick and the master mason, D'lallo. In the jury's words, these men developed "a complete architectural language whose forms, sober and beautiful at the same time, correspond to its social ambiance. A labor intensive building system has been used here to revitalize masonry construction by training a local craftsman who in turn has trained others. It has thus provided a model for a number of different projects in Senegal."

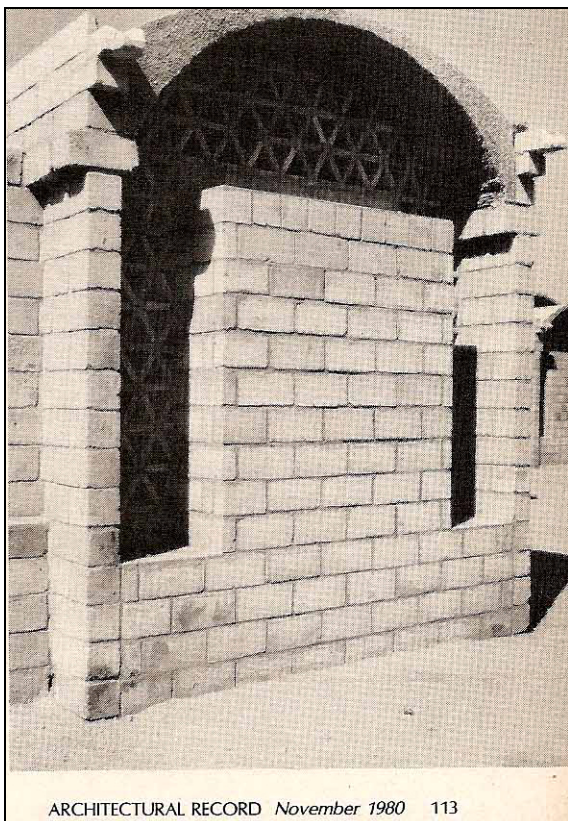
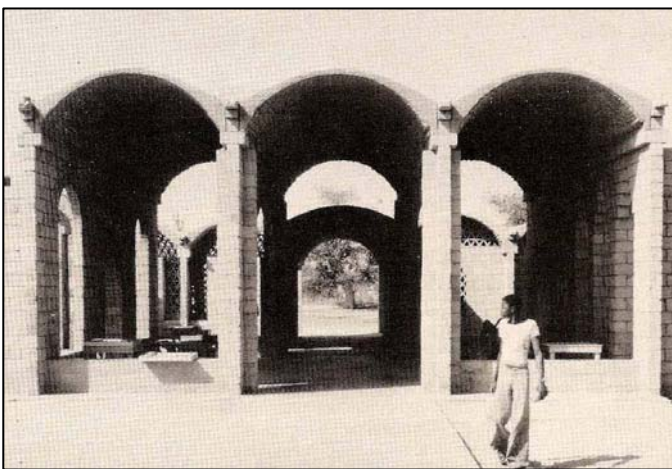


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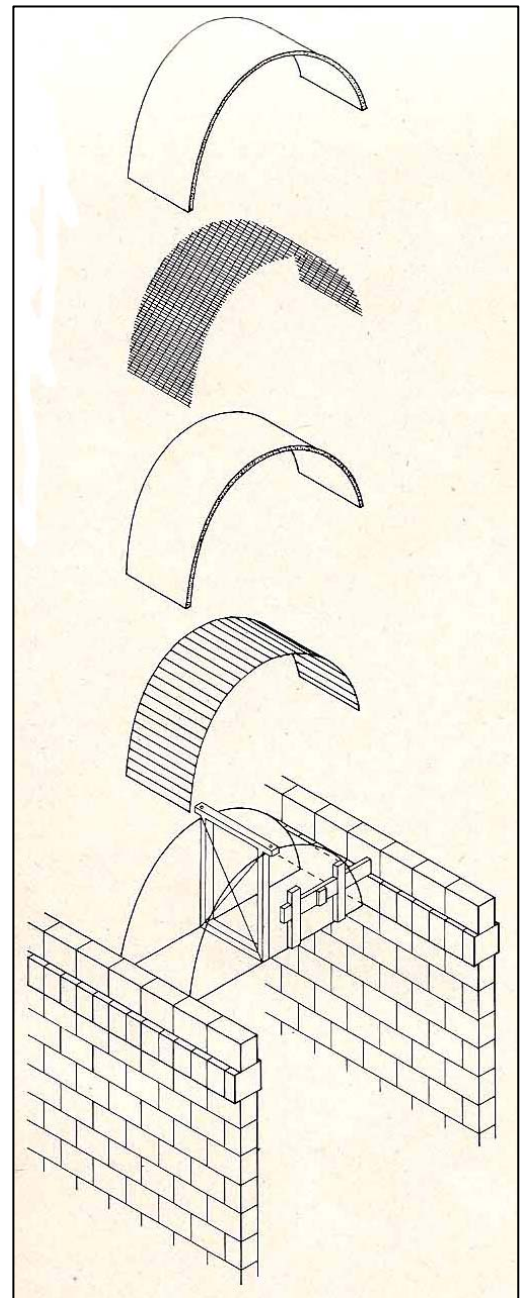


Full technical document on the design and construction is available from:

[Sjoerd@nienhuys.info](mailto:Sjoerd@nienhuys.info)



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## Agricultural Training Centre

Nianing, Senegal, Completed July, 1977

Client: Ministry of Education

Sponsor: CARITAS, Frère Picard

Architects: UNESCO/BREDA, Kamal El Jack, Pierre Bussat, Oswald Dellicour, Sjoerd Nienhuys, Christophorus Posma, Paul de Walick

Master Mason: D'Iallo

*For developing a prototype structure into a complete architectural language whose forms, sober and beautiful at the same time, correspond to its social ambience. A labour-intensive building system was used to revitalize masonry construction by training a local craftsman who in turn has trained others. It has thus provided a model for a number of different projects in Senegal. Although the system at present suffers from a cost which is too high to make it generally acceptable, it possesses potentially all the qualities of a rural architecture in an Islamic culture.*

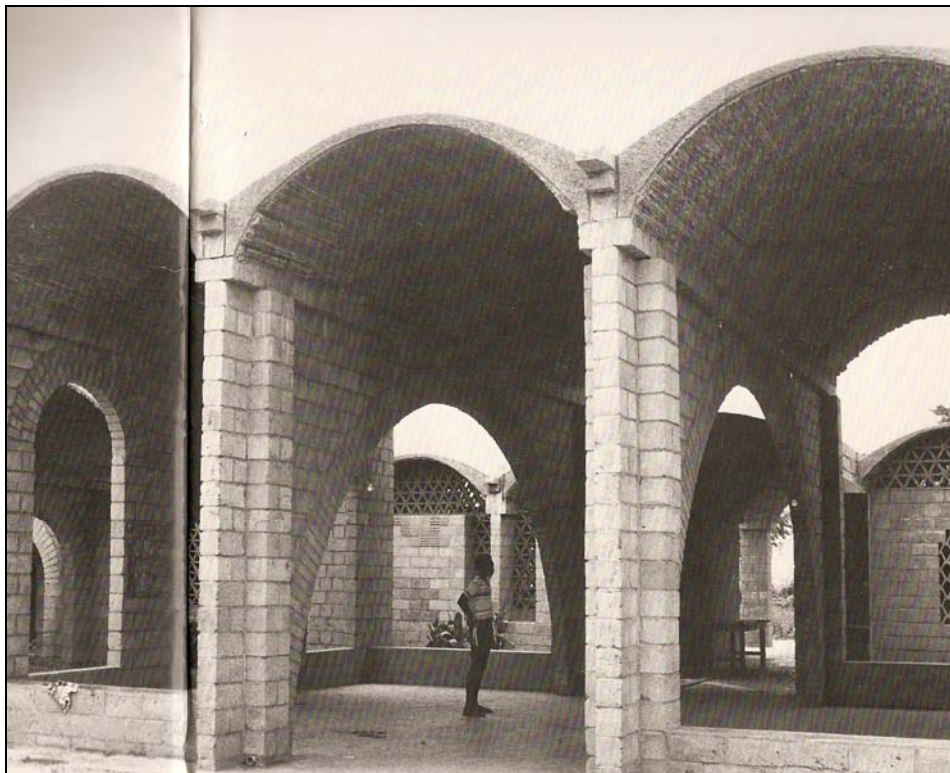
At Nianing, one material in abundance is sand. Timber is rare and steel imported and expensive. However, cement is locally produced and readily available. The building system draws on these resources, as well as on the large labour force.

The construction of this regional training school for 80 youths was a chance to apply on a larger scale a prototype developed earlier by UNESCO. From the construction of the first experimental vault in 1975, the building system has continued to develop and the technique perfected. As the

work progressed, the master mason trained teams of unskilled workers as masons.

The system, load-bearing brick walls supporting short-span concrete vaults, proved to work well for uses as diverse as classroom and dormitory, kitchen and library. And it promises to prove useful in other fields, particularly that of low-cost housing.

*Classroom. Masonry arches, long used in the Cap Vert region, span 7.20 meters.*





End file.