Salam Centre for Cardiac Surgery
Khartoum, Sudan

Architect: Studio Tamassociati

Client: Emergency

Project Description

The Salam Centre for Cardiac Surgery consists of a hospital with 63 beds and 300 local staff, with a separate Medical Staff Accommodation Compound sleeping 150 people. The Centre is built as a pavilion in a garden with both primary buildings organised around large courtyards. The hospital block is of the highest technical standard with complex functions including three operating theatres optimally placed in relation to the diagnostics laboratories and ward. Mixed modes of ventilation and natural light enable all spaces to be intimate yet secure. Seeing the abandoned containers that had been used to transport construction materials for the Salam Centre for Cardiac Surgery, the architects were inspired to reuse them to house the Centre’s staff. Ninety 20-foot containers form the accommodation block, each unit consisting of 1.5 containers, with a bathroom and small veranda facing the garden. Seven 40-foot containers are occupied by a cafeteria and services. Insulation is through an ‘onion system’ of 5-centimetre internal insulating panels and an outer skin comprising a ventilated metal roof and bamboo blinds.

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solar farm powers the water-heating system. The compact state-of-the-art hospital has had a tremendous impact, treating significant numbers of patients not only from Sudan and its neighbours, but from a good 23 other countries as well. In addition, people come to train here and, most importantly, its example and vision have encouraged the establishment of further medical centres of excellence in other African countries.

**Jury Citation**

“The Salam Centre for Cardiac Surgery champions the vision and resilience of all involved in delivering a responsible, efficient and inspiring model of health services in a society marred by war, internal conflict and lack of basic needs like water and sanitation.

“Intimately linked to surrounding nature, the “self-build” project facilitates an environment of clarity and healing, while providing the fundamental human right of health, free of charge to all. Following a bottom-up design process, this complex project evolved successfully by creatively engaging all its local, political, social, topographical and aesthetic specificities without sacrificing its vision for excellence and function. The compact state-of-the-art hospital also provides an exemplary prototype for the region as well as for the field.”

**Project Data**

*Client*  
Emergency, Milan, Italy, Gino Strada, founder

*Total Site Area*  
40,000 m²
Hospital Block

*Architect*

Studio Tamassociati, Venice, Italy:

Raul Pantaleo, Massimo Lepore, Simone Sfriso design team with Sebastiano Crescini; Pietro Parrino, project manager and programme coordinator; Rossella Miccio, programme coordinator; Francesco Steffinlongo, structural engineer; Studio Pasquini, Jean Paul Riviere with Nicola Zoppi, mechanical/services engineer; Franco Binetti, operating theatre design; Roberto Crestan with Alessandro Giacomello, site engineer; Gino Strada, Emiliano Cinelli, Fabrizio Fasano, Andrea Cioffi, feasibility project

*Project Data*

- **Built area**: 21,500 m²
- **Cost**: US$ 18.45 million
- **Commission**: December 2004
- **Design**: December 2004 – May 2007
- **Construction**: January 2005 – May 2007
- **Occupancy**: May 2007

Medical Staff Accommodation Compound

*Architect*

Studio Tamassociati, Venice, Italy:

Raul Pantaleo, Massimo Lepore, Simone Sfriso, design team; Pietro Parrino, programme coordinator; Francesco Steffinlongo, structural engineer; Nicola Zoppi, mechanical/services engineer; Roberto Crestan, Alessandro Tamai, Claudio Gatti, site engineers

*Project Data*

- **Built area**: 2400 m²
- **Cost**: US$ 1.370 million
- **Commission**: March 2006
- **Design**: March 2006
- **Construction**: December 2007 – February 2009
- **Occupancy**: February 2009

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Emergency

Emergency is an Italian NGO founded in 1994 by the Italian surgeon, Dr Gino Strada, to provide assistance to civilian victims of war.

Emergency has worked in 16 countries, building hospitals, surgical centres, rehabilitation centres, paediatric clinics, first-aid posts, primary health clinics and a maternity centre, as well as the Centre for Cardiac Surgery in Khartoum. Subsequent to requests from local authorities and other organisations, Emergency has also helped to renovate and equip pre-existing health facilities.

Since 1994, Emergency teams have provided assistance to 5,439,757 people (as of 31 March 2013).

Studio Tamassociati

Studio Tamassociati is a professional practice active in the fields of sustainable architecture, urban planning, landscape design, participatory processes, graphic design and social communications. It comprises an Italian team of architects based in Venice since 1996 and it is known worldwide for health-care works carried out on the African continent.

In 2012, the project was awarded the Honourable Mention in the category Architecture for Emergency at the Gold Medal for Italian Architecture Prize, Triennale of Milan, Italy, following other international awards such as Best of Green Awards 2010 (USA) and Middle East Architect Awards 2010 (Dubai). Main recent exhibitions include 2012 Triennale of Architecture, Milan, Italy, and exhibitions and lectures at the International Biennale of Architecture in 2010 and 2012, Venice, Italy.

Websites

http://www.salamcentre.emergency.it
http://www.emergency.it
http://www.tamassociati.org

http://www.akdn.org/architecture