Ecological Thread Cultural Centre
Sinthian, Senegal

**Architects**
Toshiko Mori
New York, United States of America

**Client**
Josef and Anni Albers
Foundation
Bethany, United States of America

**Commission**
1995

**Design**
2013

**Construction**
2013-2015

**Occupancy**
2015

**Site**
6'232 m²

**Ground Floor**
1'048 m²

**Total Floor**
n.a.

**Costs**
USD 146'000

**Programme**
Thread is a socio-cultural centre that houses two artists’ dwellings and studio space for local and international artists. It is a hub for surrounding villages, providing agricultural training on the area’s fertile land and a meeting place for social organisation which is, in rural Senegal, the crucial mechanism for sustainable development. A parametric transformation of the traditional pitched roof achieved through a process of inversion collects rainwater, creating a viable source for new agricultural projects during the eight-month dry season. Thread exists at a crossroads between (inter)national artist residency, agricultural hub, community farm, water source, exhibition and performance venue, local library, children’s play gym and village cell phone charger. The success of its atypical plurality proves why art and architecture should be the right of all people.
Ground Floor Plan

Section AA

Section BB

Section CC

Images (Top to bottom): View of thruway from courtyard; Srnhtian children in front of Thread; View of central gathering area.
Locally grown and harvested thatch is layered on top of the bamboo substructure, providing a low-cost and sustainable building solution representative of traditional construction techniques.

The roof layer is composed of three layers of bamboo sourced locally.

Clay bricks were formed on site by local villagers, enhancing the participation of the local community in the construction of the cultural center.

Images (Clockwise from top right): Local villager with thatch used for the roof; Magueye Ba, village doctor, overseeing construction of Thread; children on site during construction; construction team applies layers of thatch to the roof.