

FRANCIS KÉRÉ AND HIS PIONEERING ARCHITECTURE

RECOGNIZED BY THE 2022 PRITZKER PRIZE

Diébédo Francis Kéré, the founder of [Kéré Architecture](#), was recognized as 2022 Laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize “Through buildings that demonstrate beauty, modesty, boldness, and invention, and by the integrity of his architecture and geste” as explains the official statement of the Prize.



The [Pritzker Architecture Prize](#) honors architects whose built work demonstrates a combination of those qualities of talent, vision, and commitment, which has produced consistent and significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture. The international prize was established in 1979 by Pritzker through the Hyatt Foundation based in Chicago. It is granted annually and it is renowned as a high honor to the profession. Francis Kéré is the 51st winner of the award.



[On the Pritzker Prize website](#), extensive information allows to learn about the history of Diébédo Francis Kéré, the extraordinary works created in different contexts, and the reasons why he was awarded this important prize.

Founded in Berlin by Diébédo Francis Kéré in 2005, the [Kéré Architecture](#) Studio contributes to creating new solutions for sustainable architecture, while investing in knowledge exchange and adopting a strong social commitment. Born in Burkina Faso, Francis Kéré completed his high school diploma in Germany and his studies in architecture at the *Technische Universität* in Berlin from which he graduated in 2004.



At the intersection of utopia and pragmatism we create contemporary architecture that feeds the imagination with an afro-futurist vision.

[Kéré Architecture website](#)

In 2001 while still a student, he designed and raised funds for his first building, the [primary school of Gando](#) in the Province of Boulgou, in the east of Burkina Faso. The [Kéré Foundation](#) was created to manage the realization of this project and in the future the other community works. The primary school was built cooperatively by a whole village community, adopting innovative construction methods and local materials. Considering the important results achieved in Gando, many other community structures have been designed with local actors and built through the Kéré Foundation, including primary and secondary schools, homes for teachers, health centers and hospitals, libraries and cultural spaces in Burkina Faso and other African countries.

In all these works, throughout their design and construction process and working with local masons, traditional building techniques and modern engineering methods were combined to produce the best quality building solutions while simplifying



construction and future maintenance. In response to the problem of extreme heat, for example, these buildings adopted sustainable solutions as double roofs, thermal mass, wind towers, indirect lighting, cross ventilation and shade chambers, instead of conventional windows, doors and columns. An aspect of great relevance is that in all contexts these buildings provide an inspiring showcase of construction modalities with local materials applied to an innovative design, establishing new standards for sustainable architecture in general, while being applied in works that directly benefit the population of the area, improving the quality of its basic services.

In addition to these works, by the years the Kéré Architecture Studio has realized a large number of innovative architectural projects, ranging from two parliament buildings, the National Assembly of Burkina Faso (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso) and Benin National Assembly (Porto-Novo, Republic of Benin), beyond temporary and permanent structures in Denmark, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Kéré Architecture's contribution is widely recognized internationally by magazines specialized in sustainable architecture. The designs, documents and photos published on the Kéré Architecture website allow to learn more about the outstanding innovative features and beauty of the works carried out. The Pritzker Architecture Prize website also has published a wide range of photos allowing to appreciate the works created by Francis Kéré.

By the years, Kéré Architecture has also been recognized by several international competitions including the *Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine's* Global Award for Sustainable Architecture (2009), BSI Swiss Architectural Award (2010); the Global Holcim Awards Gold (2012, Zurich, Switzerland), Schelling Architecture Award (2014); Arnold W Brunner Memorial Prize in Architecture from the American Academy of Arts & Letters (2017); and the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Architecture (2021).

Diébédo Francis Kéré is citizen of Burkina Faso and Germany and spends his time professionally and personally in both countries. With the support of funds raised through the Kéré Foundation, the Studio also continues to carry out community architectural projects with the direct participation of local populations, rescuing their traditional knowledge and combining technological improvements that make buildings suitable to meet modern needs.

To know more

[Diébédo Francis Kéré - 2022 Pritzker Architecture Prize](#)

[About the Pritzker Architecture Prize](#)

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[Kéré Foundation website](#)



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