

La Voûte Nubienne

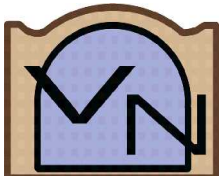
A roof, a job

« To help people obtain decent, sustainable, housing through promotion of an affordable, vernacular, construction technique for earth roofs »

The Association « La Voûte Nubienne » (AVN)



Examples of buildings constructed using the Nubian Vault technique



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A ROOF, A JOB

A roof

The Nubian Vault construction method is:

Ecologically sustainable because;

- it uses neither corrugated iron roofing sheets, which are expensive, and difficult to recycle, nor timber beams, rafters, or supports,
- it has a very low 'carbon footprint', because none of the building materials need to be manufactured or transported long distances, nor do any trees need to be cut down.

Economic because only locally available raw materials (earth and water) are used, thus favouring local economic circuits and self-sufficiency.

Comfortable and durable because of the excellent thermal and acoustic insulation properties of earth construction; maintenance is simple, and such buildings have a far longer lifetime than those with corrugated iron and timber roofs.

Modular can be used for a wide range of buildings (houses, schools, health centres...), of different styles (flat terrace roofs, two-storey buildings, courtyard buildings...), which are easily extendable.

Vernacular because incorporating traditional practices and aesthetics of earth architecture.

A job

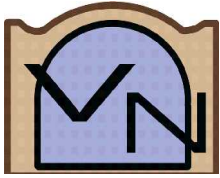
The mission of the Association « La Voûte Nubienne » (AVN), formally registered as an NGO in France, Burkina Faso, and Belgium, is to:

Train local masons in the Nubian vault technique and help them develop as entrepreneurs.

Generate a self-sustaining, growing, Nubian vault construction market on a local and human scale.

AVN, per se, does not finance the actual construction of Nubian vault buildings.





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THE NUBIAN VAULT: WHAT IS IT ?

An age-old technique

The timberless Nubian vault technique, using earth bricks and mortar, is over 3,000 years old, originating in the Nubian region of Upper Egypt. Vaults of unfired earth bricks at the Ramesseum, the funerary temple of Rameses II, in Luxor, built around 1250 BC, are still standing. >>

A simplified and standardised version of the technique, developed by AVN's *Earth Roofs for the Sahel* programme, has been successfully introduced in the last ten years in **Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal**, and, more recently, in **Zambia**.



IMPACTS

By 2010, the Association "La Voûte Nubienne" (AVN) had:

- Facilitated the construction of **740 vaults** (15,000 m2).
- Trained **140 masons** (+230 apprentices in 2009/10).
- Reached **7800 beneficiaries**, directly and indirectly.
- Generated **300,000 euros** worth of local salaries.
- Made significant **savings in CO2 production**, as compared to alternative techniques.

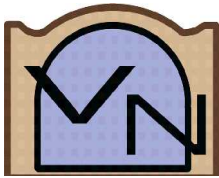


RECOGNITION

"I believe that they are presently the best worldwide in this field of work of transferring the knowledge of building vaults made of raw earth. Other similar programmes have been created. But the success of La Voûte Nubienne is that they focus on the social aspect of this technology transfer. Technology is just a tool in their hand to give the means to people to build themselves their own habitat." (Satprem Maïni, UNESCO Chair in Earth Architecture, & Director, Auroville Earth Institute, India: April 2007, supporting AVN's nomination for the Tech Museum Award)

AVN has received significant international recognition for its work, including :

- 2009 One of the 11 " ...outstanding" finalists, **World Habitat Award**
- 2009 Laureate of the **World Bank Development Marketplace** competition, Washington
- 2008 Winner of the **Ashoka-Impact** competition, Paris
- 2007 Laureate **Tech Museum Awards for Economic Development**, San José, California
- 2007 Nominated for the **Aga Khan Architectural Award**
- 2006 Winner, **Ashoka-Changemakers Competition** on Affordable Housing



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INVESTING IN AVN

The commitment to a better world, to an economic system which is sound, sustainable, and respectful of the environment, so that we can all live in dignity and satisfy our basic needs (health, housing, education, nutrition, culture...) is one of the core foundations of **social entrepreneurship**.

To guarantee the financing of its programmes in Zambia and in Mali, AVN-Belgium is actively looking for sponsors who support this principle..

Your support is essential for us to be able to:

- manage the programmes in the long term
- focus on our work in the field
- build up our network of investors and sponsors
- become independent
- reduce our overhead and management costs.

For you, the returns are sure:

- a guarantee of growing impacts
- receipt of regular newsletters
- the right to comment on the programmes
- transparent accounting of your contributions.



<p>La Voûte Nubienne-Belgium asbl, (AVN-B)</p>	<p>Management Committee, AVN-B ----- Jean Stasse, President Philippe Rolin, Vice-President Paul Stasse, Treasurer Thomas Granier, administrator Anthony Kaye, administrator</p>	<p>Members of AVN-B ----- Jacques Boton, Jean-François de Kerchove, Charles-Hubert Gernaert, Florence Legein, Guillaume Sadoux, Jacques de Mévius.</p>
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