



“The art of mud building reaches its zenith in Djenné, an island town in the heart of West

Africa’s Inland Niger Delta. Djenné’s elegant merchant houses and world-renowned mosque bear testament to an ancient history

of trade and Islamic scholarship. The bold compositions and molten contours of its monumental

architecture have earned Djenné an esteemed position among UNESCO’s

World Heritage Sites. Creative mud building thrives where

masons adapt traditional knowledge, building craft

and magic to a modern, changing world. This exhibition

explores the fascinating relationship between design and construction

practices, architectural heritage and cultural identity.”



GALLERY TALK

THE MASONS OF DJENNÉ

With Dr. Trevor H.J. Marchand

Tuesday 23rd March, 6:30pm

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA),
66 Portland Place, London W1B 1AD

Advance booking essential. RIBA online ticket booking at www.architecture.com/programmes. Alternatively leave a message on the recorded booking line 020 7307 3699.

LECTURE SERIES

THE ART OF MUD BUILDING: HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Chaired by Dr Trevor Marchand, SOAS

In partnership with the RIBA

Tuesday 2nd March, 6:30pm

Paul Oliver (Oxford Brookes)

DOWN TO EARTH: ISSUES IN THE RETENTION OF VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURAL TRADITIONS

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA),
66 Portland Place, London W1B 1AD

Followed by reception with live kora music by Kadialy Kouyate
Tickets £8.50/£5.50. Advance booking essential. RIBA online ticket booking at www.architecture.com/programmes. Alternatively leave a message on the recorded booking line 02073073699.

Thursday 11th March, 8:30pm

Christophe Bouleau (Aga Khan Trust for Culture)

RESTORING MUD MOSQUES IN MOPTI, DJENNÉ AND TIMBUKTU

The Ismaili Centre, Cromwell Road, South Kensington,
London SW7 2SL

Tel: +44 (0)20 7581 2071

Nearest tube station: South Kensington

Admission free

Tuesday 16th March, 6:30pm

Francis Kéré (Burkina Faso, Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 2004)

STEP BY STEP: SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS FOR AFRICA

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA),
66 Portland Place, London W1B 1AD

Tickets £8.50/£5.50. Advance booking essential. RIBA online ticket booking at www.architecture.com/programmes. Alternatively leave a message on the recorded booking line 02073073699.

Thursday 18th March, 7:00pm

Rogier Bedaux, Annette Schmidt (Volkenkunde Museum) and Pierre Maas (Architect)

RESTORING THE SPLENDOUR OF DJENNÉ: A COOPERATIVE VENTURE BETWEEN MALI AND THE NETHERLANDS

SOAS, Khalili Lecture Theatre, Thornhaugh St, London WC1H 0XG
Admission free

Thursday 25th March, 7:00pm

Michael Rowlands (UCL) and Charlotte Joy (Cambridge)

BEHIND THE FAÇADE IN DJENNÉ: CREATING LOCAL VALUE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURAL TRADITION

SOAS, Khalili Lecture Theatre, Thornhaugh St, London WC1H 0XG
Admission free

Thursday 29th April, 7:00pm

Rowland Keable (Ram Cast CIC)

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: STRUCTURES, STANDARDS AND MODELS FOR EARTH BUILDING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

SOAS, Khalili Lecture Theatre, Thornhaugh St, London WC1H 0XG
Admission free

FILM SCREENING

FUTURE OF MUD: A TALE OF HOUSES AND LIVES IN DJENNÉ

With co-producer Trevor Marchand

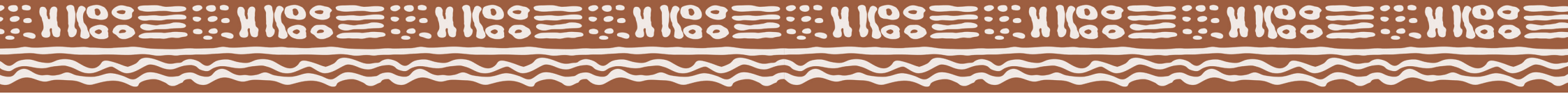
Monday 8th March, 7:00pm

SOAS, Khalili Lecture Theatre, Thornhaugh St, London WC1H 0XG
Admission free

“For centuries, Djenné’s architecture has been sculpted and renewed by the town’s masons. Mud bricks and secret incantations combine to make houses, and each year the majestic mosque is dressed with a fine new coating of mud. Konmusa is heir to this masonry tradition and he plans for his son to succeed him in the trade. But classroom education and connections to a globalizing world deliver new opportunities and lifestyles, and continuity is threatened. Grounded in Trevor Marchand’s anthropological research, the film explores the challenges and choices faced by a mason’s family and raises important questions about heritage and changing traditions.”

Directed by Susan Vogel (Columbia University) and co-produced with Trevor Marchand (SOAS, consulting anthropologist) and Samuel Sidibé (Director of the National Museum, Bamako).

Bamana/French/English, English subtitles. 58 minutes.



EXHIBITION

Djenné: African City of Mud

Wednesday 3rd March – Thursday 29th April, 2010

Gallery 2

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

66 Portland Place, London W1B 1AD

T: 020 7580 5533

www.architecture.com

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Saturday, Closed Sunday

Admission to the RIBA exhibition galleries is free.

Nearest tube stations are Great Portland

Street, Oxford Circus & Regent's Park.

Buses C2, 88 & 453 stop nearby.

Curator: Dr Trevor H.J. Marchand

SOAS, Department of Anthropology.

Author of *The Masons of Djenné*

(University of Indiana Press 2009)

In collaboration with RIBA Trust

RIBA  Trust



AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE

Sponsored by SOAS, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



DJENNÉ: AFRICAN CITY OF MUD

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS

66 Portland Place, London W1B 1AD

3rd March - 29th April 2010