











The non-periodical edition of MILDFRAME - THE FILM ISSUE was an ode to the combination " orange on black ".Mat, soft, heavy paper...just like the inserts in girls magazines in the seventies.

## **MILDFRAME MAGAZINE**

**DESIGN AWARDS NOMINATION EBGE 2017** 

## **ORANGE ON BLACK**



## **MOURTZOUCHOS** humanitarian architecture sustainability Photography: Odysseas Mourtzouchos

In the summer of 2014, I spent two months as a volunteer in Nakuru, Kenya, with Orkidstudio, 'a humanitarian design organisation whose focus is to benefit children and communities through innovative design and construction, as they state on their website. There, together with other volunteers and native builders, we built new facilities for a local orphanage.

Having a strong interest in the way the built environment affects people and communities, particularly in developing countries. I felt I had a responsibility to carefully observe and understand the approach used in dealing with this, while trying to have an active role in such decisions.

Orkidstudio has a unique system for funding, designing and constructing their buildings. They build a team of volunteers who are required to attend three design workshops in the UK and fund-raise £2,500 before they travel to the project's destination, where they will take part in hands-on construction. Their projects usually run for about two months in the summer, set in a way that they don't overlap with university terms, as

the volunteers tend to be students.

The workshops run on three weekends spread over the months prior to the trip, and involve initial design discussions on the first, finalising the design on the second, and making decisions on materiality and sustainability on the last one. All design is done in a collaborative manner, where volunteers, trustees and ideally users are divided into small teams where they discuss, sketch and design different aspects of the building. Pin-ups follow, where the trustees lead ongoing conversations on the designs, pushing for decisions to be made. on the designs, pushing for decisions to be made. In the time between the workshops, everyone can share ideas, research and sketch through a Facebook group, where everything is discussed, while the trustees work on finalised drawings and

**ODYSSEAS** 

The brief involved the relocation of St Jerome's Children Home, an orphanage run by a Scottish charity, to new facilities in Murunyu, an area close to the town of Nakuru, which is nicer and safer than their previous location.

In most of the design sessions, we had some of

