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## **Design Miami/ Announces the Mwabwindo School as the Recipient of the 2017 Panerai Design Miami/ Visionary Award**

**/For the first time, the award recipient is a collaborative project, conceived by 14+ Foundation, New York; Selldorf Architects, New York; and artist Rashid Johnson with the new contribution of commissioned furniture by Christ & Gantenbein, Basel.**

**/Mwabwindo School, to open in 2018, will serve primary school students in rural southern Zambia**

**/The 2017 Panerai Design Miami/ Visionary Award will be presented in December at Design Miami/**

**New York, September 18, 2017/** Design Miami/ is pleased to announce the Mwabwindo School project as the recipient of the 2017 Panerai Design Miami/ Visionary Award. In its fourth year, the annual award is sponsored by Officine Panerai and celebrates significant contributions to the field of design. For the first time in the award's history, the recipient is a collaborative project, conceived by 14+ Foundation, New York; Selldorf Architects, New York; and artist Rashid Johnson, with the addition of newly-commissioned furniture by Christ & Gantenbein, Basel.

### **About Mwabwindo School**

14+ Foundation is a New York City-based nonprofit established by Joseph Mizzi and Nchimunya Wulf in 2012 to develop, build, and operate schools in rural African communities. The organization's initiatives are centered on the following core tenets: empowering children through education, achieving meaningful engagement with the communities they serve, promoting arts-based education, and the belief that quality design can not only inspire, but also make a difference.

Mwabwindo School, which will open in 2018 and serve primary school students in rural southern Zambia, will be the second school in the region developed by 14+ Foundation, an organization committed to increasing education accessibility in rural African communities, where travel distance to school is one of the biggest impediments to quality education.

"Nchimunya and I were absolutely thrilled to open our first school in January 2015, which has now grown to serve almost 250 students with a fully cost-free education, and includes important community-based projects and programs. Our newest project, Mwabwindo School, designed by Selldorf Architects, represents a meaningful and organic expansion of our projects and programs within nearby rural Zambian communities," said co-founder of 14+ Foundation, Joseph Mizzi.

The school's design by Selldorf Architects, New York, is inspired by the tall trees on the surrounding savanna that serve as shaded gathering spaces. The complex will comprise mud-brick classrooms for 200 students arranged around courtyards and covered by a large corrugated metal roof canopy, housing for eight teachers, a vegetable garden, and playing fields. Handmade bricks have been fabricated on site and buildings will be constructed by local masons, providing employment and training opportunities. Rainwater will be collected for use in the garden, solar panels will provide energy for the school and teachers' housing, and a windmill will power the facility's well water. The design will

also incorporate a mural installation to be created on-site by contemporary artist Rashid Johnson in collaboration with Mwabwindo School students, emphasizing the importance of art-based educational projects and programs.

"Working on the Mwabwindo School has been inspiring for our office; committing to the potential of architecture and beauty to create meaningful change in people's lives is powerful," said Annabelle Selldorf, principal of Selldorf Architects. "And now seeing how the school is coming together and the way the community in Mwabwindo has already taken it on as a point of local pride, is immensely exciting. Design Miami's recognition of the potential of collaborative and socially conscious design with the Visionary Award will amplify this important message."

The project will also involve providing the larger community of Mwabwindo Village with vital improvements to infrastructure and access to goods and services, including wells and water systems, increased access to medical services, recreational areas, and more.

#### **Mwabwindo Series by Christ & Gantenbein**

The Basel-based architecture and design firm Christ & Gantenbein has developed the Mwabwindo Series of furniture for the Mwabwindo School, an adapted design narrative from a previous furniture project, the Athens Series. Based on a simple vernacular object, the stools and tables in this set are made of wooden blocks held together by long cylindrical wooden pegs, without the use of hardware or glue.

The fabrication of the pieces relies on the training of local craftsman, who will mill the wooden elements on site and then assemble the furniture. Made from different types of locally sourced wood, the pieces will be used in the school's library. A simple interlocking system allows the furniture to be arranged in different configurations, adapting to the various needs of the curriculum.

"More than furniture, the Mwabwindo Series is an idea," said Emanuel Christ and Christoph Gantenbein. "It speaks about interpretation and authorship, inviting creative intervention from the craftspeople who will make it and the students and teachers who will create various configurations for learning and exchange."

This coming December, prototypes of the Mwabwindo Series will be installed at Design Miami's entrance in an installation purposefully created by Christ & Gantenbein. The layout will feature many of the different configurations made possible by the furniture's flexible design -- cross shape, square shape, single long row and more.

#### **A Visionary Project**

The Mwabwindo School project embraces the spirit of the Panerai Design Miami/ Visionary Award perhaps more uniquely than any other project in the award's history, offering continued, tangible, and lasting impact to build community through design. The collaborators, all of whom are donating their services to the project, are committed to the cause of providing not only an inspired place for learning, but also promoting sustainable resource use, arts education, and community building through design.

"Design Miami/ is thrilled to champion the inspiring Mwabwindo School project," said Rodman Primack, Chief Creative Director, Design Miami/. "This year's Visionary Award rightly honors the importance of



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collaboration, innovative partnership, and the role design can play in influencing positive social change globally.”

"The Mwabwindo School is such an exciting aspect of this year's fair as Design Miami/ seeks to align with projects that truly impact our global community," said Jen Roberts, Chief Executive Officer, Design Miami/. "The award further promotes our goal of building legacy through design and construction practices that protect people and the planet for future generations."

Officine Panerai has recognized this project for its alignment with the core values of the company, which has for many years supported international projects aimed at bolstering the culture of design and encouraged initiatives whose ultimate goal is social responsibility.

“We are excited that this year’s recipients are so aligned with the core values of Panerai’s culture of design, commitment to innovation, and vision for a sustainable future. The Mwabwindo project represents the best of our community coming together to create real change through design,” said Angelo Bonati, chief executive of Officine Panerai.

#### **Panerai Design Miami/ Visionary Award**

The Panerai Design Miami/ Visionary Award celebrates individuals who have significantly contributed to the field of design, such as collectors, curators, architects, and luminaries who influence and are engaged in design in the broadest sense. The laureate of the Design Visionary Award is recognized as having a continued, tangible, and lasting impact. Past winners are Peter Marino (2014); Yves Béhar (2015), and SHoP Architects, New York (2016).

#### **Design Miami/**

Design Miami/ is the global forum for design. Each fair brings together the most influential collectors, gallerists, designers, curators, and critics from around the world in celebration of design culture and commerce. Occurring alongside the Art Basel fairs in Miami, Florida, each December and Basel, Switzerland, each June, Design Miami/ has become the premier venue for collecting, exhibiting, discussing, and creating collectible design. <http://www.designmiami.com>.

#### **Officine Panerai**

Officine Panerai’s watches are a natural blend of Italian design, expert Swiss technology and passion for the sea. Founded in Florence in 1860 as a workshop, shop and school of watch-making, for many decades Officine Panerai supplied the Italian Navy in general, and its specialist diving corps in particular, with precision instruments. The designs developed by Panerai in that time, including the Luminor and Radiomir, were covered by the Military Secrets Act for many years and were launched on the international market only after the brand was acquired by the Richemont Group in 1997. Today Officine Panerai designs its watches in Italy and crafts its movements and watches at its Neuchâtel manufacture in Switzerland. Technical excellence and exclusive design are the core principals of Officine Panerai watches due to seamless melding of Italian design flair and history with Swiss horological expertise. Panerai watches are sold across the world through an exclusive network of distributors and Panerai boutiques. [www.Panerai.com](http://www.Panerai.com)

**14+ Foundation**

14+ Foundation, Inc. is a New York City-based 501(c)(3) non-profit established in 2012 by Joseph Mizzi and Nchimunya Wulf to develop, build, and operate schools in rural African communities. <http://www.14plusfoundation.org/>

**Selldorf Architects**

Selldorf Architects is a 65-person architectural design practice founded by Annabelle Selldorf in New York in 1988. Since its inception the firm's guiding principles have been deeply rooted in humanism. At every scale and for every condition, Selldorf Architects designs for the individual experience. As a result, its work is brought to life--and made complete--by those who use it. The firm offers services in architectural design, interior design, exhibition design, master planning, and strategic planning. Current and recent projects include the Clark Art Institute, the Frick Collection, David Zwirner and Hauser & Wirth galleries, and a large recycling facility and education center on the Brooklyn waterfront. <http://www.selldorf.com/>

**Christ & Gantenbein**

A broad range of private and public commissions has given shape to Christ & Gantenbein's growing body of work, from housing, institutional buildings, infrastructures, and urban master plans. Award-winning projects include the renovations and extensions to the Kunstmuseum Basel (2016) and the Swiss National Museum Zurich (2016). In 2017 the studio was invited to contribute to the Chicago Architecture Biennial. Emanuel Christ and Christoph Gantenbein teach at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Their furniture is represented by Maniera in Brussels. <http://www.christgantenbein.com/>

**Rashid Johnson**

Rashid Johnson was born in 1977 in Chicago IL. He received his BA in photography from Columbia College in Chicago and in 2005, Johnson studied for his MFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Recent solo exhibitions include 'Stranger', Hauser & Wirth Somerset, England (2017), 'Hail We Now Sing Joy', Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City MO (2017); 'Fly Away', Hauser & Wirth, New York NY (2016); 'Within Our Gates' Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia (2016); 'Blocks', High Line Art, New York NY (2015); 'Anxious Men', The Drawing Center, New York NY (2015); 'Three Rooms', Kunsthalle Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland (2015); 'Magic Numbers', George Economou Collection in Athens, Greece (2014); 'New Growth', Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver CO (2014); 'The Gathering', Hauser & Wirth Zurich (2013); 'New Growth', Ballroom Marfa, Marfa TX (2013); 'Shelter', South London Gallery, London, England (2012); 'Rumble', Hauser & Wirth New York NY (2012), and the major touring exhibition 'Message to Our Folks' which opened at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago IL (2012) and travelled to Miami Art Museum, Miami FL (2012), High Museum of Art, Atlanta GA (2012) and Kemper Art Museum, St. Louis MO (2013).

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