

Design Miami/ Commissions furniture designed by Christ & Gantenbein for Mwabwindo School, the recipient of the 2017 Panerai Design Miami/ Visionary Award

/ Furniture is designed to be produced in southern Zambia and assembled by the school community

/ Prototypes of the series will debut at Design Miami/ 2017

Miami, November 8, 2017/

The Commission

Mwabwindo School, which will open in 2018 and serve primary school students in rural Zambia, will be the second school opened in the region developed and operated by 14+ Foundation. Founded by Joseph Mizzi and Nchimunya Wulf, 14+ Foundation is an organization committed to increasing education accessibility in rural African communities where travel to school is one of the biggest impediments to quality education. Mwabwindo School is designed by Selldorf Architects, New York, and will incorporate a mural to be created on-site by artist Rashid Johnson. Design Miami/ asked the Basel-based architecture and design firm Christ & Gantenbein to contribute to the project by providing children's furniture to outfit the school's art classroom. The firm was selected, in part, due to its investigations into design that stands the test of time and looks for contextual precision. Mwabwindo School is the recipient of the 2017 Panerai Design Miami/ Visionary Award.

"The 2017 Panerai Design Miami/ Visionary Award allows us to shine a light on an inspiring collaboration between Selldorf Architects, 14+ Foundation and Rashid Johnson to build Mwabwindo School in rural Zambia," said Rodman Primack, Chief Creative Officer of Design Miami/. "We are honored to have been able to augment this successful partnership through our commission of furniture by Christ & Gantenbein for the school's art classroom. The wood tables, chairs, and stools are both durable and sustainable, designed to stand the test of time and to be assembled by the community; we hope that they will add to the tangible, lasting impact the project will have on the area."

Mwabwindo Series

Mwabwindo Series is an adaptation of Christ & Gantenbein's Athens series which was inspired by a modest wooden chopping block the designers happened upon in an Athens market. Based on this simple, vernacular object, the series' stools and tables are made of wooden blocks held together by long, cylindrical wooden pegs, and are assembled without the use of hardware or glue.

The furniture is scaled to accommodate a child's use in school; thanks to a simple interlocking system, the tables can be assembled into different configurations to organize different activities or lessons. Some of the resulting options include square-shaped, cross-shaped, and V-shaped tables as well as long straight tables. The furniture will be fabricated in Zambia and assembled by the Mwabwindo community. The process of making provides an opportunity for self-expression, as makers can choose among different toned woods to create patterns on the stools and tables.

"With this furniture, we directly tackle the creative process inherent in the fabrication of everyday objects. This has a great tradition in Zambia with traditional crafts such as weaving, and wood carving. The Mwabwindo Series will mainly be used in the art spaces and thus it will support the pupils in their first artistic experiences. We hope that the pieces will bring the pupils closer to their own creative potential and the legacy of their traditional craft."

Design Visionary Award Installation at Design Miami/

Prototypes of the Mwabwindo Series will be unveiled at Design Miami/ in an exhibition dedicated to the school that will include models of the building, details of the construction and information about the student body. The installation will feature a child-size set of modular tables and stools that visitors will be encouraged to use, touch, and move into different configurations.

Mwabwindo School

14+ Foundation's initiatives are centered on the following core tenets: empowering children through education, achieving meaningful engagement with the communities served, promoting arts-based education, and the belief that quality design can not only inspire, but also make a difference.

Selldorf Architects' design 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 are being 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.

The project will also provide the larger community of Mwabwindo Village with vital improvements to infrastructure and access to goods and services, increased access to medical services, and more. The project's collaborators are donating their services and 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.

About Christ + Gantenbein

A broad range of private and public commissions has given shape to Christ & Gantenbein's growing body of work, from furniture to 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/>

Panera Design Miami/ Visionary Award

The Panera 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>.



PANERAI

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

Schedule of Events/

Preview Day (by invitation only)

Tuesday, December 5/

Collectors Preview/ 12–6pm

Opening Night Preview/ 6–8pm

Vernissage (by invitation only)

Wednesday, December 6/

10am–12pm

Public Show Days

Wednesday, December 6/ 12–8pm

Thursday, December 7/ 10am–8pm

Friday, December 8/ 11am–8pm

Saturday, December 9/ 12–8pm

Sunday, December 10/ 12–6pm

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