

Coding for Rapid Urbanization in the Capital of a Developing Country

Akanda SmartCode



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Defining a Vision of Sustainable Growth for Akanda, Gabon



C Through the development of a new Masterplan for Akanda, we have carefully considered President Ali Bongo Ondimba's vision for Gabon—to diversify the economy beyond oil and mining and attract investment around responsible forestry, agriculture and tourism. The resulting plan recognizes the beauty of Akanda and neighboring Akanda the presence of a complex system of creeks and rivers, the forests of the Emerald Arc and the spectacular coastline. If development can be carefully managed, Akanda could represent the best of 'Gabon Emergent'."

- Master Plan Project Vision





Calibrating the SmartCode for Gabon



The code is meticulously calibrated to foster development appropriate for Gabon. The team studied existing vernacular community and building patterns in Gabon as well as local building techniques, then adapted the code standards accordingly.

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Innovation #2: Designed as a Paper-Based App



User 1: Building Developer/Local Homeowner Overview







Additional Guidance: Illustrations (2 pages)



Tropical Design Guidelines



User 1: Building Developer, Page 1



User 1: Building Developer, Page 2

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User 1: Building Developer, Page 3



User 2: Multi-Lot (Block-Scale) Developer Page Examples



User 3: Multi-Block (Community) Developer Page Examples







User 3: Multi-Block (Community) Developer Page Examples





Checklist-Based Administration





-Administrator Checklist: Building Submittal Review



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Community Types



Transect Zones



Additional Features

Building Type Framework Enables Dynamic, Place-Specific Designs

Building types are a framework to encourage dynamic, place-specific design. For the Akanda SmartCode, including this framework allowed us to create a palette of housing options that the code enabled, providing guidance to local developers on housing that would build on local tradition, adapt to local economic conditions, and support the character of Gabon."

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Additional Features

Complementing the Code with the Cutting Edge in Sustainability



