In 2014 Tügende, a team of four young architects, started the project with the Ugandan NGO KYDA, Kawempe Youth Development Association, that takes care of street children in the slum of Kawempe, Kampala, Uganda.

The association lacks adequate dorms to accommodate children at night and the collaboration between KYDA and Tügende was born out of this necessity. The aim is that of providing a safe place to accommodate KYDA’s children at night so as to take them off the road, a place where they can feel at home and live an ordinary life.

The first step involves the construction of a dormitory, the second one the construction of new premises for the Association and a gathering place of worship for the community.

The planning of the dormitory, which was made in collaboration with the KYDA’s children and the local community, was the result of a research whose priority was children’s needs together with characteristics of the territory and social context.

The design was born out of defined obligations and requirements that we stated from the beginning: realization of a self-built construction; a sustainable cost of realization; durability of the building and the necessity of low-cost maintenance which needs to be limited to users’ daily care.
COOPERATE FOR FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN ACTIVE COLLABORATION WITH DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE OR COMMUNITIES. THIS PROCESS SHALL FOLLOW PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN SOLIDARITY, NON-DISCRIMINATION AND WILL BE AIMED AT PROMOTING THEIR SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

The street children are a segment of population that includes children and teenagers between the age of 6 and 15. As they do not have the opportunity of improving their living conditions, poverty is passed down from generation to generation creating a vicious circle difficult to eliminate. They are victims of drug abuse, sexual exploitation, harassment and considered as outcasts by members of the community.

The aim of the project is both to involve and improve the life of the community. Building a home for these kids will promote a faster integration process and will certainly mean an improvement of their life, on top of raising awareness the community about “the street children phenomenon”.

As children are often seen as disturbing the life of the community because of their involvement in petty crime, a house hosting them will make them visible and recognized as members of the community itself. In order to strengthen this process KYDA and Tugende started a program of extracurricular activities last year such as dance classes, a carpentry course, a bakery course and gardening activities designed to suit the abilities of each pupil and to develop their interests, with the final aim of facilitating their reintegration into the community.

MY MANGO HOME
TUGENDE
SHARE KNOWLEDGE, PROMOTE DISCUSSION, REFLECTION AND AWARENESS, AND COLLABORATE IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE SOCIAL PRODUCTION OF HABITAT.

The community was involved in the design process during our stay in Kawempe in March 2014, where we organized a workshop for the street children involved in KYDA’s project, including recreational and educational activities that allowed us to get closer to their way of life, to investigate their needs and habits and to understand their personal idea of a home. Afterwards we translated this experience into an architectural design, along with the revision of the collected data. The community was constantly kept informed about the development of the project and our intention is that of involving them in the building of the dorn, in the hope of transforming it in a temporary professional training school. Since July 2013 two of us have been there, taking part in the community life and collaborating with KYDA’s team.

We are convinced that the participation of the community in the project will develop a sense of belonging and responsibility which will make “the new” accepted and respected. We do hope the project will become one of the community itself, a project that does not impose organizational models alien to the local culture, but one that avoids flattening on existing conditions.

MY MANGO HOME
TUGENDE
FACILITATE THE USE OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES, MATERIALS AND LABOUR ADEQUATE TO LOCAL VALUES, TO THE CULTURAL SPECIFICITY AND RESPONSIVE TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

The complex of the dormitory aim is to improve quality of life of their users, offering the best way to organize social relations. It is divided into two separate facing buildings, overlooking a courtyard shaded by a tree, as prescribed by local tradition to entertain people. Brick outer walls mark the boundary of the ground floor with an insulating chamber. The upper floor consists of a wooden framed structure. Windows and the roofing system are designed to allow ventilation so as to avoid overheating of the rooms below. The insulated sloping roof, covered by tiles, is also apt to cope with long sun beam exposure as well as to collect rainwater and channel it into a tank. Bricks and tiles are produced by local workers and made from local materials. The toilets of the dormitories are designed as a compost toilet as it was necessary to dispose of organic waste in the absence of a proper sewage system. Showers and sinks, which use the collected water from the tank, drain into a pipe that reaches a phytodepuration tank which enables the recycling of purified water in the natural cycle.