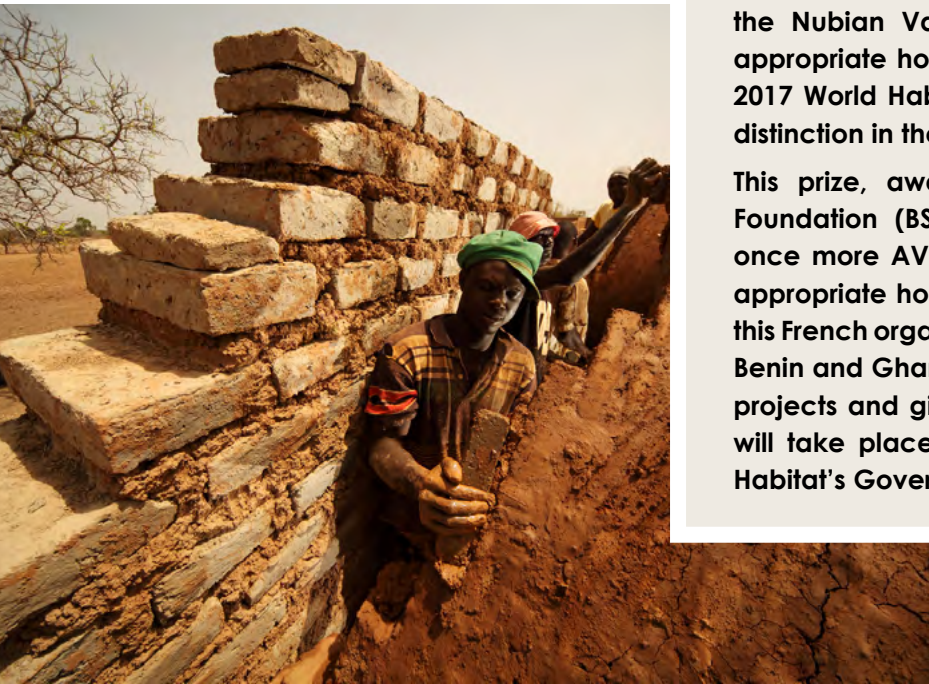




The Nubian Vault Programme Receives the **World Habitat Award**



"A Roof, A Skill, A Market ", the programme carried by the Nubian Vault Association for the dissemination of an appropriate housing in West Africa is the winner of the 2016-2017 World Habitat Award, the most prestigious international distinction in the field of housing.

This prize, awarded by the Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) together with UN-Habitat, demonstrates once more AVN's standing as a major player in the field of appropriate housing in Africa. Already a WHA finalist in 2009, this French organization working in Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Benin and Ghana was chosen by the jury among 12 selected projects and given a £ 10,000 reward. The award ceremony will take place in May 2017 in Nairobi (Kenya) during UN-Habitat's Governing Council meeting.

Appropriate housing, for as many as possible, as soon as possible

Since 2000, the Nubian Vault Association's mission is to **develop a market for appropriate housing in West Africa, integrating issues of housing, vocational training, economy, environment and climate**. At the heart of the programme, an architectural concept both ancestral and innovative: the Nubian Vault. This building technique uses neither wood nor metal, but only raw earth, and enables the professional training of a local and often precarious workforce to a business with a future. The results? Local populations have access to affordable and appropriate – i.e. resilient and comfortable in the face of climate change – housing, green jobs are created, economies are strengthened at all levels and an "appropriate housing" sector is developing in a growing green economy.

Deployed in **five countries**, and growing by **an average 32% yearly**, the programme led by **67 team members**, most of them African, and carried in collaboration with numerous local partners, has enabled, since inception, the construction of **2,000 buildings in 830 towns and villages**, to the benefit of **25,000 people**; the training and professional inclusion of **635 apprentices, masons, artisans and entrepreneurs**; a potential economy of **65,000 tons of CO₂**; and the re-injection of **2.5 million euros** into local circuits.

"The Sahel is a region under extreme pressure from climate change, conflict and grinding poverty. Nubian vaults provide a far better way for people to live in this fragile region for little cost and virtually no environmental impact."

David Ireland, Director of BSHF, funders and co-ordinators of the World Habitat Awards

"The right to adequate housing is so fragile right now and under such threat, it's incredibly heartening to know that 'A roof, a skill, a market' is fighting to ensure a dignified life through adequate housing. It strikes me that this project has a macro perspective that fits with the human rights vision."

Leilani Farha, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing explains and judge of the World Habitat Award

Press Release

Wednesday March 15th, 2017



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



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Replacing the transformation of building practices into development policies for Africa

According to UN-Habitat, in Africa, *80% of the buildings that will exist in 2050 have not yet been built*: it isn't too late to initiate today a progressive adaptation of the construction sector to current economic, societal and environmental challenges, and therefore provide an appropriate answer to the construction needs of the next 30 years, and beyond.

AVN's advocacy work on the international stage and towards policy players resulted in the **recognition of the Nubian Vault as a solution to promote for building and energy efficiency**, including its mention in **several States' commitments** to the Paris Agreement on the Climate, and AVN supports today these countries in the implementation of programmes integrating the Nubian Vault.

To build this transition, AVN today heightens awareness of all development stakeholders to the necessity of **carrying at all scales a cross-cutting policy for appropriate housing**, integrated into key areas of public and development policies for these countries.

Supported by its extensive experience and numerous international recognitions, enriched today by the World Habitat Award, AVN is more than ever a central player accompanying this transformation.

Press Contact

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Useful Links

- Programme Booklet
- Film
- Annual Report 2015-2016

www.lavoutenubienne.org/en

[thenubianvault](https://www.facebook.com/thenubianvault)

[@earthroofs](https://twitter.com/earthroofs)

Prizes and Distinctions



The Nubian Vault in Pictures

The Nubian Vault technique makes it possible to build housing appropriate for many uses, from simple rural homes to two-storey urban dwellings, but also community facilities (education, health, agriculture/livestock, culture, religion, offices, etc.).



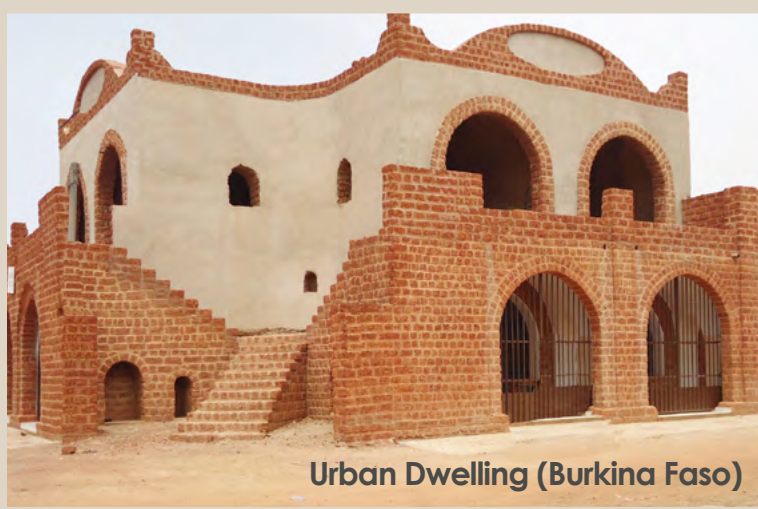
Office (Burkina Faso)



Rural Home (Mali)



Artistic Activities Centre (Burkina Faso)



Urban Dwelling (Burkina Faso)



Urban Dwelling (Senegal)



School (Senegal)



Health Centre (Senegal)