



**THE
BREEZE
BLOCK
BOOK**







NEW LECTURE ROOM BLOCK AT THE ALIOUNE DIOP UNIVERSITY [2017] ■ IDOM

In a remote area of Senegal, the New Lecture Room Block at the Alioune Diop University stands as testament to sustainable, site-responsive architecture. Five kilometres from the metropolitan area of Bambey, the building is an unobtrusive addition to a campus that needed more room for its growing student body, which now has access to a new lecture hall, laboratories, computer rooms and offices for staff. A long rectangle with an entrance ramp folding out from one end, the New Lecture Room Block changes shape depending on the approach: from one side, a 10-metre canopy juts out, casting shade back onto the main building and extending the shaded outdoor area where students can gather. On the other side, a breeze block wall extends the full length of the building, protecting an internal walkway and screening the body of the building from direct sunlight while still allowing natural light to enter during the day. This double skin around the walls of the building is extended upward to a double skin roof supported by steel beams, with double insulation and space for natural air movement. IDOM, the architects, responded to the climatic conditions of the area: citronella grass is planted between skins to reduce the presence of malaria-bearing mosquitoes; the garden beds collect rainwater through basalt-lined exterior canals for the filtration of the water; a purification system reuses waste for agricultural purposes. IDOM also considered the social impact of the building, employing local workers for general construction as well as the creation of elements, such as the triangle-perforated concrete blocks cast from steel moulds on site. Photography—Francesco Pinton

