

Press release

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**Foster + Partners reveals designs for Sierra Leone school in Royal Academy Summer Exhibition**

Foster + Partners has unveiled a model for the design of a school in Sierra Leone at the Royal Academys Summer Exhibition in London. Working together with Article 25, Save the Children and Buro Happold, this unique project to establish a design prototype was the result of close collaboration with the local community to create a series of highly flexible buildings with larger classrooms, effective ventilation and natural light.

The design draws parallels with a number of early social projects. Its modular system embraces floor, walls and roof on a flexible plan and can be easily assembled and reconfigured to meet the different demands of communities in Sierra Leone. The response to climatic and economic restraints has produced something close to a new vernacular: an architecture without architects. Visually, the scheme resonates with existing schools, yet functionally it is a dramatic departure. This has ensured widespread acceptance of the design, enabling teachers for the first time to circulate in classrooms that are light and naturally ventilated and offering better security and supervision.

The design is being jointly funded by Foster + Partners, Article 25 and Buro Happold and construction will be financed by the Foster family.

"The project to design a school for Sierra Leone has been both an exciting design challenge, as well as an ambitious undertaking to help improve education in one of the worlds poorest countries. Our approach seeks to achieve the most with the least, using indigenous techniques and materials to create a prototype for a modern, flexible school building that is uplifting and inspiring to use."

**Norman Foster, Founder and Executive Chairman**

**For further information**  
please contact Katy Harris at  
Foster + Partners,  
T +44 (0)20 7738 0455  
F +44 (0)20 7738 1107  
E [press@fosterandpartners.com](mailto:press@fosterandpartners.com)