

Douala, Cameroon

Architects	Various Architects Douala, Cameroon
Clients	Doual’art Douala, Cameroon
Commission	n.a.
Design	n.a.
Construction	n.a.
Occupancy	2005
Site	n.a.
Ground floor	n.a.
Total floor	n.a.
Costs	n.a.

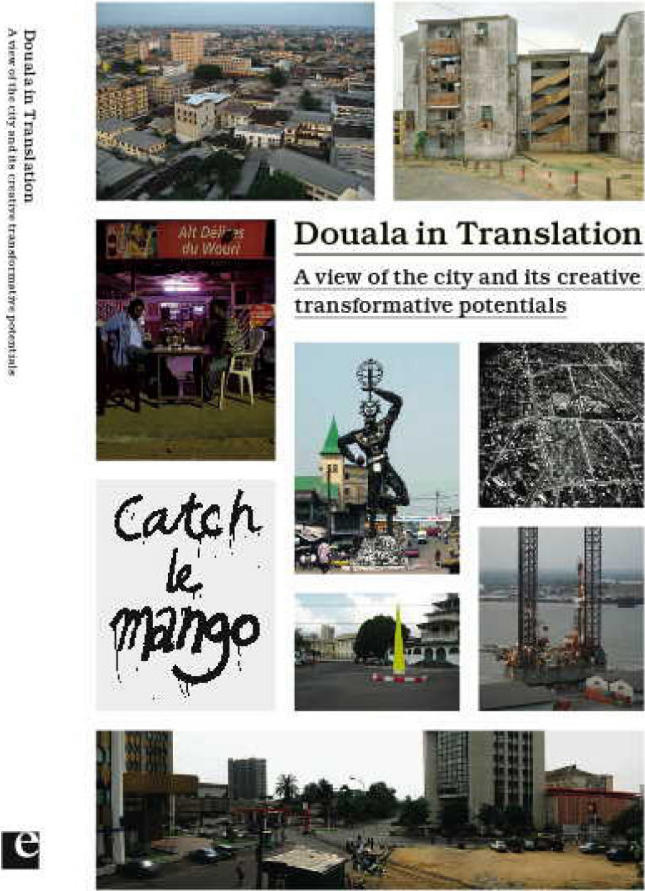
**Programme** The non-profit doual’art is based on the concept that artistic expression is a mechanism for development and for the exploration of cultural and urban identity. The organisation has invited artists to produce a series of urban interventions in various neighbourhoods in Douala, which often involve local populations and encourage social responsibility. The interventions include a fresco on HIV-AIDS prevention; urban designs in 30 historical sites by the historian Blaise Ndjehoya and artist Sandrine Dole; Joseph Francis Sumegne’s monumental sculpture, ‘The New Liberty’, which is placed on a roundabout; a bridge and water pump in Bessengue; and a treasury box of messages for the year 2050 by 200 schoolchildren.

Doual’art Urban Engineering



A pedestrian bridge was built in Bessengue in 2005. It was designed by Alioum Moussa and produced by Commune de Douala 1er and Ircod-Alsace. The project was selected through an open art competition.

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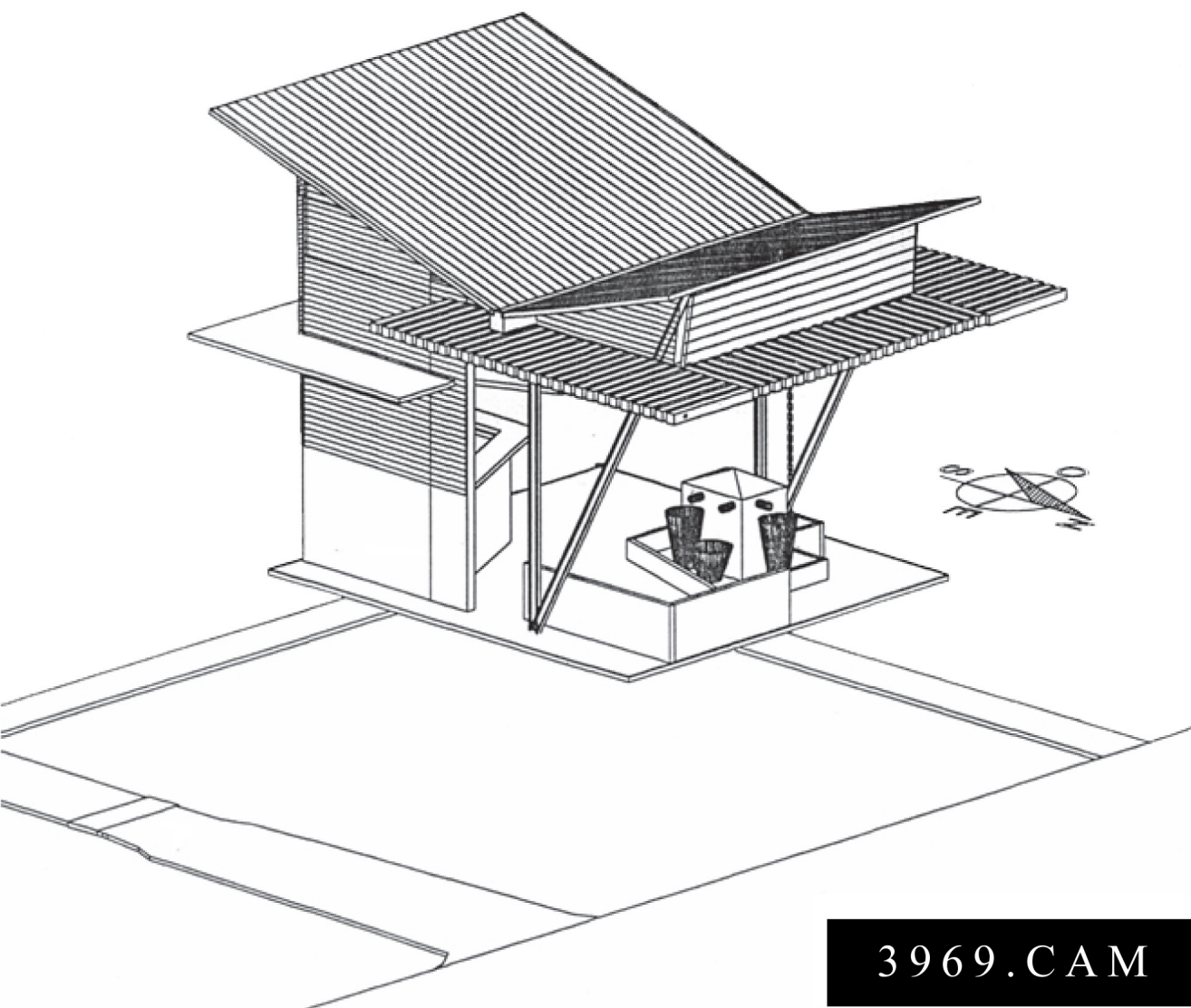
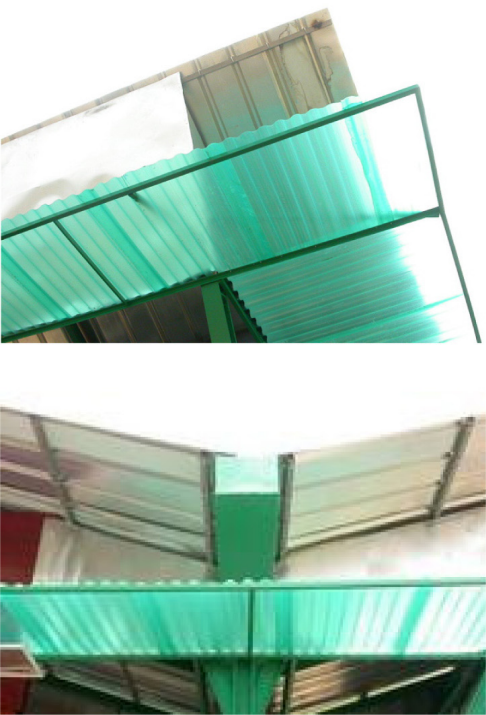


Doual’art has been fostering and spreading for 15 years site specific arts and cultural projects in Douala, by conceiving them as paradigmatic tools of development. The social pattern of Douala is formed by a complex of family units related one to another through a network based on vernacular affinity. Public memory is thus split and fragmented, with no sharing of a common urban identity. This special context has been the target of the activities promoted by Doual’art since 1991. Doual’art believes that arts and culture can be an effective way to develop an urban context, and to make its citizens aware of their resources, traditions, potentialities and aspirations. Doual’art regularly invites local and international artists and cultural practitioners to meet and interact with the audience of Douala to depict the multiple and overlapping layers and aspects the city is made up of.

It created a space to negotiate from. Doual’art’s use of culture around the specific urban development needs of the community—respecting basic needs, enabling creative responses to problems—shows that an artistic response can successfully incorporate issues of social and cultural justice. The bridge and the water pump are integral parts of everyday life, making it possible for greater connectivity within Bessengue-Akwa and the world around it, while offering real, basic and necessary benefits. Bessengue City remains a source of vivid and lifeaffirming memories for all involved, living still through their contemporary actions. By understanding Douala’s history, its informal nature, its network of complex relationships, and using the real needs and aspirations of communities as a key, Doual’art has enabled the city to speak for itself.







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Since 2003 doual'art has been fostering projects of social engineering in Bessengue, working with artists as facilitators and mediators. In 2003 a fountain, designed by the architect Danielle Diwouta, was installed in Bessengue Akwa. A second fountain is going to be built by the studio Diwouta in the same estate.