



## EMERGENCY at the 58<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *Salone del Mobile.Milano*

9 – 14 April 2019

This year, as it celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, EMERGENCY, a humanitarian organization founded in Milan in 1994 to provide free, high quality medical and surgical treatment to the victims of war, landmines and poverty, will be represented at the *Salone del Mobile.Milano*.

**The installation will be open every day between 9:30 and 18:30 in the reception area of the 9-11 pavilion**, and will be dedicated to the **Centre of Excellence in Paediatric Surgery** that EMERGENCY is building in Entebbe, Uganda, designed by **Renzo Piano Building Workshop** in collaboration with TAMassociati and EMERGENCY's technical department.

Throughout the 58<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *Salone del Mobile.Milano*, **visitors will be able to discover more about the EMERGENCY hospital**, which will provide free treatment and act as a referral centre for Ugandan patients and for children in need of surgery referred from across the African continent.

The scale model of the hospital that EMERGENCY will be displaying was created by Renzo Piano Building Workshop, and is **one of 16 projects selected for the exhibition "Renzo Piano: the art of making buildings,"** at the Royal Academy of London. The works in the exhibition were selected by the architect to represent key moments in his artistic journey, from the 1960s to today.

According to the World Health Organisation, the country is still a long way from reaching its millennium goals for reducing infant mortality: more than 30% of children under the age of five suffer from malnutrition and the infant mortality rate for this age bracket is 138 per 1,000 live births.

The need for a centre in Entebbe was also highlighted by the African Network of Medical Excellence (ANME), a network of ministers and health authorities from 11 African countries, created in 2009 to promote the development of high-quality, free healthcare systems on the African continent. The hospital in Entebbe will be the second structure to form part of the network, following the model of the *Salam* Centre for Cardiac Surgery opened by EMERGENCY in 2007 in Khartoum, Sudan.

*"Millions of children die every year simply because they have no access to medical treatment. A shortage of resources? Indifference towards the suffering of others? Governments failing to take responsibility? Whatever the reason may be, the question remains the same: should we continue to tolerate this scandal, or should we make every possible effort to save or improve the lives of millions of fellow human beings?"* explains EMERGENCY's founder, **Gino Strada**.

The hospital, situated in a spacious wooded garden, will also serve as a **training centre** for young doctors and nurses from Uganda and surrounding countries. The facility is being built using **rammed earth**, a traditional building technique that uses raw earth to make the building resistant to heat and keep temperature and humidity constant inside. The hospital will be equipped with 2,600 photovoltaic **solar panels** to produce the electricity needed for its work. Construction work began in February 2017 and will conclude at the end of 2019, with the hospital set to open its doors in early 2020.

"When Gino Strada asked me to take part in EMERGENCY's new challenge, I didn't think twice. I said 'yes' straight away! This hospital will be a model of medical excellence, environmental sustainability, energy, independence and harmony of space. We want to use the resources of the earth, water and sun, modernity's greatest, truest achievements, says **Renzo Piano**. "The hospital will be built on the banks of Lake Victoria and surrounded by nature and trees. The vegetation will be the horizon for the hospital's smallest guests, the trees a metaphor for the recovery process".

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