



International Workshop

**Design and Build Workshop
Lesotho 2025**

Overview

rise - Relationships Inspiring Social Enterprise. We are working towards a world where sustainable social businesses, created by local entrepreneurs, are provided with resources, knowledge, and the professional community needed to be successful and transformational in their communities.

rise seeks to solve the poor quality and lack of infrastructure outside of most African capital cities by bringing local skilled labor to work on architecture projects in peri-urban and rural areas thus improving the construction know-how within local communities.

We aim to bridge the disconnect between tradespeople and professionals, bringing them together through a program called **in loco**; a “**learning by doing**” fellowship program in Lesotho that uses locally sourced talent and materials, striving to create an entrepreneurial mindset.



Stadium of Life – Kick4Life

What

The **in loco** international workshop is a 2-week program, which aims to complement a student or recent graduate's existing learning, and is run in English. It focuses on developing the participants' knowledge of buildings, offering them the opportunity to work with local communities and experts to help change the cities and rural villages of the future. With a cohort of about 10 recently graduated Basotho students from local Architecture and Construction Schools, as well as promoting peer-to-peer knowledge exchange with contingents of about 6 international students, this workshop aims to create a life-changing experience for all involved.

It is a "**learning-by-doing**" experience in which all participants are involved in the planning, design and building, through a participatory process engaging international cohorts of students and the local community. **in loco** offers a real knowledge exchange experience for all involved. Through this program we essentially collaborate with local vulnerable communities to build social infrastructure employing local graduates from the fields of Design, Architecture, and Built Environment



2019 Fellows at work

The Impact of **in loco**

Our first project was in 2018 where we built a new residential and entrepreneurship center in Maseru, Lesotho, Southern Africa to improve the quality of life for orphans who lived in cramped conditions in the God's Love Centre (GLC). We worked in close collaboration with members of the local community on the completion of this building and simultaneously started the design and construction of new dormitories, facilities and external play areas. At the same time, a social entrepreneurship and mentorship training program ran for 21 youths aged between 16 and 20 and also for the existing GLC team. Following

the same program, we then designed and built the very first educational and sensory center for youth with intellectual disabilities for a parent-led nonprofit organization called Intellectual Disability & Autism Lesotho in Maseru in 2019. Followed by the design and construction of a unique inclusive building for the Lesotho National Federation of Organizations for the disabled (LNFOD) in 2020, aiming at eradicating barriers that create separation between people living with disability and those who are not. This non-profit organization can now employ people who use wheelchairs thanks to **in loco**.



In loco project 2020 LNFOD

In 2022, our focus was on Seboka Primary School, utilizing sandbag technology. We constructed new school kitchens, food gardens, toilets, and rainwater harvesting systems for five schools in Lithabaneng village, a 30-minute drive from Maseru. This initiative formed part of our 5 Hub Schools project, carried out in collaboration with Action Ireland Trust and the Ministry.



The Project - Seboka Kitchen

of the Education and Training of Lesotho. The project aimed to enhance food security, health, and sanitation across four primary and one secondary school. To date, we have successfully completed the construction of two kitchens, ablution blocks for two schools, a food garden, and a rainwater harvesting system, marking a significant accomplishment in our endeavors.



Seboka Kitchen

In 2024, we constructed a kitchen Pavilion at Motimposo Primary School, employing the Compressed Earth Blocks method. The project supported our efforts to enhance food security, health, and sanitation in primary schools in Lesotho.



Motimposo P.S Kitchen Pavilion

This year we are going to continue building improvements at Motimposo Primary School that has over 1,360 learners. We will be designing and building social infrastructure for the school with ICEB (Interlocking Compressed Earth Blocks). This will act as a prototype to raise the awareness and skills of brick producers and brick layers to move away from fired clay bricks which require charcoal for curing to compressed earth bricks whereby the compression as well as 20 days of natural curing in the sun is all that is needed.



Interlocking Compressed Earth Blocks

Where

Lesotho, also known as the “**Mountain Kingdom**” or the “**Switzerland of Africa**”, with its lowest altitude sitting at 1400m and over 80% of its land above 1800m, is the country with the highest lowest point in the world, that’s a whole 400m above its closest competitor, and it is the only state to be completely above 1000m. Another unique feature of Lesotho is that it is the only fully autonomous country to be completely surrounded by another.



Map of Lesotho

This landlocked status and a weak economic situation have made Lesotho incredibly dependent on its neighbor South Africa. Water is Lesotho’s main export, in a country with an economy crippled by over 45% unemployment. Beautiful landscapes, rural villages and a strong cultural heritage should be the reasons why most people know this country, yet instead it is generally best known for having the world’s second highest HIV/AIDS prevalence



Lesotho Landscape

Why Get Involved

1. Join up to 6 international construction, engineering, and architecture students from USA, Europe and Asia who will participate in the program and benefit from an international design and build experience, allowing you to develop design skills suitable for working in challenging environments, and conditions of scarcity of resources.

3. Be part of a cohort of like-minded international construction, engineering and architecture students who will participate in the program and benefit from an international design and build experience, allowing you to develop design skills suitable for working in challenging environments, and conditions of scarcity of resources.



2024 International workshop participants

2. Work alongside a team of local construction, engineering and architecture graduates from Lesotho, who will be taking part in this exciting internship program, gaining valuable skills to improve their chances of employment and empowering them to start their own projects.

4. Be part of a scalable solution to help put an end to some of the root causes of poverty in Africa which is the lack of job opportunities. Help us develop learnings from this pilot project, and create a network of knowledge and people, so that this methodology can be replicated in Lesotho and other countries.

Application Details

This year's workshop will take place from -
21 July to 1st August

Flights

In order to allow you flexibility to plan your participation in the workshop and possible travel in or around Lesotho, flights are not included in the workshop package, and participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements to ensure that they are in Maseru for the first day of the workshop which will be 21 July. **rise** can organize a car to pick you up from Johannesburg airport (at an additional cost) or you can book a flight from Johannesburg to Maseru [here](#).

Insurance

In accepting to take part in the workshop all participants will be responsible for their own wellbeing and safety on site and during your participation in the workshop. As such we strongly recommend that you take out individual travel/accident insurance which specifically allows for volunteering and construction work, and is valid for the location and duration of your stay. If you have any questions on this and/or would like assistance please get in contact with us.

Visa

Most people will require a visa for entry to Lesotho, however for most nationalities these can be obtained at an entry port to the country. Nevertheless please seek the relevant advice and information for your nationality from your nearest Embassy

Safety

We have a strong relationship with the local community where the project will be based. The area and local people are very welcoming and hospitable, and we will take every reasonable measure to ensure your safety at all times. Please check with your local health offices which vaccine you should take, and make sure all your immunizations are completed with sufficient time prior to departure.

Accommodation

Housing will be organized by **rise** either in a shared house, or a local guest house in Maseru which is clean, safe and have all the amenities including Wi-Fi, running water, electricity, heating, bed sheets, towels and so on

Food & Drinks

3 meals per day will be provided and are included in the fees.

Fees \$1,895.00

Provisional itinerary for International Workshop-

Day 1.

July 20: Arrive in Maseru Lesotho. Settle into accommodation.

Day 2.

July 21: Walk around Maseru to become familiar with the city.

Welcome meeting with the local team & raw material manufacturing sites to become familiar with locally available materials.

Day 3 to 13.

July 22 to Aug 1: Hands-on Design and Build Experience

Weekend

July 26 & 27: Optional Excursions into the Lesotho Mountains – Semonkong or Malealea.

Day 14

August 2: Check out, departure from Maseru, Lesotho

[Apply Here](#)

Registration deadline May 31st, 2025

50% deposit payment due by June 21st, 2025 and balance payment due by July 10th, 2025