**CHINA: WEST WUSUTU VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE (AKTC – ACCESS ALL)**

SOUNDBITE (Chinese) ZHANG PENGJU, ARCHITECT:

“Back in 2022, this village faced a critical renovation project. Our architectural firm

took on the challenge of reimagining and redesigning the space. As mentioned earlier, we were particularly focused on creating a space that would complement the city, while addressing three key priorities : First, we aimed to establish an open, inclusive public space, where local artists

could gather and collaborate. Second, we needed to ensure the building’s longevity by designing it to adapt to potential future changes. Third, we committed to completing the project with minimal construction costs. A central goal of our initial design was optimising spatial flow, ensuring easy access for villagers while creating dynamic and engaging experiences

for children through interactive spaces. For the village, this project serves as international validation of their community’s vision. For residents, it’s a very good building. This can guide the village toward the healthy, sustainable development we’ve envisioned in the future.”

SOUNDBITE (Chinese) GAO JIANGZE, ARTIST:

“The artists themselves contributed numerous ideas and feedback throughout the process. For example, exterior wall colours, interior lighting design and artwork display methods. This was important to the artists. To date, the village has hosted around a hundred events, with a special emphasis on events for children.”

SOUNDBITE (Chinese) TOURISTS:

“We often look for fun things to do nearby. We’ve heard so much about this place and seen lots of videos about it. It feels really nice, there are lots of lights, displays, it’s very good.”

**B-ROLL**

1. VARIOUS OF DRONE SHOTS
2. MORE OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE
3. ARCHITECT WALKING THROUGH THE CORRIDORS
4. MORE OF THE BUILDING
5. ARTIST PAINTING
6. EXPO OF PAINTINGS
7. CULTURAL EVENTS WITH PEOPLE VISITING THE CENTRE
8. CHILDREN VISITINGT HE CENTRE

**STORY:**

The multifunctional community centre serves a rural village with a rich historical and cultural context. It has three primary functions: providing gathering spaces for elderly residents, children, and returning young villagers; creating exhibition and social spaces for artists; and addressing the religious needs of the Hui Muslim community, who are far from the main mosque.

The total area is 1,276 square metres, with a significant central circular courtyard of 203 square metres, serving as a focal point for outdoor activities and community cohesion. The 786-square-metre rooftop platform serves as a children's play area. Constructed entirely with reclaimed bricks from local demolitions, the buildings integrate an 80-mm fly ash insulation layer, allowing a cost-effective and durable model for the village housing. Natural ventilation is achieved through ground ventilation, thermal chambers, and automated skylights. Unique ventilation towers also provide playful spaces for children. The design uses a dispersed, small-volume layout forming a central courtyard and alleys, enhancing circulation and adaptability. The project aims to serve as a cultural, social, and ecological hub, integrating traditional materials with sustainable construction methods.

To be eligible for consideration in the 2025 Award cycle, projects had to be completed between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2023 and should have been in use for at least one year. Projects commissioned by His Highness the Aga Khan or any of the institutions of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) are ineligible for the Award.