

Flower Valley Edu-Care Center, 2003

Address: Flower Valley Farm near Gansbaai, South Western Cape Province, South Africa. **Client:** Flower Valley Conservation Trust. **Gross floor area:** interior: 65 m²; veranda: 16 m². **Materials:** cob (clay, sand, straw), stone, timber.

With locally harvested poles

ARCHITECTS:

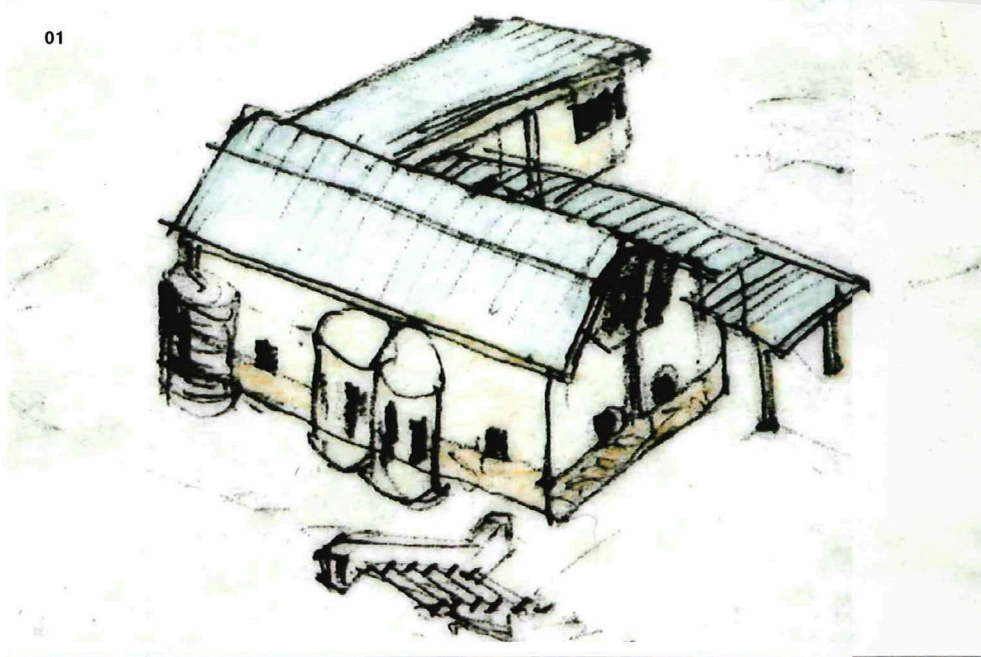
Eco Design Architects and Consultants



The brief was to create a multi-purpose edu-care center on an indigenous flower farm near Gansbaai in the Western Cape Province of South Africa that showcased an environmental approach to construction. The center functions as a pre-school for the local farming community as well as a venue for social occasions. The concept was to create an L-shaped floor plan and roof form, thereby also creating a wind-sheltered zone for outdoor teaching. By using local, natural and recycled materials, the project helped to maximize the involvement and education of local farm laborers in the construction process. The building was designed as a timber-framed structure, in-filled with a mixture of cob and timber paneling. Locally harvested timber poles were used as supports with stone piers used to provide additional bracing. Timber poles were used for the roof structure, and are visible in the interior. Poles are structurally superior to cut timber, and result in a very lightweight structure. The poles were locally harvested and treated on-site with boron, a non-toxic treatment method.

01 Sketch **02** View from northeast **03** View from northwest **04** View from east

01



02



