

Rural African vaulted structures in architecture between preservation and innovation.

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Abstract This study focuses on the dome vaulted buildings in rural African contexts where the different ways of conceiving and creating the dome today are analyzed by considering traditional building systems. This research on the “vaulted system” in Sub-Saharan Africa was inspired by experiences in the field of the two authors who have had the opportunity to examine several examples of domes and have reproduced them with photographs and sketches. This knowledge of vaulted structures is enriched by further information from reference literature. We will present different examples of these domes in rural areas of Africa and consider construction techniques, materials used and the conservation and recovery systems adopted.

Keywords dome vaulted buildings, rural Africa, building systems