Namanabe Hall at the Centre ValBio,
Madagascar, Africa

RAVI ENGINEERING & LAND SURVEYING, P.C.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Namanabe (Friendship) Hall at the Centre ValBio in Madagascar is at the forefront of tropical conservation efforts. This new 5 story, 15,000 SF facility on the border of Ranomafana National Park consists of 3 new laboratories, including a dry lab for biology, a full genetics suite and a level 2 bio-safety laboratory. The building also houses a computer lab, conference rooms, several verandas for lemur observation and living quarters for 52 researchers. Constructed using sustainable design practices, local material and manpower, without disturbance of the surrounding vegetation, Namanabe is a world-class facility that exemplifies the positive impact of engineering - helping to both preserve the land and benefit the people.

Resourceful Planning

The Hall was built with locally sourced granite, brick, and concrete, and offers many energy-saving features, such as a habitable planted roof and systems for greywater recycling, solar hot water, natural cooling, and enhanced daylighting. Rooms designated as sleeping areas have non-load-bearing walls to allow future flexibility in reconfiguring the building to meet changing needs. The rooms are situated around a central area, similar to dwellings in local villages, to encourage socializing and the exchange of knowledge. The building also features several verandas, affording residents additional opportunities to socialize and commune with nature.

A Model for Green Design

Namanabe Hall is constructed without the removal of any vegetation or significant modification of the existing site, thus upholding Centre ValBio's mission of encouraging environmental conservation and preserving biodiversity. Featuring an innovative wedge shape that fits neatly into its delicate rainforest surroundings, Namanabe Hall blends seamlessly with the topography and nearby buildings, courtyard, and road.

Total Immersion in Nature

The Centre ValBio campus is in close proximity to Ranomafana National Park, and an entry walk serves as a bridge from the road to the upper tier of Namanabe Hall, drawing visitors physically into the building and onto a veranda that overlooks Ranomafana's lush rainforest - an ideal platform for nature observation.

Design:
In. Site: Architecture, LLP

Structural Engineering:
Ravi Engineering and Land Surveying

Mechanical & Electrical Engineering:
IBC Engineering

Builder: Lucien Robert, Entreprise Malagasy De Genie Civil Et De Travaux Public

Photographer: James Ewing, Photograph

Completion Date: 2012