

# Diébédo Francis Kéré's rainwater-harvesting 2017 Serpentine Pavilion unveiled in London today

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Today marks the official debut of [Diébédo Francis Kéré's](#) spectacular [rainwater-harvesting Serpentine Pavilion](#). The 2017 pavilion was unveiled on a perfectly sunny day – but when it rains the roof will protect visitors from drizzle while funneling precipitation it into a central waterfall and storing it for irrigation in the surrounding park. The [pavilion](#) is inspired by the culture of Kéré's home village of Gando in [Burkina Faso](#) even as it plays with experimental construction techniques and embraces the climate in Britain.



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Click here to watch “2017 Serpentine Pavilion designed by Francis Kéré”:  
<https://youtu.be/3hmT3OAllgs>

Diébédo Francis Kéré, who runs Berlin-based [Kéré Architecture](#), is the first African architect to construct a [Serpentine Pavilion](#). Kéré cited [trees](#) as his [design](#) inspiration. The pavilion is topped

by a massive canopy – visitors can walk underneath and be safe from the rain while at the same time experiencing the weather through a transparent roof and wall openings that allow the wind to blow through.



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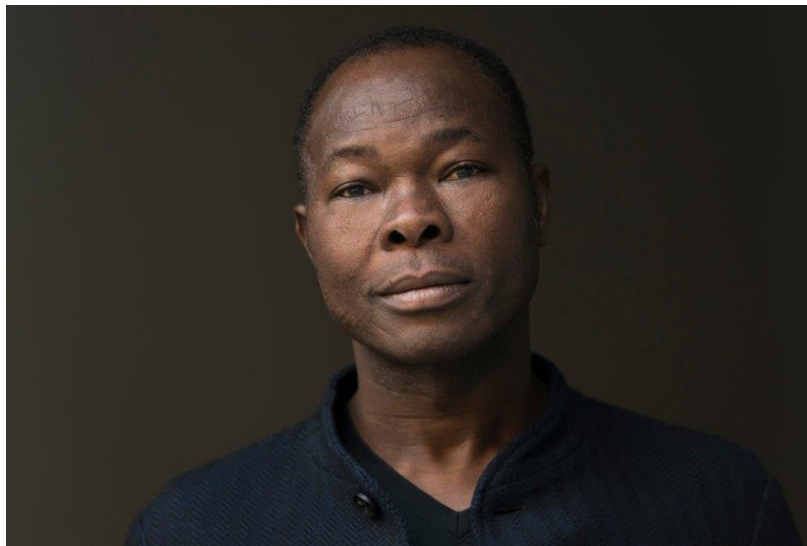


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The roof is made of [wood](#), supported by a hidden steel frame. Raindrops that fall on the pavilion are funneled into an oculus, creating a waterfall. Then the water enters a drainage system on the floor for use in irrigation later. The walls are made from [prefabricated](#) wooden blocks. At night the blocks create an intricate play of shadow and light as the gaps twinkle from movement inside the pavilion.



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*Photography © Erik Jan Ouwerkerk*

Trees offer a place to gather in Burkina Faso, and Kéré hopes his Serpentine Pavilion in London will also offer a space for people to visit and share their experiences. In his [design statement](#) he spoke of his aim for the Pavilion to “become a beacon of light, a symbol of storytelling and togetherness.” And in his video on the pavilion’s design, he spoke of his desire for the pavilion to be inclusive and offer a space for all.