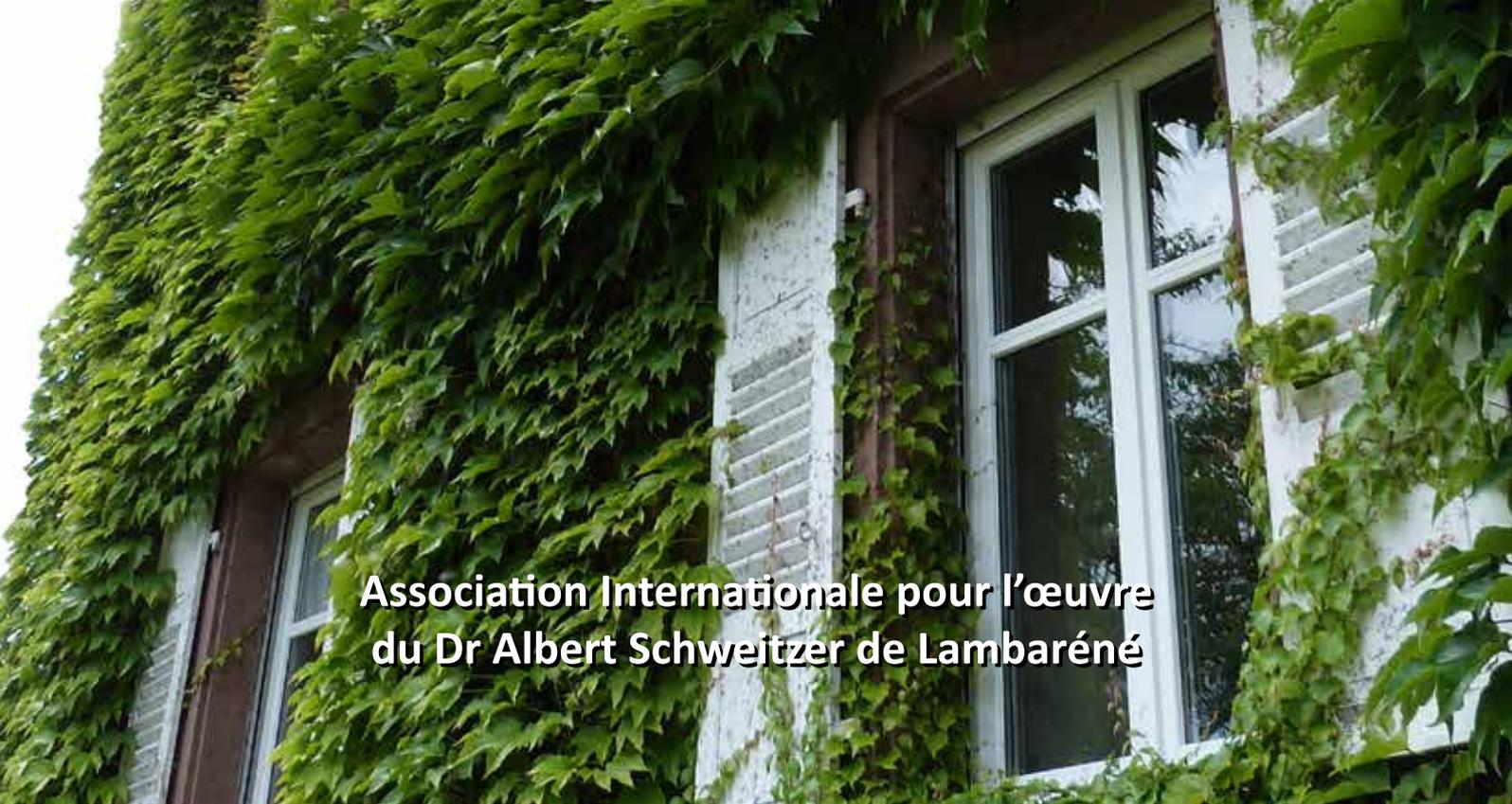




**Perpetuating Reverence for life, together**  
Information for donors - Project  
The extension of the Maison Schweitzer 2019



Association Internationale pour l'œuvre  
du Dr Albert Schweitzer de Lambaréné

**In order to effectively develop and optimise our activities, to guarantee accessibility to the exhibition spaces for all and to carry forward the ethics of “Reverence for Life” for future generations, the Schweitzer House needs to be extended, and we are counting on you!**



**April 2019**  
Opening

**375 m<sup>2</sup>**  
Exhibition area

**1,7 Million €**  
Budget



**3** To disseminate the spiritual legacy of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate globally

**5** Current and future challenges and aims of the Albert Schweitzer House

**7** To preserve the legacy and make it accessible for research

**11** The project for the Extension

**15** Come to one of our meetings

**19** Gathering to discuss questions concerning ethics today

**21** Become a donor

# The spiritual legacy of a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate: REVERENCE FOR LIFE

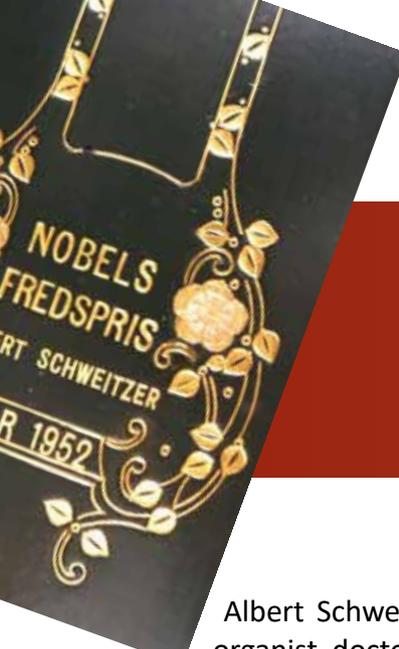
4 / Reverence for Life  
and of love toward God and neigh-

...speak. Let us pretend that we have  
... ethics from the past, and see how  
...ndering the forces that influence our  
... too, make us step outside ourselves?  
... that only egotism can be justified by  
... I do to have it easy? That is their reason's  
...g else. At most it can teach us a certain  
... justice, and these things are more or less the  
... to happiness. Reason is the desire for knowl-  
... desire for happiness, and both are mysteriously  
... with one another, in an inward way.  
... or wisdom! Explore everything around you,  
... to the furthest limits of human knowledge, and  
... you will come up against something inexplicable  
... nd. It is called life. It is a mystery so inexplicable  
... e knowledge of the educated and the ignorant is  
... relative when contemplating it.  
... t what is the difference between the scientist who  
... rves in his microscope the most minute and unexpected  
... s of life; and the old farmer who by contrast can barely  
... d or write, who stands in springtime in his garden and  
... contemplates the buds opening on the branches of his trees?  
... Both are confronted with the riddle of life. One may be  
... able to describe life in greater detail, but for both it re-  
... mains equally inscrutable. All knowledge is, in the final  
... analysis, the knowledge of life—a reverence for knowl-  
... dle of life—a reverence for life in its infinite  
... b manifestations. How fantastic that in  
... and dying! How fantastic that in  
... into being, passes away  
... and so forth from

115  
*Reverence for Life* /  
... eternity to eternity! How can it be? We can do all things,  
... and we can do nothing. For in all our wisdom we cannot  
... create life. What we create is dead.  
... Life means strength, will, arising from the abyss, dissolv-  
... ing into the abyss again. Life is feeling, experience, suffer-  
... into the vast animated chaos of this creation, its profundity  
... will seize you suddenly with dizziness. In everything you  
... recognize yourself. The tiny beetle that lies dead in your  
... path—it was a living creature, struggling for existence  
... and pain like you. And now it is no more than decaying  
... matter—which is what you will be sooner or later, too.  
... You walk outside and it is snowing. You carelessly shake  
... the snow from your sleeves. It attracts your attention: a  
... lacy snowflake glistens in your hand. You can't help looking  
... at it. See how it sparkles in a wonderfully intricate pattern.  
... Then it quivers, and the delicate needles of which it con-  
... sists contract. It melts and lies dead in your hand. It is no  
... more. The snowflake which fluttered down from infinite  
... space upon your hand, where it sparkled and quivered  
... and died—that is yourself. Wherever you see life—that is  
... yourself!

What is this recognition, this knowledge within the  
... reach of the most scientific and the most childlike? It is  
... reverence for life, reverence for the unfathomable mystery  
... we confront in our universe, an existence different in its  
... outward appearance and yet inwardly of the same character  
... as our own, terribly similar, awesomely related. The  
... strangeness between us and other creatures is here removed  
... Reverence for the infinity of life means removal of the  
... alienation, restoration of empathy, compassion, sympathy  
... And so the final result of knowledge is the same as

## An ethical philosophy for our times



Albert Schweitzer, philosopher, theologian, organist, doctor and pioneer of humanitarian medicine in Africa, is one of the outstanding figures of the 20th century. **His whole life was guided by the ethical principle of Reverence for life, for which he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952.**

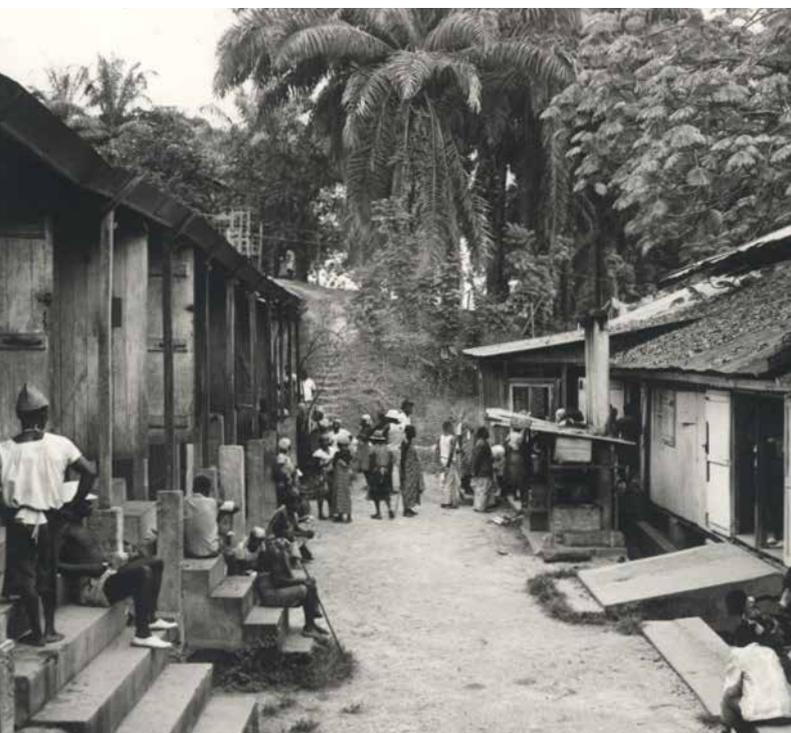
In 1913, giving up the chance of a brilliant academic career in Europe he went, with his wife Helene, to found a hospital at Lambarene in the deepest rainforest of what was then French Equatorial Africa. The hospital soon became known as a village in which all, irrespective of skin-color, ethnic origin, religious faith or financial standing could find medical treatment and healing. Even the animals had their rightful place. It was much more than a purely medical undertaking.

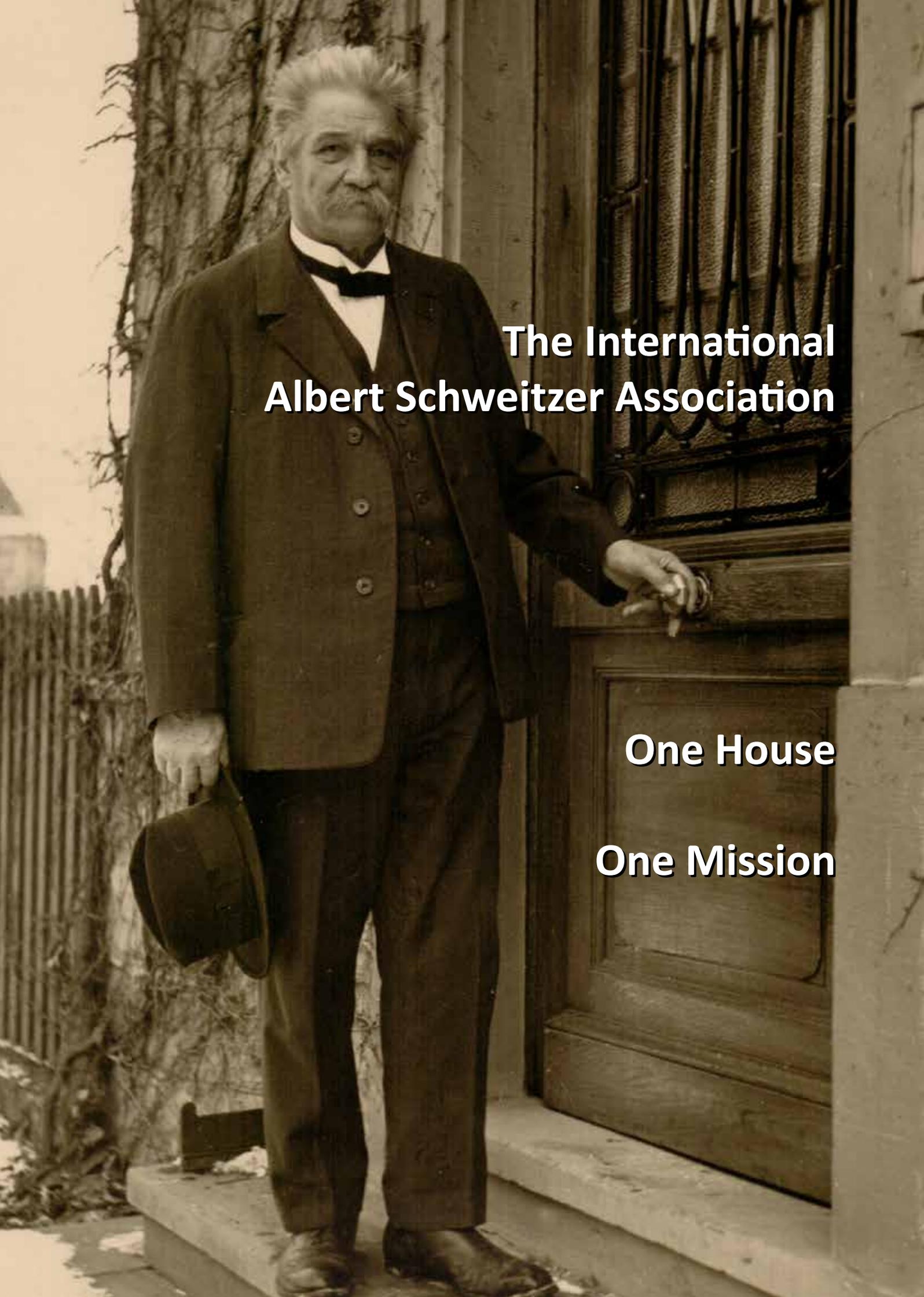
This « improvisation », as Schweitzer liked to call it, is a realization of his ethical philosophy of « Reverence for Life ». His actions turned Schweitzer's philosophy into a reality and he thereby demonstrated that Reverence for Life is not just a utopian idea.

He was a highly sensitive person, who strove to stem the tide of decline of human civilization. However, he never let go his optimism or lost faith in what is right and good, and he always kept his sense of humor and his passion for everything he undertook.

All of his work was aimed at demonstrating that it is possible to live in harmony, without war and conflict with other humans or any living creatures with whom we have contact. He thus is one of very few thinkers who developed and put into practice a universal, supra-national, and supra-religious ethic.

**Reverence for life is the only ethical philosophy which can « bring healing » both to the individual as well as to the whole of civilization.**





**The International  
Albert Schweitzer Association**

**One House**

**One Mission**



## An Association founded personally by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

### History of the AISL

On the 19th of December 1930 Albert Schweitzer founded the Association « L'Hôpital du Docteur Albert Schweitzer » to secure the necessary funds for its activities. He remained president of the Association until 1959.

In 1971, the Association adopted new statutes and became the AISL, « l'Association Internationale de l'Hôpital Albert Schweitzer à Lambaréné et de son Oeuvre ». Two committees were created: the « Commission Oeuvre Spirituelle », which was responsible for the dissemination of Albert Schweitzer's ethical thought and legacy; and the « Commission Hôpital », whose task it was to manage the hospital in Lambaréné.

On the 28th of September 1974 the « Fondation Internationale de l'Hôpital du Docteur Albert Schweitzer à Lambaréné » (FISL) was created in Strasbourg in accordance with Gabonese Law. All rights and duties concerning the hospital were transferred to this Foundation.

At the same time the earlier Association, to differentiate itself from the FISL, changed its name to « Association internationale pour l'oeuvre du Docteur Albert Schweitzer de Lambaréné » (AISL) and concentrated its focus on the spiritual legacy and on the management of the museum and archive in Gunsbach.

### Aims

**The main task of the AISL remains the dissemination of the ethic of Reverence for Life formulated by Albert Schweitzer from 1915 onwards. This constitutes the basis of the work in the museum and archive at the Albert Schweitzer House.**

In collaboration with national associations in France, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States, (etc.), the AISL seeks new ways to develop and practice the ethics of « Reverence for life » and make them relevant to the problems of our time, be it in the field of ecology or in the practical, daily use of resources, but also in the fields of theology and philosophy etc.

### Our mission: to commit ourselves to Reverence for life

*« Those who board the ship of Reverence for Life experience themselves not as shipwrecked drifters but as adventurous travellers who know where they are going and are steering confidently in the right direction. »*





**A heritage to preserve**

**Reorganization**

**Archives**

## The existing building (1928)



### The home of the family Schweitzer

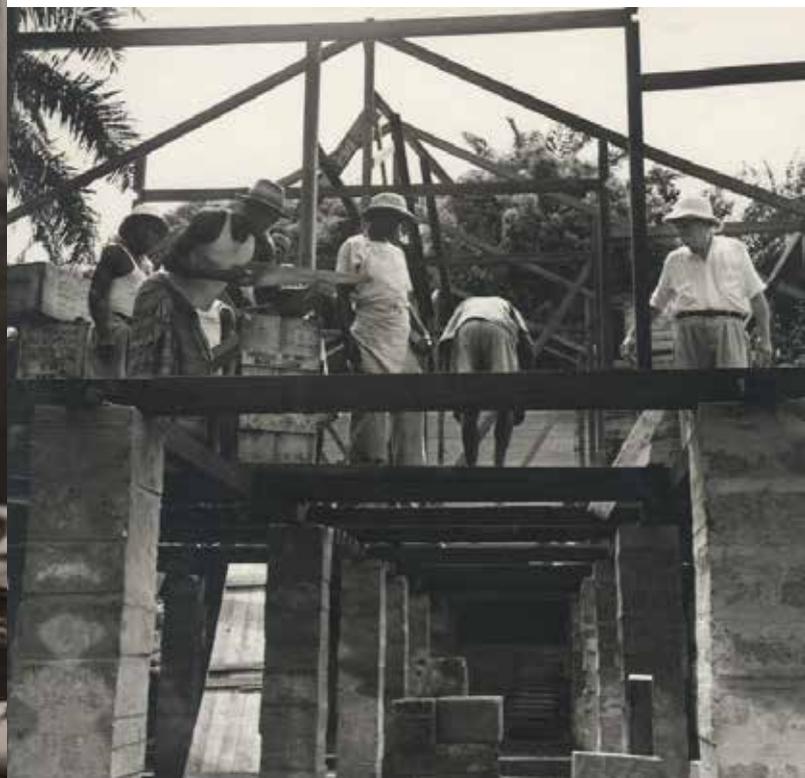
To create the museum after Schweitzer had died, the ground floor of his home was adapted for this purpose. It was necessary to have space for the sale of books, cards etc. plus a storage facility and a space to show films. Thus, today, only the sitting room with the tropical piano, and Albert Schweitzer's office/study/bedroom are accessible to the public.

**The goal of the renovation is to free up and to restore all the rooms to their original appearance.** The old sink and the frying pan will get back to the kitchen. The visitors will be able to see all the rooms and to discover numerous treasures (furniture, archives...) which were hidden until now.

For ecological reasons and to preserve the archived material the insulation and the electrical installation of the whole house will be brought up to current standards. **The House will become accessible to people with disabilities by the installation of a new lift.**

### The Basement of the House

Currently the basement is used for storage. With the renovation, this part of the House will also become open to visitors, and it will be dedicated to the medical work of Albert Schweitzer: to the hospital-village of Lambarene, which epitomises the commitment to the ethics of Schweitzer, and to its co-workers as well as all the stages of its construction, etc."





## The Archives

After the death of Albert Schweitzer in Lambarene, one of his helpers, Mlle Ali Silver, began to gather and collect documents in Schweitzer's home in Gunsbach. The resulting museum was then opened to the public in 1967. **Today the House contains the largest collection of archive material concerning Albert Schweitzer and his work.** It houses thousands of documents.

Objects, books, letters, photography, manuscripts, newspaper articles, sheet music, disks, medals, audiovisual records, etc.; are today all part of a priceless collection, available for researchers and for future publications.

**The proposed extension will enable us on the one hand to archive the available material more professionally and on the other hand to display the original material in rotating exhibitions to an interested public more effectively.**

**+ 80 000 Letters**

**+ 900 Musical scores**

**+ 20 000 Books**

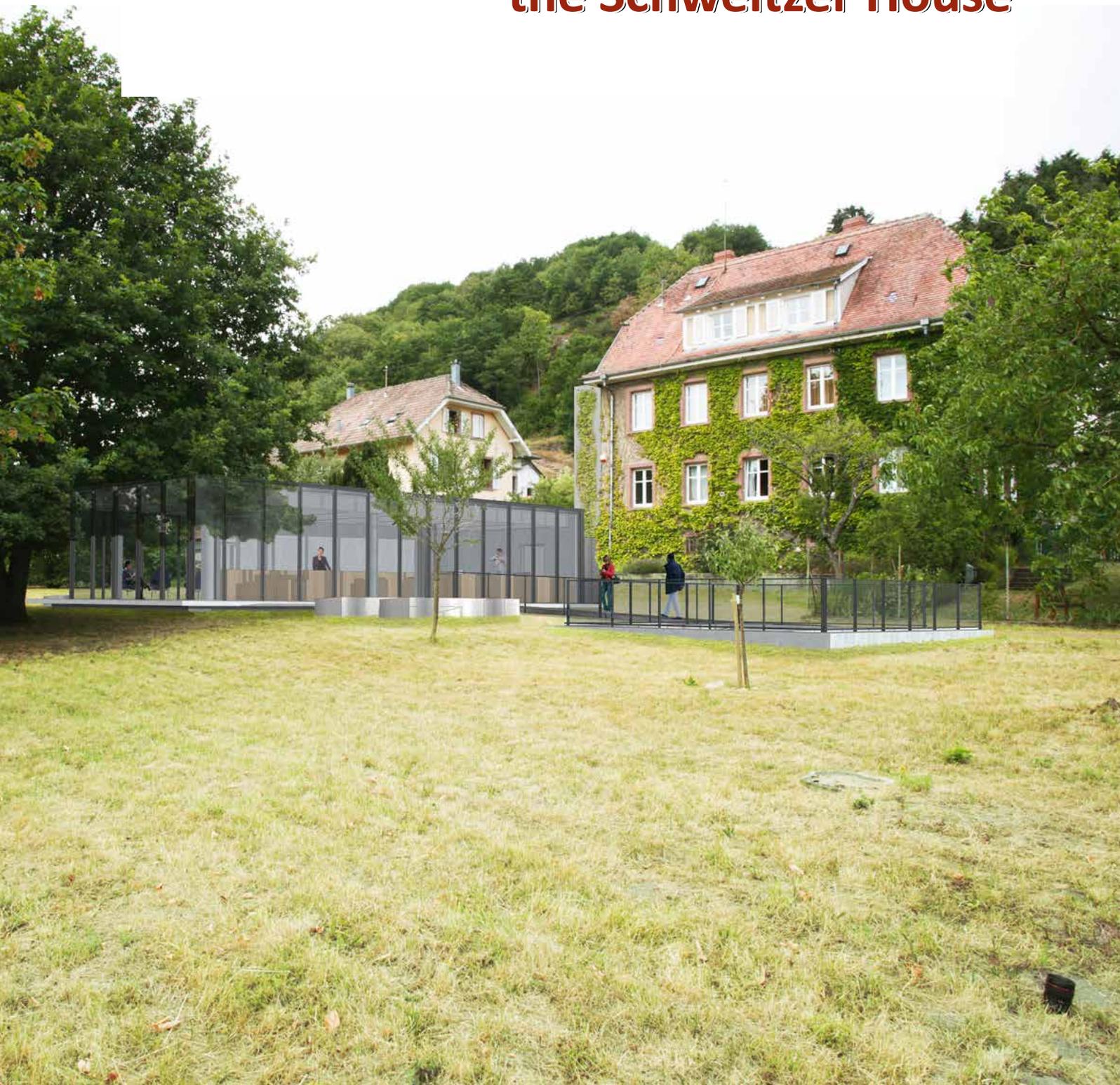
**+ 35 000 Photos**

**+ 250 Medals**





# The extension of the Schweitzer House



## The architectural project

**The architectural project was awarded to Michel Spitz Architects, in Colmar. The brief was tough: The existing building must not be harmed in any way; Modern design devices are to create a subtle connection between old and new, and due care is to be taken to respect the environment and in particular the existing garden setting.**

**The architect, who has already designed many renovations/extensions to historic buildings, marrying old and new successfully, was able to fulfil the brief exceptionally well and the new building will nestle ideally well into its setting next to the historic existing building.**

### Ground floor

The generous reception space of the new building will be welcoming and comfortable, **offering a 360 degree view of the existing house and the garden setting and inviting relaxed waiting and contemplation.** A play space for children and a shop are included as well as a specialized library containing extensive, valuable pedagogical literature, and many products like posters, badges, mobile phone cases, toys for children, bags, tee-shirts, agendas, notebooks, pencils, as well as products from Lambarene and other works of art. The sale of these will help with the upkeep of the museum.

### Underground

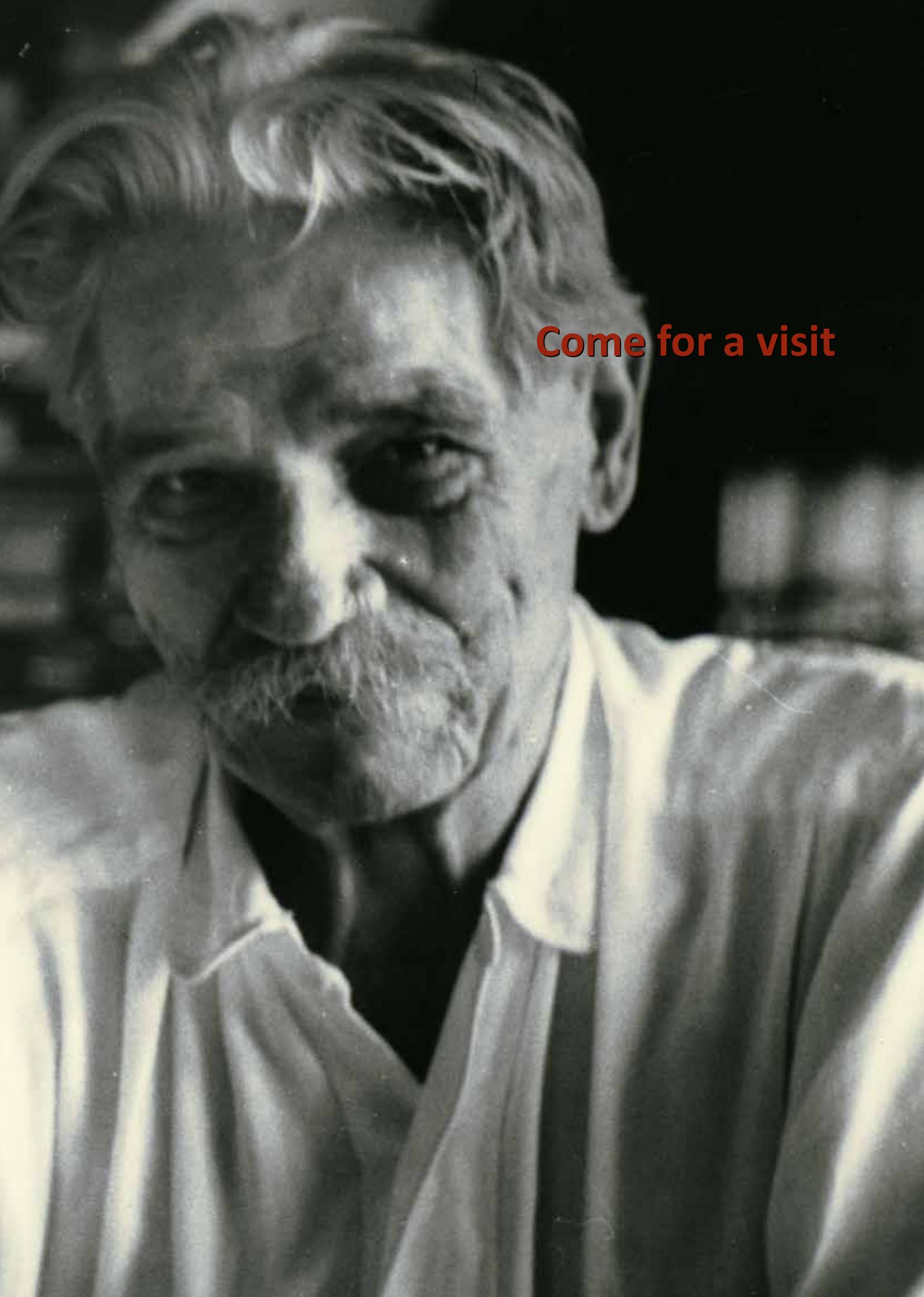
The majority of the new exhibition spaces will be located below ground level and lit by extensive roof lights to maximize daylighting. On the side towards the village, a large “English courtyard” will offer opportunity for discussion or just ‘sitting in the open air”. This large multi-functional space will be used for rotating exhibitions and photographic displays, but it is also easily partitioned into separate smaller spaces for individual activities.

When partitioned, the separated spaces are so arranged that they are directly accessible and individually usable. Thus, they can be used alongside the normal museum activities for other exhibitions, receptions, meetings or seminars. In conjunction with the old Rectory - the Presbyter - larger seminars including residential workshops can be accommodated. This increases the opportunity of the museum/archive to be used as a conference center. Motto: Meeting Albert Schweitzer !



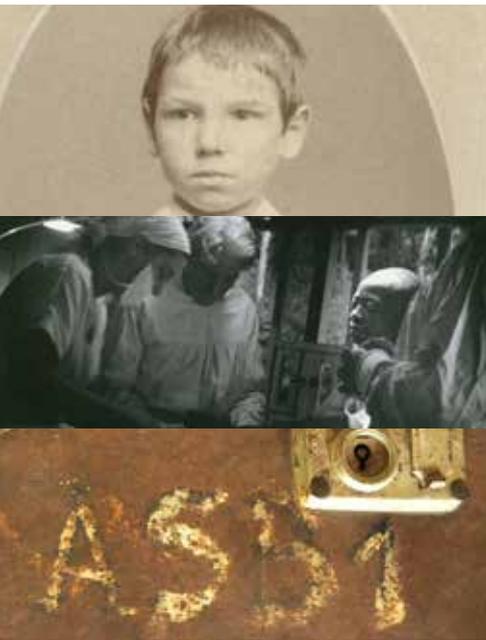






**Come for a visit**

## A rich experience for the visitor



### Scenography

Our aim: we hope to encourage our visitors to ponder, **how they might commit themselves to the service of others in the spirit of Albert Schweitzer.** In the old House they will become acquainted with his personality, his story, his education and the development of his projects. In the additional new exhibition space in the new basement, they will learn all about the hospital in Lambarene, how it was built and how the practical application of the philosophy of Reverence for life was demonstrated there. **This will lead visitors to consider how they can give meaning and purpose to their own lives.**

### The Exhibition

We are conscious of the fact that there will be museums from before and after the time of the internet. The public we are targeting has an age-span from 5 to 100 years, i. e. persons who still knew Albert Schweitzer in his lifetime, but also the younger generation whose members are less interested in the person but want to be confronted by his thoughts and ideas. Today, people don't visit a museum to find information because all information is found much more easily, quickly and at any time on the internet. People visit museums for visual- and audio-stimulation, **for emotional experiences and also for human interaction.** For this reason we will retain our very successful personal guided tours of the museum because, as ever, the atmosphere of a personally guided visit offers a unique and lasting experience.

**The Museography will hopefully do justice to every kind of visitor,** be s/he amongst the distinctive characteristics of the old House or in the new building. In the House, the visitor will find the original atmosphere, the furniture and the objects as they were left by their famous owner.

Particularly in the new exhibition spaces we will also work with modern communication technologies such as smartphones and tablets, which will enable us to appeal to all age groups appropriately. It will be our aim to address the younger and youngest visitors in such a way as to allow them to experience the principle of Reverence for Life in a playful manner.





## MAKING CONTACT WITH OTHERS

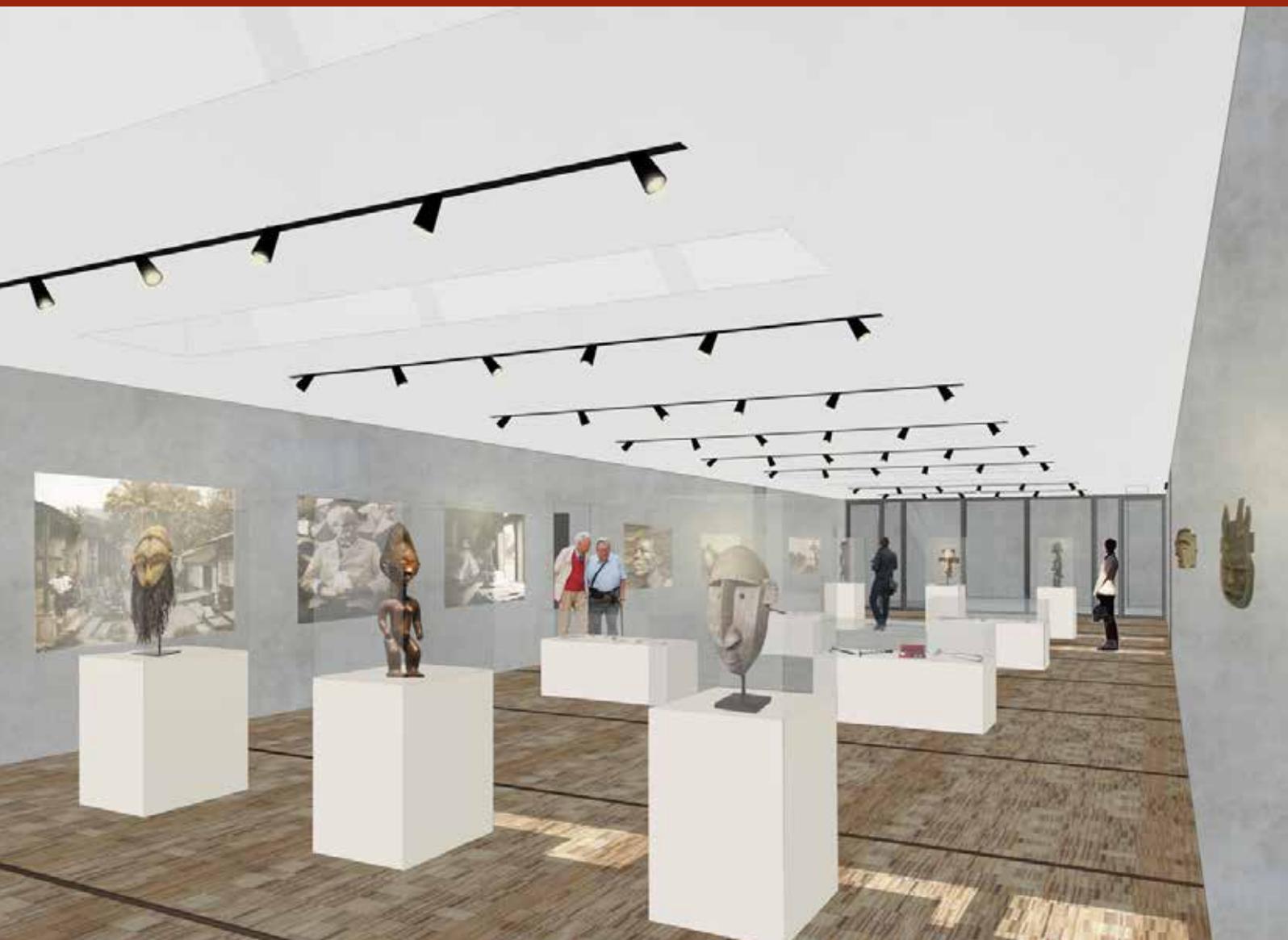
*“It is a consequence of the increasing volume of travellers, that communities in distant lands can no longer be as open and accessible as in previous times. Today, the visitor is treated with reserve. In any case, the short stop-overs of modern travel preclude the occurrence of more intimate acquaintances. The visitor sees landscapes and famous sights but remains in the company of his own kind and resides with them in international hotels. The company he keeps as traveler remains the same in whichever country he visits. Mostly, the visitor remains cut off from the indigenous population of the country he visits and returns home without having made any in-depth contact with any of them.”*

*Albert Schweitzer*

## MAKING CONTACT WITH ONESELF

*“ On a glorious Sommers’ morning, as I awoke - it was in the year 1896 in the Whitsun holidays in Gunsbach - I was overcome by the thought, that I can not accept the happiness I was feeling as something commonplace, but that I have to give something in return. Whilst I contemplated this thought before getting up, considering it calmly, while the birds sang outside, I struck an agreement with myself: that I would be justified to live for science and for the arts until I was thirty years old and from then on to devote myself to some form of direct service to humankind.”*

*Albert Schweitzer*





**A gathering with questions  
concerning ethics today**

## Our Cultural program

Each year our cultural agenda will include themes which, **with reference to the thought and work of Albert Schweitzer, are concerned with actual daily events and the corresponding state of the world.** Themes such as work, education, health, civilization, humanitarian aid, religions, animals, optimism, commitment and freedom come to mind. Every year we will choose a theme which will infuse all our activities like temporary exhibitions, Lectures, seminars etc.

**With these themes we aim to appeal to the widest possible audience and we will present them in ways which are accessible and can be understood by all.** Some of these events are likely to stimulate other desirable activities such as publications, cultural events or lectures.

DEBATES

TEMPORARY EXPOSITIONS

CONCERT

PROJECTION NIGHTS

SYMPOSIUM

SUMMER SCHOOL

MASTER CLASSES

SPECTACLES

BOOK EDITION



**Becoming a sponsor**

# To actively participate in the dissemination of Reverence for life

## Becoming a sponsor

To accomplish our project and to continue to spread the ethics of Reverence for Life across the world, the AISL and the Schweitzer House needs your help.

**By helping the AISL, you are showing your commitment, and you become part of a long tradition of partners and sponsors who continue to the present day to help to uphold the universal values of Albert Schweitzer and to support his work and legacy.** You are helping us to enlarge and develop our museum and to fulfil our task in the spirit of Albert Schweitzer both now and into the future.

In doing so, your company will gain in visibility and standing in the community. In the eyes of your customers, business partners, the public and not least your employees you are demonstrating your own and your company's commitment to the ethic of Reverence for Life - to treating both your fellow human beings and Nature with due respect. Your contribution can be listed in your publicity material.

**You can support our project as a whole or you can choose to make a part which chimes well with your interests and activities your own,** such as: Themed exhibitions, educational programs, research projects, upkeep of the Archives, restoration work etc.

But equally, as a private donor and supporter of our work, you become a role-model for future generations. You are helping to leave to the grandchildren of this world a small section of sustainable, ordered, health-giving earth within the spaces of our museums.

### SPONSOR 1

#### Above 50 000 €

- Visibility on every communication issued by the Schweitzer House
- Inclusion of the name of your company on the "sponsor wall" + inscribed cobblestone
- PR: Reception spaces will be available for events organized by yourselves. Private conducted tours of the museum for your collaborators and/or your clients
- We will organize a themed lecture/presentation of your choice at your company's premises
- You will be invited to all events organized by the museum
- Free entry tickets

### SPONSOR 2

#### Above 20 000 €

- Visibility on every communication issued by the Schweitzer House
- Inclusion of the name of your company on the "sponsor wall" + inscribed cobblestone
- PR: Reception spaces will be available for events organized by yourselves. Private conducted tours of the museum for your collaborators and/or your clients
- You will be invited to all events organized by the museum
- Free entry tickets

### SPONSOR 3

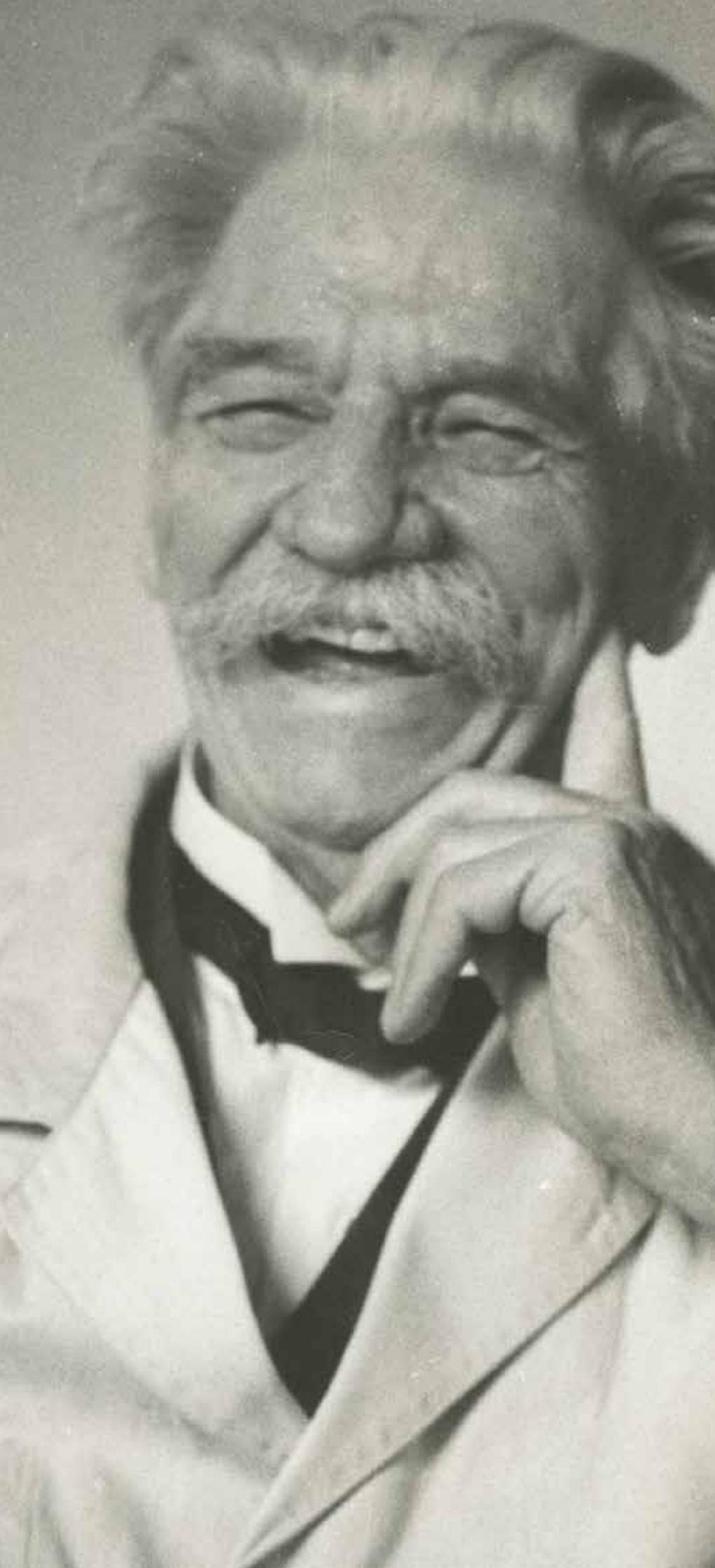
#### Above 5 000 €

- Inclusion of the name of your company on the "sponsor wall" + inscribed cobblestone
- PR: Reception spaces will be available for events organized by yourselves. Private conducted tours of the museum for your collaborators and/or your clients
- You will be invited to all events organized by the museum
- Free entry tickets

### SPONSOR 4

#### Above 500 €

- Inscription of the name of your company within the project you have chosen to support
- PR: Private conducted tours of the museum for your collaborators and/or your clients
- You will be invited to all events organized by the museum
- Free entry tickets



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