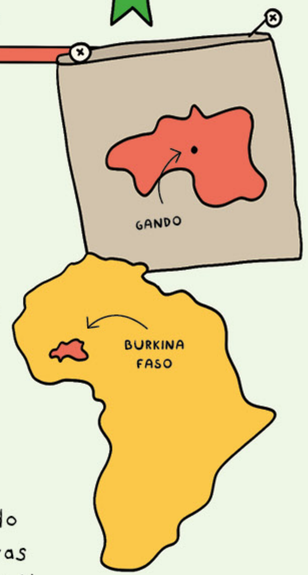
HIGHLY INVENTIVE

DIÉBÉDO FRANCIS KÉRÉ



Hello! My name is **Diébédo Francis Kéré.** In 2022, I became the first African to win the Pritzker Architecture Prize – the world's top award for people who design buildings.

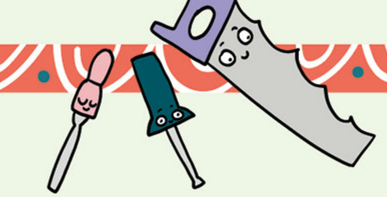


But is has been a long journey – literally!

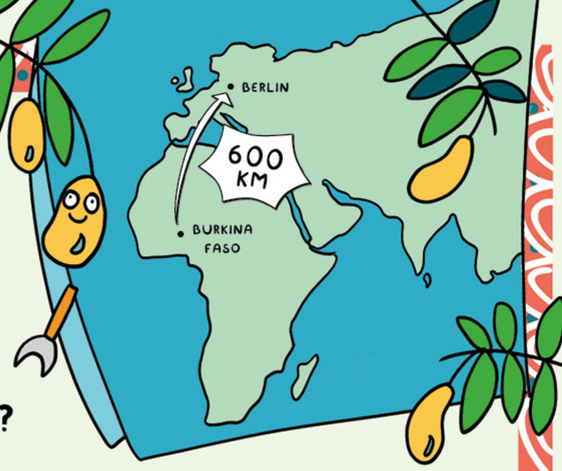
I grew up in a tiny village called Gando in Burkina Faso, West Africa. There was no school, but we were like one big family. We played together in the village, laughed, and built houses side by side. When I was seven, I went to live with my uncle in the city of Tenkodogo to learn to read and write. **My first journey!**

My school was very hot, with little light or air, and one hundred children all crowded together. This was when I decided that one day I wanted to build better schools for everyone – beginning back home in Gando!





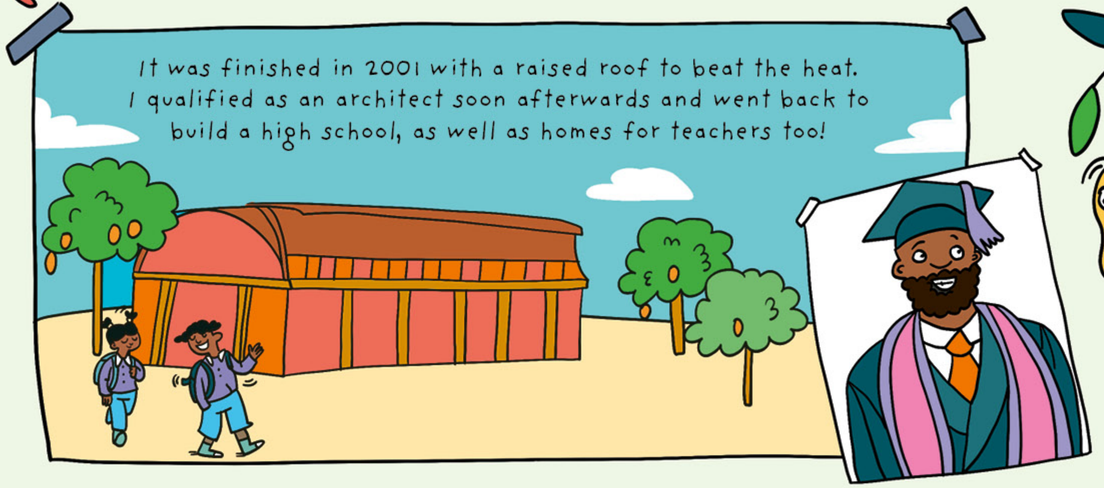
After leaving school, I became a carpenter, working with wood. Skills like these can take you far. Mine took me to Berlin, Germany, where I eventually went to college to study architecture.



could I make my dream come true?

Maybe! I headed home to Gando to build an eco-friendly school with the help of the community. We made mud bricks rather than use expensive cement and planted mango trees for shade – as well as their tasty fruit!

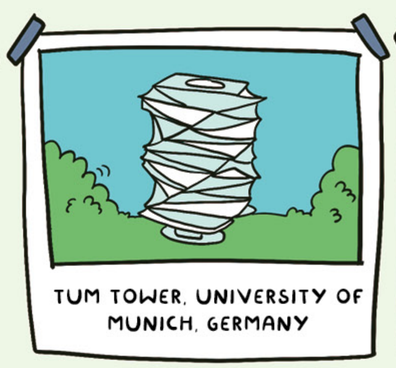
It was finished in 2001 with a raised roof to beat the heat. I qualified as an architect soon afterwards and went back to build a high school, as well as homes for teachers too!



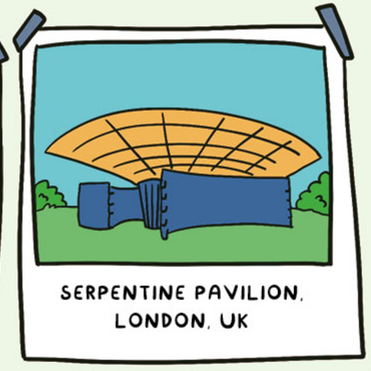
But, best of all, my cool school inspired others like it to be built. Now I have designed buildings all over the world that work with nature, not against it.



BENIN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, PORTO-NOVO, BENIN



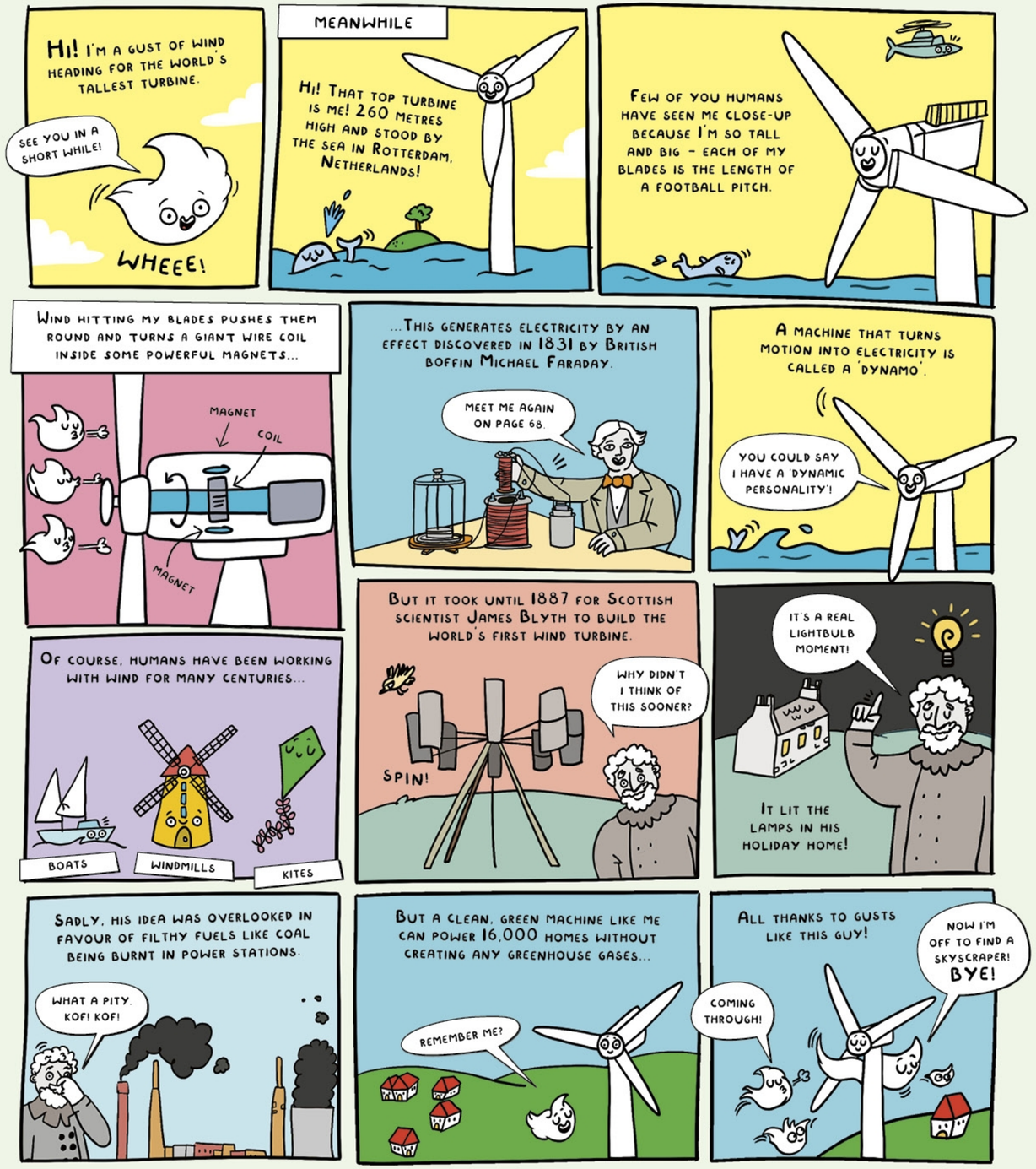
TUM TOWER, UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH, GERMANY



SERPENTINE PAVILION, LONDON, UK

It's been a great journey – and it isn't over yet!

WIND TURBINE



WHATEVER NEXT?

STAR TURNS

WATCH OUT! TURBINES AHEAD!

DESERT WINDS

A collection of turbines is called a windfarm or an array. The world's largest windfarm, with over 7,000 turbines, is in Gansu, a remote part of China, next to the windy Gobi desert.

RED ALERT

Most turbines are painted white so they are easier for airline pilots to spot. In Germany, **red bands** on the blades indicate how near they are to airports.

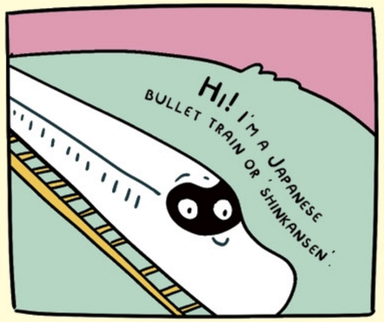
SEE THE LIGHT!

One turbine close to the coast in the North European region of Frisia has been painted to look like a traditional local **lighthouse**.

BAT SIGNAL

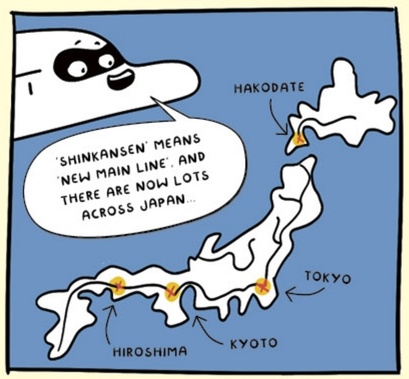
Turbines are good for the planet, but can sadly be bad for birds and bats. Some have **boom boxes** to play high-frequency noises that scare bats away at night.

BULLET TRAIN



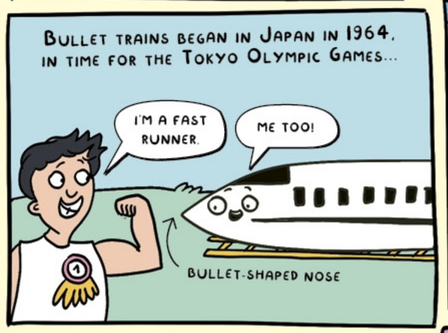


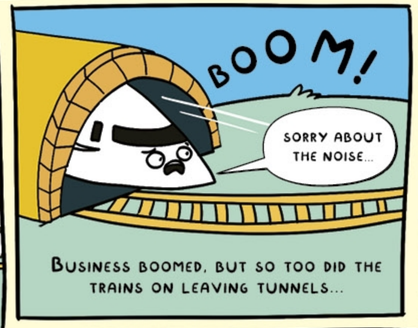


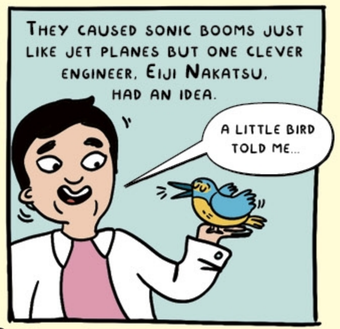


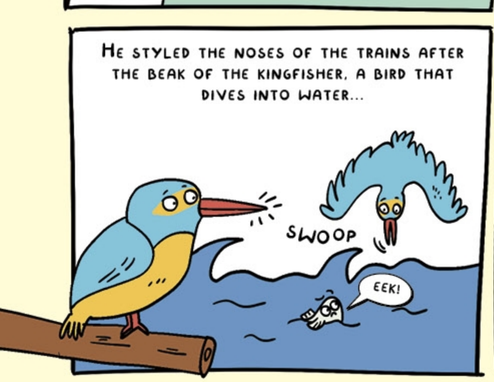


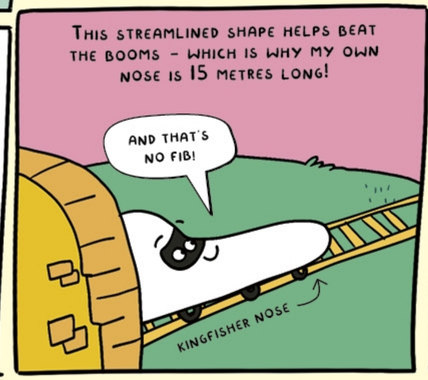


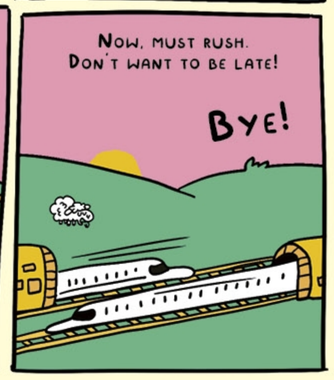












WHATEVER NEXT?

BULLET POINTS

HELLO, YELLOW!

A special banana-coloured bullet train called 'Dr Yellow' travels the tracks making safety checks. People say it is good luck to spot it!

SUPER-FAST FOOD

Hungry bullet train travellers can enjoy ekiben – tasty snack boxes in the shape of Dr Yellow!

HELLO, LO!

The 'LO' (L Zero) is an experimental shinkansen that rides on magnets rather than rails. In 2015, it set a world record train speed of 603 km/h! L.O.L!

HELLO, KITTY!

Though most bullet trains are largely white, some rail regions have their own special colours. One super-cute shinkansen was decorated in pink and white for the Japanese cartoon character, Hello Kitty!