

THE ROYAL TREES

THE TRUE GARDEN CITY; AN ECOLOGICALLY SOUND CITY FOR THE PRESENT & FUTURE GENERATIONS.



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STEP 1 KUMASI THE TRUE GARDEN CITY

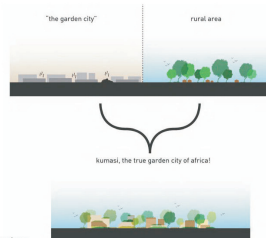


Kumasi Losing its Glory as the Garden City of West Africa

Moved by the varied plant life, Queen Elizabeth II of England gave Kumasi the name 'Garden City' of Africa when she visited the area in 1960. Thereafter, the city is popularly known by this name because of its various species of trees, flowers and other plants. However, this title has now been forgotten as a result of a rapidly increasing population and strained service capacities in recent years (World Bank, 2005). Ashanti Regional Minister Mr. Emmanuel Owusu Ansah further said that Kumasi is losing its glory as the garden city because of land degradation that leads into major losses in its beautiful nature of trees and flowers. (Mansah, 2008). Mr. Owusu Ansah urged all inhabitants and school children to appreciate the environment, educate the general public to put a stop to all negative activities, and develop green school compounds, towns, villages. Most importantly, he encouraged everyone to regain Kumasi's name as the Garden City of West Africa.



STEP 2 THE CONCEPT



Garden City scheme

The importance of public spaces, open spaces and green spaces [part I]

Urban green spaces, which in principle include all urban open spaces, is a critical and very important resource. For many cities, such spaces are near homes and places of work for people to encounter and enjoy. Urban green spaces include both remnants of former countryside that have escaped development and also purpose made open spaces designed specifically for the people to enjoy.

STEP 3 THE SOIL

The Soil

There are 7 soil types in the city of Kumasi. According to the soil classification map of Kumasi the soil in Ayigya is classified as Type II - Good Lands for Agriculture. This soil type is generally medium to coarse-textured, moderately to highly gravelly, stony or concretions where narrow bands of deep gravelly soils occur in lower slopes. This soil type also has a fairly high moisture absorptive capacity which makes it soil-bearing characteristics not suitable for heavy structures with surface layers susceptible to dry season drought. Moreover, Class II soils are located in areas in Kumasi with undulating topography (5-12% slope) which includes Ayigya, where susceptibility to erosion is moderate to high.

The importance of public spaces, open spaces and green spaces [part II]

- Diverse networks of quality green spaces have been shown to:
 - Protect the biodiversity and enhance the urban environment;
 - Support the municipality's economy and making neighbourhoods more aesthetically desirable;
 - Enhance physical and mental health by providing areas for relaxation and recreation;
 - Benefit children and young people by providing areas for playing;
 - Reduce crime and fear of crime;
 - Support social cohesion by providing a venue where people could interact; and
 - Aid movement between other spaces.

Typologies

Re-defining the urban space in Ayigya. The current courtyard/compound typology is out of date and Ayigya is bound for a population growth. To create space for living, 5 new typologies are being introduced to gradually transform the urban layout. The tree defines the typology as a tool and creates guidelines for public space and building. A comfortable and healthy place to stay appears.

STEP 4 THE TREES



- Mango Tree (Mangifera indica)
- Cashew Tree (Anacardium occidentale)
- Bamboo (Bambusa nana)
- Gamboge Tree (Garcinia kola)
- Guava Tree (Psidium guajava)
- Avocado Tree (Persea americana)
- Sugarcane (Saccharum officinarum)
- Mango tree (Mangifera indica)
- Oil Palm (Elaeis guineensis)
- Lemon Tree (Citrus aurantifolia)
- Cashew Tree (Anacardium occidentale)
- Yam (Dioscorea eschscholzii)
- Pineapple (Ananas comosus)
- Cashew Tree (Anacardium occidentale)

STEP 5 FOR EXAMPLE: A TREE POTENTIAL

STEP 6 THE URBAN TYPOLOGIES AND PUBLIC SPACES

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