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Client

Due to the fact that the project is aimed at preserving African culture while also aiding in the development of Africa as a Continent there will be a number of stake holders involved. Being in South Africa, dealing with matters of culture and continental interest it is important that appropriate South African governmental departments are involved in the project. Because of all the Research that is carried out by Africa Institute it will of huge benefit to have them get involved in the project.

- African Union
- Department of Foreign Affairs
- Department of Art and Culture
- UNESCO World Heritage
- Africa Institute

Design brief

To create an architecture which welcomes all it’s African people and those who are from outside the continent. The architecture is to create opportunities of cultural interchange and exposure.

While taking care of the social matters, the architecture must also be aimed at aiding boost investor confidence in the African Continent. Platform for Showcasing opportunities that are currently available in Africa and those that have potential is to be made available by the architecture. To aid in the development of Africa, people will be given an opportunity to voice their views directly to the politicians.

Response to brief

Story telling has always formed a major part of the different African cultures as a result I have provided a library.

Different African cultures pride themselves with their different African dishes, hence I have provided restaurants.

Art, forms a major part within the different African cultures, for people to learn about each others cultures I have added an art gallery.

Show business is currently growing at a fast pace in Africa, in celebration of this I have provided an African cinema/Audio visual.

Performance is one of the most important activities in Africa, be it celebrating, mourning and much more, this is why I have included a performance hall in the complex.

Africa has been involved in the business of trade longer than anyone knows; this is why I have added offices where investors and potential investors can update themselves with the current opportunities opening up in the African Continent.

Important in almost all African cultures there is a sacred place or tree where the elders gather around to discuss issues and deliver important announcements from. This created a need for conference rooms and a platform for public announcement.
Markets form a major point of interaction and socialising in Africa, hence I have allowed for them to take place.

Art is also extensively incorporated into vernacular architecture for different reasons; hence I'm also playing with some patterns on the skin of the building. Africa has also been extensively involved in the trade of copper, this material I have also incorporated on the skin of the building.

**Concept Development**

The design concept is realised through merging the ideas of community informing architecture and that of community within a community.

Figure 1: concept study of a community within a community. This idea is tied together by the saying, 'together we stand divided we fall'.

Figure 2: plan of Batufam village (Cameroon) Ref: Guidoni 1975: 124. This is a village that is occupied by the Bamiikile tribe. Placing of the market at the entry points of the village encourages interaction among the residents. Through this idea a sense of community is created as the markets are a common meeting place for all residents before they despatch to their different places.

Figure 3: Ref: Guidoni 1975: 158 In the capital of Lunda Kingdom (Angola) a sense of community within a community has been taken as far as being expressed in their family homes. The different houses in this community are designed around a...
courtyard system which encourages interaction and a sense of community within the different family members. A bigger sense of family within the bigger village is created through the main plaza which the entire village is designed around.

Above is a sketch compiling together all the lessons learnt from the two villages and the idea of community within a community. This concept is a reference point driving the design through its development.

The touchstone shown above is a concept influenced by a Swahili idiom. ‘Sisimizi wawili lawashindwi kavula panzi mmoid’, when translated to English means: One ant cannot lift a grasshopper but two ants can lift a grasshopper.
This is a study of the existing and future pedestrian circulation on site. Design decisions informed by the study.

Figure 7: Circulation study
Figure 8: Concept 1
Figure 9: Concept 1 development

Figure 10: Concept development
Figure 11: Massing study of concept 1
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Figure 12: Concept Study of public space
The design is to create a public friendly environment for both passers by and those who want to enjoy its space.

Figure 13: Study of design allowing natural ventilation.

Figure 14: Concept of treating the street edge

Figure 15: Study of design allowing natural ventilation.
The design is to provide opportunities for interaction between people on the street and those inside the building. The design is to also take advantage of the opportunities provided by the street edge.
Design concept development

Figure 18: Concept development plan

Ground floor: Markets, Restaurants, Performance, exhibition and library. The structure is designed to allow pedestrians to go through the courtyard space and link with their own path.

Figure 19: Second floor: offices and double volume areas.

Figure 20: First floor: seminar rooms and double volume areas.

Figure 21: Roof plan
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Design concept development

Figure 22: Ground Floor

Figure 23: First Floor

Figure 24: Second Floor

Figure 25: 1st concept model
Design investigation
Concept development: exploring the footprint

Figure 29: Creating private and public outside space.

Figure 30

Figure 31: Buildings interconnected by public space and its activities.

Figure 32
Abstract study (pattern) of activities due to take place in the different spaces.
Massing investigation

Figure 37

Figure 38

Figure 39

Figure 40

Figure 41
Figure 42

Figure 43

Figure 45

Design investigation
Change in level helped in outlining the market as well as the semi private public. The two spaces shared energies with each other without interfering on each others activities.
2nd model development: Tower represents a tree for elders

Figure 50

Figure 51

Figure 52
Figure 63: Circulation concept in seminar areas

Figure 64: Spatial concept in seminar area

Figure 65

Figure 66
Figure 67

Figure 68

Figure 69: Spatial concept of exhibition area
Figure 70

Figure 71

Figure 72

Figure 73
Design investigation
Figure 76

Figure 77

Design investigation
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Design response
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