



ARCHITECTS | THINKERS | INNOVATORS

PRACTICE

UCA - Urban & Contemporary Architects Ltd. is a growing architectural practice based in Lagos, Nigeria with team of young, vibrant-minded architects, designers, artists and innovators of combined experience of over 45years. The steady growth and expansion of our practice can be attributed to the expression of our desire to deliver top quality projects within the constraints of scope, time and cost to the satisfaction of all stake holders.

Our practice is founded on the principles of people, interactions and flexibility. And though the strategic direction for development of the organization is determined by the partners from time to time, daily running of the firm and its projects is strongly dependent on the respective contribution of all members of staff. On each project, ideas are exchanged amongst a design team to establish the concept and theme that the project will take on, after careful consideration and review of the elemental parameters. Further immeasurable inputs from well-structured design meetings – formal and or informal – refine the ideas/concepts and set the platform on which the project is executed: overseen by a partner-in-charge and run on a day-to-day basis by a project architect.

Our goal is to be amongst leading practices offering innovative architectural solutions and services in Africa and the world over. Our services and operations are within the fields of:

- architecture & design
- project management
- urban planning

PHILOSOPHY

At UCA, we always strive on one hand to be forward-thinking, producing innovative works that proffer present and future solutions – different and bespoke to perfectly suit the clients'/users' needs. On the other hand, it is important to us that we hold on to the rich values rooted in the inspiring architecture and design works of old – tapping into something that is probably forgotten. It is our belief that if we stretch far enough in these directions, future and past, – setting our sights on current and anticipated needs, and drawing some inspiration from past works – we will always come up with design solutions and programmes that are “lasting”.

PROCESS

Every project undertaken at/with UCA, no matter its size or scale is approached with enthusiasm and attention from commissioning to completion. No two projects are treated as same regardless of their similarities as each one undergoes meticulous analysis by a team including but not limited to architects, designers and researchers. Our awareness of the ever-evolving urban lifestyles and associated needs allow us provide long lasting design solutions and programmes that address specific challenges.

We also believe every product should be in tandem with its host environment – be it an accent shelf or a large undeveloped site – as one is an extension of the other and the sustenance of one is dependent on the other. To this end, we consider very carefully all involved elements to enable us create design programmes that we believe are best suited – beginning either from the host environment to the product or vice-versa depending on the character of the project; in order to achieve the best possible outcome for a sustainable project.

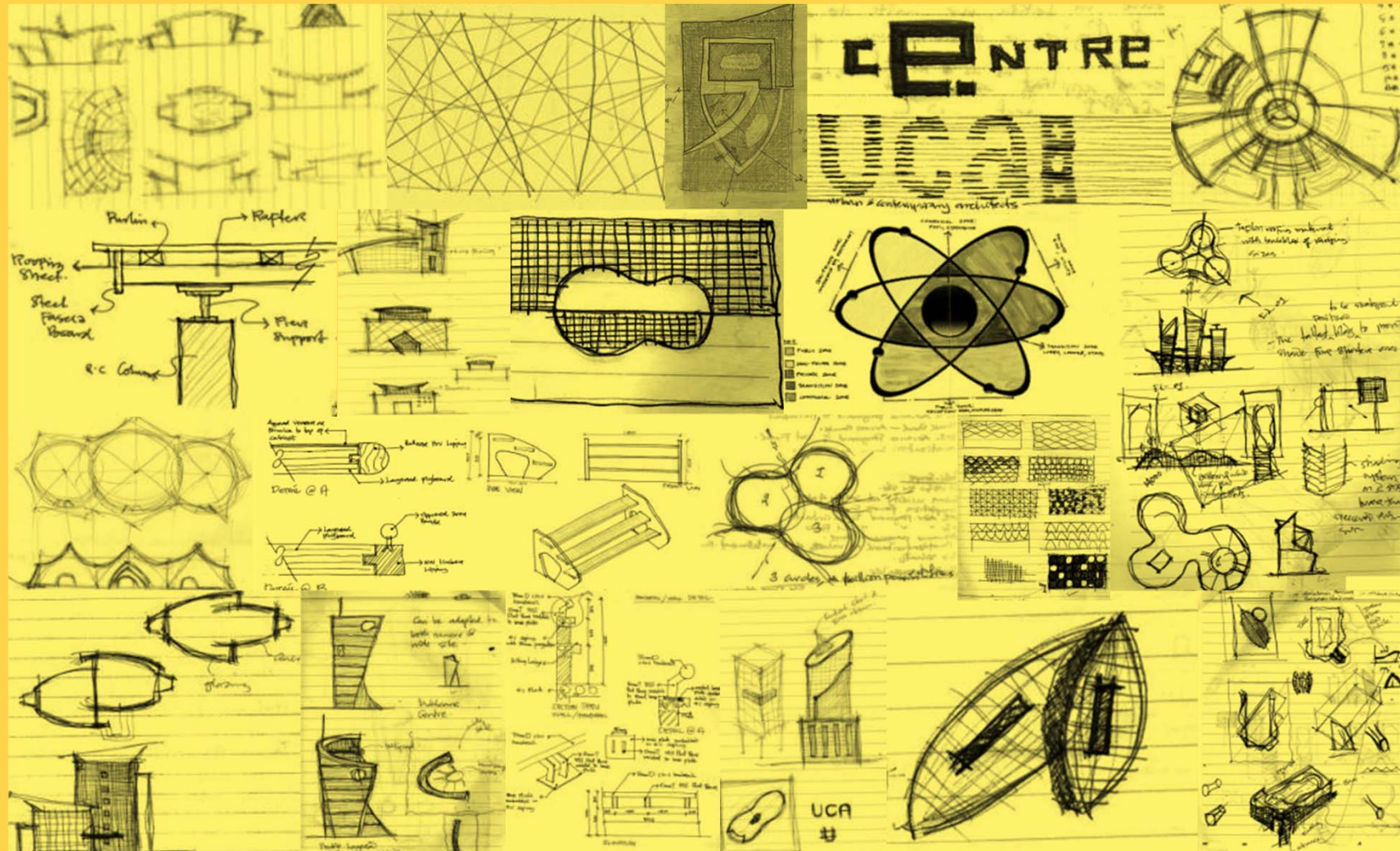
The growing global consciousness of climate change, sustainability, ICT, cultural and economic interchange play strongly on our mind and their considerations are usually the start point for each of our design programmes; we strive to create organic design solutions that adequately balance and satisfy respective demands.

The clients and the end users are always at the core of our schemes and are very essential to our process; hence they are considered member of the design team and are carried along through every stage of the works. We do not like to surprise them as their input is considered invaluable, after all, our role is to create a bespoke product intended to suit them.

In delivering our programmes, we collaborate with carefully selected allied consultants who share our passion for excellence. And even after a project's successful conclusion, we do not rest – we test our solutions, ask relevant questions, maintain contact with the end users; and reformulate or readapt our solutions as deemed necessary.

PROCESS

Sketches and scribbles are an integral part of our design process. And in spite of various computer drawing tools available to us today, we like to encourage ourselves to always start every concept or idea with simple hand sketches and scribbling. These line sketches are the basis, our ideas are improved and resolved with the use of up-to-date computer presentation, simulation and drawing softwares that help us to further understand complex designs, and develop corresponding details.



PEOPLE

Dolapo Falola	- Founding Partner
Femi Olaiya	- Partner
Folarin Bello	- Architect
Samson Ola	- Architect
Tobi Abiodun	- Architect
Bolaji Kareem	- Architect
Oyinkosola Tiamiyu	- Architect
Chidera Chukwuma	- Architect
Lolade Aregbesola	- Admin. & Accounts
Dare Ogunbamowo	- Administrative Personnel
Steven Ugochukwu	- Administrative Personnel

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Orimobi	- Chairman
Dolapo Falola	- MD / CEO
Emeka Njere	- Non-Executive Director
TOLG Nominees	- Company Secretary



YALA-007

TPOLOGY : Residential
CLIENT : Private Client
PLOT SIZE : 1,595sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Construction Documentation

Design contemplation began with the site studies and developing the building's form to follow the slanted angle of the site.

At site level, the building's footprint occupies less than a quarter of the site leaving ample area for gardens, sit-out and parking. The ground floor reception area is open with an atrium that rises through all the floors and opens to the sky. This allows natural air flow through the reception and the entire core of the building.

With a total of 7 units (six flats and a double level pent house), each unit features generous signature curvilinear balconies that offer ample outdoor area above ground level. These large overhang balconies also provide shade for the large glazing below and prevent direct sunlight from entering the interior.

The general composition is of transparency to one side and opacity to the other with the use of clear glass, screens, solid walls, timber panels/slates.

This project hopes to bring back glory days to Apapa with refreshing design language that aims to reflect the massive future real estate opportunities in an area that is quietly experiencing some urban regeneration.



CMG

TYPOLGY : Health Care
CLIENT : Covenant Medical Group
PLOT SIZE : 1,000sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Construction Documentation

Our design proposal seek to strike a balance between form and function that meet the patient and staffing needs. We aim to create a building that changes the gloomy perception often associated with medical facilities by carefully crafting the building's form, the internal planning and the building's appearance – a building that is welcoming.

Earthy terracotta tones, plants and large glazed areas are prominent features of the design to connect the interior spaces with the natural environment; design features that promote and respect patients, are inviting and comforting, and encourage family involvement result in improved patient outcomes.

The building's form evolved from the rectangular shape of the site to an ellipse by trimming-off the corners. Starting from the ground, the elliptical form of the building expands and cascades upwards as the building rises to project subtle yet dominant structure. These contrasting characteristics are fully expressed through the architecture by creating a building that is simple and easy on the eyes but also one that you can't help but notice and remember.

The configuration of the internal spaces is such that the plans and sections are clearly zoned both horizontally and vertically into restricted and unrestricted areas, which allows the users to make the distinction between public and private spaces.



HOUSE OKARO

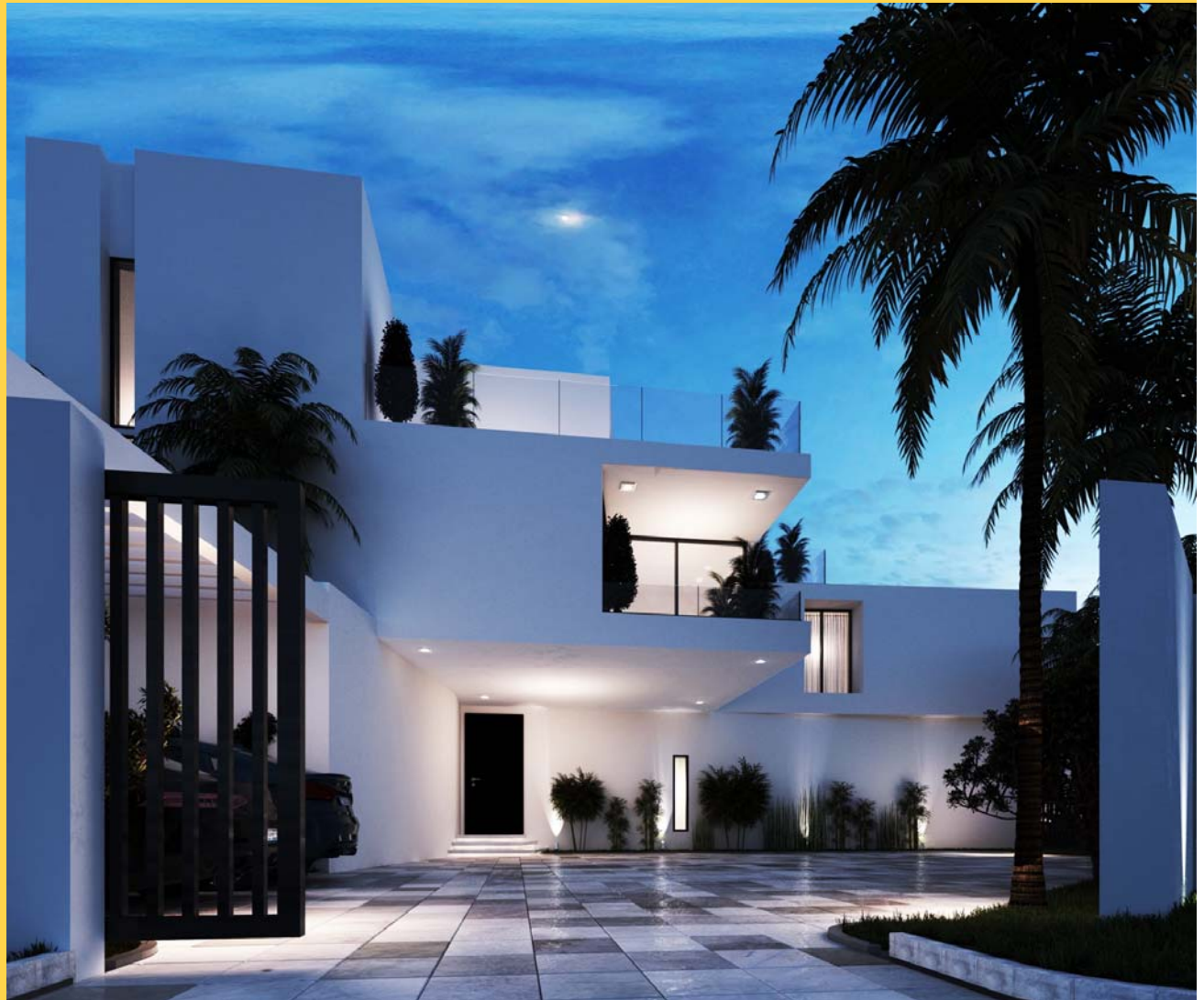
TYPOLOGY : Residential
CLIENT : Private Client
PLOT SIZE : 810sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Construction Documentation

The day zone, positioned on the ground floor, is adorned with glass walls and orientated towards the east to let in natural light of the soft morning sun into the core of the living spaces where communal activities take place.

The evening zone, where the bedrooms are located on the upper floors, faces the west. The bedrooms are positioned to mitigate the impact of the sun on the interior spaces – meaning the rooms remain relatively cool during the day and require lesser cooling energy.

The façades design has dual interpretation – the elevations along south-west/north-west axis (the sides facing the roads and where the impact of the sun is strongest) are designed to feature solid planes and deep terraces to ensure full privacy for the occupants and also prevent the harsh sunlight from penetrating the interior spaces.

On the other hand, the façade along the south-east axis opens itself towards the shielded private zone that features the swimming pool, gardens and the sunken seat-out with clear view from the interior spaces that are flooded with diffused natural light.



Afe

TYPOLOGY : Residential – Remodelling
 CLIENT : Mr. & Mrs. Afe
 PLOT SIZE : 368sqm
 LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
 STATUS : Completed 2021

Originally completed about twenty years ago, the rather dated house changed ownership and the new owners sought for a new contemporary family home that will suit their respective lifestyles.

The starting point of our design is to create a new family home with large open spaces that promote interactions amongst all occupants without sacrificing the privacy needs of each family member. This was achieved by opening up the interior spaces and adding a pent floor suite. New structural elements were introduced to reinforce the existing structure and support the new pent floor.

On the ground floor, the centrally located staircase was demolished and relocated to the corner to free up the middle of the house and allow for seamless flow between the living and dining area and the kitchen. With large sliding glass doors, the interior is then extended to the newly created indoor garden such that the internal spaces are part of the garden and vice-versa.

The sustainability of the home is a major consideration in the design. We introduced solar panels, central heating system, enclosed gardens, double glazed glass panels, shading devices, natural day light, energy efficient appliances into the design to ensure the house is energy efficient and aimed to cut energy consumption by at least 40%.



BSH

TYPOLOGY : Health Care
 CLIENT : BenLea Specialist Hospital Ltd.
 PLOT SIZE : 1,761sqm
 LOCATION : Ondo, Nigeria
 STATUS : Construction Documentation

BenLea Specialist Hospital – BSH is a 57 bed hospital set-up to provide top quality and affordable healthcare services for the grossly under served community of Irele (Ondo State, Nigeria) and its environs.

After meeting all functional requirements and design standards for the hospital, the next most important factor in our design approach is how patients and care givers interact with the building – to that end, we have designed a “transparent hospital”. The internal layout of the hospital is left almost entire open, except for areas that is strictly required to be closed-off, to encourage free flow of movement and enhanced visual connection between spaces and interactions amongst users. The openness promotes trust in patients and sought to immediately set them at ease from the point of entry.

The façades are also adorned with large glass walls and vegetation to connect the interior spaces with nature on all floors – a very important factor in the healing process. The appearance of the building and the interior layout have been designed to be friendly and welcoming and to ultimately dispel the sterile outlook and impression often associated with hospitals.

It is our hope that the BSH will fulfil our design intent of uplifting emotions of patients and care givers while also providing an incredible health facility of JCI standard.



OASIS TERRACES

TPOLOGY : Residential
CLIENT : Wale Lawal
PLOT SIZE : 1,800sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Construction Documentation

The development sits on a plot size measuring 1800sqm and is composed of 2 Blocks of prototype row houses totaling 10 units with Block A featuring 7 units and 3 units in Block B.

The design approach is to balance communal living and privacy for each unit. This is achieved by “pulling and pushing” the balconies and screening them with timber slats. The result is a pixilated zig-zag main façade with large glazed areas and generous terraces and overhangs to provide shade and at the same time serve as outdoor spaces.

Neutral colour palette is chosen for this scheme with lot of potted plants intended to be placed on the large terraces to animate the facades and offer pop of green.

Each unit is spread across Four (4) levels and accommodates 2 car garage, steward’s room, utility room, ante-room, powder room, living & dining area, kitchen & store, family lounge, 4 bedroom ensuite and a box room.



TGM

TPOLOGY : Mixed-Use
CLIENT : TGM Education
PLOT SIZE : 900sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Design Proposal

Taking full advantage of its prime location along a busy highway in the heart of Lagos mainland, this mixed-use development is designed to be simple but also striking enough to stand out and afford the owners the requisite visibility they need for their business and to also attract potential tenants.

Following the shape of the site, the building's form is a basic rectangular block with slanted edge planes in front that gradually rise from the first floor all through to the fifth. The block is punctuated with large glazed openings to bring natural light into the internal spaces and for optimal views of the surroundings.

The interior spaces are open and free of internal columns to ensure the spaces are flexible and adaptable to various configurations.

Ledges and nooks where plants are grown are also introduced on the façades to give some greenery to the scheme and compensate for the limited green areas at the site level.

The core of the building is very compact and it is positioned at the rear to free up ample spaces in front for parking at the ground level and street-facing lettable spaces at upper levels.



STACKS

TPOLOGY : Residential
CLIENT : MicMar Estates Ltd.
PLOT SIZE : 1,698sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Completed 2019

A plot measuring at 1698sqm is sub-divided equally into two halves. We came up with prototype design for the scheme for both plots. However, each block is subtly differentiated with the interplay of the front balconies and use of pale colours. The schedule of accommodation is the same for each block and composed of 3 terrace units and 4 flats for each block. The footprint of the terraces was reduced – and distributed across four levels – so as to leave sizeable space that the flats can occupy.

To give distinction to each apartment, the terrace units are “stacked” next to one another with vertical grooves (and juxtaposed balconies) separating them while the flats are stacked horizontally on top of each other across four floors.

In order to compensate for limited green area at the ground level, we designed flat roofs intended for green roofs to serve as sky garden for the residents. The green roofs also come with their environmental benefits such as absorbing rainwater, providing insulation, and helping to lower urban air temperatures and mitigate the heat island effect.

Generous areas of glazing and openings in the living and sleeping areas are used to optimize natural ventilation and lighting. The glazed areas are shaded by terraces on the floor above to prevent direct sunlight reaching the interior spaces.



CAEC

TYPOLOGY : Health Care
CLIENT : Custodian Social Responsibility Foundation
PLOT SIZE : 2,107sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Construction Documentation

This Level IV trauma centre is spread across two (2) levels and sub-divided into four (4) zones of Red, Yellow, Blue and Green with all the zones connected and accessed by a central core and lobbies. The red and yellow zones are at ground level and cater for the A&E and the Observation respectively while on the upper level, the green zone accommodates the Administration and the Support is in the blue zone.

Externally, we look to create a simple yet striking centre that showcases the collaborative and can-do spirit of both the Lagos State Govt. and Custodian Social Responsibility Foundation.

On approach, the building spreads its “arms/wings” ready and willing to embrace and offer optimum care to patients and also provide a conducive environment for staff and guests alike.

Trees and potted plants are incorporated into the scheme to gently animate the building and make people think again of how health facilities are perceived.

When completed, the centre will serve the people of Epe and its environs and ultimately help save lives as there is no purpose designed/built facility of such within and around that axis.



STACKS – III

TYPOLOGY : Residential
 CLIENT : MicMar Estates Ltd.
 PLOT SIZE : 892sqm
 LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
 STATUS : Under Construction

The third and final block in the “Stacks Series” – the same design principles used for the already built Plot A&B were applied albeit minor tweaks and improvements to give the building its own character without departing from the grand scheme.

The block is composed of 3 terrace units and 4 flats with the footprint of the terraces reduced – and distributed across four levels.

To give distinction to each apartment, the terrace units are “stacked” next to one another with vertical grooves (and juxtaposed balconies) separating them while the flats are stacked horizontally on top of each other across four floors.

In order to compensate for limited green area at the ground level, we designed flat roofs intended for green roofs to serve as sky garden for the residents. The green roofs also come with their environmental benefits such as absorbing rainwater, providing insulation, and helping to lower urban air temperatures and mitigate the heat island effect.

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ZAMA HILLS

TYPOLGY : Residential
CLIENT : 7th Heaven Realty
PLOT SIZE : 7,639sqm
LOCATION : Abuja, Nigeria
STATUS : Construction Documentation

Targeted at middle income families, young couples and single professionals, this integrated community is designed to create “iconic” living environment with each building positioned to enjoy vast and almost unobstructed view of the magnificent surrounding landforms.

Planted by the foot of the hills, the buildings’ form is designed to mimic the surrounding hills with their undulating walls and planes. Sleek steel slats run from the front of the building through the top and down to the rear like water streaks on mountains face. Apart for reason of view towards the distant hills from each apartment, the buildings are slanted to also give some level of privacy to each unit by ensuring they are not looking directly into each other.

This project features different house prototypes – Detached Houses, Flats, Terraces & Duplexes, alongside other facilities such as the Hub, playground and Workstations.



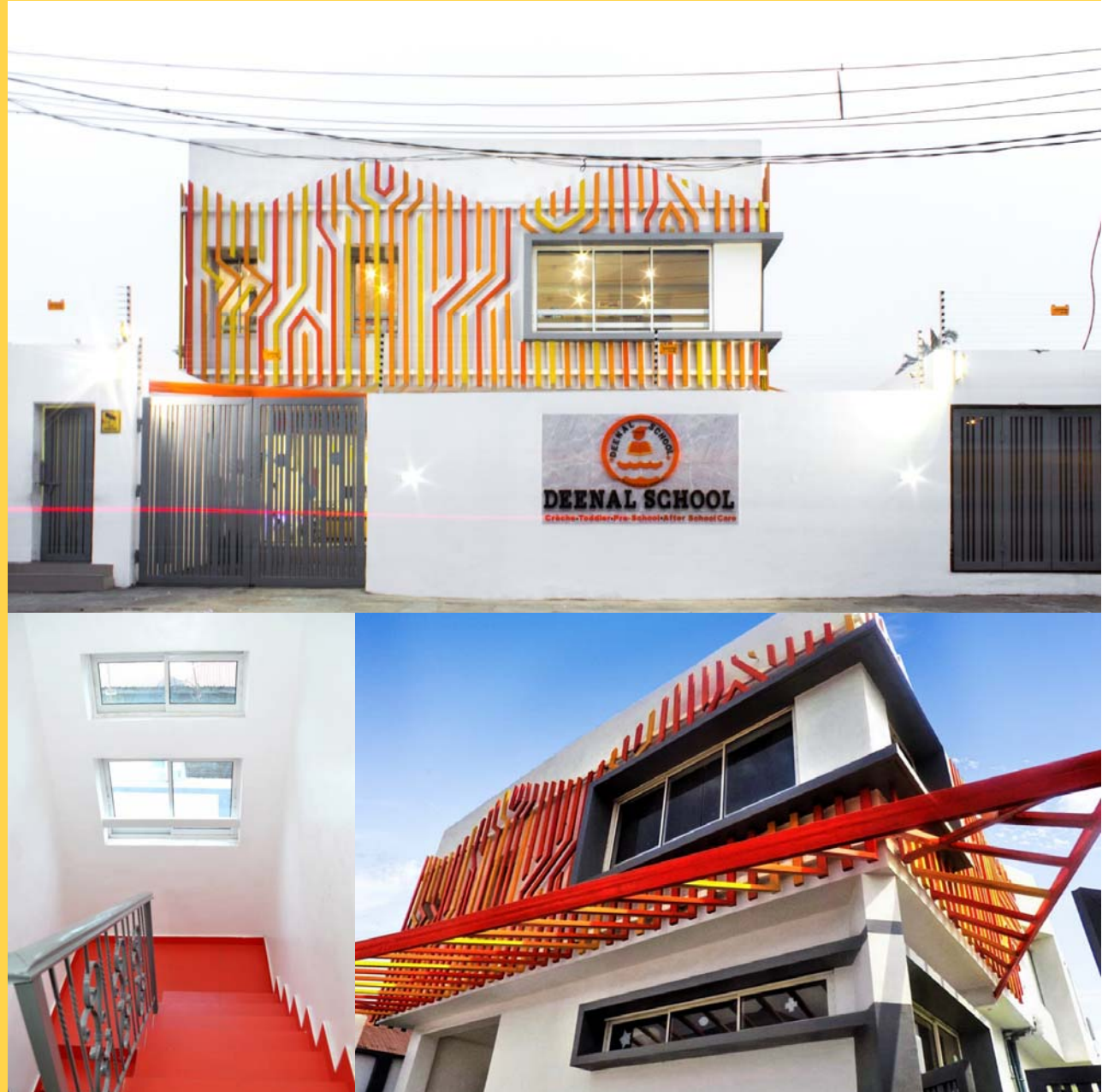
DEENAL SCHOOL

TYPOLOGY : Institutional – Remodelling
CLIENT : Deenal School
PLOT SIZE : 337sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Completed 2017

On this project, we sought to create a learning environment that the kids will always be eager to come to. To infer that learning is beyond the walls of a classroom, classes on the ground floor extend onto the playground to stimulate curiosity and encourage the kids to “explore the world”.

On entry, pupils, staff and guests are greeted by a finely landscaped multi-use entrance plaza. An extensive steel-screen canopy hangs over the plaza making it a good social space for interactions, waiting, chit-chatting, playing and so on.

The facades are adorned with large glazed areas and colourful patterned steel lattice to give dynamism to the building. The constantly shifting shadows created by the intricate patterned lattice provide “point of attraction” that continually intrigues and fascinates the kids, parents, staff and passers-by. It is hoped that this simple piece of architecture will offer the school the much needed attention; and impart its host community in a good way.



VILLA SALLY

TPOLOGY : Residential
CLIENT : Private Client
PLOT SIZE : 1,200sqm
LOCATION : Dakar, Senegal
STATUS : Construction Documentation

Design Collaboration with STRATAPOLIS

Situated in Saly, south of Dakar, where the climate is generally warm and an ocean-influenced hot semi-arid condition with a short rainy season and a lengthy dry season, the scheme is designed to respond and fit these conditions.

This project is a modern reinterpretation of traditional African architecture and gives a respectful nod to indigenous concepts of materiality and spatial configuration. The use of slats/screens, clay breeze blocks, shaded verandas and courtyards are parts of influences borrowed from the richness of local building solutions that have existed for centuries.

Given the year-round high temperature in Dakar, the sun movement and its impact on the building is a major consideration in our design. The south façade where the impact of the sun is harshest is screened with slats whilst the main internal living areas and bedrooms face the north to prevent direct sunlight from entering the interior spaces and thereby reducing the amount of cooling energy required.

Because of the site's proximity to the beach, clay breeze blocks and windows of varying sizes are strategically positioned to take full advantage of the cool ocean breeze.



HOUSE IN WUSE

TPOLOGY : Residential – Remodelling
CLIENT : Private Client
PLOT SIZE : 1,070sqm
LOCATION : FCT, Nigeria
STATUS : Completed 2017

A client who was satisfied with a previous scheme we did for them purchased an existing property and asked us to readapt the previous design to the existing building.

This house features five bedrooms, two living rooms, a cinema room, a bar, two kitchens and a home office.



MAISON GILLES

TPOLOGY : Residential
CLIENT : Private Client
PLOT SIZE : 1,200sqm
LOCATION : Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire
STATUS : Construction Documentation

The building's volumes are clearly delineated to imitate the massing concept of base, shaft and capital of ancient architectural order – the open reception on the ground floor represents the base, the 4No. flats on first and second floor represent the shaft while the pent floor represents the capital.

Clarity, simplicity and orderliness are the key design considerations for this scheme. This is translated directly into the horizontal and vertical layout of the structure to make the building easily navigable on the inside and instantly recognizable on the outside. The scale and proportion is such that the ground and pent levels are pushed back leaving a striking rectangular chunk of the building appear like its floating.

On first and second floor, the flats are on either side of the core (stairs and lift) and the configuration of the structure allows all apartment to have direct view of the street and to also ensure that natural ventilation and daylight filter into interior spaces – a key consideration during the design development. On the pent floor, the living area and sleeping zone are on either side of the core.

An elaborate floating roof sits lightly atop the building to offer the rather simple structure an elegant and graceful outlook. Planters and sun shading devices are used to ensure thermal comfort and minimize sunlight penetration.



MG-II

TPOLOGY : Residential
CLIENT : Pacific Sky Ltd.
PLOT SIZE : 932sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Construction Documentation

Semi-Detached house within Mayfair Gardens Estate on a plot measuring 932sqm.

The design is simple but instantly recognizable with use of modest materials and finely proportioned solid planes and glazed areas. Two houses of similar configuration stretches along the longer side of the rectangular site to afford privacy and independent access to both houses.

On the ground floor, the swimming pools are positioned within the large setback and act as the focal point to the internal living spaces. Three bedrooms and the family lounge are on the first floor. The master bedroom and sky-garden are on the pent floor.

The façade is disguise to appear like two levels from the outside by creating large glazed openings and long terraces on the ground and first; and the pent floor is wrapped all around by solid giant “parapet walls” interspersed by fins.



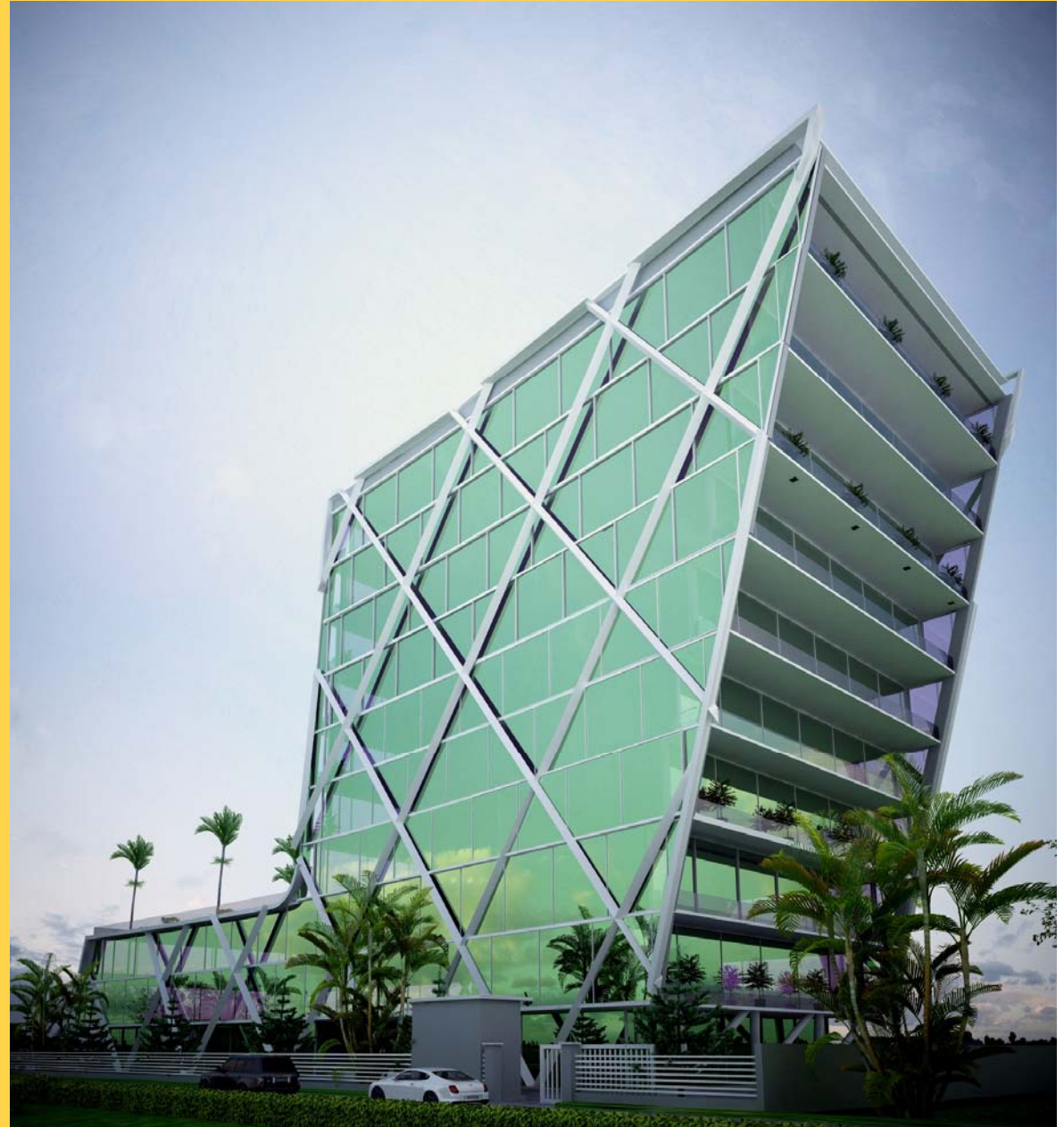
TRAINING CENTRE

TPOLOGY : Institutional
CLIENT : Halcrow Infrastructure Ltd.
PLOT SIZE : 5,430sqm
LOCATION : FCT, Nigeria
STATUS : Design Proposal

The longer stretch of the somewhat narrow site is along the northwest – southeast axis; which in one way dictated the reason for the orientation of our building along same axis.

The form of the building is our response to the high temperature in this region. In effect, two façades that are most affected have been treated to mitigate the impact of the sun. On the south-eastern façade, the plane of the building is slanted at 74° to align with the peak elevation angle of the sun, thus preventing direct sunlight from entering the building. In addition, break-out terraces have also been introduced on each floor on this façade to provide shade for the floor below. The slightly concave south-western façade is to be clad with insulated glass panels to reduce the amount of heat transfer.

Clad in glass to provide panoramic views of the surrounding landscapes, this 42-metre-high training centre is characterized by striking diagrid lattice along the two long facades; and cascading terraces along the shorter sides. It is hoped that the building will become a landmark in this region and draw development to the area.



ILLELA TTP

TYPOLOGY : Truck Park
 CLIENT : PPP Advisories Ltd.
 PLOT SIZE : 475,520sqm
 LOCATION : Sokoto, Nigeria
 STATUS : Design Proposal

The urgent need for modern and functional Truck Transit Parks (TTPs) across Nigeria cannot be overemphasized, which is why Illela TTP has been designed to serve as an “oasis” for truck drivers and other users of the park at Illela, Sokoto State where the climatic condition is desert-like.

The site is broadly zoned into three areas of:

1. Admin/Commercial Centre
2. Truck Parking Area
3. Support Services Area

The scheme features truck parking, a control tower, shops and restaurants, motels and hotels, drivers relaxation area, lettable offices, regulators offices, police station, bank, inspection yard, fuel station, mechanic workshop, truck and car wash, worship centres, clinic and the fire station, warehouses and weigh stations.

Sustainability informs a big part of our approach for this scheme with provision for rainwater harvesting, water recycling, alternative power sources, natural ventilation and day lighting. The construction materials too will be locally sourced and with abundance of earth available at the site, the walls will be built using rammed earth construction technique.



PLATINUM TERRACES

TPOLOGY : Residential
CLIENT : HomeGiddy
PLOT SIZE : 600sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Design Proposal

Targeted at mid-income earners, this scheme is designed to strike a careful balance between luxury and affordability. However, what is not short in this project is the “richness” of the design.

The ground floor is dedicated to family living spaces while the sleeping spaces, which are more private, occupy the first and second floor. Various screening elements are introduced to shield the large glazed openings; and thereby not only adding a layer of privacy but also giving the building its own unique character.



ESTATE CLUB HOUSE

TPOLOGY : Recreational
CLIENT : Sheridan Estate
PLOT SIZE : 797sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Design Proposal

Drawing some inspiration from the material and colour palettes of Nok by Alara by David Adjaye, this simple estate club and gym house is designed to serve as a pull for the residents and occasionally their guests.

A place to chill, exercise and socialize; and one that contrasts the surrounding buildings with its colour and partly open “flying roof” that perches lightly over the roof garden and sit-out.



PV-07

TYPOLOGY : Residential
 CLIENT : Verusprufen Nig. Ltd.
 PLOT SIZE : 1,600sqm
 LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
 STATUS : Construction Documentation

Taking cues from the shape of the site, the building's V-shaped layout resulted from following the site boundaries which afforded all units direct access and view to the street. The communal area, that features the pool, an outdoor bar and restrooms, is secluded and serene and shielded within the void left between the building's wings.

Although separated at ground level and with both wings facing opposing directions, the terrace block is a single building as both wings of the building connect from the first floor. This gives multiplicity of context to the building's façades and form which change from one end to the other with varying fenestrations, materials and planes and altogether maintaining a simple coherent scheme – the same concept is extended to the detached house.

The top of the buildings are "capped" with sky gardens to compensate for the somewhat limited green areas at ground level. Terraces with alternating bevelled edges and vertical screens are introduced (in response to the sun path) to provide shade and preventing direct sunlight from reaching the interior spaces.

The scheme features 3 blocks: Block A & B (joined) and standalone Block C. Block A and B are terraces comprising of 3 units each while Block C is a detached house, totaling 7 units of six terraces and a detached house.



JAHI LOFTS

TPOLOGY : Residential
CLIENT : Taskit Nigeria Ltd.
PLOT SIZE : 2,900sqm
LOCATION : FCT, Nigeria
STATUS : Construction Documentation

The U-shaped building is designed to take full advantage of the site by ensuring every apartment enjoys view of the distant ranging hills – made possible with shaded large glazed areas and zigzagging terraces across all floors.

With all the units under one roof, the façades appear homogeneous but the development offers four prototypes of different configurations to ensure complexity and varying experience inside each unit. These variations give a strong sense of place amongst occupants.

One of the strongest aspects of this scheme is its sustainable features and energy efficiency. Smart lighting, natural ventilation and lighting, solar panels, insulated cavity walls, sun screens are some of the elements incorporated into the design in response to the growing global environmental challenges. The features keep the running and maintenance cost low; and essentially saving up to 25-30% in energy cost.



POOL PAVILION

TPOLOGY : Residential – Pavilion
CLIENT : Private Client
SIZE : 108sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Design Proposal

In aligning with the clients' vision, our concept for this scheme is to create an environment of “*in between*s” – a space in between open and close, formal and informal. The simple outlook of the structure is given character through the venation of the ceiling with plaster boards and the steel trusses that support the elaborate curved glass roof. The dynamism of the pavilion is further stressed by the constantly changing shadow patterns generated from the ceiling layout.

Again, we try to make architecture of different styles complement each other. With the bigger, older one offering presence to the new. While the smaller, newer one offering freshness to the old.



THE CHASM

TPOLOGY : Residential
CLIENT : Taskit Nigeria Ltd.
PLOT SIZE : 2,900sqm
LOCATION : FCT, Nigeria
STATUS : Construction Documentation

Trapezoid shaped site, hill range towards the north and the access road are the elements that form the character that the building takes on. At ground level, two stand-alone blocks of terrace units taper towards the narrow end of the site; but on the two subsequent floors, the blocks are connected by communal spaces to form a “U” shaped building and creating generous “chasm” between the blocks.

The communal area is suspended off the ground and accessed via a twisting helical stairs. On the first floor, a multipurpose hall provides residents with a space for formal and social activities; the second floor of the communal area features a gym, a small lounge and a plunge pool that overlooks the courtyard and the distant hills.

The goal of the development is to create a series of townhouses, where the sense of place is strong and expressed with a series of playful interactions between all the dwellings. The building's facades appear homogeneous with terraces and planes used to highlight each apartment. Zigzagging terraces and stone cladded screen walls are dominant features used in the scheme to echo the ridges and texture of the hills beyond.



BCRB

TYPOLOGY : Corporate Campus
 CLIENT : Bulwark Ltd.
 PLOT SIZE : 15,530sqm
 LOCATION : Delta, Nigeria
 STATUS : Construction Documentation

The client, a construction company, wanted a regional base for their organization comprising of a corporate office, club-house, accommodation quarters and a construction yard.

In our interpretation of corporate architecture for this scheme, we steered beyond the boundaries of function, aesthetics and stability – the basic qualities of “good architecture”; and into more transposable, immeasurable factors such as transparency, staff motivation, mutual trust. We have focused and paid close attention to those design parameters that directly affect human beings: communication, motivation, creativity and flexibility. Research has shown that there is a close relationship between these factors and employees’ productivity.

Location of each structure, their orientation and shape, fenestrations, treatment of facades, choice of materials have largely been dictated by nature: sun path, wind directions.



H2

TYPOLOGY : Residential
 CLIENT : Private Client
 PLOT SIZE : 800sqm
 LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
 STATUS : Design Proposal

H2 is a terraced house of four units within the leafy neighbourhood of VGC, Lagos. Distributed across four levels, the scheme aims to respond to the accommodation schedule and requirements of the brief.

The ground floor accommodates the general lounge and the utility areas. Open play living/dining area and the kitchen are accommodated on the first floor. Sleeping areas occupy the second floor; and the master suite is at the pent level with view opening towards a private road garden.

The façades are composed of clean straight lines along with subtle colour and material palettes to create a simple but instantly distinguishable form – achieved with modern reinterpretation of the traditional gable roof, sliding timber screens and extended concrete planters.

Because the site is deep with the shorter length facing the road, each unit is “pulled out” beyond the next by 650mm to afford every unit at least a snippet view of the street.



5 ASO-DRIVE

TPOLOGY : Residential
CLIENT : Greer Estates Ltd.
PLOT SIZE : 1,200sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Construction Documentation

The design approach for this scheme hinged on the need to accommodate ten luxury flats with other supporting amenities on a 1200sqm plot. Due to brevity of space and in order to have large open spaces, the apartments were lifted off the ground leaving the entire ground level free to accommodate only car parks and the reception area.

The gym and pool are moved to the topmost floor adding to the elegance of the building and also showcasing a rare concept in this part of the world. The overflow of the infinity pool pours out to the front of the building and made visible from the street – with the gushing sound slightly amplified to greet residents and guests.

The configuration of the structure allows all apartment to have direct view of the street and to also ensure that natural ventilation and daylight filter into interior spaces – a key consideration during the design development.



ALBERT

TPOLOGY : Residential
CLIENT : Mr. & Mrs. Albert
PLOT SIZE : 1,317sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Construction Documentation

A conscientious design process followed by many iterations and alterations birthed a mindfully tailored home intended to simply express the client's desire of how they want to live and use their house.

The brief called for a simple "modern classical home" that is gracious yet unimposing. Design cues were taken from the existing structure on site, a 4-bedroom bungalow, the brief and the strict estate regulations. The bungalow was remodelled into a smaller backhouse that will house a guest room, a cinema, stewards' rooms, gym, laundry and a bar.

Located in front of the backhouse, the L-shape of the new 3-bedroom main house allows for the center of the site to be freed up and used as the focal point where the pool is positioned.

Although separated by a 4-meter setback, both buildings form a disjointed "Letter C" and are connected with the expansive pool deck and overhead timber slats.

The texture and materiality of the scheme is expressed in subtle highlights of limestone, timber and glass.



HOUSE IN MAITAMA

TYPOLGY : Residential
CLIENT : Private Client
PLOT SIZE : 2,135sqm
LOCATION : FCT, Nigeria
STATUS : Construction Documentation

Set around the beautiful hills of maitama extension, this grand family mansion is designed to take full advantage of the scenic views of the surrounding hills. Large terraces and glass panes are incorporated into the design to blur the boundaries between the home and the natural environment.

Situated on a 2135sqm plot, this home has been designed to be family oriented and planned such that spaces are closely linked with a common hallway. The building will cater for the client and his family.

The building is finished in bright white to contrast sharply with the rather rustic surroundings.



LANDMARK MALL

TYPOLOGY : Retail
 CLIENT : Lange & Grants Engineering
 PLOT SIZE : 2,100sqm
 LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
 STATUS : Design Proposal

The Landmark Village, V/I will feature an event centre, hotel, office blocks, mixed-use blocks, megastore amongst other facilities.

We have been approached to develop the area earmarked for the megastore. After careful review of a detailed brief from the client, our challenge is to design a structure that conforms to the construction theme (of steel & sandwich panels) of the village and yet be immediately identifiable.

What we did was to create a rectangular base of steel and glass frames to allow the building relate directly with its surroundings and also bring it to human scale, however, for reason of identity and presence, we introduced an elaborate roof that perches lightly on the glass base. Roof overhang on all sides provides adequate shade for the glass panels below.



QM HOUSE

TYPOLGY : Residential
CLIENT : Private Client
PLOT SIZE : 1,089sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Completed 2018

This project possess a paradoxical challenge – the clients want a compact and not-so-big home, but they also want large spaces. In response to the brief, we started off by creating a simple compact box, the box was then gridded into nine smaller boxes with each box representing different spatial programme. The gridded box was later “defragmented” a little by repositioning two of the boxes. By moving the boxes, we maintained a compact form and sizeable interior spaces are made to appear larger as they open up onto the surroundings.

One of the major consideration in our design is how light comes into the building and starts to articulate the volume. The gentle morning light comes into the bedrooms to brighten up the moods. At lunch time, it comes into the pool area and refracts on the ceiling over the lounge and dining area in the dry kitchen. And in the evening, it comes into the formal lounge where you get the sunset.

Large glazed areas and terraces on the first and pent floor afford residents gorgeous view of the creek.



STUDIO UCA

TYPOLOGY : Studio – Renovation + Interior
 CLIENT : UCA
 SIZE : 75sqm
 LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
 STATUS : Completed 2017

The space has gone through series of remodelling exercise. First from a traditional flat to a modern apartment, then later converted to architects' studio.

We believe creativity thrives most in relaxed and conducive environment, so we have tried to create a workplace that embodies the firm's founding principles of people, interactions and flexibility.

The entire studio is designed to be open such that spaces connect seamlessly to ensure ease of communication and allow for freedom to reconfigure the studio from time-to-time. Natural light, music, plants, pebble garden, hammock, akala wood furniture, white walls are the main features of the office – these features come together to create a work environment that enhances creativity and productivity.

Walls, floor and ceiling of the meeting room are finished in bright yellow to “mellow” a space where serious discussions are often held.



DMO TOWERS

TYPOLGY : Office Buildings – Corporate HQ
CLIENT : Halcrow Infrastructure Ltd.
PLOT SIZE : 5,025sqm
LOCATION : FCT, Nigeria
STATUS : Design Proposal

We started out by creating basic “box-towers” that are clad with glass curtain walls. However, given the high temperature in this region, which could sometimes rise as high as 42°C, an enormous amount of energy will be required to effectively cool these massive buildings.

Still retaining the box-tower concept, we introduced winding terraces to wrap around the entire perimeter of the buildings on each of the twenty floors.

The terraces expand slightly as the buildings rise into the Abuja skyline to offer them distinct character. But beyond giving character to the buildings, the terraces are our answer to the question of the sustainability of the scheme. They provide shade for the floor below (preventing direct sunlight from hitting the interior spaces and thereby reducing the amount of energy required for cooling), they can be used as break-out spaces for occupants (where uninterrupted view of the city can be enjoyed), and critically they serve as service ledges from which the buildings can be cleaned & maintained (costs accrued by hiring cranes and scaffolds for façade maintenance are eliminated)



HOUSE KENNY

TPOLOGY : Residential
CLIENT : Private Client
PLOT SIZE : 906sqm
LOCATION : Edo, Nigeria
STATUS : Construction Documentation

We intend to create a sustainable, modern and comfortable home with the use of readily available local materials that are eco-friendly and with strong visual appeal and this is demonstrated in the building's external composition and the internal spatial arrangements.

The use of external fluted panels for the front façade and by introducing short recess walls (that run through the external perimeter walls) just before the first floor slab gives a floating impression of the upper floor. This is to further emphasize our contemporary design direction.

Cantilevers, large balconies and floor-to-ceiling glazed areas characterize the façades to ensure natural daylight and ventilation are fully optimized.

At ground level, residents and guests are met and greeted by stretch of entrance porch and a pond contained within a wide bay. The upper floor is dedicated to family living with all four (4) bedrooms featuring its own sitting area, walk-in-closet and ensuite bathroom. A common family lounge and kitchenette provide a communal space where family members can meet and interact.

Straight lines, sharp corners and the use of warm and friendly material palettes and the interplay of solid walls and glazed areas set the tone for the simplistic approach to this project.



EQUESTRIAN RESORT

TYPOLOGY : Resort
 CLIENT : Private Client
 PLOT SIZE : 105,000sqm
 LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
 STATUS : Design Proposal

The conception of this scheme is basically about four (4) main factors: People, Nature, Fitness and Horses.

People: The resort is geared towards providing facilities and environment where people can refocus, refresh and reconnect with themselves.

Nature: The site is yet to be polluted by human activities making it a perfect location for a health farm. Sustainable factors like natural ventilation, harvesting and reusing rain water, renewable energy are all integrated into the project.

Fitness: Areas for meditations, mental and physical exercise have been delicately designed to suit users' needs. Movement within and around the site is by foot, golf carts and horses.

Horses: Almost half of the entire site has been dedicated to horses and related activities; and this affords visitors to the resort a full equestrian experience. To ensure a safer human-horse interaction, the design provides a conducive environment for the horses and their handlers with adequate provision for stables, grooms' quarters, paddocks, exercise tracks, riding schools etc.



CHECKERS TERRACES

TPOLOGY : Residential
CLIENT : Greer Estates Ltd.
PLOT SIZE : 2,500sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Design Proposal

We look to strike a balance between two contrasting concepts – communal living and individual identity; and we came up with the “Checkers Concept”. Studying the checker board, we saw that each box is clearly defined within its own boundary but together all the boxes form a synergy that produces an effect greater than the sum of their individual effects. It is this concept that we translated into our façade design.

A typical unit measures at 252Sq.M and spreads across three levels. Double volume living room, dining area, kitchen & utility, guest w/c and steward’s room occupy the ground floor. Upper levels where the bedrooms and family lounge are located are accessed through suspended steel stairs.

The building façade evolved by juxtaposing recessed surfaces with solid planes across three units and over all floors to create a simple but engaging checker pattern. The locations of the solid/recessed surfaces are alternated in each block to prevent apartments from looking directly into one another.



AK'S RESIDENCE

TPOLOGY : Residential – Interior
CLIENT : Mr. & Mrs Kazeem
SIZE : 336sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Completed 2021

The theme for this interior project is to use muted and natural colours and elements to create a warm and homely feel for the residents and visitors. The minimalist design approach meant that most of the surfaces are bright white or grey with contrasting timber panels and wooden floors.

The furnishing also echoes this theme with their neutral colours – pop of colour is introduced with a few pieces to reflect the personas of the residents. Large windows are used to ensure the interior spaces are flooded with natural light and ventilation.

The house is partially automated with blinds to regulate natural lights, audio-visuals and smart lighting system.



THE CORNERSTONE

TPOLOGY : Residential
CLIENT : Private Client
PLOT SIZE : 1,840sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Design Proposal

The façades feature mainly solid planes and slats to offer upmost privacy to occupants within a mini-estate with close proximity to each other.

Large windows, skylights and openings are used and delicately positioned only in areas where they are required to ensure the interior spaces enjoy quality daylighting and natural ventilation.

Each unit is spread across four (4) levels and features 2 stewards' rooms, powder room, dining area, wet and dry kitchen on the ground floor. The first floor accommodates the main living area, guest bedroom and a powder room. The cinema, family lounge, box room and two bedrooms occupy the second floor while the entire pent floor is taken up by the master's suite and a private study.

Communal facilities such as pool and the gym are positioned within the front setback.



2x2

TPOLOGY : Residential
CLIENT : Crescent Pillars Ltd.
PLOT SIZE : 912sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Design Proposal

The site is along Chris Madueke Drive in Lekki, rectangular in shape and measures at 912sqm. It is bounded in front by the street and on the remaining sides by other developed plots. The site is currently occupied by an existing building which is to be demolished to give way to our proposed scheme.

After observing all the required building setbacks, the site was zoned into Main Buildings – Two (2) blocks, landscaped plaza and car park area

In response to the shape of the site, two rows of apartments are arranged along either sides of the plot leaving a plaza in between them where residents can commune.

The car park is located in front of the site for control and also to prevent vehicular activities from reaching the core of the site. The service building is located at the left tip of the site and accessed for services from the street.



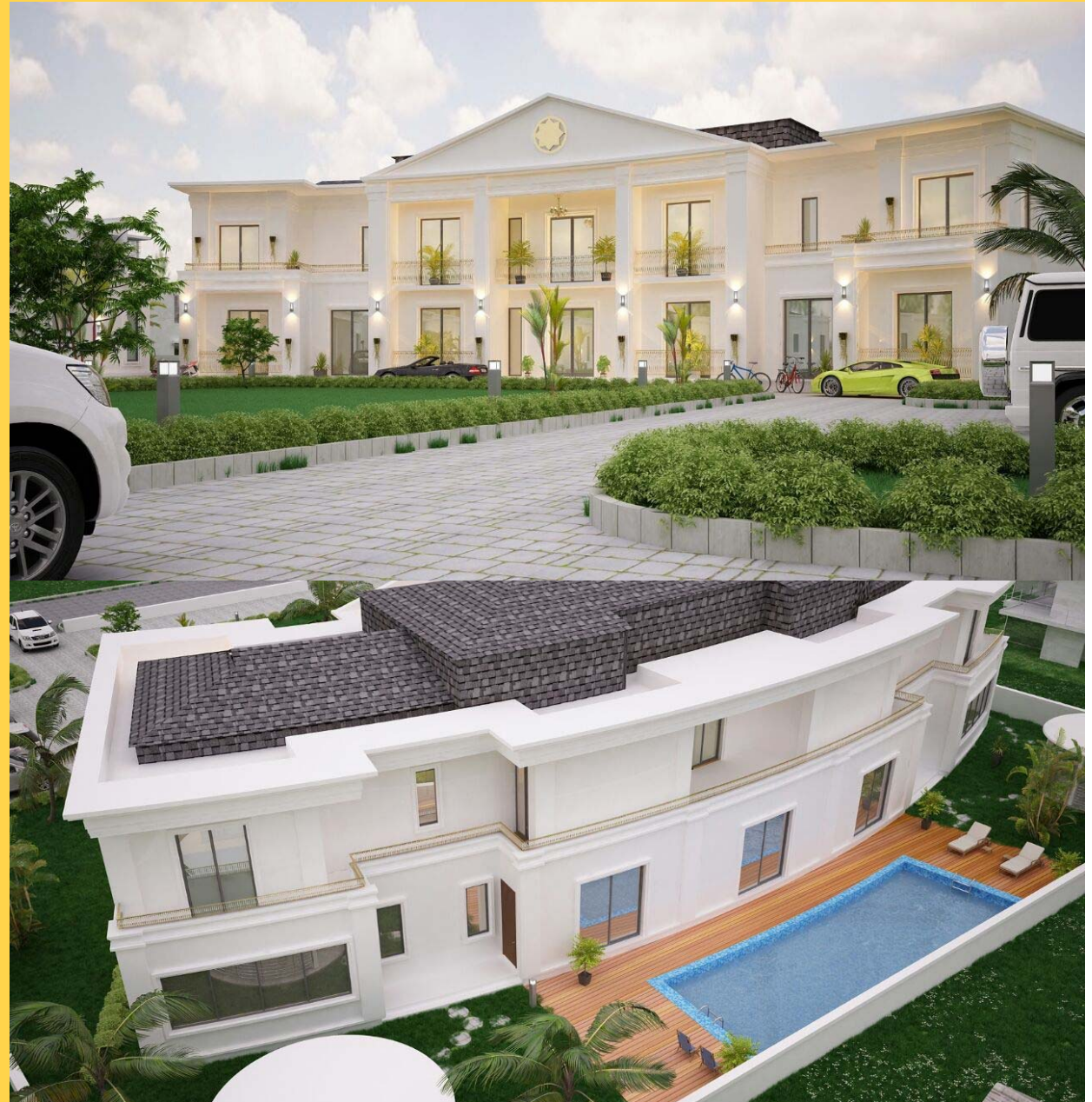
CASA VAL

TYPOLGY : Residential
CLIENT : Private Client
PLOT SIZE : 2,700sqm
LOCATION : Imo, Nigeria
STATUS : Design Proposal

Because the building is within a larger family plot, we adopted a bow-shaped building that offers two contrasting characteristics. The inner/shorter bow of the building curves inwards and indicating a welcome gesture to everyone and the rest of the site; but privacy is achieved with the outer curve arching away from the semi-public area into the quieter pool area located at the rear of the site.

Semi-private spaces like ante-room, visitors' lounge, guest bedroom and the cinema room occupy the row along the front side of the building. While more private spaces like living room, dining room, kitchen and gym are positioned to the rear of the building – not to only provide exclusivity, but to also offer gorgeous and uninterrupted view towards the swimming pool and garden.

The bedrooms, study and family lounge are on the upper floor. Each room on this floor is adorned with floor-ceiling glass doors that open unto the terrace. The terraces afford residents with break-out spaces for relaxation and enjoying the scenic view of the surroundings. The terraces are shielded by overhanging roof parapet.



SHERIDAN ESTATE

TPOLOGY : Residential Estate
CLIENT : Seg. Mahsen
PLOT SIZE : 53,746sqm
LOCATION : Lagos, Nigeria
STATUS : Under Construction

Conceived as a garden estate, this scheme is designed to provide serene and tranquil environment for intended residents – a total escape from the chaotic city life in a place like Lagos.

With a total of just fifty five residential houses occupying less than 30% of the site, more than half of the site is dedicated to gardens and tress.

The estate features different house types of detached, semi-detached, terraces and flats along with other amenities such as parks, children playground, club house, gym, crèche, mini mart, tennis and basketball courts, solar panels, water and sewage treatment plants, security house and management office, power plant.

Our role in this project was to update existing design and produce visuals representation of the final outcome.



THE FOOD BASKET

KIOSK

Design Collaboration with FAHRENHEIT INC.

The size of the kiosk as directed by the realtors of the mall is to be 3 x 1.75m; and will be positioned just across the food court. Our design decisions were informed by a couple of factors: brevity of space, restricted kiosk size, indoor usage.

After careful review of these parameters, an oval-shaped structure (truncated along the shorter ends) was adopted as the idea to create an “open structure” became apparent. The structure is formed with a total of twenty two (22) vertically curved laminated plies held in place with slim steel runners across the longer ends; and perforated boards on the shorter ends. The resultant effect is a structure with a striking semblance of a basket.

The kiosk allows attendants and customers to see through it and thus offering a 360° view of its immediate surroundings. This gives a sense of lightness and transparency – factors we believe will make shoppers gravitate towards it. The structure also benefits directly from the power, lighting and ventilation provided by the mall.





DOLAPO FALOLA

Dolapo has been in mainstream architectural consultancy practice since his post graduation from the School of Architecture & Design, University of Lagos in 2006 and has participated in the design and execution of a broad variety of projects and building types ranging from large commercial buildings to smaller but no less interesting fit-outs. A sound track record of work experience with two of Nigeria's leading architectural offices - and a short stint with a project management firm - has afforded him the opportunity to speedily become a seasoned professional through several collaborations with reputable architectural and multi-disciplined allied consulting firms both at home and abroad.

Dolapo left DKR Associates in 2012 to set-up UCA the following year on the principles of people, interactions and flexibility.

Education:

Postgraduate, University of Lagos – 2006
Undergraduate, University of Lagos – 2004

Qualification:

Member, Nigerian Institute of Architects. MNIA – 2010
Member, Architects Registration Council of Nig. – 2010
Professional Devlpt. Units (24 PDU) in Prjt. Mgt. – 2009
M.E.D, Architecture & Design – 2006
B.E.S, Architecture & Design – 2004

Experience: – *Selected Project*

2009 – 2012 - DKR Associates Ltd. – Senior Architect

Block A Complex, Corona School, Agbara
Office Development, V/I Extension
Entrance Pavilion, St. Saviour's Sch., Ikoyi
Master Plan, LSFA Hospitality Centre, Lekki
Foreshore Mews, Osborne Foreshore, Ikoyi
Neurology Hospital, Abuja

2007 – 2009 - ECAD Architects Ltd. – Architect

Yenagoa Mall, Bayelsa
Chicken Republic Prototype Outlet
Deputy Governor's Office, Kwara State

2006 – Comprehensive Project Mgt. Services (CPMS) – Architectural Assistant

Master Plan, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State



OLUFEMI DAVID OLAIYA

An innovator and a fervent lover of architecture and design, Femi Olaiya is known for his artistic approach to design and craft. In 2004, right after his undergraduate programme from the school of architecture, he started Oxen-Root Architecture and PR, a small sized architecture and design practice which focused on small scale projects, model making and brand strategy. Partly because of his love and skills of model making, he quickly gained a reputation as one of the leading model maker in Lagos. Femi is an ardent believer in employing the use of physical models as a medium in resolving and understanding design processes - an attribute that is fast ebbing away in the wake of computer generated images.

He moved to the UK in 2008 to broaden his views and pursue a career in architecture internationally, and has since worked on various projects in the UK before joining UCA in 2013 as a partner.

Education:

Postgraduate, University of Lagos – 2006
Undergraduate, University of Lagos – 2004

Qualification:

M.E.D, Architecture & Design – 2006
B.E.S, Architecture & Design – 2004

Experience: – *Selected Project*

2012 – Portsmouth City Council – Architect

Ninian Path Residential Development, Portsmouth. UK
Residential Scheme - Southsea, Portsmouth. UK
Burfields Barns. UK

2008 - 2012 – Discipleship Centre, Portsmouth - Architect

Change of Use, Clarence Street, Portsmouth.
Warehouse Conversion, Farlington, Portsmouth.
DC Office Development, Kingston Road, Portsmouth

2004 – 2008 – OXEN ROOT ARCHITECTURE – Principal Partner

Office Refurbishment, Lagos Island
Church Hall Extension, Gbagada
Doctors without borders (MSF), Lagos Island

SELECTED MODEL COMMISSIONS

Civic Centre, Lagos – James Cubitt Architects
OOU Master Plan, Ogun State - Comprehensive Project Mgt. Services (CPMS)
Seattle Residential Scheme, V/I, Lagos - ECAD Architects Ltd
Luxury Apartments, Ikoyi – ACCL

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