



**DESIGN PROJECT TITLE**

"MAMA (AFRICA) MUSIC CENTRE"

**CLIENT: PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN:**

- || THE TAMARIND GROUP
- || MACHAKOS COUNTY GOVERNMENT
- . MINISTRY OF SPORTS, CULTURE AND THE ARTS, KENYA

**SITE LOCATION**

URBAN MACHAKOS

A NEW CITY FOR MACHAKOS WAS RECENTLY PROPOSED, WITH A GREAT EMPHASIS ON SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT, ALONG WITH TOURISM. THE PLAN HAS PROVIDED FOR A FULLY-FLEDGED SPORTS CITY AND AN ENTERTAINMENT, TOURISM AND CONFERENCING BELT.

THE CITY, WHEN COMPLETE, IS EXPECTED TO BE A HOST TO MODERN SHOPPING MALLS, STADIUMS THAT CAN PLAY HOST TO INTERNATIONAL GAMES, A FORMULA 1 RACE TRACK, ATTRACTIVE HOTELS AND LODGES, A MANMADE LAKE (CURRENTLY MARUBA DAM), HIGHRISE AND LOW RISE COMMERCIAL OFFICE BUILDINGS, HIGH QUALITY HOMES AND AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS HAVE ALREADY SHOWN INTEREST IN MACHAKOS COUNTY.

IT IS FROM THE ENTERTAINMENT, TOURISM AND CONFERENCING BELT THAT I DERIVE MY SITE, TO CREATE AN ARENA FOR ENTERTAINMENT, WITH FACILITIES SUCH AS PERFORMING ARTS VENUES AND NIGHTLIFE AND EATERY FACILITIES. THIS IS SET TO BE A GREAT TOURIST DESTINATION, NOT ONLY WITHIN ITS REGION BUT FOR THE WHOLE OF NAIROBI METROPOLITANS AS WELL.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT**

DESPITE THE INCREASINGLY GROWING DOMINANCE OF AFRICAN MUSIC IN THE WORLD, MUSICIANS AND RECORDING ARTISTS IN KENYA ARE STILL GREATLY CHALLENGED, ESPECIALLY IN FACILITATION. SOME OF THE MAJOR CHALLENGES FACED ESPECIALLY BY THE UPCOMING ARTISTS ARE:

- LACK OF REHEARSAL SPACES
- INACCESSIBILITY AND UNAFFORDABILITY OF RECORDING FACILITIES
- INADEQUATE EXPOSURE AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS
- LACK OF PLATFORMS TO SHOWCASE AND PROMOTE THEIR TALENT.
- LACK OF COMMON MEETING PLACES FOR SHARING AND NETWORKING.
- INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTATION FOR MUSIC COMPOSITION.

THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE ALSO HAS LIMITED OPTIONS FOR ENTERTAINMENT ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO MUSIC AS AN ART TO WATCH AND LISTEN TO. MACHAKOS, DESPITE BEING SO ENTERTAINMENT-ORIENTED, AND BEING ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING ECONOMIES WITH A VERY VISIONARY LEADER (DR. ALFRED MUTUA), IS STILL LAGGING BEHIND IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT, ARCHITECTURALLY, TECHNOLOGY OR OTHERWISE. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES ARE PRETTY MUCH INADEQUATE IN THE CURRENT TOWN, AND DURING MAJOR EVENTS RECENTLY FREQUENTING THE TOWN, SUCH AS THE RUGBY SEVENS, ALL FACILITIES ARE STRAINED, FROM HOTELS TO LODGINGS, NIGHTCLUBS AND CONCERT VENUES. THIS IS DEFINITELY THE REASON THE NEW MASTER PLAN IS HIGHLY ENTERTAINMENT-ORIENTED, AND SUCH A FACILITY AS THIS IS ALREADY LONG OVERDUE.

**JUSTIFICATION**

AN URBAN ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE IS IN ORDER TO DESIGN FOR MACHAKOS, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE NEW MASTERPLAN. IT IS AN ESTABLISHED FACT THAT THE PARTY COMMUNITY HOSTED BY SUCH FACILITIES PREFERENCES LOCATIONS THAT ARE DISTANT AND INVOLVING TRAVELLING. THIS EXPLAINS THE OUT-OF-PROPORTION TURN UPS ENJOYED BY EVENTS SUCH AS MASAKU SEVENS AND NAX-VEGAS (NAKURU) SEVENS. IT IS ON THIS WAVE OF EXCITEMENT THAT I RIDE AND DISCOVER THAT MACHAKOS TOWN IS ALWAYS STRAINED IN TERMS OF ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES WHENEVER SUCH EVENTS HAPPEN THERE, WHICH IS ONCE A YEAR. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE PROPOSED MACHAKOS MASTER PLAN WITH FORMULA 1 RACE TRACK CONSIDERATIONS, TO HAVE A LARGE CENTRE FOR ENTERTAINMENT OF SUCH LARGE CROWDS, OFFERING A WIDE RANGE OF VARIETY AND CHOICE. THIS WOULD EVEN CALL PEOPLE TO VISIT THE TOWN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. IT WOULD ALSO CALL ON TOURISTS TO VISIT THE NEW CITY OF MACHAKOS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME GIVING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY A PLATFORM FOR GROWTH. THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS A MUSIC CENTRE, ALSO, BY DEFAULT, TO FUNCTION AS A COMMUNITY CENTRE AND YOUTH CENTRE. THIS IS OWING TO THE FACT THAT MUSIC IS A CULTURALLY BINDING AND BONDING ELEMENT.

WITH THE NEW MASTER PLAN, AND WITH PEOPLE HAVING BEEN EVICTED FROM THE GOVERNMENT LAND FOR INVESTORS TO STEP IN, A PLUGIN SUCH AS THIS WOULD PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN ATTRACTING NOT ONLY INVESTORS BUT CONSUMERS OF LEISURE AND ENTERTAINMENT AS WELL.

**OBJECTIVES**

THIS PROJECT AIMS:

- || TO DEVELOP A FACILITY THAT IS IN LINE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW CITY AS WELL AS THOSE OF MUSIC COMPOSITION, REHEARSAL, RECORDING AND/OR PERFORMANCE.
- || TO EXPLOIT LOCAL MATERIALS AND MANPOWER, AND EVENTUALLY TO GIVE STAGE TO THE NAIROBI METROPOLITAN ARTISTRY TALENT, ESPECIALLY MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS
- || TO EXPOSE THE REGION TO OTHER WORLDS FOR A CULTURAL INTERCHANGE THROUGH DESIGN FOR TOURISM, INTERNATIONAL CONCERTS AND LOCAL/TRADITIONAL/HERITAGE SHOWS

**CASE STUDIES AND FORM ABSTRACTION**

- CASE 1: THE CARNIVORE GROUNDS
- CASE 2: TAIPEI PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
- CASE 3: SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

**LESSONS FROM CASE STUDIES**

CONCLUSIVELY, FROM MY STUDIES, THE FORM SHOULD BE

- || HIGHLY EXPRESSIONIST
- || HIGHLY ABSTRACTIVE
- || A MEGASTRUCTURE (VAST LOBBIES, LARGE PILLARS, LARGE FACADES)

THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT AESTHETICS ARE THE KEY SELLING POINT OF ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES, AS IS WITH THE REST OF THE FACILITIES DEVELOPED BY MY CLIENT BOTH IN NAIROBI AND ALONG THE KENYAN COAST.

AS A RESULT, A "FUNCTION-FOLLOWS-FORM" APPROACH IS APPLIED, AND SKETCHING IS ONSET, WITH THE FUNCTIONS TO BE HOUSED IN MIND IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A DESIRABLE FORM THAT FUNCTIONS JUST AS DESIRABLY. BELOW ARE THE FIRST STAGES OF FORM ABSTRACTION. THE SLOPE OF THE SITE AND THE WATER BODY ARE ALL PUT INTO CONSIDERATION.