

URBAN RESOURCE CENTRE  
MOMBASA OLD TOWN

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MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE → THESIS PROJECT

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JULY 1976

ABSTRACT:

My thesis subject is URBAN RESOURCE CENTRE to serve the community of Mombasa old town. The designed facility constitutes a learning environment sensitized to respond to:-

- (1) Employment needs within local industrial organizations.
- (2) Self-employment needs in small scale industries.
- (3) Skill improvement needs for life maintaining purposes.
- (4) Socio-educational and welfare needs of the community.

- MY OBJECTIVES ARE:
- (i) To enhance and reinforce established urban patterns.
  - (ii) To design a Resource Centre that reaches every social stratum of my target area - Mombasa Old Town.
  - (iii) To permit through Architecture (economic) sharing of scarce urban facilities by actual physical sharing and through convenient referral services.
  - (iv) To design for involvement and "Possession" of all participants.

It is observed that any attempt to sensitize a resource centre to community needs must be geared towards optimal response of the designed facility to the following Categories of Community requirements - at least to the best of the designers knowledge of a given Society:

(a) LIFE MAINTAINING NEEDS AND URGES:

- e.g. (i) Hunger and thirst  
(ii) Shelter  
(iii) Rest and sleep  
(iv) Acquisition urges e.g. lessons and learning  
(v) Fabrication, making of tools  
(vi) Making Symbols - e.g. Art, Music, Sculptures, etc.

(b) LIFE ENHANCING NEEDS AND URGES:

- e.g. (i) Play and Sport  
(ii) Companionship and intimacy  
(iii) Group pride and self-identity  
(iv) Need for psychological feelings e.g. Security

(c) LIFE COMPLETING NEEDS AND URGES:

These are the properties of the physical environment

- e.g. (i) Light  
(ii) Textures  
(iii) Spaces  
(iv) Rhythms  
(v) Sounds and Smells

Appendix 'A' shows the results of studies of the Community based on the above check-list

The "target area" is that of Mombasa Old Town and information was

- obtained through (i) Kenya Bureau of Statistics  
(ii) Authors Observations on site.

All design decisions are based on the above mentioned Studies.