

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

NAME: James Kamau Karogi  
DATE OF BIRTH: 7th January 1953  
PLACE OF BIRTH: Lari, Kiambu District, Kenya  
NATIONALITY: Kenyan

### **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

1959-1965 Ngegu Full Primary School  
1966 - 1969 Mangu High School - 1st Division  
1970 - 1971 Kenyatta College - A Levels  
Mathematics A, Chemistry B, Physics C  
1972 - 1977 Department of Architecture  
University of Nairobi  
Graduated with B.Arch. (Upper Second Class Honours)  
1977 (December) - Joined Department of Architecture as a Tutotial  
Fellow  
Professional Examination and Registration to  
Practice  
1980 - 1982 Department of Architecture  
University of Nairobi  
Graduated with M.A. (Arch.)  
1983 Corporate Member of AAK  
Architects Chapter - MAAK (A)  
1989 Corporate Member of AAK  
Landscape Architects Chapter (MAAK) (LA)

### **PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS**

1982 DESIGN OF DISTRICT CENTRES WITH SPECIAL  
REFERENCE TO KAYOLE  
Submitted as an M.A. Arch. Thesis which dealt with  
Feasibility of an Urban Centre for Eastern Area of  
Nairobi. Research entailed Development of  
Masterplan and Layout to Architectural Detail.

- 1983  
TO
- NON-CONVENTIONAL APPROACHES  
FINANCING LOW-COST HOUSING SCHEMES IN  
KENYA (115 PP)
- Published by UNHCS (Habitat) April 1983. Written in  
collaboration with Dr. (Mrs.) R.G. Kamau and E.A.  
Agevi.
- 1984
- INFLUENCE OF VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE  
ON LOW COST HOUSING (50 PP)
- Paper presented at "Built form and Culture Research  
Conference" - University of Kansas, Lawrence,  
U.S.A., 1984.
- 1985
- DESIGN ENGINEERING ASPECTS OF  
LOCAL BUILDING MATERIALS VULNERABILITY.  
DURABILITY AND AVAILABILITY (10 pp)
- A Paper presented at "Regional Workshop on  
Construction Materials. 17-21 June 1985, Kampala,  
Uganda.
- Published in CSC Technical Publication Series No.  
218 entitled Local Raw Materials for Housing  
Construction Africa.
- 1986
- A REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF  
SHELTER FOR EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA  
(163 PP) Published by IDRC-1986.
- 1987
- KENYAN ARCHITECT IS GENERALLY ROOTLESS  
(15 pp)
- An Article published in ARCHITECTURE, the official  
journal of the Architectural Association of Kenya.
- 1988
- DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF LOW COST  
BUILDING MATERIALS IN KENYA (63 PP)
- A paper presented at ARSO/CSC/UNCHS/UNIDO  
Workshop on "Formulation of Standards and  
Specifications for Local Building Materials", Nairobi  
16-24 March 1988.
- 1988
- a) HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
  - b) INFORMAL HOUSING
  - c) MASS HOUSING
  - d) THE ROLE OF THE ARCHITECT

Discussion papers published in the Architecture of Housing. Proceedings of an International Seminar sponsored by the Aga Khan Award Architects and the Association of Architects of Tanzania, held in Zanzibar, Tanzania, 12-15 October 1988.

- 1990 IN SEARCH FOR A DIRECTION IN KENYAN ARCHITECTURE "
- A report on an Architectural Exhibition held in Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library between 19-24 1990.
- 1996 IN SEARCH FOR A DIRECTION IN AFRICAN ARCHITECTURE
- A Manuscript on Theory of Architecture submitted to East African Education Publishers (EAEP) for publication in May 1996.
- 2004 TEACHING HISTORY AND THEORY OF ARCHITECTURE; PROPOSAL FOR ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACH (20 pp).
- Published in AFRICAN HABITAT REVIEW. The journal of The Built Environment 1st issue already in the internet.
- 2006 UNIVERSAL NATURE AS A LANGUAGE OF ARCHITECTURE (10 pp)
- Paper submitted to DISCOVERY AND INNOVATION -refereed journal. Awaiting response.
- 2006 ARCHISEMIOLOGY - THEORY OF MEANING IN ARCHITECTURE (150 pp)
- Manuscript for a textbook submitted 1p two publishers, awaiting response.

### **SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES ATTENDED**

- 1981 - Seminar on Architectural Education Role - on the Panel organized by GTZ and UNO.
- 1981 - Symposium on Contemporary Directions in Architecture. 'Multiple faces and individual choice'  
Role - on the panel - July 1981.
- 1981 - Commonwealth Association of Architects.

- Role - participant.
- 1981 seminar - GENIUS LOCI - Search for Local Identity on Architecture and Urban Planning. Role - participant - location Helsinki Finland.
  - 1983 for - "Symposium on Appropriate Building Materials for Low Cost Housing", organized by CIBA RILEM Nairobi-Nov. 1983.
  - 1985 Cost - "Regional Seminar on Spontaneous and Low Housing". Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Nov. 1985. Role - Chaired working sessions.
  - 1987 Building - "Project Identification meeting on Local Materials" sponsored by CSC/IDRC. Role - chaired opening session, Dec. 1987 - Nairobi.
  - 1988 - "Aga Khan Award for Architecture Seminar Zanzibar - October 1988 - Represented Department of Architecture.

### **FIELD SURVEYS AND RESEARCH 1979 -1989**

Conservation and Historical Studies of Lamu.

Physical surveys of Lamu main street. Civic Square, Typical House, County Council Building, Market Square and several mosques. Documentation in form of drawings donated to Museums of Kenya, a copy in departmental archives.

Conservation and Historical studies of old Mombasa Town. Physical surveys of the main street, Social League Building, Friday Mosque, several houses. Documentation in form of drawings exhibited in the professional centre and in the departments.

Contemporary Architecture - Ngong case studies, physical survey of typical house forms, settlement forms, building construction etc. Documentation in the form of drawings exhibited in the Department and at Nairobi Show.

Informal sector survey - Mathare case, physical survey of commercial street 'Kwamaiko'.

Analysis of physical form of stalls and the street, analysis of commercial patterns.

Documentation in the form of drawings exhibited in the department.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1977 - 1978/79      Appointed Tutorial Fellow, December 1977.

- (i)      Tutored Architectural Design in 3r year.
- (ii)     Assisted in History and Theory of Architectural Design Programmes and coordination of students' design development.
- (iii)    5thYear - Tutored 4 students in the following areas:-
  - (a)      Design Law Courts
  - (b)      Design of a Market
  - (c)      Crafts and Training Centres
  - (d)      Research Laboratories
- (iv)     Appointed Year Master - 3rd Year  
Duties - coordination of all lecture inputs.
  - (a)      Preparation and coordination of class  
Architectural DesignProjects.
  - (b)      Industrial Impact on the Kenyan Environment/A Shoe Factory in Voi.
  - (c)      Port Evolution in Time Perspective/Design Programmes. Conducted  
Urban Housing, Coastal Hotel Design and Premises for Undugu Societies  
projects, conducted two week study tutor at the Coast.
- (v)     4th Year Seminars - Conducted the following seminar based courses - History and  
Theory of Architecture.

Building Technology (v)      5th Year - Tutored 2 students in the

following topics:

- (a)      Contemporary Churches in Kenya, An Analysis of their    Spatial  
Form/Urban    Church    Complex Development, Buru Buru.
- (b) Interior    Designs    in    Coastal    Restaurants/Project Conference Centre -  
Mombasa Island.

June 1988 to1988/89      Appointed Chairman, Department of Architecture

- (i)      Chairman, Department of Architecture  
Coordination of Departmental Academic Programmes
- (ii)     Year Master - 5th Year Responsibilities  
  
Directing the entire class of 24 students in Thesis Project identification through

individual guidance in association with personal tutor scheduling heading interim Project Reviews for the class, assessment of the research part of the thesis and final grading.

- (iii) 5th Year tutoring specific tutors on the following research/project topics:-
  - (a) Analysis of neo-classical buildings in Nairobi Redevelopment of Kenya Theatre.
  - (b) Kikuyu Traditional Architecture, in search of New Direction/A Cultural Centre in Nyeri.
  - (c) Traditional African Architecture and its place in the Modern Context; Digo Case Study/Mombasa Beach Condominiums.

1989/90

- (i) Chairman, Department of Architecture  
Coordination of Departmental programmes.
- (ii) Year Master - 5th Year Class, Size 22.  
All duties as in 1988/89. Introduced comprehensive class seminars followed by final project proposals by students.
- (iii) Tutor to 2 students on the following Research/Project topics:
  - (a) Public open spaces and their use in shopping environments/redevelopment of a site along Lagos Road.
  - (b) The Architectural of Exhibition Spaces/Exhibition Centre in Nairobi.

1990/91 to 1991/92

1. Chairman, Department of Architecture
2. Year Master-5th Year.

1992/93

Sabbatical working on a Manuscript of Theory of Architecture. 1.

1993/94 to 1994/95

2. Chairman, Department of Architecture.  
Year Master - 5th Year.
3. Supervised three 5th year students on various Theory of Architecture topics in their research thesis.

1995/96 to

Personal tutor to 3 students in Theory of Architecture Research topics.

1997-2002

Taught Theory of Architecture and Architectural Design to 3rd years.

1998-2001 Supervised one M.Arch. Student in Architectural Design and lectured him in Theory of Design.

2002-2004

Taught Theory of Architecture to 3rd year. Taught Design Theory to four

M.Arch. Students.

2004 - 2006 Taught Theory of Architecture and Studio to 3rd years.

Taught History and Theory of Architecture to 5th years.

Taught Theory of Architectural Design to two M.Arch. students.

### **OTHER DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Departmental Examinations Officer, academic year 1986/87.

Coordinator of Teaching History and Theory of Architecture in the Department, 1987/88.

Chaired and directed all working sessions of the committee working on the

Revision of the B.Arch. Curriculum for the 8-4-4 for presentation to Senate -1988/89.

- Chaired and directed all working sessions of M.Arch. Curriculum Committee -M.Arch. Curriculum Approved by the Faculty, 1988/89.

Acting Chairman for a total of 7 months.

Chairman, Department of Architecture from 27th June 1988 to June 1995.

Coordinator of Studio Design Projects for 1st to 6th Years, Department of Architecture from 2002.

## **FACULTY RESPONSIBILITIES**

Member of the Committee that drew terms of reference of the Faculty Projects Office (FPO)

Faculty Representative to Senate, 1985/87.

- Member of the Faculty Projects Office Committee.

Dean, Faculty of Architecture, Design and Development from 18th July 2002.

## **COLLEGE RESPONSIBILITY**

1. Chaired the College Committee drawing terms of reference for promotions outside the establishment for Non-Academic Staff. Report submitted -1986.
2. Chaired several appointment committee meetings for Tutorial Fellows, Technical Staff in the departments of Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering and Surveying.

## **UNIVERSITY RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Chaired and appointment committee meeting for the appointment of a Caretaker.
2. Chaired an appointment committee meeting for the appointment of an Assistant Clerk of Works.
3. Member of University Staff Tenant Purchase Housing Scheme. Report submitted 1988/89.
4. Senate Representative on the University Building Committee from 1989.
5. Chairman of Committee working on A Masterplan for Kibwezi Dryland and Field Station - Completed.
6. Member of University Committee on Upper and Lower Kabete Development - ongoing.
7. Member of University Time Tabling Committee Today.
8. Member of Senate Committee on Cooking in the Halls of Residence, 2002.
9. Member of Senate Committee on Students Conduct, Discipline and Organization.



## **1. HOUSE FOR MR. MWANGI KAMBO - LARI**

### **CPK NGURE CHURCH**

RESEARCH THEME - The place of Ecclesiastical Architecture in our society. The problem of symbolism through form. Articulation of (space that evoke spiritual awe? Inception of Design- 1985. Construction 1985 to date.

RESEARCH DISSEMINATION - Site visit with students and Visiting Professors, Departmental Seminar. Exhibition during 25th Anniversary of Professional Societies, 1987.

### **HOUSE FOR MR. WACHIRA**

RESEARCH THEME - A house as a social counter form preservation of privacy gradients abstracted and synthesized for contemporary life. Development of contextually valid form Idioms through inspiration of the traditional house form. Inception 1987. Completion of construction - December 1988.

RESEARCH DISSEMINATION - Entered in SIMBARITE sponsored Architectural competition won HONORARY MENTION AWARD in Domestic Architecture class. Was exhibited together with other winning entries at the Hilton Hotel.

### **CPK KIAWAIREGI**

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RESEARCH THEME, Development of CPK Ngure. Application of Axial planning while attempting contextually valid ecclesiastical symbolism. Reinterpretation of the Christian church Nave and Apse. Further and more detailed development of space to evoke spiritual awe. Simplification of construction methods to suite rural humble circumstances. Inception 1985 - Under construction since May 1989.

Duration of Design process and Library research one year.

RESEARCH DISSEMINATION - Departmental seminars.

### **DAGORETTI MARKET**

RESEARCH THEME - Analysis of the co-existence of duality of informal and formal shopping in rural market place.

Articulation and reassertment of the vibrant atmosphere in rural market places while providing protection from the elements. Design 1987 - Construction to begin.

RESEARCH DISSEMINATION Public lecture at Goethe Institute.

## **6. KENYATTA UNIVERSITY NURSERY**

RESEARCH THEME - Development of Ideal learning environment for children that facilitates observation by University students studying Children Education

Psychology, The project attempted to evolve buildings which are unselfconscious and to the scale of children.  
Design 1986 -Construction to begin.

DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH - Exhibition at Professional Centre.

7. **HOUSE FOR MR. WARUINGI - NGONG**

RESEARCH THEME - Culturally valid space organization that accepts research theme of project 1. Use of contemporary architectural motifs while retaining spatial organization of a transitory culture.

8. **HOUSE FOR PROFESSOR D. NDETEI**

RESEARCH THEME - Image - An attempt at reusing traditional visual idioms by simultaneous decomposition and synthesis of the cone. Abstraction of visual climax to its essence to facilitate alternative articulation modalities. Further elaboration of the concept of Genius Loci. Further elaboration of the concept that a "building is a social counterform", in transitory culture.

RESEARCH DISSEMINATION - Lecture on contemporary directions of Kenya Architecture to 3rd year 1988/89 as part of History and Theory of Architecture courses.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Below are representative samples of my professional experience between 1978 to 2003:-

**PROJECT STAGE OF COMPLETION**

1. 15 Residential Houses - Construction completed
2. Block of flats (8 No.) Nairobi - Construction completed
3. 16 Maisonettes for University of Nairobi - Construction completed
4. Office partitioning for TSC (2 Floors) - Sketch proposal stage
5. Office extension for Pyrethrum Board of Kenya - Sketch proposal stage
6. Extension to Caltex House a 15 floor - Sketch proposal stage

development

7. Valley Road Apartment Hotel - Sketch proposal stage
8. 7 No. maisonettes Nairobi, Peponi Road - Sketch proposal stage
9. Proposed Hotel at Maua, Meru - Proposal stage
10. CPK Ngure Church Kiambu - Construction complete
11. Dormitory for Uthiru Secondary School - Under Construction
12. Proposed offices and shops for Kiambu – Working Drawings  
Murutani Company
13. Exhibition stands for Tech. & Tool during Women's Decade Celebrations - Construction complete
14. Laboratory and classroom extensions for French Embassy - Construction complete
15. Restaurant at Mtito Andei for Total Oil - Construction complete
16. Nursery School for Kenyatta University - Working Drawings
17. Dagoretti Market Redevelopment for Kiambu County Council - Bills of Quantities Ready
18. CPK Kiawairegi Muranga - Under Construction
19. Office block for KGGCU, Nakuru - Sketch Design
20. Office block for KGGCU, Nairobi - Sketch Design
21. New classroom block for French Embassy - Construction complete
22. Remodelling of Pwani Petrol Station for Total Oil - Working Drawings
23. Partitioning and Interior Design for Hans Seidal (A German Foundation) – Westlands Nairobi - Construction complete

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|-----|---|----------------------------|
| 24. | Depot for Kenya Power & Lighting Co. Ltd. at Nyeri          | - Design stage             |
| 25. | Commercial/Residential Development along Mombasa Road       | - Sketch Proposal          |
| 26. | Extension to Faculty of Architecture Design and Development | - Construction in progress |
| 27. | Chiromo Mortuary  | - Tender stage             |
| 27. | Town Houses for Evergreen Park Estate Kiambu Road 2005/2006 | - Working Drawings         |
| 28. | Headquarters for NWCP office block 2006.                    | - Working Drawings         |

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Corporate Member of Architects Chapter Association of Kenya Architects Chapter MAAK (A).

Founder and Corporate Member of Landscape Architecture Chapter of Architectural Association of Kenya MAAK (LA).

## **ACTIVITIES WITHIN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION**

1. Secretary to the Board of Architectural Education (BAE), 1982.
2. Member of the Board of Architectural Education, 1983 and 1984.
3. Chairman, Architecture Chapter of AAK, 1985 and 1986.
4. Council Member of AAK from 1985 to 1989.
5. AAK Council Representative for International Union of Architects UIA, 1985 and 1989.
6. Founder Member and Secretary to National Heritage, Secretary1

7. Currently Member of the Editorial Board of "ARCHITECTURE", The Official Journal of The Architectural Association of Kenya.
8. Delivered lecture on 'The Structure of the Building Industry in Kenya in 1989' to AAK qualifying Examination candidates.

### **PUBLIC LECTURES/EXHIBITIONS**

1. 'The Future Directions of Architecture in Kenya'  
Public lecture at Goethe Institute by invitation - 1986.
2. Artist in Kenya - Chaired a symposium at the Goethe Institute - 1986.
3. The Growth of the City in Developing Countries Public lecture at Goethe Institute by invitation -1989.
4. Exhibition of own work at The Professional Centre during thje 25th Anniversary celebrations of the Professional Society.

### **MEMBER OF COMPETITION JURIES**

1. Competition on Low Cost Housing - organized by AAK on behalf of Ministry of Public Works -by invitation, 1986.
2. Competition for PTA Headquarters, Zambia - Adjudication of Kenya Entry -1989 - by invitation.

### **EXTRA CURRICULA ACTIVITIES**

#### **1. STUDYING AND WRITING POETRY, READING AND STUDYING THE CLASSICAL NOVEL**

Poetry is an artform which is close to architecture. I have made efforts to bring this out in the department and more - particularly in the development of 8-4-4 curriculum. In development studies (iii) the department with my persuasion choose language, literature art and music option. Favourite authors Pushkin and Shakespeare. I have read extensively on the African Novel and also European, English and Russian classics.

#### **2. STUDYING AND DISCUSSING PHILOSOPHY**

Enjoys reading classical philosophers, Plato, Socrates, Aristotle, Epicurus, etc., both ionic and stoic brands of classical philosophy.

Enjoys reading and studying 18th/! 9th Century philosophers especially their analysis of the process of inquiry, the dialectical process as superior to the logical process as postulated by philosophers such as Hegel.

Familiar with European philosophers Kierkegaard, and Martin Heidegger and their writings on the theory of place. These philosophers are particularly important to Architecture.

Familiar with existentialism movement and writings of Jean Paul Sartre Simone De Beauvoir, Camus, Kafka, etc.

My interests in Prose/Poetry in literature and philosophy has won me many friends in the Departments of Literature and Philosophy.

### **3. ANTHROPOLOGY**

Have opened up discussions on collaborative work with Institute of African Studies. At the moment familiarizing myself with Theory of Cultural Anthropology with reviews of authors such as Levi Strauss, Durkheim, etc.

### **4. ART AND CRAFTS**

Attends many art exhibitions within Nairobi. Investigating how fine art can be integral to buildings. Have held many discussions with members of Kenya Art Society on this issue.

Have a keen interest in traditional crafts and how they can be integrated into architecture. At the moment assisting two primary school children train in traditional Kamba curving at Gikomba, Nairobi.

### **5. SWIMMING**

Swims for leisure and physical exercise. Participated in 1988 Ministry of Works Swimming Gala. Took 4th position in breaststroke for men over 35 years.

### **6. FARMING**

Takes keen interest in farming. Involved in experiments in bio-farming and appropriate technology methods in cultivation.

