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DESIGN COMPETITION FOR THE MODIFICATION & REFURBISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS OF KENYA

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JURY REPORT

MARCH 2004

DESIGN COMPETITION FOR THE MODIFICATION & REFURBISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS OF KENYA

JURY REPORT

PREAMBLE

The history of the present National Assembly Buildings can be traced to pre-independence days with the deliberations of the famous Lancaster House Constitutional Conference of the early 1960s.

This led to the Macleod Constitution, which was signed on 12th February 1960 with provision for 77 Members of the Legislative Council.

A second Lancaster House Constitutional Conference held in 1962 led to a parliament of

- Upper House (Senate) with 41 Members each representing a district.
- Lower House (House of Representatives) comprising 117 Members elected from constituencies and 12 specially elected Members.

Later developments led to a house comprising

- 210 Elected Members
- 12 Nominated Members
- 2 Ex-officio Members

Construction of the extension of Parliament Buildings was completed in November 1965 with a Chamber to accommodate 158 Members based on a layout and procedures of the House of Commons in Britain.

Following the revision of constituency boundaries by the Electoral Commission of Kenya, the number of Members of Parliament increased to 224. This has obviously brought with it several logistical challenges for both members and staff of the National Assembly. It has therefore been found necessary to modify and re-furbish the Chambers of the National Assembly, the objectives of which are summarized below.

1.00 THE COMPETITION

1.10 The Objectives

- To accommodate the increase in number of Members of Parliament.
- To modify the current layout of the Chamber together with the necessary services.
- To give the chambers a sense of dignity and symbolic importance befitting its national status.
- To provide innovative technical solutions for electronic voting, transmission and recording of the deliberations in the chamber through television and radio broadcasts.
- To provide an internal environment of highest standards for human safety and comfort.

1.20 The Brief

- To remodel the current seating arrangement to create space for 300 Members of Parliament. Each seat to have provision for a member to follow, contribute and vote on the deliberations in the chamber through state-of-the-art technology and facilities.
- To re-design the chamber for television & radio broadcasting of both House and Committee proceedings through a Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) system covering Parliament Buildings, Continental House and County Hall.
- To re-design the ablution areas in response to the increase in numbers.
- To re-design the air-conditioning & lighting systems for maximum efficiency and thermal comfort & audio-visual adequacy.
- To provide an interior décor that captures the historical, anthropological, environmental and cultural diversity & richness of Kenya.
- To provide a digitized recording & transcription system for the House & Committee deliberations.
- To provide detailed designs and specifications for the necessary digital, audio-visual equipment required for recording and broadcasting of the House and Committee proceedings.
- To re-model the Chambers in such a manner that the structural stability & safety and external facade of Parliament Buildings is not altered in any way or form. The National Assembly of Kenya is a protected building under the National Monuments Act. (Cap. 21 of the Laws of Kenya)

1.30 Eligibility

The competition was open to consortiums of professionals who provide the following services;

- Architectural & Interior Design
- Electrical & Electronic Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Lighting & Acoustic Design
- Structural Engineering

A pre-qualification exercise for interested firms was undertaken by placement of an advertisement in the local print media requesting for Expression of Interest in the project. 7-50/00 firms were thereafter short-listed and requested to submit proposals through a Design Competition. Detailed guidelines and instructions to competitors is contained in the Request for Proposals document prepared by the National Assembly of Kenya in liaison with the Ministry of Roads Public Works & Housing.

2.00 THE JURY

The following served as ^{as the :-} Jury members

1. Hon. David M. Musila
Deputy Speaker, Kenya National Assembly
2. Hon. Moses Akaranga
Parliamentary Service Commission & Member of Parliament
3. Hon. Eng. E.O. Nyamunga
Member of Parliament
4. Hon. Njoki Ndung'u
Member of Parliament
5. Arch. Phillip Kungu
Consulting Architect &
Immediate Past President
Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA)
6. Arch. David Mutiso ^{Physical Planner}
Consulting Architect
7. Arch. Philip O. Sika
Chief Architect
Ministry of Roads Public Works & Housing
8. Eng. Mbiyu Kimani ^{Engineer Structure}
Chief Structural Engineer
Ministry of Roads Public Works & Housing
9. Eng. W.R. Okubo
Chief Electrical & Mechanical Engineer (BS)
Ministry of Roads Public Works & Housing
10. QS Vincent B. Walubayi
Chief Quantity Surveyor
Ministry of Roads Public Works & Housing

Hon. David M. Musila was elected ^{the} by jurors to serve as Chairman of the Jury.

The jury elected Hon. David M. Musila

3.00 ADJUDICATION

3.10 Receipt of Proposals

The Proposals were received and opened on 24th March 2004 at County Hall by officials of the Competition Secretariat in the presence of representatives from all the ^{SEVEN} invited firms.

3.20 Evaluation Procedure

The Jury agreed unanimously to adopt the following procedure;

- The proposals would be evaluated through a set of criteria derived from the Terms of Reference for the Competition
- All Jury decisions would be by consensus

3.30 Evaluation Criteria

The Jury agreed to apply the following criteria and marking scheme;

COMPLIANCE WITH BRIEF REQUIREMENTS 15 Points

- Model
- Drawings
- Perspective Illustration(s)
- Design Report (Hard & Soft copies)
- Financial Proposal
- Anonymous Envelope

DESIGN FACTORS 40 Points

- Concept
- Functionality
- Form & Scale
- Interior Design
- Aesthetics/Style/Language
- Response to Gender & Disabled persons needs

TECHNOLOGICAL FACTORS 30 Points

- Audio-Visual systems & facilities
- Recording & transcription (Hansard)
- Television & Radio Broadcasting
- Electronic Voting
- Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)
- Digitized Public Address System
- Lighting Design
- Acoustic Design
- Thermal Comfort Design
- Safety & Security
- Construction/Materials/Systems

SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS 10 Points

- Symbolism
- Texture
- Colour
- Imagery

PRESENTATION 5 Points

- Neatness
- Clarity

3.40 Evaluation Sessions

The Jury held its evaluation sessions in two stages ^{between} from 24th – 29th March 2004. A Briefing Meeting and Site Visit to the Chamber ~~in question~~ preceded the sessions.

STAGE ONE

This was to receive and verify that all Proposals submitted met the Terms of Reference stated in the Request for Proposals document. All were inspected for general and specific compliance with requirements of the brief.

The Jury observed the following;

- Proposal Serial No. 4 failed to observe ^{conditions} instructions requiring anonymity of the competitor by displaying the identity and trademark of their firm on the drawings .
- Proposal Serial No. 5 failed to observe ^{conditions} instructions on anonymity of the competitor by the Project Report bearing the official stamp and signature of the Principal of the firm.
- Proposal Serial No. 7 failed to observe instructions relating to the National Monuments Act prohibiting the interference or alteration of the external façade in any manner or form by proposing the construction of a completely new structure adjacent to the Chamber in question.

In accordance with the ^{Terms of Reference} explicit instructions to all competitors, the Jury ^{decided} unanimously agreed to disqualify ^{the} the above competitors under clause 4.1 on Adjudication. The Jury ^{therefore} therefore instructed withdrew the said Proposals from any further consideration.

STAGE TWO

As required by instructions ^{condition} to the Jury, each juror ^{and} examined each of the remaining ^{to} ~~proposals~~ ^{four} by evaluating all materials submitted (Drawings, Model, Project Report) and awarded ^{to} a mark for each proposal. ^{findings of the jury each juror}

This was followed by deliberations on the same, at the end of which the Jury unanimously agreed on the following winners;

- First Prize Serial No. 3
- Second Prize Serial No. 6
- Third Prize Serial No. 1

The Jury ^{decided to} opened the anonymity envelopes ^{which} to reveal the identities of the winners ^{competitors} and further deliberated on the Honoraria to be paid to the winners and unanimously agreed as follows;

- First Prize

K&M ARCHPLANS to receive KSh. 500,000

- Second Prize

TECTURA INTERNATIONAL to receive KSh. 300,000

- Third Prize

SYMBION to receive KSh. 200,000

^{decided not to award any honoraria to}
The Jury also unanimously agreed that KENCHUAN ARCHITECTS be paid a honorarium of KSh. 25,000 in recognition of their effort in the competition.

conclusions &

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

Parliamentary Service Commission

- 4.10 The Jury noted with appreciation the decision of the Kenya National Assembly to procure the best design for this significant project. This should be encouraged by other Government departments and agencies as it provides an equal opportunity for consultants to offer the best of their intellectual, technical and professional abilities to clients seeking excellence in such endeavours.
- 4.20 The Jury noted that current Government rules do not include Design Competitions as a means of procuring projects particularly of this kind of nature. The Jury recommends that current rules be reviewed to be in accordance with internationally accepted practice and standards as contained in International Union of Architects (UIA) and UNESCO rules for Architectural Competitions.
- 4.30 The Jury noted that submission of Financial Proposals in such Design Competitions added no significant value in determining the best proposal. They should only be considered during the negotiations with the project consultants as provided for in GOK procurement rules.
- 4.50 The Jury noted with appreciation that this project is a joint effort of professionals, Kenya National Assembly and Ministry of Roads Public Works & Housing. This is useful in ensuring that all aspects of the project receive the required attention and action. The Jury observed that it provides an avenue for positive engagement with local professionals.
- 4.60 The Jury recommends that the Project Team consisting of the client, consultants and Ministry of Roads Public Works & Housing be afforded an opportunity to visit similar chambers internationally in an effort to add value to both process and product.
- 4.70 The Jury noted with satisfaction the high standards of presentation and quality of work exhibited by the participants in this competition. It is an indication that local professionals are capable of competing favourably with their international colleagues in such competitions.
- 4.80 The Jury noted with appreciation and compliments the competition promoter for setting aside monies to be paid out as honoraria to participants in recognition of the great effort put in preparing the proposals to achieve the highest standards possible.

process

5.00 JURY CITATIONS

FIRST PRIZE

WINNER – K&M ARCHPLANS

The design is a clear demonstration of the author's understanding of the history and workings of the parliament system. The use of case studies drawn from different parliamentary traditions is a manifestation of a deep understanding of the evolving nature, role and place of parliaments in a rapidly changing democracies such as is the case in Kenya.

The design displays an admirable grasp of the complex issues of design, technological advancement and socio-cultural factors that are critical in a building of considerable national and political significance as Parliament.

Great concern for gender issues and specific needs of persons with physical and visual challenges are specific examples. The Jury noted with appreciation the innovative proposal to install a language interpretation system that will allow access to the proceedings in the chamber to be followed in several national and ethnic languages of Kenya.

The quality of interior space greatly enhances the role and place of our Parliament as a forum 'for the welfare of society and just government of men' Reference to the symbolism, texture, colour and imagery in the décor is a constant reminder of the richness and diversity of Kenyan society.

SECOND PRIZE

WINNER – TECTURA INTERNATIONAL

This is a brave attempt at interpreting the Kenya nation with the Court of Arms, National Flag, traditional elements drawn from a diverse range of Kenyan cultures as a reference point.

The rationale of literal use of the shield and colours of the National Flag as organizing principles in the functional layout of the chamber is somewhat doubtful as it displays inherent limitations. The symbolic importance and visual access to and from the Speaker's podium appears to have been compromised by the apparent overemphasis on the location of the Dispatch Box.

The contradiction of orientation of the seating layout of the chamber and the galleries in the upper floor and lack of symbolic or ornamental features in the interior space have regrettably compromised an otherwise gallant attempt at interpreting the requirements of the brief.

THIRD PRIZE

WINNER – SYMBION

The author's stated intention of providing a pragmatic, practical working environment for parliamentarians is regrettably not underpinned by an underlying philosophy or principle given the symbolic importance of the buildings.

The solution provides for a seating layout that is in conflict with the strong axis from the chamber entrance to the Speaker's chair. The 'side entrance' approach to the chamber has clearly compromised the symbolic 'strength' of both the chamber and position of the Speaker in it. Formality and symbolism are critical elements in the functions and imagery of the chambers.

A commendable attempt has otherwise been made to use fabrics, motifs, artifacts and elements of the National Flag and Court of Arms to adorn the interior space of the chamber. This serves as a constant reminder of our heritage as a nation.

SIGNED

Hon. David M. MusilaChairman

Hon. Moses AkarangaMember

Hon. Eng. E.O. NyamungaMember

Hon. Njoki Ndung'uMember

Arch. Phillip Kungu Member

Arch. David Mutiso Member

Arch. Philip O. Sika Member

Eng. Mbiyu Kimani Member

Eng. W.R. Okubo Member

QS Vincent B. Walubayi Member

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