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ISHMAEL MOSINYI

Botswana is a land-locked, semi-arid and relatively flat country in southern Africa. It was predominantly a farming nation until the discovery of diamonds in the late 1960s. This catapulted this peace-loving nation into relative prosperity. The people of Botswana celebrate peace, rain, the sun and its nurturing effect, the land - its colour and all that comes from it, the wildlife and flora around them, and their forefathers who worked hard to build the country. In short, the people of Botswana celebrate life. It is this celebration of life that they house and embody when they build or create.

Ishmael Mosinyi (M.Arch.98) received a scholarship from his home country to study architecture in Canada; at that point in time Botswana had no school of architecture in place. When he completed his studies at Dalhousie he returned to Botswana with a quest to help build the architectural profession there. He had always been aware of the role he would play upon his return home and had started his service to the community at various schools in North Preston, Nova Scotia. It was this small contribution that would have the most profound and defining impact upon his architectural practice. He has consequently dedicated his efforts to a pioneering role in neglected areas of the profession that is still in its infancy in Botswana.

His return home was punctuated with an exhibition entitled *KAGO* at the national museum (Kago means the art of building in his mother tongue, Setswana). Here, five graduates showcased their work with the premise of inspiring young aspiring architects. As a result of the exhibition, Ishmael began working with the Department of Student Placement and Welfare in the Ministry of Education to help prepare prospective students of architecture for various programs worldwide. He also volunteered his time teaching architectural communications to other students in Botswana. Today, he continues to pursue his passion in community building in Botswana, working closely with his mentors **Essy Baniassad** and **Grant Wanzel**.

Ishmael was a participant in the development of the architectural programme at the University of Botswana. His input and dedication to its establishment resulted in his appointment as a part-time teaching assistant when the programme finally commenced in 2003.

In addition to his part-time teaching, Ishmael is currently a partner at KMM Architects. Established in early 1982, KMM Architects is one of the oldest architectural firms in Botswana. The company has designed and administered the construction of many government and private projects, notably the National Stadium in the capital city of Gaborone, Botswana Power Corporation Training Centre, numerous magistrate's courts and educational facilities. In his service to the community he is currently involved in the design of a new wing for the UCCSA church in Shoshong, a historic village in central Botswana.

Ishmael is dedicated to his profession and strives to build a sound architectural community in Botswana. He is an active member of the Architects Association of Botswana and has been instrumental in building a link between the University programme and the Association. In early 2005, he was invited back to Dalhousie to run a weeklong design workshop involving a number of Botswana students. This was one of his continuing efforts to build bridges between well-established programmes around the world and the University of Botswana.

On a more personal level, Ishmael married a wonderful and beautiful Tanzanian lady, Linda Ann, in 2002. He can be reached at ish.kmm@botsnet.bw



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