

TECH (++) HUB:

expanding the influence of tech industry development in Africa and Seattle

2013 Emerging Professionals Travel Grant Proposal . Stefan Kaiser

PROPOSAL:

I am interested in researching the potential for growing technology infrastructure to positively influence urban communities and the natural environment.

When I say 'technology' I am referring primarily to the Internet, the devices for accessing the Internet and the system that supports Internet users. Although in the United States reliable Internet access is commonplace, there are many countries where technology use is a luxury. Local governments in Kenya, Botswana and Ghana are all working to position themselves for continued technology growth in order to foster new economic expansion. The efforts of these organizations to build new technology hubs can set an example for similar projects in Seattle and the Pacific Northwest.

The presence of companies like Microsoft and Amazon in Seattle has cultivated an image of a tech-savvy city. While some have shown interest in designing new projects that influence the community (such as NBBJ's and Amazon's Biodome project) there has been little study on the broader urban significance of these areas and what opportunities exist to integrate the technology hubs with the existing culture centers, gastronomic destinations and local parks and waterways.

By visiting these sites in Africa I will be able to meet with some of the people responsible for the vision and development of projects that integrate technology, conservation and community outreach. I will talk with them about their strategies for leveraging technology to expand economic growth and how they propose to integrate their new system with existing communities and natural landscapes. Konza Tech City in Kenya will include 30 hectares of urban parks in addition to a large wildlife corridor along the southern boundary of the site. The plans will safeguard the unique ecology of the Savannah and simultaneously promote accessibility to Kenya's diverse habitats.

The Pacific Northwest is often regarded as a leader in environmental awareness and conservation. As the technology market expands to include more people and space it will be imperative to consider how to provide protection for the natural environment and provide healthy space for communities.



Konza Tech City, Kenya



Botswana Innovation Hub, Botswana



HOPE City, Ghana



PROJECTS AND SITES:

Konza Tech City Nairobi, Kenya

The Konza Tech City plans to become a global technology hub that will advance technology spending and growth in Kenya. Phase 1 (2013-2017) includes 16 million sf of real estate development and is expected to attract 50,000 residents and workers through high quality urban design. By 2030, Konza will provide almost 100,000 jobs and will feature a Central Business District, a university campus, a residential community and numerous parks and conservation areas.

Project - Konza Tech City
Location - South of Nairobi, Kenya
Strategy - Integrated Master Plan

Contact - Miriam Rahedi
Deputy Director of
Marketing

Botswana Innovation Hub Gaborone, Botswana

The Botswana Innovation Hub is a center for development in Gaborone, Botswana with focus areas in Biotechnology, Energy & the Environment, Information & Communication Technologies (ICT), and Mining Technologies. The focal point of the Hub is to provide state-of-the art buildings and facilities to attract domestic, regional and global companies to locate business as well as research and development activities within the Park, and promote technology-based innovation and entrepreneurship. This is anticipated to create downstream job creation in new manufacturing and services enterprises.

Project - Botswana Innovation Hub
Location - Gaborone, Botswana
Strategy - Private Growth

Contact - Kago Kgosietsile
Properties Team

HOPE City Accra, Ghana

Hope City is an acronym for Home Office People Environment. The project will provide work spaces for 50,000 people and housing for 25,000. The towers are linked through a system of bridges that connects public amenity spaces. The towers are intended to promote a sense of community around the central open space. Construction began in June 2013 and will continue through 2016.

Project - Hope City
Location - Accra, Ghana
Strategy - Vertical Density

Contact - TBD

OUTCOMES:

The lessons from my research will be categorized into economic impact, environmental impact, and social/community impact.

Economic - Africa is poised for a significant expansion of real estate development. In particular the technology sector projects are a direct connection to similar development in the Pacific Northwest. My visit will evaluate how this expansion has translated to adjacent economic growth. In other words, I would like to see if and how other businesses are attracted to Africa because of these technology hubs.

Environmental - The technology centers in Africa are new projects, and like any large scale architectural project the environmental impact must be evaluated. In these project sites, the environment is directly related to the cultural history of each region and represents the primary source of tourism. Even though areas in Seattle will not be displacing wildebeest migration paths, there should be further steps taken to engage the environment through research and education. Through my project I will propose strategies for companies to use their technological resources to facilitate a new connection with their environments. These interventions could occur on many scales from that of an individual information kiosk to fully integrated urban masterplan design.

Social/Community - How can the Seattle tech industry be rooted in its community? Instead of the campuses being next to residential/commercial areas is there a way that they can become integrated and linked? In the same way that the Storefront for Art and Architecture presents a window to the public is there some potential to invite a cross pollination between the local community and these businesses? I think there is.

PRESENTATION:

My research will provide a different perspective on pertinent issues that confront the architecture and design profession in Seattle and the Pacific Northwest. I will document my experience with photographs and sketches of the sites and neighboring communities. I will also create an exhibition to showcase my work that could be shown at locations throughout Seattle.

ITINERARY AND BUDGET:

My current plan is to travel for two weeks at the end of May 2014 or beginning of June 2014. I would purchase a multi-city round trip ticket to the cities nearest the project sites.

Round-trip flight from SEA \$3000 - \$4000

Nairobi, Kenya

Room for 4 nights -	\$100
Food -	\$100
Guide -	\$100
Travel Visa -	\$50

Accra, Ghana

Room for 4 nights -	\$100
Food -	\$100
Guide -	\$200
Contingency -	\$100
Travel Visa -	\$50

Gabarone, Botswana

Room for 4 nights -	\$100
Food -	\$100
Guide -	\$200
Contingency -	\$100
Travel Visa -	\$50

Total \$4450 - \$5450

Image Sources:

- a) <http://www.konzacity.co.ke/> (SHOP Architects)
- b) <http://www.bih.co.bw/index.php> (SHOP Architects)
- c) <http://www.rlgghana.com/index.php/2013-02-07-11-25-04.html> (OBR Architects)

TECH (++) HUB:

The influence of tech industry development in San Fran, Nairobi,
Kansas City and Seattle

2014 AIA Seattle Travel Grant Proposal . Stefan Kaiser

THESIS

My proposal will study the potential for tech-businesses to foster economic growth among other business sectors, promote diverse local communities and ensure the protection of the environment.

SITES: SAN FRANCISCO, CA NAIROBI, KE KANSAS CITY, KS

**MY PROPOSAL IS NOT ABOUT DENSITY
ITS ABOUT INCLUSIVE vs EXCLUSIVE**

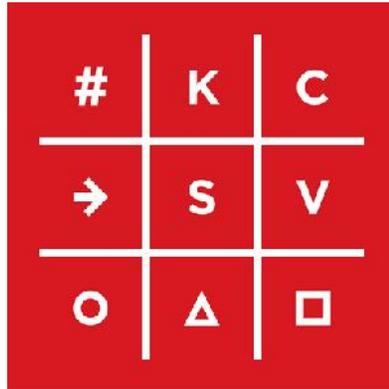


New Twitter Headquarters on Market Street in San Francisco

sf.citi ();







SEATTLE (++)



COMMUNITY EVENTS
INCORPORATION



ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVOCACY



LOCAL BUSINESS
EXPANSION

**AFFECTING POLICY MAKERS BEGINS WITH
A SYMPOSIUM WITH DIVERSE ATTENDEES**



SYMPOSIUM

