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DREAM IT  
LIVE IT

# SPEKTRA

Africa's No.1 Design Build Monthly Newsletter

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SPEKTRA GLOBAL

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## THE CEO'S THOUGHTS

"Design should meet the client's need and be sympathetic to the environment."

**William Evans Halm (a.g.i.a)**



# POWER START 2020



“Power Start” is an annual workshop organized by Spektra Global for all staff of the company at the start of each year. This year’s edition was held at the City Escape Hotel, Prampram, on 8th and 9th February, 2020 with facilitators from Leaders and Mentors.

The objective of the workshop, which was centered on Leadership, was to equip staff with Leadership skills to fit into any leadership role, both inside and outside the organization. Topics treated included Dynamics of Leadership, Understanding Influence, Leadership and communication styles.

Staff filled out some self-assessment tools to help identify their leadership and communication styles and behaviors in a team setting. There were also some icebreaker activities that created fun while learning.

At the end of the Leadership sessions, the CEO took staff through the vision, mission and values of the organization and the company’s objectives for the year 2020.



## PROJECT OF THE MONTH

# OLD FADAMA REDEVELOPMENT

According to records, Ghana has close to 2 million housing deficit, for which various successive governments and institutions have made various efforts to reduce. In comes the Fadama housing development, a proposed project that seeks to add over 10,000 new housing units.

The project is on a 300 acre land with the aim to revamp into a well designed town. Currently 5% of the site is occupied by squatters and slums. An existing stream occupies a land area of 43.06 acres. Thus this project proposes to change the existing slum scenery of Old Fadama.

The proposed 188 acre development consists of over 10,000 housing units of 2 and 3 bedroom apartments. The requisite ancillary facilities to ensure an efficient and delightful neighbourhood living experience have also been incorporated in the design.

An additional 1500 plus 4 bedroom houses, have also been created. A large tract of greenery has been infused into the neighbourhoods with the sole aim of rejuvenating the health of the inhabitants and giving them an outlet for recreation and relaxation, while maintaining a good greenery ratio.

# INSPIRATION FOR CREATION

## TIPS ON HIRING AN ARCHITECT

### TIPS ON HIRING AN ARCHITECT 01



Ask for recommendations. Meet up with the recommended architect(s) to determine whether he/she is a good fit and can work on your project.

### TIPS ON HIRING AN ARCHITECT 02



#### CONSIDER THE EXPERIENCE OF YOUR ARCHITECT

The experience of an architect is the next thing to consider when hiring one. Is the architect experienced in the project you seek to undertake; whether commercial project or private?  
What similar projects has he/she worked on previously?

### TIPS ON HIRING AN ARCHITECT 03



#### CHECK THE ARCHITECT'S TRACK RECORD

Note: An architect with a good track record is your best bet for the job against one with bad records

Checking your architect's track record is very important. It's vital to find out how they respond to situations, their delivery time and how creative they are amongst other things.

### TIPS ON HIRING AN ARCHITECT 04



#### HOW MUCH DOES AN ARCHITECT COST?

It is unlikely for an architect to give a quote on the first day since understanding what exactly a client want is key to determining the cost of the service to be rendered. Every quote is different and is based on the clients' needs.



## THE POWER OF CONSISTENCY

Are you the kind of person who starts off strong but can't find the motivation to finish with the same focused effort? Do you find yourself beginning a massive project only to let it taper off and fade away in the background?

Sometimes it seems like the things we do day to day don't have a large impact on the overall picture. However, small steps have the power to help us reach bigger goals, when you continue to consistently make these small actions.

Let me tell you a true story about a young woman named Angela. When she started on her book, she sat down to write every day. Often, she wouldn't get much accomplished. Some days she would just sit at her keyboard, writing what felt like nonsense. Other days the words flowed easily. On average she wrote between 250 and 300 words a day, not even a full-length article. One day she looked down and realized she'd written a total of 90,000 words. She was shocked! Her work added up and the first draft of her book was complete.

Although 200-250 words a day did not seem like a lot of progress, the fact was she consistently wrote every single day for a year, and that's what helped her accomplish her goal. And that kind of determination is the power of consistency. Think about it: is there something you can spend a small amount of time each day working on? If yes, a year from now, what will you have accomplished?

Being consistent allows us to work our creative muscles. When you're doing something every day, it becomes a habit that gets progressively easier. Regular practice helps us to optimize our skills over time. Consistency builds trust and helps others to believe in us, knowing that we'll show up.

Whether it's a weekly blog post, monthly newsletter or follow-up calls with clients, you can make it happen. Consistent follow-through gives you the power to accomplish great things by sticking with them day in and day out.

Your challenge is to choose an ambitious goal that feels worthwhile, break it into manageable pieces or a regular routine, and follow through. Let us know what you choose, and how far your consistent effort takes you!

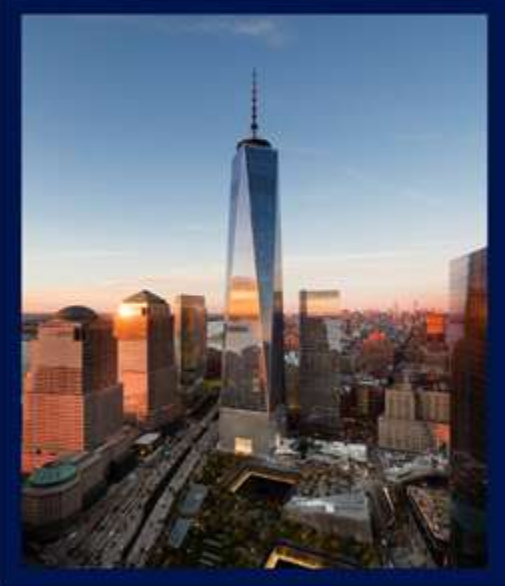
# ICONIC BUILDING OF THE MONTH

## ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER

is the tallest skyscraper in the Western Hemisphere. Construction began in April 2006 and the final component of the building's spire was installed seven years later in 2013, making it the fourth tallest skyscraper in the world.

The One World Trade Center's design is rich with symbolism, iconic geometry and intricate engineering. Standing tall at 1,776 feet (541m) the building's height pays respect to the US Declaration of Independence in the year 1776.

Designed by David M Childs of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, the 104-story glass tower rises from a cube base before transforming from the 20th floor into eight sleek isosceles triangles.





# AN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF GHANA

*Architecture in the Gold Coast, now Ghana, from the historic past, comprises of traditional buildings of various designs and construction on one hand, and on the other hand by European, Asian, and Middle East typologies, such as castles, forts, roads, railways, churches, schools, hospitals, residential buildings, et cetera. Colonization of the country (1843) accelerated the physical development of the country. For example, the construction of the Takoradi Harbor, Achimota School, and the Korle-Bu hospital by Governor Guggisberg, a surveyor, marks a significant watershed in the country's socio-economic development.*

## **SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, KUMASI COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Charles I Hobbies and a team of architects mainly British were established at the College of Technology in 1958. The first batch of students included 2 females. A group of 11 students, including 8 Architects, were sent to the U.K. for graduate studies at the Architectural Association School in London, Nottingham and Birmingham respectively.

## **POST INDEPENDENCE**

Post-independence Ghana, beginning in March 1957, was characterized by massive socio-economic and industrial development. Several secondary schools and training colleges were built in the countryside. The industrial city with a Harbor was built at Tema and connected to Accra by a 20 mile motorway. Hotels were to be built in Tema, Accra, Takoradi and Kumasi. Housing was given priority attention by the Housing Co-operation.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL CONSULTANCY FIRMS**

The first indigenous firm of architects in the country was Associated Consultants comprising of engineers and two locally trained architects who had graduated with Masters Degrees in architecture at the K.N.U.S.T in persons of Architect D.S.K. Kpodotay and S.G. T. Kofi (deceased).. The training of Architects in the country is no longer the monopoly on K.N.U.S.T. as some established universities have started the training of architects.



*Sirigu Huts, Northern Region, Ghana*



*Typical Ceiling of A Mud Hut, Ghana*



*Besease Shrine, Ashanti Region*



*Balme Library, University of Ghana*



Y J X T Y X T K K C W J E Q X  
N G U C W Q S P Q I W B H V I  
Z L F J E R I Q R J D O U D C  
Q Z L S H A N G H A I G R U N  
L P T M M K Y H O L P S S L K  
A Z G E S Q T O Y K S U Z X H  
N T A I P E I N U V O S V H A  
R F T H A H C G B R M V Y W U  
F Q J T M B K K J K A R S Y F  
U U P H K Y R O V O L C C Q S  
C V I D I Z O N O Z N S S A W  
R F F I D F Y G X D I X Y C G  
C C L F G B W Z H J P Q C C J  
B L M D I S E T D U B A I E F  
Z G J N B M N V E F P G I M Y

Can you find the cities with  
the world's tallest skyscrapers?

DUBAI  
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NEW YORK  
CITY  
TAIPEI  
SHANGHAI  
HONG KONG



#### ABOUT THE EDITOR

Karen Evans Halm is an architect and an associate of the Ghana Institute of Architects with over a decade's experience in the field, specializing in Interior Design and Landscape Architecture. She is also the co-founder of Spektra Global



CITY CONSTRUCTION  
& PROPERTY AWARDS



CHAMBER  
BUSINESS AWARD

*Hurray!!*

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WINS 2 AWARDS IN ONE YEAR!!

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66

The best time to plant a tree  
was 20 years ago. The second  
best time is now.

-Chinese Proverb



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