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DREAM IT.
LIVE IT.

SPEKTRA

Africa's No.1 Design Build Monthly Newsletter

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
(IN RETROSPECT)

PROJECT OF THE MONTH

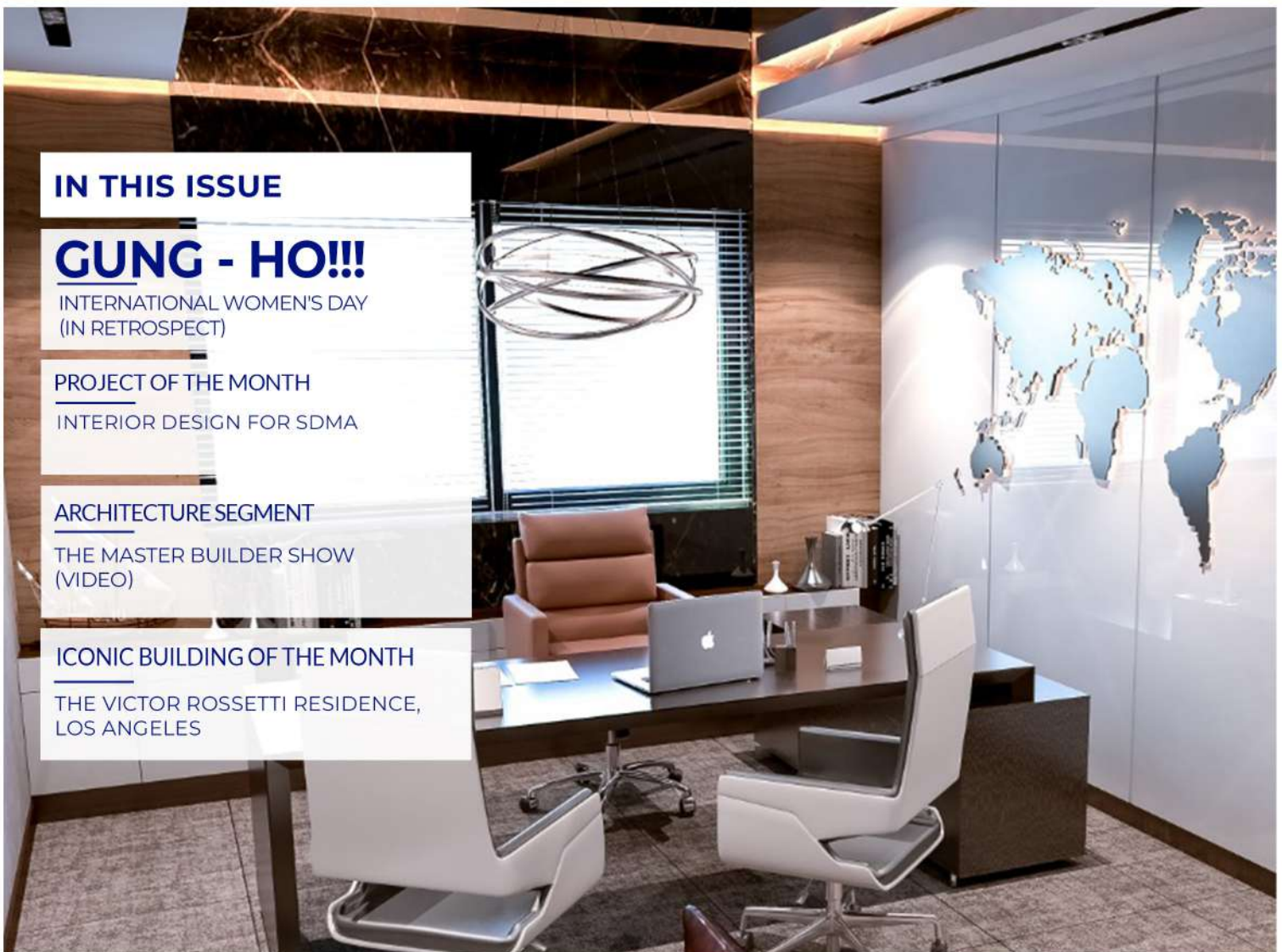
INTERIOR DESIGN FOR SDMA

ARCHITECTURE SEGMENT

THE MASTER BUILDER SHOW
(VIDEO)

ICONIC BUILDING OF THE MONTH

THE VICTOR ROSSETTI RESIDENCE,
LOS ANGELES



THE CEO'S THOUGHTS

"There are 360 degrees, so why stick to one?"

- Zaha Hadid

- William Evans Halm (A.G.I.A)



GANG-HO

International Women's day

On International Women's Day, our COO hosted and interacted with students from the Department of Architecture of Central University.

She shared with them ways of excelling in the field of architecture even with all the hurdles that come with life.

Some of the nuggets of wisdom she shared with these students include:

Building their technical competence by consistently sharpening their saw

Plan their lives according to the stages and practically building on it

Build useful relationships and choose their marriage partners with wisdom





PROJECT OF THE MONTH

Interiors for SDMA

Uplifting the brand and projecting their corporate identity.

This design covered the brand establishment through design. The scope, the reception area, the CEO's suite and general offices were all designed to impact the company's culture.



HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

THE MASTER BUILDER SEGMENT

PART 1

When many people come to us with various projects, from residential, to commercial, hospitality, and so on and so forth, one of the top questions on their minds is, how much will it cost?

SOME OF THE THINGS YOU NEED TO CONSIDER INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

LIMIT EXPENDITURE

One of the first things you'll want to do is to know the limit of your expenditure. - your maximum guarantee price. Usually, you do that in relation with your design build architect. The design build architect has the capacity because of his experience in both design and construction to help you to set the maximum limit of your budget. Your budget has to be realistic; you may have a lot of ideas but you need to put cost to your ideas. And this is where your consultant comes in to help you look at all the ideas you have and what it will cost you.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SOFT COSTS;

These are the kind of costs that go into the budget that are not necessarily related to brick and mortar.

These include things like: Professional fees, fees for the architect and engineers, the quantity surveyors that you need for a successful budget. Things like certification, valuation, insurance, and permit, without these things your budget will not be successful in terms of implementation.

Another thing you'll want to consider is interest on things like loans, running cost of the project, after completion.

PERMITTING AND CERTIFICATION FEES PAID TO THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

MAKING FIRM AND EARLY DECISIONS

It is important to be very firm, right from the onset so that you can know and fix your cost. Making changes in the middle of construction, is way more expensive than making the changes from the design stage so it's important to know look at material options to make early decisions.

To view the full video.
Scan the QR CODE



HISTORY OF HOLLYWOOD SIGN

A LESSON IN MAINTAINING A CLEAR MESSAGE

The Hollywood sign first read “Hollywoodland.” The history of this sign reveals an emotional rollercoaster – and teaches an important lesson. Amidst a national film craze, Hollywood became Tinseltown in 1915. Suddenly, starry-eyed actors and actresses walked the streets. And so the American Dream was repackaged, with hope for fame and glamour.

The sign didn’t start off as an icon for entertainment. When first installed in 1923, its purpose was as an outdoor ad campaign for “Hollywoodland,” a suburban housing development. Adorned with flashing lights, the sign symbolized something much more – a feeling. The feeling lasted for many years to come, though the sign was at first only meant to remain for a year and a half. As Hollywood citizens rallied around the feeling of possibility and luxury, the feeling lasted.

Yet when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, a different feeling engulfed Hollywood – the feeling of determination. They went to war, actually became a full-time war industry. Movie stars like Clark Gable, Jimmy Stewart and Victor Mature enlisted.

Studio trucks didn’t transport them to film sets anymore; instead, troops rode in the trucks to war.

Time passed and what’s known as the Post-War Years came into play and, with them, paranoia. The film industry was so powerful and well-known that it became vulnerable in this climate of fear. Countless residents left Hollywood. Paramount stood as the only studio left in town by 1970.

The Hollywood Sign’s purpose has evolved, but its message remains constant: “This is a place where magic is possible, where dreams can come true.” While the story may have come full circle, in that sense, it has had its ups and downs. Likewise, when we are tested, our purpose may change but we can hope our message remains the same.

SOURCE: Hollywood Sign History, Views, and How to See It Up-Close – Blog (expl.com)



ICONIC BUILDING OF THE MONTH

VICTOR ROSSETTI RESIDENCE

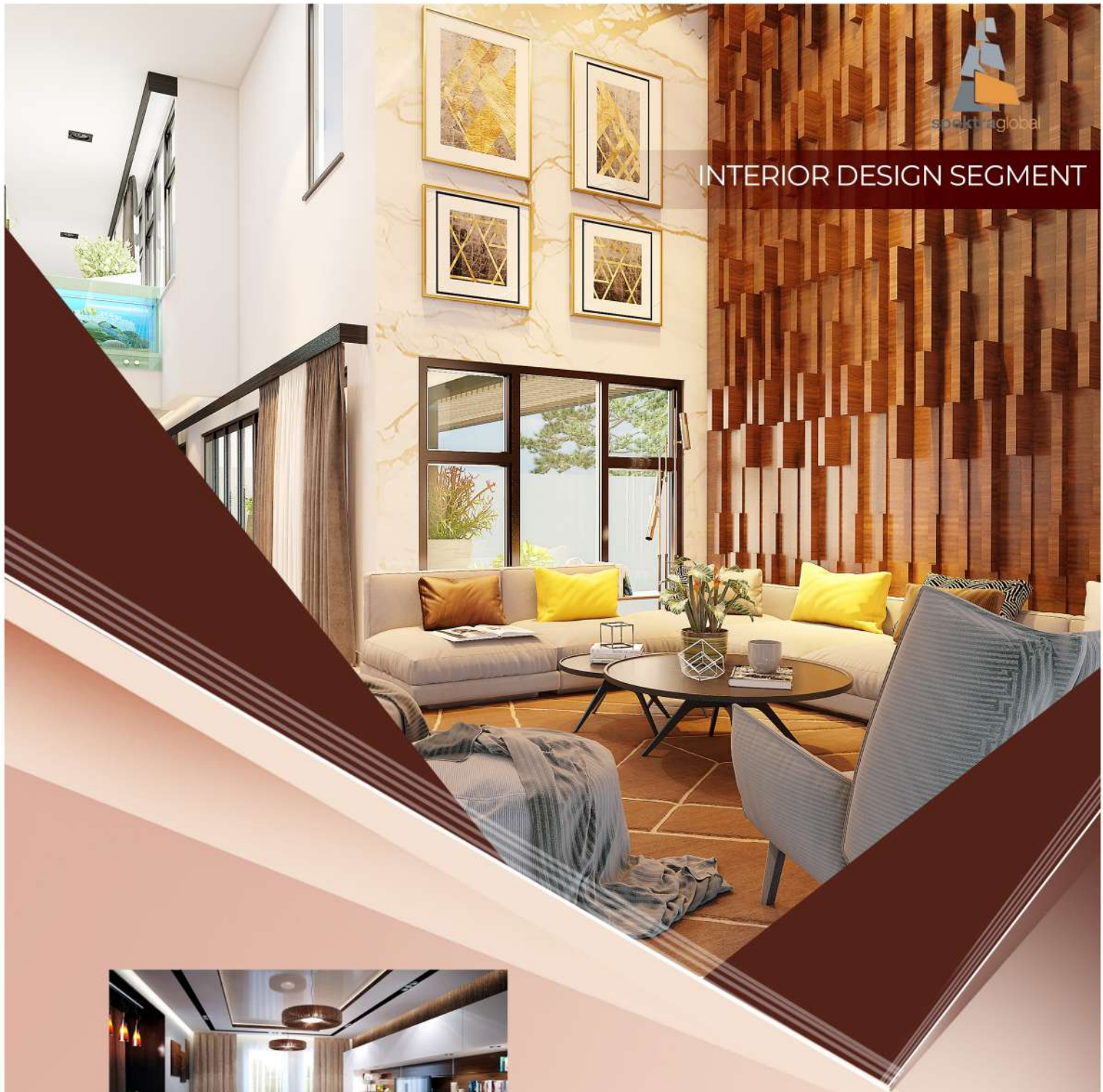
The Victor Rossetti Residence was designed by architect Paul R. Williams, known as “Hollywood’s architect” and “architect to the stars.” The client Rossetti was one of Los Angeles’ most prominent bankers. In 1928, he and his wife Irene hired Williams and contractor Donald F. Harrison to build this Spanish Colonial Revival-style home.

Rossetti wanted to make a statement. His L-shaped stucco house, topped with a hipped roof, symbolized his important role in the financial sector. The home’s construction began around World War I when a Mission Revival-style showcased the modern California lifestyle with the region’s Spanish past. The many arches, ornamental iron details and casement windows achieve this look. Luxurious details added to the experience: decorative doors, stenciled ceilings, even an intercom system and a wooden elevator car. Victor and Irene Rossetti lived a life of luxury, overlooking their views off several balconies.

The Victor Rossetti Residence at 2188 N. Ponet Drive is listed on the City’s Historic-Cultural Monuments. Built for \$47,000 for the original owners, it was most recently sold for \$2M.

SOURCE: Victor Rossetti Residence
– Charles J. Fisher (historian4hire.com)





Trends come and go. For example, “Radiant Orchid” was declared the color of 2014. But who can afford to redesign their living room every time according to the latest color trends?

When it comes to decorating brown, however is considered a timeless classic. Shades of brown range from chocolate brown, dark cocoa, bitter-sweet truffle.

THE RULE IN **RYLANDS v FLETCHER** (1868) LR 3 HL 330

In the case of **Rylands v Fletcher**, the defendants employed independent contractors to build a water reservoir on their land. The contractors found mines which were not in use while digging but failed to seal them properly. The reservoir was filled with water which resulted in water seeping through the mineshafts into the plaintiff's mines on the adjoining property. The plaintiff sued and won. In arriving at its decision, the Court, outlined certain requirements which must be shown as follows:

Firstly, accumulation of hazardous material on the defendant's land. In this instance, what is being referred to are materials accumulated on the land artificially by the defendant and not things that grow or occur naturally on the land.

Secondly, the thing will likely cause mischief if it escapes from the land. In this instance the thing need not be inherently hazardous, it need only be a thing likely to cause damage if it escapes from the defendant's land.

Thirdly, the thing must escape from the defendant's land. Therefore, if an injury is caused by the hazardous material on the defendant's land itself, an action in **Rylands v Fletcher** will be unsuccessful.

Also, there must be a non-natural use of the land and finally, the damage caused by the escape of the material accumulated on the land must be foreseeable.

Therefore, if for instance, a person decides that due to the increasing rise in fuel prices globally, they would procure a giant Poly Tank to store their own supply of fuel on their residential property, should the fuel escape, and cause damage to another person's property, an action in **Rylands v Fletcher** is likely to be successful.

Any Defences?

Yes, there are some defences such as consent of the Plaintiff to the presence of the hazardous material, provided there has been no negligence by the defendant or if the Plaintiff receives a benefit from the thing accumulated, they may be deemed to have consented to the accumulation.

Secondly, in instances where the escape was caused by the act of a stranger over whom the defendant had no control, the defendant may escape liability.

Other possible defences are act of God, statutory authority among others.

Conclusion

In Conclusion, individuals in their conduct must not lose sight of the fact that their actions could have detrimental consequences on their neighbors. Therefore, individuals must be circumspect in how they use their land, else, they must be ready to face the music when something untoward arises out of their carelessness.



Ethel Naa Adjekai Sowah Esq.
(BL, LL. B, ACIM, BBA-Marketing)



"It's a helluva start, being able to recognize what makes you happy."
- Lucille Ball



A man goes to the police station to report that his credit card had been stolen many months ago and that he was aware of it.

Police: Why didn't you report your stolen credit card earlier?

Man: The thief was spending less than my wife.

Police: So, why are you reporting it now?

Man: I think the thief's wife has started using it



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 Ltd.



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