INTRODUCTION

Blink is a studio established in 2009 with the vision of helping to create a world in harmony with itself through design. It has steadily grown from a staff of 2 at inception to 20 currently. The scale and variety of projects handled has also evolved concurrently, transforming a myriad of spaces into functional and memorable places.

The practice affords the full range of design services from initial planning through the various stages of design development to on-site administration at construction and finally post occupation analysis.

All this anchored in the studio’s core values of putting communities first, encouraging collaboration and employing utmost transparency in all dealings.

01. COMMERCIAL

AVIC SQUARE

 Project Type : Mixed Urban Development

 Location: Waiyaki Way, Westlands, Nairobi

 Site Area: 7.5 Acres

 Project Area: 300,000 sqM

Project Description:

An organic envelope of solid white and glazed voids growing out of the site in two independent blocks that morph into four towers of varying heights towering over the Nairobi Skyline.

Each of these towers housing one of the four functionalities envisioned by the client, the giant Chinese corporation AVIC; Commercial Spaces, Residential Apartments, Hotel Rooms and Office Space.

True to its name the square was adopted as a design motif both in planning and form, a nod to the shape’s representation of perfection in Chinese culture.

ABC TOWER I

 Project Type : Mixed Use Development

 Location: Waiyaki Way, Westlands, Nairobi

 Site Area: 7.5 Acres

 Project Area: 23,000 sqM

Project Description:

This stark unwavering tower fits in with the straight lines and square edges prevalent in the Nairobi skyline. It separates itself from the pack though, largely due to its contrast of orange-brown rust coloured solid walls and dark glazed curtain walling.

It adds a fresh and contemporary twist to one of the city’s oldest and most popular shopping and office complexes in addition to almost 20,000 sqM additional lettable area and 700 parking spaces.

ABC TOWER II

 Project Type : Mixed Use Development

 Location: Waiyaki Way, Westlands, Nairobi

 Site Area: 7.5 Acres

 Project Area: 31,800 sqM

Project Description:

A ‘younger brother’ to the adjacent ABC Tower I, it is designed to slightly tower over yet at seamlessly mesh with its ‘big brother.’

The sense of familiarity is achieved through the use of common external finishes and a similar rectilinear modernist form.

One of its outstanding features is the adoption of mechanical parking solutions enabling accommodation of 1000 parking spaces across 04 parking levels; a fitting solution to a growing problem in Kenya’s capital city.

G 47 TOWER

 Project Type : Mixed Use Development

 Location: Argwings Kodhek Road/ Chaka Road, Hurlingham, Nairobi

 Site Area: 0.75 Acres

 Project Area: 76,000 sqM

Project Description:

An iconic glass tower spiraling out from its polygonal shaped podium reaching 47 floors up to the Nairobi skies.

The podium design follows the lines and angles of the building boundary and houses encompases 10,800 sqM of lettable space with a further 38,000 of lettable area across the tower floors.

The enchanting spiral form is achieved by shifting the balcony location by a single grid on each subsequent floor. The result is a winding balcony wrapped around the entire tower with ample terraces with views of the fabled green city in the sun to all directions.

LORDSHIP TOWERS

 Project Type : Mixed Use Development

 Location: Upper Hill Road, Upper Hill, Nairobi

 Site Area: 3.0 Acres

 Project Area: 76,000 sqM

Project Description:

A commercial podium block planted on a site in the middle of Nairobi’s modern day building renaissance zone necessitating a highly functional yet aesthetically pleasing solution. Out of this spring four separate tower blocks with varying functions from office spaces to residential apartments and hotel rooms.

NAIROBI ARK

 Project Type : Mixed Use Development

 Location: Taifa Road/ Harambee Avenue, CBD, Nairobi

 Site Area: 3.0 Acres

 Project Area: 76,000 sqM

Project Description:

The Ark is a novel attempt at solving the increasingly severe problem of parking space within Nairobi’s CBD. Its form and other elements such as circular windows reminiscent of a sea-going vessel led to its name.

Occupying a site that currently serves as a sunken parking lot during the week & commercial and entertainment space during the weekend, this solution merges these functions enabling all to be conducted concurrently 24 hours a day, every day of the week. Numerous parking levels are sandwiched between commercial spaces on ground and a convention centre at the top.

AFRAA SUITES

 Project Type : Mixed Use Development

 Location: Red Cross Road, South C, Nairobi

 Site Area: 3.0 Acres

 Project Area: 2,300 sqM (Phase I)

Project Description:

Envisioned as a comprehensive phased development for The African Airlines Association comprising a commercial, office space, a hotel and hotel apartments.

The first phase entailed construction of a serviced apartment block with 44 rooms on 04 typical floors with common facilities on ground floor.

Its bold rectilinear forms echoes the 1970’s aesthetic of the existing building on site whilst employing modern materials and techniques.

HERITAGE HOUSE

 Project Type : Mixed Use Development

 Location: James Gichuru Road, Lavington, Nairobi

 Site Area: 0.75 Acres

 Project Area: 6,200 sqM

Project Description:

A bold yet simple box playing on the elements of solid and void, plane and line.

The prevalence of reflected glass on its main facades aids the rectilinear shape to blend in with the non-linear language of its surrounding natural features and neighborhood in general.

NAIVASHA MALL

 Project Type : Mixed Use Development

 Location: Kenyatta Avenue, Naivasha

 Site Area: 0.5 Acres

 Project Area: 10,100 sqM

Project Description:

The site sits centrally within Naivasha town, at the junction of the two major arteries that are Kenyatta Avenue and Kariuki Chotara Road.

This grants the opportunity to harness the large volumes of both vehicular and pedestrian traffic at this particular node.

The resultant solution provides space for a range of retail and entertainment facilities while funneling existing traffic to patronize it.

THE REGENT PARKLANDS

 Project Type : Office Suites & Executive Apartments

 Location: Mogotio Road, Parklands, Nairobi

 Site Area: 3.0 Acres

 Project Area: 28,000 sqM

Project Description:

An exciting development comprising Regent Office Suites and Regent Executive Apartments. Whist being physically separated by an access road, the two blocks are unified through form and finishes into a single coherent development.

The 10 floors of office space and support facilities are complemented by the 36 unit serviced apartment block across the road.

IT HUB

 Project Type : Office Suites

 Location: Globe Cinema Roundabout, Nairobi

 Site Area: 0.3 Acres

 Project Area: 28,000 sqM

Project Description:

An iconic glass structure on a tight site symbolizing it’s openness with the world as a centre of collaboration and innovation on all things Information Technology.

02. HOSPITALITY

DIAMOND OCEAN RESORT

 Project Type : Resort

 Location: off Malindi Road, Shanzu, Mombasa

 Site Area: 8.0 Acres

 Project Area: 71,000 sqM

Project Description:

This one-of-a-kind development combines ocean front apartment and penthouse suites with a luxurious lifestyle resort centre. Facilities catered for at the resort centre include various fine dining options including a bakery and brewery, a variety of swimming pools, conferencing and convention facilities, state of the art business centre, a comprehensive wellness centre, various other entertainment facilities and a charming clear-water marina.

MARSABIT RESORT

 Project Type : Resort

 Location: off Nairobi Moyale Road, Marsabit

 Site Area: 3.2 Acres

 Project Area: 4,100 sqM

Project Description:

This luxury resort is cozily tucked away deep in the south of the country with the magnificent Marsabit Hills as a backdrop. It comprises 6 standard and 3 deluxe cottage blocks each on two levels with large balconies for taking in the breathtaking views.

These are arranged around a spiral with a communal fire pit at its centre and common facilities housed in the hospitality and conference blocks situated in the public zone.

LEINMACH HOTEL

 Project Type : Hotel

 Location: off Southern by-pass, South C, Nairobi

 Site Area: 0.35 Acres

 Project Area: 5,600 sqM

Project Description:

The site’s location barely fifteen minutes away from both the Jomo Kenyatta International and Wilson Airports rendered it suitable for development of a boutique hotel targeting the business traveler.

It’s deliberate all-white finish, devoid of ornamentation and accentuated only by portions of clear glass, accentuates its eye-catching form.

4 typical floors of 8 standard and 8 deluxe rooms each sit below a rooftop pool and terrace bar with additional ancillary facilities housed on the double height ground floor below.

GOLDEN TULIP WESTLANDS

 Project Type : Hotel

 Location: Muthithi Road, Westlands, Nairobi

 Site Area: 0.35 Acres

 Project Area: 5,600 sqM

Project Description:

A tastefully designed 96 room 4 star hotel at the heart of Westlands, Nairobi’s vibrant commercial and entertainment epicenter.

It boasts a rooftop pool, sky bar, a full-fledged business centre and 3 restaurants among other common facilities accessible by guests.

SPRING GREEN

 Project Type : Serviced Apartments

 Location: Rose Avenue, Hurlingham, Nairobi

 Site Area: 0.45 Acres

 Project Area: 8,400 sqM

Project Description:

Spring Green derives its saw tooth feel on the main facades as a response to environmental conditions on site, particularly sun path. These offset diagonal panes also provide the opportunity for greenery via planters at every subsequent level.

Both measures contribute enormously to the internal comfort of guests in the 24 one bedroom and 48 two bedroom units.

Ancillary facilities are housed on the ground and mezzanine floors and include meeting rooms, gym, steam and sauna, management and service areas.

ZAMBARAU

 Project Type : Serviced Apartments

 Location: Nyangumi Road, Kilimani, Nairobi

 Site Area: 2.5 Acres

 Project Area: 24,600 sqM

Project Description:

Zambarau is the Kiswahili word for the colour purple. It is derived from the violet leaves of the numerous jacaranda trees that inhabited the site and is most evident as a bold violet streak running across the entire building. The tree analogy is further enhanced in the column design and interior design elements.

This comprehensive hotel apartment development is made up of 48 one-bedroom, 80 two-bedroom, 4 three-bedroom and 4 duplex units with the purple lounge at the rooftop and other amenities on the lower three levels.

03. PUBLIC

MASHUJAA SQUARE

 Project Type : Museum

 Location: Lang’ata Road, Uhuru Gardens, Nairobi

 Site Area: 10.0 Acres

 Project Area: 71,000 sqM

Project Description:

Mashujaa Square is the perfect example of the almost cliché architectural phrase ‘giving a space a sense of place.’ Evoking memories of the heroism exhibited by Kenyans as individuals and as a people across all facets of life.

It comprises a museum, amphitheatre, various monuments and a garden of memory.

These all serve as a point of pilgrimage, retrospection and inspirations for Kenyans great and small alike.

UMMA UNIVERSITY

 Project Type : University campus

 Location: Namanga Road, Kajiado

 Site Area: 75.0 Acres

 Project Area: 71,000 sqM

Project Description:

An environmentally-conscious master plan for a modern day university campus st in the savannah plains of Kajiado County. The phased plan includes buildings housing the various faculties, student affairs and accommodation, administrative services, library, laboratories, sports facilities, staff accommodation and ultimately a teaching and referral hospital.

The planning takes advantage of the vast spaces available by creating numerous functional courtyards, enriching the student experience.

ADAMS MASJID

 Project Type : Mosque & Islamic Centre

 Location: Ngong Road, Adam’s Arcade, Nairobi

 Site Area: 0.5 Acres

 Project Area: 8,300 sqM

Project Description:

Proposed as a regeneration of an existing Masjid in order to maximize use of the prime land donated to the community for that purpose.

The proposed modern structure replaces the temporary ones on site and more than quadruples the capacity of worshippers from about 800. Other facilities provided include basement parking, a library, classrooms and a media centre for Madrassa and a medical centre.

ELGON HOUSE

 Project Type : County Headquarter’s

 Location: Kitale, Trans Nzoia County

 Site Area: 75.0 Acres

 Project Area: 71,000 sqM

Project Description:

A public building designed to be an icon for the people of Trans Nzoia County in western Kenya and set a benchmark for similar projects across the 47 newly-constituted counties. It wound house the Governor and his executive among other functions of devolved government.

It’s perfectly symmetrical form and gradation of its building elements in relation to the human scale signify equality, transparency and the hierarchy of power.

TRANS NZOIA TEACHING & REFERRAL HOSPITAL

 Project Type : County Hospital

 Location: Kitale, Trans Nzoia County

 Site Area: 5.0 Acres

 Project Area: 15,000 sqM

Project Description:

A fully equipped 350 bed level 5 hospital designed to be the premier referral hospital for the Western Kenya region and further afield to neighboring parts of Uganda.

The design combines a previously existing block with a new building and several out-houses for servicing, warehousing and mortuary. These various components are carefully connected based on their adjacencies and adequate way-finding.

The hospital employs smart medicine features to enhance the efficiency of in-patient and out-patient facilities provided for. The infrastructure for this is embedded in the building fabric for seamless connectivity.

KITALE MARKET & BUS PARK

 Project Type : Public Transport Terminus & Market

 Location: Kitale, Trans Nzoia County

 Site Area: 4.5 Acres

 Project Area: 17,000 sqM

Project Description:

Kitale town being a regional hub with a burgeoning population faced the twin issues of disorganized public service vehicles, both local and long distance, and proliferation of hawkers as a result of inadequacy of the main market.

A solution was to integrate the two, in one development organizing the buses, matatus & bodabodas and housing the large numbers of street vendors & other retailers. This maintained both their pools of customers while simultaneously cleaning up the streets of the town.

BUNGOMA GOVERNOR’S OFFICE

 Project Type : County Headquarter’s

 Location: Bungoma Town, Bungoma County

 Site Area: 75.0 Acres

 Project Area: 71,000 sqM

Project Description:

A contemporary building designed to house the administrative headquarters of Bungoma County.

Its design also serving to endear it to the county’s populace as a symbol of progress and their aspirations.

JAMIA MOSQUE EXTENSION

 Project Type : Mosque & Islamic Centre

 Location: Ngong Road, Adam’s Arcade, Nairobi

 Site Area: 1.8 Acres

 Project Area: 8,300 sqM

Project Description:

The Jamia Mosque is arguably the most important, aside from being the busiest mosque in Kenya and an Islamic hub for the region. The brief called for an increase in capacity for worshippers and expansion of the Jamia Training Institute all whilst ensuring minimum disruption to the day-to-day running of the institution.

Thus the proposal was to develop one wing extensively, maximizing on allowable heights while maintaining its human scale due to its proximity to the walkway at street level.

Various elements of Islamic culture and, by extension, architecture were abstracted to render the building form contemporary yet familiar.

04. RESIDENTIAL

GREEN CITY GARDENS

 Project Type : Multi-Residential

 Location: off Mombasa Road, Syokimau, Machakos County

 Site Area: 2.5 Acres

 Project Area: 16,900 sqM

Project Description:

A modest yet elegant residential development with 122 two and three bedroom units. The simple yet stylish building forms combined with the maximized landscaped areas result in a homely environment in one of the fastest growing satellite suburbs of the capital city.

Amenities provided include adequate parking, laundry drying yards at rooftops, a swimming pool, gym and numerous green spaces.

ELYSIUM RIVERSIDE

 Project Type : Multi-Residential

 Location: off Riverside Drive, Riverside, Nairobi

 Site Area: 0.75 Acres

 Project Area: 26,300 sqM

Project Description:

A luxury residential development nestled in a serene cul-de-sac off Riverside Drive.

It envisions modern day suburban life in a high-rise development with 48 five bedroom apartments and 4 six bedroom duplexes on 14 habitable floors.

Service areas are located mainly at the lower level with 4 floors of basement parking with an indoor pool and gym at the lowest level with unhindered views of the Nairobi River.

A reception for guests and other management facilities are on the ground floor with a jogging track and terrace at the rooftop.

HEMPSTEAD VILLAS

 Project Type : Residential Town Houses

 Location: Mugumo Road, Lavington, Nairobi

 Site Area: 0.8 Acres

 Project Area: 2,900 sqM

Project Description:

Six luxury villas, each across three levels, spread across close to an acre and surrounded by landscaping.

Their modern rectilinear design with large panes of glass and numerous terraces and balconies is cladded with local Yellowstone as accentuation against its painted form.

The internal arrangement is such that it maximizes each of the units ample 480 sqM footprint.

RIVERCREST

 Project Type : Multi-Residential

 Location: Wambugu Lane, Parklands, Nairobi

 Site Area: 0.25 Acres

 Project Area: 8,100 sqM

Project Description:

Twenty seven typical three bedroom units spread across nine floors with a service roof and parking on ground, first and second floors.

The design maximizes the quarter acre resulting in spacious rooms with minimal wasted space. Ancillary facilities such as a gym and tenant’s lounge terrace are also included.

KAMPALA APARTMENTS

 Project Type : Multi-Residential

 Location: Nakasero, Kampala, Uganda

 Site Area: 1.2 Acres

LEAFY HEIGHTS

 Project Type : Multi-Residential

 Location: Wangapala Road, Parklands, Nairobi

 Site Area: 0.3 Acres

MAK APARTMENTS

 Project Type : Multi-Residential

 Location: off Forest Road, Ngara, Nairobi

 Site Area: 1.0 Acres

GOAN INSTITUTE APARTMENTS

 Project Type : Multi-Residential

 Location: Juja Road, Pangani, Nairobi

 Site Area: 1.0 Acres

TERRANOVA COURT APARTMENTS

 Project Type : Multi-Residential

 Location: Chaka Road, Hurlingham, Nairobi

 Site Area: 2.5 Acres

IDRIS VILLAS

 Project Type : 02 Residential Villas

 Location: Idris road, Karen, Nairobi

 Site Area: 1.0 Acres

05. MASTER PLANNING

TILISI

 Project Type : Mixed-use Suburban Development

 Location: off Nairobi Nakuru Highway, Limuru

 Site Area: 400 Acres

Project Description:

Participated in the design of a master plan providing for fully-serviced parcels of land of various acreages with world class infrastructure for investor purchase and development.

These are distributed into distinct zones such as Residential, Commercial, Recreational and Light Industrial.

CASTELLANO WATERFRONT

 Project Type : Mixed Residential Development

 Location: off Mombasa Road, Mavoko, Machakos County

 Site Area: 144 Acres

Project Description:

Castellano is anchored around a 5 acre artificial water body that makes use of the site’s undulating topography. It idealises a middle income residential neighbourhood with all the necessities and amenities required for modern day life.

All the above anchored in an environmentally sustainable neighbourhood encompassing plenty of green spaces and solutions.

04. INTERIOR DESIGN

BRITAM CUSTOMER SERVICE & TRAINING CENTRE

 Project Type : Interior Design Fit-out

 Location: Mara/ Ragati Road, Upper Hill, Nairobi

 Site Area:

Project Description:

A revamped customer service and training centre for Britam Holdings Ltd on the first two floors of their Britam Centre headquarters.

A bold modern theme subtly draped in Britam’s corporate colours over a largely clean white background was employed. This was emphasized by the geometric motif evident throughout the design.

ICPAK OFFICES

 Project Type : Interior Design Fit-out

 Location: Thika Road, Nairobi

 Site Area:

Project Description:

An edgy black and soft gold workplace for ICPAK as they occupied their new offices at the summit of their flagship CPA Centre.

Functionality was a buzz-word here with the ingenious employment of cabinetry as partitioning helping to meet the twin goals of extra storage and openness of space.

MUKELE MONI& Co. OFFICES

 Project Type : Interior Design Fit-out

 Location: Second Ngong Avenue, Upper Hill, Nairobi

 Site Area:

Project Description:

A stately yellow and timber toned workplace for a young law firm well on its way up.

The aim was to capture their aspirations for a larger and more successful practice in the near future

LAPTRUST OFFICES

 Project Type : Interior Design Fit-out

 Location: Haile Selassie Road, CBD, Nairobi

 Site Area:

Project Description:

A revamped office layout for the then Local Authorities Pension Trust, LAPTRUST, at their Laptrust House headquarters.

A bold modern theme subtly draped in Laptrust’s corporate colours over a largely clean white background was employed. This was emphasized by the linear elements evident throughout the design.