



Why use an architect?

Avoid catastrophe, use qualified professionals

By Kiuri Mburathi

There is an unfortunate trend (with resultant building catastrophes) of developers presuming that there is no need to hire the services of professionals especially an Architect. Too often in the news we have seen badly constructed buildings coming tumbling down and causing untold loss and damage to say nothing of the loss of life and limb, and all because the developer took short cuts in an attempt to save money.

Alternative tactics range from "buying plans" from local authorities, paying a draftsman/technician to design and most recently, down-loading drawings right off the internet.

All these options can result in varying degrees of success, the degrees ranging from passable to failure.

Many prospective builders have issues with fees charged by Architects. The amount of money an architect may demand seems hefty and thus the attempt to get

around it. But one has to look at the bigger picture because in fact using a registered architect's services is a wise investment that will result in the cost of the project being substantially lower.

Here are some examples of the benefits of using an architect:

In fact using the services of a registered architect is a wise investment that will result in substantially reducing the overall cost of the project

1. Site specific plans

A good architect will take advantage of soil conditions, solar heat and natural lighting cross ventilation in your particular site. These conditions vary from one site to another and

the architect will be able to discern the best way to plan and construct the building. This results in energy efficient building (which have a large cost saving benefit in running and maintaining commercial projects) and buildings that is well lit and pleasant to be in. Have you been in a home where the rooms are dark even at midday, where you have to depend on electric lighting twenty four hours? This is usually because the above conditions were not put into consideration during the design process.

2. Individualized plans

The architect can provide elegant solutions for unique building problems or specific family lifestyles. Creating a home / commercial building that is perfectly suited to homeowners / business involves a complicated process of analysis and design. An Architect with years of experience and training can contribute quick, insightful and