PROJECT: KUMBA 2020 238 MATEMA DESIGN INTENT

I intend to design a living unit which conforms with a pre-Covid world in as much as space configuration and function is concerned. The spaces such as bedrooms are designed to interact with the outside world through access to the outdoors. This creates a psychologically soothing and ambient environment when one is isolated in their room due to sickness. There are also ensuites in all bedrooms for greater privacy and independence from unnecessary movement through the house. The living area also has guest ablution facilities which can be used by all occupants when they are interacting in the living, kitchen, and dining area.

The bedrooms and studio all have patios to link the inside to the outside for sun-basking and absorbing vitamin D in this Covid 19 pandemic. There is also a deck and pool area for outdoor recreation, At the main entrance in the portico there is a wash basin to wash and sanitise hands, and a vestibule inside where guests can leave coats and jackets and also leave their shoes then wash their hands and sanitise at a wash basin inside then gain access into the house. The garage also has a wash basin point. All this is to ensure guests and occupants of the living unit sanitize their hands before entering the house. Floors are ceramic tiles which are easy to clean, counter tops are marble and door handles are brass. These materials are easy to sanitise. The passage is glazed on one side for natural daylight to flood in during the day, and the sunlight is also a good sanitiser on material surfaces.

The living unit is for a family of 3; an architect father, doctor mother, and 12 year old son in primary school. The spaces are configured in such a way that the father has his at-home studio where he can work, the mother can have uninterrupted sleep when home from a night shift, and the son has a work station set up in his room for studying and online learning. The mother may also use the husband's studio for online meetings.

The living unit is to be self sufficient and use green energy. There will be underground water storage so as to not have tanks around the site disturbing the natural environment aesthetic. Water will be collected from the roof drainage and piped down to the tanks during the rainy season, and from a borehole during the dry seaon, The water will be pumped up for domestic use by a pump powered by solar energy. Solar energy will also provide green energy for the entire living unit. The design is to be contemporary with a granite tone matching the rock outcrops around the area. The aesthetics will also exhibit the affluence of the loacation of the living unit.