



The Western-European Influence on Tanzania's Approach to Social Housing

Architectural Historical Thesis

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AR1A066 Delft Lectures on Architectural History and Theory

MSc Architecture, Delft University of Technology

17-04-2025

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Abstract

The global growing demand for social housing is very apparent in Tanzania. While there are many Western-initiated social housing development projects, not all of these are successful. In order to understand the risk and pitfalls of Western development organizations getting involved, it is crucial to learn about the broader context of past international relations and how this influenced social-political development, as well as architectural theory. This paper researches the influence of Western-European approaches and actions have influenced the social-political development in Tanzania, as well as how this influenced architectural theory regarding social housing.

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Introduction

There is a growing global demand for social housing, especially in developing countries like Tanzania. In 2024, 70% of the urban population live in settlements with inadequate social services (Changula & Guya, 2024). Approaching this demand for housing is challenging, because multiple constraints arise: rapid population growth, low economic growth, poor financial facilities for housing, limited accessibility to land for housing, low priorities in the housing sector and a high cost of building materials.

Even though there are multiple Western-initiated projects to aid in approaching this supply-demand disparity, not even close to all of these are successful. As found in 2007, only half of the projects in Africa initiated by the International Finance Corporation, The World Bank's private arm, succeeded (NBC, 2007). To increase the success rate of Western-European involvement, it is crucial to learn about the broader context of past international relations and how this influenced social-political development, as well as architectural theory.

This paper will research how Western-European views and theories during colonialism have influenced Tanzania's approach to social housing, and its continued impact on contemporary Tanzania. This understanding will be established by building a frame of contextual understanding of the Western-European social-political, managerial and architectural influence on Tanzania by answering several sub-questions. In the first chapter, the social-political influence of Western-European countries on Tanzania during and after the colonial period in the 20th century will be discussed. Then in the second chapter, the influence of British social housing policies on the Tanzanian approaches to social housing. In the final chapter, the influence of Western-European architectural approaches on general Tanzanian architectural projects will be introduced, after which the focus shifts to the architectural influence specifically on Tanzanian social housing approaches.

Methodology

The findings of this paper are based on literature research of primary and secondary sources, as well as critical reflection. Firstly by doing historical research on political and architectural developments in Tanzania, and how this was influenced by Western involvement. To further understand how Western Architectural approaches influenced Tanzanian approaches to social housing, the developments and different approaches to social housing of both Britain and Tanzania will be discussed. Then, contemporary social housing typologies in Tanzania will be laid out by looking into several cases.

In order to avoid a singular-viewed bias, it is crucial to create a narrative that takes multiple perspectives into account. Hence, this paper's research will be done on sources from different backgrounds. This includes an interview with Anthony Almeida, as well as several other direct Tanzanian sources.

Academic Context

There has been research on the Western-European influence on architectural approaches in post-colonial territories, however there has not been research specifically linked to the architectural approach to social housing in these territories. By connecting the past and present Western-European influences on architectural, socio-political, and social housing approaches, this paper will shape a new understanding to the Western-European influences on social housing approaches in Tanzania.

Chapter 1

Western-European Social-Political Influence

In order to fully grasp the consequences of Western-European involvement in developing countries like Tanzania, it is crucial to learn about past international relationships and how these influenced social-political developments at the time. There has been a poignant relationship between Western-European countries and Tanzania through colonialism in the 20th century, which has led to an apparent social-political influence on Tanzania.

1.1 Colonial Tanzania

Modern-day Tanzania consists of the mainland, originally known as Tanganyika, and the islands, originally known as Zanzibar. Before 1919, Tanganyika was a German colony, known as German East Africa. However, after World War I, Tanganyika was taken over by the British. The islands located near the coast of Tanganyika were known as Zanzibar and were under the rule of Oman Arabs until 1890, when it became a British protectorate. During the colonial time, Britain had a strong influence on the economic and political systems in Tanzania, as well as social policies (Mbogoni, 2013).

The main purpose of British imperialism in the 19th century was to find new sources of materials and create new outlets for the Western market. Through this, Britain influenced Tanzania's economic systems. Tanganyika was a cash crop economy, which is characterized by crops that are planted to export or sell on the Western market. This also meant that African agrarian workers had a direct participation in international markets. The colonial government did not only focus on African cash crop production but also encouraged European-owned plantations in the territory (Künzler, 2022).

Additionally to this economic ambition, Britons living in these colonies were convinced they had to fulfil their 'mission to civilize' African inhabitants. Throughout the whole country, there was a clear distinction between colonizers and colonized, which led to racial discrimination: European inhabitants and governmental workers received rights and opportunities that native Africans did not (Mbogoni, 2013). The British colonial government had a further notable influence on social policies in the territory: the colonial government tried directing Tanganyikan social policies towards focusing on the educated and urban working-class Africans, which led to a Minimum Wage Ordinance in 1939. However, actual wage-fixing only took place years after independence (Künzler, 2022).

Throughout the colonial time, there were multiple uprisings against the colonial government: including the Abushiri Revolt in 1888 and the Maji Maji rebellion in 1905-1907, but were eventually unsuccessful in overthrowing the colonial government. In 1929, the African Association was formed, but real reformatations did not take place until the 1950s. In 1954, the African Association, led by President Julius Nyerere, was renamed to the Tanzania African National Union, and strived for independence. In the election of 1960, TANU won almost all the seats, which was crucial for the transition to independence. On December 9th 1961, Tanganyika became independent and a year later in 1962 Tanzania became a republic, with Julius Nyerere as president (Lambert, 2025). Soon after independence, Nyerere proclaimed Tanzania a one-party state, with TANU as the sole party in the nation. In 1963, Zanzibar also declared independence, and in 1964, Tanganyika and Zanzibar united to form the United Republic of Tanzania (Mbogoni, 2013).

1.2 Post-Colonial Tanzania

As a result of the British-ruled colonial period, Tanzania had inherited an economy in which they acted as primary producer within the Western market system, however now missing the imperial sources of finance, technology and management systems that were provided by the British before independence. This led to a remaining reliance on Britain for financing and development grants, which naturally did not align with Tanzania's aim to be independent. Consequently, the ideological theme of 'self-reliance' was coined in the 1960s, which focused on moving away from the ties with Britain and attaining a diverse network of sources of aid (Saul, 1977).

President Julius Nyerere aimed for a socialist transformation of Tanzanian society, by going back to the communitarian village-society the nation had known before colonialism. In 1967, he made the Arusha Declaration, in which he aimed for self-reliance and planned to create large collective farms, which would produce food and goods for the whole community. There was an emphasis on rural development, with communal living in Ujamaa villages. Ujamaa means family hood, so this approach suggests the sharing of wealth and work as one would in a family (Nursey-Bray, 1980).

These Ujamaa villages aimed to achieve local development and self-sufficiency, but in reality, led to grave forced displacements of the population. Furthermore, this socialist approach led to a collapse of agricultural production which, along with Nyerere's refusal to adopt economic liberalization reforms, caused the Tanzanian economy to crash in the 1980s. These economic conditions eventually forced Nyerere to step down in 1985 and was replaced by Ali Hassan Mwinyi. Mwinyi promptly moved away from self-reliance and negotiated a reform, which included privatized business and international donors and resulted in a regrowth of Tanzanian economy (Barkan, 1994). In 1992, Tanzania became a multi-party democracy which allowed the creation of political parties (Lambert, 2025).

Since the economic liberations in the 1990s, Tanzania's economy has been growing at a steady rate. Tanzania's Gross Domestic Product in 1990 was \$6.184 billion USD, and has grown to a GDP of \$79.06 billion USD in 2023. Noticeable is that in the 1990s, the main share of Tanzania's GDP was agriculture, however as of 2024 this share has gone down significantly. In modern-day Tanzania, the main contributing sectors to the nation's economy are service and industry (Worldbank, 2024). Even though Tanzanians are working less in agriculture and more in services and industry, this shift has mainly occurred in urban areas among people who were already better off. This has resulted in higher poverty rates in rural areas than in urban areas (Worldbank, 2020). However, despite the growing economy, there is still a serious poverty issue in Tanzania. In 2024, there was a national poverty rate of 42,9%, but this rate has been declining since the early 2000s (Worldbank, 2024).

1.3 Western-European Social-Political Influence

In conclusion, Britain wielded an apparent influence on economic, political and social policies in Tanzania during the colonial time. These influences include racial discrimination, a Western market-oriented economy and a continuous dependence on financial and technological aid from Britain. After independence, the aim for self-reliance accompanied by socialist reforms led to a crash in Tanzania's economy. However, after economic liberations Tanzania's economy has been growing steadily, slowly declining the national poverty issue.

Chapter 2

Western-European Influence on Tanzanian Social Housing Policies

To understand the Western-European Influences on contemporary Tanzanian approaches to social housing, it is crucial to learn about the development in approaches to social housing in both Britain and Tanzania. By understanding the correlation between these two countries, we can map how past Western-European policies on social housing have potentially influenced Tanzanian policies.

2.1 Social Housing Development in Britain

Over the years, housing conditions and requirements responded to demographic changes and development in the British economy. The vastly increasing number of households and wealth inequality greatly influenced the British housing market, leading to a clear mismatch of supply and demand for affordable housing (Shelter, 2025). Consequently, the British government responded to this mismatch by implementing social housing policies.

In the 19th century, poverty and industrial development in Britain had led to public concern about the health of towns and rural areas. Class segregation has led to the working class finding themselves living in slums with unhealthy living conditions, located near factories or in other densely built areas. Consequently, society started pressuring for reforms to improve poverty and living conditions (Stewart, 2005). With the ambition to improve living conditions for the lower class, Richard Cross introduced the Artisans' and Labourers' Dwellings Improvement Act in 1875. This act allowed local authorities to demolish and rebuild slum areas in Birmingham, Liverpool and Sheffield. Even though this act intended to counter rapid urbanisation and improve the low-quality housing for the poor, in reality, it led to the displacement of many civilians who could not afford the housing that replaced the original dwellings (Upton, 2011). Furthermore, this demand for appropriate housing for the working classes led to the foundations of several corporations to establish and manage estates, like the Peabody Trust and the Guinness Trust. Founded in 1889, the Guinness Trust provided 2.597 homes for London's working class within the first 11 years (The Guinness Partnership, 2025).

After World War I, the demand for affordable housing in Britain grew vastly. In 1919, the Parliament passed the Housing Act, also known as the Addison Act, allowing the building of new housing to respond to this demand. The Act gave local authorities the responsibility to develop new affordable housing by introducing Council-housing and promised government subsidies to help finance this construction (UK Parliament, 2025). Both World Wars caused great destruction to Britain, leaving a large dent in the nation's housing stock. In addition to this destruction, population growth and rapid urbanisation had led to a substantially growing demand for affordable housing. The government intervened and implemented a house-building programme to provide decent homes post-war (The Guinness Partnership, 2025).

Britain's approach to social housing in the 20th century mainly focused on improving living conditions of the working class and providing affordable housing by supporting housing corporations and stimulating Council-housing. The shortage of affordable housing, as well as a notable class segregation in the housing market, is still an issue in modern-day Britain. In 2023, the Social Housing Regulation Act was finally passed, which increases regulation of social landlords and introduces new roles for protecting tenants. However, the market mismatch of supply and demand for social housing remains apparent (Shelter, 2025).

2.2 Tanzania's Social Housing Policies Before Independence

Tanzania is one of the fastest urbanising countries in sub-Saharan Africa. This rapid urbanisation and population growth strains infrastructure, land management, and planning and increases the demand for housing. Not meeting this demand for housing fuels the expansion of informal settlements within the urban fabric. In modern times, many low-income Tanzanian households reside in these informal dwellings. However, this was already an issue during colonial times. Before Tanzania gained independence, the colonial government was responsible for most of the housing development and policies in Tanganyika (Wells et al, 1998).

During the colonial period, the main purpose of urban areas was to improve the colonial economy, often aimed at optimizing world trade. There was little to no attention to the needs and wishes of the native population because the urban fabric was considered a means to serve economic interests rather than achieve quality of living (Baffoe & Roy, 2023). The colonial governors were responsible for the planning of colonial ports and towns, which led to an approach to city planning that was based on Western planning ideologies. These ideologies reflected colonial philosophies and ambitions, including social and economic segregation which was reinforced by zoning regulation (Lugalla, 1989).

In British-governed Dar es Salaam, the housing development ordered by the colonial government could be divided into three categories: low, medium and high cost. These categories were clustered in zones and were developed for the three predominant racial groups. The high-cost developments were mostly for Europeans, the medium-cost developments for Asians, and the low-cost developments for Africans. This approach led to spatial segregation, which reflected the social and economic segregation between different races. The British located the African living zone outside of the commercial centre of Kariakoo. Within this zone, Africans would lease plots and build their own houses for owner occupation or to rent out to other Africans. Most of these were self-built single-story houses with pole frames, mud walls and palm fronds for roofing (Wells et al, 1998). A popular type of self-built housing by urban low-income households is known as the Swahili house (figure 1). It is a four- to eight-roomed house, housing 3 or 4 people per room. The main challenges for this traditional type of housing are the low durability of the materials and the frequent need for maintenance (Wells et al, 1998).

In colonial Tanzania, the managerial and urban policies were mainly focused on serving the colonial economy and disregarded the living conditions of native inhabitants. Therefore it can be concluded that during the colonial period, there were no real social housing policies in Tanganyika. During this time, low-income households mostly lived in self-built housing in segregated zones.

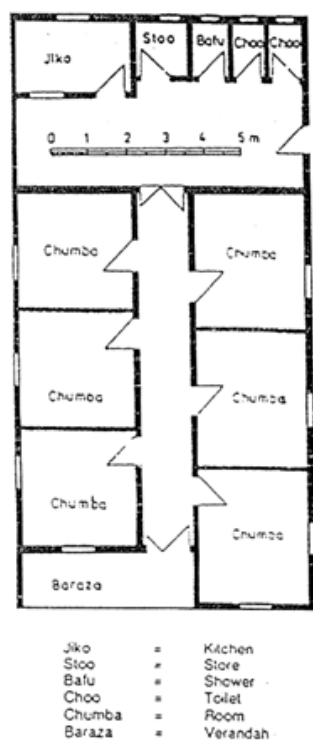


Figure 1: Plan and Exterior of a Swahili House

2.3 Tanzania's Social Housing Policies After Independence

After independence, Tanzania became one of the fastest urbanising countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's primary city and economic centre, has seen significant population growth over the last century: in 1980 the city counted 855.000 inhabitants, which has grown to 8.562.000 (MacroTrends, 2025). This growth has come paired with increasing poverty and has influenced the development of housing policies in the past century greatly.

The issue of people living in self-built informal settlements in the colonial period did not go away when the nation became independent. Post-independence in 1961, lifting colonial migration restrictions led to rapid rural-to-urban migration, which resulted in unplanned housing and urban sprawl in informal settlements. Informal settlements do not have access to basic social infrastructure services like water supply and sewage (Changula & Guya, 2024). As discussed in previous chapters, a similar issue of rapid urbanisation and low-quality housing also arose in Britain. The Tanzanian government responded to this issue similarly to the British government: implementing slum clearance. This slum clearance started in the 1960s and stopped in 1982 due to governmental incapacity to provide more subsidies in the housing sector (IHA, 2016).

The urban fabric during the colonial period was aimed at optimizing the colonial economy, which is why these urban plans had a capitalist nature. Therefore, when the nation's policy shifted to socialism in the 1960s, the urban policies also changed. The policies emphasized rural development, introducing communal living in Ujamaa villages. However, this decentralization resulted in unplanned urban centres without adequate services as well as displacements of a large amount of people. Furthermore, these new policies were established upon the zoning characteristics of the existing colonial urban framework, which is why Tanzania's urban planning remains a direct legacy of colonialism (Lugalla, 1989).

In the National Constitution, the government of Tanzania declared that housing is one of the basic necessities alongside food and clothing. This has led to the passing of several housing policies, public housing institutions and housing programmes (United Republic of Tanzania, 1977). Shortly after independence, the government of Tanganyika passed the National Housing Corporation Act in 1962. This act entailed the establishment of a National Housing Corporation to facilitate houses and other buildings (Parliament of Tanganyika, 1962). Besides establishing this corporation, the government stimulated people to form cooperatives to provide better housing for themselves (Kwanama, 2015). This stimulation was further reinforced with the passing of the Local Government Act in 1982, which established the Town Councils. The goal of this law was to promote local participation in the organization of urban areas and led to a similar approach as the British Council-housing (United Republic of Tanzania, 1982). After this was law passed,

the government introduced the Squatter Upgrading Program in the early 1980s, with support from the World Bank. This program focused on improving infrastructure and shelter. The main principles were affordability and community involvement: community members were involved in design, planning and construction, leading to integral community participation in development (Iddi, 2022).

After the 1980s, the government initiated several other projects aimed at improving living conditions by providing basic infrastructure and community facilities in informal areas. However, these projects led to unsatisfactory outcomes and were eventually discontinued. By the early 1990s, the quick urbanisation and population growth were outpacing the government's efforts. Yet, the government kept initiating projects mainly focused on improving infrastructure, like the Community Infrastructure Programme (CIP) in the 1990s, and later the Community Infrastructure Upgrading Programme (CIUP) in the 2000s. The government also introduced regulations, which were used to map and register informal settlements. This regulation aimed to achieve structural quality for these settlements. Over the years, there was a clear change in the structural quality of informal settlements: the use of modern materials in these dwellings in 2017 had increased significantly compared to 1991 (Iddi, 2022). Even though the floor plan remains the same as the traditional Swahili House, the materiality has changed. Nowadays, the foundations and walls usually consist of sand or cement, and the roof structure is made of timber and is covered with iron sheets (Wells et al, 1998).

In 2000, the National Human Settlements Development Policy was approved, aiming to improve living conditions. This policy aimed to offer adequate shelter to all by simplifying building regulations, as well as improving unplanned settlements, infrastructure and housing finance. Due to economic reforms, the government does directly provide housing. This is why the government's role in affordable housing delivery can be considered enabling rather than providing (Kwanagama, 2015). Social housing provision is majorly dependent on non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which includes economic and technical support (IHA, 2016).

As discussed, the rapid population growth and urbanization in Tanzania have led to an increase in informal settlements in urban areas. Since independence, the Tanzanian government has experimented with multiple housing programmes and policies aimed at improving the living conditions of informal areas. The government's approach to social housing focuses on affordability and community involvement, and even though the government does stimulate the development of social housing, the actual provision of social housing is mainly dependent on NGOs. Comparing Tanzania's approaches to British approaches to social housing policies, it is noticeable that Tanzania's government went for similar approaches as the British government did a few years prior. This includes slum-clearance, creating corporations to facilitate and manage housing and focusing on local involvement. Therefore, despite there being no direct British involvement in developing policies, the British approaches may have served as an inspiration for Tanzania's housing policy development.

2.4 Contemporary Tanzanian Approaches to Social Housing

As discussed in earlier chapters, the rapid population growth and urbanization in Tanzania have led to a growing demand for adequate housing, especially in urban areas. This has led to the development of (social) housing policies, which resulted in the government experimenting with several types of housing projects to accommodate low-income households.

The first type of social housing project is Public-led Housing Projects. These projects aim to construct affordable housing to meet the demands of the housing market and are done by the National Housing Corporation, which was established in 1962. An example of a government-led housing project is the Kigamboni Housing project, in the early 2000s (figure 2). This project not only focused on affordability but also sustainability by working with consultancy firm GreenA. Like other public-led projects, Kigamboni is financed by external loans done by the NHC. However, the reality of these government-led projects is that the supposedly 'affordable' houses ended up being unaffordable for low-income households, which is why these houses are mostly inhabited by middle-income households (Limbumba, 2022). Public-led projects often cooperate with foreign consultancy firms, which results in a direct influence of foreign architectural, technical or managerial approaches.

Another type of social housing project is Community-led Housing Projects: These projects focus on delivering affordable housing based on local initiatives but often depend on external financial aid from (inter)national Non-Governmental Organizations. An example of a community-led project is the Chamazi project (figure 3). In 2006, Tanzania's government demolished many informal settlements to make way for urban infrastructure developments and left about 36.000 people homeless. With technical support and guidance from community-led organizations, residents formed a community housing cooperative: the Tanzania Urban Poor Federation (TUPF). They collectively saved money and with further assistance from NGO's, TUPF managed to secure land for resettlement. As of 2019, this project has provided 75 new homes for the Chamazi community (Transformative Cities, 2019). In these projects, the community housing cooperative trains the community in construction skills. Because of this, construction materials can be fabricated on-site by community members, leading to little foreign involvement in technological approaches or the acquisition of materials (Transformative Cities, 2019).

The most common typology for low-income housing is the Self-built Housing, which is built by the residents themselves (figure 4). This typology has been around since before colonialism but has vastly grown since the increase of informal settlements after independence. Approximately 98% of Dar es Salaam's current housing stock consists of self-built houses, and are financed by individual savings or loaning money from micro-credit facilities. The challenge of this approach is that due to its uncontrolled nature, it often involves health and safety risks. Because residents are responsible for executing and financing these projects, there is no direct Western-European influence in this approach (Limbumba, 2022).

Public-led projects often cooperate with foreign consultancy firms and depend on external financial aid. This approach has the largest dependency on (inter)national collaborations, therefore showing the largest potential Western-European influence on architectural, technical or managerial approaches. Even though community-led projects depend on external financial aid, there is little foreign involvement in this typology because the development is done by community-led organizations. In the Self-built Housing typology, there is no foreign involvement, resulting in a typology with little to no Western-European influence.



Figure 2: Kigamboni Housing Project



Figure 3: Chamazi Housing Project



Figure 4: Self-built Housing in Tanzania

Chapter 3

Western-European Influence on Architectural Approaches

The colonial period led to a Western-European influence on political, social and economic developments in Tanzania. However, during this time there was also a Western-European influence on Tanzanian architectural views and theories.

In the early 19th century, European investment in infrastructure and buildings in sub-Saharan Africa was limited. This changed after 1884 when the Berlin Conference (Afrika-Konferenz) led to regulated trade and colonisation in Africa (Aufmkolk, 2010). In the initial stages of European architectural development, it was common to use African typologies and materials due to limited imported building materials and academically trained architects. Over time, European architectural developments in Africa gradually gravitated away from the traditional African building approaches (Scholtens, 2011).

After World War II, European investment in African territories surged, especially in infrastructure and building development. This increased demand for new developments led to a wave of British architects who settled in Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika (Sharp, 2005). The architectural and infrastructural development was generally in line with the modernist International Style, a modernist approach that was dominant in Western architecture at the time. Characterized by its orthogonal forms, lack of ornamentation, spacious interiors and the use of materials like glass, steel and reinforced concrete, the International Style was implemented by major figures like Le Corbusier and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2020). This shift to modernist architecture became a spatial expression of government control and the vision to ‘modernise’ the state. To achieve ‘appropriate’ housing for European settlers, traditional African architecture was discarded as it was considered inappropriate. Furthermore, colonial urban planning introduced zoning, which resulted in racial and class segregation, excluding Africans from central urban developments (Scholtens, 2011). In short, the colonial government invested in a boom of building development in African territories, all the while expressing and projecting Western-European views on said development by designing in a modernist style. Not only were these new developments direct products of the Western-European involvement in architecture, but they also influenced local architectural approaches. The simple forms and speedy construction that came with the modernist approach symbolised the idea of progress and change, which inspired African architects. This resulted in African architects who were in charge of designing buildings would also implement this modernist style, by choosing reinforced concrete and steel frames over timber poles and straw finishes (Sharp, 2005).

An example of a Tanzanian architect inspired by Western-European architectural views and implemented their modernist approaches to his design was Anthony Almeida. He was born in Dar es Salaam but attended architectural education at the Sir JJ School of Arts in Bombay, India. The head of the school, British modernist architect Claude Batley, greatly influenced Almeida's architectural development by introducing him to modern Western architecture. Another architect who sourced Almeida's interest in modern Western architecture was Le Corbusier, who was commissioned for several projects in India during the 1950s (Jaiswal, 2022). After Almeida finished his studies, he became an associate of the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects), and in 1950 he returned to Tanganyika to set up his architecture practice in Dar es Salaam (Sharp, 2005). For his projects, Almeida drew inspiration from international modern architectural ideas, with Le Corbusier in particular. This inspiration is visible in his design choices, especially in his residence which he designed in 1963. As shown in Figure 5, Almeida implemented Le Corbusier's brise soleil and used orthogonal shapes in his design. Furthermore, the open interior and concrete columns, as visible in Figure 6, also derive from the modernist style (Mosha, 2018).

After independence in the 1960s, Tanzania focused on decolonization by applying nation-building. This nation-building aimed for new forms to express their identity as a newly independent African state, breaking away from material colonial legacies. The nation-building was aimed at Dodoma, whose central location was beneficial for social and economic opportunities. However, there was a heavy reliance on foreign aid for this nation-building: most of the architects commissioned were foreign and there was a financial dependence on international donations. This resulted in nation-building being a process that did not meet the ambitions of expressing the nation's new independent identity (Beeckmans, 2017).

An aspect of the International Style was the focus on economical, utilitarian and modular architecture (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2020). Because of that, the International Style was considered a fitting approach for mass housing projects, like the nation-building in post-independence Tanzania. The state's ambition to provide affordable and adequate housing aligned with the modular and scalable nature of the International Style. However, Western design concepts are not always suitable in foreign contexts: these approaches often disregard local building traditions, local climate requirements and community desires. In a recent interview in 2018, Almeida expressed his discontent about the skyscrapers that are erecting in Dar es Salaam, with excessive use of glass facades and no regard for climatic design. He posed the question: "Is it better to be a local architect and maintain local design conditions or to be a "modern" architect and design Manhattan-like skyscrapers in tropical countries?" (Almeida, 2018).

In short, the colonial government invested in buildings and urban planning that aligned with Western-European modernist International Style, which led to a direct manifestation of Western-European influence in Tanzania's architecture. The influence of Western-European approaches did not end with the colonial period but was extended through the post-independence development projects like the nation-building initiatives, as well as the continuous inspiration of Modern design concepts on African architects. However, Western design concepts are not always suitable for Tanzanian designs, as they often disregard local building traditions, local climate requirements and community wishes.



Figure 5: Facade Villa Savoye & Almeida Residence



Figure 6: Interior Villa Savoye & Almeida Residence

Conclusion

There has been an apparent Western-European influence on Tanzania in the past. This influence was mainly rooted in the British colonial period, from which Tanzania inherited racial discrimination, a Western market-oriented economy and a continuous dependency on financial and technological aid from Britain. Post-independence, there has been an ambition from the Tanzanian government to move away from colonial inheritance, which led to the self-reliance policy which resulted in a crash of Tanzania's economy. After economic liberations, the economy started growing steadily. However, this led to a continuous dependency on foreign financial and technical aid, especially for housing projects.

In colonial Tanganyika, there were no real social housing policies, because the managerial and urban policies were mainly focused on serving the colonial economy, and disregarded. The colonial urban framework had capitalist characteristics with clear zoning regulations, which led to urban sprawl and informal settlements. Post-independence urban policies are built upon the existing urban framework, which is why the new urban policies remain a direct legacy of colonialism. Furthermore, since independence, the Tanzanian government has experimented with multiple housing policies and programmes aimed at improving the living conditions of informal areas, which mainly house low- and middle-income households. The government's approach to social housing included slum clearance, creating corporations to facilitate and manage housing and focusing on local involvement, which are similar to British approaches to social housing. In contemporary Tanzania, the main approaches to social housing include public-led projects, community-led projects and self-built housing. Public-led projects have the largest dependency on foreign aid, whereas for community-led projects and self-built housing, there is little to no Western-European involvement.

Through the investment of the colonial government in buildings and planning, there was also a clear Western-European influence on Tanzania's architectural approaches. This influence was extended through the post-independence development projects as well as the continuous inspiration of African architects. In conclusion, there has been an apparent Western-European influence on social housing approaches in Tanzania, including social-political and architectural influences.

Reflection

At the beginning of writing this research, my main goal was to understand the harm of Western-European organizations getting involved in building projects in developing countries. By learning about the past Western-European social-political, architectural and managerial influences and how these are still apparent in modern-day Tanzania, I have learned a lot about past and present international relations. For example, how there is still a major dependency on foreign aid, even though Tanzania has strongly strived to be an independent nation. Furthermore, despite declaring independence in the 1960s, there is still an apparent influence in Tanzania's architecture and approach to social housing in modern-day Tanzania.

One thing I wanted to avoid was a singular-viewed bias, which I did by basing the research on sources from different backgrounds, including direct Tanzanian sources. However, due to the social nature of this research, I would like to do further research on the experience of Tanzanian low-income households during the 1960s as well as in contemporary Tanzania, by doing interviews or administering surveys. Another thing I would like to research more is the actual architecture of public-led social housing, by doing a detailed case-study comparing a Tanzanian social housing project to a case of British social housing.

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Images

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