St. Kizito Primary School

Chilomoni, Blantyre

Location
Beehive Main Campus, Chilomoni, Blantyre, Malawi

Type
Primary School (Standards 1-8)

Year of Construction
2019 - ongoing

Design Architect / Project Architect
Julianne Cassidy

Design Engineer
Toby Savage

Project Engineers
Hendrix Mgawana and Nick Thorley

Consultant Site Foreman
George Olney

Total Building Area (Approx. GEA)
2,816m^2

Number of Storeys
3

Construction Cost
Estimated 1.583billion MWK
(£1.6million GBP - rate correct as of 24th August 2020)

Cost per m^2
Estimated 562,144 MWK/m^2
(£574 GBP/m^2)

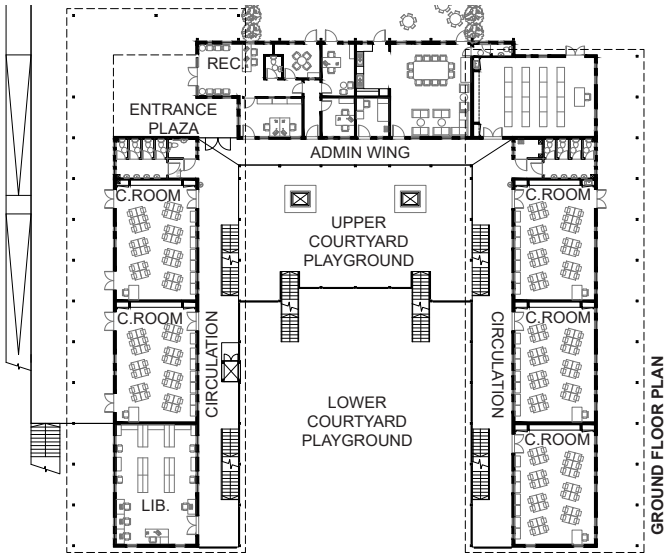
"Together with the MTCC, an international standard of teaching and built educational facility will be made available to the local community right in the heart of Chilomoni." *(Julianne Cassidy, St. Kizito Primary School Architect)*

"Only 40% of all children of Primary School age [in Malawi] achieved the minimum learning standard - and the gap between the poorest and the richest more than doubles."
('Education for All Monitoring Report', UNESCO, 2014)

The St. Kizito Primary School is currently under construction at the Beehive Main Campus, in Chilomoni, Blantyre. The Primary School aims to offer quality, international-standard educational facilities to severely impoverished children in the local area, and to provide continuity of education to the students at Beehive's 'Mother Teresa Children's Centre'. The project employs all local workers, providing employment and skills-training in a community where 42.7% of the labour force is inactive (Office for National Statistics).

The school is set out in a three-sided 'courtyard' configuration, in order to create a protected, enclosed atmosphere, and is orientated to the South to offer amazing views of the Sanjika hill from nearly all of the teaching and circulation spaces. The building spans 3 storeys (one of only three structures in Chilomoni to do so), in order to raise aspirations, lift spirits and look to the future. Through the building's formation, varying-scale teaching and recreational spaces are created, to accommodate a range of play and learning activities.

The school's structure is expressed externally, with site-made Hydraform blocks forming infill between the framing elements; classrooms are therefore free from internal structure, creating neat, obstruction-free and flexible spaces to accommodate a range of furniture, equipment and teaching resource.



The building's circulation is external, and therefore well-ventilated. Located to the inside of the courtyard, the design of the circulation 'balconies' increases visibility to other parts of the school and maximises the spectacular view out to the South. Most classrooms are double-aspect, with tall, vertical windows on 2 or 3 sides, encouraging effective passive cross-ventilation and natural lighting. Overhanging roofs to the East and West of the building assist with solar shading on bright days. The upper floors utilise a honeycomb block pattern at high-level, to generate further cross-ventilation, and the steel roof sheets are clad internally with insulation and gypsum-board ceilings to create cool, sound-insulated teaching spaces.