

La liberazione di Tanzania, Kenya e Zambia avvenuta negli anni Sessanta era coincisa nei Paesi Nordici con l'istituzione di enti preposti a fornire aiuti ai Paesi in via di sviluppo, dove forte era la convinzione che il modello socialdemocratico potesse essere esportato, tradotto e utilizzato per favorire la crescita economica e il benessere sociale dell'Africa. I leader dei nuovi stati africani desideravano collaborare con partner che non avessero alle spalle un torbido passato di colonizzatori e instaurarono con i Paesi Nordici legami molto forti basati sulla fiducia reciproca e condivisa nei confronti dello sviluppo e del progresso. In un arco di tempo breve, ma intenso concentratosi tra gli anni Sessanta e Settanta, gli architetti nordici contribuirono al rapido processo di modernizzazione di questa parte del continente africano. Questa è la storia incompleta di questa produzione architettonica, che intende esplorare come queste opere siano state assorbite, rifiutate, adattate e trasformate.

FINLAND
SWEDEN
NORWAY

FORMS OF FREEDOM AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE & NORDIC MODELS

The liberation of Tanzania, Kenya and Zambia in the 1960s coincided with the founding of state development aid in the Nordic countries, where there was widespread belief that the social democratic model could be exported, translated, and used for nation-building, modernization and welfare in Africa. The leaders of the new African states wanted partners without a murky colonial past, and established solid bonds with the Nordic countries, built on a mutual belief in progress. During a few intense years in the 60s and 70s, Nordic architects contributed to the rapid process of modernization in this part of Africa. These young architects found themselves in the field between *building freedom* and *finding freedom*: Building freedom denotes nation-building through city planning, infrastructure and industry, and institutions for education, health, and state bureaucracy, whereas finding freedom points at the modernist, experimental free area that emerged from the encounter between Nordic aid and African nation-building. This is the incomplete story of this architectural production, exploring how these works were absorbed, rejected, adapted and transformed.

KENYA
TANZANIA
ZAMBIA



President Julius Nyerere, Tapani Katala and Oddvar Bjærum at the site



Trygve Bratteli, Prime Minister, Norway visits Julius Nyerere, Tanzania, 1975



Opening ceremony, Kibaha



Opening ceremony, Kibaha



Foundation stone ceremony, Julius Nyerere

"The initial project institutions were chosen because the Tanzanian authorities had given agriculture, health, and education developments the highest priority and because such institutions would be important elements of the country's own development programme."

Kibaha, Nordic Tanganyika Project, Final Report on Planning and Construction, Prepared by Norconsult AS November 1968

THE PILOT KIBAHA TANZANIA

In 1961 the members of the Nordic Council entered into a partnership agreement to lend technical assistance to developing countries. Tanganyika gained its independence later that same year and was chosen as the first cooperating country for the joint Nordic aid program. In 1962, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden signed an agreement with Tanganyika to develop a multi-institutional center for health, education and agriculture in Kibaha outside Dar es Salaam. As part of the new nation building, this first concrete manifestation of joint Nordic aid materialized in the experimental zone between Nordic social democracy and emerging African socialism. As a decentralizing and modernizing initiative, this facility became the prototype that President Julius Nyerere wanted to replicate all over Tanzania, Tanganyika's successor state. The center is still running.

The Nordic Tanganyika Centre (1963–68)
Architects **Christoffersen & Hvalbye**
Commissioner
The Government of Tanganyika
Technical Planning **Norconsult AS**
Building Contractor
Italian Construction Co. Ltd.



“... the Tanzania Government would like more Kibahas, and as many as possible!”

President Julius Nyerere, 10 January 1970



The Nordic Ministerial Committee signs an agreement with Tanganyika to establish a multi-institutional center for health, education and agriculture (Feb)

Experts visit Tanzania with proposals for a center (Aug)

Planning starts

Kibaha Secondary School opens, with 120 boys

Kibaha Secondary School is completed, for 600 boys from all over Tanzania

The Nordic Tanganyika Centre is completed, also containing a library, sports fields, an assembly hall, shops, and housing and administration buildings

1961

1962

1963

1964

1965

1966

1967

1968

1970

The Nordic Council decides on a common foreign aid policy

Julius Nyerere inaugurates the Farmers Training Centre

Kibaha Training Health Centre is completed. Capacity 200,000 patients a year, and a three-years education program for 20 nurses

Tanzania takes charge of the center, renamed Kibaha Education Centre, with the King of Denmark and President Julius Nyerere both present at the ceremony



Photo: Karl Henrik Nøstvik, study trip, 1967