IPA Architects is an established Company of Architects and Designers providing professional services to the construction industry.

Formed in 1983 as Iain Pattie Associates, the group has expanded from its core activity in the UK Hotel and Leisure sector to encompass a wide range of international projects in different segments of the market.
A branch office was established in Tanzania in 1993 with an office in Dar es Salaam. It was originally established as a small satellite office to work on 2 bank fit-outs. However, since then it has grown considerably and now undertakes major construction projects in Tanzania and throughout the region. It has deservedly gained a reputation for consistently providing a 1st world standard of consultancy service in a challenging environment.

In April 2013 IPA Tanzania will have been established in Tanzania for 20 years.

IPA is a strongly design oriented company firmly believing in the added value of good design. High quality design encompasses responsive design (climate, site, location, culture, use, etc.), conceptual approach, a thorough understanding of the adequacy of specified material and its opportunities to be easily maintained.

This is proven by the extended list of high profile clients with whom IPA have worked with over the past few years.

IPA sees the projects developed by clients as long term assets and endeavours to design and have the projects built so they withstand the impact of time. Designing in the tropics has its particular challenges and IPA’s 20 years experience allows our company to combine the best of in depth knowledge of building technology from the ‘developed’ world with the particularities of the tropical environment.

“simplicity is the ultimate sophistication”
IPA's main focus is to provide full Architectural Services. However, from its in-house resources additional services, such as Interior Designs, Urban Planning and Graphic Design consultancy services are also available. These services are tailored to suit the specific needs of its clients on a project by project basis.

Furthermore the company’s extensive experience in developing and designing both residential as well as commercial schemes, enables IPA to assist the client with initial appraisal work and development of the project brief. The viability of the developed scheme is an essential aspect.

IPA's expertise ranges from restoration (the State House), refurbishment (Chamwino State Lodge, House in Lushoto for the former President Benjamin Mkapa) and new-built (the majority of projects), mainly in Tanzania and U.K., but also elsewhere.

IPA seek to explore what contemporary architecture should be in an East African environment, though to do so in a manner were the buildings provide answers to the harsh climatic and local challenges, such as intensive sunshine, tropical rainfall, dust, heat and humidity, corrosive marine climate, restricted availability of electricity, insects, limited availability of good quality building materials and products. To turn around those challenges into design opportunities and features that give character and identity to the building as well as to the place is what excites IPA as a practice. To develop and design in this physical as well as cultural environment. We believe it is much more interesting and fulfilling to explore the elements that go together to make up this part of Africa and to use them to try and construct a new kind of architecture. One open to international influences but still routed to, and relevant to, the place where they exist. This is what IPA have tried to do for nearly 20 years and the challenge starts afresh each day we arrive at work.

John Kelly is the Director in charge of the Dar office. Our Dar office is a melting pot of ideas and different cultures. Many Tanzanian and International architects have been employed in our offices over the years and all of those people have contributed positively in their own way to the work that IPA undertakes. People, and particularly properly motivated design and technical staff are what make IPA the practice it is. Currently (i.e. in 2012) IPA is a mid-sized practice employing on average 10 professional staff, who are in turn ably supported by management, secretarial and back-up staff.

As an office we pride ourselves in attention to detail and the practice never takes on board more projects than it is able to deliver successfully. Since our inception IPA have been fortunate enough to be involved in number of prestigious projects. None more so than on a series of projects at the State House where, over more than a 10 year period, we have been architects on the State House Refurbishment, the Official Residence of the President, the Reception Building and currently working on a major international conference and Banquet Hall set in the State House grounds. IPA have special areas of expertise in hotel/leisure development, residential projects and commercial/office projects. All projects undertaken by us receive the same level of attention. Whether large multi-million dollar commercial developments, projects for government or one-off residences for private Clients. Each project is unique.
building types

- offices
- residential
- hotels & lodges
- government
- commercial
- offices
- residential
- hotels & lodges
- government
- commercial
- offices
- residential
- hotels & lodges
- government
IPA have undertaken a large number of office projects over almost 20 years.

These office projects are in many cases new buildings but we have also overseen many substantial refurbishment projects for some of the largest Company headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

Recently completed new-building projects include Exim Tower (in association with SPASM Design) which is one of the landmark office buildings in the City. Just starting on site are new headquarters for NMB on the former Nyumba ya Sanaa site.

IPA have also carried out major office projects for NBC, TTC, State House, Prime Minister’s office and World Bank.

It is in commercial buildings that the value of the good design can most clearly show a financial return to our Clients. The image presented to customers is a direct expression of what a business or company wants to say about itself.

One of our most high profile commercial buildings is the new showroom and offices for DT Dobie on Pugu Road. This building set a new standard for car dealerships in East Africa.

IPA has worked for a wide range of banks, including Standard Chartered, National Bank of Commerce, National Microfinance Bank and Exim Bank.
IPA has had the unique opportunity in the last few years to work on a number of very prestigious projects, including the Annex, which is a new-built main residence for the President in the grounds of the State House. We also completed two projects for the former President Benjamin Mkapa, one a refurbishment of a 1930s house in the Usambara Mountains in Lushoto, the other one his main residence new-build house overlooking the Indian Ocean, in Dar es Salaam.

Works for a new-built house for retired President Ali Hassan Mwinyi should commence on site shortly.

We have also had the opportunity to refurbish the remarkable State Lodge in Chamwino (near Dodoma), where the complex of residential houses are built over the large existing rocks set into the landscape.

IPA has renovated or designed and built a number of other unique residential houses, whether for Embassies, private clients or even for basic accommodation in gold mine villages.

In 2011 IPA won a Design competition for 24 exclusive apartments on a site in Oysterbay. This project is ongoing.

Hotels is the building type our IPA London office has specialised in for over 30 years, both new-build and refurbishment. IPA has completed a vast range of hotels, individual hotels, such as the Chelsea Hotel, Regency Hotel, Claringdon Court Hotel, Washington Hotel and many others, and hotel chains, such as Holiday Inn in Kensington and Lisbon and various Sheraton hotels. It has also designed a wide range of Health Centres, fitness Clubs and Spa’s. IPA London has also worked on various Cruise Ship interior designs.

As IPA was established in Tanzania various hotel projects were part of the early work carried out both in Dar es Salaam as well as various other locations. The Protea Apartments in Oysterbay and a new-build hotel in Pangani, but also the Vamizi lodges in Mozambique to name just a few.

Working alongside the developer, client and/or operator, IPA can assist in advising on room sizes in relation to what is available in other hotels in Dar, general layout to suit optimisation of operation, efficient design for the service and delivery areas and simultaneously combine the rationale of the hotel room with the other functions to create unique buildings with sufficient articulation and to be responsive to the tropical climate and cultural elements.
Our involvement in Government projects started with the renovation of State House where we provided architectural and interior design services. This building houses the offices of the President as well as the Vice President and many State Ceremonial facilities. Within the grounds of State House we have completed a new Reception and Security building as well as the new official Residence of the President. Just about to start on site is a major new conference and banquet hall. Other government buildings include designs for a new complex of buildings for the Prime Minister’s Office and a new office and Dispensary building for the State House.
photo gallery
1. DT Dobbie phase 2
2. DT Dobbie showroom
3. DT Dobbie showroom
4. State House
5. Exim Tower
6. Private Residence
7. Chelsea Hotel
8. Annex
9. DT Dobbie showroom
10. Vamizi Lodge
11. Private Residence
1. Private Residence
2. Private Residence
3. State House
4. State Lodge, Chamwino
5. Annex
6. CMC tower
7. Exim Tower
8. State House
9. Saadani River Lodge
10. State House Reception
11. Annex
Government

Presidents Office, State House, Tanzania
Prime Minister’s Office, Tanzania
President Office, Public Service Management
US Embassy, Dar es Salaam
British High Commission, Dar es Salaam
Government of Canada
Belgian Embassy
British Overseas Estates Department

Institutional

French School of Tanzania
Haven of Peace Academy
Association of Jehovah’s Witnesses, TZ
Wonder Welders
Mwalimu Nyerere United World College for Self-Reliance
World Bank

Private Companies

Karimjee Jivanjee Ltd
CMC Automobiles
DT Dobie Tanzania (currently CFAO Tanzania)
National Microfinance Bank - NMB
Exim Bank
Standard Chartered Bank
National Bank of Commence - NBC
Sheraton Hotels (Tanruss Properties Ltd.)
Theatre Square Ltd.
New Africa Hotel
Mirambo Street Properties Ltd.
MAC-UTI Properties Ltd.
Upanga Joint venture Company Ltd.
African Barrick Gold
Kahama Mining Corporation Ltd. (KMCL)
Kabanga Nickel Company Ltd (KNCL)
RJ Reynolds – Tanzania Cigarette Company
Vodacom Tanzania
Skanska
Cabo Delgado Biodiversity and Tourism Project
Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC)
ZEK Properties Ltd.
Shivacom Group
Award: Best Project Award

Awarded by: Architects and Quantity Surveyors Registration Board

Category: Commercial, Residential and Educational Development

Prize: Second & Third Winner

Date: 24 August 2012

Projects: 2nd Prize - DT Dobbie Showroom phase 1
3rd Prize - Exim Tower Office Building

Magazine: Architecture nz
Issue date: February 2011
Featured Project: State House Reception

Magazine: Architecture nz
Issue date: February 2007
Featured Project: State House Reception

Magazine: Domus
Issue date: May 2012
Featured Project: Exim Tower

Magazine: Domus
Issue date: May 2012
Featured Project: Exim Tower

Magazine: Architecture nz
Issue date: February 2011
Featured Project: The Annex
OFFICE FACILITIES

IPA’s premises are located on the Masaki Peninsula, Dar es Salaam with a 315m2 office, on Mahando street, not far from the S.A. High Commission.

The office operates under the guidance of IPA’s own Office Manual, which governs and oversees the functioning of the office in its entirety, including staff issues and regulations, monitoring of time spent of jobs, office procedures, including filing, procedures for correspondence, meetings, e-mail etc.

This document is IPA’s Quality Assurance roadmap and is essential to provide the client with a high quality service and for our team to deliver the projects in an efficient and dedicated way. The document is available to clients on request.

The office runs AutoCAD as its main 2D CAD software and Rhyno for the 3D modelling.

The office has following technical facilities:

Hardware:
- 10 nr. desktop computers HP, Intel Duo Core processor - 2.8 GHz, networked to a central server: Intel Xeon CPU – 2 GHz – 3GB Ram
- 1 Mac desktop computer 2,66GHz Quad Core Intel Xeon Processor, Memory: 12GB 1022MHZ DDR3 (used for renderings)
- 2 HP laptops HP, Intel Duo Core processor - 2.4 GHz - 1,92GB Ram
- A Nashuatec Aficio MP2050, combined photocopier, scanner, laser printer, full Colour, all sizes up to A3
- HP Laserjet 1200 series
- HP Designjet 500 plotter for plans up to A0 format

IPA has a monthly servicing contract with PC Solution and weekly system backups which further ensure uninterrupted functioning of the equipment and projects.

Software:
- Window XP, sp3
- AutoCAD 2012
- Rhino 4
- Adobe Creative Suite CS5
- Microsoft Office
- Microsoft Projects
- NBS Building Software

Other:
- Back Up Generator, UPS and stabilisers
- Library of Product Catalogues and Documentation
- Subscriptions to various architectural Magazine
- 5 Office cars (with 2 permanent drivers)

IPA has in the course of 2011 moved to using the NBS Building software for the Architectural Specifications on most of its projects. This specification includes both “product & manufacturer” as well as “performance” specifications. This allows an improved quality control, during tender and while on site.

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