



# A KENYAN ARCHITECT'S JOURNEY

*-Learning by Doing-*

**Architect Braz Menezes**

**Date: 04<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Time: 1500 hrs.**



**Login ID: 365 766 1035**  
**Pass Code: boraqs2023**

The co-founder of Mutiso-Menezes International (MMI), as he shares his professional safari around the world literary of 84 years.

He will highlight issues at appropriate 'milestones.'

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Braz was born in Kenya to parents from Goa, Portuguese India. He attended racially segregated schools until 1956.

## 2. TRAINING

Braz was among the first batch of graduates from the Dept of Architecture, Royal Technical College, Nairobi in 1961. In his final year, he was the winner of a design for Street Decorations during the Uhuru celebrations in 1963. He was awarded a British Commonwealth Scholarship to study Urban Planning at the University of Liverpool between 1964-1966.

## 3. EMPLOYMENT

On his return to serve Kenya, he could not accept employment in the public sector because Kenyan salaries did not cover the cost of rental housing for him and his wife. He worked instead in the private sector on the design of Strathmore College (men) and on Kianda College (women), with Architect Ed Hernandez. He rejoined TRIAD with Graham McCullough, who a few months later emigrated to the Seychelles in October 1967.

## 4. MENEZES AND PARTNERS

Braz launched his own firm in 1967. After a tumultuous start it had its biggest boost with the design of Buru Buru Township; Kibera New Village; Masai Lodge (Kitengela); KTTC (Gigiri); Mathare Maximum Security Hospital; Loresho North Housing; and the Maneaters Motel (Tsavo) and UNEP.

In 1974, David Mutiso-Chief Architect, retired from the Ministry of Works and joined Braz. MUTISO MENEZES INTERNATIONAL (MMI) was launched. The rest is history.

## 5. THE WORLD BANK

Braz Menezes emigrated with his family to Canada in 1977, and a year later, was recruited by the World Bank as a Projects Manager, based in Washington DC. From 1994-1995 he served Acting Resident Representative for the WB in Brazil, and a further two years as a Senior Operations Manager. He retired 22 years later in 1999 in Washington, DC and engaged in some consultancy work before returning to Canada in 2004. He will share his experience of how he contributed to the Bank's evolution of its policy in its Urban Sector to address then escalating priorities of poverty and rapid urbanization in some of the world's major cities. He had travelled extensively in India, Egypt, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Mexico, and South Korea, among others.

## 6. RETIREMENT IN CANADA

In Toronto he fully involved himself in voluntary work with neighborhood associations and various stakeholder groups, to give back something to the community in the Toronto area. By 2008, he was retired but not yet tired. He turned to the pen to escape retirement. He enrolled in evening classes in Creative Writing. He decided to chronicle his experience as a Goan of living through the last fifty years of Imperial power in the Portuguese and British Empires. For good measure, he extended his writing to include the first fifteen years of Independent Kenya.

He has self-published four books in The Matata Series under the imprint of Matata Books Toronto. A final book is to be released later this year. All his books have been reviewed on britishempire.co.uk.

## 7. Q&A

There will be a Q&A period after the presentation.