



Studio Contra is an architectural, urban and interior design practice based in Lagos, Nigeria.

Committed to the delivery of innovative and thoughtful architecture, we work within West Africa, as well as in collaboration with practices in other parts of the world, bringing a contemporary African interpretation to challenging briefs and new contexts.

We believe that for a project to have a lasting impact, three elements must be respected: concept, culture and craft.
All three link to humancentred design and long-term value creation in the built environment.

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## Dongodaji Lodge: A Modern Expression of Northern Nigerian Architecture

Located in the heart of Kaduna, Dongodaji Lodge is a 39-room hotel focused on providing a quality, affordable hospitality experience. The project was developed in line with the design and operational guidelines of the Nordic Hotel Group, resulting in a scheme that is highly efficient, streamlined, and cost-effective to operate.

Built on the site of a former family compound, a low-intervention approach was adopted, preserving the original foundation, clay walls, and mature trees. A practical and sustainable strategy that significantly reduced costs while anchoring the structure in its historical context.

The architecture takes practical inspiration from traditional Northern Nigerian palaces, granting the modest-budget structure a grand feel. It carefully uses familiar features like stepped rawani parapets and collonaded walkways to create a straightforward yet cohesive rhythm. These functional elements are complemented by tropical breeze blocks that offer crucial sun shading and natural privacy, removing the need for burglar-proofing- a modest nod to the light-filtering designs seen in classic Hausa architecture.

At the heart of the scheme is a beautiful atrium and courtyard, which efficiently introduces natural light and necessary crossventilation. The covered walkways also provide sheltered circulation, ensuring a comfortable guest experience. Dongodaji Lodge offers a modern yet rooted hospitality that combines functionality, respect for the local context, and accessibility for a wider guest demographic.

CLIENT

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