



EBI Tower: A landmark of sustainable African modernism

The Tower is envisioned as an iconic yet timeless African high-rise of quiet strength and refined simplicity. Conceived as a new landmark for Lagos, it reimagines the corporate tower as an open, breathing vertical campus. Slender vertical timber rhythms shade deeply recessed, operable glazing, reinterpreting the tropical city's language to merge climate intelligence with civic dignity, creating a new classic for Lagos's skyline. Rising with quiet confidence, the 20-storey tower embodies transparency, sustainability, and the ambition of a new generation of African institutions.

Organized around a publicly accessible podium, it creates generous spaces for exhibition, dialogue, and exchange. Above, a lush elevated garden terrace forms a green threshold to the office levels, offering panoramic views of the city. This open-air landscape extends the training rooms and cafeteria, a space for gathering, reflection, and exchange that connects nature and work in a tropical way.

Drawing inspiration from the Bamileke people of Cameroon and the practical elegance of Nigeria's Tropical Modernism, the design combines slender timber fins with operable glazing for environmental efficiency and architectural sophistication. The modular timber façade shades interiors, promotes natural ventilation, and reduces heat gain. Using locally sourced, sustainably harvested timber, including repurposed utility pole wood, reinforces commitment to regional materials and supports local forestry.

Designed for IFC EDGE certification, Ebi Tower integrates a cost-efficient concrete framework with innovative mass-timber elements at the pent-level. Together, these strategies form a vision celebrating African identity, climatic intelligence, and civic dignity in Lagos's evolving skyline.

CLIENT
Private

ARCHITECT
Studio Contra

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER
FAP Engineers

STATUS
Winner - Design Competition

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 human-centred design and long-term value creation in the built environment.

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