

Botswana Innovation Hub - Gaborone, Botswana
AE World Map Essay - Researched and edited by Jonathan Swallow, generated by ChatGPT

The Botswana Innovation Hub is an ambitious project that seeks to diversify the country's economy by investing in high-end IT. The building is a large investment by the government, and it is set to become an iconic symbol of innovation and entrepreneurship in the region. The building's design incorporates various architectural engineering features that make it both aesthetically pleasing and functional.

One of the most striking features of the Botswana Innovation Hub is its roof, which serves as an 'energy blanket' for the building. The roof is a massive green roof that covers the entire structure and is designed to be both iconic and timeless. The roof features large overhangs that serve to passively shade the building and provide protection against the hot Botswana sun. These overhangs are also repeated in the deep articulation of the facade to maximize shading on the building's lower levels, ensuring that the interior remains cool and comfortable.

In addition to its functional purpose, the roof also has a sustainable purpose. The roof contains a combination of vegetated areas, photovoltaic panels, and rainwater harvesting systems. The vegetated areas were designed in collaboration with GREENinc and feature local and drought-tolerant species, which require no watering. This approach to landscaping is environmentally-conscious and sustainable.

The photovoltaic panels and rainwater harvesting systems incorporated into the roof are expected to offset around half of the building's operational energy costs. This is a significant achievement and speaks to the building's commitment to sustainability. The combination of these sustainable features in the building's design is a testament to the architects' and engineers' efforts to create a functional, environmentally-friendly building.

The Botswana Innovation Hub's design is also intended to encourage interaction and collaboration between different tenant companies. Bridges connect the four main volumes of the building, and green spaces on different levels create opportunities for group collaboration and exploration. The building's design, which incorporates breakout spaces, aims to foster creativity and innovation, promoting a culture of collaboration in Botswana's budding knowledge-based economy.

Overall, the Botswana Innovation Hub is an impressive example of how architectural engineering can be used to create a functional, sustainable, and aesthetically-pleasing building. Its design not only incorporates sustainable features but also fosters collaboration and innovation. As a result, the Botswana Innovation Hub is a valuable investment in Botswana's economic future and an iconic symbol of innovation and entrepreneurship in the region.

References

<https://www.dezeen.com/2020/07/21/botswana-innovation-hub-shop-architects-gaborone/>

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