

# The Fumba Times

FROM ZANZIBAR TO THE WORLD – THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL

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PHOTOS (3): CPS

Lagoon vibes in Zanzibar: The new leisure complex The Soul in Paje, on Zanzibar's exotic east coast, is coming up! First houses are to be handed over already in 2021

## OWN A PIECE OF PARADISE

The Soul: First holiday apartments anybody can buy – ideal for “workation”

By staff writer

The sea shimmers turquoise, temperatures rarely drop below 30 degrees Celsius in December. There's a jungle out there, but your apartment is cool, modern and eco-friendly.

You are sipping fresh *madafu*, coconut water, and open your laptop because it's home office time. The internet at the rooftop co-working space is top-notch and surely your colleague in London, Braunschweig, Seattle or Bahrain will not believe you when you tell him you are working from Zanzibar.

And the dream doesn't stop here: Your girlfriend is paddling around in a man-made lagoon just in front of your terrace. She smiles and says, she rather waits for you to go kiting together than checking out the surf on her own.

If this sounds like a scene from your sweetest dreams, it's time to wake up and make it real. At least, that is what Tobias Dietzold would recommend, one of the masterminds behind The Soul apartments, presently being built on the African island. The new fully serviced residential leisure project lies in the hinterland of Paje on Zanzibar's east coast, only a short walking distance from the now famous kitesurfing beach.

“The worldwide corona pandemic has not slowed down the sale of the holiday property, on the contrary”, Dietzold says: “People are looking for safe investments they can use themselves and also rent out.” A hundred The Soul units have been sold in the last months to buyers of 20 nationalities - some looking for remote working places. A new global trend has been spurred by the corona crisis: Some call it “long-distance home office”, others, “workation” (from work and vacation). “Your home office by the beach – why not?” says developer Tobias Dietzold.

The Soul flats - in total 220 units in 11 terrace buildings - are the first holiday property where foreigners are free to

„A home office  
by the beach -  
why not?”

buy. Construction is well on the way for the extraordinary hideaway project. Project manager Milan Heilmann, 30: “When visitors enter, they can already imagine the silhouettes of the wellbeing oasis we are creating here.” Handover of the first serviced one to three bedroom apartments, with either a private garden or terrace, is expected for 2021.

Prices start from \$47,900 for a one-bedroom to \$96,900 for a three-bedroom. “Where in the world can

you get a property near the beach for that money?” Heilmann asks. The Soul project is directed by CPS, the German developers building Zanzibar's first eco-city Fumba Town near the capital.

Tourism has been growing at a record rate of 15 per cent in Zanzibar before the pandemic. With only few reported covid-19 cases, the semi-autonomous island just off the coast of Tanzania, seems to be doing comparatively well. And the surfers are already back in Paje! With its shallow coastline and tropical waters, it has been rated one of the world's top ten kitesurfing destinations.

Eco is a keyword for the Paje complex. The hybrid houses utilising wood technology are prefabricated locally in Zanzibar. “Solar panels, cross ventilation, reuse of rainwater, waste recycling – all these elements make the project work”, explains Lucas Garcia de Oteyza, the Spanish architect. “We'll have a barbecue area for all”, adds manager Heilmann. Just like in Fumba Town, and unlike in many other building projects in Africa, permaculture gardens are planted parallel to the construction. “Before the first buyers move in, the birds will sing here”, Heilmann says with a smile. The holiday flats both provide individual comfort and a clever 2.0 communal concept: rentals are fully managed, co-working spaces, gyms and bistros planned. Enjoying picturesque beaches and local culture while being grounded in modernity at home - who would say no to this?



Enjoying a private afternoon (upper photo) in your own holiday home. The Soul's construction site in walking distance from Paje beach (below)



## OUR (HI)STORY

THE FUMBA TIMES, founded in 2019, is Zanzibar's first English-language local lifestyle newspaper with universal appeal. Our main focus is Fumba Town, the growing eco-city next to the capital - hence our name. With hands-on features about green living, culture and tourism, but also with a free exchange of views, we are your link to Zanzibar, Africa and beyond. Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year 2021, enjoy the read!

EXCLUSIVE

## READY FOR TAKE-OFF

For the first time ever, prestigious airline Lufthansa will fly to Zanzibar, starting a twice-weekly service from Frankfurt. Why and why now, we asked Lufthansa spokesperson Boris Ogursky.



Service will commence on 31 March 2021, every Wednesday and Saturday with an Airbus A 330-300 with 225 seats, first built in 2002 (photo), via Mombasa. Return flights between Zanzibar and Frankfurt are non-stop.

Given the corona situation, what is prompting Lufthansa to fly to Zanzibar?

Ogursky: The brand-new route is part of several new long-haul destinations of Lufthansa focusing more on private travellers and tourists, among them Namibia and Mauritius. We are happy to have your beautiful island in our timetable.

Your airline, too, is in dire straits; is there a positive forecast for tourism?

At least on a longer term, we see good potential for tourists, but also for expats and local business people to travel on our African routes. We are reacting to requests from travel companies and tour operators.

Is leisure travel your new strategy to replace lost corporate business?

We are driven by demand. But a comfortable, direct airline connection can also benefit the development of tourism. Lufthansa offers top connections from its hub in Frankfurt to everywhere in Europe, Asia and America. A lot of different markets can comfortably fly to Africa with us. We'll create a bridge between Europe and Zanzibar. AT

## SCHOOL'S ON IN FUMBA!

Silverleaf and Montessori starting beginning of 2021



Happy to learn and evolve, kids deserve the best education possible

As Fumba Town, the new seaside community just 20 minutes away from the capital Zanzibar City, is growing, so is the number of families living and working there. “After extensive planning we are proud to announce the opening of the first nursery and pre-primary in January 2021. Primary and secondary schools are set to follow in 2022”, disclosed Katrin Dietzold, an executive of the town developer CPS.

The much-anticipated school start – with the Silverleaf Academy and Phelesia Montessori preschool – is part of an ambitious and inclusive educational concept based on “one learning experience for all”. For the Educational Center Fumba (ECF) “we envision a combination

and collaboration of different schools”, Dietzold elaborated. Future educational facilities, such as a library or canteen, sports grounds and multi-purpose hall, can be shared by all. “Thus we enable more institutions to gain a foothold and create a more inclusive learning experience for all children”, Dietzold says.

The goal is to also involve well-established international schools such as the ISZ-International school of Zanzibar and Eden school. Until they have buildings in Fumba, kids will be bussed to their classes, for instance in Mbweni. The Education Center Fumba, providing Tanzanian and international curricula, both in English from primary on, is built on comparatively low school fees and a new sponsorship program.

Read our full feature on page 7

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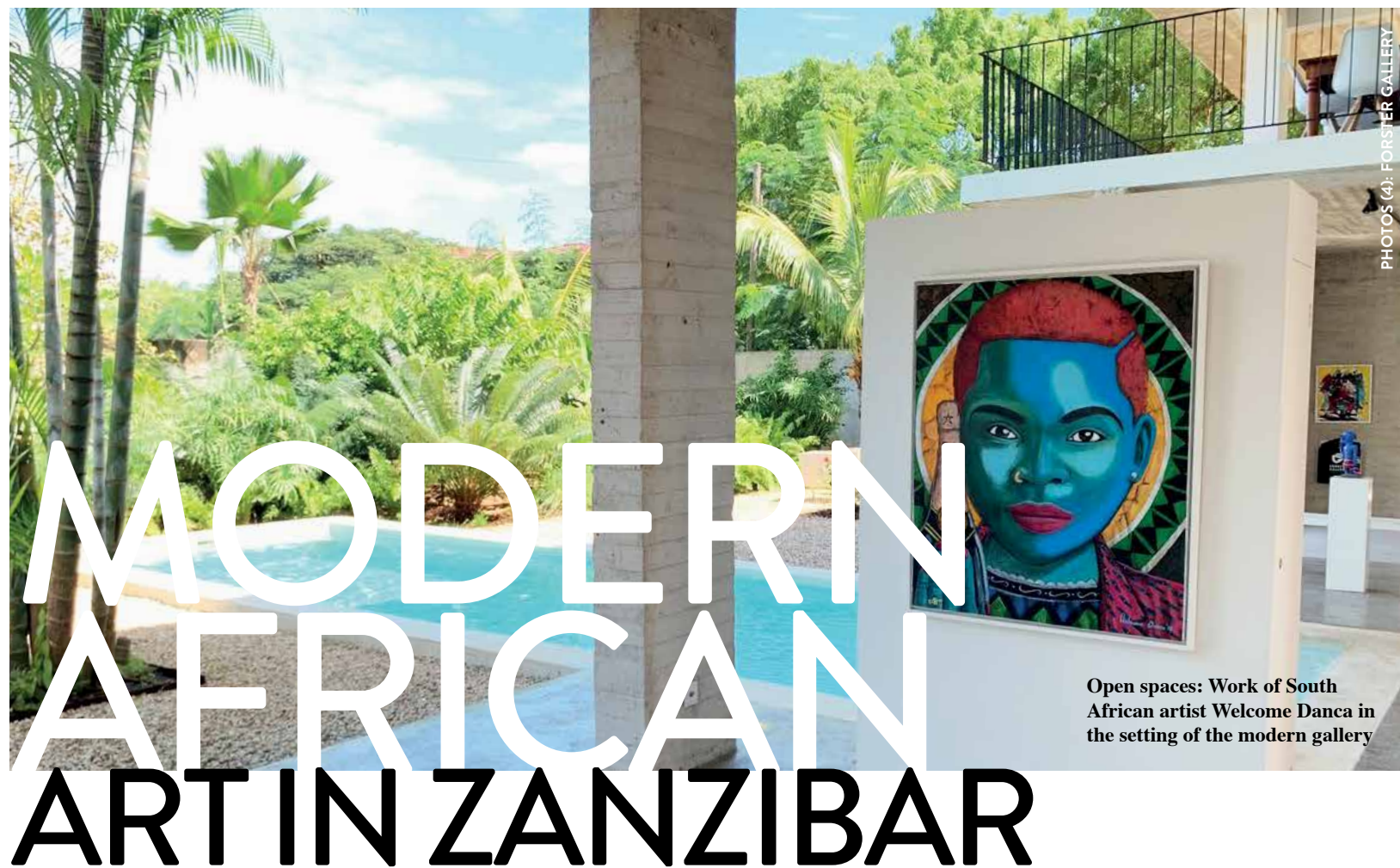
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# MODERN AFRICAN ART IN ZANZIBAR

Open spaces: Work of South African artist Welcome Danca in the setting of the modern gallery

Pioneering Forster Gallery in Mbweni open to the public

By Andrea Tapper

A pool of newcomers as well as already established artists awaits the art lover in a modern, residential gallery on Zanzibar. A Swiss art collector has put the impressive permanent exhibition together – most of it for sale.

A former social education worker and carpenter, the 67-year-old has made it his crusade to trade art by Tanzanian icons as well as to support up-and-coming talents. “An artist wants to paint”, he declares. “To do so we have to create a market for him.” An open space within the gallery is devoted to artists in residence. The last to stay and work in the “Open Studio” before the onset of the corona pandemic was Juanita Frier, an abstract painter from South Africa.

The journey is the destination. I am thinking of Confucius while trying to locate the Forster Gallery in Zanzibar’s popular residential suburb Mbweni. And I am still thinking of it once I have arrived at the generous modern building. The gallery covers the spacious ground floor of a modern villa designed by Spanish architect Garcia de Oteyza. Paintings by the likes of E.S. Tinga Tinga, George Lilanga, David Mzuguno and Welcome Danca decorate rough concrete walls around the house pool – for the visitor a translucent and unexpected experience in a lovely tropical garden. The journey is the destination! “I started collecting art in Switzerland”, says owner Markus Forster as he invites me in. He has assembled over hundred paintings by more than a dozen contemporary artists from East and Southern Africa in Zanzibar. And while he is opening his treasure chamber – a simple store room in the gallery – an explosion of colour floods out.



The world of George Lilanga: The Tanzanian is one of Africa’s big contemporary artists He was born 1934 and died in 2005

**Explosion of colours**

Graffiti-like drawings of the world famous school of Tinga Tinga paintings; realistic oil-on-canvas explorations of Vita Malulu, 44, from Mwanza; shrill pop-art portraits of South Africa’s newcomer Welcome Danca and much more. Born and raised in Switzerland’s museum capital Basel, Forster says, he developed a taste for art at an early age.

**First Art Hotel in Zanzibar**  
Before the opening of the gallery, Markus Forster created the island’s first *makuti*-roofed Art Hotel in 2008. Situated on the edge of fishing village Mfumbwi in Jambiani, it is still run by his ex-wife Jamilah Kabelele. Each room of the leisure property is designed by a local artist.

Buying art for him is not only “an investment with a middle-risk factor”, Forster says, but “I simply enjoy it”. The art lover, who worked as a project manager in Tanzania for 15 years running various NGOs and development organisations, operates the town gallery with his partner and manager Marina Majiba.

**Tinga Tinga: a family business**  
In Tanzania, art often runs in the family. George Lilanga was one of the father’s of Makonde and Tinga Tinga art, sculptures as well as paintings. His grandson Hendrick Lilanga, born in 1974 in Dar es Salaam, continues in his footsteps. Kipara Mzuguno, a young artist born in 1991 in Dar es Salaam is the son of David Mzuguno and adopted his father’s painting style as a child. Work of these artists is available at the Forster Gallery.

In Tinga Tinga art, now a large industry in Tanzania, the signature of the artist, is of most importance. The founder was Edward Said Tinga Tinga whose career lasted only four years from 1968 to 1972 when he was shot



“Selling art which we like”: Markus Forster and Marina Majiba (upper photo) run the gallery. Below a painting by Kasima Msoma who lives in Zanzibar

dead at the age of 40. His art became so popular while he was still alive that he himself hired friends and family to produce more of his cartoon-like naive motifs – thus the Tinga Tinga school of art came into being.

To buy art at the Forster Gallery online go to the online gallery, choose an artist or artwork and go from there. Viewing and gallery visits by appointment only.

**FORSTER GALLERY ZANZIBAR:**  
Forster-gallery.com  
info@forster-gallery.com  
Visitors can be picked up at the hotel in Stone Town, ferry or airport

**Art Hotel:**  
arthotelzanzibar.com

## WELCOME TO BUSARA LIGHT

Annual music festival scheduled for February 12 - 13, 2021



Festival boss Yusuf Mahmoud (right) announcing 14 African shows for the 2021 Busara, among them Dawda Jobarteh from The Gambia (left)

The world-famous “Sauti za Busara” music festival taking place with a shorter than usual program of two nights.

Much to the despair of artists and fans, shows and festivals all over the world have been cancelled amidst the corona pandemic. The pan-African music festival “Sauti za Busara”, however, is set to go on at Zanzibar’s open-air venue, the historical Old Fort, disclosed festival director Yusuf Mahmoud. The top event, held for the 18th time, usually attracts more than 20,000 music lovers. “Thankfully, the number of Covid-19 fatalities has been low

in Zanzibar and Tanzania. However, bearing in mind travel restrictions and challenges in fundraising, the next festival will be over two days instead of four”, Mahmoud announced. “We will not enforce wearing of masks or social distancing, but safety measures will be in place such as temperature checks at entrances and hand-washing stations.” Busara Xtra will also be staged, from 7 – 14 February 2021. Mahmoud did not elaborate on how may visitors he expects this time but clarified that ticket revenues even in normal times cover only a third of festival expenses. He appealed to sponsors to support the event. International tickets are \$60 for two days.

**Info:**  
www.busaramusic.org

### JUST DISCOVERED KIZIKULA DESIGNER HOTEL



Out of this world: Pool and palm trees are in harmony at Kizikula

## THE HOLIDAY OF THE FUTURE

**SPECIAL**  
Best pool on the island

**LOCATION:**  
South-west coast near Kizimkazi

Tourism is best when you hardly notice it. This is certainly the case at Kizikula, one of Zanzibar’s newest and affordable boutique hotels. When I arrived, I was overwhelmed by the rough beauty right by the ocean: coral stone bungalows with massive concrete ceilings, a huge, dark-blue shimmering pool, a wild, yet groomed garden, a wooden deck above the sea – each and everything evoking sophisticated simplicity.

The ultra-modern, yet holistic and archaic looking collection of just nine individually designed rooms and some shared facilities, among them the a layered 20-metre or so pool and a yoga platform, have a totally private feel.

This, of course, is pure intention. The two Dubai-based owners, one of them with Zanzibari roots, wanted their hotel “to feel like a communal home with ample spaces to meet your neighbours.” An urban village. And so it became just that.

**Style:** When a property is mentioned in the British designer bible Wallpaper, you can bet on its style-worthiness. “Simple, beautiful and functional”, Wallpaper says about Kizikula. Friends and family acted as muses for the interior design of the spacious guest rooms, all equipped with outdoor showers or bath, adding a Bedouin carpet here, some African baskets there – but luckily the raw architecture still dominates the look. Stripped of unnecessary decorative elements, it sets travellers free to indulge their senses in nature

**Location:** Kizikula is situated at the often over-looked, rugged south-west coast near Kizimkazi

zi, about one hour’s drive from Zanzibar city. The rocky coastline doesn’t have a real beach, but dramatic tides. The Kizikula property, which sits on a cliff, is experimenting with two ocean accesses – a wooden staircase which had been damaged by a storm during our visit, and an exciting but also demanding cave access which leads directly into the blue sea.

**Food & beverage:** Ask for it, and you get it. Sophisticated farm-to-table Swahili food is provided in abundance from the on-premise garden.

**The garden:** Nothing short of a mini Jurassic Park on 20,000 square metres, the landscaping – with an outdoor gym near the sea – was designed by New Zealand-based Andy Hamilton Studio in co-operation with permaculture specialists Bernadette and Franko Goehse. Kizikula offers a glimpse into the holiday of the future thriving on nothing more than fast internet, style & nature. From \$60 per night, via website or Airbnb. AT



Fresh food to be enjoyed from morning to evening

**Kizikula Boutique Hotel**  
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