

## Feature



# Karam is a world-class architect in the making

**Karam has been building house models since he was three years old**

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**T**wo weeks ago, we featured an architect in our new column, 'My profession'.

Well, it turned out that one of our readers was inspired by that article because he dreams of becoming an architect in future. Here is his story:

Karam Amarshi, 12, is a Year Seven pupil at Aga Khan Academy Mombasa.

He is passionate about drawing things, especially buildings.

He gets inspiration from two famous architects, His Highness the Aga Khan and Thomas Andrews, the architect who designed the Titanic.

Young Karam has been building house models since he was three years old.

"My preschool teacher taught me how to draw and I drew a bus with four wheels. I did not come out very well but I kept drawing to perfect



**Karam Amarshi, stands next to his model of the f Burj Khalifa, one of the tallest Building in Dubai. PHOTO| KEVIN ODIT| NATION**

my skill," he says.

Besides drawing, Karam experimented with Lego blocks as he tried to create new toys such as cars, ships and buildings.

His parents supported him wholeheartedly by helping him nurture his artistic gift.

A major highlight of Karam's journey happened in 2017 when he emerged overall best in the Grade Five category during an Art and Essay competition

that had been organised by the county government of Mombasa. The theme for the competition was "The Mombasa I want".

For this competition, Karam drew a bridge which he named the Likoni Bridge.

"In Mombasa, people use the ferry at Likoni to cross the Indian Ocean and I was scared that one day, these ferries will be very old and might capsize just like the Titanic," Karam explains.

Karam's fears are not un-

founded.

In 1994, a ferry capsized in the Indian Ocean near Mtongwe and left at least 270 people dead.

In his drawing, he illustrated how the bridge would open and close whenever big ships are passing across it to dock at the port of Mombasa.

Winning was great but the icing on the cake was receiving this award from Governor Hassan Joho, governor of Mombasa County.

"It felt good to shake the governor's hand and even sit on his chair. Later, I gave a speech in front of other dignitaries who graced the event. That is my most memorable moment," narrates Karam excitedly.

But how did he come up with such a creative idea?

Karam says that he finds a lot of information from the internet.

"I love computers. Whenever I think about something, I usually google it, or a similar thing in order to know how it was built. I then try to improve the designs," shares Karam.

His latest model is Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world which is located in Dubai. The building has 163 floors!

"Our arts teacher asked us to do a class project by building anything. I chose the Burj Khalifa because I love the way it is designed. I would love to meet the architect who designed that building," says Karam.

His model is so tall that it is almost equal to his height.

## Invention Corner



### Lion Lights

some of their cows miss-

homestead. Unfortunately, this did

motorcycle's blinking indicator lights, connected them to an old car battery which