OPERATIONS STRATEGIES AND OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE OF ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTING FIRMS IN NAIROBI

BY

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DECLARATION

I declare that this is my original work, and that it has not been presented in any other university for academic credit.

Reg. No: D61/77075/2015

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Signature

Date

This project has been submitted for examination with my approval as the appointed

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Date

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DEDICATION

I dedicate my research to my parents Watson Njenga and Rose Wanjiru for believing in me and pushing me to be better. To my sibling Joseph Mungai, Solomon Njenga and Natasha Wanjiru for their love and support.

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ABSTRACT

Operation strategy is critical to successful implementation of operation strategies. Operations strategy ensures efficient operationalization of operation strategies plans through seamless implementation. Operation strategies carry activities which have a defined timeline and clear indicators, the two variables which largely define project success. Through operation strategies, project work schedules are adhered to and the resources are focused towards key performance indicators. This research study examined the operation strategies and operational performance of architectural firms in Nairobi. The specific objectives of the study were to determine the operations strategies adopted by architectural consulting firms in Nairobi and to establish the relationship between operational strategies and operational performance of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi. A sample population of 90 was selected. Questionnaires were administered through both e- mails and hand delivery. Questionnaires were tested for both reliability and validity. Qualitative and quantitative techniques was be used to analyse data with the assistance of SPSS software program version 22. Both primary and secondary data was be used. Secondary data was be on the registration details of the firm, past financial performance, and holders of management positions. Primary data was be gathered using questionnaires. A good response rate of 71.1% which makes up 64 firms was realised. The study found out that not all the operational strategies are being employed by the organization in the operation strategies being undertaken and consequently the benefits resulting from the adoption of the same operational strategy are not being realized. The research findings are that there is a positive relationship between operation strategies and operational performance of architectural firms in Nairobi. The recommendations of the study address the need of the scholarly work on operations strategies in the architectural consulting firms that are essential for future studies and research. The limitations of the study were that it focused on architectural consultants in Nairobi only. There is need to undertake similar studies in architectural consultants outside Kenya. Further study is recommended on operations strategies applied by other consulting firms in the service industry, with focus on those in the construction industry.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Competitiveness is the cornerstone of an effective business. Services contribute to economic development (Riddle,1986). Drucker (1977) argues that the fundamental purpose of a business is to create a customer. He maintains that the firm's ability to be competitive and win customers influences the ability to remain in business. This position is further reinforced by Cook (2002) who gives more emphasis not only on customer attraction, but additionally an elevated level of customer retention. She maintains that the services offered to customers, the firms product offerings and its reputation will influence the firm's ability to attract and retain customers. Porter (2002) noted that the eventual goal of competitiveness is to survive in the dynamic environment.

A firm's ability to survive in a competitive business environment is reliant upon its ability to formulate and implement suitable strategies that differentiate their product offering from the competitors. Competitive strategies consist of tactics that an organization has and takes to attract customers, withstand competition, and advance its market share (Thompson and Strickland, 2010). Porter (2000) argues that higher performance would be attained in an industry that is filled with competition through pursuing strategies which include being a leader in low cost, strategy for differentiating products and services and strategy on focusing on a specific segment. Porter (1980), states that organizations that have a precise strategy outdo the ones without a strategy leading to higher performance.

Skinner (1978) argues that operations strategy differs from competitive strategy since it's one of useful factors of its implementation. The operations strategies are used to reach and

defend the competitive position of the firm and it is the main key in improving firm performance. This is because the activities conducted in the operations function are the most important part of making a product or service. Ferdows and de Meyer (1990) observe that operational excellence of a firm is built cumulatively by enhancing the firm's operational capabilities. It can be developed by building on quality, in dependability, flexibility and cost. Through implementation of operations strategies, a firm can achieve high operational performance.

1.1.1 Operations Strategies

Operations strategies are a long-range plan formulated for the operations function. Slack and Lewis (2011) define operation strategy as the decisions a firm makes to determine the long-term activities and abilities of operations in the firm and their contribution to the corporate strategy. This is achieved through integrating, through reconciliation of customer needs with its operations resources. To improve a firm's competitiveness, the strategies operations must support the competitive strategy (Hayes and Wheelwright, 1984). Therefore, in formulating the strategies the firm must decide the policies and plan resources in a way that supports its competitive strategy. For the implementation of operations strategies to succeed it must meet customer demands and consider the product life cycle. According to Subramanian (2009) there are five core operations strategies. They are corporate strategy, customer driven strategies, competitive priorities, core competencies, and product and service development.

Corporate strategy the overall company strategy. The operations strategy of the firm must be in line with and support the corporate strategy. Hayes et al. (2005) suggest that for operations strategies to be effective they must give the firm competitive advantage. To survive in the competitive environment firms must exploit its existing opportunities and identify its threats. The strength of the firm can exist in its operations strategies. Corporate strategies treating the firm as one entire system with several interrelated functions. Each function of the firm depends on the other for it to survive and meet its objectives. The operations function depends on the marketing and finance function for it to achieve All these distinct functions must in line with the overall corporate strategy and ensure there is interaction within the different functions in the organization.

Customer driven strategies are operations strategies that enable a firm to meet the demands of customers. Payne and Frow (1997) observed that customer-driven quality is important and understanding a customer's perception of quality is potentate perception of quality differs from customer to customer. Zeithaml and Bitner (1996) highlighted that providing quality services is vital to gain and sustain competitive advantage. From a service, customer retention is done through customer service and satisfaction. According to Kotler (2003) the five determinants of service quality are responsiveness, reliability, tangibility, assurance, and empathy. A firm must, therefore, formulate strategies that assess and acclimatise to the changing environment, develop their core competencies, and identify their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and weaknesses in the market.

Competitive priorities are the operations strategies that differentiate a company from its competitors enabling it to provide the desired product and service. According to Boyer and Lewis (2002) a firm needs to operationalize through understanding the importance of its competitive priorities and focus on them. Competitive priorities are an important part of

operations strategy. According to Slack et al (2004) the major competitive priorities are time or speed, cost or the price of the service, quality, dependability and lastly flexibility. Firms may be forced to make trade-offs whereby they focus more on one competitive priority than others. The firm must achieve a basic level of one of each of these priorities.

Developing core competencies is an important operations strategy for every firm. Core competencies are the distinctive resources of a firm, or its strategic strength that gives it a competitive advantage (Johnson Scholes, 2002). Rastogi (2008) argues that, firms need to possess core competencies which was enable it to survive, be successful and gain sustainable competitive advantage.). By identifying their internal strengths and competences firms was be able to develop their core competencies. (Hamel & Prahalad,1994) argue that there are three ways of identifying its core competencies. These are customer value, competitive uniqueness and extendibility into new markets, new products, and new processes. Core competencies could be knowledge of information technology, expertise in each field, special skills of employees, flexibility in its facilities and market understanding. A firm that develops its core competencies was be able to meet its customer needs and expectations by providing products and services of high quality at a competitive price giving it competitive advantage.

To develop products and services firms apply operations strategies such as innovation, design and adding value to existing products. According to Subramaniam (2009) process design strategies include customer contribution, flexibility in its resource allocation, process design, vertical integration, capital investment, change strategy which all leads to an effective design process. Firms need to know the product life cycle of its product which

has four stages. These are introduction, growth, maturity, and decline. In the introduction stage profits at this stage are non-existent and firms invest heavily on research and development. The growth stage is the best time to change image, quality, or price and to strengthen its market share. It is characterized by growing profits. Maturity stage is the best to defend its market position and it's not the period to make changes. It is characterized by declining sales and profits stagnate or decline. The decline stage is characterized by a decline in sales and profits.

1.1.2 Operational Performance

Operational performance is the measure of the performance of the company against prescribed standards, such as productivity, cycle time, regulatory compliance, environmental responsibility, and waste reduction. Slack et al. (2007) proposes five operations performance objectives, which include flexibility, dependability or trustworthiness, quality, speed, and cost. Flexibility is defined as the ability to modify operations to suit the demand. Dependability the firm's ability to pass on things and associations as indicated by assurances prepared to entice clients. Quality that is the consistent conformance to customer expectations. Speed is the rate at which the firm responds to customer needs and requests. It's the period between when the customer makes a request and when they get their need met. Cost, which is the sacrifice given by customers for them to acquire products and services comprising of fixed and variable cost.

According to Richard (2009), performance should be linked to factors such as profitability, market share growth, sales, improved productivity, improved service delivery and customer satisfaction. Properly identified performance indicators help in benchmarking, measuring the performance of employees, identifying areas where gaps exist, provide a guide when allocating resources and the overall objectives of the firm. According to Parmenter (2011), satisfaction of customers, net profit before tax, return on investment, and employee contentment are the main key performance indicators. Effective operations management can give a competitive advantage through reducing costs of services achieving customer satisfaction.

1.1.3 Architectural Consulting Firms in Kenya

An architectural consulting firm is a company that employs one or more licenced architects and practices the profession of architecture. The architectural firms are involved in design and supervision, interior design, landscape design, landscaping, interior design, residential, commercial and industrial Operation strategies (Architectural Association of Kenya, 1967). The work in collaboration with other professional consultants such as engineers, quantity surveyors, construction project managers, landscape architects and environmental design consultants. Over the years, the role of architectural firms has been influenced by religion, politics, and cultures (BORAQS, 2010). In Kenya, Architectural firms are regulated by two bodies: Board of Registration of Architects and Quantity Surveyors (BORAQS) which was established in 1934 and Architectural Association of Kenya (AAK) which was established in 1967. Before these two professional bodies were formed Architectural firms in Kenya were initially governed by Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

The history of architectural firms in Kenya dates to the 1st of April 1934. The practice then was by mostly foreigners of British and Indian citizens. One of the first Architectural firms in Kenya was Triad Architects & Planners founded in 1963 by Amyas Connell & Graham

McCollough of UK origin. The first fully indigenous architectural firm in Kenya Waweru & Associates established in January 1972. The Board established registers for firms in early 2000. The Board has a register of local category only, with firms practicing in the East African region and abroad. For a multinational or an international firm to practice here, they have to collaborate with a locally registered person of whom must have the majority of shares. The Board has registered 380 architectural consulting firms (As at 11th September 2018) (as per the attached Appendix II)

The significance of architectural firms to the economy can be measured in terms of their impact to the gross domestic product (GDP). The construction industry contributes to 7% of the GDP which shows that the construction industry in Kenya is well developed. In the last five years, the industry is important driver of the economic growth and has contributed to a high gross domestic income. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics is high investment in this sector and also a high number of labour employed. There are increasing opportunities in the industry due to increased population and need for low cost housing, commercial and industrial buildings and also the government agenda to provide affordable housing.

1.2 Research Problem

Firms globally have embraced strategies enabling them to be competitive, innovative, and responsible to business demands in the environment (Rostagi, 2008). Despite the growing importance of the service industry and its changing environment, most studies concerning competitive advantage have been conducted mostly within the manufacturing industry, especially on the functional level (Johnston ,1999).

Architectural consulting firms are unique and peculiar making them different from other organizations. They are governed by Cap 525 of the Laws of Kenya which prescribes the operations of architects. One of the key requirements for registration firm as an architectural consulting firm is that all shareholders and directors ought to be architects with the principal shareholder or partner being a registered consulting architect. BORAQS the body governing them requires that the consultancy firms ought to be managed and run by architects who possess important architectural skills but lack the soft skills of managing organizations and operations. Cap 525 of the Laws of Kenya provides that firms cannot advertise their services and their fees are also regulated. These stipulations affect the overall performance of the firms. Therefore, this study has been motivated by the fact that consulting architectural firms are managed by architects as opposed to trained managers. They may not have clearly defined operations strategies in the firm. It seeks to establish whether the firms that have and implement them have higher operational performance and eventually higher overall business performance.

Various studies have been undertaken globally on operations strategies and operations performance. Ward and Duray (2000) investigated the relationship between increased competition and operations strategy. They used a case study footwear firms using questionnaires for data collection. They noted that Firms respond to increased competition with the development of certain operational capabilities. Bakar, Yuso & Irgiyanti (2011) did a study of application of strategic management practices in the Malaysian Construction industry. The study found that firms that did have clearly defined and implemented strategies were likely to fail as compared to those that do. Muogbo (2013) surveyed the effect of strategic management on the progress, expansion and performance of

manufacturing firms. The study found most of the firms did not apply strategies. It showed that strategic management influences the competitiveness and performance of the firms.

Locally, a Deloitte (2013) report on African construction trends report of 2013, the findings showed that East Africa has become a leading strategic hub for architectural firms and that with the increased momentum in the construction activities, investors are relying on the governments to develop best practice in the industry on quality to improve customer satisfaction. There is therefore growing demand especially for service driven firms to have practical guidelines in developing customer focus. Musyoka (2016) investigated the relationship between operations performance objectives and customer retention. He investigated five motor vehicle dealers in Kenya. The study concluded that the firms that used operations performance objectives had higher customer retention. Kipngetich (2016) did a research on the operations strategies and firms' performance of ailing companies in Kenya. The study concluded that firms that had operations strategy practices had higher organizational performance.

Arising from these studies, it appears few studies have been done on Kenyan firms on their use of operations strategies in architectural consulting firms in Nairobi. The study was guided by two research questions: What operations strategies are adopted by architectural consulting firms in Nairobi? What is the relationship between operations strategies and operational performance of architectural consulting firms Nairobi?

1.3 Research Objectives

The objective of the study was to examine the operations strategies and operational performance of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi. The specific objectives are:

- To determine the operations strategies adopted by architectural consulting firms in Nairobi.
- ii. To establish the relationship between operational strategies and operational performance of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi.

1.4 Value of the Study

The findings arising from the research study will be useful in providing additional knowledge for better understanding operations strategies and operations performance. To architectural consulting firms in Nairobi, this study will be beneficial. It will ensure quality of work and they will be able to meet set timelines which was in turn ensure that cost is controlled. Internally the consulting firms will benefit since with proper work process they will be able to meet the set strategies and achieve their overall goals and targets giving them competitive advantage over their competitors.

For other firms, this study shall provide a glimpse of how to make use of operations strategies to develop effective work processes to deliver operation strategies in time, lower cost, provide quality and flexibility. They will get a glimpse of how to formulate and implement operations strategies, enlightening them on how this will improve their operations performance and the overall performance of the firm. It will also provide function as an eye opener to these professionals by highlighting the peculiarities of their practices compared to other businesses. The future users of this study are expected to use it to advance their knowledge in operations strategies and how it affects operational performance of the firm.

To the academia, this study will form the foundation for future studies. There are limited empirical investigations on operations strategies in the architectural consulting firms in Nairobi. This forms a good ground for the academicians to examine the research gaps in this area. This is since the findings of this study will be evaluated considering its limitations. Future studies can assess the present limitations and hence provide more insight into this topic. As a result, this study addresses the need of the scholarly work on operations strategies in the architectural consulting firms that are essential for future studies and research.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter evaluates the existing literature regarding operations strategies and operations performance. It considers the theoretical framework based on variables of interest and finally related the relationships of study variable in a conceptual framework.

2.2 Theoretical Literature Review

The study considers the relevant theories that support the variables in advancing the argument of the importance of operations strategies in consulting firms. To accomplish the objectives of the study was three theories are used.

2.2.1 Resource-Based View Theory

The resource-based theory assesses a company's competitive advantages based on its resources. It emphasizes that the resources managed by a firm are the key determinant of its competitiveness and performance. The major principle of theory is the resources a firm has and manages are its source of competitive advantage. (Pearce and Michael,2006). Resource-based view (RBV) theory is based on two basic assertions. Resource uniqueness which means the resources the firm own are different from those of its competition and resource immovability means that the resources are permanent and last long. (Mata, Fuerst & Barney,1995). The theory looks for competitive advantage in a companies' assets which are tangible and its capabilities which are intangible and thus more complex. The RBV theory holds that to generate sustainable competitive advantage, a resource must be scarce, difficult to imitate, provide economic value, must be presently and not easily obtainable.

Firms should create a culture which can drive the success of total quality management tools like training, quality, process improvement and benchmarking (Powell,1995).

This theory is relevant to architectural consulting firms since it was guide them in identifying its key resources such as: knowledge, capabilities, technology, information, skills, assets, processes, tangible and intangible resources. Firms identify unique resources and capabilities which are heterogenous and immobile. They then need to come up with a distinct combination of these resources that was add value and give the firm a competitive edge. They should abandon resources that do not add value to them (Swaim,2011). The firm will aim to make its resources inimitable to ensure that its competitors cannot replicate their service or product offerings. According to Porter (1990) for firms to achieve competitive superiority it should organize its resources to be inimitable, rare and value adding. Tesot (2012) argues that the RBV of the firm can improve its performance by gaining advantage over its competitors through the resources it owns and controls.

2.2.2 The McKinsey's 7s Model

McKinsey's is a model that proposes seven basic factors that managers need to consider to successfully implement strategies. According to Manage (2007) it is a model that firms can use to analyse the environment and establish whether they are achieving the intended objectives. The 7's of seven factors are systems, skills, staff, shared value, style, structure and strategy. Systems are routine process and procedures followed within the organization when undertaking tasks. Skills are the capabilities and the competencies of the staff in the firm. Staff are the human resource element in the organization. (Peters and Waterman, 1982) argue that since all these factors are dependent on each other attention must be paid to all of them. Shared values are practices and policies that enhance the competitiveness of firms while improving their surrounding conditions are evidenced in the general work ethic and the firm's corporate culture. Style is the way on which management conducts itself in the organization and it incorporates the organizational culture and underlying philosophies and mindset of top management. Structure according to Kaplan (2005) is the grouping of reporting lines and job description and people are allocated duties and their specialization. Peters and Waterman (1982) state that structure determines how a firm performs and operates. The way the organization is structured, and the reporting lines. Strategy according to Grant (1991) is the fit a firm makes in its skills, capabilities and internal resources, threats, and opportunities in its external environment. They provide a to guide on resource allocation and formulation and are used to strengthen the operations of a firm. They can become a source of competitive advantage for firms over their competition through identifying what they can do more effectively than their rivals.

Architectural consulting firms can use the McKinsey's 7s model as a tool in when implementing their operational strategies (Simiyu, 2013). Since the factors are interdependent failure to pay proper attention to either or all of them leads to failure (Peters and Waterman, 1982). Firms will therefore need to consider all the seven factors for effective implementation of its strategies. Firms will first need to set budgets and performance goals which will function as measures of success. Then the firm needs to align areas that are not well aligned. The firm will then set the design it wants to achieve and detail an action plan to achieve that. According to Dunphy and Stace (1988) a firm's style and organizational structure need to be aligned to shared values. The firms should continuously review the seven elements, since any variation in any of them affects the rest (Peters and Waterman, 1982). The firm will be able to identify the gaps in resources gaps that need to be filled and be able to determine what they can do more effectively than its competitors.

2.3 Operations Strategies

Operations strategies are contextual to the nature firms adopting them, although they may be like those of other firms in the same industry. Operations strategies are systems that a firm adopts for them to be able to identify and leverage its unique resources and advantage. Hill (2005) suggests that firms needs operations strategies that are not imitable by developing operations systems in an innovative and creative manner. According to Skinner (1969) operations strategies are an important part of the overall business strategy. Through its operations, the firm is able to plan how it will acquire, organize and employ its resources in order to achieve its operational performance objectives. According to Slack (2009) the operations objectives of operations of a firm are quality, flexibility, speed, dependability, and quality. A firm should seek to excel in more than one of these performance objectives for them to have sustainable competitive advantage.

Firms need to make strategic directions, so they can plan on the direction they want to take and the steps they need to take to get there. The operations function needs to set its strategies and articulate its performance objectives, and to define principles which was govern the process they use to make decisions. This is defined as the operations strategy of the firm. According to Slack & Lewis, (2011) strategy and operations strategy concepts are not straight forward. Operations management decision involves selecting location, planning of layout, designing process and capacity, designing product and service, quality management, work design, planning, scheduling middle-term and short-term. (Heizer & Render, 2009).

2.4 Empirical Literature Review

Several researchers have addressed the process of formation and implementation of operations strategies. Globally, Ward and Duray (2000) did a study on competitive strategy and performance for manufacturing firms. They sampled 101 manufacturing firms in the United States from three different industries. The methodology used was covariance structure analysis, and they also used a manufacturing strategy model. The study found that competitive strategies applied by a firm affect its overall performance. It also found that other strategies that influence performance are environmental and its manufacturing strategies. These strategies were found to be linked to the high functioning of the firms. The gaps in the study are that it did not include the processes applied in the firms and the study did not include any service-driven firms.

Anwarl, Subroto, Alhabsji, Djumahir (2014) studied how the environment and strategic resources influence the competitive strategy, operations strategy and business performance of a firm. They surveyed 153 small scale businesses. The methodology used was the quantitative statistics. Data analysis was done by using generalized structured component analysis. The findings showed that both the environment and strategic resources were critical in the implementation process of operations strategies. However, in implementing competitive strategies, strategic resources did not play a key role, but the environment of these business strategies influenced its competitive strategies. There was

no direct effect on the performance of the businesses from its environment and strategic resources. Operations strategies of the firms had a direct impacted the implementation of their corporate strategies and performance. The study concluded that when operations strategies of the firm were based on the environment and its competitive strategies it had a constructive impact on the firms' performance. The gap in the study was that it focused small scale industry only.

Monday, Akinola, Ologbenla, Aladeraji (2015) investigated the relationship between firm performance and strategic management. They sought to show that the performance off the firms in influenced by the its strategic management. The study was on five manufacturing firms in Nigeria. The methodology involved collection of data through questionnaires of 50 purposively chosen respondents from the firms. Data analysis was using done using descriptive analysis. The study found that strategic management influences the level of competition of firms positively and those that applied it boosted their performance. Also, strategic management had substantial influence on the firms operational and businesses performance and its profitability. The limitations of the study were that there was no service industry studied since it only focused on manufacturing firms.

Locally, Magutu, Mbeche, Nyamwange, Mwove, Ndubai and Nyaanga (2010) did a study on operations strategies applied and challenges facing their implementation. They surveyed City Council of Nairobi (CCN) on its solid waste management. The respondents comprised of 50 members and managers. The methodology applied was descriptive statistics. They found that when formulating operations strategies, both the management and employees were involved. There was also support of the strategic plan by the management which made the implementation process easier. There were also adequate policies within the organization that supported the overall strategic plan in waste management. There were, however, a few challenges in the implementation process which the management sought to overcome. The challenges included the fact that not enough effort and time were invested in formulation and execution of the operations strategies. The gaps were that it only focused on the city council of Nairobi and not any other firms.

Kipngetich (2016) did a research on the operations strategies and organizational performance of ailing firms in Kenya. He sought to determine the influence operations strategies have on the performance of the firms. He studied ten ailing firms in Kenya and 100 respondents were sampled from a total of 332 respondents using random sampling technique. The methodology applied were both inferential statistics and descriptive statistics. Data analysis with the aid of the SPSS latest version, correlation analysis and the results presented in tables and figures. The study found that firms that had operations strategy practices had higher performance. The recommendation from the study was for firms to apply operations strategy practices for them to achieve operations efficiency and business performance. The gaps were that it only studied ten ailing firms in Kenya; hence, the outcome may not give a conclusive picture of all ailing firms in Kenya.

Musyoka (2016) did a study on the operations performance objectives and customer retention. The study sort to show that performance applied by motor vehicle dealers in Kenya and their impact on customer retention. He sampled five vehicle merchant firms in

Kenya. Frequencies, rates, and combined rates were utilized to set up scores in the demographic information. Means and standard deviations were also utilized to build up deviations in the dispersion of autonomous factors. The finding was that firms that had operations performance objectives had higher customer retention. Firms that focused on their operations performance had a higher retention rate. The gaps of the study were it only focused on motor vehicle merchants only

2.5 Summary of Literature Review

A summary of literature review is provided in the table 2.1 below. The table contains the author(s), the focus of their studies,

methodology used, major findings and knowledge gaps.

Author(s)	Focus	Methodology	Major findings	Knowledge Gaps
Ward and Duray (2000)	A research on competitive strategies and performance for manufacturing firms.	They sampled 101 U.S manufactures States from three industries. The methodology used was covariance structure	The findings were that performance of the firms was influenced by the competitive strategies and are linked to high performance firms.	It did not include the processes applied by firms and the study did not include any service firms.
Anwar1, Subroto, Alhabsji, Djumahir (2014)	They did a research on the influence that strategic resources have on their competitive strategy, operations strategy, and performance.	They surveyed 153 small scale businesses. The methodology used was the quantitative approach and data was evaluated using Generalized Structured Component Analysis.	The study found that when operations strategies of the firm were based on the environment and its competitive strategies it had a constructive influence of the firms' performance.	The gap in the study was that it focused small scale industry and not on any large-scale firms.
Monday, Akinola, Ologbenla, Aladeraji (2015)	They researched on the impact of strategic management on the performance of firms.	The study was on Five manufacturing firms in Nigeria with 50 respondents from the firms. Data analysis was using descriptive analysis, correlation analysis and also using analysis of variance.	The study found that strategic management leads to higher levels of competition and also influenced the firms operational and businesses performance and its overall profitability.	The gap of the study was that no study was done for firms in the service industry.

Table 2.1 Summary of Empirical Studies and Knowledge gaps

Magutu,Mbeche, Nyamwange, Mwove, Ndubai & Nyaanga (2010)	A study on operations strategies applied and challenges facing their implementation	They studied the City Council of Nairobi (CCN). Data was analysed using descriptive statistics and evaluated using tables, percentages and proportions.	The findings were that both management and employees participated in formulation and implementation of operations strategies. The challenges were that not enough effort and time were invested in the formulation and execution of operations strategies	The study only focused on City Council of Nairobi only not any other firms.
Kipngetich (2016)	A study of operations strategies and organizational performance of ailing firms in Kenya.	They studied ten ailing firms in Kenya. For analysis descriptive survey design and SPSS was used.	The study found that firms that had operations strategy practices had higher performance. Application of operations strategy practices helps achieve operations efficiency and business performance	The gaps were that it only studied ten ailing firms in Kenya.
Musyoka (2016)	A study on operations performance objectives and customer retention of vehicle merchants in Kenya.	He studied five vehicle merchants in Kenya. Frequencies, rates, and combined rates were. Means and standard deviations were also utilized	The study found that firms that applied operations performance objectives had a higher customer retention rate.	The gaps were that it only focused on motor vehicle merchants only.

2.6 Conceptual framework

The independent variables in this study are corporate strategy, customer driven strategies, competitive priorities, core competencies and product and service development. The dependent variables are operational excellence that leads to reduced inefficiencies, customer success and market position. Low cost, high quality, speedy delivery, dependable delivery cost and increased quality, effective and effective systems for using employees and resources, increased market share & new products and services These variables are schematically presented in figure 2.1 below,

Figure 2.1 Conceptual Model



Researcher (2018)

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presented the research design, population of the study, sampling procedure, data collection methods and data analysis.

3.2 Research Design

The descriptive research design was used in the study. Cooper and Schindler (2003) stated that a descriptive study is designed to research on an occurrence to understand it's what, where and how. This survey design was adopted in initial and investigative studies to enable researcher collect, review, present and interpret data. This survey design was suitable since it was used to describe how the variables support the objectives under investigation and it was possible to determine the relationship that exists between them. The research was able to generalize the findings to a large population.

3.3. Population of the study

In this study the population consisted of registered architectural consulting firms in Nairobi. According to the database maintained by the Board of Registration of Architects and Quantity Surveyors there are 348 firms (Appendix II).

3.4 Sampling Procedure

In the study 90 registered architectural consulting firms were selected. The sample size was determined from a conservative principle for sample size determination as formulated by Cooper and Schindler (2008): -

n > 50 + 8 (m)

Where: - n= sample size

m =number of Predictors – which in this study were the independent variables

Therefore n > 50 + 8(5) = 90

This sample size was adequate for the study given the technical knowledge and experience of the target respondents.

3.5 Data Collection

Both primary and secondary data were used. Secondary data was on the registration details of the firm, past financial performance, and holders of management positions. Primary data was gathered using questionnaires. The questionnaires had both closed ended questions seeking specific information and open-ended questions seeking indepth information. The questionnaire was made up three parts. Section one contained general information of both the firm and respondent. Section two requested data on the extent of application of operations strategies and operations performance used by the firms. The last part sought data on the firm's operations performance. The respondents were operations managers or their equivalent. The questionnaires sent via email.

3.6 Data Analysis

The data collected was reviewed and modified to certify that it was precise, consistent, and complete. The general information and the data sought to determine the extent of application was analysed using descriptive statistics, which included frequency distribution and measures of central tendency. The results were interpreted, inferences made and presented on tables and in percentages. To analyse the relationship between operations strategies and operational performance by architectural consulting firms, correlation and regression analysis was used. The regression equation was as below: $Y{=}\beta o+\beta 1X1+\beta 1X2{+}\beta 3X3{+}\beta 4X4{+}\beta 5X5{+}\epsilon$

Where: -

Y = Operational performance

 $\beta o = Constant$

- $\beta 1, \beta 2, \beta 3, \beta 4, \beta 5 = \text{Coefficients}$
- X1- Corporate strategy
- X2- Customer driven strategies
- X3- Competitive priorities
- X4 -Core competencies
- X5 = Product & Service development

ε=Error term

CHAPTER FOUR: RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the research findings and discusses the findings on operation strategies and operational performance of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi. For data analysis descriptive statistics was used as well inferential statistics.

4.2 Response Rate

The questionnaires that were administered to the target respondents were 90. The response rate was 71.1% which represents 64 firms. According to Finchman (2008) a good response rate should be 70% and above. This therefore justifies the present response rate for analysis.

4.3 Pilot Test Results

Pretesting of the research instrument was done to set of 8 respondents from 4 architectural consulting firms. The questionnaires were then analysed to establish the reliability of the research instrument. The pilot test results indicated that all the variables had Cronbach's Alpha above the coefficient of 0.7 which is the minimum acceptable reliability and implies great internal consistency. Based on this analysis, all items measuring various variables were accepted and considered for the study. According to Sekara, (2008) a value of at least 0.7 is recommended and the closer a Cronbach 's Alpha is to 1 the higher its reliability.

Scale	Cronbach's Alpha	
Corporate strategies	0.826	Reliability
Customer driven strategies	0.764	Reliability
Competitive priorities	0.725	Reliability
Core Competencies	0.834	Reliability

Table 4.1 Pilot Test Results

4.4 Respondents Demographic Characteristics

The study sought to determine the respondents' level of education and work experience. The demographic results are presented in percentages using figures to show the compositions of each category.

4.4.1 Respondents Level of Education

The findings showed that 73.4% of the respondents had university level of education while only 26.6% of the respondents had college level of educational qualification as shown in Figure 4.2. The demographic results on respondent level of education therefore revealed that most of the respondents had adequate level of academic qualification implying that the responses they provided on assorted items of the questionnaires were sufficiently reliable. These results are in line with study by Riddell and Song (2012) that high educational level results to a great extent of comprehension of ideas and information thereby increasing individual's input in enhancing effectiveness of data collection process for the purpose of making correct statistical inferences.

4.4.2 Respondents Level Work Experience

The study also sought to determine the respondent's level of work experience in the architectural consulting firms in Nairobi.: It showed that 31.3% worked for a period of
over 10 years, 39.1% had worked for between 6-10 years, 20.3% had worked for a 2-5 years and only 9.3% had worked for less than 1 year. The findings therefore imply that majority of the study respondents had worked in the firms long enough to understand the operating strategies and operational performance of architectural consulting firms.

	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Less than 1 Year	9.3%	9.3%
2-5 Years	20.3%	29.6%
6-10 Years	39.1%	68.7%
Over 10 Years	31.3%	100%

Table 4.2 Respondents work experience

Research data (2018)

4.5 Descriptive Results of the Study Variables

This part presents the finding on descriptive analysis conducted by the study. These include mean and standard deviation. These results showed how various statements were responded to by the respondents.

4.5.1 Corporate strategy

One of the objectives of the study was to establish the influence of corporate strategy on the operation strategies of consulting firms in Nairobi county. The respondents were requested to rate statements on corporate strategy on a Likert scale. The results are presented on Table 4.3. The findings reveal that most of the respondents stated that the firm has clearly formulated vision and mission statements, the firm has clearly formulated corporate strategies and adopt, the firm has clearly formulated operations strategies to a very high extent as specified by mean value of 4.63, 5.00 and 3.52 respectively.

Furthermore, the respondents indicated that the architectural consulting firms in Nairobi Both the management and staff participate in the formulation process and the firm has clearly defined standard operating process to moderate extent as shown by mean value of 3.38 and 3.19. On average, the conclusion is that corporate strategy is practiced to a moderate extent of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi as shown by an average mean response of 3.94. The findings of this study are consistent with Homburg, Krohmer, Cannon and Kiedaisch (2002) who argued that despite its importance, corporate strategy is not widely practiced in the architectural consulting firms in Nairobi.

		Standard
Statements	Mean	Deviation
The firm has clearly formulated vision and mission statements	4.63	0.79
The firm has clearly formulated corporate strategies	5.00	0.00
The firm has clearly formulated operations strategies	3.38	1.13
Management and staff participate in the formulation process	3.19	1.23
The firm has clearly defined standard operating process	3.52	0.98
Average	3.94	0.83

Table 4.3 Corporate strategy

Research data (2018)

4.5.2 Competitive priorities

The research sought to find out the effect of competitive priorities on operational performance of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi. The respondents were asked to rate statements on customer driven strategies on a Likert scale. The results of the study were as indicated in table 4.4. It was established that Quality has improved, the firm uses Flexibility measures to make decisions on operational levels and Dependability/Reliability has been enhanced by architectural firms to a moderate extent. This is presented by average responses of 3.44, 3.30 and 3.42 respectively. Furthermore, the findings revealed that Speed or time on the operation strategies and cost/price of the operation strategies to a high extent as shown by average responses of 4.03 and 3.92 respectively.

On average, it can be concluded that the competitive priorities among architectural consulting firms is at a moderate extent as shown by overall average mean response of 3.62. The findings of this study are consistent with Tangus, Yugi, Rambo and Rono (2015) who argued that at the moment, the architectural consulting firms.

Statements	Mean	Standard Deviation
Quality	3.44	1.26
Flexibility	4.03	0.78
Dependability/Reliability	3.30	1.41

Table 4.4 Competitive priorities

Speed or time	3.42	1.29
Cost/Price	3.92	1.03
Average	3.62	1.15

Research data (2018)

4.5.3 Customer driven strategies

The study sought to determine the impact of customer driven priorities on operational performance of architectural firms. The respondents rated statements on customer driven priorities on a Likert scale. The results are as indicated in the table 4.5. The findings revealed a high extent the firm offers top and consistent quality services and Meeting the needs of the customer is especially important to the firm. The firm consistently increases customer base per year and Most of the firm's clients are repeat customers and architectural firms. This is supported by average response rate of 3.64, 3.74, 3.68 and 3.94 respectively. It was however revealed that the architectural firms in Kenya uses of the firm focuses on product and service development to a moderate extent as shown by an average response rate of 3.47.

Overall, it was concluded that adoption of customer driven priorities among architectural firms in Nairobi has been done to a high extent as shown by an overall average mean response of 3.69. The findings are as per a study by Modi and Mabert, (2007) who argued that customer driven priorities are being construed by architectural firms as the strategy for improving the operational performance.

Table 4.5 Customer driven priorities

		Standard
Statements	Mean	Deviation
The firm offers top and consistent quality services	3.64	1.16
Meeting the needs of the customer is especially		
important to the firm	3.74	0.96
The firm consistently increases customer base per year	3.47	1.26
The firm's clients are repeat customers	3.68	1.12
The firm focuses on product and service development	3.94	0.82
Average	3.69	1.06

Research data (2018)

4.5.4 Core competencies

The research sought to establish the influence of core competences on operational performance among architectural firms. The target respondents were asked to rate statements on core competencies on a Likert scale of 1 to 5 as shown in table 4.6. It was established that the Research and development are significant to the firm and the firm is dependent on technology as shown by average response of 3.80 and 4.40 respectively. It was also shown that the firm the firm uses Technology helps the firm lower its operational cost, the firm has highly skilled employees and the firm clearly defined systems for its operations to a moderate extent as shown by mean response of 2.63, 1.63 and 1.80 respectively. Generally, there was indication that core competencies have been implemented among architectural consulting firms to a moderate extent as shown by the overall average mean response of 2.85. The findings are consistent with Wachiuri,

Waiganjo and Oballah (2015) who argued that even though core competencies positively influence operational performance, it is not widely practiced in the consulting firms.

	Mea	Standard
Statements	n	Deviation
Research and development are significant to the		
firm	3.80	1.08
The firm is dependent on technology	2.63	1.29
Technology helps the firm lower its operational cost	4.40	0.92
The firm has highly skilled employees	1.63	1.59
The firm clearly defined systems for its operations	1.80	1.41

Table 4.6 Core competencies

Research data (2018)

4.5.5 Operational Performance

The study sought to establish the changes in the project's costs among consulting firms between the year 2011 and 2015. The findings presented in Figure 4.1 reveal that there were unsteady trends in the costs among consulting firms in Kenya between the year 2011 and 2015. The findings were similar to a study by Wanyama (2010) who revealed increasing project costs in the architectural consulting firms.

Figure 4.1 Cost



Research data (2018)

The study further sought to establish the changes in service quality as measured by the rejection rate among architectural consulting firms in Nairobi between the year 2011 and 2015. The results in figure 4.2 revealed decreasing trends in the service rejection rate among architectural consulting firms in Nairobi from the year 2011 to 2014, then followed by a sharp increase in the year 2015. In as much as there is an improvement in operational performance in terms of reduced rejections of substandard quality, the value of as at the year 2015 indicates that firms still face challenges in the architectural consulting firms as Chesang (2013) attests.

Figure 4.2 Quality



Research data (2018)

The study sought to establish the changes in the completion time (weeks) among architectural consulting firms in Nairobi between the year 2011 and 2015. The results presented in Figure 4.3 reveals fluctuations in the completion time among architectural consulting firms in Kenya. The delivery completion time decreases steadily from year 2011 to year 2013 followed by an increase in year 2014 to 2015. These findings confirm an argument by Njeru (2015) regarding inefficiency and ineptness of operational performance in many architectural consulting firms in Kenya.





Research data (2018)

4.7 Inferential Analysis

Inferential analysis was done using both regression analysis and correlation analysis to determine the operation strategies and operational performance of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi. The significance of the coefficients was used to determine the relationship between operations strategies and operations performance was significant.

4.6.1 Correlation Analysis

Correlation shows the results in one variable if there is a change another variable (Chiang, Jeon, & Li, 2007). A positive correlation is indicated by a positive Pearson correlation value while a negative correlation is represented by a negative Pearson correlation value. In this study correlation analysis to determine the relationship among the independent and the dependent variables of the study. Pearson correlation coefficient was used to determine the link among the study variables at 5% level of significance. The findings on these correlation as presented in Table 4.7.

		Corporat e strategy	t Custome r driven strategies	Competitiv e priorities	Core compe tencies	Operational performanc e
Corporate strategy	Pearson Correlatio n	1	C			
Customer driven strategies	Pearson Correlatio n Pearson	0.177	1			
Competitiv e priorities Core competenci	Correlatio n Pearson Correlatio	0.224	261*	1		
es	n	.282*	0.052	.499*	1	

Operational performanc	Pearson Correlatio					
e	n Sig (2-	.370*	.265*	.318*	.789*	1
	tailed)	0.003	0.035	0.010	0.000	
	Ν	64	64	64	64	64
* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).						

Research data (2018)

The study findings revealed a positive and significant relationship between corporate strategy and operational performance of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi county (R = 0.370, Sig <0.05). This therefore implies that an improvement in various indicators of corporate strategy results to a significant improvement operational performance architectural consulting firms in Nairobi county

This finding is consistent with the study findings of Lasserre (2004) who highlighted that corporate strategies are of crucial importance on improving operational performance. The correlation results also showed that customer driven strategies and operational performance in architectural consulting firms in Nairobi county are positively and significantly associated (R = 0.265, Sig <0.05). This therefore implies that an improvement in various customer driven strategies resulted to a significant improvement in the operational performance in architectural consulting firms in Nairobi county. This finding is consistent with the argument by Eamonn *et al.* (2008) who revealed a positive relationship between better inventory customer driven strategies and operational performance.

Correlation results also indicated that competitive priorities had a positive and significant association with operational performance in architectural consulting firms in Nairobi county, (R = 0.318, Sig >0.05). This also implies that an improvement in various indicators of competitive priorities results to a significant improvement operational performance in architectural consulting firms in Nairobi county. The findings agree with Hald and Ellegaard (2011) who indicate a positive effect of competitive priorities on operational performance.

Concisely, the correlation results showed that core competencies are positively and significantly related with operational performance in architectural consulting firms in Nairobi county (R = 0.789, Sig<0.05) implying that improvement in various indicators of core competencies resulted to a significant improvement in operational performance in architectural consulting firms in Nairobi county. This finding is consistent with the argument by Chen and Paulraj, (2004) who argued that core competencies improve the operational performance of the buying firm thus enhancing its competitive advantage.

4.6.2 Relationship Analysis

This study used the following regression model to determine the operational strategies and operational performance of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi: $Y = \beta 0 + \beta 1X1$ $+ \beta 2X2 + \beta 3X3 + \beta 4X4 + \varepsilon$ Where; Y = Operation performance, X1 = corporate strategy, X2 = customer driven strategies, X3 = competitive priorities and X4 = core competencies. This multiple regression model was adopted to determine the influence of corporate strategy, customer driven strategies, competitive priorities and core competencies on operational performance of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi. The model summary results as presented in Table 4.7 revealed that the four independent variables of corporate strategy, customer driven strategies, competitive priorities and core competencies had a strong positive influence on operational performance of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi. as shown by a joint Pearson correlation of 0.853. This shows that a complete improvement in all the four independent variables of corporate strategy, customer driven strategies, competitive priorities and core competencies resulted to a strong positive improvement in the operational performance of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi.

The coefficient of determination (R-square) was 0.728 implying that the four variables jointly accounted for up to 72.8% of the variation in operational performance of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi. It follows 27.2% of the variation in operational performance of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi was accounted for by other factors not covered in the model presented in this study.

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.853	0.728	0.709	0.225164

Table 4.8 Model Summary

Research data (2018)

The F statistic indicating the overall significance of the model is significant at 5% (Sig < 0.000) showing that the model is significant. The F calculated statistic of 39.464> F (4, 159) critical value of 2.429 confirming that the model is significant. The model

significance results therefore imply that the four independent variables of corporate strategy, customer driven strategies, competitive priorities and core competencies adopted in the study are suitable factors in predicting variation in operational performance of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi. The results are presented in Table 4.9.

 Table 4.9 Analysis of Variance (Model Significance)

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	8.003	4	2.001	39.464	0.000
Residual	2.991	59	0.051		
Total	10.994	63			

Research data (2018)

The regression results revealed that corporate strategy positively and significantly influenced operational performance of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi (Beta = 0.191, Sig< 0.05). This implies that a unit increase in various indicators of corporate strategy indicator resulted to 0.191-unit improvement in operational performance of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi. The findings are consistent with Homburg, Krohmer, Cannon and Kiedaisch (2002) who established that corporate strategy improves operational performance thus leading to an overall improvement in the organizational performance

The regression results on customer driven strategies further showed that this variable positively and significantly influenced operational performance of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi (Beta = 0.122, Sig <0.05) implying that a unit increase in

customer driven strategies indicators resulted to 0.122-unit improvement in operational performance of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi. These results showed that customer driven strategies are a crucial factor in relation operational performance. The results agree with Sanders, Chad, Autry, David and Gligor, (2011) who indicated that customer driven strategies sharing through better customer driven strategies leads to an improvement in operational performance of the consulting firms.

The regression results further showed that competitive priorities positively and significantly affected operational performance architectural consulting firms in Nairobi in Kenya (Beta = 0.164, Sig <0.05) implying that a unit increase in indicators of competitive priorities resulted to 0.164-unit improvement in operational performance architectural consulting firms in Nairobi. The findings are consistent with Wagner (2010) who argued that competitive priorities are linked to an improvement in operational performance.

The regression results finally showed that core competencies had a positive and significant influence on operational performance of consulting firms in Nairobi (Beta = 0.251, Sig<0.05). This implies that a unit improvement in indicators measuring core competencies resulted to 0.251 improvement in operational performance of architectural consulting firms in Nairobi. The findings are consistent with Kamau (2013) who argued that core competencies lead to an improvement in operational performance.

	Beta	Std. Error	t	Sig.
(Constant)	0.045	0.352	0.128	0.899
Corporate strategy	0.164	0.037	4.432	0.000
Customer driven strategies	0.122	0.029	4.207	0.001
Competitive priorities	0.191	0.055	3.473	0.003
Core Competencies	0.694	0.110	6.309	0.000

Table 4.10: Regression Coefficients Results

The optimal regression equation is as shown below

Operation performance of consulting firms in Nairobi = 0.045 + 0.694 (Corporate strategy + 0.164 (customer driven strategies) + 0.122 (competitive priorities) + 0.191 (Core competencies).

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter contains a summary of findings, conclusions, recommendations, limitations of the study and suggestion for further areas study. The summary of findings was done in line with the study objectives. The conclusions were also presented per objective.

5.2 Summary of Findings

The study found out that not all the operational strategies are being employed by the organization in the operation strategies being undertaken and consequently the benefits resulting from the adoption of the same operational strategies are not being realized. This was more evident with operational management. As a result, it is recommended that the management consider training the project and operations managers to effectively manage their operation since efficient management the firm's operations improved the success rate of the firm's operations performance. The firms had formulated and implemented operations strategies had better operations performance and also the overall performance of the firm. However, because of time constraints, present research was not able to examine longitudinally the effect of operation strategies undertaken by other organizations outside architectural firms. The study recommended that a study be done to implement operational strategies in other firms over a period of time.

5.3 Conclusions

The research findings presented show the positive effects of operations strategies on operations performance. With successful implementation of such operation strategies, there is high chance of the project's sustenance and completion within the set time and projected cost. Combining the strengths of kaizen strategy, competitive priorities and operational performance has the potential to improve the sustainability and successful realization of firm's operation strategies. Development of appropriate strategies is no longer limited to the overall organization but rather even at individual project level and there is need to ensure the project achieves a high benefit-cost-ratio. Firms will focus on maximizing the performance of each individual project which will ensure consistent improved firm's performance.

From study findings, it can also be concluded that the operation success is no longer found on services and products offered by the firm, instead on its operations strategies and its resources that give the firm sustainable competitive advantage over its competitors. The benefits accruing to the companies as a result of the adoption of operational strategies have been found to include, increased customer base, increased quality of their products reduced cost and overall firm performance in the firms where they are initiated. However, firms should be aware of the challenges which may inhibit them from obtaining economies of scale and significantly reduces the economic value from the adoption of the appropriate operational strategies.

5.4 Recommendations

The study found that not all firms all the operations strategies and were therefore not getting all the benefits that accrues from applications and implementation of all the operations strategies. It is recommended that architectural firms train their managers in business management and that they have clearly defined and implemented operations strategies and work processes. Firms should invest in ensuring they have highly skilled

employees who are a valuable resource to firms. They should also invest in technology and be innovative in their services. The recommendations of the study are that since there are limited empirical investigations on operations strategies in the architectural consulting firms in Nairobi. This forms a good ground for the academicians to examine the research gaps in this area. This is since the findings of this study will be evaluated considering its limitations.

5.5 Limitations of the Study

The focus of the study was on architectural consultants in Nairobi only. Being a localized study there is need to undertake similar studies in architectural consultants outside Kenya for the conclusions arrives at and the study to be generalized about all architectural consultants. Similarly, the findings may not necessary be appropriately applied to other operation strategies being undertaken by similar organizations whose orientation could be different from that of architectural consultant

5.6 Suggestions for Further Research

The focus of the study was on operations strategies of architectural consulting firms. Further study is recommended on operations strategies applied by other consulting firms in the service. Focus can also be on consulting firms in the construction industry. With the ever changing and competitive operating environment a study should be done to show how firms can survive and thrive in this environment by formulating and implementing operations strategies to guide their operations.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE SECTION I: RESPONDENTS AND FIRM PROFILE

1.	What is the name of your firm			_?
2.	What is your position/role in your fi	rm?		
	a) Director	[]		
	b) Associate director	[]		
	c) Manager	[]		
	d) Architect	[]		
	e) Other	[]		
3.	What is your age bracket?			
	a) Below 25 years	[]		
	b) 26-35 years	[]		
	c) 36-45 Years	[]		
	d) 46-55 Years	[]		
	e) Above 55 Years	[]		
4.	What is your highest level of educat	ion?		
	a) PHD	[]	
	b) Master's degree	[]	
	c) Undergraduate degree	[]	
	d) Diploma	[]	
	e) others [specify]			

- 5. i)Are registered with any professional body?
 - a) Yes []
 - b) No []
 - ii) If yes, which body?
 - a)BORAQS[]b)AAK[]c)RIBA[]d)Other[]
- 6. What is the duration of your continuous service with the firm?

a.	Less than five years	[]	
b.	6-10 years	[]	
c.	11-15 Years	[]	
d.	16-20 years	[]	
e.	Over 20 Years	[]	

- 7. What is the status of your firm's registration?
 - a) Private Limited Company []
 - b) Public Limited Company []
 - c) Partnership []
 - d) Sole proprietor []
 - e) Regional based company []
 - f) International Company []

8. How many years has the firm been in practice?

a)	Less than five years	[]
b)	6-10 years	[]
c)	11-15 Years	[]
d)	15-20 years	[]
e)	Over 20 Years	[]

9. How many directors /Partners does your firm have?

a)	1	[]
b)	2	[]
c)	3-5	[]
d)	Over 5	[]

10. How many employees does the firm have?

a)	0-5 Employees	[]
b)	6-10 Employees	[]
c)	11-15 Employees	[]
d)	16-20 Employees	[]
e)	Over 20 employees	[]

11. What is the percentage of the firm's employee's skills?

	0%-25%	25%-50%	50%-75%	75%-100%
PHD				
Master's degree				
Undergraduate				
Diploma				
Other				

12. Are the directors trained in Business Management?

a)	Yes	[]
b)	No	[]
c)	I don't Know	[]

SECTION II: OPERATIONS STRATEGIES

13. Please indicate which of the following statements apply to your firm.

1.Very Low Extent 2. Low extent 3. Moderate extent 4. Great extent 5. Very great

extent 6. Not applicable

Indicators	Yes	No	I don't Know
The firm has clearly formulated vision and mission statements			
The firm has clearly formulated corporate strategies			
The firm has clearly formulated operations strategies			
The firm has clearly defined quality policy			
Both the management and staff participate in the strategy formulation process			
The firm has clearly defined succession plan			
The firm has clearly defined Standard Operating Processes			

(SOP)		
The work processes are clearly defined		
The firm has clearly defined systems for its operations		
The firm has a system that helps teams to organize, track, and manage their work		
The firm has a system that measures time spent on a project		
The firm has a system that measures cost per project		

14. To what extent does the firm consider the following competitive strategies when

offering its services? Tick ($\sqrt{}$) appropriately.

1.Very Low Extent 2. Low extent 3. Moderate extent 4. Great extent 5. Very great

extent 6. Not applicable

Indicators	1	2	3	4	5	6
Quality						
Speed or time						
Cost/Price						
Flexibility						
Dependability/Reliability						

15. To what extent do you agree with the following statements. Tick ($\sqrt{}$) appropriately

Very Low Extent 2. Low extent 3. Moderate extent 4. Great extent 5. Very great extent

Indicators	1	2	3	4	5	6
The customer clearly gives the expected work objective at						
the beginning of a project						
Meeting the needs and expectations of the customer is						
especially important to the firm						
The firm consistently increases customer base per year						
Most of the firm's clients are repeat customers						
The firm focuses on product and service improvement						
Research and development are significant to the firm						
The firm stays abreast of current developments in its field						
The firm leverages technology to improve the delivery						
success of projects						
The firm undertakes competitor bench marking						
The firm completes most of its projects on time						
Most projects are completed within budget						
The firm is accommodating to customer needs						
The firm is able to provide a choice of different schemes to the customer						
The firm is able to provide unique products and services as per the customer's needs						

6. Not applicable

SECTION III: PERFORMANCE OF FIRMS

	0-	10-	25-	40-	55-	70-	85-
	10%	25%	40%	55%	70%	85%	100%
Commercial Building							
Residential Buildings							
Mixed Use Developments							
Industrial Developments							
Interior Fit-outs							
Hospitality Developments							
Health & Community							
Developments							
Others							

16. What is the percentage Operation strategies in the firm's portfolio?

17. What is the percentage at which projects failed to take off within the last 5 years in your firm?

a)	0%-25%	[]
b)	25%-50%	[]
c)	50%-75%	[]
d)	75%-100%	[]

18. What are the reasons the projects failed to take off?

a)	Funding	[]
b)	Budget Constraints	[]
c)	Customer Indecision	[]
d)	Statutory Approvals	[]
e)	Under Estimation of Completion	Ti	me
f)	Technical Reasons	[]
g)	Other	[]

19. Please tick ($\sqrt{}$) appropriately to indicate the firms' turnover over the last three years.

Turnover (Kshs)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
0-25 Million					
26-50Million					
51-75 Million					
76-100 Million					
Over 100 Million					

20. What is the percentage to which the firm achieved its set performance targets within the last five years?

a)	Below 0%	[]	
b)	0%-25%	[]	
c)	25%-50%	[]	
d)	50%-75%	[]	
e)	75%-100%	[]	
f)	Over 100%	[]	

APPENDIX II: LIST OF ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTING FIRMS IN NAIROBI



BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF ARCHITECTS AND QUANTITY SURVEYORS (BORAQS) KENYA LIST OF REGISTERED ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS

No.	Reg No	o. Name of firm Address
1	001A	S. K. Archplans 50725 - 00200 NRB
2	002A	Nyanja Associates Architects 52661-00200 NRB
3	003A	Githunguri & Partners 60437 - 00200 NRB
4	004A	Waweru & Associates 43642 - 00100 NRB
5	005A	Intershelter Sullivan Architects 51884 - 00200 NRB
6	006A	Raj Architects 48087 - 00100 NRB
7	007A	Crowder Associates
8	008A	Design Consortium
7	009A	Tectura-International 54634 - 00200 NRB
8	010A	T.S. Nandra & Associates 42130 00100 NRB
9	012A	Atelier International (Architects) 48486 - 00100 NRB
10	013A	Planning Systems Services Ltd. 188 - 00606 NRB
11	014A	Graham Jenkinson
12	015A	H.S. Nandra, Consulting Architect 46186 - 00100 NRB
13	016A	Complan Consulting Architects 66314 - 00800 NRB
14	017A	Associated Architects 14569 - 00800 NRB
15	018A	Arplad Architects 54777 -00200 NRB
16	020A	Artform
17	021A	Planoconsult 54959-00200 NRB
18	022A	Designtech Architects
19	023A	Architerion Architects & Interior Designers 41408 - 00100 NRB
20	024A	Metroplan Systems Ltd. 57026 - 00200
21	025A	Wachoraji Associates 11677 - 00400 NRB
22	030A	Hughes & Polkinghorne
23	031A	Romani Architects 12144 NRB
24	032A	Archi-Consult Associates 66526 - 00800 NRB
25	033A	Designarch International
26	034A	Edon Consult 19684 - 00202 NRB
27	035A	Sancas Architects Associates 50114 - 00200 NRB
28	037A	Govani Associates 14533 - 00800
29	039A	Triad Architects 30725 - 00100 NRB
30	040A	Contedesign 66669 -00800 NRB

31	042A	Boma Consultants Architects 72635 - 00200 NRB
32	043A	Ebrahim Consultants 34838 - 00100 NRB
33	044A	Karago & Associates 2131 - 00200 NRB
34	046A	Mutiso Menezes International44934 - 00100 NRB
35	047A	Mruttu Salmann & Associates 494-00100 NRB
36	049A	Beglin Woods 22759 - 00400 NRB
37	050A	Zastruga (K) – Architects 57773 - 00200 NRB
38	051A	Planning & Design Associates
39	053A	Mwacharo & Associates 28329 - 00100 NRB
40	054A	Chudha International Ltd. 19 - 00606 NRB
41	055A	A. Hamid Architects
42	056A	Gitau Associates
43	057A	Cornerstone
44	058A	Plan Style 58151 - 00200 NRB
45	059A	Ngibuini & Associates 42779 - 00100 NRB
46	060A	Denis Lenferna Architects
47	061A	Africa Planning and Design Consultants 40086 NRB
48	062A	Soli Shroff & Associates
49	063A	Satish Shah 14468 - 00800 NRB
50	064A	Thara Consultants
51	065A	Heritage Arch – Studio Ltd.
52	066A	Arges Africa
53	068A	Ngotho Architects 43751 - 00100 NRB
54	069A	Arprim Consultants 12969 - 00400 NRB
55	070A	Lins Consult 1555 - 00100 NRB
56	071A	J. S. Kalsi & Associates 10766 - 00400 NRB
57	072A	Rambaldo Associates 43947 - 00100 NRB
58	073A	Giovanni Aldo Sardelli 60289 - 00200 NRB
59	074A	Tecta Consultants 3347 - 00100 NRB
60	075A	Wambugu Mathews & Associates
61	076A	Mode Architects
62	077A	Baseline Architects 39928 - 00623 NRB
63	078A	Rimba Planning Systems 54590 - 00200 NRB
64	079A	Aaki Consultants 66091 NRB
65	080A	Tej Architects 27644 - 00506
66	081A	Archscan Associates 10958 - 00100 NRB
67	082A	Jami-Trident Associates 664 - 50300 MARGL
68	083A	Space Form Studio
69	084A	Third Dimensions Concept 19929-00202 NRB
70	085A	PYE Architects
71	086A	Synthesis Architects 15266 NRB
72	087A	Trzebinski, Gaal & Associates
73	088A	Mwendwa & Associates 46274 - 00100 NRB
74	089A	Siat Architects 66002 - 00800 NRB
75	090A	P. V. Patel – Architects
76	0021	Dice Concept 28, 00100 NPP

76 092A Dice Concept 28 - 00100 NRB

77 093A Concise Architects 69721 - 00400 NRB 78 094A Kenchuan Architects 19895 - 00202 NRB 79 095A V.D. Chaniyara – Architect 95575 - 80106 NRB 80 097A Wesley Nyariki & Partners 81 098A Arch-One Consultancy 49805 - 00100 NRB 82 099A Space & Systems 54560 - 00200NRB 100A Building Design Consortium Limited 959 - 00606 83 84 101A Achera & Partners 101114 - 00400 NRB 85 102A Ramani Consultants 48253 - 00100 NRB 86 103A Pyramid Consultants 2775 - 00100 NRB 87 104A Zed-Arch (K) 53355 - 00200 NRB 88 105A Mucina Ezekiel & Associates 89 106A Habitech Consultants 66495 - 00800 NRB 90 107A T.S. Brar & Associates 20413 - 00100 NRB 91 108A Design Factory 92 109A Lulu Associates 59970 - 00200 NRB 93 110A Mburu J.M. Architects 6229 - 00100 NRB 94 111A K & M Archplans Architects 76240 - 00508 NRB 112A Archiaze Architects 95 96 113A Husseini Associates 97 59293 - 00200 NRB 114A Amgahia Associats Architects 98 115A Marco Emidio Sardelli 60289 - 00200 NRB 99 116A Chani Lall Partnership Architects 117A ARCAID Architects & Interior Designers 100 24530 NRB 101 118A Gilbert Kibe & Partners 14417 - 00800 NRB 102 119A A.D. Design Architects 88614 - 00100 NRB 103 120A Clarion Architects 79047 - 00400 NRB 104 121A Landplan Kenya 24640 - 00502 NRB 105 122A Shamla Fernandes Architect 46547 - 00100 NRB 106 124A Bowman Associates 63756 - 00619 NRB 107 125A Space Creators Architects Planners 108 126A Maya Plan 807-00606 NRB 109 127A Linear Systems 110 128A Nature Architects 15646 - 00100 NRB 111 129A Laap Associates 20690 - 00100 NRB 112 131A Alonzi & Associates 113 132A Studio Infinity Architects 421 - 00606 NRB 114 133A Busuru R.M. & Partners 115 134A E.D.G. & Atelier 51676 - 00200 NRB 116 135A Planners De Moderne' 39204 NRB 117 136A Kisonyo Odwori & Associates 69710 - 00400 NRB 118 137A Archetype Architects and Designers 58412 - 00200 NRB 119 138A Nyaundi Architects 10753 - 00100 NRB 120 139A Two Designs Architects 89436 MSA 121 140A Boundless Architects & Interior Designers 9668 - 00100 NRB 122 141A Dagliesh Marshall Johnson 42878 - 00100 NRB

123 142A Architectural Resources (K) 75584 - 00200 NRB 124 143A Promarc Consultancy 13493 - 00800 NRB 125 144A Images Architects 33975 - 00600 NRB 126 145A Technarch Consultants 56295 - 00200 NRB 127 146A Delta Space Architects 128 147A Octa Architects & Interior Designers 16270 - 00100 NRB 129 148A ARCH Concepts 53276 - 00200 NRB 130 22994 - 00400 NRB 149A RAY PLAN Architects 131 150A Scenario Architects 132 151A AXIS Architects 133 153A Dreams Architects 21939 - 00400 NRB 134 154A Adventis Ltd. (merged with Inhouse) 156A U Design Refer to 181A 135 136 157A Genesis Architects 3385 - 00100 NRB 137 52717 - 00200 NRB 158A Arlplan Architects 138 159A Makro Consultancy APC 5461 – 00506, NRB 139 160A Alliance Archforms 64317 - 00620 NRB 140 161A Archgrid Systems 13725 - 00800 NRB 141 162A Inter Architects 5015 - 00506 NRB 142 163A Uto Creations Studio 66538 - 00800 NRB 143 164A Design Solutions 58209 - 00200 NRB 144 165A Skair Associates 14050 - 00100 NRB 145 166A Lexicon Plus Ion Limited 2772 - 00200 NRB 146 167A Ichangai Gichuhi & Associates 54821 - 00200 NRB 147 168A Michie & Associates 46786 - 00100 NRB 148 169A Studio Partners 46246 - 00100 NRB 149 170A Green Arch 253 - 00606 NRB 150 172A Peter Thomas Architects 151 174A Arch-Link International Limited 54515-00200 152 2682 - 00202 NRB 175A Morphosis Limited 153 176A Maestro Architects Ltd. 6644 - 00100 NRB 154 177A Details 2 Detail Architects 15184 - 00100 NRB 155 178A APT Building Associates 5753 - 00100 NRB 156 179A ImageOn Consultants 5408 - 00100 NRB 157 74801 - 00200 NRB 181A U Design 158 183A Archten Architects 66358 NRB 159 184A Metaphors Designs 4939 - 00200 NRB 160 185A Delta Architects 56548 - 00200 NRB 161 187A Cadplan Architects Ltd. 4475 - 00506 NRB 162 188A Wainda Consultants 16451 - 00100 NRB 163 189A Dimensions Architects & Interior Designs Ltd. 55459 NRB 164 190A Spatial Systems Architects 52476 - 00200 NRB 165 192A Mwathi Associates 25185 - 00603 NRB 166 56858 - 00200 NRB **193A** Strasa Architects 167 194A Fairplan Architects (Dissolved) 8621 - 00300 NRB 168 197A APT Design Solutions 32190 - 00600 NRB

169 198A Designworth Architects 56940 - 00200 NRB 170 43167 - 00100 199A Shelter Consult 171 200A Comarch Consortium 2379 - 00100 NRB 172 201A Form Space Alliance Ltd. 46786 - 00100 NRB 173 202A Datum Consultants 12217 - 00100 NRB 174 203A Alpad Architects 9320 - 00300 NRB 175 204A Archi-Space Architects Consultancy 75688 - 00200 NRB 176 205A Team 2 Architects 63348 - 00619 NRB 177 206A Green Designs 6099 - 00100 NRB 178 207A Align Architects 64348 - 00620 179 208A Decipher Technical Consult 61392 - 00200 NRB 180 209A Radius Architects 61039 - 00200 NRB 181 210A Joel E.D. Nyaseme & Associates 21537 NRB 182 211A Ikibbi Architects 51350 NRB 212A Charles & Associates 51451 - 00200 NRB 183 184 213A Abode Designs 14787 - 00100 NRB 185 214A Design Solutions Ltd. 58209 - 00200 NRB 186 215A Batiment Group Ltd 15186-00100 NRB 187 216A Icon Systems 12698-00400 NRB 188 217A AKA Studio Limited 47799 - 00100 NRB 189 218A Tarakibu Miwa Designs Ltd. Architects 15462 - 00100 NRB 190 219A Inbred Architects 58121 - 00200 NRB 191 220A Alcazar Architects 4622 - 00100 NRB 192 221A Arcs Africa 13211 - 00100 NRB 193 222A Envobuild Systems 66533 - 00800 NRB 194 223A Tectonics International 38552 - 00623 NRB 195 224A Archipoint Consulting Architects 12443 - 00100 NRB 196 225A Chireah Associates 51577 - 00200 NRB 197 226A Motech Systems 2503 - 00100 NRB 198 12182 - 00100 NRB 227A Gem Archplans 199 228A Sparch Architects 4789 - 00100 NRB 200 229A FNDA Architecture (K) Ltd. 66866 - 00800 NRB 201 230A Archidraw Associates 60083 - 00200 NRB 202 231A Aktasis Consultants 20701 - 00100 NRB 203 232A Wamwangi and Associates 667 - 00517 NRB 204 233A Shelter Solutions Ltd. 17095 - 00100 NRB 205 234A Otieno & Kungu Associates 72413 - 00200 NRB 206 235A Kanja & Partners Architects 66050 - 00800 NRB 207 236A Block Forty Five 31398 - 00600 NRB 208 237A Ultimate Design Ltd. 27090 - 00100 NRB 209 238A Spectrum Architects 14869 - 00800 NRB 210 239A Arch-Views Consultants 46910 - 00100 NRB 211 240A Otto Mruttu & Partners 76382 - 00508 NRB 212 241A Design Artitude Limited 39859 - 00623 213 242A Boshak Consultants 4907 - 00100 NRB 214 243A Symbion (Kenya) Ltd. 24002 - 00502 NRB

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