Will Alsop’s first Africa-based project to feature jellybean-inspired monorail and piano-key staircase

British architect Will Alsop – who recently passed away – is set to have his first – and only – project in the continent of Africa, realised in Nairobi, Kenya.

The shopping mall, called The Beacon, has all the elements of a signature Alsop project: colourful, playful, and inclusive of whimsical details such as a jellybean-inspired monorail and a piano staircase.

The project is developed by London- and Nairobi-based rm Kiloran – and will also include a seven-storey office tower alongside the retail development.

The open-air shopping centre will be located in central Nairobi, containing 24,300m2 of retail and food & beverage space, in addition to a Roofgarden and bar.

Designed around the theme of a sweet factory, it coincides with the architect’s principle that architecture should always be fun.

“The building has been the planning permission to make the project, which is the first project revealed by Alsop firm since his passing,” said the architects. “The vivid colours and striking patterns of the facade will hint at the amusing and leisure facilities inside.”

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“We believe to be key drivers on future international mall design,” said Marcos Rosello, co-founder of All Design.

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