

NAIROBI ARCHITECT WINS FIRST PRIZE

A 24-YEAR-OLD Kenya-born architect, Mr. B. O. Menezes, has won the Kenya Government's competition for the design of street decorations in Nairobi to be built as part of the Independence Celebrations.

Mr. Menezes, who works for a Nairobi architect, Mr. Graham McCullough, will be presented with the first prize of £100 by the Minister for Works, Mr. D. Mwanyumba, at a ceremony next week.

The competition called for designs for a pylon, an arch and a traffic island suitable for repetition. Fifty-five designs were submitted of which 20 were valid entries. The remainder had to be disqualified because competitors had broken the rules by putting their names on the drawings.

OTHER PRIZES

The second prize of £50 was won by Mr. K. G. Matthews of the Architects Department of East African Railways and Harbours. The third prize of £25 was awarded to Mr. G. Vamos, a local architect, and his associates.

Four prizes, each of £10 have been awarded to competitors for parts of designs. These are Mr. M. J. Bond, Kitui (mast only); Mr. I. C. A. Golaco, Dar es Salaam — subject to satisfactory proof of

Kenya residence (pylon only); Mr. Alex Tavares, Nairobi (mast only); and Mr. H. Richard Hughes, Nairobi (mast only).

The designs were assessed by a panel composed of the Government Chief Architect, Mr. J. H. Baker; the president of the East Africa Institute of Architects, Mr. A. Connell; a City Councillor and local architect, Mr. G. B. Norburn; the Town Planning Officer of the Nairobi City Council, Mr. Craig-McFeely; the director of the Sorsbie Gallery, Mr. A. Mitchell and well-known artist Mr. Elimu Njau.

ON DISPLAY

From today, all the designs will be on display to the public in the Kenya Building Centre, in Coronation Avenue, Nairobi.

The winner of the competition, Mr. Menezes, sat for his final examination to qualify him to become an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects in June this year and is awaiting the results. He has studied architecture for the past five years at the Royal College in Nairobi.

Speaking of his designs, Mr. Menezes said: "In view of the special significance of this great occasion, I have attempted to derive as much as possi-



● TOP: The winning design for street decorations to be used during Kenya's independence celebrations. CENTRE: The designer, 24-year-old Mr. B. O. Menezes. ABOVE: The decorations to be used on traffic islands.

ble from local customs and traditions to provide a scheme that is essentially African in character."

Except for the inevitable use of a very small quantity of sheet metal and steel piping,

Mr. Menezes said his designs could be built entirely with local materials such as plywood; gum, cedar or wattle poles; raw and processed sisal and locally manufactured paints.

The Minister for Works, Mr. D. Mwanyumba, will present the prizes in the Kenya Building Centre at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, September 3, 1963. Members of the public are invited to attend.