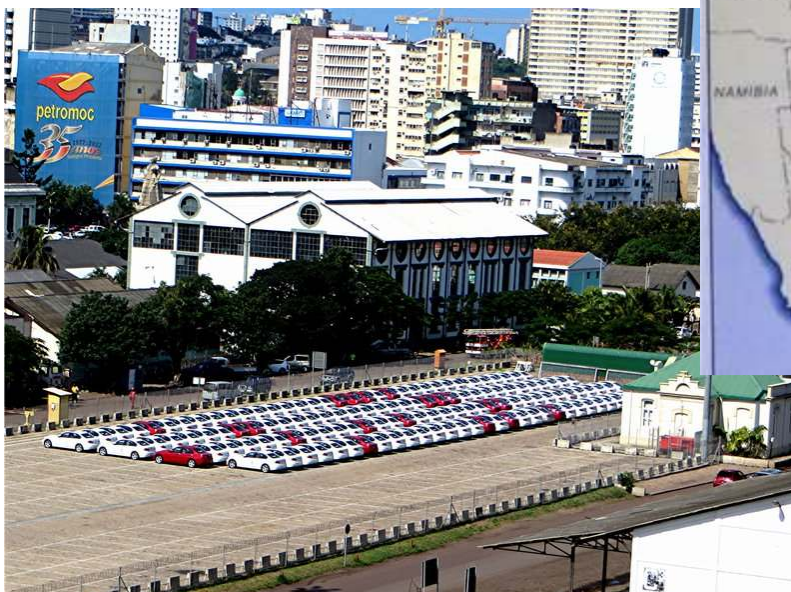


4/2/13 - Day 86 – Maputo, Mozambique: We approached the port of Maputo, Mozambique in the early morning. The skyline of the city as viewed from the Amsterdam was impressive, as shown below.

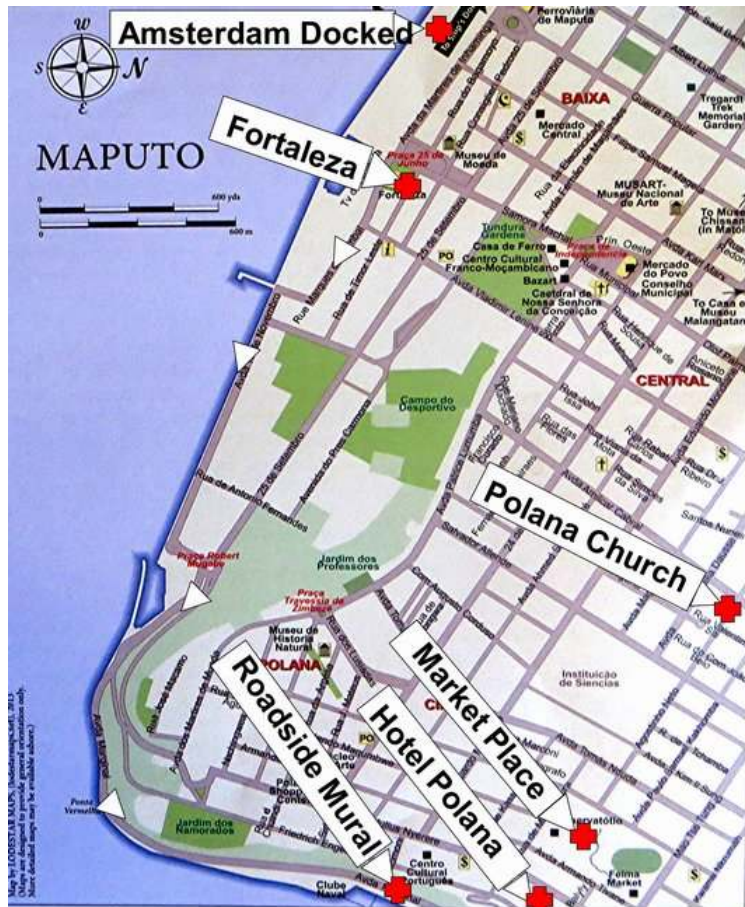


Mozambique became independent from Portugal in 1962 but that was just the start of 30 years of unrest as the local politics became settled. Mozambique was established as a republic in 1975 but civil war between rival factions broke out. The civil war finally ended with a treaty signed in 1992. Maputo is the largest city and capital of the Republic of Mozambique. Fortunately, Maputo avoided most of the destruction and chaos of the civil war in Mozambique so many historical buildings remain. We have become discouraged by the daily reports of chaos and atrocities that take place in many African countries in current times. However, seeing the relative stability and progress in Maputo, Mozambique today gave us new hope and a more positive outlook on African countries.

The location of Maputo on the African continent is shown in the map on the right. The harbor at Maputo is not large and there was no evidence that they were set up for handling container ships. However, they apparently were capable of import/export of cars through the port. We drew that conclusion based on the large number of new cars parked on the dock as shown in the picture below.



We had signed up for a private tour of Maputo organized by Karen Deacon. The tour would cover some architectural features, murals by local artists, Museum of Natural History and other sites of interest in Maputo. We met at 8 am with Karen and the rest of the 16 other people on the tour. We boarded our bus on the dock where we met Walter our guide and his assistant, Jenny. Walter had a good command of English and had studied architecture in college. The initial route taken by our tour bus and some of the highlights of Maputo are shown on the map on the right.



Our first stop was at the Fortaleza, which was a replica of the original fort built by the Portuguese. The fort was constructed of a dark red porous stone and was in very good condition. A view of the outer walls is shown below.



Walter said that the restored fort was a museum for the Portuguese military history in Mozambique. It also was a convenient place to toss in various unpopular Portuguese mementoes that the local people in Mozambique would just as soon forget about. Apparently there was no love lost between the Portuguese colonizers and the native people of Mozambique.

We left the Fortalesa and drove along a wide boulevard that followed the harbor coastline.



Two roadside billboard advertisements, shown on the left, caught our eye. When we were in Hong Kong we noticed that while most of the folks walking the streets were ethnic oriental people, essentially all of the billboard ads featured attractive Caucasian men or women. This apparent discrimination may have had an economic explanation based upon who was spending the money rather than population numbers but

we wondered if ethnic bias in the ad agency may have had some influence. Here in Maputo we got another data point for the billboard issue when we saw these billboards that featured dark skinned people who looked like the majority of the population. This made more sense to us than the Hong Kong experience.

We continued along the harbor side boulevard. The picture on the right shows an attractive view out across the Maputo harbor to low lying land on the other side.



Over part of our route there was a high concrete retaining wall on the side of the road. Local artists had been allowed to use colored ceramic tile to create huge murals on the wall to brighten up the scene. Walter stopped the bus so we could get out and take a closer look at this unusual bit of art shown below.



As shown on the map above, we proceeded from the roadside murals to the well known Polana Hotel. The hotel was not set up for tours so we simply drove by as Walter explained some of the architectural features. A photo of the hotel is shown on the right.



Near the Polana Hotel was a building that had been a convent for nuns. Walter pointed out the architectural window treatment, shown on the right. It consisted of concrete blocks that provided light and ventilation inside and also prevented any nuns from trying to escape the rigorous lifestyle.



Next we arrived at a wonderful permanent craft market place. The first view we got was of hundreds of batik cloth paintings attached to a



fence for display, as shown on the left.

The colorful gateway to the craft market proudly identified the market as located in Maputo. We took this opportunity to document the visit of Barbara's library card to Maputo, Mozambique, as shown on the right.

We browsed through the collection of African art painted with the batik process and



selected two of them to take home with us. Then we walked around the display of carvings that included the traditional 6 foot tall giraffe. We passed up the opportunity to buy that one. This craft market was one of the finest we had seen on the cruise so far.

We finished our visit to the craft market and Walter took us to the next point of interest which was an architectural marvel called the Polana Church. It has the nickname of “the lemon squeezer” which makes sense because of its shape, as shown on the right. It looks a lot like the glass kitchen tool used to extract juice from lemons and oranges by pressing and turning the fruit on the sharp point. We were able to walk inside the church and experience the visual effect produced by the architecture.

This picture below shows the view looking nearly straight up into the peak of the church.



One of the alcoves is shown in the picture on the right. The lighting effect from the stained glass and architectural features was striking.



We finished our tour of the Polana Church and our bus took us past a home where Walter pointed out two unusual architectural skylight features, shown in the photos below.



Walter said some parts of the house had few windows but still was flooded with light from these “stovepipe” type of skylights that the architect devised.

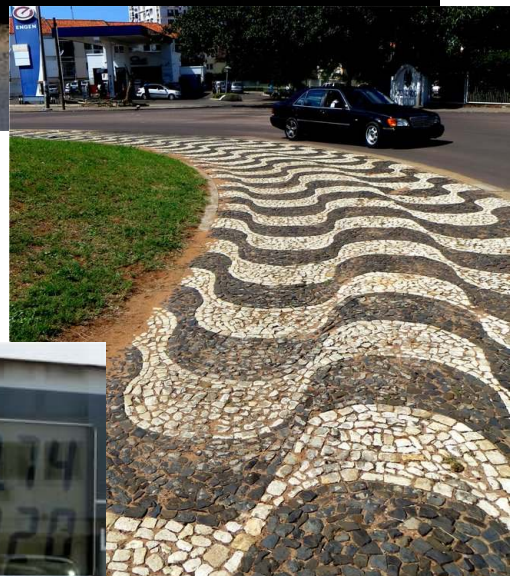
Our tour bus stopped at a restaurant near the Natural History Museum where we had some refreshments. We sat with our friends Lee and Lorraine and enjoyed the first **sugar free** cokes we have found since leaving home.



We had a chance to walk around and found that some Portuguese influence in Maputo was retained in its sidewalks. They were paved with black and white stones arranged in a beautiful and traditional Portuguese pattern, as shown in the photos below.



Orlin came across a gasoline station and took a picture of the gas pump showing the price of gas, as shown below. The gas was selling for 47.52 Mozambique Metrical (MZN) per liter. At the current exchange rate of 31 MZN per USD that is equivalent to 1.53 USD per



liter. Assuming 4 liters per gallon that works out to 6.12 USD per gallon. Orlin's picture taking session was interrupted by a large station attendant who

was visibly upset by the picture taking. He can be seen looming over Orlin's shoulder in the reflection on the glass of the pump. Through body language and pointing to a nearby

safety sign the message got through that like cell phones and other electronic gear, use of digital cameras around the flammable gasoline was not allowed. Orlin quickly stowed the camera and exited the scene.

After that little adventure we rejoined our group for a tour of the Natural History Museum. The Natural History Museum is housed in a wonderful old building with Baroque architecture, as shown on the right.

We were led through the museum by a guide. The taxidermy display showed the large animals of Africa in various activities including killing the next meal. They were very well done but unfortunately no preservation work had been done on them since they were created back in the 1960s.

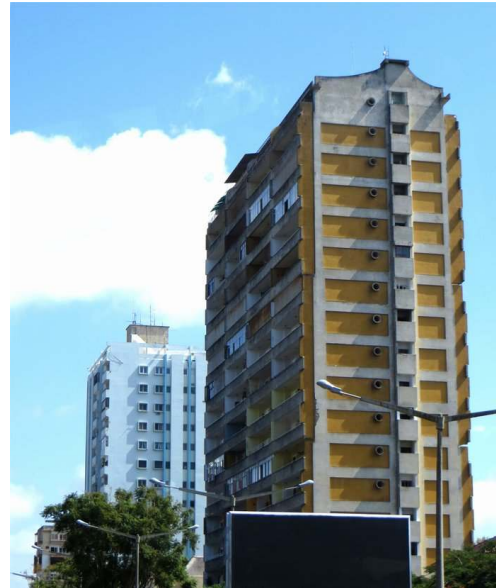


They showed the effects of insects eating the hides and were rather dusty. An overall view of the display is shown on the left.

The museum also included a display of murals created by local artists in the courtyard around the building. One of the murals is shown on the right along with Walter, our guide, explaining the significance of the mural. The Natural History Museum had very extensive displays and it was a tribute to the people of Maputo that they kept this wonderful asset functioning through all the turbulent recent history of Maputo and Mozambique.



After the Natural History Museum tour our bus took us through downtown Maputo city streets. Pictures of some typical buildings we passed are shown below.



Eventually we came to Independence Square where there was a large statue of Samora Machel, the first president of the 1975 Mozambique Republic. The statue, as shown on the left has President Machel waving his index finger which was a gesture he frequently used. Walter explained that he was famous for waving the digit as he promised things like 1 kilo of rice per person, 1 house for every family, 1 job for every man in his campaign to win support of the people. Even though there was a virtual civil

war in Mozambique from 1975 to the treaty in 1992, Samora Machel still retains some popularity as this statue signifies.

We had heard much about the famous Casa do Ferro “Iron House” of Maputo and that was our next destination. It was built in the 1800s based on a design created by the famous Gustav Eiffel who designed the Paris landmark, the Eiffel Tower. The Iron House, as shown on the right, was meant to be the colonial governor’s mansion but in this sub-



tropical climate it turned out to be like an oven during hot weather and was quickly abandoned as a residence. It is now mainly a tourist attraction.

Nearby was a more colorful building and we couldn’t help but take a picture, as shown on the left. It seemed to better reflect the vibrant feel of the city.



Our last stop on the tour was the train station which is a beautiful building, as shown below.

We took a brief look around the train station and then headed back to the Amsterdam. The ship got underway about 5pm and we sailed out of the harbor of Maputo. We were bound for Richard’s Bay in South Africa.



We were scheduled to arrive in Richard's Bay on the morning of April 3 at about 7am.