

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Problem Background

When a building from the past is referred to as having "heritage architecture," it usually means that the culture that built it strongly desires to preserve the building and has put mechanisms in place to ensure this happens. Showing their building practices, especially in a historical context, such "cultural significance invariably relates to the history or general identity of a people, serving to culturally locate them." These iconic pieces of historical architecture have been recognized by cultures worldwide and have been successfully preserved, albeit to differing degrees from their original architectural identities. The deliberate effort made to maintain them, which suggests significant investments in time, money, and personnel is one characteristic that unites these diverse structures and gives them an appearance of being timeless.

Africa doesn't have many internationally recognized historical buildings, except the Egyptian pyramids; this is especially true when it comes to architecture. Though only 129 sites across the continent have been designated as UNESCO Heritage Sites (most of them located in North Africa), heritage sites can be found in many different places. Regarding the unpleasant history of the slave trade on the continent, historical architecture, such as forts and castles, is confined to the Gulf of Guinea coast (especially Ghana), whereas historical colonial presence, which is represented by buildings such as churches, mosques, mission houses, administrative residences, trading posts, etc., is found throughout the continent. In cases where heritage architecture is associated with immaculate, traditional models, it is unlikely that these exist in significant enough numbers anywhere on the continent to support a conservation culture around them.

Maybe this is due to the fact that the majority of these traditional architectural forms found in many African cultures are made of materials and methods that are not meant to last a long time. Numerous societies have resorted to limiting these indigenous built form prototypes to live museums or, worse, traditional architecture museums. As previously mentioned, architectural conservation is not as advanced in Africa as it is in Europe, the US, and some regions of Asia. The majority of countries, including those in Africa, have institutions tasked with maintaining beloved cultural landmarks and artifacts to some extent; typically, this is done in response to an awareness of the tourist potential of those locations. Nigeria has established mechanisms, purportedly aimed at safeguarding its tangible cultural heritage, to encourage the travel and tourism sector. This article discusses these in part, including their effectiveness.

Nigeria is a very diverse nation. The diversity is immense, ranging from flora and fauna to ethnicities. There are many examples of diverse material culture, which is in line with its cultural diversity. Comparably, there is a great deal of variation in the native architectural styles of the various ethnic groups. The increasing number of people living in cities has made it increasingly difficult for people of all income levels to find decent, affordable housing. Even with a sufficient supply of housing, declining living conditions have led to an increase in the number of deaths and diseases brought on by pollution and ill sanitation in Nigerian cities, particularly Lagos [Udeh and Okeke (2018)]. The persistent problem of low incomes, restricted access to housing finance facilities, and supply bottlenecks from centralized institutions has left the building construction industry irreversibly strained in developing economies.

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processes involved in creating the built environment from raw materials are referred to as the building construction industry in this context. The onset of colonialism and globalization in Lagos, Nigeria resulted in the substitution of imported materials and technologies from Europe and America for customary building methods, which predominantly utilized suitable technology. Building materials from all over the world are constantly changing, making Nigeria's construction industry one of the most dynamic [Emiedafe (2015)]. The unfortunate aspect of this importation is that the production of those foreign building materials takes place in unique economic and environmental circumstances that are not present in Nigeria. As a result, Nigerian-made materials are disregarded, and the end product is structures that appear out of place in the surrounding area.

In contrast to traditional building materials like earth and thatch, contemporary buildings in Nigeria have been primarily associated with building materials like glass, PVC, steel, etc. Okeke et al., (2019), assert that buildings, their materials, shape, texture, and space represent culture in its most persuasive physical form. Given the nation's complex socio-economic and environmental challenges, which range from urban poverty to climate change, the pursuit of sustainability and the application of appropriate technologies should be of utmost importance. Lagos, Nigeria's urban environment is rapidly evolving as a result of the city's extraordinary population growth and urbanization. This has caused a considerable number of people from rural areas to relocate to the city in search of better opportunities, which has increased the demand for housing and infrastructure and led to unchecked urban sprawl (Artmann et al., 2018). However, this rapid urbanization has also brought about many other issues, particularly concerning non-engineered building practices.

Studies such as those conducted by Artmann et al., (2018), have drawn attention to the detrimental effects of unrestrained urban growth in Lagos. Among these effects are conflicts over land use, inefficient land use, environmental degradation, and the expansion of urban slums and informal settlements. The lack of comprehensive zoning and urban planning regulations exacerbates these issues by feeding the vicious cycle of inadequate infrastructure and housing. The identification and resolution of architectural deficiencies in non-engineered building practices constitute the initial steps towards mitigating the issues resulting from Lagos's swift urbanization. These architectural gaps address many different subjects, including structural integrity, safety requirements, and adherence to building codes and regulations. By examining these gaps, stakeholders can identify key areas for intervention and develop effective strategies to promote sustainable urban development and strengthen the built environment. This study aims to delve deeper into the topic to provide light on the underlying causes of the architectural gaps in non-engineered building practices in Lagos as well as useful recommendations for sustainable urban development. By examining the difficulties, chances, and advancements in non-engineered building practices in Lagos, Nigeria, this study seeks to close this gap.

1.2 STATEMENT OF RESEARCH PROBLEM

Non-engineered building practices, which include traditional construction techniques, are extensively employed in Lagos, Nigeria. Unfortunately, because these practices are often disregarded, there are many gaps in knowledge and documentation No, S., & Never, A. O. O. R. (2017, March). The lack of systematic research on traditional building techniques and how they interact with modern architectural advancements exacerbates these problems Wuni, I. Y., & Shen, G. Q. (2020).

If careful documentation and analysis are not done, Lagos faces the risk of losing its invaluable architectural legacy and missing out on opportunities for sustainable development. The gaps in the current architectural discourse and practices regarding non-engineered building methods in Lagos represent the research problem. Although traditional methods provide insightful information about sustainable building and cultural preservation, modern architectural methods do not fully comprehend or incorporate traditional methods.

1.2. Scope of Study

1.2.1. Focus

This study focuses on how non-engineered building designs in Lagos, Nigeria, integrate contemporary technologies with traditional construction techniques. It looks at how cutting-edge building technology and conventional architectural features, materials, and methods might work together to provide environmentally friendly and culturally appropriate housing. The study looks at a number of integration-related topics, such as community involvement, cultural relevance, sustainability, and architectural changes..

1.2.2. Locus

Lagos, Nigeria is the study's location. Lagos is a fast-growing megacity that features a varied architectural landscape with both modern and traditional building styles.

1.2.3. Time

This study will be conducted from March 2024 to June 2024*.

1.3 AIM

To see how activities in traditional houses accommodate in modern one and how the architect accommodates that one in form of design, to see what kind of changes.

1.4 OBJECTIVES

- i To identify traditional building practices and examine the spatial organization utilized in Lagos, Nigeria's non-engineered homes as examples of traditional building practices.
- ii To examine the integration of modern and traditional techniques and determine the areas of compromise or disagreement as well as the modifications that are being made when incorporating modern building designs in Lagos with traditional building techniques.
- iii To explore innovative approaches and strategies for tradition and modernity in architectural design and transformation.
- iv To explore architectural design adaptations by looking at design elements and architectural solutions and examine how architects integrate customs and cultural practices into modern house designs.

1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the main gaps in architecture that are present in Lagos's non-engineered building practices?
2. In Lagos, how do non-engineered buildings compare in terms of safety regulations and structural integrity?
3. Which socioeconomic factors, such as affordability, resource accessibility, and cultural influences, affect the prevalence of non-engineered building practices in Lagos?
4. What effects do non-engineered building techniques have on the environment in Lagos?

1.6 Significance of the Study

This research strives to bridge the gap between traditional and modern architectural techniques, promoting sustainable urban development while safeguarding cultural heritage.

1.7 Scope and Limitations.

The study focuses on residential buildings in Lagos, Nigeria, and includes interviews with architects and homeowners. It is limited by the number of participants and the accuracy of self-reported information.

