

Architecture in the Service of Indigenous Arthworks in Africa- Concepts, materials and methods



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ABSTRACT

The growth of any society is often the reflection of the features and trends in the built environment. Most societies exhibited different trends of building forms in their environment in spite of similar climate and construction materials. The factors responsible for the variation in forms development are culture, climate, needs, and level of technological developments. Most forms are simple geometric shapes; these are an expression of the level of technological development. These shapes are adopted based on the culture and cultural inclination of the inhabitants of such geographical area. For example, when the traditional artisans employed the curvilinear shaped house form; it is to conquer the problem of joints and compressional thrust in such buildings. This paper examines various forms in the built environment, by considering its properties based on the character, ergonomics schemes or repetitive, benefits and beauty of forms; which often starts with simple geometric shapes like squares, circles, cones, rectangles and polygons. It also reports on recent researches into the primary considerations influencing contemporary designs. These eventually led to the evolution of forms from simple geometric shapes to several combinations of rectangles, squares and circles to form several parts of the building.

KEY WORDS :

Forms, culture, identities, earthen-architecture, concepts.