

ARCHITECTURE OF COURTYARDS IN THE INDIGENOUS RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF NIGERIAN CITIES

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ABSTRACT

This study assessed courtyard architecture in the indigenous residential areas of selected Nigerian cities. Three cities: Zaria, Ibadan and Owerri, representing the three dominant ethnic groups (Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo) respectively in Nigeria were selected by stratification. Nine of the Local Government Areas housing the core residential areas in the cities were randomly selected. Copies of questionnaire administered to randomly-selected household heads in the study area were 730. Architectural parameters such as the shapes and sizes as well as inter-region variations of the courtyards were obtained through observations and field measurements. Cross tabulation with Chi square was used to investigate the significance of variations. Multiple Analyses of Variance (MANOVA) was employed to analyse inter-regional variations in the architecture of the courtyards. Results reveal that 37.6, 34.1 and 28.0 percent of houses respectively in Owerri, Zaria and Ibadan had courtyards which were either rectangular (34.60%), triangular (34.6%), irregular (30.40%) or square (0.30%) in shape. Their sizes were averagely: small $9m^2$ (63.70%), medium 9 - 15 m^2 (24.20%) and large $015 m^2$ (12.10%). The dominance of irregular shaped, medium size courtyards in Zaria; rectangular shaped, large size in Ibadan; and triangular shaped, small size courtyards in Owerri was observed. Results of MANOVA as indicated by Levene's Test of Equality of Variances ($F=171.749$; $df=5$; $p=0.0000$) show that there were significant inter-regional variations in courtyard sizes at $p<0.05$ confident level. It was concluded that the architecture of the courtyards are as diverse as the three geopolitical zones.

KEY WORDS: *Architecture, Courtyard, Indigenous Residential Area, Cities, Nigeria*

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