

Impact of Globalization on the Local Built Environment and the Emergence of Architectural Anarchy in Nigerian Urban Centres: A Case Study of Ogbomoso, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT Globalization, the growing integration of communities and societies around the world, has been one of the most hotly debated topics in international economics over the past few years. Its impact, both negatively and positively on economy of individual nations has been a subject of controversy. The aim of this study is to assess the implications of globalization as it is manifested in the emerging architectural anarchy in Nigerian Urban centres with Ogbomoso as a case study. The study has been limited to a few areas in Ogbomoso to serve as an example of what obtains in other areas both within and outside Ogbomoso. The study has made an exhaustive review of literature on globalization and architectural principles. This was followed by field survey of architectural buildings within the selected areas of the town. The impact of globalization on the local built environment was investigated using the concept of architectural composition as tools to measure the degree of anarchy in the study area. Evidences of architectural anarchy were found all over the areas surveyed. These include: Inadequate spacing between buildings; Lack of adequate setbacks of buildings to the road; Conversion of buildings to other uses different from the original purpose e.g. residential buildings to either commercial or religious buildings; Lack of appropriate and functional zoning system; Poor drainage; Lack of open spaces and green areas; Location of schools in market areas. The analysis revealed that globalization has contributed immensely to the over-heated economy of the nation. This in turn has impacted on the masses the craze for wealth and lack of respect for orderliness in the execution of building projects. The resultant effect is chaos, shamelessness, the winding rivers are dark with pollution, the spreading sub-burbs have no centers of life or evidence of individual distinction. The economic forces has pulled population into the urban centre so rapidly in recent years that we have not been able to catch up with ourselves as well as with the care of the environment.

INTRODUCTION

Nigerian built environment has always responded to prevailing economic, political and social indices. This reaction has always brought about a member of activities that has far reaching consequences on the behaviors or otherwise is the environment. The influences of the global economy has been one of the factors that has helped to shape the built environment.

The new era of the current global economy, frequently referred to as globalization, has ushered in dramatic changes in the past decade covering a wide range of distinct political, economic and cultural trends. The term "globalization" has quickly become one of the most fashionable word of contemporary political and academic debate. In popular discourse globalization often functions as little more than a synonym for one or more of the following phenomena: the pursuit of classical liberal (or free market) policies in the world economy (economic liberalization), the growing dominance of western forms of political, economic, and cultural life (westernization), the proliferation of information technologies (the internet

revolution), as well as the notion that humanity stands at the threshold of realizing one single unified community in which major sources of social conflicts have vanished (global integration). Most contemporary social theorists endorse the view that globalization refers to spatial and temporal contours of social existence, according to which the significance of space or territory undergoes shifts in the face of no less dramatic acceleration in temporal structure of crucial forms of human activity.

Geographical distance is typically measured in time. As the time necessary to connect distinct geographical locations is reduced, distance or space undergoes compression or annihilation. It is generally agreed that alterations in humanity's experiences of space and time are working to undermine the importance of local and even national boundaries in many areas of human endeavor.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES OF GLOBALIZATION

The Era of Globalization is fast becoming

the preferred term for describing current times. Just as the depression of cold war I, Space Age, and the Roaring 20's are used to describe particular period in history; globalization describes the political, economic, and cultural atmosphere of today.

The term globalization has only become common place in the last two decades, and academic commentators who employed the term as late as the 1970s accurately recognized the novelty of doing so (Modelska, 1972).

Harvey (1996: 242) quoted an English journalist writing in 1839, "who commented in the implications of rail travel by anxiously postulating that as distance was annihilated, the surface of our country would, as it were, shrivel in size until it became not much bigger than one immense city". A few years later, Heinrich Heine, the Émigré German – Jewish poet, captured this same experience when he noted: "space is killed by the railways. I feel as if the mountains and forests of all countries were advancing on Paris. Even now, I can smell the German linden trees, the North Sea's breakers are rolling against my door" (Schivelbusch, 1978: 34). Another German Émigré, the socialist theorist, Karl Marx in 1848 formulated the first theoretical explanation of the sense of territorial compression that so fascinated his contemporaries. In Marx's account, the imperatives of capitalist production inevitably drove the bourgeoisie to nestle everywhere, settle everywhere, and establish connections everywhere. The juggernaut of industrial capitalism constituted the most basic source of technologies resulting in the annihilation of space, helping to pave the way for intercourse in every direction, universal interdependence of nations, in contrast to a narrow-minded provincialism that had plagued humanity for untold cons (Marx, 1979: 476).

In 1904, the literary figure, Adams (1931) diagnosed the existence of a law of acceleration, fundamental to the workings of social development in order to make sense of the rapidly changing spatial and temporal contours of human activity.

Dewey (1954: 140) argued in 1927 "that recent economic and technological trends implied the emergence of a new world no less noteworthy than the opening up of America to European exploration and conquest in 1492. This in effect means the invention of steam, electricity, and the telephone offered formidable challenges to relatively static and homogenous forms of local

community life that had long represented the main theatre for most human activity. Economic activity increasingly exploded the confines of local communities to a degree that would have stunned our historical predecessors, for example, while the steamship, railroad, automobile, and air travel considerably intensified rates of geographical mobility. The German philosopher, Heidegger (1971: 165) clearly anticipated contemporary debates about globalization. He not only described the abolition of distance as a constitutive feature of our contemporary condition, but he linked recent shifts in spatial experience to no less fundamental alterations in the temporality of human activity. All distances in time and space are shrinking. Man now reaches overnight, places which formally took weeks and months of travel. The loss of any meaningful distinction between nearness and distance contributed to a leveling down of human experience, which in turn spawned an indifference that rendered human experience monotonous and one dimensional.

BASIC RUDIMENTS OF CONCEPT OF GLOBALIZATION

Globalization refers to increased possibilities for action between and among people in situation where latitudinal and longitudinal location seems immaterial in the social activity at hand. Globalization, according to Ruggie (1993) "refers to the spread of new forms of non-territorial social activity". Territory in the sense of a traditional sense of geographically identifiable location no longer constitutes the whole of social space in which human activity takes place.

Contemporary analysts associate globalization with deterioratization, according to which a growing variety of activities takes place irrespective of the geographical location of participants. According to Scholte (1996: 45), "global events can, via telecommunication, digital computers, audiovisual media, rocketry and the like occur almost simultaneously anywhere and everywhere in the world".

Globalization has also been conceived as a link to the growth of social interconnectedness across existing geographical and political boundaries. According to Tomlinson, (Tomlinson, 1999: 9) "since the vast majority of human activities are still tied to a concrete geographical location, the more decisive facet of globalization

concerns the manner in which distant events and forces impact on local and regional endeavours". Globalization refers to those processes whereby geographically distant events and decisions impact to a growing degree on local life. For example, impact of IMF decisions on the poor countries of the world. Globalization, according to Held, (Held et al., 1999: 15) "refers to processes of change which underpin a transformation in the organisation of human affairs by linking together and expanding human activity across regions and continents. Globalization in this sense is a matter of degree since any given social activity might influence events more or less far-away even though a growing number of activities seems intermeshed with events in distant countries, certain human activities remain primarily local or regional in scope. Also, the magnitude and impact of the activity might vary; geographically removed events could have a relatively minimal or a far more extensive influence on events at a particular locality".

Globalization also includes reference to the speed or velocity of social activity. The proliferation of high-speed transportation, communication, and information technologies constitutes the most immediate source for the blurring of geographical and territorial boundaries that prescient observers have diagnosed at least since the mid-nineteenth century. The compression of space pre-supposes rapid fine forms of technology; shifts in our experiences of territory depend on concomitant changes in the temporality of human action. Deterritorialization and expansion of interconnectedness are intimately tied to the acceleration of social life as reflected in the social and economic activities found at our national, state and local environment in Nigeria. Here, we can easily see why globalization is always a matter of degree. The velocity as speed of flows, movements, and interchanges across borders can vary no less than their magnitude, impact, or regularity.

The emergence of new high-speed technologies that tends to minimize the significance of distance and heighten possibilities for deterritorialization and social interconnectedness. According to Harvey (Harvey, 1999) "Innovations in communication, transportation, and information technologies (for example computerization) have generated stunning new possibilities for simultaneity and instantaneousness." The impact of recent technological innovations is profound, and even those who do not have a job directly

affected by the new technology are shaped by it in innumerable ways as citizens and GSM consumers. The introduction of GSM has provided job opportunities to thousands of unemployed youths. In addition, the introduction of 'Okada' services has also helped to reduce unemployment. All these are due to the impact of the concept of globalization. Multi-pronged process of globalization is another facet to be acknowledge, since deterritorialization, social interconnectedness, and acceleration manifest themselves in many different areas of activities such as architectural anarchy, economic, political, cultural and social activities.

Each manifestation of globalization also generates distinct conflicts and dislocations.

Architectural anarchy, is one of the outcome of manifestation of globalization. Anarchy can be defined as lawlessness, social and political disorder caused by absence of government or control. Architectural anarchy therefore is the short comings or negative implications arising from the negligence of basic principles of architectural unity such as rhythm, balance, harmony, and contrast in the design and layout of buildings.

Zevi, (1953) "lists the following attributes of architecture that are frequently used to describe the form of a building or group of buildings. They are order, unity, contrast, balance, rhythm, symmetry, volume, proportion, scale, harmony etc". Order the first quality on the Vitruvian list appears to have universal acceptance. No designer appears intent on the creation of disorder; deliberate chaos is not a legitimate goal of architecture.

Vitruvius (1960) defines order as giving due measure to the members of a work considered separately, and symmetrical agreement to the proportion of the whole.

An examination of the concept of unity leads to a study of the characteristics of unified composition, that is, to the manner in which components may be arranged in a coherent manner. Unity is first and most important in the basic design concept in the grammar of formal architectural composition (Monghtin, 1992). "Unity" according to Zevi (1953) is not a limitation on diversity. Even in diversity, there is an element of unity. The universe is a good example. Different trees, with different colour and height, yet there is that language of unity. 'Unity' may be achieved also through the use of one main local building

material, the repetition of roof pitch eave and ridge details or the constant use of similar windows or doors

The use of proportion helps to establish visual order and unity. "To maintain proportion, which also means "Unity in a composition", it is necessary that some central or focal idea should be clearly apparent" (Francis, 1964). Proportion and unity are two concepts which work together to form order. The relative sizes of objects when combined together with a unifying element creates order. For example, two units with equal proportion have no distinct order but when an element of unity is introduced it creates order.

Scale and proportion have an utmost relationship which cannot be ignored in relevance to buildings. Proportion has been established as the relationship of parts to each other and the building as a whole, scale in contrast to proportion depends upon the comparison of one set of dimensions and proportions with another set. Architects and urban designers are most concerned with the human scale. Human scale is a measure of real size. The dimensions of buildings, squares and streets are compared with the proportions of human figure. For example, the proportion of a man, his overall width to height, indicate the natural proportions of a normal door. We expect the height of a normal door to be 2.00m (6ft 6ins) and 0.75m (2ft 2cms) wide which is the opening we can move through comfortably. This scaling to proportion can also determine the outlook of a shape as a door which is too wide for its height looks out of scale and badly proportioned. The perfection created in connection with scale and proportion results into balance.

Harmony in a building structure is appreciated through the use of one or more elements, which is similar or not similar as a dominant component of a building or the use of dimensions repeating simple ratio. Harmony in architecture is simply, when all the distinct part in a building agree with each other to form a balanced entity that captivates the sense of sight. Such harmony could be found in the building of antiquity, especially the "five orders" of the ancient column design where harmony is achieved through proportion, scale and repetition of simple ratios in relation to the total building. The chaos experienced in most architectural building is due to lack of harmony. A single feature unrelated to a total sequence will cause disharmony and chaos, especially with colour combinations where

a colour different from the flow of other colours is combined e.g. pink in the midst of brown and orange.

Symmetry in architecture is the identical disposition of elements on either side of an axis. This type of symmetry was given its grandest form of expression during the Beaux Arts movements at the beginning of this century.

A building which lacks symmetry many be said to be unbalanced. A building which achieves balance is well adjusted, exhibiting a reasonable distribution of its component parts.

Rhythm in architecture is the product of the grouping of elements, of emphasis, interval, accent and direction. It is a sense of movement achieved by the articulation of the members making up the composition. Rhythm is achieved in a building when different shapes are arranged in a manner that is pleasing in sight.

The analysis of the concepts of architectural composition has been extensively dealt with to isolate tools that can be used to define the degree of anarchy as it relates to architecture in Ogbomoso town.

SHORT HISTORY OF OGBOMOSO

Ogbomoso is a city in south west of Nigeria approximately 80km (50miles) NNE of Ibadan. It is the second largest city in Oyo state after Ibadan. The estimated population according to 1991 census was 432,000 but should now be in the range of 800,000. Its astronomical growth of recent can be traced to the establishment of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology in the town in 1990.

Reputed to be founded by Soun Ogunlola, Ogbomoso derived its name from Elemoso, a masquerade/ spirit that terrorized the people of the settlement before Soun Ogunlola came from the then Oyo empire and in a titanic battle succeeded in cutting off the head hence "Ogborielemoso" which later became Ogbomoso.

OBSERVATIONS OF ARCHITECTURAL ANARCHY IN OGBOMOSO

From the field survey conducted, the existing situation at the study area was compared with planning standard and concepts of architectural composition the observations were limited to some areas of ogbomoso which is regarded as the economic hut of the town harbouring a

mixture of residential, social and commercial activities. Other area not touched or mentioned exhibit similar traits and this is reminiscent of what obtains in the other urban centers all over the country. The analysis revealed the followings:

1. Sitings of industrial buildings in the midst of residential and public buildings
2. A petrol filling station in the midst of residential areas e.g. at starlight areas of the town.
3. Lack of set backs of buildings from the main road constitutes traffic danger to inhabitants.
4. Lack of adequate space between buildings which constitutes hindrance to proper ventilation e.g. Evergreen hotel (twin building) in Ogbomoso. Some building are not in harmony in composition with louvre blades e.g., timber windows on the ground floor and sliding windows on the 1st floor.
5. In filling of modern building within a predominantly traditional building or slum building areas.
6. Location of markets, ramshackle shops and commercial activities on the main road thus reducing the traffic capacity of the main road (OYO –ILORIN-OGBOMOSO ROAD), leads to architectural anarchy.
7. Lack of well constructed hygienic toilets and kitchens thus leading to the use of open spaces as toilets.
8. In appropriate location of religious houses within residential areas as well as the use of loud speakers thus disturbing the peace of the neighbourhood.
9. In appropriate conversion of warehouses to students' hostels with the obvious lack of ventilation within the building (this is a clear attempt to take advantage of the economic rush occasioned by the globalization of the economy reflecting at the local level).
10. Disorderly development of students hostels in some areas of Lautech Campus which lack access due to the haphazard planning of the areas, necessitated by the "get rich quick" syndrome of the developer. This is as a result of the overheated economy due to globalization.

CONCLUSION

The study has revealed the immense contribution of globalization to the overheated economy of the nation, the resultant effect of which is chaos and shamelessness. The winding

rivers are dark with pollution, the spreading suburbs seem to have no centers of life or evidence of individual distinction. Instead of placing man at the centre of the Nigerian environment we have left it empty or cluttered with waste and architecture of no value.

The modern city shows few aspects of definite, coordinated form, but more of indeterminate, atomized pattern of change, working toward the destruction of any coherent forms which existed within it, and the concomitants of this process are waste, ugliness, and decay. Economic forces brought about by globalization account for all these. The economic forces has pulled population into the urban centers so rapidly in recent years that we have not been able to catch up with ourselves as well as with the care of the environment. This has resulted in lack of taste and wild environmental disorder.

There is apparent public indifference to public beauty. All the newer manifestations of mass culture – trailer parks, shopping centers, motor parks, motels tend to be laid out on similar plan, and even local differences in the architecture have disappeared as they tend more and more to become chain operations.

By allowing the "process" of the free market to take place without consideration of its by products in social and physical terms we encourage untidiness and waste.

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