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INTRODUCTION

- Architecture originated from God and can be described as the oldest profession.
- Genesis 1:1 talks about the beginning and how the Greatest Architect Jehovah God designed the earth, the firmament and all that exist today. To Him alone belong all the glory for whatever anyone of us who dare to call ourselves Architect have been able to achieve.
- Architecture all through the ages has been the process, the product of planning, designing and constructing buildings and other structures.

 A simple definition is "the art and science of designing and creating buildings".









According to the Architects Registration Council of Nigeria (ARCON), Architecture is:

"The art and science in theory and practice of design, erection, commissioning, maintenance and management and coordination of all allied professional inputs thereto of buildings or part thereof and the layout and master plan of such buildings or group of buildings forming a comprehensive institution, establishment or neighborhood as well as any other organized space, enclosed or opened, required for human and other activities"









Introduction cont.

- This definition by ARCON pretty much sums up the "limits of Architectural practice in Nigeria in the 21st century".
- Interestingly, most Architects in Nigeria have not fully explored all the areas permitted for architects by ARCON
- However to go beyond this limits will be our focus so that the 'architecture spirit" in its practitioners can be allowed to have expression to its fullest.
- "Life begins at the end of your comfort zone." NEALE DONALD WALSCH



What Really Is Architecture?

According to one of the greatest movers of Modern Architecture, Frank Lloyd Wright described Architecture as;

"life, or at least it is life taking form and therefore it is the truest record of life as it was lived in the world yesterday, as it is lived today or even will be lived. So architecture I know to be a great spirit....."



 "Architecture is that great living creative spirit which from generation to generation, from age to age proceeds, persists, and creates according to the nature of man and his circumstances as they change. That is really architecture."
 Frank L. Wright





The Training Of An Architect

What then should the training of Architects be in order to provoke in the practitioners the "Great Spirit" which will affect the life and soul of every human community?

- The present curriculum of most Schools of Architecture in Nigerian shows emphasis mainly on skills development and ability to prepare all the documents necessary for a Building Project.
- The Background theory of History of Architecture as well as Components and Methods and all core courses taught in every School of Architecture in Nigeria prepare the student for practice to an extent.



The Training Of An Architect Cont.

The truth of the matter is that most skills taught in school amount to only about 35% maximum of what is actually required to carry out a successful Architectural Practice according to Arc. M.B. Bello in his paper "Architecture: - Adaptation in Economic Recession"







How Should It Be?

The table bellow shows what the training, development and practice of Architecture should be.

S/N	ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION	%	SUPPORTIVE/COMPLIM ENTARY EDUCATION	%
1	Conceptual and Design Skills	15	Politics (local and Global knowledge)	10
2	Drawing and Presentation Skills	10	Business Management, office/ Practice Administration	10
3	Contract Documentation	10	Networking/ Marketing	10
4			Procurement	10
5			Finance/ Accounts Project/ Office Administration	10
6			Project Management	10
7			Others	5
TOTAL		35%		65%

Fully Certified Architect – 100%

The Training Of An Architect Cont.

- While it is obvious that not all things can be taught in school, the student of Architecture who wants to go beyond limits must continually be abreast of all the subjects mentioned in the table above to be relevant in Architecture in the 21stCentury.
- Learning is beyond the four walls of the university.



Politics Local And Global Knowledge

- The Architect must be involved in Politics to the extent that he is seen as a formidable asset to government.
- Every chapter of the Nigerian Institute of Architects must be a pressure group that cannot be ignored.
- Opinions and constructive criticism must be heard from the Architects
 regularly so that as reference and reverence is given to the legal
 profession, so should it be given to Architects.

 The issue is not the creation of the post "Architect Conord" but ensuring
 - The issue is not the creation of the post "Architect General" but ensuring that we are actively engaged in policy formulation in the government.



Politics Local And Global Knowledge cont.

President Obama says of
 Architecture: "it is about creating buildings spaces that inspire us, that help us do our jobs, that bring us together and that become at their best works art that we can move through, live in. And in the end that is why Architecture can be considered the most democratic of art forms."



Relevance Of Architecture

- Every activity of man needs an Architect to provide or make the space conducive for the activity. Architecture is crucial in the development of jobs and wealth creation in any economy.
- Indeed a nation's identity is usually defined by her architecture.
- For as long as man creates habitations for its activities the Architect is totally relevant.





"You have extended your boundaries out to the sea, your Architects have made you glorious" Ezekiel 27vs4

Relevance Of Architecture













The Creative Industry

- Architecture is one of the disciplines that make up the creative industry.
- These are industries that are based on individual creativity, skills, talent with potential to create wealth and jobs through developing intellectual property.
- Other sectors include advertising, the art and antiques market, crafts, design, fashion design, film, interactive leisure-software (i.e. video game), music, photography the performing arts, publishing, software, television, radio and much more



• Job 32: 8

"But there is a spirit within people, the breath of the Almighty within them, that makes them intelligent."

The Creative Industry

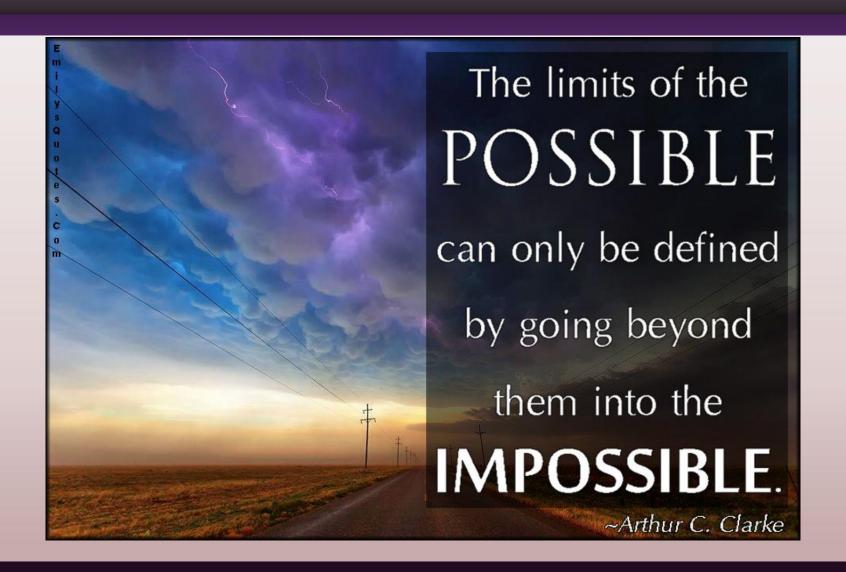
 Going beyond limits is recognizing our potentials as an important member of the creative industry and the ability to help create wealth for the country through Architecture.

 Architect can create wealth for the country through iconic buildings that attract profit e.g. design of tourist centres, theme parks, museums e.t.c









Going Beyond Limits

- Limits are boundaries that are setup beyond which we can not or Usually do not go either by law, tradition or our idiosyncrasies.
- The traditional role of architects in Nigeria has been basically encapsulated in the role of "designers of buildings" if he is lucky, He gets to supervise the building he has designed. Most times, he may Be overruled even by the client and his vision for the project will not be achieved.
- Other allied professionals like the structural engineers and the quantity surveyors sometimes try to usurp his duties and authority on site.
 if not careful, he almost becomes the 'enemy' on site.

Going Beyond Limits cont.

- Architects therefore need to rise to the challenge of ensuring that their work are given value content as the blue print without which any of the other consultants can work.
- Proper education of the client and even consultants prior to the starting of the project must be done.
- Adequate drawings and detailing to ensure that the Architects concept is not tampered with by the engineers and other allied professionals.

Going Beyond Limits

Presently in Nigeria Architects are usually employed in the following establishment

- Government: Federal, State and Local (planning offices)
- Institutions: Educational (academic, works/maintenance)
- Finance house: property departments, project maintenance dept.
- Private Architectural Firms
- Construction companies
- Building Materials manufacturers
- The architects in the academics have their roles also clearly spell out.
 However also in the academia, we need to go beyond our lecturing roles
 And become more involved in research and practice in order to impart more
 on the profession and our students.

Going Beyond Limits

- For most of the establishments, where architects are engaged, new structures usually come up within these establishments or even renovation projects for which the "in house" Architect should be the first point of call in advising on the appropriate steps to take.
- Within the scope of his exposure or expertise the "in house" architect should be able to design and prepare documents for construction. Where the scope of the project is more complex and demanding, the in-house architect should be able to work with external consultants in ensuring that the client's needs are met.
- One of the problems identified with architects in this category is that they
 are not usually registered with ARCON. This usually limits them in terms of
 scope of projects they can handle and even promotions in the
 establishment.

Architects In Practice

- Due to the "laid back" attitude of most architects now, the other professionals within the construction industry are fast eroding our roles and taking over the Lead in the building industry,
- Where are the days of the Master Builder when the Architects were the engineers as well as the cost consultant on his project?

Why is the Architect being sidelined?

Some of the reasons for this are:

- Lack of understanding of contract administration
- Insufficient detailing and specifications
- Lack of leadership skills

Going Beyond Limits cont.

To go beyond limits, the architect must reclaim his role as the head of the team and ensure he gives "informed directives" to other allied professionals in the team.

 He must break the limits by increasing his knowledge base in order to be respected by others.

Architecture goes beyond buildings. The entrepreneurship spirit being built up in universities like Covenant must come to the fore.

Other areas where Architects have excelled includes

- interior design
- furniture design and production
- Landscape Architecture,
- Animation
- Total Living Solutions design of sanitary wares, light fittings, cutleries etc.
- Graduates of architecture should go through tutelage. A minimum of 2 years is needed for effective mentoring under a well established firm before jumping Into "freelancing". Most young Architects who do this usually end up with projects that are not well thought through with attending problems.

Beyond Limits

- Think out of the box:
 - Architects are not going extinct; we are needed in every area of the society.
- There is a housing deficit presently in Nigeria of over 17million units. Only the Architects can solve the problem with affordable and efficient houses. Using mainly locally sourced materials,
- 'By 2050 another three billion people will need to be housed, and architects and urban designers have an enormous role to play in responding to this challenge'

Prince Charles of Wales

 Young Architects are needed with fresh ideas, to provide solutions to provision of infrastructure and public facilities.





Beyond Limitations

- Like the Carleton university slogan for architecture says-
- -students in architecture and urbanism are not afraid to Imagine a future that is different form the world today.
- This is a challenge to think out of the box



Canada's Capital University





. Be proficient in skills that will enhance the presentation and "marketing" of their designs.

- Many software are available to aid the architect in "going beyond limits" in different categories:
- 2D/3D e.g Autodesk Revit, Trimble sketchup, Vectorworks Architecture
- 3D e.g 3dsmax Autodesk Maya
- Post production: Adobe Photoshop-Adobe illustrator, Adobe InDesign, Adobe after effect, Adobe premiere pro, Autodesk sketch book, Nuke.
- Rendering e.g Artlantis, Vray renderer, Maxwell renderer, Indigo renderer, Lumion etc.

SOCIAL SKILLS:

- meeting people
- developing relationships
- communication skills
- Volunteer work in community projects
- Sharpening our skills and confidence by participating in local and international competitions



Be a solution provider



NIA Talent Hunt

- Recently, the Nigerian Institute of Architects organized a talent hunt for students of architecture using locally sourced building materials to ensure that your Clients requirement while at the same time, ensure good living standards via design.
- Students were required to consider the following criteria in their design:
- Use of local sourced building materials
- Climatic factors
- Cultural/ Heritage Factors
- Site Location
- The purpose of the talent hunts is to engage students to Imagine the repurposing of our existing in Nigeria with sustainable Buildings from renewable resources, offering expedient affordable Construction, innovating with new and old building materials and Designing healthy living and working environments.



Talent Hunt



Our observation over the years of fresh graduates and interns are, presented in The table below

	GOOD → POOR				
Rating	5	4	3	2	1
Interest of the graduate employee			_		
Preparation to be integrated into workforce					
Ability to interpret brief			-		
Active participation in discussions			→		
Eagerness to perform well on assignments and project given			→		
Ability to exert more effort when difficult assignments are given.			→		
Ability to relate with colleagues		→			
Promptness of delivery of assignments				•	
Studio Works					
Sketch presentation				•	
Working drawings				→	
3D presentation			•		
Schedule of dilapidation presentation					-
Detailing				-	
Free hand sketching	_		•		
Report writing			>		

	GOOD → POOR			OR	
Rating	5	4	3	2	1
Site works					
ability to interpret drawings on site	_			>	
Ability to co-ordinate site	_			>	
Ability to relate with the Client			*		
Ability to relate with the					
contractor & sub-contractor	_				>
Ability to identify the quality of					
materials on site					•
Ability to take decisions on site				•	
Soft wares Application					
Auto cad			•		
Revit	_	→			
Archicad	_			•	
Lumion			-		
Studio max				•	
Sketch up		-			

Conclusion

- As you go out of university you must determine to go beyond limits ensuring your relevance within any establishment that you find yourself.
- Architecture prepares you to face the world with creative skills and solutions that will help fulfill your destiny
- Imagination is your power to go beyond the known and the unknown to create your utopia.
- "I shut my eyes in order to see."
 It's lamentable that our focus is always on what EXISTS rather than on what COULD EXIST. ARTIST PAUL GAUGUIN





Thank you