

IDEAS TO PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

An Architect's Experience

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The Justice Symbol:
MAGNA JURIST

FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA

2007

Justice is not an invention of man. It is a Divine operation through which the whole creation is provided, driven and sustained. It is the driving spirit of the development of creation and its sustenance. Our planet Earth housing this great country Nigeria is a small part of this creation of the Lord of All the Worlds.

The concept of the Justice symbol; Magna Jurist is not a creation of this artist (Arc. Akin Odeyemi) but the need to adapt this form to the perception of those who have reservation about realistic finished sculpture led to the creation of forms in developmental cubism to powerfully express the womanly look in its dignified essence. Purity being inevitable to justice is symbolized in **the true woman. The sword** represents power and drive, **the blindfold** stands for impartiality and **the scale** for equity and balance.

The artist set out to convey the sculpture across to his audience as being strong and protective, mighty and yet inviting, sharp and yet subtle, rich and priceless.

In order to achieve his set out goal, four things engaged his consideration, they are:

- medium,
- size,
- style and
- finishing.

Medium

In choosing the medium, the artist went for heavy gauge steel to depict strength, firmness and uncompromising nature of the law. In the choice of size the artist went for a more monumental size than can be found anywhere on the planet.

Size

Measuring **8.24 meters** from the platform and **9.05 meters** totally it is the tallest and the largest in the world, that is for the books. It is the view of the artist that all should look up to the law and none should be above it, the same line of thought that informs the cliché “nobody is above the law” and also to portray reach as used in the legal parlance “long arm of the law”.

Style

As for style, he employed the contrasting sharp and subtle edges to show the swift and gentle nature of the law, and a bit of abstraction to tone down the curves of femininity to keep his audience focused on the symbolism of the statue.

Finishing

In finishing, the obvious choice was **gold** considering that gold symbolizes unflinching service of the highest order, example, gold medal, gold award. Gold is prime performance and a measure of superlative virtue.

I present a world record and befitting symbol
of justice to our great country Nigeria:





























Boxer





















Federal High Court Main Entrance Doors











