

**EVALUATION OF ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGIES IN THE DESIGN OF
A SHOPPING CENTRE IN ABUJA, F.CT, NIGERIA**

**EMMAEZE, LOIS CHINONYELUM
(20PCA02157)**

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**EVALUATION OF ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGIES IN THE DESIGN OF
A SHOPPING AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE IN ASOKORO, ABUJA**

BY

**EMMAEZE, LOIS CHINONYELUM
20PCA02157**

Bachelor of Architecture, Central University ,Tema,Ghana

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE
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OF ARCHITECTURE, COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
COVENANT UNIVERSITY, OTA, OGUN STATE NIGERIA.**

JULY, 2022

ACCEPTANCE

This is to attest that this dissertation is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Science (M.Sc.) Degree in the Department of Architecture, College of Science and Technology, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria.

Mr. Taiwo B. Erewunmi
(Secretary, School of Postgraduate Studies)

Signature and Date

Prof Akan B. Williams
(Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies)

Signature and Date

DECLARATION

I, EMMAEZE, LOIS CHINONYELUM (20PCA02157), declare that this dissertation was carried out by me under the supervisor of Dr. Egidario .B. Aduwo, in the Department of Architecture, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria. This research work has not been presented, either wholly or partly, for any degree elsewhere before now. All sources of scholarly information used in this research work were duly acknowledged.

EMMAEZE, LOIS CHINONYELUM

Signature and Date

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this dissertation titled “**EVALUATION OF ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGIES IN THE DESIGN OF A SHOPPING AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE IN ASOKORO, ABUJA**” is an original research work carried out by **EMMAEZE, LOIS CHINONYELUM (20PCA02157)** in the Department of Architecture, College of Science and Technology, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria under the supervision of Dr. Aduwo B. Egidario. This dissertation has met the required standard for the award of Master of Science (M. Sc) in Architecture.

Dr Egidario B. Aduwo
(Supervisor)

Signature and Date

Prof. Adedapo.A Oluwatayo
(Head of Department, Architecture)

Signature and Date

Prof. Anthony K. Adebayo
(External Examiner)

Signature and Date

Prof. Akan B. Williams
(Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies)

Signature and Date

DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to the God Almighty, the creator of all knowledge. My Father, AVM. Hyacinth Emmanuel Eze ,who is my greatest inspiration and mentor. My Mother, Mrs. Delphina Egiviese Eze, who has been a source of solace and strength to me and to all people living with some form of disability all over the world.

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ABSTRACT

This study evaluates the accessibility strategies in the design of a shopping centre in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory (F.C.T) The practice of shopping is an activity that leads to economic growth and boosts the infrastructure of the public. In present years, shopping centres have undergone a rapid transformation to enhance social interaction and experiences amongst users, thus, boosting higher levels of engagement. However, most shopping centres are not considered as sustainable and functional when every member of the society does not have equal opportunity and access to fully experience these spaces, thus limiting the usage of people with disabilities in Nigeria. The aim of this research was to investigate accessibility strategies for enhancing movement for all user groups, in order to design a shopping centre in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria, towards promoting social involvement in the evolution and growth of the built environment. The objectives of the study are to highlight the accessibility strategies for enhancing free flow circulation movements for users in shopping centres, investigate the extent to which accessibility features in selected shopping malls enhance free flow movement for all user groups, examine the extent to which the accessibility features in selected shopping centres comply with the best practices, and to design a shopping centre that meets the accessibility needs of all user groups, in Abuja, F.C.T, Nigeria. To realise the aim of this research, it requires a field study as its research setting and will be taking an analytical research approach. Observation schedule and document analysis will be used to gather qualitative data while quantitative data was gathered using a structured questionnaire created for the study. The findings from this study show that the observation guide that the accessibility and usability provisions of most shopping centres do not completely meet minimum standards. It is recommended therefore that, the development control body in Abuja, Federal Capital Development Authority should provide adequate information and regulations that would encourage and enforce the adherence of Accessibility Design Practices in the design and renovation of public buildings The study concludes that many public buildings do not have sufficient accessibility and usability provisions to cater for people with disabilities, though fairly sufficient for able-bodied people. Thus, this research highlights the necessity for shopping centres to implement accessibility strategies from the design stage to the construction stage.

Key words: Accessibility, Usability, people with disabilities, shopping centre, shopping, public buildings, Inclusive design