

**INFLUENCE OF URBAN UPGRADES ON INDIGENOUS BUILDING  
MORPHOLOGY IN THE CITY CORE OF ABEOKUTA, NIGERIA**

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(16PCA01315)**

**JANUARY, 2023**

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**BY**

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TECHNOLOGY, COVENANT UNIVERSITY, OTA, OGUN STATE,  
NIGERIA**

**JANUARY, 2023**

## **ACCEPTANCE**

This is to attest that this report is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Architecture in the Department of Architecture, College of Science and Technology, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria.

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## **DECLARATION**

I, **ADENAIKE, FOLAHAN ANTHONY**, declare that this thesis was carried out entirely by me under the supervision of Prof. Joseph A. Fadamiro of the Department of Architecture, School of Environmental Technology, Federal University of Technology Akure, Ondo State and Prof. Akunnaya P. Opoko of the Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Sciences, Bells University of Technology, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria. This thesis has never been presented wholly or partly, for any degree or qualification of this university or any other institution of learning. All scholarly information in this thesis were duly acknowledged.

**ADENAIKE, FOLAHAN ANTHONY**

**Signature and Date**

## **CERTIFICATION**

This thesis, titled “**INFLUENCE OF URBAN UPGRADES ON INDIGENOUS BUILDING MORPHOLOGY IN ABEOKUTA CITY CORE, NIGERIA**”, carried out by **ADENAIKE, FOLAHAN ANTHONY** under our supervision, meets the requirements of a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) thesis in the Department of Architecture, College of Science and Technology, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria. We certify that this thesis has not been submitted for a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) thesis or any other degree in Covenant University or any other university. It is hereby approved for literary presentation.

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## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is dedicated to the glory of God and the rich heritage of the Yoruba culture.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>COVER PAGE</b>                                 |            |
| Error! Bookmark not defined.                      |            |
| <b>TITLE PAGE</b>                                 | <b>ii</b>  |
| <b>ACCEPTANCE</b>                                 | <b>iii</b> |
| <b>DECLARATION</b>                                | <b>iv</b>  |
| <b>CERTIFICATION</b>                              | <b>v</b>   |
| <b>DEDICATION</b>                                 | <b>vi</b>  |
| <b>ACKNOWLEDGMENTS</b>                            | <b>vii</b> |
| <b>ABSTRACT</b>                                   | <b>xix</b> |
| <br>  |            |
| <b>CHAPTER ONE</b>                                | <b>1</b>   |
| <b>INTRODUCTION</b>                               | <b>1</b>   |
| 1.1 Background to the study                       | 1          |
| 1.2 Statement of the research problem             | 3          |
| 1.3 Aim and Objectives of the study               | 4          |
| 1.4 Justification for the study                   | 5          |
| 1.5 Scope of the study                            | 8          |
| 1.6 The study area                                | 9          |
| 1.7 Key definitions and concepts                  | 11         |
| 1.7.1 Urban upgrades                              | 11         |
| 1.7.2 Urban systems                               | 11         |
| 1.7.3 Building morphology                         | 12         |
| 1.7.4 Building forms                              | 12         |
| 1.7.5 Building elements                           | 12         |
| 1.7.6 City core                                   | 13         |
| 1.7.7 Traditional architecture                    | 13         |
| 1.7.8 Vernacular architecture                     | 13         |
| 1.7.9 Indigenous architecture                     | 13         |
| 1.7.10 Ethno-acculturation                        | 13         |
| <br>  |            |
| <b>CHAPTER TWO</b>                                | <b>14</b>  |
| <b>LITERATURE REVIEW</b>                          | <b>14</b>  |
| 2.1 Preamble                                      | 14         |
| 2.2 Urban architecture                            | 14         |
| 2.3 Building morphology                           | 18         |
| 2.3.1 Forms and elements in architecture          | 20         |
| 2.3.2 Architecture of Yoruba of Southwest Nigeria | 24         |



|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 2.3.3 Evolution of indigenous architectural building morphology in Abeokuta city core | 27        |
| 2.4 Urban upgrades  | 33        |
| 2.4.1 Upgrades in historic city Centres   | 38        |
| 2.4.2 Effects of urban upgrades on built forms  | 41        |
| 2.4.3 Urban upgrades in Southwest Nigeria   | 46        |
| 2.5. Gaps in the literature   | 49        |
| 2.6 Theoretical review  | 50        |
| 2.7 Conceptual framework  | 54        |
| <b>CHAPTER THREE</b>  | <b>59</b> |
| <b>METHODOLOGY</b>  | <b>59</b> |
| 3.1. Preamble   | 59        |
| 3.2. Research philosophy  | 59        |
| 3.3. Research design  | 60        |
| 3.3.1 Study population  | 61        |
| 3.3.2 Sampling  | 61        |
| 3.3.3 Sample size computation   | 64        |
| 3.3.4 Sampling techniques   | 65        |
| 3.4. Data requirements and sources  | 66        |
| 3.5. Data collection and instruments  | 68        |
| 3.5.1 Field observation and counting  | 68        |
| 3.5.2 Interviews with government officials  | 68        |
| 3.5.3 Interviews with residents   | 69        |
| 3.5.4 Questionnaire survey  | 69        |
| 3.6. Operationalization of quantitative variables                                     | 70        |
| 3.7. Summary of data collection methods and analyses                                  | 70        |
| 3.8. Data reliability and integrity   | 72        |
| <b>CHAPTER FOUR</b>   | <b>73</b> |
| <b>RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS</b>  | <b>73</b> |
| 4.1. Preamble   | 73        |
| 4.2 Indigenous building morphology of Abeokuta till 2009                              | 76        |
| 4.3. Urban upgrades in Abeokuta city core   | 80        |
| 4.3.1 Upgrades executed from 2009 to 2011   | 85        |
| 4.3.2 Upgrades executed from 2011 to 2018   | 86        |
| 4.4. New building typologies in Abeokuta city core                                    | 88        |
| 4.5 Forms and elements of the new buildings   | 90        |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| 4.6. Residents' reasons for adopting new forms and elements in the upgraded                  | 101        |
| 4.7. Guidelines for future upgrades programmes   | 102        |
| 4.7.1 Excerpts from literature review  | 102        |
| 4.7.2 Views of technocrats   | 104        |
| 4.7.3 Respondents' Attitudes towards urban upgrades, social cohesion and building morphology | 108        |
| 4.8 Spatiotemporal findings of the Abeokuta core area during the study period                | 109        |
| 4.9 Evidence of alteration in buildings  | 110        |
| 4.10 Discussions   | 110        |
| 4.10.1 Morphology and current threshold of indigenous building pattern in study area         | 110        |
| 4.10.2 Content and nature of urban upgrades in Abeokuta city core during the study period    | 115        |
| 4.10.3 New building typologies in the study area   | 117        |
| 4.10.4 Forms and elements of new building typologies   | 120        |
| 4.10.5 Reasons for adopting new forms and elements   | 142        |
| 4.10.6 Guides for future urban upgrades to promote heritage preservation                     | 144        |
| <b>CHAPTER FIVE</b>  | <b>146</b> |
| <b>SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS</b>   | <b>146</b> |
| 5.1 Summary of the study   | 146        |
| 5.2 Research findings  | 146        |
| 5.3 Implications of the study  | 149        |
| 5.4 Limitations of the study   | 149        |
| 5.5 Contribution to knowledge  | 150        |
| 5.6 Recommendations  | 151        |
| 5.7 Areas for further study  | 152        |
| 5.8 Conclusion   | 152        |
| <b>REFERENCES</b>  | <b>153</b> |

## LIST OF TABLES

| <b>TABLES</b>   | <b>PAGES</b> |
|---|--------------|
| Table 3.1: Summary of sampling methods for research   | 74           |
| Table 3.2: Data collection analyses   | 78           |
| Table 3.3: Observation checklist for evidence of alterations in buildings and conditions<br>of forms and elements                                     | 79           |
| Table 4.1: Socio-demographic data on respondents  | 81           |
| Table 4.2: Data from observation of buildings in the sedentary section of the study area  | 82           |
| Table 4.3: Data from observation of buildings in the upgraded section of the study area   | 83           |
| Table 4.4: Building typologies by land use in sedentary and upgraded areas  | 88           |
| Table 4.5: Frequencies of different architectural building styles and the percentages of<br>their occurrences in the sedentary areas of the city core | 89           |
| Table 4.6: Frequencies of different architectural building styles and the percentages of<br>their occurrences in the upgraded areas of the city core  | 89           |
| Table 4.7: Percentage changes in building forms and elements in the study area  | 90           |
| Table 4.8: Summary of responses on reasons for adoption of changes  | 100          |
| Table 4.9: Content review of citations from literature review to guide future upgrades  | 101          |
| Table 4.10: Content analysis of interview with Ogun State Slum Regeneration technocrat  | 103          |
| Table 4.11: Attitudes towards urban upgrades and building morphology <sup>107</sup>   |              |
| Table 4.12: Urban upgrades and socio-cultural cohesion  | 108          |
| Table 4.13: Change in building densities of neighbourhoods in the study area <sup>108</sup>   |              |
| Table 4.14 Evidence of alterations in the buildings the sedentary and upgraded areas<br>showing building counts and percentages                       | 109          |
| Table 4.15: Changes in percentage occurrence of different architectural<br>building styles in the sedentary and upgraded areas of the city core       | 111          |
| Table 4.16: Summation of percentage occurrences of different architectural<br>building styles in the sedentary and upgraded areas of the city core    | 112          |
| Table 4.17: Upgrade programmes in Abeokuta core and the affected neighbourhoods   | 114          |
| Table 4.18: Percentage change in building typologies in upgraded and sedentary areas  | 116          |
| Table 4.19: Descriptive statistics for percentage changes in variable occurrences   | 120          |
| Table 4.20: Descriptive statistics on change perceptions in building forms and elements   | 121          |
| Table 4.21: Summary of non-parametric test of urban upgrades and building elements  | 122          |
| Table 4.22: Summary of non-parametric test of urban upgrades and building forms   | 123          |
| Table 4.23: Correlation between urban upgrades and forms building elements  | 124          |
| Table 4.24: Chi-square computation for building forms and elements  | 124          |
| Table 4.25: Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test results for the relationship between urban   |              |

| <b>TABLES</b>   | <b>PAGES</b> |
|---|--------------|
| upgrades and building forms and elements  | 125          |
| Table 4.26: Building shapes in the sedentary and upgraded areas                               | 129          |
| Table 4.27: Symmetry in front elevations of buildings in the sedentary areas                  | 130          |
| Table 4.28: Front door sizes (width) in sedentary and upgraded areas                          | 131          |
| Table 4.29: Window sizes (width) in the sedentary and upgraded areas                          | 132          |
| Table 4.30: Presence of ornamentation in openings of buildings in the study area              | 133          |
| Table 4.31: Presence of additive and subtractive forms in the sedentary and upgraded areas    | 133          |
| Table 4.32: Basic roof forms in the sedentary sections of the study area                      | 134          |
| Table 4.33: Wall finishing materials in the sedentary and upgraded sections of the study area | 135          |
| Table 4.34: Front door finishing materials in sedentary sections of the study area            | 136          |
| Table 4.35: Window finishing materials in the sedentary and upgraded areas                    | 137          |
| Table 4.36: Eaves finishing materials in the sedentary sections of the study area             | 138          |
| Table 4.37: Roof finishing materials in the sedentary sections of the study area              | 139          |
| Table 4.38: Entrance area delineation in sedentary sections of the study area                 | 140          |
| Table 4.39: Summary of forms and elements of the emerging building patterns                   | 141          |
| Table 4.40: Summary of reasons for adopting new forms and elements                            | 142          |
| Table 4.41: Effects of urban upgrades and future proposals for the area                       | 144          |

## LIST OF FIGURES

| <b>FIGURES</b>   | <b>PAGES</b> |
|--|--------------|
| Figure 1.1: Relationship between Building Morphology and Human Behaviour                         | 3            |
| Figure 1.2: Political map of Nigeria showing Ogun State  | 10           |
| Figure 1.3. Abeokuta in Ogun State map   | 11           |
| Figure 1.4: Map showing the limits of Abeokuta town  | 11           |
| Figure 2.1: The arms of urban upgrades   | 42           |
| Figure 2.2: Historic theory of urban form  | 59           |
| Figure 2.3: Causal theories of urban upgrades and ultimately building morphology                 | 61           |
| Figure 2.4: The dynamic relationship between preservation and urban upgrades<br>in the city core | 62           |
| Figure 2.5: How urban upgrades and human behaviour alter the city core architecture              | 63           |
| Figure 2.6: A conceptual framework flow chart for the research                                   | 65           |

## LIST OF PLATES

| <b>PLATES</b>   | <b>PAGES</b> |
|---|--------------|
| Plate 2.1: Kramgrasse, Berne, Switzerland   | 16           |
| Plate 2.2: Grabroretorv, Copenhagen, Denmark  | 16           |
| Plate 2.3: A contemporary housing estate in Abeokuta, Nigeria   | 18           |
| Plate 2.4: Vernacular architecture with Brazilian style influence   | 26           |
| Plate 2.5 Susan Wenger's Building, Oshogbo  | 27           |
| Plate 2.6: A picture of Olumo Rock taken in 1929  | 28           |
| Plate 2.7: A two-room bush house captured in 1974   | 29           |
| Plate 2.8: Picture of Olumo Rock  | 29           |
| Plate 2.9: A central Madrid neighbourhood, Spain  | 40           |
| Plate 2.10: Historic city centre Parte Vieja, San Sebastian, Spain  | 43           |
| Plate 2.11: View of Nanluoguxiang Street, central Beijing   | 44           |
| Plate 2.12: St. Peter's Basilica in Rome  | 44           |
| Plate 2.13: Front view of the White House   | 45           |
| Plate 2.14: Rear view of the White House in Washington D.C  | 45           |
| Plate 3.1: Outline of neighbourhoods in the study area  | 61           |
| Plate 3.2: Map of study area showing the major roads with upgrades  | 62           |
| Plate 3.3: Satellite image of the neighbourhoods in the study area  | 62           |
| Plate 4.1: A bush house unit within a compound  | 75           |
| Plate 4.2: Progression in the bush house tradition  | 76           |
| Plate 4.3: An adaptation of the 2-room bush house   | 76           |
| Plate 4.4: Elevation of an old family compound at Ilagun, Abeokuta  | 77           |
| Plate 4.5: Traditional building style in Itoku, Abeokuta  | 77           |
| Plate 4.6: Vernacular progression of the bush house   | 78           |
| Plate 4.7: A relic of the Afro-Brazilian style in the Sodeke area of Abeokuta   | 78           |
| Plate 4.8: Sapon, Abeokuta in 2014  | 79           |
| Plate 4.9 Sapon, Abeokuta in 2019   | 80           |
| Plate 4.10: Building abutting the reconstructed road in Oke-Itoku.<br>The building limited the extent of road reconstruction  | 80           |
| Plate 4.11: Saje neighbourhood of Abeokuta. The congested setting<br>makes creating a thoroughfare without much demolition difficult  | 81           |
| Plate 4.12: Ikija Road expansion in progress in 2019. Many buildings abutting<br>the old road have been removed, leaving buildings oriented to interior<br>roads and courts | 81           |
| Plate 4.13: Kuto, Abeokuta in 2008  | 82           |

| <b>PLATES</b>   | <b>PAGES</b> |
|---|--------------|
| Plate 4.14: Kuto Abeokuta in 2019   | 82           |
| Plate 4.15: Commercialised frontages along Shokenu Road   | 91           |
| Plate 4.16: Additive forms to indigenous buildings in upgraded areas  | 91           |
| Plate 4.17: Subtractive forms of indigenous style in the upgraded neighbourhood in the study area   | 93           |
| Plate 4.18: Evidence of change of building use with additive forms among vernacular buildings in the study area   | 93           |
| Plate 4.19: Standardized windows and components in vernacular buildings in Abeokuta core  | 94           |
| Plate 4.20: Corrugated iron sheets being used to replace old roofing sheets in recently upgraded city core area of Abeokuta                                   | 94           |
| Plate 4.21: Use of contemporary roofing finishes with deep eaves in upgraded area of Abeokuta city core   | 95           |
| Plate 4.22: Use of modern materials and vernacularized forms for a roof in upgraded areas of Abeokuta city core   | 95           |
| Plate 4.23: Use of aluminium sheeting in a recent renovation after using corrugated iron sheets in previous renovations                                       | 96           |
| Plate 4.24: 600mm deep eaves of the late vernacular building era in a sedentary area of Abeokuta city core  | 96           |
| Plate 4.25: 1000mm deep eaves of a building in the upgraded section of the city core  | 97           |
| Plate 4.26: A renovated indigenous building with efforts to define the previously uncelebrated entrance in an upgraded part of Abeokuta city core             | 97           |
| Plate 4.27: A new building at Sapon-Ijemo with features of both indigenous and modern building patterns. The entrance is not defined                          | 98           |
| Plate 4.28: Indigenous building style with steel window frames and glass panels in Ake, Abeokuta  | 98           |
| Plate 4.29: Indigenous building style with Aluminium louvre carriers and glass blades in Ijemo, Abeokuta  | 99           |
| Plate 4.30: Aluminium curtain walls and windows of recent buildings along Shokenu Road in Abeokuta  | 99           |
| Plate 4.31: Variant of international style building in Itoku area of Abeokuta   | 113          |
| Plate 4.32: A typical late vernacular style building with additive forms of contemporary materials on the ground floor to take advantage of the upgraded road | 113          |
| Plate 4.33: Shokenu Road, Erunbe, Abeokuta  | 115          |
| Plate 4.34: A shopping complex at Sapon   | 115          |





## **LIST OF EQUATIONS**

| <b>EQUATIONS</b>  | <b>PAGES</b> |
|---|--------------|
| Equation 1: Simple sample size calculation formula for finite populations           | 63           |
| Equation 2: Slovin's formula for calculation of sample size for a finite population | 64           |
| Equation 3: The Spearman Rank Correlation Coefficient                               | 123          |

## APPENDICES

| APPENDICES   | PAGES |
|--|-------|
| Appendix I: Questionnaire for field survey   | 168   |
| Appendix II: Focus group and target individuals discussion   | 176   |
| Appendix III: Plate 3a-b Front and side elevation of Chief Akindiléni home                                       | 212   |
| Appendix IV: Chi-square and wilcoxon signed ranks tests results  | 182   |
| Appendix V: Transcript of interview with Town Planning official  | 188   |
| Appendix VI: Operationalisation of quantitative variables  | 191   |
| Appendix VII: Summary of responses to factors responsible for adoption of current<br>building forms and elements | 209   |
| Appendix VIII: Tables of responses to factors responsible for adoption of current<br>building forms and elements | 210   |
| Appendix IX: Satelite views of the study area  | 213   |

## ABSTRACT

Indigenous architecture of the Yorubas documented over time have mainly been limited to the traditional and vernacular expositions with the morphology traced from the earliest structures and not explicit beyond the Afro-Brazilian style. The morphology of the indigenous buildings has progressed organically, based on the socio-cultural changes in the society. This progression is however prone to more rapid changes that tend to direct it towards building patterns from other cultures. Urban upgrades are common in city cores of Nigeria where the legacy of indigenous building patterns is most preserved within the urban setting. Abeokuta in southwest Nigeria has been highly reported in recent times as having witnessed urban upgrades that have led to very rapid changes in its socio-spatial environment. This study set out to investigate the impact of the urban upgrades carried out in the city core of Abeokuta between 2009 and 2018 on the forms and elements of the indigenous building morphology. This was done by tracing the morphology of the indigenous building pattern from the advent of settlements in the area till the study period as the first objective. Areas where urban upgrades have been carried out were identified and new building typologies that are evolving in the areas were analysed for changes in their forms and elements as different from the threshold of indigenous building morphology in the sedentary areas where upgrades were absent. The factors responsible for the adoption of the new forms and elements were subsequently identified. The research proceeded by examining literature, physically identifying and mapping out the upgraded sections of the city core, carrying out spot assessment of buildings with observation schedules, conducting interviews with state government officials and individuals in the study area and administering a close-ended questionnaire to generate requisite data and information on the objectives of the research. The data obtained from the research which were both quantitative and qualitative were subjected to analyses. It was discovered that the current threshold of the indigenous building morphology in the areas devoid of upgrading is still the post-vernacular style with strong inclinations towards the forms and elements of the early vernacular building pattern. The new buildings in the upgraded sections of the study area are mainly commercial and mixed-use buildings with a blend of postmodern forms and elements within the basic vernacular style. The new forms and elements in the aftermath of the regenerative efforts in the area are wider windows, long span aluminium roof finishes, deeper eaves and generally larger buildings. The research concluded that urban upgrades have stimulated far reaching changes in the indigenous building pattern around the areas where they have been carried out. These changes which were not pre-empted by the government while executing urban upgrades are reducing the patrimonial stock of the indigenous buildings and resulting to a loss of heritage values in the built environment. The study exposed the need for urban upgrade programmes to envisage and accommodate farther reaching changes in the indigenous building morphology when executed in historic city centres.

**Keywords:** *building typologies; heritage preservation; historic city centres; indigenous architecture; urban upgrades.*