

**INTEGRATION OF SPATIAL DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR SOCIAL  
INTERACTION IN A YOUTH AND CULTURAL CENTRE IN ABUJA,  
NIGERIA**

**UDEMEZUE, CHINEKWU NMELICHUKWU  
(20PCA02245)  
B.Arch, Central University, Accra, Ghana**

**JULY, 2023**

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**BY**

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(20PCA02245)  
B.Arch, Central University, Accra, Ghana**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE  
STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
THE AWARD OF THE MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE (M.Sc.) DEGREE  
IN ARCHITECTURE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE,  
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, COVENANT  
UNIVERSITY, OTA, OGUN STATE**

**JULY, 2023**

## **ACCEPTANCE**

This is to attest to this dissertation is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Masters of Science (Msc) Degree in the Department of Architecture, College of Science and Technology, Covenant University.

**Miss Adefunke F. Oyinloye**  
**(Secretary, School of Postgraduate Studies)**

**Signature and Date**

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

**Signature and Date**

## **DECLARATION**

**I, UDEMEZUE, CHINEKWU NMELICHUKWU (20PCA02245)** declare that this dissertation is a representation of my work, and is written and implemented by me under the supervision of Dr. Bukola A. Adewale, of the Department of Architecture, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria. I attest that this dissertation has in no way been submitted either wholly or partially to any other university or institution of higher learning for the award of a master's degree. All information cited from published and unpublished literature has been duly referenced.

**UDEMEZUE, CHINEKWU NMELICHUKWU**

**Signature and Date**

## **CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that this dissertation titled “**INTEGRATION OF SPATIAL DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION IN A YOUTH AND CULTURAL CENTRE IN ABUJA, NIGERIA**” is an original research work carried out by **UDEMEZUE, CHINEKWU NMELICHUKWU (20PCA02245)** in the Department of Architecture, College of Science and Technology, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun state, Nigeria under the supervision of Dr. Bukola A. Adewale. This dissertation has met the required standard for the award of Master of Science (M.Sc) in Architecture.

**Dr. Bukola A. Adewale**  
(Supervisor)

**Signature and Date**

**Prof. Adedapo A. Oluwatayo**  
(Head of Department)

**Signature and Date**

**Prof. Adetokunbo O. Ilesanmi**  
(External Examiner)

**Signature and Date**

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

**Signature and Date**

## **DEDICATION**

This project is dedicated to God Almighty for his consistent grace and guidance, to my parents Mr. and Mrs. Udemezue, for all their hard work invested in me and to my siblings Ifeyinwa, Ikechukwu, Lotachukwu and my best friend Lois C. Emmaeze who all pushed me to work even harder on this program.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I want to begin by giving all the glory to God almighty, the creator of heaven and earth, who made this project possible and provided the wisdom and inspiration through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May His name always be exalted.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. David O. Oyedepo for establishing this esteemed institution. I also want to express my special appreciation to Professor Abiodun H. Adebayo, the Vice Chancellor of Covenant University, Mr. Emmanuel K. Igbani, the Registrar, Professor Akan B. Williams, the Dean of the School of Postgraduate Studies, and Dr. Emmanuel O. Amoo, the Sub-Dean of the School of Postgraduate Studies, for their dedicated efforts in supporting me to complete my thesis.

I am deeply thankful to the Department of Architecture for the valuable experiences I've gained, and I'd like to acknowledge Professor Adedapo A. Oluwatayo, the Head of the Department, for her guidance and encouragement throughout this project. I also want to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Bukola A. Adewale for her unwavering dedication and patient mentorship during this journey. I'd like to recognize all those whose publications contributed to my research.

My deepest gratitude goes to my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Udemezue, for all their hard work invested in me, and to my family and friends who pushed me to work even harder on this program. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all my colleagues and classmates who assisted in making this research a success. Special thanks to my fellow colleagues in the program for their moral support. Learning from each one of you has been an incredible experience. Thank you all so much..

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## **ABSTRACT**

Youth and cultural centers have been in existence for several years with each catering to the unique needs of the community. It is in recent times that both developments are being combined to bring better service to society. In this modern era, society has seen a decline in physical interaction due to social networks, which have subsequently caused various issues such as isolation, and depression amongst others. There is therefore a need to create spaces for quality social interaction to occur. Spatial design is a new realm of study focusing on the flow of, space from the inside to the outside. The space is planned and designed to curb specific limitations of the environments that people experience in their daily life. Spaces, both indoor and outdoor are where interaction occurs between individuals or groups, and the quality of the spatial design affects the social interaction that occurs. The youth and cultural center is a space for users to participate in various recreational and cultural activities to further learn about, experience and improve a particular people in the community. The study aims to integrate the spatial design strategies for social interaction to design a youth and cultural center in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria. In order to achieve the aim of this research, the research required a survey of previously published works by other authors, a review of pertinent literature to gather qualitative data, the observation of subjects in a natural environment where variables can't be controlled using an observation schedule and document analysis, and the use of a structured questionnaire created for the study to gather quantitative data from the users of the selected centres; thus, the mixed approach encompassing both the quantitative and qualitative methods was employed. Through descriptive analysis, the data was analyzed using IBM Statistical Package for the Social Sciences. It was discovered that in many centres, spatial design strategies were present, and experienced by the majority of respondents, and social interaction was considered to an extent, but there is room for improvement. In relation to the selected youth and culture centres, based on their behaviors portrayed, the study suggests that the respondents were highly interactive, and the mentioned spatial design strategies had a direct effect on the social interaction happening in the centres.

***Keywords: Spatial Design Strategies, Spatial Design, Social Interaction, Youth Center, Cultural Center***