**DECLARATION**

I, **Ekhaese**, Eghosa Noel, hereby declare that this thesis was written entirely by me under the supervision of Prof. S.A. Amole (Supervisor) and Prof. E.A. Adeyemi (Co-Supervisor) both of the Department of Architecture, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State and that it has not been presented, either wholly or partly, for any degree elsewhere before.

All scholarly materials utilized in the work and their sources have been duly acknowledged.

**Supervisor **

**................................. ................................**

**Prof. S.A. Amole Signature/Date**

**……………….......... ..................................**

Ekhaese Eghosa NoelSignature/Date

**CERTIFICATION**

This study entitled “Domestic Architecture in Benin City: A Study of Continuity and Change” carried out by Ekhaese, Eghosa Noel under our supervision meets the regulations governing the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Architecture of Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria. We certify that it has not been submitted for the degree of Ph.D or any other degree in this or any other university and is approved for its contribution to knowledge and literary presentation.

**Prof. S.A. Amole **

**…………………............................. ......................... ......................**

**Supervisor Signature Date**

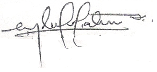
**Prof. E.A. Adeyemi**

**……………………........................... ......................... ......................**

**Co-supervisor Signature Date**

**Prof. O. Solanke**

**........................................................... ......................... .................... Head, Department of Architecture Signature Date**

**Prof. Olatunde Arayela **

**........................................ ................. .............. External Examiner Signature Date**

**DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to the All-Wise Personality,

Who truly believes lives and professes culture.

The One so Faithful and True, the Glory and the Lifter of my head,

Whose strength I relied upon to finish this work,

The Almighty God.

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Thank you ~Thank you ~Thank you!!!

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**Abstract**

The culture of people determines and shapes the domestic space in their domestic architecture. Subsequent modifications of the idea have focused on more precise revelations of how the spatial arrangements of material culture are culturally patterned. Through a topological analysis of house plans and patterns, collected from the City of Benin, this study detects a transformation in the house-type aspired and developed by people during the last five centuries.

A group of 1054 houses, located in four residential zones in Benin City, Nigeria, has been analysed by means of frequency distribution, Space Syntax categories and factor analysis. The research is determined to find out how the use, organization and meaning of space in Benin have changed and whether or not there are continuities over the years across the entire City. The Space Syntax approach is used to measure the varying degree of change at each stage of the evolution. Here, the ‘space-activity’ interaction is the main idea that enables us to see what underlies the process. As the old spaces take different names and functions in the new design, they bring about the recombination of their activities, and when this occurs repeatedly at each stage, it leaves behind ‘topological paths’ from which the direction of the evolution can be measured. Further examinations reveal that the space-activity interaction arises both at each partitioned space and at the collective space that is closely related. The analysis of the attitudes and responses of the residents using factor analysis revealed that both socio-economic and socio-cultural factors are responsible for the change and continuity in the domestic space.

Finally, it is concluded that even the domestic culture that is engaged in a fast and intense transformation process still tries to preserve, underneath its surface, its old hereditary value and in the course of change there exist efforts to direct it.