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International Network for Traditional Building, Architecture & Urbanism
PATRON: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES

Communiqué

The first INTBAU Nigeria Chapter conference was held on Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th June 2008 in the ancient and historic city of Kano, Northern Nigeria. It was held at the Center for Democratic Research and Training, Mambayya House, Bayero University, Gwammaja.

The theme of the Conference was ‘The Relevance of Traditional Architecture – Housing Rural Communities and the Urban Poor’. A total of 20 papers were physically presented. The presenters came from the United States, United Kingdom, France, Malaysia and Nigeria.

After two day deliberations on the relevance of traditional architecture within modern settings in modern African societies, the major thrust of the papers and the comments and discussions, the conference attendees observed as follows:

- 1. The conference was properly sited in Kano, being an ancient terminus of trans-Saharan trade routes and home of the most comprehensive collection of standing indigenous buildings in Nigeria.**
- 2. The conference was highly charged with challenging tasks of redeeming the traditional cultural heritage in Africa in the context of modernity and search for cultural identity.**
- 3. The papers presented were rich and diverse, providing a deep insight and numerous perspectives on not only architecture, but also the relationship between indigenous art forms and the internationalization of such art forms.**

Based on these, the Conference recommends as follows:

- Urge the different levels of Government to empower architects, builders and artists by adopting traditional architectural styles on government buildings.
- Equally urge on home owners to adopt elements of traditional architecture in their home designs.
- There should be a structured way of passing down information and local building materials which should form a basis for building codes in both the formal and traditional building sectors.
- Indigenous literary writers should communicate vivid descriptions of traditional buildings in their writings.
- There should be more analysis of religious and historical writings in order to tease out more rules of urbanisation within the traditional and indigenous intellectual tradition.
- More analysis should be done on the role of urbanism and architectural styles and gender discourse, particularly in traditional societies.
- More research needs to be done on the influence of modern architectural concepts on indigenous traditional architecture.
- Traditional Buildings should not be seen as relics of the past but as cultural heritage of our people.
- There should be more patronage of local craftsmen and artists by all members of the community to sustain art as a form of cultural identity.
- House owners should be encouraged to adopt as much traditional motifs and designs in their decors.
- There should be a Visual database of traditional building structures in Nigeria.
- There is a need for us to respect our traditional Architecture and Identity towards socio-economic development.
- Architects, planners, builders and other stakeholders of today need to make a strong stand and incorporate the use of Traditional Building concepts, values, materials and technologies.
- Schools of architecture should incorporate vernacular/traditional Architecture in their curricula in order to inspire students of architecture to design and build in sustainable ways.
- There should be constant collaboration between organizations that are already active in the promotion of traditional architecture, building and urbanism.

- There is a need to form a charitable trust that will work with the NGO's to make funding accessible for the appropriate projects.
- To promote multi-disciplinary approach to the application of traditional architecture and planning.
- INTBAU Nigeria should make effort towards creating a database on vernacular architecture.
- INTBAU is therefore encouraged to develop partnership with other stakeholders in the industry including collaboration with the Science and Technology Education Post-Basic Project to promote technological advancement in the field of traditional building materials.