

The Artistic Impact of Computer-Aided Design on Building Façade in Nigeria

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Abstract:- The visual landscape of our cities is ever-evolving, shaped by the architectural and embedded computer aided design marvels that adorn the urban fabric. Among the myriad elements that contribute to the allure of a building, the artistic impact on its facade holds a distinct significance. The facade, as the external face of a structure, acts as a canvas where artistry and design converge, manifesting an artistic expression that resonates with its surroundings and captivates the human eye. The interplay between art, computer and architecture has been a topic of fascination for centuries, as artists, computer aided design and architects have sought to transcend mere functionality and transform buildings into visually striking works of art. From ancient civilizations to modern metropolises, the artistic impact on building facades has been an enduring reflection of cultural heritage, societal values, and creative ingenuity. This journal aims to delve into the multifaceted aspects of artistic and computerization impact on building facades, exploring the diverse factors that shape this phenomenon and the profound influence it has on our built environment. By delving into the intricate interplay of aesthetics, functionality, and cultural context, we seek to unravel the power of artistic and automation expression in transforming buildings into iconic landmarks. Understanding the artistic and embedded system impact on building facades necessitates an exploration of various dimensions. Examining the influence of cultural context, as different regions and communities in Nigeria imbue their buildings with distinct artistic computerization styles, motifs, and themes rooted in their heritage and traditions. Additionally, architectural coupled with automation system style plays a pivotal role, as different design paradigms demand specific artistic elements and materials to achieve harmony and coherence between form and function. Furthermore, this journal will investigate the impact of the urban environment on artistic automation system expression. The surrounding cityscape, with its diverse architectural and computerization styles, urban planning principles, and contextual demands, serves as a backdrop against which building facades make their artistic and automation statements.

Keywords:- Cultural Heritage, Artistic Expression, , Computer Aided Design, Nigerian Architecture, Contemporary African Philosophy, Visual Aesthetics, Sustainability, Public Art, Contemporary Art, Cultural Identity, Cultural Conservation Street Art, Community Engagement, Urban Renewal, Historical Context.

I. INTRODUCTION

Art and architecture helps to create an unforgettable experience. In commercial buildings, particularly in hotel facades, art had become a striking trend that captures both the locals and visitors alike. African philosophy is the concept and environmental ideology that have modeled the conditioned of the ideas of the Africans, Alabi (2023). Momoh (1998) pointed African philosophy “*as beliefs, doctrines, tenets or theories on reality issues which comprises of God as supreme being, gods, life, life after death, reincarnation, spirit world (spirituality), spirit, society, man, ancestors, heaven, hell, things, institutions, beliefs, conceptions, practices, etc.*” African philosophy is significantly the reflection on the times of African ancestors. According to Sogolo (1993:6) traditional African philosophy is viewed through communalistic view, where properties are owned communally. This varies from village squares to the market square, the king’s palace, streams and rivers, borders, etc. as such, explaining why and how people think in a particular way with respect to a particular period of time. Researching about African philosophy mostly shows the African philosophy of the contemporary eras, in all, the African philosophy is not a controversy theory, Makinwe (1989:89) but a statement for the future. The relevance of artistic expressions on building facade goes beyond just aesthetics; it transforms the very essence of these structures, and human interactions into their facades and creating an interactive environment that engages and delights all. For instance, in Akure city of Ondo state, Nigeria known for its rich cultural heritage had embraced the concept of infusing artistic elements into the blueprint of their building designs. A tapestry of lines, colours, depth, forms, and textures are adorn on the facades of the feasible ancient buildings, serving as a testament to the Akure city been committed to create a harmonious blend of functionality, stability and creativity. The impact of art on building facades in Akure is

multidimensional. Beyond their visual appeal, these artistic implications aids storytelling, traditions, history, and aspirations. Contemporary African philosophy covers other social, economic and political perception of the people. The embracing of Nigerian Contemporary African philosophy in Nigerian hotel facades. The Nigerian Contemporary African philosophy, a fundamental change from conventional architectural conventions, embraces a holistic approach that captures the spirit of Nigerian culture and the African experience. In this regard, building facades act as potent displays of the nation of Nigeria's ideals, goals, and identity. Over it has transcended through determinants like slave trade, the Trans-Saharan trade, Islam and Christianity emerged from the Sahara Desert and the Atlantic Ocean, the colonial architecture and Brazilian (slave trade returnees) coined styles in the architecture of the Southern Nigeria and the Islamic orientations from the Arab traders that later defined the Hausa traditional architecture. In Nigeria, the application of indigenous building materials aids feedbacks on designs of such buildings mostly from third party users of such building, as explained by Ilesanmi (2010). Furthermore, the artistic influence on building facade goes beyond just aesthetics and cultural preservation. It has demonstrated economic growth and tourism development as a catalyst. These facades attract interest and intrigue from all over the world as their creative significance is recognized, luring tourists to explore the city and take in its thriving cultural environment. The buildings themselves (in cases of public buildings) become destinations because to the aesthetic journey they provide as well as their pleasant lodgings. In addition to boosting the local economy, the symbiotic link between art and commercial design also fosters a sense of civic pride and admiration.

II. UNDERSTANDING ART

Art is a subjective and personalized study of life. Some people hold the opinion that art cannot be defined since the person who creates it can simply define and/or disobey all the rules governing its making, and the people who view it have the choice of either appreciating or ignoring the message it conveys. However, individuals continue to seek artistic identification for themselves, their communities, and future generations.

However, the definition of art is acceptable 'institutionally' as suggested by George Dickie, (1974), *Art and the Aesthetic*: 'A work of art in the classificatory sense is firstly an artifact secondly a set of the aspects of which has had conferred upon it the status of candidate for appreciation by some person or persons acting on behalf of a certain social institution (the art world)'.

Works of art are artifacts of a certain kind made from undeveloped ideas that, when displayed to the public, elicit new titles or responses. In a graphic or mechanical medium, art is "the conscious production or arrangement of sounds, colors, forms, movements, or other elements in a manner that affects the senses and emotions," with a focus on creating something gorgeous.

Due to the 'caveman's' nomadic lifestyle, it was thought that the African continent had no native art. In contrast to the thriving arts of the Europeans, Asians, and some regions of North America, the art of the continent was thus referred to as "crude" (Gates, 1996). This story evolved as time passed.

African works of art that are influenced by, incorporate, and indicated aspects of African culture, customs, or aesthetics. Visual art, music, dance, drama, poetry, and other forms of creative expression can all fall under this category. There are many different types of mediums, techniques, and styles used in African art. It consists of both traditional art forms—such as textiles, masks, and sculptures—and contemporary art, which reflects the continent's evolving social, political, and cultural milieu. Works of art produced by African-born artists residing outside of Africa are also referred to as works of art created by artists of African descent living outside of Africa. In order to address topics of diaspora, displacement, and cultural identity, these artists may draw on their African origin and identity. Examples of African art in contemporary works are seen in African artists like El Anatsui, William Kentridge, and Wangechi Mutu, as well as African-American artists such as Kara Walker, Kehinde Wiley, and Mickalene Thomas, who draw on African aesthetics and cultural traditions in their work.

➤ *Branches of Art*

The category of art that best arranges the meaning of art might be thought of as the branches of art. According to widespread ideas, there are three forms of art branches:

- **Visual art:** According to Gombrich, E. H. (1995), this is understood to be the art that can be seen, touched, felt, and in some cases carried about by which the author is transmitting his or her perspective through any medium of design. The one who does this is regarded as an artist. Painting, photography, pottery, printmaking, sketches, sculptures, and other media are examples of these.
- **Performing art:** Examples of these include plays, poems, and novels. According to Brockett, O. G. (2010), this branch of the arts focuses on situations in which a person employs a variety of mediums to express themselves or recount a story. The one who does this is regarded as an artist.
- **Liberal art:** 'Liberty' art, as the name suggests, this relates to the art and science of having general knowledge of various aspects of life, according to Abrams, M. H. (2011). This form of art is in opposition to the vocational, mechanical, and technical study or training we are pursuing since it aids in reorienting or changing how individuals perceive ideas. Social activists, volunteers, and others who work in human relations are examples of this kind of art.
- **Film:** Film is a type of visual art that tells stories or sends messages using moving pictures, D. Bordwell, K. Thompson, & Co. It is a technique for taking pictures using a camera and progressively displaying them.
- **Architecture:** Architecture is the art and science of proportionally planning, designing, and erecting buildings and other physical structures. B. Fletcher (1996).

➤ *Understanding Architecture*

Architecture is the art and technique of designing and building, as distinguished from the skills associated with construction, according to (Alabi 2023). It is the process and product of conceiving, sketching, planning, designing, and constructing structures. Architecture creates a story with a thread of spaces.

Like every other profession, architecture is tough and rigorous discipline known with spending lots of time in the studio, interacting with studio mentors, engaging fellow students, clients and also facing critic, jurors and this does not end in the schools of architecture but continues as one keeps practicing the profession.

Nigeria in today's world is one of the first growing nation in terms of populations. With about 200 million persons based on estimation and an annual growth rate of about 3.2 National Population Census, 2006. Aside this interesting increase in population, there is a fast raising in urbanization but still, about 72 of the Nigerian people are still in the category of being poor, National Population Census,2006. With this, there are problems of basic amenities of which housing is part. Architecture as a profession and an architect as they interact with the environment is now saddled with the task to build housing units of low cost and derivative housing units depending on the preferences and financial capability of the client.

➤ *The Relationship Between Art and Architecture*

The relationship between art and architecture are by this, it can be seen as a symbiotic one. The relationship between art and architecture is a complex and multifaceted one that has received a great deal of attention in the research circles seen in architecture, urban planning, and art history. Architecture has often been viewed as a form of art, and many architects have been trained in artistic disciplines such as sculpture, painting, and drawing. Olakunle A. O. 2014 examined the integration of art and architecture in traditional Yoruba building design, by this, exploring the use of decorative motifs and the symbolism representations of architectural forms. By this, many artists have used architecture as a source of inspiration, incorporating architectural elements into their work or creating site-specific installations that interact with the built environment. One area of research that has received significant attention in recent years is the intersection between art, architecture, and urban planning. This research often focuses on the ways in which public art and urban design can be used to create more livable, sustainable cities. According to Ola Uduku and Anthony King 2005, they explores and interplay between traditional Nigerian art forms and contemporary architecture, is important for cultural identity and symbolism in the field art and architecture.

III. ARTISTIC ELEMENTS IN BUILDINGS

Artistic elements enhances the aesthetic and uniqueness to a building's facades and provide a center of attention for the neighborhood. These creative features includes:

➤ *Murals:*

Murals are large-scale paintings are seen in public buildings, like universities, museums, and government offices. According to a research that was published in the Journal of Environmental Psychology Friedman, Hayden, A. 2010, murals enhance a building facade and promote a sense of community ownership.

➤ *Sculptures:*

Sculptures can be solitary works integrated into a building's design. They differ in shapes and construction materials. Sculptures can boost workplace creativity and productivity, according to a study that was published in the Journal of Applied Psychology Knight, C.



Fig 1 Example of a Sculpture

➤ *Installations*

Installations are temporary or permanent work of art, made expressly for a space or building. According to a study that was published in the Journal of Travel Research (Xu, F., & Getz, D. (2008). They can come in a variety of shapes, including site-specific artworks, multimedia installations, and interactive exhibits. Installations can aid in drawing tourists to museums and other cultural institutions.



Fig 2 Example of an Installation.

➤ *Stained Glass*

Stained glass is a sort of decorative glass that is frequently employed in places of worship but is also present in nonreligious building facade. Hirsch, E., Holtzman, L. (2008) opined that it is made of colourful glass that has been pieced together to make dexterous patterns and motifs. A research in the Journal of Environmental Psychology found that stained glass can contribute to the sensation of awe and transcendence that is felt in religious settings.



Fig 3 Example of a Stained Glass

➤ *Architectural Elements*

Materials, shapes, and textures can all have a big impact on how a structure looks from the outside. These components can give a structure a sense of depth and dimension while also affecting its sustainability and use. For instance, using natural materials can assist control temperature and save energy.

When making a building, it's vital to consider the design, materials, construction methods, and cultural and historical context. Some keys considered when conducting an architectural analysis includes:

➤ *Design:*

The design of a building includes its form, function, and style of architectural design. Examining the design, how the space is utilised, size and materials used in its construction. Reflecting on the structures interaction with the environment and how it blends into the larger urban or rural landscape.



Fig 4 The National Theatre, Lagos Nigeria: Iconic for its Design that is a Concept of a Military Cap
(Source: The Eytayo Harrison, 2022)

➤ *Materials:*

Materials used in the construction of the building can provide valuable insight into the building's history and context. Analyze the types of materials used, such as wood, stone, brick, or concrete, and the techniques used to construct the building. Consider the quality of the materials and how they have aged over time.

➤ *Construction Techniques:*

The construction techniques used in the building's construction gives information about the cultural context, building's age, and the skills (craftmanship) of the builders. Throughout the building element and structural systems, such as the foundations, framing, roof, e.t.c and the methods used to construct them.

➤ *Cultural and Historical Context:*

It is important to take into consideration the building's cultural and historical setting. Examine how the building fits into the area or community, and take into account any social or political developments that might have influenced its development.

➤ *Sustainability:*

Sustainability analyses a building's sustainability features. For instance the use of ventilation, natural light, renewable energy sources. Taking into account how the building construction and design affect its energy, efficiency and environmental effect.

IV. INFLUENCE OF ARTISTIC AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPRESSION ON A BUILDING FAÇADE

According to Mike Davis (2005), the connection between art and architecture is the role that art plays during the design process. This is accomplished by first using a drawing to visualize an idea in the mind. Omale (2013) explained aesthetics in architecture are viewed from these six schools of thought as:

➤ *Architecture as Art:*

This in John Ruskin defined architecture as, "nothing more or less than the art of ornament construction."

➤ *Functional Architecture:*

Here, he was making us understand Louis Sullivan's view as "form follows function" which means the way in which a building is made or designed to look like should definitely tell what such a building should be used for.

➤ *Architecture as Space:*

Here, it is understood that spaces can define what a man does. The purpose of a space designed and the elements of building in it can easily tell the art of such a space. He further shared Sigfried Gideon and Bruno Zevi view of architecture as "a succession of space concept".

➤ *Humanist Architecture:*

This part expands architecture more as the use of basic elements of design in any architectural piece. Examples are use of lines, colours (paintings), forms, textures etc., and these are it has to be durable, stable and aesthetically appealing.

➤ *Architecture as Structure:*

Here, he made us understood that the idea of architecture can be made up of frame structure, steel structure, shell structures or any other joinery of membranes of framework.

➤ *Constructivist Architecture:*

This is the alternating of the construction narrative of a geographic location. It ranges from introduction of new building materials, methods of constructions, derivation of new professions to be studied for building's sake among others.

In Nigeria also known as Niger Area possess a history great kingdoms and eras from the north to the south and from the east to the west provinces. Before the advent of European colonizers Portuguese in the 1700s-1800s and British in the 1900s the nation had the Igbo-Ukwu art in the east, the great wall of Benin kingdom, the Ibeji Oran art in the west, the Nok art and culture, Ife bronze head in the west, the use of bronze and terracotta burnt clay for building and identity.

➤ *Others Relevance of Art and Architecture in Nigeria Includes:*

- It aids sustainability.
- It increases the development of tourist attraction.
- It aids conservation and promotion cultural heritage.
- It provides the host country with a means of obtaining foreign exchange.
- Educational valuation and the importance of studying a new style of architecture of the host country will be derived.

➤ *Factors Affecting the Development of Artistic Impact on Building Facades.*

The development of artistic impact on building facades can be influenced by several factors:

• *Urban Environment:*

The surrounding urban environment and its characteristics can affect the artistic impact on building facades. Factors such as neighboring buildings, street layout, and overall urban design may need to be considered to ensure the artistic elements of the facade complement and enhance the overall aesthetic of the area.

• *Cultural Context:*

A community culture has a big impact on how art is reflected on their building facades. The selection of artistic forms, motifs, and subjects can be significantly influenced by regional customs, historical influences, and personal aesthetic tastes.

- *Function and Purpose:*

A building's function and purpose might affect the artistic impact on its exterior. A cultural center might include lively and expressive aspects to reflect its mission, whereas a government building might have a more formal and imposing design.

- *Architectural Style:*

The creative decisions made for a building facade might be influenced by its architectural style. Specific design components, materials, or ornamental methods that complement the overall architectural language may be necessary for various architectural styles.

- *Budget and Resources:*

The artistic effect on building facades can also be influenced by the budget and resource availability. The project's budgetary restrictions may have an impact on the materials chosen, the size of the artwork, and the level of detail.

- *Artistic Vision and Expertise:*

The project's designers, architects, and artists' creative vision and expertise are essential components. The effectiveness with which the artistic impact is realized on the building exterior depends on their creative faculties, familiarity with a variety of artistic styles, and technical expertise.

- *Building Element*

Building elements can play a great part in influencing aesthetics in building and obviously on the facades of building (hotels).

The part or component of a building thought, designed and constructed in any form and with materials like clay, steel, glass, concrete, wood, thatches, jute and straws etc., but still to perform a specific function in a building is known as The Building Elements. It can be in two forms which is structural or non-structural building elements. Basic examples are foundations, floors, columns, beams, walls, roofs, doors and windows, etc. Building elements selection materials depends on various reasons by the architect, builders and clients among others. Reasons like the design, the function of the building, its location, adjoining facilities on site and the environmental conditions among others.

- *Structural Building Elements*

The Structural building elements are elements are load bearing elements that support the weight of the building and transfers its loads directly to the ground. Examples of this elements are foundations, load-bearing walls, columns and beams, etc.

- *Non-Structural Elements*

The Non-structural building elements are elements that do not support the weight of the building as the structural but serve specific functions such as facilitating access in to a building, facilitating access within floors in a building, enclosing space, providing and regulating natural light and ventilation, and guiding movements within the building. Examples of this elements are partition, stairs, windows and doors.

V. EXAMPLES OF BUILDINGS IN AFRICA THAT EXHIBIT ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- *The Ndebele Lodge*

It is a good example of the Ndebele architecture and art. This is a reservation lodge built around 2001, located in Paterson, South Africa. Its uniqueness is that it was designed and decorated by the Ndebele people, an ethnic group in the Country, known for their qualities of unique artistic expression and necessity of nature. The Ndebele Lodges design walls are characterized by intricate murals and paintings, which tell stories of the Ndebele culture and traditions. The murals has bold colors such as yellow, blue, red, and green, with the common use of white and black. The Lodge features a series of round thatched-roof huts or rondavels.



Fig 5 The Ndebele Lodge, South Africa

- *The Palace of the Deji of Akure*

This is a cultural and historical territory located in Akure, Nigeria. As an artistic analysis, the palace is studied through its art, architecture, and cultural relevance. With respect to the art, the palace is a treasure trove of Yoruba art. The palace is decorated with various art pieces, including sculptures, carvings, and paintings. These art pieces reflect the rich cultural heritage of the Yoruba people, and they are used to communicate various cultural and religious beliefs. The art pieces are also used to depict the history and traditions of the Yoruba people.



Fig 6 The Palace of the Deji of Akure, Nigeria

➤ *The Palace of Zazzau*

The Palace of Zazzau, is an architectural masterpiece located in Zaria, Kaduna, Nigeria, that has been a significantly linked to the Hausa-Fulani culture and heritage for millennium. The Palace can also be called the Zaria Royal Palace, since it is the traditional home of the emir of Zazzau,

and. An artistic analysis of the Palace emphasizes on the beautiful collaborations with Islamic influences and the traditional Hausa-Fulani architecture. The Palace of Zazzau is a complex of structure arranged in a quadrangle that is a structure with a geometric form of four shapes for straight facades having a courtyard.



Fig 7 The Palace of Zazzau, Nigeria

➤ *The Bini Great Wall*

The Bini Great Wall, which is also known as the Benin Walls, is a wall system was built during the 13th century and continued till the middle of 15th and 16th centuries by the Bini people of the Benin Kingdom. The wall is made up of high

compression of series of earthworks located in the Benin City, Nigeria. From artistic analysis, the Bini Great Wall is a remarkable and unique for its engineering and design achievements.



Fig 8 The Bini Great Wall

➤ *How has Autocad Impacted the way Modern Buildings are Designed and Constructed.*

As times changes, AutoCAD has had a significant impact on the way modern buildings are designed and constructed. The software has allowed for greater precision and accuracy in the design process, as well as the ability to create more complex and sophisticated designs. It has also allowed for the more efficient and cost-effective production of construction documents, such as plans, elevations, and sections. There are many examples of artistic features that have been made possible by AutoCAD. Some of these include the use of complex curved surfaces, advanced 3D modeling, and photorealistic rendering. AutoCAD has also allowed for the creation of building features that were previously not possible, such as organic shapes, free-form surfaces, and parametric models. Parametric modeling has revolutionized the way buildings are designed by allowing for greater flexibility and adaptability in the design process. With parametric modeling, designers can easily change and update design elements without having to redraw the entire design. It also allows for the creation of families of related elements, which can be updated across multiple views and projects. Parametric modeling has made it easier for designers to explore different design options and make changes on the fly, without having to start from scratch. AutoCAD has made possible in terms of building information modeling, or BIM. The use of BIM has transformed the construction process by allowing for greater coordination and communication between all stakeholders involved in a project. With BIM, all aspects of a building can be modeled in 3D, including the structure, mechanical systems, electrical systems, and finishes. This allows for a more collaborative approach to construction, with all team members working from the same digital model. BIM has also

led to increased efficiency and reduced errors on construction sites. One specific example of how BIM has impacted construction is the use of prefabricated components, which are made off-site and then assembled on-site, have made it possible to speed up construction timelines, reduce waste, and improve safety on construction sites. The use of prefabricated components has also allowed for greater customization and flexibility in the design process, since these components can be easily modified to meet specific needs.

VI. CONCLUSION

Building facades go beyond being merely aesthetic and become crucial components of modern construction. In addition to aesthetics, energy efficiency, user experience, safety, and cultural preservation, their impact spans a number of areas. It is vital for architects, designers, and other stakeholders to understand and value the role that building facades play in influencing the built environment. We may design structures that not only catch the sight but also promote sustainability, well-being, and a strong feeling of identity by embracing their significance.

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