

**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY YOLA
COURSE: AR403 THEORY OF
ARCHITECTURE 3**

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**INFLUENCE OF COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE ON THE
ARCHITECTURE OF YOLA**

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INTRODUCTION

Due to abundant human and natural resources, European traders were attracted to Africa. The coming of missionaries also influenced the African religion.

The presence of Islam was a retrogressive factor to the influence colonial architecture on the residence of the common man most residents of Yola preferred to maintain their traditional Hausa and Islamic styles of building forms.

The first offices had walls and roofs of corrugated iron sheets. Later brick and hollow block buildings were used, hence influencing the character of religious and buildings built for public and residential purposes. A greater influence was depicted in public buildings built by the colonial masters and the residence of officials that formed their government during the 19C.

Though a brick kiln was set up in Lagos since 1860 it was not used in Yola until in the early 1900's.

ELEMENTS OF COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE

- 1. Deep recessed verandas.**
- 2. Over hanging eaves.**
- 3. Long horizontal bands of windows.**
- 4. Columns of impressive scale.**
- 5. Corrugated Iron roofing sheet.**
- 6. Long Pinnacles.**

EXAMPLES OF BUILDINGS WITH COLONIAL ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES.

Public buildings

1. Administrative Block, General Murtala Mohammed College (GMMC) Yola.

The Administrative block of GMMC Yola built in 1920 stands out as one of the best examples of colonially influenced buildings in Yola. The building built of bricks has deep recessed verandas with columns of impressive scale and its over hanging eaves give it away to this Architecture. See Color Plate below, A typical hostel at the same school also depicts the use of recessed verandas.



2. Old Ministry of Works and Housing (Kashim Ibrahim Way) Yola.

Similar to the building at GMMC is the building that housed the former Ministry of Works and Housing. This is an example of the earliest buildings influenced

by colonial architecture; it portrays the characteristic se of deep recessed verandas, huge columns, and a



roof of corrugated iron roofing sheet crowning it with over hanging eaves. Stairs were used to connect the two floors since it was a storey building. See color plate above.

Residential building

1. A major example of residential building with colonial character is the old government lodge (opposite Ribadu square, behind UBE board) it's over hanging eaves from a distances gives it away to colonial architecture. A closer examination of a building reveals characters like the deep recessed verandas



and columns. See color plate



2. Residential building at old GRA. Though more recent it depicts the used of long horizontal bands of windows and over hanging eaves. See a color plate below .Another residence at old GRA shows the use of columns and recessed verandas with over hanging eaves. Color plate below .

