

Chapter x

The Architecture of 1st Generation Nigerian Universities

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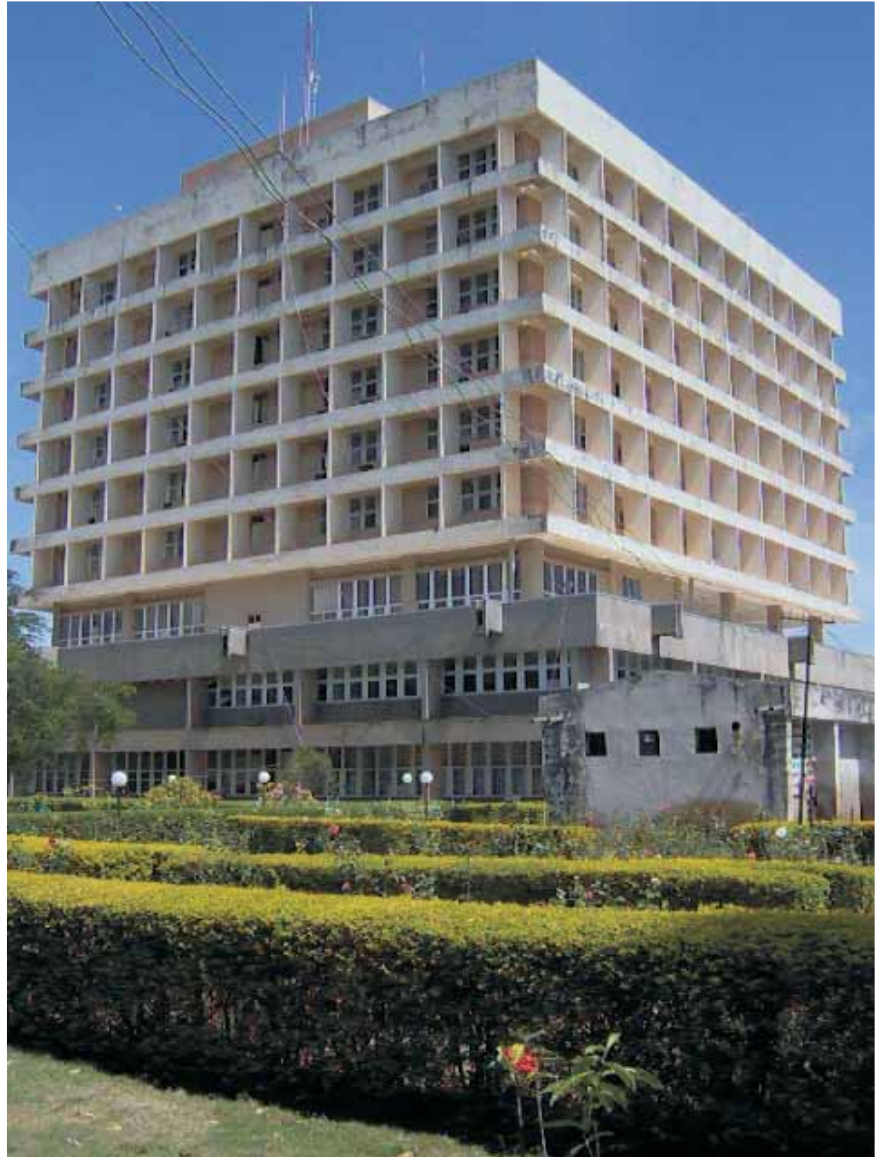
1. Introduction.

The distinct and elegant look of first generation Nigerian universities is associated with the flamboyant economy of the country of the seventies and in the case of the younger universities with the rational thinking of indigenous architects. The universities landmark buildings act as the image makers of the institutions. University of Lagos and Ahmadu Bello University are easily identified by their Senate Buildings. Obafemi Awolowo University is identified by Oduduwa Hall and the Department of Architecture while University of Ibadan is identified by the University Bookshop and the administrative complex. Newer universities strive to create a good image by using fashionable modern structures.

10.1 Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria

The **Senate Building** by Egbor and Associates is the tallest building within the campus. Looking at the building from the outside one can hardly expect that there is a Senate Chamber hanging just on top of the entrance hall. On top of the Senate Chamber is a nice atrium.

The **hexagonal twin lecture theatre** (FASS Theatre) by Niger Consultants is one of the most attractive structures on the campus. The building is surrounded by green areas and stands like a monument. The architects utilized shadow effects on elevation well. This characteristic building is very popular despite some obvious functional problems.



Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Senate Building. Source: author's photograph, 2005.



Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Main entrance gate to university. Source: author's photograph, 2005.



Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Twin lecture Theatre. Source: author's photograph, 2005.



Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Administrative Buildings. Source: author's photograph, 2005.



Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Staff Club. Source: author's photograph, 2005.



Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Department of Architecture. Source: author's photograph, 2005.



Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Department of Architecture, roof studio detail. Source: author's photograph, 2005.



Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Demonstration stabilized earth building adjacent the Department of Architecture. Source: author's photograph, 2005.



Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Lecture Hall, Faculty of Environmental Sciences. Source: author's photograph, 2005.



Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Kashim Ibrahim Library. Source: author's photograph, 2005.



Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Kashim Ibrahim Library. Source: author's photograph, 2005.



Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Staircase, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.



Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Department of Fine and Applied Arts. Source: author's photograph, 2005.



Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. . Source: author's photograph, 2005.



Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. School of Basic Studies Lecture theater. Source: author's photograph, 2005.



Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. University Bookshop. Source: author's photograph, 2005.



Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Institute of Education. Source: author's photograph, 2005.

Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.
Student's hostel (Suleiman Hall) .
Source: author's photograph, 2005.



Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.
Department of Fine and Applied Arts .
Source: author's photograph, 2005.



Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Lecture
Theatre, Faculty of Environmental
Science. Source: author's photograph,
2005.



10.3 Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

Oduduwa Hall by AMY is a very interesting building that stands out as a unique icon. It has many public ambiguous spaces while the air penetrates freely through the zoning and the visual aspect carefully considered. The building is well detailed and the choice of colours makes it even more intriguing and dynamic. The open amphitheatre (now covered) and the well composed landscape enhance its beauty even further.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Oduduwa Hall. Source: author's photograph, 2007.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Oduduwa Hall. Source: author's photograph, 2007.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Oduduwa Hall. Source: author's photograph, 2007.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Oduduwa Hall. Source: author's photograph, 2007.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Oduduwa Hall. Source: author's photograph, 2007.



The **Faculty of Social Sciences** with the aggressively projected roof slab and the repeated slanting columns gives the expression of an inverted pyramid. The overhanging slab acts as a sunshading device providing a lot of shadow for the elevation, thus demonstrating how pure modern architecture of simple basic forms can be adapted to the Nigerian climate.

Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Faculty of Social Sciences. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Source: author's photograph, 2007.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Source: author's photograph, 2007.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Faculty of Social Science ground floor detail. Source: author's photograph,



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. The Quadrangle with the Humanities Buildings. Source: author's photograph, 2004.

The **Department of Architecture** previously **Central Cafeteria** (1976) was designed by **Design Group of Nigeria**. There are four separate structures joined with a passage and void areas. The form arose from the need for having natural ventilation. The air reaches from the side and escapes out from the roof. The timber finishing of the roof structure adds to the pleasant environment within the building.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Department of Architecture formerly Central Cafeteria. Source: author's photograph, 2007.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Department of Architecture formerly Central Cafeteria. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Department of Architecture formerly Central Cafeteria. Source: author's photograph, 2007.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. University Library. Source: author's photograph, 2007.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Source: author's photograph, 2007.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Moremi Hall. Source: author's photograph, 2007.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Moremi Hall. Source: author's photograph, 2007.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. University Hall. Source: author's photograph, 2007.

The landmark **Civil Engineering Complex** by Niger Consultants has a form reminiscent of Egyptian architecture with the slanting prism-like expression, magnified even further by the repeated roof module.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Spider building housing the Department of Civil Engineering. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Conference Centre Courtyard. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Conference centre, stair detail. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Shopping complex with restaurants and services. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Faculty of Science main entrance. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Faculty of Science. Source: author's photograph, 2004.

**University of Ibadan,
Ibadan**



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Entrance gate.. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. University tower. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Anglican Chapel. Source: author's photograph, 2004.

The Conference Centre has a nice atmosphere created right from the entrance area. The big complex houses many facilities including a conference hall, restaurant, and a hotel with a beautiful rock garden. The entrance courtyard of the conference hall takes care of many activities. It links the smaller seminar rooms and leads to the main hall. The garden atmosphere created here is very suitable for the pre- and post-conference activities. The arrangement of the conference hall is based on concentric squares.



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Conference Centre. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Conference Centre. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Conference Centre. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Conference Centre. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Conference Centre. Source: author's photograph, 2004.

The **University Bookshop** (1960's) was designed by Design Group Nigeria. This building is the most characteristic building of the International Style in Nigeria. It consists of a simple geometric form and exposed parapet wall with typical curtain walls and perfect precision of detail.



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. University Bookshop. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. University Bookshop. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. University Bookshop. Source: author's photograph, 2004.

The **Department of Nursing** (1967) by Design Group Nigeria creates a very peaceful atmosphere. The most pleasurable is the small courtyard with a stone wall on one side and representative stairs. Traditional building materials such as wood and stones used for wall finishes and balustrades classify the building to the regional trend. The design is well adapted to the weather. The wind penetrates through the building across the open staircase and through the balcony which extends to form a kind of window to the surrounding environment.



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Department of Nursing. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Department of Nursing courtyard. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Department of Nursing courtyard. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Department of Nursing. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



Geology Department, University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Department of Linguistic Arts. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. University Library. Source: GHK archives.



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Trenchard Hall. Source: GHK archives.



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Student's hostel. Source: author's photograph, 2004.



Panorama of the University from the 3rd Mainland Bridge.

University of Lagos (UNILAG)

The **Senate Building** by James Cubitt and Partners consists of simple forms. The architects diversified the form by using different heights and by projecting a semi-cylindrical form from the approach elevation. The structural pillars are projected to the front of the elevation giving an illusion that they don't carry the weight of the building. The beauty of the building is further enhanced by the colour combination used on the elevation.



Senate Building.



Senate Building.



Senate Building.

The **Berger Conference Centre** is a simple and elegant building that demonstrates the use of appropriate technology. Although fully air-conditioned, it is also adequately well ventilated and naturally lit.



Berger Conference Centre.



Conference Centre.

The site of the **Science Complex** (1978) imposed a lot of challenges on the architects Godwin Hopwood Kuye. They used the sloping site in a way that allows the penetration of the wind into every building achieving perfect cross ventilation so much desired in this highly humid area.



Faculty of Science Lecture Hall.



UNLAG Science Complex



Faculty of Science.