

CITIES IN NIGERIA NEEDS URBAN DESIGN FOR COMFORT AND SAFETY

¹Arc. Boyce A. Odoko²Okoduwa. O. Joseph.

¹Department of Architecture, National Institute of Construction Technology, Uromi, Edo State.

²Department of Survey and Geoinformatics, National Institute of Construction Technology, Uromi, Edo State.
Email: odokoarch@yahoo.com

Abstract: Nigerian urban centers needs to provide facilities for the inhabitants for their comfort, convenience and safety. Amenities, such as, Parks, Cinema Center, Grocery Stores, Shopping Mall, good Roads and Suburban areas, just as it is done in the Western world where Nigerians who has the means frequently go and enjoy. Determination of the extent of impact to which the project will change the existing environment's arrangement and appearance is very crucial. Design change that will result to positive view of pedestrians of the public space is very significant for the community. Provision of street cape with pedestrian walkways that are equipped with pedestrian light poles, seating places, trash receptacles, trees to provide shade and pedestrian cross-walk will create major pleasant environment for the inhabitants of the city. With such development or provision of these amenities, it will not only create positive psychological effect on the inhabitants, but will also give a positive image or picture of good urban development and will also induce good economic growth. People will be very happy to belong in such environment because of the amenities provided for their pleasure. Provision of good road network connected to these amenities will enable the urban inhabitants have access to the facilities. The design process should provide attractive public open spaces to boost high psychological influence on the people and reduce stress by integration of physical built structures and green spaces.

Keywords: *Urban Designs, Place Making, Convenience, Accessibility, Comfort and Safety.*

INTRODUCTION

Man has involved from living in caves to small settlements, villages, towns and cities. All of these, are man-made living environments. Urban Design involves making change in these man-made environments for nature and Urban Centers to co-exist. Therefore, urban design is the process of

connecting people and places, people movement and urban form, integration of nature and the built environment. Urban design brings together the many forms of place-making. Urban design focuses on the holistic design of the urban environment through the shaping of space, built form and landscape and the many strands of place making that contribute to identity, amenity, livability, and beauty. Urban planning is about balancing social, economic and environmental concerns to create sustainable urban places that are culturally rich, environmentally responsible, and socially diverse and economically sound.

Patrick Clifford. (2017).

While designers possess the creative capabilities of shaping cities, their often - singular obsession with form and aesthetics actually reduces their effectiveness as they are at the mercy of more powerful generators of urban form. In response to this paradox, *Designing Urban Transformation* addresses the incredible potential of urban practice to radically change cities for better. It aims to reduce environmental impacts by altering the built -environment to create smart cities that support sustainable transport. To prevent urban sprawl, circular flow land use management was introduced to Europe to promote sustainable land use pattern. **Aseem Inam.(2018).** Urban Design is the art of making places for people. It is therefore concerned with how they function, not just how they look. Urban design is an inter disciplinary subject that utilizes elements of many built environment profession. Urban design involves the design of villages, towns, cities, streets and spaces. The process usually involves collaborative of multi-profession such as architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, civil and municipal engineering in shaping the physical setting of villages, towns and cities. It is the art of making places in the urban context. **Van Assche K. at el.(2013).** **Shaping the physical setting of villages.**

Urban design deals with the large scale of groups of buildings, streets and public spaces, whole neighborhoods and districts, and entire cities with the goal of making urban areas functional, attractive, and sustainable.

Sustainable streetscape plays an important role in forming the visual image of sustainable cities, as it is one of the most important factors which helps in city success, and natural attractions. However, there are many cities whose visual image is lacking the presence of correct and sustainable streetscape, which negatively affects the visual image of these cities. **Reeman Mohammed Reban,(2013)**

Methods

The urban design methods to achieve good urban design is by providing great, interesting and attractive public spaces where people can meet and engage in activities, such as social, economic, friends and family gathering. People in the community who knew each other can run into each other. A common environment for different activities. For a public space to successfully meet the public satisfaction, the space must have some expected qualities: The public must have access to the place, it must be a place where people can gather and engaged in different functions, the space must be safe and comfortable. People in the urban area should like to be there for various activities. The space must be welcoming, functional, vibrant and inviting. Mental health and urban design, helpful evidence-based information, safe environment may improve accessibility and comfort. Urban design theory deals primarily with the design and management of public space (i.e. the “public environment”, “public realm or” public domain”), and the way public places are experienced and used. Public space includes the totality of spaces used freely on a day-to-day basis by general public, such as streets, plazas, parks and public infrastructure. Design Review Panel is comprised Private Sector design ensuring comfort and safety and making new development compatible with its surrounding.

It should encourage community belonging by the residents, sense of safety and comfort and promote interaction of the inhabitants.

The practical arrangement, function and appearance of the physical environment, the functionality of the city, including the suburbs, is the main goal of urban design or urban development. Creation of physical places for people to go and interact with each other is paramount in urban development. It encourages positive economic growth, it attracts businesses and it also attracts people to live in the community. When neighbourhood is flourishing it makes people feel belonging to the neighbourhood, they feel safe, respect, trust, support, reciprocity, contribution, participation, connectedness, celebration, collective resilience and autonomy. Access to natural setting in neighbourhoods an in the course of people’s daily routines seems to help improve and maintain mental health and wellbeing. Access to green space has been associated with reduce depression, stress, mood symptoms associated with dementia, and violence, improved social and cognitive functioning.

Designing of parks, for example, there are main essential items that are expected to be included in the park, such as public toilets, walk ways,

water fountains, covered seating area, leaning rails, swimming pool, basketball court and long tennis court, including car parking space for the convenience and comfort of the people. Construction of shopping malls, where people can go with their children and walk around in a relax fashion while doing their shopping in the mall. Provision of large parking space with parking striping for public car parking is very necessary. The parking lot will have to be provided with ample light with light poles, the parking lot will have to be provided with security systems as well. Construction of suburban areas. A suburb is a residential area located on the outskirts of a city. The suburb is where people live, raise their kids and go to work, for example, the Central Business District. The suburb needs to be toned-down by way of design, especially, the road network in the suburb to maintain tranquility. To establish state of calm, free from disturbance, especially after the inhabitants, on their return from work at the busy Central Business District. The Central Business District is the central area of a city in which there are business activities, such as department stores, high raise hotels, office complex, restaurants, retail stores, cinema and more are concentrated.

In this environment, there are long city blocks usually with skyscrapers. There are lots of businesses such as department stores, hotels, the cinema, and restaurants, etc. They have very busy streets with noise making vehicles, pedestrians cross walking, traffic lights, it is a very busy environment. This is the type of environment that people leave their homes in the suburbs and come to work. On return to their homes, in the suburb, from the Central Business District, including the stressful long drive, certainly, they will need some tranquility, a quiet comfortable environment for their relaxation and mental conditioning. There should be sidewalks in the suburb for the residents to have leisurely walk. Therefore, the suburban environment needs calm and some element of safety factor. This can be achieved by way of design. Driving on a straight road with no bent, having a constant direction throughout its length, the driver can see as far as he can. This would be very bad design because it encourages speeding that may result to an accident. The driver going on speed on the straight road in the suburb will not be aware or be vigilant against any future danger or difficulty ahead of him. The speed driving will also create unwanted noise in the suburban environment. Therefore, designers must use their creative abilities to provide proper effective drive ways, especially in the suburban residential area, so that it will reduce noise and provide the needed element of safety in the suburb. The

designer should consider drive way with curves, this will reduce the noise and provide the needed safety in the suburb. If the drive way (the road) has curves, the driver will be engaged and drive with care because he will not see what is ahead of him. This is how the design will take control of the driver's psyche and his movement. The suburb is a residential environment where people live and raise their kids, children always will come out and play. This is where the safety issue arise, especially if the driver is going with speed on a straight road and without notice, a child starts running across the street in front of the vehicle. This situation can result to unwanted major accident in the suburb. This is why designers must put into account on the above stated possibility and address this kind of situation in an attempt to avoid it from happening. A design that controls the human behavior and his movement for the interest and safety of the public is what is needed.

We constantly are working to develop metrics and tools that quantify the benefits of quality public space and robust public life. Through tools & metrics we want to enable decision makers to use public life as a success criterion for making cities. The methodology outlined in this report offers a human - centered design framework for crime prevention. Through environmental design strategies, which can both enhance public life and tackle issues of public safety. Crime prevention through environmental design is an urban principle with a focus on reducing the incidence and fear of crime. The design of buildings and the arrangement of streets, parks and other outdoor spaces can influence the opportunity for crime and the level of fear of crime. **Larissa Begault, (2017)**

The BCA Awards is an annual event to honor and pay tribute to displays of excellence in the built environment in the areas of safety, quality, productive, sustainability and user-friendliness. Building grocery shopping places, this will be an advanced indoor grocery store that will be provided with shopping carts for the customer's convenience. The grocery store will be an advanced clean indoor market that will be an alternative to our present day primitive dirty open market place. Provide large open parking lot with parking striping. Provide a well light parking with parking light poles including security camera system. Plant trees to provide shade during hot sunny days. The Gold Coast is a sophisticated city boasting some of the world's most active and well-designed buildings, street capping and urban parklands. A successful place will contain interesting

spaces where people feel comfortable. Safety - A successful urban place is not only safe but is perceived as being safe.

CONCLUSION

Nigerian city authorities in an attempt to engage a design process that will provide city inhabitants amenities that will give them comfort, convenience and safety must not disregard essential components of any of the infrastructures needed to achieve the desire goals. They must make sure that any project they want to implement will be the one that adds to the quality of the neighborhood, that it will balance the natural and built environments. The new development must be compatible with the existing surroundings, must be functional, attractive, and must be to the interest and safety of general public. If it is a suburb, it should be provided with curve road drive ways to avoid unwanted accidents from speed drivers. There should be concrete sidewalks for the convenience of the residents.

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