

Arc. (Mrs.) Olubukunola Atinuke Ejiwunmi, FNIA, PPNIA

Architect | Public Sector Leader | Project Manager | Trailblazer for Women in Architecture

Arc. (Mrs.) Olubukunola Atinuke Ejiwunmi is a pioneering Nigerian architect whose illustrious career has spanned over five decades across architecture, public service, and project management. Born in Lagos on January 13, 1948, and of Osun State heritage, she has consistently broken new ground as a female leader in a traditionally male-dominated profession.

Education & Early Career

Arc. Ejiwunmi earned both her B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Architecture from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, graduating in 1974 as the only woman in her class. Her journey began at Queens College Lagos, and she later studied at the Federal School of Science, Onikan. Her formative professional years included working in Oxford, UK, and at the renowned Modulor Group of Architects in Nigeria, where she completed her NYSC and professional exams.

After gaining early professional experience in the UK and Nigeria, she ventured into academia, rising to become **Head of Department at Lagos State Polytechnic**. In 1981, she co-founded Noark Consult, taking on notable projects like the design of **Hoares Memorial Church**, Yaba.

Public Sector Impact

Arc. Ejiwunmi's architecture career intersected powerfully with public service. She served the Lagos State Government from 1985 to 2005 in roles of increasing responsibility culminating in her appointment as **Permanent Secretary** in three key ministries: Transportation, Housing, and Physical Planning & Urban Development. She contributed to the **design and execution of hundreds of infrastructure projects**, including model schools, hospitals, housing estates, fire stations, and government lodges—working with **seven different Lagos State Governors** over a 20-year span.

Some Projects include:

- Satellite campuses and facilities for **Lagos State Polytechnic**
- **Broadcasting Corporation Complex**, Lagos
- **State Printing Corporation Press**, Lagos
- **Fire Stations**: Agege, Epe, Ikorodu, Isolo
- **General Hospital Wards**: Ikorodu and Epe
- **Jubilee Low-Income Housing**: Ikeja, Ajah, Ojokoro, Ikorodu, Epe
- **5 Model Colleges** across Lagos
- **Lagos State Liaison Office and Government Lodges** in Abuja and Ikeja
- Redesign of **All Souls Anglican Church**, Ilupeju
- Numerous church, educational, and institutional buildings across Nigeria

Architectural Practice & Project Management

After retiring from public service, she continued practicing architecture as **Managing Director of Promaco Associates Ltd.**, a top-tier project management firm, and as the **Principal Partner of Atinuke Ejiwunmi & Partners**. Her work includes iconic religious and institutional structures, including contributions to All Souls Anglican Church, Ilupeju, and advisory roles with organizations such as the Redeemed Christian Church of God and the Nigerian Girl Guides Association.

Leadership in the Profession

Arc. Ejiwunmi has held numerous leadership roles in the profession. She made history as the **first female President of the Nigerian Institute of Architects (2001–2003)** and as the **founding Chairperson of the Female Architects of Nigeria (FAN)**. She is a Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Architects (FNIA) and a respected member of the Architects Registration Council of Nigeria (ARCON).

Throughout her leadership, she championed inclusion, mentorship, and welfare. Her legacy includes setting up the Architects' Benevolent Fund and advocating for greater female participation and recognition in the field.

Awards & Recognition

Her exceptional contributions have earned her over a dozen prestigious awards, including:

- First Lady National President Award – NIA
- ARCON Award of Meritorious Service
- Lagos State Government Award for Exemplary Public Service
- FAN First Chairperson Award
- Episcopal Awards from the Anglican Communion
- Association of Housing Corporations of Nigeria – Award of Excellence

Legacy

Arc. (Mrs.) Ejiwunmi's legacy is defined by her pioneering spirit, deep commitment to architecture, and her unwavering service to both society and the profession. She is revered as an icon in Nigerian architecture, a bridge-builder, role model, and servant-leader whose life and work continue to inspire generations of architects, particularly women.