

ULE-ONA
Abeere, PMB 1715, Osogbo. Nigeria.
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Ule-Ona is a place of cultural architecture having ornamentation as the indigenous genetic code of identity. This is an architect-in-residence hybrid center aimed at an interdisciplinary, engaging discourse on the interplay of indigenous Art in defining the Architecture of the Yoruba people through ornamentation.

The program avails iconic ideas significant to the core values of the **Ule-Ona** to present ingenious underlying principles to a filtered circle of intellectuals and the local in the presence of emerging youths and practitioners.

It is a place of history, architecture, art and heritage studies in spatial experimental fields of landscape conceptualization and urban planning.

It is designed to produce an active engagement of interns with the resident architect through debates, seminars, lectures, workshops and modelling culminating in the production of samples through the local practitioners in Arts and Crafts in the Osogbo environs.

Generated ideas are further incubated towards product design in parametric architecture and fabrication for trials and use.

It is a center of immersive knowledge impartation for the Masters and the interns to cross fertilize ideas in a dynamic world of hermeneutic phenomenology. This affords opportunity for inclusive learning in the ecosystem.

Ule-Ona is an hybrid of knowledge, experimentation and product development towards projecting the indigenous ornamentation of the Yoruba people of Nigeria.

It is aimed at branding the people's tangible heritage, in terms of the architecture of where they live, work and play.

Ule-Ona is a projection from a body of knowledge in Doctor of Philosophy research work in Architecture carried out by the convener of the Center, Arc. (Dr.) Olabode Jegede fnia at the University of Lagos, Nigeria under the supervision of Professors Bayo Amole, Joseph Igwe and Olatunji Adejumo. The Ph.D. thesis titled '**Indigenous Ornamentation in Branding Residential Architecture in Southwest, Nigeria.**' has produced defining publications in journals and conferences to espouse the theory of ornamentation in architecture.

Some of these publications are listed in;

- <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Olabode-Jegede#publications>

Mission Statement

To identify as resource platform for an architecture born from the womb of nature, sustainable, relatable and culturally inspired to compliment the ecosystem.

Vision

To incubate ideas from the orality and Craft of the Yoruba body of knowledge in redefining the art of the people in tangible ways.

Facilities

Facilities are provided for effective workings of the Centre. These involves; indoor, outdoor and remote faculty through internet ready equipment for virtual conferences and sourcing of learning materials beyond the shores of Nigeria.

There are five Bedrooms with other two Bedroom Quarter for on-site assists. The building has an entrance Foyer which welcomes all as the first port of call. This holds patron to either flow into the Ground Floor having an Ante Room serviced with Conveniences leading to the Main Lounge, Dining Area, Kitchen and Laundry to the left. The Ante room also leads directly into a semi-circle Courtyard opening to the E-Library, Guest Room and the Gymnasium.



Interior views of the Gallery on the First Floor

The entrance Foyer also presents an elegantly placed spiral stairs that takes Guests into a sizable Gallery space comfortably sitting a Eighty number audience, with Conveniences.

The Private Area of this One and half-storey semi-circular edifice takes off from the platform overlooking the straight segment of the Courtyard into an open stair hall with Skylight leading to a corridor having four private Bedrooms all ensuite, complimented with a Private Lounge on the first Floor.



Approach views of Ule-Ona

The exterior look of **Ule-Ona** evokes curiosity to a first timer with its expression of openness celebrated with an array of large fenestration both on the Ground and First Floor, simply to ignite interest on the essence of the architecture displayed.

The topography is gentle, and the building was placed to maximize the site condition resulting in the opportunity for two Bedrooms ensuite to the left in a basement, beneath the Kitchen on the Ground Floor while the adjoining Dining also has ample parking for two vehicles in its basement beneath. The right hand side of the façade has landscaped greens with cover trees to serve for informal meets and greets, cocktails and space for mild experimentation of ideas brewed at the center.



Views of the Courtyard area under construction

The site situates at a corner piece intersection of the road adjoining the UNESCO recognized Centre for Black Culture and International Understanding, Abeere, Osogbo, Osun State, Nigeria. The building directly face the back of the road bordering the Osun State Government Secretariat, Osogbo. The building is carefully perched on a raised end of the site for a vantage gait, which should fully unveil by October 2025.



View of the Entrance Foyer

Site Progress

The main building has attained over 85% completion, roofed and plastered with all windows and external doors in place. The ceiling work is completed, and the interior is fully tiled, installation of internal doors, mechanical and electrical fittings ongoing, in anticipation for cabinet fixtures. The external works has advanced and almost ready for painting.

There is provision for accommodation terraced block with four units of two-bedroom apartments, in less than a kilometer to the Centre. This is designed to operate as a Serviced Apartment to accommodate participants at the **Ule-Ona** Centre.

Appraisal

In conclusion, **Ule-Ona** offers an immersive retreat for architects, urban planners/ designers, sages along with policy makers and software developers to reflect with intuitive traditional artists and stakeholders. The essence is for self-assessment of their professional engagements over the years, appraise the content and the truth in their works and make projections in practical terms for coming decades in the field.

Having established the position of glyphs and symbols as veritable tool for inclusive application in contemporary architecture of the people in an intensive Ph.D. research in ornamentation. Parametric modelling of the symbolic ornaments and subsequent mass production as architectural finishes remains the utmost focus of this Centre.

Ule-Ona is a pragmatic response to the UN Sustainable Development Goal11 (SDG11, 2015) which advised an inclusive architecture of culturally inspiring design.

Osogbo is renowned for the arts of the Yoruba people, both in the visual and performing arts. The implication is the availability of ready crafts men and women to define an architecture, truly indigenous to the people, towards conservation and restoration in Yoruba Architecture.

