

**CONFRONTING THE PROBLEM OF STUDIO SPACE IN
TEXTILE PRACTICE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF BENIN:
A COMMUNAL INITIATIVE**

BY

**ADAIMONI RAYMOND OGAGA
MAT NO: ART1500541**

**DEPARTMENT OF FINE AND APPLIED ARTS,
FACULTY OF ARTS,
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN,
BENIN CITY.**

JUNE, 2021.

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**BEING A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FINE AND
APPLIED ARTS, FACULTY OF ACTS, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN
CITY, IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A) DEGREE IN
FINE AND APPLIED ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN**

JUNE, 2021.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project was carried out by **ADAIMONI RAYMOND OGAGA** of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Benin, Benin City, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Benin, Benin City under my supervision.

Ven. Dr. S.E. Ogbemor
Project Supervisor

Date

Dr. Samson .O. Ukueku
Head of Department

Date

External Examiner

DEDICATION

First and foremost I dedicate this project to God Almighty for His ever sufficient grace and protection over me, also to my family for their unending love and support in the course of my study.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My sincere acknowledgement and appreciation goes to God whose Jehovah Almighty for his grace, strength and wisdom towards the successful completion of this work. I also appreciate my ever loving parents Mr Julius Adaimoni and Mrs Precious Adaimoni, for their moral and financial assistance all through my project.

Special thanks to my supervisors Dr. (Mrs). Osaigbovo and Ven. Dr. S.E Ogbemor for their assistance, advice and support. To my wonderful lecturers, and my course mates, my senior colleagues for their encouragement and support from the start, I will not forget my textile colleagues.

Finally, I will like to express my love and gratitude to my irreplaceable and inestimable friends, sisters and colleagues, that made my stay a memorable one, God bless you all.

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ABSTRACT

A textile studio is the major place of textile production because it is where the works of art are being done. The lack of ventilated working environment has made the construction of a studio very necessary for students comfortability in learning and creating awareness of how studio should be constructed, arranged, use and maintained; moreover, an ideal studio should have a dye pit and a good bathroom for students to take quick wash from dirts and stains caused during the course of working.

This research will provide a lasting remedy to the problem of insufficient working space, the project has revealed that some basic studio equipment's and tools could be put in place for students use since there is enough space to accommodate the aforesaid.

Consequently, having identified the problem of working space in the textile studio of the university of Benin, This research is aimed at completing the construction of the new textile studio which was not completed during the 2017/2018 session in order to further improve Textile Students skills and artistic prowess and aesthetic values in textile production.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Art generally is a way of life. It is an important aspect of man's existence because he indulges in art while living his daily life. The most important function of art is that it is the visual representation of human thoughts or feelings. This is shown in the clothes he wears, the food he eats and tools he uses. Art is also used to beautify ourselves, our homes and environment. All the fine colored clothes worn by man are works of art which are all textiles.

The word textile means "woven fabric" which comes from a Latin word "Textere" meaning "to weave". Textile design is basically the process of creating design or surface embellishments of an already existing constructed fabric and the construction of a fabric is done through weaving. Weaving can be said to be the heartbeat of textile because it involves interlacing of thread or yarn to produce fabric which is foremostly done before making designs. Textile encompasses various activities such as printing, fabric embellishment decoration (tie & dye, Adireeleko (batik), Tritik, weaving. And those activities are carried out in the studio.

A studio is an artist's workers workroom or workshop, an establishment where art is taught. A studio according to Wikipedia is an artist's workspace or the catchall term for an artist and their workers who work within the studio. The word studio is derived from Italian: studio, from Latin: studium from studere, which means "to zeal or study". The French term for studio is "atelier" which means "a workshop". Studio could be used for distinct purposes like sculpture, painting, textile design, graphics etc.

A studio can also serve as classroom for student or artist to be skilled in their artistic expression as it empowers student to practice, experiment and explicit his/herself fully and help student to engage and inspire each other while working.

A studio could be educational, where students learn to develop skills related to their field of study. They learn to design and draft with instructional help. Good productivity in terms of fabric embellishment in all ramification also depends on how equipped and organized the studio is and to what degree the artists who occupy the aforementioned are committed to studio practice. Academic curricula categorize studio class to enable and prepare students for skills which requires a continuity of practice in order to increment and mastery of their artistic expression.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

This research was carried out as a result of lack and the need of sufficient space in the textile studio in the Department of Fine and Applied art, University of Benin. Since adequate studio space is essential in the competency and effectiveness of productivity of an artworks hence an ideal and conducive environment/art studio is needed.

The immediate state of textile studio in the department of Fine and Applied Art, University of Benin does not create room for good working environment as a result of congested nature of the studio. Moreover pollution caused by the mixture of chemicals and dyes could be hazardous to student health, hence the researcher embarked on the construction of an ideal textile studio for good working environment for optimum and a well-ventilated adequate space to work without limitation and to ensure that our predecessor does not suffer the same fate of inadequate working space.

1.3 Purpose of Study

The purpose of study is to:

- The primary aim of this project is to answer questions relating to lack of adequate work space for students, which could hinder student from expressing themselves skillfully and good output.
- To provide a conducive workable space which can be divided into sections where various textile activity can effectively take place.
- To reduce the possibility of mishap in the studio environment.
- To make learning and studio practice conducive and more effective.
- To provide a well-ventilated studio.
- To help reduce the risk of health hazard caused by mixture of dyes and chemicals.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The scope of this study is a communal initiative by the student to put an end the inadequate space confronting the student in textile studio practice, in the department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Benin

1.5 Significance of the Study

The aim of this project is to provide adequate ventilated work space for the students that will enable students do good works and creatively express themselves fully. To provide sections inside the studio where various textile activity can effectively take place and to reduce the possibility of accident in the studio.

1.6 Limitation of the Study

The major limitation of the study to the researcher is lack of skills and knowledge needed for construction of the studio, hence the researcher had to rely on the site engineer. Another limitation encountered by the researcher was the unstable economy of our country,

the proposed amount budgeted for this project to be successfully carried out was gradually increasing due to instability in the prices of building materials and limitations in getting the right materials for the construction.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Studio

The word studio is derived from the Italian: studio, from Latin: stadium/studere meaning to study or zeal. According to Wikipedia, studio is an artist worker's workroom or the catchall term, or an artist and their employees who works within the studio. This can be for the purpose of acting, architecture, painting, pottery (ceramics), sculpture, printing etc.

Studio is a private workshop where an artist, students and apprentice can work together producing pieces of fine art or visual art under the master name or supervision. This practice can be seen in the medieval time of European artist from the middle age to the 19th century.

The studio is also known as an "Atelier" in French which means a workshop. In the contemporary English language use, "atelier" refers to the Atelier Method. A training method for artists that usually take place in a professional artist's studio. The above mentioned method calls upon that zeal for study to play a significant role in the production which occurs in a studio space.

Studio known as "atelier" started from the middle ages to the 19th century, in the medieval Europe. Apprentice normally works under their master in a very tender age, working on simple tasks until they becomes master in that field of art. Such way of learning art/art education was often enforced by local guild regulations of the painter's Guild of _ saint _ luke. The system was gradually replaced with powerful guilds and the academy became an ideal method of training.

According to John Barners role of studio (page 6), the studio carries different connotations. For artist, the medium in which they work and materials they employ. For those not involved with art production, the notion of the studio will carry another sets of thoughts and envisioned ideas. Anecdotal evidence suggest that the “Studio” is a physical area where one makes works of art, in other words your studio is where you are at a given time , particularly within an academic context.

In those days studio could also be referred to as studio apartment with a single room, which usually consist of one large room, which serves as the living, dinning and bedroom. They are also known as single room dwelling places or studio flats. Studio sizes vary considerably, in the United States the average size is 500 to 600ft.

Studio generally requires adequate space, enough to enable several works at the same time with good ventilation, access to water, large sinks, easy entry and exiting space for sized works, tools/material and finished works is essential. Light is also necessary, both overhead with good electrical system to enable productivity during late hours.

For works of significant weight, a spacious studio entry is needed to enable safety moving/loading/unloading of materials and works. Equipment and tools are necessary in every art studio to make work of art easier and faster which in turn brings good productivity .There are different art studios in the department of fine and applied art , university of Benin they include: painting studio, sculpture studio, ceramics studio, graphics studio, metal studio and textile studio.

2.2 Sculpture Studio

Sculpture studio is place where the art of shaping figures in the round or in relief is done. According to Akporuaro (2018), sculpture is a part of visual art that deals with using subtractive and additive method in producing three dimensional and two dimensional works. The additive method involves the use of clay and metal while the subtractive

method have to do with wood, stone e .t .c. Sculpture is most durable when carved using materials like wood, clay, stone etc.

In sculpture studio there are different tools/equipment use in producing a sculptural piece e .g welding machine which is used for fabricating metals, Angel grinder which is used for cutting metal and sand papering metal works, metal is used for making skeletal frame (Amateur) for sculptural works, drilling machine, chisel etc. The studio is a form of workshop that houses all the tools and equipment needed and used by the sculptor and has a well conducive workspace for creations of sculptural piece.

2.3 Painting Studio

This is a studio where painter expresses himself on canvas or other surfaces using colors and brushes. In a painting studio, there are different tools and equipment use in achieving a desired result e .g easel, which is used to stand stretched canvas ready for use, brushes of different sizes, colors, canvas, donkey for drawing, pallet, pallet knife, stool etc.

2.4 Ceramics Studio

According to Ani (2017) “A ceramics studio is a place where pottery practice or production of clay works is done. Some of the pottery practice are carried out inside the studio like the clay preparation, glazing, throwing and slip casting. While the firing process is done outside the studio, this is because the kiln which an oven or furnace is used for this. Ceramics tools/equipment includes: ball mill which is used for grinding clay to a fine particle, pug mill: this is a machine that kneads (mix) and de-airs the clay so that it is ready to use, throwing wheel: it is a machine that has a revolving wheel head used for shaping clay into a desired round form, kiln: it is an oven or furnace used to fire or bake pottery e. g gas kiln, electric kiln, barrel kiln and wood kiln. Jigger jolly: this is a machine used for mass production of ceramics wares, clay cutter, wedging table, tri–star spacers,

banding wheel, felting knife, calipers, iron poles, wire cutter, ribs and scrappers, modeling tools e .t. c.

2.5 Metal Design Studio

The word metal, according to Wikipedia is a material (an element, compound or alloy) that is typically hard, opaque, and shiny and has a good electrical and thermal conductivity. Metal is also an insoluble body that is fusible by heat. Metal design/fabrication studio is a place set aside for the production of metal works like jewelry, iron gates, wall clocks e. t .c. There are different areas in metal designing like metal smiting, foundry practice (casting), and industrial design (mass production). And there are two types of metal: ferrous and non-ferrous metal. Ferrous metal are metals that contains iron and are subject to rust (corrodes) e .g mild steel, stainless steel, cast iron e .t. c while non-ferrous metal are metals that do not contain iron and does not corrodes e .g base metal like copper and zinc, precious metal like gold , silver. Gas and hammers are used to shape the metal into desired shapes, chemical for etching and removing impurities, drilling machine, sand paper e .t. c. Most of the machine used in metal studio are iron and electrical, so maximum carefulness or caution is required while working or walking in this studio.

2.6 Graphics Studio

This is a place where graphics works are done. According to Wikipedia, graphics art are a range of visual artistic expression, typically two dimensional. Graphics studio is more or less an office with computers, chairs and table where different graphics works are done like typography, screen printing, calligraphy, computer graphics, bindery, photography e.tc.

2.7 Textile Studio

This is an art studio where different textile works are done such as weaving, fabric decoration, knitting and fabric embellishment like printing, batik ,tie dye, tri -tik are done. Today, textile application has greatly broaden and the term is use for a wide range of product made from fibers. This includes not only woven, knitted and felted fabrics but also net, yarns and other materials. The variety of this product and their uses is so enormous that textile have its applications in almost all our daily activities. Clothe fabrics range from silks to the heaviest wool over coating.

Textiles engineering/technology ranges from the very thick and strong industrial fabrication such as conveyer belt to the lifting gear. Household fabric range from the simplest white cotton cloth used for bed sheet to the highly decorated materials of complicated construction that may be used for furnishing. Textile works covers a wide range of hand and mechanical processes, it is a very wide area upon which we are dependent because almost every aspect of our lives uses some form of textile material.

Textile studio are generally highly facilitated and are located in a spacious place with different sections and well stocked with equipment and materials necessary for good productivity because many activities take place there.

Textile studio encompass different sections and equipment such as printing section which consist of large printing table, light box for tracing, dark room where mesh are been kept before and after exposure, computer and related software for digital design. It also have the dye section where works like batik, Tie dye, tri-tik are done which consist of a dye-bath. Wax and chemicals like caustic soda and hydrosulphite are used for dying fabric in this section and it is carried out in a well-ventilated part of the studio because the chemicals are health hazard and has an offensive smell. Then we have the weaving and knitting section where we have loom and it is done

in a non-moist place to avoid staining the wools or causing damage. Lockers are made available for the students to keep personal material or equipment for working.

Tools and materials used in textile studio includes print table, mesh, painting brush, drawing set, drawing board, light box, inks i.e. water base, oil base e .t c, water tape ,cardboard sheets, fabric, loom e.g. two shaft loom, dye pit or dye- bath, lockers, chemicals like dye, caustic soda, hydrosulphide, emulsion, sensitizer, retarder and thinner. Water, light, bathroom and rest room to enable student work late into night.

The textile studio encourages students to grow professionally, intellectually, artistically and find their personal interest and creativity. Through practical assignments the students learn to find their own artistic expression, analyze, solve problems and also expand their mode of thinking i.e. creative mind and experience.

2.7 Construction

The word construction is from a Latin word “constructionem” from con – “together”, and struere “to pile up”. Construction in a general term means the art and science to form objects, system or organizations.

Construction according to Wikipedia is the process of constructing a building or infrastructure. Construction starts with planning the design, for a successful execution of project, effective planning is essential and financing which continues until the project is successfully achieved and ready to use. Construction in general is sub-divided into three (3) sectors: (i) building, (ii) infrastructure and (iii) industrial, the most common is the building construction which is a process of adding structure to a real property or construction of buildings.

As seen in this project different discipline are put together in order to actualize a well-constructed and conducive textile studio, those with experience in the construction

field make detailed plans and supervision during the project to ensure a successful and positive outcome.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Methodology and Data Collection

The primary source of gathering data for the theoretical aspect of this research was from text book and through personal interviews with persons in building field, while the interview and internet was a source of the secondary data. In the practical aspect of this research work, the major data were collected or gotten from the site engineers, architects, lecturers, previous researches, market survey, colleagues and other building works served as reference for studio extension.

The studio is built in an L-shaped design. It contains a dye pits and bathroom. Materials were also purchased in the market through the instructions and supervision of the site engineer.

3.2 Materials for Construction

- Paint
- Ceiling Fan
- Nails
- Sand (Filling Sand)
- Energy Bulbs
- Painting Materials
- Cement

- Water Tank (1500 Liters)
- Wood
- Burglary
- Zinc Nail
- Tiles

3.3 Plumbing, Tiling, Painting, Electrical, Fittings and Reconstruction Materials

TILING MATERIALS

- Cartons of Floor Tiles
- Cartons of Toilet Tiles
- Bag of Cements
- A Bag of White Cement

PLUMBING MATERIALS

- Virony W.C. Top flush
- Virony Wash Hand Basin
- Pieces of Half Inch Pipe
- Half inch Elbow
- Half Inch Tee
- Half Inch Stock Cock
- Pieces Flexible Connector
- Washing Hand Basin Tap
- Half Inch Adaptor
- $\frac{3}{4}$ Pipe
- $\frac{3}{4}$ Plain Socket
- $\frac{3}{4}$ by $\frac{1}{2}$ Elbow

- 1 Inch Pipe
- 1 Inch Rubber Stock Cock
- 1 Inch Union
- One Inch Elbow
- 1 Inch by $\frac{3}{4}$ Elbow
- Back Nut
- 1 1/2 Inch Pipe
- 1 1/2 Inch Elbow
- Bottle Trap
- 1 1/2 Inch Tee
- 4 Inches Pipe
- 1500 Liter Gee-Pee Tank
- Threaded Tape
- Cups of Gum
- 3/4 Stock Cock

ELECTRICAL MATERIALS

- Lights (18w)
- Search Light
- Double Sockets
- 3 Gang Switch
- 1 Gang Switch
- Earth Rod
- Bag of Salt
- Ceiling Fans

- MK Bottle
- Coil of 2.5*3 Wire
- Meter Board
- Coil of 2.5 Earth Wire
- Concrete Nails
- Trucking
- Screw Nails
- 5 j-Hooks
- Distribution Box
- Coil of 6mm Wire
- Pipe and Clip

BURGLARY

- 1800 *1800 window Size
- Toilet Window

ROOFING MATERIALS

- Bundle of Ghana
- Pack of Zinc Nail
- Pack of Nail Rubber
- Edge Tapes and Accessories
- Window Design
- Bags of Cement
- 1 Trip of Sharp Sand

PAINTING MATERIALS

- Filler 4 Cartons
- Outside 4 Drums
- Ceiling...3 Drums
- Inside 6 Drums
- Poles and Entrance Door Paint 1 Drum
- 1st Studio 2 Drums.

CHAPTER FOUR

STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

These are the different stages and proper procedures carried out in the structural Construction and it aid in the processes, Completion and finishing of this ideal Studio extension. They are:

➤ **RE-ROOFING OF SOME DAMAGED PART OF THE ROOF**

Due to damaged and leakage of some part of the root caused by Climate conditions,



Hence re-roofing was done on the root to prevent Leakage.

BURGLARY PROOF

Burglary proof is of designed to Secure and frustrate any attempted burglary is designed to secure and frustrate any attempted burglary. It was done using a metal protectors to protect the windows.

Types of Burglary Proof

- Burglary Proof with a Door within
- Suspended Burglary Proof
- Collapsible Burglary Proof.



- Totally Removable Burglary Proof



- **ELECTRICAL CONNECTION**

Electricity is very important in an ideal studio to enable work at any time and also to charge their electrical gadget which can be useful in the production of textile works. 5 sockets, 8 light bulbs (in the studio) 8 light bulbs (outside the studio) and 4 ceiling fans to ensure a challenging and comfortable environment for students to work.

Photo Credit: David Eniye

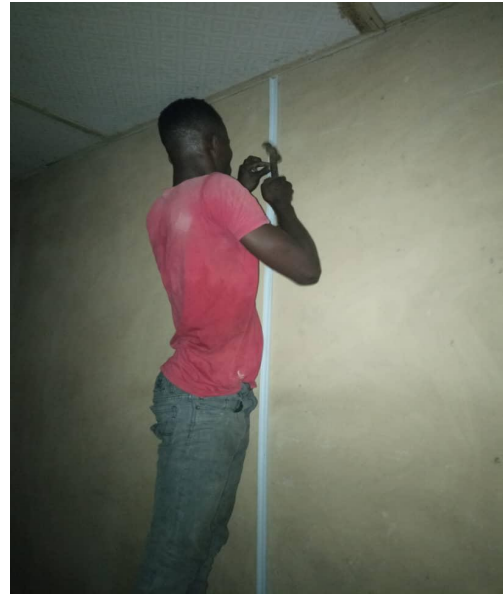


Fig. 3: Wiring of the Building, fixing of Power Bulbs and Fixing Fan
Photo Credit: David Eniye

➤ **TILING**

Tiling is a way of arranging identical plane shapes so that they completely cover an area without overlapping.

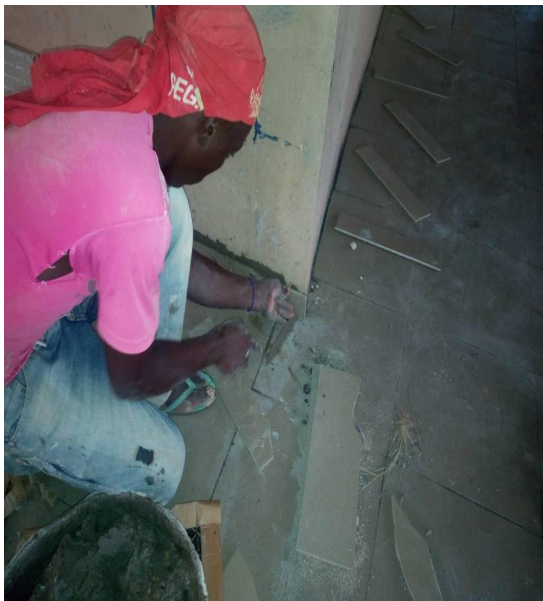


Fig. 4a: Fixing of Tiles
Photo Credit: David Eniye



Fig. 4b: Fixing of the Tiles
Photo Credit: Adaimoni Raymond

➤ PAINTING

Painting is covering of walls as well as the ceilings for beautification.

Types of paint

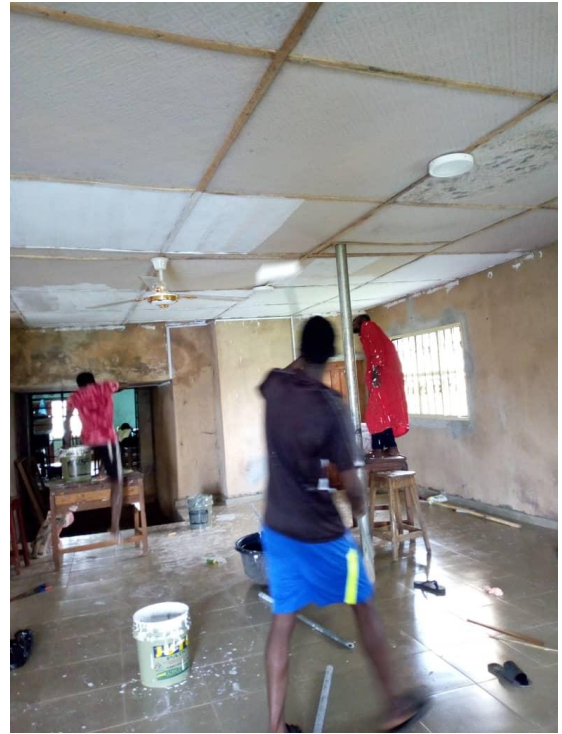
- Egg Shell
- Semi-Gloss
- Matte Paint
- Matte Enamel
- Satin
- Gloss

Color Choice of the Painting

The color ash was picked after deliberating on what color to be used for the inside of the studio. The reason was because of the nature of work in a textile studio.

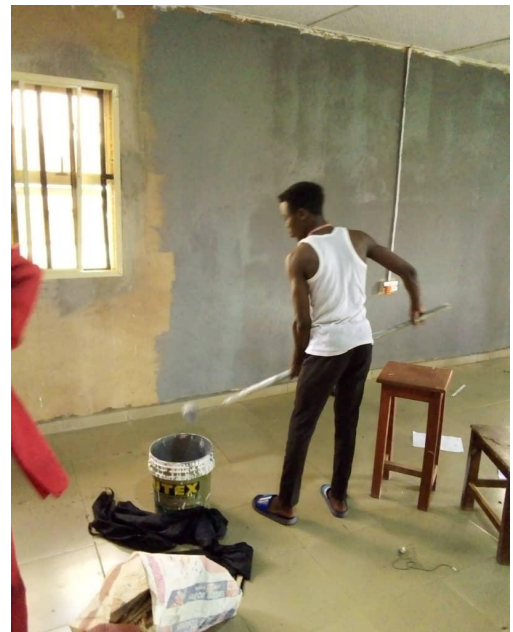
While for the outside purple and lilac were picked and painted with, the colors were influenced by the school's (Uniben) colors which are purple and lilac.

The painting was done by us the 400L students, and we had a wonderful experience, having the opportunity of how paintings are being done.



Ceiling
niye

Fig. 5b: Painting of the Ceiling
Photo Credit: David Eniye



inside of the Studio
ve

Fig. 6b: Painting of the inside of the Studio
Photo Credit: David Eniye



Fig. 7a: Painting of the outside of the Studio
Photo Credit: Uche Amazu

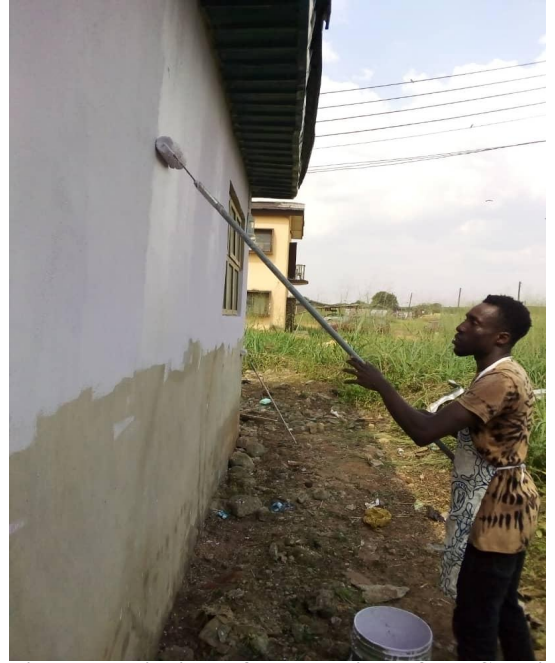
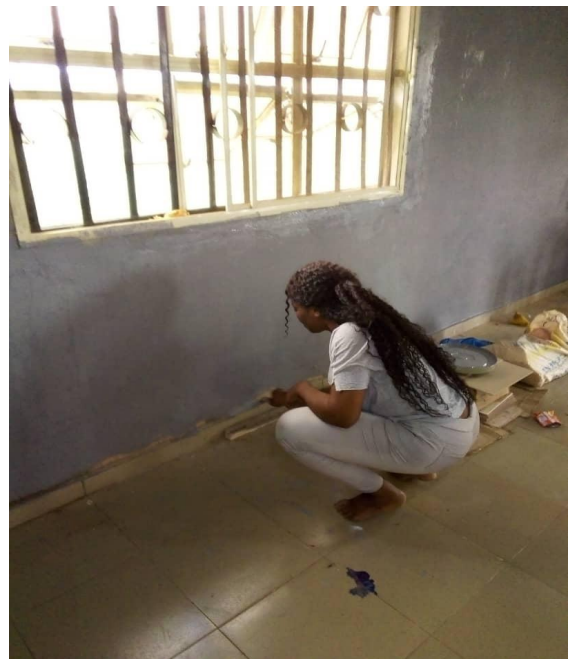


Fig. 7b: Painting of the outside of the Studio
Photo Credit: Uche Amazu



➤ **PLUMBING AND FIXING OF BOWHOLE**

Plumbing is any system that conveys fluids for a wide range of applications, it is used for waste removal and potable water delivery are among the most common uses of plumbing.



Fig. 9a: Digging of the Ground to Insert the Plumbing Pipes for the Borehole

Photo Credit: Oyedele Joshua



Fig. 10a: Construction of base for Placing of Tank for Borehole
Photo Credit: Oyedele Joshua



Fig. 10b: Finished Borehole and Taps
Photo Credit: Oyedele Joshua

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

In summary this research shows that the construction of an ideal and Serene working environment, equipped and well furnished studio helps students or artist express their inner most Creative abilities. It also prevent possible mishaps that could occur, as result of congestion in the studio.

5.2 Conclusion

A Studio, textile studio to be precise is a workroom/space where textile artists/students carries out their various works. Thus, it should be conducive for the artist to work, it also contribute to the outcome of their works. Having a large working area for work helps student to do their works on time

Hence, there was need to construct a well-equipped and standard 38/42 sized building for the textile students of the University of Benin to aid and enable them have good learning and working environment.

5.3 Recommendation

The construction of the studio has been achieved successfully. However there is a need for more working and functioning equipment's, such a functioning light box, a First Aid box for quick treatment for any emergency, mesh drier in case of urgent printing.

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