THE INFLUENCE OF ARCHITECTURE ON HUMAN EXPERIENCE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF BENIN.

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DECLARATION

This is to Declare that I, OGBEIDE PAUL ESEOSE, Student of the Department of Architecture, University of Benin with MAT.NO.: ENV2103360 conducted his research on this project topic and that all the information provided in this report was taken from the proper factual sources of information.

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SIGNATURE

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project report for 2023/2024 session is written and submitted by OGBEIDE PAUL ESEOSE with matriculation number, ENV2103360 under the supervision of ARC BELLO OLUWATOYIN meets the required regulations governing the award of the bachelor's degree in architecture of the university of Benin, Benin city, Edo state, Nigeria. We thereby certify that it has not been submitted In this or any other university for the award of bachelor's degree and is approved for literacy presentation.

Arc. Bello Oluwatoyin	Dr. Iwuchukwu Umeno Okafor
Project Supervisor	Head of Department
_____	_____
Signature & Date	Signature & Date

DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to Almighty God for his guidance and grace, to my loving parents for their unending support and sacrifice, to all those who inspired me to persevere and complete this journey.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my profound gratitude to Almighty God for his guidance and strength throughout the course of this project. My sincere appreciation goes to my supervisor, Architect BELLO OLUWATOYIN, whose guidance, constructive criticism and encouragement were invaluable to the success of the work. I am also grateful to all the lecturers and staff of the department of architecture, University of Benin, for implanting in me the knowledge and skills that made this project possible. Special thanks go to my family for their unwavering support and prayers, and to my colleagues and friends for their encouragement and contributions during the journey.

ABSTRACT

Architecture plays a crucial role in shaping how people experience, perceive, and interact with their environment. In university settings, the design of buildings and open spaces influences learning, behavior, comfort, emotional well-being, and overall campus life. This study examines the influence of architectural design on human experience within the University of Benin, focusing on how spatial qualities—such as layout, circulation, lighting, landscape, building orientation, materiality, and environmental comfort—affect students, staff, and visitors. The research explores key human-centered design factors, including accessibility, safety, wayfinding, social interaction, thermal comfort, and the emotional responses elicited by campus spaces. Data was gathered through on-site observations, user surveys, behavioral mapping, and photographic documentation across selected facilities such as classrooms, walkways, hostels, administrative blocks, and public outdoor spaces. Findings reveal that architectural design significantly shapes user experience by influencing ease of movement, social engagement, sense of belonging, and overall satisfaction with the campus environment. The study concludes that enhancing human experience requires conscious integration of user-friendly design principles in future development and renovation within the University of Benin.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

People spend more than 90% of their time indoors, making it essential to understand how the built environment can influence human experience and assess how the changes in architectural design features can impact this experience. Human experience in an architectural space is defined as the state of mind that is reflected on our physiological, emotional, and cognitive statuses.(Semiha Ergan, Ahmed Radwan, 2019). This study focuses on the responses gotten from people about how the architecture of the space they relate with on a day to day affects their experiences within the university.

Around the world, universities are increasingly adopting human-centered design principles to create environments that support learning efficiency, emotional well-being, accessibility, social interaction, and a sense of belonging.According to Francis D. K. Ching (2014), architectural elements such as form, space, and order play a critical role in shaping user perception and interaction with the built environment. Similarly, Kevin Lynch (1960) emphasized that spatial organization and clarity significantly influence how users navigate and experience spaces.

Elements such as building orientation, landscape quality, spatial layout, ventilation, lighting, and circulation patterns significantly contribute to how people perceive and use their surroundings. When these elements are well-considered, they promote productivity, comfort, safety, and positive engagement. When poorly handled, they can lead to stress, discomfort, disorientation, and reduced academic performance.

The pursuit of the influence of architecture on the human experience is driven by many factors which includes:

- Spatial layout and Organization: the way people navigate spaces, their movement patterns and accessibility as well as their social interactions. Poor layout and Organization causes crowding which leads to mental strain and confusion.

- Thermal comfort: users of each buildings gets affected by the temperature, humidity or even the airflow in the area. Poorly ventilated spaces reduces concentration and well-being.
- Aesthetics Quality: mood is influenced through color, shape, symmetry and even proportions. Beautiful, appealing or expensive buildings inspire creativity, pride and belonging in the heart of humans who access such spaces.
- Safety and Security: lighting at night, clear sightlines and proper circulation reduces anxiety of persons. People become more confident when they stay in a place with secured entrances and exits and we'll maintained paths.
- Social Interactions Spaces: places like the courtyard, walkways, waiting areas, cafes and benches influences how people mingle. The university well-being is strengthened when there's good social spaces in the community/environment.

Given that human experience includes emotional responses, perception of safety, comfort levels, social interaction patterns, and ease of navigation, it becomes essential to understand how architectural design contributes to or detracts from these experiences. Doing so will highlight areas of strength, reveal design shortcomings, and offer insights for future improvements. This study therefore investigates the influence of architectural elements on human experience in the University of Benin, with the aim of promoting more user-responsive design across campus developments.

1.2 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Observations within the university of Benin reveals that many architectural elements do not fully support human experience positively. Designers must understand the relationship between people and space to create effective environments (Negintaji, 2018). The built environment in a university is meant to positively influence how user learn, navigate and interact with the campus. The first priority of designers is to recognize and understand the environment, the relationship of human and place, and it's application to design(Samad Negintaji, 2018). Several buildings and outdoor spaces shows signs of inadequate lightning,

insufficient way finding and limited accessibility among many others. These issues are what contributes to discomfort, stress and reduced productivity among students and even staffs.

Without much understanding of these challenges , development may progress without addressing the real needs of the campus. These issues contribute to discomfort, stress, and reduced productivity. According to Evans (2003). This study therefore seems to investigate the influence of architectural design on human experience within the university of Benin, with the aim of identifying the qualities that hinder comfortable and satisfactory campus life.

1.3 **OBJECTIVE OF STUDY**

The objective of this study is within the architectural environment of the university of Benin, how it's functional, aesthetic, spatial and design features in the campus environment influences daily experiences of its users. It's behavior, comfort staff, and visitors on the campus.

1.4 **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

The project will address the following research questions:

- What are the architectural elements within the university of Benin that greatly influences your day to day life?
- How does the student get influenced by the spatial layout, circulation and way finding within the university environment?
- Does users find the lighting, ventilation, thermal comfort and acoustics comfortable and satisfactory in the university buildings?
- How does the arrangement and designs of the outdoor areas impact your interactions and community life as well as relaxation within the university?
- What challenges does staffs and students face while using various architectural spaces in the university?
- How does users emotionally respond to specific buildings and environments in Uniben?

- What design improvements can support and enhance the experience of the university environments?

1.5 **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This study is guided by a multidisciplinary theoretical foundation that explains the relationship between architectural design and human experience. The major theories supporting this research includes:

- ENVIRONMENTAL PHYSIOLOGY THEORY
  Environmental psychology examines the physical environment as well as how it influences human behaviors and emotions. It argues the elements such as space layout, lighting, noise and others affect mood, comfort, productivity and social interactions in environments. A review of research and theory on transactions between people and physical environments emphasizes new contributions to theory and empirical research published in major journals of environmental psychology (Eric Sundstorm, 1996).

- PROSPECT REFUGE THEORY (APPLETON, 1975)
  This environmental theory argues that humans prefer spaces that balance prospect (clear views, openness) and refuge (safety, enclosure).
  It is essential for understanding comfort, perceived safety, and stress reduction. Areas with poor lighting system, enclosed walking or unclear visibility causes anxiety for users in the university.

- BIOPHILIA HYPOTHESIS (EDWARD O. WILSON)
  Biophilia suggests that humans have an innate desire to connect with nature. Exposure to natural elements improves mental health, reduces stress, and enhances overall well-being. Green spaces and shaded areas influences emotional experiences and social interactions within the university.

- SPACE SYNTAX THEORY (HITLER AND HANSON, 1984)
  This theory studies how spatial configuration affects movement, interaction, and social patterns. It analyzes connectivity, visibility, and accessibility of

pathways and buildings. Day to day movement patterns challenges can be assessed using space syntax principle. It helps with crowding, and circulation issues.Space syntax theory explains how spatial configuration affects movement and interaction (Hillier & Hanson, 1984).

1.6 **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

This study is important because it provides valuable information and insight to how architectural design impacts the daily experience and overall well being of users within the university of Benin. The findings of this research will be beneficial in the following ways:

- This study expends existing human centered designs by showing how architectural elements within a Nigerian university influence human experience.
- The results of this research will help architects and planners identify design strengths and weaknesses across the university.
- The findings of this research will provide evidence based insights that can support decisions making for university development, resources allocations as well as maintainace priorities.
- Understanding the environmental performance of existing building will help in promoting sustainable, energy efficient and climate responsive design solutions going forward.
- This study will highlight how architectural and spatial factors influences social behavior, sense of belonging and help create a more interactive harmonious environment for the university community.

1.7 **SCOPE OR LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

This study focuses on examining how architectural design influences the daily experiences and overall well being of users within the university of Benin.

To achieve the stated objectives for this research project, the chosen study area is the University of Benin. Due to resource and time constraints, the project may not receive full concentration to fully study its wholistic nature.

This study may be limited to factors like, faculty buildings and lecture halls, hostels, administrative buildings, social and recreational spaces, walkways and corridors. The study primarily concentrates on architectural and environmental factors such as, lightning and ventilation, accessibility, thermal comfort, acoustics, safety and Security, materiality and aesthetics. It does not cover structural engineering or construction techniques.

The study also considers the perception of students, academic staffs, non academic staffs as well as visitors. The study employ methods such as field observations, questionnaires, interviews, user experience assessment.

1.8 **DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

The research does not cover every building within the university, instead it focuses on the academic, residential and administrative buildings. The study also focuses on experience of the university users based of their interactions with the built environment. It does not explore the administrative or financial factors behind the university development. These delimitations narrows down the research to a manageable and relevant focus, allowing for a thorough examination of how architectural design affects human experience within the university.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter will review the existing literature related to the influence of architecture on human experience, with emphasis on how built environment shapes behaviors, comfort and overall well being. This goal is to provide a theoretical and empirical foundation for understanding the relationship between architectural design and the experiences of users within educational environments.

The review begins by examining key concepts and providing framework for interpreting how people interact with physical spaces. It then explores relevant

theories such as Gestalt theory, Prospect refuge theory, Maslow's hierarchy of needs in spatial design. According to Abraham Maslow (1943), human needs range from basic physiological comfort to psychological well-being, all of which can be influenced by architectural environments.

2.2 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual framework for this study is about how architecture shapes human experience through interaction, whether physical, social or psychological. It provides structured lens which will allow examination of the relationship between architectural design and user experience. This framework also integrates concepts from environmental psychology, human centered design theory, spatial behavior, and university planning.

This framework also considers the idea of place making, which emphasizes on how architectural design contribute to creating meaningful spaces, spaces that supports social interactions, identity and attachments.As noted by Jan Gehl (2011), well-designed spaces encourage human activity, interaction, and comfort.

The core conceptual framework relevant to this study are as follows:

- Environmental Determinism: This suggests that the physical environment influence behavior and psychological states.
- Human Centered Design Theory: Which priorities user needs, comfort, and well being in the process of the design.
- Affordable theory: This paper the status quo and tendency of the affordance theory in Information System literature, which can help us understand the relationship between technologies, users and organizations(Huifen Wang, 2018). This just explains how the built environment offers opportunities for specific users and actions.
- Spatial Congestion Theory: This focuses on how people understand and navigate themselves in spaces.

The combination of these concepts gives way for the framework, to guide the study and analyze how architectural features within the university of Benin contribute to

students and staffs experience. It also supports to identify of Design elements that enhances or hinders comfort, efficiency and the overall quality of university life.

2.3 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Several established theories carry this research, these includes:

- Environmental Psychology Theory: This focuses on the interaction between humans and their physical surroundings. It also explains how environmental factors such as lighting, noise colors and others influences mood, productivity and well being. Theories focused on arousal, load, stress, privacy-regulation, behavior settings, and transactional analysis(Eric Sundstorm, 1996).
- Human Centered Design Theory: This emphasizes on creating built environment that prioritizes comfort, accessibility and satisfaction. This theory argues that design should be made on humans needs, whether it be psychological, social and emotional needs. It also explains how student friendly paths, comfortable learning spaces and good circulation enhances the university learning experience. To create truly human-centered systems, we need to shift the focus of research and design, to put human actors and the field of practice in which they function at the center of technology development(T Winograd, DD Woods, 1997).
- Affordance Theory: This theory was developed by James gilbson, which states that the design of an environment offers certain opportunities for action. This theory when applied to the university of Benin, explains how architectural elements either enables or limits user activities and comfort.
- Prospect Refuge Theory: This theory was proposed by Appleton which states, people prefer spaces that balances visibility and safety. Such spaces support comfort, navigation and the sense of security. This theory helps this study by explaining user preferences for certain types of academic and social spaces in the university.

Overall, these theories generally provide a lens for understanding how architectural design influences human experience. It helps interpret the impact of spatial quality,

aesthetics, comfort and environmental conditions on daily life within the university of Benin.

2.4 EMPIRICAL REVIEWS

This study provides evidence based on the insight that supports the research and help identify gaps in knowledge. These are as follows:

- Architecture and user comfort in institutional buildings:

After several studies we've gotten to know that thermal comfort, ventilation, lighting quality and acoustics significantly influences the satisfaction of users within a building or environment.

- Spatial layout and behavioral patterns:

  We've found out after several empirical studies in environmental design shows that spatial organization influences how people interact and move with buildings. The study demonstrates that clearly defined circulation paths improve our experience by reducing stress and confusion.

- University architecture and social interactions:

  In modern theoretical and practical urban planning, the idea that the creation of conditions for the sustainable development of the human-made environment is solved by combining efforts of various social groups has taken root. (IRINA Topchiy, ALINA Fatkullina, 2020). This indicates that designing of courtyards and open spaces plays a major role in fostering social relationships amongst students.

- Safety, accessibility and security features:

  The importance of safety, accessibility and security in determining satisfaction on University shows that buildings with ramps for physically challenged, emergency exits and good lighting enhances safety perception and reduces anxiety.

These studies reviewed provides strong evidence that architectural design has a direct effect on human comfort. These findings reinforce the need to evaluate how the architectural environment of how the university of Benin influences the daily experience of students as well as staffs.

2.5 CURRENT PRACTICES

This section will delve into the current practices implemented by universities to enhance the influence of architectural designs on the users of the university environment. By examining existing strategies, I can identify effective approaches that can be adapted or improved upon for this research. Some prominent examples include:

- Adoption of human centered design principles: Many universities implements adjustable seating, modular classrooms, improved ventilation system and controlled acoustics, environment made to enhance the user's comfort and daily experience.
- Sustainable and healthy environments: Sustainability is a core principle in modern university designs. Natural lighting, cross ventilation, energy efficient systems and landscape elements, these promotes ecological balance. They not only reduce environmental impact but also improve physical and emotional well being of the users.
- Technology driven university planning: Modern institutions incorporate smart technologies in the building and management systems. Digital practices supports more efficient use of university facilities and improve overall user experience eg automated lighting, digital way finding, smart classrooms.
- Accessible design: accessibility should be emphasized on for all individuals of the university environment, those with disabilities included. Ramps, accessible lecture halls and restrooms are now required features in new university structures. The mentioned elements supports equal participation of all individuals and reduces physical barriers within university environment.

- Enhancement of outdoor and social spaces: Modern institutions redesign open spaces to encourage relaxation and social interactions as well as collaborative learning. Pedestrian walkways, courtyards and seating areas are essential features that contribute to students mental health and well being in the university.
- Maintainace and facilities management: Maintenance strategies should be effectively recognized as the key to sustaining university individuals satisfaction. Regular repairs, maintainace checks and upgrades should be put in place and followed to ensure the university facilities function effectively and properly. Institutions that prioritize maintenance tend to report higher level of comfort and appreciations of university facilities from the users.

2.6 RESEARCH GAPS

Despite extensive research of this study, noticeable gaps remains. Particularly within Nigerian universities and the university of Benin.

- Limited context specific studies: Universities outside Nigeria are the main focus when empirical studies is involved so therefore there's very few examining the spatial, cultural and social dynamic of the university of Benin. This limits the understanding of local and cultural relevant design and it's impacts.
- Under explored psychological and emotional aspects: Fewer studies have investigated how architectural elements influences users emotional response, sense of belonging and mental well being in Nigerian universities.
- Integration of human centered sustainability systems: Current systems which are emphasized in universities are limited. Therefore documentations of modern universities should be implemented in existing universities.
- Insufficient evaluation of social interactions: Social spaces suck as courtyards, open areas are crucial for growing collaboration and social interactions. But documentations on their patterns, adequacy and impact remains scarce on Nigerian universities. If enough studies can be gathered and properly gone through, the solutions will be available to implement going forward in Nigerian universities.

- Maintainace and functionality gaps: Some studies highlight building deterioration while there's still a lack of systematic analysis of how maintainace affect the daily life of university users, particularly in infrastructures at the university of Benin .

2.7 SUMMARY OF THE LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter reviewed both the conceptual and empirical literature on the influence of architectural design on human experience. Key point includes:

- Architecture significantly affects human behavior, comfort and emotional well being.
- Conceptual framework like the human centered environmental psychology, affordance theory provides the theoretical basis for understanding user experience in the university environment.
- Empirical studies shows factors like the spatial layout, ventilation and accessibility influences students and staffs experience within the university environment.
- Current practices emphasizes sustainability, human centered design principles and technological integration.
- Research gaps exists in emotional and psychological impacts, evaluation of social spaces, role of maintenance in Nigerian universities.

The research reviewed established a strong foundation for investigating how architectural design affects human experience at the university of Benin, while pointing out to the areas that require further research to form an effective university planning and design.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

This study adopts a descriptive survey research design by observation of the physical environment. The descriptive survey research design is used because the aim of this study is to collect factual information from the university users environment to determine how the architecture features influences their daily experience.

The design enables researchers to gather data on the perception, level of comfort, behavioral patter, emotional response, interaction with architecture spaces of the users environment. Through this survey method, large number of students, academic staff and non academic staff can provide insight on the architectural elements impacts their activities and we'll being.

The descriptive survey design is flexible, cost effective, and suitable for examining conditions without controlling variables. It provides practical mean of evaluating live experience within the university of Benin. It also supports the development of recommendations grounded in the life's of the university users.

3.2 POPULATION OF DATA STUDY

POPULATION: The main target population for the survey will be all the students, academic staffs and non academic staffs.

SAMPLE: The study use a stratified random sampling technique to obtain balanced representative sample. This technique is used because the university population is made of different patterns of interaction with the building environment. Stratification allows each group be proportionately represented.

The population will be divided into the following strata:

- Students
- Academic staffs
- Non academic staffs

The questionnaire will consist of different question format:

1. Gender:

☐ Male

☐ Female

2. Age Range:

☐ 16–20

☐ 21–25

☐ 26–30

☐ Above 30

3. Status in the University:

☐ Student

☐ Academic Staff

☐ Non-Academic Staff

4. Faculty/Department: _____

5. Duration of Stay in UNIBEN:

☐ Less than 1 year

☐ 1–3 years

☐ 4–6 years

☐ Above 6 years

6. Does classrooms and offices have adequate natural lighting.

7. Is the artificial lighting sufficient for reading and other activities.

8. Is the ventilation in most buildings is adequate.

9. Are indoor temperatures comfortable for long periods.

10. Is the Noise levels in lecture halls and offices properly controlled.

11. Does Outdoor noise disrupts indoor activities.

12. Are Buildings and walkways easy to navigate.

13. Are Circulation areas such as corridors and staircases are spacious enough.

14. Is the furniture in classrooms/offices comfortable.

15. Are Lecture halls and offices conducive for long study or work hours.

16. Are Buildings easy to access for all users (including persons with disabilities).

17. Is the Signage and directions around campus clear.

18. Are walkways and buildings adequately lit at night.

19. Are emergency exits and safety features clearly provided.

20. Does the architectural design of the campus makes you feel comfortable.

21. Does the physical environment reduces stress and supports well-being.

22. Do you feel a sense of belonging in the campus spaces.

23. Do outdoor spaces encourage social interaction

24. Are there enough shaded and comfortable areas for relaxation.

25. Does the design of classrooms supports effective teaching and learning.

3.3 DATA COLLECTING INSTRUMENTS

This study will mainly use two instruments for the data collection. A structured questionnaire and an observation checklist. These were selected to capture both subjective experiences and objective architectural conditions of the users within the university of Benin.

1. Structural Questionnaire

The questionnaire will be given to students, academic staffs, and non academic staffs. It will be divided into different sections to gather information properly on:

- Perception of architectural features: lightning, ventilation, acoustics, spatial layout, materials and aesthetics.
- Level Of comfort and satisfaction: thermal comfort, seating arrangement, circulation ease and overall use.
- Psychological and emotional response: sense of safety, stimulations, stress levels influenced by the environment.
- Accessibility and safety: availability of ramps for the physically challenged, emergency exits, lighting at night, ease of movement.
- Social And learning interactions: adequacy of open spaces, classrooms, open areas and walkways.

2. Observation Checklist

This checklist will be used to systematically asses key architectural and environmental conditions across different buildings and spaces in the universities. The checklist will have information like:

- Building conditions and their maintainace
- The artificial and natural lighting quality
- Indoor air quality and ventilation
- Accessibility features and circulation patterns
- Condition of landscape elements
- Seating, shading and user friendly amenities

- Environmental hazards and safety features

3.4 ETHICS CONSIDERATION

This study follows ethical standards to ensure the protection, dignity and rights of all participants. Participants will be fully informed about the purpose of the research, the nature and their freedom to withdraw at any point without penalty. Participation will be voluntary, with no of undue influence.

Confidentiality and anonymity will be strictly maintained. Names, matric numbers as well as contact information will not be requested in the questionnaire. All the collected data are solely for academic purposes and will be stored to prevent unauthorized access. The researcher will also ensure the participants opinions are objectively and without changes.

Ethical research practice in built environment studies emphasizes respect for participants and responsible data handling, particularly when examining human experience in architectural spaces (Groat & Wang, 2013; Linda Groat).

3.5 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected is to be analyzed using **descriptive statistical method.** Responses will be organized into frequency tables to provide clear summary. Measures such as percentage, mean scores, and frequency distribution will be used to interpret and identify patterns in the data.

This approach is widely used in architectural and environmental behaviour research to evaluate user responses and spatial performance (Groat & Wang, 2013; Lang, 1987). According to Jon Lang, understanding user perception through statistical analysis is essential in assessing the effectiveness of built environments.

Qualitative response will be reviewed and grouped into thematic categories to highlight recurring ideas related to user experience. These themes will support and deepen the interpretation of the qualitative results.

3.6 CONCLUSION

This chapter presented the methodological approach adopted for investigating the influence of architecture on human experience within the University of Benin. It outlined the research design, population of study, sampling techniques, data collection methods, and the instruments used in gathering relevant information. Ethical considerations guiding the study were also discussed to ensure that participants' rights, privacy, and consent.

This chapter also escribed the method of data analysis that will be used to interpret the collected responses and relate them to the study objectives. The methodology presented here provides a structured and reliable foundation upon which the subsequent data presentation, analysis, and interpretation in Chapter Four will be based.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS

This section presents the analysis of the data collected regarding the influence of architectural design on human experience within the university of Benin. This analysis is based of the responses obtained from the questionnaire and is presented using percentages and charts.

4.1 OVERVIEW

This chapter will present the analysis of the data collected for this study. The analysis will focus on examining the relationships between various factors influencing people through architecture. I'll briefly restate the overview of my

research questions for the topic “THE INFLUENCE OF ARCHITECTURE ON HUMAN EXPERIENCE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF BENIN” majorly using The Faculty of Environmental Science located in the university of Benin as the case study of my research. The survey method used for this research was questionnaires and interviews.

4.2 QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

This chapter will show the findings of the survey conducted as part of the research. The survey data will be analysed to provide insight on the responses of each person related to this research. The survey had a total of 49 responses and their responses shall be represented by the following charts:

LIGHTNING QUALITY:

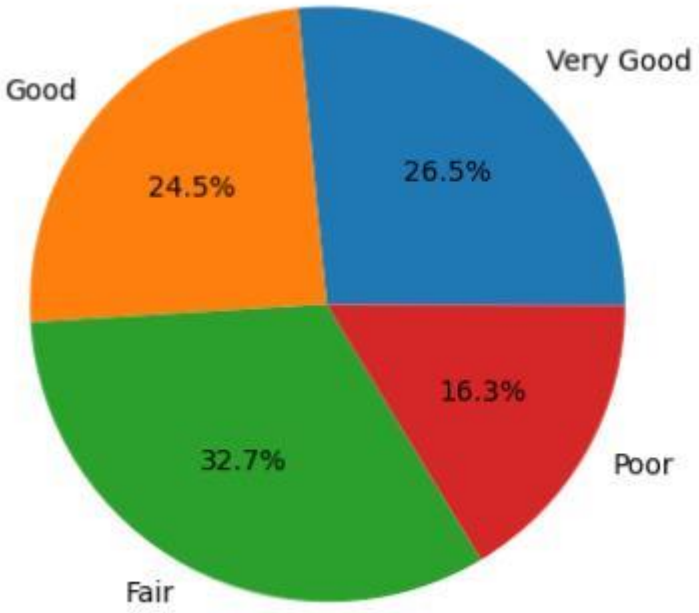

Figure 1. Showing the lighting quality

This revealed majority of the responses felt the lighting quality in the Faculty of Environmental Science was fair. The respondents were primarily students of the faculty which is roughly 80% of the occupants.

VENTILATION ADEQUACY:

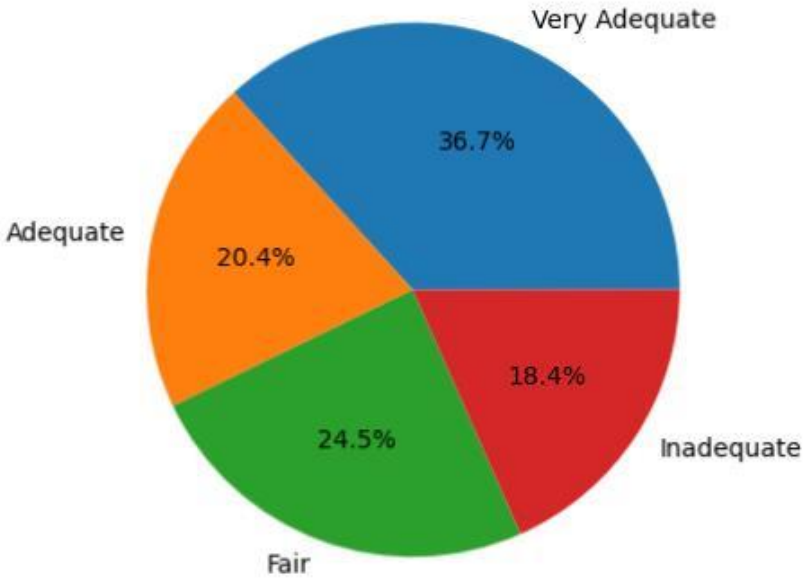

Figure 2. Showing the ventilation adequacy

This revealed majority of the responses were satisfied with the ventilation adequacy in the Faculty of Environmental Science. The respondents were primarily students and represent 36.7% of those who felt the ventilation was very adequate.

THERMAL COMFORT:

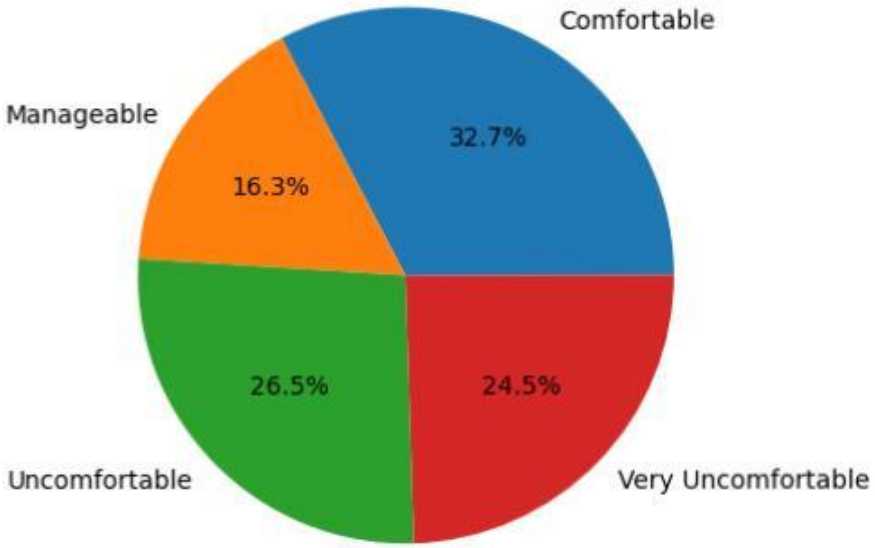

Figure 3. Showing the thermal comfort

This revealed majority of the responses were at best comfortable with the temperature in the Faculty of Environmental Science. The respondents were primarily students who represented a total of 32.7% of the responses collected.

EASE OF NAVIGATION:

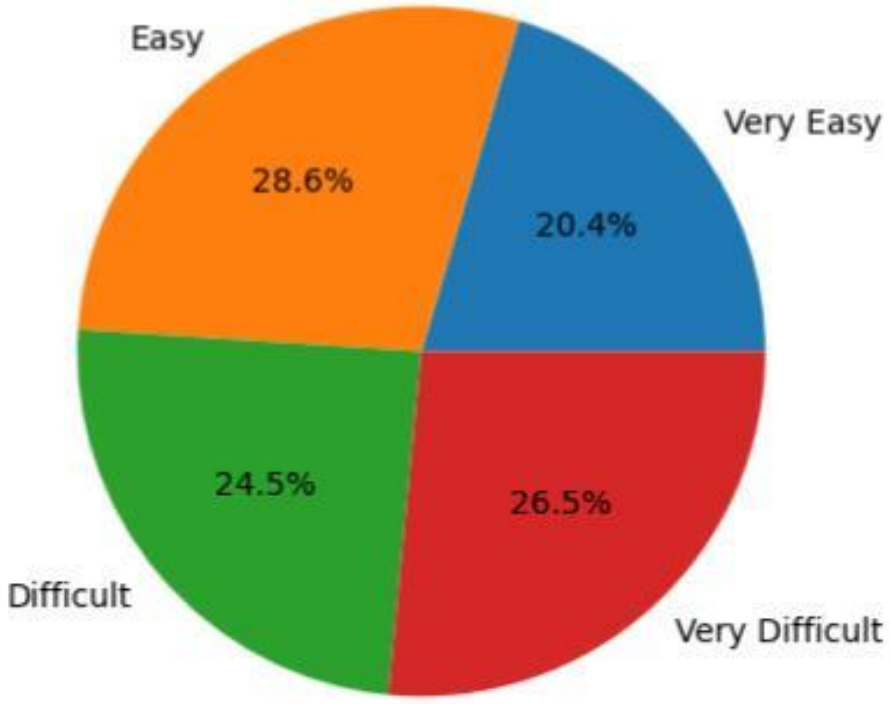

Figure 4. Showing the ease of navigation

This revealed majority of the responses found navigating the building and it's environment easy to traverse. The respondents were primarily students representing 28.6% our of the 49 responses gathered.

SAFETY PERCEPTION:

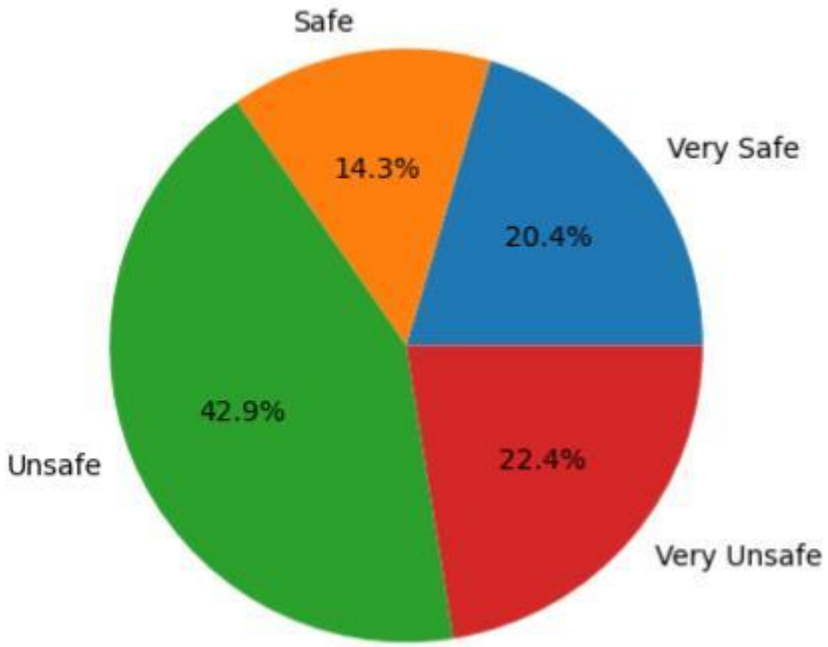

Figure 5. Showing the safety perception

This revealed majority of the responses felt unsafe in the Faculty building and it's environment. The respondents were primarily students representing 42.9% of the responses gathered.

4.2 SURVEY RESULT SUMMARY

The survey results clearly demonstrate that:

- Architecture plays a critical role in shaping human experience on campus
- Environmental comfort (lighting, ventilation, temperature) needs improvement

- Spatial organization and accessibility are not fully optimized
- Social and recreational spaces are inadequate
- Maintenance practices significantly affect user satisfaction

These findings form the basis for further discussion and recommendations in subsequent sections.

4.3 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This section discusses the results obtained from the survey in relation to the theories and literature. The aim is to interpret the findings and show how they align with existing knowledge on the influence of architecture on human experience.

The findings of this study confirm that architectural design plays a significant role in shaping human experience, particularly in institutional environments such as the University of Benin. This aligns with environmental psychology theory, which emphasizes that physical surroundings directly affect human behaviour, mood, and well-being. The reported issues of poor ventilation, thermal discomfort, and inadequate lighting demonstrate how environmental conditions can negatively influence users' comfort and productivity.

The results also support the principles of human-centered design theory, which advocate for designing spaces that prioritize user needs. The observed dissatisfaction with seating arrangements, accessibility, and overcrowded spaces indicates that many campus environments do not fully meet users' physical and psychological needs. This suggests a gap between existing campus design and user-oriented architectural practices.

The limited availability and poor condition of open and social spaces on campus reduce opportunities for interaction, relaxation, and community building. This weakens users' sense of belonging and attachment to the environment.

The challenges related to navigation and circulation observed in the study also align with spatial cognition theory, which explains how individuals understand and move through space. Difficulties in wayfinding and congestion in circulation

routes indicate that the campus layout may not be intuitive or efficiently organized, leading to stress and reduced usability.

The findings regarding safety and user perception further relate to prospect–refuge theory, which suggests that people prefer environments where they feel both secure and able to observe their surroundings. Poor lighting and isolated areas reduce users' sense of safety, thereby negatively impacting their overall experience.

Finally, the issue of poor maintenance highlighted in the findings reinforces conclusions from empirical studies reviewed earlier. Deteriorating infrastructure and lack of regular upkeep reduce the functional and aesthetic quality of campus spaces, ultimately affecting user satisfaction and daily experience.

4.4 CASE STUDY FINDINGS

The faculty of Environmental Science is a modern and well equipped faculty building, located within the university of Benin. The building was designed to provide comfortable and adequate conditions for various students to learn with the goal of fostering a positive learning environment for the students.

Figure 6&7 showing lighting quality in the faculty studios

LIGHTING QUALITY: The pictures above shows how much lighting is available in the studio for users. Sufficient lighting is provided for usage in the faculty building.


Figure 8&9 shows the ventilation adequacy in the faculty building

VENTILATION ADEQUACY: The pictures above shows the amount of windows and doors available in each space in the building therefore allowing for natural movement of air in and out of the spaces and building as a whole.


Figure 10&11 shows the thermal comfort in the faculty building

THERMAL COMFORT: The pictures above shows the interior and exterior of the faculty building therefore shows how much the environment and the architecture of the building affects the temperature of the spaces in the building.


Figure 12&13 shows the ease of navigation in the faculty building

EASE OF NAVIGATION: The pictures above shows the ease of navigation inside the faculty of Environmental Science and how it's users interact with it. The provision of staircases and the complexity of the design.


Figure 14&15 shows safety perception in the faculty building

SAFETY PERCEPTION: The pictures above shows the safety perceptions in the faculty environment. The main entrance into the faculty environment and faculty building.

4.5 CONCLUSION

This chapter presented and analyzed the data collected on the influence of architecture on human experience within the University of Benin. The findings from the questionnaire responses revealed that architectural elements such as lighting, ventilation, spatial layout, accessibility, and maintenance significantly affect users' comfort, behaviour, and overall satisfaction.

The analysis showed that while some aspects of the campus environment are functional, there are notable challenges related to environmental comfort, inadequate social spaces, poor circulation, and insufficient maintenance. These issues were found to negatively impact users' emotional well-being, productivity, and sense of belonging.

CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION.

5.1 SUMMARY OF THE STUDY

This study examined the influence of architecture on human experience within the university of Benin, with it's focus on how the architectural elements affects the mental and physical well-being of the students. The comfort, behavior, emotional and overall user satisfaction of the students.

This study was guided by major objectives which includes assessment of the environment and it's factors such as, lighting, ventilation, thermal comfort, spatial layout, accessibility and circulation, as well as how it influences social interactions and psychological experiences within the university.

A descriptive survey research design was adopted. It was supported by observational methods. Data were collected from 49 respondents, comprising of students, academic staff, and non-academic staff, using structured questionnaires and an observation checklist. The collected data was analyzed using descriptive

statistical tools such as frequency distributions and percentages. Which was then used as the basis to get the opinions of the occupants of the building used.

Findings from the study revealed that architectural features significantly influence human experience on campus. Issues such as poor ventilation, inadequate lighting, thermal discomfort, inefficient spatial organization, limited social spaces, and poor maintenance were identified as major factors affecting users' satisfaction and daily activities as pointed out in the previous chapter. This findings were gotten from the occupants of the faculty of Environmental Science building.

5.2 CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that architecture plays a critical role in shaping human experience within the University of Benin. The quality of the built environment directly affects users' comfort, productivity, emotional well-being, and social interaction within the campus.

While some campus facilities meet basic functional requirements, many fall short in providing optimal environmental conditions and user-centered designs that can be used freely. Inadequate maintenance, poor accessibility, and insufficient social and recreational spaces further reduce the quality of the campus experience therefore reducing the impact of the learning environment for students.

Hence, improving architectural design and facility management is essential for enhancing the overall well-being and performance of campus users. A more human-centered approach to design and planning will significantly improve user satisfaction and the effectiveness of the university environment boosting learning ability of the students.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed to improve learning environment for students:

- Improvement of Environmental Comfort

University authorities should improve ventilation, lighting, and thermal conditions in buildings through proper design upgrades and installation of suitable systems.

- Enhancement of Spatial Planning and Circulation

Clear signage, better layout organization, and improved circulation routes should be implemented to ease movement and navigation across campus.

- Provision of Adequate Social Spaces

More open spaces, shaded areas, seating arrangements, and recreational facilities should be developed to encourage social interaction and relaxation.

- Adoption of Human-Centered Design Principles

Future campus developments should prioritize user needs, including comfort, accessibility, safety, and functionality.

- Improvement in Maintenance Practices

Regular maintenance, renovation of deteriorating structures, and proper facility management should be prioritized to enhance the quality of the built environment.

- Enhancement of Safety and Accessibility

Adequate lighting, security measures, and accessibility features such as ramps and handrails should be provided across campus.

5.4 SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES

Future research can explore:

- Comparative studies between different Nigerian universities.
- The impact of smart and sustainable design on user experience.
- In-depth analysis of specific building types such as hostels or lecture halls.
- The relationship between architecture and academic performance.

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