

Architectural Morality of the International Conference Center (ICC) Abuja in Abuja

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ABSTRACT

The Abuja International Conference Centre (AICC) is the subject of this study, which explores morality in relation to its architectural influence, construction methods, and operational ethics. In addition to being a philosophical or cultural concept, morality—which is defined as the ability to distinguish between right and wrong—also serves as a foundational idea in the building sector. The concept of "moral architecture" postulates that organizations such as the AICC have the power to shape cultural norms and attitudes. The AICC is built with sustainable techniques and a dedication to ecological responsibility. Its use of eco-friendly materials, energy efficiency, and fair labor standards all represent a moral attitude. The center's moral importance is further highlighted by the hosting of a range of activities, some of which advance social justice and education. However, its moral consistency is called into doubt when it hosts events occasionally that propagate destructive views. Evaluating the AICC's moral integrity also heavily depends on its participation in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs and its tolerance for cultural diversity in a multicultural environment. This study assesses the center's impact on visitors and on society at large through end-user reviews. All things considered, the Abuja International Conference Centre is an example of moral architecture in Nigeria because of its dedication to ethical labor standards, environmental sustainability, and cultural sensitivity.

Keywords: Moral Architecture, Environment, Ethics, Sustainable

INTRODUCTION

Morality is the division of intents, choices, and deeds into appropriate (good) and inappropriate (wrong) categories. A set of rules or principles that come from a code of behavior from a specific philosophy, religion, or culture might be called morality, or it can come from a universal norm. SEVİM 2021 state that the idea of morality, which is defined as temperament, character, or manners, represents people's freely chosen behaviors as well as their ingrained character structures. Morality is the endeavor to use reason to direct one's behavior while equally weighing the interests of each individual whose behavior will be impacted by one's actions (Bannavittayakit 2011). To suppress or regulate self-interest and enable cooperative societies, moral systems are defined as "interlocking sets of values, virtues, norms, practices, identities, institutions, technologies, and evolved psychological mechanisms." This definition meets the needs of the industry (JERETIČ 2023).

The concept of "moral architecture" relates to the notion that people who interact with structures and the built environment may be affected morally or ethically. This idea is based on the idea that architecture influences society values and human behavior in addition to being aesthetically pleasing and practical. As with any other subject of study, morality is essential in the building industry. Though there is much disagreement on this point, most people concur that the largest issue facing the construction sector is unethical behavior (Ramli et al 2023). Situationism is the prevailing moral ideology among professionals in the building business. According to this approach, experts in the building business may have an immoral attitude in practice given Nigeria's current sociopolitical and economic circumstances since situational factors have a significant impact on their behavior (Tijjani & Kolawole 2023). In 2020, Heney employed the metaphor of "moral architecture" to depict

the systematized and encouraging structure of moral reasoning and ethical behavior in society. The term "moral architecture" describes the fundamental ideas and precepts that influence our moral reasoning and behaviors, much way a building's structural framework directs and supports its form. Moral architecture is not only beneficial but also essential.

Abuja International Conference Centre (ICC) is located at South Herbert Macaulay Way (Garki), Abuja, Nigeria. It is among the most well-known locations in the nation is this convention center.

The Abuja International Conference Center was constructed in the year 1980. It is famous for having hosted President Ibrahim Babaginda's Consistory, which was in charge of examining and revising the Nigerian Constitution at the time. The Center offers top-notch, internationally recognized convention and exhibition facilities to Abuja's central business sector. Up to 9,000 conventions may be held thanks to separate exhibition and convention levels that are backed by break-out spaces. Alternatively, banquets on the two levels may hold up to 4,900 people and 4,000 people, respectively. Additionally, a feature tower with a bar and rotating observation restaurant at the top that can seat 300 people will be included.



Source: Tricon Food Services Consultant



Source : Tricon Food Services Consultant



Source: Tricon Food Services Consultant



Source: Tricon Food Services Consultant

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of Morality

Several definitions of morality show that it is the principles of good and bad or right and wrong and a preference for the good and bad or right and wrong and a preference for the good and the right. Rachel (2010) says Moral philosophy as the study of what morality is and what it requires. David Francis (2022) submits that it is the determination of what actually is right or wrong. Schofield (2016) put morality as: “a behavior that is acceptable by society”. (Kılıç, 2012) opined that moral vary by time, society, and culture, and exhibit spontaneous changes of behavior. Özlem (2004) put it as "the network of values, beliefs, norms, orders, prohibitions, and designs of persons, group, social class, nation, or cultural environment in a specific period of time and that are guided actions". Morality is a call for preventing the wrong and doing right things. Özge Maviş Sevim (2021).

Architectural Morality in Public Spaces

Architectural morality is the ethical guidelines architects must adhere to while designing building for the public. Bert Olivier (2016) cited Harries (1997), that architecture has significant moral effects because buildings are more than mere shapes and spaces, they influence behavioral change; instill cultural values, and social interactions. Like conference centers, public buildings serve as hubs for social interaction and ought to promote societal values that support unity, accessibility, and sustainability. The practice of architectural design is strengthened by ethical obligations which an effect on lives of people, the communities, and the environment.

Moral Philosophy and Architecture

Architecture is linked historically with moral philosophy. In "The Ethics of Architecture" Karsten Harries (1997), suggests that architecture should serve a higher than aesthetics and functionality—it should impact to human well-being. The idea that public buildings, including conference centers, must support social and cultural values, making them accessible and open to all, is emphasized. Harries pushed further that the morality of public spaces depends on the ability to form environment for equality and social interaction.

In "The Ethical Function of Architecture" (1998), Vittorio Gregotti expressed this opinion that public spaces should be functional as well as promote a sense of belonging and moral responsibility. He argues that architecture plays a pivotal role in creating environments that support ethical living among diverse ethnicity.

Cultural Representation and National Identity

International Conference centre are usually designed to showcase of national integrity and values, which incorporates a moral measures that reflects to cultural image. Frampton (2011), emphasized that public buildings should reflect cultural values above foreign architectural styles. This he termed "critical

regionalism," where architects blend modern design with local traditions, materials, and techniques to create morally responsible architecture that respects and honors cultural heritage.

Abuja International Conference Centre (ICC), reflects Nigerian values, traditions, and identity, though, with lots of contemporary features contributing to a sense of pride and ownership among local citizens.

Morality in conference centre, emphasises the need for designs that are inclusive, sustainable, culturally relevant, and reflective of ethical responsibility. Architects are morally obligated to create spaces that promote social equity, cultural representation, and environmental stewardship. This can be achieved by integrating functionality with aesthetics, and ensuring ethical considerations in conference centre to enhance the well-being of society and reflect its values.

Morality Analysis of Abuja International Conference Centre (Aicc)

In the construction industry, morality is frequently associated with how buildings affect the environment. Environmental and General Building requirements, which specify the requirements and standards for environmental sustainability, health, safety, and general construction practices within building projects, are usually included in Section 6 of a building code or regulation. The Abuja International Convention Centre (AICC) was built utilizing sustainable methods to reduce environmental impact and demonstrates a moral commitment to ecological responsibility. This covers the use of eco-friendly building materials, energy conservation, and appropriate waste management.

A crucial component of ethics in the construction sector is "personal ethics," which is commonly understood by industry experts to mean simply treating people with the same level of candor that they expect to be treated. However, it has been stated that professionals generally have a tendency to feel that their duties to their client come before their duties to other parties, such the public (Vee & Skitmore 2003). Another moral aspect is the ethics of the labor utilized in the construction of the AICC. Fair labor procedures were adhered to in the construction, guaranteeing that workers received just compensation and safe working conditions. This aligned with moral concepts of justice and human dignity.

The type of events the AICC hosts can also be used to assess its moral character. Every year, it holds a number of prestigious national and international events related to many industries. Numerous events are planned by this, including galas, major banquets, consumer and trade exhibits, concerts, and other special occasions. Thousands of attendees, organizers, and exhibitors assemble at the exhibition center to utilize the adaptable and practical areas designed just for their needs. The players are keeping pace with the industry's expanding demands. The Abuja International Conference Center is among the best venues for any kind of gathering. The center consistently organizes morally-aligned programs that advance social justice, education, and peace. On the other hand, it has hosted events that spread destructive ideology or immoral behavior, which is perceived as a compromise of its moral position.

Another moral component is the AICC's involvement with the neighborhood. Through its participation in CSR initiatives, including assisting regional nonprofits, offering educational opportunities, and promoting neighborhood development, Abuja International Conference Center exhibits a dedication to moral and ethical standards.

The AICC functions within a multicultural setting. In this situation, morality is upholding and encouraging cultural sensitivity and making sure that no religious or cultural group is marginalized or offended by occurrences. The center's capacity to promote intercultural understanding and communication is a testament to its moral rectitude.

A crucial factor in analyzing a building's moral value is the end user review. The highlights of several of the Abuja International Conference Center's final reviews are shown here.

1. I had the privilege of attending the NOG Conference in the Abuja International Conference Centre, and I have to admit that it was an impressive experience.

2. The Abuja International Conference Centre is a cutting-edge venue with everything needed to accommodate major gatherings. There is plenty of room for guests thanks to the modern and practical architecture. The main conference room was roomy, had cozy chairs, and had great acoustics, all of which contributed to the speakers' enjoyable delivery. The dining spaces and restrooms at the center were spotless and kept up nicely. The conference center is conveniently located in the center of Abuja, making it accessible from all areas of the city. Attendees from out of town will find it convenient as there are many lodging alternatives close by. Because of the well-lit and secure surroundings, there is a comfortable. The Abuja International Conference Centre staff was polite and professional. They made sure everything went according to plan and helped out as needed. Their efficiency and organization were clear from the moment they registered until the session ended. The Nigerian Oil and Gas (NOG) Conference proved to be a highly illuminating and educational occasion. It gathered together professionals, experts, and leaders in the field to talk about the newest developments, difficulties, and prospects facing Nigeria's oil and gas industry. The workshops covered a wide range of issues, including market dynamics, legislative updates, and technical improvements, and the speakers were very knowledgeable. The NOG Conference offered superb networking possibilities. I got the opportunity to speak and engage with important industry players, creating relationships that might (by Chizzy Ofodile 2024).
3. A great place for any World Class event! Well situated in the core heart of the Business District. Easily accessible from all area in the State. Exquisite layout and well managed facilities (by Oshoma Okiki 2023)
4. A well-known and ancient Abuja event venue. Claimed to be a global convention hub, but with no distinguished history. The faculty desperately needs an update and capable facility administration. The site is easily accessible and strategically located, however it is not exactly close enough to popular hotel destinations to walk or drive there. It is still a preferred location for events that are primarily sponsored by the government (by Reginald Bassey 2023).
5. I had a great experience that was overwhelming. The center is vast, can hold a lot of people, and has a large dining hall, massive speakers, strict security, and so on (by Vala Mohammed 2023).
6. Since its construction in 1991, the Abuja International Conference Centre (ICC) has functioned as the hub for a range of domestic and global events, such as trade shows, conferences, and exhibitions. This old institution is surprisingly well-maintained, with several spacious halls that can be used for your needs. It's a quite historic building with a well-kept, lush green setting and a sizable parking lot to accommodate the large number of people visiting the center. It's a beautiful sight (Tochukwu Uzoho 2022).
7. The city's premier venue for events and conferences is the International Conference Centre. It was initially constructed with the intention of hosting official and government events, such as international conferences. Later, it was made available to the general public, and anyone planning a special event can reserve the space for anything from weddings and exhibitions to training sessions and musical performances. Since then, the facility has held numerous concerts and events in addition to the CHOGM Commonwealth Heads of Government summit. Facility management is constantly available to guarantee efficient service delivery, and security is often of the highest caliber. The main conference hall's back entrance is home to the booking office, which is open to the public for reservations and inquiries. I advise (Valacci Ogli Joe 2022).
8. In 1980, the Abuja International Conference Center was constructed. It is famous for being the residence of the consistent then-President Ibrahim Babaginda, who oversaw the rewriting and revision of the Nigerian constitution. The AICC has hosted numerous national and regional conferences, religious gatherings, summits, and initiatives during the past ten years. This place is quite safe. A notepad is necessary for taking notes during a conference, according to conventions. A camera to record the occasion! This versatile space can host a range of activities, including conferences, seminars, receptions, and more. I am truly struck by the beauty of the architecture (Maurice Nelson 2023).

- This location is near Radio House in Abuja's area 11, Garki. It's a public space with a large hall that can be rented out for events like large conferences or seminars. Various security organizations, including the Nigerian Army, Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corp, and Nigeria Police Force, have tight protection around the area. Additionally, it has a well-maintained internal road system, lots of parking spaces that can hold several automobiles, flowers, and umbrella trees (Stephen Bege 2022).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Abuja International Conference Centre's morality has been assessed in light of its labor ethics, environmental policies, operational justice, event types it hosts, community involvement, respect for cultural diversity, and end user reviews. All of these elements work together to support its moral standing as a public institution.



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