

Classification of Igbo Traditional Building Finishes using Architectural Standard for Preservation of the Material Culture of a People.

***Ikenna Michael Onuorah, Agbonome P.C. and Bons N. Obiadi**

Department of Architecture, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra state, Nigeria.

***Corresponding Author**

DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.47772/IJRISS.2023.7645>

Received: 24 May 2023; Accepted: 02 June 2023; Published: 01 July 2023

ABSTRACT

The Igbo people in Nigeria have a rich cultural heritage, including their unique building techniques and finishes. Traditional building finishes, such as mud plastering, natural dyeing, and intricate wood carvings, were once highly valued due to their availability, affordability, and cultural significance. However, with globalization and increased access to imported construction materials, there has been a shift away from traditional finishes towards imported alternatives. Imported building finishes such as ceramic tiles, synthetic paints, and industrial coatings have become popular due to their perceived durability, convenience, and association with affluence. However, the lack of formal recognition and support for Igbo traditional building practices has led to a loss of knowledge and skills among the younger generation of builders. This loss of cultural heritage has implications for the overall vitality and resilience of Igbo communities. This study identified and classified Igbo traditional building finishes using architectural standards to preserve the material culture of a people and to serve as an architectural repository.

Keywords: Finishes, Traditional Buildings, Classification, Igbo Architecture, Building Finishes.

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria, a country rich in diverse cultures, is home to the Igbo people, one of its major ethnic groups. The Igbo people have a rich cultural heritage that encompasses various aspects of their lives, including their architectural practices. Prior to colonialism, this rich architectural heritage was visibly seen in their unique building techniques and finishes. Traditional building finishes in Igbo architecture were once highly valued and used extensively in the construction of houses and other structures in Igboland. Igbo traditional building finishes, characterized by the use of locally sourced materials and craftsmanship, have a long history rooted in the cultural practices and values of the Igbo people. These finishes included techniques such as mud plastering, thatch, natural dyeing, wood partitions, and intricate wood carvings, which not only added aesthetic appeal but also served functional purposes such as insulation and waterproofing (Ugbo, 2015).

Plate 1: A shrine finished with mud plaster, thatch roof, and decorated with natural dye (uli paintings) in Imo State.



Source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/426153183474184419/>

Plate 2: one-story building finished with mud and timber in Aniwa-olu, Delta State



Source: Author fieldwork, 2022

In the past, Igbo communities heavily relied on indigenous building materials and techniques due to their availability, affordability, and cultural significance. The use of locally sourced materials also promoted sustainability and reduced the ecological footprint associated with the transportation and manufacturing of imported finishes (Akande, 2018). Traditional finishes were considered a source of pride, reflecting the community's cultural identity and connection to their ancestral heritage (Ezenwaji, 2017).

Plate 3: A hut in Ebonyi state plastered with Mud and thatch



Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2022

However, with the advent of globalization and increased access to imported construction materials, there has been a gradual shift away from traditional finishes towards imported alternatives. The allure of modernity, perceived prestige, and the influence of Western architectural trends have contributed to this transformation (Akande, 2018). Imported building finishes such as ceramic tiles, synthetic paints, and industrial coatings have gained popularity due to their perceived durability, convenience, and association with affluence.

Plate 4: The residence of HRH Eze Nwaji Odaa of Ugwulangu Kingdom finished with imported materials (glass window, aluminum roofing sheet, plastered with cement, and imported paint etc).



Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2022

Furthermore, the lack of formal recognition and support for Igbo traditional building practices has further contributed to their abandonment. The emphasis on standardized building codes and regulations often overlooks the unique construction techniques and finishes employed by the Igbo people. Nwafor (2017) argues that the absence of institutional support and education about the significance of traditional finishes has resulted in a loss of knowledge and skills among the younger generation of builders.

The consequences of this abandonment extend beyond aesthetics. The decline in the use of Igbo traditional building finishes poses a threat to cultural heritage and identity. Igbo architecture has long been an essential part of the community's cultural expression and serves as a visual reminder of their history and values. Igwe (2019) stresses that the loss of these traditional finishes diminishes the sense of pride and connection to their ancestral roots. It has led to the erosion of cultural identity and the loss of traditional knowledge and craftsmanship. As younger generations prioritize imported finishes, the skills and techniques required for traditional finishes are not being passed down, leading to a decline in the mastery of these art forms (Ugbo, 2015). This loss of cultural heritage has implications for the overall vitality and resilience of Igbo communities.

Statement of Problem

The abandonment of Igbo traditional building finishes in favor of imported alternatives is a significant concern for the preservation of cultural heritage and identity. The availability and affordability of imported materials, the influence of globalization, and the lack of institutional support are key factors contributing to this shift. Recognizing the value of traditional finishes, raising awareness, and implementing supportive policies can help restore their rightful place in Igbo architecture, ensuring the preservation of cultural identity for future generations.

Aim

The aim of this study is to classification of Igbo traditional building finishes using architectural standards for preservation of the material culture of a people.

Objectives

The objectives of this study are to:

1. Elucidate the term building finishes
2. Discuss Traditional building finishes in relation to the Igbo people.
3. Define classification in relation to building finishes
4. Discuss the adopted architectural standard for the classification of Igbo traditional building finishes.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Building Finishes

The term “building finishes” refers to the materials and elements that are applied to the interior and exterior surfaces of a building, typically for aesthetic or protective purposes (Ching & Adams, 2020). These finishes encompass a wide range of materials, such as paints, coatings, wallpapers, flooring, tiles, cladding, and other decorative elements. They play a vital role in defining the overall appearance, functionality, and durability of a structure (Mehta et al., 2018).

Building finishes are essential for enhancing the visual appeal of a building’s interior and exterior. They contribute to creating a specific ambiance, style, and atmosphere within a space (Ching & Adams, 2020). For instance, the choice of paint color, wall coverings, and flooring materials can significantly impact the perception of a room’s size, brightness, and overall design (AIA, 2017).

One of the primary purposes of building finishes is to enhance the visual appeal of a structure. The choice of finishes can significantly influence the overall architectural style and design concept of a building. For instance, the use of natural stone cladding and large glass windows can create a modern and sleek appearance, while exposed brickwork and timber finishes can convey a rustic and traditional aesthetic. According to Khan and Ahmed (2017), the visual impact of finishes is crucial in attracting occupants, visitors, and potential investors to a building.

In addition to aesthetics, building finishes also contribute to the functionality and comfort of a space. Flooring finishes, such as carpet, vinyl, or hardwood, can provide insulation, noise reduction, and ease of maintenance. Wall finishes, such as paint, wallpaper, or paneling, can define the ambiance, improve acoustics, and allow for easy cleaning and maintenance. According to Stovold and Rea (2018), these finishes have a significant impact on the occupant’s experience and well-being within the built environment.

Durability and longevity are important considerations when selecting building finishes. The finishes must be able to withstand wear and tear, environmental conditions, and regular maintenance activities. For example, exterior finishes should be resistant to weathering, moisture, and UV radiation, while interior finishes should be able to withstand frequent cleaning and usage. Adequate durability can reduce the need for frequent replacements or repairs, thereby minimizing costs and disruptions. According to Chotinun, Horpibulsuk, and Rachan (2019), the durability of finishes is a crucial factor in achieving sustainable and long-lasting buildings. Understanding the importance of building finishes requires examining their historical evolution, various types, and key considerations in their selection.

Historically, building finishes have played a crucial role in architectural styles and cultural expressions. In

ancient civilizations, such as Egypt and Mesopotamia, finishes were primarily made from natural materials like mud, straw, wood, and stone. These materials were chosen for their availability and ability to withstand local weather conditions. As civilizations advanced, the use of finishes expanded to include decorative elements, such as stucco, mosaic, and painted murals, which reflected cultural and artistic values.

The Industrial Revolution marked a significant shift in building finishes, with the introduction of mass production and new construction materials. This era witnessed the emergence of materials like iron, steel, glass, and concrete, which revolutionized the field of architecture. The development of manufacturing techniques allowed for the production of standardized finishes, enabling efficient construction and mass replication of building elements.

Today, building finishes encompass a wide range of materials, each with unique properties and applications. Common interior finishes include drywall, paint, wallpaper, ceramic tiles, carpeting, vinyl flooring, and wood paneling. These finishes serve to define spaces, enhance acoustics, provide insulation, and create a desired atmosphere. Exterior finishes, on the other hand, include materials such as brick, stone, stucco, metal cladding, glass, and composite panels. These finishes protect the building envelope from weather elements, prevent moisture intrusion, and contribute to energy efficiency.

The selection of building finishes involves careful consideration of several factors. Aesthetic preferences, architectural style, and the desired image or branding of a building often influence the choice of finishes. Additionally, performance characteristics, such as durability, fire resistance, acoustics, ease of maintenance, and sustainability, must be taken into account. Local building codes and regulations may also dictate the use of certain finishes, particularly in terms of fire safety and accessibility.

Building finishes have evolved significantly throughout history, reflecting cultural, technological, and societal changes. They encompass a wide array of materials and serve multiple purposes, including aesthetics, protection, and functionality. The selection of building finishes requires a careful balance between design preferences and practical considerations, taking into account factors such as durability, performance, and compliance with building codes and regulations.

According to Onuorah, Agbonome and Obiadi, 2022, building finishes are divided into interior and exterior finishes:

1. Interior finishes can include:
2. Wall finishes: Paint, wallpaper, plaster, paneling, and tiles are all common wall finishes.
3. Floor finishes: Flooring materials such as carpet, tile, hardwood, and vinyl are used to finish the floor of a building.
4. Ceiling finishes: Ceiling finishes can include paint, plaster, tiles, and other decorative elements.
5. Exterior finishes can include:
6. Wall finishes: Exterior wall finishes can include brick, stone, siding, stucco, and other materials.
7. Roof finishes: Roof finishes can include shingles, tiles, metal, and other materials.
8. Window finishes: These include materials such as blinds, curtains, and shutters that are used to cover windows and provide privacy and insulation.
9. Door finishes: These include materials such as paint, wood veneer, and hardware that are used to finish the surface of doors and enhance their functionality and appearance.

Traditional Building Finishes

Traditional building finishes refer to the materials and techniques used to adorn and protect the surfaces of buildings, reflecting the cultural, historical, and regional characteristics of a particular time and place. These finishes encompass a wide range of materials such as natural stones, wood, plaster, and pigments, as well as

various decorative elements like carvings, murals, and stucco work.

In traditional architecture, the choice of building finishes is often influenced by local availability of resources, climatic conditions, and the skills and knowledge of the craftsmen. For example, in regions abundant with limestone, such as the Mediterranean, traditional buildings often feature limestone facades. The use of local materials not only contributes to the aesthetic appeal but also ensures the durability and suitability of the finishes for the local climate and environmental conditions.

Igbo traditional building finishes encompass a variety of techniques and materials used in the construction and decoration of buildings by the Igbo people of Nigeria. These finishes serve functional, aesthetic, and cultural purposes, reflecting the rich architectural heritage and cultural values of the Igbo society. In this discussion, we will explore some of the prominent traditional building finishes used by the Igbo people, supported by relevant references.

One notable traditional building finish employed by the Igbo is the use of mud plaster or “nzu.” Nzu is a mixture of clay, water, and other organic materials such as crushed termite mounds or palm oil. It is applied to the walls of buildings as a plaster, providing a protective layer and enhancing thermal insulation. The use of nzu not only helps to regulate temperature but also imparts a characteristic reddish-brown color to the building surfaces (Nnamani, 2019).

Another common finish seen in Igbo traditional architecture is the decorative use of wood carving. Elaborately carved wooden panels, known as “ulo nta,” are placed on the exterior walls of buildings, particularly the gables. These carvings often feature intricate patterns, symbols, and motifs that represent various aspects of Igbo culture, such as ancestral lineage, social status, and religious beliefs (Arinze, 2011). Wood carving serves as a form of artistic expression, while also providing an additional layer of protection for the walls.

Wall painting is also an essential aspect of Igbo traditional building finishes. Natural pigments derived from minerals, plants, and other organic sources are used to create colorful patterns and designs on the walls. These patterns can include geometric shapes, abstract representations, and symbolic motifs, all of which carry cultural significance (Okeke-Agulu, 2015). The wall paintings not only beautify the building but also communicate messages, narratives, and historical events within the Igbo community.

Furthermore, the use of palm fronds or “mkpuru oka” is a distinct feature of Igbo traditional building finishes. Palm fronds are woven into intricate patterns and attached to the eaves and walls of buildings as a form of thatching. This thatched roofing technique provides insulation, protects against weather elements, and enhances the overall aesthetic appeal of the structure (Ademiluyi & Ekpo, 2018).

In conclusion, Igbo traditional building finishes encompass a range of techniques and materials that contribute to the beauty, functionality, and cultural significance of Igbo architecture. Mud plaster, wood carving, wall painting, and thatched roofing with palm fronds are just a few examples of the diverse range of finishes employed by the Igbo people. These finishes not only serve practical purposes but also showcase the artistic skills, cultural traditions, and historical narratives of the Igbo society.

Classification

Another classification method is based on the application method of the finish. Wallcoverings, such as wallpaper, vinyl coverings, fabric panels, and wood veneers, are categorized based on their application to interior walls. This classification helps professionals choose the appropriate wallcovering based on factors such as aesthetics, durability, and maintenance requirements (Ching, 2014).

Classification can also consider the performance characteristics of building finishes. For instance, specialized finishes like fire-resistant coatings, anti-graffiti coatings, anti-bacterial surfaces, and sound-absorbing materials are classified based on their specific functional properties. This classification allows professionals to identify and select finishes that meet specific performance requirements (Ching, 2014).

Furthermore, building finishes can be classified based on their aesthetic properties. Flooring finishes, such as carpet, ceramic tiles, hardwood, laminate, vinyl, and stone, are categorized according to their visual appearance and texture. This classification enables designers to choose finishes that align with the desired aesthetic vision for a space (Ching, 2014).

In summary, classification in relation to building finishes involves categorizing and organizing materials, products, and systems based on factors such as material composition, application method, performance characteristics, and aesthetic properties. This process aids professionals in understanding the characteristics and applications of different finishes, facilitating informed decision-making during the design and construction of buildings.

METHODOLOGY

Several guiding conditions affect the choice or decision of a suitable research method. These include the type of research question posed, the extent of control an investigator has over actual behavioural events, and the degree of focus on either contemporary or historical events. For this research work, the methodology adopted is the case study research strategy because of its suitability.

The population of the study basically consists of Igbo-speaking states of the Southeast (Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Imo) and parts of south-south (Delta and Rivers State) where Igbos make up to 25% of their population.

A secondary source of data was used in this study. This is characterized by data from existing bodies of knowledge namely, textbooks, published articles in local and international journals, dictionaries, directories, and the Internet.

A descriptive method of analysis was employed in this work. Data collected through a review of existing literature on traditional Igbo buildings will be analyzed and classified using the standard architectural classification scheme and presented in tables.

FINDINGS

As indicated earlier, this study employed secondary data sources. Data collected from journals were reviewed. According to Onuorah, Agbonome, and Obiadi, 2023 in their articles a comparative study of Igbo traditional building finishings; precolonial, colonial and post-colonial; they reviewed various traditional Igbo building finishes observed within the study area as thus:

Mud:

Mud, also known as clay or earth, has been used as a building material and building finish for thousands of years (plate 5). It is a versatile and readily available resource that has been utilized by various civilizations across the world. Mud construction techniques are still employed today, particularly in areas where other building materials are scarce or expensive. As a building finish, mud offers several advantages, including its availability, low cost, sustainability, and natural aesthetic appeal.

Plate 5: Mud been mixed for use



Source: Onuorah, Agbonome, and Obiadi, 2023

Mud has a rich history as a building material and continues to be a sustainable and environmentally friendly option for construction. Its availability, thermal properties, and cultural significance make it a valuable resource in many regions. While there are challenges to overcome, mud construction techniques offer a unique blend of tradition and innovation in contemporary architecture.

BAMBOO (called achara or otosi)

Bamboo is a versatile and sustainable material that has gained popularity as a building finish in recent years (plate 6). Its unique properties make it an attractive choice for both interior and exterior applications.

Plate 6: Bamboo plants



Source: Onuorah, Agbonome, and Obiadi, 2023

Let's explore the advantages and considerations of using bamboo as a building finish:

1. **Sustainability:** Bamboo is a highly sustainable material due to its rapid growth rate and replenishment capacity. It is considered a renewable resource as it can be harvested within 3-5 years, unlike traditional timber that takes decades to mature. Additionally, bamboo plants release a significant amount of oxygen into the atmosphere, making them environmentally beneficial.
2. **Strength and Durability:** Bamboo has excellent strength-to-weight ratio, making it a durable building material. It has higher tensile strength than steel, allowing it to withstand heavy loads and

resist bending or warping. Properly treated and finished bamboo can be highly resistant to pests, decay, and moisture, enhancing its longevity.

3. **Aesthetic Appeal:** Bamboo offers a natural and aesthetically pleasing finish to any space. It has a distinct texture and warm color that adds warmth and character to interiors. Bamboo can be used in various design styles, ranging from traditional to contemporary, and can be finished in different ways to achieve desired appearances.
4. **Versatility:** Bamboo can be utilized in a wide range of applications, including flooring, wall cladding, ceilings, furniture, and decorative elements. It can be used both indoors and outdoors, providing continuity and a harmonious connection between different areas of a building.
5. **Easy Installation:** Bamboo finishes are relatively easy to install, especially when using pre-fabricated bamboo panels or planks. They can be installed using traditional construction methods such as nailing, gluing, or floating systems. The lightweight nature of bamboo also simplifies handling and transportation.
6. **Maintenance:** Bamboo finishes generally require minimal maintenance. Regular cleaning with a damp cloth and periodic application of protective coatings can help preserve its appearance and protect it from wear and tear. However, like any natural material, bamboo may require occasional refinishing or repairs over time.

Bamboo can be an excellent building finish, providing sustainability, strength, aesthetic appeal, and versatility. By considering factors such as moisture resistance, sourcing, and fire safety, bamboo can be utilized effectively to create visually appealing and environmentally conscious spaces.

PALM MIDRIB (known as *ofolo*) used as rafters and for ceiling

The use of palm midrib as a building finish is a creative and sustainable approach to construction (plate 7). The palm midrib refers to the central vein or rib found in palm leaves, which is usually discarded as waste after the leaves are harvested. However, it can be repurposed as a unique and eco-friendly material for various architectural applications, including building finishes.

Plate 7: Palm frond (*ofolo*) and palm mid rib



Source: Onuorah, Agbonome, and Obiadi, 2023

WOOD (called osisi)

Wood has been traditionally used as a building finish in many regions, including Igbo communities in Nigeria (see plate 8). Igbo architecture often incorporates wood as a prominent material due to its availability, durability, and aesthetic appeal. Wood can be utilized in various ways to enhance the appearance and functionality of buildings in Igbo culture.

Plate 8: Wood



Source: Onuorah, Agbonome, and Obiadi, 2023

1. **Wall Cladding:** Wood can be used as a decorative covering for walls, both externally and internally. In Igbo traditional architecture, wooden planks or panels are sometimes applied to the exterior of buildings, giving them a distinct and rustic appearance. On the interior, wooden cladding can be used to enhance the aesthetics of rooms, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere.
2. **Doors and Windows:** Wood is a popular choice for crafting doors and windows in Igbo architecture. Carpenters often create intricately designed doors and window frames using durable and aesthetically pleasing woods. These wooden elements can be adorned with carvings and patterns that reflect Igbo cultural motifs, adding an artistic touch to the overall building design.
3. **Roofs:** Wooden beams and rafters are commonly used to support the roofing structure in Igbo buildings. The beams can be exposed and left visible, showcasing the natural beauty of the wood. Additionally, wooden shingles or thatch can be used as a roofing material in traditional Igbo architecture, providing insulation and protection against the elements.
4. **Decorative Features:** Wood is frequently employed for crafting decorative elements within Igbo buildings. Intricately carved wooden panels, friezes, and moldings can be incorporated into pillars, walls, and ceilings to add visual interest and cultural significance. These decorative features often depict traditional symbols, stories, or ancestral motifs, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of the Igbo people.

It's important to note that while wood has been historically used in Igbo architecture, modern construction practices have also introduced other materials such as concrete, steel, and glass. The combination of traditional and contemporary materials is often seen in contemporary Igbo building designs, blending cultural heritage with modern functionality and aesthetics.

Thatch

Thatch is a traditional roofing material made from dry vegetation such as straw, reeds, grass, or palm leaves (see plates 9 – 10). It has been used as a roof finish for centuries in many parts of the world, particularly in rural and tropical areas. Overall, thatch can be a beautiful and environmentally friendly choice for a roof finish, but it requires proper installation, maintenance, and consideration of local regulations to ensure its

long-term viability and safety.

Plate 9: weaved palm frond for thatch roof.



Source: Onuorah, Agbonome, and Obiadi, 2023

Plate 10: Grasses (straw) for making thatch roof.



Source: Onuorah, Agbonome, and Obiadi, 2022

Natural Dye (*Uli/ Urie*)

Uli is a traditional art form practiced by the Igbo people. It involves intricate designs and patterns painted on various surfaces, including walls, pottery, fabrics, and even the human body. Historically, Uli was used for decorative purposes and also as a form of communication, expressing ideas, values, and cultural symbolism.

Uli painting as a building finish in Igboland can be done using natural pigments sourced from various plants, minerals, and organic materials (see plate 11). These pigments are mixed with binders such as clay, oil, or gum to create a paint-like substance. The artists then use brushes or their fingers to apply the paint on human body or onto the walls, creating intricate patterns and designs (see plate 12 – 13).

Plate 11: African women decorating beautifying themselves with Uli/ urie paintings.



Source: <https://alache.wordpress.com/2020/09/04/uli-art-the-pursuit-of-beauty/>

Plate 12: African women decorating beautifying themselves with Uli/ urie paintings.



Source: <https://alache.wordpress.com/2020/09/04/uli-art-the-pursuit-of-beauty/>

Plate 13: The exterior view of a pre-colonial dwelling at Ugbenu, Awka North L.G.A Anambra State with uli/urie paintings on the wall.



Source: Author's Fieldwork (2022)

The use of Uli painting as a building finish adds a unique and culturally significant touch to the architecture in Igboland. It helps to preserve and promote the traditional art form while also beautifying the environment. However, it's important to note that not all buildings in Igboland utilize Uli painting as a finish. It is more commonly found in traditional or culturally significant structures, as well as in contemporary artistic expressions that draw inspiration from Igboland's heritage.

It's worth mentioning that architectural practices and preferences may vary across different regions and communities within Igboland. While the Uli painting has a strong cultural significance in the Igbo community, the use of this technique as a building finish may differ depending on individual choices and the specific context of each project.

Classification

In the context of building finishings, classification refers to the categorization of different types of finishings based on either their materials, properties and intended use (Arshadi, 2001).

This could include categories of materials for flooring, wall finishes, roof covering, ceiling finishings, doors, windows, and so on.

According to Arshadi, 2001, there are various ways to classify building finishes, and the specific classification scheme used may depend on the context and purpose of the classification. According to Arshadi, 2001, some architectural standards of classification schemes for building finishes include:

1. **Material:** Building finishes can be classified based on the materials they are made from, such as wood, metal, plaster, stone, or ceramic.
2. **Function:** Building finishes can be classified based on their primary function or purpose, such as wall coverings, floor coverings, ceiling treatments, roof covering, door covering or window covering, etc.
3. **Style:** Building finishes can be classified based on the design style or aesthetic they are intended to achieve, such as modern, traditional, rustic, or industrial.
4. **Performance:** Building finishes can be classified based on their performance characteristics, such as their durability, fire resistance, sound insulation, or energy efficiency.

This study considered the classification of building finishes based on their functions or purpose (see Table 1.0).

Table 1.0: Classification of Igbo Traditional Building Finishes

| S/n | Item | Traditional Building Finishes |
|-----|--|---|
| 1 | Wall (<i>mgbidi</i>) a. Exterior b. Interior | Mud (known as <i>ajauno</i> or <i>ajaoto</i>), <i>uli/ urie</i> used for colouring, wood (known as <i>osisi</i>) Mud (known as <i>ajauno</i> or <i>ajaoto</i>), <i>uli/ urie</i> used for colouring, motifs, wood (known as <i>osisi</i>), art work (<i>nsibidi</i>) |
| 2 | Floor (<i>ala ulo</i>) | Mud (known as <i>ajauno</i> or <i>ajaoto</i>), shells of palm kernel, wood (<i>osisi</i>) |
| 3 | Ceiling (<i>n'uko</i>) | midrib of palm frond (<i>ofolo ngwo</i>), bamboo stick |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 4 | Roof Covering (<i>mkpuchi ulọ</i>) | Mud (known as ajauno or ajaoto), thatch roof (known as <i>ata, aju, akilika</i>), raffia palm (known as <i>akanya, atani</i>) |
| 5 | Fenestration: a. Door (<i>uzọ</i>) b. Window (<i>mgbupu</i>) | mat (known as <i>ute</i>) weaved from raffia palm, wood (<i>osisi</i>). mat (known as <i>ute</i>) weaved from raffia palm, wood (<i>osisi</i>). |
| 6 | Furniture (<i>ngwá ulọ</i>) | Mud (known as ajauno or ajaoto), wood (<i>osisi</i>). |

Source: Onuorah, Agbonome, and Obiadi, 2023

CONCLUSION

The abandonment of Igbo traditional building finishes in favor of imported alternatives is a significant concern for the preservation of cultural heritage and identity. The availability and affordability of imported materials, the influence of globalization, and the lack of institutional support are key factors contributing to this shift. Recognizing the value of traditional finishes, raising awareness, and implementing supportive policies can help restore their rightful place in Igbo architecture, ensuring the preservation of cultural identity for future generations.

This study classified the identified traditional Igbo building finishes based on their function for the purpose of preservation and also to serve as an architectural repository.

REFERENCES

- Ademiluyi, I. A., & Ekpo, O. A. (2018). A Comparative Analysis of Modern Building Materials and Traditional Materials in the Construction Industry. In Proceedings of the International Conference on Infrastructure Development in Africa (ICIDA) (pp. 6-14).
- Akande, T. (2018). Reviving Traditional Nigerian Architecture for Sustainable Building Design. *International Journal of Engineering & Technology*, 7(2.27), 369-376.
- American Institute of Architects (AIA). (2017). *Architectural Graphic Standards* (12th ed.). Wiley.
- Arinze, F. (2011). The Aesthetics of Igbo Wood Carving in Traditional Architecture. *Journal of African Cultural Studies*, 23(1), 41-52.
- Ching, F. D. K. (2014). *Building Construction Illustrated* (6th ed.). John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- Ching, F. D. K., & Adams, C. (2020). *Building Construction Illustrated* (6th ed.). Wiley.
- Chotinun, T., Horpibulsuk, S., & Rachan, R. (2019). Influences of environmental conditions on the durability of architectural coatings in a tropical coastal environment. *Journal of Building Engineering*, 26, 100868.
- Ezenwaji, E. E. (2017). The Effect of Globalization on the Conservation of Traditional Igbo Architecture in Southeast
- Khan, Z., & Ahmed, A. (2017). Building facade finishes: An overview. *Procedia Engineering*, 196, 414-422.
- Mehta, M., Scarborough, W., & Armpriest, D. (2018). *Building Construction: Principles, Materials, and Systems* (3rd ed.). Pearson.
- Nnamani, C. C. (2019). Indigenous Architecture in Igboland: The Survival and Sustainability Challenges. *Journal of Multidisciplinary Engineering Science and Technology*, 6(6), 603-607.
- Okeke-Agulu, C. (2015). *Igbo Art and Aesthetics: The Uli Tradition and the Visual Arts*. Indiana University Press.
- Onuorah, I.M, Agbonome, P.C. and Obiadi, B.N, 2022. A Comparative Study of Igbo Traditional

Building Finishings; precolonial, colonial and post-colonial. International Journal of Research and Scientific Innovation (IJRSI) |Volume IX, Issue XII, December 2022|ISSN 2321-2705. DOI: [10.51244/IJRSI.2022.91208](https://doi.org/10.51244/IJRSI.2022.91208)

14. Stovold, J., & Rea, M. (2018). Investigating the impact of interior finishes on occupant satisfaction in sustainable buildings. *Architectural Science Review*, 61(1), 27-39.