

ABSTRACT - 4. CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES IN HERITAGE DISCOURSE - A CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF THE STATE OF THE ART IN HERITAGE DISCUSSIONS, CONSIDERING THE EVOLVING PERSPECTIVES AND CHALLENGES THAT HAVE EMERGED SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE VENICE CHARTER. EXAMINING THE RELEVANCE OF THE VENICE CHARTER IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT, WITH A FOCUS ON CHALLENGES POSED BY THE WESTERN DIVIDE BETWEEN NATURE AND CULTURE, THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF METROPOLISES, SOCIAL INEQUITIES, THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES, DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS, AMONG OTHERS.

M. O. T. N. A: THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MUSEUMS AND MONUMENT'S PROJECT ON THE LEGACY OF TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE IN NIGERIA.

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Architecture is one of the basic elements of every nation's heritage. Thus all over the world, conservation of architectural monuments is regarded as a cardinal issue, preserving immovable cultural properties. Conservation and restoration of buildings in stone and brick is relatively easy, but in Nigeria the basic materials used are earth, Limestone, timber and grass. This paper is an account of MOTNA, the open air Museum designed in the 1970s by the late Prof. Z. R. Dmochoski, a Polish architect and a specialist in tropical architecture. He also supervised the construction of the project until 1976 when it was taken over by the late Alhaji Baba Galadima.

MOTNA contains many of the most important examples of Nigerian traditional architecture in form of full-scale exact replicas, and occupies a very picturesque central part of the city of Joseph, Plateau State, Nigeria and of about 64 acres. The Commission situates professional and permanent staff members, as well as traditional builders, within the Jos museum premises for the sole purpose of preservation of the buildings 'in situ'.

The paper also examined / assessed how far the NCMM has adhered to the Venice Charter in the project for continuous preservation of traditional architecture.

Palavras-chave: traditional; heritage; architecture; replicas; conservation and restoration.