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# **JOURNAL OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS (NIAJ)**

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## **About NIAJ**

Journal of the Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIAJ) is an academic journal, which is coordinated by the Library and Publications Committee of the Nigerian Institute of Architects. The first issue of NIAJ was published in 1981. Before 2023 all copies of the journal were printed with ISSN 2315-8913, however since 2023, the journal is printed digitally.

The Journal of the Nigerian Institute of Architects, NIAJ publishes peer-reviewed, original research and review articles on architecture and the built environment in an open access format. NIAJ is a comprehensive journal, accepting articles that span the full extent of the social, behavioural and environmental sciences as well as the humanities. NIAJ aims to be the leading journal in architectural

research and practice matters. Through a rigorous review of relevant literature and evaluation of valid research methods in articles, the journal aims to be a publishing reference in the architecture field. While this journal is the flagship publication for The Nigerian Institute of Architects, papers are not restricted to the profession, rather multidisciplinary research is encouraged in line with global best practices.

NIAJ is calling for papers! All the manuscripts in architecture and civil engineering are welcome and appreciated. NIAJ publishes original research papers with high quality, and the submitted manuscript will go through peer-review process.

Editor-in Chief

**Prof Erekpitan O. Ola-Adisa, PhD MNIA**

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## **From the Chair, Library and Publications Committee**

I am pleased to present this special issue of the 2024 AGM papers, centred on the vital theme of "Architects as Agents of Social Transformation." This collection of insightful research and perspectives arrives at a crucial moment, as our society increasingly recognises the profound impact of the built environment on social equity, sustainability, and cultural preservation, with a particular emphasis on inclusivity.

This issue delves into key subthemes: Inclusive Design for Accessible and Equitable Spaces; Community-Engaged Architecture and Participatory Processes; Integrating Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Preservation; and The Architect's Role in Social Justice and Sustainable Development. These themes underscore the importance of designing for all members of society, ensuring that sustainable practices are inherently inclusive, from tourism to housing development.

The papers within this volume offer invaluable insights and frameworks for understanding how architects can actively contribute to positive social change through inclusive and sustainable design. They provide a hopeful vision for how we can build more inclusive, resilient, and culturally sensitive communities, ensuring that the

benefits of sustainable development are shared by everyone.

What shines through is a deep commitment to identifying pathways for positive, systemic change that prioritises inclusivity. Whether it's rethinking urban design to ensure accessibility for all, developing regenerative landscape practices that respect indigenous knowledge, or envisioning new governance structures that promote equitable access to resources, these papers provide a clear-eyed vision for how we can build a more equitable future for all, through sustainable and inclusive architectural practices.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the authors, reviewers, and the Editorial Board of the Library and Publications Committee who have dedicated their time and expertise to making this edition possible. Your contributions are invaluable, and we are honoured to showcase your work, which highlights the critical role of architects in creating a more inclusive and sustainable world.

**Arc Afolabi Adedeji, FNIA**

Chair, Library and Publications Committee

## Editorial

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this special edition of the 2024 AGM papers, dedicated to exploring "Architects as Agents of Social Transformation." The essays within offer fresh and insightful perspectives on the significant shifts occurring within our societies, economies, and environments. They underscore the vital part architects play in shaping a brighter future, notably in areas such as sustainable tourism, student accommodation, and the design of essential public spaces.

In a time that demands inventive answers to pressing societal problems, this collection is exceptionally timely and crucial. Our contributors have embraced the challenge of not only mapping the intricate forces driving social change but also charting courses toward more sustainable and equitable futures through architectural innovation. They concentrate on tourism that respects local communities and environments, student residences that are both functional and promote well-being, and the creation of essential spaces that address critical community needs.

The authors delve into a range of pressing issues, from promoting inclusive design and community involvement to tackling affordable housing challenges and integrating indigenous knowledge. The papers explore in detail how to develop tourism infrastructure that minimises environmental impact and celebrates local cultures, design student housing that builds community and supports learning, and create essential spaces – such as clinics and community centres – that are both practical and empowering. The breadth and depth of analysis are particularly

noteworthy, drawing on diverse viewpoints to provide comprehensive understandings of the transformations underway. This work is not merely theoretical. Throughout these papers, there runs a clear sense of urgency and dedication to identifying practical, actionable solutions. The ideas presented offer tangible strategies for architects to drive positive changes in tourism, education, and community welfare.

We believe that the readership of the NIA – including architects, built environment professionals, policymakers, and engaged citizens – will find great value in engaging with the insights presented in this volume. As we collectively work to create positive social impact through the built environment, with a particular focus on sustainable tourism, innovative student housing, and empowering public spaces, this publication serves as a vital resource for those seeking to build a fairer, more resilient, and culturally vibrant society.

The Journal of The Nigerian Institute of Architects is proud to showcase this important research and commends the editors and contributors for their outstanding work. I am confident that this collection will have a lasting impact on the critical conversations surrounding social transformation and the architect's key role in that process, especially concerning the development of responsible tourism, supportive student environments, and essential community infrastructure.

**Arc Prof E.O. Ola-Adisa, PhD FNIA**  
Editor-in - Chief



## Guide for Authors

NIAJ is a comprehensive journal, accepting articles that span the full extent of the social, behavioural and environmental sciences as well as the humanities. NIAJ aims to be the leading journal in architectural research and practice matters. Through a rigorous review of relevant literature and evaluation of valid research methods in articles, the journal aims to be a publishing reference in the architecture field. While this journal is the flagship publication for The Nigerian Institute of Architects, papers are not restricted to the profession, rather multidisciplinary research is encouraged in line with global best practices. The articles must be original and should not have been published previously, and the manuscript will be double-blind peer reviewed. NIAJ is a unique open access publication that provides free full text download of all articles published in the journal through the platform (

<https://niaj.org>) without any page charges or subscription requirements. Authors are invited to submit papers through the submission system. Once your article is accepted, you will receive an email from the submission system. The email contains a link to check the status of your article. Before you contribute to NIAJ, you should read the following contents

### *Types of paper*

Contributions falling into the following categories will be considered for publication: Original

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- Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed

### *Publishing ethics*

This journal operates a double-blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. The peer review process is following: Author submits paper to journal→ Editor's initial evaluation of paper (go to next step if it meets the requirements of journal, otherwise reject and inform author)→ Invite experts for peer review→ Experts send comments to editor→ Editor decides to accept (or reject and inform authors)→ Editor asks author to revise→ Author revises and submits revised paper→ Editor and/or original reviewers re-evaluate to decide further revisions needed or reject or accept → Inform author

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