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THE ROLE OF WOOD IN NIGERIAN HOME INTERIOR DECORATIONS (A CASE STUDY OF OGUN STATE AND LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA, SOUTH-WEST)

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ABSTRACT

Home is the base for each family member; it is, therefore, important to make it as comfortable and attractive for proper development and relaxation of the family members. Wood is one of the interior materials, that gives elegance and warmth ambiance to the room decorated. Many people prefer to use wood for interior design and often times, outdoors design. A wide range of modern interiors are more preferred in many contemporary homes in recent times. This paper covers the level of interest of consistent users of wooden materials in home interior design in Abeokuta, Ogun State and Surulere, Lagos State and also writes on the role of wood in Nigerian home interior decorations. The study was carried out in Abeokuta South local government of Ogun state and Surulere local government areas of Lagos state. Five wards were selected from each local government. From each ward selected, ten homes were selected randomly. Questionnaire was used for data collection based on the role and usage of wood in interior decorations. The data collected were analyzed using percentage, frequency distribution and bar chart. The result of finding shows that 74% of the respondents are interested in the use of wooden materials for their interior decoration articles and 40% of the respondents have quality of wooden furniture as the highest factor that influence the usage in home interior design. The study recommends that families should be well informed about the care and maintenance of wooden furniture and users of wooden furniture should consider the comfort of the furniture before purchase. The visual analysis describes the variety of the wood end use design, interior fitting, high classical joinery and veneers. Various spaces of teak woods are used in making furniture such as *afara*, mahogany, *sida*, ebony. These unveil interesting designs in home interior. A majority, about 75%, of teak woods are good as interior materials.

Keywords: Role of wood, Interior decorator, Choice of materials, Form of styles, Wood designs.

INTRODUCTION

In spite of the fact that some documentation have been done on the role of wooden interior design in various homes, enough attention has not been given to crafts modification in order to assess the use of various wooden materials for home interior decoration in both Abeokuta, Ogun state and Su-

rulere, Lagos state. There are factors that influence homes toward the use of wooden materials for home interior decoration and the various reasons why families are interested in different categories of woods and the view of the people and interior decorations. This paper would enhance the role of wood as one of the best interior decoration

materials in Nigerian homes.

The paper aimed at determining the factors influencing the use of wood in home interior design and discussed educational background of interior decorators in both cities. Wood, both refined and unrefined, has been used as a primary source of interior material for ages in beautifying the home, but the advancement in technology has reduced its use. According to Andreas, (2005), wood as an interior material is seen to have limitations, there was a gradual shift to steel and metal owing to their plasticity and flexibility. He opines that interior decorators are limited not by the material but by their knowledge of how the materials works. The advancement in technology has created more improvement and fantastic design in the utilization of wood. Fortunately its utilization as one of the major materials in interior decoration in Nigeria is gaining ground. The percentage of people that are of the view that, professionals in the interior decoration industry do not make use of appropriate woods as their interior materials is reducing gradually. The key to the minor hitch lies in the choice of decoration methods and choice of material. On the other hand, hindrance in the availability of sufficient wood meant for the interior is also responsible for this. There are other materials such as tones, clay, bones and ivory to mention a few. They all have their advantages and disadvantages.

The individual problem lies with the choice of designs by the decorator and method of handling wood materials. However, the facts that it is only wood that has the potential of being regenerated through careful forestation principles, does not mean that it should be mismanaged.

Wood is one of the major interior material that undergoes so much refinement before it can be used for any design. These processes involve seasoning, which is the controlled removal of water from the timber and the application of chemicals to combat termites. Moreso, part of the processes also entail sawing, which involves the cutting of logs into various shapes and sizes.

THE NATURE OF WOOD

Wood is made up of long cells growing close together, forming a material that is both porous and compact. Wood is named and classified according to the species of the tree. Hardwood comes from deciduous (broad-leaved) trees, and softwood comes from coniferous (needle-bearing) trees. This classification is a botanical one and does not indicate the degree of harness of the wood. Some of those listed as hardwood are actually softer than some of those listed as softwood. Pines and other evergreens are softwood trees. Maples, oaks, elms, as well as other shades of fruit trees are hardwood trees. Wood is also classified as close or open grain. This classification refers to the cell structure of the wood. Softwoods are termed close grain because they have a very close-knit and nonporous cell structure. Hardwoods, on the other hand are generally opened grain woods because of their porous cell structure.

Woods may be identified by physical characteristics such as cell structure and cell pattern, colour, grain and figure and sometimes by odour or taste, shakes, stains, sap streaks and pitch pockets. Knots, cross grain, bird pecks, and other blemishes are frequently present. These characteristics either improve the quality of the lumber or are considered defects. Wood does not decay naturally through age, but will decay if it is not con-

stantly kept dry or is continuously submerged in water. The principal conditions affecting the rate of decay are moisture, temperatures and air supply. Damp or wet wood is likely to become a nest for wood ants, termites and other insects. Such wood is subjected to the action of fungi, which will cause it to become spongy and decompose.

In general, wood is very strong and durable. It can easily be worked with tools and with machines and can be compressed, bent and joined. Wood is also graded in terms of its lubricating properties. Walton (2000), established data on the degree of success with which nails, screws, glue, paint and other materials can be applied to specific woods. He also avers that, data is also available on the insulation of fire-resistant qualities of wood. The commercial users of wood utilize available scientific data to select lumber that will provide them with the best working material for their purpose.

Many exotic woods from tropical climates are also hardwoods, although in most cases their rarity makes them less known as solid lumber for furniture production. These include rosewood, ebony, zebrawood, and even less familiar species. Mahogany and some other selected popular wood are hardwoods, although they are actually somewhat "soft" in character. For instance, teak is a unique hardwood because of its unusually oily make up.

The hardwoods are, in general, the materials of building construction, carpentry, and constructed wood work intended for paint finishes. With a few unusual exceptions, only low-cost, interior (kitchen furniture is made from good wood material. Interior of good quality, the product of "cabinet mak-

ing" or sitting room as compared to "carpentry" is made from hardwood. Despite the exceptional examples from contemporary and various other historic times and places, many interior decoration are made of solid wood that has lasting qualities is hardwood. Many hardwoods have much admired colour and grain patterns that bring out natural beauty and posses superior qualities to that of softwoods that are to lighter in colour, with faint or no prominent grains.

Due to the place wood occupies in the midst of other materials in decorating, the purpose of this study is to examine and identify the role of wood in home interior decoration. This study will serve as a foundation for development of further ideas on this topic and also bring out the importance of wooden materials in interior designs at homes with a mind set of spending less on extensive interior decoration.

The objectives of this study however were to:

- i. Investigate the socio-demographic characteristics of users of wooden furniture.
- ii. Determine the level of interest of consistent users of wooden furniture.
- iii. Investigate the factors that influence the user towards the use of wooden furniture.

From the facts gathered on the statement of the problem, this study seeks solutions to some un-answered questions such as:

- a. What is the role of wood in individual home interior decoration?

- b. What are the factors that influence the use of wood materials in home interior designs?
- c. What is the determination of the level of interest of families toward the role of wood materials?
- d. Are there socio-demographic characteristics of users of wood materials in homes?

Meanwhile, the paper is limited to Abeokuta and Surulere contesting of 152% interior decorators/100 workers using homes of the married and single consumers. The attitude of the consumers towards the questions asked influenced the result of this work.

Each interior materials has an embodied energy. An embodied energy is referred to as the amount of energy used to process a particular interior material and is calculated in MJ/m² (mega joule per metre squared). The studies carried out by National Architectural Forum NAFL (2001) shows that timber has the lowest embodied energy when compared to steel, bricks and aluminum. On the other hand the carbon emission into the environment shows that wood has lower environmental pollution and has better value during the manufacturing process. Joel (1999) writes that, the architect, the developer and the home owner tried to look at the impact of material holistically to see its environmental impact and preferability of design alternatives.

STRUCTURAL CAPABILITIES OF WOOD

Home designs and interiors are articles of daily usage in the home to make the house functional. These include special designed cabinets, room dividers chairs, tables, beds

and so on. Furniture is a set of movable articles, such as chairs, tables to mention a few. But once these furniture are commissioned as an individual project with personal patent, they are interior decorations and these also include beds, book shelves, room divider as well as fixtures. Interior decorations are structure that are fixed permanently in the rooms such as flower pot with unique designs, mounted or cantilevered to the wall. Furniture can be made to look attractive and decorative in the home. Wooden furniture interior that includes different types of furnishing to make them more functional, varies with human activities such as seating on chairs or sleeping on beds. An African in a village may sit on bench or craft chairs in the evening for relaxation. A Lagos banker may decorate his home with leather and expensive covered chairs. Each of these persons designs their home differently, in ways that suit them. Wooden interior provides comfort, warmth and beauty in the home. It influences our acceptance by others, impacts relationships and the way we feel.

In Abeokuta and Lagos, rich people live in large, comfortable houses with many wooden interiors inside their homes and as wealthy people, they do commission wooden interior articles such as beds, chairs, tables and chests for storage. However, some of them, in an attempt to exhibit their level of exposure/wealth- they use wooden head rest and wooden pegs on walls to store things instead of soft materials.

In ancient Yoruba culture, according to Biobaku (1982), in the wealthy and peasant homes, furniture was basic, over time, the Yoruba of south-west Nigeria stored things in carved wooden boxes or hung them from wooden pegs on the walls. A rich home would also have a dresser (*ajogba*) to display

expensive gift items, cups and plates. People reclined on couches (which also acts as beds). The couches (*agba 'ntara*) were simply wooden frames with carved wood, rope webbing and mats or rug lay on top.

Wealthy people such as kings and high chiefs owned very comfortable and functional indigenous interior finely carved. People ate while reclining on couches and for the middle class, wooden furniture were very basic and sparse. Wooden oil lamps were carved and used for light in the mid fifties, Fakeye, 2003). Using the "Craft Development" introduced by Friar Carrow in Oye-Ekiti in late 1920s, interior carved craft practice increased and kept on improving.

Interior wooden decoration has quite a distinct history in Abeokuta and Lagos, being parts of south-west Nigeria. The use of wood and bamboo for interior decoration in this part of the world do not have any accurate dating but faint documentation that are available are yet to be ascertained. Because of this, it is difficult to attribute any form of styles to these interior decoration in Abeokuta or Lagos in recent times. There are a lot of styles attributed to some cultures and nationals, for instance the use of heavy lacquers to protect wooden materials in interior decoration are Chinese styles. Traditional Abeokuta wooden interior decoration is well known for its minimalist style, extensive use of wood, high quality craftsmanship and reliance on wood grain instead of painting or thick lacquer. Lagos (Surulere) chests are well known for its good smooth finishing.

However, the use of wood materials for home interior decoration is gradually fading away in recent times. It is interesting to note that wood is the only material that one

can exhibit with different structural capabilities using the same size and type of wood. The structural capability and the beauty are dependent on how the handling of the wood is done. The wood sawn along the grain, tends to have more structural capability than that sawn across, while the opposite is the case in terms of beauty. This was asserted by Andrea (2005).

The use of wooden furniture can be adequately sustained in both homes and public places if the expected specifications of designs are fulfilled. These types of wooden interior decoration depend upon the formations of designs and can also be classified according to the role of the interior decoration. These types of wooden materials are expected to represent simple classification of design, which is not easily available. Non-availability of wood material for interior design, serves as one of the hindrances faced by interior decorators.

However, the interior designers/decorators emphasizes on the aesthetics of wooden materials, their level of sustaining and consumption of wood materials, the role of furniture at both homes and offices need to be classified. The study, therefore seeks to shed light on the relevance and significance of wood material in interior decoration.

SELECTION OF WOOD SPECIES FOR INTERIOR CRAFTS

The selection of species of wood for interior designs and products depend on high strength movement values and on its appearance especially in colour. It is important for interior decorators to identify the various species of wood used in interior decoration and furniture. Some of these woods used in interior craft designs are Mahogany, Guarea cedrata, Afzelia Adricana, Agba, Afara, Wal-

nut, Makore, Obeche, Sapele and Teak.

WALNUT AFRICAN (SIDA)

This is described as narrow sapwood with colour similar to heart wood-golden brown with dark thin streaks. The wood is found in Nigeria and it is called Sida. The wood is durable and has excellent working qualities such as furniture making, interior fittings and high class joinery. Bolaji (1991) opine, it takes nails, screws and glues well and polishes effectively. It seasons with medium shrinkage and is stable when dry. It works fairly easily, takes an excellent polish. It may split when nailing, because it is fairly soft; not very strong or tough. It is also subject to lacteous borers attack. It is used to make high class interior decoration and cabinet workshop and office paneling, billiard tables, joinery veneers, plywood to mention a few.

WALNUT EUROPEAN (TRUE WANUT)

This type of wood is otherwise known as sapwood pale brown or heartwood. Heartwood varies from pale browns, Grey brown to blackish with darker irregular mottled markings. It seasons slowly with very little shrinkage and degrade, and retains its shape. It is hard and tough, elastic and not-fissile, also works well and takes an excellent polish. It is not affected by atmospheric changes and not resistant to borers. It produces first class furniture and cabinet work, decorative veneers, high class joinery, interior fittings, turnery, carving, piano cases, sporting and fancy goods, gun stocks and airscrews.

MAHOGANY, RED

It has deep reddish brown colour that resemble Jar-rah. Mahogany woods are normally seasoned without degrade but with

high shrinkage. It is heavy, hard, strong and stiff, tough and fairly resistant to decay, termites and borers. It can be worked easily to a good finish. It is also a valuable structural hardwood for building construction bearers, joists, studs flooring, weatherboards and lining boards, but used in contact with the ground. Bolaji (1991).

AFARA (WHITE AND IDIGBO)

It is sapwood and indistinguishable from heartwood. It is yellowish brown with occasional grey to black irregular markings. Seasons with low shrinkage, retains shape when dry. It is fairly soft and not very durable for external work. At times, it works well with very sharp cutting tools and has qualities to stain and polish satisfactory. Thin stock splits easily when nailed and screwed. It is a general purpose timber for internal use, joinery, mouldings and internal ship buildings. Selected stock may be used for interior decoration furniture, cabinetwork and veneers. It can be treated for external joinery.

AFZELIA (APA)

It is sapwood pale straw, heartwood light brown to dark red-brown, sometimes with patches of a yellowish dye substance. Seasons slowly with little shrinkage and retains shape when dry. It is very durable for external work, a fairly hard wood which is not easy to work with hand tools. Stains and polishes satisfactorily, although not easily. It is a general purpose wood for external and internal use, medium, heavy constructions, flooring, benches, poles, plywood and paneling.

OBECHÉ (ARERE)

Just like other woods discussed earlier, it is wide sapwood similar to heartwood – white to pale yellow. Seasons fairly quickly with

low shrinkage and degrade. It is easy to work and takes a reasonable polish. It does not hold nails and screws well, but can be joined with glue because of its softness. It is one of the softest hardwoods. It is not very durable, but need for joinery, shop and office fittings, interior decoration, veneers, plywood, core-stock, boxes, canoes, and handicraft work.

MANSONIA

This is found in tropical West Africa and it is especially found in Southern Nigeria. It grows in the deciduous forest. The tree is usually buttressed with a diameter of about 24 – 42 inches and a height of 120 ft. The wood dries well at a fairly rapid rate but it requires care. Knots in the wood may split, shake and extended some distortion in length may occur during drying. It is susceptible to pin whole borer and long horn beetle attack. The wood responds well to mould twisting and carving. The wood has good polishing characteristics and easy to work with, with all hand tools. Bolaji (1991).

SEASONING AND METHOD OF SEASONING WOOD

Natural Method

AIR SEASONING: The timber is stacked in the open air, where it is dried by the weather conditions. The temperature, the humidity of the air and the speed of the air circulation govern the rate of drying. The stack is laid on bearers to keep it about 18in. clear of the ground, strips of wood called strips or stickers. Air circulation is controlled, to a certain extent, by the thickness of the strips. A waterproof covering should be placed over the stack to protect the timber from the sun and weather.

This reduces surface checking, improves the drying rate and ensures more uniform drying. The moisture content of air dried timber is 15-20%.

ACCELERATED METHOD – “Kiln seasoning” (Sometimes called artificial seasoning) the timber is stacked, as for air-drying and placed in special drying rooms or ovens called kilns, where the temperature, humidity and air circulation can be carefully controlled either manually or automatically from outside the kiln. Care must be taken to see that the drying process while removing the free water is not too rapid, as at this stage the timber is most susceptible to degrade (damage) by checking and collapses. There are two types of seasoning kilns.

Compartment Kilns: The stacked timber is placed in the kilns by means of special lifting truck

Progressive Kilns: In this type of kiln (sometimes called “tunnel” kilns, because they resemble long tunnels) the conditions at one end of the kiln differ from those at the other end.

CHEMICAL SEASONING AND PRE-STEAMING: These are not actual seasoning methods but are pre-drying treatments which may be used to improve the dried quality of the timber by reducing seasoning defects. Chemical seasoning consists of soaking the freshly sawn timber in an aqueous (water) solution of a hygroscopic (moisture absorbing) chemical for periods up to several months, depending on the sizes of the stock.

ADVANTAGES OF KILN SEASONING

a) Kiln drying permits to the exact moisture

content required, which may be much lower than that of air-dried timber.

b) The carefully controlled conditions can minimize degrade-seasoning defects, which occur while drying.

c) The heating of the timber while kiln drying kills eggs, larvae and adult borers which may be present in the wood, but does not prevent re-infestation later.

d) Although capital costs may be high, greater turnover is possible by reductions in drying time, and less timber yard storage space is required.

PRECAUTIONS TAKEN DURING SEASONING

Strict attention to good stacking practice is essential e.g. no ends overlapping from the stack to cause warp, uniform thickness and placement of stickers vertically above each other. As the ends dry more quickly than the rest of the board and are likely to split, they should be painted to retard the drying process. Petroleum grease has proved satisfactory for this purpose. The air must be constant circulation throughout the stack or kiln, otherwise some boards may not be sufficiently dried and when put to use will continue to shrink.

WOOD PRESERVATIVES

Wood preservatives are used to treat timber

against fungal and insect attack, other characteristics include:

1. Highly poisonous to insects and fungi, readily absorbed (penetrating the cells and cell walls) by the wood and remain effective for many years
2. Cheap, readily obtainable, safe to use, easy to apply, clean, colourless and odourless
3. Harmless to wood and metals (tools, machines, fittings, nails, screws, bolts treatment plant) and to finishing materials (paints, varnishes, etc.)
4. Fire resistant, or at least should not increase the flammability of the woods.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The research was carried out to find the role of wood in interior decoration. The data were gathered from twenty commercial furniture enterprises in Abeokuta through the use of questionnaire and oral interview. These information are analyzed and tabulated in the table as follows:

TABLE 1

Interior Decorators Name	Educational Attainment	Year of Establishment	No. of Workers	% of workers
Olastic Interior & Furniture	OND	1999	7	4.61
Mustap Hassan Interior Décor.	Technical College	1992	13	8.55
God's time Work	Senior Sec. Cert.	2000	6	3.95
One love Furniture & Interiors	Primary 6	1995	7	4.61
Uncle B Furniture & Interior works	Teacher's Cert.	1997	11	7.24
K. Interior Art & Furniture	N.C.E.	1986	5	3.29
Cherish Interiors	Modern 3	1982	4	2.63
Anifowese Works	Modern 3	1976	6	3.93
Aladesanmi Furniture & Interiors	Modern 3	1981	12	7.89
Alli Modern Interior Works	Technical College	1997	10	6.58
Afolad Works & Interiors	N.C.E.	1992	9	5.92
Testimony Interior Works	Primary 6	2000	8	5.26
Champion sparkle Interior Works	Teacher's Cert.	1989	12	7.89
Adolph Interior & Furniture Works	Technical College	2009	2	1.32
Mutak Crafts & Interior Works	H.N.D.	2003	4	2.63
Hassan Furniture	OND	1999	8	5.26
Zee Art Works	Modern 3	1982	12	7.89
By test Interior & Outdoor Works	OND	2001	7	4.61
Show key Home Interior	Technical College	1995	6	3.95
Franco Interior & Furniture Works	N.C.E.	1991	3	1.97
Total			152	100

WOODS USED FOR HOME AND OFFICE ARTICLES AND INTERIORS

Table 2

S/N	Wood	No of interior decorators & furniture maker	No of users	% of users
1	Imported Laminated plywood	20	6	21.43
2	Afara	20	10	35.71
3	Masonia	20	12	42.86
	TOTAL		28	100

SOURCE: Field Survey, 2011

In the use of wood for home and office interior designs and furniture, three types of wood are discovered as being used by the interior decorators, 21.43% of them used

imported laminated plywood, while 35.71% of them used Afara and 42.86% of them use masonia.

WOODS USED FOR PARTITIONING THE SITTING ROOMS

TABLE 3

S/N	Wood	No of interior decorators	No of users	% of users
1	Mosonia	20	15	55.56
2	Masonia	20	12	44.44
	TOTAL		27	100

SOURCE: Field Survey, 2011

In the use of wood for partitioning, two types of wood was discovered as being used by the furniture enterprises, 55.56% of them used Masonia while 44.44% used Mahogany.

Three types of wood were discovered for kitchen cabinet, 46.43% used Afara then 35.71% and 17.86% used teak and Obeche respectively.

Three types of wood were discovered for making wall hanging frame Afzelia, Obeche and Afara

In the use of wood for dressing table, two types of wood was identified as being used in the interior decoration crafts, 51.61% of them used Iroko and 48.38% of them use Teak

In the use of wood for doors, four types of

wood were identified as being used in the interior decoration. These are: Iroko, Teak, Obeche, Mahogany.

Five types of wood were identified used for reading table and chair which were imported; laminated plywood, Cedar, Mahogany, Iroko and some used Obeche. Ayin.

For Upholstery Construction three types of wood were identified used for constructions which are Masonia, Mahogany and some use Obeche.

For office table and chair, woods identified are imported laminated plywood, Masonia and Afara.

For dressing table two types of wood were identified which is Teach and Iroko

WOODS USED FOR KITCHEN CABINET
TABLE 4

S/N	Wood	No of interior decorators	No of users	% of users
1	Afara	20	13	46.73
2	Teak	20	10	35.71
3	Obeche	20	5	17.86
	TOTAL		28	100

SOURCE: Field Survey, 2011

WOOD USED FOR SPECIAL READING TABLE & CHAIR
TABLE 5

S/N	Wood	No of interior decorators	No of users	% of users
1	Imported lami- nated plywood	20	9	32.14
2	Cedar	20	12	42.86
3	Iroko	20	7	25.00
	TOTAL		28	100

SOURCE: Field Survey, 2011

WOODS FOR WALL HANGING FRAME

S/N	Wood	No of interior decorators	No of users	% of users
1	Afzelia	20	10	27.03
2	Obeche	20	12	32.43
3	Afara	20	15	40.54
	TOTAL		37	100

SOURCE: Field Survey, 2011

WOODS FOR DRESSING TABLE
TABLE 7

S/N	Wood	No of interior decorators	No of users	% of users
1	Teak	20	15	48.38
2	Iroko	20	16	51.61
	TOTAL		31	100

SOURCE: Field Survey, 2011

WOODS FOR DOOR
TABLE 8

S/N	Wood	No of interior decorators	No of users	% of users
1	Iroko	20	15	39.47
2	Teak	20	4	10.52
3	Obeche	20	9	23.68
4	Mahogany	20	0	26.31
	TOTAL		38	100

SOURCE: *Field Survey, 2011*

DISCUSSION

From the analysis of the woods identified such as Mahogany, Obeche, Teak, Masonia, Afzelia, imported laminated plywood, Iroko and Afara, it shows that Mahogany, Masonia and imported laminated plywood were used for nearly all the works in furniture making due to its qualities which were durability, easy to work on with hand and machine; it takes nails and screws easily, and all finishing treatment and it also makes the work neat. However, the woods identified are as follows:

Iroko is a kind of wood identified for stool making, bed construction upholstery and wardrobe construction. It also has good qualities such as durability, resistance to decay and termites. It is also easy to work on with hand and machine because of its strength.

Teak wood is identified to be the best material for wardrobe, dining set, upholstery, flush door, bed construction. It also has tendency to resist decay and insect attack, it also works well with hand and machine.

Obeche was also a wood identified for stool making, flush making, flush door, bed and wardrobe construction, upholstery and

decoration articles. It works easily with hand and machine tools, it dries rapidly with only slight tendency to split.

Afzelia was identified for dining set, decoration and wardrobe construction. It has resistance to decay and termite attack, it takes polish easily and it is durable.

Idigbo was identified as wood for making decoration articles, e.g. carving printed work, lacquer work. It allows glue, splits and dries rapidly.

Afara was a wood identified for bed construction and upholstery. It is resistant to fungal decay, termites. It is extremely hard to work with hand tools. If it has to be worked with hand tools, it requires considerable power. A smooth finish can be obtained with care and it polishes effectively.

Mansonia was a wood identified for making decoration articles because the wood responds well to moulding, carving and has good polishing characteristics.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

Decorating homes can be very exciting. It is an activity that requires much thought as other people may use or visit the homes. Due to these reasons, it should be friendly and cheerful. Interior decoration cannot be treated in isolation without giving wooden furniture its due regards. Wooden materials can be said to complement interior furnishing. Without wooden accessories, the task in decorating any apartment would be incomplete. There are some interior decoration materials that are made of wood materials which can be either softwood or hardwood but hardwood is super excellent material for wooden designs.

Some of the woods in Nigeria interior works are Mahogany, Obeche, Idigbo, Afzelia, Iroko and others. These wooden materials have undergone several aspects of finishes to make it attractive and beautiful. In the home, there are activities area such as the sitting room (public area), kitchen and private area (bedroom). These areas need specific interiors decorations to make them functional, for example, the sitting room, which serves as the main centre of attraction in different homes. It needs to be well planned and simply decorated to save labour, and interior decorations that can prevent accident should be placed there to ensure that it provides good functionalities for the family. In sum, the living rooms in both Abeokuta and Surulere are the most important rooms in any home and they are usually made up of unique interior accessories such as coffee table, cabinets, diagonal divider, side stools to mention a few. Likewise, a greater percentage of bedroom are made comfortable for sleeping with the aid of interior accessories in them which per-

form similar functions.

CONCLUSION

The results of this study suggest several points of interest for researchers, policy makers, planners, traders and people in general with the orientation of the usage of wooden furniture. Based on the findings of this study, it is concluded that users of furniture in homes have a higher interest in wooden furniture as compared with other furniture because of its durability and quality. Also users with low income will increase their interest in wooden furniture as their income rises.

This research suggests that any change in the quality of wooden furniture could bring about a significant shift in the usage of wooden furniture in home interior design.

RECOMMENDATION

The finding of this paper gives a clear indication that the role of wood in Nigerian home interior decoration should be well informed about the care and maintenance of wooden materials. In addition, users should consider the size of the room before embarking on any designs and also the quality of the wood materials for the interior design should also be considered.

Proper care and maintenance should be given to furniture because it can be passed from generation to the next and become a prized family possession, if maintained adequately.

The sources of information are the homes in Abeokuta south local government area in Ogun state and Surulere local government area in Lagos State.

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