



ilé ọrò

Yoruba Resort & Cultural Center

## Resort Overview

Ilé ọrò is a Yoruba translation for “house of wealth” and in other translations “house of riches”.

Every time culture is a subject of discussion, we all try to express how rich our individual culture is. The truth is words alone cant express how rich any culture is and I was tired of talking.

As an African (Yoruba) architectural designer, I preferred to express the riches of my culture with a statement noticeable from miles away. One that speaks the native language... a cultural landmark that beats the test of time.

**The ilé ọrò resort.**



ADELAJA FAWAZ  
Representing  
Yoruba Architecture

## Locational Map





## The Yoruba People

The architecture of the ancient Yoruba of Southwest Nigeria was a communal endeavor and the house was a statement of ideological, economic and social position in the larger urban context. The traditional Yoruba man was a polygamist, counting his wives and children when numbering his properties – and his lifestyle fed into his building.



## Aesthetics & Forms

1. Yoruba Fabrics (adire & aso-oke).
2. Yoruba divination tray & cowrie shell.
3. Yoruba patterns & mottifs.



## Materials & Sustainability

1. Termite Resistant Trees & Bamboo.
2. Earth & Stones.
3. Bipv- Building Integrated photovoltaic.



## Culture & Lifestyle

1. Courtyard & open living spaces.
2. Partying & social interaction spaces.
3. Elegant dressing & dramatic lifestyle.



## Process & Costs

1. Wattle & daub.
2. Employ local craftsmanship.
3. Women will cut & sew the fabrics.



## Spirituality & Philosophy

1. Houses are built to support their social and religious life.
2. Sculpted post are used to tell stories of ancestors.
3. Opon ifa and Owo eyo are used in divination to reach out to ancestors.

**15 ELEMENTS (From Design Brief)**





**Location:** Ancient royal Palace, Abeokuta.

**Description:** it has a dramatic high pitched roof that also depicts the essence of the building (adele) - a crown.



**Location:** A royal family house, Ijebu Ode.

**Description:** The 2 storey structure is noticable with wall carvings, architraves, royal symbols and a lot of sit-outs.



**Location:** Palace Courtyard, Ekiti.

**Description:** The rectangular courtyard surrounded by sculpted post to support the eaves of the roof.

## PRECEDENT STUDIES – TRADITIONAL IMAGES



**Location:** The Cocoa House, Ibadan.

**Description:**

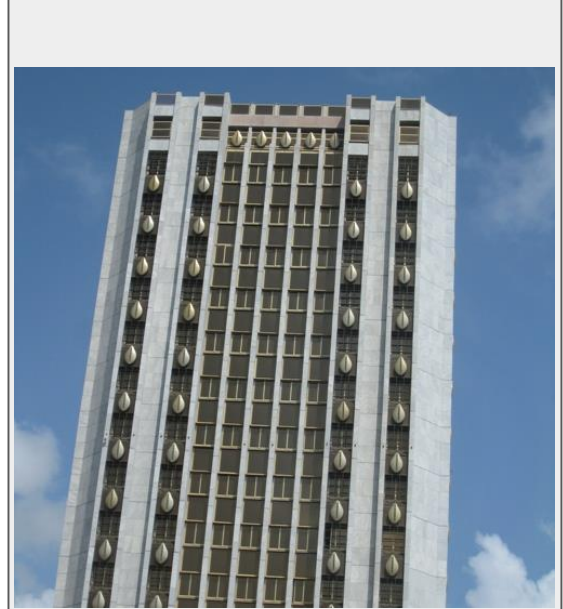
The 26-storey building at a height of 105 meters, was once the tallest building in tropical Africa.



**Location:** A royal family house, Ibadan.

**Description:**

A storey family house with royal symbols as ornamentations



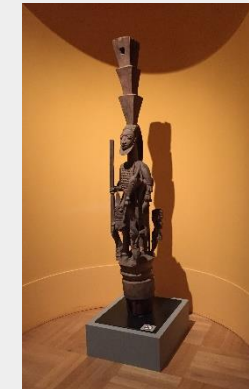
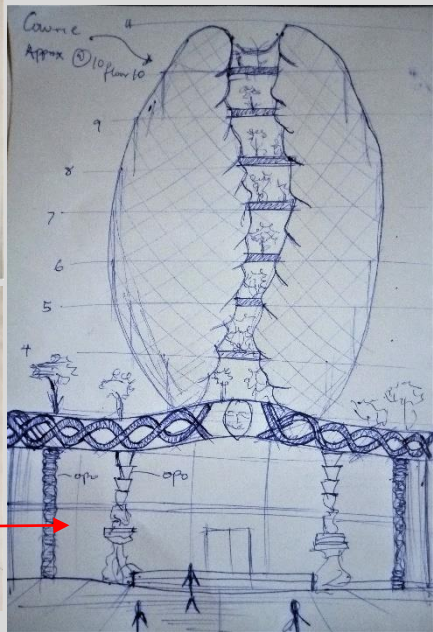
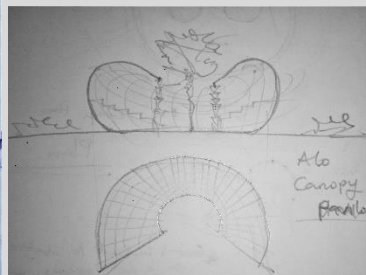
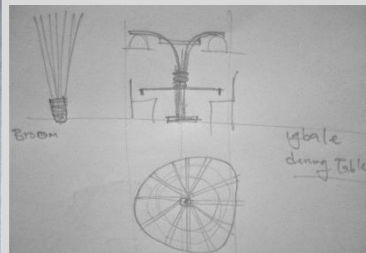
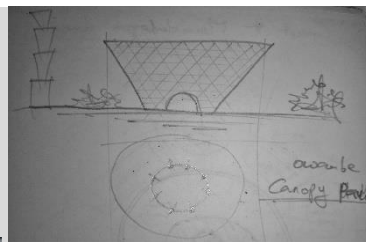
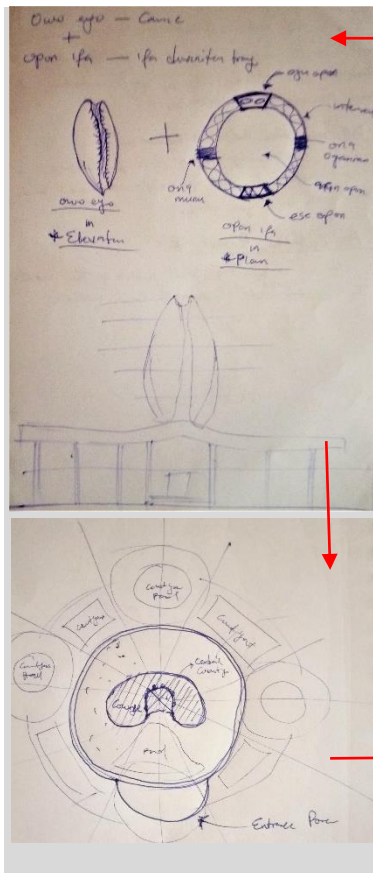
**Location:** BCEAO tower Cotonou, Benin

**Description:**

Multistorey commercial complex with cowrie embellishment.

# PRECEDENT STUDIES – MODERN IMAGES

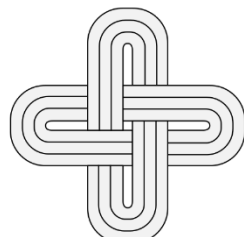
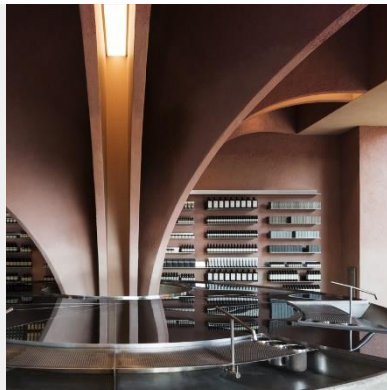




## Conceptual Statement

The concept is from a cowrie shell and Yoruba divination tray. Cowries were used as currency for centuries in west Africa, it is viewed as a symbol of wealth and well being and are commonly used in jewelry and other decorative pieces. They are also used during divination by casting them down on a divination tray to reach out to the ancestors. Doing this in my design, the idea is for the cowrie to permanently be on the tray... Meaning the ancestors are going to be constantly with us.

# CONCEPTUAL PROCESS



Solomon's knot, a quasi-heraldic symbol of Yoruba royalty.

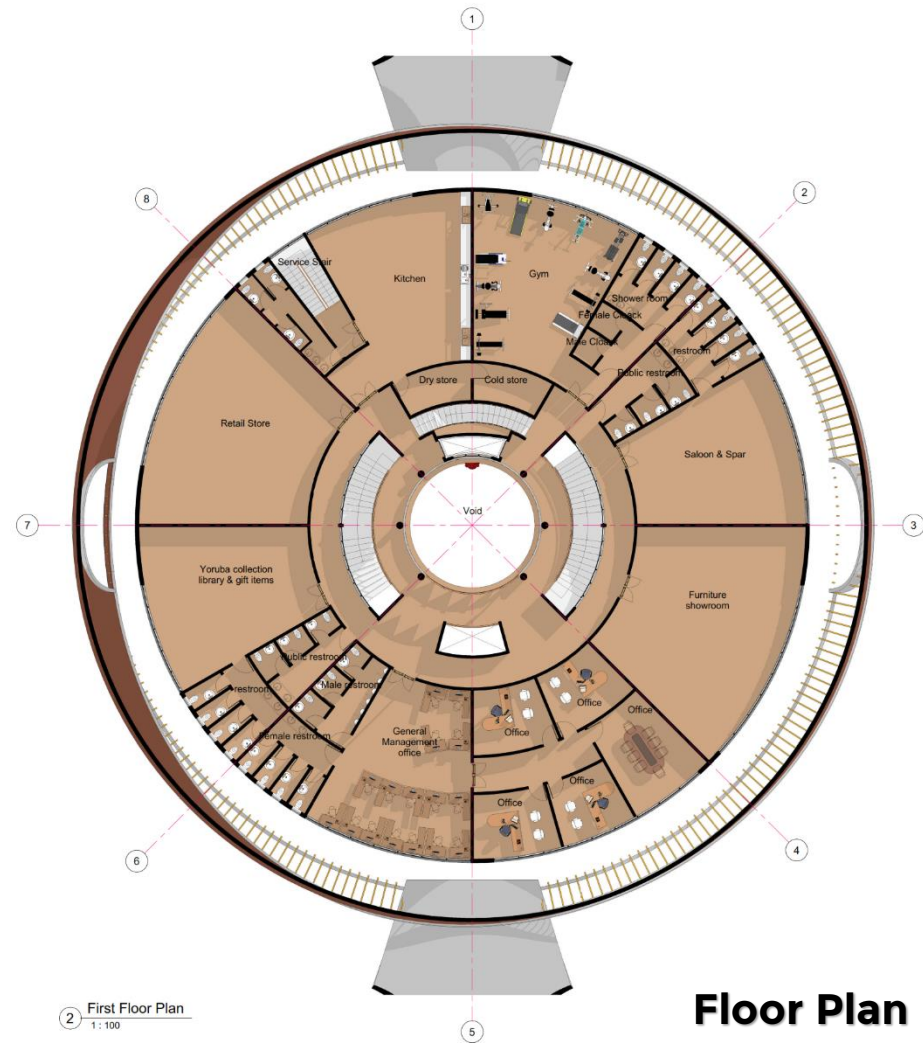
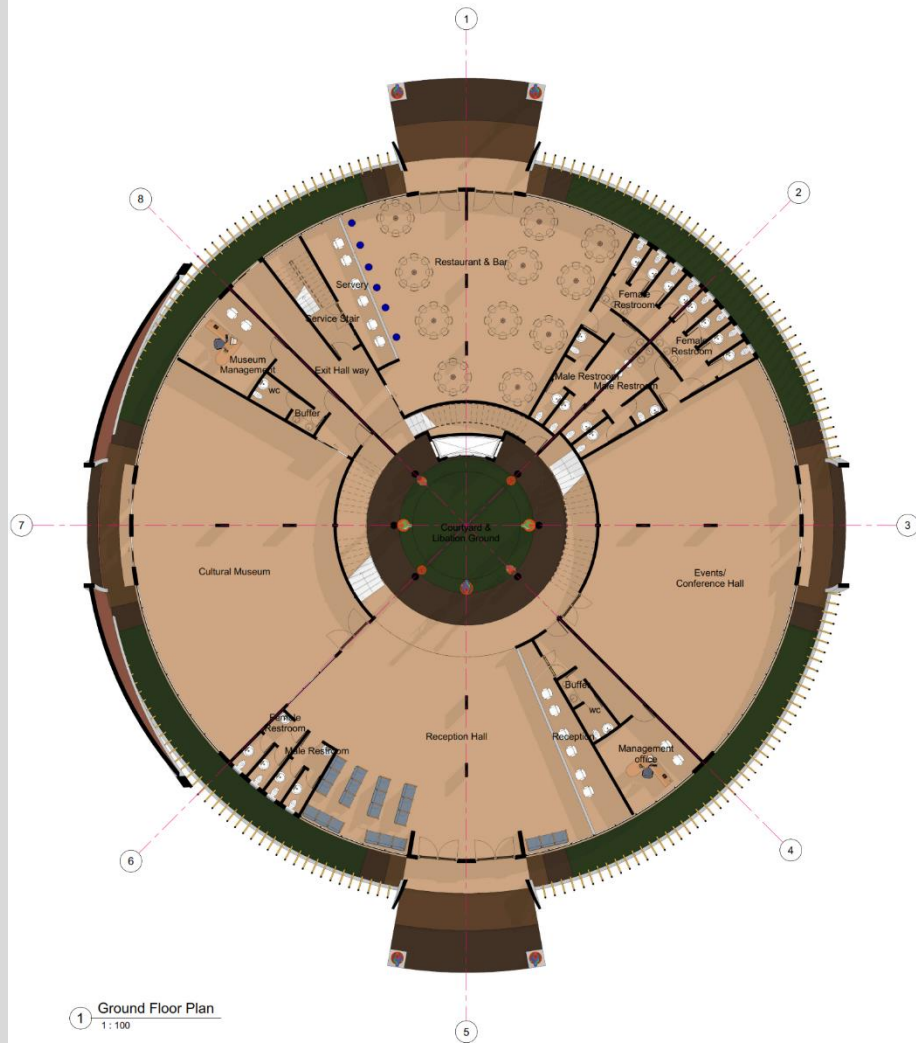


**Mood Board**

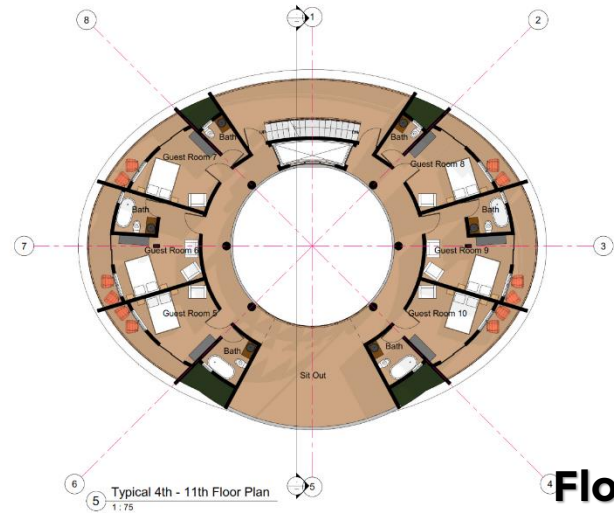
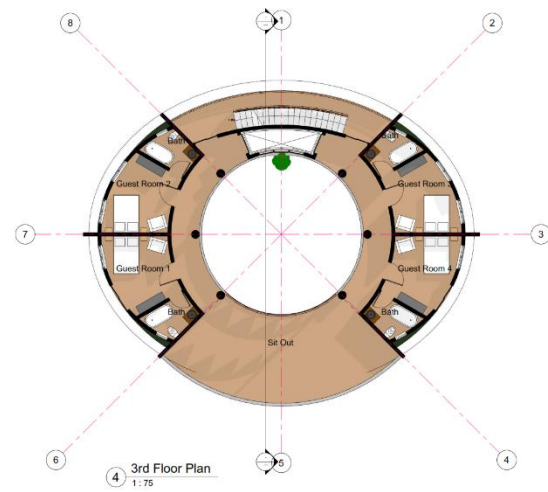
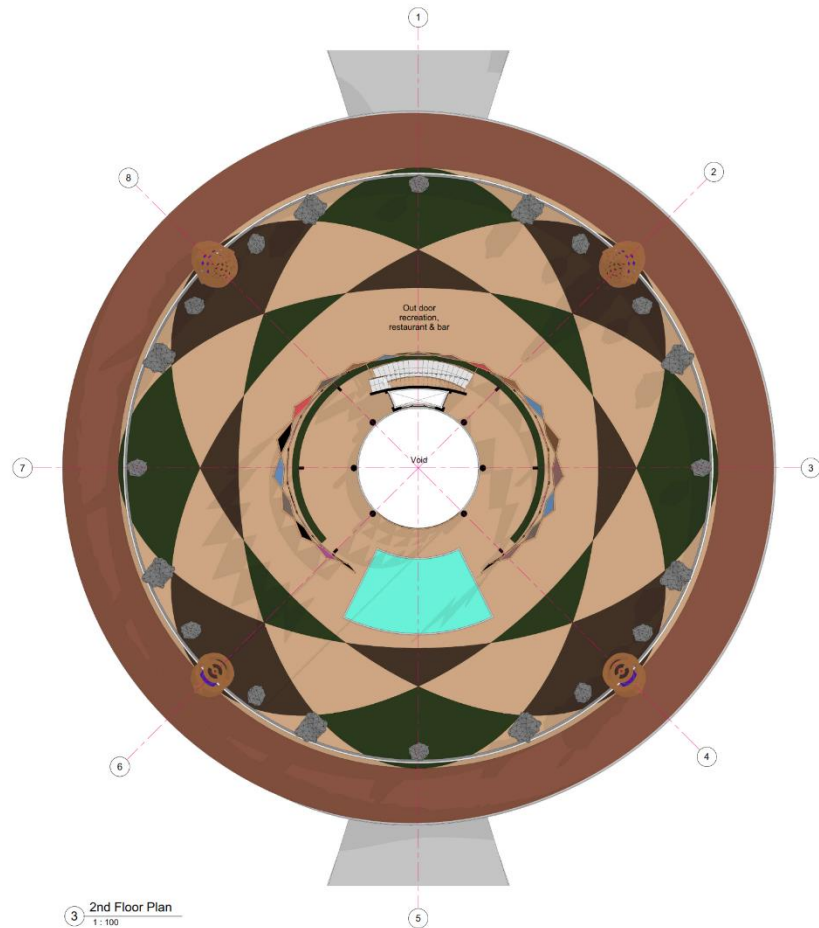


**Materials Board**



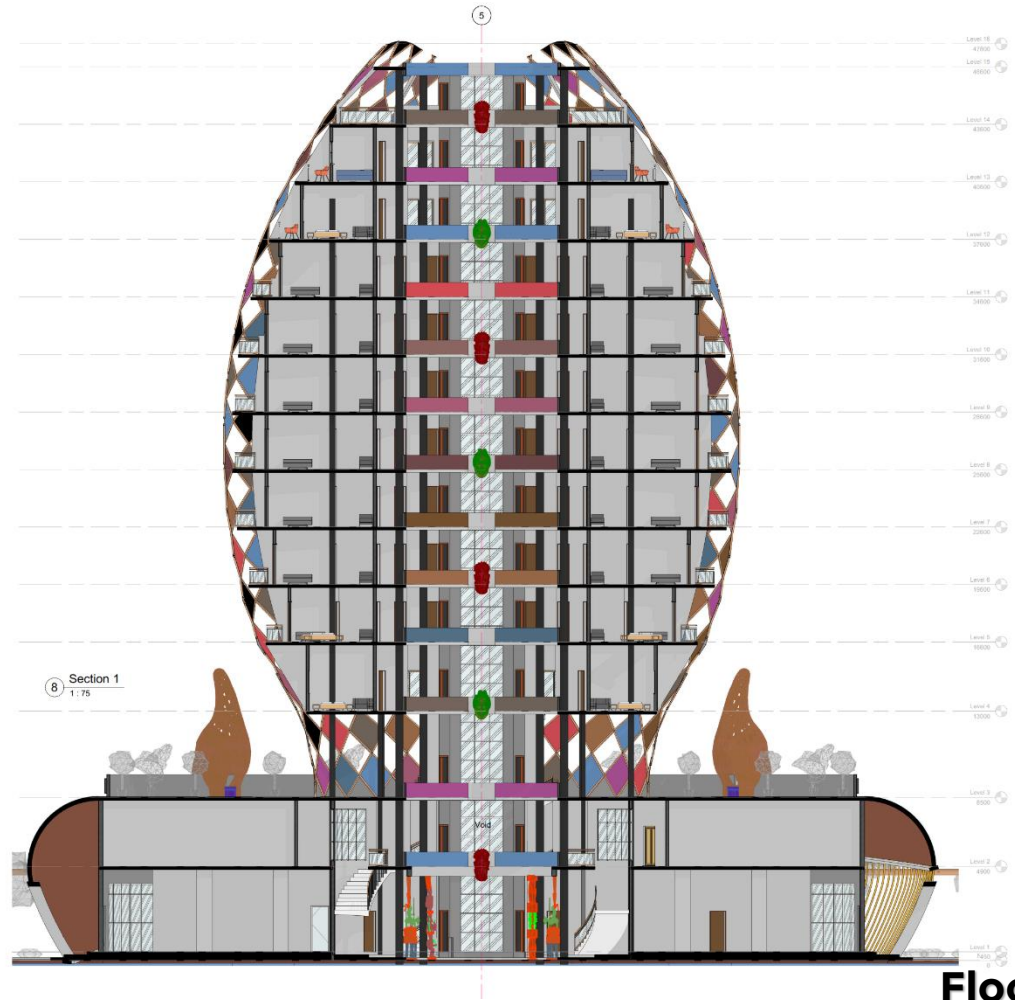
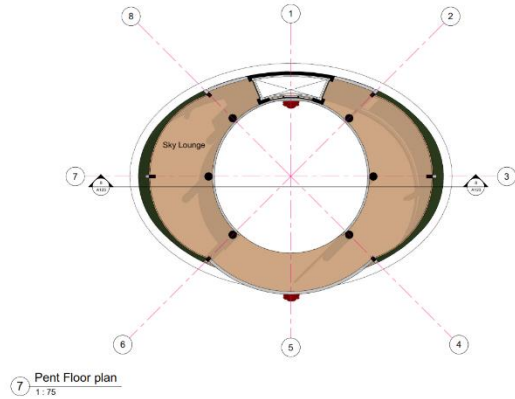
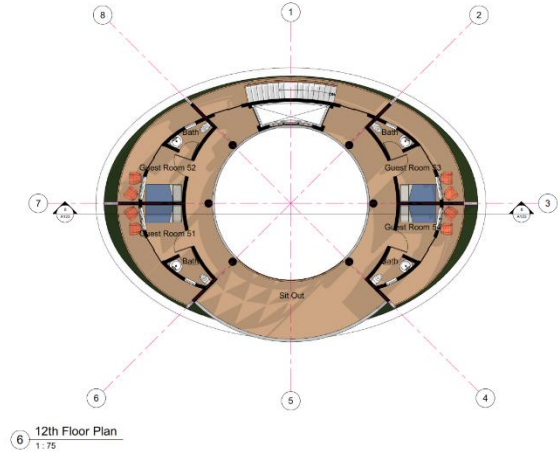


# Floor Plan



**4 Floor Plan**





**Floor Plan**



Aerial View





Approach View:



Right View:





Left View:





**Rear View:**





**Rear View:**





Rear Aerial View:





Ilé ọrò

Reception Hall:





Reception Hall:





Cultural Museum:



Cultural Museum:



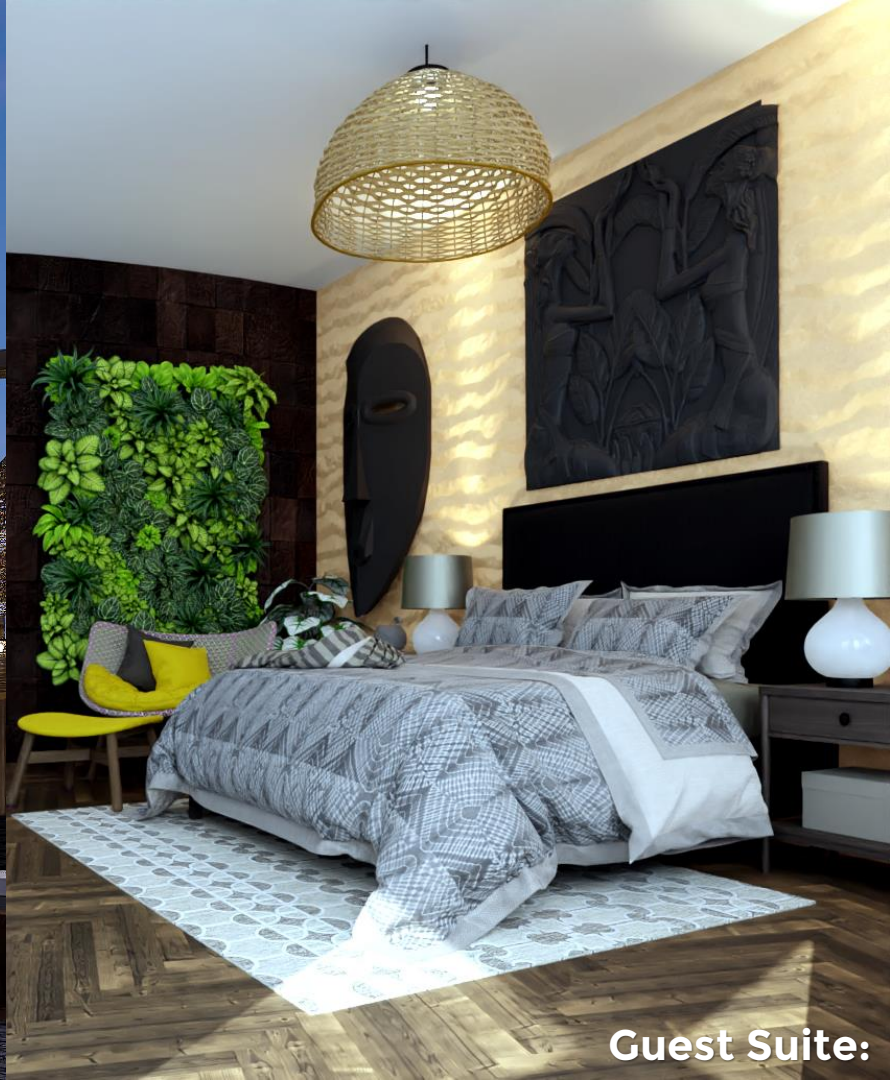


Outdoor Restaurant:





**Outdoor Restaurant:**



**Guest Suite:**





Ówàñbè Pavilion:





Ówàñbè Pavilion:





Ówàñbè Pavilion:





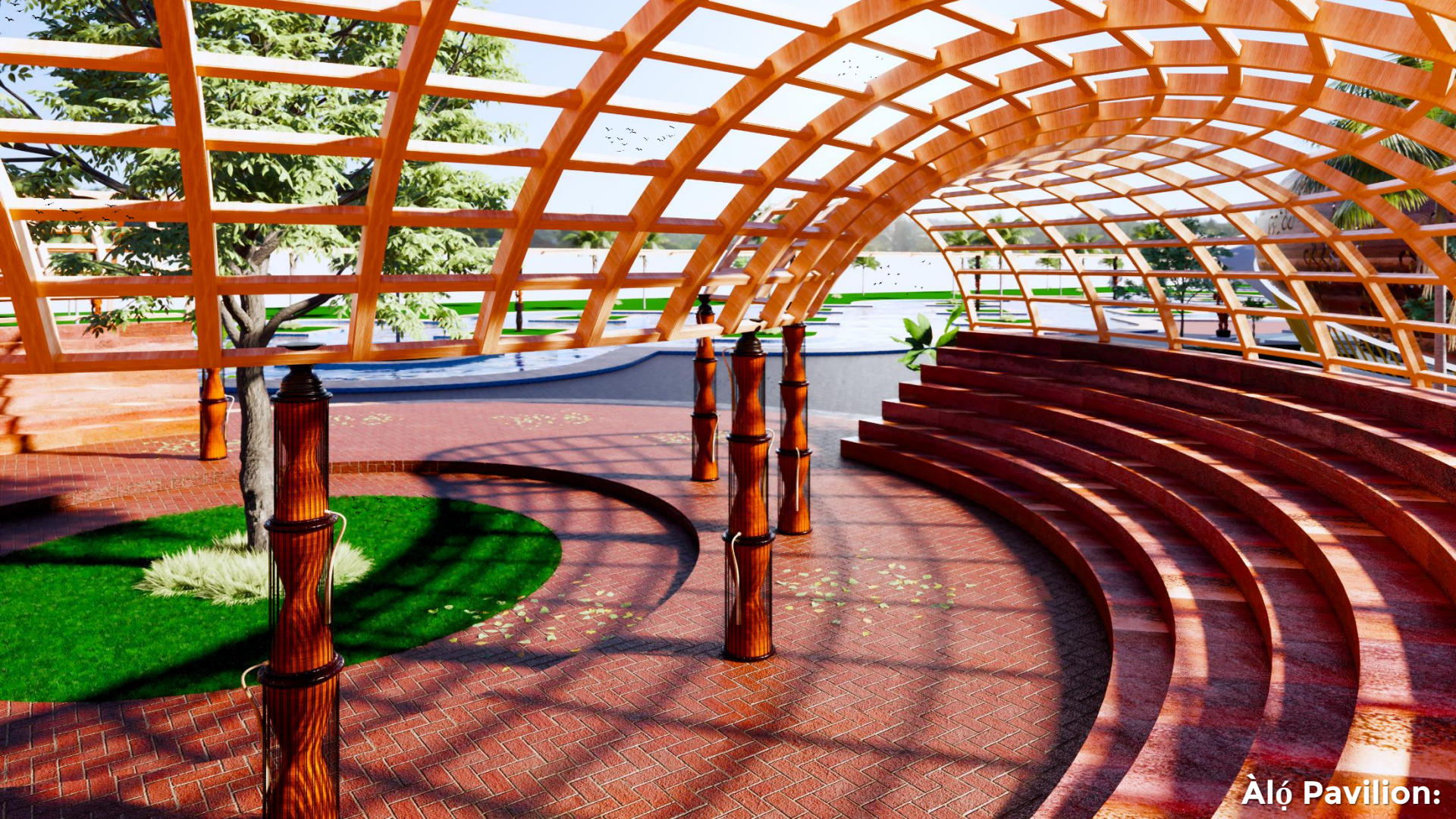
Alo Pavilion:





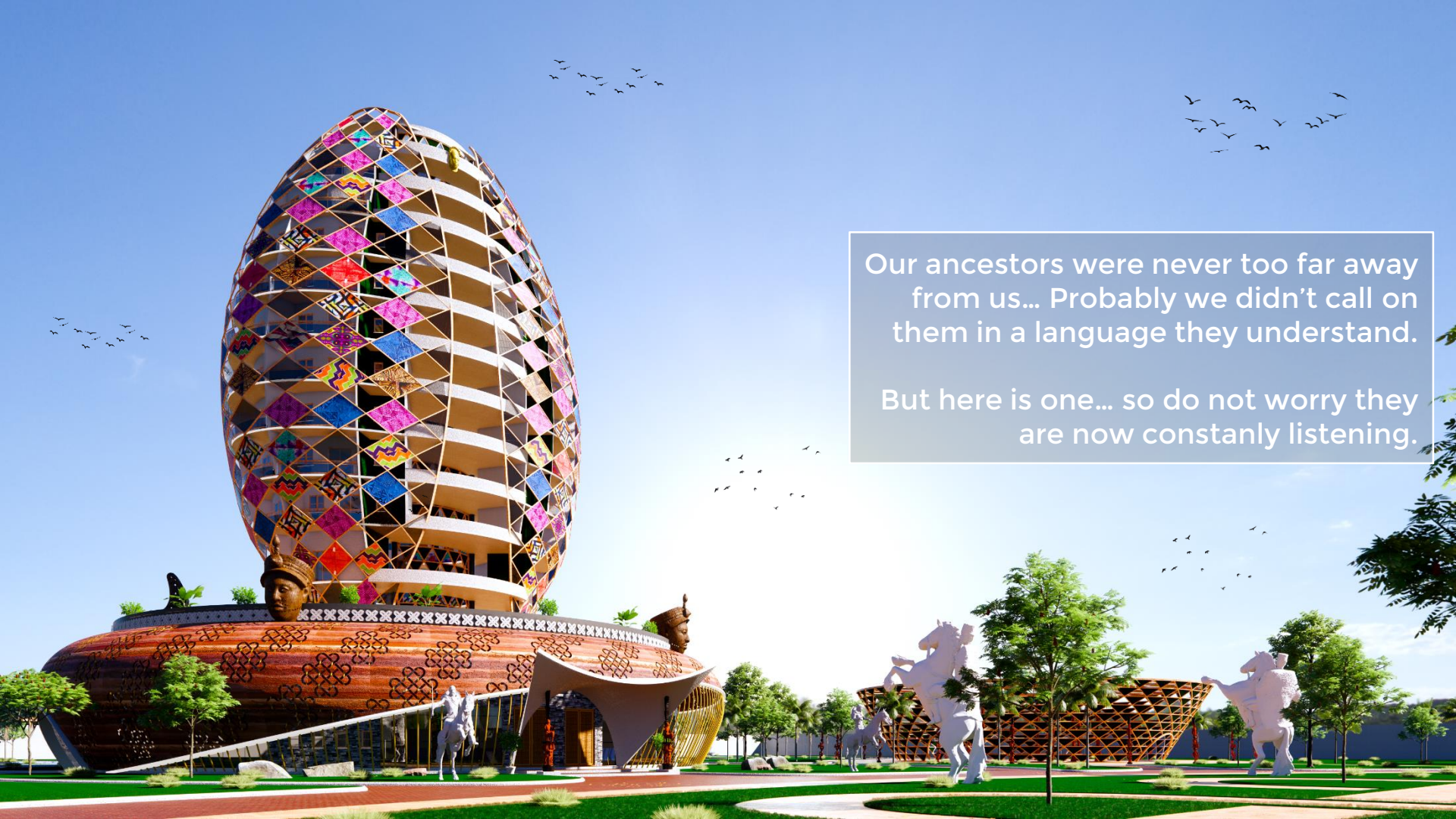
**Àlô Pavilion:**





**Àlô Pavilion:**





Our ancestors were never too far away  
from us... Probably we didn't call on  
them in a language they understand.

But here is one... so do not worry they  
are now constanly listening.



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FAWAZ ADELAJA, Architecture Student.

CPDI Africa Intern 2020, NIGERIA.

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## Testimonial

As you cant tell the content of a coconut (good/bad or dry or with water) without opening its shell to see for your self, that is the similitude of knowing nothing about a culture until you experience and fully understand it.

I can say I know more about my culture now and there is so much more to find and know... it only gets more interesting. The knowledge, experience and relationship gained so far through CPDI AFRICA is awesome, its been a joyful experience so far and Im looking forward to more.

I want to say thank you to CPDI, Mrs Nmadili and every professor, lecturer/mentor and my fellow interns, you all made this special for me. Thank you.

## Partners / Credits

My appreciations goes to my supervisor; Dr Mrs Oluwatoyin Sogbesan, to Adeleke Adedoyin and Oladigbo Akinola for collaborating with me on this project with sculpting all the cultural models I needed, my cousins for housing me and my family & fiancée for the continual support and encouragement.

**Adelaja Fawaz O.**

**Yoruba  
Architecture**



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