THE PAST IN OUR FUTURE:
Transformed Culture, Transforming Built-scape

A Presentation at the UIA Great Green Wall Initiative Webinar

by

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Introduction: Nigeria & The GGWI

- Nigeria peripherally indicated, as its northern fringes fall within the GGW Belt;
- Several of the ethnicities in the GGW Belt are also represented in Nigeria;
- These include the Hausa, Fulani & Kanuri;
- Some prevailing climatic conditions in the GGW Belt also true of Northern Nigeria:
  - Very high daytime temperatures (seldom lower than 30-35 degrees Celsius);
  - Low annual rainfall (usually between 500 & 700mm).
The Approach

- A focus on the place of history & cultural dictates in shaping the built environment;
- Changes in histo-cultural progression corresponding to changes in built-scape;
- Case-study highlights of predominant ethnic groups:
  - Hausa
  - Fulani
- The needed developmental (future) perspective.
Approach: History & Culture

- **History**: overview of people’s past (socio-cultural experiences, social/environmental evolution, inter-communal relationships, etc – embedded in corporate psyche;

- **Culture**: encapsulates occupational/religious/inter-communal orientations; shelter preferences; social norms & values.

Ultimately, cumulatively affect built environment!
Local Available Resources

- **Materials**
  - Rich laterite
  - Palm-tree timber ("azara")
  - Grass
  - Cement

- **Building Expertise**
  - Local building artisans
  - Other craftsmen
  - Formally trained building professionals.
Case-study: The Hausa (traditional)

**Occupation**
- Farming
- Craftwork
- Trading

**Religion**
- Islam (major)
- Christianity (minor)
- Other(s)

**Settlement Preference**
- Large/ closely-knit, polygamous
- Designated farms
Case-study: The Hausa ("urbanising")

1. British colonisation/Arabic influence

2. 

3. 

4. 
Case-study: The Fulani (traditional)

- Nomadic pastoralists;
- Lived in small groups, in temporary settlements;
- Basic “A”-frame huts;
- Easy dismantling/assembly, to favour nomadic lifestyle;
- Grass cladding on stalk (sapling) frame;
- Corrals for livestock.
Case-study: The Fulani ("urbanising")
Whither Students’ Design???

- Clear expectations of the GGWI:
  - “To preserve local heritage”;
  - “It must inspire the sustainability of the fading cultural and historical landscape”;

- Since culture progressively changing, settlement design solutions should go beyond “subsistence farming lifestyle”;

- Should cover realities of “global culture” (to include provisions for formal education & greater diversification in lifestyle orientations – with space-use implications);

Architectural “pluralism” thus implied – in the spirit of overall environmental sustainability!
“Borrowing a leaf”: Francis Kere
Thank You!