

PALACE OF THE ATTAH IGALA

A Study of Architectural Identity and Symbolism

AN M.SC (ARCH) THESIS REPORT

BY

EMUSA, HENRY

PG/M.SC/09/53713

SUBMITTED TO

SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES,

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE,

UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, ENUGU CAMPUS

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS

FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE

IN ARCHITECTURE

MARCH, 2013

ABSTRACT

Humans have an intuitive inclination to symbolize. Symbolism and Identity is viewed in this paper as the *'art of depicting'* and *'what to be depicted'* respectively. The research digs deep to buried meanings of symbols while paying attention to cultural identity and bringing focus to the heritage of Igala people. A study of symbolic buildings from different countries in the world is however carried out so as to bring to light an architectural application of identity. The deep rooted cultural heritage of the Igala people of Kogi State of Nigeria is unravelled and aligned with various architectural theories such as; Afrocentric Architecture and Sacred Geometry in a poise to create an architectural symbol that represents the people.