

URBAN PLANNING, ARCHITECTURE AND GLOBAL TERRORISM: THE NIGERIAN PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Man's fear of insecurity, violence, death and destruction has been intensified beyond measures in 21st century due to the frequency, intensity and spread of global terrorism. Homes, public infrastructures and facilities have been destroyed, physical and psychological injuries inflicted, economic fortunes wrecked in a moment, many displaced and lives lost as a result of terrorism and threats to terrorism. Different countries and regions respond differently to terrorism/threats to terrorism due to diversity in technological advancement, communication/information dissemination and technology, socio-cultural development, economic strength and multilateral relationships. However one area counterterrorism strategy has been identical globally is in urban planning and architecture. Different civilizations have witnessed peculiar urban planning policies and designs that influenced their space arrangement to achieve basic elements of urban planning. Given the prevalence of terrorism, public facilities and potential targets are now designed, structured and operated to offer maximum safety and security to the users, and also restrict entrance in order to control access, promote security checks, and surveillance, and ensure timely intervention in case of any attacks/threats. Metadata methodology of research was adopted for the study. In this approach, research findings and existing literatures were used for the analysis, and it reveals that urban planning policies, architecture of fear and resilient cities development are practicable in Nigeria. However there arises a gap for more research on the cultural implications these

counterterrorism strategies. This paper examined the reaction of urban planning and architecture to the presence of global terrorism in Nigeria.

Keywords: Global terrorism, counterterrorism, urban planning policies, architecture of fear and resilient cities

Introduction

Urban planning as a profession has evolved through several ages and civilizations, and its scope is continually expanded to accommodate the prevailing evolving changes in the society. Having been so much preoccupied in the late 1990s with issues like global warming, environmental degradation, population control, urbanization, smart growth, rapid informal sector development amongst a few, its apparent the urban planning profession is yet to encounter its biggest challenge in this contemporary times. With the advent of terrorist attack of 9/11 on the World Trade Centre in New York, 2001, the profession has been introduced to its most complicated challenge in recent times- Global terrorism. This study therefore seeks to unveil the terms urban planning and global terrorism, and further x-ray the relationship between the two, with a view to identifying the trend urban planning has dived in towards combating global terrorism.

Urban planning

Urban planning is an ancient profession identified with different names, expanded/broadened by peculiar challenges related to peculiar civilizations and unified by key objective of proffering solution to man's pressing needs. Susan Fainstein (2014) defines urban planning as the design and regulation of the uses of space that focus on the physical form, economic functions, and social impacts of the urban environment and on the location of different activities within it. Urban planning concerns itself with both the development of open land ("Greenfields sites") and the revitalization of existing parts of the city, thereby involving goal setting, data collection and analysis, forecasting, design, strategic thinking, and public consultation. Any activity in urban planning has the capacity to influence the physical environment, the economic environment and the socio-cultural environment. Thus utmost care is taken into consideration when making planning decisions, and such decisions are often backed by laws and policies.

Elements Of Planning

These are the factors that influence urban planning decisions. These elements are functionality, aesthetics, safety, convenience and economy.



Global Terrorism

Man from time immemorial has been the greatest source of hurt to his fellow man, inflicting great damages without moral justifications. However, in recent times, attention has been shifted from mere struggles for survival and dominance of territorial space to spontaneous attacks aimed at inflicting terror on the unprotected, unarmed and unprepared group in order to establish political, religious or ideological conviction/perception.

Terrorism according to Wikipedia (2015) is commonly defined as violent acts (or threat of violent acts) intended to create fear (terror), perpetrated for a religious, political, or ideological goal, and which deliberately target or disregard the safety of non-combatants (e.g., neutral military personnel or civilians) . In November 2004, a United Nations Secretary General report described terrorism as any act "intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing any act. Various ideologies have been associated and identified as the main streams that inspire terrorism. The list below shows different types of terrorism.



Source: Slideshare.net

Terrorism is a targeted way to hurt a population but also to destroy and annihilate a part of the civilization by attacking the built environment, especially settlements, iconic and symbolic buildings/infrastructures with its values of collective memory and cultural heritage, which is at the latest created by the iconic act of destruction. Over the last decades, acts of terrorism have more and more become a phenomenon of the global concern and 9/11 became a symbolic number, associated with terrorism in its cruelest forms (Franziska Paizs, 2013).

Below are the top 30 countries of the world worst hit by terrorism. The scores represent the level of impact of terrorism. 0 – No impact of Terrorism, .01 – 2 – Lowest impact of terrorism, 2.1 – 10 =Highest impact of terrorism.

Rank	Country	Score
1	 Iraq	10
2	 Afghanistan	9.39
3	 Pakistan	9.37
4	 Nigeria	8.58
5	 Syria	8.12
6	 India	7.77
7	 Somalia	7.41
8	 Yemen	7.31
9	 Philippines	7.29
10	 Thailand	7.19
11	 Russia	6.76
12	 Kenya	6.58
13	 Egypt	6.5
14	 Lebanon	6.4
15	 Libya	6.25
16	 Colombia	6.24
17	 Turkey	5.98
18	 Democratic Republic of the Congo	5.9
19	 Sudan	5.77
20	 South Sudan	5.6
21	 Algeria	5.52
22	 Mali	5.29
23	 Bangladesh	5.25
24	 Nepal	5.23
25	 China	5.21
26	 Central African Republic	5.19
27	 United Kingdom	5.17
28	 Iran	4.9
29	 Greece	4.73
30	 United States	4.71

Source: global Terrorism Index 2014

TERRORISM IN NIGERIA

Nigeria, being the most populated black nation in the world has been greatly affected by acts of terrorism. Over 14,000 thousand people have lost their lives to terrorism in Nigeria and over 300,000 people have been greatly affected psychologically, economically, socio-culturally and health wise. Global Terrorism Database/Institute for Economics and Peace (2014) has revealed that Nigeria is the fourth worst hit country in the world with the death toll of over fourteen thousand people.

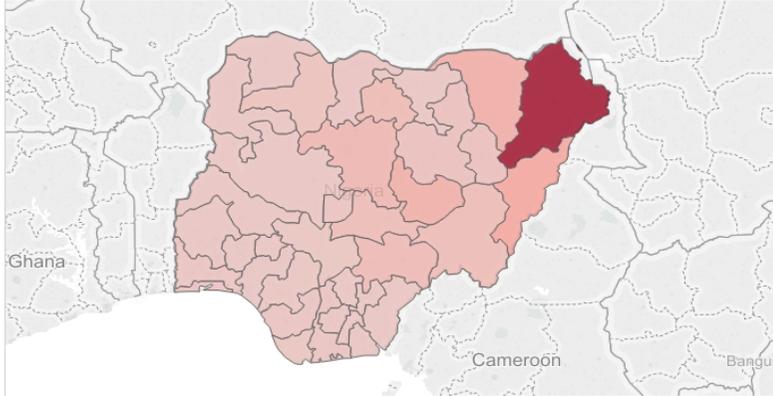


Source: Global Terrorism Database/Institute for Economics and Peace

Acts of terrorism are not a new phenomenon of modern times but have long been an instrument of asymmetrical warfare (Franziska Paizs, 2013). However with its current trend, rapid increase in casualty rate, and continuous spread across the globe, there arises a need for a conscious effort to safeguard our environment. Terrorism, as a young field of research is yet to comprehend comprehensively strategies necessary for combating terrorism. It therefore behooves on the town planners, Architects and allied professionals in the built environment to imbibe into their consciousness the need to incorporate safety as a core element in designs, policies and management of our precious environment in conjunction with military, security agencies and other professional bodies.

Map: Deaths by State

The map depicts deaths by state. Nigeria's northeastern states have been hit the hardest. Borno is the epicenter of Boko Haram related violence with over 14,000 media-documented deaths.



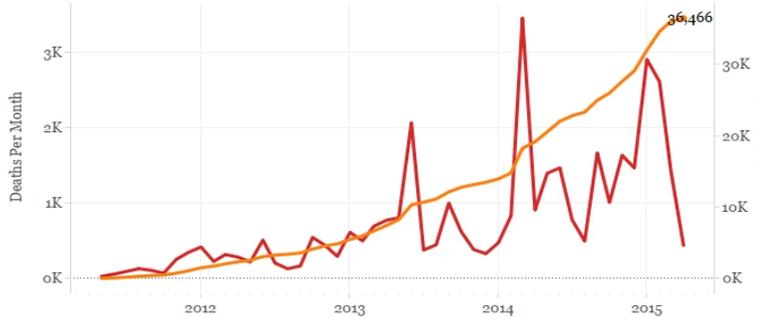
Date
May 2011 to April 2015

Deaths
8 20,671

Notes
Hover over a particular state to view additional information.
Specific dates can be viewed using the slider above.
Darker coloring represents a greater number of deaths in that state.

Graph 1: Deaths Over Time

The line graph depicts deaths over time. The red line shows the number of deaths by month, and the orange shows the cumulative total. The number of deaths is a conservative estimate, based on numbers reported by the press.



Key
Cumulative Deaths
Deaths Per Month

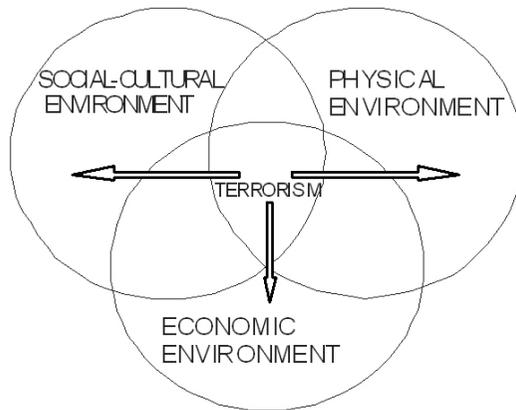
Notes
Hover over a point in the graph to view the number of deaths on that date.
Specific dates can be viewed using the slider above.

Nigeria Security Tracker produced by the Africa Program at the Council on Foreign Relations (www.cfr.org/africa)

Source: cfr.org/nigeria/nigeria-security-tracker/p29483

Impact Of Terrorism In Urban Areas

In the post 9/11 world, securing our communities from the global threat of terrorism has become an urgent priority Michael R. Bloomberg, Raymond. W. Kelly and Richard A. Falkenrath (2009). Terrorism and threats to terrorism in our cities have impacted negatively on all the fabrics of our society, cutting across the physical, social-cultural and economic environment.



I. Terrorism destroys what development has built physically. This ranges from infrastructures such as roads, rails, airports/seaports facilities to public buildings, recreational facilities, commercial outfits, parks and private properties.



Aftermath of suicide bombing in Bus Station, Kano.

Source: The Guardian, 24th February, 2015

2. Economically, acts/threats of terrorism cause our cities to regress as resources are being diverted from investments to tackle terrorism and recuperation activities which are needful after an attack. Moreover means of livelihood are temporarily and permanently affected, thereby setting drawbacks on the economic development in the area.

3. Socio-cultural environment is greatly influenced by threats to terrorism, and the damaged experience as a result of terrorist attack often comes with amplifying effects. Sometimes a whole set of values /culture breed and refined over generations are shattered as fear, anxiety and uncertainty open door for various vices, amoral characters and unfriendly community ambience. Acts of urban terror undermine the capacity of cities

and urban citizens to contribute to recovery, restitution and state-making. In Nigeria, the challenges of displacement, resettlement and refugee management has been very alarming in recent years given the sporadic attacks particularly in the Northeastern States of Nigeria.



PHOTO: People inspect the central mosque following a bomb explosion in Kano, Nigeria, Nov. 29, 2014.

Source: ABC News

Urban Planning And Global Terrorism

Urban planning, the art and science of ordering physical development to secure practicable degree of functionality, convenience, economy, aesthetic and safety in our environment has been identified globally as a key player in a fight against terrorism. Having wallowed successfully through and proffer solutions to many global challenges such as overcrowding, pollution, natural hazard prediction, management and control, global warming and a lot more, Urban Planning and Architecture have been coaxed into a fight against global terrorism.

Response to change in environment as a result of violence and violent threats has increasingly emerged globally and there has been increased need for security and safety. Safety, one of the elements of urban planning has now been considered the most important element, given the fact that any society without maximum safety measures can end up as a prey in the face of terrorism.

Terrorism And Urban Planning In History

Security has always played a significant role in architecture, urban design and planning from ancient past. Wars, conflicts and territorial fights have always been part of human existence. This influenced the pattern of development of cities and settlements. Few examples include

1. The location of settlements on hills to prevent ease advancement of opposing armies



Source: kkl.org.il. Jerusalem built on a Hill.

2. Building of walls round the city/settlement, watchtowers and fortress



Source: ask.com .Old Roman City Wall and tower

However, in the contemporary era, such protection measures have been outclassed by advancement in technology and strategies. For instance, the advent of canon ended the use of walls as a protection measures. A canon fired can shatter any wall built in pieces. Moreover resource requirement for wall development is not efficient considering much little resources required to demolish such walls. Also the advent of aircraft ended the choice of hills as the appropriate site for city location based on safety element alone since jets can fly over any hill, dropping weapons of mass destruction.

Moreover the strategies used by terrorist groups are becoming more sophisticated and versatile. For instance most terrorist attacks today involves

the terrorists moving into cities, buildings or places of interest to attack; brainwashing and using people of like passion or who shares religious ideology to attack their co citizens; suicide bombing, etc.

Terrorism And Urban Planning Policies

According to Peter Marcuse 2007, not terrorism, but the way the threat of terrorism is used, is what will have the biggest impact on the shape of cities and urban life in our day. With the persistence of terrorism and threats to terrorism, our environments and societies has been reshaped by fear of unemployment, loss of investments, housing insecurity, rising prices, apparently increasing amorality, personal tensions, fear of economic insecurity in old age, lack of health care, all insecurities that life in a competitive and individualistic world create, to displace (in Freudian terms) that aggregate existential anxiety onto an external and concrete target.

Marcuse Peter 2007, further observed that ever since the 9/11 attacked in USA, the general response in cities has been to:

***Make “Security” An Intrusive and Omnipresent Concern:** making security more pronounce in such a way it becomes adverse to existence. In Nigeria, we have witnessed the presence of police/military personnels and gadgets in an intimidating way in the markets, street corners, public buildings, recreational centres, etc.

***Harden Architecture:** This involves the use of hardscape materials in places of softscape materials. Gradually the use of trees, grasses (lawns) and flowering plants are giving way to the use of concrete materials to ensure maximum safety.

***Promote Citadelization:** This involves building of high walls to ward off intruders. In Nigeria, we have witnessed the development of high fences which sometimes render our streets susceptible to some social vices like rape/robbery. Moreover more areas are designed to be independent in the sense of including within a single private development all the necessities of life for their users, from office space for work to restaurants, health clubs, shopping facilities from boutiques to supermarkets, recreation facilities, internal access to transportation, and increasingly residences, all carefully designed to separate life within the citadel from contact with the life of the city around it.

***Increase Segregation:** This is observed as more security devices such as street surveillance are concentrated on areas where the rich lives or has great investment. Also in Nigeria for instance, virtually all northerners in the south are blacklisted as terrorists by the general public. Moreover, given the nature of their jobs (which include hawking of “suya”, shoe cobling, etc) which involves going into nooks and crannies of the town to offer services

and products, there arises great segregation with the southerners tagging them as spies.

***Restrict The Use Of Public Spaces:** Threat to terrorism has ensured the cancellation of many events in Nigeria, example the hosting of MISS WOLD by Silverbird in 2006, and the restriction of public spaces for campaigns, recreation, and protests.

***Limit Democracy:** restriction to the use of public places on its own limit democracy. Some sects or party groups are often denied the use of some public spaces, while media houses are also controlled, thereby denying access to all free citizens.

***Extend Privatization Of The Public Sector:** Terrorism threats accentuated the advantages that private enclosed malls, private athletic clubs, private meeting halls and conference centers, privately provided security, private buses and taxis, have over their public counterparts. People tend not to promote public facilities because of fear of possible attack.

***Undermine Urbanity, Cosmopolitanism:** The diversity, the openness, the tolerance, the think diversity, the free interchange of opinions, the chance encounters with difference, the freedoms that city life in theory connotes, are all impaired. The true diversity that moulds urbanization comes under attack due to threats of terrorism.

***Promote Chauvinism, Racism, And Hostility to the Different:** This is clearly seen in Nigeria as most northerners in the south are seen as potential hazards in the environment, given the activities of Boko haram which is clearly seen as an Islamic outshot in northern Nigeria.

KEY AREAS AFFECTED BY URBAN PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE

Several policies have been put forward in urban planning, architecture and allied professions towards boasting counter terrorism measures such as readdressing urban planning policies with safety as the core element of planning, Architecture of Fear, and Development of Resilient Cities.

Some of the areas readdressed by urban policies which reflects the prioritization of safety above all other elements of planning include

1. Transportation: New policies now specify basic safety features to be incorporated into designs of transport infrastructures, more rigorous checks at airports, train stations, bus stations, etc. For instance, in Nigeria, after the Nyanya Motor Park bombing, new security measures were introduced in motor parks in some cities in Nigeria. Close circuit televisions (cctv) have been introduced at public facilities to monitor human activities with the main aim of curtailing violence and terrorist attacks.



Source: lady Gbeborun's Block Cctv on a street in Lagos

2. Housing: The most outstanding defense system for housing sector in Nigeria has been the rapid change in architecture. Designs with more defensive pattern have become pronounce in the architectural world in contemporary times influenced by the need for optimum safety.

Entrances to housing estates and individual houses have been mounted with high fence and concrete materials, and introduction of adequate checks which restricts easy access, to curb to an extent any violence/terrorist advancement.



Source: Steven R. Keller, 2015

3. Public Buildings/Spaces: with the advent of terrorism, entrance to public buildings/spaces has been greatly restricted, monitored and checked at all times to avert any intrusion by attackers. New designs are initiated to introduce more safety measures.



Source: Tom Geoghegan and Dominic Casciani, 2007

4. Recreation: Recreational facilities have been identified as major targets by terrorists, thereby restricting the use of such facilities. Events, football matches, camps and several more activities have been postponed and some cancelled because of terrorism threats. Thus security facilities have been introduced in recreational facilities such as cctv, security patrols and scrutinized checking during events. Modern designs for recreational facilities now come with restricted entrance which enables maximum checks and control of access.

5. Urban Security: Joint taskforce team of security personnel have been conscripted to be on guard at major junctions and public facilities all over the country, especially in the urban centres so as to enhance quick response to violence and terrorism.

Safety has now become the most outstanding element in urban design as cities and spaces are now designed with utmost preference to easy accessibility by the security agencies, fire/safety personnel and facilities, ambulance and allied medical facilities.

Counter-terrorism design principles	Examples of measures
Better blast resistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> external barriers or a strengthened perimeter to prevent a penetrative (ramming) or close proximity (parked or encroachment) attack; use of building materials which reduce the risk of fragmentation including blast resistant glazing and structural design which reduces the risk of building collapse; and install doors and locks which are better able to withstand entry from armed intruders and provide robust ground floor facade material, which together will help to provide cover for people caught up in a firearms attack.
Better building management facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> entrance arrangements which resist hostile entry; the separation of general heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems for entrance areas, delivery areas and mailrooms from those occupying the main occupied spaces; air intakes that are in a secure area and above first floor level; hazardous material stores that are at a safe distance from the building; and communications systems (eg public address systems) installed to pass on advice to those caught up in a firearms attack.
Better traffic management and hostile vehicle mitigation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> structural measures that prevent access to, or close proximity of, unscreened vehicles to the building or space; and measures that reduce the speed of vehicles approaching the site or its defences, like bends or chicanes.
Better oversight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> clear lines of sight around a building; absence of recesses on the façade or elevations of a building; uncluttered street furniture; well maintained and managed litter-free building surrounds that reduce the opportunity for suspicious hidden items and suspect activity to go unnoticed; CCTV and security guarding to provide formal oversight; orientating the building so that it overlooks public space and neighbouring buildings to support informal oversight by those who use and visit the location; and well-managed access points and reception facilities that offer less opportunity for intruders to go undetected and may deter them from taking further action.

Source: Home office, 2012

The Architecture Of Fear

"Architecture of Fear" according to Nan Ellin(1997) examines the ways in which the contemporary landscape is shaped by our society's preoccupation with fear, as apparent in home design, security systems, gated communities, semi-public spaces (shopping malls, theme parks, casinos, office atriums), zoning regulations, and cyberspace. This fixation also manifests itself in efforts to provide safety in public parks, but control the problem of homelessness.

The main idea behind architecture of fear is to control access to public buildings, residential communities, malls, and other places of interest which forms potential targets for terrorists. It entails the incorporation of physical barriers into building design and construction with a view to increasing the time taken by potential intruders to force their way in, or to outrightly prevent them from gaining entrance.

Resilience Cities

Resilience is the adaptability to the external changes. It originated from the field of ecology, describing the adaption of an ecosystem to changing external conditions [Christman et al. 2012: 2]. However it is applied in the context of urban studies as several events demands adaptation for survival in our communities.

Resilience towards hazard (natural and manmade) has gradually been the focus of contemporary urban studies. The adaptability of the people {psychologically, economically, socio-culturally} and the urban infrastructures/facilities to terrorism and violence is very vital to the wellbeing of the people. Resilience balances both the approaches of freedom and security in our society.

According to Franziska Paizs (2013), Resilience in a spatial context is defined as the adaption of a city, its infrastructure and built environment towards the threatening and consequences of crime but also of terrorism as an extreme case scenario. The objective of a resilient city is its consecutive functioning due to transport and supply of the population in or after a case of conflict and danger. Instruments are - amongst others - integrated urban development and protection plans. Other major subjects next to resilience are security in public buildings, neighborhoods or public transport. Preparedness, anticipation, subsidiarity, integration, communication and co-operation is the guiding principles behind the creation of resilient cities.

Different levels of resilience can be achieved in different periods of time. Short-term resilience includes the immediate, emergency respond to e.g. terrorist attacks like taking care of the victims of the attack and the safeguarding of the site to preclude further danger and the restoration of transit. Example spaces are designed to enhance restricted movements,

emergency exits and special faster access for utility services like ambulance and police/fire service. Mid-term resilience includes the restoration of a functioning city e.g. by restoring the lost functions via interim solutions. The redevelopment of the affected sites and the installation of remembrance are long-term goals of resilience. [Vale, Campanella 2005: 337 ff] Resilience in urban planning covers the strategic aspects of responding towards terrorism and violent conflicts. A physical way to respond to terrorism in the built environment and create an (alleged) resilient city can be realized by architecture, urban design and security technology itself (Franziska Paizs).

Conclusion

Global terrorism has intensified in recent times, and its greatest success is recorded in developing countries which are short of technical know-how, technology, education, and awareness/preparedness towards counter-terrorism strategies. The success of counter terrorism is a product of a collaborated effort by various agencies, professionals and levels of government. Urban planning and architecture have provided various policies and designs which has given the skeleton for other professionals to build on. Incorporating this policies and designs in time in Nigeria promises to boost counterterrorism in the country. However utilizing these innovations without any negative impact is a new area further research will be needed to ensure maximum positive and smooth integration.

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