

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

**SUSTAINING AND STRENGTHENING A COMMUNITY'S
ARCHITECTURAL IDENTITY: THE PROPOSED CHITUNGWIZA
SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS**

By

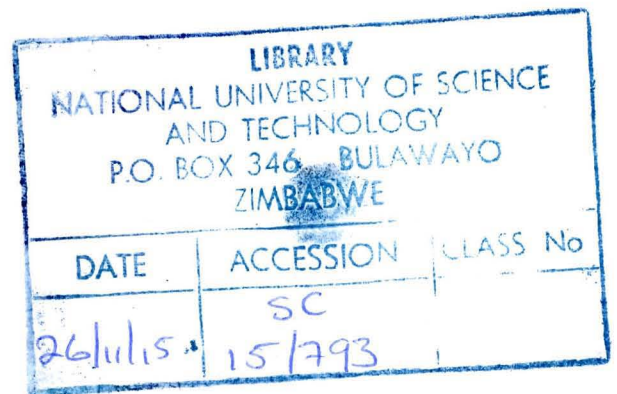
Takunda Chimbwa

(N01417568D)

Co-ordinator:

Ms. V. Madiro

Mr. T. Nyamande



A Research Submitted

to the Department of Architecture

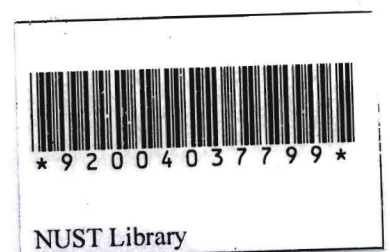
In Partial Completion for the Degree of

Master of Architecture

Degree

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

May 2015



Abstract

Contemporary architectural movements propagated by globalisation have established their way through to Zimbabwean cityscapes. This can be seen as a positive move as these architectural styles are associated with development and prosperity and also help in creating a dynamic architectural cityscape that is not restricted to a discrete architectural language. However these contemporary architectural movements due to their universality have prompted the dilution of local architectural identity. In trying to mitigate this Zimbabwean architecture has responded by the use of symbols, patterns and ornamentation from traditional architectural backgrounds so as to promulgate a local architectural identity for Zimbabwe. To some extent this is sending a message of Zimbabwean architectural identity but however is giving a false illusion that Zimbabwean traditional architecture only was about art without considering other design, architectural and social factors.

This research henceforth establishes, from traditional architectural backgrounds alternative factors other than symbols, ornaments and patterns that contributed to the creation of Zimbabwean traditional architectural identity, so as to know how these can hence be applied to the present day Zimbabwean architecture to strengthen and sustain the local identity.

In establishing this, the research took a qualitative approach through reviewing literature on how local architectural identities were established. The architecture of traditional Zimbabwean communities were studied in order to know how they managed to establish local identities through, the use of material, relationship to the context, form and shape of the building and general design principles. Precedent studies from the international arena were also reviewed in order to know how architectural identity can be established in the contemporary world. Local cases were also analysed to see how local building can respond in creating an architectural identity.

Finally coupled with these research findings, the research facilitated the design development of the Chitungwiza School of Performing Arts to provide an architecture that exhibits the architectural identity of Zimbabwe. The document finally concludes by giving recommendations on what aspects from traditional architectural backgrounds, and how these aspects can be taken by modern day Zimbabwean architecture so as to establish an architectural identity.