



**TOURISM POTENTIALS  
OF BABBAN GWANI  
ARCHITECTURE AND  
THE FIRST MINING  
BEACON TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT  
IN BAUCHI**

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**Abstract**

**T**his work showcases comparative advantages of the Babban Gwani architecture and the first mining beacon to revamp tourism in Bauchi. Bauchi state is home to the Yankari Game Reserve, first tin mining beacon, rock paintings at Geji and Shira, the state museum, Babban Gwani architecture and among others. It is also one of the thirty-six political administrative states in Nigeria offering good opportunity for human settlement due to its peaceful atmosphere with less security challenges, attractive terrain and adequate market for tourism business to thrive. The study areas under investigation further discusses issues of immense contribution to tourism

**Introduction**

**D**evelopment in the context of architecture could best be described by the recent trend in the design and construct buildings that are sustainable to their host environment. A major breakthrough in the design and construct

development potentials. Hence, the contribution of this work can never be over estimated as the results and findings were all relevant to professionals and other future

**KEYWORDS:**

Development,  
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market,  
sustainability,  
tourism

possibilities in terms of attainment of tourism and opportunities in sustainable built environment. It has been recommended that government should strictly enforce the law that promotes tourism towards the attainment of sustainability in the economy using the two selected architectural monument sites in Bauchi.

buildings is the use of attached Tourism potentials. Historic features which have been declared monuments by the National Commission for Museum and monuments, include building of historical and architectural interest, ancient city walls and boundary mounds as well as cemeteries, etc. Among them are the house and compound at KaffinMadaki in Bauchi State, Ilojo Bar in Lagos State, OmoUkwu temple, Imo State, Oshun Shrines at Oshogbo, Oyo State, status of 19th century kings and paramount rulers such as William DappaPepple (1886), King Ockiya of Nember (1876) e.t.c. In Rivers State, and Tombs of Northern Emirs, in Lokoja, Kwara States to mention but a few. The historic building at KaffinMadaki, 61 kilometers, North Bauchi town built in 1860 by Babban Gwani of Zaria who also built GidanMakama in Kano represents a fine example of Muslim architecture and one of the very important ones surviving till today (Etukudoha, Ezemokweb, Okpokoc and Oyeokud 2017). Kafin Madaki is the headquarters of [Ganjuwa](#) Local Government Area of [Bauchi State, Nigeria](#). It is a small town of about 20,000 people some 45 km north of [Bauchi](#) and its geographical coordinates are 10° 41' 8" North, 9° 45' 36" East and its original name (with diacritics) is Kafin Madaki (Kafin Madaki map @ <http://www.maplandia.com>, 2016). The economy is based primarily on farming, with cottage industries in weaving, iron-working, soap-making and brick-making. Bauchi state has numerous mineral resources in abundance: Cassiterite (tin ore) in Maijuju and Gamau; Coal, Limestone, Columbite and partially Gold which are yet to be mined. Interestingly, the nation's first formal mining beacon which started 1905 was in Tilden Fulani, Toro LGA. But, unfortunately, according to a recent report by Environmental Compliance Department of the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development, Bauchi State has 63 abandoned mining sites! (Zaharaddeen, 2015).

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Situated at the geographical North-Eastern part of Nigeria, Bauchi State remains the best tourism haven with a warm and hospitable weather as well as over 15 different destinations that rightly earned it the slogan as 'The Pearl of Africa's Tourism'. Its natural endowments raw, yet strikingly beautiful with spectacular sights and awe-inspiring beauty that offer a wealth of destinations for tourism and leisurely activities. From the medieval, to the natural or invented, visitors will seek the end to the suspense in discovering this Pearl of Tourism known as Bauchi State. This land remains a secret that is rich in abundant historical heritage buried in the likes of the ancient Babban Gwani local structure in Kafi and Madaki, the first mining Beacon in Nigeria located at Tilden Fulani, the Panshanu stone hips in Toro, the Geji rock paintings in Shira as well as the Shadawanka rock paintings and the tomb of Nigeria's first and only Prime Minister in Bauchi (Blessing, 2014). The life and legacy of Muhammadu Durugu, also known as Babban Gwani, Zaria's master builder of the 19th century is second to none. According to Tadaferua (2012), Babban Gwani built mosques and palaces in Kano, Katsina, Bauchi, Zaria, to

mention a few. He built the Zaria Juma'a Mosque. Last Saturday this writer visited the mosque. It was an amazing experience. This is a 19th century architectural masterpiece which has many arches, pillars and columns, which stretch all the way to the ground. The mosque is silent just as the visitors are quiet, stunned by the sheer power of the extraordinary interior. Popular accounts state that Babban Gwani had many unique habits, one of which was that he built his houses or Masjids only at night. This may be indicative of a certain profundity of spirit which functions best in moments of great silence. He would build a house without any visible plan or drawing, so say the accounts. One tradition holds that on one occasion, his slaves threw a hundred mud blocks for him to catch and lay. He is then depicted as catching all at once and promptly laying them. Babban Gwani's era, which coincides with the reign of Sarki Abdulkarim of Zaria (1835-1846), is regarded as the classical period of Hausa architecture. As a boy he moulded toys and forms out of mud and clay and did these so well that people then began to call him a 'Gwani' meaning an expert in the activity. Later when his talent manifested in the creation of buildings of sheer beauty, he was now addressed as 'Babban Gwani'. At this time the story spread of the speed at which he put up buildings (Tadaferua, 2012). He built the reception hall at the palace of the Emir of Bauchi, the hall at the palace of Chief of Kafin Madaki, and a mosque in Birnin Gwari say the sources. He celebrates Babban Gwani's talent in the following words: "Babban Gwani flourished 150 years ago. No builder could do the designs he was skilled in doing. There was no designer of mud buildings like him. Even when he was not the builder, he would be invited to do the design. People generally deferred to him when it came to matters relating to his work."

Today, the Babban Gwani ward in Zaria is made up of people who initially originated from the famous Babban Gwani family, but many of them are involved in other trades and vocations. But there are still a few great grand children of Babban Gwani who are still involved in constructions using mud and clay today. Wazirin Magina says that there has been a slump in the business. According to him "Fewer houses are being built today using mud and clay. Babban Gwani was great even in his assassination by royalty: one account captured by Collin Chant says he was killed by the Emir of Birnin Gwari (Being and Becoming Hausa, n.d). He writes "On completion of his mosque, the Emir of Birnin Gwari seized Babban Gwani and had him executed so that no mosque would ever be built to equal the one in Birnin Gwari." Another tradition states that the then Emir of Zazzau had Babban Gwani assassinated. So, who killed the legend?

Also, The First Tin Mining Beacon, located at Tilden Fulani area of Ganjuwa Local Government area of Bauchi State is another remarkable architectural monument site and a tourist point of attraction. One of the ways by which man impacts on his environment (both natural and built) is through mining activities. The mining industry is one of the oldest industries in the world, and its importance to human

development becomes evident when one considers the naming of the pre-historic age after mined products – “Stone” age, “Bronze” age and “Iron” age (Jennings, 1999). Mining on the whole is the extraction of valuable. It is known that formal mining of tin within the Jos Plateau started in 1905 in Tilden Fulani, Toro LGA in Bauchi State. A monumental mining beacon has been erected at this First Tin Mining site. The various minerals in the state are in some cases viable basis for investments (onlinenigeria.com, 2003). Consequently, Tin Mining in Jos started way back in 1902 and by the mid 1940s the British government formally entered tin exploration and mining in the region making it the number one foreign export from Nigeria. The tools and materials were later buried in the well and built the hexagonal structure as a symbol of the First Mining Beacon. However, the discovery of oil in the mid 1950s and the subsequent shift in emphasis from tin mining left present day Plateau State with the huge challenge posed by degradation and devastation, with over 4,000 abandoned mining ponds dotting the state, neglected and have continually posed a serious threat to the environment and the inhabitants (plateaunewsonline, 2014).

The production of tin in the colonial era started with about 1.5 metric tones in 1914 and then began to increase until peak production of 17,740 metric tones was reached in 1943 (when Nigeria became the 6th world producer). In 1970 however, tin mining declined rapidly due to the behaviour of the market for tin and a diversion of interest in Nigeria towards oil production and export (Patterson, 1986). With tin mining activities going on in various sites on the Jos Plateau at informal levels, the social and economic impacts within the natural and built environment improved, but mostly beneficial to immigrants. Hence, tin mining activities which has impact on the environment with significantly social and economic advantages therefore requires that the government needs to consider and take measures to revamp for mining serious for National development (Onwuka, Duluora and Okoye, 2013). Charles and Osuala (2015), wrote that mining activities have not only impacted on the environment of the Jos Plateau by way of depriving the farmers their means of livelihood but has contributed to the growth in population. This increase in population has brought with it the resultant social vices, such as crime rate, prostitution, traffic congestion, stress on facilities and even loss of cultural heritage.

## **THE STUDY AREA**

The study area according to Bauchi state (2012), stated that geographical profile of Bauchi state lies between 9.30 and 20.30 North of the Equator and 850 and 110 East of the Greenwich meridian. The state is bounded by eight states: Kano, Jigawa, Plateau in the West, Adamawa, Taraba, Yobe and Gombe to the North/East and Kano to the West, with land area of 549,200 sq Km, about 5.3% of Nigeria’s total land mass with 20 Local Government areas including Bauchi.

**METHODOLOGY**

The methods involved in this work are:-

- Visits to the study area for case studies, carrying out interviews and photographs. This will allow proper analysis of existing tourism features for proper design analysis.
- Interviews carried out with stakeholders in the community to know how they perceive tourism.
- Photographs taken of various tourism features in Babban Gwani Architecture and First Tin Mining Beacon.

**DESIGN ANALYSIS**

The design analysis used peculiar case study approach to achieve its objectives as summarized in TABLES 1 to TABLE 2 below:

**TABLE 1: SCHEDULES OF THE BABBANNGWANI ARCHITECTURE**

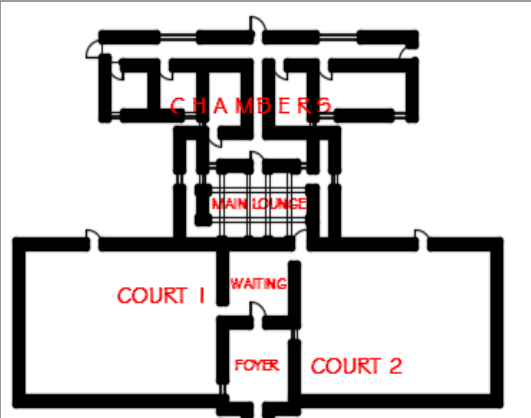
SITUATIONS/ CONDITIONS	EXISTING SITUATION	SPECIFICATIONS
PLAN	<p>PLATE A: SHOWS THE FLOOR PLAN OF BABBANN GWANI</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Well articulated vaults and connections notable at Foyer and Main Lounge</li> <li>- Date palm tree, local adhesives, mud were used</li> <li>• A need for Retrofitting as roof and ceiling got weakened</li> <li>• Good finishes should be applied to retain original form</li> </ul>

PLATE B: SHOWS THE ENTRANCE OF BABBANN GWANI

VIEW



- Exhibition of Northern and Islamic Art and Architecture
- Date palm tree, local adhesives, mud were used
- A need for Retrofitting as original elephant skin entrance gate now cow skin got weakened
- Good finishes should be applied to retain original form

PLATE C: SHOWS THE MAIN LOUNGE OF BABBANN GWANI

VIEW



- Well articulated vaults and a good thermal comfort
- Date palm tree, local adhesives, mud were used
- A need for Retrofitting as roof and ceiling got weakened and leaking
- Good finishes should be applied to retain original form

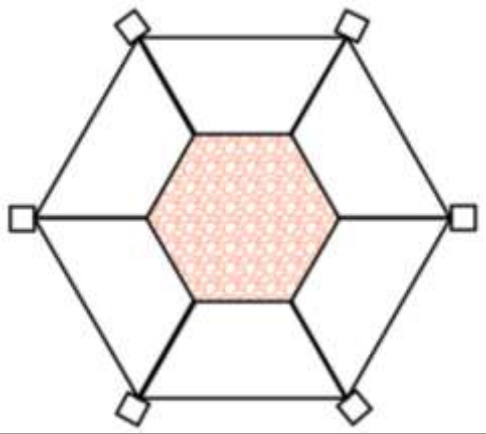


PLATE C: SHOWS THE ENTRANCE FOYER CEILING OF BABBANN GWANI

VIEW



- Well articulated vaults and connections
- Date palm tree, local adhesives, mud were used
- A need for Retrofitting as roof and ceiling got weakened
- Good finishes should be applied to retain original form

TABLE 2: SCHEDULES OF THE FIRST MINING BEACON

SITUATIONS /CONDITIONS	EXISTING SITUATION	SPECIFICATIONS
PLAN	<p>PLATE A: SHOWS THE FLOOR PLAN OF THE FIRST MINING BEACON</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Well defined and constructed hexagonal index</li> <li>- Stones, cement, roofing sheets, nails and timber were used</li> <li>• A need for cleaning as the ambience is not well kept and maintained</li> <li>• Good finishes should be applied to retain original form</li> </ul>
VIEW	<p>PLATE B: SHOWS THE ROOFING OF THE FIRST MINING BEACON</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Well articulated pitched roof</li> <li>- No paint was used</li> <li>• A need for Retrofitting as roof got weakened</li> <li>• Good finishes should be applied to retain original form</li> </ul>
VIEW	<p>PLATE C: SHOWS THE BOUNDARY OF FIRST MINING BEACON</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poorly assigned sign post for location and information</li> <li>- Sign posts are not conspicuous nor strategically placed</li> <li>• A need for well assigned sign post for location and information</li> <li>• Good and sustainable lighting should be provided</li> </ul>



## RESULTS & FINDINGS

- Visits to the study areas for case studies, carrying out interviews and photographs. This allowed proper analysis of the existing monument sites for proper solutions such as retrofitting, special government, NGO, Philanthropists, and other stake holders' interventions.
- Interviews carried out with stakeholders in the monument sites neighbourhood to know how they perceive tourism towards national development.
- Various photographs of the monument sites were taken to showcase the tourism potentials, advantages and features in Babban Gwani Architecture and First Tin Mining Beacon.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

With the showcasing of tourism potentials/advantages in Babban Gwani Architecture and First Tin Mining Beacon, the following recommendations will be very important in the present and future situations as strategies to revamp tourism for National development.

1. The government of the day, through special programmes under National Tourism Board, UNESCO, e.t.c, should give funding priority to improvement of tourism and other supporting facilities, thus employment opportunities in developing areas which will therefore lessen the attraction to big cities



2. Stakeholders in Public and Private Participation should sponsor and organize massive enlightenment programmes, workshops, conferences, seminars and symposia in collaboration with all the media houses (Sanusi and Osunkunle, 2010a and 2010b). As a result of this, training and re-training, the tourism situation in the country will be revamped.
3. Another important area is that tourism and allied professionals in training and practice which are true mirror-reflection of the society should embark on researchable projects that will cover the socio-cultural, political and technological tourism projects so as to meet up with the future challenges.
4. The study of creative skills such as tourism Education in higher Institutions should on a more serious note be continued despite all odds to promote a better National development.

## **CONCLUSION**

Since preservation of tourism development will enhance the revenue base of Bauchi State and Nigeria by attracting tourist; protecting, promoting and preserving the historical heritage of Bauchi State thus, has to be a collaborative efforts by Government and non-Government organization in order to safe guard the major parameters raised in this paper.

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