

# Business Knowledge, Essential for Contemporary Architects



Department of Architecture's Town & Gown Seminar  
"Guest Speaker, Faculty, Staff and Students of the Department of Architecture in a group photograph after the seminar"

The need for business savvy and a deep understanding of economy and politics have been identified as essential tools for contemporary architects. Also, in order for the practitioners to remain relevant to the business, knowledge of current materials for modern day architecture is needed in the University programme.

These ideas summarised the lecture titled, "Clients Expectations from Contemporary Architects," recently delivered by Architect Paul Egwakhide, at the Town and Gown Interaction, organised by the Department of Architecture, Covenant University.

"Contemporary Architects should be knowledgeable in other areas like politics, economy and be an out-going person so that they can be relevant when discussing with their clients. You need to know business," he advised.

Architect Egwakhide also recommend a repackaging and introduction of business into the training curriculum for architects. He noted that they should be able to discuss money when negotiating with clients.

In addition, the guest lecturer noted that contemporary architects should have the knowledge of planning laws in order to advise their clients appropriately. He remarked that this would give the added benefit of earning the respect of their client.

Architect Egwakhide informed the audience that some clients would import designs from abroad and instruct the architect to replicate the same in their locality. He stated, however, that an architect should advise the client of the functionality or otherwise of such designs in their locality.

“There are many beautifully designed houses in Lekki-Ajah axis but they are not functional in this environment. Some clients can take you out of the country to see designs which they intend to replicate here. A contemporary architect should be able to advise the client on the functionality of such designs in our environment,” he explained.

He also emphasised that a contemporary architect should have the knowledge of contract administration and be able to supervise other allied professionals involved in a building project.

“There should be a clear difference between a building supervised by an architect and one supervised by someone who is not. You should be able to supervise other allied professionals too,” he stated.

In his remarks, the Head of Department, Architecture, Dr Eziyi Ibem, noted that the aim of the programme was to promote interaction between the academic and industry, which was why they went out of the way to identify highly skilled persons in practice to share their experiences. He remarked that this would inform the teaching and training of the students, enabling them to be better equipped for the industry.

Also present at the event were the Sub-Dean of the College of Science and Technology, Professor Albert Adeboye, Dr Oluwole Alagbe, Dr Ekhaese Eghosa, Dr Oluwatayo Adedapo, other faculty, staff and students of the department.

11/02/2015 10:41 am