

TOPIC: 'WESTERN' ARCHITECTURAL INFLUENCE ON VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

A Case Study of the N'yindrou People, Kali Island, Manus, Papua New Guinea

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Abstract: This paper reports on a study that investigates the Western influences on Melanesian Vernacular Architecture. It is aimed at the Melanesian Architectural context and outside Western Influences that contribute to the changes that take place in traditional Melanesian vernacular setting within the field of architecture and the building practice. It is a case study based on a field trip conducted by a team of four volunteers and the author through interviews and observations, on the N'yindrou group of people particularly the people of Kali Island from the west coast of Manus, Papua New Guinea.

The case study is divided into two parts, the physical and social aspects that outline the trend and changes that have taken place and the likely effect it would have on these group of people. Changes as studied were taken from a sample of four different houses in the setting in relation to the other buildings on site and the nearby district. The samples were studied over a period of one week in contrast to site observations conduction over more than two years. The complete data collected was analyzed and then tabulated to identify the different use of space and photos were taken to show the materials used in the building components.

The samples as analyzed show the different user spaces and the forms of the buildings. Most of the findings are based entirely on this study and are linked to the issues and changes that took place during the history of Manus in its transition of change. The major outcome of the study is the tabular analysis and the graphical representations that show the space usage and types of forms and materials used in design. Understanding of the type of material use and the better education of their effects is needed to reduce the trend of change as well as provide other options in building construction techniques.

Social spaces in this study, referred to as basically masculine and feminine spaces are not visual but do exist and are very influential in relation to the cultural beliefs and daily tactics in the usage of the given limited indigenous environment. These habitual spaces are vitally important to the user hence; designers in approaching spatial design in a Melanesian dwelling setting particularly in '*Per formative*' Architectural study it should embrace such indigenous knowledge in order to respond appropriately and responsively.

From this paper, the study demonstrates that Kali Island on Manus Island has evidence of Western architectural influence on Melanesian Vernacular Architectural practice.

Keywords: Vernacular, western influence, indigenous, Melanesian, spatial design, domestic, routine, roles, masculine, feminine, architecture, per formative.