Trace Elements: A curatorial approach to the reconstitution of 19th/20th century buildings in Lagos, Nigeria

- Residential/palace buildings located in Lagos, Nigeria
- Largely ‘invisible’ by scholars and locked in vernacular quotations
- Proto-modernist architecture yet missing from early modern architectural canon
- Cultural artifact in decline and on the precipice of erasure

The research aims to recover the history of these buildings, and mediate the reconstitution of one case study building using a curatorial approach.

Methodology (hybrid + bespoke)

- Reconstruction + departure
  The project aims is to build a sort of cartography, as a record of traces between past, present, and future, but only in that this serves as the catalyst for building something else.

- Oral history transcript, conversational + collective storytelling modes
- Conventional + participatory approaches

- Auto/biographical methods, reflective writing, conversational research
- Auto/biography, Archigraphy, Ethnography, Cartography

(Current) Lines of enquiry

- Yoruba philosophy
- Black speculative
- Spatial / architectural