Abstract

Ornament can be considered another instinct that man inherited from Nature. Architecture being the most tangible of all art forms acts as a canvas onto which man has expressed his ideas. The idea of ornament has evolved and arguably is still evolving in the present time. This dissertation explores the relationship of ornament with architecture during the last one century; and how different manifestations of the same idea came forward. Classical ornament shall be revisited along with the modernist perspective and its contradictions and shortcomings up to where the debate on ornament in architecture stands today. The journey of ornament in architecture locally shall be traced as well with interviews from prominent architects, and study of available literature. Ornament is one the most intrinsic devices through which the building interacts with society and the people around and living in it. Even though ornament was regarded by some modernist architects to be a threat to evolution it has manifested as an integral part of architecture. The function of ornament being recognized is a relatively new idea in the architectural world. Even though the architectural world takes ornament for granted, but it is an inherent part of every architectural product inevitably.