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ARCHITECTURE AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING: ASSESSING DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION AND LEISURE IN CLUBHOUSES IN SOUTHWESTERN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Leisure spaces have become important markers of contemporary urban life because they support recreation, social identity, and informal economic activity. They are places where modernity, status, music, dress, and group identity are performed. A successful clubhouse design must therefore balance entertainment with comfort, and spectacle with legibility, if it is to sustain patron loyalty. The study examines how architectural form influences social interaction and leisure in multipurpose lounge and nightclub environments in Southwestern Nigeria by adopting a mixed-methods design, combining questionnaire responses, field observation, and documentary review across selected nightlife venues. Findings show that the user base is largely young and economically active, with respondents aged 25–34 years constituting 38.4% of the sample, males 60.5%, and socializing (30.4%) and dancing/music (27.7%) emerging as the leading reasons for patronage. The overall physical configuration of the venues was judged moderately functional, but seating comfort, spacing between seating clusters, and furniture flexibility were weak points. Safety conditions were fair, with a grand mean of 3.23, yet disability access, signage clarity, and emergency visibility remained inadequate. Environmental quality was similarly constrained by acoustic overlap, limited zoning between loud and quiet areas, and only moderate thermal comfort. Cultural relevance was rated moderately satisfactory (SPI = 58.1%), with local music and repeat visitation stronger than cultural identity expression and interaction support. The paper concludes that successful clubhouse design in secondary Nigerian towns should combine flexible zoning, human-scaled seating, acoustic separation, inclusive access, and culturally resonant detailing in order to support social interaction, user comfort, and long-term patronage. It recommends that future clubhouse proposals prioritize seating flexibility, clearer circulation and wayfinding, stronger emergency and disability-access provisions, improved acoustic control, and the integration of local cultural motifs and programming to strengthen patron experience and sustainability.

Keywords*:* Social interaction; leisure architecture; clubhouse design; nightlife; Southwestern *Nig*eria; Iseyin.

I. INTRODUCTION

Leisure spaces have become important markers of contemporary urban life because they support recreation, social identity, and informal economic activity. In many cities, the night-time economy now includes clubs, lounges, restaurants, and hybrid hospitality venues that extend social life beyond working hours and into the evening. Architectural scholarship has increasingly shown that such environments do not simply host social activity; they actively shape who interacts, how long people stay, and whether a venue feels welcoming, safe, or exclusive (Whyte, 1980; Oldenburg, 1989; Gehl, 2011;).

In Southwestern Nigeria, lounge and nightclub architecture sits at the intersection of culture, consumption, and social behavior. Users often expect spaces that are lively but not chaotic, expressive but not alienating, and comfortable enough to support extended stays and repeat visits. Yet many venues still rely on generic spatial templates that privilege entertainment intensity over comfort, legibility, and social connection. This creates a gap between architectural performance and the lived expectations of patrons in secondary urban contexts, where leisure spaces also function as important sites of networking and community expression (Latham and Layton, 2019; Eneyo and Edward, 2020).

This article extracts the central findings from the larger study and reframes them as a journal manuscript, with emphasis on design factors that can inform a user-centered clubhouse proposal.

1.1 Aim and Objectives

The aim of this study is to explore and propose architectural approaches that promote social interaction and leisure in multipurpose lounge and nightclub design tailored to the social, cultural, and regulatory context of Iseyin, Oyo State, Nigeria.

1.1.1 Objectives

To operationalize the aim, the study objectives set out to:

1. Review theoretical and empirical literature linking architectural form to social interaction and leisure, with emphasis on “third place” concepts, human scale, and pattern-based design principles.
2. Identify and synthesis design factors (layout, circulation, seating, acoustics, lighting, transition spaces) shown to influence social interaction in lounge/nightclub contexts.
3. Determine the cultural, safety, regulatory and functional requirements that should inform the design of a multipurpose lounge/nightclub in Iseyin, Oyo State.
4. Develop contextually-responsive design guidelines and a concept design framework for a multipurpose lounge and nightclub for Iseyin.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Social Interaction in Architectural Spaces

Social interaction in architecture refers to the ways the built environment enables or limits encounter, conversation, and shared activity. Proxemic distance, visibility, enclosure, and territorial cues all influence whether people feel comfortable speaking, lingering, or moving through a space (Hall, 1966; Altman, 1975). In this sense, architecture acts less as a neutral container and more as an active social medium that can invite contact through seating arrangement, spatial sequencing, and visual permeability. Gehl (2011) argues that the strongest social environments are those that support optional activities, because these create the conditions under which spontaneous social life can emerge.

Historical and contemporary studies of public space reinforce this point. Whyte (1980) demonstrated that people attract people, meaning that successful social spaces are not defined only by visual attractiveness but also by the presence of comfortable, flexible places to sit, pause, and observe others. The same logic applies to interior leisure environments: cluster seating, clear sightlines, and transitional edges can create opportunities for casual conversation and group formation. Where spaces are overprogrammed or too rigidly ordered, users often remain passive, move quickly through the space, or retreat into small isolated groups.

In clubhouses, lounges, and nightlife venues, the social goal is especially important because users often arrive in groups but still seek room for interaction, privacy, and movement. Sociopetal arrangements encourage face-to-face contact, while sociofugal patterns discourage it. The literature therefore suggests that lounge design should not simply maximize occupancy; it should structure social intensity through choice, allowing users to alternate between high-energy zones and quieter conversation areas. This insight forms a key basis for interpreting the study findings.

2.2 Leisure and Recreational Architecture

Leisure architecture has evolved from a focus on shelter and entertainment into a more experience-driven discipline concerned with atmosphere, restoration, and identity. In contemporary hospitality settings, users expect more than functional seating and service counters; they also expect sensory quality, emotional comfort, and spatial cues that help them relax and remain engaged. Scholarship on recreational environments shows that lighting, sound, material texture, and spatial openness all influence how restorative or stimulating a place feels (Bishop and Williams, 2020; Poldma, 2021).

This is especially relevant in tropical settings, where climate conditions shape how outdoor and indoor leisure spaces are used. Shaded edges, ventilation, thermal moderation, and semi-open transitions are not decorative extras but core design requirements. Landscapes and interiors that fail to account for these conditions often become uncomfortable during peak occupancy, reducing dwell time and limiting social participation. Thus, leisure architecture must operate as both atmospheric design and environmental adaptation (Chiesura, 2019; Ayejuyo, Ajayi, and Raufu, 2025;).

In the Nigerian context, leisure environments also carry symbolic meaning. They are places where modernity, status, music, dress, and group identity are performed. Because of this, users tend to judge venues not only by service quality but also by whether the space feels socially appropriate, culturally recognizable, and secure. A successful clubhouse design must therefore balance entertainment with comfort, and spectacle with legibility, if it is to sustain patron loyalty.

2.3 Multipurpose Lounges and Nightclubs as Social Infrastructure

Multipurpose lounges and nightclubs have increasingly become hybrid social infrastructures rather than single-purpose entertainment rooms. They combine music, dining, conversation, display, and event functions within one setting, and their architectural success depends on how well these activities are coordinated through zoning, circulation, and sensory control (Hae, 2020; Koutsouris and Andreou, 2020). In this way, the venue becomes a stage for both leisure and social belonging.

The rise of the night-time economy has made these spaces economically significant as well. In many Nigerian cities, nightlife venues create jobs, support informal commerce, and contribute to cultural branding, but they also face risks linked to insecurity, poor regulation,

and operational overload (Roberts and Eldridge, 2019; Eneyo and Edward, 2020;). These pressures mean that architectural decisions are not just aesthetic; they are also organizational and protective. The way entrances, exits, seating clusters, and staff sightlines are designed can influence patron confidence and venue resilience.

For secondary towns, this literature suggests that a clubhouse should be understood as a social anchor. It should not merely copy metropolitan nightclub models. Instead, it should be tailored to local rhythms, local norms, and local expectations about hospitality and public life. The facility must therefore mediate between commercial viability and community acceptability, offering a flexible form that can support both high-energy nightlife and more intimate social interaction.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

The study draws on Gehl's human-centered public-space theory, Whyte's observational urbanism, and Oldenburg's concept of the third place. Gehl (2011) shows that design can increase the likelihood of social interaction by enabling optional activities, comfort, and visibility. Whyte (1980) complements this by demonstrating that design should follow observation of real user behavior rather than abstract assumptions. Together, these perspectives argue that the best social spaces are the ones that make lingering easy and conversation natural.

Oldenburg (1989) adds a further layer by describing third places as informal, neutral, and welcoming spaces that sit between home and work. For a lounge or clubhouse, this implies accessibility, repeatability, and social ease rather than exclusivity alone. Alexander et al. (1977) also provide a useful pattern-language lens because they show how small, repeatable spatial moves can improve human experience. In the present study, these ideas support the argument that seating clusters, transition spaces, and clear circulation are not minor details but major social design devices.

The combined theoretical frame suggests that a clubhouse should create visible meeting points, allow users to choose their level of social involvement, and encode local identity into the spatial experience. The theoretical literature therefore supports a design direction that is human-scaled, culturally grounded, and operationally flexible.

2.5 Cultural and Local Context

Yoruba social life places strong value on music, dance, collective gathering, and expressive hospitality. This has clear implications for clubhouse design because users often expect venues to support group sociability rather than fragmented or overly privatized use. The spatial organization of a lounge in Iseyin should therefore account for mixed-gender groups, family and peer gatherings, and the social energy generated by live or recorded music. These expectations align with the study's findings that socializing and music-related activities dominate patronage patterns.

Cultural identity also matters because users often read ambience as a sign of authenticity. A venue that feels generic may attract short-term traffic, but a venue that subtly expresses local identity can strengthen memory, repeat visitation, and emotional connection (Diyaolu, 2020).

At the same time, the local context presents practical constraints. The town's climate requires attention to ventilation, shading, and thermal comfort, while infrastructural limitations demand careful planning for access, safety, and emergency response. The literature therefore suggests that a clubhouse must be both culturally resonant and physically resilient, combining local identity with clear operational logic.

III. METHODOLOGY

The study adopted an exploratory and descriptive mixed-methods design to examine how architectural features influence social interaction and leisure experience in multipurpose lounge and nightclub environments. A structured questionnaire, field observation, and documentary review were used to capture users' perceptions, spatial conditions, and operational characteristics. The broader study investigated selected venues across Southwestern Nigeria, and a total of 381 questionnaires were distributed, with 372 found suitable for analysis. The analysis therefore reflects a strong field-based evidence base for architectural interpretation (n = 372).

Respondents were selected using a multi-stage process that first identified the study region, then the functional venues, and finally the patrons present during peak usage periods. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize socio-economic characteristics, while mean weighted values and satisfaction performance indices were used to interpret the quality of physical design, environmental conditions, safety, and cultural relevance. This approach allowed the study to capture both measurable user response and broader spatial meaning.

The methodological emphasis was on users' experience because the core question was not simply whether the venues existed, but how effectively they supported social interaction, comfort, and culturally meaningful leisure. The resulting findings were then interpreted in relation to established design theories and the specific context of Iseyin Township.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

(i) Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents

The respondents' profile indicates that the venues were primarily patronized by young adults and economically active users. Respondents aged 25–34 years formed the largest group (38.4%), followed by those aged 18–24 years (25.0%). This age structure suggests that the selected leisure spaces function mainly as youth-oriented social environments, where entertainment, networking, and relaxation are central motivations rather than passive consumption.

Gender participation was also important. Males constituted 60.5% of the sample, while females accounted for 37.6% and other (1.9%) gender categories (See Table 1). Although the males share was higher, the substantial female presence shows that nightlife spaces in Southwestern Nigeria are becoming more socially diverse. This has architectural implications because inclusive spaces must address safety, visibility, comfort, and circulation for a broader user base.

The occupational mix further confirms the multifunctional nature of the venues. Students made up 23.4% of users, private employees 21.0%, business owners 16.9%, civil servants 15.6%, and entertainment/creative workers 15.1%. Most respondents lived within the host city (63.4%), but a notable 36.6% came from outside, confirming that the venues operate as regional destinations. The dominant visit periods were late evening and night-time, while the leading purposes of visit were socializing and dancing/music, reinforcing the social and sensory role of the spaces.

The frequency of visits indicates the social function of the selected leisure venues. Patronage is largely recurrent: 30.9% visit monthly, 30.6% weekly, 21.2% 2–3 times weekly, and only 17.2% are first-time visitors. This shows that most users have integrated these venues into routine leisure practices, suggesting they have become stable social environments rather than novelty destinations.

The time of visit highlights the operational character of these spaces. Use is concentrated in late evening (41.1%) and night-time (38.7%), compared to 20.2% in early evening, confirming their role as primarily nocturnal environments. This has key design implications for lighting, visibility, security, access control, and comfort. With reduced natural surveillance at night, entrances, circulation routes, spill-over areas, and spatial hierarchies must ensure orientation and safety.

Patronage motivations further clarify user experience. Socializing is the main reason for visits (30.4%), followed by dancing and music (27.7%), then food and dining (15.6%), special events (12.4%), work or meetings (8.1%), and other purposes (5.9%). This confirms that the venues function primarily as spaces for social interaction and entertainment rather than consumption alone. Socializing emphasizes interpersonal connection and networking, while music and dance provide sensory and cultural engagement. This requires spatial zoning, acoustic control, lighting design, and flexible layouts supporting both movement and conversation. Overall, users are drawn to venues that integrate social, emotional, and sensory experiences, reinforcing their role in contemporary leisure infrastructure in Southwestern Nigeria.

Table 1: Respondents' Demographic Characteristics across Selected Multipurpose Lounges and Nightclub Venues in Southwestern Nigeria (n = 372)

Socio-Economic Characteristics	**Response Category**	**Club Quilox (Lagos)**	**Hard Rock Café (Lagos)**	**Club 57 (Ibadan)**	**Mauve Lounge (Ibadan)**	**Grand Total**	**Percentage (%)**
		Freq	Freq	Freq	Freq	Freq.	%
Age of Respondents	18–24 years	27	22	24	20	93	25.0
	25–34 years	39	35	37	32	143	38.4
	35–44 years	18	21	16	19	74	19.9
	45–54 years	9	11	12	10	42	11.3
	55 years and above	4	5	6	5	20	5.4
	Grand Total	**97**	**94**	**95**	**86**	**372**	**100.0**
Gender of Respondents	Male	61	58	57	49	225	60.5
	Female	34	35	36	35	140	37.6
	Other	2	1	2	2	7	1.9
	Grand Total	**97**	**94**	**95**	**86**	**372**	**100.0**
Occupation of Respondents	Student	22	20	26	19	87	23.4
	Civil Servant	16	15	14	13	58	15.6
	Business Owner	18	16	15	14	63	16.9
	Private Employee	21	19	18	20	78	21.0
	Entertainment/Creative Industry	14	17	13	12	56	15.1
	Others	6	7	9	8	30	8.0
	Grand Total	**97**	**94**	**95**	**86**	**372**	**100.0**
Residence of Respondents	Within host city	63	60	58	55	236	63.4

	Outside host city	34	34	37	31	136	36.6
	Grand Total	**97**	**94**	**95**	**86**	**372**	**100.0**
Frequency of Visit	First time	18	15	17	14	64	17.2
	Occasionally (monthly)	31	29	28	27	115	30.9
	Regular (weekly)	28	30	31	25	114	30.6
	Frequently (2–3 times/week)	20	20	19	20	79	21.2
	Grand Total	**97**	**94**	**95**	**86**	**372**	**100.0**
Typical Visit Time	Early evening (5pm–8pm)	19	17	21	18	75	20.2
	Late evening (8pm–11pm)	42	39	37	35	153	41.1
	Night (11pm–2am)	36	38	37	33	144	38.7
	Grand Total	**97**	**94**	**95**	**86**	**372**	**100.0**
Main Reason for Visit	Socializing	29	27	31	26	113	30.4
	Dancing/Music	26	28	24	25	103	27.7
	Food/Dining	15	14	16	13	58	15.6
	Work/Meetings	8	7	9	6	30	8.1
	Special Events	13	12	10	11	46	12.4
	Others	6	6	5	5	22	5.9
	Grand Total	**97**	**94**	**95**	**86**	**372**	**100.0**

Source: Author's Field Survey (2026)

(ii) Physical Design, Layout, Seating, and Circulation

The physical design findings show that the venues are moderately functional overall, but several key weaknesses limit the quality of social interaction. The strongest aspects were general layout organization and access to major activity zones, which suggests that users can usually locate the main entertainment spaces without major difficulty. However, this advantage is weakened by congestion, limited spacing between seating clusters, and insufficient flexibility in furniture arrangement.

The weakest performance was recorded in seating comfort, spacing, and flexibility. Respondents indicated that some seats were not comfortable for long stays (RII = 0.59), that there was not enough space between seating clusters to walk comfortably (RII = 0.57), and that furniture was not easily movable when needed (RII = 0.57). These findings point to a spatial strategy that prioritizes occupancy density over adaptability and comfort. Such an approach may improve capacity in the short term, but it reduces user satisfaction, circulation efficiency, and the potential for dynamic social use (See Table 2).

From a design perspective, the findings support the literature that comfortable lounges require sociopetal seating, clear circulation paths, and layouts that allow users to modulate privacy and group size (Alexander et al., 1977; Whyte, 1980). The results also suggest that future clubhouses should not reproduce rigid nightclub arrangements. Instead, it should

incorporate movable seating, clearer aisle widths, semi-private clusters, and transition spaces that support both conversation and movement.

Table 2: Assessment of Physical Design Variables in Multipurpose Lounge and Nightclub Facilities (n = 155)

S/N	Variables	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Total Weighted Score	RII	Rank	Interpretation
1.	The venue layout makes it easy to move around	28	41	33	32	21	488	0.63	4th	High Performance
2.	I can find the bar, dance floor and seating easily	31	45	30	29	20	503	0.65	2nd	High Performance
3.	There is enough space between seating clusters to walk comfortably	19	34	36	40	26	445	0.57	7th	Moderate Performance
4.	Seating options suit different group sizes	26	39	35	31	24	477	0.62	5th	High Performance
5.	Seats are comfortable for long stays	22	36	38	34	25	461	0.59	6th	Moderate Performance
6.	Furniture appears flexible/ movable when needed	18	30	40	42	25	439	0.57	7th	Moderate Performance
7.	The entrance/ foyer gives a welcoming impression	35	47	29	25	19	519	0.67	1st	High Performance
8.	Outdoor/ waiting areas are pleasant and safe	24	38	34	37	22	470	0.61	3rd	High Performance

Source: Author's Field Survey (2026)

(iii) Environmental Quality: Lighting, Acoustics, and Thermal Comfort

Environmental quality is one of the clearest determinants of user experience in nightlife venues, and the study shows that it remains only partially optimized. Lighting was generally rated more positively because it contributes to ambience and visibility, but sound management was weaker. In particular, the separation between loud music zones and quieter conversation spaces was poor, with acoustic zoning receiving the weakest score (MWV = 2.01). This means that many users struggle to converse comfortably when music intensity rises.

The broader implication is that some venues may rely on atmosphere generated by sound rather than on spatial design that supports multiple forms of social use. Excessive noise can shorten dwell time, discourage conversation, and limit the participation of users who seek more relaxed interaction. Thermal comfort and ventilation also remained only moderate, which is important in a warm climate where prolonged stays depend heavily on-air movement and perceived freshness.

The literature is clear that leisure spaces need layered acoustic and environmental control if they are to serve both energetic and conversational modes of use (Ramakrishnan et al., 2016; Rindel, 2015). This means that future clubhouses should include acoustic buffering, mechanical ventilation, zoned lighting, and exterior overflow spaces so that guests can shift between high-energy and low-energy environments without leaving the facility (See Table 3).

Table 3: Assessment of Environmental Quality Variables in Multipurpose Lounge and Nightclub Facilities (n = 372)

S/N	Variables	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	TWV	MWV	AWV	Rank	Interpretation
1.	The lighting is comfortable	41	52	28	22	12	553	3.57	110.60	1st	Good
2.	I can see clearly inside the venue	38	49	31	24	13	540	3.48	108.00	2nd	Good
3.	The music is too loud	47	44	26	23	15	450	2.55	110.00	3rd	Good
4.	The venue has distinct zones for loud music and quiet conversation	24	36	34	39	22	310	2.01	93.20	6th	Poor
5.	Ventilation and temperature are comfortable	35	46	30	28	16	416	2.36	104.20	4th	Poor
6.	Odours (smoke, cooking) are controlled and not intrusive	28	42	33	34	18	393	2.18	98.60	5th	Poor

Source: Author's Field Survey (2026)

(iv) Safety, Accessibility, and Operational Conditions

The findings on safety are encouraging but still reveal significant design gaps. Respondents generally felt safe inside the venues and acknowledged the presence of visible staff, which helped create a sense of supervision and order.

The weakest safety result was accessibility for people with disabilities, which recorded an MWV of 2.76. Emergency exit visibility and signage clarity were also only moderate. These deficiencies matter because nightlife venues often become crowded at peak periods, and weak egress or poor wayfinding can increase risk during an emergency. The findings therefore reinforce the need for clear exits, legible signage, and barrier-free movement routes in any clubhouse proposal (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2006; NIST, 2010).

For architectural practice, this implies safety should be integrated into the design rather than added later. Future clubhouses should include ramps, accessible toilets, clear exit marking, unobstructed circulation, staff oversight points, and a layout that allows evacuation without panic. The study therefore supports a life-safety approach in which patron confidence is tied directly to spatial organization.

Table 4: Assessment of Safety, Accessibility and Operational Variables in Multipurpose Lounge and Nightclub Facilities (n = 372)

S/N	Variables	SA (5)	A (4)	N (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	TWV	MWV	AWV	Rank
(1)	I feel safe while inside this venue	42	51	29	21	12	555	3.58	111.00	1st
(2)	Emergency exits are visible and unobstructed	31	39	36	30	19	498	3.21	99.60	4th
(3)	Signage to toilets, exits and services is clear	28	37	35	34	21	482	3.11	96.40	5th
(4)	The venue is accessible to people with disabilities (ramps, toilets)	19	30	33	41	32	428	2.76	85.60	6th
(5)	Security/staff are visible and helpful	39	48	30	24	14	539	3.48	107.80	2nd

Source: Author's Field Survey (2026)

(v) Cultural Relevance, User Satisfaction, and Social Outcomes

The cultural relevance findings reveal a moderate but incomplete level of place identity. The composite SPI of 58.1% indicates that the venues are broadly satisfactory, but not yet strongly rooted in local cultural expression. The strongest items were the venue's physical design (SPI = 63.2%), local music/events (SPI = 60.0%), and willingness to recommend or revisit the venue (SPI = 60.0%), showing that the spaces already have some social appeal and repeat-patronage value.

At the same time, the design variables that should most directly support social interaction were weaker. The statement that the design encourages interaction with others scored only 52.9%, while the décor/ambience reflecting local cultural identity scored 54.8% and respect for local customs and norms scored 55.5%. These scores suggest that the venues provide entertainment, but do not yet fully translate that entertainment into deeper social connection or strong local identity.

Open-ended responses confirm this pattern. Users praised seating arrangement, lighting atmosphere, and music programming, but called for better ventilation, less overcrowding, stronger security, acoustic control, and more comfortable seating. They also asked for local artwork, indigenous music themes, culturally inspired décor, and community-centered events. The discussion therefore supports a key conclusion of the study: the best leisure environments will be those that merge social comfort with clear cultural belonging, rather than relying only on generic contemporary nightclub aesthetics.

Table 5: Assessment of Cultural Relevance, User Satisfaction and Social Outcomes in Multipurpose Lounge and Nightclub Facilities (n = 372)

S/N	Variables	SA (5)	A (4)	N (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	Positive Response (SA+A)	Negative Response (D+SD)	SPI (%)	Rank	Interpretation
1.	The décor/ambience reflects local cultural identity	36	89	62	24	14	135	38	54.8	4th	Moderate Satisfaction
2.	The venue hosts local music/events that attract the community	82	51	28	22	12	193	34	60.0	2nd	High Satisfaction
3.	I feel the venue respects local customs and norms	39	97	31	25	13	86	138	55.5	3rd	Moderate Satisfaction
4.	Overall, I am satisfied with the venue's physical design	45	53	74	47	10	198	57	63.2	1st	High Satisfaction
5.	The design encourages me to interact with others	34	48	33	27	13	192	140	52.9	5th	Moderate Satisfaction
6.	I would recommend this venue to friends	43	150	29	21	12	193	33	60.0	2nd	High Satisfaction
7.	Likelihood of returning in the next month	39	152	30	20	12	191	32	60.0	2nd	High Satisfaction

Source: Author's Field Survey (2026)

V. CONCLUSION

This study shows that architectural form strongly influences how people experience leisure, social interaction, and comfort in multipurpose lounge and nightclub environments. The evidence from Southwestern Nigeria indicates that users are drawn primarily by socializing, music, and shared recreation, but they also expect good circulation, comfortable seating, environmental control, and visible safety measures. Where these features are weak, the venue

still functions as entertainment space, but it does not fully support deeper social engagement or long-term attachment.

The findings further show that cultural relevance is an important but under-developed component of nightlife design. Users appreciate local music and community acceptance, yet the physical environment often remains only moderately expressive of local identity.

Overall, the research confirms that good clubhouse design in secondary Nigerian towns such as Iseyin should be human-scaled, flexible, legible, safe, and culturally resonant. These qualities are not optional additions; they are the basis of successful social infrastructure.

Recommendations

i. Future lounge and nightclub designs should be guided by human-centered and pattern-based principles that support social interaction, comfort, and repeated patronage. Third-place qualities such as openness, informality, and a welcoming atmosphere should be deliberately built into the design.

ii. Design layouts should prioritize flexible zoning, with clear separation between loud entertainment areas and quieter conversational pockets. Furniture should be movable, comfortable, and arranged with adequate spacing to support different group sizes, circulation needs, and prolonged use. Acoustic treatment, ventilation, and lighting should be integrated early in the design process rather than added later.

iii. Universal accessibility, clear signage, visible exits, and emergency planning should be treated as core design requirements. The design should also respond to local operating conditions in Iseyin, including night-time use, crowd control, security visibility, and functional comfort under tropical climatic conditions.

iv. Cultural identity should be expressed through material choices, art, color, spatial motifs, and programmed events that reflect Iseyin's Yoruba and Aso-Òkè heritage. This will strengthen place identity, improve user connection to the venue, and create a design that is locally grounded rather than generic. The final concept should therefore combine leisure, safety, and cultural resonance in one coherent architectural framework.

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