



Conceptual Presentation on Akwete Weavers' Enterprise Hub Akwete, Ukwa East LGA, Abia State





A Living Heritage. A Thriving Future

The Akwete Heritage Precinct is conceived as a living cultural landscape where heritage conservation, community enterprise and economic opportunity coexist.

The masterplan preserves the traditional women-led weaving settlement while introducing carefully integrated shared infrastructure for research, certification, training, tourism and commerce.

Organised around the Weaver's Commons, the precinct strengthens the Women's Guild, enhances visitor experiences and establishes Akwete as a globally recognised centre for authentic textile heritage.



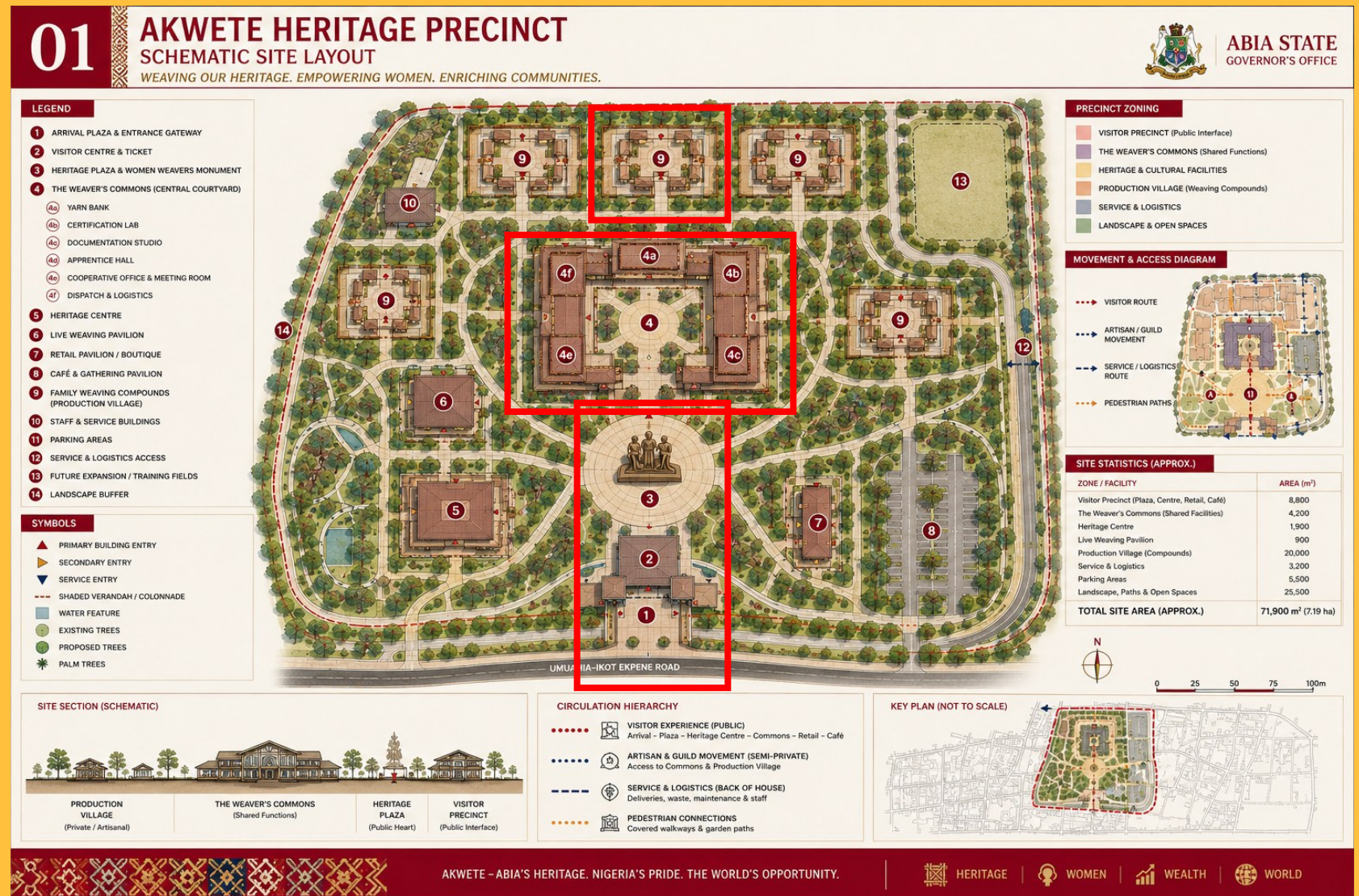


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Celebrating History. Interpreting Identity.

The Heritage Centre serves as the cultural gateway to the precinct, presenting the history, craftsmanship and global significance of Akwete weaving through immersive exhibitions, oral histories, digital archives and educational programmes.

Designed as both a museum and a living learning environment, it introduces visitors to the traditions, values and women whose knowledge has sustained this extraordinary craft for generations.



Where Heritage Lives Every Day

The Family Weaving Compound demonstrates how traditional domestic production can remain the foundation of the Akwete weaving ecosystem.

Designed around shaded courtyards and generous verandas, each compound integrates family life, weaving, dyeing, finishing and apprenticeship within a single environment.

Rather than replacing traditional production, the prototype enhances comfort, productivity and resilience while preserving the intimate social structure through which knowledge has been transmitted for generations.



From Arrival to Understanding

The visitor journey is carefully choreographed to encourage learning, participation and appreciation.

Beginning at the Heritage Centre and continuing through the Heritage Plaza, live weaving demonstrations, the Weaver's Commons and the Certified Boutique, each stage deepens understanding of the craft while creating meaningful economic opportunities for the Women's Guild.

The experience concludes with opportunities to engage directly with artisans and purchase authenticated Akwete textiles.





The Living Heritage Behind Every

At the heart of the Akwete Heritage Precinct are the women whose knowledge, creativity and leadership have sustained one of Africa's most remarkable textile traditions.

This board celebrates the Women's Guild as custodians of a living cultural heritage, illustrating the intergenerational transmission of skills, the discipline of craftsmanship and the enduring role of women in shaping community identity and economic resilience.

The precinct exists not simply to preserve buildings or artefacts, but to strengthen the women whose hands continue to weave Akwete's story into the future.

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BOARD

AKWETE HERITAGE PRECINCT
THE WOMEN OF AKWETE
The Living Heritage Behind Every Thread

For generations, the women of Akwete have woven more than beautiful textiles. They have woven identity, resilience, culture and community into every thread. The Heritage Precinct exists to support, strengthen and celebrate their extraordinary legacy.

MASTER WEAVERS

"Our hands carry the memory of our mothers. Our threads carry the future of our children."
— Chief (Mrs.) Comfort Nwokocho
Master Weaver, Akwete Women's Guild

THE PROCESS: FROM FIBRE TO FABRIC

COTTON PREPARATION

SPINNING

NATURAL DYEING

YARN PREPARATION

THE JOURNEY OF OUR HERITAGE

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE
Ancient techniques and symbols passed down through generations.

WOMEN'S GUILD
A collective of women united to protect and promote our craft.

MASTER WEAVERS
Experts who carry the memory of patterns, meanings and methods.

APPRENTICES
Young women learn through mentorship, observation and dedicated practice.

DOCUMENTATION
Patterns, stories and techniques recorded for future generations.

CERTIFICATION
Authentic Akwete certified to protect our heritage and brand.

GLOBAL RECOGNITION
Akwete textiles celebrated across Nigeria and the world.

THE ART OF WEAVING

Every pattern tells a story. Every thread carries meaning.

FROM TRADITION TO THE WORLD

DESIGN COLLABORATION
Preserving authenticity. Creating opportunities. Reaching global markets.

EXPORT QUALITY

OUR TEXTILES. OUR PRIDE.

Authenticated. Certified. Uniquely Akwete.

OUR STORY. OUR STRENGTH.

From the elder who holds the patterns in her memory, to the apprentice who learns with patience and pride, the Akwete Women's Guild is a living chain of knowledge, creativity and leadership.

OUR HERITAGE VALUES

CULTURAL CONTINUITY
Safeguarding our beliefs, symbols and traditions.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP
Women lead, decide and drive our future.

COMMUNITY IDENTITY
We weave bonds that strengthen our community.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
We create value, income and opportunities.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS
Respecting people, planet and resources.

LIVING HERITAGE
Our craft evolves while our values remain.

GLOBAL CRAFT EXCELLENCE
Excellence in craftsmanship. Pride in our origins.

"The greatest asset of Akwete is not its buildings, but the women whose knowledge has transformed thread into identity for generations."

Scan to hear their stories.
Oral histories. Master weavers. Apprentices. Our journey.

AKWETE WOMEN WEAVERS GUILD
Weaving Our Heritage. Empowering Women. Enriching Communities.



The Shared Heart of a Living Heritage

At the centre of the Akwete Heritage District stands the Weaver's Commons—a shared institution created by and for the Akwete Women's Guild.

Organised around a shaded tropical courtyard, it brings together the essential services that strengthen every weaving family, including the Yarn Bank, Certification Laboratory, Documentation Studio, Apprentice Hall, Cooperative Offices and Dispatch Centre.

Rather than replacing the traditional family compounds where weaving continues to take place, the Commons provides the collective infrastructure that enables artisans to improve quality, preserve knowledge, develop new skills and compete confidently in national and international markets.

It is where heritage is transformed into opportunity through cooperation, innovation and shared stewardship.

AKWETE CENTRAL SHARED COMMONS

INFRASTRUCTURE WE SHARE. HERITAGE WE PRESERVE.

KEY FUNCTIONS

- YARN BANK**
Secure storage and distribution of quality cotton, silk, and yarns at subsidized rates
- CERTIFICATION LAB**
Quality control, grading, and authenticity verification
- DOCUMENTATION STUDIO**
Archiving motifs, oral histories, digital design and research
- APPRENTICE HALL**
Foundational training, loom set-up, colour theory and technique (shared learning space)
- COOPERATIVE OFFICE & MEETING ROOM**
Administration, planning, and governance
- DISPATCH & LOGISTICS**
Packaging, warehousing and shipment coordination

LOCATION IN HUB

Women-led Cooperative

Sustainable Design

Passive Cooling & Natural Light

Community Ownership

Tradition Meets Innovation

YARN BANK INTERIOR

Quality inputs. Better prices. Stronger livelihoods.

CERTIFICATION LAB

Authenticity guaranteed. Value protected.

DOCUMENTATION STUDIO

Motifs recorded. Stories preserved. Heritage documented for generations.

APPRENTICE HALL

Learning together. Skills passed on.

COOPERATIVE OFFICE

Stronger governance. Stronger cooperative.

DISPATCH & LOGISTICS

From Akwete to the world. Efficient, reliable, secure.

MATERIALS & DESIGN APPROACH

- Laterite stone & clay blocks
- Timber screens & pergolas
- Thatch / metal roofing
- Local plants & shade trees
- Rainwater harvesting
- Solar ready infrastructure



Honouring the Custodians of Knowledge

The Master Weaver's House is the ceremonial and intellectual heart of the Akwete Heritage Precinct.

Dedicated to the most distinguished women weavers of Akwete, it honours the custodians whose mastery, creativity and leadership have preserved one of Africa's oldest living textile traditions.

More than an exhibition space, the House is a place of demonstration, dialogue and mentorship, where living knowledge is celebrated, documented and passed from one generation to the next.

Here, tradition is not merely remembered—it continues to evolve through the women who embody it.

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BOARD

AKWETE HERITAGE PRECINCT
THE MASTER WEAVER'S HOUSE
HONOURING THE CUSTODIANS OF KNOWLEDGE

The Master Weaver's House is an honorary pavilion dedicated to the most distinguished women weavers of Akwete. It is a place of respect, learning and inspiration—where living knowledge is preserved, celebrated and shared with future generations.

A PLACE OF HONOUR
Overlooking the Heritage Plaza, The Master Weaver's House stands as a symbol of respect for the women whose skill and creativity have sustained Akwete weaving for centuries. It is a space for intimate demonstrations, storytelling, interviews and the preservation of award-winning textiles and oral histories.

SITE LOCATION
Placed at the edge of the Heritage Plaza as a focal point of reverence.

**ANNUAL TRADITION
MASTER WEAVER OF AKWETE**
Each year, the Women's Guild confers the honorary title of "Master Weaver of Akwete". Her work is exhibited in this pavilion, her patterns are digitally archived, and her oral history is recorded for future generations.

Conferral Ceremony

Permanent Exhibition

Digital Archive

Oral History Recording

1

Heritage Centre

2

Heritage Plaza

3

Monument to Women Weavers

4

Master Weaver's House (This Building)

5

Weaver's Comments

6

Production Village

RECEPTION SALON
A dignified welcome in a setting of warmth and heritage.

MASTER WEAVER'S LOOM ROOM
The heart of the house—where the Master demonstrates and teaches.

STORYTELLING & INTERVIEW ROOM
Recording memories, lessons and wisdom for generations to come.

GALLERY OF MASTERPIECES
Celebrating award-winning textiles and the evolution of design.

ARCHIVE & STUDY ROOM
A place for research, documentation and pattern preservation.

PRIVATE COURTYARD
A tranquil courtyard shaded by the silk-cotton tree.

LATERITE STONE

GARVED HARDWOOD

TERRACOTTA ROOF TILE

POLISHED LATERITE FLOOR

BRONZE DETAILS

WOVEN AKWETE CEILING PANELS

STONE PAVING

BAMBOO SCREENS

LANDSCAPE PLAN (Scale 1:300)

1

Silk-Cotton Tree (Central Feature)

2

Reflecting Pool

3

Stone Seating Area

4

Fragrant & Medicinal Garden

5

Sculptural Pathway

6

Low Shrub & Groundcover

7

Heritage Plaza View Axis

“This house honours the hands that have woven Akwete into the fabric of our identity.”
— Akwete Women Weavers Guild

A PLACE OF HONOUR. A LEGACY FOR GENERATIONS.

LONGITUDINAL SECTION A-A (Scale 1:150)

CROSS SECTION B-B (Scale 1:150)

RECEPTION SALON

MASTER LOOM ROOM

STORYTELLING & INTERVIEW ROOM

GALLERY OF MASTERPIECES

VERANDA

PRIVATE COURTYARD

1

HONOURS THE MASTERS
Custodians of tradition and innovation.

2

PRESERVES KNOWLEDGE
Documenting stories, patterns and techniques.

3

INSPIRES GENERATIONS
Apprentices learn from living excellence.

4

CONNECTS THE WORLD
Welcoming designers, researchers and dignitaries.

5

BUILDS LEGACY
Creating a living archive for the future.

BUILDING ELEMENTS

1 Reception Salon
Welcoming guests, designers and dignitaries.

2 Master Weaver's Loom Room
Private demonstration loom and teaching space.

3 Storytelling & Interview Room
Oral histories, conversations and media recording.

4 Gallery of Masterpieces
Award-winning textiles and historic works.

5 Archive & Study Room
Textile archive, research and documentation.

6 Private Courtyard
A contemplative courtyard with feature tree and water.

7 Veranda
Transition space for reflection and informal gatherings.

FLOOR PLAN (Scale 1:150)

FLOOR PLAN (Scale 1:150)

WE HONOUR THE WOMEN WHO WEAVE. WE PRESERVE THEIR WISDOM. WE BUILD THEIR LEGACY.

AKWETE WOMEN WEAVERS GUILD
WEAVING OUR HERITAGE. EMPOWERING WOMEN. ENRICHING COMMUNITIES.