

Title of Article: Ownership, Structure and Performance

Author(s): Oluwatayo A. A. and Amole D.

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Abstract: *With architectural firms, owners are often the managers whose characteristics may influence the structure of the firms. The study investigated the relationships between ownership characteristics, organizational structure, and performances of architectural firms. Utilizing a sample of architectural firms from Nigeria, questionnaire survey of 92 architectural firms was carried out. The data were analyzed using Multiple Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) and regression analyses. A generally low level of specialization of duties was observed even though professional service firms have been defined as highly specialized firm. For most of the firms, the level of formalization was moderate or high, while the level of centralization was mostly low. The results show that there was a direct significant relationship between legal ownership form and the formalization dimension of structure. In addition, the centralization dimension of structure influenced the performance of the firms. There was however no direct relationship between ownership characteristics and performance, although different fits of ownership characteristics and structural variables were observed. The results suggest that principals of architectural should match their characteristics with the structure of the firms to enhance the performances of their firms in profit.*