

LOCALLY PRODUCED LAMINATED BAMBOO LUMBER: A POTENTIAL SUBSTITUTE FOR TRADITIONAL WOOD CARVING IN GHANA

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the prospective of laminated bamboo lumber as a complementary substitute for traditional wood carving in Ghana. Technically, the production of laminated bamboo lumber requires heavy duty fabricated equipment and rigorous pressing processes normally found in commercial fabrication houses. This paper, however, concentrates on fabricating locally sustainable laminated bamboo lumber using simple but pragmatic, appropriate technology that can be managed by the local carvers. The characteristic attributes of the resultant laminated bamboo lumber verified through the experiments conducted indicated that the end product is robustly suitable for carving Akuaba doll, mask, Oware, wooden comb and the traditional Akan stool. The conclusion was that a suitable simple methodological approach has been achieved using locally available materials and inexpensive tools to produce the substitute lumber for carving. In view of the outcome of the experiments, it is encouraged that the traditional carving industry utilize the laminated bamboo lumber as a complementary resource material for carving. It is therefore recommended that further research be made on its use as a carving material for contemporary craft products to curtail the over dependency of conventional wood species in the country.

Keywords: Laminated Bamboo, traditional carving, wood substitute, appropriate technology.