Symbol Meanings

Ese ne tekerema= “Teeth and tongue. A symbol of improvement, advancement, growth, the need for friendliness and interdependence.” (Kwabena, 2020)

Sankofa= “Go back and get it! A symbol of the wisdom of learning from the past to build for the future.” (Kwabena, 2020)

Epa= handcuffs. Discourage all forms of slavery. (Wilson, 2001)

Nkonsonkonson: **“**Help each other strengthen the community, Unity and community.”(Kwabena, 2020)

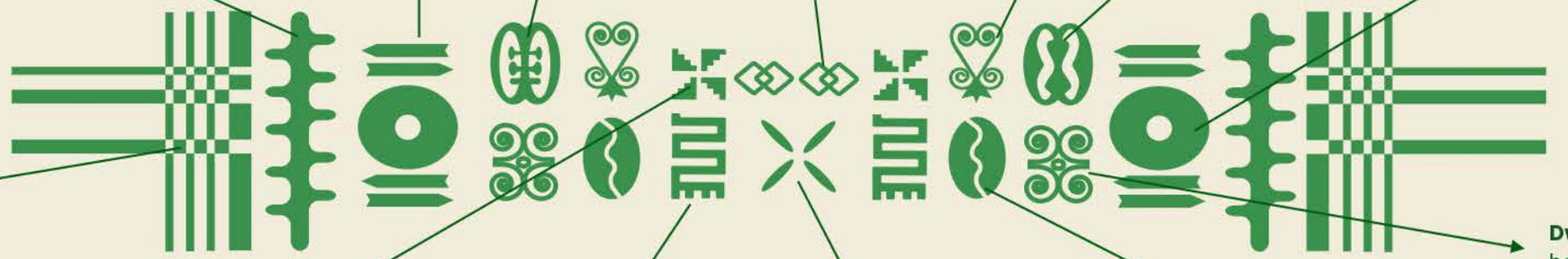
Ntabon: A boat can only be moved by a united action of oarsmen. Symbol of unity, perseverance, achievement, productivity and progress.(Wilson, 2001).“So it means that people need to work together to achieve progress, perseverance and unity.” (Danso, 2016)

Achimota Nsafoa = Achimota keys (symbolises knowledge, unity in diversity and harmony)

(Asibey et al., 2017 p.11, Figure 2)

Koli-So = Family & Community

"A circle with a dot inside (koli-so) suggests the unity of a loving family or of a supportive community sitting around a communal 'center'." (Sergio, 2021)



Madras Inspired. Expression of within the Caribbean community especially women. “Later, women would use the madras to enhance their plain dresses, bringing more color to their outfits.” (Bwa Brilé Team, 2022)

Dweninmmen means “the horns of a ram.” It represents strength (in mind, body, and soul), humility, wisdom, and learning. (Kwabena, 2020)

Apremo= “Cannon, Symbol of defence, resistance against foreign domination, european colonial wars.” (Asibey et al., 2017 p.11, Figure 2) (Wilson, 2001)

Cowrie Shells (inspired) have different meanings over the different African cultures. This symbol I design was inspired one of the designs on the The Painted Houses of Tiébélé from Yakubu (2023)

“Cowrie, historically, is a symbol of wealth and used as currency, jewelry and as a religious accessory, in almost all the parts of the world. In the realm of sympathetic magic and sorcery, it is a powerful force. It represents the eye of the gods and the womb of the goddess. (Wayne, 2010.)” (James, 2012)

Nkyinkyim= Twisting. A symbol representing the tortuous nature of life's journey and, also, the toughness, versatility, and dynamism required to thrive in it. Willis notes that it is also a symbol of dedication to service. (Kwabena, 2020)

Mmusuyidee: that which removes bad luck, symbol for good fortune and sanctity. (Adinkra Symbols of West Africa: Mmusuyidee, n.d.)

Also known as , “Krapa means "good soul" (Kwabena, 2020)