

Living. Urban. Heritage.

Conference & Exhibition | 22nd of March 2024 | 12 pm - 5 pm | Goethe-Institut Äthiopien

In Ethiopia rapidly changing urban landscapes architectural heritage is often neglected or seen as an obstacle to development. However, heritage is intertwined with local lifestyles and identities that create a sense of belonging and pride. On a more practical basis, architectural heritage is a container of past building knowledge, which can be beneficial for our contemporary challenges in urban Ethiopia.

Heritage is a susceptible issue and is often overlooked. This conference is intended to initiate a debate between experts, government representatives, and the public.

The conference consists of a keynote lecture and two sessions that give room for debating urban heritage from different perspectives:

- SESSION #1: "Decoding Addis Ababa's Urban Heritage"
- SESSION #2: "Imaginaires of Housing in Addis Ababa"

The conference is co-organized by Piet Nieder of Technical University Berlin, Rumi Okazaki of Shibaura Institute of Technology Tokyo, and Tadesse Girmay Addis Ababa University.

Rumi Okazaki is an Associate Professor at the Shibaura Institute of Technology's School of Architecture (Tokyo). She investigates architectural and urban history, mainly in Japan and Ethiopia. Her work addresses the connection between historical preservation and social sustainability.

Tadesse Girmay Gebreegziabhe is an Architect-Planner and Archaeologist-Building Conservator, teaching and researching at EiABC-AAU. He collaborated with different Universities overseas in researching about heritage of Ethiopia. He is a board member of ICOMOS Ethiopia, Heritage Chair at the Association of Ethiopian Architects, a member of the Ethiopian Archaeologists Association, and a Local representative of Warka Water and the Society for the Conservation of the Ethiopian Heritage.

Piet Nieder is an architect and doctoral candidate at Technical University Berlin since 2019. His ongoing dissertation entitled "Ethiopia and the Architecture of the Chthulucene" led to the publication "The Addis Ababa House – A Typological Analysis of Urban Heritage in Ethiopia".

Online participation (apologies if the connection is not perfect):

<https://tu-berlin.zoom.us/j/62391420864?pwd=K3dMOFQ5WEhySFFaYUQrNkdjMGNHUT09> | Meeting-ID: 623 9142 0864 | Kenncode: 307106

Exhibition: Curated by ANKEBOOT the exhibition gives insights into Addis Ababa's architectural heritage from 22nd March to 02nd April.

The contents of the exhibition come from the recently published book "The Addis Ababa House – A Typological Analysis of Urban Heritage in Ethiopia (1886–1936)". The book will be presented after the conference in the evening at Goethe-Institut.

Conference Program

12 pm: Doors open

1:00 pm: Opening Speech: Princess Maryam Senna Asfa Wossen

1:10 pm: Keynote: Fasil Ghiorgis / *Heritage in Light of Current Urban Development*

1:30 pm: SESSION #1: "Decoding Addis Ababa's Urban Heritage"

How has the history and culture of Addis Ababa influenced the city's urban heritage? How have urbanization and modernization impacted the preservation and conservation of Addis Ababa's historic buildings and neighborhoods? What are some current initiatives or projects aimed at promoting and safeguarding Addis Ababa's urban heritage? How can local residents and communities actively participate in preserving and promoting Addis Ababa's urban heritage? In what ways can tourism be leveraged to raise awareness and appreciation of Addis Ababa's urban heritage?

Panel (4x10min) + Discussion (30min) + Q&A (15min)

> Panelists:

- Dr. Fasil Ghiorgis (EiABC-AAU) / *tba.*
- Dr. Rumi Okazaki (Shibaura Institute of Technology) / *tba.*
- Tadesse Girmay (EiABC-AAU) / *tba.*
- Mr. Haftamu Abreha (Ethiopian Heritage Authority) / *tba.*

> Moderation: Brook Tefera (BIGAR Architects)

3:00 pm: Break of 30min

3:30 pm: SESSION #2: "Imagineries of Housing in Addis Ababa"

What role does heritage play in the urban renewal and the design of appropriate housing in Addis Ababa? Can knowledge about urban heritage contribute to the evolution of housing schemes? Can we imagine a more moderate and compatible modernization of Addis Ababa's historic urban fabric that includes the local communities instead of questioning their "right to the city"? What role can local building traditions play as a form of collective knowledge? What urban policies are needed to frame such an approach?

Panel (4x10min) + Discussion (30min) + Q&A (15min)

> Panelists:

- Dr. Elias Yetbarek (EiABC-AAU) / *Searching for appropriate housing designs*
- Piet Nieder (TU Berlin) / *Imagineries for Future Neighborhoods in Addis Ababa*
- Dr. Matiyas Bekele Fantaye (AASTU, ICOMOS Ethiopia) / *Social Justice through Urban Heritage Conservation: The Urban Planning Challenge in Addis Ababa*
- Lensa Mekonnen (Federal Land Bank & Development Corporation)? / *tba.*

> Moderation: Maheder Gebremehdin (The Urban Center)

5:00 pm: Ending of the conference

The Addis Ababa House – A Typological Analysis of Urban Heritage in Ethiopia (1886-1936)

Book Launch | 22nd of March 2024 | 6 pm | Goethe-Institut Äthiopien

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to this book launch and to present to you the new book: “The Addis Ababa House – A Typological Analysis of Urban Heritage in Ethiopia (1886-1936)”, edited by Piet Nieder with DOM publishers.

272 pages full of marvelous documentation and insights into an innovative, yet almost forgotten époque of Ethiopian architectural history. An endangered heritage from which there is still to be learned. The book includes expert insights from Fasil Giorghis, Tadesse Girmay, Livio Sacchi, and Rumi Okazaki, and a welcoming word by Princess Maryam Senna Asfa Wossen, heritage activist and granddaughter of Haile Sellasie. It also incorporates an interactive Google map of Addis Ababa based on a database created by GIZ and a local NGO at the beginning of the Century.

It's been two years of intense and inspiring work at Technical University Berlin at the Chair of Building Technology and Architectural Design (GTE) in cooperation with the Ethiopian Institute for Architecture (EiABC). The book was realized with financial support from GTE, TU-Delft, and the German-Ethiopian-Association (DÄV), and many more.

During the event, we will share insights into the adventurous making of this book, which is a result of much international collaboration. Only the participation of many enthusiastic individuals who were convinced of the importance of documenting and interpreting Addis Ababa's beautiful architectural heritage made it possible to finalize this book.

The book launch will be co-hosted by Yasmin Abdu Bushra from ANKEBOOT-BOOKSTORE.

Start of the event: 6 pm

Note: The book launch follows a conference entitled “Living. Urban. Heritage.” which is organized at Goethe-Institut during the entire afternoon (12 pm - 5:00 pm).