

“Modernist Architecture in Global Context – Urban Examples of Modernist Architecture in Context to Contemporary Politics and Culture”

**Workshop at the 23rd World Congress of Architecture, UIA, Turin, 30 June, 1 – 5 p.m.
Lingotto, Room Parigi**

Organizer: : “4 Asmara – Arbate Asmera” – Eritrean-German Initiative to promote the Asmara architecture as Cultural World Heritage.

At the 23rd World Congress of Architecture of the UIA many architects from all over the world will be exposed to the masterpiece of modernist architecture: Asmara. The city of Asmara, capital of Eritrea in East Africa, exhibits one of the largest and most comprehensive ensembles of modernist architecture in the world. Asmara’s city centre was mainly built in the 1930s under Italian colonial rule, most of it in the architectural language of *architettura razionale*, the Italian modernism of the 1920s and 30s. However, there are also numerous examples of *novocento*, *futurismo*, neoclassicism, neo-baroque, and monumentalism, as well as buildings with links to traditional and ancient Eritrean architecture. Despite the growing interest in classical modernism, Asmara architecture is still a secret, even for experts of this period of architecture.

The aim of the workshop is to reveal this secret and compare the urban modernist architecture of Asmara with prominent cases of urban classical modernism such as Tel Aviv, Israel, Moscow, Russia, and architectural examples in Germany.

The political context of early modernist architecture was very different, ranging from democracy to communism, fascism and colonial rule. Therefore, the second aim of the workshop is to discuss the impact of contemporary politics and culture on early modernist architecture.

Draft program

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| • Welcoming | Gaetan Siew, UIA-President |
| • Overview | Dr. Naigzy Gebremedhin,
Nairobi / Washington, DC |
| • Italian Colonial Architecture 1870-1940” | Prof. Giuliano Gresleri,
Università di Bologna, |
| • Italian Architecture in Eritrea, Trends and Works
and presentation of her new book: "Italian Architecture in Eritrea" | Anna Godio, Turin |
| • An Urban Project for Asmara. Guido Ferrazza and the Redevelopment of
the Market Area of the City, 1935-38: from design principles to restoration
criteria | Filippo Amara, PhD, Palermo |
| • The white City of Tel Aviv - From a suburban community to a city of
communities | Pe’era Goldman, Tel Aviv |
| • South Beach Miami - | NN |
| • Avant-garde – Slander – World Heritage?
- On the preservation of modern architecture in Russia and Germany | Dr. Anke Zalivako
TU-Berlin |

- coffee break -

Panel Discussion: Asmara Architecture in comparison to other heritages of modernist architecture

Moderator: Christoph Melchers, „4 Asmara - Arbate Asmera”

The panelists will be the main speakers of the workshop, experts on other cities of modernist architecture and specialists of Italian colonial architecture