

The Global Rural - The use of sustainable ruralisation towards an incremental collective housing system in tackling the urban-rural challenges in Addis Ababa

RESEARCH PLAN

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“Their values and traditions do not change overnight simply because of the change in location [...]. Migrants bring their rural life into the cities – and in such high numbers that as a result the cities begin to change, rather than the migrants.”

Heyaw Terefe interviewed by Heisel, 2016

*In Lessons of Informality : Architecture and Urban Planning for Emerging Territories.
Concepts from Ethiopia (p.72)*

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BACKGROUND

The image of Addis Ababa is changing. Ethiopia is known as one of the poorest countries of the world, however, the past decade the nation is known for being in the top 10 of the fastest growing economies in the world (UN-org, 2015). As part of the government's plan to realize the status of a "middle-income country" by 2025, Addis Ababa has profited from substantial investments over the past decade. The entire city is undergoing large-scale urban renewal and redevelopment projects to increase its competitiveness as a commercial venue. The transformation also focusses on investing in infrastructure and public housing programs to resolve the large backlog of affordable housing and get access to basic service delivery.

In consequence of these state interferences, Addis Ababa experienced an economic dynamism and attracted domestic and foreign investment, which created jobs and other economic opportunities (UN-Habitat, 2007). The financial infrastructure has been significantly improved with the help of large-scale projects funded by the federal government. The provision of basic services such as water and electricity are also improving, although it has not reached the required scale yet. While these developments are all seem to be positive for Addis Ababa as an urbanizing city, it does not correlate that all is well.

Until 2050 Ethiopia will mainly remain a rural country, but the country is rapidly urbanizing: by 2030 the urban population will almost double. The rapid developments are the cause for prompt and unplanned urbanisation which brought its own problems and challenges for the future of Addis Ababa. At the beginning of the 21st century, Ethiopia, mainly Addis Ababa, was facing an extensive housing shortage, which was affecting all income groups (Heisel, 2016). Rapid urbanisation and unprecedented population growth have created pressure on Addis Ababa to provide affordable housing and availability of basic services for citizens, especially for low-income families. The widening gap between the offer and demand of land and housing has led to a growth in informal land transactions and an alarming multiplication of shantytowns and unplanned settlements (Heisel, 2016).



Figure 1 – The image of a slum in the city centre of Addis Ababa

Following the instructions of the Addis Ababa City Government on revitalizing the city, many renewal measures have been proposed in highly increasing ways, which have led to numerous consequences like land expropriation, evictions, the relocation and resettlement of residents and businesses, compensation payment, and (re-)construction of roads and buildings. At the beginning of the 1990s, the urban renewal plan in the old inner-city area focused on private investment and commercial activities, but the cost was the use of residential units due to the high value of the inner-city land. Redevelopment of the ten different sub-cities, including the historically known *sefers* (neighbourhoods) of Addis Ababa was the result (Tesfaye & Haileselassie, 2020).

To come up with a solution to the rapid urbanisation as well as to cope with the housing backlog, Ethiopia signed a consensus in 1999 with the German government for technical assistance. As a result, together with Germany's official development agency German Technical Cooperation, the GTZ, they developed a program divided into three stages: 1) the Low-Cost Housing technology (1999-2002); 2) Addis Ababa Grand Housing Program (2002-2006) and 3) the Integrated Housing Development Program (IHDP) (2005-2010) (Delz, 2016). All the three programs have the same goal: to construct an ambitious government-initiated program for low- and middle- income housing.

To achieve the goals of the Grand Housing Scheme, the IHDP came up with the concept of using a standard mid-rise housing block type - the condominium (figure 2). The idea and concept came from the Western Model Ideal, a bottom-up approach; this typology could be cost-effective and drive densification. The condominium also introduced a new way of building because the new structure is made of reinforced concrete. As a matter of fact, until the mid-2000s, in Addis Ababa 97% of residential units were still single stories, while 75 % of units' walls were made of mud and wood (Delz, 2016).



Figure 2 – The condominium is replacing parts of the urban city and its inhabitants

However, this new housing typology does not account the needs of both the rural dwellers as well as the urban poor. In the current situation: *'The centre is slowly being cleansed of its poorer residents, freeing up high-value land for the government to lease to private developers. [...] "The slum clearance and the condominiums are closely linked,"* Franklin, professor at the London School of Economics explains. *"There seems to be a concerted effort to use the condominiums to suck people out of the centre."* (Franklin, 2017 cited from Gardner, 2017). A condominium apartment is offered as a compensation, but many of the evicted tenants cannot afford it. The substitutes for homeowners are financial compensation and a new plot of land, however this is often paltry, and usually many miles from their original neighbourhoods. (Gardner, 2017). The new typology was incompatible with the local ways of living, unaffordable for the poor and erasing existing communities and local identities in the urban city.

Simultaneously another cause-effect stimulated by the rapid urbanisation is happening; the rising occurrence of the rural-to-urban migration. About 57% percent of the migrants in Addis Ababa are coming from rural areas. The recent growth in the city has been sprawling with low density, with the rate of population growth outpacing the rate of spatial expansion. This has impacts on the cost of infrastructure and access to services, land management, traffic congestion, poverty rates, social inclusion, and the overall liability of the city (OECD/PSI, 2020).

Section I Problem Statement

In general urbanisation in rural areas is a commonly accepted and an often-described procedure. However, in Ethiopia, and many other developing countries, the opposite is also experienced quite often – the ruralisation of the urban centres (Heisel & Kifle, 2016). There is a notable discrepancy between urban and rural areas in Africa. Rural areas have been separated from the mainstream of national development. The low level of agricultural production, the absence of non-agricultural employment opportunities, and the lack of active small and medium-sized urban centers have promoted the interaction between rural areas and large cities. Therefore people are migrating from the rural to urban areas, where both the capital city as well as the intermediary cities are accounted in this urbanisation process (Cheru, 2005).

Internal migration is happening mainly between the rural-to-rural as well as rural-to-urban (figure 3). It is estimated that in Addis Ababa the level of urbanisation is accelerating by about 5% every year (UN-Habitat, 2017). However, when the rural migrants arrive in the cities, they face the same challenges of low productivity, unemployment, and low incomes as the rural areas are facing. Only this time it is compounded by overcrowding, air pollution causing health and climate issues, finding proper housing and other urban problems aggravating their migration (Cheru, 2005). While in the last 5-10 years the urban development has received increasing attention, the rural and urban progression appear as mutually exclusive interventions and therefore should not be seen separated.

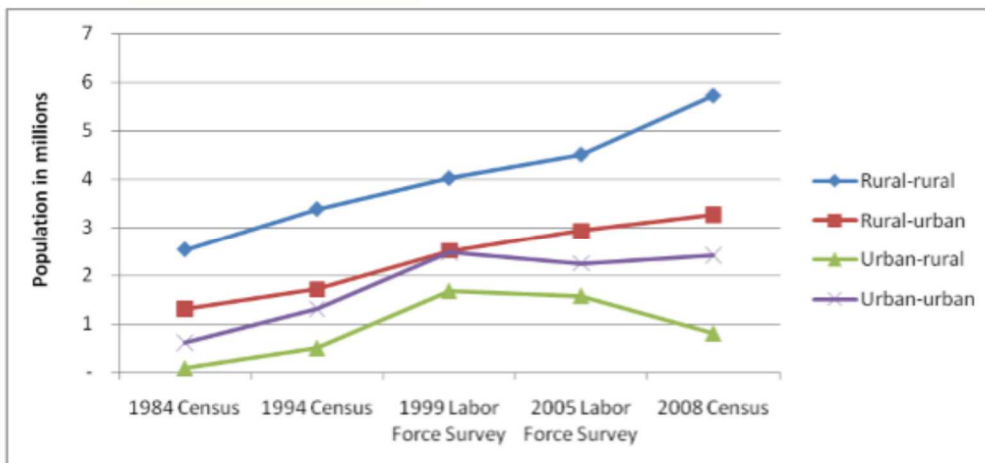


Figure 3 – Internal migration in Ethiopia (Source: Spieker, 2017)

The last decade there is another challenge the - once rural migrants, now urban (poor) -inhabitants of Addis Ababa face: the consequences of the policy of urban renewal. Urban inhabitants have been displaced due to the promotion of privatization, the removal of slum areas, the construction of apartment buildings, like the condominium, and the conversion of rural farmland to urban land. The relocation of residents to surrounding areas in the renewal of the city is the only option to modernize these areas without worrying about maintaining their residents. As a result, this has led to the mass expulsion of poor people and their relocation to the suburbs and undermined their livelihoods and social support systems (UN-Habitat, 2007). The socio-spatial layers of both the rural as well as urban livelihoods into the current urban tissue and housing system of Addis Ababa are diminished and ignored.

Another challenge in the renewal projects is the exclusion of the community's participation. Despite the existing policy and legal measures, renewal projects were marred by the absence of bottom-up participatory decision making where the process was not transparent (Bredenoord & Van Lindert, 2014).

Due to extensive redevelopments of central areas, or the so-called *sefers* (neighbourhoods), the patterns of old rural-urban neighbourhoods are often ignored and destroyed, leading to the loss of a sense of identity and displacement of communities. From an interview with Heyaw Terefe, professor at Ethiopian Institute for Architecture, about ruralisation of urban centres in Ethiopia Heisel (2016, p.72) concluded the following: “*Their values and traditions do not change overnight simply because of the change in location [...]. Migrants bring their rural life into the cities – and in such high numbers that as a result the cities begin to change, rather than the migrants.*”

In developing societies, the urban poor, formerly rural migrants, consists out of a diverse group. Depending on their role in the community, they suffer from different aspects of poverty. Research shows that a large part of these poor people found in Addis Ababa are rural migrants, most of these are young people. They are extremely vulnerable to the harsh conditions in the city because they often lack skills and education, miss the company of their parents, and have fewer social contacts they can rely on.

Rural migrants end up living scattered throughout the city, mainly in informal settlements, with Kolfe Keraniyo sub city housing the largest number of rural-urban migrants (Spieker, 2017). Furthermore, there is a lack of a proper registration system for the newcomers, which means that many migrants are still unregistered and therefore cannot benefit from the facilities provided by the city. The rapid urbanisation has occurred without expanding basic services and productive employment opportunities. The problem is complicated by the weak urban government structure, with limited resources to stimulate economic growth, mobilize resources and have access to the most basic services (Cheru, 2005).



Figure 4 – The intense traffic and air pollution in Addis Ababa

Section II Research Question(s)

Considering these problems and challenges, it is essential to conduct comprehensive and systematic research to develop suggested solutions. Following the problem statement, the design research will address the following main question:

How can sustainable ruralisation, the diverse socio-spatial layers that characterize the fabric of the rural livelihoods, be reinterpreted into an incremental collective housing system for the urban livelihood of Addis Ababa?

To answer the main question there are a few sub-questions distracted. The research seeks to answer the following questions:

- *(Re)defining ruralisation*
What is (sustainable) ruralisation, particularly in developing countries?
- *The process of sustainable ruralisation as a tool for urban transformation*
What is the importance of rural developments in a city with rapid urbanisation?
How can sustainable ruralisation contribute to urban transformation?
- *Patterns of rural inhabitations in the urban city of Addis Ababa - The linkage between ruralisation and the built environment*
What are the diverse socio-spatial layers that characterize the fabric of the rural areas of Addis Ababa?
How can the rural patterns be used in the urban fabric/built environment?
- *The strategy of incremental self-built housing on sustainable ruralisation*
How can a mass housing project be translated into a flexible, adaptable and standardized system to be built (and later-on adapted) by the inhabitants?

Section III Theoretical Framework

1.0 (Re)defining ruralisation

This section will explicate on the sub-question: What is (sustainable) ruralisation, particularly in developing countries?

1.1 Ruralisation, urbanisation or rurbanisation?

The concept of ruralisation, especially sustainable ruralisation, is not a widely theorised topic of question, however in literature it is not a new phenomenon (Chigbu, 2015). From the viewpoint of rural-oriented concepts many terms have occurred, like villagisation, agrarianisation or peasantisation. All these elements allude to ruralisation. However, these terms individually only tell a part of the story. One of the first notable attempts at defining ruralisation was by Chigbu (2015, p. 1069) who defined ruralisation as *'the changing lifestyle towards functional rurality; and effective and efficient rural conditions (physical, social, economic, and environmental changes) resulting from human socio-spatial behaviours, migration, and population dynamics.'* While this definition is considering the different layers within the development of rural conditions, like the social, spatial, and economic developments as well as migration and population, it does not consider the rural transition happening within the urban context.

Armstrong and Lopes (2016) explored the concept of ruralising the urban; or rurbanisation. With the ruralisation of an urban area there are a few factors which are inseverable to the development process. They investigated the ruralisation of the urban as a hybrid between recreation and cultivation with the involvement of community engagement in the form of new models for urban gardens. This concept is proposed to cater resilient and flexible systems for the twenty-first century rapid urbanizing cities. Ruralising is seen as a temporary use which involves a flexible infrastructure that can exploit the ruralisation of urban areas towards the process of urbanisation (Armstrong & Lopes, 2016).

There is a fine line between the definition of ruralisation or urbanisation in the developing world: if a dweller is living in a rural area, but this person has access to urban facilities or activities, for example, a mobile phone, this person is urbanized (Heisel, 2016). The main difference between ruralisation and urbanisation can be found in social factors. Ruralisation is accompanied with traditions, social hierarchies, perceptions of life and housing as well as the economic activities brought from the rural area. The ruralisation phenomenon helps to describe the way settlers live and construct their houses whenever they have the opportunity. It explains the scale of the social activity in informal settlements of the urban layer. In the end these activities in the urban are related to what settlers already were doing daily in rural areas (Heisel, 2016).

On that account this research will define *sustainable ruralisation of the urban* as follows: *a flexible and systemic construction towards re-shaping rural identities, rural lifestyles and livelihoods and the rural socio-spatial patterns into the urban tissue of the city to accompany both the rural migrants as well as the urban poor to create a sustainable environment.*

2.0 The process of sustainable ruralisation as a tool for urban transformation

This component will explain the following sub-question: 'What is the importance of rural developments in a city with rapid urbanisation?' and 'How can sustainable ruralisation contribute to urban transformation?'

2.1 Sustainable ruralisation in developing countries

Urbanisation in developing countries can be considered a positive development; however the main challenges of migration must also be addressed. The cities in Africa are not prepared enough to absorb large-scale migration from rural areas. The Ethiopian government is aware of these

challenges and is assisting the progress of new urban areas, which will help move the population from the overcrowded capital of Addis Ababa (OECD/PSI, 2020).

Rural areas, particularly in developed cities like Addis Ababa, are confronted with limited development opportunities and are increasingly falling behind the urban areas. The current policy framework for rural development had a strong sectoral focus that does not account for the roles and potential of the urban area (OECD/PSI, 2020). In developing countries, this will require positioning rural development in the city in a way that does not affect rural culture and customs that can provide modernity and tradition side by side in a balanced manner. The sustainable ruralisation process will serve to integrate rural patterns into the regional and national economies. Krause (2013, p. 233 as cited in Chigbu, 2015) called for considering ruralisation to “*fully make sense of current socio-spatial transformations*” or to at least try “*out the opposite perspective*” of achieving sustainable development. In doing so, Krause (2013, p. 234 as cited in Chigbu, 2015) posed the question “*we see people move into cities why do we assume only the people to change?*” The use of ruralisation in designing the urban could be a solution towards establishing to bring back the sense of rural identity and the patterns of rural inhabitations, the core, and the heritage of the community, to the urban city (Chigbu, 2015).

2.2 Ruralisation – a solution to urbanisation?

According to Chigbu (2015) the promotion of the ruralisation will make rural society and its lifestyle at the forefront of the urban development discourse. As urbanisation has eroded the land of adjacent non-urban areas, sustainable ruralisation may slow down the process of urbanisation. The development will promote protection and preservation of the rural heritage, culture, spatial characteristics and the norms and values within the urban-rural paradigm. Overall, this will improve rural identity and improve living and environmental conditions.

Urban dwellers are living in a dual system where they on the one hand are fully committed to the urban life, and simultaneously, are also belonging to the rural community from which they originate from. This means that people moving into cities does not necessarily lead to abandoning rural lifestyles and livelihoods. Both housing as well as political policies should take this into account with urban planning (Chibvongodze, 2013).

2.3 Social networks as the foundation for urban development

Another important element as a tool to sustain urban transformation in Addis Ababa are the social networks. Social networks in informal settlements have existed since the beginning of rural Ethiopia’s rural areas, but these structures have been formalized in the past century due to their urban environment. The most prominent rural informal insurance networks in Ethiopia are *iddirs* (social associations), *iqqubs* (economic associations) and *mahibers* (religious associations), all of which are evolved in the formal development of Addis Ababa today. These social networks are the foundation of future urban development. The urban transformation of rural patterns will involve combining formal and informal systems with structure and authority at the intersection of knowledge, capital, and demand (Heisel, 2016).



Figure 5 – Meeting of the members of an *iddir* association

3.0 Patterns of rural inhabitations in the urban city of Addis Ababa

This section will elaborate on the following sub-question: ‘What are the diverse socio-spatial layers that characterize the fabric of the rural areas of Addis Ababa?’ And ‘How can the rural patterns be used in the urban fabric?’.

3.1 Socio-spatial patterns of ruralisation

Addis Ababa is a city of migrants. Its history can be traced back only to one century, and most of its residents in informal urban settlements come from rural areas. Therefore, the traditional *tukul* arrangement, the round hut originated from rural areas, forms part of Addis Ababa’s understanding of urban space; more importantly, the social and spatial structure of the city.

The early urban settlers in the new capital used traditional materials to build houses, the same way it happened in the rural villages. The larger, more permanent houses could only be afforded by wealthy aristocrats and foreign residents. If they could afford it, they would hire foreign craftsman such as Indians, Armenians, and Greeks. These foreign workers helped to introduce new construction techniques and the use of imported modern materials. At the same time there was also no urban infrastructure (for example electricity or running water), except at the palace compound. The popularity of scattered settlements and the prevalence of *tukuls* surrounded by eucalyptus trees gave the city a rural character in the first two decades of the twentieth century (Heisel, 2016).

Rural life and culture in Addis Ababa are already been experienced in the urban layer of the city. The most common social patterns of ruralisation seen in the urban city are street vending, urban agriculture like fishing or forestry, the *gullets* (small open-air-markets), the tradition of slaughtering your own animals at home and living with extended family in a single room. These practices are linked to the rural activities in rural areas. Additionally, these implementations are not only perceived all over the city of Addis Ababa, but also in many other developing areas in Africa (Heisel, 2016). Important in these observations are the target group, which account for both the rural migrants as well as the urban poor. The rural-urban linkages play a crucial role in replenishing the overall livelihood of a neighbourhood (Chibvongodze, 2013).

The use of space (as a way of design) is closely linked to the traditional, community-based, and cultural environment. Social networks are usually the foundation of daily life and are representing both the city’s public network, as well as the city’s economic safety net. The cultural context in Addis Ababa has

led to a gradual hierarchy of indoor and outdoor spaces; from the private bedroom to the *gibbi*, a semi-private courtyard for family and economical purpose, and from a semi-public *sefer* neighbourhood road to the public streets. As a result, these elements led to a heterogeneous functional mix within the city (figure 7) (Heisel, 2016).



Figure 6 – An example of a *tukul* housing typology and its surroundings

3.2 Spatial patterns: informality in the urban city

To build an informal house in the city center of Addis Ababa, many of the inhabitants are calling on informal and rural traditions. In the countryside, it is a common practice for neighbors, family, and friends to get together to help in the process of building the shelter -the self-built home. The same happens in the (informal) urban settlements. The collection and preparation of materials may take several weeks before construction. Most of the time the material is gathered, sourced, or bought from recycling systems and the re-used materials from demolished (informal) houses (Heisel, 2016).

The informal housing typologies used by most of the population in rural and urban neighbourhoods in Addis Ababa are very similar. Both have their own shelter model: on one hand the countryside is known for its *tukuls*, the rural shelter model, and on the other hand, the people in the cities live in *korkoro bets*, the informal urban shelter model. The resemblances in these living arrangements are one motive to the result of ruralisation happening in the urban centres in Ethiopia. Most of the people living in urban areas have originated from the rural shelter model; they adapt to what they know (Heisel, 2016). Therefore each type of settlement (rural or urban) or their inhabitants, mix, change and produce their original acquired and learned values and preferences, depending on their origins, social status, education, economic positions, and personal tastes, rather than depending on the settlement type (Armstrong & Lopes, 2016).

Another spatial difference between the rural and urban shelter can be found in the adaptability of the building. Often the rural shelter model is located on a site with a lot of open space surrounding (figure 7 -1), which makes it easier to incrementally build more housing space when needed. The urban shelter model, however, does not offer this as easily as the rural shelter model since Addis Ababa is becoming overcrowded and there is almost no space available (anymore) to expand. Urban dwellers find their own way to adapt to their needs, often leading to unstable, illegally built spaces.

This interaction between the different shelter models is all happening on the scale of the neighbourhood: the *sefer*. The *sefers* are historically known spatial typologies, and it gradually changed from its original meaning of a military

campsite towards a definition it got currently: a place, community, or the neighbourhood. There is a distinction of three types of *sefers*; the *sefer* of the nobilities, the occupational *sefer* and the community *sefers*. A characteristic of the *sefers* are the non-explicit boundaries. The transition happens gradually, and multiple *sefers* can be represented in the in between zones. Bureaucratic decisions introduced from the top-down cannot compete with the prevailing logic of *sefers* in the community as not only the collective urban memory, but also as a source of identity and a means of wayfinding and orientation. The different typologies configurate the genesis of the city, and therefor are a dominant part of Addis Ababa (Tesfaye & Haileselassie, 2020).

Rural patterns



Urban patterns



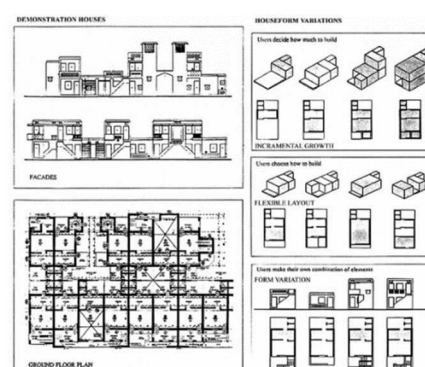
Figure 7 – The socio/spatial layers of ruralisation and urbanisation in the city. From top to bottom: 1. Housing typology and surrounding built environment 2. The use of the shared space 3. Rural farmland and urban agriculture and 4. Different layers of using the indoor spaces

3.3 CASE STUDY: B.V. Doshi - Aranya Community Housing (1989), Indore (India)

The Aranya Housing project is an incremental and adaptable low-cost housing project initiated designed for the economically weaker section. While the low-income group was the main target group in this project, the plan approached 'a sustainable society' accommodating different socio-economic income groups. A site of 86 hectares is divided into six plots with a central spine and is housing over 6500 dwellings. Key elements of Doshi's design are to use the essence of vernacular identity in the design as well as a hierarchy of open spaces. Together with the pedestrian pathways the open spaces intersect and connect the plots to the central spine. On the scale of housing each user has a range of options, from a one-room shelter to a more spacious house (figure 8). The incremental housing project emphasizes on the sense of family and neighbourhood and is at the same time encouraging adaptation and personalization according to individual needs and resources (Modi, 2016).



Figure 8 – Left: Aranya Housing Right: Toolbox with options to incrementally build



4.0 The strategy of incremental self-built housing on sustainable ruralisation

This section will focus on the following sub-question: 'How can a housing project be translated into a standardized and adaptable system to be built (and later-on adapted) by the inhabitants?'

4.1 The potential of self-built housing as a pro-poor policy

Sustainable ruralisation assumes a flexibility and elasticity to adapt to the built environment. Therefore the housing schemes should offer a possibility for the inhabitants to adapt to their own space. A possible design solution to accompany these needs is to self-build incrementally (Bredenoord & Van Lindert, 2014). This is a pattern which is already a key element for the rural inhabitants. Even today it is noticeable that the urban cities in the developing world are mainly built based this rural tradition of informal self-building activity.

International institutions already began to develop tools for public housing policies for the urban poor: pro-poor policies. They adopted the concept of assisted self-help housing by accepting rather than eliminating informal settlements, and by promoting a gradual self-construction process in these communities. Studies recognized the huge potential and capabilities of the incremental self-built dwellings in response to the urgent housing challenges in developing countries (Bredenoord & Van Lindert, 2014). These advantages include the following:

- The assisted self-help approach facilitates the incremental house construction towards catering to the needs and priorities of different categories of household who, with time, will gradually expand and improve their dwelling according to their individual requirements.

- Self-built housing construction allows the household to match its own priorities in terms of facilities and quality of housing with the ability to pay for them; it takes into account the financial ability of the household. Therefore it is a feasible option for assembling housing to the needs of the urban-rural poor.
- Owner-built housing permits the owners of the dwelling to treat it as an investment. As a result, it will generate a way for the inhabitants towards investing into improvements or the expansions of the building in anticipation for future sales or to have a rental income.
- Incremental, informal housing construction can provide housing for low-income families without relying on government subsidies. As a pro-poor and inclusive strategy, it satisfies both equity as well as a sustainability criterion (Bredenoord & Van Lindert, 2014).



Figure 9 –Prototype of SICU: a sustainable low-cost modular housing scheme in the sub-city of Lideta (Addis Ababa). Students from the EiABC, Germany and South-Sudan investigated incremental self-built housing and this dwelling was one of the results.

4.2 CASE STUDY: ELEMENTAL - Quinta Monroy Housing (2003), Iquique (Chile)

Quinta Monroy is a built social housing project with the focus on incremental self-built processes on the very centre of Iquique, a city in the Chilean desert. The architects faced a challenge where the aim was to settle the families in the same site, instead of displacing them to the periphery. The goal was to settle the same number of families (or more) and to have a system where the inhabitants could expand if they wish to within a limited subsidy. A set of design conditions in which the value of the housing unit will increase over time was identified. This included achieving enough density in the plot, the provision of a physical space for 'extensive family' and a porous enough building with a supporting construction to sustain and support incremental self-built housing (Modi, 2016).



Figure 10 – Over time, and depending on their needs, the inhabitants changed their dwelling unit.

Section IV Methodology and Methods

The aim of the research is to gather a scientific approach and foundation to accommodate both design by research as well as research by design. The different methodologies will firstly, identify the background and try to understand the cultural, social, spatial, and economic mismatch of existing ruralisation and urbanisation processes in the city of Addis Ababa. Secondly, it will investigate the conditions and factors of ruralisation of the urban space in the case of Addis Ababa. Thirdly, the scientific research will be further developed into a design solution of incrementally built multifunctional collective housing typologies to challenge global rural-urban challenges in the urban city.

The chosen site is in Kolfe, in Kolfe Keraniyo sub-city, and will serve as a pilot case in this research. Kolfe is in the western edge of Addis Ababa, divided by the ring road into an eastern and western part. It is considered as one of the semi-peripheral parts of the city recognised for its informal business activities. The social structure of the area has been formed by a combination of different features including the history of settlement patterns, informal shelters and economic activity (Tadele, Tafere & Lavers, 2006). According to the statistics of the Central Statistical Agency (CSA) more than one-third of the total population in Addis Ababa is regarded as a migrant, which means that the initial target group of this research consisted of over 1.2 million people (CSA, 2014, p. 22). The chosen neighbourhood has been legitimized because most of the (rural) migrants live here (Spieker, 2017), making it a captivating casus to analyse.

Rural-urban migrants relocate to Addis Ababa from all over Ethiopia. Nevertheless, most of them arrive from the Amhara, Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region and the Tigray region. The movement of a whole family is rarely observed; it is often young people who come to the city by themselves or children are mostly sent by their families to live with a relative (Spieker, 2017). Due to the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) it was not possible to take a field trip to the chosen site and talk with the rural/urban inhabitants. Instead, the research will investigate previous interviews, (ethnographic) analyses and literature studies of the inhabitants in the city, as a secondary sources. To implement primary sources semi-structured interviews with Ethiopian inhabitants/expats living in the Netherlands (as well as in Ethiopia) will be held in the second phase of the research.

The research will make use of two different methodologies:

1. Grounding theory

The methods used for this methodology will be:

- Literature review (content analysis)
- Comparative analysis
- Typological Analysis

2. Qualitative (Auto) Ethnographic research on the way of living (social/spatial patterns)

The methods used for this methodology will be:

- Audio-visual analysis (documentaries)
- Contextual inquiry
- Interviews (inhabitants from Ethiopia living in the Netherlands, expats)

Section V Relevance

This research will stress the use and potential of sustainable ruralisation, the patterns of the rural inhabitants, on the development of urbanisation and the rural-to-urban migration, which has been a neglected subject by urbanists, architects, and other academic spatial practitioners (Chigbu, 2015). Research based on the development of the cities has so far been concentrated around the urbanisation of the cities of the Global North, like London, Tokyo and New York. There is very little systematic research on the urbanisation and ruralisation processes in cities in (under)developed countries; the Global South (Cheru, 2005). Although the concept of urbanisation is mnemonic which has attracted the overwhelming awareness or seriousness of global action, ruralisation has neither attracted nor draws the notice of large-scale implementations in a growing city like mass housing.

Unlike urbanisation, which is mainly regarded as a problem in rapid growing cities, ruralisation could be the opposite – a solution (Chigbu, 2015). Sustainable ruralisation is essential to the future development of the built environment. Architects can contribute to this process by envisioning new standardized yet flexible spatial conditions that can achieve sustainable ruralisation/urbanisation of the city, especially within collective multifunctional housing projects.

The process of rural social and spatial layers in the urban city illustrate the huge potential waiting to be activated in the informal urban city. Skill, knowledge, manpower, materials, and capital all seem to be available, but have yet to be accessed by the formal housing sector (Heisel, 2016). To date, the urgent housing needs of the urban poor have largely been met by the poor themselves. Therefore, the power of self-built houses is a factor that can be effectively used in pro-poor government housing strategies. Nevertheless, the national public housing policy has rarely adopted the principle of incremental housing construction. It is foreseeable that the role of self-service housing will change in the coming decades, depending on the level of economic development of a country, the occurrence of poverty and the intensity of urbanisation (Bredenoord & Van Lindert, 2014).

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Figure 1- Photograph by Charlie Rosser in Gardner, T. (2017). 'Addis has run out of space': Ethiopia's radical redesign. Retrieved 27 October 2020, from <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2017/dec/04/addis-ababa-ethiopia-redesign-housing-project>

Figure 2 – Photograph by Addis Ababa City Mayor Office in Condominium transfers to people not in a waiting list trigger further skepticism. (2019). Retrieved 4 January 2021, from <https://borkena.com/2019/03/06/condominium-transfers-to-people-not-in-a-waiting-list-trigger-further-skepticism/>

Figure 3 – Chart of Internal Migration in Ethiopia in Spieker, M. (2017) Migrants' experiences and stories: A gender analysis of urban poverty among young rural-urban migrant in Addis Ababa. [Master thesis] Utrecht University, Faculty of Geosciences. Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Figure 4 – Photograph by Charlos Agulló retrieved from <https://www.altairmagazine.com/voces/addis-addis/>

Figure 5 – Photograph from “I am part of 7 Iddirs. My family and friends did not understand why. Then my husband died.”. (2017). Retrieved 1 January 2021, from <https://medium.com/impact-insurance/i-am-a-part-of-7-iddirs-my-family-and-friends-did-not-understand-why-then-my-husband-died-8455fd57fbae>

Figure 6 - Untitled photograph of Anuak village in Fisher, A & Beckwith C. Retrieved from <http://nazret.com/blog/media/blogs/pict/>

Figure 7 – Multiple references

- Screens from the documentary series Spaces_:

1. Disappearing Spaces – a day in Addis Ababa's informal city
2. Originating Spaces – a day in rural Ethiopia

- Shared space from p.65 Tesfaye, A. & Haileselassie, B,T. (2020) Addis Ababa's Sefers: Communities in Transformation.

- Figure 1 – cropped

- Photography from Davey, A. (2007). Farm Compound, Tigray Region, Northern Ethiopia.. Retrieved from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/adavey/3134148538/>

Figure 8 – Left: Image. Right: Toolbox. From AID - Aranya Housing Project. (2021). Retrieved 1 January 2021, from <https://www.architectureindevelopment.org/project.php?id=401>

Figure 9 – Image from AID - Low-cost modular housing scheme. (2021). Retrieved 1 January 2021, from <https://www.architectureindevelopment.org/project.php?id=210#!prettyPhoto>

Figure 10 – Images from Quinta Monroy / ELEMENTAL. (2008). Retrieved 1 January 2021, from <https://www.archdaily.com/10775/quinta-monroy-elemental>