



## Graduation Plan: All tracks

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

<b>Personal information</b>	
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<b>Studio</b>	
Name / Theme	Dwelling/ Global housing studio - Addis Ababa
Teachers / tutors	Nelson Mota, Dick Van Gameren
Argumentation of choice of the studio	I personally consider themes as growth of population and the formation of new urban areas in developing countries as extremely important issues that architects have to face if they want to contribute in a consistent way to the actual and future built heritage. For these reasons I think that the Global housing graduation studio will be a great opportunity in order to enrich my knowledge and reflect upon this theme.

<b>Graduation project</b>	
Title of the graduation project	The common place
<b>Goal</b>	
Location: Addis Ababa, Dejach Wube Sefer	
The posed problem,	
research questions and	
design assignment in which these result.	

Due to the rapid growth of the Ethiopian population, the increase of urbanization in Ethiopian cities and the migration of people from rural to urban areas, cities are becoming more and more crowded. People move to cities searching for a better quality of life. Due to the housing shortage, the bad quality of many houses and the low income of a great part of the population, the necessity to improve the quality of the urban fabric has become an urgency in Addis Ababa. At the same time it is necessary to take into account the fact that the population of the Ethiopian capital will continue to grow during the next years so the city will have to be able to accommodate the needs of the future citizens as well.

At the same time I'm strongly convinced that the city of Addis already includes numerous remarkable qualities talking about both the existing architectural heritage and the social mechanisms and dynamics which regulate and compose the existing communities. Clear examples of that are the historical buildings and the physical and social character of the 'Sefer' and compounds. At this point, as leading research question we could formulate the following: It is possible to imagine an architectural strategy that would allow to increase the density of the urban fabric enhancing at the same time the existing spatial and special quality of the existing state of art of the city? Doing so particular attention will be given at the historical formation and development of the structure and identity of the Sefer and compound. Taking advantage of the special characterizing configuration of the sefers, and based on the main landmarks and identities of the site the design strategy will work as a new framework for the city in order to accommodate the great number and to adapt according to the future changes of the capital.

The project will be developed and will focus in the area of Dejach Wube Sefer.

## **Process**

### **Method description**

The first phase it is characterized by an investigation of the historical background, of the main urban features and formation of the city of Addis Ababa. This phase has been developed in groups producing both statistic and analytic results as analysis of the growth of the urban fabric and urban population, investigation of the architecture of the city taking into account both themes of migration, the build heritage, infrastructure systems of the city and housing for the great number. Taking advantage of the possibility to visit the city of Addis Ababa, several studies as photographic reports, sketches and direct interviews to the local people will be adopted in order to achieve a better understanding of the urban-architectural features of the city, and of the habits, cultural traditions, habits, lifestyles and needs of the people currently living and arriving in Addis Ababa.

During and after the excursion many reflections will be formulated specifically around the themes of the migration and the growth and evolution of the informal settlements within the urban fabric of Addis Ababa. Developing the individual design strategy, different techniques will be adopted as conceptual sketches, collages, written reflections and conceptual diagrams taking advantage of the material, information and reflection developed during the first phase and during the field trip and activities in Addis Ababa.

## Literature and general practical preference

Arrival city by Doug Saunders, 2012.

Planet of slums by Mike Davis, 2006.

<http://unhabitat.org/>

Cidade de Deus Cidade de Deus – City of God.

Working with Informalized Mass Housing in Brazil, ETH Zurich, Edited by Marc Angélil & Rainer Hehl.

Cities of Change, Addis Ababa. Transformation strategies for urban territories in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. By Marc Angélil and Dirk Hebel

The Indigenous Urban Tissue of Addis Ababa - A City Model for the Future Growth of African Metropolis. Prof. Dr. Jörg Baumeister, Prof. Nikolaus Knebel  
Addis Ababa University, Department of Urban and Regional Planning and Architecture

Knowledge achieved by personal experiences in developing countries.  
Interviews on site.

## Reflection

### Relevance

Reflecting upon the case of Addis Ababa enable the possibility to have a deeper understanding of the evolution of cities in the developing countries using comparisons with other similar cases around the world. At the same time the architectural strategy that will be proposed will have the goal to answer and address different problematics and situations which are visible not only in Ethiopia but in completely different context and geographical areas as well. In this way the analysis and strategy will have a global and multicultural relevance.

## Time planning

Week 1.1/1.4

The analytical research will be focused on the Urban Transformation and Housing Figures of Addis Ababa and it will be divided in four moments:

- a From the Foundation of the City until the Italian Occupation (1886-1936);
- b From the Italian Occupation until the fall of the Emperor (1936-1974);
- c From the fall of the Emperor until the fall of the Derg Regime (1974-1991)
- d From the fall of the Derg Regime until today (1991-2015);

Week 1.4/1.8

In the second phase the students organized in groups (4-5 persons) will reflect upon four themes that are key to support housing policies in contemporary Addis Ababa:

- a Migration: Accommodating the rural-urban migration; 1 group
- b Built Heritage: Slum Upgrading and Inner City Urban Renewal; 1 group
- c Infrastructure: Mobility and Spatial Inclusion; 1 group
- d Mass Housing Developments: Strategies to accommodate the great number; 1 group

Week 1.9/ 2.1

P1/ Field trip

Week 2.1/2.5

After the P1 presentation the students (organized in groups of 4/5 persons) should prepare the Addis Ababa Book of Patterns. The book should include 4 chapters, related with the following social and spatial practices:

- a Income Generation
- b Building Techniques
- c Social Spaces
- d Boundaries

Week 2.6/...

Design Hypothesis

14 January 2016

P2 Presentation

18 January 2016

Hand in of the position paper (AR3A160 Lecture Series Research Methods)

Design developments