

construction workshop in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia

December 05th-16th 2016

[M E M B R A N E .]

*an odyssey
in domestic
space*



EiABC



*Membrane, limit of space,
beginning of space, space
“closed within itself and infinitely
open”* (Edouard al-Kharrat, Al-zamân al-akhâr, 1985)

Four African Cities. Four Climates. Four Architecture Workshops.

MEMBRANE. An odyssey in domestic space, is a series of workshops and lectures centered around the question of housing in Africa, that will take place during a two year period. Its ambition is to traverse the continent and its various climates in order to paint a landscape of contemporary African housing, in both its diversity and commonality.

The membrane, in its thickness, materiality, and the diversity of its vernacular incarnations, serves as the entrance point to an exploration of the invisible as well as the tangible, social imaginaries as well as technologies of construction.

The architecture workshops will vary between building at one to one scale and theoretical analysis, in collaboration with various local schools and universities. The entire process will be documented with the publication of a book compiling two years of research, as well as through video throughout the journey.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION :

You are invited to take part in the first workshop of the series MEMBRANE. An odyssey in domestic space : the construction of an experimental pavilion in Addis Ababa, hosted by the Ethiopian institute of Architecture, Building construction and City development (EIABC).

Application Deadline - 28 October 2016

Send a Short motivation letter + completed Registration form to contact@newsouth.fr

Please title the email “WORKSHOP APPLICATION- ADDIS”.

Final selection - 02 November 2016

Accommodation details and pavilion design documents will be sent to the selected participants

Workshop - 05-16 December 2016

Pavilion construction in Addis Ababa

Organisation :
New South + Lateral Office

Partner schools :
EiABC - Ethiopia

With the support of :
**African Union
Ambassade de France
Cité de l'architecture et du
patrimoine de Paris**

Contact :
Meriem Chabani
President, New South,
Architect & Urban Planner.

contact@newsouth.fr
www.newsouth.fr

WHY THESE WORKSHOPS ?

The Climate, The House, and Us

Yesterday, the Cop 21 in Paris. Tomorrow, the Cop 22 in Marrakech. These events and their multiplication reveal increasing awareness of the effects of our lifestyle on the climate, and the imperative to take action. However, the making of our habitat is scarcely a part of the conversation. **Why, when the sustainable relationship between the house and its environment is at the very origin of the act of construction?**

The technologies that have so far accompanied our persistent impact on the environment have blurred the immediacy of our relationship to climate. Throughout the world, we have progressively abandoned traditional know-how in favour of standardized systems: air conditioning, heating, insulation, double glazing, mechanical ventilation...

Within this research cycle, we hypothesise that through revisiting the knowledge contained in the vernacular architectures that have constituted the specific vocabulary and identity of each culture, it is possible to respond to today's environmental issues in a resolutely contemporary way.

Reconnecting with time

Our houses have left the care of their solidity to technicity, taking away the need for diligent human maintenance. Yet we find that through the care of inhabitants, masons, gardeners, painters with in the household, people get closer to their home, their neighbors, and their community, in such a way that the experience of inhabitation, and the shared practice of maintaining the house, are inextricably bound together.

This combined space, where - and through which - household and society are bound together, translates into the concept of 'fragile' housing: seasonal painting of the house, renewed render, and organic expansion, all necessitate the presence of watchful, careful individual, of a 'caretaker of space'.

It is this embraced fragility, this flexibility, that we wish to explore, through the possibilities that it offers for the construction of a collective imaginary, and in its relationship to time and environment.

MEMBRANE. An odyssey in domestic space

Housing spatially defines its own limits, generating domestic protection by defining an 'outside'. Qualifying the relationship between the inside and the outside of the house means understanding its antagonistic nature: impermeable yet porous.

That limit is a membrane that separates two 'milieu', two environments, two climates.

The measure in which we separate ourselves from the outside defines the landscape of our cities. How do we qualify this transition? The nature of the membrane, limit of a space yet space "closed within itself and infinitely open" (Edouard al-Kharrat, Al-zamân al-akhâr, 1985), is the substance we want to study during this workshop cycle.

In that in-between, lies the distance between two worlds, the intimate, domestic, private realm and the open, social, public realm: a fragile space where society is crystallized.

Learning from four cities

In order to constitute a coherent basis of reflexion, the workshops will take place in a number of cities of the African continent, representing various climates. So far, the selected cities are Algiers (Algeria), Bamako (Mali), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and Cape Town (South Africa).

In order to go beyond environmental prescriptions, we choose to approach the climatic question through a study of local domestic architecture: **understanding ancient practices, the intelligence of tradition, examining the evolution of construction and engineering, while still investing the domain of domestic imaginaries.**

The work will study how, under various climates, people have inhabited that membrane, the way that limit thickens or slims down to define a climatic in-between. This focus will be articulated by reinvesting maintenance of the house in order to bring inhabitants and their habitat closer together. Broadly, we will examine the relationship between the house and the outside world.

WORKSHOP N°1 : ADDIS ABABA

You are invited to take part in the first workshop in the series MEMBRANE. An odyssey in domestic space!

It will take place in Addis Ababa, hosted by the Ethiopian institute of Architecture, Building construction and City development (EiABC). The institute will also provide the site for the construction of the workshop project, which will remain in place for one year.

We will build a 'hybrid' pavilion that will unite explorations into a range of domestic conditions : where to sleep, where to cook, where to eat, where to live... The choice of program is not intended to dictate a form, but to serve as a laboratory.

The construction process will also provide the opportunity for exploration and recombination of materials and construction techniques inspired by the diverse vocabulary of Ethiopian vernacular architecture.

The finished pavilion will function as a 'composite house' that may be used by the university's students throughout the year, and provide the basis for further experimentations in domestic space.

The collaboration with the EiABC will take place in three phases. **This call is an invitation to join Phase 3 of the process :**

Phase 1 - 17-21 October 2016

Preparatory seminar of five days hosted by the EiABC (participants: local teachers and students, guest international speakers).

Phase 2 - 24 October - 02 December 2016

Development of a design concept for the pavilion by EiABC students (participants: local students)

Phase 3 - 05-16 December 2016

Pavilion construction - design experimentation (participants: open)

WHY SHOULD YOU COME ?

The workshop cycle aims to encourage cooperation with African architecture schools and to promote their students' work.

For this reason, the design stage of the project will be led by local students, with the workshop opening up to international collaboration at the construction stage under the leadership of the designers. We do not assume our own expertise; the goal is to learn, facilitate an exchange of ideas and knowledge, and to provide a platform for promoting the creativity and ingenuity of Ethiopian architecture students.

- Learn vernacular construction techniques, collaborate with Ethiopian and international participants, and get involved in a unique building experience.

- Expand your portfolio with an exceptional project.

- The project will be published in local and international publications, and the whole process will be filmed by a professional documentary team.



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The workshop itself is free. Our organisation is a non-profit initiative, and we conduct our projects with the support of sponsors, partners, volunteers and grants.

However, you will need to cover your personal costs for transportation, accommodation and meals.

Optional but reasonable accommodation and lunch arrangements will be coordinated by the workshop team, though participants are also free to make their own arrangements should they wish. Further details will be communicated to registered participants in November.

As a reference, you should budget for a daily expenditure of approximately US\$20 for accommodation and US\$10 for food.

The cost for flights will of course depend on your departure city, choice of airline, etc.

WHERE DOES IT TAKE PLACE?

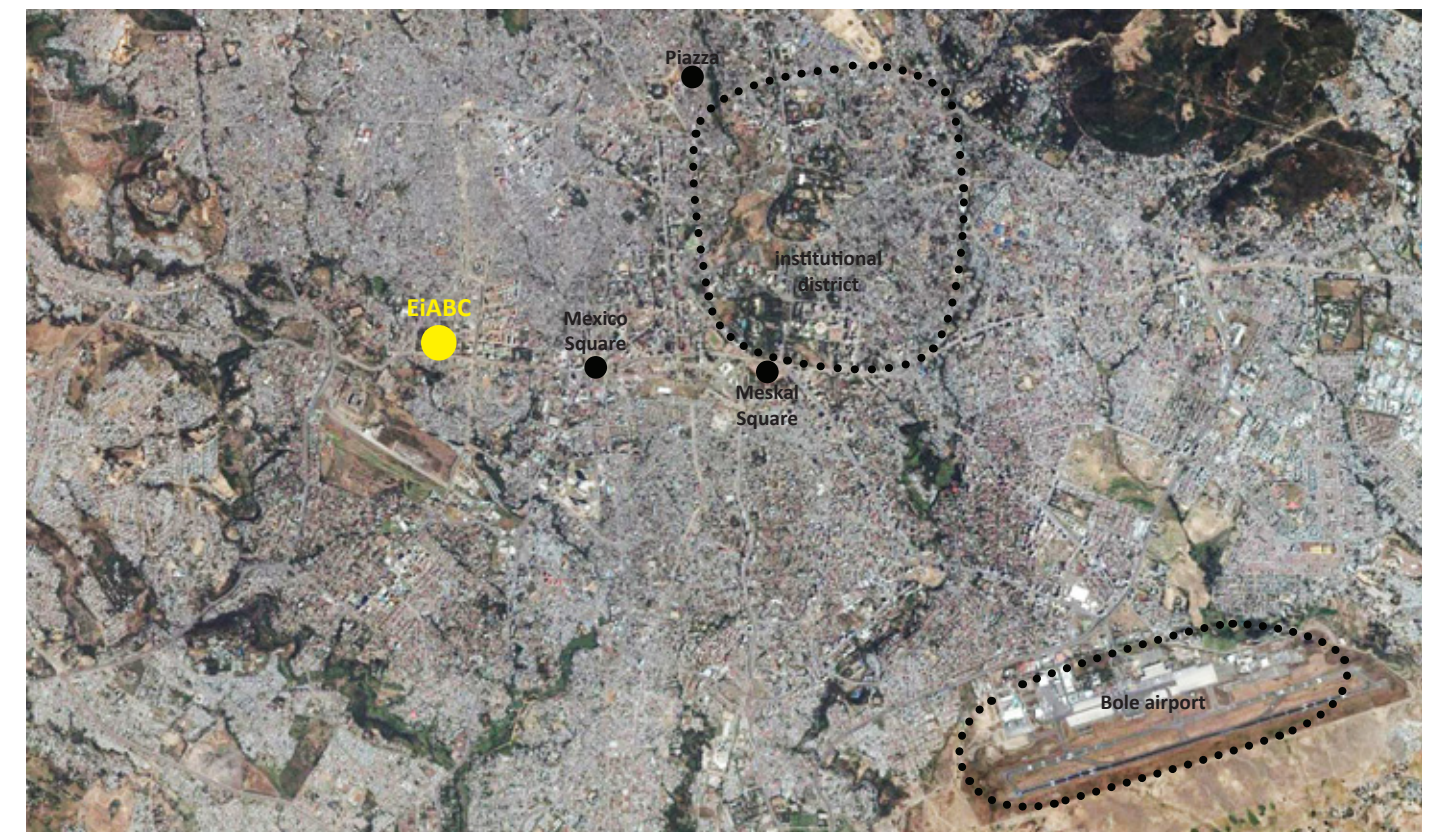
The workshop will take place on the campus of the Ethiopian institute of Architecture, Building construction and City development (EiABC), which has a space set aside for the construction and accommodation of the workshop construction project.

The campus is located in the Lideta neighbourhood, west of the city center, and is accessible by the new light rail (stations St. Lideta, Darmar or Cocacola), or by mini-bus and blue-and-white taxi.

HOW DO I GET THERE ?

We recommend that you arrive in the city on or before Sunday 04 December, as we will meet at EiABC on the morning of Monday 05 December.

Addis Ababa is served by Bole Airport (ADD), and is easily accessible by mini-bus and taxi. Further detailed travel advice (getting from the airport to the city centre, etc.) will be provided to participants in November.



HOW DO I PARTICIPATE ?

We welcome applications from prospective participants from a range of backgrounds and experience.

While the workshop is primarily aimed at students and young professionals in the fields of architecture, construction, design and art, we are open to motivated applications from people of other backgrounds and fields of expertise.

Applicants should submit a short motivation letter (no more than one side of A4) that will help us to understand what you do and why you wish to take part in the workshop.

Download the registration form from our [website](http://www.newsouth.fr) (www.newsouth.fr), fill it in and return with the motivation letter to contact@newsouth.fr, with the title "WORKSHOP APPLICATION - ADDIS".

Places are limited to 12 and the group selection will aim to strike a balance between participants with a range of experience levels and backgrounds.

The deadline for applications is 28 October 2016, 17.00 (CEST) .

Responses will be provided by 02 November 2016.

WHAT TO EXPECT?

Once you have submitted your application by 28 October, 17.00 (CEST), you will have a short wait to hear whether your application has been successful (by 02 November, at the latest). As a result of the short turn around, we recommend that you submit your application well before the deadline; no exceptions will be made for late applications. It is also recommended that successful applicants purchase flights as soon as possible after notification in order to avoid price rises closer to the workshop date.

During November, participants will receive a report on the proceedings of the seminar (to be held in Addis Abeba, 17 to 21 October) and the proposed direction for the project.

At this time we will also provide more detailed information on the accommodation available, the organisation of the workshop and practicalities such as food and local travel.

A week before the workshop, we will provide a last update on the progress of the project design and finalised information on the organisation of the construction workshop.

Participants should be aware that a documentation team will be filming throughout the workshop.

Finally, the three months of research experimentation, culminating in the construction workshop, will be presented in an edited publication and circulated to participants.



ORGANISATION

+ New South

“ Avoiding emphasis, miserabilism and fascination, to attempt to reach beyond the ‘uncharted territories’, the carriers of ancient imaginaries, upon which ancient cartographers would willingly write : ‘hic sunt leones’; here be lions. “

Cyril Chabaud, Catalogue for the New Builder, 2013

Headquarters :
B76, 11 rue Caillaux, 75013
Paris, France

Founders:
Othmane BENGEBARA
Cyril CHABAUD
Meriem CHABANI
Etienne CHOBAUX
John EDOM
Yustino GOMEZ HERRERA
Amine IBNOLMOBARAK
Chamss DOHA OULKADI

New South, a Paris based non-profit, is a research platform that promotes cultural initiatives in the Global South. It was founded in 2015 by eight architects and urban planners of various origins, who share a forward thinking vision for cities of the Global South. The association allows them to share and develop their research beyond personal professional practice, in order to actively question the position of architects in a globalised context; between reappropriation of local knowledge and contemporary visions.

New South organises lectures, workshops, and exhibitions, in order to communicate and promote works that question our relationship to The South as a construct.



+ Lateral Agency

“ No ideas but in things “
William Carlos Williams, Paterson, 1927

Lateral Agency is a flexible structure engaging with the city in a lateral way. It is about surprising the city in the making, moving landscapes, the men within it. It is about doing what we want to happen.

“No one knows what is happening today, because no one wants anything to happen. In reality we never know what is going on, we only know what we want to be happening, and that is how things happen“

Founders :
Pierre DAVID
Véronique LAURE
Denis TARGOWLA



+ EiABC. Ethiopian institute of Architecture, Building construction and City development



WORKSHOP TEAM

+ Meriem Chabani

Architect and Urban Planner,
President of the New South association and architect practicing in Paris, is coordinator of ‘MEMBRANE. An odyssey in domestic space’. Meriem will set up the theoretical framework in collaboration with EiABC students and act as supervisor throughout the construction.



+ Fasika Sahlemariam

Architect, Researcher, Assistant Lecturer at EiABC
As Assistant Lecturer at the EiABC in charge of the workshop, Fasika will act as coordinator and supervisor, supporting students’ design development, and bringing invaluable sustainable construction expertise.



+ Pierre David

Architect, Lecturer at ENSA Paris Malaquais,
Former Adjunct Professor at GSAAP Columbia University and Rice University, and currently teaching at ENSA Paris Malaquais, Pierre’s strong theoretical background will contribute to shaping the pedagogic framework of the seminar and workshop. He will also advise during construction.



+ François Le Pivain

Architect, Director,
François works as an architect in Paris, while initiating and engaging in audiovisual projects.
He will participate in both the seminar and the workshop, contributing through his experience in construction, while also documenting the process on film.



+ Alexandre Linguanotto

Assistant Director,
Alexandre has a background in cinema and documentary film making, notably as director of photography for the documentary ‘Yanmagon, Faces of Yangon,’ shot in Myanmar. A keen traveler, with a hunger for discovery and cultural exchange, Alexandre will form the documentary team with François Le Pivain.



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