

NairobiWorkshop

ETH Studio Basel - 10 to 14 March 2008

The workshop on the contemporary Nairobi within the context of urbanization in Africa deals with the interconnected urban thematic issues such as urban planning, governance and socio-politico-economic-cultural tensions in land use. It escapes dichotomies such as formal/informal and takes on a bottom up approach based on phenomenological techniques. It sees Nairobi as an 'ordinary' city.

Nairobi Workshop addresses the emerging and existing urgent issues of urbanization processes and the historical and political formations as revealed by the recent violent developments since the presidential elections in December 2007.

This workshop is part of an ongoing urban research project on Nairobi, initiated by ETH Studio Basel - Contemporary City Institute in collaboration with Harvard GSD and the University of Nairobi - School of Built Environment.

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Workshop Day1- Monday 10 March 2008

URBAN PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE

INTRODUCTION 10.00

Opening introduction

Studio Basel and the Nairobi Project
ETH Studio Basel

Presentation

Student works on Nairobi
ETH students

Presentation

Student works on Nairobi in Nairobi
Prof. Alfred Omenya, School of Built Environment, University of Nairobi

LUNCH

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION 14.00

Chair: ETH Studio Basel

Opening presentations

Aspects of governance
Prof. Dr. Till Förster, Institute for Social Anthropology, University of Basel

A city without a masterplan? Urban planning and governance in Nairobi
Prof. Alfred Omenya, School of Built Environment, University of Nairobi

DEBATE

open discussion

Workshop Day2- Tuesday 11 March 2008

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL TENSION OF LAND USE IN NAIROBI

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION 10.00

Chair: ETH Studio Basel

Opening presentations

The idea of informality in Africa's urban revolution today
Professor Keith Hart BA PhD, Department of Anthropology, Goldsmiths, University of London

Inequality in land ownership and economic activities in the context of distributive justice in the city of Nairobi
Prof. Paul Syagga, Department of Real State, University of Nairobi

DEBATE

open discussion to 13.00

LUNCH

Student presentations on urban activities in Nairobi 14.00

Housing by Benny Ho
Recreation by Sondra Fein

DEBATE

open discussion

OFFICE TOUR OF HERZOG DE MEURON 18.30 - 19.30

Tour by Pierre de Meuron

APPROPRIATING THE CITY: DECOLONIZATION, URBAN REPRESENTATIONS AND THE CITY'S FUTURE

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION 10.00

Chair: ETH Studio Basel

Opening presentations

Processes of decolonization and its impact within the urban environment of Nairobi
Prof. David Anderson, African Studies Center, University of Oxford

The struggle for Nairobi
Mr. Davinder Lamba, Founder and Director of Mazingira Institute, Nairobi

DEBATE

open discussion to 13.00

LUNCH

Student presentations on urban activities in Nairobi 14.00

Working by Emily Farnham
Learning by Mee Hae Kwon

DEBATE

open discussion to 16.00

BREAK

POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE IN NAIROBI: AN URBANISTIC PERSPECTIVE BASLER AFRIKA BIBLIOGRAPHIEN

PUBLIC PANEL DISCUSSION 18.00-20.00

The debate will examine the recent events of violence in Kenya and specifically in Nairobi from an urbanistic perspective. It will analyze aspects of land ownership, accessibility of space and social disparities within the urban fabric as well as question the viability of the ethnic dimension and historic developments in the formation of the capital city.

Chair: Prof. Dr. Till Förster, Institute for Social Anthropology, University of Basel

Respondents

Mrs. Evalyne Wanyama, Institute of Development Studies, University of Nairobi
Prof. David Anderson, African Studies Center, University of Oxford
Mr. Davinder Lamba, Mazingira Institute, Nairobi
Prof. Alfred Omenya, School of Built Environment, University of Nairobi
Prof. Paul Syagga, Department of Real State, University of Nairobi
with ETH Studio Basel - Contemporary City Institute

DEBATE to 20.00

DINNER

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Workshop Day4- **Thursday 13 March 2008**

CHANGING THE CONTOURS OF THE CITY

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION 10.00

Chair: ETH Studio Basel

Opening presentations

Architecture and urban intervention in Nairobi

Prof. Alfred Omenya, School of Built Environment, University of Nairobi

Street vendors in Kenya: organize to gain recognition and rights to urban space for trade

Mrs. Evalyne Wanyama, Institute For Development Studies, University of Nairobi

DEBATE

open discussion to 13.00

LUNCH

Student presentations on urban activities in Nairobi 14.00

Shopping by Chi-Yan Chan

Moving by Yusun Kwon

REFLECTION

open discussion to 16.00

DINNER *time and place to be announced*

Workshop Day5- **Friday 14 March 2008**

REFLECTION AND CONCLUSION

CRITS AND REVIEWS OF STUDENT PROJECTS

Crits with Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron and ETH Studio Basel team 9.00 - 11.15

LUNCH

Crits with ETH Studio Basel team

DRINKS DINNER

NAIROBI WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Paul M. Syagga

Dept. of Real State, University of Nairobi

Paul M. Syagga is a Professor of Land Economics in the Department of Real Estate and Construction Management at the University of Nairobi. He is Technical Advisor to the National Land Policy Formulation Process, Member of the Regional Panel of Experts on Land Management for UN Urban Management Programme, and a former President of African Real Estate Society. His research interests include land management, housing policy and finance, real estate economics and property valuation.

Davinder Lamba

Mazingira Institute, Nairobi

Davinder Lamba is an architect and environmental planner, and the founder and executive director of Mazingira Institute, a Kenyan interdisciplinary research and action non-governmental organization (NGO). A human rights activist, he is engaged in constitutional and governance reforms in Kenya. He served on the Scientific Steering Committee of UNESCO's MOST Programme and, with Dr Mario Polèse, conceived the Socially Sustainable Cities research initiative. He convened the Training and Research Partners for Habitat Caucus for the Habitat II Conference. He founded the African Research Network on Urban Management (ARNUM) and is the Anglophone Africa representative on the board of Habitat International Coalition (HIC), the global NGO alliance on human settlements. (<http://www.unesco.org/most/p3book.htm>)

Evalyne Wanyama

Institute For Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi

Evalyne Wanyama is a sociologist. She has worked with various research institutions such as the Institute For Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Nairobi on various research projects. Through the research activities, she came to be involved in the IDS project of facilitating informal traders associations to organize for effective dialogue with policy makers and local authorities on their needs as small-scale entrepreneurs. She has served as the project coordinator from 2003 to date and is currently based in Nakuru town (Kenya), where the head office of the Kenya National Alliance of Street Vendors and Informal Traders (KENASVIT) is located.

Alfred Omenya

School of Built Environment, University of Nairobi

Alfred Omenya is a lecturer at School of Built Environment – University of Nairobi. Architect, trained in architectural design, housing, sustainability and community development. He has worked in the private sector, taught in Kenya and South Africa, where he also undertook his PhD studies at Wits University. He continues to consult and write on issues of housing, urban sustainability and development internationally.

Keith Hart

Department of Anthropology Goldsmiths, University of London

Keith Hart lives in Paris and commutes to London, where he teaches part-time at Goldsmiths, University of London. He is also Honorary Research Professor in the School of Development Studies, University of Kwazulu-Natal, Durban. He started out studying classical languages and literature and went on to explore Atlantic society from the point of view of Africans in West Africa, North America, the Caribbean, Britain, France and South Africa. He has taught in ten universities on both sides of the Atlantic, for the longest time in Cambridge, where he was Director of the African Studies Centre. He has worked as a consultant, journalist, publisher and gambler. He contributed the concept of the informal economy to development studies and has published widely on economic anthropology, especially about money. One reflexive theme of his work is the relationship between movement and identity in the transition from national to world society.

Till Förster

Institute for Social Anthropology, University of Basel

Till Förster is a professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Basel. He has held this position since 2001. Previously, he has been Professor and Director of the Africa Center of the University of Beyreuth and Associate Professor for Social Anthropology at the University of Cologne. Prior to pursuing the academic career, Mr. Förster has gathered extensive experience in development work through his involvement in a variety of projects in Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, or Niger, which dealt with such diverse issues as the implementation of biogas plants, irrigated rice cultivation, land use and land ownership, or integrated rural and urban development. His particular research interests lie in the analysis of statehood, the risks of the failing states, and the growing importance of non-state actors, as well as questions of cultural identity and new forms of cultural interaction, participation and representation in African societies.

David Anderson

African Studies Centre, University of Oxford

David Anderson is a Professor of African Politics at the University of Oxford. He is also director of the African Studies Centre at the University of Oxford. His research interests are on the history and politics of eastern Africa. He continues to research and write on the theme of state violence and its consequences, such as the publications *Histories of the Hanged: Britain's Dirty War in Kenya and the End of Empire* (2005) on the Mau Mau rebellion and its brutal suppression in 1950s Kenya. David Anderson's most recent book, *The Khat Controversy*, examines the global expansion of eastern Africa's khat economy, featuring new research on the production, distribution chains, and consumption of this unusual commodity. The study is critical of the US prohibition of khat, and has generated much discussion of the political and commercial aspects of commodity control. The study also has much to say about the impact of prohibition upon market behaviour.

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Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron

ETH Studio Basel - Contemporary City Institute and Harvard Graduate School of Design

Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron were both born in Basel in 1950 and studied architecture at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich) from 1970 to 1975 with Aldo Rossi and Dolf Schnebli. They received their degree in architecture in 1975, establishing their practice in 1978. Since 1994 they are visiting professors at the Harvard University, and professors at ETH Zurich since 1999, where they co-founded the ETH Studio Basel - Contemporary City Institute. In 2001, Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron received the Pritzker Architecture Prize followed by the Praemium Imperiale in 2007. Currently the practice employs nearly 250 architects working on more than 40 projects worldwide, with branch offices in London, Hamburg, New York, Barcelona and Beijing. Herzog & de Meuron received international attention with projects such as Dominus Winery in Napa Valley (1998); Tate Modern London (2000); Prada Epicenter Tokyo (2003); Schaulager Basel, Laurenz Foundation (2003) and more recently the de Young Museum in San Francisco (2005). Current projects include the National Stadium for the Olympic Games of 2008 in Beijing (2007) and the Elbe Philharmonic Hall in Hamburg (projected completion 2010). The new development for Transforming Tate Modern will be completed in 2012.

Manuel Herz is a practicing architect based in Cologne and Basel, his most recent project being the Jewish Synagogue and Community Center in Mainz. He is the head of research and teaching at ETH studio Basel and teaches at Harvard University, GSD with Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron. After having finished his studies at the RWTH Aachen and the Architectural Association in London, he has taught at the Bartlett School of Architecture and KTH Stockholm. Manuel has published extensively on issues of diasporas and architecture. Currently, he is researching on the topic of planning strategies of refugee camps and the dilemma of humanitarian action.

Ligia Nobre is a researcher at ETH Studio Basel since May 2007. She studied architecture at the College of Architecture and Urbanism, Mackenzie University in São Paulo and thereafter received her masters of histories and theories at the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London. She co-founded the non-profit cultural organization *exo experimental org.* in 2002, a platform for research in the field of art and urbanism in São Paulo. She was granted a research fellowship at the Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart in 2006. Ligia is the co-editor of "Guia do Copan" by Pablo Leon de la Barra and is one of the three authors of essays on "Contemporary Latin American Architecture" (Phaidon Press, 2008). Her recent project was the coordination of the publication "Working at Copan" by the artist Peter Friedl.

Shadi Rahbaran is a practicing architect based in Berlin and Basel. She is currently involved in teaching and research at ETH studio Basel with Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron. She was a visiting critic at Cornell University in 2006 examining the challenges of the neglected GDR architecture in Dresden. After having finished her architecture studies at the University of Toronto, she worked at diverse offices such as Bruce Mau Design in Toronto and Office for Metropolitan Architecture in Rotterdam, Berlin and Porto. She was the co-curator of "Ambassade van het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden, the making of..." the New Dutch Embassy in Berlin at La Galerie d'Architecture in Paris and collaborated on the exhibition and the book of Content - O.M.A retrospective 1996-2004.

Harvard Graduate School of Design students

Chi-Yan Chan, Emily Farnham, Sondra Fein, Benny Ho, Mee Hae Kwon, Yusun Kwon

Selected students of ETH Studio Basel - Contemporary City Institute

Selected students of Centre for African Studies - University of Basel

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