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Addis Ababa launches the C40 Women4Climate Mentorship Programme

Addis Ababa launches the C40 Women4Climate Mentorship Programme to Empower the Next Generation of Women Climate Leaders. Addis Ababa becomes the latest city globally and the first city in Africa to participate in the groundbreaking Mentorship Programme which will match promising young women leaders from diverse fields with established women leaders from across the city, business, government, NGOs and civil society. C40 is a network of the world's 94 megacities committed to addressing climate change. C40 supports cities to collaborate effectively, share knowledge and drive meaningful, measurable and sustainable action on climate change. The City of Addis Ababa has been a member of C40 Cities network since 2007.

Hosted by the Addis Ababa Environmental Protection & Green Development Commission, the mentorship programme was launched on January 22nd, 2020 at Sheraton Addis. Commissioner Alem Assefa for Environmental Protection & Green Development Commission congratulated the 17 up and coming women leaders and their mentors for their ongoing work to accelerate action on climate change and sustainability issues.



These emerging and pioneering leaders represent the public and business sectors, international organizations and members of civil society and are working on innovating climate and sustainability projects. Empowering women is key to creating cities and communities that are clean, safe and economically vibrant.

"These emerging and pioneering leaders represent the public and business sectors, international organizations and members of civil society and are working on innovating climate and sustainability projects. Empowering women is key to creating cities and communities that are clean, safe and economically vibrant." Commissioner Alem said.

Selected by a panel of judges made up of distinguished women leaders, the 17 mentees represent an impressive array of profiles and projects including a focus on Urban Agriculture and Urban Gardens, Green Infrastructure, the Protection of Urban Public Spaces, Recycling, Medical Waste Management, Climate Policy in Agriculture, Environmental Education and Community Mobilization, Energy, Transportation and Sustainable Fashion.

The 17 mentors include leading and influential figures committed to climate action and sustainability in Addis Ababa. Rahel Shawl, Founder and Director of RAAS Architects and one of the mentors of the Addis Ababa Women4Climate Mentorship Program highlighted,

"I have the knowledge, God has given me a purpose, I am in my community, and I am in my own country so I open up and provide the space for everybody who wants to learn. This is my attitude so my office has become a free space for many people."

She added, "To inspire we need to be inspired ourselves, we need to be passionate about what we do, we need to do it well and eventually life itself will give you that space where you can now give back. I feel that it is a process but also needs

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to come from inside. You need to have the heart. If you don't have the heart then it becomes a mechanism, oh I need to meet my mentee, oh when am I going to meet her, it cannot be like that. We need to share from the inside and then, of course, we need to be intuitive, we have to know about our mentee, what do they need and not force ourselves on them."

Gifti Nadi, Deputy Director for Africa Region at C40 Climate Leadership Group remarked,
"As a mentor myself, I call on all distinguished mentors here today to contribute in removing the obstacles for the next generation of women leaders. We must give them the tools they need to carry forward the work we have started. Women face different barriers all over the world and cities are spaces where we want EVERYONE to thrive. I am therefore ready to do my part to contribute to this initiative and hope that you share my conviction and passion."

The 10 month mentorship is designed to enable a non-hierarchical relationship between two people and allows mentees to boost their professional and personal development. Mentors guide their mentees in their development through regular one-to-one meetings, group mentoring and organized training on advocacy, communications, leadership, resource mobilization and other subjects to help with ongoing and planned activities.



Addis Ababa Environmental Protection & Green Development Commissioner Alem



Gifti Nadi, Deputy Director for Africa Region at C40 Climate Leadership Group



Rahel Shawl, Founder and Director of RAAS Architects and one of the mentors of the Addis Ababa Women4Climate Mentorship Program

The mentees and mentors of the Addis Ababa Mentorship program:
- Aynalem Geite Gismie (Food for Life and Seedball method) mentored by Sarah Assefa (Country facilitator at AgriproFocus)
- Bethlehem Mengistu Eshete (River Side Restoration for Urban Resilience) mentored by Rahel Shawl (Founder and Director of RAAS Architects)
- Ejigayehu Shiferaw (Promoting green infrastructure for resilience of a city) mentored by Mintewab Bezabih (Phd) (Senior researcher at Environment and Climate Research Center)
- Fantu Kifle (Greening urban river banks via multipurpose indigenous trees nexus carbon sequestration and Phytoremediation: Implication for urban heat island regulation) mentored by Tibebu Assefa (City Adviser at C40 Cities)
- Filagot Tesfaye (Ethiopian Women in Energy network) mentored by Kidanua Abera (Energy and Low Carbon Development Analyst at UNDP)
- Gelaye Deyas (Gelan Handicrafts, green bags and recycling) mentored by Hortense Mbea (Founder and Creative Director at Afropian Addis)
- Hirut Jifara (Step Up Addis - Beautification and protection of urban public space -100 steps) mentored by Meskerem Tamiru (Architect and former Chief Adviser to D. Mayor of Addis Ababa)
- Hiwot Damtew (Wise Women Herbal Garden) mentored by Meskerem Asseguid (Environmentally conscious artist, curator, anthropologist and Founder of Zoma Museum)
- Lidya Ayalew (Transforming local evidences to inform gender-inclusive climate policies and program/projects design) mentored by Gifti Nadi (Deputy Director for Africa at C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group)
- Mahlet Mezmur (Medical waste management) mentored by Aziza Abdulfetah (Architect, Landscape designer and Educator)
- Makda Dejene (Clean Ethiopia address the environmental crisis by using youths as actors) mentored by Tigist Alebachew (Director of New millennium hope development organization)
- Meseret Cheru (Urban Forest/ Indigenous species) mentored by Almaz Demessie (Director for Early Warning and Response Directorate at National Disaster Risk Management Comission)
- Nura Mohammedata (Coordinator of the Addis Ababa W4C Mentorship Program and Application of Green Building Principles in Addis Ababa) mentored by Nicola Demme (Senior programme manager at GIZ)
- Regatu Solomon (Safe cycling program) mentored by H.E. Dagmawit Moges (Minister of Transport, Ethiopia)
- Salem Gulilat (The Green Icon dry waste bin design) mentored by Seble Samuel (Communications and Knowledge Management Officer for the CGIAR)
- Shewanesh Wendimu (Food waste to animal feed) mentored by Amakelech Lulu (Pharmacist and CEO of Gishen Pharmacy)
- Yididiya Zeleke (Sheba Threads aiming to produce bamboo threads) mentored by Mahlet Teklemariam(Founder and Organizer of Hub of Africa Fashion Week)

For more information about C40 Women4Climate mentoring program visit w4c.org/mentorship and to join the Women4Climate community on Facebook and Twitter.

architects ውርሃዊ
JANUARY EDITION

>> Abel Assefa



Greetings friends and colleagues, January's architects ውርሃዊ was of a broader scope and a wake-up call for most of us. We discussed the Africa Continental Free Trade Area opportunities and challenges on Professional services and specifically for Ethiopian architects. We would like to thank Ato Million Habte for the awakening presentation. We hope to have such broader discussions in the future.

Million discussed what the AFCFTA is, the rationale behind it and the scope of the agreement. And we also discovered that the services we give as architects will be among the first of the sectors to be liberalized in the coming 6-8 months; this is under one year!

Ato Million presented the opportunities for Ethiopian architects such as, gaining access to foreign markets, employment opportunities and Technology transfer. Challenges discussed included the capacity and competitiveness of Ethiopian Architects when compared to their African counterparts, how to handle mutual recognition of education, experience, Professional licenses and the like.

Ato Million also pointed out the way forward by advising architects to get organized and strategize on how to access foreign markets through research or through institutions such as the Chambers of commerce, Embassies, professional associations etc. and advised the AEA to Develop a road map for the coming years.
Points discussions included, the urgent need to work towards being competent architects, the need to start researching and testing other markets and the government's current intention to support practices who want to explore other markets through joint ventures.

It was also raised that this is indeed a good news for architects despite the competition challenges, as having more qualified architects will also benefit the built environment. A valid concern was raised on whether the current service fee in Ethiopia will be able to support international standards of practice.

Another broader point that was raised was the possible impact of the agreement on the social life of citizens and the issues of how we will be able to work synergistically with other cultures.

As it was very apparent from the discussions, we have to work hard on overcoming our capacity limitations and we have to be aligned with best practices to achieve an acceptable standard of service. But as our speaker finally remarked, this might be a strong unifying force for architects in the country.

An interesting book entitled "Native Colonialism: Education and the economy of violence against tradition in Ethiopia: Book by Yirga Woldeyes" was recommended by the speaker during the discussion for some insight on contextual actions.

If you wish to discuss more with Million, he can be reached at Million.habte@gmail.com

As a result of the new format of architects ውርሃዊ, a monthly single panel display of projects is prepared alongside the sessions. We had the chance to discuss 'The Cubocta bridge' by Zeleke Belay Architects which connects Stairs to the adjacent building. We encourage you to nominate such details that you think will be educational and interesting to view in the sessions. We would also like to thank Semawit for initiating and organizing the monthly panel displays.

The next architects ውርሃዊ will be on February 6, 2020.
See you all next month!

Architects ውርሃዊ is a members only monthly session that happens on the first Thursday of every month at The Urban Center.

Would you like to attend ? 》 Renew your annual membership fee for 2012 EC.

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Pay anytime and send your bank slip to ethiopianarchitectsassociation@gmail.com

Drop by on the 6th of February.

arch +

introducing architects re-inventing the traditional practice of architecture

Leaving Mark

YONAEL MARGA

Yonael Marga is a fashion designer working in Addis Ababa and graduated from Mekele University where he studied Architecture and Urban Design. He is not an Architect in the traditional sense of the discipline, at least not as professional one, but if we strip down the concept of architecture to one of its most basic elements, construction, then the label would loosely apply. He is the founder and creative director of an eponymously titled fashion brand, Yonael Marga (YM), where he uses the brand as a platform for experimentation, collaboration and construction of ideas, and designs that aim to go beyond cloth making.

Yonael's formal architecture education sifts through most of his fashion designs, manifested through the geometrical lines of his embroidery, shapes and cuts in his works. On the surface level there might be many differences between fashion and architecture; for starters the seasonal nature of fashion (or more accurately reliance on 'trends') is a contrast to the semi permanency of most architectural structures. But the concepts of architecture and fashion design can be related as fashion, consciously or subconsciously, applies elements of architecture and design to cloth making (and vice versa). This can be apparent in the field of interior design which combines elements of architecture, fashion design and more. And what is fashion design but the construction of a human scale building made of thread and fabric?

YM is a ready-to-wear luxury clothing brand that combines embroidery techniques, innovative use of fabrics, graphic design, and creative writing to create an Afro-Ethio futuristic concepts and aesthetics. Yonael Marga products are eco-friendly, most made from hand-spun and loomed organic cotton/Gabis sourced from the Oromia Region of Ethiopia.

Yonael is also co-founder of Limich Printing and Design, a design company that provides a multitude of design, printing and development services. Lead by an in-house graphics team of creative professionals, Limich offers branding, logo, illustration services as well as interior design and website development. Limich designs is invested solving problems and coming up with optimal solutions as well as visual characteristic presentation. Limich also specializes in making ready to wear and custom made t-shirts, tote bags and playing cards with a number of funky prints and designs inspired by contemporary Ethiopian life – but always with a sense of humor. As the tongue in cheek tagline goes, the company aims to "leave marks" albeit not in the customary way of a Limich (a long smooth twig (stick) used in traditional teaching and as to way of punishment of a "misbehaving" pupil) but rather through providing quality services and products that leave a permanent mark in the visual industry.

YM and Limich products are available at Zoma Museum Gift Shop, Sabegn Concept Store and Mender artesian store. Catch these two brands at the Sunday Makers Market at Green Day Spa every Sunday or check out their instagram for more.

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For features write to us at - ethiopianarchitectsassociation@gmail.com - with the title 'ARCH+ FEATURE'