CITIES IN A CHANGING WORLD:
QUESTIONS OF CULTURE, CLIMATE AND DESIGN

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Resilient space's for reuse and recycling. The case of Minalesh Tera: A theater of production.

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• Abstract (300 words):
Located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Minalesh Tera is a 5ha land inside one of the largest open-air markets in Africa. It caters to diverse trades: blacksmiths, carpenters, leatherworkers, and plastic specialists to name a few. Artisans use the arterial streets and rented out workshops to transform scrap into a usable commodity. A minute screw from automotive parts of a car is dismantled and christened to find its new purpose. Since this operation is performed within the public domain, one can witness the process of dismembering a large entity into smaller usable parts. The streets operate as vibrant theatres of production. The cycle of collecting scrap and the infrastructure of reusing/recycling depends on collecting items, sometimes thrown as garbage or scarp, and transporting to Minalesh Tera which usually happens on foot. Items are then sorted and distributed to different sectors within Minalesh Tera.
Although the area is characterized as dilapidated, the intricate relationship between the artisans, the shop owners, and the municipality harbor an urban environment that is economically inclusive in addition to cleansing the city off its waste. The subtle negotiation between different actors on the use of space is a key issue to be explored. How is space appropriated and negotiated? What type and level of tacit community negotiations happen? Are these processes completely informal or do they operate within the formal domain? How can a city adapt or benefit from such bottom-up and innovative structures of land use? Spatial appropriations and negotiations will be the main points of interest. Visual ethnographic methods will be employed to reveal how informal spatial practices operate and how spatial resilience in Minalesh Tera contributes to accommodating spatial practices.

Keywords:

1. Spatial resilience
2. Spatial practices
3. Visual ethnography
4. Shared spaces

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Brook Teklehaimanot did his Bachelor degree in Architecture and Urban planning at the Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia (2001-2006). He did his postgraduate studies at the ETH, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Switzerland (2007-2008) doing MAS in Architecture, with a specialization in Urban Transformations in Developing Territories. He is the holder of the Chair of Architecture and Design and the founder and director of EiABC protoLAB, a digital prototyping and design workshop at EiABC. He has been teaching and preparing academic materials in the institute for the past 15 years. His publication 'MAKING' is one of the pioneer trials to start an academic platform for discussing Architectural teaching didactic within the context of Ethiopia. He has served as a guest lecturer and researcher at the Tu Delft Global Housing Studio. Some of Brook’s works have been exhibited at the Tel Aviv Museum of Modern Art entitled; South of the Sahara, Accelerated Urbanism in Africa. Brook divides his activities between academia and practice. He founded BOTA Architectoch in 2015, an architectural design firm based in Ethiopia. Currently, Brook is a doctoral candidate at the TU Delft, developing research to understand correlations between spatial practices and housing conditions in Addis Ababa.