



ADDIS WOUBET ETHIOPIA

SESSION 4D

October 13, 2011

Introduction

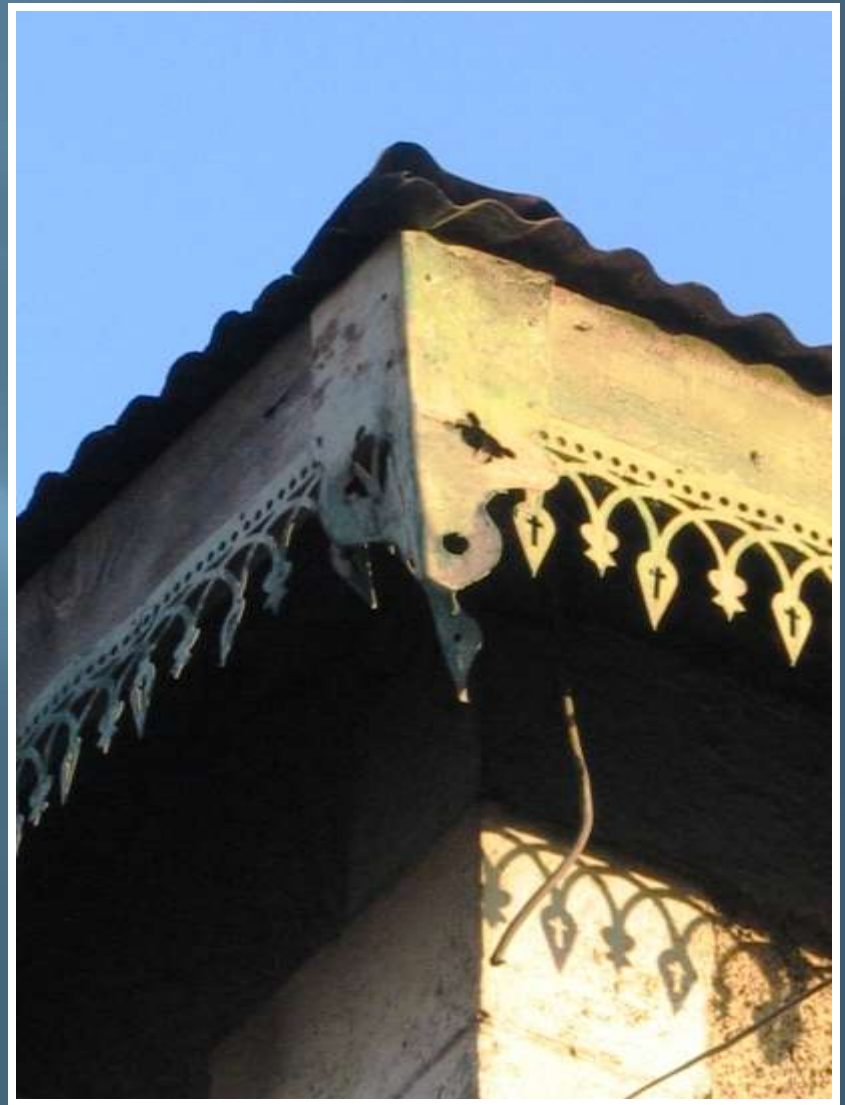
- ▣ Addis Woubet - in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- ▣ Addis:-
 - One of the largest African cities full of hidden treasures.
 - About 124 years old
 - A melting pot of numerous historical and architectural influences from India, Armenia, Italy, Greece and various kingdoms.

Introduction continued...

- ▣ As Addis Ababa develops, there is danger that the valuable architectural heritage will perish.
- ▣ Although churches, palaces and monuments are usually protected, there is no attempt to conserve the residences and commercial buildings of the same period.







The urgency

- ▣ A need to find balance between the interests of economic development and the preservation of Addis Ababa's cultural heritage.
- ▣ A need for a dedicated entity to champion historic preservation and awareness-creation.
- ▣ Thus establishment of Addis Woubet

Addis Woubet

- ▣ A link between past, present and future.
- ▣ An NGO that promotes preservation, restoration and maintenance of significant historical sites of Addis Ababa.

Vision

- ▣ To create an institution, such as a national trust, for renovation and preservation
- ▣ To promote heritage awareness among the population, with special focus on the youth
- ▣ To preserve Arada, the zone where historical buildings are concentrated, as a historical conservation district.
- ▣ To market Arada as a tourist attraction which can generate income for the country

Successful examples of renovation: Goethe Institute



Before renovation



During renovation



Finfine

Examples of collapsing and run-down buildings in Addis Ababa



House of Belihu Degefu



House of Sheik Hojele

Objectives

- ▣ Advocacy and awareness creation on the value of historical sites and cultural heritage
- ▣ Preservation of historic buildings and structures
- ▣ Creation of green areas and public spaces
- ▣ Research and identification of the city's historic buildings and neighborhoods
- ▣ Creation of a database of all historic buildings
- ▣ Skills building on preservation and restoration

Pilot Projects



House of Mohammed Ali



House of Ayalew Birru

Example of sustainability of the Mohammed Ali, first pilot project of Addis Woubet



MOHAMMED ALI HOUSE / FIRST FLOOR

Research library



MOHAMMED ALI HOUSE / FIRST FLOOR

Lounge

Successes

- ▣ Acquiring custodianship of the Mohammed Ali house
- ▣ Saving the railway station from demolition because of the campaign lead by Fortune newspaper with support from Addis Woubet
- ▣ Government attention, as demonstrated by it's current initiative to renovate the Menelik Palace
- ▣ Success with the “Draw Your Dream Heritage House” program which reached out to the youth
- ▣ International model, Lia Kebede, taking the lead to renovate the house of Ayalew Birru
- ▣ Conducting tours of the historical sites for the international community

Areas of Work

- ▣ Youth awareness programs which include:
 - Art competition
 - School visits
 - Music festivals (family programs, circus)
- ▣ Partnerships with government authorities and funding organizations :
 - The Addis Ababa Municipality
 - Ethiopian Environmental Protection Agency
 - Home gardens to showcase their product in the newly renovated houses
 - Ethiopian heritage (currently implementing a project on planting indigenous trees)
 - Foreign Embassies (American, Spanish, French, German & the Netherlands)

Youth awareness program at Goethe Institute



Award ceremony for best drawing



Picture exhibition

Ongoing Challenges

- ▣ Convincing policy makers and the public to make heritage an urgent priority.
- ▣ Attracting attention on the cultural richness of Addis Ababa's architectural heritage.
- ▣ Partnering effectively with government entities and donors
- ▣ Finding skilled labor (artisanship) and equipment
- ▣ Relocating families living the above mentioned buildings

Way forward

- ▣ Raising awareness/lobbying/pressure groups
- ▣ Strengthening our partnerships with national and international organizations
- ▣ Raising financing from internal (through membership drive, income generation) and external sources
- ▣ Seeking global recognition

Acknowledgements

- This initiative could not have been successful without the support of the
- Ethiopian Government.
- Support of international partners
- Our members

Thank You.