

## Thesis Abstract

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Title of Thesis: Study on Urban Formation of Historical Center and Heritage Risk in Ethiopia Degradation of Living Conditions in Historical Districts			
Summary of Thesis:  <p>Degradation of buildings and migration of the poor have been critical problems often discussed in historic cities in developed countries. However, the situation is worse in developing countries where it lacks infrastructure and public support with no accumulation of research. In order to make plans for historical cities, it is a prerequisite to understand the mechanism of deterioration from both architectural and social point of view.</p> <p>This research makes a comparative study between three Ethiopian historical cities: Gondar, Mekelle, and Harar. It aims to evaluate the historical perspective of Ethiopian cities, clarify the deterioration process of historical districts, and specify the vulnerability of the lived-in heritage by way of conducting bibliographic survey and complete architectural and social surveys. The results were then integrated to make comprehensive analysis of historical cities.</p> <p>A series of work revealed that many historical buildings unique to Ethiopian traditional building typology still remains, however there are prominent deterioration of living environment due to the lack of maintenance and growing existence of informal economy. Nationalization of land by the socialist regime exerted a drastic effect on Ethiopian cities where it expelled traditional landowners and introduced a mass of poor inhabitants. Newly created <i>kebele</i> was the managing body for the expropriated houses, but the poor maintenance made the situation of these houses in a critical state and attracted low-income residents, especially females engaged in prostitution, to move into deteriorated heritages (prostitute-in-heritage).</p> <p>From the findings, there were two types of Ethiopian historical cities found in this study: "dispersed Habesha city" and "concentrated Muslim trading city". Historical centers once served as residential districts for high officials and aristocrats, but the remains could not sustain its glory. "Informalization of heritage" from both spatial and social point of view is of high concern and there are tangible signs that social problems such as feminization of poverty exist.</p> <p>Keywords: Ethiopia, central district, lived-in heritage, feminization of poverty, informalization of heritage, prostitute in heritage</p>			