

# RETHINKING THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY ADDIS ABABA



Rapid Anti-Contextual Development



Foreign investment with small local gains

Ambassador

Neglected River

Kebele Housing in threat of displacement

Inaccessible and inactive public space

Kechene

Piazza

Peacock Park

Akaki

Unharnessed Geothermal energy

Country / City Ethiopia, Addis Ababa  
University / School Columbia University / Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation  
Academic year 2019-2020  
Title of the project Envisioning a Revitalized Urban River Network  
Authors Spring semester Urban design studio





## TECHNICAL DOSSIER

Title of the project	Envisioning a Revitalized Urban River Network
Authors	Trilateral Connection: Shuo Han, Yuan Qin, Zhen Hua, Zhou Wu / Traversing The Rift: Tal Fuerst, Claudia Kleffmann, Laszlo Kovacs, Victoria Vuono / Re-defining Capital: Sushmita Shekar, Einat Lubliner, Hatem Alkathlan, Pratibha Singh / Akaki Regional Trust: Sophie Lee, Minjung Lee, Hala Abukho-dair, Eleni Kalapoda / ReciproCITY: Anai Perez, Mary Allen, Moneerah AlAjaji, Nikita K
Title of the course	Urban Design Studio III - Global cities and climate change - Water Urbanism: The Great Rift Valley
Academic year	2019-2020
Teaching Staff	Kate Orff (Coordinator), Lee Altman, Adriana Chavez, Dilip da Cunha, Fitsum Gelaye, Geeta Mehta, Thad Pawlowski, and Julia Watson
Department/Section/Program of belonging	M.S Architecture and Urban design
University/School	Columbia University / Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation



Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

Addis Ababa is the diplomatic capital and economic engine of Ethiopia. The urbanization pattern of the past decade has been marked by the government's desire to fit the image of a "world-class city". The city has undergone a process of clearing its vibrant fabric in an effort to provide better housing conditions. However their heavy handed approach has provided the mass produced image of housing in its most rigid form. This rigidity is foreign to the cultural fabric, actively displacing communities, limiting their agency and further exacerbating the housing crisis. We propose inclusive development to enhance social infrastructure and housing conditions to improve quality of life.

Recent urban development has turned its back to the city's rivers by using them as sewers and garbage disposal sites. Through a series of design exercises we propose a suite of green infrastructure that will process and recycle waste water to improve the quality of the river, alongside recreational activities. We will create a social capital economy for river stewardship to further clean and maintain the river. This new river landscape of social and ecological infrastructure will penetrate the residential fabric to improve quality of lives.

The Urban Design Studio's goal is to develop spatial design concepts that strengthen the social, economic, and ecological capital for Addis Ababa. This potential is demonstrated through five key projects along a longitudinal section of the Akaki River.

For further information  
Máster d'Arquitectura del Paisatge -DUOT - UPC

T: + 34 93 401 64 11 / +34 93 552 0842  
Contact via email at: [biennal.paisatge@upc.edu](mailto:biennal.paisatge@upc.edu)

Máster d'Arquitectura del Paisatge -DUOT - UPC  
ETSAB- Escola Tècnica Superior  
d'Arquitectura de Barcelona  
Avenida Diagonal, 649 piso 5  
08028 Barcelona-Spain



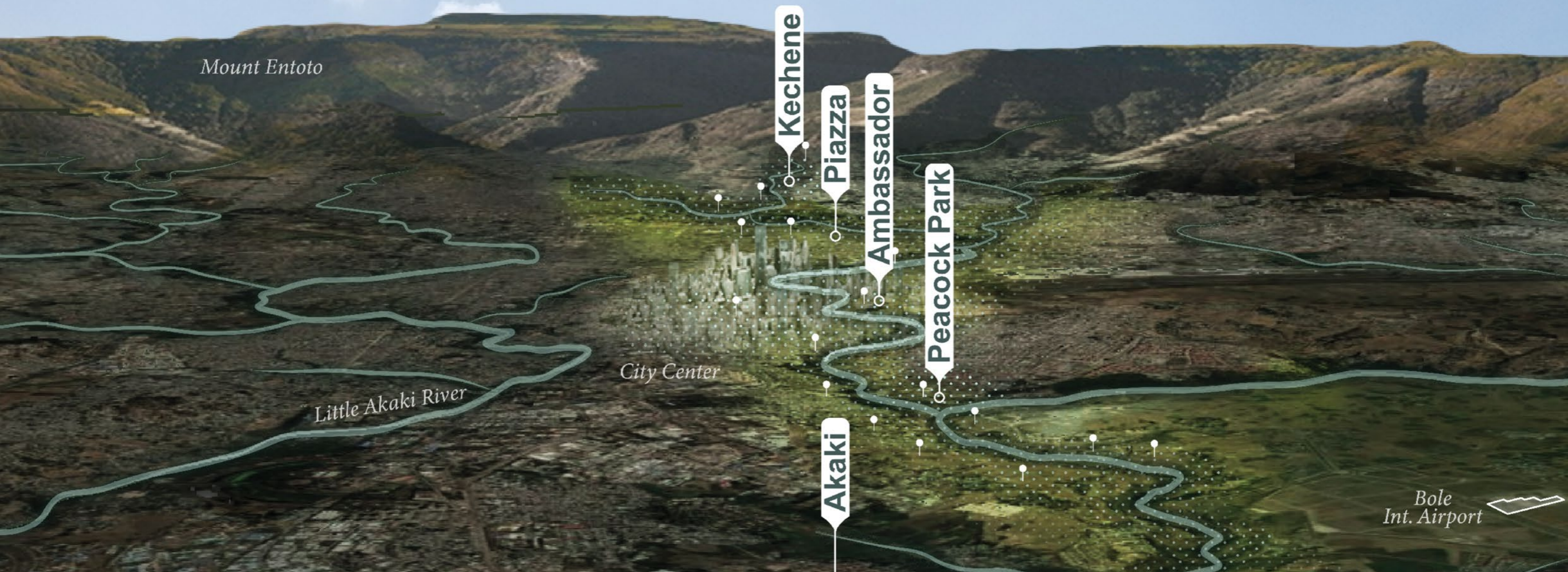
# CLIMATE CHANGE AGAIN

11th International Biennial Landscape Barcelona

Barcelona September 2020  
SCHOOL PRIZE



# ENVISIONING A REVITALIZED URBAN RIVER NETWORK



Mount Entoto

Little Akaki River

City Center

Bole Int. Airport

Kechene

Piazza

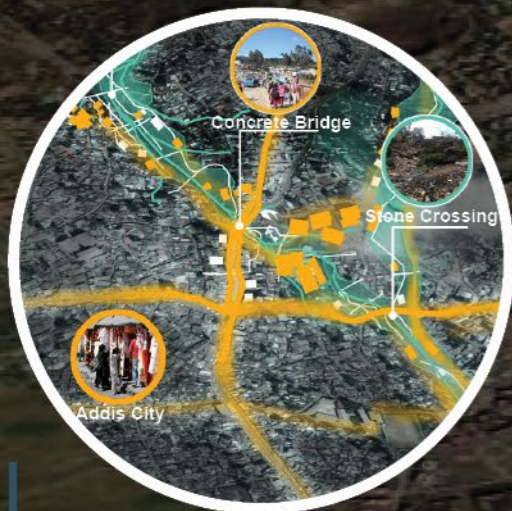
Ambassador

Peacock Park

Akaki

## KECHENE

Cultivate ecosystems and community stewardship



## PIAZZA

Create housing that enhances socio-economic opportunities and street for the people



## AMBASSADOR

Redefine the notion of a "World Class City" to an inclusive vision



## PEACOCK PARK

De-centralize infrastructure: micro treatment plants and support urban agriculture



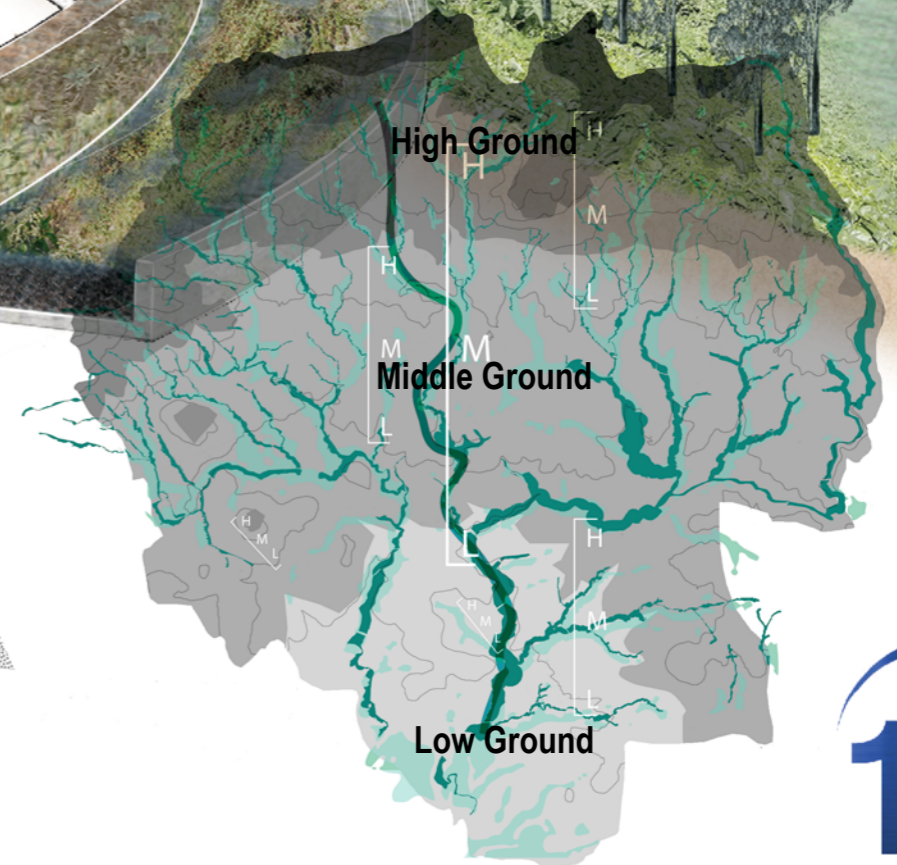
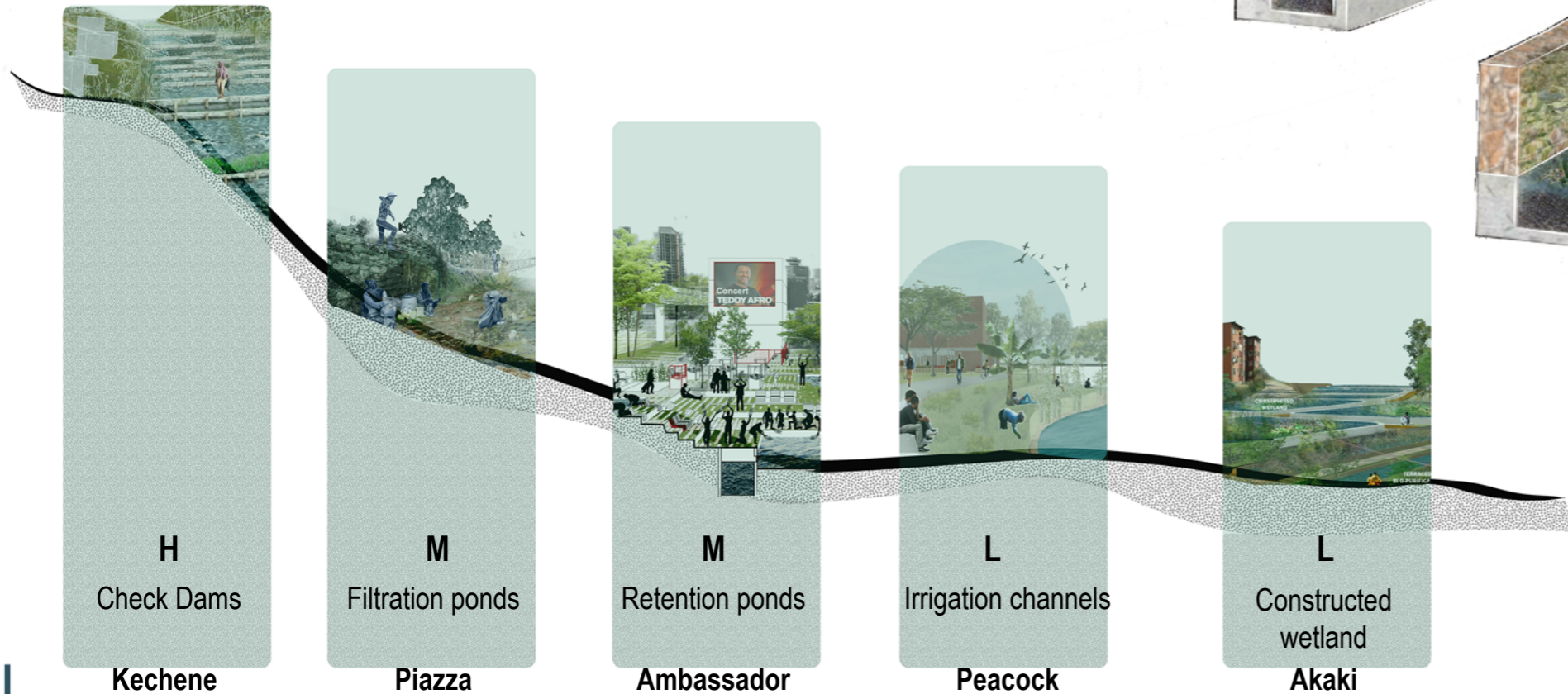
## AKAKI

Link landscapes from Entoto to Akaki to ensure Addis Ababa's water security





# CATALYZING SUSTAINABILITY USING RIVERS





# EQUITABLE GROWTH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP AND COOPERATIVES

