

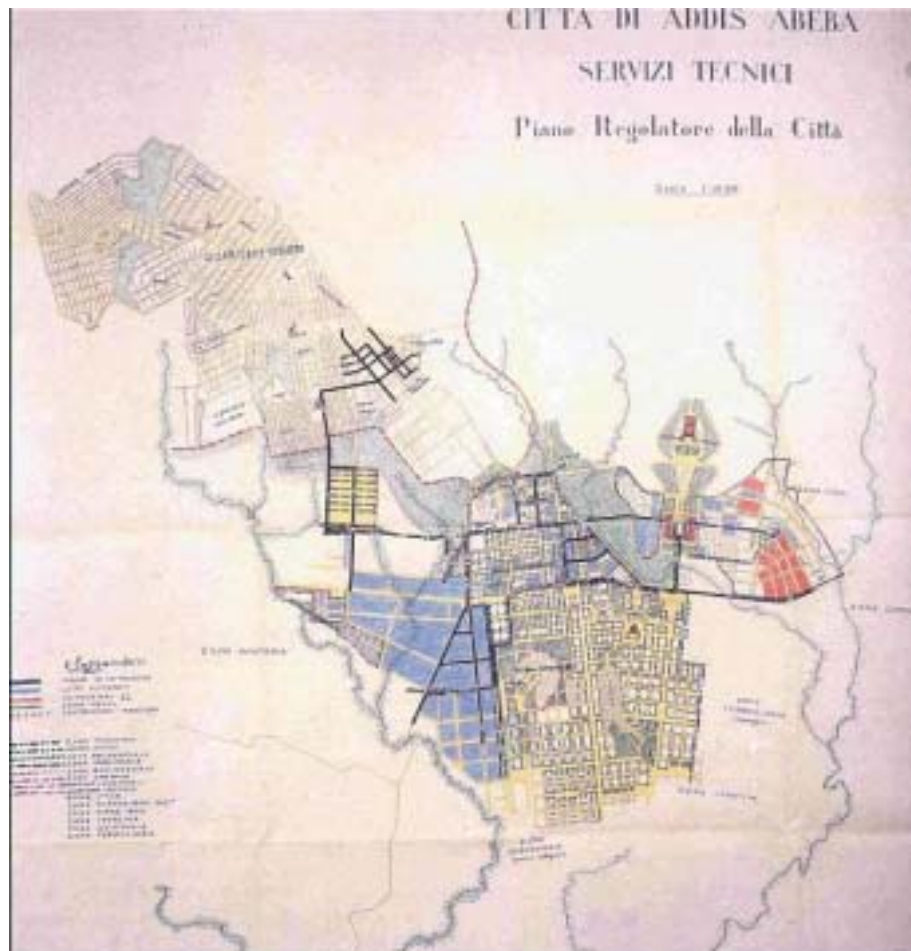
1936-1941 The construction of the Empire. Plans and projects for the towns of the Italian Oriental Africa

by Simona Moretti

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The work that has been developed is the result of a research on the theme of the town planning and of the colonial architecture in the territories of the Italian Oriental Africa (AOI) during the years of the Empire (1936, conquest of Ethiopia- 1941, neglect of the African territories)



I.Guidi, C.Valle, "Piano regolatore definitivo di Addis Abeba", 1939, G.Gresleri (a cura di), *Architettura italiana d'oltremare 1870-1940* Venezia, Marsilio, 1993
The Addis Abeba Plan

On the basis of the studies dealt by Giuliano Gresleri in occasion of the exhibition of "The overseas Italian architecture, 1870-1940", that was organized by the same Gresleri in the Modern Art Gallery in Bologna during September 1993, the picture of the architectural experience of Italian colonies, had been made clear in the last few years developing some specific criticisms about this theme.

Taking into account such work, the thesis proposes to verify in which way the Fascist politics has influenced the intervention of territorial planning.

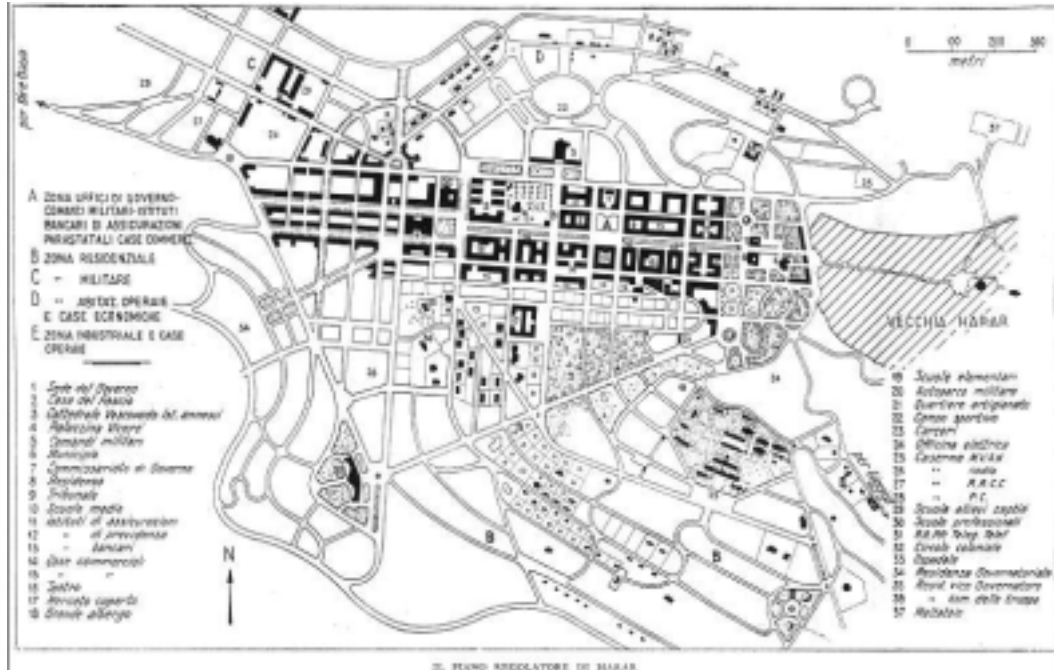
From here the necessity to dedicate the first part of the work to the analysis of the intervened changes with the conquest of Ethiopia, in the management of the overseas territories and in the relation with the other foreign countries.

In this optics the debate is inserted about the architecture to be installed in the colonies, that repropose the polemic on the modern, that has always been considered the central node of the Thirties of architectural culture in Italy and in Europe.

The verification of published documents and the findings of some unpublished references of the Ministry of the Italian Africa, of the Opera Nazionale Combattenti, of the National Fascist Party and some private testimonies, some published articles in architecture magazines and colonial, allowed to investigate about the public work and the regulating plans of the more important town of the AOI (Addis Abeba, Mogadiscio, Gondar, Amara, Gimma, Assab, Massaua and Dessiè), that are the object of the study in the second part of the work.

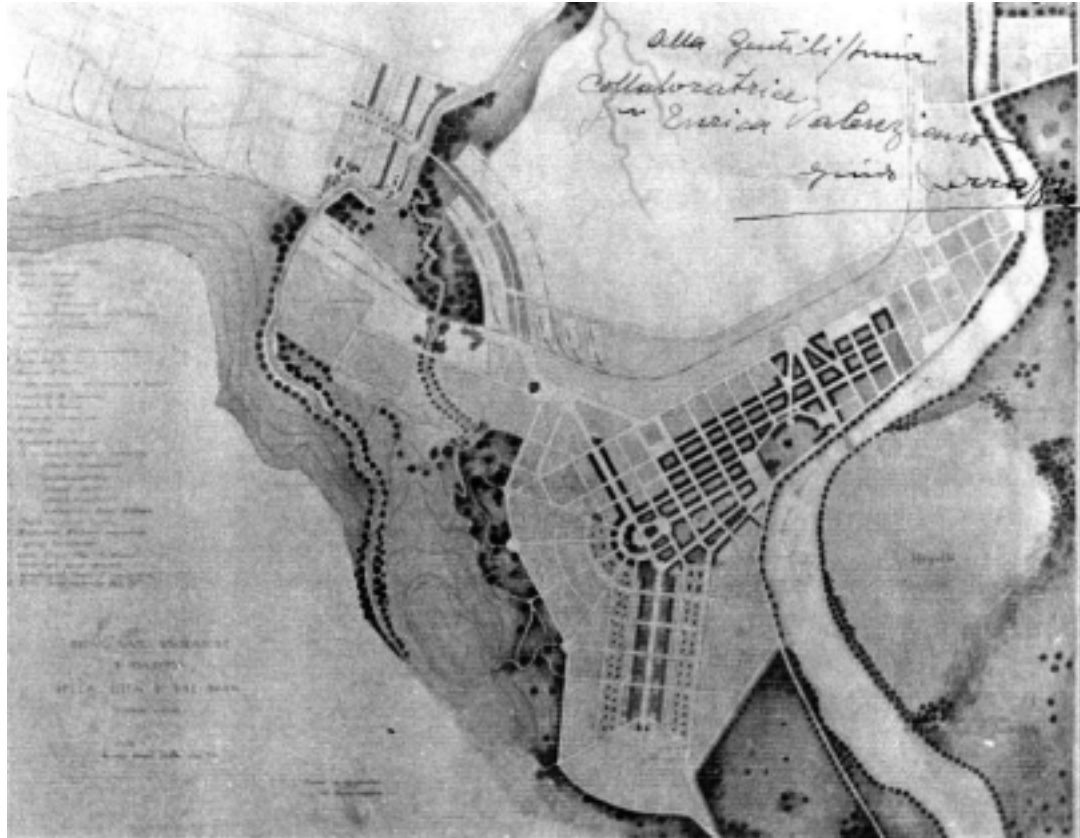
There are involved in the architectural event and town planning, some characters of consolidated colonial tradition, such as Guido Ferrazza, Carlo Enrico Rava, Giovanni Pellegrini that were pawned in the previous years in Libya, and also the best exponents of the European and Italian architecture of the moment: from Cesare Guidi and Ignazio Valle, authors of the regulating plan of the capital, to Plinio Marconi, Guglielmo Ulrich, Gherardo Bosio, Vittorio Cafiero, and also Le Corbusier and to his piano proposal for Addis Abeba (1936).

The third part of the thesis concerns the Harar, a region that reconstitutes particular importance from a political, strategic and economic point of view.



G.Ferrazza, "Il Piano regolatore della città di Harar", 1938, *The Harar Plan*, sept-oct 1938

An introductory general chapter make a report on the territory, to the environmental and economical factors precedes the one relative to species architectural, in which are analysed the regulating plans and the building work for the three town of the Hararino: Harar, a region chief and political and administrative centres, Dire Dawa, industrial town one of the most important of the Empire and, Giggiga, shopping centre and important market for the exchanges with the English Somalia.



ÌG.Ferrazza, "Il Piano regolatore della città di Dire Dawa", 1938
The Dire Dawa Plan

The fourth and last part of thesis proposes to outline the cultural profiles of some of the major involved architects in the colonies, on the basis of the comparison between the vernacular language proposed by Guido Ferrazza and that monumental and representative of Plinio Marconi, Gherardo Bosio and Guglielmo Ulrich.

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