

# The Necessity of Research for Existing Condition of Italian Buildings and Proposal for Conservation

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## 1. Introduction

### *1.1. The Issue in Gonder*

Gonder served as the capital of Ethiopia during the Gonderine period (1636–1769) and is one of the most important historical cities in the country. Central Gonder still houses the castles of the Fasiladas Palace, which was constructed during the Gonderine period, historical Ethiopian Orthodox churches, traditional circular houses, and buildings constructed by the Italians during their World War II-era occupation. This mix of history and culture creates a unique urban space that is unlike any other in Ethiopia. Today, citizens of Gonder recognize these buildings as historically significant, and protection programs have been implemented. The Fasiladas Palace, for example, has been restored by UNESCO. Church members and local craftspeople have also worked to protect historical Ethiopian Orthodox churches. However, no historical conservation programs have yet targeted the traditional circular houses or Italian buildings of Gonder.

Thus, many of these buildings in central Gonder have been lost due to age or changes in lifestyle. Land shortages have accelerated the destruction of these historic buildings. Rapid population expansion has increased the density of housing and residents in Gonder. The *qebelé* (ward) 09-12 area, for example, had an average population density of 345 persons per hectare in 2003, a density that is high considering that almost all houses in this area are only one storey high. The Gonder City Service Office, Amhara Regional State and Building College of Addis Ababa University and the Miyake Studio of Keio University have therefore launched a joint project to update the urban master plan of Gonder. Work was begun in March 2000 and has continued through a number of workshops in which participants have discussed the historical architecture and conservation policies.

For successful conservation, however, fundamental research is first necessary. Recent research has compiled basic data on the traditional circular houses. However, no previous research has focused on the Italian buildings. Therefore,

I focus on Italian buildings in Gonder and on their historical background, then current condition, and developing ideas for protection through my activity.

This report is based on fieldwork conducted from October 2003 to December 2005 and on archival research<sup>1</sup>. My activity in Ethiopia was supported by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS).

## 2. Conservation on Modern Architectural Heritage

### *2.1. Modern Architectural Movement and Value*

Recently, there are many activities to conserve modern architecture which is recognized as historical heritage in the world. Modern architecture dates from end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, influences contemporary architecture after the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century deeply. For example, reinforced concrete construction or steel frame structure developed free plane and free elevation with modern material such as glass and plastic. During this period, many modern architectural movements occurred in Europe such as in France (Art Nouveau and Art Deco), Germany (Expressionism and Bauhaus), Italy (Futurism and Rationalism), Netherlands (De Stijl), Austria (Secession) and Russia (Constructivism). In general, the modern architecture movement became highly influenced by the “International Style” from the 1930<sup>th</sup> to the 1940<sup>th</sup>.

Concerning the value of modern architecture as historical heritage, the main criteria are as follows:

- Architectural value: Architecture which possesses peculiar design style or special construction technique.
- Landscape Value: Architecture which harmonizes with vegetation or topography and creates a fine sky line and rich townscape.
- Historical or Cultural value: Architecture which has an individual historical background or cultural context.
- Social Value: Architecture which has an important function for the public as a public utility such as school, hospital and museum.

It is necessary for the evaluation of modern architecture to discuss with several experts, administrators and the public.

1 I conducted five periods of fieldwork in Gonder (October 2003, February-March 2003, March 2004, February 2005 and June-August 2005) and collected documents from the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University, and Addis Ababa Civil Service College.

## *2.2. Conservation Activity in the world*

UNESCO<sup>2</sup>, ICOMOS<sup>3</sup> and DOCOMOMO<sup>4</sup> are international organization for the conservation of historical heritage. DOCOMOMO, established in 1988 at the Eindhoven University, Netherlands attempts to document the archives of modern movement architecture recognized as a heritage and registered them on the list. On the other hand UNESCO with ICOMOS carries out to register some modern architecture as world heritage and restored them properly. For example, Villa Tugendhat which is positioned in Berlin, Germany, designed by Mies Van der Rohe, a great architect in 20<sup>th</sup> century or Schroder House which is Thomas Rietveld's work in Netherlands, are well known cases. In addition, UNESCO records not only modern architecture but also modern urban landscape which includes architecture, infrastructure and nature as world heritage such as French town, Le Havre, planned by Auguste Perret.

Concerning activities of national level and local level for restoration, government or local NGO attempt to organize local association and operate the restoration in the world. Even if no organization tries, the owner sometimes is eager to protect his building. For the restoration of modern architecture, what most important is to clarify value of architecture from the result of research and to propose appropriate strategies such as guidelines and regulations.

## *2.3. Modern Architecture in Ethiopia*

Ethiopian modern architecture can be classified according to the architectural design style. One are Pre-Italian buildings constructed from the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century to 1935 and the other is Italian buildings constructed in Italian occupation from 1936 to 1941. Pre-Italian buildings were mainly constructed in Addis Ababa and Harar by Indian engineers brought through England government or by Armenian immigrant who escaped from the slaughter in Turkey. Pre-Italian buildings were influenced by Indian architecture style and Ottoman architecture style.

During Italian occupation, Italian strategists decided to developed Addis Ababa, Gonder, Jimma, Dessie, and Harar as principal towns. Italian planners designed these towns as regional borough and Italian architects drafted various kinds of buildings according to each purpose. Many of these Italian buildings still exist and most of them are in good condition. These buildings have an enough potential as historical heritage in Ethiopia. However, as I mentioned in Gonder case, no sufficient research and historical preservation programs have yet targeted them. It is a primary task to carry out these things before Italian buildings are destroyed or spoiled.

2 United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

3 International Centre for the Study of Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Property.

4 Documentation and Conservation of Modern Movement.

### 3. Modern Architectural Movement

#### 3.1 *Modern Architectural Movement in Italy*

Three modern architectural movements occurred in Italy from the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> to the middle. Talented architects drawn many avant-garde proposals and sacrificed them for the creation of advanced architecture. Futurism, the first movement, was motivated by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti to protest Classicism and the supporter attempted to create new design style from civilized products. The second, Novecento, was the opposite of Futurism and the aim of Novecento movement was to revive Classicism. Italian Rationalism occurred as third movement in 1928 and a unit named “Gruppo 7” led to the movement. The idea of Italian Rationalism was to create new rational architecture and this movement was linked with Fascism.

#### 3.2 *Modern Architecture in Libya and Ethiopia*

According to Mia Fuller’s research<sup>5</sup>, these movements influenced Italian colonies or occupied territories such as Libya, Eritrea and Ethiopia, and many Italian buildings were constructed in these countries. The aim of Italian buildings in their first colony, Libya, was to construct “second Rome”. This is because of the historical tradition according to which Libya had belonged to the Rome Empire in ancient times. In short, Italians recognized the origin of Libya as Roma Empire at that time and architecture was given high priority to regain the history. On the other hand, Fuller mentioned that the role of Italian buildings in Ethiopia was different from Libya. Italians were eager to concentrate on city planning more than on architecture, in order to conquer and control Ethiopians. As a result, the role of Italian building in Ethiopia became free from history, and individual or artistic buildings such as Futurism style<sup>6</sup>, Novecento style and Rationalism style<sup>7</sup>.

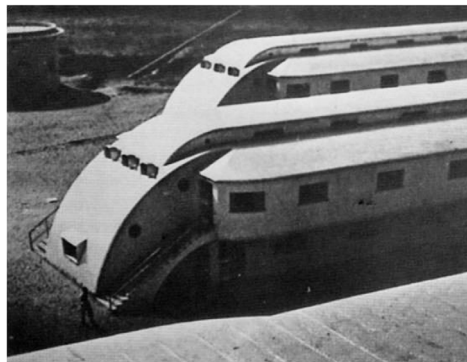


Fig.1: Futurism style building in Italy.



Fig. 2: Rationalism style building.

5 Building Power: Italy’s Colonial Architecture and Urbanism, 1923-1940. Cultural Anthropology, Vol. 3, No. 4, p. 455-487.

6 “Asmara Africa’s Secret Modernist City”, p. 49.

7 “Asmara Africa’s Secret Modernist City”, p. 51.



Fig. 3: Shop and Residence in Merkato.



Fig. 4: Shop in Piazza.



Fig. 5: Shop in Casa INCIS.



Fig. 6: Shop and Residence.



Fig. 7: Ras Hotel.



Fig. 8: National Theatre.

## 4. Italian Buildings in Ethiopia with Pictures

### 4.1 Italian Buildings in Addis Ababa

Most of Italian buildings existing in Addis Ababa were constructed in Piazza, Merkato, along Churchill Street and Casa-INCIS. Concerning their present condition, particularly many Italian buildings remain around Casa-INCIS such as residences

and office, and create a unique landscape. In addition, large buildings such as hotels, theatres and offices exist on both sides of Churchill Street.

#### *4.2 Italian Buildings in Harar*

Harar, the old Islamic town found in the early 12<sup>th</sup>, has two interesting aspects: one is the walled district called “Jugal” and the other are the Italian Districts. Since the Italian government had maintained segregation, Italian army developed a new town in the west of Jugal and constructed many Italian buildings such as offices, hotels, shops, schools, banks and residences. These buildings still remain and are an integral as a part of the present urban structure.

#### *4.3 Italian Buildings in Gonder*

Detail information of Italian buildings constructed in Gonder is mentioned on section 6.



Fig. 9: One of the main Italian districts.

### **5. Italian Urban Master Plan for Gonder**

#### *5.1 Feature of the Master Plan*

The Italian government had maintained a consulate in Gonder since the 1920s. The Italian consul, Rafael Di Lauro, gathered information for the urban master plan, allowing a city planner (Gherardo Bocio) from the Italian army to create a preliminary urban master plan for Gonder in preparation of the occupation. After



the Italian army had occupied the city, planners revised the initial ideas and began to carry out construction. The main features of the plan included the following:

1. The Italian army developed Gonder as the capital city of the province of Gonder, which served as the center of politics, commerce, and defense in northern Ethiopia.
2. The maximum population of Italian immigrants, including both soldiers and civilians, was expected to be 10,000. In the central area of the city, the Italian army segregated Gonder Ethiopians and Italians, placing Italians in higher-elevation neighborhoods and Ethiopians in lower-lying areas for security as well as due to environmental factors such as scenery and temperature.
3. The urban master plan was based on topographical conditions. Flat lands were limited in Gonder. Thus, the Italian army focused new construction on small, flat, island-like areas along main roads.
4. The Italian districts received the main infrastructural improvements, including asphalt roads, water lines, and electricity networks, and principal buildings such as governmental buildings, residences, shops, hotels, and hospitals. In contrast, the Italians built only one elementary school, one hospital, and a few governmental buildings in the Ethiopian districts.
5. Fasiladas Palace was protected as a structure of historical heritage and maintained by Italian engineers<sup>8</sup>.

### *5.2 Features of the Main Districts*

Most Ethiopians moved to Arada because of the segregation policies. Italians settled in areas such as Piazza, Bellico, Autoparco, Che-Che-La, and Azzezo (Figs. 10, 11). Distinctive features of the Ethiopian and Italian districts are as follows:

Arada: Roads were narrow and unpaved, and the water and electric supplies were inadequate for the Ethiopian residents of the area.

Piazza: The Italian army and civilians<sup>9</sup> developed Piazza as a commercial center and constructed many buildings, including grocery stores, cafés, hotels, banks, and cinemas. A public park and square were also built.

Bellico: Bellico was built as a security checkpoint for northern Gonder. In addition, some storage buildings and parking areas were set up in Bellico. Between Piazza and Bellico, many residences, military offices, and administrative buildings were constructed.

8 Information based on interviews of Ethiopians who worked with the Italians during the occupation period.

9 Civilians who worked in Gonder as merchants, engineers, bankers, and other professions.

**Autoparco:** The Italian army constructed military installations such as a large parking area, residences for soldiers, storage facilities, and a military academy in this area.

**Che-Che-La:** The Italian consulate had been located in Che-Che-La since the 1920s; the Italian army converted this structure to hospital buildings after the occupation.

**Azzezo:** Because Ethiopians were already living in Azzezo at the time of the occupation, the Italian army constructed a military camp, soldier residences, some factories, and an airport far from the Ethiopian district in Azzezo.

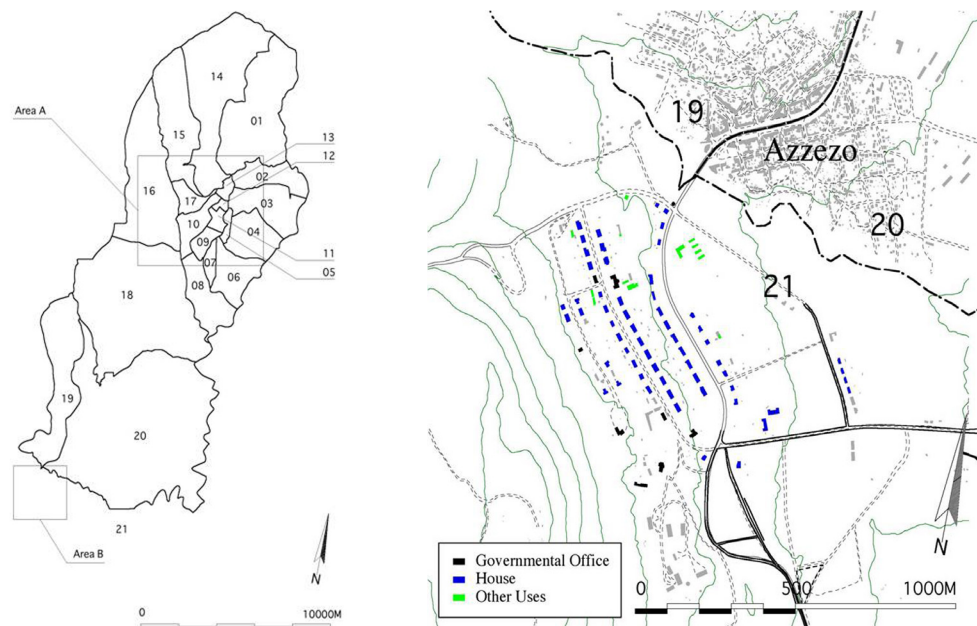


Fig. 10 (Left): Map of *Qebelés* (wards) in Gondar.

Fig. 11 (Right): Distribution of building uses in “Area B”.

## 6. Analysis of Italian Buildings in Gonder

### 6.1 Italian Buildings

The Italian buildings were constructed in Gonder during the occupation based on the urban master plan. Italian architects in Rome designed many principal buildings such as governmental buildings, military offices, banks, hotels, and residences for soldiers and civilians. However, other buildings were designed in Gonder. Most



Italian buildings were designed using the metric system and constructed exactly according to the architectural design plan<sup>10</sup>.

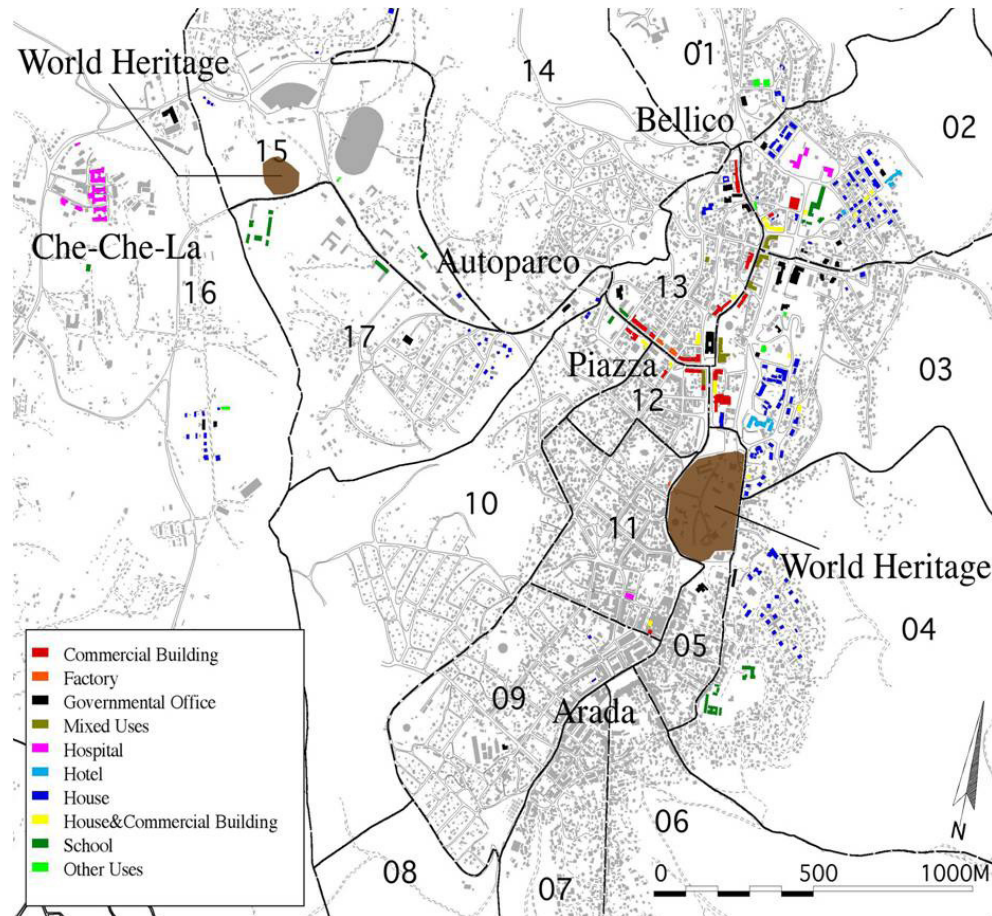


Fig. 18. Distribution of building uses in "Area A"

Principal construction materials were stone, brick, timber, reinforced concrete, asbestos plates, and steel bars. Stone served as the main vernacular material around Gonder, where it could be easily obtained. To produce brick, the Italians built a brickyard near Che-Che-La. They also transported cement for reinforced concrete, as well as asbestos plates, timber, and steel bars, from Italy through Eritrea.

Military engineers constructed all governmental buildings such as military offices, administrative buildings, and the hospital. However, many civilian buildings

10 Based on interviews of Ethiopians who worked with the Italians during the occupation period and "Architettura italiana d'oltremare 1870-1940," p. 171.

were built by engineers from private companies. Eritrean and Ethiopian carpenters worked with the Italian engineers<sup>11</sup>.

High-ranking military officials constructed G+1-storey<sup>12</sup> residences from stone or reinforced concrete and stone. Their residences commonly had a living room, kitchen, toilet and bathroom, two to four bedrooms, and a large garden. Mid-level military officials built G+0-storey residences using asbestos plates or timber; these houses typically had a living room, kitchen, a toilet and bathroom, one to two bedrooms, and a small garden. Most minor military officials shared residences with three to four people. Civilian residences were similar to those of the mid-level military officials. Most governmental buildings and commercial buildings were constructed from stone walls with concrete beams.

## 6.2 Distribution

Table 1 indicates the distribution of Italian buildings in each *qebelé*. A *qebelé* is similar to a “ward,” an urban subdivision unit in Ethiopia. Gonder has 21 *qebelés*, as shown in fig. 1. The fieldwork for this study identified 352 Italian buildings remaining in Gonder. Of these, 46% are in *qebelés* 1-4 around Bellico-Piazza, 23% are in *qebelés* 13-17 around Autoparco-Che-Che-La, and 23% are in *qebelé* 21 around Azzezo. The five historically Italian districts house 92% of the Italian buildings, a distribution that coincides with the historical backgrounds of the areas described in subsection 5.2.

## 6.3 Building Uses

Table 2 indicates the current uses of the Italian buildings. Although there have been changes, most of the buildings are still used for their original purpose. Of the study buildings, 55% are residences, and 13% are governmental buildings. Most of the residences are located in the eastern portion of the city between Bellico and Piazza, as well as in *qebelés* 21 along the main roads. Most of the commercial buildings are in Bellico-Piazza (fig. 11).

## 6.4 Number of Storeys

Table 3 shows the five types of Italian building (by number of stories) that exist at present. Notably, 82% of the Italian buildings are G+0-storey. The G+2-storey buildings are the highest buildings in Gonder, comprising only 1% of structures. Most of the Italian buildings higher than G+0 are governmental, commercial or hotel buildings around Bellico-Piazza. All Italian buildings in Gonder were designed as low-rise buildings because the historical landscape was considered important in the urban master plan.

11 Based on interviews of Ethiopians who worked with the Italians during the occupation period.

12 “G” indicates ground floor; “B” means an underground basement floor.

### 6.5 Construction Material of Principle Structures

Table 4 indicates the main construction materials of the principle structure of the Italian buildings<sup>13</sup>: 32% are stone, 28% are reinforced concrete and stone, 14% are timber, and 12% are asbestos plates. Most also feature stone-wall construction, indicating that the Italians used readily available vernacular material. The Italians constructed a brickyard near Che-Che-La in *qebelé* 16; however, the bricks were mostly used for interior walls, not as the principle structure. Stone-masonry residences took 2-3 months to construct; in contrast, asbestos-plate residences took only 2-3 days to build because of the prefabrication system.

### 6.6 Condition of Conservation

Table 5 indicates the conservation status of Italian buildings. “A” to “F” and “N” stand for “good condition” (A); “some damage to outside wall” (B); “some damage to inside parts” (C); “both B & C” (D); “serious damage” (E); “ruins” (F); and “no information” (N). Although 58% of the buildings are in good condition, 14% require immediate maintenance (categories D and E).

### 6.7 Ownership

Table 6 lists the current ownership of the Italian buildings. The government owns most land in urban area of Ethiopia, although four kinds of ownership exist for buildings: “government,” “private,” “*qebelé*”<sup>14</sup>, and Rental Housing Administrative Authority (“RHAA”). The *qebelés* and RHAA established rental housing during the socialism period (1974); after democratization, these buildings retained this use and are rented as residences, offices, and commercial buildings. The governmental sectors (the government, *qebelé*, and RHAA) hold 83% of Italian buildings, an important factor when considering conservation and protection measures.

### 6.8 Comparative Analysis

Table 7 indicates the relationship between ownership and the conservation status of Italian buildings. Almost all government-owned buildings are in good condition, with 77% having “A” status. However, 36% of *qebelé*-owned buildings need immediate maintenance. Of the privately owned buildings, 54% are in good condition and 27% require repairs<sup>15</sup>. Table 8 indicates the relationship between the building condition and the construction material of the principle structure. or asbestos-plate structures, 55% are in good condition. However, damage to an exterior asbestos wall also damages the corresponding inner wall. Both stone and

13 Principle structure means the wall pillars and beams, except for the roof structure.

14 *Qebelé* has two meanings: one is “ward” and the other is a governmental organization.

15 From section 3.5, “D” and “E” require repairs.

reinforced concrete and stone are in good condition, while timber structures show the most serious problems.

Table 1: Distribution of Italian Buildings in Each *qebelé*

<i>Qebelé</i> No.	Number of Buildings
<i>Qebelé</i> 01	7 (2%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 02	70 (20%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 03	58 (16%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 04	28 (8%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 05	1 (1%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 06	0 (0%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 07	0 (0%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 08	6 (2%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 09	3 (1%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 10	6 (2%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 11	4 (1%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 12	5 (1%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 13	23 (7%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 14	0 (0%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 15	11 (3%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 16	26 (7%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 17	21 (6%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 18	0 (0%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 19	0 (0%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 20	0 (0%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 21	83 (23%)
Total	352 (100%)

Table 2: Current Uses of the Italian Buildings

Current Use	Number of Buildings
Commercial Building	25 (7%)
Factory	3 (1%)
Governmental Office	47 (13%)
Mixed Uses*	6 (2%)
Hospital	11 (3%)
Hotel	5 (2%)
House	195 (55%)
House & Commercial Building	14 (4%)
School	30 (8%)
Other Uses	16 (5%)
Total	352 (100%)

\*Mixed Use means such as Hotel and Commercial Building

Table 3. Number of Stories in Italian Buildings

Floors	Number of Buildings
G+0	290 (83%)
G+0, B1	3 (1%)
G+1	51 (15%)
G+1, B1	5 (1%)
G+2	3 (1%)
Total	352 (100%)

Table 4: Construction Material of Principle Structure

Material	Number of Buildings
Asbestos Plates	44 (12%)
Brick	10 (3%)
Cement Block	1 (1%)
RC*	13 (3%)
RC&Brick**	2 (1%)
RC&Stone	1 (1%)
Steal(Bar) 3(1%)	3 (1%)
Steal + Asbestos***	3 (1%)
Stone	116 (32%)
Stone + Brick	2 (1%)
Stone + RC	102 (28%)
Stone + RC & Stone	1 (1%)
Stone & Brick	3 (1%)
Timber (wood)	51 (14%)
Total	352 (100%)

\* RC refers to reinforced concrete.

\*\* & means two buildings joined together and sharing a wall, such as row houses.

\*\*\* + indicates a mixed structure

Table 5: Current Condition of Italian Buildings

Condition	Number of Buildings
A	204 (58%)
B	14 (4%)
C	65 (18%)
D	38 (10%)
E	12 (4%)
F	9 (3%)
N	10 (3%)
Total	352 (100%)

Table 6: Ownership of Italian Buildings

Ownership	Number
Government	177 (50%)
<i>Qebelé</i>	75 (21%)
<i>Qebelé</i> & RHAA	3 (1%)
<i>Qebelé</i> & Private	5 (1%)
RHAA	34 (10%)
RHAA & Government	3 (1%)
RHAA & Private	3 (1%)
Privately	52 (15%)
Total	352 (100%)

Table 7: Comparison between Ownership and Condition of Preservation

Condition	Government	<i>Qebelé</i>	Private	RHAA	Other	Total
A	136 (77%)	16 (21%)	28 (54%)	19 (56%)	5 (36%)	204
B	5 (3%)	6 (8%)	0 (0%)	3 (9%)	0 (0%)	14
C	14 (8%)	26 (35%)	9 (17%)	11 (32%)	5 (36%)	65
D	4 (2%)	24 (32%)	5 (10%)	1 (3%)	4 (28%)	38
E	0 (0%)	3 (4%)	9 (17%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	12
F	9 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	9
N	9 (5%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	10
Total	177 (100%)	75 (100%)	52 (100%)	34 (100%)	14 (100%)	352

Table 8. Comparison between Condition of Preservation and Construction Material of Principal Structure

Material	A	B	C	D	E	F	N	Total
Asbestos Plate	24 (55%)	0 (0%)	12 (27%)	6 (14%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	44 (100%)
Brick	5 (50%)	2 (20%)	3 (30%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	10 (100%)
RC	5 (38%)	4 (31%)	3 (23%)	1 (8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	13 (100%)
Stone	83 (71%)	2 (2%)	16 (14%)	8 (7%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	6 (5%)	116 (100%)
Stone + RC	76 (74%)	2 (2%)	12 (12%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	8 (8%)	3 (3%)	102 (100%)
Timber (Wood)	6 (12%)	2 (4%)	14 (27%)	19 (37%)	10 (20%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	51 (100%)
Other	5 (31%)	2 (13%)	5 (31%)	3 (19%)	0 (0%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	16 (100%)
Total	204	14	65	38	12	9	10	352

### 6.9 Key Points of Analysis

Sections 5 and 6 highlighted the importance of Italian buildings in Gonder and factors that should be considered when planning to preserve these buildings.

1. Italian buildings help form the center of Gonder around Bellico-Piazza and create a unique urban landscape. The Italian buildings in Gonder are critical not only as part of the heritage of this city but also as part of its current urban structure.
2. Later Ethiopian architecture was influenced by Italian construction techniques. Ethiopian carpenters working with Italians inherited the Italian techniques.
3. Although the total number of Italian buildings constructed during the occupation period is unknown, 352 buildings exist at present.
4. The *qebelé*-owned buildings and those constructed from timber require serious attention. However, all Italian buildings ranked as “E” (“serious damage”) are residences, 75% of which are private.
5. The Ethiopian army (government) owns 82 of the Italian buildings in Azzezo and uses them as a camp. The army holds 23% of all Italian buildings.
6. Government sectors own 83% of all Italian buildings (government, *qebelé*, RHAA). It is thus necessary to cooperate with governmental sectors, as well as citizens, and discuss methods for protecting the Italian buildings.



## 7. Interview with Gonder Citizen

### 7.1 *Opinion for Italian Buildings*

It is important for conservation of Italian buildings to conduct interviews to Gonder citizen. I carried out following questions in Piazza, Arada and Bellico for 100 persons.

Q1: Do you Know Italian buildings existing in Gonder?

Q2: Do you think that Italian Buildings are historic or not?

Q3: Do you think that Italian Buildings are important architecture or not for Gonder?

Q4: Do you think that Italian Buildings should be restored?

Table 9 indicates the result of Q1 and 99% of 100 persons recognized Italian buildings in Gonder.

Table 10 indicates the result of Q2: 80% persons regarded Italian building as historical architecture, however, 13% persons denied.

Table 11 shows the result of Q3. 76% persons recognized Italian buildings as important architecture and 14% persons answered that it depends on condition.

Table 12 indicates the result of Q4. 80% persons supported necessity for restoration of Italian buildings, on the other hand, 10% persons objected.

It is clear that most of persons who answered interviews, agreed protection of Italian buildings in Gonder.

### 7.2 *Opinion Regarding the Historical Landscape in Gonder*

It is important for conservation of Italian buildings to conduct interview with Gonder citizens. I carried out interviews in Piazza, Arada and Bellico for 50 persons, with the following questions:

Q5: Do you recognize the following as historical landscape or aesthetic areas in Gonder?

Fasiladas Castle surroundings, Qusquam surroundings, Fasiladas Bath surroundings, Rocal-11, Churches, Piazza-Bellico, Casa INCIS - Fogera Hotel surroundings, Administration Office surroundings, *qebelé* 04 Surroundings, *qebelé* 03 surroundings, Autoparco surroundings, Che-Che-La, Azzezo Military Camp, Forests and Rivers.

Table 13 indicates the result of Q5. Of Gonder dynasty quarter such as Fasiladas Castle Surroundings, Qusquam Surroundings, Fasiladas Bath Surroundings, Rocal-11 and Churches, it is surprisingly that Fasiladas Castle surroundings is 88% and less than Qusquam surroundings, showing 98%. By contrast, Italian quarters such as Piazza-Bellico, Casa INCIS - Fogera Hotel surroundings and Administration Office surroundings show above 90 %. Natural landscapes such as rivers and forests are completely ignored.

Table 9: Result of Question 1

Answer	Number of
Yes	99 (99%)
No	1 (1%)
Total	100 (100%)

Table 10: Result of Question 2

Answer	Number
Historic	80 (80%)
Not Historic	13 (13%)
Can't Say	6 (6%)
No Answer	1 (1%)
Total	100 (100%)

Table 11: Result of Question 3

Answer	Number
Important	76 (100%)
No Important	9 (9%)
Depends on Condition	14 (14%)
No Answer	1 (1%)
Total	100 (100%)

Table 12: Result of Question 4

Answer	Number
Should be Preserved	80 (80%)
Should not be Preserved	10 (10%)
Depends on Condition	9 (9%)
No Answer	1 (1%)
Total	100 (100%)

Table 13. Result of Question 5

Answer	Number
Gonder Dynasty Quarter	
Fasiledes Castle Surroundings	44 ( 88%)
Qusquam Surroundings	49 (98%)
Fasiledes Bath Surroundings	32 (64%)
Rocal-11 (Circle House)	5 (10%)
Churches(Brahane, etc.)	47 (94%)
Italian Quarter	
Piazza-Bellico	46 (92%)
Casa INCIS - Fogera Hotel Surroundings	46 (92%)
Administration Office Surroundings	47 (94%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 04 Surroundings	5 (10%)
<i>Qebelé</i> 03 Surroundings	23 (46%)
Autoparco Surroundings	15 (30%)
Che-Che-La	36 (72%)
Azzezo Military Camp	42 (84%)
Natural Landscape	
Forests	1 (2%)
Rivers(Angarab, Keha)	3 (6%)

## 8. Important Issues and Proposal of Protection

### 8.1 Activity for Protection

As a result of the interviews, it is clear that Italian buildings existing in Gonder is historically important and well-known by Gonder citizen. According to the result of analyses, what important is that Government sectors own 83% of all Italian buildings (government, *qebelé*, RHAA).

In the revise of urban master plan, our cooperation (Gonder City Service Office, Amhara Regional State and Building College of Addis Ababa University, and the Miyake Studio of Keio University) attempts to propose the guideline and regulations for the historical architecture and landscape as following, with “Ethiopia Cultural Heritage Project Office in Gonder”.

Historical Architecture:

- Fasiladas Palace, Qusquam and Fasiladas Bath compounds
- Historical Ethiopian orthodox churches (Brahane, Yohanes, Ledeta)
- Traditional circular houses
- Italian buildings

Historical Landscape:

- Three Castle Surroundings:(Fasiladas Palace, Qusquam and Fasiladas Bath)
- Italian Districts: (Piazza-Bellico, Casa INCIS - Fogera Hotel surroundings, Administration Office surroundings, *qebelé* 04 Surroundings, *qebelé* 03 surroundings, Autoparco surroundings)
- Three church surroundings: (Brhane, Yohanes and Lideta church)

### 8.2 Regulations for Building Height Plan and Land Use Plan

Our first trials are to suggest a strict and appropriate building height plan and land use plan. Particularly, the building height plan should be considered and discussed carefully. The land use plan was proposed in September 2005 and one of the concepts was to upgrade the old town<sup>16</sup> with protecting the historical landscape.

The building height plan is still under consideration until February 2006. The main concept is to develop concepts for the historical zone and the buffer zone surrounding the historical zone, and the building height of these zones must be low rise buildings such as G+0-storey or G+1-storey buildings.

### 8.3 Regulations and Guideline for Historical Architecture

We are going to register historical architecture in Gonder on the list, and establish regulations and make guidelines. Concerning the flames and details, it is not

<sup>16</sup> Gonder citizens recognize old town the area from *qebelé* 1 to *qebelé* 16.

advanced, because this task will be planed in a 2<sup>nd</sup> phase after proposing the building height.

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