

Contents

Abbreviations 10

Acknowledgements 12

Peter Volgger 14

Introduction

Jean Robert 26

Photo Essay: Colonial Mirrors

PART I: COLONIAL ORIGIN

First Chapter: Colonialism and Modernity

Kathleen James-Chakraborty 38

Is Modern Architecture Good?

Stefano Zagnoni 46

A Modern Historic City

Second Chapter: Construction of the Colonial Sphere

Pier Giorgio Massaretti 60

Colonial Preliminaries: The Genesis of Italian Imperialism
in the Experience of the Governance of Asmara

Gian Luca Podestà 70

Asmara: The Real Capital of the Italian Empire in East Africa



A 198935

<i>Francesca Locatelli</i>	80
Shaping the City from Below: Asmarini's Struggle for the City between the End of the Nineteenth and Mid-twentieth Centuries	

<i>Silvana Palma</i>	88
Sleeping Memory in Italian Archives: Historical Photographs of Asmara and Italy's Controversial Relationship with its Colonial Past	

<i>Federico Caprotti</i>	98
Asmara: Making (Colonial) Modernity Work through Transport Networks and Infrastructure	

<i>Massimo Zaccaria</i>	108
Racing Across Asmara: Engines, Speed and the Colour-line in Eritrea (1938–1954)	

Third Chapter: Asmara's Colonial Architecture and Urbanism

<i>Harald Bodenschatz</i>	120
Asmara and Rome: Architecture and Urbanism of the Fascist Italian Empire and their Reception	

<i>Michelangelo Sabatino</i>	132
Twentieth-century Architecture and the Vernacular Tradition in Italy	

<i>Peter Volgger and Stefan Graf</i>	140
Colonial Specula: Re-mapping Asmara	

<i>Belula Tecle Misghina</i>	162
Asmara and the Development of its Modern Urban Environment post 1941	

<i>Benno Albrecht, Filippo de Dominicis and Jacopo Galli</i>	174
Arturo Mezzèdimi: Promises of an African Modernity (Asmara 1940–1959)	

<i>Sean Anderson</i>	186
Other Scenes, Possible Selves: Building the Italian Colonial Interior in Asmara	

<i>Günter Richard Wett</i>	196
Photo Essay: <i>Licht-Spiel-Theater</i> (Play-of-Light Theatre)	

Fourth Chapter: Asmara's Cultural Heritage

<i>Peter Volgger, Stefan Graf and Arno Hofer</i>	206
Mapping the Past for the Sake of the Future: The Cultural Assets Rehabilitation Project (CARP)	

<i>Edward Denison</i>	230
Photo Essay: Architecture as Image	

<i>Medhanie Teklemariam and Edward Denison</i>	244
The Asmara Heritage Project: Heritage Preservation Past, Present and Future	

<i>Fassil Demissie</i>	254
The Future of the Present: Rebranding Fascist Architecture as Heritage in Asmara	

PART II: POSTCOLONIAL EXPERIENCES

First Chapter: Tracing Postcolonialism

<i>Cristina Lombardi-Diop</i>	270
Rome-Asmara: A Postcolonial Archaeology of Colonial Spaces	
<i>Rino Bianchi and Igiaba Scego</i>	278
Photo Essay: Rome Denied. Postcolonial Paths in the City (<i>Roma negata. Percorsi poscoloniali nella città</i>)	
<i>Rebecca Hopkins</i>	288
Postcolonial Utopia in Erminia Dell'Oro and Elisa Kidané: Visions of an Ideal Society in Asmara and Beyond	
<i>Christine Matzke</i>	296
Travellers of the Street: Flânerie in Beyene Haile's Asmara Play <i>Weg'i Libi</i>	
<i>Chris Keulen</i>	306
Photo Essay: <i>Giro d'Eritrea</i>	
<i>Linde Luijnenburg</i>	316
La Piccola Roma: The Female Characteristics of Unoccupied Spaces in Totò Films	
<i>Gianmarco Mancosu</i>	326
Asmara, the Past in the Present: Echoes of Colonial Presence in Documentaries on Mobility	

Second Chapter: A Geography of Memories

<i>Alemseged Tesfay</i>	338
A Short Note on Aba Shawl	

<i>Tekle Woldemikael</i>	346
Under A Shadow of a Colonial City: A Memory of Childhood in Indigenous Asmara	

<i>Sabrina Marchetti and Domenica Ghidei Biidu</i>	352
Growing up in the Second Rome: Eritrean Migrant Women Remember their Childhood in Postcolonial Asmara	

Third Chapter: City and Migration

<i>Annalisa Cannito</i>	364
In the Belly of Fascism and Colonialism	

<i>Magnus Treiber</i>	374
A City Goes Abroad: Remembrance and Hope in Migration from Asmara	

<i>Hadas Yaron</i>	382
Asmarino in Jerusalem: Asmara from the Perspective of an Eritrean Refugee	

<i>Eric Lafforgue</i>	388
Photo Essay: Bar Interiors in Eritrea	

Fourth Chapter: Asmara’s New Images

Victoria Bernal 402
Asmara Online:
The City as Contested Icon

Peter Volgger 410
Asmara: Image, Memory and Identity

Steven McCarthy 422
Pride and Posters in Asmara: What the Graphic Landscape Reveals

Tanja R. Müller 432
Until Next Time in Asmara:
A City of Aspiration, Despair and Ambition

Stefan Boness 440
Photo Essay: Asmarinos

CONVERSATIONS

Interview with Medhanie Teklemariam 448

Interview with Magnus Treiber 454

Interview with Christoph and Konrad Melchers 462

Interview with Alan Maglio and Medhin Paolos 470

Authors 474