Weaving Publicness
Socially-integrated office building with sustainable façade, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Main authors
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Project data
Contest: Architecture, building and civil engineering
Client: Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce & Sectoral Associations (AACCAS)
Background: Public commission
Planned start: January 2013

Summary and appraisal by the jury
The winning entry of the architectural design competition for the headquarters of the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce & Sectoral Associations (AACCAS) in Ethiopia aims to contribute to the spatial improvement of the urban environment, and to create an architectural dialogue engaged in a global context with a strong local identity. It does so by integrating public spaces at ground level, creating a “busy-ness” of the street within the building.

A façade made of “Netela” locally-quarried trachyte stone – reminiscent of Ethiopian stone architecture and ancient textile techniques – regulates ventilation as well as sunlight. The façade structure and its composition is Zemenawinet? – regulates ventilation as well as sunlight. The façade filters sunlight. Sometimes, circulation is organized between outdoor and indoor spaces – as a fresh alternative to the outlandish curtain walls that clad high-rise buildings throughout the city.