

Atelier

Enjeux et acteurs des politiques patrimoniales en Afrique de l'Est

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Valorisation of heritage in colonial urban housing neighbourhoods – participative strategies in conservation for Eastlands' zone, Nairobi

Conservation and heritage preservation in contemporary African cities of architecturally significant buildings is increasingly gaining prominence as a counter-balance to wanton economic and urban development. African housing neighbourhoods in Nairobi city (Makachia, 2011) is one case given the prime location, and unfettered desire to densify or replace them with viable investments by private speculators and to realise policy objectives. Conservation as much housing development however requires participative strategies (Makachia, 2014) so as not to alienate the dwellers and in the process create non-convivial urban neighbourhoods in African cities. Using case estates from the African colonial housing zone of Eastlands, Nairobi, the paper traces archival information on the concepts and typologies of these settlements that targeted the indigenous population. It vouches for the need to selectively conserve aspects or urban segments that demonstrate pertinent values-cultural or otherwise- that still deserve reverence in the urban economic growth. It supports inclusive and consultative strategies in valorisation of the urban heritage sectors in Africa. Preliminary consultations in a case- Kaloleni estate- illustrate this preferred methodology and propose how it can demonstrate the participative conservation strategy.