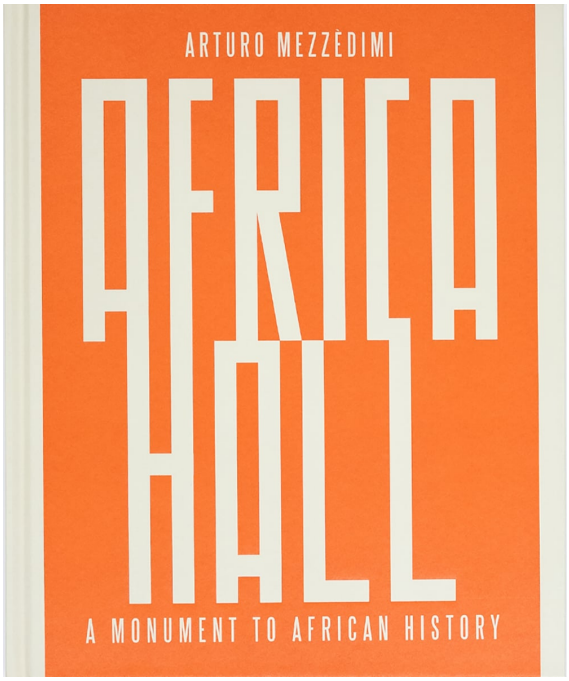
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Arturo Mezzèdimi, Africa Hall

A Monument to African History

Marcello Mezzèdimi

ISBN	9781961856639
Publisher	ORO Editions
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding USA, Canada, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Brunei, Philippines, Malaysia, and Australasia. India non-exclusive
Size	280 mm x 244 mm
Pages	460 Pages
Illustrations	350 color
Price	£65.00

- The book has a strong visual identity through an impacting selection of photographs and a considered design
- It presents unpublished photographs from the architect's personal archive and an extensive collection of images by acclaimed photographers
- The book comprises 26 essays authored by 21 scholars and professionals, including original articles and recollections
- The essays are conceived as stand-alone articles, each addressing a specific historical, architectural or artistic topic, and which may be read independently
- Architecture firm Architectus have won the 2026 World Monuments Fund / Knoll Modernism Prize for the comprehensive restoration of Africa Hall in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the 2025 International Architecture Award, given by The Chicago Athenaeum - Museum of Architecture and Design, and The European Centre for Architecture Art, Design and Urban Studies - in the restoration/renovation category

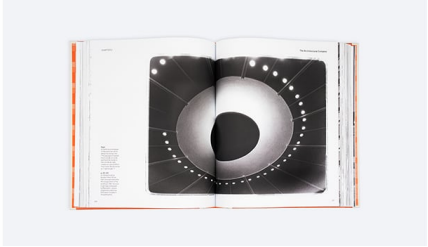
This book is a photographic journey on the origin and life of "Africa Hall" in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – a building declared in 2015 "Monument to African History" and recently renovated – which was donated in 1961 by Emperor Haile Selassie to the United Nations. Africa Hall was designed by Arturo Mezzèdimi, a young self-taught architect, to serve as the UN's continental headquarters and was the birthplace, in 1963, of the Organization of African Unity, now African Union.

The building came to life with an inspiring story of reconciliation at a crucial moment in African history, when the continent was emerging out of the colonial period and making headway into a new era of independence and envisaged unity. Through its architectural composition and the embedded artworks, it embodied a Pan-Africanist vision and its rising ideals.

Edited by the grandson of the architect and representing Italy's contribution to the renovation project, the book sits at the crossroads of photography, architecture, history, and art and comprises an amplitude of independent essays, contributions and recollections from authors of diverse profiles. Through impacting images and short articles, it addresses events of historical relevance on a global scale, for the entire continent of Africa, at a national level for Ethiopia, and locally for the city of Addis Ababa, concluding with an introduction to the life and work of its architect.

Marcello Mezzèdimi (PhD) is the grandson of Arturo Mezzèdimi, architect of Africa Hall, and currently directs the Djibouti-based activities of the MEZZ group in the fields of construction, real estate development, architectural design, and family heritage. His educational background comprises an MSc in Aerospace Engineering (La Sapienza, 2002), an MSc in Mathematical Finance (Oxford, 2011), a PhD in Applied Mathematics (La Sapienza/Luiss, 2011), and a Master in Real Estate (Bocconi, 2006).

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