

THE AFRICAN OFF-GRID HOUSING PROJECT

ONLINE TALK AT THE LONDON FESTIVAL
OF ARCHITECTURE 20 JUNE 2022 5 PM

Tickets/Booking: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-african-off-grid-housing-project-tickets-344166079007>

INTRO
PROF HARRY CHARRINGTON/ HEAD OF THE SCHOOL/ PROF LINDSAY BREMNER/ RESEARCH DIRECTOR// SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & CITIES UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

PRESENTATION BY DR PAOLO CASCONE// AOH PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR UoW
DISCUSSANTS: CONOR BLACK/ ASSOCIATE// ARUP (LONDON)/ DR CLAUDIA LOGGIA AND DR VILOSHIN GOVENDER// UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL (DURBAN)/ VINCENT KITIO/ CHIEF URBAN ENERGY UNIT// UN-HABITAT (NAIROBI)/ PROF MARK RAYMOND/ DIRECTOR OF THE GSA// UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG/ DR MARIA CHRISTINA GEORGIADOU/ DR ROSA SCHIANO PHAN/ MADDALENA LADDAGA// AOH RESEARCH TEAM UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

THE AFRICAN OFF-GRID HOUSING PROJECT AT THE LONDON FESTIVAL OF ARCHITECTURE

Organiser
University of Westminster

June 20th - 2022
17:00-19:30 (BST)

Online Event

Register here to attend on Zoom
[cahttps://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-african-off-grid-housing-project-tickets-344166079007](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-african-off-grid-housing-project-tickets-344166079007)

Online talk on the African Off-Grid Housing research project developed and its possible further developments

About this event

Today, 600 million people in Africa do not have access to electricity and 900 million lack access to clean cooking facilities (International Energy Agency - 2019).

With this premise the talk will disseminate the results of the African Off- grid Housing [AOH] research project as an opportunity to animate an open discussion on innovative design to build methodologies towards affordable and self-sufficient housing solutions for sub-Saharan Africa and other climatic contexts. The project investigates on a climate sensitive design process with the aim to bridge traditional and advanced construction technologies within a circular economy approach.

The talk is curated by the [AOH] Principal Investigator Dr Paolo Cascone in collaboration with the Research Associate Maddalena Laddaga. This will be introduced by Prof Harry Charrington and Prof Lindsay Bremner respectively the Head and the Research Director of the School of Architecture & Cities at the University of Westminster. The conversation will involve a panel of international experts from different backgrounds, with the aim to discuss possible synergies and developments, among the other guests:

Conor Black / Associate / Arup (London)

Dr Claudia Loggia and Dr Viloshin Govender / University of KwaZulu-Natal (Durban)

Vincent Kitio / Chief Urban Energy Unit / UN-Habitat (Nairobi)

Prof Mark Raymond / Director of the GSA / University of Johannesburg

[AOH] research team:

Dr Paolo Cascone, Dr Maria Christina Georgiadou, Maddalena Laddaga and Dr Rosa Schiano Phan / University of Westminster

The [AOH] research project is developed at the School of Architecture & Cities of the University of Westminster thanks to the support of the Global Challenge Research Fund / UKRI. This will be also an opportunity to launch the next steps of the Off-grid Housing Prototypes initiative supported by the Quentin Hogg Trust and the UoW .

School of Architecture and Cities

Marylebone Campus
35 Marylebone Rd
London NW1 5LS
T: +44 (0)2079115000
E: CDCIcollegesupport@westminster.ac.uk
westminster.ac.uk

[AOH] research team:



UNIVERSITY OF
WESTMINSTER

Paolo Cascone - Principle investigator

Born in Italy and growing up between the West Indies and East Africa, I studied architecture at the University of Naples and environmental design at the Architectural Association. I have started to develop my research by design agenda at the intersection of ecological design and sustainable constructions during my master at the AA and then with a Ph.D. at the CIRPS / University of Rome. I am teaching as Senior Lecturer in both the BSc and MSc in Architecture and Environmental Design. In year 2007 I have founded CODESIGNLAB, an experimental design laboratory with many realized community-oriented projects between Europe and Africa. The African Fabbers project has been recently displayed at the Venice Biennale of Architecture (2021). The AF Atlas will be soon published by Actar.



Dr. Maria Christina Georgiadou

I joined the University of Westminster in 2014. Prior to that, I was a Research Associate at the Centre for Sustainable Development, Cambridge University Engineering Department. I hold a PhD in Energy Efficiency in the Built Environment from Cambridge University Engineering Department, entitled "Future-Proofed Design of Low-Energy Housing Developments: Conceptual Framework and Case Studies from the UK and Sweden". I also hold an MA in Higher Education (2019) from Westminster Business School, University of Westminster, an MPhil in Technology Policy from Cambridge University, Judge Business School (2009) and I am trained as a mechanical engineering with a MEng (Distinction) in Mechanical Engineering from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece (2006). Since June 2017, I am a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA).



Maddalena Laddaga - Research Associate

Graduated in architecture at the Bari Polytechnic University, she has developed research projects in India and worked in architectural firms between Rome and Berlin. In the recent years, she has developed applied researches in the field of digital fabrication related to architecture. Maddalena has been research associate for the AOH research project at the University of Westminster in London.



Dr. Rosa Schiano Phan

I am Reader in Architecture and Environmental Design at the School of Architecture and Cities of the University of Westminster. I joined the University in September 2013 to set up and lead a MSc in Architecture and Environmental Design which has been running since Sep 2014. I have also written and taken to internal validation a BSc in Architecture and Environmental Design. Prior to 2013, I taught Environmental Design as a Senior Lecturer at the Architectural Association in the MSc and MArch courses in Sustainable Environmental Design. Previously, I was a Research Fellow at the Department of Built Environment, University of Nottingham (2005-10), working on several European funded research projects. My experience in environmental design consultancy included the role of Senior Sustainability Consultant at WSP Environmental and at Brian Ford & Associates (1998-2003). I completed my postgraduate studies in Environmental Design in the UK, with a MSc in 'Architecture, Energy and Sustainability' from London Metropolitan University (1999). I subsequently obtained a PhD degree from the Architectural Association on the application of passive evaporative cooling using porous ceramic in residential buildings (2002-2005). In 1998 I obtained a BSc and Diploma Certificate in Architecture from the University 'Federico II' of Naples, Italy. I am the co-author of The Architecture of Natural Cooling, published in 2020 by Routledge.

School of Architecture and Cities

Marylebone Campus
35 Marylebone Rd
London NW1 5LS
T: +44 (0)2079115000
E: CDCIcollegesupport@westminster.ac.uk
westminster.ac.uk

Guests:



ARUP

Conor Black - Arup

Conor Black is an Associate Computational Design Engineer at Arup, specialising in computational techniques to simulation and generation of the built environment at all scales.

Conor is part of the intensely deep technical knowledge Arup's most advanced cohort of specialists, with extensive international experience working with leading architectural practices on cultural, commercial and infrastructure buildings. Conor works at the development of more sustainable, experience-driven designs through the use of data-driven computation & simulation.

Conor enjoys challenging current as well as future design practice and believes that computational optimisation is long due a step change in approach for pushing the boundaries of how we design for better, more sustainable outcomes.



Dr Claudia Loggia - University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban

Claudia Loggia is Senior Lecturer in Housing at the School of Built Environment & Development Studies (SoBEDS), at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban. At SoBEDS, she is also the Academic Leader for the Discipline cluster of Housing and Planning.

She holds a PhD in Building Engineering and a MEng from Cagliari University (Italy). She has extensive experience in trans-disciplinary research projects and consultancy work in the areas of: energy efficient building design and retrofit, green infrastructure, sustainable urban regeneration, informal settlements upgrading. Since 2016, Claudia is a Royal Society Newton Advanced Fellow (2016-2023), for a project in partnership with the University of Westminster (London), titled: "Building Urban Resilience for Self-Reliance in African Cities". She was also Principal Investigator for the South African team of the ISULABANTU project (www.isulabantu.org) focused on Community-led Upgrading for self-reliance in informal settlements in South Africa. This project is a 3-year ESRC/NRF Urban Transformation in SA Grant in partnership with the University of Westminster, University College London, the eThekweni Municipality and a local NGO called uTshani Fund.

Both of these collaborative projects are providing opportunities for community engagement (fieldwork, community events), training (in-field community training) and capacity building (in the areas of project management, construction management, and environmental management).

She is also collaborating on valuable research projects in South Africa with local governmental institutions, NGOs and local communities, such as the uMngeni Resilience Project aimed at increasing resilience of vulnerable communities in a rural area in KwaZulu-Natal and the informal settlement upgrading of Khan Rd settlement in Pietermaritzburg. Since 2022, she is an NRF C-rated researcher.

Since 2012, she is a Green Star South Africa Accredited Professional with the Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA).



Viloshin Govender - University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban

Viloshin Govender is a lecturer in Architecture at the School of Built Environment and Development Studies at UKZN. His research involves working with underprivileged communities, especially those in Informal settlements, using drone technologies and community collaboration to create solutions that form a bottom-up approach. He is also an Architect with research interests that include resilient cities, building adaptability, and how insurgency affects city planning. Viloshin has recently completed a Ph.D. based on Adaptive Reuse architecture as a response to insurgency and decay.

School of Architecture and Cities

Marylebone Campus
35 Marylebone Rd
London NW1 5LS
T: +44 (0)2079115000
E: CDCIcollegesupport@westminster.ac.uk
westminster.ac.uk



Vincent Kitio - UN-HABITAT

Vincent Kitio is architect graduated from the Institute of Architecture of Venice and holds a PhD in Appropriate Energy Technologies (energy efficiency and renewable energy) for Developing Countries, from the University of Rome la "Sapienza". Italy.

He leads the Urban Energy Solutions of UN-HABITAT, a section that works on three focus areas: universal energy access for the urban poor; energy efficiency in the built environment (including adequate and affordable housing) and renewable energy systems (both generation and consumption) in urban areas.

Vincent Kitio develops and implements regional energy programs in Africa. Past and ongoing projects include: "Promoting Energy Efficiency in Buildings in East Africa" that aims at mainstreaming energy efficient measures in housing policies, building codes, building practices and building finance; and the "Mainstreaming Energy and Resource Efficiency measures, and Renewable Energy technologies into Building Codes in West Africa (Senegal, Nigeria and Cameroon).

He is currently involved in the development of a program for sustainable management of municipal waste and recovery of value-added resources that include energy, composts and recycling materials.

He is currently developing an investment program to assist African local governments to improve their energy access using available renewable energy sources including: solar, small hydro, wind, geothermal and biomass across sub-Saharan Africa.

Vincent Kitio is responsible for the urban energy portfolio of UN-Habitat. He is the focal point for SDG7 in UN-Habitat and represents UN-Habitat in the Advisory Board of the Covenant of Mayors for climate and energy in Sub Saharan Africa.

UN-Habitat is the United Nations Program for Human Settlements Program mandated to promote sustainable urban development and adequate shelter for all. The agency is based in Nairobi and works with national and local governments, civil society organizations, development partners, the private sector etc



Mark Raymond - Graduate School of Architecture / University of Johannesburg

Mark Raymond (Trinidad and Tobago /UK) is an architect and educator and the Director of the Graduate School of Architecture, Africa's largest post-graduate programme in architecture at the University of Johannesburg and where amongst other things he is currently developing the 'Transformative Practices' Advanced Design Research programme. He is a graduate of the Architectural Association and RMIT's invitational Practice-Based research PhD programme. After graduating from the AA, Mark worked for practices including the office of Norman Foster, Ulrike Brandt and DEGW before returning to Port of Spain, Trinidad where after assisting Colin laird with the National Library in Port of Spain he established his own practice. He has been responsible of a wide range of projects in the Caribbean and has taught and lectured internationally.

School of Architecture and Cities

Marylebone Campus
35 Marylebone Rd
London NW1 5LS
T: +44 (0)2079115000
E: CDCIcollegesupport@westminster.ac.uk
westminster.ac.uk