

Studio NYALI
The Course of Empire: A Compound House Typology

*Studio 2.2, Department of Architecture and Landscape
Kingston School of Art*

*The European Cultural Centre
Time Space Existence
22 May - 21 November 2021*

Organisations:

ArchiAfrika
Kingston University, London

Collaborators:

Joe Osae-Addo
Adriano Wajskol

Team:

Studio NYALI
121 Collective
AKTII

Student Collaborators:

Joanna Adamczyk
Keir Booton
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Catarina De Abreu
Jeremy Gaunt
Evangeline Alice House
Jemima Orton-Shanks
Louis Polin
Megan Prior
Rosie Pryor

Exhibition:

The Course of Empire:
The African Compound House
22nd July - 4th August 2021

The department of Architecture and Landscape at Kingston has claimed a clear territory over the last 10 years within the UK, of being concerned with continuity in architectural culture as it relates to making, a making which responds sensitively and conscientiously to situation and context. Over the last two years, Studio 2.2, a second year design studio within the Department of Architecture and Landscape, has collaborated with Studio NYALI, an emerging architecture and design research studio led by Nana Biamah-Ofosu and Bushra Mohamed to investigate the African compound typology.

In 2019-20, the studio taught by Nana Biamah-Ofosu, Michael Badu, Mary Johnson and Bushra Mohamed studied how this housing typology could be used to generate more thoughtful responses to urban growth and continuity in African and Western cities, with students designing housing projects in Accra and London.

Through our collaboration with ArchiAfrika and Jamestown Cafe, Studio NYALI and Studio 2.2 have been invited to build and exhibit as part of the The European Cultural Centre's *Time Space Existence* exhibition taking place in Venice alongside the 17th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia.

The ArchiArika Pavilion designed by Studio NYALI is built in collaboration with 121 Collective, a design and make studio and students from Kingston University, London.



Studio 2.2, Department of Architecture and Landscape
Study trip to Ghana, November 2019



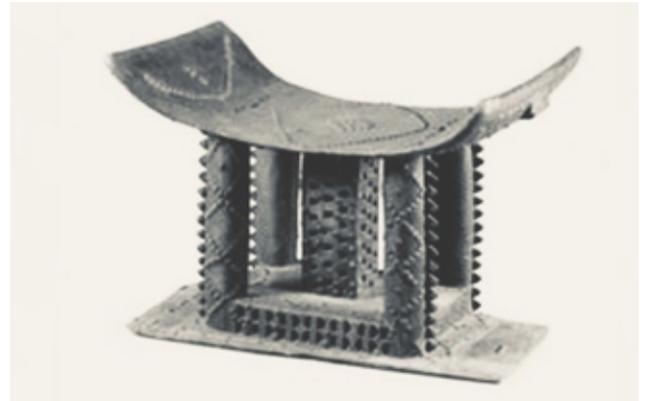
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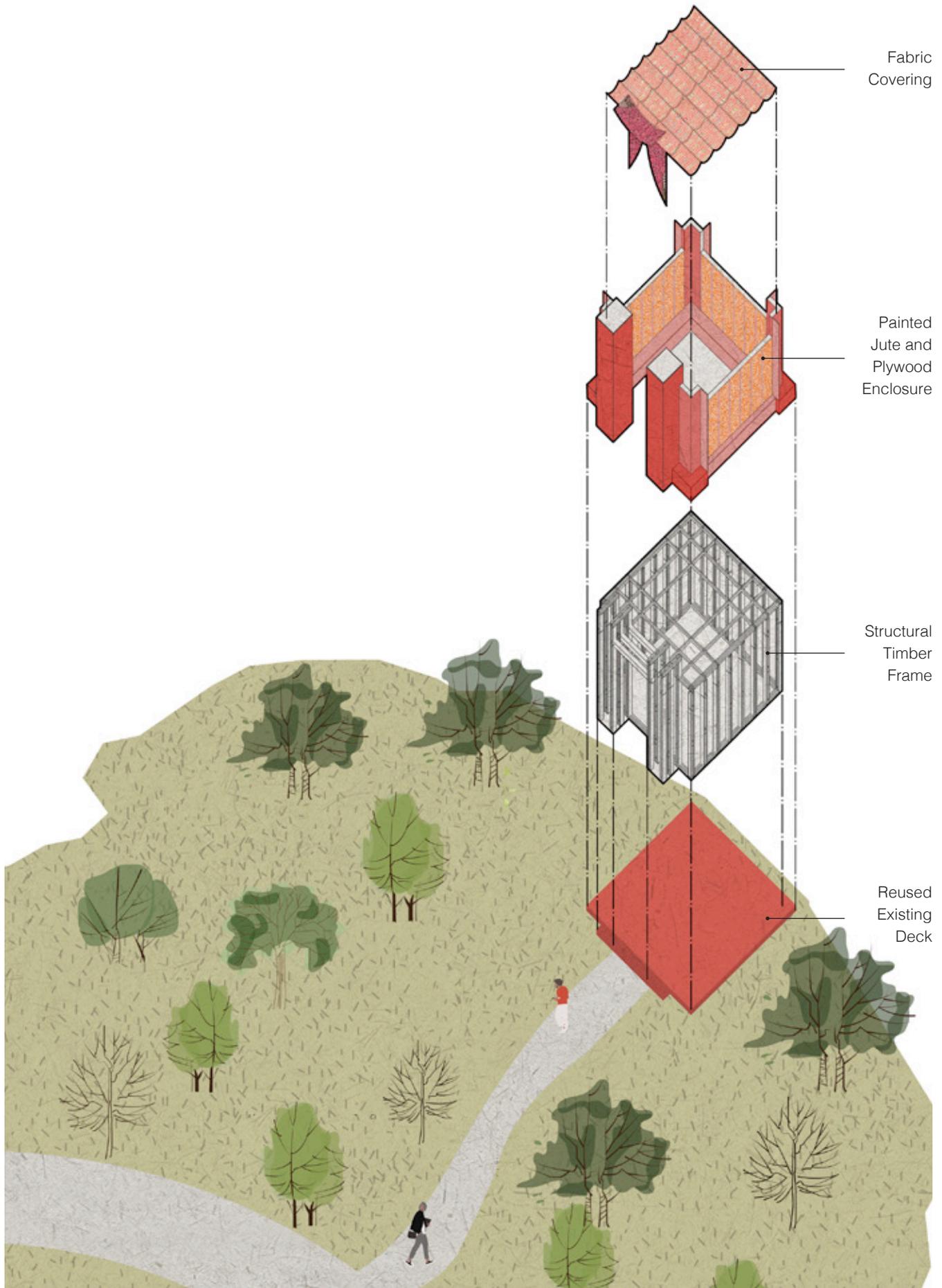
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1 Jamestown Studio, Gallery & Café
 2 Ejisu Besease Shrine House, Jemima Orton-Shanks

3 Ejisu Besease Shrine House
 4 Asante Royal Stool
 5 Weaving; the loom as a social space



The ArchiAfrika Pavilion
Giardini della Marinaressa, Venice

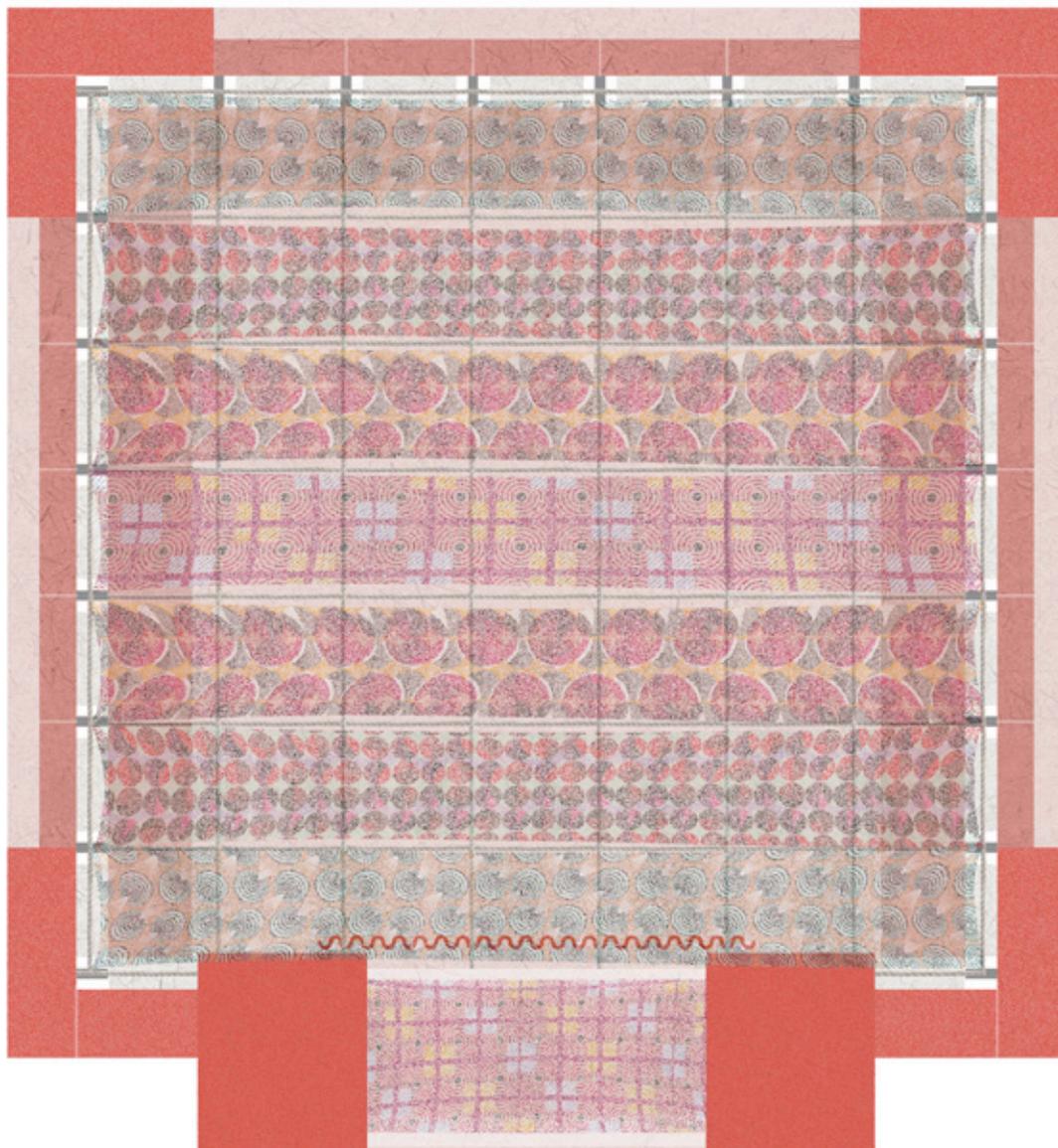




The ArchiAfrika Pavillion located in the Giardini della Marinaressa, a park adjacent to the entrance of the Giardini of Biennale, will serve as a gathering place, a point of reference for all who visit the ArchiAfrika contribution to the 17th International Architecture Exhibition. It will be a place to gather, to exchange cultures and from where to go back for that which we have forgotten; how to live together.

Like its predecessor in Jamestown, Old Accra, it is a space to gather, share and imagine an African future. The 5x5m installation, set within the Marinaressa Gardens, allows people to gather inside while respecting current social distancing measures. Externally, its four expressive corners, act as seats and resting spaces. The bright and colourful tapestry that forms its roof is reminiscent of the original Jamestown Cafe in Accra, where rich Ghanaian wax prints provide shade and add a joyful presence to the courtyard. This language of colour, pattern and form is extended to the enclosure externally. In comparison, the simple, solid colour of internal jute lining, allows the roof to become the main focus while inside the pavilion.

Every interaction with the installation changes its character. As people engage with its physical form, their bodies, their own form, becomes part of the architecture, like the totems, carvings and sculptures in Africa's building culture.



The ArchiAfrika Pavilion
Giardini della Marinaressa, Venice

Researchers:

Studio NYALI

Image (right):

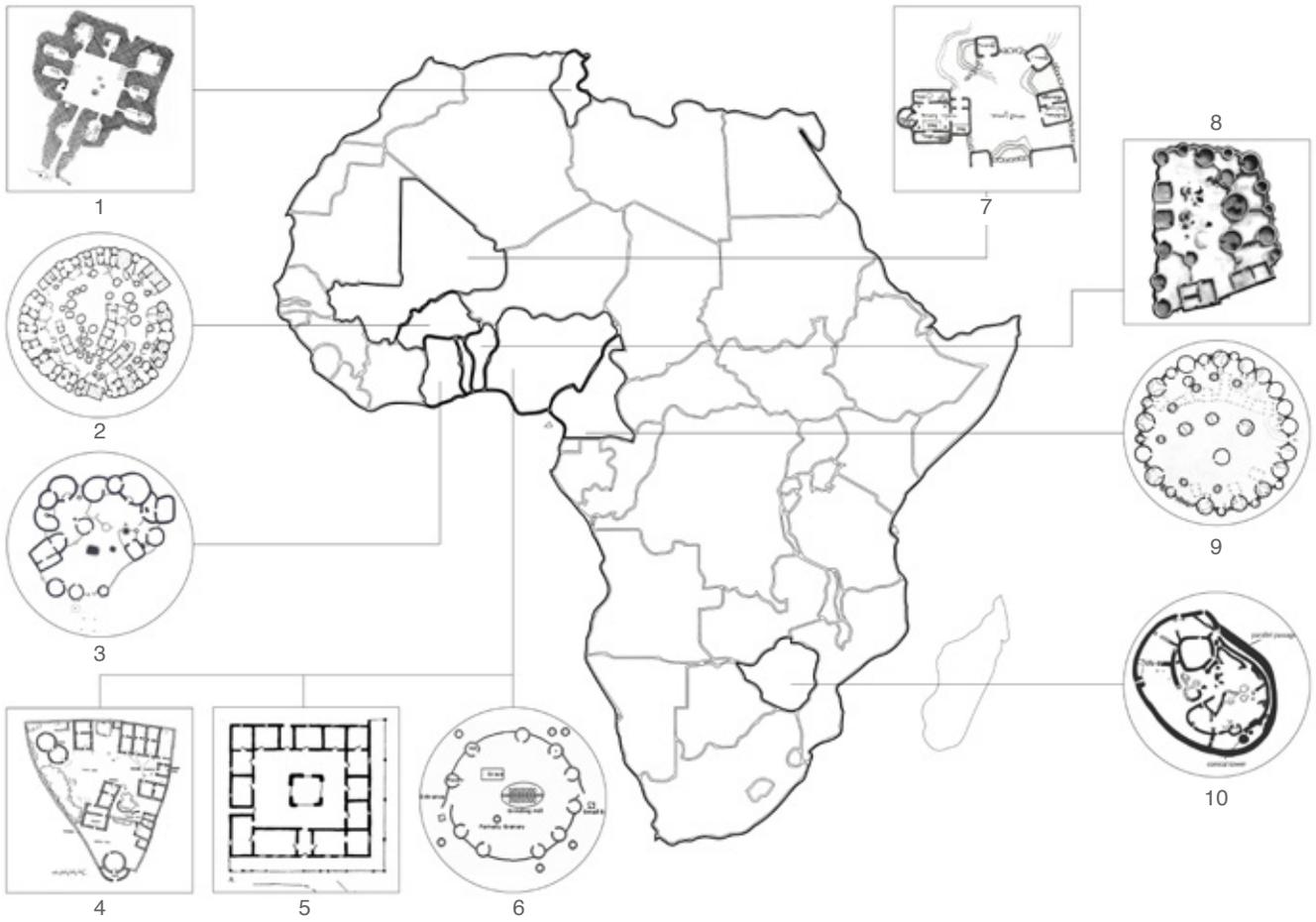
- 1 Matmata Dwellings Tunisia
- 2 Gurunsi Dwellings Burkina Faso
- 3 Frafra Siguru Compound Ghana
- 4 Hausa Compound Nigeria
- 5 Igbo Compound Nigeria
- 6 Gyabi Compound Nigeria
- 7 Dogoni Dwellings Mali
- 8 Tata Somba Houses Benin
- 9 Musgum Dwellings Cameroon
- 10 Great Houses of Stone Zimbabwe

African cities continue to grow, responding to economic, social, cultural, physical pressures and global trends. This growth should be understood spatially and architecturally, in response to history and culture. The trend of directly importing western typologies to non-western regions must be critiqued in terms of its architectural, urban and cultural impact on the continent. This phenomenon has not happened in isolation; it is the result of, amongst other complexities, Africa's colonial history, which continues to influence its present.

These imported typologies have often been unable to respond to the specific cultural, spatial and climatic needs of the region. The contemporary conditions of African cities need to be analysed, measured and reflected upon, allowing these conditions to become tools for understanding the existing western paradigms of urban development.

The compound house is a typology often seen across the continent. While there are distinctions across the typology defined by location, cultural and societal norms as well as traditions, there are elements that are common and recurring. These attributes – in particular the central compound space and the veranda – create a layered range of public, semi-public, semi-private and private space. This exposure to both public and private life within the home fosters a sense of civility. It is both a private domain and civic space and shows an example of the house as an institution. It represents the origin of the collective settlement type, yet few attempts have been made to evolve and develop this compound typology for a modern context.

We aim to understand historic housing patterns and typologies on the continent with the ambition of developing a high-density regionally flexible housing typology that appropriately translates history, climate and culture, whilst acknowledging the present and the future.





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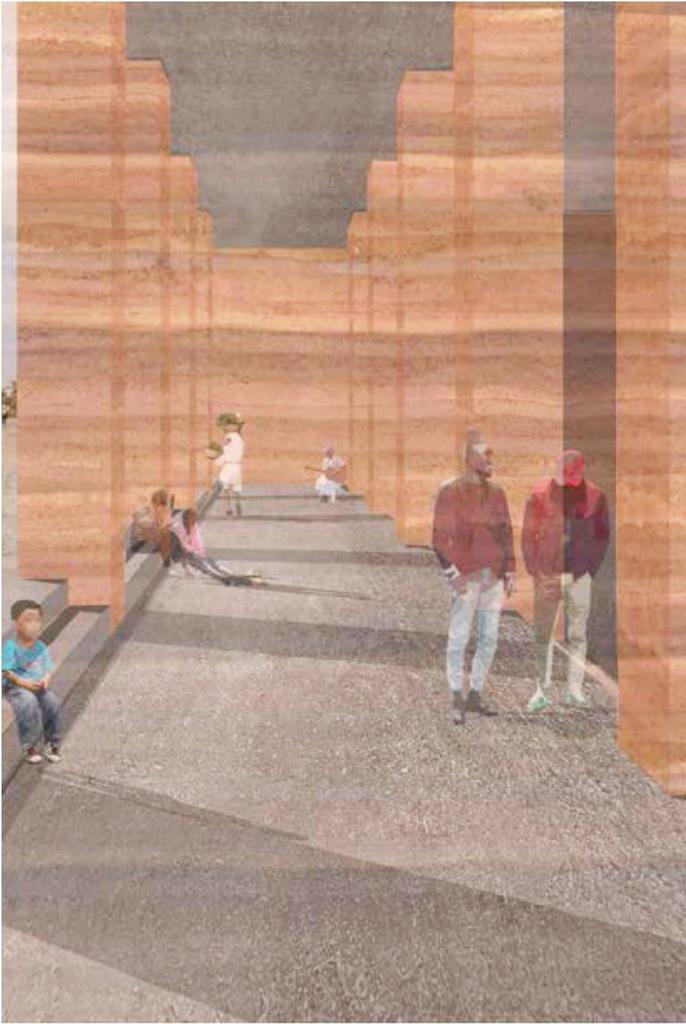
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- 1 *Coming Home*
Saami Waheedy
- 2 *A Village in the City*
Zayane Adjado
- 3 *Commune*
Shanelle Dwyer
- 4 *The Umbrella is the Collector*
Jemima Orton-Shanks
- 5 *A Citadel for Multi-Generational Living*
Daan Maarse
- 6 *Encountering Space*
Inger Hernes
- 7 *Earth Dwellings*
Sumeya Hussein
- 8 *The Umbrella is the Collector*
Jemima Orton-Shanks



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Exterior View
The ArchiAfrika Pavilion



Night time at Marinaressa Gardens
The ArchiAfrika Pavilion

