

Asmara World Heritage Appeal

Asmara is the world's outstanding living museum of classical modernist architecture comprising a whole city with all its urban functions: housing, industries, services and administration, shopping, leisure, culture and recreation. Most of the architectural language is architettura razionale, the Italian modernism of the 1920s and 30s. However, there are also numerous examples of novecento, futurismo, neoclassicism, neo-baroque, monumentalism, as well as buildings with links to local Eritrean architecture. No other city in the world can be proud of such a comprehensive ensemble of classical modernist architecture. We see the people of Asmara and of all Eritrea united in admiring and preserving their jewel against all odds and despite some extreme adversity. We therefore welcome and endorse the candidature of the city of Asmara to the UNESCO World Heritage List. The application for candidature was filed February 1, 2016, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris to be decided by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in 2017. We appeal to cities with similar treasures of classical modernist architecture, among them in particular Napier in New Zealand, Miami in the USA, and Tel Aviv in Israel, to form a global city-network of classical modernist architecture under the auspices of UNESCO. Such a network will help the participating cities to preserve their architectural jewels. It will attract culturally minded people from all over the world to visit these cities and thereby help them preserve their heritage. To this effect, tour operators may develop global tours of classical modernist architecture.

First Signers:

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