

Etta Madete

Real Estate Developer | Licensed Architect | Sustainable Design Expert | Housing Specialist

Innovative and performance-driven Housing expert, Real Estate Developer, and Architect passionate about real estate investment that positively impacts people and their communities. 8+ years of experience in affordable housing research and development, leading teams, managing projects, and co-founding a company that raised over \$2 million to build 137 affordable and sustainable homes in Nairobi, Kenya.

Education

- **Masters in Real Estate** (2023-2024)- **Harvard University Graduate School of Design**
 - ➔ Advanced Real Estate Finance, & Development
 - ➔ Affordable Housing & Community Development
 - ➔ Real Estate Law
 - ➔ Real Estate Private Equity and Capital Markets
- **Masters of Architecture in Environmental Design** (2021) - **University of Nairobi**
Dissertation- Atrium Daylight Penetration in Dense Apartment Blocks
- **BORAQS (Architects Licensing Board, Kenya)** (2021)- Top Candidate in Paper II & III- 2021
- **Bachelor of Architecture** (2017)- University of Nairobi- First class Honors
Dissertation- Sustainable Brick Architecture; Design principles for hot-dry climates
- **Bachelor of Architectural Studies** (2015) - University of Nairobi- First Class Honors
Secondary Education: Greensteds International School - IGCSE and A-level
- **IFC EDGE Expert** (2021)- Green building rating tool

Experience

- **Affordable Housing Institute**, Boston (2024)- Spring Intern
 - Research lead analyzing existing U.S housing rental policies and relevant correlations and translations to international markets.
- **Harvard Joint Centre For Housing Studies**, Cambridge (2023- 2024)- Graduate Assistant
 - Support the communications and publications team in reporting, analyzing, and reviewing research data and information ready for external dissemination.
- **Zima Homes**, Nairobi (2020- 2023)- Co-founder & Executive Director
 - Zima Homes develops affordable and sustainable housing accessible to the bottom 40% in Nairobi, Kenya. As part of the founding team, I built and managed a development team of 5 permanent staff and 30 on-site construction teams and was primarily in charge of fundraising, governance, strategy, team, and project management.
- **BuildX Studio**, Nairobi (2019-2022)- Affordable Housing Lead & Architect
 - In charge of all company work related to affordable housing research, development, and project management.
- **University of Nairobi** (2017- 2023)- Lecturer (Tutorial Fellow), Architecture Department
 - Academic Research and Teaching Support- for courses, "History of Architecture", "Housing Design Studios" and "Building Technology"
- **Morphosis Ltd.** (2018)- Graduate Architect

Selected Publications & Advocacy

- "Sustainability and Inclusivity in Affordable Housing". 2nd Fall Symposium Building Beyond Borders (2022). [LINK](#).
- "Atrium Daylight Penetration in Dense Apartment Blocks. A case of Roysambu Nairobi, Kenya" IJSRP (2022). [LINK](#).
- "The Countryside Report " chapter co-author and Guggenheim Exhibition co-curator. OMA & Rem Koolhaas IJSRP (2020). [LINK](#).
- "Application of Brick as a Building Material for Low-Cost Housing in Hot and Dry Climates" IJSRP (2018). [LINK](#).
- "Habitat for Humanity- SANKALP Global health circular design" Panelist (2021)
- "WHO Healthy Cities- Healthy People"- Moderator (2021)

Skillsets

- **Advanced Financial** Modeling and Real Estate Investment Analysis
- **Corporate** Governance, Strategy, Fundraising, Team Management, ESG and SDG Frameworks Development
- **Housing Development** Permitting, Contract Management, Construction & Project Management, & Architectural design
- **Languages**- English - fluent, Swahili- moderate.
- **Software**- Revit, Lumion, Sketchup, EDGE, Microsoft Office Suite, & Adobe Suite

Select Certifications, Awards & Additional Activities

- Harvard Women In Real Estate (2023- 2024) - Co-president and Founding Director
- Harvard Real Estate Review (2023- 2024)- Executive Editor
- YALI Fellow (2023) - Mandela Washington Fellowship- Young African Leaders Initiative
- Aspen Institute Fellow (2020)- New Voices Senior Fellow with advanced training in advocacy
- Grade 8 Distinction in Violin Performance from the Associated Board of Royal Schools (ABRSM)
- WIRE (Women in Real Estate)- Young Achiever Award- 2021
- John Mukaye Madete Foundation (JMM)- Lead Facilitator. JMM Educates & mentors underprivileged in Western Kenya (2014-2020)
- Ghetto Classics; Violin program founder and tutor. Korogocho slums, Nairobi (2011-2013)